

SUMMARY REPORT:

Burnett Mary Regional NRM Community Priortisation Workshop 2020-2021

August 2020



We acknowledge all of the Traditional Owners of the land and sea country of the Burnett Mary region. We pay our respect to the Elders past, present and future.









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Abbreviations

Alluvium Consulting Australia Pty Ltd

BMRG Burnett Mary Regional Group

BCCA Burnett Catchment Care Association

CMERC Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre, CQUniversity

DAF Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
DES Department of Environment and Science

DNRME Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy

GBRF Great Barrier Reef Foundation
NRM Natural Resource Management

1 Introduction

1.1 What is the purpose of this report?

The purpose of this report is to synthesise key discussion points and action recommendations from the Burnett Mary NRM Community Prioritisation Workshop. The half-day workshop was held on the 30th of July 2020 at the Bargara Cultural and Community Centre with approximately 50 representatives from participating NRM organisations.

The workshop follows the significant progress made following the previous community prioritisation workshops held in 2018. By building on these achievements and continuing to work collaboratively, natural resource management (NRM) organisations in the Burnett Mary region are well placed to continue to deliver strong outcomes in the region.

The Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) and members will use the report to progress the prioritised actions outlined in Section 3 by exploring targeted investment opportunities and pursuing collaborative projects with key stakeholders.

1.2 How was the workshop designed and delivered?

The workshop was designed and facilitated by Alluvium Consulting in collaboration with BMRG to celebrate regional successes and discuss priority areas for collaboration in relation to local natural resource management for 2020-2021. A copy of the agenda has been provided in Appendix A.

Participants were given the opportunity to summarise and reflect on *achievements* from the previous community prioritisation workshop held in 2018 (summarised in the Appendix B). This was followed by presentations and updates from local



NRM delivery organisations that highlighted examples of were collaboration had supported successful outcomes for NRM on-ground delivery. The presentations were given by:

- Kerry Blackman, Gidarjil Development Corporation
- Christine Royan, Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation
- Phil Moran, Noosa Landcare
- Brad Wedlock, Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee
- Emma Jackson, CMERC CQUniversity

Participants were then invited, in pairs, to discuss future *challenges* to NRM delivery and what *success* will look like in 12 months' time. After reporting back to the wider group, the collected outputs were grouped under common themes. Workshop participants were then invited to selfnominate for a group activity that asked them to work together to:



- discuss and prioritise specific *actions* that will deliver shared benefits
- identify potential *collaborating* organisations.
- list what *resources* and assistance will be required to achieve the action's desired outcomes.

The outputs from the workshop activities have used to inform this report.

1.3 How is the report structured?

The report summarises the key discussion points and provides a synthesis of the prioritised action recommendations that emerged from the workshop clustered under the following themes:

- Working smarter together
- Telling the NRM story
- Recognising and supporting diverse leadership
- Focusing on resource condition and security.

1.4 What next?

The prioritised actions in the report will be used to inform future, collaborative project planning in the Burnett-Mary region. BMRG has committed to lead the delivery of the prioritised actions and will provide regular progress updates through their regular newsletters and annual reporting process.

The next Burnett Mary NRM community prioritisation workshop is scheduled to be held in mid-2021.

2 Shared challenges

Workshop participants were asked to list and discuss what they felt were the key challenges to regional NRM delivery for the 2020-2021 period. The raw outputs have been provided in Appendix C, however, a summary of the identified shared challenges have been provided below.

Retain knowledge, skills, and capabilities Ensuring that NRM delivery organisations can obtain and retain the required *local* knowledge, skills and capabilities, both technical and Traditional Owner knowledge, will be critical to ensuring the ongoing successful delivery of project outcomes for the region.

Increased communication and stakeholder engagement

To build awareness of NRM issues, opportunities and successes with:

- existing communication and stakeholder networks
- all three tiers of government
- the previously disengaged (i.e. community and private landholders)

There was a strong recognition of the need to embed early and genuine engagement with stakeholders to make sure that everyone has a shared understanding of what is needed to achieve local NRM success.

Increased collaboration and partnerships

There was a collective agreement that a shared challenge moving into the future was to achieve more open, collaborative and outcome-driven partnerships among local NRM delivery organisations. There was a recognition that the keys to overcoming this challenge were: trust, flexibility, resource sharing and a "whole-of-catchment" approach. Additionally, the importance of putting in place mechanisms to understand and track the importance of partnership and project outcomes was raised.

