

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Why Aither

Background

Services

Experience

Why Aither

The Aither team has a mix of policy, regulatory, economic and scientific credentials – a proven mix that facilitates informed decision making.



Integrated analysis and insights.

We excel at integrated assessment of environment and NRM policy and programs to ensure alignment with objectives, clear and demonstrable outcomes, and effective and efficient delivery.



We understand the on-ground realities of natural resource management.

The Aither team goes beyond just advising on environmental policy and programs; we work with clients to implement solutions and assess the achievement of outcomes.



Driving more of what's working and less of what's not.

We use our deep technical knowledge and applied experience to establish useable metrics that drive improved management.



Personal investment in broad and deep networks.

We maintain ongoing roles in Ministerial advisory committees and independent expert panels, and focus on developing relationships from on-ground delivery to senior levels of government and industry.



We deliver clear and concise narratives.

We draw on our experience working with senior decision makers to communicate clearly, build support for initiatives, and ensure clients understand our analysis and advice.

Background

Australia faces a variety of environmental and natural resource challenges. Combining population growth, urbanisation, mining and resources development, and agricultural expansion in northern Australia with climate change and land management legacy issues demonstrates that challenges are multifaceted; and likely to become more complex.

There are significant opportunities for enhanced economic, social and environmental benefits through better environmental policy, more effective governance and the implementation of adaptive management.

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- Advising on policy and program design, evaluation and review
- Assessing institutional arrangements and governance frameworks
- Undertaking regulatory evaluation and review
- Designing monitoring, evaluation and review frameworks
- Providing economic and financial evaluation, and impact assessments (e.g. cost-benefit analysis)
- Assessing funding and investment options and developing business cases
- Quantifying non-market environmental values
- Providing advice on environmental and NRM markets and market based instruments
- Undertaking stakeholder consultation and engagement – including surveys
- Advising on strategic positioning, visioning and organisational performance

Selected project experience

Evaluation of the Natural Resources Investment Program (Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment): Aither evaluated the Victorian Natural Resources Investment Program against the Government's guidelines for the review of lapsing programs. This included assessing the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the program, and governance and funding arrangements.

Independent review of the *Product Stewardship (Oil) Act 2000* (Department of the Environment): The review assessed the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of the PSO Scheme, and analysed its financial and environmental sustainability using economic modelling techniques. The project included extensive consultation with industry and government, and highlighted critical changes required.

Review of State of the Environment Reporting in Victoria (Office for Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability): Aither was engaged to examine the current state of the environment monitoring and reporting practices, and whether these practices are relevant and effective for optimum prioritisation and decision making by government.

Assessment of opportunities to maximise the value of environmental and NRM services (Melbourne Water Corporation): Aither explored opportunities for services to better contribute to Melbourne Water's strategic goals - including how service offerings could be enhanced, extended or transformed to provide greater value and benefits over different time horizons. A key driver of the review was the need for service offerings to better contribute to urban liveability outcomes.

Benchmarking performance (North Central Catchment Management Authority): Aither assisted North Central in development of an organisation-wide NRM performance standard. The project included the development of an effective standard that can be applied in a range of settings, and performance metrics to track performance over time.