

Noosa Boating Fishing Alliance

Safe River & Balanced Rules

5 October 2023

Chief Executive Officer
Noosa Council
PO Box 141
Tewantin QLD 4565

Dear Sir,

RE: DRAFT NOOSA RIVER CATCHMENT PLAN

The Noosa Boating and Fishing Alliance (**NBFA**) represents the interests of 1,500 members, with a growing membership from the 5,146 registered vessel owners in Noosa and the wider Noosa community.

The Noosa Shire had the highest per capita registration of small (less than 4.5m in length) vessels in southeast Queensland and the second highest per capital registration of trailerable (less than 8m in length) vessels in southeast Queensland (behind Redland City Council)¹

The NBFA makes the following submission in respect of the draft Noosa River Catchment Plan:

1. Preliminary Objections on Community Consultation

- 1.1 It is misleading and deceptive to assert that the NBFA was consulted on the draft Noosa River Catchment Plan. The NBFA was not. The NBFA did attend a meeting with council staff to discuss operation and seek funding via the transport levy necessary to obtain state government infrastructure funding to fund the off-water boat launching infrastructure.
- 1.2 It is also wrong to assert that closed consultation with select environmental groups is sufficient, adequate or proper community consultation. Accordingly, the NBFA joins in the lack of community consultation objections voiced by:-

Noosa Commercial Marine Operators
Tackleworld Noosa
Breakaway Marine
Laguna Boating Centre
Former members of NRSAC
Noosa North Shore Association

- 1.3 An objection is also made to the limited timeframe to respond to the draft Noosa River Catchment Plan by 5 October 2023. The limited timeframe is prejudicial to all stakeholders as it coincides with school holidays and the distraction of a constitutional referendum.

¹ Queensland Recreational Boating Facilities Demand Study 2022 commissioned by Maritime Safety Queensland released on 6 June 2023.

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- 1.4 At law, the limited timeframe denies the community and stakeholders procedural fairness and contravenes principles of transparent and effective processes, decision-making in the public interest, democratic representation, social inclusion and meaningful community engagement outlined in section 4 of the *Local Government Act 2009*
- 1.5 It is also of great concern to the 1,500 members of the NBFA and, through the grievance effect, the 5,146 registered vessel owners in Noosa and the wider Noosa Community that the late inclusion of the Conservation Park concept into the proposed plan coincides shortly after release of the Queensland Recreational Boating Facilities Demand Study 2022 commissioned by Maritime Safety Queensland and the NBFA submissions made to Council staff to apply part of the Transport Infrastructure Levy (circa \$1 Million Annually) toward funding the off water boat ramp facilities as a necessary co-contribution to access the \$185 million pool of marine infrastructure funding. Noosa will have top priority funding status across the state to access that funding pool, which is 4.4 times larger than the \$40 million on offer for the Resilient Rivers Initiative. The content of the draft plan, with its improper references to vessel movements and restrictions on boat ramp infrastructure, puts Noosa's share of marine infrastructure funding at considerable risk.
- 1.6 It is understood that applications are being prepared to internally and externally review the actions of Council staff to assess their actual knowledge of the Conservation Park proposal and the consultation that has occurred since the project's inception.

WHAT IS REQUIRED IN A CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN / ACTION PLAN

- 2.1 The Resilient Rivers Initiative / Catchment Action Plan criteria are published in the Department of Environment and Science Factsheet and contained in **Appendix 1**. It is described in this commentary as the CAP Factsheet.
- 2.2 In short, the CAP Factsheet describes what needs to be included in a properly constructed plan.

3. No Collaborative agreement with Gympie or Sunshine Coast Regional Councils

- 3.1 The Catchment for the Noosa River spans across three (3) separate Council areas.
- 3.2 The draft Plan fails to comply with the fundamental mandate in item 4 of the CAP Factsheet, which states:-

4. Where a catchment spans two or more council areas, the relevant councils establish a collaborative arrangement to align catchment planning, activities and investment. The lead council(s) ensures a strong community focus is achieved based on local community engagement to identify and address the specific local needs of a catchment.

- 3.3 There is no current '*collaborative agreement with the other Council's to establish catchment planning*'. There is no alignment in planning. The accompanying report further states that all references to the MRCCCC have been deliberately removed, which evinces an intention by NSC **not** to align planning across the catchment. That directly impacts and hinders future funding and ignores a fundamental element of the plan.

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4. Plan fails to address the required content criteria.

