

December 2004

Integrating planning requirements of the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 into regional natural resource management plans and arrangements



1.0 Guiding integration

This module is a supporting document to *An overview of regional NRM planning in Queensland*. It provides direction for regional bodies and regional agency planners, on practical approaches for improving integration between their planning activities.

In the short term, these identified approaches should guide regional bodies in developing a plan that meets accreditation criteria for demonstrating integration requirements. This module also identified some more general integration and coordination opportunities that could support longer-term healthy regional arrangements for NRM planning.

Integration in planning can bring together social, economic and environmental considerations in terms of decisions, information and stakeholders and, coordinating with other planning processes, organisations and between local, regional and boarder scales.

This module provides guidance for building on opportunities for integrated planning, whilst acknowledging that responsibility for ongoing integration and coordination rests with all planners; both statutory and community-based.

The guidance provided here however, does not change the existing status, roles or responsibilities of statutory regional resource planning but identifies opportunities and benefits arising from community-based regional planning and these statutory processes working more closely together.

2.0 What are the pest management planning processes determined under the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002?

In 2002 the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 (Act)* was proclaimed. The *Act* is concerned with the management of particular pests on land and the management of the stock route network throughout Queensland.

Principles for pest management for land are established within section 9 of the *Act* These are:

Integration

Pest management is an integral part of managing natural resources and agricultural systems.

Public Awareness

Public awareness and knowledge of pests must be raised to increase the capacity and willingness of individuals to manage pests.

Commitment

Effective pest management requires a long-term commitment to pest management by the community, industry groups and government entities.

Consultation and partnership

Consultation and partnership arrangements between local communities, industry groups, State government agencies and local governments must be established to achieve a collaborative approach to pest management.

Planning

Pest management planning must be consistent at local, regional, State and national levels to ensure resources target priorities for pest management identified at each level.

Prevention

Preventative pest management is achieved by –

- a) preventing the spread of pests, and viable parts of pests, especially by human activity; and
- b) early detection and intervention to control pests.

Best Practice

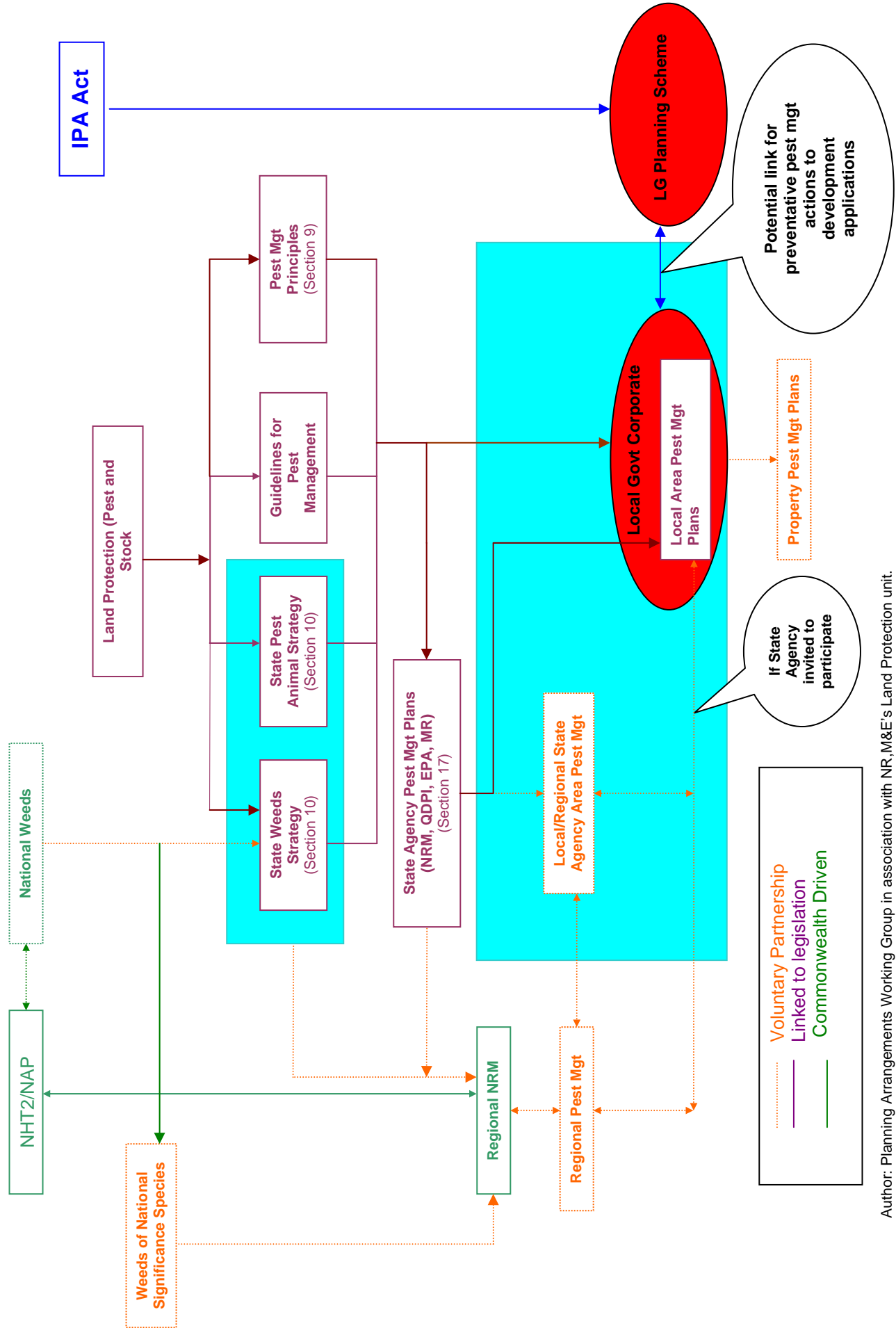
Pest management must be based on ecologically and socially responsible pest management practices that protect the environment and the productive capacity of natural resources.

