

Community Information Paper 2010

Northern Gulf Resource Management Group Inc
'Local people finding local solutions'

The NGRMG is a not-for-profit community driven organisation that accesses funds to implement natural resource management projects in our region. We have an impressive history of sourcing significant dollars and implementing specific on-ground outcomes on behalf of the community.

We invite our community to share in our activities but to also feed ideas and projects into the system for NGRMG to continue to deliver for our locals. If projects prove to have good community support then NGRMG will invest time or money to help see them come to fruition.

We meet 4 to 6 times per year throughout the Gulf region and invite members from all sectors of the community in setting priorities, using robust ethical procedures that benefit our community and environment. In essence, we broker Government, research and development, business and philanthropic investments towards on-ground results.

By utilising our proactive, inclusive, integrated and cooperative approach to natural resource management we have completed many successful projects along with plans to deliver more in 2010 as well as seek advice for projected future projects.

We were recently successful in gaining funds under the Australian Government's Caring for our Country programme and the Queensland Governments Q2 Coasts and Country programme which we will use to fund priorities under our Regional NRM Plan, a document driven by our community members. Many of these projects are shown in the map below, along with projected future investments and some of our past achievements.

Part of our charter is to make sure we keep the community informed so we invite feedback from anyone who wishes to share our journey and make our shared vision a reality.

Current projects

1. Ghost nets programme - the saltwater people (largely Indigenous groups) have established a program where they remove marine debris, rescue turtles and other wildlife, reduce and recycle ghost nets, record and report.

2. Invasive species in high conservation value areas - Community have identified the special values of our wetlands along with necessary conservation management measures and are exploring options for developing business models to ensure long term management

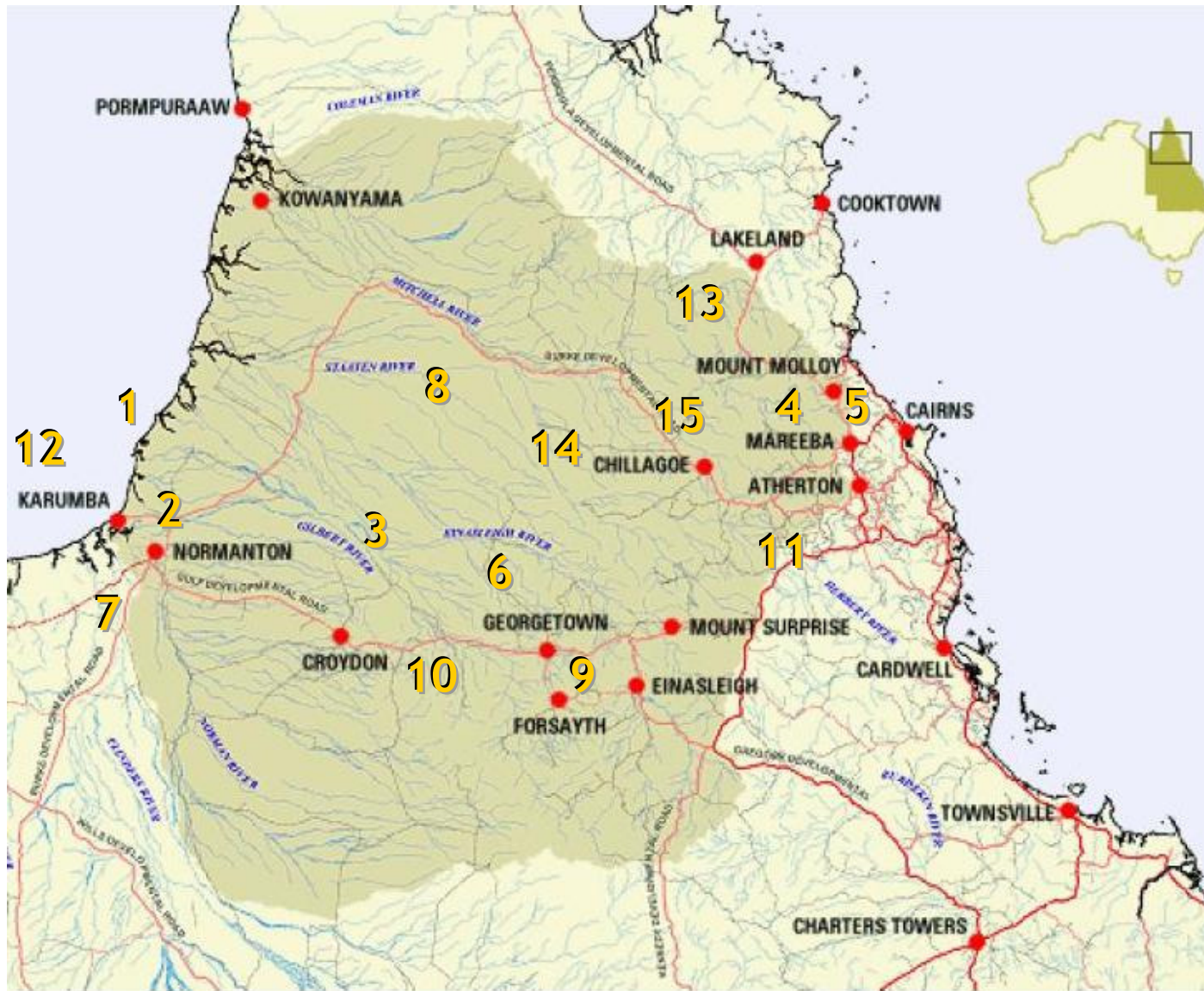
3. Gilbert River pest program - Community are trialing technology and removing weed infestations in the Gilbert catchment, beginning at the headwaters. The Gilbert River is an ecosystem of concern and carries areas of heavy weed infestation.

