



Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Priorities and Guidelines Document

Expression of Interest (EOI)
for natural resource management projects

Submissions close 23rd January 2015



Department of
Environment and
Primary Industries



Australian Government



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A copy of the document is also available on www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT.....	3
WHY AN EOI PROCESS?.....	5
WHERE IS THE FUNDING FROM?.....	5
WILL MY EOI BE FUNDED?	5
DEVELOPING AN EOI.....	5
HOW WILL MY EOI BE ASSESSED?	6
A WORD ON CLIMATE CHANGE	6
SMALL COMMUNITY ACTION AND EDUCATION GRANT FUNDING.....	6
NEED MORE INFORMATION?.....	7
LODGING YOUR EOI	7
BIODIVERSITY	8
LAND; INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION, PEST PLANT AND ANIMALS AND SOILCARE SMALL PROJECT GRANTS	10
WATER	14
PEOPLE (INCLUDING VICTORIAN LANDCARE PROGRAM, SMALL COMMUNITY ACTION AND EDUCATION GRANTS, REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR LANDCARE GRANTS).....	16

INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) 2013-2019, emphasises the development of resilience in our biodiversity, land, water and people, and has been developed collaboratively between individuals, community groups, funders and agency partners.

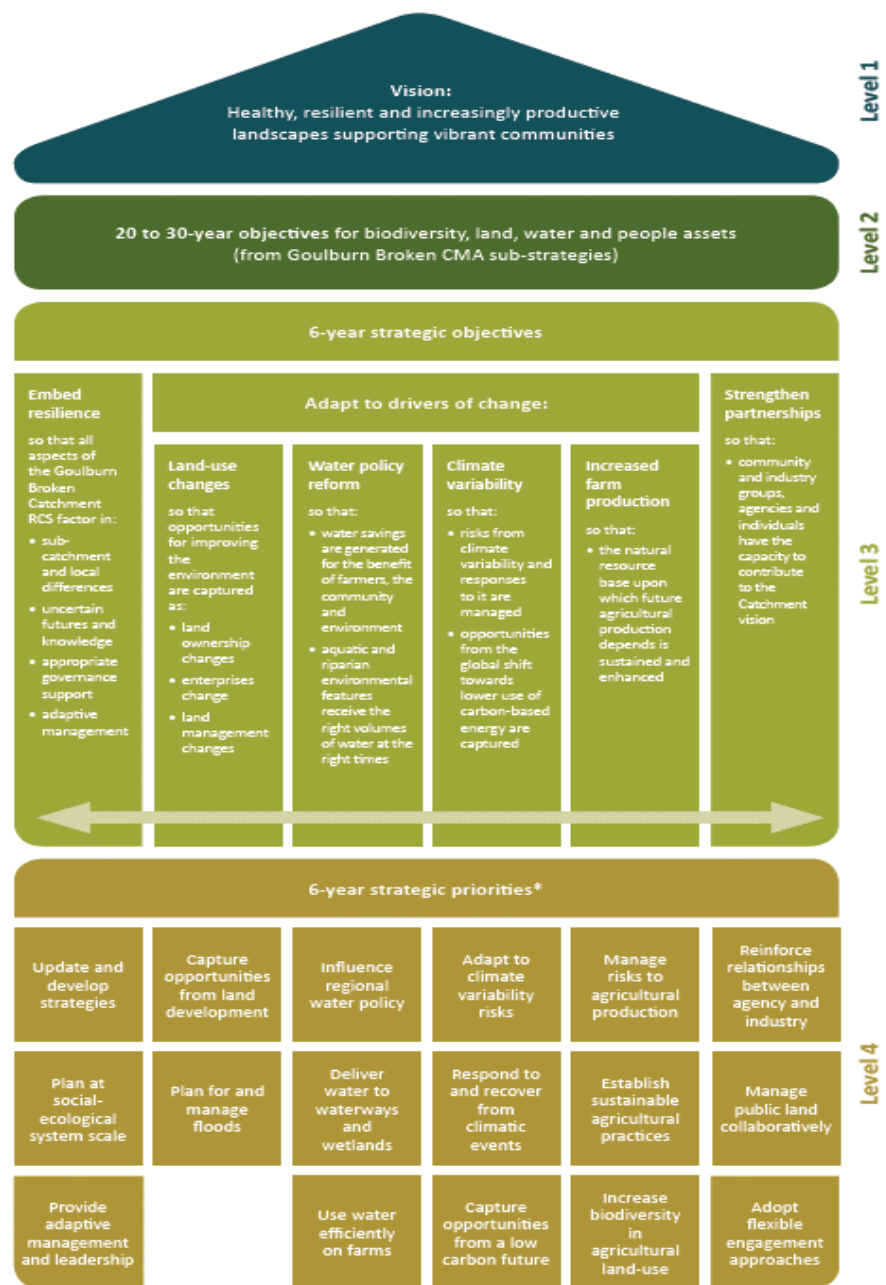
The resilience approach focuses on common characteristics and connections between people and the environment, as social-ecological systems (SES). SESs exist at a range of connected scales, from an individual site to the whole-of-Catchment. Two scales of SES are important for decisions relevant to this RCS – whole-of-Catchment and six sub-Catchment areas.

