



2010 Progress Report

Progress towards healthy resilient landscapes
Implementing the standard, targets and catchment action plans

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Commissioner



Why review?

- **2010 is a milestone year: the mid-point for implementation of**
 - the 10 year state-wide targets
 - the 10 year Catchment Action Plans
- **The NRC is required to report on the progress towards**
 - the 13 state-wide targets
 - the Standard for Quality NRM
 - the effectiveness of CAP implementation



Key questions for the review

1. **What have we done?**
2. **What results are CMAs achieving?**
3. **What do we know about resource condition and trend in each CMA region?**
4. **Where are we going?**



How we went about it

- **Audit** - implementation of each CMA's CAP
- **Evaluate** - available resource condition data from the NSW Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting program
- **Review** - best available knowledge on how well the institutional framework of CAPS, standards, targets, state-wide policies, plans and investments are all supporting the goal.

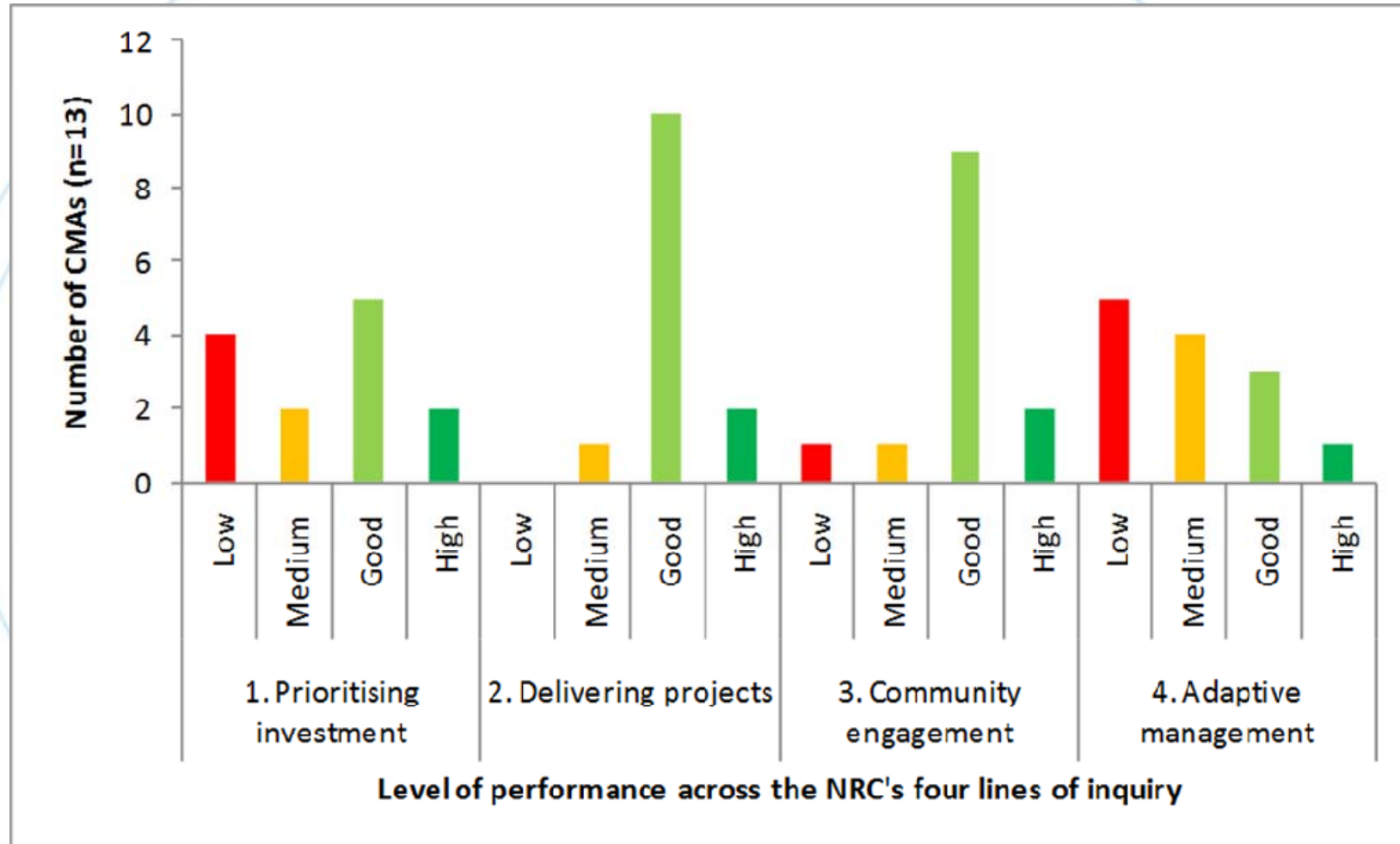


Overall findings

- **NSW regional model is an effective mechanism for supporting land managers to manage their land better**
 - A sound framework for natural resource management exists
 - CMAs are achieving on-ground results with their communities
 - Greater co-ordination and alignment will lead to better results
 - Regional adaptive management is working, eg Murray CMA
 - New thinking is being successfully applied

