

## **Appendix C QLD Survey – Summary of Results**

Queensland councils were surveyed in early 2004 and were not surveyed again for the ALGA survey. Instead, officers from the Local Government Association of Queensland verbally surveyed council staff while they attended regional meetings of local government. Surveys were received from 6 regions.

### **Regional NHT Arrangements**

All councils had heard of the NHT regional arrangements, although only two regions were participating in them. All councils had attended consultation or briefing sessions and most councils had inputted local information into regional plans.

Most of the councils had not had contact with their regional chairs and all but one group of councils had seen their regional plan. Most councils believed the regional plan addressed their local issues to some extent, however they were unsure if the local and regional plans were compatible.

### **Capacity of Councils**

The majority of councils believed they only had limited capacity to participate in the development and implementation of their regional NHT plan. The primary factors for their limited involvement were a lack of resources and expertise, and a lack of awareness of the need to be involved. Councils highlighted the need for more specialised staff.

Council spending on NRM issues had either increased slightly or remained unchanged since the introduction of NHT2. About half of the councils reported collecting an annual environment levy, most of which were up to \$20 per ratepayer.

### **Council NRM Activities**

Half of the respondents had a dedicated NRM officer and about the same number had developed an environmental conservation strategy. Most councils did not include biodiversity objectives in their corporate or operational plans and very few councils had funded any biodiversity training or awareness programs in the last 12 months.

### **The Biodiversity Toolbox**

Half of the respondents were aware of the *Biodiversity Toolbox for Local Government*, and of those, all had used it. They found it either satisfactory or very useful.