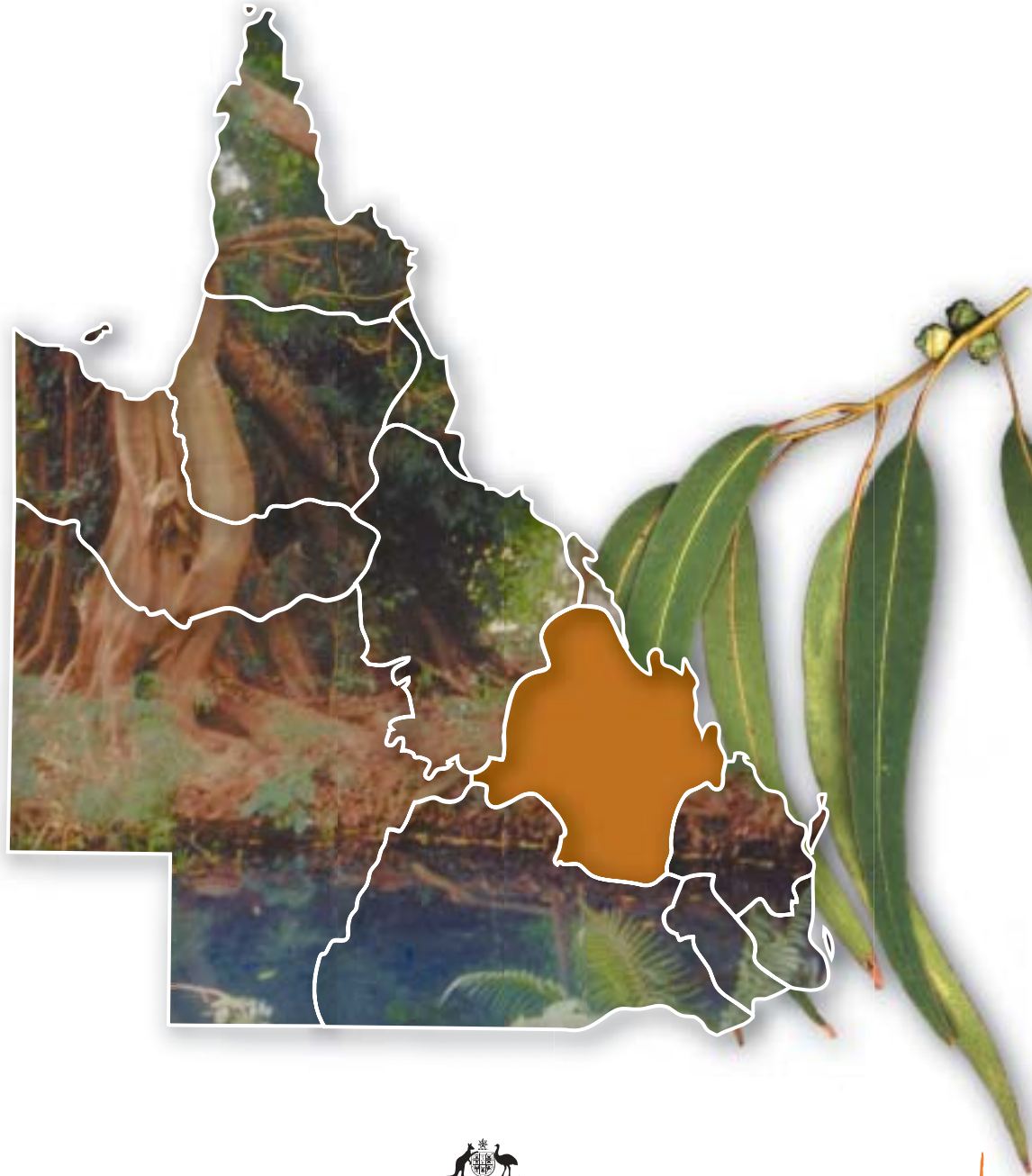


## BUSHCARE SUPPORT 2003

# *Native Vegetation Management*

*A needs analysis of regional service delivery in  
Queensland - Central*

growing the future together



Natural Heritage Trust  
*Helping Communities Helping Australia*  
A Commonwealth Government Initiative

Bushcare   
A program of the Natural Heritage Trust

# CENTRAL QUEENSLAND

## Regional context

### Regional Profile

Covering over one-tenth of Queensland's land area and straddling the Tropic of Capricorn, the Central Queensland region has diverse and beautiful landscapes, distinctive rural and urban communities, and the largest river system draining to the east coast of Australia.

The Central Queensland region includes the Fitzroy Basin along with adjacent coastal catchments, the Boyne and Calliope catchments in the South and the Upper Belyando Catchment to the West.

The region covers an area in excess of 200,000 square kilometres. 70 per cent of land in the region is owned by the State in tenures including National Parks, State Forests and Reserves, privately occupied leasehold land, Un-allocated State Land and roads.

The Fitzroy Basin itself comprises six major catchment areas drained by the Nagoa, Comet, Mackenzie, Isaac-Conners, Dawson and Fitzroy Rivers. Its area is 142,645 square kilometres.

Due to the region's extensive land area, it includes a large number of local authority areas including: Banana, Bauhinia, Belyando, Broadsound, Bungil, Calliope, Duaringa, Emerald, Fitzroy, Gladstone, Jericho, Livingstone, Mt Morgan, Nebo, Peak Downs, Rockhampton, Sarina, Taroom and Woorabinda

The region also includes the Shoalwater Bay Military Training Area, which covers a land area of 4,545 square kilometres, almost double that of the Australian Capital Territory.

With a population of about 185,000 (1996), there are just 1.08 persons for every square kilometre of land in the region.

The major urban and service centres are Rockhampton, Gladstone, Emerald, Yeppoon and Biloela.

