

SUBMISSION

TO THE

**SUSTAINABLE WATER
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
AND FARM DAMS**

Prepared by Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

September 2000

1.0 Background

Minister Garbutt invited the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority to assist with the consultation process for the “Sustainable Water Resource Management and Farm Dams” discussion paper.

The CMA worked with Environment Victoria, Mansfield VFF and Landcare Group, the Strathbogie VFF and our Implementation Committees to conduct 6 public meetings attended by approximately 460 people. The meetings were largely information sessions where expert panelists answered questions from the floor.

Meeting Date	Venue	Attendance
30 June	Benalla	140
5 July	Mansfield	40
19 July	Seymour	80
17 July	Tatura	40
8 August	Strathbogie	80
28 August	Yea	80

2.0 Key Outcome of Public Meetings

The public meetings primary objective was to inform the public of the issues and to encourage submissions.

A number of key issues emerged from the meetings which are discussed below.

2.1 Rural Residential

Rural Residential developments emerged as a major issue, particularly in catchments close to Melbourne. There was some support for amending the VPP's to ensure that new developments are required to secure appropriate water resources as part of the re-zoning process.

2.2 Licencing all non- S&D Dams

There was a general acceptance that all non S&D dams should be licenced.

2.3 Irrigation Induced run-off/nutrient reduction

Irrigation wets up the soil profile and increases run-off. This increase in run-off is known as irrigation induced run-off and should not be treated the same as normal run-off.

Irrigation induced run-off, particularly from perennial pastures, is a rich source of phosphorous pollutant. The Goulburn Broken

Catchment has been identified as one of three major sources of phosphorous in the Murray Darling Basin.

The regional catchment strategy has identified run-off from irrigated perennial pastures as the largest source of phosphorous pollution in the catchment. The strategy also identified re-use of irrigation run-off as the most cost effective nutrient reduction.

The CMA is very concerned that there is a possibility that the reforms associated with farm dams may be an impediment to the implementation of our Nutrient Management Strategy. The Shepparton region Irrigation Implementation Committee submission prepared by Ken Sampson addresses this issue in much greater detail.

2.4 Stream Flow Management Plans

There was genuine acceptance that Stream Flow Management Plans are required on un-regulated streams to ensure that development is not at the expense of the environment.

3.0 PRINCIPLES ADOPTED BY THE CMA

The Goulburn Broken CMA adopted the following principles. We believe these principles should be adopted by Government in their decision making process.

Issue	Position
Murray Darling Basin Cap	GBCMA strongly supports the Cap and supports the inclusion of all consumptive use in the CAP, not just diversions. If this is not implemented the environments share is compromised
Bulk Entitlements & Environmental Flows	The GBCMA supports the conversion of existing rights into a bulk entitlement and will participate in the process wherever appropriate. Environmental Flow requirements, must be considered and specified in the conversion process.
Stream Flow Plans	Development on unregulated streams should not occur without an integrated stream flow management plan or equivalent. These Plans must specify and protect environmental flows.
Surface Water Protection Zones	In areas where stream flow plans indicate a stream is stressed, the GBCMA supports the development of surface water protection zones, which address the issue of over allocation.
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Landholders should be treated the same regardless of geographic location.• Dams of a similar type should also be treated the same regardless of geographic location.
Licensing of Dams	The GBCMA supports the licensing of all dams except stock and domestic. In stressed catchments, surface water protection zones may require the licensing of S&D dams
Dams on Waterways	The GBCMA requires all dams be constructed in accordance with Section 40 of the 1989 Water Act and guidelines must be developed to assist the licensing and planning Authorities to interpret this section of the Act.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The GBCMA believes that:

- 4.1 The uncontrolled uptake of private rights is not compatible with the MDB Cap and Bulk Entitlements. The current legislation means that private rights are being taken up at the expense of the environment.
- 4.2 Water trading has provided and will continue to provide a mechanism to transfer water from low value to high value enterprises. However, rules must be developed to protect the environment.