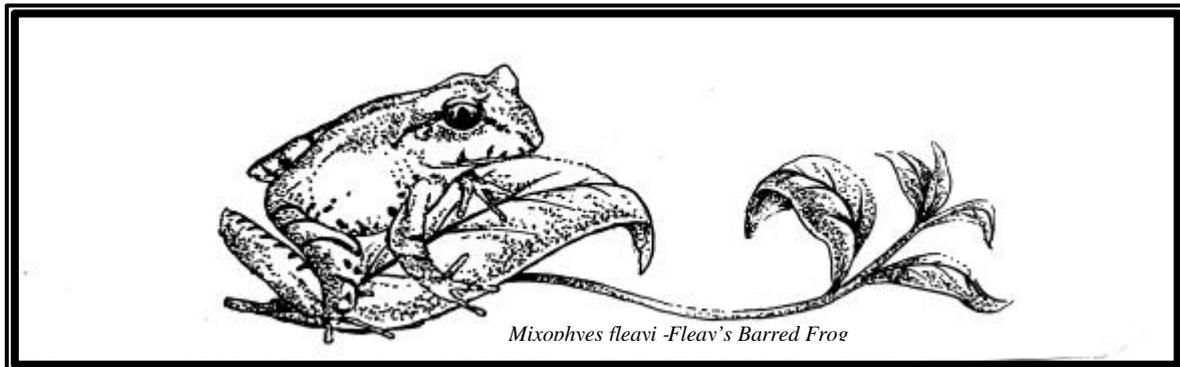


The
Natural Resource Management
Strategy
for
South East Queensland

OCTOBER DRAFT 1999



Part A

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A Vision for South East Queensland...

*South East Queensland will be a caring community,
sustainably using, enjoying and understanding the
region's natural resources, beauty and biodiversity,
both now and in the future.*

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How to use this Strategy

As an applicant of Natural Heritage Trust funding, you will need to justify the strategic value of project proposals if you wish to access various funding sources. The following steps are offered as a guide to assist your group in using the NRMS to:

- ◆ Locate information, ie themes, priorities, strategies and actions, that will support your project at a regional level; and
- ◆ Identify gaps where priority projects can be developed by groups such as your own.

STEPS	ACTION	EXAMPLE
1	State clearly the project you have in mind.	<i>“Our organisation requires resources to protect an endangered Melaleuca community in bushland on private and public land across the Wapoo, Garoo and Mundoo Councils”</i>
2	Check project against vision and overall regional priorities in SEQ	<i>“Our project is aiming to protect an endangered community, and thus an important aspect of SEQ biodiversity.”</i>
3	Determine which thematic area/s your project proposal fits under, ie. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Biodiversity ◆ Water ◆ Land ◆ Coast and Seas ◆ Understanding and Participation ◆ Integrated Planning and Coordination 	<i>“Biodiversity”</i>
4	Under this theme, determine which ‘strategy’ your project proposal fits under (from Part C).	<i>B2 Actions that “foster and encourage community/ government involvement and networking in the protection, management and restoration of biodiversity.”</i>
5	Under this category, determine which ‘Actions’ lend support to the goals of your project (from Part C).	<i>“B2.1 Enhance community and landholder involvement in.....”</i>
6	Check the priority and locality status of this action/s, ie. do the goals of your project equate with priority actions in important localities listed in the NRMS Part C.	<i>“Both the Mundoo and Garoo Shire Councils are yet to implement VCAs or similar programs.”</i>

Additionally, you may wish to check your project goals with the catchment priorities listed in Part B. If your project can tie in with priority actions and key localities listed in the NRMS, then it will stand a better chance of accessing Natural Heritage Trust funding.

Understanding the structure of this strategy

The NRMS has three components, Parts A, B and C.

Part A

Part A is the strategy itself, setting out the vision, direction and priorities for natural resource management in South East Queensland. It contains sections that explain:

- ◆ The relationship with other natural resource planning;
- ◆ Vision and strategic directions;
- ◆ Regional implementation priorities; and
- ◆ Monitoring and evaluation.

Part B

Part B will represent the priorities for action in each of the fourteen catchments in the NRMS area. The broad vision and outcomes discussed in Part A are outlined in more detail in Part C. In Part B, these broad outcomes are expressed as priorities and specific outcomes in each catchment.

Where Catchment Management Strategies have been prepared these are used to prepare and summarise the catchment priorities, in the context of regional outcomes and goals. Where Catchment Management Strategies have not yet been completed, these catchment priorities will need assessment and review by relevant catchment, landcare and other groups, and local governments.

Note: At this stage Part B is a work in progress. In this consultation draft, an outline of the proposed Part B is provided. It is intended as part of the consultation process that those with interests, knowledge and expertise at the catchment level will provide input to the allocation of actions from Part C and the determination of catchment priorities.

Part C

Part C contains specific actions to achieve the strategy's vision. This part has been organised into six main themes. Four of these themes, the 'core themes' are resource management issue or topic areas for which strategies and actions are described:

- *Caring for our biodiversity*
- *Caring for our water*
- *Caring for our land*
- *Caring for our coasts and seas*

The remaining two are supporting themes, which are processes for ensuring the core theme actions are implemented in the context of other planning in the region and through partnerships with all stakeholders.

These are:

- *Integrated Planning and Coordinated Management*
- *Understanding and Participation*

For each major theme you will find:

- A goal;
- Desired outcomes;
- Threats or impediments;
- Strategies; and
- Actions.