Within the region there are many organisations, groups and individuals undertaking vegetation management. These include, but are not limited to:

- Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils;
- Community organisations such as Landcare, Society for Growing Australian Plants, Capricorn Conservation Council, Land for Wildlife and Greening Australia;
- Department of Primary Industries;
- Department of Natural Resources and Mines;
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service;
- Environmental Protection Agency;
- Fitzroy Basin Association;
- Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association Inc.;
- landholders and individuals;
- Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland;
- Waterwatch; and
- Central Queensland A New Millennium.

### Current Land Uses

Due to Fitzroy Catchment being the second largest catchment in Australia, the landuses are diverse and wide-ranging. Landuse in the Central Queensland region include:

- agriculture - grazing, dryland cropping, irrigated cotton, horticulture;
- mining - coal production, magnesite, nickel, historically gold and silver;
- recreation;
- residential and industrial areas;
- conservation reserves and natural areas; and
- forestry.

### Key Statistics

The information below outlines the Natural Heritage Trust projects funded in the Central Queensland region during the 2001 – 2002 funding year. The data has been sourced from the Greening Australia Bushcare Support officer in Central Queensland. A total of approximately 126 Natural Heritage Trust projects were undertaken in the region during the 2001- 2002 funding cycle. Of these Greening Australia Queensland has assisted with 38 Bushcare projects, in addition assistance was also provided to a number of Natural Heritage Trust projects funded through Coastcare, Rivercare and Landcare.

**Table 1: Bushcare projects in Central Queensland assisted by Bushcare Support**

State Code	Project Name	Project Proponent
972212	Olsen's Caves Revegetation of Remnant Dry Rainforest	Olsens Capricorn Caverns
972216	Capricorn Seed Bank Project - Preserving Natural Heritage	Livingstone Shire Council
972217	Recommended Native Plants for the Fitzroy Catchment	SGAP Rockhampton Branch
972219	Community and Council Strategic Planning for Ecologically Sustainable Development	Livingstone Shire Council
972221	Remnant Vegetation and Bird Communities in CQ	University of the Sunshine Coast
972224	Bushland Extension Initiative	Yeppoon State School PandC Assoc.
972225	Native Plant Seedbank and Database for Central Queensland	Central Queensland University
982208	Springton Creek Native Ecosystem Project	Duaringa/Central District Landcare Association
982214	Central Highlands Community Revegetation Project	Greening Australia Qld
982220	Quarry Creek Biodiversity and Community Education Project	Wycarbah and District Landcare Group
982221	Sustainable Management of Remnant Vegetation in the Central Highlands (Emerald, Peak Downs, Bauhinia, Belyando, and Jericho Shires)	EPA
982225	Dawson Remnant Vegetation and Riparian Zone Management Project	Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association

State Code	Project Name	Project Proponent
982228	Scrub Creek Restoration Project	Calliope Soil Conservation Association
982232	Central Queensland Arbour Day Programme for Country Schools	QPWS
992200	Habitat Protection and Rehabilitation of the Highly Endangered Bridled Nailtail Wallaby, CQ	Duaringa/Central District Landcare Association
992201	Rockhampton Community Bushland Restoration and Management Project	Rockhampton City Council
982231	Splitters Creek Restoration Project	Rockhampton City Council
992202	Splitters Creek Restoration Project	Rockhampton City Council
992204	Berserker Wilderness Area Community Action	EPA
992208	Long Island Bend Remnant Vegetation Project	Fitzroy Shire Council
992214	Black Ant Creek Catchment Rehabilitation	Bundi Road Subgroup of the Taroom Shire Landcare Group Inc.
992218	Conservation of Native Blue Grasslands and Biodiversity in the Central Highlands	World Wide Fund for Nature
992227	Community and Agency Action on Serpentine Threatened Ecosystem	Livingstone Shire Council, for the Remnant Vegetation Study Steering Committee
992228	Community Participation in Rehabilitation and Restoration of the Swamp Oaks	Duaringa Shire Council
992230	Building Capacity for Aboriginal Involvement in Natural Resource Management in CQ	Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee
2002200	Central Highlands Link-Up - A landholder and Main Roads Partnership for Marinating and Managing Significant Natural Vegetation	Department of Main Roads
2002201	Protection and Management of Remnant Softwood Scrub surrounding Bomboolba group of mountains	Ulam-Raglan Landcare Group Inc.
2002202	Demonstrating Conservation Initiatives to Enhance Native Vegetation and Wildlife at Mt Hay	Wycarbah and District Landcare Group Inc.
2002204	Emu Park Community Urban Bushcare Corridor Rehabilitation	Emu Park Urban Bushcare Group
2002205	Joskeleigh Area Community Native Forest Restoration and Management	Joskeleigh South Sea Islander Community Development Association Inc.

State Code	Project Name	Project Proponent
2002206	Cawarral Community Forest Park Project	Cawarral School of Arts Assoc. Inc.
2002208	Land for Wildlife - Capricorn	Gladstone City Council
2002209	Port Curtis Catchment Urban Vegetation Remediation Program / Glen Creek Rehabilitation Program	Port Curtis Catchment Working Group
2002220	Lower Fitzroy River - Incentives for Strategic Community Action to Improve Catchment Health	Livingstone Shire Council
2012216	Dawson River Catchment: Targeting sustainability through community participation, coordination and integration - Stage 2	Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association
2012219	Increasing Adoption of Best Management Practices in the Fitzroy Basin Region	Fitzroy Basin Association Inc.
982611	Sustainable Management of Biodiversity of the Desert Uplands Stock Routes (Barcaldine, Aramac, Jericho Shires)	Barcaldine Shire Council
2012609	Advancing On-Ground Nature Conservation - Desert Uplands Bioregion	Desert Uplands Build Up and Development Strategy Committee (DUBDSC)

Bushcare Support was instrumental in the development and implementation 19 workshops in the region during 2001 – 2002 with an average participation of 15 participants. Workshops conducted focussed on revegetation, plant identification, monitoring and evaluation, plant propagation, seed collection and regional/subregional planning. Bushcare Support also ran and participated in eleven school projects with students attending from both primary and secondary schools.

