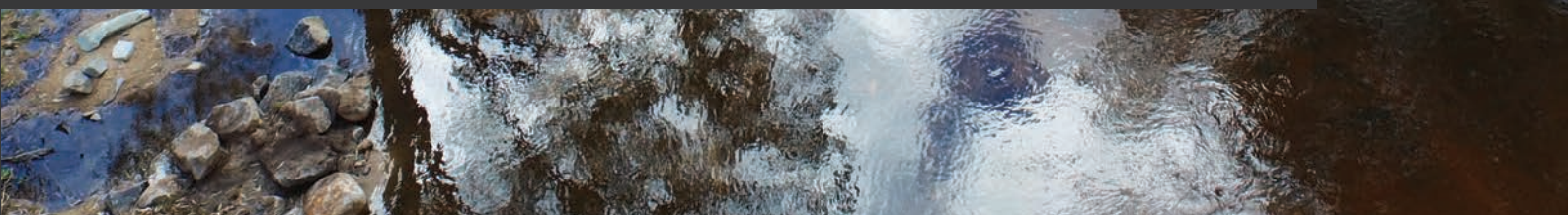




# ANNUAL REPORT 2014-15

GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



**GOULBURN  
BROKEN**  
CATCHMENT  
MANAGEMENT  
AUTHORITY

## Ratings legend

Annual performance and long-term strategy implementation progress	Well below target (<50%)	Below target (50-79%)	On target (80-109%)	Exceeded/exceeding target (>109%)
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Catchment condition	Very poor	Poor	Satisfactory	Good to excellent
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Certainty of rating	Very low	Low	Medium	High
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Trend	↓ Declining	● Static	↑ Improving	↑↑ Dramatically improving
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The explanation of how and why ratings are applied in Appendix 1:

Understanding progress and ratings on page 125 includes discussion on the uncertainty of data in an integrated operating environment and how ratings can trigger a need for further scrutiny. Although annual performance indicators have high certainty relative to long-term indicators, the uncertainty in setting and monitoring annual targets is still significant because of increasingly irregular timing of project proposals and receipt of funds throughout the financial year. The achievement of 'around 100 per cent' as being 'on target' is therefore appropriate, and this has been defined as a range of between 80 and 109 per cent.

## About this report

This report provides information on the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) performance and finances, which can be assessed against its 2014-15 to 2018-19 Corporate Plan targets.

The Goulburn Broken CMA aims to provide information which is easily accessed, understood and relevant to readers. More detailed and scientific data can be accessed via the website [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)

A separate summary of this Annual Report is available from the website or from the Goulburn Broken CMA offices (see back cover).

This report is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This includes the requirement under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* for the Goulburn Broken CMA to submit "...a report on the condition and management of land and water resources in its region and the carrying out of its functions."

Design and print complies with Department of Treasury and Finance Reporting Direction 30B, which aims to achieve consistency and minimise costs and environmental impact across government agencies.

Feedback on this report is encouraged to help improve future annual reports. Please provide comments by 31 December 2015 to guarantee consideration.

A feedback form to help direct comments is available at the website. [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)

### Front cover:

#### Main photo

- Fish habitat works at Hughes Creek, upstream of Avenel. Photograph: Australian UAV

#### Inset photos (from left to right)

- Orlando Talamo speaks to landholders on nesting boxes at Heathcote-Graytown National Park. Photograph: Janice Mentiplay-Smith
- Steamer Plain, Barmah Forest. Photograph: Keith Ward
- Turquoise Parrots. Photograph: Chris Tzaros
- Wayne Tennant (right) speaks with Goulburn Broken CMA and Parks Victoria staff on river health.



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## Chair's review



I am pleased to present Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's 2014-15 Annual Report.

This year marked the second year of implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) 2013-2019 with many of the year's achievements contributing to the embedding of resilience within the regions

approach to integrated catchment management, and the continued strengthening of partnerships with industry, community and agencies to deliver against Catchment priorities. Our approach has been of interest to both the United Nations, including how they can use it in other segments of the world, as well as other natural resource management bodies across Australia.

### Improving our approach to catchment management

In September 2014, the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) handed down its report into the Effectiveness of Catchment Management Authorities. As one of the four Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) sampled for the audit, the Goulburn Broken CMA played a major part. Key recommendations by the Auditor General included the need for an overarching strategy for integrated catchment management in Victoria and clearer roles, responsibilities and accountabilities. As part of achieving this the Auditor General highlighted there was a need to implement improved arrangements for monitoring and reporting on catchment condition, strategy delivery and investment outcomes.

VAGO noted that the 'Goulburn Broken CMA has the most advanced [monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework] of the four CMAs because it:

- has a pre-existing Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting framework developed in 2004; and
- was the only CMA to have routinely reported to its Board on progress in implementing its regional catchment strategy since it was published in mid-2013' [2014, page XII the report].

Building on this strong foundation, the Goulburn Broken CMA is continuing to work with other Victorian CMAs and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to implement the recommendations of the VAGO review. Of significance is the anticipated development of the Integrated Catchment Management Strategy by the State Government, which if aligned with long-term funding of RCS implementation will enable a resilience approach to catchment management to be more fully embedded within the region.

The Authority welcomed the State Government's announcement in the Budget of \$10 million to improve important riparian assets across regional Victoria, with this funding enabling an additional \$1 million of works to occur across the Goulburn Broken Catchment in 2015-16.

Similarly, the Goulburn Broken CMA welcomed funding of \$10.8 million over three and a half years (2014-15 to 2017-18) through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. Strongly aligned with the Goulburn

Broken RCS, the catchment's Landcare, industry groups and landholders will receive 35 per cent of the funds for implementation. This implementation will contribute to long-term sustainable agriculture and environmental outcomes.

### Embedding resilience

An exciting era of new sub-strategies under the RCS using the resilience approach as an underpinning framework has commenced, with the Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy approved in late 2014. This Strategy provides an integrated planning framework for managing waterways in the Goulburn Broken Catchment and is the primary guide for setting priorities for the maintenance and improvement of key waterways, and includes high-level outcomes for each Social-Ecological System in the region. The Authority has been fortunate to have the talent of Wayne Tennant who undertook much of the complex task of setting tipping points for these systems. This Strategy reflects the vast amount of work the community has achieved over many years and incorporates recent environmental and policy drivers, and knowledge gained through research and monitoring. Actions to maintain and improve our waterways are clearly established and the Authority looks forward to working with the State Government to see these actions invested in through long-term initiatives such as the Riparian Action Plan. As usual, success in implementing this Strategy will only occur through strong regional partnerships.

In early 2015, the Goulburn Broken CMA commenced work on a Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) Business Case for the mitigation of constraints to environmental flows within the Goulburn River system. The lower Goulburn River has been identified as one of the Key Focus Areas in the Murray Darling Basin Plan's Constraints Management Strategy. With the support of the Victorian Government, the Authority will seek to understand how the resilience of the Goulburn River could be improved through the removal of constraints including the potential social and economic consequences that this may have. This Business Case will be considered by the Australian Government in mid-2016.

The Authority is charged under the *CaLP Act 1994* with establishing a framework, which amongst other things will "maintain and enhance the long term land productivity while also conserving the environment." Clearly for the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District, this includes having sufficient irrigation water to match the land's capability. This objective is partly being achieved by the successful Farm Water Program, driving water use efficiency. Tension is building between many in the irrigation community over the amount of water, particularly carry-over, available for the environment and the water market being influenced by corporates. The Goulburn River water is a premium resource for the MDBA as it enters below the Barmah choke. The amount of temporary water now available is limited and for many the price is marginal. This is partly due to the mid-2000 drought years and low milk prices which led to high debt and the sale of permanent water to the environment to reduce debt and it is unclear how much was voluntary or forced sales. As a community we need to keep working with the MDBA and the State and Commonwealth Governments to achieve the optimum effect of when and how temporary sales of environmental water occurs.

Like many of these issues, without an improved understanding of the thresholds and tipping points of our Social-Ecological Systems it is not feasible to drive transformation. During the year, the Authority continued to build on our understanding taking into account learnings on climate change, natural disasters (such as the three fires at Stewarton, Creightons Creek and Boweya in late 2014), water policy, changing use of land, and the economic need to increase farm production. The Authority held a Research and Monitoring Forum (on 21 May 2015) with our Catchment partners which sought to share knowledge from critical investment in the monitoring and research that underpins our RCS and important biophysical sub-strategies. The evaluation of this and the Resilience seminar (held on 28 August 2014) indicated their resounding success.

### Strengthening partnerships

During 2014-15, the Goulburn Broken CMA continued to lead the Farm Water Program consortium on behalf of the region's irrigators to achieve farm water savings through improved farm water use efficiency. The success of this program, which is maximising the Australian and State Government's investment in irrigation modernisation was formally recognised when the Farm Water Program won the AWA-Victorian Program Innovation Award on 4 December 2014. The Goulburn Broken CMA consortium then went on to win the Australian Water Awards Innovation Program for the Farm Water Program in front of over 950 delegates in Adelaide on 13 May 2015. While this project reinforces the partnership approach between the Authority and GMW Connections it also demonstrates the need for good planning, such as the importance of Whole Farm Plans, to underpin sound long-term decision making. It is also demonstrates the interconnected nature of the Social-Ecological Systems and in this instance the intrinsic relationship between economic development, agricultural productivity and environmental benefits.

Natural Resources such as gravel and sand are essential in the development of urban infrastructure and our catchment is under increasing pressure to provide these materials. It is important to plan properly where this can safely take place with minimal environmental and economic risk. During the year, we have been working with the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP), the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) and Local Government to fully understand the potential risks posed by sand and gravel extraction along the Goulburn River floodplain. We look forward to resolving current risks that exist during 2015-16, and we are keen to achieve a planning scheme amendment that would provide greater clarification for industry, and protection of the Goulburn Broken River and its downstream beneficiaries.

Partnerships with our neighbouring Victorian CMAs continued to be important during 2014-15, and this was evidenced by the very successful inaugural Knowledge Conference held between North Central, North East and Goulburn Broken CMAs on 12 March 2015 attended by over 165 staff and Board Directors, and opened by Anthony Carbines, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment. This forum was underpinned by the Goulburn Broken CMA Workforce Capability Framework to align the Conference case studies to specific community engagement capabilities.

An innovative project is being developed that builds on these partnerships whilst recognising systems do not respect boundaries. A Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance involving the Goulburn Broken, North East, North Central and Mallee CMAs, the NSW Murray Local Land Services and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2015 and commenced the development of a large integrated Murray Corridors concept. The intention of this collective is to lead real landscape change across the southern connected basin and build on the benefits from Murray Darling Basin Plan.

### Thank you

I congratulate and thank my fellow Board members for their ongoing passion, dedication and support during 2014-15. I especially acknowledge the contribution of Director Lisa McKenzie who stepped down from the Board in late November 2014 to take on the significant role of Executive Officer at Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project. In September 2015 we look forward to welcoming new Directors, who along with our ongoing Directors, will continue to play significant roles in the success of the Authority.

Our Chief Executive Officer Chris Norman has played important leadership roles over the past year at the state and national levels in further developing critical thinking on NRM, strengthening existing and new partnership and the development of new approaches to meet the VAGO requirements. He, the management team and staff have excelled in wanting to better serve our communities and protect and where possible, enhance the ecosystems so critical to agriculture and a healthy environment for everyone to enjoy. Partnerships have been and will continue to be the essential way we do business and I thank our loyal community, industry and organisations including Community NRM Groups. Thank you.

### Report of Operations

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Report of Operations for the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority for the year ending 30 June 2015.



Murray Chapman  
Chair

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority  
27 August 2015

## Chief Executive Officer's report



I am honoured to report annual results as Chief Executive Officer of the Goulburn Broken CMA.

The Goulburn Broken CMA again delivered strong onground works in 2014-15 via community natural resource management (NRM) groups and farmers, enhancing and protecting land, water and biodiversity in the Catchment.

Priorities were focused on helping communities and associated ecosystems increase their resilience, consistent with the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS, 2013-2019).

### Strengthening partnerships and embedding resilience

The Goulburn Broken CMA has adopted a resilience based approach to planning and implementation following a long history of exploring resilience thinking in partnership with the Resilience Alliance and CSIRO, and it is pleasing to note the national and international recognition that the Catchment now receives as a leader in this approach to catchment management. This was evidenced with an invitation to present to the United Nations Environment Programme on Agro-Ecosystem Resilience in Sydney on 19-21 November 2014.

Efforts have continued to develop Local Plans for the six Social-Ecological Systems (as broad geographic regions) that make up the Goulburn Broken Catchment. Directions in the RCS were reconfirmed and refined and new local land, water, biodiversity and productivity priorities were identified during community workshops and other consultation. These plans will be online as 'living documents', accompanied by regular implementation reports that highlight contributions from the many community natural resource management groups and agencies.

In the coming year we look forward to continuing interstate partnerships through the Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance involving the Goulburn Broken, North East, North Central and Mallee CMAs, the NSW Murray Local Land Services and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in May 2015. We look forward to this opportunity to collectively drive landscape scale changes across the southern part of the Murray Darling Basin.

### Adapting to water policy reform

The Farm Water Program continued to provide economic and environmental gains for the Catchment. Round 3 of the Farm Water Program (Tranche 1 of the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project (VFMP)) began with \$30 million for 136 projects. These projects will generate over 15 gigalitres of water savings with 9 gigalitres transferred to the Commonwealth government for environmental watering. This complements Rounds 1 and 2 achievements where 14,000 hectares of farm works were completed saving 18 gigalitres of water. Round 4 of the Farm Water Program (Tranche 2 of the VFMP) projects will be rolled out in 2015-16 and applications for \$50 million have been called for. While there has been some initial interest from irrigators in this latest funding round, strong feedback is that the high water prices in the water market reduced its attractiveness for participants. We will seek to resolve this matter with the Australian Government.

Maximising the value and use of environmental water to achieve ecological outcomes while managing for social and physical constraints continues to be a significant area of work for the Authority, with 339,318 megalitres of environmental water delivered in 2014-15 to support fish, macroinvertebrate and vegetation ecological objectives in the lower Goulburn River, lower Broken Creek and key wetlands. Significant ecological outcomes achieved in response to environmental flows in late 2014 included a substantial Golden perch breeding event in the lower Goulburn River. Community engagement to increase broader understanding of the benefits of environmental water remains a high priority, with a very successful Environmental Watering Forum held in Shepparton in December attended by 70 stakeholders.

During the year significant works in and around our waterways are protecting and improving the condition of rivers and wetlands across the Catchment, including 70 kilometres of fencing streams and rivers, 2,317 hectares of weed control and 357 pieces of instream woody habitat were added to priority waterways through funding from the Victorian Government's Victorian Water Investment Framework. Monitoring of these and associated activities remains important, and the Goulburn Broken CMA has:

- investigated the use of remote cameras to capture information on pest animals in the Barmah Forest, funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme;
- undertaken fish, macroinvertebrates, vegetation and geomorphology monitoring activities funded through the Australian Government's Goulburn River Long-term Intervention Monitoring Program;
- undertaken vegetation, macroinvertebrate, water quality, waterbird and frog responses to environmental water monitoring at Reedy Swamp, Moodie Swamp, Black Swamp and Kinnairds Swamp, funded by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

These monitoring approaches were complemented by the release of the iSpy Fish App launched in September, which provides recreational fishers and others with an easy-to-use and fun way for helping scientists and natural resource managers understand how these works have improved fish populations by identifying and logging the location of catches across the Catchment.

### Adapting to land-use changes

The Goulburn Broken CMA received \$2 million from the Victorian Government to provide employment and training to orchardists and orchard workers while the industry transitioned in the wake of reductions to SPC-Ardmona's fruit intake in mid-2013. The 16-month Fruit Industry Employment Program (FIEP), which finished in late 2014, employed 40 people in environmental work across the northern part of the Goulburn Broken Catchment, supervised by the Goulburn Broken CMA and its partners; Greater Shepparton City Council, Moira Shire Council, Goulburn Murray Water and Parks Victoria. Social and environmental outcomes included 39,917 hours of environmental works, 1,500 hectares of weeds controlled, 7,500 native seedlings planted, 15 tonnes of rubbish removed, and 67 kilometres of fences removed, repaired and built. Importantly, 95 per cent of participants were satisfied with FIEP and 100 per cent of eligible people who wanted a job were employed through the Program.

The Goulburn Broken CMA investigated current and legacy problems from sand and gravel mining on the Goulburn River floodplain, through Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning funding in 2014-15. This work is increasing our understanding of the potential risk from these activities on the Goulburn River.

The Authority also continued to lead or contribute to several important flood studies and implementation plans, including the Eildon to Murchison Flood Mapping Project, Mansfield Flood Mapping Project, and the Euroa Post Flood Mapping and Intelligence Project.

### Responding to increasing farm production

In 2014-15, the Australian Government National Landcare Programme-funded project, Beyond Soilcare, resulted in the Goulburn Broken CMA partnering the community and the Victorian Government (through the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources) to deliver workshops, farm tours and field days. Working with 30 Landcare and producer groups and four schools, the project provided education on soil sampling and soil test interpretation, fertiliser and lime management, and sustainable farm practices. The project also worked with the Yorta Yorta, Taungurung and Dja Dja Warrung Traditional Owner groups to develop and run two workshops on soils, geology and links with Dreamtime stories.

Partnerships with the Catchment's 96 active community natural resource management groups continued to be pivotal to the delivery of onground works in 2014-15. Investing in community natural resource management groups across the Catchment, predominantly through the Victorian Government's Victorian Landcare Grants, saw activities undertaken to protect and enhance the productive and environmental features of the Catchment. The contribution of the Catchment's volunteers in natural resource management cannot be understated; in 2013-14 (the latest data available), members and volunteers contributed 47,903 hours of volunteer time to undertake works, and we expect the total to be similar for 2014-15.

### Adapting to climate variability

Climate change planning activities that the Goulburn Broken CMA embarked on in 2013 has continued, supported by funding from the Australian Government. This work will result in a Climate Change Adaptation Planning Strategy to identify the major impacts of climate change to the Goulburn Broken Catchment's systems and outline priorities for climate change adaptation to support the implementation of the Goulburn Broken RCS and provide information to partners within the Catchment to assist in regional planning for the impacts of climate change. Over the next year the Strategy will be implemented via the Social-Ecological System local planning process and integrated into the upcoming review of the Goulburn Broken Biodiversity Strategy.

As a clear indicator of the variability of our climate, the impact of fire was again witnessed in 2014-15 with three significant fires burning approx. 13,500 hectares at Stewarton, Boweya and Creighton's Creek in the Goulburn Broken Catchment in mid-December. As in previous years, the value of partnerships and community was clearly demonstrated. With assistance from Uniting Church Volunteers, rehabilitation of the riparian zone commenced by revegetating fire damaged areas with 1,900 indigenous trees and shrubs and 1,500 grasses and sedges. In addition to significant lengths of fencing, Blaze Aid

volunteers and Beechworth Prison works crews assisted with the replacement of more than 15 kilometres of fencing and helped repair almost 2 kilometres of fencing on the Boosey Creek and its tributaries in the Boweya area. The volunteers also helped the Woka Wolla crew, who were engaged by the Goulburn Broken CMA, to assist with fencing and worked closely with fire-affected landholders to reinstate fencing along the Boosey Creek and some of the smaller creeks in the area. Further, prisoners from Dhurringile helped repair or replace around 16 kilometres of fencing along the Creighton's, Nine Mile, Bowronga and Ramages Creeks and their tributaries.

### Working on the business

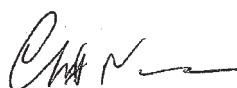
In 2014-15 the Authority continued to identify opportunities for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the way we do business. This included commissioning an external review of our Corporate Functions that included both an assessment of the satisfaction of staff with the Corporate Program as well as benchmarking, as far as possible, against that of several other Victorian CMAs. Key findings of this review included that the Goulburn Broken CMA has one of the more efficient Corporate Programs of the CMAs benchmarked and that the Corporate Program's key customers, are generally very satisfied with the quality of services provided. While positive, opportunities for refinement were identified and recommendations from the review will continue to be implemented into 2015-16.

Finalised in 2014-15, the Goulburn Broken CMA ICT Strategy 2015-2017 delivers a strategy for the future of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services that needs to be achieved if we are to deliver on the Vision for the Catchment. It outlines how the Authority will continue to use ICT to enable and support community, partners and staff to deliver operations and services to achieve both the Authority's operational obligations and strategic objectives efficiently and effectively.

Investing in our staff is critical and this included a greater focus in 2014-15 being placed on coordinating training and development opportunities for all staff. Thirteen internal training courses were held in areas such as Occupational Health and Safety, Negotiation, Communication, Continuous improvement and Organisational capability. The response rate to these sessions has been positive with almost 85 per cent of staff taking up at least one of these opportunities.

### Acknowledgements

The support of the Board and the tremendous commitment by all our Agency, community and Traditional Owner partners, along with our dedicated staff, continues to provide solid foundations for Goulburn Broken CMA's ongoing pursuit for increased Catchment environmental, economic and social resilience. I want to particularly acknowledge the dedicated leadership and support provided by our Chair, Murray Chapman, and all Board Directors. I also wish to especially acknowledge the contributions of valued staff who chose to explore other opportunities beyond the Goulburn Broken CMA during the year namely Casey Damen, Stan Gibney, Fleur Baldi, Kate Hill and Charlie Sexton, and wish them well. A tribute to our valued colleague, Wayne Tennant, who passed away on 4 August 2015 is included inside the back cover.

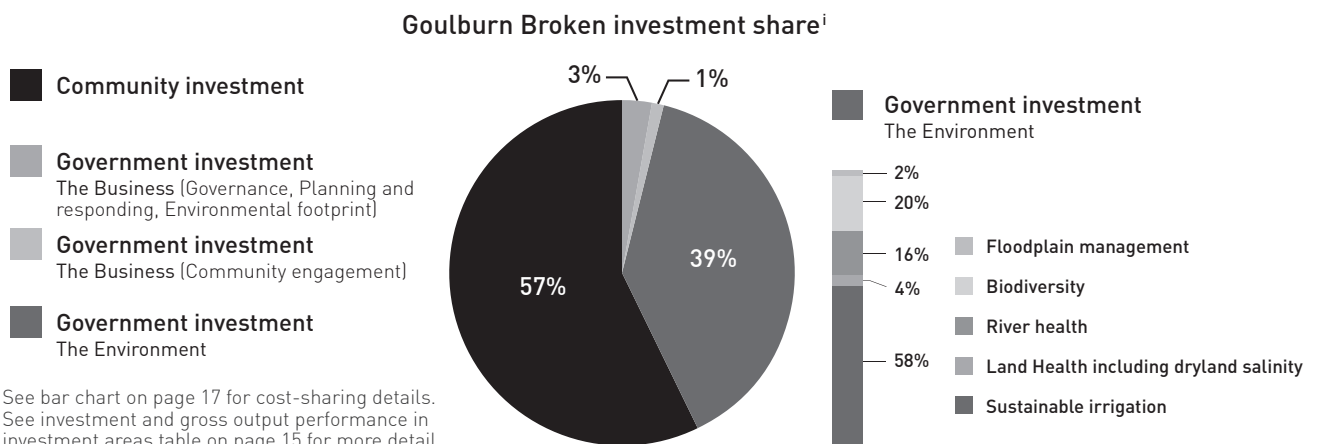
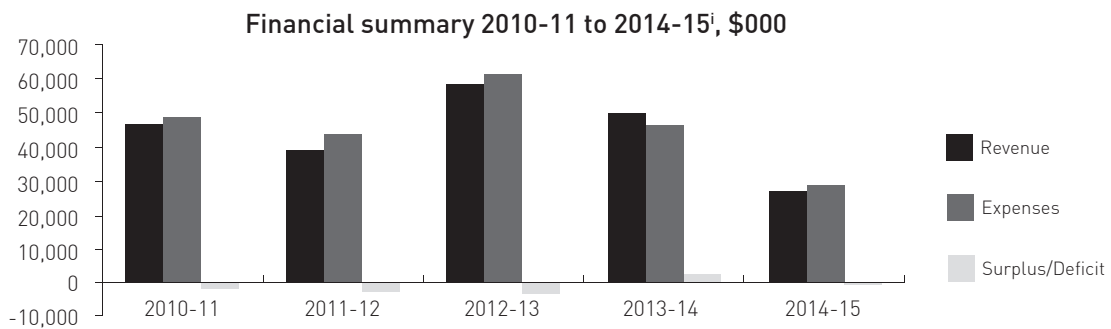


Chris Norman  
Chief Executive Officer

## Operational highlights

In 2014-15 the Goulburn Broken CMA undertook a number of projects that directly contributed to delivering on the strategic objectives of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). Some of these projects were a continuation of 'base' projects that have run over several years. These projects were revised to ensure alignment with the RCS including consideration of the social-ecological systems (SES) and relevant thresholds. Several strategic projects continued were continued and several new projects were commenced. A summary of the strategic projects for the 2014-15 financial year, aligned to the strategic objectives of the RCS are shown below.

Progress against strategic objectives of the RCS	Details Page
<b>Embed the resilience approach</b>	
Explore opportunities and advocate for SES based funding. Implement "Local Plans" with fit for purpose engagement. Continue to improve business systems to deliver and report on the RCS. Implementation of the Regional Waterway Strategy and Community NRM plan.	21-28, 39-47, 57-58
<b>Strengthen partnerships</b>	
Continue support to Landcare, CMN's and other NRM and industry groups. Implementation of Community NRM Plan. Renewed focus on strengthening and establishing new partnerships and reflection on their role in RCS implementation.	17-20, 52-65
<b>Adapt to land-use changes</b>	
Two flood studies and a flood awareness project for Benalla. Plan for sustainable mining on the floodplain. Continue to deliver Statutory functions (including changes from Flood Enquiry and Water Law Review). Contribution to Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy. Implementation of Goulburn Broken Interim Flood Management Strategy.	48-51
<b>Adapt to water policy reform</b>	
Development of 2014/15 Seasonal Watering Proposals (including involvement in implementation). Strategic communications to address public concerns environmental watering that are aired in the public arena. Plan and undertake appropriate monitoring, including long-term intervention monitoring. Further involvement in technical studies and advising on community engagement approaches. Technical studies to support development of Environmental Watering Plan for Goulburn River. Successful completion of Farm Water Program Round 2 and implementation of Round 3 projects. Improved integration of Farm Water Program into Goulburn Murray Water's Connections program. Seek additional funding through "upwater" or other sources. Promoting the benefits of the Farm Water Program.	32-38, 39-47
<b>Adapt to climate variability</b>	
Continue to deliver this three year project and apply the outcomes of the NRM planning for climate change project. This will include a community engagement event where community can discuss climate change with relevant organisations. Work on development of a Climate Change Planning Strategy.	29-31
<b>Adapt to increased farm production</b>	
Deliver Victorian Environmental Partnership Project - Northern Eco-Connections. Promote Murray Corridor concept to Government. Review and update Biodiversity Strategy. Australian Government Soilcare project to work with the dairy/irrigation community. Work continues to support best practice groups set up around Yea and Mansfield. Shallow water table management adjustment & communication of salinity as an ongoing threat.	32-38, 52-65





## Goulburn Broken profile

### Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

#### Powers and duties

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a Statutory Authority established by the Victorian Parliament in 1997 under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The responsible Ministers for the reporting period:

- from 1 July 2014 to 3 December 2014 were the Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change and the Hon Peter Walsh MLA, Minister for Water; and
- from 4 December 2014 to 30 June 2015 the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

(See page 121 for names of all persons who were responsible during 2014-15.)

The Goulburn Broken CMA develops and coordinates the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy implementation by working with the community, all tiers of government and research and funding organisations. The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy sets out the framework for coordinating land, water and biodiversity management in the Catchment.

The Goulburn Broken CMA focuses on private land mostly managed for agriculture and on the interface of private and public land. The Goulburn Broken CMA therefore relies on shared contributions from government and private landholders to undertake works.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's role in water is described under the *Water Act 1989* and is to:

- be the caretaker of river health, including managing the environment's right to water (managing the environmental water reserve) and implementing works on waterways via its operational arm
- provide waterway, regional drainage and floodplain management services.

Water storage, delivery and drainage systems are managed by partner agency Goulburn-Murray Water. Urban water and wastewater services are provided by another partner agency, Goulburn Valley Water.

See the 'Governance' section (page 76) for details

#### Funding and staff

Goulburn Broken CMA's income for 2014-15 was \$27.4 million, derived from the Victorian and Australian Governments, regional sources and other government entities. As at 30 June 2015, 53.1 (full-time-equivalent) staff were directly employed. See the 'Human resources' section (page 68) for details.

**The Goulburn Broken CMA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of land in the Goulburn Broken Catchment and strongly respects the rich culture and intrinsic connection Traditional Owners have to the land.**

#### Our Vision

Healthy, resilient and increasingly productive landscapes supporting vibrant communities.

#### Our Purpose

Through its leadership and partnerships the Goulburn Broken CMA will improve the resilience of the Catchment's people, land, biodiversity and water resources in a rapidly changing environment.

#### Our values and behaviours

**Environmental sustainability:** we will passionately contribute to improving the environmental health of our catchment.

**Safety:** we vigorously protect and look out for the safety and wellbeing of ourselves, our colleagues and our workers.

**Partnerships:** we focus on teamwork and collaboration across our organisation to develop strategic alliances with partners and the regional community.

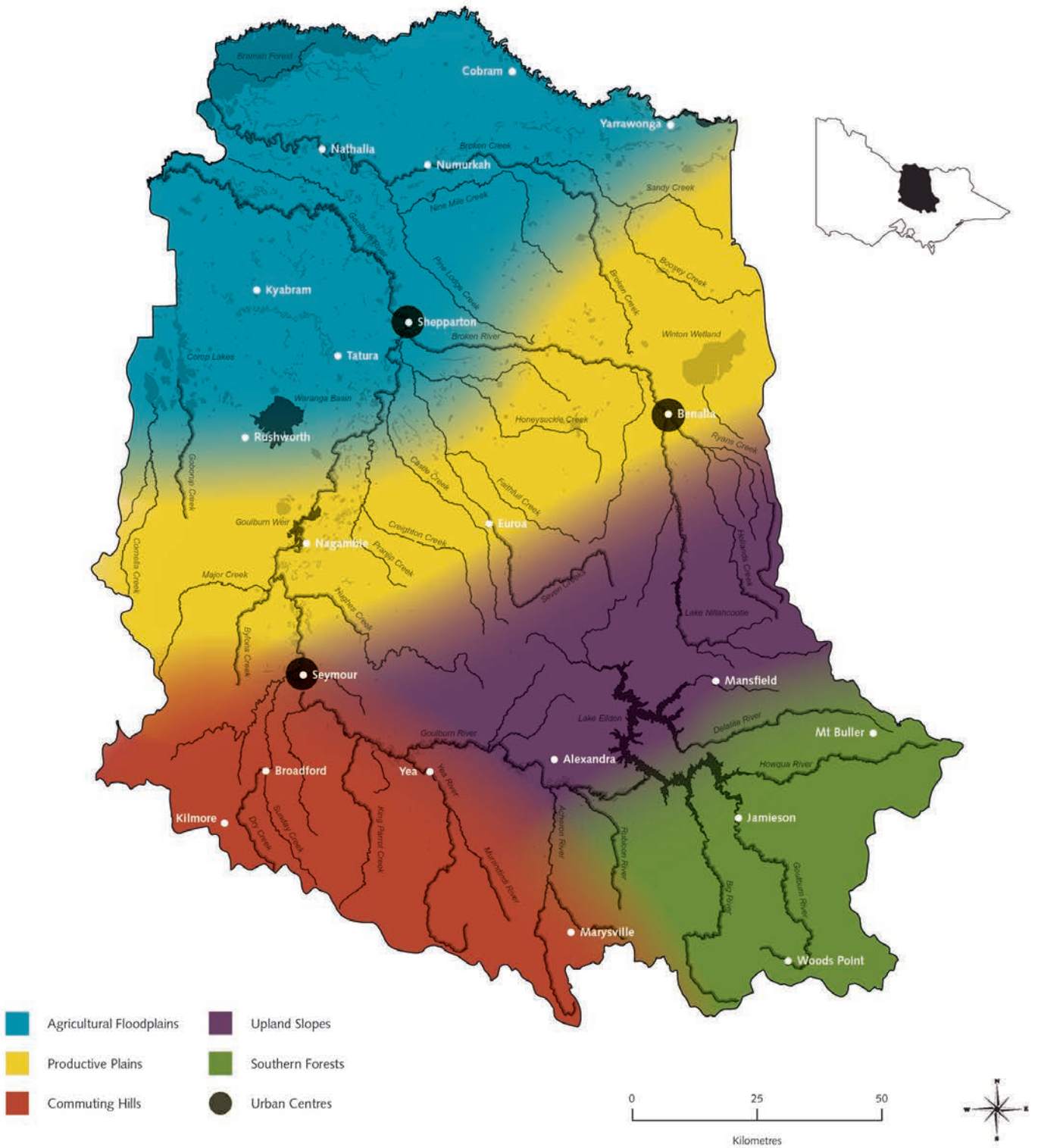
**Leadership:** we have the courage to lead change and accept the responsibility to inspire and deliver positive change.

**Respect:** we embrace diversity and treat everyone with fairness, respect, openness and honesty.

**Achievement, excellence and accountability:** we do what we say we will do, we do it well and we take responsibility and accountability for our actions.

**Continuous learning, innovation and improvement:** we are an evidence and science-based organisation and we test and challenge the status quo. We learn from our successes and failures and we are continually adapting using internal and external feedback from stakeholders and the environment. We are an agile, flexible and responsive organisation.

# Goulburn Broken Catchment<sup>i,ii</sup>



i The Goulburn Broken CMA Sustainable Irrigation Program oversees delivery in part of the North Central Catchment as well as the Goulburn Broken Catchment.  
 ii. Maps of the Catchment showing whole farm plans achieved and onground works sites are included as Appendix 3 and 4 (page 129 and 130).

## Whole of Catchment

The Goulburn Broken Catchment covers 2.4 million hectares, covering approximately 10.5 per cent of Victoria, extending north from near the outskirts of Melbourne to the River Murray on the border with New South Wales.

- an estimated population of 204,000 people, which includes 6,000 Indigenous Australians
- includes approximately 1 million hectares of dryland agriculture and 270,000 hectares of irrigated agriculture. Public land covers 800,000 hectares, including extensive areas for conservation
- yields more than 3,500 gigalitres or 10.5 per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin's water
- Agriculture is a significant contributor to the Catchment economy with a gross value of agricultural production of \$1.77 billion in 2011

### 1. Agricultural Floodplains

Northern floodplains with Murray River along boundary with NSW

- Landscape highly modified for agriculture with remaining vegetation fragmented and found mainly on waterways, wetlands and roadsides
- Irrigation supports dairy, horticulture and cropping and a large food processing sector with major investment in on and off-farm irrigation infrastructure recently
- Barmah National Park highly valued (Ramsar listed) internationally important breeding site for many bird species
- Long history of community leadership in managing land and water problems

**Threats:** Further loss and decline of vegetation, salinity, poor natural drainage, future farming options, and floods continue to threaten production and channel form or stability

### 2. Productive Plains

Foothills and floodplains towards the north of the Catchment

- Habitat provided by vegetation along waterways, roadsides, ranges and spring soak wetlands
- Dryland farming includes cattle, sheep, cropping and viticulture and many farms remain in same families for generations with average farming populations ageing
- Rivers and creeks in moderate condition and wetlands in moderate to good condition.
- Landcare and conservation management networks establish sustainable farming practices and protect threatened species

**Threats:** More habitat loss, ageing farming populations and declining social connection are threats to biodiversity and farming futures

### 3. Upland Slopes

Includes the slopes and valleys towards the south of the Catchment

- Grazing and other agricultural enterprises occur in cleared valleys surrounded by partially forested hills and vegetation along waterways
- Lake Eildon provides water for agricultural production, recreation, tourism, and river health all the way down the Catchment and beyond the boundary
- Generational farmers live alongside increasing numbers of lifestyle properties and absentee landholders

**Threats:** Erosion, weeds and fires are among the threats to the amount and quality of highly valued water, used for many purposes

### 4. Commuting Hills

Includes the mountainous southern and south western urban fringe

- Public and private forests support many plant and animals including the Golden Sun Moth
- Land use also supports a range of agricultural industries and lifestyle communities
- Waterways remain largely healthy because of the extent of remaining vegetation
- People drawn to area for natural beauty and lifestyle and commute to Melbourne for work

**Threats:** Fire remains a major threat to safety and properties, along with native vegetation loss through population pressures and development

### 5. Southern Forests

South-east mountains, waterways and snow covered alps

- Unique alpine vegetation supports endangered mountain Pygmy Possum
- Most of the area is public land managed for conservation, but also for recreation and timber production
- Waterways are in good condition with recreation and tourism highly valued
- People live in small and seasonal communities and travel to and from this area
- The interface between private and public land is important for management

**Threats:** Waterway health threatened by erosion along with threats to vegetation including fire, weeds and pest animals

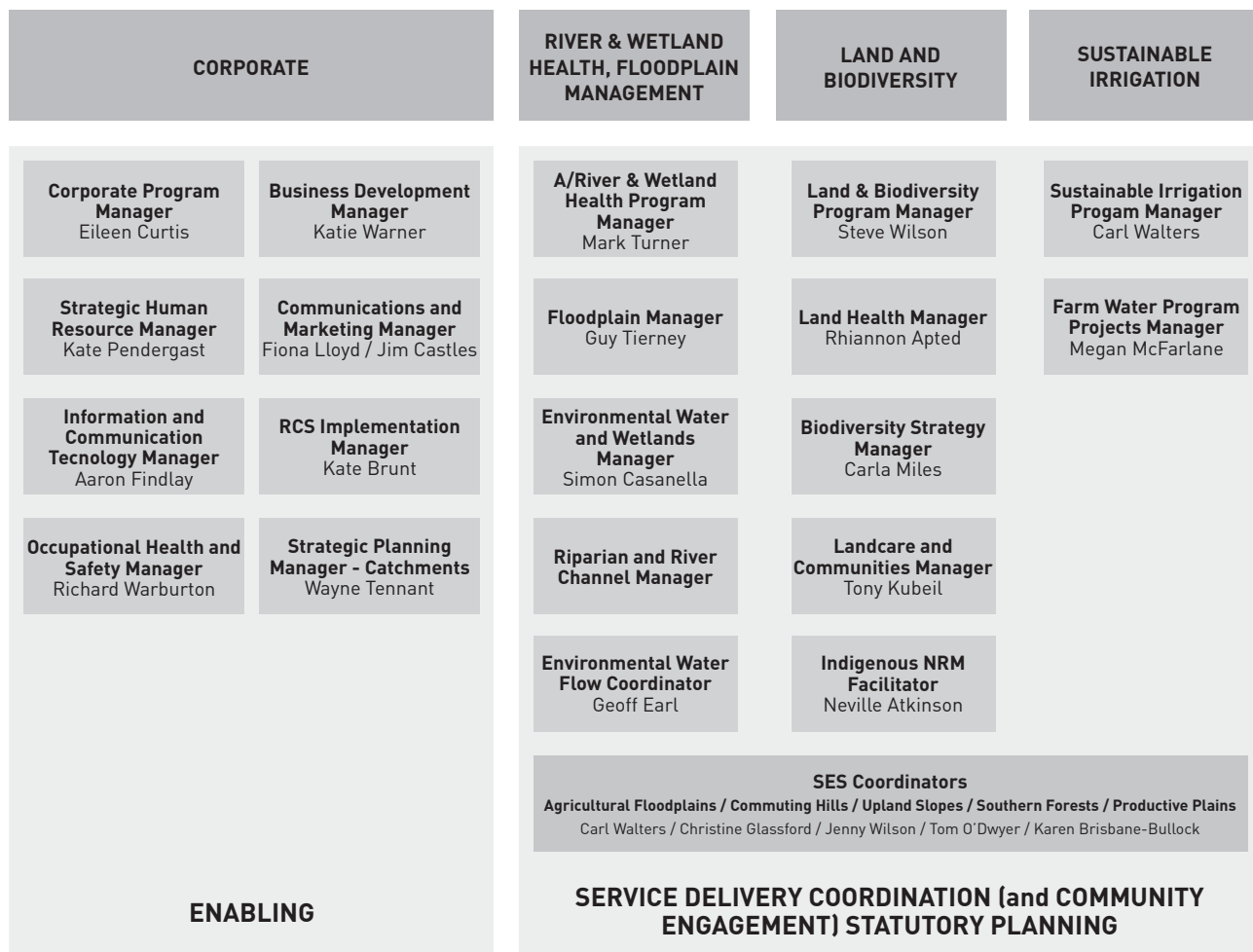
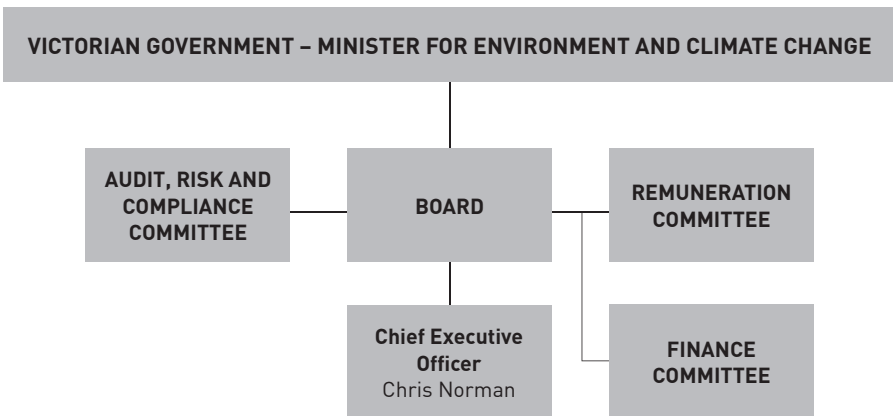
### 6. Urban Centres

Major urban centres of Shepparton, Seymour and Benalla

- Biodiversity is poor but urban people value the rivers and remaining vegetation for recreation
- Provide employment, housing, schools and services surrounded by farming and lifestyle properties on Goulburn and Broken River floodplains
- Water is pumped from the rivers for domestic use and runs off into rivers following storms
- Large diverse populations

**Threats:** Pollution, land development and aquatic weeds threaten river health, including water quality and floods are an on-going

## Goulburn Broken CMA business structure



## Key events 2014-15

### July

Minister Walsh, former Minister for Water, launched the Kilmore Flood Study on 10 July highlighting the partnership between the Mitchell Shire Council and the Goulburn Broken CMA.

The Draft Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy was discussed with community, Local Government and Agencies in an information session held in Shepparton on 15 July.

Goulburn Broken CMA is a partner with the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance in the \$5 million Watts Working Better project rolling out across the eight Local Councils in the Goulburn Broken Catchment, as well as Wangaratta. This is the second largest street light project in the world, behind New York.

### August

Minister Walsh, former Minister for Water, and Senator Birmingham visited two completed Farm Water Program projects near Kerang on 8 August to discuss the benefits of irrigation modernisation.

Minister Walsh launched the publication "The Story of John Dainton's Role in Mending the Goulburn Broken" on 27 August documenting the history of community engagement in addressing the salinity problem in the Catchment.

Goulburn Broken CMA received \$120,000 from Department of Environment and Primary Industries to investigate current and legacy problems from sand/gravel mining on the Goulburn River floodplain.

A successful Resilience seminar was held by the Goulburn Broken CMA on 28 August attended by over 50 people to update the catchment on progress.

### September

The Yorta Yorta Co-management plan was launched at Barmah Forest with Minister Smith.

Australian Government funded biodiversity fund completed a successful period with 845.43 hectares of revegetation and 606.16 hectares of remnant protection achieved. Key to this project's ongoing success is the involvement of community groups in its delivery.

The iSpy Fish App launch was held Friday 19 September with Jeanette Powell MP.

### October

Communities for Nature project - 'Practical parrot' built and installed 75 nest boxes for the threatened Turquoise parrot and set up monitoring sites on properties in the Warby Ranges area. This project has been well supported by local communities through the efforts of the Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network.

Floodplain ecology course held involving 30 community, including six indigenous, participants.

### November

Broken Boosey and Whroo Goldfield's Conservation Management Network's each received \$50,000 in the latest round of Victorian Government funded Communities for Nature Grants.

Goulburn Broken CMA hosted the NRM for Climate Change Murray Basin Stream 2 Cluster on 25-27 November. The three day workshop provided the information developed through the project to the respective Natural Resource Management region.

The CEO attended and presented to the United Nations Environment Programme on Agro-Ecosystem Resilience in Sydney on 19-21 November.

The Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy was approved by both Ministers prior to caretaker period.

The highly successful Fruit Industry Employment Program wound up after 16 months of activity exceeding all targets and receiving widespread acknowledgement.

A successful meeting and field tour was held on 7 November with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries Catchments Branch.

### December

'Biodiversity Spring' community education events finished after three months with 38 events held across the Catchment, including week-long floodplain ecology, box ironbark and grassy woodland courses. Biodiversity Spring was coordinated through the Euroa Arboretum.

The Farm Water Program consortium, under the leadership of the Goulburn Broken CMA, won the Australian Water Association-Victorian Program Innovation Award on 4 December.

Over 70 people attended the Farm Water Program Field Day held at Lockington on 4 December.

## Key events 2014-15

# 2015

### January

Goulburn Broken CMA hosted a group of year 12 students from Melbourne Grammar to discuss issues around water, Barmah and the balance between water for the environment and agricultural production.

### February

Broken Boosey Conservation Management Network won the Cobram and District (Moira Shire) Australia Day Award – Environment Project category, and received special mention at the Moira Shire Council Awards Ceremony.

