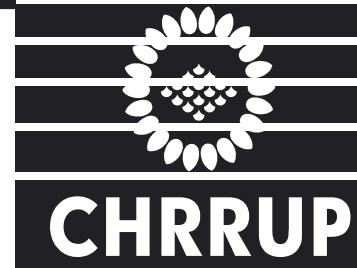


CHRRUP UPDATE

Central Highlands Regional Resources Use Planning Cooperative

February 2009



CFOC Update

Now is a very hectic time in the world of Natural Resource Management (NRM). As many people are aware, project submissions under the Caring for Our Country (CFOC) framework are due on March 6, 2009 meaning NRM groups are busy putting together proposals both individually and as members of partnerships.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that under CFOC the Federal Government is intending to purchase reasonably specific, identified NRM outcomes that are broadly categorised under six National Priority Areas. More specific direction for outcomes is then elaborated under these National Priority areas and suggestions are made as to what kind of projects CFOC is looking for. These identified outcomes are not arbitrary and the logic behind them is outlined on the CFOC website.

It is not difficult to understand that this is a highly competitive process with a lot of players across Australia. Sub Regional bodies, like CHRRUP, that do not receive any guaranteed funding face an uncertain future in these conditions. The larger Regional Bodies like the Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) and Burdekin Dry Tropics do, however, receive a certain level of guaranteed funding under CFOC and require the capacity to deliver outcomes with that funding. CHRRUP has been lucky enough to develop a long standing and productive working relationship with FBA and we will endeavour to continue this relationship into the future.

CHRRUP is also currently developing a project proposal in partnership with the Desert Uplands group in Barcaldine, Dalrymple Landcare in Charters Towers, Desert Channels in Longreach and BDT in Townsville. This project aims to promote sustainable farming practices in the rangeland areas covered by the above groups. The project will most likely use a Market Bases Instrument delivery method, such as a tendering process, to encourage landholders to adopt management strategies that address the identified, area specific issues of wind and hillslope erosion. Biodiversity values will also be enhanced by the activities. From the CHRRUP side this project hopes to build on previous work we have done in the Belyando/Suttor area and it is hoped it will augment other

projects under development by FBA. It is by no means certain though that this proposal will be successful and this will be the same for all proposals under CFOC in the future.

The new funding arrangements are a learning process for CHRRUP and we will be well prepared in the future as CFOC releases further annual Business Plans.

Chickpea Course

Expressions of interest are being sought for advisers, agronomists and farmers to attend a Certified Chickpea agronomy course, to be held in Emerald on 17-18 March 2009. These courses are conducted by Pulse Australia in association with the Queensland DPI&F. The courses are designed to provide the technical knowledge and practical skills required to assist growers achieve more reliable and profitable Chickpea production. They also provide the science and reasoning behind current Best Management Practice and an update on the latest research and advancements in the Chickpea industry. The course cost (likely cost \$475) includes all course materials, including a detailed manual, and meals, but excludes accommodation. Please contact Gordon Cumming on 0408 923 474 or pulse.gordon@bigpond.com to register your interest. Further details are available on the website www.pulseaus.com.au

Time to Review PMAVs

Has all this above average rainfall resulted in abundant growth of your native timber regrowth? Is your regrowth approaching remnant status which is 70% of the original height and 50% of the canopy cover and similar species to undisturbed areas? Early 2009 is a good time to review if you need a PMAV (Property Map of Assessable Vegetation) to "lock in" your cleared and regrowth areas before the release of Version 6 Certified Regional Ecosystem (RE) mapping. Version 6 RE mapping (soon to be released) will update the areas that received previous tree clearing ballots and also revise advanced regrowth areas that are approaching the remnant status and have not been locked in on title through

Date Claimers

16 February – Precision Ag Field Trip to Dululu. RSVP to CHRRUP on 49822 996.

24 February– CHRRUP Board Meeting, CHDC Building, Emerald Showgrounds. RSVP Sally Murden 49822 996.

17-18 March – Certified Chickpea Agronomy Course, Emerald. Contact Gordon Cummings, Pulse Australia, on 0408 923 474 to register.

29 April – NRM Expo for high school students, Emerald Showgrounds.

the PMAV process. Some areas of advanced regrowth may change from white to coloured remnant vegetation on the RE map. Once released, landholders should check the new version RE maps for any changes on their property, especially before conducting any clearing of native vegetation.

