



GOULBURN BROKEN  
REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY  
RENEWAL PROJECT



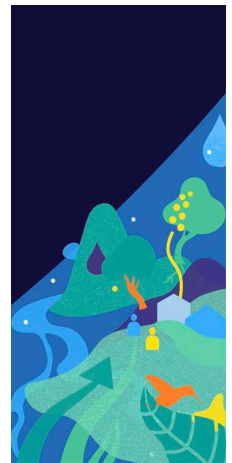
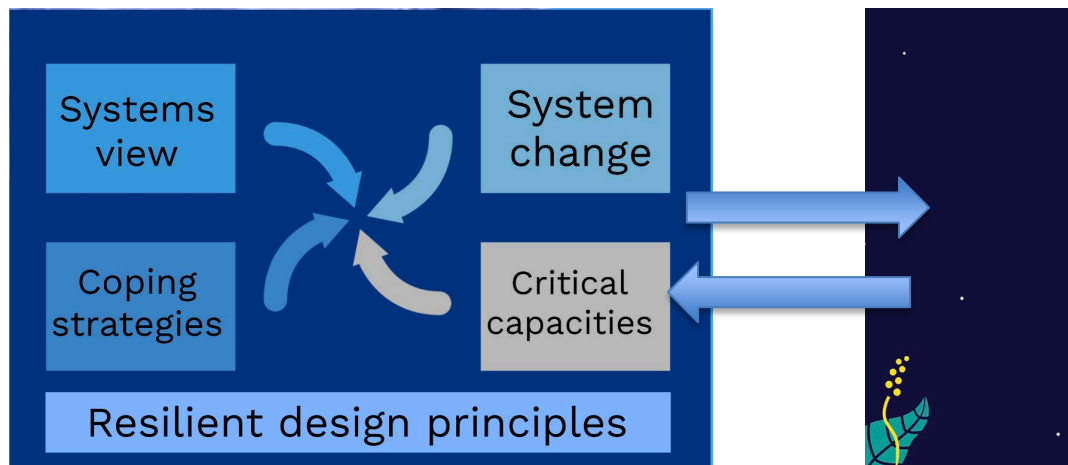
# Resilience Webinar Series

Session 5 – Resilience & planning for regional-scale change

# Overview

- Linking webinar content to RCS process
- Evolution of natural resource planning in GB
- Update on the RCS renewal process/resilience
- Next steps in process
- Invitation for your involvement

Resilience is the capacity of a system to cope with change and continue to develop in a desired way





# Goulburn Broken CMA's resilience journey

# GB CMA – The ride to resilience



Single Threats (late 1980's)



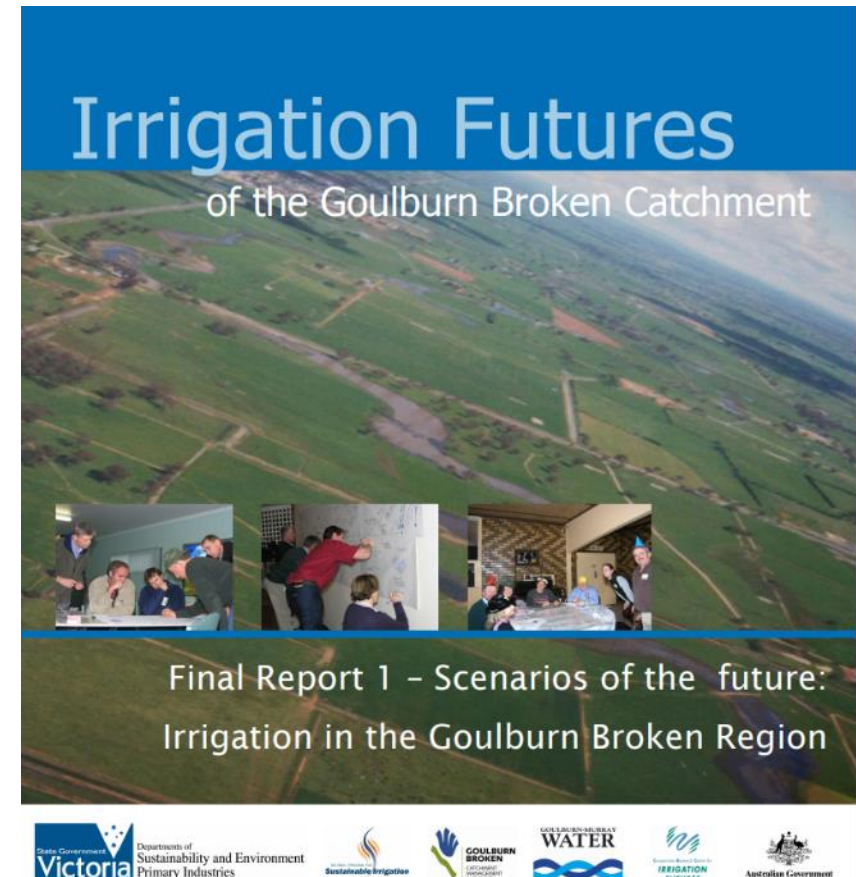
Integrated Catchment  
Management (mid 90's)



