

Meeting 6 - Communiqué

11 July 2008

The sixth meeting of the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Council was held on Friday 11 July 2008.

The Items discussed are listed below.

- NRM Council received a briefing from Dr Bob Nulsen, Department of Agriculture and Food on a review of the State Salinity Strategy (March 2000). Dr Nulsen detailed progress against 56 actions in the Strategy, and the subsequent frameworks, reviews and action plans released during the past eight years. Key messages regarding salinity and evidence from plant-based experiences were also detailed. Council discussed the issue of an independent audit and review of progress against the recommendations in the Salinity Action Plan.
- The Chair of the State Biosecurity Council, Mr Chris Richardson addressed the Council on improving integration of regional biosecurity activities with those of existing Regional NRM Groups. Mr Richardson discussed mechanisms and approaches for integration and the potential for Regional NRM groups to become 'Recognised Biosecurity Groups' under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*. The Council discussed the opportunity to develop a State-wide priority project to facilitate better integration of biosecurity and NRM.
- Council continued its investigations into the following key environmental/NRM issues, as a precursor to providing policy advice to the Minister:
 - a. The need for greater consideration and integration of NRM issues by land use planning decision makers.
 - b. Establish a Salinity Plan for Western Australia focused on recovering saline land and water resources.
 - c. Developing legislation for NRM in Western Australia.
 - d. Adaptation to Climate Change.
- NRM Council received a paper submitted by Australia 21 to the Prime Ministers 2020 Summit – *Towards a National Ecosystem Services Strategy*. Council will continue to keep a watching brief on the concept of Ecosystem Services and its bearing on the delivery of NRM.

The Next NRM Council meeting is scheduled for 5 September 2008.