Landholders can view their Regional Ecosystem property map by visiting the website www.epa.qld.gov.au/REMAPS and typing in their Lot/Plan numbers. A one page PMAV application form is available from the website www.nrw.qld.gov.au/vegetation/pmavs.html. The completed form, a copy of the RE map and a \$321.30 application fee can be lodged through most offices of the Qld Department of Natural Resources and Water. AgForce through their training arm, AgForward, can assist all rural landholders with PMAV applications and also hosts workshops which outline all the main aspects of the Vegetation Management Act and other legislation that is applicable to clearing native woody vegetation. For further information, visit the AgForward website <http://www.agforward.org.au/> or phone (07) 3238 6049

Dululu Field Trip

The Wowan-Dululu Landcare Group has invited landholders to attend a Field Day on February 16, 2009. CHRRUP is sponsoring transport for interested parties from the Central Highlands, and a bus will be organised if there are sufficient numbers. Topics covered will include Base Stations and CTF Projects, Precision Ag Projects, Grains Best Management Practices, Water Quality and Imagery. New and emerging technologies and innovations eg Weedseeker Technology will also be addressed. The workshop is aimed at farmers, agronomists, bankers, researchers and field officers. Please contact Sally Murden, CHRRUP on 49822 996 to register.

Nogoa News

Now the New Year is here, there is a countdown now for me till I go on 12 months maternity leave (maybe middle of April); out of the frying pan into the fire!!! So I am hastily finishing up all my jobs!

NC projects from Capella- some are still meandering along slowly but surely I think; some will need checking soon to make sure that they have been fully completed. All will be finished or at an acceptable stage by the time I leave I am sure!

New NC Billaboo Projects are in limbo whilst waiting on contracting from FBA. I hope they will be in the mail soon. I have had some more property visits and developed up Technical Panel notes for assessment on the 10th of March so I will be sending the notes out to the interested parties for perusal before I present them.

Billaboo weed projects such as Willows Cactus and Medway Creek (Parkinsonia) are moving along OK; still at the community

consultation stage. But we must remember there is never enough money for weeds!

Grains BMP oh what a feeling!! We are launching the next lot of modules- Managing Rainfall and Property Design and Layout- (there is funding for these modules as well) for the existing Grains BMP groups in Capella and Gindi. We are actively searching for landholders to start another group in each area. So busy Busy!

I am in negotiation with Mick Alexander from Grazing Best Prac to organize a Healthy Soils Workshop with Ray O'Grady here in Emerald in middle of March so expect some information on a flyer soon.

A Grazing Land Management workshop scheduled for February out at the Willows has been postponed. If you would like to attend one, please let me know, so we have an indication of numbers.

We are having a road trip down to DULULU on the 16th of Feb for a Precision Ag Field Day if you want to go let us know. I think that is about it for the moment!

Vicki Horstman, Nogoa Field Officer, 0427 320539.

Comet Tales

The second and third modules of the Grains Best Management Practices (BMP) will kick start in February. We are currently calling for any new landholders who would like to join the existing Gindie BMP group to come on board. We are also starting a new group in the Orion and Rolleston area, and Expressions of Interest will be circulated for both groups in the coming weeks. Incentive funding will be available for all BMP participants, so call the CHRRUP office to ensure your place in the groups.

I am currently re-reengaging and developing some projects from past neighborhood catchment areas over the next few months, with continued work on finalising projects from the 2007-2008 round. All landholders should continue with their projects, and give me a call for any partial completions they would like conducted.

Susie Bate, Comet Field Officer, 0427 326 400.

Belyando Byline

The Belyando Suttor project has officially come to a close which is a real shame. On the upside we are looking at a couple of project opportunities through the Caring for Our Country business plan. We will know more about the success of these projects towards the end of June. In the meantime continue to read the CHRRUP newsletter for any other opportunities available. I am now a part of the CHRRUP FBA Priority Neighbourhood Catchments team; however I am still the contact person for the Belyando Suttor, so feel free to call me anytime.

Bronwyn Roberts, CHRRUP Field Officer, 0428 776 249 or email: bronwyn@chrrup.org



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