



Australian Government
**Department of the Environment,
 Water, Heritage and the Arts**



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THE BETTER WATER WORKSHOP SERIES

EVALUATING THE OUTCOMES

WHAT ARE WE SEEKING TO ACHIEVE?

The Better Water Workshop Series will further equip catchment communities to progressively capture environmental, economic and social benefits arising from improved water quality.

HOW WILL THE WORKSHOPS BETTER EQUIP CATCHMENT COMMUNITIES?

Better Water Workshops will:

- Improve the capacity of regional planners and catchment groups to advance water quality management, monitoring and reporting within investment strategies and catchment plans.
- Assist local communities and people involved in catchment management to develop plans and actions that identify environmental values, local water quality objectives, targets, monitoring and reporting frameworks.
- Provide an opportunity to demonstrate successful water quality activities and projects.
- Provide skills and knowledge for workshop participants to pass on their knowledge to others who have a role in water management.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THE PROGRAM IS SUCCESSFUL?

Evaluation is critical and an important part of the Better Water Workshop Series.

All the stakeholders (including the workshop participants) need to know whether the program achieved its purpose. They also need to know what else is needed beyond the workshop to better equip catchment communities to further improve water quality.

To evaluate the program effectively a detailed Evaluation Framework has been developed. This identifies the outcomes that are expected from the workshops and how these outcomes will be measured. The framework will be refined prior to the first workshop, following consultation with regional and local stakeholders to:

- Reflect the needs and issues in the twenty regions selected to host a workshop.
- Accommodate feedback from the regional survey and the subsequent stakeholder surveys in each selected location (see below).
- Reflect the needs within the tailored workshops developed for each locality by adjusting the modules to be delivered to ensure the workshops meet specific local needs and situations.

HOW WILL THE INFORMATION BE COLLECTED?

Information for evaluation will be collected through four (4) surveys undertaken during the program:

- **Pre Workshop:** prior to the design of the workshops:
 - All 56 regional Natural Resource Management bodies will be surveyed to select workshop locations.
 - A survey of key stakeholders in each region where a Better Water Workshop will be held.
- **Immediately Post Workshop:** Data will be collected at the conclusion of the workshop.
- **Post Workshop:** Data will be collected from identified key participants in each region by way of a final survey held four to six weeks after the workshop.

HOW WILL THE EVALUATION RESULTS BE REPORTED?

A detailed evaluation report will provide the results of each workshop. These reports will be made available to all workshop participants and are able to be used to identify future local training and development needs.

For more information visit Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts website:

<http://www.environment.gov.au>

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