Hosted the Parliamentary Secretary for Water, the Hon. Bob Baldwin and the new Murray Darling Basin Authority Chair, Neil Andrews on 2 February highlighting the Farm Water Program and environmental water management.

### March

Successful community EOI round closed with 83 applications received and assessed.

Two day workshop held in the Strathbogie ranges region with Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Goulburn Broken CMA staff, Landcare facilitators, the Lade family, and were led by Geomorphologist Neville Rosengren, who discussed the formation and cultural use of the landscape in the local area.

Goulburn Broken CMA staff contributed and were involved in the state-wide Silver Banksia workshop held in Bendigo on 10 March. The project aims to increase Silver Banksia populations across the state and coordinate appropriate genetic transfer of plants through the landscape.

Very successful inaugural Knowledge Conference held between North Central, North East and Goulburn Broken CMAs on 12 March attended by over 165 staff and Board Directors, and opened by Anthony Carbines, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment.

Meeting of all six regional Natural Resource Management bodies across the southern Murray Darling Basin held on 20 March in Melbourne to develop the large integrated Murray Corridors concept and launch the Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance.

### April

Over 70 community members attended a 'Good Neighbourhood Day' held for part time landholders in the Strathbogie Shire. Event was organised by the Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network.

American sustainable farming expert Joel Salatin delivered an excellent seminar to over 200 community members in Seymour. Event was organised and delivered by the Goulburn Broken CMA Land Health program with funding from the Australian Government Beyond SoilCare project.

Hosted a visit from Minister Neville on 9 April which included discussion and a tour of an irrigation property near Tatura that has received funding through the Farm Water Program. This opportunity reinforced the partnership approach of the Goulburn Broken CMA working with GMW Connections Project as well as the importance of planning, such as Whole Farm Plans, to underpin long-term decision making.

Launched Round 4 of the Farm Water Program worth \$50 million (2nd Tranche of the Victorian Farm Modernisation Program)

Large damaged trees cleared following the Creightons Creek fire sourced as snags for Macquarie perch project on the Hughes Creek.

### May

The Goulburn Broken CMA consortium won the Australian Water Awards Innovation Program for the Farm Water Program in front of over 950 delegates in Adelaide on the night of 13 May.

Organised successful workshop between the members of the Tri-State Murray NRM Regional Alliance (Goulburn Broken/North East/North Central/Mallee CMAs, NSW Murray Local Land Services and SA Murray Darling Basin NRM) on 4 - 5 May to develop Murray Corridors concept.

Very successful Research and Development Forum held on 21 May with our Catchment partners to help accelerate our Regional Catchment Strategy objectives and Sub-Strategy delivery.

Goulburn Broken CMA staff spoke at the Strathbogie Voices seminar on Environmental Water at Euroa on 30 May.

The CEO spoke at Committee for Greater Valleys Infrastructure Summit on the requirements in the Agricultural Floodplains for Salinity control activity 27 May.

### June

Goulburn Broken CMA hosted World Bank tour of irrigation experts from Kazakhstan on 3 June.

Groups and individuals improving environmental health in the Goulburn Broken Catchment were recognised at the 2015 Goulburn Broken Community Natural Resource Management (NRM) Awards on 19 June.



## Long-term scorecard

Ratings in the following table are explained in investment area reports, as referenced in the right hand column.

### Long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition

Investment area	Long-term strategy implementation progress <sup>i</sup>			Catchment condition <sup>i</sup>			Details page
	Strategy life <sup>ii</sup>	Progress	Gov't funding trend	1990 <sup>iii</sup>	2015	Trend 0-3 years	
<b>The Environment</b>							
1 Sustainable irrigation							
1a Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity	1990-2020	Below target	↓	Poor	Satisfactory	↓	32
2 River and wetland health and floodplain management							
2a Environmental flows	2014-2022	On target	↑	Poor	Good	↑	39
2b Riparian and in-stream habitat and channel form	2014-2022	On target	↑	Poor	Satisfactory	↑	39
2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers and streams	1996-2016	Exceeding target	●	Very Poor	Satisfactory	↑	39
2d Floodplain management	2002-2016	Exceeding target	●	Very Poor	Poor	↑	48
3 Land and biodiversity							
3a Biodiversity	2000-2030 2010-2015	On target	●	Poor	Poor <sup>iv</sup>	●	54
3b Land health including dryland salinity	1990-2050	Below target	↓	Poor	Satisfactory	●	62
3c Invasive plants and animals	2010-2015	Below target	●	Poor	Poor	●	66
<b>The Business (Corporate)</b>							
A Governance	Rolling 5 year Corporate Plan	On target	●	n.a.	Satisfactory	●	76
B Community Engagement	2005-present	On target	●	Poor	Satisfactory	↑	17
C Planning and responding	Rolling 5 year Corporate Plan	On target	↓	Poor	Satisfactory	↑	21
D Human resources	various	On target	●	Satisfactory	Good	↑	68
E Environmental footprint	2012-14	Below target	●	Very Poor	Poor <sup>v</sup>	●	73

i. Strategy implementation progress considers evidence of outputs completed against targets, including onground works and tasks to improve management systems. Catchment condition ratings consider evidence of environmental or business condition, social and economic health and management systems. Catchment condition encompasses more than just biophysical condition. Appendix 1 on page 125 describes the ratings methodology in more detail.

ii. Strategies vary in formality and comprehensiveness. Refer to detailed sections for lists of strategies. Strategy life includes time taken for capacity building tasks to be completed in medium term (usually three to five years) and for 'The Environment' investment areas, time taken for changes to be achieved over the long-term (usually ten to fifty years).

iii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of what the situation was like in 1990. 1990 is a useful reference year because it was about this time that integrated catchment management began and sufficient time has elapsed since for meaningful questions about long-term change to be asked.

iv. More than one third of the Catchment's woody vegetation (including riparian vegetation) was burnt by 2006 and 2009 fires (long-term impacts are unknown).

v. Ratings are about the condition of the organisation (with respect to its environmental footprint) rather than the condition of the Catchment.

### Notes about the long-term scorecard

Significant differences between investment areas in rating long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change (see table above) are often simply because of varying methods used to assess Catchment condition and set long-term targets. This reflects the infancy of natural resource management and the variation between its disciplines.

Appendix 1, 'Understanding progress and ratings' (page 125), discusses issues related to measuring progress.

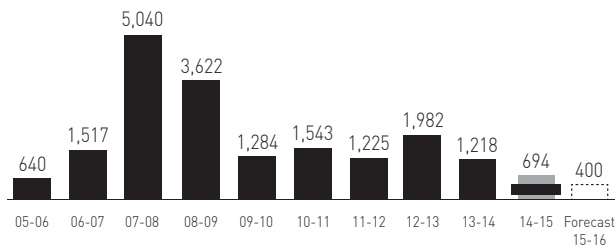
Goulburn Broken CMA strategies generally have a long-term focus, which encourages integration and the achievement of multiple benefits from single actions. This helps to minimise the impacts of fluctuating government commitment to different investment areas.

## Outputs achieved 2005-06 to 2014-15 and forecast 2015-16

### Note on forecast targets:

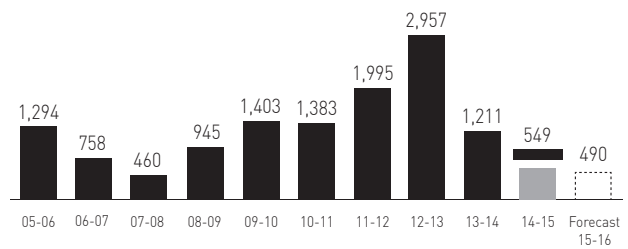
Forecast output targets are generally lower than what was achieved previously because they are based on indicative rather than actual funding received. Forecasts are based on figures cited in the Corporate Plan for the forthcoming financial year and do not take into account new funding opportunities that may arise.

Remnant vegetation fenced, ha



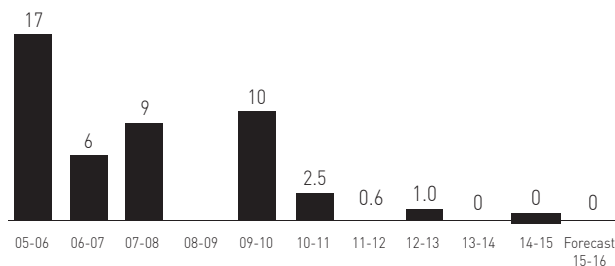
Increased achievements in 2007-08 and 2008-09 were largely due to Drought Employment Program funding.

Indigenous revegetation (planted), ha



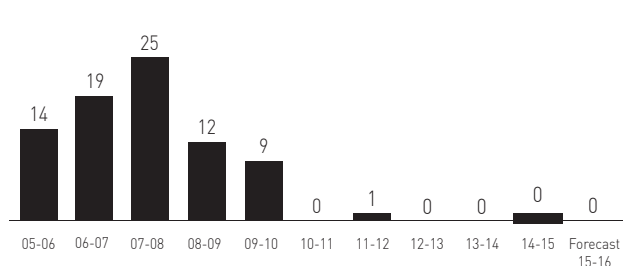
There is still significant community interest in revegetation. Direct seeding is currently the dominant method of revegetating, influenced by seasonal conditions.

Irrigation drains built, km

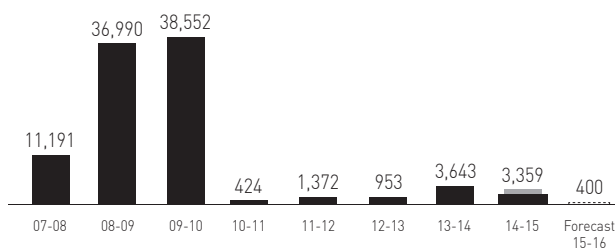


While core actions of the 1990 salinity plan continue to be implemented (page 32), reduced funding for some core actions has resulted in decreased achievement.

Groundwater pumps installed, numbers

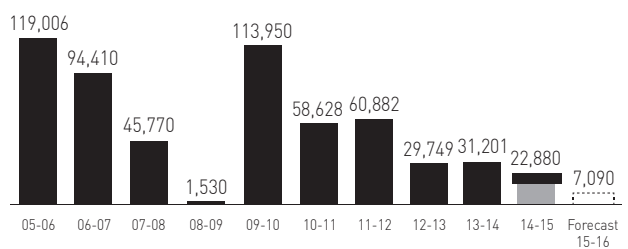


Weeds treated, ha



DEDJTR's Biosecurity Victoria's Pest Plan and Animal Program was removed from the Goulburn Broken CMA's investment process from 2009-10.

Rabbits and foxes treated, ha



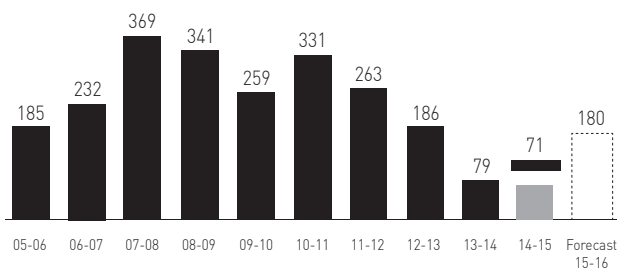
Whroo Goldfields and Broken Boosey Conservation Management Networks (CMNs) are major contributors to fox control achievements since 2009-10 (page 66).

Legend

■ Target for 2014-15

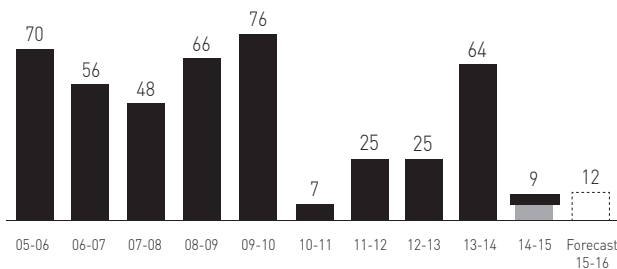


Whole farm plans prepared, numbers



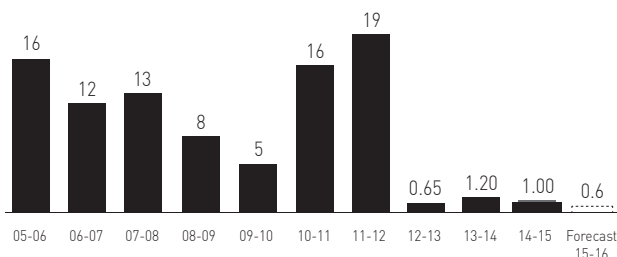
Whole Farm Planning commitment levels are high; expected to be completed in 2015-16

Reuse systems installed, numbers



Investment in reuse systems has been through the Farm Water Program since 2010-11 (page 32).

River or stream bed and bank protection actions, km



Increasing funding for 2015-16 will increase this output. Forecast targets not confirmed at time of publication.

Legend

■ Target for 2014-15



## Annual scorecards

(content highlighted to be revised/updated)

### Investment and gross output performances in investment areas

Investment area <sup>i</sup>	Investment <sup>ii</sup> (including partnership funds)				2014-15 performance <sup>iv</sup> (outputs)	Details page
	2012-13 \$000	2013-14 \$000	2014-15 \$000	Forecast <sup>iii</sup> 2015-16 \$000		
<b>The Environment</b>						
1 Sustainable irrigation						
1a Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity	45,499	35,367	14,713	21,157	On target	32
2 River and wetland health and floodplain management						
2a Environmental flows	Combined investment of 2a, 2b and 2c: 4,606	Combined investment of 2a, 2b and 2c: 6,083	Combined investment of 2a, 2b and 2c: 3,940	Combined investment of 2a, 2b and 2c: 6,108	On target	39
2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form					On target	39
2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers and streams					On target	39
2d Floodplain management	362	482	458	748	On target	48
3 Land and biodiversity						
3a Biodiversity	4,933	5,381	5,166	3,670	On target	54
3b Land health including dryland salinity	1,577	990	990	761	On target	62
3c Invasive plants and animals	0	0	0	0	On target	66
<b>The Business (Corporate)</b>						
A Governance	1,625	1,407	1,758	1,517	On target	76
B Community engagement	729	652	537	537	On target	17
C Planning and responding	Part of A					21
D Human resources <sup>v</sup>	5,436	5,645	5,466	5,631	On target	68
E Environmental footprint <sup>v</sup>	23	25	10	0	On target	73

i. Investment areas and integration between them are described in Appendix 1 on page 125.

ii. Investment figures include funding to partners, except for the Invasive plants and animals investment area.

iii. Based on advice at July 2015

iv. Performance ratings are based on outputs achieved as listed under investment area details in this annual report. Targets are determined by considering levels of government funding as listed in the Corporate Plan only (government funds or funds from other sources arriving after the Corporate Plan was finalised are not considered within these targets). Outputs are described in Appendix 2 on page 127.

v. These are costs rather than investments. Costs are embedded within other investment areas.



## Aggregate output performance across all investment areas in 2014-15

Output <sup>i</sup>	Achieved	Target <sup>ii</sup>	Performance	
			% achieved	Rating
Remnant vegetation fenced, hectares	694	276	251	Exceeded target
Long-term conservation agreements, hectares <sup>iii</sup>	112	45	249	Exceeded target
Indigenous revegetation (planted), hectares	549	756	73	Below target
Irrigation drains built, kilometres	0	0	-	-
Reuse systems installed, numbers	9	9	100	On target
Landform/lasergrading, hectares	4,220	6,507	65	Below target
Groundwater pumps installed, numbers	0	0	-	-
Weeds treated, hectares	3,359	1,037	324	Exceeded target
Rabbits and foxes treated, hectares	22,880	22,487	102	On target
River or stream bed and bank protection actions, kilometres	1.00	0.34	294	Exceeded target
Fishway structures installed and barriers modified, numbers	0	0	-	-
Aquatic habitat works, numbers	0	0	-	-
Threatened species projects, numbers	0	0	-	-
Whole farm plans prepared, numbers	71	110	65	Below target

- i. Outputs shown in this table are derived from the more detailed set in Appendix 2 on page 127, including the full list of footnotes. Outputs are described in Appendix 1 on page 125 under 'Annual performance'. Detailed outputs relating to each investment area are listed in sections devoted to each investment area throughout this report.
- ii. Targets are determined by considering levels of government funding as listed in the Corporate Plan and any subsequent adjustments over the financial year.
- iii. These are shown as 'Binding management agreements' in the detailed outputs on page 127. This target will only be reported once covenants are on title, which takes more than 12 months.

### Descriptions of output performance

Case studies (on pages 47 and 61) and investment area details in the environment section pages 36-67 describe actions undertaken in 2014-15 and illustrate integration between programs, government agencies, regional authorities, community organisations and individuals.



## Community engagement

Compiled by Chris Norman, Jim Castles, Katie Warner, Darelle Siekman, Gaye Sutherland and Neville Atkinson

### Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Catchment condition <sup>iv</sup>	Surveys of strengths of relationships Memoranda of understanding Charters for various community engagement groups Uniform regulations developed Joint forums Shared staffing Funds from various sources contributing to natural resource management Corporate memory Management systems	Poor	Low	Satisfactory	Low	↑
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs (tasks scheduled to be completed in various engagement strategies)	n.a.		On target	Medium	● <sup>iii</sup>
2014-15 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received) Corporate Plan KPIs (see page 89)	n.a.		On target	Medium	n.a.

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of what the situation was like in 1990.

iii. Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

iv. The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, at which time the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

### Government investment, \$000

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <sup>i</sup>	Trend
729	652	537	537	●

i. Forecast based on funding advice at July 2015.

### Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken Community Engagement Strategy 2014-2015
- Goulburn Broken Communications and Marketing Strategy 2013-2014
- Goulburn Broken Community and Landcare Support Plan (Draft) 2013
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- COAG Closing the Gap initiative 2008
- Yorta Yorta Cooperative Management Agreement 2004
- Yorta Yorta Traditional Land Management Agreement 2010
- Various memoranda of understanding

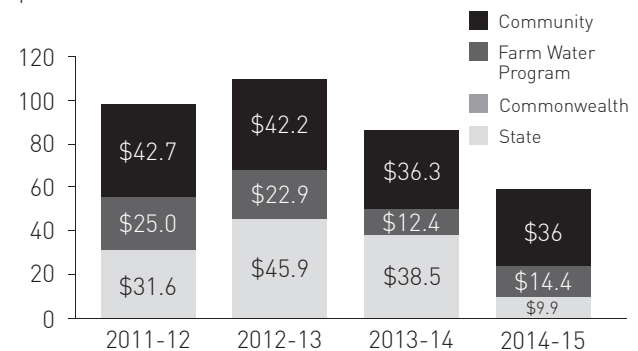
## Background

This section demonstrates how the Goulburn Broken CMA is committed to stakeholder involvement, integration of disciplines and onground works.

The regional community typically invests about one dollar for every dollar of government funding despite continuing challenges (see graph above right). Influencing how others invest is therefore a very important activity for the Goulburn Broken CMA.

Stakeholders include private landholders, Victorian and Australian government funders, government agencies, corporate and philanthropic funders, Traditional Owners, local government, community natural resource management groups, individuals and politicians. The table in Appendix 5 on page 131 summarises the role of catchment partners in implementing the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy.

### Major contributions to natural resource management, \$million



In 2014-15 the calculation of community contribution was revised to match the approach taken in the Victorian Catchment Management Authorities Actions and Achievements Report. This approach estimates that the community invests \$1.50 for every \$1 of Government investment through CMA programs. For some specific on-ground works the contribution from the community may be more than \$4 for every \$1 of Government investment (Source VCMC (2012) Catchment Condition and Management Report pg 88)

## Supporting community natural resource management

The Goulburn Broken CMA relies on landholders, school children, community NRM groups (including Landcare groups, Conservation Management Networks, 'Friends of ...' groups and others) and individuals to deliver programs across the Catchment that improve the health of our rivers and creeks, protect and improve habitat for native animals and plants, recognise the region's cultural heritage and bring about practice change. Efforts to boost the Catchment's resilience lead to increasingly productive landscapes that will support the longterm viability of our

communities in the face of constant change. To support the effort of the community undertake activities, a broad range of grants (funded through a combination of State and Commonwealth programs, including the Victorian Landcare Program and Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund, Caring for our Country and NRM Planning for Climate Change) were provided to community organisations (see table below). Activities funded included revegetation and regeneration of native vegetation, eradication and control of invasive plants and animals, support of capacity building initiatives and education and awareness raising activities.

Total Grants paid to community groups and other organisations 2014-15	No. of grants	Amount paid \$ (ex GST)
Australian Government - Biodiversity Fund	20	\$541,176.52
Australian Government - Caring for Our Country	33	\$1,143,275.33
Australian Government - NRM Planning for Climate Change	1	\$10,000.00
Victorian Government - Victorian Environmental Partnerships Program	1	\$6,000.00
Victorian Government - Victorian Landcare Grants	59	\$357,422.36
Victorian Government - Victorian Water Program Investment Framework	5	\$114,798.60
Victorian Government - Other	2	\$40,000.00
<b>Total Grants paid</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>\$2,212,672.81</b>

## Traditional Owner engagement

Traditional Owners in our catchment are legally recognised through the Victorian Government's Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 establishes a system of Registered Aboriginal Parties in the State that have responsibilities in relation to cultural heritage management within their registered party area. Two Registered Aboriginal Parties are established within the Goulburn Broken Catchment; Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation. Cooperative management and Traditional land management agreements, and the Yorta Yorta Nation Whole of Country Action Plan also provide direction to the Goulburn Broken CMA in engaging with Traditional Owners in catchment management.

In addition, the Goulburn Broken CMA have established a Memorandum of Understanding with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation to guide engagement and collaboration in natural resource management activities on Country and supports the Yorta Yorta whole of County Plan as a place-based approach to inclusion of the Yorta Yorta and links to the Australian Government IAS, and COAG Closing the Gap policies. The Yorta Yorta Whole of Country Action Plan requires collaboration between all parties: natural resource management sector, education sector and business sectors to generate a pathway for Indigenous people who are highly trained to meet the needs and capacity building requirements of the Traditional Owners, now and into the future to achieve parity. Goulburn Broken CMA are currently working to establish a similar agreement with Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

The Australian Government National Landcare Programme project that supports a partnership between the Goulburn

Broken CMA and the Taungurung community to work on country, continued providing opportunities for capacity building, employment and engagement in natural resource management. In addition to protecting the ecological character of Alpine bogs through works on country, the project builds capacity through training opportunities and engages Taungurung in cross-cultural participation through field days and workshops.

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, with the support of Goulburn Broken CMA Australian Government National Landcare Programme funding has continued to deliver works through its Woka Walla business arm. The Woka Walla business model enables Indigenous work teams to undertake contract works in natural resource management across Yorta Yorta country. Woka Walla has undertaken pest plant and animal control and fencing to protect the ecological character of the Barmah Ramsar Wetland and protected sensitive sandridge woodland sites on private and public land. The projects continue to build skills and qualifications for the work team and build capacity for the Woka Walla business to be self-sufficient, enabling it to compete for contracts in the broader market.

The Traditional Owner engagement activities of the Goulburn Broken CMA integrate well and continue to work with the Indigenous facilitator and the Traditional Owners to develop partnerships to be innovative, to have a commitment to change and pursue actions to achieve socio/economic place based parity between Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal people to deliver on the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Indigenous Advancement Strategy Guidelines.

## Catchment condition

Government and regional communities' objectives are clearly aligned:

- the Goulburn Broken regional community has a reputation for delivering onground changes to improve its natural resources, which reflects the strength of relationships between its many and varied individuals and organisations
- 96 active community NRM groups had a membership of 5,416 people contributing to natural resource management activities every year (these figures are from the groups and networks that responded to a survey in 2013-14)
- 35 per cent of the Goulburn Broken CMA's Municipal Catchment Coordinator position is funded by the three municipalities in the Shepparton Irrigation Region. These municipalities also contribute 17 per cent of funding for the Public Salinity Works operation and maintenance costs and in some circumstances fund road structures on Community Surface Drains.

Uniform regulatory backing has been developed across municipalities in the Shepparton Irrigation Region with uniform planning regulations and new irrigation development guidelines. Following the 2010, 2011 and 2012 floods, discussions between the Goulburn Broken CMA and local government authorities have strengthened the partnership approach to flood response and a flood damage report has been prepared.

The Goulburn Broken CMA has been represented in steering committees and consultation sessions during development of local government authorities' strategies looking at environmental management and adapting and transitioning to less water. It has been involved in projects with local government and a neighbouring catchment management authority looking at helping farmers transition and adapt to less water.

Formal Regional Operating Agreements are in place across the 10 catchment management regions in Victoria, play a significant part in operationalising each RCS. Regional Operating Agreements were signed in 2014 between the CMAs, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (then DEPI) and Parks Victoria to strengthen regional arrangements to achieve efficient and effective delivery of outcomes and operations on behalf of the Ministers and Secretary. Uniquely, the Goulburn Broken and North East CMA have signed a single Hume Region MOU to ensure alignment across the Hume State Government region, and have built stronger relationships with Local Government (13); Alpine Resort Management Boards (4); Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; SES; Sustainability Victoria; EPA; Department of Justice; Department of Human Services; Goulburn Murray Water, Goulburn Valley Water, North East Water and Traditional Owner Groups.

Corporate memory at all levels is a major problem because of staff turnover in the natural resource management 'industry', consistent with the challenge that has emerged in the western world since 1990 in all jurisdictions: better information systems and legacy documents are being built to inform new staff quickly so they can more readily respond to needs.

## Long-term strategy implementation progress

The Goulburn Broken CMA's collaborative agreements and strategies for engaging stakeholders reflect the diversity of natural resource management.

All program sub-strategies include community engagement action plans aligned to the Goulburn Broken CMA's overarching Community Engagement Strategy 2014-15. The Goulburn Broken CMA's Community Engagement Strategy was reviewed and updated in the first half of 2014 to capture changes in the way the Goulburn Broken CMA will engage with its stakeholders as a result of the development of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019, findings from the 2012 Wallis CMA Awareness Survey and subsequent Action Plan (developed late 2012), and changes in Victorian and Commonwealth government natural resource management funding and priorities.

## 2014-15 performance

Seventy-five media releases were prepared in 2014-15. A regular monthly column in the Country News (reaching more than 55,000 households) continued and the bi-monthly Connecting Community and Catchment e-newsletter reached almost 890 subscribers (an 11 per cent increase on 2014-15). A weekly river heights table continued in the Shepparton News every Friday in response to community interest in how and why environmental water is being delivered. This table is also sent to angling clubs and fishing stores, including two stores out of the Catchment who requested this information.

The Goulburn Broken CMA continues to align its communication of environmental water activities with those of the Commonwealth and Victorian Environmental Water holders and other agencies involved in the process. The Goulburn Broken Environmental Watering Forum was held in December and provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the Goulburn-Broken environmental watering program.

A monthly session on ABC Goulburn Murray's breakfast show discussing all thing flora and fauna continued, and a monthly segment on Upper Goulburn FM helped promote Goulburn Broken CMA programs and projects in the Southern Forest and Upland Slopes SES areas of the Catchment.

These more traditional engagement and communication approaches were complemented by an increased social media presence that is continually attracting individuals and groups that may not have engaged with the Goulburn Broken CMA previously. Facebook page "likes" increased from 241 in July 2014 to 388 in June 2015, and followers of our Twitter account increased from 204 at the start of 2014-15 to 489 in June 2015. The Goulburn Broken CMA Flickr account provided an engaging way to store publicly contributed photographs. A SoundCloud account was used to share the sounds collected by staff during audio monitoring and the number of videos on YouTube increased. Crosspromotion of all content was a key focus of communication activities in 2014-15.

The Goulburn Broken CMA had a site at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo in February, providing the organisation with a valuable opportunity to promote its

activities and reach new audiences. Many of the program projects held very successful events – refer to the community engagement section of each program for more information.

Collaborative campaigns between the state's 10 CMAs celebrated Biodiversity Month. The three northern CMAs also worked collaboratively to promote the Northern Eco-Connections program.

Staff from the three northern CMA's got together in March to share knowledge, understanding and skill in the capability that underpins engaging with our communities at the 2015 Knowledge Conference.

Groups and individuals improving environmental health in the Goulburn Broken Catchment were recognised at the 2015 Goulburn Broken Community Natural Resource Management (NRM) Awards on June 19. The winners of the six awards were: Kerri Robson (Hubert Miller Perpetual Award); Yea High School Junior Landcare Group (Junior Landcare Team Award); Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network (Community NRM Network Award); Yea Wetland Committee of Management (Community NRM Group Award); Glenn Thompson, Wyuna Landcare Group (Community NRM Sustainable Farming Award); and Gary Deayton, Moira Shire Council (Recognition of Long-term Community Partnership Award)

## What's next?

Engagement with stakeholders is a priority during the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy and will be supported by:

- continuous investigation and development of the best ways to engage with the community;
- inclusion of a community engagement component in all project planning and development (with a focus on the social-ecological systems)
- increasing staff community engagement capability.

A radio awareness campaign will run on commercial radio (Southern Cross Media's 3SR and High Country stations) for three months commencing in August. Students from Wilmot Road Primary School will feature in the commercials.

Partnerships with Indigenous communities will be enhanced and the wider community's understanding of traditional ecological knowledge will be expanded.

The Communication and Marketing Strategy 2014-15 was developed to complement all community engagement activities by promoting and sharing information about Goulburn Broken CMA activities. Actions in the strategy to do this include:

- support for Goulburn Broken CMA staff via a suite of communication and marketing tools
- external website upgrade
- embedding innovative communication and marketing approaches and
- support for implementing the RCS.

Liaison with government funders will continue to ensure:

- the impact of potential gaps in funding for regional priorities are minimised
- opportunities for non-traditional investment (eg industry) are explored.

Community-based natural resource management will involve:

- continuing to provide the catchment community with up-to-date information on developing and promoting Australian Government initiatives
- continuing to develop relationships with community natural resource management groups
- delivering Victorian Landcare Program community grants.



## Planning and responding (including research and development)

Compiled by Katie Warner, Chris Norman, Jim Castles, Mark Turner and Rod McLennan

### Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Catchment condition <sup>iv</sup>	Anecdotal <sup>v</sup> Systems in place related to planning and responding	Poor	Medium	Satisfactory	Medium	↑
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Strategies and plans developed, implemented, revised or updated	n.a		On target	Medium	↓ <sup>iii</sup>
2014-15 performance	Corporate Plan KPIs related to planning and responding [see page 89] Strategies and plans developed, implemented, revised or updated	n.a		On target	High	n.a

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of what the situation was like in 1990.

iii. Assumed to parallel the government funding trend for strategy development.

iv. The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

v. Examples of anecdotal evidence include feedback from external experts, selection of Catchment for piloting approaches to emerging issues, adoption by other natural resource management regions of approaches developed within Catchment, inclusion of Catchment people in State, National and International knowledge forums.

#### Government investment

Included as part of investment in 'Governance' (page 76).

#### Major strategic references

Refer to Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategy structure diagram on page 23.

#### Background

The Catchment community has continually adapted its approach to managing the Catchment's natural resources under changing conditions and new ideas for more than two decades. The major steps in this evolution have been:

- a single-threat focus (salinity) in the late 1980s
- integrated catchment management during the 1990s
- outcomes based on 'ecosystem services' in the early 2000s
- understanding and enhancing resilience of the Catchment's people and environment as an interconnected system from about 2005.

The first comprehensive, community-led natural resource management strategies in Australia were prepared by the Goulburn Broken community in 1990: the Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Salinity Management Plan and the Goulburn Broken Dryland Salinity Management Plan.

During the 1990s, pioneering approaches to strategy and planning in emerging fields, especially water quality and native vegetation management, became part of an integrated approach.

The Catchment has been the focus of international studies on ecosystem services and resilience thinking since the early 2000s. The new Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019, developed in partnership with the Catchment community, signals an exciting new phase for the Catchment and the Authority. Launched in 2013 by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, the Regional Catchment Strategy builds on this work, emphasising the resilience of the Catchment's 'social-ecological systems'.

#### Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategies

The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy, a requirement of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994, was first developed in 1997 and revised in 2003. During 2011 and 2012, the Goulburn Broken CMA led the development of the new Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019. Working with many stakeholders and the Catchment community, the Regional Catchment Strategy sets the priorities and targets for directing the Catchment's resources over the next six years towards achieving environmental, social and economic benefits.

#### The resilience approach

Resilience is the ability of the Catchment's people and environment to absorb stress while continuing to function in a desired way. A series of major events in recent years, from bushfires, droughts and floods to the global financial crisis, has severely tested the Catchment's communities and ecosystems, catalysing an emphasis on developing resilience in preparing the Regional Catchment Strategy. The resilience approach to catchment management focuses on the connections between people and nature, how these connections change and what can be done to achieve desired, balanced goals for resilience. Consistent systems of people and nature are called social-ecological systems, which include elements such as land form, vegetation types, land uses, social structure and dynamics. Socioecological systems exist at a range of connected scales, from site to the whole-of-Catchment. The scale chosen for decision-making considers the balance between being small enough to understand the details sufficiently, while being large enough to allocate resources efficiently.

The resilience approach and social-ecological systems underpin the Regional Catchment Strategy and its implementation.



## Setting objectives – Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 objective hierarchy

The diagram (below) details the objectives hierarchy for the Regional Catchment Strategy, which has been developed in four levels.

**Level 1** is the **50-year vision** which provides a general sense of what the community would like the Catchment to be. The vision reflects the important relationship between protection and use of the Catchment’s natural assets, which generate environmental, economic and social benefits.

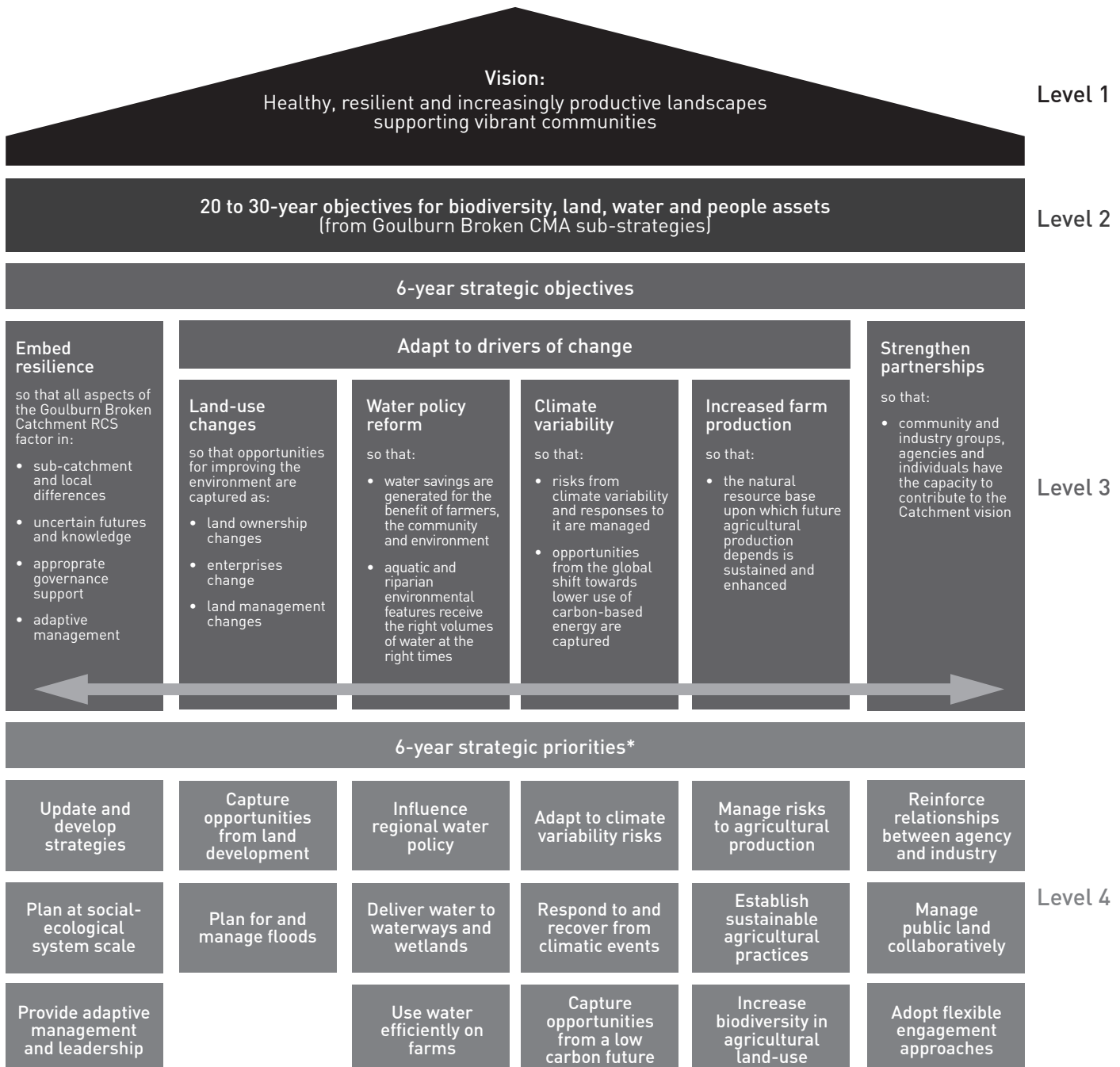
**Level 2** holds the **long-term 20 to 30-year biodiversity, land, water and people objectives**, found in the relevant sub-strategies developed by the Goulburn Broken CMA in consultation with the Catchment community. They guide effort by defining what is to be achieved within the different

asset classes of biodiversity, land, water and people. It is assumed that achieving these objectives will position the Catchment community on the path to achieving the vision.

**Level 3** is made up of **six-year strategic objectives** that help communicate the emphasis for management. It is assumed that achieving these objectives will enable progress towards 20 to 30-year biodiversity, land, water and people objectives.

**Level 4** includes **six-year strategic priorities**, which describe the focus for bundles of management measures needed to address the drivers of change. It is assumed that achieving these strategic priorities will indicate achievement of strategic objectives. Management measures generally describe the tasks to be undertaken over the next six years.

The Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 objectives hierarchy



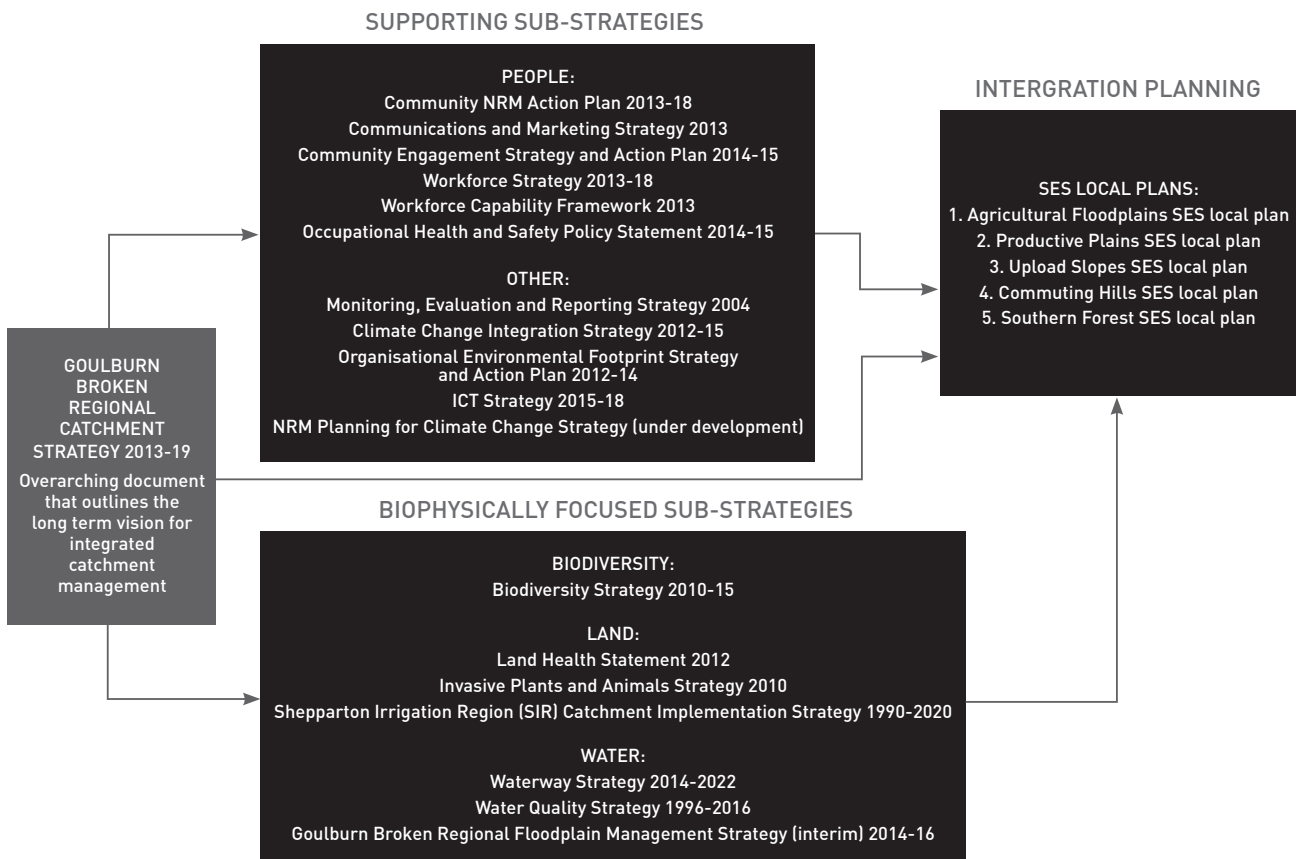
\* Strategic priorities describe the focus for bundles of management measures

The Goulburn Broken CMA also uses theme-based sub-strategies to provide direction, especially for investing in onground action. The diagram below demonstrates the relationship between the Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategies.

## Corporate Plan

The Corporate Plan is prepared annually in accordance with sections 19C and 19D of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. It follows high-level directions set in the Regional Catchment Strategy and describes Board priorities beyond requirements of government funders. It satisfies new and emerging requirements from the regional community, the Goulburn Broken CMA Board and government funders, and includes annual details on investment and expected achievements within programs.

## Regional Catchment Strategy and sub-strategies structure



## Research and development, evaluation and adaptation

While government funding agencies require project reports on short-term performance and impacts on long-term progress, the lack of a standardised approach in catchment management reporting means that requirements change regularly and often differ between and within agencies. Against this backdrop, the Goulburn Broken CMA has held critical evaluation processes constant, such as monitoring against benchmarks, allowing an understanding of longterm progress (including impact on Catchment condition) to be gained.

The Goulburn Broken region follows a systematic process of reviewing and updating plans and strategies as set out in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy, 2004. Progress is monitored regularly and sometimes strategies or plans are updated earlier than scheduled, or new strategies are developed, in response to emerging issues or critical drivers. See [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au) for a record of how and when sub-strategies have been evaluated and adapted.

Integrated catchment management involves decisions based on information from different backgrounds and disciplines. The Goulburn Broken CMA's efforts to standardise outputs since 2002-03 (see page 127) and to summarise progress via long-term scorecards since 2005-06 (see page 12) are important in developing a uniform language and framework, enabling comparisons over time, and helping the Goulburn Broken CMA, the community, agencies and government investors to understand the benefits and trade-offs of decisions. The framework provides a stable and ongoing approach, while government funding frameworks and language change frequently.

The linking and aggregating of site specific actions (or outputs) to long-term outcomes via the McLennan-O'Kane equation,  $Outputs \times Assumptions = Outcomes$ , has further fostered common understanding between disciplines and identified priority knowledge gaps. This helped drive many regional and national research and development projects over several years.

The research and development strategy for groundwater and salinity management in the Shepparton Irrigation Region has been implemented in partnership for more than two decades by Goulburn-Murray Water, Department of Environment and Primary Industries research arms and the Goulburn Broken CMA, with integration of additional resources from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, the National Water Commission, Goulburn-Murray Water Connections Project, irrigation industry service providers and users, and others. This partnership approach is pivotal in enabling the region to adapt quickly, with the focus of research on improving how farmers can irrigate more efficiently and sustainably. Investment in fast-flow irrigation, pipe and riser irrigation, pressurised irrigation, automation and irrigation scheduling systems are examples of outcomes from this research.

Research and development activities are highlighted within each investment area section of this annual report. A knowledge inventory listing state, national or international projects that the Goulburn Broken CMA is involved with is available at [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)

## Catchment condition

For more than two decades, comprehensive strategies have been developed and implemented for many issues including salinity, water quality, biodiversity, integrated catchment management, floodplain protection and river health, with evaluation and adaptation being critical parts of the planning cycle since 1990 (see appendix two of the Regional Catchment Strategy 'Evolution of Goulburn Broken RCS and substrategies').

The formal and informal systems (including for governance, community engagement and human resources) that have been developed, implemented and reviewed over two decades position the Catchment to respond rapidly to recent issues such as drought, bushfires and floods.

There is wide anecdotal recognition of the regional community as a world leader in natural resource management: the Goulburn Broken CMA is widely regarded as a responsive, leading and action-focused natural resource manager. This was most recently highlighted in feedback from Dr Brian Walker, CSIRO Honorary Research Fellow and Chair of the Board of the International Resilience Alliance who commented that the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 was '...an excellent document that illustrates how well you guys have grasped complex systems, and how to deal with them. It is way ahead of most NRM planning'.

## Natural resource management challenges

Major challenges include degraded river health, reduced extent and quality of native vegetation, reduced water quality and quantity, dryland and irrigated salinity, loss of biodiversity, and pest plant and pest animal invasion.

