

Community Engagement Advisory Groups in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

An overview

Reviewed November 2011

Vision

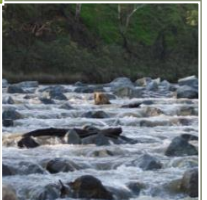
Healthy, resilient and increasingly productive landscapes supporting vibrant communities

Purpose

Through its leadership and partnerships the Goulburn Broken CMA will improve the resilience of the Catchment's people, land, biodiversity and water resources in a rapidly changing environment.

Goulburn Broken CMA's Values and Behaviours

- **Environmental Sustainability** - we will passionately contribute to improving the environmental health of our catchment.
- **Safety** - we vigorously protect and look out for the safety and wellbeing of ourselves, our colleagues and our workers.
- **Partnerships** – we focus on teamwork and collaboration across our organisation to develop strategic alliances with partners and the regional community.
- **Leadership** – we have the courage to lead change and accept the responsibility to inspire and deliver positive change.
- **Respect** – we embrace diversity and treat everyone with fairness, respect, openness and honesty.
- **Achievement, Excellence and Accountability** – we do what we say we will do, we do it well and we take responsibility and accountability for our actions.
- **Continuous learning, innovation and improvement** – we are an evidence and science-based organisation and we test and challenge the status quo. We learn from our successes and failures and we are continually adapting using internal and external feedback from stakeholders and the environment. We are an agile, flexible and responsive organisation.



At A Glance

What: The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) was established as one of 10 CMAs in 1997 under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act* (CaLP Act) and covering the State of Victoria.

Where: Situated in northern Victoria and within the Murray Darling Basin, the Goulburn CMA comprises the catchments of the Goulburn and Broken Rivers and part of the River Murray Valley.

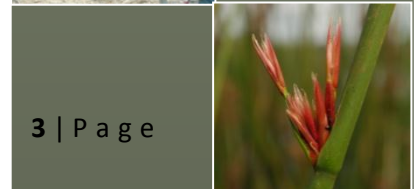
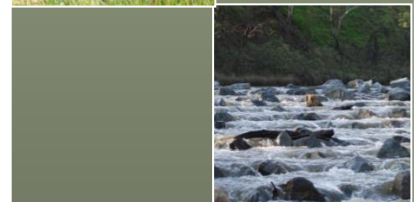
The region stretches from close to the outskirts of Melbourne in the south to the River Murray in the north. The Catchment includes Victoria's main water storage, Eildon and the popular Mt Buller Alpine Resort. It includes the municipalities of Moira, Campaspe, Mitchell, Murrindindi, Mansfield and Strathbogie Shires, Benalla Rural City and the City of Greater Shepparton.

Demographics: The Catchment has approximately 200,000 residents including 6000 indigenous Australians, many of them from the traditional owner groups the Taungurung, Bangerang and Yorta Yorta. In the catchment's north, original settlers from the British Isles have been followed by migrants from Greece, Italy, Albania, Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, India and many other countries. The Iraqi community alone numbers 6,000.

Major centres: Shepparton, Benalla, Yarrawonga, Kyabram, Seymour, Kilmore, Cobram, Numurkah, Euroa, Mansfield, Alexandra, Tatura, Yea.

Land use: Irrigated dairy, horticulture, viticulture, dryland grazing, cropping, timber production, lifestyle, thoroughbred horses, tourism.

Environmental problems: Degraded rivers, loss of native vegetation, water quality, dryland and irrigation salinity, loss of biodiversity, pest plants and animals.





Message from the Chief Executive Officer

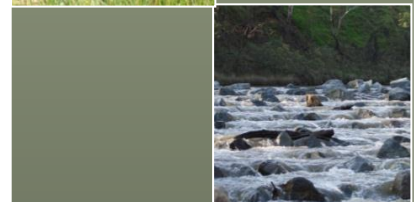
The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is responsible for the protection and enhancement of critical land and water resources across 2.4 million hectares of northern Victoria (11 percent of the State). The Catchment covers two percent of the Murray Darling Basin but generates 11 percent of the Basin's water resources.

