



**Final Report**

**Jurisdiction Report -  
New South Wales**

**National Framework  
for the  
Management and  
Monitoring of  
Australia's Native  
Vegetation**

**Prepared for  
*Environment Australia*  
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**URS**

in association with

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What is the National Vegetation Framework?

In June 1998, ANZECC agreed to the development and implementation of the National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation (National Vegetation Framework). The intention of this policy initiative was to provide a unified, multilateral forum through which to pursue improvements to native vegetation management and monitoring.<sup>1</sup>

In February 1999, ANZECC Standing Committee on Conservation (SCC) agreed that it would be appropriate to engage an independent consultant to conduct a preliminary assessment of the jurisdictions against the draft National Vegetation Framework. A report was subsequently produced - 'Native Vegetation National Overview' – which documented the key challenges for vegetation management and monitoring within each jurisdiction.

For the purpose of the NVF, eight jurisdictions were identified in Australia comprising the 7 states and territories, and the Commonwealth. Following endorsement of the NVF and the jurisdiction interim Work Plans by ANZECC in December 1999, each jurisdiction continued preparation of an interim Work Plan that is considered to be the principal means of implementing the National Vegetation Framework. The Work Plans identified the vegetation management and monitoring activities, time frames for when each activity was to occur, responsibility for implementation of the activities and indicators for measurement of success.

The native vegetation outcomes being sought in the Framework are:<sup>2</sup>

- a reversal in the long-term decline in the extent and quality of Australia's native vegetation cover by:
  - conserving native vegetation, and substantially reducing land clearing;
  - conserving Australia's biodiversity; and
  - restoring, by means of substantially increased revegetation, the environmental values and productive capacity of Australia's degraded land and water;
- conservation and, where appropriate, restoration of native vegetation to maintain and enhance biodiversity, protect water quality and conserve soil resources, including on private managed land for agriculture, forestry and urban development;
- retention and enhancement of biodiversity and native vegetation at both regional and national levels; and
- an improvement in the condition of existing native vegetation.

At the ANZECC July 2000 meeting it was agreed to publicly release the Work Plans. At the commencement of the evaluation in October 2000, the Commonwealth and ACT had

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<sup>1</sup> Environment Australia, n.d , *Consultancy Brief*, Canberra.

<sup>2</sup> ANZECC, 1999, National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation, ACT.

publicly released their final version of the Work Plan, with interim work plans available from other jurisdictions.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Evaluation

At the December 1999 meeting, the ANZEC SCC noted that an independent evaluation of progress against the National Vegetation Framework and the fulfilment of Work Plan Commitments should commence mid 2000, with the report presented to the Council at the December 2000 meeting.

ANZECC identified the purpose of the evaluation was 'to assess progress against the National Framework for the Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation and fulfilment of the Work Plan commitments' (that were developed by each jurisdiction). Incorporated into the evaluation process was the additional focus of evaluating the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Work Plans for achieving long term sustainable vegetation management. The Terms of Reference for the Evaluation are provided below.

### *Terms of Reference*

#### **A. Assessment of Effectiveness of Work Plans and their Implementation**

1. Assess current vegetation management and monitoring practices in jurisdictions against those set out in the respective Work Plans and against best practice.
2. Assess anticipated long term vegetation management and monitoring outcomes against the Work Plans.
3. Assess progress by jurisdictions in meeting the Work Plan success measures within the identified timeframes.

#### **B. Propose Improvements**

4. Propose improvements to Work Plan management mechanisms that are feasible, practical and relevant to jurisdictions and take into account best practice. Proposed improvements should be within the context of National Framework objectives.
5. Suggest a process for jurisdictions to review and refine Work Plans on a continuing basis, to provide, amongst other things, for improvements in understanding of how best to achieve best practice native vegetation management.

#### **C. Propose suitable ongoing independent evaluation arrangements**

Propose a mechanism and time frame for independent evaluation of Work Plans on an ongoing basis, noting that vegetation management and monitoring activities are to be evaluated against agreed native vegetation outcomes and identified best practice.

#### **D. Assess progress against the National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation**

Evaluate how far actions in Work Plans enable each jurisdiction to achieve the vision and principles underpinning the National Framework especially the national goal to reverse the long-term decline of native vegetation in Australia.

The evaluation examined the performance of the jurisdiction Work Plans, from the release of NVF by ANZECC in December 1999, until September 2000. Our work examined the vegetation management and monitoring activities undertaken by the lead agencies in each jurisdiction that contribute to the progress of the Work Plan.

The review was implemented within a tight time frame to meet the reporting requirements of ANZECC. State agencies were the primary contributor to the Jurisdiction Work Plan evaluation. Other non-government stakeholders' views were also sought to contribute to the evaluation, but the timetable contributed to a reduced level of interaction by some stakeholders. A list of participants involved in this jurisdiction review is provided in Annex 2.

## 2 Evaluation Approach & Methodology

### 2.1 Evaluation Approach

A central component of the evaluation was to devise an effective method that would allow evaluation of the eight jurisdictions Work Plans in a restricted time frame, while still allowing for jurisdiction input and discussion. The following provides a description of the approach employed for the evaluation, and method used to evaluate the jurisdiction Work Plans.

The approach to the evaluation consisted of the following :

- **Team meeting to develop evaluation approach** – all members of the team that were leading the evaluation in the various jurisdictions met over a two day period, shortly after signing of the contract. The purpose of this meeting was to ensure an evaluation approach was devised that addressed the Terms of Reference and ensure that all members of the team had an opportunity to input and understand the agreed approach to ensure consistency in data-gathering and familiarity with process.
- **Contact with Jurisdictions** – managers of each Jurisdiction evaluation contacted the stakeholders to inform them of the NVF evaluation process and invite participation. A time for a stakeholder meeting to discuss the Work Plan was confirmed.
- **Pre-meeting Preparation** – Due to time limitations, a preliminary desk-top analysis was undertaken by the consultant team, reviewing the NSW Work Plan against a number of criteria. This information was circulated to all participants prior to the Work Plan evaluation meeting to allow for stakeholder review.
- **Jurisdiction Meeting** – a jurisdiction meeting was conducted to discuss progress of Work Plan and identify opportunities for improvement. The process used during the meeting is described in Section 2.2.
- **Draft Jurisdiction Report** - the manager for each jurisdiction evaluation prepared a draft report that documented the outcomes from the jurisdiction meeting and included points made during consultation with other stakeholders such as non-Government agencies and select interest groups external to the formal jurisdiction evaluation meeting.
- **Jurisdiction Review** –the draft jurisdiction report was then sent to all participants in the NSW Work Plan evaluation meeting for comment.
- **Jurisdiction Final Report** Comments were then incorporated into the NSW jurisdiction report and used to prepare the main report for the overall evaluation.

### 2.2 Evaluation method

A consistent approach was employed in each jurisdiction meeting to address the Terms of Reference. Each section is briefly described below.

#### *Session A Review Work Plan against Key Challenges*

Key Challenges were identified for each jurisdiction in the Dore Report. As these were developed prior to the Work Plans, they were presumed to be drivers for the Work Plan Actions. Therefore, to determine the effectiveness of the Work Plans, the Actions were reviewed to determine how well they address the challenges. A draft matrix was prepared

that compared NSW Key Challenges with Work Plan actions and level of influence. For each Management and Monitoring Mechanism (MMM), a rating was given for the level of influence each action could have in addressing the Key Challenge for that mechanism.

The draft matrix was presented at the Jurisdiction meeting and revised for its validity and for the individual and collective impact of the action(s) in addressing all the key challenges listed for the Jurisdiction. Modifications to the list of Actions was made to increase the beneficial impact on the Key Challenges and applicability of the Key Challenges for their current relevance to the achievement of the outcomes listed in the NVF. Where Key Challenges have become less relevant – i.e. they have been addressed or the program has moved in a different direction; the need for contributing actions was reviewed. Where new challenges were identified these were incorporated into the Work Plan. The final matrix is presented in section 3.2.

### ***Session B. Assessment of Work Plan Success Measures***

In order to evaluate Work Plan progress, quantification of achievements was provided against the Success Measures (or Performance Indicators) for each Work Plan activity. For each listed Success Measure, quantified information on the achievement to date was provided by the jurisdiction.

### ***Session C Appropriateness of Work Plan Activities against the NVF Management and Monitoring Outcomes***

Our initial reading of the NVF, the Dore report and the individual Work Plans suggested that the relationship between the Management and Monitoring Mechanisms in the Work Plans and the Key Challenges is generally straightforward. However the relationship with the Desired Outcomes in the NVF was less so.

