



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



**GOULBURN
BROKEN**
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

Ratings Legend

Annual performance and long-term strategy implementation progress	Well below target (<50%)	Below target (50-79%)	On target (80-109%)	Exceeded/exceeding target (>109%)
Catchment condition	Very poor	Poor	Satisfactory	Good to excellent
Certainty of rating	Very low	Low	Medium	High
Trend	↓ Declining	● Static	↑ Improving	↑↑ Dramatically improving

For an explanation of how and why ratings are applied see Appendix 1, 'Understanding progress and ratings' on page 119.

About this report

This report provides information on the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) performance and finances, which can be assessed against its 2012-13 to 2016-17 Corporate Plan targets. It also signifies the start to the transition to implementing the 2013-19 Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy.

The Goulburn Broken CMA aims to provide information which is easily accessed, understood and relevant to readers. More detailed and scientific data can be accessed via the website www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

A separate summary of this Annual Report is available from the website or from the Goulburn Broken CMA offices (see back cover).

This report is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This includes the requirement under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* for the Goulburn Broken CMA to submit "...a report on the condition and management of land and water resources in its region and the carrying out of its functions."

Design and print complies with Department of Treasury and Finance Reporting Direction 30A, which aims to achieve consistency and minimise costs and environmental impact across government agencies.

Feedback on this report is encouraged to help improve future annual reports. Please provide comments by 31 December 2013 to guarantee consideration.

A feedback form to help direct comments is available at the website.

Front cover:

Main photo

- Sue Logie and Tammy Muir, pictured by a Butter Bush (*Weeping Pittosporum *Pittosporum angustifolium**) in a seed production area they've established on their Yielima property. Picture: Jim Begley, Goulburn Broken CMA

Inset photos (from left to right)

- Students from Strathbogie, Baddaginnie, Swanpool and Violet Town primary schools learning about Taungurung art, culture and music. Picture: Gaye Sutherland, Goulburn Broken CMA
- Surveying for fish at Hollands Creek. Picture: Wayne Tennant, Goulburn Broken CMA
- Dairy farmer Murray Pivac is one of hundreds of irrigators across the Catchment who has updated his on-farm irrigation system through the Farm Water Program. Picture: Fiona Lloyd, Goulburn Broken CMA
- Goulburn Broken CMA Sustainable Irrigation Manager Carl Walters with Wilmot Road Primary School WOW (Wonders of Wilmot) 2013 citizenship winners. Picture: Fiona Lloyd, Goulburn Broken CMA

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Chairman's review



I am pleased to provide this review of the Goulburn Broken CMA's achievements and progress during 2012-13.

The past 12 months have once again proved to be challenging for the Goulburn Broken Region, with flood and fire affecting rural and urban communities across the Catchment,

including many still recovering from significant natural disasters in the past, whilst a lack of autumn rain in the southern areas of the catchment led to a poor start for dryland farmers.

Economic challenges have also been front of mind. The serious downturn in demand in the canning fruit industry and difficult price levels experienced by the Catchment's primary producers, affected their families and workers, with a flow-on effect to the local economy worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

The nature and impact (or shocks) of these challenges on the Catchment's people, land, water and biodiversity can only heighten the importance of understanding their interconnectedness.

A strategic approach

Details of how the Catchment community can respond to this complex relationship between social, environmental and economic factors are outlined in the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019, launched by the Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change on 15 May 2013.

Developed during 2012-13, in partnership with the Catchment community, the Regional Catchment Strategy signals an exciting phase for the Catchment and the Authority.

Six social-ecological systems – connected systems of people and nature that include elements such as land form, vegetation types, land uses (including farm productivity), social structure and dynamics – have been identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy and will underpin the Strategy's implementation. These six social-ecological systems (agricultural floodplains, productive plains, upland slopes, southern forests, commuting hills and urban centres) have been defined based on consultation with community, individuals and technical experts. The social-ecological systems are important as they are the most appropriate scale to address many Catchment management problems: they are small enough for details to be well understood, including how different issues relate, yet large enough to achieve efficiencies in allocating resources aimed at improving their resilience.

The key to successfully implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy is having local communities in each social-ecological system providing advice and advocacy,

informing the Goulburn Broken CMA's decision-making and monitoring progress.

Implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy over the coming six years will result in improved Catchment resilience and enhancement of the region's assets. The finalisation of this Strategy has been an exciting milestone for the Authority as it continues to promote innovation in natural resource management and build partnerships that allow the Catchment community to respond quickly and effectively in a rapidly changing environment.

The importance of partnerships

An outstanding example of how effective partnerships build the Catchment's resilience through improved on-farm production efficiency is the success of the Farm Water Program, delivered by a consortium of Northern Victorian agencies led by the Goulburn Broken CMA. The program helps irrigators achieve water savings by improving on-farm irrigation systems, with half these water savings transferred to the Commonwealth Government for environmental purposes.

148 Round 1 projects, funded through the Commonwealth Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (\$25 million) and Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) Connections Project (\$16 million), have now been completed, saving a total of 19 gigalitres. In addition to water savings, irrigators have reported significant labour efficiencies and improved property values, while hundreds of jobs have been created in related industries, helping boost confidence in the future of agriculture in Northern Victoria.

These Catchment-wide benefits will be further enhanced when the 233 projects funded through Round 2 of the Farm Water Program [funded from the Victorian On-Farm State Priority Project (\$43 million) and the Commonwealth Government's On Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (\$21 million)] are finalised during 2013-14 (see case study on page 37).

Other equally successful and innovative partnerships are highlighted in case studies throughout this Annual Report.

Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The Catchment's ability to adapt to water policy reform (one of four drivers of change identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy along with land use change, climate variability and increased farm production) has long been recognised as an important measure of its resilience.

On 6 June 2013 the Victorian Government signed the Inter-Governmental Agreement for the Murray-Darling Basin Plan's implementation.

Drawing on community knowledge of the Catchment's land, water, agricultural production systems, biodiversity and people will be critical to how the Goulburn Broken CMA, in consultation with the State Government, responds to the Plan's implementation.

In recognition of this, the Goulburn Broken CMA has been asked to provide technical, community engagement and communication support to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority during development of its Constraints Management Strategy for the Murray River, downstream of the Hume Dam, and the Goulburn River. Constraints are physical obstacles or policy/river operating rules. The Constraints Management Strategy is a pre-feasibility study that will further define these constraints and identify the risk of relaxing them and the mechanisms to manage any impacts on third parties.

Environment and Natural Resources Committee inquiries

In response to floods in late 2010, early 2011 and again in the first half of 2012, the Victorian Government's Environment and Natural Resources Committee conducted inquiries into Flood Mitigation Infrastructure in Victoria and Rural Drainage in Victoria.

The Goulburn Broken CMA made submissions to both Inquiries and provided responses to each Inquiry's report recommendations. Both Goulburn Broken CMA responses emphasised the importance of managing expectations; the need for policies that clearly outlined any proposed strategic roles for the Goulburn Broken CMA; the beneficiary pays principle; and the need for appropriate levels of funding to carry out proposed roles and functions.

The Government's response to each Inquiry is due late 2013.

Thank you

As I review this Annual Report, my last as Chairman, it is clear that the past year, as in previous years, has offered up as many exciting opportunities as it has great challenges. I wish to thank the Board for their continued support and advice during my time in this role and I am confident that under their direction the Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to lead the way in innovative approaches to natural resource management.

I also wish to record my great appreciation of the leadership, dedication and commitment to the Authority provided by Chief Executive Officer Chris Norman, the management team and all of the staff. Thank you.



Peter F Ryan
Chairman

Report of Operations

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Report of Operations for the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority for the year ending 30 June 2013.



Murray Chapman
Acting Chair

Chief Executive Officer's report



Building partnerships, adapting to change, securing investment and improved communication with the Catchment community have been the focus of the past 12 months. The importance of these factors to the resilience of the Catchment's people and landscapes underpins the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019,

launched in May 2013 after 16 months of development.

Ownership by the Catchment community of the Regional Catchment Strategy was highlighted by the willingness of key stakeholders and agency partners, including Community Natural Resource Management Group Chairs, Local Government Chief Executive Officers, Traditional Owners and Victorian Government department directors to 'sign on' to delivering the Strategy's outcomes over the next six years (see Appendix 6 for list of partners and their role in implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy).

Planning to implement the Regional Catchment Strategy is well and truly under way. Continuing to engage stakeholders in the decision-making process is critical to how successfully this is done, and to ensure the Regional Catchment Strategy remains a dynamic and responsive document that accurately reflects Catchment community actions in delivering best practice natural resource management.

Outcomes of significant investment ending in 2012-13

In the three years from 2010-11 to 2012-13, the Commonwealth Government invested close to \$13 million through the Caring for our Country program in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. This significant investment has resulted in an additional 420 hectares of the Catchment being protected through Conservation Agreements, over 72,000 hectares being covered by property management plans, 3,000 hectares being treated for pests animals and plants and 3,000 hectares being managed for natural regeneration, with a further 900 hectares being revegetated with indigenous vegetation.

New investment

In a constantly changing operating environment, the Goulburn Broken CMA has continued to explore alternative funding sources as well as new approaches to engaging more well-established investors.

Goulburn Broken CMA submitted eight projects under the Commonwealth's Caring for our Country Phase Two Regional Delivery component in May 2013. The Goulburn Broken CMA received a notional allocation of \$3.851 million a year from 2013-14 to 2017-18, which now includes funding for the Regional Landcare Facilitator position.

Climate change is identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy as a key driver of change in the Catchment. The Goulburn Broken CMA was therefore pleased to secure \$590,000 of funding through Stream One of the Australian Government's Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund to develop a sub-strategy to build new climate change information into the Catchment's regional planning approach. The project will be implemented over the next three years, with the bulk of the work to be undertaken in 2013-14.

Global factors such as the strong Australian dollar continue to affect food processors in the region, most recently SPC-Ardmona, which has cut its fruit intake quotas. Among a number of measures announced by the Victorian Government to support the industry as it transitions was \$2 million for the Goulburn Broken CMA to deliver a Fruit Industry Employment Program.

The Fruit Industry Employment Program will be very similar to the drought and flood recovery employment programs the Goulburn Broken CMA has successfully run in the past and will employ 20 to 30 people for up to 12 months. Participants will be offered work on conservation management projects, including weed control, fencing and other tasks such as infrastructure work and nest box construction. Participants will also have access to relevant training and work with our partner agencies.

Community engagement and communication

Innovative community engagement and communication approaches continue to play an important role in building partnerships and bringing about improvements in natural resource management across the Catchment. Updated Community Engagement and Communication and Marketing Strategies were endorsed by the Board in June 2013 and will be continually reviewed as the Regional Catchment Strategy is implemented.

A prime example of how multiple engagement and communication approaches are being used to involve the community in decision making is the development of the Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy, which started in late 2012. As well as using the WeConnect site to allow ongoing public comment on the Strategy during its development, a community agency reference group has been established to act as a valuable link between the waterway strategy project team and the community, a Flickr site is being used to host photographs of waterways contributed by the community and regular updates on the progress of the strategy are emailed to stakeholders.

An exciting new partnership has been formed between Goulburn Broken CMA staff and students at Shepparton's Wilmot Road Primary School (see case study on page 70). Male staff members that volunteer their time attending the school's weekly after-school learning club have been inspired by the students' enthusiasm to learn more

about the natural environment and greatly appreciate the opportunity to be involved in school events.

On a broader scale, recognition of the importance of community engagement to all ten of the Victorian Catchment Management Authorities in order to achieve the best possible natural resource management outcomes, led to the development of a Community Engagement and Partnerships Framework for Victoria's Catchment Management Authorities during 2012-13. The framework outlines a common approach to community engagement, by defining a set of key principles, clarifying expectations and providing an approach to measurement and evaluation practices.

Environmental water

The Goulburn Broken CMA continued to work with the Victorian and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holders, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Goulburn-Murray Water, to deliver a total of 249,255 megalitres of environmental water during 2012-13. These flows support fish, macroinvertebrates and vegetation in the lower Goulburn River and lower Broken Creek and ensure the success of waterbird breeding events in the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

Responding to natural disasters

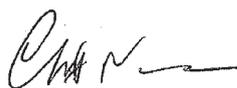
Natural disasters continue to shape onground activities. In late January 2013, a large bushfire swept through 1300 hectares in the Boho-Violet Town area, destroying infrastructure and affecting waterways. The Goulburn Broken CMA has worked closely with a number of agencies, including the Country Fire Authority, local government, Landcare, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, the Uniting Church, Odyssey House and Dhurringile Prison on the fire recovery process.

At the other end of the extreme weather scale, more than 150 millimetres of rain fell within eight hours in the Shepparton East area on 27 February 2013, including 100 millimetres within two hours. The resulting flooding damaged residential and industrial property, closed off streets and damaged infrastructure such as roads and drains. The Goulburn Broken CMA used Facebook to call on people to send in pictures and rainfall readings that will provide valuable data for an investigation of the issues that caused or exacerbated flooding. The study will finish by the end of 2013.

While strong partnerships continue to be the cornerstone of all efforts to improve the Catchment's resilience, there's no doubt the support of the Board and the tremendous commitment by all our agency and community partners and staff provides the solid foundations for the Goulburn Broken CMA's ongoing success in protecting and enhancing the Catchment's environmental health. I want to particularly acknowledge the strong leadership provided by our outgoing Chairman, Peter Ryan, over the past three

years and wish him well in his new endeavours contributing to a range of community initiatives across the Goulburn Valley.

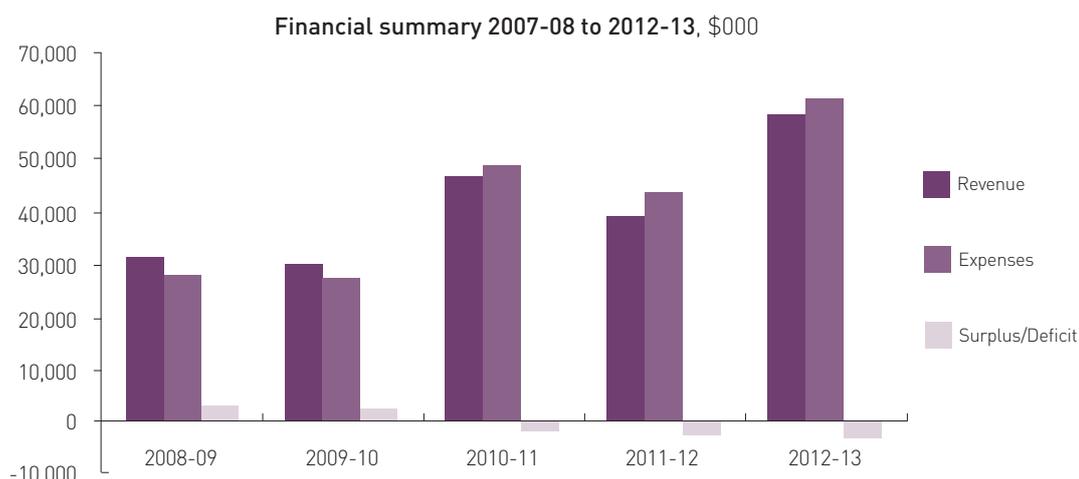
I also wish to pay special acknowledgement to a number of staff who finished with the Goulburn Broken CMA during the year due to the tightening financial environment we faced, and thank them especially for their contribution to the Authority and community over the time they spent with us.



Chris Norman
Chief Executive Officer

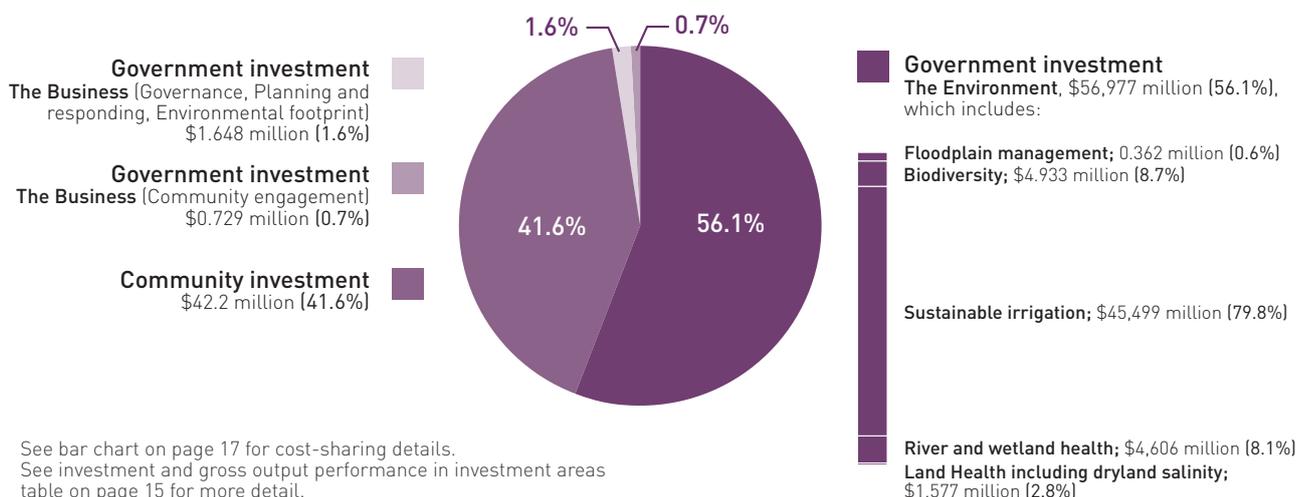
Operational highlights

	Details Page
Water-use efficiency, water savings, floods and environmental water	
All 148 projects through Round 1 of the Farm Water Program have been completed, saving a total of 19 gigalitres. 30 per cent of the 233 Round 2 projects have been completed, with all projects due to be completed by March 2014.	37
The release of FloodSafe Guides for Seymour, Murchison, Mooroopna/Shepparton, Violet Town, Nathalia, Numurkah and Benalla carried out in partnership with Victorian State Emergency Services, local, state and commonwealth government and local communities.	48
A total of 249,255 megalitres of environmental water was delivered in 2012-13 to support fish, macroinvertebrates and vegetation in the lower Goulburn River and lower Broken Creek and to Barmah-Millewa Forest to ensure the success of waterbird breeding events.	45
Works and incentives	
1,299 incentives were provided to landholders for fencing, revegetation, whole farm plans, improving irrigation and installing reuse systems.	128
1,982 hectares of remnant vegetation were protected 2,957 hectares of indigenous revegetation were planted or direct seeded.	57
Traditional Owners worked on country on a number of projects including; the protection of wetlands in the Strathbogie Ranges; pest plant control and protection of cultural sites in Barmah and protection of remnant vegetation in the Dookie Biolinks area.	18
The Beyond SoilCare Project engaged 470 participants in a number of community engagement activities, many engaging in a Catchment Management Authority / Department of Environment and Primary Industries type activities for the first time.	60
Funding	



i For an explanation of information provided in graph, refer to Comprehensive operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2013 page 97 and Note 16: Committed funds reserve page 114 in the financial statements.

Goulburn Broken investment share^{i,ii}



i See bar chart on page 17 for cost-sharing details.
 ii See investment and gross output performance in investment areas table on page 15 for more detail.

Goulburn Broken profile

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Powers and duties

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a Statutory Authority established by the Victorian Parliament in 1997 under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The responsible Ministers for the period of 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013 were:

- the Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change; and
- the Hon Peter Walsh MLA, Minister for Water.

(See page 116 for names of all persons who were responsible during 2012-13.)

The Goulburn Broken CMA develops and implements the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy by working with the community, all tiers of government and research and funding organisations. The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 sets out the framework for coordinating land, water and biodiversity management in the Catchment.

The Goulburn Broken CMA focuses on private land mostly managed for agriculture and on the interface of private and public land. The Goulburn Broken CMA therefore relies on shared contributions from government and private landholders to undertake works.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's role in water is to:

- be the caretaker of river health, including managing the environment's right to water (managing the environmental water reserve) and implementing works on waterways via its operational arm
- provide waterway, regional drainage and floodplain management services.

Water storage, delivery and drainage systems are managed by partner agency Goulburn-Murray Water and urban water and wastewater services are provided by another partner agency, Goulburn Valley Water.

See the 'Governance' section (page 74) for details.

Funding and staff

Goulburn Broken CMA's income for 2012-13 was \$57.7 million, derived from the Victorian and Australian governments, regional sources and other government entities. As at 30 June 2013, 56.61 (full-time-equivalent) staff were directly employed. See the 'Human resources' section (page 64) for details.

The Goulburn Broken CMA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of land in the Goulburn Broken Catchment and strongly respects the rich culture and intrinsic connection Traditional Owners have to the land.

Vision

Healthy, resilient and increasingly productive landscapes supporting vibrant communities.

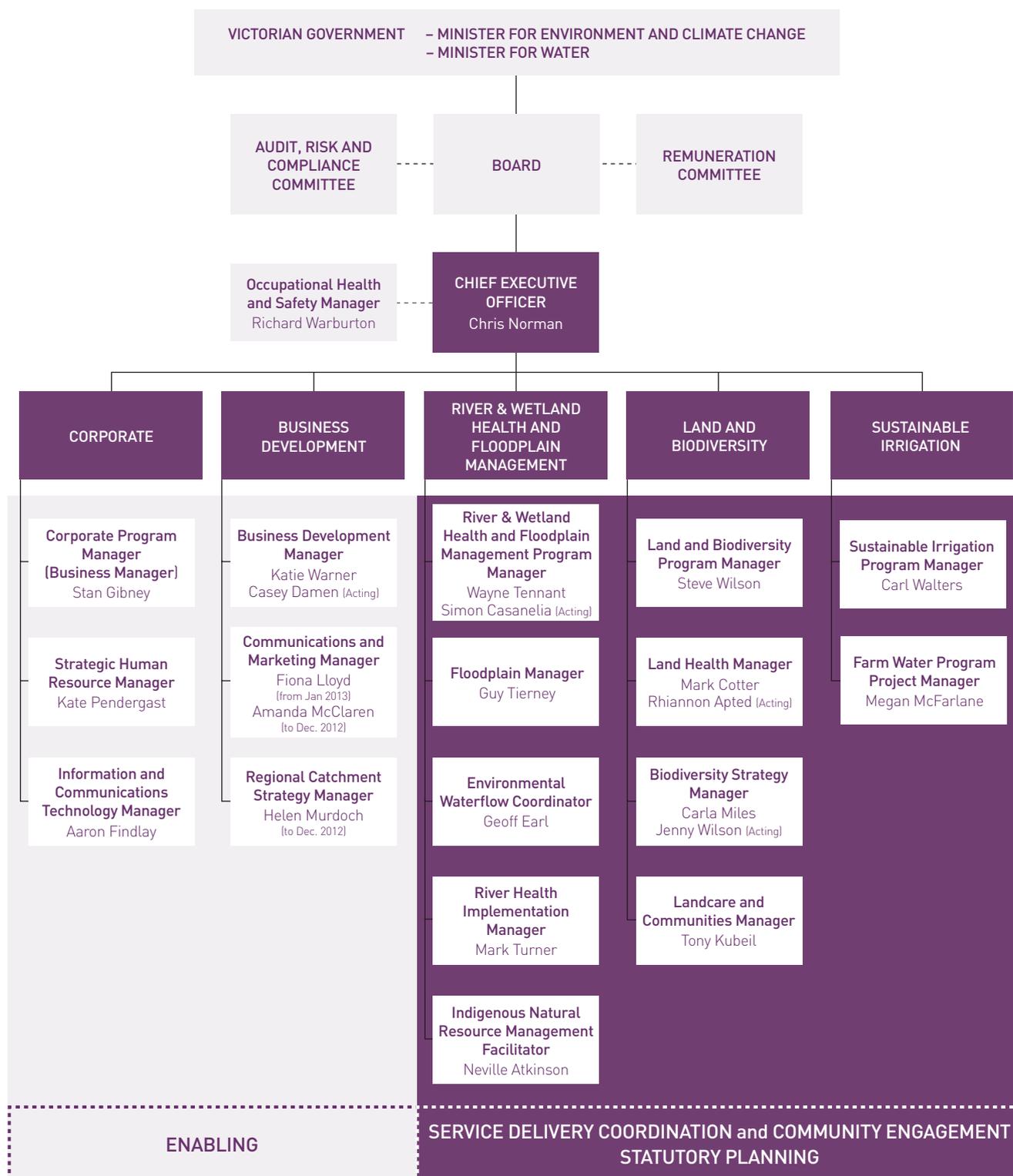
Purpose

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.

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.

Goulburn Broken CMA business structure



Goulburn Broken Catchment

People

The Goulburn Broken Catchment has a population of about 204,000, of which more than 90 per cent reside in regional towns and centres, with the largest population centre being Shepparton/Mooroopna. Other significant settlements include Seymour, Benalla and Yarrawonga.

The annual population grew by about 6.3 per cent between 2006 and 2011. Almost 10 per cent of the population was born overseas and 4,100 identify as being Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, many who identify as Traditional Owners of this region. Migrants mainly from the British Isles took up landholdings in the 1800s. Since World War II, there has been an influx of migrants, especially in the north of the Catchment, from Italy, Greece, Germany, New Zealand, Turkey, India, Iraq, Afghanistan and in recent times African countries.

Landscape

The Goulburn Broken Catchment boasts a wide diversity of landscapes, including snow-covered alps, forests, granitic outcrops, gentle sloping plains, box woodlands, red gum floodplains, mixed farms, and irrigated pastures and orchards.

Water

Average annual rainfall varies substantially, from 1,600 millimetres in the high country in the south-east to 400 millimetres in the north-west.

The Catchment's two major river basins, the Goulburn and Broken, cover approximately 2.4 million hectares or 10.5 per cent of Victoria.

The Catchment yields 3,559 gigalitres, or 10.5 per cent, of the Murray-Darling Basin's water despite covering only two per cent of its area. A volume of 1,669 gigalitres is diverted for consumptive use.

Land use

The Catchment covers 2.4 million hectares, extending north from near the outskirts of Melbourne to the River Murray, the border with New South Wales. Most of the land is privately owned with 1.4 million hectares of dryland agriculture and 270,000 hectares of irrigated agriculture. Public land covers 800,000 hectares including extensive areas for conservation.

In addition, 70,000 hectares of the Shepparton Irrigation Region extends into the adjacent North Central Catchment and is included in the Goulburn Broken CMA works program.

Primary industries include; dairy, horticulture, viticulture, livestock production (beef, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry), cropping, timber and aquaculture. Smaller, specialist enterprises include thoroughbred and standardbred horse breeding, nurseries, mushrooms, turf and cut flowers. Other industry includes food processing, tourism and recreation.

Although not formally part of the Goulburn Broken CMA region, the River Murray between Yarrawonga and Echuca, which borders the Goulburn Broken CMA, is influenced by activities within the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

Natural resource management challenges

Major challenges include degraded river health, reduced extent and quality of native vegetation, reduced water quality and quantity, dryland and irrigated salinity, loss of biodiversity, soil health and pest plant and pest animal invasion.

These challenges are being exacerbated by changes in climate. Recent climatic events include:

- 2002–2009 extreme drought: exceptionally low stream flows and historically low water allocations. In combination with federal environmental policy and farm demographic structure, led to unprecedented irrigated dairy industry restructure.
- 2009 bushfires: covering 185,000 hectares (seven per cent) of the Catchment, with 190 kilometres of vegetation along major rivers were burnt. This has changed patterns of settlement in some areas.
- 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 floods: while improving the condition of floodplain systems, these floods may change patterns of settlement in some affected areas.

Economy

Natural resource-based industries underpin the region's economy. Livestock, dairy, fruit, vegetable, grape and other food production and processing industries contribute to the region's \$15.2 billion gross regional output (2009 figures) with the gross value of agriculture production in the Catchment in 2009-10 being \$1.10 billion. Primary production and manufacturing (especially food processing) account for about 22 per cent of the 90,000 plus jobs in the Goulburn Broken economy.

Prolonged drought, low water allocations, dairy industry restructure, the high Australian dollar, and other pressures related to the global financial crisis and increased competition have impacted on the Catchment's primary industries. Despite these challenges, the gross value of agricultural production increased by almost 50 per cent between 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Other economically important industries include building construction and trade, tourism, utilities, transport and communications. Nature-based and cultural heritage tourism and recreation are important employers throughout the Catchment, in particular along the River Murray, the snowfields, historic towns and wineries. The number of people employed in the tourism and recreational services sectors has grown by almost 20 per cent between 2001 and 2011.

Goulburn Broken Catchment^{i,ii}



[c] The State of Victoria Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority 2013

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.

- i. The Goulburn Broken CMA Sustainable Irrigation Program oversees delivery in part of the North Central Catchment as well as the Goulburn Broken Catchment.
- ii. Maps of the Catchment showing whole farm plans achieved and onground works sites are included as Appendix 4 and 5 (page 125 and 126).

Key events

July

- The Goulburn Broken CMA completes a successful state-funded Plains Wetland Tender, securing 155 hectares across 11 sites.
- Eighty people attend Feral Feast in Nathalia, Broken Boosey and Lower Goulburn Conservation Management Network's annual Biodiversity Day.
- The first two gigalitres of water for the Farm Water Program Round 2 (Victorian On-farm State Priority Project funding) is transferred to the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- Seventy farmers attend soil test interpretation workshops in Upton Hill, Costerfield and Caniambo in partnership with industry, the Burnt Creek, Graytown-Costerfield and Sheep Pen Creek Landcare groups and Beyond SoilCare project.

August

- The Second Annual Goulburn Broken Landcare Awards in Benalla is attended by 135 people, hosted by the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network. Winners are: Goulburn Murray Landcare Network – Education Award; Whroo Goldfields Conservation Management Network – Network Award; Strathallan Family Landcare Group – Landcare Group Award; and Shirley Saywell from Euroa – Hubert Miller Perpetual Award.
- Keynote speaker Julian Cribb addresses three well-attended forums:
 - at Trawool: Redefining Local Productivity, hosted by the Caring for our Country Beyond Soilcare Project. YouTube clips and audio CDs are produced
 - at Shepparton: Sustainability Conversations, hosted by the Goulburn Broken CMA's Land and Biodiversity Program and the Goulburn Valley Environment Group
 - at Tatura: the 10 R's of Food Security, hosted by the Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group in partnership with the Regional Landcare Facilitator

September

- Fifty-five people attend the Whroo Goldfields Conservation Management Network's tree planting day at Costerfield, including overseas visitors, Mandalay Resources staff, Monash University students and local landholders.
- Environmental flows in the lower Broken Creek are aimed for the first time at improving fish habitat during the breeding and migration season.
- The Exhibition of Visual Art and Architecture titled 'Water Water Aesthetic Responses to the Goulburn Broken Catchments' opens with strong support from the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- Community, Landcare, Department of Environment and Primary Industries and CMA partners meet in Violet Town for the Land Health Forum.

October

- The Yorta Yorta Youth Journey engages students from across Yorta Yorta country in cultural activities with Elders, community members and Indigenous Parks Rangers and a documentary and promotional video is created.
- Arthur Rylah Institute undertakes electrofishing, drift net surveys and acoustic tagging in the lower Goulburn River through Goulburn Broken CMA funding.
- The first two gigalitres of water for the Farm Water Program Round 2 (Victorian On-farm State Priority Project funding) was consolidated and passed on to the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder.

November

- Two YouTube videos are developed, including interviews with local landholders who have taken up long-term management agreements with the Caring for our Country Threatened Grassy Woodlands Project.
- Environmental water delivered down the lower Goulburn River stimulates native fish breeding and helps establish vegetation on river banks.
- Two cameras in a Barmah Forest wetland are '3G connected' to remotely monitor waterbird breeding as environmental water is supplied.
- Requirements for water quality monitoring are reviewed to reduce costs.
- Goulburn Broken CMA Beyond SoilCare project completes a baseline report of community skills, knowledge and attitudes towards soil and soil management practices.

December

- All contracts for Farm Water Program Round 2 (Victorian On-farm State Priority Project funding) are sent to irrigators.
- 2,959 megalitres of Environmental water is delivered to Barmah Forest to support waterbird breeding.
- The Goulburn Broken CMA and Victorian Farmers Federation align their understanding of Shepparton Irrigation Region's shallow water table as a threat to productive agriculture rather than as a water resource.
- Thirty local farmers interested in direct marketing their produce attend a bus tour to the National Environment Centre with the Beyond SoilCare project.
- Eighty expressions of interest for potential new projects across the Catchment are received.

Key events

January

- More than 1,000 ibis and an unknown number of other birds such as crakes, rails and bitterns fledge as delivery of environmental water delivery concludes in Barmah Forest.

February

- More than 300 people participate in Goulburn Broken CMA's Carp Muster at Victoria Park Lake in Shepparton.
- Goulburn Broken CMA releases a new 'Frog friendly farm dams' brochure.
- Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network wins the 2013 Moira Shire Australia Day Environment Project of the Year Award for its Woodland Bird Project.
- Goulburn Broken CMA hosts a FishCare Victoria volunteer tour of the upper catchment.
- Partnership with Wilmot Road Primary School confirmed to provide positive male role models to students through assistance to the Learning Club.
- Sixty farmers from Yea and surrounds attend workshops on building soil health and making better lime and fertiliser decisions with the Beyond SoilCare project.

March

- More than 50 people attend an information session on developing environmental outcomes through irrigation whole farm planning, hosted by Goulburn Broken CMA. Attendees include staff from Department of Environment and Primary Industries, irrigation surveyors and design companies, local government and Goulburn-Murray Water.
- University of the Third Age students visit irrigation farms to investigate implications of modernised systems, hosted by the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- Queensland, Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales and Victorian attendees at the National Cabomba Workshop, hosted by the Goulburn Broken CMA, develop a best management practice booklet.
- Thirty-eight community members attend a weed identification day in Benalla.
- An environmental fresh is delivered down the lower Goulburn River to help re-establish vegetation on river banks.
- 51 megalitres of Commonwealth environmental water is released as a trial down the upper Broken Creek.
- The final report of the Goulburn Broken water stewardship trial final is launched.
- The Goulburn Broken CMA competed in the Shepparton Dragon Boat races to raise funds for the GV Community Fund.

April

- More than 100 people attend sessions on bats at Numurkah and Wunghnu, hosted by the Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network.
- One hundred and ten people attend the two-day Barmah-Millewa Forest Research Conference in Shepparton.
- The 10 gigalitre target for Farm Water Program Round 2 (Victorian On-farm State Priority Project funding) is met, being transferred to the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- Establishment of the Community Reference Group to support the development of the Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy.

May

- The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 is launched by Minister Smith at Corryong.
- The Shepparton Irrigation Region salt water balance soil salinity workshop is held in Melbourne.
- Goulburn Broken CMA presents one of seven best practice case studies titled 'Management of relationships with partners' at the National Organisational Performance Excellence Showcase Forum in Cairns.
- Farm Water Program features at Water Technology Cluster's Irrigation Expo in Shepparton and Irrigation Australia Limited Conference in Griffith.

June

- More than 100 people attend the Third Annual Goulburn Broken CMA Community Natural Resource Management (NRM) Awards (previously called the Landcare Awards) in Murchison. Winners are: Craig Tuhon – Hubert Miller Perpetual Award; Avenel Primary School – Community Education Award; Merton Landcare Group – Community NRM Group Award; Gecko CLaN – Community NRM Network Award; and Paringa Livestock – Community NRM Sustainable Farming Award.
- Barmah-Millewa water management DVD is prepared in partnership with Murray-Darling Basin Authority for The Living Murray program.
- The Inter-Governmental Agreement for implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan 2012 is signed by the Victorian Government.
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority Native Fish Strategy Legacy Conference held in Nagambie.
- The Goulburn Broken CMA secures \$2 million from the Victorian Government to deliver the Fruit Industry Employment Program to help orchard industry workers affected by SPC-Ardmona's fruit intake cut.
- The Beyond SoilCare project completes an attitudinal study of the change in awareness and soil management practices of project participants.

Long-term scorecard

There are significant differences between investment areas in the progress of implementing long-term strategies and in changes to the condition of the Goulburn Broken Catchment (see table below). This is often simply because there are vast differences between investment areas in methods used to assess Catchment condition and to set targets in long-term strategies, which reflect the infancy of natural resource management as a discipline.

Ratings in the following table are explained in investment area reports (as referenced in the right hand column). Appendix 1, 'Understanding progress and ratings' (page 119), discusses issues related to measuring progress.

Goulburn Broken CMA strategies generally have a long-term focus, which encourages integration and the achievement of multiple benefits from single actions. This helps to minimise the impacts of fluctuating government commitment to different investment areas.

Long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition

Investment area	Long-term strategy implementation progress ⁱ			Catchment condition ⁱ			Details page
	Strategy life ⁱⁱ	Progress	Gov't funding trend	1990 ⁱⁱⁱ	2013	Trend	
The Environment							
1 Sustainable irrigation							
1a Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity	1990-2020	On target	↓	Poor	Satisfactory	↑	32
2 River and wetland health and floodplain management							
2a Environmental flows	2004-present	On target	↓	Poor	Good	↑	38
2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form	2005-2015	Below target	↓	Poor	Satisfactory	↑	38
2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers and streams	1996-2016	Exceeding target	↓	Very Poor	Satisfactory	↑	38
2d Floodplain management	2002-2012	Exceeding target	↑	Very Poor	Poor	↑	47
3 Land and biodiversity							
3a Biodiversity	2000-2030 2010-2015	On target	●	Poor	Poor ^{iv}	●	53
3b Land health including dryland salinity	1990-2050	Below target	↓	Poor	Satisfactory	●	59
3c Invasive plants and animals	2010-2015	Below target	●	Poor	Poor	●	62
The Business (Corporate)							
A Governance	Rolling 5 year Corporate Plan	On target	↓	n.a.	Satisfactory	●	74
B Community engagement	2005-present	On target	●	Poor	Satisfactory	↑	17
C Planning and responding	Rolling 5 year Corporate Plan	On target	↓	Poor	Satisfactory	↑	21
D Human resources	various	On target	●	Satisfactory	Good	●	64
E Environmental footprint	2012-14	On target	●	Very Poor ^v	Poor ^v	↑	71

ⁱ Strategy implementation progress considers evidence of outputs completed against targets, including onground works and tasks to improve management systems. Catchment condition ratings consider evidence of environmental or business condition, social and economic health and management systems. Catchment condition encompasses more than just biophysical condition. Appendix 1 on page 119 describes the ratings methodology in more detail.

ⁱⁱ Strategies vary in formality and comprehensiveness. Refer to detailed sections for lists of strategies. Strategy life includes time taken for capacity building tasks to be completed in medium term (usually three to five years) and for 'The Environment' investment areas, time taken for changes to be achieved over the long-term (usually 10 to 50 years).

ⁱⁱⁱ Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of what the situation was like in 1990. 1990 is a useful reference year because it was about this time that integrated catchment management began and sufficient time has elapsed since for meaningful questions about long-term change to be asked.

^{iv} More than one third of the Catchment's woody vegetation (including riparian vegetation) was burnt by 2006 and 2009 fires (long-term impacts are unknown).

^v Ratings are about the condition of the organisation (with respect to its environmental footprint) rather than the condition of the Catchment.

Outputs achieved 2003-04 to 2012-13 and forecast 2013-14

The following graphs show that onground action achievement levels fluctuate significantly from year-to-year, usually according to available government funding.

The 13-year long dry period up until 2010 resulted in greater emphasis on water-use efficiency actions, such as installing reuse systems and improving irrigation systems, which are consistent with directions set in 1989 and 1996 (see page 33) that targeted achieving salinity benefits and water quality.

Investment in native vegetation has increased significantly over the years, and the Goulburn Broken CMA has delivered when increased funding has been available (such as through the Drought Employment Program from 2006-07 to 2008-09).

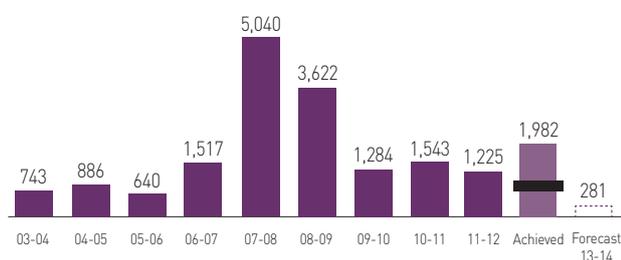
Whole farm plans ensure that works at the farm scale are consistent with the needs of the Catchment, as described in whole-of-Catchment strategies and plans. A total of 66.28 per cent of the irrigated area (457,31 hectares - Water Use Licence area) in the Shepparton Irrigation Region is covered by whole farm plans, which are critical to capitalise on investment in modernising irrigation delivery infrastructure through the Goulburn-Murray Water Connections Project (see page 36 and map in Appendix 4, page 125).

Outputs shown in the following graphs are derived from the more detailed set of outputs on page 123. Outputs, including limitations in measuring them, are described in Appendix 1 on page 119.

Note on forecast targets:

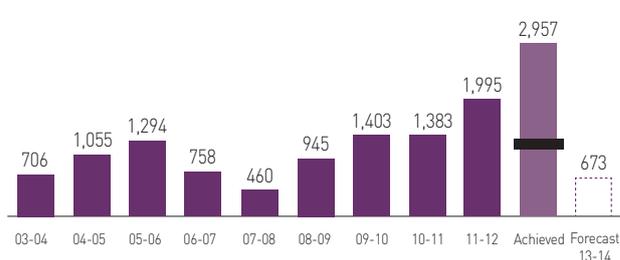
Forecast output targets are generally lower than what was achieved previously because they are based on indicative rather than actual funding received. Forecasts are based on figures cited in the Corporate Plan for the forthcoming financial year and do not take into account new funding opportunities that may arise.

Remnant vegetation fenced, ha



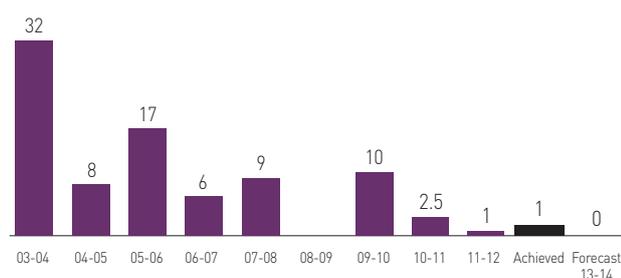
Increased funding for grants translated into increased works. (Increased achievements in 2007-08 and 2008-09 were largely due to Drought Employment Program funding.)

Indigenous revegetation (planted), ha



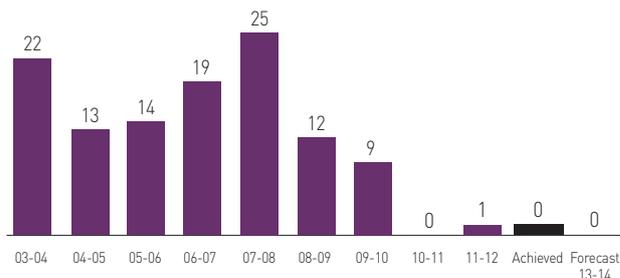
Increased funding for grants translated into increased works and direct seeding is being increasingly recognised as an efficient way to revegetate.

Irrigation drains built, km



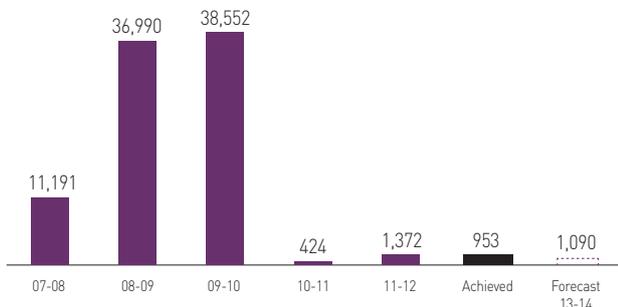
While core actions of the 1990 salinity plan continue to be implemented (page 32), reduced funding has resulted in decreased achievement. Groundwater investigations have been completed at six sites; two were suitable for private pumping. There are no investigations in progress or on the waiting list.

Groundwater pumps installed, numbers



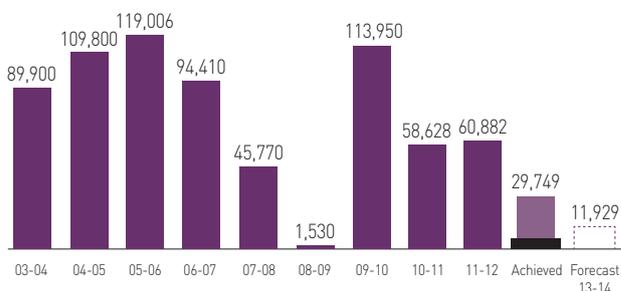
Legend
 Target for 2012-13

Weeds treated, ha



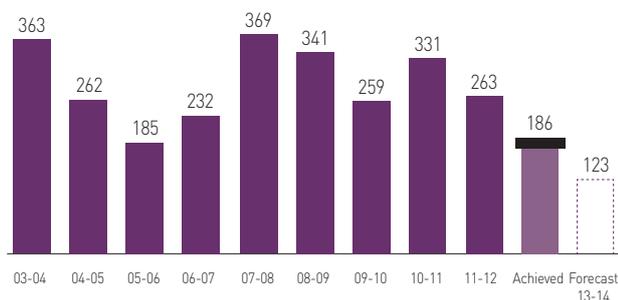
The Department of Environment and Primary Industries Biosecurity Victoria's Pest Plant and Animal Program was removed from the Goulburn Broken CMA's investment process from 2009-10, although the Program's achievements were reported in Goulburn Broken CMA's 2009-10 Annual Report.

Rabbits and foxes treated, ha



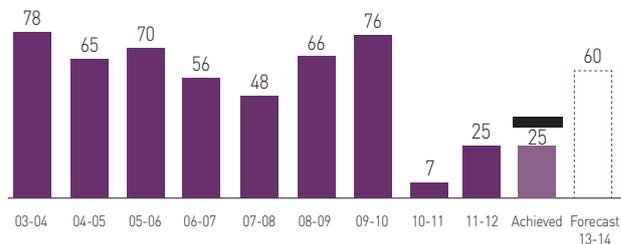
Whroo Goldfields and Broken Boosey Conservation Management Networks (CMNs) are major contributors to fox control (page 62). (Funding for CMNs was received after Corporate Plan targets were set.)

Whole farm plans prepared, numbers



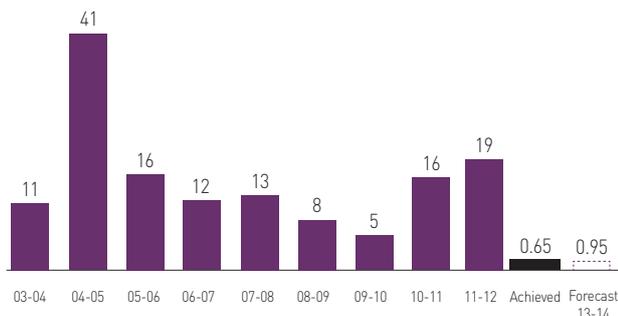
Outside Shepparton Irrigation Region especially, uptake was impacted by dry conditions (distracting farmers' attention) and reduced funding and staff.

Reuse systems installed, numbers



Investment in reuse systems has been through the Farm Water Program since 2010-11 (page 36).

River or stream bed and bank protection actions, km



Reduced funding available for these actions.

Legend

■ Target for 2012-13

Annual scorecards

Most output targets listed in the Corporate Plan were achieved in 2012-13. See Aggregate output performance table across all performance areas on 2012-13 on page 16 and Appendix 3, Outputs – detailed list of achievements, on page 123.

Summary scorecards below and on the following page are explained in more detail in individual investment area sections of this report.

Appendix 1, 'Understanding progress and ratings' (page 119), describes the analytical framework, including outputs, targets, investment areas and integration, and ratings.

Investment and gross output performances in investment areas

Investment area ⁱ	Investment ⁱⁱ (including partnership funds)				2012-13 performance ^{iv} (outputs)	Details page
	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000	2012-13 \$000	Forecast ⁱⁱⁱ 2013-14 \$000		
The Environment						
1 Sustainable irrigation						
1a Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity	29,631	24,928	45,499	50,487	On target	32
2 River and wetland health and floodplain management						
2a Environmental flows	<i>Combined investment of 2a, 2b and 2c: 5,599</i>	<i>Combined investment of 2a, 2b and 2c: 5,430</i>	<i>Combined investment of 2a, 2b and 2c: 4,606</i>	<i>Combined investment of 2a, 2b and 2c: 3,601</i>	On target	38
2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form					On target	38
2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers and streams					On target	38
2d Floodplain management	832	496	362	482	On target	47
3 Land and biodiversity						
3a Biodiversity	6,467	5,244	4,933	4,810	On target	53
3b Land health including dryland salinity	433	1,293	1,577	990	On target	59
3c Invasive plants and animals ^v	0	0	0	0	On target	62
The Business (Corporate)						
A Governance ^v	1,918	1,516	1,625	1,498	On target	74
B Community engagement	1,700	710	729	585 ^{vii}	On target	17
C Planning and responding	Part of A					21
D Human resources ^{vi}	6,436	5,909	5,436	5,520	On target	64
E Environmental footprint ^{vi}	18	20	23	24	On target	71

i Investment areas and integration between them are described in Appendix 1 on page 119.

ii Investment figures include funding to partners, except for the Invasive plants and animals investment area.

iii Based on advice at July 2013.

iv Performance ratings are based on outputs achieved as listed under investment area details in this annual report. Targets are determined by considering levels of government funding as listed in the Corporate Plan only (government funds or funds from other sources arriving after the Corporate Plan was finalised are not considered within these targets). Outputs are described in Appendix 3 on page 123.

v Includes asset sales in 2010-11.

vi These are costs rather than investments. Costs are embedded within other investment areas.

vii Community engagement expenditure is increasingly factored into project investment rather than stand-alone initiatives and hence, is not included in this figure

Aggregate output performance across all investment areasⁱ in 2012-13

Output ⁱ	Achieved	Target ⁱⁱ	Performance	
			% achieved	Rating
Remnant vegetation fenced, hectares	1,982	860	230	Exceeded target
Long-term conservation agreements, hectares ⁱⁱⁱ	329	200	165	Exceeded target
Indigenous revegetation (planted), hectares	2,957	1,262	234	Exceeded target
Irrigation drains built, kilometres	1	1	100	On target
Reuse systems installed, numbers	25	35	71	Below target
Landforming /Lasergrading (ha)	12,662	10,499	121	Exceeded target
Weeds treated, hectares	953	801	119	Exceeded target
Rabbits and foxes treated, hectares ^{iv}	29,749	1,075	2,767	Exceeded target
Bed and bank protection actions, kilometres	0.65	0.35	186	Exceeded target
Whole farm plans prepared, numbers	186	185	101	On target

- i. Outputs shown in this table are derived from the more detailed set on page 123. Outputs are described in Appendix 1 on page 119. Detailed outputs relating to each investment area are listed in sections devoted to each investment area throughout this report.
- ii. Targets are determined by considering levels of government funding as listed in the Corporate Plan only (government funds or funds from other sources arriving after the Corporate Plan was finalised are not considered within these targets).
- iii. These are shown as 'Binding management agreements' in the detailed outputs on page 123.
- iv. Significant Fox control outputs were achieved through the Broken Boosey and Whroo Goldfields CMNs. The 2012-13 target is low because additional funding was obtained during the year, after the Corporate Plan was finalised.