These themes represent a regional overview of natural resources in South East Queensland and priority actions for management. For many of these actions there are more specific and detailed plans and action programs either already prepared or in the process of being prepared. Often these have extensive government, community and industry stakeholder support and input. Where this is the case, the NRMS has sought to reflect or summarise this work, not repeat or duplicate it.

1.0 Introduction



1.1 *Background to the NRMS*

Preparation of the Natural Resource Management Strategy (NRMS) for South East Queensland began in December 1997, with the Regional Strategy Group (RSG) (Appendix One), responsible for its development, formed in February 1998 under the umbrella of the State Landcare and Catchment Management Council (LCMC). As one of thirteen regional natural resource management strategies being prepared throughout Queensland, the NRMS will help guide management and conservation of natural resources in the region, through the use of Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) funds, and potentially, other funding sources. The preparation of these regional strategies throughout Queensland is in direct response to the Federal Government's request for regional documents that will assist with the allocation of NHT monies.

1.2 *Strategy area*

The NRMS area covered by this strategy (Appendix Two) is similar to that of the SEQ 2001 Regional Framework for Growth Management (RFGM) which has been endorsed¹ as the primary regional planning strategy for South East Queensland. However, the NRMS is based on the region's fourteen water catchment areas, rather than on local government boundaries. This is because catchments form natural boundaries and are a logical management scale for natural resource related activities. Nineteen local government areas (or part areas) are covered by the NRMS, from Noosa in the north to Rosalie in the west and south to Beaudesert and Gold Coast City.

1.3 *South East Queensland regional overview*

1.3.1 Our natural resources...

South East Queensland has a rich diversity of natural resources, from the magnificent flora and fauna in the Lamington Plateau and Scenic Rim, to the rich agricultural soils of the Lockyer Valley. There is a large number of endemic species, and a wide range of habitat types, including rainforest, a variety of eucalypt and melaleuca forests, and the mangroves, floodplains and wetlands found along the coastal regions. It is also rich in cultural heritage, both European and indigenous cultures. The Aborigines have had a long history of interaction with the land, utilising the abundance of natural resources to be found in this area.

¹ by all three levels of government and a regional non-government sector committee

1.3.2 Our economy...

The region supports, and in terms of its economy, is partly reliant upon a wide diversity of agricultural industries, commerce and tourism. Important agricultural activities include intensive horticulture (fruit, vegetable, nursery and flower) crops, sugar cane, broad acre grain crops, peanuts and oil seed crops, tree crops as well as beef cattle production, dairying, pigs, poultry and other miscellaneous stock enterprises.

The region also sustains a large area of native and plantation forestry and is an important area for marine and freshwater fisheries and aquaculture. Associated with these land uses and rural industries are processing plants or value adding facilities. The economies of many towns in the region are virtually dependent on the viability and sustainability of these industries, including tourism, an essential and growing part of South East Queensland's economy.

1.3.3 Population pressures...

The South East is one of the fastest growing areas in Queensland, with the total population expected to reach approximately three million people by 2011. Around 29% of Australia's total population growth between 1991 and 2011 will occur in the South East region. The population expansion experienced by the region over the last five years has placed additional pressures on the use and management of the region's natural resources. Already there is increasing competition between urban and rural sectors for the scarce resources of land and water. Major land use changes have occurred in some communities without adequate planning to minimise the negative impacts of this change on the human and natural resources. There is increasing evidence of overuse and degradation of the region's natural resources. Issues such as salinity, soil erosion, loss of aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna and their habitats, soil acidification and deteriorating water quality are receiving greater community scrutiny.

1.4 Levels of natural resource planning

Natural resource planning at the regional level forms a continuum or link from international, national and state level planning to that of catchment/local government planning and property or individual planning (Figure 1). Within South East Queensland there are a number of regional strategies relating to water quality, air quality, coastal management, regional landscapes, and nature conservation that are being implemented or are in preparation. The current state government endorses, in principle, the continuation of the regional planning and coordination projects currently under way. The *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA) also makes specific mention of the regional dimensions of planning matters and the need to integrate these into local government planning schemes. Thus regional planning has an important role to play within Queensland and in particular in the South East Queensland region.

1.4.1 Regional natural resource management strategies

Regional strategies, as requested by the Federal government for NHT purposes, are characterised by substantial community input and direction setting in conjunction with government agencies. Forging strong partnerships among the key players in natural resource management is crucial to ensuring the success of regional strategies. Such strategies are also dynamic in that they should be responsive to changing circumstances and directions at the local, state, national and even international levels. Regional strategies also usually require a long-term commitment from their stakeholders in the development, implementation and review stages.

