

GLENRAC STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2015

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- B. SUSTAINING LAND
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- D. ACHIEVING BALANCE
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Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory
Committee Inc. January 2010





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GLENRAC mission and objectives, structure

Mission & Objectives statement

“To develop the capacity and to coordinate the action for landholders and the community to manage the natural resource base of the Glen Innes region for the improvement of both the social and productive environment”.

The current GLENRAC structure and membership was established on the 22nd June 1989 by a group of people interested in land management and land conservation issues in the local area. GLENRAC aims to be representative of all key stakeholders in natural resource management in the local area.

GLENRAC became an incorporated body in 1992. GLENRAC is Incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 to act as a not for profit organisation under the current legislation of the Australian Tax Office. GLENRAC’s area of operation is the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area, in addition to land managed by people who consider Glen Innes as their community of interest. This further encompasses some land in the Inverell and Guyra Local Government Area’s.

Key Stakeholders

Landholders - rural and urban
Land carers – rural and urban
Public and private land managers

Partner Organisations - Local

Department of Environment and Climate Change - NPWS
Department of Industry and Investment
Glen Innes Local Aboriginal Lands Council
Glen Innes Severn Council
New England Livestock Health & Pest Authority

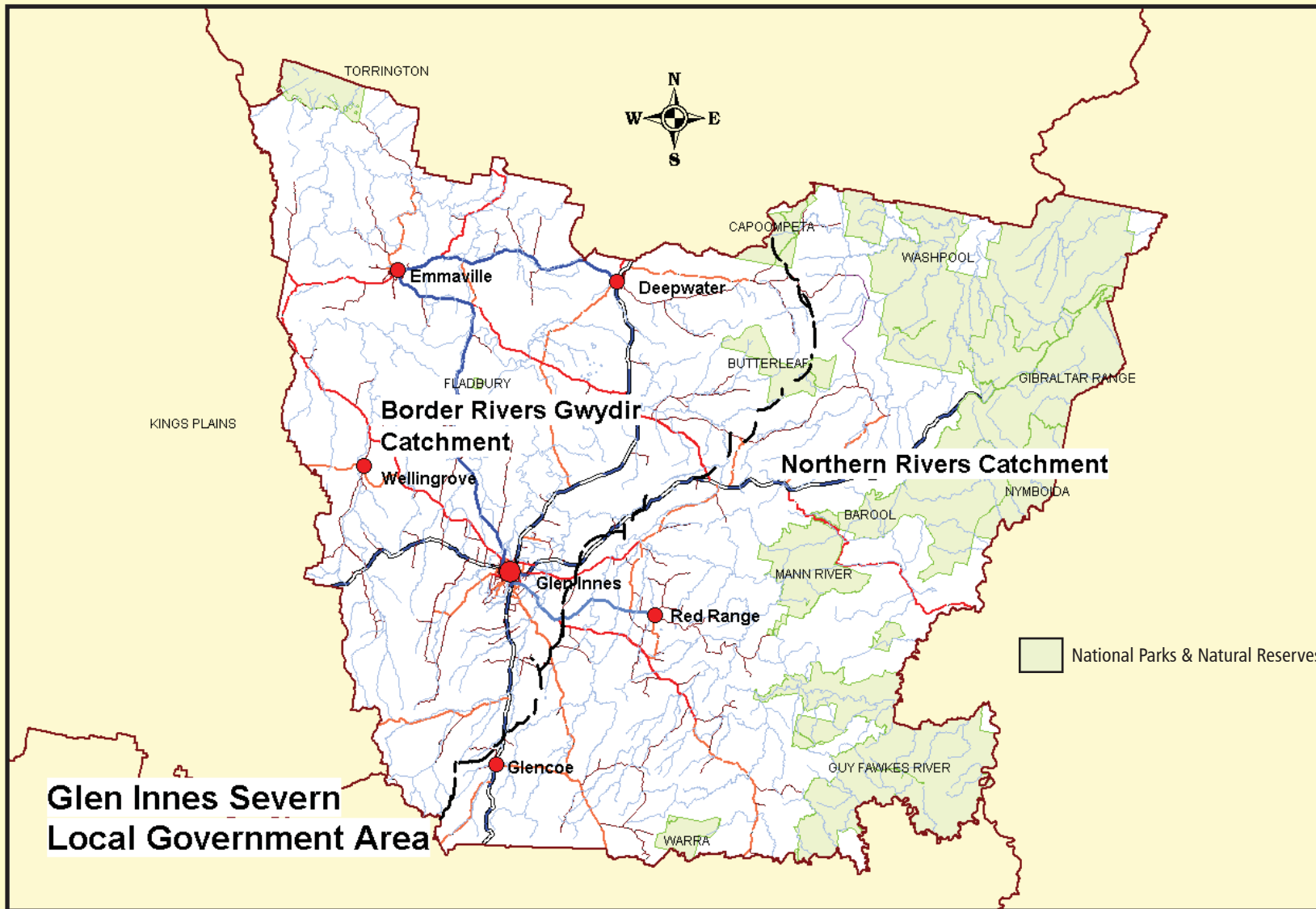
Partner Organisations - External

Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority
NSW Government
Australian Government
New England North West Chairs group
NSW Landcare Incorporated
North Coast Regional Landcare Network

Target Communication Groups

Anyone interested in Natural Resource Management
Landholders and land carers– rural and urban
Visitors to Glen Innes and its districts
Partner organisations
Potential funding sources

