

Chair's message



Keeping your head above water is always a challenge during the big wet seasons of the tropical north. Keeping our region ahead of the game is another important challenge for Burdekin Water Futures, our regional stakeholders and producers.

One way to stay on top of the latest technology and research is to take time out to seek advice, and attend workshops, conferences and information sessions. This can help take your enterprise forward in an environmentally and economically sustainable way, which keeps the region at the leading edge.

BWF encourages stakeholders to attend conferences and other such events, in order to provide direct input and to take away learnings to help with the positive improvement of their enterprise and the Burdekin region as a whole.

BWF members are keen to hear stakeholders' input, ideas or concerns and would like to work with them towards a more sustainable future for the region and its water resources.

Cr Lyn McLaughlin, BWF Chair

Burdekin Water Forum declaration

Summary findings and key action points that came out of the Burdekin Water Forum, held in February 2010, have been compiled into a Burdekin Water Forum Declaration.

The key findings outline action that needs to be addressed urgently for an integrated, whole-of-system approach to water resources management in the Burdekin catchment.

Burdekin Water Futures will work together with stakeholders and funding bodies to help the region achieve this goal.



More than 70 stakeholders participated in the two-day forum, providing their input towards the findings. The stakeholders included community members, farmers, water service providers, resource managers, scientists and government representatives.

The declaration can be viewed at
<http://www.clw.csiro.au/naif/casestudies/bwf-activities.html>

Burdekin Water Futures members and local irrigators will be exposed to the latest technology, irrigation techniques and research outcomes when they attend the One Water Many Futures Australian Irrigation Conference and Exhibition 2010.

Irrigators and industry representatives from across the country will gather in Sydney from June 8 to 10 to participate in this all-encompassing trade exhibition and conference which is jointly hosted by the Irrigation Association of Australia and the Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures.

Some of the session topics in the conference program are:

Managing off-farm storages
Increasing crop water productivity
Water cycle management
Groundwater

Policies and planning
Managing environmental water
Competing water demands
Impacts of climate change on irrigation

More than 100 exhibitors will attend, with a selection of half-day workshops running throughout the event to inform participants of the latest research, products and new national regulations. Visit <http://www.irrigationaustralia.com.au/> to find out more.

Farming and national environment law



In July 2000, the Australian Government introduced a National Environment Law to protect matters that are of national environmental significance. These include:

- Nationally threatened and migratory species
- Nationally threatened ecological communities
- Wetlands of international importance
- World and national heritage properties
- The Great Barrier Reef



Under this law, new farm activities that may have a significant impact on a protected matter may require approval from the Federal Government.

You can find out more by contacting the department's environment liaison officer on 1800 704520 or by visiting www.environment.gov.au/farming

Member profile - Dr Scott Crawford

As NRM Operations Manager of NQ Dry Tropics, Dr Scott Crawford takes responsibility for organisational investment, planning and delivery of solutions to natural resource management issues within the Burdekin dry tropics region. NQ Dry Tropics is a community based, not-for-profit organisation established in 2002 to deliver on-ground natural resource management (NRM) and enhance the community's involvement in activities throughout the Burdekin region.

Dr Crawford believes there is a natural link between Burdekin Water Futures and NQ Dry Tropics. "Working together with a whole-of-system approach to achieve the best environmental, social, cultural and economic outcomes for the region is paramount for future prosperity."



Prior to starting with NQ Dry Tropics in January 2006, Dr Crawford had a long career in land and water management. He has held senior management roles in both rural and urban settings in New Zealand, and has worked on soil erosion research in the Northern Territory and Brisbane.