In developing the Goulburn Broken RCS, the views of many community members and technical experts have highlighted how the Catchment is dynamic or ever-changing, with many drivers of change. Four key drivers of change have been identified, which are also highly connected.

In implementing the resilience approach over the next six years, strategic objectives include adapting to these four drivers of change:

- land-use changes
- water policy reform
- climate variability
- increased farm production

The 50-year vision, 20-30 year objectives and 6-year strategic objectives and priorities come together as the RCS Framework shown here.



* Strategic priorities describe the focus for bundles of management measures

Figure 1: The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 objectives hierarchy

While the 50-year vision (Level 1) has been adjusted since the 2003 RCS to reflect the emphasis on resilience, the same 20 to 30-year objectives (Level 2) remain at the whole-of-Catchment scale in areas such as soil health, biodiversity, pest plants and animals, river health, water quality, wetlands, floodplains and salinity. These objectives are detailed in sub-strategies, which are updated regularly.

Responding to issues such as climate variability, floods and fire requires a Catchment-scale approach and local action. Across the Catchment, the landscape, people, threats and priorities differ. Six social-ecological systems (SESs) have been identified through consultation and research. These SESs don't have sharp boundaries, but they do share similar characteristics and issues which give them a unique identity. Why are they important? They shape what can be done to build and maintain resilience so that the best combination of people, land, biodiversity and water outcomes, valued by the local community, can continue to be provided.

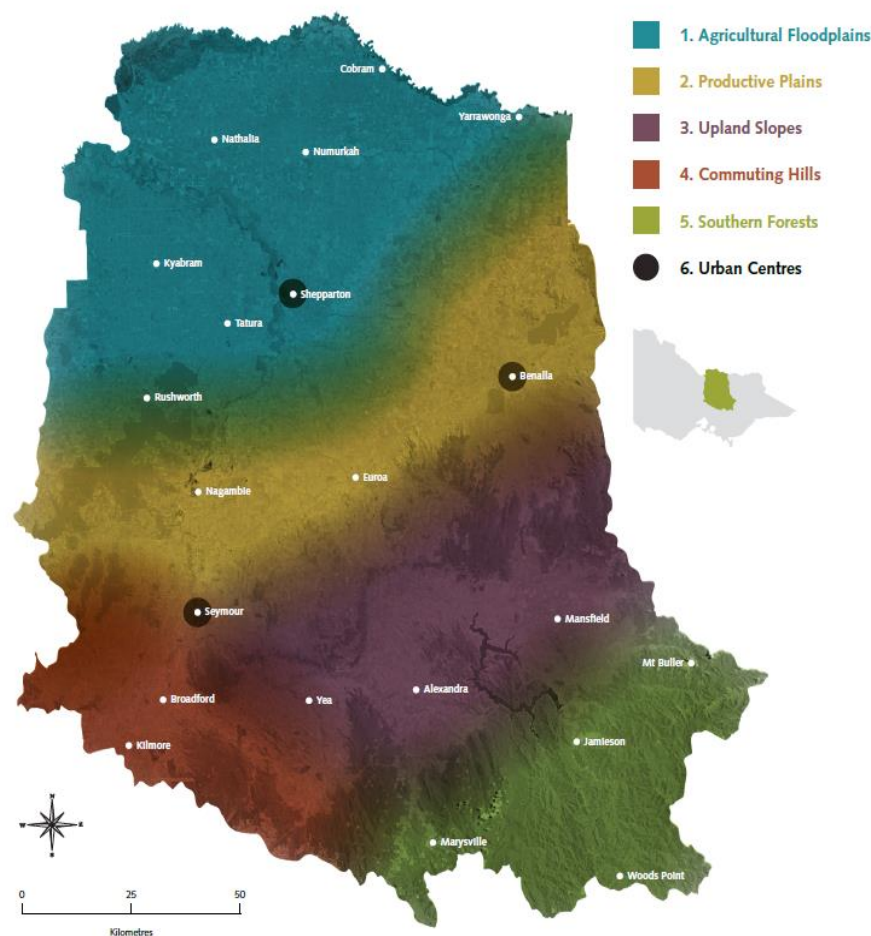


Figure 2: Sub-Catchment Social-ecological systems (SESs) of the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Responding to the strategic objectives and priorities outlined in the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019 will be the focus of investment and works for the Goulburn Broken CMA over the next six years and will be integrated into investment planning including the EOI process. This will include further refinement of investment priorities and activities according to the differing threats and priorities of each SES including through the development of SES Integration Plans (or referred to as 'Local Plans') due for finalisation by July 2015. Further information on the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019 can be found at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au.

WHY AN EOI PROCESS?

Over many years the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has been successful in attracting investment for natural resource management activities. This is primarily due to the strong partnerships and robust regional strategies that have been developed between the regional community, agencies, other stakeholders and the Goulburn Broken CMA. To continue this partnership, we invite the regional community and other stakeholders to participate in the annual Expression of Interest (EOI) call. This process seeks to capture ideas to address the priorities of the catchment community, as articulated in the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019, for natural resource management. The Goulburn Broken CMA will then work to align the EOIs to Victorian and Australian Government priorities, or other funding opportunities, once released.

As in previous years, innovative ideas that are not directly, or obviously aligned to Government priorities or the nominated priority SES, are encouraged. While they have a low chance of being funded, they can be important in identifying emerging issues, new priorities and new approaches to addressing existing issues.

