

Goulburn Broken Catchment Biodiversity Roundtable

Background

In the various roles we play within the catchment, whether it be as land managers, project managers and/or advisors, we have a responsibility to care and advocate for the catchment's rich biodiversity.

Resilient and flourishing biodiversity underpins natural systems and the ecosystem services we rely on (e.g. clean air, pollination etc) for our own health, as well as supporting businesses such as agriculture, recreation and amenity.



However, much of what we do impacts the natural systems, including historic and current land clearing, land use, pest plants and animals and a lack of understanding of Traditional Owners' traditional ecological knowledge. These impacts will be compounded as climate change increasingly affects weather patterns.

The transformation of the Victorian landscape through changes in land use, has pushed many native species and ecological communities beyond critical tipping points such that their resilience is reduced and populations continue to decline.

While individuals, community groups and organisations across the catchment have made significant contributions to the protection and enhancement of the catchment's biodiversity, the condition for biodiversity in the Catchment has been rated poor since 2009. The long-term risk of further decline remains very high. At the scale that revegetation and natural regeneration occurs across the catchment, the current rate of change is not sufficient to ensure functioning systems where all species can thrive.

Large-scale, urgent action is required on public and private land to reverse the historic impacts and improve biodiversity resilience. We need to find alternative ways of doing things and new investment sources if we are to bring about large-scale and urgent changes and achieve positive outcomes for biodiversity.

Through collective input the [Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy \(GB RCS\) 2021-27](#) renewal identified priority pathway actions (innovative, bridging and transition actions) and transforming actions (how we want things to work in the future, visionary ideas) to increase and protect biodiversity and mitigate climate change. The GB RCS links to State and Federal Strategies such as Victoria's Biodiversity 2037, Climate Ready Hume, and National Threatened Species Strategy. The challenge now is to determine how we scale-up our efforts, implement these actions, link to other strategies and programs, and bring new people along on the journey.



Foundational biodiversity roundtable workshop

The Goulburn Broken CMA would like to invite interested partners, community and industry members working on or interested in biodiversity in the catchment to form a Goulburn Broken Catchment Biodiversity Roundtable.

The draft purpose of the roundtable is to:

- Identify new collaboration and partnership opportunities for biodiversity action.
- Discuss information or data that could be shared to help inform decisions and monitor biodiversity condition across the catchment.
- Share new ideas or research that could change how we deliver biodiversity actions across the catchment.
- Develop collaborative work areas and/or pilot projects that deliver on current gaps and/or pathway and transforming priority actions.
- Produce an investment prospectus of collaborative biodiversity projects for the catchment.

To kickstart the roundtable a strategic planning workshop will be facilitated by the Goulburn Broken CMA focussing on biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation in relation to biodiversity. The workshop will also discuss the purpose of the roundtable and how it will operate going forward, e.g. annual planning workshop, online platform for sharing information/updates etc.



Workshop details

When: Tuesday 18 October 2022
Time: 12.00 pm to 3.45 pm (Lunch included)
Where: GV Hotel, 223 High St, Shepparton
RSVP: By Thursday 13 October 2022 by completing the online RSVP and [pre-workshop survey](#).

For further information please contact Ashley Rogers via ashleyr@gbcma.vic.gov.au or phone 0488 196 216.

Draft agenda

Time	Agenda item
12.00 pm	Arrival and lunch
12.30 pm	Welcome, workshop purpose and overview
12.40 pm	Introductions
1.00 pm	Brief overview of biodiversity in the catchment
1.15 pm	Summary of groups, businesses and organisations involved in biodiversity in the catchment, their priorities, strategic alignment and gaps in delivery. Please complete pre-workshop survey to inform this summary.
1.30 pm	Workshop activity 1 – Identify collaborative work areas and/or pilot projects we could work on together on biodiversity for the next 12 months and beyond
2.20 pm	Afternoon tea
2.30 pm	Workshop activity 2 – Progressing the project ideas to project concepts (who, what, where etc) and developing a regional investment prospectus
3.00 pm	Workshop activity 3 – Tracking progress and biodiversity condition in the catchment – key success criteria, information and data sharing, and tipping points.
3.30 pm	Workshop reflections and next steps
3.45 pm	Workshop close

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