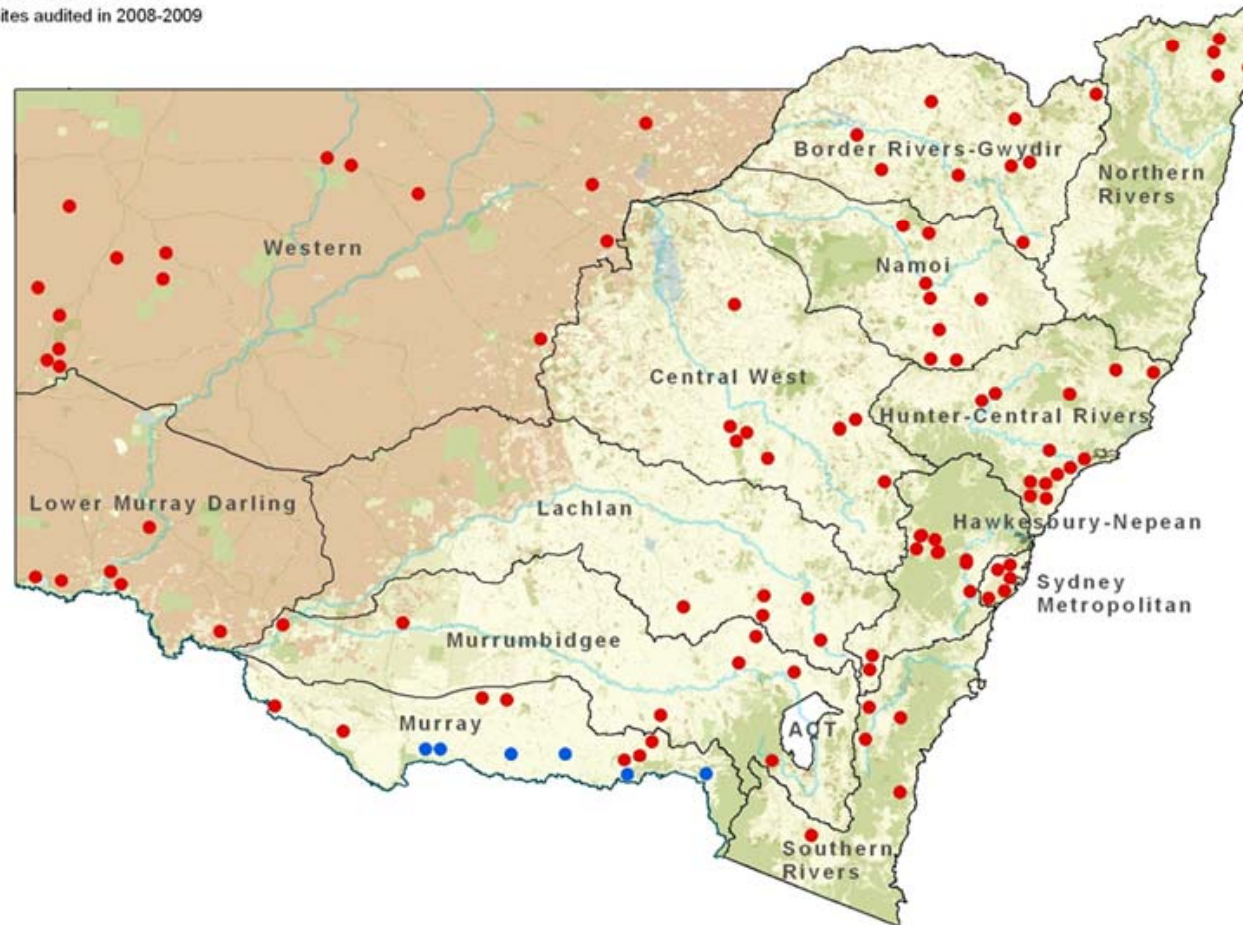


Overall CMA effectiveness

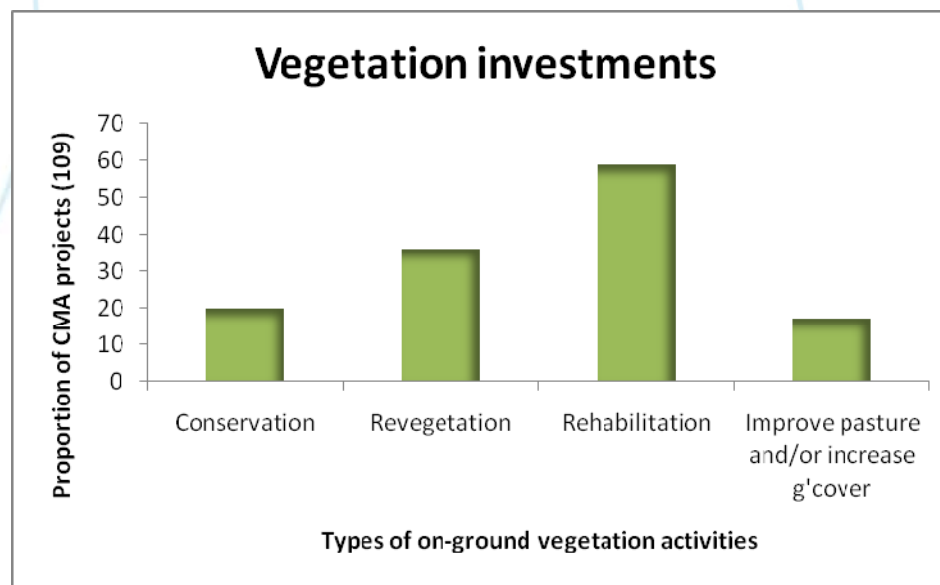