4.1 The CAP Factsheet lists in order of priority the relevant criteria to be addressed in a draft plan and **specifically states**:

CRITERIA BY CATEGORY

ECONOMIC

- Agricultural Lands
- Economic Hubs
- Transport and critical infrastructure
 - Airports
 - Railroads
 - Roads

SOCIO-CULTURAL

- Cultural and social assets
 - First Nations Traditional Life
- Wastewater Infrastructure

MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

- Stormwater and Associated Infrastructure
- Water supply, treatment and distribution infrastructure
 - Dams
 - Pipelines
 - Water treatments plants

ECOSYSTEM HABITAT

- Natural Assets
 - Core Bushland and linkages
 - Estuaries
 - Waterways
 - Wetlands

The critical point is that Economic Criteria is listed first, environmental values are listed last, and none of the subcategories are adequately addressed in the draft plan.

This plan does not address any economic criteria mandated by the Resilient Rivers Initiative and outlined in the CAP Factsheet. Furthermore, there is no economic peer review of this draft plan in circumstances where so many families and businesses rely upon the Noosa River for their livelihood. Our Noosa community was founded by early timber getters using the Noosa River in the late 1800s, and the Noosa River has been a central part of our culture and economic viability since that time. Failure to **properly** recognise, appreciate and preserve the significant economic values of the Noosa River is grotesquely offensive. It bespeaks a dereliction of the Council's responsibilities and a failure to observe the social inclusion principles of local government.

4.2 The Plan must contain a statement that states it is an advisory document only and that the NSC intends to produce a revised version of the Plan to accord with agency needs, agency action and regulatory requirements in the future. It fails to do so.

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5. Plan is Biased and Unbalanced

- 5.1 The draft plan is biased toward environmental values. So much is clear from the **all conservation** Peer Review presented to the Council to seek endorsement of the Plan.
- 5.2 The draft plan is clearly biased against powered watercraft in preference to non-powered watercraft. That is evident from the vast content of vessel restrictions in the plan and the following passage on page 30 of the draft plan:

Recreational and commercial use

The Noosa River Marine Zone, in place since 2009, regulates some boating-related uses, however these rules are not well understood and are frequently not observed by the recreational boating public.

The draft plan openly asserts that most of the recreational public are not law-abiding citizens in circumstances without grounds to make that assertion. Such commentary is plainly offensive and otherwise contravenes the local government principles set out in section 4(2) of the *Local Government Act 2009*.

- 5.3 Further evidence of bias towards motorised watercraft can be seen:-

- (a) on page 14, *exclusion of personal watercraft (e.g. jet skis) through this section of river,*
- (b) on page 16, inclusion of the PWC exclusion zone map;
- (c) on page 39, the plan seeks to alter MSQ distance off regulations to include non-powered craft – in effect, making the whole river a six-knot zone

Public safety

- a. In-water activities such as boating and swimming are monitored and managed for their compatibility and risk in terms of speed limits, boating types and size, intensity and extent of use and user behaviours.
- b. Distance off regulations are monitored and enforced and apply to non-powered craft as well as swimmers.

- (d) on page 43, restricting personal watercraft use to transiting the river channel downstream of Noosa Waters inlet to the river mouth;
- (e) page 62, developing a Boating and PWC code of practice, which itself is completely inconsistent with items (a),(b) and (c) above. To exclude Non-powered craft in a code of practice, assume all the problems lie solely at the feet of boat and PWC users.

All of this is contained in the draft plan notwithstanding:-

- (a) general support from Councillors to the prior NBFA proposal to modify the PWC exclusion zone to permit PWC launching from Tewantin;
- (b) officers from MSQ have indicated general support for the proposal, and
- (c) senior policy advisors at MSQ wish to talk to NSC about the NBFA submission on those terms appearing in **Appendix 2**.

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This draft plan seeks to close down the NBFA proposal without any community consultation and reflect the plan and council staff's bias toward recreational boating in all its forms on the Noosa River.

- 5.4 None of the other existing plans for the Logan-Albert, the Lockyer Plan, the Lower Brisbane- Redlands Coast Plan and the Pumicestone Passage Plan contain motorised vessel restrictions. Indeed, the content of the Plan is in conflict with the Noosa River Plan and thereby contravenes section 29(3) of the *Local Government Act 2009*. In short, containing vessel restrictions in a catchment management plan is simply inappropriate.

