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More than 30 years of 'Landcare' in Australia:

Five phases of development from 'childhood' to 'mid-life' (crisis or renewal?)

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Introduction to 'Landcare'



The 'Landcare approach'

- Defined in the 'Australian Framework for Landcare 2010–2020' as comprising:
 - the Landcare ethic – a philosophy, influencing the way people live in the landscape while caring for the land
 - the Landcare movement founded on stewardship and volunteers – local community action putting the philosophy into practice
 - the Landcare model – a range of knowledge generation, sharing and support mechanisms including groups, networks from district to national levels, facilitators and coordinators, government and non-government programs and partnerships

(Australian Framework for Landcare Reference Group 2010, p. 1)

The childhood phase (mid-80s to mid-1997)





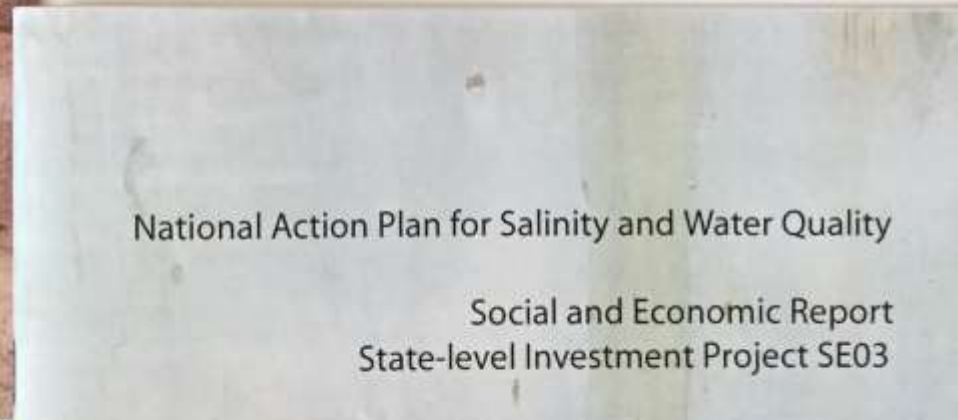
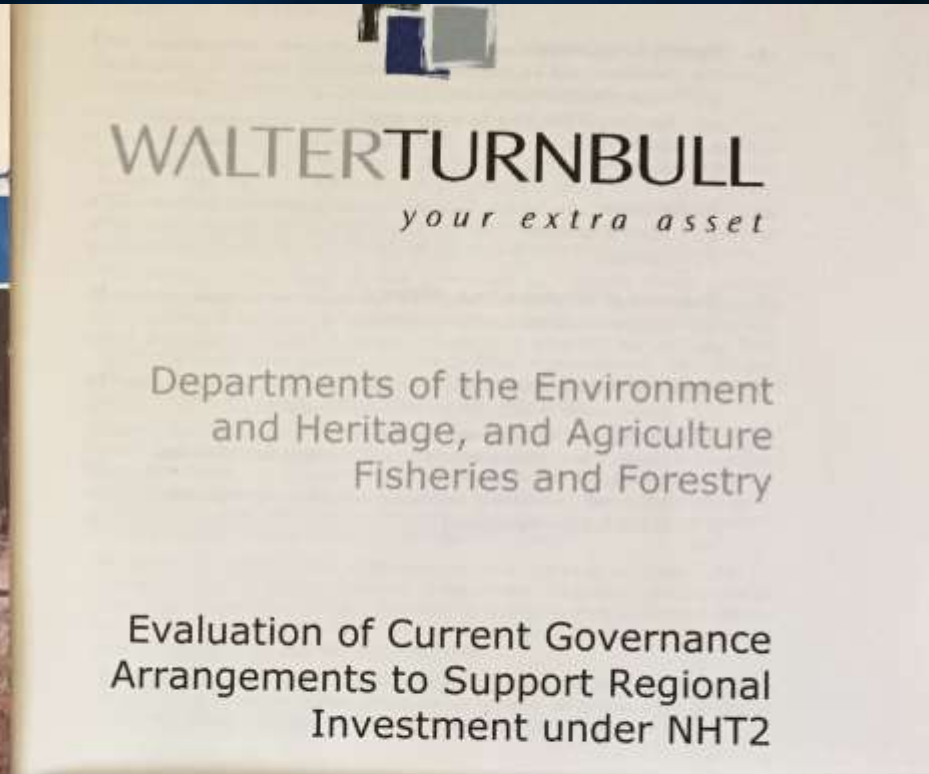
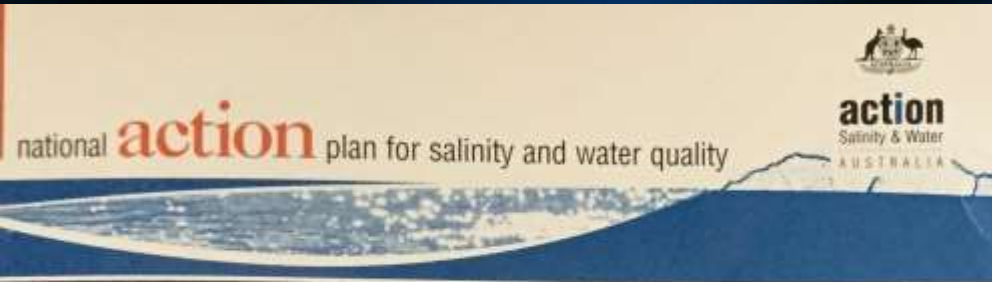
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The adolescent phase (mid-1997 to mid-2002)