Together with our skilled Board members and staff we are committed to working with the community and our partners to deliver our on ground and river works programs in an efficient and timely manner.

I welcome you as a member of an Advisory Group and I am confident that in a short period of time you will become a valuable member of the greater Goulburn Broken CMA Team. The Advisory Groups across our catchment have the opportunity to provide advice and feedback through the relevant CMA Program Manager on achieving innovative solutions to the challenges of natural resource management and community engagement. I look forward to your contribution in your Advisory Group as a community representative.

Chris Norman

Chief Executive Officer



History of the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Waterway Management

Formalisation of waterway management began with the establishment of River Improvement Trusts. In the Goulburn Broken Catchment the earliest established trust was the Broken River Improvement Trust which formed in 1960. In the 1960's Shire based River Improvement Trust's were established throughout parts of the catchment. During the 1980-90's major changes occurred to these and River Management Boards were established. With them, came major changes from looking at local issues to strategic catchment based waterway programs. With a focus on 'river health'. The establishment of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority led to waterway management on an integrated catchment basis.

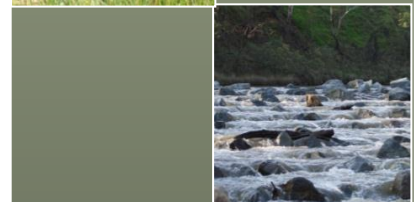
Catchment Management

Broad community concern throughout Victoria of natural resource degradation, particularly from salinity in the early 1980's resulted in a parliamentary inquiry into salinity. Because of the high level of community action within the Goulburn Broken Catchment with the commencement of Landcare, it was selected as the pilot region for a community driven program to develop a catchment-wide salinity plan (known as the Salinity Pilot Program Advisory Council, SPPAC).

The introduction of the *Catchment and Land Protection* (CaLP) Legislation in 1994 saw the role of the Salinity Program Advisory Committees replaced by the Goulburn Broken Catchment and Land Protection Board. Under this new legislation the Board became the lead body responsible for setting policy and direction, coordinating implementation and monitoring achievements in Natural Resource Management.

Section 13(a) of the *CaLP Act* required the Catchment Board to 'Prepare a Regional Catchment Strategy for the Region and to co-ordinate and monitor its implementation'. The Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) was prepared by the Goulburn Broken Catchment and Land Protection Board and was adopted by the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority at its first meeting held on 1st July 1997. The RCS was updated in 2003, and is due for a further renewal in 2012.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) was constituted on 1 July 1997 under the provisions of the *Water Act 1989*, by the Victorian State Government to be responsible for land and water resource management in the catchment.



The Lower Goulburn Waterways Authority, Mid Goulburn Broken Waterways Authority and Upper Goulburn Waterways Authority ceased to exist and became direct operational arms of the Goulburn Broken CMA upon its creation. This move to whole of catchment management was an opportunity to incorporate other environmental degradation issues in with salinity and to address these issues on a more holistic perspective.

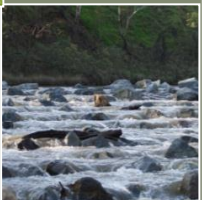
Leadership

The Goulburn Broken CMA plays a lead role working with the community, Government and funding organisations to protect and enhance land, water and biodiversity resources. It reports to the Minister for Water and Food Security as well as the Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

The Goulburn Broken CMA works in partnership with all tiers of government, landholders (current and traditional), universities and research organisations, Landcare and other authorities and agencies such as the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW), Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) and the Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP) to create innovative solutions to land, water and biodiversity issues.

A Memorandum Of Understanding was signed in August 2006 by the Goulburn Broken CMA, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), The Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Goulburn Murray Water (G-MW) acknowledging their ongoing commitment to working together for the environment.

