

Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework

2002



Tasmania

DEPARTMENT *of*
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES,
WATER *and* ENVIRONMENT



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

The sound management of Tasmania's natural resources is fundamental to our future. Sustainable industries and healthy ecosystems underpin our prosperity as a State.

The Tasmanian Government is committed to the sustainable management and protection of Tasmania's natural resources. With this in mind, the Government established the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Steering Committee, representing State and local government, industry and community groups, to develop the Natural Resource Management Framework.

The Framework is the culmination of an extensive project, which has included the release for public comment of an Issues and Options Paper, and of a Draft Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework. Submissions were received from a large number of people and organisations. Their comments and suggestions were supplemented by feedback from meetings held in many parts of the State by members of the Steering Committee.

I would like to thank the members of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Steering Committee, busy people who have worked hard to meet a tight deadline, and all those who took part in the development of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework. Your expertise, ideas and commitment have led to the development of a structure that will be robust and flexible, and will be open to the energy and commitment of the community. This Framework will guide the management of our natural resources into the future, and I am confident it will prove to be a significant achievement.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'D. Llewellyn', written in a cursive style.

David Llewellyn
Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment

Developing the Framework

The Tasmanian Government established the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Steering Committee in April 2001 to develop a Framework to guide the future management of natural resources across the State. The membership and terms of reference of the Steering Committee are set out inside the front and back covers.

The Natural Resource Management Framework was developed in two stages. An Issues and Options Paper was circulated in July for public comment, and formed the basis for discussions by members of the Steering Committee with stakeholder groups.

Based on input from submissions and consultations, a draft Framework was released for public comment in October 2001 and further discussions were held with stakeholder groups. Detailed submissions were received in response to both the Issues and Options Paper (66 written submissions) and the Draft Framework (52). They came from a broad cross-section of people representing State and local government, industry, community and conservation groups. (Where the term industry is used in this document it is used in its broad sense and includes all primary industries as well as secondary and tertiary.) After consideration of comments received and further deliberations the Framework was finalised for submission to the Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment, as requested in the Terms of Reference, by 30 November 2001.

Copies of the Framework are available from the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment web site at www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au under the *What's new* section, or from:

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In developing this Framework the Steering Committee has drawn on a number of reports including: Banks (1999) *Regional Natural Resource Management in Tasmania: A Framework for Developing Strategies and Setting Priorities*; the 1999 report of the Standing Committee of Agriculture and Resource Management *Managing Natural Resources in Rural Australia for a Sustainable Future: A Discussion Paper for Developing a National Policy*; *State of the Environment Report 1997*; and *Tasmania's Nature Conservation Strategy: draft for public comment* June 2001.

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Executive Summary

General Aims, Definitions, and Principles

The Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework has been developed to provide the State with a systematic way of integrating natural resource management, to ensure consistency, efficiency and improved natural resource outcomes. It will be the administrative system by which the Tasmanian Government will coordinate and integrate the activities of the wide range of entities that are involved in the management of natural resources in the State. Its operation will include, and not replace, the formal systems by which the State Government currently regulates natural resource use.

The Framework starts from a broad definition of natural resource management as ‘the management of all activities that use, develop and/or conserve our air, water, land, plants, animals and microorganisms, and the systems they form’.

The Framework is not intended to replace existing policies and processes. In particular, the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning System will continue to provide the overarching legislative framework for natural resource management and for planning and development control. The Framework will help to integrate the elements of this system and to deal with those aspects of natural resource management that are not driven or delivered through legislative means.

The following Principles will inform decision making under the Framework: Ecosystem approach; Balanced decisions; Integrated management; Priority based; Prevention is better than cure; Partnerships; We are all responsible.

Priorities

Activities and decisions under the Framework will be guided by priorities. The Framework includes a set of interim State priorities, which are to be reviewed by the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council within 12 months of its establishment. The priorities are divided into two groups.

- Process priorities – capacity building; education / communication; and research;
- Natural resource priorities – water management; vegetation management (forest and non-forest); soil management; management of weeds, pests and diseases; and management of the coastal / marine environment.

A Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council

The first new element under the Framework is the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council, which will provide advice to Government. The Council will advise Government on a range of matters, including natural resource management priorities, the accreditation of Regional Strategies, the effectiveness of the implementation of these strategies, and the implementation and administration of funding programs. It will also promote the natural resource management principles and establish effective communication mechanisms with regional bodies and among stakeholders.

The Council will be appointed by Government. The Government will seek nominations, and appoint up to 16 members. The Council must broadly represent regions and stakeholders, and be balanced in terms of gender. The first Chair will be the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment.

To ensure appropriate support for the Council, a review of scientific and technical advisory groups will be undertaken as a high priority.

Three Regions and the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees

The Framework will also include a regional level, with regions that share the boundaries of the three local government regional associations (the Cradle Coast Authority, the Northern Tasmanian Municipal Organisation and the Southern Tasmanian Councils).

The Government will facilitate the establishment of Regional Committees in each region, and ensure that they are capable of fulfilling their roles. The Committees will link local and State natural resource management activities, and provide for integration and coordination within their regions. Regional Committees will have no regulatory role. They will, among other things, identify regional priorities, prepare and monitor Regional Natural Resource Management Strategies, and promote natural resource management principles.

Regional Committees will have about 12 members, and their composition may vary between regions. The Government will appoint the Regional Committees, applying broad criteria relating to balance, representation and capacity. The Government will seek out regional organisations with an interest in natural resource management and invite them to propose members. This process will ensure that the proposed membership is representative of the whole region and of key stakeholders, and provides a gender balance.

The Regional Committees will, within 12 months, identify regional natural resource management priorities. They will also develop Regional Strategies, which must include appropriate standards and targets, consistent with those being developed nationally, and meet accreditation criteria.

There will be no formal link between Regional Strategies and local government planning schemes or other planning instruments. However, the effectiveness of this approach will be reviewed as part of the statutory review of the Framework.

Legislation and Resourcing

The Framework will be established by enabling legislation, which will incorporate the Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System. It will provide for the establishment, roles and functions of the Council and the Regional Committees, and for accreditation of Regional Strategies. A full review will occur after five years.

The State Government will provide, in cooperation with local government, the resources to establish and operate the integrating structures of the Framework (the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council and the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees).

Introduction

Tasmania's future depends on sustainable industries and healthy ecosystems. A strategic and integrated approach to the management of our natural resources is vital to achieving this.

Natural resource management issues were highlighted by the community during the consultation for the Tasmania *Together* process, which produced key goals dealing with sustainable management and protection of our natural resources, biodiversity, and balancing environmental protection and social and economic development.

The State's natural resources are critical because they form the basis of industries such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, mining and nature-based tourism, while also providing us with clean water and fresh air. They also include things that help define us as Tasmanians, such as wilderness areas, unique plants and animals, an extraordinary coastline and rural scenery.

How natural resources are used and managed affects the whole community, because we all share in the benefits derived from their proper use, and the costs associated with their degradation.

As a State we have limited financial and physical resources. For instance, on the basis of our current knowledge and management techniques, it will not be economically or technically possible to rehabilitate all degraded areas within the State. There is also much important preventive work to be done. So we need to set priorities that enable us to focus our efforts on making strategic improvements and ensuring that we really do make a difference.