Descriptions of output performance

Case studies (on pages 20, 37, 46, 58 and 70) and investment area details in the environment section pages 32-63 describe actions undertaken in 2012-13 and illustrate integration between programs, government agencies, regional authorities, community organisations and individuals.

Community engagement

Compiled by Chris Norman, Fiona Lloyd, Katie Warner, Helen Murdoch and Rachael Spokes

Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received) Corporate Plan KPIs (see page 87)	n.a.		On target	Medium	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs (tasks scheduled to be completed in various engagement strategies)	n.a.		On target	Medium	● ⁱⁱⁱ
Catchment condition ^{iv}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surveys of strengths of relationships - Memoranda of understanding - Charters for various community engagement groups - Uniform regulations developed - Joint forums - Shared staffing - Funds from various sources contributing to natural resource management - Corporate memory - Management systems 	Poor	Low	Satisfactory	Low	↑ ^{vi}

ⁱ See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ⁱⁱ Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of what the situation was like in 1990.

ⁱⁱⁱ Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

^{iv} The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, at which time the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

Government investment, \$000

2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ⁱ	Trend
1,928	1,700	710	729	585	●

ⁱ Forecast based on funding advice at July 2013.

ⁱⁱ Community engagement expenditure is increasingly factored into project investment rather than stand-alone initiatives and hence, is not included in this figure.

Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken Community Engagement Strategy 2013-2014
- Goulburn Broken Communications and Marketing Strategy 2013-2014
- Goulburn Broken Community Natural Resource Management Action Plan 2013-19
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- COAG Closing the Gap initiative 2008
- Yorta Yorta Cooperative Management Agreement 2004
- Yorta Yorta Traditional Land Management Agreement 2010
- Various memoranda of understanding

Background

This section demonstrates how the Goulburn Broken CMA is committed to stakeholder involvement, integration of disciplines and onground works.

The regional community typically invests more than one dollar for every dollar of government funding despite continuing challenges (see graph below). Influencing how others invest is therefore a very important activity for the Goulburn Broken CMA.

Stakeholders include private landholders, Victorian and Australian government funders, government agencies, corporate and philanthropic funders, Traditional Owners, local government, community natural resource management groups, individuals and politicians. The table in Appendix 6 on page 127 summarises the role of catchment partners in implementing the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy.

Major contributions to natural resource managementⁱⁱ, \$million



ⁱ Community investment increased significantly from 2009-10 because of major contributions from State and Commonwealth Governments in the Farm Water Program.

ⁱⁱ Farm Water Program contributions are reflected as unearned revenue in the Financial Statements, but are included in annual contributions above as: 2010-11 – \$5.3 million; 2011-12 – \$17.5 million (\$10.1 million Commonwealth and \$7.4 million State); and 2012-13 – \$14.2 million (\$3.1 million Commonwealth and \$11.1 million State).

Supporting community Natural Resource Management

The Goulburn Broken CMA relies on landholders, school children, Landcare groups, Conservation Management Networks and individuals to deliver programs across the Catchment that improve the health of our rivers and creeks, protect and improve habitat for native animals and plants, recognise the region's cultural heritage and bring about practice change. Efforts to boost the Catchment's resilience lead to increasingly productive landscapes that will support the long-term viability of our communities in the face of constant change. To support the effort of the community to undertake activities, a broad range of grants (funded through a combination of State and Commonwealth programs including the Victorian Landcare Program and Caring for our Country) were provided to community organisations (see table page 18). Activities funded included revegetation and protection of native vegetation, eradication and control of invasive plants and animals, support of capacity building initiatives and education and awareness raising activities.

Total grants received 2012-2013	Community NRM Group/Network
\$1 - \$5,000	Arcadia & District Landcare Group, Balmattum / Sheans Creek Landcare Group, Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network, Buxton Primary School, Congupna Tallygaroopna Landcare Group, Delatite Landcare Group, First Kinglake Scout Group, Friends of the Marysville Walks, Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance, Home Creek Spring Creek Landcare Group, Howqua Valley Landcare Group (\$4,800), Katandra West Landcare Group, King Parrot Creek Environment Group Inc, Merton Landcare Group, Mitchell & Surrounds Equine Landcare Group, Molesworth Landcare Group, Muckatah Landcare Group, Nulla Vale Pyalong West Landcare Group, Sheep Pen Creek Land Management Group, Strath Creek Landcare Group, Sunday Creek Dry Creek Landcare Group, UT Creek Maintongoon Landcare Group, Warby Range Landcare Group Inc, Willowmavin Landcare Group, Wyuna Landcare Group, Yarrawonga Mulwala Men's Shed Inc, Yea Primary School, Yea River Catchment Landcare Group, Yea Wetlands Committee of Management.
\$5,001 - \$10,000	Ancona Valley Landcare Group, Graytown-Costerfield Landcare Group.
\$10,001 - \$20,000	Strathbogie Tablelands Landcare Group, Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network, Upper Broken River Landcare Group, Warrenbayne-Boho Land Protection Group.
\$20,001 - \$50,000	Euroa Arboretum, Glenaroua Land Management Group, Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank, Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative, Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network, Regent Honeyeater Project Inc, Sunday Creek/Sugarloaf Sub Catchments Inc, Superb Parrot Project Inc, The Granite Creeks Project Inc, Up2Us Landcare Alliance.
\$50,001 - \$100,000	Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, South West Goulburn Landcare Network, Upper Goulburn Landcare Network.
\$100,000+	Broken Catchment Landcare Network (Gecko CLaN).

Traditional Owner engagement

Traditional Owners are recognised through the Council of Australian Governments Closing the Gap initiative (2008); and the Victorian Government's *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. There are also cooperative management and traditional land management agreements that direct the Goulburn Broken CMA to engage Traditional Owners through Registered Aboriginal Parties, the Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.

The Goulburn Broken CMA and Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation continued the program to target Blackberry and Willow (Weeds of National Significance) across Taungurung Country. The three-year program, funded under the Caring for our Country initiative supports a partnership between the Goulburn Broken CMA and the Taungurung community to Work on Country and to facilitate collation and exchange of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Additionally, this project involved the recording of cultural sites and artefacts located during weed control activities.

An important outcome from this activity was the building of partnerships between Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and landholders involved directly in the protection of wetlands. An area of particular focus has been the Strathbogie Ranges, with a collection of over 200 artefacts now recorded at one property at Highlands. Discussions are being held with La Trobe University to investigate potential research projects that will assist in collation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge from this large, unusual assemblage.

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, with the support of Goulburn Broken CMA and Parks Victoria through Caring for our Country funding, established a business model and prospectus to establish Woka Wolla, a business arm of the corporation that enables Indigenous work teams to undertake contract works in natural resource management across Yorta Yorta Country. Woka Wolla was engaged to undertake pest plant control activities and protection of cultural sites on Barmah. These works go towards 'Protecting the Ecological Character of Barmah', a key criterion for continued recognition under the Ramsar Convention.

The Goulburn Broken CMA and the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation hosted a five-day Yorta Yorta Youth Journey in October, which involved a hiking and canoeing tour from Nagambie to the Barmah Lakes. Yorta Yorta Elders, Goulburn Broken CMA and partner agency staff worked with 30 Indigenous secondary school students from across Yorta Yorta Country on natural and cultural resource management, leadership skill training and in facilitating the exchange of Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Catchment condition

Government and regional communities' objectives are clearly aligned:

- the Goulburn Broken regional community has a reputation for delivering onground changes to improve its natural resources, which reflects the strength of relationships between its many and varied individuals and organisations
- community based natural resource management groups and networks involve more than 4,476 people and 1,500 hours of volunteer time in natural resource management activities every year (these figures are from just the 56 per cent of groups and networks that responded to a survey in 2011-12)
- 40 per cent of the Goulburn Broken CMA's Municipal Catchment Coordinator position is funded by the three municipalities in the Shepparton Irrigation Region. These municipalities also contribute 17 per cent of funding for the Public Salinity Works operation and maintenance costs and in some circumstances fund road structures on Community Surface Drains.

Uniform regulatory backing has been developed across municipalities in the Shepparton Irrigation Region with uniform planning regulations and new irrigation development guidelines.

Following the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 floods, discussions between the Goulburn Broken CMA and local government authorities have strengthened the partnership approach to flood response and a flood damage report has been prepared.

The Goulburn Broken CMA has been represented in steering committees and consultation sessions during development of local government authorities' strategies looking at environmental management and adapting and transitioning to less water. It has been involved in projects with local government and a neighbouring catchment management authority looking at helping farmers transition and adapt to less water. In addition, the Goulburn Broken CMA has been involved in the development of the Hume Region Growth Plan, expected to be completed in August 2013. The Plan aims to identify opportunities for encouraging and accommodating future growth and managing change that will occur during the next 30 years.

Long-term strategy implementation progress

The Goulburn Broken CMA's collaborative agreements and strategies for engaging stakeholders reflect the diversity of natural resource management.

All program sub-strategies include community engagement action plans aligned to the Goulburn Broken CMA's overarching Community Engagement Strategy 2013-14. The Goulburn Broken CMA's Community Engagement Strategy was updated in the first half of 2013 to capture changes in the way the Goulburn Broken CMA will engage with its stakeholders as a result of the development of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019; findings from the 2012 Wallis CMA Awareness Survey and subsequent Action Plan (developed late 2012); and changes in Victorian and Commonwealth government natural resource management funding and priorities.

Most sub-strategies are being implemented on schedule and are regularly reviewed and collaborative agreements are honoured.

2012-13 performance

"The Goulburn Broken CMA was an active participant in the development of the 'Community Engagement and Partnerships Framework for Victorian CMAs', including providing one of four case studies on the catchment's landcare support for fire recovery. A presentation on the Goulburn Broken CMA's approach to partnership management was also showcased at the National Organisational Performance Excellence Forum in Cairns in May 2013."

Seventy-eight media releases were prepared in 2012-13, a 40 per cent increase on the 55 generated in 2011-12. A regular monthly column in the Country News (reaching more than 55,000 households) started in March 2013; the bi-monthly Connecting Community and Catchment e-newsletter reached almost 700 subscribers (almost doubling the number of subscribers in 2011-12); and e-newsletters were developed for a number of individual projects (e.g. for Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy Reference Group members). Upgrade of the website progressed; with the project due to be completed in the second half of 2013. The upgrade will provide greater capability, easier access and address security issues.

These more traditional engagement and communication approaches were complemented by an increased social media presence that is continually attracting individuals and groups that may not have engaged with the Goulburn Broken CMA previously. Facebook page postings averaged four a week; at least one 'tweet' a week was made via the Goulburn Broken CMA's Twitter account; and a Flickr account was established and has proved to be an engaging way to store publicly contributed photographs. The number of videos on YouTube increased, and cross-promotion of all content was a key focus on communication activities in 2012-13.

For the first time the Goulburn Broken CMA had a site at the Seymour Alternative Field Days (February 2013), providing the organisation with a valuable opportunity to promote its activities, reach new audiences and gain further information on this sector's needs and attitudes while a collaborative campaign between the State's 10 CMAs celebrating NRM volunteers during Volunteer Week (May 12-19, 2013) was supported by Weekly Times Now (online) and was a great way for CMAs to thank and recognise the individuals and groups that are so critical in helping deliver on-ground works and practice change.

The annual NRM awards evening was a great success, with about 100 people attending the event to celebrate the achievements of the five winners: Craig Tuhan (Hubert Miller Perpetual Award); Avenel Primary School (Community Education Award); Merton Landcare Group (Community NRM Group Award); Gecko CLaN (Community NRM Network Award); and Paringa Livestock, owned by Tom and Olivia Lawson. (Community NRM Sustainable Farming Award).

What's next?

Engagement with stakeholders is a priority during the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy and will be supported by:

- continuous investigation and development of the best ways to engage with the community
- inclusion of a community engagement component in all project planning and development (with a focus on the social-ecological-systems) and
- increasing staff community engagement capability.

Partnerships with Indigenous communities will be enhanced and the wider community's understanding of traditional ecological knowledge will be expanded. Development of a Traditional Owners Engagement Model is under review.

The Communication and Marketing Strategy 2013-14 has been developed to complement all community engagement activities by promoting and sharing information about Goulburn Broken CMA activities. Actions in the strategy to do this include:

- support for Goulburn Broken CMA staff via suite of communication and marketing tools
- external website upgrade
- embedding innovative communication and marketing approaches and
- support for implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy.

Liaison with government funders will continue to ensure:

- local community priorities are considered in programs such as Caring for our Country Phase two and
- the impact of potential gaps in funding for regional priorities are minimised.

Community-based natural resource management will involve:

- renewal of the Goulburn Broken CMA Community Natural Resource Management Action Plan
- continuing to provide the catchment community with up to date information on the government programs that are available to support community (including landholder) engagement in natural resource management
- continuing to develop relationships with community natural resource management groups and
- delivering Victorian Landcare Program community grants.

Case Study

Traditional Owners working 'on country' in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Dookie Biolinks Area

The Commonwealth Government's Caring for our Country - funded Dookie Biolinks Program has contracted local Traditional Owners to work 'on country' in the Dookie area for the past three years.

A typical example of the type of work that's been achieved is a Yabba North project where, in partnership with three neighbouring landowners, the Traditional Owners Works Crew has fenced and revegetated approximately 10 hectares.

This connects remnant vegetation across the three properties and two kilometres of an old creek line, linking past revegetation projects and establishing new wildlife corridors. This increases diversity of native plant species across the properties and builds habitat around the creek system, at the same time providing sustainable farming benefits through an improved ecosystem and shelter for stock.

Traditional Owner Contractor Carl Atkinson says the project has also provided a valuable learning environment for Indigenous staff to partner with local farmers in biodiversity conservation projects.

'The Dookie Biolinks partnership has enabled us to work in the field with farmers, learn more about land management and seed propagation and given us a good understanding of native animal and plant species,' Mr Atkinson says.

'It allows us to bring young Indigenous people out into the field to learn about their cultural heritage; the crew gets the opportunity to do the type of work we couldn't get anywhere else, and we have built up a good reputation in the area.'

'It also gives our young folk an employment experience, which we didn't have before in this field, which will help them continue ongoing employment.'

To date the crew has completed a total of:

- 60 hectares of remnant protection;
- 90 hectares of revegetation;
- 40 hectares of wetland protection;
- pest plant control on Dookie roadsides; and
- 12 kilometres of fencing.

Planning and responding

Compiled by Katie Warner Chris Norman, Fiona Lloyd and Rod McLennan

Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Corporate Plan KPIs related to planning and responding (see page 87) Strategies and plans developed, implemented, revised or updated	n.a.		On target	High	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Strategies and plans developed, implemented, revised or updated	n.a.		On target	Medium	↓ ⁱⁱⁱ
Catchment condition ^{iv}	Anecdotal ^v Systems in place related to planning and responding	Poor	Medium	Satisfactory	Medium	↑

i See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of what the situation was like in 1990.

iii Assumed to parallel the government funding trend for strategy development.

iv The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

v Examples of anecdotal evidence include feedback from external experts, selection of Catchment for piloting approaches to emerging issues, adoption by other natural resource management regions of approaches developed within Catchment, inclusion of Catchment people in State, National and International knowledge forums.

Government investment, \$000

- Included as part of investment in 'Governance' (page 74).

Major strategic references

- Refer to Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategy structure diagram on page 23.

Background

The Catchment community has continually adapted its approach to managing the Catchment's natural resources under changing conditions and new ideas for more than two decades. The major steps in this evolution have been:

- a single-threat focus (salinity) in the late 1980s
- integrated catchment management during the 1990s
- outcomes based on 'ecosystem services' in the early 2000s
- understanding and enhancing resilience of the Catchment's people and environment as an interconnected system.

The first comprehensive, community-led natural resource management strategies in Australia were prepared by the Goulburn Broken community in 1990; the Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Salinity Management Plan and the Goulburn Broken Dryland Salinity Management Plan.

During the 1990s, pioneering approaches to strategy and planning in emerging fields, especially water quality and native vegetation management, became part of an integrated approach.

The Catchment has been the focus of international studies on ecosystem services and resilience thinking since the early 2000s. The new Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019, developed in partnership with the Catchment community, signals an exciting new phase for the Catchment and the Authority. Launched on the 15 May 2013 by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change the Regional Catchment Strategy continues to build on this work, emphasising the resilience of the Catchment's 'social-ecological systems'.

Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategies

The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy, a requirement of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, was first developed in 1997 and revised in 2003. During 2011 and 2012, the Goulburn Broken CMA led the development of the new Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019. Working with many stakeholders and the Catchment community, the Regional Catchment Strategy sets the priorities and targets for directing the Catchment's resources over the next six years towards achieving environmental, social and economic benefits.

The resilience approach

Resilience is the ability of the Catchment's people and environment to absorb shock or disturbance while continuing to function in a desired way. A series of major events in recent years, from bushfires, droughts and floods to the global financial crisis, has severely tested the Catchment's communities and ecosystems, catalysing an emphasis on developing resilience in preparing the Regional Catchment Strategy. The resilience approach to catchment management focuses on the connections between people and nature, how these connections change and what can be done to achieve desired, balanced goals for resilience. Consistent systems of people and nature are called social-ecological systems, which include elements such as land form, vegetation types, land uses, social structure and dynamics. Social-ecological systems exist at a range of connected scales, from site to the whole of Catchment. The scale chosen for decision-making considers the balance between being small enough to understand the details sufficiently, while being large enough to allocate resources efficiently.

The resilience approach and social-ecological systems underpin the Regional Catchment Strategy and its implementation.

The diagram (below) details the objectives hierarchy for the Regional Catchment Strategy, which has been developed in four levels.

Level 1 is the **50-year vision** which provides a general sense of what the community would like the Catchment to be. The vision reflects the important relationship between protection and use of the Catchment’s natural assets, which generate environmental, economic and social benefits.

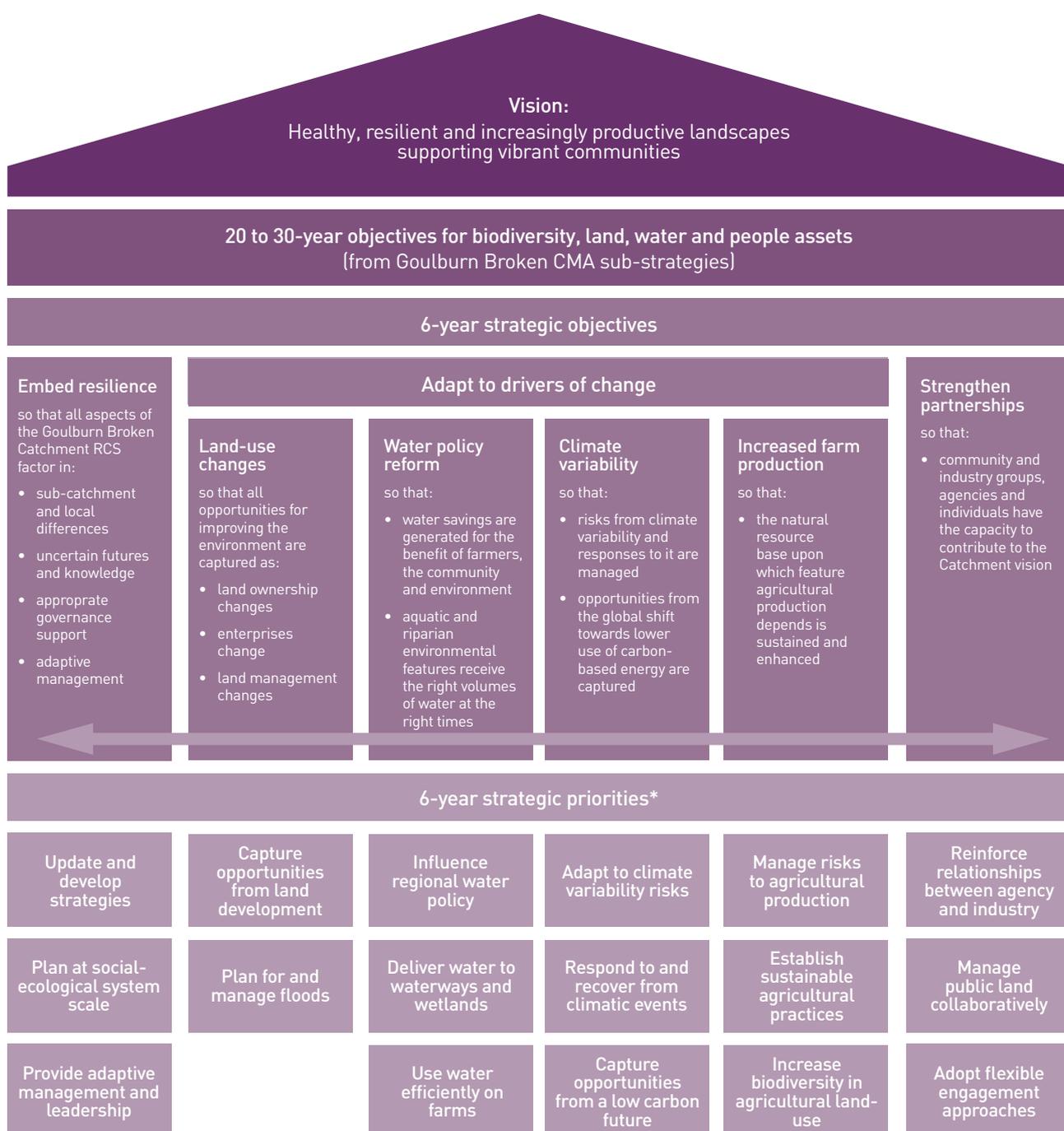
Level 2 holds the **long-term 20 to 30-year biodiversity, land, water and people objectives**, found in the relevant Sub-strategies developed by the Goulburn Broken CMA in consultation with the Catchment community. They guide effort by defining what is to be achieved within the different asset classes of biodiversity, land, water and people; it is

assumed that achieving these objectives will position the Catchment community on the path to achieving the vision.

Level 3 is made up of **six-year strategic objectives** that help communicate the emphasis for management; it is assumed that achieving these objectives will enable progress towards 20 to 30-year biodiversity, land, water and people objectives.

Level 4 includes **six-year strategic priorities**, which describe the focus for bundles of management measures needed to address the drivers of change; it is assumed that achieving these strategic priorities will indicate achievement of strategic objectives. Management measures generally describe the tasks to be undertaken over the next six years.

Setting objectives – Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 objective hierarchy

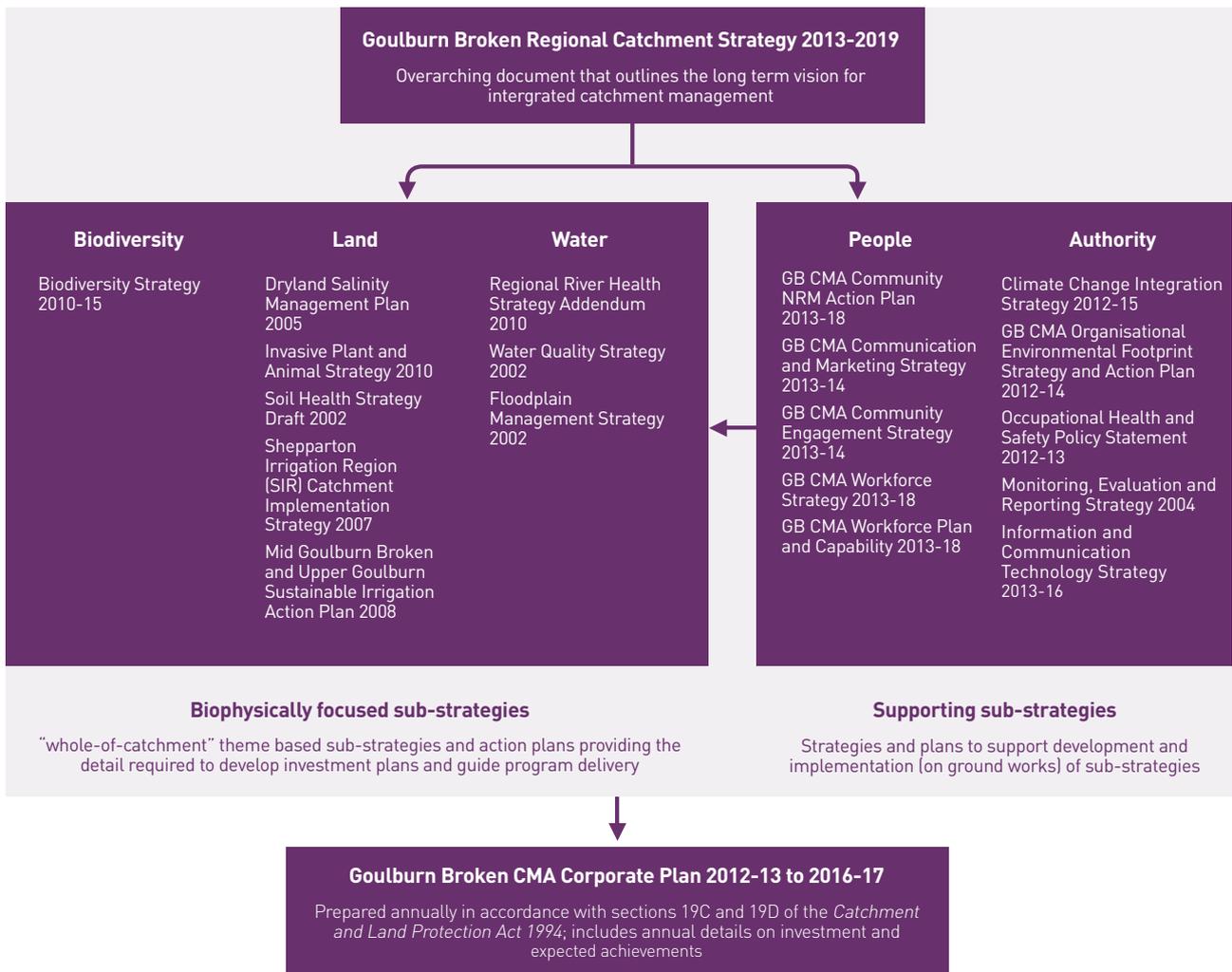


The Goulburn Broken CMA also uses theme-based sub-strategies to provide direction, especially for investing in onground action. The diagram below demonstrates the relationship between the Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategies.

Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan is prepared annually in accordance with sections 19C and 19D of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. It follows high-level directions set in the Regional Catchment Strategy and describes Board priorities beyond requirements of government funders. It satisfies new and emerging requirements from the regional community, the Goulburn Broken CMA Board and government funders, and includes annual details on investment and expected achievements within programs.

Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategies structure



Research and development, evaluation and adaptation

While government funding agencies require project reports on short-term performance and impacts on long-term progress, the lack of a standardised approach in catchment management reporting means that requirements change regularly and often differ between and within agencies. Against this backdrop, the Goulburn Broken CMA has held critical evaluation processes constant, such as monitoring against benchmarks, allowing an understanding of long-term progress (including impact on Catchment condition) to be gained.

The Goulburn Broken region follows a systematic process of reviewing and updating plans and strategies as set out in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy, 2004.

Progress is monitored regularly and sometimes strategies or plans are updated earlier than scheduled, or new strategies are developed, in response to emerging issues or critical drivers. See www.gbcma.vic.gov.au for a record of how and when sub-strategies have been evaluated and adapted.

Integrated catchment management involves decisions based on information from different backgrounds and disciplines. The Goulburn Broken CMA's efforts to standardise outputs since 2002-03 (see page 123) and to summarise progress via long-term scorecards since 2005-06 (see page 12) are important in developing a uniform language and framework, enabling comparisons over time, and helping the Goulburn Broken CMA, the community, agencies and government investors to understand the benefits and trade-offs of decisions. The framework provides a stable and ongoing

approach, while government funding frameworks and language change frequently.

The linking and aggregating of site specific actions (or outputs) to long-term outcomes via the McLennan-O’Kane equation, $\text{Outputs} \times \text{Assumptions} = \text{Outcomes}$, has further fostered common understanding between disciplines and identified priority knowledge gaps. This helped drive many regional and national research and development projects over several years.

The research and development strategy for groundwater and salinity management in the Shepparton Irrigation Region has been implemented in partnership for more than two decades by Goulburn-Murray Water, Department of Environment and Primary Industries research arms and the Goulburn Broken CMA, with integration of additional resources from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, the National Water Commission, Goulburn-Murray Water Connections Project, irrigation industry service providers and users, and others. This partnership approach is pivotal in enabling the region to adapt quickly and to change, with the focus of research on improving how farmers can irrigate more efficiently and sustainably. Investment in fast flow irrigation, pipe and riser irrigation, pressurised irrigation, automation and irrigation scheduling systems are examples of outcomes from this research.

Research and development activities are highlighted within each investment area section of this annual report. A knowledge inventory listing state, national or international projects that the Goulburn Broken CMA is involved with is available at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Catchment condition

For more than two decades, comprehensive strategies have been developed and implemented for many issues including salinity, water quality, biodiversity, integrated catchment management, floodplain protection and river health, with evaluation and adaptation being critical parts of the planning cycle since 1990 (see ‘RCS and sub-strategy evaluation and adaptation record’ at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au).

The formal and informal systems (including for governance, community engagement and human resources) that have been developed, implemented and reviewed over two decades position the Catchment to respond rapidly to recent issues such as drought, bushfires and floods.

There is wide anecdotal recognition of the regional community as a world leader in natural resource management: the Goulburn Broken CMA is widely regarded as a responsive, leading and action-focused natural resource manager. This was most recently highlighted in feedback from Dr Brian Walker, CSIRO Honorary Research Fellow and Chair of the Board of the International Resilience Alliance who commented that the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 was ‘...an excellent document that illustrates how well you guys have grasped complex systems, and how to deal with them. It is way ahead of most NRM planning’.

Long-term strategy implementation progress

Refer to ‘Background’ (on page 21) and ‘Long-term scorecard’ (that rates progress against strategies under investment areas) on page 12.

Investment patterns and maturity of approachesⁱ

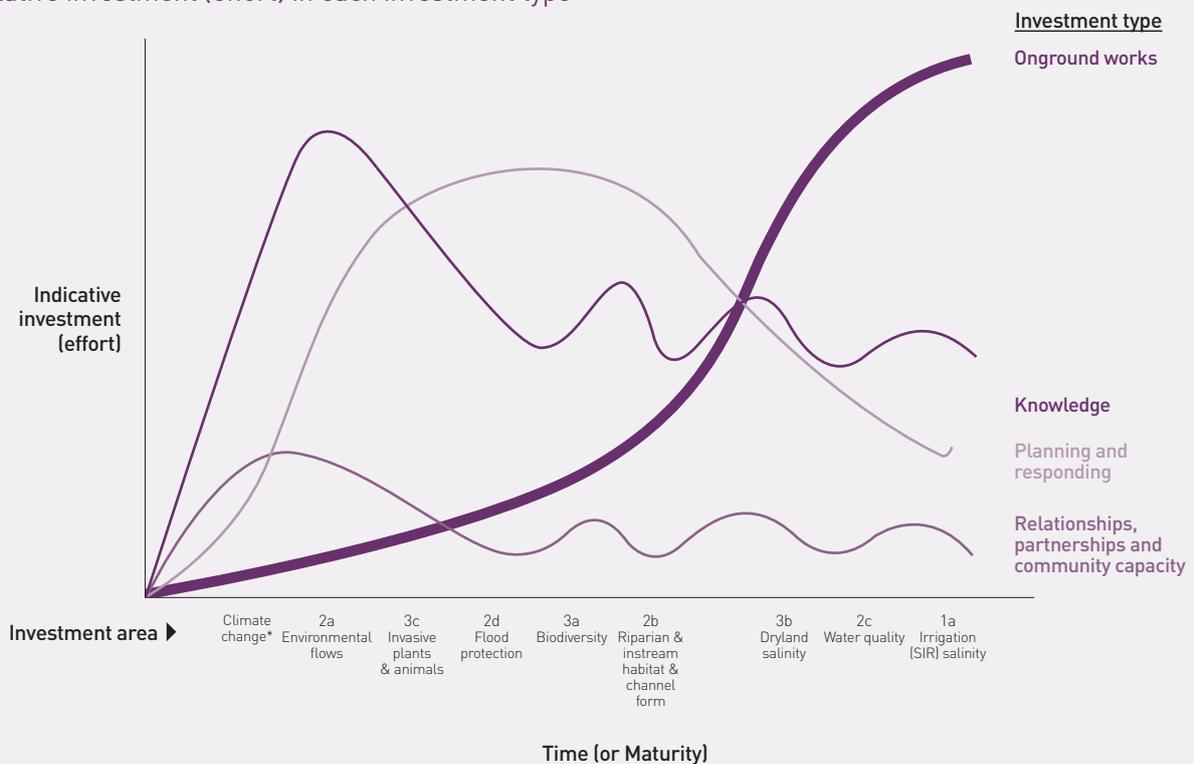
The stylised investment patterns shown in this graph show the Goulburn Broken CMA is at different stages of maturity of implementing approaches in its eight environmental investment areas.

For example, investment in irrigation salinity began much earlier than investment in biodiversity, which in turn is more mature than investment in environmental flows.

The time scale is different for each investment area. Investment in dryland salinity is not likely to follow an exponential uptake because information has emerged that requires us to revisit our plans.

Currently, government investment dictates the levels of effort in each investment type (onground works; knowledge; planning and responding; and relationships, partnerships and community capacity) although the Goulburn Broken CMA attempts to ensure the balance of investment between the different types is appropriate for the issue and efforts are being made to broaden investment to further satisfy our strategy and community needs.

Relative investment (effort) in each investment type



Shows relative maturity for each major Goulburn Broken CMA environmental investment area

* The Goulburn Broken CMA's response to climate change is integrated within each investment area; it is not a separate investment area. It is useful to show its relative immaturity on this graph

ⁱ Adapted from the Goulburn Broken CMA's From the fringe to mainstream – A strategic plan for integrating native biodiversity 2004-07.

2012-13 performance

Summary of plan development and implementation in 2012-13

Plan or strategy	Progress	Further details
Corporate plan	Corporate Plan key performance indicators were satisfied appropriately.	Key performance indicator progress report page 87.
Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019	Most actions have progressed subject to funding availability. The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 was completed late 2012 and was approved by the Minister in May 2013.	Achievements report (completed 2009); summary available at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy is available at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au
Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy (last updated 2007)	Implementation of the Strategy's 30 year salinity actions are on track (farm works ahead, public infrastructure behind giving overall on target rating). An updated summary is being developed to reflect changes since the 2007 review (declining funding, GMW Connections Project and an increasingly variable climate). This may be reviewed in 2013 to become the Agricultural Floodplain Social-Ecological System Implementation Plan subject to funding. The Strategy is constantly adapting in response to new information and the political climate.	See investment area 1a - Sustainable irrigation section page 32. www.gbcma.vic.gov.au
Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012-2015	The Strategy was finalised early in 2012 and implementation is underway The Goulburn Broken CMA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is an active partner of the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance, which attracts funds to help local government adapt to climate change - is influencing and implementing climate change policies such as the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative and Clean Energy Future and local government adaptation strategies - is contributing to climate change research through Monash University and CSIRO - remains a member of a National carbon working group. 	See Climate change section page 28.
Goulburn Broken CMA Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy 2004	Actions are 95 per cent completed. The Strategy will be reviewed in 2013-14 to align with the new Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019.	See 'Knowledge inventory' and 'RCS and sub-strategy evaluation and adaptation record' at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au
Goulburn Broken Information and Communication Technology Strategy 2013-2016	Internal strategy to guide development and delivery of information and communication technology services. Development of the Information and Communication Technology Strategy was postponed due to unexpected staff resource losses and budget uncertainty. Focus of available resources was to maintain existing capability and continue to meet defined service levels agreements.	The Information and Communication Technology Strategy is scheduled for completion in the last quarter of 2013.
Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015	The Strategy was released in July 2010. An 18-month review found that 75 per cent of actions are either underway or on going.	See investment area 3a – Biodiversity section page 51.
River Health Strategy Addendum 2010	The Addendum is being implemented according to schedule. The Strategy is currently being updated and will be completed in 2013-2014.	See investment area 2 – River and wetland health and floodplain management section page 38.
Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010	Since the Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy was released in April 2011, all new onground Invasive Plants and Animals projects clearly align to the Strategy's program goals. Prevention and eradication of new incursions remains the highest priority and additional effort is being invested into coordinating community projects that target established species ensuring high levels of stakeholder participation.	See investment area 3c - Invasive plants and animals section page 62. www.gbcma.vic.gov.au
Goulburn Broken Communication and Marketing Strategy 2013-14 and Community Engagement Strategy 2013-14	The strategies were reviewed and updated to reflect development of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019; findings from the 2012 Wallis CMA Awareness Survey and subsequent Action Plan (developed late 2012); changes in Victorian and Commonwealth government natural resource management funding and priorities.	See Community engagement section page 17.
Goulburn Broken Workforce Strategy 2013-2018	Internal strategy to guide development and delivery of the range of human resources and workplace objectives to ensure the right capability, culture and workplace to enable the operations of the Goulburn Broken CMA. Priorities identified in the strategy is annual workforce planning built into the broader business planning cycle and a focus on leadership development.	See Human resource section page 64.
Goulburn Broken Workforce Plan and Capability 2013-18	Part of the annual business cycle to forecast workforce needs to ensure appropriate staffing mix with the necessary capability to ensure current and future delivery of business objectives.	See Human resource section page 64.

What's next?

The implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 will be the primary focus on the Goulburn Broken CMA over the next six years. This will include:

- alignment of Goulburn Broken CMA systems and processes to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy through both direct delivery by the Goulburn Broken CMA, and through the delivery of Catchment partners
- the development of social-ecological systems integration plans, which will be an important step in recognising local differences across the Catchment, and building on the relationships with local communities and partners in managing the Catchment in an adaptive way
- the ongoing review of sub-strategies to ensure alignment with the Regional Catchment Strategy objectives, and the incorporation of the resilience approach and social-ecological systems. The review and implementation of sub-strategies have been critical in Goulburn Broken Catchment decision making for over two decades. Because the context behind each sub-strategy varies and is continuously changing, sub strategies are renewed according to their own context, independent of the overarching Regional Catchment Strategy renewal cycle. Sub-strategies are developed in consultation with government and community organisations and individuals, providing details for investment plans and priorities
- continued investment in the partnerships that have evolved over the past couple of decades. The implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy will require effort and ownership by landholders, agencies, community Natural Resource Management groups and Traditional Owners. The Goulburn Broken CMA expects that it will need to continue to devote significant efforts to maintain and improve the partnerships already developed as well as initiate new partnerships as the needs are identified if the Regional Catchment Strategy is to be successfully implemented.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will increase triple bottom line outcomes by accelerating the rollout of the Farm Water Program, maximising water and productivity gains through connections to a modernised irrigation system. This Program is underpinned by a water savings calculator, informed by continually updated research on water-use efficiency.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to provide input into the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Plan. The priority in the next 12 months will be on identifying and investigating works and measures that can improve the efficient use of environmental water in the Catchment.

The focus of business improvement in 2013-14 will continue to be based on outcomes of the Organisational Performance Review undertaken in October 2011 in the context of implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy.

The priority projects arising from this review are:

- ensure the Corporate Plan incorporates all organisational strategies and functions so that it can be used as a central reference for monitoring progress and achievement of organisational goals
- clarify the process by which staff can raise issues and have them resolved
- develop a revised workforce strategy that identifies future workforce needs and capabilities that need to be developed
- develop a structured approach to the management and improvement of critical business and support processes.

Undertake a review of the Goulburn Broken Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy 2004 to align with the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 and concepts of adaptive management.

Climate change

Compiled by Kate Brunt

Government Investment

- Included as part of investment across all investment areas.

Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change position paper 2007
- Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012
- The Clean Energy Future Initiative
- Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2013
- Several other Australian Government and State strategic documents that address climate change

Background

A key issue impacting on the resilience of the Catchment's natural resources, the importance of which is recognised in the Regional Catchment Strategy as well as being relevant to all Goulburn Broken CMA sub-strategies, is climate change. Projections for future climate scenarios in the Catchment up to 2030 indicate there will be more hot days, reduced and erratic rainfall, less snow and frosts, more frequent extreme events like bushfires and storms, and extinctions of native flora and fauna. This will likely have a significant impact on the Catchment's natural, rural and urban environments. Natural terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems are considered to be most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, but agricultural industries will need to adapt to a changing climate. Private landholders can help mitigate the effects of climate change and provide adaptive strategies for agriculture.

The Goulburn Broken CMA statement on climate change is:

"In dealing with climate change and the likely impacts, the Goulburn Broken CMA will focus on adaptation strategies to increase catchment resilience; greenhouse gas sequestration activity (e.g. carbon brokering) will be engaged for the purpose of assisting adaptation responses; and mitigation initiatives led by local government will be actively supported."

The Goulburn Broken CMA is implementing this statement via its Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012-2015, which aims to:

- integrate climate change into the Goulburn Broken CMA's programs
- improve understanding of climate change
- pool and attract resources
- build catchment resilience into sequestration activities
- support community mitigation and
- minimise Goulburn Broken CMA's footprint.

Catchment condition

Many species, ecosystems and vegetation communities are declining in quality and extent due to vegetation loss, functional changes to soils and water, invasive species and other threats. Climate change is likely to compound these threats, resulting in further pressures that reduce the resilience of some species and ecosystems to these threats. A wave of extinctions is forecast under runaway climate change scenarios.

A major challenge of climate change to the Catchment's condition is the increased variability of seasonal rainfall with its impact on ground cover, the spread of new weeds and non-indigenous pasture species. Climate change is a significant factor when considering the possibility of new weeds being introduced to the region or the potential spread of existing weeds. Changed climatic conditions may provide the opportunity for weeds previously considered unsuited to the Goulburn Broken environment to be introduced and possibly become established in the region. Existing weeds may also spread more quickly and into new areas where previously they were not considered a threat. A strategic action identified in the Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010 is to assess and regularly review threats.

Cropping areas are also at risk with the spread of fungal and root diseases and pests forcing changes to integrated pest management regimes. In 2012-13 the burning of stubble, consequent loss of soil carbon and increased risk of erosion and changes to frosts and frequency is a reflection of the sorts of challenges that increased climate variability brings. The increase in summer rainfall events has already affected the catchment hydrology and introduces a new uncertainty with the decreasing relevance of equilibrium based models.

Regardless of climate variability, salinity will always be a potential issue in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. Climate variability affects the approach to managing land salinisation in the Shepparton Irrigation Region and River Murray salinity downstream of the Region, with a lower intensity of management required during periods of extended drought and a responsive framework needed when average rainfall years return.

The return of annual rainfall conditions towards the average since 2009 following the preceding dry years has caused watertables to rise significantly within the Shepparton Irrigation Region. Salinity risk maps show that the areas that may potentially re-emerge as being under threat from salinity are predominantly within the proposed modernised irrigation footprint.

Long-term strategy implementation and 2012-13 performance

Due to the Climate Change Integration Strategy being a relatively new document much of the information reported under Long-term Strategy implementation also relates to 2012-13 performance.

Progress towards the Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012 is outlined below:

Outcomes	Goals	2012-13 Progress
Integrate climate change into Goulburn Broken CMA programs	100 per cent of all sub-strategies include climate change analysis and actions as they are renewed or developed.	On target Climate change has been considered in the development of the Biodiversity Strategy, the Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy and the Community Natural Resource Management Action Plan. The Goulburn Broken CMA has received funds through the Clean Energy Future fund to develop a Climate Change Sub-Strategy which will build on the current sub-strategies and Regional Catchment Strategy.
	80 per cent of biophysical projects include contributions to the Climate Change Integration Strategy's purpose in funding bids and reporting by 2015.	On target Biophysical projects funded through Caring for our Country and the Biodiversity Fund contribute to this goal. This includes projects focusing on landscape scale restoration and the vulnerable Sand Ridge Woodlands. The Groundwater and Salt program has adjusted to be an adaptive program reflecting the variable climate and fluctuating impacts on shallow water tables.
Improve understanding of climate change	Ensure adequate climate change information is available to add value to planning and investment decisions.	Behind Target A wide range of climate change information is becoming available. Gaining sufficient resources to interpret and integrate into the CMA's planning continues to be a significant challenge.
	Help grow the capacity of our partners in understanding and responding to Climate Change	On target The Goulburn Broken CMA has continued to work with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and Local Government Authorities through the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance to share information and increase the understanding of Climate Change. The Regional Landcare Facilitator has been working with the broader community.
	Improve the Goulburn Broken CMA's knowledge of potential impacts of climate change by initiating or partnering one climate change research project each year.	Exceed target The Goulburn Broken CMA has been involved in numerous research projects (outlined below). The Goulburn Broken CMA has a key role as Cluster Leader for the Murray Basin Cluster in the Planning for Climate Change Stream 2 project lead by CSIRO.
	Develop a quantitative measure that determines the contribution to the Strategy's purpose by 2015.	Behind Target Work undertaken through the NRM Planning for Climate Change Program will provide progress towards this goal.
Pool and attract resources	Source at least \$2 million of new funds through climate change avenues for Goulburn Broken CMA and partners by 2015.	Exceeded Target \$6.7 million has been sourced through the Biodiversity Fund and the NRM Planning for Climate Change Stream 1 Fund.
	Increase the ability of organisations across the catchment to attract climate change funding, by partnering six climate change related projects led by other organisations by 2015.	On target The Goulburn Broken CMA has partnered with the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance which was successful in receiving over \$200,000 in 2012-13 for a Climate Change education program.

Outcomes	Goals	2012-13 Progress
Build catchment resilience into sequestration activities	Ensure 100 per cent of carbon sequestration activities undertaken by the Goulburn Broken CMA take into account and align with standards to promote resilience of the catchment by 2015.	On target The development of the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative has provided opportunities to promote multiple outcomes from bio-sequestration and the Goulburn Broken CMA has provided comment on a range of relevant policies, such as Carbon Farming Initiative Methodology and Carbon Farming Futures initiative.
	Encourage other government agencies and industry to take into account and align with standards to promote resilience of the catchment.	On target A workshop with key service providers was undertaken through the Regional Landcare Facilitator to increase understanding of the Carbon Farming Initiative.
Support community mitigation efforts	Partner 5 community climate change projects / organisations by 2015.	On target The Goulburn Broken CMA has partnered with the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance on two projects to date.
Minimise the Goulburn Broken CMA footprint	Implement the 2012-14 Reducing our Footprint targets and actions.	See Environmental footprint section page 71.
	Update and further develop the Reducing our Footprint Action Plan for 2015-18 by January 2015.	See Environmental footprint section page 71.

Included below are additional activities that have occurred, mainly through other Goulburn Broken CMA programs.

Community engagement

The Goulburn Broken CMA has continued to support the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance. The Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance is implementing a Climate Change Education project with Local Government, providing a range of courses that provide the skill sets needed for Local Government to adapt to climate change and identify mitigation opportunities.

The Regional Landcare Facilitator has undertaken a number of community education forums, including presentations on the Carbon Farming Initiative for the boarder community, a detailed workshop for Extension Officers and a workshop on Carbon Sequestration in the Agricultural Floodplains.

Engaging the community on Climate Change is also occurring through onground works projects funded through the Commonwealth Government's Biodiversity Fund and Caring for our Country Phase two investment.

Planning and responding

The Land and Biodiversity Program has been involved in a number of research projects including: The Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research's *"Implementing tools to increase adaptive capacity in the community and natural resource sectors"*, CSIRO's *"Conservation Goals for Dynamic Management of Ecosystems"* and as 'Cluster Leader' for the Murray Basin Cluster for the *'NRM Planning for Climate Change Stream 2 initiative'*.

Climate change has been identified as a key driver of change to the occurrence and distribution of invasive plants and animals and is a focus of threat assessments.

The Goulburn Broken CMA participated in several projects that consider climate change and its impacts on river health and water quality. One is a state-wide initiative managed through the Goulburn Broken CMA in partnership with the

Department of Environment and Primary Industries, the Environment Protection Authority, research institutions and other CMAs and is investigating the impact of climate change on water quality. Two papers (Impacts of Climate Change on Water Temperature and Impacts on Sediment and Nutrient Pulses) and a final report have been produced and will be available on the Goulburn Broken CMA website.

Other research projects supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA in 2012-13 included:

- 'Identifying low risk climate change mitigation and adaptation in catchment management while avoiding unintended consequences' by Charles Sturt University (NCCARF project)
- Transferability of a modelling framework for the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment to the Goulburn Broken Catchment by Canberra University (NCCARF project)
- 'Either Side of the Big Wet'. This project is led by Monash University (ARC project) with Goulburn Broken CMA, North Central CMA, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Environmental Protection Authority and Parks Victoria as partners.

