



National Environmental Accounts

Max Kitchell



NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REGIONS
Australia



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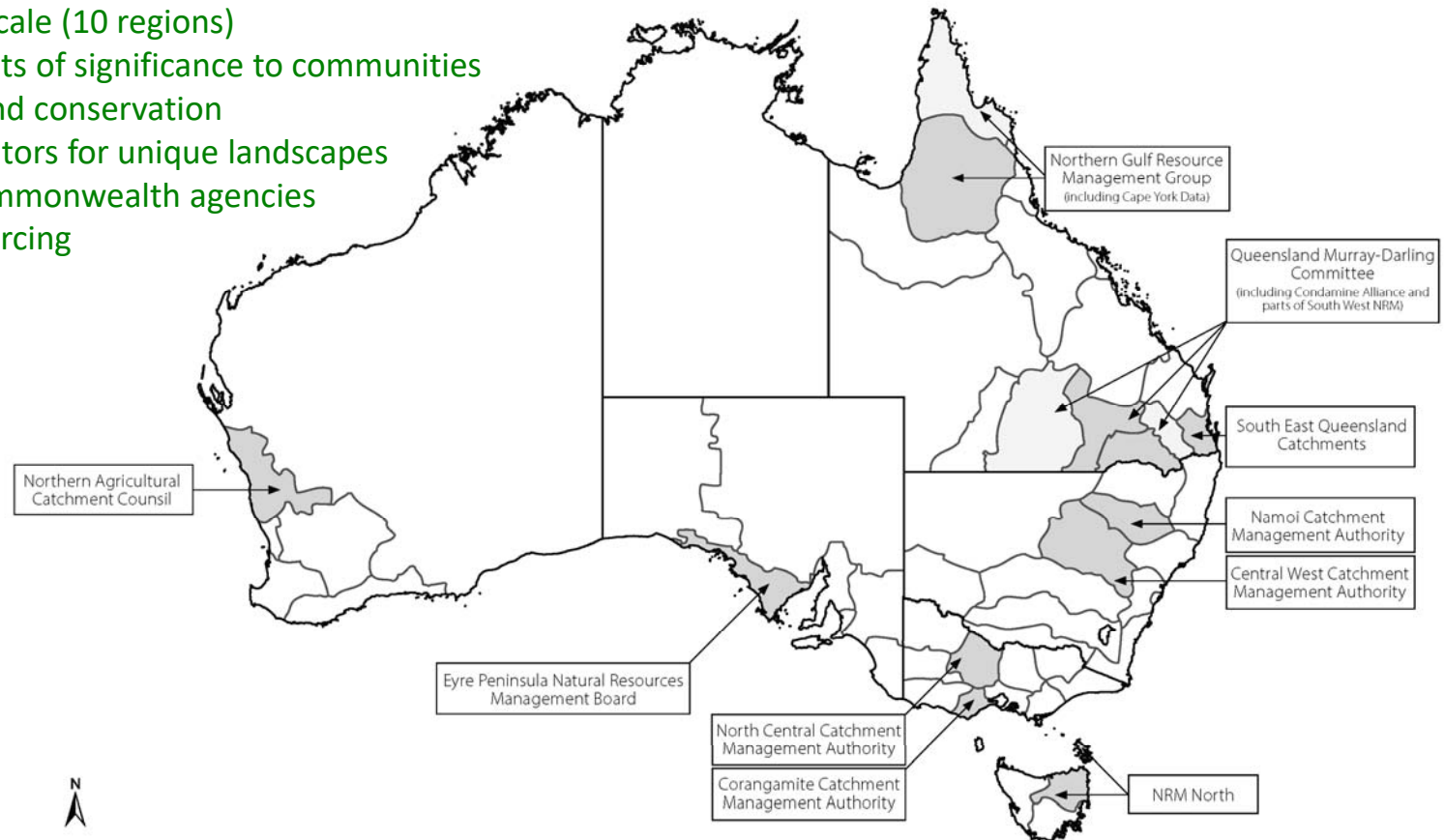
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Australian Regional Environmental Accounts Trial

