



**GOULBURN
BROKEN**
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

Regional Catchment Strategy [RCS]

2008

FACT SHEET

ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What is the RCS? 1

How Can I Get Involved? 1

RCS Vision 2003 2

Role and Composition of RCS Steering Committee 2

Timelines 2

Contacts 2

What is the RCS?

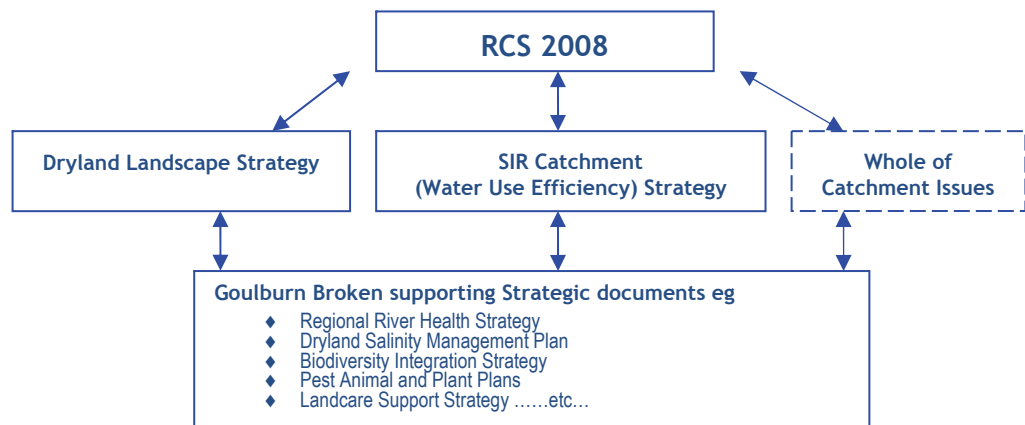
The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) provides the primary integrated framework for managing land, water and biodiversity in the Goulburn Broken region. The RCS sets out a community based vision for the future of the landscape. The RCS is also a statutory requirement under the CaLP Act 1994.

The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy was first developed and endorsed by the CMA Board and Minister in 1997. A second review and updated RCS was completed in November 2003. The 2003 RCS was also 'accredited' by state and commonwealth ministers as the vehicle for NAP and NHT funding allocations.

RCSs are required to be reviewed. The CaLP Act does not specify a timeframe, but every five years is generally regarded as reasonable, and is usually the timeframe in which major strategic issues and direction need reviewing. On this basis, the region will be working towards the next RCS being updated by late 2008 or early 2009.

A review of the Goulburn Broken 2003 RCS process was undertaken by the CMA in 2004. This review provided recommendations as a result of the learnings from the process. These will be included in the review and update of the 2008 RCS.

The basic structure of the 2008 RCS will be as follows:



How Can I Get Involved?

The review of the RCS is, in fact, happening all the time. There are many networks throughout the catchment already involved in various components of review and update of strategic areas. For example the River Health Strategy was developed in conjunction with a large range of stakeholders in 2004 and 2005. This information will feed into the next RCS. Currently the Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Strategy is in the middle of its five year review. This information will also become an important part of the updated 2008 RCS.

However, there will still be a need to undertake some additional work that looks at strategic whole of catchment issues such as climate change and water salt balance issues. There will also be a need to review the 2003 RCS vision and goals to see whether they are still relevant. All of this work will involve a range of stakeholders within the region over the next couple of years. In essence, the regional community will be involved in checking to see whether the overall direction of the RCS is still about right and/or whether changes are needed.

One of the Implementation Committees' main functions is community and stakeholder engagement, and the ICs will play a critical role in the review and update of the RCS. The ICs have an extensive array of networks with a broad range of stakeholders throughout their sub-regions. It is anticipated that all levels of involvement will occur with stakeholders during the review and update of the RCS from simply providing information to collaboration and empowerment.

If you belong to a regional organisation, there will be working groups and teams already working on strategic issues, check with your supervisor or relevant strategy manager (see contacts at the end) if you would like to know more. If you are a community person, there may be working groups with or looking for community representatives to work on various strategic issues (again see contacts at the end).

RCS Vision 2003

A catchment recognised locally, nationally and internationally for quality agricultural produce where community values contribute to the benefits of abundant and well-maintained environmental assets used for tourism and recreational activities.

The environmental footprint of irrigation and dryland farming will be significantly reduced, with farmers occupying less land and using less water whilst managing their resources more sustainably. New opportunities will arise for increasing the ecosystem services provided by the land retired from agriculture and by improved environmental flows.

The region's economy will be robust, with much of the agricultural produce processed within the region, generating employment and wealth creation opportunities for a regional community actively engaging in natural resource management programs.

Timelines

Date	Activity	Responsibility
Late 2006	Establish process and governance structures	GB CMA
Early to mid 2007	Review of 2003 RCS	GB CMA and Partners
Early 2007 to mid 2008	Input to numerous components of RCS by Stakeholders	Regional Community and Organisations
Early to mid 2008	Draft GB RCS produced	GB CMA and Stakeholders
Mid 2008	Broad Community Consultation	GB CMA
Late 2008	Final Goulburn Broken RCS endorsed	GB CMA Board
Late 2008 / early 2009	RCS submitted to Minister	Minister for Environment

For information on the 2008 Regional Catchment Strategy process please contact :

Biodiversity & Climate Change	Tim Barlow	Phone: 5820 1108
Community Engagement		
- Shepparton Irrigation Region	Ken Sampson	Phone: 5833 5360
- Upper Goulburn Region	Lilian Parker	Phone: 5736 0101
- Mid Goulburn Broken Region	Tony Kubeil	Phone: 5820 1123
Dryland Landscape Strategy	Sharon Lewis	Phone: 5820 1138
Dryland Salinity & Soils	Mark Cotter	Phone: 57 61 1656
Irrigation & Water Use Efficiency	Ken Sampson	Phone: 5833 5360
Pest Plants & Animals	Greg Wood	Phone: 5450 9549
River Health	Wayne Tennant	Phone: 5820 1111
Manager—Regional Catchment Strategy	Megan McFarlane	Phone: 5820 1110

or visit our website www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for future fact sheets of the RCS 2008, please email Rosalba Camera at rosalbac@gbcma.vic.gov.au or call 5820 1139.