

**FNQ NRM Ltd Directors Teleconference  
4 December 2003, 3:30 PM – 5:10pm  
Ratified Minutes**

**1. Welcome / Rollcall – Cr Mike Berwick**

Present: Cr Mike Berwick, Bill Shannon, Chris Gloor, Caroline Coppo, Troy Wyles-Whelan, Ken Atkinson, Cr Ray Byrnes, Dr Colin Hunt, Brad Dorrington

Apologies: Peter Stanton

**2. Interim Financial Agreement Extension & Extra NLP (Landcare) funds.**

Mike and Brad outlined the various allocations of funds currently available to the region. In addition to those discussed there are several other sources believed to be ready for announcement.

**Table 1 – Confirmed Fund Sources**

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Coordinator & Facilitator	\$900,000	Contracted	Ends 30-06-04
Foundation Funding	\$600,000	Approved	Ends 30-06-04
Interim Financial Agreement Extension	\$800,000	Initial bid due by 10-12-03 Final bids due 11-02-04	Ends 30-09-04
National Landcare Program - projects	\$250 - \$300,000	Bids due by 11-02-04	
National Landcare Program - coordinator	\$60, 000	Bids due by 11-02-04	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2.61 - \$2.66M</b>		

There was general concern regarding the tight timelines and also some confusion as to the various “buckets” of funds available. Mike said that even those working within the system to distribute funds were confused, particularly as to how many times some “buckets” had been counted, however those described (table 1) were confirmed.

Brad advised that the strategy to submit projects valued higher than indicative amount, then negotiate local investment and prioritise, has been disallowed. Final bid must be submitted by 10 December with declined projects to be modified or replaced.

Brad advised that the total indicative cost of the bid is \$1.4M and the 2 sources (IFA & NLP) available total \$1.1M. Most projects are eligible both fund sources.

Mike recommended that only the \$800, 000 IFA funds be committed at this stage as there is no need to rush with regards to the NLP funds.

Resolved to prioritise and commit \$800, 000 only at this stage, with unsuccessful projects to remain pending with regards to the \$300,000.

Discussion regarding proposed projects then commenced.

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**Table 2 – Regional Body Priorities**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Indicative Cost \$,000s</b>	<b>Approved \$,000s</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Coordinators & Facilitators 07/04 – 09/04	\$333	\$333	
Fine Scale Veg Mapping	\$45	\$90	Shift from discretionary funds.
Biodiversity modelling	\$10	\$10	Leave \$10k in FF bid
Vertebrate distribution data	\$12	\$12	
Regional PMP	\$10	\$10	Leave \$5k in FF bid
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$400</b>	<b>\$455</b>	

**Pest Management**

Ray advised that the FNQLGPPAC has identified these projects (Table 3) as priorities. WONS funding has ceased with the job incomplete and the initial investment will be wasted in not completed.

Caroline advised that the Herbert Shire had declined to submit their Hymenachne project as the timelines were too tight. Resolved that this project should be included.

It was noted that there appeared to be some inequity among Councils regarding in-kind contributions. Resolved that Councils be advised of funding recommendations and encouraged to commit to cash commitments.

**Table 3 – Pest Management**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Indicative Cost \$,000s</b>	<b>Approved \$,000s</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Maria Ck Pond Apple	\$18	\$18	New project – high priority
Strategic Pest Management in Cardwell Shire	\$52	\$52	Ongoing WONS program
Douglas Shire-Bailey Creek and Daintree Pond Apple Control	\$23	\$23	Ongoing WONS program
Hymenachne Control in Johnstone Basin	\$19	\$19	Ongoing WONS program
Herbert River Hymenachne Control		\$50	Ongoing WONS program identified as gap.
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$162</b>	

**Biodiversity / Revegetation**

Caroline Coppo stated that several of the biodiversity / revegetation projects may have been funded from Envirofunds.

Caroline then read from a list and identified at least 3 that appear to be approved Envirofund projects.

Resolved that with regards to biodiversity projects:

- Remaining funds after prioritisation be approved.
- Mike and Brad, with assistance from staff, produce a prioritised list within this ceiling.
- Priority biodiversity projects outside of the available funds to remain pending for consideration in the NLP funding round.

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**Table 4 – Biodiversity / Revegetation**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Indicative Cost \$,000s</b>	<b>Approved \$,000s</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Lowland Rainforest Remnant Rehab	\$50		
Moresby Catchment Rehab Stage Four	\$37		Possibly Envirofund.
Mission Beach Corridor Stage Six	\$60		Possibly Envirofund.
Johnstone Community Vegetation Initiative	\$48		
Cardwell Shire Community Revegetation Support	\$50		
Community Nursery – Hinchbrook Shire	\$40		
Frenchman Creek Rehabilitation	\$3		
Filling the Gaps	\$30		Capacity Building project
Manipulating natural regeneration by removal of plant pests in the Tolga Scrub	\$24		
Patterns of predation by domestic cats on native wildlife	\$16		
TREAT introduces school children to Mabi Forest restoration	\$3		
Peterson Creek	\$24		Possibly Envirofund.
Eacham Shire Nursery Support	\$112		
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$153</b>	

**Traditional Owners**

Brad advised that the Traditional Owner capacity building project had been prioritised out of the Foundation Funding proposal and should be regarded as a regional body priority. The project comprises some salary with operating to fund small projects. Specific projects are not yet identified.

Resolved that a Capacity Building Officer be engaged and some specific projects be developed for consideration in NLP funding round

**Table 5 – Traditional Owners**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Indicative Cost \$,000s</b>	<b>Approved \$,000s</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Capacity building and small on-ground works	\$70	\$30	Modified FF project.
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$70</b>	<b>\$30</b>	

Resolved that wetlands, riparian, sustainable agriculture and other projects remain pending for consideration in NLP funding round.

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**Table 6 – Approved Summary**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Indicative Cost \$,000s</b>	<b>Approved \$,000s</b>	<b>Comments</b>
RB Priorities		\$455	
Pest Management		\$162	
Biodiversity / Revegetation		\$153	
Traditional Owners		\$30	
<b>SUB - TOTAL</b>		<b>\$800</b>	

**3. GBR Catchment Wide proposals**

Mike and Brad described the rationale and process for development of the GBR Catchments Water Quality Monitoring project and collaboration with other regional bodies.

Resolved that the project is supported, on the understanding that other regional bodies are supportive, with funds sought increased from \$250k to approximately \$800k by:

- Seeking a further \$250k of NR&M in-kind.
- Seeking approximately \$400k of GBRMPA cash investment.

Mike then excused himself, handed the Chair to Bill, and left the teleconference.

Bill led discussion regarding the Sustainable Coastal Agriculture project developed by Mackay – Whitsunday regional body.

Resolved that the project is supported provided that the many redundant items are removed. The two projects appear to fit together well as GBR water quality monitoring is only at river mouths.

**4. 19 December Upper Herbert Meeting Arrangements**

Resolved that the Board will travel by bus and convene the Meeting on the morning of Sat 20 December 2004, with other arrangements unchanged. The bus will depart Cairns at 6 AM and meet most other passengers at Milla Milla.

Additional agenda items to include corporate governance (Bill), branding / constitution (Chris) and carbon neutral region strategy (Colin).

The meeting was closed at 5:10PM.

Minutes ratified at the Directors Meeting held 20 December 2003.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Mike Berwick, Chair FNQ NRM Ltd.