



2 Performance summary

This Chapter

This chapter provides a summary of the performance of the National Action Plan (NAP) and the regional component of the Natural Heritage Trust (the Trust) for the performance year to 31 March 2004. In particular, the chapter summarises progress in the development of partnerships that underpin the program, an overall investment summary and specific investment summaries for foundation funding, priority actions, regional investments and multilateral activities.

Sections

2.1	Progress in partnerships	41
2.2	Investment summary - Overall	43
	Investments	43
	Achievements	45
2.3	Investment Summary - Foundation funding	48
	Investments	48
	Achievements	48
2.4	Investment summary - Priority action projects	51
	Investments	51
	Achievements	53
2.5	Investment summary - Regional strategies	56
	Investments	56
	Achievements	57
2.6	Investment summary - State-wide /multi-regional projects	59
	Investments	59
	Achievements	60
2.7	Investment summary - Regional competitive projects	62
	Investment	62
	Achievements	62
2.8	Investment summary - Multi-lateral projects	63
	Investments	63
	Achievements	63

Glossary

2.1 PROGRESS IN PARTNERSHIPS

Following the signing of bilateral agreements for the National Action Plan (NAP) and the regional component of the Natural Heritage Trust (the Trust), attention has been focused on developing regional plans and investment strategies. To achieve accreditation, regional plans must meet the accreditation criteria agreed to by all Australian governments. These criteria have been developed to ensure that plans will help deliver program outcomes. Developing the plans has required the involvement of all stakeholders to ensure accredited plans have community support.

Regional plans have been accredited and investment strategies have been approved for regions in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria. Work is underway in the other States and Territories. In most cases, the remaining regions are expected to have accredited plans and approved investment strategies in place by December 2004. Table 2.1.1 provides a summary of regional partnership arrangements to date.

Table 2.1.1 Summary of partnership arrangements to 30 June 2004

NRM Region	Administrative Body	Plan accreditation date	Investment package approval date
Australian Capital Territory			
Australian Capital Territory	ACT Natural Resource Management Board	May-04	Jun-04
New South Wales			
Border Rivers - Gwydir	Border Rivers - Gwydir Catchment Management Authority	Feb-04	Feb-04
Central West	Central West Catchment Management Authority	Dec-03	Feb-04
Hawkesbury Nepean	Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment Management Authority	Feb-04	Apr-04
Hunter - Central Rivers	Hunter - Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Dec-03	Feb-04
Lachlan	Lachlan Catchment Management Authority	Dec-03	Feb-04
Lower Murray	Lower Murray Darling Catchment Management Authority	Sep-03	Feb-04
Murray	Murray Catchment Management Authority	Sep-03	Feb-04
Murrumbidgee	Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority	Sep-03	Feb-04
Namoi	Namoi Catchment Management Authority	Dec-03	Feb-04
Northern Rivers	Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Dec-03	Feb-04
Southern Rivers	Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority	Jan-04	Feb-04
Sydney Metro	Sydney Metro Catchment Management Authority	Mar-04	May-04
Western	Western Catchment Management Authority	Jul-03	Feb-04
Northern Territory			
Northern Territory	Landcare Council of the Northern Territory	-	-
Queensland			
Border Rivers - Balonne Maranoa	Queensland Murray Darling Committee Incorporated	-	-
Burdekin	Burdekin Dry Tropics Group Incorporated	-	-
Burnett Mary	Burnett Mary Regional Group for Natural Resource Management Incorporated	-	-
Cape York	Cape York Regional Advisory Group and Cape York - Northern Gulf Regional Implementation Group	-	-
Condamine	Condamine Catchment Natural Resource Management Corporation Limited	-	-
Desert Channels	Desert Channels Group	-	-
Fitzroy	Fitzroy Basin Association Incorporated	-	-
Mackay Whitsunday	Mackay Whitsunday Regional Strategy Group	-	-
Northern Gulf	Northern Gulf Resource Management Group and Cape York - Northern Gulf Regional Implementation Group	-	-

NRM Region	Administrative Body	Plan accreditation date	Investment package approval date
South East Queensland	South East Queensland Western Catchments Group and Natural Resource Management South East Queensland Incorporated	-	-
South West	South West Natural Resource Management Group and Queensland Murray Darling Committee Incorporated	-	-
Southern Gulf	Southern Gulf Regional Strategy Group	-	-
Torres Strait	Torres Strait Group	-	-
Wet Tropics	Wet Tropics Natural Resource Management Board	-	-
South Australia			
Aboriginal Lands	Aboriginal Lands Integrated Natural Resource Management Group	-	-
Eyre Peninsula	Eyre Peninsula Integrated Natural Resource Management Group	-	-
Kangaroo Island	Kangaroo Island Natural Resource Management Board	Oct-03	Jan-04
Mount Lofty Ranges	Mount Lofty and Greater Adelaide Integrated Natural Resource Management Group	Jul-03	Feb-04
Northern and Yorke Agricultural District	Northern and Yorke Agricultural District Integrated Natural Resource Management Committee Incorporated	Sep-03	Feb-04
Rangelands	Rangelands Integrated Natural Resource Management Group	-	-
SA Murray Darling Basin	SA Murray Darling Basin Integrated Natural Resource Management Group	Feb-04	Feb-04
South East	South East Natural Resource Consultative Committee	Jan-04	Jan-04
Tasmania			
North Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional Committee	-	-
North West	Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management Committee	-	-
South Tasmania	Southern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional Committee	-	-
Tasmanian NAP Region	Northern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional Committee and Southern Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Regional Committee (both acting through and with advice from the Joint NAP Working Group)	-	-
Victoria			
Corangamite	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Dec-03	Jan-04
East Gippsland	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority		
Glenelg-Hopkins	Glenelg-Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	Apr-03	Sep-03
Goulburn Broken	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Nov-03	Nov-03
Mallee	Mallee Catchment Management Authority	Jul-03	Sep-03
North Central	North Central Catchment Management Authority	Dec-03	Nov-03
North East	North East Catchment Management Authority	-	-
Port Phillip and Westernport	Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority	-	-
West Gippsland	West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	-	-
Wimmera	Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Dec-03	Nov-03
Western Australia			
Avon	Avon Catchments Council	-	-
Northern Agricultural Region	Northern Agricultural Region Catchments Council	-	-
Rangelands	Rangelands Natural Resource Management Board	-	-
South Coast	South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team	-	-
South West	South West Catchments Council	-	-
Swan	Swan Catchments Council	-	-

2.2 INVESTMENT SUMMARY - OVERALL

Investments

At the commencement of the NAP and the Trust, governments recognised that communities would require support to development plans and investment strategies that would be the long-term basis for program investment. It was also recognised that there were natural resource issues that required urgent attention.

Up to 30 June 2004, approximately \$44m has been allocated for foundation funding. This has provided support for regional groups to develop their regional plans. The range of activities supported by foundation funding has included support for target setting processes, developing evidence based investment tools and activities to support and improve community engagement.

To address urgent natural resource issues, approximately \$273m funding was provided to 30 June 2004 for priority action activities. These have included improved vegetation management, improved irrigation systems and on-ground activities to address a range of natural resource issues.

