Appendix 2 of Goulburn Broken Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy

Action Plan, 2003 - 2008

Notes: Management actions are derived directly from body of MER Strategy. Timeframes, responsibilities and estimated costs added in Action Plan guide annual prioritisation of management actions in business planning process. Any of the details may change, according to prevailing management environment.

Objective	Management Action	Timeframe	Respons-ibility	Estimated cost, $
Action Area 1: Participative decision-making				
To support communities to develop MER processess that are responsive to their unique social structures. To provide a readily identified common Catchment context for all NRM MER activities within the Goulburn Broken. To provide direction on the chain of information flow for NRM MER, including forums and timing.	1. Continue support of the existing MER processes, such as Landcare groups and Implementation Committees, that promote participative decision-making.	ongoing	Board	cost met elsewhere
	2. Map existing participative decision-making processes within the Catchment to help communicate to all stakeholders the rigour of existing MER processes. ("Rigour" includes regularity, transparency and opportunity for all stakeholders to be involved.)	2004	Board ICs	5,000
	3. Develop MER protocol that ensures all stakeholder needs of MER and possible contributions to MER are considered. This includes including social and economic evaluation in annual program and sub-program level reports.	2004	Board	500
	4. Conduct gap-analysis to identify stakeholders who might be alienated from current MER processes.	2004	KPL	1,000
Action Area 2: Community and industry MER activities				
To nurture the abundant good-will from volunteers in NRM MER activities. To promote the environmental ethic of industry via NRM MER.	5. Build two-way loop into MER protocols, ensuring that contributors must receive information back in a form that is relevant to them.	2004	Board ICs Investors	1,000
	6. Document existing information that is provided to land managers at local area scale and identify possibilities for enhancing it.	2004	ICs	5,000
	7. Develop and implement MER training program for agency staff and the community.	2005	ICs	10,000
	8. Continue developing MER system that links the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy with community group MER activities, including via local area plans.	2005	ICs	10,000
	9. Continue developing MER system that links Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy with private industry MER activities, including via Environmental Management System approaches.	2006	ICs	20,000
	10. Develop links between university MER activities and the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy.	2006	Board ICs	5,000
Action Area 3: Data knowledge and quality – environment, economic, social and institutional				

Objective	Management Action	Timeframe	Respons-ibility	Estimated cost, $

To improve understanding and demonstration of the link between cause and effect in a complex integrated system.
  To consolidate baseline monitoring efforts.
  To improve the link between technical experts, community decision-makers and investors.
  To provide direction on how to show assumptions that underpin decisions including the link between outputs and intended and unintended outcomes and how to show progress via monitoring, evaluating and reporting against identified outcomes and milestones.
	11. Refine core logic (process of documenting assumptions that link outputs to outcomes).	ongoing	Board ICs	5,000

	12. 'Map' core logic for all programs, expanding on the example in this Strategy's Background Paper on SIR salinity.	2006	Board ICs	20,000
	13. Prepare standardised project evaluation and reporting processes with investors, including access to reports.	ongoing	Board Key Project Leaders Program Leaders	cost met elsewhere
	14. Prepare gap and data needs analysis from 'assumption maps' (see previous) so that understanding can be improved.	2004 then ongoing	Board ICs	5,000
	15. Prepare detailed 'MER Action Plan for Improving Investment' which highlights sequential approach to improving MER processes.	2003	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere
	16. Continue baseline monitoring of the triple bottom line, especially resource condition trends, where possible using agreed standards.	ongoing	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere
Action Area 4: Project and issue management				
To improve issue and project management by improving MER. To ensure the Regional Catchment Strategy is current.	17. Continue baseline-monitoring projects such as water tables, stream salinity, native vegetation, and water quality using where possible agreed statewide data protocols.	ongoing	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere
	18. Work with investors to align project proposals and project reporting.	ongoing	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere
	19. Develop checklist of MER needs to be included in reviews of each RCS sub-strategy or Action Plan, including a schedule of evaluations as they are undertaken, the purpose of the evaluation, and whether it is appropriate to have the evaluation conducted in-house or independently.	2004	Board ICs	5,000
	20. Include MER needs in each project proposal.	ongoing	Board ICs Key Project Leaders	cost met elsewhere
	21. Continue standardising outputs and outcomes for each stakeholder and build into databases.	ongoing	Board ICs Key Project Leaders	cost met elsewhere
	22. Evaluate and update the Regional Catchment Strategy every 5 years, in accordance with the Catchment and Land Protection Act (1994).	2007	Board	cost met elsewhere
	23. Evaluate and update programs and sub-strategies of the Regional Catchment Strategy as required (generally every 5 years).	as appropriate	Board ICs	1,000,000
	24. Include support processes in evaluations at the strategy level: generally at the 5 year interval.	as appropriate	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere

Objective	Management Action	Timeframe	Respons-ibility	Estimated cost, $
	25. Review appropriateness of long-term outcomes sought in Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategies, perhaps at 20 year intervals.	as appropriate	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere
	26. Build variation evaluation into reporting by including upper and lower limits on proposed outputs that would initiate an evaluation of a project or sub-strategy.	2004	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere
	27. Review programs at the intermediate outcome level (where projects become integrated) annually (includes evaluation information to feed into longer term Strategy review).	2004	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere
	28. Review projects half-yearly (includes monitoring and evaluation information to feed into annual program review) and on completion.	2004	Board ICs	cost met elsewhere
	29. Review this MER Strategy annually and conduct major review every 5 years, using the Outcomes, Objectives, Management Actions, Timeframes and Responsibilities as the basis for the review.	annually and 2007	Board ICs	15,000
Action Area 5: Database management and information exchange				
To develop a database management system that is enables information to be accessed, easily, efficiently, and effectively.	30. Compile and maintain a single catchment inventory of all NRM MER activities. This means identifying for quick reference the MER project (or groups of like projects such as 'Landcare projects'), where the details can be found, and who is responsible for the database. It does not mean including all of the details of all databases.	2004 then ongoing	Board ICs	15,000
	31. Develop a simple access system to databases relating to the Catchment's NRM MER activities. This includes constructing a database management protocol that ensures databases developed in the Catchment are included in appropriate database warehouses.	2004	Board ICs	10,000
	32. Develop data access protocols that allow decision-makers and the community to access publicly funded data and other natural resource data if possible. This includes consideration of the Freedom of Information Act 1990?? and the Privacy Act 2001??	2004	Board ICs	10,000
			Total	**1,142,500**