



# Powering our Actions

the  
Regional Investment Strategy  
2004 - 2007  
of  
Desert Channels Queensland Inc.



# Powering our Actions

Prepared on behalf of the community of the region by  
Desert Channels Queensland.

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## 1 Executive Summary

This document, *Powering our Actions*, is the regional investment strategy of Desert Channels Queensland Inc (DCQ). It is an addendum to the regional natural resource management plan, *Protecting our Assets*, and should be read in conjunction with it.

This regional investment strategy details how DCQ will address the community identified NRM priorities set out in *Protecting our Assets*, in line with the Natural Heritage Trust indicative allocation (\$1.7 million per year from July 2004 to June 2007). It presents proposals for an initial six month period to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 and provides indicative budgets for 2005/2006 and 2006/2007.

Desert Channels Queensland Inc. is the designated regional body for the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre Basin. It is the overarching organisation for all those with an interest in the wise use and sustainable management of the region's natural resources. DCQ's role is to deliver investment and support in this field to the region's stakeholders.

The grass-roots Georgina Diamantina and Cooper's Creek catchment committees, the Desert Uplands Committee and Landcare groups will remain the backbone of implementation action. Desert Channels Queensland, through its NRM plan and this regional investment strategy, provides a framework to direct resources to support these actions in an effective, strategic way.

The investments proposed in this document are grouped under five programs, biodiversity, land, water, community, and Indigenous land management and heritage. These programs reflect the assets-based approach taken in the NRM plan.

The prioritisation of management actions in the NRM Plan flows through into the investment strategy. The relative proportion of investment in each program is based on the percentage of priority actions funded by that program. Core costs (\$279,200) for maintaining DCQ were subtracted prior to allocating funds to programs.

The Land Program will protect the land where it is in good condition, or improve its condition where necessary - \$360,554 (first year).

The Water Program will protect wetlands and aquatic ecosystems, prevent decline in water quality and moderate the use of water resources - \$193,798 (first year).

The Biodiversity Program will protect, enhance, and increase awareness of, the biodiversity values of the region - \$148,729 (first year).

The Community Program will build the capacity of the community to participate in NRM, provide information, and support the implementation groups - \$432,436 (first year).

The Indigenous Program will provide the mechanism for broad participation in mainstream NRM and recognition and inclusion of issues and cultural heritage in the NRM decision-making process - \$45,069 (first year).

A clear goal in developing these investments was to ensure integration and the potential to deliver outcomes across multiple programs.

In line with the clear wishes of the community and its vision for the management of the Lake Eyre Basin, target setting and investment planning will occur in consultation with interstate regional bodies covering the Lake Eyre Basin.

## 2 Powering our Actions

### 2.1 What is it?

*Powering our Actions* is DCQ's regional investment strategy. It is the framework and direction for the implementation of the DCQ NRM plan, *Protecting our Assets*. It guides investment in strategic activities that integrate the vision and aspirations of the region's community with the goals of the Natural Heritage Trust.

*Protecting our Assets* identifies that the region's physical assets - land, water and biodiversity - are generally in good condition compared to many other parts of Australia. Our resource condition targets are, therefore, predominantly about protection and prevention of decline rather than about restoration. *Powering our Actions* allocates funding to actions that DCQ believes will deliver the best return on investment when measured against the resource condition targets.

*Powering our Actions* is a three year rolling investment to implement the priority actions from the regional NRM plan. It outlines priority NRM investments from July 2004 to June 2007.

### 2.2 What does it do?

Powering our Actions:

- delivers a three-year rolling business plan for collaborative NRM investment in the Desert Channels region (includes intended delivery mechanisms, investment partners and sources);
- Indicates opportunities for investment by other NRM grant programs e.g. NLP, Regional Competitive Bid;
- Links monitoring and evaluation to reporting on investment performance and progress towards meeting targets outlined in the NRM plan.

### 2.3 How does it do it?

Desert Channels Queensland will implement this regional investment strategy through:

- Community leadership
- Regional coordination and development of partnerships
- Regional investment facilitation and project implementation
- Appropriate corporate governance and accountability
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Reviewing plans and investment strategies

Desert Channels Queensland has demonstrated community leadership through establishing strategic links with other organisations e.g. catchment committees, Desert Uplands Committee, other regional bodies, State agencies, local government, industry.

There is also considerable scope to strengthen existing partnerships with local government beyond the traditional areas of pest and stock route management. *Powering our Actions* makes this a priority by integrating pest management planning and on-ground action (an area where local government is active) with other NRM initiatives.

A range of delivery mechanisms will be used to deliver on priority targets and their respective actions included in the RIS. This flexible approach will allow DCQ to deliver funding effectively and strategically.

These delivery mechanisms include:

- *Protecting our Future*. This is DCQ's primary direct delivery program. It is an integrated action initiative spanning all assets and providing community capacity building, planning and on-ground works. This investment goes beyond the devolved grants that have been used in the past for pest control and biodiversity protection in the region. Each program includes funding for specific priorities via this mechanism (e.g. mound springs in the biodiversity program). Innovative approaches to providing incentives will be encouraged via this mechanism which is designed to engage a broader cross-section of the community (see Appendix 14.1 for more information on how *Protecting our Future* will be delivered).
- MOUs with the catchment committees (semi-autonomous arms of DCQ), and contracts with the Desert Uplands Committee (autonomous incorporated body) to deliver specific components.
- Contract type arrangements with external providers. This method is particularly suited to engaging State agencies and external organisations which

have the technical skills to deliver outcomes that a small regional group like DCQ could not achieve in-house.

- Partnership arrangements across a number of regional bodies that face similar challenges and are constrained by funding and expertise. The Rangelands Regional Groups Network, initiated and facilitated by DCQ, is a good example. This unlocks additional funding sources such as the Regional Competitive Bid.

#### 2.4 How do the prioritised actions for the NRM plan drive investment decisions?

*Protecting our Assets* provides prioritised management actions that inform the investment decisions included in this investment strategy. The allocation of funds to each program is based on the number and priority of actions included in that program. For example the Land Program has 18 three-star management actions ( $18 \times 3 = 54$ ) and 13 two-star management actions ( $13 \times 2 = 26$ ) providing a total score of 80. This represents 40% of the priority actions in the NRM plan; therefore 40% of this investment strategy's indicative funding has been allocated to the Land Program.

This prioritisation process is based on the prioritised actions in the DCQ NRM plan, *Protecting our Assets*, the development of which is underpinned by extensive community consultation. Please refer to *Protecting our Assets* for further detail on this process.



### 3 Summary of Investment for Ministerial Approval Table

Summary of Investment for Minister Approval																					
Program		Funding 2004/05				Funding 2005/06				Funding 2006/07				FUNDING 3 Years		TOTAL		Relevant SCT	Relevant MAT		
Program	Program Description	Funding 2004/05	Trust	State In Kind	Other Funding	TOTAL	Funding 2005/06	Trust	Other Funding	TOTAL	Funding 2006/07	Trust	Other Funding	TOTAL	FUNDING 3 Years	Trust	Other Funding	TOTAL	Relevant SCT	Relevant MAT	
1	<b>Land Program</b>				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds		1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2	MAT: 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5.	
	This program is about land holders adopting improved land management practices to achieve NRM outcomes. Delivery of landscape scale integrated planning and incentives via Protecting Our Future Initiative.				* Best management practices developed for all pasture types/vegetation communities - * 350 properties being managed more sustainably through provision to landholders of tailored training and relevant information packages. * The condition of land, vegetation, biodiversity and/or water assets on 200 properties are being progressively enhanced through the application of on-ground incentives. * Scientifically sound, community accepted and measurable soil condition/groundcover targets set for all major land types in the region. * Region-wide database and mapping capacity developed and maintained on weeds and feral animals distribution and control. * Pest identification, spread prevention and control information delivered to all sections of the community. * 100% control of priority weed and feral animal outbreaks achieved within 2 years of such outbreaks being identified.																
	<b>FULL BUDGET REQUIRED FROM NHT FUNDING</b>																				
	Approval Guarantee																				
2	<b>Water Program</b>				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds		3.1, 3.2	MAT: 1.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 3.12.	
	This program links the Protecting Our Future Initiative, Water Wise for Urban and Rural Western Queensland and the Arid Rivers Natural and Cultural Heritage Project.				* Catchment scale and community accepted water quality targets progressively developed, based on best available information. * Point-source pollution identified and addressed through development of best management practices backed by establishment of monitoring regimes. * Best management practices developed for wetlands and for urban and rural water use. * Progressive integration with ongoing activity under the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative.																
	<b>FULL BUDGET REQUIRED FROM NHT FUNDING</b>																				
	Approval Guarantee																				
3	<b>Biodiversity Program</b>				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds		4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4	MAT: 1.5, 1.6, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8	
	This program benefits from activity across all programs. Key components are Protecting Our Future Initiative, Arid Rivers Natural and Cultural Heritage Project and the Desert Uplands On-Ground Nature Conservation Project.				* Benchmarks developed for managing biodiversity condition and incorporated into land management training packages. * Wetland areas across the region mapped and prioritised. * Best management practices on wetlands promulgated and applied through appropriate on-ground incentives. * High priority artesian spring ecosystems adequately protected and managed through adoption of best practice management practices and voluntary arrangements.																
	<b>FULL BUDGET REQUIRED FROM NHT FUNDING</b>																				
	Approval Guarantee																				
4	<b>Community Program</b>				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds		5.1, 5.2	MAT: 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5	
	The Community Program is supporting community engagement networks, which operate across all programs. It will be the key driver of the Protecting Our Future Initiative, Development of land and water targets, the Water Wise project and NRM Solutions project.				* Active and productive promotion, guidance and oversight of natural resource planning and management by the regional NRM body across the region. * Demonstrable, ongoing community support for and involvement in, natural resource planning and management in the region. * Sound links established and maintained with such key groups such as industry, Local Government, economic development and tourism. * Socio-economic study conducted of the process and ramifications of natural resource management in the region. * Core Staff (Executive Officer, Admin/Project Officer, Admin Officer) - Board Operating																
	<b>FULL BUDGET REQUIRED FROM NHT FUNDING</b>																				
	Approval Guarantee																				
5	<b>Indigenous Land Management and Heritage Program</b>				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds				Comprises IFA, Competitive Bid, NLP Funds		6.1, 6.2	MAT: 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4.	
	This program works towards the establishment of an Indigenous Leaders Network and protection of Indigenous cultural heritage interests via Protecting Our Future Initiative and the Arid Rivers Natural and Cultural Heritage project.				* Database development of significant Aboriginal areas, attributes, contacts and knowledge. * Indigenous leadership and networks established in the natural resource management field. * Relevant Indigenous techniques and knowledge incorporated into natural resource management planning, land management training packages and, progressively, into Local Government planning.																
	<b>FULL BUDGET REQUIRED FROM NHT FUNDING</b>																				
	Approval Guarantee																				
<b>TOTAL PROPOSAL</b>																					
<b>TOTAL APPROVAL GUARANTEE</b>																					

## 4 Co-Investor Commitment

Landholder involvement and commitment from across the region is expressed through the representative community leaders who constitute the membership of the Desert Channels Queensland Board and its implementation groups (Georgina Diamantina and Cooper's Creek catchment committees, and Desert Uplands Build-up and Development Committee).

