Memorandum of Understanding for Irrigation Drainage Management and Water Quality Annual Report for Year 4 – 2007/08

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the achievements of the Memorandum of Understanding for Irrigation Drainage Management and Water Quality (IDMOU) over the 2007/08 period.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The IDMOU was signed on 22 June 2004. This agreement details the irrigation drainage related roles and responsibilities of the signatory agencies (DSE, EPA, G-MW, North Central CMA and GB CMA) within the North Central and Goulburn-Broken CMA areas. The 2007/08 financial year represents the fourth year of IDMOU implementation.

3.0 OVERALL

Since the IDMOU was signed there has been an improved level of coordination, understanding and cooperation between the signatory agencies. This increased level of interaction and cooperation can be attributed to the IDMOU imparting a greater level of obligation and understanding as well as a shared common desire to achieve the underlying outcomes to be achieved by the IDMOU. These outcomes have a positive catchment and water quality impact.

The overall cost of implementing the IDMOU between 2004/05 and 2007/08 is estimated at \$1.027 M.

4.0 KEY MILESTONES ACHIEVED

Setting of Water Quality Targets

A major requirement of the IDMOU was to develop and trial the application of a process to enable water quality related targets to be set within receiving waterways and within irrigation drainage systems at their outfall point. This includes processes for setting monitoring requirements, and setting targets for the implementation of management actions within catchments. Significant progress has been made with respect to these requirements.

The application of the Rapid Resource Condition Decision Support System (RRC DSS) for the entire Broken Creek Catchment was completed and endorsed by the IDMOU Steering Committee in March 2008 and is now in the process of being adopted by the GB CMA.

The trial of the RRC DSS for Barr Creek Catchment was also completed.

A list of prioritised catchments for the application of RRC DSS in the Shepparton Irrigation Region (SIR) and the Loddon-Murray Irrigation Region were determined and are shown in **Attachment 1**.

The updated RMA DSS and RRC DSS targets agreed by the IDMOU Steering Committee are detailed in **Attachment 2**.

Setting of Management Action Targets

The development of a process to set targets for the implementation of management actions within catchments to support the achievement of water quality outcomes was completed in 2005/06, and is referred to as the Rapid Management Action Decision Support System (RMA DSS).

Both the management action and resource condition target setting systems will facilitate the setting of Aspirational (i.e. 50 year), and shorter term (i.e. 5 year and 20-30 year) targets, and align with existing CMA data capture and planning processes.

The application of the Rapid Management Action Decision Support System (RMA DSS) for the entire Broken Creek Catchment was completed and endorsed by the IDMOU Steering Committee in March 2008.

The following 50 year (2055) Management Action Targets for the Broken Creek catchment were recommended from the application of the RMA DSS:

- Construction of an additional 1,000 ML capacity of farm irrigation reuse systems
- An additional 1,500 ML of low flow drainage diversion schemes
- An additional 2,200 ML of high flow drainage diversion schemes
- Diversion of drainage water to offline wetlands with a total capacity of 116 ML
- Construction of 2.8 km of inline wetlands.

The trial of the RMA DSS for Barr Creek Catchment was also completed.

Relationships between Management Action Implementation and Resource Condition Outcomes

An integral component in the application of the RMA DSS is knowing the relationships between management action implementation and resource condition outcomes. These were developed in 2006 for both the SIR and the Loddon-Murray catchment.

A key output of the IDMOU implementation this financial year was the RMA DSS for the entire Broken Creek catchment.

Catchment and Asset Operation Plans

The regional catchment and asset operation plan for the Shepparton Irrigation Region is currently being prepared. The plan will cover each of the Irrigation Areas in the Goulburn-Broken CMA area and be used as a reference for each of the catchment specific plans. This plan is being prepared in conjunction with the Barmah-Nathalia catchment and asset operation plan to ensure that the regional catchment and asset operation plan and catchment specific plans complement each other.

Progression of these plans was slower than expected in 2007/08 due to:

- Delays in sourcing and providing data required to complete the plans
- Current drier climate and the reduced need and desire for these plans to be completed by the end of the 2007/08 financial year.

It is envisaged that the catchment and asset operation plan for the Shepparton Irrigation Region and the Barmah-Nathalia catchment and asset operation plan will be completed during the 2008/2009 financial year.

