

**WA NRM Council
Meeting 3 - Communiqué
1 February 2008**

The third meeting of the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council was held on Friday 1 February 2008.

The Items discussed are listed below.

- Council received a briefing on the issue of Biosecurity and its integration with NRM from Mr Rob Delane (Executive Director, Biosecurity, Department of Agriculture and Food). Mr Delane outlined both national and State biosecurity priorities and activities, with a view to defining a role for regional NRM planning in addressing biosecurity.
- The updated version of the State NRM Plan, feedback from the Council's reference panel, and a draft Consultation Plan were tabled. Initial consultation on the Plan will be at the State NRM Conference in Bridgetown on Tuesday 1 April 2008. A number of NRM Council members will be in attendance.
- NRM Council discussed a request from Minister Chance to examine a process for developing pathways to improve Indigenous Engagement in NRM Programs, with particular reference to proposals for the NHT3 programme.

NRM council continued its discussion on the Key NRM and Environmental Issues facing WA. The 2006 Hicks Review recommended that the re-constituted NRM Council "*take on a greater advisory role to Government in relation to promoting integration, filling gaps, prioritisation and identification of new opportunities and directions*". The Chairman invited Council members to continue work begun by the previous Council by identifying issues that could form part of the Council's advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food. The Council resolved to assess the relative merits of pursuing these issues as a basis for advising the Minister, in terms of whether or not:

1. *the Council could add value to existing processes dealing with the issue;*
2. *some other organisation was already dealing with the issue; and*
3. *the Council had any capacity to resource dealing with the issue.*

On 21 January 2008, NRM Council met with the Hon Tony Burke MP, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Hon Kim Chance MLC, State Minister for Agriculture and Food. A communiqué of this meeting is also available.

The Next NRM Council meeting is scheduled for 14 March 2008.