

## APPENDIX II

### Rangelands NRM Structural Arrangements

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#### *NRM in the Rangelands*

Australia is entering a new phase of activity in relation to “landcare” and natural resource management (NRM) focused on strategic planning, priority setting and delivery of funds at a regional level in accordance with accredited NRM strategies. Such strategies are being developed for 56 regions throughout the country, with Western Australia's being the South Coast, South West, Swan, Avon, Northern Agricultural and the Rangelands.

Insert figure – Western Australia NRM Regions

In each of these NRM regions, groups representing community, industry and government interests have been established to oversee planning and delivery processes. Western Australia has established six such groups, which have been recognised by the State Government as the mechanisms through which NRM will be delivered in Western Australia.

The group representing the rangelands, and which has developed this NRM strategy, is the Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group. To develop the strategy, the Coordinating Group has worked with people in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne-Murchison, and Goldfields-Nullarbor to:

- identify each sub-region's priority natural resource assets;
- set resource condition targets for a number of specified matters; and
- set management actions targets that define the actions needed to achieve resource condition targets, and which subsequently direct investment.

These are the core elements of this rangelands NRM strategy, and indeed all regional strategies throughout the country. They form a “targets-based approach” to strategy development, which is specified in two nationally agreed documents:

- the National Framework for Natural Resource Management Standards and Targets and
- the National Natural Resource Management Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

#### **State Arrangements**

The Western Australian Government has established a number of Cabinet Standing Committees to advise it on key issues. In relation to NRM, the relevant Committee is the Cabinet Standing Committee on NRM and Salinity, which is in turn advised by a peak body comprising senior Government officers and community leaders called the NRM Council. The NRM Council is supported in its work by the State's NRM Office, which largely deals with business related to the delivery of the extension of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) and the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP).

The NRM Council has specifically as one of its roles to advise Government on the delivery of the extension of NHT and the NAP, and in relation to this function, is advised by a sub-committee comprising the Chairs of the State's regional NRM groups. Consequently, the rangelands has a

link to the NRM Council and ultimately Cabinet via the Chair of the Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group.

## **Rangelands Regional and Sub-regional Arrangements**

The Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group finds itself in a very different situation to the other regional groups in Western Australia's southwest, which in most cases have had up to ten years of group formation, preparation of strategies and management of NHT projects and funds. Only a limited amount of their experience and methods however, is transferable to the rangelands. Significantly different land uses, tenures, threats to natural resources, a sparse population with a large and distinctive Indigenous component, and marked sub-regional differences mean that the Coordinating Group has had to develop most of the rangelands strategy and put regional arrangements in place for its preparation from scratch.

The Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group is an Incorporated Association under the Associations Incorporation Act 1987 and was formed from the former previous Rangelands Regional Assessment Panel as a short term measure to ensure the region was involved in the early stages of planning for the extension of NHT. Consequently, the Group was established as an interim arrangement, with the intention always being that its structure and membership would be reviewed and more democratic arrangements put in place.

At the time of writing this strategy the Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group's membership comprises:

- Bill Mitchell (Chair)            Western Australian Local Government Association;
- Peter Kneebone                Kimberley community representative
- Regina Flugge                 Pilbara community representative
- Peter Green                    Gascoyne-Murchison community representative
- Linda Crook                    Goldfields-Nullarbor community representative
- Sandy Davies                 Indigenous community representative
- Nigel Sercombe                Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Mark Lewis                    Department of Agriculture
- Susan Worley                  Department of Environment
- Barbara Pedersen              Department of Planning and Infrastructure

To maintain linkages between the Coordinating Group and people in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne-Murchison and Goldfields-Nullarbor, groups have also been formed in each of these sub-regions, with the chairs of each sub-regional group being members of the Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group.

At the time of writing this strategy membership of the Interim Kimberley NRM Groups was:

- Peter Kneebone (Chair)    Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group
- Sam Samaraweera         Argyle Diamond Company
- Maria Mann                 Environs Kimberley
- Patti Algje                  Kimberley Diamond Company
- Ari Gorring                 Kimberley Land Council
- David McKerrall         Kimberley Primary Industry Association

- Dick Pasfield                      Ord Reference Group/ Ord Land and Water
- Duncan Palmer                    Ord Reference Group/ Department of Environment
- John Stoate                        Pastoralist, Anna Plains Station
- Brett McCallum                    Pearl Producers Association
- Scott Goodson                    Recreational Fisherman
- Tanya Vernes                     WWF
- Gae Mackay                       Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Susan Worley                      Department of Environment
- Paul Novelly                       Department of Agriculture
- Amanda Stainthorpe              Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Paul Fitzpatrick                  Department of Fisheries
- Nerreda Hillier                    Tourism, Western Australia
- Phil Palmer                        Department of Indigenous Affairs
- Kelvin Barr                        Kimberley Development Commission

At the time of writing this strategy membership of the Interim Pilbara NRM Group was:

- Regina Flugge (Chair)          Mining Industry and Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group
- Robyn Richardson                Pastoral Industry
- Leanne Corker                    Local Government
- Arthur Gear                        Indigenous community representative
- Susan Worley                      Department of Environment
- Richard Watkins                  Department of Agriculture
- Stephen White                    Department of Conservation and Land Management

Supporting members of the Interim Pilbara NRM Group include:

- Mark Hainsworth                Pilbara Development Commission
- Ray Bucholz                       Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Neil Augustson                    Western Australian Tourism Commission
- Vacant                              Department of Fisheries

At the time of writing this strategy membership of the Interim Gascoyne-Murchison NRM Council was:

- Peter Green (Chair)              Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group
- Helen Pollock                     Tourism, Wooleen Station
- Brett Pollock                      Community conservation representative
- Tim Meecham                      Pastoralists and Graziers Association
- Mark Halleen                       WA Local Government Association
- Keith Collier                      Carnarvon Growers Association
- Richard Patty                      Nor-West Seafoods Pty Ltd
- Kelly Gillen                        Department of Conservation and Land Management
- Claire Thorstensen               Department of Environment

- Rod Williams                      Department of Agriculture
- Chris Mather                      Department of Planning and Infrastructure
- Laurie Caporn                      Department of Fisheries
- Peter Taylor                      Gascoyne Development Commission

At the time of writing this strategy membership of the Goldfields-Nullarbor sub-regional groups was:

It is important to note that these sub-regional arrangements are also interim in nature and that consistent with the Bilateral Agreement on the extension of NHT the Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group is committed to establishing more democratic processes in the region.

Linkages between these sub-regional groups and the Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group will be consolidated as the regional process evolves. This will see democratic processes developed to elect people in each sub-region to oversee on-going priority setting and resource allocation at the sub-regional level, with membership on the Coordinating Group likely to be drawn from these sub-regional groups.