

Swan Region Strategy

for

Natural Resource Management

Appendix 4

Key Legislation Relevant to NRM

State and Australian Government legislation

State Legislation

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act (1914). This Act relates to rights in water resources, makes provision for the regulation, management, use and protection of water resources, and provides for irrigation schemes, and other purposes.

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act (1909). This Act constitutes the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage, and Drainage Area, establishes the method of control, defines water reserves, charges and related matters.

Country Areas Water Supply Act (1947). This Act makes provision for the construction, maintenance and administration of reticulated supplies of water to country areas, to safeguard water supplies, to repeal the Goldfields Water Supply Act 1902-1942, and other purposes.

Environmental Protection Act (1986). This Act provides for an Environmental Protection Authority, for the prevention, control and abatement of pollution and environmental harm, for the conservation, preservation, protection, enhancement and management of the environment and for other related matters.

Aboriginal Heritage Act (1972). This Act makes provision for the preservation on behalf of the community of places and objects customarily used by or traditional to the original inhabitants of Australia or their descendants.

Conservation and Land Management Act (1984). This Act makes better provision for the use, protection and management of certain public lands and waters and the flora and fauna thereof, and establishes authorities to be responsible.

Wildlife Conservation Act (1950). This Act provides for the conservation and protection of wildlife. This Act will be updated by the draft *Biodiversity Conservation Act*

Soil and Land Conservation Act (1945). This Act relates to the conservation of soil and land resources, and to the mitigation of the effects of erosion, salinity and flooding.

Local Government Act (1995). This Act provides for a system of local government in Western Australia and amends the Local Government Act 1960.

Town Planning and Development Act (1928). This Act relates to the planning and development of land for urban, suburban, and rural purposes.

Fish Resources Management Act (1994). The objective of this Act is to conserve, develop and share the fish resources of the State for the benefit of present and future generations.

At the state level there are a number of strategies, plans and policies that complement this legislation:

- *State Coastal Planning Policy*
- *State Planning Policy*
- *State Rural Water Plan*
- *State Salinity Strategy (2000)*
- *State Sustainability Strategy (2003)*
- *State Water Quality Management Strategy for Western Australia (2001)*
- *State Water Strategy (2003)*
- *State Weed Strategy (2001)*
- *Wetlands Conservation Policy for Western Australia (1997)*
- *Draft State Algal Management Strategy*
- *Draft State Biodiversity Conservation Strategy*
- *Draft State Coastal Strategy*
- *Draft State Floodplain Management Strategy*
- *Draft State Marine Planning Strategy*
- *Draft Western Australian Greenhouse Strategy*
- *Draft Waterways WA Strategy*

Australian Government Legislation

Natural Heritage Trust of Australia Act (1997)

\$1.7 billion has been committed under the Natural Heritage Trust, with a further \$1 billion committed in 2001 to the Natural Heritage Trust Extension. Of this additional \$1 billion, the Australian Government expects to spend at least \$350 million on measures to improve Australia's water quality.

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999). The objectives of this Act are to:

- Provide for the protection of the environment, especially those aspects of the environment that are matters of national environmental significance;
- Promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources;
- Promote the conservation of biodiversity;
- Promote a co-operative approach to the protection and management of the environment involving governments, the community, land-holders and indigenous peoples;
- Assist in the co-operative implementation of Australia's international environmental responsibilities;
- Recognise the role of indigenous people in the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of Australia's biodiversity; and
- Promote the use of indigenous peoples' knowledge of biodiversity with the involvement of, and in co-operation with, the owners of the knowledge.

Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act (1992)

This Act makes provision for the funding and administrative arrangements relating to NRM in Australia. The primary objective of this Act is to facilitate the development and implementation of integrated approaches to NRM in Australia that are:

- For the purpose of achieving efficient, sustainable and equitable NRM in Australia
- Consistent with the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The objectives of this Act are to:

- Promote community, industry and governmental partnership in NRM in Australia;
- Assist in establishing institutional arrangements to develop and implement policies, programs and practices that will encourage sustainable use of natural resources in Australia;
- Assist in enhancing the long term productivity of natural resources in Australia;
- Assist in developing approaches to help resolve conflicts over access to natural resources in Australia.

Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act (1999)

The National Landcare Programme is funded through the *Natural Resources Management (Financial Assistance) Act 1999*. The Act provides for payments to be made to the States and to other activities and establishes the Australian Landcare Council, which advises the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Minister for Environment and Heritage on matters concerning NRM.

At the national level, a framework for NRM is established through strategies, policies and plans that include:

- Australia's Ocean Policy
- COAG Water Reform Framework
- Commonwealth Coast Policy
- National Action Plan for Shorebird Conservation in Australia
- National Framework for Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation
- National Greenhouse Strategy
- National Objectives and Targets for Biodiversity Conservation 2001-2005
- National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity
- National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development
- National Water Quality Management Strategy
- National Weeds Strategy
- Threat Abatement Plans for Weeds of National Significance and listed key Threatening Processes
- Wetlands Policy of the Commonwealth Government of Australia