

Meeting 5 - Communiqué

9 May 2008

The fifth meeting of the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council was held on Friday 9 May 2008.

The Items discussed are listed below.

- NRM Council received a briefing on the issue of NRM Asset Targets from Mr Brad Jakowyna, based in the Department of Environment and Conservation Strategic Policy Area. Council held a discussion around the following three issues:
 1. *Does NRM Council endorse the direction taken in the State Asset Guidelines document? Next steps?*
 2. *The need to get consensus from technical experts and finalise State NRM Targets for the State NRM Plan.*
 3. *Is there a perceived role for the EPA in reporting progress made against State NRM targets? (i.e. obvious linkage to the SOE Report)*
- NRM Council continued its discussion on the Key NRM and Environmental Issues facing WA. The 2006 Hicks Review recommended that the re-constituted NRM Council “*take on a greater advisory role to Government in relation to promoting integration, filling gaps, prioritisation and identification of new opportunities and directions*”. The Chairman invited Council members to continue work begun by the previous Council by identifying issues that could form part of the Council’s advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food. The Council resolved to assess the relative merits of pursuing these issues as a basis for advising the Minister, in terms of whether or not:
 1. *the Council could add value to existing processes dealing with the issue;*
 2. *some other organisation was already dealing with the issue; and*
 3. *the Council had any capacity to resource dealing with the issue.*

Subsequently, Council will be seeking further information on the following key issues:

1. The need for greater consideration and integration of NRM issues by land use planning decision makers.
2. Establish a Salinity Plan for Western Australia focused on recovering saline land and water resources.
3. Developing legislation for NRM in Western Australia.
4. Adaptation to Climate Change.

The Next NRM Council meeting is scheduled for 11 July 2008.