

Introducing IMPS - Implementation Planning Support

Introduction

Implementation Planning Support (IMPS) provides a process and tools to help determine:

- Natural resource management (NRM) priorities, and
- Management strategies to effectively deal with the priorities.

IMPS was developed under the guidance of Cradle Coast NRM as an aid to the preparation of implementation plans for the Cradle Coast NRM Strategy.

IMPS consists of:

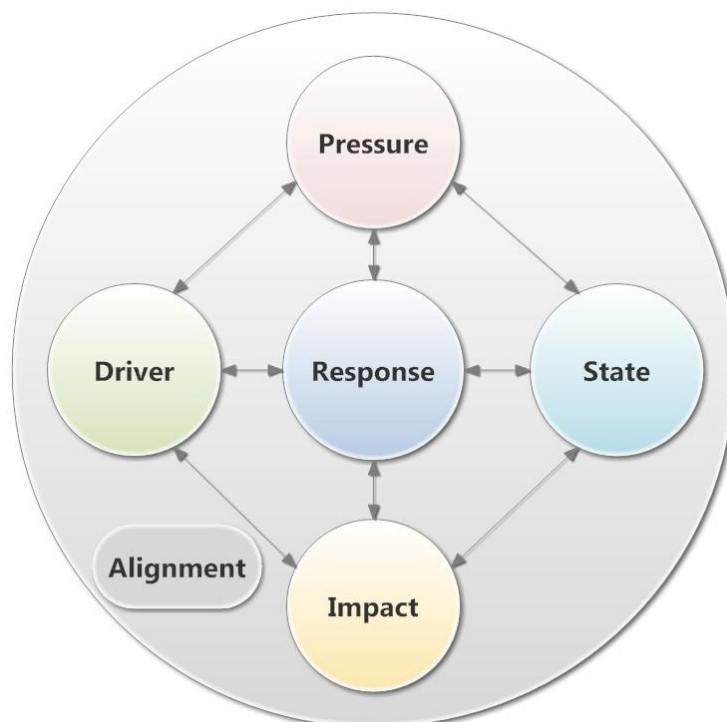
- **IMPS Conceptual Model** - a modified Driver Pressure State Impact Response (DPSIR) model, which provides a process to work through,
- **IMPS Spatial Framework** – which underpins the model, organising and analysing information, plus
- **IMPS Ancillary Tools** – which provide additional guidance through the process and offer a range of tools for analysis and ranking.

IMPS Conceptual Model

The IMPS conceptual model has been constructed as six related 'nodes', posing a series of questions.

The nodes consider:

- **Drivers** – the underlying causes of resource management.
- **Pressures** – management practices and events which affect the condition of natural resources (both positively and negatively).
- **State** – the condition, and trend, of natural resources.
- **Impact** – the services or benefits derived by society from natural resources.
- **Response** – strategies or programs to effectively manage natural resources for the sustainable optimisation of overall benefits.
- **Alignment** – the degree to which proposed responses fit with the charter of Cradle Coast NRM.



The key IMPS questions are:

- **Impacts** - What changes in resource condition will have most environmental, economic and social impact?
- **State** - What is the condition of key natural resources?
- **Threats** - What are the main influences on the condition of key natural resources?
- **Drivers** - What gives rise to the biggest influences on the condition of key resources?
- **Responses** - What can be done to optimise the management of natural resources and their provision of ecosystem services?
- **Alignment** - What initiatives are most appropriate for Cradle Coast NRM to play a major role in?

IMPS Spatial Framework

The IMPS spatial framework and associated data management protocols provide a way to organise and interrogate spatial data, when working through the IMPS process. The framework can incorporate linear, spot and area data about marine and terrestrial resources. It consists of:

- **Raw Data Library** – source attribute datasets or source information.
- **Criteria Library** – enabling selected raw data to be sorted by attributes and analysed by defined criteria. The criteria are developed to answer questions posed by the IMPS conceptual model and are specific to each dataset.
- **Data Summary Library** – consolidated criteria information, summarised to individual landscape units (one kilometre square cells), generating map views in response to the IMPS questions. The summary data may include a range of management boundaries, e.g. catchments, local government or bioregions, to support reporting needs.

IMPS Ancillary Tools

Each of the nodes in the IMPS model is a step in the process of determining priorities and appropriate strategies for natural resource management. For each node, the IMPS Ancillary Tools present:

- **Questions** – the key IMPS questions and supplementary queries.
- **Thought Starter** – a mind-map to help stimulate and structure thinking in response to the questions.
- **Data and information** – lists of possible data or information that would help in answering the questions; both spatial (GIS) and other (including local experience and anecdotal information).
- **Ancillary materials** – lists of management guidelines, codes of practice, models or tools that may assist.
- **Analysis** – a variety of tools that may be of assistance in determining and documenting priorities.

Implementation Planning Support

The IMPS package should be treated as a kit, with elements selected and used as appropriate in the circumstances. It is not intended that every aspect of the kit be used in every situation. Rather there is an ordered collection of materials that may be considered and used when fitting.

Working through IMPS results in a thorough understanding of regional natural resource management issues, options and trade-offs. It:

- Identifies critical assets, critical threats and key drivers,
- Clarifies and gives confidence about priorities for investment,
- Helps design appropriate NRM programs, and
- Generates information that helps justify and communicate the conclusions.

More information

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