

Environment Fundamentals

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

Luke Murphy, NRM Facilitator

Outline

- What is NRM
- The players
- Local government:
 - role, drivers & issues
 - activities
 - priorities
- Planning

What is NRM ?

Biodiversity, Ecosystems



The coast and foreshore



Land resources



Rivers, wetlands, estuaries, water resources



Protection and enhancement through management of risks including.....

Pest plants and animals



Land clearance and soil erosion



Fire

Water quantity



and quality



Urbanisation and development



Salinity



The science

Understanding the science is crucial for developing well informed policy, irrelevant of the scale in which you operate.

Often, the problem for local government is that the science is of little value:

- too broad (e.g. national)
- inaccuracies
- gaps

The science

Some councils have commissioned their own science to address their information gaps.

What is the importance of robust science to support local needs?

- Justify decisions and investment

The Players

- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Department of Primary Industries
- Victorian Catchment Management Council
- Catchment Management Authorities
- Local Government
- Parks Victoria
- Victorian Coastal Council
- Regional Coastal Boards
- The Australian Government (NHT, NAP)
- Others: community groups, NGOs, peak bodies, committees of management etc.

Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE)

- Sustainable water supply and management
- Catchment Management including supervision of the governance arrangement for CMAs and the VCMC
- Management and governance services for Victoria's parks
- Biodiversity, conservation, heritage and tourism services
- Public land and forest management

Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE)

- Fire prevention and management
- Urban and regional strategies and programs
- Sustainability and greenhouse policy
- Land information
- Policy frameworks, regulations and environmental protection services

Catchment Management Authorities (CMA)

- Functions in relation to waterway and floodplain management and regional drainage (Melbourne Water functions in PPW region)
- Preparing and implementing Regional Catchment Strategies (RCS) and Special Area Plans
- Promoting the cooperation of people and bodies involved in the management of regional land and water resources
- Promoting community awareness about land and water resources
- Making recommendations to the Minister for Environment and the Secretary of DSE about action to prevent land degradation on Crown land managed by the Secretary

NRM Investment

E.g. (just some)

- Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) 1 and 2
- National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality (NAP)
- NHT 3
- Envirofund
- Community Water Grants
- State programs (e.g. Tackling Weeds on Private Property)
- Market Based Instruments (Bush Tender / Broker etc)
- Regional grant programs and MBI's
- Local government e.g. land manager, grants and incentives

People and.....



