

Northern Territory NRM Survey Questionnaire and Responses

Summary of Results

All Northern Territory and Community Councils were surveyed using a postal survey in November 2004. Two of the six municipal councils and 11 of the 57 Community Councils responded.

There is limited knowledge amongst the majority of Northern Territory councils on the regional NHT arrangements. Around half of the councils surveyed had no knowledge of catchment planning. The entire Territory makes up one region, which makes it difficult to engage all local governments. This is amplified through few councils having only a limited knowledge of Australian Government NRM policies. Hence these policies are not incorporated into council planning processes.

No Territory councils are regular users of Australian Government NRM programs and all but one council reported having no or very limited capacity to participate in NRM. All councils said they would be interested in becoming more active in regards to NRM, both locally and regionally, if they had the resources to do so. These resources include financial resources, specialised staff and training for staff, as well as support systems and increased community awareness.

The Survey and Responses

Natural Resource Management Survey of Local Governments of the NT November 2004

Number of Responses

Municipal Councils - 2 out of a possible 6 councils

Community Government Councils and Associations - 11 out of a possible 57 councils

PLEASE TICK THE BOX BELOW THE MOST SUITABLE ANSWER.

Q1: What is the level of councils understanding of local and regional natural resource management (NRM) issues?

Comprehensive understanding.	High level of understanding.	General understanding.	Limited knowledge.	No knowledge.
		4	8	1

Q2: To what extent does your council understand Australian Government NRM policies and programs (such as NHT2) and their implications for Local Government NRM?

Comprehensive understanding.	High level of understanding.	General understanding.	Limited knowledge.	No knowledge.
	1	1	7	4

Q3: To what extent does your council currently incorporate Australian Government NRM policies and programs into your planning processes?

Comprehensive integration in planning process.	High level of integration in planning process.	Incorporated where possible.	Knowledge of but not incorporated in planning processes.	No knowledge of policies and programs.
		2	5	6

Q4: To what extent has your organisation formed partnerships with or accessed funding for NRM from the Australian Government?

Extensive use of AG programs.	Regular use of AG programs.	Occasionally access AG programs.	Very few times.	Never.
		2	1	10

Q5: Please indicate what capacity council has (including time, resources, staff ETC) to participate in NRM in their area.

Comprehensive capacity.	High level of capacity.	General capacity.	Very limited capacity.	None.
		1	8	4

Q6: What priority does council place on Natural Resource Management locally and in the region?

Very high priority.	High priority.	Medium priority.	Low priority.	Councils position on NRM not known.
	2	2	6	3

Q7: What does council see as being the highest local priority in NRM? (Please rank 1-7. 1 being highest priority 7 being lowest priority).

Weed management.	Pest animal management.	Fire management.	Soil and erosion management.	Biodiversity management.	Increasing community capacity in NRM.

Q8: If council was provided with adequate resources and support would it be willing to become more active in local and regional NRM?

Very keen to participate and become prominent NRM partner.	Willing to participate and increase NRM role.	Interested but unsure of implications to councils core functions.	Not interested. Will/can meet legal requirements only.
1	4	8	

Q9: What does your council need to increase its involvement in NRM? (Can tick more than one)

Activities to increase community awareness of NRM issues.	Skills and training for staff and community.	Support systems and networks.	Specialised staff.	Resources (financial, equipment, access to technical support).
5	7	5	6	8

Q10: Has your council had any involvement in developing local catchments plans?

Yes, active involvement in process.	Yes, participated where possible.	No. Invited but unable to devote time due to other priorities.	No. Not invited or permitted to participate.	No. No knowledge of local catchments planning.
2	2	1	1	7

What Natural Resource Management or Environmental Management projects and partnerships has council been involved in over the past 3 years? Please include any grants or other support that council has received.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ENERGY IN COMPLETING THIS IMPORTANT QUESTIONNAIRE.

Any additional information relating to Natural Resource Management can be returned with the questionnaire. This includes (but not limited to) weed management, pest animal management (ferals), soil and erosion management, waterways management, coastal and marine management, native animal management, and natural vegetation management.

Or you can contact the Local Government Association of the NT Natural Resource Management Facilitator direct to discuss the NRM issues in your area.

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