February 2007

An electronic update for Local Government on NRM and environmental policies, projects and events in Tasmania

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If you have any queries about the content of this newsletter, or ideas for contributions to future newsletters, please contact me on the details below...

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➢ Funding Opportunities

Envirofund Now Open!
The Australian Government’s Envirofund is now open for community groups and individuals to apply for grants of up to $50,000 to carry out on-ground projects. Round 9 of Envirofund will support the normal range of activities, although there are some changes to the recognised rates for volunteer hours, fencing costs and rates allowed for auditing. Guidelines and applications are available from the Envirofund website, or contact one of the NRM Facilitators for more information. Applications for Round 9 can be submitted until 5pm on 27 April 2007.

Forest Conservation Fund
The new Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) is an initiative of the Australian Government, established under the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement. The Fund offers financial incentives for the protection of old-growth and under reserved forest communities on private land in Tasmania. It aims to protect up to 45,600 hectares of forested private land, including a minimum of 25,000 hectares of old-growth forest, and 2,400 hectares of forest land in the Mole Creek area. For more information about the Fund, see the FCF News on the DEH website.

EMS Pathways to Sustainable Agriculture
The Australian Government has announced additional $3.9 million funding to encourage the use of Environmental Management Systems (EMS) in Agriculture. There are two categories of funding, aimed at Regional bodies ($1 million) and Industry ($2.9 million) respectively. Funding applications are now open to projects that build and strengthen links between regional bodies, industry and research organisations to support farmers in achieving NRM targets, enhance the capacity of groups to implement EMS, and increase on-ground uptake of EMS approaches to farming. For more information on the programme, visit the DAFF website. Applications for the programme close at 5pm, Thursday 5 April.

Cradle Coast Rivers and Bush Projects
North West land managers can apply for funding to protect and enhance high quality native vegetation, threatened species habitat, streamside land, and wetland ecosystems. Activities that may be eligible for funding include, provision of off-stream stock watering points, restoring degraded stream channels, and stock fencing. For more information, contact Greening Australia in Burnie, on: 6432 1405.

Defeating the Weed Menace
The Australian Government has called for research proposals to be developed that look at ways to reduce the establishment and spread of weeds. An additional $1.5 million has just been made available for R&D under the Government’s $44.4 million Defeating the Weeds Menace programme. For more information on funding for research into weed management, visit the Land & Water Australia website.

Clarence recorded the largest increase in population of Tasmanian LGA’s in 2005-2006 with 520 people, followed by Kingborough, with 510 people.
Launch of Extra Hands Programme
The Tasmanian Landcare Association’s exciting new extra hands programme was launched in Launceston on Valentines Day, attracting much interest. Extra hands is a volunteer placement programme that registers people who would like to volunteer, and then links them to individuals or groups with projects in need of volunteers (hosts). The programme is offered at minimal cost, and provides training, administrative support and insurance coverage to both volunteers and hosts. The programme can provide volunteers to many types of organisations (once they are registered), including Councils! For more information about the programme, visit the Tas Landcare website.

Research into Alternatives to 1080
Research grants that form part of the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement will fund twelve individuals and organisations to investigate alternatives to the use of 1080 in Tasmania. The funding for all projects totals $1.4 million, which represents the first round of funding under the programme. NRM North will undertake one of the successful projects, looking at integrated game management at a sub-catchment scale.

Sustainable Cities – National Action Plan
The Board of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has adopted the Sustainable Cities – National Action Plan as a foundation for ALGA’s position on sustainable urban planning and climate change. The National Action Plan was developed by the Centre for International Economics in consultation with all State and Territory Governments, as well as planning officials, peak bodies and national associations, to provide a blueprint for the future sustainable management of urban centres. The NAP provides for Urban Action Plans (UAPs) to be developed at a local and regional level, including issues such as integrated water/stormwater management, bushland conservation and protection of urban green zones. A summary of the Action Plan can be viewed here.

National Stocktake of Water Pricing Policies
The CEO of the National Water Commission last week released the first national stocktake of water charging policies in urban and rural water sectors. The stocktake will inform the National Water Initiatives key objective of developing consistent approaches to the way water charges are set across Australia. The stocktake highlighted substantial differences between regions, particularly in the areas of recovery of capital expenditure, approaches to charging customers, and approaches to identifying and recovering costs of water planning and management. An executive summary of the report is available from the website of the National Water Commission.

World Environment Day Awards 2007
The United Nations Association of Australia is inviting nominations for their World Environment Day Awards for 2007. The Award categories cover a range of categories, including Greenhouse Challenge, Water management, Coastal and Marine management and Local Government. The awards recognise the work of community groups, businesses, individuals, schools and Councils that serves to protect, manage or restore the environment. Nominations for the 2007 Awards may be submitted until 5pm, Wednesday 9 May. For more information about the Awards, visit the United Nations of Australia (Vic) website.

