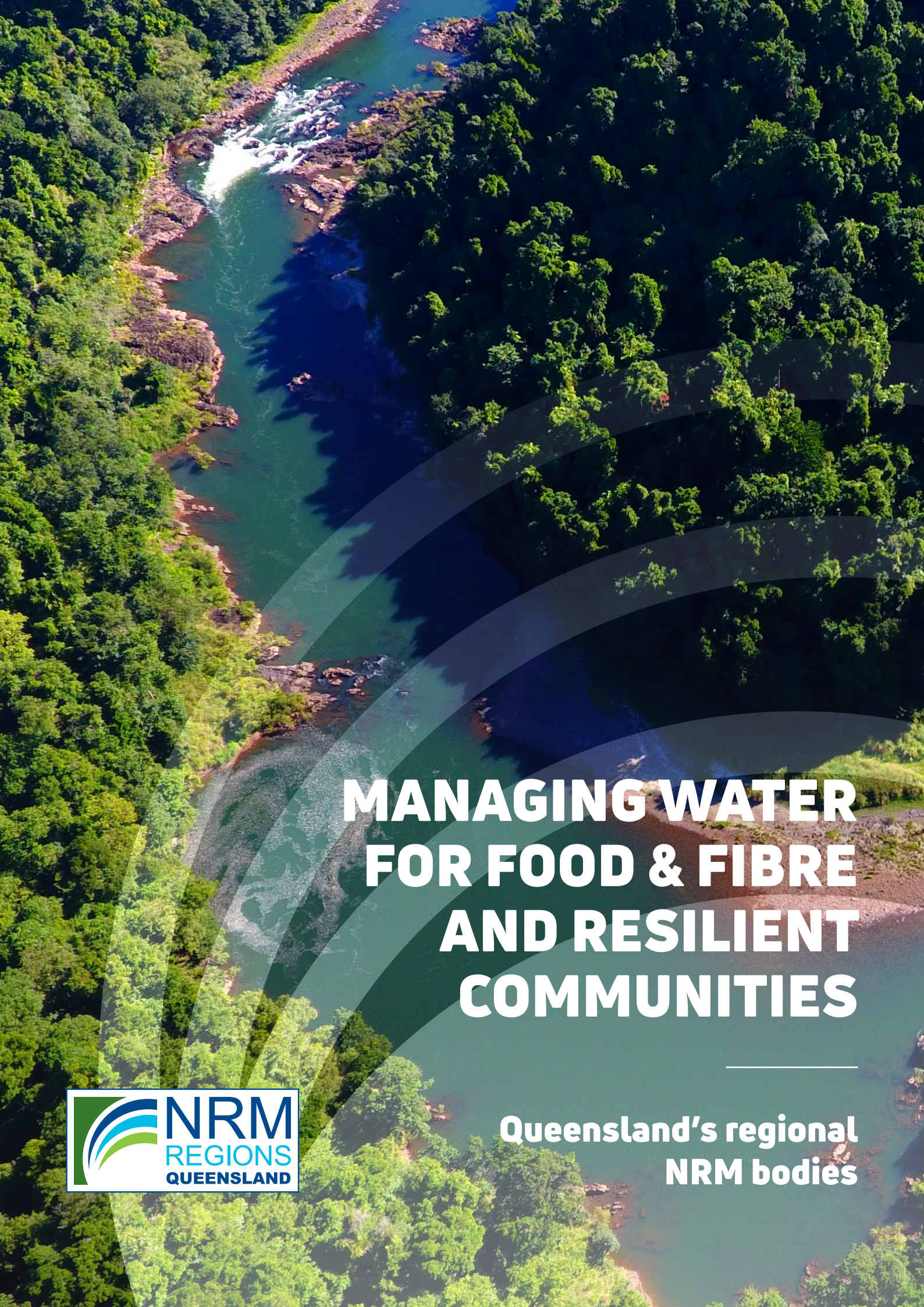

MANAGING WATER FOR FOOD & FIBRE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

NRM REGIONS QUEENSLAND

Queensland's regional NRM bodies

Natural Resource Management is the integrated management of land, water and biodiversity that results in fresh air, clean drinking water, and productive soils and pollination services that underpin the economy and our quality of life as well as that of future generations. Regional natural resource management (NRM) organisations collaborate with their communities to identify threats to these natural assets and to plan for improving their condition for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

There are 12 independent, not-for-profit NRM organisations across the state. Indigenous people and First Nations have strong relationships with all 12 bodies. We deliver projects across the entire spectrum of land and water management. And each of us is guided by a regional NRM plan developed in partnership with the people who live and work in our regions. These plans document community aspirations for sustainable land and water management and guide investment in projects that will improve biodiversity and ensure food security, a thriving economy and resilience to natural disasters.

