



Situation Analysis – Fitzroy Basin Association

Background Drawing from the initial Practice Change Project workshop and various publications, the following is a situation analysis of the Fitzroy Basin Association. It includes the key NRM issues, organisational structure, the resource condition targets and management action targets that have been identified. The purpose of the situation analysis is to provide an overview of the Fitzroy Basin catchment for circulation among the ten regions involved in the project. This will enable the participating regions to better understand each others situations.

The Region

Geography

The land of the region covers 156 000 square kilometres, and encompasses the major systems of the Fitzroy, Boyne, and Calliope rivers as well as the catchments of the smaller coastal streams. The Fitzroy catchment is made up of the catchments of Nogoia, Comet, Mackenzie, Isaac, Dawson, and Fitzroy Rivers and forms the largest part of the region. The Boyne and Calliope Rivers drain the southern part of the region, entering the Pacific Ocean at Gladstone. Coastal streams drain to the coast along its length.

It covers a diverse and beautiful land and seascape, with distinctive rural and urban communities. In catchment area, the Fitzroy Basin is the largest river system running to the east coast of Australia. The Great Barrier Reef off our coast is the largest coral reef system in the world

Demographics

The Central Queensland region, home to approximately 200 000 people. The people of Central Queensland come from a wide range of backgrounds. Many of the present population were born overseas, and have come to the region for a variety of reasons including employment opportunities and lifestyle. This diversity of origin provides colour and texture to our cultural background and is celebrated annually in the Multicultural Fair held at the Rockhampton campus of Central Queensland University.

Land uses

- Grazing land – 80.58%
- Cropping – 6.04%
- Irrigation – 0.48%
- State Forests – 5.11%
- National park - 3.22%
- Urban - 0.09%
- Mining – 0.35%
- Other 4.12%
- Flows to World Heritage Area – 8 million ha of Great Barrier Reef





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NRM issues

- Climate Change
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Vegetation clearing
- Agricultural production pressure
- Salinity
- Episodic events
- Seasonal conditions
- Mining
- Urban and industrial pollution
- Water extraction (ground and surface)
- Invasive plant species
- Pest animals
- Altered fire regimes'
- Pressures on wetland and riparian areas
- Shoreline engineering and wetland removal
- Pressures on water quality
- Managed water flows
- Non-target by-catch
- Lack of understanding of Indigenous values
- Loss of intellectual property/traditional knowledge
- Theft and vandalism of indigenous cultural heritage
- Lack of access to land and sea country
- Aging and declining population
- Removal of rural services
- High dependence on world commodity prices
- Availability of water
- Capacity to pay for improved natural resource management
- Commodity expectations
- Government policy and increasing regulation
- Lack of coordination
- Lack of good information/trust in available information
- Lack of resource manager involvement in research

The Regional NRM Organisation

History

The Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) is a regional community group working across Central Queensland (CQ) to ensure communities have knowledge and resources for a sustainable social, economic and environmental future.

The Association's vision is: **Empowered communities for a sustainable CQ.** To achieve this vision, the Fitzroy Basin Association's objectives are to:

- provide a non-partisan, non-political forum that reflects the community



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- work towards a sustainable region where all natural resource managers are operating in an integrated and co-operative way
- promote full integration of the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development
- enhance capacity within the regional community to plan and manage for sustainability
- improve knowledge about the region and ensure that all stakeholders have equal access to existing knowledge
- be an influential part of decision-making in the region, and develop stronger relationships to unite our communities and improve interaction between people and groups in the region

As an umbrella organisation, we provide support to natural resource management groups based within sub-catchments of the Fitzroy Basin. These sub-regional groups provide on-ground assistance for people involved in projects. This grassroots approach produces real, lasting results.

In 1995, the Central Queensland community through FBA began developing an integrated natural resource management plan.

Organisational arrangements

The Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) is a community-based organisation that promotes sustainable development in Central Queensland.

From its general membership, the FBA draws **Stakeholders Council**. This council is designed to be representative of the stakeholder groups and sectors in the Central Queensland community. A **Board** has been established, elected or nominated at the annual general meeting, from the organisation's membership. The Board is responsible for strategic direction and policy setting. The Stakeholders Council forms an important advisory function to the board, with major decisions 'ground truthed' at the stakeholder level.

The staff of FBA bring an abundance and variety of skills and experience to the task of achieving economic, social and environmental sustainability in Central Queensland. Below are those based in Rockhampton and around the region.

