

1Newsletter #3
Border Ranges Biodiversity Project
Notice to Stakeholders June 2007
DECC

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Border Ranges Rainforest Hotspot
Biodiversity Management Plan

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Introduction

The Border Ranges Rainforest Hotspot Biodiversity Management Plan, formerly the Border Ranges Hotspot Multi-species Recovery Plan, is now into the final few months until the draft is due for public exhibition. The focus of plan preparation is currently on community and indigenous consultation, threats and writing of the plan itself.

Recovery team

A recovery team meeting was held in March and plan preparation is moving ahead based on the outcomes on this meeting. There have already been some well-received outcomes from the preparation of the plan. In particular, the creation of a common, cross-border vegetation dataset with consistent vegetation units by the GIS theme team has received a good response from the Recovery Team. Also of note was the acceptance of the team to include 'bureaucracy' as an identified threat in the plan.

Community website

The Border Ranges Rainforest Recovery Team has set up a community discussion website for the project. The site can be accessed at <http://brrbmp.grouphub.com>. It was initially stated by this newsletter that anyone could view the site. This was incorrect, however, and access can only be gained through a username and password. This can be obtained by emailing Jim Morrison at pactec@nor.com.au with a request for access to the Border Ranges Rainforest Management Plan community site. In your email, please assist Jim by providing him with your preferred username and password (maximum 9 characters).

Different levels of access will be available but, at the very minimum, the username and password will allow you to participate in discussions via a common notice board as well as accessing some of the draft and background documentation that is assisting with preparation of the plan.

If you do not have internet access but would still like to participate in discussions, please contact one of the Team Leaders identified on the second page of this newsletter.

Consultation and
prioritisation

Feedback from the first round of community consultation was generally positive. Information gained from this is currently being incorporated into the plan.

The plan will acknowledge that all rainforest within the Border Ranges study area is important and will reflect this through a suite of actions aimed at addressing common threats. Beyond this, the plan will identify priority sites and locations with particular biodiversity, cultural and/or social values. Selecting these priority locations will be undertaken using a range of spatially-based information sources including fauna and threat modelling as well as key corridors. The process also takes into account information received to date from government agencies and the community via public meetings or submissions.

There will also be another formal round of consultation in June, at which there will be an opportunity to view and comment on identified priorities.

Indigenous consultation

Last year, the Recovery Team engaged Eastern Yugambah Limited (EYL) to undertake research and preparation of an indigenous consultation strategy to engage indigenous community groups and knowledge holders in the development of the plan. The strategy provides a 'best

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Want more information
or to get involved?

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

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practice' model for incorporating indigenous
values into the biodiversity planning
process.

The involvement of EYL and other
indigenous groups has been beneficial
to the team and it is encouraging to
have an alternative view to biodiversity
management, as demonstrated in the
following extract by Wesley Aird of EYL:

"From our perspective being involved
in the process of talking to each of the
indigenous organisations in the Border
Ranges region has been a great opportunity
to hear briefly about the work that each
of us are doing in our local areas, and
the specific needs and interests of our
members".

"There is a high level of interest from our
organisations in being actively involved in

multi-species recovery planning and actions. We found each of the organisations aware of their limitations and needs in relation to the implementation of projects, and keen to increase their own abilities, and the capacities of their members, to be involved in projects which are meaningful to them".

"Collectively we recognise that the indigenous community has a lot to contribute to recovery actions if these activities are able to engage people effectively. We also recognise that the community members who get involved can learn a great deal from the scientists, and other specialists, involved in natural resource management projects".

"For indigenous organisations to be meaningfully engaged in any Government actions we need to be provided with clear information about the project and the associated timelines. So that all parties can be satisfied with the project outcomes all stakeholders will need to pay particular attention to transparent and timely information sharing and keeping to milestone deadlines".

"We have been most pleased to work with the Border Ranges planning team in documenting organisational interest and a model for Indigenous community engagement for the project. And we like each of the other organisations in the region are looking forward to playing an active role in the design and implementation of recovery actions in the coming years".

