

Catchment scorecard: developing effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks for natural resource management



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Overview

Quality monitoring and evaluation is about more than auditing outcomes: it is about genuine engagement with stakeholders to build capacity and foster continuous improvement in NRM methodologies, for long-term improvement. This is the Catchment Scorecard approach.

CSIRO and Greening Australia joined their capacities for scientific and community engagement to deliver quality natural resource management monitoring and evaluation services that meet regional needs. The scope of the work established a framework for assessing biophysical, economic, social, and community capacity building strategies and investments.

The framework was based on the joint Greening Australia and CSIRO Catchment Scorecard process. It was critical to partner and work proactively with the Condamine Alliance and agency representatives to ensure the framework was tailored to the need of regional communities.

The project:

- designed a framework consistent with the Commonwealth and State monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and the indicators developed by the Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group
- reviewed the Investment Strategy and developed a monitoring and evaluation strategy that effectively links actions to NRM targets
- provided direct feedback and input from regional stakeholders and project managers
- provided training to regional staff and stakeholders
- linked regional stakeholders to leading researchers.

All work was undertaken through a participatory and inclusive process that included all stakeholders. These include the State Government, regional and project staff, and land managers and community members. The Catchment Scorecard was designed as a continuing service relationship, with four major components:

1. Tailoring the scorecard

All regional needs were identified for monitoring and evaluation by working in close partnership with the region. The partnership ensures capacity is built, research support is given, and the catchment scorecard framework is matched to local catchment goals.

2. Building capacity

Working with regional and project staff to build the capacity of the community to successfully devise, implement, and monitor projects targeted to regional priorities.

3. Robust monitoring

Putting in place a robust monitoring strategy that works with the community to measure, verify, and record project results in a web-based data management system allowing full community access.

4. Feedback and reporting


Evaluation of the effectiveness of projects against regional objectives and targets in ways that fully meet the needs of major funding agencies; including regular, tailored feedback throughout

the project cycle.

Evaluation, feedback, and reporting at the operational, project, and strategic levels were intended to answer the following questions:

- Are we meeting our commitments?
- Will projects deliver on-site project level outcomes?
- Do projects contribute to catchment goals?
- Are catchment goals and supporting programs realistic and appropriate?

	Catchment Scorecard
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