

## READER'S GUIDE

### What is the Regional Programs Report?

The Australian Government and State/Territory Governments are working together through the \$1.4 billion National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and the \$3 billion Natural Heritage Trust (Trust) to repair and conserve the natural environment and ensure the sustainable use of Australia's natural resources.

The 2003-04 Regional Programs Report represents the first combined progress report to the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council on these two initiatives. It summarises the remarkable developments occurring in the delivery of the NAP and the regional component of the Trust across Australia's 57 natural resource management regions.

### Structure of the report

#### **Introduction**

**Chapter 1** Introduces this first combined report on the NAP and the Trust, describing the natural resource management issues being addressed and the priority characteristics of these programs.

#### **Overall summary**

**Chapter 2** provides a snapshot of the progress achieved through the NAP and the Trust for the year to March 2004. It also summarises investments and progress in the development of the partnerships that underpin these programs.

#### **Natural resource management issues**

**Chapters 3 to 12** highlight the investments and expenditure targeted at addressing each of the 10 priority natural resource management (NRM) issues and the progress that has been made towards regional targets.

#### **Regional summaries**

**Appendices 1 to 8** provide details of targets, investments, expenditure and outputs achieved in each of the 57 NRM regions (arranged by State) covered by the NAP and the Trust.