

Implementation and outcomes of the *Noosa River Plan 2004*

**Rebecca Leyshan¹, Paul McDonald², Peter Marchbank³, Nikki Moore⁴,
Ross Quinn⁵, John Beumer⁵ and Raul Weyhardt¹**

¹ Noosa Council

² Natural Resources and Water

³ Queensland Transport

⁴ Environmental Protection Agency

⁵ Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries

The Noosa River Plan was endorsed by State Cabinet in November 2004 as a potential model for coastal systems. A memorandum of understanding was signed by State agencies and the Noosa Council in December 2005 to guide implementation of the Plan. Nearly 2.5 years into implementation, the Implementation Coordination Group (ICG) has progressed the majority of the priority actions from the plan. Only 11 of the 74 actions are left to commence and 17 actions are complete. Some actions have been delivered on a regional or State-wide basis, with benefits for many other waterways.

This paper discusses implementation of the plan which is based on close collaboration of those involved and the outcomes achieved such as:

- Preparation of a Recreational Area Management Plan for Johns Landing, a busy camping ground on the Noosa River;
- Codes of practice including: Commercial Boatmans, Recreational boating, and Living on board watercraft;
- Speed limit review and changes;
- Historical sites identified for planning scheme and listing of Mill Point settlement site on Queensland Heritage Register;
- Prescribed Tidal Works Code and implementation;
- Cap on moorings;
- Boat Ramp investigation report and management actions;
- Environmental Values and Water Quality Objectives scheduled; and
- Periodic benchmark survey to monitor river profiles and bank erosion.
- Annual monitoring program for the Noosa River to monitor such indicators as weed infestation, bank erosion, seagrass, vessel numbers and marine safety incidents.

The Noosa River Plan and its implementation process is regarded as a highly successful model for achieving whole of government coordination for waterways management, as well as for effective community and industry governance. This has been acknowledged in its awarding of the 2006 Healthy Waterways Government Award and the NRMW Fenwick Award.