

# QUEENSLAND WETLANDS PROGRAMME

NATURAL HERITAGE TRUST WETLANDS PROGRAMME

and

GREAT BARRIER REEF COASTAL WETLANDS PROTECTION  
PROGRAMME

## Programme Performance Report

1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 - 31st December 2006

Compiled by the Queensland Wetlands Joint Government Taskforce



**Australian Government**



**Queensland  
Government**

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## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1.1 Introduction

This is the second Queensland Wetlands Programme Performance and Financial report [the Programme report] detailing performance and achievements for the Queensland Wetlands Programme [the Programme]. The period of performance reporting extends from 1st July 2006 to 31 December 2006.

The Queensland Wetlands Programme is a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments which aims *to support projects and programmes that will result in long-term benefits to the sustainable use, management, conservation and protection of Queensland wetlands* (Queensland Wetlands Joint Government Taskforce [QWJGT], October 2005). The Programme is funded through two sub-programmes:

- Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetlands Protection Programme [GBRCWPP]  
The objective of the Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetlands Protection Programme is *to develop and implement measures for the long term conservation and management of wetlands in the Great Barrier Reef catchment as per the strategies contained in the Reef Plan*. The Commonwealth Government has allocated \$8 million to this programme to assist in achieving the goal of the Reef Water Quality Protection Plan (Reef Plan). The Reef Plan aims to halt and reverse the decline in the quality of water entering the Reef, and, specifically, to rehabilitate and conserve areas of the reef catchment that have a role in removing water borne pollutants
- Natural Heritage Trust Extension Wetlands Programme [NHT2 Wetlands Programme]  
The Natural Heritage Trust Wetland Programme's objective is *to develop and implement measures to support Queensland in the conservation and management of wetlands as outlined in the Bilateral Agreement (2004)*. To this end the Commonwealth Government has allocated \$7.5M which will be matched by \$7.5M in-kind funding by the Queensland Government to implement the relevant provisions of the Natural Heritage Trust Bilateral Agreement. The Programme will target wetlands across Queensland including those in the Great Barrier Reef catchment.

The NHT2 Wetland Programme projects that this report addresses, are:

- i. [WL EPA 01] Map and Classify Queensland Wetlands and the Provision of a Wetland Inventory Database
- ii. [WL EPA 03] - Preparation of a report and 3 case studies on the impact of the proposed regulatory regime for the conservation of Queensland wetlands

- iii. [WL EPA 04]- A Methodology for identifying and mapping ecological, including hydrological connectivity of natural wetlands
- iv. [WL EPA 05] Critical Wetland Support Guidelines
- v. [WL EPA 06] Development of the Wetlands Information Capture Component (Phase 3) of the wetland information system allowing for the integration and capture of wetland information from various sources
- vi. [WL EPA 07] Communication Strategy Framework
- vii. [WL DPI 01] Improving wetland management in agricultural systems
- viii. [WL NRM 01] Understanding Queensland's Wetlands: Information Review and Gap Analysis
- ix. [WL NRM 03] Soil Indicators of Wetlands: status, margins and history
- x. [WL NRM 04] Scoping Study for Monitoring of Wetlands Extent and Condition

The Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetlands Protection Programme projects were reported in the 2005-06 Annual QWP Performance Report and are not addressed in this half yearly report.

## 1.2 Major achievements for the period

### 1.2.1 General

- A Project Coordinator was employed in May 2006 to coordinate the activities of the Programme.
- A person was appointed to the Marketing and Communications position in June 2006 to increase stakeholder engagement and raise awareness of the objectives and outputs of the Programme.
- The Annual Programme report for the 2005/06 financial year is now available on the DEH Website (Wetlands).
- An induction was held for Qld Project Managers in September 2006 which focussed on the:
  - QWP objectives, MER Strategy, reporting arrangements and roles of project managers and QWP coordinator and the QWP Communications Manager
  - In kind contribution
  - Communication across projects, internal and external and marketing of project outcomes outside agencies.
- A further induction for Qld Project Managers is scheduled for the beginning of March 2007.
- The new Administrative Arrangement to revise the protocols for the QWJGT and the Joint Queensland/Australian Government NRM Steering Committee [JSC] relating to the administration (including progress

payments and reporting) of the NHT component of the QWP was adopted on 29 August and the decision is recorded in Minute JSCM29 (4.1.d).

- Pursuant to the new Administrative Arrangements, the QWJGT Working Group recommended progress funding for the July-October 2006 quarter be forwarded to the JSC for approval. This new process went smoothly and progress funding was approved.
- Detailed step by step guidelines underpinning the new Administrative Arrangements are being finalised and will be reported on in the 2006/07 Annual Programme report.
- A comprehensive gap analysis was undertaken to identify projects required to complete the Programme under the five focus areas of the Programme. The outcome was the identification and development of new project proposals to take the Programme to completion. These projects are presently being processed for approval.

#### 1.2.2 [WL EPA 01] Map and Classify Queensland Wetlands and the Provision of a Wetland Inventory Database

##### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this investment are to:

- Map and classify Queensland's wetlands at appropriate scales and with sufficient detail to help with the management of wetlands;
- Develop a Wetlands Inventory Database which will compile available information describing the characteristics of wetlands; and
- To provide wetland information to stakeholders in a variety of different formats

The full objectives of the project, as stated in the original Project Proposal and Work Plan remain current.

##### A. Mapping and Classification

- Significant wetlands mapping and classification has occurred in accordance with the methodology. Mapping and classification of wetlands for the Great Barrier Reef catchment from the Wet Tropics to Wide Bay was completed by June 2006. The Condamine catchment mapping had already been released. Significant progress has also been made in the Lake Eyre Basin, the Murray Darling Basin, the Northern Gulf, and the Great Barrier Reef catchment north of the Wet Tropics. The Wide Bay area outside the GBR has been completed
- The mapping for the GBR, Wet Tropics to Wide Bay, was officially released at a joint State and Australian Government Ministerial event on 18 December 2006

- Wetlands mapping data has already been used in Water Quality Improvement Plans, Regional Coastal Management plans and for several local government projects.
- All available Queensland digital 100k topographical data has been sourced from Geosciences Australia. Arrangements to source and process outstanding areas are well underway, in cooperation with Geosciences Australia and Department of Natural Resources and Water (NR&W).
- The following papers and presentation have been made by members of the project team:
  - Two presentations at the Society of Wetland Scientists Conference, Mike Ronan (Mapping) and Doug Ward (Wetland/Info), Cairns, 10 -14<sup>th</sup> July 2006
  - Poster - Joint Rangelands Conf and Lake Eyre Basin Conf, Vanessa Bailey, Alice Springs, 3- 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006.
  - Poster - Catchment Muster (Fitzroy Basin), Don Cook, Rockhampton, Sept 2006
  - Paper presented to Australasian Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Conference, Arthur Knight, Canberra, November 2006.

## B. Wetlands Inventory and Wetland/Info

- A consultation process was completed in 2006 to identify high level user requirements for Wetland/Info, data requirements for the Inventory database, and to provide stakeholders with information on the mapping product
- Development of Wetland/Info is well underway. The website has been designed to provide a first-stop-shop of wetland information to users - and provides a range of information products and tools accessible through the site. A content management system has been established and the web site is currently under development, including the compilation of content.

