

SOUTH WEST
REGIONAL
COORDINATION
GROUP



Queensland
Government

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File TOC/355/000(0599/0579)
Unit Regional Arrangements
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2nd May 2007

Mr Peter Blundell
Chair
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee
PO Box 6243
Toowoomba West Qld 4350

Dear Peter

Acquittal Matching In-Kind Arrangements for NHT 2 Funding

Under the NHT 2 arrangements for In-Kind, the South West Regional Coordination Group (SWRCG) reports to the Joint Queensland / Australian Government NRM Steering Committee (JSC) on the annual delivery of In-Kind to each Regional Body. The JSC has requested that SWRCG submit an endorsed acquittal for each Regional Body on behalf of all the individual agencies.

For the 2005/2006 financial year, one department of the Queensland Government offered In-Kind contributions to QMDC:

Department of Natural Resources & Water	\$1,600,000
Total	\$1,600,000

The details of this amount are contained in the *Attachment 1*.

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In order to progress the reporting I request that your board consider whether these contributions were delivered. When agreement is reached please sign the attached Schedule I.

Should you have any questions please contact John Ritchie on telephone 4688 1578.

Yours sincerely



Mike Birchley
Chair
South West Regional Coordination Group

CC: CEO, QMDC Inc.

Att:



Queensland Murray Darling Committee Inc.

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18 May 2007

Mr Mike Birchley
Chair
South West Regional Coordination Group
PO Box 318
TOOWOOMBA 4350

Dear Mike

Re: Acquittal Matching In-Kind Arrangements for NHT 2 Funding

I refer to your letter of 2nd May seeking advice on whether the 2005-06 State in-kind contributions were delivered.

Whilst I have signed the Schedule 1, it is not possible for QMDC to know whether the agencies have delivered on all the activities listed in the Schedule.

QMDC would hope that in the next NRM program (NHT3) there will be an opportunity to fully align QMDCs and State agency and local government programs to deliver the NRM plan and RIS in such a way that it will be possible for us to accurately report on the State's in-kind contribution.

Yours sincerely



Peter Blundell
Chair

Schedule 1 Part B

Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc.

Declaration:

We agree that:

- The particulars contained above are true and correct.
- All expenditure recorded above has been for the purposes of the project and is within the Terms and Conditions of the Funding as set out in the Activity Agreement

Signature:		Signature:	
(Regional Services Director)		(Chair Regional NRM Body)	
Name:		Name: <i>Peter Bunnell</i>	
Address:		Address: <i>QMDL PO Box 6243 Toowoomba West</i>	
Contact No.		Contact No. <i>07 4685 6166</i>	

Department of Natural Resources and Water Acquittal In-kind for the QMDC NRM Plan 2005-2006

	Deliverable Code	Activity	Milestones	Cost	Delivered	Exception Reporting / Comments
Land & Vegetation Services	NAH	Vegetation Assessment & Monitoring	Vegetation ballot implemented. Manage PMAV application process. Manage applications for clearing under Vegetation Management Act.	\$106,000	Yes	NRW delivered the vegetation ballot in 2005. Ongoing and PMAV applications managed with service improvements achieved.
	NAK	Vegetation Financial assistance package	Manage vegetation assistance program in SW Region.	\$17,000	Yes	NRW has provided direct advice to landholders wishing to apply for financial assistance under the Vegetation Management Financial Assistance packages. Landholders have been provided with assessments that confirm the effect of changes to vegetation management legislation on their business enterprise. NRW has also delivered the Vegetation Incentives Program, providing financial incentives for landholders to protect in perpetuity areas of high conservation significance which are not protected by other means. The scheme primarily targets the establishment of conservation agreements on areas of non remnant vegetation.

Deliverable Code	Activity	Milestones	Cost	Delivered	Exception Reporting/ Comments
NAN	Sustainable Property Level Land And Water Management	<p>Deliver high priority requests for land and water management activities in the QMDB in accordance with the Project Management Team deadlines.</p> <p>Deliver community education/awareness program for Land and Water Management Plans.</p> <p>Coordinate the assessment panel and assess Land and Water Management Plans within agreed timeframes.</p> <p>Provide support for Queensland Murray-Darling Committee to deliver land management and soil conservation services.</p>	\$120,000	Yes	<p>There has been coordinated delivery of land management based on prioritised activities determined in conjunction with the regional bodies across the region. The focus has been on the development of subcatchment plans and providing land management training to project officers.</p>
NAL	State Land Management	<p>Manage state land and process dealings under the <i>Land Act 1994</i>.</p> <p>Deliver milestones and targets identified in the Unallocated State Land (USL) Management Regional Project Plan.</p> <p>Develop regional framework for the renewal of pastoral leases.</p>	\$105,000	Yes	<p>Land Act dealings continue to be managed closely and improvements in delivery are occurring.</p> <p>Management plans developed and implemented for high fire risk unallocated state land across the region.</p> <p>New processes for renewal of pastoral leases currently under development. Some delay due to need for finalisation of State-wide framework.</p>