Natural resource management issues cannot be tackled in isolation. We need to look beyond individual problems, and take account of the links within and between natural systems. Critically, in addressing our impacts on natural resources we must also take account of economic and social factors. This means understanding the effects on individuals, communities and industries of acting to protect or improve the environment, by changing the way natural resources are used. One community that has a broad interest in these issues is the Aboriginal community, and the Framework seeks to involve the community in its structures.

The Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework will be the administrative system by which the Tasmanian Government will coordinate and integrate the activities of the wide range of entities that are involved in the management of natural resources in the State. Its operation will include, and not replace, the formal systems by which the State Government currently regulates natural resource use. It will pull together existing natural resource management processes, in order to provide Tasmania with a coordinated and streamlined process that delivers the best possible natural resource management outcomes.

The concept of regional organisation is integral to the Framework. There is general agreement that effective coordination and administrative efficiency require some level of organisation below that of the State, but larger than existing institutions such as local government councils.

The value of integration is not only that all relevant factors and links are properly considered. Integration also leads to greater efficiency. Any new structures must be as lean as possible; they can be justified only if costs are clearly outweighed by the benefits and savings.

The Framework should not create a new level of Government. Governing responsibilities and powers remain with the State Government and local government. Similarly, the Framework does not create a new regulatory system. There will be no new enforcement powers affecting private citizens and businesses.

Implementation of the Framework requires clear enabling legislation. The Framework will apply to the whole State and involve public land management as well as private. It will also include a structure to ensure full and integrated involvement of community, industry and other stakeholder groups.

This Framework is a Tasmanian initiative, building on existing structures, skills and experience, including much valuable work at a local level. It will, among other things, become the vehicle by which the State can implement and manage joint State–Commonwealth funding programs.

The Framework is based on the notion of active community, industry and government participation, and on a shared ownership of natural resource management issues and outcomes at the State, regional, local and individual levels. It has been developed by a representative Steering Committee, and has had the benefit of two rounds of public consultation. The interest shown, and the quality of the responses received, give confidence that the Framework will generate the participation and ownership it needs.

What is Natural Resource Management?

Natural resource management seeks to manage our natural resources in a sustainable manner for the long term, achieving a balance between economic and social development and the need to protect the environment.

Natural resource management is fundamentally about people. What really determines the success of natural resource management is the level of community involvement and the adoption of ecologically sustainable practices across the community.

It is important to recognise the long time-frame of natural resource management and that natural resource management is an on-going process. The Framework seeks therefore to establish mechanisms that will be relevant for the next two decades not just the next few years.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The term natural resources refers to a broad spectrum of what can be called 'environmental assets'. The list includes air, water, land, plants, animals and microorganisms. These individual assets are not isolated; they are linked together to form natural systems of varying scale such as rivers, lakes and wetlands, estuaries and coasts, forests, fields, geological systems and resources, and mountains.

One important effect of the connection between our natural resources is that change, either positive or negative, is not confined to one part of our natural environment. This means that if one asset (such as land) is degraded, other assets (such as plants and water) will also be affected. Understanding this close relationship between our natural resources is vital when considering natural resource management.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Natural resource management is the management of all activities that use, develop and/or conserve our air, water, land, plants, animals and microorganisms, and the systems they form.

The term 'integrated catchment management' is often referred to in relation to the term natural resource management. While integrated catchment management is based more specifically on physical catchments than is natural resource management, it has the same underpinning philosophy of integrating the management of economic, social and environmental values and of involving the community and industry in planning and decision making. Integrated catchment management is therefore a key component of natural resource management and needs to be systematically linked into the natural resource management framework.

Existing Natural Resource Management Policies and Processes

Many policies and processes dealing with natural resource management matters are already in place. These operate at all levels – international, national, State and regional, as well as at the local community level.

Around the world governments, industry, landowners, land managers and the general community are becoming increasingly aware of, and responsive to, problems associated with natural resource management. One result is a number of international treaties, covenants and agreements that set up obligations in relation to environmental matters. In Australia this awareness and commitment has also been fostered by a number of Government programs, both Commonwealth and State, and by regional and local initiatives.

The Natural Resource Management Framework will build on these existing processes and policies. It does not replace them.

The challenge for the Natural Resource Management Framework is to integrate and coordinate natural resource management policies and processes, both those already in place and those which will be developed in the future. In order to ensure that natural resource management programs are delivered as efficiently and effectively as possible there will need to be ongoing review and improvement of policies and processes, to address areas of overlap or potential conflict, and to identify and fill gaps.

NATIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Over the past decade, national programs such as the National Landcare Program and more recently the Natural Heritage Trust have promoted the notion of natural resource stewardship and the landcare ethic throughout rural and urban communities in Australia. A number of new programs have evolved from the original Landcare movement, such as Coastcare, Bushcare, Fishcare, Rivercare and Waterwatch. All these have been able to engage the enthusiasm and mobilise the voluntary work of very large numbers of people. They have encouraged the development of locally based community groups who have undertaken hundreds of natural resource management projects within their own areas, including the development and implementation of regional natural resource management strategies funded through the Natural Heritage Trust.

The National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality is also based on the concept of integrated regional / catchment planning and management of natural resources. Like the Natural Heritage Trust and the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement, it is based on agreements between the Commonwealth and the States. The Inter-Governmental Agreement on Salinity and Water Quality includes agreement to an accreditation process for regional natural resource management plans and to national standards and targets for salinity, water quality, biodiversity and other natural resource management matters.

The main piece of Commonwealth legislation dealing with natural resources is the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. The Act gives the Commonwealth Minister final say in development approvals in States and Territories where matters of national environmental significance (such as World Heritage values, threatened species, migratory species) are significantly impacted.

TASMANIAN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Many existing processes and policies within Tasmania are relevant to the Natural Resource Management Framework. These include State legislation as well as State Government policies and processes such as Tasmania Together, the Resource Management and Planning System, Partnership Agreements, and Industry Plans.

Tasmania Together

The Government has supported the development, by the Community Leaders Group, of a long-term plan for the State through the *Tasmania Together* process. An independent Progress Board has been established to monitor and report on progress towards achieving the benchmarks contained in *Tasmania Together*.

The plan is a central aspect of the State's budgetary system and will provide a framework for State Government and community activities. The *Tasmania Together* process will also play an important part in setting priorities for the Government in all areas, including natural resource management. There are four goals from *Tasmania Together* of particular relevance to natural resource management:

- Value, protect and conserve our natural and cultural heritage.
- Value, protect and maintain our natural diversity.
- Ensure there is a balance between environmental protection and economic and social development.
- Ensure our natural resources are managed in a sustainable way now and for future generations.

Resource Management and Planning System

The Resource Management and Planning System provides the key means of promoting sustainable development in Tasmania, by integrating resource management with the State's planning systems. The main mechanism for integrating planning approvals and resource management is the development approvals system set up under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*. In addition the Objectives established under the Resource Management and Planning System have been incorporated into legislation covering areas such as fisheries, weed management and national parks. The Resource Management and Planning System provides for state-wide policies such as: the *State Coastal Policy*, the *State Policy on Water Quality Management* and the *Protection of Agricultural Land State Policy*, and several National Environment Protection Measures.

The Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning System will continue to provide the overarching legislative framework for natural resource management and for planning and development control. The Natural Resource Management Framework will help to integrate the elements of this system, inform decision making, and deal with those aspects of natural resource management that are not driven or delivered through legislative means.

The Natural Resource Management Framework is based on the Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System, which will be incorporated into the Framework's enabling legislation. The Objectives are set out in Appendix I.

Other State instruments

Two further important framework-setting processes which are relevant to the Natural Resource Management Framework are the Partnership Agreements being established between the State Government and significant institutions in the State, particularly local government; and Industry Plans, which are being developed by Industry Councils. The Industry Councils of particular relevance to natural resource management are the Food Industry Council and the Forests and Forest Industries Council. These Councils have completed Industry Strategies, and the Food Industry Council is currently developing an Implementation Plan.

In many other areas, State legislation provides for management of our natural resources. Examples include the *Weed Management Act 1999* (underpinning the *WeedPlan*); the *Forest Practices Act 1985* and the Forest Practices Code, which require certified plans for all forestry activities; the *Water Management Act 1999*, under which fresh water quantity will eventually be covered by water management plans; and the *Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995*, which requires implementation of management plans applying to the use of marine resources by commercial and recreational fishers. (Appendix 2 is a detailed list of relevant State legislation.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Local government and the community are also very active in natural resource management. The community's role is critical. Not only do communities undertake many projects, but their involvement is essential in securing ongoing ownership, and the maintenance of natural resource management projects and programs.

Local government is currently engaged in delivering natural resource management projects, plans and strategies with a total value of more than \$30 million. This is in addition to councils' normal responsibilities, many of which – such as land use planning and waste management – are integrally related to natural resource management.

In many cases, local government's involvement is through projects funded by the Natural Heritage Trust. They are often regional in scope, and also rely heavily on the voluntary support and skills mobilised by community groups. Such cooperative projects have been responsible for numerous local natural resource management and integrated catchment management plans throughout Tasmania, either complete or under development. (See Appendix 3 for a list of 40 such plans.)

Principles of Natural Resource Management

Tasmania's future will depend on how we balance the use, development and conservation of the State's natural resources.

The following set of principles will inform decision making under the Natural Resource Management Framework. They are not in priority order.

Ecosystem Approach – Natural resource management should be based on an understanding of the relationship between natural resources and the ecosystems they support, and upon careful monitoring of change over time.

Balanced Decisions – Natural resource management decisions should take proper account of the range of environmental, social and economic benefits, values and costs in accordance with the objectives of the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning System.

Integrated Management – The management of natural resources should be integrated within regions and catchments, as well as across industry sectors, government agencies and specific issues.

Priority Based – Natural resource management actions are to be undertaken according to priorities that are based on the best available science and information, and relevant experience, as well as on assessment of the relative cost-effectiveness of various options.

Prevention is Better than Cure – It is often more efficient to prevent damage rather than repair it. Therefore, where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Partnerships – To be effective, natural resource management requires the establishment of partnerships between all levels of government and the community, including the Aboriginal community, industry, land holders and individuals, with agreed roles and responsibilities.

We are all Responsible – All Tasmanians receive benefits from the use, development and conservation of natural resources; they share responsibility for managing natural resources sustainably, and for providing economic resources to do so.

Priorities

Natural Resource Management priorities for Tasmania operate at the State, regional and local level. It is recognised that priorities change with time and circumstances, and the following are interim State priorities. The development of these initial priorities has been guided by the Natural Heritage Trust priorities, the State of Environment Report (1997), the draft Nature Conservation Strategy (June 2001), and by submissions and comments. The Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council will review the priorities within 12 months of its establishment, with a major review conducted 5 yearly to coincide with the State of the Environment Report process.

The Tasmanian Aboriginal community has a strong link to the State's land and waters. This link is reinforced by Tasmania's many significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites. All the priorities identified below are therefore relevant to the Aboriginal community.

Capacity building, communication / education and research are key priority areas for the future of natural resource management in Tasmania. Progress in these areas is needed to ensure that the community can be effectively involved in natural resource management, and also that the delivery of natural resource management programs is based on sound knowledge and data.

Capacity building

'Capacity' refers to the ability of a community or group of people to pursue their own development. The provision of skills, resources, networks and information to empower, motivate and enable the community to become involved is a key element in successful natural resource management.

Examples of capacity building programs already operating in Tasmania include many of the 'care' programs such as Landcare, Bushcare and Coastcare, where local communities are provided with support and training to undertake development and implementation of natural resource management programs. This may be for particular local projects such as streamside fencing, or for broader regional programs such as weed management.

Education / communication

Ongoing access to information and training programs is also a fundamental priority. This includes access to both formal and informal training, and feedback. Facilitators, trainers and extension officers can assist in planning, group facilitation and support, and introducing new and innovative management practices and tools. This support can be delivered at the regional level through a mix of programs such as property and business planning, demonstration sites and field days.

Communication about natural resource management issues and programs is important at the local, regional and State levels. Communication involves improving access to information so land managers can become more actively involved in addressing natural resource management issues at a property and landscape level. Communication programs are important for both urban and rural communities, to increase awareness, to encourage information exchange about natural resource management issues, and to provide ongoing and updated information for those participating in natural resource management activities through farming, industry or community support activities.

Research

The knowledge gained through research on the condition of natural resources is central to improving natural resource management. An understanding of the links between economic, social and environmental factors, and of how they impact on the acceptance of new management practices, is also important.

At present there are gaps in data, information and analysis on a number of natural resource management issues. For example there is much to be learnt about the extent of dryland salinity in Tasmania, and about many details of our marine environment, as well as about the social and economic issues impacting on natural resource management. Research into these and other natural resource management issues – supported by government, industry and community – is a basic priority for natural resource management in Tasmania.

In addition to these process priorities, five high-level resource management priorities have been identified for the State. They also include some of the primary values to be enhanced or maintained, issues of concern and focus areas for attention that may be taken into consideration in addressing the priorities. As well as these state-wide priorities, it is also recognised that there will be a range of other priorities that may be important at a regional level, such as urban impacts and air quality.

Water management

Values – Clean drinking water, biodiversity, aquatic ecosystem health (freshwater, wetlands, estuarine, marine), irrigation for agricultural production, industrial use, aquaculture and fisheries production, recreation and tourism.

Issues – Environmental flows, water allocation, diffuse and point source pollution.

Focus Areas – Agricultural and forestry land use practices, riparian vegetation management, sewage and stormwater treatment, drinking water treatment and road management.

Vegetation management (forest and non-forest)

Values – Biodiversity, ecosystem health, soil stabilisation, ground and surface water impacts (e.g. water table and salinity effects), tourism and recreation, stock shelter and aesthetics.

Issues – Clearing and management practices, high conservation priority forest and non-forest communities and rural tree decline.

Focus Areas – Forestry and agricultural practices.

