

National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality NRM Ministerial Council Annual Report

- Chapter 1 The National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality**
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- Regions Addressing Turbidity / Suspended Particulate Matter in Aquatic Environments
- Investments Related to Turbidity / Suspended Particulate Matter in Aquatic Environments
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- Impact on Turbidity / Suspended Particulate Matter in Aquatic Environments (Expected and actual, based on modelling or agreed estimation techniques and any available data)

Chapter 9 Surface Water Salinity in Freshwater Aquatic Environments

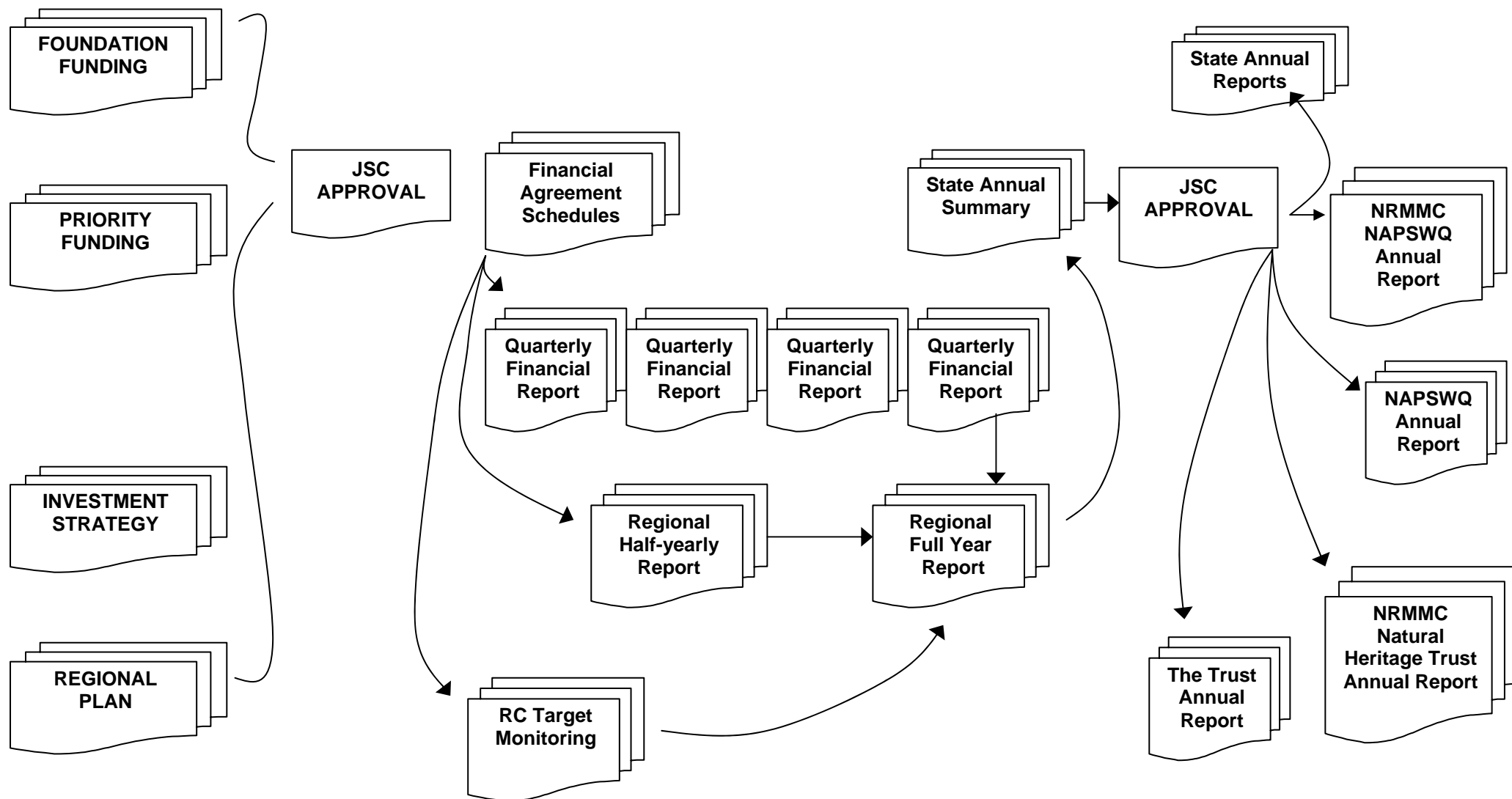
- Regions Addressing Surface Water Salinity in Freshwater Aquatic Environments
- Investments Related to Surface Water Salinity in Freshwater Aquatic Environments
- Progress towards Related Management Targets
- Impact on Surface Water Salinity in Freshwater Aquatic Environments (Expected and actual, based on modelling or agreed estimation techniques and any available data)

