



Gippsland integrated  
**natural resources**  
forum

## Executive Meeting 4/03

### Minutes

9.30am to 11.30am Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2003

**Attendees** : Barry Hart (Chair), John Mitchell (Gippsland Water), Tony Edgar (DSE), Duncan Malcolm (Gippsland Coastal Board), John Lovering (Gippsland Research Coordination Group), Geoff Hocking (WGCMA), Alan Freitag (DSE), Richard Hancock (GLGN), Mick Harding (Gippsland Cultural Heritage Unit), Carol Jeffs (GINRF)

**Apologies** : Graeme Dear ECGMA, Neville Penrose (DPI)

### **1. Business arising from Executive meeting 3/03, 13<sup>th</sup> May 2003**

Item 2.2 Meeting between Geoff Hocking, Graeme Dear, Duncan Malcolm and Barry Hart did not go ahead. Although NHT funding has been approved, the money has not yet been released.

### **2. Executive Officer's Report**

Item 3: Web page – need to link GINRF page to the Gippsland portal.

Item 4: The Forum has been approached by Ty Caling of Parks Victoria to provide stakeholder feedback during the development process for Marine National Park management plans in Gippsland. Agreed that there would be some issues of relevance for GINRF to feed into the process and that some time may be available at the next reference group meeting to provide feedback.

Item 6: Financial Report

Executive would like to see:

Some information about who has financially contributed to GINRF.

Projected cash flow and income/expenditure reports.

### **3. Creating Gippsland's Future**

Draft of strategy tabled. Embarked upon as an ambitious land suitability project within a true sustainability framework, but didn't come to fruition in the way anticipated. It is, however, a synthesis of land use information that may be used for a variety of purposes. There are some challenging thoughts for the sustainable development of the region and the timing of the strategy is good for a number of

processes including municipal strategic statements, regional catchment strategies and community capacity building via Gippsland Area Consultative Committee. There also may be some links for GINRF's goal to develop a vision for Gippsland over the next 20-30 years.

The strategy is in draft format, has not been signed off by partner organisations and as such is not suitable for public release. It may well remain in draft format and be used as an input document.

A number of possibilities exist for distribution of this document, including publication on the GINRF web page for online feedback or discussion at a reference group meeting.

**Action: Alan Freitag and Tony Edgar to discuss a way forward for 'Creating Gippsland's Future' – report back to next Executive meeting.**

John Mitchell has been in contact with Dr Gary Richards, Director and Principle Scientist, National Carbon Accounting System, Australian Greenhouse Office. Dr Richards is seeking support from the Gippsland region to pilot test a regional application of the National Carbon Accounting system. Dr Richards has detailed satellite imagery of the region that he would like to transfer to regions to be maintained and used (in partnership with the State Government). The goal of this approach to transfer is to use existing capability and integrate with existing information systems and data sets. As part of the transfer process Dr Richards would provide some training to assist in the reading, interpretation and analysis of the data. The GINRF seems an appropriate body to auspice such a pilot in Gippsland.

**Action: John Mitchell to invite Dr Richards to attend the next Executive meeting to give a brief presentation of the proposed pilot regional application of the National Carbon Accounting System.**

#### **4. Green paper on Water (Water Industry Review)**

Minister Thwaites is leading the review with a broad goal to review institutional arrangements regarding how we manage water in Victoria. Some consultation has occurred with the chairs and CEOs of water authorities.

Barry Hart disclosed his membership of this review committee.

Discussion occurred as to whether it is appropriate for GINRF to write and forward a position paper on the review. Decided that it would be appropriate to forward a paper focussing on a regional, integrated approach to water management, based on some of the GINRF principles including: a whole-of-catchment approach, information/research and regional development.

**Action: A small group to be formed to provide a discussion paper for comment by the Executive. John Mitchell, Richard Hancock, Tony Edgar, Geoff Hocking, to provide paper for comment to executive by 18th July.**

#### **5. Gippsland Research Coordination Group**

Discussion paper tabled outlining a suggested approach to clarify the relationship between GRCG and GINRF.

## Recommendations of the discussion paper

### **Recommendation 1:**

Change the GRCG terms of reference, removing terms 1 and 6, transferring this responsibility to the GINRF. This reflects the perceived need to separate research prioritisation from research scoping, feasibility and coordination.

Term 1: Provide researchers with an understanding of priority issues within Gippsland, strategic directions and major resource management concerns.

Term 6: Undertake an appropriate advocacy role in the region in respect to natural resource management opportunities.

### **Recommendation 2:**

Change the GRCG membership to better reflect a technical assessment and advisory role. This would entail removing stakeholder members who are already members of either the Executive or the Reference Group of GINRF and may require the recruitment of additional research specialists.

