

SECTION 5

Additional resources



5.1 Glossary

Actively participate—Where a group or individual is fully consulted on the development and direction of an investment proposal and is directly involved in that project's implementation and decision making process.

Adequate—Under the National Reserve System, 'adequate' refers to how much of each ecosystem should be included within a protected area network in order to provide ecological viability, resilience and integrity of populations, species and communities.

Australian Weeds Strategy—The Australian Weeds Strategy (first developed in 1997 as the National Weeds Strategy) provides a framework to establish consistent guidance for all parties, and identifies priorities for weed management across the nation with the aim of minimising the impact of weeds on Australia's environmental, economic and social assets.

Bioregions—Large areas having similar climate, geology, hydrology, landform, soils and native ecosystems such as the Australian Alps, the Nullarbor Plain or the Wet Tropics. Under-represented bioregions are those bioregions that have less than 10 per cent of their area protected in reserves.

Caring for our Country—Caring for our Country is an Australian Government initiative that seeks to achieve an environment that is healthy, better protected, well-managed, resilient, and provides essential ecosystem services in a changing climate.

Closing the Gap—The Australian Government, together with the states and territories through COAG, has set specific and ambitious targets to close the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. COAG has identified targets and priority areas where action is required to affect positive life improvement through outcomes that are interconnected and linked to early childhood, schooling, healthy homes, safe communities, health, economic participation and governance and leadership.

Coastal environments—Include intertidal zones, beaches, dune systems, estuaries and coastal wetlands, island and reefs and the associated coastal vegetation. They also include coastal waters within three nautical miles from the coast and those areas immediately landwards of the coastal waters where there are processes or activities that affect the coast and its values.

Coastal hotspot—A coastal aquatic ecosystem with high ecological, social, cultural and/or recreational values which encompasses one or more matters of national environmental significance, is under pressure from the impacts of population growth and declining or poor water quality and has an existing water quality improvement plan consistent with the national Framework for Marine and Estuarine Water Quality Protection.

Community—A group of people who live in the same area or have shared interests.

Comprehensive—Under the National Reserve System, 'comprehensive' refers to the inclusion within protected areas of samples of all the ecosystems discernable at a regional scale.

Condition of native vegetation—The capacity to support the full range of native species that might be expected to use a stand of vegetation of a particular type under natural circumstances. Any native vegetation patch can be assessed relative to the average characteristics of a mature and long-undisturbed patch of the same vegetation type.

Connectivity—The location and spatial distribution of natural areas in the landscape to provide species and populations with access to resources (food, breeding sites and shelter), increase habitat availability and facilitate population processes (dispersal, migration, expansion and contraction) and enable ecological processes (evolution, water, fire and nutrients). In fragmented landscapes, connectivity is most likely to occur where there are a series of close habitat areas arranged like ‘stepping stones’.

Core infestation—A situation where a weed has a well-established self-regenerating population and the risk of further establishment is high.

Cost sharing—The sharing of the cost between the Australian Government and individuals, groups, businesses and industry, organisations, governments and the general community.

Devolved grants—Where the granting of Caring for our Country funds is transferred from the Australian Government to be managed by another party.

Ecological character—The structure and inter-relationships between the biological, chemical and physical components of a wetland. These derive from the interactions of individual processes, functions, attributes and values of the ecosystem(s).

Ecological character description (ECD)—A description of a wetland at a given point in time, which can be used to assess change in the ecological character of these sites. It provides information about the environmental features and services of the site. Ecological character descriptions are prepared using the National Framework and Guidance for Describing the Ecological Character of Australia’s Ramsar Wetlands and are endorsed by the Australian Government.

Ecological communities—Interacting organisms living together in specific habitat and listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*.

Ecosystem—A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment. Ecosystems are identified at various scales.

Ecosystem services—The benefits people obtain from ecosystems.

Endemic species—Unique species not naturally found elsewhere.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)—The Australian Government’s central piece of environmental legislation. It provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places. The Act focuses Australian Government interests on the protection of matters of national environmental significance, with the states and territories having responsibility for matters of state and local significance.

Existing commitments—Commitments entered into through funding of multi-year projects and election commitments.

Further information—Optional information sources that may be of interest to the proponent when they are completing their application.

High conservation value aquatic ecosystem (HCVAE)—Includes rivers, wetlands, floodplains, lakes, inland saline ecosystems, groundwater dependent ecosystems and estuaries, but do not include the marine environment. HCVAEs are identified based on criteria relating to international recognition, diversity, distinctiveness, vital habitat, evolutionary history, naturalness and representativeness.

High quality native vegetation—Vegetation made up primarily of the native species and structural components that would be expected in a mature and long-undisturbed stand of the vegetation type concerned.

Indigenous partnership—Where one or more project partners are Indigenous and they actively participate in decision making and delivery of Caring for our Country targets and outcomes.

Investment scope—A description of what can be funded by the Australian Government through Caring for our Country.

Key information—Proponents must refer to this information before completing their application.

Landscape scale—A scale of planning, implementation or reporting which typically incorporates areas larger than individual sites, properties or habitats, and often includes a mix of different vegetation types and landforms, ranging across several sub-catchments or environmental domains.