Up to 30 June 2004, 25 investment strategies were approved to address natural resource issues identified in the associated accredited regional plans. Approximately \$132m was allocated for these regional investments that focussed activity on improving long-term resource condition issues.

To meet the needs of stakeholder groups not fully addressed by these core funding streams, additional investments have been provided in a number of areas.

Where issues are more effectively addressed on a state-wide or multi-regional basis, \$54.8m has been invested during 2003-04 by both the NAP and the Trust to support activities which include resource assessment such as salinity mapping and ground water surveys, as well as the development and implementation of common planning frameworks, communication strategies and approaches to cross border issues.

The competitive regional component of the Trust was established to support higher-cost, large-scale, multi-year projects that will lead to significant improvements in the sustainable management of natural resources. During the 2003-04 year, approximately \$7.5m was provided to regions on a competitive basis to supplement the funds provided through the initial investment strategies.

In addition, the NAP has provided \$6.4m for multilateral activities to address natural resource issues on a broader scale. These activities included the National Market Based Instruments Pilots program, a study on salinity and water quality, a salinity mapping initiative and the NRM Community Forum.

A summary of the allocation and expenditure of these funds by the regional programs is shown in Table 2.2.1 and Table 2.2.2 respectively. Table 2.2.3 shows the distribution of funds from each funding stream across the States and Territories.

Table 2.2.1 Allocation of funds by funding streams within natural resource management programs*

Funding Stream	2003-04 Approvals (\$)		Total Approvals to June 2004 (\$)	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Foundation funding	2,914,684	4,154,790	22,996,060	21,055,021
Priority action	15,664,810	37,726,752	164,396,031	108,684,951
Regional investment	108,205,826	20,937,823	111,136,026	20,937,823
Additional investment	17,289,728	14,010,788	53,904,642	14,879,448
Total	144,075,048	76,830,153	352,432,759	165,557,243

* Figures reflect Australian Government and State/Territory Government approvals for NAP and only Australian Government approvals for the Trust. State/Territory Government cash and in-kind funding for the Trust is not included.

Table 2.2.2 Expenditure by funding streams within natural resource management programs

Funding stream	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Foundation funding	6,933,086	10,787,642	20,690,543	15,299,390	4,607,031	8,677,461	18,097,020	8,957,961
Priority action	35,017,073	41,247,756	108,454,917	67,095,405	32,887,919	34,577,732	71,586,763	37,416,257
Regional investment	63,423,896	11,545,009	66,354,096	11,545,009	21,997,197	3,119,772	22,913,011	3,119,772
Additional investment	34,407,447	7,671,519	46,101,713	7,948,307	12,993,771	464,853	16,043,180	464,853
Total	139,781,502	71,251,926	241,601,269	101,888,111	72,485,917	46,839,818	128,639,973	49,958,843

Table 2.2.3 Expenditure by funding streams within States and Territories

Funding stream	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Australian Capital Territory								
Priority action		1,063,000		1,063,000		1,063,000		1,063,000
Regional investment		13,500		13,500		13,500		13,500
Multi-lateral								
Additional investment		390,125		390,125		30,125		30,125
New South Wales								
Priority action	5,631,780	6,544,207	26,624,712	6,544,207	15,436,373	1,512,757	15,969,147	1,512,757
Regional investment	21,588,606	6,478,695	21,588,606	6,478,695				
Additional investment		177,000		177,000		177,000		177,000
Northern Territory								
Foundation funding		813,200		813,200		790,400		790,400
Priority action		1,203,562		1,203,562		946,108		946,108
Queensland								
Foundation funding	4,868,752	5,123,400	4,868,752	5,123,400	1,985,296	1,552,274	3,386,844	1,552,274
Priority action	18,384,614	10,003,697	18,384,614	10,003,697	3,600,076	5,064,185	3,600,076	5,064,185
Additional investment	32,574,970		32,574,970		9,325,276		9,325,276	
South Australia								
Foundation funding	1,070,879	1,019,400	2,788,818	1,019,400	754,168	893,275	2,412,066	893,275
Priority action	7,860,779	7,801,350	23,307,469	7,801,350	8,398,322	4,783,809	19,018,217	4,783,809
Tasmania								
Foundation funding	201,000	1,592,700	201,000	1,592,700	198,731	1,079,336	198,731	1,079,336
Priority action	3,139,900	1,755,005	3,139,900	1,755,005	785,381		992,502	
Additional investment		1,750,000		1,750,000				
Victoria								
Foundation funding			10,705,100	3,010,550	382,571	1,819,804	10,466,699	1,819,804
Priority action		6,161,500	36,998,222	25,850,950	4,667,767	12,628,938	32,006,821	15,467,463
Regional investment	41,835,290	5,052,814	44,765,490	5,052,814	21,997,197	3,106,272	22,913,011	3,106,272
Additional investment	1,832,477	5,124,200	13,526,743	5,124,200	3,668,495		6,717,904	
Western Australia								
Foundation funding	792,455	2,238,942	2,126,873	3,740,140	1,286,265	2,542,372	1,632,680	2,822,872
Priority action		6,715,435		12,873,634		8,578,935		8,578,935
Additional investment		230,194		506,982		257,728		257,728
Total	139,781,502	71,251,926	241,601,269	101,888,111	72,485,917	46,839,818	128,639,973	49,958,843

Achievements

To date the bulk of the regional programs investment has delivered foundation funding and priority actions. Summaries of the achievements of these funding streams are shown in the respective sections of this chapter. Funding through regional investment strategies based on accredited regional plans commenced in early 2004. The Regional strategies section of this chapter provides a summary of funding for regional strategies based on accredited regional plans to June 2004. In future, the increasing number of accredited plans and approved investment strategies mean that the bulk of new investment will occur through the investment strategies.

Funding for the types of activities supported by investments by the NAP and the Trust, is shown in Table 2.2.4.

Table 2.2.4 Funding for the types of activities supported by investments through the NAP and the Trust*

Activity type	2003-04 Approvals (\$)		Total Approvals to June 2004 (\$)	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Resource assessment	27,062,065	8,189,051	69,410,731	23,422,710
Planning	19,291,632	9,486,859	60,716,730	28,431,498
Capacity building	32,173,613	26,426,599	74,740,405	51,751,209
On-ground activities	65,547,738	32,727,644	147,564,893	61,951,826
Total	144,075,048	76,830,153	352,432,759	165,557,243

* Figures reflect Australian Government and State/Territory Government approvals for NAP and only Australian Government approvals for the Trust. State/Territory Government cash and in-kind funding for the Trust is not included.

The outputs, or products and services produced by these activities, are summarised in four tables according to the types of outputs described in Chapter 1. Summaries of the outputs related to resource assessment, planning, capacity building and on-ground activities are shown in Table 2.2.5, Table 2.2.6, Table 2.2.7 and Table 2.2.8 respectively.