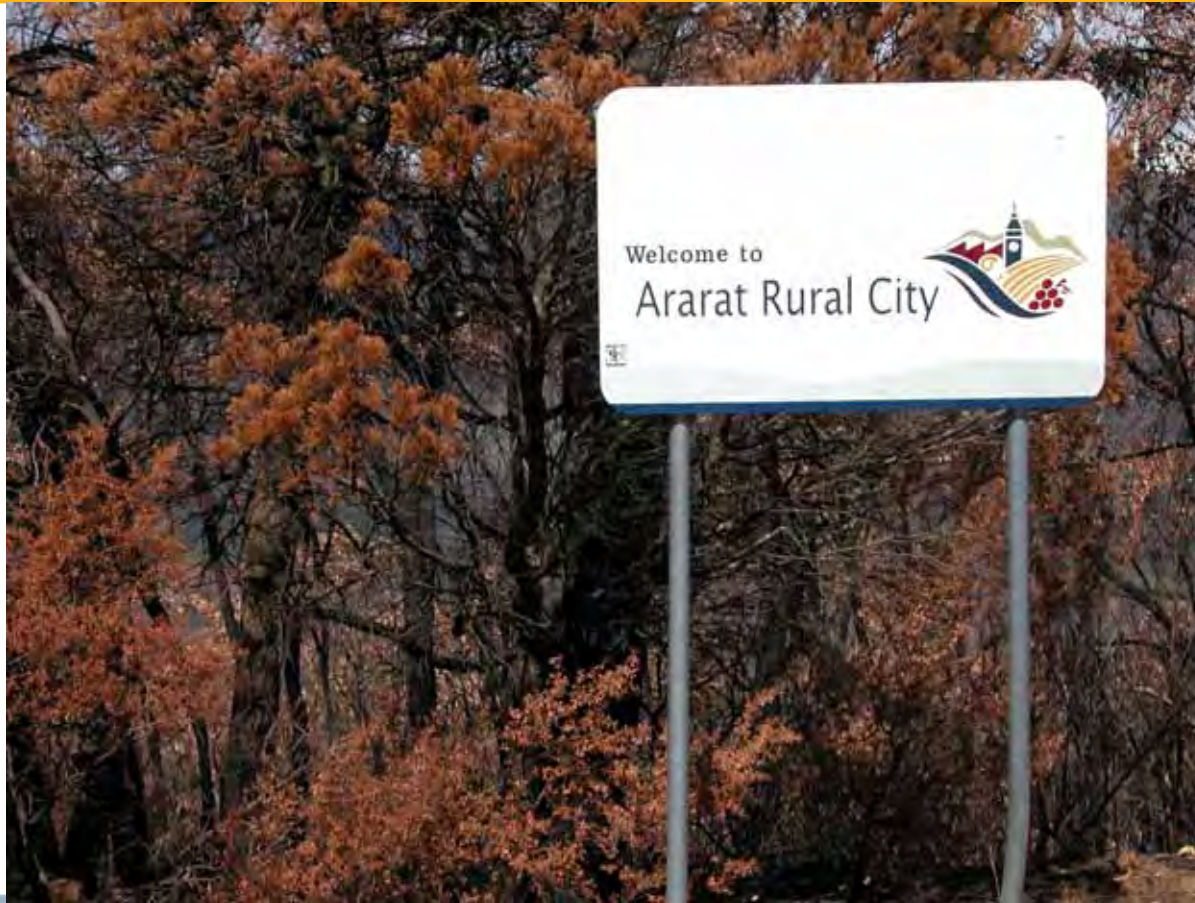
Partnerships

‘Community restores ecological balance near Wodonga’
(partnership including NECMA and Wodonga City Council)



GROUP ACTIVITY

Why should local government care about NRM ?



Why should local government care about NRM ?

- Statutory Responsibilities
- Community Expectation
- Financial benefits
- Leadership / Recognition
- Local Priorities
- Improved Environmental Outcomes

Statutory responsibilities

Legislative framework

The main ones:

Local Government Act 1989

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

The others:

Listed in the manual

Local Government Act 1989

Environment objective:

(Effects of cumulative decisions)

'...In doing so, a council must promote the social economic and **environmental viability** and **sustainability** of the municipal district...'

Planning & Environment Act 1987

Planning objectives include:

'...provision of the protection of **natural** and man-made resources and maintenance of **ecological processes** and **genetic diversity**...'

'...The planning framework enables land use and development policy to be easily integrated with **environment**, social, economic, **conservation** and **resource management**...'

Planning & Environment Act 1987

Cont'd:

Land use and development decisions need to ensure effects on the **environment** are considered.

Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994

Councils should regard:

- Regional Catchment Strategies
- Special Area Plans

All landowners:

- Avoid land degradation
- Conserve soil
- Protect water resources
- Eradicate prohibited weeds
- Prevent growth and spread of controlled weeds and pest animals

Two Major NRM Processes

There are two current NRM processes important for local government:

National

- Framework for Future NRM Programs (NHT3)