Landscape scale projects—Projects which involve groups of landholders which support the development of cross property biodiversity conservation plans and management arrangements.

Marine environments—Includes the oceans, seas, bays, islands, reefs, seabeds and other marine habitats stretching from three to 200 nautical miles from the coast.

Matters of national environmental significance—Nationally or internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places as defined under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*.

Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI)—An approach that is iterative and integrative and aims to result in learning and adaptive management.

National priority areas—The six areas which Caring for our Country is focused upon to achieve its strategic goal. These six areas are: National Reserve System; biodiversity and natural icons; coastal environments and critical aquatic habitats; sustainable farm practices; natural resource management in northern and remote Australia; and community, skills, knowledge and engagement.

Natural resource management—The sustainable management of Australia's natural resources (our land, water, marine and biological systems) to ensure our ongoing social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

On-ground—Implementation of practical action at a physical project site.

Outlier infestation—An isolated infestation or clump of species, separate from the core infestation.

Partnership—A cooperation of different groups with complementary skills and interests who will work together to more effectively deliver projects.

Pest animal—Any animal having, or with the potential to have, an adverse economic, environmental or social impact.

Peri-urban—Peri-urban properties are those based on the perimeter of urban areas (hence the term 'peri') and can range from around five to 100 acres in size. These zones have often had a long history of agricultural and horticultural use and land settlement, and in some cases this means that natural resources have been degraded.

Program logic—The rationale behind a program. What are understood to be the cause-and-effect relationships between program activities, outputs, intermediate outcomes and longer-term desired outcomes. Usually represented as a diagram or matrix, program logic shows a series of expected consequences, not just a sequence of events. It thus facilitates planning, execution and evaluation of an intervention (adapted from Dart and Davies 2003 and OECD 2002).

Ramsar—An intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Regional natural resource management (NRM) organisations—The identified regional organisations in the 56 NRM regions across Australia, also known as regional NRM bodies, NRM groups or in some cases, Catchment Management Authorities. These are the organisations that undertake to plan, coordinate and support natural resource management at the regional level and are listed on the Caring for our Country website at www.nrm.gov.au.

Representative—Under the National Reserve System, 'representative' is comprehensiveness considered at a finer scale (Interim Bio-geographic Regionalisation of Australia subregion), and infers that the variability within ecosystems is sampled within the reserve system.

Resilience—The capacity of an ecosystem to tolerate disturbance without collapsing into a qualitatively different state that is controlled by a different set of processes. A resilient ecosystem can withstand shocks and rebuild itself when necessary. Resilience in social systems has the added capacity of humans to anticipate and plan for the future.

Threats—Activities or processes that have caused, are causing or may cause the destruction, degradation and/or impairment to a site, habitat or ecosystem.

Traditional ecological knowledge—Refers to a cumulative body of knowledge, know-how, practices and representations maintained and developed by Indigenous peoples with extended histories of interaction with the natural environment. These sophisticated sets of understandings, interpretations and meanings are part and parcel of a cultural complex that encompasses language, naming and classification systems, resource use practices, ritual, spirituality and worldview.

Value for money—Demonstrates that the proposed methodology is the most cost-effective option and that all costs in a project proposal are justified and reasonable.

Water for the Future—The Australian Government's \$12.9 billion national plan for water. Under Water for the Future, the government has allocated \$3.1 billion to purchase water in the Murray–Darling Basin over 10 years.

Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)—Provides an ecosystem based approach to integrated water cycle management supported by science. WQIPs are designed to address the key priority threats to water quality and environmental flows and deliver significant reductions in the discharge of pollutants to an agreed aquatic ecosystem.

Weed—A plant that requires some form of action to reduce its effects on the economy, the environment, human health and amenity.

Weeds of National Significance—Weeds of National Significance are 20 weed species agreed by the Australian and all state and territory governments. They are the priority species for sustained nationally coordinated action under the Australian Weeds Strategy.

World Heritage Areas (WHA)—World Heritage Areas are each listed for one or more specific outstanding universal values and represent the best examples of natural and cultural places in the world. These areas transcend national identities and include outstanding examples of major stages of the earth's ecological, biological or geological processes, or contain important and significant natural habitats for biodiversity conservation, or are associated with unique, living cultural traditions.

Youth—People who are between 15 and 30 years of age.

5.2 Acronyms

CEO—Chief executive officer

COAG—Council of Australian Government

ECD—Ecological character description

EPBC—*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)*

GBRMPA—Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

HCVAE—High conservation value aquatic ecosystem

IBRA—Interim Bio-geographic Regionalisation of Australia

IPA—Indigenous Protected Areas

MCA—Multiple criteria analysis

MERI—Monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement

NES—Matters of national environmental significance

NGO—Non-government organisation

NRM—Natural resource management

NRS—National Reserve System

TRaCK—Tropical Rivers and Coastal Knowledge

WHA—World Heritage Area

WONS—Weeds of National Significance

WQIP—Water Quality Improvement Plan

5.3 Appendix

Supporting maps available on the **Caring for our Country** website at www.nrm.gov.au

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