6. Noosa Everglades

- 6.1 It is embarrassing that this plan pays little attention to the Noosa Everglades system. Particularly given the results of Noosa MP Sandy Bolton's recent community survey showing locals do not support the proposed new eco-accommodation development.

our recent survey for Noosa residents on this proposed project. Although a 'small' majority of 53.38 per cent were in support of the current activities including bushwalking, kayaking, surfing, tours, camping as currently conducted, the majority were against any form of new eco-accommodation sites.

- 6.2 The Noosa River Everglades is one of only 2 Everglades systems worldwide. It contains 44% of Australia's bird species, but it is barely mentioned in the draft plan. What that reveals is that the true intention of the plan is to provide another layer of restriction on motorised vessel movements on the Noosa River.

WHAT DOES A GOOD CATCHMENT ACTION PLAN LOOK LIKE?

- 7.1 The CAP Factsheet also states:

Consistency in the preparation of CAPs across the SEQ region

- 7.2 Two things are then clearly evident: the draft plan put forward for endorsement looks nothing like any other draft plan for any other Council in SE Queensland, and the peer review submitted to support it is biased. Peer review should encompass:-

- submission of the draft plan to the SEQ Council of Mayors for independent review and comment, and
- peer review ought to be done by other SEQ Council staff who have already developed their own working plans in other jurisdictions.

- 7.3 In terms of what a good Catchment Action Plan might look like, the Resilient Rivers Initiative has already produced the:-

Brehmer River Catchment Action Plan

Lower Brisbane – Redlands Coastal Catchment Action Plan

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Logan-Albert Catchment Action Plan

Mid Brisbane Catchment Action Plan

The first point to note is that **all** of these Action Plans (nor the Council Plan / Framework behind them) do not require nor seek to turn their river systems into a Conservation Park. Indeed, the *Redlands Coast Bay and Creeks Plan 2021-2031* (upon which the Catchment Action Plan is based) specifies that it is a 'non-statutory document' meaning that it does not seek nor does it need any further legislative 'head of power' to implement its objectives.

The second thing to note is that the content of the Plans of other local governments is much more aligned with conservation principles and objectives of those reports:-

1. Contain references to dealing with population growth, extreme weather, land use, flood mitigation, sediment control, stormwater treatment, water quality, litter, native fish species, invasive weeds, stratification within the groundwater column, acidification, algal bloom, riparian vegetation;
2. **DO NOT** contain any references to vessel restrictions or vessel management, unlike the draft plan presented to NSC. What is clear is that vessel restrictions should not be incorporated into a River Catchment Management Plan;
3. **DO** contain further references to targeted Policy and Planning actions. For example

Policy and planning actions
9. Embed updated SEQ Environmental Values, Water Quality Objectives and accompanying aquatic ecosystem mapping under the Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009 into local planning schemes.
10. Clarify the regulatory framework for the sustainable management of shallow groundwater aquifers to support waterway health, wetlands groundwater recharge to protect water security.
11. Build towards a greater body of knowledge of surface and groundwater resources on North Stradbroke Island to better inform water resource planning by identifying existing data and assessing data gaps, and establishing a centralised data collection, storage and sharing framework.
12. Identify Indigenous landscape values in conjunction with Native Title and without using the Department of Environment and Science's ecosystems service manual for appropriate inclusion of Indigenous landscape values in catchment and land management activities.
13. Ensure the Queensland government's waterway management technical guideline (under development) is appropriate for urban waterway restoration designs and recognises Indigenous landscape values (identified in action 4).
14. Establish an agreed framework to ensure regular Lidar surveys are performed and are suitable for the purposes of catchment planning (e.g. roles, funding, frequency).
15. Undertake detailed mapping and condition assessment of sub-tidal and intertidal wetlands for restoration and protection planning to reduce coastal erosion and impacts of climate change.

CONSERVATION PARK

- 8.1 By Council staff's own admission, including a Conservation Park in the Noosa Draft Catchment plan is so new that many former NRSAC members were unaware of its consideration. This confirms that **NO** genuine broad community consultation has been conducted. As such, it should be removed from the Draft Noosa River Catchment Plan.
- 8.2 There are already three (3) conservation parks on the Noosa River Noosa, which are currently managed by the Department of Environment and Science and not the NSC, so the proposal to make NSC Trustee is bound to fail.
- 8.3 A Conservation Park over all declared fish habitats on the Noosa River will have the effect of turning the entire Noosa River into a Conservation Park. See **Appendix 3**.