Improvement

Research about pests, and regular monitoring and evaluation of pest control activities, is necessary to improve pest management practices.

These principles are not adverse to those outlined in the National Action Plan Bilateral Agreement 2002, the draft Natural Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement and the Regional Arrangements Paper noted by the Queensland Government in February 2003.

Figure1: Pest Management Planning Links to Legislation and other planning areas



Local Government Area Pest Management Plans

A requirement of part 4 of the Act is for Local Governments to develop Pest Management Plans for their areas within a year of the Act commencing. Local Government Area Pest Management Plans are to bring together all sectors of the local community to manage pests and ensure resources are targeted at pest management activities that are highest priority and most likely to succeed. A Local Government Area Pest Management Plan is to be consistent with the principles of the Act (as mentioned above), State Pest Management Strategies and relevant guidelines for pest management.

Regional Pest Management Plans

Regional Pest Management Plans are not a requirement of the Act. However, ten cross-Local Government Regional Pest Management Groups are operating throughout Queensland. Boundaries are closely aligned to regional NRM body boundaries. Regional Pest Management Groups have been established to form a communication forum and as a means of standardising activities. Some Regional Pest Management Groups have developed Regional Pest Management Plans, notably the Central Highlands Pest Management Plan, the Capricorn Pest Management Plan and the Coopers Creek and Georgina Cross Catchments Weed Initiative.

How will these plans and strategies be used?

State

State Weed and Pest Animal Strategies

- Objectives, activities and responsibilities are set.
- Sets state-wide strategies for managing declared pests.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of these strategies.

Guidelines for Managing Declared Pests

- Provide assistance for the management of declared pests in Queensland.
- Help prevent the introduction or spread of a pest.
- Help to reduce the numbers or distribution of the pest.
- Help to manages adverse impacts of a pest.
- Help integrates the management of the pest with other natural resource management activities.

State Agency Pest Management Plans

- provide the basis for the development of locally or regionally relevant State Agency Implementation Plans
- provide valuable input to the development of Local Government Area Pest Management Plans and regional NRM plans
- improve the management of pests on State-controlled land through the enhancement of communication between key stakeholders such as Government agencies, Local Governments, industry groups and other important partners.

Regional

Regional Pest Management Plans (voluntary)

- Combine Local Government Pest Management Plans
- offer an opportunity for Regional Strategy Groups to access information and priorities for pest management