Local government, primarily through the Shire Rural Lands Officers Group, continues its strong support for NRM activity, particularly weed and feral animal control through the *Cross Catchments Weed and Feral Animal Initiative*.

The Arid Lands NRM Group (ALNRMG) has confirmed that it will continue to support and provide funding toward the *Cross Catchment Weed and Feral Animals Initiative*.

The ALNRMG has confirmed funding for the next two and a half years for the *Arid Rivers and Cultural Heritage Initiative* in which DCQ is a partner.

All collaborators in the *Sustainable Grazing Initiative (GLM)*, are committed to seeing this crucial initiative continue beyond its first year which is funded (\$1.3 million) through the Interim Funding Arrangements. The GLM partners are Desert Channels Queensland, Southern Gulf, Northern Gulf, South-West NRM, Desert Uplands and DPI&F.

In addition to DPI&F, there is strong commitment to DCQ from NR&M who have offered, and continue to offer technical and practical support. EPA has less presence in the DCQ area but does offer technical and planning support, particularly for the biodiversity program.

Central Queensland University and Swinburne Institute have, between them, committed more than \$50,000 per year for the next three years to run the *Partnerships for NRM Solutions Initiative* with DCQ.

## 5 Corporate Governance

Desert Channels Queensland is run by an eleven member Board plus an Independent Chair. There is also a five member Management Committee comprising the Chair, one Board member from each of the three implementation groups and the Executive Officer. The Board met quarterly in 2004, however intends to increase face-to-face meetings to six times per year from 2005 and will make considerable use of teleconferencing whenever possible. DCQ's Management Committee (Chair, Executive Officer, and 1 representative from each of the 3 implementation groups) meet via teleconference between full Board meetings. The Desert Channels Queensland Board consists of representatives from the Cooper's Creek, and Georgina Diamantina catchment committees and the Desert Uplands Committee. Each of NR&M, DPI&F and EPA has a representative who attends Board meetings as an observer.

Desert Channels Queensland uses a range of corporate governance mechanisms to ensure efficient and effective program delivery including:

- Contracts with initiative partners (eg; Protecting Our Future Initiative contract between landholder and DCQ)
- Contracts with program deliverers (eg; DPI&F and the GLM initiative)
- Memorandums of Understanding and contracts with other regional bodies (ALNRMG) and implementation groups (GDCC, CCCC, DU)
- A range of policies and procedures pertaining to members and staff
- Succession planning
- Performance reporting
- Progress reporting
- Formal audits (12 monthly) by qualified accountants
- Preliminary audits every three months

DCQ has also developed and implemented policies in regards to financial processes and protocols.

DCQ will be joint investors with South-West NRM and Southern Gulf Catchments to develop and implement an M&E framework for on-ground activities.

The DCQ Board has adopted a continuous improvement philosophy to corporate governance and is continuing to make proactive business improvements as the organisation matures.

## 6 Risk Management

There are two types of risks to Desert Channels Queensland; program risks and strategic risks to the organisation. Program risks are included within each individual program, while strategic risks to the organisation and the respective risk management strategy are shown in the following table.

Strategic risk to DCQ	Management of risk
Succession of Board	Developing an effective succession plan
Succession of Chair	Head-hunt suitable individual
Lack of Indigenous engagement	Investing appropriately in this area
Loss of investor confidence	Set achievable outcomes and sound corporate governance
Litigation	Effective corporate governance
Shortage of staff and technical skills for NRM management actions	Offer long-term contracts that focus on retention of existing staff (key element of three-year funding cycles)
Loss of community support	Ensure continuing community ownership of the process; deliver worthwhile outcomes
Project failure	Ensure initiatives are well designed and managed, are realistic and can deliver worthwhile outcomes
Inadequate funding levels - inability of regional body to deliver on community expectations and government rhetoric	DCQ will actively seek funding from other sources e.g. Envirofund, Landcare, industry, philanthropists
Lack of alternative cash investors	Targeting unconventional sources and identifying the 'real' purchasers

The DCQ board will undertake a strategic risk assessment and management review process (using a consultant to give an external perspective) early in 2005 with a view to having a fully-fledged risk management plan in place by the end of March. It is anticipated this will confirm the above and may identify additional strategic risks. Risk minimisation actions will be developed for the 10 highest ranked risks. DCQ is also investing in a performance review of the Board to identify any shortcomings or areas of particular concern.

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## **7 Monitoring and Evaluation of NRM Plan Implementation**

Vital to DCQ's success in protecting the assets of the region is its ability to monitor and evaluate its progress against the stated milestones, and its capacity to adapt its management to achieve the greatest return on investment. Each program in this RIS has 5% of its total resources allocated to monitoring, evaluation, reporting and review.

Six-monthly performance reports will be generated to monitor and evaluate progress against the key milestones and outputs in each of the program areas and allow actions to be progressively adapted where necessary. This reporting will include projected and actual expenditure. There are areas, such as soil condition and water quality, where there are significant knowledge gaps. DCQ will act in concert with other rangeland NRM bodies supporting inter-regional projects, to develop resource condition monitoring mechanisms appropriate for the rangelands.

DCQ will transition to ISRA (Information System for Regional Arrangements) to track program activity and outputs once the system becomes available.

## 8 Social and Economic Impact Assessment

A social and economic impact assessment has been completed at the program level, however, DCQ recognise that this does not sufficiently acknowledge the range of potential impacts that might be caused by individual management actions. Within the first 6 months of the RIS a comprehensive impact assessment will be completed at the management action level, which will inform future RIS and prioritisation of actions.

### Methodology

The assessment will be based on the simple assessment process described in Dr Jim Cavaye's, *'Incorporating social and economic issues in regional NRM planning: a guide for regional bodies'*. The Joint Steering Committee has endorsed this process.

The assessment will largely be a desktop analysis of potential impacts with some input from Board members and key stakeholders. The impacts will be assessed against the following criteria, which the DCQ have identified as important social and economic attributes to the regional community. These are the same criteria as were used in the program level assessment:

- Population
- Indigenous participation
- Employment
- Sustainable production
- Income
- Services
- Social capital
- Capacity

Impacts will be assigned a rating between -5 (extreme negative impact) and +5 (extreme positive impact). Short, medium and long term impact will be considered, whether it is likely to contribute to a cumulative impact, whether it is concentrated or disbursed, and the social and economic consequence of 'doing nothing'.

## Programs

### 9 Land Program

#### 9.1 Description

The Land Program delivers integrated outcomes that either improve the condition of the land asset or protect its current good state.

This will be achieved by:

- developing Best Management Practices and appropriate training packages,;
- promoting Property Management Planning and the adoption of sustainable land management practices;
- encouraging the development of networks and partnerships to enable effective information transfer.

Investments in this Program will target:

- vegetation (brigalow, box/ironbark woodland), pasture (Mitchell grass, soft spinifex) and climate management
- weed and pest animal management (including prickly acacia, parkinsonia, rubber vine, parthenium, wild dogs and feral pigs);
- training and information delivery.

Delivery mechanisms for this Program are:

*Protecting our Future*, an integrated initiative spanning all the Programs of this regional investment strategy is the primary delivery mechanism for this Program. It aims to have 200 plus properties engaged in on-ground NRM activity by 2007. *Protecting our Future* investment via the Land Program is focussed in a number of areas including unsustainable land management practices, changes to vegetation communities, property NRM planning, pest control and pest management planning. It links with the Biodiversity Program which targets recognised biodiversity hotspots, wetlands of significance and endangered species habitat (see Appendix 14.1 for more detail).

*Ground-cover Monitoring* initiative is a pilot project, in partnership with NR&M and the DCQ community, to demonstrate the capacity of remote sensing to objectively monitor land condition across the DCQ region. Communication of the community-accepted targets developed by this initiative will be through POF, GLM and the activities of the Community Program.

*Cross Catchment Weed and Feral Animals Initiative* is a long-term cross border initiative involving DCQ and the Arid Lands NRM Group (ALNRMG) in SA. This initiative plans, coordinates and supports weed (primarily WONS activities) and feral animal control initiatives across the region and state borders. It is funded for 2004/05 as an Interim Funding Arrangement initiative, and includes funding for on-ground strategic control activities. Between January and June 2005 existing devolved grants will be transferred to *Protecting our Future* and subsequent on-ground functions delivered via *Protecting our Future*.

*Grazing Land Management* offers the latest land management practices and information across a range of bio-regions to the community and will incorporate the latest climate change and climate risk information. Around 350 properties are expected to participate in this initiative which is currently funded through the Trust Interim Funding and run in conjunction with Southern Gulf Catchments, Northern Gulf, Desert Uplands and South-West NRM. DCQ with agreement from partner organisations will seek further funding for GLM from external sources. Should this be unsuccessful, DCQ will use the flexibility provided via the 30% and 50% management reserves for 2005/06 and 2006/07 to re-align funds to this priority program.

## 9.2 Assets protected

**Land** - the pastoral land of the region produces in the vicinity of \$250 million per annum as beef, sheep and wool turn off. This investment is targeted at protecting the condition of the resource underpinning these industries.

**Water** - good quality water is essential for stock and domestic consumption, ecosystem health, recreation and mining. A prerequisite for good water quality is a healthy landscape.