### Key Natural Resource Management Challenges

There are a number of Natural Resource Management and vegetation management issues in the region. They include:

- Forty-six of the regions 97 ecosystem types have been reduced to less than 30 per cent of their original extent. Lowland and riparian areas have been most affected;
- Approximately 2.9 per cent of the region is currently designated as National Park, Conservation Park and/or other officially recognised areas for ecological protection. Approximately 5.8 per cent of the region is State Forest or Timber Reserve, and some unofficially recognised conservation occurs on individual properties. These areas alone do not adequately represent the region's biodiversity, or offer realistic long-term conservation. It is acknowledged that Queensland Government legislation, amongst other outcomes, aims to retain at least 30 per cent of the pre-clearing (or original) extent of remnant vegetation on a bioregional basis;
- Weed infestations are seriously threatening the viability of rural properties across the region, as well as the health of the region's ecosystems. Other forms of land degradation, which affect areas of the region, include soil erosion, declining soil fertility and salinity;
- The quality of the region's surface water is of concern to many groups within the community. Persistent issues include excessive levels of sediment, nutrients and

pesticides in many of the region's streams; regular blooms of blue-green algae; and the generally poor condition of riparian vegetation;

- A number of the region's rural industries have suffered declining viability throughout the 1990s. This is having detrimental effects on regional communities and economy, and is contributing to the degradation of our resource base and natural environment; and
- River systems and underground water supplies are under pressure from increasing demand for reliable water supplies for agricultural, industrial and urban expansion. Even with the implementation of a new allocation process in the Fitzroy Basin, there remains some potential for conflicts between water users and between human and environmental requirements.

## Regional Responses

A means of identifying and tackling these issues was the development of a regional natural resource management strategy called the 'Central Queensland Strategy for Sustainability'. This document was developed with a high degree of community consultation and a number of issues were identified and defined outcomes were developed.

Development of regional plan facilitated by the Fitzroy Basin Association to receive funds through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. The proposal will include sub-regional components with a focus on capacity building and biodiversity protection and enhancement.

The Fitzroy Basin Association has successfully completed a devolved grant scheme for the Fitzroy region titled 'Increasing Adoption of Best Management Practices in the Fitzroy Basin Region'. The program focussed on protecting remnant riparian vegetation by providing incentives for the implementation of Best Management Practices on private and public lands in the greater basin area with the exemption of the area covered by the Lower Fitzroy Devolved grant scheme.

The Lower Fitzroy Devolved grant scheme, 'Lower Fitzroy River - Incentives for Strategic Community Action to Improve Catchment Health' is another devolved grant program developed by a coalition of Livingstone and Fitzroy shire councils and Rockhampton city council with a similar focus to the Fitzroy Basin Association devolved grant.

Land for Wildlife is a voluntary property registration program, which assists and encourages landholders to provide habitat for wildlife on their properties. Implemented by Natural Heritage Trust funds and a coalition of councils including the Gladstone City Council, Rockhampton City Council, Livingstone Shire Council, Duaranga Shire Council, Calliope Shire Council and Fitzroy Shire Council. Key outcomes of the program include:

- 80 properties registered;
- 28,287 Hectares of land registered with the program;
- 12,560 hectares of retained habitat registered with the program; and
- Over two thirds of retained habitat registered is considered 'of concern' or 'endangered'.

Registration of nature refuges through the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service include:

- 22 properties under covenant;
- Ten properties under negotiation; and
- 44,956 hectares protected by covenant agreements.

The main aim of the project titled Sustainable Management of Remnant Vegetation in the Central Highlands was to address management requirements to conserve significant remnant area on freehold and leasehold land forming the framework of a vegetation network on a shire level. Project staff targeted significant remnant areas identified by the "Save the Bush" mapping project. Project participants and the project proponents negotiated management

requirements for targeted remnant areas with an aim at maintaining the ecosystem integrity of these areas.

Landholders who entered into this process were eligible to receive grant funds to assist in the implementation of management requirements. Multiple levels of agreements (developed between the proponent and the landholders) were then available to project participants. These ranged from five-year (with option to continue) management agreements, to five-year perpetual Covenanted Voluntary Conservation Agreements.

Originally the project aimed to target approx 10 – 20 properties in each of the five shires involved in the project, with an expectation that project sites would average between 5,000 and 10,000 hectares. Project funding was significantly reduced and therefore proponent was required to adjust the expected project outcomes. At the time of this assessment report, protection for 73,695 hectares of remnant were secured under either management agreements or voluntary conservation agreements, with a further 2,900 hectares under negotiation.

The objective of the Dawson Remnant Vegetation and Riparian Zone Management program was to implement an incentive scheme for the provision of fencing and off-stream watering system grants to improve the management of a representative network of riparian and remnant vegetation in the Dawson Catchment area. Utilising existing Landcare networks within the catchment area land managers submitted applications/expressions of interest to the scheme to assist in the establishment of infrastructure that would allow more effective management of riparian and remnant areas (primarily fencing and off-stream watering systems).

Project applications were assessed on criteria that included:

- best management practices (riparian and remnant management);
- condition/significance of remnant/riparian vegetation;
- conservation outcomes (biodiversity, vegetation, water quality);
- productivity outcomes (stock water quality improvement, soil conservation, pasture and stock management); and
- cost effectiveness.

Participants that accepted funding through the scheme entered into Voluntary Management Agreements with the project proponent (Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association)

The project has direct linkages with a number of strategies including:

- Dawson River Catchment Management Strategy; and
- Central Queensland Strategy for Sustainability.