Some discussion about the prioritisation/evaluation role of GRCG. The Gippsland Lakes Taskforce is looking to GRCG to provide some technical integrity when commissioning research and to provide advice on the appropriateness and validity of research projects put forward.

The Executive of GINRF accepted both recommendations and further suggest that the GRCG terms of reference be modified to:

- Specifically acknowledge the role and relationship of GINRF and the Gippsland Lakes Taskforce
- Widen the brief of GRCG to include social, cultural, economic in addition to biophysical research in order to include indigenous and other regional values.

The GINRF Executive also recommend that the executive support for GINRF and GRCG be merged.

**Action: John Lovering to present the Executive's recommendations at the GRCG meeting on 1st July. Report back to next GINRF executive meeting on progress.**

**Action: Carol Jeffs to develop position description for additional executive support to serve both GINRF and GRCG, and liaise with Barry Hart and John Lovering re: appointment strategy.**

## **6. Report Card**

The 2003 Natural Resources report card has been favourably received by all concerned. Most feedback has been positive, with only some concern raised about the stewardship rating for the Gippsland Lakes being too low at two stars. Most other feedback centres around the request for other areas/industries in Gippsland to be

included in the reporting process such as: oil/gas industry, Strzelecki ranges, Redgum plains, forestry industry, agriculture in East Gippsland.

Congratulations are extended to Carol Jeffs for mobilising the Report Card concept and achieving a major milestone for the Forum.

The Report Card development process needs to continue from here and be part of a comprehensive, Gippsland –wide monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) process. The Gippsland Lakes Taskforce has budget for developing a MER framework and is would like to extend this framework to be applicable Gippsland wide. A comprehensive framework could serve the RCS process, Report Card in addition to broader strategic needs of the Gippsland region.

A subcommittee is to be formed with the following representation:

- West Gippsland CMA
- East Gippsland CMA
- Gippsland Coastal Board
- Carol Jeffs
- David Lane (consultant)

Terms of reference should include the power to co-opt additional members as the committee sees fit.

**Action: Carol Jeffs to call subcommittee together and draft terms of reference for the next Executive meeting.**

## **7. Planning for the next reference group meeting**

A reference group meeting will be held on Friday October 31, 2003 with the theme of Regional Information System. Professor Michael Batty is visiting from the UK and will be in Traralgon on that day to deliver a keynote and perhaps host workshops on GIS.

Another reference group meeting could be held between now and the end of October. The priorities for the Forum are:

- Stakeholder feedback for East Gippsland RCS
- Local government planning processes – aligning Municipal Strategic Statements and linking with RCS process.
- Vision for next 20-30 years

**Action: Carol Jeffs attending EGRCS meeting Thursday 26th June to determine date**

**Action: Barry Hart to investigate the availability of Jason Alexander (consultant) re: commissioning discussion paper for Gippsland Vision.**

**Action: Geoff Hocking, Richard Hancock and Carol Jeffs to plan a GINRF presentation to Gippsland Local Government Network regarding RCS process and MSS alignment.**

## **8. Other Business**

Gippsland Biotechnology Strategy – following from previous Executive meeting, need to respond to proponents to indicate that the Forum is willing to interact during the

strategy development process. The Forum could provide comment on the potential impact of a strategy (new industry for example) on the natural environment.

## **9. Next meeting**

August 12, 2003	Location dependent on visiting speaker
September 23	Bairnsdale 12.00 noon – 2.00pm EG Shire Council (new date)
November 11	Sale? (new date)

**Summary of Actions: GINRF Executive Meeting 24-06-03**

1	Discuss a way forward for 'Creating Gippsland's Future' – report back to next Executive meeting.	Alan Freitag and Tony Edgar
2	Invite Dr Gary Richards to attend the next Executive meeting to give a brief presentation of the proposed pilot regional application of the National Carbon Accounting System.	John Mitchell
3	Write a discussion paper on the Water Industry Review, for comment by the Executive by 18th July.	John Mitchell, Richard Hancock, Tony Edgar, Geoff Hocking
4	Present the Executive's recommendations at the GRCC meeting on 1st July. Report back to next GINRF executive meeting on progress.	John Lovering
5	Develop position description for additional executive support to serve both GINRF and GRCC, and liaise with Barry Hart and John Lovering re: appointment strategy.	Carol Jeffs
6	Convene MER subcommittee and draft terms of reference for the next Executive meeting.	Carol Jeffs
7	Attend EGRCS meeting Thursday 26th June to determine date for stakeholder feedback workshop	Carol Jeffs
8	Investigate the availability of Jason Alexander (consultant) re: commissioning discussion paper for Gippsland Vision.	Barry Hart
9	Plan a GINRF presentation to Gippsland Local Government Network regarding RCS process and MSS alignment.	Geoff Hocking, Richard Hancock and Carol Jeffs