**Biodiversity** - underpins the healthy environment on which all life depends (groundcover on grazing land is closely linked to biodiversity).

**Community (includes Indigenous)** - the social fabric and natural resource management capacity of the region. Protecting the land enhances the viability of the community and its ability to participate in NRM activities.

## 9.3 Pressures on assets

Unsustainable land management practices - over-grazing, total grazing pressure (stock plus macropods)

Changes to vegetation communities - thickening and encroachment of gidgee and eucalypt woodland

Modified land-use - unmanaged tourism

Lack of property planning - on-property actions not part of an integrated plan

Lack of pest management planning - not incorporated into property planning

Lack of on-ground control of priority pests, and effective enforcement - control is patchy and not everyone participates

Inadequate information - many do not fully understand the issues or the management options available.

#### 9.4 Matters for Targets addressed

##### Resource Condition

Primary - soil condition

Secondary - ecologically significant invasive species

Tertiary - native vegetation communities' integrity

#### 9.5 Management Action

Primary - improved land and water management practices adopted

#### 9.6 Contribution to Resource Condition Targets

Primary - 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2

Secondary - 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Tertiary - 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2

#### 9.7 Who is responsible?

DCQ is the responsible agent for many actions in this program.

There are partnerships or collaboration between DCQ, State Government agencies, local government, tertiary institutions and other regional bodies.

DPI&F is contracted to deliver key elements of *Grazing Land Management*.

#### 9.8 Cost of doing nothing

The implications of not funding this Program are not only significant to the asset itself (lost opportunity for on-ground activities toward biodiversity conservation and sustainable land and water management practices) but also the loss of faith by the community (another government initiative that promised a lot but delivered little).

The lack of incentives and assistance to landholders to control weeds will lead to greater infestations (prickly acacia is estimated to cost \$5 million per year in lost production)

Failure to control wild dogs has already driven many sheep producers to switch to cattle with the attendant lower workforce and flow-on effect to local towns.

## 9.9 Linkages

The key investments in the Land Program have considerable linkages with programs developed, conducted or at least partially contributed to by third parties including:

The *Grazing Land Management* initiative (funded through the IFA until September 2005), is closely aligned to this program and will contribute to the delivery of targets across land, water and biodiversity. GLM has further links to the StockTake monitoring and training packages, Climate Monitoring and Risk, the National Rangelands Audit (ACRIS) and AgSip initiatives.

The objectives of this program are aligned with those of the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement i.e. water and related natural resource management issues.

The aims and objectives of the *Cross Catchment Weed and Feral Animals Initiative* are aligned with those of the WONS network and the National Prickle Bush Management Group.

Where relevant, links will be established and maintained with: Federal, State, and local government programs and initiatives; industry-driven and private initiatives; community groups and individuals.

## 9.10 Risk management

**Funding** - *Grazing Land Management* is currently funded through the Interim Funding Arrangements for the first year. DCQ with agreement from partner organisations will seek further funding for GLM from external sources. Should this be unsuccessful, DCQ will use the flexibility provided via the 30% and 50% management reserves for 2005/06 and 2006/07 to re-align funds to this priority program.

**Drought** - diverts landholder resources away from NRM; reasonable rainfall and active growth required for control of most pest plants. If there is a drought, funds will be targeted at areas of the program, not affected by drought, that give the next best return on investment.

**High rainfall** - drought conditions provide the best window of opportunity for the control of some pest animals e.g. feral pigs. If conditions are wet, funds will be targeted at areas of the program, contingent on good rainfall, that give the next best return on investment.

**Low commodity prices** - less landholder resources to commit to NRM. If this is the case, DCQ will endeavour to better target any available resources through information and consultation.

**Uptake** - delivering outcomes through Protecting our Future is contingent on landholder participation. There are no anticipated problems in this regard as the level of interest across the community is extremely high.



### 9.11 RCT Table - Land Program

Resource Condition Targets	% of RCT in One (1) Year	Relevant Management Action Targets	Identified Investments	Expected Outcomes from Identified Investment in Terms of Targets
<p>RCT 1.1 No net increase in the area of land identified as having a long term declining ground cover trend by 2015.</p> <p>RCT 1.2 By 2015 salinity risk is assessed in priority areas (to be determined).</p> <p>Note: The diverse range of land-types, hugely variable climate, limited information base, and available monitoring techniques make it difficult to set robust resource condition targets for soil condition/groundcover at this time.</p> <p>RCT 2.1 Impact of priority weeds and feral animals on the land, water and biodiversity assets of the region contained (no further spread) by 2010 and reduced by 2015.</p>	<p>10%</p> <p>10%</p> <p>20%</p>	<p>MAT 1.1 Develop scientifically sound, community accepted, and measurable soil condition/ground cover targets for the major land types of the region by 2008. This will involve the testing and refining of community accessible remote sensing techniques to assess ground cover in the region.</p> <p>MAT 1.2 Determine priority areas for salinity risk by 2007.</p> <p>MAT 1.3 Develop Best Management Practices (benchmarking and goals) for all major pasture types/ vegetation communities in the region by 2007 (includes fire management).</p> <p>MAT 1.4 Climate risk (including climate change) widely understood in the region by 2007, information delivered through Grazing Land Management (GLM) package.</p> <p>MAT 1.5 Land management capacity-</p>	<p>Protecting Our Future Initiative</p> <p>Cross Catchment Weeds Initiative</p> <p>Arid Rivers Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage Initiative (funded by SAINRM)</p>	<p>Remote sensing ground cover technology field testing commenced. MAT1.1 - 30%</p> <p>No direct investment in RCT 1.2 during this period although assessment process for Protecting Our Future Initiative investments will enable action on any identified salinity risk areas. MAT 1.2 0%</p> <p>Improved land management and biodiversity sustainability occurring at 50 priority locations via Protecting Our Future Initiative MAT 1.3 - 10% MAT 1.4 - 10% MAT 1.5 - 10% MAT 1.6 - 10% MAT 1.7 - 30%</p>

<sup>1</sup> 'Protecting our Future' is an integrated, on-ground planning and action initiative spanning all assets.



Resource Condition Targets	% of RCT in One (1) Year	Relevant Management Action Targets	Identified Investments	Expected Outcomes from Identified Investment in Terms of Targets
		<p>building opportunities are provided to at least 350 grazing enterprises in the region by 2008 (primarily delivered by the Grazing Land Management (GLM) package).</p> <p>MAT 1.6 Make regionally appropriate information available on total grazing pressure to the region by 2007 (This target will be met through collaboration with surrounding regions)</p> <p>MAT 1.7 Improve the condition of DCQ assets through integrated information delivery, on ground planning and action at 200 locations in the region by 2007 ('Protecting our Future')<sup>1</sup>.</p> <p>MAT 2.1 Develop and implement a regional containment and adaptive management strategy for WONS weed species by 2006 (consistent with national strategies). Reduce weed infestations consistent with this strategy by 2008.</p> <p>MAT 2.2 100% control of priority weed and feral animal outbreaks in the region is achieved within 2 years of identification.</p> <p>MAT 2.3 Develop and commence implementation of a regional strategy for weed and feral animal control by 2006.</p>		<p>Processes established to improve pest management coordination within DCQ area.</p> <p>Strategic control of WONS species via Protecting Our Future Initiative</p> <p>MAT 2.1 - 50%</p> <p>MAT 2.2 - 100%</p> <p>MAT 2.3 - 20%</p> <p>MAT 2.4 - 20%</p> <p>MAT 2.5 - 100%</p> <p>MAT 2.6 - 0%</p> <p>MAT 2.7 - 10%</p>



Resource Condition Targets	% of RCT in One (1) Year	Relevant Management Action Targets	Identified Investments	Expected Outcomes from Identified Investment in Terms of Targets
		<p>Reduce weed and feral animal infestations consistent with this strategy by 2008.</p> <p>MAT 2.4 Provide appropriate incentives for strategic and innovative management of weeds and feral animals as part of integrated on-ground action and planning 'Protecting our Future' by 2006.</p> <p>MAT 2.5 Develop (by 2005) and maintain a region-wide database and mapping capacity on weeds and feral animal distribution and control (support community efforts to map pests in the region).</p> <p>MAT 2.6 Develop and implement regional weed and feral animal management compliance strategy by 2006.</p> <p>MAT 2.7 Ensure delivery to all sections of the community and visitors (industry, tourism) of appropriate pest identification, spread prevention and control information by 2006.</p>		



## 9.12 Land Program Budget

Land Program																				NB: Highlighted yellow cells depict NHT Funds Required		
							In Kind Costs 04/05				NHT Costs 04/05											
Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance Indicator	Action	Mgmt Action	Outputs 6mths	Output Category	In-Kind Contributor	In-Kind	State In-Kind	Total In-Kind	Planning	Resource Asmnt	Capacity Building	Onground Works	MER @ 5%	Total Cash 04/05	Total Cost 04/05 (incl In-Kind)	Fund Source 04/05	Indicative Funds Req 04/05	Indicative Funds 05/06	Indicative Funds 06/07	
ML1	Grazing land management packages and land management capacity building delivered to at least 350 properties in the region by 2008.	GLM Package well accepted by community, with DCQ Board and JSC accepting of the level of community uptake	L1, L3, L5, L7, L8, L9, L16	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7	GLM and Stocktake Packages customised to all landscapes in each region	Capacity Building	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 168,487	\$168,487	\$ 134,560		\$ 201,840	\$ 302,760	\$ 33,640	\$ 672,800	\$ 841,287	IFA	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
ML2	Remote sensing ground cover, and woodland thickening, monitoring has been undertaken against the major land types in the DCQ region that are scientifically and community accepted targets set	Remote sense ground cover monitoring and targets are accepted by the regional community by 2008	L11, L12, L17	1.1, 1.3, 1.5, 1.7	Remote sensing monitoring program ground truthed for at least one bio-region	Resource Assessment			\$ -			\$ 33,250		\$ 33,250	\$ 3,500	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	NR&M Special Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
ML3	Regional pest animal and weed programs regionally coordinated and strategically delivered	All priority weed and pest animal outbreaks are 100% controlled by 2007	P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, P11, P13, P18	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5	CCQ&FAI Working Group formed and operating	Planning, Resource Assessment, Capacity Building, Ongoing Works	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 168,487	\$168,487	\$ 21,633	\$ 10,817	\$ 21,633	\$ 48,675	\$ 5,408	\$ 108,166	\$ 276,653	RIS	\$ 108,166	\$ 170,496	\$ 170,496	
ML4	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	Protecting Our Future Initiative is accepted by DCQ community with good uptake of project aims and objectives	P10, P14, P15, P19	1.5, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7	Existing pest management devolved grants incorporated into Protecting Our Future initiative	On ground	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 168,487	\$168,487	\$ 50,478		\$ 75,716	\$ 113,575	\$ 12,619	\$ 252,388	\$ 420,875	RIS	\$ 252,388	\$ 397,824	\$ 397,824	
ML5	Arid Rivers Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage project has employed staff and actively engaging community	Arid Rivers project is now operating in the Cooper's Creek and Georgina Diamantina Catchments	B2, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B11, B12, B17, B18	1.1, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 3.1, 3.5, 3.6, 3.12, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8	Project contracts and staffing arrangements signed between DCQ and SAINRM	Resource Assessment	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 168,486	\$168,486		\$ 106,163			\$ 5,588	\$ 111,751	\$ 280,237	Competitive Bid (SAINRM)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS						TOTALS		\$ -	\$ 673,947	\$ 673,947	\$ 206,671	\$ 150,230	\$ 299,189	\$ 498,260	\$ 60,755	\$ 1,215,105	\$ 1,889,052		\$ 360,554	\$ 568,320	\$ 568,320	

