



Board Meeting (BM) in Brief held 31 July 2019 Key Discussion Items

Natural Capital Summit - Brisbane

- BMRG CEO Sheila Charlesworth was invited to attend the Natural Capital Summit held in Brisbane, June 6 & 7 2019, hosted by the Queensland Government, CSIRO, NAB, and Climate Works Australia. Minister Leanne Enoch welcomed delegates from across Australia and high-profile guest speakers. Australia's natural systems are under pressure from increasing demand for food and fibre from a growing population, changing consumer demands, market pressure driving land degradation, and the acceleration effects of climate change. Conventional land management, markets and policy have contributed to these trends. Many promising solutions exist or are emerging, and Australia is well placed to play a leading role and capitalise on competitive advantages. However, a major barrier to capturing these opportunities is the limited ability of private land landowners (and related industries e.g. as investors, financiers and insurers) to quantify and value improved environmental performance.

The Concept of "Natural Capital" provides a vehicle for recognising, qualifying, valuing and ultimately better managing natural systems. Natural Capital frameworks define three core elements of natural capital –

- Assets: E.g. soil, water, biodiversity, vegetation, and carbon stored in landscape
- Flows: E.g. food, water, pollination, climate regulation, air quality and disease control.
- Benefits: E.g. increased employment, better health and nutrition

Queensland Disaster Resilience Fund (QDRF)

- BMRG has been successful in gaining grant funding from the Queensland Disaster Resilience fund (QDRF) and the Prepared Communities Fund (PCF) for Riverbank Shoreline rehabilitation in the Burnett River for \$220,000.00.

Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation

- The Plant Biosecurity Science Foundation Managing Director, Michael Robinson, will be attending and assisting with Master of Ceremonies duties at our "Biosecurity Conference" to be held March 12 and 13 2020. We have also invited the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries to officially open the conference.

National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)

- A new National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) has commenced as of July the 1st 2019, to lead on the Australian Government's Indigenous policy and program design. NIAA provides an opportunity for the Government to look at how it works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities, stakeholders and community leaders. The agency will see the current Indigenous Affairs Group of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC) transition to NIAA.

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Indigenous service providers who receive funding from PM&C (BMRG) are not expected to be affected by the transition to the NIAA. The government is working to minimise impact on service providers and services in the communities are expected to continue as normal during the transition.

The NIAA will provide more autonomy and authority to co-ordinate across the Commonwealth and will report to the Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the Honourable Ken Wyatt AM, MP.

Along with the appointment of the first Aboriginal Cabinet Minister and Minister for Indigenous Affairs, the establishment of the NIAA signals an exciting future for Indigenous Affairs.

BMRG Small Grants Program

- BMRG is ready to “roll out” with the support of BMRG Board Directors our new small grants program for Landcare groups across our region. The grants will be for up to \$2,500.00 with a clear application criterion for eligible groups. A decision paper will be presented at the July 31st BMRG Board Meeting seeking the support of the BMRG board to support this initiative. Up to \$50,000.00 funds has been allocated for this initiative.

Finance Report

Finance Report prepared by Chris Shay, Viden Group was presented to and endorsed by the Board.

BMRG Members

BMRG currently has 153 financial members and the following new/renewed memberships were approved by the Board:

- Jamie Johnson
- Wendy Pebbles

Next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday 25 September 2019.

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