Funding, drawn primarily from State and Federal Government, is targeted to achieve integrated works identified as the highest priorities for the catchment. The onground and river works are underpinned by collaborative research which at its best leads to multiple benefits by, for example, combining the best available science with the practical challenges of running a productive farm or maintaining a waterway for environmental and tourism benefits.

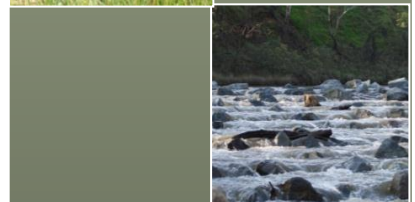


The Goulburn Broken CMA is responsible for direct service delivery in:

- River Health Management (Waterway and Strategic Management)
- Environmental Water Management
- Strategic Water Quality and Biodiversity Co-ordination
- Floodplain Management
- Works on Waterways
- Corporate and Statutory Functions

The Goulburn Broken CMA is responsible for coordinating service delivery provided through our partners in:

- Sustainable Agriculture and Land Management
- Water Savings and Water Use Efficiency
- Surface and Sub-Surface Water Management
- Biodiversity (including native vegetation management)
- Landcare Support
- Invasive Pest Plant and Animal Management
- Climate Change Adaptation.



About the Catchment

The Goulburn Broken Catchment covers 17% of central and northern Victoria, and houses about approximately 200,000 people. It comprises 2.4 million hectares of which about 270,000 hectares is irrigated agriculture, over 1.3 million hectares is dryland agriculture and 800,000 hectares is public land. In addition, 70,000 hectares of the North Central Catchment is also included in the Sustainable Irrigation Program for consistency of management.

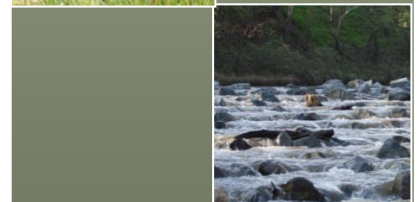
The region stretches from close to the outskirts of Melbourne in the south to the River Murray in the north. The Catchment includes Victoria's premier water storage, Lake Eildon. It also includes the popular Mt Buller Alpine Resort. The public lands, particularly in the south of the catchment, are often described as Melbourne's playground.

The region supports major agricultural (dryland and irrigated), food processing, forestry and tourism industries. The major commodity is dairy, horticulture, viticulture, grains, prime lambs and beef but wool, timber, thoroughbred horses, tourism and recreation are also vitally important to the region's economy.

Major natural resource threats are reduced water quality and quantity, dryland and irrigation salinity, native vegetation loss, biodiversity decline, pest plants and animals and emerging issues of climate change.

The Catchment includes the municipalities of Moira, Campaspe, Mitchell, Mansfield, Murrindindi and Strathbogie, the City of Greater Shepparton and Rural City of Benalla.

The name Goulburn Broken is derived from the Goulburn and Broken Rivers, the two major river systems within the catchment.

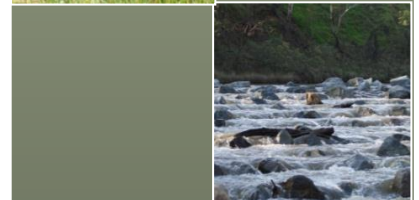


Goulburn Broken Catchment Area



(c) The State of Victoria Goulburn Broken Catchment Authority 2010

Disclaimer: This material may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the map is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information contained in this map.



About the Board

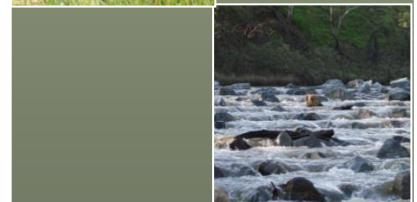
Members of the Goulburn Broken CMA Board of Directors are drawn from within the catchment and are appointed by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change and the Minister for Water and Food Security. Together they have extensive experience and knowledge of primary industry, land protection, water resource management, waterway and floodplain management, environmental conservation, local government, business and financial management.