## Key Documents

### *Vegetation Management in the CQ region*

- Topp, R. (2002) *Recommended Management Practices in the Dawson catchment (For Managing Stock and Grazing Impacts in Remnant and Riparian Vegetation)* Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association Inc.
- Noble, R.M. (1997) *Downstream Effects of Land Use in the Fitzroy Catchment* Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- Jones, M-A. 2001, *Technical Report 3—Catchment health, Fitzroy implementation project* Queensland, National Land and Water Resources Audit.
- Noble, R.M. (ed.) 2000, *'River health in the Fitzroy catchment—community ownership'*, Summary Report, Queensland Department of Natural Resources.
- Calvert, M. et al (2000) *Land Use mapping of the Fitzroy Catchment* Department of Natural Resources.
- Calliope Soil Conservation Association (1996) *Calliope Landcare Manual – Land management*, Calliope Soil Conservation Association (Calliope Landcare) with funding assistance through the National Landcare Program.
- Adsett, K. et al (2001) *Land Systems of the Nogoa River Catchment* Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- Irvine, S. (2001) *Land Types of the Nogoa River Catchment* Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- Sattler, P. Williams, R. (1999) *The Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems* Environmental Protection Agency.

### *Regional Strategies and Local Action Planning*

- Central Queensland Strategy for Sustainability developed by the people of Central Queensland through the Fitzroy Basin Association.
- Brown P., Tucker, G. (2000) *Port Curtis Natural Resource Management Strategy* Central Queensland University.
- Tucker G. et al (2001) *Port Curtis Natural Resource Management Strategy – Environmental Management in Port Curtis: Resources* Central Queensland University.
- Gnauck, F. et al (1997) *Environmental Management Plan – Shoalwater Bay Training Area*, Department of Defence.
- Grimes, J (1998) *Sustainable Futures – Towards a Catchment Strategy for the Central Queensland Region* Institute for Sustainable Regional Development.
- CQ A New Millennium (2002) *Regional Growth Management Framework*, Department of Local Government and Planning.
- CQ A New Millennium (2000) *Key Issues in Planning for Central Queensland's Future (Draft only)*.
- Baffle Creek Catchment Strategy (1999) *Baffle creek Catchment Management Group Inc.*
- Bellamy, J. ed. (2001) *Central Highlands Rolling Regional Audit* CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems.
- Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association Inc. (2002) *Dawson River Catchment Strategy* Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association Inc.
- *Draft Strategy for the Protection and Enhancement of the Gladstone Harbour* Environmental Protection Agency.

- Cooperative Research Centre for Coastal Zone, Estuary and Waterway Management (2003) Draft Central Queensland Information Paper.
- Capricorn Pest Management Group (2000) Pest Management Strategy for the Capricorn Region Capricorn Pest Management Group
- Parthenium Action Group (2001) Parthenium Weed Best Management Practices Department of Primary Industries.
- Department of Natural Resources and Mines (1997) Strategic Plan – Harrisia Cactus Control in Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- Weedy Sporobolus Grasses Management Group (2001) Weedy Sporobolus Grasses Strategy, Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

In addition numerous Community Landcare Group have also developed action plans.

#### *Miscellaneous*

- Adsett K. et al (2001) Land Uses of the Nogoa River Catchment, Department of Natural Resources and Mines.
- Adsett, K. et al (2001) A Digital Terrain Model of the Nogoa River Catchment Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

#### *Web Sites*

- [www.cqu.edu.au](http://www.cqu.edu.au) Central Queensland University
- [www.landcareqld.org.au](http://www.landcareqld.org.au) Queensland Landcare
- [www.epa.qld.gov.au](http://www.epa.qld.gov.au) Queensland Environmental Protection Agency
- [www.fba.org.au](http://www.fba.org.au) Fitzroy Basin Association
- [www.ea.gov.au](http://www.ea.gov.au) Environment Australia
- [www.coastal.crc.org.au](http://www.coastal.crc.org.au) Coastal CRC
- [www.fitzroybasinelders.com.au](http://www.fitzroybasinelders.com.au) Fitzroy Basin Elders
- [www.dawsoninfo.org](http://www.dawsoninfo.org) Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association
- [www.nrm.qld.gov.au](http://www.nrm.qld.gov.au) Department of Natural Resources and Mines
- [www.lwa.gov.au](http://www.lwa.gov.au) Land and Water Australia
- [www.csiro.au](http://www.csiro.au) CSIRO
- [www.greeningaustralia.org.au](http://www.greeningaustralia.org.au) Greening Australia

## Regional resources and infrastructure

### Consultants, contractors and infrastructure

Service	No	Description/Comment
Technical advice – Bushland management, weed control, revegetation, etc.	31	There are 11 individuals in State Agencies that provide some form of technical advice. Whilst a number of departmental extension and technical officers are often called on to provide technical advice, this generally falls outside of their employment contract and due to other commitments this service cannot be relied upon. There are 15 community groups/individuals in the region who are publicly funded. There are six commercial groups in the region that charge for providing technical advice.
Indigenous tubestock supply	15	A total of 15 plant suppliers and nurseries stocking indigenous plants are known to service the region. Of these only two are community based (operate on a cost-recovery basis) and three are Council operated. Council nurseries only provide trees on an irregular basis to Landcare/Bushcare projects. The remaining ten nurseries are commercial. Rehabilitation projects are heavily reliant on external funds to purchase native plants. This is a major limitation to the further development of rehabilitation projects in the region.
Indigenous seed collectors	2	There are only two indigenous seed collectors in the region. One of the providers is a contractor that provides both large and small quantities of seed. The other provider is a local community group established through Natural Heritage Trust funds that only provides small numbers of seed.
Direct seeding contractors	5	Due to the regional nature of Central Queensland, there are only a limited number of direct seeding infrastructures available.
Direct seeding infrastructure for hire	N/A	There were no direct seeding machines and equipment hire organisations identified in the Central Queensland region.
Planting contractors	4	Dawson Agroforestry group through a CDEP program and commercial operators
Weed control, site preparation and site maintenance contractors	8	Of the contractors identified all are based in the Central Queensland region. It should be noted, however that all of these contractors are large scale spray operators and not specialised bushcare weeding contractors. The majority of these contractors will provide site maintenance services including follow up weed control and watering. Most of the local councils in the region have a weed control officer on staff that controls declared/environmental weeds on public lands and road reserves.
Vegetation management training providers	8	There are eight organisations that provide vegetation management training in the Central Queensland region. They include Queensland Tafe, Greening Australia, Dreamtime, Smart City (CQU), EPA traineeships, DNR, Future Profit and the local Remnant Vegetation Group in Livingstone.