## 10 Water Program

### 10.1 Description

The Water Program delivers integrated outcomes that protect wetlands and aquatic ecosystems, prevent a decline in water quality, address point impacts and threatening processes; and moderate use of the resource.

This will be achieved by:

- developing Best Management Practices for wetlands, and for urban and rural water use;
- targeted monitoring of water quality impacts;
- progressively setting relevant and accepted water quality targets;
- provision of relevant information;
- the linking of GABSI initiatives with NRM outcomes;
- on-ground incentives.

Investments in this Program will target:

- water conservation;
- protection of wetlands;
- rehabilitation of degraded areas;
- protection of biodiversity;
- delivery of information to the community;
- protection and restoration of artesian spring flows.

Delivery mechanisms for this Program are:

Strong partnerships with NR&M (source of relevant information), EPA (water conservation, protection of biodiversity), GABSI (protection and restoration of artesian spring flows) and local government (wise urban water use).

*Protecting our Future*, an integrated initiative spanning all the Programs of this Regional Investment Strategy, will deliver on-ground activity to protect water quality, aquatic ecosystems and high-value areas such as artesian springs. It aims to have 200 plus properties (across all programs) engaged by 2007.

*Wise water use in urban and rural Western Queensland* initiative will work with local governments and rural communities to have best management practice water use widely adopted.

## 10.2 Assets protected

Water - good quality and adequate quantities of water are essential for stock and domestic consumption, ecosystem health, recreation and mining. This investment protects the region's water quality.

Biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems - underpin the healthy environment on which all life depends. A prerequisite for this is good water quality.

Community (includes Indigenous) - the social fabric and natural resource management capacity of the region. Communities depend on good quality water.

## 10.3 Pressures on assets

Inefficient use - unsuitable gardens, bore-drains

Impacts on water quality (and aquatic ecosystems) - unmanaged tourism, point source pollution

Changes to catchment processes - climate change

Inappropriate wetland management practices - lack of control of weeds and feral animals, total grazing pressure (stock plus macropods)

## 10.4 Matters for Targets addressed

### Resource Condition

Primary - inland aquatic ecosystems integrity (rivers and other wetlands)

Secondary - significant native species and ecological communities

Tertiary - ecologically significant invasive species

### Management Action

Primary - improved water and land management practices adopted

Secondary - critical assets identified and protected

## 10.5 Contribution to Resource Condition Targets

Primary - 3.1, 3.2

Secondary - 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Tertiary - 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2

## 10.6 Who is responsible?

While DCQ is the responsible agent for many actions in this program, the expertise for specific areas will come variously from NR&M, EPA and DPI&F.

In the area of urban water use there will be close collaboration with local government.

The balance is partnerships or collaboration with tertiary institutions and other regional bodies.

DPI&F is contracted to deliver key elements of *Grazing Land Management*.

### 10.7 Cost of doing nothing

The implications of not funding this Program are not only significant to the asset itself (lost opportunity to inform community and implement more sustainable management practices, further spread of ecologically significant invasive species along uncontrolled bore-drains etc.) but also the loss of faith by the community (another government initiative that promised a lot but delivered little).

The lack of incentives and assistance to landholders to control weeds and feral animals can lead to the situation where riparian areas become severely degraded with the attendant drop in water quality.

There is the danger of losing endemic species at high biodiversity value artesian springs.

### 10.8 Linkages

The objectives of this program are aligned with those of the Lake Eyre Basin Agreement i.e. water and related natural resource management issues, particularly those related to water quantity and quality, and flow regimes.

*Grazing Land Management* offers the latest land and water management practices and information across a range of bioregions. The land management aspect will be a large contributor to water quality through enhanced ground cover, riparian vegetation and erosion control, while the water management aspect will primarily contribute to water quantity.

Strong links with the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) will be established to ensure bore capping and piping assist NRM outcomes.

Where relevant, links will be established and maintained with: Federal, State, and local government programs and initiatives; industry-driven and private initiatives; community groups and individuals.

### 10.9 Risk management

Drought and low commodity prices - less landholder resources to commit to NRM. In the case of drought, DCQ will endeavour to better target any available resources through information and consultation.

Perceptions - involvement in water related issues may cause a perception that DCQ is linked to water allocation and control. DCQ will inform the community so that it differentiates between DCQ and government.



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Funding - DCQ will actively seek funding from additional sources so this program can deliver for the environment and community how it was intended.

Uptake - delivering outcomes through *Protecting our Future* is contingent on landholder participation. The management of wetlands, riparian zones and watercourses is a potentially sensitive issue for landholders; DCQ will need to establish and maintain community trust.





Resource Condition Targets	% of RCT in One (1) Year	Relevant Management Action Targets	Identified Investments	Expected Outcomes from Identified Investment in Terms of Targets
		<p>MAT 3.7 Best practice water use guidelines adopted by major stakeholders (DCQ, GAB, Local Govt, industry groups) in the region by 2007.</p> <p>MAT 3.8 By 2007 there is effective integration between the work of DCQ and the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative (GABSI) to improve the management of the region's natural resources.</p> <p>MAT 3.9 By 2007 there is effective cooperation between DCQ and the State water management planning processes.</p> <p>MAT 3.10 High priority artesian spring ecosystems are adequately protected and managed through adoption of best management practices and voluntary agreements by 2007 (linked to MAT 4.4).</p> <p>MAT 3.11 Identify erosion processes/areas of risk that lead to increase streamline saltation by 2007.</p> <p>MAT 3.12 Scientifically sound and community accepted standards in place for assessing catchment health in place by 2006 ('Lake Eyre Basin Rivers Assessment'). Linked to MAT 3.3.</p>		<p>Adoption of the Lake Eyre Basin Rivers Assessment Methodology by the LEB Ministerial Forum MAT 3.12 - 20%</p>



### 10.11 Water Program Budget

Water Program																					
NE: Highlighted yellow cells depict NHT Funds Required																					
Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance Indicator	Action	Mgmt Action	Outputs 6mths	Output Category	In Kind Costs 04/05				NHT Costs 04/05					Total Cash 04/05	Total Cost 04/05 (incl In-Kind)	Fund Source 04/05	Indicative Funds Req 04/05	Indicative Funds 05/06	Indicative Funds 06/07
							In-Kind Contributor	In-Kind	State In-Kind	Total In-Kind	Planning	Resource Asmnt	Capacity Building	Onground Works	MER @ 5%						
MW1	Arid Rivers Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage project has employed staff and actively engaging community	Arid Rivers project is now operating in the Cooper's Creek and Georgina Diamantina Catchments	W1, W2, W5, W6, W7, W10, W11, W12, W13, W14, W15	1.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.10, 3.12	Project contracts and staffing arrangements signed between DCQ and SAINRM	Resource Assessment	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 565,454	\$ 565,454		\$ 106,163			\$ 5,588	\$ 111,751	\$ 677,205	Competitive Bid (SAINRM)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MW2	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	Protecting Our Future Initiative is accepted by DCQ community with good uptake of project aims and objectives	W1, W12, W14, W15	3.1, 3.3, 3.6, 3.7, 3.10	Community incentives for Protecting Our Future Initiative getting good uptake by community	On Ground			\$ 565,454	\$ 565,454	\$ 56,311		\$ 84,466	\$ 126,699	\$ 14,078	\$ 281,554	\$ 847,008	RIS & NLP	\$ 135,659	\$ 213,830	\$ 213,830
MW3	Water WISE project taken up by all 14 Local Governments in the DCQ Region and well supported by rural community	Uptake of Water WISE project by 2 Local Governments in DCQ Region	W1, W12, W9, W14, W15	3.1, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 3.10, 4.4	Local Government and community showing interest in Water WISE Project	Capacity Building			\$ 565,455	\$ 565,455	\$ 11,628		\$ 17,442	\$ 26,163	\$ 2,906	\$ 58,139	\$ 623,594	RIS	\$ 58,139	\$ 91,642	\$ 91,642
TOTALS						TOTALS		\$ -	\$ 1,696,363	\$ 1,696,363	\$ 67,939	\$ 106,163	\$ 101,908	\$ 152,862	\$ 22,572	\$ 451,444	\$ 2,147,807	\$ -	\$ 193,798	\$ 305,472	\$ 305,472

## 11 Biodiversity Program

### 11.1 Description

The Biodiversity Program delivers integrated outcomes against resource condition targets in concert with the other RIS programs. It will protect, and increase the awareness of, the biodiversity values of the region, in particular, the declared biodiversity hotspot, the Desert Uplands.

This will be achieved by:

- developing Best Management Practices, benchmarks, incentives and information products;
- identifying biodiversity rich areas for possible and appropriate future action.

Investments in this Program will target;

- education and awareness;
- protection of biodiversity through incentives.