### 1.2.3 [WL EPA 03] Preparation of a report and 3 case studies on the impact of the proposed regulatory regime for the conservation of Queensland Wetlands

#### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this project are:

- Preparation of a report and three case studies on the impact of the proposed regulatory regime for the conservation of Queensland wetlands.
- Commencement of WL EPA 03 is dependent on outcomes of WL EPA 04 - HLA Envirosiences report which will be finalised in January 2007. The

HLA report will assist to clarify whether the regulatory regime (and thus the three case studies) should (a) include connectivity areas in total, (b) include connectivity areas in part, or (c) not include connectivity areas. This decision would have a significant influence on the nature of the proposed regulatory system, and assessment of its potential impacts.

#### 1.2.4 [WL EPA 04]- A Methodology for identifying and mapping ecological, including hydrological connectivity of natural wetlands

##### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this project are:

- Development of a methodology for identifying and mapping ecological, including hydrological, connectivity of natural wetlands.

A consultancy to investigate a methodology for identifying and mapping ecological, including hydrological, connectivity of natural wetlands for the purpose of a proposed regulatory framework is currently underway with approval of the final report anticipated in January 2007.

Part A is complete comprising:

- a literature review,
- the findings of an expert panel workshop,
- a suggested approach that will focus on hydrological connectivity, and
- an indicative approach to mapping connectivity which is the focus of Part B of that consultancy.

The EPA is currently reviewing the Part B report.

#### 1.2.5 [WL EPA 05] Critical Wetland Support Guidelines

##### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this project are:

Develop support tools to assist wetland managers and assessors. Three tools were identified as critical to supporting the objectives of the Queensland Wetlands Programme:

- A toolbox to describe currently available wetland assessment tools, across a range of scales and purposes;
- A guideline on how to apply the definition of a wetland as used in the Wetland Programme;
- A guideline on the use of buffers to minimise adverse impacts on wetlands.

### ***Assessment Methods Toolbox***

- Forty three assessment methods have been identified and analysed for inclusion in the toolbox.
- Database and search terms have been developed and a preliminary database has been constructed.
- The database search terms have been provided to the Steering Committee (SC) for input
- A web page is being designed and the database reformatted for ease of transfer to Oracle and subsequent use on a web site.

### ***Guideline to Applying the Wetland Definition***

- Assessment of existing definitions and review of work conducted and tools available in Australia and overseas on wetlands definitions:
- Draft lists of flora, fauna and other indicators established for wetlands.
- Field Trips (3) in different parts of State conducted to test definition guideline
- Draft guideline developed and provided to SC for comment.

### ***Wetland Buffers Guideline***

- Assessment of existing wetlands buffer guidelines in Australia and overseas.
- Field Trips (5) in different parts of State conducted to test application of draft buffer guideline
- Development of a draft set of wetlands values which has been provided to the Queensland Wetlands Joint Government Taskforce for endorsement for all projects within the QWP and (b) the Wetlands and Waterbirds Taskforce for incorporation into a national set of wetlands values.
- Draft guideline developed and provided to SC for comment.

### **1.2.6 [WL EPA 06] Development of the Wetlands Information Capture Component (Phase 3) of the wetland information system allowing for the integration and capture of wetland information from various sources**

#### **Objective of project**

The broad objectives of this project are:

- Development of a system that will allow external users to contribute data to the wetland inventory database.
- Development of a standardised field survey proformas for capture of this information.
- Development of a website to allow users to manage the data they have previously uploaded.
- Identify and integrate both internal (Qld Government) and external wetland datasets and make these available to the WetlandInfo and WetlandMaps websites.



- A draft report on wetland threats was produced.
- Development of a data suitability framework for assessing wetland related datasets was completed.
- High-level business requirements for integration of systems within the EPA were finalised.
- Functional Requirements Specification for the development of the WICC system was commenced.
- Draft field survey data fields and proformas are completed.

### 1.2.7 [WL EPA 07] Communication Strategy Framework

#### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this project are:

- To increase stakeholder engagement and raise awareness of the objectives and outcomes of the Queensland Wetlands Programme.
- Representation at the international Catchments to Coast Conference from July 9-14.
- Representation at the Fitzroy Basin Association Neighbourhood Catchments Muster from 7-8 September, 2006.
- Representation at the David Suzuki Speaks presentation on 3 October at the Townsville Convention Centre (2000-strong crowd). The Townsville City Council developed a DVD about the event, incorporating information about the Queensland Wetlands Programme.
- Ministerial launch of the wetland mapping and classification for the Great Barrier Reef catchment in Townsville, 18 December 2006. This was covered by two of the four television stations and the regional daily newspaper. 200 DVDs containing the maps were mailed to key stakeholders across Queensland.

### 1.2.8 [WL DPI 01] Improving wetland management in agricultural systems

#### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this project are:

- To integrate wetland management considerations into industry FMS programs and develop tools for land managers to manage wetlands in a sustainable and productive manner. The project has three separate sub-projects: *Coastal Intensive GLM package*; *Wetland management for GLM packages in floodplain and channel country*, and; *Integration of wetland management into Farm Management System (FMS)*.
- All project staff appointed.

- Design of the Mackay Whitsunday and Far North Queensland and Tablelands Grazing Land Management education workshop finalised and technical committee members finalised.
- Tender for wetland ecologist to review existing Wetland module finalised and submission closed.
- Establishment of industry based steering committee for the FMS sub-project have been met.
- Initial scoping study and tour for the FMS sub-project completed across relevant regions.

#### 1.2.9 [WL NRM 01] Understanding Queensland's Wetlands: Information Review and Gap Analysis

##### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this project are:

- To scope and document research, scientific information and corporate knowledge on the understanding of wetland functions and values.

- External peer review has been initiated.

#### 1.2.10 [WL NRM 03] Soil Indicators of Wetlands: status, margins and history

##### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this project are:

- Investigation into wetland soils to delineate wetland boundaries to support a regulatory and management environment.
- An extensive literature review undertaken and produced a comprehensive document.
- Identified that soil morphology can be useful in situations where there is unreliable hydrology data and where vegetation is lacking.
- Field work conducted at 2 case study sites: Deepwater National Park, north of Bundaberg and Green Swamp, north of Rockhampton.
- Identified United States has an existing system of delineating wetland soils on the basis of soil morphology. It would appear that a similar system may be able to be used in Queensland, with some modifications.

## [WL NRM 04] Scoping Study for Monitoring of Wetlands Extent and Condition

### Objective of project

The broad objectives of this project are:

- Review the relevant literature on wetland and extent indicators and methodologies as they relate to monitoring,
- Determine appropriate resource condition indicators and methodologies for monitoring for different wetland types,
- Identify resource condition parameters for inclusion in the Wetlands Inventory Database,
- Identify criteria for resource condition monitoring as outlined in the QWP MER Strategy, and
- Make recommendations for developing conceptual understandings of wetland types.