Our approach to assessing this relationship was to test how well the individual actions in the Work Plans contributed to the Desired Outcomes using another matrix. Each action for each Management and Monitoring Mechanism (listed across the X-axis) was assessed in regards to contribution to the NVF Desired Outcome, listed on the Y-axis. The rating criteria used in Section A (High/Medium/Low Influence) was applied in Section C.

A draft matrix was sent to the jurisdiction prior to the meeting. Recognising that the desk-top assessment was undertaken subjectively, and relying on limited information, the jurisdiction evaluation meeting was used to review the matrix for its validity and the implications for achievement of the NVF outcomes. The final matrix is presented in section 3.4

### ***Session D Best Management Practices***

A key criteria of the Terms of Reference was to determine if and how Best Management Practices (BMP) are being applied when undertaking vegetation Management and Monitoring Mechanisms and Activities in each jurisdiction.

The National Vegetation Framework identifies a range of BMPs against the seven Management and Monitoring Mechanisms. Due to the time limitations associated with the evaluation, the URS/Griffin nrm team nominated one Management and Monitoring Mechanism per jurisdiction that will be investigated in depth from a Best Management

Practice perspective during the jurisdiction meeting, rather than the entire set of MMM's. This process will, across the jurisdictions, address the range of BMP's identified in the ANZECC framework for the nominated mechanism, and be reported as a Case Study in the relevant jurisdiction report. For NSW, the BMP for Communication and Capacity Building was used as the Case Study example.

***Session E Visioning - evaluation of overall progress and likely long term impact of the National Vegetation Framework***

This session in the Jurisdiction evaluation meeting looked collectively at the Visions in the Work Plans to assess how effectively the mechanisms being implemented now, will achieve those Visions in future. Plausible process methods were used for this assessment. In using plausible process, you work back from a major goal or vision to identify what would be needed now to achieve the goal or vision within anticipated timeframes.

For instance, if an overall goal is to better integrate management of native vegetation management, you might expect the work plans to include management and monitoring measures which will effectively support integrated management. If an overall goal is to attain a net gain in extent and quality of native vegetation, then the work plans ought to include measures which are likely to have the effect of controlling clearing and/or compensating with equivalent plantings within the anticipated timeframe of the Framework.

From this type of assessment, number of key indicators of overall progress were identified and analysed to evaluate the likely long-term impact of the National Vegetation Framework.

## 3 NSW Work Plan Output

### 3.1 NSW Work Plan – Setting the Scene

The policy and strategic framework of the NSW government for native vegetation management is underpinned by three Acts of Parliament. The foundation is the *Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997* (NVC Act). This Act complements the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (TSC Act) and the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA Act).

The NSW vegetation management framework involves active community participation via Regional Vegetation Committees or through local government, in the development of regional vegetation management plans (RVMPs). This is supported at the property level by partnerships with landholders for vegetation management on their properties via a suite of mechanisms, and in the formal reserve areas, such as National Parks and Nature Reserves, by individual ‘plans of management’.

The NSW Native Vegetation Advisory Council has released a Draft Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy to guide the future development of vegetation management programs in NSW. Another key State policy document influencing native vegetation management is the NSW Biodiversity Strategy 1999. The NSW Government has also recently released a NSW Salinity Strategy to focus Government and community effort on combating salinity in NSW. Many of its actions will support or refocus effort for native vegetation management. The principal state agencies involved in native vegetation are:

- NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC)
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
- NSW Agriculture
- NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP)
- State Forests of NSW
- The Royal Botanic Gardens

The principal advisory body for native vegetation in NSW is the Native Vegetation Advisory Council (NVAC) established under the NVC Act. It contains community, rural, conservation and Government representatives and advises the government on a number of issues including the status of native vegetation in NSW, the development and review of strategic native vegetation policy, and the identification of priorities for incentives for sustainable vegetation management.

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* established the Biodiversity Advisory Council to advise the Minister for the Environment on biodiversity issues, including the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy. The Act also provides for the establishment of a Scientific Committee to advise the Minister on matters relating to the listing and management of threatened species and ecological communities.

Co-ordination of community input into strategic natural resource management issues at the regional level is undertaken by Catchment Management Boards operating under the *Catchment Management Act 1989*. Also of significance at the State level is the Resource and Conservation Assessment Council (RACAC). RACAC is the government/ community

advisory body that provides advice and coordination on the forest reform processes including the development of Regional Forest Agreements.

NSW has recently introduced the *Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999* to facilitate plantation development within the State.

There are also other natural resource management-related regional groups, such as River Management Committees, Groundwater Management Committees and Water Management Committees. Aboriginal Communities, Landcare Groups and Rural Lands Protection Boards are also important land managers, and hence native vegetation management, organisations. Local Government has an important role in native vegetation management in NSW as the owner of large areas of land and as the primary regulator of development in NSW.

NSW has made significant progress in the management and monitoring of native vegetation since the introduction of its native vegetation reforms over the last 2 ½ years. This progress is reflected in improved native vegetation and biodiversity outcomes. The work plan reflects the advances made, the work currently underway and the challenges.

### 3.2 Linking the Work Plan with Key Challenges

The Key Challenges were identified several years ago and some of these are still relevant and WP actions show what is planned to address them. Some Key Challenges have already been fully addresses and these are indicated in the tables.

NSW has identified several new Challenges. The first centers on the Regional Vegetation Management Plans and the need to develop and implement them. This will require resources which are reasonably adequate, knowledge which is currently variable but being addressed, and ownership which will require significant skill and support.

Another ‘new’ challenge is to translate an increasing array of ‘targets’ into plans and actions. These targets are coming from the state strategies for salinity, biodiversity, and native vegetation conservation; the challenge is to integrate the input resources and the desired outcomes so that stakeholders are not confused by the array of requirements and plans.

**Figure 3.2.1 : Assessing Work Plan effectiveness in addressing Key Challenges for Roles and Responsibilities**

Key Challenge	Management and monitoring mechanism Roles and Responsibilities 4.1			
	High influence	Medium influence	Low influence	Comment
<b>Community confidence ...</b>		4.1.1 Action dots 1 and 2		
<b>State agency confidence ...</b>	4.1.3 Action dot 4	4.1.3 Action dots 1-3		
<b>Local government confidence ...</b>	4.1.2 Action dot 1	4.1.2 Action dot 2		

**Figure 3.2.2 : Assessing Work Plan effectiveness in addressing Key Challenges for Planning and Assessment**

	Management and monitoring mechanism Planning and Assessment 4.2			
	High influence	Medium influence	Low influence	Comments
<b>Finalise mapping strategy ...</b>	4.2.2 Action dot 1	4.2.1 Action dots 1-4		There is a 5 year plan
<b>Implementing biodiversity strategy</b>		4.2.2 Action dots 1-4		
<b>Support for RVCs and preparation of RVMPs</b>	4.2.3 Action dot 1	4.2.3 Action dots 2-6	4.2.1 Action dot 2	
<b>Which Act applies where</b>		4.1.3 Action dots 1-3		
<b>Ensure integrated planning processes</b>			4.2.3 Action dot 1	NSW Salinity Strategy will ensure this.

**Figure 3.2.3 Assessing Work Plan effectiveness in addressing Key Challenges for Formal Reserve System**

Key Challenge	Management and monitoring mechanism Formal Reserve System 4.3			
	High influence	Medium influence	Low influence	Comments
<b>Deciding better public investment outcomes with reserves or off-reserve incentives</b>	4.3.1 Action dots 2 & 3			
<b>Decisions based on CAR principles</b>		4.3.1 Action dot 1		
<b>Simplify covenanting arrangements</b>	No longer a Key Challenge as it is addresses through the Conservation Trust			
<b>Link native vegetation priorities with nature conservation and shift from 'island' to 'landscape' concept</b>	4.3.1 Action dots 1 & 3			

**Figure 3.2.4 : Assessing Work Plan effectiveness in addressing Key Challenges for Communication and Capacity Building**

Key Challenge	Management and monitoring mechanism Communication and Capacity Building 4.4			
	High influence	Medium influence	Low influence	Comments
<b>High quality timely information packages</b>	4.4.1 Action dots 1-3			
<b>Consistency of messages between agencies</b>		4.4.1 Action dot 3 4.4.3 Action dots 1 & 2		
<b>Effective support for extension activities</b>	4.4.3 Action dots 1 & 2	4.4.1 Action dots 1-3 4.4.2 Action dots 2 & 3		
<b>Meshing key messages</b>		4.4.3 Action dots 1 & 2		
<b>Capacity to respond to Property Agreement demand</b>		4.4.2 Action dot 1	4.4.2 Action dots 2 & 3	