The Board of Directors of the Goulburn Broken CMA is responsible for setting strategic directions ensuring the effective management of natural resources in the catchment. The Board discharges its overall responsibilities through a formalised process of Corporate Governance, and the preparation of an annual Corporate Plan.

Working with a number of partners, including Goulburn-Murray Water, Goulburn Valley Water, Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Sustainability and Environment, and under the direction of the Board the GB CMA has developed detailed strategies to address land and water degradation.

The overarching document, 'The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)' sets out priorities and goals for policy, funding, on-ground and river works.

This integrated approach to natural resource management ensures that issues are not looked at in isolation, but on a catchment-wide scale with outcomes designed to achieve multiple benefits. All of the works undertaken within the catchment fit within State, Murray Darling Basin and National strategies.



The Board meets monthly throughout the year. To assist in the execution of its responsibilities, it has established an Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (also covering Occupational Health and Safety matters), and a Remuneration Committee.

The Authority's Annual Report details the members, and the progress of the Board against the RCS targets and trends in catchment condition.



Board directors are (L-R): Murray Chapman, Mike Dalmau, Peter Ryan (Chair), Russell Pell, John Craven, Rien Silverstein, Chris Norman (CEO), Ailsa Fox, Sandy MacKenzie, Ross Runnalls.

The current Board of Directors (appointed October 2011)

Mr Peter Ryan (Chair) (re-appointed July 2011)

Mr Murray Chapman

Dr John Craven

Mr Mike Dalmau

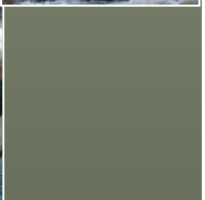
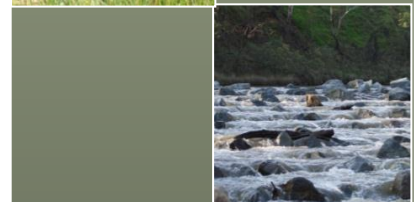
Mrs Ailsa Fox

Mr Sandy MacKenzie

Mr Russell Pell

Mr Ross Runnalls

Mrs Rien Silverstein



About Community Engagement Advisory Groups

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established by the Victorian Government to coordinate land, water and biodiversity management in the region. The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority was constituted on 1st July 1997 under the provisions of the *Water Act 1989* and the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The Authority was established as the peak natural resource management body in the Catchment to develop and oversee the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

To assist it in this task, the Authority used the provisions of Section 19J of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, to initially establish geographically based Implementation Committees.

The Implementation Committee structure was reviewed in 2010/11 in recognition of the changing environment that CMAs were now operating in.

As an outcome of this review, a new revitalised community engagement approach was adopted by the Goulburn Broken CMA Board in August 2011.

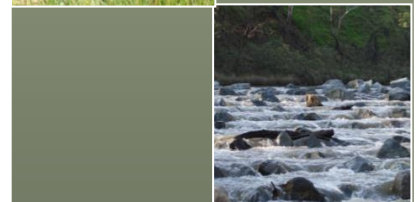
This renewed approach will utilize existing and new community engagement structures to support the delivery of the three Goulburn Broken CMA Programs plus a 'Whole of Catchment' community forum to advise Board/CEO/Management (at agreed periods during the year). The three CMA delivery Programs are:

- Sustainable Irrigation,
- Land and Biodiversity, and
- River & Wetland Health and Floodplain Management.

A range of community engagement structures will be adopted by each Goulburn Broken CMA Program to meet its programs and/or project needs. These will be broadly based on the following types of structures;

- High-level coordination/reference groups
- Program advisory groups
- Project steering groups (including working groups)
- Other (Landcare Groups/Conservation Management Networks)

To maximise the engagement of the communities within the catchment the Groups may form, with input from Management, working groups to assist in the development of sub-catchment strategies identifying priorities and program directions.