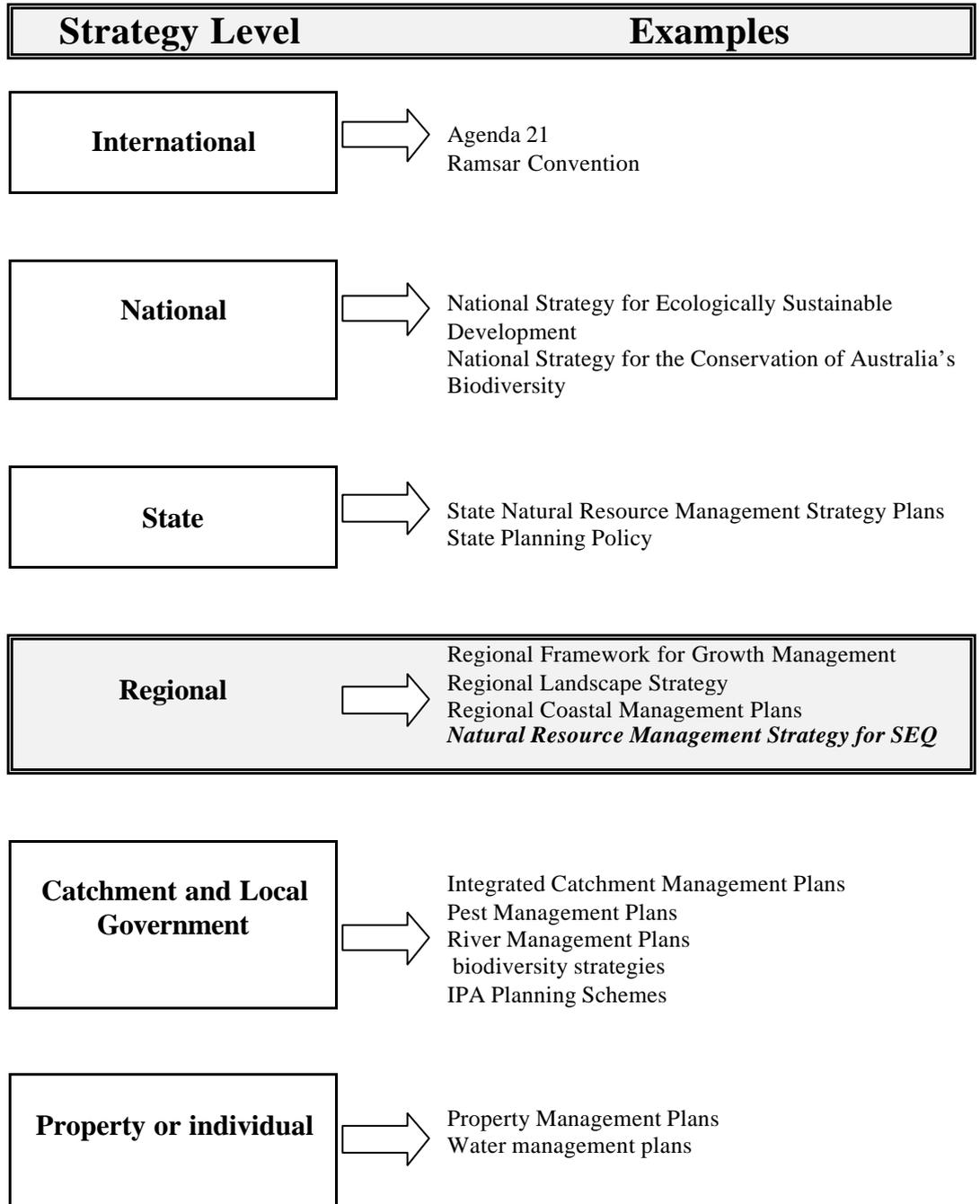


Figure 1: Links between regional planning and other levels of planning

1.4.2 The Natural Resource Management Strategy for South East Queensland

The NRMS for South East Queensland, developed by the RSG, recognises the importance of encouraging partnerships among those involved in natural resource management within each catchment. Through these partnerships sustainable approaches to land and water management are to be developed. The NRMS can also provide a long-term framework for communities to work together and address resource management and biodiversity conservation issues at a regional scale. It is important for the NRMS to be linked and integrated with other regional planning and resource management strategies as well as strategies and policies developed at the state and national level.

This strategy has drawn from and been informed by the many other natural resource and conservation planning projects and general planning initiatives that are currently being undertaken by community, industry and government in South East Queensland. It provides a framework for natural resource management and conservation in the region and assists by identifying overall regional priorities and opportunities for more integrated action. Within this context it suggests outcomes, targets, priority actions and localities where specific actions are required. Specifically, the NRMS has established an integral relationship with several regional natural resource planning and management planning projects (Figure 2).

