With the support of Regional NRM Bodies in 2004/2005, the Regional Groups Collective was able to:

- Demonstrate the commitment of partners to the community-based regional natural resource management arrangements, through coordination of joint responses with the Qld Farmers’ Federation, Local Government Association of Qld, AgForce, Commerce Qld, Urban Development Institute of Australia (Qld Division), Qld Landcare Foundation and the Qld Indigenous Network to the Queensland Government’s discussion paper “Options for future community engagement in regional natural resource management”

- Promote the achievements of Regional Bodies to key stakeholders from a range of sectors, through a dinner in June 2005 with attendance by the Hon Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Natural Resources & Mines, the Hon Desley Boyle MP, Minister for Environment, Local Government, Planning & Women, and Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, Minister for Fisheries, Forestry & Conservation and Senator for Qld

- Maintain the strategic focus of the Collective, through review and implementation of the 2004 – 2007 Collective Strategic Plan

- Provide opportunities for skills development for Chairs and Executive Officers, including a self-directed leadership workshop for Executive Officers on Bribie Island in March 2005

- Communicate the success of the Queensland community-based model to other states and territories, through a display at the NRM Ministerial Council Community Forum in Darwin in April 2005

- Improve communication and access to information on Regional Bodies and the Collective through the development and release of the Collective website: www.regionalgroupscollective.com.au

- Provide opportunities for mentoring, sharing, peer support and cross-regional activities through four Collective meetings with attendance by an average of fourteen of the fifteen Regional Bodies
PROVISION OF SERVICES

Services provided to each Regional NRM Body as a member of the Collective are outlined below, along with some examples of activities in 2004/2005.

1 Initial point of contact for support for each Regional NRM Body
   • Provision of support and advice for new and existing Executive Officers and Chairs
   • Collation of resources such as corporate structures, employee position descriptions and Board policies on the Collective website for internal access by Regional Bodies

2 Advocacy on issues of common interest to Regional NRM Bodies at a state level
   • Participation in the Queensland Government’s Regional Arrangements Advisory Group, to represent a whole-of-Queensland perspective and to improve understanding of Regional Body issues amongst sectors
   • Negotiation of Regional Body role in 2005/2006 National Landcare Program assessment process

3 Expert advice and recommendations on natural resource management issues impacting on community based natural resource management, including policy, legislation, planning, and community participation initiatives
   • Development of Collective submissions to the Queensland Government on the 2004 review of regional planning arrangements and to assist in developing the April 2005 Options Paper for community-based NRM
   • Provision of reports to the Australian Landcare Council, an Australian Government ministerial advisory committee, through the representative for Queensland

4 Access to construction working relationships, forums and communication networks at a state level with key stakeholder organisations within industry, Local Government, Queensland Government, Australian Government and the community groups engaged in natural resource management
   • Management of the policy partnerships project, which has accelerated partnerships with industry bodies, community organisations, indigenous networks, conservation groups, research institutions, and local government
   • Participation on state-level working groups, including capacity building for local government and river improvement trusts and communication

5 Leadership for high performance through the provision of training and capacity building activities, information sharing and improved involvement and support for stakeholders including indigenous groups and improved implementation organisations such as Landcare and Catchment Management Groups
   • Facilitation of communication and leadership training opportunities for Regional Bodies
   • Development of Collective meeting agendas with an emphasis on learning exchange between Regional Bodies
   • Representation of Regional Bodies on the judging panel for the 2004 Arbor Day Awards and 2005 Landcare Awards

6 Targeted investment and project management at a state level on behalf of all Regional NRM Bodies, including the establishment of integrated priorities, targets and performance improvement processes across regions
   • Negotiation with the Queensland and Australian Government to ensure that Regional Body priorities are included in Joint Steering Committee deliberations on the Strategic Reserve funding component of the NAPSWQ and NHT
   • Successful negotiation of funding from the Queensland Government for Collective learning exchange events in 2005

7 Access to current knowledge of natural resource management issues and challenges facing the community and Government
   • Provision of information to Regional Bodies on current and emerging issues in natural resource management, through regular emails, monthly teleconferences and quarterly meetings

8 Preparation of coordinated responses, submissions and briefing papers on natural resource management policy issues to a range of stakeholders
   • Preparation of a joint briefing from the Collective, AgForce and Old Farmers’ Federation to the Hon Stephen Robertson MP, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, on the Queensland Government’s 2005 Options Paper for community-based regional natural resource management arrangements
   • Finalisation and submission of a Collective submission and two joint stakeholder responses on the Queensland Government’s Options Paper

9 Coordination of meetings and workshops to meet the state-wide needs of Regional NRM Bodies and their stakeholders
   • Organisation of four Collective meetings, with agendas targeting key issues and attracting participation by an average of fourteen out of fifteen Regional Bodies at each meeting
   • Coordination of a teleconference of nominated State Chairs from across Australia to advance the formation of a national working group, as proposed at the NRM Ministerial Council Community Forum