- Literature search on wetland indicators and programmes.
- Expert's workshop developed indicator identification framework.
- Conceptual models from workshop developed.
- Paper delivered to Catchments to Coasts Conference.
- Development of wetland classification system.

## 1.3 Administration of the Programme

1.3.1 Figure 1, shows the Queensland Wetlands Programme relationships and interdependencies with the Reef Intergovernmental Steering Committee and the NRM Joint Steering Committee based on the terms of reference agreed to by the QWJGT in March 2004.

Following the commitments by the Australian and Queensland Governments to fund the Queensland Wetlands Programme, an implementation plan (*Queensland Wetlands Conservation and Management - Implementation Plan* October 2004) and investment strategy (*QWJGT Investment Strategy for the Queensland Wetlands Strategy* November 2004) were developed. The Implementation Plan and the Investment Strategy have been endorsed by the QWJGT. Workplans for each year of the Programme, outlining current and proposed projects, are also developed for endorsement by the QWJGT.

The Queensland Wetlands Programme is structured to accommodate three levels of operations, namely:

- Programme level - provides high level direction through a goal and objectives.
- Focus areas - provide an operational structure for grouping related issues.
- Projects - the building blocks that generate new information and tools to support decision making.

The goal, objectives and wetland focus areas of the Queensland Wetlands Programme and their relationship to the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) Strategy are summarised in **Figure 1** attached. This figure emphasises the critical role of the wetland focus areas in the Queensland Wetlands Programme. They serve as an integrator of the outputs from the projects, where these projects are funded via the Natural Heritage Trust Wetlands Programme and Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetlands Protection Programme. They are also the primary mechanism by which the objectives of the Queensland Wetlands Programme are achieved.

## **1.4 Progress summary against milestones**

The progress against the milestones is referred to under the Project Activity Review. Please refer to Appendix 1.

## **1.5 Reporting against Focus Areas**

1.5.1 Five wetland focus areas and intended outputs have been identified to date. For details please refer to Appendix 2.

## **1.6 Linkages to Other Programmes**

The following outlines the linkages for the NHT2 Wetlands Programme projects.

### **1.6.1 Within Queensland Government**

There are significant links through the overall Programme through the reporting structure to the Reef Water Quality Improvement Plan and the activities underway through the NHT2 NAP process .

The individual projects under the Programme have extensive links with other Programmes. These links are documented in the individual project proposal submissions and six monthly and annual reports.

### **1.6.2 Intergovernmental (Australian Government and other jurisdictions)**

Linkages to other programmes are created through the involvement of Project Team members on committees for other Wetland Programme

projects. The Queensland Wetlands Programme including the new projects links to:

- Reef Water Quality Protection Plan
- Natural Heritage Trust Wetlands Programme and the
- Great Barrier Reef Coastal Wetlands Protection Programme
- Wetlands and Waterbirds Taskforce.

### **1.6.3 Community, Industry, Research Bodies and Others**

Linkages to other programmes are created through the involvement of Project Team members on committees for other Wetland Programme projects. The main linkages with community, industry, research bodies and others are primarily made through the individual projects within the Programme and are documented in the individual project proposal submissions and six monthly and annual reports.

## **1.7 Risks or issues affecting performance**

### **1.7.1 Future Projects**

As at January 2007 there are 11 active Programme projects within the NHT2 Wetlands Programme component. A further 13 Programme projects have been approved by the Minister for Environment and are awaiting Queensland Ministerial approval. This would bring the total of ongoing projects to 24 projects, requiring a high number coordination and regular reporting. In addition, the GBRCWPP component of the Programme may also have new active projects and this would increase the reporting and administration requirements.

### **1.7.2 Future Reporting**

Future reporting for the Project Managers and the Programme Coordinator to Community Partnerships (Natural Resources and Water) was scheduled to occur via the ViSTA web based reporting programme by November 2006 and has to date not occurred.

### **1.7.3 [WL EPA 01] Map and Classify Queensland's Wetlands and the Provision of a Wetlands Inventory Database**

By 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006, the project risks and actions taken to address these are detailed here, and listed in the Project Review (Appendix 3).

#### **A. Provision of topographic data**

By December 2006 digital topographic data to the scale of 1:100,000 were not available in some areas of the State.

##### ***Actions taken to address the issue:***

1. The project team has made arrangements to receive all non-digitised topo data for these areas from Geosciences Australia. Arrangements have also been made to have these digitised. It is expected all new 1:100,000 digitised topo maps will be provided to the project team by August 2007.

#### **B. Delivery of all wetland mapping by the end of June 2007**

Wetland mapping and classification of some areas of Queensland proved more complex than initially expected. This was particularly the case in areas featuring a high density of wetlands, such as the western coast of Cape York. Extra time taken to complete these areas has caused delayed commencement of other areas. In addition, difficulties have been encountered in obtaining some data for one component of the Cape York/GBR area and this has held up the completion of the GBR catchment. As a consequence of these complexities, the mapping and classification activities have required more time than expected. A timeline maintained by the project team highlights that even with the entire mapping team working at full capacity; it will not be possible to complete this task by the due date of June 2007.

##### ***Actions taken to address the issue:***

1. The project timeline has been adjusted to ensure maximum contributions from all mapping staff to December 2007.
2. On 8 November 2006, the project team raised the issue with the Queensland Wetlands Joint Government Taskforce (QWJGT) and requested an extension of time to map the remainder of Queensland wetlands to December 2007, with additional funding to the amount of \$100,000 to cover additional expenses from this extension. This was endorsed in principle by the QWJGT and a recommendation for extension of the project to December 2007 was supported for on-forwarding to the JSC.
3. The project team continue to monitor and adjust the task schedule to ensure maximum resource allocation.
4. The final outstanding data for the GBR catchment (Cape York) have now been obtained and the rest of the GBR will be completed in early 2007.

#### **C. Requests for updating of the maps**

With the release of the wetlands mapping for the GBR there is a risk that people will request updates to the mapping which will result in diversion of effort from the mapping of other areas.

***Actions taken to address the issue:***

1. A procedure has been developed to minimise the efforts being expended on these additional activities and requests will be logged and efforts monitored.

**1.7.4 [WL EPA 03] - Preparation of a report & 3 case studies on the impact of the proposed regulatory regime for the conservation of Queensland wetlands**

Commencement of WL EPA 03 is dependent on outcomes of WL EPA 04 - HLA Envirosciences report will be finalised in January 2007. The HLA report will assist to clarify whether the regulatory regime (and the three case studies) should (a) include connectivity areas **in total**, (b) include connectivity areas **in part**, or (c) **not include** connectivity areas. This decision would have a significant influence on the nature of the proposed regulatory system, and assessment of its potential impacts.

**1.7.5 [WL EPA 04]- A Methodology for identifying and mapping ecological, including hydrological connectivity of natural wetlands**

There are no apparent risks affecting performance of this project at this time. The outputs for the July 2006 to December 2006 period outlined in the Schedule 3 performance table of the MOU between NRW and EPA will be met by finalisation of the HLA consultancy.