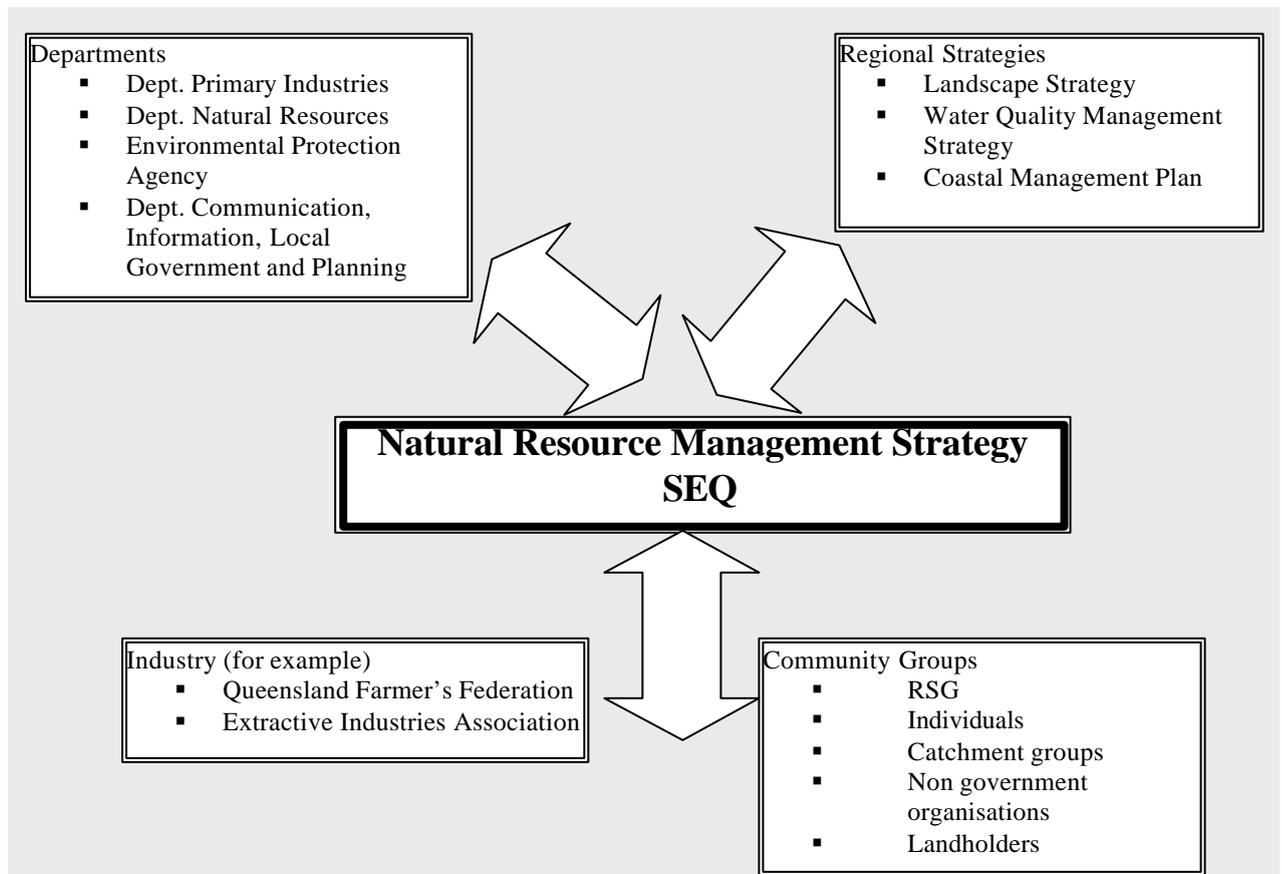


Figure 2: Relationship with stakeholders in SEQ

1.5 Links with the Integrated Planning Act and local government

The South East Queensland NRMS may be used by local governments as a guide to inform the process of addressing local natural resource management issues, when preparing their planning schemes in accordance with the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA). The purpose of IPA is to seek to achieve ecological sustainability. One of the ways in which IPA does this is through coordinating and integrating planning at the local, regional and state levels. This coordination and integration of planning is intended to occur, primarily, through a local government's planning scheme, which advances ecological sustainability by identifying and integrating a 'balance' between:

- protection of ecological processes and natural systems at local, regional, state and wider levels; and
- economic development; and
- maintenance of the cultural, economic, physical and social well-being of people and communities.

The NRMS assists by identifying a range of natural resource management issues to be considered by local government when formulating a 'balanced' ecologically sustainable position. The NRMS can benefit this process by identifying strategic directions, priority areas and gaps in existing data / knowledge about natural resource management. Outputs from this strategy may also be utilised as inputs in later planning and assessment processes.

In its present format, the NRMS is not a sectoral strategy under the RFGM, and does not constitute a 'regional dimension' to a planning scheme for the purposes of IPA. Instead, it provides a valuable resource document to inform local government in addressing natural resource management issues both at the catchment and regional level.

2.0 Roles of the Natural Resource Management Strategy for SEQ

The NRMS is to fulfill a number of roles, both primary and secondary. These are outlined in the table below.

Table 1: Roles of the NRMS

	<u>Role</u>	<u>Description</u>
Primary Roles	<i>Guide the development of NHT project applications</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This document will guide applicants for NHT funds for 1999-2002 and subsequent grant programs. Projects are more likely to receive NHT funding where they help implement or are consistent with priority actions identified in a regional strategy; ▪ Develop projects to achieve on-ground outcomes; and ▪ Highlight gaps where potential on-ground projects can be developed.
	<i>Assist in the evaluation of projects for the NHT process.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide assistance to the Regional Assessment Panel (RAP) in determining NHT funding allocations by identifying priorities and gaps in natural resource management activities.
Secondary Roles	<i>Provide information on other natural resource funding sources</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NRMS provides a list of other possible sources of funding that applicants may access to support their natural resource management projects.
	<i>Inform the RFGM and other planning processes on natural resource management issues</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NRMS must be consistent with the RFGM. Thus, an output from the NRMS will be that it provides information to the RFGM on natural resource issues that have not been addressed to date. The principles and actions contained within the NRMS are consistent with those principles and objectives negotiated through the RFGM process.

2.1 Participation in preparation of the NRMS

2.1.1 The Regional Strategy Group

The composition of the RSG includes a wide representation from all key industry, community and government stakeholder organisations in South East Queensland. A community member chairs the RSG, and importantly, each member is recognised as equal, with no stakeholder having greater influence than another.

2.1.2 Developing the NRMS

Community-based workshops were conducted throughout the region in 1998, attracting suggestions and comments from key groups involved in natural resource management – particularly those utilising and wishing to access NHT monies. Additionally, other natural resource plans and strategies were thoroughly referenced for information essential to the strategy. The input from these sources, together with regular input from State and local governments and other key stakeholders, was used to develop sequential drafts of the strategy. As a result, the NRMS document, presented here, represents the compilation of inputs from the full cross-section of stakeholders in the region.