WHERE IS THE FUNDING FROM?

The Goulburn Broken CMA bids for and receives funding primarily from the Victorian and Australian Governments to undertake and coordinate natural resource management activities that will work toward achieving the objectives of the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019. The majority of funds received by the Goulburn Broken CMA are used to fund projects and activities undertaken by a range of organisations and community groups across the Catchment. The EOI process enables the CMA to align projects with Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019 priorities and helps to coordinate and match the ideas of organisations and community groups with the funding requirements of the Victorian and Australian Government.

WILL MY EOI BE FUNDED?

The increasingly targeted investment by the Victorian and Australian Governments can result in some local priorities being left unfunded. The Goulburn Broken CMA encourages the catchment community to

continue to raise these local priorities through the EOI process where they may be able to be directed to other funding opportunities that may arise during the year.

While the Goulburn Broken CMA has a good track record in securing Victorian and Australian Government funds, there is always a tension between the number of good ideas to address priorities and the funding available.

It is important for proponents to be aware that this is an 'Expression of Interest' call for projects and that there is no guarantee of project funding.

Community involvement in catchment management planning and activity is not limited to participation in the EOI process, it occurs through strategy development (e.g. community consultation during the development of the Regional Catchment Strategy and its sub-strategies), participation on and through the Authority's Board and Community Engagement Advisory Groups, through involvement in other NRM groups and through private investment. This effort is critical in contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019.

The following table indicates the indicative timelines that the Goulburn Broken CMA is working towards to communicate EOI feedback to groups. Please note that timelines for funding announcements are sometimes difficult to estimate.

Feb 2015	Technical Review of Projects
April 2015	Initial feedback to EOI proponents
July 2015	Second round of feedback to EOI proponents
Sept 2015	Agreements sent to successful proponents
Oct 2015	Payments to successful proponents
June 2016	Projects completed
July 2016	Final reports submitted

Note: Projects funded through SoilCare Small Project Grants and Small Community Action and Education Grants are likely to be advised and contracted prior to the above timelines.

DEVELOPING AN EOI

This document is divided into four areas aligned to the RCS: Biodiversity, Land Health (including Sustainable Irrigation and Pest Plants and Animals), Water and People. Within each area information is provided on

the priorities for investment in 2015-16. These align to the strategic objectives, strategic priorities and management measures (or tasks/activities) within Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019. Where relevant, there are links to further information that may be useful in developing an EOI bid.

The section **‘What can you do?’** seeks to provide specific advice as to the types of activities that could be considered to address the priorities. For some investment areas there may be limited opportunities for individuals and community groups to apply for funding by lodging an EOI. In these instances, additional information is provided on other activities that individuals and groups may undertake that contribute towards meeting catchment priorities.

HOW WILL MY EOI BE ASSESSED?

Along with meeting priority actions and locations in the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority RCS the following criteria are also considered when aligning projects with fund sources and other constraints:

- Groups need to be incorporated (or be sponsored by an incorporated organisation) to receive funding.
- Is the proposed action relevant to addressing the threat or protecting the asset?
- Is the proposal technically sound?
- Are the costs realistic costs? For example \$/ha of revegetation, \$/km of fencing.
- Capacity to deliver – does the project ensure the appropriate skills, resources and technical knowledge will be available? This will include consideration of past performance.
- Is there demonstrated support from relevant agency, partners and/or community groups?
- Cost share. Projects need at least matching funds in-kind or cash from proponents to be considered an attractive investment, noting cost of volunteer labour should be calculated at \$25 per hour.
- The assessment process will include community representation to ensure alignment to local EOIs and regional priorities.

OH&S SAFETY

It is important that you understand your Occupational Health and Safety obligations should your project be funded. Please refer to the information on the application form for further information, or visit <http://vwa.vic.gov.au/safety-and-prevention>

A WORD ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate variability is recognised as a significant driver of change across the Catchment in the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019. Climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts will be incorporated into projects that are funded through these program areas.

SMALL COMMUNITY ACTION AND EDUCATION GRANT FUNDING

The EOI call will include the application process for Small community action and education grant funding.

Small community action and education grant funding provides funding of up to \$5,000 to non-profit community based natural resource management groups and schools in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. This funding is for projects that have a wide community benefit with widespread promotion of catchment issues. Projects must contribute primarily to awareness and education of catchment and related environmental issues or small on ground works that does not meet current grant requirements.

Applications will be assessed in February, and successful applicants will be notified on the success of their application as soon as possible after the assessment process.

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME SOILCARE SMALL PROJECT GRANTS

The SoilCare project (funded by the Australian Government), is providing small project grants to community groups. Applications are being sought through this EOI call. The funding is for projects that contribute to increased awareness, understanding and adoption of management practices that improve soil health, and promotion and adoption of sustainable farming practices.

SoilCare Small Project Grants provide funding of up to \$10,000 to non-profit community-based farming groups, such as Landcare and production groups, in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. Projects may run for up to four years.

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAMME REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR GRANTS

The Regional Landcare facilitator, (funded by the Australian Government) is providing small grants to community groups. Applications are being sought through this EOI call. The funding is for projects that promote the adoption of practices that improve the quality of the natural resource base with a particular focus on protecting biological diversity reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon stored in soil.