Our 12 organisations make up NRM Regions Queensland.

Water is a central theme for each of us as we work to improve downstream water quality and reduce sediment loads in our rivers and creeks, and ultimately into the ocean. We work with farmers and land managers to help them retain as much water and soil as possible on-farm and to slow the flow and reduce erosion and soil loss.

We support these land managers to be more resilient to drought through sustainable irrigation and grazing practices, we work to improve the quality and flow of surface water overland and in waterways, and many of our projects achieve positive groundwater outcomes, and improved water visibility which supports marine and tourism industries.

We are trusted from paddock to Parliament. With more than two decades experience making a difference on the ground, our outcomes reflect the strong relationships we have with governments at all levels, Traditional Owners and First Nations people, and the science, agriculture, and conservation sectors.

BURNETT MARY REGIONAL GROUP

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Burnett Mary Regional Group (BMRG) is the NRM body for an area comprising the Burnett and Mary river catchments and the associated sub catchment areas of the Kolan, Elliott, Gregory, Baffle, Burrum and Isis rivers. The organisation's vision is to protect and enhance the agricultural and natural environment of the region for future generations and it does this by working with key community and Traditional Owner groups to deliver onground works that protect and enhance the region's natural assets and water quality outcomes.

- Includes Burnett Basin and Baffle Creek Water Plan areas
- BMRG is undertaking extensive streambank restoration projects with engineering intervention to improve water quality and habitat restoration in the region.
- Current projects in the Burnett Mary catchment are preventing more than 47,000 tonnes of fine sediment from entering the Great Barrier Reef.
- More than 16,000 tonnes of sediment is being prevented from entering rivers and creeks through the Burnett River Water Quality Project led by Burnett Mary Regional Group and delivered in partnership with CQU's Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre and Gidarjil Development Corporation
- Along with the Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan, BMRG has developed a Mary River Recovery Investment Strategy to direct investment to cost-effective works.

CAPE YORK NRM

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Cape York Natural Resource Management (NRM) Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation and a registered charity, with a mission to help people work to care for the natural environment while promoting the sustainable use of natural resources in the region, which is 137,000 km2 in size and extends north from the Mitchell River catchment to 'The Tip' of Cape York Peninsula.

- Includes Cape York Water Plan area
- In addition to its strategic NRM plan, Cape York NRM has produced a Water Quality Improvement Plan for Eastern Cape York
- The organisation delivers projects focusing on water quality monitoring, grazing and horticulture, weeds and feral animals and gully erosion control. These projects deliver improved sustainability of the industries and communities on the Cape along with protecting natural assets and improving water quality in rivers and streams entering the Great Barrier Reef.
- Cape York NRM also supports the Cook Shire Making Water Work/Future Ag Governance Group, driving sustainable development of water resources in the Cook Shire.

DESERT CHANNELS QUEENSLAND

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Desert Channels Queensland (DCQ) is a community-based natural resource management body working to ensure a sustainable social, economic and environmental future for the Queensland section of the Lake Eyre Basin.

- Includes the Georgina and Diamantina and the Cooper Creek Water Plan areas
- Our land, Our Water, Our Future is DCQ's Natural Resource Management plan. The community has said that by 2050 it wants the region's water resources and aquatic ecosystems to remain in good health for the benefit of the whole community.
- DCQ is working to maintain the quantity and quality of surface water, improve knowledge and management of important wetlands, permanent waterholes and high priority artesian springs and improve knowledge and management of groundwater.

Photo by Terrain NRM

FITZROY BASIN ASSOCIATION

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Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) works for the central Queensland community to grow a sustainable, productive and profitable Fitzroy region, which covers a land area of more than 156000 sq kilometres and is home to more than 230,000 people.

- Includes Fitzroy Basin, Calliope River Basin and Boyne River Basin Water Plan areas.
- FBA has a long history in natural resource management. The Natural Resource Management Plan for the region - CQSS:2030 - was first endorsed in 1998.
- FBA has developed a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan (wqip.com.au) which directs investment to cost effective works that ensure healthy waterways, wetlands and a thriving Reef.
- With more than 20,000km of waterways, including six major river systems that comprise the largest catchment draining to the Great Barrier Reef lagoon, water quality and supporting land managers to improve the way they manage soil and water are a key focus of the organisation's work.
- More than 4,000 gigalitres flows from the mouth of the Fitzroy every year. Many of FBA's projects focus on partnerships with regional stakeholders, land managers and communities to improve water quality, prevent and remediate streambank and gully erosion and support best practice adoption in grazing, cotton, grains and horticulture sectors.