Delivery mechanisms for this Program are:

*Protecting our Future*, an integrated initiative spanning all the Programs of this Regional Investment Strategy, will deliver on-ground activity to protect biodiversity generally but in particular: 'Of Concern' regional ecosystems; biodiversity hotspots (Desert Uplands, Brigalow Belt South); wetlands of significance (including Lake Buchanan, Lake Galilee and artesian springs - for a full list see Appendix 4 of the DCQ community information paper, *Our Country; Our Community*); and endangered species habitat (Elizabeth Springs goby, greater bilby, Julia Creek dunnart). It aims to have 200 plus properties (across all programs) engaged by 2007.

### 11.2 Assets protected

Biodiversity - underpins the healthy environment on which all life depends and the economic prosperity that sustains the community of the region.

Water - good quality water is essential for stock and domestic consumption, ecosystem health, recreation and mining.

Land - the pastoral land of the region produces in the vicinity of \$250 million per annum. Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems underpin this productivity.

Community (includes Indigenous) - the social fabric and natural resource management capacity of the region. Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems underpin the economic prosperity that sustains the community of the region.

### 11.3 Pressures on assets

Lack of knowledge - much of the area has not been effectively surveyed. Current management practices could be threatening species or ecosystems about which there is a lack of knowledge.

Lack of on-ground protection and management - many people don't understand how their actions can have a negative impact (many 'Of Concern' Regional Ecosystems are not represented in protected areas).

Ecologically invasive pest species - weeds and feral animals displace native species and alter and degrade the environment.

Lack of information - accurate knowledge is essential to wise management decisions

### 11.4 Matters for Targets addressed

#### Resource Condition

Primary - significant native species and ecological communities; native vegetation communities' integrity

Secondary - ecologically significant invasive species

Tertiary - inland aquatic ecosystems integrity (rivers and other wetlands)

#### Management Action

Primary - critical assets identified and protected

Secondary - improved land and water management practices adopted

### 11.5 Contribution to Resource Condition Targets

Primary - 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Secondary - 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 2.1, 2.2

Tertiary - 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2

### 11.6 Who is responsible?

While DCQ is the responsible agent in many actions in this program, EPA also has a major role. DCQ will be in partnership with Desert Uplands and BDT in providing on-ground incentives for biodiversity and ecosystem protection in the declared biodiversity hotspot, Desert Uplands. DPI&F is contracted to deliver key elements of *Grazing Land Management*. The balance is partnerships or collaboration with tourism industry organisations and local government.

### 11.7 Socio-economic impact (see assessment matrix, Appendix 4)

This socio-economic impact assessment has been made on the assumption that investments will continue for the long-term (15 years plus) allowing this program to be

ramped up from the current modest funding to levels required to achieve the outcomes laid out in the NRM plan.

Do nothing (short-term):

No change.

Do nothing (long-term):

Population, sustainable production and income are expected to experience modest decline as the effects of weed infestations increase and productivity drops. No change to other criteria assessed.

Implementation of program (short-term):

No change.

Implementation of program (long-term):

Population and Indigenous participation will receive at least marginal benefit, services, social capital and capacity will see moderate benefit, while employment, sustainable production and income will all see a major improvement. This will mainly come through a growing reputation for sustainable practices and increased tourism and the greater recognition and appreciation of our natural values.

### 11.8 Cost of doing nothing

The implications of not funding this Program are not only significant to the asset itself (probable loss of biodiversity in sensitive areas like artesian springs, lost opportunity to inform community and implement more sustainable management practices and to raise community awareness and pride in region's biodiversity attributes, further spread of ecologically significant invasive species) but also the loss of faith by the community (another government initiative that promised a lot but delivered little).

### 11.9 Linkages

The investments in the biodiversity program are well linked to existing biodiversity focussed initiatives including:

*Arid Rivers and Cultural Heritage* initiative, a joint ALNRMG and DCQ initiative that will identify key biodiversity rich areas in the South Australian and Queensland sections of the Cooper Creek and Georgina Diamantina catchments. The information gathered will be used to guide *Protecting our Future* investments, particularly in high-value conservation areas. This initiative is funded for 3 years through the Regional Competitive Bid. Information gathered through the *Arid Rivers and Cultural Heritage* initiative will go into the EPA and Qld Herbarium regional ecosystem mapping program and the EPA wetland inventory. This information will also feed into the Lake Eyre Basin Rivers Assessment.

The Desert Uplands' *On-ground Nature Conservation* initiative is protecting significant, high biodiversity value ecosystems and remnant vegetation in this declared biodiversity hotspot (funded through the Regional Competitive Bid). DCQ (in partnership with the Desert Uplands) will assess the effectiveness of this mechanism, relative to *Protecting our Future*, in delivering biodiversity outcomes prior to the completion of the *On-ground Nature Conservation* initiative. The outcomes of this review will influence which mechanism is used to deliver on biodiversity targets for 2005/06 and 2006/07.

*Grazing Land Management* provides the latest land management practices and information across a range of bioregions to the community. This initiative considers biodiversity values (such as key habitat areas) during holistic property planning. Information and resources will be sourced from EPA and the Threatened Species Network.

#### 11.10 Risk management

Fear of intervention - many landholders with properties of high biodiversity value fear that public recognition of the fact will lead to government intervention and loss of control and freedom.

Low commodity prices - less landholder resources to commit to NRM. Through information and consultation, DCQ will endeavour to better target any available resources.



11.11 RCT Table - Biodiversity

Resource Condition Targets	% of RCT in One (1) Year	Relevant Management Action Targets	Identified Investments	Expected Outcomes from Identified Investment in Terms of Targets
<p>RCT 4.1 By 2015 the extent of remnant native vegetation cover in the region has not dropped below the level measured in 2007.</p> <p>RCT 4.2 By 2015 adequate and representative samples of 80% of the regional ecosystems found in the region are protected on private or State land and these ecosystems are in good condition or better.</p> <p>RCT 4.3 By 2015 at least 1000 ha of regional ecosystems currently assessed as 'endangered' have improved in condition.</p> <p>RCT 4.4 By 2015 100% of known rare and threatened species in the region subject to recovery plans are protected by regionally implemented management plans.</p>	<p>10%</p> <p>10%</p> <p>10%</p> <p>10%</p>	<p>MAT 4.1 Regional ecosystem mapping completed by 2007.</p> <p>MAT 4.2 Regional ecosystems are adequately conserved by 2009.</p> <p>MAT 4.3 Systematic surveys and biodiversity audits are undertaken in target areas by 2007.</p> <p>MAT 4.4 Ecosystems on private land are conserved through adoption of best management practices and voluntary agreements - 250,000 ha in place by 2007 consistent with regional priorities.</p> <p>MAT 4.5 Develop education/awareness packages for the community on biodiversity values and landscapes by 2007 (recognise prior achievements).</p> <p>MAT 4.6 Develop benchmarks for managing biodiversity condition and management to be incorporated into the GLM package by 2006 (linked to MAT 1.5).</p> <p>MAT 4.7 Review existing recovery plans and develop and implement regionally relevant management actions for at least 80% of threatened species in the region by 2009.</p> <p>4.8 Obtain information on the impacts of weeds and feral animals on biodiversity and make this available through the GLM package by 2007.</p>	<p>Protecting Our Future Initiative</p>	<p>Sound Regional ecosystem mapping data is contributing to biodiversity focussed investment decisions in Protecting Our Future Initiative</p> <p>MAT 4.1 - 0%</p> <p>MAT 4.2 - 5%</p> <p>MAT 4.3 - 0%</p> <p>MAT 4.4 - 2%</p> <p>Benchmarks developed for managing biodiversity condition and incorporated into land management training packages.</p> <p>MAT 4.5 - 40%</p> <p>MAT 4.6 - 40%</p> <p>MAT 4.7 - 15%</p> <p>MAT 4.8 - 50%</p>



### 11.12 Biodiversity Program Budget

Biodiversity Program																				NB: Highlighted yellow cells depict NHT Funds Required		
Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance Indicator	Action	Mgmt Action	Outputs 6mths	Output Category	In Kind Costs 04/05				NHT Costs 04/05					Total Cash 04/05	Total Cost 04/05 (incl In-Kind)	Fund Source 04/05	Indicative Funds Req 04/05	Indicative Funds 05/06	Indicative Funds 06/07	
							In-Kind Contributor	In-Kind	State In-Kind	Total In-Kind	Planning	Resource Asmnt	Capacity Building	Onground Works	MER @ 5%							
MB1	Grazing land management packages and land management capacity building delivered to at least 400 properties in the region by 2008.	GLM Package well accepted by community, with DCQ Board and JSC accepting of the level of community uptake	B2, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B11, B12, B17, B18,	1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8	GLM and Stocktake Packages customised to all landscapes in each region	Capacity Building	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$247,979	\$247,979	\$33,640			\$50,460	\$75,690	\$8,410	\$168,200	\$416,179	IFA	\$-	\$-	\$-
MB2	Arid Rivers Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage project has employed staff and actively engaging community	Arid Rivers project is now operating in the Cooper's Creek and Georgina Diamantina Catchments	B2, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B11, B12, B17, B18,	1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8	Project contracts and staffing arrangements signed between DCQ and SA INRM	Resource Assessment	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$247,979	\$247,979			\$106,163			\$5,588	\$111,751	\$359,730	Competitive Bid	\$-	\$-	\$-
MB3	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	Protecting Our Future Initiative is accepted by DCQ community with good uptake of project aims and objectives	B2, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B11, B12, B17, B18,	1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 4.5, 4.6, 4.8	Community incentives for Protecting Our Future Initiative getting good uptake by community	On ground	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$247,979	\$247,979				\$279,893	\$14,731	\$294,624	\$542,603	NLP and RIS	\$148,729	\$234,432	\$234,432	
MB4	Desert Uplands On Ground Nature Conservation project has delivered conservation outcomes are on 50 locations across the DU	The DU On Ground Nature Conservation project is well accepted by DU community with good uptake of project aims and objectives	B2, B5, B6, B7, B8, B9, B11, B12, B17, B18,	1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 4.5, 4.6, 4.9	Project has completed 12 successful applications	On ground	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$247,980	\$247,980				\$380,000	\$20,000	\$400,000	\$647,980	Competitive Bid	\$-	\$-	\$-	
TOTALS						TOTALS		\$-	\$991,917	\$991,917	\$33,640	\$106,163	\$50,460	\$735,583	\$48,729	\$974,575	\$1,966,492		\$148,729	\$234,432	\$234,432	

## 12 Community Program

### 12.1 Description

The Community Program delivers on the priority capacity building and coordination actions from the plan required to maintain a healthy regional NRM network. This program includes the costs of DCQ undertaking its regional leadership, communication and coordination roles and responsibilities of monitoring, reporting and corporate governance (the size of the region increases the cost of delivering NRM outcomes). Core costs of maintaining DCQ are included as a separate budget line in this program.