Table 2.2.5 Resource assessment outputs related to investments by the NAP and the Trust

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT
Baseline, trend or condition studies for targets						
Number of sites monitored				31,311	1,354	
Number of studies undertaken				85	130	
Decision support tools						
Number models, information management systems and other decision support tools developed				1,404	72	1
Investigations (survey, inventory and mapping and data analysis)						
Number undertaken				994	1,117	
Area (hectares) surveyed				385,315,644	2,911,926	
Research and development studies						
Number undertaken				41	47	

Table 2.2.6 Planning outputs related to investments by the NAP and the Trust

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT
Improved practice codes or guidelines						
Number developed				33	84	
Integrated catchment or sub-catchment plans						
Number developed				66	88	9
Property management plans						
Number completed				1,893	260	
Species recovery plans and action statements						
Number developed				1	34	

Table 2.2.7 Capacity building outputs related to investments by the NAP and the Trust

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT
Awareness raising activities						
Number of demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums held	2,825	4,200	8	2,832	4,303	8
Number of participants in person-days at demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums	10,367	31,568		10,367	44,798	
Number of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products developed	5,167	3,160	159	5,170	3,165	159
Quantity of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products distributed	75,146	283,835	154	75,146	283,859	154
Number of media opportunities including websites developed	388	548	24	393	548	24
Facilitation motivation and support activities						
Number of active positions (FTE) supported				140	634	18
Number of community groups or projects assisted				1,166	1,785	133
Skills and training activities						
Number of training sessions, workshops seminars and other events held				1,722	807	35
Number of participants in person-days at training sessions, workshops seminars and other events				7,931	8,310	
Number of workbooks, course notes and other key materials developed				142	181	
Quantity of workbooks, course notes and other key materials distributed				1,982	1,672	

Table 2.2.8 On-ground outputs related to investments by the NAP and the Trust

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT
Conservation by agreements						
Number of conservation agreements or covenants established				305	1,279	
Area (hectares) covered by conservation agreements or covenants				1,376	266	
Indigenous vegetation protected by fencing						
Area (hectares) protected				33,397	8,667	
Length (km) of streambank protected				704	45	

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT	NAP	NHT	NAP/NHT
Indigenous vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated						
Area (hectares) enhanced or rehabilitated				4,940	460,852	
Length (km) of streambank enhanced or rehabilitated				197	242	
Revegetation with indigenous vegetation						
Area (hectares) revegetated				2,014	609	
Length (km) of streambank revegetated				152	40	
Revegetation with exotic vegetation						
Area (hectares) revegetated				25,387	127,343	
Riparian and waterway health						
Length (km) of stream bank or stream bed stabilised				221	79	
Number of stream bank or stream bed structures installed				16	8	
Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed				43	28	
Length (km) of in-stream habitat established				2		
Number of off-river stock watering points established				24	25	
Wetlands health protected or enhanced						
Area (hectares) of wetland protected or enhanced				153	102	
Management of significant species or ecological communities						
Area (hectares) of habitat management				1,883	2,255	
Area (hectares) protected by fencing specifically for significant species/community protection				250	6,002	
Number of individuals translocated or established					20,910	
Number of successful individuals bred through an established breeding program					22,606	
Number of seedbanks managed				1	224	
Weight (kg) of seeds collected					545	
Significant pest plant control						
Area (hectares) of pest plant control				296,429	44,637	
Significant pest vertebrate control						
Area (hectares) of pest animal control				58,332	4,446,658	
Soil management						
Area (hectares) treated for soil erosion					289	
Area (hectares) of soil treatment for other than erosion, salinity or acid sulfate soils				9,010		
Salinity control measures						
Area (hectares) of land treated for rising groundwater through surface or sub-surface drainage				250		
Length (km) of surface or sub-surface drain					19	
Water contaminant management						
Number of treatment plants or sites					2	
Water use efficiency						
Area (hectares) of land using improved irrigation practices				5,370	400	
Number of land managers using improved irrigation practices				407	20	
Volume (ML) of water saved with on-farm reuse systems					1,000	
Number of land managers using on-farm water saving practice by drainage diversion				626		

2.3 INVESTMENT SUMMARY - FOUNDATION FUNDING

Investments

Foundation funding is provided to support the development of accredited regional plans that will be used as the base from which the Australian Government and State/Territory Governments will make investments. This funding stream uses a range of approaches. This type of investment assist communities and landholders in developing and implementing integrated catchment/regional plans, provides technical and scientific support and engineering innovations, as well as supports public communication programs to develop widespread understanding of all aspects of the regional programs to promote behavioural change and community support.

Investment in foundation activities has been an important part of the early development of the regional programs. This funding will begin to decline as funding associated with approved investment strategies is provided. Table 2.3.1 shows the types of activities, supported by foundation funding.

Table 2.3.1 Funding for the types of activities supported by foundation funding

Activity type	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Resource assessment			530,000	366,400	28,389	274,800	500,673	274,800
Planning	4,597,598	9,326,942	9,857,010	13,472,290	2,876,609	7,091,179	8,688,400	7,371,679
Capacity building	2,335,488	1,460,700	10,303,533	1,460,700	1,702,033	1,311,482	8,907,947	1,311,482
Total	6,933,086	10,787,642	20,690,543	15,299,390	4,607,031	8,677,461	18,097,020	8,957,961

Achievements

The outputs, or products and services produced by these activities, are summarised in four tables according to the types of outputs described in Chapter 1. Summaries of the outputs related to resource assessment, planning, capacity building and on-ground activities are shown in Table 2.3.2, Table 2.3.3, Table 2.3.4 and Table 2.3.5 respectively. The figures provide a standardised report of achievements available at the time of compiling this report and may not completely reflect the total number of outputs achieved by each activity.

Table 2.3.2 Foundation funding outputs related to resource assessment

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Baseline, trend or condition studies for targets						
Number of sites monitored	131	37		131	37	
Number of studies undertaken	40	63		40	63	
Decision support tools						
Number models, information management systems and other decision support tools developed	9	19		10	20	
Investigations (survey, inventory and mapping and data analysis)						
Number undertaken	4	13		4	13	
Research and development studies						
Number undertaken	3	20		3	20	

Table 2.3.3 Foundation funding outputs related to planning

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Improved practice codes or guidelines						
Number developed	20	14		20	14	
Integrated catchment or sub-catchment plans						
Number developed	27	30	1	29	31	1
Property management plans						
Number completed		6			6	

Table 2.3.4 Foundation funding outputs related to capacity building

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Awareness raising activities						
Number of demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums held	352	3,212		352	3,212	
Number of participants in person-days at demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums	5,664	18,272		5,664	18,272	
Number of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products developed	136	246	154	136	246	154
Quantity of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products distributed	33,870	135,548	154	33,870	135,548	154
Number of media opportunities including websites developed	297	326		301	326	
Facilitation motivation and support activities						
Number of active positions (FTE) supported	33	106	13	37	106	18
Number of community groups or projects assisted	572	914	114	648	916	133
Skills and training activities						
Number of training sessions, workshops seminars and other events held	1,213	152	35	1,214	152	35
Number of participants in person-days at training sessions, workshops seminars and other events	3,066	1,052		3,066	1,052	
Number of workbooks, course notes and other key materials developed	12	24		12	24	
Quantity of workbooks, course notes and other key materials distributed	238	1,596		238	1,596	

Table 2.3.5 Foundation funding outputs related to on-ground activities.