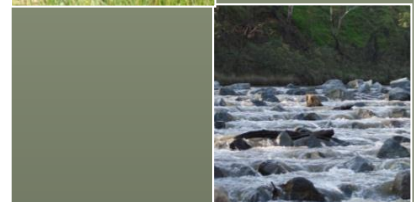
Members of all Groups must adhere to the requirements detailed in a formal Charter for Community Engagement Groups.

Role and Function of the Community Engagement Groups

The Group regulates its own proceedings subject to conditions established by the Board of the Authority and has certain key responsibilities which include:

- To provide the Program and Authority (via Management/CEO) with advice and a community perspective on catchment NRM issues.
- To provide a grounded community perspective that improves the efficiency and effectiveness of our Program delivery ensuring that the Authority does not rely totally on its own technical views.
- To provide community input into Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and sub-strategy development, as well as Program/Project development.
- To be a conduit to the whole of our community through supporting and advocating CMA directions, programs and activities (including the development of specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans).
- To advise on and support local and catchment-wide community engagement activities.
- To help to promote funding calls made by the CMA to the community.
- To share and celebrate successes.
- To report to and/or provide feedback via GB CMA Program Managers to the Board.

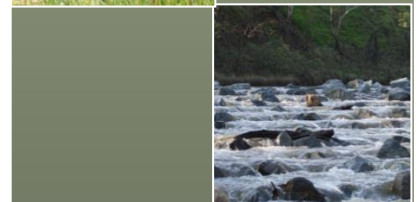
The Goulburn Broken CMA Community Engagement Groups have no role or responsibility in matters pertaining to statutory planning.



Membership eligibility criteria

- No convictions under the *Water Act 1989* or *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
- No criminal convictions.
- Must maintain satisfactory attendance record.
- Should have skills in one or more of the following areas:
 - Leadership
 - Business Management
 - Environmental Law
 - Land Use Planning
 - Statutory Planning
 - Floodplain Management
 - Waterway Management
 - Environmental Protection / Biodiversity
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Natural Resource Management
 - Demonstrated Community Linkages
 - Land Management
 - Vegetation Management
 - Conservation
 - Farming
 - Salinity
 - Landcare
 - Forestry
 - Indigenous Land
 - State Government
 - Local Government

Each Group may require a different emphasis dictated by the Regional Catchment Strategy and the relevant Sub-Strategy.



Program Overviews

Land and Biodiversity Program

This program seeks to ensure that the catchment has healthy and resilient ecosystems through an actively involved and inspired community practicing sustainable land management.

River & Wetland Health and Floodplain Management Program

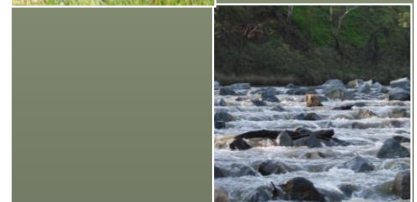
This program seeks to ensure that catchment has healthy rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains and adjacent land that support a vibrant range and abundance of natural environments, provides water for human use, sustains our native flora and fauna and provides for our social, economic and cultural values.

Sustainable Irrigation Program

This program seeks to achieve the long term protection and prosperity of irrigated land and environmental features within the Catchment.

Corporate Program

This program seeks to enable the achievement of Catchment objectives by supporting CMA staff, partners, community groups and the broader catchment community to participate successfully and safely in natural resource activities facilitated through the CMA.



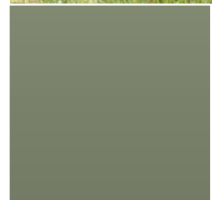
Program Summary - Land and Biodiversity

The Land and Biodiversity Program seeks to ensure that the catchment has healthy and resilient ecosystems through an actively involved and inspired community practicing sustainable land management (and reducing impacts on waterways).

Supporting our program are two key strategies, the *Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015* and the *Dryland Landscape Strategy*. These documents will feed into a new Regional Catchment Strategy and integrate a new Climate Change Integration Strategy into our key business.