5.0 COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD

Two IDMOU Steering Committee meetings were held during the 2007/08 financial year (September 2007 and March 2008). A high level of commitment was shown by each agency with representatives from each agency in attendance.

These committee meetings have provided a successful communication forum to facilitate senior agency staff reaching agreement on irrigation drainage related issues. It is anticipated that these committee meetings will continue on a six-monthly basis.

6.0 2007/08 DELIVERY AGAINST IDMOU REQUIREMENTS

A set of implementation targets were documented. Some of these implementation targets have since been revised due to:

- the priority of surface drainage related issues being reduced because of the drought and funding reductions
- limited resource availability within agencies
- delays in documenting the relationship between Management Action and Resource Condition outcomes
- delays in acquiring data
- significant repetition between the Catchment and Asset Operation Plans. As a result the contents of both plans having been integrated into a single Catchment and Asset Operation Plan which addresses the specific objectives of both plans, and
- NVIRP irrigation system modernisation and water savings implications.

Despite these constraints, items were still progressed in the 2007/08 financial year and are listed in **Attachment 3**, along with a summary of their implementation progress.

7.0 KEY MILESTONES FOR 2008/09

The key milestones over the next 12 month period are to:

- continue to progressively set monitoring requirements using the decision process developed
- continue with the setting of irrigation drainage related water quality targets (RRC DSS) for receiving waterways and irrigation drains using the decision process developed, with the primary focus being the Barr Creek catchment in the Loddon-Murray Irrigation Region and the Deakin catchment in the SIR
- continue with the setting of targets for the implementation of management actions using the decision support system (RMA DSS), with the primary focus in 2008/09 being the Barr Creek catchment in the Loddon-Murray Irrigation Region and the Deakin catchment in the SIR
- finalise the Regional Catchment and Asset Operation Plan for the Goulburn-Broken CMA area
- finalise the Barmah-Nathalia Catchment and Asset Operation Plan

- initiate the development of the Regional Catchment and Asset Operation Plan for the North Central CMA area
- continue the development of Catchment specific C&AOPs in the Goulburn Broken CMA area
- ensure the CMA's adopt the decision processes and catchment and asset operation plans developed.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The IDMOU has been successful in providing a forum for senior agency representatives to more efficiently and effectively reach agreement on irrigation drainage related issues.

The implementation of the IDMOU has been progressing smoothly and facilitates a forum with the cooperation of all the signatory agencies.

Significant milestones have been achieved in the fourth year of implementation, including:

- documenting the assumed relationships between management action implementation and resource condition outcomes for the entire Broken Creek catchment in the Goulburn-Broken CMA area
- finalising the assumed relationships between management action implementation and resource condition outcomes for the trial of the Barr Creek catchment in the North Central CMA area
- finalising the Regional Catchment and Asset Operation Plan
- finalising the Barmah-Nathalia Catchment and Asset Operation Plan.

The key challenges over the next 12 month period are:

- resourcing issues relating to IDMOU implementation
- determining the impacts of water supply system modernisation and water savings initiatives (e.g. NVIRP) on IDMOU implementation
- acquiring data for DSS applications and the Catchment and Asset Operation Plans
- understanding drainage related climate change/variability impacts/requirements
- to take into account the implications from the Victorian Irrigation Drainage Program Review.

ATTACHMENT 1

Attachment 1: Prioritised catchment in the SIR and Loddon-Murray Irrigation Region

The Shepparton Irrigation Region's 24 sub-catchments (SIR) are grouped into 10 catchments, and the 11 Loddon-Murray Irrigation Region sub-catchments are grouped into 6 for the purpose of analysis under the IDMOU.

Of these 16 defined catchments, it is proposed that the RRC DSS and RMA DSS be applied to only those that have Surface Water Management Systems (SWMS) with Primary (Public) drains. Priority will then be placed on those catchments that have a significant number of Primary SWMS. The proposed program is outlined in **Table 1A** and **Table 1B** for the SIR and Loddon-Murray Irrigation Region respectively.