These challenges are being exacerbated by changes in climate. Recent climate events include:

- 2002–2009 extreme drought: exceptionally low stream flows and historically low water allocations. In combination with federal environmental policy and farm demographic structure, it led to unprecedented irrigated dairy industry restructure.
- 2009 bushfires: covering 185,000 hectares (seven per cent) of the Catchment, with 190 kilometres of vegetation along major rivers burnt. This has changed patterns of settlement in some areas.
- 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 floods: while improving the condition of floodplain systems, these floods may change patterns of settlement in some affected areas.
- 2013 bushfires: covering approximately 9,700 hectares in the Wunghnu-Numurkah region and 23,600 hectares in the Kimore area (of which approximately 3,400 hectares was in the Goulburn Broken Catchment).

## Long-term strategy implementation progress

Refer to 'Background' and 'Long-term scorecard' (that rates progress against strategies under investment areas) on page

## Investment patterns and maturity of approaches

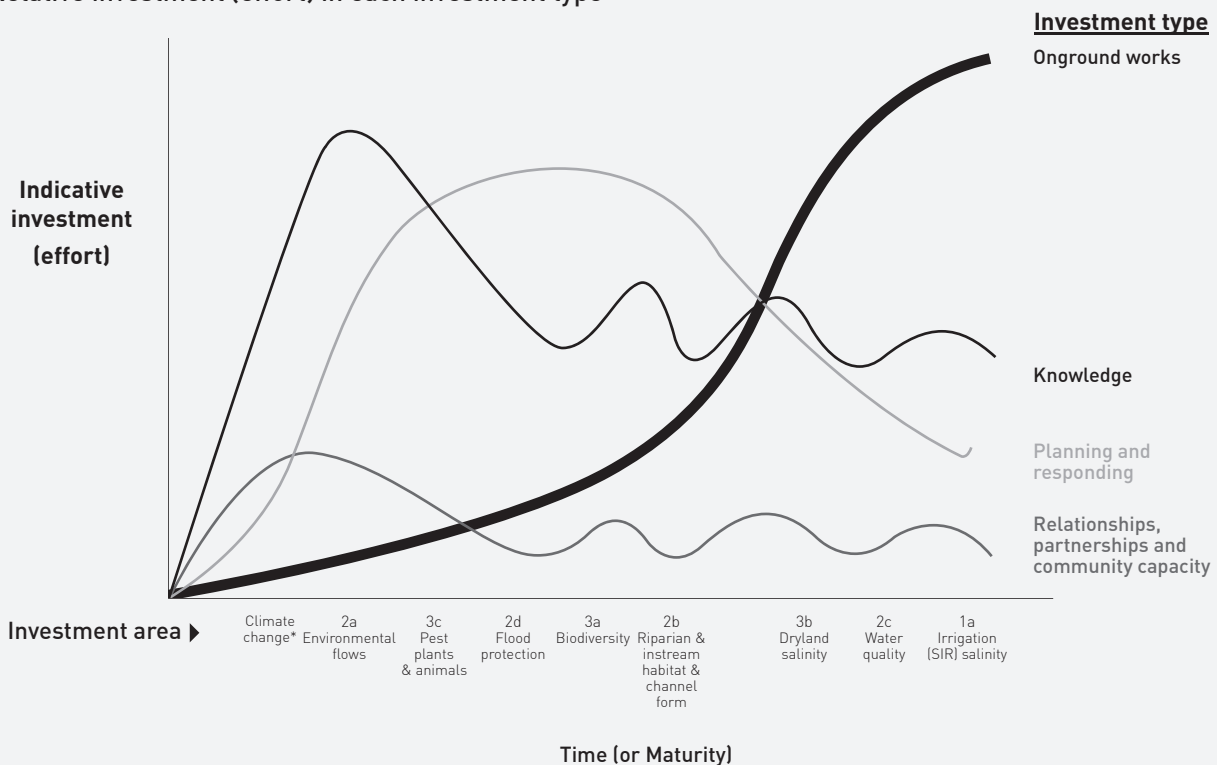
The stylised investment patterns shown in this graph show the Goulburn Broken CMA is at different stages of maturity of implementing approaches in its eight environmental investment areas.

For example, investment in irrigation salinity began much earlier than investment in biodiversity, which in turn is more mature than investment in environmental flows.

The time scale is different for each investment area. Investment in dryland salinity is not likely to follow an exponential uptake because information has emerged that requires us to revisit our plans.

Currently, government investment dictates the levels of effort in each investment type (onground works; knowledge; planning and responding; and relationships, partnerships and community capacity) although the Goulburn Broken CMA attempts to ensure the balance of investment between the different types is appropriate for the issue and efforts are being made to broaden investment to further satisfy our strategy and community needs.

### Relative investment (effort) in each investment type



Shows relative maturity for each major Goulburn Broken CMA environmental investment area

\* The Goulburn Broken CMA's response to climate change is integrated within each investment area; it is not a separate investment area. It is useful to show its relative immaturity on this graph

i Adapted from the Goulburn Broken CMA's From the fringe to mainstream – A strategic plan for integrating native biodiversity 2004-07.

## 2014-15 performance

### Local plan development

A broad range of engagement has, and continues to occur, to develop local plans for each of the broad geographic areas identified in the RCS.

In the agricultural floodplains a 'taskforce' has been established to do this. As part of the process the Irrigation regions Land and water Management Plan will be reviewed and rolled up into the one document, a Local Plan.

As with the RCS the Goulburn Broken CMA's WeConnect site will be used to develop the plans, offering a broad audience the ability to provide input.

### Resilience conference

The Goulburn Broken CMA was again represented at the international resilience conference by CEO Chris Norman. The conference, entitled 'Resilience 2014 – Resilience and development: Mobilizing for Transformation' was held in Montpellier, France. Chris presented at the conference and participated in an invitation only preconference workshop.

### Resilience assessment

In what is believed to be a world first, the resilience of a catchment-based region was reassessed. A workshop was held in July 2013 with key stakeholders of the region to review the finding and what had changed since the 2009 published assessment. This reassessment has been documented and is now available within the resilience science community and on the Goulburn Broken CMA's WeConnect website.

## Progress against the 2013-19 Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy and supporting sub strategies

Progress against the strategic objectives of the Regional Catchment Strategy is summarised under Operational highlights on page 5.

Summary of plan development and implementation in 2014-15 Plan or strategy	Progress	Further details
Corporate plan	Corporate Plan key performance indicators were satisfied appropriately.	Key performance indicator progress report page 89.
Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy	Planned actions are progressing.	See page 5.
<b>Biophysically focused sub strategies</b>		
Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015	The current Biodiversity Strategy for the Catchment will finish in 2015. The current Strategy review is documenting progress against the 5 Strategic Directions, Indicators including a spatial analysis of works/outputs against priority zones, and the 64 actions.	See investment area 3a – Biodiversity page 54.
Land Health Statement 2012	The Land Health Statement is currently being updated to guide investment from 2014-2020.	See investment area 3b – Land health page 62.
Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010-2015	Prevention and eradication of new incursions remains the highest priority and additional effort is being invested into coordinating community projects that target established species ensuring high levels of stakeholder participation.	See investment area 3c – Invasive plants and animals page 66.
Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy (last updated 2007)	Implementation of the Strategy's 30 year salinity actions are on track (farm works ahead, public infrastructure behind giving overall on target rating). An updated summary is being developed to reflect changes since the 2007 review (declining funding, GMW Connections Project and an increasingly variable climate). The Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan is being reviewed under the roll-out of the new RCS, with it filling dual roles as the 'Local Plan' as well as the statutory Land and Water Management Plan. The new plan is incorporating adoption of the 'resilience approach' for the Agricultural Floodplain social-ecological system. This statutory document is critical for integration of the multi-strategy approach within this social-ecological system. It is also critical to meet the requirements of the Commonwealth-driven Murray-Darling Basin Plan.	See investment area 1 – Sustainable irrigation page 32.
Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy 2014 – 2022	The strategy was formally ministerially endorsed in November 2014. This strategy will guide the waterway investment over the short to medium term.	See investment area 2 – River and wetland health page 39.
Water Quality Strategy 1996-2016	The goal of the strategy is to "Improve and maintain water quality at optimum levels within and downstream of the catchment for native ecosystems, recreation, human and animal consumption, agriculture and industry." It should be noted that this strategy is a surface water quality strategy only.	See investment area 2 – River and wetland health page 39.
Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (Interim) 2014-2016	An interim regional floodplain strategy was developed to assist in prioritising activities for the period 2014-16 whilst the state strategy is finalised and funding provided for a new regional strategy.	See investment area 2d – Floodplain management page 48.

Summary of plan development and implementation in 2014-15 Plan or strategy	Progress	Further details
<b>Supporting sub strategies</b>		
Community NRM Plan 2013-14	Revised and launched February 2014. Developed in partnership with Community NRM Groups.	
Communication and Marketing Strategy 2013 and Community Engagement Strategy and Action Plan 2014-15	The strategies were reviewed and updated to reflect development of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019; findings from the 2012 Wallis CMA Awareness Survey and subsequent Action Plan (developed late 2012); changes in Victorian and Commonwealth government natural resource management funding and priorities. Latest update followed the February 2014 Board Strategic Workshop.	See Community engagement page 17.
Workforce Strategy 2013-2018	Internal strategy to guide development and delivery of the range of human resources and workplace objectives to ensure the right capability, culture and workplace to enable the operations of the Goulburn Broken CMA. Priorities identified in the strategy is annual workforce planning built into the broader business planning cycle and a focus on leadership development.	See Human resources page 68.
Workforce Plan and Capability 2013-18	Part of the annual business cycle to forecast workforce needs to ensure appropriate staffing mix with the necessary capability to ensure current and future delivery of business objectives.	See Human resources page 68.
Workforce Capability Framework 2013	Part of the annual business cycle to forecast workforce needs to ensure appropriate staffing mix with the necessary capability to ensure current and future delivery of business objectives.	See Human resources page 68.
Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement 2014-2015	Annually reaffirms management commitment to Occupational Health, Safety and Well-being through adoption of a planned and systematic approach.	See Occupational Health and Safety page 68.
Goulburn Broken CMA Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy 2004	Actions are 95 per cent completed. The Strategy will be reviewed in 2015 to align with the new Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019. The review will ensure alignment to the statewide projects resulting from the VAGO recommendations.	See appendix two of the Regional Catchment Strategy ('Evolution of the Goulburn Broken RCS and sub-strategies').
Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012-2015 and NRM Planning for Climate Change Strategy	The Climate change integration strategy was finalised in 2012 and implementation is underway. The Goulburn Broken CMA has embarked on major climate change planning activities funded through the Australian Government. The work will result in a Climate Change Planning sub-strategy to better integrate climate change adaptation and support the implementation of the RCS.	See Climate change page 29.
Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2014		See Environmental footprint page 73.
Goulburn Broken Information and Communication Technology Strategy 2014-2017	Internal strategy to guide development and delivery of information and communication technology services. Development of the Information and Communication Technology Strategy was postponed due to unexpected staff resource losses and budget uncertainty. Focus of available resources was to maintain existing capability and continue to meet defined service levels agreements.	See Governance page 76.
<b>Integration planning</b>		
SES Local Plans (Commuting Hills, Upland Slopes, Southern Forests and Productive Plains)	Local Plan development has been a key RCS implementation coordination task and has resulted in the development of the 2014-2015 Local Plans.	These plans will be updated annually and are available on the website <a href="http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au">www.gbcma.vic.gov.au</a>

## What's next?

Implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 will be the primary focus of the Goulburn Broken CMA over the next six years.

Goulburn Broken CMA systems and processes will be aligned to facilitate implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy through both direct delivery by the Goulburn Broken CMA and delivery of Catchment partners.

The development of social-ecological systems integration plans will be an important step in recognising local differences across the Catchment, building on relationships with local communities and partners to manage the Catchment in an adaptive way.

The ongoing review of sub-strategies to ensure alignment with Regional Catchment Strategy objectives and the incorporation of the resilience approach, including social-ecological-systems. The review and implementation of sub-strategies have been critical in Goulburn Broken Catchment decision-making for over two decades. Because the context behind each sub-strategy varies and is continuously changing, sub-strategies are renewed according to their own context, independent of the over-arching RCS renewal cycle. Sub-strategies are developed in consultation with government and community organisations and individuals, providing details for investment plans and priorities.

Continued investment in the partnerships that have evolved over the past couple of decades have been the result of persistence and hard work. Implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy will require effort and ownership by landholders, agencies, community NRM groups and Traditional Owners. The Goulburn Broken CMA expects that continued significant efforts are needed to maintain and improve partnerships already developed and initiate new partnerships.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will increase triple bottom line outcomes by accelerating the rollout of the Farm Water Program, maximising water and productivity gains through connections to a modernised irrigation system. This Program is underpinned by a water savings calculator, informed by continually updated research on water-use efficiency.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to implement the Climate Change Integration Strategy and will be proactive in influencing climate change policy at all levels of government. The Strategy guides climate change adaptation for Goulburn Broken assets through existing programs by ensuring it is considered in planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting. The Strategy also guides how climate variability is considered in the revised Regional Catchment Strategy.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to provide input into the implementation of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Plan. The priority in the next 12 months will be on identifying and investigating works and measures that can improve the efficient use of environmental water in the Catchment.

The focus of business improvement in 2014-15 will continue to be based on outcomes of the 2011 Organisational Performance Review, in the context of implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy. The priority projects arising from this review are:

- ensure the Corporate Plan incorporates all organisational strategies and functions so that it can be used as a central reference for monitoring progress and achievement of organisational goals
- clarify the process by which staff can raise issues and have them resolved
- develop a revised workforce strategy that identifies future workforce needs and capabilities that need to be developed
- develop a structured approach to the management and improvement of critical business and support processes.

A review of the Goulburn Broken Monitoring, evaluation and Reporting Strategy 2004 will be undertaken to align with the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 and concepts of adaptive management.

## Climate change

Compiled by Kate Brunt and Melanie Haddow

### Government investment

Climate change crosses all investment areas, programs, strategies and actions. In 2014-15, the Australian Government continued to invest in the Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change in the Goulburn Broken NRM region project.

### Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Position Paper 2007
- Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012
- Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2013

### Background

Climate change is a key issue impacting on the resilience of the Catchment's natural resources and therefore requires a response by key NRM agencies such as the Goulburn Broken CMA. The interactions between climate, natural resources, industries and communities are complex, interconnected and difficult to communicate and respond to. Projections for the future climate in the Murray basin region will see average temperatures continue to increase in all seasons. By late in the century (2090), less rainfall is projected during the cool season with high confidence. There is medium confidence that rainfall will remain unchanged in the warm season. For the near future natural variability is projected to dominate projected change. Even though mean annual rainfall is projected to decline, heavy rainfall intensity is projected to increase with high confidence along with harsher fire-weather (Timbal, B et al. 2015. Murray Basin Cluster Report. CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia). All potential interactions between climate and natural resources need to be considered if we are to adapt to climate change. This requires complex modelling, strategies and adaptive management to deal with uncertainty. In recognition of this, climate change is a 'driver of change' in the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy.

It is important to have strategies in place, for responding to climate change. Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems are considered to be most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Agricultural industries will also need to adapt to a changing climate if they are to be viable in the long term. The Goulburn Broken CMA aims to be a leader in assisting the community and natural environment in adapting to climate change.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's policy statement on climate change is:

"In dealing with climate change and the likely impacts, the Goulburn Broken CMA will focus on adaptation strategies to increase catchment resilience; greenhouse gas sequestration activity (e.g. carbon brokering) will be engaged for the purpose of assisting adaptation responses; and mitigation initiatives led by local government will be actively supported."

The Goulburn Broken CMA is implementing this statement via its Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012-2015, which aims to:

- integrate climate change into the Goulburn Broken CMA's programs
- improve understanding of climate change
- pool and attract resources
- build catchment resilience into sequestration activities
- support community mitigation and
- minimise Goulburn Broken CMA's footprint.

### Catchment condition

Currently, the catchment condition is considered to be poor. Under climate change scenarios the trend in general will be for decreasing condition. This is because climate change will negatively affect the functioning of systems in the catchment, such as: soil health and composition, which will be increasingly acidic, and affected by fire, drought, floods and salinity; water resources will be unpredictable, and be put under more pressure through extraction; invasive species will increase and/or change in distribution, which will change ecosystem function, soils and habitat values.

### Biodiversity

Climate change is anticipated to generally have a negative influence on biodiversity. Most biodiversity condition indicators have been assessed to be following a negative trend. Many species, ecosystems and native vegetation communities are already declining in quality and extent due to vegetation loss, and climate change will add to this loss through the inability of species to adapt to changing conditions. The compounding effects of climate change will result in a downward spiral of habitat loss and species extinction, changes in ecosystem function, loss of key species and further fragmentation, which will lead to the inability for species to move across the landscape and adapt to a changing climate.

In response to loss of habitat, revegetation projects are being implemented to increase connectivity across landscapes. Revegetation is anticipated to be beneficial to biodiversity. Planting large areas of locally indigenous species will result in increasing native vegetation extent and connect and protect existing native vegetation remnants, allowing species to move across the landscape. Strategic planning is required to ensure that limited funds result in positive outcomes.

### Land

Climate change is anticipated to generally have a negative effect on soils and production.

Climate change is likely to affect the distribution and viability of agricultural enterprises such as cropping and grazing because of extreme weather and climate events, and changes in the distribution of pests and diseases.

As with biodiversity assets, most indicators of land condition were assessed to be following a negative trend.





Most farmers are cognisant of the projected changes and impacts posed by climate change to their land and business. Currently, the most obvious change is expressed through seasonal variability in rainfall, both in amount and season of rainfall. The Beyond SoilCare project, funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, is working with farmers to adapt to and mitigate climate change through mechanisms such as improving ground cover management, both through grazing and stubble management, to protect soil and improve its condition to increase resilience to seasonal variation in rainfall and temperature. In a grazing setting, improving ground cover management most often involves enhancing perennial grass cover, including native species, and litter cover. So at the same time as enhancing water infiltration and water holding capacity of soil, practices that increase and protect ground cover also contribute to increased soil carbon storage.

## Water

Climate change will particularly affect water supply, use and management. The interactions of environment, water policy and use, community desires, and increased unpredictability of the amount, seasonality and distribution of water are complex. Climate change is anticipated to lead to new pressures through changes in rainfall and snow regime, reduced average run-off, and increased air and water temperature, resulting in increased evaporation rates.

Reforms put in place may help to mitigate these effects to some degree. Issues such as wetland management through artificial watering, changes in groundwater extraction and river health will all be affected by climate change.

Most indicators of water condition were assessed to be following a negative or neutral trend (the latter reflecting NRM program outcomes and water policy reforms). Climate change is projected to have a negative impact on trend for most condition indicators.

## Long-term strategy implementation and 2014-15 performance

Progress towards the Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012 is outlined below:

Outcomes	Goals	2014-15 progress
Integrate climate change into Goulburn Broken CMA programs	100 per cent of all sub-strategies include climate change analysis and actions as they are renewed or developed.	On-target – Climate change has been considered in the development of the Biodiversity Strategy and the Regional Catchment Strategy. This year the Regional Waterways Strategy was reviewed and climate change was again considered in this plan. The Goulburn Broken CMA has further progressed its Regional NRM Planning for Climate Change sub-strategy to further incorporate climate change into NRM Planning.
	80 per cent of biophysical projects include contributions to the Climate Change Integration Strategy's purpose in funding bids and reporting by 2015.	On-target – Biophysical projects funded through the Australian and State Govt continue to contribute to these goals, through the implementation of on-ground activities for landscape restoration
Improve understanding of climate change	Ensure adequate climate change information is available to add value to planning and investment decisions.	On-target – The CMA has continued to engaged with the National climate change projections project, Adapt NRM project and the Murray Basin Cluster Stream 2 (of which we are a Cluster Leader) project all of which have provide valuable new information for NRM planning.
	Help grow the capacity of our partners in understanding and responding to Climate Change	On-target - The Goulburn Broken CMA has continued to work with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Industries and local government authorities, through the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance to share information and increase the understand of the effects of climate change.
	Improve the Goulburn Broken CMA's knowledge of potential impacts of climate change by initiating or partnering one climate change research project each year.	Exceeded Target – The Goulburn Broken CMA has continued partnering the Murray Basin Stream 2 project which includes 10 sub-projects.
	Develop a quantitative measure that determines the contribution to the Strategy's purpose by 2015.	On-target – Work undertaken through the NRM Planning for Climate change has further progress the Goulburn Broken CMA to this goal.
Pool and attract resources	Source at least \$2 million of new funds through climate change avenues for Goulburn Broken CMA and partners by 2015.	Exceeded target - \$6.7 million has been sourced through Australian Government funds.
	Increase the ability of organisations across the catchment to attract climate change funding, by partnering six climate change related projects led by other organisations by 2015.	On-target – The Goulburn Broken CMA has supported the Goulburn Greenhouse Alliance in a number of larger projects.



Outcomes	Goals	2014-15 progress
Build catchment resilience into sequestration activities	Ensure 100 per cent of carbon sequestration activities undertaken by the Goulburn Broken CMA take into account and align with standards to promote resilience of the catchment by 2015.	On-target – All projects undertaken through the Biodiversity Fund align with the CMA standards and promote resilience. No further opportunities through the Emissions Reduction Fund have been identified as yet.
	Encourage other government agencies and industry to take into account and align with standards to promote resilience of the catchment.	On-target – The NRM Planning for Climate change project provides the base information to engaged with government and industry.
Support community mitigation efforts	Partner 5 community climate change projects/ organisations by 2015.	On-target – Three project have been partnered with through the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance to date.
Minimise the Goulburn Broken CMA footprint	Implement the 2012-14 Reducing our Footprint targets and actions.	See Environmental footprint Section page 73
	Update and further develop the Reducing our Footprint Action Plan for 2015-18 by January 2015.	See Environmental footprint Section page 73

Included below are additional activities that have occurred, mainly through other Goulburn Broken CMA programs.

### Community engagement

The Goulburn Broken CMA continued to support the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance. The Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance is implementing an 'Agricultural transformation under climate change' project which will provide vital planning information for the CMA.

A series of Kitchen Table discussions were held across the catchment to understand what the main climate change drivers are for the community, what climate change adaptation actions are already being implemented by the community, what activities people would like to see happen across the catchment and general views on climate change. Engaging the community on mitigating the effects of climate change is also occurring through onground works projects funded through the Australian Government.

### Planning and responding

Climate change planning activities that the Goulburn Broken CMA embarked on in 2013 continues, supported by funding from the Australian Government. This work will result in a Climate Change Adaptation Planning Strategy to identify the major impacts of climate change to the Goulburn Broken Catchment's systems and outline priorities for climate change adaptation to support the implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy and provide information to partners within the Catchment to assist in regional planning for the impacts of climate change.

The Strategy will aim to maximise opportunities for carbon bio sequestration and climate change adaptation activities in the Goulburn Broken Catchment.

### Actions

Considerable work has been undertaken to understand the impacts of climate change and develop a process for integrating climate change into the Goulburn Broken CMA planning frameworks, including:

- A review was undertaken of the Goulburn Broken CMA's regional NRM planning framework to understand and assess how climate change has been considered

- A broad assessment of how climate change may influence landscape processes and the condition (or state) and value of regional assets and social-ecological systems using a Drivers, Pressure, State, Impacts, Response model
- An assessment undertaken of the Catchment's systems and natural resource assets to climate change
- The development of a Spatial Assessment Tool to assist with identifying areas within the Catchment that are vulnerable to climate change and should be a focus for adaptation management
- Review and incorporation of new climate change predictions into planning tools
- Kitchen Table discussions with community members about climate change
- Trialling an adaptation pathways process.
- Participation in the Murray Basin Stream 2 climate change research project as Cluster Leader
- Member of the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance.

### What's next?

The next year will see the completion of the Climate Change Adaptation Planning Strategy, through stakeholder and broader community consultation. The Strategy will be implemented via the SES local planning process and integrated into the review of the Biodiversity Strategy.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to be a Leader for the Murray Basin Cluster of the 'NRM Planning for Climate Change Stream 2' initiative, which supports the CSIRO.



## Investment area 1 – Sustainable Irrigation

Compiled by: Carl Walters, Helen Murdoch, Rebecca Pike, James Burkitt, Megan McFarlane, Lisa Duncan, Gillian Mason

### Investment area 1a – Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity: watertables and River Murray salinity

#### Annual Performance Summary 2014-15

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Catchment condition <sup>iii</sup>	Watertable salinity and depths Salt disposed to River Murray Salinity of environmental features Management systems	Poor	Low	Satisfactory	Medium	↓ <sup>iv</sup>
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs (scheduled between 1990 and 2015)	n.a.	n.a.	Below	High	↓ <sup>v</sup>
<b>Annual output performance</b>	2014-15 performance delivering Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	↓
Groundwater Management				On target		●
Surface Water Management				On target		↓
Farm and Environment				Below target		↓
Farm Water Program				Exceeded target		↑

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework, including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of the situation in 1990.

iii. The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

iv. Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

v. Trend is declining due to funding levels being below strategy requirements.

#### Government investment, \$000

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <sup>i</sup>	Trend
45,499	35,367	14,713	21,157	↓

i. Forecast based on funding advice at July 2015.

#### Major strategic references

- Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy 1990-2020
- Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2009
- Murray-Darling Basin Salinity Management Strategy 2001-15.

#### Background

The Sustainable Irrigation Program oversees the delivery of on-ground works relating to sustainable irrigation in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. To support the strategies which inform the program's operations (see *Major strategic references* above) as well as overarching Goulburn Broken CMA strategies for improving the health of both of the Goulburn Broken Catchment and the Murray-Darling Basin. The Sustainable Irrigation Program has four main interrelated sub-investment areas:

- Groundwater and Salinity Management;
- Surface Water Management;
- Farm and Environment; and
- Farm Water.

Implementation of the program is supported by the community-based Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group (SIPAG). A move to local area plans will update the Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan (SIRLWMP) and expects to see a shift in the focus on salinity to incorporate other issues that over time have been integrated into programs to achieve multiple outcomes. Complementary integrated activities include the extent of native vegetation, water quality, water availability (and balance) as well as farm and processor viability.

Reporting relating to Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity: Watertables and River Murray salinity (Investment Area 1a) is outlined within the Sustainable Irrigation section and Dryland Salinity (previously Investment Area 1b) is in Investment Area 3.

Salinity has been the biggest natural resource challenge in the Shepparton Irrigation Region over the last three decades.

The Shepparton Irrigation Region community's 2020 resource condition targets are to:

- *minimise irrigation-related salinity impacts from shallow watertables within the Shepparton Irrigation Region (500,000 hectares) by improved irrigation management on farms, improved surface water management within drainage catchments, and appropriate pumping, reuse and disposal of groundwater over 216,000 hectares*
- *manage the salinity impacts on the River Murray at Morgan (in South Australia) from implementation of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy, in accordance with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Salinity Management Strategy requirements, at or below 8.9 EC (electrical conductivity unit).*

Management of salt within the Shepparton Irrigation Region (SIR) is essential to achieve a sustainable irrigation industry and protect the productive capacity of the region. Actions to manage salinity have significant benefits for agriculture, water quality, water supply security and biodiversity. There is potentially a \$100 million direct negative impact on the region's production if no action is taken.

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority recognises that managed discharges of salt to waterways from the Shepparton Irrigation Region is required and regulates this action via obligations placed upon Victoria and the region under the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's Basin Salinity Management Strategy 2001-15.

### Catchment condition

The risks of salinisation and waterlogging have increased due to the return of wetter conditions in recent years. The trend of the shallow watertable rise is alarming given how slowly it fell during the drought. The increased risks are due to:

- rainfall on an irrigated catchment
- limited funding towards surface and sub-surface drainage works (over the last 10 years in particular).

### Long-term strategy implementation

Progress towards long-term strategy implementation is satisfactory in some areas, but falling behind in others.

Regional infrastructure works (public drains and public groundwater pumps) continue to fall behind schedule due to revised State priorities and a significant decline in government investment over recent years.

Progress in the Farm and Environment Program is generally on track or ahead due to increased investment in the Farm Water Program (farm water efficiency works) by the Australian and State government and irrigators over the past five years. These works result in improved land management practices on irrigation properties, which will help reduce groundwater accessions and waterlogging on farms.

The Shepparton Irrigation Region community's irrigation modernisation project, which began implementation in 2008 through the GMW Connections Project and the on-farm programs from 2009 are also helping to reduce salinity threats. These works are also aimed at achieving water savings for the benefit of the environment.

The monitoring and reporting of progress against salinity impact targets is carried out annually by the Murray-Darling Basing Authority and is satisfactory, confirming the region's positive contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Salinity Management Strategy.

### 2014-15 performance

The Annual Performance Summary table at the beginning of this section outlines the performance of the Sustainable Irrigation Investment Area. Annual output performance for 2014-15 sees all programs delivering against outputs as expected; however, whole farm planning is operating below targets due to reduced funding security for activities. Further details are provided below.

### Community engagement

2014-15 signalled the finalisation of a significant review of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Strategy resulting in a clear, renewed and reinvigorated land and water management plan driven by a strong and diverse community.

A taskforce was established by community based Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group to manage the renewal of integrated action planning for natural resource management in the Shepparton Irrigation Region - Agricultural Floodplains. Taskforce representation included Goulburn-Murray Water, Moira Shire Council, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Murray Dairy, Goulburn Valley Environment Group, as well as a number of local community representatives and Goulburn Broken CMA.

The Local Government Agricultural Floodplains Reference Group entered its 25th year of operation in 2014-15. The group seeks workable and collaborative solutions to improve efficiency and effectiveness of natural resource management delivery by participating organisations in the Shepparton Irrigation Region. Representation includes Moira Shire Council, Campaspe Shire Council and Greater Shepparton City Council led by Goulburn Broken CMA - who convenes and jointly funds the group.

A significant community activity on the 2014-15 calendar was the launch of *The Story of John Dainton's Role in Mending the Goulburn Broken* by John Northage. A fitting tribute to one of this region's widely acknowledged community leaders, the launch highlighted the whole range of groups, from community to government, that John brought together to successfully tackle the salinity problem that threatened Victoria's premier food producing region.

The Fruit Industry Employment Program (FIEP) concluded with the release of a final achievement report in May 2015. 40 people affected by reduced fruit intake in the region worked under the program in crews supervised by the Goulburn Broken CMA and its partners, Moira Shire, Greater Shepparton City Council, Parks Victoria, and Goulburn-Murray Water. Activities carried out as part of the program included weed control (1,500 hectares, including 43 kilometres of roadside weeds), new protective fencing (47 kilometres), indigenous revegetation (13,000 seedlings) and wildlife nest box construction (400 nest boxes). Other benefits include financial skills training and informal social network support received by participants.

## Planning and responding

Alongside the major strategic review process that occurred across 2014-15, a range of other reviews provided the opportunity to revise and renew strategies, plans and processes to better meet strategic and operational needs into the future.

A new engagement and management structure was endorsed by the Goulburn Broken CMA Board for the Shepparton Irrigation Regional Catchment Implementation Strategy (SIRCIS). The name for the renewed SIRCIS is now the Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan (SIRLWMP) reflecting a move to local area planning as directed by the Goulburn Broken CMA Board under the Regional Catchment Strategy Implementation.

The Drainage Sub-strategy review was also initiated in 2014-15 and covers both surface and sub-surface water management. Planning was also undertaken for implementation of funding received for Goulburn-Murray Water drainage works and potential land acquisitions, as well as necessary groundwater bore maintenance works.

A major state-wide review of whole farm planning concluded that whole farm plans were fundamental to environmental protection, as well as agricultural and regional prosperity. In response to this, an awareness and advocacy campaign occurred across 2014-15 to highlight the potential impacts of reduced funding and successfully lobbied for continuing program support. This success was partly due to a change in government priorities.

The Farm Water Program consortium partners continue to pursue opportunities for further funding beyond Round 4 of the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project, Tranche 2. Discussions are centred on the impacts of water markets on uptake, linkages with GMW Connections and future demand for farm irrigation upgrades.

Climate change planning remains a key focus, with numerous community conversations occurred across the catchment in 2014-15 regarding the topic. One of the most significant of these was a workshop held in November for natural resource management organisations (comprising of Goulburn Broken CMA, three other CMAs and other NRM bodies from NSW, ACT and SA). Priority cluster research projects which will inform the rest of the *NRM Planning for Climate Change Stream One* project and planning for climate change into the future were discussed.

Development of resilience knowledge has progressed in the Agricultural Floodplains with clarity around critical thresholds for the region and action to protect or address these in detail is now part of the Land and Water Management Plan.

A Goulburn Broken CMA Native Vegetation Offset Scoping study has also been given approval to progress to feasibility stage, pending funding. Discussions have been held with Regional Development Victoria to gain their support for the next stage.

## Groundwater and Salinity Management Program

Groundwater resources in the Goulburn Broken catchment are managed by Goulburn-Murray Water and other key partners in the strategic approach to groundwater management across the catchment

The major project for the Groundwater and Salinity Management program in 2014-15 was the establishment of the Salt and Water Balance project including a lower-intensity suite of tools to help landholders manage saltwater. The four year project from 2011-15 includes establishing the connection between irrigation, rainfall, high watertables and salinity levels as well as the strategic implications.

A project titled *Mt Scobie Groundwater Pumping and Partial Conjunctive Re-use* finished in 2014, completing 18 years of research, monitoring the impacts of the installation of a private groundwater pump, planting of a 40 hectare tree plantation and conjunctive use of saline groundwater. The Groundwater and Salinity Management Working Group visited the property in late 2014, and a documentary will now be produced to showcase the works undertaken through participation in the Sustainable Irrigation Program, as well as the environmental and productivity benefits created through these works.

A group of eight landholders and agency staff representing the Shepparton Irrigation Region travelled to California in June to present at the Third International Salinity Forum. The group presented an afternoon session on salinity risk mitigation, highlighting the Murray Darling Basin experience and using the Shepparton Irrigation Region as a case study. Mark Potter from Goulburn-Murray Water stayed on to undertake a study tour of irrigation and natural resource management experiences across the USA. His study tour was funded through a Ken Sampson Scholarship.

More than 1,600 observation bores across the Shepparton Irrigation Region are monitored by Goulburn-Murray Water's annual water table study. The monitoring process allows the mapping of shallow groundwater levels across the Murray Valley, Shepparton, Central Goulburn and Rochester Irrigation Areas for planning and developing salinity management programs and implementation of government funding initiatives.

The 2014 watertable map was also produced which again shows that parts of the region's watertables are rising.

## Surface Water Management Program

The approaches to tackling the problem of surface water management such as efficient irrigation, surface drainage and appropriate sub-surface drainage or shallow groundwater pumping have been included in a review of the SIRCIS Drainage Program. The review considered both surface and sub-surface drainage, reviewed relevant and related strategies, priorities, documents and practices as well as consulting with key stakeholders. The review will continue into 2015-16 with particular reference to the state-wide review of irrigation drainage before a renewing the strategic directions for drainage management into the future.

The implementation of a \$700,000 surface drainage project was carried out by Goulburn-Murray Water that require land acquisition and landholder agreement finalisation.

A Water Use Licence Conditions Technical Review was conducted and completed in 2014-15. The findings indicated that irrigation in the Goulburn-Murray Water area within the scope of the review provided economic and social benefits; however, irrigation in the area also presented risks to the environment and to agricultural land. The review also stated that current Water Use Licence condition of Annual Use Limits provide minimal utility in managing high water tables, waterlogging, salinity and eutrophication (bio-physical risk). This is particularly important during periods of low shallow watertables and reduced volumes of irrigation water.

### Farm and Environment Program

2014-15 marked the 75th meeting of the Shepparton Irrigation Region Farm and Environment Working Group. A celebratory lunch was held in August, where former, current and new members met to honour the group's past and present achievements. Having met quarterly since establishment in 1992-93, the group's ongoing success was credited to the continued community commitment with more than half of the 80 members having been from the community.

Whole farm plan works continued to be a primary focus for the Farm and Environment team in 2014-15 with a review undertaken to assess the role and relevance of whole farm planning in Victoria's irrigation districts. The Goulburn-Murray and Macalister Irrigation Districts were the geographic focus of the project. The review found whole farm plans are fundamental for land and water management for environmental protection and agricultural, and therefore regional, prosperity.

Whole farm plans on 71 properties covering 6,715 hectares were completed in the region, including 22 'revised modernised' plans, bringing the total number of whole farm plans under this incentive to 4296, covering 311,184 hectares or 68 per cent of the land within the Shepparton Irrigation Region under a Water Use Licence that is potentially able to be irrigated.

A range of activities were delivered under the Soilcare Banner in 2014-15. The Goulburn Murray Landcare Network continued to play a strong delivery role in the Beyond Soilcare Project, running soil interpretation workshops, field days and forums and speaking at Landcare group meetings. Soil interpretation workshops were held at Koyuga, Congupna and Undera and a Productive Soils Seminar was held at Naring.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and Murray Dairy were also active in delivery of demonstration trials, information sessions and open days at the Murray Dairy Soils Focus Farm at Strathmerton, working with a dairy farmer discussion group.

Demonstration trials have formed an important part of delivery of the Beyond Soil project in 2014-15. The liquid gypsum trial in tomato crops grew into a large-scale collaboration between the Australian Processing Tomato Research Council, Goulburn Broken CMA, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and the University of Tasmania. The stubble retention in maize demonstration trial delivered in partnership with the Maize Growers Association and Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources resulted in

some striking visual differences on farm. The compost and cropping trial at Wyuna was also a large collaboration effort between Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Goulburn Broken CMA and Western Composting. Field days were held for each of the trials that highlighted results and generated discussion amongst attendees.

A key achievement of the project was the qualitative evaluation study. The purpose of the evaluation was to collect baseline information on soil issues, practices and intended practice change from a sample of recent Soilcare activity participants to demonstrate the impact of the project and assist with future planning. Issues and management practices identified included use of saline groundwater, soil salinity and sodicity, soil compaction, fertility, soil acidity and post-laser soil recovery.

### Farm Water

Rounds 1 and 2 of the Farm Water Program have now been completed with irrigators installing over 14,000 hectares of works which are saving 18 gegalitres of water. Nine gegalitres of these water savings have been transferred to the State and Commonwealth governments for environmental watering purposes. Feedback from irrigators has been overwhelmingly positive.

Round 3 of the Farm Water Program (Tranche 1 of the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project is now underway with \$30 million funding 136 projects. Round 3 is a little ahead of schedule with 38 per cent of projects completed and over nine gegalitres of water transferred to the Commonwealth Government. Over 15 gegalitres of water savings are expected from Round 3.

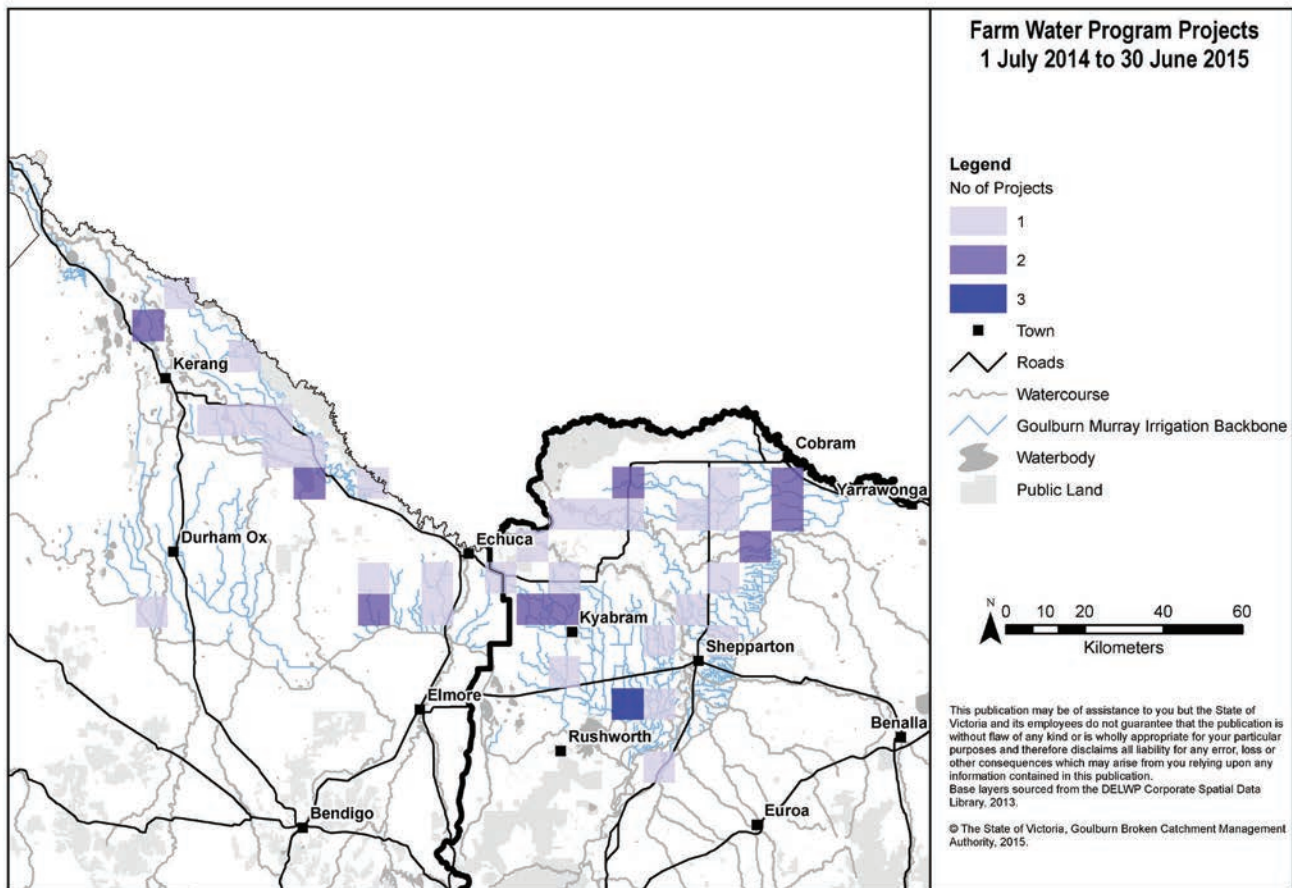
Round 4 of the Farm Water Program (Tranche 2 of the Victorian Farm Modernisation Project) called for applications for \$50 million of funding. These projects will be rolled out in 2015-16.

The Farm Water Program, on behalf of the region's irrigators and consortium of partners, won the National Program Innovation Award for the Australian Water Association. The win is a great credit to the region's irrigators and the considerable efforts undertaken by them to complete projects over the past five years. The ultimate winner is the regional environment and community as the works undertaken by irrigators increase regional resilience and prosperity.

**Farm Water Program achievements, whole-of-life to date (July 2010 until June 2015)\***

Action		Whole of Farm Water Program <sup>i</sup>			Shepparton Irrigation Region <sup>ii</sup>		
		Achieved	Target	Achieved, %	Achieved	Target	Achieved, %
Laser levelling <sup>iii</sup>	ha	11,339	14,312	79	7,430	9,412	79
Farm reuse systems <sup>iv</sup>	no.	119	163	73	5,616	7,360	76
Farm reuse systems	ha	9,269	11,918	78	79	113	70
Gravity channel surface irrigation	ha	9,677	12,347	78	7,722	9,581	81
Pipe and riser irrigation	ha	12,903	14,060	92	6,395	7,147	89
Farm delivery channel upgrade <sup>v</sup>	km	10	10	100	8.0	8.0	100
Irrigation scheduling systems	ha	823	1234	67	734	1,003	73
Pressurised irrigaton systems - micro or drip <sup>vi</sup>	ha	44	44	100	44	44	100
Pressurised irrigation systems - sprinkler	ha	1,600	1,845	87	1,385	1,545	90

\* Annual achievement records are held by Goulburn Broken CMA's Farm Water Program section.  
 i The Farm Water Program covers parts of the Goulburn Broken, North East and North Central CMA areas.  
 ii The Shepparton Irrigation Region is a subset of the Farm Water Program area and covers parts of the Goulburn Broken and North Central CMA areas.  
 iii Previously named 'Laser grading'.  
 iv Previously named 'Drainage reuse systems'. In 2014-15 the number of new farm reuse systems installed is assumed to be: 67% of projects install a new system and 33% reconnect the project area to an existing system. In 2012-13 and 2013-14 the number of new systems was assumed to be: 100% of projects install a new system i.e. new systems and extensions of existing systems were both counted as 'new systems'.  
 v Previously two categories named 'Plastic lined channel' and 'Farm channel upgrade'.  
 vi Previously combined with 'Pressurised irrigation systems - sprinkler' in one category.





