

NORTHERN RIVERS FLOODPLAIN NETWORK

A CASE STUDY IN COMMUNICATION

Background

Since 2004, the Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority has funded a DPI-based extension officer, to coordinate the Northern Rivers Floodplain Network. It is comprised of a variety of stakeholders engaged in the delivery of coastal floodplain NRM. The function of the Floodplain Network is to improve communications, enhance knowledge-sharing and develop opportunities for collaboration among its members. The Floodplain Network meets biannually, at different catchment locations.

Throughout the rest of the year, members are kept abreast of latest developments in the NRM field by email and electronic compilations of information from various sources both locally and internationally. The success of the group is closely related to their sense of ownership and ongoing perception that it remains a productive exercise. This is confirmed by the continuing high level of attendance figures at the regional workshops.

The 30 members of the Floodplain Network include NRM practitioners from local government, State agencies, Universities, local farmers and NGO's. Participants are distributed across the coastal floodplains of NSW, from Taree to the Queensland border. Often dealing with similar issues, the Network provides its members with a forum for problem solving, determining common research needs, sourcing funding opportunities, developing project partnerships and enhancing linkages with their colleagues.



Discussing a catchment model trailer



Peer learning opportunities



Reviewing project pro's and con's



Bi-annual meetings