

7 April 2006

Newsletter #1

Border Ranges Biodiversity Project

DEC

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Border Ranges Hotspot Rainforest
Multi-species Recovery Plan

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Project Description

The Australian Government is funding the preparation of the Border Ranges Rainforest Multi-species Recovery Plan. The project forms a component of the Border Ranges Cross-regional Biodiversity Project, which is being implemented by the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority in conjunction with South East Queensland Catchments, NSW Department of Environment and Conservation and the Environment Protection Agency/Qld Parks and Wildlife Service. Representatives from a number of Australian, NSW and Qld government agencies, and regional bodies will be involved in the preparation of the plan. Interested members of the community and representative community and industry groups are invited to participate

in the plan preparation.

The draft plan will be completed by June 2007 and will be placed on public exhibition prior to being finalised. The plan will be approved for five years.

Background

The area of north east NSW and south east Qld is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, containing a variety of significant habitat types including subtropical rainforest, wet sclerophyll forest, mountain headlands and rocky outcrops. These ecosystems support a large number of threatened species and communities, and much of the area is recognised for its World Heritage value.

The rainforest communities are identified as a component of the Australian Government's Border Ranges North and South biodiversity hotspot, and are within the Scenic Rim, South East Hills and Ranges south of Beenleigh and the Southern Coastal Lowlands IBRA provinces. The study area supports 97 rainforest plants, 31 animals and two ecological communities currently listed as threatened at either the National or State level.

Throughout north east NSW and south east Qld, habitat loss and fragmentation through clearing for urban and agricultural development, the spread of invasive species, inappropriate fire regimes and a range of other threats have impacted on nearly all native species and ecosystems. These ecosystems and component species and associated threats occur across a range of land tenures and management responsibilities and their protection requires a consistent and coordinated approach between landmanagers and landholders.

Project Vision

The Border Ranges Rainforest Multi-species Recovery Plan will provide for the future conservation of the exceptional natural environment within the Border Ranges rainforests. Through implementation of the plan and adaptive management no target species or community will decline in conservation status, and the connectivity and integrity of species' habitats and communities will improve. This process will be undertaken in genuine partnership between all relevant sections of government and the community.

1 as defined under the Australian Government Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (TSC Act), and the Qld Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NC Act).

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Project Objectives

Aim

To provide a consistent and effective recovery program for species and communities of conservation concern within the Border Ranges Rainforest hotspot (NSW and Queensland). The recovery program will focus on improving the condition (connectivity and integrity) of rainforest communities, their component species and systems.

Objectives will include

1A consistent cross-borders, landscape approach seeking biodiversity improvement across all land tenure.

2Rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystems.

3The identification and, where possible, management of threatening processes.

4The recognition and incorporation of cultural values based on ongoing indigenous engagement.

5Identification and ongoing involvement of key stakeholders.

6Increased engagement and ownership of local communities.

7Improved management of an increasing scientific, social and cultural knowledge base.

8Long-term, commitment to cost effective recovery processes.

Project Outcomes

1 The Border Ranges rainforest recovery efforts are managed through a coordinated approach between NSW and Qld.

2Recovery efforts for threatened species

and species of conservation concern are coordinated and prioritised across the landscape, priority areas and communities, and between sites and species.

3Community, including Indigenous communities, are effectively involved in the plan's preparation and implementation.

4The recovery actions are integrated into broader NRM planning.

Want more information or to get involved?

The recovery team will prepare and send out regular newsletters to interested parties. These newsletters can be integrated into other newsletters, webpages or forwarded onto other interested individuals.

Within the overall recovery team, specialist teams have been established for six themes.Team leader contact details (NSW and Qld) for these themes are:

- GIS

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Team leaders can be contacted if you want more information or want to provide input.

Figure 1. Border Ranges Hotspot Rainforest Recovery Plan study area

