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Looking after the Burdekin

Townsville Hosts River Management Workshop

Sharing knowledge about rivers and improving river management are the themes of a three day workshop being held at Jupiters in Townsville, hosted by Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM (BDTNRM) and Alluvium Consulting (Qld).

The three day Workshop starts at **08:45 on Wednesday 28 March 2007**. The workshop is the first of its kind in North Queensland and all seats are booked out by delegates from the Fitzroy River to Cape York and the Gulf.

Dr Scott Crawford, BDTNRM's Resource Operations Manager, welcomed this opportunity for the staff of Alluvium to share their vast knowledge of river management issues with those involved in the diverse and intricate aspects of waterway and catchment management.

"Organisations and government are experiencing great difficulty in attracting qualified and experienced waterway and catchment hydrology staff. This Workshop offers a great opportunity for consultants to share their knowledge with those in an ever changing environment experiencing even greater demands for improved river management."

Participants at this Workshop will hear about the latest in waterway management practices, share experiences and issues, and develop partnerships that could aid in the more effective delivery of river management projects. As a bonus the Workshop achieves one of the objectives of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan.

Mr. Jason Carter, a principal at Alluvium Consulting, stated that, "Knowledge of river management practices has increased considerably in recent years however not everyone in the river management industry has the opportunity to keep up to date with developments."

"Alluvium Consulting is pleased to assist Natural Resource Management bodies, River Improvement Trusts, Local Governments and community catchment groups to improve their knowledge of river management practices. This occasion also encourages organisations to explore common goals and opportunities to develop closer links for coordinated planning, actions and work programs.

Delegates have the opportunity to participate in three themes as case studies:

- Planning – the importance of vision and cooperation (Tully River Catchment)
- Physical processes and erosion control (Gully erosion and river erosion)
- Fish passage assessments and barrier modifications (Burdekin NRM Region Study)

The Workshop will be opened by Mr. Bob Frazer, BDTNRM's Chief Executive Officer and Mr Ron Archer, Coordinator of the Northern Gulf Indigenous Savannah Group will be the guest Dinner speaker for Wednesday night.

Professor Bob Miles will also talk about the potential impact of climate change on river management across Northern Australia.

The Workshop concludes on Friday 30 March with a field trip to view the successful fishway design at James Cook University, where recent surveys of have revealed that 8 native fish species have returned to vital habitat areas previously devoid of fish for many years.

Workshop venue: Jupiters Casino, Coral Sea rooms, Townsville

Workshop dates: 08:45 Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th March 2007 at Jupiters
09:00 Friday 30th at Solander Road, University Creek, James Cook

University

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