Suzie Christensen - Chief Executive Officer

Sheree Press – Relationships Manager

Leanne Dinsdale - Business Manager

Vacant - NRM Manager

Michael Bent - Implementation Manager

Gavin Peck - Technical Manager

Julia Callaghan - Regional Coordinator MERR (Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting & Review)

Jill Lyons - Strategic Regional Facilitator & National Landcare Program





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Kristian Smith - GIS Coordinator
Sharlene Blakeney - GIS Support Officer
Anthony Vize - GIS Cartographic Officer
Nathan Johnston - Regional Coordinator Water Quality
Cameron Wearing - Regional Coordinator Salinity
Shane Westley - Regional Coordinator Coastal/Marine
Graham Lightbody - Regional Coordinator Biodiversity
Vacant - Mining Industry Biodiversity Liaison
Joanne Rodney - Media and Communications Officer
Mittsy Voiles - Education Officer
Janeen Whiting - Administration Officer
Bev Hall - Contracts Administrator
Sandra Croyden - Financial Administrator
Michelle Wright - Isaac/Connors Field Officer
Katie Elder - Mackenzie Field Officer
Pam Jeffery - Administration Assistant
Bronwyn Fryar - Librarian
Reece McKellow - Biodiversity Field Officer (based in Emerald)
Nick Kirby - Water Quality Officer (based in Emerald)
Rachel Bryant - Water Quality Officer (based in Calliope)
Felicity Anderson - Grazing Land Management Officer (based in Biloela)
Murray Bullock - Boyne/Calliope Field Officer (based in Calliope)
Vanessa Wood - Biodiversity Field Officer (based in Calliope)
Vacant - Boyne/Calliope Admin Assistant (based in Calliope)

Key functions

The Fitzroy Basin Association's objectives are to:

- provide a non-partisan, non-political forum that reflects the community
- work towards a sustainable region where all natural resource managers are operating in an integrated and co-operative way
- promote full integration of the social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development
- enhance capacity within the regional community to plan and manage for sustainability
- improve knowledge about the region and ensure that all stakeholders have equal access to existing knowledge
- be an influential part of decision-making in the region, and develop stronger relationships to unite our communities and improve interaction between people and groups in the region.

Budget

FBA - \$12 million – 05/06





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The NRM Planning Process

History

The process for development of a regional plan began in late 1995 assisted by funding from the Natural Heritage Trust. The Central Queensland community was involved in workshops to identify and prioritise issues, and had input into the development and review of the early CQSS. Comprehensive community engagement and incorporation of published and unpublished works and traditional and experiential knowledge, was undertaken (refer CQSS 2000). A draft strategy was released for stakeholder endorsement from November 1998 – February 2000. Substantial effort to resolve conflicts with key sectors resulted in formal endorsement being received from all major stakeholder groups. The CQSS was endorsed by the then Queensland Landcare and Catchment Management Council, and launched by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Andersen MP in February 2001.

NRM plan

The final plan and investment strategy have been submitted and accredited by the relevant ministers of the Queensland and Australian governments, responsible for the administration of the NAP and NHT programs. The mechanism for this involves collaboration with agencies regionally and consideration by the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), for advice to ministers. Once the plan was accredited, it was printed and distributed.

Resource condition targets

Asset	Resource Condition Targets (RCTs)
Soil condition	R1: Retain a minimum of 30% cover on 95% of all land in the region within 15 years (minimum 30% cover on 50% of all land within 5 years, 75% of all land within 10 years, and 95% of all land within 15 years).
Weeds and Pest Animals	R2: Impact of agricultural and environmental pest plants and animals (Class 2 & 3) is contained within 5 years and trend reversed within 10 years. R3: 100% control of outbreaks of new agricultural and environmental (Class 2 & 3) pest plants and animals, including pests of aquatic environmental significance ongoing. See also R2
Fire	To be defined within ten years by M8
Climate Change	To be defined within 10 years by M10 See also R2, R13, R18
Air Quality	RA1: Air pollutant emissions maintained at 2004 levels or reduced to improve air quality



