



**Great Eastern Ranges - Border Ranges Alliance - Working Group – Record of Meeting 3**

**Held:** 10 December 2009 (Byron Council Offices, Mullumbimby)  
**Present:** Gary Howling (G.H), Scott Hetherington (S.H.), John Nagel (J.N.)Shane Ruming (S.R.), Liz Gould (L.G.) Kate Smillie (K.S.)  
**Apologies:** Lynn Baker (L.B.) Jamie Morton (J.M),  
**Time:** Meeting started 1.15 and closed 3.45 pm.

**Agenda**

1. Introductions
2. Funding Terms for Collaborative project (G.H.)
3. Framework for discussion (K.S.)
4. Development of criteria for considering collaborative projects
5. Brainstorm of possible projects
6. Future Steps

**Meeting outcomes**

**1. Funding Terms for Collaborative project (G.H.)**

- G.H. informed the group that the funds available (\$70k) are currently secure, however they may be open to future change
- K.S. asked whether the working group could take steps to mitigate the risk of the terms changing
- G.H. indicated that the best way to mitigate risk is to have a well planned project in place.

**2. Update on future of G.E.R. Initiative**

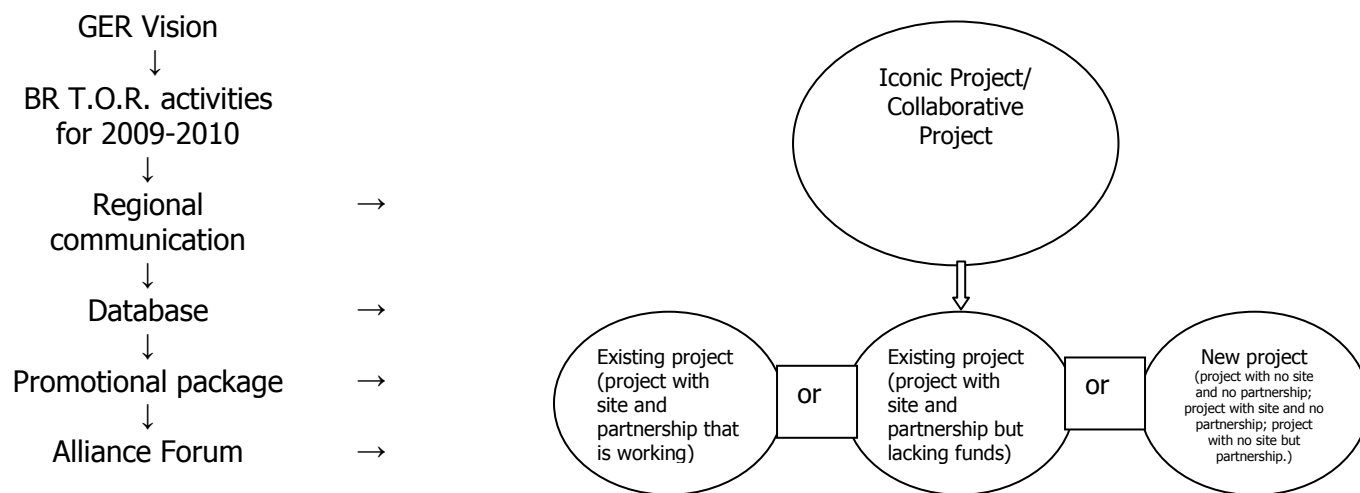
- G.H. updated that group that in the next year the G.E.R. initiative was to move out of DECCW and be overseen by N.G.O.'s. The N.G.O.s are: Greening Australia; Bush Heritage; NCT; NPA; OzGreen; and government supporters include DECCW and Parks Victoria.
- L.G. raised strengths and weaknesses of the initiative being run from within government, in particular stability of funding.
- G.H. informed the group that the initiative being run outside of government is likely to provide more traction as the initiative is beyond state borders.

**3. Update on Website**

- S.H. sought update on website.
- G.H. informed that website to 'go live' next week. That the regional content was to be further developed and regional facilitators would be provided access keys.