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Indigenous vegetation protected by fencing						
Area (hectares) protected		250			250	
Length (km) of streambank protected		12			12	
Indigenous vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated						
Area (hectares) enhanced or rehabilitated		20			20	
Length (km) of streambank enhanced or rehabilitated		20			20	
Revegetation with indigenous vegetation						
Area (hectares) revegetated		12			12	
Length (km) of streambank revegetated		12			12	
Riparian and waterway health						
Length (km) of stream bank or stream bed stabilised		2			2	
Number of stream bank or stream bed structures installed		2			2	
Significant pest plant control						
Area (hectares) of pest plant control		404			404	
Significant pest plant control						
Area (hectares) of pest animal control	35			35		
Water use efficiency						
Area (hectares) of land using improved irrigation practices		400			400	
Number of land managers using improved irrigation practices		20			20	
Volume (ML) of water saved with on-farm reuse systems		1,000			1,000	

2.4 INVESTMENT SUMMARY - PRIORITY ACTION PROJECTS

Investments

Priority action investment is for regional bodies to address pressing natural resource management issues through strategic and urgent actions, prior to the accreditation and implementation of a regional plan, recognising that sufficient technical support work should have been done together with an appropriate level of community consultation and capacity building. This funding will only be extended where satisfactory progress is being made in developing the regional plan in which the priority action is being implemented.

Investment in priority actions has been an important part of the early development of the regional programs. This funding will link to activities related to resource condition targets established in accredited regional plans. In some instances, these activities may be occurring later in the life of the plan and there may be no related activities reported for 2003-2004. Table 2.4.1 shows the types of activities, supported by priority action funding.

Table 2.4.1 Funding for the types of activities supported by priority action investment

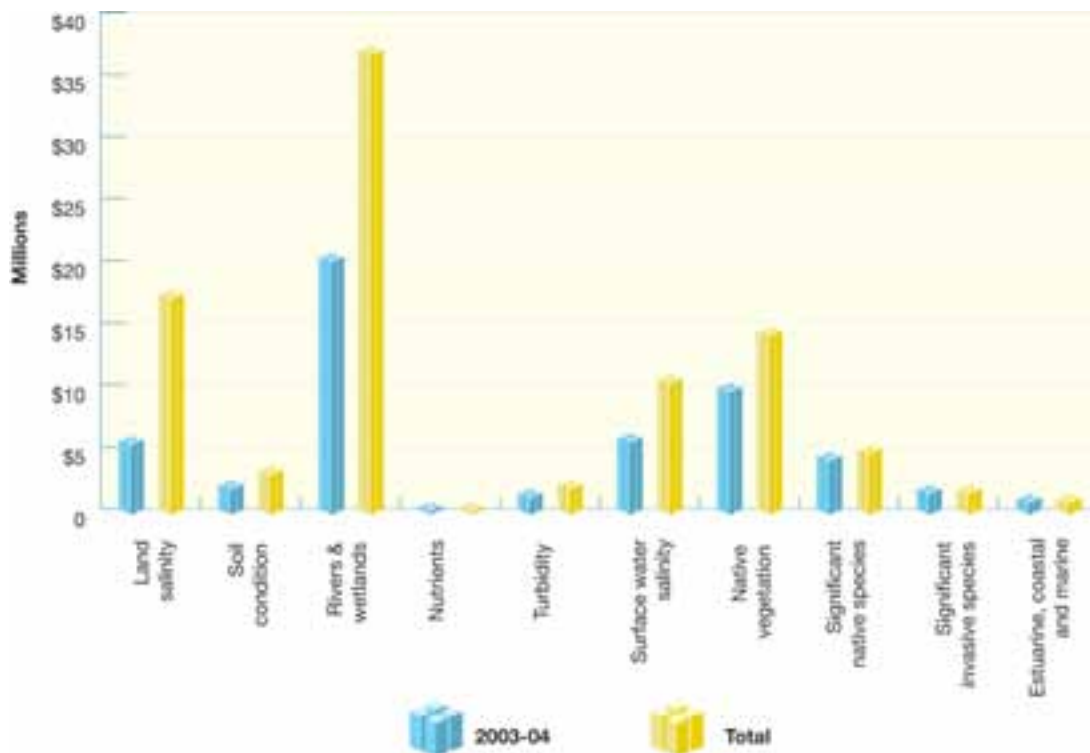
Activity type	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Resource assessment	12,563,063	4,573,408	18,972,213	12,760,258	5,710,522	5,781,699	8,260,060	5,781,699
Planning	6,385,256	4,603,631	21,122,266	5,493,006	12,573,690	3,087,127	16,490,437	3,120,167
Capacity building	8,219,245	19,098,035	23,641,659	25,077,892	4,348,327	14,366,812	13,200,419	15,536,608
On-ground activities	7,849,509	12,972,682	44,718,779	23,764,249	10,255,381	11,342,093	33,635,848	12,977,782
Total	35,017,073	41,247,756	108,454,917	67,095,405	32,887,919	34,577,732	71,586,763	37,416,257

Priority actions address pressing natural resource management issues and have a major focus related to the resource condition matters for target. Table 2.4.2 describes the priority action investments having a major focus on each of the related resource condition matters. In some cases, priority action investments have had a major focus on more than one matter for target and are not able to be attributed to a particular matter. These investments have been reported as other supporting activities and are not included in Chapters 3 to 12 but are included in the regional appendices. Chapters 3 to 12 of this report provide further information on priority action investments having a major focus on each of the matters for target.

Table 2.4.2 Priority action investment having a major focus on resource condition matters for target

Matter for target	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Land salinity	2,807,209	1,383,390	23,000,298	1,468,390	5,129,864	438,952	16,878,380	438,952
Soil condition	1,765,100	2,641,065	2,577,700	3,331,326	76,978	1,921,833	1,143,029	2,006,397
Rivers and wetlands	12,603,635	5,806,692	40,130,940	15,976,389	16,475,655	7,352,716	29,097,647	7,869,401
Nutrients in aquatic environments	287,000	270,000	287,000	352,000		235,621		235,621
Turbidity in aquatic environments	1,008,704	232,900	3,358,704	374,470	1,189,353	112,425	2,034,183	112,425
Surface water salinity	3,203,600	41,000	15,344,510	41,000	5,778,842		10,490,058	
Native vegetation	8,833,165	6,906,176	13,273,313	12,788,719	3,108,265	6,715,404	6,147,563	8,190,513
Significant native species		5,491,307		8,347,913		4,274,630		4,857,832
Significant invasive species		1,955,305		3,179,905		1,623,660		1,623,660
Estuarine, coastal and marine		888,305		1,998,070		891,989		891,989
Other supporting activities	4,508,660	15,631,616	10,482,452	19,237,223	1,128,962	11,010,503	5,795,904	11,189,468
Total	35,017,073	41,247,756	108,454,917	67,095,405	32,887,919	34,577,732	71,586,763	37,416,257

Figure 2.4.1 compares reported activity expenditure for priority action investments having a major focus on a resource condition matters for target for 2003-04 with priority action investment from the commencement of the NAP and the Trust to 30 June 2004. Supporting activities are not included.