Context:

- Continental scale (10 regions)
- Range of assets of significance to communities
- Production and conservation
- Unique indicators for unique landscapes
- State and Commonwealth agencies
- Limited resourcing
- Existing data



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	LAND			FRESHWATER				COAST	MARINE	
REGION	Vegetation*	Fauna*	Soil	Rivers	Wetlands	Groundwater	Floodplains	Estuaries	Fauna*	Other
Central West Catchment Management Authority (NSW)										
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (VIC)										
Natural Resources Eyre Peninsula (SA)										
Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (WA)										
Namoi Catchment Management Authority NSW										
North Central Catchment Management Authority (VIC)										
Northern Gulf Resource Management Group (QLD)										
NRM North (TAS)										
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QLD)										
SEQ Catchments (QLD)										
*Native only.  Birds.  Southern Right Whales.  Dugongs.  Morten Bay Fisheries.										

Data sources:

- Commonwealth agencies
 - State agencies
 - Research institutes
 - NRM Consultants
 - Citizen science
 - Landholders
- Synthesized for regional level decision making
- Results aggregated:
- Regional, state, national
 - Individual assets

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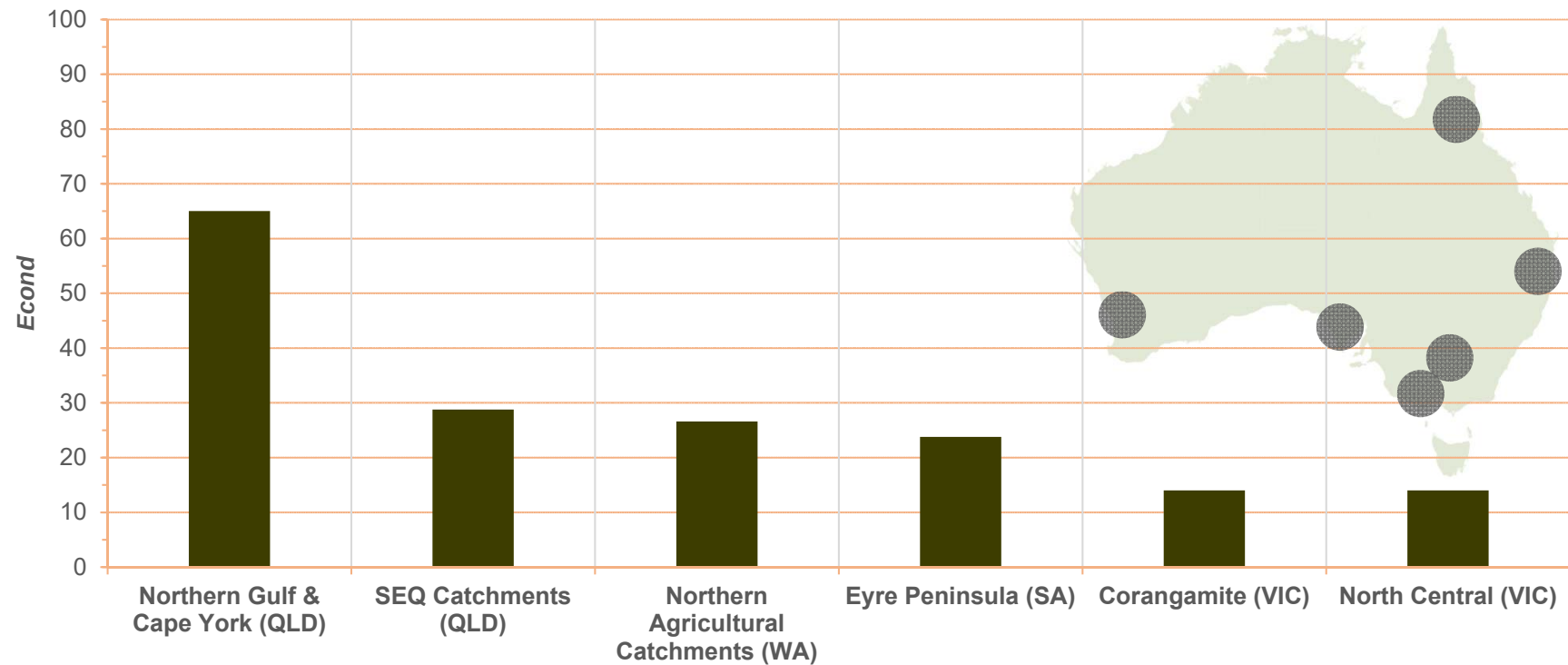
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Presenting Information State and National Scale