**Figure 3.2.5 : Assessing Work Plan effectiveness in addressing Key Challenges for Incentives**

Key Challenge	Management and monitoring mechanism Incentives 4.5			
	High influence	Medium influence	Low influence	Comments
<b>Grant schemes coordinated not competitive</b>	4.5.2 Action dot 1	4.5.3 Action dots 1 & 2	4.5.1 Action dots 1 & 2	
<b>Target grants for greatest impact</b>		4.5.1 Action dots 2 & 3	4.5.2 Action dot 2	
<b>Allow landholder groupings for coordinated plans</b>	Addressed through Conservation Management Agreements			
<b>Translate research into 'mechanism use' and outcomes</b>		4.5.1 Action dot 3 4.5.2 Action dot 3	4.5.4 Action dot 1	
<b>Ensure linkages between Property Agreements, RVMPs and LEPs</b>			4.5.5 Action dot 1	
<b>Ensure compliance with Property Agreements</b>	There is a 3 stage review of Agreements by the Compliance Unit in DLWC			

**Figure 3.2.6 : Assessing Work Plan effectiveness in addressing Key Challenges for Regulatory Mechanisms**

Key Challenge	Management and monitoring mechanism Regulatory Mechanisms 4.6			
	High influence	Medium influence	Low influence	Comments
Enhance workability of 'threatened spp processes'			4.6.1 Action dots 1 - 5	Act has Objectives at Spp level but being reviewed. RVM Plans focus on communities
Compliance with Voluntary Agmnts			4.6.1 Action dot 1	Annual inspections address this
Complete RVMPs for strategic approach mgmt and clearance			4.6.1 Action dots 1 & 4 4.6.3 Action dots 1 & 2 4.2.3 Action dots 1 & 6	RVM Plans are regulatory as well as strategic.
Balance agency 'dual roles'	New Departmental processes, guidelines and training have overcome this.			
Further reduce land clearing		4.6.2 Action dots 1 - 4	4.6.1 Action dot 4 4.6.3 Action dots 1 & 2	
Assess performance of existing controls	4.7.1 Action dot 1		4.6.2 Action dot 2	

**Figure 3.2.7 : Assessing Work Plan effectiveness in addressing Key Challenges for Monitoring and Evaluation**

Key Challenge	Management and monitoring mechanism Monitoring and Evaluation 4.7			
	High influence	Medium influence	Low influence	Comments
Resourcing M&E			4.7.1 Action dot 3	This is a recognised deficiency that will require the allocation of substantial additional resources.
Fill gaps in data gathering			4.7.1 Action dot 2	
Develop real-time indicators on cover change			4.7.1 Action dot 1	

### 3.3 Measuring Work Plan Success

NSW provided information on the progress against Success Measures for each Action in the WP and this table is included as Annex 3. In summary achievements are on target. It should be noted that this Annual WP has only been operating for 3 months.

### **3.4 Linking Work Plan Outputs with National Vegetation Framework Desired Outcomes**

The NSW meeting concluded that the Work Plan was not worded to address Outcomes. It is a failing of the NVF process that Outcomes were not considered as an operational aspect in the strategic planning process. The WP is an annual document and needs to be driven by a Strategy that is inturn consistent with the Vision and Outcomes of the NVF. In NSW this link will be provided by the Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy to be released in November, 2000.

States were asked to develop WPs against the MMM whereas the headings should be Outcomes. For example, NSW is achieving a high influence in the Outcome of Formal Reserve Management, but the WP is only low for the MMM nominated. Similarly, the impact of the WP on Biodiversity and Heritage is only low, whereas there is a separate NSW Strategy for Biodiversity.

For these reasons the Draft assessment of WP against Desired Outcomes was not considered in detail in the meeting. The Draft is contained in Annex 4 – it is a reasonable assessment of the WP but an unreasonable assessment of the total activity in NSW to achieve the Vision and Outcomes.

### **3.5 Best Management Practices – Communication and Capacity Building**

NSW provided a case study on Integrated Property Management Plans that addresses the Best Practices documented in the NVF for *Community Education and Research, Development and Extension*.

#### **Integrated Property Management Plans – A Case Study**

“The NSW Government and landholders have recognised the need for a single mechanism (an integrated property management plan), which provides integration of extension and advisory services with planning; regulatory; incentive; and research frameworks. The single mechanism would specifically meet the vegetation and other natural resource management requirements of all relevant government agencies for consents, licences and certain incentives under a number of pieces of legislation.

In response, the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC) is piloting Integrated Property Management Plans (IPMPs) in the Hunter, Murray and Central West Regions of NSW. The pilots are a cooperative effort between DLWC, NSW Agriculture, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Farming For The Future (FTFF), the community and other agencies.

IPMPs are a single integrated property-based plan, which will:

- Allow a landholder, with one document, to meet the requirements of various agencies and funding providers;
- Be initiated by landholders and are developed through a process where the landholder works in partnership with government agencies and other relevant organisations;
- Be simple in format and wording, practicable and implementable, and allow landholders to integrate vegetation, soil and water management practices with other physical, financial and personal aspects of their property's management; and
- Be flexible so that an integrated property management plan can be easily reviewed and upgraded to incorporate any development components.

The pilot projects are guided by the best management practices outlined in the '*National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation*'. The IPMP Pilots are particularly guided by the best management practice detailed in Section 4.1 - *Community Education* and Section 4.2 - *Research and Development, and Extension of Appendix B: Best Practice Attributes of Native Vegetation Management and Monitoring Mechanisms* (p. 50-52).

The IPMPs target a diversity of community sectors including: large and small landholders; individual and corporate owners; landholders who are interested in the regulatory process; landholders who are interested in the incentives available; and both landholders who have and have not participated in the FFTF workshops. The landholders involved also have a geographic spread within each of the pilot regions and across New South Wales.

When developing an IPMP a range of communication channels are used including workshops series, field trips, phone contact, newsletters and individual site visits. The IPMPs have integrated vegetation management information and networks with conventional extension services through combining advice from qualified agency staff with the FFTF program.

In the Central West the pilot is integrated directly with a FFTF workshop series which has been specifically modified to meet the needs of the participants and IPMPs outcomes. This includes integration with educational material, FFTF activities and the local and statewide FFTF newsletters.

The pilots follow a process of action based learning involving people directly in activities, which are linked to their own properties and local communities as well as to the regional landscape. An IPMP is initiated by a landholder and is developed in partnership with government agencies and other relevant organisations for the landholder's own property. The landholder works on an IPMP which contains general information regarding: location; ownership; vision for the property, biophysical features; existing management and enterprises; cultural features; existing land use and infrastructure; water balance; physical limitations; land use problem areas; ecological significance and future options for the property. Rectified aerial photographs, and in most cases geographic information systems (GIS) are used to prepare this information for the IPMPs.

The IPMP process recognises the practical knowledge of revegetation and management of remnant vegetation rests with landholders. The development of an IPMP is primarily

focused on group-based actions and learning via integration with targeted workshops, conducted by trained and experienced facilitators, and field trips to examine vegetation types and land degradation issues. The development process also includes site visits to other landholder's properties and individual property visits by agency staff.

This coordinated series of best practice native vegetation management extension allows for group discussion, two-way interaction, joint learning, information and experience sharing, recognition of anecdotal information and practical experience, and specific targeted advice to participants. Landholders are encouraged to provide their local knowledge of their property and its vegetation.

Through analysis of future options for the property an IPMP identifies, documents and promulgates best practice on-ground native vegetation management and revegetation. The IPMPs also identifies land use problem areas where best management practices may not be sufficient to achieve ecologically sustainable native vegetation management.

All of the IPMP pilots have links to non-government networks. For example, in the Hunter pilot the Australian Forest Growers contribute to IPMP pilot. The Central West pilot project was initiated by landholders from the Macquarie Marshes Catchment Management Committee, Macquarie River Food and Fibre and the Macquarie Valley Landcare Group.

The IPMPs advice, workshops and documentation are based on individual, community and regional needs and issues. Each IPMP provides information on linkage to existing (and planned) legislation, Local Environment Plans, sub-catchment plans and landcare group plans, Regional Vegetation Management Plans, Regional Environment Plans and Catchment Management Plans. The landholders are encouraged to participate in regional planning and some participants are members of Regional Vegetation Committees and newly created Catchment Management Boards.

A comprehensive review of the three pilots will be undertaken in March 2001 to examine the feasibility of possible wider implementation on a statewide basis.”

### **3.6 Evaluating Against the Vision and Goals**

Session E of the meeting commenced with a discussion of Table 3.6 prepared by the Consultants. While it was accepted that this is a reasonable assessment of the situation it was pointed out that the Workplan was not developed as the overall implementation document for the NVF. In particular there are a number of ongoing programs in NSW that contribute to the Goals of the NVF. These programs are driven through the NSW Salinity, Biodiversity and soon to be released Native Vegetation Conservation Strategies.