Access to funding and investment

A key challenge for NRM delivery remains access to sufficient and secure (i.e., long-term) funding.

A more strategic approach to NRM delivery Given limited funding and resource allocation, with the evolving future impacts of the COVID-19, identifying and prioritising NRM project delivery to achieve optimal outcomes will be a key challenge for NRM organisations over the next 12 months. Specifically, this will be an ongoing challenge due to:

- a lack of long-term commitment to investment and evaluation
- competing priorities and diverse expectations
- recognition that NRM is a "wicked problem".

3 Prioritised actions



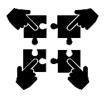
In consideration of the shared challenges listed above, participants were then given the opportunity to identify what success would look like for NRM delivery in 12 months' time (see Appendix D for raw outputs). The identified 'success' factors were further scoped into a list of prioritised actions that would deliver shared benefits and identify potential collaborating organisations and resources.

The below actions are a synthesis of the collected outputs produced during the workshop which have been summarised into key themes:

- Working smarter together
- Telling the NRM story
- Recognising and supporting diverse leadership
- Focusing on resource condition and security.

3.1 Work smarter together

The actions identified in this theme will support local NRM organisations create effective partnerships and collaborations to deliver improved natural resource management outcomes.



#	What do we need to do	Why is it important	Who can lead and contribute	
1	Create a simple, easy to use directory/library of projects and available datasets, catalogued by key descriptors such as theme (e.g. natural resource, agriculture, marine), accessibility (e.g. private, public), type (e.g. monitoring, research, project data etc), location/owner, date range and so on. See Appendix E for example of themes.	To understanding what has been done in the NRM area, as well as what is currently underway. This will support shared learnings from projects outcomes and allow for improved evidence-based decision making and improved monitoring and evaluation. Reduce the potential for duplication of effort (i.e., "reinventing the wheel"). Identify potential future data/research gaps.	Lead: BMRG Collaborators: BCCA, CMERC CQU, DES	
2	Create a shared calendar of events across regional NRM partners.	This will reduce scheduling conflicts and reduce 'engagement fatigue' among stakeholder groups. Increase opportunities for networking and mutually beneficial collaboration among delivery agents.	Lead: BMRG Collaborators: All NRM delivery organisations, DES, DNRME, DAF, GBRF	
3	Create a repository of locally relevant policy, strategic and operational plans for all local NRM delivery agents.	To identify potential linkages and shared stakeholders, as well as identify opportunities for shared funding and/or resourcing. Potential to be used to drive a strategic 'whole of region' approach to NRM delivery.	Lead: BMRG Collaborators: TBC	

3.3 Tell the NRM Story

The actions identified in this theme will assist local NRM organisations to communicate the NRM story to key stakeholders and the wider community.



#	What	Why	Who
1	BMRG to take lead on developing a statewide brand campaign to develop an understanding of NRM outside of the industry and the general public around the benefits NRM brings to QLD and each region.	This will in-turn make it easier for when approaching landholders and applying for government funding as there will be wider support and understanding of NRM. To create an opportunity to communicate successful NRM outcomes to project funders and other NRM organisations. To generate excitement and interest among the wider community in NRM. To encourage further investment in the region from a diversity of funding sources.	Lead: BMRG Collaborators: NRM organisations, Traditional Owners, Landcare, Industry Groups
2	Folding Indigenous storytelling into all of our communications (including the above brand campaign).	To recognise valued traditional owner partners when outwardly communicating the "why" of a project (at inception) and ensuring that the perspective from traditional owners is included (e.g., science + cultural benefits).	Lead: BMRG and Traditional Owners Collaborators: TBC, CQU
		To recognise the value and power of indigenous storytelling.	
3	Hold a capacity building, communication workshop with local NRM delivery agents to assist them with developing their 'elevator' pitch.	Build project officers capacity to confidently, clearly and succinctly communicate the value of NRM projects and/or organisations to key stakeholders (e.g., funders, community	Lead: BMRG Collaborators: NRM organisations, Landcare
		and media). To demonstrate the value of NRM in regional Queensland.	WWW organisations, Landcare
4	Develop an NRM focused curriculum that can be used by local schools to explain the	To generate interest and excitement in NRM.	<i>Lead:</i> BMRG
	importance of NRM and promote key NRM activities in the region.	To generate support for the protection and ongoing management of local natural resource assets. To encourage the younger generation to consider NRM as a career path.	Collaborators: TBC

3.5 Recognise and support diverse leadership

The actions identified in this theme will assist local NRM organisations to recognise and support diversity in leadership, with a particular focus on Traditional Owners and youth.