Native Vegetation Assets across 6 Australian Regions



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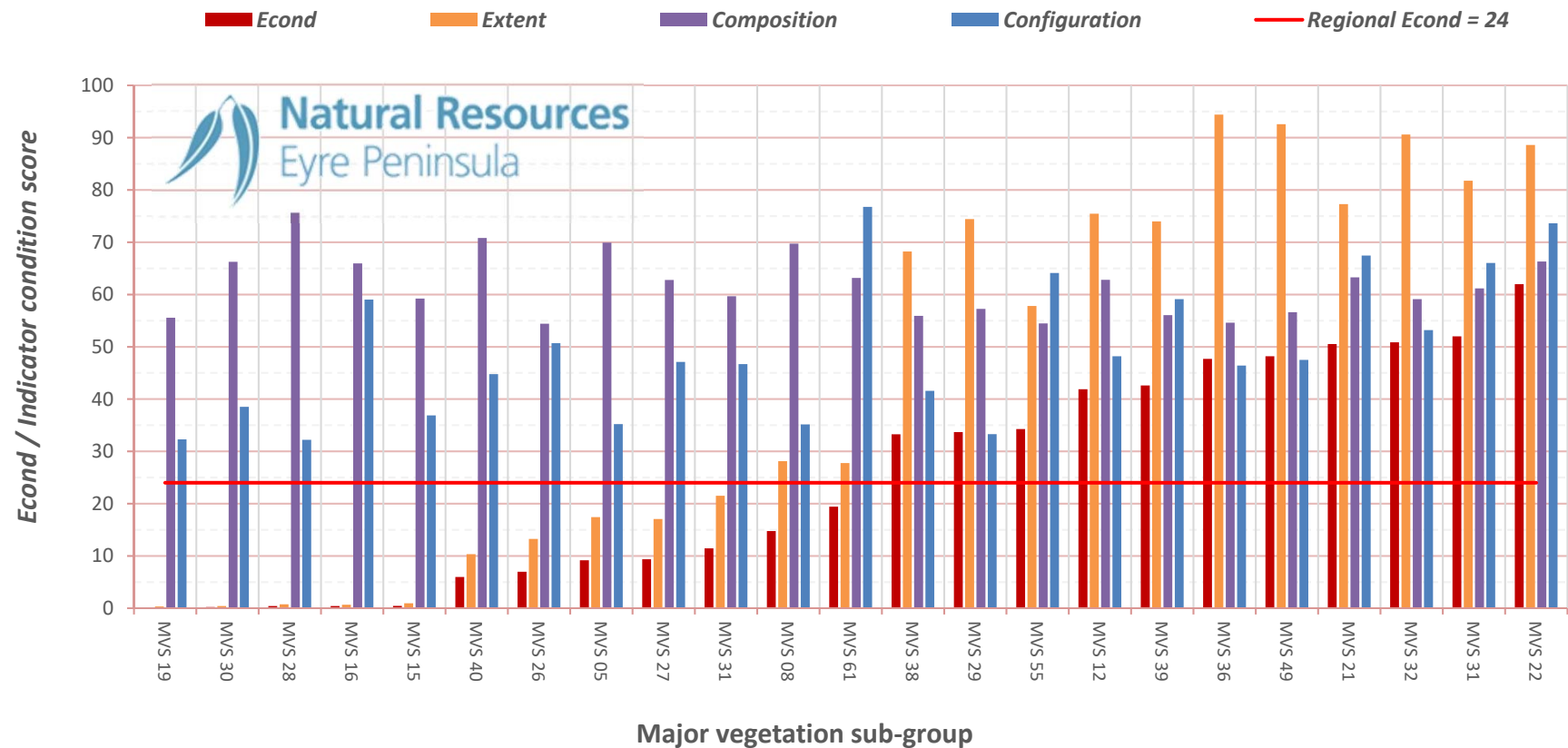
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Condition of Native Vegetation Eyre Peninsula, South Australia