**Table 3.6 : Plausible indicators for the NVF Vision and NSW Workplan**

<b>NVF Vision</b>	<b>Plausible process indicators</b>	<b>Comments on Progress</b>	<b>Reference</b>
A reversal in the long term decline in the extent and quality of native vegetation	Enabling and institutional arrangements in place	Legislation has recently been revised, coordinated and made specific to integrated vegetation management Establish links between NSW TSC Act and Commonwealth EPBC Act	4.1.3 Background 4.1.4 dot 2
	Planning undertaken.	CMBs and RVCs charged with planning responsibility	4.1.1
	Plans resourced and being implemented	Investments funds, grants and revolving Trust	4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3
	People with knowledge and skills required	Community education	4.4.1
	Monitoring and evaluation of all aspects leading to revision of plans	Finalise vegetation spatial database M&E with PIS in RVMPs	4.2.1 dot 2 4.7.1 background
<b>Goals</b>			
Conservation and where appropriate, restoration of native vegetation to maintain and enhance biodiversity, protect water quality and conserve soil resources, including on private land managed for agriculture, forestry and urban development	Native vegetation is protected by effective clearing controls on all land	Legislation has recently been revised and operational aspects being fine-tuned Exemption process to be reviewed Role of EP&A Act, NPWS Act and local government to be reviewed Interim targets for vegetation retention	4.1.3 background and all dots 4.1.3 dot 1 4.1.2 dot 1 and 4.1.3 dot 3 4.2.3 dot 6 4.6.2 dot 1
	Programs in place to restore, where appropriate, native vegetation to maintain/enhance biodiversity and protect land and water resources on private all land	Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy being developed Local government biodiversity strategies in 25% of planning Develop farm forestry/plantation advisory programs	4.1.3 dot 4 4.1.2 dot 2 4.4.3 dot 3
	Programs and measures in place to encourage development and adoption of best management practices for native vegetation management in agricultural, forest and urban enterprises	Publish support material for RVMP Develop BMP for native vegetation in agriculture Evaluate feasibility of biodiversity and salinity credits Codes of practice for woody weeds and clearing for plantation	4.2.3 dot 5 4.4.1 dot 2 4.5.2 4.6.3

	Appropriate monitoring and assessment programs are in place to detect change in native vegetation quantity and geographic extent	<p>Framework developed for bio-regional assessments and 4 areas completed</p> <p>Audit of conservation status of ecosystems and plant communities in NSW</p> <p>Standards for vegetation mapping in place and 10 priority areas mapped</p> <p>Computerised tracking of clearing assessments</p> <p>Undertake land clearing survey using year 2000 imagery</p>	<p>4.2.2 dots 1 and 2</p> <p>4.2.2 dots 3 and 4</p> <p>4.2.1 dot 1</p> <p>4.6.2 dot 3</p> <p>4.7.1 dot 1</p>
Retention and enhancement of biodiversity and native vegetation at both regional and national levels	Appropriate environment protection policies and measures are in place to protect biodiversity at regional and national levels	<p>Mechanisms for long-term protection of native vegetation outside of the reserve system</p> <p>Links between vegetation programs</p>	<p>4.3 dot 3</p> <p>4.4.3 dot 1</p>
	Biodiversity and native vegetation targets are set and measures are in place to achieve those targets at both regional and national levels	<p>Interim regional targets for revegetation</p> <p>Identify areas for reserves and off-reserve protection</p> <p>Investment funds and incentives</p> <p>Conservation Trust revolving fund</p> <p>Integrate property planning and threatened species plans</p>	<p>4.2.3 dot 6</p> <p>4.3 dots 1 and 2</p> <p>4.5.1 and 4.5.2</p> <p>4.5.3</p> <p>4.6.1 dot 1</p>
	Appropriate monitoring and assessment programs are in place to detect change in native vegetation biodiversity	<p>Guidelines for condition, habitat and corridor assessment</p> <p>Flora and fauna guidelines for consultants</p>	<p>4.4.2 dots 2 and 3</p> <p>4.6.1 dot 5</p>
An improvement in the condition of existing native vegetation	Policies and programs are in place to manage native vegetation to conserve condition as well as cover-through duty of care; native vegetation covenants, partnerships etc	<p>Identify areas for reserves and off-reserve protection</p> <p>Guidelines published for preparation of VCAs</p> <p>Conservation values incorporated in Property Management Planning and possible offsets and clearing applications</p> <p>Predictive habitat model for use in clearing applications</p> <p>Biodiversity management conditions in clearing consents</p>	<p>4.3 dots 1 and 2</p> <p>4.4.2 background</p> <p>4.4.2 dot 1</p> <p>4.5.5</p> <p>4.6.1 dot 4</p> <p>4.6.2 dot 2</p>
	Policies and programs are in place to restore native vegetation quality where appropriate	<p>Assess potential critical habitat as part of recovery planning</p>	<p>4.6.1 dot 2</p>
	Appropriate monitoring and assessment programs are in place to detect change in native vegetation quality	<p>Guidelines for condition, habitat and corridor assessment</p> <p>VCA partnership database</p>	<p>4.4.2 dots 2 and 3</p> <p>4.7.1 dot 2</p>

Notes on Table 3.6:

1. RVMPs [MMM 4.1.1 and 4.2.3] could cover most aspects so they have only been included against the Vision – results of the plans are unknown at this stage;
2. Mapping and databases [MMM4.2.1] will interact with all Goals but the appropriateness of the scale and rate of coverage of mapping is not clear; and
3. Publishing all available information on agencies' internet sites [MMM 4.4.1] has the potential to assist all goals.

Through this process, with the information contained in the Workplan, and that provided at the meeting it was concluded that:

- considerable policy and regulatory activity has occurred or is planned to address the outcome;
- a staged planning process has been developed but the adequacy of the timeframe is unclear from the Worplan;
- implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of extent and condition have limited activity in the Workplan and will require greater resources; but
- because the Workplan concentrates on a 12 month period, it does not fully reflect implementation in ongoing programs; and
- the background statements for sections in the Workplan are very useful and could be expanded to provide more information about ongoing program activity and context.

### **3.6.1 Biodiversity Strategy**

This Strategy proposes a framework for coordinating and integrating government and community efforts, ensuring that available resources are efficiently and effectively applied. The actions in the Strategy detail a balanced response for integration of ecological, social and economic objectives. The Strategy outlines a proposal to protect the high quality natural environment of NSW and enable the benefits of biodiversity to be shared by all. It was launched in 1999.

The Goal is to protect the native biological diversity of NSW and maintain ecological processes and systems. It states six Objectives, documents a set of Principles, and has an implementation focus with priority actions and performance targets for year 2001.

### **3.6.2 Salinity Strategy**

This Strategy, released in August 2000, delivers a single, integrated framework for salinity management in NSW. It has a long term commitment from government and empowers all sections of the community to work together using the best available science, innovative ideas and strategic investments. It will plan and manage for landscape change at the appropriate scale and it is through this that it interacts with vegetation management. Catchment Management Plans will integrate soil, water and vegetation planning and action for sustainable natural resource objectives.

### 3.6.3 Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy

This Draft Strategy has a Vision that 'native vegetation is embraced and valued by the communities of NSW for the variety of benefits it can provide. As a result, native vegetation will be conserved, sustainably managed and improved in quality and quantity'. It was released for further consultation on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2000.

The Vision of the NSW Strategy is very consistent with the Vision and Goals of the NVF and a range of other national, state and international policies and strategies. The Strategy states some Guiding Principles, establishes Values for Native Vegetation, and sets out a range of Options for Action against targeted Outcomes which will translate to implementation as a result of the consultation.

The Outcomes in the Strategy are:

1. Knowledge of native vegetation and its various values is important and shared;
2. Partnerships are built within and between all members of the community with differing interests in native vegetation;
3. A shared understanding of the role of native vegetation in rural and urban landscapes is developed and demonstrated in state, regional and property plans;
4. Native vegetation is sustainably managed and opportunities are provided to enhance farm productivity and diversify farm production;
5. Native vegetation is conserved and managed to enhance the variety of benefits it provides especially for biodiversity and ecological functioning; and
6. Institutional arrangements for native vegetation are in place and continually improved to support landowners and managers.

The NSW jurisdiction meeting concluded that the Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy will form the important link between the NVF and annual Workplans in NSW. It was stated by the Advisory Council that the NVF was considered in the development of the Draft Strategy for NSW.

## 4 Evaluation of progress against Work Plan Commitments and the National Framework

In this section we use the data collected in section 3 to consider the specific terms of reference.