## Current provision issues

### *Technical Advice*

There is a wide variety of technical advice given in regard to revegetation, weed control/eradication and bushland management in the region. However the majority of advice is obtained from departmental extension and technical officers, this generally falls outside of their employment contract and due to other commitments this service can not be relied upon. Most enquiries to Landcare groups regarding vegetation management are forwarded to departmental extension staff and Greening Australia personnel.

Many of the groups, that provide advice to the community and work closely with the Greening Australia Bushcare Support network in delivering workshops and training days, are reliant on Natural Heritage Trust funds. This service may not be available to the community after 30 June 2003. The Fitzroy Basin Association has also been involved in delivering vegetation management training to the community including several major monitoring and evaluation workshops.

Training is an important component in vegetation management, however there are few organisations in the CQ region who provide this service.

Most of the weed control, site preparation and site maintenance contractors in the region

### *NAP/Natural Heritage Trust Funding*

Current funding cycles create a situation where local skills and knowledge are lost in a region due to funding uncertainties and short-term contracts.

Further regional extension staff is required to effectively plan and implement regional biodiversity projects.

### *Seed Collection*

The Environmental Protection Agency issues native seed collecting permits in Queensland for collection on public and private land. Collectors (community, commercial, landholders) are required to have a permit for seed collecting or face being fined.

There are only a small number of indigenous seed collectors in Central Queensland. Training should be provided to local community groups to increase the supply of native seed stock in the region.

The provision of seed permits is a slow process and should be taken into consideration when planning projects.

### *Direct Seeding*

There are only a small number of direct seeding contractors in the region and the majority work is primarily on mine sites.

The provision of direct seeding equipment to community groups/organisations would be greatly beneficial.

There are no companies in the region who hire direct seeding equipment to community groups/organisations.

## Key gaps and recommendations

The Fitzroy Basin Association has developed a regional Natural Resource Management plan referred to as the Central Queensland Strategy for Sustainability.

The Central Queensland Strategy for Sustainability (CQSS) is a tool that will assist in achieving sustainability in Central Queensland. It is a regional plan of action for how we use and manage our natural resources and environments and provide for our communities and industry. Its aims to:

- provide a framework for achieving the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the natural environment in Central Queensland;
- encourage the active participation of all stakeholders in natural resource and environmental planning. Decision-making and management; and
- guide investment in natural resource and environmental management in Central Queensland.

The CQSS is an endorsed regional strategy, and covers one of 13 regional strategy areas in Queensland. The CQSS has been developed by the Central Queensland community through the Fitzroy Basin Association, and has a strong degree of ownership by community, government and industry.

Presently the sub-regions of the Dawson, Central Highlands, Issac/Conners, Lower Fitzroy and Coastal and Boyne/Calliope are at different stages of completing their sub-regional Natural Resource Management plans. These sub-regional natural resource management plans will be included in the regional natural resource management plan.

Recently the Fitzroy Basin Association, Greening Australia and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service developed a biodiversity framework for the Central Queensland region. This assists in identifying gaps in biodiversity protection in the region. This framework is outlined below.

## Biodiversity Conservation Framework for Central Queensland

<p>Propose to utilise a multi-layered approach to provide a broad range of incentives and protective measures for biodiversity conservation. Most of the components of this proposal are already in place – the vision is to encompass these mechanisms into a single plan.</p>	
<b>INCREASING LEVELS OF PROTECTION</b>	<p><b>EXTENSION STAFF/EDUCATION AND AWARENESS</b></p> <p>Technical vegetation and conservation staff across the region – incorporating departmental staff and NGO organisations</p> <p>Nature search, Vegetation Management positions, Community Conservation</p> <p>Issues – Cost, interagency networking, resourcing.</p>
	<p><b>LAND FOR WILDLIFE</b></p> <p>Land for Wildlife (LfW) is a voluntary, non-binding property registration scheme, which encourages and assists landholders to provide habitats for wildlife on their property.</p> <p>Issues – Cost (currently funded under Natural Heritage Trust), network support within CQ</p>
	<p><b>MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS</b></p> <p>Proposed under devolved grant process, four major devolved grants have been operating in the CQ region under current Natural Heritage Trust funding. These have demonstrated the effectiveness of management agreements as a conservation/protection mechanism.</p> <p>Issues – Cost (continuation of funding) implementation/extension staff</p>
	<p><b>NATURE REFUGES</b></p> <p>Voluntary conservation agreements have been operating throughout CQ and provide protection under the Nature Conservation Act (1992). Some interest has been shown by recipients of devolved grant projects to enter into this process. QPWS has also carried out a successful Nature Conservation Project with financial incentives provided by Natural Heritage Trust funds.</p> <p>Issues – Availability of incentives, Extension/support staff</p>
	<p><b>INCENTIVES</b></p> <p>Financial incentives for biodiversity management. Several proposals have been developed over the past few years, including; market based (i.e. greentick/Landcare accredited badging, EMS accreditation.</p> <p>Issues – Development of criteria, establishment of market appreciation.</p>
	<p><b>ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY PLANS</b></p> <p>Brindle Nailtail Wallaby, wombat recovery plans already operating under Threatened Species funding through Natural Heritage Trust<sup>1</sup>. Other species are likely to be identified and continued support for current programs needs to be secured. These projects can operate as a flagship for broader ecosystem issues.</p> <p>Issues – cost/funding, identification of release sites, ongoing extension/technical support.</p>

<b>INCREASING LEVELS OF PROTECTION</b>  □	<p><b>LEGISLATION</b></p> <p>Leasehold endangered and of concern remnant protection and Freehold endangered and of concern protection provided through the implementation of Vegetation Management Act 1999. Developments of Regional Vegetation Management plans are well underway providing linkages between remnants and regionally sensitive communities.</p>
	<p><b>ACQUISITIONS</b></p> <p>Purchase of strategic land/remnants - Buying and managing ecologically important areas, negotiating agreements to manage areas through partnerships or covenants (i.e. The Nature conservancy, Australian Heritage Trust)</p> <p>Issues – Corporate sponsorship, incentives, funding</p>
	<p><b>ACQUISITIONS</b></p> <p>Purchase of lands for inclusion in the Queensland National Park Network</p> <p>Issues – not likely to expand much beyond current level</p>

### Project Officers

The Central Queensland region relies heavily on departmental extension and technical staff and publicly funded project officers based in the region.