Sustainable Landscape Services	NLA NLB	State Interests in Planning & Development	<p>Provide NRM&W input to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development applications, • draft Local Government Planning Schemes, • Regional plans & State planning Policies. 	\$150,000	Yes	Input provided into all local government planning schemes and into regional plans in terms of NRM's State Interests in Land, Water, Vegetation and Cultural Heritage.
		Land Resource Information	<p>Check and maintain the quality of regional and resource data and ensure new and old (paper and other databases) data is entered into or migrated into Soil and Land Information (SALI) Database within 10 working days of receipt.</p> <p>Provide technical support in landscape science to research staff and contribute to the development of science partnerships with NRM regional bodies.</p> <p>Commence salinity risk mapping in the Queensland Murray-Darling area.</p> <p>Commence valley salinity audit in the Queensland Murray-Darling area.</p>		Yes	Land resource data upgraded and quality checked. Data sets and methodology established Salinity Risk Assessment in the QMDC area. Salinity Audit for the Condamine-Balonne catchment commenced. Technical and scientific advice and information on landscape science provided to QMDC on an ongoing basis.
	NLC	Coordination and Support for Wild Dog Barrier Fence (WDBF)	<p>Maintain Wild Dog Barrier Fence (WDBF). Secretariat duties undertaken for Wild Dog Barrier Fence panel.</p>	\$100,000	Yes	Patrolled weekly. Maintained in a dog proof condition. Secretarial duties undertaken twice per year prior to SW Queensland Local Govt Conference.
		Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board	<p>Participate actively on Darling Downs Moreton Rabbit Board</p>		Yes	Participate as Board member every six weeks. Technical advice on operations to the Board.

			Support Local Governments in the implementation Local Government Area Pest Management Plans & provide advice and strategic technical assistance within negotiated timeframes.			Yes	Technical advice to Local Government on a regular basis on implementation of PVMPs.			
		Pest Management and Support	<p>Coordinate Class 2 programs, including collection of distribution and density data for: HARRISIA cactus; Mesquites; Mother of Millions; Parkinsonia; Parthenium; Prickly Pear; Water Lettuce; Australian Plague Locust; Dingoo; Dog, other than domestic dog; European rabbit; Feral Pig; Migratory Locust; Spur-throated Locust.</p> <p>Strategically participate as a member of relevant WONS group (Parthenium, Prickle Bush, Chilean Needle Grass, Blackberry; Lantana) to enhance management of WONS weeds in the region, including seeking funding opportunities.</p> <p>Finalise and implement Honey Locust strategy.</p>			Yes	<p>Mapping undertaken on a regular basis updated annually.</p>			
								Participate in steering committees established by Regional NRM Bodies and provide technical and operational support to deliver of targets in NRM Plans.	Yes	Alignment activities. Involved in assessment panel.
								Coordinate Wild Dog management programs across the region.	Yes	Continuing program Wild Dog Coordinator appointed in line with Wild Dog MOU.
			Regularly monitor plague pest species and where required participate in management programs.				Monitored regularly/seasonally			
	NLE	Pest Research	Complete reports outlining modelling results for the spread and movement of pest populations: mouse plague prediction paper; potential spread of fire ants; wild dog movement model; modelling bio-control of cats claw	\$150,000		Yes	Developed model of wild dog movement. Submitted mouse plague prediction paper to conference. Spread of fire ants model submitted to Australian			

	NLP	Regional Arrangements.	creeper; rabbit population model; draft 1080-bait degradation model on basis of sampling/field trials; draft report on dingo movement and impact model.	\$50,000		Journal of Entomology. Cats claw model in draft. Rabbit population model published in ecological modelling. 1080 continuing. Dingo movement draft report.
			Undertake research into the adaptive management of rabbits.		Yes	Research ongoing.
			Undertake research into the adaptive management of wild dogs.		Yes	Research ongoing.
			Continue research into the management of mice in southern Queensland.		Yes	Research ongoing.
			Continue research into non-target impacts of wild-dog 1080-baiting on quolls.		Yes	Research ongoing.
			Provide program advice and support to SWRCCG, JSC and Regional Bodies.		Yes	Support and advice provided in timely manner.
			Compile offer to meet NHT In-kind requirements.		Yes	Review completed – there is now the more strategically focussed SWRCCG and the operationally focussed SWRCCG Working Group.
			Complete a review of roles, responsibilities and operations of SWRCCG.		Yes	Work continuing on alignment of activities.
			Promote and progress the alignment of NRMW activities with NRM Plan targets.			Technical review of National NRM Indicators and training in water quality monitoring support CRAMER's activities.
			Support provided to CRAMER.			
			Participate in the activities of Regional NRM Bodies and their Boards, CMAs, SWRCCG, and other relevant groups to promote communication.		Yes	Active support for QMDC and participation in Maranoa-Balonne and Border Rivers CMAs as well as technical support and information provided to Landcare groups
			Carry out secretariat duties to SWRCCG.			

