



EIANZ FORUM

Integrating NRM and Statutory Planning



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Integrating NRM and Statutory Planning

- 1) The SEQ NRM Plan 2009 – 2031: some observations from a consultant planner.
- 2) Opportunities & limitations of planning schemes in implementing NRM targets.
- 3) Some challenges and barriers to integration.
- 4) Introducing the SEQ Decision Support Tool (DST):
 - how does the DST assist planners?
 - the NRM Training Course and key learnings.



The SEQ NRM Plan – some observations

- SEQ NRM Plan – sets an excellent benchmark for other NRM regional bodies reviewing or preparing new NRM plans:
 - well drafted targets;
 - concise and user friendly document.
- Strong alignment and links with SEQ Regional Plan – a good thing.
- SEQ Catchments Pty Ltd and SEQ NRM Atlas – high level of sophistication, resourcing and organisation, excellent knowledge and data source.
- Benefits in being non-statutory, but must retain ‘head of power’ in statutory SEQ Regional Plan.



The SEQ NRM Plan – some observations

Some things to consider.....

- Can we distinguish ‘significance’?
 - are there areas/values more important to conserve or avoid than others in the region?
 - are there areas/values reaching a point of ‘urgency’ in terms of the sustainability of the SEQ region as a whole?
- Level of response is voluntary... is there a need to provide specific direction or a ‘mandatory’ minimum level response for certain areas/values?
 - improve consistency in approach for cross-boundary issues?
 - assist in balancing & resolving regional priorities & conflicts & inform SEQ Regional Plan?



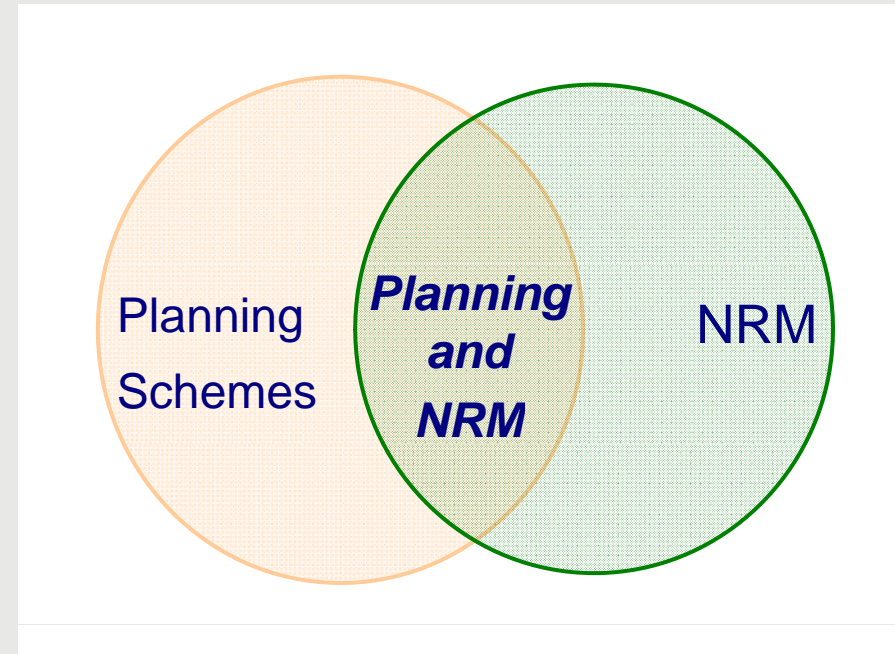
The Role of Planning Schemes in Achieving NRM Targets

- How does NRM relate to planning?
- What do we mean by integration?
- Key messages: what a planning scheme can and can't do.



