

ANNUAL REPORT



Central Highlands Regional Resource Use Planning Co-Operative

Independent Chair's Report

CHRRUP is a proud and independent organization which has matured into a major force for good throughout the Central Highlands region of Queensland. That reputation has been established by several great leaders including previous Board Independent Chairs Alicia Dunbar and Tony Robinson – who also provided me with a comprehensive introduction and mentorship in this role. The absolute luxury of so much talent on the Board has meant that CHRRUP has accepted and overcome challenges so successfully and is now re-established in a strong strategic position. Simone Parker's driving force as the Executive Officer has forged enviable working relationships with a very wide range of stakeholders providing a solid client base for delivering "product". The outstanding contribution of her team of highly motivated and very dedicated staff have ensured they have delivered some outstanding outcomes from limited resources.

The above introduction alludes to the challenges and change in direction that resulted from a dramatic change in late 2017 in established funding relationships. This change ignited a thorough re-evaluation of the purpose and value. CHRRUP has a strong track record of involvement in community engagement and planning processes, providing access to information and training and delivering projects to support on-ground outcomes in natural resource management. The decisions that came out of the discussions has led CHRRUP to maintain that record while focusing on establishing several key "products" for individual and organizational clients.

Safe Station is currently the lead product. The perfect fit of existing skill sets of staff and existing client base has allowed substantial early growth of this product. Project Management has been a more traditional area of operation but it is expanding rapidly as our expertise is recognised across a wider geographic area. Property planning and mapping delivers a vital service especially for potential new arrivals to the area and will deliver long term benefits for its client base and for the sustainability of the region. There will undoubtedly be greater opportunities for training and capacity building as arrangements and additional tenants contribute to the replacement of Emerald Agricultural College. High speed internet, work spaces and video conferencing through Our Connectivity Hub ensure that all of our community has access to these resources.

The greater commercial focus in much of what CHRRUP does is now a necessary component of ensuring sustainability as an organization. However, community is the real core of our existence. It is worth repeating Alicia's 4 P's and reminding ourselves of the importance of Purpose, People, Product and Process. CHRRUP (and not simply the Board) has continued to ask quality questions, provide industry insights and direct the organisation with steadfast determination to remain reflective of the community's aspirations and needs. We deliver on the value proposition of profit for purpose.

Personally, I feel so fortunate to have been offered the opportunity to arrive at this wonderful point where much of the hard work has already been done and the future looks so much more positive. The great team (all of the current Board and Staff) give me hope and confidence that CHRRUP will support sustainable regions, enterprises and industries for many decades into the future.

Thank you to all members of our extended community who have made me feel so welcome 'coming home' to the Central Highlands in June to take over this role from Tony Robinson. I wish you all the best for the coming year.

IAN DANIELS, INDEPENDENT CHAIR

Executive Officer's Report

It is a real honour to look back on the 2018/2019 year at CHRRUP. While we have all been so busy and focussed on continuing to build the future of CHRRUP, it is important to reflect on this year's achievements and acknowledge the hard work of those involved. In doing so, I would like to express my gratitude to Stacey, Jess and Sara who continually impress me with their dedication and commitment. It is very special work with a group of people so aware of and united in their purpose, and I consider myself extremely fortunate to be a part of this team.

Thanks also go to the CHRRUP Board for your support and encouragement while we have taken the first steps on a long path of change and growth. My appreciation goes to Christine, Cam and Carmel who as members of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee give their significant time and expertise so willingly.

I have had the privilege to work with three Independent Chairs in my time and CHRRUP and it does not seem like a year ago that Alicia resigned, and Tony stepped in as Interim Chair. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Ian to the position and express how much I have enjoyed the working relationship that has been developed in a relatively short time. Ian brings a wealth of experience, a steadying hand and importantly, a willingness to challenge accepted beliefs and situations for improved outcomes.

Growth has been the theme of this year and has been demonstrated through Safe Station business, partners, networks, investors and projects. A summary of achievements is provided in the next section of this report and has provided an important foundation for our future.

In acknowledging the challenges outlined in the last annual report, I'm pleased to report that we have gone a significant way to meeting them and have come out a stronger, more independent organisation. The focus now is how we build on a strong legacy and continue to achieve our purpose.

Community Engagement

Future Food and Fibre Conference

Held in March 2019 with the theme of thinking and acting in new ways to prepare agricultural businesses for tomorrow.

Nogoa November Community Day

In partnership with Central Highlands Regional

Council Connectivity Hub

Utilised by local businesses, not for profit and community organisations

Emerald Agricultural College

Participation in the Local Community Stakeholder Committee





Biophysical Improvement

Over the Fence project

10 on ground projects in the Belyando and Suttor sub-catchments in partnership with NQ Dry Tropics

Forage Budgeting in the Fitzroy

14 graziers undertook forage budgeting in the Fitzroy catchment through a project with the Department of Environment and Science

Building Dynamic Burdekin Grazing Businesses

5 graziers in the Suttor sub-catchment collecting and analysing soil tests

A close-up photograph of a hand placing a red rectangular block with the words "CAPACITY BUILDING" in black capital letters on top of a stack of teal rectangular blocks. The blocks are arranged in a stepped fashion on a dark wooden surface. The background is a solid yellow color.

Capacity Building

Over the Fence project

10 small neighbours field days held to examine the results of on ground projects

Forage Budgeting in the Fitzroy

3 graziers selected and trained to deliver a forage budgeting service to other graziers in the Fitzroy catchment

Building Dynamic Burdekin Grazing Businesses

5 graziers in the Suttor sub-catchment receiving training from soils specialist David Hardwick

Grass, Grass, Grass

20 graziers representing 12 properties around Alpha participated in a 2 day workshop about grazing practices and improving ground cover. 5 properties received one-on-one follow up support.

Safe Station

Awareness and demand for Safe Station has grown and a new partnership with GW3 and Glencore Coal has delivered a pilot Safe Station group in Clermont.



Organisational Health and Capacity

People

Core staffing levels have been maintained with no turnover and investment made in professional development

Board

Vacant Board positions have been filled and an Independent Chair recruited for a three-year term

Partnerships

New partnerships developed with GW3 and Glencore Coal and existing partnerships further developed with Central Highlands Regional Council, DAF, DES and NQ Dry Tropics

Business opportunities

New products are being developed and existing services examined for commercial opportunities.