**1.7.6 [WL EPA 05] Critical Wetland Support Guidelines**

**Wetlands Definition Guideline -**

- Application of the wetland definition requires information on wetland dependent plants and animals and soils. Lack of detailed published information on these has increased the time required to compile this data.
- Input from the current and extended wetland soils project will mean that the guideline will have a significant incomplete component until this work is complete.

***Actions taken to address issue:***

- An extension to the due completion date has been sought and approved.
- Contact has been made with the wetland soils project and where possible findings of the wetland soils project have been included. The extended project has been referred to for additional information in the future.

**Wetlands Buffer Guideline -**

- Due to the implications of this guideline it is possible that significant consultation will be required before it can be released.

*Actions taken to address issue:*

- Opportunities for consultation will be sought.

#### **1.7.7 [WL NRM 01] Understanding Queensland's Wetlands: Information Review and Gap Analysis**

At the request of the Queensland Wetlands Taskforce, the report was provided to two external reviewers for peer review. Comments from one reviewer have been received, but no comments have been received from the second reviewer. All project staff have been redeployed during this period.

*Actions taken to address issue:*

As comments from the second reviewer have not been forthcoming, it is recommended to proceed with finalising the report on the basis of the first review only. Comments from the first reviewer are being incorporated into the document by project staff.

#### **1.7.8 [WL NRM 03] Soil Indicators of Wetlands: status, margins and history**

*Technical expertise:*

- There are few land resource officers within Queensland. This had implications on accessing the appropriate staff at the time needed to conduct the field work.

*Weather:*

- The project initially focused on the wet tropical coast to source case study sites. However, the continual rains across the winter month's restricted access to many of the wetlands originally selected. This forced to change the selection to wetlands located in drier regions. The field work was delayed as a result.

*Permits:*

- Field work was delayed through the permit approval process i.e. delays waiting for appropriate documentation required to gain access to National Parks and areas which required Traditional Owner approval, a process through the Aboriginal Rainforest Council (ARC).

#### **1.7.9 [WL EPA 04] Scoping study for monitoring of wetlands extent and condition**

- There are limited risks associated with this project, as the project represents 100% of the duties and responsibilities of the Project Officer. This ensures a higher level of work efficiency and commitment to achieve the agreed milestones, minimising distractions by other work requirements.



- The tasks of the Project Officer (Iris Haring) are closely supervised by the Project Leader (Diane Conrick), who also provides input to reporting and milestone commitments.
- The workshop and associated report are completed, the National Matters for Target wetland indicators review has been informed, and the only remaining major tasks are the completion of the Scoping Study report and communicating the project findings on the EPA QWP website.

## **2. BRIEF SUMMARY OF KEY EVENTS THAT THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN**

- Representation at the international Catchments to Coast Conference from July 9-14.
- Representation at the Managing Wetlands Forum held by the FNQNRM and the Earthwatch Institute in Cairns on 11 August 2006.
- Representation at the Fitzroy Basin Association Neighbourhood Catchments Muster from 7-8 September, 2006. This event was attended by key stakeholders such as Natural Resource Management regional bodies, local and State government agencies, landholders, industry, conservation, indigenous groups and academics.
- Representation at the David Suzuki Speaks presentation on 3 October at the Townsville Convention Centre (2000-strong crowd). The Townsville City Council developed a DVD about the event, incorporating information about the Queensland Wetlands Programme.
- Ministerial launch of the wetland mapping and classification for the Great Barrier Reef catchment in Townsville, 18 December 2006. This was covered by two of the four television stations and the regional daily newspaper. 200 DVDs containing the maps were mailed to key stakeholders across Queensland.

## **3. SUMMARY OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ISSUES, INITIATIVES AND RISKS**

### **3.1 New Administrative Arrangements**

The newly introduced Administrative Arrangements have been introduced and quarterly progress funding occurred as scheduled.

Pending Queensland Ministerial approval, as of the middle of 2007 there will be a total of 24 projects requiring a high number of coordination and performance reporting.

A further induction for project managers is scheduled for the end of February 2007.

## 4 FINAL REPORTS SUMMARY

The following outlines the linkages for the NHT2 Wetlands Programme projects.

List the projects which have had final reports submitted over the past 6 months and those projects for which a final report is due the next 6 months.

### Final Reports submitted

Project Code	Project Title	Date Submitted
	Nil	

### Final Reports due in next 6 months

Project Code	Project Title	Due Date
WL EPA 05	Critical Wetland Support Guidelines	March 2007
WL NRM 01	Understanding Queensland Wetlands: Literature Review and Gap Analysis	March 2007
WL NRM 03	Soil Indicators of wetlands: Status, margins and history	March 2007

## 5. PROJECT ACTIVITY REVIEW

A project activity review has been prepared for the following projects:

- [WL EPA 01] Map and Classify Queensland Wetlands and the Provision of a Wetland Inventory Database
- [WL EPA 03] - Preparation of a report & 3 case studies on the impact of the proposed regulatory regime for the conservation of Queensland wetlands
- [WL EPA 04]- A Methodology for identifying and mapping ecological, including hydrological connectivity of natural wetlands
- [WLEPA 05] Critical Wetland Support Guidelines
- [WLEPA 06] Development of the Wetlands Information Capture Component (Phase 3) of the wetland information system allowing for the integration and capture of wetland information from various sources
- [WL EPA 07] Communication Strategy Framework
- [WL DPI 01] Improving wetland management in agricultural systems
- [WL NRM01] Understanding Queensland's Wetlands: Information Review and Gap Analysis
- [WLNRM 03] Soil Indicators of Wetlands: status, margins and history
- [WL NRM 04] Scoping Study for Monitoring of Wetlands Extent and Condition

Please refer to **Appendix 3-12**.

## **6      OUTPUT REPORTING**

These reports have been separately forwarded to Community Partnerships on 12 January 2007 and will be embedded into this document once approved by the QWJGT Working Group.