Regional Landcare Facilitation Small Grants provide funding of up to \$10,000 to non-profit community-based farming groups, such as Landcare and production groups, in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For further information or assistance in developing or submitting an EOI please contact Katie Warner, Business Development Manager on ph. 03 5822 7700.

Prior to developing and lodging an EOI, please contact the relevant person(s) listed at the bottom of the relevant section.

LODGING YOUR EOI

EOI call closes: **5pm, Friday 23rd January 2015.**

EOI form: www.gbcma.vic.gov.au

Lodgment can be via:

Email: darelles@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Post: Goulburn Broken CMA, PO Box 1752,
Shepparton, VIC 3632

In person at:

Shepparton Office, 168 Welsford Street

Yea Office, Shop 5 / 10 High Street

Benalla Office, 35 Sydney Rd (DEPI Site)

BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is the 'variety of all life forms – the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystems of which they form part'. Biodiversity underpins the health of connected natural and managed systems and provides ecosystem services that humans cannot imitate at large scales.

Biodiversity as an asset can be broken into further sub-categories including native vegetation, wetlands, rivers and streams, native fauna and soil biodiversity. For the purposes of the RCS, the assets considered in the biodiversity section of this supplement will be terrestrial habitat; and threatened species and communities. Wetlands, rivers and streams are considered in the water section and soil biodiversity in the land section.

Terrestrial habitat includes native vegetation as well as rocky outcrops, fallen timber and soil. Native vegetation occurs as remnants, linear patches, revegetated sites and large reserves.

Native vegetation provides a range of ecological, social and economic values including the provision of habitat for the majority of species. In fragmented landscapes, native vegetation provides linkages to ensure species movement, which is important in gene flow and the ability of species to adapt to change.

20-30 year objectives

Long term objectives for the extent, quality and connectivity of native vegetation are as follows:

- Maintain the 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 70,000ha by 2030 to restore threatened ecological vegetation classes and improve landscape connectivity.
- Improve the quality of 90% of existing (2005) native vegetation by 10% by 2030.

Strategic priorities guiding investment

- Managing public land collaboratively – Catchment wide
- The adoption of flexible engagement approaches – Catchment wide
- Capturing opportunities from land development - Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Adapting to climate variability risks – Catchment wide
- Responding to and recovering from climatic events – Commuting Hills / Southern Forests
- Increasing biodiversity in agricultural land use – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes

Projects or activities that could be considered for funding

- Catchment wide -
 - Building strengthened community support for biodiversity conservation
 - Creating awareness, acceptance of, and uptake of land management practices that protect and restore terrestrial and aquatic habitat
 - Identification/provision of environmental stewardship opportunities for land managers to achieve biodiversity outcomes and build understanding of its contribution to sustainable farming

Other information

Priority geographic zones for protection and restoration of biodiversity are provided in Figure 4 (from Section 4 of the Biodiversity Strategy). Funding will be biased towards high priority zones (coloured red) of the catchment, but it is also recognised that there are significant biodiversity assets and landscapes within 'yellow' and 'orange' areas, and the protection and enhancement of these is also a priority.

Please note that the *Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015* does not include detailed actions or advice, for example for on-ground management of biodiversity assets. The following principles and

BIODIVERSITY

priorities may be used for this purpose. Biodiversity Action Planning products (see For More Information below) also provide site-scale maps and actions upon which project ideas can be developed.

Key principles

- Protect and manage existing habitat to help build resilience of species and ecosystems.
- Establish new habitat by promoting natural regeneration and revegetating (including direct seeding), keeping in mind landscape-scale connectivity objectives in fragmented landscapes.
- Implement actions to maintain viable populations of threatened species, where the protection of these species benefits broader ecosystem health (e.g. other species and ecosystem function).
- Build the capacity (e.g. training) of landholders, community groups, local government and other agencies to protect, manage and restore biodiversity and understand the implications of climate change on biodiversity.
- Promote and enact opportunities for indigenous engagement and involvement in natural resource management.
- Apply adaptive management to ensure ongoing learning and continuous improvement. Develop improved approaches and processes for biodiversity management. For example: prioritisation; monitoring, evaluation and reporting; research; incentive program design; climate change adaptation; marketing and communication; knowledge sharing.

For more information

Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 <http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/default.asp?ID=home>

Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015

http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/downloads/biodiversity_strategy/gbcma_biodiversity_strategy_web.pdf

Biodiversity Action Plans and Mapping (click on your area for priority site mapping and conservation plans)

<http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/default.asp?ID=bap>

List of Threatened Fauna Species in the Goulburn Broken Catchment

http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/default.asp?ID=native_fauna

What can you do?

All

- Develop and submit an EOI that addresses all or some of the above priorities and principles in an efficient and effective manner, with reference to the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019 and the Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015.
- Develop and submit an EOI with an innovative idea that may not directly, or obviously be aligned to Victorian or regional priority (*these are important in identifying emerging issues, new priorities and new approaches to addressing existing issues, but have a low chance of being funded in 2015-16*).

Outside the EOI Process

- Landholders can apply for financial incentives to assist in the protection and management of native vegetation/habitat.