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- 8.4 NSC does not have the appropriately qualified officers, resources or funding to maintain and manage the proposed Conservation Plan. MSQ and Fisheries are state-funded and have **specialist** officers who perform these tasks **at no cost to NSC**.
- 8.5 The proposed Conservation Park will act as a control mechanism for a small group to exert dramatically inflated influence over the river, negatively affecting access to the river by Noosa's Recreational and Commercial river users, which is unacceptable.
- 8.6 NSC lacks the technical skills or resources to manage the entire Fish Habitat Areas for the Noosa River. It should not seek to burden itself with the responsibilities of state agencies, which are set out below:
- 8.7 Primary Collaborators noted on page 46 as Kabi Kabi, DAF & DES. Why would Noosa's Recreational and Commercial sector's needs and input be excluded?

Queensland Government

The Queensland Government is responsible for water security and water quality by setting policy direction and compliance.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has regulatory, policy and catchment management roles. DES regulates Environmentally Relevant Activities under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and is responsible for setting Water Quality Objectives and Environmental Values under the *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 2009*. The Queensland Wetlands Program within DES provides information and tools including the "Walking the Landscape" map journals. DES also manages Moreton Bay Marine Park as a multi-use marine protected area under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. The object of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* is the conservation of nature, while allowing for the social, cultural and commercial use of protected areas in a way that is consistent with the natural, cultural and other values of the area.

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (DNRM) is responsible for regulating activities under the *Water Act 2000*, including managing water allocation for irrigation and other purposes, and physical works within water courses. This department works closely with Seqwater and DES.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) regulates intensive livestock industries, horticultural industries, biosecurity, aquaculture, and commercial, recreational and indigenous fisheries throughout South East Queensland. Declared Fish Habitat Areas, waterways providing for fish passage, and marine plants are State Interests under the *State Planning Policy* and are managed under the *Fisheries Act 1994*. Compliance with Accepted Development Requirements or a Development Approval is required under the *Planning Act 2016* for any development that involves impacts on marine plants, declared Fish Habitat Areas, waterway barrier works (fish passage) or aquaculture. There are several declared Fish Habitat Areas within the Moreton Bay area that recognise and protect the valuable contribution these areas provide to fisheries' productivity in the region.

The Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDMIP) administers the *Planning Act 2016* by co-ordinating the functions of infrastructure planning and policy, regional and local government planning and services, and economic development. The *State Planning Policy—Water Quality* sets the state's policy direction for protecting and enhancing environmental values and quality.

- 8.8 The lack of expertise by the NSC to even administer a Trustee role is further evidenced by the Council's recent attempt to manage the simple task of dredging on the Noosa River, which resulted in a complete failure. That dredging failure has compounded the dangers of the Noosa Rivermouth and Noosa Bar, which resulted in a boat rollover on 20 September 2023 and a near miss, as illustrated by the photo appearing below:

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NSC Ratepayers should not be expected to foot the Bill

- 9.1 Currently, the Noosa River is administered by the state agencies of MSQ fisheries.
- 9.2 Both state agencies have **annual budgetary funding** for programs and maintenance on the Noosa River. Adopting the proposed plan for short-term grant funding will have long-term financial consequences in that:-
- (a) If the NSC became the Trustee under any plan, then financial responsibility would shift to the NSC, and Noosa Ratepayers would incur the financial burden;
 - (b) MSQ would have grounds to remove the presence of the dedicated MSQ officer at Parkyn Palace, Tewantin, on the basis that it is now an NSC responsibility;
 - (c) MSQ and Fisheries also have in-house experts to provide advice about the Fish Habitats at no cost to Noosa Ratepayers. The draft plan calls for external consultation on 50 action pieces, meaning those consultants will cost ratepayers.
- 9.3 NBRFA members have already expressed concern that they do not want a repeat of the \$3.7 million blowout from the oyster reef project, which has not produced a single oyster and has goals yet to be proven. As one member said, 'I can't believe it cost \$3.7 Million to put rocks in the river. They look terrible and are a navigation hazard. All Council had to do was to look at the lack of oysters opposite the Sheraton, which have been there for 50 years, to know that this project won't work.' This project was clearly a case of putting the cart before the horse. The money would have been better spent on the 'Keep it in Kin Kin' program, stopping sediment and chemical inflows into the river. As experts have said, 'oysters don't recruit and grow well without clean water'.