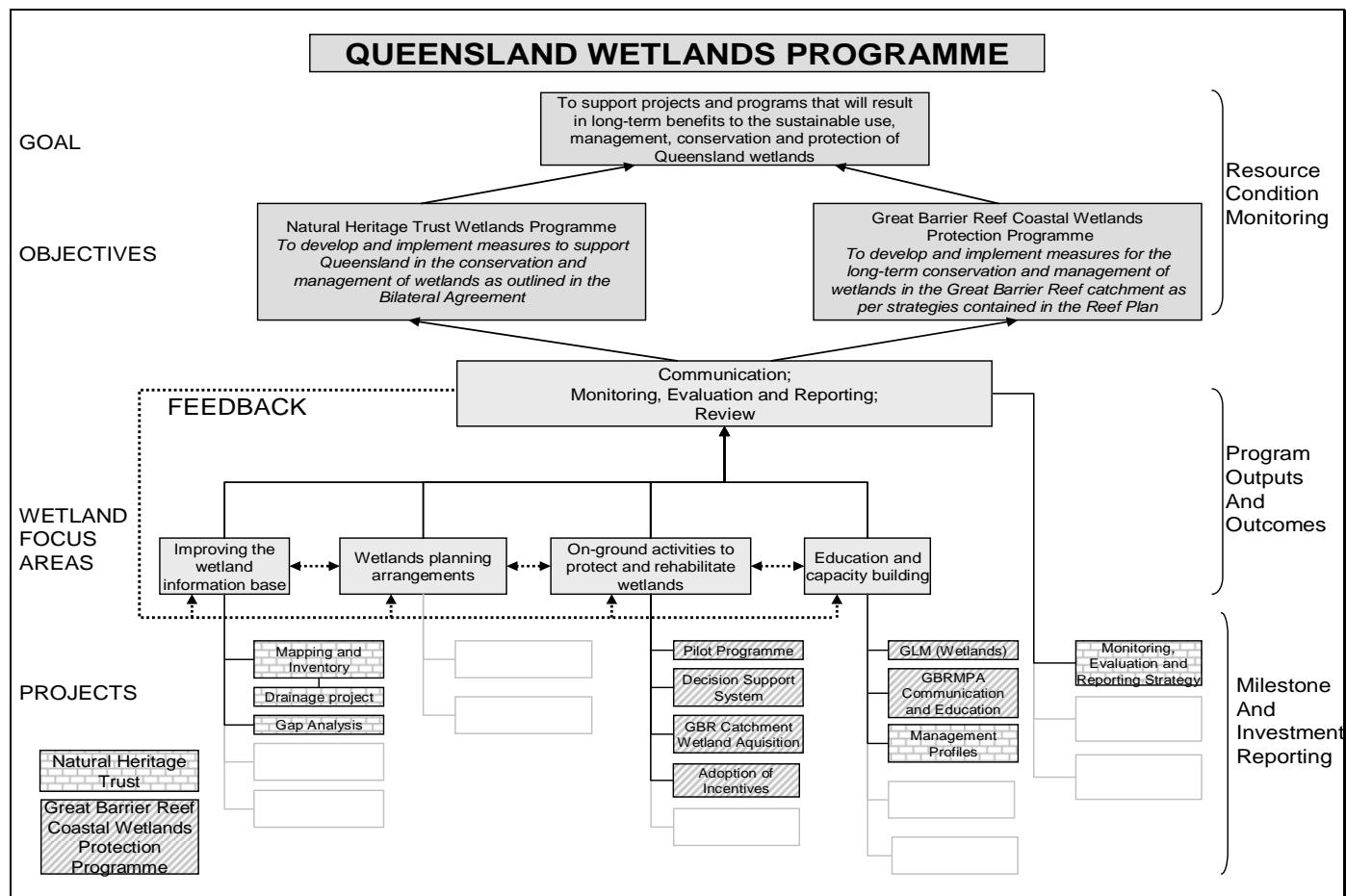


Figure 1 The goal, objectives and focus areas of the Queensland Wetlands Programme and their relationship to the MER

## APPENDIX 1 SUMMARY REPORTING AGAINST MILESTONES

Project	MILESTONES
[WL EPA 01] Map and Classify Queensland Wetlands and the Provision of a Wetland Inventory Database	Activities 1 and 2 are 100% complete. Activity 3, 95% complete. Milestones 1 to 4 complete. Milestone 5, 50% complete. Activity 4, 35 % complete. Milestone 1, 100% complete. Activity 5, Milestone 1 and 2 are 100% complete, and Milestone 3, 90% complete, Milestone 4 70% completed
[WL EPA 03] Preparation of a report & 3 case studies on the impact of the proposed regulatory regime for the conservation of Queensland wetlands	N/A
[WL EPA 04]- A Methodology for identifying and mapping ecological, including hydrological connectivity of natural wetlands	Milestones 1-5 60% complete
[WLEPA 05] Critical Wetland Support Guidelines	Activity 1, Milestone 1 80% complete, Milestone 2 10% complete Activity 2, Milestone 1, 70% complete Milestone 2, 10% complete Activity 3, Milestone 1 60% complete, Milestone 2 10% complete
[WLEPA 06] Development of the Wetlands Information Capture Component (Phase 3) of the wetland information system allowing for the integration and capture of wetland information from various sources	Activity 1, Milestone 1 100% complete Milestone 2 70% complete Milestone 3 80% complete Milestone 4 30% complete Milestone 5 30% complete Milestone 6 25% complete Milestone 7 25% complete Milestone 8 not yet commenced Activity 2, Milestone 1 90% complete Milestone 2 75% complete Milestone 3,4 and 5 not yet started
[WL EPA 07] CWP Communication Strategy Framework	Milestones 1-5 100% complete
[WL DPI 01] Improving wetland management in agricultural systems	Milestones 1-4 100% complete Milestone 5 50% complete Milestone 6 25 % complete

[WL NRM01] Understanding Queensland's Wetlands: Information Review and Gap Analysis	95% complete
[WLNRM 03] Soil Indicators of Wetlands: status, margins and history	Activity 1 98% complete Activity 2 100% complete Activity 3 60% complete
[WL NRM 04] Scoping Study for Monitoring of Wetlands Extent and Condition	Milestone 1 70% complete Milestone 2 100% complete Milestone 3 100% complete Milestone 4 not yet commenced

## APPENDIX 2 REPORTING AGAINST FOCUS AREAS

Wetland Focus Area 1: Improving the wetland information base	
Identifying the spatial extent of wetlands by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and making publicly available a coverage of wetlands (baseline of 2001) in the Great Barrier Reef catchment (from Wet Tropics to Wide Bay) and the Condamine catchment.</li> <li>• Developing and making publicly available a methodology, to consistently and comprehensively map wetland extent and classify different wetland systems.</li> </ul>
Extending knowledge base on wetlands by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the geodatabase, linking other inventory data (held within EPA data) to wetlands mapping (spatial location) thereby making the information relevant and available for wetlands management activities.</li> <li>• Wetland/<i>Info</i> and wetland mapping consultation included workshops attended by a wide range of stakeholders. At these events stakeholders were informed about wetlands, the Queensland Wetlands Programme, wetlands mapping and the development of WetlandInfo.</li> <li>• Fact sheets to explain this project and its contribution to a better understanding of wetlands.</li> <li>• The Information and Review and Gap Analysis project has improved the knowledge base on wetlands in Queensland by consolidating available research and highlighting gaps in knowledge for further investigation. When the report is available, stakeholders will have a better understanding of the values of wetlands, the literature available and possibilities for further research. Workshops undertaken as part of this project have also informed some stakeholders of projects that are being undertaken in their region that they may have been otherwise unaware of.</li> <li>• Comprehensive assessment and identification of wetland soils, reliance on soils information in other QWP projects, ongoing investigations and monitoring and data storage.</li> <li>• The Scoping Study project will provide tools to enable government, regional body and non-</li> </ul>