State

- White Paper for Land and Biodiversity in a Time of Climate Change

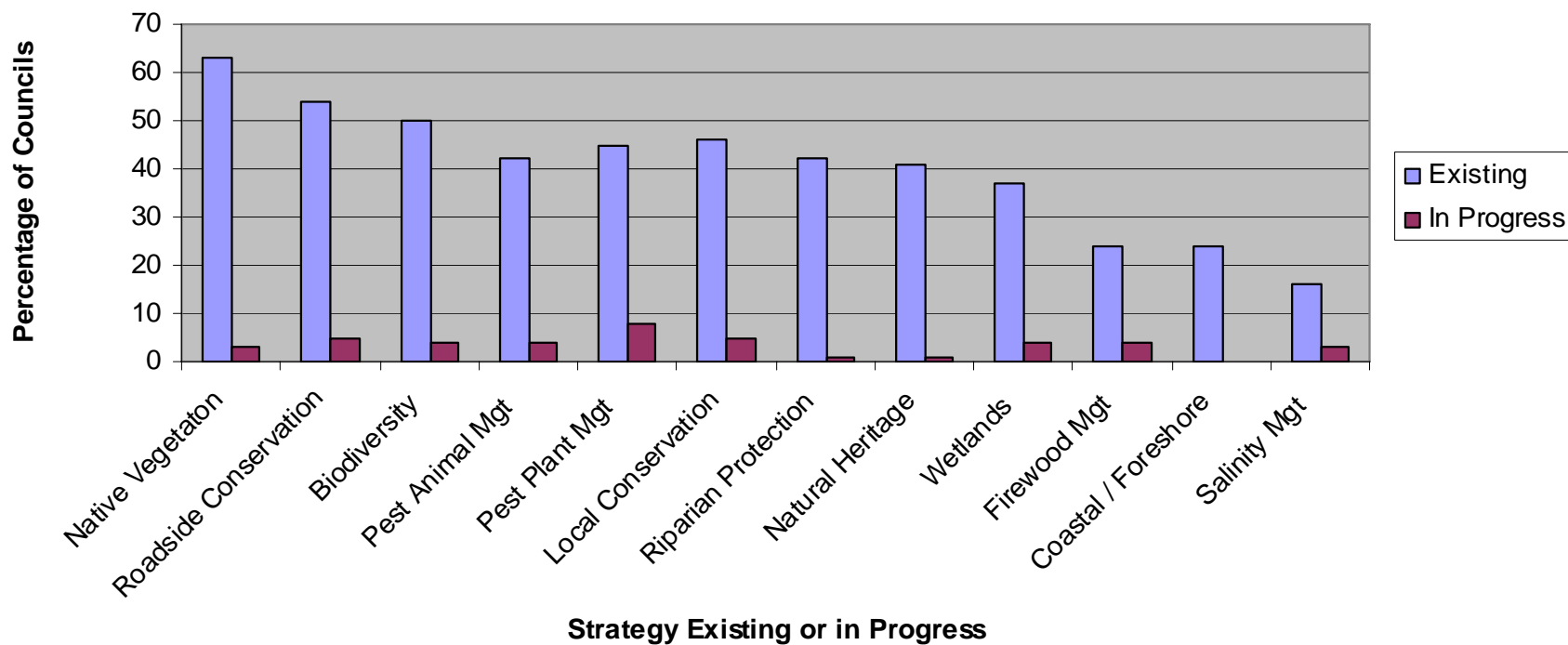
So....what are the NRM role / activities of local government?

Statutory and non-statutory NRM roles and activities include:

- Strategic planning
- Development control
- Enforcement powers
- Water
- Risk control
- Incentives
- Land manager
- Community support
- Capacity building
- Local laws
- Strategies and management plans

