TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface i
Executive summary iii
Abbreviations x
1 **Introduction** 1
1.1 Background 1
1.2 An overview of wetland health assessment 3
1.3 An overview of wetland ecosystem services assessment 3
1.4 The aim of this study 4
2 **Development of a land cover change impact metric to describe impacts of land cover change on wetland hydrological health** 6
2.1 Introduction 6
2.2 Grouping National Land Cover classes based on impacts to runoff 6
2.2.1 Natural 8
2.2.2 Forest Plantations 8
2.2.3 Water Bodies 8
2.2.4 Dongas and Sheet Erosion 8
2.2.5 Degraded Vegetation 9
2.2.6 Irrigated Cultivation 9
2.2.7 Dryland Cultivation 9
2.2.8 Urban Residential – High Density 10
2.2.9 Urban Residential – Low Density 10
2.2.10 Urban Commercial 10
2.2.11 Urban Industrial/Transport 10
2.2.12 Mines and Quarries 11
2.3 Intensity of hydrological impacts of altered land cover 11
3 **Development of a loss of function metric to assess provision of ecosystem services in relation to impacts on wetland hydrology** 15
3.1 Wetland hydrogeomorphic units 15
3.2 Wetland ecosystem services 17
3.3 Relationships between provision of ecosystem services and human impacts 19
3.4 Ecosystem service provision by unimpacted wetlands: empirical studies 22
3.5 Relationships between ecosystem service provision and wetland health: interpretive studies 25
3.5.1 Simplifying the y-intercept values for use in interpretive studies 25
3.5.2 Relationships between ecosystem service provision and wetland health 26
3.6 Summary of the loss of function metric 46
4 **Calculating the magnitude of impact of land cover change on wetland functionality as a functional effectiveness score** 47
4.1 Introduction 47
4.2 Calculating the magnitude of impact scores 49
4.3 Resolving reduced and increased water inputs from catchment impacts 50
4.4 Determining the relationship between the “magnitudes of impact” and the provision of ecosystem services: functional effectiveness 50
4.5 Resolving functionality scores for all onsite activities 57
4.6 Combining functionality scores for catchment and onsite impacts 57
5 **Calculating functional hectare equivalents** 61
6 **Assessment of cumulative functionality and impacts** 62
7 **Worked examples** 63
7.1 Worked hypothetical example 1: flood attenuation functionality for two wetlands in a rural catchment 63
7.2 Worked hypothetical example 2: flood attenuation functionality for a valleybottom wetland in a peri-urban catchment under various land cover scenarios 66
7.3 Worked hypothetical example 3: flood attenuation functionality before and

after rehabilitation of a valley-bottom wetland affected by gully erosion 71
8 **A case study of a catchment-scale analysis using GIS: the Goukou river**..... 73
8.1 GIS as a tool for analysis 73
8.2 The upper Goukou River case study 74
8.2.1 The Goukou catchment 74
8.2.2 Application of catchment scale analysis 76
8.3 Conclusion 81
9 **References** 97
Appendix 1: An evaluation of health and ecosystem service provision of wetlands
on the Ekubo Estate, Port Edward 99