CONTEXT for PLANNING – Glen Innes Severn Council Area – represents the main area serviced by GLENRAC



A. Sustaining Land – vegetation, soils, weeds, land use.

Strategies	Aims
<p>A.1 Enhance vegetation cover and water use efficiency</p> <p>In co-ordination with other partner organisations GLENRAC will facilitate the delivery of information and work to increase the knowledge and skills of all land managers.</p> <p>Key messages would include – ground cover must be maintained above 80%, promote sustainable farming practises that improve soil carbon and reduce soil acidity, benefits of improved shade and shelter on-farms.</p>	<p>a) Develop and maintain partnerships with other organisations b) Provide a resource centre for the community for dissemination of information. c) Host an annual pasture/ground cover field day</p>
<p>A.2 Healthy soils for healthy landscapes</p> <p>GLENRAC will work to increase awareness and understanding of soil structures, fertility, improved land management practices, testing and use of chemical and biological tools to improve soil structure and health.</p>	<p>a) Provide a resource centre for the dissemination of information. b) Seek funding for soils related on ground works projects e.g. soil erosion remediation and soil monitoring.</p>
<p>A.3 Reduce the impact of weeds.</p> <p>GLENRAC will work to raise the awareness and knowledge of weeds of both local and national significance.</p>	<p>a) Work with partner organisation to deliver information on weeds b) Work in conjunction with the GISC to present newsletter articles and public displays c) Host an annual weeds field day</p>
<p>A.4 Landholder Education</p> <p>GLENRAC will continue to facilitate the provision of property management planning courses for Glen Innes landholders. Whole-farm property planning aims to develop management strategies for maximising farm productivity and maintaining land use and ecological sustainability.</p> <p>GLENRAC will continue to act as a conduit for the continual increase in land managers awareness, knowledge and skills in NRM and adoption of practises that improve natural resource outcomes.</p>	<p>a) Glenrac will host one property management planning course per annum b) Seek funding for landholders who have completed NRM strategic planning activities c) Address future training needs.</p>

