

**Minutes**  
**CQ RAC Meeting**  
**held Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2007**  
**DPIF / DNR Building Emerald**  
**Commencing 9.30 am.**

**1. Opening, Welcome by Chairman**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

**2. Attendance**

A Farquharson (Chair)      R Routley  
S Moran                              P Durkin  
G Spackman                      N Johansen  
S Eden                                D Jordan

**Nominees**

K Heit              QDPI  
S Chapman      CSIRO  
J Sheppard      GRDC

J Obst              Northern RAC Coordinator  
Guests :          D Howard, V Osten QDPI

**3. Apologies**

Apologies received from L Fairweather, D Midmore, K McCosker and M Ballentine.

**Accepted**

**4. Election of Chairman**

The Chairman vacated the Chair and the Coordinator called for nominations. NJ nominated AF. AF accepted nomination and there being no further nominations AF was declared Chairman.

**Carried**

**5. Confirmation of Agenda**

**Confirmed**

**6. Confirmation of Minutes (20<sup>th</sup> March 2007)**

Moved GS Seconded PD that the minutes of the meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were true and correct.

**Carried**

**7. Business from Minutes**

7.1 Chairman's report on meeting with NP GRDC

The Chairman reported on the meeting between the NP GRDC and the 8 Chairs of the northern RACs held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 07. A Bidgood Manager NVT also attended this meeting to give a report on the developments on the NVT Trials and the Website. Minutes of this meeting will be available shortly.

7.2 Letter to & from NVT

A letter was sent to NVT expressing CQ RAC's concerns. The Manager NVT replied and this letter was circulated.

7.3 Report on Sorghum Workshop Bribie Island

The Chairman said he attended this Workshop at the invitation of the organizing committee. He said he was impressed with the integration and coordination of the core sorghum breeding program. Workshop Proceedings to be sent to G Spackman.

7.4 Kennedy planting seed: J Sheppard to report

It was reported that this matter has now been adequately dealt with.

**8. Correspondence and Business (not covered elsewhere on agenda)**

8.1 Circulate PIPn 2007

The Coordinator reported that the PIPn 2007 was posted on the GRFL Website and linked to approx. 400 researchers and agronomists. Hard copies were sent to all RAC members. Favourable reports have been received on the new format of the PIP.

8.2 GRDC Strategic R & D Plan 2007-12

This plan has been released recently and hard copies were made available to all RAC members.

**9. RAC Member's Report**

Following is a sample of the key comments by members

- Lowest summer rainfall on record in parts of Callide Valley. Winter crop fair.
- A lot of sorghum lodging north of Emerald. Aphids and resulting honey dew a major problem.
- Longer wheat coleoptiles required for deep plantings. Planting 150 mm deep with 80 mm soil cover
- Dawson Valley sorghum crop late but reasonable. High prices compensated for lower yields.
- Mung bean yields variable.

- Some Simazine damage in chick peas applied post plant pre-emergence however plants appear to have grown out of damage.
- Growers reverting to cultivation to control Feather Top Rhodes. Trialling trifluralin in mung beans with some success
- Some Yellow Leaf Spot showing up in Baxter in Callide Valley.
- Some aphids being sprayed in barley.
- Chick pea area up in Callide Valley due to high prices being offered.
- Sorghum yields patchy south of Emerald last season. Standability was a major problem.
- Big variation across sorghum varieties regarding standability.
- Could be a reasonable spring sorghum planting in Central Highlands with growers concerned about TSV in mung beans.
- Only solution to TSV in mung beans appears to be to keep well away from parthenium.
- Staygreen levels in commercial sorghum varieties well below that in advanced breeding lines. Good prospects for improved sorghum standability
- CQ produced approx 300,000 tonnes of sorghum in 2007 despite losses from severe lodging following prolonged rains after spray-outs. 20% to 30% lodging losses were wide spread. Fortunately no sprouting due to cold weather.
- Dockages of \$25 tonne for screenings between 25% and 50% were applied to sorghum.
- Need to consider Honey Dew from a central receival point of view. End users don't want honey dew because of flow through problems.

## 10 Research Presentations

- 10.1 R Routley DPIF:- CQSFSP. New Objectives  
Mr Routley reported on the next phase of the CQSFS Project. The 3 year project commenced July 2007 and will take a whole farm approach with some focus on a mixed farming enterprise (grain x cattle).
- 10.2 S Chapman CSIRO:- re-inventing wheat for northern Australia  
Dr Chapman reported on the CSIRO PI project "Wheat traits, genes and germplasm for adaptation to water limited environments in the northern region". Dr Chapman also discussed the research prospects for longer coleoptile being undertaken by Dr G Rebetzke CSIRO PI Canberra. Breeding lines are close to being released.
- 10.3 V Osten DPIF:- New GRDC funded weeds project  
Ms Osten reported on the weeds research initiatives for Central Queensland

## 11 Level of alignment of current RDE program with CQ RAC Priority Issues

As a pre-meeting exercise members were asked to rate their views to the best of their ability on the level of alignment between the current RDE program and their Priority Issues. The results are as follows:

< -----not satisfied-----> <-satisfied--> <-very sat->

Line of Business	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Varieties					x	x	xxx	xx	x	xx	
Practices						xx	xx	xxx	xx	x	
New Products					xx	x	xx	xxxx	x		
Communications & Capacity Building						x	x	xxx	x		

## 12 Identify GAPS in current RDE program

Members were divided into 3 Groups with the task to identify possible gaps in the current RDE program. Results were:

Line of Business	Group A	Group B	Group C
<b>Varieties</b>	Charcoal Rot and Fusarium Stalk Rot in Sorghum	NVT – independent evaluation - distribution of information	Sorghum research directed specifically at standability associated with diseases. Successful implementation of NVT
<b>Practices</b>	Feather Top Rhodes – concern about future RDE with lack of staff	Soil biology – expertise and understanding of.	Creditable soil biology research

		Precision Agriculture	Cost effective implementation of PA and sufficient returns for the business.
<b>New Products</b>		Ethanol	Bioenergy businesses for production from grain and biomass
<b>Communications and Capacity Building</b>			

### 13 Identify GAPS in current CQ RAC Priority Issues 2007

Members were divided into 3 Groups with the task to identify possible gaps in the current Priority Issues. Results were:

Line of Business	Group A	Group B	Group C
<b>Varieties</b>	Need for GM technology in the current breeding programs to keep up with the rest of the world	Clearfield type wheat research to tie in with current research on controlling weed seed banks ( Feather Top Rhodes)	
<b>Practices</b>	Management of TSV		
<b>New Products</b>			
<b>Communications and Capacity Building</b>			

### 14 RAC Nominees' Reports

14.1 DPIF:- K Heit (written report attached)

14.2 GRDC:- J Sheppard

Mr Sheppard reported on a number of issues including:

- Re-developed GRDC Website.
- GRDC 5 Year Strategic Plan 2007-2012.
- Tenders for projects for 2008-2009
- Meeting between NP and 8 Chairs of Northern RACs.
- Aim to set up 3 national wheat breeding programs with GRDC focusing on investing in pre-breeding.

### 15 General Business

There was general discussion on the future availability of the QDPI Wheat Varieties for Queensland Report and the difference in information between this and the NVT Website information. It was agreed that growers want the WV for Q Report to continue based on ratings made by regional experts.

It was resolved to take further action on this matter.

### 16 Next Meeting

16.1 Date: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008

16.2 Venue: Rockhampton QDPI

16.3 Invited Speakers: To be determined

### 17 Closure

The meeting was closed at 3.30pm.