10 Access to monthly reporting on activities undertaken on behalf of all Regional NRM Bodies
   • Establishment of regular reporting links to Regional Bodies on Collective activities through a monthly report and associated teleconference
### Event Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Attendance</strong></td>
<td>15 Regional Bodies</td>
<td>14 Regional Bodies</td>
<td>13 Regional Bodies</td>
<td>14 Regional Bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Strategic sessions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Annual review of Collective Strategic Plan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Meeting with Australian Government First Assistant Secretary and Executive Manager to discuss key Aust Govt issues</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Presentation of Victorian Catchment Activity Management System</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Response to outcomes from Joint Steering Committee meeting, including Strategic Reserve and annual reporting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Communications training for Board members and staff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Confirmation of Collective position on Qld Govt Options Paper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Analysis of leadership needs of Executive Officers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Tropical Savannas CRC workshop to develop strategies to improve regional planning, including engagement of local government, indigenous communities and industry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other key sessions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Presentation and feedback on Regional Investment Strategy guidelines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Dinner presentation to key stakeholders on Regional Body achievements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Identification of priority sectors for policy partnerships</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Discussion on Joint Steering Committee issues including Strategic Reserve and Strategic Regional Facilitators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Critical outcomes from event</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Development of Collective working group to finalise response to Information Systems for Regional Arrangements project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Agreement to review strategic objectives and mode of operation of the Collective</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Income & Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2004/05</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carryover - NAP RA01: Collective learning exchange events in September and November 2004</td>
<td></td>
<td>$22,200</td>
<td>$22,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Regional Bodies: $10,000 - BDDB, BMRI, CA, DCQ, FNQNRSM, FBA, MWNRM, QMDC, SEQWCG, SGC, SWNRM; $5,000 - NRMSEQ; $4,545 - NGRMRG</td>
<td></td>
<td>$119,500</td>
<td>$101,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from NR&amp;M to travel to Collective learning exchange events in Sept and Nov 2004 and Feb 2005</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from NR&amp;M to Collective learning exchange events in June, August and November 2005</td>
<td></td>
<td>$28,500</td>
<td>$5,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution from NAP SIP CB 07: Facilitators for self-directed leadership workshop for Executive Officers, March 2005</td>
<td></td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant reimbursement from self-directed leadership workshop for Executive Officers, March 2005</td>
<td></td>
<td>$6,200</td>
<td>$6,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHT RA IFA 01: State-wide Policy Partnerships</td>
<td></td>
<td>$140,000</td>
<td>$106,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAP SIP CB 06: Training Needs Analysis and Website</td>
<td></td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$27,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$376,400</td>
<td>$294,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carryover</td>
<td></td>
<td>$82,400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committed carryover: Collective learning exchange events in June, August and November 2005 ($23,000), travel to Collective Feb 2005 event ($5,000), RA IFA 01 Policy Partnerships ($33,300), CB 06 Training ($2,700)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$64,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncommitted carryover: extension of RA IFA 01 Policy Partnerships (subject to Strategic Reserve proposal)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$18,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


LOOKING FORWARD

Future Direction

When the Collective was established in 2002, the primary focus was on providing support to Regional Bodies for their establishment and the production of NRM plans. In 2005, with the plans and associated regional investment strategies in place, the focus of the Regional Bodies has moved to implementation.

In accordance with a philosophy of continuous improvement, and in light of the changing environment, it was agreed at the June 2005 Collective meeting that a review of the strategic objectives and mode of operation of the Collective be undertaken.

An options paper was circulated for comment in July 2005. The paper covers four main issues: membership, role, organisational structure and function, and resourcing.

Responses to the paper will be discussed at the August 2005 Collective meeting, with the view to agreement on the future direction of the Collective.

Strategic Plan

The current 2004 - 2007 Collective Strategic Plan is scheduled for annual review in late 2005. The decision on the future direction of the Collective at the August 2005 meeting will be considered in establishing a process for the review.

Funding

In a similar approach to 2004/2005, the Collective will be contacting each Regional Body to seek a contribution to its operations in 2005/2006.

There is an intention to submit a proposal for funding of the Collective secretariat and operations from the Strategic Reserve funding in October 2005. While the proposal would cover activities proposed for funding from Regional Body contributions from January 2006, there is a need to ensure continuation of Collective activities in the interim.

Meetings

The next Collective meeting will be held in Brisbane on 23-24 August 2005. The meeting will feature a joint meeting and dinner with the Joint Steering Committee and discussions on the future direction of the Collective and priorities for the Strategic Reserve funding component of the NAPSWQ and NHT.

Following the resignation of Barbara Wildin from the Fitzroy Basin Association as Chair in July 2005, the meeting will also include selection of the new Chair of the Collective.

The final Collective meeting for the year is proposed for November 2005.

Governance

It is intended that the Collective will continue to receive financial and human resource management support from the Qld Murray Darling Committee Inc, on behalf of all Regional Bodies.

Contact Information

For more information on the Collective or its activities, please contact:

Executive Officer
Qld Regional Natural Resource Management Groups Collective
Office: Level 2, 183 North Quay, Brisbane
Mailing: PO Box 13204, George St Brisbane Q 4003
Phone: 07 3211 4408
Fax: 07 3211 4407
Email: rgc@nrmseq.com
Web: www.regionalgroupscollective.com.au