Figure 2.4.1 Reported activity expenditure for priority action investment having a major focus on resource condition matters for target

Achievements

The outputs, or products and services produced by the activities, are presented in four tables according to reporting categories described in Chapter 1. Resource assessment, planning, capacity building and on-ground related outputs are shown in Table 2.4.3, Table 2.4.4, Table 2.4.5 and Table 2.4.6 respectively. The figures provide a standardised report of achievements available at the time of compiling this report and may not completely reflect the total number of outputs achieved by each activity.

Table 2.4.3 Priority action investment outputs related to resource assessment

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Baseline, trend or condition studies for targets						
Number of sites monitored	1,014	1,211		1,157	1,211	
Number of studies undertaken	29	66		31	66	
Decision support tools						
Number models, information management systems and other decision support tools developed	55	52		66	52	
Investigations (survey, inventory and mapping and data analysis)						
Number undertaken	440	1,028		463	1,058	
Area (hectares) surveyed	175,884	2,901,474		3,075,844	2,911,474	
Research and development studies						
Number undertaken	30	18		37	18	

Table 2.4.4 Priority action investment outputs related to planning

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Improved practice codes or guidelines						
Number developed	9	68		10	68	
Integrated catchment or sub-catchment plans						
Number developed	20	49		30	56	
Property management plans						
Number completed	1,187	253		1,191	252	
Species recovery plans and action statements						
Number developed	1	29		1	29	
Number developed		5			5	

Table 2.4.5 Priority action investment outputs related to capacity building

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Awareness raising activities						
Number of demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums held	890	895		897	998	
Number of participants in person-days at demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums	3,475	4,326		3,475	17,556	
Number of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products developed	4,969	2,902		4,972	2,905	
Quantity of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products distributed	32,468	147,938		32,468	147,938	
Number of media opportunities including websites developed	59	218		60	218	
Facilitation motivation and support activities						
Number of active positions (FTE) supported	76	525		101	528	
Number of community groups or projects assisted	191	851		518	868	
Skills and training activities						
Number of training sessions, workshops seminars and other events held	315	592		336	593	
Number of participants in person-days at training sessions, workshops seminars and other events	3,496	6,345		3,671	6,345	
Number of workbooks, course notes and other key materials developed	68	56		98	56	
Quantity of workbooks, course notes and other key materials distributed	1,020	76		1,020	76	

Table 2.4.6 Priority action investment outputs related to on-ground activities

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Conservation by agreements						
Number of conservation agreements or covenants established	255	1,114		255	1,114	
Area (hectares) covered by conservation agreements or covenants	806	210		806	210	
Indigenous vegetation protected by fencing						
Area (hectares) protected	7,021	8,408		7,123	8,417	
Length (km) of streambank protected	577	23		577	23	
Indigenous vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated						
Area (hectares) enhanced or rehabilitated	4,591	60,832		4,902	460,832	
Length (km) of streambank enhanced or rehabilitated	197	22		197	22	
Revegetation with indigenous vegetation						
Area (hectares) revegetated	1,025	597		1,222	597	
Length (km) of streambank revegetated	54	28		61	28	
Revegetation with exotic vegetation						
Area (hectares) revegetated	16,163	127,343		16,896	127,343	
Riparian and waterway health						
Length (km) of stream bank or stream bed stabilised	173	77		211	77	
Number of stream bank or stream bed structures installed	13	6		13	6	

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed	25	28		26	28	
Length (km) of in-stream habitat established	2			2		
Number of off-river stock watering points established	24	25		24	25	
Wetlands health protected or enhanced						
Area (hectares) of wetland protected or enhanced	92	102		98	102	
Management of significant species or ecological communities						
Area (hectares) of habitat management	1,883	2,255		1,883	2,255	
Area (hectares) protected by fencing specifically for significant species/community protection		6,002			6,002	
Number of individuals translocated or established		20,906			20,910	
Number of successful individuals bred through an established breeding program		22,606			22,606	
Number of seedbanks managed		223			223	
Weight (kg) of seeds collected		545			545	
Significant pest plant control						
Area (hectares) of pest plant control	276,200	44,186		296,350	44,186	
Significant pest vertebrate control						
Area (hectares) of pest animal control	53,797	4,446,658		53,797	4,446,658	
Soil management						
Area (hectares) treated for soil erosion		289			289	
Area (hectares) of soil treatment for other than erosion, salinity or acid sulfate soils	3,260			9,010		
Salinity control measures						
Area (hectares) of land treated for rising groundwater through surface or sub-surface drainage				250		
Length (km) of surface or sub-surface drain		19			19	
Water contaminant management						
Number of treatment plants or sites		2			2	
Water use efficiency						
Number of land managers using improved irrigation practices	346			346		
Number of land managers using on-farm water saving practice by drainage diversion	626			626		

2.5 INVESTMENT SUMMARY - REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Investments

Funding through regional investment strategies based on accredited regional plans is the principal delivery mechanism for the NAP and the Trust. These activities focus on addressing natural resource issues related to the matters for target and commenced early in 2004. Up to 30 June 2004, investment strategies based on these accredited plans have been approved for regions in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.

Table 2.5.1 shows the types of activities supported by regional investments.

Table 2.5.1 Funding for the types of activities supported by regional investment

Activity type	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Resource assessment	10,454,183	665,690	12,194,283	665,690	3,387,802	83,325	3,777,994	83,325
Planning	7,533,116	348,000	8,008,216	348,000	2,974,463	70,574	3,209,645	70,574
Capacity building	7,743,202	4,274,705	7,743,202	4,274,705	2,398,170	836,785	2,398,170	836,785
On-ground activities	37,693,395	6,256,614	38,408,395	6,256,614	13,236,763	2,129,087	13,527,203	2,129,087
Total	63,423,896	11,545,009	66,354,096	11,545,009	21,997,197	3,119,772	22,913,011	3,119,772

Table 2.5.2 shows funding for regional strategies having a major focus on resource condition matters for target. Chapters 3 to 12 provide a summary of investments, including regional investment strategies, related to each resource condition matter for target.

