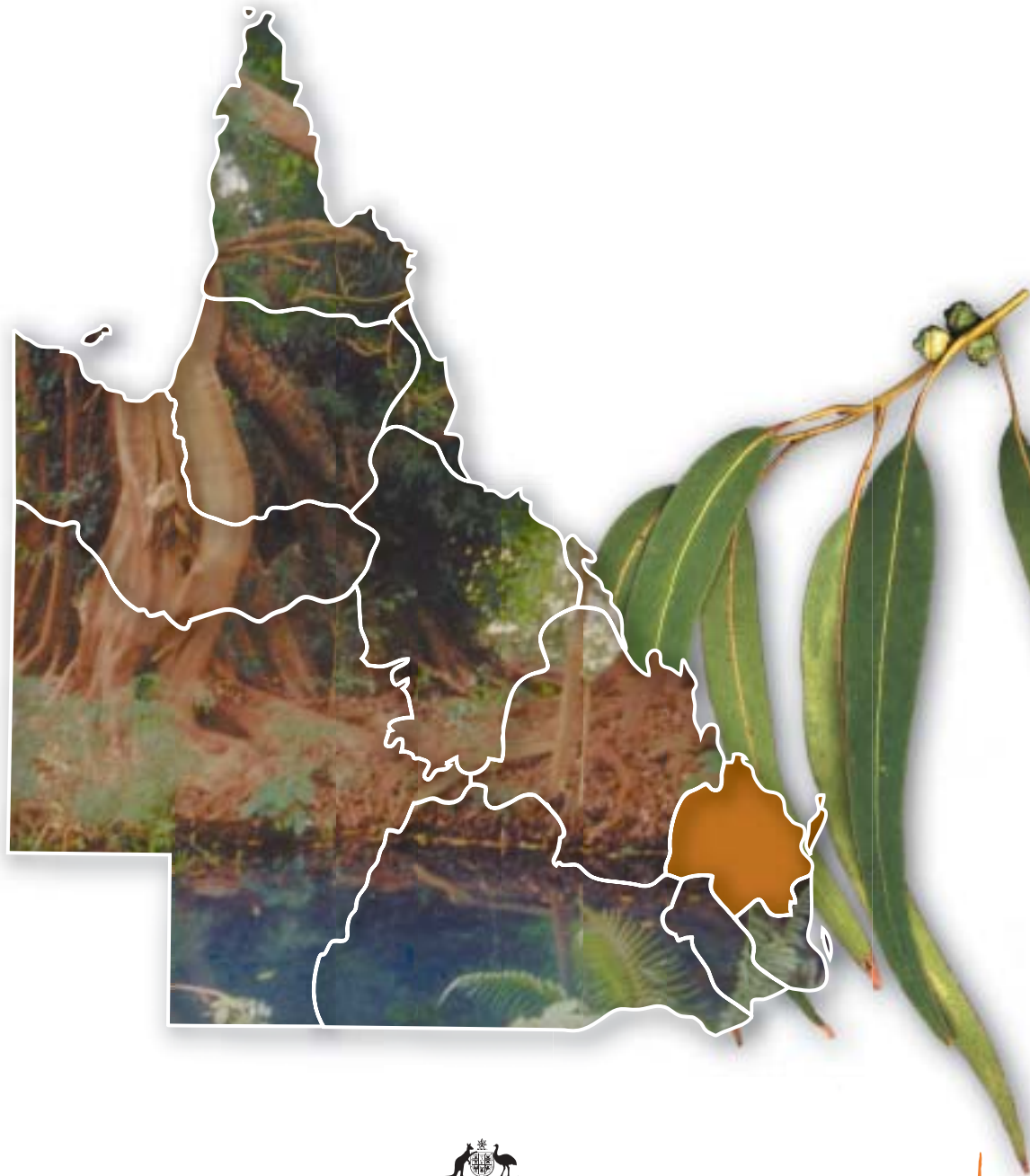


BUSHCARE SUPPORT 2003

Native Vegetation Management

A needs analysis of regional service delivery in Queensland - Burnett Mary

growing the future together



BURNETT / MARY

Regional context

The region's climate is principally sub-tropical to tropical with long hot summers and mild to cold winters. Rainfall isohyets vary from below 700 mm in the western and northern inland to above 2,000 millimetres in the south-east coastal districts. These districts can experience frequent flooding while the drier inland districts regularly record drought over an average five-year period and extended drought over a 10-12 year cycle.