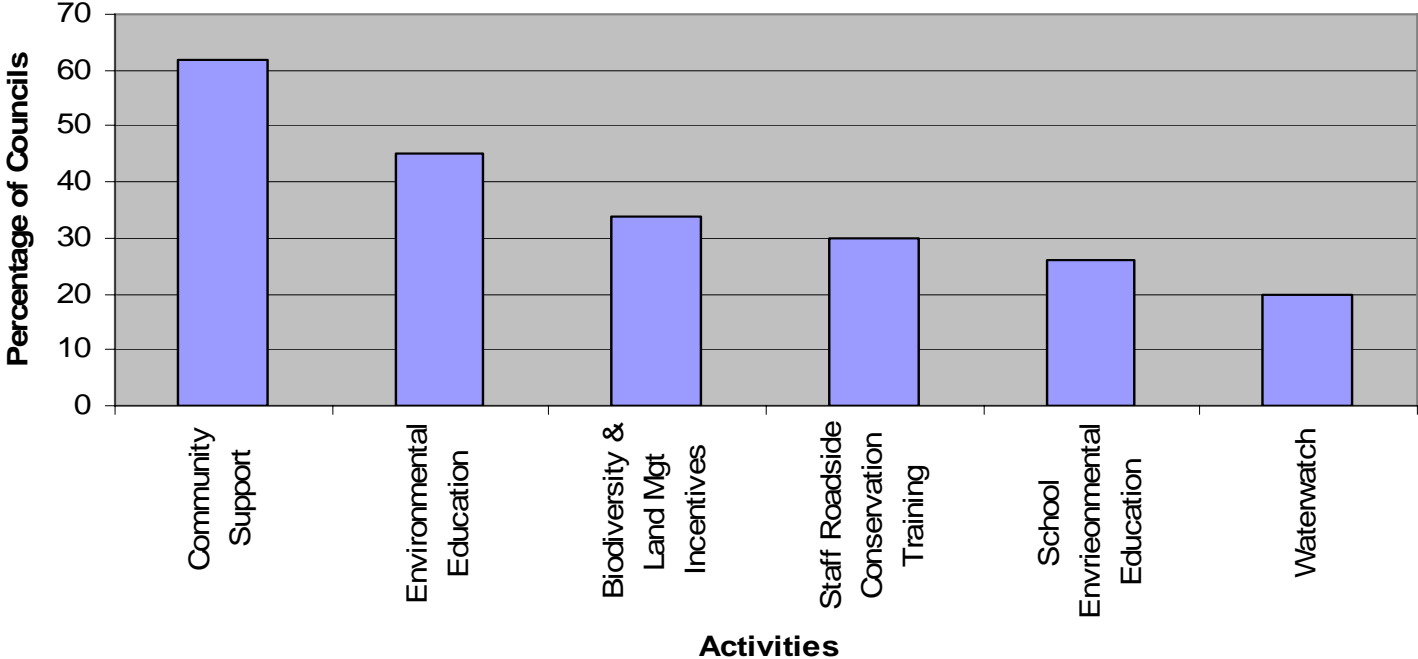
Local government strategies

Local Government NRM Strategies



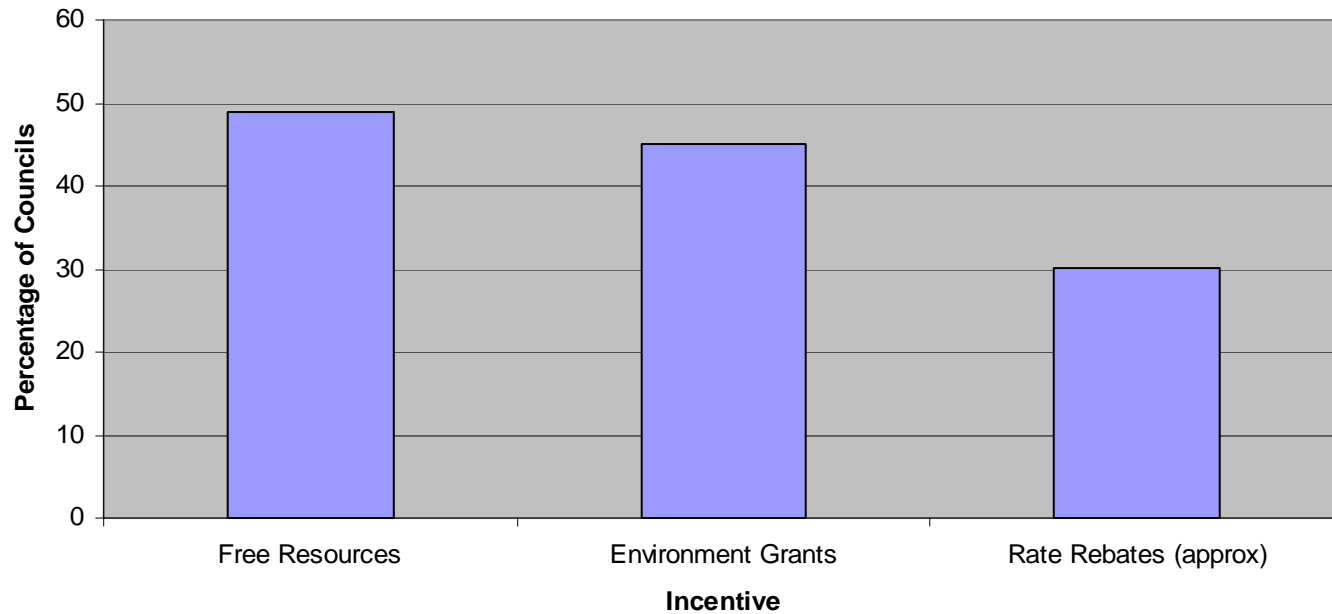
Local government NRM activities

Local Government NRM Related Activities



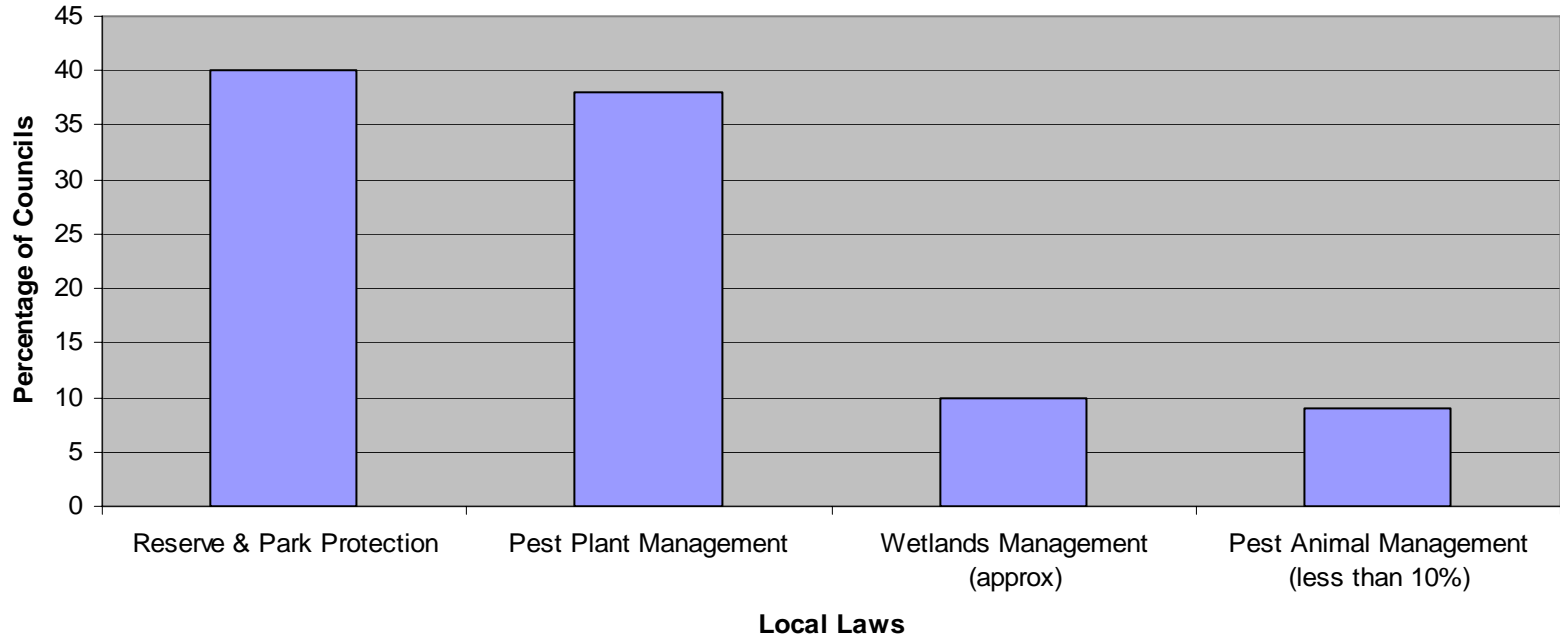
Local government incentives

Local Government NRM Incentive Mechanisms



Local laws

NRM Related Local Laws



Local government NRM contribution

The sector is clearly a major contributor to NRM:

Local government commitment to NRM is demonstrated by the amount of dollars invested by the sector annually

- \$600 million on environmental management activities including:
 - \$182.9 million on land management
 - \$ 18.8 million on biodiversity
- (ABS. 2002/03)

Local government NRM issues

The NRM issues facing the sector range from the broad and complex, to single issues that impact directly on councils.