Works

To address threats of Climate Change the Goulburn Broken CMA Land and Biodiversity program runs a number of projects that focus on climate change adaptation, including projects that increase the amount of habitat in the landscape through the Clean Energy Futures Initiative of the Federal Government, namely The Landscape Restoration Trial, Creating Biodiverse Carbon Landscapes; Sand Ridge Woodlands project and enhancing farmers ability to adapt to climate change through the Beyond SoilCare project (funded through Caring for our Country). See the Land and Biodiversity section page 51 for achievement figures against these projects.

The Land Health program continues to support climate change mitigation activities through soil carbon sequestration in the short term by supporting land class fencing, grazing

management, increased perennial cover and potential net primary production to capture more carbon and reducing losses through erosion or high levels of oxidation while more extensive, longer term abatement programs are put in place in the economy.

What's next?

The Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to implement the Climate Change Integration Strategy and will be proactive in influencing climate change policy at all levels of government. The Strategy guides climate change adaptation for the Catchment's assets through existing programs by ensuring it is considered in planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting. The Strategy also guides how climate variability is considered in the revised Regional Catchment Strategy.

Recently the Goulburn Broken CMA received \$531,673 through the Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change – Stream 1 initiative. The aim of this project is to develop a Climate Change Planning sub-strategy to support alignment of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 with the principles of Stream 1. The sub-strategy will:

- identify priority landscapes for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the context of improving landscape resilience
- identify management actions for climate change adaptation and mitigation, including carbon sequestration, within priority landscapes
- identify risk to catchment processes from carbon sequestration activities and mitigation actions;
- be informed by engagement with the community and stakeholders and
- outline a plan for implementing the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy adaptive management framework.

This work will result in a plan that incorporates climate change mitigation and adaptation and maximises opportunities for carbon biosequestration in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The Goulburn Broken CMA will also continue as Cluster Leader for the Murray Basin Cluster of the 'Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Stream 2' initiative, supporting the Project Leader, CSIRO.

Investment area 1 – Sustainable Irrigation

Investment area 1a – Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity: watertables and River Murray salinity

Compiled by: Carl Walters, Rachael Spokes, Helen Murdoch, Rabi Maskey, James Burkitt, Megan McFarlane, Jasmine Dick

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a
Long-term strategy implementation	Outputs (scheduled between 1990 and 2013)	n.a.	n.a.	Below target	High	↓ ⁱⁱⁱ
Catchment condition ^{iv}	Watertable salinity and depths Salt disposed to River Murray Salinity of environmental features Management systems	Poor	Low	Satisfactory	Medium	↑

i See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.
 ii Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of the situation in 1990.
 iii Assumed to parallel government funding trend. Trend is declining due to funding levels being below strategy requirements.
 iv The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

Government investment, \$000

Investment Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ⁱ	Trend
1a Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity: watertables and River Murray salinity	29,631	24,928	45,499	50,487	↑ ⁱⁱ

i Forecast based on advice at July 2013.
 ii Trend on the increase due to Farm Water Program funds however Sustainable Irrigation budget is trending down

Major strategic references

- Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Salinity Management Plan 1989 (reviews completed 1995, 2000, 2003, 2005-06 and Implementation Plan 2006-07 to 2010-11), now called the Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy.

Background

Salinity has been the biggest natural resource challenge in the Shepparton Irrigation Region over the last three decades.

The Shepparton Irrigation Region community’s 2020 resource condition targets are to:

- minimise irrigation related salinity impacts from shallow watertables within the Shepparton Irrigation Region (500,000 hectares) by improved irrigation management on farms, improved surface water management within drainage catchments and appropriate pumping, reuse and disposal of groundwater over 216,000 hectares
- manage the salinity impacts on the River Murray at Morgan (in South Australia) from the implementation of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy, in accordance with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s Basin Salinity Management Strategy requirements, at or below 8.9 EC (electrical conductivity unit).

Management of salt within the Shepparton Irrigation Region is essential to achieve a sustainable irrigation industry and protect the productive capacity of the region. Actions to manage salinity have significant benefits for agriculture, water quality, water supply security and biodiversity, with

the impact of no action having a potential \$100 million dollar direct negative impact.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority recognises that managed discharges of salt to waterways is required from the Shepparton Irrigation Region and regulates this action via obligations placed upon Victoria and the region under the Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s Basin Salinity Management Strategy 2001-15.

Salinity program areas are implemented by the Sustainable Irrigation Program with community participation through the Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group, which oversees four programs through participation in working groups: Farm and Environment, Groundwater and Salinity Management, Surface Water Management and Farm Water. These working groups comprise agency staff and, most importantly, community members, including representatives from Goulburn-Murray Water, Water Services Committees, the Victorian Farmers Federation, local government, industry and environment groups.

Different farm sectors have different salinity management needs. Shifting productive use of water for irrigation in recent years resulted in some farm sectors declining. Regional tertiary industries are also adapting in response to changing supplies of primary produce and more volatile market conditions. Farms are also generally getting bigger as many farmers leave the industry. These changes affect the types and amount of benefit that investment in salinity management achieves.

Catchment condition

Although risks of salinisation and waterlogging have increased due to recent wetter conditions, these risks have generally declined since 1990 because of:

- reduced rainfall induced accessions to watertables
- government supported salinity management works, particularly in the early 1990s, including surface water management projects (that result in less water going through to the watertable) and groundwater pumping projects (that have the effect of lowering the watertable)
- complementary government-supported water quality and water savings works that have water-use efficiency and therefore, salinity benefits; for example, irrigation delivery infrastructure through the GMW Connections Project and on-farm irrigation efficiency projects, including the Farm Water Program.

Long-term strategy implementation

Farm works were accelerated by the Commonwealth On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program and Victorian On-Farm State Priority Project funding to the Farm Water Program, which has increased the focus on-farm works, generating improved water management and savings. Key works include laser grading, reuse systems, fast flow irrigation, pipe and riser

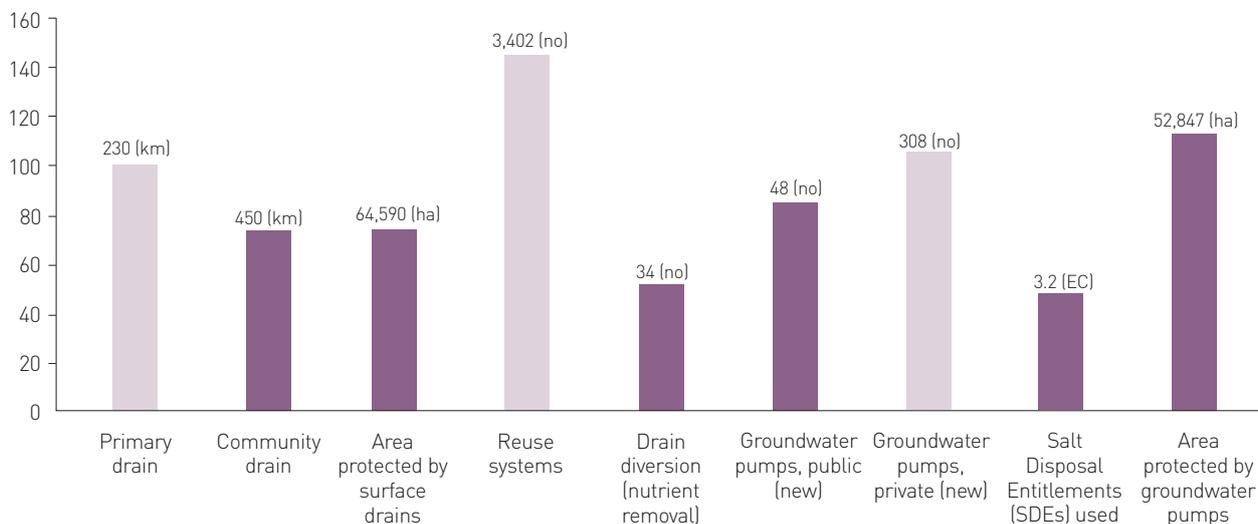
irrigation, pressurised irrigation, automation and irrigation scheduling systems. These works will accelerate improved land management practices on irrigation properties, which will help reduce groundwater accessions and waterlogging on farms.

Regional infrastructure works (public drains and public groundwater pumps) are behind schedule due to revised priorities and a significant decline in government investment over recent years.

The Shepparton Irrigation Region community's irrigation modernisation project, which began implementation in 2008 through the Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project, now called the GMW Connections Project, is also helping to reduce salinity threats. It is primarily aimed at achieving water savings for the benefit of the environment, although as demonstrated following the return of more average rainfall, shallow water tables are significantly driven by rain-induced accessions.

The reporting of progress against salinity impact targets is carried out annually and was once again well received by the Murray-Darling Basing Authority, demonstrating that we are proactively monitoring and responding to changed requirements.

Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy's 1990-2013 target achieved^{i,ii}, %
(achievements listed on top of each bar)



i Cumulative figures on landforming are not included from 2012-13 because different different actions happen on the same area of land, making it difficult to track.
ii The method to set cumulative target was modified in 2012-13 to be: 30-year plan target multiplied by the number of years since 1990 divided by 30.

2012-13 performance

Implementation of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy, formerly the Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan, continues to progress despite the region enduring widely varying climatic conditions and changing funding priorities. Reduced commodity prices and an inability to meet community demand for surface drainage and related salinity control have impacted on the region. The return of high watertables has increased demand for salinity control and improved irrigation systems that are connected to surface and sub-surface drainage.

The program continues to link implementation of the Strategy with various modernisation programs, especially the GMW Connections Project and the Farm Water Program, and optimises opportunities presented by changes to these delivery systems. The on-farm changes are controlled and delivered through Whole Farm Plans, ensuring integration with other parts of the irrigation program.

Landholder participation in the Whole Farm Plan incentive scheme was maintained and extended to maximise the benefits of the modernised regional irrigation delivery system.

The Farm Water Program continued to roll out in 2012-13 (see case study page 37). All 148 Round 1 Farm Water Program projects have been completed, saving 19 gigalitres of water, with 9 gigalitres transferred to the Commonwealth Government for environmental purposes. An additional 233 projects have been funded through Round 2 of the program, which received funding from the Victorian On-Farm State Priority Project (\$43 million) and the Commonwealth Government's On Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (\$21 million). Total Round 2 water savings is expected to be 33 gigalitres, with half transferred to the Commonwealth Government for environmental purposes.

Community engagement

The Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group, the various sub-program working groups and their connections to GMW's Water Services Committees, continues to actively encourage links between the broader community and various action strategies and their implementation.

The sub-program Farm and Environment, Groundwater and Salt working groups have been very active with robust discussion around management of issues and adaptive management approaches. The Farm and Environment Working Group and the Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group have input into the Farm Water Program such as testing the various approaches to each funding round. The Surface Water Management Working Group has gone into recess due to the lack of funding from state and federal governments for drainage.

The Sustainable Irrigation Program continued to engage regularly with councils, other agencies and regional leaders through a variety of forums and committee representation to provide alignment and common understanding of each organisation's perspective on issues and determine approaches to bringing about Catchment-wide change.

The Sustainable Irrigation Program has pursued connections to the broader community through:

- community representation on the Water Technology Cluster
- showcasing the Whole Farm Plan Program and other water use activities from a research and extension perspective at the Water Technology Cluster Irrigation Expo
- membership on the 'Surface Irrigation' special interest group formed under the umbrella of Irrigation Australia Limited
- presentation of conference papers at various opportunities
- engagement with local government through the Municipal Catchment Coordinator position and the Senior Combined Partners meetings
- improved Border Check Irrigation and Pipes and Risers System farm walks in Katandra West and Rochester, showcasing the latest surface irrigation management and technology
- conducted an information sharing session with agency staff, irrigation surveyors and designers and local government on incorporating environmental features into Irrigation Whole Farm Plans.

Planning and responding

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy 2005-2006 review and a background report for 2006-2007 to 2010-2011 for the Implementation Plan was completed.

Protecting environmental assets in the Shepparton Irrigation Region and adapting to a variable climate with variable seasonal conditions continues to be the focus of the Groundwater and Salt Management Program. The Salt and Water Balance Project has progressed significantly, with a number of workshops and steering committee meetings held to develop understanding and gain widespread support for the project's approach of adaptive groundwater management.

Cost-sharing partnerships with Department of Environment and Primary Industries and GMW Connections Project, Goulburn-Murray Water and Dairy Australia for research and development projects continue to evolve, helping to compensate for declining federal funds.

Two case studies, using a partial budget analysis approach to determine the on-farm benefits from irrigation infrastructure investments under the Farm Water Program were completed. These studies focused on: identifying the reasons for irrigators' participation in the Farm Water Program, understanding the types of technologies adopted on-farm, establishment of how improvements in efficiency have been achieved, and analysing the benefits and costs in relation to on-farm works.

An improved border check irrigation research project was completed to reflect the benefits of the appropriate flow regimes for crop and soil types.

The intensive groundwater and drain monitoring program continued and the annual watertable depth and nutrient discharge reports were published.

The review of water quality and groundwater monitoring across the Goulburn Broken Catchment progressed to Stage

two, where individual monitoring programs further reviewed issues involved with rationalisation and efficiencies of the programs.

Input into Victoria's 2011-12 annual report to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Salinity Management Plan was completed.

An Irrigation Drainage Memorandum of Understanding meeting was held during the year as the committee addressed the need for continued monitoring and reporting under this agreement.

The 2011-12 report on nutrient loads from Shepparton Irrigation Region surface drains was completed. Although it showed a dramatic rise in nutrient export, the five-year average was still well within the target and, despite the return of long-term average rainfall, was still well below the levels experienced in the 1990s.

Works and operations

Groundwater and Salinity Management Program

Groundwater investigations were completed at six sites. Two sites were suitable for private pumping. There are no investigations in progress or on the waiting list due to reduced funding for this action.

The Millewa Nature Conservation Reserve has been the focus of attention for modified irrigation behaviour on surrounding properties to minimise the sharp rise in watertable levels in the reserve since late 2010.

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Salt Water Balance Project has progressed to the point where the knowledge around the hydrologic balance and the interaction between soil and salt in times of fluctuating shallow water tables has been accepted and that an adaptive management framework is required to minimise ongoing costs while still protecting the threat to productivity. This approach will reflect trigger levels driven by rise or fall in shallow watertables.

The connection of the Public Groundwater Pump system where they discharge to the GMW channel system has been investigated to establish requirements for these pumps following the completion of GMW Connections Project activities. The options for discharge for each pump have been assessed and a process to support discharge has decisions has been developed with GMW staff.

The Annual Use Limit issues have been dealt with this season to apply a pragmatic approach into developing decision support for those irrigators who breach their Annual Use limit and may require a review of their allowable application of water volume across the GMW Area. A second adjustment to the Annual Use Limit in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District was completed to reflect the dry conditions.

Surface Water Management Program

No primary surface water management schemes were designed because most primary drain designs under the current strategy have been completed. The only detailed design work not completed is Stage 4 of Murray Valley Drain 11 and, due to the constrained funding environment, this will be held over. The review of older designs, should funding be returned, will be first priority.

One kilometre of primary drains was completed and handed over to GMW, protecting 124 hectares of irrigated lands. Other minor completion works ensured partially completed projects would not cause issues in periods of high rainfall. This was due to no funds being allocated for the program to continue, principally in the Stanhope Depression, Mosquito Drain 40 and Murray Valley Drain 11. Significant progress was also made on several outstanding land acquisition matters, although negotiations also ceased because of no funding.

Initiation of community drainage groups and action also ceased. These groups have written to local governments, GMW, the Goulburn Broken CMA and State local members of government and Minister around their issues during the year. A number of irrigator groups were severely impacted during the 2012 floods and subsequent rainfalls have prompted them to demand support for works. Each Water Services Committee and Drainage Group chair has been advised of the current outlook for funding.

Farm and Environment Program

Whole farm plans on 170 properties covering 17,499 hectares were completed, including 78 'revised modernised' plans, bringing the total number of whole farm plans under this incentive to 4,203 covering 303,001 hectares or 66.3 per cent of the land within the Shepparton Irrigation Region under a Water Use Licence or potentially able to be irrigated in the Shepparton Irrigation Region.

No reuse systems or automatic irrigation systems were installed under the incentive scheme delivered under the Farm and Environment Program. However many systems are being delivered through the Farm Water Program.

Round 1 and Round 2 of the Farm Water Program funded a range of onground works.

Farm Water Program achievements, whole-of-life to date (July 2010 until June 2013)

Action		Whole of Farm Water Program ⁱ			Shepparton Irrigation Region ⁱⁱ		
		Achieved	Target	Achieved %	Achieved	Target	Achieved %
Laser Grading	ha	4,929	10,519	47	3,407	7,052	48
Drainage reuse systems	no.	64	156	41	45	103	44
Gravity channel surface irrigation	ha	4,563	9,074	50	7,130	4,040	176
Pipe and riser irrigation	ha	6,793	11,904	57	2,888	6,032	48
Plastic lined channel	km	1.2	1.2	100	1.2	1.2	100
Irrigation scheduling systems	ha	473	627	75	384	538	71
Farm Channel upgrade	km	6.10	8.53	72	6.10	6.10	100
Pressurised irrigation systems	ha	288	1,253	23	288	1,038	28

i The Farm Water Program covers parts of the Goulburn Broken, North East and North Central CMA areas.

ii The Shepparton Irrigation Region is a subset of the Farm Water Program area and covers parts of the Goulburn Broken and North Central CMA areas.

Eleven landholders were supported in undertaking environmental and tree-growing projects to protect 58 hectares of terrestrial remnant vegetation, requiring 5.6 kilometres of fencing. A total of 40 hectares of native vegetation was established using 6,150 seedlings or direct seeding (32 hectares were directly seeded, involving 83 kilometres of seed lines and 21 kilograms of seed).

Environmental site assessments completed across the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District for the GMW Connections Project comprised:

- 800 assessments on meters
- 87 assessments on channel regulators
- 177 connections' business cases, including 645 individual assessments (channel decommissioning, culverts, road crossings, subways, meters, regulators).

Actions 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved		Target	% achieved	
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13		
Surface water actionⁱⁱⁱ						
Land forming/laser grading ^{iv}	ha	19,546	23,500	12,662	10,499	121
Drain – primary built ^v	km	1.1	2	1	1	100
Drain – community built	km	1.4	1.0	0.0	0	
Farm reuse systems installed ^{vi}	no.	7	22	25	35	71
Drain – additional water diverted from regional drains ^{vii}	ML	0	0	0	0	
Automatic irrigation systems	ha	308	1,109	2,529	1,980	128
Pipe and riser irrigation	ha	134	816	1,725	1,911	90
Irrigation scheduling systems	ha	0	157	227	157	145
Plastic lined channels	km	0	0	1.23	1	100
Farm channel upgrade	km	0	6.1	0	0	
Pressurised irrigation systems	ha	0	0	200	519	39
Irrigation systems – improved ^{viii}	ha	20,050	24,000			
Sub-surface water action						
New groundwater pumps – public installed	no.	0	0	0	0	
New groundwater pumps – private installed	no.	0	1	0	0	
Increased volume of water able to be pumped	ML	0	75	0	0	
Planning for works action						
Whole farm plans	no.	256	223	170	155	110
Whole farm plans - new (counted in "no." above)	ha			8,424		
Whole farm plans - modernised (counted in "no." above)	ha			9,075		

i Many actions primarily aimed at achieving salinity targets contribute to other targets, such as those for water quality and biodiversity. Investment shown is for those funds dedicated primarily to achieving salinity outcomes.

ii Corporate Plan targets are adjusted as funding is confirmed. Figures do not include the part of the Farm Water Program that is outside the Shepparton Irrigation Region.

iii Surface water management enables the removal of excess rainfall run-off from irrigated lands, alleviating soil salinity. Nutrient loads collected by the drains are managed through drainage reuse and management plans, and monitored against the resource condition target.

iv Assumptions: 2010-11 = area put under Whole Farm Plans, including modernised, plus Farm Water Program onground achievements (226 hectares); 2011-12 = 90 per cent of area under Whole Farm Plans (25,841 hectares) plus Farm Water Program onground achievements (965 hectares) (1,783 hectares was incorrectly used to calculate figures in 2011-12 report); 2012-13 = 60 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans – new (8,424 hectares) and modernised (9,075 hectares) plus Farm Water Program onground achievements (2,163 hectares)

v Fencing and laneways are relocated along primary drains to control stock. Drains are also hydro-mulched and seeded to provide vegetative cover on bare batters.

vi Reuse dams allow for the collection and re-irrigation of high nutrient run-off, reducing the water and nutrient loads leaving the farm. Figures include Farm Water Program installations.

vii High flow diversion. None completed because of no demand and previous dry conditions.

viii This action is now made up of several other possible actions that can apply to the same area of land, making it difficult to track.

What's next?

The Farm Water Program consortium, led by Goulburn Broken CMA, will continue to actively source funds to meet the demands from regional irrigators wanting to modernise their farm and improve water use efficiency.

The operational priority is to continue integrating farm and catchment programs with irrigation modernisation, the Farm Water Program and industry needs. This requires working with partner agencies so that the salinity management objectives are also met as works proceed. The alignment and integration of all industry partners is critical at this time to ensure the maximum return from the various investments into our region. This alignment is the Goulburn Broken CMA's most critical role from the Sustainable Irrigation Program perspective.

The three-year Shepparton Irrigation Region Salt and Water Balance Project is now at the stage where it will be adapting management of shallow watertables and, subject to funding, developing a different method of defining trigger levels for planning, management via new works or operation, or no

action if shallow watertables decline again. The project includes the connection between irrigation, high watertables and salinity levels and implications for strategies.

The Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan will need to be reviewed as part of the adoption on the 'resilience approach' for the Agricultural Floodplain social-ecological system. This statutory document is critical for integration of the multi-strategy approach within this social-ecological system.

Soil health aspects of improving productivity in the irrigated landscapes will be a focus.

The impact of Murray-Darling Basin Plan implementation on the irrigation industry and the flexible or adaptive response to changing water availability for productive agricultural use will be a focus of the program. Input into the delivery of environmental water for wetlands will continue to be a key knowledge-sharing role.

Case Study

Farm Water Program

The Farm Water Program is a consortium of Northern Victorian agencies, led by the Goulburn Broken CMA, which helps irrigators to achieve water savings by improving on-farm irrigation systems. Half the water saved as a result of these projects is transferred to the Australian government for environmental purposes.

The consortium partners are North Central CMA, North East CMA, Goulburn-Murray Water, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Dairy Australia, Murray Dairy and Northern Victorian Irrigators.

The consortium has secured more than \$100 million for the Farm Water Program from Commonwealth Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (\$46 million – Rounds 1 and 2); the Victorian Government's NVIRP (\$16 million – Round 1); and the Victorian On Farm State Priority Projects initiative (\$43 million – Round 2).

The 148 projects funded in Round 1 were completed and achieved the following:

Round 1	
Total value funded – \$ million	35
Total water savings – gegalitres	18.7
Laser grading – hectares	3584
Drainage reuse – hectares	2121
Farm channel upgrades – kilometres	6.1
Pipe and riser systems – hectares	4859
Irrigation scheduling – hectares	225
Gravity channel surface irrigation – hectares	3470
Project by industry type	
- dairy	92
- grains	23
- beef	13
- sheep & beef	9
- other	11

Approximately 30 per cent of the 233 Round 2 projects have been completed with all projects due to finish by March 2014.

Overall Farm Water Program benefits

Water savings

- Round 1 & 2 total water savings – 52 GL with half transferred to the Commonwealth or State governments for environmental purposes.

Food security

- Significant increase in production and time and labour savings when irrigating¹.
- Allows irrigators to maximise the benefit of a modernised supply from GMW Connections program
- Higher value of production per megalitre used.
- Increased resilience in the face of climate change and proposed Murray-Darling Basin Plan water recovery targets.
- On-farm investment stimulated after years of drought and then flood.

Environmental

- More water is available to protect and restore river health.
- More efficient water delivery systems reduce groundwater accessions and nutrient run-off and help address re-emerging salinity and watertable issues.

Regional Development

With a cost-benefit ratio of 1.34, the \$106 million of funding administered through the consortium's Farm Water Program is estimated to generate at least:

- \$28 million a year in economic benefits across the region;
- 355 jobs and
- significant social and environmental benefits and a boost in industry confidence and co-investment.

(¹Depending on industry and technology - individual circumstances will vary).

Investment area 2 - River and wetland health and floodplain management

Investment areas: 2a Environmental flows, 2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form and 2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers.

Compiled by: Wayne Tennant, Simon Casanelia, Geoff Earl, Mark Turner, Keith Ward, Tim Barlow and Jo Wood

Annual performance

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance 2a Environmental flows	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a
2012-13 performance 2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a
2012-13 performance 2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of the situation in 1990.

Government investment, \$000ⁱ

Investment Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ⁱⁱ	Trend
River and Wetland Management					
2a Environmental flows	5,599	5,430	4,606	3,601	↓
2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form					
2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers					

i. Includes all three investment areas under River and wetland health (2a Environmental flows, 2b River and instream habitat and channel form and 2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers).

ii. Forecast based on funding advice at July 2013.

Major strategic references

- Ramsar Convention on wetlands 1971
- Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 1974
- China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 1986
- Republic of Korea Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 2009
- Convention of Migratory Species (Bonn Convention) 1979
- Murray- Darling Native Fish Management Strategy
- Water Act 2007
- Water Amendment Act 2008
- Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984
- Native Title Act 1993
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- The Murray-Darling Basin Plan 2012
- The Barmah-Milewa Environmental Management Plan (Murray-Darling Basin Authority 2005)
- Draft Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2012 / Victorian River Health Strategy 2002
- The Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2009
- Threatened Species Recovery Plans
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Subdivision Act 1988
- Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990
- Building Regulations, 1996
- Water Act 1989 (Victorian)
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Advisory lists of rare and threatened species in Victoria (Department of Environment and Primary Industries)
- The State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) 2003
- Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013
- Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy 2005, Addendum 2010
- Yorta Yorta Nation Whole of Country Plan 2012-2017
- Wetlands Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment (Draft August 2003)
- Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy 1996-2016
- Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2002
- Review of Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy 1996-2016 (Brian Garrett and Associates 2001)
- Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2002-12
- National Water Quality Management Strategy 1992
- Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy Draft 2013
- The Living Murray

Background

Three highly connected investment areas are reported in this section: 2a Environmental flows, 2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form and 2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers.

Rivers, floodplains and wetlands are highly valued for many environmental, social and economic reasons. They underpin our livelihoods (providing water for agriculture, commercial and domestic uses), contain significant flora and fauna habitat, have high recreational and aesthetic values, and are often central to the culture of Indigenous Australians. The water generated in the Goulburn Broken Catchment provides major benefits for Victoria and beyond, providing 11 per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin's water resources despite covering only two per cent of its area.

River health and floodplain management in Victoria is the responsibility of Catchment Management Authority's and Melbourne Water, as described in Part 10 of the *Water Act, 1989*. Catchment Management Authorities are considered to be the "Caretakers of River Health".

Land that adjoins, regularly influences or is influenced by a creek or river is considered riparian. Riparian vegetation is vitally important to the health of waterways as it:

- provides organic matter, a major food source for instream plants and animals
- provides essential instream habitat for many fish and invertebrates in the form of woody debris and roots
- provides stability to banks, minimising erosion
- provides shade which protects instream plants and animals from temperature extremes and can also control the growth of nuisance aquatic plants, including blue-green algae
- traps and filters sediments and nutrients from catchment run-off helping to protect and improve water quality.

Riparian vegetation is also an important part of the terrestrial landscape. It acts as a refuge in dry times, is often the largest remnant of native vegetation in cleared catchments and acts as a wildlife corridor linking habitats. The capacity of riparian vegetation to perform the ecological functions outlined above will depend on its width, connectivity and condition.

The Goulburn Broken CMA in conjunction with individuals, communities and agencies undertake a range of natural

resource and community based activities including fencing, revegetation, pest plant and animal control, resnagging and monitoring to protect and improve the condition of riparian zones, instream habitat and channel form across the catchment. These works are complemented by the delivery and management of environmental water, floodplain management, and activities delivered through the Sustainable Irrigation and Land and Biodiversity programs.

Environmental water entitlements can be called out of storage when needed and delivered to streams or wetlands to protect or enhance their environmental values and health. Environmental entitlements are held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, and the Murray Darling Basin Authority. Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for determining the environmental water requirements of streams and wetlands, developing and submitting seasonal watering proposals to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder for consideration, and managing the delivery of environmental water in accordance with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's Seasonal Watering Plan. Seasonal watering proposals are prepared for rivers and wetlands. The purpose of the proposals are to:

- identify the environmental water requirements of the streams and wetlands in the coming year under a range of climatic scenarios to protect and improve their environmental values and
- inform the development of environmental water priorities in the Victorian Environmental Water Holders seasonal watering plan.

Where possible, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, and the Murray Darling Basin Authority seek to coordinate the delivery and management of environmental water with managers such as Goulburn-Murray Water to maximise ecological benefits.

Elevated nutrients were identified as a high priority issue for water quality in the Goulburn Broken Catchment because of the potential to contribute to excessive algal growth that impacts on social, economic and environmental values within waterways. Phosphorus loads are an indicator for water quality in rivers and streams because phosphorus is a limiting factor in the development of toxic blue green algal blooms and aquatic weed blooms.

Catchment conditionⁱ

Investment area	Examples of evidence of Catchment condition used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
Environmental flows	Water regimes of environmental features Management systems	Poor	Low	Good	Medium	↑
Riparian and instream habitat and channel form	Index of stream condition Management systems	Poor	Low	Satisfactory	Medium	↑
Water quality (nutrients) in waterways	Phosphorus loads in rivers and streams Blue green algal blooms Management systems	Very poor	Low	Satisfactory	High	↑

See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ⁱ The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

ⁱⁱ Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of the situation in 1990.

The condition of riparian and in stream habitat and channel form has been impacted by past and present clearing, groundwater extraction, pest plant and animal invasion, the removal of woody debris, stock access to riparian zones, waterway regulation and flow diversion, and urban and agricultural development.

Since 2000 condition has also been impacted by prolonged drought, wildfires and floods. During this time riparian and instream habitat and channel form management has been supported by improved:

- private landholder, government and agency partnership arrangements;
- on-ground management approaches informed by research and monitoring;
- administrative, institutional and legislative arrangements including the establishment of the environmental water reserve; and
- community appreciation and support of waterways values.

River and wetland condition in Victoria is assessed using the Index of Stream Condition and the Index of Wetland Condition. These measures assess factors including changes in hydrology, water quality, form, vegetation health and species diversity.

Recent Index of Stream Condition assessments (2010) of selected river reaches in the Goulburn and Broken basins

indicated that most are in moderate (53 per cent) and poor (21 per cent) condition, with a small proportion in very poor condition (11 per cent). About 10 per cent of reaches were assessed to be in good condition and 5 per cent in excellent condition. The overall condition has not significantly changed since they were last assessed in 2004 despite the impacts of wild fire, flood and drought.

Since 2009 Index of Wetland Condition assessments have been carried out on 116 wetlands across the region. Results indicate that most are in good (38 per cent) and moderate (40 per cent) condition, and a small proportion are in excellent (6 per cent), poor (15 per cent) and very poor condition (<2 per cent). The results also indicated that wetlands on public land are generally in better condition than those on private land. Preliminary condition assessments of Barmah Forest show an increasing trend in the health of overstorey and understorey species, reversing the trend seen during the ten years of drought.

The five year rolling average phosphorus load from the Goulburn Broken Catchment is below the long term target, equating to a reduction of 80 per cent from the benchmark year of 1993-94.

Institutional arrangements to manage water quality threats continued through several regional participant forums.

Long-term strategy implementation

Investment area	Strategy Life	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend ⁱ
Environmental flows	2004-present	On target ⁱⁱ	Medium	↑
Riparian and instream habitat and channel form	2005-2015	Below target ⁱⁱⁱ	High	●
Water quality (nutrients) in waterways	1996-2016	Exceeding target ^{iv}	High	●

See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

- i Assumed to parallel government funding trend.
- ii Outputs (scheduled between 2004 and 2013).
- iii Outputs (tasks and works scheduled between 2005 and 2013).
- iv Outputs (tasks and works scheduled between 1996 and 2013).

The Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy 2005 was the first attempt to combine all elements of river management under one umbrella. Actions focused on improving the condition of rivers, floodplains and wetlands to help achieve the Healthy Rivers, Healthy Communities vision set in 2003.

In 2009-10 the Goulburn Broken CMA developed an addendum to the Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy. This addendum reviewed achievements since 2004 and the vision was retained. The addendum guided river health programs, funding and implementation between 2010 and 2013. The development of a second generation Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy began in 2012 and is expected to be completed in 2014. The strategy will have close links with the 2012-18 Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-19 and will guide waterway and wetland programs, funding and implementation from 2013 to 2021.

The recent review of the Strategy and addendum indicated that a substantial program of works and complementary initiatives have been implemented across the catchment. The catchment

has experienced wild fires, floods and drought during the life of the Strategy and the addendum. The program has responded by securing funding and implementing recovery programs and initiatives. As a result, the Goulburn Broken CMA now has robust processes for assessing the impacts and responding to the effects of these natural events and other water related emergencies such as black water events.

With the assistance of partner organisations, the Goulburn Broken CMA has delivered and managed environmental water since early 2000 to maintain and enhance ecological values of rivers, floodplains and wetlands. The table below shows environmental water delivered by the Goulburn Broken CMA since 2000-01.

Wetland or stream	Quantity, ML												
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Barmah	165,000 ⁱ (341,000 ⁱⁱ)		3,165 ⁱ (3,165 ⁱⁱ)			256,500 ⁱ (513,000 ⁱⁱ)		0 ⁱ (125 ⁱⁱ)	300 ⁱ (300 ⁱⁱ)	1850 ⁱ (2,370 ⁱⁱ)	184,500 ⁱ (428,000 ⁱⁱ)		2,959
Black Swamp								90	40	80			
Brays Swamp	260		220		266								
Lower Broken Creek						Goulburn River Water Quality Allowance deployed						19,555	41,230
Upper Broken Creek													51
Broken River											24.2		
Doctors Swamp									40 (trial)				
Goulburn River											26,670	151,724	205,015
Kinnairds Swamp								426		400			
Moodies Swamp								50					
Reedy Swamp								544	500	300			

i Victorian share of the Barmah-Millewa and The Living Murray environmental water accounts.

ii Total volume delivered from the Victorian and NSW shares of the Barmah-Millewa and The Living Murray environmental water accounts.

In recent years, the Goulburn Broken CMA has delivered environmental entitlements to the Goulburn River, lower Broken Creek, upper Broken Creek, Barmah Forest and a number of priority wetlands to improve water quality, promote the growth and germination of native vegetation, promote and support waterbird breeding, provide drought refuge for aquatic dependent species, provide habitat for native fish, and to reduce the growth of nuisance aquatic plants.

The Victorian Government, with support from the Goulburn Broken CMA and its partners, is increasing water availability by saving water in supply and delivery for farming through projects such as the Commonwealth Government's On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program and the GMW Connections Project.

The Goulburn Broken CMA in partnership with landholders and partners continue to undertake a range of natural resource and community based activities including fencing, revegetation, pest plant and animal control and monitoring to protect and improve the condition of riparian zones, instream habitat and channel form across the catchment. To date over 1000 km of fencing has been erected and approximately 24,000 ha of weeds treated along waterways and 272 km of waterways have been opened to fish passage. More recently, the Goulburn Broken CMA has focused on resnagging waterways to improve in stream habitat diversity. Approximately 1,700 snags have been added to a number of priority waterways across the catchment including the Goulburn River, Broken Creek, Hollands Creek and Tahbilk Lagoon.

Water quality issues identified in the Goulburn Broken Regional Water Quality Strategy, 1996, focused on the impacts of nutrients and their potential to cause toxic algal blooms. The Goulburn Broken Catchment community's goal for water quality is to 'improve and maintain water quality at optimum levels within and downstream of the Catchment for native ecosystems, recreation, human and animal consumption, agriculture and industry'. Targets for phosphorus loads are reference points for progress towards this goal. Targets were not set for nitrogen loads because the reduction of phosphorus and subsequent increase in nitrogen to phosphorus ratio was the Strategy's emphasis. Opportunities to reduce nitrogen, particularly where it is associated with phosphorus reductions, are pursued if it

is cost effective. A review of the Strategy was completed in 2008, highlighting a range of successes under the individual programs. Strategy development, implementation and review processes are closely aligned with best practices identified in the National Water Quality Management Strategy 1992.

There have been major improvements in wastewater treatment, irrigation reuse, dryland natural resource management programs, and protection of riparian lands.

2012-13 performance

Community engagement

- A variety of community engagement activities were undertaken to support the development of the Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy including:
 - establishment of a Reference Group comprised of community members and representatives from partner agencies such as Department of Environment and Primary Industries and Goulburn-Murray Water.
 - development of a WeConnect site to seek feedback on the development of the Strategy.
 - completion of an interactive survey, seeking input on values, threats, and support for management.
 - a request for waterway photographs through Flickr.
- Establishment of Goulburn and Broken environmental water advisory groups comprising community members with interest in a knowledge of creek and river environments
- Carp Muster at Victoria Park Lake organised for World Wetlands Day to raise awareness about the damage pest fish do to water quality and habitat for native fish. Groups involved included GV Angling Club, Trely's Fishing and Hunting, Goulburn Valley Water, Department of Environment and Primary Industries (Fisheries) and Greater Shepparton City Council.
- Weed Identification Day where 40 participants learned how to identify aquatic weeds and their potential impacts on waterways. This was part of the Lake Benalla Cabomba project.
- Barmah-Millewa Forest Research Conference which attracted 110 Natural Resource Managers and scientists from across the Murray-Darling Basin to discuss research activities and management of the Barmah-Millewa forest.

- The Goulburn Broken CMA Wetland Management Group continued to meet to guide wetland works and actions including environmental water use.
- The Fish, Crayfish and Turtles of North East Victoria field guide was launched.
- Barmah-Millewa Forest collaborations included cross-state water management between New South Wales and Victorian agencies and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (including 21 weekly teleconferences during the active water management period) and extensive media relating to waterbird breeding and water quality management.
- The third Floodplain Ecology Course was successfully held at Barmah during October. Funded by Goulburn Broken CMA, Department of Environment and Primary Industries and participant fees, the event was managed by the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network.
- Continued support of the successful RiverConnect initiative which promotes the Goulburn and Broken rivers as the heart and soul of the Shepparton-Mooroopna community. Key achievements included the installation of interpretative signage, the publication of a Goulburn and Broken River access map, extensive community activities through the 'Activities in the Park' program and an Australian National University art exhibition inspired by local waterways.
- WaterWatch continued to be a highly successful community education program and its activities are being integrated into natural resource management programs. Strong relationships between major stakeholders have been developed, including a multi-agency memorandum of understanding.
- Assisted the Murray-Darling Basin Authority with developing The Living Murray Barmah-Millewa Forest DVD.
- Presentation on Barmah-Millewa Forest water management to approximately 70 attendees at LaTrobe University, Wodonga. This presentation was recorded and made accessible via YouTube.

Planning and responding

The Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy 2005-15 is being reviewed and renewed, with a Waterway Management Strategy, covering both waterways and wetlands, currently under development.

The Water Quality Forum undertook a strategic review of priority water quality issues within the region with the aim of developing a works program for the Forum to address over time. Strategic priorities included development of a prioritised list of risks to water quality, onsite waste water management, sewerage scheme planning, riparian management, partnerships, stormwater management, land planning and monitoring data and knowledge.

A review of bank stability and vegetation recovery along the Lower Goulburn river was completed to guide environmental water management. An Environmental Watering Plan was prepared for the Lower Broken River on behalf of the GMW Connections Project. The irrigation upgrade in the Shepparton East area is anticipated to reduce outfalls to the Broken River by approximately 85 per cent so the project needed to understand potential implications for the river ecosystem.

Seasonal watering proposals were prepared for the Broken Creek, Goulburn River, Barmah Forest and priority wetlands in the region in May 2013.

Environmental Water Management Plans were written for Gaynor Swamp, Kanyapella Basin, Mansfield Swamp, Wallenjoe Swamp and Moodie Swamp. The purpose of the plans is to support Seasonal Watering Proposals submitted annually by Catchment Management Authorities to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

An update of the Kinnairds Wetland Environmental Management Plan (2003) began in 2012-13. The Kinnairds Swamp Environmental Water Management Plan developed in 2010-11 will be incorporated into the new plan to assist land managers with managing the ecological and hydrological requirements of the wetland. The plan will be finished by December 2013.

WaterWatch established a monitoring regime to assess impacts of regional flooding and the possible identification of blackwater and low dissolved oxygen.

Ecology Australia was commissioned by Parks Victoria to prepare a Pest Plant and Animal Strategy for Barmah National Park. This Strategy developed a framework on which to prioritise pest plant and animal control action in this Ramsar Listed site.

Staff were supported to attend the Graduate Certificate in River Health being offered through Melbourne University.

Monitoring of threatened species continued in support of Recovery Plans and projects through implementation of Actions for Biodiversity Conservation. Activities included:

- ongoing monitoring of the condition of native fish communities within the Goulburn River
- threatened species recovery monitoring (Macquarie perch in Holland's, King Parrot and Hughes Creeks)
- monitoring of Macquarie perch populations in Hollands Creek as part of the Hollands Creek Demonstration Reach project
- assessment of the status and health of Victoria's most southerly population of Freshwater catfish (at Tahbilk Lagoon).

Other ongoing monitoring projects included:

- the effects of the Lake Mokoan decommissioning on turbidity and fish communities in the Broken River
- assessment of baseline stream condition (snagging on the Broken Creek)
- assessment of Cabomba populations (Lake Benalla, Broken Creek, Broken River and Barmah)
- monitoring the Barred galaxias population
- contribution of slackwater habitats to instream diversity in the Broken River
- involvement in a consortium led by University of Melbourne and funded by The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder to monitor environmental outcomes from the deployment of Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder water in 2012-13 and
- input into Victorian Environmental Flow Monitoring and Assessment Program (undertaken across Victoria on eight priority waterways including sites on the Broken and Goulburn Rivers, and the Broken Creek). Monitoring in 2012-13 focussed on fish and macroinvertebrates.

An overview of the \$4 million Goulburn Large Scale River Restoration Project, which ran from 2008-09 to 2011-12 was completed and is available on the Goulburn Broken CMA website.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority Environmental Works and Measures Feasibility Project commenced in 2012-13. The aim of the project is to identify wetlands where works can be undertaken to allow delivery of environmental water and any water saving made can be used to offset sustainable diversion limits.

Re-mapping the extent of Moira Grass in Barmah Forest was undertaken by CSIRO and the Goulburn Broken CMA. The project found a rapid decline in extent thought to be as a result of severe drought conditions followed by an unprecedented 2.5 years of continuous flooding of the low-lying wetlands. Environmental water is planned for release in spring to augment any natural flooding to target the specific watering preference for Moira Grass.

The eWater Cooperative Research Centre Northern Application Project was submitted to eWater for final editing. This project investigated how off-channel habitats are affected under various water supply scenarios.

A submission to the Environment and Natural Resources Committee inquiry on matters relating to flood mitigation infrastructure in Victoria was prepared.

An investigation was commissioned into the feasibility of facilitating fish migration on the Broken River at 'Rupertsdale' and Goulding's Weir together with Hollands Creek at Emu Bridge.

Activities carried out to help with the implementation of the four-year works projects included social surveys in the Yea and King Parrot Catchments; a project to study the geomorphology of the Yea and Acheron rivers; and electrofishing in the Yea River and King Parrot Creek to help assess fish populations in these waterways. King Parrot surveys showed the endangered Macquarie perch population doing well: 62 individuals were caught from the five sites.

Involvement in two Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre projects using Barmah Forest vegetation and water quality datasets ('Improving the efficient use of environmental flows' and 'Integrated Ecological Condition Assessment') and an Australian Centre for Ecological Analysis & Synthesis project 'plant functional traits and adaption to climate change'.

A small trial release of Commonwealth Environmental water down the Upper Broken Creek was undertaken in March. The trial and associated monitoring program aimed to understand the physical impact of the flow and how it travelled down the creek, to provide information for future environmental flow planning.

Works and operations

Actions 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved ⁱ		Target	% achieved	
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13		
Stock grazing action						
Fence wetland remnant	ha	78	8	0	1	0
Fence stream/river remnant	ha	354	337	126	0	
Fence stream/river remnant	km	93	36	6.8	23	30
Off-stream watering	no.	21	30	1	8	13
Nutrient-rich and turbid water & suspended solids action						
Stormwater management projects ⁱⁱ	no.	0	1	0	0	-
Instream & near-stream erosion action						
Bank protection actions	km	16	8	0.65	0.35	186
Instream and tributary erosion controlled	km	131	0	0	0	100
Changed flow-pattern action						
Water allocated ⁱⁱⁱ eg wetlands, waterways	ML	238,943	156,020	291,440	1,000	29,144
Weed invasion action						
Weeds – aquatic weeds controlled (managed)	ha	418	47	77	20	396
Habitat loss management						
Rock ramp fishway	no.	0	0	0	0	-
Fish barrier removal	no.	0	1	0	0	-
Establish Significantly Enhanced Aquatic Refugia	no.	0	25	0	0	
Surface water action^{iv}						
Drain – primary ^v	km	1	2	1	1	100
Drain – community	km	1	1.0	0	0	-
Farm reuse system ^{vi}	no.	7	22	25	35	36
Drain – divert water	ML	0	0	0	0	-
Irrigation systems – improved ^{vii}	ha	20,050	24,000			

i Achievements include those from investment areas: Environmental flows, Riparian and instream habitat and channel form and Water quality and complementary investment areas (SIR salinity, Land health including dryland salinity and Biodiversity). Outputs delivered through each fund source are available from the Goulburn Broken CMA.

ii Area figure supplied by River health implementation manager.

iii Stormwater management projects are undertaken on a one-to-one funding basis with local government.

iv Target cannot be set with any confidence because achievement is prone to extreme variation, being affected by seasonal conditions.

v Surface water management enables the removal of excess rainfall run-off from irrigated lands, alleviating soil salinity. Nutrient loads collected by the drains are managed through drainage reuse and management plans, and monitored against the resource condition target.

vi Fencing and laneways are relocated along primary drains to control stock. Drains are also hydro-mulched and seeded to provide vegetative cover on bare batters.

vii Reuse dams allow for the collection and re-irrigation of high nutrient run-off, reducing the water and nutrient loads leaving the farm.

viii This action is now made up of several other possible actions that can apply to the same area of land, making it difficult to track.

The Goulburn Broken CMA partnered the community and government agencies in a range of natural resource and community based activities, including fencing, revegetation, pest plant and animal control, improving in stream woody habitat, monitoring and employment.

Works were funded through a range of programs, including the Large Scale River Restoration Project, the Healthy Waterways Initiative, and Recreational Fishing Grant Program.

Macquarie perch populations were enhanced as part of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority Demonstration Reach Project on Hollands Creek. This is the final year of a multi-year project undertaken in partnership with the community. A legacy document is being prepared to guide future projects of this nature.

The regional Flood Employment Program continued to deliver recovery programs following the March 2012 flood events. A key partner supporting this project is the landowners in the Cornella Local Area Plan Implementation Committee. The Program provided valuable employment for local community members in the region while rehabilitating damaged natural assets and infrastructure.

In June 2013, the Victorian Government announced funding for the Goulburn Broken CMA to deliver the Fruit Industry Employment Program for workers affected by SPC-Ardmona's fruit intake cuts. The program will commence in August 2013 with participants carrying out fencing, weed control and infrastructure work such as signage and nest box construction.

A major focus of works to improve instream habitat was investigated and commissioned on the Goulburn River under the Large Scale River Restoration Project 'Goulburn – Icon River'. This project saw the analysis of habitat conditions in large reaches of the Goulburn, which enabled an assessment of reaches with habitat deficiency. Woody debris was installed in a way which represented areas of good habitat. This project was integrated into the Environmental Water Program and Threatened Species Monitoring initiatives.

The statewide Securing Priority Riparian Areas Project, which began in January 2011 and continued into 2013 aims to improve management through better extension and engagement, more rigorous management agreements, and increased compliance with Crown water frontage licence conditions (see progress in table below).

Securing priority riparian areas, Goulburn Broken Catchment, January to June 2013

Quantitative outputs (additive)	Total
New signed riparian management agreements that encompass both Crown and freehold land (no.)	6
New signed riparian management agreements on freehold land only (no.)	10
New signed riparian management agreements on Crown land only (no.)	4
Freehold area under riparian management agreement (ha)	28.25
Waterway under riparian management agreement (km)	19.30
Landholders with site inspections who declined to be part of the project (no.)	13

The Australian Government's Caring for our Country initiative enabled work to continue on the control of Cabomba (*Cabomba caroliniana*), a 'Weed of National Significance', at Lake Benalla and in the Broken River. The program has achieved relative success with no recorded populations of Cabomba now present within Lake Benalla. A small population now exists within a downstream impoundment (Casey's Weir) which will be the focus of effort in the following years. There was a tiny population found in the channel interlinking Casey's Weir and the Broken Creek which was removed immediately. No Cabomba was found downstream of Casey's Weir in the Broken River, mid Broken Creek or Barmah.

Funding was received from the Recreational Fishing Initiative to improve fish migration in the Broken River. Feasibility studies are underway.

Further instream habitat works were undertaken along the Broken Creek in line with recommendations from Arthur Rylah Institute. This project has been funded by revenue

raised through recreation fishing licences allocated through Department of Environment and Primary Industries Recreational Fishing Initiative.

The Goulburn Broken CMA, Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria continued work on a project to address 'Weeds of National Significance' and pest animals in the Barmah Wetland to protect the ecological character of this icon site. Targets for pest plant and animal management were exceeded. This project also enabled the capturing and housing of Traditional language, within a program called Mirromaa. It is envisaged that the information captured will be used to pass on to the younger generation.

