

# **Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council**

## **Communique – Meeting 6, 18 November 2003**

The Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council held its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting on Tuesday 18 November, at the Marine Board Building in Hobart. The meeting opened at 11.00 a.m. and closed at 2.00 p.m.

Kim Evans was obliged to leave the meeting at 12 noon, and Council chose Allan Garcia to take the chair in his absence.

The major issues discussed once again related to the progress of national natural resource management funding programs – the Natural Heritage Trust Extension (NHT2), the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and the National Landcare Program (NLP) – and the development of regional NRM strategies by the three regional committees.

### National NRM funding programs

Council heard from members who were its representatives on the special State Assessment Panel, which had assessed the projects coming forward from the 3 regional committees for priority action funding under the NHT2, and for NLP funding. Council noted their report and thanked them for their work. It also heard from the Joint NAP Working Group about its choice of projects to recommend for priority funding.

### Development of the regional strategies

At its previous meeting, Council had requested Kim Evans to arrange a meeting with the Chairs of the regional committees, mainly to settle the issue of the timeline for submission of regional strategies for accreditation. Council discussed at length the outcomes of that meeting, held on 28 October. It resolved to advise the Minister that Council supported the revised timetable agreed by the Chairs, subject to confirmation by the Northern and North Western regional committees.

Council heard updates on the progress of the three regional strategies, and noted that the next stage was about to begin with the issuing of Discussion Papers by the Southern Regional Committee.

### Other issues

Other issues discussed in the meeting included:

- ❑ progress with NRM communications. Members had a brief presentation on the new “nrmtas.com.au” website, and were assured that an NRM logo was very close to finalisation. Council also noted the imminent selection of a Communications Officer to run the NHT2 foundation funding Communication Project;
- ❑ the appointment by Commonwealth and State Ministers of 2 persons who, in addition to Council members, will comprise the “Natural Resource Management Advisory Group” agreed under the NHT Bilateral Agreement.

### Membership changes

Two new members took their places at this meeting: Jamie Bayly-Stark (Department of Premier and Cabinet), Kate Kent's replacement as the whole of government representative; and Steven Fleming, the new nominee of the North West NRM Regional Committee, replacing Jenny Whiting.

Council welcomed back Fran Healy after illness, and also welcomed Maureen Bennett as David Elliott's proxy replacement for this meeting only.

### Next meeting

The next meeting is to be held in Burnie, and is scheduled for Tuesday 9 March 2004, with another likely to be held on Wednesday 5 May (Hobart).

Kim Evans

Chair, Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council