GULF SAVANNAH NRM

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Gulf Savannah NRM connects communities with science and government to create opportunities for current and future generations. The organisation works where community, industry, and environment meet.

- Includes the Gulf Water Plan area and in part the Mitchell, Barron and Wet Tropics Water Plan areas.
- Varied habitat types and remoteness mean that the rivers found here are some of the most diverse but poorly known systems in Australia. The Mitchell Catchment alone contains 15,425km of major stream length, and this catchment only accounts for 36% of the region.
- Much of the organisation's sustainable agriculture work is focussed in the Mareeba-Dimbulah Irrigation Area which powers some of the nation's most productive and innovative tropical farming operations.
- Extensive beef operations cover 85% of the region across 200 individual enterprises. These enterprises are supported through programs including E-Beef which strives for grazing best management practice by demonstrating that timely management decisions enhance pastures, groundcover, soils, land condition, business profitability and adaptability.
- Water development is a priority issue for the region. Gulf Savannah NRM supports community engagement in water policy and planning and is a strong voice for the local community in regional development proposals.

HEALTHY LAND AND WATER

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Healthy Land and Water is the peak environmental group for South East Queensland, investing in and leading initiatives to build the prosperity, liveability, and sustainability of the region. Working in partnership with Traditional Owners, government, private industry, utilities and the community, the organisation delivers innovative and science-based solutions to challenges affecting the environment of South East Queensland, which is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

- Includes Logan Basin, Gold Coast and a small part of the Mary Basin Water Plan areas.
- The region spans from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast, and inland to the Lockyer Valley and Somerset. The footprint extends out to Moreton Bay and includes internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands.
- Healthy Land and Water has 20 years experience restoring waterways and landscapes, building community resilience to deal with climate change and fire, improving native habitats, managing weeds, protecting native species, informing sustainable agriculture and sustainable urban development, informing policy and educating communities to improve and protect the environment for future generations.
- Since 2005 the organisation's Water by Design (waterbydesign.com.au) team has been working to identify and fill knowledge gaps and encourage the community to practice sustainable water management.

NQ DRY TROPICS

nqdrytropics.com.au | 4799 3500 | info@nqdrytropics.com.au

NQ Dry Tropics is an independent, not-for-profit organisation operating in the 146,000km² Burdekin Dry Tropics region. Much of the organisation's effort is directed towards 'working' landscapes and intensively used areas where the potential to achieve combined environmental, economic and community benefits is greatest. Regional land uses include beef and cane production, horticulture, commercial fishing, mining, energy industries, tourism and urban development. NQ Dry Tropics is committed to sustaining the region's natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

- Includes Burdekin Basin and Whitsunday Water Plan areas.
- NQ Dry Tropics works with a range of partners to ensure waterways, wetlands and coastal areas in the region are resilient, healthy, sustainably managed, and enjoyed and respected by communities. These coastal waterways support industries such as fishing and tourism, provide food and habitat for marine and terrestrial life; and contribute to improved water quality by filtering nutrients and chemicals from runoff.
- This work focusses on: connectivity between land, waterways, wetlands, coasts, and the Great Barrier Reef, fish passage, water quality, wetland seasonality (for example, helping to ensure they dry down naturally during the dry season) and riparian vegetation.

REEF CATCHMENTS

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Reef Catchments is working to sustain, protect and improve natural resources in the Mackay Whitsunday Isaac region and is striving for a region that is resilient and adaptive to change; where people, the environment, production and development exist together in balance.

- Includes Pioneer Valley and Whitsunday Water Plan areas.
- Reef Catchments undertakes projects that include caring for and promoting the health of water and waterways, wetlands and coastlands, biodiversity, pest and weed management, and sustainable agriculture.
- The organisation's Mackay Whitsunday Water Quality Program is focused on working with landholders in the cane industry to improve nutrient management, pesticide management, and irrigation practices on-farm while maintaining or improving productivity and profitability. Growers receive agronomic and technical support, as well as financial incentives, to address barriers to change. The program focusses on greater retention of chemicals and nutrients in the paddock and aims to establish enduring economic drivers to maintain best practice that will lead to ongoing water quality improvement.

