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**Three-year NAPSWQ/Trust
Regional Investment Strategy guidelines
A guide for Queensland regional bodies**

**Joint Queensland/Australian Government
NRM Steering Committee**



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Three Year NAP/Trust Regional Investment Strategy Guidelines

The Joint Queensland-Australian Government Steering Committee has prepared these guidelines to assist regional bodies develop their three-year National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP)/Natural Heritage Trust (Trust) Regional Investment Strategy for 2004-05 to 2006-07. This information should be read in conjunction with the NAP and Trust Bilateral Agreements.

1 Context

A Regional Investment Strategy is essentially designed to outline the funding sought to implement activities to achieve targets in an accredited regional NRM plan. Regional Investment Strategies can address the regional NRM plan as a whole and offer investment opportunities to a range of different investors, or be developed as a series of packages targeted to specific investors.

Regional Investment Strategies need to contain sufficient activities to achieve a measurable improvement against resource condition targets over time. The Joint Steering Committee's preference is for activities to be aggregated into sensible programs which can provide that scale of achievement. Programs of activities should be developed around a theme which provides some sensible integration or bundling of activities for delivery.

Regional bodies are encouraged to seek investment from a range of different sources. Potential investors need to know what other investment is occurring as this can impact on investment decision-making, this information should be shown in the Regional Investment Strategy. Where strategic considerations of the outcomes of potential investments are considered equal, government funds are likely to flow to investments where third party contributions can improve the NRM outcomes.

Regional bodies are encouraged to work collaboratively to address issues that are applicable across regions (including interstate regional bodies where appropriate) or where economies of scale may be achieved.

Part of the basis for governments investing in Priority Actions was that they were considered likely to be identified as priorities in the final regional NRM plan. Where a Regional Investment Strategy seeks to continue existing Priority Actions, the regional bodies may roll existing, uncompleted Priority Action Projects into the Regional Investment Strategy contractual arrangements subject to:

- adequate identification of outstanding milestones;
- full acquittal under the Priority Action activity agreement at time of transfer to Regional Investment Strategy funding; and
- work continuing without interruption on the Priority Action.

2 Objectives of the Funding Programs

Government funds can only be used for activities that accord with the objectives of the relevant funding program.

National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality

The purpose of the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality is to motivate and enable regional communities to use coordinated and targeted action to:

1. Prevent, stabilise and reverse trends in salinity, particularly dryland salinity affecting the sustainability of production, conservation of biological diversity and the viability of infrastructure; and
2. Improve water quality and secure reliable allocations for human uses, industry and the environment.

Natural Heritage Trust

The Natural Heritage Trust has three overarching objectives:

1. Biodiversity conservation – the conservation of Australia’s biodiversity through the protection and restoration of terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems and habitat for native plants and animals.
2. Sustainable use of natural resources – the sustainable use and management of Australia’s land, water and marine resources to maintain and improve the productivity and profitability of resource-based industries;
3. Community capacity building and institutional change – support for individuals, landholders, industry and communities with skills, knowledge, information and institutional frameworks to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable resource use and management.

3 Principles for Investment

In making funding recommendations to Ministers, the Joint Steering Committee will be guided by the following investment principles:

- a) governments will invest in those public good elements of Regional Investment Strategies that accord with the objectives of the relevant funding programs;
- b) governments will invest in priority activities arising from accredited regional NRM plans to give effect to targets established in the plans;
- c) governments will invest in cost-effective activities that provide the best return on investment measured against regional targets;
- d) governments will give priority to investing in activities to achieve on-ground result;
- e) governments will take into account in their investment decisions the value of regional assets in environmental, economic or social terms; the nature, magnitude and trend of the threat to the assets; and the capacity for the threats to be managed;
- f) governments will invest at an appropriate scale to leverage fundamental resource condition change;
- g) governments will invest in overall resource condition outcomes rather than individual projects;
- h) governments are prepared to invest in innovative solutions to achieve funding program objectives;
- i) where strategic considerations are equal, government funds will flow to investment packages where third party contributions can improve the natural resource management outcomes;
- j) governments will only invest in indigenous activities that can demonstrate support of the traditional owners and relevant Native Title Representative Bodies; and

