

## Chapter 7

# **Natural Resource Use and Management in the Australian Sugar Industry: Current Practice and Opportunities for Improved Policy, Planning and Management**

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*Australian Journal of Environmental Management* (1998), 5(2), 97-108

### **Abstract**

The Australian sugar industry is largely confined to the narrow, high rainfall coastal zone in which competition from tourist and recreational uses, urban encroachment, public utilities and hobby farms for natural resources has increased significantly in recent years and is likely to grow in the future. This paper briefly examines the socio-political, economic and environmental context in which natural resources are currently managed in the Australian sugar industry. We argue that planning, in concert with a range of policy and economic instruments, can play an important role in the resolution of such problems. Building on the collective national and international experience of other industries, options for efficient and equitable allocation of resources between the sugar industry and its neighbours at the policy level and on-farm are outlined and discussed.