#### **4. Framework for Discussion**

- K.S. informed the group of discussions with Sustainable Futures (a) to assist the NCT deliver the 2009-2010 Terms of Reference activities and (b) in relation to a framework for considering the collaborative project
- K.S. asked the group to review the Border Ranges Terms of Reference when considering the collaborative project. The group was also asked to think about the achievements that the Alliance are seeking to make in 2009-2010 to ensure that the collaborative project/s is furthering the Terms of Reference.
- K.S. suggested that the Terms of Reference provide criteria for considering collaborative projects, such as: connectivity; resilience; maintaining relationships with and between BR Alliance Members; providing information on regional activities, conservation strategies and research that are relevant to the goals of the G.E.R; developing a collective understanding about how individual and collaborative efforts contribute to the vision of GER; communicating about the activities in the Border Ranges (past, current and biodiversity values); opportunities to invite industry and education agencies. These themes are built upon in the discussion regarding project criteria below.
- K.S. then suggested the following framework for thinking about projects (framework developed by Peter Cummings from Sustainable Futures):



W.G. Agreed that to deliver a project within the funding timeframes that an existing project should be identified. The group also identified that an Alliance forum could be the focus of the 'field day' component of the funding.

#### **5. Brainstorm for an Alliance Forum.**

The following notes are of the general consensus within the working group about the themes and outcomes for a Border Ranges Forum:

##### Objectives of Forum:

- Showcase past activities;
- provide a forum to announce 2010-2011 activities;

C. Forum to include showcasing of on-ground activities; to include science component showcasing research on conservation connectivity, resilience and connectivity – at a continental scale as well as Border Ranges; to include a speaker on ecological restoration and the G.E.R. Initiative.

Resources to showcase past activities:

- Provide funds and assistance to Alliance Members to document past activities – including place based story telling
- To use a poster style of documentation – eg 2 pages that will have multiple uses
- To provide GER templates that are able to be used on the web
- Template to include necessary GER branding and tag lines;
- Posters to be linked to a web based interactive map of activities in the Border Ranges

Outcomes from documentation of past activities:

- Provides link to community on participation avenues
- Identifies gaps in activities
- Assists monitoring
- Does science support our collective activities;
- Showcase collaboration;
- Showcase past activities

Action: Working Group agreed to develop a brief by end of January 2010 for a consultant/s to deliver the products identified by the Working Group. (Note the working group identified a number of different skill sets required for delivering the forum)

**6. Relevant Criteria for Collaborative Project**

The following themes were identified by the Group as relevant for collaborative projects. Those themes relevant for on-ground projects have been parked with (o.g) and those activities relevant for delivery of an Alliance forum have been marked with (f)

- Connectivity (o.g.)
- Resilience (o.g.)
- maintaining relationships with and between BR Alliance Members (f)
- providing information on regional activities, conservation strategies and research that are relevant to the goals of the G.E.R (f)
- developing a collective understanding about how individual and collaborative efforts contribute to the vision of GER (f)
- communicating about the activities in the Border Ranges (past, current and biodiversity values); opportunities to invite industry and education agencies (f)
- Foundation Project (for future projects) (o.g.)
- Complimentarily. (o.g.)

**7. Brainstorm of On-ground Projects**

- J.N discussed the P.A.S. project with the group: covers subcatchments across 8 sites (or subset of 4 sites). Addresses cross tenure issues – NP Estate, LGA, private lands. Currently have \$100k to assist in implementation of the BMP (\$100k from CfoC & DECC and \$40k from CC Corridor project). These are being spent in the Byron, Tweed, Brunswick to Billinudgel. John identified a number of gaps in funding for BR activities. These included:
  - P.A.S. properties needing an additional \$5-\$8k per property for planning and environmental weed control works;
  - Funds to assist in writing up the PAS project;

- Funds to assist in the upper Richmond and Richmond Ranges – Toonenbar N.P;
- Funds for riparian works in the Finden Ck, Moore Park, Grevillia areas – 60 landholders across 30km of riparian areas;
- Gaps in funding for the Terrania Creek areas.

Action: J.N. to write up 3 ideas by 8/1/2010

- L.G. sought feedback from G.H. on whether the funds could be used to develop a sub catchment plan in Qld based on showcasing the NSW sub catchment planning process  
Action: G.H. to discuss concept with his team  
Action J.N. to provide a paragraph to G.H. regarding this proposal
- S.H. identified that property planning for landholders in the Land For Wildlife project would be good. KS identified that any capacity building of landholders to enter into in-perpetuity agreements would be supported by the NCT.
- S.R. raised continuation of indigenous property planning.
- L.G. informed the group of her work in relation to the Macadamia recovery plan, and possible opportunities to work with industry in rainforest remnant connectivity.

The meeting required additional time to complete brainstorming ideas for collaborative on-ground projects.

Action: G.H. and K.S. to provide template to working group for suggestions (by 16/12/09)

### **8. Next Steps**

Working Group meeting to be held towards the end of January. It was noted that the BMP meeting is scheduled for 28 January 2009.

A meeting date will be forwarded to working group members during early January.