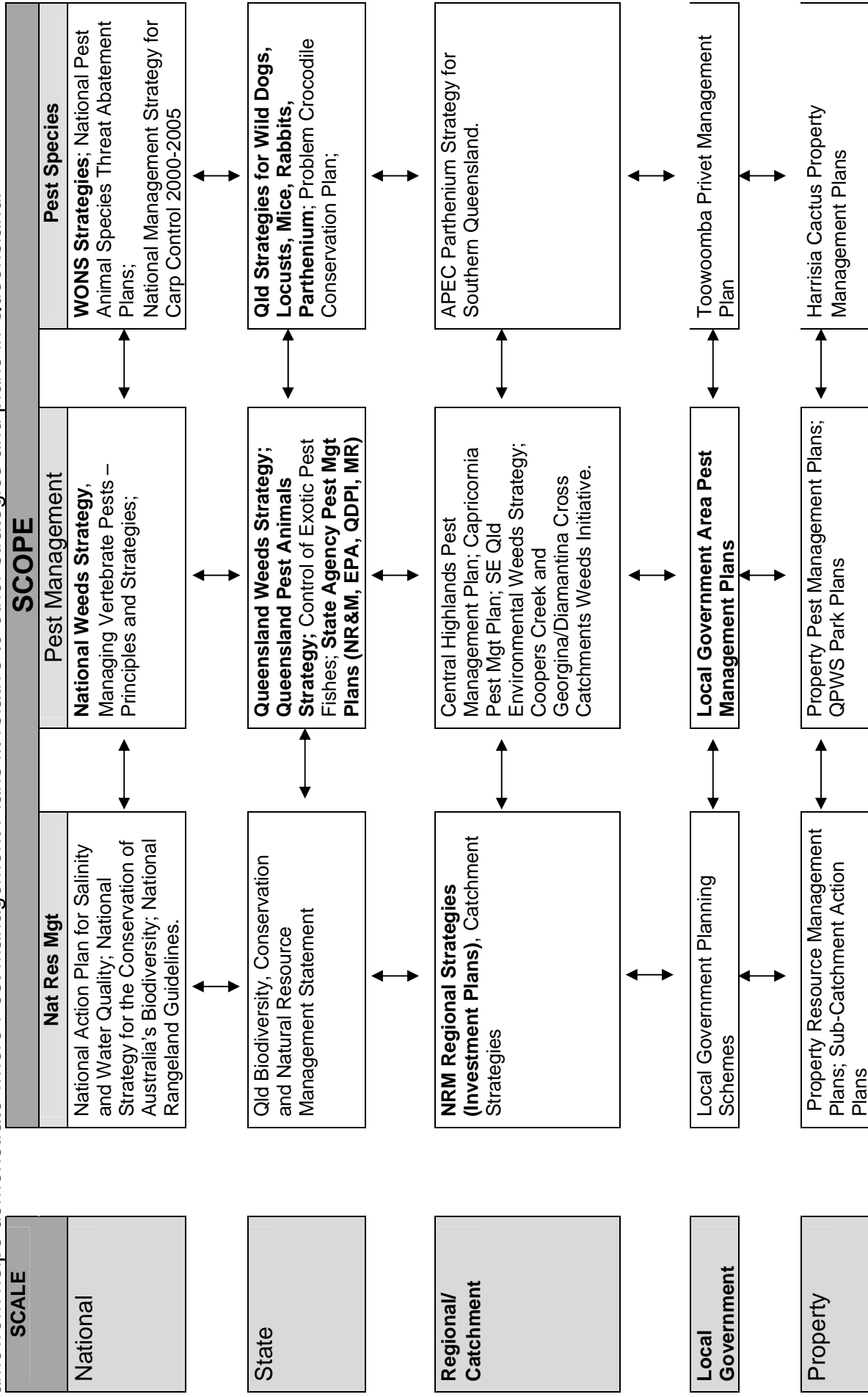
Regional Natural Resource Management Plans

Local

Local Government Pest Management Plan

- sets strategies, activities and responsibilities for pest management at a local scale.
- Sets achievable objectives for the local community
- Monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of the plan.
- offer an opportunity for Regional Strategy Groups to access information and priorities for pest management

Natural Resource Management Planning is a complex task that includes pest management. Although not exhaustive the following framework helps demonstrate where Pest Management Plans fit relative to other strategies and plans in Queensland.



Author: Planning Arrangements Working Group in association with NR, M&E's Land Protection unit.
 Date last modified: December 2003
 Sunset review date: December 2004

3.0 KEY INPUTS TO A REGIONAL NRM PLAN

Inputs may vary between regional areas, though there are a number of important linkages between Regional NRM plans and planning processes determined by the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and Regional Pest Management Plans. Generally it is important Natural Resource Management plans contribute to the following desired outcomes, Pest Management Principles and objectives identified in the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, Queensland Weeds Strategy and Queensland Pest Animal Strategy.