Contact

Steve Wilson, Land and Biodiversity Manager Phone: 03 5822 7737

Jenny Wilson, Strategic Landscape Planner. Phone: 03 5822 7715.

LAND (INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION, PEST PLANT AND ANIMALS AND SOILCARE SMALL PROJECT GRANTS)

Land and soil across the Catchment is a fundamental part of the natural environment, supporting ecosystems and the lifestyles and livelihoods of the Catchment's communities.

Most land in the Catchment is privately owned, with 1.4 million hectares used for dryland agriculture and 270,000 hectares for irrigated agriculture. There are 800,000 hectares of public land, including extensive areas for conservation. Primary industries include dairy, horticulture, viticulture, livestock production (beef, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry), cropping, timber production and aquaculture. Smaller enterprises include thoroughbred and standard bred horse breeding, nurseries, mushrooms, turf and cutflower production. Other industry includes food processing, tourism and recreation. Land use increasingly supports lifestyle living, particularly towards the south of the Catchment.

20-30 year objectives

Land

- Protect the environmental values and ecosystem services provided by healthy soils on public and private land, and productive values on private land
- Build soil health to complement productive values on private land
- Reduce the impact of threats from inappropriately managed land on natural and built public and private land
- Promote sustainable farming practices to ensure the improved productivity from irrigated and dryland agricultural level
- Prioritise protection of foothills and river valleys of highland areas from salinisation threatening significant terrestrial and aquatic assets.

Sustainable Irrigation

- Manage shallow groundwater for salinity control within the Shepparton Irrigation Region (SIR) by improved irrigation management on farms, improved surface water management within drainage catchments and consistently pumping groundwater with appropriate reuse over 216,000 hectares
- Keep increases to salinity levels of the River Murray at Morgan resulting from activities in the SIR at or below 8.9 EC (electrical conductivity units)
- Ensure no net increase in stream salinity in the Goulburn River upstream of Goulburn Weir.

Pest Plant and Animals

- Prevent the establishment of new and emerging weeds
- Invasive species in high value asset areas treated to protect assets
- Manage the impact of established pest animals such as foxes and rabbits.

Strategic priorities guiding investment

- Providing adaptive management and leadership – Catchment wide
- Adopting flexible engagement approaches – Catchment wide
- Capturing opportunities from land development – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Adapting to climate variability risks – Catchment wide
- Capturing opportunities from a low carbon future – Catchment wide
- Managing risks to agricultural production – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Establishing sustainable agricultural practices – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Increasing biodiversity in agricultural land use - Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Influencing regional water policy – Catchment wide

LAND (INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION, PEST PLANT AND ANIMALS AND SOILCARE SMALL PROJECT GRANTS)

- Delivering water to waterways and wetlands – Catchment wide
- Using water efficiency on farms - Agricultural Floodplains

Projects or activities that could be considered for funding

Land

- Delivery of engagement and extension activities to integrate ecological and agricultural productivity benefits - Catchment-wide
- Projects that create awareness and acceptance of sustainable management practices to improve land and soil condition – Catchment wide
- Projects that create awareness and acceptance of land management practices that protect and improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat – Catchment wide
- Working with landholders to protect and improve biodiversity on private land and build understanding of its contribution to sustainable and profitable farming - Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills / Southern Forests
- Delivery of farm planning to integrate ecological and agricultural productive benefits – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills / Southern Forests
- Creating awareness and acceptance of sustainable management practices to improve land and soil condition - Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills / Southern Forests

Sustainable Irrigation

- Modernising water delivery on irrigated land to provide ecological and productivity benefits - Agricultural Floodplains
- Promoting land-use capability assessments and implementation, including use and management of water – Agricultural Floodplains
- Creating opportunities for community leaders to contribute to water policy – Catchment wide
- Delivery of surface and sub-surface drainage works across a modernised irrigation delivery system, including adaptive shallow groundwater management – Agricultural Floodplains

Pest Plant and Animals

- Eradication programs for infestations of Regionally Prohibited Weeds. Species considered for funding include Cape Tulip, Serrated Tussock, Ragwort, Artichoke Thistle and Wild Garlic – Catchment wide
- Control programs targeting Regionally Controlled Weeds where it can be clearly demonstrated that a coordinated community approach is in place. Species considered the highest priority are Gorse and Blackberry, however other Regionally Controlled Weeds may be considered where genuine community support can be demonstrated – Catchment wide
- Control programs targeting Regionally Controlled Weeds in areas where weed infestations are threatening high value regional assets. Species considered the highest priority are Gorse and Blackberry, however other Regionally Controlled Weeds may be considered where a significant threat can be demonstrated – Catchment wide
- Develop coordinated community control programs targeting rabbits where there is a high level of community support or where infestations are threatening high value regional assets – Catchment wide
- Projects that raise community awareness in relation to priority new and emerging weeds (as identified in Victorian and federal policies) and target the mapping and control of new and emerging weed infestations – Catchment wide

For SoilCare Small Project Grants

- Demonstration trials for sustainable farming practices, new or alternative farming technologies
- Training or education programs for sustainable farming practices
- Farm tours and Expert speakers

LAND (INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION, PEST PLANT AND ANIMALS AND SOILCARE SMALL PROJECT GRANTS)

Other information

- Land Health focuses on managing the health of soils in the catchment. The Goulburn Broken CMA has a strong commitment to building community capacity and understanding of soil health through its partner agencies, workshops and information events, farmer-driven demonstrations and supportive extension staff.
- The Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG) provides funding for invasive plants and animals. Groups developing EOI's targeting pest plants and animals need to ensure that their proposal aligns with the VLG guidelines.
- Funding for invasive plants and animals extension and compliance program is sourced external to the CMA investment process, although funding for this area may form a component of larger proposals lodged by agencies and other organisations, as a complementary activity.

