

Appendix 1 – National Water Quality Management Strategy

The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council has been developing the National Water Quality Management Strategy (NWQMS). The Environment Protection and Heritage Council is also involved in certain Guidelines such as water recycling. The National Health and Medical Research Council and the Australian Health Ministers Conference are involved in aspects of the NWQMS which affect public health. The NWQMS has three major elements: policies, process and national guidelines.

Policies

The main policy objective of the NWQMS is set out in NWQMS Document No. 2, Policies and Principles — A Reference Document (ANZECC/ARMCANZ 1994) and is; *to achieve sustainable use of the nation's water resources by protecting and enhancing their quality while maintaining economic and social development.* This objective is being pursued through a strategy based on high-status national guidelines with local implementation. Document No. 2, emphasises the importance of:

- ecologically sustainable development;
- integrated (or total) catchment management;
- best management practices, including the use of acceptable modern technology and waste minimisation and utilisation; and
- the role of economic measures, including 'user-pays' and 'polluter-pays' approaches.

Process

The process for water quality management starts with the community working in concert with government to develop a management plan for each catchment, aquifer, estuary, coastal water or other waterbody. The plan should take account of all existing and proposed activities and developments; it should contain feasible management options that aim to achieve the environmental values that have been agreed for that waterbody. The process is outlined in NWQMS Document No. 3, *Implementation Guidelines* (ANZECC/ARMCANZ 1998) and schematically represented in Figure 1 (below). The NWQMS envisages use of both regulatory and market-based approaches. Management of water resources is mainly a State and Territory responsibility, but implementation of the NWQMS will be done in the context of:

- the NWQMS guidelines;
- State and Territory water policies;
- community preferences on the use and values of local waters;
- the current water quality of local waters; and
- the economic and social impacts of maintaining current water quality or of meeting new local water quality goals.

Implementation of the NWQMS should include:

- catchment, groundwater and coastal water quality management plans;
- an appropriate level of water and sewerage services provided by water authorities; and
- further development of regulatory and market frameworks.

Community views form a crucial part of the NWQMS and public comment is sought during both the development and the implementation of the strategy.

Box 1. Documents of the National Water Quality Management Strategy

Document No.	Title
	Policies and Process for Water Quality Management
1	<i>Water Quality Management — An Outline of the Policies</i>
2	<i>Policies and Principles — A Reference Document</i>
3	<i>Implementation Guidelines</i>
	Water Quality Benchmarks
4	<i>Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality</i>
5	<i>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines — Summary</i>
6	<i>Australian Drinking Water Guidelines</i>
7	<i>Australian Guidelines for Water Quality Monitoring and Reporting</i>
	Groundwater Management
8	<i>Guidelines for Groundwater Protection</i>
	Guidelines for Diffuse and Point Sources*
9	<i>Rural Land Uses and Water Quality — A Community Resource Document</i>
10	<i>Guidelines for Urban Stormwater Management</i>
11	<i>Guidelines for Sewerage Systems — Effluent Management</i>
12	<i>Guidelines for Sewerage Systems — Acceptance of Trade Waste (Industrial Waste)</i>
13	<i>Guidelines for Sewerage Systems — Biosolids Management</i>
14	<i>Guidelines for Sewerage Systems — Use of Reclaimed Water</i>
15	<i>Guidelines for Sewerage Systems — Sewerage System Overflows</i>
16a	<i>Effluent Management Guidelines for Dairy Sheds</i>
16b	<i>Effluent Management Guidelines for Dairy Processing Plants</i>
17	<i>Effluent Management Guidelines for Intensive Piggeries</i>
18	<i>Effluent Management Guidelines for Aqueous Wool Scouring and Carbonising</i>
19	<i>Effluent Management Guidelines for Tanning and Related Industries in Australia</i>
20	<i>Effluent Management Guidelines for Australian Wineries and Distilleries</i>
21	<i>Australian Guidelines For Water Recycling - Managing Health And Environmental Risks - Phase 1</i>

*The guidelines for diffuse and point sources are national guidelines that aim to ensure high levels of environmental protection that are broadly consistent across Australia

Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference

The NWQMS is the main mechanism for water quality management in Australia (see Appendix 1). Implementation of the NWQMS is largely by state and territory governments under the national competition policy. Jurisdictions have previously reported progress on the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on water reforms including implementation of the NWQMS to the National Competition Council and more recently the National Water Commission (the latest report was for 2005, but an updated review from an expert practitioner's perspective is needed that also has recommendations to improve implementation).