- A regional NRM model that strengthens local government participation
- Improved information and technical support for councils
- Improved alignment between statutory planning and regional catchment planning
- Resolution on who is responsible for roadside weed management

Local government NRM issues

Cont'd.

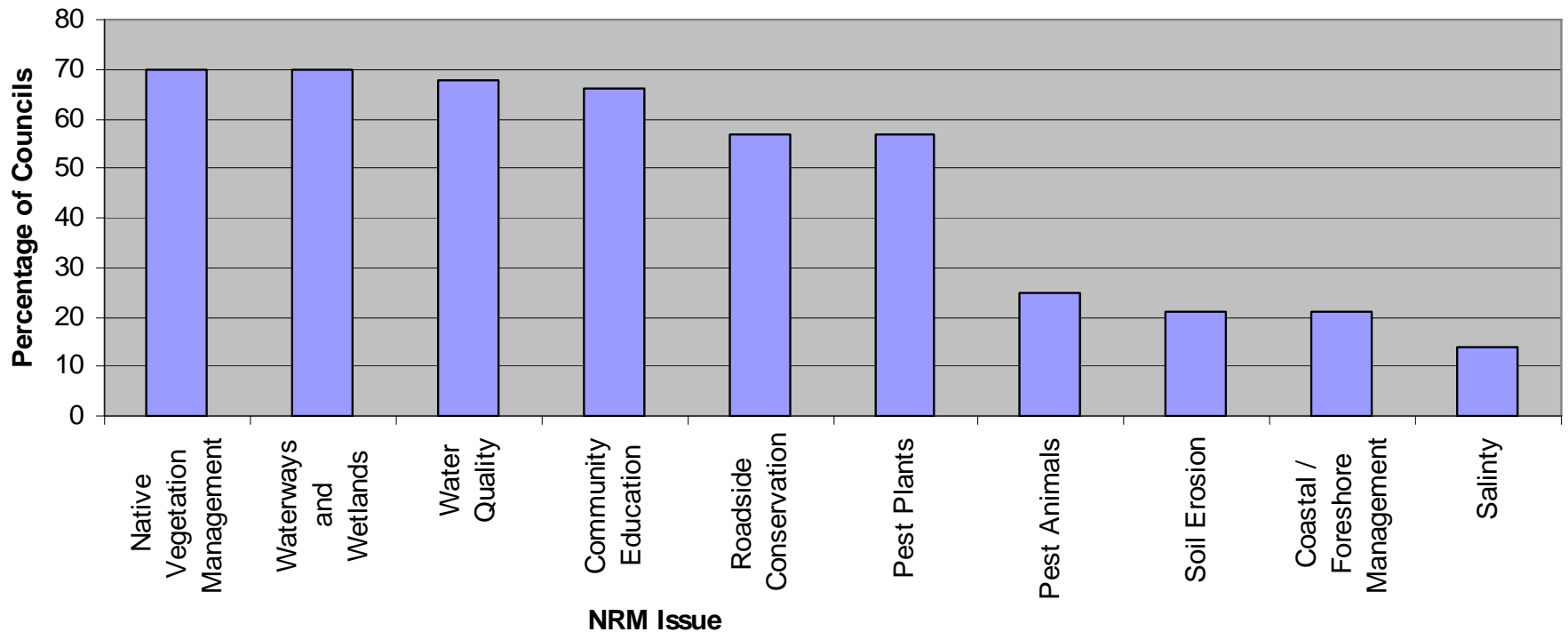
- Native vegetation management:
 - effective controls since the 'New Approach'
 - action plan for foreshore vegetation protection
 - completion of the Exemptions Review
 - Permit Tracking System

ACTIVITY

What are some of the specific NRM priorities for your council?

Specific NRM priorities for local government

Priority Local Government NRM Issues



Statutory planning and NRM

NRM can be incorporated throughout the structure of the planning scheme from the SPPF to the council determined priorities in the LPPF.