Separate guidelines for the Victorian Landcare Program are developed by DEPI annually. The Goulburn Broken CMA modifies or collates similar projects to fit these guidelines once they are released. See the People section of this document for more information.

For SoilCare Small Project Grants

- Projects must contribute to increased awareness, understanding and adoption of management practices that improve soil and land health.
- Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate wide community, university or industry (for non-profit benefits) involvement.
- Projects that are primarily about increasing private gain (on-farm productivity) will be given low priority. Projects that are on private property on a small scale as a trial site and will benefit other farmer's knowledge will be preferred.
- Grant applications will be accepted from non-profit community-based farming groups and relevant university research and industry bodies in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.
- Proposals must be in line with the priorities in the Regional Catchment Strategy or sub strategies.
- Funds requested should not exceed \$10,000.
- The group is expected to contribute at least 30% of the project cost, which may be cash or in-kind.
- Projects will be assessed against criteria that include value for money, feasibility and contribution to soil health and sustainable farming outcomes.

Projects/items not eligible for SoilCare Small Project Grants

- Maintenance or repairs to farm equipment.
- Large capital items of equipment.
- Projects in which the primary intent is private gain.

For more information

Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 <http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/default.asp?ID=home>

Goulburn-Murray Water Connections program <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/connections>

Details of Regionally Prohibited and Regionally Controlled Weeds can be found by searching the Department of Environment and Primary Industries website at www.depi.vic.gov.au

Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy is available on the Goulburn Broken CMA website at http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/default.asp?ID=pest_plants_and_animals.

LAND (INCLUDING SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION, PEST PLANT AND ANIMALS AND SOILCARE SMALL PROJECT GRANTS)

What can you do?

All

- Develop and submit an EOI that address all or some of the above priorities through a group project, such as a trial to demonstrate sustainable farming practices or a package of education information.
- Develop and submit an EOI with an innovative idea that may not directly, or obviously be aligned to a Victorian or regional priority (*these are important in identifying emerging issues, new priorities and new approaches to addressing existing issues, but have a low chance of being funded in 2015-16*).

Outside the EOI Process

- Community groups (Landcare, production, farming groups) can contact the Land Health program to discuss the needs of the group and ideas for engagement, extension and demonstration within the Catchment around soil and land health, sustainable farm practices, and improving management of agricultural land.
- Apply for incentives through the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) to undertake, implement and redesign existing, whole farm plans – Agricultural Floodplains.
- Seek funding for pest plants and animals control through alternative funding sources .

Contact

Rhiannon Apted, Land Health Manager. Phone: 03 5797 4408

Carl Walters, Manager Sustainable Irrigation Program. Phone: 03 5822 7711

Tony Kubeil, Manager Landcare and Communities. Phone: 0408 597 213 (for details on VLG).

Greg Wood, Biosecurity Area Leader. Phone 03 5450 9549

WATER

Waterways, wetlands, floodplains and groundwater aquifers are an integral part of the Catchment providing many environmental, social and economic services. They underpin livelihoods, support agriculture and urban centres, contain significant flora and fauna habitat, have high recreational and aesthetic values, and are central to the culture of the Traditional Owners.

There are two major river basins in the Catchment, the Goulburn River Basin and the Broken River Basin. The Goulburn River Basin is Victoria's largest, covering 1.6 million hectares or 7.1 per cent of Victoria. The Goulburn River is 570 kilometers long, flowing from the Great Dividing Range upstream of Woods Point to the Murray River east of Echuca. The Broken River Basin is 772,386 hectares or 3.4 per cent of Victoria's total area. The Broken River is a tributary of the Goulburn River. The basin also includes the catchment of the Broken Creek that diverges from the Broken River west of Winton Wetlands and flows north-west to the Murray River.

Natural floodplains across the Catchment have an important ecological function with floods supporting vegetation and wetlands on the floodplain as well as the river channel ecology. Floodplains have been highly modified with built infrastructure to support and protect urban centres and agricultural production, as well as levees to protect these areas from flooding impacts. River regulation has altered flood frequency and patterns.

Wetlands exist at the interface between land and water and play a key role in the maintenance of the hydrological, physical and ecological health of river systems. Wetlands perform numerous vital functions including water purification, nutrient processing and retention, maintenance of watertables, flood protection, erosion control and groundwater recharge. They also provide habitat, refuge, and breeding and nursery areas for many species. Wetlands are also valued for recreation by many communities.

Groundwater is found in aquifers across the Catchment (layers of underground sediments or fractured rock). There are a number of significant deep and shallow groundwater aquifer systems that are varied in their character and connectivity. Many ecosystems rely on groundwater for some or all of their water requirements including terrestrial vegetation, waterways, wetlands and their dependent fauna.

