Position statement on natural resource management

We will assist the community to develop and maintain productive landscapes
We will assist the community to manage natural resources
We will use the best available knowledge and experience of local communities
We will utilise best landscape management practices
We will work across public and privately held land and waters in NSW
We will act to ensure future availability of terrestrial and aquatic resources

Our purpose in Natural Resource Management

DPI’s purpose is to increase the capacity of primary industries and communities to drive economic growth across NSW, with a vision of innovative primary industries in strong regional communities.

DPI works to develop and sustain diverse, productive food and fibre industries, whilst ensuring best practice management of the State’s natural resources. Our responsibilities include developing productive, sustainable and biosecure agricultural, fisheries and forestry industries, and the management of our soils, catchments, freshwater, estuaries, the State’s marine waters and crown lands.

NSW 2021 recognises the role of the Department of Primary Industries in driving economic growth in regional NSW, by managing strategic agricultural land and improving agricultural productivity, securing potable water supplies, sharing and protecting our natural environment and allowing for increased opportunities for people to look after their own environments.

This natural resource management statement describes the principles which the Department of Primary Industries will promote so that the interactions between people, natural and production landscapes, and aquatic habitats are effectively managed.

NRM principles include:

» Understanding the interaction between human communities and biophysical processes which are constantly changing.

» Utilising our natural resources for productive purposes, within their capability.

» Optimising the efficient use of our resources.

» Conserving remnant natural assets and their dependent biodiversity.

» The need to achieve inter-generational equity by balancing current resource use and availability with secure resources into the future.

» Providing market services and non-market amenity through a multiple use model.

» Conserving biodiversity and primary production from the impacts of invasive species.

» Protecting and enhancing our States soils.

» Set goals and targets which recognise the constraints of our natural resource systems identified through a resilience framework.

» Active rehabilitation of resource capability where degradation has occurred.

» Recognising the need for a wide range of innovative and adaptive policy instruments to underpin natural resource management outcomes.

» Ensuring public investment in NRM achieves benefits for the public good.
How we will deliver on our purpose

The Department of Primary Industries has identified that it can play an active role in managing natural resources which involves delivering legislation, policy, research, development, extension and management programs across a range of issues affecting our natural resources including water, soils, climate variability, forests, sustainability, conservation, habitats and biodiversity. DPI has unique and intricate relationships with multiple stakeholders involved in natural resource management across the state and plays a role in gathering, generating and consolidating the advice of stakeholders on current issues, and providing this input into development of natural resource management policies and strategies.

DPI's position on natural resource management in NSW is to promote sustainable production systems which take into account the needs and knowledge of local communities and the best available science so that natural resources are shared and managed, and remain available into the future; regardless of tenure.

Environmental and social conditions are constantly changing and there is a need to help communities adapt to change in ways that support their long-term social and economic well-being. The NSW Government’s investment, and DPI’s multi-faceted role, in natural resource management will:

» drive economic growth in regional NSW
» protect and enhance environmental values
» increase the responsiveness of local services to the needs of local communities, including Aboriginal people
» strengthen local environments and local communities.

In meeting these responsibilities, DPI:

» works with agricultural industries, other collaborators and stakeholders to improve the productivity, sustainability and capacity of the primary production sectors
» develops, shares and actively manages resources within a sustainable development framework
» is the State’s leading aquatic conservation agency for marine protected area management, aquatic habitat protection and rehabilitation and threatened species conservation
» manages native and planted forest communities, protecting biodiversity, achieving a range of productivity and environmental benefits and providing community amenity
» manages the risks posed by pests, weeds, diseases, chemicals, and climate to the economy, community and the environment, responds to emergencies and disasters, and manages animal welfare
» leads policy development and reform in sustainable water management for surface and groundwater systems and assists water utilities to provide urban water and sewerage services that meet agreed water quality guidelines and are managed effectively to reduce the impact of potentially toxic algal blooms
» develops new knowledge of aquatic ecosystem relationships to manage aquatic ecosystems
» manages NSW and Commonwealth natural resource management investment programs ensuring that local communities have a voice on local issues
» manages state-owned land and waters, in partnership with other agencies, local government, the private sector and communities to provide social and economic benefits
» delivers a world class soil conservation program within a best practice implementation and consulting framework
» provides environmental protection, education, rehabilitation and land management services in rural and urban areas
» delivers development, extension, education and industry development programs, and science and research programs through strategic alliances and collaboration with domestic and international research partners
» administers and enforces legislation and policies, plans and strategies which inform and guide natural resource management activities on a range of scales from local to regional or state-wide
» provides diagnostic services such as data collection, analysis, testing, and survey works.