	<p>government stakeholders to assess the condition and extent of Queensland wetlands. It will enable appropriate variables for the Wetlands Inventory Database to be identified, and provide the indicators for determining the baseline resource condition and extent of Queensland wetlands. The information stored in the Database will inform planning arrangements and facilitate the Reef Plan and other government policy initiatives. It will also inform on the national review of Matters for Target indicators for wetlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wetland Information Capture Project is providing a standardised methodology for capture of new wetland inventory information. This inventory database is being integrated with both the WetlandInfo website and the WetlandMaps interactive mapping site.</li> </ul>
Retention of information and use by other projects by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetlands mapping and classification forms the spatial basis for many of the projects within the Queensland Wetlands Programme. The wetlands profiles refer to wetland regional ecosystems which are spatially identified in the mapping. The mapping forms the basis for any monitoring programme. Any legislative framework will make reference to mapping, and any prioritisation of wetlands will be done on the basis of the mapping. On ground activities will use the mapping.</li> <li>• WetlandInfo will provide an information base to assist with wetland management, planning, education and reporting</li> </ul>
Information stored complimentary to other State and National NRM datasets by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping methodology that incorporates national and state data standards</li> <li>• Mapping coverage dataset that conforms to national and state standards.</li> <li>• Improved coverage's returned to Geosciences Australia, Department of Natural Resources and / or Defence.</li> <li>• The Wetland Inventory Database will be housed on EPA's corporate database servers with information stored in existing databases such as WildNet (the agency's wildlife database).</li> <li>• The use of existing servers and databases will ensure compatibility with other EPA datasets and</li> </ul>



	<p>align with existing data sharing arrangements already in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metadata for all datasets will be stored using national standards for storage of spatial data. This will ensure interoperability with other state and national datasets and information systems.</li> <li>• When complete, the WICC project will deliver a system that integrates with the web delivery components of QWIS - WetlandInfo and WetlandMaps.</li> <li>• Additionally, WICC will provide a web system that allows users to upload and manage wetland inventory data.</li> </ul>
How has the information gained in these projects assisted in expanding the scope of projects under other focus areas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scoping and standardisation of wetland threats (prepared by the WICC team) for use in the field survey proformas has assisted in the development of an adaptive management framework for wetlands. This framework is designed to create a logical flow from environmental values to threats to impacts to effects on environmental values. This framework was established in conjunction with representatives from several wetlands projects.</li> <li>• The WICC project is also assisting in defining the overall integration of the QWIS through collaboration with the Wetland Mapping, Classification &amp; Inventory, WetlandInfo, WetlandMaps and other QWIS teams.</li> </ul>
<b>Wetland Focus Area 2 Wetlands Planning Arrangements</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report and 3 case studies will assist with prioritising which wetlands to apply the regulatory regime to, and evaluating the likely impacts and outcomes of any proposed regime.</li> <li>• Soils info across wetland boundaries will be valuable into the development of regulatory frameworks and other measures for the long term conservation and management of Queensland wetlands.</li> </ul>
<b>Wetland Focus Area 3 On-ground activities to protect and rehabilitate wetlands</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved scientific understanding of the relationship between wetland margins and soil</li> </ul>

	morphological indicators leading to a greater potential for management strategies to be implemented that will contribute to improved water quality in the Great Barrier Reef.
<b>Wetland Focus Area 4: Communication, education and capacity building</b>	
Awareness of wetlands issues improved by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official launch of the GBR Wetland Mapping data (18/12/06) which included awareness of wetlands, the QWP, and Queensland wetland mapping coverage.</li> <li>• WetlandInfo consultation - presentations raising awareness of wetland issues, wetland mapping and the QWP.</li> <li>• Identifying and capitalising on promotional and media opportunities;</li> <li>• Creating relationships with stakeholders through events and correspondence; and</li> <li>• Establishing networks between wetland managers and wetland/rural communication officers</li> </ul>
Improved capacity for land managers to implement and maintain wetland restoration by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected to improve after release of wetland mapping in December 2006 and in 2007.</li> <li>• The Queensland Wetland Information System will increase the capacity for land managers, regional NRM bodies and local governments to implement and maintain wetland restoration and conservation measures as the information will be more readily available than current information and resource tools will also be provided.</li> <li>• Data being provided is of a similar or better scale than that being provided as part of other management systems. As the data itself is also being provided landholders will be able to utilise the data for on ground management and with other spatial tools, such as Google Earth.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide other projects i.e. wetland definition project, with valuable information on soil attributes which may be able to be used, to provide a more robust and defensible means of delineating QLD wetlands.</li> </ul>
<b>Wetland Focus Area 5: Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting (MER)</b>	
Ability to monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2001 mapping provides a baseline against</li> </ul>

extent of wetlands	<p>which the extent of wetland change can be monitored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of wetland extent to be reported in State of Environment 2007 report.</li> </ul>
Communications Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soils information gathered will be disseminated across all QWP projects.</li> <li>• Consistent and transparent approach to all investigations, ongoing evaluation of adopted methods and reporting on progress and findings with subsequent review</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 3 Project Activity Review - WL EPA 01

PROJECT NAME:	Map and Classify Queensland's Wetlands and the Provision of a Wetland Inventory Database
Reporting Period:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006 - 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006
Key achievements for period:	<p><b>A. Mapping and Classification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant wetlands mapping and classification has occurred in accordance with the methodology. Mapping and classification of wetlands for the Great Barrier Reef catchment from the Wet Tropics to Wide Bay was completed by June 2006. The Condamine catchment mapping had already been released. Significant progress has also been made in the Lake Eyre Basin, the Murray Darling Basin, the Northern Gulf, and the Great Barrier Reef catchment north of the Wet Tropics. The Wide Bay area outside the GBR has been completed</li> <li>• The mapping for the GBR, Wet Tropics to Wide Bay, was officially released at a joint State and Australian Government Ministerial event on 18 December 2006</li> <li>• Wetlands mapping data has already been used in Water Quality Improvement Plans, Regional Coastal Management plans and for several local government projects.</li> <li>• All available Queensland digital 100k topographical data has been sourced from Geosciences Australia. Arrangements to source and process outstanding areas are well underway, in cooperation with Geosciences Australia and Department of Natural Resources and Water (NR&amp;W).</li> <li>• The following papers and presentation have been made by members of the project team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two presentations at the Society of Wetland Scientists Conference, Mike Ronan (Mapping) and Doug Ward (Wetland Info), Cairns, 10 -14<sup>th</sup> July 2006</li> <li>• Poster - Joint Rangelands Conf and Lake Eyre Basin Conf, Vanessa Bailey, Alice Springs, 3- 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 2006.</li> <li>• Poster - Catchment Muster (Fitzroy Basin), Don Cook, Rockhampton, Sept 2006</li> <li>• Paper presented to Australasian Remote</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>Sensing and Photogrammetry Conference, Arthur Knight, Canberra, November 2006.</p> <p><b>B. Wetlands Inventory and Wetland/Info</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A consultation process was completed in 2006 to identify high level user requirements for Wetland/Info, data requirements for the Inventory database, and to provide stakeholders with information on the mapping product</li> <li>Development of Wetland/Info is well underway. The website has been designed to provide a first-stop-shop of wetland information to users - and provides a range of information products and tools accessible through the site. A content management system has been established and the web site is currently under development, including the compilation of content.</li> </ul>
<p>Milestones scheduled to have been achieved</p> <p>Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)</p>	<p>All milestones largely met. Some minor variations Activity 5, Milestone 3 (90% complete). However Activity 3 Milestones 5 (50% complete) and Activity 4 for Milestone 2 (50% complete) have more significant variations.</p>
<p>Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Activity 3 Milestone 5</b> While all of the area from the Wet Tropics to the Wide Bay has been mapped and made available, Blocks 10 and 11 in the GBR/Cape York area have not been completed, due to difficulties in obtaining data for the lower end of Block 11.</li> <li><b>Activity 4 Milestone 4.2</b> Wetland mapping and classification of some areas of Queensland proved more complex than initially expected and difficulty in sourcing digitized 1:100,000 topographical coverage for some areas of Queensland.</li> </ul>
<p>Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Activity 3 Milestone 5.</b> Data have now been obtained and Block 11 will be prioritized for completion early in 2007. However the mapping will not be released until the next major map release.</li> <li><b>Activity 4 Milestone 4.2.</b> Mapping schedule updated, arrangements made to source outstanding data and extension of project time and additional funding requested.</li> </ul>
<p>Risks associated with project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not having all of the appropriate topographic data on which the mapping is conducted.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping for the whole state will not be completed by June 2007 as outlined in the original Schedule 2.</li> <li>• With the release of the wetlands mapping for the GBR there is a risk that people will request updates to the mapping which will result in diversion of effort from the mapping of other areas.</li> </ul>
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stable and complete project team, now highly experienced in mapping.</li> <li>• GBR and Wide Bay officially launched (available to public) 18/12/06</li> <li>• Remaining areas to be mapped by December 2007.</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX 4 Project Activity Review - WL EPA 03