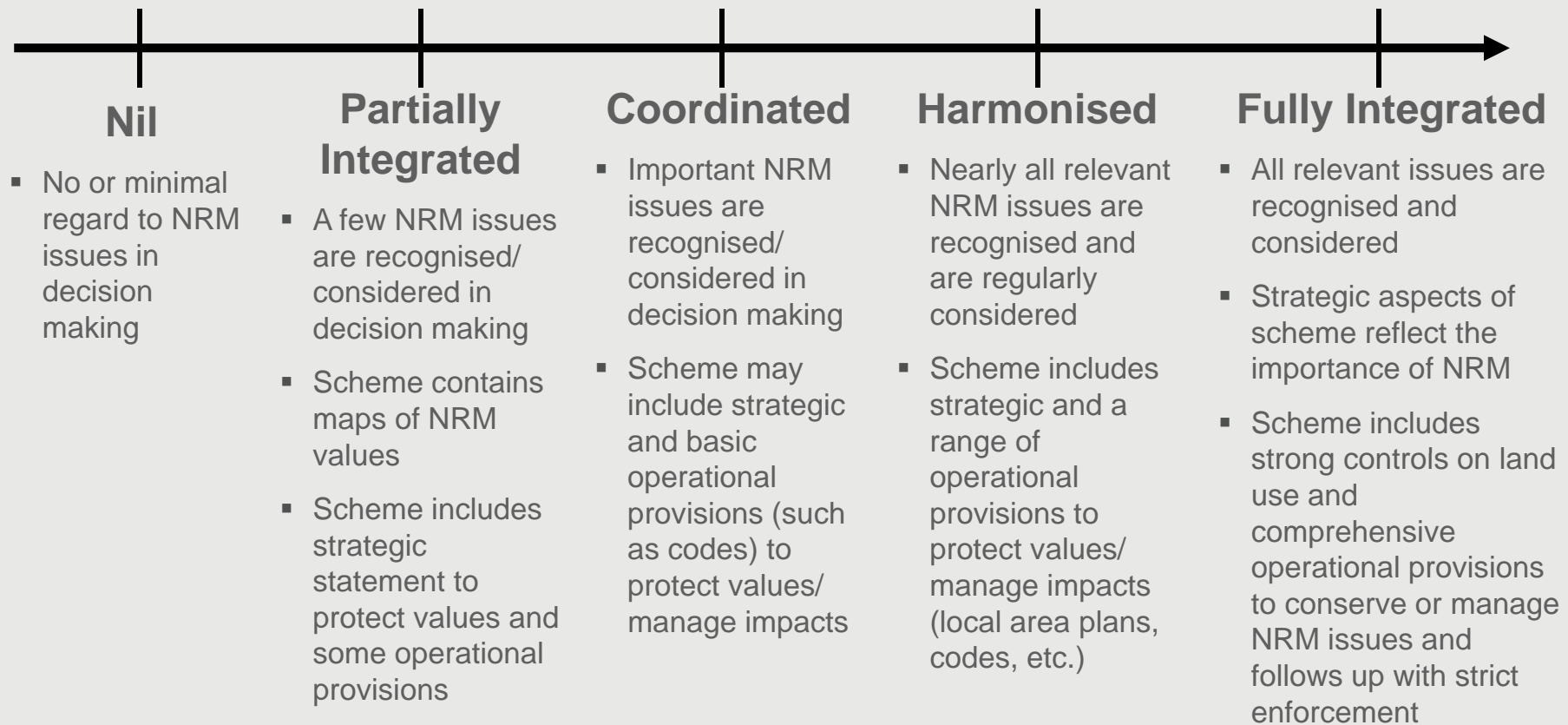
How Does NRM Relate to Planning?

- Statutory requirement – SPA, SPPs, SEQRP.
- Planning schemes have an important role in protecting and managing natural resources by:
 - establishing policy direction;
 - identifying & protecting special values, attributes or constraints;
 - regulating how development can occur in & around such places & values;
 - influencing & guiding the location & form of new development;
 - regulating impacts of development.



What do we mean by integration?

Integration Continuum



Implementing NRM Outcomes - Local Government



The Role of Planning Schemes in Achieving NRM

- A planning scheme can:
 - only regulate new development and is limited by SPA;
 - be one of a suite of delivery tools for NRM targets & outcomes;
 - provide high level integrated policy objectives, but only to the extent this is achieved through development assessment;
 - influence and guide new development eg: location, land use, intent and mix, intensity, built form, setbacks etc;
 - identify land with special values, attributes or constraints;
 - indicate infrastructure intentions;
 - provide levels of assessment;
 - provide criteria for assessment of new development.



The Role of Planning Schemes in Achieving NRM

- A planning scheme cannot:
 - create outcomes by itself – needs a proponent to do the development;
 - deliver policy or outcomes not involving development;
 - regulate existing lawful development or manage an existing use.



