

Appendix 3 Issues by Sector from SPA interviews

Sector/ Locality	Environmental issues	Other issues
<p>Local Gov/ Mary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverbank erosion • Weed control • Urban development effects on waterways (eg storm water issues). • Recreational impacts • Sand extraction in river • Pest management/pigs/wild dogs • Biodiversity – need for corridors • Water quantity - Noosa etc populations taking water from the Mary; Farmland water use along the river (cane takes a lot of water). • Water quality - Gympie sewage still goes into the river • Vegetation management • Weed control • Fraser Island issues • Coastal villages along Sandy Strait are fragile – are going to be impacted by development. • Getting salinity in some places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement of landholders; extension services; local group support. • On ground capacity – ability to respond and engage: prioritisation should be not just bio-physical • Alternative incomes for cane farmers
<p>Local Govt/ Inland Burnett</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest management (need more strategic approach to controlling weeds). Weeds are suffocating road reserves (groundsel, parthenium (small patches), mother of millions, grader grass, giant rats tail); water weeds (salvinia and hyacinth); Noxious pests – including fish; Feral pigs. • Agricultural runoff from free range cattle grazing into the creeks, causing contamination of the creeks and devegetation of the banks. • Above causes big impact on treatment plants – flows can have very high level of silt. • Excess nutrients causing blue-green algae. • Water quality from Gordonbrook dam (high in blue-green algae – has been only open to the public for 1 day in the past 5 years). Most people use tank water for drinking. • Salinity – loss of trees; need to watch the Barambah irrigation scheme; urban as well as in agricultural land (soaks undermining roads and footpaths, etc). • Over clearing on a large scale on a forest area in Wondai (Under RFA, have allowed millers from wide area to take from here for 25 years) • Water quantity - Farm forestry has restricted flows; No available water for expansion – any new water has been earmarked for downstream. • Erosion into creeks from tail waters from irrigation scheme associated with Bjelke Peterson dam tail drain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about maintenance of soil conservation structures now that government no longer provides a service. Accurate banks are important for protecting the land – has been good work done in the past so there has not been loss of good agricultural land. • Several ways in which primary producers have not come to grips with quality requirements • Lack of understanding of biodiversity – need funds to look into it. • Access to information – eg state data on salinity - Better local information is needed to link in with broader plans. • Local government ability to meet responsibilities when at maximum capacity now. LG has concern about expertise and ability to review the plan (a struggle to interpret internally within nrm but also needs to be reviewed by other departments – six week time period is too short). – also need to negotiate with other shires. • A problem in councils that they don't have round table discussions between departments.

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<p>Local Govt/ Lower Burnett and Baffle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality (for drinking) problems of blue green algae, silt, variability of wq gives treatment problems – large costs. • Storm water runoff and quality. • Cane trash – interface issues - city with rural • Silting of the river ... mangrove growth. The river is coming to a new equilibrium after building the barrage. Also affecting creeks that people have access to. • Development impact on wetlands. • Chemical usage – weed control on properties. • Need for riparian vegetation in grazing areas for filtration – property boundaries on riparian zone an issue. • Hyacinth – has been left too long unchecked in upper reaches. • Tree cropping – debris along banks of the Baffle, plus chemical effects downstream (eg for cattle) • National Parks- if not managed well – giants rats tail and feral dingoes. • Erosion on foreshore – problem with access for rockwalling etc. • Sewage outflow to Deepwater creek • Problems finding water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community expectation about land availability for development – council has restricted use of good quality land. • Valuing pristine areas of the catchment
<p>Catchment and landcare/ Mary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability – rural production sustainability • Riparian zone (lack of vegetation, weed infestation, streambank erosion (major source of sediment; importance of fringing vegetation to upstream fauna) • Environmental flows (impediments to fish passage – weirs act as impediments to Mary River Cod prey species) • Soil structure decline • Acidification (badly managed mix between legumes and grass) • Salinity a looming issue -Some catchments have elevated salinity – some delayed problem (tree clearing). • Landslip • Rivers impact on Great Sandy straits; smothering sea grass beds. • Water exported from Mary river (50% goes to agric and 50% to reticulation. Of this, 80% goes to sunshine coast – population to double in next 25 years – they can pay more, so will mean major changes in Agriculture – low water-use crops (eg farm forestry). • Fractured pattern of remnant vegetation across the whole landscape- need east/west corridors (little opportunity for this from here to the border. • Weeds eg giant rats tail grass. • Endangered Mary River turtle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best use of resources so that the whole community does not suffer from environmental decline. • Loss of corporate memory (long term experience of government officers). • Lack of NHT funding for education and awareness – Canberra did not understand our needs – hope this does not translate to the Region with Burnett focus. Need to educate new landholders • Mary might be held back while developing capacity in the Burnett. • Need a level of trust rather than adding too much detailed accounting into process. • Distances to travel to meetings – cant afford to keep doing it. • Projects that need to cross two or three regions.

