

# Balancing choices in NRM

*socio-economic considerations  
in policy design*

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## Public good outcomes...



Photo: Mick Davis, WWF



## Asking for ...



Photo: Mick Davis, WWF

- Protect existing native vegetation
  - ◆ Fencing, feral animal & weed control, regeneration works
- Re-vegetation
  - ◆ Wildlife corridors, new habitats
- Salinity control
  - ◆ Adoption of deep-rooted perennials
  - ◆ Engineering interventions



## Overview of paper

- Policy challenges for greater integration of environmental imperatives
- Nesting of policy influences
- Balance in NRM decisions at three levels: national policy; regional; farm-level



## National-policy level

- National strategic policy framework
  - ◆ Integrate and balance with other strategies
  - ◆ Compete for funds across portfolios
- Commonwealth and states
  - ◆ Balancing: funding across regions; issues, programs, and assets
- Partnerships with regional bodies
  - ◆ Partnership 'rules' and accountability



## National-level summary

- Tools for influencing the balances struck in regional investment strategies
- Role in building capacity of NRM bodies to balancing investment strategically
  - ◆ Technical/scientific skills
  - ◆ Selection and design of policy tools
- On-going M&E focus on the NRM outcomes
  - ◆ Accountability across all levels

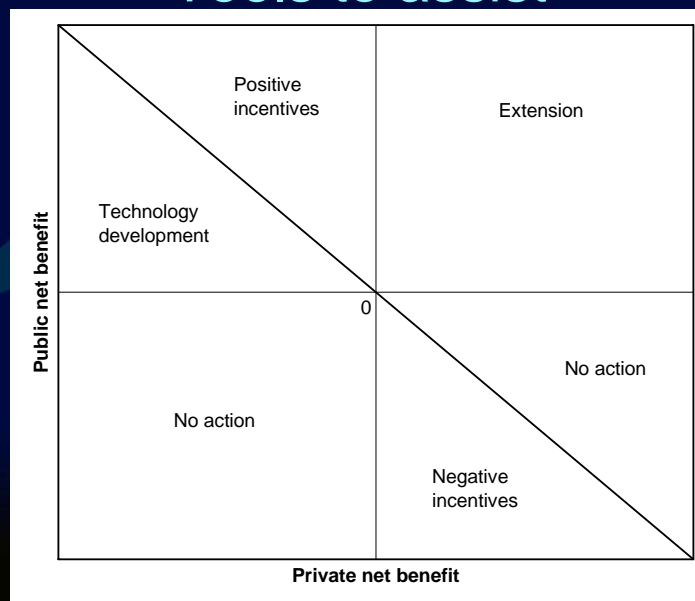


## Regional-level

- Regional plan and investment strategy
  - ◆ Partnerships with Government and the community
- Balancing:
  - ◆ Community values and expectations with national priorities
  - ◆ Investment across the region
  - ◆ Investment across NRM assets
  - ◆ Public and private net benefits



## Tools to assist



## Regional-level summary

- Understanding the diversity of communities across the region
- Engaging in strategic planning processes over the long-term
- Selecting policy tools based on levels of public and private benefits



## Farm-level

- Balancing personal and family objectives and values

*"To a greater or lesser extent... farmers are willing to make financial sacrifices for the good of their land or the environment, but they also must give priority to remaining in business and meeting other family and social objectives" Pannell (2003 p. 131)*

- Social context and motivations
  - ◆ **Decisions made as social agents** (public good contributions)



## Farm-level summary

- Influencing where the farmer strikes the balance in NRM decisions:
  - ◆ Continued investment in capacity building (social capital)
  - ◆ Investigating factors that influence participation for agri-environmental tools/programs
  - ◆ Policy tools that are appropriate to the economic and social nature of investment decisions



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