Due to the high demands placed on the project officers to meet certain outcomes while being the sole point of contact for many groups and individuals there is a high turn over of staff in regional areas (Western shires).

Due to the uncertainty of funding through the National Action Plan For Salinity And Water Quality/Natural Heritage Trust, many officers have been lost in the region. Presently the majority of extension staff on the ground is funded through the Natural Heritage Trust (Phase One), which will end on 30 June 2003.

Many publicly funded officers are not qualified or experienced enough to provide technical advice and assistance to the community on vegetation management issues.

It is likely in the future that on-ground, local and free technical advice will be delivered on a sub-regional basis through the sub-regional catchment groups funded by the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

### Recommendations

1. Community groups, project officers, employees and consultants require frequent training to ensure the quality of advice provided to the community is maintained at the highest standard.
2. Regional project officers should be retained to ensure the preservation of local knowledge and experience in the region. If an officer is lost, a new regional project officer requires a minimum of two years to develop a relationship with the local community while planning and implementing successful on-ground projects.
3. Regional extension services with a focus on vegetation management/biodiversity conservation need to be made available on a regional basis to support extension staff (i.e. subregional project officers/catchment coordinators) and provide technical assistance with project development and implementation. Due to the size and diversity of the region, and the need to build community credibility, more than one full-time equivalent is required.

## Seed Supply

The Central Queensland region contains only two indigenous seed collectors. This limits the ability to conduct rehabilitation programs in the region with local indigenous species.

However, there are a number of seed collectors in the region who collect and store native seed for their own purposes, including local councils and the Central Queensland University.

There is a lack of knowledge and coordination of seed collectors in the region.

Past regional Natural Heritage Trust projects focussing on seed collection have not delivered expected outcomes (972225 Native Plant Seedbank and Database for Central Queensland).

A majority of rehabilitation works in the region rely upon natural regeneration rather than revegetation practices, however a need for revegetation resources is still required for specific sites where natural seed stores are extinguished.

### *Recommendations*

4. Regional coordination of indigenous seed collection needs to be established.
5. A database maintained by a regional organisation/body should be developed to improve the coordination of indigenous seed collection in the region.

## Volunteer Support

Coordination of volunteers is a time consuming and difficult to establish without the allocation of staff to coordinate and build a community volunteer ethos. At present there are no personnel dedicated to this role (either full or part time) within the region to service the major urban areas. Although community interest is present the lack of coordination of volunteer activities has been minimal, often leading conflict between volunteer groups and local government Organisations.

In the regional areas of Central Queensland where there is a small population or the majority of the population are working shift, it is difficult to attract a large or frequent volunteer working force (Gladstone).

Often volunteer work, including revegetation and invasive weed control, is left to a small number of dedicated volunteers or local government.

Training, support and coordination of volunteers is minimal with publicly funded project officers spread across a wide area and much of the technical advice limited to centralised areas.

### *Recommendations*

6. Incentives for community volunteers, including training in best practice vegetation management, may assist in attracting a larger and more frequent volunteer work force.
7. Establishment of programs such as the Green Reserve Program (Conservation Volunteers Australia) would be highly beneficial in attracting and providing support for volunteers in urban centres.
8. Support/coordination services should be provided to assist urban landcare groups. Liaison services between such groups and local government should also be provided.

## Specialised Bushcare Weed Control

Remnant vegetation protection and enhancement is one of the highest priorities for the region.

Local government and community weed strategies (ie. Capricorn Pest Management Group) are lacking the link between strategy development and implementation.

Only eight weed control contractors could be identified in the region with most being small-scale operators and concentrating on broadacre cropping areas.

Of the contractors that exist it is difficult to ascertain their level of skill.

### *Recommendations*

9. Coordinator provisions need to be allocated for Capricorn Pest Management Group to provide between strategy development and on-ground action.
10. Access by community groups to specialised 'bushland' weed control equipment would be beneficial (and currently not available) across the region.

### **Nurseries/Indigenous Tube stock**

There were only no community nurseries in the region that provide free trees for revegetation projects in the region. (Community nurseries in the area operate on a cost recovery basis with process ranging from \$0.70 to \$1.40 for tube stock.)

As a result revegetation projects are heavily reliant on external funding (Natural Heritage Trust) to supply the plant material or on back yard (amateur) operations.

Due to the drought that has afflicted the region in the past two years there has been only a small demand for seed and tubestock.

### *Recommendations*

11. Continuation of funding to assist community groups and landholders to continue to access regeneration materials should be a priority.

### **Continuation of publicly funded biodiversity programs**

The majority of biodiversity programs in the region at the present time are publicly funded. With the loss of funding in the region after 30 June 2003, the majority of biodiversity projects in the region will fold.

There have been a limited number of biodiversity programs in the region however they have been highly successful. Further funding will assist in the long-term viability of these programs.

The programs have assisted in the development of community interest and awareness on both an urban and a rural scale.

Devolved grants and voluntary management agreements have been instrumental in the protection and enhancement of tens of thousands of hectares in the region.

### *Recommendations*

12. The further development of long-term biodiversity projects in the region should be considered a priority. Long-term biodiversity projects will ensure high quality outcomes and assist in the retention of project officers.