SOUTHERN GULF NRM

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The Southern Gulf region comprises five defined catchments draining into the southern part of the Gulf of Carpentaria, plus the Wellesley Island. Southern Gulf NRM is a not-for-profit community-based organisation that cares for the region's natural and cultural assets through partnerships that strategically plan for, and invest in land and water management.

- Includes the Gulf Water Plan area.
- Loss of vegetation cover in the region increases the risk of wind and water erosion. Southern Gulf NRM is delivering a Queensland Government funded program 'Southern Gulf Graziers Leading Landscape Change' to improve NRM practices over 80,000ha in the region. This is being achieved through a structured program of property management planning and related incentives for 20 graziers.
- Another project 'Profitable Producers Creating Healthy Landscapes' is supporting producers who manage 225,000 hectares to better understand the value of natural resources to their business. This is being achieved through Producer Performance Groups which incorporates expert advice as well as peer-to-peer learning models.

SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND LANDSCAPES

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Southern Queensland Landscapes (SQL) is a community-owned organisation connecting and supporting communities to take care of their landscapes. The organisation helps land managers find ways to produce food and fibre profitably, sustainably and ethically while also taking care of the natural environment.

- Includes Condamine and Balonne, Border Rivers and Moonie and Warrego, Paroo, Bulloo and Nebine Water Plan areas.
- SQL works across the Murray Darling Basin plus the Bulloo Catchment in Queensland
- The Queensland Government has engaged SQ Landscapes to implement the Northern Basin Toolkit Program, part of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan funded by the Australian Government. The 'toolkit' will see environmental works and measures in the northern basin achieve water recovery targets. Toolkit projects include measures that achieve environmental outcomes in the Northern Murray-Darling Basin, without water buyback, such as fish passages, structures to address cold water pollution, restoring priority riverine and riparian habitat and re-establishing threatened native fish species.
- The Queensland Government has also engaged SQL to deliver the Northern Basin Fencing Program on behalf of the Commonwealth Government to ensure riparian habitats, water quality and biodiversity outcome are improved in the Basin.

Photo by Leonie Winks Photography

TERRAIN NRM

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Terrain NRM is an independent, not for profit, community-based environmental management organisation that combines science and local knowledge to develop sustainable solutions to increase the resilience of rainforests, reefs, landscapes and communities of Australia's Wet Tropics region.

The Wet Tropics is Australia's most biologically diverse region and home to two UNESCO World Heritage sites – the Great Barrier Reef and the world's oldest living tropical rainforest. The organisation focusses on waterway health, soil health, biodiversity, climate and regenerative economic development.

- Includes Wet Tropics and Barron Water Plan areas
- Nine major river basins with short, sharp topography mean water runs off very quickly.
- The organisation delivers waterway health initiatives such as assessing and remediating fish barriers, restoring wetlands, revegetating riparian zones, reducing nutrient and pesticide runoff and repairing gully and streambank erosion with engineered earthworks and revegetation.
- A number of innovative water treatment systems such as bioreactors, constructed wetlands and vegetated drains have been trialled.
- Queensland Government is funding a comprehensive local scale water quality monitoring program across 46 sites in the Tully and Johnstone catchments.

TORRES STRAIT REGIONAL AUTHORITY

tsra.gov.au

The Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) is an Australian Government Statutory Authority established on July 1 1994 under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Act 1989, which is today known as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) Act 2005. It is recognised as a regional NRM body as it has responsibility to deliver programs related to land and water management.

- This region is not managed by a water plan area.
- TSRA has developed a Land and Sea Management Strategy which has as its vision the empowerment of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal peoples to sustainably manage and benefit from the land, sea and cultural resources into the future, in accordance with Ailan Kastom, Aboriginal Lore / Law and native title rights and interests.
- In recent years the Authority has delivered waterwise programs and worked with the community to develop a Climate Change Strategy.

Photo by Jeff Poole

Photo by Mel Bethel

ABOUT NRM REGIONS QUEENSLAND

We are a member-based organisation that drives statewide NRM outcomes by supporting our 12 members to implement and resource their community-owned regional NRM plans. We also work collaboratively with other peak bodies who share our vision for building resilient landscapes and optimistic communities across Queensland.

NRM REGIONS QUEENSLAND

Australian Government

Queensland Government

Queensland's Regional NRM sector is supported by the Queensland Government and the Australian Government.