Priority	Catchment	Comment
1	(B) – Broken Creek	- Trial of Rapid Management Action DSS completed on
		Lower Broken Creek Catchment
		 Trial of Rapid Resource Condition DSS completed on
		Lower Broken Creek Catchment (2005/06)
		 Rapid Resource Condition DSS completed
		 Rapid Management Action DSS completed
2	(E) - Deakin	 Rapid Resource Condition DSS proposed
3	(I) – Mid Goulburn	
4	(A) – Strathmerton	
5	(F) - Lockington	
6	(C) – Broken River	
7	(H) – Lower Goulburn	
8	(G) - Campaspe	
9	(D) – Upper Goulburn	 some formal drainage, no PSWMS proposed
10	(J) – Kaarimba	- no formal drainage at present, no PSWMS proposed

Table 1A: Prioritised catchment in the SIR

Table 1B: Prioritised	catchment in	the	Loddon-	-Murrav	Irrigation	Region

Priority	Catchment	Comment
1	(D) – Barr Creek	- Trial of Rapid Resource Condition DSS completed
		- Trial of Rapid Management Action DSS completed
2	(E) - Pyramid	
3	(A) – Swan Hill	- Tyntynder area
4	(F) – Loddon	- No formal drainage
5	(B) - Koondrook	- No formal drainage
6	(C) - Gunbower	- No formal drainage

Note: PSWMS - Primary Surface Water Management System

ATTACHMENT 2

Attachment 2: RMA DSS and RRC DSS Targets

SUMMARY - RESOURCE CONDITION TARGETS

Northern Irrigation Region - Primary Monitoring Site - Resource Condition targets

		IDMOU Defined Drainage Catchment	Decision Support	KPI Primary Site Resource Condition Targets								
Priority			Devid Deserves	Rapid Management		Concentra	ation	ation (mg/L)		Load (t/yr)		
Number	Cat	chment Name	Condition DSS		Year	Current	Asp	oirational	Year	Current	Aspirational	
			condition 555					(50 yr)			(5	0 yr)
Shepparto	n Irriga	ition Region										
1	В	Broken Creek	Completed	Complete	2005	TP: 0.41	TP:	0.21	2005	TP: 28.4	TP:	16.3
						SS: 35	SS:	35		SS: 2,220	SS:	2,220
2	E	Deakin	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
3	1	Goulburn – Mid	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
4	С	Broken River	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
5	Н	Goulburn – Lower	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
6	G	Campaspe	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
7	D	Goulburn – Upper	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
8	J	Kaarimba	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
9	A	Strathmerton	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
10	F	Lockington	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
Loddon-M	lurray l	rrigation Region										
1	D	Barr Creek	Trial Completed	Trial Completed	2005	TP: 0.77	TP:	0.04	2005	TP: 38	TP:	3
2	E	Pyramid – Calivil	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
3	A	Swan Hill	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
4	В	Koondrook – Benjeroop	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
5	F	Loddon	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								
6	С	Gunbower Island	Not Commenced	Not Commenced								

Notes: (i)

(ii)

TP concentrations are rounded to 2 decimal places and TP Loads are rounded to the nearest whole number

Suspended solids concentrations and loads are rounded to the nearest whole number.

SUMMARY - MANAGEMENT ACTION TARGETS

Northern Irrigation Region - Management Action Targets based on the Rapid Management Action Decision Support System

Management Action*	Irrigation (reuse system ML)	Offline (I	Wetland ML)	Regional Dr (high	egional Drainage Diversion (high flow) (ML)		version Regional Drainage Inline Wetland (km) Reduct _) Diversion (low flow) (ML)		Inline Wetland (km)		Reduction in Channel Leaks and Outfalls		
Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target		
Year	2005	2055	2005	2055	2005	2055	2005	2055	2005	2055	2005	2055		
IDMOU Defined Drain	IDMOU Defined Drainage Catchment													
Shepparton Irrigation	Region													
B – Broken Creek	4,97	7 5,479	1,030	1,146	4,094	6,294	13,948	15,448	0.6	3.4	0.6	3.4		
E - Deakin	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced			
l – Goulburn – Mid	d DSS not commenced		DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	imenced	nced DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced		DSS not com	menced		
C – Broken River	DSS not com	menced	DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced		DSS not com	imenced	DSS not co	mmenced	DSS not com	menced		
H – Goulburn – Lower	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not com	DSS not commenced DSS not commenced DSS not o		DSS not com	menced			
G – Campaspe	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not co	mmenced	DSS not com	menced		
D – Goulburn – Upper	D – Goulburn – DSS not commenced Jpper		DSS not com	ot commenced DSS not c		imenced	DSS not com	DSS not commenced		mmenced	DSS not commenced			
J – Kaarimba	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not co	mmenced	DSS not commenced			
A – Strathmerton	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced		imenced	DSS not co	DSS not commenced		menced
F – Lockington	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not co	mmenced	DSS not com	menced		