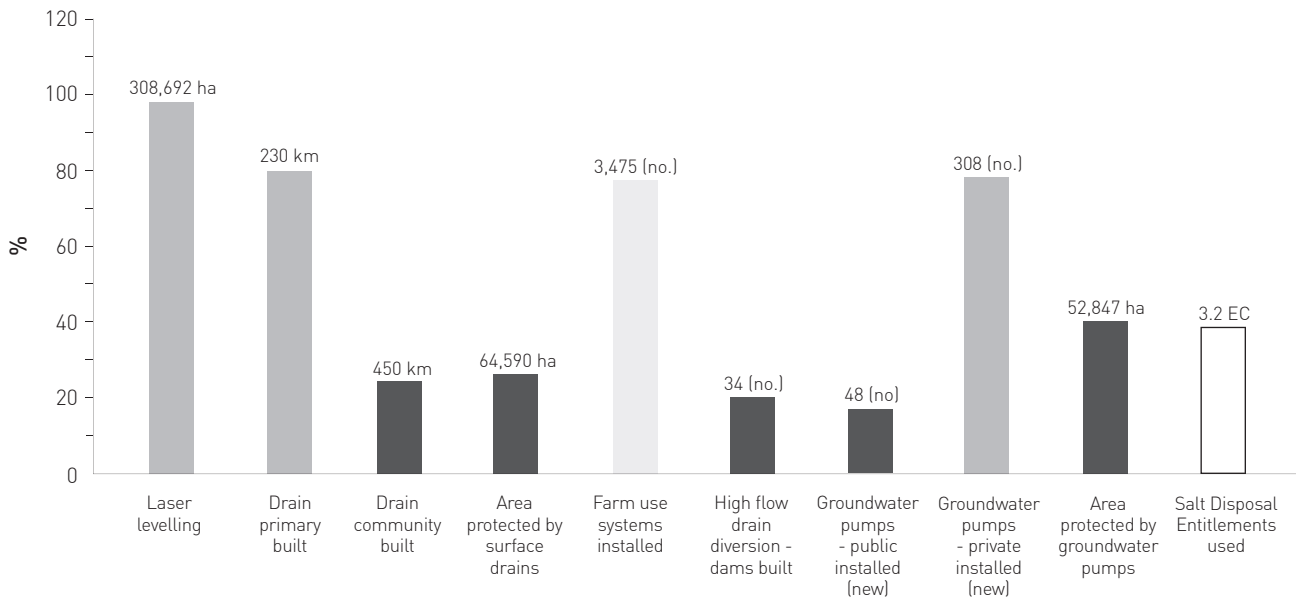
## Measures 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15

Measure <sup>i</sup>	From funds received through Corporate Plan					
	Achieved			Target <sup>ii</sup>	% achieved	
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15			
<b>Surface water action<sup>iii</sup></b>						
Laser levelling <sup>iv</sup>	ha	12,662	6,671	4,220	6,507	65
Drain – primary built <sup>v</sup>	km	1				
<i>Drain – community built</i>	km					
<i>Area protected by surface drains</i>	ha	124				
<i>Farm reuse systems installed<sup>vi</sup></i>	no.	25	64	9	9	100
<i>Farm reuse systems installed<sup>vi</sup></i>	ha	3,258	3,258	344	1,079	32
<i>Gravity channel surface irrigation</i>	ha	2,451	3,315	537	1,228	44
High flow drain diversion - dams built <sup>vii</sup>	no.					
<i>High flow drain diversion - dams built<sup>vii</sup></i>	ML					
<i>High flow drain diversion - high nutrient water removed<sup>vii</sup></i>	ML					
Pipe and riser irrigation	ha	1,725	3,382	448	602	74
Irrigation scheduling systems	ha	227	154	196	233	84
Farm delivery channel upgrade <sup>viii</sup>	km	0	0	0.7	0.7	100
Pressurised irrigation systems - micro or drip	ha	36	0	9	4	200
Pressurised irrigation systems - sprinkler	ha	164	705	516	272	190
Irrigation systems – improved <sup>ix</sup>	ha		7,330	4,745	-	
<b>Sub-surface water action</b>						
Groundwater pumps – public installed (new)	no.					
<i>Groundwater pumps – public installed (new)</i>	ha					
Groundwater pumps – private installed (new)	no.					
<i>Groundwater pumps – private installed (new)</i>	ha					
Volume of water pumped - increase	ML					
<i>Area protected by groundwater pumps</i>	ha					
<i>Tile drains - installed</i>	ha					
<b>Salt disposal entitlements used (SDE)</b>	EC	3.2	3.2	3.2	-	
<b>Planning for works action</b>						
Whole farm plans - new	no.	92	44	49	110 <sup>x</sup>	
Whole farm plans - new	ha	8,424	4,224	4,143		
<i>Whole farm plans - modernised</i>	no.	78	35	22	110 <sup>x</sup>	
<i>Whole farm plans - modernised</i>	ha	9,075	4,403	2,572		

- i. Measure include actions and outcomes. Italicised measures are included in this list for the first time in 2014-15, although they have been listed elsewhere before. Many actions primarily aimed at achieving salinity targets contribute to other targets, such as those for water quality and biodiversity.
- ii. Corporate Plan targets are adjusted as funding is confirmed. Figures do not include the part of the Farm Water Program that is outside the Shepparton Irrigation Region. 2014-15 targets have been calculated using 50 per cent of the contracted areas for the entire Round 3 of the Farm Water Program which runs over two years.
- iii. Surface water management enables the removal of excess rainfall run-off from irrigated lands, alleviating soil salinity. As part of an overall management plan for nutrients, nutrients loads are managed by collecting and reusing water from drains. Nutrient loads are monitored against the Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy nutrient target for drains.
- iv. Assumptions: 2012-13 = Farm Water Program onground achievements (2,163) + 60 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (8,424) + modernised (9,075)]; 2013-14 = Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (3,736) + 60 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (4,224) + modernised (4,403) - Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (3,736)]; 2014-15 = Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (478) + 60 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (4,143) + modernised (2,572) - Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (478)]. Target = Farm Water Program's SIR target (1,253) + 60 per cent of [area to be put under Whole Farm Plans (110) x average area of Whole Farm Plans (91) - Farm Water Program's SIR target (1,253)]
- v. Fencing and laneways are relocated along primary drains to control stock. Drains are also hydro-mulched and seeded to provide vegetative cover on bare batters.
- vi. Reuse systems allow for the collection of high nutrient run-off and re-irrigation, reducing the water and nutrient loads leaving the farm. In 2014-15 the number of new farm reuse systems installed is assumed to be: 67 per cent of projects install a new system and 33% reconnect the project area to an existing system. In 2012-13 and 2013-14 the number of new systems was assumed to be: 100 per cent of projects install a new system i.e. new systems and extensions of existing systems were both counted as 'new systems'.
- vii. High flow diversion. None completed because of no demand and previous dry conditions.
- viii. Measured directly from WFPs. This refers to the on-farm delivery system (to get water to the irrigation bays) rather than the area serviced. Includes earthen channels that have been rock or plastic lined or replaced with pipe, with each means assumed to achieve the same water savings.
- ix. Assumptions: 2014-15 area improved = laser levelling [which itself includes an assumption based on whole farm plan area - see footnote iv) + pressurised irrigation systems (micro or drip + irrigation); 2013-14 = Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (laser grading + overhead spray + drip; 3,736 + 567 + 0) + 70 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (4,224) + modernised (4,403) less Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements].
- x. Combined target for the number of new and modernised whole farm plans was 110.



**Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy's 1990-2015 target achieved<sup>i</sup> %**  
 (achievements listed on top of each bar)



i. The method to set the cumulative target was modified from 2012-13 to be: 1990-2020 plan target multiplied by the number of years since 1990 divided by 30.

**What's next?**

The Goulburn Broken CMA's Sustainable Irrigation Program will continue to work to support the strategies which inform implementation as well as overarching Goulburn Broken CMA strategies for improving the health of both of the Goulburn Broken catchment and the Murray-Darling Basin.

Relationships with key stakeholders including local Landcare and environmental groups, industry partners and key related local, state and national government agencies remain critical to achieving Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan outcomes.

Priority areas of work in 2015-16 include:

- a continued community based approach for on-ground works programs and long-term strategic planning initiatives
- alignment and integration of all industry partners which is critical to ensure the maximum return from various and diverse investments in the region
- balancing the communities' needs of productivity and efficiency gains with works that deliver the most beneficial results for the region's environment
- continued awareness of (and continued funding for) whole farm plans which are the fundamental building block for environmental protection, agricultural and regional prosperity
- roll out of Round 4 of the Farm Water Program and discussions with State and Commonwealth governments for the need for further investment in farm irrigation efficiency works. Higher water market prices have had a significant impact on the potential buy-in from irrigators for farm irrigation efficiency works

- supporting the GMW Connections program (irrigation delivery system modernisation) to ensure maximum benefits are obtained for the regional community as well as integrating a range of environmental outcomes
- continued funding support for groundwater and salinity management; surface water management; farm and environmental programs
- adapting to changing climate and recognising past techniques may not be suitable, or relevant, for the future. Continued community conversations and planning for climate change in the region, including changed practice by irrigators as well as review of priority cluster research projects which will inform the rest of the NRM Planning for Climate Change Stream 1 project and planning for climate change into the future
- working with regional partners to address the balance between environmental water volumes and the irrigated agriculture requirements
- complete stage two of the Whole Farm Plan review to establish modified delivery models or an adaptive delivery model to address the latest irrigation system developments and the protection of the environment and our waterways
- finalise the Salt Water Balance project online risk assessment tool and communications package that includes interactive landholder opportunities
- complete Shepparton Irrigation Region Basis Salinity Management Strategy Register A Entry review to meet requirements under the legislation
- complete the Shepparton Irrigation Region Drainage review to include the surface and sub-surface components of drainage
- finalise the new engagement structure under the modified Land and Water Management Plan.



## Investment area 2 - River and wetland health and floodplain management

### Investment areas: 2a Environmental flows, 2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form and 2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers.

Compiled by: Mark Turner, Simon Casanelia, Geoff Earl, Keith Ward, Tim Barlow, Meegan Judd, Jim Castles, Jo Wood, Christine Glassford, Corey Wilson, Geoff Brennan, Sue Kosch and Kirsten Roszak.

#### Annual performance

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	2015	Certainty of rating
2a Environmental flows	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	On target	High
2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	On target	High
2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	On target	High

<sup>i</sup> See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

#### Government investment, \$000

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <sup>i</sup>	Trend
4,606	6,083	3,940	6,108	↑

<sup>i</sup> Includes all three investment areas under River and wetland health (2a Environmental flows, 2b River and instream habitat and channel form and 2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers).

<sup>ii</sup> Forecast based on funding advice at July 2015.

#### Major strategic references

- Ramsar Convention on wetlands 1971
- Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 1974
- China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 1986
- Republic of Korea Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 2009
- Convention of Migratory Species (Bonn Convention) 1979
- Murray-Darling Native Fish Management Strategy (MDBA 2004)
- *Water Act 2007*
- *Water Amendment Act 2008*
- *Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975*
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*
- *Native Title Act 1993*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- The Murray-Darling Basin Plan (MDBA 2012)
- [www.thelivingmurray.gov.au](http://www.thelivingmurray.gov.au)
- The Barmah-Millewa Environmental Management Plan (Murray-Darling Basin Authority 2005)
- Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (DEPI 2013)
- The Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2009
- Threatened Species Recovery Plans
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Subdivision Act 1988*
- *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*
- Building Regulations 1996
- *Water Act 1989 (Victorian)*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- Advisory lists of rare and threatened species in Victoria (Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning)
- The State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) 2003
- Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (GB CMA 2013)
- Yorta Yorta Nation Whole of Country Plan 2012-2017
- Draft Wetlands Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment (GB CMA 2003)
- Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy 1996-2016 (GB CMA 1996)
- Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (Interim) 2014-2016
- Review of Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy 1996-2016 (Brian Garrett and Associates 2001)
- Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 (GB CMA 2014)



## Background

Three highly connected investment areas are reported in this section: 2a Environmental flows, 2b Riparian and instream habitat and channel form and 2c Water quality (nutrients) in rivers.

Rivers, floodplains and wetlands are highly valued for many environmental, social and economic reasons. They underpin our livelihoods (providing water for agriculture, commercial and domestic uses), contain significant flora and fauna habitat, and have high recreational and aesthetic values. Importantly they are often central to the culture of Indigenous Australians. The water generated in the Goulburn Broken Catchment provides major benefits for Victoria and beyond, providing 11 per cent of the Murray-Darling Basin's water resources despite covering only two per cent of its area.

River and wetland health and floodplain management in Victoria is the responsibility of catchment management authorities and Melbourne Water, as described in Part 10 of the *Water Act 1989*. Catchment management authorities are considered to be the regional "caretakers of river health".

### Riparian and instream habitat and channel form

Land that adjoins, regularly influences, or is influenced by a creek or river, is considered riparian land. Riparian vegetation is vitally important to the health of waterways as it:

- provides organic matter, a major food source for instream plants and animals
- provides essential instream habitat for many fish and invertebrates in the form of woody debris and roots
- provides stability to banks, minimising erosion
- provides shade, which protects instream plants and animals from temperature extremes and can also control the growth of nuisance aquatic plants and blue-green algae
- traps and filters sediments and nutrients from catchment run-off, helping to protect and improve water quality.

Riparian vegetation is also an important part of the terrestrial landscape. It acts as a refuge in dry times, is often the largest remnant of native vegetation in cleared catchments and acts as a wildlife corridor linking habitats. The capacity of riparian vegetation to perform the ecological functions outlined above will depend on its width, connectivity and condition.

### Catchment condition<sup>i</sup>

Investment area	Examples of evidence of Catchment condition used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Environmental flows	Water regimes of environmental features Management systems	Poor	Low	Good	Medium	↑
Riparian and instream habitat and channel form	Index of Stream Condition Management systems	Poor	Low	Satisfactory	Medium	↑
Water quality (nutrients) in waterways	Phosphorus loads in rivers and streams Blue green algal blooms Management systems	Very Poor	Low	Satisfactory	High	↑

<sup>i</sup> See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

<sup>ii</sup> Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of the situation in 1990.

The Goulburn Broken CMA, in conjunction with individuals, communities and agencies, undertake natural resource and community-based activities. Activities include fencing, revegetation, pest plant and animal control, resnagging and monitoring to protect and improve the condition of riparian zones, instream habitat and channel-form across the catchment. These works are complemented by environmental water and floodplain management and activities delivered through the Sustainable Irrigation and Land and Biodiversity programs.

### Environmental flows

Environmental entitlements can be called out of storage when needed and delivered to streams or wetlands to protect or enhance their environmental values and health. Environmental entitlements are held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. Catchment management authorities are responsible for determining environmental water requirements of streams and wetlands, developing and submitting seasonal watering proposals to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder for consideration, and managing the delivery of environmental water in accordance with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's Seasonal Watering Plan. Seasonal watering proposals are prepared for streams and wetlands and aim to:

- identify the environmental water requirements of the streams and wetlands in the coming year under a range of climatic scenarios to protect and improve their environmental values
- inform the development of environmental water priorities in the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's seasonal watering plan.

Where possible, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority seek to coordinate delivery and management of environmental water with managers such as Goulburn-Murray Water to maximise ecological benefits.

### Water quality (nutrients) in rivers

Elevated nutrients was identified as a high priority issue for water quality in the Goulburn Broken Catchment because of its potential to contribute to excessive algal growth that can impact on social, economic and environmental values within waterways. Phosphorus loads are an indicator for water quality in rivers and streams because phosphorus is a limiting factor in the development of toxic blue-green algal blooms and aquatic-weed blooms.



The condition of riparian and in stream habitat and channel form has been impacted by past and present clearing, groundwater extraction, pest plant and animal invasion, the removal of woody debris, stock access, waterway regulation and flow diversion and urban and agricultural development.

Since 2000, condition has also been impacted by prolonged drought, fires and floods. During this time riparian and instream habitat and channel-form management has been supported by improved:

- private landholder, government and agency partnership arrangements
- onground management approaches informed by research and monitoring
- administrative, institutional and legislative arrangements, including the establishment of the environmental water reserve
- community appreciation and support of waterways values.

River and wetland condition in Victoria is assessed using the Index of Stream Condition and the Index of Wetland Condition. These measures assess factors including changes in hydrology, water quality, form, vegetation health, and species diversity.

Recent Index of Stream Condition assessments (2010) of selected river reaches in the Goulburn and Broken basins indicated that most reaches are in moderate (53 per cent) and poor (21 per cent) condition, with a small proportion of reaches in very poor condition (11 per cent). About 10 per cent of reaches were assessed to be in good condition and 5 per cent in excellent condition. The overall condition of reaches has not significantly changed since they were last assessed in 2004 despite the impacts of fire, flood and drought.

Since 2009 Index of Wetland Condition assessments have been carried out on 116 wetlands across the region. Results indicate that most are in good (38 per cent) and moderate (40 per cent) condition, and a small proportion are in excellent (6 per cent), poor (15 per cent) and very poor condition (less than 2 per cent). The results also indicate that wetlands on public land are generally in better condition than those on private land.

The five-year rolling average phosphorus load from the Goulburn Broken Catchment is below the long-term target, equating to a reduction of 80 per cent from the benchmark year of 1993-94.

Institutional arrangements to manage water quality threats continued through several regional participant forums.

## Long-term strategy implementation

Investment area	Strategy Life	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend <sup>i</sup>
Environmental flows	2014-2022	On Target <sup>ii</sup>	Medium	↑
Riparian and in stream habitat and channel form	2014-2022	On Target <sup>iii</sup>	High	↑
Water quality (nutrients) in waterways	1996-2016	Exceeding Target <sup>iv</sup>	High	●

See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

i Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

ii Outputs (scheduled for 2015).

iii Outputs (tasks and works scheduled for 2015).

iv Outputs (tasks and works scheduled between 1996 and 2015).

The Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy 2005-15 was the first attempt to combine all elements of river management under one umbrella. Actions focused on improving the condition of rivers, floodplains and wetlands to help achieve the Healthy Rivers, Healthy Communities vision set in 2003.

In 2009-10, the Goulburn Broken CMA developed an addendum to the Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy. This addendum reviewed achievements since 2004 and the vision was retained. The addendum guided river health programs, funding and implementation between 2010 and 2014. The development of a second generation Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy began in 2012 and was completed in 2014. The strategy has close links with the 2013-19 Regional Catchment Strategy and will guide waterway and wetland programs, funding and implementation from 2014 to 2022.

The 2013 review of the Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy and addendum indicated that a substantial program of works and complementary initiatives have been implemented across the Catchment. The Catchment has experienced fires, floods and drought during the life of the strategy and the addendum. The program has responded by securing funding and implementing recovery programs and initiatives. As a result, the Goulburn Broken CMA now has robust processes for assessing the impacts and responding to the effects of these natural events and other water related emergencies.

With the assistance of partner organisations, the Goulburn Broken CMA has played a key role in delivering and managing environmental water since early 2000 to maintain and enhance ecological values of rivers, floodplains and wetlands. The table below shows the annual volume of environmental water delivered with the Goulburn Broken CMA since 2000.

## Environmental water use

Wetland or stream	Volume, ML <sup>i</sup>														
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Barmah Forest (Vic)	165,000	0	3,165	0	0	256,500	0	0	300	1,850	184,500	184,500	2,959	195,386	0
Barmah Forest (NSW)	176,000	0	0	0	0	256,600	0	125	0	520	243,500	243,500	0	167,700	0
Black Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	40	80	0	0	0	50	0
Brays Swamp	260	0	220	0	266	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Broken Creek	0	0	0	0	0	Goulburn River Water Quality Allowance deployed <sup>ii</sup>						10,366	41,230	38,593	34,306
Upper Broken Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	0	387
Broken River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24.2	0	0	0	0
Doctors Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40 (trial)	0	0	0	0	0
Goulburn River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26,670	195,110	255,427	312,349	304,125
Kinnairds Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	426	0	400	0	0	0	179	0
Moodies Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	121	500
Reedy Swamp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	544	500	300	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>341,260</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,385</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>513,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>3,190</b>	<b>454,694</b>	<b>633,476</b>	<b>299,667</b>	<b>714,378</b>	<b>339,318</b>

i Volumes used since 2000-01 were reconciled in 2014 and some figures were adjusted.

ii Environmental water only became available for use in the lower Broken and Nine Mile Creeks in 2010-2011. Prior to this flow was managed by: regulated and unregulated flows; redirecting Goulburn River and Murray River flows through the lower Broken and Nine Mile Creeks; and deployment of the Goulburn River Water Quality Reserve.

In recent years, the Goulburn Broken CMA has assisted the delivery of environmental entitlements to the Goulburn River, lower Broken Creek, upper Broken Creek, Barmah Forest and a number of priority wetlands. This has been to improve water quality, promote the growth and germination of native vegetation, promote and support waterbird breeding, provide drought refuge for aquatic dependent species, provide habitat for native fish, and to reduce the growth of nuisance aquatic plants.

The Victorian Government, with support from the Goulburn Broken CMA and its partners, is increasing water availability by saving water in supply and delivery for farming through projects such as the Commonwealth Government's On-farm Irrigation Efficiency Program and the GMW Connections Project.

The Goulburn Broken CMA, in partnership with landholders and partners, continue to undertake natural resource and community-based activities, including fencing, revegetation, pest plant and animal control and monitoring to protect and improve the condition of rivers and wetlands across the Catchment. To date, over 1,000 kilometres of fencing has been erected, approximately 24,000 hectares has been treated for weeds along waterways and 312 kilometres of waterways have been opened to fish passage. More recently, the Goulburn Broken CMA has focused on resnagging waterways to improve in stream habitat diversity. Approximately 2,020 instream woody habitat pieces have been added to a number of priority waterways across the Catchment including the Goulburn River, Broken Creek, Hughes Creek, Hollands Creek and Tahbilk Lagoon.

Water quality issues identified in the Goulburn Broken Regional Water Quality Strategy (GB CMA 1996) focused on the impacts of nutrients and their potential to cause toxic algal blooms. The Goulburn Broken Catchment community's goal for water quality is to *'improve and maintain water quality at optimum levels within and downstream of the Catchment for native ecosystems, recreation, human and animal consumption, agriculture and industry'*. Targets for phosphorus loads are reference points for progress towards

this goal. Targets were not set for nitrogen loads because the reduction of phosphorus and subsequent increase in nitrogen to phosphorus ratio was the strategy's emphasis.

Opportunities to reduce nitrogen, particularly where it is associated with phosphorus reductions, are pursued if it is cost effective. A review of the strategy was completed in 2008, highlighting a range of successes under the individual programs, including major improvements in wastewater treatment, irrigation reuse, dryland natural resource management programs, and protection of riparian lands. Strategy development, implementation and review processes are closely aligned with best practices identified in the National Water Quality Management Strategy (ARMCANZ and ANZECC 1992).

## 2014-15 performance

### Community engagement

The development of the Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy was supported by a reference group comprised of community members and representatives from partner agencies such as the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and Goulburn-Murray Water. A WeConnect site was also run to seek feedback on the development of the strategy.

The Goulburn Broken Wetland Management Group continued to meet and guide wetland works and actions including environmental water use.

The Broken Environmental Water Advisory Group continued to meet and guide environmental water use planning. A number of Goulburn Environmental Water Advisory Group members were lost and the group did not meet in 2014-15. Group membership is currently been renewed and the group is expected to reconvene in 2015-16.

Barmah-Millewa Forest collaborations included cross-state water management between New South Wales and Victorian agencies and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

The fifth Floodplain Ecology Course was successfully held at Barmah during October. Funded by the Goulburn Broken CMA, Department of Environment and Primary Industries and participant fees, the event was managed by the Goulburn Murray Landcare Network.

The successful RiverConnect initiative, which promotes the Goulburn and Broken rivers as the heart and soul of the Shepparton-Mooroopna community, continued to be supported. Key achievements included the installation of historical flood markers, the completion of a guided 'Flats Walk' between Mooroopna and Shepparton launch extensive community activities through the 'Activities in the Park' program, and over 500 local school students participating in river protection and improvement works.

Waterwatch continued to be a highly successful community education program. Its activities were integrated into River Health and Wetland program activities, including fire response and stream restoration works.

Goulburn Broken CMA staff presented to a variety of interest and community groups on river and wetland management, including the Upper Goulburn Landcare Network, Strathbogie Voices and Numurkah Rotary.

An iSpy Fish mobile application was developed and launched in September 2014. The iSpy Fish application builds upon the highly successful iSpy Frog application launched in 2012. The iSpy Fish application includes colour images and physical descriptions of 21 native and eight alien fish species. The application allows users to upload photos and catch detail (species, weight, location, etc.) to an iSpy Fish Facebook page and the Goulburn Broken CMA website, where data is collated to assist river and wetland management.

More than 60 people attended the Environmental Watering Forum in December to hear about the Goulburn Broken Environmental watering program. The Goulburn Broken CMA, Goulburn-Murray Water, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder presented information on the operation of the Goulburn River system, identifying environmental needs, the commitment of environmental water, water planning and delivery, and monitoring. The event concluded with an open forum, which provided attendees with an opportunity to ask questions to an expert panel.

The Goulburn Broken CMA hosted a Research Forum in May 2015. The forum showcased the aquatic and terrestrial research and monitoring work undertaken in the Goulburn Broken Catchment over the past 18 months. The forum was attended by approximately 105 community members and agency staff.

For the first time a reengaging with past program participants program was trialed. A total of 45 past program participants i.e. landholders, were interviewed to understand their experience in being involved in a riparian and instream project with the Goulburn Broken CMA. Results have largely been positive and have also guided some areas of improvement. The survey also assessed the condition of project investment on site. It is intended to continue this in 2015-16 and beyond.

## Planning and responding

### Strategic

The development of a second generation Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy began in 2012 and was completed in 2014. Key changes to the new Strategy include:

- incorporation of wetlands
- priority streams and wetlands and associated strategic works and activities are being presented on a social-ecological system basis i.e. aligning to the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013
- resilience thinking is applied
- updated stream and wetland condition data is used
- new roles and responsibilities of NRM agencies are identified, such as establishment of the Victorian and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holders to manage environmental water
- incorporation of lessons learnt from the drought and recent fires and floods.

### Water quality (nutrients) in rivers

The Water Quality Forum undertook a strategic review of priority water quality issues within the region, with the aim of developing a works program for the Forum to address over time. Strategic priorities included development of a prioritised list of risks to water quality, onsite waste water management, sewerage scheme planning, riparian management, partnerships, stormwater management, land planning and monitoring data and knowledge.

Waterwatch continued to monitor streams impacted by fire in early 2014 to identify any resultant blackwater and low dissolved oxygen water quality issues.

A review of the stream water temperatures in the mid Goulburn catchment was undertaken to assess their potential impacts on habitat requirements of Macquarie perch. The findings of the investigation will help inform the development of management objectives for these streams.

Kinnairds Wetland and Black Swamp were burnt by fire in February 2014. Environmental water was delivered to the wetlands in autumn 2014 to aid their recovery and realtime water quality monitoring stations were established at the sites to assess any potential water quality issues.

### Environmental flows

A flow study of the mid Goulburn River (from Lake Eildon to the Goulburn Weir) was completed in November 2014. The flow study developed a set of environmental objectives for the management of water-dependent values and flow recommendations aimed at meeting the environmental objectives. The flow study will guide environmental water management in the river and the development of the Goulburn River environmental water management plan.

A draft Goulburn River environmental water management plan was prepared. The document is a ten year management plan that describes the ecological and hydrological objectives of the Goulburn River and is based on both scientific information and stakeholder consultation. The plan will help inform the State Governments long-term watering plan for northern Victoria and will be used by the Goulburn Broken CMA to guide annual watering decisions.

The development of a multi-year watering plan for the Goulburn River commenced. The plan aims to develop principles and a set of rules to guide annual environmental water deployment and reservation to better ensure Goulburn River priority watering actions are met over successive years.

Seasonal watering proposals were prepared for the Broken Creek, Broken River, Goulburn River, Barmah Forest and priority wetlands in the region in consultation with key stakeholders and partners. Seasonal watering proposals identify the environmental water requirements of a stream or wetland in the coming year under a range of climatic scenarios to protect or improve its environmental values and health. The proposals inform the development of environmental water priorities in the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's seasonal watering plan.

The Goulburn Broken CMA has been asked by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to prepare a business case for the Goulburn River Constraints Management project. The business case will refine some of the previous mapping and modelling work that identified the relationship between floodplain inundation and river flows. The business case will also identify potential impacts on public and private land, mitigation measures and more detailed costings for mitigation works. The business case is expected to be completed in November 2015.

## Monitoring

Monitoring of threatened species continued and included:

- monitoring of the condition of native fish communities in the mid Goulburn River, and
- threatened species recovery monitoring (Macquarie Perch in Holland, King Parrot and Hughes Creeks).

Changes in native fish populations in response to resnagging work on the Broken Creek were assessed.

Cabomba populations in Lake Benalla, Broken Creek, Broken River and Barmah Forest were assessed, showing effective control of this aquatic weed. Of note, Cabomba has not been recorded in Lake Benalla for over four years.

The successful implementation of the Barmah Forest pest plant and animal project (funded under the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme) continues to be informed by a range of monitoring activities that measure changes to the cover and abundance of pest plants in priority vegetation communities, the number of fox baits taken, the number of pigs trapped, and the number of turtle nests raided by foxes and pigs. These monitoring activities are also supported by information collected through remote cameras.

Goulburn Broken CMA staff have assisted with the implementation of the Goulburn River Long-term Intervention Monitoring Program. The 5 year program funded by the Commonwealth Government monitors environmental outcomes from the deployment of environmental water in the lower Goulburn River. Monitoring focuses on native fish, macroinvertebrates, vegetation, geomorphology and ecosystem metabolism responses. Goulburn Broken CMA staff have assisted with fish, macroinvertebrates, vegetation and geomorphology monitoring activities. Goulburn Broken CMA staff have also assisted with project communication and promotion.

Input was provided into the Victorian Environmental Flow Monitoring and Assessment Program, undertaken on eight priority waterways across Victoria, including sites on the Broken and Goulburn Rivers and the Broken Creek. Monitoring of fish and vegetation occurred in 2014-15. A review of six years of Victorian Environmental Flow Monitoring and Assessment Program fish monitoring data was carried out throughout the year.

Vegetation, macroinvertebrate, water quality, waterbird and frog responses to environmental water were assessed at Reedy Swamp, Moodie Swamp, Black Swamp and Kinnairds Swamp. The project was funded by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder funded the installation of staff gauges at Reedy Swamp, Moodie Swamp, Black Swamp, Doctors Swamp and Kinnairds Wetland to provide an accurate measurement of water height to inform environmental water delivery planning, management and measurement. The Victorian Environmental Water Holder also funded research into the presence and viability of the Moira Grass seed bank in Barmah Forest. Results suggest that the seedbank is small with low viability which has implications for the management of this threatened species.



## Works and operations

### River and wetland health Actions 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved <sup>i</sup>			Target	% achieved
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15		
<b>Stock grazing action</b>						
Fence wetland remnant	ha	0	128	168	87	193
Fence stream/river remnant <sup>ii</sup>	ha	126	87	141	0	-
Fence stream/river remnant	km	7	14	70	70	100
Off-stream watering	no.	1	3	15	11	136
<b>Nutrient-rich and turbid water &amp; suspended solids action</b>						
Stormwater management projects <sup>iii</sup>	no.	0	0	0	0	
<b>In stream &amp; near-stream erosion action</b>						
Bank protection actions	km	0.65	0.20	0.40	0.14	294
Instream & tributary erosion controlled	km	0	1	0.60	0.20	294
<b>Changed flow-pattern action</b>						
Water allocated <sup>iv</sup> eg wetlands, waterways	ML	299,667	714,378	339,318	0	-
<b>Weed invasion action</b>						
Weeds – aquatic weeds controlled (managed)	km	77	3	97	0	-
<b>Habitat loss management</b>						
Rock ramp fishway	no.	0	2	0	0	
Fish barrier removal	no.	0	0	0	0	
Establish Significantly Enhanced Aquatic Refugia	no.	0	15	0	0	
<b>Surface Water action<sup>v</sup></b>						
Drain - primary built <sup>vi</sup>	km	1	0	0	0	
Drain - community built	km	0	0	0	0	
Farm reuse systems installed <sup>vii</sup>	no.	25	64	9	9	100
High flow drain diversion - high nutrient water removed <sup>viii</sup>	ML	0	0	0	0	
Irrigation systems - improved <sup>ix</sup>	ha		7,330	4,745	0	-

i Achievements include those from investment areas: Environmental flows, Riparian and instream habitat and channel form and Water quality and complementary investment areas (SIR salinity, Land health including dryland salinity and Biodiversity). Outputs delivered through each fund source are available from the Goulburn Broken CMA.

ii Area figure supplied by River health implementation manager.

iii Stormwater management projects are undertaken on a one-to-one funding basis with local government.

iv Target cannot be set with any confidence because achievement is prone to extreme variation, being affected by climatic and seasonal conditions. Volumes used since 2000-01 were reconciled in 2014 and some figures were adjusted. The NSW component of water delivered to Barmah Forest is included in these figures.

v Surface water management enables the removal of excess rainfall run-off from irrigated lands, alleviating soil salinity. As part of an overall management plan for nutrients, nutrients loads are managed by collecting and reusing water from drains. Nutrient loads are monitored against the Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy nutrient target for drains.

vi Fencing and laneways are relocated along primary drains to control stock. Drains are also hydro-mulched and seeded to provide vegetative cover on bare batters.

vii Reuse systems allow for the collection of high nutrient run-off and re-irrigation, reducing the water and nutrient loads leaving the farm. In 2014-15 the number of new farm reuse systems installed is assumed to be: 67 per cent of projects install a new system and 33 per cent reconnect the project area to an existing system. In 2012-13 and 2013-14 the number of new systems was assumed to be: 100 per cent of projects install a new system i.e. new systems and extensions of existing systems were both counted as 'new systems'.

viii High flow diversion. None completed because of no demand and previous dry conditions.

ix Assumptions: 2014-15 area improved = laser levelling (which itself includes an assumption based on whole farm plan area - see footnote iv) + pressurised irrigation systems (micro or drip + irrigation); 2013-14 = Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (laser grading + overhead spray + drip; 3,736 + 567 + 0) + 70 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (4,224) + modernised (4,403) less Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements].

The Goulburn Broken CMA partnered the community and government agencies in a range of natural resource and community based activities, including fencing, revegetation, pest plant and animal control, improving instream woody habitat, monitoring and employment.

Works were funded through a range of programs, including the Onground Works Program, National Landcare Programme and Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

In June 2013, the Victorian Government announced funding for the Goulburn Broken CMA to deliver the Fruit Industry Employment Program for workers affected by SPC Ardmona's fruit intake cuts. The program commenced in August 2013, with participants carrying out fencing, weed control and infrastructure work such as signage, repairs and nest-box construction through until November 2014.

Work to control the aquatic weed Cabomba (Cabomba caroliniana) continued along the Broken River and Broken Creek systems with funding from the Australian Government. The program has achieved relative success with little Cabomba now present within these systems. Work this year focused on the eradication of a small population within an impoundment on the Broken River (Casey's Weir).

The Goulburn Broken CMA, Yorta Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria continued work in partnership on a project to address 'Weeds of National Significance' and pest animals in the Barmah Forest to protect the ecological character of this icon site. Targets for pest plant and animal management were met or exceeded in the Australian Government funded program.



A detailed design was prepared for modifying the Rupertsdale fish barrier (vehicle crossing) to allow fish passage on the Broken River downstream of Benalla. Funding for this project was provided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Recreational Fishing Initiative.

A large-scale woody weed control program continued on the Yea River near the township of Yea. This project was implemented as a result of a community survey that identified woody weeds as a priority for members of the Yea community.

Large-scale instream habitat works were undertaken along the Broken Creek in line with recommendations from Arthur Rylah Institute. This project has been funded by revenue raised through recreational fishing licences allocated through Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

Activities to help with implementing the four-year onground works program include social surveys in the Yea River area and electrofishing in the King Parrot Creek, Yea River and mid Goulburn River to help assess fish populations, with a focus on Macquarie perch. In King Parrot Creek, 386 Macquarie perch were caught in the assessments sites: the most since surveys commenced in 2006.

### Environmental water used during 2014-15

Quantity, ML	Timing	Source
<b>Water used WITHIN the Goulburn Broken Catchment</b>		
Goulburn River		
221,637	November 2014, January to May 2015 and June 2015	Commonwealth Environmental Water
28,139	July 2014 and May 2015	Victorian Environmental Water
Lower Broken Creek		
26,305	October 2014 – May 2015	Commonwealth Environmental Water – Goulburn River System
5,000	October 2014 – May 2015	Commonwealth Environmental Water – Murray River System
3,001	August 2014 – October 2014	Victorian Environmental Water – Murray River System
Upper Broken Creek		
387	January 2015	Victorian Environmental Water
Moodies Swamp (Upper Broken Creek)		
500	October 2014 to December 2014	Commonwealth Environmental Water – Broken River System
<b>Water used DOWNSTREAM that benefited waterways in the Goulburn Broken Catchment</b>		
Murray River		
0		Inter-Valley Transfers (Goulburn River) <sup>i</sup>
54,349	September to October 2014	The Living Murray allocation (Goulburn River)
0		Inter-Valley Transfers (lower Broken Creek) <sup>i</sup>
0		Murray Unregulated Flows (lower Broken Creek)
20,467	November 2014 – April 2015	Murray consumptive water in transit (lower Broken Creek)

i. Inter-valley transfers are not considered to be environmental water but can provide environmental benefits. These volumes are not included in total environmental water use figures.

A total of 339,318 megalitres of environmental water was delivered in 2014-15 to support fish, macroinvertebrate and vegetation ecological objectives in the lower Goulburn River, lower Broken Creek and Moodies Swamp. Significant ecological outcomes in response to environmental flows included Golden perch breeding in the lower Goulburn River.

Moodie Swamp had its largest ever environmental water allocation delivered between October and December 2014. This was to encourage Brolga (*Grus rubicunda*) breeding and to promote the growth of the EPBC (1999) listed Rigid-water Milfoil (*Myriophyllum porcatum*).

In December 2014 a wildfire burnt approximately 2600 hectares including large sections of riparian vegetation adjoining the Broken River and upper Broken Creek. In January 2015 environmental water was delivered to the upper Broken Creek to improve water quality impacted by the wildfire.

The environmental water was delivered in accordance with Victorian Environmental Water Holder processes and with the assistance and cooperation of partners. The majority of priority watering actions were achieved at all sites.

### What's next?

The promotion and implementation of the new Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy, in partnership with regional agencies and the community, will continue. The new Waterway Strategy will be the primary mechanism for implementing statewide waterway and wetland policy. The overarching aim of the Waterway Strategy is to provide a single, regional planning document for whole-of-catchment rivers and wetlands management and an action plan for achieving integrated waterway outcomes.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will continue implementing the Securing Priority Waterways (Onground Works) program. The final year of this four-year program is targeting improvement in the health of a number of priority waterways and associated wetlands, including the King Parrot Creek, Hughes Creek, Yea River, Broken River, Broken Creek and the Goulburn River.

Opportunities for multiple uses of environmental water will be explored with neighbouring catchment management authorities, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

Seasonal watering proposals and environmental watering plans will continue to be prepared so that environmental water is used effectively and efficiently. The 2015-16 proposals aim to:

- provide flows in the lower Broken Creek to allow native fish passage, increase native fish habitat during the migration and breeding seasons, and manage threats to native fish from low dissolved oxygen levels and/or excessive Azolla growth
- provide minimum flows and freshes in the lower Goulburn River to support native fish, macroinvertebrates and native vegetation habitat and recruitment
- promote the growth and establishment of Moira Grass and support colonial waterbird breeding in Barmah Forest
- promote the health of native vegetation communities and support waterbird breeding at Black Swamp, Kinnairds Wetland, Moodie Swamp, Reedy Swamp and Doctors Swamp.

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder has provided funds to monitor the ecological response of selected wetlands to environmental water management in 2015-16.

Attributes that will be monitored include water depth and quality, invertebrate abundance and diversity, the presence and breeding activity of waterbirds and frogs, and vegetation condition.

The Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to support the implementation of the Goulburn River Long-term Intervention Monitoring Program and will complete the business case for the Goulburn River Constraints Management project.

Engagement and partnerships with the community to deliver changes will continue. In partnership with the community, past sites will be evaluated to ensure that investment is protected and sites are maintained at best practice.

The likely impacts of climate change on waterway values, in particular water quality, will continue to be investigated. Tipping points for priority waterways will be investigated under climate change scenarios within the six social-ecological-systems identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy.

Waterways will continue to be opened up to fish migration with the modification and/or removal of instream barriers. Priority instream barriers to be modified or removed include Gouddings Weir, Rupertsdale Ford crossing and Gowangardie Weir, which are all on the Broken River.

Instream habitat works will be undertaken in priority areas in line with recommendations from Arthur Rylah Institute and through analysis of statewide instream habitat mapping.

## Case Study - River Health

### Macquarie perch to benefit from salvaged bushfire timber

Stock piled wood salvaged from the December 2014 Creighton's Creek fires has been used at three sites on the Hughes Creek upstream of Avenel to improve habitat for endangered Macquarie perch.

Project Manager Christine Glassford from the Goulburn Broken CMA said the focus of the project was to re-establish depth and shelter in the creek by placing the salvaged timber in three pools to encourage scouring of the bed.

"Several truck and trailer loads of salvaged timber from the Creighton's Creek fires were taken to three degraded habitat pools suitable for endangered Macquarie perch and placed within the creek," Ms Glassford said.

"The aim is to reinstate depth within the pools and provide shelter to sustain populations of Macquarie perch, and to increase the resilience of the Macquarie perch population in the Creek.

"Sand has been deposited in these pools over the years and has reduced the depth and habitat quality for Macquarie perch and other aquatic species. The large wood was placed strategically to encourage the movement of some sand to deepen the pools and provide shelter."

Scientists from the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) undertook fish surveys in the Hughes Creek just before Easter and found Macquarie perch at each of the three pools, although ARI Applied Aquatic Ecology Scientist Joanne Kearns suggests the perch presently exist in sub-optimal habitat.

"Some sites where Macquarie perch were found can be considered sub-optimal, so further depth and structural enhancements will be very beneficial," Ms Kearns said. "The wood will also lead to an increase in the variety and number of macro-invertebrate (aquatic bugs) on which the perch can feed."

Ms Kearns said the results of the fish surveys in the Hughes Creek were encouraging, with numbers of Blackfish and Macquarie perch in the 'gorge section' of the creek being the highest seen for many years. "It was particularly pleasing to find several young-of-year fish, which have hatched from eggs spawned during spring last year and many one year old fish in this section," She said.

A number of sites were surveyed between Avenel and the Goulburn River, but no Macquarie perch were found.



## Investment area 2d - Floodplain management

Compiled by Guy Tierney and Dean Judd

### Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Catchment condition <sup>iv</sup>	Flood regimes provided for ecosystems from flood protection planning Financial savings from prevention of flood damage Systems in place related to flood protection	Very poor	Low	Poor	Medium	↑
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Strategy tasks implemented (scheduled to be completed between 2002 and 2012)	n.a.	n.a.	Exceeding target	High	● <sup>iii</sup>
2014-15 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received) Corporate Plan KPIs related to flood protection (see page 89)	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a.

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of the situation in 1990.

iii. Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

iv. The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

### Government investment, \$000

Investment Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <sup>i</sup>	Trend
2d Floodplain management	362	482	458	748	↑

i. Forecast based on funding advice at July 2015.

### Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Strategy (Interim) 2014-2016
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Subdivision Act 1988*,
- *Building Regulations 2005*
- *Water Act 1989*
- *Minerals and Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*
- *Environment Protection Act, 1970*

### Background

Floodplain management functions have been delegated to the Goulburn Broken CMA, which are described under Section 202 of the *Water Act 1989*. A specific function is to provide advice about flooding and controls on development to local councils, the Secretary of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the community.

The use of engineering techniques such as hydrology (the study of rainfall and run-off) and hydraulics (the science of water movement across floodplains, rivers, streams and stormwater networks) assists in understanding impacts of floods on urban and rural communities. In recent years, these techniques have been used to understand environmental flow regimes in river and wetland systems.

Understanding flood risk (likelihood and consequences) is paramount in any flood study that underpins the investigation of mitigation and management options. Such options include structural solutions (levees, retardation basins, floodways), flood warning and emergency management arrangements, and land use planning controls.

### Long-term strategy implementation

The Goulburn Broken CMA coordinates implementation of its Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (2002) in partnership with agencies and communities. The vision is: 'to achieve best practice floodplain management for the benefit of current and future generations'. This includes the building of community resilience by understanding the nature of flooding through flood studies, planning for floods through emergency response, education and awareness programs, and land use planning. The Goulburn Broken CMA has since prepared an Interim Floodplain Management Strategy focused on a three year plan for new flood study priorities with agencies. Work will commence in 2016 on a new ten year Regional Floodplain Management Strategy that will include a full consultation plan.

Two long-term targets have been proposed to provide measurable reference points of progress in achieving the floodplain management vision:

- reduce the impact of flooding on the built environment (and land-use planning to steer inappropriate developments and uses away from flood hazards).
- provide ecosystems with natural flooding patterns where appropriate.

Implementation of the Goulburn Broken Interim Regional Floodplain Management Strategy is opportunistic and is subject to funding under Australian and Victorian Government incentives through programs such as the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme. A review of the strategy's nine programs is available at [www.gbcm.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcm.vic.gov.au)

Most listed tasks for floodplain management have been completed well ahead of schedule.

It is assumed that tasks completed will result in reduced impact of flooding on the built environment (when it floods). Following completion of a number of floodplain management plans, responsible authorities are implementing recommendations, including structural and non-structural works using local, Victorian and Australian government grants.

Improving the natural flooding patterns of ecosystems via sensitive floodplain protection planning is a task in progress.

## 2014-15 performance

### Community engagement

Community engagement is an integral part of floodplain management through flood studies and floodplain

management plans and their implementation assisted by a number of government agencies. The Goulburn Broken CMA currently manages and hosts the Flood Victoria website on behalf of the Victorian Government.

### Planning and responding

The table below provides a summary of the studies and implementation plans progressed for 2014-15. All studies are carried out under a partnership approach with local government, state and Commonwealth agencies and local communities. Implementation of the recommendations is a shared responsibility. Civil works such as a town levee system generally rest with local government.

A key initiative in the Mansfield Shire is the commencement of the Planning Scheme Amendment C15 to include and update the flood overlays and zones across many areas of the Shire.