### 4.1 Assessment of the Effectiveness of the NSW Work Plan and its Implementation

The effectiveness of the Workplan is limited by NVF nominated development process. In particular its primarily an aggregation of activities plan for the period through other processes. It is not a strategic set of activities designed to achieve the NVF Vision or Goals. This is not to say that the activities are not necessary or worthwhile, but that they are not focussed on outcomes for the NVF or within the WP. The activities are a listing under the Management and Monitoring Mechanisms which is what the NVF process requires.

#### 4.1.1 Management and Monitoring Mechanisms

Most MMM in the NSW WP are addressing Key Challenges with a medium level of influence. NSW has addressed a number of the Key Challenges so that they are no longer an issue and believes that while they were relevant two years ago, they are no longer useful as drivers in the management of native vegetation. Their place has been taken by the Targets and Actions in the new draft State Strategy for Native Vegetation Conservation.

Regulatory mechanisms show a low level of influence but this is because the recent NSW Native Vegetation Conservation Act has become operational and this has addressed the Challenge that previously existed. This Act focuses on threatened communities through the development of Regional Vegetation Management Plans and hence a high level of influence for the desired outcome on biodiversity.

Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are not being adequately influences in the WP or through other processes. The resources available for monitoring and evaluation are not adequate. While ‘continuous improvement’ is stated as a function of the Draft State Strategy, there are no explicit targets or activities documented.

Time and resources for this evaluation did not permit evaluation of all MMM against ‘best practice’ in the NVF. However, NSW provided a case study of how they are using ‘communication and capacity building best practice’ in their Integrated Property Management Planning program. The program has been particularly guided by the best management practice of *Community Education* and *Research and Development, and Extension*. NSW has found the NVF Best Practices useful in providing a checklist for development of the project as well as a basis for its evaluation.

#### 4.1.2 Long term outcomes

This raises the previously discussed procedural problem of the WP not being developed against outcomes. Information in section 3.4 provides evidence that there is a medium level

of impact by the WP on all Desired Outcomes in the NVF. Exceptions to this are for the MMMs of Communication and Capacity Building and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Communication and Capacity Building is the case study prepared for demonstrating the use of 'best practice' and from this evidence it is clear that action is occurring. However, this is a case where the one Action (4.4.2 dot 1) is the exception to an overall low level of impact. The other point is that even integrated property plans on their own will not necessarily impact on vegetation unless they are adequately implemented and the WP indicates nothing about this.

Similarly, a lot of the activity in vegetation mapping, assessment and planning (Actions 4.2) will not in themselves result in achievement of the outcomes. They are important precursors but they need to be linked in a strategic planning framework to the desired outcomes.

Information in section 3.6 is an *ex post* attempt at such a strategic framework and leads to the following conclusions:

- considerable policy and regulatory activity has occurred or is planned to address the outcome;
- a staged planning process has been developed but the adequacy of the timeframe is unclear from the Workplan;
- implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation of extent and condition have limited activity in the Workplan and will require greater resources; but
- because the Workplan concentrates on a 12 month period, it does not fully reflect implementation in ongoing programs.

### **4.1.3 Progress against success measures**

The data presented in section 3.3 indicates a satisfactory level of achievement for each Action at this time. However, as the WP is only three months into its cycle, final progress may vary.

A minor problem is that some of the 'Success Measures' are not very appropriate. For example, in Action 4.1.2, the level of local council representation on committees is not a measure of their participation – the required action is participation.

## **4.2 Proposed Improvements to NSW Work Plan**

There are two levels of improvement: one is in the strategic framework to establish the linkages between Desired Outcomes and MMM and Actions; the other is to ensure that the actions are appropriate and effective. This later improvement process cannot occur until after the first is in place. In NSW the first will occur with the release of the Draft Strategy and the second will follow as the consultation process on the targets and optional actions is finalised by July 2001.

### 4.2.1 Improvements to mechanisms

While the MMM associated with roles and responsibilities infers that people will actually manage vegetation, there is no specific on-ground implementation Mechanism in the NVF. This is overcome in the Draft NSW Strategy by having Outcomes with quantified targets for vegetation management.

The only quantification in the NVF is in the Vision and the concept of reversing the long-term decline in the quality and extent of vegetation cover by June 2001 is probably unrealistic and not helpful to the task of galvanising ownership of the problem. While this is not an improvement specific to the NSW WP, it needs to be presented here and considered for the overall evaluation report. Only when quantified and realistic outcomes are established is it possible to consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of the MMM and Actions. NSW has done this through its Draft Strategy irrespective of the NVF process although its Strategy Outcomes are consistent with the NVF.

### 4.2.2 Review and refine Workplan

NSW intends to review and refine its WP against the Draft Strategy. This will ensure that the Actions are appropriate and effective because they will be considered against the relevant Outcome. This is consistent with the continuous improvement concept stated in the Draft Strategy but there is no apparent mechanism or specific action to do this. The responsibility has been ascribed to the Native Vegetation Advisory Council.

## 4.3 Jurisdiction Progress Assessed Against the National Vegetation Framework

As indicated in section 4.1.2, there is not enough evidence in the WP to determine the progress in NSW towards the NVF Vision. The reasons for this are:

- the WP is by its NVF process and design, an amalgamation of MMM that are not related to outcomes that would deliver the vision;
- the WP does not include all of the action being undertaken in NSW that would impact on vegetation quality or extent; and
- monitoring mechanisms do not currently exist to determine change in vegetation condition or extent across the state.

However, the release and finalisation of the Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy, together with the related Biodiversity and Salinity Strategies will address the first two issues. The third issue is being tackled but requires additional resources to mount an appropriate monitoring and evaluation program.

## 4.4 Proposed Ongoing Independent Evaluation Arrangements

Ongoing evaluation should not be attempted until the NVF process establishes the mechanism to link quantified goals with MMM and Actions in a strategic framework. Even then the best evaluation would be through consistent monitoring of vegetation condition and extent at a state or regional scale through a nationally coordinated program that produce a public report every three years. If WP evaluation is required it could be through a process

that requires each jurisdiction to report its progress against success measures to a public session of the SCC NVF Working Group on a rolling three year cycle. The vegetation condition and extent data would identify change and problems, while the success measure report would enable scrutiny of jurisdictional responses to problems identified.

## 5 Conclusions and Recommendations

The NSW Workplan is being implemented and progress is probably more than satisfactory against the nominated actions. However, there are other actions occurring through on-going programs that are not included even though they impact (probably positively) on native vegetation. These actions are generally not included because they are part of other ongoing programs but their inclusion would provide a more complete picture and indicate interaction.

***Recommendation 1 : the WP should be expanded to include all relevant activity and this should occur in association with the State Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy and be based on a strategic framework relating actions to outcomes.***

There is insufficient activity on Monitoring and Evaluation in NSW to enable assessment of the impact on vegetation condition or extent – the desired vision of the NVF.

***Recommendation 2 : there is a need to develop and resource an adequate monitoring and evaluation component in the State Strategy and hence the NVF Workplan.***

The NVF is an inadequate process to deliver the stated Vision because it does not strategically link Desired Outcomes with Actions. The NSW Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy provides this ‘strategic link’ in NSW and could form a process model for other jurisdictions.

***Recommendation 3 : the NVF should contain the Vision, Principles and Outcome that guides the development of jurisdiction strategies with quantified outcomes which in turn drive Workplans at the jurisdiction level.***

There are no implementation targets and few on-ground vegetation management actions in the NSW WP but this is proposed to be addressed in the NSW Strategy through the consultation process.

***Recommendation 4 : inclusion of on-ground vegetation management targets in the Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy will be essential to achieve its Vision and that of the NVF.***

Key Challenges were relevant in the establishment of the NVF but over time they have been addressed or superseded. They are not appropriate measures for future evaluation of Work Plans. Evaluation of jurisdiction strategies should identify and prioritise current issues and cause them to be addressed in the annual work plans.