APPENDICES

Regional Profiles detailing:

- Resource Condition Targets
- Management Action Targets
- An Investment Summary.

Reporting Structure INFORMATION FLOW



PROGRESS REPORTING TEMPLATES

Project or Action No.	Description (asper project plan)	Broad Categorisation of Project (e.g. on-ground works, planning etx.)	Total Project (\$)	Outputs (as per project plan)		2003-04 Expected Output 1 July 03 to 31 March 04	2003-04 Achieved Output 1 July 03 to 31 March 04	Reasons for Variance	Primary Resource Condition MfT	Secondary Resource Condition MfT
				Output category – output subcategory	Output measure					
1	Reducing total grazing pressures by rabbits, kangaroos, stock and other herbivores and reduction in timber log removal	On-ground works	12,000 (Trust)	Indigenous vegetation protected by fencing	Terrestrial vegetation – Area protected (ha)	1000 ha	1000ha		3. Native vegetation communities integrity	9. Significant native species and ecological communities
2	Control salinity impacts on remnant vegetation through managing and protecting low lying areas of natural habitat at risk from the effects of rising salinity and reducing groundwater recharge	On-ground works	150,000 (Trust)	Revegetation with indigenous vegetation	Terrestrial vegetation – Area protected (ha)	50 ha	25 ha	Target split to next half year due to climate variation & inability to implement all trees & shrubs	3. Native vegetation communities integrity	1. Land salinity
3	Extension and education programs aimed at greater community awareness of conservation activities	Capacity building	5,000 (Trust)	Awareness raising activities	No. of non-training forums (e.g. demonstrations, field days)	4	4		9. Significant native species and ecological communities	3. Native vegetation communities integrity
					No. of participants in person-days	50	30			
4	Obtain permanent protection through conservation covenants or semi-permanent protection through land management agreements over significant remnants	On-ground works	300,000 (Trust)	Conservation by agreements	Voluntary conservation agreements (no.)	10	9		3. Native vegetation communities integrity	9. Significant native species and ecological communities
					Voluntary conservation agreements (ha)	250 ha	240 ha			
					Legal conservation covenants (no.)	5	5			
					Legal conservation covenants (ha)	214 ha	214 ha			

PROGRESS REPORTING TEMPLATES (cont.)

Table 2. Progress on Outputs (Blank Template)

Project or Action No.	Description	Broad Categorisation of Project (e.g. on-ground works)	Total Project \$ and Funding Source	Outputs (as per project plan)		2003-04 Expected Output 1 July 03 to 31 March 04	2003-04 Achieved Output 1 July 03 to 31 March 04	Reasons for Variance	Primary Resource Condition MfT	Secondary Resource Condition MfT
				Output category – output subcategory	Output measure					

2003 – 04 STATE NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST EXTENSION ANNUAL SUMMARY STRUCTURE

1. Administrative Arrangements

A description of the administrative and financial management arrangements for delivery of the NAPSWQ and the regional component of the Trust. This should include:

- a) Australian Government-State Government joint steering committee membership;
- b) Financial management arrangements, including management of holding accounts, processes for approval of expenditure, etc.
- c) A review of steering committee and investment approval processes for the year, including nature and timing of key decisions, issues, highlights, problems and challenges, and strategies for addressing these.
- d) Bilateral Agreement:
- e) Timing of completion of agreement, summary of key features
- f) Major issues and implications for NAPSWQ and/or the Trust program delivery.
- g) Regional arrangements:
- h) Organisation of regional bodies, and supporting institutional arrangements.
- i) Progress and overview of State/regional agreements for NAPSWQ and/or the Trust funding, including financial, accountability, and reporting.
- j) Accredited NRM Plans:
- k) Discussion of key issues arising from the accreditation process for regional NRM plans; e.g. highlights, problems, difficulties.
- l) List of accredited regional plans at 31 March
- m) List of regional plans submitted for accreditation at 31 March
- n) List of draft regional plans put out for public comment at 31 March
- o) List of draft regional plans submitted to Australian Government/State for initial comments.
- p) Regional Investment Strategies (RIS's), by region:
- q) List of regions with approved investment strategies as at 31 March
- r) List of regions that have submitted investment strategies as at 31 March
- s) Discussion and review of key issues arising from the investment planning process

