



29 September 2016

Paper Title:	State of Natural Resources (SoNaRR) Final Sign-off
Paper Reference:	Paper NRW B B 57.16
Paper Sponsored By:	Ceri Davies
Paper Presented By:	Michael Evans

Purpose of Paper:	Scrutiny
Recommendation:	To confirm the sign-off of SoNaRR. To advise on how best to engage with our stakeholders on the next steps.

Impact: To note – all headings might not be applicable to the topic	<p>How do the proposals in this paper help NRW achieve the Well-Being of Future Generations Act principles in terms of:</p> <p>Impact on the Environment: The State of Natural resources Report (SoNaRR) will inform the National Natural Resources Policy (NNRP) which will identify the priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales.</p> <p>The approach in SoNaRR links ecosystem resilience to risks to well-being now and in the future.</p> <p>Impact on the Economy: By reporting on the sustainable management of Wales' Natural Resources and informing the NNRP, SoNaRR will identify opportunities for innovative approaches to address change which benefits the economy and natural resources in Wales.</p>
--	--

	<p>Impact on Community: By reporting on the sustainable management of Wales' Natural Resources and informing the NNRP, SoNaRR will drive changes to the well-being of the people of Wales.</p> <p>Impact on Knowledge: SoNaRR will be a collation of evidence on the State of Wales' Natural Resources and an assessment of the extent to which sustainable management is being achieved. It will provide a baseline and add to our knowledge.</p>
--	--

Issue

1. To confirm the sign-off of SoNaRR.
2. To advise on how best to engage with our stakeholders on the next steps.

Background

3. The Board discussed SoNaRR at the March and July meetings. At the July meeting, the decision was taken to sign-off the report out of session during September to allow us to meet the timetable for publication as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
4. We have worked closely with the Welsh Government in the production of this report to ensure that it meets to requirements of the Environment Wales Act. The next step is for Welsh Ministers to produce it National Natural Resources Policy.
5. We acknowledge that we have not met our own ambition to engage and collaborate with our partners and stakeholders in the production of this first report. Early discussions allowed some of our partners to share data and evidence, which has been included in the report. However, we have not followed this through with engagement on the tools and techniques used to complete the assessment of sustainable management of natural resources. We recognise this is a gap and we are very explicit in the report on the importance of using the launch of the report as a platform for engagement and collaboration.
6. We have taken steps to brief partners and stakeholders on the purpose and aims of the report through inclusion in routine business meetings. We have also run a series of webinars, a presentation at the Wales Biodiversity Partnership conference, and

sharing of the final draft of the report with stakeholders who attended the webinars in the spirit of no surprises.

Assessment

Engagement next steps

7. We recognise that the publication of the first SoNaRR marks an important milestone for our staff as well as our stakeholders and partners. It is the first product of the Environment (Wales) Act and Well-being of Future Generations Act and shows the real difference the new approach makes. We plan:

8. For our staff:

- Targeted engagement and briefing of leadership and management tier for them to lead engagement with their teams on the difference
- Targeted briefing for staff who attend and lead PSB engagement to show them how to use SoNaRR in these fora
- Webinars as a series of general briefings on the approach, then “bite sized” webinars on resilience, well-being, risk register and opportunities
- Face to face workshops on what SoNaRR means for our new corporate plan and well-being objectives

9. For our stakeholders and partners:

- Area Statement 4 day workshop in early September, building on key elements of SoNaRR
- Follow-up workshops and webinars are in development with specific sectors and groups
- Series of speaking engagements at conferences, for example the Policy Forum for Wales in November.

Recommendation(s)

10. To confirm the sign-off of SoNaRR.

11. To advise on how best to engage with our stakeholders on the next steps.

Key Risks

12. We have previously highlighted the risk that without further engagement, stakeholders will not understand the purpose of SoNaRR, and we will not be able to fully realise the opportunities that it offers.

Financial Implications

13. The costs of the production of SoNaRR have been included in our budgets, as has the element of stakeholder engagement.

Equality impact assessment (EqIA)

14. Not applicable.