The pre-adulthood phase (mid-2002 to mid-2008)

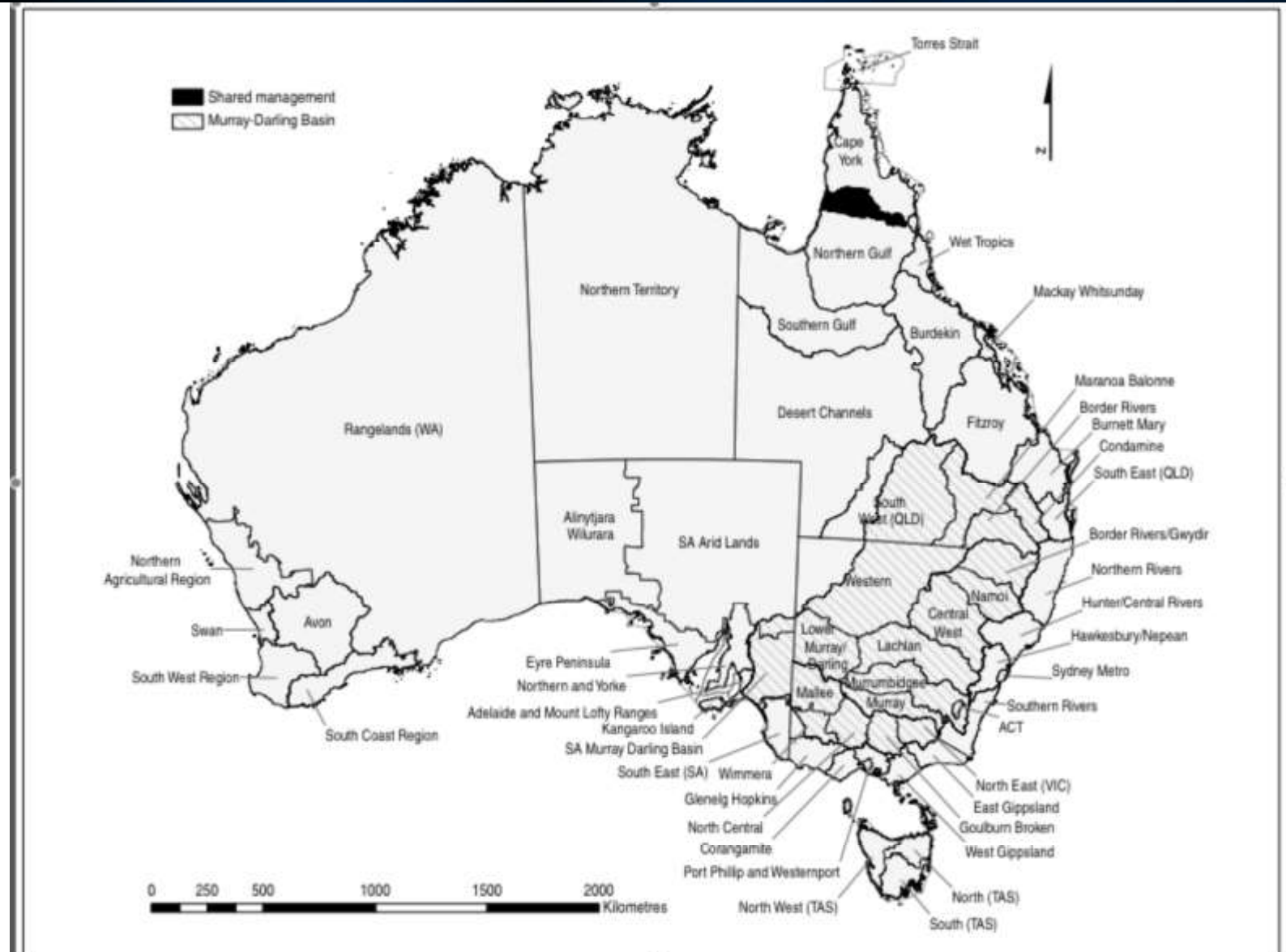




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56 designated NRM regions



The early adulthood phase (mid-2008 to mid-2013)



The mid-life phase (mid-2013 to present)



Conclusions



My reflections

Mutually supportive and synergistic local groups and regional (nested) institutional arrangements are essential for achieving sustainable NRM



A landcarer's reflections



“Landcare still thrives in some areas (particularly in Victoria), permeates other movements such as agricultural production groups, and has created a valuable legacy. In many instances it has simply vanished, perhaps died a natural death having done what it set out to do – or it has been strangled by bureaucratic strictures and transaction costs, starved through cost-shifting between states and the Commonwealth, or confused by moving goalposts.” (Bruce Munday)



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Australian Framework for Landcare 2010–2020

- The Landcare movement has significantly contributed to improved land and water management systems across the country through broad-scale community involvement
- For Landcare to be effective, the partnership at the national level needs to be re-strengthened and local, regional, state and national plans and priorities aligned
- The successful operations of community-based groups, founded on stewardship and volunteerism, require autonomy
- Opportunities through a range of bi-partisan government and non-government support mechanisms would assist effective group function and broad-scale participation at the local level by all generations and cultures