



**GOULBURN
BROKEN**

CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

Drought Employment Program

2007

Drought Employment Program 2007

The 2007 GB CMA Drought Employment Program was part of a larger \$10 million program funded by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Under the program, drought affected people from within the catchment used their skills and applied them to work in small crews as a part of field based environmental projects. The program was about offering paid work which provided an alternative income source to those employed, as well as contributing to valuable works along priority rivers within the Goulburn Broken Catchment. The environmental projects undertaken included fencing, weed reduction and eradication, native habitat works, and pest and plant management.

The Employment program brought together agencies, government departments and authorities within the Goulburn Broken Catchment to work together to help primary producers and those affected by the drought.

Between 60 – 75 people were employed to work on a range of initiatives within the Goulburn Broken catchment, and were gainfully employed on a range of projects, including: weed management, litter prevention, fencing and installation of public works, construction of bird hides and maintenance.

Initial training was provided to all employees by Skilled, (the employment agency) in OH&S, First Aid and Chemical use, prior to commencement of the projects.

Supervision was provided by the GB CMA (as project sponsor), GB CMA extension staff, local government, Parks, G-MW, Forests and DSE.

Results achieved (project highlights)

- 114km of fencing completed to protect riparian lands.
- Two bird hides built at Gemmill's Wetland, Mooroopna;
- Picnic Bench Seats built at Jordan's Bend;
- Fish habitat created on the Broken Creek;
- Muster yards built at Barmah State Park;
- Parks Victoria signage at Yarrawonga;
- Rubbish removal along Murray River from Cobram to Yarrawonga and on the Goulburn River in Shepparton;
- Signage at the Dharnya Centre, Barmah State Forest;
- Weed control carried out across more than 9,000 ha of floodplain and riparian land; and
- 824 meter wheels maintained to achieve water savings.

Employment benefits

The program resulted in a win for the environment and a win for families facing the worst drought on record and created much needed employment.

Between 60 – 75 people have been employed to work on a range of initiatives within the Goulburn Broken catchment.

Some employees were able to leave the program to go into full time employment from the skills and experience gained during the program.

Participants have gained additional skills and training, and certification for these skills.

Natural Resource Management Outputs

Please report all natural resource management outputs using the table below.

Resource Condition Target (Link to RCS)	Output Description * (Unit of measure)	Target (if applicable)	Actual	If the DEP output is partially funded by another RCIP project then, please insert project name and number**	Percentage of the operational cost of the output funded from DEP (%)
Employment Program					
Enhance the quality of existing native vegetation and stream frontage health in priority areas by managing grazing in priority areas	Kilometres of Fencing		114	River Health Program (GBCMA – 2.5 and 3.6, 1.10)	Estimated 11-15%
	Area of frontage protected		594		
Control of exotic vegetation (in-stream and riparian) on priority systems	hectares		9,637ha	River Health Program (GBCMA – 2.5 and 3.6, 1.10)	Estimated 11-15%
Revegetation	Number / ha		7370 / 10		
Bird Hides	Number	2	2	External Funds	
Picnic Tables	Number	0	2	External Funds	
Signage and Bollard projects			50	External Funds	
Meter wheels maintained to achieve water savings	Number	0	824	External Funds	
Infrastructure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish habitat created on the Broken Creek; Muster yards built at Barmah State Park; Parks Victoria signage at Yarrawonga; Rubbish removal along Murray River from Cobram to Yarrawonga and on the Goulburn River in Shepparton; Signage at the Dharnya Centre, Barmah State Forest 			
Other projects		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair Fence Young Bend Sand Hills, Moodies Swamp WR, Youanmite NCR, Lake Rowan Swamp WR, Dowdle Swamp WR, Tungamah Swamp WR. Crew spent 3 days removing baiting signs, Trees Watered along Murray River Reserve, Rubbish collection along Murray River Reserves, Murray River Fish Research, Nevins Bend, working with DSE Fisheries researchers and construction of 32 LUNKERS 			

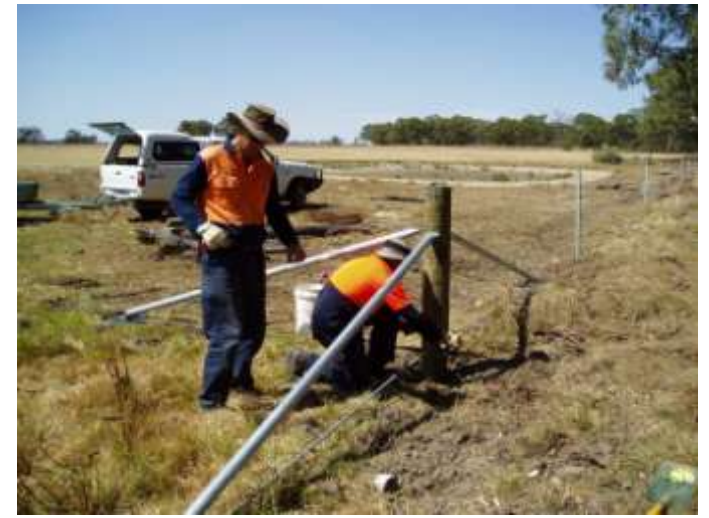
Resource Condition Target (Link to RCS)	Output Description * (Unit of measure)	Target (if applicable)	Actual	If the DEP output is partially funded by another RCIP project then, please insert project name and number**	Percentage of the operational cost of the output funded from DEP (%)
Stock containment					
	Number of stock containment areas established (No.)	0	33		
	No of participants (No)	0	33		
	Area protected (ha)				
Groundwater pumping					
	Number of pumps (No.)	20	16		
	Area protected (ha)		Area protected – an estimate based on 1ML pumped = 1ha protected – 3,849ha		
	Volume pumped (ML)		Volume pumped – licensed volume of new pumps – 3,849ML Partly funded (70%) by GB 2002-04 - 30% funded by DEP		

* = from the RCIP Standard Outputs list

**= If DEP outputs shown here are funded through another RCIP project then the Project needs to be identified. A separate line will need to be filled in for each RCIP project output.



Partnership project - Parks Victoria (fencing within the upper Goulburn)



Construction of stock proof fencing – Broken Creek (GBCMA)



*Partnership project - Parks Victoria / Goulburn Murray Water
(weed control Barmah Forest)*



Training and Induction (Phase 2 – Benalla, Skilled and GBCMA)



Weed Control initiatives – Goulburn River