Regional Profile - Mary

The Mary River Catchment covers a land area of approximately 9,595 square kilometres and empties into the Great Sandy World Heritage Marine Park. Within this watershed are the local government authorities of Cooloola Shire, Hervey Bay City, Maryborough City, Noosa Shire, Tiaro, Woocoo and the northern parts of Maroochy Shire and Caloundra City.

Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census calculate the current population at approximately 127,933; identifying an average growth rate across the region of 9.6 per cent. Highest population increases have occurred in the Shires of Noosa (16.1%), Tiaro (21.4%), Maroochy (13.1%) and Caloundra (12.1%), while Maryborough City experienced a population decline of 0.2 per cent from the 1996 to 2001 census periods.

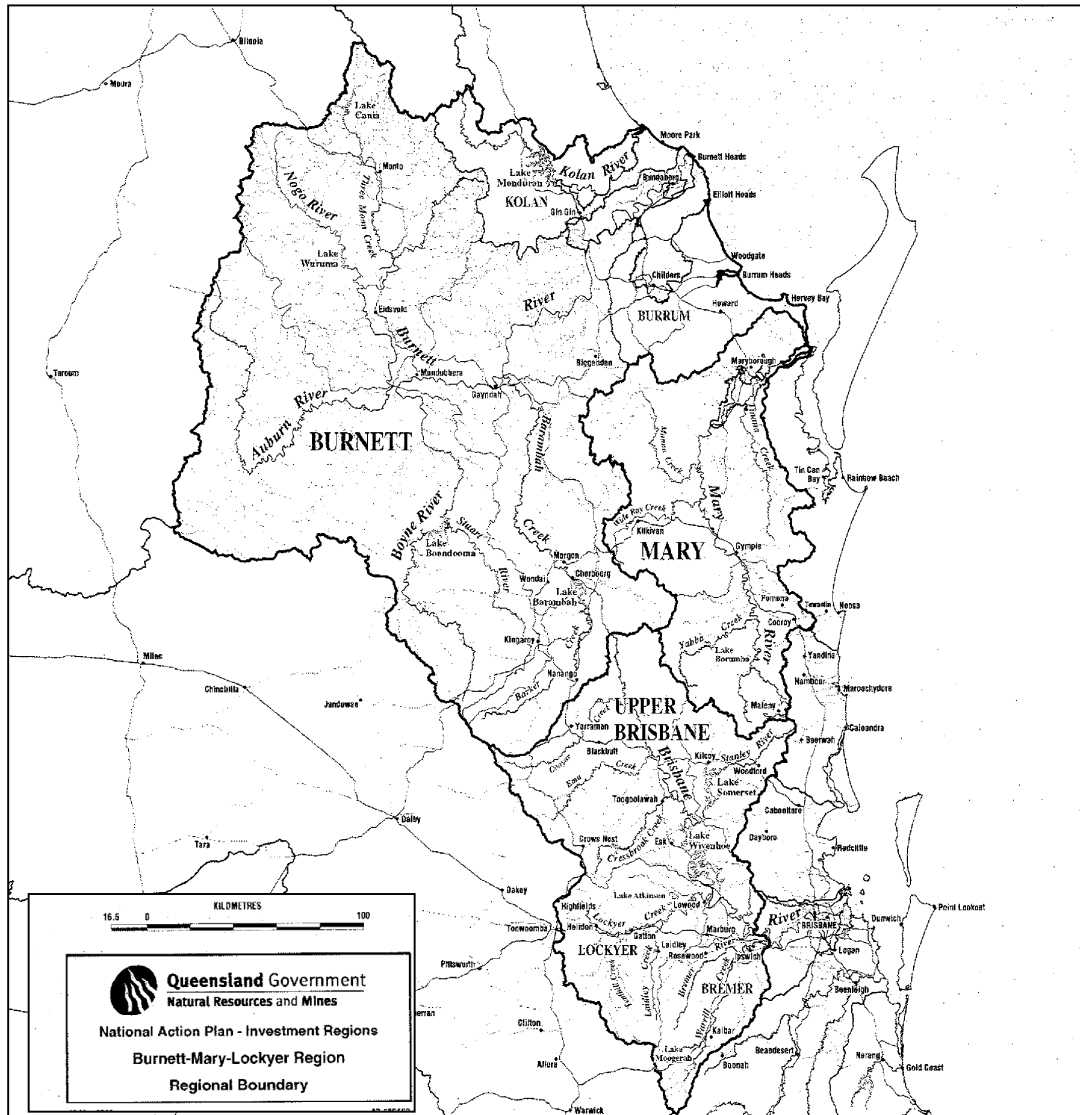
Principle Land Use - Mary

Principal landuses include extensive grazing (48.5 per cent - predominately in the drier areas of the west), forestry (29%), residential (5.8%), dairying (3%), sugar cane (1.8%), national parks (1%) and horticulture (1%) (Pointon 1998).

