

## **Training Workshop: A Fierce Conversation – Indigenous Engagement in Natural Resource Management**

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> September**

**1.25pm – 2.25pm**

**Supper Room, Anglican Church**

*(max. 10pp – please register at the registration desk)*

**Facilitator:** Joann Schmider, hosted through Terrain NRM

Joann works with Terrain (Far North Queensland) and Burdekin Dry Tropics NRM bodies and stakeholders towards effecting the 18 Indigenous commitments in the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) Water Quality Protection Plan. The Plan explicitly recognises the importance of engagement of traditional owners and Indigenous communities in water quality and wetlands management to Indigenous aspirations of 'protection and healing of country and culture'. The *GBR Indigenous Involvement in Reef Water Quality and Wetlands Management Project* specifically aims to address such engagement through developing a Framework and generic set of 'Cultural Indicators' for use within the GBR catchment and funding two Indigenous facilitators to enable Indigenous involvement in water quality and wetlands programs and activities across the GBR catchment.

### **Training Session Background:**

*Fierce Conversations* is a concept with several facets, but mainly it's about the principles and practice of "courageous," "transformative" "dialogue" '.

We're not going to get in to professional development on effective dialogue, but we are going to openly and honestly explore the challenges and impetus for seeking to work closely with Traditional Owners (TOs) and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We're going to confront – with courage, confidence, and care – some of the tough issues about engaging with Indigenous peoples. So you may have to handle some strong emotions – your own as well as others.

Above all we're going to work with **your experiences** (please come with 1 good example) and identify ways of engaging that have worked for you (and us).

We're then going to work all participants' insights – the individual wisdoms about best practice – into a collective practical framework. A methodology that you can take away with you to use to further your relationships with TOs and others on the ground, in working groups and committees, in priority setting and in policy situations. So bring along a real situation you want to deal with.

We don't guarantee that you're going to have immediate breakthrough partnerships, but, as a result of the honest and open conversation, we aim to add inspiration and practical direction to building visions that become reality – reaching out to incorporate Traditional Owners' and Indigenous peoples' knowledge and practice and responsibility in caring for country into community, program and policy makers' efforts to effect healthy environments on-the-ground.

### **Special consideration:**

Please note that spaces are limited for these training workshops and that participants will need to register with the Conference Secretariat to ensure that these workshops are not over-subscribed.