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

A description of monitoring and evaluation arrangements for NAPSWQ and/or the Trust regional component investments, including:

- a) Progress in the development and implementation of the State NAPSWQ and/or the Trust Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan,
- b) Progress in the development and implementation of regional NRM Monitoring and Evaluation including arrangements for:
 - i. Resource condition monitoring and reporting
 - ii. Management action target and output monitoring and reporting
 - iii. Activity and milestone progress reporting
- c) Report on evaluations undertaken

3. Performance Reporting Progress on:

a) Foundation Funding investments

Summary to include State aggregation and regional information with explanation and discussion:

-
- i. Summary report on approved versus actual expenditure, (tables 1 and 2)
 - ii. Expenditure by activity reporting category (Table 4)),
 - iii. Variations on expected progress, and
 - iv. Examples, stories, case studies.

b) Priority Project investments

Summary to include State aggregation and regional information with explanation and discussion:

- i. Summary report on approved versus actual expenditure, (tables 1 and 2)
- ii. Expenditure by activity reporting category (Table 4),
- iii. Links to resource condition Matters for Target, (Tables 5 and 6)
- iv. Variations on expected progress,
- v. Actual versus expected standardised outputs, (Table 3) and
- vi. Examples, stories, case studies.

c) Investment Strategy Investments

Summary to include State aggregation and regional information with explanation and discussion:

- i. Discussion and review of issues arising from investment selection and decision process
- ii. Approved investments from NAPSWQ and/or the Trust funds, including summary report on approved versus actual expenditure, (Tables 1 and 2)
- iii. Expenditure by activity reporting category, (Table 4)
- iv. Links to resource condition Matters for Target, (Tables 5 and 6)
- v. Variations on expected progress,
- vi. Actual versus expected standardised outputs, (Table 3) and
- vii. Examples, stories, case studies.

d) Management Action Targets

- i. Discussion and review of key issues arising in relation to management action target setting and reporting
(By region)
- ii. Progress against management action targets, including links to resource condition targets, (Table 7) and
- iii. Examples, stories, case studies.

e) Resource Condition Targets

- i. Discussion of the requirement for resource condition target setting in regional NRM plans
- ii. Discussion and review of key issues arising in relation to resource condition target setting
(For each region with an accredited NRM regional plan)
 - i. List of resource condition Matters for Target for which a target has been set
 - ii. List of resource condition Matters for Target for which a target has yet to be set
 - iii. List of resource condition Matters for Target not relevant or appropriate for the region
- iv. Progress against resource condition targets, and
- v. Examples, stories, case studies.

f) Institutional Reform

- i. Progress against proposed institutional reforms, e.g. as set out in Bilateral Agreements.

4. Natural Heritage Trust Phase 1 – Summary of Continuing Activity for 2002-03

- a) Program reports, using formats as per previous years, or progress for each program against the stated program objectives, including information on outputs.
- b) Monitoring and evaluation activities undertaken by the State/Territory for activities covered by the Partnership Agreements, including reported findings/outcomes
- c) Any changes to administrative or institutional arrangements to deliver the first phase of the Natural Heritage Trust.

EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST STATE ANNUAL SUMMARY

TABLE 1: - Summary Report on JSC Approved Budget versus Reported Regional Expenditure – Regional activities

Relates to Sections: 3)a)i, 3)b)i, 3)c)ii in Summary Structure.