One per cent of the catchment is maintained in a natural state, five per cent is largely intact and impacted only by seasonal grazing, 39 per cent has had limited clearing, 55 per cent is extensively to completely cleared. (Pointon 1998).

Dominant vegetation characteristics include:

- tall open eucalypt forests with significant enclaves of predominately *Araucarian notophyll* vine forest and subtropical notophyll vine forests in the upper catchment;
- open forest and woodland with dry rainforest (*Araucarian semi-deciduous microphyll/notophyll* vine forest) components in the central and west parts of the regions;
- extensive native hoop pine plantations are located in the Imbil, Kenilworth and Brooyar districts;
- low-medium open forest/woodland occur in north and north-east, with a range of canopy dominants including eucalypts, bloodwoods and paperbarks, often with significant heath-dominated sub-canopies and/or ground layers (Garry Werren); and
- extensive tracts of exotic softwood pine plantations in the east.



Regional Profile - Burnett

The Burnett River Catchment with the associated systems of the Elliott, Gregory and Kolan Rivers covers a land area of 33,150 square kilometres and empties into the southern end of the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Within this area there are 16 local governments including the Shires of Biggendon, Bundaberg City, Burnett, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Isis, Kilkivan, Kingaroy, Kolan, Miriam Vale, Monto, Munduberra, Murgon, Nanango, Perry and Wondai.

Figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census calculate the current approximate population at 111,519 and identify an average growth rate across the region of 2.65 per cent. Highest population increases have occurred in the Shires of Perry (21.0%), Burnett (19.4%), Miriam Vale (13.5%), and Kingaroy (5.4%), while the Shires of Munduberra, Monto, Gayndah, Kilkivan and Biggendon experienced an average population decline of 4.3% from the 1996 to 2001 census periods.

The population of the Burnett/Mary Region is projected to reach 414,000 by 2016 (1998 Population Projections Queensland). This growth rate is third highest in the state's statistical divisions behind south-east and far-north Queensland.

Principle Land Use - Burnett

Principal landuses include grazing (54%), agriculture and other rural use (e.g. intensive livestock production) (21.7%), forestry (18.1%), residential (5%) and National Parks (1.2%) (BCCA, WBM Oceanics, ABS).

Less than eight per cent of the catchment is maintained in a natural state, ten percent is largely intact and impacted only by seasonal grazing, 22 per cent has had limited clearing, while more than 60 per cent is extensively to completely cleared (BCCA, ABS, WBM Oceanics).

Dominant vegetation characteristics include:

- tall open eucalypt forests with significant enclaves of predominately *Araucarian notophyll/microphyll* vine forest in the upper catchment;
- open Eucalypt Forests and Woodlands, interspersed with Brigalow Forests and Microphyll/Nanophyll Semi-evergreen Vine Thickets in the west of the region;
- *Araucarian Microphyll/Notophyll* rainforests and vineforests on elevated areas and those with volcanic soils;
- eucalypt forests and woodlands in the north and south (including alluviums);
- open eucalypt forest and wallum communities incorporating melaleuca wetlands, sedgelands and heath communities in the eastern coastal lowlands; and
- large hoop pine plantations in the north and south-central.

Key statistics

During the 5.5 years of Natural Heritage Trust, funding has been received for 113 projects in the region, some of which have encompassed adjacent districts (additional to the Burnett/Mary). Of these, 58 have focussed specifically on vegetation management issues whilst the remainder have covered topics such as land management, resource condition, and the development of strategic local and regional planning initiatives. Based on data from the South-East Queensland Natural Heritage Trust coordinator and Bushcare reports, the specific breakdown of projects is outlined below.

Proponent	No. of Vegetation Projects
Dept of Natural Resources and Mines/ Dept of Primary Industries/ Environment Protection Agency	6
Landcare	26
Catchment Groups	8
NGO's	4
Community conservation	5
Indigenous	2
Local Govt	5
Industry	1
Community/Other	1
Total	58

These projects were funded from several different streams of Natural Heritage Trust, with some funded from multiple programs. The breakdown by program is outlined below.