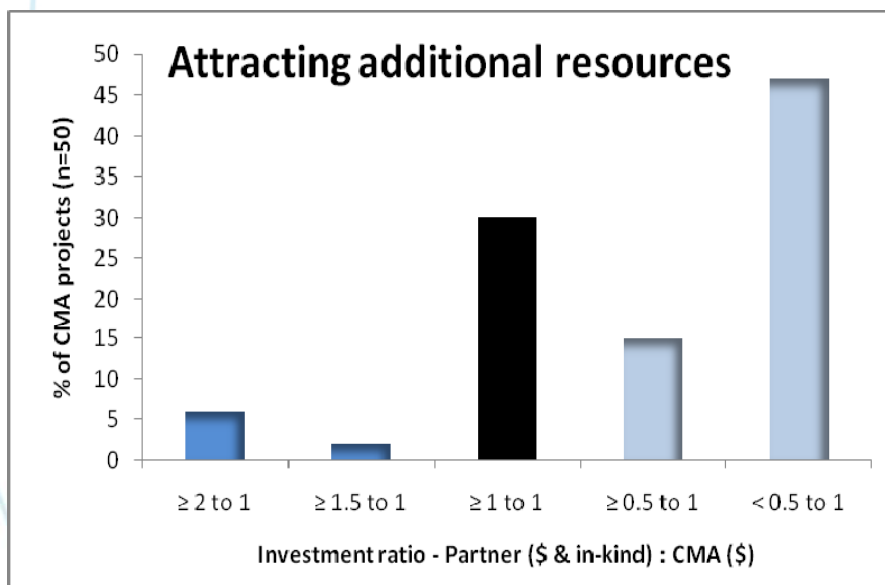
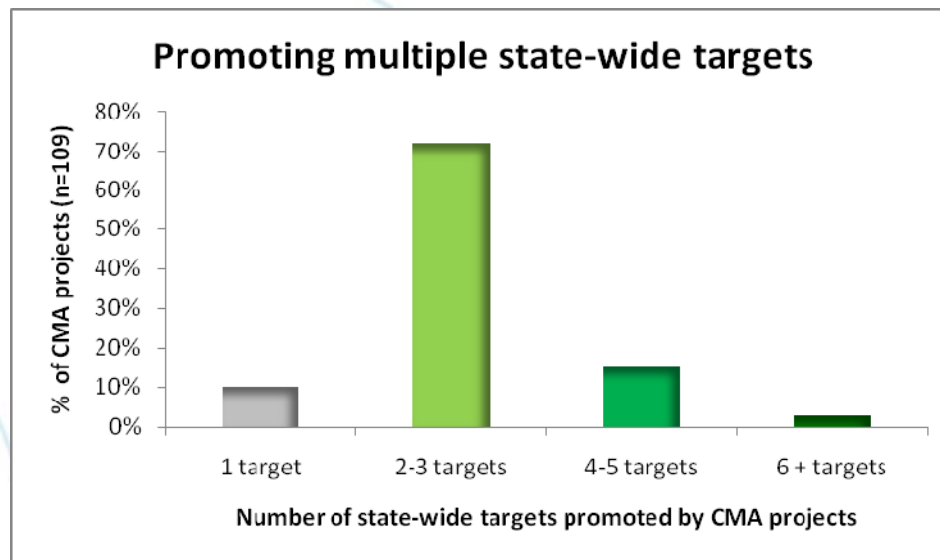
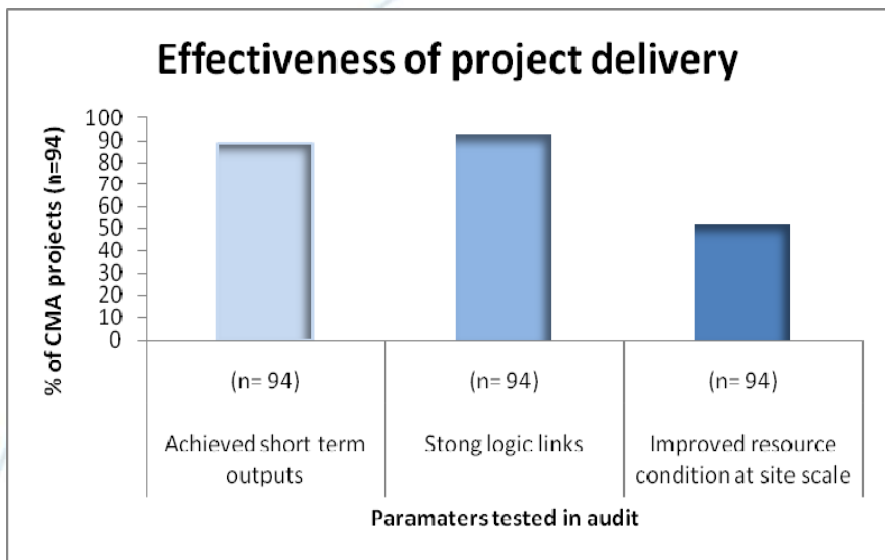