The NRMS will be reviewed and updated regularly through ongoing community and stakeholder participation.

3.0 Endorsement of the NRMS

3.1 What is endorsement?

Endorsement is an essential process that allows stakeholders, including the general community, to formally acknowledge that:

- the strategy represents their views on natural resource management in South East Queensland; and
- they support the document and will contribute to implementing the actions contained therein.

3.1.1 Who will endorse the NRMS?

Endorsement will be achieved through the broad scope of RSG representation and through approaches to other relevant advisory groups operating in the region. RSG members will gain formal acknowledgment from their respective organisation or sectoral group. Once this support has been gained, the document will be presented to the LCMC for their formal endorsement. Additionally, the strategy must fulfil the requirements of the LCMC *'Guidelines for developing regional strategies'*, before it can obtain formal endorsement by that forum.

3.1.2 What will endorsement mean?

Stakeholder endorsement is expected to follow a two-stage process:

Stage 1: 'In principle' endorsement

At this stage, endorsement is an acknowledgment of the:

- Vision;
- Outcomes;
- Key issues;
- Priorities;
- Development process undertaken to prepare the NRMS; and
- Context of where the NRMS relates to other relevant strategies.

At this point in time, the RSG and LCMC are seeking stage one endorsement to put the strategy in place as a guide to fulfil its primary roles regarding NHT matters. This stage is not intended to bind stakeholders to committing resources. However, it does provide acknowledgment of the portfolio and/or legislative responsibilities held by agencies and local government

Stage 2: 'Implementation' endorsement

Further endorsement is required when the NRMS is to be implemented particularly where key stakeholders need to be involved in action plans, and where resources (including finances) are to be committed. Once the NRMS is endorsed and the actions begin to be implemented, it will continue to be updated periodically in order to keep the information and priorities current.

4.0 A Vision for South East Queensland

4.1 Developing the Vision

The following vision has been developed by the RSG to help integrate the diversity of interests and outcomes for natural resource management in the region.

South East Queensland will be a caring community, sustainably using, enjoying and understanding the region's natural resources, beauty and biodiversity, both now and in the future.

4.1.1 How to achieve the Vision

From the wide range of natural resource management issues, the vision relates to four core themes: Biodiversity; Water; Land; and Coasts and Seas. In order to address the management issues associated with these core themes, there are two supporting themes of Understanding and Participation, and Integrated Planning and Coordination (Table 2). Each of the core themes embodies elements of the supporting themes.

Table 2: NRMS themes

Core Themes	Description
<i>Biodiversity</i>	Protection and restoration of biological diversity
<i>Water</i>	Waterway health and quality and reliability of water supply
<i>Land</i>	Use and protection of land and its resources
<i>Coasts and Seas</i>	Protection and management of coastal resources and processes
Supporting Themes	Description
<i>Understanding and Participation</i>	Information accessibility, community understanding and partnership development in resource and conservation management programs
<i>Integrated Planning and Coordinated Management</i>	Integrated and coordinated approaches to planning and implementing management programs

For each theme, the NRMS identifies:

- A goal;
- For each goal a range of *desired outcomes* have been determined.
- In order to achieve those outcomes *strategies* are identified.
- A range of specific *actions* will implement each of these strategies.

Descriptions of such actions are outlined in part C.

4.2 Caring for Biodiversity

Our regional goal for biodiversity is:

To identify, protect, restore and sustainably manage the biological diversity of SEQ

Desired outcomes associated with this goal are:

Full suite of ecological values within SEQ is protected, maintained and restored within a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system and across the landscape.

Knowledge, understanding and management of biodiversity is improved and more fully integrated into government decision making processes, with all stakeholders accepting and sharing responsibility for caring for and maintaining the region's biodiversity.

The conservation status of threatened species and regional ecosystems in SEQ is maintained or improved, with emphasis being placed on minimising or avoiding processes that threaten the biodiversity of the region.

Sustainable management of the reserve and regional landscape system is demonstrated and effective corridors are established between the reserved lands and habitat remnants.

Four *key strategies* have been identified to achieve the desired outcomes

- B1 Gather, research, analyse and integrate data related to biological diversity**
- B2 Foster and encourage community/government involvement and networking in the protection, management and restoration of biodiversity**
- B3 Encourage the use of voluntary land use rights (or property rights) mechanisms and appropriate regulatory strategies**
- B4 Identify and implement effective monitoring and reporting strategies to help assess and better manage the region's biodiversity**

4.3 Caring for our Water

Our regional goal for caring for water is:

To ensure the catchments and waterways of SEQ maintain a healthy ecological system and provide an adequate and sustainable supply of clean water to support the needs of the region.

Desired outcomes associated with this goal are:

Water quality and the ecological health of all waterways are sustainably managed, maintained and improved for the mutual benefit of people, flora and fauna.

Instream values and resources are managed and protected.

Cultural and social values are an integral consideration in water care and water management, with effective solutions arising from community understanding and ownership of problems.

Demands on water availability and use are equitably managed for the mutual benefit of people, flora and fauna.