- k) governments will only support significant investment in information management where the proposal demonstrates that it will result in coordinated effort on information management across the major stakeholders in the region

4 Regional Indicative Allocations

Australian and Queensland Government Ministers have provided indicative allocations for NAP and Trust funds for 2004-05 to 2006-07, to provide a broad indication of the likely balance of investments across regions and to streamline the process for developing Regional Investment Strategies. The regional indicative allocations should not be considered a minimum funding guarantee.

While recognising the opportunity for further investment, the Regional Investment Strategy should seek a level of funding consistent with the regional indicative allocation. Regional Investment Strategies seeking more than the regional indicative allocation from the Trust and/or NAP must show the relative priority of the investment opportunities and identify a package of investments of a value equal to the regional indicative allocation. The Joint Steering Committee and the regional body will then agree an investment package derived from the Regional Investment Strategy, to be recommended to Ministers.

Management Reserve

Regional bodies will be able to commit 100% of their 2004-05 regional indicative allocation. In the out years (2005-06 and 2006-07), the Joint Steering Committee recognises there is a need to balance flexibility, to respond to lessons learnt and emerging priorities, and security of funding, to enable long term commitment to staff and projects. A management reserve has been established within the regional indicative allocations, providing regional bodies with scope to commit up to 70% of their 2005-06 and 50% of their 2006-07 regional indicative allocations as a basis for entering long-term contracts.

For 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Regional Investment Strategy will need to identify amounts within the limits of management reserve, and the associated activities to be funded, which they are seeking to commit in long-term contracts.

Strategic Reserve

In addition to the regional indicative allocations, a strategic reserve has been established to provide scope for Ministers to respond to gaps and opportunities identified in Regional Investment Strategies. The strategic reserve is 10% of the 2004-05 funds and 15% in 2005-06 and 2006-07. Regional bodies should not identify the strategic reserve as a potential funding source in their Regional Investment Strategies as the Joint Steering Committee will identify opportunities for investment from the strategic reserve. Once the Joint Steering Committee has identified these additional investment opportunities, it will work with relevant regional bodies to develop additional investments for approval by Ministers.

Investments from the strategic reserve might include additional funding for activities contained in approved investment packages (eg to increase the rate of return), or new activities to fill gaps. The Joint Steering Committee will recommend investing from the Strategic Reserve in activities that:

- a) provide the best return on investment measured against regional targets; and
- b) mitigate threats to high value assets of international, national or state significance in environmental, economic or social terms; and/or

- c) leverage significant third party investment (where other strategic considerations are equal); and/or
- d) encourage innovative approaches; and/or
- e) have very high levels of stakeholder commitment and community support; and/or
- f) respond to identified Australian Government and/or Queensland Government priorities; and/or
- g) fill gaps where investor preferences are not being adequately addressed.

Costing model

In developing the Regional Investment Strategy the costing model used must be clearly identified, including:

- core operating costs (for example Executive Officer, Finance and Administration officer salaries and on-costs, Board operating costs and Corporate Governance costs); and
- marginal costs related to delivery of activities (variable activity management costs include costs relating to administering, managing, monitoring and reporting on actual funded activities).

5 Investor Preferences

Regional priorities and investment decisions need to be consistent with Queensland and Australian Government policies and priorities, and the objectives of the funding programs.

Queensland and Australian Governments' priorities are set out in the Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality, the Framework for the Extension of the Natural Heritage Trust and the bilateral agreements for the NAP and Trust. A practical guide to the kinds of investments or activities that the Australian Government would support through Regional Investment Strategies is at **Attachment A**. Other activities could also be supported if they meet NAP/Trust objectives.