Soil management

Values – Agricultural and forestry production, biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Issues – Erosion, soil structure, salinity, stream turbidity, sedimentation and its impacts on amenity and infrastructure.

Focus Areas – Agricultural and forestry land use practices.

Management of weeds, pests and diseases

Values – Agricultural, forestry, aquaculture and fishery production, biodiversity, ecosystem health, safe food and market image.

Issues – Weeds of State and national significance, marine and terrestrial feral pests, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, plant and animal diseases.

Focus Areas – Quarantine policy and operation, weed management on public and private land, translocation and farm hygiene, and ballast water management.

Management of the coastal / marine environment

Values – Aquaculture and fishery production, recreation and tourism, biodiversity and ecosystem health.

Issues – Estuarine nutrient loading, inshore habitat degradation, changes in community structure associated with harvesting of some species, pest incursions, fishery sustainability, coastal vegetation management and area reservation.

Focus Areas – Fisheries and aquaculture practices, sewage treatment and land use practices.

An Integrated Natural Resource Management Framework for Tasmania

The principles outlined previously have guided the development of the Natural Resource Management Framework. The Framework is based on the need to integrate planning and actions, to set priorities and to balance social, economic and environmental impacts. It is also based on the need for consistency; and on the principle that effective natural resource management requires partnerships between all levels of government and the community.

Integration reduces duplication, minimises wasted effort and maximises the effectiveness of what is done by making best use of limited resources. Integration also provides good outcomes by taking a holistic rather than a piecemeal approach to natural resource management.

Integration should be across geographical areas, across issues and across the various mechanisms by which natural resource management activities are funded and administered.

Natural resource management occurs in Australia at a number of levels – national, State, regional, and local. In terms of formal institutional arrangements, this Framework operates primarily at the State, regional and local government levels. But it is essential to the Framework's success that it should successfully integrate at all the relevant scales. The Framework will provide an implementation mechanism for national activities and programs; it will also integrate with activities on the ground, where the Framework should facilitate action at whatever scale and level is the most appropriate for the specific issue being addressed.

This Framework therefore seeks to integrate with national programs that involve Australia-wide planning and setting of priorities, and which work on national standards and benchmarks. It also seeks to link State and local activities, undertaken by communities or groups of whatever kind, both government and private, or by local government. The Natural Resource Management Framework thus encompasses local and State activities, and provides a linkage between these levels in the form of regions.

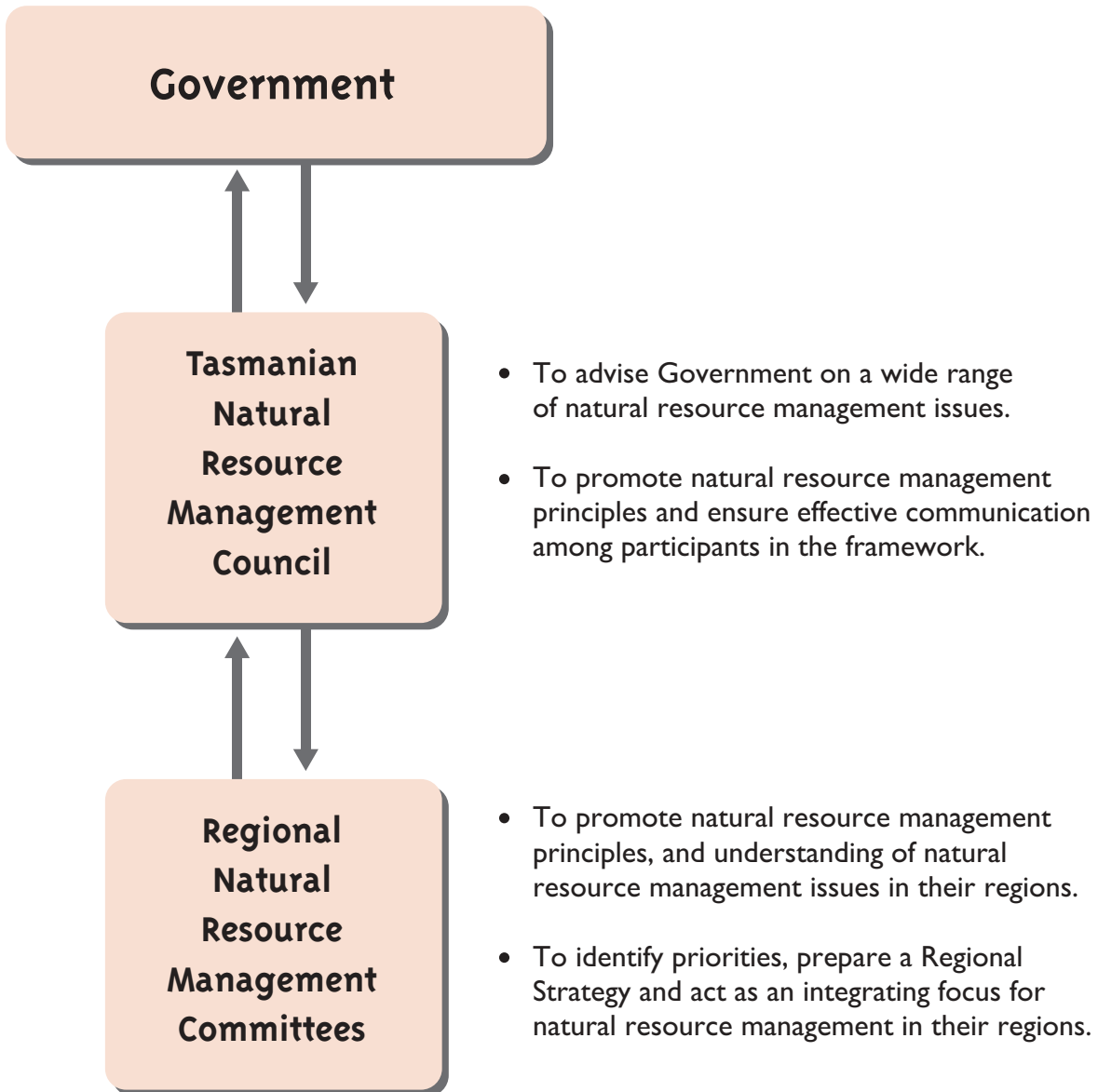
Finally, while the Framework involves some new institutional arrangements, it will also provide mechanisms to rationalise and streamline existing activities. Improved coordination will result in less administrative effort, savings from greater efficiency, and better natural resource management outcomes on the ground.

THE FRAMEWORK IN SUMMARY

The following diagram outlines the main features of the Framework. The remainder of this chapter concerns the new aspects of the Framework, at State and regional levels.

There are several Ministers and portfolios that have a direct interest and involvement in natural resource management. The Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment has the broadest responsibilities in this area. Other Ministers involved in natural resource management are the Ministers holding the portfolios of Local Government, State Development, and Infrastructure, Energy and Resources.

The Framework



ROLES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

The State Government has a major role in natural resource management. Apart from its budgetary responsibilities (for which it is answerable to Parliament), the State has constitutional responsibility for land and water management, and many sea fisheries. It is also a major land manager in its own right, it administers the Resource Management and Planning System, and it has a critical role in encouraging industry and enterprise, including those that depend directly on use of the State's natural resources.