### Flood studies and implementation plans for 2014-15

Project name	Lead agency	Status
Seymour Town Levee Implementation Plan	Mitchell Shire Council	Mitchell Shire Council has secured additional funding and is drafting an planning scheme amendment for Public Acquisition Overlay for the levee alignment.
Granite Creek Regional Flood Mapping Project (Hume Freeway to the Goulburn River)		Consultants commissioned mid 2015.
Numurkah Floodplain Management Study	Moira Shire Council	Draft Numurkah Floodplain Management Study completed for public consultation. Mitigation options will be presented to the wider community in August 2015.
Eildon to Murchison Flood Mapping Project	Goulburn Broken CMA	Flood Mapping Project finalised including the 20, 50 and 100-year ARI flood events.
Nagambie Flood Study	Goulburn Broken CMA	Further field work and data collection required prior to completion.
Flowerdale Flood Study	Goulburn Broken CMA	Final report completed and to be used to support Murrindindi Planning Scheme Amendment.
Shepparton East Overland Flood Study	Goulburn Broken CMA	Survey of the Council's stormwater system completed and the hydraulic model has been recalibrated with this data. Production runs have been finalised and delivered. Final Report expected August 2015.
Shepparton Mooroopna Flood and Intelligence Study	Greater Shepparton City Council	Hydrology and hydraulic report is imminent delayed in light of new survey of causeway bridges.
Euroa Post Flood Mapping and Intelligence Project	Shire of Strathbogie	Finalised.
Mansfield Flood Mapping Project	Goulburn Broken CMA	Finalised. Mansfield Planning Scheme amendment C15 has been adopted by Planning Panels Victoria and Mansfield Shire Council. The Amendment awaiting Ministerial Approval.
Violet Town Flood Mitigation Detailed Design	Strathbogie Shire Council	Advanced.
Yarrawonga Overland Flood Study	Moira Shire Council	Mapping delivered. Moira Shire are looking at drainage options.
Rural flood mapping (Eildon & Nillahcootie catchments)	Goulburn Broken CMA	Delatite River hydrology finalised. Model structure for remaining catchments approved and modelling has commenced.
Hydrology of the Acheron catchment	Goulburn Broken CMA	Survey of hydraulic structures completed. Flood frequency analysis underway. A hydraulic model of the Taggerty gauge is now running.
Kilmore Flood Mapping and Intelligence Study	Mitchell Shire Council	The consultant has completed the draft hydrology report.
Flood warning improvements for Benalla	Benalla Rural City Council	Inception meeting with consultant occurred March 2015.

Input into finalisation of FloodSafe Guides was provided for: Katandra West, Congupna, Katamatite, Tallygaroopna and Tungamah.

Input into the Floodplain Working Group to prepared guidelines for the preparation of regional floodplain management plans and to advance some of the Actions of the revised Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy. These include: Vegetation Guidelines, Guidelines for Development in Flood Prone Land, and the development of guidelines for Regional Floodplain Management Strategy.

Prepared pilot rapid assessment methodology for the Goulburn Broken catchment to allow priority setting for future flood projects.

Dealing with high profile VCAT cases relating to Goulburn River.

Adopt new By-law No.3 for works on waterways.

Prepared Draft Floodplain Management Principles and Best Practice Assessment for Land Use and Development (2014) document for North Central, North East and Goulburn Broken CMAs.

## Works and operations

### Floodplain management actions 2014-15

Action	From funds received through Goulburn Broken CMA's Corporate Plan		
	Achieved <sup>i</sup>	Per cent of Responses	
<b>Integrating knowledge into planning</b>			
Land Use Development Direct Applications (LUD)	no.	153	16.1%
Planning Scheme Amendment	no.	6	0.6%
Flood Information Request Direct Applications (FIR)	no.	83	8.7%
Other Direct Application (DAOTH)	no.	2	0.2%
Land Use and Development [Formal] [S 55]	no.	510	53.7%
Land Use and Development [Advice only] [S 52]	no.	27	2.8%
Certification of Subdivision [S 8]	no.	67	7.1%
Subdivision and Certification [S 55 & S 8]	no.	13	1.4%
Notice of Planning Scheme Amendment [S 19]	no.	31	3.3%
Victorian Building Regulations [VBRs] [R 802]	no.	18	1.9%
Other LGA Application (LGAOTH)	no.	37	3.9%
Query & Notification of Unauthorised Work	no.	0	0.0%
Work Plan [Minerals and Energy] [S 77]	no.	2	0.2%
<b>Total</b>		949	100%
Victorian Civil Administration Tribunal and panel hearings attended	days	128	
<b>Floodplain implementation</b>			
Adoption of Flood Amendment	no.	1	Shire-wide introduction of flood mapping and land use planning controls for Mansfield Shire Council
Urban flood studies and management plans	no.	4	Mansfield 1% AEP Flood Mapping Project. Flowerdale Flood Study. Euroa Flood Intelligence and Post Mapping Study. Goulburn River Eildon to Murchison Flood Mapping Project.
Regional flood studies and management plans	no.	1	Goulburn River - Eildon to Murchison Flood Mapping
<b>Creating awareness</b>			
Flood education and awareness program	no.	5	Assisting with the development of Flood Safe Guides and Municipal Flood Emergency Plans.

<sup>i</sup> Most actions are performed reactively so no targets are set annually, however there are KPIs relating to regulatory waterway/water functions (see page 89).

Works within or across a waterway require a licence from the Goulburn Broken CMA to ensure risk to river health and stability are not compromised.

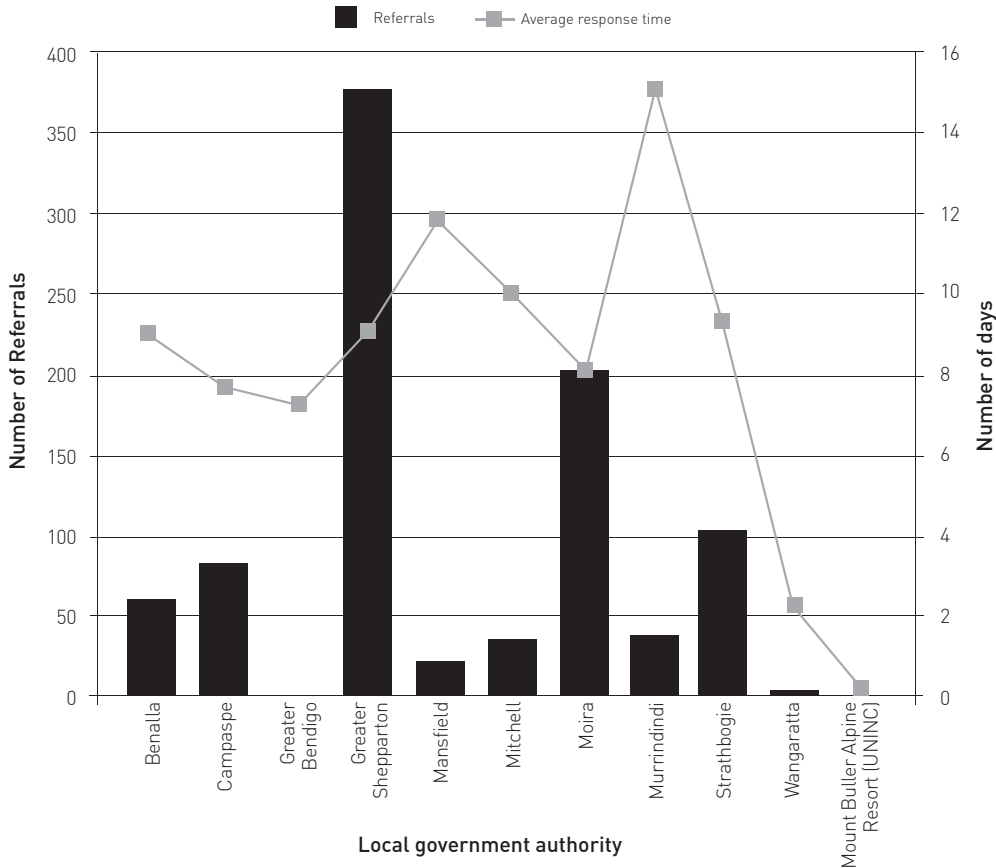
A total of 1,027 applications and referrals were processed, which included 949 floodplain management and 78 works on waterways applications. The response time for

floodplain applications was nine days on average, with 98 per cent of all responses within the allowed timeframe of 28 days.

A breakdown of the number of floodplain applications and referrals received from each local government area and the average response time is shown in the figure below.

### Number of Referrals by Local Government Authority and Average Response Times for 2014-15

The average response time for statutory referrals and direct enquiries was 7.42 days and 8.01 days respectively. Response time for works on waterways was 23 days.



### What's next?

- Revised flood mapping using newly captured terrain elevation data against newly derived information contained in the 100-year flood level atlas will continually be improved. This will build on the recently delivered Light Detection and Ranging data sets.
- Local government planning scheme amendments to incorporate new mapping and performance based assessments will continue.
- Flood warning and emergency management arrangements with partners, particularly the Victoria State Emergency Service and local government, will be supported. Capital works and further flood studies will also be supported.
- The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy will be introduced leading to opportunities for preparing a full, revised regional floodplain management strategy.
- Work with the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to look at environmental floodplain watering along the mid and lower Goulburn River will be captured.

## Investment area 3 - Land and biodiversity

Compiled by: Steve Wilson, Jenny Wilson, Carla Miles, Tony Kubeil, Kate Brunt, Greg Wood, Rhiannon Apted, Janice Mentiplay-Smith, Jim Begley, Karen Brisbane and Chris Burnett.

### Government investment<sup>i</sup>, \$000

Investment Area	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <sup>ii</sup>	Trend
3a Biodiversity	4,933	5,381	5,166	3,670	↓
3b Land health, including dryland salinity	1,577	990	990	761	↓
3c Invasive pests and animals	0	0	0	0	●

i. Not including co-investment in biodiversity from other investment areas.

ii. Forecast based on advice at July 2015.

### Major strategic references

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*
- Permitted Clearing of Native Vegetation – Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines [DEPI 2013]
- Basin Salinity Management Strategy 2001-2015 (MDBC 2001)
- Department of Environment and Primary Industries Soil Health Strategy 2012
- Goulburn Broken Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015 (GB CMA 2010)
- Goulburn Broken Land Health Statement Draft 2014
- Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- Goulburn Broken Native Vegetation Plan 2003
- Dryland Salinity Management Plan 1989 (and reviews 1995, 2001, 2008)
- Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework
- Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010-2015
- Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy 2005, Addendum (GB CMA 2010)
- Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 (GB CMA 2014)
- Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan [DEPI 2012]
- Goulburn Broken Community NRM Plan 2013-2014

### Background

The Catchment's land and biodiversity includes two main features: soil, which is a fundamental part of the natural environment and supports ecosystems and livelihoods of the catchment community; and biodiversity, which encompasses the variety of ecosystems, including native vegetation, wetlands and waterways, and the associated plants, fungi, animals and genetic diversity they contain.

Many of our ecosystems, plant and animal communities and species are threatened with extinction and soils are often degraded. To conserve soils and biodiversity we need to increase their resilience through positive land management changes such as soil conservation practices, remnant native vegetation protection, revegetation and providing ecologically meaningful linkages.

Ecosystem resilience is critical in supporting productive and sustainable landscapes by providing ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, native species habitat, healthy soils, clean air and providing an aesthetically pleasing place to live and recreate. The Land and Biodiversity Program focuses on the connections between the need for ecosystem resilience and provision of productive land and as a result, healthy and sustainable communities. Investment in the Catchment's biodiversity and land health is guided by the Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015, the Goulburn Broken Land Health Statement 2014, and other regional, state and national policies and strategies.

The Land and Biodiversity Program's vision (updated in 2010) is 'Healthy and resilient ecosystems and an actively involved and inspired community practising sustainable natural resource management.'

The Land and Biodiversity team delivers various projects funded from state and federal programs. Activities funded include: protection of native vegetation from inappropriate grazing regimes through fencing remnants and wetlands; revegetation to reinstate understorey in remnants; and revegetation and regeneration to create buffers, corridors and linkages between remnants. Extension and education increases awareness of the issues associated with healthy landscapes. For example, through the Australian Government funded Beyond SoilCare project and partnerships with community Landcare and Conservation Management Networks, field days on landholder properties are conducted and management agreements, including for native vegetation management, and pest plant and animal control, are developed with landholders.

Separate soils, waterways, wetlands and terrestrial habitat works are integrated through projects that recognise the interconnectedness and importance of all elements in creating resilient systems within and beyond the farm fence. Actions that help implement such a systems-based approach while meeting funding and specific project priorities include integrated prioritisation of areas for works and integrated management planning for landholders who receive incentives. Soil-focused projects include encouraging farmers to consider broader biodiversity outcomes when assessing soil health.

Australian Government support and priorities have recognised the need to address climate change, resulting in new opportunities to identify carbon sequestration activities, supported by a strategic natural resource management plan to address how the Catchment might adapt to climate change (see climate change section on page 29 for details).

Partnerships with community groups, various government agencies including: Parks Victoria; Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; Local Government Agencies; water authorities; Country Fire Authority, and individuals are critical to in achieving strategic priorities under the Land and Biodiversity Program. For example, the Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum (LaBIF) provides an opportunity for agencies and community networks to work together on better ways of implementing land and biodiversity outcomes. Engagement is the key to team success: in 2014-15 team members attended 145 events and shared information with 4,329 participants.

In 2014-15, some government funds were offered directly to community groups rather than managed by the CMA. The Land and Biodiversity team's services included assistance with funding applications and general support and resources so that works are to agreed standards and aligned with catchment priorities. Funding to community groups included the Victorian Government's Landcare grants \$245,000 and Communities for Nature projects (Woodland Birds for the Broken Boosey \$149,910, Yellow Gums and Goldfields \$149,210 and Practical Parrot Action \$147,000) and the Australian Government's Regent Honeyeater Project \$145,000, amongst others which are funded out of the National Landcare Programme Regional Allocation.

Three discrete but highly connected investment areas are reported in this section under the Land and Biodiversity Program:

3a Biodiversity

3b Land health, including dryland salinity and

3c Invasive plants and animals (managed largely by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning).





## Investments area - 3a Biodiversity

### Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Catchment condition	Native vegetation extent and quality Threatened species populations Water regimes of environmental features Management system	Poor <sup>ii</sup>	Medium	Poor <sup>ii</sup>	Medium-High	●
Long-term strategy implementation progress <sup>iii</sup>	Tasks (scheduled between 2000 and 2015)	n.a.	n.a.	On Target	Medium-High	● <sup>iv</sup>
2014-15 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On Target	High	n.a.

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. The rating of Catchment condition is determined using the reference point of pre-European settlement as excellent, although see discussion below regarding the intention to change this reference point from an often unattainable pre-European condition.

iii. Refers to Biodiversity Strategy only. Evidence related to aquatic, including wetland biodiversity outcomes from environmental share of water supply and environmental water is described in 'Investment area 2 River and wetland health'.

iv. Assumed to parallel government funding trend, which includes some funding from investment area 2 River and wetland health. Although the symbol is a static trend, this implies that Strategy tasks are successfully being implemented. If there was a significant increase in funding and capacity to achieve biodiversity outcomes, the trend would be reflected with an 'improving' symbol.

### Catchment condition

The ecology of the Catchment has been transformed: more than 70 per cent of vegetation has been cleared for agriculture since the late 1800s, particularly in the fertile plains and low hills. This has resulted in changes to ecosystem processes and the extinction of several species of native flora and fauna, with many others threatened with extinction.

To measure change in biodiversity condition, a reference point of pre-European has been commonly used. Using this as a reference point can only result in the condition of the Catchment's biodiversity to be poor, as we will always be a long way from pre-European natural systems. Pre-European condition is not a target to which we aspire because the transformation is irreversible, and hundreds of thousands of people will continue to live here and use the land for many purposes. Therefore, we are exploring ways to show the current trend in biodiversity condition without benchmarking it against the unattainable pre-European condition. This is important as we want to show changes to biodiversity conservation, including improvements such as integration of biodiversity needs into farming systems and water regimes of rivers, streams and wetlands. The extent of native vegetation is likely to have increased through managed grazing (especially by fencing) and planting and direct seeding. There are still challenges however: incremental loss of native vegetation continues and some species continue to decline, which has implications for ecosystem processes. Using a more recent time as a reference point for benchmarking, these more subtle and complex changes in catchment condition, and potentially other criteria, can better show progress.

Having a better understanding of current condition and recognising that we live in highly modified social-ecological systems, we can aim for and achieve improved conservation status of native species, supported by more resilient ecosystems, as identified in our Biodiversity Strategy's vision: *Healthy ecosystems supporting viable populations of flora and fauna. An update to the Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015* will provide

an opportunity to reflect on alternative approaches, such as identifying thresholds of concern and associated risk management.

A major threat to the condition of biodiversity is climate change, which will result in an increase in frequency of extreme events. In particular, the increased likelihood and frequency of fire, together with the large-scale and frequent fuel reduction burning, is of concern. Other threats include: the continued decline in threatened species as the 'extinction debt' from past clearing is realised; continued habitat loss through permitted and illegal clearing of native vegetation; weed invasion; habitat loss through, for example, logs used for firewood and 'cleaning up' by landholders (removing important leaf litter and fallen logs); and the inability of flora and fauna to move through fragmented landscapes, creating genetic bottlenecks and loss of sub-populations.

### Long-term strategy implementation

A key guiding document for the Land and Biodiversity Program is the Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015. One of the measures of success is annually determining progress towards key resource condition targets. Currently, these targets, which will be reviewed in 2015-16 when the Biodiversity Strategy (2010-15) is revised, are:

- Maintain extent and quality of all native habitat at 2005 levels in keeping with the goal of 'net gain' listed in Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy 1997
- Increase the extent of native vegetation in fragmented landscapes by 70,000 hectares by 2030 to restore threatened Ecological Vegetation Classes and to improve landscape connectivity
- Improve the quality of 90 per cent of existing (2005) native vegetation by ten per cent by 2030.

Farming systems have changed significantly in all parts of the catchment since 1990. This has created threats and opportunities and many programs have been established

to include biodiversity in redesigned farming systems. Activities such as whole farm planning, community engagement in biodiversity conservation, and incentive payments for achieving conservation outcomes have all significantly changed how systems are managed. In addition, after a hundred years of receiving water left over after consumptive use, aquatic ecosystems now receive an allocation of “environmental water”, which is having a dramatic impact on the health of aquatic ecosystems. Therefore, progress towards resource condition targets has largely been positive, although probably below the desired levels.

Unlike many other natural resource management themes, such as water, coordination of biodiversity management at multi-regional (state and national) levels is immature and progress in several areas of major strategic importance has been slow. For example, a direct measure of native vegetation extent is critical in understanding native vegetation condition changes to inform decisions, and while technology such as satellite imagery has improved dramatically, it remains a major gap in our knowledge.

Native vegetation clearing controls had a significant impact when first introduced in the late 1980s, but incremental loss of native vegetation, ongoing changes to regulations, including associated accounting and offset programs, are major challenges flagged in various strategies since 1990 that remain incomplete.

While the Goulburn Broken CMA has been diligent in accounting for its programs’ contributions to biodiversity, the lack of an accounting framework for overall change,

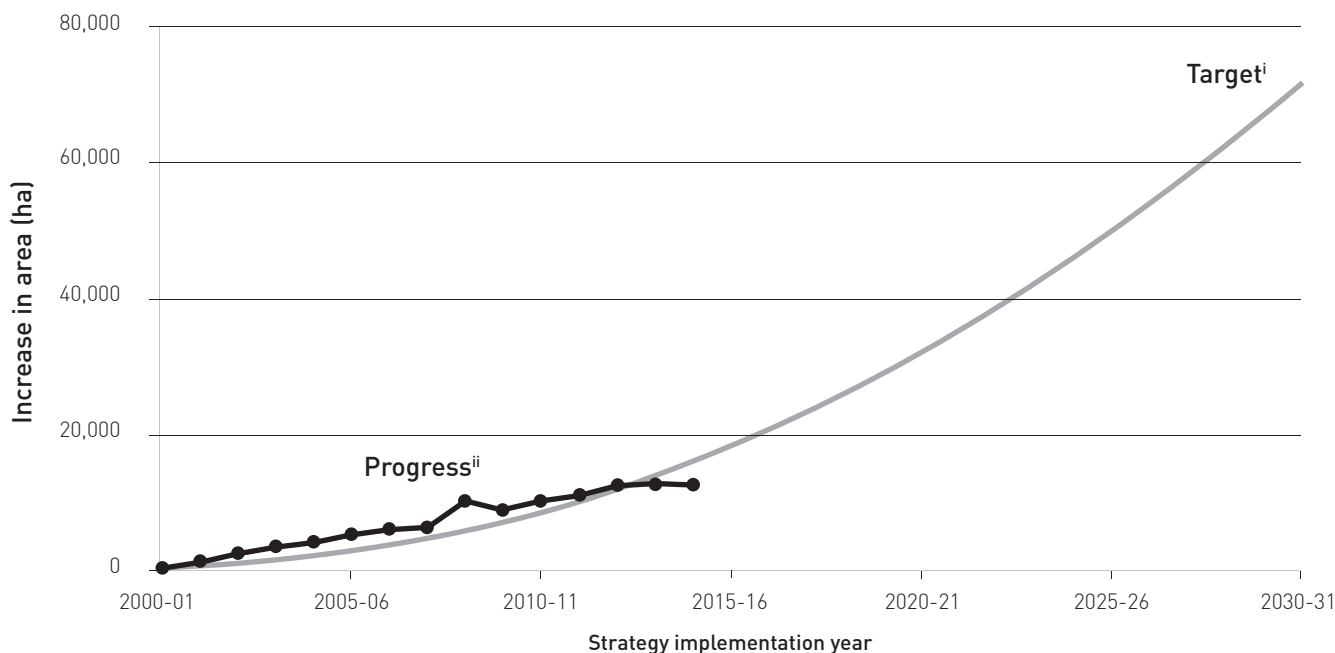
especially one linked to decision-making, remains a major hindrance to understanding and optimising progress.

This annual report reflects revised assumptions of progress in native vegetation extent. This has resulted in less gains being achieved than reported in previous years, although gaps in data availability create significant assumption uncertainty. Most assumption changes have been related to losses of native vegetation through incremental clearing (permitted and illegal) and fire suppression activities, rather than reduced outputs being achieved by the Goulburn Broken CMA and others. A one-off gain associated with the decommissioning of Lake Mokoan has also been applied for 2008-09.

While acknowledging uncertainty and recognising that our gains are generally offsetting losses, we appear to be trending away from the native vegetation extent target. The higher gain in 2008 reflects the significant one-off gain associated with the decommissioning of Lake Mokoan in 2008 – one of the biggest wetland restoration projects in the nation’s history. The trend otherwise suggests we will fall well below the 2030 target without increased investment in restoring large areas in the Catchment and reduced clearing rates. The amount of revegetation possible is currently restricted by funding and not by the communities’ or individual landholders’ desire to revegetate.

The inability to measure gains and losses with certainty, especially with poor recording of actual loss through permitted clearing and exemptions under the permitted clearing process, remains a major impediment to tracking progress effectively.

### Progress towards native vegetation extent target<sup>i</sup>, increase in area, hectares



- i. Resource condition target (revised 2009): Increase the extent of native vegetation in fragmented landscapes by 70,000 hectares by 2030 to restore threatened Ecological Vegetation Classes and to improve landscape connectivity. Note that native vegetation extent is just one indicator of biodiversity. Other indicators such as native vegetation quality are more difficult to measure and it is probable that the trend may not be as positive as it is for native vegetation extent.
- ii. Based on assumptions of gains in vegetation [such as revegetation and natural regeneration] and losses of vegetation [such as legal and illegal clearing]. Vegetation burnt by major fires in natural areas is not included as a loss of extent, as it is assumed the area burnt will regenerate by 2030. However, direct vegetation removal associated with fires, such as removal of ‘high risk’ trees on roadsides and private land or death of scattered paddock trees from fire, is assumed as a loss in the net outcome in the year of the fire [for example, the 2009 Black Saturday fires, the 2014 Wunghnu fires and the 2015 Lake Rowan, Stewarton, and Strathbogies fires], and includes an ongoing loss due to fire suppression activities. Detailed explanation of these assumptions can be found in the Goulburn Broken CMA’s Biodiversity Monitoring Action Plan upon request.

## Strategy task implementation

The Biodiversity Strategy's initiatives and actions, which are aligned with Commonwealth and State strategies and priorities, enable progress towards targets. The condition of aquatic (including wetland) biodiversity is described in 'Investment area 2 River and Wetland Health (page 39).

The final review of the Biodiversity Strategy (2010-2015) shows strong progress in implementing strategic initiatives and actions: of the 64 actions identified in the strategy most are either completed or ongoing.

Progress towards the Biodiversity Strategy's five strategic directions is summarised below. Many achievements are described in detail elsewhere including in this annual report, reflecting the emphasis on integrating biodiversity into complementary programs.

Through its Biodiversity Strategy, the Goulburn Broken CMA has demonstrated to investors the links between project proposals and catchment-scale strategies in both biodiversity-focused and multiple-themed projects, providing a significant edge for the Goulburn Broken CMA. The Biodiversity Strategy has been instrumental in the Goulburn Broken CMA receiving funds, such as \$6 million from the Australian Government's Biodiversity Fund and \$8 million from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, which includes three 6-year projects that are supporting community aspirations for significant on-ground work. Landowner agreements to undertake works that benefit biodiversity have exceeded expectations.

### Adapting to change

Natural resource management policy and socio-economic drivers are changing rapidly, providing significant threats and opportunities for biodiversity conservation. The Land and Biodiversity Program's response has included:

- continuing to be at the forefront of strategic planning, including adopting resilience theory
- being flexible about delivery of projects, building resilience into operations by diversification of funding opportunities, and partnering and fostering research with universities
- proactively responding to changing government funding to ensure sound investments that match catchment, state and national priorities
- supporting and influencing the development and implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- seizing funding opportunities for climate change planning (changes in government policy and the immaturity of the carbon market have made it difficult to progress mitigation and adaptation activities like biodiverse carbon farming, however through the NRM Planning for Climate Change project we have more data to inform decisions regarding where to promote or avoid certain activities)
- providing tailored support to a changing social landscape through a variety of community engagement approaches

- adapting to changes in delivery partners and the distribution of funds direct from government to individual and community groups such as through Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Communities for Nature and the Australian Government
- increasing the use of labour support via programs such as Drought Employment, Flood Recovery, and Fire Recovery, which have been a significant enabler for works in the Catchment (particular along waterways), and employing indigenous works crews to carry out works on country.

### Nurturing partnerships:

Key partnership achievements have included:

- building on existing partnerships, particularly with indigenous groups and landholders to achieve strategic outcomes, and forming new partnerships to adapt to the restructuring of traditional delivery organisations
- facilitating the Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum, now in its fifth year, to ensure catchment-wide communication, coordination and action
- continuing cross-border partnerships, including with NSW Murray Local Land Services, Yorta Yorta Nation and North East CMA and North Central CMA.

### Investing more wisely

- Priorities from the Biodiversity Strategy have been translated into landscape planning and implementation, aided by regular reviews of Strategy progress. Targeting of priority and focus landscapes will be aided through local plan development and implementation.
- The number of agreements with landholders and area covered has exceeded the expectations of the Biodiversity Strategy. A spatial review of works undertaken during the life of the Strategy suggests continued targeting is required to align with priority zones.
- Guidelines for the delivery of incentives have been updated to achieve an improved, standardised approach, especially with the increased diversity of groups delivering incentives on behalf of the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- New research is helping to further develop a long-term monitoring approach to measuring biodiversity outcomes.
- Investment in biodiversity conservation in the Catchment has generally taken an ecosystem rather than single species approach. (The Victorian Government now invests directly in threatened species monitoring and management).

## Building on our ecological infrastructure

- Incentives for native vegetation management have focused on improving landscape connectivity and function, and climate change adaptation.
- Seedbank and seed production projects ensure seed supply for future landscape-scale revegetation projects.
- Three long-term Australian Government-funded projects continue: Biodiverse Carbon Landscapes, Seed Supply for Revegetation and Sand Ridge Woodlands.
- Australian Government funding through the National Landcare Programme continues to help protect and enhance Nationally Significant Ecosystems and species.
- Prioritisation and environmental watering of wetlands has had a positive impact on the health of aquatic ecosystems.

## Legitimising biodiversity conservation

- The integration of biodiversity conservation and agricultural production has been promoted through providing opportunities for landholders to act as stewards of the land and by other coordinated community education. Ongoing efforts are required to promote synergies between biodiversity conservation and land management at the farm scale.
- Conservation Management Networks have grown and are recognised as playing a valuable role in promoting the importance of biodiversity conservation, particularly across land tenures.
- Coordinated efforts to raise awareness of key biodiversity values and assets, such as scattered trees, and threats, such as 'cleaning up' fallen timber and leaf litter have been initiated by groups like the Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum.
- Involvement in a range of research projects that aim to provide stakeholders with science-based evidence of the importance of biodiversity in the Catchment, region, and personal health and wellbeing continues. A number of projects have continued to improve our understanding of practice change.
- Ongoing changes to native vegetation clearing regulations pose challenges in strengthening community support for biodiversity conservation.
- Continued support to the Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group has provided opportunities to collaborate and improve the development and application of appropriate planning tools for native vegetation protection.

## 2014-15 performance

Implementation of the Goulburn Broken CMA's Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015 is in its final stage and continues to be delivered through a range of projects and stakeholders.

The 2014-15 contribution towards the five Strategic Directions in the Biodiversity Strategy is summarised below.

### Biodiversity strategic direction 1: Adapting to change

Incentive guidelines were updated to ensure a consistent approach to the delivery of incentives under the Land and Biodiversity Program.

Relevant actions from the Biodiversity Strategy and background knowledge were incorporated in the first draft of Regional Catchment Strategy Social-Ecological Systems (SES) local plans.

The NRM Planning for Climate Change Project developed a Spatial Assessment Tool to assess climate change vulnerability and help inform priorities for adaptation and mitigation.

### Biodiversity strategic direction 2: Nurturing partnerships

Partnerships continue to be key in achieving the vision of the Biodiversity Strategy. The Goulburn Broken CMA continued to engage natural resource management groups and networks, community groups and Traditional Owners in a variety of innovative ways.

The program continues to support the Network Chairs Forum (Landcare and Conservation Management Networks) that meets quarterly with the Chief Executive Officer and senior staff to influence policy and works and discuss local issues.

Goulburn Broken CMA staff helped natural resource management groups and networks secure \$528,892 to deliver over 24 projects and coordinated the Initiative Training Program, which saw 163 staff and community members attend training on facilitating discussions and planning, skills for peer learning and developing local groups.

The Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum is facilitating critical partnerships and coordination (planning and implementation) across the Catchment, particularly as funding sources and opportunities have become more dispersed. Collaborative projects and networks are a major benefit of the Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum.

Integration between Goulburn Broken CMA programs is demonstrated by ongoing wetland incentive projects, in particular for Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands, a Nationally Significant Ecosystem.

### Local government partnerships:

The Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, convened by Moira Shire Council and funded by the Australian Government, celebrated its eighth anniversary in August 2014. The Group involves eight local councils, government departments and regional authorities (Vic Roads, Goulburn-Murray Water, Goulburn Broken CMA) and is pivotal in building the capacity of local government to play an active role in natural resource management by developing skills, knowledge and most importantly, strong and collaborative partnerships. A key focus of the Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group has been identifying issues and risks and then improving awareness, responses, practices and other activities related to appropriate management, such as management of native vegetation and pest plants and animals. A scoping study of native vegetation offset management for permitted native vegetation removal determined the opportunity for a more consistent and effective process across the catchment and is planned to progress to feasibility stage in late 2015.

### Indigenous partnerships:

Indigenous partnerships continued to grow, achieving both targeted biodiversity outcomes capacity building for Traditional Owners through engagement, training and employment opportunities in natural resource management. The Australian Government funded Sand Ridge Woodlands project continues to foster a working partnership between Murray Local Land Services, NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, Parks Victoria, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Goulburn Broken CMA. The project focuses on these culturally significant landscapes within the Yorta Yorta traditional boundary area, using Traditional Owner works crews to deliver projects. All sites are surveyed for cultural heritage prior to works. This project is entering its fourth year and continues until 2017.

The Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation are also engaged in a long-term project in Alpine Perched-bogs (a Nationally Significant Ecosystem) management across high country areas of the Goulburn Broken Catchment. This project involves enhancing the ecological character of these unique wetland systems via a Taungurung Works crew that partners with Parks Victoria to identify and manage pest plants, in particular blackberry. In addition, the project continues to build a cultural map for Taungurung by the effective recording of cultural sites and collation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge while working on Country. In the spirit of building the capacity of Traditional Owners across the Catchment, a Goulburn Broken Indigenous Consultation Group has been formed, including representatives from both Yorta Yorta Nation and Taungurung Clans and a suite of education and training entities. Supported by funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, this group comes together bi-annually to discuss and activate opportunities for indigenous people to engage in mainstream natural resource management.

### Conservation management networks (CMNs):

The success of our five conservation management networks is increasing and community engagement in biodiversity conservation continues to grow. Conservation Management Networks supported by the Victorian Government, increase the breadth of partnerships, including: community groups such as Heathcote Community House, Heathcote Farmers Market Committee, Friends of Winton Wetlands Glenrowan-

Warby Lions Club, Yarrawonga and Shepparton Men's Sheds, Heathcote Golf Club, Glenrowan, and Winton; non-government organisations such as Birdlife Australia; Industry; Mandalay Resources; schools and universities such as Heathcote and Currawa Primary Schools, Benalla P-12 College, and Shepparton U3A. The breadth of community education and engagement is increasing. Attendance at conservation management network field days and workshops is often between 50 and 100 people, often with up to 30 who have not previously attended a field day.

### Supporting individual landholders:

Numerous property visits were made under the range of biodiversity programs, offering landholder extension and incentives. The importance of ongoing support to landholders receiving incentives is well recognised. Some properties where landholders have previously entered into five and ten-year management agreements were revisited. However, limited resources are a barrier to undertaking routine revisits to ensure compliance and discuss how a site is improving.

### Biodiversity strategic direction 3: Investing more wisely

Continuous improvement and adaptive management underpin the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy. Project planning is guided by recommendations arising from periodic strategy reviews. Synergies are identified between the Biodiversity Strategy, government funding priorities and the formal 'Expressions of Interest' process, which identifies project priorities of community and other partners.

A mix of incentive projects were run, aided by the project management role of the Goulburn Broken CMA.

The Biodiversity Monitoring Action Plan continued to guide research priorities and help us understand progress towards catchment targets. A review of this plan is informing new directions for the next Biodiversity Strategy.

Landscape-scale planning has been undertaken across some priority zones of the Catchment. For example, in the Agricultural Floodplains SES, there are areas important for intensive production, however, some areas have valuable, clustered remnant vegetation. These areas have been identified with the assistance of community members and from there we can prioritise works to achieve a collective vision for each priority landscape. Priority landscapes and sites across the six SESs will be considered in the development of local plans.

Developing a long-term monitoring approach to measure biodiversity outcomes from investment has been a focus during 2014-15. A proposal has been developed to build on current research, encouraging collaboration between CMAs and research partners to develop a long-term biodiversity monitoring strategy that can be used across catchments.

### Ecological monitoring:

Land and Biodiversity continue to support several research and monitoring projects:

1. 'Long-term monitoring of fauna responses to management actions, including birds and reptiles' (Australian National University). This multi-regional and interstate research project found that increasing habitat through revegetation is important for a range of species.

2. 'How much revegetation is enough' (Deakin University). This benchmarked studies of birds in landscapes in the Riverina Plains, finding 167 species, but many of those were only detected once, suggesting some species are just holding on in the region.

3. 'Wetlandia' research site: various monitoring techniques are determining the spatial and temporal distribution of birds, reptiles and invertebrates in response to revegetation of this 150 hectare site.

4. 'Efficacy of Direct Seeding' (Melbourne University and various community groups) to determine the variables that affect the success of direct seeding.

5. 'Monitoring change in Seasonal Herbaceous wetlands under different management regimes' (Rakali Consulting). Benchmark studies have been completed.

6. 'Key habitat variables that affect bird species distribution at the landscape scale' (Latrobe University). Significant variables included: diversity of plant communities, distance to large patches and understorey, with noisy miner presence the greatest influence.

7. 'How does the variation in farming landscapes affect bird, bat and bee species and distribution' (Deakin University).

#### Seed viability/provenance:

CSIRO, in partnership with Goulburn Broken CMA and the Goulburn Broken Indigenous Seedbank, is undertaking genetic studies of native seed stock for improved genetic diversity of seeds used in revegetation projects across the Catchment. The project is funded through the Australian Government.

#### Assessing tree cover at Bush Returns sites:

Landholder photo point data was analysed as a way of measuring tree cover change at a select number of Bush Returns sites. Results showed there is too much variability in photos to detect change, but it is important in facilitating landholder engagement with their funded site. Ecological assessments were undertaken at the same sites, which are nearing 10 years under agreement to assess factors supporting or hindering regeneration. Next, aerial imagery will be used to quantify changes in native vegetation cover over time.

#### Biodiversity strategic direction 4: Building on our ecological infrastructure

Improving landscape connectivity, function and climate change adaptation is largely dependent on the resources that come into the Catchment to achieve large-scale onground change. The Land and Biodiversity Program received various funding grants: \$4,136,500 through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and \$2,194,880 for a further three Australian Government environment projects: Biodiverse Carbon Landscapes, Seed for Revegetation and Sand Ridge Woodlands.

#### Australian Government's National Landcare Programme (Regional Stream) (2014-2018) for 2014-15:

Building Traditional Owner Capacity and Participation \$337,766, outputs achieved: Goulburn Broken Indigenous Participation Group formed and active, Taungurung Whole of Country NRM plan at draft stage and due for approval, 85 indigenous people attended field events.

Building NRM Community, Skills, Knowledge and Engagement \$175,030, outputs achieved: 50 indigenous people attended training, 5 attended field events, with 27 community groups supported.

Improving the resilience of woodland and wetland ecosystems in the Goulburn Broken \$1,178,315. Outputs achieved: 242 hectares of wetlands and woodlands secured under 10-year management agreements, 23 landholders were engaged in the project this year (not all were eligible or proceeded with incentives).

Building the resilience of EPBC threatened species in the Goulburn Broken Catchment \$466,666. Outputs achieved: 59.5 hectares of remnant woodlands were protected, 40 hectares of weeds and pest animals were controlled, 15 community groups were supported and 39 hectares revegetated.

Community Directed Action Learning to Enhance Soil Ecosystem Services \$990,305. Outputs achieved: 284 hectares of agricultural practice change, 100 farmers attending soil biology workshops at Benalla and Glenburn, 60 farmers attending soil workshop in Mansfield.

Regional Landcare Facilitator Goulburn Broken \$150,000. Outputs achieved: 40 hectares of agricultural practice change, 145 participants at training events and 292 participants at workshop events.

#### Australian Government Biodiversity Fund projects (2012-17) outputs for 2014-15:

Biodiverse Carbon Landscapes. Outputs achieved: 222 hectares of revegetation, 261 hectares of remnant protection under 10-year management agreements across 28 farms and 44 sites.

Providing indigenous seed for revegetation in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. Outputs achieved: 15.91 ha revegetation, 1.6 km fencing, 10,559 plants planted.

Sand Ridge Woodlands from two Australian Government funding sources: Biodiversity Fund and 20 Million Trees Project. Outputs achieved: 209 hectares of revegetation (178 hectares in NSW) 213 hectares remnant protection (208 hectares in NSW); 409 hectares of pest plant and animal control (375 hectares in NSW), 109 kilograms of native seed sown (104 kilograms in NSW) and, 3,920 plants revegetated (200 plants in NSW). Note: as a multi-regional, cross-border project outputs include those achieved through NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Murray Local Land Services in NSW.

#### Victorian Environmental Partnerships Program: Northern-EcoConnections Tender

The Land and Biodiversity team worked with North East CMA and North Central CMA in the submission and delivery of a tender based incentives project, in high priority NaturePrint areas across the three CMAs. Of the EOLs received, 50 were in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. 27 successful landholders, over 23 sites with 385 ha were achieved with \$561,692 paid in incentives. Follow-up site visits and monitoring has occurred.

#### Community Group projects outputs for 2014-15:

Funding sources were Australian Government Building NRM Community, Skills, Knowledge and Engagement.

Victorian Landcare grants \$240,000. 18 projects that covered weed control, education.



Communities for Nature (State Funded): 19 projects were successful in the Goulburn Broken Catchment for \$402,435  
Community Grants (Federal Funding): 4 projects for \$74,527 were successful in receiving funding. This included: Broken Boosey CMN: Practical Parrot Action \$150,000; and 'bed and breakfast for the birds' \$50,000. Whroo Goldfields CMN, Yellow Gums and Goldfields, \$150,000 and Linking the landscape' project \$50,000.

National Landcare Programme: The Superb Parrot Project, \$30,000 achieved 15 hectares of revegetation. The Regent Honeyeater Project \$200,000 achieved 50.5 hectares

Indigenous works crews: Woka Walla, Yorta Yorta Nation and Taungurung Clan delivered fencing, weed control, revegetation works and native seed collection (Australian Government).

Community groups helped to deliver a range of incentives and community engagement projects on behalf of the CMA. These were: Longwood Plains CMN, Strathbogrie Ranges CMN, Up2Us Landcare Network (LN), Euroa Arboretum, South West Goulburn LN, Upper Goulburn LN, Lower Goulburn LN, Lower Goulburn CMN and Warrenbayne Boho Landcare Group.

## Biodiversity strategic direction 5: Legitimising biodiversity conservation

Significant effort continues to build biodiversity understanding and awareness across the Catchment. This includes: regular workshops and presentations on biodiversity; development of education and awareness pamphlets on biodiversity topics; and the regular attendance of staff at the Wilmot Primary School after school program. Members of the Land and Biodiversity Implementation Forum participated in a coordinated effort to raise awareness of the importance of scattered trees and fallen timber. While more landholders may be viewing biodiversity conservation as a legitimate land use and integral part of land management, financial, technical and other support, for them to actively manage biodiversity needs to be available with support from both investors and the broader community.

More formal training continues to occur through the annual Box-Ironbark and Floodplain Ecology Courses. 45 people attended including 4 indigenous people.

## Actions 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved <sup>i</sup>			Target	% achieved
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15		
<b>Stock grazing management action</b>						
Fence terrestrial remnant vegetation	ha	1,783	1,004	385	189	204
Fence wetland remnant	ha	73	128	168	87	193
Fence stream/river remnant <sup>ii</sup>	ha	126	87	141	0	-
Binding management agreement (licence, Section 173, covenant)	ha	329	0	112	45	249
Grazing regime change	ha	0	0	0	0	
<b>Habitat loss management</b>						
Revegetation – plant natives	ha	2,957	1,211	549	756	73

i. Achievements include those from complementary investment areas (SIR salinity, Riparian and instream habitat and channel form and Dryland salinity). For a full list of footnotes see Appendix 2 on page 127.

ii. Area figure supplied by River Health Implementation Manager

## What's next?

- The Biodiversity Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2010-2015 will be updated in 2015-16. The update will take into account recommendations from the final review of the current Biodiversity Strategy, directions being developed under the Victorian Biodiversity Strategy (currently under development) and local plan development (also underway for each SES in the Goulburn Broken Catchment).
- Ensuring key principles and actions for biodiversity planning, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and implementation are incorporated in reviews of local plans.
- Increased explicit application of resilience-thinking, including testing the alignment of existing objectives/targets and considering the application of thresholds at the SES-scale.
- Making use of new planning tools such as the Spatial Assessment Tool developed under the Goulburn Broken CMA's NRM Planning for Climate Change project.
- Reinvigorate the use of (and update) 'Biodiversity Action Planning' resources to inform local planning and implementation.
- Significant funding and improved targeting of incentives to landholders to improve the connectivity and viability of landscapes, through a combination of remnant protection, enhancement and revegetation.
- Legitimising biodiversity conservation will continue through ongoing community engagement and support to landholders to manage their natural resources.

- Specific, targeted, well-planned education campaigns to address biodiversity conservation issues delivered through Conservation Management Networks and other community groups.
- Conservation Management Networks, Landcare networks and other conservation groups such as Friends groups will continue to strengthen in the region and play a major role in delivering effective partnerships and onground works across private and public land.
- Review the Biodiversity Monitoring Action Plan.
- Continue to promote a collaborative approach to measuring biodiversity outcomes through effective partnerships with other Goulburn Broken CMA programs, investors, researchers and other CMAs.
- Investigate the potential of recent technologies in better determining gains and losses in native vegetation such as via Landsat Imagery and NDVI.
- Continue to implement the monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities and build the skills of staff to undertake evaluation as part of a continuous improvement process.
- Continue to promote systems-based approaches to land management to achieve whole-of-farm and catchment outcomes for both biodiversity and agricultural productivity.
- Continue to build indigenous skills, knowledge and capacity to deliver works, contribute to natural resource management planning, traditional ecological knowledge and undertake indigenous projects on country.
- Continue exploring the Goulburn Broken CMA's increased involvement in facilitating improved native vegetation retention outcomes in the Catchment, such as through the reinstatement of regional guidelines and trialling a regional offsets scheme.

## Case Study - Land and Biodiversity

### Yorta Yorta Youth Journey a huge success

Yorta Yorta elders joined 25 young Aboriginal people in the four day Yorta Yorta Youth Journey late October, camping on Country through northern Victoria and southern New South Wales.

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and the Goulburn Broken CMA have hosted the Yorta Yorta Youth Journey for four years now.

Goulburn Broken CMA Indigenous Facilitator Neville Atkinson, who was one of the guides on the journey, said the program was the perfect way to pass on traditional knowledge and demonstrate customs and laws to younger generations.

