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St. George Bank
**STATE OF THE REGION
SUMMIT**

Sustainable Regions

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From Summit to Sustainability

A Case Study in How Adaptive Management Might Work in the Wet Tropics



A Key Opportunity In History

- ❖ We are approaching a threshold: societal understanding of the need for genuine progress versus perpetual economic growth.
- ❖ For the first time in Cairns, there is an emerging leadership coalition that recognises that sustainability is the main game and not a side project within a perpetual growth agenda.
- ❖ Sustainable development requires progress to a **Better** future in social, economic and environment terms.
- ❖ Defining **Better** however needs wider community consensus.
- ❖ Once decided, regional indicators give us the foundation for deciding action, reviewing progress and changing tack.
- ❖ Achieving targets, however, requires a flexible set of regional institutional arrangements for adaptive governance.

What We Currently Have

- ❖ Separation of environment, social and economic agenda in society.
- ❖ Some institutional agenda that are counter productive to others, a key indicator of an unsustainable society.
- ❖ A lack of an integrative and mobilising institution in terms of the broader sustainability agenda.
- ❖ There is a strong integrative agenda in the natural resource sector, though still lacking a national and state level policy framework.

Why The Move Towards this Regionalised Approach

**Massive NRM problems/ Few
Resources**

**Need for Incentives Vs
Regulation**

New Regionalism Across Australia Since 2002

- **Established designated regional community-based NRM bodies**
- **Bodies develop target-based regional NRM Plans to address NRM issues**
- **Governments and corporate bodies invest in achievement of these targets and monitor results.**
- **Guaranteed support for the future.**

Targets/Indicators Drive Our Actions

Our Resource Condition Targets:	How We Will Monitor Progress:
In-stream environmental flow requirements will be met in all Wet Tropics Rivers by 2015.	DERM will report on the setting and achievement of environmental flow objectives by June 2012.
Groundwater allocations will not exceed sustainable levels by 2015.	NRW will report on the setting and achievement of environmental flow objectives by June 2012.
Resource Condition Targets established in Water Quality Improvement Plans will be achieved in timelines defined by those plans.	Terrain, GBRMPA and DERM develop a regional water quality monitoring program and report on in-stream, end of river and receiving water condition by June 2012.

MAT	Management Action Targets	Lead Agent	Resourcing Strategy
1	Complete Water Resource Planning and Resource Operation Plans for all Wet Tropics catchments by 2012.	DERM	Could be progressed via existing Departmental allocations or new State budget initiative.
2	Prepare a regional Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) for Wet Tropics catchments and coordinate implementation by 2012.	Terrain	Integrated resourcing to be negotiated via Commonwealth, State and Local government.
3	Review regulatory measures for water quality improvement into the reef lagoon by 2012.	DERM/ DIP	Agricultural component to be funded from State government regulatory package. Urban component reviewed in context of FNQ 2031 implementation.
4	Prepare management plans and monitoring systems for all significant groundwater resources by 2015.	DERM	Currently no cohesive resourcing strategy.

To Achieve and Genuinely Sustainable Region

Need to assemble leadership from the region that can integrate the three levels of government and economic, environment and social sectors.

It will need to be the difference between business as usual vs securing a better way forward?



Australia's First Sustainable Region Putting Sustainability into Action



Welcome to Sustainable Sonoma County!



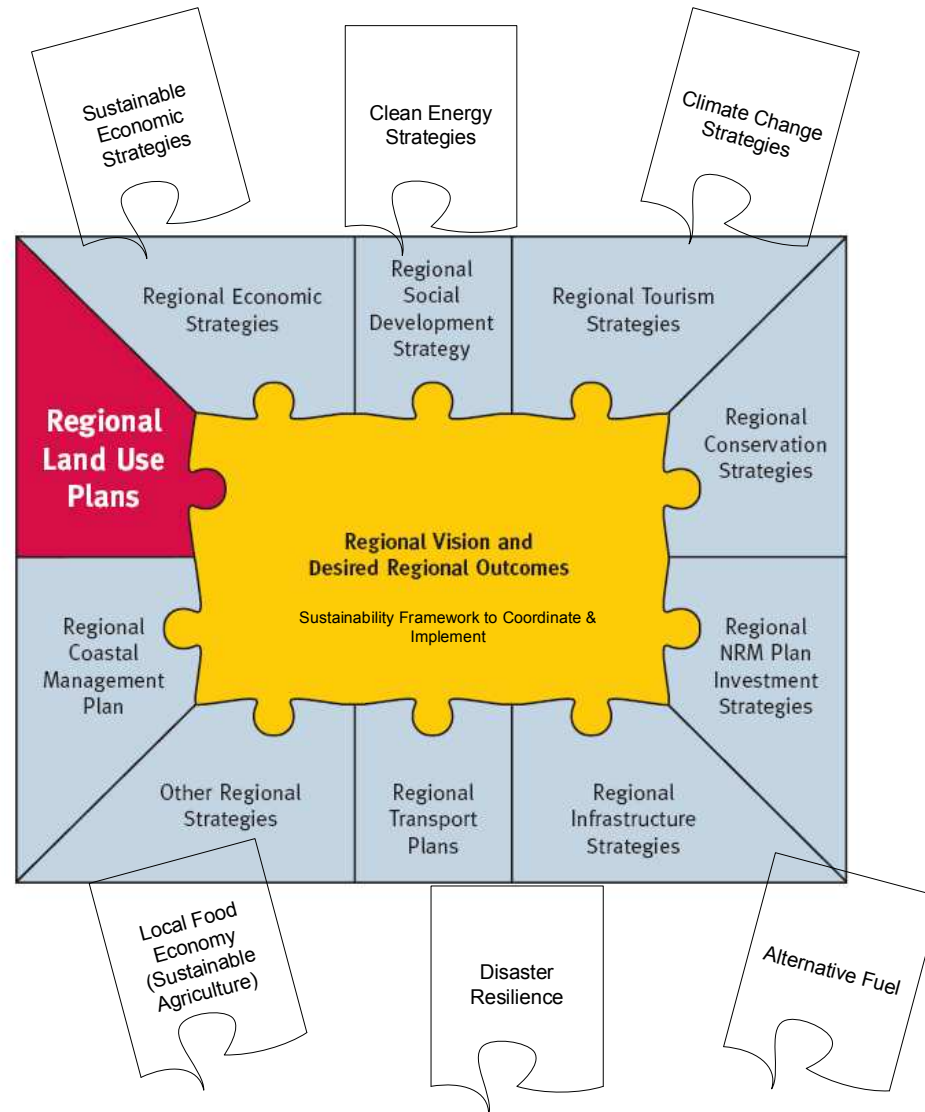
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Australia's First Sustainable Region

Putting Sustainability into Action



Sustainable Region Initiative Seeks

- **To move towards a single integrative sustainable regional development institution.**
- **Core trilateral commitment from three levels of government.**
- **Processes for determining and tracking the key triple bottom line indicators.**
- **To undertake planning and effort alignment and attracting investment to secure it.**