The Department requires these services to evaluate the rates of adoption of the NWQMS implementation. The Review will:

- assess current status of implementation
- identify issues involved where implementation was working well or not, and
- recommend ways to improve national and state implementation including improving the 20 new 2008 workshops on the NWQMS being funded through the Department, and
- help develop Phase 2 of the NWQMS (Phase 2 is expected to focus on national and state implementation, development of new and revised guidelines and possible accreditation of the non NWQMS documents).

The services will need to include:

- conducting a Literature Review
- conducting telephone interviews with a range of key NWQMS stakeholders to help verify the literature and gain further information and,
- produce a Draft and Final Report with recommendations on how to improve NWQMS implementation and future NWQMS investment strategies to achieve its stated outcomes.

1.1 Literature Review. The Review of the NWQMS literature will help establish the extent of implementation of both jurisdictional and institutional adoption of the NWQMS across Australia. The Review will need to:

- review all Australian Government, state, and local government level legislation, policy instruments and regulations addressing water quality management in Australia. This will establish the extent to which various jurisdictions and organisations have recognised and adopted the NWQMS as part of their approach to water quality management.
 - examine previous reviews of the implementation of the NWQMS by the National Competition Council and the National Water Commission as part of National Competition Policy payments in relation to the COAG 1994 National Competition Policy and the National Water Initiative.
 - assess a representative cross section of natural resource management plans developed by individual catchment management authorities and groups across Australia, including those funded by Natural Heritage Trust. This will help enable assessment of the role of such groups in NWQMS implementation.
- (a) A social evaluation of the 2005 and 2006 NWQMS workshop series will run parallel to this consultancy. The consultant may be contacted and interviewed to provide additional information to that evaluation.

- (b) Telephone Interviews. Telephone Interviews will be undertaken with key NWQMS stakeholders. The NWQMS Contact group comprising jurisdictional representatives which oversees development of the NWQMS, will be a first point of contact. Other key NWQMS stakeholders will be sourced from conversations with NWQMS contact group members. Interviews will provide another dimension to the levels of identifying implementation as well as helping to verify the literature. The consultant should liaise with the 2005 and 2006 NWQMS workshop social evaluator on possible survey design.

1.2 Final Report. The Final Report will need to include:

- the results of the literature review
- the findings of the telephone interviews
- the identification of those approaches which have led to the successful implementation of the policies, principles and guidelines of the NWQMS both for water quality management and its integration into the wider sustainable NRM management, attitudes and behaviour
- the identification of barriers to implementation of the policies, principles and guidelines of the NWQMS
- recommendations for future approaches to assist with the implementation of the policies, principles and guidelines of the NWQMS both for water quality management and its integration into the wider sustainable NRM management, attitudes and behaviour including development of Phase 2 of the NWQMS.

Appendix 3 - Contact Network used for this NWQMS Review

(based on NWQMS CONTACT GROUP of 14 August 2007)

ORGANISATION	CONTACT NETWORK	ADDITIONAL NWQMS WORKSHOP ATTENDEES
DEWHA	Charles Lewis, James Hill	Christine Schweizer, Paul Marsh
NHMRC	Heather Bishop	
NWC		Paul Smith
NSW Department of Water and Energy	Bruce Cooper Adrian Langdon	
NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change	Peter Marczan Barbara Richardson	Penny Vella
NSW Department of Health	Paul Byleveld, Kaye Power	
VIC Environment Protection Authority	Leon Stackpole, Di Rose	
VIC Department of Sustainability and Environment	Jane Doolan, Sarina Loo	Peter Vollebergh
VIC Department of Human Services		Jan Bowman
QLD Environmental Protection Agency	Stephen Fisher, Peter Macdonald, Andrew Moss	
QLD Department of Natural Resources and Water	Greg Long, Glen Moller, Marc Seifert, Nina Polaschek	Fred Tromp
SA Environment Protection Authority	David Duncan, Rachel Barrett, Geoff Bradford, Peter Newland	
SA Dept Water, Land, Biodiversity Conservation	Adam Sincock	
WA Department of Environment and Conservation	Victor Talbot, Brad Jakowyna	
WA Department of Water	Malcolm Robb, Nigel Mantle, Peter Ryan	
TAS Department of Primary Industries, Water & Environment	Greg Dowson	
ACT Environment Protection Authority	Stewart Chapman, Lucy Vincent, Heath Chester	
NT Environment Protection Agency	David Dettrick, Michael Lawton	
NZ Ministry for the Environment	Amanda Hunt	
Australian Water Association	Diane Wiesner	
Ex- SA EPA	John Cugley	
eWater	Richard Norris, Sue Nichols	
CSIRO	Michael Warne, Simon Apte	
ERISS		Rick van Dam
Consultant		John Bennett

Note: The highlighted contacts attended the Adelaide workshop (19-20 August 2008)