"Yorta Yorta elders Uncle Colin Walker, Denise Morgan-Bulled, Aunty Ella Anselmi and Merle Miller passed on traditional knowledge and culture and also guided the young Aboriginal people along the way," Mr Atkinson said. "This is a traditional process, a rite of passage for Aboriginal children to move from childhood into adulthood, learning of their responsibilities to their people and Country."

"This year's Yorta Yorta Youth Journey involved young Aboriginal people from Euroa, Wangaratta, Shepparton and Echuca/Moama, and Co-ordinator Khiara Harrison noticed a

change in the participants over the duration of the camp; they learned respect for each other, the land, the environment and their elders."

Mr Atkinson said Cultural Heritage Officer Wade Morgan, from the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, demonstrated how a coolamon (an Aboriginal curved dish) was taken from a river red gum, and Narjic Day Burns and Sissy Cooper from Aboriginal Dreamtime and Stories camped with the group and conducted cultural song and dance activities after dinner at night.

"Aboriginal heritage and research officers held group workshops and talks on language, dance song and weaving." He said. "On the last night of the journey the young people learnt a Yorta Yorta traditional ceremony from the Yorta Yorta elders."

"It really was a memorable experience for the participants as they hiked and canoed across Country and engaged with Yorta Yorta Elders and Indigenous Parks Vic Rangers along the way." Mr Atkinson said.

The Yorta Yorta Youth Journey was funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and Parks Victoria.





## Investment area - 3b Land health (including dryland salinity)

### Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Complied by: Rhiannon Apted, Karen Brisbane, with the assistance of Brad Costin and Kylie Macreadie

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Catchment condition <sup>iv</sup>	Watertable salinity and depths Salt disposed to Murray River Salinity of environmental features Management systems	Poor	Very low	Satisfactory	Low	●
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs (scheduled between 1990 and 2015)	n.a.	n.a.	Below Target	Medium	↓ <sup>iii</sup>
2014-15 performance	Outputs (against targets as a result of funds received)	n.a.	n.a.	On Target	High	n.a.

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. The rating of Catchment condition in 1990 was determined using our understanding in 2015 of the situation in 1990.

iii. Assumed to parallel government funding trend, which includes funding from investment areas 2a and 2b.

iv. The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

### Catchment condition

The main emphasis on improving soil health is the protection or enhancement of the soil capital for the restoration or preservation of services from soil, such as carbon storage, soil biodiversity and water-holding capacity of soils. These services underpin sustainable land use, fundamental ecological processes and the productive capacity of soils. The protection of other terrestrial and aquatic assets by reducing the impact of soil acidity, water erosion and soil salinity is also a priority. Remedying soil erosion and soil acidity is important because they undermine the resilience of our soil systems.

Whilst unquantified catchment wide, soil structural decline, lack of perennial ground cover and incompatible farming and civil infrastructure create and/or exacerbate soil erosion on farms, affecting productivity and leading to offsite impacts. Saline discharge is also contributing to soil erosion. Improvement in catchment condition through changed farming practices (soil condition and vegetation cover) will help prevent new instances of soil erosion. Despite this, existing erosion issues continue to proceed until processes at the site reach equilibrium or are intercepted and remediated. Rate of soil erosion in the catchment is largely influenced by seasonal conditions. With average to low rainfall for 2014-15, incidents of erosion have generally remained steady.

Decreasing public investment in on-ground soil conservation works has focused activity on developing and testing new techniques to arrest and repair erosion activity. Engagement with farmers has been good, and whilst arresting erosion is a priority for most landholders, it needs to be prioritised against more immediate farm running costs; hence erosion remains a problem in the Catchment.

Gully, tunnel and sheet erosion are still a feature throughout the Productive Plains, Upland Slopes, Commuting Hills, and perhaps to lesser extent the Southern Forests. Biodiversity plantings have had multiple benefits where landholders have fenced off and revegetated erosion gullies or steep slopes for soil protection and vegetation connectivity across their farms. Whilst the local benefits of these works are clear, for the most part landholders can only undertake works with grant support.

Challenges for the Catchment include facilitating and encouraging landholders to adopt practice change that remediates soil erosion processes and ensuring new farming practices and public and private infrastructure consider impacts on soil erosion.

Saline discharge sites remain present and active, with the majority of sites able to be managed to confine impact to the local site or farm. Current bore data is yet to be collated and analysed in the Goulburn Broken dryland region. It remains an expectation that saline discharge will emerge as a more obvious problem in wet years.

The Beyond SoilCare project, funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, set targets for soil health on agricultural land within the Catchment. Data on soil condition, including soil acidity and soil organic carbon together with landholder measures of ground cover have been used to determine a benchmark for agricultural soils around the Catchment.

From this data, soil acidity remains high in the Catchment and management remains a significant issue for farmers. In 2014-15 the Beyond SoilCare project interviewed 30 farmers from across the Catchment. Most respondents noted that soil acidity was an issue for them, affecting soil health, structure and fertility and impacting on crop and pasture productivity. Based on feedback, activity to address soil acidity will focus on the economics of lime, calculating requirements and lime trials.

Ground cover estimates were largely reported as greater than 70 per cent covered, unless land was cultivated/in fallow, where it was as low as 0 per cent, expectedly. These estimates represent a point in time and vary significantly according to season and land use. The Agricultural Floodplains and Productive Plains average ground cover estimates were 50 per cent and 87 per cent, respectively, while Upland Slopes farmers estimated cover to be over 92 per cent, on average. No estimates were recorded for Commuting Hills.

## Long-term strategy implementation

The Goulburn Broken CMA continues to work closely with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources for strategic implementation of land health outcomes.

The Land Health Statement (LHS) prepared in 2013-14 outlines the direction for the Land Health Program and its activities in the Goulburn Broken Catchment as described in the Regional Catchment Strategy.

In 2014-15, the main outcome sought by investors in the Land Health Program was farmers adopting practices that adapt to climate change and improve the quality of the natural resource base through the delivery of ecosystem services to sustain long-term environmental, economic and social benefits for both themselves and the broader community. The change in investment from on-ground incentives, such as land class fencing, to extension, engagement and farmer-led trials continued in 2014-15.

On ground this has been achieved through a series of mechanisms that allow farmers to direct their own program of learning supported by experts and peers. Activities include small discussion groups, field days, forums, workshops, farm tours, demonstration sites and devolved grants to Landcare and producer groups. Through these activities the program aligns the interests of farmers with investor priorities and strategic outcomes required through the Regional Catchment Strategy.

### Soil Health Action Plan 2006

A partnership with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, supported by the Victorian Government-funded Land Health Program and funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, Sustainable Farming Practices and Beyond SoilCare projects, continues to see actions of the Soil Health Action Plan delivered.

Progress against the seven Soil Health Action Plan programs includes:

**Program 1 - Coordination:** Development of project agreements with community groups, community input into activity development, participation in the Soils Community of Practice group, reestablishment of the Goulburn Broken Land Health Forum. (LHS Action 2 & 3).

**Program 2 - Community Engagement:** In 2014-15 fourteen community projects were funded through the Beyond SoilCare Project to the value of \$131,330. Regular meetings with the Landcare Facilitator and Coordinators group and the Regional Landcare Facilitator Steering Committee were held. Over 600 people attended more than 20 Beyond SoilCare events. New SoilCare groups were established in Glenaroua and Strathbogie. Beyond SoilCare-funded community projects resulted in nine workshops and five bus/farm tours, with a total of 278 participants, and the establishment of three farmer-led demonstration trials. (LHS Action 1 & 3).

**Program 3 - Improved Management Practice:** promotion of land management to land class and grazing management for soil health, support of 14 farmer-led demonstration trials in practices including alternative fertilisers, subsoil manuring, planned grazing, cover-cropping and stubble management. Delivery of fertiliser budgeting, grazing management, soil testing, soil test interpretation, visual soil assessment, organic amendment and alternative fertiliser training. (LHS Action 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5).

**Program 4 - Whole Farm Planning for Soil Health:** remains a priority for Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and has expanded to become more issues-focused to more closely meet the needs of participants. (LHS Action 1 & 3).

**Program 5: Working with local government:** currently unfunded.

**Program 6 - Monitoring and Evaluation:** In 2014-15 the Beyond SoilCare project interviewed 30 participants from across the Catchment to determine baseline management and soil health issues information against which the project will evaluate practice change over time. Soil acidity, soil organic carbon and ground cover data have been used to determine a baseline benchmark condition for agricultural soils in the Catchment. These will be reviewed as thresholds are developed through the Regional Catchment Strategy and indicators and measures of Land Catchment Condition are developed by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in response to the VAGO report on the effectiveness of CMAs. (LHS Action 3 & 4).

**Program 7 - Research and Development:** participation in Soils Community of Practice Forum, Dryland Managers Forum, support to 14 on-farm demonstration trials. (LHS Action 2, 3 & 4).

### Goulburn Broken Dryland Salinity Management Plan

The adjusted target, developed in 2000 and 2002, is 'to maintain increases to salinity levels of the River Murray at Morgan (in South Australia) from the Goulburn Broken Dryland at or below 1.3 electrical conductivity (equates to 67,000 tonnes per year from the Dryland by 2050).

A submission was put to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to reduce the legacy of historic impacts of dryland salinity and better reflect the hydrological processes in the Catchment. This is part of the regular review of the salinity management plans in Victoria as part of the obligation under the federal *Water Act 2007*.

### Land Health Statement 2014-18

**LHS Action 1 Promote resilient farming systems and encourage sustainable land use change:** In the pastoral areas of the Catchment the main area of farmer interest remains in adapting grazing management strategies to increase ground cover, perennial grasses and species diversity to promote resilience of pastures to variable seasonal conditions whilst producing quality livestock. This includes a strong focus on soil health through improved soil structure for water infiltration and water holding capacity, carbon sequestration for improved nutrient cycling and reducing the risk of soil erosion. Activities have focused on small discussion groups, grazing management training, farm tours, soil test interpretation and trials of alternative fertilisers and acid-tolerant pasture species. Small and cottage industry farmers are focusing their attention on sustainable farming practices and networking, including trialling small farm crops and visiting successful farm businesses. Dairy and cropping farmers are focused on improving soil structure and managing soil fertility for optimum return, including reducing wastage to the environment with activities including soil test interpretation, soil assessment, composting, stubble management, subsoil manuring and cover cropping trials.

**Action 2 Develop partnerships with industry:** The main industries have been the beef, wool, horticulture and dairy industries through the delivery of projects, workshops and on-farm discussions. Activities include support for a multi-investor subsoil manuring project, led by the Seymour Wool Marketing Group; a farm tour of NSW in partnership with Bestwool Bestlamb; grazing, nutrient management and beef nutrition workshops with the Department of Economic Development Jobs, Transport and Resources Meat and Wool and Land Health teams; 'Inspiring small farms to grow big ideas', an Up2Us Landcare Network project working with cottage farmers to develop successful local businesses; and, 'Water security for grazing enterprise' a significant project coordinated by the Gecko CLaN responding to the issue of water management under changed grazing regimes and seasonal rainfall and runoff variability.

**Action 3 Promote community initiated project development and delivery:** The main activities, supported by the Goulburn Broken CMA from Australian Government National Landcare Programme and Victorian State Government funding, have been the support of 14 on-farm demonstration trials, and 12 devolved grants to Landcare, producer and community groups. The Goulburn Broken Land Health Forum, Regional Landcare Facilitator Steering Committee and Landcare Facilitators and Coordinators group have provided significant avenues for planning and supporting community-initiated and led projects.

**Action 4 Promote adaptive management:** Part of the premise of this action is to recognise the primacy of self-interest married to a natural proclivity for land managers to look after their land. To this end, we have focused on activities that meet landholder needs, within the scope of the investment profile, and as outlined above in Action 1. Participant surveys continue to identify farmer needs and interests and provide evidence that landholders do make changes as a result of participating in program activities.

**Action 5 Support climate change adaptation and mitigation:** the Climate Change Planning Strategy due for release in early 2016 provides a climate change vulnerability assessment across the Goulburn Broken Catchment including assessments of land based assets, it also identifies priority areas for climate change adaptation and management actions to be considered in the Local Plans, Sub-strategies and the Land Health program. Graziers continue to respond to variable seasonal conditions through the development of grazing plans and feed budgets that allow them to plan ahead to maintain ground cover. This is a dynamic and adaptive process that requires many options for success, including potential changes to the enterprise. This requires careful planning and time to ensure financial sustainability of the business.

## 2014-15 performance

### Community engagement

In 2014-15, the Land Health Program worked with community and partners to deliver workshops, farm tours and field days that met community needs through the Beyond SoilCare project, which continues to focus on building improved ecosystem services from soil. The project is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and supported by the Victorian Government through the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. The project works with community groups to

address the issues of soil acidification, soil organic carbon, soil structural decline and ground cover management. Working with 30 Landcare and producer groups and four schools, it delivered education around soil sampling and soil test interpretation, fertiliser and lime management, and sustainable farm practices. The main topics were in the areas of visual soil assessment, soil capability, fertiliser management and budgeting, ground cover and grazing management, alternative fertilisers and soil amendments, stubble management and financial planning. The project also worked with the Yorta Yorta, Taungurung and Dja Dja Warrung Traditional Owner groups to develop and run two workshops around soils, geology and links with Dreamtime Stories.

In 2014-15 the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme funded Beyond SoilCare project delivered:

- 15 SoilCare discussion group meetings (4 groups, 38 members. Beyond SoilCare discussion group members remain the same meeting-in meeting-out.)
- 2 forums, 260 participants
- 8 workshops/field days, 154 participants
- 5 farm tours, 70 participants
- 2 Traditional Owner workshops, 50 participants
- 1 school field day, 25 participants

Community groups funded through Beyond SoilCare delivered:

- 9 workshops, 110 participants
- 1 landscape tour, 45 participants
- 1 farm tour, 12 participants
- 3 school tours of farms, 112 participants

The high level of participation reflects ongoing community interest in improved management of soils and opportunities to improve Catchment condition and farm profitability by improving the health and stability of soils.

### Planning and responding

Activities and achievements included:

- review actions of the Goulburn Broken Land Health Statement 2014-18
- provided a representative for the Statewide Dryland Managers Forum
- organising committee for the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc (ASSSI) National Soil Conference
- review and update of Goulburn Broken Soil Health Action Plan (2006)
- reestablishment of the Goulburn Broken Land Health Forum, a forum attended by Goulburn Broken CMA, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Landcare and producer group representatives
- preparation of the Beyond SoilCare Evaluation Summary – Community Events Year 1, 2013-14
- preparation of the Beyond SoilCare Qualitative Evaluation Report 2015
- preparation of the Beyond SoilCare Event Evaluation Report Year 2, 2014-15



- preparation of four land class fencing case studies
- preparation of three demonstration site community summaries
- promoted land manager behaviours that best demonstrated development of robust and adaptable systems for managing the impacts of climate change and the program.

## Works and operations

A dry spring and start to autumn again focused farmers on issues of pasture and stock management. Grazing management strategies, animal husbandry and planning business options continued to be topics of most interest. We still have work to do in this area to assist farmers to plan management options for different scenarios to

manage for production and at the same time, land and soil health. Maintaining ground cover is a priority for the majority of farmers in the Catchment with recognition that soil loss reduces the long-term capacity and productivity of their farms and represents erosion of past investment.

The Beyond SoilCare project continues its key partnerships with delivery partners working with highly skilled staff, allowing extension, engagement and practice change adoption targets to be exceeded in 2014-15. Landcare Networks have continued to formalise their working partnership through Beyond SoilCare project funding to support agency agreements to deliver erosion demonstration works and extension. In one instance, this has evolved into a successful funding bid for a significant project to deliver information around water management for livestock farmers in the Catchment.

## Actions 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved <sup>i</sup>			Target	% achieved
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15		
Fence remnant vegetation	ha	1,797	1,115	524	276	190
Irrigation drainage environment plans	no.	0	0	0	0	
New irrigation referrals dryland zone	ha	5	7	0	0	
Improved irrigation dryland zone <sup>ii</sup>	ha	0	16	17	15	113
<b>Sub-surface water action</b>						
Revegetation – plant natives	ha	2,847	1,158	508	734	69
Pasture – plant	ha	0	0	0	0	
Groundwater pumps – public installed (new)	no.	0	0	0	0	
<b>Planning for works action</b>						
Whole farm plans - Level 1 <sup>iii</sup>	no.	106	0	0	0	
Whole farm plans prepared - Level 2 <sup>iii</sup>	no.	16	2	0	0	

i. Achievements include those by complementary investment areas such as Biodiversity. For a full list of footnotes see Appendix 2 on page 127.

ii. An aggregate of properties and irrigated areas receiving intensive extension support for irrigation whole farm planning, system checks, soil moisture monitoring equipment, scheduling and major system changes.

iii. Level 2 is comprehensive and is equivalent to SIR's whole farm plan. Level 1 is a short-course that is a precursor to Level 2.

## What's next?

- Implement findings of the Beyond SoilCare Qualitative Evaluation Report 2015.
- Continue to support community-initiated projects through the Goulburn Broken Land Health Forum, Regional Landcare Facilitator Steering Committee and Landcare Facilitators and Coordinators group.
- Continue to coordinate community education opportunities across agencies and build the 'soil health' community network.
- Maintain investment in Landcare and community groups to deliver soil health and sustainable farming projects.
- Link training packages to promotion of improved management practices and soil test interpretation.
- Work on the identification of improved management practices through Beyond SoilCare.
- Assist Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in the development of indicators for an improved and consistent approach to monitoring and reporting of catchment condition under the 'Land' theme.
- Report on progress towards soil health targets (pH, organic carbon, ground cover) across Goulburn Broken Social-ecological Systems.
- Coordinate peer supported learning opportunities, focused on management solutions and building the soil health community network.
- Showcase and connect farmers implementing improved management practices.
- Continue to build the capacity of community groups and individuals to carry out their own assessments of soil health and management practices in a rigorous and logical way through support of demonstration trials.



## Investment area - 3c Invasive plants and animals

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	Pest Plants				Pest Animals				Overall Trend
		1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	
Catchment Condition <sup>iv</sup>	Impact of pest plants and animals on assets. (Not available at Catchment scale.) Management systems	Poor	High	Poor	High	Poor	Medium	Poor	Medium	●
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs (scheduled to be completed between 2010 and 2015)	n.a.	n.a.	Below target	Very low	n.a.	n.a.	Below target	Low	● <sup>iii</sup>
2014-15 performance	Impact of pest plants and animals on assets. (Not available at Catchment scale.) Management systems	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a.	n.a.	On target	High	n.a.

<sup>i</sup> See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

<sup>ii</sup> Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of the situation in 1990.

<sup>iii</sup> Extremely hard to rate, especially given that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources pest plant and animal activities have been removed from the Goulburn Broken CMA's investment processes.

<sup>iv</sup> The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

### Catchment condition

Invasive plants and animals continue to negatively affect catchment condition. Many species have become naturalised and invade all areas of the Catchment. Few, if any, areas are not affected by pest plants or animals. Foxes, feral dogs and cats kill millions of native animals each year and rabbits cause erosion, compete for resources and make revegetation difficult in some areas. Pest plants out compete native species, reducing diversity.

Terrestrial and aquatic environments remain vulnerable to new and emerging weeds and land managers must remain vigilant to ensure early identification of new infestations.

In the Goulburn Broken, consideration of invasive plants and animals is built in to projects and programs where possible.

### Long-term strategy implementation

The Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy (2010) sets the high-level direction for invasive plants and animals investment in the Catchment and supports the State Invasive Plants and Animals Policy Framework. This document, along with community support, is used to identify priorities for pest management activities in the Catchment.

A key element of the strategy is the 'biosecurity approach', which emphasises the need to manage new or emerging weed species to prevent establishment of new species, as this is considered to be the most cost-effective use of limited resources. All new invasive plants and animals projects have been clearly aligned to program goals identified in the strategy. Prevention and eradication of new incursions remain the highest priorities.

### 2014-15 performance

#### Community engagement

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources invasive pests program continued to support coordinated community action during 2014-15. In consultation with community groups, targeted compliance activities were delivered to support large-scale rabbit and weed control programs, ensuring the participation of all land managers in project areas.

Effective engagement and peer support is the key to program success. Community groups obtained funding via the Victorian Landcare Program and used local connections and communication to encourage a high level of landholder participation in control activities. Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources compliance officers supported the delivery through legislative enforcement.

Priority for compliance activities was given to areas where incentive funding for pest management works was available through local community groups and where groups could demonstrate sustained coordinated effort over a number of years to control priority pests.

To support pest management works undertaken by private landholders, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources Good Neighbour Program again provided funding in 2014-15 to ensure complementary treatment works on public land in targeted compliance areas. Good communication between Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and Goulburn Broken CMA ensured Good Neighbour Program works complemented all pest plants and animal projects, both in and out of targeted compliance areas.



Victorian Landcare Grants have supported three community driven blackberry action groups that coordinate work on properties under agreement. These action groups include: Strath Creek, Merton and Triangle (covers Buxton, Narbethong and Marysville).

### Planning and responding

In 2012, funding for priority pest management works on municipal roadsides was made available to rural municipalities across Victoria. This helped to clarify longstanding confusion over the management of pests on municipal roadsides. During 2013-14, all municipalities in the Goulburn Broken Catchment developed roadside pest management plans, detailing priority roadside pest management works over the next two years. These plans aligned with the Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy (2010) and were approved by the former Department of Environment and Primary Industries to ensure statewide and catchment issues are adequately and consistently addressed. Delivery of these works have varied across the different local government areas. Some have fully engaged the community groups such as Landcare, whereas others have adopted a hands-off approach by engaging contractors to undertake the works.

### Works and operations

The private land public agency partnership for pest plants continued in 2014-15, with community groups accessing \$128,275 from the Victorian Landcare Grants to work in consultation with Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources compliance programs. A coordinated

community effort together with agency compliance action ensured a high level of landholder participation and control of priority weeds such as Gorse, Blackberry and rabbits.

With roadside pest management funding, local government actively participated in all Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources compliance programs during 2014-15, treating roadside pests to complement the excellent results achieved on private land.

The management of all known sites of both State Prohibited Weed and Regionally Prohibited Weed species remained a high priority. During 2014-15 a total of 135 infestations were treated, including all known infestations of the State Prohibited Weeds: Camel Thorn, Horsetail, Knotweed, Mexican Feather Grass and Water Hyacinth and the Regionally Prohibited Weeds: Artichoke Thistle, Serrated Tussock, Cape Tulip, Ragwort and Wild Garlic. Infestation levels at most sites have steadily reduced and assessment of sites for 'eradication' status continued.

Five established weed compliance projects and two established pest animal compliance projects were delivered by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources during 2014-15. These projects involved a total of 369 properties, targeting Serrated Tussock, Gorse, Blackberry and rabbits.

As in previous years, high levels of voluntary compliance were achieved in all projects and despite the large number of landholders involved, only two landholders were prosecuted for failing to comply with a Land Management notice to control rabbits.

### Actions 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15

Action		From funds received through Corporate Plan				
		Achieved <sup>i</sup>		Target	% achieved	
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15		
<b>Weed invasion</b>						
Weeds – aquatic weeds controlled/eradicated	km	77	3	97	0	-
Targeted infestations of weeds in high priority areas covered by control programs <sup>ii</sup>	ha	953	3,853	3,359	1,037	324
DEDJTR Biosecurity Victoria works - Targeted infestations of weeds in high priority areas covered by control programs <sup>iii</sup>	ha	9,315	12,880	10,060	10,060	100
<b>Pest animals</b>						
Area of high priority rabbit infested land that are covered by control programs <sup>ii</sup>	ha	2,749	4,699	1,496	1,242	120
DEDJTR Biosecurity Victoria works - Area of high priority rabbit infested land that are covered by control programs <sup>iii</sup>	ha	10,500	6,175	6,850	6,850	100
Area of high priority fox infested land covered by control programs	ha	27,000	26,502	21,384	21,245	101

i. Achievements include those by complementary investment areas such as Biodiversity. For a full list of footnotes see Appendix 2 on page 127.

ii. This includes 'Weeds - woody weed management'. (Appendix 2)

iii. Works completed by DEDJTR Biosecurity Victoria (outside of the Corporate Plan).

### What's next?

- All State and Regionally Prohibited weed sites will continue to be surveyed and treated where necessary. All properties adjoining known infestations will be inspected.
- The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources will continue to work with community-based natural resource management groups and the Goulburn Broken

CMA to identify priority areas for management of established weeds and rabbits.

- Where groups can demonstrate sustained coordinated effort over a number of years to control priority pests, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources will provide support through the delivery of targeted compliance programs.



## Human resources (including occupational health and safety)

Compiled by: Kate Pendergast, Richard Warburton, Shannon Crawford and Annie Squires

### Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and catchment condition change

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>iii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Organisational condition <sup>ii</sup>	Workforce data Management systems	Satisfactory	Medium	Good	Medium	↑
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs	n.a.		On target	Medium	● <sup>iv</sup>
2014-15 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.		On target	High	n.a.

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. The reference point is taken to be the time just prior to European settlement, when the Catchment is considered to have been in excellent condition.

iii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of what the situation was like in 1990.

iv. Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

### Government investment<sup>i</sup>, \$000

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <sup>ii</sup>	Trend
5,436	5,520	5,466	5,631	●

i. Excludes Board and support committees.

ii. Forecast based on estimated increases of 3.0 per cent cost (wage and super increase) on 2014-15 figures.

### Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken Workforce Strategy 2013-18
- Goulburn Broken CMA Capability Framework 2013
- Goulburn Broken Corporate Plan 2012-13 to 2016-17
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*
- *Public Administration Act 2004* (employment and conduct principles)
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1995*

### Background

The Goulburn Broken CMA fosters a workplace culture where professionalism and expertise is valued and supported by communication and continuous improvement.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's flexible workplace arrangements address the contemporary needs of a broad staff demographic, aiming to create a sustainable, diverse, progressive and professional staff body.

Efficiencies are captured through carefully balancing internal and partner service delivery.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's workforce capability, culture and business acumen positions it well to achieve the Regional Catchment Strategy's vision and implement government policy.

### A healthy and safe organisation

The Goulburn Broken CMA emphasises Occupational Health, Safety with the recent inclusion of well-being across all aspects of the workplace, integrated into all operations and requiring all staff to participate in Occupational Health and Safety management and operations.

### Organisation condition

The incidence of key indicators such as bullying, absenteeism and voluntary turnover continues to be low, reflecting Goulburn Broken CMA staffs' strong sense of community, high levels of job satisfaction, and support for organisational values and strategic objectives. A range of excellent results in the 2014 People Matter Survey reinforces confidence in the organisation condition and workforce engagement.

Workforce data for the current and previous financial years is contained in the table on page 69.

## 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 workforce data

	Goulburn Broken CMA						Comments
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	
<b>Gender and employment type<sup>i</sup></b>							
Male	30	48	28	46	26	43	All positions recruited for in 2014-15 resulted in female appointments.
Female	32	52	33	54	34	57	
Part time	15	24	19	32	21	35	Part time workforce trend supports breadth of skills (some specialist) required across the CMA and the funding mix.
Full time	47	76	42	68	39	65	
Part time male	3	5	4	7	5	8	
Part time female	12	19	15	25	16	27	
Full time male	27	44	24	38	21	35	
Full time female	20	32	18	30	18	30	
<i>Total employees</i>	62	100	61	100	60	100	
Total full time equivalents <sup>i</sup>	56.6		54.5		53.1		2014-15 saw funding stabilise providing certainty around core capability and tenure. Ongoing employment status in comparator organisations for 2013-14 was 65%.
Employment status <sup>i</sup>							
Fixed term	24	29	25	41	19	32	
Ongoing	38	61	36	59	41	68	
<b>Employment category<sup>i</sup> &amp; <sup>ii</sup></b>							
Executive Officers	2	3	2	3	1	2	Retirement of the Business Manager resulted in a reduction in Executive Officers.
Senior Managers	6	10	6	10	7	12	
Admin Officers	43	69	44	72	44	73	
Field staff	11	18	9	15	8	13	
<b>Age profile (years, by tally)<sup>i</sup></b>							
20-24	1	1	1	2	1	2	As compared to 2013-14 the age profile in senior positions decreased to 48 years (previously 52). 30% of the workforce is >50 years which is consistent with comparator organisations, however we report higher numbers of staff in the 40-49 age grouping and lesser numbers below 30 years.
25-29	2	3	3	5	2	3	
30-44	31	45	29	44	25	42	
45-54	26	38	23	35	24	40	
55-59	5	7	8	12	6	10	
60-64	3	4	2	3	2	3	
65+	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Average age, years	44		44		44		
<b>Years of service<sup>ii</sup></b>							
12 months or less	0	0	3	5	4	7	No significant observations are apparent.
1-3 years	17	27	6	10	4	7	
3-5 years	12	19	16	27	13	22	
5+ years	33	53	36	58	39	65	
Average length of service, years	7.5		8.1		7.7		
<b>Salary distribution<sup>iii</sup> &amp; <sup>iv</sup></b>							
<\$40,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
\$40,000 - 59,999	12	20	6	10	4	7	
\$60,000-79,999	28	45	32	52	30	50	
\$80,000+	22	35	23	38	26	43	
Average Salary <sup>v</sup>	\$70,382		\$75,801 <sup>v</sup>		75,428		
<b>Qualifications<sup>iii</sup></b>							
Year 12 or less	9	15	7	11	6	10	The GB CMA continues to attract and recruit a suitably qualified and skilled workforce.
Certificate	2	3	2	3	2	3	
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	9	15	10	16	10	17	
Degree	36	58	36	59	36	60	
Postgraduate Degree/Graduate Diploma	6	10	6	10	6	10	
<b>Turnover (total)</b>	7	11	5	8	5	8	Turnover remained stable.
<b>Turnover (ongoing staff only)</b>	6	86	3	60	2	40	
<b>Exit interviews completed</b>	4	57	2	40	4	80	Exit interviews reporting high level of satisfaction with the GB CMA as an employer.
<b>Absenteeism</b>		1.4		1.0		2.3	Comparator organisations reported 2.4%
<b>Training expenditure (% of salary budget)</b>	\$90,814	1.72	\$121,404	2.2	\$120,645	2.2	

i. Active employees: any Goulburn Broken CMA employee included in payroll system whose status is not terminated

ii. All employees including terminations (excludes Board and committee members)

iii. Includes all employees for 2014-15

iv. Based on 1.0 FTE full year salary

v. Incorrect figure printed in 2013-14, correct average salary included above

vi. Actual average salary paid



## Long-term strategy implementation progress

### Human Resources

The Goulburn Broken CMA Workforce Strategy 2013-18 directs strategic priority projects and opportunities for enhancing the Goulburn Broken CMA employment value proposition. Greater alignment of capability and learning and development with current and future organisational needs has been a key focus in 2014-15.

### Occupational Health and Safety

A comprehensive annual review of the Goulburn Broken CMA Occupational Health and Safety Management System was undertaken in 2014-15. This included all Occupational Health and Safety Management System procedures and associated guidelines, forms or checklists. It also takes into account the Occupational Health and Safety Strategic Framework objectives and targets and upcoming legal or industry requirements.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's Occupational Health and Safety procedures and practises are based on the model of continuous improvement in relation to best practice as defined by AS/NZS 4801, although not certified.

### 2014-15 Human Resources performance

The 2014-15 year provided an opportunity to consolidate and focus on delivery. Funding and staffing remained stable. A key change of staffing in the Corporate Program saw the departure of the inaugural Business Manager who had been with the Goulburn Broken CMA since the early days of the Authority. In October 2014 an external Corporate Review was undertaken and included findings and recommendations. It was very satisfying that the program areas were highly satisfied with the Corporate Program but the review identified a number of opportunities for further improvement.

Other key activities undertaken to deliver against the five core strategic Workforce Strategy objectives are described below.

#### Governance

A HR Policy review resulted in a 20 per cent reduction in the number of policies. The reduction provided clarity and removed duplication. Policies were also reviewed to ensure alignment with Public Administration Employment and Conduct Principles. The Goulburn Broken CMA is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing staff. The selection processes ensure that applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably on the basis of the key selection criteria and other accountabilities without discrimination.

#### Attraction and recruitment and labour supply and agility

Four new staff were recruited to the Goulburn Broken CMA during 2014-15 and a new senior direct report position to the CEO was created providing the catalyst to review the River Health Program structure. The corporate and business support area was the most active in recruiting, with staffing changes in the finance function with the appointment of the Corporate Program Manager (previously Business Manager) in March 2015 and a senior Financial Accountant appointed in May 2015. The Business Development area recruited a replacement staff member whilst the Marketing and Communications Manager role was on 12 months leave without pay. The role was filled internally and provided a development opportunity to a River Health projects staff

member to grow communications and marketing based skills in a corporate setting. A growth opportunity was also offered to a Sustainable Irrigation Program staff member for an expanded office management role. It is gratifying to provide broader opportunities to enhance and utilise the depth and breadth of capability of the Goulburn Broken CMA staff. In 2014-15 resource sharing with neighbouring CMA's was increased with the continuation of the GIS support provided by North Central CMA and the provision of OHS expertise to North East CMA on a 0.4 FTE basis.

The Goulburn Broken CMA was delighted to once again support vocational skills through the appointment of a Youth Employment Scheme (YES) trainee to a Reception and Customer Service role.

#### Capability building

The development and delivery of an inaugural Knowledge Conference led by the Goulburn Broken CMA was a highlight held in March 2015, attended by 130 staff across the three CMA's of North East, North Central and Goulburn Broken. The Knowledge Conference theme Connecting Better... was premised on growing awareness, skills and knowledge in the Productive Working Relationships capability area.

Further development and implementation of the Goulburn Broken CMA Capability Framework (2013) was achieved with the development of an Information Kit and an online self-evaluation tool specific to the Productive Working Relationships capability stream. The evaluation tool was rolled out to all Goulburn Broken CMA staff (plus those in North East and North Central CMA's) with the review of the tools effectiveness and compilation of capability data identifying strengths and needs to be completed early in 2015-16. The aggregate capability data will inform a shared learning and development plan, a deliverable of the Project Ready MOU schedules.

#### Participation and motivation

The People Matter Survey was last undertaken in May 2014. The benchmarked report was released in December 2014, indicating that 42 per cent of Goulburn Broken CMA results ranked in the top quartile for comparator organisations and of those results 85 per cent were 5 per cent or more above the comparator organisation average. Targeted action areas from the 2014 results were Training and Development including a specific focus on bullying awareness and management processes.

#### Planning and responding

To further imbed the Regional Catchment Strategy into operations the senior manager position of Strategic Planning Manager - Catchments was created. Six staff took up the opportunity to continue the Regional Catchment Staff implementation through the appointment to the roles of RCS Implementation Manager and SES Coordinators. The Fruit Industry Employment Program was successfully implemented utilising a partnership model with a quality labour hire supplier and host organisations.

#### Capability, learning and development

Learning and development coordination was identified as an opportunity in the 2014 Corporate Review with significant gains achieved in both the promotion, coordination and range of training on offer both internally and externally in 2014-15. Improvements included a continuously updated Training Calendar with training programs catalogued consistent with the Capability Framework. The use of evaluations for each program and improvements to the online training resources has contributed to improved satisfaction in training coordination.

An initiative of utilising internal staff to deliver skills training was successfully introduced, combined with externally run training. Topics included:

- Occupational Health and Safety
- Negotiation
- Communication
- Continuous improvement
- Organisational capability

The response rate to these sessions was positive with approx. 85 per cent of Goulburn Broken CMA staff taking up at least one of these opportunities

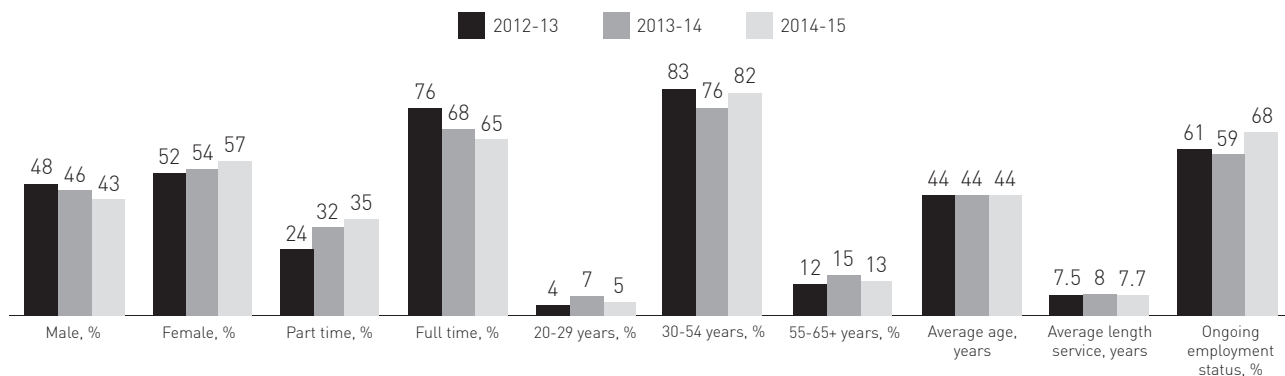
## Supporting our community

The Goulburn Broken CMA staff participated in the 1000 Conversations initiative of the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project. Again staff supported The Biggest Morning Tea cancer fundraiser and the number of staff participating in the Learning Club support to Wilmot Road Primary School increased by 32 per cent.

## Our staff

A list of all Goulburn Broken CMA staff employed for all or part of 2014-15 is on the inside of the back cover.

Goulburn Broken CMA people profile



## 2014-15 Occupational Health and Safety performance

A key Occupational Health and Safety focus in 2014-15 has been a trial of a new technology called iAuditor a cloud based management system. This enables inspection and risk assessment templates to be developed and shared with groups and individuals within the Goulburn Broken CMA to provide the flexibility to conduct real time risk assessment, inspection requirements in the field as well as a private and secure desktop environment. Any connected devices are automatically backed up and synced with the Safety Cloud. This technology when fully implemented will further enhance the organisational Occupational Health and Safety performance measures requirements. Templates have been progressively developed utilising the Goulburn Broken CMA's current standard Occupational Health and Safety templates and field trialling has commenced. The Goulburn Broken CMA Occupational Health and Safety

Policy statement and Occupational Health and Safety procedures continued to be reviewed in consultation with the workforce, ensuring that Occupational Health and Safety operations reflect best practice and changes to workplace consultation requirements as part of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2007*.

The offer of free flu immunisations was taken up by 50 per cent of staff in addition to the annual flu vaccination the Whooping Cough (dTpa-containing diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis) booster was made available to staff.

The offer of free biannual Health and Wellbeing screening was taken up by 15 per cent of staff.

The offer of free biannual Skin Health and Wellbeing screening was taken up by 15 per cent of staff.

Refer also to the 2014-15 Occupational Health and Safety performance table on page 72.

## Occupational health and safety statistics summary

		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Hazards	No. of hazards reported	1	1	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	1.8	1.8	0
Incidents	No. of incidents	10	8	14
	Rate per 100 FTE	17.6	14.7	26.4
	Lost time injury days (Minor claims)	3	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	5.3	0	0
	No. of staff with days lost (Minor claims)	1	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	1.8	0	0
Claims <sup>i</sup>	No. of Standard claims	0	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
	No. of lost time Standard claims	0	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
	No. claims exceeding 13 weeks	0	0	0
Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0	
Fatalities	Fatality claims	0	0	0
Claim costs <sup>i</sup>	Average cost per Standard claim	0	0	0

i. Data sourced from Workcover insurer, CGU

## 2014-15 Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) performance

Outcome	No.	Indicator	Target 2014-15	Progress 2014-15
Ensuring a working OHS Management System	1	Current and relevant OHS Policy and Procedures	Goulburn Broken CMA OHS Policy Statement	Achieved. Endorsed and distributed.
			Annual Review of Goulburn Broken CMA OHS Procedures	100% completed and published July 2015.
	2	Standard Safe Work Procedure Development	100 per cent of new Safe Work Procedures developed within one month for new mechanically operated equipment or work processes, and communicated to staff once the procedure has been ratified by the OHS Committee.	Achieved. One new Standard Safe Work Procedure has been developed. Existing documents reviewed.
			Develop a library of standard Safe Work Method Statement documents for staff to utilise for site specific works and tailor to suit local conditions and tasks.	Achieved. No new Standard Safe Work Method Statement Procedures developed. Existing documents reviewed.
			Central recording of actual Safe Work Method Statement and Safe Work Procedure documents when managing worksite and staff safety. Documents submitted for recording within one week of field projects commencing.	Achieved. A total of 66 Risk Assessment documents have been recorded with 100% within one week of works commencement.
	3	Workplace inspections conducted	100 per cent of workplace inspections conducted as per inspection schedule.	Achieved. Quarterly office inspections across the two offices; bi-annual depot inspections completed at the three depots; twelve external worksite inspections completed.
4	Workplace inspections actions completed	100 per cent of actions arising from workplace inspections completed.	Achieved.	
5	Evacuation and emergency procedures	100 per cent of emergency drills conducted as per annual schedule.	Achieved.	
Proactive OHS reporting	6	Incident reporting	100 per cent of Incident Reports received are acted on by OHS Manager.	Achieved. Completed and actioned.
	7	Hazard reporting	100 per cent of Hazard Reports received are acted on by Workgroup Supervisor.	No workplace hazards have been reported during 2014-15.
	8	Lost time injuries	Report monthly to the Goulburn Broken CMA Board.	Achieved.
Fostering a safe work culture	9	Mandatory OHS Training	100% of Mandatory OHS Training Delivered.	Progressed. New OHS Training Framework developed and to be implemented in 2015-16.
	10	Display of Safety Information	100% OHS Safety Information displayed on Noticeboards and Goulburn Broken CMA Portal.	Achieved. Part of Annual OHS Procedure review.
OHS Consultation and Management	11	OHS Representatives (HRS)	Election of Health and Safety Representatives as per OHS Consultative Procedure No. 3.	Partially Achieved. Tenure of all three. Designated Workgroups HSR's completed and HSR's in place during 2014-15.
	12	OH&S Committee Meetings	Target of 5 OHS Meetings per financial year conducted with a quorum.	4 meetings however met requirement of section 72 OHS Act 2004. Tenure of OHS Committee completed in 2014-15.

## What's next?

### Human Resources

Ongoing implementation of the Workforce Strategy includes an emphasis on capability, culture and performance. Continuation of the implementation of the ConnX human resource information system, which experienced external IT problems in its pilot stage implementation.

### Occupational Health and Safety

Goulburn Broken CMA will continue to achieve its occupational health, safety objectives by developing and implementing appropriate policies and procedures that document standards and guide managers, supervisors and employees in carrying out their responsibilities in:

- identifying hazards and risks to health and safety associated with tasks and activities carried out by Goulburn Broken CMA
- assessing the degree and level of risks arising from hazardous tasks or activities
- selecting, implementing and maintaining appropriate measures to control risks to health and safety
- consulting with employees and their representatives on matters that may affect their health and safety
- identifying, developing and providing appropriate information, instruction and training to equip managers, supervisors and employees with the knowledge and skills necessary to meet their responsibilities
- developing, implementing and monitoring plans to put Goulburn Broken CMA health and safety policies and procedures into effect.



## Environmental footprint

Compiled by Annie Squires

### Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and Catchment condition change

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Organisational condition	Energy consumption Vehicle use Management systems	Very Poor	Very Low	Poor	Low	●
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Outputs (scheduled to be progressed between 2012 and 2015)	n.a.		Below target	High	● <sup>iii</sup>
2014-15 performance	Outputs (against targets set as a result of funds received)	n.a.		On target	High	n.a.

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125), including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings.

ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of what the situation was like in 1990. Ratings are about the condition of the natural resource management organisations (with respect to environmental footprint) rather than the condition of the Catchment.

iii. Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

### Government investment, \$000

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <sup>i</sup>	Trend
23	24	10	0	↓

i. Forecast is based on funding advice at July 2015.

### Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Policy 2011
- Goulburn Broken CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2014
- Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change Integration Strategy
- National Greenhouse Accounts Factors – Department of the Environment
- Greenhouse Gas Protocol ([www.ghgprotocol.org](http://www.ghgprotocol.org))

### Background

With support from management and staff, the Goulburn Broken CMA promotes environmentally responsible and sustainable practices.

Data collection for greenhouse gas emissions calculations commenced in 2006-07, our base year for reporting and comparisons.

All Goulburn Broken CMA environmental footprint initiatives and activities of the Goulburn Broken CMA are guided by the Organisational Environmental Footprint Policy 2011 and Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan 2012-14, which were both revised in 2011. Reporting is guided by the Victorian Government's Financial Reporting Directions 24C and in line with current carbon accounting practices.

Implementation of the action plan was guided by a working group that was supported by the sustainability coordinator. This position is currently vacant and the action plan has not yet been reviewed.

Internally, the program is promoted as 'Reducing our Footprint'.

### Organisation condition

The following table summarises our greenhouse gas inventory, including direct emission sources such as vehicle fleet fuel and indirect sources such as purchased electricity, business travel and waste.