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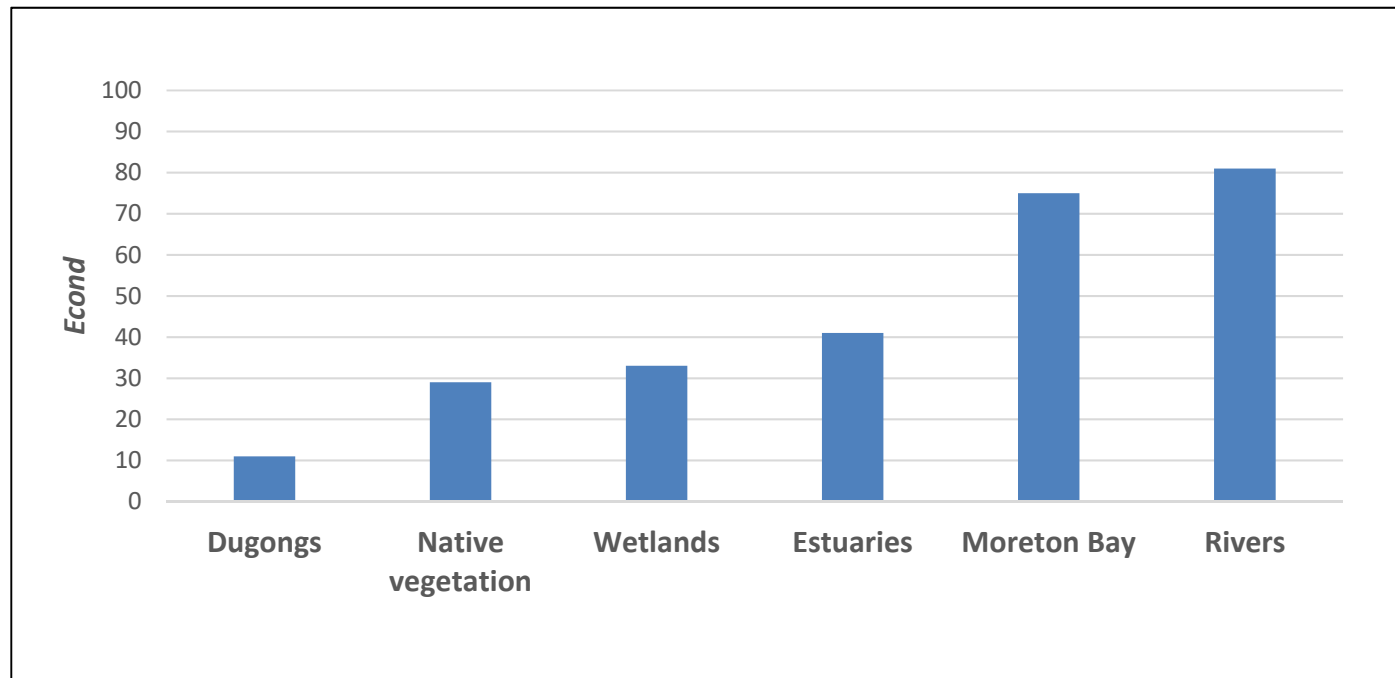
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Accounting for Nature