Location of projects audited

- Sites audited in 2010
- Sites audited in 2008-2009



Audit results



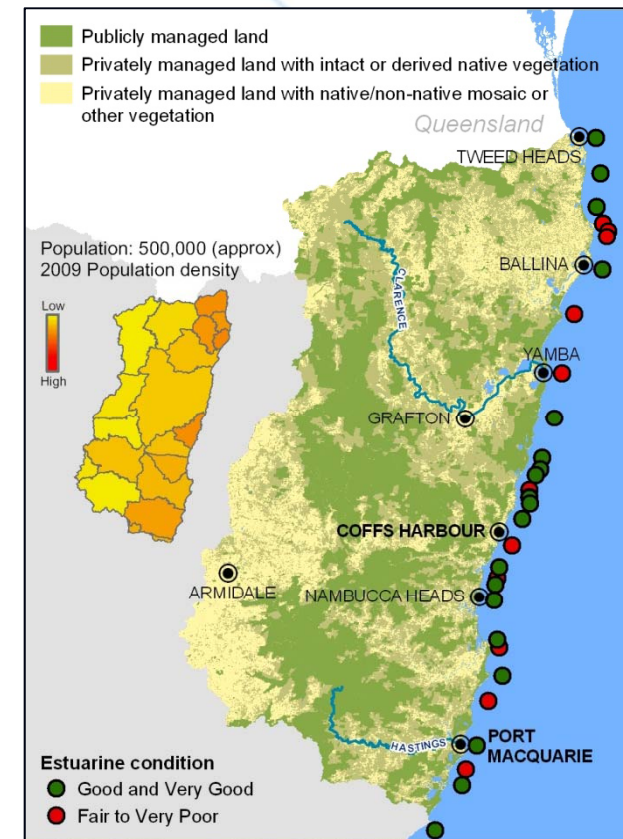
Resource condition change

State-wide targets		Resource condition and trend
1	By 2015 there is an increase in native vegetation extent and an improvement in native vegetation condition	↔
2	By 2015 there is an increase in the number of sustainable populations of a range of native fauna species	↓
3	By 2015 there is an increase in the recovery of threatened species, populations and ecological communities*	↓
4	By 2015 there is a reduction in the impact of invasive species* ^	↓
5	By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of riverine ecosystems	↔
6	By 2015 there is an improvement in the ability of groundwater systems to support groundwater dependent ecosystems and designated beneficial uses*	↓
7	By 2015 there is no decline in the condition of marine waters and ecosystems	↔
8	By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of important wetlands, and the extent of those wetlands is maintained*	↔
9	By 2015 there is an improvement in the condition of estuaries and coastal lake ecosystems*	↔
10	By 2015 there is an improvement in soil condition	↔
11	By 2015 there is an increase in the area of land that is managed within its capability	↔
12	Natural resource decisions contribute to improving or maintaining economic sustainability and social well-being	↑
13	There is an increase in the capacity of natural resource managers to contribute to regionally relevant natural resource management*	↔

Key:	 Good condition	 Condition improving
	 Fair condition	 Condition deteriorating
	 Poor condition	 Condition remaining the same