20-30-year OBJECTIVES

Maintain resilience of the region's streams, wetlands and communities (within a catchment context) so that:

- populations of threatened aquatic dependent species will be maintained or improved- including Trout cod, Macquarie perch, Murray cod, Eel tailed Catfish, Barred Galaxias, Golden perch;
- Barmah Forest will retain its Ecological Character;
- the values associated with Heritage Rivers will be maintained or improved;
- wetlands with formally recognised significance are maintained or improved;
- maintain and improve water quality in priority water supply catchments;
- maintain and improve waterways and wetlands of high community value.

Strategic priorities guiding investment

- Protection and enhancement of priority streams and wetlands – Catchment wide
- Protection and enhancement of non-priority streams and wetlands of high community value – Catchment wide
- Community engagement and education activities that focus on waterway values and their protection delivered through RiverConnect – Catchment wide
- Community based water quality monitoring delivered through Waterwatch – Catchment wide
- Undertaking recurrent maintenance and monitoring on investment – Catchment wide

WATER

Other information

The Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy 2014 – 2022 (draft) identifies geographically priority areas for investment. These areas have been identified as:

- **Priority Streams** Goulburn River, Seven Creeks, Hughes Creek, King Parrot Creek, Yea River, Acheron River, Taggerty River, Rubicon River, Big River, Howqua River, Howqua River, Delatite River, Broken River, Holland Creek, Ryans Creek, Broken Creek, Boosey Creek, Tullah Creek, Merton Creek, Honeysuckle Creek, Five Mile Creek, Mollison Creek, Sunday Creek, Sawpit Gully Creek Lima East Creek.
- **Priority Wetlands:** Ramsar Site (Barmah Forest), Wetlands Listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands (including Kanyapella Basin, Muckatah Depression, Central Highlands Peatlands, Gaynor Swamp, Wanalta Wetland Complex, Reedy Swamp, Moodies Swamp, Carlands Swamp, and, wetlands of bioregional, regional and local significance.

Projects or activities that could be considered for funding

- Catchment Wide
 - Protection and enhancement of priority streams and wetlands (activities may include pest plant control, fencing, off-stream watering and revegetation).
 - Protection and enhancement of non-priority streams and wetlands of high community value (activities may include pest plant control, fencing, off-stream watering and revegetation).

Waterwatch.

For more information

Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 <http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/default.asp?ID=home>

Priority actions are detailed in the *Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy 2014-2022* which is available on request from the Goulburn Broken CMA (ph. 5822 7700).

What can you do?

All

- Develop and submit an EOI aligned to the above priorities that outline how the actions of the draft *Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy 2014-2022* could be implemented within a local community.
- Develop and submit an EOI on how Traditional Owners and the broader community can be engaged to support the achievement of the draft *Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy 2014-2022* actions.
- Develop and submit an EOI with an innovative idea that may not directly, or obviously be aligned to a Victorian or regional priority (*these are important in identifying emerging issues, new priorities and new approaches to addressing existing issues, but have a low chance of being funded in 2013-14*).

Outside the EOI process

- Apply for Waterway and wetland Grants to assist in the protection and management of priority sites through the provision of cash incentives to undertake works to prevent or repair degradation along waterways and wetlands.

Contact

Simon Casanelia, Acting River Health and Wetland Health Program Manager. Phone: 03 5822 7700

Wayne Tennant, Strategic Planning Manager - Catchments. Phone: 03 5822 7700

Mark Turner, River Health Implementation Manager. Phone: 03 5822 7700

PEOPLE (INCLUDING VICTORIAN LANDCARE PROGRAM, SMALL COMMUNITY ACTION AND EDUCATION GRANTS, REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR LANDCARE GRANTS)

The Goulburn Broken CMA (2012) estimates that for every \$1 spent by government in natural resource management, at least \$4 is spent by the Catchment community). The community's ongoing investment in catchment management has been critical to the success of past RCSs, and will be critical to the success of this one.

Involvement by the community in catchment management is broad based. For example in 2006–07, 86 per cent of agricultural-based businesses surveyed in the Catchment reported NRM issues on their property. Encouragingly, 99 per cent of those, or 5,055 businesses reporting NRM issues also reported they were actively addressing these problems on their farm.

In addition to the effort undertaken by landholders on private land, community-based networks and groups achieve significant catchment management outcomes on public and private land across the majority of the Catchment.

As at 2012, these community networks and groups include:

- Landcare groups (78 groups, 3,000 volunteers)
- Landcare networks (six networks)
- Conservation Management Networks (five networks)
- Community sustainability, climate change action, sustainable farming groups (about 25)
- Waterwatch Community Waterways Monitoring Program
- Traditional Owner organisations
- Committees of management

20-30-year OBJECTIVES

The long term objectives for People in the Goulburn Broken Catchment are:

- Develop and support functioning and enthusiastic community groups to enable them to play an active part in catchment management.
- Support community leaders taking up leadership positions in catchment management.
- Develop and support improved knowledge in the community of new and emerging catchment threats and thresholds.
- Facilitate the adoption of best management practices by land managers to support the achievement of long-term Catchment objectives.