Underpinning DCQ and anchoring it firmly in the community are its implementation groups, the Georgina Diamantina and Cooper's Creek catchment committees and the Desert Uplands Build-up and Development Strategy Committee.

The maintenance of this interdependent relationship is fundamental to the success of this regional process and, ultimately, the delivery of resource condition improvement across the region.

This will be achieved by ensuring the DCQ Board, implementation groups and staff:

- are capable, active, well resourced and supported by effective partnerships within the community, and with industry, education, and all levels of government;
- have the capacity to collect and manage data, and distribute information products.

Investments in this Program will target:

- community engagement and capacity to actively participate in NRM
- development of partnerships and networks

Delivery mechanisms for this Program are:

*Protecting our Future*, an integrated initiative spanning all the Programs of this Regional Investment Strategy will provide capacity building, holistic property planning and incentives focussed on maintaining and improving resource condition as described in the NRM plan. *Protecting our Future* will reinvigorate and engage community groups and individuals, and provide capacity building to equip the community with the skills to participate in sustainable NRM. It aims to have 200 plus properties engaged by 2007.

The *Partnerships for NRM Solutions* initiative team includes CQU, DPI&F, NR&M and Swinburne Institute. This initiative will give an understanding of what makes it possible or otherwise for landholders to apply natural resource management principles

on their properties. It will also significantly assist with monitoring and evaluation and socio-economic assessments.

*Wise water use in urban and rural Western Queensland* initiative will generate participation through education, and generate an embracing of sustainable practices that will have a flow-on effect to other facets of NRM.

The *Cross Catchments Weed and Feral Animal Initiative* will enhance NRM engagement with local government management staff while also enhancing the planning, coordination and NRM skills of technical staff via the Shire Rural Lands Officers Group. This initiative and stakeholders' high level of interest in pest management will provide a strategic avenue for broad NRM engagement.

## 12.2 Assets protected

Community (includes Indigenous) - the social fabric and natural resource management capacity of the region. Without a viable community, NRM activities will flounder; without sustainable NRM, the community cannot remain viable in the long term.

Community engagement network - this is the mechanism that delivers regional NRM programs.

Water - good quality water is essential for stock and domestic consumption, ecosystem health, recreation and mining. Community understanding, capacity and practices are critical to protecting this asset.

Biodiversity - underpins the healthy environment on which all life depends. Community understanding, capacity and practices are critical to protecting this asset.

Land - the pastoral land of the region produces in the vicinity of \$250 million per annum. Community understanding, capacity and practices are critical to protecting this asset.

## 12.3 Pressures on assets

Ineffective leadership and community engagement - many people don't see anything in NRM for them.

Economic development not aligned to NRM - tourism promoted in isolation from sustainable NRM

Lack of information and skills - people feel unable to participate and contribute because of lack of knowledge

## 12.4 Matters for Targets addressed

All targets will benefit from the funding of this program.

## 12.5 Contribution to Resource Condition Targets

Primary - 5.1, 5.2

Secondary - 3.1, 3.2, 2.1, 2.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Tertiary - 1.1, 1.2

## 12.6 Who is responsible?

As the representative community body, DCQ has the prime responsibility in this area. It is the link between the community and service providers, researchers and funders. The implementation groups play a critical support role in generating and maintaining community networks. UQ and CQU are heavily involved in the two research initiatives mentioned above. DPI&F is leading Partnerships for NRM Solutions and is contracted to deliver key elements of Grazing Land Management. The balance is partnerships or collaboration with tourism industry organisations and local government.

## 12.7 Cost of doing nothing

The implications of not funding this Program are not only significant to the asset itself (lost opportunity to inform and engage the community and implement more sustainable management practices) but also the loss of faith by the community (another government initiative that promised a lot but delivered little).

Doing nothing would almost certainly lead to the collapse of the groups supported by this program. This would further tarnish governments' image in the bush and set sustainable NRM back many years.

## 12.8 Linkages

Close relationships will be maintained with Southern Gulf Catchments, Northern Gulf, and South-West NRM as well as DPI&F especially through GLM.

DCQ's relationship with tertiary institutions will continue through the Partnerships for NRM Solutions initiative which is a partnership with CQU, DPI&F, UQ and Swinburne Institute.

*Grazing Land Management* will be a strong driver of community engagement. It will be a vehicle for changing attitudes and practices by offering a range of expertise and information including Best Management Practices for grazing, carrying capacity, biodiversity, and pasture management across a range of bio-regions.

## 12.9 Risk management

Collapse of DCQ and implementation groups - ensure maintenance of community and investor confidence through corporate governance measures and tangible on-ground outcomes.



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Loss of organisational and operational capacity - insecure funding sources are a major impediment to attracting, retaining and replacing experienced staff. This has ramifications for the quality and continuity of our community engagement and on-ground project management. DCQ continues to seek alternative funding and employ innovative ways to attract and retain necessary expertise.

Drought and low commodity prices - less landholder resources (time and money) to commit to NRM therefore less community involvement. Through information and consultation, DCQ will target any available resources.



12.10 RCT Table - Community Program

Resource Condition Targets	% of RCT in One (1) Year	Relevant Management Action Targets	Identified Investments	Expected Outcomes from Identified Investment in Terms of Targets
RCT 4.1 By 2015 the extent of remnant native vegetation cover in the region has not dropped below the level measured in 2007.	10%	MAT 5.1 Have information packages on the sustainable management of the natural resources of the region developed and distributed to the community by 2007.	All programs and investments	Investment programs established and initiative implementation commenced. MAT 5.1 - 30%
RCT 4.2 By 2015 adequate and representative samples of 80% of the regional ecosystems found in the region are protected on private or State land and these ecosystems are in good condition or better.	10%	MAT 5.2 Ensure active community involvement in NRM planning and action by 2007 through support for the DCQ Board, Cooper's Creek Catchment, Georgina Diamantina Catchment and Desert Uplands committees and other NRM groups in the region in a healthy partnership with governments (federal, state and local).		Healthy regional arrangements established to achieve measurable improvements in resource condition. MAT 5.2 - 50% MAT 5.3 - 10%
RCT 4.3 By 2015 at least 1000 ha of regional ecosystems currently assessed as 'endangered' have improved in condition.	10%	MAT 5.3 Have NRM issues recognised in planning for tourism development and management of the region by 2006.		Elementary socio-economic constraints examined MAT 5.4 - 100%
RCT 4.4 By 2015 100% of known rare and threatened species in the region subject to recovery plans are protected by regionally implemented management plans.	10%	MAT 5.4 Undertake a socio-economic study of the constraints on the management of the region's natural resources by 2006. MAT 5.5 Sound links between DCQ and key groups (e.g. industry (AgForce), local government (WQLGA), economic development (RAPAD) and tourism (OQTA)) in place by 2006.		Enhanced links between DCQ and key industry groups established. MAT 5.5 - 100%



### 12.11 Community Program Budget

Community Program																						
NB: Highlighted yellow cells depict NHT Funds Required																						
Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance Indicator	Action	Mgmt Action	Outputs 6mths	Output Category	In Kind Costs 04/05				NHT Costs 04/05					Total Cash 04/05	Total Cost 04/05 (incl In Kind)	Fund Source 04/05	Indicative Funds Req 04/05	Indicative Funds 05/06	Indicative Funds 06/07	
							In-Kind Contributor	In-Kind	State In-Kind	Total In-Kind	Planning	Resource Asmnt	Capacity Building	Onground Works	MER @ 5%							
MCL1	Desert Channels Queensland and its Implementation Groups have core costs in place and are actively working towards program outcomes	DCQ and Implementation Groups operating successfully and working towards regional/catchment based outputs	C1, C2, C3, C5, C6, C7, C9, C10, C14, C15, C16	5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5	DCQ and Implementation Groups have set up key program areas	Capacity Building	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 105,798	\$ 105,798				\$ 72,787		\$ 3,831	\$ 76,618	\$ 182,416	RIS and NLP	\$ 76,618	\$ 120,768	\$ 120,768
MCL2	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	10 applications approved and activated	C2, C3, C14, C16	5.2, 5.5	Protecting Our Future Initiative advertised in local media	On Ground Works	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 105,800	\$ 105,800				\$ 43,672		\$ 2,299	\$ 45,971	\$ 151,771	RIS and NLP	\$ 45,971	\$ 72,461	\$ 72,461
MCL3	NRM Solutions Project advertised and getting good uptake by community	At least 20 community contacts made and reported	C2, C4, C7, C9, C16	5.4,	Project advertised in local media and gaining steady response from community	Capacity Building	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 105,800	\$ 105,800				\$ 29,115		\$ 1,532	\$ 30,647	\$ 136,447	RIS	\$ 30,647	\$ 48,307	\$ 48,307
MCL4	Water WISE project taken up by all 14 Local Governments in the DCQ Region and well supported by rural community	Uptake of Water WISE project by 2 Local Governments in DCQ Region	C1, C3, C5, C9, C15, C16	5.2, 5.5	Local Government and community showing interest in Water WISE Project	Capacity Building	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 105,800	\$ 105,800	\$ 153,560	\$ 27,920	\$ 83,760		\$ 13,960	\$ 279,200	\$ 385,000	RIS	\$ 279,200	\$ 279,200	\$ 279,200	
											NB: Indicative Funds Required include DCQ Core Costs of \$ 279,200 This is done considering Core Costs are not attached to a milestone											
TOTALS						TOTALS		\$ -	\$ 423,198	\$ 423,198	\$ 153,560	\$ 27,920	\$ 185,662	\$ 43,672	\$ 21,622	\$ 432,436	\$ 855,634		\$ 432,436	\$ 520,736	\$ 520,736	

## 13 Indigenous Land Management & Heritage Program

### 13.1 Description

The Indigenous Land Management and Heritage Program focussed on engaging the Indigenous community in NRM and protecting Indigenous cultural heritage while managing the regions natural resources. The cornerstone of this program is an initiative to develop and support an Indigenous leaders group as a mechanism for broad Indigenous participation in mainstream natural resource management. This will provide recognition of Indigenous issues and cultural heritage, and ensures they are an integral part of the NRM decision-making process. The specific Indigenous Land Management and Heritage Program investment through the RIS is modest, however the capacity, engagement and knowledge realised via this investment will be used by DCQ and the implementation groups in the delivery of all programs. DCQ will seek alternate fund sources (e.g. Regional Competitive Bid and National Landcare Program) to bolster this program.