		Information management	Facilitate data share agreements with Regional Bodies. Provide expert spatial information support and GIS services.			Yes	Data share agreement developed and maintained. Data supplied as required.	
Water Services	NWB	Artesian Re-measurement Program	Maintain the monitoring of bores program. Develop a regional implementation plan.			Yes	Current monitoring program undertaken. Revision of artesian monitoring network being undertaken by NRSc to ensure consistency with GAB ROP monitoring.	
		Water reform – trading and water allocation	Deliver an internal education and awareness program. Finalise administrative framework for water trading and develop work practices.			Yes	Delivered	
	NWC	Floodplain and stormwater policy planning	Develop urban stormwater harvesting policy in overland flow restricted environments.	\$802,000		Yes	Urban stormwater runoff viewed as being captured under overland flow requirements of WRPs.	
		Water reform – groundwater	Formulate groundwater management program. Establish groundwater assessment, planning and monitoring unit. Develop and implement moratorium on main range volcanics. Administer Great Artesian Basin moratorium and provide quarterly activity reports.			Partial	Groundwater Assessment and Planning Group established. Administrative hold on new entitlements implemented. Considerable amount of work done in preparation for moratorium. GAB moratorium administered prior to release of Plan.	

Regional Water Infrastructure planning	Establish water supply planning capacity and related programs. Provide input into Maranoa and District Region Planning and Advisory Council (MADRPAC) RGMF Planning	Partial.	Discussions held with DDRCC members. Initiated an urban data collection and collaboration. This project was superseded by the Toowoomba Water Supply Task Force work. Some documentation on regional urban supplies and future demands prepared.
			Schedule for completion revised due to certification of infrastructure in Lower Balonne.
ROP – Condamine Balonne	Complete the final write up and review of draft Condamine Balonne Resource Operations Plan.	No	ROP monitoring methodology finalised. Schedule for draft ROP revised to allow for more consultations. Draft ROP released in January 2007.
ROP – Border Rivers	Develop written ROP monitoring elements. Draft ROP released for comment.	No	Released and finalised 20 January 2006
ROP – Moonie	Release ROP.	Yes	GAB Water Resource Plan released. Finalised 31/3/06
WRP - GAB	Finalise the Great Artesian Basin (GAB) Draft Water Resource Plan. Release the draft Great Artesian Basin Resource Operations Plan.	Yes	GAB ROP draft Plan prepared. Released on 22 July 2006.

	Entitlements for overland flow	Develop a framework for the certification and licensing of Overland flow works. Complete the initial population of the Overland Flow atlas for Condamine Balonne Catchments. Process the backlog of overland flow notifications. Map Overland Flow Atlas – Moomic, 4PAC and Border Rivers.		Yes	At a mature stage of development.
		Administer Interim Resource Operations Licences and Resource Operations Licences. Administer the Water Licensing Program. Administer Water management Areas (Ground and Surface)			
NWE	Water Monitoring	Undertake performance reporting, flow management reporting and announce allocation.		Yes	<p>Quarterly report reviewed and exception referred to Sun Water. IROL amendments dealt with during the year. Water licensing program administered. Flows and water levels monitored and restrictions implemented where appropriate.</p> <p>Flow events monitored and reports submitted within 10 days of the cessation of the event.</p> <p>Sampling for Sustainable Rivers Audit conducted for Warrego Paroo Condamine Culgoa Catchments in April-June of 2006. Program completed within schedule.</p>
		Deliver ambient biological monitoring program. Implement the annual water resource monitoring program.			
	Aquatic ecosystem monitoring	Develop the aquatic ecosystem monitoring program for Condamine Balonne.		Yes	Methodology for identification of key ecological assets developed as a basis for improving knowledge of critical water requirements.

	NWG	Water Metering	Implement water metering project in Border Rivers, Lower Balonne Water Management Area and Moonie	\$1,600,000	Partial completion	<p>Implementation of Metering projects in the Border Rivers and Lower Balonne Water Management Area have not yet commenced due to difficulties associated with requirements for installation of large diameter pipe meters. Finalisation of National Water Meter Standards will provide direction on how large meters are required to be installed and will allow these projects to proceed.</p> <p>The Moonie River Metering Project is partially complete with seven meters installed. The remaining eleven sites will be metered once National Standards provide direction on large meter installation requirements.</p>
Total						