Funding Program	Per cent of Total Projects
Bushcare	32%
Waterwatch	4.5%
Wetlands	4%
ICM	2%
National Landcare	41%
Rivercare	6%
Fish Action Plan	7%
Farm Forestry	5%

A proportion of these projects were overarching, that is they devolved funding to numerous specific on-ground community groups or individuals to manage native forests, establish forestry plantations, rehabilitate or protect remnant and riparian vegetation. For example: Greening Australia's coordinated 'Corridors of Green' and 'Community Nature Conservation On-ground Works Devolved Grants Project', World Wide Fund for Nature's Rainforest Recovery Project, and the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee's 'Voluntary Riverbank Restoration Scheme' and 'Bridging the Gap Project'. The Land for Wildlife program funded six extension officers throughout the region, operating in 15 local government areas. From a community capacity building and awareness raising viewpoint this program delivered premium outcomes for minimal outlay.

The 2002 Envirofund program has funded an additional 18 submissions, 13 of which are specifically focussed on vegetation management issues (refer below).

Proponents	No of Envirofund Projects
Landcare	6
Community	4
Conservation	1
Indigenous	2
Total	13

At the time of this report Envirofund was unable to provide information relevant to the Drought release round of funding because submissions were still being processed. Furthermore an extension period for proponents was still active for those affected by fire – in addition to drought.

Type of assistance required

Project proponents, volunteers and program participants were surveyed under the South-east Queensland Landcare Support Strategy and by regional program coordinators, Bushcare Support personnel and again at workshops and field days to determine the type and level of assistance and support required. The principal areas of assistance required included:

- administrative assistance;
- office hardware (e.g. PC's, photocopiers/faxes, laptop computers, GPS units, GIS capability);
- communication, technical skills (e.g. botany, restoration ecology, genetic sampling, natural resource and land management training);
- facilities (offices, resource centres);

- research information (often unavailable from State Agencies or too expensive);
- access to trained technical personnel (e.g. botanists, scientists);
- IT training (computers, GIS, GPS);
- extension training;
- survey techniques and methodologies;
- HR management;
- education and awareness training; and
- increased numbers of coordinators and facilitators.

Training opportunities

To address these requirements various program operatives have delivered hundreds of workshops throughout the Burnett/Mary region. Proponents from various programs often operated cooperatively to deliver cost effective capacity building workshops, activities and field days on relevant vegetation management issues such as: weed control; weed replacement methodologies; seed collection; propagation; species succession; ecosystem function; biodiversity; holistic vegetation management; regional ecosystems; small nursery techniques, maintenance and hygiene; Florabank codes of practice; plant identification and specimen collection; planting techniques; landscape function; and the state-wide code for land clearing under the Vegetation Management Act.

Other limited training programs are offered through tertiary institutions but funding provisions do not adequately address the training and resource needs of the Burnett/Mary region.

Natural resource management challenges and issues

More than 80 regional ecosystems are described for the Mary River Catchment, six classified as 'endangered' (EPA 2002), 28 classified as 'of concern'. For the Burnett Catchment of the 145 described regional ecosystems, 14 are classified as 'endangered' and 39 as 'of concern'.

Clearing

In prime agricultural districts, particularly on the high quality soils of the inland, ecosystems such as the soft-wood scrubs and vine thickets have been reduced to one per cent and less of their former extent. Whilst protected under the Vegetation Management Act (1999) these threatened communities do not have the same level of recognition nor protection against development that is offered to the Brigalow communities under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Blue Gum flats of the alluvial systems of the region have also been reduced to less than ten per cent of their former extent, however due to their ability to regenerate these systems do not have the endangered status provided to all other regional ecosystems that reach this threshold.

Population expansion is causing rapid changes to established land use patterns. It is estimated that 29 per cent of Australia's population growth between 1991 and 2011 will occur in south-east Queensland - of which the Burnett/Mary is a part (*Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems*).

The majority of remnant vegetation along the coastal lowlands is being rapidly cleared and fragmented. If declarations are not made by the State, for areas (in particular of wallum) under provisions of the Vegetation Management Act 1999, the implications for biodiversity and water quality will be considerable. Population pressure is the greatest threat to native vegetation and its management in many coastal shires who are already at their remnant retention thresholds while infrastructure requirements (primarily for water supply) further threaten vegetation in subcatchments identified for development (impoundments).

