

# Lower Burdekin Water Futures

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**Newsletter**

**Issue 2 – December 2008**

### **Welcome by Chair**

As 2008 draws to a close, I would like to highlight the important role the LBWF plays in bringing together stakeholders and lead agencies so that they work together strategically for the benefit of the whole lower Burdekin. We look forward to increased awareness of the value of the water resources in our catchment with the view to managing them sustainably into the future.

Our appreciation is extended to Dr Keith Bristow (CSIRO / CRC for Irrigation Futures) for the instrumental role he played in establishing the LBWF, and for chairing the group for the past two years. We bid farewell to John Power (see profile P2), who has served on the LBWF group since its inception, and thank him for his valuable contributions.

We wish everyone a happy and safe festive season.

*Cr Lyn McLaughlin, LBWF Chair*

### **Lower Burdekin Groundwater Science Plan**

The LBWF group is developing a set of priorities that will form the basis of a Lower Burdekin Groundwater Science Plan. The plan will demonstrate a strategic and integrated approach to addressing water resource management issues. It will also guide the development, selection and prioritisation of future research projects.



**Nick Schofield, Scott Crawford, Rick Evans**

Sinclair Knight Merz has been engaged to help the LBWF group develop the Groundwater Science Plan. Two of their leading water management consultants, Dr Rick Evans and Dr Nick Schofield, attended a workshop in Ayr on December 3 to help LBWF members identify needs and priorities.

### **Lower Burdekin Knowledge Platform workshop**

The LBWF group has been working with Justin Story (CSIRO) and Paul Houghton (KT Studios) to further develop a web-based information system which will help build a better understanding of the lower Burdekin and its water resources.

On November 13, members attended a second workshop to support the design, development and implementation of the Lower Burdekin Knowledge Platform (LBKP). Topics covered included audience definition, identifying projects of relevance, the role of themes in decision making, decision coordination and resilience.

More information can be obtained from Justin Story and Jeff Camkin: 08-9333 6398 or [Jeff.Camkin@csiro.au](mailto:Jeff.Camkin@csiro.au)



**LBKP workshop**

### **Rake helps green cane harvesting**



**Trash Rake**

A modified finger wheel rake is helping a group of Burdekin farmers to trial green cane harvesting this season. Developed by Bundaberg district canegrower Neville Loeskow, the rake is a two-row prototype which cleans trash out of every second furrow. This enables the cleaned furrow to be irrigated without the retarding effect of the trash.



**Cleaned Furrow**

The Mulgrave Area Farm Integrated Action group from Clare purchased the trash rake in collaboration with BSES Burdekin. Six growers have used the rake and one has built his own version.

### **Burdekin Basin Plan released for public comment**

The Burdekin Basin draft Resource Operations Plan was released for public comment on October 24. The plan will implement the strategies specified in the *Water Resource (Burdekin Basin) Plan 2007*, which include enhancing security of water for both human consumption and the natural environment.

Key provisions of the draft plan include:

- Converting existing water authorisations in the Burdekin-Haughton and Bowen-Broken water supply schemes to tradable water allocations;
- Dealing with unallocated water;
- Rules for the operation of infrastructure in water supply schemes;
- Trading of unsupplemented (eg water harvesting) water allocations; and
- Granting or amending licences to take overland flow.

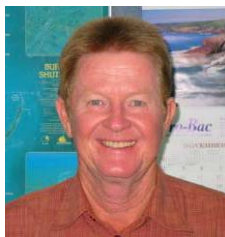


**Burdekin River**

Community and stakeholder consultation has commenced. Formal submissions can be made until 5pm on January 30, 2009. Submission forms are at [www.nrw.qld.gov.au/wrp/burdekin](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/wrp/burdekin)

### **Member Profile - John Power**

Burdekin Shire Council operations manager John Power has been a member of the LBWF group since it was formed in 2006. He has provided valuable input to the group as a representative for council - the body responsible for domestic water supply, sewerage services and drainage.



**John Power**

When the LBWF group was first formed, John was council's water and wastewater manager. In his 30 years of service with council, much of his work has revolved around water supply and sewerage services, including planning, design, construction and managing service provision.

John has always held a deep interest in the water history of the Burdekin and says this interest will continue, despite his retirement.

"The visions and goals of the LBWF group are extremely important to the future of this fertile district," he said. "No water, no Burdekin!"