

STRATEGIC NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE

The Mid North Coast (NSW) Area Consultative Committee, now Regional Development Australia, working with the Indigenous Coordination Centre is endeavouring to link projects to improve water quality and climate change adaptation with skilled Indigenous Green Teams who are experienced in implementing on-ground works on private and public lands.

It is focusing on an integrated approach between NSW Coastal Councils, State and Federal governments, Catchment Management Authorities, landholders, Indigenous communities and organisations and industry bodies to maximise the outcomes from applying the "Clean Waters Model".

The "Clean Waters Model" is a practical, action-orientated approach that has been proven in the Great Lakes Shire. It is being applied in more Shires as they gain knowledge and understand the simplicity of the model and can see its achievements.

Unfortunately, without strategic financial intervention by the Australian Government, the threats and reality of water quality problems and impacts are growing faster than the actions to address them.

The outcome from the models wider application will be reduced threats to waterways/estuary systems from Seachange, climatic and peri-urban pressures and increased agricultural, seafood, tourism and Indigenous business development, training and employment with substantially improved water quality and water security.

The model can be applied nationally and tailored to regional environmental, social and economic needs.

We are seeking Federal Government support over 4years for regional pilots to show national application. (Overall target is \$4m pa for each of the 11 Local Government Areas, across numerous regional and CMA boundaries in NSW). Commitment and co funding via existing levies and programs is also being sought from all local councils and appropriate state government agencies as well as from the private sector.

The objective is to make a strategic difference in sustained water quality by undertaking on ground project activities that actually implement key activities identified in your Catchment Management Plans.

A detailed consultants report documenting a situation analysis and recommended approach to address the issues facing the coastal catchment areas has been widely circulated and a working party of Regional stakeholders is now progressing the initiative.