6 Investment Details

Format/information required

All required templates for presenting a synthesis of investment strategy information are at **Attachment B**. To underpin this synthesis, the Regional Investment Strategy should at least include:

A. Investment Strategy Outline

Investment Strategy must include an outline of the activities proposed, including:

- links between the proposed activities and the Resource Condition and Management Action Targets;
- a brief description of action taken to inform and consult the key stakeholders in the community on the investment priorities;
- a brief outline of the process for prioritisation of activities in the Regional Investment Strategy;
- evidence of the commitment of co-investors;
- governance mechanisms that will apply where joint delivery is required;
- a summary of the social and economic assessment of the proposed activities; and
- a statement confirming that the activities address the following key issues:
 - a) Ecologically Sustainable Development (**Attachment C**)
 - b) Community engagement in NRM with particular action to include Aboriginal communities

- c) Sustainable primary production
- d) Protection and enhancement of biodiversity
- e) Monitoring and evaluation of regional NRM plan implementation

B. Investment Sought

Regional Investment Strategies themselves are not approved by Governments, rather a rolling three-year investment program derived from the Regional Investment Strategy will be put to Ministers for approval (i.e. the synthesis tables at **Attachment B**).

Governments are investing to achieve outcomes in terms of improved resource condition. Therefore, the investment sought under the Regional Investment Strategy must be linked to, and reported against, achievement of Resource Condition Targets and associated Management Action Targets. Regional Investment Strategies will need to quantify the contribution that a program of activities will make to achieving targets.

The format for presenting programs of activities linked to Resource Condition Targets to Ministers for approval is at **Attachment B** (the Program and Resource Condition Target Tables). A non-exclusive list of standard outputs is provided at **Attachment D**, for use when completing the activities table. Regional bodies should adopt those outputs where they are relevant, other outputs may be specified where none of the standard list of outputs is appropriate.

For the Joint Steering Committee to recommend investments, the Regional Investment Strategy:

- must address the highest level priorities identified in the regional NRM plan (ie those things identified as actions in the plan) which include key investor priorities;
- must demonstrate the contribution of each proposed investment to achieving a resource condition and management action target;
- must prioritise actions for which they are seeking investment;
- must clearly set out the prioritisation process they have followed or used to choose actions;
- should address social and economic consequences of NRM actions and where possible provide costing of these consequences; and
- must identify, for each investment, the proposed source of funding.

C. Risk Management

Identified risk factors, and how these will be managed, need to be summarised in a brief risk management plan. The standard format for presenting this is at **Attachment B**.

D. Location Information

Location information should be included in the Regional Investment Strategy which presents a high-level representation of the geographic spread of investment. A map(s) of the region should be included to identify locations or areas of activity and, if available, location data (latitude/longitude) should be provided electronically.

7 Handling of State Matching Funding

The Queensland Government has undertaken to match from its budget Australian Government investments under the Natural Heritage Trust. Regional bodies are required to identify the Queensland Government's matching contributions in their Regional

Investment Strategies. This includes identifying sufficient matching funding in the out years for any Trust funds for which a commitment from governments is sought.

The level of matching contribution required will be determined on the basis of each regional body's Regional Investment Strategy. Matching funding must be for agreed areas of activity, directly from the regional NRM plan. The Queensland Government's matching contribution must be identified at the activity level and, on balance, must at least equal the total Australian Government Trust funding at the regional level. Matching funding guidelines are at **Attachment E**.

Regional bodies are required to make a formal statement in their annual reports to acknowledge delivery of the State's matching contributions and to provide an independently audited report of revenue (including matching contributions) and expenditure in their annual report.

8 Community Consultation

The Protocol for Community Engagement in Regional NRM Planning and Implementation requires a documented process for gauging the level of support and commitment from key stakeholders and the broader community for the strategies, targets, actions and priorities proposed in the accredited regional NRM plan and accompanying Investment Strategy.

The Protocol treats the development of the regional NRM plan and Regional Investment Strategy as an integrated process. In terms of broad community consultation, the Joint Steering Committee considers the extensive consultation process undertaken during the development of regional NRM plans generally allows widespread community involvement in the regional planning process.