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Soil Salinity	To be defined within 5 years by M12 R4: Maintain and restore deep drainage to natural levels in recharge areas of high salinity risk or current outbreak within 10 years
Acid Sulfate Soils	R5: Minimise disturbance / drainage of land and natural groundwater levels on all acid sulphate soils within 10 years and ongoing
Mining	R6: Reduce off -site and on-site impacts of mining operations within 10 years R7: No net decrease in water quality as a result of mining activity ongoing
Forest practices	R8: Productivity and ecological condition of the production forest estate increased by an amount to be determined by A166 within 15 years
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity	R9: Minimum 40% of original extent of native remnant vegetation coverage in patches of 500ha or greater within 10 years (see below table) R10: 80% of regional ecosystems protected on state land primarily managed for conservation (National Parks and other reserves) within 10 years R11: 90% (aggregate) of 'endangered' regional ecosystems not protected under Vegetation Management Act 2004 are protected from habitat loss, and where this is not possible, full re-establishment of original vegetation following development, within 5 years R12: 150 000ha of private land managed primarily for conservation and under voluntary agreements with the state within 10 years R13: Additional 150 000ha of private land supporting regionally significant remnant vegetation voluntarily managed primarily for conservation within 10 years R14: Additional 5000ha of non-remnant native vegetation regenerated on private lands in areas forming wildlife corridors and linkages, particularly in riparian areas within 10 years See also R3, R4
Conserving species	R15: No further loss of biodiversity at a species, subspecies or major geographic population level scale in the region (list of priority terrestrial species of conservation concern and all aquatic species listed as rare, vulnerable or endangered) ongoing R16: All significant turtle nesting beaches (Peak Island, Curtis Island, Facing Island and Alligator Bay) used annually by >1% of the Queensland breeding population are protected from incompatible activities ongoing R17: All significant habitats of migratory and breeding water birds, and drought refuges, are protected from incompatible activities, and population sizes are maintained within acceptable limits ongoing R18: Populations of commercial and recreationally important fish and crustaceans maintained ongoing
Coasts and estuaries	R19: Structure and function of remnant intertidal wetlands, estuaries, and in-shore reefs maintained and re-established within 15 years See also R27

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	<p>R20: Functionality of 20% of area affected by seawalls and ponded pastures restored within 15 years</p> <p>RA2: The condition and extent of local and State significant coastal vegetation corridors and refugia are maintained or improved within 10 years</p> <p>RA3: The condition and extent of locally and regionally important coastal zone and foreshore communities are maintained and improved over the next 10 years</p> <p>See also R32, R33</p>
Marine, reef and island habitat	<p>RA4: The structure and function of inshore reefs is maintained and re-established within 15 years</p> <p>RA5: The condition of marine habitats is maintained over the next 15 years</p> <p>RA6: The condition of islands is maintained over the next 15 years</p> <p>RA7: No loss of marine species biodiversity or abundance</p> <p>RA8: No new outbreaks of environmentally significant marine pests over the next 20 years</p> <p>RA9: No new outbreaks of environmentally significant terrestrial pests on islands over the next 20 years</p>
Riparian zones, in-stream habitats and freshwater wetlands	<p>R21: Length of functional riparian areas increased by 20% within 10 years (and 50% in 20 years in FRCC sub-region)]</p> <p>R22: Habitat variability and condition of reaches with high ecological value maintained each catchment ongoing</p> <p>R23: Significant wetlands (including their riparian zones) protected, restored, and under appropriate management within 10 years and ongoing</p> <p>R24: 10% improvement in diversity and population of aquatic species, by overcoming in-stream barriers on significant streams and rivers within 10 years</p>
Water Quality	<p>R25: A measurable improvement in water quality at reference sites to be determined, or measured by other means, within 15 years</p> <p>R26: Maintain EC levels consistent with ANZECC guidelines until defined salinity targets are set</p>
Water availability	<p>R27: Achieve WRP Water Allocation Security Objectives post completion of ROP's and ongoing.</p> <p>R28: Achieve environmental flow objectives for the region as indicated in the Fitzroy and Boyne Water Resource Plans ongoing, post completion.</p> <p>R29: Highest efficiency use of water use by all users including urban, industrial, and agricultural within 10 years</p>

