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COMMITTEE



**Communique from the Joint Chairs
QMDC, Condamine Alliance and South West NRM
Clarification of Plans to Investigate the future of NRM in Southern Qld
November 2017**

Over the last few months, there has been considerable speculation and misinformation about the future of NRM organisations in the region currently covered by QMDC, Condamine Alliance and South West NRM. As the chairs of these organisations, we would jointly like to clarify the situation.

All three organisations are committed to having effective well-resourced community-led NRM activities in the region. We face a very competitive public funding environment, where federal government programs are open to competitive tender with the potential for many different organisations to compete with NRM regional bodies. Also, at the grassroots, there is a need to reinvigorate NRM, attract more volunteers, support local organisations and position NRM to attract a more diverse range of community members.

Hence, a discussion paper has been put forward about the future of NRM in the region for all three organisations to consider. A working group has subsequently been formed, consisting of two board members from each organisation, to investigate alternatives to enhance community-based NRM in the region.

One option the working group is investigating is the possible formation of one integrated community-based NRM organisation in the region. Other options under consideration involve different ways of working together to try to improve effectiveness & efficiency. We emphasise that, at this time, there is no proposal to form a new organisation. Nor is there any proposal for any organisation to change or cease their operation in order to be part of a single organisation. However, if a strong business case for a single organisation, or other alternative, emerges from discussions it will be up to each current organisation to formally agree and decided what action, they would like to take. Each organisation is discussing this situation as equals and there is no consideration of a merger or "takeover" by existing organisations.

Second, the working group is considering ways to reinvigorate NRM at the local level. This goes hand in hand with any potential structural change. It is crucial that, together, we consider ways to build on-ground actions and encourage participation in NRM by enhancing the appeal, relevance and profile of NRM across the region.

We reassure staff in all three organisations that if any change were to be proposed to the organisations, they will be given the opportunity to be incorporated into any new proposed organisation. We also reassure our stakeholders across the region that we will engage closely with them and ensure that communication is open both ways.

We are pursuing these discussions to proactively manage the changing NRM situation. We are committed to having the most effective arrangements to maximise on-ground improvements in the natural assets of the region and for the people that manage them.

Sincerely

Malcolm McKay
Chair, Condamine Alliance

Noel Strohfeld
Chair, QMDC

Mark O'Brien
Chair, South West NRM