Funding Opportunities

Recreational Fishing Community Grants NOW OPEN!
Round 4 of the Australian Government’s Recreational Fishing Grants are now open, and will close on Thursday 25 January 2007. Councils are able to apply for these grants of up to $100,000 to undertake projects that enhance recreational fishing opportunities. This can include infrastructure upgrades, restocking or resnagging waterways, monitoring & data collection, awareness raising, or track upgrades, in either freshwater or saltwater environments. Applicants will require matched funding, generally on a dollar for dollar basis, with in-kind contributions accepted. Past rounds have had trouble finding enough projects to fund (!), and Tasmania has had a high success rate with applications (100% last round!) For more information or assistance in advancing projects in your area, contact Jenni Rigby at LGAT or visit the Rec Fishing Grants website.

Envirofund Projects Announced
Successful projects for Round 8 of Envirofund were announced in October, bringing the total funding amount of Envirofund to $110 million. Over 50 Tasmanian projects received funding in this round, totalling over $1.2 million dollars. Visit the Envirofund website to see which projects were successful around Australia. Applications for Round 9 are expected to open in early 2007, so get ready, and start looking at potential projects and project partners NOW!
Draft Climate Change Strategy for Tasmania
The Draft Climate Change Strategy for Tasmania was released by the State Government in October, and is open for comment until the end of January. The Strategy provides a framework for combating the impacts of climate change within Tasmania, promoting a collaborative approach from all levels of government, industry and the community. It includes an action plan that outlines a number of key initiatives to be implemented locally, regionally and statewide. The Draft Strategy can be viewed on the DPIW website, with the period for comment open until the end of January.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Paper
One of the big issues in the climate change spotlight is finding appropriate methods to reduce the greenhouse gas emission of high polluting industries. It’s a complex issue, with economic, social and ethical considerations – not to mention environmental! Amongst the alternatives are market-based instruments, such as greenhouse gas emissions, or carbon trading schemes, versus regulatory mechanisms, such as carbon taxes on high-polluting products and services. But finding ways to account for pollution in economic frameworks is proving difficult, with much disagreement between political parties, levels of government, and public and private industry. Contributing to the discussion, the National Emissions Trading Taskforce have released a discussion paper with the support of the Premiers of several States - Possible Design for a National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Scheme, which is open for comments until December 2006.

An EPA for Tasmania…?
Tasmanians are being asked to comment on the proposal to establish an Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in Tasmania. Following an election commitment, the State Government has advanced a position paper outlining considerations for the establishment of an EPA, which invites public comment until 22 December 2006. The position paper is available on the Environment Division website.

Pumping Our Water Off-shore?!
Minister for Primary Industries and Water, David Llewellyn, has confirmed that the company Solar Sailor has approached the State Government about shipping water from Tasmania to the mainland. The Minister has stressed that whilst there may be further discussions with the proponents, the Government’s priority is to provide a reliable supply of good quality water to Tasmanian farmers and consumers.

Second Year of Green Globe in Coles Bay
The Coles Bay community celebrated both weedbuster week and their second year of Green Globe benchmarking with the launch of a Weed Action Plan for the local region. The Weed Action Plan has been undertaken by the community as a Green Globe initiative to protect the National Park and broader community from the threat of invasive exotic plants that have been classified as weeds. The Coles Bay community first undertook the Green Globe 21 sustainability benchmarking process in 2005, and has continued for a second year thanks to the dedication of the community working group, and the support of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council.

Cigarette Butts – Day of Action
The Australian Government has written to Councils to see if they would like to take part in a national day of action against cigarette butt litter. Cigarette butts are a major source of litter in urban areas, and contribute significantly to pollution in our waterways. Councils who participate in the day of action will receive a support kit, which will include items such as media release outlines, fact sheets, posters, caps, stickers and certificates. If your Council is interested in participating, contact Barbara at the Department of Environment and Heritage (02 6274 1679).

Ongoing Investment in Regional NRM Announced
The Australian Government has announced that funding for the regional NRM Framework will be extended beyond 2008. The recent announcement came with the release of the Keogh Review into the strengths and weaknesses of the regional NRM Framework. The Australian Government are now liaising with the States and regions as to the future direction of NRM.

Keogh Review on Future of NRM Released
The Keogh Review – undertaken to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current regional NRM Framework – has now been released, and has called for the Australian Government to announce its intentions for NRM post-2008 as soon as possible. The review documents overwhelming support for the regional delivery of NRM in Australia, but also makes recommendations for improvement, including better engagement with regional communities through strengthening links with local government. The full report can be viewed here.

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On average, 82.6% of Australian households say they re-use plastic bags (ABS, 2000).
Resources and Tools

Soils and Salinity Web-page
NRM South has developed a Land Resources Node on the web to provide land management, soils and salinity information for land managers in the southern region. The website pulls together information from a range of sources to offer a one-stop-shop for land managers. Visit the [website](#) to find out more.

Project Insight

Data Projects Make Life Easier for Land Managers
The data that has been collected as a part of the Coastal and Marine Branch, DTAE managed project “Coastal Values of Southern Tasmania” is already making life easier for a Tasmanian Council.

Two Coastal Values projects were funded through NRM North and NRM South using NHT funds. The projects provided vegetation and geomorphologic data collection and analysis in both the Southern and Northern regions. Extra funding and project support has come from a variety of sources including PWS, the Derwent Estuary Program and various Tasmanian coastal councils.

The analysed data will be made available through new layers on the LIST from December 2006; however some of the data has already been made available to Kingborough Council to help them deliver a new project in their municipality. This new project involves mapping threatened vegetation communities to promote the sustainable management of Kingborough’s native vegetation by stakeholders including ‘Care’ groups, Kingborough Landcare Advisory Group and the Kingborough Council.

Cassie Strain who is acting as a consultant for Kingborough Council for the project recently explained “This coastal vegetation layer will be valuable in informing Council on threatened vegetation communities. This will allow us to concentrate our mapping activities in areas not recently mapped, including areas adjoining the coastal vegetation layer”.

The Coastal and Marine Branch, in the Environment Division of the Department of Tourism, Arts and the Environment took on the financial and Steering Committee management of the two Coastal Values projects in 2005. “It has taken considerable effort over the past two years, but it is great to see that land managers are starting to benefit from the information gathered”, said Kristy Blackburn who is managing the Southern NRM project for the Department.

Conferences

The Naked Facilitator Conference
The Australasian Facilitator’s Network Conference – “The Naked Facilitator” – will be held in Geelong from 29 November until 1 December 2006. The conference is open to anyone involved in facilitation, and offers various workshops and practice sessions on the processes of good facilitation. For more information, visit the [conference website](#).

Biodiversity: Balancing Conservation and Production - Advanced Notice
Tamar NRM, in association with the Centre for Environment, University of Tasmania, is presenting a biodiversity conference next year to highlight the balance between conservation and production. The conference will focus on case studies that have been successful in achieving this balance, from around Tasmania and beyond. The conference will run from the 26-28 June 2007 at the Launceston Campus of the University of Tasmania. To find out more about this conference, and how to be involved, visit the [website](#).

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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