The issue of fragmentation and isolated remnants within a mosaic of developed land is a priority issue identified by natural resource managers throughout the region. Dwindling genetic pools with reduced genetic integrity is a major concern for the natural systems ability to regenerate and therefore the associated costs of reparation are expected to increase exponentially.

Land degradation

Land degradation such as soil sodicity, erosion, salinisation, and reduced nutrient levels have been identified by every State Agency and natural resource management body as a result of poor vegetation management and insufficient retention rates from the property to the regional scale. The impacts from land degradation for declining water quality, reduced associated in-stream habitat capacity, and damage to the Great Barrier Reef are major economic, social and environmental threats to the region.

Weeds and feral animals

Weeds and feral animals are impacting upon biodiversity through invasion of intact and semi-intact vegetation, by displacing native species and by increasing susceptibility to fire incursion. Riparian habitats are particularly vulnerable, being prone to invasion by woody and herbaceous species (*Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems*). The threat these concerns pose to biodiversity and remnant vegetation currently remains unabated.

Funding

Funding allocations and inadequacy are of primary concerns throughout the community and are considered to be the main impediments to managing native vegetation. Compensation is not a factor in the political equation. The reasons for this position are by and large well recognised by the community, but, actions such as incentive investments and improved funding for community groups, individuals, local government and industry bodies have been identified repeatedly throughout the region as sound alternative solutions.

Natural Resource Management

Landholders need to be adequately rewarded for measures taken to alleviate 'community' natural resource management issues. Facilitation of the process and determination of an economic value for environmental services and the public good conservation these services provide has been an issue identified by regional vegetation management planning committees.

Gaps have been identified between landholders and appropriate science from which the reduction in extension officer numbers state-wide seems to be a significant factor. The public profile of 'Champions,' early adopters and innovators receive inadequate promotion from the media and are therefore little recognised or promoted beyond their local circle of influence. Communication and subsequent promotion as an issue is also strongly reflective of the disjointed and disparate systems within State Agencies.

By and large the community appears generally unaware of the current 'state of the environment' of our region - the issues arising and changes that are occurring from current practices. As a result, recognition of the implications of management techniques on the 'state of the environment' is reduced. Education, incentive schemes and better/increased promotion of innovative landholders are priority actions already identified.

Urban and Rural residential expansion

The expansion of rural residential development brings with it an associated number of issues including loss of good quality agricultural land, loss of bushland and biota, poor land management practices and increased infrastructure demands (Land Resources Bulletin). The Integrated Planning Act for local government provides the capacity to address this issue but operationally may be affected unless natural resource management capacity building for local government is also considered a priority.

Landholder (private and public) demands and understanding

There is a large community interest in native vegetation, in particular rainforest and shrubland systems. Many landholders now want to establish 'rainforests' and 'bush' on their property. In many instances, if landholders can be provided with basic skills such as seed collection and propagation, bush regeneration and restoration ecology principles, they can allow natural regeneration to occur and merely assist the processes with enhancement plantings.

Regional Actions and Responses

Devolved grants

Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee have for six years been offering devolved Rivercare grants for fencing, off-stream watering and revegetation assistance. The focus in the past two years has been on priority reaches (Mary River Tributaries Rehabilitation Plan) identified as having high conservation values. Increasing public awareness activities have included the annual Mayor's Forum, Landcare Forums, general meetings and workshops.

In the vastly under-funded Burnett districts, devolved grants have been limited to the highly successful 'Advancing Community Nature Conservation On-ground Devolved Grants Project', which was funded for approximately 18 months. Landholder response to this program was tremendous however the funding pool was insufficient to service the community's needs and desires. Other small funds have been available periodically for landholders to fence off valuable native vegetation remnants (World Wide Fund for Nature), but funding and criterion issues precluded greater 'take-up' of investment.

Revegetation

Revegetation projects implemented throughout the region by various Landcare, catchment, landholder and other community groups have provided benefits to biodiversity and been instrumental in furthering community capacity through involvement and awareness of vegetation management issues and holistic natural resource management.

Barung Landcare established a local native plant nursery in 1992 to provide local native plants to the Blackall Range community. Since 1989, Barung have managed a range of on-ground projects ranging from revegetation, farm forestry, remnant protection and linkages, habitat management, landcare in horticulture.

In the Noosa hinterland, Noosa Landcare has been undertaking revegetation and farm forestry projects since 1990. Noosa operate two native plant nurseries. Gympie Landcare's major focus has been with riparian revegetation in and around Gympie and Cooloola shire since 1996. A number of small revegetation projects have occurred around Tiaro and Maryborough since 1990.