Ecosystems  
services (2000's)

# Resilience at the GB CMA - The early days

- Resilience Assessment – Resilience, Adaptability and Transformability in the GB Catchment
- Irrigations Futures

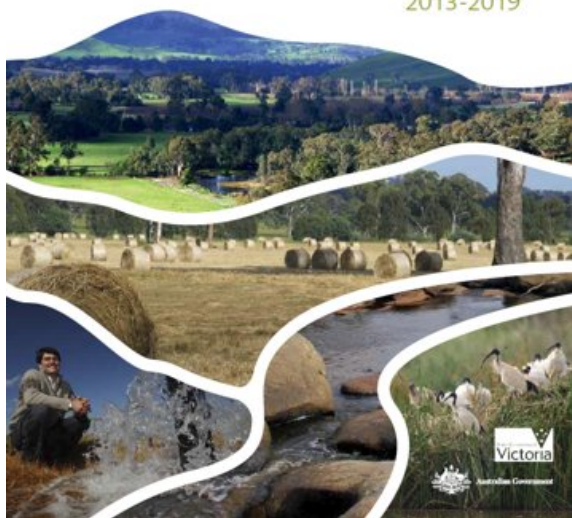


# 2013 Regional Catchment Strategy



## Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy

2013-2019



### AGRICULTURAL FLOODPLAINS

Northern floodplains with Murray River along boundary with NSW

- Landscape highly modified for agriculture with remaining vegetation fragmented and found mostly on salinities, wetlands and floodplains
- Agriculture supports dairy, horticulture and cropping and a large food processing sector with major downstream export and offshore irrigation infrastructure nearby
- Remains landlocked and highly isolated from nationally important coastal seaports leading to a loss of market access
- Long history of community leadership in managing land and water problems

Threats: Further loss and decline of vegetation, salinity, poor natural drainage, future farming options, and floods continue to threaten production and river health

#### This RCS will:

- Connect native vegetation on private land to the Goulburn and Ovens rivers, Murrumbidgee and Broken Creek
- Keep shallow waterbodies below plant root zones and coordinate disposal of saline water
- Protect the unique character of Barmah Forest and Big M, such as the Lower Goulburn River and wetlands through delivery of environmental water and land management
- Encourage efficient water use with other mechanisms and incentives into farm design
- Identify new ways to farm sustainably in variable climatic conditions
- Influence water policy to protect and secure water for farmers and the environment through community leadership

### URBAN CENTRES

Murgoolles, Seymour and Benalla

- Biodiversity a poor but urban people value the river and remaining vegetation for recreation
- Provide employment, housing, schools and services surrounded by farming and desirable properties on Goulburn and Broken River floodplains
- Water is pumped from the river for domestic use and water off farm from floodplain rivers
- Large diverse populations

Threats: Pollution, land development and sparse weeds threaten river health, including water quality. Floods are also an ongoing threat to properties and safety

#### This RCS will:

- Join up native vegetation on the face of land development pressures
- Improve the quality of riparian vegetation on public land along Goulburn and Broken rivers
- Reduce flooding impacts
- Identify common interests and involvement of community that benefits the environment

