

We asked-you said

2014 community survey summary factsheet

In June 2014, a community survey was commissioned by the South East Natural Resources Management Board to discover community attitudes to NRM and how they want the NRM Levy to spent in their region.

What is NRM

NRM stands for Natural Resources Management. Natural resources include soil, water, native vegetation, animals, landscapes and ecosystems.

Examples of NRM activities include:

- Controlling of weeds and pest animals
- Allocating water use and managing groundwater and surface water
- Soil erosion and soil health

The NRM Plan

These activities and more are guided by the Regional NRM Plan which is prepared by the South East Natural Resources Management Board (SENRM Board). The SENRM Board reviews the Regional NRM Plan to ensure natural resources are managed into the future and incorporates social, cultural, economic and community needs and their identified priorities and values.

To do this the Board needs to know what the community thinks and feels about NRM.

The survey

Two separate comprehensive surveys were commissioned by the SENRM Board and undertaken by McGregor Tan Research and Auricht Projects. The goal was to gauge what the community understand about natural resources management, the projects and activities being conducted in the region, what places and resources they value and their greatest concerns and threats to these resources.

The results

The study provided valuable information and insight. The South East Natural Resources Management Board is currently reviewing the Regional NRM Plan with the aim to ensuring it incorporates community needs and values to help guide our NRM investment (including the NRM levy). A previous 2009 survey also provides the Board with important comparative data to show trends and shifts in community values and priorities.

68% said the responsibility of managing our natural resources **lies with everyone**



82% indicated that they are in favour of funds being spent on improving how natural resources are **collectively managed** and cared for.

Across the South East, the **three most supported land-use** opportunities relate to transport and communication development, ecotourism development, and passive recreation.



Bool Lagoon, the Blue Lake, Piccaninnie Ponds, Lake McIntyre and Lake Bonney **are valued places**



Government of
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South East



What you said

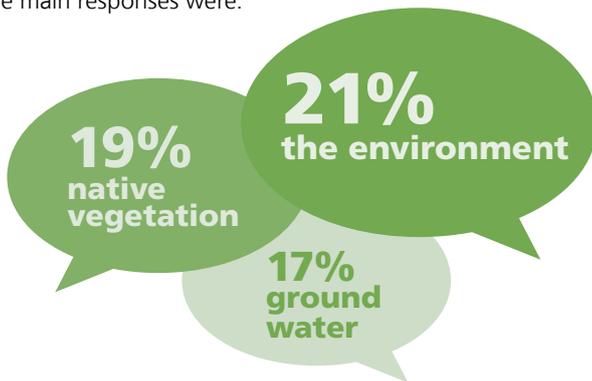
Surveys consisted of 800 regional phone interviews, an online survey which 300 people participated in, focus groups and personal interviews amongst rural, peri-urban and urban populations.*

The top six issues that NRM Levy should be spent on:



Those surveyed were then asked, when you hear the term natural resources management or NRM, what things come to mind?

The main responses were:



When asked if they have made any behavioural changes as a result of receiving NRM information or participating in NRM events, participants said:

27% said they are doing something different thanks to NRM info or event



- I got a grant to assist in spreading clay.
- I become more aware of different weeds species.
- We're changing fence lines and protecting native scrub land.
- We have planted new gum trees on the property.
We are using an organic fertiliser on the soil.
- We're planning on taking the kids to a tree planting.
It looks educational and a good day out.

*survey is statistically valid as determined by the organisations conducting the survey.



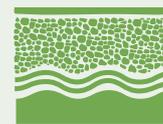
40% of respondents supported an increase in nature conservation

23% said they value natural resources as they provide a healthy environment



66% said wetlands are important because they provide habitat

31% said our regional resources are "essential" up from 7% in 2009



48% believe groundwater management is the number priority that the NRM Levy should be spent on followed by drainage 43% salinity 42% and then pest management (38%)

71% said water is the most important resource in the region up from 24% in 2009



48% said productive soil and land is most important resource up from 18% in 2009

Coastal regions are highly valued for recreation, aesthetics and fishing



Community identified threats:

- 39% of those surveyed indicated that they think they will need to take any actions to adapt to climate change in the future
- 35% said higher temperatures and 32% said less rainfall as predictions a result of climate change
- 23% are concerned with biodiversity loss
- 11% said salinity is a current environmental issue

The SENRM Board:

- When asked if they had heard of the SENRM Board, just over three quarters (76%) of respondents answered in the affirmative.
- 41% are aware that the Natural Resources Management Board develops a regional Natural Resources Management Plan which is used to determine how levy funds will be spent
- Over 60% said they are aware they pay the NRM Levy

Mining development was the most **strongly opposed** land-use across the region



Over use of groundwater identified as a threat to our region

25% said they had no time to participate in community consultation. Time and busyness are a barrier to community involvement.



Coastal development identified as a threat to our region

Fire was rated a high concern to residents



For further information

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www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/southeast



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