Desired Outcome	Pest Management Principles	Pest Management Objectives
1. Stakeholders are aware, knowledgeable and have ownership of weed and pest animal management	Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community, Industry, agribusiness and government awareness of weeds and pest animals and their impacts is increased. The knowledge and skills of stakeholders and individuals relative to weeds and pest animal impacts and management is enhanced. Information about weeds and pest animals is available to all stakeholders.
2. Stakeholders are committed to and undertake coordinated management of weeds and pest animals	Commitment Consultation and Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A long term commitment to weed and pest animal management by stakeholders is established. Legislation is used to ensure weed and pest animal management compliance. Landholders, community, industry and government accept their roles and responsibilities.
3. Reliable Information is available as a basis for decision making	Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data highlighting the distribution, levels and current management of weeds and pest animals is available and utilised. Understanding of the biology, ecology and impacts of weeds and pest animals is increased. Community attitudes to weed and pest animal management are understood
4. Strategic directions are established, maintained and owned by all stakeholders	Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A weed and pest animal management-planning framework exists. Weed and pest animal management strategies are implemented, evaluated and reviewed. Weed and pest animal management is efficiently and effectively resourced.
	Integration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weed and pest animal management is integrated into property, community, industry and government planning processes.
5. Introduction, spread and establishment of weeds and pest animals is prevented.	Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction of new weeds and development of pest animals is prevented. The establishment of potential weeds and pest animals is prevented. The spread of weeds and pest animals to new areas is minimised.
6. Integrated systems for managing the impacts of established weeds and pest animals are developed.	Best Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Best practice weed and pest animal is promoted and adopted Impacts & imbalances in pest and problem animal populations are reduced. Environmentally significant areas are protected from weeds.
	Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New or improved weed and pest animal management practices are developed.
	Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incentives are used to enhance the public benefit from weed and pest animal management practices.

4.0 OTHER LINKS TO CONSIDER BETWEEN PLANS

There may also be a number of broader services or links between planning activities or scope for longer-term cooperation. These require discussion and negotiation between the planning groups at a regional scale.

Other links may include:

- Regional Body broker devolved grant funds to compliment pest and stock route planning outcomes with on-ground investment.
- Shared research priorities are negotiated and funded.
- Each party develops and contributes complementary or shared key regional indicators and monitoring frameworks for pest and weed management.
- Cooperate on extension and communication programs for pest and weed management.
- New information is applied to refine priorities and management targets.

5.0 BARRIERS AND ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED

- Determination of environmentally significant areas (these are highlighted in the explanatory notes and includes National Parks, RAMSAR sites, World Heritage Area, Area defined under Veg Mgt Act etc).
- Regional Pest Management Plans offer the best 'fit' situation, ie region to region planning, through legislation does not require Regional Pest Management Plans and only four have been developed to date.
- Planning under the Act is not based on target setting and only strategies though it is expected that desired outcomes can assist.
- LGAPMP will be a four-year plan that may include an annual action plan, whereas the regional NRM plans include long term, medium term and short term targets.
- The resourcing and implementation of Local Government Pest Management Plans is determined by the Local Government's capacity.

6.0 OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED INTEGRATION

Some suggested approaches that could be taken to progress the integration and coordination opportunities between Regional NRM Groups and plans required under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* are:

1. During the public consultation periods that there is increased dialogue on integration opportunities.
2. Combination of Local Government Area Pest Management Plans to form the Pest Mgt component of the Regional NRM plan.
3. Build operational links between regional NRM body implementation officers and NR&M Land Protection Officers, Local Government Pest Management Officers and other operational officers through the establishment of relative roles and responsibilities between NR&M and other State agencies delivery on pest management targets, Local Governments and Regional NRM bodies.
4. Initiate discussions on mutual reporting arrangements and monitoring and evaluation of plans.
5. Cross membership of groups.
6. Involvement by, relevant Local Government members on the Regional Natural Resource Management Groups, in undertaking Pest Management State Interest Checks of Local Government Area Pest Management Plans.

7.0 IMPORTANT CONTACTS, SUPPORT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

Key regional contacts for delivery of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* planning processes are:

	Pest Management Planning
South East	Frank Jacobson –3884 5370
Central-West	Peter Austin – 07 4967 0887
North-West	Paul Horrocks – 07 4787 0610
South-West	Gary Zerner - 4661 0231
Brisbane (CHQ)	Salvo Vitelli - 07 3405 5524

Further information on pest management and stock route management is available at the Department of Natural Resources and Mines website www.nrm.qld.gov.au