TOWARD A BETTER NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DELIVERY MODEL WITH A GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE FARMING SECTOR – THE TAMAR VALLEY EXPERIENCE

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How are we going to look after our land, water, and air into the future?

Since the Natural Heritage Trust Act of 1997, the substantial funding that followed, the Caring for our Country (CfoC) funding; NLP phase 1 and 2, there has been a diminishing amount of money allocated to provide for NRM on-ground outcomes.

Having a regional delivery system for NRM remains important but the model is regularly criticised and imposed federal priorities don’t always resonate with local communities.
It is beyond the scope of this presentation to present the current state of NRM reform at an individual state or federal level, nor to present the ideal model that would allow for greater decentralised NRM and local participatory decision making.
The Tamar NRM sub-region
A community-based model working at a sub-regional scale

The organisation’s success lies in three key areas:

- its close relationship with the three Tamar Valley Councils;
- its strong community driven project approach, building on what the rural and urban communities want of an NRM organisation;
- and taking a flexible approach to project delivery, dealing with local issues as they arise and not being constrained by federal or state priorities, as the regional NRM bodies are.
Community driven solutions involving the ag-sector

The Tamar Valley Sustainable Agriculture and Pasture Improvement Technical Group comprises eight experience professionals who oversee our Ag-focussed projects.

- Tamar NRM projects delivered:
- The MLA funded Tamar Pasture Improvement Demonstration Project
- Backyards to Broadacres program
- Know your Tamar Soils
- Benefits of Biochar, Beetles and Worms in Sustainable Farming Systems
- Developing a property with sustainability principles in mind
- Soils Health Discussion Group
- Tamar Sustainability Index, developed through on-farm field trials
- Regional Outcomes for On-farm Sustainability

The Tamar NRM Weeds Working Group comprises representatives of 3 Tamar councils, Tamar NRM; TFGA; DPIPWE; Parks and Wildlife; community and industry representatives.

The working group's aim is to support a coordinated effort of all organisations managing environmental and agricultural weeds within the Tamar Region:
- Through shared responsibility to maximise effort and minimise the use of resources
- With a particular emphasis on cooperation across land tenures.
Our experience has taught us that . .

- Flexibility comes from NRM delivered at a sub-regional scale
- Greater local government and farm sector involvement provides multiple benefits and sustainable outcomes
- Maintaining strong links with these organisations provides the necessary participatory approach in project/program development and implementation
- Local priorities = Local acceptance
- Alignment with regional plans and strategies happens by design and as a part of funding application process
- On-ground Action speaks for itself
Take home messages . .

- Identifying any areas of restraint inherent in current NRM delivery models
- Promote community-driven projects and participatory governance
- Support and resource the farm sector to deliver NRM outcomes at all scales
- Establish ongoing arrangements with local government and the farm sector
- Consider a model of regional planning with more sub-regional NRM delivery (more devolved grants)

On-ground projects demonstrating value for money are paramount. Sub-regional NRM can deliver and build a greater participatory approach that NRM needs right now.
Thanks for Listening . .
Any Questions?