The Role of Planning Schemes in Achieving NRM

- What does this mean for NRM?
 - planning schemes make an important contribution to achievement of NRM targets, but are not solely responsible (understand what a scheme can and can't regulate);
 - development can be an *opportunity* to protect & enhance NRM values at local and wider levels – need well drafted conditions;
 - planning is an 'end to end' process:
 - scheme drafting- development assessment- conditions and enforcement/compliance;
 - involves different experts across the organisation.



Integrating NRM Targets – some challenges....

- 1) Technical:
 - a) ‘unpacking’ and understanding the targets;
 - b) identification and mapping of values;
 - c) application of concepts & defensibility (internally & externally);
 - d) translation of regional requirements into local context;
 - e) methodological – no consistent approach or no clear guidance.
- 2) Political – concern about potential compensation.
- 3) Political – ‘development culture’ & lack of organisational support. Perception that it is being done by the State already.
- 4) Getting the planning right – having the supporting studies, balancing competing issues & resolving conflicts in the scheme....not leaving it for DA to sort out.
- 5) Financial & limited resources – can’t do any of the above!!!



Integrating NRM Targets – some challenges....

“Unpacking” the targets – key questions:

- Is the planning scheme the best mechanism to use?
- Do we spatially understand where the things that we are trying to protect or manage are?
- Do we understand the threats or drivers that affect these values?
- How do we decide how much we need to protect in our local area?



Integrating NRM – some challenges....

The importance of mapping – key questions:

- Do we know where the values are?
- Can we map or otherwise plot the location of these values against an aerial photo or cadastral boundaries?
- If we have existing mapping what is the quality of it/consistency across boundaries?
- Are there some areas or values more important than others?



Integrating NRM – some challenges....

Do we understand the threats to achievement of the targets?

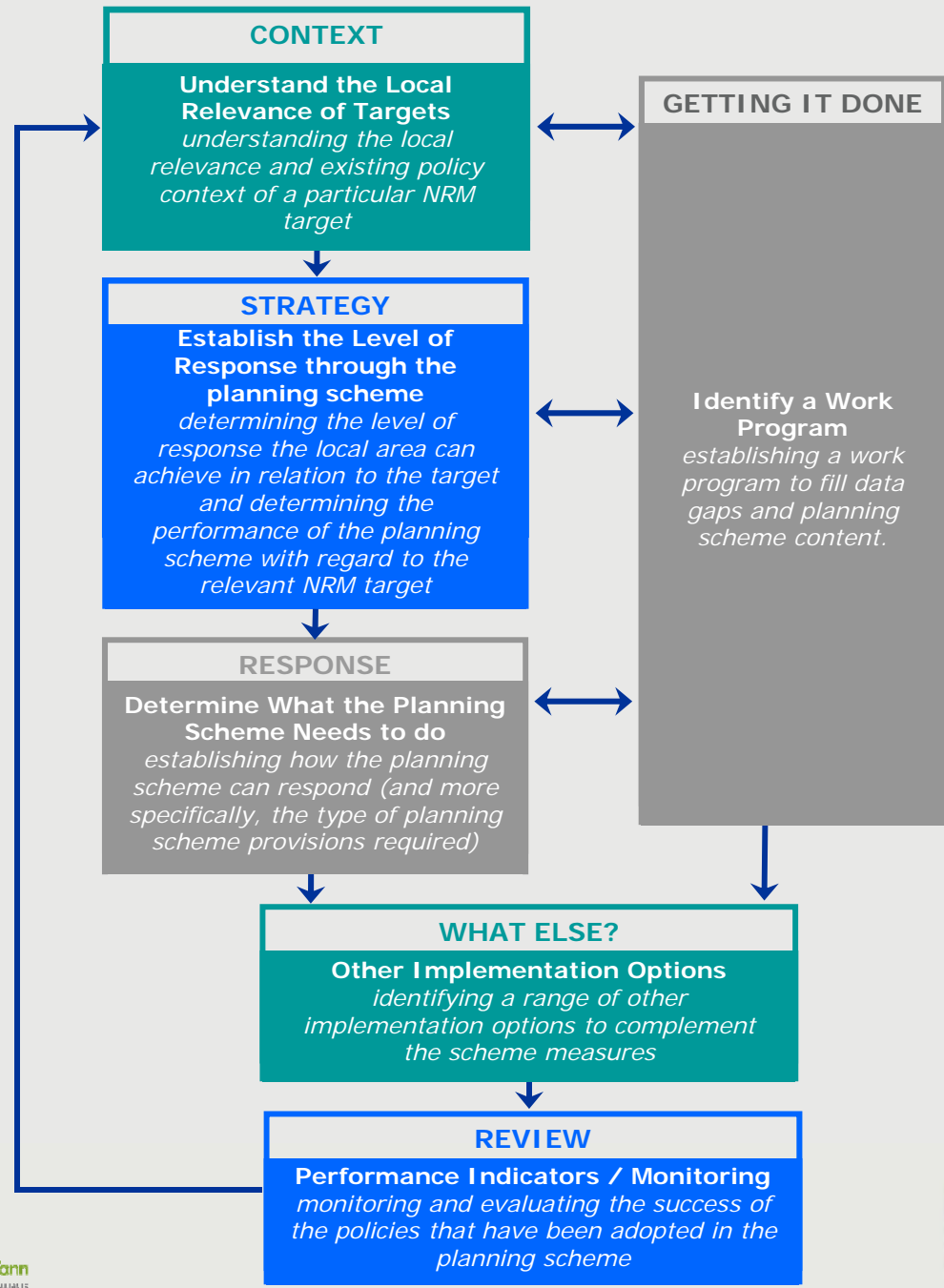
- Can we identify the likely impacts from the threat on the value (why is it a threatening activity or process)?
- Are the impacts direct or indirect?
- Are the impacts primarily from construction or operation (day to day management)?
- Acute (one-off) or chronic (cumulative)?