## Office-based environmental impacts reporting

Sustainability report	2006-07 (base year)		2013-14		2014-15	
	Consumption	GHG emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Consumption <sup>i</sup>	GHG emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)	Consumption	GHG emissions (t CO <sub>2</sub> -e)
<b>Direct emissions (Scope 1)</b>						
Petrol for vehicles (L)	74,711	171	10,947	25	12,909	30
Diesel for vehicles (L)	66,127	178	110,385	297	108,965	294
LPG for vehicles (L)	8,936	14	9,359	15	873	1
Distance travelled by fleet vehicles (km)	Not avail.		1,476,987		1,553,608	
<b>Total Scope 1</b>		<b>363</b>		<b>337</b>		<b>325</b>
<b>Indirect emissions (Scope 2)</b>						
Electricity (kilowatt hour)	147,930	179	149,704	175	138,587	163
<b>Total Scope 2</b>		<b>179</b>		<b>175</b>		<b>163</b>
<b>Optional emissions (Scope 3)<sup>ii</sup></b>						
Electricity (transmission & distribution losses) (kWh)	147,930	22	149,704	22	138,587	21
Flights (km)	Not avail.		151,805	39	50,639	14
Waste - landfill (kg)	8,680	9	357	1	418	1
Water consumption (kL)	Not avail.		834	2	1,019	2
Paper consumption (reams)	514	2	690	3	534	2
Petrol (extraction, production, etc.) (litres)	74,711	14	10,947	2	12,909	2
Diesel (extraction, production, etc.) (litres)	66,127	13	110,385	23	108,965	22
LPG (extraction, production, etc.) (litres)	8,936	1	9,359	1	873	0
<b>Total Scope 3</b>		<b>61</b>		<b>93</b>		<b>64</b>
<b>Total Scope 1 + 2</b>		<b>542</b>		<b>512</b>		<b>488</b>
<b>Total Scope 1 + 2 + 3</b>		<b>603</b>		<b>605</b>		<b>552</b>
Offsets purchased (% air travel)			10		23	

i. Some consumption figures for 2013-14 printed in previous year's Annual Report were incorrect, correct figures shown above. GHG emissions figures were correct and are unchanged.

ii. Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions, such as extraction and production of fuels, transport related activities in vehicles not owned or controlled by the Goulburn Broken CMA, waste disposal, and electricity-related activities (eg. transmission and distribution losses) not covered in Scope 2. Reporting of Scope 3 emissions is optional under the international Greenhouse Gas Protocol.

## Long-term strategy implementation progress

Since the initial data collection in 2006-07, the Authority's overall emissions report shows a downwards trend with continued improvements in vehicle emissions (our biggest greenhouse gas emissions source), waste management and paper use.

Achieving significant reductions in energy use continues to be a challenge.

## 2014-15 performance

Total emissions were reduced again during 2014-15, due to reductions in electricity use, air travel and vehicle travel resulting in lower fuel use. Total GHG emissions have reduced to eight per cent below 2006-07 levels. Emissions per FTE have dropped to 10.4 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e, an 18 per cent reduction on 2006-07 levels.

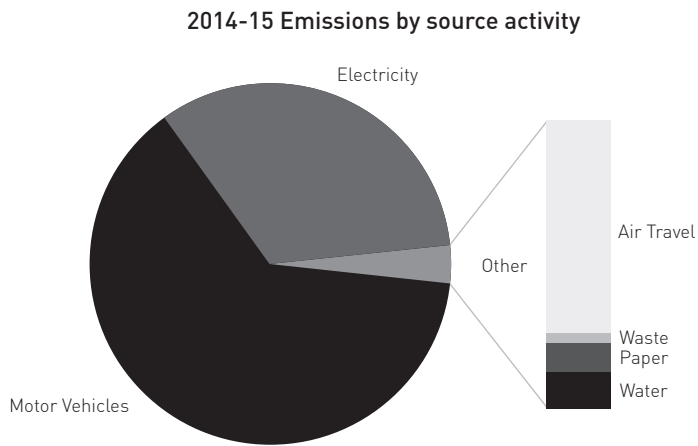
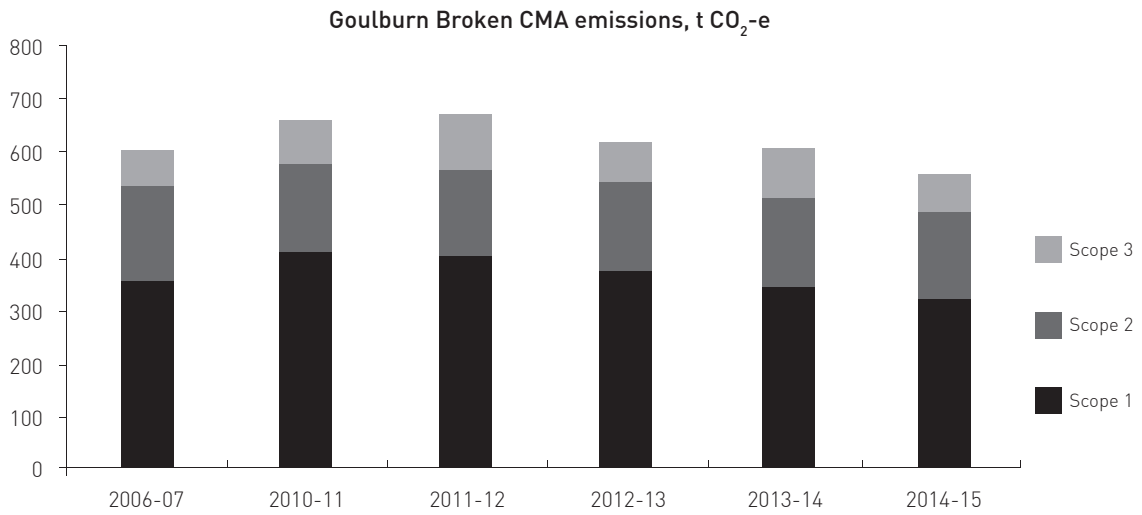
Electricity emissions fell slightly to just below 2012-13 levels and are now eight per cent below 2006-07 levels.

Vehicle fleet emissions continued the downward trend despite a 5 per cent increase in total kilometres travelled in 2014-15. This highlights the ongoing improvements in the vehicle fleet with fuel efficient, lower emission vehicles. Total emissions from vehicles are now eleven per cent below 2006-07 levels.

Paper use reduced to 11.7 A4 equivalent reams per FTE which was significantly below the target 2006-07 level of 14.2 reams per FTE.

Flight emissions fell due to reduced air travel by staff.

Waste emissions are not a significant component of our total emissions. Waste to landfill rose to 9.1 kg per FTE but was still below the target of less than 10 kg per FTE. Recycling rates dropped to 78 per cent of total waste, falling short of the 90 per cent target and a fall compared to 82 per cent in 2013-14.



## What's next?

Reducing our Footprint activities continue to be promoted to and supported by staff and management.



## Governance

Compiled by Eileen Curtis, Shannon Crawford and Katie Warner

### Annual performance, long-term strategy implementation progress and catchment condition change

Decision focus <sup>i</sup>	Examples of evidence used to inform decisions	1990 <sup>ii</sup>	Certainty of rating	2015	Certainty of rating	Trend
Organisational Condition	Efficiency ratios Management systems: - legislative and funding backing - policies and procedures - communities' capacity <sup>vii</sup>	n.a.	Medium	Satisfactory	Medium	●
Long-term strategy implementation progress	Corporate Plan key performance indicators <sup>v</sup> Compliance <sup>iv</sup>	n.a.		On target	Medium	● <sup>vi</sup>
2014-15 performance	Corporate Plan key performance indicators <sup>iii</sup> Compliance <sup>iv</sup>	n.a.		On target	High	n.a.

i. See Appendix 1 for notes on the analytical framework (page 125 including an explanation of the decision focus and ratings).

ii. Ratings for 1990 have been determined using our understanding in 2015 of the situation in 1990.

iii. See Corporate Plan performance areas, indicators, targets and progress table page 89.

iv. See performance of statutory responsibilities as a Victorian State Authority and Employer page 82.

v. Aggregated performance over the years Goulburn Broken CMA has been in existence (since 1997).

vi. Assumed to parallel government funding trend.

vii. Evidence listed in 'Community engagement' section page 17.

### Government investment, \$000

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 <sup>i</sup>	Trend
1,625	1,689	1,758	1,517	●

i. Forecast is based on funding advice at July 2015.

## Background

This section includes:

- a description of 'Governance'
- the legislative and funding context of the Goulburn Broken CMA to establish its Corporate Governance practices
- a scorecard (above) as a summary of annual and long-term performance (including compliance) and the capacity of the Catchment's people to undertake sound and ethical natural resource management
- an overview of the Goulburn Broken CMA's Governance practices
- Risk management attestation
- Insurance Attestation
- Goulburn Broken CMA's performance of statutory responsibilities as an employer and a Victorian State Authority
- performance against key performance indicators listed in the Goulburn Broken CMA's Corporate Plan
- What's next? (strategic priorities over the next 12 months).

### Major strategic references

- Goulburn Broken Corporate Plan 2014-15 to 2018-19
- Governance Guidelines for Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning guide to good governance – board members

## Description of Governance investment area

- areas of finance and reporting, business development, communications and marketing, human resources and information and communication technology requirements are clearly aligned with our business objectives;
- a safe workplace is provided for all employees, contractors and visitors;
- an effective risk management framework is in place which forms an integral part of the strategic planning processes, where risks are identified, assessed and monitored under risk treatment plans to mitigate the risk to an agreed level;
- comprehensive monitoring and evaluation process are in place ensuring project reporting on expenditure and outputs is of a high level and in line with requirements of the Board and investors;
- an optimum information management system is in place to allow Goulburn Broken CMA to undertake, record, communicate and report on its business activities undertaken throughout the Catchment;
- the Goulburn Broken CMA is committed to minimise its environmental footprint;
- works in partnership, and openly shares knowledge and information, with a range of agencies and other Victorian CMAs to improve the delivery of integrated natural resource management;
- it has an optimum corporate structure commensurate to its program funding acceptable to all stakeholders and the community at large;
- those members of the community who need to be engaged support (or accept) and provide the Goulburn Broken CMA with the licence to operate.

## What's next?

The Goulburn Broken CMA is a mature organisation with an optimum corporate structure managing a revenue base of \$27.4 million in 2014-15. The key challenges in the short term continue to be:

- maintaining an optimum corporate structure in response to the differing requirements of investors and the Board for reporting information; and
- the ever increasing challenge to minimise the cost of corporate administration to deliver more dollars for onground works.

Other general priorities include:

- identifying new, and maintaining existing, funding streams to enable investments to be made within the Catchment aligned to what is required to meet the strategic objectives under the recently endorsed Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy;
- having the ability to demonstrate to government and the Catchment community the return on taxpayers' investment in natural resource management in a timeframe and language that fits within the political reality;
- the ability to retain people with specialist skill sets required to support our Statutory Obligations, in the area of Environmental Water Management, Floodplain management and Financial management;
- balancing the need to actively support partnerships in service delivery while promoting the Goulburn Broken CMA brand for local and national recognition.

Specific priorities to be addressed include:

### Finance and reporting

- continued enhancement of a suite of financial performance and assurance reports to enable monitoring and informed decision making by relevant users.
- maintenance of a comprehensive risk management framework covering all areas of Goulburn Broken CMA operations
- establishment of a Finance Committee to spend greater analysis on financial reporting issues.

### Business development

- support the implementation of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- seek new investors willing to make major investments in natural resource management priorities of the Catchment's six social-ecological systems, aligned to the strategic objectives of the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019
- develop the Goulburn Broken CMA Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy aligned to the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 and incorporating the agreed suite of efficiency and effectiveness measures.

## Human Resources

- work in conjunction with North Central and North East CMA's through an Memorandum of Understanding arrangement to implement the Capability Framework developed by the Goulburn Broken CMA in 2013.
- Finalise and implement the leadership development program across the organisation consistent with the Capability Framework
- Integrate Workforce Planning processes developed in 2013 into the broader business planning cycle
- Continue to work to resolve integration issues of the ConnX employee self service system to maximise benefits to staff and organisation.

## Information and communication technology

- Continue implementation of the Information and Communication Technology Strategy 2015-2017.
- Continue implementation of the EnQuire grants, contract and project management system.
- Complete a major upgrade to the Microsoft Axapta financial management system
- Complete a mobile computing enablement project for field based data access and capture

## Marketing and communication

- implementation of approved Community Engagement and Communications and Marketing Strategies.
- support for implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy in each of the six social ecological- systems.
- upgrade of design and security of the Goulburn Broken CMA website.
- ongoing stakeholder analysis and review.
- embed community engagement and communications and marketing activities in all programs/projects.
- celebrate success via coordinated communication campaigns.

## Occupational health and safety

- monitor compliance activities against agreed key performance indicators
- ensure that the Goulburn Broken CMA meets its obligations under current legislation and monitor requirements of any proposed new legislation.



## Goulburn Broken CMA's legislative and funding context

Refer to 'Power and duties' on page 6 for the legislative context.

The Victorian Government funds the Goulburn Broken CMA to fulfil its statutory obligations as detailed in the Statement of Obligations.

Costs that enable the Goulburn Broken CMA to fulfil its core corporate obligations are funded from a direct corporate allocation and interest earned. Other corporate costs are charged to projects up to a Board-approved percentage which recognise the degree of support provided to those projects. Corporate costs are not charged on project funding to community groups or other partners.

Goulburn Broken CMA's funding of \$49.5 million was sourced from Regional, State and Commonwealth Government sources in 2014-15. It is estimated that the regional community contributes (in-kind and via products and services) about the same that governments contribute.

An increasing amount of government funding received is from initiative funding sources.

All works undertaken are in line with State, Murray-Darling Basin and National strategies.

## Objectives, functions, powers and duties of the Goulburn Broken CMA

### Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994

The responsibilities of the Goulburn Broken CMA as they relate to the *CaLP Act 1994* are as follows:

- prepare, coordinate, monitor and review the Regional Catchment Strategy
- prepare and submit an annual report on the condition and management of land and water resources in the region
- prepare and submit a corporate plan to the Minister by 30 April each year
- comply with the Statement of Obligations.

In performing its functions and providing its services an authority shall, in a manner consistent with relevant government policies, frameworks, strategies, plans and guidelines:

- a. facilitate and coordinate the management of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner, including as it relates to land, biodiversity and water resources
- b. take a sustainable approach by balancing social, economic and environmental outcomes
- c. plan and make decisions within an integrated catchment management context:
  - recognising the integral relationship between rivers, their catchments, coastal systems, and estuary and marine environments
  - recognising the integral relationship between the land – its soil, water, vegetation and fauna – and associated natural ecosystems

- recognising the need to foster the resilience of natural assets, including land, biodiversity and water resources, to climate change
  - using the best available scientific information
  - targeting investment to address priorities and deliver maximum improvement in resource condition of catchments, land, biodiversity and water resources.
- d. provide opportunities for community engagement in the integrated management of catchments and natural assets, including land, biodiversity and water resources
  - e. develop strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders including public authorities and government agencies
  - f. promote and apply a risk management approach that seeks to protect, enhance and restore natural assets and reduce the impact of climate change
  - g. promote and adopt an adaptive approach to integrated catchment management, including continuous review, innovation and improvement
  - h. manage business operations in a prudent, efficient and responsible manner.

### Water Act 1989

Under the *Water Act 1989*, the Goulburn Broken CMA aims to reduce the impact of flood damage to new buildings, help conserve and preserve flora, fauna and habitat in designated waterways, and to reduce water quality decline. This is done by providing:

- permits to construct and operate works on a waterway, compliance and community education
- resources to planning permit referrals for developments within a flood prone area
- responses to applications for flood levels, flood risk reports and flood information before development
- flood planning information and advice to councils, state emergency services, developers and others
- flood response action plans, including collection of flood information during and after a flood, and assistance with emergency planning and flood warning
- flood data management
- compliance with the Statement of Obligations

### Goulburn Broken CMA Board

Members of the Goulburn Broken CMA Board of Directors are drawn from within the region and together have extensive experience and knowledge of primary industry, land protection, water resource management, waterway and floodplain management, environmental conservation, local government, business and financial management.

Under the direction of the Board, the Goulburn Broken CMA develops detailed environmental management strategies under the umbrella of the over-arching Regional Catchment Strategy.

## Goulburn Broken CMA's corporate governance practices

Sound and ethical corporate governance practices underpin the Goulburn Broken CMA's overall performance including compliance with what is required and expected of it. This is codified in the Goulburn Broken CMA's Financial Code of Practice which all employees are obligated to comply with.

### Board Committees

The Goulburn Broken CMA has established an Audit Risk and Compliance Committee, a Remuneration Committee and a Finance Committee. All committees operate under the terms of their respective Charter.

#### *Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee*

(Directors Weston, Craven, Fox and Runnalls met the criteria of 'independent' member)

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

- Adrian Weston (Chair)
- John Craven
- Ailsa Fox
- Ross Runnalls
- Murray Chapman as Ex Officio

#### *Remuneration Committee*

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

- Michael (Mike) Dalmau (Chair)
- Alexander (Sandy) MacKenzie
- Lisa McKenzie (until 27 November 2014)
- Murray Chapman as Ex Officio

#### *Finance Committee*

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

- Ross Runnalls (Chair)
- John Craven
- Alexander (Sandy) MacKenzie
- Michael (Mike) Dalmau
- Murray Chapman as Ex Officio

The Goulburn Broken CMA and partner agencies offer an array of incentives to landholders wishing to undertake environmental works.

Priority integrated environmental works are achieved by combining the best available science with practical challenges such as running a productive farm or maintaining a waterway for environmental and tourism benefits.

### Planning Framework

The Goulburn Broken CMA's planning framework is described within the 'Planning and Responding' section on page 21.

### Risk Management

The Goulburn Broken CMA reviewed its risk profile during the year and it was considered by the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee.

### Risk Management Attestation

I, Murray Chapman, certify that the Goulburn Broken CMA has complied with Ministerial Standing Direction 4.5.5 - Risk Management Framework and Processes. The Goulburn Broken CMA's Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee verifies this.



Murray Chapman

**Chair**

27 August 2015

## Board directors and officers

For the financial year ended 30 June 2015.



Board directors (L-R): John Craven, Adrian Weston, Alexander (Sandy) MacKenzie, Murray Chapman, Michael (Mike) Dalmau, Ailsa Fox, Ross Runnalls, Chris Norman (CEO). Absent: Lisa McKenzie

### Murray Chapman - Chair (Goomalibee)

Murray is a partner in a family farm at Goomalibee and a member of local community organisations. He is a director of RuralPlan Pty Ltd which provides natural resource management advisory services as well as land and water project management throughout Australia. Murray specialises in providing technical support and facilitation services for water and on-farm efficiency. He has many years' experience in assisting governments and industry to achieve change-based programs. Murray has served on the board of the Benalla and District Memorial Hospital.

### Dr John Craven (Middle Park)

John is a veterinary surgeon with a PhD in microbiology and is currently employed as a director of Terip Solutions Pty Ltd. He has considerable experience in research and was formerly a research manager at the former Department of Primary Industries and the Dairy Research and Development Corporation. Until recently John owned a beef cattle property in Terip Terip which was originally settled by his family in the 1880's. He has considerable experience in on-farm conservation activities and sees the need for communities to value the environment sufficiently to contribute time, energy and money to improve conservation outcomes.

### Michael 'Mike' Dalmau (Acheron)

Mike lives on a lifestyle rural property and has operated a number of successful tourism and hospitality businesses, centred on Lake Eildon, for 40 years. Mike operates High Country Houseboat Sales as a houseboat broker at Lake Eildon. Mike holds positions on the Central Ranges Local Learning Employment Network; Lake Eildon Houseboat Industry Association; Alexandra District Ambulance Support Inc; Murrindindi Inc; Alexandra Traders & Tourism Association; GMW Lake Eildon Land and On Water Management Plan Implementation Group; Eildon Major Events; Thornton-Eildon Football Netball Club; and UGFM community radio station. Mike served on the Goulburn Broken CMA Upper Goulburn Implementation Committee for 10 years. Mike also served as a councillor of the Murrindindi Shire Council for nine years, including a term as mayor. Of importance to Mike was the 12 months he worked as a bushfire case manager assisting small businesses in their journey of recovery following Black Saturday.

### Ailsa Fox - Deputy Chair (Merton)

Ailsa is a primary producer of many years with strong past involvement in the VFF and is currently a partner in a farm at Merton focusing on beef cattle, wool and prime lamb production. Ailsa is a director of AgStewardship Australia, Rural Skills Australia and the North Central Rural Financial Counselling Service. Ailsa is the current Chair of Administrators for the Rural City of Wangaratta. Ailsa believes an opportunity in natural resource management is to work with larger landholders to achieve better outcomes.

### Alexander 'Sandy' MacKenzie (Avenel)

Sandy has a Masters in Rural Science and is coordinator of the Burnt Creek Landcare Group. Sandy holds positions with the Victorian Landcare Council and National Landcare Network. Sandy has experience in governance, natural resource management and community education/engagement and was the founding principal of Orange Agricultural College (Charles Sturt University).

### Ross Runnalls (Benalla)

Ross is a rural landholder, former regional manager with VicForests, and now is a self-employed forestry consultant. Ross has vast experience in natural resource management, including commercial use of native forest and fire management. Ross lives near Benalla and is a member of the local Whitegate Fire Brigade. Ross considers improving the environmental condition of agricultural land whilst maximising production as the greatest challenge currently facing natural resource management.

### Lisa McKenzie (Shepparton)

Lisa McKenzie lives in Shepparton and is the CEO of the Community Fund Goulburn Valley. She has extensive work and board experience and was formerly the Editor of the Country News and the executive officer of the Fairley Leadership Program. She ran a communications and PR consultancy for a decade with many of the region's key organisations among clients, including the GB CMA. Lisa is chair of the Goulburn Murray LLEN; chair of the Shepparton Local Advisory Group for the Federal Better Futures Local Solutions Project (a National Place Based initiative); a member of the La Trobe University Shepparton Regional Advisory board; and a member of the executive of the Shepparton Lighthouse Project. She has played a role in the establishment of a range of community initiatives including RiverConnect and the Sampson Leadership Scholarship.

### Adrian Weston (Rushworth)

Adrian, who previously ran a dairy farm, owns and operates an irrigated prime lamb and cropping farm enterprise at Rushworth. He is a Campaspe Shire Councillor, representing the Waranga Ward. Adrian has a longstanding interest in natural resource management and believes the greatest challenge facing the catchment community is balancing the demand for increased productive use of land (soil) and water resources with protecting and improving the condition of the region's unique natural environment. He says the key to building the Catchment's environmental and social resilience relies on the willingness of business, industry and communities to embrace and adapt to change.

## Board members attendance record at meetings

July 2014 – June 2015				
Board member	Board meetings (11 held)	Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (5 held)	Remuneration Committee (3 held)	Finance Committee (2 held)
Murray Chapman (Chair)	11	3	2	2
John Craven	9	4	-	2
Michael (Mike) Dalmau	10	-	3	2
Ailsa Fox (Deputy Chair)	10	5	-	-
Alexander (Sandy) MacKenzie	11	-	3	1
Ross Runnalls	10	4	-	2
Lisa McKenzie	4	-	1	-
Adrian Weston	10	5	-	-

Lisa McKenzie retired as Board Director effective from 27 November 2014.

## Compliance

The following table includes several summaries of Goulburn Broken CMA's compliance that are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this Annual Report.

### Goulburn Broken CMA's performance of statutory responsibilities as a Victorian State Authority and Employer

Act or policy	Board's major tasks	2014-15 issues and status
<b>Statutory Authority</b>		
<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i>	Prepare, coordinate, monitor and review of Regional Catchment Strategy.	Regional Catchment Strategy for 2013-2019 was gazetted on 16 May 2013
	Submit to Minister and Council by the prescribed date: "A report on the condition and management of land and water resources in the region and carrying out of its functions."	2013-14 Annual Report submitted on time and 2014-15 on schedule
	Corporate Plan to be submitted to Minister under the CALP Act by 30 April annually.	Submitted to Minister by 30 April 2015.
	Members declare new interests at each (monthly) Board meeting and document it in Pecuniary Interests Register. Members must submit a primary return and an annual return.	Declarations of Pecuniary Interests have been duly completed by relevant directors and officers of the Goulburn Broken CMA and are available for inspection.
<i>Water Act 1989</i>	Corporate Plan available for inspection.	Copy is available for inspection during business hours at 168 Welsford Street, Shepparton.
	Review funds at each (monthly) Board meeting. Policy for investment as per the Trustee Act 1958.	Goulburn Broken CMA continued to invest funds with TCV at call and on term deposits in excess of working capital requirements in line with DTF's policy on Centralisation of Borrowing and Investment Activities. DTF's policy only permits GB CMA to invest a maximum of \$2 million with Authorised Deposit-Taking Institutions.
	Submit statement of borrowings. Review borrowings at each (monthly) Board meeting. Finance leases are borrowings and subject to Treasurer's approval.	Included as part of Corporate Plan. Finance Leases are classified as borrowings due to the accounting treatment. Board reviews monthly.
	Meeting Procedures of Authorities.	Minutes are available through application under Freedom of Information. Goulburn Broken CMA has adopted Governance Guidelines for Statutory Authority Board Members, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning. Code of conduct for public sector employees adopted.
	Waterway management responsibilities	Goulburn Broken CMA was established as a body corporate under the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> and then established as an Authority under the Water Act with delegated waterway management, floodplain management and drainage functions under Part 10 of the <i>Water Act 1989</i> .
<i>Public Administration Act 2004</i>	Ensure operations of Board comply with Part 5.	Policy and Procedures ensure that obligations and best practice approaches are built into current HR operations and practices

Act or policy	Board's major tasks	2014-15 issues and status
<i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	Provide for the protection of the environment and promote ecologically sustainable development through the conservation and ecologically sustainable use of natural resources and promote the conservation of biodiversity.	All works have a process which assesses the works against this Act. The Goulburn Broken CMA and its partners have complied with all requirements.
<i>The Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	Report requests for access to documents in Annual Report. Report requests at each (monthly) Board meeting. The Act gives persons the right to request certain types of information (which are not exempt documents) held by the Authority. The Authority's Freedom of Information Officer is authorised to make decisions about access to documents under the Freedom of Information Act. The officer has 45 days from the date of receiving a valid request to accede to or reject the applicant's request. There are two costs associated with making a Freedom of Information request being an application fee of \$27.20 which is non-refundable and an access cost which covers the cost to Authority for providing the information.	The <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> allows members of the public a right of access to documents held by the Goulburn Broken CMA subject to certain exemptions under the Act. Freedom of Information requests are made in writing describing the documents requested and including payment of the \$27.20 application fee. Further charges may be payable. Freedom of Information fees and charges are not subject to GST. Requests to the Goulburn Broken CMA should be sent to Freedom of Information Officer, PO Box 1752, Shepparton, Vic 3632. The telephone contact number is (03) 5822 7700; enquiries can be emailed to reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au. Five Freedom of Information Requests were received in the year. Of the five applications, one was granted "access in full", one was advised that "no documents existed", two opted not to proceed and one was not finalised at 30 of June. There were no applications for review of fee decisions to the FOI Commissioner or VCAT.
<i>Protected Disclosures Act 2012.</i>	Report actions in Annual Report. Report actions at each (monthly) Board meeting.	No issues reported. Disclosures of improper conduct by the Goulburn Broken CMA or its employees may be made to Mark Turner (Protected Disclosure Coordinator) or alternatively to the Ombudsman. (See Appendix 7 for policy, page 136)

Act or policy	Board's major tasks	2014-15 issues and status
<p><i>Statutory Referral and Advice (Planning and Environment Act 1987, Subdivision Act 1988, Building Regulations 2004, Water Act 1989, Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990)</i></p>	<p>Goulburn Broken CMA has delegated floodplain management functions and is the floodplain management authority under the <i>Planning and Environment Act, Subdivisions Act and Building Regulations Act</i> where various types of application for development are referred. Furthermore, functions require direct advice to be provided to anybody or person under the <i>Water Act</i>. Goulburn Broken CMA is a referral authority for applications from Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources) (<i>Mineral Resource Act</i>) for work plans on floodplain areas. Goulburn Broken CMA is referral authority from RWA under section 67 licences for dams on waterways and provide permits/licences to landowners to carry out works or activities on waterways</p>	<p>The Goulburn Broken CMA processed 949 referral and advice applications relating to floodplain management and 78 applications for works on waterways for 2014-15.</p>
	<p>Board is advised of application refusals at each (monthly) meeting.</p>	<p>Decisions are made in accordance with the Victoria Flood Strategy, the Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy, the Victorian Planning Provisions Practice Notes and Authority Policy, all of which have largely been incorporated into respective municipal planning schemes as performance based criteria.</p>
	<p>Local government can request advice but are not required to implement it.</p>	<p>Advice has been provided where appropriate.</p>
<p><i>Privacy Act 2000</i></p>	<p>Ensure details of individuals are protected.</p>	<p>Goulburn Broken CMA has reviewed the Privacy Procedure (in accordance with the Act) on how personal information is stored and under what circumstances it can be accessed or released to third parties.</p>
<p><i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i></p>	<p>Conserve the Catchment's communities of flora and fauna and manage potentially threatening processes and educate the community in the conservation of flora and fauna.</p>	<p>The Goulburn Broken CMA continues to support the implementation of action statements and recovery plans for threatened flora and fauna by DELWP.</p>
<p><i>Environmental Protection Act 1970</i></p>	<p>Protection agencies need to report in their annual reporting processes, actions taken to implement the Policy (as per their responsibilities in State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) and Schedules), so that Environment Protection Authority can then report to the community.</p>	<p>The Goulburn Broken CMA continued to support the implementation of the Regional Goulburn Broken Waterway Incident Agreement.</p>
	<p>Outlines CMAs roles with respect to set goals, priorities and targets.</p>	
	<p>Refers to water allocations and environmental flows.</p>	
	<p>Relates to responsibilities of various agencies for ensuring sustainable agricultural activities with the catchment</p>	
	<p>Relates to the management of irrigation channels and drains.</p>	
	<p>Refers to vegetation protection and rehabilitation.</p>	

Act or policy	Board's major tasks	2014-15 issues and status
<i>Forest Act 1958</i>	Liaise with the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning as required.	For waterways in areas managed by DELWP under the Act, the Goulburn Broken CMA complied with elements of the code which deals with access to waterways and crossings.
<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>	Undertake review of its annual operations and advise the Minister regarding compliance with Financial Management Compliance Framework.	Information listed under FRD 22F is available under the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i> .
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>	Ensure the use of cultural heritage management plans for certain development plans or activities and interact with registered Aboriginal parties to evaluate management plans, advise on permit applications and enter into cultural heritage agreements.	The Goulburn Broken CMA applies diligence with regard to the requirements of the Act and encourages best practice in partner organisations through its cultural heritage support program. The Goulburn Broken CMA is committed to policies, programs and strategies aimed at delivering culturally appropriate services to all Victorians. Current practices of inclusive and thorough public consultation ensure that all persons who have an interest in investigations are kept informed and have the opportunity to provide input into Goulburn Broken CMA deliberations.
<i>Building Act 1993</i>	Comply with standards for the construction and maintenance of buildings.	Goulburn Broken CMA does not own or control any government buildings and consequently is exempt from notifying its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the Building Act 1993 for publicly owned buildings controlled by Goulburn Broken CMA.
National Competition Policy	Ensure fair competition	Competitive neutrality seeks to enable fair competition between government and private sector businesses. Any advantages or disadvantages that government businesses may experience as a result of government ownership should be neutralised. The Goulburn Broken CMA continues to apply this principle in its business undertakings.
<i>Country Fire Authority Act 1958</i>	Work with other related organisations to assist in the control, prevention and suppression of fires within the Catchment.	Goulburn Broken CMA has policies relating to waterway operations that comply with the Act and reduce fire risk.
<i>Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003</i>	The Victorian Industry Participation Policy is a Victorian Government initiative designed to promote greater access for small to medium enterprises to work with major projects	No issues to report.
Government Advertising Expenditure	Relates to the disclosure of government advertising expenditure under FRD 22F	Nil issues to report.
Data Vic Access Policy (2012)	The DataVic Access Policy provides direction on the release, licensing and management of Victorian Government data so that it can be used and reused by the community and businesses.	Goulburn Broken CMA has not supplied any data sets to DataVic during 2014-15.



Act or policy	Board's major tasks	2014-15 issues and status
<b>Employer</b>		
<i>Fair Work Act (Registered Organisations) Act 2009</i>	Comply with the Award system which provides a minimum set of terms and conditions for Goulburn Broken CMA employees.	Goulburn Broken CMA's policies have been evaluated for alignment against the Act and are available to staff on its portal (intranet). The renewal of the enterprise agreement is still outstanding awaiting approval for the Settlement position for a 2.5% increase each year over a 3 year agreement.
<i>Equal Opportunity Act 1995</i>	Annual data return reporting gender, diversity and complaints lodged and investigated.	The Goulburn Broken CMA is an equal opportunity employer. Kate Pendergast is the sexual harassment contact officer. No complaints were received in the reporting period. Of the Goulburn Broken CMA staff, 57 per cent are female and 43 per cent male (see page 69).
<i>Long Service Leave Act 1992 Victorian Long Service Leave Regulations 2005</i>	Long service leave liability is updated to the Board in a monthly financial report.	Policies comply with Act. Liability is reflected in financial provisions and calculation explained in the notes to the financial statements.
<i>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004</i>	Report Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issues at each (monthly) Board meeting and in Annual Report. Quarterly Report of measurable OHS targets to the Audit Risk and compliance Committee	Goulburn Broken CMA continues to review and update its OHS Policy Statement and supporting OHS procedures. All staff and Contractors are inducted in the procedures that reflect their work function. OHS Procedures are in place and made available for contractors when applicable. Employee Health and Safety Representatives and Designated Work Groups are part of the consultative processes under sections 35 and 36 of the OHS Act 2004. Policies and procedures are available to staff on the portal (intranet). An OHS Report against agreed KPIs is provided to Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee quarterly.
Victorian Government Risk Management Framework  <i>Victorian Managed Insurance Authority Act 1996</i>	The Victorian Government Risk Management Framework provides for a minimum risk management standard across Public Sector entities. Attestation by accountable officer in annual report which ensures that requirement is built into corporate planning and reporting processes.	The attestation that the Goulburn Broken CMA has complied with Ministerial Standing Direction 4.5.5 - Risk Management Framework and Processes.
Gifts, benefits and hospitality policy framework	The Victorian Government Framework requiring employees to record gifts, benefits and hospitalities offered to them in their capacity with Goulburn Broken CMA.	The Goulburn Broken CMA has a comprehensive policy in relation to this issue and all staff are required to comply and record any benefits on the Register.

## Details of compliance with Protected Disclosure Act 2012

Refer to Appendix 7, page 136, for disclosure against and compliance with the Protected Disclosures Act 2012.

### Available information

- declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by relevant officers of the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- details of publications produced by the Goulburn Broken CMA about the activities of the Authority and where they can be obtained.
- details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the Goulburn Broken CMA for its services, including services that are administered.
- details of any major external reviews carried out in respect of the operation of the Goulburn Broken CMA.
- details of any other research and development activities undertaken by the Goulburn Broken CMA that are not otherwise covered either in the report of operations or in a document which contains the financial report and report of operations.
- details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit.
- details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Goulburn Broken CMA to develop community awareness of the services it provides.
- details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees, not otherwise detailed in the report of operations.
- a general statement on industrial relations within the Goulburn Broken CMA and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes, which is not otherwise detailed in the report of operations.
- a list of major committees sponsored by the Goulburn Broken CMA, the purpose of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved.
- information relevant to the headings listed in Financial Reporting Direction 22F of the *Financial Management Act 1994* is held at the Authority's office and is available on request subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

### Other information

Other information such as publications, major external reviews, overseas travel or promotional and public relations activities are available on request, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

## CaLP Act requirements (Headline theme reports)

This section demonstrates the Goulburn Broken CMA's reporting on its obligation under section 19B of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The reporting under 'headline themes' summarises previous guidelines established by the former Department of Sustainability and Environment in promoting statewide consistency.

Generally, this annual report promotes accountability by structuring information in alignment with the Goulburn Broken CMA's corporate plan. The following table shows how these two requirements relate now.

Headline theme	Goulburn Broken CMA investment area	Details page
Biodiversity	Biodiversity	52
Inland aquatic ecosystems	Environmental flows; Riparian and instream habitat and channel form; Water quality (nutrients) in rivers	39
Marine and Coastal	Not applicable	n.a.
Land health	Land health including dryland salinity; Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity; Invasive plants and animals	62; 32; 66
Community capacity	Community engagement; Planning and responding	17; 21
Environmental stewardship	Riparian and instream habitat and channel form; Biodiversity; Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity	39, 52, 32
None applicable	Human resources	68
None applicable	Environmental footprint	73
None applicable	Floodplain management	48

## Corporate Plan key performance indicators\*

\* KPIs derived from current Corporate Plan

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Progress 2014-15
<b>Governance</b>			
<b>Board performance</b>	Complete and submit an annual board performance assessment report, according to any guidelines issued	By 31 August annually	Completed Board Performance Evaluation discussions were undertaken and submitted to Ministers on 28 August 2014.
	Participation by board members in development activities	All board members participate in development activities	Ongoing Board members regularly participate in development activities
<b>Board charter</b>	Develop and implement a board charter	The board charter is reviewed (and if necessary, amended) by 30 June annually	Board Charter was reviewed in June 2014 and is currently under review pending new board appointment.
<b>Risk and financial management</b>	Compliance to risk management plans for each program	All programs have risk management plans in place	Achieved
		Nil non-compliances with risk management plan	Achieved
<b>Policies and procedures</b>	Regular review of policies and procedures	Each policy and procedure is reviewed at least every five years	Completed. A total of 65 policies and procedures reviewed in 2014-15, this includes 38 Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures.
<b>Efficiency of organisational performance</b>			
<b>Grant management</b>	Administration costs of grants are minimised	10 per cent or less of grant funds is spent on administration	Up to eight per cent levy was applied
	Minimise time taken to determine grant applications	Grant applications are determined within one month of being received	Achieved
<b>Regulatory waterway/ water functions</b>	Number of days to process works on waterways permits	Not more than 20 working days	78 applications processed. Average response time of 21 days.
	Number of days to process referrals for any works on or in relation to a dam	Not more than 20 working days	3 referrals processed. Average response time of 10 days. 100 per cent within statutory timeframes.
	Number of days to process referrals from local government on flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments, and planning and building approvals	Not more than 20 working days	648 direct applications processed. Average response time of 8 days
	Number of days to process enquiries from local government and the community on flooding	Not more than 20 working days	139 direct enquiries processed. Average response time of 7 days. 97 per cent completed within statutory timeframes.
	Number of days to process referrals for Water Use Licences that don't meet the standard water-use conditions	Not more than 20 working days	Nil referred

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Progress 2014-15
<b>Efficiency of organisational performance</b>			
<b>Integrated River Health Management</b>	Revise Regional River Health Strategy to plan for waterways in relation to their economic, social and environmental values	Regional River Health Strategy revised every six years	Review of the Regional River Health Strategy was completed and endorsed by the Minister in November 2014.
	Develop and revise Environmental Operating Strategies and Seasonal Watering Proposals (formerly Annual Watering Plans) to manage the environmental water reserve in accordance with objectives	Environmental Operating Strategies developed or revised every five years  Seasonal Watering Proposals (formerly Annual Watering Plans) approved for all Environmental Entitlements	Environmental Operating Strategies not applicable to the Goulburn Broken CMA. Seasonal Watering Proposals were developed for the lower Broken Creek, Broken River System, Goulburn River, Barmah Forest and Goulburn Broken Wetlands in accordance with Victorian Environment Water Holder guidelines and timeframes.
	Implement annual river health programs and activities to improve environmental values and health of water ecosystems	All annual river health targets and works programs achieved	80 per cent of annual river health targets and works programs achieved. The majority of Australian Government Caring for our Country / National Landcare Programme implementation targets have been met or exceeded. The majority of multi-year projects are on track.
<b>Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) implementation</b>	Complete and submit the developed or revised RCS according to any guidelines, standards and related information issued.	Submit the developed or revised RCS by the due date as required in any guidelines. Standards and related information issued.	Achieved. Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 launched May 2013.
	Percentage of RCS annual actions implemented	All RCS annual actions implemented	95 per cent achieved
<b>Regional Native Vegetation Plan (RNVP) implementation</b>	Percentage of RNVP annual actions implemented	All RNVP annual actions implemented	The plan is currently under review.
<b>Invasive plant and animal management</b>	Regional Invasive Plant and Animal Strategies incorporating related priorities in all land tenures in the region	Invasive Plant and Animal Strategies revised by 30 June every five years	First Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy 2010-15 was endorsed by DPI in October 2010. Next revision of the strategy is waiting direction from DELWP.
<b>Regional and statutory planning</b>	Provide advice on dryland salinity, irrigation management, soil erosion, or any other land management issue identified in the local Municipal Strategic Statement as the referral body	100 per cent of referral responses provided for each issue	Achieved
<b>Salinity management</b>	Implementation and periodic review of Regional Salinity Management Plans (RSMP) and Land and Water Management Plans (LWMP)	RSMP and LWMP completed RSMP and LWMP periodically reviewed RSMP and LWMP include annual actions to be implemented	Draft RSMP/LWMP plans completed. To be finalised in 2015-16.
	Progress against annual action targets	All annual RSMP and LWMP actions and targets achieved	Achieved in accordance with budgets
	Develop regional salinity targets and corresponding works programs in accordance with the Murray Darling Basin Salinity Agreement (for applicable CMAs only)	All annual salinity targets and works programs achieved	Achieved
	Annual report on the allocation and update of salt disposal entitlements submitted to the responsible Minister	By 31 July annually or as otherwise requested by the responsible Minister	Completed in November 2014

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Progress 2014-15
<b>Strategic organisational measures</b>			
<b>Regional Landcare groups, networks and other community groups</b>	Deliver the Regional Landcare Support Strategy, including coordination of Landcare at a regional scale	Evaluate and revise the strategy every five years	Community NRM Plan 2013-14 revised and launched February 2014.
<b>NRM Results</b>	Catchment objectives are achieved or evidence demonstrates movement towards meeting the objectives.	20-30 year objectives for Catchment condition.	On target. See page 5 for further detail.
<b>Client Focused</b>	Clients and stakeholders value the services received from the GB CMA and see the services making a positive contribution to catchment condition.	Satisfaction rating as rated by people having contact with the CMA. Awareness of the GB CMA as a land, water and biodiversity management body.	6.1/10 from Wallis Survey 2012.
<b>Operational Effectiveness</b>	Projects delivered as planned, aligned to GB CMA strategy, on time, on budget, and to an agreed quality.	Progress against agreed RCS Implementation Plan.  Performance against Annual Internal Audit Plan.  % projects finished on time and on budget (trend over time, and by service provider).	On track.  On track.  Standard output targets for program areas have been met for 68% of funding lines in the 2014-15 financial year (40 from 59 funding lines) and 80% of annual standard output targets were achieved or exceeded. The output areas which were not achieved (11 from a total of 54) relate to projects that run over multiple years and where the life to date output delivery is expected to be met during the life of the project or has already been exceeded in the previous year, or to projects where variations have been approved to extend their duration to complete the outputs.
<b>Financial</b>	The GB CMA optimises investment to on ground works by minimising (as much as possible) the costs incurred by the CMA in facilitating the delivery of NRM activities within the Catchment.	Ratio of CMA staff : \$ works on the ground (as a measure of leverage). Growth in income (incl. proportion of Government to Non-Government).	15% of funding directed to salaries and wages, 74% of funding directed to on ground works. A decrease in revenue, predominantly for the Farm Water Program, resulted in the unfavourable movement of these ratios from the 2013-14 financial year.
<b>People</b>	The GB CMA has capable and motivated people to enable it to deliver on the RCS and who are able to support the achievement of the Authority's vision and purpose.	Organisational Leadership (in the Organisational Performance Excellence Review). Overall job satisfaction (% of staff).	5.9/10 (top quartile for NRM organisations) from Organisational Performance Excellence Review 2011. The next review is due October 2015. As at 2014, 81% of staff were satisfied with their job. The 2012 result was 93%. The next survey is due in 2016.
<b>Governance and Social Responsibility</b>	Governance structures and processes enable the Board to professionally and competently discharge their responsibilities to the Catchment community.	Strategy and purpose (Aggregated results from Board Assessment). Compliance and Reporting (Aggregated results from Board Performance Assessment).	On track.