Caring for our Country has also supported the removal of "Weeds of National Significance" and the identification and cataloguing of Aboriginal artefacts in spring soaks and alpine wetlands of the upper Goulburn River catchment. This project was actively supported by the Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

Environmental water used during 2012-13

Quantity, ML	Timing	Source
Water generated within and managed and used WITHIN the Goulburn Broken Catchment		
Goulburn River		
201,097	October 2012 to June 2013	Commonwealth Environmental Water
3,918	June 2013	Victorian Environmental Water
Lower Broken Creek		
41,230	August 2012 to May 2013	Commonwealth Environmental Water
Upper Broken Creek		
51	March 2013	Commonwealth Environmental Water
Barmah-Millewa Forest		
2,959	November 2012 to January 2013	The Living Murray EWA
Water generated within and managed and used DOWNSTREAM of the Goulburn Broken Catchment		
To Murray River via Goulburn River and Lower Broken Creek		
96,033	December to January 2013	Inter-Valley Transfers (Goulburn River)
3,706	December to January 2013	Inter-Valley Transfers (Broken Creek)
50,344	October to November 2012	The Living Murray allocation (Goulburn River)
Water generated within the Murray River Catchment and managed and used in the Goulburn Broken Catchment		
Broken Creek		
4,565	August to October 2012	Murray Unregulated Flows (Broken Creek)

Approximately 250,000 megalitres of Environmental Water was delivered in 2012-13 to support fish, macroinvertebrate and vegetation ecological objectives in the lower Goulburn River, lower Broken Creek, and to ensure success of waterbird breeding events in the Barmah-Millewa Forest. No environmental water was required for wetlands outside of Barmah-Millewa Forest due to the promotion of their drying. The environmental water was delivered in accordance with Victorian Environmental Water Holder processes and with

the assistance and cooperation of partners. The majority of priority watering actions were achieved at all sites.

A total of 2,959 ML of The Living Murray environmental water was supplied to maintain shallow flooding at a nesting site in Barmah Forest until January 2013. With support from GMW and MDBA, water being sent downstream for other purposes also made a significant contribution to achieving environmental flow targets in the Lower Goulburn River and Lower Broken Creek.

What's next?

The new Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy is expected to be completed in early 2014. The strategy will be supported by a number of Discussion Papers: Water Quality, Climate Change, Environmental Water, River Health Strategy 2004-13 review, engagement of Traditional Owners and Resilience.

Opportunities for multiple uses of environmental water will be explored with neighbouring Catchment Management Authorities, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Seasonal watering proposals and environmental watering plans will continue to be prepared so that environmental water is used effectively and efficiently. The 2013-2014 proposals aim to:

- Provide flows in the lower Broken Creek to allow native fish passage, increase native fish habitat during the migration and breeding seasons, and manage threats to native fish from low dissolved oxygen levels and/or excessive Azolla growth
- Provide minimum flows and freshes in the lower Goulburn River to support native fish, macroinvertebrate and native vegetation habitat and recruitment
- Promote the drawdown and drying of priority wetlands to protect the diversity and structure of their vegetation communities and
- Facilitate successful nesting of colonial waterbirds.

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder has provided funds to monitor the ecological response of selected wetlands to environmental water management in 2013-14. Attributes

that will be monitored include water depth and quality, macroinvertebrate abundance and diversity, the presence and breeding activity of waterbirds and frogs, and vegetation condition.

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Office is funding the development and implementation of 5-year Monitoring and Evaluation Plans that examine the ecological response to Commonwealth environmental water delivery at seven selected areas within the Murray-Darling Basin including the Goulburn River. The Plans are expected to be developed and ready for implementation by June 2014. The Goulburn Broken CMA is seeking to be involved in both the development and implementation phases of the Goulburn River Plan.

Engagement and partnerships with the community to deliver changes will continue. Past sites will be evaluated, in partnership with the community, to ensure that investment is protected and sites are maintained at best practice.

Key waterways in the region will be assessed against the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria 2003).

The likely impacts of climate change on waterway values, in particular water quality, will continue to be investigated. Tipping points for priority waterways will be investigated under climate change scenarios using the six social-ecological systems identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-19.

Waterways will continue to be opened up to fish migration with the modification and/or removal of instream barriers including Gouldings and Harris's weirs on the Broken River and Hollands Creek at Emu Bridge. Designs will be completed for the Broken River Weir (former Mokoan off-take).

Case Study

King Parrot Creek Project

Community input is the key to the King Parrot Creek Project's success. The project aims to protect and enhance the riparian environment along the King Parrot Creek and its major tributaries; support and build community capacity after natural disasters such as the Black Saturday fires; and continue to create awareness about the significant population of Macquarie perch population in the waterways.

The project, funded through the Victorian Government's Securing Priority waterways – On Ground Works Program has had input from a range of groups and organisations. However it's the efforts of a working group, made up of landholders, community members and agency representatives that has led to some excellent outcomes and activities. This includes a fish circus (a community day to promote fish and river health awareness); a stream walk; establishment of a Waterwatch program that involves five community members monitoring the creek's water quality; and fish surveys that confirmed Macquarie perch in the creek.

One of the most significant results of the project was driven by landholders, who identified blackberries as a major concern - many saying they felt overwhelmed with control tasks and frustrated at others not undertaking their responsibilities.

As a result the Department of Environment and Primary Industries was contacted and a compliance program was put in place for 30 landholders along the creek to undertake blackberry control during 2012-13; a good neighbour program was established with work on unlicensed crown land areas due to be undertaken during 2013-14; and VicRoads and the local council, on being informed of the blackberry compliance program, sprayed roadsides. All landholders have been informed of the compliance process and of the assistance available through Goulburn Broken CMA, Upper Goulburn Landcare Network and the Blackberry Taskforce.

Investment area 2d - Floodplain management

Compiled by: Guy Tierney

Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received) Corporate Plan KPIs related to flood protection (see page 87)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Strategy tasks implemented (scheduled to be completed between 2002 and 2012)	n.a.	n.a.	Exceeding target	High	● ⁱⁱⁱ
Catchment condition ^{iv}	Flood regimes provided for ecosystems from flood protection planning Financial savings from prevention of flood damage Systems in place related to flood protection	Very poor	Low	Poor	Medium	↑

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of the situation in 1990.

iii. Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

iv. The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

Government investment, \$000

Investment Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ⁱ	Trend
2d Floodplain management	832	496	362	482	●

i. Forecast based on funding advice at July 2013.

Major strategic references

- *Planning and Environment Act, 1987*,
- *Subdivision Act, 1988*,
- *Building Regulations, 2004*
- *Water Act 1989*
- *Mineral and Resources Act, 1990*
- *Environment Protection Act, 1970*

Background

Floodplain management functions have been delegated to the Goulburn Broken CMA, which are described under Section 202 of the *Water Act, 1989*. A specific function is to provide advice about flooding and controls on development to local councils, the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Primary Industry and the community.

The use of engineering techniques such as hydrology (the study of rainfall run-off) and hydraulics (the study of water movement over land) assists in understanding impacts of floods on urban and rural communities. In recent years, these techniques have been used to understand environmental flow regimes in river and wetland systems.

Understanding flood risk (likelihood and consequences) is paramount in any flood study that underpins the investigation of mitigation and management options. Such options include structural solutions (eg. levees, retardation basins), flood warning and emergency management arrangements, and land use planning controls.

Long-term strategy implementation

The Goulburn Broken CMA coordinates the implementation of its Regional Floodplain Management Strategy in partnership with agencies and communities. The vision is: 'to achieve best practice floodplain management for the benefit of current and future generations'. This includes the building of community resilience by understanding the nature of flooding through flood studies, and planning for floods through emergency response and land use planning.

Two long-term targets have been proposed to provide measurable reference points of progress in achieving the Floodplain Management vision:

- reduce the impact of flooding on the built environment
- provide ecosystems with natural flooding patterns where appropriate.

Implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy is opportunistic and is subject to funding under Australian and Victorian Government incentives through programs such as the current Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme. A review of the Strategy's nine programs will be undertaken in 2013-14.

Most listed tasks for Floodplain Management have been completed well ahead of schedule.

It is assumed that tasks completed will result in reduced impact of flooding on the built environment (when it floods). Following completion of a number of floodplain management plans, responsible authorities are implementing recommendations, including structural and non-structural works using local, State and Australian government grants.

Improving the natural flooding patterns of ecosystems via sensitive floodplain protection planning is a task in progress.

2012-13 performance

Community engagement

The platform used for planning and works on waterways is known as IPAWS and has been redeveloped over the past three years. The Goulburn Broken CMA took a lead in the upgrade that included significant amount of user testing. The updated IPAWS Platform and has rolled this out to other CMAs.

Community engagement is an integral part of floodplain management and relevant activities are reports under Planning and Responding and Works.

Planning and responding

The table below provides a summary of the studies and plans progressed for 2012-13. All studies are carried out under a partnership approach with local government, state and commonwealth agencies and local communities. Implementation of the recommendations is a shared responsibility. Civil works such a town levee system generally rest with local government.

Project Name	Lead Agency	Status
Barmah Township Flood Mitigation Functional Design	Moira Shire Council	Draft final report and community brochure presented for public comment.
Seymour Town Levee Implementation Plan	Mitchell Shire Council	Council has employed a dedicated Officer to carry out detailed design for levee alignment
Murray River Regional Flood Study	Goulburn Broken CMA	Finalised
Corop Lake Scoping Flood Study	Goulburn Broken CMA	Finalised
Numurkah Floodplain Management Study	Moira Shire Council	Consultants appointed, in early stages
Murchison Flood Mapping Project	Goulburn Broken CMA	Underway
Eildon to Shepparton Flood Mapping Project	Goulburn Broken CMA	Draft Mapping prepared for 100-year ARI flood, under review and requiring further work
Nagambie Flood Study	Goulburn Broken CMA	Well advanced
Flowerdale Flood Study	Goulburn Broken CMA	Report and mapping prepared for community review
Shepparton East Overland Flood Study	Goulburn Broken CMA	Flood mapping prepared for community input
Shepparton Mooroopna Flood and Intelligence Study	Greater Shepparton City Council	Preliminary stages.
Euroa Post Flood Mapping and Intelligence Project	Strathbogrie Shire Council	Advanced hydrology study
Mansfield Flood Mapping Project	Goulburn Broken CMA	Modelling completed, final mapping to be prepared
Violet Town Flood Mitigation Detailed Design	Strathbogrie Shire Council	Advanced
Yarrawonga Overland Study	Moira Shire Council	Advanced
Benalla Floodplain Option Review	Benalla Rural City Council	Completed
Mitchell Shire Flood Plan	Melbourne Water	Final Draft

Other activities include;

- Two of the 11 floodplain management programs were audited which were flood studies and land use planning. Recommendations of the internal audit are being considered and implemented
- Revised policy and procedures are being developed relating to risk minimisation for the provision of flood advice
- New procedures have been drafted relating to flood response planning
- Testing of the emergency response procedures in the new Incident Control Centre at Seymour CFA were carried out within a multi-agency environment
- Following the major floods of March 2012, flood recovery implementation by Moira Shire Council has led to a number of assessments around potential flood impacts
- Involvement with Melbourne Water in developing the Mitchell Shire Flood Plan

- Finalisation of input into FloodSafe Guides for: Seymour, Murchison, Mooroopna-Shepparton, Violet Town, Nathalia, Numurkah and Benalla
- Assisting with the Water Law review which considers amendments to the Water Act
- Assisting with the development of the new By-law for works on waterways
- Preparation of submission into ENRC Inquiry Rural Drainage in Victoria and
- Commenced research into the impact of mining in the Goulburn Valley floodplain.

Reforms, including response to Parliamentary Inquiries, Law Review (*Water Act 1989*, and *Planning and Environment Act 1987*), and internal audit will provide improved outcomes in the medium term but have placed significant demands on resources within the Statutory Planning and Floodplain Management Team in 2012-13.

Works and operations

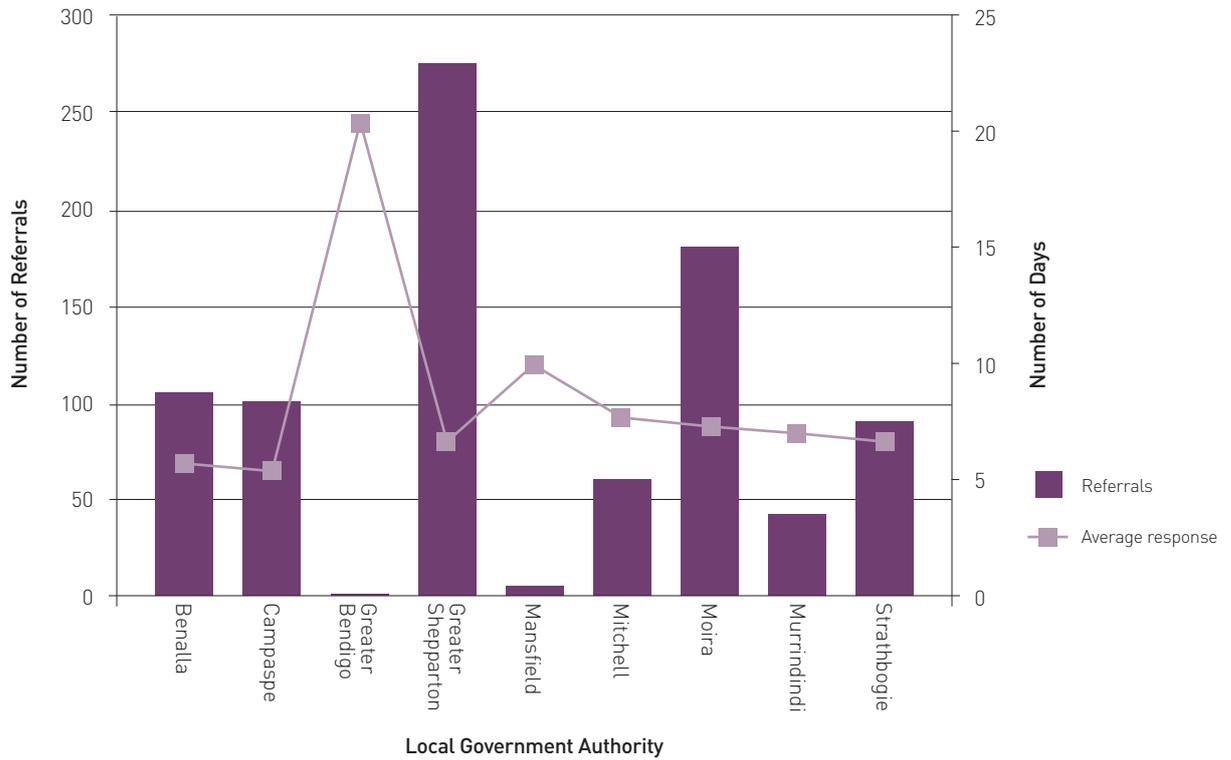
Floodplain management actions 2012-13

Action	From funds received through Corporate Plan		
		Responses	% of responses
Integrating knowledge into planning			
Land Use Development Direct Applications (LUD)	no.	72	8%
Flood Information Request Direct Applications (FIR)	no.	101	12%
Other Direct Application (DAOTH)	no.	6	1%
Land Use and Development [Formal] (S 55)	no.	537	62%
Land Use and Development [Advice only] (S 52)	no.	22	3%
Certification of Subdivision (S 8)	no.	77	9%
Subdivision and Certification (S 55 & S 8)	no.	11	1%
Notice of Planning Scheme Amendment (S 19)	no.	19	2%
Victorian Building Regulations [VBRs] (R 802)	no.	8	1%
Other LGA Application (LGAOTH)	no.	13	1%
Work Plan [Minerals and Energy] (s 77)	no.	1	0%
Total		867	100%
Victorian Civil Administration Tribunal and panel hearings attended	days	2	-
Creating awareness			
Flood education and awareness program	no.	-	Ongoing through www.floodvictoria.vic.gov.au In partnership with VICSES and local government authorities, involved in developing FloodSafe Guide for seven township areas.

Works within or across a waterway require a licence from the Goulburn Broken CMA to ensure risk to river health and stability are not compromised.

A total of 933 applications were processed which included 867 floodplain management and 66 works on waterways referrals, all within the allowed timeframe of 28 days.

Number of Referrals by Local Government Authority and Average Response Times for 2012-13



What's next?

- Establish a Self Assessment Guide and access to flood data on the Goulburn Broken CMA website.
- Revised flood mapping using newly captured terrain elevation data against newly derived information contained in the 100-year flood level atlas will continually be improved. This will build on the recently delivered LIDAR (Light detection and ranging) data sets.
- Local government planning scheme amendments to incorporate new mapping and performance based assessments will continue for Mansfield and Benalla.
- Flood warning and emergency management arrangements with partners, particularly the Victoria State Emergency Service and local government, will be supported. Capital works and further flood studies will also be supported.
- Recommendations of the Comrie Flood Review and the Victorian Environment and Natural Resources Committee's inquiry into flood mitigation infrastructure.
- Capture new LIDAR data for a number of towns throughout the Goulburn Broken catchment.
- Subject to funding, carry out new flood studies for Kilmore and Taggerty River catchment.
- Prepare an interim Goulburn Broken Floodplain Management Strategy in conjunction with stakeholders.

Investment area 3 - Land and Biodiversity

Compiled by: Steve Wilson, Jenny Wilson, Carla Miles, Mark Cotter, Tony Kubeil, Kate Brunt, Greg Wood, Rhiannon Apted, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, Jim Begley, Karen Brisbane, Charlie Sexton, Chris Burnett.

Government investmentⁱ, \$000

Investment Area	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ⁱⁱⁱ	Trend
3a Biodiversity	6,467 ⁱⁱ	5,244	4,933	4,810	●
3b Land health, including dryland salinity	433	1,293	1,577	990	● ^{iv}
3c Invasive pests and animals ^v	0	0	0	0	●

i. Plus co-investment in biodiversity from other investment areas.

ii. The real increase in Biodiversity investment in 2010-11 was marginal: the apparent increase is due to internal reclassification and reallocations. (Actual investment in Biodiversity increased marginally by increased Commonwealth funding.)

iii. Forecast based on advice at July 2013.

iv. Department of Primary Industries Biosecurity Victoria's invasive pests program funding was removed from the Goulburn Broken CMA's investment process from 2009-10. Table does not include investments from Federal or State Government sources that are integrated into larger CMA programs.

v. Does not include Department of Environment and Primary Industries direct funding in 2013-14.

Major strategic references

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- Victoria's Native Vegetation Management Framework
- (Murray-Darling) Basin Salinity Management Strategy 2001-2015
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries Soil Health Strategy 2012
- Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework
- Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015
- Goulburn Broken Land Health Statement Draft 2013
- Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2003 and 2013
- Goulburn Broken Native Vegetation Plan 2003
- Dryland Salinity Management Plan 1989 (and reviews 1995, 2001, 2008)
- Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010
- Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy 2005-15 (Addendum)
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*

Background

Land and Biodiversity of the Catchment include: soil, which is a fundamental part of the natural environment, and supports ecosystems and livelihoods of the catchment community; Biodiversity, which encompasses a variety of ecosystems, including native vegetation, wetlands and waterways, and the associated plants, fungi, animals and genetic diversity they contain. Many of our vegetation ecosystems, faunal communities and species are threatened, and soils are often degraded. To conserve soils and biodiversity we need to increase their resilience through positive land management changes such as soil conservation practices, revegetation, remnant protection and providing ecologically meaningful linkages.

Ecosystem resilience is critical in supporting productive and sustainable landscapes by providing ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, native species habitat, healthy soils, clean air and providing an aesthetically pleasing place to live and recreate. The Land and Biodiversity Program focuses on the connections between the need for ecosystem resilience and provision of productive land and as a result, healthy and sustainable communities. Investment in the Catchment's

biodiversity and land health is guided in particular by the Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015 and the Goulburn Broken Land Health Statement 2013, and also by other regional, state and national policies and strategies.

The Land and Biodiversity program's vision (updated in 2012) is 'Healthy and resilient ecosystems, and an actively involved and inspired community practicing sustainable natural resource management.'

The Land and Biodiversity team delivers various projects funded from state and federal programs. Activities funded include protection of native vegetation from inappropriate grazing regimes, through fencing remnants and wetlands and revegetation to reinstate understorey, create corridors and linkages between remnants. Extension and education is also a key component. For example, the Caring for our Country Beyond SoilCare project in partnership with community networks (Landcare and Conservation Management) conduct field days on landholder properties, develop management agreements, including pest plant and animal control, with farmers who agree to manage parts of their land for conservation.

The integration of investment areas and carrying out works in the same landscapes can result in a systems-based approach to land management which recognises the need for resilient systems beyond and within the farm fence. The Land and Biodiversity team ensures that landholder incentives include a management plan that outlines biodiversity priorities and actions as well as pest plant and animal control and farmers are encouraged to consider biodiversity outcomes when assessing soil health.

Australian Government support and priorities have recognised the need to address climate change, resulting in new opportunities for carbon sequestration activities and a strategic natural resource management plan to address how the catchment might adapt to climate change (see climate change section on page 28 for details).

Partnerships with community groups, various government agencies including Parks Victoria and Department of Environment and Primary Industries, local government,

water authorities, Country Fire Authority and individuals are critical to the Land and Biodiversity team achieving strategic priorities. The team works with these partner groups and individuals in a variety of ways as partnerships continue to be pertinent to the program.

Challenges and opportunities for the Land and Biodiversity Program in 2012-13 were associated with many funding opportunities being offered directly to community groups. This resulted in the Land and Biodiversity team providing various services to groups, including assistance with funding applications and initiating a new committee, so that all groups were working to agreed standards and were aware of catchment priorities. Existing strong partnerships were critical in ensuring participation by all groups, respective project steering committees. Funding to community groups included \$300,000 for State Landcare grants, and the Communities for Nature projects: 'Woodland birds for the Broken Boosey' (\$149,910), Yellow Gums and Goldfields (\$149,210) and the Regent Honeyeater Project (Caring for our Country \$145,000).

Three discrete but highly connected investment areas are reported in this section under the Land and Biodiversity Program:

- 3a Biodiversity
- 3b Land health, including dryland salinity and
- 3c Invasive plants and animals (managed largely by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries).

Investments area - 3a Biodiversity

Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress ⁱⁱⁱ	Tasks (scheduled between 2000 and 2013)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	Medium	● ^{iv}
Catchment condition ^v	Native vegetation quality and extent Threatened species populations Water regimes of environmental features Management systems	Poor	Low	Poor	Low	●

i See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii The rating of Catchment condition in 1990 was determined using our understanding in 2013 of the situation in 1990.

iii Evidence related to aquatic, including wetland, biodiversity such as environmental share of water supply and environmental water is described in 'Investment area 2 River and wetland health'.

iv Assumed to parallel government funding trend, which includes funding from investment area 2 River and wetland health

v The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

Catchment condition

Against a reference point of pre-European settlement, the condition of the Catchment's biodiversity has been rated as 'poor' and this rating has not changed since 1990. However, the rating uses the reference point of 'pre-European' to measure current condition, and this may not be useful because we do not aim to restore landscapes to pre-European condition. If we used a reference point that is more meaningful that considered production and other values, then it is likely that catchment condition could be shown to have improved beyond 'poor' since 1990. Changing the reference point may be useful because we can then recognise that we do not expect the catchment to ever revert to pre-European condition, but that we expect most biodiversity can be conserved if we manage its resources and threats strategically. New and existing research partnerships should help us better refine targets and assumptions that in turn help us to better manage biodiversity through strategic planning based on best available science.

A major threat to the condition of biodiversity is climate change, resulting in more extreme events. In particular, the increased likelihood and frequency of wildfire and responses to this through large-scale and frequent fuel reduction burning is of concern. Other threats include the continued decline in threatened species as the 'extinction debt' from past clearing is realised, continued habitat loss through clearing of native vegetation, permitted and illegal, 'cleaning up' by landholders removing important leaf litter and fallen logs (habitat) and the inability of flora and fauna to move across fragmented landscapes, creating genetic bottlenecks and loss of sub-populations.

Long-term strategy implementation

'Healthy ecosystems supporting viable populations of flora and fauna' is the vision for biodiversity conservation in the Goulburn Broken Catchment, as identified in the Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015.

The Land and Biodiversity Program is working towards achieving this vision through implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy.

To determine progress towards the vision, actions and assumptions about the contribution to resource condition targets are monitored. These targets are:

- Maintain extent and quality of all native habitat at 2005 levels in keeping with the goal of 'net gain' listed in Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy 1997
- Increase the extent of native vegetation in fragmented landscapes by 70,000 hectares by 2030 to restore threatened Ecological Vegetation Classes and to improve landscape connectivity
- Improve the quality of 90 per cent of existing (2005) native vegetation by ten per cent by 2030.

The Biodiversity Strategy's initiatives and actions, which are aligned with Commonwealth and State strategies and priorities, enable progress towards targets. The condition of aquatic (including wetland) biodiversity is described in 'Investment area 2 River & Wetland Health (page 42).

At the mid-point of the Biodiversity Strategy timeframe (2010-2015) implementation progress remains on track. Of the 64 actions identified in the strategy, 48 are underway or ongoing (with strong progress), six have been completed and only ten have not been started.

Progress towards the Biodiversity Strategy's five strategic directions is summarised below.

1. Adapting to change

- Natural resource management policy and socio-economic drivers are changing rapidly, providing significant threats and opportunities for biodiversity conservation. The Land and Biodiversity Program's response includes being flexible about delivery of projects, building resilience into its operations by diversification of funding opportunities, building corporate partnerships, and partnering and fostering research with universities.
- The Land and Biodiversity Program continues to be at the forefront of strategic planning, including adopting resilience theory.
- Proactively responding to changing government funding has ensured sound investments that match catchment, state and national priorities.
- Supporting and influencing the development of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019.
- Seizing funding opportunities for climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Providing tailored support to a changing social landscape through a mix of community engagement approaches.
- Adapting to changes in delivery partners and the distribution of funds direct from government to community groups (e.g. Communities for Nature, Department of Environment and Primary Industries) and individuals (e.g. Biodiversity Fund, Clean Energy Future).

2. Nurturing partnerships

- Building on existing partnerships, particularly with indigenous groups and landholders to achieve strategic outcomes.
- Facilitating the Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum, now in its third year, to ensure catchment wide communication, coordination and action.
- Continuing cross-border partnerships including with Murray CMA, and Yorta Yorta Nation.

3. Investing more wisely

- Priorities from the Biodiversity Strategy have been translated into landscape planning and implementation, aided by regular review of Strategy progress.
- Priority zones identified in the Biodiversity Strategy targeted for landholder incentives.
- New research helped to further develop a long-term monitoring approach to measuring biodiversity outcomes.

4. Building on our ecological infrastructure

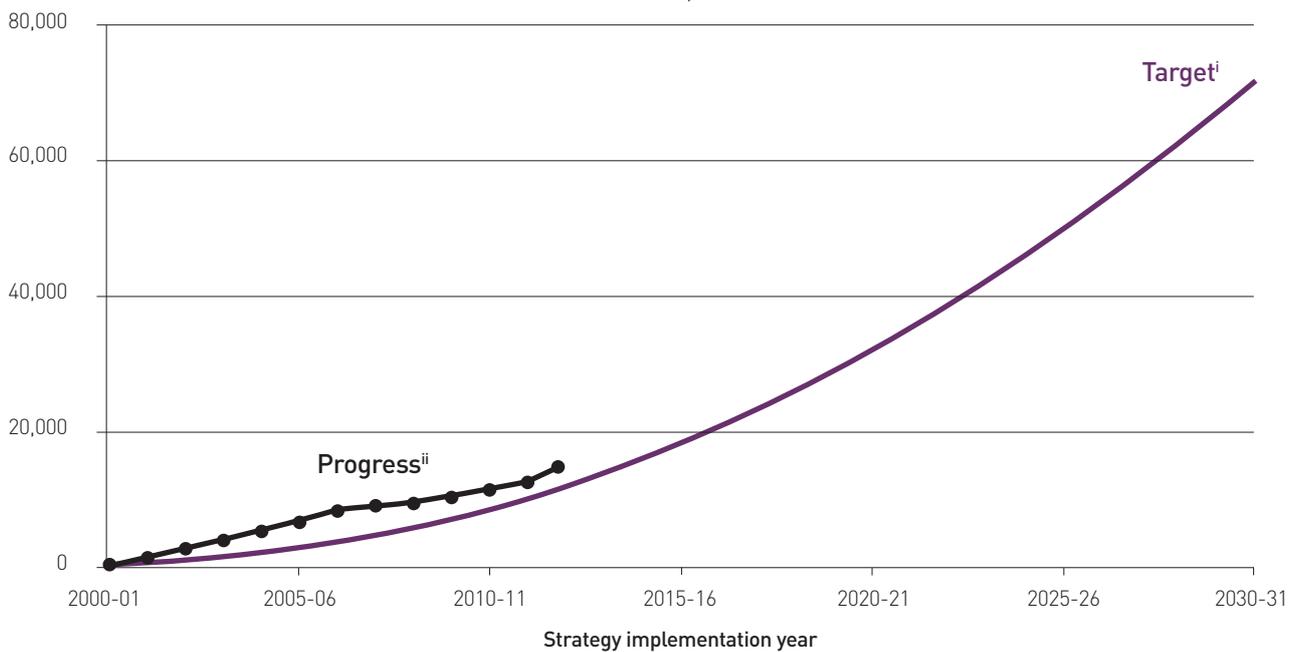
- Incentives focussed on improving landscape connectivity and function and climate change adaptation.
- Seedbank projects ensure seed supply for future (landscape-scale) revegetation projects.
- Three long-term Biodiversity Fund projects underway: Biodiverse Carbon Landscapes, Seed Supply for Revegetation and Sand Ridge Woodlands.

5. Legitimising biodiversity conservation

- Ongoing efforts made to promote the integration of biodiversity conservation and agricultural production, through providing opportunities for landholders to act as stewards of the land, and providing other educational approaches.
- Conservation Management Networks promoted and recognised as playing a valuable role in promoting the importance of biodiversity conservation.
- Involvement in a range of research projects.

While acknowledging uncertainty, we appear to be making progress towards vegetation extent targets (see graph below). However future increases in extent need to be much greater if we are to reach the 2030 target. The amount of revegetation possible is currently restricted by funding and not by the communities or individual landholders desire to revegetate.

Progress towards native vegetation extent targetⁱ,
increase in area, hectares



- i Resource condition target (revised 2009): Increase the extent of native vegetation in fragmented landscapes by 70,000 hectares by 2030 to restore threatened Ecological Vegetation Classes and to improve landscape connectivity.
- ii Based on assumptions of gains in vegetation (such as revegetation and natural regeneration) and losses of vegetation (such as legal and illegal clearing). Vegetation burnt in the 2009 fires has not been included as a loss of extent, as it is assumed the area burnt will regenerate by 2030. Direct vegetation removal associated with the fires is assumed as a loss in the net outcome. Detailed assumptions can be found at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

2012-13 performance

Implementation of the Goulburn Broken CMA's Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015 continues, with activities and work plans for staff aligning to actions in the Strategy. Partners are also helping to implement the strategy.

2012-13 contribution towards the five Strategic Directions in the Biodiversity Strategy is described below:

Biodiversity Strategic Direction 1: Adapting to change

Biodiversity conservation objectives are well addressed in the Regional Catchment Strategy, with good alignment with the Biodiversity Strategy, aided by involvement of the Land and Biodiversity team staff in the development process.

Major changes to State government department restructures have created new adaptation issues for regional delivery. Support to Catchment Management Authority's from the newly formed Department of Environment and Primary Industries are still unclear due to ongoing merger/structural changes.

The carbon market is still immature and therefore has not provided any major opportunities for large-scale carbon farming in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. Recent changes to the carbon tax and consequent return of unallocated funds from the Biodiversity Fund program and the Carbon Farming Futures initiative will impact on future funding opportunities for the Catchment.

Biodiversity Strategic Direction 2: Nurturing partnerships

Partnerships continue to be key to achieving the vision of the Biodiversity Strategy. The Goulburn Broken CMA continued to engage Natural Resource Management groups and

networks, community groups and Traditional Owners in a variety of innovative ways.

During 2012-13 more than 200 field days or workshops were attended by over 8,000 people (this includes 74 events for Biodiversity Spring, which the Goulburn Broken CMA was involved in coordinating).

The program continues to support the Network Chairs Forum that meets quarterly with the Chief Executive Officer and senior staff to influence policy and works implementation and discuss local issues.

Goulburn Broken CMA staff helped natural resource management groups and networks secure \$1.8 million for 25 projects and coordinated the Statewide Initiative Training Program, which saw 163 staff and community members attend training on facilitating discussions and planning, skills for peer learning and developing local groups.

Declining partner agency capacity meant a shift in some areas to outsourcing project delivery to community groups with a good track record of delivery, supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA to continue to build capacity i.e. spatial recording of works completed, improving Occupational Health and Safety practices and compliance.

The Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum is facilitating critical partnerships and coordination (planning and implementation) across the Catchment, particularly as funding sources and opportunities have become more dispersed in recent years. Collaborative projects and networks are a major benefit of the Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum.

Integration between Goulburn Broken CMA programs is demonstrated by ongoing wetland incentive projects managed across both the Land and Biodiversity Program and the River Health Program.

Positive steps are being made in planning and implementation in the Lower Goulburn area, largely a result of community and Goulburn Broken CMA driven activities (e.g. the relatively new Lower Goulburn Conservation Management Network).

Local Government Partnerships: The Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA, convened by Moira Shire Council and funded by Caring for our Country celebrated its sixth Anniversary in August 2012. The Group involves eight local councils, relevant government departments and regional authorities and is pivotal in building the capacity of local government to play an active role in natural resource management by developing skills, knowledge and most importantly strong, collaborative partnerships. A key focus of the Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group has been identifying issues and risks to biodiversity and then improving awareness, responses, practices and other activities related to appropriate management, i.e. sound management of threatened grassy woodlands. A review of native vegetation offset management is being undertaken to determine a more consistent and effective process across the eight shires, including investigating an over the counter scheme.

Indigenous Partnerships: Indigenous partnerships have continued to grow, achieving both targeted biodiversity outcomes and indigenous involvement and employment. The Sand Ridge Woodlands project has evolved into a working partnership between Murray CMA, NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, Parks Victoria, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Goulburn Broken CMA. The Project boundary works within the Yorta Yorta traditional boundary, utilising Traditional Owner works crews to deliver projects. All sites are surveyed for cultural heritage prior to works. This project is entering its third funding year and continues until 2017.

Conservation Management Networks (CMNs): The success of our five Conservation Management Networks in increasing community engagement in biodiversity conservation continues. Conservation Management Networks are continuing to develop new partnerships with new segments of the community (eg. Heathcote Community House, Mandalay Resources (mining), Birdlife Australia and Yarrawonga and Shepparton Men's Sheds. The breadth of community education/engagement is increasing such as holding a "Feral Feast" event. Attendance at Conservation Management Network field days and workshops is often between 50-100 people.

Supporting individual landholders: The importance of ongoing support to landholders in receiving incentives is well recognised. Numerous visits were undertaken to properties where landholders have entered into five and ten year management agreements for projects such as Bush Returns, Plains Woodland Tender and Plains Wetlands Incentives. The ongoing challenge is obtaining resources to continue this support.

Biodiversity Strategic Direction 3: Investing more wisely

Continuous improvement and adaptive management underpin the implementation of the Strategy. Project planning is guided by recommendations arising from periodic Strategy reviews. Synergies are identified between the Biodiversity Strategy, government funding priorities and expressions of interest from the community and other partners.

A range of mechanisms were used to deliver financial incentives to land managers, including market-based incentives and devolved grants.

The Biodiversity Monitoring Action Plan continued to guide research priorities and help understand progress towards catchment targets.

There have been some positive steps made to influence whole farm planning processes to ensure biodiversity conservation is adequately addressed. A workshop was held with key players including planners, who noted increased interest from clientele in biodiversity conservation.

At the time of the last Biodiversity Strategy review, early planning was underway to develop landscape-scale plans in priority zones, implement targeted incentives in these areas and develop a long-term monitoring approach to measure biodiversity outcomes from investment. Landscape-scale planning has been challenging, largely due to lack of funding. However, planning at this scale is intended as part of implementation across the six social-ecological systems identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy.

Research projects that staff were involved in included:

- 'How Much Revegetation is Enough?' This project, in conjunction with Deakin University, will help begin to understand the conservation outcomes achieved through revegetation efforts.
- Fauna monitoring: as part of a multi-regional and interstate research project with Australian National University, long-term monitoring of fauna, including birds and reptiles, is underway within revegetated sites.
- Frogs and Fire: University of Melbourne undertook post fire monitoring of frog populations in fire effected areas of the Catchment.
- Seed viability/provenance: CSIRO in partnership with Goulburn Broken CMA and the Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank is undertaking genetic studies of native seed stock for improved use in revegetation projects across the Catchment. This project is funded through the Australian Government's Clean Energy Futures Biodiversity Fund.

Biodiversity Strategic Direction 4: Building on our ecological infrastructure

Improving landscape connectivity, function and climate change adaptation is largely dependent on the resources that come into the catchment to achieve large scale on-ground change. The Land and Biodiversity Program received various funding grants: \$1,100,000 from the Victorian Government through the Victorian Investment Framework (via the Natural Resources Investment Program); \$4,136,500 through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program and

\$1,013,640 from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Future Biodiversity Fund; for 12/13 Years 1 & 2 (of 5 years) was delivered; a total of \$6,250,140. Year one of four-year Biodiversity Fund projects were delivered.

Projects delivered:

- Northern Plains Wetland incentives (State Funded) (77 hectares)
- Bush Returns Woodland Tender (1365 hectares)
- Community projects such as the Superb Parrot Project (18 hectares of revegetation) and The Regent Honeyeater Project (77.53 hectares)
- Permanent protection of high value sites, Trust for Nature (143 hectares);
- Broken Boosey and Whroo Goldfields Conservation Management Networks are one year into a four year program of delivering \$1.2 million in works
- Blueprint for Broken Boosey and Yellow Gums for Goldfields (Communities for Nature State Funded)
- Threatened species projects delivered by (Department of Environment and Primary Industries) undertook monitoring in high priority sites across wetland, forest, alpine and woodland environments in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.
- Creating Biodiverse Carbon Landscapes (Biodiversity Fund) (delivered by Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network; Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network and three Landcare Networks: Up2Us, Gecko Clan and South West Goulburn) (232 hectares of revegetation, 153 hectares of remnant protection, 29 landholders)
- Sand Ridge Woodlands Project/ Indigenous works crews: Woka Walla, Yorta Yorta Nation and Taungurung Clan, delivered fencing, weed control planting of indigenous species.
- The Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank hosted by the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus continues

to be an essential resource: 120 kilograms of seed were collected from natural populations and seed orchards, such as the Euroa Arboretum, which ensures large volumes of seed collected for threatened species. The Seedbank was supported with a Caring for Our Country grant of \$20,000 to improve seed production areas, with five new areas established.

Biodiversity Strategic Direction 5: Legitimising biodiversity conservation

Significant effort continues to build biodiversity understanding across the Catchment. This includes regular workshops and presentations on biodiversity, development of education and awareness pamphlets on biodiversity topics, and the regular attendance of staff at the Wilmot Primary School, where biodiversity is the topic of choice for the children.

The long-standing (since 1998) and popular (30 attendees) Box-Ironbark Ecology Course continued to be supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA (through Caring for our Country) and the Broken Boosey and Whroo Goldfields Conservation Management Networks.

Chough Chat continued to be an important email forum to publicise events and exchange information.

The first funded Regional Landcare Facilitator program ended in 2012-13 and 450 landholders in the region had been supported through this program to increase their uptake of sustainable farm and land management practices.

While more landholders may be viewing biodiversity conservation as a legitimate land use and integral part of land management, continued and increasing support, including financial and technical, for them to actively manage biodiversity needs to be available.

This strategic direction remains critical given the strong influence of ever-changing government policy and the need for a grass-roots approach to legitimise biodiversity conservation.

Works and operations

Actions 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved ⁱ		Target	% achieved	
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13		
Stock grazing management action						
Fence terrestrial remnant vegetation	ha	1,112	728	1,783	789	226
Fence wetland remnant	ha	78	160	73	71	103
Fence stream/river remnant ⁱⁱ	ha	354	337	126	0	
Binding management agreement (licence, Section 173, covenant) ⁱⁱⁱ	ha	434	380	329	200	165
Grazing regime change	ha	119	0	0	0	
Habitat loss management						
Revegetation – plant natives	ha	1,383	1,995	2,957	1,262	234

i Achievements include those from complementary investment areas (eg SIR salinity, Riparian and instream habitat and channel form).

ii Area figure supplied by River health implementation manager.

iii Trust for Nature delivered all of the area achieved in 2010-11.

What's next?

- A major policy driver for the year and beyond is the new Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019, which will influence future implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy 2010-15, for the Catchment. Some of the major changes will involve greater application of resilience thinking, including testing the alignment of existing objectives/targets with resilience thresholds, further planning and delivery across six sub catchment areas, (social-ecological systems), and better understanding relationships between people and nature.
- Significant funding of grants to landholders will continue to improve the connectivity and viability of landscapes, through a combination of remnant protection and enhancement, and revegetation to link high priority sites.
- Legitimising biodiversity conservation will continue through ongoing support to landholders to manage their natural resource assets as well as field days, media and Biodiversity spring events.
- Specific, targeted, well-planned education campaigns to address threats to biodiversity will be implemented directly and through Conservation Management Networks and other community groups.
- Conservation Management Networks will continue to develop and strengthen in the region, and play a major role in delivering works across the Productive Plains and Agricultural Floodplain Social Ecological System's.
- review of the Biodiversity Monitoring Action Plan to update our research priorities and align with the RCS.
- Reinvigorate a strategic technical advisory group with partners across the catchment to address a range of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting issues.
- Continue to implement the monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities and build the skills of staff to undertake evaluation as part of a continuous improvement process.
- Continue to promote the role of modified agricultural lands in delivering Natural Resource Management outcomes through the provision of ecosystem services and management of disservices.
- Building the capacity of our indigenous community will be a growing focus in the coming year. This will include continuing to enhance indigenous skills, knowledge and capacity to deliver works, contributing to natural resource management planning, understanding traditional ecological knowledge and undertaking indigenous projects on country.
- Develop Geographic Information System tools and other web-based products to support planning and communication.

Case Study

How much revegetation is enough?

The 'How much revegetation is enough?' project aims to quantify the biodiversity values of revegetation works.

Goulburn Broken CMA is carrying out revegetation activities, with funding from the Clean Energy Future and other Commonwealth and Victorian government funding, around the Longwood-Violet Town Plains and has commissioned Deakin University to conduct bird surveys within selected landscapes.

The first bird surveys were conducted in spring/summer 2012, before any revegetation works started. This involved walking nearly 500 kilometres and driving about 13,000 kilometres to record 18,000 individual birds.

The landscape has been 'divided up' in to 10 kilometre by 10 kilometre areas and sections where revegetation works have been done will be compared to those where no work has been done. Surveys will measure changes in bird species' diversity and abundance in the different landscapes.

The project takes a long-term view and ultimately aims to answer questions such as:

- Does revegetation attract declining bird species and therefore increase the species' chance of survival?
- How many birds are attracted to revegetation as habitat that weren't in the landscape previously?
- Can increasing vegetation extent through revegetation conserve all of the species that were here before settlement?
- What conservation value is there in the current landscapes that contain some remnant vegetation and revegetation areas?
Can these 'new' landscapes conserve all the species that were here before settlement?

The information gained from the project will be used to provide information to farmers, the community and funders about the benefits of revegetation; help determine how much land needs to be revegetated to conserve as many species as possible; and detail the best ways to carry out revegetation to reconnect landscapes.

Investment area - 3b Land health (including dryland salinity)

Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Tasks (scheduled between 2000 and 2013)	n.a.	n.a.	Below target	Medium	↓ ⁱⁱⁱ
Catchment condition ^{iv}	Watertable salinity and depths Salt disposed to Murray River Salinity of environmental features Management systems	Poor	Very low	Satisfactory	Low	↑

i See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii The rating of Catchment condition in 1990 was determined using our understanding in 2013 of the situation in 1990.

iii Evidence related to aquatic, including wetland, biodiversity such as environmental share of water supply and environmental water is described in 'Investment area 2a – Environmental flows and water supply' and 'Investment area 2b – Riparian and instream habitat and channel form'.

iv Assumed to parallel government funding trend, which includes funding from investment areas 2a and 2b.

v The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

Catchment condition

There are three aspects to the assets based approach in Land Health. First is the protection or enhancement of the soil capital. Second is the restoration or preservation of services from soil, such as carbon storage, soil biodiversity and water holding capacity of soils and third is the protection of other terrestrial and aquatic assets by reducing the impact of soil acidity, water erosion and soil salinity.

There is currently no specific measure of condition of land health. A reasonable interim surrogate measure could be soil health but a reference point has not been determined. A benchmark of soil condition is needed to provide better assessment of the current condition and targets are required to measure progress.

Erosion remains a problem, in the south and south east of the catchment in particular. These have not been active in the dry period but the expected wetter winter and spring may see a significant deterioration in stream and land condition.

The main emphasis on improving soil health is protecting and enhancing the environmental services from soils—carbon sequestration, soil stability and soil biology, protecting and enhancing the soil capital and protecting other assets that are at risk of being degraded by soil disservices. Remedying soil acidity and soil erosion are two disservices from soils that are an important component of the Land Health program because they affect other assets and undermine the resilience of our soil systems.

There has been little groundwater response to the dry period and this is in keeping with expectations. There has been no significant increases in reported salinity and where this has occurred it usually reflects property developments in land at risk from salinity.

Hydrograph data confirms that many bores in the upland are continuing to rise with a few in the riverine plains continuing to show a falling trend, either because they are in a groundwater sink or, as regional systems are likely to be slow to respond to the changed seasonal conditions.

It remains an expectation that saline discharge will emerge as a more obvious problem in the next 3-5 years.

Long-term strategy implementation

The Goulburn Broken CMA continues to work closely with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries for strategic implementation of Land Health outcomes.

Soil Health Action Plan (SHAP)

In 2012-13, the SHAP (2006) was reviewed and this showed that four of seven programs are being delivered and are on track. Progress against all seven programs to date includes:

Program 1: Coordination: formation of the Land Health Forum; preparation of a Land Health Statement, and the development of training modules for staff and community in landscape processes.

Program 2: Community Engagement: development of a successful engagement initiative through a soil testing program, expanded communications program and capturing data on soil condition.

Program 3: Improved Management Practice: through the grants systems, promoting land management to land class, and controlled grazing in soil management.

Program 4: Whole Farm Planning for Soil Health: expanded to become more issues focused, making soil health program delivery more relevant to community members. The Land and Biodiversity program worked to develop the concept of integrated landscape management and its application to program delivery.

Program 5: Working with local government: currently unfunded but will be augmented by the training modules developed in 2012-13.

Program 6: Monitoring and Evaluation: development of qualitative and quantitative measures to assess landholder interests and satisfaction with program delivery, a core requirement in the investment program. Benchmarking condition is still required, though future work will build on the work by Department of Environment and Primary Industries Future Farming Systems Research on remote sensing of land cover.

Program 7: Research and Development: participation in a number of forums including Soils information Symposium, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, Soils Community of Practice.

Goulburn Broken Dryland Salinity Management Plan

The adjusted target, developed in 2000 and 2002, is 'to maintain increases to salinity levels of the River Murray at Morgan (in South Australia) from the Goulburn Broken Dryland at or below 1.3 electrical conductivity (equates to 67,000 tonnes per year from the Dryland) by 2050.'

A submission was put to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, to reduce the legacy of historic impacts of dryland salinity to better reflect the hydrological processes in the Catchment. This is part of the regular review of the salinity management plans in Victoria as part of the obligation under the federal Water Act 2007.

Land Health Statement 2013

In 2012-13, increased emphasis and effort was on developing a strategic approach to soil health where saline and sodic soils are a threat to the soil and other terrestrial and aquatic assets. The mechanism has been to develop a Land Health Statement that reflects the principles in the Department of Sustainability and Environment Soil Health Strategy and aligns with the outcomes sought by State and Federal investors and the interests of land managers.

This shift in focus reflects the increased interest in soil carbon as a means to mitigate climate change and at the same time increase the resilience of soil systems to the emergence of extreme events that are likely to result in increased erosion events, and a change in the edaphic conditions and their effect on soil carbon dynamics.

The low impact concept for identifying salinity priorities was developed when it was recognised that salinity mitigation works need to coincide with preserving water resources. Activities to reduce deep drainage are only undertaken where there is high salt generation (measured in tonnes per square kilometre) and low catchment yield (measured in mega litres per square kilometre).

Salinity provinces, as described by the Department of Environment and Primary Industry's Future Farming Systems Research, influence priorities in the Catchment. In terms of response, the urgency will be determined by direction from other programs that are adversely affected by dryland salinity.

The Land Health Statement recognises that the future management of salinity must be justified under the programs that are principally responsible for terrestrial, aquatic or built assets. Clear direction and support from the Victorian Government is required if this position is to change to accommodate the State's responsibility under the federal Water Act 2007.

12-13 performance

Community engagement

In 2012-13 the Land Health program worked with the community and partners on raising awareness of the importance and value of soil carbon, soil biology and management of erosion and soil acidity.

This reflects ongoing community interest in the improved management of soils and the opportunities to improve catchment condition by improving the health and stability of soils.