Catchment snapshots

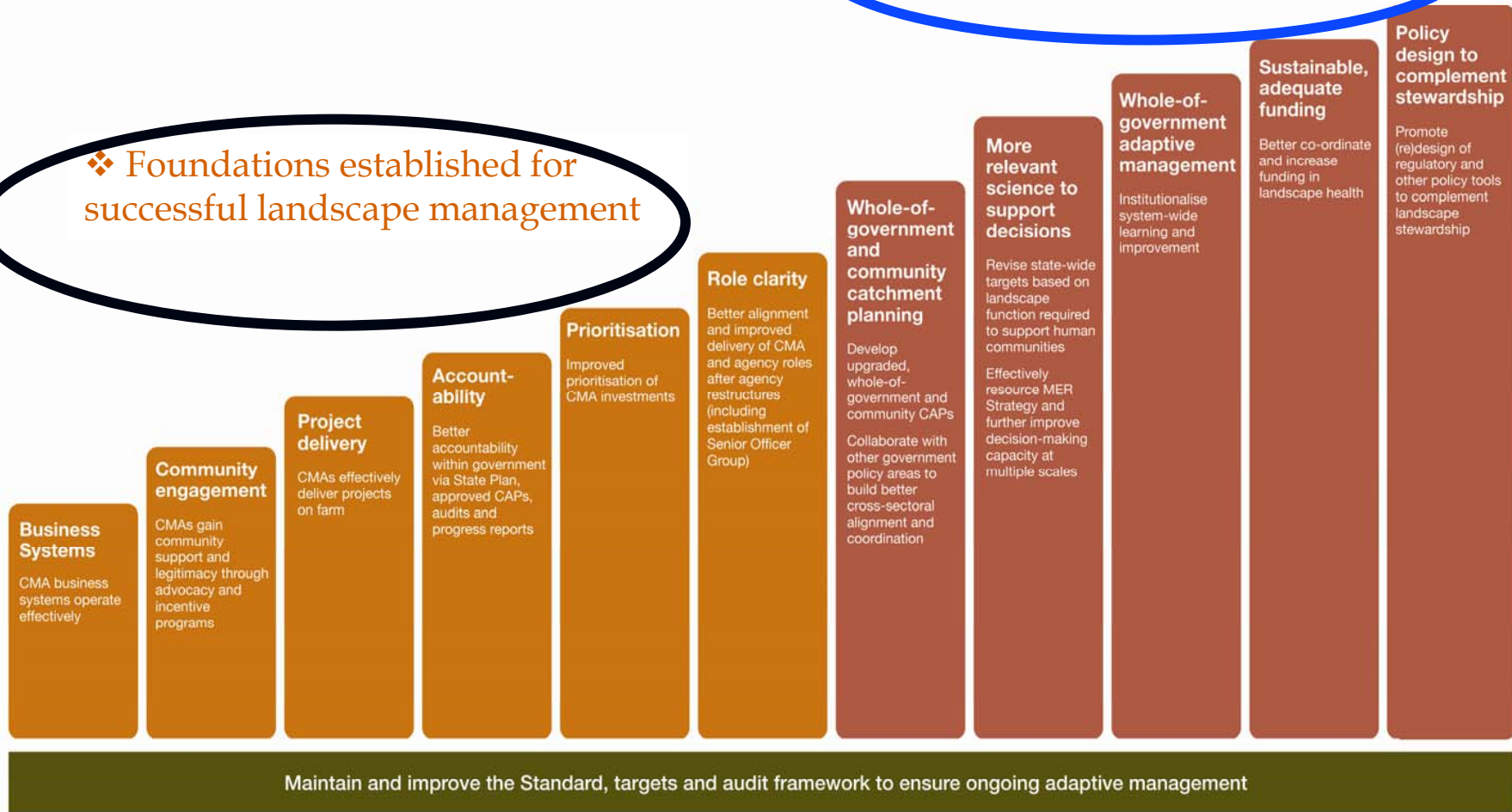
- What we value in these landscapes
- Key challenges we face
- Condition of key elements in the landscape
- Significant CMA works
- Investment profile
- Audit performance
- Planning and NRM strategies