Three key strategies have been identified to achieve these desired outcomes:

- W1 Develop and implement policies, plans, practices and standards for:**
- (a) sustainable domestic and industrial wastewater treatment in the region;
 - (b) sustainable land use and improved water quality within the SEQ region;
 - (c) transport operations that impact on water supplies;
 - (d) managing impoundment release patterns and flood risk to minimise;
 - (e) water extraction, improving the efficiencies of water use in agriculture, industry and urban areas and establish environmental flow objectives and criteria for waterways; and
 - (f) urban stormwater management, and develop plans for existing and new areas.
- W2 Protect, manage and restore riparian corridors, including streambank management and marine areas**
- W3 Foster and encourage community involvement and networking in water resource management.**

4.4 **Caring for our Land**

Our regional goal for land is:

To identify, protect, restore and sustainably manage the land resources of SEQ.

Desired outcomes associated with this goal are:

Regionally significant land resources identified and protected for their preferred use through appropriate planning schemes.

Resource planning and decision making based on reliable, land resource information and on sound, sustainable economic principles.

Land resources managed wisely through the adoption of integrated planning and management.

Land degradation and its associated impacts minimised through adoption of Best Management Practice by all stakeholders

Three *key strategies* have been identified to achieve these desired outcomes.

- L1 Develop a comprehensive inventory and assessment of land resources in the region;**
- L2 Develop and promote the adoption of plans for sustainable land use management and conservation; and**
- L3 Develop and promote Best Practice for the wise use and management of land resources**

4.5 *Caring for our Coasts and Seas*

Our regional goal for coasts and seas is:

To identify, protect, rehabilitate and sustainably manage the coastal and marine ecosystems, processes and physical features of SEQ.

Desired outcomes associated with this goal are:

Integrated management and coordination of the coastal zone, particularly with regard to key natural resource issues

Public uses and activities within the coastal zone are managed in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development

Natural coastal ecosystems and resources are protected and enhanced

Improved water quality in marine and estuarine environments

Four *key strategies* have been identified to achieve the desired outcomes

- C1 Restore, maintain and enhance the biological diversity of coastal ecosystems**
- C2 Protect, manage and restore coastal wetlands so that their natural, cultural and economic values are maintained**
- C3 Manage coastal development and land use activities and processes in accordance with the principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD), especially in terms of acid sulfate soil management**
- C4 Manage public access to the coast from both land and sea so that ecological processes are sustained**

4.6 Community Understanding and Participation

Our regional goal for understanding and participation is:

To have a well-informed and motivated SEQ community, actively participating in, promoting and practising sustainable natural resource management.

Desired outcomes associated with this goal are:

Resources and information are readily accessible to all members of the community

Educative components are integrated into the use and management of natural resources

Understanding, commitment and participation is fostered through cooperation, collaboration and partnering between stakeholders

Opportunities are provided for building and improving the capacity of the community to understand and become involved in natural resource management

Four *key strategies* have been identified to achieve the desired outcomes

- U1 Identify stakeholder needs and improve access to information**
- U2 Facilitate and evaluate education activities/programs, and incorporate into all natural resource management projects**
- U3 Facilitate and resource effective partnerships and networks to address identified natural resource management priorities**
- U4 Enhance the natural resource management skills base of stake holders**

4.7 Integrated Planning and Coordinated Management

Our regional goal for Integrated Planning and Coordinated Management is:

To integrate and coordinated the protection, equitable allocation and sustainable use and management of the natural resources of SEQ.

Desired outcomes associated with this goal are:

Improved coordination and integration of natural resource management assessment, planning and management

Catchment Plans developed and implemented for all catchments

Natural resource management integrated in Local Government corporate plans, local laws and statutory plans

The performance of natural resource management policies, plans, strategies and actions is monitored and reported

Four *key strategies* have been identified to achieve the desired outcomes

- P1 Develop and implement regulatory and administrative arrangements aimed to improve coordination and integration of natural resource matters**
- P2 Develop and implement integrated catchment management plans**
- P3 Integrate natural resource management in Local Government corporate plans, local laws and strategy plans**
- P4 Undertake monitoring and reporting of natural resource condition and trend**

5.0 Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the NRMS

The policy direction and principles of the NRMS identified in Part A may be implemented through the allocation of NHT funding and through informing complementary initiatives and strategies relating to natural resource management matters. The actions identified in parts B and C may be implemented through a number of avenues. These include NHT funded projects as well as the sectoral strategies under the RFGM, the core business of State and local government agencies, the implementation of IPA planning schemes and other on-ground activities of landcare, catchment management and other community groups.

Monitoring the implementation of the actions allows documentation of their effects on the status of the natural resource environment (Figure 3). Evaluating these results provides the opportunity for the NRMS to be refined and updated in response to these impacts. This may result in a change of priority issues, or an alteration of methods in response to new information or technologies. It is also essential to have a feedback loop which allows the information gathered from these activities to be distributed to other plans/organisations, and provide the opportunity for information to be fed into the NRMS monitoring and review process.

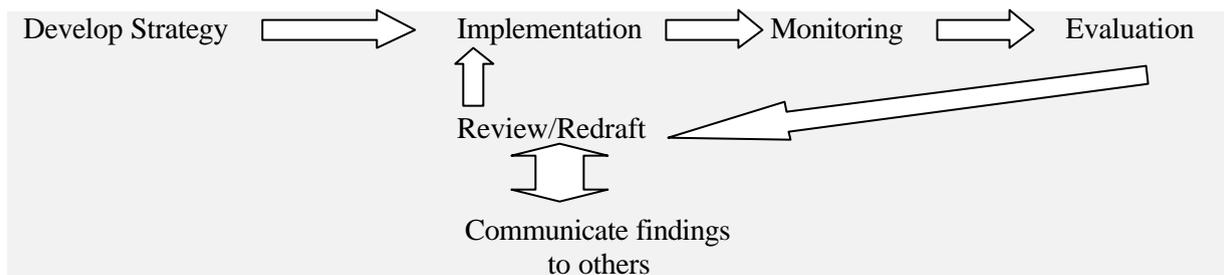


Figure 3: Implementation, monitoring, feedback and review process

There are three components to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NRMS. These are:

1. The implementation of NRMS strategies and actions by all participants;
2. The monitoring and evaluation of the NRMS policy direction and principles (Part A) by the RSG; and
3. Maintaining the relevance and currency of the NRMS action plan components (Parts B and C).