Table 2.5.2 Regional investments having a major focus on resource condition matters for target

Matter for target	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Regional Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Land salinity	11,359,280		11,708,280		2,659,813		2,745,323	
Soil condition	4,794,063	976,500	5,144,063	976,500	1,306,366	458,084	1,331,807	458,084
Rivers and wetlands	18,753,864	900,890	19,571,764	900,890	7,992,382	128,400	8,269,540	128,400
Nutrients in aquatic environments	1,855,900	103,400	2,397,900	103,400	829,332	45,667	1,065,540	45,667
Turbidity in aquatic environments	1,898,032	60,000	1,898,032	60,000	740,742		740,742	
Surface water salinity	5,018,716	45,000	5,018,716	45,000	1,420,671		1,420,671	
Native vegetation	7,577,374	3,034,214	7,776,374	3,034,214	3,015,153	1,169,036	3,069,674	1,169,036
Significant native species		2,040,118		2,040,118		785,451		785,451
Significant invasive species		338,000		338,000				
Estuarine, coastal and marine		517,000		517,000		200,700		200,700
Other supporting activities	12,166,667	3,529,887	12,838,967	3,529,887	4,032,740	332,434	4,269,716	332,434
Total	63,423,896	11,545,009	66,354,096	11,545,009	21,997,197	3,119,772	22,913,011	3,119,772

Achievements

The outputs, or products and services produced by the activities, are presented in four tables according to reporting categories described in Chapter 1. Resource assessment and planning related outputs are shown in Table 2.5.3 and Table 2.5.4 respectively. Capacity building and on-ground related outputs are shown in Table 2.5.5 and Table 2.5.6 respectively. The figures provide a standardised report of achievements available at the time of compiling this report and may not completely reflect the total number of outputs achieved by each activity.

Table 2.5.3 Regional investment outputs related to resource assessment

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Baseline, trend or condition studies for targets						
Number of sites monitored	30,023			30,023		
Number of studies undertaken	8	1		8	1	
Decision support tools						
Number models, information management systems and other decision support tools developed	1,208		1	1,208		1
Investigations (survey, inventory and mapping and data analysis)						
Number undertaken	21	12		21	12	
Area (hectares) surveyed	2,602,000			2,602,000		
Research and development studies						
Number undertaken	1			1		

Table 2.5.4 Regional investment outputs related to planning

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Improved practice codes or guidelines						
Number developed	3			3		
Integrated catchment or sub-catchment plans						
Number developed	8	1	8	8	1	8
Property management plans						
Number completed	702			702		

Table 2.5.5 Regional investment outputs related to capacity building

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Awareness raising activities						
Number of demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums held	1,245	3	8	1,245	3	8
Number of participants in person-days at demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums	596	8,250		596	8,250	
Number of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products developed	38	7	5	38	7	5
Quantity of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products distributed	8,400	27		8,400	27	
Number of media opportunities including websites developed	28		24	28		24
Facilitation motivation and support activities						
Number of active positions (FTE) supported	2			2		
Skills and training activities						
Number of training sessions, workshops seminars and other events held	28	18		28	18	
Number of participants in person-days at training sessions, workshops seminars and other events	54			54		

Table 2.5.6 Regional investment outputs related to on-ground activities

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Conservation by agreements						
Number of conservation agreements or covenants established	50	165		50	165	
Area (hectares) covered by conservation agreements or covenants	570			570		
Indigenous vegetation protected by fencing						
Area (hectares) protected	26,274			26,274		
Length (km) of streambank protected	23			128		
Indigenous vegetation enhanced/rehabilitated						
Area (hectares) enhanced or rehabilitated	38			38		
Revegetation with indigenous vegetation						
Area (hectares) revegetated	793			793		
Length (km) of streambank revegetated	91			91		
Revegetation with exotic vegetation						
Area (hectares) revegetated	8,491			8,491		
Riparian and waterway health						
Length (km) of stream bank or stream bed stabilised	10			10		
Number of stream bank or stream bed structures installed	3			3		
Number of off-stream (alternative) watering sites installed	17			17		
Wetlands health protected or enhanced						
Area (hectares) of wetland protected or enhanced	55			55		
Management of significant species or ecological communities						
Area (hectares) protected by fencing specifically for significant species/community protection	250			250		
Number of seedbanks managed	1			1		
Significant pest plant control						
Area (hectares) of pest plant control	79	30		79	30	
Water use efficiency						
Area (hectares) of land using improved irrigation practices	5,370			5,370		
Number of land managers using improved irrigation practices	61			61		

Additional investments

To support activities not fully addressed by the core funding streams, additional investments have been made in a number of areas. The types of additional investment funded through the two programs are described in the following sections:

- State-wide/multi-regional
- Regional competitive
- Multi-lateral

2.6 INVESTMENT SUMMARY - STATE-WIDE / MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS

Investments

A total of \$54.8m was approved to 30 June 2004 for issues that are effectively addressed on a state-wide or multi-regional basis. Of this amount, NAP has provided \$47.4m and the Trust has provided \$7.4m to support activities which include resource assessment such as salinity mapping and ground water surveys, as well as the development and implementation of common planning frameworks, communication strategies and approaches to cross border issues.

Table 2.6.1 shows approved funds provided across the States and Territories for state-wide or multi-regional activities.

Table 2.6.1 Approved funding for state-wide or multi-regional investments across States and Territories*

State	2003-04 Approvals (\$)		Total Approvals to June 2004 (\$)	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
New South Wales	158,000	922,213	158,000	922,213
Northern Territory		220,000		420,000
Queensland	8,910,495	890,000	33,688,465	890,000
South Australia		540,000		540,000
Tasmania		2,410,300		2,410,300
Victoria	1,928,077	848,000	13,622,341	848,000
Western Australia		719,500		1,388,160
Total	10,996,572	6,550,013	47,468,806	7,418,673

* Figures reflect Australian Government and State/Territory Government approvals for NAP and only Australian Government approvals for the Trust. State/Territory Government cash and in-kind funding for the Trust is not included.

Table 2.6.2 shows reported expenditure for state-wide and multi-regional activities.

Table 2.6.2 Reported expenditure for state-wide and multi-regional investments

State	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
New South Wales		150,000		150,000		150,000		150,000
Queensland	32,574,970		32,574,970		9,325,276		9,325,276	
Tasmania		1,750,000		1,750,000				
Victoria	1,832,477	848,000	13,526,743		3,668,495		6,717,904	
Western Australia		230,194		506,982		257,728		257,728
Total	34,407,447	2,978,194	46,101,713	2,406,982	12,993,771	407,728	16,043,180	407,728

Table 2.6.3 shows the types of activities supported by state-wide and multi-regional investments.

Table 2.6.3 Funding for the types of activities supported by state-wide and multi-regional investment

Activity type	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Resource assessment	17,143,517	296,144	18,648,183	322,532	8,016,698	11,462	8,245,510	11,462
Planning	5,950,000	75,000	9,881,738	107,000	2,257,663	31,999	2,210,042	31,999
Capacity building	10,480,970	663,200	16,508,832	837,750	2,719,410	189,207	4,587,268	189,207
On-ground activities	832,960	1,943,850	1,062,960	1,987,700		175,060		175,060
Total	34,407,447	2,978,194	46,101,713	3,254,982	12,993,771	407,728	15,042,820	407,728

Achievements

The outputs, or products and services produced by the activities, are presented in four tables according to reporting categories described in Chapter 1. Resource assessment, planning, capacity building and on-ground related outputs are shown in Table 2.6.4, Table 2.6.5, Table 2.6.6 and Table 2.6.7 respectively. The figures provide a standardised report of achievements available at the time of compiling this report and may not completely reflect the total number of outputs achieved by each activity.