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## Glossary

<b>Abbreviation/Acronym</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AFFA	Agriculture Fisheries Forestry - Australia
ANZECC	Australia New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council
EA	Environment Australia
NVF	National Vegetation Framework
SCC	Standing Committee on Conservation
TOR	Terms of Reference
MMM	Management and Monitoring Mechanism
WP	Work Plan

# **Annex 1**

## **Work Plan (see Annex 3)**

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## Annex 2: List of Stakeholders Consulted

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Kevin Roberts	NPWS
Jo White	NPWS
Leanne Wallace	DLWC
Peter Houghton	DLWC
Rebekah Gomez-Fort	Native Vegetation Advisory Council

### Annex 3: Level of Work Plan Achievements

Management Mechanisms	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Success Measure	Level of Achievement November 2000
<b>4.1 Roles &amp; Responsibilities of Governments and Community</b>					
<i>4.1.1 Community Role</i>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The role of the community covers the broad spectrum from individuals managing native vegetation on their properties, local groups undertaking landcare activities, regional groups with specific tasks such as regional vegetation committees and with broad responsibilities for natural resource issues such as catchment management boards, through to representation on State and Commonwealth government advisory bodies. It is a primary function of the State government within the context of this national framework to facilitate the various groups in achieving their responsibilities.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare strategic plan for the management of natural resources within respective catchments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMBs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicative targets for draft plan identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMBs established across NSW. Development of indicative targets</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare draft regional vegetation management plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RVCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Five draft plans prepared</li> </ul>	<p>underway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 RVMPs in various stages of completion. Mid Lachlan draft with Minister for consideration. Riverina Highlands and Western Riverina provided with extra resources to complete drafts. Review initiated by NSW Premier to expedite planning process</li> </ul>
<p>4.1.2 <i>Local Government Role</i></p>	<p><b><u>Background</u></b></p> <p>Local government has a diverse role in native vegetation management from facilitating local and regional development including participation on regional vegetation committees to preparing local environmental plans that make provision for native vegetation management. Local government has to consider an approved RVMP in land use planning. The decision for local government to prepare an LEP to address vegetation matters rests with a council. Councils should consult with DLWC/NPWS prior to starting the LEP.</p>				

	<p>The NSW Biodiversity Strategy identifies that local government should better incorporate biodiversity into its routine planning through biodiversity action planning, and promote biodiversity conservation within local communities.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local government participation on regional vegetation committees</li> <li>• Development of biodiversity strategies that are incorporated in local government planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local councils</li> <li>• Local councils with assistance of NPWS guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% of local councils represented on committees</li> <li>• 25% of local councils with biodiversity strategies at the local scale evident in plans and development decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local councils represented on all committees</li> <li>• Guidelines targeted for completion mid-December 2000</li> </ul>
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<p><i>4.1.3 State Government Role</i></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>NSW has adopted a whole-of-government approach to native vegetation management and monitoring. Lead agencies are Department of Land and Water Conservation (DLWC), the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), NSW Agriculture (NSW Ag) and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP). These agencies are responsible for administering and implementing relevant legislation, principally the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> (NVC Act), the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (NPW Act), the <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (TSC Act) and the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (EP&amp;A Act). The government is advised by the Native Vegetation Advisory Council (NVAC), which includes representatives from state and local government, and the community through rural, environmental, Aboriginal and scientific members.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review exemptions to the NVC Act. Although regional exemptions will be determined as part of the regional vegetation planning process, current</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DLWC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review completed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desk-top review completed. Independent Scientific group established to review exemptions as an</li> </ul>
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	<p>exemptions to the Act are being reviewed to assist with a consistent approach to their implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the NPW Act to streamline its operation</li> <li>• Review planning provisions (Part 3) of the EP&amp;A Act</li> <li>• Release the draft Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy. This strategy is being developed to enable government to determine the future direction of native vegetation conservation and management in NSW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPWS</li> <li>• DUAP</li> <li>• NVAC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• Nov 2000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review completed</li> <li>• Review completed</li> <li>• Draft strategy released</li> </ul>	<p>initiative of the NSW Premier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advice prepared and under consideration by NSW Government</li> <li>• Review underway</li> <li>• <b>ACHIEVED</b> Strategy released November 2000</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.1.4 Commonwealth Government Role</b></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Within the context of this national framework and its relationship with other jurisdictions, the Commonwealth has a responsibility to integrate national strategies and facilitate funding partnerships.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the outcomes of the ‘Commonwealth Inquiry into public good conservation - impact of environmental measures imposed on landholders’</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLWC, NPWS, NSW Agriculture, DUAP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When released</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments provided within 4 weeks of release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting release</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish clear links between the NSW TSC Act and the Commonwealth's EPBC Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent list of threatened species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under consideration by NSW Scientific Committee</li> </ul>
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<p><b>4.2 Planning &amp; Assessment</b></p>					
<p>4.2.1 Vegetation Inventory, Data Collection and Mapping</p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>State native vegetation mapping is currently underway. Mapping and vegetation typing standards are in place to enable a consistent product. The best available scale is used and data is collected to suit various needs including information for regional vegetation committees. Vegetation data is also being captured from clearing assessments and property agreements. Information continues to be entered into the Atlas of NSW Wildlife from plots and species records throughout the state.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise mapping for 10 x 1:100 000 map sheets in priority areas such as Walgett and Moree Shires</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DLWC supported by NPWS, Royal Botanic Gardens</li> <li>DLWC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 2001</li> <li>Dec 2000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 Vegetation maps completed</li> <li>Spatial data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five year \$8M vegetation mapping program commenced</li> <li>Database products being trialed</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise vegetation spatial database</li> <li>• Incorporate data into Atlas of NSW Wildlife</li> <li>• Supply data to the Commonwealth’s Native Vegetation Information System</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPWS</li> <li>• NPWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• Sept 2000</li> </ul>	<p>products and reports available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 additional entries made</li> <li>• Data supplied</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-target</li> <li>• <b>ACHIEVED</b> Data supplied</li> </ul>
<p>4.2.2 Biodiversity Status Assessment</p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The State Biodiversity Strategy emphasises bioregional planning. It will assess gaps in the reserve system at a broad scale, with finer scale gap analysis to follow at a later stage. The strategy will also identify regional priorities for conservation in addition to reserve targets, depending on the resolution of the available data. It will result in improvements in the State’s capacity to incorporate conservation assessments into natural resource planning. The Strategy funds</p>				

	<p>a range of actions – some key ones are listed below.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop of a framework for undertaking bio-regional assessments and integrating these into natural resource plans</li> <li>• Commence bio-regional conservation assessments in four areas in western NSW:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Darling Riverine Plains</li> <li>• Brigalow Belt South</li> <li>• South-west slopes</li> <li>• Nandewar</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Audit the conservation status of NSW ecosystems</li> <li>• Audit the conservation status of NSW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPWS and Royal Botanic Gardens, supported by DLWC</li> <li>• NPWS</li> <li>• NPWS</li> <li>• Royal Botanic Gardens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• Dec 2000</li> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coarse level State-wide data on ecosystems and identification of gaps for further work.</li> <li>• Technical report</li> <li>• Scoping report</li> <li>• Scoping report</li> <li>• Scoping report</li> <li>• Project commenced</li> <li>• Draft report prepared</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-target</li> <li>• Underway</li> <li>• Underway</li> <li>• Underway</li> <li>• Completed</li> <li>• Project officer employed</li> <li>• Project officer employed</li> </ul>
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	plant communities				
4.2.3 Regional Vegetation Management Planning	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The draft Mid Lachlan RVMP has already been publicly exhibited and is being finalised. 20 other RVMPs are in preparation. The planning process emphasises social, economic and environmental issues, and the relationship between regional and property planning. A support package for regional vegetation committees has been published and sent to committee members. The package provides guidelines for planning and is supported by relevant data and planning information provided cooperatively by all relevant agencies. Each plan will vary in terms of the resources available and required. The State is committed to vegetation planning and to the progressive improvement of data and plans over time.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inter-agency protocol for preparation of RVMPs</li> <li>• Finalise Mid Lachlan RVMP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLWC, NPWS, NSW Ag, DUAP</li> <li>• DLWC</li> <li>• RVCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oct 2000</li> <li>• Dec 2000</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol operational</li> <li>• Approved plan</li> <li>• Five draft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being implemented</li> <li>• On-target</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare draft RVMPs</li> <li>• Designate two new native vegetation regions (subject to community support)</li> <li>• Publish support material covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aboriginal issues and consultation</li> <li>Soil and water conservation issues</li> <li>Social and economic issues</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop interim regional targets for vegetation retention and revegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>with support of agencies</li> <li>• DLWC</li> <li>• DLWC</li> <li>• DLWC</li> <li>• DLWC with support of agencies and RVCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• Nov '00</li> <li>• Dec '00</li> <li>• Mar '01</li> <li>• Dec '00</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>plans prepared</li> <li>• Regions designated</li> <li>• }</li> <li>} Material }</li> <li>published</li> <li>• Targets being incorporated in RVMPs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft model plan finalised which will assist RVCs prepare plans</li> <li>• Lower Macquarie – Castlereagh region designated</li> <li>• }</li> <li>} Draft material prepared }</li> <li>• On-target</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.3 Formal Reserve System</b></p>					
	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>There is no rule to guide the preferential investment of resources into additional reserves or off-reserve arrangements. Decisions will depend on questions of available resources, landholder commitment, long term security, quality and compatibility of management, impact from external threats such as fire, incompatible uses, etc. The NSW Biodiversity Strategy commits NSW to</p>				