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CLOSING REMARKS

1. The Plan has no adequate Community Consultation.
2. The Plan does not coordinate with any plans developed by the MRCCC or Sunshine Coast Regional Council.
3. The content of the plans fails to meet the basic criteria and bespeak bias on the part of those presenting it at its highest and a questionable level of competence at the very least.
4. The plan is embarrassing because it cares more about vessel restrictions than preserving things like the Noosa Everglades.
5. The plan denies those who earn a livelihood from the river the fundamental right to Procedural Fairness and does not address their needs.
6. The Conservation Park concept has been kept as a hidden agenda that has been slipped in at the last minute under the mistaken guise of urgency to pass a plan to obtain funding.
7. The Plan will hinder funding opportunities.

WHAT OUGHT BE DONE?

The NBFA petitions the Council to:

1. Send the plan back to staff to remove references to vessel restrictions and a Conservation Park, then review and amend the draft plan to align with the CAP Factsheet mandates.
2. Send the draft plan to SCRC and Gympie Council for alignment planning and to the SEQ Council of Mayors for peer review and comment.
3. Conduct full and proper community consultation on any plan produced in the future.

In the interim, the NBFA requests that the Council immediately develop a high-priority plan and funding prospectus to support the Keep it Kin Kin project, reducing chemical inflows and implementing sediment control in the Kin Kin Creek region as a targeted response to attract immediate resilient rivers funding.

The Noosa Boating Fishing Alliance is ready to support a catchment plan that focuses on sensible initiatives that improve Noosa River water quality in line with the goals of the Resilient Rivers Initiative. Does not seek to place restrictions on motorised vessels & fishers and has been through a genuine broad Community consultation process.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues.

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APPENDIX 1

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Catchment Action Plan/Resilient Rivers Initiative (Department of Environment and Science)

WetlandInfo — Department of Environment and Science



Home > Resources > Interactive tools and case studies > Assessment Toolbox > Assessment method detail

Catchment Action Plan/Resilient Rivers Initiative

Developer	Council of Mayors South East Queensland (CoMSEQ), Queensland Government, SEQ Water, UnityWater, Queensland Urban Utilities, Healthy Land and Water
Latest documentation	2021
Designed for use in	Queensland, Australia Southeast Queensland Waterways, Moreton Bay
Ongoing	Yes
Assessment purpose	Condition, Management effectiveness, Policy, Processes and components
Assessment criteria	Socio-cultural, Management and planning, Ecosystem/habitat, Economic
Method type	Desktop, expert panel, consultation
Timescale	Medium-long term - The South East Queensland (SEQ) Resilient Rivers Initiative Regional Strategy spans ten years (2015 - 2025) and it typically takes at least one year to complete a CAP and several years to complete the associated management actions.
Scale	Landscape/Catchment
Wetland system	Estuarine, Riverine

Description and method logic

Method purpose

The Resilient Rivers Initiative aims to improve the health of waterways and Moreton Bay by delivering more coordinated catchment management to protect water and keep soil on the land and out of the waterways. The Initiative is a high-level collaborative effort to establish an investment in and management of the waterways of SEQ, building on existing efforts. It requires a good understanding of the movement of water in the landscape, clearly identifying and agreeing on high-risk areas, incorporating the values of the local community, coordinating on-ground action, and is developed on a catchment-by-catchment basis.

The goals of the Resilient Rivers Initiative are:

- To promote partnerships with strong leadership to deliver a coordinated approach to catchment management in SEQ
- To keep soil on the land and out of waterways
- To help protect the region's water security so we can support the current and future population of SEQ
- To improve the climate resilience of the region.

The 2025 Outcomes of the Resilient Rivers Assessment Method, will be achieved through the development of Catchment Action Plans (CAPs) across the region and by implementing the high priority works in the Plans. Agreed targets and priority areas for investment will be established for each CAP, which will be underpinned by the best available science and assessment of the known risks.

Summary

Nestled under the Resilient Rivers Initiative are a set of CAPs that outline localised priorities within a specific catchment. CAPs identify assets and associated services, threats, issues and impacts for a particular catchment. Assets are identified as being of regional significance, benefitting more than one local government area, and in the context of the four goals of the Resilient Rivers Initiative: Being protected by water quality, erosion and sediment, and/or extreme weather events (floods and storm surges), along with significant socio, environmental and economic services.