### COMMUTING HILLS

Mountainous southern and south western urban fringe

- Public and private lands support many plant and animal including the Southern Blue Mountains
- Land use also supports range of agricultural industries and tourism opportunities
- Distinctive landscape, scenic health because of the amount of remaining vegetation
- People drawn to area for natural beauty and lifestyle and contribute to Melbourne for work

Threats: The corridor is under threat to safety and properties, along with native vegetation loss through population pressures and development

#### This RCS will:

- Retain native vegetation intact in the face of development pressure to prevent loss of vegetation and subsequent biodiversity loss, erosion and water quality decline
- Identify and protect high value vegetation corridors
- Nurture partnerships between land managers where private and public land meet

### PRODUCTIVE PLAINS

Floodplains and floodplains towards the north of the Catchment

- Pastoral grazing by vegetation along waterways, roadsides, ranges and spring-own wetlands
- Original farming includes cattle, sheep, cropping and viticulture and many farms remain in same families for generations with average farming operations ageing
- Rivers and creeks in moderate condition and wetlands in excellent to good condition
- Land use and occupation management systems support a high level of farming productivity and protect threatened species

Threats: Many habitat loss, ageing farming operations and declining social connections are threats to biodiversity and farming business

#### This RCS will:

- Increase native vegetation areas and connections to Goulburn and Broken rivers, Murrumbidgee and Ovens and other key waterways
- Integrate environmental features into farm design
- Nurture highly valued enterprises and wetlands through their protection and expanding their condition
- Deliver community initiatives to sustain habitat for threatened species and farm production

### UPLAND SLOPES

Slopes and valleys towards the south of the Catchment

- Cropping and other agricultural enterprises occur in cleared valleys surrounded by partially forested hills and vegetation along waterways
- Land use provides water for agricultural production, recreation, tourism, and river health, all the way down the catchment and beyond the boundary
- Seasonal farmers for agriculture increasing number of lifestyle properties and extensive landholders

Threats: Erosion, weeds and fires are among the threats to the amount and quality of highly valued water used here for many purposes

#### This RCS will:

- Maintain native vegetation on public land, and enhance through strategic linkages to the Goulburn River and other key waterways
- Protect and improve the value of lake ridges and the heritage listed Goulburn River
- Deliver environmental flows down the Goulburn River considering land use and development along the floodplain
- Deliver partnership approaches for sustainable land management practices

### SOUTHERN FORESTS

South east mountainous, waterways and other natural open

- Unique native vegetation supports endangered mountain pygmy possum
- Most of the area is public and managed for conservation, but also for recreation and timber production
- Waterways are in good condition with recreation and tourism highly valued
- People live in small and seasonal communities and travel to and from this area
- The interface between private and public land is important for management

Threats: Increasing bushland threatened by erosion along with threats to vegetation including fire, weeds and pest animals

#### This RCS will:

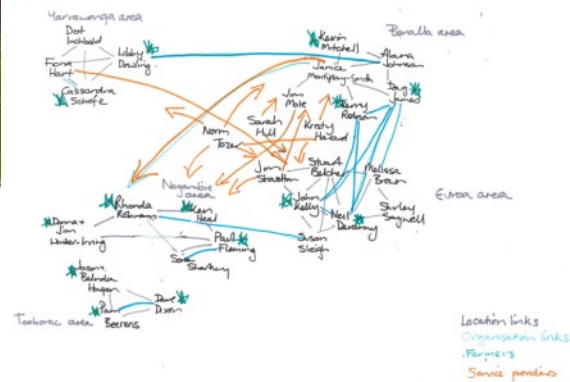
- Increase diversity of large tracts of native vegetation on public land for habitat, clean water and natural amenity
- Protect populations of threatened species such as barred black swan
- Nurture partnerships between land managers where private and public land meet

