

**Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council**

National Action Plan for  
Salinity and Water Quality  
Natural Heritage Trust



Regional Programs Report  
2003–04

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National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and Natural Heritage Trust  
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## Foreword

The Australian Government and State/Territory Governments are working together through the \$1.4 billion National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the \$1.3 billion extension to the Natural Heritage Trust to repair and conserve the natural environment and ensure the sustainable use of the nation's natural resources.

This report summarises the remarkable developments occurring in the delivery of these programs through 57 regional natural resource management bodies covering the entire continent. The great majority of National Action Plan funding and around half of the Natural Heritage Trust extension funding are being invested to pursue targets and priorities developed by regional communities and articulated in plans accredited by governments.

Through this approach, powerful new partnerships in natural resource management are being forged between federal, state/territory and local governments, industry and communities.

As at 30 June 2004, governments have approved some \$517 million of regional focused investment through these programs.

For the National Action Plan, since its commencement in 2000-01, governments have jointly approved investments totalling \$352 million. For the Natural Heritage Trust, since its extension in 2002-03, the Australian Government has approved \$165 million in investments, with State/Territory Governments matching this amount, largely in kind, through aligned regional programs.

The summary report provides an analysis of the various funding sources, the types of activities supported and the primary strategic intent of the investments in terms of the national resource issues addressed. It also provides some examples of resource condition targets identified in accredited regional plans and projects contributing to achieving those targets.

Attached to the summary report is a CD, which provides the comprehensive main report. The main report includes details of targets, investments, expenditure and outputs by region.

The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council is pleased to endorse this report as a record of achievement so far and as a pointer to the significant, tangible and measurable natural resource management achievements in train.

**Endorsed by members of the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council**

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## Glossary

Term	Definition
Activity	As approved by Ministers, an undertaking of specific outputs that are to achieve or contribute to related management action and resource condition targets.
Activity type	Activities are categorised by the types of outputs that they primarily deliver. There are four activity types; resource assessment; planning; capacity building; and on-ground.
Approvals	By financial year, the authorisation by Australian and State/Territory Government Ministers for financial input to be provided for an activity.
Budgeted Activity Expenditure	By financial year, the approved or intended expenditure for a given activity for predetermined deliverable outputs as agreed to in an activity schedule.
Funding stream	The established source of financial support for activities and outputs. The funding streams used throughout this report are: Foundation funding, Priority action, Regional investment, Regional competitive, Multi-regional, State-wide and Multilateral. These funding streams are described in Chapter 2.
Joint Government	The Australian Government and State/Territory Governments.
Joint Steering Committee	A group established for each State and Territory with representatives from Australian Government and State/Territory Governments. The main function of the JSC is to oversee the delivery of the NAP and the NHT and members of the JSC are the official delegates for proposing, managing and reporting on NAP and NHT investments and outcomes.
Management action target	Targets related to management actions or capacity building to be achieved generally within one to five years.
Matter for target (natural resource management issue)	The National Framework for Natural Resource Management Standards and Targets ( <a href="http://www.nrm.gov.au/monitoring/index.html">http://www.nrm.gov.au/monitoring/index.html</a> ) established a set of resource condition matters for target, which are addressed by regions in their accredited regional plans.
Standard output	The goods and services delivered through activities. A nationally agreed set of standard outputs and output measures are used for national reporting by all State/Territories and Territories.
Program	A funding initiative aimed at particular natural resource management themes. The NAP and NHT are programs jointly funded by the Australian Government and State/ Territory Governments.
Region	The name given to the NRM area that is administered by the Regional Administrative Body or Bodies.
Reported Activity Expenditure	The actual expenditure reported by the regional body for the financial year
Resource condition target	Quantifiable performance levels or changes in level to be achieved within 10-20 years. The long term outcomes of investments.