This will be achieved by:

- working with the Indigenous community of the region to develop a framework that offers equal participation in mainstream NRM;
- building capacity within the Indigenous community including the establishment of an Indigenous Leaders Group;
- identifying significant Indigenous areas and knowledge;
- having traditional Indigenous land management techniques widely acknowledged and used;
- on-ground incentives (weed and feral animal control, restoration of degraded areas).

Investments in this Program will target:

- Indigenous community engagement and capacity building;
- incorporation of Indigenous land management and cultural heritage issues into mainstream NRM and local government planning;
- development of partnerships and networks.

Delivery mechanisms for this Program are:

The *Indigenous Land Management and Heritage* program will undertake capacity building and ensure greater representation and participation in mainstream NRM. Through consultation, it will establish an Indigenous Elders Group and identify key issues and areas that require support.

The opportunity to participate in on-ground actions through *Protecting our Future* will stimulate Indigenous participation in NRM and will benefit the environment through weeds and feral animal control. There will also be the flow-on benefit of protecting cultural sites (sacred sites, meeting places) from the impact of weeds and feral animals and unmanaged tourism.

### 13.2 Assets protected

Indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage - built over thousands of generations and married to the natural resources of the region (incorporating Indigenous knowledge into mainstream land management along with an understanding and appreciation of cultural sites will ensure the long-term survival of both).

Community (including Indigenous) - the social fabric and natural resource management capacity of the region. There is real potential to enhance the cohesiveness of the community by the practical reconciliation this program could generate.

Water - good quality water is essential for stock and domestic consumption, ecosystem health, recreation and mining. For example, a current NLP activity, the Dajarra Town Common Initiative, will deliver a benefit to local water quality through the removal of rubbish from local creeks.

Biodiversity - underpins the healthy environment on which all life depends (the Dajarra initiative also has a strong weed eradication component).

Land - the pastoral land of the region produces in the vicinity of \$250 million per annum (potential benefit from Indigenous land management knowledge).

### 13.3 Pressures on assets

Lack of community engagement - many people don't see anything in NRM for them

Lack of protection - cultural sites may be degraded through not being known or through careless visitation

Lack of participatory framework - people feel unable to participate and contribute because no suitable framework exists to take account of social and cultural sensitivities.

Social issues - dealing with pressing social issues may be the over-riding focus in the community to the exclusion of the desire to participate in NRM activities.

### 13.4 Matters for Targets addressed

#### Resource Condition

Primary - significant native species and ecological communities

Secondary - inland aquatic ecosystems integrity (rivers and other wetlands)

Tertiary - ecologically significant invasive species

#### Management Action

Primary - improved land and water management practices adopted

#### 13.5 Contribution to Resource Condition Targets

Primary - 6.1, 6.2

Secondary - 1.1, 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4

Tertiary - 5.1, 5.2,

#### 13.6 Who is responsible?

While DCQ is the responsible agent for the actions in this program, NR&M will play a key role in identifying significant areas with their cultural heritage register, as will local Indigenous groups. Local government involvement will be critical in ensuring the incorporation of Indigenous land management and cultural heritage issues into local government planning.

#### 13.7 Cost of doing nothing

The implications of not funding this Program will be to virtually exclude the Indigenous community from meaningful participation in mainstream NRM. It will be a lost opportunity to involve the community in controlling the spread of ecologically significant invasive species and waste management.

It will also cause a loss of faith by the community (another potential initiative that promised a lot but didn't deliver).

#### 13.8 Linkages

The strong links developed with the FBA Elders Committee to date will continue as they provide ongoing assistance to this program.

Aligns with *Looking after Country Together Initiative* (State initiative beginning in early 2005).

DCQ has developed a solid relationship with relevant Indigenous corporations and State Indigenous Land Management Facilitators.

*Grazing Land Management* offers the latest land management practices and information across a range of bioregions and will be a key delivery mechanism for the 'integration of Indigenous knowledge into mainstream NRM' aspect of this Program (note the future funding strategy for GLM included in the Land Program).

### 13.9 Risk management

Social issues - DCQ will seek innovative ways to address social issues through NRM participation e.g. give unemployed people a vision of a weed-free landscape and assist with training and accessing funding.

Diversion of focus - DCQ is aware of a range of issues confronting the Indigenous community and will ensure that the focus of this NRM program remains firmly on NRM outcomes.

Landholder concern (at having Indigenous cultural heritage recognised on their land) - DCQ will work with all parties to build partnerships based on mutual respect and understanding.





### 13.11 Indigenous Land Management and Heritage Program Budget

Indigenous Land Management and Heritage Program																					
NB: Highlighted yellow cells depict NHT Funds Required																					
Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance Indicator	Action	Mgmt Action	Outputs 6mths	Output Category	In Kind Costs 04/05				NHT Costs 04/05					Total Cash 04/05	Total Cost 04/05 (incl In-Kind)	Fund Source 04/05	Indicative Funds Req 04/05	Indicative Funds 05/06	Indicative Funds 06/07
							In-Kind Contributor	In-Kind	State In-Kind	Total In-Kind	Planning	Resource Assmnt	Capacity Building	Onground Works	MER @ 5%						
MI1	Indigenous issues are integrated into DCQ's NRM activities and objectives	There is an Indigenous Leader's Group established	I1, I2, I3, I4	6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4	1 DCQ Regional Indigenous Workshop	Capacity Building	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA	\$ -	\$ 84,010	\$ 84,010			\$ 10,704		\$ 563	\$ 11,267	\$ 95,277	RIS	\$ 11,267	\$ 17,760	\$ 17,760
MI2	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	The Indigenous Leader's Group recognises the investment made in Indigenous interests made via Protecting Our Future	P10, P14, P15, P19,	1.5, 2.3, 2.4, 2.7,	Indigenous investments for Protecting Our Future Initiative identified	Resource Assmnt	NR&M, DPI&F, EPA		\$ 84,009	\$ 84,009		\$ 32,112			\$ 1,690	\$ 33,802	\$ 117,811	RIS	\$ 33,802	\$ 53,280	\$ 53,280
TOTALS						TOTALS		\$ -	\$ 168,019	\$ 168,019	\$ -	\$ 32,112	\$ 10,704	\$ -	\$ 2,253	\$ 45,069	\$ 213,088		\$ 45,069	\$ 71,040	\$ 71,040



## 14 Schedule 2

### 14.1 Land Program - Schedule 2

Land Program																			
Milestone Number	Milestones	Performance Indicator	Budget Item	Exp. Dlvry Date	Milestone Total Cost	Quarter 1 1Jul04 - 30Sep04	Quarter 2 1Oct04 - 31Dec04	Quarter 3 1Jan05 - 31Mar05	Quarter 4 1Apr05 - 30Jun05	Quarter 5 1Jul05 - 30Sep05	Quarter 6 1Oct05 - 31Dec05	Quarter 7 1Jan06 - 31Mar06	Quarter 8 1Apr06 - 30Jun06	Quarter 9 1Jul06 - 30Sep06	Quarter 10 1Oct06 - 31Dec06	Quarter 11 1Jan07 - 31Mar07	Quarter 12 1Apr07 - 30Jun06	Totals	
ML1	Grazing land management packages and land management capacity building delivered to at least 350 properties in the region by 2008.	GLM Package well accepted by community, with DCQ Board and JSC accepting of the level of community uptake			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ML2	Remote sensing ground cover, and woodland thickening, monitoring has been undertaken against the major land types in the DCQ region that are scientifically and community accepted targets set	Remote sense ground cover monitoring and targets are accepted by the regional community by 2008			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ML3	Regional pest animal and weed programs regionally coordinated and strategically delivered	All priority weed and pest animal outbreaks are 100% controlled by 2007			\$ 309,306			\$ 56,692	\$ 56,692	\$ 28,572	\$ 28,572	\$ 28,572	\$ 28,572	\$ 20,409	\$ 20,409	\$ 20,409	\$ 20,409	\$ 20,409	\$ 309,306
ML4	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	Protecting Our Future Initiative is accepted by DCQ community with good uptake of project aims and objectives			\$ 726,321			\$ 133,126	\$ 133,126	\$ 67,094	\$ 67,094	\$ 67,094	\$ 67,094	\$ 47,924	\$ 47,924	\$ 47,924	\$ 47,924	\$ 47,924	\$ 726,321
ML5	Arid Rivers Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage project has employed staff and actively engaging community	Arid Rivers project is now operating in the Cooper's Creek and Georgina Diamantina Catchments			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Land Program					\$ 1,035,627	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 189,817	\$ 189,817	\$ 95,666	\$ 95,666	\$ 95,666	\$ 95,666	\$ 68,333	\$ 68,333	\$ 68,333	\$ 68,333	\$ 68,333	\$ 1,035,627