While similar activities have occurred in the Burnett they have not been on the scale as those in the Mary due to reduced numbers of technically skilled operatives, poor funding and capacity building initiatives, less concentrated and fragmented population bases and a shortage of time. In short, due to the demographics the Burnett people are focussed on survival.

The east coast community with its younger and wealthier retirees has a far greater capacity to undertake project work. If vegetation management is to improve in the Burnett it is imperative that funding bodies understand these issues, for example what appears to be apathy is anything but. To improve the state of play in the Burnett it is extremely important that funding and incentives be increased to support landholders and overcommitted community volunteers.

Off park incentive programs

Off park incentive programs offering voluntary agreements which have operated or are currently running in the region include Land for Wildlife, Cooloola Forest Growers, Cooloola Shire Council rate rebates for Nature Conservation and Farm Forestry. Noosa, Maroochy and Caloundra local government authorities offer local nature conservation covenants.

Forest management and establishment

In the Mary the Cooloola Forest Growers Co-op. increase public awareness through membership (15,000 hectares native forest, 1,000 hectares plantation), field days and newsletters. Training is provided for the practical application of sustainable management and harvesting practices.

Currently the Burnett/Mary has 4316 hectares of native forest plantations under the joint venture program with the DPI (South-East Queensland Regional Forestry Agreement) and 900 hectares of native forests in private ventures. The Private Forests Southern Queensland and the Queensland Forestry Research Institute (DPI) support landholders through provision of training, field day sponsorship and publication of research papers, newsletters and periodicals.

Key documents

Coastal Wide Bay Regional Vegetation Management Committee, *Coastal Wide Bay Regional Vegetation Management Plan (Draft)*, DNRandM, 2002.

Inland Burnett Regional Vegetation Management Committee *Inland Burnett regional Vegetation Management Plan (Draft)*, DNRandM, 2002.

Kingaroy Shire Council, *Kingaroy Shire Remnant Vegetation Management Strategy*, 2001.

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Werren, G., 2002, *Review of the Status of Riparian Vegetation and Flora of the Mary River and associated systems*, Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

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www.abs.gov.au

www.env.qld.gov.au/environment/science/herbarium

REGIONAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Consultants, contractors and infrastructure

Service	No.	Description/Comment
Technical advice/Skilled personnel and organisations	16 community 8 commercial	All are competent but skill levels and experience vary widely. Skills include vegetation management, water-monitoring, farm forestry, botany and zoology
Indigenous tubestock supply	13 community 13 commercial	Established specialist nurseries – variable availability of high quality plant stocks and sizes. Genetic integrity and QA are steadily improving. Cost of plants is secondary to having stocks meet guidelines e.g. Florabank. Funding providers need to operate with knowledge of the same principles Limited data entry re genetic sources and inadequate tracking of seed batches to planting stocks Species offered are often limited in number i.e. large numbers often available but lines limited Refer below for details
Indigenous seed collectors	1 community 3 commercial	Commercial enterprises all located on the east coast. Endemicity data is unknown. Kingaroy SGAP have a substantial seed bank but lack of funding means storage facilities cannot be purchased in order to offer a more than localised resource. Genetic integrity and endemicity is absolute while QA is guaranteed to Florabank Codes of Practice Refer Below for details.
Direct seeding contractors	Nil	
Planting contractors, weed control, site preparation and maintenance contractors	6 commercial	Demand exceeds supply of reliable and competent contractors
Vegetation Management Training Providers	4	Providers include Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE, Gympie Landcare, Greening Australia Queensland and Barung Landcare. Each provide basic vegetation management Accredited tertiary institutes (TAFE) have little botany and revegetation training available but do offer Conservation, Land Management and Weed Management to Cert II level Landcare: natural resource management is good but variety and number of courses is limited due to funding Lack of advanced training due to prohibitive costs
Fauna specialists	2	Under utilised. Demise of NatureSearch has limited survey capabilities severely