Primary responsibility for natural resource management at the State level thus rests properly with the State Government. Use of State funds and related decisions are necessarily the responsibility of the elected Government.

The Government will be supported in fulfilling some of its responsibilities by a Council, discussed later in this chapter. Natural resource management functions at the State level are:

- participating in the development of international and intergovernmental agreements and national strategies that affect natural resources in the State;
- setting state-wide priorities for natural resource management;
- setting accreditation criteria for regional natural resource management strategies;
- accrediting Regional Strategies, including appropriate standards and targets;
- allocating economic and human resources for technical and management support, and on-ground delivery of natural resource programs;
- monitoring the use of the allocated resources, to ensure they are used effectively and within appropriate timeframes;
- supporting relevant research and development programs, and ensuring that the resulting knowledge and information is available to those who need it;
- monitoring and providing public information concerning the condition of Tasmania's natural resources, including through the State of the Environment Report process;
- promoting the use and development of best practice in natural resource management throughout Tasmania;
- appropriate management of public lands and resources in accordance with natural resource management principles;
- formulating, adopting and promoting strategies for the integrated and sustainable management of Tasmania's natural resources, to be implemented by relevant government agencies, statutory authorities, government business enterprises, local government bodies, industry and the community; and
- ensuring the integration of natural resource management in Tasmania.

A TASMANIAN NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

While the State continues to exercise its decision-making role, it is also essential to involve a wide range of stakeholders in the work of coordinating and integrating natural resource management across the State.

Under the Framework, a Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council will be established.

Roles of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council

The main role of the proposed Natural Resource Management Council will be to advise the Government. It will also have a role in encouraging broader understanding of natural resource management, particularly by promoting the Framework's Principles. In addition, it will establish effective communication and liaison mechanisms with the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees and with stakeholders, including industry, resource users and community groups.

The Council will advise the Government on:

1. state-wide priorities for natural resource management, including funding priorities;
2. appropriate accreditation criteria for regional natural resource management strategies;
3. the accreditation of Regional Strategies, and the setting of appropriate standards and targets;
4. the best way of delivering consistency in natural resource management, including across regional boundaries;
5. the most effective means of building community capacity with regard to natural resource management;
6. the efficiency and effectiveness, including performance monitoring against standards and targets, of the activities undertaken under Regional Strategies, on which the Council would receive annual reports;
7. the implementation and administration of funding programs; and
8. matters referred to the Council by Government.

Composition and appointment of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council

The Council is to have up to 16 members, appointed by the Government. The membership is to provide a balanced representation of the relevant stakeholders, including each of the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees, the Aboriginal community, industry and land managers, conservation interests, State and local government, and community groups. The Chair will be appointed by Government; the first Chair will be the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment.

The composition of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council will allow participation by a range of relevant stakeholders, while not resulting in a body too unwieldy to work efficiently.

Council members will need a demonstrated knowledge and understanding of natural resource management issues. The Government will be responsible for ensuring that membership of the Council is not only representative of relevant stakeholders, but also provides a gender balance. The selection will be made from nominees, who will be called for in a public nomination process. The Government will also be able to call for nominations from key groups.

The Council will require access to expert advice and support. This will be provided primarily through Government agencies. Advice will also be available from technical and scientific advisory groups that already service the Government and other natural resource managers in the State.

To encourage streamlining and avoid duplication, as well as to ensure efficiency in terms of servicing the new structure, a review of existing advisory groups will be given high priority.

The Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council will consist of up to 16 members. The Council will embody a balanced representation of stakeholders chosen for the skills, knowledge and interests they can bring to the Council. Members will be appointed by the Government, after it has called for nominations. Technical and scientific advice and support will be provided.

THE THREE REGIONS

The Framework is intended to link, and to help coordinate, natural resource management at all levels in the State. It is based on recognition that some formal link is required between the State and the local levels. The Framework also recognises that regional natural resource management structures have to be linked to ensure state-wide planning, priority setting and coordination.

A key issue has been to establish for Tasmania the regional scale at which the integration of natural resource management can be carried out most efficiently – a scale that allows planning, priority setting and coordination, without losing touch with local communities and issues. Organisation only at the State level is generally considered too far removed from local communities, but local government and catchments are considered too small to provide maximum efficiency.

The advantages of management at a regional level have been recognised in the moves by local government to set up three regional bodies (the Cradle Coast Authority, the Northern Tasmanian Municipal Organisation and the Southern Tasmanian Councils).

The advantages of a regional approach to natural resource management have also been recognised in national programs. A number of regionally based devolved grant projects are funded through the Natural Heritage Trust, and it seems clear that the Trust will increasingly operate by means of a regional framework. The National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality is based on addressing salinity and water quality in 21 'priority regions' around Australia, including one region that covers a significant part of Tasmania.

In developing the Framework, a wide range of options for regions were canvassed, based on physical, ecological, social and administrative units. The following considerations were particularly relevant in the final decision that three regions should be established.

- Natural resource management is fundamentally about people. What really determines the success of natural resource management is how effectively it mobilises the community, and is able to encourage consistently beneficial behaviour in terms of ecological sustainability, as well as providing economic and social benefits.
- It is generally best to work with familiar and established units, since people are most likely to identify with them, and thus to feel part of the process for identifying problems and implementing solutions.
- In Tasmania, the arguments for a small number of regions are persuasive, and appear to be generally agreed. The State is not large enough in population, resources or area to operate more than a very few regions.
- The most familiar regional arrangement in Tasmania is that of the three regions traditionally associated with the telephone areas and the circulation of the State's daily newspapers. The traditional regions also have physical characteristics and landscapes which people relate to. These regions are now being given new institutional life through the development of the three regional local government associations. The local government arrangements provide an appropriate basis for the regions under the Framework.

The Framework will be based on three regions, using the boundaries of the local government regional bodies (the Cradle Coast Authority, the Northern Tasmanian Municipal Organisation and the Southern Tasmanian Councils).

THE REGIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

The regions require an institutional structure to carry out their essential part in the system. Regional Natural Resource Management Committees will be the mechanism to carry out the roles that the Framework assigns to the regions. There will be room for differences in the way regions will approach this task, but the roles and functions of the Regional Committees will be the same across all regions.

The Government will facilitate the establishment of committees in each region. It will ensure that the committees are representative of natural resource management stakeholders in their regions and have the capacity, skills and expertise to carry out the roles of a Regional Natural Resource Management Committee.

A Regional Natural Resource Management Committee will be established in each of the three regions.

Roles of Regional Committees

The key role at the regional level is to provide a link between the local and State levels. A further function at the regional level is to pull together existing processes and programs across the region and to provide integration and coordination of regional activities. The Regional Natural Resource Management Committees can also streamline existing processes and organisations by becoming the focal points for consideration of regional natural resource management matters.

The Regional Committees will facilitate and coordinate regional natural resource management. Regional Committees do not have a regulatory role, nor will any new enforcement powers be created under the Framework.