Learning & building on the momentum

❖ Priorities for next period of CAP implementation

❖ Foundations established for successful landscape management

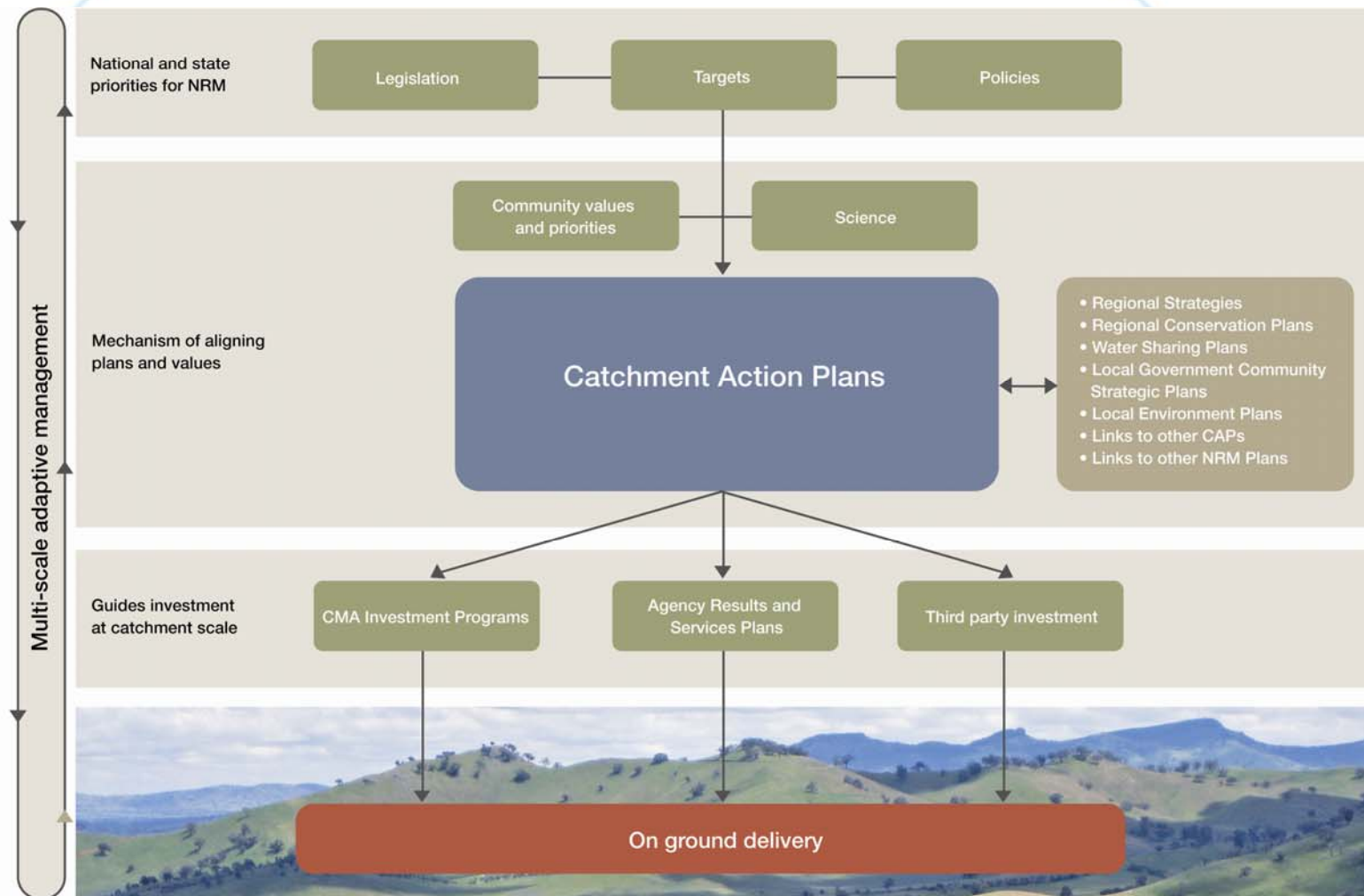


2004

2010

Recommendation	Next steps
Implement whole-of-government and community catchment planning	
<p>1. Upgraded CAPs in place by the end of 2012</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>build agency and CMA capacity to apply resilience thinking through collaborative assessments</i> • <i>develop guidance material</i> • <i>align CAPs and priority polices (eg WSP, CC adaptation plans and Community Strategic Plans)</i>
<p>2. Greater coherence among state-wide plan and policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>review and align and update priority state-wide polices and strategies</i> • <i>facilitate collaborative planning and sharing common evidence base with other government policy areas</i>

