



**GOULBURN  
BROKEN**

CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY

## About the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Situated in northern Victoria and part of the Murray Darling Basin, the Goulburn Broken Catchment comprises the catchments of the Goulburn and Broken rivers and part of the River Murray valley. The catchment covers 2,431,655 ha or 10.5% of the State of Victoria. Although it occupies just 2% of the Murray Darling Basin, the Goulburn Broken Catchment region provides 11% of the Basin's stream flow.

The region stretches from close to the outskirts of Melbourne in the south to the River Murray in the north.

The region supports major agricultural (dryland and irrigated), food processing, forestry and tourism industries. The major commodity is food, but wool, timber, tourism and recreation are also vitally important to the region's economy.

The annual economic activity for the Goulburn Broken Catchment was estimated to be \$9.5 billion in 2005 with the bulk of this generated in the Shepparton Irrigation Region.

The region has a large indigenous population (approximately 6000) as well as a large number of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Major natural resource issues are water quality, salinity, native vegetation decline, biodiversity and pest plants and animals.

# Sustainable Irrigation Program

## The Catchment Approach

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA) is a statutory authority established by the Victorian Government to coordinate land, water and biodiversity management. Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 the GB CMA was established as the peak natural resource management body in the Goulburn Broken catchment to develop and oversee the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

To assist in this task, the GB CMA has established three program work areas in which to deliver catchment wide priority works.

### Program work areas

- Sustainable irrigation
- Land and biodiversity
- River and wetland health and floodplain management

Each program works with our partners, community groups and the broader catchment community to deliver an important suite of base projects and activities across the catchment.



Goulburn Broken Catchment

## The Sustainable Irrigation Program

The 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.
- Minimise the off-farm impacts from irrigation practices on waterways and High Value Environmental Assets.

## Sustainable Irrigation - program and services

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.

### Environmental services

- Protection of environmental features:
  - Wetland protection from salinisation
  - Remnant vegetation protection and enhancement

### Farm services

- Property management planning:
  - Alignment with irrigation modernisation
  - Farm Water Program
  - Improved farm irrigation practices

### Improved Surface Water Management

- Provision of surface drainage:
  - Primary
  - Community

### Groundwater and Salt Management services

- Groundwater and salinity control:
  - Provision of groundwater pumping to protect assets
  - Reporting under the Basin Salinity Management Plan
  - Research and development

**For enquiries relating to activities or incentives within the Shepparton Irrigation Region please contact DPI Tatura Centre 03 5833 5222.**

**All other landholders in the Goulburn Broken Catchment please contact DPI Rutherglen 02 6030 4567 (Dennis Watson).**

For more information please contact the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority on (03) 5820 1100 or visit [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



## Partnership Approach

- The Sustainable Irrigation Program works with partners in the community, government and industry to build a sustainable future through efficient water use in the Catchment.
- Every individual and partner organisation has an important role to play in addressing problems and finding solutions to make a difference in sustainable irrigation management.
- Continuous improvement processes and best practice knowledge are applied to sustainable irrigation management in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.
- A sophisticated partnership between the GB CMA, Department of Primary Industries, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Goulburn-Murray Water, Local Government and Landcare along with the commitment of the farming community has resulted in significant investment and delivery in works to achieve the long term protection and prosperity of the irrigated land and its environmental features.