5.1 **How to determine our overall regional priorities**

Fulfilling the vision for South East Queensland requires that specific outcomes be achieved for each theme and for the strategies under each theme (see section 4.0).

Under each of the strategies, a number of actions have been identified. These actions have been prioritised in relation to the degree to which they:

- support the vision, goal and strategy;
- progress toward the desired outcome;
- integrate a number of themes;
- involve maximum community participation/partnership arrangements; and
- are consistent with NHT guidelines and other natural resource management planning documents.

Several dimensions influence the priorities. High priority actions are:

- a) ***inherently important*** in achieving natural resource management goals as outlined in this strategy's themes;
- b) ***time sensitive*** ie. other projects are dependent on the completion of the subject project, or are urgently required to arrest or reverse damaging processes; and/or
- c) ***opportunity-driven*** ie. those which can capitalise on local initiative and enthusiasm, and those where critical resources are immediately available.

Some actions will have priorities that may combine more than one of these elements.

Priority actions are highlighted under each theme in the Catchment Priorities (Part B) and Action Plan (Part C).

5.2 The Implementation of NRMS strategies and actions

Once actions and priorities have been identified, the next phase is the coordinated and effective implementation of these actions.

5.2.1 Who is involved?

Community groups and organisations

The NRMS has been developed through wide input by the South East Queensland community. The strategy and its associated actions are designed to provide direction for community groups and organisations to implement on-ground activities. The goals of the NRMS will be achieved through all participants addressing the regional priorities identified, and working together to achieve the agreed vision for South East Queensland.

Local government

Local government has an essential role to play in implementing actions identified in the strategy. IPA planning schemes are the primary mechanism for local government to deliver natural resource management outcomes. The NRMS can assist this process by providing valuable information regarding regional natural resource management issues and priorities, and by assisting local government to work with community groups and other organisations to address these priorities.

State government

The NRMS will also provide the State government agencies with information regarding the community's priorities for natural resource management in the region. It will also be a valuable reference document for listing past and current NHT projects and other information useful in managing the region's natural resources.

Industry

The NRMS will be available to industries in South East Queensland and will be a valuable reference to the issues and priority actions for South East Queensland. The information contained within the NRMS may guide the various industries in directing their planning towards the priority actions of the NRMS.

Partnerships

At the most fundamental level, it will be the partnerships that emerge between the diverse groups working in the environment in the South East Queensland community that will ultimately provide the basis for successfully achieving the NRMS vision for the region.

5.3 The implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NRMS

5.3.1 The role of the RSG

The implementation of the NRMS will be monitored by the RSG or its successor in South East Queensland. The RSG is currently responsible for directing the development of the NRMS, and promoting its use and raising awareness among the diverse stakeholder groups in South East Queensland. Once the strategy is endorsed, the role of the RSG may evolve to address and fulfil the implementation and review process.

5.3.2 Monitoring the NRMS

Monitoring the NRMS will cover two areas:

- monitor the short and long term effects of the actions on the SEQ natural resource environment through feedback from state and local government, catchment groups and other organisations, etc; and
- monitor the performance of the strategy itself through comments regarding usefulness, usability, format, content, and updates of current activities from the above groups.

5.3.3 Evaluating the NRMS

Once monitoring has been undertaken, the RSG will assess the results against the roles, goals and strategies of the NRMS, and also take into account new information, technologies and methods. The NRMS will be updated, where necessary.

5.3.4 Reviewing the NRMS

The general direction and more 'strategic' elements of the NRMS (Part A) will need to be reviewed every three to five years. The Action Plan components (Parts B and C), will require more regular maintenance to ensure they reflect project achievements, the most recent advances in information availability and changes in priority setting (Table 3). It is anticipated that input will be received on a routine basis from project groups, the work of Catchment Management Committees, Landcare groups, industry and local government, and planning processes to allow these components of the NRMS to be regularly updated. As the longer-term role of the RSG (or its successor) is established, the precise mechanisms for handling this information will be developed.

