

# NRIP COMPONENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A summary of findings from EcoFutures, 2021



## NATURAL RESOURCE PROJECTS

### DELIVERING POSITIVE NRM OUTCOMES

- Appropriate planning, project plans, monitoring and milestone reporting is currently in place but this needs to be reviewed and streamlined in future programs.
- Effective in engaging landholders. This is a critical element of Natural Resources Investment Program (NRIP).
- Statewide Indicators Framework (SWIF) has allowed consistent monitoring of asset condition and quantitative measurement of improvements at the site scale. This should be continued.

*“Continued investment in natural resource projects is strongly recommended. Review and build on existing SWIF tools, but consider the scale of NRM regions and distances required to deliver monitoring.”*



## PADDOCK TO REEF (P2R)

### BMRG, FBA, REEF CATCHMENTS, NQ DRY TROPICS, TERRAIN AND CAPE YORK NRM ARE FUNDED FOR P2R COMMITMENTS

- Appropriate planning, project plans, monitoring and milestone reporting are currently in place and should be continued.
- Targeted and continual communication between P2R staff and landholders has delivered improved land practices across all regional bodies. This is a critical part of P2R and NRIP.

*“Continued investment in P2R is strongly recommended. Review and build on existing communication and collaboration tools for ongoing engagement of landholders.”*



## REEF WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

### TARGETED FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS LINKED TO REEF 2050 WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Priority areas are currently identified based on NRM plans and local knowledge. This prioritisation approach is effective and should be continued in future programs.
- Communication plans developed as part of NRIP were essential in the engagement of landholders and delivery of practice change.
- Projects were able to provide employment opportunities of Traditional Owners.
- Landholders found immense value in workshops, training events and one-on-one site meetings delivered through these projects.

*“Continued investment in RWQ projects is strongly recommended. Future NRIP should review prioritisation approaches and consider employment opportunities or Traditional Owners and collaboration with universities for incorporation of best available science.”*



## REGIONAL COORDINATION AND EVALUATION (RCE)

### FUNDS ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES WHICH ENABLE CONSISTENT AND EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF NRM OUTCOMES

- Supports staff training, data collection and monitoring not traditionally included as an individual program in NRM investment.
- Effective in facilitating collaboration between regional NRM groups and Department of Resources (DoR).
- SWIF allows consistent capture of monitoring data and is critical to success of RCE and NRIP.

*“Continued investment in RCE projects is strongly recommended. Future NRIP should review and build on SWIF monitoring tools and requirements.”*



## TraNsfoRM! INNOVATION!

### DEVELOP INNOVATIVE AND MORE EFFICIENT PROCESSES THAT SUPPORT LANDSCAPE OUTCOMES.

- Only one project was available to be evaluated: Predicting spring wetland re-emergence
- Included appropriate planning, project plans and monitoring, which should be continued in any future iterations.
- Effective in collaboration between NRM groups, scientists, government, landowners and Traditional Owners – a critical element of NRIP.

*“Expand investment in TraNsfoRM! to allow innovative approaches to managing natural resource assets and threats to be trialled and refined.”*

## CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF NRIP SUCCESS

**100%** of regional bodies identified a strong understanding of stakeholder priorities and motivations as essential to delivering successful projects



**74%** of regional bodies identified teamwork within a project, including with landholders and partners, is critical to achieving successful outcomes



**74%** of regional bodies surveyed identified that content knowledge and skills of project staff are important to project success



*“By placing collaboration, communication and engagement in the forefront of project designs, NRM bodies were able to increase engagement and relationships between stakeholders which has been difficult to achieve in the past.”*

## BARRIERS TO NRIP SUCCESS



**78%** of regional bodies identified that environmental factors, including geography of the project area, weather and climate, are a key obstacle to success

### OTHER BARRIERS

- COVID
- Landholder disengagement, competing priorities
- Challenges with partners
- Staff continuity
- Lack of team experience
- Competing organisational priorities
- Insufficient supplies, equipment, services
- Increased expectations with lack of support
- Over-ambitious plan
- Insufficient time

*“Natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, and bush fires are a key obstacle to project delivery”*

## ONGOING MONITORING COSTS TO SUPPORT THE SWIF

THE CONTINUATION OF THE SWIF IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT TO FUTURE PROGRAMS. COSTS TO DELIVER THE SWIF IN FUTURE PROGRAMS IS DESCRIBED BELOW.

Costs were determined through case study analysis of six current NRIP projects across the State.

**10-15%** OF TOTAL NRIP PROJECT BUDGET



The percentage of project budget required to deliver efficient on ground monitoring

**\$80,000**

IS NEEDED TO FOR ONGOING SWIF SUPPORT & COORDINATION



This funding will deliver data analysis, meetings and workshops

**\$80,000**

IS NEEDED FOR ONGOING DEVELOPMENT OF THE SWIF



This funding will deliver additional monitoring methods & software and automation of data reporting

SWIF is the “first of its kind” and “a shining example of consistent statewide data collection.”