PROJECT NAME:	Preparation of a report and three case studies on the impact of the proposed regulatory regime for the conservation of Queensland wetlands.
Reporting Period:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006 - 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006
Key achievements for period	N/A
Milestones scheduled to have been achieved Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)	N/A
Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)	N/A
Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances	N/A
Risks associated with project	N/A
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	Commencement of WL EPA 03 is dependent on outcomes of WL EPA 04 - HLA Envirosciences report will be finalised in January 2007. The HLA report will assist to clarify whether the regulatory regime (and thus the three case studies) should (a) include connectivity areas <b>in total</b> , (b) include connectivity areas <b>in part</b> , or (c) <b>not include</b> connectivity areas. This decision would have a significant influence on the nature of the proposed regulatory system, and assessment of its potential impacts.

## APPENDIX 5 Project Activity Review - WL EPA 04

PROJECT NAME:	Development of a methodology for identifying and mapping ecological, including hydrological, connectivity of natural wetlands.
Reporting Period:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006 - 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006
Key achievements for period	<p>Part A complete comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a literature review,</li> <li>• the findings of an expert panel workshop,</li> <li>• a suggested approach that will focus on hydrological connectivity, and</li> <li>• an indicative approach to mapping connectivity which is the focus of Part B of that consultancy.</li> </ul> <p>The EPA is currently reviewing the Part B report.</p>
<p>Milestones scheduled to have been achieved</p> <p>Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)</p>	As per milestones and outputs for the July 2006 to December 2006 period outlined in the Schedule 3 performance table of the MOU between NRW.
Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)	N/A
Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances	N/A
Risks associated with project	N/A
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	N/A



## APPENDIX 6 Project Activity Review - WL EPA 05

PROJECT NAME:	Critical Wetland Support Guidelines
Reporting Period:	1 July 2006 - 31 December 2006
Key achievements for period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Assessment Methods Toolbox:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Forty three assessment methods have been identified and analysed for inclusion in the toolbox.</li> <li>▪ Database and search terms have been developed and a preliminary database has been constructed.</li> <li>▪ The database search terms have been provided to the Steering Committee (SC) for input</li> <li>▪ A web page is being designed and the database reformatted for ease of transfer to Oracle and subsequent use on a web site.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <i>Guideline to Applying the Wetland Definition</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment of existing definitions and review of work conducted and tools available in Australia and overseas on wetlands definitions ;</li> <li>▪ Draft lists of flora, fauna and other indicators established for wetlands.</li> <li>▪ Field Trips (3) in different parts of State conducted to test definition guideline</li> <li>▪ Draft guideline developed and provided to SC for comment</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <i>Wetland Buffers Guideline</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessment of existing wetlands buffer guidelines in Australia and overseas.</li> <li>▪ Field Trips (5) in different parts of State conducted to test application of draft buffer guideline</li> <li>▪ Development of a draft set of wetlands values which has been provided to the Queensland Wetlands Joint Government Taskforce for endorsement for all projects within the QWP and (b) the Wetlands and Waterbirds Taskforce for incorporation into a national set of wetlands values.</li> <li>▪ Draft guideline developed and provided to SC for comment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Milestones scheduled to have been achieved Milestones actually achieved -	<p>The project was due to be completed by 31 December 2006.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made on</p>

fully and partially (specify)	completing the toolbox and guidelines with draft reviewed by the Project Steering Committee.
Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)	Project is expected to be complete by late February. There has been no increase in costs.
Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances	The funded project officer has been extended to mid February. The EPA project officers are giving priority to completing their tasks.
Risks associated with project	The assessment method toolbox and wetlands definition may need updating as new information becomes available. Further consultation is required before the wetlands buffer guideline is published.
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	

## APPENDIX 7 Project Activity Review - WL EPA 06

PROJECT NAME:	Wetland Information Capture
Reporting Period:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006 - 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006
Key achievements for period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production of draft report on wetland threats.</li> <li>• Development of a data suitability framework for assessing wetland related datasets.</li> <li>• Finalisation of high-level business requirements for integration of systems within the EPA.</li> <li>• Commencement of Functional Requirements Specification for the development of the WICC system.</li> <li>• Preparation of draft field survey data fields and proformas.</li> </ul>
Milestones scheduled to have been achieved Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)	All milestones have been largely achieved: <i>Activity 1:</i> Milestone 1 - 100% complete Milestone 2 - 70% complete Milestone 3 - 80% complete <i>Activity 2:</i> Milestone 1 - 90% complete Milestone 2 - 75% complete
Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)	<p>No significant variances against milestones.</p> <p>The small variances remaining on the above milestone is primarily to allow for final incorporation of user requirements before finalising the milestone. This is the case for Activity 1, Milestone 3 and Activity 2, Milestones 1 and 2. The remaining portion of Activity 1, Milestone 2 has been merged with a later milestone to use the time (and money) spent on consultants more efficiently.</p> <p>As this project involves a significant amount of work that is to be conducted by external contractors, much of the expenditure will not occur until the contractors begin work. IT Contractors are expected to be appointed to begin development in March/April 2007. As a result of this, financial variances during the early phases of the project are reasonably high.</p> <p>It should be noted that the percent variance has continued to improve and measures are in place to improve this further.</p>
Corrective action taken or proposed to fix	Measures are in place to ensure that financial variance continues to improve. During the development phase of the WICC system, expenditure

variances	will be structured to ensure that moneys are expended throughout the period of the contract. This will help to improve variances significantly.
Risks associated with project	No significant project risks identified at this stage.
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	