In the development of Regional Investment Strategies, regional bodies should provide evidence that they have consulted with key stakeholders responsible for, or directly affected by, the implementation of an activity, to confirm that the group or individual remains committed to and supportive of those activities. It is also expected that community consultation will continue by, for instance, making the Regional Investment Strategy easily accessible to the community as it is developed.

9 Announcements

Australian and Queensland Government Ministers or their representatives must be invited to participate in any launch of the approved investment packages

In all circumstances where activities receive Australian or Queensland Government investment, appropriate acknowledgement must be given to the source of those investments. The respective contributions of the parties must be recognised in public presentation of any activities.

Regional bodies must ensure that:

- any communication activity, including publications, articles, newsletters or other literary works relating to the investment acknowledges that it has received Australian and Queensland Government investment and displays the agreed generic logos or badging. A copy of investment announcements and associated communication material should be provided to the Joint Steering Committee prior to its release;
- signs, posters or other appropriate means are used to acknowledge the Queensland and Australian Governments and investment; and

- each party's role is acknowledged at relevant forums, conferences and at activity events.

10 Monitoring and Evaluation

Regional Investment Strategies will need to include structured monitoring and evaluation activities to allow tracking of actual vs. expected resource condition outcomes, progress towards achievement of targets and adaptive management over time. Where possible, use should be made of existing state and regional monitoring networks and resource databases.

11 Reporting

Programs of activities approved in Regional Investment Strategies will be the basis for contract development, management and reporting. Financial and output reporting are managed separately but linked through the contract. Contracts will include requirements for quarterly financial reporting and payment schedules and for six-monthly output reporting. The format for presenting information for milestone and payment schedules is at **Attachment B** (Quarterly and Six-monthly reporting tables).

Australian Government Preferences for Three-Year Investment Strategy Guidelines

This document provides a practical guide to the kinds activities that the Australian Government would support through regional investment strategies. The activities listed **are not** exhaustive or prescriptive, and include those identified through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust.

Regional plans should identify resource assets, their values and threats. Once these are established, investor preferences will be directed towards activities that:

1. Protect and manage places and values of national environmental significance, including threatened species and communities, listed migratory species, Ramsar wetlands of international importance, world heritage areas and national heritage places

Manage threats and prevent degradation to Ramsar Wetlands. For example, actions consistent with those outlined in wetland's Plan of Management or contribute to the development of a Plan of Management.

Manage threats and prevent the decline in nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities. For example, actions to maintain and rehabilitate threatened species habitats, restoring critically endangered ecological communities, informing land managers of the threatened nature of the species and its location and monitoring and recording population and habitat. Actions consistent with Recovery Plans (or draft plans).

Reduce key threatening processes. For example, actions to reduce:

- harm to marine species from marine debris;
- competition or predation from feral animals;
- land clearance;
- spread of listed pests and diseases.

Or actions listed in Threat Abatement Plans.

Complement and support management of the values of world heritage areas and national heritage places.

Manage habitat of listed migratory species (species include sea turtles, migratory water birds). For example, protecting nesting habitat for sea turtles (by closing areas to vehicles) or managing roosting or feeding habitat for migratory birds.

2. Improve water quality and environmental condition in surface and ground water systems, wetlands and estuaries while maintaining the economic and social values derived from water use

Improve surface and ground water quality, biodiversity and environmental condition.

For example:

- restoring water quality, removing redundant weirs and structures, including fish ladders in remaining structures, stabilising river banks and riparian zone, planting local native riparian and wetland plant species;

- support measures such as those identified through the National Water Initiative or the Living Murray to implement environmental flows;
- encourage the integrated whole-water cycle management of surface and groundwater resources; and
- providing flow linkages between the river and floodplain.

Manage threats and prevent degradation to important wetlands and improve wetland condition. For example, ensuring environmental water requirements to maintain wetlands of national importance.

Maintain the high conservation value of rivers and river reaches. For example: management regimes to protect riparian vegetation, managing storm water run-off.

3. Reverse the decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation and maintain and restore habitat for flora and fauna

Reverse the decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation.