CAPs as a mechanism for aligning plans and values

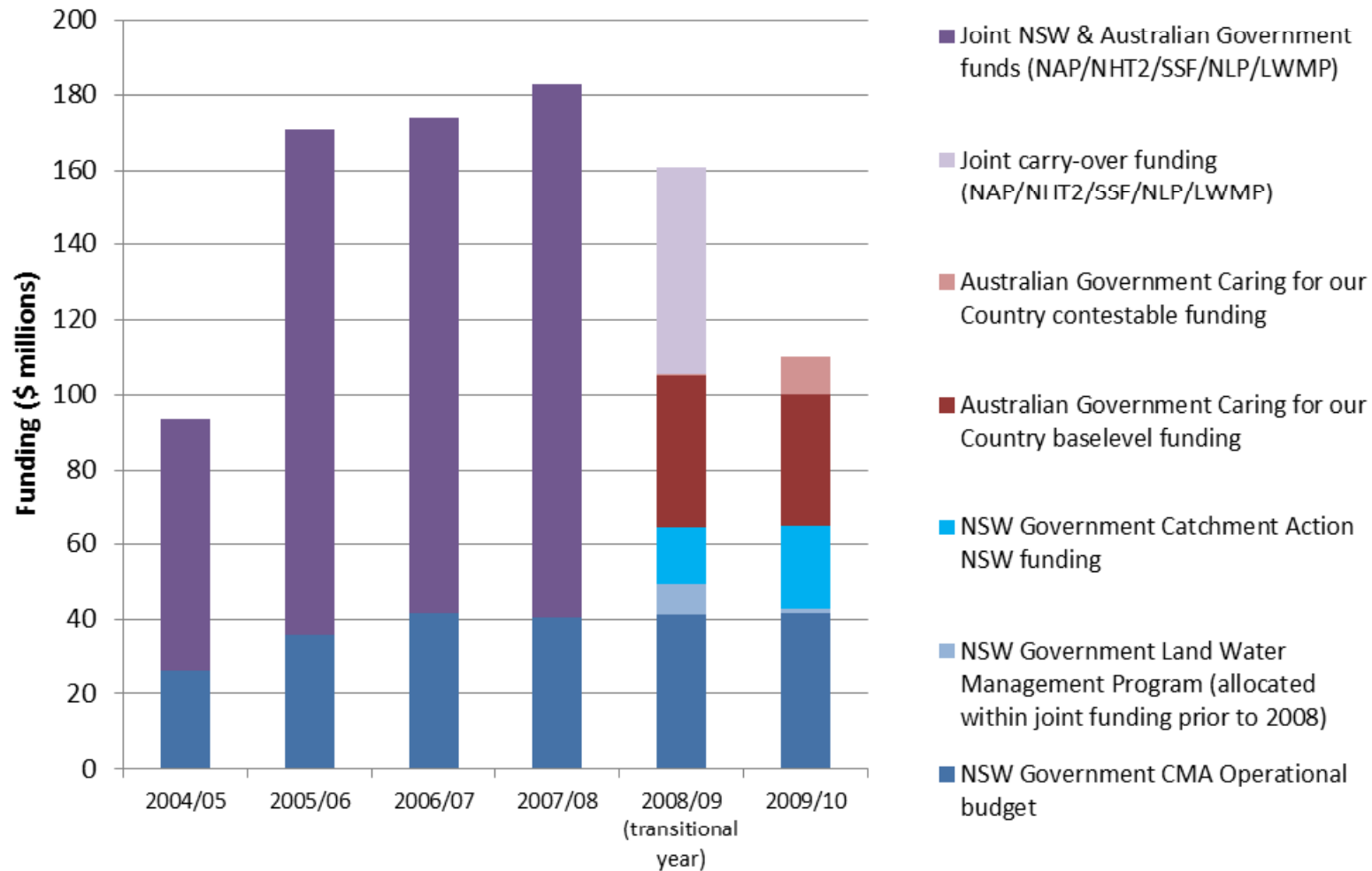


Recommendation	Next steps
Improve science and knowledge base to better inform decisions	
3. Revise state-wide targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NRC recommend revised set of targets in collaboration with agencies, CMAs and communities</i>
4. Implement and resource MER strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>invest in program to collect essential data</i> • <i>review and rationalise indicators and supporting data sets</i> • <i>link catchment monitoring and evaluation to revise CAP targets and conceptual models</i> • <i>develop spatial MER platforms and products and in open access system</i> • <i>use MER to inform and calibrate conceptual and predictive landscape modelling</i> • <i>prioritise evaluation of community capacity for NRM</i>