The following table format should be used for Table 1. The same format should be separately used for **foundation funding, priority project funding, and investment strategy funding.**

TABLE 1: State Summary: - Regional Activities Funding Summary - July to June

Type of Investment i.e. Founding funding / Priority projects / Investment Strategy		
Region	Natural Heritage Trust Extension	
	\$M	
	JSC approved budget ¹	Reported regional expenditure
TOTAL		

TABLE 2: - Summary Report on JSC Approved Budget versus Reported Regional Expenditure – Statewide activities

Relates to Sections: 3)a)i, 3)b)i, 3)c)ii in Summary Structure.

The following table formats should be used for Table 1. The same format should be separately used for **foundation funding, priority project funding, and investment strategy funding.**

TABLE 2: State Summary: - Statewide Activities Funding Summary - July to June

Type of Investment i.e. Founding funding / Priority projects / Investment Strategy		
Region	Natural Heritage Trust Extension	
	\$M	
	JSC approved budget ¹	Reported regional expenditure
TOTAL		

¹. Approved budget for first three quarters of the financial year as derived from the financial agreements

TABLE 3: - Reporting Regional Expenditure by Primary Activity Purpose

Relates to Sections: 3)a)ii, 3)b)ii, 3)c)iii in Summary Structure

Table 3 is intended to provide an indication of the spread of investment dollars across the types of activities being funded by the Trust. The information for this table would be derived by classifying activities according to their dominant primary activity purpose, using the reporting categories as shown in the left hand column of the table. The same format should be separately used for **foundation funding, priority project funding, and investment strategy funding.**

TABLE 3: - Investments by Primary Activity Purpose

Type of Investment i.e. Founding funding / Priority projects / Investment Strategy		
Primary Purpose Activity	No. of Activities	Reported regional expenditure for June-July
Resource Assessment		
Planning		
Capacity Building		
On-ground works		

Notes:

1. Data for this table is dependent on activities being attributed or allocated to one primary activity purpose as per column one on the left hand side of the table.

TABLE 4: - Reporting Links To Resource Condition Matter For Target

Relates to sections: 3)b)iii, 3)c)iv in Summary Structure

This table links investments to the resource condition matters for target (see National Framework for NRM Standards and Targets) that are the ultimate purpose of the investments, and therefore provide a crucial linkage between investments and outcomes. .

The information is dependent on the individual activities being attributed to a primary and secondary resource condition matter for target. As it is often argued that activities can lead to multiple outcomes, i.e. they can contribute to a number of resource condition outcomes, it is proposed each activity be attributed to the two most relevant resource condition matters for target, for that activity, ranked in order of importance. That way, activities and their associated dollars can be presented according to the most important outcomes for each activity. The same format should be separately used for **priority project funding and investment strategy funding.**

TABLE 4: - Number of activities and Investments by Resource Condition Matter for Target

Investment Items	Resource Condition Matter for Target									
	Land salinity	Soil condition	Native vegetation integrity	Inland aquatic ecosystems integrity	Estuarine, coastal and marine habitats integrity	Nutrients in aquatic environment	Turbidity / suspended particulate matter in aquatic environments	Surface water salinity in freshwater aquatic environments	Significant native species and ecological communities	Ecologically significant invasive species
Primary MfT – no. of activities										
Primary MfT – total reported regional activity expenditure										
Secondary MfT – no. of activities										
Secondary MfT – total reported regional activity expenditure										

TABLE 5: - Reporting Outputs By Primary Resource Condition Matter For Target

Relates to sections: 3)b)v, 3)c)vi. in Summary Structure

Table 5 works in a similar way to Table 4, but utilises outputs instead of investment dollars. Again, this table indicates the information that could be used, not necessarily the presentation of the information. Utilising the same outcome (matter for target) ranking as for table 5, individual outputs can be extracted from regional six-monthly, and/or annual performance reports according to each project's highest ranked matter for target.

