

Burnett Mary NRM and Climate Adaptation Plan 2015

Strategic directions and 2020 asset targets

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Strategic direction: Land and sea country values that focus the guardianship of Aboriginal people in the Burnett Mary region are widely acknowledged across the entire community.

ACH1. The knowledge base of Aboriginal cultural heritage is documented and informs land and sea cultural management plans.

ACH2. Traditional Owners undertake on-ground assessment, protection and management of areas of cultural significance.

ACH3. Regional Councils, State Government agencies and other major land and sea -management agencies recognise and respect cultural heritage values in their urban planning and NRM related processes and have established working relationships with Traditional Owners.

ACH4. The cultural values and caring for country aspirations of regional Aboriginal people are promoted by an increased number of the region's educational, research, tourism and government organisations.

Air and Climate

Strategic direction: The region makes its contribution to mitigation measures that reduce atmospheric carbon releases and address state and national air quality targets.

A1. The effect of air contaminant levels on the community will be maintained at or below 2015 levels.

A2. Education and extension initiatives that improve the community's understanding of climate change causes, effects and mitigation measures are delivered.

A3. Participation in schemes that encourage bio-sequestration, using the carbon storage capacity of vegetation and soils, will exceed the 2015 baseline.

A4. Regional initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric carbon releases will exceed 2015 levels.

Coastal and Marine

Strategic direction: Coastal, estuarine and marine resources and their processes:

- *are healthy and resilient*
- *are appreciated for their value and vulnerability to changes in climate and human activity*
- *underpin our community's industries and lifestyles.*

Physical and biological processes

CM1. Critical ecological connections (interactions) and processes are identified.

CM2. Surface water and groundwater flows are measured and maintain ecological connections that underpin coastal values.

CM3. Geomorphological processes (including riverine and shoreline) maintain or restore sediment transport that sustains beaches and coastal dunes.

Coastal, estuarine and marine habitats

CM4. The extent of all coastal, estuarine and marine benthic habitats will be known and a baseline created.

CM5. The function and value of all coastal, estuarine and marine benthic habitats are improved or maintained.

CM6. There is no net loss of the extent of natural wetlands.

CM7. There is an improvement in the ecological processes and environmental values of natural wetlands.

Coastal, estuarine and marine plants & animals

CM8. There is no adverse change in biological diversity in coastal, estuarine and marine species.

CM9. Plants and animals of ecological, economic, conservation or iconic value are identified and, where possible, actions are implemented to improve or sustain their populations.

CM10. Actions identified in the Burnett Mary Water Quality Improvement Plan are implemented to achieve water quality targets to maintain coastal, estuarine and marine ecosystem health.

Freshwater

Strategic direction: Freshwater ecosystems of the region are healthy; their protection and management is underpinned by an increased public appreciation of their value and vulnerability to changes in landscape features, climate and human activity.

Function

F1. The ecological function of water dependent ecosystems is improved from the 2015 baseline.

Connectivity

F2. The ecological connectivity within and between freshwater habitats (both aquatic and terrestrial) and the marine interface is improved from the 2015 baseline.

Understanding

F3. The ecological importance and sensitivities of the region's freshwater assets is better understood, more widely appreciated and more thoroughly considered in planning.

Water quality

F4. The quality of riverine, coastal, estuarine and marine waters will improve in order to, at least, meet accepted water quality objectives.

Land and Soils

Strategic direction: Land condition and soil health within the region will be maintained or improved.

Soil salinity

LS1. Salinity extent and severity is maintained at the 2015 baseline. MODERATE

Soil acidification

LS2. Soil acidification is maintained at the 2012 baseline for agricultural land. LOW

Soil organic matter

LS3. Soil Organic Matter is maintained at the 2012 baseline for agricultural land. MODERATE

Erosion

LS4. Sheet erosion risk, stream bank erosion risk and gully erosion extent and severity do not exceed 2015 baseline levels. HIGH

Acid sulfate soils

LS5. The extent of acidification caused by the disturbance of Acid Sulfate Soil does not exceed the 2015 baseline. LOW

Cropping Land

LS6. The extent of suitable Cropping Land (i.e. cropping, horticulture and plantation forestry) is maintained at the 2015 baseline. HIGH

Grazing Land

LS7. Ground cover of grazing lands is maintained at the 2015 baseline. HIGH

Plants and Animals

Strategic direction: Healthy vegetation communities, associated landscape processes and habitat values are maintained across the region.

Extent

PA1. The extent of the region's vegetation communities will be maintained at the 2013 baseline.

Diversity

PA2. The diversity of vegetation communities will be maintained at 2013[1] levels and opportunities for sustaining species' populations, particularly those that are threatened[2], will be improved.

Landscape function

PA3. Landscape function is enhanced through activities that address threatening processes.