## APPENDIX 8 Project Activity Review - WL EPA 07

PROJECT NAME:	Communications Strategy Framework
Reporting Period:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006 - 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006
Key achievements for period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representation at the international Catchments to Coast Conference from July 9-14.</li> <li>• Representation at the Fitzroy Basin Association Neighbourhood Catchments Muster from 7-8 September, 2006. This event was attended by key stakeholders such as Natural Resource Management regional bodies, local and State government agencies, landholders, industry, conservation, indigenous groups and academics.</li> <li>• Representation at the David Suzuki Speaks presentation on 3 October at the Townsville Convention Centre (2000-strong crowd). The Townsville City Council developed a DVD about the event, incorporating information about the Queensland Wetlands Programme.</li> <li>• Ministerial launch of the wetland mapping and classification for the Great Barrier Reef catchment in Townsville, 18 December 2006. This was covered by two of the four televisions stations and the regional daily newspaper. 200 DVDs containing the maps were mailed to key stakeholders across Queensland.</li> </ul>
<p>Milestones scheduled to have been achieved</p> <p>Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications strategy endorsed. 100% complete</li> <li>• Communications officer recruited. 100% complete</li> <li>• Workplan submitted to QWJGT. 100% complete</li> <li>• Progress report, Sep 06. 100% complete</li> <li>• Financial report, Dec 06. 100% complete</li> </ul>
Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)	n/a
Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances	n/a

Risks associated with project	Nil
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	Nil

## APPENDIX 9 Project Activity Review - WL DPI O1

<b>PROJECT NAME:</b>	<b>WL DPI O1 - Improving wetland management in agricultural systems</b>
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 - 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006</b>
<b>Key achievements for period</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All project staff appointed</li> <li>• Design of the Mackay Whitsunday and Far North Queensland and Tablelands Grazing Land Management education workshop finalised and technical committee members finalised</li> <li>• Tender for wetland ecologist to review existing Wetland module finalised and submission closed</li> <li>• Establishment of industry based steering committee for the FMS sub-project have met.</li> <li>• Initial scoping study and tour for the FMS sub-project completed across relevant regions.</li> </ul>
<b>Milestones scheduled to have been achieved Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)</b>	Milestones 1, 2, 3 and 4 met. Some minor variations to Milestone 5 (50% completed) and Milestone 6 (25% completed).
<b>Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)</b>	Late start to project due to delayed contract finalization has meant some milestones have been delayed in this reporting period. Milestone 5 (workshop to review learnings so far in the GLm workshops) was delayed until the wetland ecology consultants report is received. Milestone 6 was delayed until the scoping study was complete and will be finalized shortly.
<b>Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances</b>	All milestones will be complete within the proposed timeframe by the next bi-annual report.
<b>Risks associated with project</b>	Scientific review and the compilation of materials for printing can take longer than planned due to unexpected delays in literature review and editing.
<b>Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance</b>	

## APPENDIX 10 Project Activity Review - WL NRM 01

PROJECT NAME:	WLNRM01 - Understanding Queensland's Wetlands: Literature Review and Gap Analysis
Reporting Period:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006 - 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006
Key achievements for period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiation of external review</li> </ul>
<p>Milestones scheduled to have been achieved</p> <p>Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)</p>	<p>Milestones for July 2005 to December 2006:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scoping and gap analysis workshops conducted in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Toowoomba by 25/11/2005, supported by Workshop Reports. This milestone is complete.</li> <li>2. Exposure drafts of scoping study and gap analysis reports circulated for peer review, particularly to members of the multi-disciplinary reference group. This milestone is complete.</li> <li>3. Draft report for internal review and steering committee review by March 2006. This milestone is complete.</li> <li>4. Final report and meta-database finalised and circulated. Report inclusive of details from public meetings and workshops. This milestone was not part of the original project plan or timeline. It is not complete.</li> </ol>
Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)	Awaiting completion of external review and subsequent changes and notes made to final document. Desk topping to be completed after this.
Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances	Currently adjusting draft document based on one review while awaiting second review to be received by project team.
Risks associated with project	All project staff have redeployed.
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	



## APPENDIX 11 Project Activity Review - WL NRM 03

PROJECT NAME:	Soil Indicators of Wetlands: Status, Margins and History
Reporting Period:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006
PROJECT ACTIVITY REVIEW:	A number of wetland soil indicators were identified at each study site, and would likely be found in other wetlands across the state. To identify how variable the presence of wetland soil indicators between wetlands may be, and to ensure they are scientifically robust and can be used in a defensible manner to assist with wetland delineation, further investigations and ongoing monitoring must be carried out. These investigations would need to be conducted across various climatic zones within the state and would monitor factors such as duration of soil wetness, depth of soil profile wetness and frequency of inundation.
Key achievements for period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extensive literature review undertaken. A comprehensive document produced as a result.</li> <li>• Identified that soil morphology can be useful in situations where there is unreliable hydrology data and where vegetation is lacking.</li> <li>• Field work conducted at 2 case study sites: Deepwater National Park, north of Bundaberg and Green Swamp, north of Rockhampton.</li> <li>• Identified United States has an existing system of delineating wetland soils on the basis of soil morphology. It would appear that a similar system may be able to be used in Queensland, with some modifications.</li> </ul>
Milestones scheduled to have been achieved Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature review of relevant work with wetlands soils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Scheduled and Achieved.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review of field findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Scheduled and Achieved</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Final report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Scheduled , <i>Partially Achieved</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)	Project was due for completion Dec 06, however, funding was not received till July 06. Consequently as external money's will still be available till the end of the 3 <sup>rd</sup>

	Quarter, a final report will not be made available till March 07.
Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances	Project Officer to continue work on project for next 2 months to prepare final report and review of literature.
Risks associated with project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of Technical expertise available for field work;</li> <li>• Bad weather delayed field work; and</li> <li>• Time delays in acquiring NP access permits and Traditional Owner consent for areas along Wet Tropical coast.</li> </ul>
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	None

## APPENDIX 12 Project Activity Review - WL NRM 04

PROJECT NAME:	Scoping study for monitoring of wetlands extent and condition
Reporting Period:	1 <sup>st</sup> July 2006 – 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2006
Key achievements for period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature search on wetland indicators and programs</li> <li>• Expert's workshop developed indicator identification framework</li> <li>• Conceptual models from workshop drawn</li> <li>• Paper delivered to Catchments to Coasts Conference</li> <li>• Development of wetland classification system</li> </ul>
Milestones scheduled to have been achieved Milestones actually achieved - fully and partially (specify)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Milestones were scheduled for completion under the amended schedule.</li> <li>• Milestone 1: 70%; Milestone 2: 100%; Milestone 3: 100%; Milestone 4: 0%.</li> </ul>
Explanation of significant variances against milestones (time and/or dollars)	N/a
Corrective action taken or proposed to fix variances	N/a
Risks associated with project	There are limited risks associated with the project. Two milestones are completed, the Scoping Study Report is 70% complete, with final milestone commencing at the completion of the Report.
Other relevant comments regarding progress/performance	Knowledge from this project has contributed significantly to the National Matters for Target wetland indicators review through the Project Leader, who has been appointed to the national project.