The program has recently delivered the 'Beyond SoilCare' project which continues to focus on building improved ecosystem services from soil and in particular, soil carbon. The project was funded by the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program, supported by the Victorian Government in partnership with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. The project worked with community groups to address the issues of soil acidification, soil organic carbon and soil structural decline in the Strathbogie ranges and Riverine plains. Working with fourteen community, Landcare and producer groups it delivered education around soil test interpretation, fertiliser and lime management decisions, and sustainable farm practices. Four hundred and seventy participants were involved in eight soil test interpretation workshops, three field days, one bus tour, one forum and one phone impact evaluation survey. Notably, the project engaged landholders who had not previously been involved in Catchment Management Authority/Department of Environment and Primary Industries type activities before. The project funded four Landcare group demonstration sites and assisted three groups to develop successful sustainable farming project proposals for Commonwealth funding under the Community Landcare Grants for \$115,300.

Production of 'On the Farm - The Good Dirt' articles, published on the CMA website, via email and in a magazine, highlighted the Beyond SoilCare project achievements. Four email newsletters were sent to a list of 280 people, nine videos were published on YouTube and two radio interviews were given. The Soil Knowledge Bank, an interactive soil information resource, will be available soon. The complexity of soil health and the contextual nature of its relevance and importance mean that advancements in soil health rely on strong partnerships with land managers.

The Land Health program maximised community involvement and encouraged communities to develop solutions to their problems, all in an environment of shared learning. This has, and continues to be, monitored and evaluated in partnership with expert providers.

The Land Health Forum expanded to include representatives of Landcare and community to help shape and legitimise implementation of the Soil Health Action Plan, improving communication, capture of local information and information dissemination.

Planning and responding

Activities and achievements included;

- 5 year rolling review of Victoria's obligations under the Basin Salinity Management Strategy is partially complete with Goulburn and Broken, Ovens, and Campaspe reports completed and Loddon in preparation. Information at an appropriate scale on the impact of the Riverine plains remains an outstanding issue
- supported the development of a National Extension Framework under the direction of the CEO's group and South East Queensland Catchments
- liaised with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries to support the delivery of the review of the B register entries for delayed impacts in the Victorian dryland catchment east of Nyah
- represented dryland salinity interests on the Victorian Salt Disposal Working Group, advising the Department of Environment and Primary Industries on salinity policy relevant to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority
- assisted with the development and preparation of the Department of Sustainability and Environment Soil Health Strategy and State Salinity statement

- provided a representative for the Statewide Dryland Managers Forum
- reviewed and updated Goulburn Broken CMA's Soil Health Action Plan (2006)
- promoted land manager behaviours that best demonstrated development of robust and adaptable systems for managing the impacts of climate change and the program
- the Beyond SoilCare project completed a baseline study of the attitudes and practices of land managers towards soil health

Works and operations

The dry conditions focused land managers on issues of pasture and stock management. Coming in to autumn many landholders had to feed stock every day and their attention was almost solely focussed on feed availability, feed budgeting and reducing herd numbers.

Significant disruptions to normal works programs were caused by delivery partners undergoing loss of key staff and significantly reduced funding. This had more of an impact on the delivery of grants. The Land Health soils project was successful in retaining key partnerships with highly skilled staff, which allowed the project to exceed targets.

Works and operations

Actions 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved ⁱ		Target	% achieved	
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13		
Fence remnant vegetation ⁱⁱ	ha	789	1,225	1,856	860	216
Irrigation drainage environment plans	no.	0	3	0	0	
New irrigation referrals dryland zone	ha	0	4	5	0	
Improved irrigation dryland zone ⁱⁱⁱ	ha	0	0	0	0	-
Sub-surface water action						
Revegetation – plant natives ^{iv}	ha	1,383	1,995	2,957	1,242	238
Pasture – plant	ha	0	0	0	0	
New groundwater pumps – public installed	no.	0	0	0	0	
Planning for works action						
Whole farm plans - Level 1 ^v	no.	143	102	106	100	106
Whole farm plans prepared - Level 2 ^v	no.	75	142	16	30	53

i Achievements include those by complementary investment areas such as Biodiversity.

ii An aggregate of properties and irrigated areas receiving intensive extension support for irrigation whole farm planning, system checks, soil moisture monitoring equipment, scheduling and major system changes.

iii Level 2 is comprehensive and equivalent to SIR's whole farm plan. Level 1 is a short-course that is a precursor to Level 2.

What's next?

- Revise and update the Land Health Statement.
- Continue to coordinate community education opportunities across agencies and build the 'soil health' community network.
- Consider the implications of the Whole Farm Planning review and the most appropriate mechanism to promote Whole Farm Plans for natural resource outcomes.
- Link training packages to promotion of improved management practices and soil test interpretation.
- Work on the identification of improved management practices through 'Community directed action learning to increase understanding and management of soil ecosystem services for farm and catchment resilience'.
- Define and map dryland catchment soil assets (biodiversity, structure, soil carbon storage etc.) and threats (salinity, erosion, soil acidity etc.).
- Coordinate peer supported learning opportunities, focused on management solutions and building the soil health community network.
- Showcase and connect farmers implementing improved management practices.
- Continue to build the capacity of community groups and individuals to carry out their own assessments of soil health and management practices in a rigorous and logical way through support of demonstration trials.

Investment area - 3c Invasive plants and animals

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	Pest Plants				Pest Animals				Overall Trend
		1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	
2012-13 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Tasks (scheduled between 2000 and 2013)	n.a.	n.a.	Below target	Very Low	n.a.	n.a.	Below target	Low	● ⁱⁱⁱ
Catchment condition ^{iv}	Impact of pest plants and animals on assets. (Not available at Catchment scale.) Management systems	Poor	High	Poor	High	Poor	Medium	Poor	Medium	●

- i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.
- ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2012 of the situation in 1990.
- iii. Extremely hard to rate, especially given that the Department of Primary Industry's pest plant and animal activities have been removed from the Goulburn Broken CMA's investment processes.
- iv. The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

Catchment condition

Invasive plants and animals continue to negatively affect catchment condition. Many species have become naturalised and invade all areas of the catchment with few, if any, areas not affected by pest plants and/or animals. Foxes, feral dogs and cats kill millions of native animals each year and rabbits cause erosion, compete for resources and make revegetation difficult in some areas. Pest plants out compete native species reducing diversity.

Terrestrial and aquatic environments remain vulnerable to new and emerging weeds and land managers must remain vigilant to ensure early identification of new infestations.

While regional priorities for pest management have been identified, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries capacity to deliver programs has declined. In addition, the focus of federal and state funding has shifted away from pest plants and animals.

In the Goulburn Broken consideration of invasive plants and animals are built in to projects and programs where possible.

Long-term strategy implementation

The Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy was completed in October 2010 and sets the high-level, general direction for invasive plants and animals investment in the catchment and supports the State Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework (launched in late 2009). The document, along with community support, is used to identify priorities for pest management activities in the Catchment.

A key element of the strategy is the 'biosecurity approach' which emphasises the need to manage new or emerging weed species to prevent establishment of new species, as this is considered to be the most cost effective use of limited resources. All new invasive plants and animals projects have been clearly aligned to program goals identified in the Strategy. Prevention and eradication of new incursions remains the highest priority.

Monitoring and review of the Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy (2010) will be supported by the Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals forum.

2012-13 performance

Community engagement

The major focus of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries pest animal program is to support coordinated community action. In consultation with community groups targeted compliance activities are delivered to support large scale rabbit control programs and to ensure the participation of all land managers in a project area.

The Weed Spotter program trained 25 new 'Spotters', bringing the total number of people trained under this program to 209. The aim of the program is to train appropriate people and organisations across the Catchment to search for, identify and report high threat weeds.

Planning and responding

In October 2012, funding for priority pest management works on municipal roadsides was made available to rural municipalities across Victoria. This has gone a long way toward clearing up longstanding confusion over the management of pests on municipal roadsides. We are currently working with all municipalities in the Goulburn Broken catchment to develop roadside pest management plans. The plans are a prerequisite to receiving further funding and will guide the future management of roadside pests in each municipality. The plans will align with the Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy (2010) and need to be approved by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries to ensure state wide and catchment issues are adequately addressed.

Works and operations

The private land public agency partnership for pest plants continued in 2012-13, with community groups accessing \$133,000 to work in consultation with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries compliance programs. A coordinated community effort together with agency compliance ensures a high percentage of landowner participation and control of priority weeds: gorse, blackberry and Chilean needle grass.

Local government participated in coordinated programs, using Department of Environment and Primary Industries funding to treat roadside weeds in project areas. This work was critical to complement the excellent results achieved on private land.

The management of all known sites of both State Prohibited Weed and Regionally Prohibited Weed species was a high priority. During 2012-13 a total of 135 infestations were treated including all known infestations of the State Prohibited Weeds: camel thorn, horsetail, knotweed, Mexican feather grass and water hyacinth and the Regionally Prohibited

Weeds: artichoke, thistle, serrated tussock, Cape tulip, ragwort and wild garlic. Infestation levels at most sites are steadily reducing and a number of sites will be assessed next season for 'eradication' status.

Five established weed compliance projects and three established pest animal compliance projects were delivered by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries during 2012-13. These projects involved a total of 291 properties, targeting serrated tussock, gorse, blackberry and rabbits.

All projects achieved high levels of voluntary compliance and despite the large number of landholders involved; only nine cases required legal action. Six landholders failed to comply with a direction notice and were issued with Penalty Infringement Notices. A further three landholders faced prosecution in court after failing to comply with Land Management Notices and a compliance entry was conducted on one property to ensure treatment of a significant infestation of gorse.

Works and operations

Actions 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved ⁱ			Target	% achieved
		2010-11	2011-12	2012-13		
Weed invasion						
Weeds – aquatic weeds controlled/eradicated (km)	km	418	76	77	20	396
Targeted infestations of weeds in high priority areas covered by control programs (ha) ⁱⁱ	ha	424	1,372	953	801	119
DEPI Biosecurity Victoria works - Targeted infestations of weeds in high priority areas covered by control programs (ha) ⁱⁱⁱ	ha	55,000	14,300	9,315	9,315	100
Pest animals						
Area of high priority rabbit infested land that are covered by control programs (ha) ^{iv}	ha	1,121	575	2,749	1,075	256
DEPI Biosecurity Victoria works - Area of high priority rabbit infested land that are covered by control programs (ha) ^v	ha	12,200	15,800	10,500	10,500	100
Area of high priority fox infested land covered by control programs (ha) ^v	ha	57,507	60,000	27,000	0	

i Achievements include those by complementary investment areas such as Biodiversity.

ii This includes 'Weeds - woody weed management' (Appendix 3).

iii Works completed by DEPI Biosecurity Victoria (outside of the Corporate Plan). Reduced priority area covered by weed control programs due to redirection of regional DEPI resources.

iv Works completed by DEPI Biosecurity Victoria (outside of the Corporate Plan). Reduced priority area covered by rabbit control programs due to redirection of regional DEPI resources.

v Fox control outputs were achieved through the Broken Boosey and Whroo Goldfields Conservation Management Networks. Target is zero because additional funding is provided during the year (after Corporate Plan was finalised).

What's next?

- All State and Regionally Prohibited weed sites will continue to be surveyed and treated where necessary. All properties adjoining known infestations will be inspected.
- The Department of Environment and Primary Industries will continue to work with community-based natural resource management groups and the Goulburn Broken CMA to identify priority areas for management of established weeds and rabbits.
- Where groups can demonstrate sustained coordinated effort over a number of years to control priority pests, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries will provide support through the delivery of targeted compliance programs.

Human resources (including occupational health and safety)

Compiled by: Kate Pendergast, Richard Warburton and Annie Squires

Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.		On target	High	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs	n.a.		On target	Medium	● ^{iv}
Catchment condition ⁱⁱ	Workforce data Management systems	Satisfactory	Medium	Good	Medium	↑

ⁱ See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ⁱⁱ The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of what the situation was like in 1990.

^{iv} Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

Government investment, \$000ⁱ

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ⁱⁱ	Trend
6,436	5,909	5,436	5,520	●

ⁱ Excludes Board and support committees.

ⁱⁱ Forecast based on estimated increases of 3 per cent cost and 8 per cent staff numbers on 2012-13 figures.

Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken Workforce Strategy 2013-18
- Goulburn Broken CMA Workforce Plan and Capability 2013-18
- Goulburn Broken Corporate Plan 2012-13 to 2016-17
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*
- *Public Administration Act 2004* (employment and conduct principles)
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*

Background

The Goulburn Broken CMA fosters a workplace culture where professionalism and expertise is valued and supported by a commitment to communication and continuous improvement.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's flexible workplace arrangements address the contemporary needs of a broad staff demographic, aiming to create a sustainable, diverse, progressive and professional staff body.

Efficiencies are captured through carefully balancing internal and partner service delivery.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's workforce capability, culture and business acumen positions it well to achieve the Regional Catchment Strategy's vision and implement government policy.

A healthy and safe organisation

The Goulburn Broken CMA emphasises Occupational Health and Safety across all aspects of the workplace, integrating Occupational Health and Safety into all operations and requiring all staff to participate in Occupational Health and Safety management and operations.

Organisation condition

The incidence of key indicators such as bullying, absenteeism and voluntary turnover continues to be low, reflecting Goulburn Broken CMA staffs' strong sense of community, high levels of job satisfaction, and support for organisational values and strategic objectives. Workforce data for the current and previous financial years is contained in the table on page 65.

2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 workforce data

	Goulburn Broken CMA						Comments
	2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	
Gender and employment typeⁱ							
Male	33	52	34	49	30	48	Although there is a gender balance across the organisation, there is a strong bias towards males at higher job classification levels.
Female	31	48	36	51	32	52	
Part time	15	24	18	25	15	24	The commitment to a flexible workplace, which addresses parenting obligations, carer needs and the transition to retirement, results in proportionally more part-time positions.
Full time	49	76	52	75	47	76	
Part time male	2	3	3	4	3	5	
Part time female	13	21	15	21	12	19	
Full time male	31	48	31	44	27	44	
Full time female	18	28	21	30	20	32	
<i>Total employees</i>	64	100	70	100	62	100	
Total full time equivalentsⁱ	58.7		62.9				
Employment statusⁱ							The increase in ongoing employment is because fixed-term contracts established in anticipation of an amalgamated CMA model ended and the Goulburn Broken CMA sought an ongoing-tenure workforce to support core functions.
Fixed term	30	47	35	50	24	29	
Ongoing	34	53	35	50	38	61	
Employment categoryⁱⁱⁱ							Most employees are in frontline (project or engagement) delivery positions. * Admin Officers includes project delivery and science/technical staff.
Executive Officers	2	3	2	3	2	3	
Senior Managers	8	12	7	10	6	10	
Admin Officers*	49	72	49	70	43	69	
Field staff	9	13	12	17	11	18	
Age profile (years, by tally)ⁱ							This profile is consistent with previous years. The average age of senior managers is 52 years; however in the Band 8 and senior executive officer classifications, the average age is 45 years.
20-24	0	0	1	1	1	1	
25-29	8	12	4	6	2	3	
30-44	31	46	35	48	31	45	
45-54	19	28	24	33	26	38	
55-59	7	10	6	8	5	7	
60-64	2	3	2	3	3	4	
65+	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Average age, years	43		43		44		
Years of serviceⁱⁱ							In a low recruitment or growth phase for the CMA, the average years of service increased marginally.
12 months or less	11	17	9	13	0	0	
1-3 years	14	22	18	26	17	27	
3-5 years	8	13	10	14	12	19	
5+ years	31	48	33	47	33	53	
Average length of service, years	6.5		6.4		7.5		
Salary distribution^{iii & iv}							The average salary for all female staff is 3% lower than the average across the whole organisation at \$68,403 per annum for a 1.0 FTE. 59% of all employees are within the mid-range classification bands of 6-8, however only 9% of females occupy these more highly remunerated management positions.
<\$40,000	5	8	0	0	0	0	
\$40,000 - 59,999	20	31	14	20	12	20	
\$60,000-79,999	23	36	33	47	28	45	
\$80,000+	16	25	23	33	22	35	
Average Salary	\$68,266		\$69,736		\$70,382		
Qualificationsⁱⁱⁱ							Refer to the 'Capability, learning and development' note on page 66.
Year 12 or less	12	19	11	16			
Certificate	5	8	8	11			
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	6	9	7	10			
Degree	32	50	34	49			
Postgraduate Degree/Graduate Diploma	9	14	10	14			
Turnover (total)	4	6	3	4	7	11	The higher turnover in 2012-13 is due to funding reductions, forcing targeted separation, non-renewal of contracts and non-replacement of retirees.
Turnover (ongoing staff only)	2	3	2	66	6	9	
Exit interviews completed	2	50	3	100	4	57	Failure to have a higher uptake rate due to involuntary nature of some terminations.
Absenteeism	-	1.9		1.3		1.4	Absenteeism continues to be low.
Training expenditure (% of salary budget)	\$124,911	2.3	\$141,972	1.6	\$90,814	1.7	Expenditure is lower because of reduced funding and tighter budget management in 2012-13.

i Active employees: any Goulburn Broken CMA employee included in payroll system whose status is not terminated.

ii All employees including terminations (excludes Board and committee members).

iii Includes all employees for 2012-13.

iv Based on 1.0 FTE full year salary.

Long-term strategy implementation progress

The Goulburn Broken CMA Workforce Strategy 2013-18 became the key guide to managing the CMA's human resources in February 2013. Previously, the CMA was guided by legislation, government policy and internal processes, achieving high levels of compliance, flexibility, efficiency and motivation in workforce management.

Implementation of the Workforce Strategy has begun, with a major emphasis being alignment of human resources with delivery of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

The Workforce Strategy has many 'employer of choice' offerings such as flexibility, developing workforce capability, understanding and supporting participation in the workplace and increased job satisfaction.

Occupational Health and Safety

A comprehensive annual review of the Goulburn Broken CMA Occupational Health and Safety Management System was undertaken and included reviewing all Occupational Health and Safety Management System procedures and associated guidelines, forms or checklists. It also took into account the Occupational Health and Safety Strategic Framework objectives and targets and upcoming legal or industry requirements.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's Occupational Health and Safety procedures currently meet best practice as defined by AS/NZS 4801, although these have not been certified.

2012-13 performance

2012-13 was impacted by funding decreases and the forecast of further funding declines for 2013-14. This required a strong focus on managing the current and future workforce within funding constraints without impacting service delivery. The changes to the Enterprise Agreement Renewal Processes in the revised Workplace Relations Policy Manual (released August 2012 and revised in December 2012) also caused delays and uncertainty in the parameters for the renewal of a fiscally responsible Enterprise Agreement. Given the climate of uncertainty the workforce responded well with a continued focus on delivery and quality. Key activities undertaken to deliver against the five core strategic Workforce Strategy objectives were:

1. Governance

The Goulburn Broken CMA as part of the Workforce Strategy development agreed to a framework and approach to forecasting and better planning our workforce needs as part of the annual business planning cycle. The framework will support the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Policies and procedures were reviewed and developed to ensure ongoing compliance with Public Sector Employment Principles, including merit and equity and the Victorian Public Sector Workplace Relations Policies.

2. Attraction and Recruitment and 3. Labour Supply and Agility

No direct recruitment was undertaken during the year but existing staff demonstrated their adaptability to transfer their skills and knowledge to new project opportunities as funding circumstance changed.

4. Capability Building

The completion of the Capability Framework has provided an excellent foundation for guiding and informing workforce planning and the Regional Catchment Strategy implementation. The new employee self-service system for recording learning and development was aligned to the capability framework.

5. Participation and Motivation

The culture of the workforce continued to be positive in an uncertain year. Support for management decisions and a willingness to engage continued to prevail.

Planning and responding

The Goulburn Broken CMA Workforce Strategy 2013-18 was finalised, supported by development of the Workforce Plan and Capability 2013-18, which describes staff qualifications, skills and capability required by programs and aims for more targeted learning and development and improved succession planning.

A three-year Enterprise Agreement was developed and approval is being sought from government.

Human resources policy and procedures were maintained and revised where appropriate, aligned with legislation and employer of choice objectives. The Sustainable Irrigation Program and the Business Development Unit also underwent structural reviews.

Sustainable Irrigation Program staff moved from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries offices in Tatura to the Goulburn Broken CMA's Shepparton office.

Excess annual leave entitlements were again reduced, from eight per cent in 2011-12 to four per cent in 2012-13, the lowest level since monitoring began five years ago.

Capability, learning and development

The Goulburn Broken CMA's Capability Framework supports base qualifications and experience as expressed against the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). A formal AQF 4 or above relevant to the role is possessed by 84 per cent of staff and within program delivery areas, 87 per cent have an AQF 7 or above. Where an AQF certification is less than desirable for the position type, the minimum average service directly with the Goulburn Broken CMA is 5.6 years and all of these staff have significant relevant experience from previous employment. In the past five years, no one has been recruited to a position without the minimum desirable AQF.

Staff continued to lead and participate in training through such means as conferences, field days and community group presentations. Two administrative support staff completed a Diploma of Administration and the Occupational Health and Safety Manager formalised years of experience by successfully attaining a Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety Management.

Supporting our community

A community partnership with Wilmot Road Primary School was established, with some Goulburn Broken CMA male staff members volunteering their time to participate in a weekly program via the afterschool learning club, community and citizenship awards and various catchment awareness activities. The presence of a positive male role model is

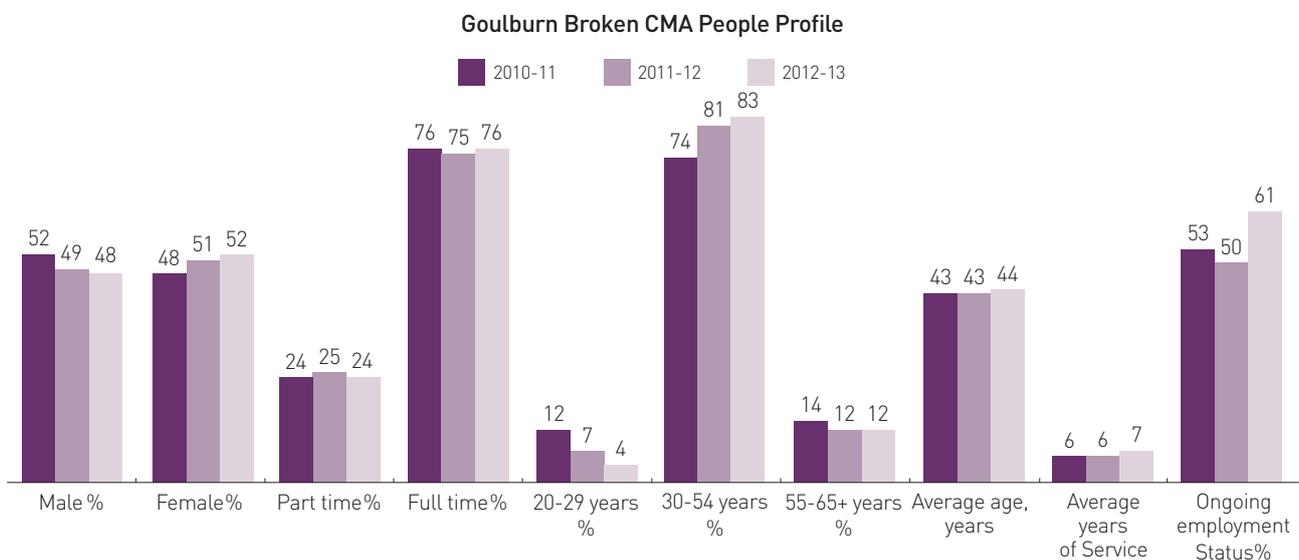
regarded as important at this school, which has a high proportion of socially disadvantaged students. (See case study on page 70).

Staff continued to support fundraising for schools, breast cancer, the Starlight Foundation, Rotary, and the Goulburn Valley Community Fund, where a team of 21 participated in dragon boat races.

Our staff

A list of all Goulburn Broken CMA staff employed for all or part of 2012-13 is on the inside of the back cover

Management Team and Program Manager profiles are listed on page 69.



2012-13 Occupational Health and Safety performance

A key Occupational Health and Safety focus in 2012-13 was on field sites hazard inspections, which found a high level of compliance when developing safe operating procedures for high risk work.

The Goulburn Broken CMA Occupational Health and Safety Policy statement and Occupational Health and Safety procedures continued to be reviewed in consultation with the workforce, ensuring that Occupational Health and Safety operations reflect best practice and changes to workplace consultation requirements as part of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.

All staff were offered workplace health checks, with a take-up rate of 41 per cent. Free flu immunisations were taken up by 43 per cent of staff.

Refer also to the 2012-13 Occupational Health and Safety performance table on page 68.

Occupational health and safety statistics summary

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Total incidents, no.	11	15	10
Days lost (number of staff)	1	0	1
Hazards reported, no.	2	1	1
Lost time injury days	11.8	0	3
Occupational health and safety committee meetings (excluding tool box meetings), no.	6	5	5

OHS Key Performance Indicator Measures and 2011-12 Performance

Outcome	No.	Indicator	Target 2012-13	Progress 2012-13
Ensuring a working OHS Management System	1	Current and relevant OHS Policy and Procedures	Goulburn Broken CMA OHS Policy Statement	Achieved. Endorsed and distributed.
			Annual Review of Goulburn Broken CMA OHS Procedures	Achieved. Completed and published.
	2	Standard Safe Work Procedure Development Development and implementation of Safe Work Method Statement Documents	100 per cent of new Safe Work Procedures developed within one month for new mechanically operated equipment or work processes, and communicated to staff once the procedure has been ratified by the OHS Committee.	Achieved. One new Standard Safe Work Procedure developed and ratified.
			Develop a library of standard Safe Work Method Statement documents for staff to utilise for site specific works and tailor to suit local conditions and tasks Central recording of actual Safe Work Method Statement and Safe Work Procedure documents when managing worksite and staff safety. Documents submitted for recording within one week of field projects commencing.	Achieved. Two new Standard Safe Work Method Statement documents developed and ratified. Partially achieved. 75 documents recorded. 64 per cent of documents recorded within one week of works commencement.
	3	Workplace inspections conducted	100 per cent of workplace inspections conducted as per inspection schedule.	Achieved. Quarterly office inspections across the two offices; bi-annual depot inspections completed at the three depots; twelve external worksite inspections completed.
	4	Workplace inspections actions completed	100 per cent of actions arising from workplace inspections completed.	Achieved.
5	Evacuation and emergency procedures	100 per cent of emergency drills conducted as per annual schedule.	Achieved	
Proactive OHS reporting	6	Incident reporting	100 per cent of Incident Reports received are acted on by OHS Manager.	Achieved. Completed and actioned.
	7	Hazard reporting	100 per cent of Hazard Reports received are acted on by Workgroup Supervisor.	Achieved. Completed and actioned.
	8	Lost time injuries	Report monthly to the Goulburn Broken CMA Board.	Achieved.
Fostering a safe work culture	9	Mandatory OHS Training	100% of Mandatory OHS Training Delivered.	Progressed. Central training records system being progressed.
	10	Display of Safety Information	100% OHS Safety Information displayed on Noticeboards and Goulburn Broken CMA Portal	Achieved. Part of Annual OHS Procedure review. New versioning system being implemented on the OHS Policy Library.
OHS Consultation & Management	11	OHS Representatives (HRS)	Election of Health and Safety Representatives as per OHS Consultative Procedure No. 3	Achieved. All three Designated Workgroups have fully trained representatives.
	12	OHS Committee Meetings	Target of 5 OHS Meetings per financial year conducted with a quorum.	Achieved.

What's next?

Ongoing implementation of the Workforce Strategy includes an emphasis on matching staffing capability against service delivery requirements, especially those emerging from Regional Catchment Strategy implementation planning. This is likely to result in adjustments to staffing and specific organisational needs training, such as leadership development.

In December 2012 the rollout of the Goulburn Broken CMA's 'employee self-service' was commenced as a pilot focussing on two program areas. The system allows online access for all staff and managers to personal and employment information, leave planning and management and the ability to record training and capability information to support the work that was undertaken in the Workforce Capability Framework. The roll out will be completed with further integration of the self-service system (ConnX) with the existing Meridien payroll and AXAPTA finance and reporting applications. Performance planning processes are also expected to migrate across to this paperless system.

Terms and conditions of the Enterprise Agreement, which applies to the 87 per cent of employees, will be finalised.

Occupational Health and Safety

Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to achieve its occupational health, safety objectives by developing and implementing appropriate policies and procedures that document standards and guide managers, supervisors and employees in carrying out their responsibilities in:

- identifying hazards and risks to health and safety associated with tasks and activities carried out by Goulburn Broken CMA
- assessing the degree and level of risks arising from hazardous tasks or activities
- selecting, implementing and maintaining appropriate measures to control risks to health and safety.
- consulting with employees and their representatives on matters that may affect their health and safety
- identifying, developing and providing appropriate information, instruction and training to equip managers, supervisors and employees with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet their responsibilities
- developing, implementing and monitoring plans to put Goulburn Broken CMA health and safety policies and procedures into effect

The real-time capture of safe work procedure documents is being investigated, using smartphone camera and remote email technology.

Goulburn Broken CMA Management Team and Program Managers

Corporate

Aaron Findlay, AdvDipIT (Network/Engineering) – Information and Communications Technology Manager

Oversees information and communication technology services.

Amanda McClaren, BAppSc (Photography) (Hons) – Communications and Marketing Manager. (finished 6th December 2012)

Coordinates and delivers the Communications and Marketing function including events management, publications, media and community engagement strategy.

Chris Norman, BAppSc, GradDip (Rural Resource Management), Dip (Frontline Management), GAICD – Chief Executive Officer

Provides advice on strategic direction, policy and implementation at the direction of the Board. Responsible for overall programs, funding arrangements and day-to-day operations. Accountable Officer under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and directly responsible to the Board for day to day operations.

Fiona Lloyd, GradDip (Journalism), BA (Teaching) - Communications and Marketing Manager (2nd January 2013)

Coordinates and delivers the Communications and Marketing function including events management, publications, media and community engagement strategy.

Jason Head, BBus (Accounting) – Assistant Business Manager

Provides support to the Business Manager in the administration and reporting of all finance and accounting operations including payroll.

Kate Pendergast, BBus (Marketing), Cert IV Workplace Training & Assessment – Strategic Human Resource Manager

Coordinates and delivers the Human Resource function, providing support and advice to all levels of management and staff on human resource issues and overseas organisational development, environmental sustainability.

Richard Warburton, DipOHS, Cert IV Workplace Training & Assessment – Occupational Health and Safety Manager

In addition to his waterways role, Richard develops and maintains statutory obligations for compliance and maintenance of safety management system activities including policies, procedures and manuals.

Shannon Crawford, DipBus (HR), Cert III Business Administration, – Executive Assistant

Provides administrative support to the Chief Executive Officer and the Board and its sub-committees, including significant liaison with senior managers and members of the Board.

Stan Gibney, BA (Hons), FCA (Ireland), CA, CMIIA, CIA – Business Manager – Corporate Program Manager and Freedom of Information Officer

Ensures efficient administration of the Authority and the provision of prompt and timely financial advice to the Chief Executive Officer and Board.

Business development

Casey Damen, BBus (HRM), BAppSc (Environmental Science and Chemistry, Grad Cert (River Health), Cert IV Frontline Management – Acting Business Development Manager (to Sept 2013)

Responsible for funding and investment processes and provides strategic advice to the Chief Executive Officer on monitoring, evaluation and reporting and managing the update of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

Helen Murdoch, BEnvSci – Regional Catchment Strategy Manager. (role finished on 28th December 2012)

Managed the update of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

Katie Warner, BAg (Hons), MPPM, DipBus (Frontline Management) – Business Development Manager

Responsible for funding and investment processes and provides strategic advice to the Chief Executive Officer on monitoring, evaluation and reporting and managing the update of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

Land and biodiversity

Carla Miles, BAppSc (Hons) (Parks, Recreation & Heritage), Cert II Bush Regeneration – Biodiversity Strategy Manager

Manages the development, integration, review and implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy.

Jenny Wilson, PhD (Landscape Ecology), BSc (Hons) (Environmental Management) – Acting Biodiversity Strategy Manager (from 1st May 2012 – 24th May 2013)

Manages development and integration strategic and investment planning within the Land and Biodiversity program.

Mark Cotter, BAgSc (Hons), DipProjMan't, GradCertAppSc (Maths) – Land Health Manager

Supports Land and Biodiversity Manager with policy advice and technical support and implements strategic land health projects in the dryland.

Rhiannon Apted BSc (Conservation, Biology and Ecology) (Hons) – Acting Land Health Manager (from 13th May 2013 – 30th June 2013)

Supports Land and Biodiversity Manager with policy advice and technical support and implements strategic land health projects in the dryland.

Steve Wilson, MEnvMgmt, BAppSc (Parks, Recreation and Heritage), – Land and Biodiversity Program Manager

Manages and coordinates the land and biodiversity program, including investment and strategic planning, monitoring and reporting and integration of climate change responses.

Tony Kubeil, BSc – Landcare and Communities Manager

Supports Landcare groups in the region and coordinates projects including development and implementation of the Regional Landcare Strategy.

River and wetland health and floodplain management

Geoff Earl, BE (Civil) – Environmental Water Flow Coordinator

Provides strategic advice on managing stream flow to meet regional ecological and environmental flow targets.

Guy Tierney, BE (Civil) – Floodplain Manager

Manages the floodplain program and statutory planning activities across the Goulburn, Broken and part of the River Murray basins.

Mark Turner, BAppSc (Natural Resource Management), GradCert (River Health) – River Health Implementation Manager

Oversees the river health implementation programs, leading a team of field staff and provide senior professional advice and guidance to the Chief Executive Officer and Board on the implementation program

Neville Atkinson – Indigenous Natural Resource Management Facilitator

Coordinates cultural heritage matters related to natural resource management across the Goulburn Broken Catchment, providing strategic direction and advice to the Goulburn Broken CMA and its partners including local government, the community and Traditional Owners.

Simon Casanelia, MEnvSc, BSocSc, GradDip (Environmental Management) – Strategic River Health Manager (higher duties from 28th May 2012)

Provides senior professional advice and guidance to the CEO and Board on policies, programs, implementation strategies, research activities, monitoring, and related projects on river health.

Wayne Tennant, Cert of Technology (Civil Engineering), GradDipEM, GAICD, Friend of the Peter Cullen Trust – Strategic River Health Manager

Provides senior professional advice and guidance to the CEO and Board on policies, programs, implementation strategies, research activities, monitoring, and related projects on river health.

Sustainable irrigation

Carl Walters, Assoc Dip (Civil), MIEAust – Sustainable Irrigation Program Manager

Provides executive liaison with the Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group to ensure works program targets are met in line with the Corporate Plan. Provides input to statewide Salt Disposal and Sustainable Irrigation Program working groups and water related issues.

Megan McFarlane, BAgSc (Hons), MNatRes, GAICD – Farm Water Program Manager

Leads the development, investment and planning processes and associated delivery of the Farm Water Program. Provides high level advice and guidance to the Chief Executive Officer, Farm Water Program Working Group and Program Advisory Committee, Business Manager and senior program managers on all aspects of the Farm Water Program.

Case Study

A partnership that's kid's play!

Since early 2013 male Goulburn Broken CMA staff members have taken turns and volunteered their time to attend Wilmot Road Primary School's after school Learning Club each week for an hour.

The partnership, initiated by Goulburn Valley Community Fund Chief Executive Officer Lisa McKenzie, is a great way for the Goulburn Broken CMA to 'give back' to the community and engage with young people.

Wilmot Road Primary School has a very diverse, multicultural school population, with about 60 per cent of the students having non-English speaking backgrounds.

Goulburn Broken CMA staff volunteer their time to read and speak with the students, providing valuable one-on-one learning time, and demonstrating the different ways adults can be involved in their learning.

The weekly sessions also give Goulburn Broken CMA staff the opportunity to tap into the students' enthusiasm for the environment and talk about the organisation's work to improve the Catchment's water, land and biodiversity and how that in turn helps improve farmers' productivity and keep communities vibrant.

The relationship with the school has extended beyond the Learning Club: the Chief Executive Officer was enlisted to judge the school's scarecrow competition; and a senior manager attended a special assembly with parents and students to present the Civic and Citizenship Awards at the Wonders of Wilmot (WOW) Awards, which recognise 'outstanding' student effort in various fields in each year level.

Environmental footprint

Compiled by: Annie Squires

Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.		On target	High	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs (scheduled to be progressed between 2012 and 2014)	n.a.		On target	High	● ⁱⁱⁱ
Catchment condition ^{iv}	Energy consumption Paper consumption Management systems	Very poor	Very low	Poor	Low	↑

i See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

iii Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

iv Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2013 of what the situation was like in 1990. Ratings are about the condition of the natural resource management organisations (with respect to environmental footprint) rather than the condition of the Catchment.

Government investment, \$000

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ⁱ	Trend
18	20	23	24	●

i Forecast is based on funding advice at July 2013.

Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Policy 2011
- Goulburn Broken CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2014
- Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Integration Strategy
- National Greenhouse Accounts Factors – Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
- Greenhouse Gas Protocol (www.ghgprotocol.org)

Background

With support from the Board, management and staff, the Goulburn Broken CMA promotes environmentally responsible and sustainable practices.

Data collection for greenhouse gas emissions calculations commenced in 2006-07, our base year for reporting and comparisons.

This is the third year of reporting office-based environmental impacts, enabling us to formalise benchmarks and better understand progress, including comparisons with other organisations.

All Goulburn Broken CMA environmental footprint initiatives and activities of the Goulburn Broken CMA are guided by the Organisational Environmental Footprint Policy 2011 and Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan 2012-14. Reporting is guided by the Victorian Government's Financial Reporting Directions (FRD) 24C and in line with current carbon accounting practices.

Implementation of the action plan is guided by a working group that is supported by the sustainability coordinator. Internally, the program is promoted as 'Reducing our Footprint'.

Organisation condition

The following table summarises our greenhouse gas inventory, including direct emission sources such as vehicle fleet fuel and indirect sources such as purchased electricity, business travel and waste.

The Greenhouse Gas Protocol categorises direct and indirect emissions into three broad scopes:

- Scope 1: All direct emissions from sources that are owned or controlled by the reporting entity.
- Scope 2: Indirect emissions from consumption of purchased electricity, heat or steam.
- Scope 3: Other indirect emissions, such as the extraction and production of purchased materials and fuels, transport-related activities in vehicles not owned or controlled by the reporting entity, electricity-related activities (e.g. Transmission and Distribution losses) not covered in Scope 2, outsourced activities, waste disposal, etc.

Reporting of Scope 3 emissions is optional under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

The reporting format has been updated this year to reflect national and international carbon accounting standards. Historical data (flight emissions and waste to landfill) has been recalculated where necessary to conform with Greenhouse Gas Protocol standards.

Office-based environmental impacts reporting

Sustainability report	2006-07 (base year)		2011-12		2012-13	
	Consumption	GHG emissions (t CO2-e)	Consumption	GHG emissions (t CO2-e)	Consumption	GHG emissions (t CO2-e)
Direct emissions (Scope 1)						
Petrol for vehicles (L)	74,711	171	26,742	61	21,024	48
Diesel for vehicles (L)	66,127	178	115,012	310	114,651	309
LPG for vehicles (L)	8,936	14	21,129	33	15,404	24
Distance travelled by fleet vehicles (km)	Not avail.		1,962,543		1,853,193	
Total Scope 1		363		404		381
Indirect emissions (Scope 2)						
Electricity (kWh)	147,930	179	137,399	166	140,280	164
Total Scope 2		179		166		164
Optional emissions (Scope 3)ⁱ						
Electricity (transmission & distribution losses) (kWh)	147,930	22	137,399	21	140,280	21
Flights ⁱⁱ (km)	Not avail.		187,205	47	74,182	21
Waste - landfill ⁱⁱⁱ (kg)	8,680	9	500	1	408	1
Water consumption ⁱⁱⁱ (kL)	Not avail.		72	0	420	1
Paper consumption (reams)	514	2	804	2	668	3
Petrol (extraction, production, etc.) (L)	74,711	14	26,742	5	21,024	4
Diesel (extraction, production, etc.) (L)	66,127	13	115,012	23	114,651	23
LPG (extraction, production, etc.) (L)	8,936	1	21,129	3	15,404	2
Total Scope 3		61		102		76
Total Scope 1 + 2		542		570		545
Total Scope 1 + 2 + 3		603		672		621
Offsets purchased (air travel)						3

i Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions, such as extraction and production of fuels, transport related activities in vehicles not owned or controlled by the Goulburn Broken CMA, waste disposal, and electricity-related activities (eg transmission and distribution losses) not covered in Scope 2. Reporting of Scope 3 emissions is optional under the international Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

ii Data back cast with new methodologies for purpose of comparison with previous years.

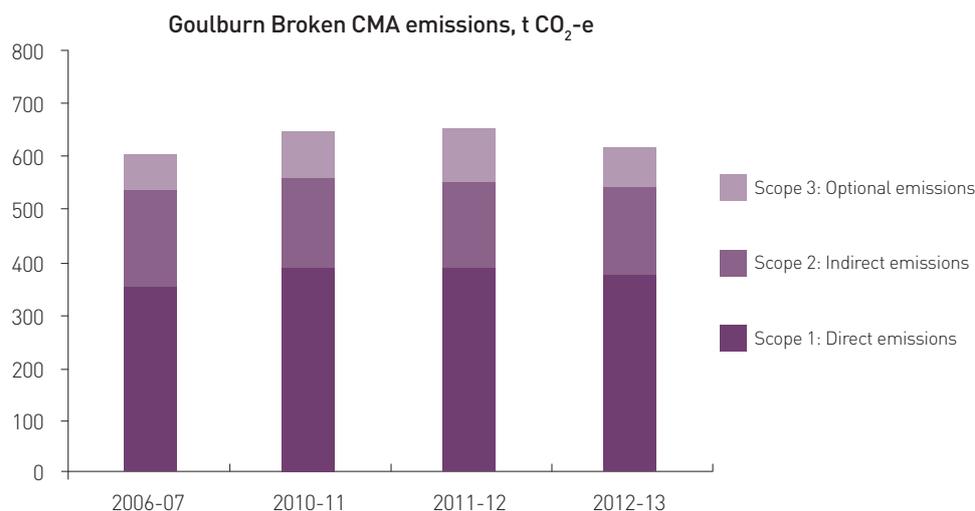
iii Previous years Yea data only, current data includes Yea and partial year for Shepparton.

Long-term strategy implementation progress

The original Organisational Environmental Footprint Action Plan targets against objectives were set prior to comprehensive data collection of environmental data. During 2012-13 the targets for a number of objectives were updated for the current year and 2013-14. All revised targets are in accordance with the original objectives of the Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan.

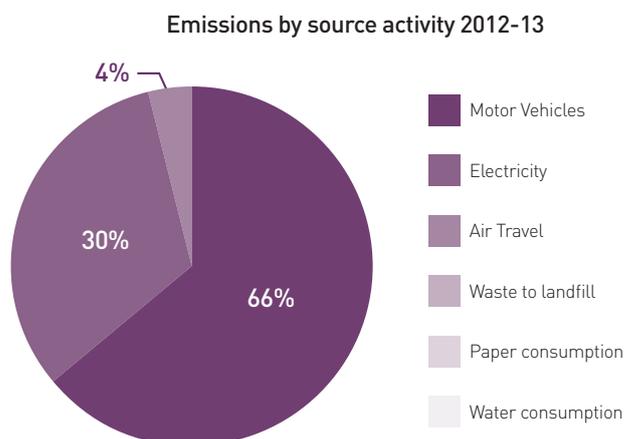
New targets for waste management, recycling and reporting and measurement of our business environmental footprint were set, as the initial targets had already been achieved or were not initially set past 2011-12. Some targets were extended and others amended as they were difficult to measure or unachievable. New targets were set in the areas of electricity consumption, paper use and air travel.

Since the initial data collection in 2006-07, the Authority's overall emissions report shows a downwards trend with continued improvements in vehicle emissions (our biggest greenhouse gas emissions source), waste management and paper use.



2012-13 performance

Two thirds of the Goulburn Broken CMA's emissions are generated by the vehicle fleet. Emissions from the use of electricity and air travel account for most of the remaining third. Waste to landfill, paper consumption and water consumption collectively contribute to less than one per cent.



Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan progressⁱ

Emissions area	Target	Current value	Progress
Incorporate environmental considerations into business	Develop procedures for energy, waste, water, vehicles & paper	Waste, vehicles & paper completed	Below target
GHG emissions per FTE	Reduce by 20% compared to 2006-07	14% less than 2006-07	On target
Electricity consumption	Reduce by 20% compared to 2006-07	8% less than 2006-07	Below target
Reduce paper use per FTE to 2006-07 levels	Reduce paper use per FTE to 14.2 A4 equivalent reams	15.3 A4 equivalent reams per FTE	On target
Offset air travel emissions	100% of flights offset	25% of flights offset	On target
Reduce average vehicle fleet emissions	0.20 tonnes CO ₂ -e per 1000 kilometres	0.22 tonnes CO ₂ -e per 1000 kilometres	On target
Reduce waste to landfill per year	10 kg per FTE	9.34 kg per FTE	Exceeded target
Increase recycling rate	90% of waste recycled	77% of waste recycled	On target
Integrate environmental considerations in purchasing	Develop procedures for purchasing	Draft	On target

What's next?

Electricity emissions have remained relatively constant for the last two years and reduction will be a focus for 2013-14.

Paper use is expected to reduce further with the recent move to electronic meeting papers for both Board and management team meetings.

The development of sustainable purchasing procedures and their integration into all contracts, tenders and purchasing templates has commenced and is due for completion in 2013-14.

Reducing our Footprint activities continue to be promoted to and supported by staff and management.

Governance

Compiled by Stan Gibney

Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus ⁱ	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 ⁱⁱ	Certainty of rating	2013	Certainty of rating	Trend
2012-13 performance	Corporate Plan key performance indicators ⁱⁱⁱ Compliance ^{iv}	n.a.		On target	High	n.a.
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Corporate Plan key performance indicators ^v Compliance ^{iv}	n.a.		On target	Medium	● ^{vi}
Catchment condition	Efficiency ratios Management systems: - legislative and funding backing - policies and procedures - communities' capacity ^{vii}	n.a.	Medium	Satisfactory	Medium	●

i See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 119 including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings).

ii Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2012 of the situation in 1990.

iii See Corporate Plan performance areas, indicators, targets and progress table page 87.

iv See performance of statutory responsibilities as a Victorian State Authority and Employer page 76.

v Aggregated performance over the years Goulburn Broken CMA has been in existence (since 1997).

vi Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

vii Evidence listed in 'Community engagement' section page 17.

Government investment, \$000

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 ⁱⁱ	Trend
1,918	1,516	1,625	1,498	●

i Forecast is based on funding advice at July 2013.

ii includes interest and other sundry revenue sources

Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken Corporate Plan 2012-13 to 2016-17
- Governance Guidelines for Department of Environment and Primary Industries guide to good governance – board members

Background

This section includes:

- a description of 'Governance'
- the legislative and funding context of the Goulburn Broken CMA to establish its Corporate Governance practices
- a scorecard (above) as a summary of annual and long-term performance (including compliance) and the capacity of the Catchment's people to undertake sound and ethical natural resource management
- an overview of the Goulburn Broken CMA's Governance practices
- Risk Management Attestation
- Insurance Attestation
- Goulburn Broken CMA's performance of statutory responsibilities as an employer and a Victorian State Authority
- performance against key performance indicators listed in the Goulburn Broken CMA's Corporate Plan
- What's next?

Description of Governance investment area

This 'enabling' Program exists to ensure that the Goulburn Broken CMA continues to fulfil its statutory and corporate functions; maintains a high level of governance, transparency and accountability in delivering program commitments agreed with investors and ensures that:

- areas of finance and reporting, business development, communications and marketing, human resources and information and communication technology requirements are clearly aligned with our business objectives
- a safe workplace is provided for all employees, contractors and visitors
- an effective risk management framework is in place which forms an integral part of the strategic planning processes, where risks are identified, assessed and monitored under risk treatment plans to mitigate the risk to an agreed level
- comprehensive monitoring and evaluation process are in place ensuring project reporting on expenditure and outputs is of a high level and in line with requirements of the Board and investors
- an optimum information management system is in place to allow Goulburn Broken CMA to undertake, record, communicate and report on its business activities undertaken throughout the Catchment
- the Goulburn Broken CMA is committed to minimise its environmental footprint
- works in partnership, and openly shares knowledge and information, with a range of agencies and other Victorian CMA's to improve the delivery of integrated natural resource management
- it has an optimum corporate structure commensurate to its program funding acceptable to all stakeholders and the community at large
- those members of the community who need to be engaged support (or accept) and provide the Goulburn Broken CMA with the licence to operate.

What's next?

The Goulburn Broken CMA is a mature organisation with an optimum corporate structure managing a revenue base of \$57.7 million in 2012-13. The key challenges in the short term continue to be:

- maintaining an optimum corporate structure in response to the differing requirements of investors and the Board for reporting information and
- the ever increasing challenge to minimise the cost of corporate administration to deliver more dollars for onground works.

Other general priorities include:

- identifying new, and maintaining existing, funding streams to enable investments to be made within the Catchment aligned to what is required to meet the strategic objectives under the recently endorsed Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- having the ability to demonstrate to government and the Catchment community the return on taxpayers' investment in natural resource management in a timeframe and language that fits within the political reality
- the ability to retain people with specialist skill sets required to support our Statutory Obligations, in the area of Environmental Water Management, Floodplain management and Financial management
- balancing the need to actively support partnerships in service delivery while promoting the Goulburn Broken CMA brand for local and national recognition.

Specific priorities to be addressed include:

Finance and reporting

- continued enhancement of a suite of financial performance and assurance reports to enable monitoring and informed decision making by relevant users
- maintenance of a comprehensive risk management framework covering all areas of Goulburn Broken CMA operations.

Business development

- support the implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- seek new investors willing to make major investments in natural resource management priorities of the Catchment's six social-ecological systems, aligned to the strategic objectives of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- develop the Goulburn Broken CMA Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy aligned to the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 and incorporating the agreed suite of efficiency and effectiveness measures.