Ensure there is no clearing of threatened vegetation communities (current extent below 30 per cent of pre-clearing extent) and critical habitat for threatened species.

Retain and manage native vegetation on land susceptible to land degradation.

Increase the extent of native vegetation through revegetation to achieve multiple objectives including biodiversity conservation, salinity mitigation, greenhouse gas abatement, improved land stability and production outcomes and enhanced water quality.

Improve quality of native vegetation. For example:

- restore areas of high quality, endangered or vulnerable native vegetation communities;
- manage the spread and reduce the impact of weeds of national significance;
- identify and reduce potential threats from sleeper weeds;
- maintain and restore native bird habitat on farms, particularly in the woodland regions of Australia;
- encourage appropriate fire management practices by indigenous communities;
- encouraging ecologically sustainable collection of firewood, for example by promoting the use of plantation timber for firewood; and
- encourage the adoption of grazing practices that are sustainable and reduce unsustainable grazing in critical areas such as the rangelands.

Manage biodiversity hotspot areas and reduce threats to those areas.

4. Protect our coastal catchments, ecosystems and the marine environment

Protect, restore or manage coastal habitats of high conservation value, coastal processes and geomorphology. For example, prevent salinity, erosion or exposure of acid sulfate soils by managing clearing and drainage.

Eradicate, prevent or contain introduced marine pests. For example, actions consistent with the National System for the Prevention and Management of Introduced Marine Pests, including surveys and monitoring of biodiversity that include exotic marine species.

Reduce marine pollution – eg from vessel sources such as sewage, oil garbage and debris. For example by removing marine debris from the shoreline and waterways, providing appropriate marine waste reception facilities at ports, harbours and marinas, and promoting best practice in slipway and other vessel cleaning and maintenance facilities.

Maintain and improve coastal and estuarine water quality. For example, actions consistent with the Framework for Marine and Estuarine Water Quality Protection, including:

- ensure that discharges of substances to coastal waters are within ecologically sustainable limits;
- improve environmental flows to estuarine waters, where this is beneficial to improving water quality;
- maintain and protect identified environmental values of those waters;
- promote adoption of best management practices to minimise agricultural sources of pollution, including both point and diffuse sources; and
- minimise the contribution of nutrients from atmospheric sources of pollution in highly urbanised coastal catchments.

Maintain profitable and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture industries. For example, measures to implement fisheries ecologically sustainable development frameworks

5. Protect and improve the condition of land, water (including groundwater) and vegetation resources that provide the ecosystem services that support sustainable resource use industries

Protect and improve the condition of land, water and vegetation resources. For example:

- improve awareness and understanding of land and water degradation;
- encourage the adoption of measures to address resource degradation and improve management, distinguishing between measures that provide primarily public benefit and those that provide private benefit;
- improve mechanisms for communicating information on best practice management of soils and vegetation, including improved technical advice and agricultural extension services;
- apply best practice guidelines in resource development, having regard to local and state regulations;
- develop and implement best-practice land, water and vegetation management guidelines at a property level; and
- implement actions at catchment level that enhance integration of surface and ground water management.

6. Promote sustainable resource use, particularly sustainable agriculture

Promote sustainable resource use. For example:

- build the capacity of rural communities and rural industries to understand, identify and apply improved natural resource management practices;
- support community movements and volunteer effort to transfer information, raise awareness and increase commitment about sustainable resource use;
- develop and implement industry guidelines and application strategies to adopt best management practices including through Environmental Management Systems;
- apply the results of relevant research to improve industry sustainable resource management;

- support innovative on-farm and catchment approaches to improve sustainable resource use such as testing of alternative production systems (eg in plantation forestry, agroforestry and high water use cropping systems);
- encourage activities that coordinate the management of activities on public and private land; and
- improve industry capacity to report on resource use performance, linking regional reporting to national level reporting.

Maintain profitable and sustainable water resource using industries. For example, measures to support sustainable water using industries and measures to support developing, implementing, reporting or benchmarking best practice water resources use.