#	What	Why	Who	
1	Organise an annual/biannual youth forum with representatives from local NRM organisations with an emphasis on inclusivity and diversity.	To give young, local leaders an opportunity to share their voices, build their capabilities/capacity and be represented in NRM issues.	Lead: BMRG Collaborators:	
			Council, Traditional Owners, Schools, QPWS, CQU	
2	Facilitate and support the creation of a future leaders mentoring program for young First Nations people and Elders from local Traditional Owner groups	To recognise elders as the Traditional Owners of the land and further support their	<i>Lead:</i> Gidarjil Elders Committee	
		leadership in the delivery and achievement of NRM outcomes.	Collaborators: BMRG	
3	Create a directory of skills and expertise across NRM organisations. Identify	Support the delivery of NRM outcomes utilising local	Lead:	
	opportunities to share knowledge across organisations to facilitate the delivery of NRM outcomes for the region.	knowledge and expertise. Facilitate the collaborative delivery of NRM projects. Potential for strategic identification of knowledge/skills gaps in the region and allow NRM delivery in the Burnett Mary to say ahead of the "technology curve".	Collaborators: BMRG, CMERC	

3.6 Focus on resource condition and security

The actions identified in this theme will assist local NRM organisations to deliver support for resource condition, water security and ecosystem services.



#	What	Why	Who
1	Create a working group to discuss and find solutions to water security issues for the Burnett Mary region, including the current issues related to the Paradise Dam.	Bring together and represent the collective and shared interests of stakeholders in the Burnett Mary Region.	Lead: BMRG Collaborators: TBC
2	To identify a framework or tool that can be used to assign/calculate both economic and non-economic values for natural resource condition (e.g., land condition) and/or ecosystem services.	To use outputs in funding applications to demonstrate both the economic and non-economic value of natural resource condition and/or ecosystem services. To recognise that natural resources have values that cannot be captured in economic terms.	Lead: BMRG Collaborators: CQU – Resource Economics Group, Nature Conservatory, DES, DAF, NRM Organisations

Appendices

Appendix A: Agenda

Community-led NRM project prioritisation in the Burnett Mary region

The purpose of this workshop is to celebrate regional successes and to discuss priority areas for collaboration and local natural resource management projects over the next 12 months.

Date: Thursday 30 July Time: 10.30 – 2.00 pm

Venue: Bargara Cultural & Community Centre

Workshop agenda:

Item	Time	Description
	10:00am	Registration
1	10:30	Welcome and introductions
		Opening remarks by CEO and Chair of BMRG
		Future directions for next 12 months
	10.45	Charing land and angious landers and landers
2	10:45	Sharing local and regional success and lessons
		Guest presentations by local project partners
3	11:45	What do we need to focus on in next 12 months?
		What will success look like?
	12:30 – 1:15	LUNCH
4	1:15	What do we need to do to achieve success?
		 What do we need to keep doing the same?
		 What do we need to upscale / expand?
		What do we need to do to fill gaps?
		What are the priorities?
5	2:20	Closing remarks
_	2.30	Close and afternoon tea

Appendix B: Summary of achievements 2018 workshops

Burnett Mary NRM Prioritisation Workshops 2018 Summary of Priority Actions Undertaken by BMRG

Gympie Workshop, Priority #1 - "Develop a strategy to better resource Landcare groups"

- Provide grant writing support
- Identify local priorities
- Undertake a needs analysis of each group
- Identify funding opportunities that align with potential recipients
- Build 'collaboration' for grant applications rather than 'competition' between groups

BMRG Activities

- Grant writing support BMRG convened two free grant writing workshops in Gympie (Wednesday 5 February 2020) and Mundubbera (Thursday 6 February 2020). The workshops, aimed at Landcare, community and not-for-profit groups, were facilitated by Pru Saxby of Indigo Gold. Each workshop was fully subscribed to its 25-participant capacity and received unanimously positive feedback. Two more workshops are planned for the second half of 2020, pending COVID-19 restrictions.
- Community Grants Program BMRG funded Round 1 of "Burnett Mary Regional Community Grants Program 2019" targeting regional Landcare and community groups for implementation of organisational capacity building activities. The total available funding under Round 1 was \$50,000 with a maximum of \$2,500 available for each eligible organisation. Twelve groups were successful in receiving funding for a range of initiatives.
- Smart Farms / Small Grants Rounds 2 & 3 BMRG's Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) actively promoted these National Landcare Program funding initiatives amongst Landcare and community groups throughout the Burnett Mary region.

