



Progress on the 2009 Goulburn Broken RCS

Work is continuing on the next Goulburn Broken RCS Update. Current projects underway to support the next iteration include the Catchment Management Progress (Achievements) Report, Duty of Care Discussion Paper, Climate Change Discussion Paper, Communications and Community Engagement, next update of the SIRCS and the new Dryland Landscape Strategy.

DSE is currently producing a Land and Biodiversity Green Paper which will be available by mid 2008. Information from this paper may inform the next Goulburn Broken RCS Update. VCMC will be working to provide draft guidelines for CMAs to develop their next RCS Updates by September 2009. Goulburn Broken will continue to review and develop the RCS concurrently with these processes.

The GB CMA Board is currently reviewing the work program for the next 12 months which will include more detail on the engagement processes. Some early discussions have been had on Visions, Missions and Values.

Catchment Management Progress Report

GB CMA management is documenting achievements since the region began investing in NRM. It includes data on each "investment area" (similar to what was in the 2006-07 Annual Report) as well as on "strategic directions" listed in the 2003 RCS and actions listed in the "2004 RCS process review".

A report draft is being completed now, and is expected to be used as a working document while detailed historic output data is captured. A "resilience and adaption" focus for assessing progress will be included.

Summary ratings tables on page 11 and 13 of the 2006-2007 Annual Report show reasonable correlation between achievements and intent.

The Progress Report will inform an analysis of issues for updating the RCS.

Dryland Landscape Strategy

The Dryland Landscape Strategy (DLS) is being developed due to recognition by the Board, Implementation Committees, staff of the GBCMA and partner organisations that; opportunities exist to capture synergies between programs, there is a need to understand and develop a way to deal with a range of trade-offs operating across issues and the need to continually improve the way we invest in natural resource management. A major catalyst was the trade-off between water yield and salt which became apparent when a study was undertaken in the South West Goulburn area investigating the use of large scale revegetation for mitigating salinity. The estimated impact of this revegetation on water yield was not considered acceptable and it was recognised a new approach was required.

The DLS will feed into the next Regional Catchment Strategy (2009) and draw on relevant information from the various issue-based sub strategies.

The process to date has involved developing a common understanding of major assets and threats, developing a shared view of the future of the Dryland and gathering information on a range of strategic issues through a series of sub projects. Strategic issues covered by these sub projects include changing demographics, climate change, integration opportunities, assets based approaches, investment decisions.

The fourth major workshop for the project was held mid December 2007. As a result of the workshop, 6-8 strategic directions for the DLS were developed. These directions are now being fine tuned in preparation for the next stage of the project which is the broader community consultation phase. The Implementation Committees will undertake this community consultation phase.

A draft of the DLS is expected to be available later this year.

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Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Strategy

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy (SIRCIS) is a 30 year plan to protect and enhance the natural and productive environment of the Shepparton Irrigation Region (SIR). The SIRCIS provides the mechanism to leverage government investment in land and water management in the SIR.

The SIRCIS sets a comprehensive vision for the Region based on how it manages its natural resources to generate environmental as well as economic and social benefits.

2007 was a very busy year for the SIRCIS. Implementation has continued despite the prevailing drought, with landowners continuing to invest protecting their land resource. Irrigators have also been grappling with the implications of the Foodbowl Modernisation Project, the National Water Initiative, the Our Water, Our Future Plan, Irrigation Reconfiguration Plans and the Northern Victoria Sustainable Water Strategy (soon to commence preparation).

Concurrently the SIR has reviewed the five programs that together make up the SIRCIS: Surface and Sub-surface Water Management, Farm and Environment and the Waterways Program. These were the third five yearly reviews undertaken and set the direction for the SIRCIS for the next five years. These reviews have involved significant community input for which we thank our steering committees and working groups.

The SIRCIS is currently under review. This review should be complete in mid to late 2008 and will help inform the review of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy. Key issues for debate will include whether the current vision for the region will continue to serve us well into the future, and how we can work with projects such as the Foodbowl Modernisation Project.

Our current vision is:

The natural resources of the SIR are being managed sustainably for current and future generations: with abundant and well maintained environmental assets delivering a range of ecosystem services, recognised locally and internationally for its high quality produce, and with an enthusiastic and progressive community that is actively engaged in care of its natural resources.

We look to community input into this review and welcome any questions or comments on our program to:

- ⇒ Ken Sampson, Executive Officer, Shepparton Irrigation Region Implementation Committee, phone: 5833 5360 OR
- ⇒ Andrea Smith, Policy Development Officer, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (ph: 03 5833 5277 available: Tuesdays & Fridays).

Timelines

Date	Activity	Responsibility
April 2008	Land and Biodiversity Green Paper released	DSE
September 2008	Draft RCS guidelines	VCMC
March 2009	Final guidelines for review and revising RCSs	VCMC
April to August 2009	Draft RCS developed	GB CMA and Partners
September 2009	Ministerial endorsement of RCS	Victorian Minister

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: 5761 1619
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 2009, please email Rosalba Camera at rosalbac@gbcma.vic.gov.au or call 5820 1139.