Presenting Information Regional Scale

**Regional Environmental Account
SEQ Catchments Region, Queensland**



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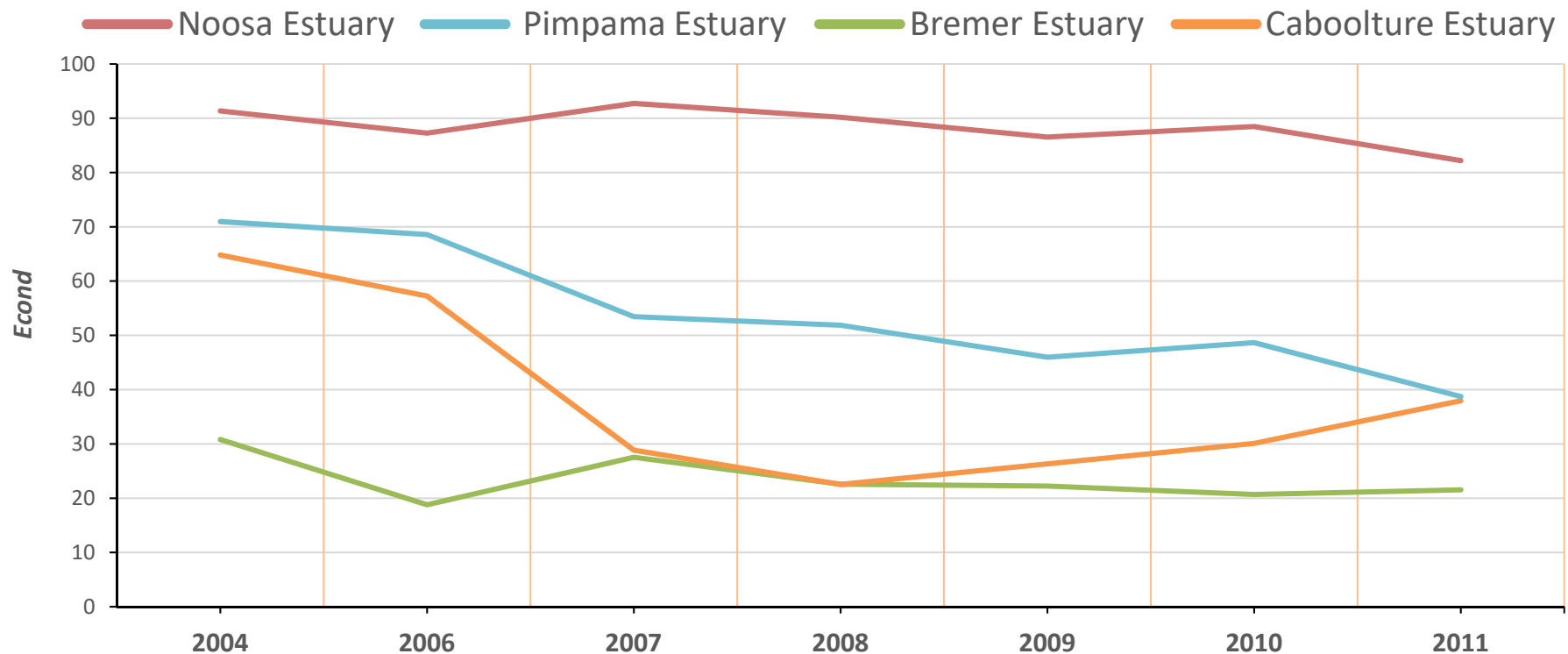
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Trends in Estuary Condition SEQ Catchments, Queensland