	<p>a CAR reserve system. The development of the NSW reserve system will be informed by vegetation conservation priorities that are increasingly identified through systematic regional surveys. In areas where there has been the greatest loss and fragmentation of native vegetation, and where reserve establishment may not be practical, the State is more likely to rely on off reserve mechanisms. Increasingly, conservation is seen as a landscape wide issue, partly in recognition that islands will not survive in isolation, particularly if their size and shape are sub-optimal. Hence the current emphasis on regional scale conservation assessments and coordinated responses across agencies and local government.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify areas for reservation through the bioregional assessment process, regional forest agreement process and regional vegetation planning process</li> <li>• Identify areas for off-reserve protection</li> <li>• Establish strategies for long-term protection of native vegetation outside the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPWS, SFNSW, DUAP, DLWC</li> <li>• NPWS, DLWC</li> <li>• NPWS, DLWC and local gov't</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % increase in vegetation communities in reserves</li> <li>• Agreements for off-reserve protection</li> <li>• Complete</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three reserves gazetted in western NSW. Documents being prepared for additional reserves in southern NSW</li> <li>• 92 Voluntary Conservation Agreements</li> <li>556 Property Agreements</li> </ul>
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	reserve system.			review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposals outlined in draft Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy</li> </ul>
<b>4.4 Communication &amp; Capacity Building</b>					
4.4.1 <i>Community Education</i>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Agencies are publishing and widely distributing various information packages, such as the DLWC information packages on property agreements and regional vegetation planning, the NPWS voluntary conservation agreement material and land for wildlife pamphlet, and the booklets on regional flora by NSW Royal Botanic Gardens. Agencies are also providing extension programs such as Farming for the Future, Bushcare, and farm-forestry and plantation establishment to increase the area of hard and soft wood establishment.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put all published information on the relevant agency's internet site</li> <li>Develop best practice guidelines for the planned management of native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DLWC, NPWS, NSW Ag</li> <li>NSW Ag</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 2001</li> <li>June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information available on internet</li> <li>Information available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-target</li> <li>On-target</li> </ul>

	<p>in agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare support material for <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> Code of Practice including application forms and guidelines (action linked to section 4.6.3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLWC, NSW State Forests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support material drafted</li> </ul>
<p><b>4.4.2 Research and Development, and Extension</b></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Staff guidelines for the preparation of VCAs and property agreements, and the administration of clearing applications have been published.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop integrated property management plans. Pilot project commenced to evaluate production and conservation values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLWC, NPWS, NSW Ag</li> <li>• DLWC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feb 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on workability of approach</li> <li>• Draft guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting framework agreed. Pilots underway in Hunter, Murray and Macquarie</li> <li>• Research underway</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop guidelines for vegetation condition assessment</li> <li>• Develop approaches for corridor and habitat assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on workability of approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research underway</li> </ul>
<p><i>4.4.3 Vegetation Management Infrastructure</i></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Adjustments to administrative arrangements are continually being implemented to increase responsiveness of agencies to the various issues related to native vegetation management. Departmental capacity to service community interest is increasing.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish links between vegetation programs and Catchment Management Boards, Bushcare, and Landcare networks</li> <li>• Develop farm forestry/plantation advisory programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLWC, NPWS, NSW Ag</li> <li>• DLWC, NPWS, NSW Ag</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information exchange readily occurring</li> <li>• Programs established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salinity Strategy &amp; CMB package released and links identified. Joint meeting of NVAC, WAC &amp; SCMCC chairs held in August 2000</li> <li>• NSW Office of Private Forestry established August 2000 to develop programs</li> </ul>

<p><b>4.5 Incentives</b></p>					
<p><i>4.5.1 Grant Programs / Incentives</i></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>NSW has a process in place for cooperative management of incentive programs, including the administration of Commonwealth funded programs thereby minimising competition across schemes. Criteria are in place to guide the allocation of scarce resources for incentive schemes. As information on conservation and natural resource management priorities is updated, these criteria are reviewed. Landholder group action is also well established in NSW where landholders have combined to undertake a coordinated action plan for property development, mixing vegetation conservation management and production, and using both Commonwealth and State incentive funds.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued operation of the Native Vegetation Management Fund incentive scheme and other sources of funding, for property agreements and voluntary conservation agreements on current State-wide priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DLWC, NPWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expenditure of \$12M on managing priority areas of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current expenditure \$7.5M</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify priority areas for incentive funding in RVMPs</li> <li>• Establish an Environmental Services Investment Fund to finance the management actions necessary to manage salinity and other environmental issues which have high public good environmental services benefits, and for which commercial options are not available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RVCs</li> <li>• DLWC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within 12 mths of first meeting</li> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<p>native veg on private land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority areas identified</li> <li>• Fund established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As an example, Mid Lachlan draft RVMP has identified priority areas for funding</li> <li>• Investment team being established</li> </ul>
<p><i>4.5.2 Property Right and Market-based Measures</i></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>NSW is implementing best practice covenanting through voluntary conservation agreements and property agreements. The State is committed to market based solutions to native vegetation conservation and management.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Conservation Trust to coordinate incentives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agencies, NSW Farmers, and NCC</li> <li>• NSW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling legislation in place</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation drafted</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement carbon credit scheme</li> <li>• Evaluate feasibility of biodiversity and salinity credits in regard to native vegetation management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Forests</li> <li>• DLWC, NPWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scheme operational</li> <li>• Report drafted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current mechanisms being evaluated</li> <li>• Evaluation underway</li> </ul>
4.5.3 Revolving Funds	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>NSW has established a consortium to set up a revolving fund. Over \$5.6M has been committed to the fund by the State and Commonwealth governments, the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and Greening Australia. The operation of the fund will eventually be incorporated into the NSW Conservation Trust.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise consortium's operational agreement</li> <li>• Finalise consortium's 5 year business plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of consortium</li> <li>• Members of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nov 2000</li> <li>• Feb 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement signed and consortium operational</li> <li>• Plan finalised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreement under negotiation</li> <li>• Draft business plan prepared</li> </ul>

		consortium <b>5.1.1.1</b>			
<i>4.5.4 Differential Rating and Taxation Measures</i>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Rate exemptions are already permissible for voluntary conservation agreements through the Local Government Act.. NSW is examining additional avenues for non-grant incentives.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek taxation deductions for managing native vegetation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLWC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taxation measures under consideration by Australian Taxation Office</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covered in draft Native Vegetation Conservation Strategy</li> </ul>
<i>4.5.5 Offsets and Performance / Assurance Bonds.</i>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>RVMPs can identify the need and priorities for property planning and thus direct the application of incentives at the property level.</p>				

	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluate feasibility of incorporating offsets and clearing applications in property plans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DLWC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report drafted</li> </ul>	<p>Discussion paper being prepared</p>
<p><b>4.6 Regulatory Mechanisms</b></p>					
<p><i>4.6.1. Threatened Species/Ecological Communities Protection</i></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Current legislation is continually under review including refining the criteria for determining if an impact is likely to be significant on threatened species and communities. With the listing of ecological communities, there is a shift in focus from species to communities as the priorities for planning. There is also an emphasis on the preparation of threat abatement plans to deal with broad threats to</p>				

	<p>biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate property planning for threatened species with that for other purposes</li> <li>• Assess area of potential critical habitat as part of the recovery planning program.</li> <li>• Link NSW threatened species under the TSC Act with the Commonwealth's EPBC Act</li> <li>• Develop a predictive model that facilitates effective and timely assessment of clearing applications. The model will compare habitat data from the proposed development with known habitat preferences of particular species</li> <li>• Flora and fauna survey guidelines for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPWS</li> <li>• NPWS</li> <li>• NPWS</li> <li>• DLWC, supported by NPWS</li> <li>• DLWC, NPWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• March 2001</li> <li>• June 2001</li> <li>• Dec</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report drafted</li> <li>• Location of critical habitat</li> <li>• Coordinated approach to determining threatened species and communities</li> <li>• Indicative model prepared for evaluation</li> <li>• Interim</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently being tested in pilot projects in Hunter, Murray and Macquarie</li> <li>• 110 draft recovery plans being prepared, 25 draft plans completed and 10 adopted by Minister for Environment</li> <li>• Being developed by NSW Scientific Committee</li> <li>• On-target</li> <li>• Draft being finalised</li> </ul>
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	consultants		2000	guidelines published	
<p><i>4.6.2 Land Clearing Regulation</i></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The NSW government is committed to reducing clearing native vegetation. Conditions of consent for clearing are always focused on management outcomes. A continuing and significant reduction will occur when procedures now in place result in a substantial difference in the amount applied and the amount granted. The emphasis needs to be on education and extension, and community driven planning for long term and more secure outcomes. NSW is actively engaged in regional planning. Clearing applications are already managed in a regional context and preparation of regional plans will refine that framework.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement regional targets for vegetation retention in clearing assessments (action linked to development of regional targets under section 4.2.3)</li> <li>• Prepare specific biodiversity management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLWC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 2001</li> <li>• June</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearing assessments incorporating regional targets</li> <li>• Conditions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On-target</li> </ul>