Workshops

Water Sensitive Urban Design
This two-day workshop offers an excellent opportunity for design professionals to learn more about the concept and implementation of water sensitive urban design. The workshop will build on the basic principles of WSUD and outline the functional design process required for wetlands, bioretention systems, swales and ponds. The workshop is at Hadley's Hotel, Hobart on 29-30 March, at a cost of $400, which includes catering and handouts. Currently the workshop is limited to 25 places, with another workshop scheduled in the North of the state later in the year. For more information, or to register, contact Todd Milne on 6233 3595.

Flood Recurrence Intervals and the Establishment of Bankfulls for Tasmanian Rivers
As a recipient of the 2006 Governor’s Environmental Scholarship, Susan Mickey BSc (Hons) will be presenting a talk based on her honours research into flood recurrence intervals in Tasmanian Rivers. The results of her research and field surveys may have implications for civil engineering, river rehabilitation, and should be considered during further research. The talk - hosted by Greening Australia - will be held at 12:30 - 110 Hampden Road, Battery Point (Hobart) on Tuesday 20 March. For more information or to RSVP to this presentation, please contact Susan Mickey, snmickey@bigpond.com.au.

Integrated NRM and Production
Professionals involved in agricultural and NRM programmes are invited to a national training day at Rydges Hotel, North Hobart on 29-30 March 2007. Presented by the National Landcare Programme and Australasia Pacific Extension Network, the workshop will demonstrate options for extension and engagement programmes to integrate NRM and production into existing programmes. For more information, check out the draft agenda here, or contact the Event Coordinator, Naomi McGrath-Kerr (naomi.mcgrathkerr@ruraldevelopmentservices.com).
**Resources and Tools**

**‘Weeds Bible’ Released by Weeds CRC**
The CRC for Australian Weeds Management have released a new Integrated Weed Management Manual that provides land managers with a 250 page ‘bible’ on unwanted plant species. The Manual outlines a broad range of chemical and non-chemical tactics for weed management, and tactics to reduce reliance on herbicides, and the rapid rate of herbicide resistance. For more information about the manual, and how to order, visit the [Weed Management CRC](#) website.

**Climate Corner**

**Big Response to Tasmanian Climate Change Strategy**
More than 110 responses were received by the State Government on the Draft Climate Change Strategy for Tasmania following a three and a half month public comment period that ended 31 January 2007. Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn, said that he was encouraged by the public response to the Strategy, as climate change represents a major challenge for Tasmania.

**EU’s Planned Low Carbon Economy**
The Environment Ministers of the European Union have stated they will cut overall CO2 emissions by 20% by 2020, upping the commitment to 30% if other industrialised nations would match European efforts to curb global warming. Despite the apparent commitment, there is some disagreement between member countries as to where and how such emissions cuts can be achieved. There does seem to be greater acceptance within the EU that an overall cut of 20% will reflect greater cuts by more advanced countries (such as Germany, whose parliament has already committed to a cut in emissions by 40%), whilst less developed countries (such as former Soviet countries in Easter Europe) will require more time to achieve substantial reductions as they develop and gradually move away from heavy-polluting industries and generate more power from lower-carbon sources.

**Climate Law in Australia Conference**
Presented by the Australian National University, and the University of Melbourne, this conference will focus exclusively on the emerging legal dimensions of global warming. Academics, policy analysts and climate lawyers will assess the international framework of Kyoto, the Asia-Pacific partnership agreement, and key climate cases as well as the broader issues of carbon trading, nuclear decision-making, alternative energy technologies, and legal challenges to the coal enquiry. For more information about this interesting conference event, visit the website of the [ANU](#).

**Conferences**

**2ND Annual Best Practice Sustainability Reporting Conference**
This conference looks at improving transparency and accountability through reporting for optimal performance in any organisation. A number of national and international corporate sustainability managers will present on the importance of sustainability reporting in maximising stakeholder engagement, offering transparency, and meeting industry and regulatory requirements. The conference will be held at the [Novotel on Collins, Melbourne](#) on **23-24 April, 2007**. For more information on the conference programme, or to register, visit the [conference website](#).

**Accelerating Now! – ICLEI Conference**
In May 2007 ICLEI will host an international conference for local government leaders from the Oceanic region, focused on sustainable development. The focus will be on how Local Governments are progressing toward sustainable development through the up-take and implementation of ICLEI campaigns, as well as looking at how partnerships can be created in the sector to enhance leadership and vision in sustainability at the local level. The conference will be held from the **2 – 5 May 2007** at the [Grand Hyatt, Melbourne](#). To get involved in setting the conference agenda, or to register for the conference, visit the [ICLEI website](#).

**2007 Urban Salt Conference**
The second Urban Salt conference: “Dealing with Salinity in Urban Environments” will take place at the [Waterview Convention Centre, Homebush Bay, Sydney](#), from **22-23 May 2007**. The conference provides an opportunity for local government officers and natural resource managers to learn from the experts in urban salinity from around Australia. The early bird registration has been extended to Thursday **15 March**. For information on conference speakers and highlights, or to register for the conference, visit the [conference website](#).

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If you no longer wish to receive this electronic newsletter, please e-mail Jenni at the Local Government Association of Tasmania.  

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