



The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc. Submission on the Draft Toowoomba Regional Planning Scheme

Submission To:

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This submission is presented by the Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Penton, on behalf of the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee Inc. (QMDC). QMDC is a regional natural resource management (NRM) group that supports communities in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin (QMDB) to sustainably manage their natural resources.

1.0 Background:

QMDC is a natural resource management (NRM) organisation that supports communities in our designated region to sustainably manage their natural resources. QMDC's vision is working towards the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of water, land and other environmental resources of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin (QMDB).

2.0 Strategic Vision

QMDC are pleased to see the strategic vision of the Toowoomba Regional Council (TRC) to address the control of development of land to mitigate land use conflict while addressing the key issues that affect the communities of the TRC region.

The core issues and outcomes sought by this planning process are integral to a growing, vibrant yet sustainable region. The issues identified below resonate closely with the targets and key aspirations with the Regional NRM Plan.

The resource condition targets and management action targets that form this Plan have been endorsed by State and Federal Governments.

QMDC supports a regional vision that is clearly aligned to regional planning instruments, specifically the NRM Plan, local government community plans, and local government strategies for weed and pest management, waste management, biodiversity and many other NRM related areas.



The assets and target-based approach of the NRM plan as well as the focus on implementation contribute significantly to achieving the long-term NRM outcomes for this region. This plan and strategy could assist/inform the TRC planning process to ensure consistent goals are planned across the region.

Where possible QMDC through its own planning processes builds on and value adds to mechanisms of other planning stakeholders and we encourage TRC to work closely with QMDC to align targets to meet communities concerns and address their issues.

3.0 Alignment of Planning Scheme with Regional NRM Plan targets

QMDC would like to see the TRC Planning Scheme be consistent with the following targets:

3.1 Vegetation and Biodiversity

- A minimum of 30 percent native vegetation coverage is managed or conserved to maintain ecological processes and ecosystem linkages at priority catchment scales by 2020.
- By 2020, the biodiversity condition and ecological health of ten percent of the area of native vegetation in priority catchments are maintained or improved as measured against baseline conditions to be set by 2008.
- By 2020, there is a ten percent increase in area of sustainably managed native vegetation for landscape and biodiversity outcomes through traditional and innovative economic uses, based on representative areas to be determined by 2008.
- By 2020, the extent of 'endangered' regional ecosystems across catchments with less than 30 percent remnant vegetation will be increased by ten percent of the 2001 mapped extent.
- By 2020, the extent of 'of concern' regional ecosystems across catchments with less than 30 percent remnant vegetation will be increased by ten percent of the 2001 mapped extent.
- By 2020, areas identified by the Biodiversity Planning Assessments as being of high nature conservation significance are maintained or improved as measured against baseline conditions to be set by 2008.
- Eighty percent of public land managers have identified nature conservation priorities and principles in their planning frameworks and are implementing them through their work plans.



3.2 Wetland and Floodplains

- By 2020, river health at representative sites of the catchment is maintained or improved relative to baseline conditions to be set by 2010.
- By 2020, flow regimes for health of wetland organisms are maintained or improved against baseline conditions established by 2010.
- By 2020, the condition of representative floodplains is maintained or improved relative to baseline conditions set by 2007.

3.3 Land and Soils

- By 2020, salinity impacts in specified areas of high salinity hazard are avoided or minimised.
- By 2020, soil condition is maintained or improved against a baseline set by 2008.
- By 2015, methods for sustainable reuse of wastes from intensive animal industries, abattoirs and sewage treatment plants are developed and promoted.