

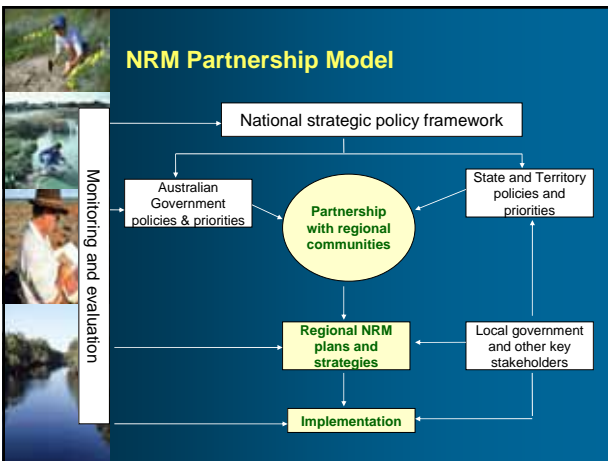


The Regional Approach to Natural Resource Management

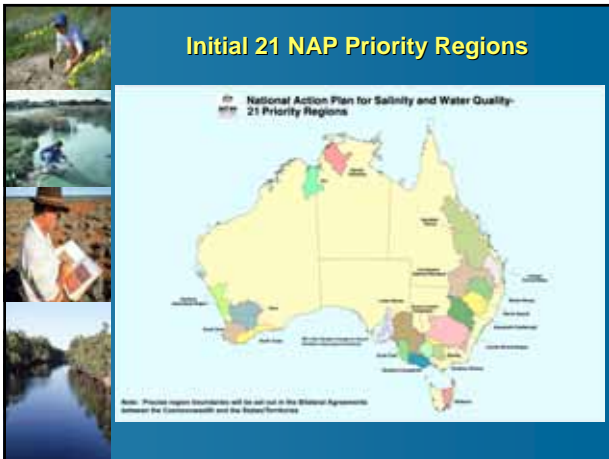
An Australian Government Perspective

- ### Major NRM Initiatives
- Decade of Landcare- commenced mid 1980s
 - Murray Darling Basin Initiative
 - Natural Heritage Trust- first phase (1996-07 to 2000-01) - \$1.5bn
 - National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (2000-01 to 2007-08) - \$1.4bn
 - Natural Heritage Trust Extension (2001-02 to 2007-08)- \$1.3bn

- ### Improving NRM - what is needed?
- Integrated action at catchment / landscape scale
 - Landholders / regional communities best placed to develop and implement strategies with the necessary technical and financial support
 - Effort and investments needs to be more strategic with targets clearly identified
 - Improved management framework



- ### Regional Delivery National Action Plan Natural Heritage Trust
- Invest in good science and information
 - Understand how natural systems work to be able to intervene at the appropriate location and scale
 - Australian Government and the State as joint investors
 - Build community capacity
 - Work with the community to build the strategic context for investments - plans and targets
 - Empower community action
 - Invest to achieve targets
 - Be able to tell the story of projected success
 - Be able to validate through monitoring outcomes



Progress with Regional NRM

Nationally -57 regions, 42 plans accredited, 35 first round and 12 second round investment strategies approved

Qld - 12 plans accredited or recommended for accreditation-11 investment strategies approved or recommended for approval

Nationally - NAP total of around \$500m in jointly funded approvals to March 2005
 - NHT Australian Government investing around \$160m through regions in 2004-05



Science – a key part of the success of the NAP and NHT

- know which are the important problems
- system understanding
- invest where we can get a good return
- prioritise
- must identify expected outcomes of investments
- learn from early results
- assess landscape outcomes

If it ain't broke don't fix it
 -know which are the important problems

We can't fix it if we don't know how it works
 -system understanding

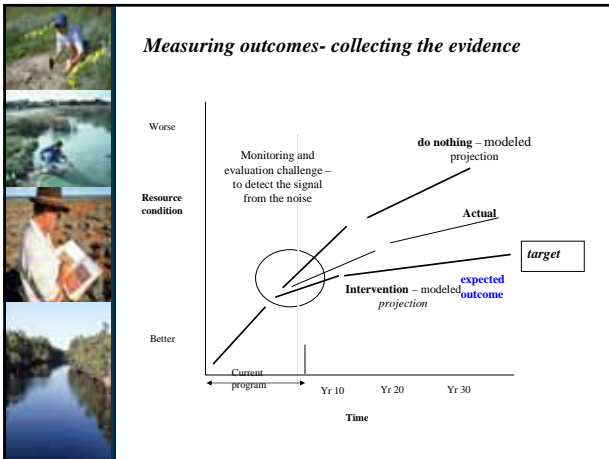
Bang for the buck
 -invest where we can get a good return

We can't do it everywhere
 -prioritise

It's gunna
 -must identify expected outcomes of investments

Are we on the right track?
 -learn from early results

Have we got a return?
 -assess landscape outcomes



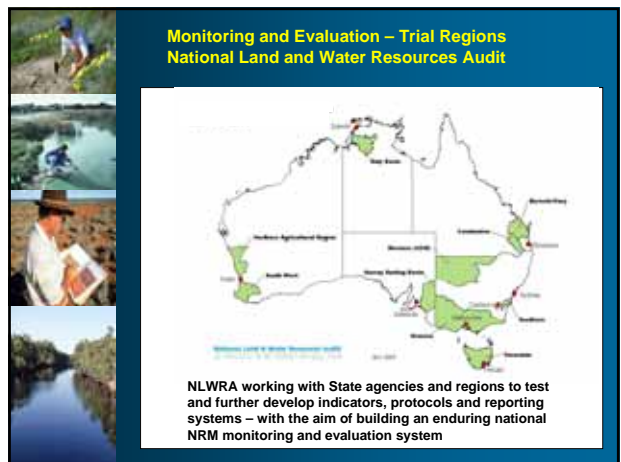
- ### Matters for target – National Standards and Targets Framework
- Prescribed indicators and protocols for each matter for target- National Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- Matters for target
- Land salinity
 - Soil condition
 - Native vegetation communities' integrity
 - Inland aquatic ecosystems integrity (rivers and other wetlands)
 - Estuarine, coastal and marine habitats integrity
 - Nutrients in aquatic environments
 - Turbidity / suspended particulate matter in

Resource Condition Targets

(Extracts from Queensland Regional NRM Plans)

Fitzroy Basin
Land – Retain a minimum of 30% cover on 95% of all land in the region within 15 years (minimum 30% cover on 50% of all land within 5 years, 75% of all land within 10years, and 95% of all land within 15 years.) One of the Management Action Targets that contribute to this is 'adoption of management systems that increase ground cover (i.e. rotational grazing, CTF) by an additional 500 landowners within 5 years.'

Desert Channels
Land - Impact of priority weeds and feral animals on the land, water and biodiversity assets of the region contained (no further spread) by 2010 and reduced by 2015. One of the seven Management Action Targets established to contribute to this is '100% control of priority weeds and feral animal outbreaks in the region is achieved within 2 years of identification.'



- ### Some among many issues/challenges
- turning money and strategies into successful implementation on the ground
 - data, science, baselines, designing interventions, setting priorities, measuring outcomes
 - regional body models, governance, performance, managing risk
 - co-investment beyond the NAP/NHT by community governments and industry, growing the business
 - regional NRM plans / other planning regimes
 - securing this regional approach as the basis of the next generation of NRM programs