Gympie Workshop, Priority #2 - "Quantify cost-benefit of sustainable land management activities to local communities / economies (Tell the story of NRM)."

Gympie Workshop, Priority #3 - "Facilitate strategic investment of resources with cost-benefits of NRM activities clearly identified".

- Establish a common economic framework for communicating costs and benefits
- Focus on value of partnerships between NRM, LGs, Landcare etc
- Collate and maintain information on costs and benefits of Landcare projects

BMRG Activities

• Queensland NRM "Leverage Tracker" - BMRG is an active participant in the state-wide "leverage tracker" project. This project is currently dedicated to Queensland Government's Natural Resource Investment Program (NRIP) projects undertaken by the state's NRM groups but can be expanded to include all projects. The purpose of the leverage tracker is to capture credible, consistent quantitative data on the contributions made to NRIP project by a wide range of partners / participants, including Landcare and community groups. This data will be rolled up State-wide and used to report on the achievements of the NRIP program, promote the value of work being undertaken by Landcare groups and tell a "state-wide NRM story".

Bundaberg Workshop, Priority #1 - "Expand cultural burning practices".

- Bunya Mountain Murri Rangers to provide training to landholders
- Showcase examples of cultural burning
- Engage with Rural Fire Brigades, LGs, QPWS and Main Roads
- Produce case studies, e.g. videos
- · Conduct literary review, including information from Qld Herbarium and Traditional knowledge

BMRG Activities

- Bunya Mountain Murri Rangers (BMMR) continue to provide ongoing leadership in the implementation and promotion of cultural burning practices, including:
 - o Collaboration with 'Firesticks' Alliance to protect Country through cultural fire and land management practices
 - o Initiation of a regional cultural burning 'Community of Practice' with indigenous groups across Southern Queensland
 - o Implementation of 'cool burning ' practices on the grassland balds of the Bunya Mountains, including video case study of practices via drone technology
 - Working with Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation and QPWS in conducting cool burns in National Parks throughout the Fraser Coast area.
 - BMMR have also collaborated with the Queensland University of Technology to
 establish a scientific benchmark for the rangers' cultural burning program. Flow-on
 benefits from this collaboration are the participation of second year ecology students in
 camps on the Bunya Mountains and the hosting of cultural education tours for
 students.

Bundaberg Workshop, Priority #2 - "Engage with schools to maximise educational impact of NRM activities".

- Provide resources to schools through State school curriculum (re threatened species / habitat management)
- Promote existing / previous successful community-driven initiatives such as "Adopt a Creek".
- Publicise successful citizen science initiatives

BMRG Activities

- Australian Biosphere Conference 2019 BMRG arranged for more than 100 students from
 throughout regional schools to attend the opening session of the inaugural 2019 Australian
 Biosphere Conference. Students from the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and
 Reef Guardian Programs weer invited to address conference delegates on ecological challenges and
 were then treated to a personal audience with ABC's 'Gardening Australia' host Costa Georgiadis.
- "Cleaner Greener Schools" competition BMRG were major sponsors and supporters of this initiative by Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett, that celebrates the sustainable choices for students both in school and home
- **STEM Symposium -** BMRG are ongoing major sponsors of this annual event and each year, host an interactive, educational demonstration for participants.
- Reef Guardian Program This program is administered by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) and aims to create awareness, understanding and appreciation for the Reef and its connected ecosystems. BMRG plays a key role in Reef Guardian activities including school-based presentations, symposiums and promotion of reef-related education programs through its various media.
- Virtual Youth Summit on Food and Education BMRG is engaging with regional leading teachers in Queensland Education's STEM and Reef Guardian Programs to participate in an international virtual youth summit on food and education. The summit is being convened by Christian Nansen from the University of California and aims to connect teachers and students from around the world on a range of collaborative projects and experiments relating to sustainable food production.
- 'Biodiversity Watch' This web-based platform is being promoted by BMRG through regional schools. It includes a short course for teachers and enables students to establish and maintain a database of flora and fauna species within their catchment. Information is shared on a national species database and encourages discussion and interaction between students across Australia, relating to sustainability and endangered species.