The Land and Biodiversity Program also develop projects and invest time and effort into strategic planning across the catchment. The Program supports the activities of key groups, such as:

- Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group;
- Dookie Seedbank;
- GB Greenhouse Alliance;
- Euroa Arboretum;
- Goulburn Broken Landcare Networks;
- Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Networks.



Program Summary - River & Wetland Health and Floodplain Management

River systems shape the catchment we live in, are one of the most striking features of our landscape and provide communities with important (and often irreplaceable) economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Local streams are not only valued by local communities, but the many visitors to the region and other users of our precious water resources well beyond our region.

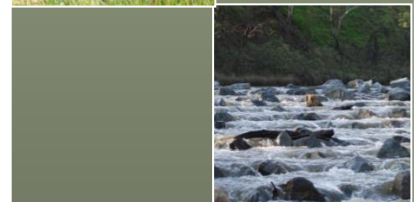
Together with our community the River & Wetland Health and Floodplain Management Program aims to protect and enhance the region's rivers and streams.

Key initiatives of the program (with the support of the community) include:

- protection of stream frontages (grazing control and revegetation and stock water);
- weed control;
- water quality protection;
- control of erosion and sedimentation;
- instream habitat improvement (resnagging and removal of instream barriers);
- provision of water (for fish migration and breeding);
- floodplain planning advice;
- reducing the impacts of development/inappropriate works.

The River & Wetland Health and Floodplain Management program aims to:

- protect the rivers that are of highest community value from any decline in condition and maintain the condition of ecologically healthy rivers;
- achieve an improvement in the environmental condition of the rivers in the Goulburn Broken Catchment and prevent damage from future land management activities;
- undertake the statutory requirements for floodplain management;
- work with all land managers, communities and partner organisations to improve the health of the catchment rivers and wetlands.



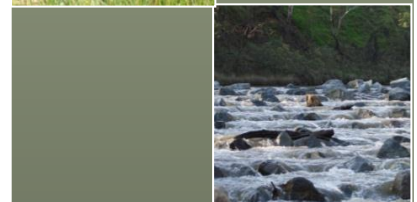
Program Summary - Sustainable Irrigation

The Sustainable Irrigation Program seeks to:

- Achieve the long term protection and prosperity of irrigated land and environmental features within the Goulburn Broken Catchment from the return of high watertables and salinisation;
- Champion the need for significant investment in critical regional infrastructure such as surface and sub-surface water management activities as a key component of a high quality "modernised" irrigation system;
- Increase the value of triple bottom line outcomes through the rollout of the On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program by maximising the gains (water and productivity) through connections to a modernised irrigation system.

