

**WA NRM Council  
Meeting 1 - *Communiqué*  
4 September 2007**

The first meeting of the new Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council was addressed by the Hon Kim Chance MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food. Minister Chance acknowledged the work of the previous Council, and in particular the role played by its Chair, Mr Rex Edmondson.

The Minister outlined his vision for the newly re-constituted Council, following key recommendations in the 2006 *Hicks Review*. He told the Council that Government expected it to provide high level policy advice on NRM issues, referring specifically to:

- increasing integration of NRM with other key State priorities, particularly biosecurity, and industry planning and development; and
- the need for innovative ideas on improving Indigenous engagement in NRM.

The Minister also stated that he believed the Council had a key role to play in assisting the Government prepare an over-arching State NRM Plan, and in providing advice on effective and efficient implementation of future national NRM programs

The NRM Councils Term of Reference is:

*To provide advice on Natural Resource Management to the State Government through the Minister for Agriculture and Food, including, but not limited to:*

- *Advice on the content of the State NRM Strategy,*
- *Advice on implementation of the Strategy including the efficiency and effectiveness of programs supporting the Strategy and specifically NHT3, and*
- *Advice on other issues as requested by the Minister.*

Following the Minister's address, the new Council began its ordinary meeting, discussing and determining recommendations on several issues, including:

- The Draft State NRM Strategy
- Indigenous Engagement in NRM
- NRM Investment – SIF3 (Salinity Investment Framework 3)
- Local Government and a State Policy Position in relation to NRM
- The *Hicks Review Report, 2006* and the Governments Response to the *Hicks Review Report, 2006*
- The 2008 State NRM Conference
- An update on the progress of NHT3 deliberations

NRM Council members are:

<b>Members</b>	<b>Area of Knowledge/Expertise</b>
Dr Wally Cox	Chairperson
Mr Ron (Doc) Reynolds	Aboriginal interests
Mr Richard McLellan	Conservation interests
Mr Garry English	Chair, South Coast NRM
Ms Merrilyn Temby	Chair, Avon Catchment Council
Mr Chris King	Chair, Northern Agricultural Catchments Council
Mr Bill Mitchell	Chair, Rangelands Coordinating NRM Group
Mr Tony Brun	Chair, South West Catchments Council
Mr Colin Heinzman	Chair, Swan Catchment Council
Mr Owen Dare	Farming interests
Ms Jan Star	Local Government interests
Ms Robyn Richardson	Pastoral interests
<b>DGs In attendance</b>	
Mr Ian Longson	Department of Agriculture and Food
Mr Eric Lumsden	Department for Planning and Infrastructure
Dr Paul Biggs	Forest Products Commission
Mr Peter Millington	Department of Fisheries
Mr Keiran McNamara	Department of Environment and Conservation
Mr John Ruprecht	Department of Water

The Next NRM Council meeting is scheduled for 9 November 2007.