B. Managing Water – erosion control, water quality.

Strategies	Aims
<p>B.1 Reduce risk of soil erosion & repair active erosion sites</p> <p>GLENRAC will work to increase awareness of the factors contributing to increased risk of soil erosion. In addition GLENRAC will seek funding for the repair and remediation of active soil erosion sites. This may include abandoned mine sites. This will include engaging consultants to design and supervise such projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide community resource centre for the dissemination of information b) Seeking funding for soils related on ground works project c) Facilitate access to professional advice for soil erosion projects d) Report annually on the number of projects, no. ha repaired and any other associated works completed.
<p>B.2 Protect waterways and riparian zones</p> <p>GLENRAC will promote practises that improve water quality in relation to land management practises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop and maintain partnerships with other organisations b) Provide a resource centre for the community for dissemination of information. c) Seek funding for riparian related on ground works project d) Report annually on the number of projects, km of riparian fencing completed and any other associated works completed.
<p>B.3 Participate in regional water quality monitoring activities</p> <p>GLENRAC will endeavour to provide opportunities to the community to participate in water quality monitoring activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Offer Water Watch training and/or monitoring to any stakeholders individuals or groups interested in participating.

C. Achieving Balance – biodiversity, flora-fauna, Pest Animals.

Strategies	Aims
<p>C.1 Biodiversity understanding</p> <p>GLENRAC will increase the local awareness of native vegetation and ecosystems that provide critical functions including sheltering and sustaining wildlife, protecting streams and wetlands.</p>	<p>a) Develop and maintain partnerships with other organisations b) Provide resource centre for the community for dissemination of information. c) Seeking funding for biodiversity related on ground works project d) Report annually on the number of projects, no. of seedlings planted/ no. ha fenced to conserve native vegetation on farms and any other associated works completed.</p>
<p>C.2 Protect native habitat, flora and fauna</p> <p>GLENRAC, working with agencies and landholders, will identify and publicise key native habitat areas and corridors in the region. GLENRAC will provide printed materials on Property Vegetation Plan (Native Vegetation Act 2003) and be a referral source for enquiries to CMA staff.</p> <p>GLENRAC will inform landholders of the potential for using education or financial incentives, market-based instruments or other mechanisms to encourage management of native habitat and vegetation for biodiversity outcomes.</p>	<p>a) Develop and maintain partnerships with other organisations b) Provide resource centre for the community for dissemination of information. c) Refer Property Vegetation Plan (Native Vegetation Act 2003) enquiries to relevant CMA staff.</p>
<p>C.3 Control of Pest Animals (feral and “other”)</p> <p>GLENRAC will work with agencies to communicate and coordinate actions to control foxes, wild dogs, feral pigs, cats and goats, and landholder inputs on pest occurrences and building of problems. GLENRAC will initiate communications upwards as needed in response to feedback.</p>	<p>a) Work with partner organisation to deliver information on pest animals and methods of control. b) Work in conjunction with the LHPA to present newsletter articles and public displays c) Seek funding for pest animal related projects.</p>

D Extending GLENRAC Performance

Strategies	Aims
<p>D.1 Extend GLENRAC's Reach – wider and deeper.</p> <p>GLENRAC has a well-developed communications strategy for a core of landholders, mainly rural, across the region. GLENRAC recognises this group accounts for a significant proportion of the land but not all landholders. GLENRAC will review and change its approaches to achieve a much wider and deeper reach into target audiences as will be vital for effective coordination and knowledge extension.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Scope current and future target audience b) Develop new strategies to engage new members in the immediate community and beyond. c) Review communication strategy and methods annually.
<p>D.2 Professional project management.</p> <p>GLENRAC will continue to develop the capacity to deliver projects in a professional and timely manner for all stakeholders. GLENRAC will work to further build committee and staff skills to implement this Strategic Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Deliver all projects on-time and on-budget b) Annual review of staff skills development needs c) Annual plan for staff professional development d) Annual audit of GLENRAC resources available to deliver projects.
<p>D.3 Monitor, evaluate and report.</p> <p>GLENRAC is aware of the increasing need for Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting on all projects. As such GLENRAC staff will continue to develop skills and processes to present information in a professional and meaningful manner to all stakeholders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop a simple Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Information (MERI) process b) Present a report annually at the Annual General Meeting to the community

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D Extending GLENRAC Performance ... continued