## 14.2 Water Program - Schedule 2

Water Program																			
Milestone Number	Milestones	Performance Indicator	Budget Item	Exp. Dvry Date	Milestone Total Cost	Quarter 1 1Jul04 - 30Sep04	Quarter 2 1Oct04 - 31Dec04	Quarter 3 1Jan05 - 31Mar05	Quarter 4 1Apr05 - 30Jun05	Quarter 5 1Jul05 - 30Sep05	Quarter 6 1Oct05 - 31Dec05	Quarter 7 1Jan06 - 31Mar06	Quarter 8 1Apr06 - 30Jun06	Quarter 9 1Jul06 - 30Sep06	Quarter 10 1Oct06 - 31Dec06	Quarter 11 1Jan07 - 31Mar07	Quarter 12 1Apr07 - 30Jun06	Totals	
WW1	Arid Rivers Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage project has employed staff and actively engaging community	Arid Rivers project is now operating in the Cooper's Creek and Georgina Diamantina Catchments			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
WW2	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	Protecting Our Future Initiative is accepted by DCQ community with good uptake of project aims and objectives			\$ 392,295			\$ 71,895	\$ 71,895	\$ 36,234	\$ 36,234	\$ 36,234	\$ 36,234	\$ 25,882	\$ 25,882	\$ 25,882	\$ 25,882	\$ 25,882	\$ 392,295
WW3	Water WISE project taken up by all 14 Local Governments in the DCQ Region and well supported by rural community	Uptake of Water WISE project by 2 Local Governments in DCQ Region			\$ 168,109			\$ 30,812	\$ 30,812	\$ 15,529	\$ 15,529	\$ 15,529	\$ 15,529	\$ 11,092	\$ 11,092	\$ 11,092	\$ 11,092	\$ 11,092	\$ 168,109
Total Water Program					\$560,364	\$0	\$0	\$102,708	\$102,708	\$51,763	\$51,763	\$51,763	\$51,763	\$36,974	\$36,974	\$36,974	\$36,974	\$36,974	\$560,364



### 14.3 Biodiversity Program - Schedule 2

Biodiversity Program																			
Milestone Number	Milestones	Performance Indicator	Budget Item	Exp Dbrly Date	Milestone Total Cost	Quarter 1 1Jul04 - 30Sep04	Quarter 2 1Oct04 - 31Dec04	Quarter 3 1Jan05 - 31Mar05	Quarter 4 1Apr05 - 30Jun05	Quarter 5 1Jul05 - 30Sep05	Quarter 6 1Oct05 - 31Dec05	Quarter 7 1Jan06 - 31Mar06	Quarter 8 1Apr06 - 30Jun06	Quarter 9 1Jul06 - 30Sep06	Quarter 10 1Oct06 - 31Dec06	Quarter 11 1Jan07 - 31Mar07	Quarter 12 1Apr07 - 30Jun06	Totals	
MB1	Grazing land management packages and land management capacity building delivered to at least 400 properties in the region by 2008.	GLM Package well accepted by community, with DCQ Board and JSC accepting of the level of community uptake			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MB2	Arid Rivers Natural Resource and Cultural Heritage project has employed staff and actively engaging community	Arid Rivers project is now operating in the Cooper's Creek and Georgina Diamantina Catchments			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
MB3	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	Protecting Our Future Initiative is accepted by DCQ community with good uptake of project aims and objectives			\$ 406,604			\$ 74,525	\$ 74,525	\$ 37,560	\$ 37,560	\$ 37,560	\$ 37,560	\$ 26,828	\$ 26,828	\$ 26,828	\$ 26,828	\$ 26,828	\$ 406,604
MB4	Desert Uplands On Ground Nature Conservation project has delivered conservation outcomes on 50 locations across the DU	The DU On Ground Nature Conservation project is well accepted by DU community with good uptake of project aims and objectives			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Biodiversity Program					\$ 406,604	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,525	\$ 74,525	\$ 37,560	\$ 37,560	\$ 37,560	\$ 37,560	\$ 26,828	\$ 26,828	\$ 26,828	\$ 26,828	\$ 26,828	\$ 406,604



### 14.4 Community Program - Schedule 2

Community Program																		
Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance Indicator	Budget Item	Exp Dbrty Date	Milestone Total Cost	Quarter 1 1Jul04 - 30Sep04	Quarter 2 1Oct04 - 31Dec04	Quarter 3 1Jan05 - 31Mar05	Quarter 4 1Apr05 - 30Jun05	Quarter 5 1Jul05 - 30Sep05	Quarter 6 1Oct05 - 31Dec05	Quarter 7 1Jan06 - 31Mar06	Quarter 8 1Apr06 - 30Jun06	Quarter 9 1Jul06 - 30Sep06	Quarter 10 1Oct06 - 31Dec06	Quarter 11 1Jan07 - 31Mar07	Quarter 12 1Apr07 - 30Jun06	Totals
MCL1	Desert Channels Queensland and its Implementation Groups have core costs in place and are actively working towards program outcomes	DCQ and Implementation Groups operating successfully and working towards regional/catchment based outputs			\$ 251,894			\$ 46,169	\$ 46,169	\$ 23,269	\$ 23,269	\$ 23,269	\$ 23,269	\$ 16,620	\$ 16,620	\$ 16,620	\$ 16,620	\$ 251,894
MCL2	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	10 applications approved and activated			\$ 132,924			\$ 24,363	\$ 24,363	\$ 12,279	\$ 12,279	\$ 12,279	\$ 12,279	\$ 8,771	\$ 8,771	\$ 8,771	\$ 8,771	\$ 132,924
MCL3	NRM Solutions Project advertised and getting good uptake by community	At least 20 community contacts made and reported			\$ 88,615			\$ 16,242	\$ 16,242	\$ 8,186	\$ 8,186	\$ 8,186	\$ 8,186	\$ 5,847	\$ 5,847	\$ 5,847	\$ 5,847	\$ 88,615
MCL4	Water WISE project taken up by all 14 Local Governments in the DCQ Region and well supported by rural community	Uptake of Water WISE project by 2 Local Governments in DCQ Region			\$ 614,240			\$ 112,582	\$ 112,582	\$ 56,740	\$ 56,740	\$ 56,740	\$ 56,740	\$ 40,529	\$ 40,529	\$ 40,529	\$ 40,529	\$ 614,240
Total Community Program					\$ 1,087,673	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 199,357	\$ 199,357	\$ 100,473	\$ 100,473	\$ 100,473	\$ 100,473	\$ 71,767	\$ 71,767	\$ 71,767	\$ 71,767	\$ 1,087,673



### 14.5 Indigenous Land Management and Heritage Program - Schedule 2

Indigenous Land Management and Heritage Program																		
Milestone Number	Milestone	Performance Indicator	Budget Item	Exp Dlvry Date	Milestone Total Cost	Quarter 1 1Jul04 - 30Sep04	Quarter 2 1Oct04 - 31Dec04	Quarter 3 1Jan05 - 31Mar05	Quarter 4 1Apr05 - 30Jun05	Quarter 5 1Jul05 - 30Sep05	Quarter 6 1Oct05 - 31Dec05	Quarter 7 1Jan06 - 31Mar06	Quarter 8 1Apr06 - 30Jun06	Quarter 9 1Jul06 - 30Sep06	Quarter 10 1Oct06 - 31Dec06	Quarter 11 1Jan07 - 31Mar07	Quarter 12 1Apr07 - 30Jun06	Totals
MI1	Indigenous issues are integrated into DCQ's NRM activities and objectives	There is an Indigenous Leader's Group established			\$ 32,579			\$ 5,971	\$ 5,971	\$ 3,009	\$ 3,009	\$ 3,009	\$ 3,009	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,150	\$ 2,150	\$ 32,579
MI2	Protecting Our Future Initiative delivering appropriate integrated incentives at 200 locations	The Indigenous Leader's Group recognises the investment made in Indigenous interests made via Protecting Our Future			\$ 97,738			\$ 17,914	\$ 17,914	\$ 9,028	\$ 9,028	\$ 9,028	\$ 9,028	\$ 6,449	\$ 6,449	\$ 6,449	\$ 6,449	\$ 97,738
					\$ 130,317	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,885	\$ 23,885	\$ 12,038	\$ 12,038	\$ 12,038	\$ 12,038	\$ 8,599	\$ 8,599	\$ 8,599	\$ 8,599	\$ 130,317

### 14.6 Totals All Programs - Schedule 2

GST Inclusive Figures Depicted Here						Quarter 1 1Jul04 - 30Sep04	Quarter 2 1Oct04 - 31Dec04	Quarter 3 1Jan05 - 31Mar05	Quarter 4 1Apr05 - 30Jun05	Quarter 5 1Jul05 - 30Sep05	Quarter 6 1Oct05 - 31Dec05	Quarter 7 1Jan06 - 31Mar06	Quarter 8 1Apr06 - 30Jun06	Quarter 9 1Jul06 - 30Sep06	Quarter 10 1Oct06 - 31Dec06	Quarter 11 1Jan07 - 31Mar07	Quarter 12 1Apr07 - 30Jun06	Totals	
TOTALS ALLOCATION FOR EACH QUARTER	GST Exclusive				\$ 3,220,586	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 590,293	\$ 590,293	\$ 297,500	\$ 297,500	\$ 297,500	\$ 297,500	\$ 212,500	\$ 212,500	\$ 212,500	\$ 212,500	\$ 212,500	\$ 3,220,586
	GST				\$ 322,059	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 59,029	\$ 59,029	\$ 29,750	\$ 29,750	\$ 29,750	\$ 29,750	\$ 21,250	\$ 21,250	\$ 21,250	\$ 21,250	\$ 21,250	\$ 322,059
TOTALS ALLOCATION FOR EACH QUARTER	GST Inclusive				\$ 3,542,645	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 649,322	\$ 649,322	\$ 327,250	\$ 327,250	\$ 327,250	\$ 327,250	\$ 233,750	\$ 233,750	\$ 233,750	\$ 233,750	\$ 233,750	\$ 3,542,645

## 15 Appendices

### 15.1 Project details - Protecting our Future

*Protecting our Future* is an integrated planning, capacity building and on-ground change initiative to improve the ability of the community to manage, protect and restore the condition of the natural resource assets of the region.

This flagship initiative spans all the programs of the DCQ regional investment strategy: Land, Water, Biodiversity, Community, and Indigenous NRM and Heritage. It will provide integrated outcomes across capacity building, planning and on-ground works through:

- Capacity building - providing the community with the skills to sustainably manage the region's natural resource assets;
- Develop planning regimes at the property and neighbourhood scale;
- On-ground action to allow people to undertake a wide range of NRM activities.

On-ground activities will include exclusion fencing, relocation of watering points, property planning, and weed and feral animal control.

It targets biodiversity protection (recognised biodiversity hotspots, wetlands of significance and endangered species habitat), sustainable pasture management, wildlife management, vegetation management, maintenance of water quality, and adaptive property management. This initiative dovetails with the *Cross-catchment Weed and Feral Animal Initiative* for which it will deliver the on-ground component of strategic weed and feral animal control.

Potential applicants are:

- individuals;
- groups of land managers;
- Indigenous groups;
- environment groups;
- local government;
- State government land managers.