

Ministers Foreword

The Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy is one of ten strategies developed across the State to implement key river health objectives outlined in the Bracks Government's action plan for water, Our Water Our Future and the Victorian River Health Strategy.

This strategy is the result of extensive community involvement. Community input into the strategy development is essential. It provides a framework for communities, industries and Government to work in partnership with river health managers to restore and manage our rivers over the long-term.



This river health strategy establishes regional priorities for river protection and restoration. It will be used by a wide range of stakeholders and community groups and steer river health investment.

It identifies priority waterways throughout the Goulburn and Broken River Basins from the headwaters in the Great Dividing Range through to the River Murray.

The Goulburn and Broken Basins are regarded by many as the 'flood bowl' of the Murray Darling Basin and are of significant economic value to Victoria. They are also environmentally significant and a key focus of Victoria's contribution to meeting the Living Murray environmental flow commitments. These systems are also highly valued by the community for their social and recreational assets.

The Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy uses an innovative asset-based approach. This allows river health managers to acknowledge the range of social, environmental and economic values of local waterways. It also helps in identifying the threats and risk to these values so that the priority actions to protect and restore our rivers are clearly established.

I congratulate the Goulburn Broken catchment communities for this innovative strategy.

Your valuable contribution in protecting and restoring our precious rivers will benefit all Victorians.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Thwaites". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

John Thwaites,
Minister for Water and Environment