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Cultural Heritage and Native Title	<p>R30: No land and sea management, planning or development impacts (e.g. clearing, dams, weirs, extraction) in culturally (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) sensitive areas unless under an approved Cultural Heritage Management Plan ongoing</p> <p>R31: Reduce 'social' impacts on culturally (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) sensitive areas (e.g. theft, loss of knowledge, low awareness or understanding) within 10 years</p> <p>R32: Aboriginal control over Indigenous cultural heritage (e.g. places, sites, artefacts, intellectual property) within 10 years</p>
Native Title	R33: Land management and planning activities allow for full expression of Native Title rights (ongoing)
Economy	<p>R34: Business resilience of regional industries improved ongoing</p> <p>R35: Increase farmers' and the market's 'capacity to pay' for improved NRM within 15 years</p>
Social	<p>R36: Maintain (improve) the population structure of rural towns within 15 years, particularly areas of decentralised growth</p> <p>R37: Reduce net outflow of young people from rural communities within 15 years</p>
Management experience and knowledge	<p>R38: Resource managers are recognised as having a strong capacity for adaptive management within 10 years</p> <p>R39: Indigenous knowledge makes a substantial contribution to land management without loss of Indigenous intellectual property rights within 10 years</p> <p>R40: Traditional knowledge systems and cultural vitality are maintained within 10 years</p>
Regional Coordination	R41: Effective and integrated regional research, information collection, analysis and dissemination within 10 years
Coordinated planning and management, decision-making and participation	<p>R42: Coordinated and integrated resource planning and management activities in the region within 10 years</p> <p>R43: Community derived regional resource use and allocation decisions are trusted and implemented by stakeholders and respected by Federal and State governments within 10 years.</p>

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Management action targets

Asset	Management Action Targets (MATs)
Land	M1: PMP implemented (via neighbourhood catchment and/or other appropriate approaches) incorporating Sustainable Production Systems and achieving range of catchment targets – 25% of catchment within 3 years, 45 % in 5 years and 70% in 10 years.
Soil condition	M2: Adoption of management systems that increase ground cover by an additional 500 landholders within 5 years. M3: Targets developed and refined for ground cover on different soil types, slopes, average rainfall areas and land uses within 5 years.
Weeds and Pest Animals	M4: 10% increase in effort to assist identification, treatment and management of existing weeds and pest animals in land and aquatic environments within 3 years and ongoing (particularly land managers new to an area) M5: 50% increase in effort to assist identification, treatment, and management of new weeds and pest animals in land and aquatic environments within 3 years and ongoing M6: Pest management plans developed and utilised by all local governments within timeframes required by the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002
Fire	M7: Define and implement fire and fuel management regimes appropriate for constituent communities for stated outcomes (in frequency, intensity and seasonality) in the region within 10 years M8: Targets set for fire regimes within 10 years
Climate Change	M9: Practices and technology developed and implemented to minimise net greenhouse gas emissions within 10 years M10: Set regional targets for greenhouse gas emissions, particularly carbon maintenance and sequestration within 10 years
Air Quality	MA1: Improved knowledge and air quality planning and management within 4 years MA2: Regional targets for air quality established within 5 years
Soil Salinity	M11: Implement management practices that seek to achieve natural water balance on 50% of recharge areas to high salinity risk landscapes to prevent salinity occurrence increase in unaffected areas within 5 years M12: Set quantifiable soil salinity targets within 5 years, once salinity risk is known
Acid Sulfate Soils	M13: State Planning Policy 2/02 implemented through local govt planning schemes under IPA and through environmental impact assessment processes under other legislation within 1 year and ongoing

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Mining	M14: Full implementation of EMOS and Environmental Authority conditions for whole of mine life (ongoing) including cultural heritage management, biodiversity, landform stability and cover retention now and ongoing
Forest practices	M15: Code of practice for native and plantation forests for all land tenures developed within 2 years M16: Code of for native and plantation forests for all land tenures implemented within 10 years
Ecosystem Health and Biodiversity	M17: Implement draft RVMPs, and full implementation of Vegetation Management Act 2004 ongoing M18: 150 000ha of private land managed primarily for conservation and under voluntary agreements with the state within 10 years M19: 150 000 ha of private land supporting remnant vegetation voluntary protected and managed primarily for conservation within 10 years M20: 5000 ha of non-remnant native vegetation regenerated on private lands in areas forming wildlife corridors and linkages, particularly in riparian areas within 10 years.
Conserving species	M21: Protection, maintenance and enhancement of the habitat and populations of regional species and their distribution within 10 years M22: Review recovery plans for rare, vulnerable and endangered species and communities to identify common priority actions by March 2005, to support their implementation.
Coasts and estuaries	M23: Development and implementation of Capricorn Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan ongoing. M24: Implementation of State and Curtis Coast Regional Coastal Management Plan ongoing M25: Wetland, estuary and in-shore reef protection program covering 10% extent within 3 years, and 15% within 5 years, and ongoing M26: Refine the COSS2 to fully incorporate coastal and marine issues by March 2005 MA3: 50% of coastal dune and foreshore systems are managed to protect and maintain environmental and cultural values within the next 5 years MA4: Tidal and freshwater flows through estuarine systems are maintained or re-established in 15 % of affected areas within 5 years See also M18, M19, M20
Marine, reef and island habitat	MA5: Set of reef protection targets for existing coral colonies and reef habitats within 2 years MA6: 10% improvement in extent and condition of seagrass beds within 5 years MA7: Protection and management of targeted marine species and their habitats within 5 years MA8: Protection and management of targeted islands within 5 years
Riparian	M27: Implement healthy waterways program to protect and improve