Human Resources

- implement the Workforce Strategy for 2013-18 to direct the key strategic workforce priorities to improve the current employer of choice objectives and enable a skilled and capable workforce to deliver the objectives of the Goulburn Broken CMA
- further development of the Capability Framework to inform and direct the organisation and employees skill requirements and training to align with and enable the Goulburn Broken CMA's agreed business goals for 2013-2019.

- complete the roll-out of the ConnX 'employee self-service' system across the organisation and integrate this system into the existing Meridien payroll and AXAPTA finance and reporting applications
- investigate migrating performance planning process across to a paperless system
- finalise an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement that supports the workforce objectives and is consistent with government requirements.

Information and communication technology

- completion of the Information and Communication Technology Strategy for the 2013-16 period.

Marketing and communication

- implementation of approved Community Engagement and Communications and Marketing Strategies
- support for implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy in each of the six social-ecological-systems
- upgrade of design and security of the Goulburn Broken CMA website
- ongoing stakeholder analysis and review
- embed community engagement and communication and marketing activities in all programs/projects
- celebrate success via a coordinated communication campaign.

Occupational health and safety

- monitor compliance activities against agreed key performance indicators
- ensure that the Goulburn Broken CMA meets its obligations under current legislation and monitor requirements of any proposed new legislation.

Goulburn Broken CMA's legislative and funding context

Refer to 'Power and duties' on page 6 for the legislative context.

The Victorian Government funds the Goulburn Broken CMA to fulfil its statutory obligations as detailed in the Statement of Obligations.

Costs that enable the Goulburn Broken CMA to fulfil its core corporate obligations are funded from a direct corporate allocation and interest earned. Other corporate costs are charged to projects up to a Board-approved percentage which recognise the degree of support provided to those projects. Corporate costs are not charged on project funding to community groups or other partners.

Goulburn Broken CMA's funding of \$57.7 million was sourced from Regional, State and Commonwealth Government sources in 2012-13. It is estimated that the regional community contributes (in-kind and via products and services) about the same that governments contribute. An increasing amount of government funding received is from initiative funding sources.

All works undertaken are in line with State, Murray-Darling Basin and National strategies.

Objectives, functions, powers and duties of the Goulburn Broken CMA

Under Section 12 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

- 1 The Authority has the following functions in respect of the region for which it has been appointed:
 - a To prepare a Regional Catchment Strategy for the region and to coordinate and monitor its implementation.
 - b To prepare special area plans for areas in the region and to coordinate and monitor its implementation.
 - c To promote the cooperation of persons and bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region in preparing and implementing the Strategy and special area plans.
 - d To advise the Minister, and, if requested by any other Minister, that other Minister
 - i on regional priorities for activities by land resource allocations to bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region;
 - ii on guidelines for integrated management of land and water resources in the region;
 - iii on matters relating to catchment management and land protection;
 - iv on the condition of land and water resources in the region.
 - e To promote community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.
 - f To make recommendations to the Minister about the funding of the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy and any special area plan.
 - g To make recommendations to the Minister and the Secretary about actions to be taken on Crown land managed by the Secretary to prevent land degradation.
 - h To advise the Minister and provide information to the Minister on any matter referred to it by the Minister.
 - i To carry out any other functions conferred on the Authority by or under this Act or any other Act.
- 2 The Goulburn Broken CMA has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with, or as incidental to, the performance of its functions, including any function delegated to it.
- 3 Subsection (2) is not to be taken to be limited by any other provision of this Act that confers a power on the Authority.
- 4 The Goulburn Broken CMA has the duties conferred on it by or under this or any other Act.

Goulburn Broken CMA Board

Members of the Goulburn Broken CMA Board of Directors are drawn from within the region and together 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.

Under the direction of the Board, the Goulburn Broken CMA develops detailed environmental management strategies under the umbrella of the over-arching Regional Catchment Strategy.

Goulburn Broken CMA's corporate governance practices

Sound and ethical corporate governance practices underpin the Goulburn Broken CMA's overall performance including compliance with what is required and expected of it. This is codified in the Goulburn Broken CMA's Financial Code of Practice which all employees are obligated to comply with.

Board Committees

The Goulburn Broken CMA has established an Audit Risk and Compliance Committee and a Remuneration Committee. Both committees operate under the terms of their respective Charter.

Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee

[Directors Craven, Chapman and Fox met the criteria of 'independent' member]

1 July – 30 June 2013

- John Craven (Chairman) • Murray Chapman
- Alisa Fox • Peter Ryan • Ross Runnalls

Remuneration Committee

1 July – 30 June 2013

- Alexander MacKenzie (Chairman) • Michael Dalmau
- Russell Pell • Peter Ryan • Catherine Silverstein

Planning Framework

The Goulburn Broken CMA's planning framework is described within the 'Planning and Responding' section on page 21.

Risk Management

The Goulburn Broken CMA reviewed its risk profile during the year and it was considered by the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee.

Risk Management Attestation

I, Murray Chapman, certify that the Goulburn Broken CMA has risk management processes in place consistent with the Australian/New Zealand Risk Management Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000-2009 and an internal control system is in place that enables the executive to understand, manage and satisfactorily control risk exposures. The Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee verify this assurance and that the risk profile of the Goulburn Broken CMA has been critically reviewed within the last 12 months.



Murray Chapman

Acting Chair

Insurance Attestation

I, Murray Chapman, certify that the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has complied with the Ministerial Direction 4.5.5.1 – Insurance



Murray Chapman

Acting Chair

Board directors and officers

for the financial year ended 30 June 2013



Board directors: (L-R) Back: Murray Chapman, Michael 'Mike' Dalmau, Russell Pell, John Craven, Chris Norman (CEO), Alexander 'Sandy' MacKenzie, Ross Runnalls, Front: Peter Ryan (Chairman), Catherine 'Rien' Silverstein and Ailsa Fox

Peter Ryan - Chairman (Cosgrove South)

Peter is a full-time primary producer of prime lambs, crops and hay. Peter has had a long and distinguished career in agriculture, education and business. Peter's past positions include: Chief Executive Officer of Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE, Principal of Dookie College, Principal of the Gilbert Chandler College of Dairy Technology and a Senior Rural Education Officer with the Victorian Department of Agriculture. Peter's previous board positions include the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, International Training Australia Pty Ltd, Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE and a number of rural and regional development organisations. Peter currently holds positions as Director of Goulburn Valley Health and Chairman of the Independent Review Panel of the Goulburn-Murray Water Connections Project.

Murray Chapman (Goomalibee)

Murray is a partner in a family farm at Goomalibee and a member of local community organisations. He is a Director of RuralPlan Pty Ltd which provides natural resource management advisory services as well as land and water project management throughout Australia. Murray specialises in providing technical support and facilitation services for water and on-farm efficiency. He has many years' experience in assisting governments and industry to achieve change-based programs. Murray has served on the board of the Benalla and District Memorial Hospital.

Dr John Craven (Middle Park)

John is a registered veterinary surgeon with a PhD in microbiology and is currently employed as a Director of Terip Solutions Pty Ltd. He has considerable experience in research and research methods and was formerly a research manager at the department now known as the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the Dairy Research and Development Corporation. Until recently John owned a beef cattle property in Terip Terip which was originally settled by his family in the 1880s. He has considerable experience in on-farm conservation activities and sees the need for communities to value the environment sufficiently to contribute time, energy and money to improve conservation outcomes.

Michael 'Mike' Dalmau (Acheron)

Mike lives on a lifestyle rural property and has operated a number of successful tourism and hospitality businesses, centered on Lake Eildon, for over 30 years. Mike is a houseboat broker and works as a Mediator for the Department of Justice Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria. Mike holds positions on the Central Ranges Local Learning Employment Network; Alexandra District Ambulance Support Inc; Police Community Consultative Committee Safe and Caring Community Project; Lake Eildon Land and On Water Management Plan Implementation Group; Eildon Major Events; and UGFM community radio station. Mike served on the Goulburn Broken CMA Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee for 10 years. Mike also served as a Councillor of the Murrindindi Shire Council for nine years, including a term as Mayor, and during this time chaired two Council committees and represented Council at several state-wide forums. Of importance to Mike was the 12 months he worked as a Bushfire Case Manager assisting small businesses in their journey of recovery following Black Saturday.

Ailsa Fox (Merton)

Ailsa is a primary producer of many years with strong involvement in the Victorian Farmers Federation and is currently a partner in a farm at Merton focusing on beef cattle, wool and prime lamb production. Ailsa is a Director of AgStewardship Australia, Rural Skills Australia and the North Central Rural Financial Counselling Service. Ailsa believes an opportunity in natural resource management is to work with larger landholders to achieve better outcomes.

Alexander 'Sandy' MacKenzie (Avenel)

Sandy has a Masters in Rural Science and is currently the Landcare Coordinator for the Burnt Creek Landcare Group. Sandy holds positions with the Victorian Landcare Council and Australian Landcare International. Sandy is also a Community Assessor for the Federal Government natural resource management programs Caring for our Country and Carbon Farming Initiative. Sandy has experience in governance, natural resource management and community education/engagement and was the Founding Principal of Orange Agricultural College (Charles Sturt University).

Russell Pell (Wyuna)

Russell is a member of the Murray- Darling Basin Authority's Community Committee. Russell's previous positions include Chair of the Modernisation Group for Central Goulburn for the Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project, eight years as a member of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Implementation Committee (including four years as Chair), membership of the Australian Landcare Council, and he was an Associate Director of Tatura Milk Industries. He has worked with Dairy Australia on a number of projects over recent years. Russell has built up a large dairy enterprise at Wyuna which he now manages with his son. His interests lie in finding a balance between managing the environment and sustaining good agricultural industries.

Ross Runnalls (Benalla)

Ross is a rural landholder, former Regional Manager with VicForests, and now is a self-employed forestry consultant. Ross has vast experience in natural resource management, including commercial use of native forest and fire management. Ross lives in Benalla on a small rural holding and is a member of the local Whitegate Fire Brigade. Ross considers improving the environmental condition of agricultural land whilst maximising production as the greatest challenge currently facing natural resource management.

Catherine 'Rien' Silverstein (Orrvale)

Rien is a primary producer and self-employed as a partner of Silver Orchards, is a past President of Victorian Farmers Federation-Horticulture and a Coordinator and founder of Goulburn Valley Women in Horticulture. Rien is a member of the Goulburn-Murray Water Shepparton Water Services Committee. Rien is also a current member of Fruit Growers Victoria, a member of the Victorian Farmers Federation and Australian Women in Agriculture. Rien has an apple and pear orchard in Orrvale and believes managing water with the changing climatic conditions is currently the greatest challenge to farming.

Board members attendance record at meetings

July 2012 - June 2013			
Board member	Board meetings (11 held)	Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (7 held)	Remuneration Committee (5 held)
Peter Ryan (Chairman)	10	5	5
Murray Chapman (Deputy Chairman)	11	7	-
John Craven	9	7	-
Michael 'Mike' Dalmau	11	-	5
Ailsa Fox	10	6	-
Alexander MacKenzie	10	-	5
Russell Pell	9	-	4
Ross Runnalls	8	4	-
Catherine Silverstein	6	-	3

Compliance

The following table includes several summaries of Goulburn Broken CMA's compliance that are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this Annual Report.

Goulburn Broken CMA's performance of statutory responsibilities as a Victorian State Authority and Employer

Act or policy	Board's major tasks	2012-13 issues and status
Statutory Authority		
<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i>	Prepare, coordinate, monitor and review of Regional Catchment Strategy.	Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 was gazetted on 16 May 2013.
	Submit to Minister and Council by the prescribed date: "A report on the condition and management of land and water resources in the region and carrying out of its functions."	2011-12 Annual Report submitted on time and 2012-13 on schedule.
	Corporate Plan to be submitted to Minister under the <i>CALP Act</i> by 30 April annually.	Submitted to Minister by 30 April 2013.
	Members declare new interests at each (monthly) Board meeting and document it in Pecuniary Interests Register. Members must submit a primary return and an annual return.	Declarations of Pecuniary Interests have been duly completed by relevant directors and officers of the Goulburn Broken CMA. These are now located centrally for inspection on the Portal and updated monthly.
<i>Water Act 1989</i>	Corporate Plan available for inspection.	Copy is available for inspection during business hours.
	Review funds at each (monthly) Board meeting. Policy for investment as per the <i>Trustee Act 1958</i> .	Finances are presented monthly to the Board. Goulburn Broken CMA continued to invest funds with TCV at call and on term deposits in excess of working capital requirements in line with DTF's policy on Centralisation of Borrowing and Investment Activities. DTF's policy only permits GB CMA to invest a maximum of \$2 million with Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions.
	Submit statement of borrowings. Review borrowings at each (monthly) Board meeting. Finance leases are borrowings and subject to Treasurer's approval.	Included as part of Corporate Plan. Finance Leases are classified as borrowings due to the accounting treatment. Board reviews monthly.
	Meeting Procedures of Authorities.	Minutes are available through application under Freedom of Information.
	Waterway management responsibilities	Goulburn Broken CMA has adopted Governance Guidelines for Statutory Authority Board Members, Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Code of conduct for public sector employees adopted.
<i>Public Administration Act 2004</i>	Ensure operations of Board comply with Part 5.	Policy and Procedures ensure that obligations and best practice approaches are built into current HR operations and practices.
<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Provide for the protection of the environment and promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources and promote the conservation of biodiversity.	All works have a process which assesses the works against this Act. The Goulburn Broken CMA and its partners have complied with all requirements.
<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	Report requests for access to documents in Annual Report. Report requests at each (monthly) Board meeting. The Act gives persons the right to request certain types of information (which are not exempt documents) held by the Authority. The Authority's Freedom of Information Officer is authorised to make decisions about access to documents under the <i>Freedom of Information Act</i> . The officer has 45 days from the date of receiving a valid request to accede to or reject the applicant's request. There are two costs associated with making a Freedom of Information request being an application fee of \$25.10 which is non-refundable and an access cost which covers the cost to Authority for providing the information.	The <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> allows members of the public a right of access to documents held by the Goulburn Broken CMA subject to certain exemptions under the Act. Freedom of Information requests are made in writing describing the documents requested and including payment of the \$25.70 application fee. Further charges may be payable. Freedom of Information fees and charges are not subject to GST. Requests to the Goulburn Broken CMA should be sent to Freedom of Information Officer, PO Box 1752, Shepparton, Vic 3632. The telephone contact number is (03) 5820 1100; enquiries can be emailed to reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au. Four Freedom of Information Requests were received in the year. Of the four applications, one was granted "full access", one was granted "access in part", one was advised that "no documents existed" and one application was not proceeded with. One decision in response to a Freedom of Information decision was referred to VCAT but subsequently withdrawn.

Act or policy	Board's major tasks	2012-13 issues and status
<p><i>Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001 (1 July 2012-9 February 2013).</i></p> <p><i>Protected Disclosures Act 2012.</i></p>	<p>Report actions in Annual Report. Report actions at each (monthly) Board meeting.</p>	<p>No issues reported.</p> <p>Protected Disclosures procedures developed within the required timeframe.</p> <p>Disclosures of improper conduct by the Goulburn Broken CMA or its employees may be made to Mark Turner (Protected Disclosure Coordinator) or alternatively to the Ombudsman. (See Appendix 8 for details, page 131)</p>
<p><i>Statutory Referral and Advice (Planning and Environment Act 1987, Subdivision Act, 1988, Building Regulations 2004, Water Act 1989, Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act, 1990)</i></p>	<p>Goulburn Broken CMA has delegated floodplain management functions and is the floodplain management authority under the <i>Planning and Environment Act, Subdivisions Act and Building Regulations</i> where various types of application for development are referred. Furthermore, functions require direct advice to be provided to anybody or person under the <i>Water Act</i>.</p> <p>Goulburn Broken CMA is a referral authority for applications from Department of Primary Industries (<i>Mineral Resource Act, 1990</i>) for work plans on floodplain areas.</p> <p>Goulburn Broken CMA is referral authority from RWA under section 67 licences for dams on waterways and provide permits/licences to landowners to carry out works or activities on waterways</p>	<p>The Goulburn Broken CMA processed 933 applications in total including; referral and advice applications relating to floodplain management and 66 applications for works on waterways for 2012-13.</p>
	<p>Board is advised of application refusals at each (monthly) meeting.</p>	<p>Decisions are made in accordance with the Victoria Flood Strategy, the Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy, the Victorian Planning Provisions Practice Notes and Authority Policy, all of which have largely been incorporated into respective municipal planning schemes as performance based criteria.</p>
	<p>Local government can request advice but are not required to implement it.</p>	<p>Advice has been provided where appropriate.</p>
<p><i>Privacy Act 2000</i></p>	<p>Ensure details of individuals are protected.</p>	<p>Goulburn Broken CMA has reviewed the Privacy Procedure (in accordance with the Act) on how personal information is stored and under what circumstances it can be accessed or released to third parties.</p>
<p><i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i></p>	<p>Conserve the Catchment's communities of flora and fauna and manage potentially threatening processes and educate the community in the conservation of flora and fauna.</p>	<p>The Goulburn Broken CMA continues to support the implementation of action statements and recovery plans for threatened flora and fauna by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.</p>
<p><i>Environmental Protection Act 1970</i></p>	<p>Protection agencies need to report in their annual reporting processes, actions taken to implement the Policy (as per their responsibilities in State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) and Schedules), so that Environment Protection Authority can then report to the community.</p> <p>Outlines CMAs roles with respect to set goals, priorities and targets.</p> <p>Refers to water allocations and environmental flows.</p> <p>Relates to responsibilities of various agencies for ensuring sustainable agricultural activities with the catchment</p> <p>Relates to the management of irrigation channels and drains.</p> <p>Refers to vegetation protection and rehabilitation.</p>	<p>The Goulburn Broken CMA continued to support the implementation of the Regional Goulburn Broken Waterway Incident Agreement.</p>
<p><i>Forest Act 1958</i></p>	<p>Liaise with the Department of Sustainability and Environment as required.</p>	<p>For waterways in areas managed by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries under the <i>Act</i>, the Goulburn Broken CMA complied with elements of the code which deals with access to waterways and crossings.</p>
<p><i>Financial Management Act 1994</i></p>	<p>Undertake review of its annual operations and advise the Minister regarding compliance with Financial Management Compliance Framework.</p>	<p>Information listed under FRD 22b is available under the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>.</p>

Act or policy	Board's major tasks	2012-13 issues and status
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>	Ensure the use of cultural heritage management plans for certain development plans or activities and interact with registered Aboriginal parties to evaluate management plans, advise on permit applications and enter into cultural heritage agreements.	The Goulburn Broken CMA applies diligence with regard to the requirements of the Act and encourages best practice in partner organisations through its cultural heritage support program. The Goulburn Broken CMA is committed to policies, programs and strategies aimed at delivering culturally appropriate services to all Victorians. Current practices of inclusive and thorough public consultation ensure that all persons who have an interest in investigations are kept informed and have the opportunity to provide input into Goulburn Broken CMA deliberations.
<i>Building Act 1993</i>	Comply with standards for the construction and maintenance of buildings.	Goulburn Broken CMA complied with building and maintenance provisions of this Act.
National Competition Policy	Ensure fair competition	Competitive neutrality seeks to enable fair competition between government and private sector businesses. Any advantages or disadvantages that government businesses may experience as a result of government ownership should be neutralised. The Goulburn Broken CMA continues to apply this principle in its business undertakings.
<i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i>	Work with other related organisations to assist in the control, prevention and suppression of fires within the Catchment.	Goulburn Broken CMA has policies relating to waterway operations that comply with the Act and reduce fire risk.
Victorian Industry Participation Policy	The Victorian Industry Participation Policy is a Victorian Government initiative designed to promote greater access for small to medium enterprises to work with major projects.	No issues to report.
Employer		
<i>Fair Work Act (Registered Organisations) Act 2009</i>	Comply with the Award system which provides a minimum set of terms and conditions for Goulburn Broken CMA employees.	Goulburn Broken CMA's policies have been evaluated for alignment against the Act and are available to staff on its portal (intranet). The renewal of the enterprise agreement is still outstanding awaiting approval for the Settlement position for a 2.5 per cent increase each year over a 3 year agreement.
<i>Equal Opportunity Act 1995</i>	Annual data return reporting gender, diversity and complaints lodged and investigated.	The Goulburn Broken CMA is an equal opportunity employer. Kate Pendergast is the sexual harassment contact officer. No complaints were received in the reporting period. Of the Goulburn Broken CMA staff, 52 per cent are female and 48 per cent male (see page 65).
<i>Long Service Leave Act 1992</i> <i>Victorian Long Service Leave Regulations 2005</i>	Long service leave liability is updated to the Board in a monthly financial report.	Policies comply with Act. Liability is reflected in financial provisions and calculation explained in the notes to the financial statements.
<i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004</i>	Report Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issues at each (monthly) Board meeting and in Annual Report. Quarterly Report of measurable OHS targets to the Audit Risk and compliance Committee	Goulburn Broken CMA reviews and update annually its OHS Policy Statement and supporting OHS procedures. All staff and Contractors are inducted in the procedures that reflect their work function. OHS Procedures are in place and made available for contractors when applicable. Employee Health and Safety Representatives and Designated Work Groups are part of the consultative processes under sections 35 and 36 of the OHS Act 2004. Policies and procedures are available to staff on the portal (intranet). An OHS Report against agreed KPIs is provided to Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee quarterly.
Victorian Government Risk Management Framework <i>Victorian Managed Insurance Authority Act 1996</i>	The Victorian Government Risk Management Framework provides for a minimum risk management standard across Public Sector entities. Attestation by accountable officer in annual report which ensures that requirement is built into corporate planning and reporting processes.	The attestation that the Goulburn Broken CMA has risk management processes in place, made by the Chair of the Goulburn Broken CMA, is consistent with the Australian/New Zealand Risk Management Standard. The attestation that the Goulburn Broken CMA has insurance is consistent with the <i>Victorian Managed Insurance Authority Act 1996</i> requirements.
Gifts, benefits and hospitality policy framework	The Victorian Government Framework requiring employees to record gifts, benefits and hospitality offered to them in their capacity with Goulburn Broken CMA.	The Goulburn Broken CMA has a comprehensive policy in relation to this issue and all staff are required to comply and record any benefits on the Register.

Details of compliance with *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* (nb replaced by '*Protected Disclosure Act 2012*')

Refer to Appendix 8, page 131, for disclosure against the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001*, for the period of 1 July 2012 – 9 February 2013 and compliance with the *Protected Disclosures Act 2012*, from 10 February 2013.

Available information

- declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by relevant officers of the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- details of publications produced by the Goulburn Broken CMA about the activities of the Authority and where they can be obtained.
- details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the Goulburn Broken CMA for its services, including services that are administered.
- details of any major external reviews carried out in respect of the operation of the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- details of any other research and development activities undertaken by the Goulburn Broken CMA that are not otherwise covered either in the report of operations or in a document which contains the financial report and report of operations.
- details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit.
- details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Goulburn Broken CMA to develop community awareness of the services it provides.
- details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees, not otherwise detailed in the report of operations.
- a general statement on industrial relations within the Goulburn Broken CMA and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes, which is not otherwise detailed in the report of operations.
- a list of major committees sponsored by the Goulburn Broken CMA, the purpose of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved.
- information relevant to the headings listed in Financial Reporting Direction 22B of the *Financial Management Act 1994* is held at the Authority's office and is available on request subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Other information

Other information such as publications, major external reviews, overseas travel or promotional and public relations activities are available on request, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Headline theme reports

This section follows a similar approach to that used in recent years by the Goulburn Broken CMA in reporting on its obligation under section 19B of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The structuring according to 'headline themes' in this section follows previous year guidelines established by the former Department of Sustainability and Environment (now called Department of Environment and Primary Industries) in promoting statewide consistency.

Generally, this Annual Report promotes accountability by structuring information in alignment with the Goulburn Broken CMA's corporate plan. It is expected that corporate plan reporting requirements and headline theme reporting requirements will merge over the next few years. The following table shows how these two requirements relate now.

DSE headline theme	Goulburn Broken CMA investment area	Details page
Biodiversity	Biodiversity	53
Inland aquatic ecosystems	Environmental flows; Riparian and instream habitat and channel form; Water quality (nutrients) in rivers	38
Marine and Coastal	Not applicable	n.a.
Land health	Land health including dryland salinity; Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity; Invasive plants and animals	59
Community capacity	Community engagement; Planning and responding	17 & 21
Environmental stewardship	Riparian and instream habitat and channel form; Biodiversity; Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity	38, 53 and 32
None applicable	Human resources	64
None applicable	Environmental footprint	71
None applicable	Floodplain management	47

Biodiversity

Management

Implementation of the Goulburn Broken CMA Biodiversity Strategy focused on increasing the community's capacity to participate in conservation.

Reduced Goulburn Broken CMA funding available for the community reinforced the need for natural resource management groups and networks to be helped gain their own funding, which resulted in them securing \$1.8 million for 25 projects.

Regular meetings of the Goulburn Broken Landcare Network Forum and the Biodiversity Implementation Forum enabled staff, partner agencies and community members to collectively understand priorities, potential partnerships, the scope of projects, and responsibilities.

More than 8,000 people attended 200 field days and workshops and 163 people were trained in facilitating discussions and developing local groups.

As services are being delivered by more and different organisations, the Goulburn Broken CMA and partners have been reinforcing service standards.

Examples of activities that the Goulburn Broken CMA supported include: local governments – native vegetation offsets; Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation – Traditional Owner works crews; conservation management networks – influencing many groups; landholders – market-based incentives and devolved grants for managing native vegetation; University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus – seed collection; and Deakin University – research project on 'how much revegetation is enough'?

Across 19 farms, 153 hectares of remnant vegetation were protected and 232 hectares were revegetated through the Biodiverse Carbon Landscapes project. The long-running

Regent Honeyeater project, which was shown to have increased fauna richness, delivered 77 hectares of works for the year. The Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank received 120 kilograms of seed.

Catchment condition

Against a reference point of pre-European settlement, the condition of the Catchment's biodiversity has been rated as 'poor' and this rating has not changed since 1990. However, the rating uses the reference point of 'pre-European' to measure current condition, and this may not be useful because we do not aim to restore landscapes to pre-European condition. If we used a reference point that is more meaningful that considered production and other values, then it is likely that catchment condition could be shown to have improved beyond 'poor' since 1990. Changing the reference point may be useful because we can then recognise that we do not expect the catchment to ever revert to pre-European condition, but that we do expect that most biodiversity can be conserved if we manage its resources and threats strategically. New and existing research partnerships should help us to better refine targets and assumptions that in turn help us to better manage biodiversity through strategic planning based on best available science.

A major threat to the condition of biodiversity is climate change, resulting in more extreme events. In particular, the increased likelihood and frequency of wildfire and responses to this through large-scale and frequent fuel reduction burning is of concern. Other threats include: the continued decline in threatened species as the 'extinction debt' from past clearing is realised; continued habitat loss through clearing of native vegetation, permitted and illegal; 'cleaning up' by landholders removing important leaf litter and fallen logs (habitat); and the inability of flora and fauna to move across fragmented landscapes, creating genetic bottlenecks and loss of sub-populations.

Inland aquatic ecosystems

Environmental flows

Management

A total of 249,255 megalitres of environmental water was delivered in 2012-13 to support fish, macroinvertebrates and vegetation in the lower Goulburn River and lower Broken Creek and to Barmah-Millewa Forest. Wetlands were generally encouraged to dry, with the only environmental water for wetlands being supplied to the Barmah-Millewa Forest as support for waterbird breeding. Environmental water was delivered in accordance with Victorian Environmental Water Holder processes and with the assistance and cooperation of partners. The majority of priority watering actions were achieved at all sites.

Condition

The Goulburn Broken CMA has been delivering and managing environmental water since 2000, with the assistance of partner organisations. Environmental entitlements to water can be called out of storage when needed and delivered to streams or wetlands. Delivery and management is coordinated by holders of environmental entitlements: the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, via water managers such as Goulburn-Murray Water.

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder prepares seasonal watering plans based on each of the CMA's seasonal watering proposals.

The Victorian Government, supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA and its partners, is increasing water availability by saving water in supply and delivery through projects such as the Commonwealth Government's On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program and GMW's Connection Project.

Riparian and instream habitat and channel form

Management

Partnerships with the community and government agencies delivered a range of natural resource and community-based activities, including fencing, revegetation, invasive plant and animal control, resnagging, monitoring and employment to protect riparian land and stream frontages, instream diversity, and maintain the channel.

An overview of the Large Scale River Restoration Project 'Goulburn – Icon River', which ran for three years until 2012 and improved instream habitat, was completed.

Condition

The overall condition of the Goulburn and Broken basin river reaches has not changed significantly since 2004, despite the impacts of flood, drought and wild fire.

Condition of Goulburn and Broken basins (2010 assessment)

Condition	River reaches, %
Excellent	5
Good	10
Moderate	53
Poor	21
Very poor	11

Wetlands on public land are generally in better condition than those on private land.

Condition of Goulburn Broken Catchment wetlands

(assessment since 2009)

Condition	River reaches, %
Excellent	6
Good	38
Moderate	40
Poor	15
Very poor	<2

The overstorey and understorey in Barmah Forest is improving, reversing the trend of the recent ten years of drought.

Water quality (nutrients) in rivers

Management

Institutional arrangements to manage water quality threats continued through several regional forums.

A works program was developed through the Water Quality Forum following a strategic review.

Real-time monitoring and assessment of floods on instream water quality continued.

Condition

The five year rolling average phosphorus load from the Goulburn Broken Catchment is below the long term target, equating to a reduction of 80 per cent from the benchmark year of 1993-94.

Extensive works programs have improved the state of the system for terrestrial and aquatic species and have contributed to improved water quality.

Land health

Land health (including dryland salinity)

Management

The five-year rolling review of Victoria's obligations under the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Salinity Management Strategy is partially complete, with Goulburn and Broken, Ovens, and Campaspe reports completed and Loddon in preparation. Information at an appropriate scale on the impact of the Riverine plains remains an outstanding issue.

It remains an expectation that saline discharge will emerge as a more obvious problem in the next 3-5 years.

Condition

There remains no current condition of land health which is problematic for the CMA, charged as they are with responsibility for reporting on it. A reasonable interim surrogate measure could be soil health, but as previously flagged a reference point has not been determined. A benchmark of soil condition is needed to provide better assessment of the current condition and targets are required to measure progress.

Erosion remains a problem in the south and south east of the catchment in particular. These have not been active in the dry period, but the expected wetter winter and spring may see a significant deterioration in stream and land condition.

The main emphasis on improving soil health is protecting and enhancing the environmental services from soils—carbon sequestration, soil stability and soil biology, protecting and enhancing the soil capital and protecting other assets that are

at risk of being degraded by soil disservices. Remedying soil acidity and soil erosion are two disservices from soils that are an important component of the Land Health program because they affect other assets and undermine the resilience of our soil systems.

There has been little groundwater response to the dry period and this is in keeping with expectations. There has been no significant increase in salinity: where it has occurred, it more usually reflects property developments in land at risk from salinity.

Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity

Management

Implementation of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy continues despite the region enduring widely varying climatic conditions and changing funding priorities. The emphasis again was to link implementation of the Strategy with various modernisation programs, especially the GMW Connections Project and the Farm Water Program, to optimise opportunities presented by changes to delivery systems. This is principally based around the Whole Farm Plan Program although connection to salinity infrastructure has become even more critical.

The Farm Water Program continued to roll out in 2012-13. All of the 148 Round 1 projects have been completed and 30 per cent of Round 2 projects have been completed.

Condition

Although risks of salinisation and waterlogging have increased due to recent wetter conditions, these risks have generally declined since 1990 because of:

- reduced rainfall induced accessions to watertables
- government supported salinity management works, particularly in the early 1990s, including surface water management projects (that result in less water going through to the watertable) and groundwater pumping projects (that have the effect of lowering the watertable)
- complementary government-supported water quality and water savings works that have water-use efficiency and therefore, salinity benefits; for example, irrigation delivery infrastructure through the GMW Connections Project and on-farm irrigation efficiency projects, including the Farm Water Program.

Invasive plants and animals

Management

The major focus of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries pest animal program is to support coordinated community action. In consultation with community-based natural resource management groups, Department of Environment and Primary Industries delivers targeted compliance activities to support large-scale rabbit control programs and to ensure the participation of all land managers in a project area.

Condition

Invasive plants and animals continue to negatively affect catchment condition. Many species have become naturalised and invade all areas of the catchment with few, if any, areas not being affected by pest plants or animals. Foxes, feral dogs

and cats kill millions of native animals each year and rabbits cause erosion, compete for resources and make revegetation difficult in some areas. Pest plants out compete native species reducing diversity.

Terrestrial and aquatic environments remain vulnerable to new and emerging weeds and land managers must remain vigilant to ensure early identification of new infestations.

While regional priorities for pest management have been identified, Department of Environment and Primary Industries capacity to deliver programs has declined. In addition, the focus of federal and state funding has shifted away from pest plants and animals.

In the Goulburn Broken consideration of invasive plants and animals are built into all projects and programs where possible.

Community capacity

Community engagement

Management

The Goulburn Broken CMA's Community Engagement Strategy was updated in the first half of 2013 to capture changes in the way the Goulburn Broken CMA will engage with its stakeholders as a result of developing the 2013-19 Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy; findings from the 2012 Wallis CMA Awareness Survey and subsequent Action Plan (developed late 2012); and changes in Victorian and Commonwealth government natural resource management funding and priorities. Most sub-strategies are being implemented on schedule and are regularly reviewed and collaborative agreements are honoured.

Media highlights included:

- a 40 per cent increase on the number of media releases (to 78)
- establishment of a monthly column in the Country News reaching more than 55,000 households
- a near doubling of people subscribing to the bi-monthly Connecting Community and Catchment (to 700)
- development of e-newsletters for several individual projects
- increased social media presence, including use of Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube
- increased cross-promotion of content.

Condition

Government and regional communities' objectives are clearly aligned:

- the Goulburn Broken regional community has a reputation for delivering onground changes to improve its natural resources, which reflects the strength of relationships between its many and varied individuals and organisations
- community based natural resource management groups and networks involve more than 4,476 people and 1,500 hours of volunteer time in natural resource management activities every year (these figures are from just the 56 per cent of groups and networks that responded to a survey in 2011-12)

- 40 per cent of the Goulburn Broken CMA's Municipal Catchment Coordinator position is funded by the three municipalities in the Shepparton Irrigation Region. These municipalities also contribute 17 per cent of funding for the Public Salinity Works operation and maintenance costs and in some circumstances fund road structures on Community Surface Drains.

Uniform regulatory backing has been developed across municipalities in the Shepparton Irrigation Region with uniform planning regulations and new irrigation development guidelines.

Following the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 floods, discussions between the Goulburn Broken CMA and local government authorities have strengthened the partnership approach to flood response.

Environmental Stewardship

Management

Many levels of management agreements and plans with different organisations and individuals were achieved from strategic plans covering the Catchment to site-specific agreements on farms.

One of the best indicators of stewardship is the output 'binding management agreement' which the Goulburn Broken CMA defines as licences, Section 173 (of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*) and covenants. In 2012-13, 329 hectares or 165 per cent of the targeted 200 hectares of binding management agreements were achieved.

Whole farm plans were completed for 186 properties (101 per cent of the target).

Condition

The method for measuring stewardship has not been thoroughly determined.

Corporate Plan key performance indicators

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Progress 2012/13
Governance			
Board performance	Complete and submit an annual board performance assessment report, according to any guidelines issued	By 31 August annually	Completed. Board Performance Evaluation was undertaken and submitted on 30 August 2012.
	Participation by board members in training and development activities	All board members participate in training and development activities	Ongoing. Board members regularly participate in development activities.
Board charter	Develop and implement a board charter	The board charter is reviewed (and if necessary, amended) by 30 June annually	Board Charter was reviewed in June 2012 and is scheduled for review in September 2013 (in line with new Board appointments).
Risk and financial management	Compliance to risk management plans for each program	All programs have risk management plans in place	Achieved.
		Nil non-compliances with risk management plan	Completed.
Policies and procedures	Regular review of policies and procedures	Each policy and procedure is reviewed at least every five years	Completed. A total of 48 policies and procedures reviewed in 2012-13, this includes 31 Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures.
Efficiency and organisational performance			
Grant management	Administration costs of grants are minimised	10 percent or less of grant funds is spent on administration	A maximum of eight per cent (8%) levy is applied.
	Minimise time taken to determine grant applications	Grant applications are determined within one month of being received	Completed.
Regulatory waterway/water functions	Number of days to process works on waterways permits	Not more than 20 working days	63 applications processed. Average response time of 21 days.
	Number of days to process referrals for any works on or in relation to a dam	Not more than 20 working days	3 referrals received. Average response time of 16 days.
	Number of days to process referrals from local government on flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments, and planning and building approvals	Not more than 20 working days	693 direct applications processed within 7 days.
	Number of days to process enquiries from local government and the community on flooding	Not more than 20 working days	174 direct enquiries processed within 7 days. 99 per cent completed within 20 days.
	Number of days to process referrals for Water Use Licences that don't meet the standard water-use conditions	Not more than 20 working days	Nil referred.
	Number of days to process enquiries from Rural Water Corporations on irrigation and drainage plans and seasonal adjustments to annual use limits	Not more than 20 working days	Nil referred.
	Number of days to process enquiries from Rural Water Corporations issuing Take and Use Licences	Not more than 20 working days	Nil referred.

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Progress 2012/13
Effectiveness and Environmental Outcomes			
Integrated River Health Management	Revise Regional River Health Strategy to plan for waterways in relation to their economic, social and environmental values	Regional River Health Strategy revised every six years	Review of the Regional River Health Strategy now known as the Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy has commenced and is expected to be completed on time by December 2013.
	Develop and revise Environmental Operating Strategies and Seasonal Watering Proposals (formerly Annual Watering Plans) to manage the environmental water reserve in accordance with objectives	Environmental Operating Strategies developed or revised every five years Seasonal Watering Proposals (formerly Annual Watering Plans) approved for all Environmental Entitlements	Environmental Operating Strategies not applicable to the Goulburn Broken CMA. Seasonal Watering Proposals (formerly Annual Watering Plans) were developed for the lower Broken Creek, Goulburn River, Barmah Forest and Goulburn Broken Wetlands in accordance with Victorian Environment Water Holder guidelines and timeframes (May 2013).
	Implement annual river health programs and activities to improve environmental values and health of water ecosystems	All annual river health targets and works programs achieved	90 per cent of annual river health targets and works programs achieved. Caring for our Country implementation targets have been exceeded. All multi-year projects are on track.
Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) implementation	Complete and submit the developed or revised RCS according to any guidelines, standards and related information issued.	Submit the developed or revised RCS by the due date as required in any guidelines. Standards and related information issued.	Achieved. Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 Gazetted 15 May 2013.
	Percentage of RCS annual actions implemented	All RCS annual actions implemented	95 per cent achieved for RCS 2002.
Regional Native Vegetation Plan (RNVP) implementation	Percentage of RNVP annual actions implemented	All RNVP annual actions implemented	All actions are either underway or ongoing.
Invasive plant and animal management	Regional Invasive Plant and Animal Strategies incorporating related priorities in all land tenures in the region	Invasive Plant and Animal Strategies revised by 30 June every five years	First Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy 2010-15 was endorsed by DEPI in October 2010. Next revision of the strategy will be undertaken in 2014-15.
Regional and statutory planning	Provide advice on dryland salinity, irrigation management, soil erosion, or any other land management issue identified in the local Municipal Strategic Statement as the referral body	100 per cent of referral responses provided for each issue	Achieved
Salinity management	Implementation and periodic review of Regional Salinity Management Plans (RSMP) and Land and Water Management Plans (LWMP)	RSMP and LWMP completed RSMP and LWMP periodically reviewed RSMP and LWMP include annual actions to be implemented	To be reviewed in line with Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy implementation.
	Progress against annual action targets	All annual RSMP and LWMP actions and targets achieved	Achieved in accordance with budgets
	Develop regional salinity targets and corresponding works programs in accordance with the Murray-Darling Basin Salinity Agreement (for applicable CMAs only)	All annual salinity targets and works programs achieved	Achieved
	Annual report on the allocation and update of salt disposal entitlements submitted to the responsible Minister	By 31 July annually or as otherwise requested by the responsible Minister	Completed in November 2012.
Regional Landcare groups, networks and other community groups	Deliver the Regional Landcare Support Strategy, including coordination of Landcare at a regional scale	Evaluate and revise the strategy every five years	In 2012-13 the Goulburn Broken CMA Landcare Strategy was reviewed with the help of our catchment community and partners. The resultant Goulburn Broken CMA Community NRM Action Plan 2013-19 was developed recognising community NRM groups and aligns both state and federal investment in our region with the Regional Catchment Strategy.

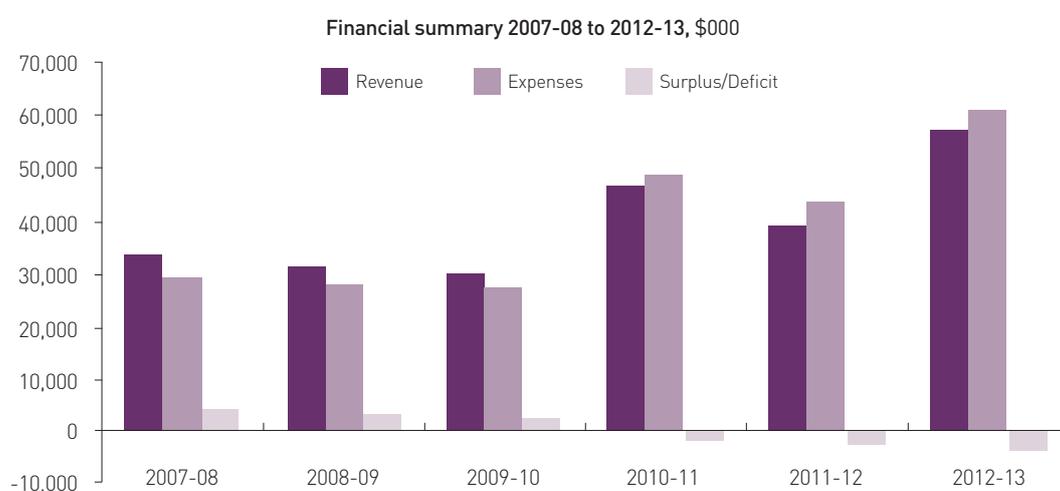
Financial report

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Financial results summary: current plus past four years

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000	2012-13 \$000
Income and expenditure					
State Government	20,793	19,945	16,746	17,035	34,764
Australian Government	7,170	6,831	16,175	14,602	19,765
National Action Plan	1,095	-	-	-	-
Government contributions	29,387	26,776	32,921	31,637	54,529
Revenue from government entities	329	1,201	11,066	6,201	1,682
Other revenues	1,783	1,928	2,593	1,780	1,524
Total income	31,170	29,905	46,580	39,618	57,735
Expense	27,974	27,238	48,525	42,313	61,377
Infrastructure asset write-off	-	-	133	-	-
Interest	7	2	28	15	6
Total expenses	27,981	27,240	48,686	42,328	61,383
NET RESULT	3,189	2,665	(2,106)	(2,710)	(3,648)
Balance sheet items					
Current assets					
Cash	10,434	19,074	21,683	34,936	23,146
Receivables	6,112	1,454	4,458	1,177	1,471
Inventories	-	-	-	234	-
Prepayments	47	16	22	35	27
Total current assets	16,593	20,544	26,163	36,382	24,644
Fixed assets	1,679	1,640	1,607	1,449	1,330
Total assets	18,272	22,184	27,770	37,831	25,974
Current liabilities					
Trade creditors	1,690	3,676	4,309	3,518	2,010
Unearned revenue	-	-	5,340	17,474	14,220
Borrowings	46	37	30	32	31
Accruals	2,322	1,424	3,006	4,179	760
Provisions	1,133	1,327	1,428	1,747	1,739
Total current liabilities	5,191	6,464	14,113	26,950	18,760
Non-current liabilities					
Borrowings	43	30	29	36	20
Other	109	96	140	67	64
Total non-current liabilities	152	126	169	103	84
NET ASSETS	12,929	15,594	13,488	10,778	7,130

	2008-09 \$000	2009-10 \$000	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000	2012-13 \$000
Equity items					
Contributed capital	4,209	4,209	4,209	4,209	4,209
Reserves	8,720	11,385	9,279	6,569	2,921
TOTAL EQUITY	12,929	15,594	13,488	10,778	7,130
Cash flow items					
Net operating activities	(679)	8,986	3,089	13,576	(11,448)
Net investing activities	(211)	(295)	(437)	(288)	(297)
Net financing activities	(69)	(51)	(43)	(35)	(45)
Net cash movement	(959)	8,640	2,609	13,253	(11,790)



Significant changes in financial results for 2012-13

	Original Corporate Plan April 2012 \$000	Corporate Plan November 2012 ⁱ \$000	Actual \$000
Comprehensive Operating Statement			
Total revenue	63,937	65,560	57,735
Total expenditure	63,569	71,807	61,383
Net result	368	(6,247)	(3,648)
Statement of financial position			
Cash and receivables	28,518	13,227	24,617
Other	20	253	27
Non-current assets	1,424	1,540	1,330
Total assets	29,965	15,020	25,974
Liabilities			
Current	10,329	10,360	18,760
Non-current	181	130	84
Total liabilities	10,510	10,490	18,844
Net assets	19,455	4,530	7,130

ⁱ In November 2012 the Goulburn Broken CMA submitted to the Minister a major deviation to its Corporate Plan based on funding changes since the initial plan was prepared.

The variance in the Net Result between the Corporate 'Plan' November 2012 (Budget) projections and the actual Year-to-Date results, is largely due to under-expenditure against projections in the Land and Biodiversity and River Health programs, due to reduced landholder uptake of works and slower than budgeted start to the Flood recovery works in the early part of the 2012-13 year; however Flood recovery works 'under-expenditure' was offset by the corresponding reduced revenue (reimbursement) claims. These works will extend into the 2013-14 as agreed with the relevant Investor(s).

The variance between 'Plan' Revenue and Expenditure to 'Actual' mainly relates to less expenditure incurred against the Farm Water Program budget assumptions. Under the Accounting Standard AASB 1004 – Contributions, this Income is of a 'Reciprocal' nature, meaning that funds received by the Authority in advance of the actual expenditure are only credited as Income to the Comprehensive Operating Statement to match the actual expenditure under this Program. Consequently of the reduced expenditure variance totalling of \$10,424 an amount of \$8,108 was in respect of the Farm Water Program and is included in current liabilities (unearned revenue) which explains the actual increase in total liabilities compared to 'Plan'. As expenditure has been less than budget, the actual cash (and receivables) balance is significantly higher than the 'Plan' amount.

Consultancies

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Cost	\$1,788,412	\$2,744,748	\$2,066,656	\$1,752,486
Number of consultants	61	27	154	243
Consultancies in excess of \$100,000	-	-	2	-
Consultancies in excess of \$10,000	n.a.	n.a.	59	55

Consultancies over \$10,000

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (Ex GST)	Expenditure 2012-13 (Ex GST)	Future expenditure (Ex GST)
Alistair Cameron Consulting	VEFMAP Fish monitoring	71,085	71,085	-
Alluvium Consulting Pty Ltd	Fish barrier feasibility Broken River & Hollands Creek	27,150	18,050	-
Arthur Rylah Institute	Analysis & interpretation of Lower Goulburn River fish communities	42,480	42,480	-
BMT WBM P/L (2011-12)	Shepparton East Urban Stormwater Flood Study	82,350	32,129	37,020
BMT WBM P/L (2011-12)	Nagambie Flood Study	62,340	-	44,640
Cathy Botta T/as PCB Consulting	Survey & Design SoilCare	13,473	4,973	8,500
Chris Smith (2011-12)	Survey for Shepparton East Flood Study	19,100	19,100	-
CSIRO Plant	Seed Genetics Project	45,000	45,000	-
Dawes and Vary	Legal Advice	20,000	10,225	9,775
Deakin University 2011-12	Biofund Monitoring	101,818	28,031	2,574
DEPI formerly DSE	Tahbilk Lagoon aquatic enhancement	40,000	40,000	-
DEPI formerly DSE	Barred Galaxis habitat protection	15,000	15,000	-
DEPI formerly DSE	Fish monitoring Yea & King Parrot Cks	40,000	40,000	-
DEPI formerly DSE	Hollands Creek Demonstration Reach	45,318	45,318	-
DEPI formerly DSE East Melbourne	Revegetation Guide	15,000	15,000	-
Ellen Hogan & Associates 2011-12	Special water supply catchment areas review	20,000	-	13,000
ESRI Australia 2011-12	GIS System Implementation	22,750	22,750	-
Farmanco Pty Ltd	Consultancy for works audit	11,040	11,040	-
Farmright Technical	Soil tests	10,285	10,285	-
Feehan Consulting 2011-12	Project management framework review	16,000	2,140	-
Fiona McCallum	Soil Knowledge	15,003	15,003	-
GHD Pty Ltd 2011-12	Corop Lakes Flood Scoping Study	40,000	9,119	-
GMW	Infrastructure concept design for Carlands Swamp	18,000	13,500	-
GMW	Water conveyancing services	48,155	48,155	-
Instream Solutions	Data collection	19,580	20,840	(1,260)
Moroka P/L	Analysis of River condition & Processes	69,820	35,370	34,450
Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre	Study Impact of Lake Mokoan decommissioning	55,000	55,000	-
North Central CMA	FWP Services	45,000	45,000	-
North East CMA	Works & Measures Contract	45,037	45,037	-
Parks Victoria	Prepare a pest plant and animal strategy for Barmah Forest	22,952	22,952	-
Paul Ryan / T/as Interface NRM 2011-12	Regional Catchment Strategy - Resilience Assessment expertise	34,832	19,285	-

Consultancies over \$10,000 (Cont'd)

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (Ex GST)	Expenditure 2012-13 (Ex GST)	Future expenditure (Ex GST)
Peter Cottingham	Environmental Watering Plan	94,427	94,427	-
Peter Ockenden 2011-12	Reading the Landscape	15,800	11,644	-
Pitcher Partners Consulting Pty Ltd	Internal Audit Services	40,000	38,367	-
Rakali Ecological	IWC assessment of selected wetlands	14,132	12,314	-
Regional Planning Services	Amendment C-46 Flowerdale	12,000	11,667	-
Riverness Pty Ltd	For Avira analysis of key risks to Priority rivers	38,790	14,000	24,790
Riverness Pty Ltd	Field assessment of Bridge Creek & Sawpit Gully	12,672	12,672	-
RMCG Consulting	Farm Water Program Rd1 Review	22,101	22,101	-
RMCG Consulting	Technical inputs to FWP	19,463	12,304	7,159
RMCG Consulting	FWP advice	18,409	9,854	8,555
RMCG Consulting 2011/12	Farm Water Program RMCG tech services	76,610	11,886	-
Roberts Evaluation	Setup survey, design & data collection	51,460	51,460	-
Rod McLennan & Associates	Finalisation of RCS	16,254	16,254	-
Rod McLennan & Associates	RCS Document writing	15,050	15,050	-
Rod McLennan & Associates	Hollands Creek Demonstration Reach	20,945	17,200	3,745
Sinclair Knight Mertz	Gaynor Swamp Regulator Design	97,000	97,000	-
Spiire Australia	Shepparton East Flood level study	12,000	11,385	-
Thiess services	Process & Verification - review of dissolved oxygen and temperature data	17,630	11,150	6,480
Think Spatial	Development of IPAWS	33,410	17,930	-
University of Melbourne 2011-12	Goulburn Broken CMA contribution to Adaptive management of Native Vegetation	30,000	20,000	-
Water Technology	Veg monitoring for VEFMAP	44,985	44,985	-
Water Technology	Goulburn River Elevation analysis	29,855	9,855	-
Water Technology (2011-12)	Rural Levee Assessment Project	243,000	65,525	-
Webfleet (Smartfleet)	Fleet management	20,129	20,000	-
		2,129,690	1,450,897	199,428
Details of consultancies under \$10 000			301,589	
In 2012-13, the total for the 188 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was \$10,000 or less was \$301,589 . All figures are excluding GST.				
Total Consultant Fees:			1,752,486	

Financial Statements

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Australian Business Number (ABN): 89 184 039 725

Accountable Officers' and Chief Finance and Accounting Officer's declaration

The attached financial report for the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (Goulburn Broken CMA) has been prepared in accordance with Standing Directions 4.2 of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

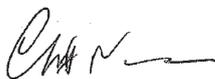
We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2013 and financial position of the Goulburn Broken CMA at 30 June 2013.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 23 August 2013.