Table 5: - Outputs by Primary Resource Condition Matter for Target

			Resource Condition Matter for Target									
Aggregated outputs from activities allocated to their primary resource condition MfT (For examples see Table 6 – Aggregated standardised outputs)			Land salinity	Soil condition	Native vegetation integrity	Inland aquatic ecosystems integrity	Estuarine, coastal and marine habitats integrity	Nutrients in aquatic environment	Turbidity / suspended particulate matter in aquatic environments	Surface water salinity in freshwater aquatic environments	Significant native species and ecological communities	Ecologically significant invasive species
Output Type	Output	Standard unit of measure										
Resource Assessment	Baseline, trend or condition study	Number of studies										
Planning	Improved practice codes or guidelines	Number of codes or guidelines										
Capacity Building												
On-ground Works												

TABLE 6: - Reporting Actual versus Expected Outputs

Relates to Sections: 3)a)iv; 3)b)v, 3)c)vi in Summary Structure

Table 6 is designed to provide output information on annual achieved outputs against annual expected outputs, and also cumulative achieved outputs against cumulative expected outputs, i.e. actual versus expected achievements to date. The same format should be separately used for **foundation funding, priority project funding, and investment strategy funding.**

Categorisation of outputs has now been multilaterally agreed. The output information will be derived from regional six month and/or annual performance reports.

The table reports on outputs from the Trust funded activities whether the activities are solely or partially funded by the Trust.

TABLE 6: Aggregated standardised outputs

Type of Investment i.e. Foundation funding / Priority projects / Investment strategy						
Output Type	Output	Standard Unit of Measure	Expected Outputs for year	Achieved Outputs for year	Cumulative expected Outputs to date	Cumulative achieved Outputs to date
Resource Assessment	Baseline, trend or condition study					
Planning	Resource Management Plans	Vegetation Management Plans	2	1	3	2
		Vegetation Management Plans (ha)	3,500	1,500	6,000	4,000
Capacity Building	Awareness raising	No. of workshops and seminars				
		No. of participants				
On-ground Works	Terrestrial vegetation – protect existing native vegetation	Area protected (ha)	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
		Length of protective fencing (km)	20	20	20	20
	Terrestrial vegetation – revegetation of native vegetation	Area revegetated (ha)				
		Number of plants planted				

TABLE 7: - Reporting Progress Against Management Action Targets

Relates to sections: 3)d)ii in Summary Structure

Table 7 presents progress against management action targets (MAT's). It requires regions to report the number of management action targets that were due to be achieved or completed during the reporting year, and the number that were actually completed. They should be reported against the resource condition matter for target they are intended to achieve, and classified according to the appropriate reporting category (see Table 7 below).

Where management action targets have not been defined with appropriate measures or timeframes, regions should review the MAT's with a view to providing those measures and timeframes, including expected target timeframes, so that actual versus expected progress can be recorded and reported.

Table 7: Progress against Management Action Targets (MAT's)

MfT	MAT Categories	Total No. of MAT's	No. expected to be completed during year	No. actually completed during year	Reasons for variance between expected and actual
Land Salinity	Resource Assessment				
	Planning				
	Capacity Building				
	Adoption of improved practice				
	On-ground Works				
Native Vegetation communities' integrity	Resource Assessment				
	Planning				
	Capacity Building				
	Adoption of improved practice				
	On-ground Works				

TABLE 8: - Reporting Progress Against Resource Condition Targets

Relates to sections 3)e)iii & vi) in Summary Structure

Table 8 presents progress against resource condition targets (RCTs). It requires a listing of the number of RCTs grouped by the matters for target, and an analysis of progress towards meeting these targets. This is based on an assessment (either by region group or state agency, or both) on whether the trend of the resource condition indicator to date is such that the target is

- still likely to be met, or
- not likely to be met or

- likely to be exceeded.

If it is not possible to assess progress at this stage this should also be indicated. Some explanatory text on the results of this assessment should also be added, particularly if a significant percentage of RCTs are not likely to be achieved or are unable to be assessed.

Table 8: Progress against Resource Condition Targets

MfT	No. of RCTs	Assessment of progress	Explanatory comments
Land Salinity		% on target % will exceed % will not meet target % unable to meet progress	
Native Vegetation Integrity		% on target % will exceed % will not meet target % unable to meet progress	