	<p>conditions (currently incorporated with other conditions) for inclusion in development consents for clearing. Biodiversity conditions include retention of habitat and provision for specific species needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop computerised tracking of DLWC clearing assessments. This will be an integrated system as part of the Department's Total Environmental Assessment Management System</li> <li>• Scientific review of DLWC's clearing guidelines by independent panel of experts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NPWS</li> <li>• DLWC</li> <li>• DLWC</li> </ul>	<p>2001</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nov 2000</li> <li>• Oct 2000</li> </ul>	<p>drafted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System operational</li> <li>• Report available to government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Species profiles being developed. Several included in Mid Lachlan RVMP to assist clearing application assessment</li> <li>• System being trialed</li> <li>• Report submitted to Minister</li> </ul>
<p>4.6.3 <i>Industry/Land Use Codes of Practice</i></p>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Codes of practice are provided for under the <i>Native Vegetation Conservation Act 1997</i> to facilitate native vegetation management. The <i>Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999</i> also provides for a code for the establishment and management of plantations for conservation and commercial purposes.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise a woody weeds code of practice for western NSW under the NVC Act (in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DLWC and WWT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation drafted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently with NVAC for consideration</li> </ul>

	<p>consultation with the Woody Weeds Taskforce [WWT])</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the code of practice for clearing for plantation establishment under the PRA Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DLWC, State Forests stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code operational</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation drafted</li> </ul>
<b>4.7 Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>					
<i>4.7.1 Cover and Condition Monitoring</i>	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>NSW has monitoring systems in place for the various native vegetation programs including regional planning (regular updates on regional vegetation committee progress), property agreements and clearing applications. Compliance systems are also in place. It should be noted that each RVMP will also produce performance indicators/targets for monitoring. DLWC is developing a vegetation database that can be used for program evaluation.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake land clearing survey using imagery dated 2000 and comparable method to previous survey</li> <li>Voluntary conservation agreement partnership database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DLWC</li> <li>NPWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>April 2001</li> <li>June 2001</li> <li>March</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report drafted</li> <li>Database up-to-date</li> <li>Policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey commissioned</li> <li>On-target</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Compliance policy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DLWC</li></ul>	2001	approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draft being prepared</li></ul>
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## Annex 4: Draft Assessment of Work Plan Against Desired Outcomes

### Session C – NSW Work Plan against Desired Outcomes

Figure 2.1 Actions in Roles and Responsibilities against Desired Outcomes

Desired Outcome from NVF	Management and Monitoring Mechanism : 4.1 Roles and Responsibilities				
	4.1.1 Community Role	4.1.2 Local Government Role	4.1.3 State Government Role	4.1.4 Commonwealth Government Role	
<b>Biodiversity</b>	M	Action dot 1 M Action dot 2 H	L	M	
<b>Soil and water resources</b>	M	M	M	M	
<b>Hydrology</b>	M	M	L	M	
<b>Land productivity</b>	M	M	L	L	
<b>Sustainable land use</b>	M	M	L	L	Background activity for 4.1.2 - High
<b>Natural and cultural heritage</b>	M	M	M	L	
<b>Indigenous peoples</b>	M	M	L	L	
<b>Climate change</b>	L	L	L	L	

**Figure 2.2 Actions in Planning and Assessment against Desired Outcomes**

Desired Outcome from NVF	Management and Monitoring Mechanism : 4.2 Planning and Assessment				
	4.2.1 Veg. Inventory, data collection & mapping	4.2.2 Biodiversity status assessment	4.2.3 Regional Vegetation Management Planning		
<b>Biodiversity</b>	L	H	M		Background activity for 4.2.2 - H
<b>Soil and water resources</b>	L	M	M		
<b>Hydrology</b>	L	L	M		
<b>Land productivity</b>	N	L	M		
<b>Sustainable land use</b>	L	L	M		Background activity for 4.2.1 – M for 4.2.3 - M
<b>Natural and cultural heritage</b>	N	M	M		
<b>Indigenous peoples</b>	N	L	M		
<b>Climate change</b>	N	L	L		

Actions for 4.2.3 have been rated as Medium impact on Outcomes but this would rise to High if the plans were effective and implemented.

**Figure 2.3 Actions in Formal Reserve System against Desired Outcomes**

<b>Desired Outcome from NVF</b>	<b>Management and Monitoring Mechanism : 4.3 Formal Reserve System</b>				
<b>Biodiversity</b>	L				
<b>Soil and water resources</b>	L				
<b>Hydrology</b>	N				
<b>Land productivity</b>	N				
<b>Sustainable land use</b>	L				
<b>Natural and cultural heritage</b>	L				
<b>Indigenous peoples</b>	L				
<b>Climate change</b>	N				

Actions for 4.3 have been rated as Low impact on Outcomes but this would rise to Medium if the reserve and off-reserve protection was effectively implemented according to an overall strategy with goals.

**Figure 2.4 Actions in Communication and Capacity Building against Desired Outcomes**

<b>Desired Outcome from NVF</b>	<b>Management and Monitoring Mechanism : 4.4 Communication and Capacity Building</b>				
	<b>4.4.1 Community Education</b>	<b>4.4.2 Research &amp; Development &amp; Extension</b>	<b>4.4.3 Vegetation Management Infrastructure</b>		
<b>Biodiversity</b>	L	Dot 1 – M Dots 2 & 3 – L	L		
<b>Soil and water resources</b>	L	Dot 1 – M Dots 2 & 3 – L	L		
<b>Hydrology</b>	L	Dot 1 – M Dots 2 & 3 – L	L		
<b>Land productivity</b>	L	Dot 1 – M Dots 2 & 3 – L	L		
<b>Sustainable land use</b>	L	Dot 1 – M Dots 2 & 3 – L	L		
<b>Natural and cultural heritage</b>	L	L	L		
<b>Indigenous peoples</b>	L	L	L		
<b>Climate change</b>	L	L	L		

**Figure 2.5 Actions in Incentives against Desired Outcomes**

Desired Outcome from NVF	Management and Monitoring Mechanism : 4.5 Incentives				
	4.5.1 Grant Programs / Incentives	4.5.2 Property Right & Market Based Measures	4.5.3 Revolving Funds	4.5.4 Differential Rating and Taxation Measures	4.5.5 Offsets and Performance / Assurance Bonds
<b>Biodiversity</b>	M	M	L	L	L
<b>Soil and water resources</b>	M	M	M	L	L
<b>Hydrology</b>	M	M	M	L	L
<b>Land productivity</b>	M	M	M	L	L
<b>Sustainable land use</b>	M	M	M	L	L
<b>Natural and cultural heritage</b>	M	M	L	L	N
<b>Indigenous peoples</b>	M	L	L	L	N
<b>Climate change</b>	L	M	M	L	N

Targeting of finances and other incentives to Outcome areas has not been assessed.

Action in 4.5.4 has potential but current impact is very low.

**Figure 2.6 Actions in Regulatory Mechanisms against Desired Outcomes**

Desired Outcome from NVF	Management and Monitoring Mechanism : 4.6 Regulatory Mechanisms				
	4.6.1 Threatened Species / Communities Protection	4.6.2 Land Clearing Regulation	4.6.3 Industry / Land Use Codes of Practice		
Biodiversity	H	M	L		
Soil and water resources	L	L	L		
Hydrology	L	L	L		
Land productivity	L	L	M		
Sustainable land use	M	L	M		
Natural and cultural heritage	H	M	L		
Indigenous peoples	M	L	L		
Climate change	N	M	N		

The Actions in mechanisms 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 relate strongly to the vision of reduced land clearing.

**Figure 2.7 Actions in Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms against Desired Outcomes**

<b>Desired Outcome from NVF</b>	<b>Management and Monitoring Mechanism : 4.7 Monitoring and Evaluation</b>				
	<b>4.7.1 Cover and Condition Monitoring</b>				
<b>Biodiversity</b>	L				
<b>Soil and water resources</b>	N				
<b>Hydrology</b>	N				
<b>Land productivity</b>	N				
<b>Sustainable land use</b>	L				
<b>Natural and cultural heritage</b>	L				
<b>Indigenous peoples</b>	N				
<b>Climate change</b>	N				

Monitoring and Evaluation has no impact unless the information is used to review and revise the activities and mechanisms being monitored.