Templates for Regional Investment Strategies

Regional Investment Strategy outline

An outline (max 2 pages) of the program of activities proposed, based on the regional NRM plan and including:

- links between the proposed program of activities and the regional NRM plan;
- a brief description of action taken to inform and consult the key stakeholders in the community on the regional body's investment priorities;
- evidence of the commitment of co-investors;
- governance mechanisms that will apply where joint delivery is required;
- a summary of the social and economic assessment of the proposed activities; and
- a statement confirming that the program addresses the following key issues:
 - Ecologically Sustainable Development
 - Community engagement in NRM with particular action to include Aboriginal communities
 - Sustainable primary production
 - Protection and enhancement of biodiversity
- Monitoring and evaluation of regional NRM plan implementation.

A map(s) of the region marked up to present the geographic spread of activities should be included.

Summary risk management plan

A summarised risk management plan (1 page in length as a guide) that identifies what risks may impair implementation of the program of activities eg climatic extremes, community capacity and willingness to participate, possible social and economic impacts, and identifies strategies to mitigate the risks.

Risk identified	Management of risk
<i>e.g. Loss of community support as NRM benefits are not apparent in short time periods.</i>	<i>Early and ongoing consultation to involve the community and raise awareness of lag times for NRM improvement.</i>
<i>e.g. Supporting organisations and agencies may not commit.</i>	<i>Consultation on contributions of supporting organisations and agencies has been undertaken early in the process to facilitate as much commitment as is possible.</i>
<i>e.g. Shortage of technical skills for NRM management actions.</i>	<i>Technical skills needed have been assessed through project planning. Most are sourced through Government departments and Local Government. Additional skills, where needed, have been identified in each Management Action.</i>

Program Table (Table 1 in excel spreadsheet)

The Program Table should outline the programs of activities contained in the Regional Investment Strategy and provide a brief description of them. For 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 the estimated total budget and the amount, within the limits of the management reserve, for which Ministerial approval is sought should be shown. The State's matching contribution for Australian Government Trust funds sought should also be shown.

Resource Condition and Management Action Targets that each program of activities will make a contribution towards achieving should be listed. If the list is extensive it would be

useful to differentiate between targets that have a primary relationship to the activities in the theme and those where there is a secondary or tertiary relationship.

Resource Condition Target Table (Table 2 in separate word document)

The Resource Condition Target Table should identify all resource condition targets that are impacted on significantly by funded activities and the key management action targets having a significant impact on these resource condition targets (some of these management action targets may also appear against other resource condition targets). The table should also identify the specific programs of activities that are impacting on these resource condition targets (again they may appear elsewhere in relation to contributions to other resource condition targets).

This table should outline the value proposition story for the investments sought, that is the aggregated impact on the particular resource condition target of all funded activities, expressed as far as possible in the language of the achievement of the resource condition target and relevant management action targets. Where possible this should include a quantitative statement in terms of the achievement of the resource condition target.

Quarterly payment table (Schedule 2 in excel spreadsheet)

This table should identify the funds required for each quarter from the NAP and the Trust for each activity within a program.

Six monthly reporting table (Schedule 3 in separate word document)

This table should identify the key deliverables from, and significant points for, each activity within a program and the six-month period in which it is expected to be delivered or to occur. Reporting against this should provide the information both the regional body and the Joint Steering Committee require to judge whether activities are on track.

The table should include project milestones (eg employment of key staff, finalisation of work plans or formation of project steering committees) and outputs (eg training events, area of pest plant control or number of property management plans completed). A standard list of outputs is at **Attachment E**. Regional bodies should adopt those outputs where they are relevant, though other outputs may be specified where none of the standard list of outputs is appropriate.

Principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development

The principles of ecologically sustainable development as outlined in the Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act 1997 consist of:

- (a) the following core objectives:
 - (i) to enhance individual and community well-being and welfare by following a path of economic development that safeguards the welfare of future generations;
 - (ii) to provide for equity within and between generations;
 - (iii) to protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life-support systems; and
- (b) the following guiding principles:
 - (i) decision-making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations;
 - (ii) if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation;
 - (iii) the global dimension of environmental impacts of actions and policy should be recognised and considered;
 - (iv) the need to develop a strong, growing and diversified economy that can enhance the capacity for environmental protection should be recognised;
 - (v) the need to maintain and enhance international competitiveness in an environmentally sound manner should be recognised;
 - (vi) cost-effective and flexible measures should be adopted;
 - (vii) decisions and actions should provide for broad community involvement on issues which affect the community.

List of Standard Outputs

Output Category / Subcategory	Output Unit of Measure
Capacity building	
Awareness raising activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of non-training forums (eg demonstrations, field days, study tours, field trips etc) <u>and</u> number of participants in person-days. Number of non-training products or materials developed (eg brochures, newsletters, displays, etc), <u>and</u> quantity distributed Number of media opportunities (articles, radio interviews) Number of websites developed
Facilitation, motivation and support activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number (EFT) of active community support positions (eg facilitators, coordinators etc). Number of community groups (eg landcare) or community projects assisted.
Skills and training activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of skills and Training events (eg training sessions, workshops and seminars) held <u>and</u> number of participants in person-days. Number of key materials (eg workbooks, course notes etc) developed <u>and</u> quantity distributed.
On ground works	
Conservation by agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers of, <u>and</u> area (ha) covered by Legal Conservation covenants and other legal agreements Numbers of, <u>and</u> area (ha) covered by Voluntary conservation agreements
Indigenous Vegetation Protected by Fencing, (Riparian, Terrestrial & Coastal) <i>Protection provided through ; 'Conservation by agreements' is to be recorded against that output category</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of indigenous/local-origin vegetation protected by fencing; by riparian, terrestrial or coast; <u>and</u> Length (km) of riparian vegetation protected (provide both measures if riparian vegetation)
Indigenous Vegetation enhanced / improved/ rehabilitated (Riparian, Terrestrial & Coastal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of indigenous/local-origin vegetation enhanced; by riparian, terrestrial or coastal <u>And</u> Length (km) of riparian vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated (provide both measures if riparian vegetation)
Revegetation with Indigenous Vegetation, (Riparian, Terrestrial & Coastal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) planted to indigenous/local-origin species; by riparian, terrestrial or coastal <u>and</u> Length (km) of riparian vegetation protected (provide both measures if riparian vegetation)
Revegetation with Non-Indigenous Vegetation, (Riparian, Terrestrial & Coastal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of non-indigenous perennial pastures; by whether it is riparian, coastal or terrestrial Area (ha) of non-indigenous plantation; by whether it is riparian, coastal or terrestrial Area (ha) of other exotic or mixed native/exotic (non-indigenous) vegetation planted; by whether it riparian, coastal or terrestrial

Output Category / Subcategory	Output Unit of Measure
Riparian and waterway health <i>(Riparian Vegetation. To record revegetation for this purpose use either the three Indigenous Vegetation' or 'Revegetation with Non-Indigenous Vegetation')</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Length (km) of stream <u>bank</u> stabilised and number of structures. Length (km) of stream <u>bed</u> stabilised and number of structures Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed Length (km) of instream habitat established <u>and</u> number of large woody debris replaced. Number of Fish barriers addressed Length (km) of stream opened up to fish passage Number of off-river stock watering points established
Wetlands health protected or enhanced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of wetland protected Area (ha) of wetland enhanced/rehabilitated Area (ha) of wetlands with reinstated connectivity
Management of either Significant species of fauna or flora or significant ecological communities (Identify as Riparian, Terrestrial or Coastal).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of Habitat management (eg ecological burns/fire hazard removal) Area (ha) protected by fencing for the specific purpose of significant species/community protection.
Significant pest plant control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of pest plant control
Significant pest vertebrate control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of pest animal control, by type of pest animal (e.g. rabbits, foxes)
Soil management <i>To record revegetation for this purpose use either 'Revegetation with Indigenous Vegetation' or 'Revegetation with Non-Indigenous Vegetation'</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of land <u>and</u> number of sites treated for soil erosion through Engineering/works (eg: includes gully battering) Area (ha) of land, <u>and</u> number of sites treated for soil erosion through Exclusion fencing Area (ha) of treatment for Acid Sulfate Soils (ha) Area (ha) of soil treatment for other than erosion, salinity, or acid sulfate soils (e.g. clay/chemical addition)
Salinity control measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area (ha) of land treated for rising groundwater through surface drainage <u>and</u> length (km) of drain Area (ha) of land treated for rising groundwater through sub-surface drainage <u>and</u> length (km) of drain Area (ha) of land treated for rising groundwater through groundwater pumping Area (ha) of land treated by salt evaporation ponds
Water contaminant management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of, <u>and</u> volume (ML) or amount (tonnes) of effluent removed or contained by Sewage plant Number of, <u>and</u> volume (ML) or amount (tonnes) of effluent removed or contained by human effluent disposal other than sewage plant e.g. septic Number of, <u>and</u> volume (ML) or amount (tonnes) of effluent removed or contained by animal effluent control works – animal (e.g. dairy, settlement ponds, urban dog) Number of stormwater quality control devices <u>and</u> constructed wetlands. Number of new stormwater reuse systems added