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR EVALUATION MANAGEMENT

Decision to initiate the evaluation	Appointment of steering committee	Development and approval of terms of reference	Funding and resources	Design and conduct of the evaluation including key evaluation questions and performance indicators	Approval of final report	Communication of findings and recommendations
JSC Evaluations						
JSC	JSC	The JSC may also decide to include additional State specific evaluation questions if required and where economies of scale or synergies can be achieved.	JSC to organise and provide necessary resources	The design and conduct of the evaluation will be undertaken by an appropriate group appointed by the JSC	JSC will receive and approve the final report	JSC will be responsible for ensuring findings and recommendations reach key stakeholders and are used in adaptive management. JSC will also ensure evaluation reports are provided to NRMCC
Regional evaluations initiated by regions						
Regional body	Regional body	Regional body	Regional body to organise and provide necessary resources	The design and conduct of the evaluation will be undertaken by an appropriate group appointed by the Regional Body	Regional body will receive and approve the final report	Regional body is responsible for communicating within the region. The Regional Body will also report evaluation findings to the JSC as part of biannual performance reports

STATE EVALUATION SCHEDULE –TEMPLATE FOR PROPOSED PLANNED PROGRAM EVALUATIONS (with examples)

TYPE	SCOPE		FOCUSES	TIMING	LEAD AGENCY	AGENCIES INVOLVED
Evaluations for Adaptive Management	National	Capacity building	Appropriateness and effectiveness of national capacity building strategy to support regional planning process; further joint capacity building needs	Year 3	Multilateral Steering Committee	Australian Government, State and regions
		Planning framework	Implementation of planning up to point where plans come into effect; further or alternative measures required to ensure that goals of community-based NRM planning are met	Year 4	Multilateral Steering Committee	Australian Government, State and regions
	Regional	Regional plan	Accuracy and currency of underlying data and assumptions; continuing appropriateness of regional targets and milestones for investments	2 years from accreditation or annually	Regional body	Australian Government and State to support as required
Evaluation to support accountability	National	End of program	Effectiveness of the planning, coordination and delivery mechanisms; progress made towards the high-level objectives	Report <12 months after end of program funding	Multilateral Steering Committee	Australian Government and States, with input from regions
		Strategy	Comparative effectiveness of different strategies employed; circumstances in which program worked best and worst	End of program	NRM Ministerial Council	Current Commonwealth and State agencies
	Regional	Review of plan	Effectiveness of plan in meeting regional NRM needs; strengths and weaknesses of implementation; contribution of national programs; review of priorities, targets, strategies and processes	Every 5-7 years	Regional body	Australian Government and State to support

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL PROGRAM EVALUATION ACTIVITIES (If required) (WITH EXAMPLES)

TYPE	SCOPE		FOCUS	TIMING	LEAD AGENCY	AGENCIES INVOLVED
Activities to support Adaptive Management	Point of delivery	Self-evaluation of progress	Appropriateness of delivery mechanisms; systematic problems; continuing appropriateness of milestones for delivery; relations between project team and community	Quarterly or more frequently (at least 6 monthly for projects < 6 months)	Community group, local government authority or project team involved in delivery	Regional body to monitor. Australian Government to provide capacity building support as required.
	Regional	Progress review	Continuing relevance of targets and milestones; obstacles to progress; changes needed to timelines	Annually or 6 monthly	Regional body	State, Australian Government to support
Additional Program Evaluation Activities	National		Causes of emerging systemic problems with program strategy; changes required to program guidelines	Trigger points set in national monitoring strategy	Australian Government or State as appropriate	
	Regional		Reasons for any significant emerging problems in meeting milestones for plan or major category of investments; changes required to plan or investment strategy	Trigger points set in plan or investment strategy	Regional body	Australian Government, State to support as required

*major evaluation for NAPSWQ/the Trust (combined); less intensive, and possibly at an earlier point, for successor programs

Attachment 7

Timeframes for Performance Reporting and Financial Reporting

Reporting Arrangements for 2003-04																											
2002-03			2003-04												2004-05												
Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	
Fourth quarter			First quarter			Second quarter			Third quarter			Fourth quarter			First quarter			Second quarter			Third quarter			Fourth quarter			
						F1			F2			F3			F4												
						P1						P2															
												RA	SA					MC	Trust								

REPORTS	TIMEFRAMES				
Regional Financial Reports to JSC (F)	F1 October 03	F2 January 04	F3 April 04	F4 July 04	
Regional Performance Reports to JSC (P)		P1 October 03		P2 April 04	
Regional Annual Report to JSC (RA)					RA April 04
State Annual Performance Report (SA)					SA May 04
Australian Government Trust Annual Report (Trust)					Trust December 04
NRMMC Annual Reports (MC)					MC October 04