Introducing the SEQ Decision Support Tool

- A suggested approach to assist planners in integrating NRM into planning schemes.
- Overview of DST Process:
 1. **CONTEXT** - Understand local relevance of targets
 2. **STRATEGY** - Determine level of response in planning scheme
 3. **RESPONSE** - Identify what the planning scheme needs to do
 4. **GETTING IT DONE** - Identify a work program
 5. **WHAT ELSE?** - Other implementation tools
 6. **REVIEW** - Performance indicators and monitoring





Overview of DST Process



Overview of SEQ DST Contents

- Pulls out the relevant NRM targets – only addresses targets that can be influenced by a planning scheme.
- Identifies:
 - the relevance and applicability of SEQ NRM targets;
 - planning scheme response opportunities and likely focus;
 - other ‘non-planning scheme’ implementation options;
 - how development may threaten or impact on the NRM target; and
 - barriers/constraints to integration.
- Identifies links between SEQ Regional Plan DROs, principles and policies and SEQ NRM targets.
- Identifies other relevant legislation, policies & strategies that apply to relevant targets and, data & information sources.



NRM Training Course

- 1) To build **adaptive capacity and learning** through practical application of the DST using case studies and developing sample provisions for NRM targets.
- 2) To increase **awareness and knowledge** of NRM values & targets & relationship with regional & local planning instruments.
- 3) To identify **examples of best practice** which can be applied to integration of NRM issues into schemes.
- 4) To facilitate **collaboration, discussion and sharing of ideas** and experiences about NRM issues.



Some learnings from the NRM Training Course

- 1) Planning schemes important to achieving NRM, but not solely responsible.
- 2) Embed and integrate NRM throughout scheme components – establish “line of sight”.
- 3) Establish policy position & resolve conflicts – avoid setting development expectations over environmentally significant land.
- 4) Identify and understand cross-boundary issues.
- 5) Work collaboratively with adjoining LGAs and NRM bodies.
- 6) Access mapping and data needed to support decision making.



Key Lessons from the Training Course

- 7) Allow sufficient time and resources to:
- identify the extent to which the **issue is salient** to the LGA;
 - interpret **regional level** requirements into the **local context**;
 - identify and analyse the **threats** to NRM values and issues;
 - identify if **similar targets / policies** have been set at the local level and how this integrates with the regional target.



Accessing the SEQ Decision Support Tool and NRM Training Course

Download the SEQ Decision Support Tool at:

www.lgaq.asn.au member login go to Environment/NRM

Enquiries about NRM training:

Email: smcguire@buckleyvann.com.au