SUMMARY - MANAGEMENT ACTION TARGETS

Management Action*	Irrigation (reuse system ML)	Offline (Wetland ML)	Regional Drainage Diversion (high flow) (ML)		Regional Drainage DiversionRegional DrainageInline Wetland (km)Reduction in(high flow) (ML)Diversion (low flow) (ML)and		nal Drainage Diversion Regional Drainage Inline Wetland (km) Reduction in Ch (high flow) (ML) Diversion (low flow) (ML) and Out		Regional Drainage Diversion (low flow) (ML)		Inline Wetland (km)		Inline Wetland (km)		Reduction in Channel Leaks and Outfalls	
Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target	Current Status	Aspirational Target						
Year	2005	2055	2005	2055	2005	2055	2005	2055	2005	2055	2005	2055						
IDMOU Defined Drainage Catchment																		
Loddon – Murray Irrig	Loddon – Murray Irrigation Region																	
D – Barr Creek	DSS not commenced		DSS not com	menced	DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced		DSS not commenced							
E – Pyramid – Calivil	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not commenced D		DSS not commenced		DSS not co	ommenced	DSS not com	menced						
A – Swan Hill	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	SS not commenced DSS not commenced DSS not co		DSS not com	menced							
B – Koondrook – Benjeroop	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not commenced DSS not		DSS not com	menced						
F – Loddon	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not co	ommenced	DSS not commenced							
C- Gunbower Island	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	menced	DSS not com	imenced	DSS not co	ommenced	DSS not com	menced						

* Management actions only listed where targets have been developed. Other possible management actions are:

- Nutrient Reduction Reuse System (NRRS)
- Laser Assisted Land forming
- Conversion of Flood Irrigation to Sprinkler Irrigation
- Conversion of Furrow to Micro Irrigation
- Automation of Farm Channels
- Soil Testing
- Nutrient Application Management program
- Planting Salt Tolerant Species
- Terminal Wetland
- WWTP and Industry outfalls (reduction of outfall quantity / quality)
- Fencing of Regional Drains and Streams

- Whole Farm Plans
- Construction of Farm Drains
- Conversion of Farm channels to pipe and Riser
- On farm Irrigation Scheduling
- Grading Farm Tracks away from drainage system
- Planting Buffer Strips
- Fencing Out Highly Saline Clay Soils
- Inline Wetland
- Automation of G-MW Supply Channel Systems
- New Surface Water Management Implementation
- Sediment Trap/Enhanced Diversions (km)

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ATTACHMENT 3

Attachment 3: Progress Against Original Work Program in IDMOU

	IDMOU Implementation Action	Tim	ning	Progress	Prime Responsib-	Other
	ibmoo implementation Action	Original	Current	(76)	ility	Involved
	General Issues					
1	Management, review and ensuring delivery of actions required under this Memorandum	Ongoing	Ongoing		DSE	ALL
2	Development of detailed guidelines for reviews and reporting processes based on DSE	Dec 2004	Dec 2008	100%	CMA Completed	G-MW & DSE
	principles	Dec 2004	Dec 2008	50%	EPA	G-MW & DSE
3	Develop and advise each Party of the detail of existing water quality incident reporting and management procedures and systems for SWMS Receiving Waterways	Aug 2004	Completed	100%	ALL	ALL
4	Develop and advise each Party of the detail of new water quality incident reporting and management procedures and systems for SWMS Receiving Waterways	June 2006 and then ongoing	June 2006 and then ongoing	Ongoing	ALL	ALL
5	Document assumed cause and effect relationships between Resource Condition outcomes and Management Actions	Oct 2004	Completed April 2007	100%	СМА	G-MW
	Short Term Interim Processes			•	•	
6a	Development of initial rapid decision support system for setting monitoring requirement guidelines (stations, parameters, type and analysis)	Jan 2005	Completed	100%	DSE	EPA/ G-MW/ CMA
6b	Setting of monitoring requirements using initial rapid decision support system	M 0005		100/		EPA/
	(Two highest priority catchments)	May 2005	Dec 2010	10%	СМА	G-MW/ DSE
	(All catchments)		Dec 2012			
7a	Development of initial rapid appraisal risk based system for Resource Condition KPI target setting guidelines	Mar 2005	Completed	100%	DSE	EPA/ G-MW/ CMA
7b	Setting of Resource Condition KPI targets using initial rapid appraisal process and current regional water quality strategies (Two highest priority catchments)	July 2005	Dec 2010	6%	СМА	EPA/ G-MW
	(All catchments)		Dec 2012			
8a	Development of initial rapid decision support systems and guidelines for PI Management Action target setting	Oct 2005	Completed Dec 2006	100%	DSE	EPA/ G-MW/ CMA