Bundaberg Workshop, Priority #3 - "Establish a regional extension Program for Voluntary Conservation Agreements (VCAs) and Voluntary Declarations under the Vegetation Management Act (VDecs), including officer awareness materials & stewardship funding."

- BMRG and LGs throughout Burnett Mary to consider joint appointment of extension officers, promoting VCAs and available funding opportunities for landholders in both urban / rural settings
- Consider the revival of VDecs (are they applicable under current State Vegetation legislation?)
- Provide greater incentives to landholders to take personal responsibility and stewardship of their land management practices

BMRG Activities

BMRG has not undertaken any specific activities to address this priority.

Appendix C: Raw output of challenges identified during the workshop

Knowledge/Skills/Capabilities	Communication/Stakeholder engagement	Collaboration/Partnerships		
Obtaining the knowledge required to implement NRM outcomes Loss of knowledge and mentors including traditional knowledge Having people with the right technical skills Capability and capacity Knowledge transfer How to value and increase volunteers in Landcare groups Losing expertise in-house and consultants cost a lot The capacity of local groups	Maintain communication with stakeholders Government departments not taking between and within (communication) Insulation not consultation (telling not sharing ideas) Lack of awareness of NRM issues at all 3 tiers of government Best practice is not "sexy" Communication of achievements of investments, being able to report on NRM outcomes (not "sexy" NRM) Knowing who to talk to/engage with Engaging the disengaged (i.e., stakeholders and community members that don't usually attend events or workshops) Stakeholder needs not considered by funders at project inception Lack of engagement by private businesses (particularly agriculture) Communication of what is achievable/deliverable Make sure everyone is on the same page with common goals Ever-changing field of politics — communicate with all sides Better communication when sharing success Key partner involvement while keeping all interested parties informed.	Breaking down the barriers and collaborating with open, honest dialogue. Value ethical partnerships. Mutually beneficial outcomes are achieved by the shared outcomes. Respect and collaboration is paramount. Open and honest goals. Development of trust to share data. Blame not collaboration (i.e., farming) Lack of awareness of what other projects are happening Fear of indigenous groups 'taking over' and vice versa Collaboration with TO's – lore, traditional ecological knowledge and mob working on country Lack of cohesion and competitive funding Whole-of-catchment (no us versus them) Increasing contact with Traditional Owners – there are a lot of stakeholders and sometimes TO's are not consulted or informed, particularly with research organisations Flexibility in collaboration Inclusion of Inland Burnett NEES Relationships and trust True collaboration of all entities and organisations in the region Improve collaboration within NRM groups Share limited resources across		
Strategy	Funding	partners/NRM areas Other		
How to prioritise and on what basis	Budget restrictions	Big project fatigue		
Prioritising projects and resource allocation Long term commitment to investment	The efficiency of data storage and sharing Funding/capital for environmental	Maintaining private landownership on NRM issues Balancing sustainability and		
and evaluation Specific government funding priorities	projects Funding availability, timeframes (i.e.,	productivity Share benefits in smaller		
vs the regional priorities	long-term)	communities		
Long term policies, not reactionary	Lack of funding (long-term and equity)	Better understanding		
Identifying and knowing shared outcomes	Funding Lovel of funding and funding durations	NRM is not all about Reef More R&D across all NRM sections		
Deep understanding of the wicked problems	Level of funding and funding durations (need longer-term) Short term funding Securing funding Structure of funding	Funding for practice change needs to deliver a greater improvement (in some projects)		

Industry sustainability – contributing back to the NRM cause and impacts on other values

Managing diverse expectations (e.g., environmental groups versus agricultural production)

Establish shared perspectives and priorities (it's not all about money)

We don't want to 'sustain' NRM but 'generate' NRM

Getting the priority and balance right across the region and issues (coastal and inland)