### Key contacts and community groups in Central Queensland

Organisation/ Position	Name	Address	Phone	Email
Aboriginal and Islander Co-op Society	Richard Johnson	32 Tank Street Gladstone	4972 2699	
Agforce Central Queensland		180 Quay Street Rockhampton	4927 6100	
Baralaba Landcare Group	Ray Becker		4998 1142	baralabalandcare@hotmail.com
Bauhinia Landcare Group				
Bauhinia Shire Rural Services Committee				BauhiniaShire@bigpond.com
Caillide Valley Landcare Group	Robyn Mapp		4992 3894	rivanness@tpg.com.au
Calliope Soil Conservation Association - Project Officer	Rebecca-Lee Ritchie	Don Cameron Drive Calliope QLD, 4680	4975 6555	
Capricorn Coast Landcare Group - Project Officer	Jenny Craigen		4939 1002	envirolink@cqnet.com.au
Capricorn Conservation Council	Brett Kuskophs	PO Box 4011 Rockhampton 4700	4927 8644	ccc@cqnet.com.au
Central Highlands Land Management Group	Belinda Shaw	C/- Peak Downs S C PO Box 117, Capella Qld 4702		
Central Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils		130 Victoria Parade Rockhampton	4938 4825	
Clermont District Landcare				

Organisation/ Position	Name	Address	Phone	Email
Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association - Coordinator	Elizabeth Otto	Po Box 165 Theodore QLD 4719	4993 1004	dcca@dcnet.net.au
Department of Natural Resources and Mines - Vegetation Management Officers	Rockhampton - David Drew		4938 4950	
	- Ross Walker		4938 4272	
	Emerald - Darren Springer		4987 9343	
	Longreach - Geoff Sinclair		4658 4900	
	Mackay - Alison Adair		4967 0618	
Department of Primary Industries – Extension Officers	Nancy Rowe		4997 1741	Nancy.rowe@dpi.qld.gov.au
	Phil Casey		4992 9108	caseyp@dpi.qld.gov.au
Duaranga Central Districts Landcare				
Environmental Protection Agency				
Fitzroy Basin Association - Coordinator	Suzie Christensen	Building 354 Smart City CQU Rockhampton QLD 4700	4921 2843	
Fitzroy Basin Association - Project Officer	Kristian Smith	Building 354 Smart City CQU Rockhampton QLD 4700	4921 2843	k.m.smith@cqu.edu.au

Organisation/ Position	Name	Address	Phone	Email
Fitzroy Basin Elders Committee - Liaison Officer	Graham Lightbody	PO Box 813, Rockhampton Qld, 4700	4921 3955	
Gracemere and Districts Landcare				
Greening Australia - Bushcare Support officer	TBA	Building 354 Smart City CQU Rockhampton QLD 4700	4921 4820	
Lake Maraboon Landcare				
Livingstone Shire Council - Vegetation Management Officer	Ian Dare		4939 9877	
Lower Fitzroy Catchment Coordinating Committee	Andrew Baldwin	Building 354 Smart City CQU Rockhampton QLD 4700	4921 2843	a.baldwin@cqu.edu.au
Mackenzie River Big Bend Landcare				
Mimosa Landcare Group				ACRM@bigpond.com
Morinish Landcare Group				
Natural Heritage Trust (NRandM)	Shelley Fawcett		4938 4376	
Natural Heritage Trust (NRandM) - Coordinator	Claire Wallace		4938 4375	claire.wallace@nrm.qld.gov.au
Nebo / Broadsound Landcare				
Parthenium Action Group				

Organisation/ Position	Name	Address	Phone	Email
Port Curtis Catchment Working Group - Chair	David Kopelke		49737312	
Queensland parks and Wildlife Service - Bushcare facilitator	Kylie Joyce		4936 0511	
Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service - Nature Conservation extension officer	Rockhampton – John McCabe Longreach – David Akers Emerald – Greg Keith Mackay – Tina Ball		4936 0550	
Remnant Vegetation Group - Livingstone			4939 5328	
Society for Growing Australian Plants – Rockhampton				
Society for Growing Australian Plants (Gladstone) -	Ruth Crosson Secretary			
Taroom Shire Landcare Group - Project Officer	Kate Steel (Landcare coordinator)		4627 4481	tslg@bigpond.com
	Roxane Blackley (Monitoring Officer)			
	Belinda Gillingham (Mapping)			
The Caves District Landcare Assoc.				

Organisation/ Position	Name	Address	Phone	Email
Theodore Landcare Group				
Ulam - Raglan Landcare				
Waterwatch - Fitzroy Basin Association	Patricia Bock	Building 354 Smart City CQU Rockhampton QLD 4700	4987 9326	Patricia.Bock@nrm.qld.gov.au
Waterwatch (Port Curtis) - Project Officer	Anna Hitchcock		4973 7312	
Wildlife Preservation Society	Jeff Simmons			
Wowan-Dululu Landcare	Kelly Harrington		4933 1697	
Wycarbah and District Landcare				

### Inventory of companies and organisations providing infrastructure and services in the region

KEY C/TA Consultant/Technical Advice;  
 PS Plant Supply;  
 S Seed Collecting and Supply;  
 DS Direct Seeding  
 P Planting Service;  
 W Weed Control and Site Maintenance;  
 H Equipment Hire

Contact Name	Company	Address	Phone	Local/ Based in region	Servicing region from outside	C/TA	PS	DS	S	P	W	H
	Active Pest Control		4939 4999	✓							✓	
	Amalgamated Pest Control		4992 1007	✓							✓	
	Aspley Nursery	106 Hunt Rd. Burpengary QLD 4505	5498 5652		✓		✓					
Ray Becker	Baralaba Landcare Group		4998 1142	✓		✓						
	Barmaryee Nursery	30 Barmaryee Rd. Yeppoon	4939 1137	✓			✓					
	Boundary Nursery	Yeppoon	4939 7663	✓			✓					
Robyn Mapp	Callide Valley Landcare Group		4992 3894	✓		✓	✓					
Rebecca-Lee Ritchie	Calliope Landcare		4975 6555	✓		✓						
Brett Kuskophs	Capricorn Conservation Council	PO Box 4011 Rockhampton 4700	4927 8644	✓		✓						