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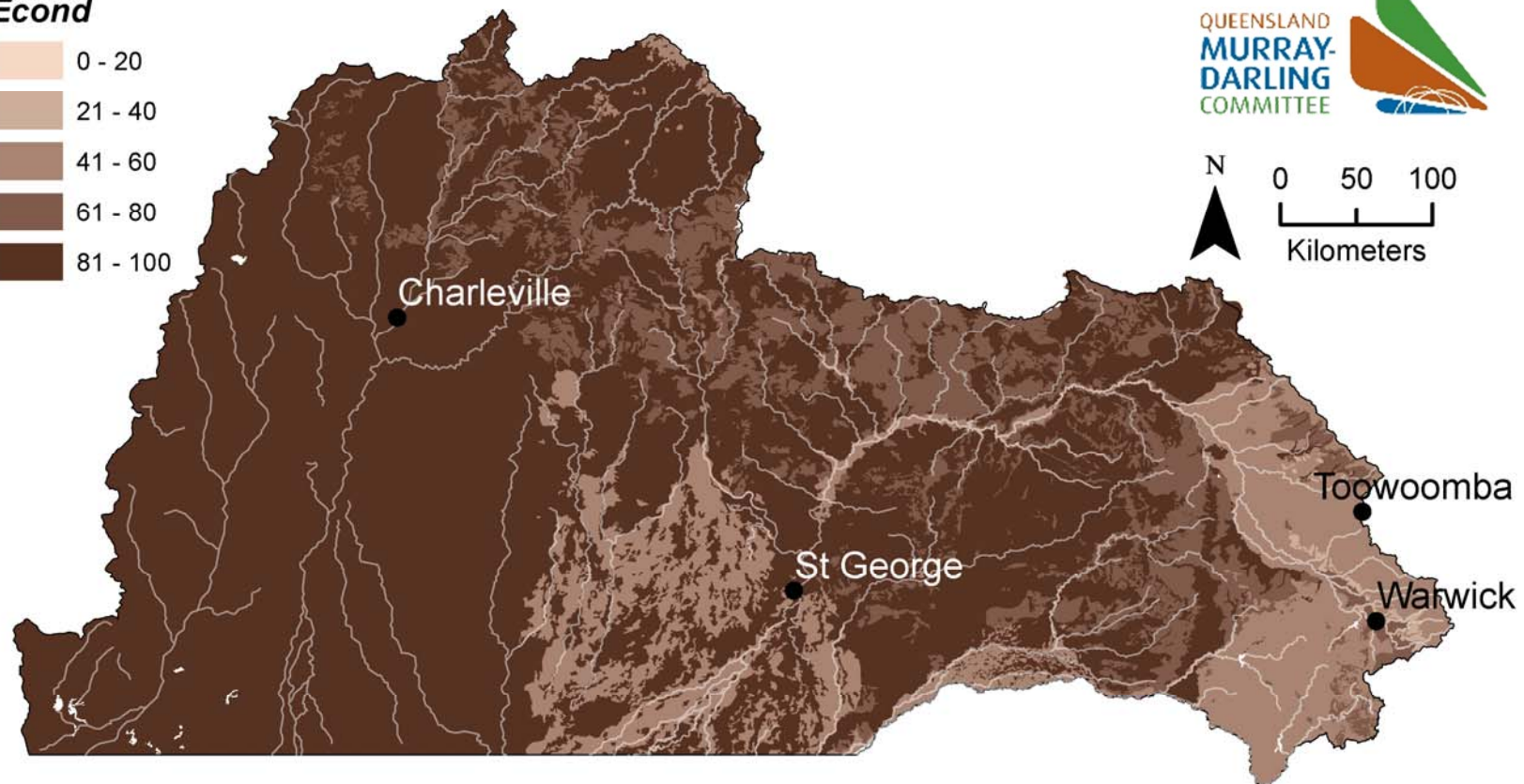
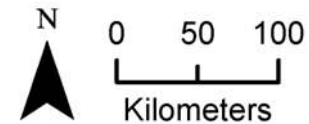
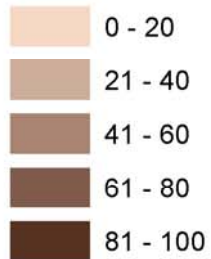
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Australian Regional Environmental Accounts Trial

Condition of Soils Murray-Darling Basin, Queensland

Econd



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Australian Regional Environmental Accounts Trial



This has produced:

- **Guidelines** for Constructing Regional Environmental Asset Condition Accounts (16 pages);
- An **Evaluation** of the trial, which provides a summary of the findings of the trial (40 pages); and
- A **Technical Analysis** of the trial, which is a supporting document that presents a detailed analysis of the accounts (240 pages).