The principles by which the CAPs are to be developed are as follows:

1. For planning purposes, the catchment is the basis of the management unit.
2. The CAPs include realistic and achievable short term (over 3 years) actions appropriate for each local catchment which collectively provide the critical implementation path to achieving overall regional economic, social and environmental objectives.
3. The CAPs are developed and delivered in partnership with government, industry, non-government organisations and the community. The CAPs build on existing plans including where relevant, existing local government plans, utility asset management plans and the SEQ NRM Plan with a nested approach to increasing localisation from river catchments to creek catchments. Key stakeholders from each catchment are involved from the beginning to build community and stakeholder ownership.
4. Where a catchment spans two or more council areas, the relevant councils establish a collaborative arrangement to align catchment planning, activities and investment. The lead council (to be determined) ensures a strong community focus is achieved based on local community engagement to identify and address the specific local needs of a catchment.
5. The CAP provides a single investment decision point for the catchment to align relevant resources.
6. A sound scientific and adaptive management planning basis underpins CAPs and new information, emerging technologies and the effectiveness of implemented actions are incorporated to inform future actions.

Method logic

A five-step process is undertaken to develop a CAP:

- Step 1: Walking the Landscape workshop to understand components and processes such as geology and hydrology.
- Step 2: Catchment description and issues including defining assets, services, values and objectives.
- Step 3: Risk assessment including targets and preliminary management actions.
- Step 4: Prioritisation of management actions.
- Step 5: Publishing including endorsement from collaborators.

<https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/resources/tools/assessment-search-tool/catchment-action-plan-resilient-rivers-initiative/>

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Catchment Action Plan/Resilient Rivers Initiative (Department of Environment and Science)

Consistency in the preparation of CAPs across the SEQ region is desirable to allow for regional prioritisation of projects where appropriate. To achieve this, the following aspects of a CAP benefit in being consistent:

- assets-based risk assessment approach that links to the regional goals
- prioritisation of management options (e.g. using a cost-benefit analysis based on the [Investment Framework for Environmental Resources \(INFFER\) methodology](#))
- monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The final outcome is a CAP document for key investors and stakeholders of a specific catchment. A final CAP will be a strategic document, web-based, with reference to more detailed supporting documents where appropriate.

Criteria groupings of the method

Assets are catchment-based and can include:

- Water supply, treatment and distribution infrastructure
- Stormwater and associated infrastructure
- Wastewater infrastructure
- Transport and critical infrastructure
- Economic hubs
- Agricultural lands
- Natural assets such as waterways, estuaries and other wetlands, core bushland and linkages
- Cultural and social assets.

Each asset can have several associated services, for example the asset of an estuary can provide the services of fisheries (recreational and commercial), recreation, aquaculture, protection from storm surge and flooding, and biodiversity. Each asset can also have several threats, such as sediment, fish passage barriers and reduced seagrass in the case of an estuary. Other threats can include population growth, extreme weather events, and land use change, particularly urban footprint increases. Each threat can in turn have a range of issues and impacts.

Data required

- Land-use mapping and other spatial data such as geology, wetlands, waterways, and vegetation
- Conceptual models linking assets, services and threats
- Expert and stakeholder information
- Field data to inform and assess management actions
- Threat data (e.g. sediment, fish passage barriers and reduced seagrass)
- Assets data (e.g. transport and critical infrastructure, economic hubs, agricultural lands, water supply, treatment and distribution infrastructure, stormwater and associated infrastructure, wastewater infrastructure)
- Catchment-based ecosystem services data
- Hydrological data
- Geomorphological data
- Socio-economic data.

Resources required

Expertise required

High-level expert knowledge of catchment management, stakeholder engagement, risk assessment, management actions (on-ground works) and spatial analysis.

Materials required

Spatial and non-spatial data, a database platform for data storage, a Geographic Information System (GIS) platform for result presentation and interpretation, modelling software.

Method outputs

Outputs

- Catchment Action Plan
- Catchment maps
- Industry-led 'best practice' management programs
- Business operating model
- Catchment investment program with agreed implementation targets
- Catchment-based conceptual model
- Catchment-based risk register
- Catchment-based risk maps.

Use

- Decision support
- Inform management interventions
- Prioritise tasks, funding, and other management needs
- Input to monitoring and assessment reports for SEQ
- Threat characterisation and risk assessment assisting prioritisations.