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<p>Catchment and landcare/ Inland Burnett</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weeds – especially important in North Burnett being in the headwaters of the catchment. (Chinese elm, upright and creeping lantana, cats claw, blue heliotrope). • With drought, underground water has diminished. • Water – sustainable use and equitable distribution; getting a balance between irrigators those who want to preserve the river. – with water trading, hard headed economics will win out – unlikely to get more environmental water. • Paradise Dam water will go to the coast – agriculture is priced out of it. • Sustainable (holistic) management – over what term are we aiming for sustainability? – like to think about 200 years as something to grapple with. • Chemicals • Should be building soil not degrading it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self regulation – it doesn’t work. (With Agforce are not going to get nrm adopted in rural industry). • Communication with BMRG • Money is going to go to the coast. No one is interested in the inland. For us who live here it is part of survival but we are dieing while they play politics in Bundaberg. • The Burnett catchment is historically the most abused and degraded in Queensland - should have premium priority. • Attitudes to land – property rights. • Short term development priority. • Councils are not taking the environmental action needed • Volunteers are giving up. • Canegrowers influence on the Board. • Agencies now serve parliament - we get nothing from them. • Cut off from traditional support from state agencies – have had nothing for three years • Need implementation tools but the science lies metres thick on shelves – no structure to implement
<p>Catchment and landcare/ Lower Burnett and Baffle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed issues (esp environmental weeds – cats claw, vines, broadleaf pepper, lantana, madiara vine, passionfruit). • Giant rats tail grass is expanding, needs research, some are giving up – will take over land like salinity – can do nothing with the land. • Aquatic weeds • Riverbank slippage on Burnett and Kolan in tidal areas. • Water supply for humans • Development • Potential problems from aquaculture. • Pawlonia farm –potential to spread downstream. • Loss of native vegetation ... loss of biodiversity • Riparian vegetation – need to reinstate both fresh and marine habitats. • Water quality – declining 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community understanding - need to understand benefits of sustainability in the area.– need whole community involved not just landholders • Awareness/ education • Regional body needs to have influence on government policies – eg Paradise dam • Recognition of catchment group and strategy

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<p>Conservation/ Mary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Land clearing • Water quality • Energy (in Burnett Mary, ethanol production from cane) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A divide between long term residents and the growth economy (coastal) • 2 categories of issue: damage and ‘drivers’ to damage. Mostly nrm looks at the damage – treats everything as remedial. • Main driver to damage is ‘terms of trade’ – reducing margins mean landholders forced to get more to make the same: need to restructure so farmers can be viable while achieving nrm. Problem is lack of trust between farmers and government: to work this need openness • To farm within constraints need an ecosystem services approach with government providing a market. • Similar for Coastal issues: If keep people connected could maintain quality of life, while providing most reliable long term income by maintaining the conditions that attract people to the place • Structural issues re representation of conservation sector – eg WB Conservation Council; pull out if do not agree with things. Have done this with land clearing and MRCCA as well as BMRG. Also problem of non conservation people nominating in conservation sector.
<p>Conservation/ Inland Burnett</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salination – water bore information should identify locations • Weeds – great impact on profitability • Dryland salinity • Weeds • Vegetation management (problems with exemptions on urban land). • Biodiversity conservation (some real issues for the five shires of the South Burnett). • Water use efficiency • Paradise dam will pose big problems in central and lower Burnett for threatened species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road connections to the coast (from Monto). • Community awareness and education • Engage agricultural and grazing industry in a better way to inform on sustainable land management practices and train in quality assurance/best practice. • Apathy and short term view – inability to appreciate the big picture. • Inadequate incentive packages for landholders (state government just giving lip service on rural adjustment). • Local government – councillors and technical staff are unskilled in nrm – don’t see issues and don’t know how to deal with them.

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<p>Conservation/ Lower Burnett and Baffle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paradise dam –lungfish • need concrete system to identify impacts from agricultural production. • Grazing land management • Protection of good habitat areas in the headwaters- to protect water • Current grazing management encourages salinity • Councils encouraging rural residential subdivision in marginal lands • Inappropriate fire regimes – a lot of biodiversity areas burned too frequently • cane burning (still 48% burned in maryborough dist) • Elevated nutrients and increased sediment from grazing. • Land clearing still not sorted out. Need more inspectors • Flooding damage to sea grass beds • Wildlife habitat • Scallop and prawn farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • of old grazing practices with perverse incentives like drought relief. • fire brigades • • • lands under RFA strategy. Forestry don't have the knowledge. • – lack of policing by EPA <p>government encourages continuance need biodiversity training for rural pro-development councils possible raising of Lenthils dam. Need better management of Crown Lack of support for RAMSAR sites.</p>
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