# Climate Change Adaptation Planning

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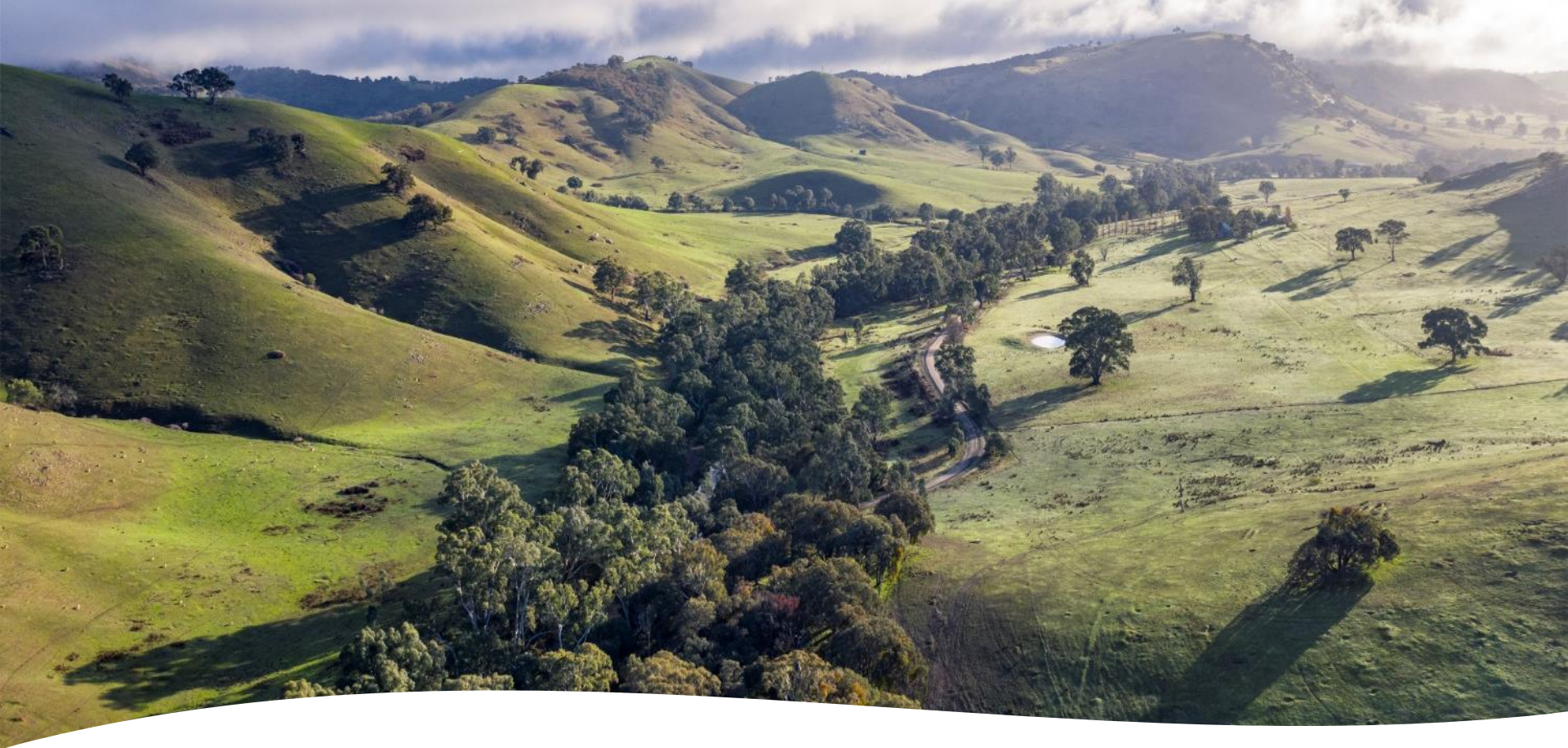
# Apply, learn, adapt.....

## Social- Ecological System Planning



GROWING THE NATURAL ADVANTAGE - PART A





# Using resilience to guide strategic planning

# Resilience framework



- <https://wayfinder.earth/>
- Series of phases & activities
- Adapted to meet government guidelines & resources