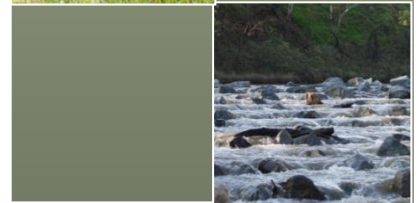
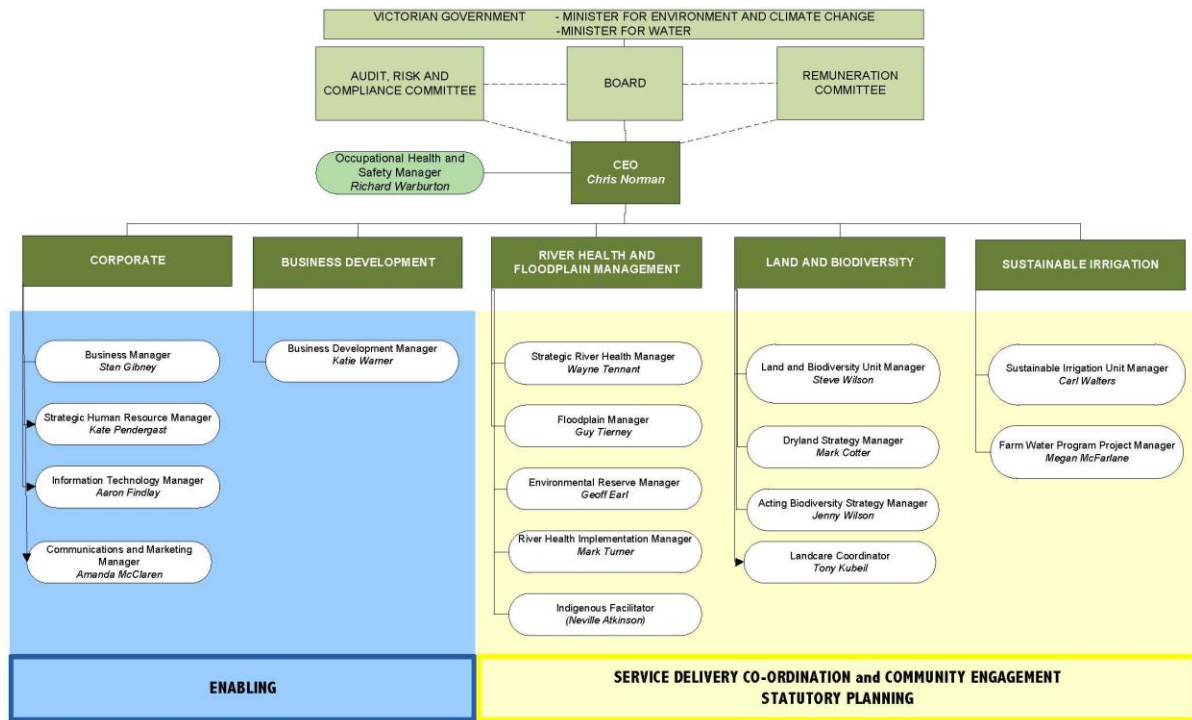
The Sustainable Irrigation Program oversees the delivery of on-ground works relating to sustainable irrigation in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. These on-ground works align with overarching strategies for the health of both the Goulburn Broken Catchment and the Murray Darling Basin.

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy (which provided the basis for successful funding of the Farm Water Program through the recent federal "On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program") and the Mid Goulburn Broken & Upper Goulburn Sustainable Irrigation Action Plan direct the strategic priorities for investment across the irrigated landscape of the Goulburn Broken Catchment.



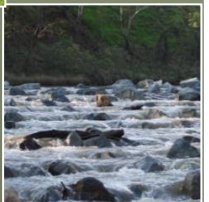
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Our Business Structure



Goulburn Broken CMA Funding Process

Each year the Goulburn Broken CMA runs an Expression of Interest (EOI) process. Key partners, community groups and agencies submit EOI's based on project ideas aligned to regional (CMA) and state (DSE) priorities. EOI's are each assessed by a panel of experts based on feasibility, alignment of priorities, value for money, service delivery etc. From here suitable projects are incorporated into the Goulburn Broken CMA annual investment package, or in some cases some projects would be better suited to other funded projects. At all times we look for opportunities to share resources, work collaboratively and above all achieve good on-ground outcomes.



Contact details

Shepparton Head Office

168 Welsford Street, Shepparton
PO Box 1752, Shepparton, Vic, 3632
Phone: 5820 1100
Fax: 5831 6254
Email: reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au
www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Land and Biodiversity Program

Steve Wilson
Program Manager

168 Welsford Street, Shepparton
PO Box 1752, Shepparton, Vic, 3632
Phone: 5820 1137
Fax: 5831 6254
Email: steve@w@gbcma.vic.gov.au

River & Wetland Health and Floodplain Management Program

Wayne Tennant
Program Manager

168 Welsford Street, Shepparton
PO Box 1752, Shepparton, Vic, 3632
Phone: 5820 1111
Fax: 5831 6254
Email: waynet@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Sustainable Irrigation Program

Carl Walters
Program Manager

255 Ferguson Road
Private Bag 1, Tatura, VIC, 3616
Phone: 5833 5363
Fax: 5833 5299
Email: carlw@gbcma.vic.gov.au