Strategies	Aims
<p>D.4 Provide a voice for grass roots landholders.</p> <p>GLENRAC is a long established entity with a record of community-based activity that has continued in a constantly changing environment. GLENRAC is a truly representative body of the major stakeholders in NRM in the Glen Innes region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) GLENRAC will continue in its role as a source of information and data to local, regional, State and National NRM agencies b) The GLENRAC Chair will attend New England North West Chairs and the BRG CMA Landcare Advisory Group as a representative of GLENRAC. c) Glenrac Chair will report on these activities at the AGM in the Chairman's report.
<p>D.5 Secure resources for effective implementation.</p> <p>The scope of GLENRAC's achievement against this Plan will much depend on resources secured to proactively develop programs. In this Strategic Plan, GLENRAC is demonstrating its concern and potential to substantially extend natural resources information and tools to landholders, and to initiate, co-ordinate and facilitate programs that encourage change. Resources will be actively sought.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) GLENRAC will continue to seek funding to continue to provide the same level of base services to the community – Community Resource Centre, Full time Community Support Officer. b) GLENRAC will seek to secure funding for NRM focused activities for the local community. c) Statement of funding obtained to be presented in an annual report.

E. Working Forward – challenging climates and systems.

Strategies	Aims
<p>E.1 Complexity – and community capacity building.</p> <p>GLENRAC increasingly recognises and factors in the complexity of maintaining productive sustainable land today and into the future. While a core of landholders in this region have embraced natural resource management principles and practices, many more need to be involved and engaged today and in the future.</p>	<p>a) Establish and maintain partnerships with new groups / stakeholders in NRM.</p>
<p>E.2 Climate change and this region.</p> <p>NSW government projections in 2008 suggested moderate impacts of climate change in the NENW region by 2050. There could be somewhat increased temperatures, rainfall and evaporation and variation in runoff, but longer drier periods, and increased fires with changes to ecosystems.</p> <p>Soils may be more vulnerable to erosion, and biodiversity would be affected by higher average temperatures.</p>	<p>a) Act as an information conduit to inform the community of the effects of climate change b) Promote and provide (as appropriate) training activities relating to climate change.</p>
<p>E.3 Demographics changing ways and means.</p> <p>Australia will be experiencing significant demographic changes over the next decades, with shifts already underway. As part of extending its reach and performance, GLENRAC will monitor demographic changes regionally and more widely.</p>	<p>a) Establish and maintain an effective delivery mechanism to increase NRM skills across all sections of the community.</p>

PERFORMANCE – measurement approaches.

GLENRAC operates with an experienced, responsible and accountable board reporting to community and other stakeholders. Its governance framework includes:

- Annual financial audit
- Regular Board meetings
- Formation of project steering committees for the assessment and management of project applications

GLENRAC is further developing performance indicators, project selection criteria and processes for evaluating project results and outcomes. These will be refined over the next two years with reference to experience in a range of organisations.

GLENRAC and its stakeholders need performance measures and indicators that are:

- Related to GLENRAC priorities
- Focussed on factors GLENRAC can influence
- Realistic and informative about results
- Measurable – but not at high cost
- Useful to GLENRAC and others in decision-making and consultation.

Policy and funding – Federal, State

GLENRAC's overall financial position remains sound but it is not certain. The future of the organisation remains linked to GLENRAC performance in extending information and achieving results. Linked to this is GLENRAC's ability to attract funding from both government and non-government sources in an increasingly competitive environment.

Sourcing of funding will be directly related to GLENRAC's ability to engage a rising number of landholders in the region to undertake NRM projects that achieve meaningful and measurable outcomes that align with government targets and community expectations for environmental management – and produce results for the landholder and community.

The Federal Government has new policy directions including on funding for community natural resource projects. Funds will be distributed to organisations judged most able to implement projects to achieve Government targets for the environment. GLENRAC, in conjunction with Catchment Management Authorities and other like minded organisations will bid for projects in the Glen Severn region.

GLENRAC Contact Details

Office: 68 Church St GLEN INNES NSW 2370
Postal: PO BOX 660 GLEN INNES NSW 2370
Web: www.glenrac.org.au
Phone: 02 6732 3443