

R-CM 3: A Regional Biodiversity 'Charter'

Collaboratively develop a transparent region-wide agreement on new 'goals' and priorities for biodiversity, building in emerging information (science) and climate change.

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>A collaboratively developed region-wide Biodiversity Charter will result in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective agreement about the priorities for biodiversity and how to move forward in the light of new and emerging challenges. • A common vision for communicating to a wide range of stakeholders, including politicians and policy makers, as well as community. • The best possible return on investment (cash and non-cash) in terms of building regional biodiversity resilience to current and future stressors.
Justification	<p>While there have been many discussions across the region over the past decades about biodiversity, a revision of the goals and priorities for investment are required, and should be developed collaboratively across different sectors and stakeholders. In the light of a changing climate and the need to work towards a different climate future rather than looking back towards a pre-European past, key questions to ask are: "What are the key concepts of biodiversity in a changing climate and how will this influence priorities?"</p>
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Work collaboratively through existing arrangements (refined as necessary) to identify a clear purpose and scope for the Charter – it is not a workplan for individual organisations, it provides the higher level vision and direction for where to put our effort, and what we hope to achieve through that effort. Integration of the cultural values of biodiversity will be essential. 2) Through this process, identify who should be involved, and how (e.g. is it through a Biodiversity Futures forum or some other form of high profile process, or is it more about the people who are already within the system taking the time to sit down with scientists and systematically think things through?). Important to identify the opportunities to connect and integrate planning and management across sectors – 'borderless' approach, but retaining a clear focus on the gains to each partner – WIFM (what's in it for me). 3) Identify and strengthen the links with Brisbane and Canberra, engaging critical decision makers in the process from the start, with a clear understanding of what needs to be produced to have an influence. 4) Based on the above, develop the Charter. 5) Develop effective communication products (and processes).

Feasibility considerations

- ✓ There are existing networks and good will in relation to working collaboratively.
- ✓ There is a lot of recent science that can inform the discussion, if integrated and packaged well.
- ✓ The development of the Wet Tropics Plan and Spatial Portal provides an opportunity for bringing together a lot of the science, and thinking about how to integrate it and package it in a way that makes it available for strategic, futures planning.
- ✗ There could be some resistance to new ways of thinking if it questions at all the relevance of existing plans or ways of working. Changing a paradigm or way of thinking is not easy for most people.
- ✗ People/practitioners are overwhelmed by the threats posed to biodiversity by the complexity of stressors including climate, development, invasive species, etc. It is a really hard conversation to have in a meaningful but contained way.
- ✗ We need to be realistic – there is only so much that individuals can take on.