# GB RCS renewal project plan

Align to resilience framework



Project Stage No.	Project Stage	Key Project Activities
1	Foundational Activities	Gather background info & resources to guide Renewal process
2	Building a coalition for change	Develop project plan & governance arrangements.
3	Creating a shared understanding of the Catchment & exploring system dynamics	Initial stakeholder engagement; GB socio-economic analysis & theme-based background papers.
4	Broadening our collective knowledge	<b>Capacity building activities in resilience thinking</b> ; technical advisory groups; GB Insights Paper & background communication materials.
5	Developing innovative strategies for change	Broader stakeholder engagement & determine Action Pledges with partners.
6	Developing a plan for collective action	Draft GB RCS.
7	Providing opportunities for input & increasing community understanding	Public engagement campaign (with tailored products to target key groups) & online survey.
8	Tailoring the plan to meet community aspirations & needs	Revise GB RCS based on public feedback & GB CMA Board endorse GB RCS.
9	Collaborative & adaptive plan to support resilient landscapes & thriving communities	GB RCS 2021-2027 final.

Current  
focus

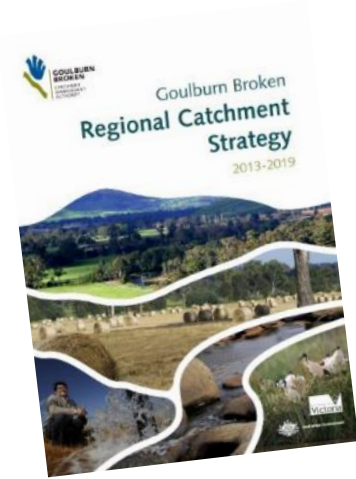
# Guiding principles

1. **Continuous reflective practice** to challenge assumptions and biases, & continuously adapt to changing circumstances.
2. A **systems approach** to direct and prioritise decision-making.
3. **Open, transparent and inclusive engagement** that strengthens regional partnerships and ownership in NRM.
4. Using the **best available science to support decision-making** but acknowledge & respect that there are **multiple legitimate viewpoints & sources of knowledge**.



## Understanding the system

# Understanding the system - key activities



Review current  
RCS



Initial  
stakeholder  
engagement



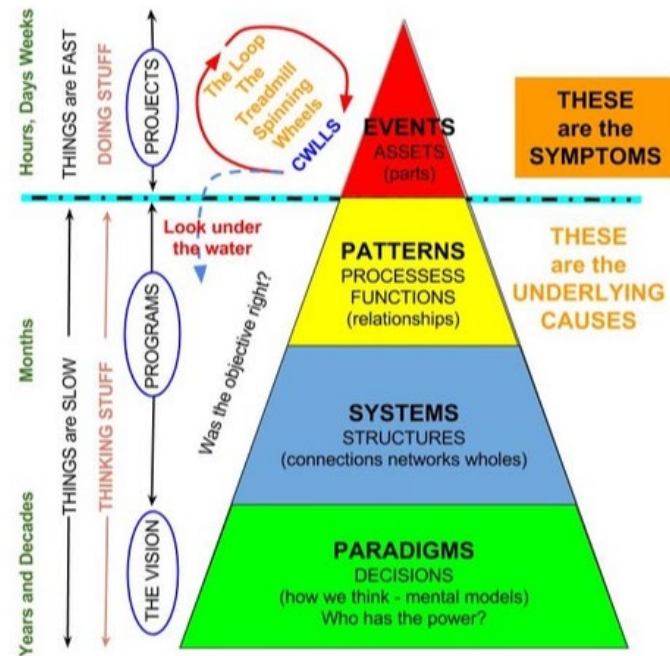
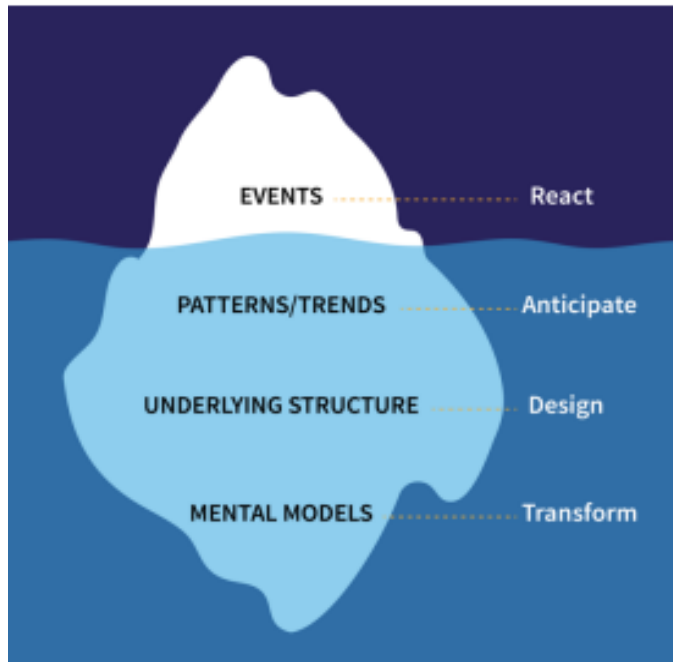
Theme-based  
papers



