

R-CM 2: Partnerships for Progress

Strengthen partnerships – through a range of scale and context appropriate mechanisms (e.g. local level working groups; catchment scale partnerships; region-wide partnerships) - to maximise the effectiveness and efficiency of existing resources.

This strategy delivers on these Regional Themes	Biodiversity	Biosecurity	Coastal Systems	Sustainable Industries	Water
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
This strategy delivers on these Strategic Outcomes	Supportive, policies, plans and regulations	Collaborative, adaptive planning and action	Traditional Owner Benefits	Sustained and diverse resourcing	Community stewardship, values and action
		✓	✓	✓	✓

Outcome	<p>Working more effectively together across sectors and tenures will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well aligned workplans (targets and actions) between different organisations, based on collective and agreed aims (a collective big picture). • Improved return on investment from existing resources (cash and non-cash). • Improved access to skills, knowledge and expertise, including for Traditional Owners working on country, or aspiring to secure investment to work on country.
Justification	<p>Resources are already available in the region, but are best delivered through collaboration. We need to learn to do more with what we already have! Building partnerships aimed at improving adaptive management, although involving effort, delivers rewards in terms of the effectiveness of the limited resources that are available. Sharing information and collectively prioritising ensures that all those working on NRM are singing from the same song sheet, even if they are each singing different parts. Policy influence will be more effective if tackled collectively.</p>
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Identify and evaluate the existing arrangements, and the ways in which they can be improved or re-invigorated; including an evaluation of why they are or are not working well at present – ensure there is a clear purpose to these arrangements and that have the potential to deliver benefits for all. 2) Identify additional opportunities for synergies and cost sharing (e.g. communications; training) within current partnerships, ensuring there is a clear and agreed purpose and benefit to be gained. 3) Expand thinking to other sectors or organisations that NRM professionals don't currently work collaboratively with (e.g. from the education sector, tourism, council planners) – it's important to engage in new, broader collaborations to refresh existing ones through bringing in new ideas and opportunities and to prevent burn-out. 4) Develop and implement a system for tracking the value-add of working together, presenting as quantitative and qualitative data (e.g. case studies of the \$ value of collaborative arrangements). 5) Communicate the story of working more effectively together and investing the time in collaboration, initially within our respective organisations, but also more broadly.

Feasibility considerations

- ✓ There are existing relationships and arrangements and a lot of good will to build on.
- ✓ Limited resources across the board are a driver for more efficient, effective, collaborative approaches.
- ✓ There are cost effective gains to be made that don't require additional investment and can be initiated immediately within our current resources.
- ✗ Collaboration requires a high level of commitment and there are ever competing priorities and pressures, exacerbated by staff downscaling across the board – collaboration is even more important these days, but increasingly difficult to commit to.
- ✗ Staff changes interrupt the cohesion of collaborative arrangements.