Table 2.6.4 State-wide and multi-regional outputs related to resource assessment

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Baseline, trend or condition studies for targets						
Number of studies undertaken	6			6		
Number of sites monitored		106			106	
Decision support tools						
Number models, information management systems and other decision support tools developed	120			120		
Investigations (survey, inventory and mapping and data analysis)						
Number undertaken	506	34		506	34	
Area (hectares) surveyed	379,637,800	452		379,637,800	452	
Research and development studies						
Number undertaken		9			9	

Table 2.6.5 State-wide and multi-regional outputs related to planning

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Improved practice codes or guidelines						
Number developed		2			2	
Property management plans						
Number completed		1			1	

Table 2.6.6 State-wide and multi-regional outputs related to capacity building

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Awareness raising activities						
Number of demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums held	338	90		338	90	
Number of participants in person-days at demonstrations, field days, study tours and other non-training forums	632	720		632	720	
Number of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products developed	24	5		24	7	
Quantity of brochures, newsletters, displays and other non-training products distributed	408	322		408	346	
Number of media opportunities including websites developed	4	4		4	4	
Facilitation motivation and support activities						
Number of active positions (FTE) supported		1			1	
Number of community groups or projects assisted		1			1	
Skills and training activities						
Number of training sessions, workshops seminars and other events held	144	42		144	44	
Number of participants in person-days at training sessions, workshops seminars and other events	1,140	903		1,140	913	
Number of workbooks, course notes and other key materials developed	32	101		32	101	
Quantity of workbooks, course notes and other key materials distributed	724			724		

Table 2.6.7 State-wide and multi-regional outputs related to on-ground activities

Standard output	July 03 - March 04			Total to March 04		
	NAP	NHT	Joint	NAP	NHT	Joint
Management of significant species or ecological communities						
Number of seedbanks managed		1			1	
Weight (kg) of seeds collected		0			0	
Significant pest plant control						
Area (hectares) of pest plant control		14			14	

2.7 INVESTMENT SUMMARY – REGIONAL COMPETITIVE PROJECTS

Investment

62

A regional competitive component of the Trust was established to support higher-cost, large-scale, multi year projects that will lead to significant improvements in the sustainable management of natural resources. Up to 30 June 2004, approximately \$7.5m was approved for regions on a competitive basis to supplement the funds provided through the initial investment strategies.

Table 2.7.1 shows the types of activities supported by regional competitive investments.

Table 2.7.1 Expenditure for the types of activities supported by regional competitive investments

Activity type	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Capacity building		390,125		390,125		30,125		30,125
On-ground activities		4,303,200		4,303,200		27,000		27,000
Total		4,693,325		4,693,325		57,125		57,125

Regional competitive activities address natural resource management issues and have a major focus related to the resource condition matters for target. It also includes approximately \$4m for additional facilitators and coordinators for coastcare and waterwatch. Table 2.7.2 describes regional competitive investments having a major focus towards related resource condition matters. In some cases, regional competitive investments have addressed more than one matter for target and are not able to be attributed to a particular target. These investments have been reported as addressing more than one matter for target and are not included in Chapters 3 to 12 or in the regional appendices. Chapters 3 to 12 of this report provide further information on priority action investments for each of the of the matters for target.

Table 2.7.2 Regional competitive investment having a major focus on resource condition matters for target

Matter for target	Budgeted Activity Expenditure (\$)				Reported Activity Expenditure (\$)			
	July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04		July 03 - March 04		Total to March 04	
	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust	NAP	Trust
Soil condition		27,000		27,000		27,000		27,000
Rivers and wetlands		128,000		128,000				
Significant native species		3,885,000		3,885,000				
Estuarine, coastal and marine		653,325		653,325		30,125		30,125
Total		4,693,325		4,693,325		57,125		57,125

Achievements

Regional competitive investments commenced early in 2004. To this point, progress in these activities is unable to be reported. The outputs, or products and services produced by the activities will be reported in future reports.

2.8 INVESTMENT SUMMARY - MULTI-LATERAL PROJECTS

Investments

Several activities have been undertaken to address significant national or multi-jurisdictional issues for the NAP program. Table 2.8.1 shows the funding for multi-lateral activities. These activities are supported on a multi-lateral basis and have been provide with \$6.4m during the 2003-04 year. These activities include:

- Climate Impacts on Australia's Natural Resources – Current and Future Challenges
- Community forum
- Market based Instruments pilot program
- Review of salinity mapping methods in Australia
- Science and Information Working Group

Table 2.8.1 Funding for multi-lateral investments

Activity Title	2003-04 Approvals (\$)	Total Approvals to June 2004 (\$)
Climate Impacts on Australia's Natural Resources: Current and Future Challenges	90,000	90,000
Community Forum	35,200	177,880
Market-Based Instruments Pilots Program	6,047,956	6,047,956
Salinity Mapping Methods Review	90,000	90,000
Science and Information to Support the National Action Plan and the Natural Heritage Trust	30,000	30,000
Total	6,293,156	6,435,836

Achievements

Climate Impacts on Australia's Natural Resources – Current and Future Challenges

The conference provided natural resource managers from across the country with the most up-to-date scientific knowledge regarding climate change and climate variability impacts on natural and managed systems. In addition the conference provided delegates, from across Australia, an opportunity to begin to identify practical steps towards more adaptive natural resource management to build resilience to future climate variability and change.

Climate change will interact with other stresses on biodiversity - making the consideration of climate change a high priority, not an optional extra, for almost all policy and management concerned with biodiversity conservation. Climate change poses a significant threat to Australia's natural resources, particularly water resources and biodiversity with projections for Australia indicating that:

- While average temperatures rose by 0.7 degrees Celsius in the 20th Century, they are projected to rise by between 1 and 6 degrees Celsius by 2070.
- Rainfall will decrease in the southwest of WA and on the southeast mainland as higher temperatures and less rainfall will lead to further drying out across the country. These changes in climate will lead to increased drought, greater fire danger and more soil erosion, as well as more floods and more intense tropical cyclones in some areas.
- By the year 2030 a reduction of up to 15 % is likely for inflow to the Burrendong Dam in New South Wales, for example.

Additional information on the conference can be found at: [Nothing stays the same... Climate Changes](http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/ClimateChanges/impacts/index.html)
<http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/ClimateChanges/impacts/index.html>

Community forum

The Community Forum has been established to assist regions to make the shift from an individual project approach to an integrated regional approach to NRM. The Forum provides advice to Ministers on future directions for priority NRM-related matters.

The second Natural Resource Management Community Forum was held in Adelaide in April 2004, in conjunction with the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council meeting. The theme for the Forum in 2004 was *Issues for the Future Beyond Accreditation*. It was attended by 68 representatives from regional and national organisations and generated 42 recommendations under eight main headings:

- Regional planning
- Coordinating NRM at the regional level
- Implementing and maintaining effective partnerships
- Regional governance
- Administrative efficiencies
- Investment
- Engagement
- Information and knowledge

The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council referred the 2004 Forum recommendations to the Standing Committee for consideration and development of a suitable response. A working group on Regional Implementation is examining the Forum recommendations.

