

## Appendix 1 Terms of Reference

### Landscape Vegetation Plans Terms of Reference

When Catchment Management Authorities are asked to consider vegetation plans developed at the landscape scale (involving areas of large land and/or multiple landholders), they must assess whether the proposals will 'maintain or improve native vegetation'. However, CMAs should also be encouraged to promote plans which are designed in a way which optimises economic and productive outcomes.

A landscape approach to vegetation management offers many potential environmental, economic and productive benefits over property-scale management because individual farm plans can be aggregated into a single landscape unit, involving a review of corridors and habitat areas to ensure connectivity and biodiversity is maximised whilst achieving greater economic and productivity gains.

The Natural Resources Commission will provide advice to the Ministers for Natural Resources and Environment on the potential for Landscape Vegetation Plans to produce better economic as well as environmental outcomes than single-farm, or small-scale property vegetation plans, as part of the process to develop an approach for assessing landscape scale vegetation management that may be submitted by multiple landholders under the *Native Vegetation Act 2003* and its associated regulations.

For this task the Commission will provide advice on:

1. The scientific and economic viability of multi-farm Landscape Vegetation Plans, commenting specifically on the general issues and any case studies with regard to:
  - a) biophysical characteristics and environmental assets;
  - b) potential threats to environmental assets;
  - c) sustainability of potential land management systems; and
  - d) anticipated economic benefits and potential risks of the approach over single farm property vegetation plans.
2. A robust 'landscape design' for sustainable management of a project area, commenting specifically on general issues and any case studies with regard to:
  - a) landscape and property scale actions necessary to manage threats which will improve or maintain environmental outcomes; and
  - b) management options which would increase productivity and would be sustainable over the longer term.
3. Any improvements that should be made to the *Environmental Outcomes Assessment Methodology*, *PVP Developer* and CMA procedures to facilitate landscape scale Property Vegetation Plans consistent with the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*.

Timeframe for advice: to be received before 31 May 2006, or sooner as is reasonably possible.