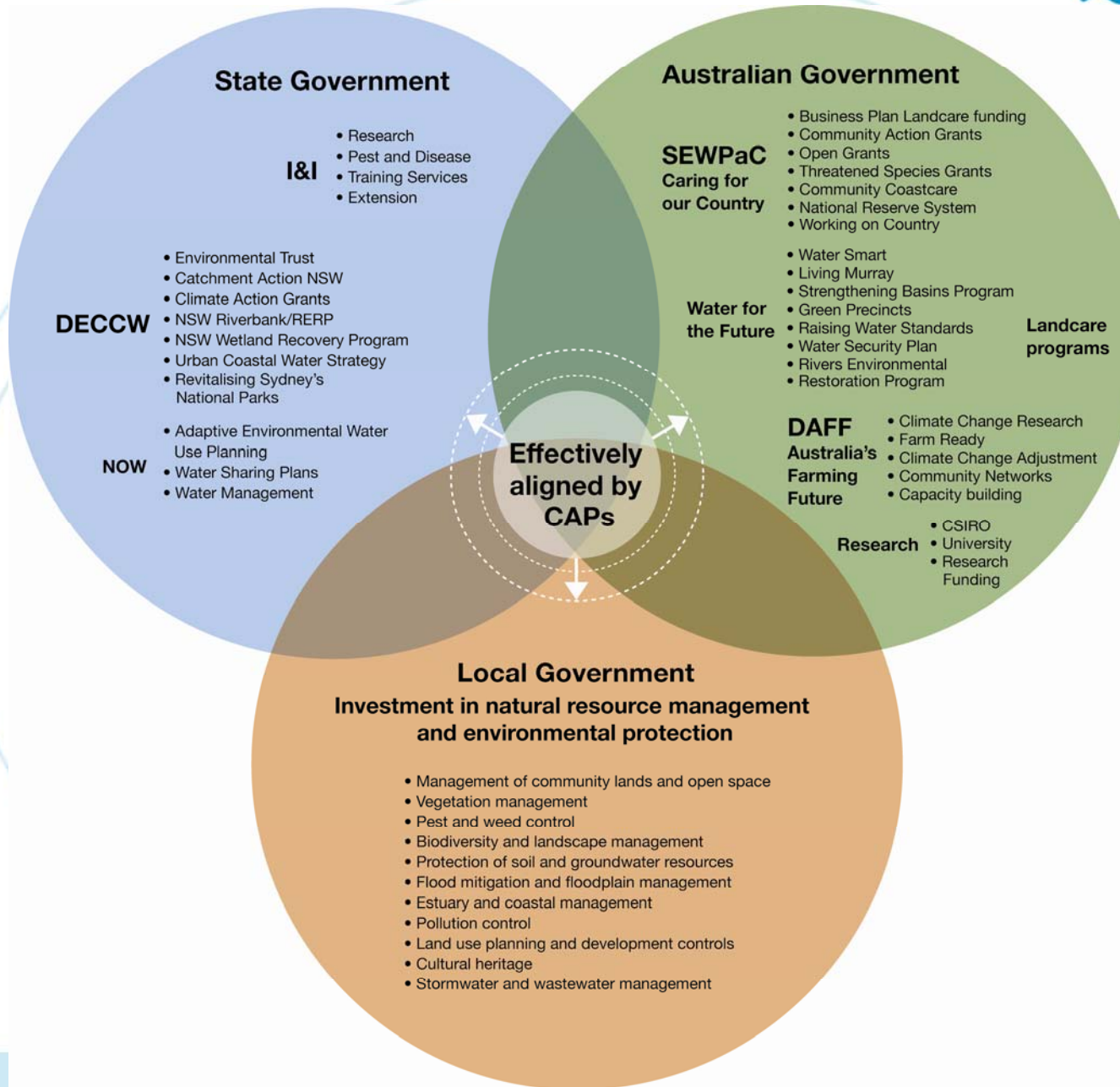
Recommendation	Next steps
Implement whole-of-government adaptive management	
<p>5. Institutionalise system-wide learning and improvement processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>formalise whole-of-government co-ordination function provided by SOG</i> • <i>develop COAG and Ministerial Council level agreements on NRM policy, investment and adaptive management</i> • <i>create processes to continually improve NSW Government NRM efforts</i> • <i>use state-of-catchment reporting process to evaluate CAP implementation</i> • <i>maintain and improve use of the Standard and CAP audit process and revise state-wide targets</i>

Recommendation	Next steps
Match funding to landscape need	
6. Better co-ordinate and increase funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>advocate to the Australian Government for a recommitment to regional planning and increase investment</i>• <i>facilitate alignment between state and local government investment programs and priorities</i>• <i>establish common system for spatially tracking total Australian, NSW and local government investment</i>• <i>increase amount of funding through CAPs</i>• <i>research innovative markets and tools to better capture third party investment</i>• <i>modify budgetary arrangements for CMAs</i>

Core NRM funding programs delivered through CMAs over 2004-10:



Opportunities for alignment of investment



Recommendation	Next steps
Design sound policy to compliment stewardship	
<p>7. Promote and design regulatory and other policy tools to complement voluntary landscape stewardship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>facilitate systems for regional-scale knowledge to inform policy design</i> • <i>ensure that policy and regulatory design considers the implication for voluntary landscape stewardship</i> • <i>research and advocate to the Australian Government that emerging policy areas should consider and support voluntary landscape stewardship and integrated landscape management</i>

Questions and feedback

Full report available: www.nrc.nsw.gov.au