	IDMOULTER entertainen Action	Tin	ning	Progress	Prime	Other
	IDMOU Implementation Action	Original	Current	(%)	ility	Involved
8b	Setting of Management Action PI targets using initial rapid decision support guidelines					EPA/
	(Two highest priority catchments)	Jan 2006	Dec 2010	0%	СМА	G-MW
	(All catchments)		Dec 2012			
9	Monitoring will be upgraded such that it is adequate to meet support and measure the KPI targets in Clause 7.3.1 (8) of the IDMOU	June 2006	Dec 2013	0%	CMA & G-MW	СМА
	Long Term Final Processes	1	1		1	
10a	Development of detailed decision support system for setting monitoring requirement guidelines (stations, parameters, type and analysis)	Dec 2006	No longer required	0%	DSE	EPA/ G-MW/ CMA
10b	Setting of monitoring requirement guidelines using detailed decision support system	May 2006	No longer required	0%	DSE	EPA/ G-MW/ CMA
11	Monitoring will be further upgraded in the NCCMA such that it is adequate to meet the KPI targets in Clause 7.3.1 (9) of the IDMOU	June 2009	June 2012	0%	CMA & G-MW	СМА
12a	Developing longer term detailed risk assessment processes and decision support system and guidelines for Resource Condition KPI target setting	Dec 2005	No longer required	0%	DSE	EPA/ G-MW/ CMA
12b	Set Resource Condition KPI targets using the longer term detailed risk assessment processes and Decision Support Systems	Feb 2007	No longer required	0%	СМА	EPA/ G-MW
13a	Developing longer term detailed decision support systems for PI Management Action target setting	June 2006	No longer required	0%	DSE	EPA/ G-MW/ CMA
13b	Set PI Management Action targets using longer term detailed decision support systems	June 2007	No longer required	0%	СМА	EPA/ G-MW
14	Developing Surface Water Management	Jan 2005	Oct 2008	90%	GB CMA	*G-MW
	for whole of CMA region scale as specified in Clause 10.3.1. (3) and Clause 10.3.2. (4) of the IDMOU	Jan 2005	Dec 2010	0%	NC CMA	*G-MW
15	Developing Surface Water Management System Catchment Operation Plans for Planning Catchments to achieve target coverage as specified in Clause 10.3.1. (4) of the IDMOU	Progressively 2005-2009	Progressively 2005-2015	0%	СМА	*G-MW
	Development of Catchment and Asset Operation Plan for Stanhope Drain	-	Completed June 2007	100%	G-MW/ GB CMA	-
	Development of Catchment and Asset Operation Plan for Barmah-Nathalia	-	Mar 2009	75%	G-MW	
	Development of Draft Catchment and Asset Operation Plan for Benwell Drain	-	Dec 2010	0%	G-MW	-

		Tim	ing	Progress	Prime	Other	
	IDMOU Implementation Action	Original	Current	(%)	ility	Involved	
16	Where appropriate developing Surface Water Management System Asset Operation Plans for each G-MW Water Service Committee area as specified in Clause 10.3.2.(5) of the IDMOU	June 2009	No longer required	0%	CMA & G-MW	-	
17	Developing Surface Water Management System Asset Operation Plans at a Planning Catchment scale to achieve targets coverage as specified in Clause 10.3.2.(6) of the IDMOU	Progressively 2006-2009	No longer required	0%	CMA & G-MW	G-MW/ CMA	