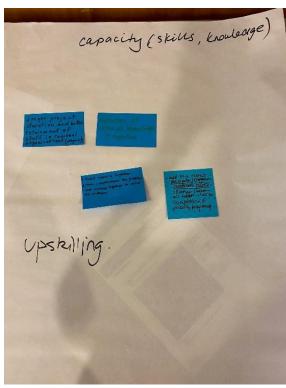
Symbiotic goals

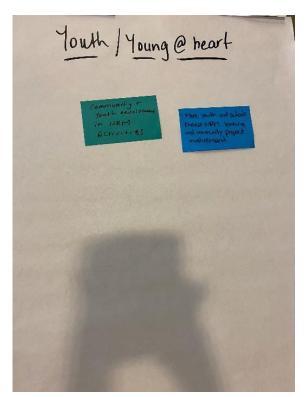
Demonstrating the value of NRM

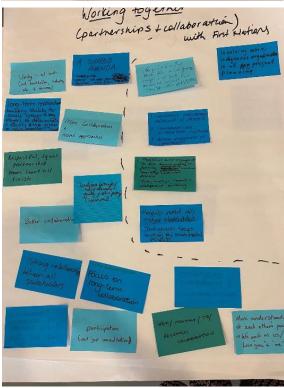
Planting one -million trees in the region

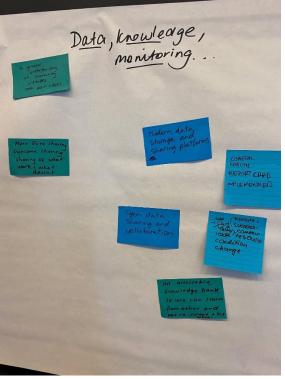
Barriers to implementation – politics, financial

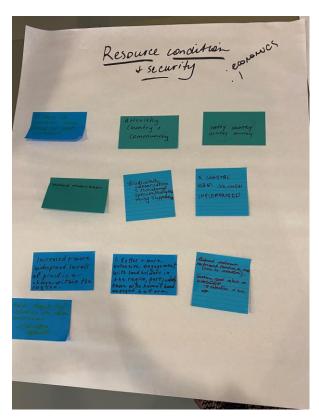
Appendix D: Raw output of key successes identified during the workshop grouped by themes

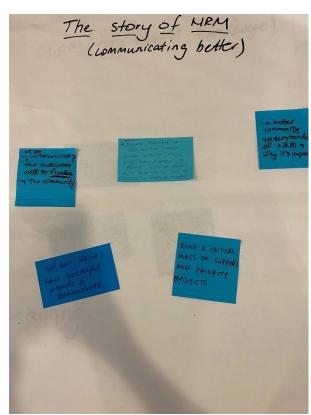


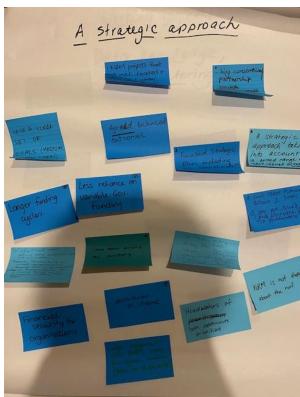












Appendix E: Themes for regional resource library/directory

Culture		Agriculture		Land				Examples
Indigenous		Citrus		Flora		Sea		
	The resource		The resource		The resource		The resource	Sq kms area
	Groups		Groups		Groups			Plants/animals
	Events/tourism		Events/tourism		Events/tourism		Groups	BMRG
	Projects/Research		Projects/Research		Projects/Research			GBRMPA
	Contacts		Contacts		Contacts		Events/tourism	Seafood festival
								Operators
								Retail
European		Cane		Fauna			Projects/Research	Historical
	The resource		The resource		The resource			Current
	Groups		Groups		Groups		Contacts	DAFF
	Events/tourism		Events/tourism		Events/tourism			BMRG
	Projects/Research		Projects/Research		Projects/Research			
	Contacts		Contacts		Contacts			
		Beef						
			The resource	Land	The resource			
			Groups		Groups			
			Events/tourism		Events/tourism			
			Projects/Research		Projects/Research			
			Contacts		Contacts			
		Timber		Water				
			The resource		The resource			
			Groups		Groups			
			Events/tourism		Events/tourism			
			Projects/Research		Projects/Research			
			Contacts		Contacts			
		Nuts		Air				
			The resource		The resource			
			Groups		Groups			
			Events/tourism		Events/tourism			
			Projects/Research		Projects/Research			
			Contacts		Contacts			