

Cape York NRM RIS 2014-18: Water

Aspirational program goals

- Improved health and protection of significant aquatic ecosystems (eg. Mitchell fan, Holroyd Plains, Normanby Catchment, Wenlock River) and viable species populations, particularly turtles
- People working together to care for the aquatic environment and to promote the sustainable use of aquatic resources
- Improved western and Indigenous knowledge and management of aquatic ecosystems

Longer-term outcomes

- Coordinated management that is 'climate-ready' and able to adapt to changes in the environmental and economic systems
- Healthy Great Barrier Reef and associated ecosystems and other saltwater environments, eg. seagrass and mangroves
- Targeted threatened species protection, protection of remnant vegetation and advanced landscape-scale wildlife corridors
- Healthy wetlands and waterways that support rare and threatened species and migratory birds
- Right people speaking for and working on Country, consulted with and engaged in aquatic resource management
- Sustainable allocation of water through a water resource plan
- System Knowledge develops and is documented through long-term meaningful engagement

Intermediate outcomes

- Improved mapping and protection of threatened ecological communities
- Increased resilience of environment to natural events and climate change
- Long-term meaningful engagement for improved understanding of issues, opportunities and environmental impacts of water management decisions
- Improved monitoring and planning for water resources, including groundwater
- Long-term meaningful engagement increasing skills and knowledge for land managers
- Landholders implement property management plans that consider impacts on water resources and incorporate innovative ideas
- Improved buy-in from property owners and Traditional Owners
- TO's accessing and caring for Country, IEK recorded and handed down
- Increased understanding of Cape York aquatic resources, how they are managed and of international best practice
- Priorities in property plans are identified by local managers, communicated to the community and continue to be relevant for the long-term

Immediate activities

- Efficiently react to natural events with funds to enable recovery of natural assets
- Build capacity of landholders to respond to natural events and make use of funding opportunities
- Participation in planning for natural event and climate change at the regional level
- Preparing for natural events through recovery plans and climate adaptation
- Systems landscape approach for agriculture that focuses on improving soil water holding capacity and assesses the risks of various construction options related to climate variability
- Investigating and supporting the development of alternative economies which support sustainable use of water in a changing climate
- Collaborate with others for funding to research, monitor and record climate change impacts and sea levels and subsequent impacts on species and ecosystems
- Resource library for water systems knowledge, including documents, visual materials and spatial information
- Monitoring, documenting and analysis of aquatic areas (fresh and salt) for significant species and ecosystems
- Support research that responds to issues of significance, knowledge gaps, emerging issues, and opportunities
- Work with Indigenous groups and assist to access Country, pass on knowledge, and to document IEK and water-related stories where appropriate
- Support landholders, NRM groups, Indigenous rangers and TO's who have ready access to country to implement NRM activities that enhance water quality and protect aquatic ecosystems
- Ongoing information gathering and visualisation process with local people to develop a shared common understanding of catchment-level and local values and issues
- Identify needs and opportunities for workshops and skills development for rangers and agencies, particularly for fresh and salt water turtles and wetlands
- Water resource allocation, capacity building and education to implement and enforce water management plans
- Community and landholder input to identify water management priorities
- Collaborative engagement at the catchment level to develop, implement and review long-term plans related to water

Foundational Activities and Inputs

- CY Atlas: Provide and share opportunities for communicating, collecting, enhancing and sharing knowledge, based around catchments
- Engagement and technical support for the development of system knowledge models for key landscapes across Cape York that describe how water resources interact (including surface water, groundwater and marine)

Natural Events

Climate Change

Knowledge

Coordination

Planning