

DRAFT Estuarine, Coastal and Marine information Work Plan

2006-2008

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in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Coastal Advisory Group and the Australian Government Department
of Environment and Heritage
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Introduction

The National Monitoring & Evaluation Framework (NM&EF) has been developed by the Australian, State and Territory Governments and approved by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC). The aim of the NM&EF is to help assess both the:

- Health of the nation's land water and biological resources
- Performance of Government programs, strategies and policies. Government programs include the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP) and Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)

The NM&EF identifies a series of key issues or Matters for Target (MfT), including Estuarine, Coastal and Marine (ECM), which can be reported against using a range of indicators.

The Intergovernmental Coastal Advisory Group (ICAG), Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) and National Land & Water Resources Audit (Audit) are working collaboratively to identify a nationally agreed set of indicators that could be used within the ECM MfT.

A key area of activity for the Audit is also to identify and collate natural resource information collected against the NM&EF indicators, and to develop links between regional, state/ territory and national datasets.

The Audit's objectives that will be met by this work plan include:

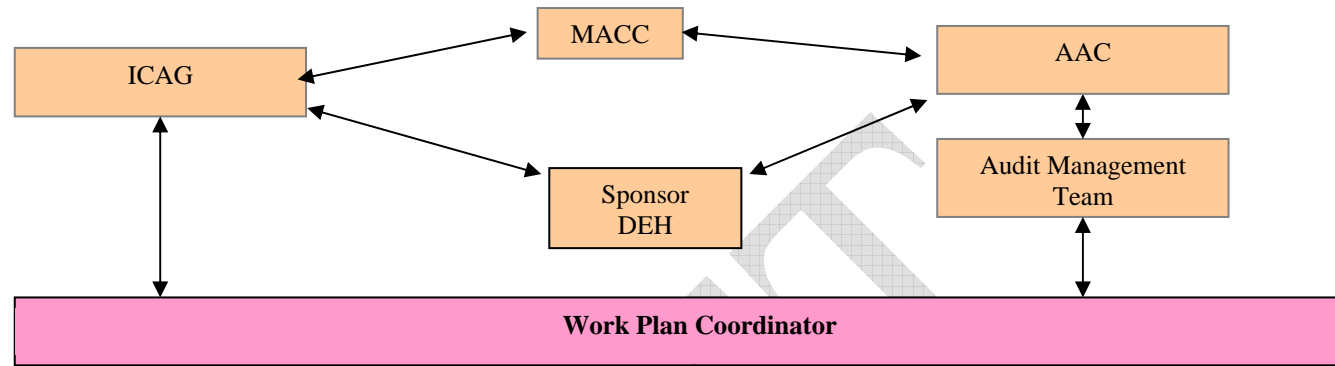
1. Reaching agreement on indicators and associated protocols in relation to estuarine, coastal and marine resource condition.
2. Developing relevant information products for reporting against the ECM MfT at a range of scales.
3. Ongoing development of a national estuarine coastal and marine information system.

It is intended that the collaboration between the Audit, DEH and ICAG to implement the workplan will ensure that nationally agreed procedures for monitoring and reporting on estuarine, coastal and marine resource condition are developed and adopted.

The five projects to deliver the outcomes in this work plan are:

1. Project Coordination and Reporting
2. Information needs and national indicator development
3. Development of information products
4. Data infrastructure and systems (information access and delivery)
5. Analysis and communication

Figure 1.
Diagrammatic representation
of the Estuarine Coastal and Marine
Information Work Plan