Each Regional Committee will:

1. identify priority natural resource management issues for the region;
2. prepare a natural resource management strategy for the region, including appropriate standards and targets, and ensure community input into the development of the strategy;
3. seek, manage and allocate regional funds in accordance with the Regional Strategy;
4. coordinate the region's participation in natural resource management programs;
5. monitor and evaluate the implementation of the region's natural resource management strategy, report on it annually to the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council, and review it at regular intervals;
6. promote the natural resource management principles, and encourage community ownership of the Regional Strategy through a regional communications plan;
7. develop and implement, in liaison with State agencies, a process to ensure appropriate education and training in natural resource management for people in the region, including through extension services; and
8. integrate the natural resource management and planning activities of the region and foster linkages between local councils, State agencies, industry and community groups.

Composition and appointment of Regional Committees

Membership of the Regional Committees should adequately represent all parts of the region and all major natural resource management stakeholders, be balanced in terms of gender, and contain skills and expertise in

natural resource management. A Regional Committee will also need to have the capacity to carry out committee roles, including the management of funds.

Regional Committees will need to include representatives of key regional stakeholders and will comprise about 12 members. The details will vary according to each region's circumstances, but the following will need to be represented: the Aboriginal community, State and local government, community and conservation interests, industry and land managers, including public land managers. The majority of members will be non-State Government members.

Regional committees will be appointed by the Government, which will make the appointments based on criteria. These criteria will be outlined in the legislation and will include:

1. capacity to adequately represent the whole geographic region;
2. capacity, skills and expertise to fulfil the roles of a Regional Natural Resource Management Committee;
3. membership to provide a balance of natural resource management interests in the region and gender, and to contain appropriate expertise on natural resource management;
4. committee to include representation from the Aboriginal community, State and local government, community and conservation interests, industry, and land managers, including public land managers;
5. the majority of members will be non-State Government members.

In appointing Regional Committees the Government will seek out regional organisations with an interest in natural resource management and invite them to propose committee members.

REGIONAL STRATEGIES

Regional priorities

A primary role of the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees is to identify regional priorities. As with State-level priorities, it is recognised that the regional priorities will change with time, and will need to be monitored and adapted to suit current circumstances.

It is proposed that within their first year of operation the Regional Committees identify regional priorities, taking into account the state-wide priorities. Regional priorities will be determined by the communities within each region and in accordance with its social, economic and environmental circumstances. As such, the priorities of one region may differ from those identified in a neighbouring region.

The Regional Natural Resource Management Committees will identify and set regional priorities within 12 months of their establishment.

Accreditation, standards and targets

The Regional Natural Resource Management Committees will be responsible for developing Regional Strategies. In order to provide for a degree of consistency and quality control, Regional Strategies will need to be accredited and to include an appropriate structure of standards and targets.

Commonwealth and State governments, acting through the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, have developed national accreditation criteria. These will apply to regional natural resource management plans under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. They are, however, intended to be applied more widely and under other national funding programs. These criteria will cover

areas such as: the process used in developing Regional Strategies, identification of regional assets, involvement of all key stakeholders, consistency with agreed national and State strategies, and evaluation processes. The Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council will develop accreditation criteria for regional natural resource management strategies, consistent with the nationally agreed criteria, for approval by the Government.

It has also become increasingly important to incorporate standards and targets in natural resource management strategies, particularly national ones. The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council is developing a 'National Framework for Standards and Targets'. The Council and Regional Committees will need to ensure that the regional standards and targets are consistent with the national ones.

Regional Strategies will be accredited by the Government, on the advice of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council, in accordance with criteria. The Regional Strategies will include appropriate standards and targets. Accreditation criteria, standards and targets must be consistent with those developed nationally.

Regional strategies and planning instruments

Implementation of Regional Strategies will vary according to the type of issue that is being addressed, and the availability of existing mechanisms. For instance, in many areas a Strategy's function may be to guide other decision-making processes, such as the allocation of funds under national programs. The Regional Strategy will also be a resource available to private and community groups that wish to put some of their time and money into natural resource management, and seek guidance on how best to do so. Farmers and other land managers may also use the Strategy to provide general direction on operating effectively and sustainably, taking account of the issues that matter in their own region.

In some cases, local government planning schemes, and/or their strategic or operational plans, will be the most appropriate means of achieving particular outcomes of regional natural resource management strategies. This will be facilitated by local government participation in the Framework, through both the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council and the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees.

The same considerations apply to other planning instruments, such as the various sorts of management plans used in relation to parks, forests and marine farming. These plans will also be available to implement particular aspects of Regional Strategies.

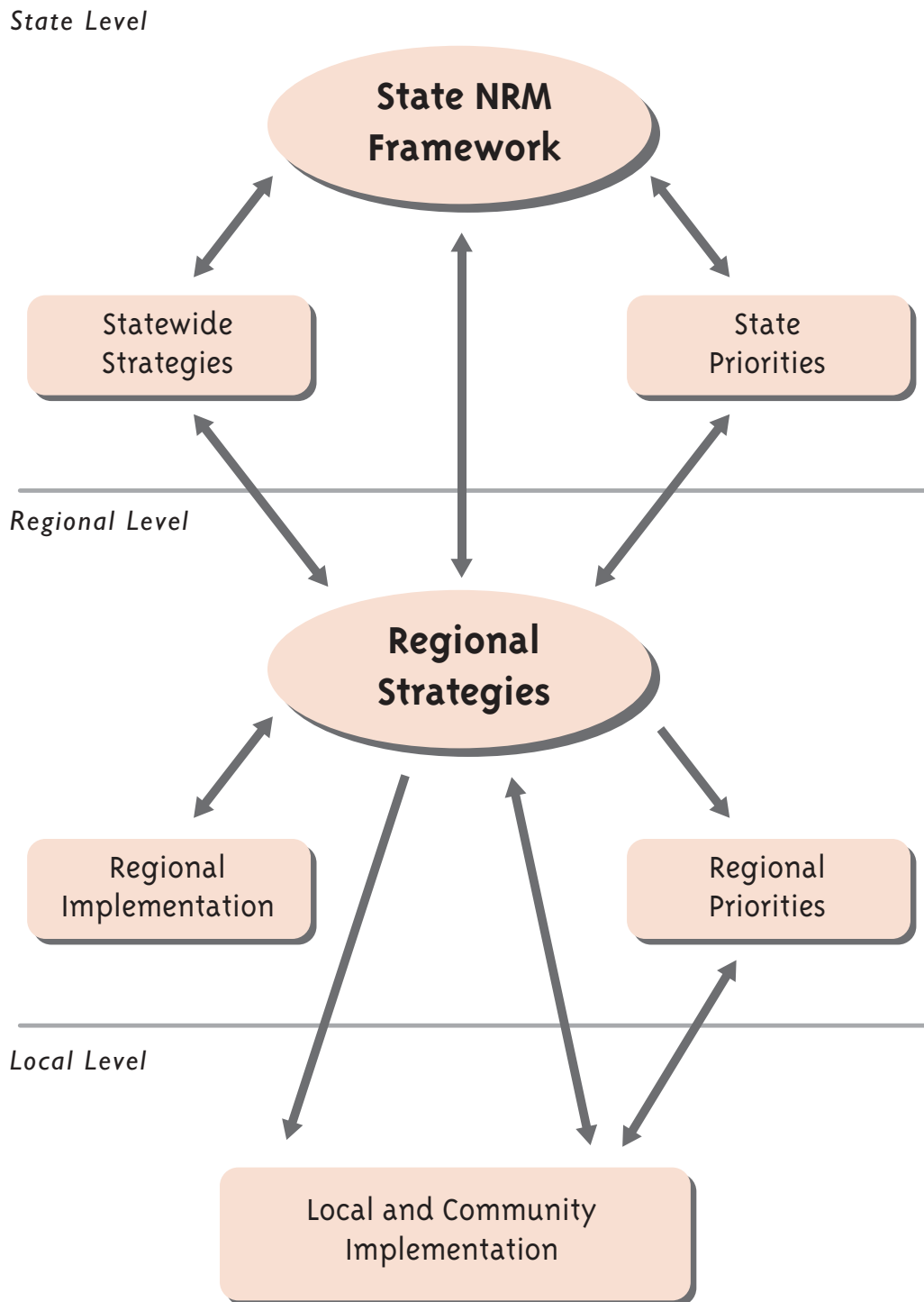
The effectiveness of this voluntary approach to linking the Regional Strategies to planning instruments will be reviewed as part of the review of the Framework (see next chapter for details).

