

03/02/2015

Launch of new Natural Resource Management Plan for Mackay Whitsunday Isaac

Media are invited to attend the launch of the new Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac (MWI) Natural Resource Management Plan 2014-2024.

The new plan will help set the bar for local natural resource management (NRM). The Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region joins 56 areas across Australia involved in a major move to update and develop new, locally relevant NRM Plans.

The MWI NRM Plan has been developed with Reef Catchments in collaboration with a multitude of stakeholders, including the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac local governments, industry bodies and Traditional Owners.

The launch will include the formal sign-on of NRM Plan signatories by diverse stakeholders who have actively committed to working together to improve future management of our region's vital natural resources.

It will also provide a platform for the announcement of funding opportunities being offered by Reef Catchments, with the support of the Australian Government, to groups across the region for grants between \$5,000 and \$20,000 to address priorities identified in the new NRM Plan.

NRM Plan co-ordinator Alice Spencer said the NRM Plan represented the views and aspirations of the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac community and would help make sure future on-ground NRM activity addressed the community's priorities.

"We have tried to do the best possible job of capturing the community's values and visions for the future of the region via extensive consultation over the last 18 months. We hope that this document helps set direction for everyone involved in managing our natural resources, so we can continue to enjoy the benefits that these resources provide us.

"The launch is an opportunity to celebrate a collaboration between stakeholders in arriving at a shared vision for the region, providing a path that will help the environment, production and development exist together in a balanced way."

The NRM Plan sets a regional context by considering environmental, social, economic and political factors, while also identifying what the community would like to see the region look like in the future. To achieve this, a series of goals, outcomes and management actions are proposed.

"These actions were developed by stakeholders and subject to several rounds of consultation with the community," Ms Spencer said.

By including a diverse range of people in the plan's development, it is hoped that some collaborative and creative solutions to regional issues and challenges will emerge.

The NRM Plan (2014-2024) is available online at www.reefcatchments.com.au.

Following the launch, the plan will be reviewed regularly to monitor how the MWI region is collectively tracking towards its goals.

ENDS



Signing onto the new Mackay Whitsunday Isaac NRM Plan are (from left): Alice Spencer NRM Plan Coordinator from Reef Catchments; Gert Nel, Manager Environmental Services from Isaac Regional Council; Gerard Carlyon, Director Community & Client Services from Mackay Regional Council; Royce Bishop, Chair of Reef Catchments, and Dan Staley, Director of Planning and Development from Whitsunday Regional Council.