Contact Name	Company	Address	Phone	Local/ Based in region	Servicing region from outside	C/TA	PS	DS	S	P	W	H
Jenny Craigen	Capricorn Coast Landcare Group - Project Officer		4939 1002	✓		✓						
Dr Nanjappa Ashwath	CQU - (Seed bank utilised for research purposes only).			✓		✓						
Belinda Shaw	Central Highlands Land Mgt. Group	C/- Peak Downs S C PO Box 117 Capella 4702		✓		✓						
	Dawson Agroforestry group through a CDEP program									✓		
Elizabeth Otto	Dawson Catchment Coordinating Association – Coordinator	PO Box 165 Theodore 4719	4993 1004	✓		✓						
Alison Adair	Department of Natural Resources and Mines – VMO	Mackay	4967 0618	✓		✓						
Alison Hambleton	Department of Natural Resources and Mines – Vegetation Management Officer	Mackay	4967 0618	✓		✓NB: Mainly works with tree clearing permits						
Darren Springer	Department of Natural Resources and Mines – Vegetation Management Officer	Emerald	4987 9343	✓		✓NB: Mainly works with tree clearing permits						

Contact Name	Company	Address	Phone	Local/ Based in region	Servicing region from outside	C/TA	PS	DS	S	P	W	H
Geoff Sinclair	Department of Natural Resources and Mines – Vegetation Management Officer	Longreach	4658 4900	✓		✓NB: Mainly works with tree clearing permits						
David Drew	Department of Natural Resources and Mines – Vegetation Management Officer	Rockhampton	4938 4950	✓		✓NB: Mainly works with tree clearing permits						
Ross Walker	Department of Natural Resources and Mines – Vegetation Management Officer	Rockhampton	4938 4272	✓		✓NB: Mainly works with tree clearing permits						
	Direct Pest Control	Biloela Gladstone Rockhampton Yeppoon	4992 5799 4978 6711 4922 7500 4939 2666	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓							✓	
	Ecowise Environmental	Suite 12/120 Goondoon St. Gladstone 4680	4976 9666	✓		✓						
	Envirosciences Pty Limited	47 Lord Street Gladstone 4680	4972 6120	✓		✓		✓				
Kristian Smith	Fitzroy Basin Association - Project Officer	Building 354 Smart City CQU Rockhampton 4700	4921 2843	✓		✓						

Contact Name	Company	Address	Phone	Local/ Based in region	Servicing region from outside	C/TA	PS	DS	S	P	W	H
Stephen Riches	Fitzroy Basin Association Extension Officer - Clermont	PO Box 13 Clermont	4983 1211	✓		✓						
Gavin Peck	Fitzroy Basin Association Extension Officer- Moura	PO Box 94 Moura	4997 1103	✓		✓						
	Fitzroy Nurseries Pty. Ltd.	Six Mile Rd. Pnk Lly	4927 2388	✓			✓					
	G and D Nursery	Cnr Dawson Hwy and Meissners Rd. Biloela	4992 3065	✓			✓					
	German Creek Contractors Pty Limited	8 George Moore Crt. Middlemount	4985 9661	✓				✓				
	Gladstone City Council	101 Goondoon Street Gladstone 4680	4970 0700	✓		✓	✓ Personal Use					
	Gondwana Landscape Nursery	54 Arnolds Rd. Byfield	4935 1192	✓			*					
	Greening Australia – Central Queensland	Building 354 Smart City Rockhampton	4921 4820	✓		✓			✓			
	Ibiz – Environmental services specialising in Native Land Rehabilitation	36 Wood St. Mackay	4944 0277		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	
	L and T Weed Spraying Service	45 O'Malley Gladstone	4972 0876	✓							✓	
	Land Reclamation Services	132a Opal Rd. Emerald	4982 2964	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	

Contact Name	Company	Address	Phone	Local/ Based in region	Servicing region from outside	C/TA	PS	DS	S	P	W	H
	Lanyonscapes – Central Queensland	Cnr Dawson Hwy and Chapman Drv. Gladstone	4978 5555	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Ian Dare	Livingstone Shire Council - Vegetation Management Officer			✓		✓						
Rod Oliver	Livingstone Shire Council - Weed Control Officer			✓		✓					✓	
Andrew Baldwin	Lower Fitzroy Catchment Coordinating Committee			✓		✓						
	Mt Morgan City Council Nursery	32 Hall St. Mount Morgan	4938 1022	✓			✓					
	Pete's Pest Control Services	52 Dawson HWY Moura	4997 3088	✓							✓	
Kylie Joyce	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service – Bushcare facilitator	Yeppoon Rd. Nth Rockhampton	4936 0511	✓		✓						
Greg Keith	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service – Emerald	Hospital Rd.	4982 4555	✓		✓						
Dave Akers	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service – Longreach	Plover St.	4652 7333	✓		✓						
Tina Ball	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service - Mackay	Wood St.	4944 7800		✓	✓						

Contact Name	Company	Address	Phone	Local/ Based in region	Servicing region from outside	C/TA	PS	DS	S	P	W	H
John McCabe	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service – Rockhampton		4936 0550	✓		✓						
James Niall	Queensland Tree Seeds	PO Box 163 Moura	4997 1072	✓		✓	✓		✓			
	Remnant Vegetation Group - Livingstone		4939 5328	✓		✓	✓		✓			
	Rockhampton City Council	City Hall Cnr Bolsover and Derby Sts. Rockhampton	4936 8000	✓		✓	✓				✓	
Kate Steel (Landcare Coordinator)	Taroom Shire Landcare Group - Project Officer		4627 4481	✓		✓						
Roxane Blackley												
Belinda Gillingham												
Kelly Harrington	Wowan-Dululu Landcare Group		4933 1697	✓		✓						
	Yarradoo Nursery	10 Renshaw St. Nth Rockhampton	4922 1819	✓			✓					
	Yeppoon Rainforest Nursery	Adelaide Park Rd. Yeppoon	4939 3963	✓			✓					