The purpose of the MSS is to provide a concise statement on land use and development in the municipality (and opportunity to strategically identify NRM priorities).

Local policies give effect to the MSS

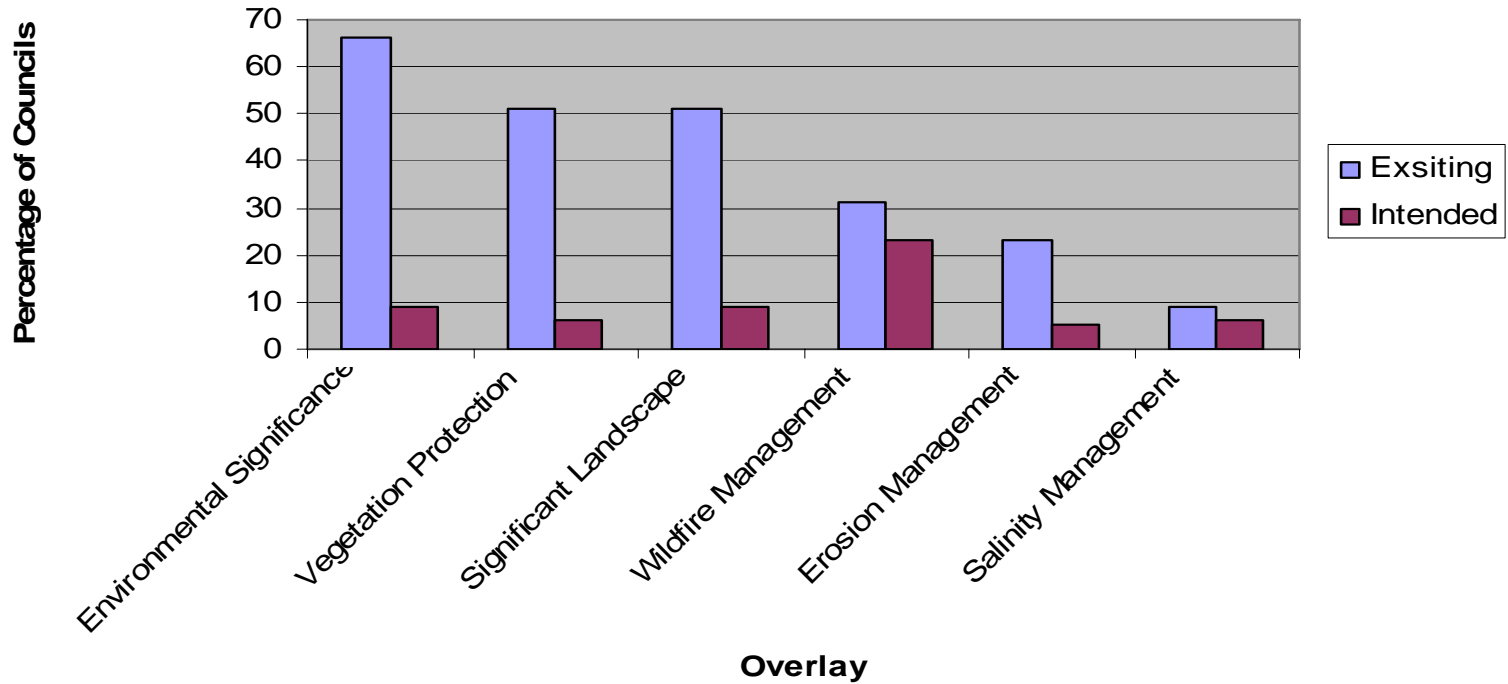
Statutory planning and NRM

Zones are critical as they determine land use (e.g. Rural Conservation Zone).

Overlays impose permit requirements effecting subdivision, development and generally address environmental and built matters.

Statutory planning and NRM

NRM Related Planning Overlays



Council plan

A council's strategic planning process implements the community's vision for the coming term.

It identifies the priorities and resources required to deliver the Council's objectives.

If investment and development of programs that deliver improved NRM outcomes are a priority for a council, they must be included in the Council Plan for it to be considered in the budget and actioned.

Summary