Output Category / Subcategory	Output Unit of Measure
Water Use Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area (ha) of land <u>and</u> number of land managers using improved irrigation practices (e.g. by using Upgraded Systems and/or Improved Management) • Volume (ML) of water saved <u>and</u> number of on-farm reuse system (where reuse system principally for improved irrigation use ha serviced in area of land using improved practice category) • Volume (ML) of water saved <u>and</u> number of land managers using on-farm water saving practice by drainage diversion • Volume (ML) of water saved using off-farm water mechanisms (e.g. piping of open channels, lining channels or storages) • <u>and</u> Length (km) of channel improved or piped if applicable
Bore Capping (for recharge control, groundwater conservation and water quality)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of groundwater bores capped.
Planning	
Improved practice codes or guidelines <i>(eg sustainable farming, rabbit control, environmental)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of best management practice guidelines developed
Integrated catchment or sub-catchment plans <i>(eg bioregional action plans, regional River Health Strategies, Land and Water Management plans, etc).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of plans developed
Property management plans <i>(eg Whole Farm Plans)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of property management plans completed
Species Recovery plans and Action Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of endangered species action statements and recovery plans developed
Resource assessment	
Baseline, trend or condition studies for targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of baseline, trend or condition Studies • Number of sites monitored (eg water quality, piezometers, asset evaluations, vegetation, wetlands etc).
Decision support tools <i>(eg models, information management systems)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of decision support tools.
Investigations including survey, inventory and mapping and data analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area (ha) surveyed (eg vegetation mapping, salinity hazard mapping, marine surveys, soil surveys) <u>and</u> number of studies undertaken <u>and</u> length (km) surveyed if riparian (riparian needs to include both ha and km).
Research and development studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Research and development studies undertaken

Extract:

Principles and Guidelines for use by Steering Committees to give effect to the Trust Requirement for Matching Funding by States and Territories

- A. States and Territories will match from their budgets the Australian Government's investment in Trust delivery at the regional level in cash and/or in-kind.
- B. That portion of any contribution that has been directly funded by another Australian Government program and contributions from private sector entities, individuals and local government are ineligible as a state matching contributions under this requirement.
- C. To be eligible, matching funding must be:
 - directly attributed to the region in question
 - directly relevant to activities in the regional investment strategy being funded; and
 - for jointly agreed activities in the region in question.
- D. Matching investment agreed by the State may include both cash and appropriately costed and audited in kind contributions.
- E. In-kind contributions can be valued using either the actual costs for each activity or the use of a salary multiplier as a proxy. Where a multiplier is used, it must not exceed 2.5.
- F. Transparency will be provided by Regional Bodies (through the Chair) 'signing off' in their Annual Report that the in-kind (and cash) investments agreed by the state have been provided to the region within the agreed timeframe.