



## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON THE RANGLANDS BOARD MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2010**

Due to a number of late apologies the board was unable to form a quorum but decided to meet informally anyway.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

#### **NHT-NAP Budget Status**

Final reports and audited statements have been submitted to State NRM office.

#### **CfoC Interim Year Budget Status**

Interim CfoC projects to be completed by September and no extensions will be allocated; majority of funds have been expended. Brian reported that these projects are of high quality to the stakeholders and great benefit to Rangelands NRM.

#### **CfoC 2009-2010 Budget Status**

A high quality monitoring process has been developed for the CfoC projects; programs are now underway.

### **My Report**

- NRM Leaders Group held a meeting last Friday; a North Queensland Group attended speaking on their vision of Carbon Capture. Their vision appears to be the same that NRM are endeavouring to pursue here.
- NRM Leaders Group put forward a joint submission in response to the Development Commission Review. Paper tabled to the Board members.
- Brian and I have been in consultation with EPA in regard to their 'Conditions to Mine' and suggested that Rangelands NRM become involved, along with the other agencies they currently liaise with. Brian and I to have quarterly meetings with EPA management.
- Discussions held with Steve Van Leeuwen at DEC in regards to projects that he is involved in or would like to be involved in within the Pilbara area; how we can possibly be the broker between mining companies and the project delivery. Steve stated that there were opportunities for Rangelands to co-ordinate data collection and management in the Pilbara area and establishes a central repository.
- Discussions have also been generated with Wendy Duncan in her role as Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister for Lands and Regional Development. Initially talks have been held with BHP Billiton and Atlas to raise the profile of Rangelands NRM and to break down the boundaries that currently exist.

### **East Kimberley Group Reported that:**

- Meeting held last week.
- Dick and Troy have completed the Fire Project with positive outcomes demonstrating benefits in improved co-ordination in fire planning.
  - Chemical control for fire break was developed on eastern side of town. This process appears to be cost effective and very efficient.
  - It is important for the EKRK to continue as a group have their own identity and to operate independently of KNRM. The future of the Reference Group discussions still continues.

- Barb Morrell stated that; the selection process for the 2009-10 program consisted of two assessment panels. One was a technical panel with representation from agencies and local government. After assessing the proposals they made their recommendations to an independent panel consisting of non-government members. After considering the technical panel's recommendations, they presented a list of recommendations to the WA NRM Ministerial Council. After consideration from them Cabinet endorsed their recommendations to approve the 51 successful projects.

**Kimberley Group Reported that:**

- Kimberley Group had a meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July with good attendance. All projects discussed. Minutes of this meeting were tabled to Board members.
- There has not been an official name change within this group to West Kimberley Group. This is to be finalised by Peter Kneebone in association with members of the group and confirmed at next Board Meeting
- Future focus of the Kimberley Group:
- to work proactively to get Indigenous involvement and community engagement in the group;
- Obtain support to facilitate the group and develop more funding strategies.
- Consultation process for Kimberley Aboriginal CfoC is nearly complete and a draft plan will be completed in the next fortnight.
- Options paper is being prepared to present to seven Ministers of WA NRM Ministerial Council on 23 August 2010.
- State NRM are endeavouring to improve guidelines, priorities, application forms and assessment tools from lessons learnt during 2009-10 programs.
- State NRM continuing to distribute funds but all administration work is to be prepared by Commonwealth.

**Brain Reported that:**

- Trish Terry has resigned from the Kununurra office.
- John Silver to move to Broome in September; setting up an office in Lotteries House.
- He attended the Gascoyne Catchment Group meeting on 6 July 2010 to follow up on the suggestion, at the last Board meeting, on the possibility of them becoming a community reference group for Rangelands NRM. As a result of this meeting the group are keen to support Rangelands in the capacity as a Reference Group.
- He presented the draft discussion paper (*Planning for renewal - Rangelands NRM WA Structure*) regarding the future development of Rangelands NRM and the implications of changing the Reference Groups and how this will impact on the Board structure.
- Changes to the Reference group model in place now, and the inclusion of new organisations/groups on the Board will require changes to the Constitution and the Standing Orders. These changes need to be done quite quickly and circulated at least 4 weeks prior to the AGM so they can be dealt with there, if this is to go ahead.

Bill Mitchell  
**Chair, Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group**