Assets category

Economic

- Agricultural lands
- Economic hubs
- Transport and critical infrastructure
 - Airports
 - Railways
 - Roads

Socio-cultural

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Catchment Action Plan/Resilient Rivers Initiative (Department of Environment and Science)

- Cultural and social assets
 - First Nations traditional sites
- Wastewater Infrastructure

Management and planning

- Stormwater and associated infrastructure
- Water supply, treatment, and distribution infrastructure
 - Dams
 - Pipelines
 - Water treatment plants

Ecosystem/habitat

- Natural assets
 - Core bushland and linkages
 - Estuaries
 - Waterways
 - Wetlands

Review

Recommended user

Local, State and Commonwealth government, catchment groups and other community groups, water utilities, business, industry, and other stakeholders.

Strengths

- Collaborative Initiative that brings together a wide range of stakeholders
- Easily understood by users with varying backgrounds, experience and qualifications
- Flexible, can be applied to all catchments of SEQ and potentially other parts of Queensland
- Based on an adaptive management framework
- Catchment-based and holistic across the whole catchment
- Stand-alone but can interface with other databases and types of data.

Limitations

- A lot of work required to undertake each stage of the CAP
- Complexities associated with working across a relatively large group of diverse stakeholders
- The four goals are specific and primarily anthropogenic and do not pick up on many of the goals for the natural systems.

Case studies

SEQ Council of Mayors, Healthy Land and Water, Unity Water, Green and Government, Queensland Urban Utilities & Seqwater (2018), *Bremer River Catchment Action Plan*.

[Lockyer Catchment Action Plan 2015 – 2018, Resilient Rivers Initiative](#)

[Logan-Albert Catchment Action Plan 2017 – 2020, Resilient Rivers Initiative](#)

[Lower Brisbane-Redlands Coastal Catchment Action Plan 2018 – 2021, Resilient Rivers Initiative](#)

[Pumicestone Passage and Catchment Action Plan 2013–2016](#)

[The Big Flood Project, Logan Valley and broader SEQ](#)

Links

- [Resilient Rivers Initiative Overview](#)
- [Resilient Rivers](#)

References

1. Atstrang, M, Pannell, D, Robert, A, Park, G, Alexander, J & Marsh, S (2010), *Introduction to INFFER*. [online], University of Western Australia, Perth. Available at: <https://www.inffer.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Introduction-to-INFFER-v7.pdf> (PDF).
2. Council of Mayors & Queensland Government (2014), *Resilient Rivers Initiative Overview*. [online], Council of Mayors (SEQ). Available at: <https://files.councilofmayors.qld.gov.au/googleapis.com/v0/b/seqmaps-25ef7.appspot.com/o/publications%2FGGvasZL8PthC2qm0C0qF7-alt-media%2ftoken=6d89fd44-0256-47de-b8f9-dd9516ef867f>.
3. Resilient Rivers Taskforce (2016), *Guide to the preparation of a Catchment Action Plan*. [online], Council of Mayors (SEQ), Brisbane. Available at: <https://files.councilofmayors.qld.gov.au/googleapis.com/v0/b/seqmaps-25ef7.appspot.com/o/publications%2FOPui9qd0Bk89E9EVepIs7-alt-media%2ftoken=d8992b82-a83b-4ce2-b458-82aa2b875a1c>.

Last updated: 1 February 2021

This page should be cited as:

Department of Environment and Science, Queensland (2021) Catchment Action Plan/Resilient Rivers Initiative, WetlandInfo website, accessed 29 September 2023. Available at: <https://wetlandinfo.des.qld.gov.au/wetlands/resources/tools/assessment-search-tool/catchment-action-plan-resilient-rivers-initiative/>



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APPENDIX 2

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@msq.qld.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 21 September 2023 3:14 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Noosa River Marine Zone - Speed Changes

Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email about the Commercial PWC area in the Noosa River.

Consideration of the operation of PWCs on the Noosa River is part of MSQ's broader work for vessel management on the Noosa River, particularly in relation to safety.

As you are aware, the Noosa River Marine Zone was established following a proposal for a marine zone from Noosa Shire Council.

MSQ will be discussing the operation of PWCs in Noosa River with Noosa Council.

Following these discussions, MSQ will write to you again once further information is available.

Kind regards

[REDACTED] Policy, Planning and Regulation
Maritime Safety Queensland | Customer Service, Safety and Regulation Division
Department of Transport and Main Roads

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Noosa Boating Fishing Alliance

Safe River & Balanced Rules

APPENDIX 3

NOOSA RIVER DECALRED FISH HABITAT AREAS