M Chapman
Acting Chair



C P Norman
Chief Executive Officer



S D Gibney
Chief Finance and Accounting Officer
23 August 2013

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board Members, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

The Financial Report

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2013 of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority which comprises the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the accountable officer's and chief finance and accounting officer's declaration has been audited.

The Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Board Members of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, and for such internal control as the Board Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board Members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2013 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Publication of the Audited Financial Report

This auditor's report relates to the financial report of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority for the year ended 30 June 2013 included both in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's annual report and on the website. The Board Members of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority are responsible for the integrity of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's website. I have not been engaged to report on the integrity of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's website. The auditor's report refers only to the subject matter described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these statements. If users of the financial report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial report to confirm the information contained in the website version of the financial report.

MELBOURNE
28 August 2013


for
John Doyle
Auditor-General

Comprehensive Operating Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Revenue from operating activities			
Government contributions	3	54,529	31,637
Revenue from government entities	3	1,682	6,201
Other revenues from ordinary activities	3	1,492	1,793
		57,703	39,631
Revenue from non-operating activities	3	32	[13]
TOTAL REVENUE		57,735	39,618
Expenses from operating activities			
Operating costs to Programs	4a	(60,109)	(41,566)
Amortisation of leased assets	4c	(33)	(34)
Depreciation	4b	(436)	(441)
Interest		(6)	(15)
Seedbank assets donated	7	(477)	-
Occupancy expenses		(322)	(272)
TOTAL EXPENSES		(61,383)	(42,328)
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	16	(3,648)	(2,710)
Comprehensive result	16	(3,648)	(2,710)

The above Comprehensive Operating Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	23,146	34,936
Receivables	6	1,471	1,177
Inventories	7	-	234
Prepayments		27	35
Total current assets		24,644	36,382
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	1,330	1,449
Total non-current assets		1,330	1,449
Total assets		25,974	37,831
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Payables	9	2,770	7,697
Unearned revenue	10	14,220	17,474
Interest bearing liabilities	11	31	32
Employee benefits	12	1,739	1,747
Total current liabilities		18,760	26,950
Non-current liabilities			
Interest bearing liabilities	11	20	36
Employee benefits	12	64	67
Total non-current liabilities		84	103
Total liabilities		18,844	27,053
Net assets		7,130	10,778
Equity			
Contributed equity	14	4,209	4,209
Accumulated funds	15	-	-
Committed Funds Reserve	16	2,921	6,569
Total equity		7,130	10,778

The above Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity for the financial year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	Contributions by owners \$000	Reserves \$000	Accumulated funds \$000	Total \$000
Balance at 1 July 2011		4,209	9,279	-	13,488
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		-	(2,710)	-	(2,710)
Balance at 30 June 2012		4,209	6,569	-	10,778
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		-	(3,648)	-	(3,648)
Balance at 30 June 2013		4,209	2,921	-	7,130

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Cash Flow Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2013

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Cash flow from operating activities			
Government contributions		58,234	36,462
Revenue from other Government Entities		1,660	6,932
Payments to suppliers and employees		(73,682)	(32,197)
GST (remitted to) received from Australian Tax Office		712	355
Interest received		511	772
Interest paid		(6)	(15)
Other revenue		1,123	1,267
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	22b	(11,448)	13,576
Cash flow from financing activities			
Repayment of finance lease liabilities		(45)	(35)
Net cash provided by (used in) finance activities		(45)	(35)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		316	159
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(613)	(447)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(297)	(288)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash held		(11,790)	13,253
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		34,936	21,683
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	22a	23,146	34,936

The above Cash Flow Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 1: Significant accounting policies

a Basis of accounting

General

This financial report of the Goulburn Broken CMA is a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and notes accompanying these statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards (AASs), Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and applicable Ministerial Directions. This financial report has been prepared on an accrual and going concern basis.

Where applicable, those paragraphs of the AASs applicable to Not for Profit entities have been applied.

Accounting policies

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation.

Classification between current and non-current

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be realised or paid. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be turned over within the next twelve months, being the Goulburn Broken CMA's operational cycle (see note 1(l) for a variation in relation to employee benefits).

Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except where specifically stated in Note 1(d).

Critical accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with AASs requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Key balances subject to estimates are provision for long service leave entitlements and non-current assets based on estimate of the useful life of non-current assets. Actual results may differ from these estimates, AASs also require management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Goulburn Broken CMA's accounting policies.

b Revenue recognition

Government contributions

Under *AASB 1004-Contributions*, Government grants of a recurrent nature are brought to account on the earlier of receipt or the right to receive the contributions. The full grant receivable is reflected in the comprehensive operating statement as government contributions. Instalment receipts on the grant are credited to the receivable account as received. Consequently, at year-end outstanding instalments on these grants are reflected as receivable from Government.

The value of all goods and services received free of charge are recognised as revenue when the Goulburn Broken CMA gains control of them. The benefits derived from these goods and services are recorded at their fair values in the financial statements.

Grants and contributions for capital works from all sources are disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as operating revenue as these grants and contributions relate to expenditure on works written off in the year the expenditure is incurred. Any grants and contributions received from the Victorian Government which the relevant Ministers have indicated are in the nature of owners' contributions, are accounted for as Equity – Contributed Capital.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency (Farm Water) Program

During the financial year Goulburn Broken CMA continued as the 'delivery partner' for both the Australian Government and GMW Connections Project and the Victorian State On-Farm Project.

In its role as the 'delivery partner', Goulburn Broken CMA receives funding to make payments to approved irrigators under an Infrastructure Works Deed whereby irrigators undertake works on their land to generate permanent water savings half of which are transferred to the Australian Government, GMW Connections Project or the State of Victoria.

Goulburn Broken CMA reflects as income funding it has received to match the liability it must pay under the Infrastructure Works Deed.

Revenue received by Goulburn Broken CMA in advance of paying liabilities under the relevant Program's Infrastructure Works Deed is taken to unearned revenue.

Other

Gains or losses on disposal of non-current assets are calculated as the difference between the gross proceeds on sale and their written down value.

Interest

Interest is recognised as revenue when earned. Interest earned in relation to the Farm Water (On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program) is generally retained by that program and is not the revenue of the Goulburn Broken CMA. Interest earned on this program is held in unearned revenue as at 30 June 2013.

c Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred. Borrowing costs include interest on finance lease charges.

d Recognition and measurement of assets

Property, plant and equipment represent non-current physical assets comprising buildings, plant, equipment and motor vehicles, used by the Goulburn Broken CMA in its operations. Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000 and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as an asset. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

Acquisition

On acquisition assets are measured at cost. Cost is measured at fair value of the assets given at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration by the Goulburn Broken CMA are recognised at fair value at the date of acquisition.

Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold, the cost is capitalised and depreciated.

Measurement of non-current physical assets

All non-current physical assets are recognised initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment in accordance with the requirements of Financial Reporting Direction (FRD) 103D. Revaluations are conducted in accordance with FRD 103D.

Plant equipment and motor vehicles

Plant equipment and motor vehicles are measured at fair value.

Impairment of assets

All assets are assessed annually for indicators of impairment.

If there is an indication of impairment, the assets concerned are tested as to whether their carrying value exceeds their recoverable amount. Where an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written-off by a charge to the comprehensive operating statement except to the extent that the write down can be debited to an asset revaluation reserve amount applicable to that class of asset.

The recoverable amount for most assets is measured at the higher of depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Recoverable amount for assets held primarily to generate net cash inflows are measured at the higher of the present value of future cash flows expected to be obtained from the asset and fair value less costs to sell. It is deemed that, in the event of the loss of an asset, the future economic benefits arising from the use of the asset will be replaced unless a specific decision to the contrary has been made.

A reversal of an impairment loss

A reversal of an impairment loss on a revalued asset is credited directly to equity under the heading revaluation reserve. However, to the extent that an impairment loss on the same class of asset was previously recognised in the comprehensive operating statement, a reversal of that impairment loss is also recognised in the comprehensive operating statement.

e Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets

All non-current physical assets that have a limited useful life are depreciated. Where assets have separate identifiable components that have distinct useful lives and/or residual values, a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their costs, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance sheet date. Major depreciation rates used are listed below and are consistent with prior year, unless otherwise stated:

Asset class	Depreciation rate, %
Buildings	2.5
Plant and equipment	10 to 40
Motor vehicles	20

f Leased assets

Leases of property, plant and equipment where the Goulburn Broken CMA has substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership, are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised, recording an asset and a liability equal to the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Leased assets are amortised on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely that the Goulburn Broken CMA will obtain ownership of the asset at the end of the lease. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as an expense in the periods in which they are incurred.

g Cash and cash equivalent assets

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within interest bearing liabilities on the balance sheet.

h Receivables

Receivables are brought to account at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less allowance for impaired receivables. Receivables due from the government are due within 14 days; other receivables are due within 30 days. Collectability of debtors is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for impaired receivables is recorded when some doubt as to collection exists.

i Inventories

Inventories comprise seed used in the propagation of revegetation works. Inventories held for sale are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to inventory quantities on hand at balance date on a weighted average cost (WAC) basis.

Inventories include goods held for distribution at no or nominal cost in the ordinary course of business operations. Inventories held for distribution or for consumption are measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

j Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

k Payables

Payables consist predominantly of trade and sundry creditors. These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year, which are unpaid at financial year end. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of the month when recognised.

l Employee benefits

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in employee benefits liabilities in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled at their nominal values. Employee benefits which are not expected to be settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity, in respect of services rendered by employees up to the reporting date. Regardless of the expected timing of settlements, provisions made in respect of employee benefits are classified as a current liability, unless there is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting date, in which case it would be classified as a non-current liability.

Long service leave

Current liability – unconditional long service leave (representing seven or more years of continuous service) is disclosed as a current liability even where the Goulburn Broken CMA does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it does not have the unconditional right to defer settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current long service leave liability are measured at

- present value – component that the Goulburn Broken CMA does not expect to settle within 12 months; and
- nominal value – component that the Goulburn Broken CMA expects to settle within 12 months.

Non-current liability – conditional long service leave (representing less than seven years of continuous service) is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. Conditional long service leave is measured at present value. In calculating present value, consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields, at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Superannuation

The amount charged to the comprehensive operating statement in respect of superannuation represents the contributions made by the Goulburn Broken CMA to the superannuation plan in respect to the current services of current entity staff. Superannuation contributions are made to the plans based on the relevant rules of each plan.

The Goulburn Broken CMA does not recognise any defined benefit liability in respect of the superannuation plan because the Goulburn Broken CMA has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees, its only obligation is to pay superannuation contributions as they fall due. See Note 13 for more details on superannuation.

Employee benefit on-costs

Employee benefit on-costs, including payroll tax and workcover costs are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities and costs when the employee benefits to which they relate are recognised as liabilities.

Performance payments

Performance payments for the Goulburn Broken CMA's Executive Officers are based on a percentage of the annual salary package provided under their contracts of employment. A liability is recognised and is measured as the aggregate of the amounts accrued under the terms of the contracts to balance date.

m Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Goulburn Broken CMA as a result of a past event, has a legal or constructive obligation that can be estimated reliably, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the end of the reporting period, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

n Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the balance sheet.

Cash flows arising from operating activities are disclosed in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis i.e. inclusive of GST. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and finance activities which is recoverable or payable to the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

Government appropriations

The Department of Environment and Primary Industries treat grant contributions to the Goulburn Broken CMA for the agreed works program to be State government appropriations. Consequently as this does not constitute a taxable supply, the Goulburn Broken CMA receives no GST on amounts paid by the Department.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

o Contributed capital

Grants and contributions received from the Victorian State Government which were originally appropriated by the Parliament as additions to net assets or where the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Environment and Climate Change have indicated are in the nature of owners' contributions, are accounted for as Equity – Contributed Capital.

p Changes in accounting policy

The accounting policies are consistent with those of the previous year, unless stated otherwise.

q Financial instruments

Recognition

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value, plus in the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through profit and loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or the issue of the financial asset or liability. Subsequent to initial recognition, the financial instruments are measured as set out below:

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are financial assets held for trading. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term. Assets in this category are classified as current assets.

Receivables

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date which are classified as non-current assets. Receivables are included in trade and other receivables in the balance sheet.

Held-to-maturity investments

These investments have fixed maturities and it is the Goulburn Broken CMA's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments held by the Goulburn Broken CMA are stated at cost.

Impairment of financial assets

At each reporting date, the Goulburn Broken CMA assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. Impairment losses are recognised in the comprehensive operating statement.

r Comparative amounts

Where necessary, figures for the previous year have been reclassified to facilitate comparison.

s Interest bearing liabilities

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement over the period of the borrowings, using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Goulburn Broken CMA has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

t Commitments

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are disclosed by way of a note (refer to Note 17) at their nominal value and exclusive of the goods and services tax (GST) payable. In addition, where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present values of significant individual projects are stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

u Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note (refer to Note 18) and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented exclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

v New accounting standards and interpretations

New Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued that are not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2013 reporting period. As at 30 June 2013, the following standards and interpretations had been issued but were not mandatory for financial year ending 30 June 2013. The Goulburn Broken CMA has not and does not intend to adopt these standards early.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on	Impact on financial statements
AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> , AASB 2010-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9</i> (December 2010) and AASB 2012-6 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Mandatory Effective Date of AASB 9 and Transition Disclosures</i>	AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i> addresses the classification, measurement and derecognition of financial assets and financial liabilities. The standard is not applicable until 1 January 2015 but is available for early adoption. The derecognition rules have been transferred from AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> and have not been changed. The group has not yet decided when to adopt AASB 9.	1 January 2013	Goulburn Broken CMA is yet to assess its full impact. However, initial examination indicates that it is not expected to be a material impact when adopted.
AASB 1053 <i>Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards</i> , AASB 2010-2 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements</i> , AASB 2011-2 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Trans-Tasman Convergence Project - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and AASB 2011-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Extending Relief from Consolidation, the Equity Method and Proportionate Consolidation - Reduced Disclosure Requirements</i>	On 30 June 2010 the AASB officially introduced a revised differential reporting framework in Australia. Under this framework, a two-tier differential reporting regime applies to all entities that prepare general purpose financial statements. <i>Tier 1 are the Australian Accounting Standards as currently applied and Tier 2 is the reduced disclosure regime which retains the recognition and measurement requirements of Australian Accounting Standards but with reduced disclosure requirements. AASB 2011-6 extends the relief for intermediate parent entities from consolidation, equity accounting and proportionate consolidation to parent entities that report under tier 2, where the parent higher up the group is reporting either under tier 1 or tier 2.</i>	1 July 2013	Goulburn Broken CMA is yet to assess its full impact. Goulburn Broken CMA will apply amended standard from 1 July 2013.
AASB 119 <i>Employee Benefits</i> , AASB 2011-10 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 119 and AASB 2011-11 Amendments to AASB 119 (September 2011) arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements</i>	These standards require the recognition of all remeasurements of defined benefit liabilities/assets immediately in other comprehensive income (removed of the so-called 'corridor' method) and the calculation of a net interest expense or income by applying the discount rate to the net defined benefit liability or asset.	1 January 2013 / 1 July 2013	Goulburn Broken CMA is yet to assess its full impact.
AASB 2010-10 <i>Further Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Removal of Fixed Dates for First-time Adopters</i> [AASB 2009-11 & AASB 2010-7]	AASB 1 <i>First-time Adoption of Australian Accounting Standards</i> was amended in December 2010 by eliminating references to fixed dates for one exemption and one exception dealing with financial assets and liabilities.	1 January 2013	This amendment will not affect the financial statements of the Goulburn Broken CMA.
AASB 2011-4 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards to remove Individual Key Management Personnel Disclosure Requirements</i>	<i>Removes the individual key management personnel disclosure requirements from AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures, to achieve consistency with the international equivalent standard and remove a duplication of the requirements with the Corporation Act 2001. The amendments cannot be adopted early.</i>	1 July 2013	This amendment is expected to have a limited impact.
AASB 13 <i>Fair Value Measurement</i> and AASB 2011-8 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13</i>	It explains how to measure fair value and aims to enhance fair value disclosures.	1 January 2013	Goulburn Broken CMA has yet to determine which, if any, of its current measurement techniques will have to change as a result of the new guidance. It is therefore not possible to state the impact, if any, of the new rules on any of the amounts recognised in the financial statements. However, application of the new standard will impact the type of information disclosed in the notes to the financial statements. Goulburn Broken CMA will adopt the new standard from its operative date, which means that it will be applied in the annual reporting period ending 30 June 2014.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2013-1 <i>Amendments to AASB 1049 - Relocation of Budgetary Reporting Requirements</i>	This Standard removes the requirements relating to the disclosure of budgetary information from AASB 1049 (without substantive amendment). All budgetary reporting requirements applicable to public sector entities are now located in a single, topic-based, Standard AASB 1055 <i>Budgetary Reporting</i> .	1 July 2014	This amendment is expected to have a limited impact.
AASB 2012-11 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Other Amendments</i>	The Standard makes various editorial corrections to Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements (Tier 2). These corrections ensure that the Standards reflect decisions of the AASB regarding the Tier 2 requirements.	1 July 2013	This amendment is expected to have a limited impact.
AASB 2012-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements</i>	This Standard adds to or amends the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements for AASB 7 <i>Financial Instruments: Disclosures</i> , AASB 12 <i>Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities</i> , AASB 101 <i>Presentation of Financial Statements</i> and AASB 127 <i>Separate Financial Statements</i> . AASB 1053 <i>Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards</i> provides further information regarding the differential reporting framework and the two tiers of reporting requirements for preparing general purpose financial statements.	1 July 2013	This amendment is expected to have a limited impact.
AASB 2012-1 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Fair Value Measurement - Reduced Disclosure Requirements</i> [AASB 3, AASB 7, AASB 13, AASB 140 & AASB 141]	This Standard applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2013. Earlier application is permitted for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2009 but before 1 July 2013, provided that the following are also adopted for the same period: (a) AASB 1053 <i>Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards</i> ; (b) AASB 13 <i>Fair Value Measurement</i> ; and (c) AASB 2011-8 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 13</i> .	1 July 2013	As noted above, Goulburn Broken CMA does not plan to adopt these standards until their effective date. As such, this amendment will not be adopted until the year ended 30 June 2014.
AASB 2012-2 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - Disclosures - Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities</i>	This Standard amends the required disclosures in AASB 7 to include information that will enable users of an entity's financial statements to evaluate the effect or potential effect of netting arrangements, including rights of set-off associated with the entity's recognised financial assets and recognised financial liabilities, on the entity's financial position.	1 January 2013	This amendment is expected to have a limited impact.
AASB 2012-3 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities</i>	This Standard adds application guidance to AASB 132 to address inconsistencies identified in applying some of the offsetting criteria of AASB 132, including clarifying the meaning of "currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off" and that some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement.	1 January 2014	As noted above, Goulburn Broken CMA does not plan to adopt these standards until their effective date. As such, this amendment will not be adopted until the year ended 1 January 2014.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2012-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard - Government Loans	<p>This Standard adds an exception to the retrospective application of Australian Accounting Standards to require that first-time adopters apply the requirements in AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement</i> (or AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>) and AASB 120 <i>Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance</i> prospectively to government loans existing at the date of transition to Australian Accounting Standards.</p> <p>This means that first-time adopters would not recognise the corresponding benefit of the government loan received at a below-market rate of interest as a government grant. However, entities may choose to apply the requirements of AASB 139 (or AASB 9) and AASB 120 to government loans retrospectively if the information needed to do so had been obtained at the time of initially accounting for that loan. These amendments give first-time adopters the same relief as existing preparers of Australian Accounting Standards financial statements.</p>	1 January 2013	This amendment is expected to have no impact on Goulburn Broken CMA's reports
AASB 2012-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standard arising from Annual Improvements- 2009-2011 Cycle	These amendments are a consequence of the annual improvements process, which provides a vehicle for making non-urgent but necessary amendments to Standards.	1 January 2013	This amendment is expected to have a limited impact.
AASB 2012-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Transition guidance and other Amendments (clarifications only) - no separate disclosure needed	<p>The amendments to AASB 10 and related Standards revise the transition guidance relevant to the initial application of those Standards, to clarify the circumstances in which adjustments to an entity's previous accounting for its involvement with other entities are required and the timing of such adjustments. These amendments result from proposals issued in AASB Exposure Draft ED 224 <i>Transition Guidance</i> (December 2011).</p> <p>Further amendments to AASB 10 and related Standards revise their application paragraphs, so that they apply mandatorily to not-for-profit entities for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2014, with early application permitted for not-for-profit entities only from 1 January 2013. The application of the amendments set out in AASB 2011-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards</i> is similarly amended. There is no change to the application date for for-profit entities, which are required to apply those Standards for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2013, with early application permitted. This Standard also makes various editorial amendments to a range of Australian Accounting Standards and to Interpretation 12 <i>Service Concession Arrangements</i>, including amendments to reflect changes made to the text of IFRSs by the IASB.</p>	1 January 2013	This amendment is expected to have no impact on Goulburn Broken CMA's reports.
AASB 1055 Budgetary Reporting	AASB 1055 extends the scope of budgetary reporting that is currently applicable for the whole of government and general government sector (GGS) to NFP entities within the GGS, provided that these entities present separate budget to the parliament.	1 January 2014	This standard is not applicable as no budget disclosure is required.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 2: Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Goulburn Broken CMA's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. This note presents information about the Goulburn Broken CMA's exposure to each of these risks and the objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's Board has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Goulburn Broken CMA's risk management framework. The Goulburn Broken CMA's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse impacts on the financial performance of the Goulburn Broken CMA. The Goulburn Broken CMA uses sensitivity analysis in the case of interest rate risks.

Risk Management is carried out by the Audit Risk & Compliance Committee under policies approved by the Board of Directors. The corporate division identifies, evaluates and hedges financial risks in close cooperation with the Goulburn Broken CMA's operating units. The Board complies with Department of Treasury and Finance policy covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and investment of excess liquidity.

2.1 Risk exposures

The main risks the Goulburn Broken CMA is exposed to through its financial instruments are as follows:

a Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices will affect fair value of future cash flows of the Goulburn Broken CMA's financial instruments. Market risk comprises of interest rate risk and other price risk. The Goulburn Broken CMA's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate, as there is no exposure to foreign exchange risk and no significant exposure to other price risks.

Objectives, policies and processes used for these risks are disclosed in the paragraphs below:

Interest rate risk

The Goulburn Broken CMA has minimal exposure to interest rate risk through its holding of cash assets and other financial assets. The Goulburn Broken CMA complies with Department of Treasury and Finance policies in this regard.

Other price risk

The Goulburn Broken CMA has no significant exposure to other price risk.

Market risk sensitivity analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Goulburn Broken CMA's financial assets and financial liabilities to interest rate risk.

30 June 2013	Carrying amount \$000	Interest rate risk			
		-1 per cent		+1 per cent	
		Result \$000	Equity \$000	Result \$000	Equity \$000
Financial assets					
Cash at bank	23,146	(231)	(231)	231	231
Receivables	1,471	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities					
Payables	(2,770)	-	-	-	-
Interest bearing liabilities	(51)	-	-	-	-
Total increase/(decrease)	21,796	(231)	(231)	231	231

30 June 2012	Carrying amount \$000	Interest rate risk			
		-1 per cent		+1 per cent	
		Result \$000	Equity \$000	Result \$000	Equity \$000
Financial assets					
Cash at bank	34,936	(349)	(349)	349	349
Receivables	1,177	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities					
Payables	(7,697)	-	-	-	-
Interest bearing liabilities	(68)	-	-	-	-
Total increase/(decrease)	28,348	(349)	(349)	349	349

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 2: Financial risk management objectives and policies (Cont'd)

b Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Goulburn Broken CMA as a result of a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument failing to meet its contractual obligations. Credit risk arises principally from the Goulburn Broken CMA's receivables and financial assets available for sale.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's exposure to credit risk is influenced by the individual characteristics of each customer. The receivable balance consists of business customers which are spread across a diverse range of industries. Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. The Goulburn Broken CMA has in place a policy and procedure for the collection of overdue receivables.

c Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Goulburn Broken CMA will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Goulburn Broken CMA's policy is to settle financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of dispute make payments within 20 days from the day of resolution.

The Goulburn Broken CMA manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves and banking facilities by continuously monitoring forecasts and actual cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and financial liabilities.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's financial liability maturities have been disclosed in Note 23.

2.2 Fair valuation estimation

The carrying value less impairment provision of trade receivables and payables is a reasonable approximation of their fair values due to the short term nature of trade receivables. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Goulburn Broken CMA for similar financial assets.

The carrying amounts and aggregate net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities at balance date have been provided in Note 23.

Note 3: Revenues

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Government Contributions			
State		34,764	17,035
Commonwealth		19,765	14,602
Total Government Contributions		54,529	31,637
Revenue From Government Entities			
Goulburn Murray Water Connections Project		1,597	5,928
Murray-Darling Basin Authority		85	273
Total Revenue From Government Entities		1,682	6,201
Other Revenues			
Interest		478	792
Seedbank		212	118
Regional Contributions		483	540
Recoverable Costs		161	230
Other		158	113
Total Other Revenues		1,492	1,793
Non Operating Revenue			
(Loss)/Gain on Disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment		32	(13)
Total Revenue		57,735	39,618

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 4: Expenses

Net result for the period has been determined after:

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
a Operating costs to programs			
Land and Biodiversity		8,308	6,326
Sustainable Irrigation		43,511	25,688
River Health & Floodplain		6,945	7,764
Corporate			
• Audit Fees - External		13	12
- Internal		54	38
• Other		710	1,126
Corporate Administration		777	1,176
• Business Development		304	386
• Regional Catchment Strategy		264	226
Total Corporate		1,345	1,788
Total operating costs to programs		60,109	41,566
b Depreciation of non-current assets			
Buildings		-	-
Plant and equipment and other		101	96
Motor vehicles		335	345
Total depreciation		436	441
c Amortisation of leased assets		33	34
d Employee related expenses			
Included in the Program Expenditure totals are the following employee related expenses			
Salary & Wages		4,285	4,357
Annual Leave		350	391
Long Service Leave		115	223
Employer Superannuation contributions*		497	743
Other		189	195
Total employee related expenses		5,436	5,909

* Superannuation charge for 2011-12 included Defined Benefits shortfall contribution of \$134,410

Note 5: Cash and cash equivalents

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Cash on hand		2	2
Cash at Bank		5,403	13,974
Term Deposit at Bank		2,000	2,027
Deposits at Call with Treasury Corp Victoria		15,741	18,933
Total cash and cash equivalents		23,146	34,936

All of these funds are restricted in that they are held to be spent on a range of programs which the Goulburn Broken CMA currently has underway.

(a) Reconciliation to cash at the end of the year

The above figures are agreed to cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement.

(b) Cash at Bank

Amounts at bank bear floating interest rates currently 2.60 per cent (2012: 3.40 per cent).

(c) Term deposit at Bank

Term Deposit bears interest at 3.80 per cent and matures on 20 August 2013 (2012: 4.51 per cent).

(d) Deposits at call

The Deposits at call with Treasury Corporation Victoria bear interest at 2.74 per cent (2012: 3.45 per cent).

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 6: Receivables

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Government grants receivable		890	569
Net GST amount due from Australian Tax Office		220	364
Trade debtors		308	142
Accrued interest		53	102
Total receivables		1,471	1,177

a Provision for impaired receivables

As at 30 June 2013, current receivables of the Goulburn Broken CMA with a nominal value of \$nil (2012: \$nil) were impaired.

b Past due but not impaired receivables

As of 30 June 2013, government receivables of \$nil (2012: \$Nil) and other receivables of \$12,833 (2012: \$Nil) were past due but not impaired. These relate to entities for which there is no recent history of default. The ageing analysis of these receivables is as follows:

Three to six months		13	-
Over six months		-	-
Total		13	-

Note 7: Inventories - Seedbank

Total		-	234
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The Goulburn Broken CMA entered into an agreement with GV Community Energy Pty Ltd (a Not-for-Profit Company) effective 30 June for that organisation to administer the Seedbank operation. As at end June the value of assets transferred to GV Community Energy Pty Ltd including stock was \$476,920.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 8: Property plant and equipment

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Buildings at fair value		44	44
Less accumulated depreciation		(44)	(44)
		-	-
Plant and equipment at fair value		1,160	1,015
Less accumulated depreciation		(912)	(814)
		248	201
Motor vehicles at fair value		1,597	1,742
Less accumulated depreciation		(568)	(558)
		1,029	1,184
Office and computer equipment acquired under finance lease at fair value		295	272
Accumulated amortisation		(242)	(208)
		53	64
Total property, plant and equipment		1,330	1,449

Movements during the reporting period

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Buildings \$000	Plant and equipment \$000	Motor vehicles \$000	Equipment under finance lease \$000	Total \$000
2012-13					
Opening written down value at 1 July 2012	-	201	1,184	64	1,449
Additions	-	148	465	22	635
Disposals	-	-	(285)	-	(285)
Depreciation expense	-	(101)	(335)	-	(436)
Amortisation	-	-	-	(33)	(33)
Closing written down value at 30 June 2013	-	248	1,029	53	1,330
2011-12					
Opening written down value at 1 July 2011	-	190	1,362	55	1,607
Additions	-	107	340	43	490
Disposals	-	-	(173)	-	(173)
Asset write-off	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(96)	(345)	-	(441)
Amortisation	-	-	-	(34)	(34)
Closing written down value at 30 June 2012	-	201	1,184	64	1,449

Note 9: Payables

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Trade creditors		2,010	3,518
Accruals		760	4,179
Total payables		2,770	7,697

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 10: Unearned Revenue

	Note	2013 \$'000	2012 \$'000
Commonwealth OFIEP Round 1		2	1,711
Commonwealth OFIEP Round 1- Interest		235	210
GMW Connections Project		113	591
Commonwealth OFIEP Round 2		2,668	8,108
Commonwealth OFIEP Round 2 - Interest		183	50
Victorian On-Farm State Project		10,690	6,706
Victorian On-Farm State Project - Interest		329	98
Total		14,220	17,474

Funding in advance to Goulburn Broken CMA to pay On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program proponents is taken to unearned revenue and released to the income and expenditure account to match Goulburn Broken CMA expenditure liabilities under the Program.

Note 11: Interest bearing liabilities

Current			
Secured			
Finance lease liability	17b	31	32
Non-current			
Secured			
Finance lease liability	17b	20	36
Assets pledged as security		-	-
Total interest bearing liabilities		51	68

Note 12: Employee benefits

Current			
Annual leave and unconditional long service leave entitlements representing seven years of continuous service:			
Employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months, after the end of the period, measured at nominal value		436	467
Employee benefits expected to be settled after 12 months, after the end of the period, measured at present value		1,303	1,280
Total current		1,739	1,747
Non-current			
Conditional long service leave measured at present value		64	67
Total employee benefits		1,803	1,814

All annual leave is treated as a current liability. Long service leave entitlement representing seven years plus continuous service is also treated as a current liability. Long service leave entitlement representing less than seven years continuous service is treated as a non-current liability.

The following assumptions were adopted in measuring the present value of long service leave entitlements:

	2013	2012
Weighted average increase in employee costs	4.50%	4.31%
Weighted average discount rates	3.79%	2.87%
Weighted average settlement period	10 years	10 years

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 13: Superannuation

Goulburn Broken CMA makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. The Defined Benefit section provides lump sum benefits based on years of service and final average salary. The defined contribution section receives fixed contributions from Goulburn Broken CMA and the Goulburn Broken CMAs legal or constructive obligation is limited to these contributions.

Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2013, this was 9 per cent required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation). No further liability accrues to the employer as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

Effective from 1 July 2013, the Superannuation Guarantee contribution rate will increase to 9.25 per cent, and will progressively increase to 12 per cent by 2019.

Defined Benefit

The Fund's Defined Benefit category is a multi-employer sponsored plan. As the Fund's assets and liabilities are pooled and are not allocated to each employer, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers. As provided under Paragraph 32(b) of AASB 119, Goulburn Broken CMA does not use defined benefit accounting for these defined benefit obligations.

Goulburn Broken CMA makes employer contributions to the defined benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund's Actuary. On the basis of the results of the most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's Actuary as at 31 December 2011, Goulburn Broken CMA makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. This rate is currently 9.25 per cent of members' salaries (9.25 per cent in 2011-12).

In addition, Goulburn Broken CMA reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit (the funded resignation or retirement benefit is calculated as the VBI multiplied by the benefit).

Goulburn Broken CMA is also required to make additional contributions to cover the contribution tax payable on the contributions referred to above.

Employees are also required to make member contributions to the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Fund to meet member benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

Shortfall amounts

The Local Authorities Superannuation Fund's latest actuarial investigation as at 31 December 2011 identified an unfunded liability of \$406 million (excluding contributions tax) in the defined benefit category of which Goulburn Broken CMA is a contributing employer. Goulburn Broken CMA was made aware of the expected shortfall during the 2011-12 year and was informed of its share of the shortfall on 2 August 2012.

Goulburn Broken CMA has not been advised of any further contributions.

The projected value of Goulburn Broken CMA's contribution to the shortfall at 30 June 2012 (including contributions tax) amounted to \$134,410 which was accounted for in the 2011-12 Comprehensive Operating Statement within Employee Benefits.

No further amount has been accounted for in the 2012-13 Comprehensive Operating Statement within Employee Benefits and in the Balance Sheet in Current Liabilities Provisions.

The Fund surplus or deficit (ie the difference between fund assets and liabilities) is calculated differently for funding purposes (i.e. calculating required contributions) and for the calculation of accrued benefits as required in AAS 25 to provide the values needed for the AASB 119 disclosure in the Goulburn Broken CMA's financial statements. AAS 25 requires that the present value of the defined benefit liability be calculated based on benefits that have accrued in respect of membership of the plan up to the measurement date, with no allowance for future benefits that may accrue.

The amount of the unpaid shortfall at 30 June 2013 is \$Nil (\$134,410 for 2011-12).

Retrenchment increments

During 2012-13, Goulburn Broken CMA was not required to make payments to the Fund in respect of retrenchment increments (\$Nil in 2011-12). Goulburn Broken CMA's liability to the Fund as at 30 June 2013, for retrenchment increments, accrued interest and tax is \$Nil (\$Nil in 2011-12).

Accrued benefits

The Fund's liability for accrued benefits was determined in the 31 December 2011 actuarial investigation pursuant to the requirements of Australian Accounting Standard Board AAS25 as follows:

	31 Dec 2011 \$000
Net market value of assets	4,315,324
Accrued benefits (per accounting standards)	4,642,133
Difference between assets and accrued benefits	(326,809)
Vested benefits (minimum sum which must be paid to members when they leave the fund)	4,838,503

The financial assumptions used to calculate the Accrued Benefits for the defined benefit category of the Fund were:

Net investment return	7.50% per annum
Salary inflation	4.25% per annum
Price inflation	2.75% per annum

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 13: Superannuation (Cont'd)

Contributions

The Goulburn Broken CMA contributes in respect of its employees, to the following principal superannuation schemes: Vision Super, and Government Superannuation Office. Contribution details are shown in the following table:

	Type of scheme	Rate %	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Government Superannuation Office	Accumulation	Various	65	86
Vision Super	Defined Benefits	9.25	16	16
Vision Super - Levy	Defined Benefits	-	-	134
Vision Super	Accumulation	9.00	131	174
Other funds	Accumulation	9.00	285	333
Total contributions to all funds			497	743

As at balance date, there were contributions payable of \$40,214 (2012: \$181,753).

Note 14: Contributed equity

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		4,209	4,209
Contributed capital received		-	-
Balance at the end of the reporting period		4,209	4,209

Note 15: Accumulated Funds

Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Net result for the year		(3,648)	(2,710)
Transfer from / (to) reserves		3,648	2,710
Balance at the end of the reporting period		-	-

Note 16: Committed Funds Reserve

Committed funds reserve			
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		6,569	9,279
Net transfers (to) / from accumulated funds		(3,648)	(2,710)
Balance at the end of the reporting period		2,921	6,569

The purpose of the Committed Funds Reserve is to hold funds allocated for expenditure on works programs which have either not yet commenced or have not been completed at balance date. The Committed Funds Reserve is necessary as grant monies of a recurrent nature are taken to revenue as soon as the Goulburn Broken CMA has the right to receive those funds and generally there is a time lag between the right to receive the funds and the commencement of the associated works program.

Note 17: Commitments

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
a Operating lease commitments:			
Office accommodation			
Within one year		273	328
One year to five years		755	643
		1,028	971
Photocopier			
Within one year		-	2
One year to five years		-	-
		-	2
Total			
Within one year		273	330
One year to five years		755	643
Total		1,028	973

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 17: Commitments (Cont'd)

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
b Finance leases commitments			
At balance date that Goulburn Broken CMA had finance lease commitments payable as follows:			
Within one year		33	35
One year to five years		21	38
Less future finance charges		(3)	(5)
Total		51	68
Represented by:			
Current liability	11	31	32
Non-current liability	11	20	36
Total		51	68
c Capital commitments			
At balance date the Goulburn Broken CMA had commitments for capital expenditure payable as follows:			
Within one year		74	-
		74	-

d Contributions subject to restrictions

The following table reflects program funding contributions which are subject to restrictions on expenditure profiles which may only be varied with the agreement of the funding body.

2012-13 Program	Revenue recognised			Outgoings	Unexpended program contributions	Remaining program commitment	Variance Note (e)
	Funds carried forward 1 July 2012 \$000	Funds recognised in 2012-13 \$000	Total \$000	Expended 2012-13 \$000	Funds carried forward 1 July 2013 \$000	\$000	\$000
Land and Biodiversity	4,612	6,331	10,943	(8,944)	1,999	(1,233)	766
Corporate	706	1,625	2,331	(1,542)	789	(94)	695
Sustainable Irrigation	313	44,811	45,124	(43,858)	1,266	(19,353)	(18,087)
River Health	5,147	4,968	10,115	(7,039)	3,076	(454)	2,622
Total	10,778	57,735	68,513	(61,383)	7,130	(21,134)	(14,004)

2011-12 Program	Revenue recognised			Outgoings	Unexpended program contributions	Remaining program commitment	Variance Note (e)
	Funds carried forward 1 July 2011 \$000	Funds recognised in 2011-12 \$000	Total \$000	Expended 2011-12 \$000	Funds carried forward 1 July 2012 \$000	\$000	\$000
Land and Biodiversity	3,630	7,247	10,877	(6,265)	4,612	(2,438)	2,174
Corporate	1,459	1,517	2,976	(2,270)	706	(57)	649
Sustainable Irrigation	1,080	24,928	26,008	(25,695)	313	(58,437)	(58,124)
River Health	7,319	5,926	13,245	(8,098)	5,147	(1,384)	3,763
Total	13,488	39,618	53,106	(42,328)	10,778	(62,316)	(51,538)

Funds committed as at 30 June are anticipated to be expended as follows:

	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
Within one year	20,866	57,637
Later than one year but within five years	268	4,679
Later than five years	-	-
Total committed funds	21,134	62,316

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 17: Commitments (Cont'd)

e Contributions subject to restrictions – variances

Variances under the Sustainable Irrigation Program relate primarily to Farm Water Program commitments made under the Program which are funded from funds already received and held in unearned revenue plus the balance receivable under the Program per the Funding Agreement.

Note 18: Contingent assets and liabilities

There are no contingent assets or contingent liabilities at 30 June 2013.

Note 19: Events occurring after balance sheet date

In July 2013, Goulburn Broken CMA secured \$1.95million in funding to manage the Fruit Industry Employment Project.

In August 2013, the Victorian and Commonwealth governments announced a new \$100million on-farm irrigation upgrade program that will save water for farmers and the environment across 54,000 hectares in the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District. The Victorian Farm Modernisation Project will be administered by the Goulburn Broken CMA on behalf of the Farm Water Program Consortium.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Goulburn Broken CMA, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Goulburn Broken CMA in future financial years.

Note 20: Responsible persons related disclosures

a Responsible persons

The names of persons who were responsible persons at anytime during the financial year were:

Minister for Environment and Climate Change	Hon Ryan Smith MP	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013
Minister for Water	Hon Peter Walsh MLA	1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

There were numerous transactions between the Goulburn Broken CMA and Department of Environment and Primary Industries during the year under normal commercial terms and conditions.

Position		First Appointed	Term Expires
Chairman	P F Ryan	1 July 2009; Acting Chairman 1 July 2011 – 30 September 2011; Chairman 1 Oct 2011	30 September 2013
Board Member	M Chapman	1 July 2009; Deputy Chair 21 Oct 2011	30 September 2013
Board Member	J Craven	1 October 2011	30 September 2013
Board Member	M Dalmau	1 October 2011	30 September 2015
Board Member	A Fox	1 October 2011	30 September 2015
Board Member	A MacKenzie	1 October 2011	30 September 2013
Board Member	R Pell	1 July 2009	30 September 2013
Board Member	R Runnalls	1 October 2011	30 September 2015
Board Member	C Silverstein	1 October 2011	30 September 2015
CEO	C P Norman	15 December 2009	-
Acting CEO	Wayne Tennant	25 December 2012	16 January 2013

b Remuneration of responsible persons

The number of responsible persons whose remuneration from the Goulburn Broken CMA was within the specified bands are as follows:

Income bands	2013 no.	2012 no.
\$1-\$9,999	-	11
\$10,000-\$19,999	8	2
\$20,000-\$29,999	1	1
\$80,000-\$89,999	-	-
\$90,000-\$99,999	-	-
\$180,000-\$189,999	-	1
\$200,000-\$209,999	1	-
Total	10	15

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 20: Responsible persons related disclosures (Cont'd)

The total remuneration of responsible persons referred to in the above bands was \$322,900 (2012: \$296,767) which includes \$27,159 (2012: \$46,095) paid in superannuation contributions.

The relevant information of the Chief Executive Officer is reported under the Responsible persons.

The remuneration of the Acting CEO is included in the Remuneration of Executives (Note 20c).

The relevant Ministers' remuneration is reported separately in the financial statements of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Other relevant interests are declared in the Register of Members' Interests which each member of the parliament completes.

c Remuneration of executives

The number of Executive Officers, other than responsible persons included under 'Remuneration of responsible persons' above, whose total remuneration exceeded \$100,000 during the reporting period are shown below in their relevant income bands:

Remuneration bands	Total remuneration		Base remuneration	
	2013	2012	2013	2012
\$100,000 - \$109,999	1	-	1	1
\$110,000 - \$119,999	1	2	1	2
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1	1	1	-
\$130,000 - \$139,999	1	1	1	2
\$140,000 - \$149,999	1	1	1	-
\$150,000 - \$159,999	-	1	1	1
\$160,000 - \$169,999	1	-	-	-
Total amount	\$801,489	\$789,921	\$768,236	\$752,601
Total numbers	6	6	6	6

There were no contractors engaged during the year with significant management responsibilities.

d Other related party transactions

Loans

There were no loans in existence by the Goulburn Broken CMA to responsible persons or related parties at the date of this report.

Shares

There were no share transactions in existence between the Goulburn Broken CMA and Responsible Persons and their related parties during the financial year.

Payments under the Commonwealth funded On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program totalling \$21,002.10 (2012: \$332,628.51) were made to an entity in which Russell Pell holds an interest. The payments were in line with the Goulburn Broken CMA's normal terms and conditions of the Program.

Note 21: Economic dependence

To attain its goals as detailed in its Regional Catchment Strategy, the Goulburn Broken CMA continues to be dependent upon future funding commitments from both the State and Australian Governments.

Note 22: Cash flow information

	Note	2013 \$000	2012 \$000
a Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:			
Cash at bank and on hand	5	23,146	34,936
b Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with net result for the year			
Net result for the period		(3,648)	(2,710)
Non-cash flows in net result			
Depreciation		436	441
Amortisation		33	34
Net loss (gain) on disposal of non-current assets		(32)	13
Changes in assets and liabilities			
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables		(294)	3,281
(Increase) / Decrease in inventories		234	(234)
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments		8	(13)
(Decrease) / Increase in provisions		(11)	246
Increase / (decrease) in unearned revenue		(3,254)	12,134
Increase / (decrease) in payables		(4,920)	384
Cash flows from operating activities		(11,448)	13,576

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2013

Note 22: Cash flow information (Cont'd)

c Property plant and equipment

During the financial year the Goulburn Broken CMA acquired computer equipment with an aggregate fair value of \$22,407 (2012: \$43,276) by means of finance leases. These acquisitions are not reflected in the cash flow statement.

Note 23: Financial instruments

Interest rate risk exposures

The following table sets out the Goulburn Broken CMA's exposure to interest rate risk, including the contractual repricing dates and the effective weighted average interest rate by maturity periods. Exposures are predominantly from liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the Goulburn Broken CMA intends to hold fixed rate liabilities to maturity.

	Weighted average interest rate %	Floating interest rates \$000	Fixed interest rate maturing			Non-interest bearing \$000
			1 year or less \$000	1 to 2 years \$000	2 to 3 years \$000	
2012-13						
Financial assets						
Cash	2.80	21,144	2,000	-	-	2
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	1,471
Total financial assets		21,144	2,000	-	-	1,473
Financial liabilities						
Lease liabilities	5.01	-	31	20	-	-
Payables	-	-	-	-	-	(2,770)
Total financial liabilities	-	-	31	20	-	(2,770)
Net financial assets (liabilities)	-	21,144	1,969	(20)	-	(1,297)
2011-12						
Financial assets						
Cash	3.48	32,907	2,027	-	-	2
Receivables	-	-	-	-	-	1,177
Total financial assets		32,907	2,027	-	-	1,179
Financial liabilities						
Lease liabilities	5.29	-	32	24	12	-
Payables	-	-	-	-	-	(7,697)
Total financial liabilities	-	-	(32)	(24)	(12)	(7,697)
Net financial assets (liabilities)	-	32,907	1,995	(24)	(12)	(6,518)

Fair value

The carrying amounts and fair values of interest bearing liabilities at balance date are:

	2013		2012	
	Carrying amount \$000	Fair value \$000	Carrying amount \$000	Fair value \$000
Financial assets				
Cash	23,146	23,146	34,936	34,936
Receivables	1,471	1,471	1,177	1,177
Total financial assets	24,617	24,617	36,113	36,113
Financial liabilities				
Lease liabilities	51	51	68	68
Payables	2,770	2,770	7,697	7,697
Total financial liabilities	2,821	2,821	7,765	7,765

Cash, cash equivalents and non-interest bearing financial assets and financial liabilities are carried at cost which approximates their fair value. The fair value of other financial assets and financial liabilities is based upon market prices, where a market exists or by discounting the expected future cash flows at current interest rates.

Note 24: Authority details

The Goulburn Broken CMA's registered office and principal place of business is: 168 Welsford Street, Shepparton 3630, Victoria.

Appendix 1: Understanding progress and ratings

Compiled by Rod McLennan

Details on each investment area within sections of this annual report justify ratings provided. Further details, including graphs and reports, are on the Goulburn Broken CMA's website, www.gbcma.vic.gov.au and in relevant sub-strategies of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy.

The ordering of information, which helps develop consistency and understanding across the many aspects of catchment management, is part of implementing the Goulburn Broken Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy.