Market Based Instruments Pilot Program

Australia is facing a range of complex natural resource management problems, including salinity, soil erosion, and declining water quality and biodiversity. These problems threaten both agriculture and the environment. Australia's governments recognise these threats and have allocated significant resources to address them through various approaches including devolved grants, regulation and education.

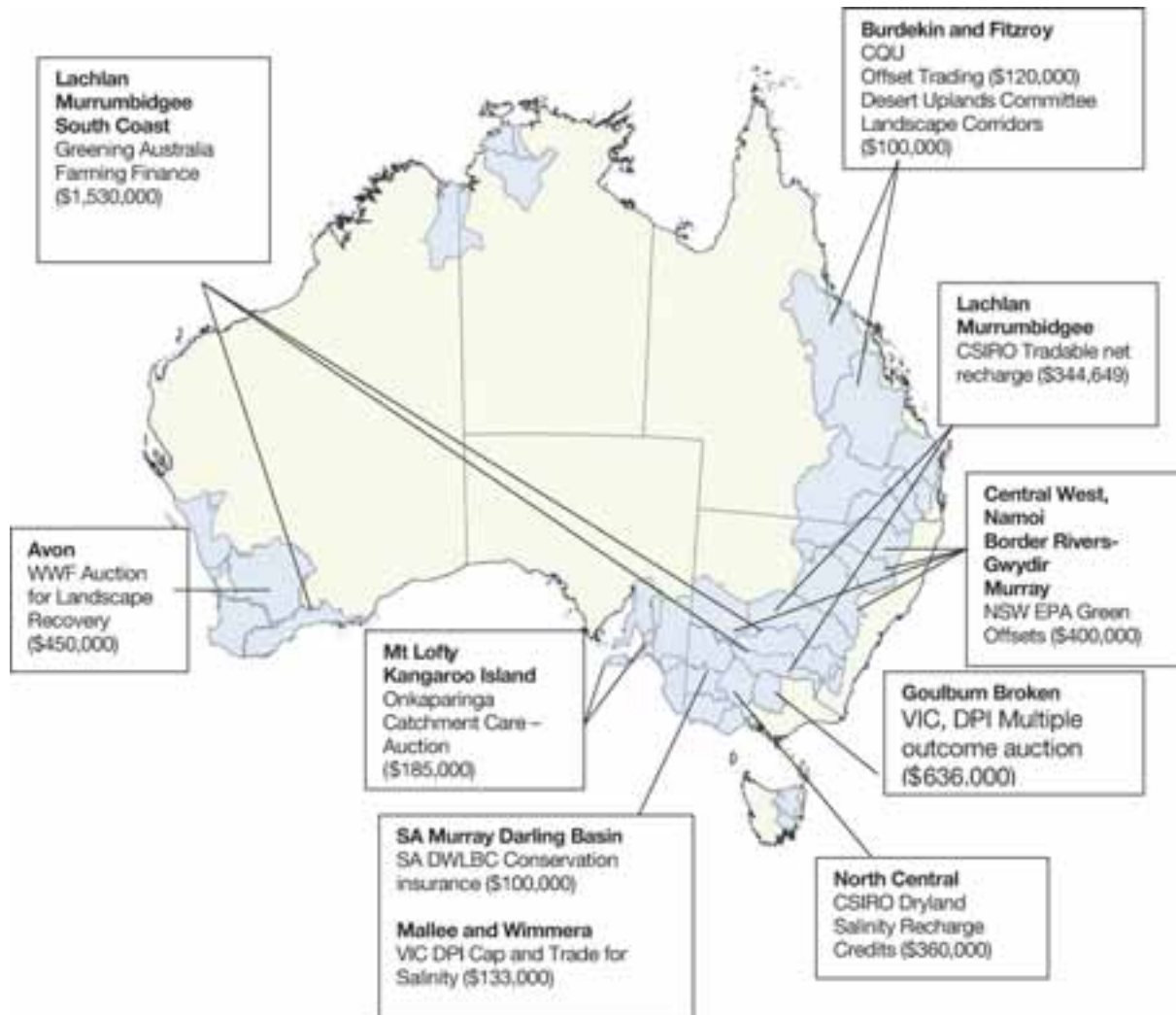
Market Based Instruments (MBIs) are 'tools' governments can use to positively influence people's behaviour, or the behaviour of a market, to achieve desired outcomes. The *National Market Based Instruments Pilots Program* has been allocated \$5m over 2 years, ending in 2005 to fund a range of pilot projects to investigate whether MBIs can help improve natural resource management. These instruments are particularly attractive because they have the potential to reduce the cost of achieving NRM outcomes to both governments and land managers by:

- facilitating the flexible adoption of better NRM
- encouraging innovation
- putting a positive incentive on better NRM
- leveraging private investment and interest in NRM
- addressing market failures (information, public good and externalities)

The pilot program seeks to increase Australia's capacity to use MBIs in managing natural resource issues, in particular to address the problems of salinity and water quality. The eleven projects being conducted through the program are grouped into the following five types of instruments:

- Auctions
- CAP and Trade
- Offsets
- Leveraging private investment
- Managing uncertainty and risk

Figure 2.8.1 Location and allocated funding of first round MBI Pilots



Science and Information Working Group

The Australian Government and State/Territory Government partnership under the NAP offers a unique opportunity to deliver a coordinated investment on science and information and capitalise on science that is funded outside the NAP. Collaboration through a Australian Government and State/Territory Government partnership will:

- Avoid duplication of effort
- Make best use of limited research and development capacity on some key issues
- Maximise leverage from existing science investments
- Enable testing of approaches and sharing of lessons across regions and jurisdictions
- Share the risks in undertaking research and development

Priorities for targeted investment in science and information to address serious knowledge gaps affecting all or most jurisdictions and regions have been developed under the Science and Information Working Group (SIWG) of the Standing Committee to the Australian Ministerial Council on Natural Resource Management. The SIWG identified research themes, which are of high national significance, relevant across several jurisdictions, and poorly addressed through other means. These themes have been focused through the following strategic areas:

- Sustainable Agriculture and Land Use
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Climate Variability and Change
- Monitoring and Indicators
- Managing Knowledge for Change

Review of Salinity Mapping Methods in the Australian Context

The review establishes an up-to-date position statement of the use, range and effectiveness of technologies for mapping salinity in Australia's landscapes and reports on the range of mapping technologies used to support salinity management and multi-scale decision-making. As well as helping to identify the optimal approaches that can be used to get more information about the salinity problem to help regions make better decisions about management options, the review:

Looks at the information needs of the farmer at paddock level, the community at sub-catchment level, and the regional planners at the NAP level

Explains the difference between hazard and risk

Briefly describes the origins of dryland salinity

Provides detailed information about methods to map dryland salinity, including the investment decisions that need to be made, the cost, skill level, applicability and limitations of each method

For more information on salinity mapping and risk assessment contact the National Dryland Salinity Program (NDSP) www.ndsp.gov.au and its network of coordinators and research scientists.