Community nurseries

Nursery	Capacity (per annum)	Tubestock	Genetic integrity	QA/Standard
Barung Landcare nursery	80,000	80%	90%	Good standard
Noosa Landcare Riparian nursery	29,000	78%	99%	Florabank Codes of Practice
Noosa Landcare Farm Forestry	22,000	100%	90%	Florabank Codes of Practice
Gympie Landcare	40,000	90%	100%	Good standard
CityFarm, Tin Can Bay nursery	12,000	30%	100%	Florabank Codes of Practice
Barambah Environmental Education Centre Nursery	2,000	80%	80%	Reasonable standard
Gayndah Landcare Nursery	1,000	100%	100%	Florabank Codes of Practice
Nanango Landcare Nursery	500	100%	100%	Florabank Codes of Practice
Kingaroy SGAP Nursery	1,000	50%	100%	Florabank Codes of Practice
Kingaroy SC Community Nursery	1,500	50%	30%	Good standards
Kolan Landcare Nursery	1,000	80%	100%	Florabank Codes of Practice
Agnes Water LC Nursery	500	80%	100%	Florabank Codes
DPI/Bundaberg LC Nursery	1,000	80%	80%	Florabank Codes

Commercial nurseries

The capacity of these nurseries is mixed, However all meet Queensland Nursery Association Standards (QA). Genetic integrity is mostly unknown, but all carry tubestock, with some stock being readily available and specialised lines available seasonally or upon request. The commercial nurseries include:

- Australian Native Plants at the Bay;
- Cooran Nursery;
- Cooroora Native;
- Fairhill Native Plants;
- Natives Naturally;
- NativesRus;
- Potters tubes;
- Scrub Turkey Enterprises (Spencer Shaw);
- Gin Gin Living Trees Nursery;
- Bundaberg Native Plants;
- Natives Naturally;
- Elsewhere Nursery; and
- Ulysses Nursery.

Seed suppliers

Native Seed suppliers include:

- Native Seeds (Clayton Stokoe);
- Scrub Turkey Enterprises (Spencer Shaw);
- Envirohort; and
- SGAP (Society for Growing Australian Plants).

Current provision issues

Planting and seed stock

Price of tubestock is increasing with a premium paid for the supply of high quality and non-generic lines.

Availability of rainforest species is dependent on timing of fruiting (some every five years), insect attack, seed viability, difficulty of germination, availability of personnel to collect seed. This limits the diversity of species planted.

Recent experience has highlighted the need to plant larger stocks. Nurseries are meeting current market tubestock demands. Project proponents need to create a market by demanding specific species in larger pots. Funding providers need also to allow for increased costs in grants.

Current funding arrangements restrict use of mechanised planting machinery. This restricts numbers of trees planted and reduces establishment rates and maintenance in comparison to that undertaken in farm forestry.

Skilled personnel

Those within community groups fluctuate due to irregularity of funds and in general poor wages, conditions and employment prospects. Some local government authorities (Maroochy, Caloundra, Noosa, Hervey Bay and Kingaroy) employ bushland managers or natural resource managers who are responsible for crown land within their jurisdiction.

Skilled personnel within government agencies are less and less available to provide expertise to community groups and individual landholders. This increases the demands upon community project officers and diverts their attention from implementation of their projects.

Additional issues include:

- **Losses:** due to the delivery delay of Natural Heritage Trust (Phase two) funds, there have been dramatic losses of skilled staff in the field because natural resource management employees have moved/found alternative employment. Furthermore there has been a breakdown of community goodwill (skilled volunteers losing heart and the willingness to be involved) because of the subsequent lack of direction and funding for actions.
- **Securing people:** it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure short-term and part-time (less than 12 months duration) skilled, competent and reliable staff. It is also difficult to engage high quality operatives due to the disparity in salaries associated with funded project work compared to that offered by the State Government and private enterprise.

Professional development opportunities are limited by budgetary constraints and are compounded by the lack of opportunity to advance careers.

Development of business enterprises (resource centres that combine nursery production and sales with training facilities/activities) are restricted by capital shortages. This shortage could be addressed through increasing funding support to community groups. Ultimately the capital must come from somewhere to establish the community and non-government grass roots natural resource sector, as they are the community leaders, engagers and often the drivers of landholder activities (based on mutual trust).

- **Recognition:** there is good recognition amongst existing peer networks including many personnel from the public sector. Unfortunately this is often limited to localised areas of action and not demonstrative of the regional perspective, again relevant to the numbers on the ground.

With respect to the three tiers of government and industry groups, recognition seems to be ad hoc and very limited. Again funding arrangement restrictions and the resulting rapidity of staff turnover are primary agents affecting the situation. At times local government is a major impediment due to the poor training in natural resource management skills of many of their staff which leads to mistrust except where key personnel actively operate with their local community natural resource management groups.