Table 3: Review and maintenance of the NRMS

Section	Review	When?
Part A	'Strategic Planning' component –	3-5 years
Section	Continual maintenance	When?
Part B	Catchment information	ongoing
Part C	Action planning component	ongoing

GLOSSARY

Ballast	Weight or heavy material carried by ships for ensuring stability, to avoid capsizing, and to ensure effective movement in the water.
Biodiversity (Biological diversity)	The natural diversity of native wildlife (plant and animal), together with the environmental conditions necessary for their survival. It has four components: regional diversity; ecosystem diversity; species diversity; and genetic diversity (<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>)
Corridors	A strip of bushland that provides a link between two habitats.
Desired outcomes	These state the specific matters to be achieved in order to realise the goal
Ecological Sustainability	A balance that integrates – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) protection of ecological processes and natural systems at local, regional, State and wider levels; and b) economic development; and c) maintenance of the cultural, economic, physical and social wellbeing of people and communities².
Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)	Using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes on which life depends are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased.
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal, fungal, and micro-organism communities and the associated non-living environment interacting as an ecological unit (<i>National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity 1996</i>).
Goal	These describe the long term, generally desired state for that theme
Guidelines for developing regional strategies	A Department of Natural Resources document designed to assist Regional Strategy Groups develop strategies that will improve natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and sustainable production at a regional level. The guidelines explain the steps necessary for a strategy to be endorsed by the Natural Heritage Committee of Ministers (NHCM), through the LCMC and to meet the Commonwealth Natural Heritage Trust requirements for funding.
Hydrology	Science dealing with the properties and geographical distribution of water on the land or under the earth's surface (<i>State of the Environment Report 1998</i>).
Integrated Planning Act 1997 (IPA)	An Act for a framework to integrate planning and development assessment so that development and its effects are managed in a way that is ecologically sustainable, and for related purposes ³ .
Landcare and Catchment Management Council (LCMC)	Established in 1997, the LCMC provides strategic advice to the Minister for Natural Resources on landcare and catchment management in Queensland, and provides a link between community organisations and government. It is also responsible for providing advice and strategic direction for the operation, management, administration, monitoring and evaluation of the NHT in Queensland.

² From IPA 1997

³ From IPA 1997

LWRRDC	The <i>Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation</i> . Based in Canberra, the LWRRDC's mission is to establish and manage well-targeted and integrated research and development programs in key areas of natural resource management. It provides funding for innovative projects under three broad areas - productive and sustainable land use systems, sustaining vegetation in the landscape, and sustainable management of rivers and water resources.
Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)	<p>A partnership between the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to conserve, repair and replenish Australia's environment and natural resources. Created in 1996, the Trust will invest \$1.25 billion in Australia's natural heritage over its first five years.</p> <p>Applicants are required to fill out a detailed application stating the objectives, workplan, outputs, monitoring and evaluation techniques, budget and maintenance of their projects. In particular, applicants must describe the strategic value of their project. That is, how their projected activities fulfil actions or recommendations in planning documents at regional, catchment and local levels. In this regard, the NRMS provides a framework and context within which NHT applicants can develop projects based on prioritised nature conservation issues in the Moreton Region. DNR, EPA and GAQ extension staff support the development of such projects.</p>
Natural resource management	The management of natural resources such as biodiversity, land, and water.
Pathogens	Organisms that cause disease.
QASSMAC	Queensland Acid Sulfate Soils Management Advisory Committee
Ramsar Convention	The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat itself and the Recommendations and Resolutions from all Conferences of Contracting Parties. The Convention requires that all Contracting Parties shall ensure that those responsible at all levels for wetlands management shall be informed of, and take into consideration, recommendations of such Conferences concerning the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands and their flora and fauna.
Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC)	The body with the primary responsibility for the implementation, monitoring and review of the RFGM ⁴ .
Regional Framework for Growth Management (RFGM)	The RFGM has been endorsed by State Cabinet as the primary regional planning strategy for South East Queensland. It includes a number of sector strategies for planning and managing both the demands placed upon the region arising from high population growth, and the need to conserve and manage our natural environment and resources.
Regional Strategy Group (RSG)	A group representing resource management industries, local and state governments, conservation, indigenous and other key community groups whose role is to establish linkages with, and gain input from, key community stakeholders in the development of natural resource management strategies.
Restoration/rehabilitation	Returning existing habitats to a known past state or to an approximation of the natural condition by repairing degradation, by removing introduced species, or by reinstating species and

⁴ The SEQ RFGM 1998

	habitat (Australian Natural Heritage Charter 1996).
Riparian vegetation	Vegetation that is found along river or stream banks. Riparian zones are important sources of organic matter and shading, act as temperature regulators, and filter runoff water before it enters a stream (Waterways Management Plan 1998).
Strategy	An approach that gives direction to the achievement of desired outcomes.
Water Allocation Management Plans (WAMPs)	Through the Department of Natural Resources, the Water Allocation and Management Planning process will provide a framework for improved allocation and planning of Queensland's water resources. WAMPs adopt an integrated approach, which is based on the best available ecological, social and economic data, and involves extensive basin-wide hydrologic analysis and community consultation.

Abbreviations

ANZECC	Australia and New Zealand Environmental Coordinating Committee
WIP	Water Infrastructure Plan
IPA	Integrated Planning Act (1997)
LCMC	Landcare and Catchment Management Council
LWRRDC	Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation
NHT	Natural Heritage Trust
NORSROC	Northern Regional Organisation of Councils
NRMS	Natural Resource Management Strategy SEQ
QASSMAC	Queensland Acid Sulfate Soils Management Association Committee
QFMA	Queensland Management Fisheries Authority
RCC	Regional Coordinating Committee
RFGM	Regional Framework for Growth Management
RSG	Regional Strategy Group
RWQMS	Regional Water Quality Management Strategy
SEQROC	South East Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils
SEQWB	The South East Queensland Water Board
SLATS	The Statewide Landcover and Trees Study
SouthROC	Southern Regional Organisation of Councils
SoE	State of Environment
SQIDS	Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices
WIP	Water Infrastructure Plan
QPWS	Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Part A - Appendix One - Regional Strategy Group members

Name	Representation	Contact
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Part A – Appendix Two – NRMS Area