Estuarine, Coastal and Marine Information Work Plan

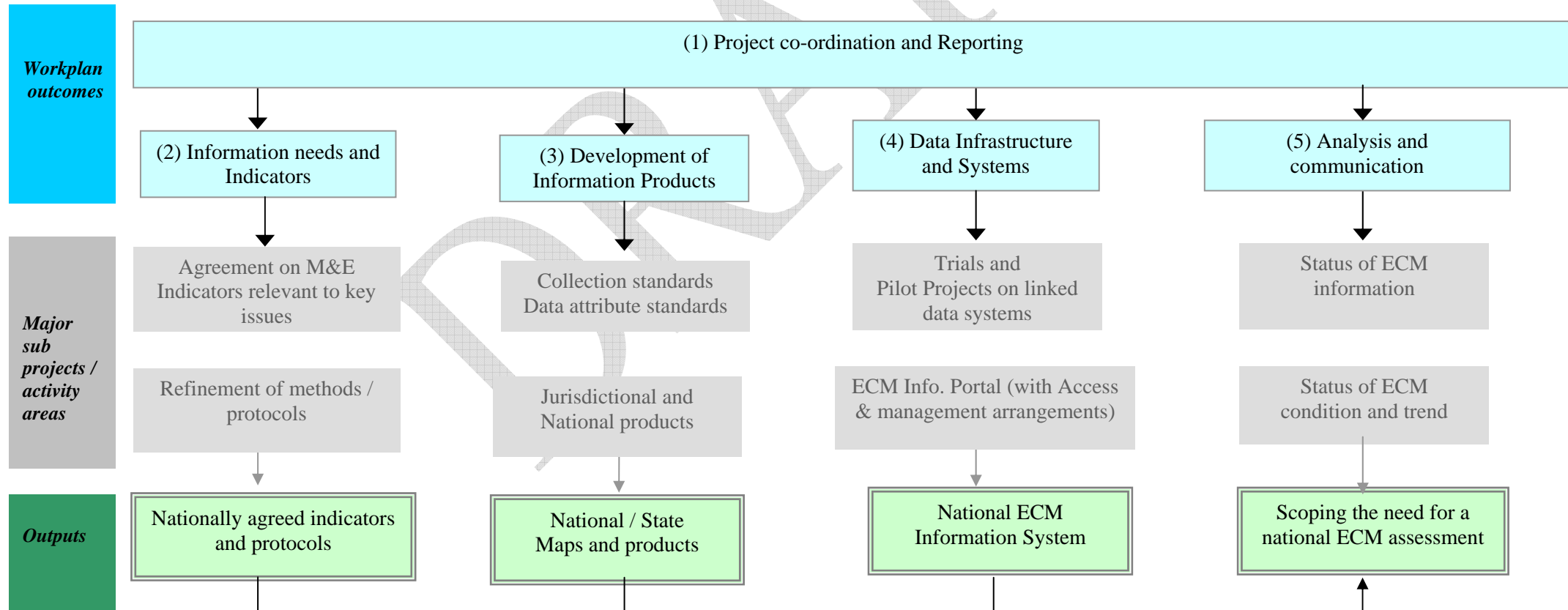


Table 1. Proposed ICAG/ NLWRA / DEH / State-Territory Work Plan summary

Project	Sub-project	Procedure / Tasks	Outcomes	Outputs	Lead Agency	Year 1 budget (2006 -7) (000's)			Year 2 budget (2007-8) (000's)			TOTAL
						AG	Audit	Partners	AG	Audit	Partners	
1 Project Coordination and Reporting	1.1 Work Plan Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement work plan to achieve outcomes Liaison with collaborators and committees Manage project contracts Report progress to collaborators, and report on program developments and outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient project management and State / Territory and GA engagement Reporting of progress as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project management milestone reports to NLWRA Project progress reports to ICAG and DEH 	Audit / DEH							150
	1.2 Liaison with ICAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing liaison with ICAG secretariat Input to ICAG meetings as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full engagement of ICAG in implementation of workplan 		Audit / DEH		75			75		
	1.3 Liaison with other themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordination with other National coordinating committees eg in relation to water and invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement with other NCCs Identification of gaps and potential overlaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input to Audit's "Status of Natural Resource Information Report" 	Audit and sponsor agencies (DAFF / DEH)							
Sub total							75			75		150
2 Information needs and national indicator development	2.1 Co-ordinate reaching National agreement on a set of resource condition indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities within each jurisdiction to identify indicators that are relevant to meet policy needs Follow up on actions identified at 2006 National workshop on agreed set of indicators (eg those pending, definitions, relationships between indicators) Assess needs for other indicators such as pressure indicators, and / or social and economic information needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement on resource condition indicators Identification of other information required to provide context for resource condition information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed Matrix identifying nationally agreed indicators and those in use by states / NT Report on other information requirements 	Audit/DEH/ ICAG		50	State agencies		-		50
	2.2 Identification of other information needs (eg social and economic)											

Project	Sub-project	Procedure / Tasks	Outcomes	Outputs	Lead Agency	Year 1 budget (2006 -7) (000's)			Year 2 budget (2007-8) (000's)			TOTAL
						AG	Audit	Partners	AG	Audit	Partners	
	2.3 Development of updated indicator methods / fact sheets for nationally agreed indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of updated indicator methods and standards for nationally agreed indicators - building on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Ozestuaries fact sheets CRC documentation State based extensions eg Tas Input from the Hobart workshop <p>To be overseen by technical reference group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidated documentation of agreed protocols 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated indicator methods / fact sheets on Oz estuaries 	GA		15	State agencies		-		15
	2.4 Document existing data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document existing data to report against nationally agreed indicators in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State / NT repositories National data bases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of exist data from a range of sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inventory of existing data against selected indicators with Metadata statements 	Audit / GA		50	State agencies GA		-		50
Sub total							65					65
3 Development of information products	3.1 Develop demonstration information products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trialling the development of information products at a range of scales (regional to national) for several indicators (eg 1 physical, 1 biological, 1 habitat extent) Identify other potentially useful products eg based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pressure indicators such as population growth / land use change foundation data layers such as habitat classification and bioregionalisation of the coastal zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate capacity and identify issues in developing information products for selected indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web based products from regional through to national scales 			75	State agencies			GA / State agencies	75
	3.2 Progressive development of information products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll out of information products based on policy needs defined by ICAG and MACC. Investigate the feasibility of developing interpreted products such as a coastal index 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of feasibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above Scoping study report 			15			70	State agencies	85
Sub total							90			70		160

Project	Sub-project	Procedure / Tasks	Outcomes	Outputs	Lead Agency	Year 1 budget (2006 -7) (000's)			Year 2 budget (2007-8) (000's)			TOTAL
						AG	Audit	Partners	AG	Audit	Partners	
4 Data infrastructure and systems	4.1 Test links between National and State/NT data systems and regional data systems where they exist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot linked data systems between state and national systems eg with Tasmanian SoE data systems and Ozestuaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrated capacity to access regional and State data via a national information system Links to ARO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of potential to link from local to national data systems 			40	GA/ State agencies				40
	4.2 Progressively link with all jurisdictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on results of Tasmanian pilot, develop relevant projects in all States/NT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked national /state information systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked national /state ECM information systems via Ozestuaries 			10		80	GA / State agencies		90
	4.3 Data access and information management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop whole of government data access and licensing agreements in association with developments across all NRM themes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed whole of government approach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement in place 						10		
					Sub total		50			90		140
5 Analysis and communication	5.1 Document the status of ECM resource condition data and information and related systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Report on the state of ECM data and data systems 	Assessment of understanding of EMC resource condition and supporting data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report 	Audit					10	State agencies / GA	10
	5.2 Scope the need for, and process of, developing a National ECM assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess policy needs and drivers for a National ECM assessment eg SoE report 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation and documentation of key policy needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping study on a national "Status of ECM resources - assessment and report" 	DEH					10	ICAG / MACC	10
					Sub total					20		20
					Total		330	*** In kind		230	*** In kind	560