THE LOCAL LEVEL

At a local level, a great deal is already being done to manage the State's natural resources better. This activity occurs in a large number of ways and it is important that this diversity and flexibility be maintained, so that activities in particular localities, or that address specific issues, can be undertaken in the most appropriate way.

The effects of the Framework at a local level will be to provide clearer direction and priorities, and a link to decision making that occurs at State and regional levels. This will assist local government, which has a growing role in natural resource management, both through its planning and through local projects. But the Framework aims to benefit all individuals, groups and communities involved in natural resource management, whatever their formal basis.

The Framework does not require new institutions below the regional level. This is in line with the intention to create as few new arrangements as possible – sufficient only to capture the real efficiency gains of better coordination and integration.



Implementation

LEGISLATION

To ensure the Framework is implemented throughout the State on a consistent basis and to provide certainty, specific natural resource management enabling legislation will be developed. The enabling legislation will provide for the establishment of the integrating structures such as the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council, and the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees. It will set out their roles, powers and functions, while maintaining a degree of flexibility in terms of how these bodies will be formed (as described in the previous chapter).

The enabling legislation will include:

- establishment, roles and functions of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council;
- establishment, roles and functions of the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees; and
- accreditation processes.

In recognition of the importance of the Tasmanian Resource Management and Planning System in the management of Tasmania's natural resources, the enabling legislation will include the Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System. The enabling legislation will be developed in consultation with key stakeholders.

An important part of the legislation will be to establish a review to assess the performance of the Framework five years after its implementation. The review will encompass the:

- roles and functions of the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council and the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees;
- effectiveness of Regional Natural Resource Management Strategies in achieving natural resource management outcomes that are consistent with and promote the State and regional priorities; and
- accreditation criteria, standards and targets to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of natural resource management in Tasmania, while maintaining consistency with relevant national accreditation criteria, standards and targets.

RESOURCING — A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

As the challenges and opportunities of sustainably managing our natural resources have been more clearly recognised during the past decade, the question of funding natural resource management activities, and how to share the cost equitably amongst all in the community, has also been widely discussed and debated. The debate has ranged over concepts such as *duty of care*, *polluter (or impacter) pays*, *beneficiary pays* and *public good*. The issue of funding natural resource management activities on public land has been settled in that it is accepted that the whole Tasmanian community provides the funding through the Government. In recent years this has been supplemented by the concept of user pays through mechanisms such as the park entry fees.

Although direct responsibility for natural resource management rests primarily with landholders and resource managers, this Framework recognises that a broader concept of duty of care should be accepted by all members of the community. As users and managers of natural resources, and consumers of products using natural resources, we are all obliged to act responsibly and make informed decisions, recognising that our actions may affect the sustainable management of these resources. The community clearly has responsibility for efficient and appropriate use of natural resources relating to issues such as water supply and the management of waste.

While there are no easy answers to the question of who pays, it is clear that costs need to be shared between individuals, industry and governments. The costs associated with natural resource management must also be equitably shared between rural and urban communities to ensure that a disproportionate burden does not fall on rural areas. There is a general acceptance that those impacting adversely on the environment carry a special responsibility with regard to resourcing.

Future funding for natural resource management is likely to come, as it does already, from a variety of sources, including governments, industry and the community. Under the Framework resources will be needed for both the establishment of the institutional elements of the Framework, and to manage the State's natural resources.

The State Government will provide, in cooperation with local government, the resources to establish and operate the integrating structures of the Framework – the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council and the Regional Natural Resource Management Committees. The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment will provide administrative and technical advice and assistance, together with other agencies and advisory groups. Existing technical and scientific advisory groups will be reviewed as a matter of high priority, to ensure that they will service the Framework efficiently.

The State Government will also give priority to examining funding options for natural resource management, including working with the Commonwealth Government on national programs.

Programs to encourage private land owners to protect areas of their property for conservation, such as the government supported Regional Forest Agreement Private Forest Reserve Program and the Land for Wildlife scheme will continue to play an important role in natural resource management within the State. Non-government schemes that support the protection and management of land and habitats for conservation, such as the Australian Bush Heritage Fund, will also continue. There is great potential for the channelling of philanthropic funds towards aspects of natural resource management, including potential for further development of private reserve management based on sponsorship and visitor revenue, which should be encouraged.

Tasmanian industries will continue to play a significant role in improving natural resource management. This role has many guises and includes sponsoring activities that improve the condition of natural resources, promoting and implementing improved management practices within their business operations, and adopting the concept of eco-efficiency in their processes. The uptake of such initiatives by industry is expected to increase as the benefits to industry of good natural resource management practices are received and built upon.

Appendix 1: Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System

1. The objectives of the resource management and planning system of Tasmania are –
 - (a) to promote the sustainable development of natural and physical resources and the maintenance of ecological processes and genetic diversity; and
 - (b) to promote the fair, orderly and sustainable use and development of air, land and water; and
 - (c) to encourage public involvement in resource management and planning; and
 - (d) to facilitate economic development in accordance with the objectives set out in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c); and
 - (e) to promote the sharing of responsibility for resource management and planning between the different spheres of Government, the community and industry in the State.
2. In clause 1(a)
'sustainable development' means managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while –
 - (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
 - (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
 - (c) avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.