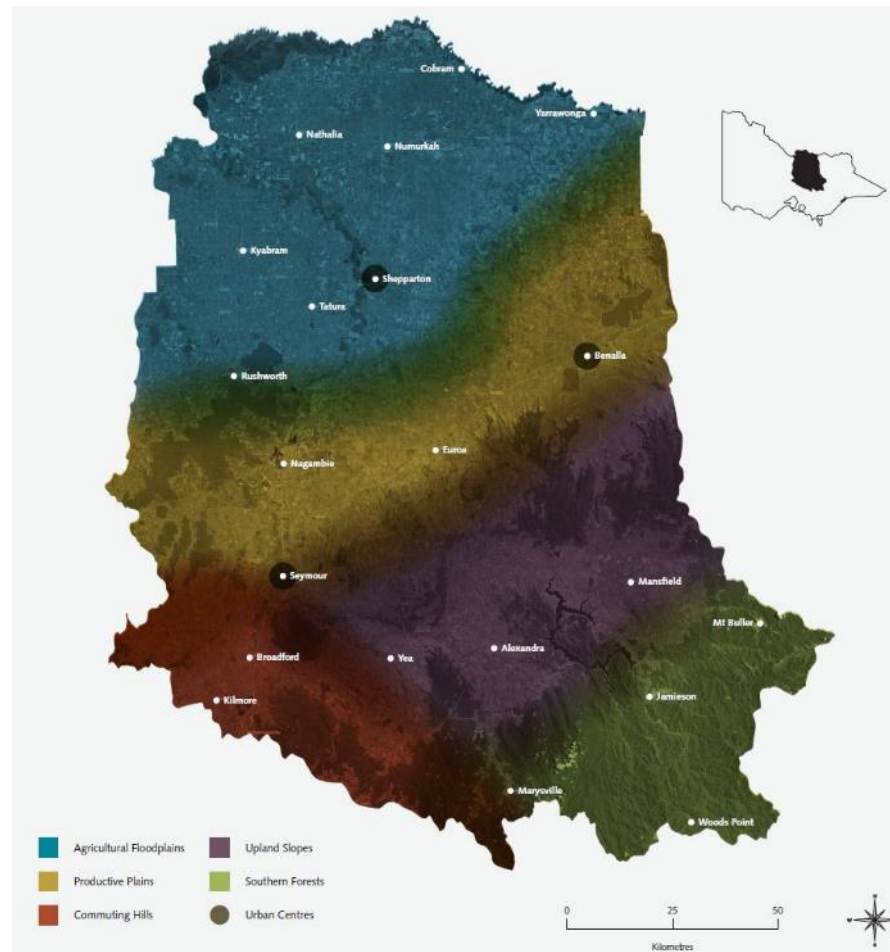
Socio-economic  
analysis

# Iceberg discussion tool

What's preventing us from reaching our aspirations?  
Where are the opportunities for creating change?



# Previous socio-ecological landscapes



# Socio-economic clustering of rural population



# What has changed over the last 6 years?



Agriculture is changing



Climate has changed



Government more centralised & reactive



Role of Traditional Owners increasing in NRM



Technological revolution



Biodiversity under pressure



Water issues are more prominent



Urban population growth & land use change

# Socio-ecological dilemmas

Sustainability challenges

Tension b/w different values & uses

Trade-offs b/w social, economic & environmental interests



# Next steps

- Regional Insights Paper
- Broader discussions
- How you can be involved:
  - Email updates
  - Webinars
  - Workshops
  - Review draft documents





Thank you!

# Questions or comments?