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zones, in-stream habitats and freshwater wetlands	1500 km of riparian area, 2000 ha of wetland, and overcome 2 barriers to migration
Water Quality	<p>M28: Progressively set and refine catchment targets based on best available information for levels of salinity, nitrogen, phosphorus and sediments / suspended particulate matter, with indicative targets in one year, refined targets within 3 years, and confirmed targets within 5 years</p> <p>M29: Identify and establish strategic sites, including in high risk catchments, for event based water quality monitoring within 6 months of funding</p> <p>M30: Improve understanding of processing capacity of estuary, bay and floodplain, within 12 months of funding, in order to set end of valley water quality targets</p> <p>M31: Collect event based water quality data for a representative range of soil types, hill slopes and management practices by June 2005 and ongoing</p> <p>M32: Engage communities in high risk catchments in monitoring and action for improvements in water quality (in conjunction with A109) within 6 months of funding</p>
Water availability	<p>M33: Finalise and implement Water Resource Plans and Resource Operations Plans for Fitzroy and Boyn e / Calliope systems within 3 years</p> <p>M34: Water Resource Plans implemented for all regional stream systems within 10 years</p> <p>M35: Sustainable water management plan, including identification of structural adjustment options, for the Callide Valley developed cooperatively between all water users within 3 years</p>
Cultural Heritage and Native Title	<p>M36: Development and implementation of cultural heritage protection program to protect all cultural heritage (material and non-material) within 5 years</p> <p>M37: Improved opportunities for intergenerational transfer of traditional knowledge within 5 years</p>
Native Title	M38: Native title rights, and/or access, and any necessary compensation agreed and implemented
Economy	M39: Development of options and opportunities to increase business resilience through marketing, diversification and responsiveness to ambient changes
Social	<p>M40: Development and implementation of initiatives that attract and maintain young people (ongoing)</p> <p>M41: Levels of Indigenous and youth employment increased by 20% within 10 years (suggest shorter timeframe) and ongoing</p>

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Management experience and knowledge	M42: Support and increase effective community-based and industry NRM networks, training and education (e.g. Landcare, SFS, IAWM, FBEC etc) within 3 years and ongoing
Regional Coordination	M43: A shared state of the region reporting system is operational in CQ that incorporates baseline data collection, establishment of condition and trend monitoring and public reporting within 2 years M44: R&D activities meeting priority NRM information needs and management applications within 5 years
Coordinated planning and management, decision-making and participation	M45: Improve effectiveness and viability of sub-regional, catchment, and local planning and management activities within 10 years M46: Empower stakeholders to participate in regional decision-making and planning, and influence planning outcomes

Philosophy and thinking

The FBA's approach to NRM is:

- grass roots driven, with a focus on landholders
- focused on encouraging enjoyment in change
 - Wanting to change/commitment
 - Human factor
- Inherently based on continuous improvement in all FBA do
- Active in FBA's review of change
- Driven by concept of neighbourhood catchments. Features of the model are:
 - It targets resources in an identified "neighbourhood"
 - Priority neighbourhoods selected using a structured approach
 - Includes both proactive and responsive activities
 - Flexible to suit local situation
 - Multiple approaches targeting multiple outcomes, holistic view
 - Targets all landholders in the neighbourhood
 - Effort (in time and money) is focussed on building Knowledge, Aspirations, Skills and Attitudes and extension than in incentives



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Expectations of involvement in project

Expectations

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of FBA's work
- Better use of existing data
- Practice change data mechanism
- Understanding different sectors and more detailed segmentation
- Put rigour (i.e. a systems approach) into what is currently an inherent process
- Better understand the drivers of the system, if we can identify and understand the drivers of resource condition, then we are better able to manipulate them
- Better document, track progress against and test the "logic" of what we do;
 - What is going on?
 - What is our influence?
 - What are our assumptions?
 - How confident are we with those assumptions?
 - Can we test that confidence?
- Better able to document and share the answers to each of the questions that this workshop has posed.

Tools

Some tools that FBA is interested in are tools that will:

- Enable them to segment their "market" in more detail
- Put process rigour into what is currently done inherently
- Steps out the logic and provides tools to enhance program evaluation and review of delivery