Strategic priorities guiding investment

- Adoption of flexible engagement approaches – Catchment wide
- Managing risks to agricultural production – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Establishing sustainable agricultural practices – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Increasing biodiversity in agricultural land-use – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Awareness and education of catchment and related environmental issues or small on ground works that does not meet current grant requirements – Catchment wide

Projects or activities that could be considered for funding

- Building capacity in existing and new conservation groups to delivery catchment management projects – Catchment wide

PEOPLE (INCLUDING VICTORIAN LANDCARE PROGRAM, SMALL COMMUNITY ACTION AND EDUCATION GRANTS, REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR LANDCARE GRANTS)

- Development of engagement approaches that matches landholder motivations with catchment management approaches – Catchment wide
- Projects that identify and implement environmental stewardship opportunities for land managers – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Projects for landholders to protect and improve biodiversity on private land and build understanding of its contribution to sustainable and profitable farming – Agricultural Floodplains / Productive Plains / Upland Slopes / Commuting Hills
- Create awareness and acceptance of land management practices that protect and improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat – Catchment wide
- Manage public land to minimise loss of biodiversity – Catchment wide

For Small Community Action and Education Grants:

- Priority will be given to projects that have a wide community benefit with widespread promotion of catchment issues.
- Projects must contribute primarily to awareness and education of catchment and related environmental issues or small on ground works that does not meet current grant requirements.

For Regional Landcare Facilitator Grants:

- Projects that involve a number of groups and/or establish a partnership with the Goulburn Broken Catchment will be given a higher priority.
- Projects must improve the quality of the natural resource base and should contribute to the sustainable management of agriculture and aquaculture to protect biological diversity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon stored in soil.

Other information

Embedding resilience in developing and implementing the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019 is a significant step in helping individuals, communities and organisations achieve their goals in the face of ongoing change. The Goulburn Broken CMA through its leadership and partnerships will improve the resilience of the Catchment's people, land, biodiversity and water resources in a rapidly changing environment. The Goulburn Broken CMA has also developed a set of principles aligned with this intent that will further guide investment in projects.

Investment will contribute to:

- Maximising the level of community participation in catchment natural resource management (NRM) and sustainable landscape change by:
 - Supporting Landcare and Community Groups to identify and undertake projects that address regional and local priorities.
 - Ensure community groups are kept informed of, and able to input into, relevant projects whenever possible.
- Acknowledging and respecting traditional values of land and biodiversity to Aboriginal people and promoting opportunities for indigenous engagement in NRM.
- Improving NRM outcomes by facilitating the communication flow between and within agencies, landholders (new and existing) and community groups.
- Improving the value of investment through the monitoring and evaluation of agency/community program implementation.
- Promoting local action on the environment to empower people with information to make well informed decisions regarding land management.

PEOPLE (INCLUDING VICTORIAN LANDCARE PROGRAM, SMALL COMMUNITY ACTION AND EDUCATION GRANTS, REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR LANDCARE GRANTS)

For Small Community Action and Education Grants:

- Grant applications will be accepted from non-profit community based natural resource management groups and schools in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.
- Proposals must be in line with the priorities in the Regional Catchment Strategy or sub strategies.
- Projects that involve a number of groups and/or establish a partnership with the GB CMA will be given a higher priority.
- The total value of the grant requested should not exceed \$5,000. Government contributions may be up to 70% of the proposal's cost. The community group's contribution may be in cash or kind.

Projects/items not eligible for Small Community Action and Education Grant funding:

- Projects that are eligible for funding under any other existing program, e.g. Waterways Grants, Environmental Management Incentives etc.
- Maintenance or repairs to equipment.
- Large capital items such as office or field equipment.
- Projects that have been commenced, undertaken or completed before the closing date of Community Education Grants.

For Regional Landcare Facilitator Grants:

- Grant applications will be accepted from non-profit community based natural resource management and farming groups in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.
- Proposals must be in line with the priorities in the Regional Catchment Strategy or sub strategies and the National Landcare Programme.
- The total value of the grant requested should not exceed \$10,000. Government contributions may be up to 50% of the proposal's cost. The community group's contribution may be in cash or kind.

Projects/items not eligible for Regional Landcare Facilitator Grants funding:

- Projects that are eligible for funding under any other existing program, e.g. Waterways Grants, Environmental Management Incentives etc.
- Maintenance or repairs to equipment.
- Large capital items such as office or field equipment.
- Projects that have been commenced, undertaken or completed before the closing date of Regional Landcare Facilitator Grants.

For more information

Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 <http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au/default.asp?ID=home>

What can you do?

ALL

- Develop and submit an EOI that addresses all or some of the above priorities and principles in an efficient and effective manner, with reference to the Goulburn Broken RCS 2013-2019.
 - Develop and submit an EOI with an innovative idea that may not directly, or obviously be aligned to Victorian or regional priority (*these are important in identifying emerging issues, new priorities and new approaches to addressing existing issues, but have a low chance of being funded in 2015-16*).
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**PEOPLE (INCLUDING VICTORIAN LANDCARE PROGRAM, SMALL COMMUNITY ACTION AND EDUCATION GRANTS,
REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR LANDCARE GRANTS)**

Outside the EOI process:

- Apply for State and Federal funding provided directly to community NRM groups throughout the year. The Regional Landcare Coordinator will communicate with groups when funding opportunities become available, and can provide support and advice to groups submitting applications.

Contact

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Charlie Sexton, Regional Landcare Facilitator. Phone: 0488196216
