

The renewed Surface Water Management Program in the SIR

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GBCMA) has secured funding to renew the Surface Water Management Program (SWMP) in the Shepparton Irrigation Region (SIR) and implement the recently reviewed SIR Drainage Strategy (2015).

State Government funding in excess of \$10 million over four years is the result of continued community support for drainage works in the SIR and recognises the continued risk to agricultural land, environmental values and infrastructure from inadequate drainage (pictured).

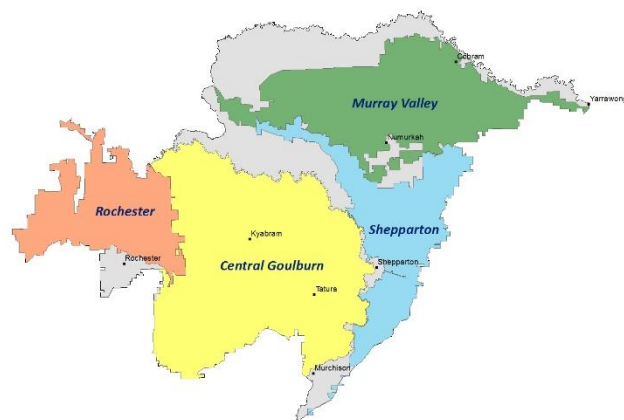


The updated SIR Drainage Strategy (the Strategy) proposes a new approach to surface drainage, with a focus on on-farm management of irrigation run-off and managing rainfall-driven waterlogging and drainage issues in priority sub-catchments.

Effective drainage infrastructure helps to protect productive agricultural land from waterlogging and salinity impacts, maintains and enhances environmental values in the landscape and protects civil assets including roads.

The Strategy identifies a revised area of 103,373 hectares of irrigated land requiring improved drainage in the SIR.

This is reduced considerably from the previous drainage strategy (229,000 hectares), yet the cost of works is still estimated to be over \$60 million.



Irrigation Areas in the Shepparton Irrigation Region

This means that the renewed SWMP will use a prioritisation process to identify where the limited funding for new Surface Water Management Schemes (SWMS) can provide the best outcomes with limited funding.

The renewed SWMP is being delivered in three complementary sub-programs:

1. Priority Construction Projects
2. Hybrid SWMSs
3. On-Farm Package

A central part of the Strategy is the 'Hybrid Surface Water Management System' concept, which proposes a new type of system using natural drainage lines to link fragmented drainage networks across the SIR.

Further information on the renewed SWMP, including Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is available on the Goulburn Broken CMA website.

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