The Goulburn Broken CMA understands that measuring progress in natural resource management is almost universally difficult and the quality of data systems used to

inform whole-of-Catchment-scale decisions is often poor. Nevertheless, decisions have to be made and the Goulburn Broken CMA is at the forefront of communicating progress.

Evaluation, planning levels and decision-making cycles

Decisions in catchment management have vastly different timeframes, from daily operational decisions by extension officers to once-in-six-year strategic decisions by the Goulburn Broken CMA Board. The Goulburn Broken CMA arranges data to inform three critical and connected levels of evaluation for strategic planning and implementation, as shown in the table below.

Evidence for three levels of decision-making

Evaluation level	Evaluation terminology	Typical key evaluation questions used to focus evaluation	Examples of evidence to inform evaluation
1	Annual performance	How did we go this year against what we said we would do?	Outputs (onground works and capacity building actions or tasks) achieved and funds spent against targets set in the Corporate Plan
2	Long-term strategy implementation progress	How have we gone against what we said we would do when we wrote the (various) strategies? How effective were the implemented measures?	Outputs and assumptions of their impact listed in strategies
3	Catchment condition change	What 'shape' is the issue we are managing in now? Was the original strategy appropriate? Have circumstances (such as new knowledge or different weather patterns) changed sufficiently to warrant a revised strategy? Does the investment mix need to be modified?	Resource condition; trends; tipping points; indicators of resilience, adaptation and transformation responses

Annual performance

Annual performance is rated by measuring the outputs achieved against targets for the year. Targets are determined by the funds available and usually vary from those identified or implied in the relevant long-term strategy. This is because we mostly do not know what funds are available beyond one year and what funds are anticipated to be available at the time the strategy was written.

The Goulburn Broken CMA negotiates investment amounts and output targets to be delivered each year with Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. Outputs are often common to several investment areas and targets and achievements are aggregated from projects within those areas.

There is usually a high degree of certainty in rating annual performance within a single investment area: funding is known, outputs and other indicators are well documented, and accounting mechanisms are sound.

Ratings of annual performance and long-term progress help to focus investment decision-makers such as the Board and government funding bodies. The use of these ratings for guiding decisions needs to be tempered by an understanding of the certainty of the rating.

Annual targets and achievements data in this report do not include outputs delivered beyond Goulburn Broken CMA's direct control, especially by those landholders who voluntarily pay for and undertake onground works. However, data on these external outputs is also critical to inform long-term decisions and is increasingly captured by other means.

Outputs shown in this report are useful for decision making by government investors, Goulburn Broken CMA senior managers and the Goulburn Broken CMA Board. Monitoring finer-scaled outputs and inputs are more appropriate for individual project and sub-project decision making and are not shown in this report.

For detailed outputs in each program area, see the 'Outputs – detailed list of achievements' table on page 123. Detailed outputs relating to each investment area are listed in sections devoted to each investment area throughout this report.

Long-term progress

Long-term progress ratings are needed for two separate areas of focus for decision-making:

- outputs achieved against what were intended to be achieved since the relevant strategy's inception (long-term strategy implementation progress)
- condition of the issue to be managed, such as water quality, native vegetation or community capacity.

There are often several individual strategic components to rate when determining an overall long-term progress rating within a single investment area. These individual ratings have varied data quality and this affects the certainty of the overall rating. Strategies for different investment areas vary in formality and comprehensiveness, which is appropriate, so our certainty of understanding progress varies considerably.

Where outputs and long-term strategies are well defined and where they are accompanied by solid data management

systems, such as for 'Investment area 1a - Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity', then the certainty of long-term progress ratings increases.

Complete implementation of a strategy does not necessarily translate to desired condition change, because of external factors and perhaps inaccurate assumptions used at the time the strategy was written, especially assumptions related to funding levels, social and political circumstances and the weather.

What does Catchment condition mean?

Measuring the condition of the Catchment has historically focused on discrete themes, including biophysical investment areas such as salinity, water quality, river health and biodiversity, and non-biophysical investment areas such as community capacity. 'Headline themes' have been mandated as the way that 'management summary' and 'Catchment condition' reports will be structured in Victoria from 2009-10 (see page 83).

The National Framework for Natural Resource Management Standards and Targets (2002) listed 10 similar types of theme as resource condition 'matters for target'. It also recommended indicator headings and indicators of progress. Resource condition indicator examples are depth to groundwater, soil acidity, total phosphorus levels in water and the extent of native vegetation present by interim biogeographical regionalisation of Australia sub-regions.

'Resource' can be interpreted from this National framework as referring to biophysical assets such as rivers, as well as to, perhaps erroneously, threats such as salinity. Resource condition can therefore be interpreted as being the biophysical state of the biophysical theme (or matter for target).

Resource condition indicators have been very useful in ordering information for decision makers whose focus is within particular investment areas. However, these indicators only provide part of the picture and there has been wide variability in their interpretation and use.

More information on the investment areas in an integrated context is needed to make better decisions. This means information on all elements that impact on particular investment areas is needed to rate the condition of the Catchment for that investment area.

The Goulburn Broken CMA promotes a broadening of focus from environmental elements only to social and economic elements also within each investment area, including the relationships between all elements.

Together, these elements form a complex, evolving, integrated socio-ecological systemⁱ in which humans are a part of nature. Ratings of Catchment condition for an investment area are therefore ratings of the socio-ecological system's condition related to that investment area.

The quality and availability of indicator data for the environmental (or resource condition) component varies considerably, and the Goulburn Broken CMA is in the early stages of documenting relevant social and economic indicator data. Despite the uncertainties that this presents, it is far more informative for decision making to present rolled up socio-ecological system ratings for Catchment condition rather than ratings based on resource condition indicators

alone. Progress within investment areas is usually rated by considering more than one element. For example, threatened species and native vegetation are two component elements within the biodiversity investment area.

Resource condition indicators are usually not a major consideration in rating progress within investment areas under 'The Business' because these investment areas merely have supporting functions.

Investment areas and integration

The Goulburn Broken CMA focuses on 13 highly connected investment areas under 'The Environment' and 'The Business'. These investment areas relate closely to the different investment areas within government.

Service delivery is integrated across these investment areas to varying degrees and occurs at all levels. Integration is obvious at the scale of whole farm plans and is evident in the information in the 'Community engagement' section. Integration is not so obvious at the strategic level because strategic approaches are usually required to focus on discrete investment areas framed by government investors. Planning for large projects is increasingly integrated across the investment areas. Integration can add cost and complexity. The benefits of integration need to outweigh these costs.

Resilience, adaptability and transformability

Resilience thinkingⁱ helps to expand thinking to the whole of system. This approach evolved out of the Goulburn Broken CMA's sustainability and ecosystem services thinking and is a major focus of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019.

Characteristics of desired systems include:

- resilience: the capacity to withstand shocks and rebuild without collapsing into a different system
- adaptability: the capacity of participants to influence resilience
- transformability: the capacity to create a fundamentally new system if necessary.

Together, these characteristics can be considered as part of the resilience package.

Thinking about resilience ensures that fundamental questions are at the forefront of our minds, such as:

- Are our systems sufficiently resilient to withstand a shock?
- Are our systems close to a threshold (or tipping point into a completely different regime)?
 - is it better to accept that our systems are transforming into a different regime and accept that we should just focus on managing the change?
 - what interventions can or should be made to build resilience?

Resilience, adaptability and transformability are important components of investment areas under both 'The Environment' and 'The Business'.

.....
 i The above discussions on socio-ecological systems and resilience have drawn heavily from 'Resilience, Adaptability and Transformability in the Goulburn Broken Catchment' (2009) by Walker, Abel, Anderies and Ryan; the Resilience Alliance website www.resalliance.org and from 'Resilience Management - A Guide for Irrigated Regions, Communities and Enterprises' (2007) by Wolfenden, Evans, Essaw, Johnson, Sanderson, Starkey and Wilkinson.

Appendix 2: Major strategic references

LEGISLATION

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (Register of the National Estate)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Native Title Act 1993

Water Act 2007

STATE LEGISLATION

Aboriginal Heritage Act, 2006

Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997

Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972

Building Regulations 1996

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

Climate Change Act 2010

Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987

Cooperative Management Agreement 2004

Council of Australian Governments Closing the Gap initiative 2008

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978

Environment Protection Act 1970

Equal Opportunity Act 1995

Fisheries Act 1995

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988

Forests Act 1958

Heritage Rivers Act 1992

Land Act 1958

Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990

Murray-Darling Basin Act 1993

National Parks Act 1975

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Parks Victoria Act 1998

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Reference Areas Act 1978

Subdivision Act 1988

State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) 2003

Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004

Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010

Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972

Victorian Environment Assessment Council Act 2001

Water Act 1989

Wildlife Act 1975

RELEVANT POLICIES, STRATEGIES and AGREEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL

China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 1986

Convention of Migratory Species (Bomm Convention) 1979

Greenhouse Gas Protocol (www.ghgprotocol.org)

Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 1974

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Republic of Korea Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 2009

FEDERAL

A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (EA 2001)

A Framework for Determining Commonwealth Environmental Watering Actions 2009

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030

Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2007

Barmah-Millewa Environmental Management Plan (MDBA) 2005

Basin Salinity Management Strategy 2001–2015

Living Murray First Step Decision (MDBC 2003)

Murray–Darling Basin Plan 2012

Murray- Darling Native Fish Management Strategy

National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation 2001

National Greenhouse Accounts Factors – Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap)

National Water Quality Management Strategy 1992

Strategy for Australia's National Reserve System 2009–2030

The Australian Weeds Strategy (revised 2007)

The Clean Energy Future Initiative

Wetlands Policy of the Commonwealth Government of Australia 1997

RELEVANT POLICIES, STRATEGIES and AGREEMENTS (Cont'd)

STATE

Advisory lists of rare and threatened species in Victoria (DEPI)
Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan 2004 (Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy)
Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria 2009
Indigenous Partnership Framework 2007-10 (reviewed 2010)
Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework 2010
Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action (Revised 2005)
Our Water Our Future 2004
Policy for Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land 2002
Public Administration Act 2004 (employment and conduct principles)
Soil Health Strategy 2012 (DEPI)
State Environment Protection Policy (Groundwaters of Victoria) 1997
State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria 1988)
Sustainability Charter for Victoria's State Forests 2006
Threatened Species Recovery Plans (DEPI)
Victoria's Nature based Tourism Strategy 2008-2012
Victoria's Salinity Management Framework 2000
Victorian Action Plan for Second Generation Landcare 2002
Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission 2009
Victorian Bushfire Strategy 2008
Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2013
Victorian Flood Management Strategy 1998
Victorian Planning Provisions 1998-1999
Victorian River Health Strategy 2002 (Draft Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (2012)

REGIONAL

Dryland Landscape Strategy 2009-2011
Goulburn Broken Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015
Goulburn Broken CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Policy 2011
Goulburn Broken CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2014
Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change position paper 2007
Goulburn Broken Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012
Goulburn Broken Corporate Plan 2012-2013-2016-2017
Goulburn Broken Communication and Marketing Strategy 2013-2014
Goulburn Broken Community Engagement Strategy 2013-2014
Goulburn Broken Dryland Salinity Management Plan 1990 (and reviews 1995, 2001, 2008)
Goulburn Broken Floodplain Management Strategy 2002-2012
Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010
Goulburn Broken Land Health Statement Draft 2012
Goulburn Broken Community NRM Action Plan 2013-2019
Goulburn Broken Native Vegetation Plan 2003
Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy 2005, Addendum 2010
Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2002
Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy 1996-2016
Goulburn Broken Workforce Strategy 2013-2018
Goulburn Broken CMA Workforce Plan and Capability 2013-2018
Hume Regional Growth Plan 2013
Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities (Hume Strategy)
Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2004
Municipal Planning Schemes
Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy
Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy 1990-2020
Wetlands Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment (Draft August 2003)
Yorta Yorta Cooperative Management Agreement 2004
Yorta Yorta Traditional Land Management Agreement 2010
Various Memoranda of Understanding

Appendix 3: Outputs - detailed list of achievements

Standard GB Threat or Impact Managed	Output	Land & Biodiversity Program		
		Target ⁱ	Achieved	% achieved
Threat				
Land and water use practices				
Stock grazing (ha = terrestrial; km = riparian)	Fence terrestrial remnant vegetation (ha) ⁱⁱ	739	1,724	233
	Fence wetland remnant (ha)	70	73	104
	Fence stream/river remnant (ha)			
	Fence stream/river remnant (km)			
	Off-stream watering (no.)			
	Binding Management Agreement (license, Section 173, covenant) (ha)	200	329	165
Induced Threat				
Saline water and high watertables				
Surface water ^{iv}	Landform/lasergrading (ha) ⁱⁱⁱ			
	Drain – primary (km) ^v			
	Drain – community (km)			
	Weir – replace (no.)			
	Farm reuse system (no.) ^{vi}			
	Drain – additional water diverted from regional drains (ML)			
	Irrigation systems – improved (ha) ^{vii}			
Sub-surface water	Pasture – plant (ha)			
	New groundwater pumps – public (no.)			
	New groundwater pumps – private (new and upgrade no.)			
	Volume water pumped (ML)			
	Tile drains – install (ha)			
Nutrient-rich & turbid water & suspended solids	Revegetation - plantation / farm forestry (ha)			
	Waste water treatment plants - install (no.)			
In-stream and near-stream erosion	Stormwater management projects (no.) ^{viii}			
	Bed and bank protection actions (km)			
Changed flow pattern	In-stream & tributary erosion controlled (km)			
	Water allocated - eg wetlands (ML) ^{ix}			
Weed invasion	Weeds – woody weed management (ha)			
	Weeds – aquatic weeds controlled/eradicated (km)			
	Targeted infestations of weeds in high priority areas covered by control programs (ha) ^x	665	658	99
Pest animals	Area of high priority rabbit infested land covered by control programs (ha) ^{xii}	1,025	2,749	268
	Area of high priority fox infested land covered by control programs (ha) ^{xiii}	0	27,000	
Impact				
Habitat loss - terrestrial	Revegetation - plant natives within or next to remnants (ha) ^x	1,242	2,847	229
	Revegetation - plant natives away from remnants (ha) ^{xi}	0	517	
Habitat loss – in-stream	Fish release (no.)			
	Vertical slot fishway (no.)			
	Rock ramp fishway (no.)			
	Fish barrier removal (no.)			
	Establish SEAR (Significantly Enhanced Aquatic Refugia) (no.)			
Habitat loss – wetlands	Reinstate flood regime (ML)			
	Construct new wetland (ha)			
Habitat loss – Threatened species	Threatened Species Recovery Plan and Action Statements (no. projects)			
Planning	Whole farm plans (no.) ^{xiv}	30	16	53

i Targets are determined by considering levels of government funding as listed in the Corporate Plan only (government funds or funds from other sources arriving after the Corporate Plan was finalised, are not considered within these targets).

ii Includes 360 hectares of remnant protection in Bushire Recovery Program in 2009-10.

iii Assumptions: 2010-11 = area put under Whole Farm Plans, including modernised, plus Farm Water Program onground achievements (226 hectares); 2011-12 = 90 per cent of area under Whole Farm Plans (25,841 hectares) plus Farm Water Program onground achievements (965 hectares) (1,783 hectares was incorrectly used to calculate figures in 2011-12 report); 2012-13 = 60 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans – new (8424 hectares) and modernised (9,075 hectares) plus Farm Water Program onground achievements (2,163 hectares).

iv Surface water management enables the removal of excess rainfall run-off from irrigated lands, alleviating soil salinity. Nutrient loads collected by the drains are managed through drainage reuse and management plans, and monitored against the resource condition target.

v Fencing and laneways are relocated along primary drains to control stock. Drains are also hydro-mulched and seeded to provide

vegetative cover on bare batters. 6 kilometres were constructed during 2009-10 and 3 kilometres were prepared for handover to Goulburn-Murray Water for it to manage. Handed-over drains not accounted for in 2005-06 and 2006-07 were recorded in 2007-08.

vi Reuse dams allow for the collection and re-irrigation of high nutrient run-off, reducing the water and nutrient loads leaving the farm. Figures include Farm Water Program installations.

vii This action is now made up of several other possible actions that can apply to the same area of land, making it difficult to track.

viii Stormwater management projects are undertaken on a one-to-one funding basis with local government.

ix Target cannot be set with any confidence because achievement is prone to extreme variation, being affected by seasonal conditions. The threats posed by water quality problems required a greater volume of environmental water to manage low dissolved oxygen in the Broken Creek in 2010-11. Delivery to wetlands is funded by environmental water provisions under the Living Murray program and Victorian River Murray Flora and Fauna Bulk entitlement. The 2009-10 achieved figure was over-recorded by 5,110 ML.

x This includes 'Weeds - woody weed management'. 2008-09 achievements include Department of Primary Industries, river health

2012-13																
Sustainable Irrigation Program			River & Wetland Health & Floodplain Management Program			Total Catchment			Total achieved							
Target ⁱ	Achieved	% achieved	Target ⁱ	Achieved	% achieved	Target ⁱ	Achieved	% achieved	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	
50	58	116				789	1,783	226	728	1,112	1,276	451	710	769	519	
			1	0	0	71	73	103	160	78	8	609	1,794	22	6	
				126			126		337	354	n/a	2,563	2,536	726	115	
			23	6.8	30	23	6.8	30	26	93	63	185	315	162	n/a	
			8	1	13	8	1	13	17	21	48	122	95	73	89	
						200	329	165	360	434	906	363	373	1,625	758	
10,499	12,662	121				10,499	12,662	121	24,505	19,546	14,170	20,476	8,525	4,490	7,700	
1	1	100				1	1	100	0	1.1	6	6	9	6	11	
									1	1.4	4	5			6	
35	25	71				35	25	71	25	7	76	66	48	56	70	
												0	200	75	235	
									24,145	20,050	14,217	23,059	8,967	6,060	8,580	
											152	75	391	718	1,543	
											1	1			3	
									1	0	9	11	24	19	11	
									75	0	1,827	1,794	3,237	3,462	1,800	
														31	97	
									2		1	1	1	3	2	
			0.35	0.65	186	0.35	0.65	186	19	16	5	8	13	12	16	
										131	207	102	543	19	502	
			1,000	291,440		1,000	291,440		600,000	238,943	32,361	840			510,000	
															75	
			20	77	396	20	77	396	76	418	27	26	53	39	33	
			136	295	217	801	953	119	1,372	424	38,525	36,964	11,138	9,637	69,437	
			50	0	0	1,075	2,749	256	882	1,121	5,700	1,530	200		10,150	
						0	27,000		60,000	57,507	108,250	0	45,570	94,410	108,856	
0	40		20	70	351	1,262	2,957	234	1,995	1,383	1,403	945	460	758	1,177	
															117	
															1	
											1					
									2			1	8	6	4	
									20	0	16	59	30	2	1.3	
										36	12	29	37	34	13	
155	170	110				185	186	101	263	331	259	341	369	232	185	

and Drought Employment Program works. Department of Primary Industries Biosecurity Victoria works were completed outside of the Corporate Plan from 2009-10. From 2010-11 achievements include Department of Primary Industries Farm Services Victoria, River health investment area and Fire Recovery Program works only. 2010-11 figures do not include achievement of 55,000 hectares for weeds in high priority areas and achievement of 12,200 hectares for high priority rabbit control (refer to investment table Invasive Plants and Animals). 2011-12 figures do not include an achievement of 14,300 hectares for weeds in high priority areas and an achievement of 15,800 hectares for high priority rabbit control (refer to investment table Invasive Plants and animals). 2012-13 figures do not include 9,315 hectares for weeds and 10,500 hectares for rabbit control (refer to investment table Invasive Plants and animals).

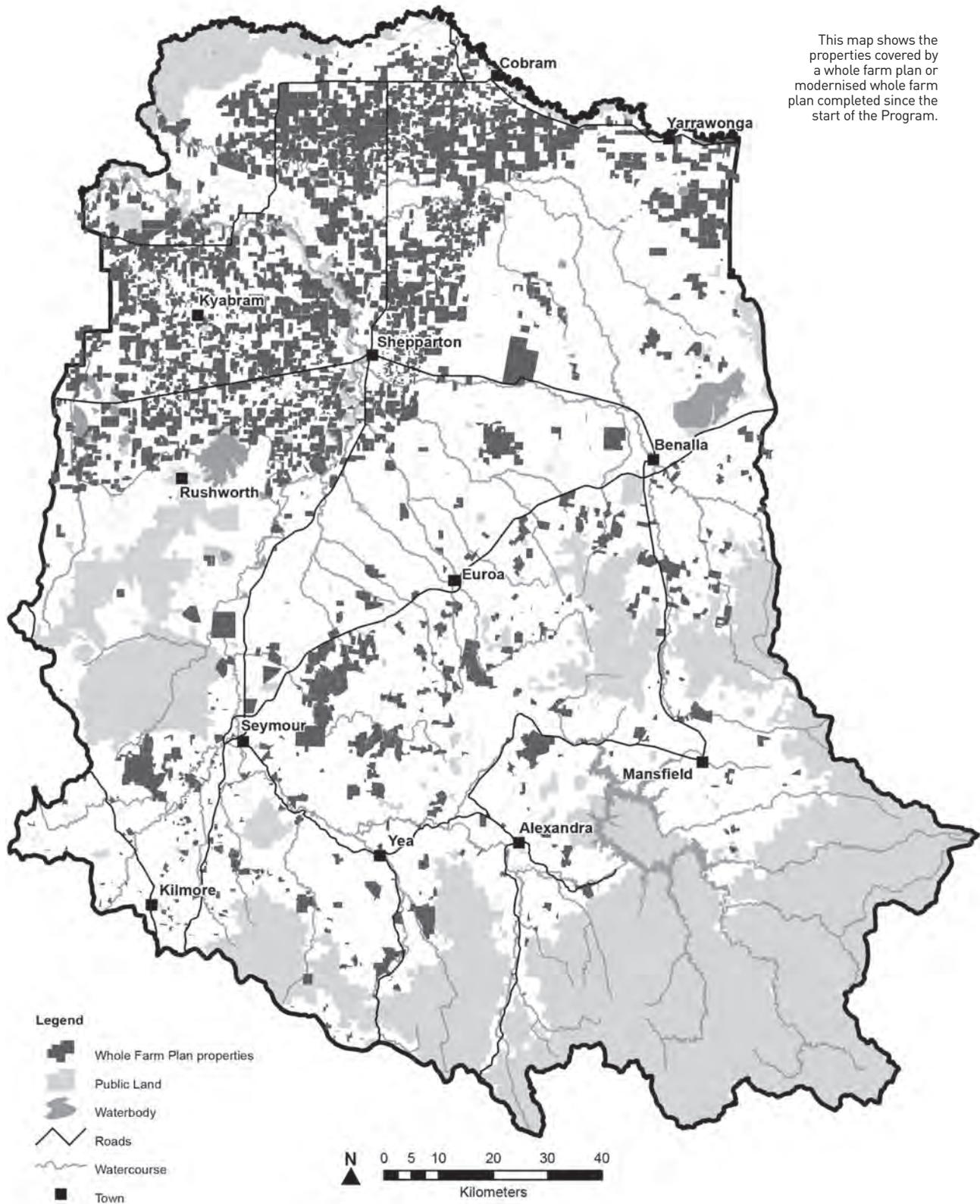
- xi Fox control outputs were achieved through the Broken Boosey and Whroo Goldfields Conservation Management Networks. Target is zero because additional funding is provided during the year (after Corporate Plan was finalised).
- xii Natural regeneration achievements from Bush Returns are included in this: 0 hectares for 2007-08 and 324 hectares for 2008-09. Natural regeneration from the Caring for our Country Woodlands project and

the E=M3C3 project are also included: 705 hectares and 10 hectares respectively for 2009-10. The Green Graze program contributed 1,189 ha to the grazing regime change works output in 2006-07, which is not included in the revegetation figures. Natural regeneration from the Caring for our Country, Sustainable Farming Practices project are also included: 386 hectares for 2010-11, and 515.8 hectares for 2011-12. Natural regeneration from the Caring for Our Country, Targeting Landscape Scale Biodiversity project are included: 712 hectares for 2011-12 and 1,676.38 hectares for 2012-13.

- xiii Revegetation works achieved through Landcare groups in 2012-13. The target was 0 because funding was received in the previous financial year to deliver this project.
- xiv Figures for Broken Goulburn Region are for Level 2 whole farm plans, which is comprehensive and is equivalent to Shepparton Irrigation Region's whole farm plan. Level 1 is a short-course that is a precursor to Level 2 and not included in these figures. Although the number of plans achieved was under target, the area covered by these plans was 626 hectares more than the target.

Appendix 4: Properties covered by a whole farm plan

To June 2013



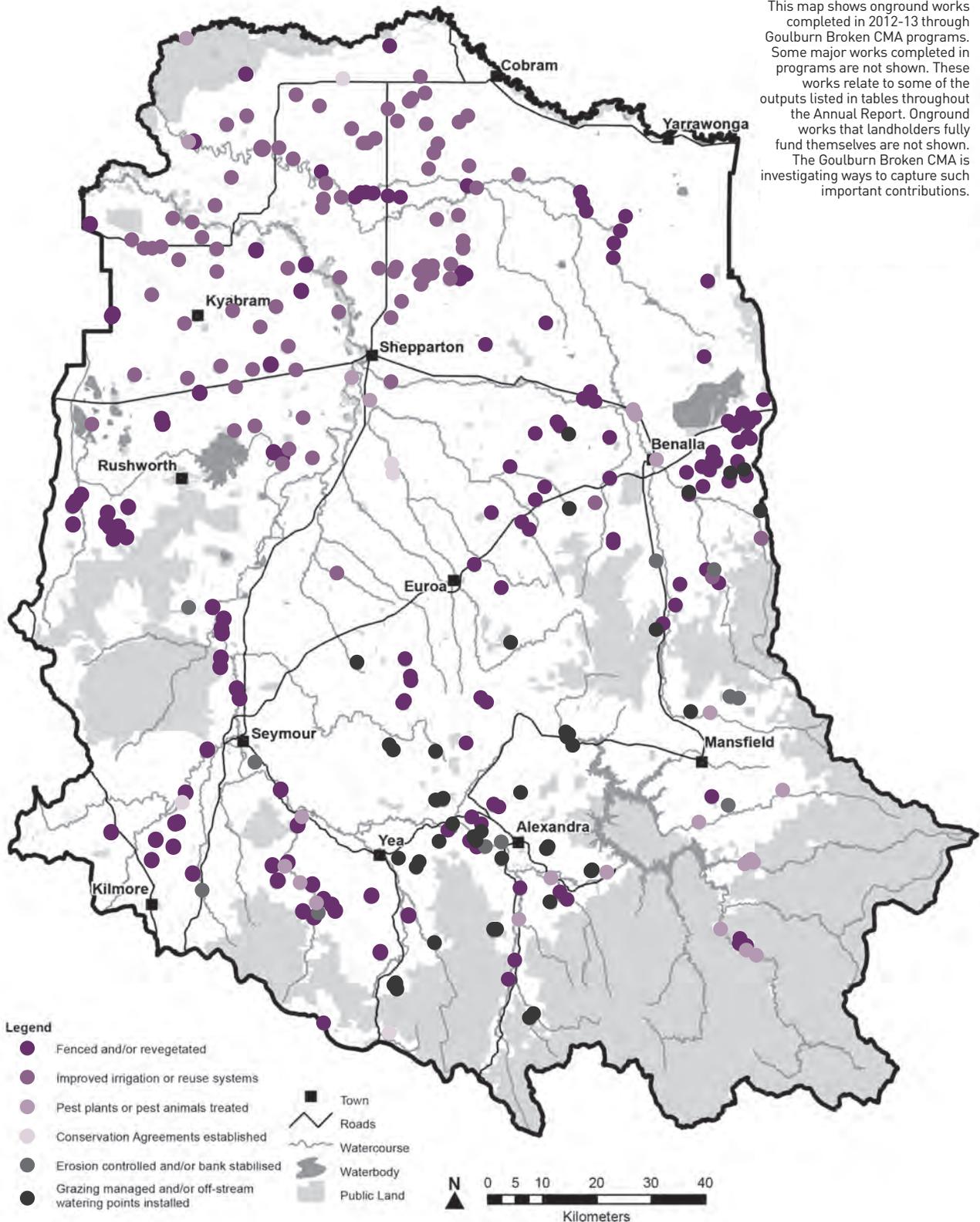
Appendices

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Appendix 5: Works

1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013

This map shows onground works completed in 2012-13 through Goulburn Broken CMA programs. Some major works completed in programs are not shown. These works relate to some of the outputs listed in tables throughout the Annual Report. Ongoing works that landholders fully fund themselves are not shown. The Goulburn Broken CMA is investigating ways to capture such important contributions.



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Appendix 6: Role of Catchment Partners

Agency / Authority / Organisation / Individual	Role relative to the development and implementation of the RCS
Australian Government – Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry	The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) works to sustain the way of life and prosperity of all Australians. It does this by advising the government and our stakeholders how to improve the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of our portfolio industries. Regionally, DAFF plays an important role in the implementation of the RCS funding projects across the Catchment.
Australian Government - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) is responsible for a number of matters including; environment protection and conservation of biodiversity, natural, built and cultural heritage, environmental research, and water policy and resources. SEWPaC administers the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> . Regionally, SEWPaC plays an important role in the implementation of the <i>Regional Catchment Strategy</i> by funding projects across the Catchment.
Alpine Resorts Coordinating Council and Alpine Resort Management Boards	The Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council (ARCC) is a statutory body established under the Victorian Alpine Resorts Management Act 1997. It reports to the Minister for Environment and Climate Change and addresses issues of broad concern to alpine resort stakeholders and government and is focused on three key areas: Strategic positioning and advocacy, Co-operation and Research. The Alpine Resorts are permanent Crown land reserves, each managed by an Alpine Resort Management Board appointed by, and responsible to, the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. The Boards are also established under the <i>Alpine Resorts Management Act 1997</i> . The Alpine Resort Management Boards are responsible for the development, promotion, management and use of each Alpine Resort. They also provide or arrange required basic services and utilities including water and energy supply, and sewerage and garbage disposal. The Boards are required to carry out their functions in an environmentally sound way and in accordance with an approved strategic management plan. Each Board is represented on the ARCC.
Community groups (e.g. CMNs, Landcare and environmental groups)	The Goulburn Broken Catchment's 91 natural resource management groups, 11 networks, and five sustainable farming groups mobilise community involvement, attract corporate, philanthropic and corporate funding, and influence and implement significant parts of the <i>Regional Catchment Strategy</i> in local areas, usually with an emphasis on onground works. They are represented on many of the CMA's advisory groups and steering committees
Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure	Providing guidance about planning in Victoria is one of the roles of the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI). DTPLI is responsible for leading the development of Regional Growth Plans. Regional Growth Plans are being developed to provide broad direction for land use and development across regional Victoria. They will also provide more detailed planning frameworks for key regional centres. Regional Growth Plans will identify important economic, environmental, social and cultural resources to be preserved, maintained or developed. The Goulburn Broken Catchment sits within the Hume Regional Growth Plan area.
Department of Environment and Primary Industries	The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) is responsible for land and fire, regional services, natural resources and environment, water, agriculture and fisheries. DEPI designs and delivers policies and programs that enable Victoria's primary industries to sustainably maximise the wealth and wellbeing they generate. It is responsible for protection and management of natural resources. DEPI performs its range of functions in partnership with service delivery partners including catchment management authorities. It is responsible for administering the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i> and other important legislation. Regionally, DEPI provides funding and technical, extension and research services.
Environment Protection Authority	The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) sole role is to regulate pollution and has independent authority to make regulatory decisions under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> . Based on its regulatory risk model EPA prioritises its compliance and enforcement activity by addressing the biggest risk to the environment and health. EPA aspires to create a healthy environment that supports a liveable and prosperous Victoria. By effectively regulating pollution in Victoria, we strive to deliver clean air, healthy waterways, safe land and minimal disturbances from noise and odour for Victorians.
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established under the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> . It plays a pivotal role in NRM in the Catchment. There are many policies that inform this role, listed in Appendix 2. The Goulburn Broken CMA prepares the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy and coordinates and monitors its implementation. It does this by working with all tiers of government, other agencies, community groups, industry, individuals, and research and funding organisations.
Goulburn Murray Water	Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) has substantial interaction with the environment, partnerships with a number of stakeholders and legislative requirements leading to a large and diverse environmental risk profile. GMW aims to maximise water resource availability for customer use, while meeting key environmental goals and contributing to a sustainable and productive natural environment. GMW's environmental objectives are listed in the Environment Policy Statement. In summary GMW is committed to minimising and preventing any adverse impact on the environment caused by our activities. Activities and initiatives include catchment management (including salt interception management), surface and sub-surface drainage support, water quality and land management planning.
GMW Connections Project	The GMW Connections Project is investing more than \$2 billion to develop a water delivery network to match these changing needs and to support the many, varied and exciting opportunities for irrigated agriculture across Northern Victoria. The Project will also provide important opportunities and benefits for environmental and urban water users and will ensure the ongoing contribution of irrigated agriculture to our regional, state and national economies.

Agency / Authority / Organisation / Individual	Role relative to the development and implementation of the RCS
Goulburn Valley Water	Goulburn Valley Water's (GVW) delivery of water and sewage services to its customers has a considerable impact on non-renewable natural resources. Primary objectives of the organisation include a commitment to improve environmental performance by minimising resource demand and preventing pollution. In order to translate these commitments into practice, the organisation has established an Environment Policy and an Environmental Management System (EMS).
Individuals / land managers	<p>Under the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i>, responsibilities of land managers include (but are not limited to) take all reasonable steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals • Eradicate regionally prohibited weeds • Prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds • conserve soil and avoid contributing to land degradation on someone else's land. <p>Land managers must also seek authority to interfere, obstruct or carry out works in relation to a waterway, bore or drainage course, or (in some cases) a private dam.</p> <p>Regionally, landholders across the Catchment invest significant resources (time, money and land) into activities that contribute to meeting the objectives of the Regional Catchment Strategy. This contribution is further outlined in the People section of the Assets of the Goulburn Broken Catchment supplement to the Regional Catchment Strategy.</p>
Industry groups	Peak industry groups such as Murray Dairy and the Victorian Farmers Federation can strongly influence catchment management through their networks with regional land managers.
Local government	<p>Services provided by councils are diverse. They include property, economic, human, recreational and cultural services. Councils also enforce State and local laws relating to such matters as land use planning, environmental protection, public health, traffic and parking and animal management. They maintain significant infrastructure, provide a range of services and enforce various laws for their communities.</p> <p>Local government plays a significant role in land use planning, which is administered under the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>, with each municipality having a local planning scheme that describes directions and controls for developments. They also have other important roles including public awareness, engagement and education as well as local partnerships such as Conservation Management Networks.</p> <p>Regionally, the Goulburn Broken CMA actively participates in development of environment strategies for the Benalla Rural City, Campaspe Shire, City of Greater Shepparton, Mansfield Shire, Moira Shire and Strathbogie Shire Councils. The Goulburn Broken CMA is a key member and supporter of the Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group led by Moira Shire in partnership with the other local governments represented in the catchment.</p>
Other groups	The Goulburn Broken CMA and community and advisory groups develop close relationships with many organisations as needs arise during research, planning and implementation, including the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance, Committees of Management (Crown land reserves) and the various environment and climate action groups across the Catchment.
Parks Victoria	<p>Under the <i>Parks Victoria Act 1998</i>, Parks Victoria's (PV) responsibilities are to provide services to the State and its agencies for the management of parks, reserves and other public land. With the approval of the Minister, it may also provide land management services to the owner of any other land used for public purposes. The Act requires that, in carrying out its functions, Parks Victoria must not act in a way that is not environmentally sound. Parks Victoria's responsibilities encompass the management of: all areas reserved under the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i>, metropolitan waterways and adjacent land under the <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i>, nominated Crown land reserved under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>, conservation reserves reserved under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> and managed in accordance with approved land use recommendations under the <i>Land Conservation Act 1970</i>, areas reserved under the <i>Heritage Rivers Act 1992</i>, planning for all Ramsar sites and management of some sites, piers and jetties in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and recreational boating on these Bays pursuant to powers conferred by the <i>Marine Act, 1988</i> and the <i>Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958</i>, other areas as specified under the <i>Parks Victoria Act 1998</i></p> <p>Regionally, Parks Victoria and the Goulburn Broken CMA work jointly in the delivery of Commonwealth and State funded projects.</p>
Traditional Owners	The role of Traditional Owners is outlined in the introduction of the Regional Catchment Strategy. In addition, Registered Aboriginal Partners have responsibilities relating to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage under the Act. These include evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans, providing advice on applications for Cultural Heritage Permits, decisions about Cultural Heritage Agreements and advice or application for interim or ongoing Protection Declarations.
Trust for Nature	<p>Trust for Nature (TfN) is Victoria's specialist private-land conservation statutory entity whose statewide services include covenanting, land purchase, ongoing post-protection landowner support, short-term management agreements and environmental market agreements. Conservation covenants protect the natural features of an area in perpetuity, and ensure, through management plans, that any use is compatible with the conservation of the land's natural or cultural values.</p> <p>TfN works in securing the permanent protection and ongoing management of high quality remnants within the Catchment, adding value to the conservation of biodiversity, community engagement and the National Reserve System.</p>
Victorian Catchment Management Council	The Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) is appointed under the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i> . Its statutory roles are to advise the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Water, and other Ministers as requested, on land and water management issues; to report annually on operation of the CaLP Act; and report every five years on the environmental condition and management of Victoria's land and water resources, through the VCMC Catchment Condition Report.

Appendix 7: Compliance with the *Protected Disclosures Act 2012* (and the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* (repealed)).

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* (Whistleblowers Act) was repealed and replaced with the *Protected Disclosures Act 2012* (PD Act) on 10 February 2013. As the change of legislation occurred midway through the 2012-13 financial year, this disclosure complies with the requirements of the PD Act and the Whistleblowers Act, for each of the relevant time periods.

Compliance with the *Protected Disclosures Act 2012*

The PD Act was part of a package of integrity reforms introduced by the Victorian Government, which also established the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

The PD Act enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct within the public sector without fear of reprisal. It aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

What is a 'protected disclosure'?

A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is a "public body" for the purposes of the Act.

What is 'improper or corrupt conduct'?

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- mismanagement of public resources; or
- risk to public health or safety or the environment; or
- corruption.

The conduct must be criminal in nature or a matter for which an officer could be dismissed.

How do I make a 'Protected Disclosure'?

You can make a protected disclosure about the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority or its board members, officers or employees by contacting the Department of Environment and Primary Industries or Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission on the contact details provided below.

Please note that the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is not able to receive protected disclosures.

How can I access the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority or its employees. You can access Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's procedures on its website at: www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Contacts

Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI)

Jennifer Berensen, Senior Advisor, Privacy & Ombudsman

Department of Environment and Primary Industries

Address: PO Box 500, East Melbourne Vic 3002

Ph: 9637 8697

Website: www.depi.vic.gov.au

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3001.

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3000

Internet: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: see the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

Disclosures under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* (up to 9 February 2013)

The archived procedures established under the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* are available upon request

	2012-13 Number	2011-12 Number
The number and types of disclosures made to the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority from 1 July 2012 – 9 February 2013:		
Public interest disclosures	0	0
Protected disclosures	0	0
The number of disclosures referred during the year by the public body to the Ombudsman for determination as to whether they are public interest disclosures	0	0
The number and types of disclosed matters referred to the public body by the Ombudsman for investigation	0	0
The number and types of disclosures referred by the public body to the Ombudsman for investigation	0	0
The number and types of investigations taken over from the public body by the Ombudsman	0	0
The number of requests made by a whistleblower to the Ombudsman to take over an investigation by the public body	0	0
The number and types of disclosed matters that the public body has declined to investigate	0	0
The number and types of disclosed matters that were substantiated upon investigation and the action taken on completion of the investigation	0	0
Any recommendations made by the Ombudsman that relate to the public body: Recommendation regarding file security and management	N/A	N/A

Appendix 8: Disclosure Index

The Annual Report of the Goulburn Broken CMA is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index facilitates identification of the Authority compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

Information relevant to the headings listed in Financial Reporting Direction 22B of the *Financial Management Act 1994* is held at the Authority's office and is available on request, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Legislation	Disclosure required	Page
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Report of operations		2
Financial reporting directions affecting the financial statements		
03A	Accounting for Dividends	n.a
07A	Early Adoption of Authoritative Accounting Pronouncements	103
8B	Consistency of Budget and Department Reporting	n.a
09A	Department Disclosure of Administered Assets and Liabilities by Activity	n.a
10	Disclosure Index	131
11A	Disclosure of Ex-gratia Payments	n.a
13	Disclosure of Parliamentary Appropriations	102
17A	Long Service Leave Wage Inflation and Discount Rates	102, 112
19	Private Provision of Public Infrastructure	n.a
20A	Accounting for State Motor Vehicle Lease Arrangements prior 1 February 2004	n.a
21B	Responsible Person and Executive Officer Disclosures in the Financial Report	116-117
100	Financial Reporting Directions – Framework	100
101	First-time Adoption	n.a
102	Inventories	110
103D	Non-Current Physical Assets	111
104	Foreign Currency	n.a
105A	Borrowing Costs	100
106	Impairment of Assets	101
107	Investment Properties	n.a
108A	Classification of Entities as For-Profit	n.a
109	Intangible Assets	n.a
110	Cash Flow Statement	99
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113	Investments in Subsidiaries, Jointly Controlled Entities and Associates	n.a
114A	Financial Instruments – General Government Entities and Public Non Financial Corporations	118
115	Non-Current Physical Assets – First-time Adoption	n.a
116	Financial Instruments-PFCs	n.a
117	Contributions of Existing Non-Financial Assets to Third Parties	n.a
118B	Land under Declared Roads	n.a
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14	Disclosures in Annual Reports by Public Sector Superannuation Schemes	n.a
15B	Executive Officer Disclosures in the Report of Operations by Departments	n.a
22D	Standard Disclosures in the Report of Operations	
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29	Workforce data disclosures	65
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Glossary of terms

Biolink: areas identified for targeted action to increase ecological function and connectivity, improving the potential of plants and animals to disperse, recolonise, evolve and adapt naturally.

Bioregions: Large, geographically distinct areas of land with common biophysical characteristics such as geology, landform patterns, climate and ecological features.

End-of-valley targets have been proposed for major rivers contributing salt to the River Murray under the (Murray-Darling) Basin Salinity Management Strategy. The purpose of these targets is to maintain salinity levels at the benchmark site, Morgan in South Australia, at or under 800 EC for 95 per cent of the time. These enable within-valley targets to be set. The proposed end-of-valley targets are being investigated to align them with expectations and obligations of different parties at regional, State and Federal levels.

Carryover was introduced in northern Victoria in early 2007 as an emergency drought measure to allow entitlement holders to carry over some unused water allocation to use in the following season.

Foodbowl Modernisation plan was a proposal put to the State Government of Victoria by a consortium of community leaders in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation Area to share the water savings created as a result of upgrading irrigation infrastructure.

Minimum (river) flow: a minimum level of flow that the water authority needs to maintain in the river at a particular location, or a trigger below which water cannot be harvested from the river. Minimum flows are usually specified in water authority bulk entitlements or in environmental entitlements. (See also 'qualification of rights'.)

Modernised Whole Farm Plan is a plan revised to take account of the changed regional channel delivery infrastructure as a result of modernisation.

Qualification of rights: if on a seasonal basis there is insufficient water in a water supply system to meet critical water needs, a water shortage may be declared by the Minister for Water and rights to water may be qualified temporarily. A qualification of rights changes a legal entitlement. Rights that may be qualified include licenses, water shares, bulk and environmental entitlements. Private rights may be suspended, reduced, increased or otherwise altered after a water shortage has been declared.

Regional Catchment Strategy is a blueprint for integrated natural resource management across a geographic area.

Registered Aboriginal Parties are the voice of Aboriginal people in managing and protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage under the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. The Act recognises Aboriginal people as the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Resilience: The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganise while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity, and feedbacks.

Resource Condition Target relates to the condition of the resource and can be measured over the short-term or the long-term depending on ease of measurement.

Salt registers of salt debits and credits are required to be maintained by the State under the Federal *Water Act 2007*. The delayed impacts of dryland salinity are accounted for in the B Registers. The Goulburn Broken CMA has set up the framework for the B Register and is establishing a process with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority for entering data to complement data already in the A Register under the salinity and drainage strategy.

Social-ecological systems: Linked and generally similar systems of people and nature, sharing common cultural, political, social, economic, ecological and technological characteristics.

Abbreviations

AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute
CaLP	<i>Catchment and Land Protection (Act 1994)</i>
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEWH	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
CfoC	Caring for our Country
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CMN	Conservation Management Network
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DEPI	Department of Environment and Primary Industries
DFT	Department of Treasury and Finance
EC	Electrical Conductivity unit
FIEP	Fruit Industry Employment Program
FRD	Financial Reporting Directions
FTE	Full-time equivalent
GL	gigalitre
GMW	Goulburn-Murray Water
GST	Goods and Services Tax
ha	hectare
IT	Information Technology
km	kilometre
kwh	kilowatt hours
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LIDAR	Light detection and ranging
LWMP	Land and Water Management Plan
ML	megalitre
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCCARF	National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility
no.	Number
NRM	Natural resource management
NRIP	Natural Resources Investment Program
RCS	(Goulburn Broken) Regional Catchment Strategy
RSMP	Regional Salinity Management Plan
RWA	Rural Water Authority
SDE	Salt Disposal Entitlements
SIPAG	Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group
SIR	Shepparton Irrigation Region
SIRCIS	Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy
TAFE	Technical and Further Education
tCO ₂ -e	tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO ₂) emitted
TfN	Trust for Nature
VCAT	Victorian Civil Administrative Tribunal
VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
VIC SES	Victorian State Emergency Services
YYNAC	Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

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Recognising a major NRM contribution

Terry Hubbard



Terry Hubbard is adamant that returning unproductive land to the environment benefits everyone. Since he and wife Janet bought their 850 hectare property near Flowerdale more than 20 years ago, they have put this theory in to practice, balancing the running of a successful sheep and beef enterprise with significant restoration of what was heavily

degraded land. Today more than a third of the property is revegetated while corridors of trees and vegetation provide valuable shelter for stock and habitat for wildlife. "I think all farmers would like to think their property looks better when they leave it, than when they bought it," Terry says.

Terry sees Landcare as the ideal vehicle for supporting landholders and encouraging rural communities to embrace good land management practices. Since the mid-1990s he has been president of the Strath Creek Landcare group and has been chair of the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network for the past decade. These community networks proved instrumental to fire recovery efforts in the wake of the devastating 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires. Although his property was damaged by the fires, Terry helped organise the change in responding quickly and decisively to meet local community needs and to ensure that environmental factors were not sidelined during what was an extremely tense and bewildering time. In the immediate aftermath of the fires Terry and Janet set up their property as a feed hub, co-ordinating emergency fodder supplies for the district. Terry was the driving force behind the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network's \$1 million fire recovery project that has

brought about lasting and visible benefits to the landscape. This project has coordinated thousands of volunteers to remove and replace hundreds of kilometres of burnt fences, revegetate hundreds of hectares, and remove woody weeds. "We've also been monitoring the recovery of wildlife across the region, which has been extremely exciting and rewarding," Terry says. The network's effort was recognised at the 2011 Victorian Landcare Awards and was used as a model for Queensland's flood recovery works.

"I really believe that Landcare is not only important for the environment but that it plays a key role in building the social fabric of small communities," Terry says. "It provides important social interaction, information sharing and bonding opportunities that cannot be underestimated."

In 2010 Terry was appointed Chair of the Victorian Landcare Council, advocating for Landcare across the state. The Council was instrumental in securing a commitment from the Victorian Government to fund 68 Local Landcare Facilitators. The initiative recognises the importance of recruiting from within the local community so facilitators have a good understanding of the local area and issues and can therefore work more effectively to bring about onground delivery and build community capacity and partnerships.

Despite this extraordinary effort in promoting Landcare and protecting the Catchment's environmental health, Terry says his work is not done. "We really need to keep going - arresting erosion and revegetating and recovering habitat to return thousands of acres of cleared, unproductive land to the environment."

Staff list 2012-13

Aaron Findlay	Collin Tate	Janice Mentiplay-Smith	Kerry McFarlane	Sam Ward
Amanda McClaren	Corey Wilson	Jason Head	Kirsten Roszak	Samantha Moreno
Annie Squires	Darelle Siekman	Jasmine Dick	Mark Cotter	Shannon Crawford
Barry Oswald	David Lawler	Jenny Wilson	Mark Turner	Simon Casanelia
Belinda Senini	Dean Judd	Jim Begley	Mary Dimit	Stan Gibney
Bianca Sulejman	Deanne Ludlow	Jim Castles	Max Colliver	Stephen Collins
Carl Walters	Dianne Guy	Jo Wood	Meegan Judd	Steve Wilson
Carla Miles	Fiona Lloyd	Karen Brisbane	Megan McFarlane	Sue Kosch
Casey Damen	Fleur Baldi	Kate Brunt	Melanie Hadow	Tim Barlow
Charlie Sexton	Gaye Sutherland	Kate Hill	Neville Atkinson	Tom O'Dwyer
Chris Burnett	Geoff Brennan	Kate Marr	Peter Howard	Tony Kubeil
Chris Nicholson	Geoff Earl	Kate Pendergast	Rachael Spokes	Vicki Mackenzie
Chris Norman	Guy Tierney	Katie Warner	Rhiannon Apted	Wayne Tennant
Christine Glassford	Helen Murdoch	Keith Ward	Richard Warburton	





PARTNERS IN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

The health of the Catchment relies on many partner organisations and individuals. In fact, there are so many partner organisations of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority that we have found it challenging to capture them all. Any partner logo not appearing above does not undervalue their contribution to the Catchment.

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