These can be accessed at:

www.wentworthgroup.org/programs/environmental-accounts/

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The trial proved we could do it



1. Practical



2. Scientifically rigorous



3. Affordable



4. Useful



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Proposition to Government

Establish a permanent program within the Australian Bureau of Statistics to *create a comprehensive set of annual, regional-scale, national environmental accounts for Australia.*



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Institutional Elements

NRM Regional Bodies to create the accounts

National Scientific Standards Committee (CSIRO or BoM) to establish national scientific standards that underpin the accounts and then accredit the accounts developed by the NRM Regions

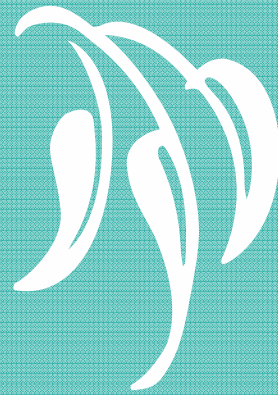
Australian Bureau of Statistics to ensure accounts satisfy national statistical standards and to be the custodian of the accounts

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Cost



\$15 million / annum

**Of which approximately
\$10 million would go to
NRM Regions**



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National Environmental Accounts Task Force

Interim body to oversee the establishment of the program

- Independent Chair (eg, Australia's Chief Scientist)
- Deputy Australian Statistician from ABS
- Deputy Secretary from Dept of Environment
- Senior scientist from CSIRO or BoM
- Representative of State and Territory governments
- Member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists
- Representative of NRM Regions Australia

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Environment Ministers



Commonwealth x 4 (Hunt x 3, Frydenberg x 1)



Queensland (Miles)



NSW Environment (Speakman), Agriculture (Blair) and Planning (Stokes)



Victoria x 2 (Neville and D'Ambrosio)



Tasmania (Groom)



South Australia (Hunter)



West Australia (Jacob)



Northern Territory (Moss)



National Environment Ministers meeting

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Advisors



Secretary Dept of Prime Minister and Cabinet
Deputy Secretaries of Dept Prime Minister and Cabinet
Prime Minister's Office x 3
Secretary of Environment Dept x 2
Environment Dept Executive x 2
Agriculture Dept Executive
Deputy Australian Statistician x 2
Australia's Chief Scientist
Director NSW Office of Environment and Heritage x 2
Queensland Environment Dept senior officials
Victoria Environment Dept senior officials
Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability
Tasmania's Environment Dept Secretary
Director of Tasmanian Planning Commission
Director General of SA Environment Dept
Chief Scientist of SA Environment Dept x 2
Executive Director of SA EPA
CEO of WA Parks and Wildlife Service



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Interest Groups

- Australian Conservation Foundation
- National Farmers Federation
- World Wildlife Fund
- National Landcare Network
- Bush Heritage Australia
- Greening Australia
- Nature Conservancy
- Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers

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Facilitators

- Ken Henry – Chair NAB, former Treasury Secretary
- Peter Harper – former Deputy Australian Statistician and former Chair of international committee on the UN's System of Environmental and Economic Accounts
- Bruce Thom – Professor Emeritus at Sydney University, former Vice Chancellor at UNE and former National State of Environment Report author
- Neil Byron – Commissioner with the Productivity Commission
- Mike Grundy – CSIRO Chief Soils Scientist

National Environment Ministers' Meeting Communique



Ministers agreed to work together to develop a common approach to environmental accounts in 2017. This important work will ensure accurate and reliable information is available to governments, communities and business to better understand the condition of the environment and to make better decisions. It will improve the ability to track outcomes in specific locations and across state and territory boundaries, and demonstrate the value of our environment to our standard of living.

As a first step, the Australian Government will collaborate with a number of states in bringing together relevant stakeholders, Natural Resource Management organisations and academia to progress environmental accounts. This will take place in early 2017 and will build on action already underway in all jurisdictions to move towards a common national approach.