Many local governments believe they should be responsible for the administration and operation of all natural resource management funded works and therefore fail to develop good working relationships and subsequent recognition of their valuable and highly skilled community groups.

Key gaps and recommendations

Seed supply/nurseries

- Seed supply is often reliant on volunteers with unknown skill levels.
- Difficulty in acquiring collection permits particularly with some local authorities.
- Community nurseries require paid staff with good organisational skills, good plant id skills, and good general nursery skills.
- There is a need to develop an adequate supply system for plant stocks.

Recommendation

1. Continued funding is required for the training of volunteers in seed supply.
2. Liaise with State Governments to prepare advice and information packages for local government with guidelines to support community initiatives. Suggest State Governments be advised to speed up their own permit processes.
3. Provide relevant series of regular workshops and accredited training, targeting nurseries.
4. Assist all participating community groups to establish nurseries and fund resources for data storage and tracking.

Provision of technical staff

Natural resource management projects to date have only serviced a small sector of the community.

Recommendation

5. Fund more skilled extension staff to meet community needs.

Project work/natural resource management focus

- Minimal focus on urban centres, although they are often major sources of weeds, uninformed use of herbicides, fertilisers, pesticides and water.
- Difficulty in the alignment of project work and labour programs.
- There is a need for robust, consistent and reliable monitoring methodologies.

Recommendation

6. Provide greater support to local government authorities and localise 'campaigns'. Institute a National Environmental Levy and information package to raise awareness and understanding for all citizens so they will accept responsibility for care of the environment and sustainable use of natural resources.
7. Funding bodies and service providers need to liaise more to develop suitable and timely labour training programs. Also need to deliver an improved style of accreditation to program participants so their experience can be truly evaluated and worthwhile.
8. Provide training and assistance to project workers beyond project periods to achieve best practice and accreditation with recognised and professional methodologies. Standardise methodologies.

Specialist needs eg. Farm Forestry, Holistic Property Planning

- Project Officers isolated and poorly informed of current natural resource management practices. Inadequate and inaccurate GIS data for flora and fauna mapping.
- Lack of product recognition, established market chains, volume/continuity of products
- There appears to be a lack of true market-based incentives, lack of funding and research for alternatives. Landholders looking for assistance to develop property management plans for vegetation, burning regimes and natural resource management.

Recommendation

9. Co-ordinated across catchment support for project officers to increase technical expertise and extension skills. Provide GIS training to project and extension officers.
10. Increase expenditure for RandD and incentive schemes, return funding for property management planning resources and training.

Key contacts

Organisation	Contact
Mary River Catchment Co-ordinating Committee	Project Manager, Brad Wedlock
Barung Landcare	Mim Coulstock, Marc Russell
Noosa and District Landcare Group	Phil Moran, Connor Neville
Gympie and District Landcare Group	Paul Marshall
Tiaro and District Landcare Group	Trevor Keightley
Lower Mary Land and Catchment Care Group	Deb Terrell
Wide Bay Burnett Conservation Council	Tony van Kampen
Sunshine Coast Environment Council	
Gympie and District Field Naturalists	John Cummings
Cooloola Shire Council	Rachel Lyons
Cooloola Forest Grower's Co-op Ltd	Gordon Banks
South Burnett Forest Association	Donna Flynn
Burnett Catchment Care Association	Janet Tallon
Gayndah Shire Council	Mike Goebel and Dianne Baker

Organisation	Contact
Gayndah and Districts Landcare Group	Don Kenny
Bundaberg and Districts Urban Landcare Group	Maureen Schmitt
Wide Bay Burnett Land for Wildlife Regional Coordinator	Peter Sykes
Nanango and Districts Landcare Group	Colleen Fingland
Kingaroy and Districts Branch of the Society for Growing Australian Plants	Anne Windsor
South-east Burnett Landcare Group (formerly Kilkivan)	Harry Franz
Kingaroy Landcare Group	Ian Crosthwaite
Small's Creek Landcare Group	Tom Bancroft
Maroochy Landcare Group	Esma Armstrong
Wide Bay Burnett Conservation Council	Pam Soper
Agnes Water Landcare Group	Frank George
Burnett Mary Regional Group	Glenda George
South-East Queensland Natural Heritage Trust Coordinator	Sue Carstens
World Wide Fund for Nature	Keryn Hyslop
DPI Forestry	Neil Halpin
DNRandM	Alan Key
QPWS	Tim Pulsford