4. Farm Management Support - a project that is assisting farmers in achieving best practice management in intensive agricultural areas

5. Intensive Geographic Information Systems mapping - assistance to intensive farmers in land type variability mapping to aid farm management

6. Extensive Geographic Information Systems mapping - assistance to our pastoralists in land type variability mapping that supports improved land condition

7. Community skills, knowledge and engagement - Local people with local solutions that are delivering on ground action for their local community, their region, their State and their Country by improving indigenous skills and involvement



Whole of Region projects

Savannaplan - Technical assistance that helps the grazing industry proactively adopt practices and technologies that maintain or improve land condition.

Traditional Owner Knowledge - Traditional Owners capturing significant sites, stories and practice using GIS and video to protect this knowledge for future generations

Biodiversity and Ecosystem relationships - Much of the region's wildlife is still 'unknown' and every year our work finds new species or significant ecological facts. Over the next four years the community will identify the most critical habitats for landscape and species conservation given the impending development of our region into the future.

Targeted services - Community drivers in the region that provide the necessary targeted skills to motivate attitude and action towards a sustainable future for all - including best practice, youth, ethical businesses, and science.

Proposed projects

8. Staaten River Wilderness Corridor - The NGRMG will explore innovative long term solutions for graziers that ensure the ecosystem health and neighboring productivity is maintained.

9. Community Conservation Management - keeping conservation local by facilitating the purchase of suitable tracts of land for community driven conservation and cultural protection and management. Community ownership will allow local people (both indigenous and non-indigenous) to conserve special places and operate business models that provide income to support the local economy.

10. Ecosystem Services - The economic value of our landscapes and natural resources need to be quantified to be able to leverage on-going funding to protect and sustainably manage these areas into the future. Economic values will attract non-government funding into the region through commercial trading arrangements.

11. Pest Containment - invest in ensuring existing pests do not continue to reduce the natural and productive values of the region.

12. Grunter recovery and management - ecological research on the grunter (*Pomadasys kaakan*), which is a significant local and recreational fish species, as there is concern that this key species is declining.

13. Climate change, what could be the impacts from climate change on our coasts and country?

14. School resources - Community want to link local environment and culture knowledge into the region's school curriculum.

15. Fish Barriers - The community would like to minimise impacts on fish movement and breeding created by artificial barriers.

