

**Minutes
CQ RAC Meeting
held 27th March 2008
at the QDPIF Centre Rockhampton
Commencing 9.30 am**

1. **Opening & Welcome by Chairman**
The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members and guest.
2. **Attendance**
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| A Farquharson (Chairman) | D Jordan | Nominees |
| L Fairweather | R Routley | QDPIF: K Heit |
| P Durkin | K McCosker | CSIRO S Chapman |
| G Spackman | | GRDC: J Sheppard |
| | | CQU: D Midmore |
| J Obst (Coordinator) | | |
| D Howard (Guest) | | |
3. **Apologies**
Received from S Eden, M Ballentine **Accepted**
4. **Confirmation of Agenda** **Confirmed**
5. **Confirmation of Minutes** **Confirmed**
6. **Business from Minutes**
- 6.1 Letter to / from D Hamilton re Wheat Varieties Guide Queensland (WVGQ) Report
There was general discussion about the WVGQ, NVT and commercial Wheat Variety Brochures. There was concern about the selective reporting of commercial variety information. There was also concern about the integrity of CQ NVTrials, the functioning of the NVT Website and assigned disease ratings. It was agreed that disease ratings are critical information used by growers, agronomists and consultants and that these ratings need to take account of the production systems and environment. There was general agreement that the WVGQ was an excellent report for wheat variety information. It was agreed that the present NVT was not a suitable replacement for the WVGQ. It was mentioned that it was unlikely that QDPIF would continue to publish and distribute the WVGQ at least in its current form. Mr Sheppard reported that NVT was soon to be reviewed. The question was asked if the CQSFS Project could provide wheat variety information similar to the WVGQ.
Resolved that the RAC write to QDPIF requesting it continue to publish the WVGQ in its current form at least up to NVT becoming a suitable replacement. A letter also be written to GRDC requesting that G Spackman be appointed to the committee to review NVT.
7. **Correspondence and Business**
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| 7.1 Inwards | Received |
| 7.2 Outwards | Endorsed |
8. **Overview of RAC Role and Operations**
The Coordinator presented a brief overview of the operations of the RACs and the specific tasks to be completed within each 3 year term. Based on a Northern Region grain production GVP of approx \$2.5 Billion this would generate ~\$60 Million for investment (Grower/ Fed & State Govs) in RDE for the Northern Region. The challenge for grain growers and RDE Agencies is to target this ~\$60 Million RDE investment to maximise industry returns. The role of the RACs is to advise on Priority Issues for this RDE Investment. The RAC tasks include:
- Identifying Key Drivers of Change in the region
 - Determining Present (2007-10) and Future (2117-20) Crop Importance Profiles
 - Determining Priority Issues based on GRDC Lines of Business (25 maximum)
 - Determine Top 8 – 10 Highest Priority Issues
 - Determine 3 most important Emerging Issues
 - Rating the alignment of the Priority Issues with the RDE Investment Program
 - Identifying GAPS in the RDE program for discussion with RDE Agencies.
9. **RAC Members Report**
Following is a sample of comments:
- Good 2007 winter crops together with good prices
 - Excellent 2007 chick peas with initially some Simazine damage but grew out
 - Early sorghum reasonable but some sprouting
 - Non sprayed out sorghum crops had better quality than sprayed out crops
 - Local grain grower's compost tea trial not favorable. Is it snake oil
 - CQSFS Project having a limited look at compost tea.
 - A lot of optimism in the grain industry at the moment
 - Some sprayed out sorghum crops abandoned due to v poor grain quality
 - Later sorghum crops are excellent
 - HSR Ethanol variety being trialled by some growers
 - Biggest problem is Feather Top Rhodes (FTR). Flame uneconomical. Once seeding can't control.

- Some growers reverting to cultivation to control FTR.
- Fleabane becoming more widespread but it can be controlled
- Price of Glyphosate a major problem. Heightens the importance of PA.
- Yield mapping becoming an important tool for decision making.
- Grain BMP underway in CQ. Practical and useful and heading in the right direction.
- Inputs such as Glyphosate, P, labour having major influence on farming decisions.
- Some growers using bigger machinery to reduce labour.
- Some use of liquid fertilisers, particularly starters, with good results.

10. RDE GAPS discussions

At the Aug 07 RAC meeting, possible GAPS in the current RDE program were identified. RDE Agencies were invited to report on these GAPS.
DPI, CSIRO, CQU & GRDC discussed these possible GAPS with the RAC members.

11. Northern Crop Breeding Programs

Coordinator reported on the northern crop breeding programs. A Paper was Tabled

12. Review of 2007 Priority Issues (PI) for 2008 Reporting

The 2007 Priority Issues for WDM Region were discussed and amendments made for the 2008 Report.

Copy of 2008 CQ Priority Issues is attached

13. Emerging Issues

The following were nominated as the most important Emerging Issues for the CQ region.

1. Control of Feather Top Rhodes
2. NVT & WVGQ
3. Rapidly Increasing Input Costs. Particularly Glyphosate and Phosphate.
4. Increasing replacement of cotton by grain crops under irrigation.

14. RAC Nominees Reports

- 14.1 DPI: K Heit
- QLD Gov involved with other state Govs to develop a national framework for agricultural R&D.
 - QDPIF has appointed 1 Pasture Agronomist in CQ focused on integrating pastures into cropping and grazing systems.
 - 2 positions filled for weeds research
 - QDPIF applied wheat breeding program presently being moved to AGT.
- 14.2 CSIRO: Dr S Chapman (refer to paper prepared by Dr L McIntyre CSIRO PI)
- Dr L Bell, Toowoomba involved in Grain & Graze
 - No projects in Plant Industry yet funded by GRDC post June 2009
 - Current PI wheat project looking for larger, more uniform seed size, yield increase. Canberra project has identifies germplasm for longer coleoptiles. This germplasm has been crossed into some existing varieties. Could trial some in CQ.
 - Looking for genetic resistance to Crown Rot.
 - Have been testing lines in wide V's narrow rows. Looking at high and low tillering. Down from 6 to 7 to 2 to 3 tillers. No yield penalty for performance below 5 to 6 t/ha.
 - Some of the above traits coming through the breeding programs from these trials.
- 14.3 CQU: Dr D Midmore
- CQU, AAC and QDPIF seeking Smart State funding to upgrade research facilities at Emerald.
 - Looking at research requirements for 15 to 20 years time
 - Doing some research on compost tea, liquid fertilisers in horticulture
 - Researching cassava at Emerald
 - Hemp variety recently released.
- 14.4 GRDC: J Sheppard
- J Clark replaces I Buss as Chairman of the Northern Panel GRDC.
 - K Perrett recently appointed Chair of GRDC Board.
 - GRDCs future investment will be in pre-breeding of wheat.
 - NVT has changed from 'numbers' to alpha' for disease ratings.
 - 2008 GRDC Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Survey.
 - Ug99 an issue for breeders
 - Current Northern Panel membership ends 30th June 2008
 - Increasing interest in irrigated grain crops

15. General Business

Nil

16. Next Meeting

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| 16.1 | Date: | 14 th August 2008 |
| 16.2 | Venue: | Emerald QDPIF |
| 16.3 | Invited Speakers: | to be determined |

17. Closure: Meeting closed at 3.30pm.