Appendix 2: Major State Policy Instruments Relevant to Natural Resource Management

| | Policy Instrument | Comment |
|----------------|---|--|
| Water | | |
| | <i>State Policy on Water Quality Management</i> | Provides for Protected Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives and the management of point and diffuse source pollution. |
| | <i>Water Management Act 1999</i> | Water Management Plans |
| | <i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i> | Provides for the regulation of environmentally relevant activities and associated waste-water emissions by local and State Government. |
| | <i>Inland Fisheries Act 1995</i> | Provides for the management of the inland fisheries. |
| Soils | | |
| | <i>Protection of Agricultural Land State Policy</i> | Protects prime agricultural land from conversion to other uses. |
| | Tasmanian Salinity Strategy | Under development. |
| Marine | | |
| | <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970</i> | Provides for the establishment and management of reserves and the conservation of flora and fauna |
| | <i>Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995</i> | Provides protection for fish and for the development of sustainable fisheries management plans |
| | <i>Marine Farming Planning Act 1995</i> | Development of marine farming plans. |
| | <i>State Coastal Policy</i> | Provides a statutory framework for integrated management and planning of the State's coastal and marine areas. |
| | Marine Protected Areas Strategy | Provides for the establishment of a representative system of marine protected areas. |
| Forests | | |
| | Regional Forest Agreement | Provides for sustainable forestry and the establishment of a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system. |
| | <i>Regional Forest Agreement (Land Classification) Act 1998</i> | Implements consequential changes in land classifications. |

| Forests (cont'd) | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p><i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970</i></p> <p><i>Crown Lands Act 1976</i></p> <p><i>Forestry Act 1920</i></p> <p><i>Forest Practices Act 1985</i></p> <p><i>Private Forests Act 1994</i></p> <p>Forests and Forest Industries Strategy</p> | <p>Provides for the establishment and management of reserves and the conservation of flora and fauna.</p> <p>Land based reserves on crown land.</p> <p>Establishes Forestry Tasmania as exclusive manager of State forest and requires it to manage that forest for multiple uses.</p> <p>Establishes the framework for regulating forest practices across all tenures; requires development and implementation of the Forest Practices Code.</p> <p>Establishes Private Forests Tasmania, to encourage private forestry with sound forest land management practices.</p> |
| Environment Protection | | |
| | <p><i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i></p> <p>Draft Environment Protection Policy on Air Quality</p> | <p>Provides for the regulation of environmentally relevant activities by local and State government</p> <p>Sets ambient air quality environmental objectives and provides for the management of point and diffuses source air pollution</p> |
| Resource Management and Planning System | | |
| | <p><i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993</i></p> <p><i>Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993</i></p> <p><i>Resource Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal Act 1993</i></p> <p><i>Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994</i></p> <p><i>Resource Planning and Development Commission Act 1997</i></p> <p><i>Approvals (Deadlines) Act 1993</i></p> <p><i>Public Land (Administration of Forests) Act 1991</i></p> <p><i>Living Marine Resources Management Act 1995</i></p> <p><i>Marine Farming Planning Act 1995</i></p> <p><i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970</i></p> | <p>All these pieces of legislation are guided in their decision making by the sustainable development objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System.</p> |

| Resource Management and Planning System | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <p><i>Local Government Act 1993</i></p> <p><i>Water Management Act 1999</i></p> <p><i>Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995</i></p> <p><i>Local Government (Building and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1993</i></p> <p><i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i></p> | <p>All these pieces of legislation are guided in their decision making by the sustainable development objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System.</p> <p>Provides for the conservation and management of threatened flora and fauna.</p> |
| Biodiversity | | |
| | <p><i>Threatened Species Protection Act 1995</i></p> <p>Threatened Species Strategy</p> <p><i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970</i></p> <p><i>Vermin Control Act 2000</i></p> <p><i>Forest Practices Code</i></p> <p><i>Plant Protection Act 1994</i></p> <p><i>Plant Quarantine Act 1997</i></p> <p>Animal Health Act 1995</p> <p>Weed Management Act 1999</p> <p>Nature Conservation Strategy</p> <p>Wetlands Strategy</p> <p>Vegetation Management Strategy</p> | <p>Provides for the conservation and management of threatened flora and fauna.</p> <p>Developed under the <i>Threatened Species Protection Act</i> for the conservation and management of threatened species.</p> <p>Provides for the conservation of flora and fauna.</p> <p>Controls exotic vermin.</p> <p>Protects biodiversity in areas subject to forestry operations.</p> <p>Relates to diseases affecting plants and the control of noxious weeds and noxious invertebrates.</p> <p>Quarantine of plants and the control of pests and diseases.</p> <p>Quarantine measures.</p> <p>The control and eradication of declared weeds and to promote strategic weed management.</p> <p>Under development.</p> <p>Under development.</p> <p>Under development.</p> |
| General | | |
| | <p><i>State Policies and Projects Act 1993</i></p> <p><i>Gene Technology Act 2001</i></p> <p><i>Mineral Resources Development Act 1995</i></p> <p><i>Aboriginal Relics Act 1975</i></p> | <p>Provides for State of the Environment Reports every 5 years.</p> <p>Regulates the use of genetically modified organisms.</p> <p>Provides for the development of mineral resources consistent with sound economic, environmental and land use management.</p> <p>Provides for the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.</p> |

Appendix 3: Natural Resource Management and Integrated Catchment Management Plans – Existing and Being Prepared

In summary, the natural resource management and integrated catchment management plans being completed and implemented to varying degrees across the State are:

- Action Plan - Marine and Coastal Management 2000
- Blackman River Catchment Plan
- Circular Head Region Integrated Catchment Management Plan
- Cradle Coast Region Integrated Management Plan
- Denison Rivulet Catchment Plan
- Derwent River Catchment Natural Resource Management Plan – Upper Derwent Valley Landcare, Central Highlands, Derwent Valley Councils
- Derwent River Fresh Water Catchment Plans
- Dorset Natural Resource Management Strategy (incorporating Brid-Forester and Ringarooma Catchment Plans)
- Douglas River Strategic Management Plan
- Elizabeth River Catchment Plan
- Forester River / Springfield Catchment Strategy
- Furneaux Natural Resource Management Strategy
- Huon Catchment Healthy Rivers Project
- Integrated Land and Marine Plan for the D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Catchment
- Isis River Catchment Plan
- Jordan River Integrated Catchment Management Plan
- King Island Natural Resource Management Strategy
- Lake Fenton / Lady Barron Creek Catchment Plan

- Lake Sorell and Crescent Integrated Catchment Management Plan
- Little Swanport Catchment Management Plan
- Macquarie / South Esk Catchment Plan
- Meander Valley Region Natural Resource Management Plan
- Mersey Catchment Natural Resource Management Plan
- Mid Derwent Catchment Natural Resource Management Plan
- Moulting Lagoon Catchment Management Plan
- Northwest Bay River Catchment Management Plan
- Pittwater–Coal River area; there have been three separate plans produced for the catchment area. This project has been developed with the support of the Clarence and Sorell councils
- Prosser River Catchment Plan
- Risdon Brook Catchment Plan
- South East Coast – Tasmania, Integrated Coastal Management Strategy
- Tamar Estuary 2020 – Implementing the Perfect Vision
- Tamar Region Natural Resource Management Strategy
- The Derwent Estuary Program
- The State of the Natural Resources and Management of the Greater Rubicon Catchment
- Upper Macquarie Catchment Plan
- Upper South Esk Catchment Management Plan
- Waterworks Valley Landcare Group Management Plan
- Wellington Park Drinking Water Catchment Management Plan
- West North West Coastal and Marine Strategic Plan
- West North West Coastal Management Plan