## Financial report

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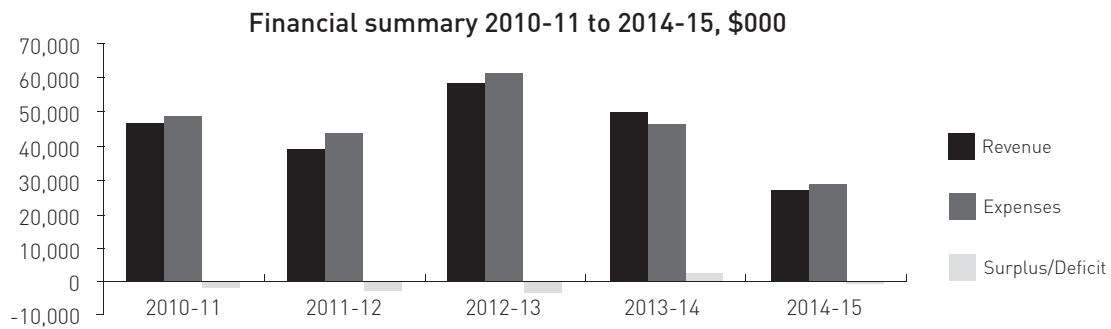
## Financial results summary: current plus past four years

	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000	2012-13 \$000	2013-14 \$000	2014-15 \$000
<b>Income and expenditure</b>					
State Government	16,746	17,035	34,764	34,753	9,921
Australian Government	16,175	14,602	19,765	12,430	14,371
Government contributions	32,921	31,637	54,529	47,183	24,292
Revenue from government entities	11,066	6,201	1,682	416	1,213
Other revenues	2,593	1,780	1,524	1,925	1,911
<b>Total income</b>	<b>46,580</b>	<b>39,618</b>	<b>57,735</b>	<b>49,524</b>	<b>27,416</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>48,525</b>	<b>42,313</b>	<b>61,377</b>	<b>46,888</b>	<b>28,172</b>
Infrastructure asset write-off	133	-	-	-	-
Interest	28	15	6	10	54
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>48,686</b>	<b>42,328</b>	<b>61,383</b>	<b>46,898</b>	<b>28,226</b>
<b>NET RESULT</b>	<b>(2,106)</b>	<b>(2,710)</b>	<b>(3,648)</b>	<b>2,626</b>	<b>(810)</b>
<b>Balance sheet items</b>					
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	21,683	34,936	23,146	13,266	12,489
Receivables	4,458	1,177	1,471	3,142	1,100
Inventories	-	234	-	-	-
Prepayments	22	35	27	173	70
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>26,163</b>	<b>36,382</b>	<b>24,644</b>	<b>16,581</b>	<b>13,659</b>
Fixed assets	1,607	1,449	1,330	1,492	1,257
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>27,770</b>	<b>37,831</b>	<b>25,974</b>	<b>18,073</b>	<b>14,916</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Trade creditors	4,309	3,518	2,010	1,956	849
Unearned revenue	5,340	17,474	14,220	3,682	3,003
Borrowings	30	32	31	39	35
Accruals	3,006	4,179	760	770	304
Provisions	1,428	1,747	1,739	1,742	1,582
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>14,113</b>	<b>26,950</b>	<b>18,760</b>	<b>8,189</b>	<b>5,773</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>					
Borrowings	29	36	20	32	43
Other	140	67	64	96	154
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>13,488</b>	<b>10,778</b>	<b>7,130</b>	<b>9,756</b>	<b>8,946</b>



## Financial results summary: current plus past four years (Cont'd)

	2010-11 \$000	2011-12 \$000	2012-13 \$000	2013-14 \$000	2014-15 \$000
<b>Equity items</b>					
Contributed capital	4,209	4,209	4,209	4,209	4,209
Reserves	9,279	6,569	2,921	5,547	4,737
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>13,488</b>	<b>10,778</b>	<b>7,130</b>	<b>9,756</b>	<b>8,946</b>
<b>Cash flow items</b>					
Net operating activities	3,089	13,576	(11,448)	(9,263)	(608)
Net investing activities	(437)	(288)	(297)	(579)	(132)
Net financing activities	(43)	(35)	(45)	(38)	(37)
<b>Net cash movement</b>	<b>2,609</b>	<b>13,253</b>	<b>(11,790)</b>	<b>(9,880)</b>	<b>(777)</b>



## Significant changes in financial results for 2013-14

	Corporate Plan February 2014 \$000	Actual \$000
<b>Comprehensive Operating Statement</b>		
Total revenue	24,977	27,416
Total expenditure	27,219	28,226
<b>Net result</b>	<b>(2,242)</b>	<b>(810)</b>
<b>Statement of financial position</b>		
Cash and receivables	7,497	13,589
Other	50	70
Non-current assets	1,321	1,257
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>8,868</b>	<b>14,916</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current	6,493	5,773
Non-current	66	197
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,559</b>	<b>5,970</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>8,946</b>

The variance in the actual results to end June 2015 of \$810 thousand deficit compared to the original Corporate Plan deficit of \$2.2 million related to additional unbudgeted funds of approximately \$1 million combined with increased revenue and expenditure in the Farm Water Program.

The additional funding in June, combined with delays in finalisation of Service Level Agreements, resulted in extra carry forward funds and higher than planned cash and receivables position at June 2015.

#### Significant changes or factors affecting performance

Other than as detailed above, there were no significant changes or factors which affected our performance.

#### Consultancy expenditure

The definition of consultancy was updated effective from 1 July 2013. Consequently, disclosures on consultancy expenditure prior to that date cannot be compared with current year disclosures.

	2013-14		2014-15	
	No.	\$ (excl. GST)	No.	\$ (excl. GST)
Consultancies valued at \$10,000 or greater	58	1,908,607	42	1,034,105
Consultancies valued at less than \$10,000	96	268,240	32	101,822

Details of individual consultancies valued at \$10,000 or greater are outlined on the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority website, at [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au).

#### Other financial disclosures

##### Victorian Industry Participation Policy

Nil procurement and/or project contracts in excess of \$1million were entered into during the year.

##### Government advertising expenditure

Nil advertising campaigns with a media spend of \$150,000 or greater were entered into during the year.

##### Disclosure of major contracts

Goulburn Broken CMA did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) during 2014-15.

##### Capital projects

Goulburn Broken CMA does not manage any capital projects.

## Financial Statements

### Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Australian Business Number (ABN): 89 184 039 725

#### Accountable Officers' and Chief Finance and Accounting Officer's declaration

The attached financial report for the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (Goulburn Broken CMA) has been prepared in accordance with Standing Directions 4.2 of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2015 and financial position of the Goulburn Broken CMA at 30 June 2015.

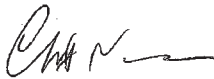
At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 27 August 2015.



---

M Chapman  
Chair



---

C P Norman  
Chief Executive Officer



---

E Curtis  
Chief Finance and Accounting Officer  
27 August 2015

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Board Members, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

#### *The Financial Report*

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015 of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority which comprises the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, notes comprising significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the accountable officers' and chief finance and accounting officer's declaration has been audited.

#### *The Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The board members of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, and for such internal control as the board members determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

# VAGO

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Level 24, 35 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
Telephone 61 3 8601 7000  
Facsimile 61 3 8601 7010  
Email [comments@audit.vic.gov.au](mailto:comments@audit.vic.gov.au)  
Website [www.audit.vic.gov.au](http://www.audit.vic.gov.au)

## *Independence*

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

## *Opinion*

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

MELBOURNE  
27 August 2015



John Doyle  
Auditor-General

## Comprehensive Operating Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>Revenue from operating activities</b>			
Government contributions	3	24,292	47,183
Revenue from government entities	3	1,213	416
Other revenues from ordinary activities	3	1,333	914
		26,838	48,513
Revenue from non-operating activities	3	578	1,011
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>27,416</b>	<b>49,524</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Operating costs to Programs	4a	(27,276)	(45,986)
Depreciation & Amortisation	4b	(499)	(491)
Interest		(54)	(10)
Provision for Bad Debt		-	(92)
Occupancy expenses		(397)	(319)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>(28,226)</b>	<b>(46,898)</b>
<b>NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>(810)</b>	<b>2,626</b>
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
<b>Comprehensive result</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>(810)</b>	<b>2,626</b>

The above Comprehensive Operating Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$'000	2014 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	12,489	13,266
Receivables	6	1,100	3,142
Prepayments		70	173
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>13,659</b>	<b>16,581</b>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7	1,231	1,462
Intangible Assets	8	26	30
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>1,257</b>	<b>1,492</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>14,916</b>	<b>18,073</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current liabilities			
Payables	9	1,153	2,726
Unearned revenue	10	3,003	3,682
Interest bearing liabilities	11	35	39
Employee benefits	12	1,582	1,742
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>5,773</b>	<b>8,189</b>
Non-current liabilities			
Interest bearing liabilities	11	43	32
Employee benefits	12	154	96
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>197</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>5,970</b>	<b>8,317</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>8,946</b>	<b>9,756</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Contributed equity	14	4,209	4,209
Accumulated funds	15	-	-
Committed Funds Reserve	16	4,737	5,547
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>8,946</b>	<b>9,756</b>
Commitments	17		
Contingent Assets & Liabilities	19		

The above Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Changes in Equity for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	Contributions by owners \$000	Reserves \$000	Accumulated funds \$000	Total \$000
Balance at 1 July 2013		4,209	2,921	-	7,130
Net result for the period		-	-	2,626	2,626
Transfer to / (from) Reserve	16	-	2,626	(2,626)	-
Balance at 30 June 2014		4,209	5,547	-	9,756
Total Comprehensive Income / (Deficit) for the year		-	-	(810)	(810)
Transfer to / (from) Reserves	16	-	(810)	810	-
Balance at 30 June 2015		4,209	4,737	-	8,946

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Cash Flow Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
Cash flow from operating activities			
Government contributions		27,375	47,456
Revenue from other Government Entities		1,368	202
Payments to suppliers and employees		(31,872)	(60,746)
GST (remitted to) received from Australian Tax Office		561	1,273
Interest received		498	1,018
Interest paid		(54)	(10)
Other revenue		1,516	1,544
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	23b	(608)	(9,263)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Repayment of finance lease liabilities		(37)	(38)
Net cash provided by (used in) finance activities		(37)	(38)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		209	271
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(341)	(850)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(132)	(579)
Net (decrease) / increase in cash held		(777)	(9,880)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		13,266	23,146
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	23a	12,489	13,266

The above Cash Flow Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



# Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

## Note 1: Significant accounting policies

### a Basis of accounting

#### *General*

The financial report includes separate financial statements for Goulburn Broken CMA as an individual reporting entity. This financial report is a general purpose financial report, that consists of a Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and notes accompanying these statements for the period ending 30 June 2015. The general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and applicable Ministerial Directions. The Goulburn Broken CMA is a not for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis.

Where appropriate, those AAS paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in the preparation of these financial statements whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 27th August 2015.

The principal address is:

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority  
168 Welsford St  
Shepparton VIC 3632

#### *Accounting policies*

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation.

#### *Functional and Presentation Currency*

Items included in this financial report are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which Goulburn Broken CMA operates ('the functional currency'). The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is Goulburn Broken CMA's functional and presentation currency.

#### *Classification between current and non-current*

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be realised or paid. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be turned over within the next twelve months, being the Goulburn Broken CMA's operational cycle - see note 1(f) for a variation in relation to employee benefits.

#### *Rounding*

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. Figures in the financial statements may not equate due to rounding.

#### *Historical cost convention*

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the revaluation of financial assets and all classes of property, plant and equipment.

#### *Accounting estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with AAS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Goulburn Broken CMA's accounting policies.

#### *Financial Statement Presentation*

Goulburn Broken CMA has applied the revised AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* which became effective for reporting periods beginning, on or after, 1 July 2014, and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures* which became effective for reporting periods beginning on, or after, 1 July 2014.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### b Changes in accounting policy

Subsequent to the 2014-15 reporting period, the following new and revised Standards have been adopted in the current period with their financial impact detailed as below.

##### *AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements*

AASB 10 provides a new approach to determine whether an entity has control over an entity, and therefore must present consolidated financial statements. The new approach requires the satisfaction of all three criteria for control to exist over an entity for financial reporting purposes:

- a) The investor has power over the investee;
- b) The investor has exposure, or rights to variable returns from its involvement with the investee; and
- c) The investor has the ability to use its power over the investee to affect the amount of investor's returns.

Based on the new criteria prescribed in AASB 10, the Goulburn Broken CMA has reviewed the existing arrangements to determine if there are any entities that need to be consolidated into the group. The Goulburn Broken CMA has concluded that there are no entities that have met the control criteria.

##### *AASB 11 Joint Arrangements*

In accordance with AASB 11, there are two types of joint arrangements, i.e. joint operations and joint ventures. Joint operations arise where the investors have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities of an arrangement. A joint operator accounts for its share of the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. Joint ventures arise where the investors have rights to the net assets of the arrangement; joint ventures are accounted for under the equity method. Proportionate consolidation of joint ventures is no longer permitted.

The Goulburn Broken CMA has reviewed its existing contractual arrangements with other entities to ensure they are aligned with the new classifications under AASB 11. It has concluded that existing classification for joint operations remains appropriate and no joint ventures have been identified.

#### c Revenue

##### *Government grants and contributions*

Under AASB 1004-*Contributions*, Government grants of a recurrent nature are brought to account on the earlier of receipt or the right to receive the contributions. The full grant receivable is reflected in the comprehensive operating statement as government contributions. Instalment receipts on the grant are credited to the receivable account as received. Consequently, at year-end outstanding instalments on these grants are reflected as receivable from Government.

The value of all goods and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration are recognised at their fair value when the Goulburn Broken CMA gains control of them.

Grants and contributions for capital works from all sources are disclosed in the operating statement as operating revenue. Any grants and contributions received from the Victorian Government which the relevant Ministers have indicated are in the nature of owners' contributions, are accounted for as Equity – Contributed Capital.

##### *Farm Water Program*

During the financial year Goulburn Broken CMA continued as the 'delivery partner' for both the Australian Government and the Victorian Farm Modernisation Program – Tranche 1. Goulburn Broken CMA was also successful in obtaining funding under the Victorian Farm Modernisation Program – Tranche 2.

In its role as the 'delivery partner', Goulburn Broken CMA receives funding to make payments to approved irrigators under an Infrastructure Works Deed whereby irrigators undertake works on their land to generate permanent water savings half of which are transferred to the Australian Government.

Goulburn Broken CMA reflects as Revenue, funding it has received to match the liability it must pay under the Infrastructure Works Deed.

Revenue received by Goulburn Broken CMA in advance of paying liabilities under the relevant Program's Infrastructure Works Deed is taken to unearned revenue.

##### *Other*

Gains or losses on disposal of non-current assets are calculated as the difference between the proceeds on sale and their written down value.

##### *Interest*

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate method, in the period in which it is earned.

Interest earned in relation to the Farm Water Program is retained by that program and is not the revenue of the Goulburn Broken CMA. Interest earned on this program is held in unearned revenue as at 30 June 2015.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### d Expenses

##### *Borrowing costs*

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred. Borrowing costs include interest on finance lease charges.

##### *Grants and other transfers*

Grants and other transfers to third parties (other than contribution to owners) are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable. They include transactions such as: grants, incentives, subsidies and other transfer payments made to State-owned agencies, local government, land owners and community groups.

##### *Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets*

All non-current physical assets that have a limited useful life are depreciated. Where assets have separate identifiable components that have distinct useful lives and/or residual values, a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortised as an expense on a systematic basis (typically straight-line), commencing from the time the asset is available for use. The amortisation periods are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate at each balance date. Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are not amortised. However, all intangible assets are assessed for impairment annually as outlined in Note 1(e).

Depreciation rates within each asset class are consistent with the previous year and fall within the following ranges:

Asset class	Depreciation rate, %
Buildings	2.5
Plant and equipment	10 to 40
Motor vehicles	20
Website upgrade	20

##### *Employee Benefits*

These expenses include all costs related to employment (other than superannuation which is accounted for separately) including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments and WorkCover premiums.

##### *Superannuation*

The amount charged to the Comprehensive Operating Statement in respect of superannuation represents contributions made or due by Goulburn Broken CMA to the relevant superannuation plans in respect to the services of Goulburn Broken CMA's staff (both past and present). Superannuation contributions are made to the plans based on the relevant rules of each plan and any relevant compulsory superannuation requirements that Goulburn Broken CMA is required to comply with.

##### *Repairs and maintenance*

Routine maintenance, repair costs and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold, the cost is capitalised and depreciated.

##### *Other expenses*

Supplies and services costs which are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

#### e Assets

##### *Cash and deposits*

Cash and deposits recognised on the Balance Sheet comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments (with an original maturity of three months or less), which are held for the purpose of meeting short term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and readily convertible to known amounts of cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value.

For Cash Flow Statement presentation purposes, cash and cash equivalents include bank overdrafts, which are included as interest bearing liabilities on the Balance Sheet.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### *Receivables*

Receivables consist of:

- contractual receivables, such as debtors in relation to goods and services, loans to third parties, and accrued investment income; and
- statutory receivables, such as amounts owing from the Victorian Government and Goods and Services Tax (GST) input tax credits recoverable.

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as loans and receivables

Statutory receivables, are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments because they do not arise from a contract.

Contractual receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less an allowance for impaired receivables. Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 14 days from Government, and no more than 30 days for other debtors.

Collectability of contractual receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is established when there is objective evidence that Goulburn Broken CMA will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The amounts credited to the provision are recognised as an expense in the comprehensive operating statement.

#### *Prepayments*

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

#### *Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment*

##### *Recognition of non-current physical assets*

Property, plant and equipment represent non-current physical assets comprising buildings, plant, equipment and motor vehicles, used by the Goulburn Broken CMA in its operations. Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000 and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as an asset. All other assets acquired are expensed.

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets. Cost is measured as fair value of the assets given, at the date of exchange plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition.

Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration by the Goulburn Broken CMA are recognised at fair value at the date of acquisition.

##### *Measurement of non-current physical assets*

All non-current physical assets are recognised initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment in accordance with the requirements of Financial Reporting Direction (FRD) 103F. Revaluations are conducted in accordance with FRD 103F *Non-current physical assets*.

Plant equipment and motor vehicles are measured at fair value.

##### *Impairment of assets*

All assets are assessed annually for indicators of impairment.

If there is an indication of impairment, the assets concerned are tested as to whether their carrying value exceeds their recoverable amount. Where an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written-off by a charge to the operating statement except to the extent that the write down can be debited to an asset revaluation reserve amount applicable to that class of asset.

The recoverable amount for most assets is measured at the higher of depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Recoverable amount for assets held primarily to generate net cash inflows are measured at the higher of the present value of future cash flows expected to be obtained from the asset and fair value less costs to sell. It is deemed that, in the event of the loss of an asset, the future economic benefits arising from the use of the asset will be replaced unless a specific decision to the contrary has been made.

##### *A reversal of an impairment loss*

A reversal of an impairment loss on a revalued asset is credited directly to equity under the heading revaluation reserve. However, to the extent that an impairment loss on the same class of asset was previously recognised in the operating statement, a reversal of that impairment loss is also recognised in the operating statement.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### *Intangibles*

Intangible assets represent identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is expected that additional future economic benefits will flow to Goulburn Broken CMA. The amortisation method is reviewed at each financial year-end and assets are reviewed annually for indicators of impairment.

Intangible assets consist of software, web site development and licences. These assets are amortised over 5 years.

Costs in relation to web sites controlled by the Goulburn Broken CMA are charged as expenses in the period in which they are incurred unless they relate to the acquisition of an asset, in which case they are capitalised and amortised over their period of expected benefits. Generally, costs in relation to feasibility studies during the planning phase of a web site, and ongoing costs of maintenance during the operating phase are considered to be expenses. Costs incurred in building or enhancing a web site, to the extent that they represent probable future economic benefits controlled by the entity that can be reliably measured, are capitalised as an asset and amortised over the period of the expected benefits, which vary from three to five years.

#### *Leased assets*

Leases of property, plant and equipment where the terms of the lease transfer to the Goulburn Broken CMA substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, are classified as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised at the lease's inception at the lower of the fair value of the leased property and the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding rental obligations, net of finance charges, are included in interest bearing liabilities. Each lease payment is allocated between the liability and finance charges so as to achieve a constant rate on the finance balance outstanding. The interest element of the finance cost is charged to the Comprehensive Operating Statement over the lease period so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. The property, plant and equipment acquired under a finance lease is depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term.

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the lessor) are charged to the Comprehensive Operating Statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease, in the periods in which they are incurred, as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

#### *Financial assets*

##### *Recognition*

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value, plus in the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through profit and loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or the issue of the financial asset or liability. Subsequent to initial recognition, the financial instruments are measured as set out below:

##### *Receivables*

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date which are classified as non-current assets. Receivables are included in the balance sheet. Receivables are recorded at amortised cost less impairment.

##### *Impairment of financial assets*

At each reporting date, Goulburn Broken CMA assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. Impairment losses are recognised in the Operating Statement.

##### *Fair value*

Consistent with AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, Goulburn Broken CMA determines the policies and procedures for both recurring fair value measurements such as property, plant and equipment, and financial instruments and for non recurring fair value measurements such as assets held for sale, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 13 and the relevant Financial Reporting Directions.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Goulburn Broken CMA has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, Goulburn Broken CMA determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer General Victoria (VGV) is Goulburn Broken CMA's independent valuation agency.

Goulburn Broken CMA, in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

#### f Liabilities

##### *Payables*

Payables consist of:

- contractual payables, such as accounts payable, and unearned income. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Goulburn Broken CMA prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid, and arise when the Goulburn Broken CMA becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of those goods and services; and
- statutory payables, such as goods and services tax, payroll tax and fringe benefits tax payables.

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as financial liabilities at amortised cost. Statutory payables are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from a contract.

The contractual payables are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

##### *Interest bearing liabilities*

Interest bearing liabilities are initially recognised at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Interest bearing liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial amount recognised (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement over the period of the interest bearing liabilities, using the effective interest method.

Interest bearing liabilities are classified as current liabilities unless the Goulburn Broken CMA has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

##### *Provisions*

Provisions are recognised when the Goulburn Broken CMA has a present obligation, the future sacrifice of economic benefits is probable, and the amount of the provision can be measured reliably.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation. Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows, using discount rate that reflects the time value of money and risks specific to the provision.

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be received from a third party, the receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that recovery will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

##### *Employee benefits*

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date.

##### *Wages and salaries and annual leave*

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non monetary benefits annual leave and accumulating sick leave, are all recognised in the provision for employee benefits as 'current liabilities', because the Goulburn Broken CMA does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

Depending on the expectation of the timing of settlement, liabilities for wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the Goulburn Broken CMA expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value – if the Goulburn Broken CMA does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### *Long service leave*

Liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

Unconditional LSL is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements as a current liability, even where the Goulburn Broken CMA does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current long service leave liability are measured at:

- nominal value – component that the Goulburn Broken CMA expects to settle within 12 months; and
- present value – component that the Goulburn Broken CMA does not expect to settle within 12 months.

Conditional long service leave (representing less than seven years of continuous service) is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. Conditional long service leave is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised in the 'net result from transactions', except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised in the net result as an other economic flow.

#### *Superannuation*

A liability is recognised for superannuation contributions outstanding. The Goulburn Broken CMA does not recognise any defined benefit liability in respect of the superannuation plan because the Goulburn Broken CMA has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees; its only obligation is to pay superannuation contributions as they fall due. The Department of Treasury and Finance discloses the State's defined benefit liabilities in its financial report. See Note 13 for more details on superannuation.

#### *Employee benefit on-costs*

Employee benefit on-costs, including payroll tax, workcover and superannuation costs are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities and costs when the employee benefits to which they relate are recognised as liabilities.

#### *Performance payments*

Performance payments for the Goulburn Broken CMA's Executive Officers are based on a percentage of the annual salary package provided under their contracts of employment. A liability is recognised and is measured as the aggregate of the amounts accrued under the terms of the contracts to balance date.

### **g Equity**

#### *Contributed capital*

Grants and contributions received from the Victorian State Government which were originally appropriated by the Parliament as additions to net assets or where the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water have indicated are in the nature of owners' contributions, are accounted for as Equity – Contributed Capital.

### **h Commitments**

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are disclosed by way of a note (refer to Note 17) at their nominal value and exclusive of the goods and services tax (GST) payable. In addition, where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present values of significant individual projects are stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

### **i Contingent assets and contingent liabilities**

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note (refer to Note 19) and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented exclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

### **j Events after the reporting period**

Assets, liabilities, income or expenses arise from past transactions or other past events. Where the transactions result from an agreement between the Goulburn Broken CMA and other parties, the transactions are only recognised when the agreement is irrevocable at or before the end of the reporting period.

Adjustments are made to amounts recognised in the financial statements for events which occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue, where those events provide information about conditions which existed at the reporting date.

Note disclosure is made about events between the end of the reporting period and the date the financial statements are authorised for issue where the events relate to conditions which arose after the end of the reporting period that are considered to be of material interest.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 1: Significant accounting policies (Cont'd)

#### k Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the balance sheet.

Cash flows arising from operating activities are disclosed in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis i.e. inclusive of GST. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and finance activities which is recoverable or payable to the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

#### *Government appropriations*

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning treat grant contributions to the Goulburn Broken CMA for the agreed works program to be State government appropriations. Consequently as this does not constitute a taxable supply, the Goulburn Broken CMA receives no GST on amounts paid by the Department.

#### l New accounting standards and interpretations

##### *New Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued that are not yet effective*

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period. As at 30 June 2015, Goulburn Broken CMA has not and does not intend to adopt these standards early. Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) assesses the impact of new standards and advises Goulburn Broken CMA of their applicability and early adoption where applicable. Goulburn Broken CMA's preliminary assessment of these new accounting standards has not identified any material impact on its future financial reports.

### Note 2: Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Goulburn Broken CMA's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. This note presents information about the Goulburn Broken CMA's exposure to each of these risks and the objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's Board has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Goulburn Broken CMA's risk management framework. The Goulburn Broken CMA's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse impacts on the financial performance of the Goulburn Broken CMA. The Goulburn Broken CMA uses sensitivity analysis in the case of interest rate risks.

Risk Management is carried out by the Audit Risk & Compliance Committee under policies approved by the Board of Directors. The corporate division identifies, evaluates and hedges financial risks in close cooperation with the Goulburn Broken CMA's operating units. The Board complies with Department of Treasury and Finance policy covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and investment of excess liquidity.

#### 2.1 Risk exposures

The main risks the Goulburn Broken CMA is exposed to through its financial instruments are as follows:

##### a Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices will affect fair value of future cash flows of the Goulburn Broken CMA's financial instruments. Market risk comprises of interest rate risk and other price risk. The Goulburn Broken CMA's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rates, as there is no exposure to foreign exchange risk and no significant exposure to other price risks.

Objectives, policies and processes used for these risks are disclosed in the paragraphs below:

##### *Interest rate risk*

The Goulburn Broken CMA has minimal exposure to interest rate risk through its holding of cash assets and other financial assets. The Goulburn Broken CMA complies with Department of Treasury and Finance policies in this regard.

##### *Other price risk*

The Goulburn Broken CMA has no significant exposure to other price risk.

##### *Market risk sensitivity analysis*

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Goulburn Broken CMA's financial assets and financial liabilities to interest rate risk.



## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 2: Financial risk management objectives and policies (Cont'd)

30 June 2015	Carrying amount \$000	Interest rate risk			
		-1 per cent		+1 per cent	
		Result \$000	Equity \$000	Result \$000	Equity \$000
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash at bank	12,489	(125)	(125)	125	125
Receivables	758	-	-	-	-
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	(1,079)	-	-	-	-
Interest bearing liabilities	(78)	-	-	-	-
Total increase/(decrease)		(125)	(125)	125	125

30 June 2014	Carrying amount \$000	Interest rate risk			
		-1 per cent		+1 per cent	
		Result \$000	Equity \$000	Result \$000	Equity \$000
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash at bank	13,266	(133)	(133)	133	133
Receivables	2,783	-	-	-	-
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	(2,645)	-	-	-	-
Interest bearing liabilities	(71)	-	-	-	-
Total increase/(decrease)		(133)	(133)	133	133

#### b Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Goulburn Broken CMA as a result of a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument failing to meet its contractual obligations. Credit risk arises principally from the Goulburn Broken CMA's receivables and financial assets.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's exposure to credit risk is influenced by the individual characteristics of each customer. The receivable balance consists of business customers which are spread across a diverse range of industries. Receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure that exposure to bad debts is not significant. The Goulburn Broken CMA has in place a policy and procedure for the collection of overdue receivables. In relation to cash at bank, cash is invested with Treasury Corporation Victoria and Authorised Deposit Taking Institutions.

Credit quality of contractual financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired.

30 June 2015	Government agencies \$000	Other \$000	Total \$000
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	7,000	5,489	12,489
Receivables	491	267	758
Investments and other financial assets	-	-	-

30 June 2014	Government agencies \$000	Other \$000	Total \$000
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	4,500	8,766	13,266
Receivables	2,432	351	2,783
Investments and other financial assets	-	-	-

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 2: Financial risk management objectives and policies (Cont'd)

#### c Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Goulburn Broken CMA will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Goulburn Broken CMA's policy is to settle financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of dispute make payments within 20 days from the day of resolution.

The Goulburn Broken CMA manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves and banking facilities by continuously monitoring forecasts and actual cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and financial liabilities.

The Goulburn Broken CMA's financial liability maturities have been disclosed in Note 24.

#### 2.2 Fair valuation estimation

The carrying value less impairment provision of trade receivables and payables is a reasonable approximation of their fair values due to the short term nature of trade receivables. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Goulburn Broken CMA for similar financial assets.

The carrying amounts and aggregate net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities at balance date have been provided in Note 24.

### Note 3: Revenues

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>Government Contributions</b>			
State		9,065	12,026
Commonwealth		3,343	6,486
Farm Water Program*		11,884	28,671
Total Government Contributions		24,292	47,183
<b>Revenue From Government Entities</b>			
Goulburn Murray Water		154	226
Catchment Management Authorities		950	136
Other Government Entities		109	54
Total Revenue From Government Entities		1,213	416
<b>Other Revenues</b>			
Recoverable Costs		86	133
Other		1,247	781
Total Other Revenues		1,333	914
<b>Non Operating Revenue</b>			
(Loss)/Gain on Disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment		88	16
Interest		490	995
Total Non Operating Revenue		578	1,011
Total Revenue		27,416	49,524

\*The Farm Water Program includes both State and Commonwealth Contributions from the following Investment Programs:  
2014-15: Victorian Farm Modernisation Project (VFMP) and Commonwealth On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (OFIEP)  
2013-14: Victorian On-Farm State Priority Project (VOSPP), Northern Victoria Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP) and Commonwealth On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program (OFIEP)

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 4: Expenses

Net result for the period has been determined after:

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>a Operating costs to programs</b>			
Land and Biodiversity		5,212	6,916
Sustainable Irrigation		15,432	32,908
River Health & Floodplain		5,323	4,975
Corporate			
• Audit Fees - External		21	28
- Internal		29	78
• Other		908	735
Corporate Administration		958	841
Business Development		351	346
Total Corporate		1,309	1,187
<b>Total operating costs to Program</b>		<b>27,276</b>	<b>45,986</b>
<b>b Depreciation of non-current assets</b>			
Buildings		-	-
Plant and equipment and other		139	129
Motor vehicles		310	327
<b>Total depreciation</b>		<b>449</b>	<b>456</b>
Amortisation of leased assets		43	32
Amortisation Intangible assets		7	3
<b>Total Amortisation</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Total Depreciation and Amortisation</b>		<b>499</b>	<b>491</b>
<b>c Employee related expenses</b>			
Included in the Program Expenditure totals are the following employee related expenses			
Salary & Wages		4,160	4,295
Annual Leave		334	369
Long Service Leave		121	156
Employer Superannuation contributions		575	557
Other		243	268
<b>Total employee related expenses</b>		<b>5,433</b>	<b>5,645</b>

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 5: Cash and cash equivalents

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
Cash on hand		2	2
Cash at Bank		3,487	6,764
Term Deposit at Bank		2,000	2,000
Deposits at Call with Treasury Corp Victoria		7,000	4,500
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>12,489</b>	<b>13,266</b>

All of these funds are restricted in that they are held to be spent on a range of programs which the Goulburn Broken CMA currently has underway.

#### (a) Reconciliation to cash at the end of the year

The above figures are agreed to cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement.

#### (b) Cash at Bank

Amounts at bank bear floating interest rates currently 1.75 per cent (2014: 2.35 per cent)

#### (c) Term deposit at Bank

Term Deposit bears interest at 2.43 per cent and matures on 17 July 2015 (2014: 3.25 per cent)

#### (d) Deposits at call

The Deposits at call with Treasury Corporation Victoria bear interest at 1.95 per cent (2014: 2.45 per cent)

### Note 6: Receivables

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>Contractual</b>			
Government grants receivable		491	2,432
Trade debtors		245	413
Less provision for bad debt		-	(92)
Accrued interest		22	30
<b>Total contractual</b>		<b>758</b>	<b>2,783</b>
<b>Statutory</b>			
Net GST amount due from Australian Tax Office		342	359
<b>Total statutory</b>		<b>342</b>	<b>359</b>
<b>Total receivables</b>		<b>1,100</b>	<b>3,142</b>

#### a Provision for impaired receivables

As at 30 June 2015, current receivables of the Goulburn Broken CMA with a nominal value of nil (2014: \$92,450) were impaired.

#### b Past due but not impaired receivables

As of 30 June 2015, government receivables of \$7,094 (2014: \$830,000) and other receivables of \$nil (2014: \$nil) were past due but not impaired. These relate to entities for which there is no recent history of default. The ageing analysis of these receivables is as follows:

Three to six months		7	390
Over six months		-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>390</b>

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 7: Property plant and equipment

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
Buildings at fair value		43	44
Less accumulated depreciation		(43)	(44)
		-	-
Plant and equipment at fair value		1,368	1,304
Less accumulated depreciation		(1,157)	(1,020)
		211	284
Motor vehicles at fair value		1,484	1,680
Less accumulated depreciation		(542)	(580)
		942	1,100
Office and computer equipment acquired under finance lease at fair value		396	353
Accumulated amortisation		(318)	(275)
		78	78
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>		<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,462</b>

### Movements during the reporting period

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year.

	Buildings \$000	Plant and equipment \$000	Motor vehicles \$000	Equipment under finance lease \$000	Total \$000
<b>2014-15</b>					
Opening written down value at 1 July 2014	-	284	1,100	78	1,462
Additions	-	66	272	43	381
Disposals	-	-	(120)	-	(120)
Depreciation expense	-	(139)	(310)	-	(449)
Amortisation	-	-	-	(43)	(43)
Closing written down value at 30 June 2015	-	211	942	78	1,231
<b>2013-14</b>					
Opening written down value at 1 July 2013	-	248	1,029	53	1,330
Additions	-	164	652	57	873
Disposals	-	-	(254)	-	(254)
Depreciation expense	-	(128)	(327)	-	(455)
Amortisation	-	-	-	(32)	(32)
Closing written down value at 30 June 2014	-	284	1,100	78	1,462

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 7: Property plant and equipment (Cont'd)

#### Fair Value Hierarchy

Fair Value measurement recognised in the balance sheet are categorised into the following levels at 30 June 2015.

	2015	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
	Carrying amount \$000	Level 1 \$000	Level 2 \$000	Level 3 \$000
<b>Building at fair value</b>				
Non- Specialised Buildings	-		-	
Total Building at fair value	-		-	
<b>Plant, equipment and Vehicles at fair value</b>				
Plant and Equipment	211		211	
Vehicles	942		942	
Total Plant, equipment and Vehicles at fair value	1,153		1,153	
<b>Office and Computer Equipment at fair value</b>				
Office and Computer Equipment	78		78	
Total Office and Computer Equipment at fair value	78		78	

There were no transfers between hierarchy levels during the period ended 30 June 2015.

#### Class of property, plant and equipment

##### *Non-Specialised buildings*

Buildings relate to non-specialised portable structures and were valued based on depreciated replacement cost. To the extent that non specialised buildings do not contain significant, unobservable adjustments, these assets are classified as Level 2 under the market approach.

##### *Vehicles*

Vehicles are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. Goulburn Broken CMA acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced external fleet managers who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles. Vehicles have been classified as Level 2 because they are non specialised in nature, an indirect observable market is available for the vehicles and the impact of unobservable inputs such as condition are not considered significant.

##### *Plant, office and computer equipment*

Plant and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method. For non specialised assets with short useful lives, depreciated historical cost has been used as an acceptable surrogate for fair value as differences are not considered material.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2015.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 8: Intangible Assets

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
Website Development At Cost		36	33
Accumulated amortisation		(10)	(3)
<b>Total Intangible Assets</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>

	Website \$000	Total \$000
<b>2014-15</b>		
Opening written down value at 1 July 2014	30	30
Additions	3	3
Disposals	-	-
Amortisation	(7)	(7)
<b>Closing written down value at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>2013-14</b>		
Opening written down value at 1 July 2013	-	-
Additions	33	33
Disposals	-	-
Asset write-off	-	-
Amortisation	(3)	(3)
<b>Closing written down value at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

### Note 9: Payables

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>Contractual</b>		-	-
Trade creditors		795	1,902
Accruals		284	743
<b>Total contractual</b>		<b>1,079</b>	<b>2,645</b>
<b>Statutory</b>			
FBT payable		54	54
Payroll tax		20	27
<b>Total Statutory</b>		<b>74</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Total payables</b>		<b>1,153</b>	<b>2,726</b>

### Note 10: Unearned Revenue

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>Current</b>			
Commonwealth OFIEP Round 2		-	323
Commonwealth OFIEP Round 2 - Interest		-	218
Victorian On-Farm State Project		178	403
Victorian On-Farm State Project - Interest		41	41
Victorian Farm Modernisation Project		2,673	2,665
Victorian Farm Modernisation Project Interest		111	32
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,003</b>	<b>3,682</b>

Funding in advance to Goulburn Broken CMA to pay Farm Water Program proponents is taken to unearned revenue and released to the income and expenditure account to match Goulburn Broken CMA expenditure liabilities under the Program.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 11: Interest bearing liabilities

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>Current</b>			
Secured			
Finance lease liability	17b	35	39
<b>Non-current</b>			
Secured			
Finance lease liability	17b	43	32
Assets pledged as security			
Total employee benefits		78	71

### Note 12: Employment benefits

Employee benefits and on-costs	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>Current</b>			
<b>Other employee benefits</b>		31	31
<b>Annual leave</b>			
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months		320	362
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months		-	-
<b>Long service leave</b>			
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months		-	-
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months		1,020	1,119
<b>On-costs<sup>i</sup></b>			
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months		56	60
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months		155	170
Total current employee benefits and on-costs		1,582	1,742
<b>Non-current</b>			
Long service leave		133	83
On-costs <sup>i</sup>		21	13
Total non-current employee benefits and on-costs		154	96
Total employee benefits		1,736	1,838

i On-costs include payroll tax, superannuation and workers' compensation insurance.

All annual leave is treated as a current liability. Long service leave entitlement representing seven years plus continuous service is also treated as a current liability. Long service leave entitlement representing less than seven years continuous service is treated as a non-current liability.

Movement in provisions of on-costs	2015 \$000
<b>Opening balance</b>	243
Additional provisions recognised	7
Reductions arising from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefits	(18)
Closing balance	232
Current	211
Non-current	21
Total employee benefits	232



## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 13: Superannuation

The Goulburn Broken CMA makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are made or due.

#### *Accumulation*

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2015, this was 9.5% required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation [for 2013-14, this was 9.25%]).

The Superannuation Guarantee contribution rate is legislated to progressively increase to 12% by 2025. The Superannuation Guarantee rate will remain at 9.5% for 7 years, increasing to 10% from 1 July 2021, and eventually to 12% from 1 July 2025.

#### *Defined Benefit*

Goulburn Broken CMA does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Goulburn Broken CMA in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

#### *Funding Arrangements*

Goulburn Broken CMA makes employer contributions to the defined benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund's Actuary.

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation was held as at 30 June 2014 and it was determined that the Vested Benefit Index (VBI) of the defined benefit category of which Goulburn Broken CMA is a contributing employer was 103.4%.

To determine the VBI, the fund Actuary used the following long-term assumptions:

- Net investment returns 7.5% pa
- Salary information 4.25% pa
- Price inflation (CPI) 2.75% pa.

Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI at March 2015 was 108.5%.

The VBI is to be used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the actuarial investigation determined the defined benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the defined benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

### Employer Contributions

#### *Regular Contributions*

On the basis of the results of the most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's Actuary as at 30 June 2014, the Goulburn Broken CMA makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2015, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries. This rate will increase in line with the required Superannuation Guarantee contribution rate.

In addition, Goulburn Broken CMA reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

#### *Funding Calls*

If the defined benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at actuarial investigation or the defined benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the defined benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Goulburn Broken CMA) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's defined benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 13: Superannuation (Cont'd)

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

#### *Latest actuarial investigation surplus amounts*

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation as at 30 June 2014 identified the following in the defined benefit category of which Goulburn Broken CMA is a contributing employer:

- A VBI surplus of \$77.1 million; and
- A total service liability surplus of \$236 million.

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2014.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's defined benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses.

Goulburn Broken CMA was notified of the results of the actuarial investigation during January 2015.

#### *Superannuation Contributions*

Contributions by Goulburn Broken CMA (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 are detailed below:

	Type of scheme	2015 Rate %	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
Government Superannuation Office	Accumulation	Various	68	66
Vision Super	Defined Benefits	9.5	9	9
Vision Super	Accumulation	9.5	146	140
Other funds	Accumulation	9.5	352	342
<b>Total contributions to all funds</b>			<b>575</b>	<b>557</b>

There were \$34,901 (2014: \$54,449) in relevant contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2015.

The expected contributions to be paid to the defined benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2016 is \$8,949. (2014: \$9,470)

### Note 14: Contributed equity

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		4,209	4,209
Contributed capital received		-	-
<b>Balance at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>4,209</b>	<b>4,209</b>

### Note 15: Accumulated Funds

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		-	-
Net result for the year		(810)	2,626
Transfer from / (to) reserves		810	(2,626)
<b>Balance at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 16: Committed Funds Reserve

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
Committed funds reserve			
Balance at the beginning of the reporting period		5,547	2,921
Net transfers (to) / from accumulated funds		(810)	2,626
Balance at the end of the reporting period		4,737	5,547

The purpose of the Committed Funds Reserve is to hold funds allocated for expenditure on works programs which have either not yet commenced or have not been completed at balance date. The Committed Funds Reserve is necessary as grant monies of a recurrent nature are taken to revenue as soon as the Goulburn Broken CMA has the right to receive those funds and generally there is a time lag between the right to receive the funds and the commencement of the associated works program.

### Note 17: Commitments

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>a Operating lease commitments:</b>			
Office accommodation			
Within one year		326	292
One year to five years		221	523
Total		547	815
Within one year		326	292
One year to five years		221	523
Total		547	815
<b>b Finance leases commitments<sup>i</sup></b>			
At balance date the Goulburn Broken CMA had finance lease commitments payable as follows:			
Within one year		35	39
One year to five years		49	37
Less future finance charges		(6)	(5)
Present value of minimum lease payments		78	71
Represented by:			
Current liability	11	35	39
Non-current liability	11	43	32
Total		78	71
<b>c Capital commitments</b>			
At balance date the Goulburn Broken CMA had commitments for capital expenditure payable as follows:			
Within one year		-	29

i The present value of finance lease commitments is materially the same as the carrying value.

### Note 18: Carry forward funding

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects primarily funded by Victorian and Australian Government programs. The Authority receives funding for specific projects which are guided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and delivered in line with the Authority's Corporate Plan approved by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

The projects funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and funding is received at various stages of the project life based on contractual agreements. At the end of the financial year there are some projects that have not reached completion but will be completed within the contractual terms in future financial periods. At balance date the Authority has cash and cash equivalents that will be utilised to complete these projects in future financial years. Refer Note 5 Cash and Cash Equivalents for balances on hand.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 19: Contingent assets and liabilities

There are no contingent assets or contingent liabilities at 30 June 2015 (2014: \$nil).

### Note 20: Events occurring after balance sheet date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Goulburn Broken CMA, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Goulburn Broken CMA in future financial years.

### Note 21: Responsible persons related disclosures

#### a Responsible persons

The names of persons who were responsible persons at any time during the financial year were:

Minister for Environment and Climate Change	Ryan Smith MP	1 July 2014 to 3 December 2014
Minister for Water	Peter Walsh MLA	1 July 2014 to 3 December 2014
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	Lisa Neville MP	4 December 2014 to 30 June 2015

There were numerous transactions between the Goulburn Broken CMA and Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (formerly Department of Environment and Primary Industries) during the year under normal commercial terms and conditions.

Position		First Appointed	Term Expires
Chair	M Chapman	1 July 2009; Deputy Chair 21 Oct 2011, Chair 1 October 2013	30 September 2017
Board Member	J Craven	1 October 2011	30 September 2017
Board Member	M Dalmau	1 October 2011	30 September 2015
Board Member	A Fox	1 October 2011, Deputy Chair 24 Oct 2013.	30 September 2015
Board Member	A MacKenzie	1 October 2011	30 September 2017
Board Member	R Runnalls	1 October 2011	30 September 2015
Board Member	A Weston	14 October 2013	30 September 2017
CEO	C P Norman	15 December 2009	-
Acting CEO	M McFarlane	25 December 2014 – 21 January 2015	-

Position		First Appointed	Term Expired
Board Member	L McKenzie	14 October 2013	27 November 2014 (resigned)

#### b Remuneration of responsible persons

The number of responsible persons whose remuneration from the Goulburn Broken CMA was within the specified bands are as follows:

Income bands	2015 no.	2014 no.
\$1-\$9,999	1	4
\$10,000-\$19,999	6	7
\$20,000-\$29,999	1	-
\$80,000-\$89,999	-	-
\$90,000-\$99,999	-	-
\$180,000-\$189,999	-	-
\$200,00-\$209,999	-	-
\$210,000-\$219,999	1	1
Total	9	12

The total remuneration of responsible persons referred to in the above bands was \$325,529 (2014: \$331,339) which includes \$36,118 (2014: \$34,138) paid in superannuation contributions.

The relevant information of the Chief Executive Officer is reported under the Responsible persons.

The relevant Ministers' remuneration is reported separately in the financial statements of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Other relevant interests are declared in the Register of Members' Interests which each member of the parliament completes.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 21: Responsible persons related disclosures (Cont'd)

#### c Remuneration of executives

The number of Executive Officers, other than responsible persons included under 'Remuneration of responsible persons' above, whose total remuneration exceeded \$100,000 during the reporting period are shown below in their relevant income bands:

Remuneration bands	Total remuneration		Base remuneration	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
\$100,000 - \$109,999	-	1	1	1
\$110,000 - \$119,999	1	1	1	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	-	-	-	2
\$130,000 - \$139,999	-	2	1	-
\$140,000 - \$149,999	1	1	1	2
\$150,000 - \$159,999	1	1	1	-
\$160,000 - \$169,999	1	1	-	1
\$230,000 - \$239,999	1	-	-	-
Total amount	802,458	957,058	660,123	922,853
Total numbers	5	7	5	7

There were no contractors engaged during the year with significant management responsibilities.

#### d Other related party transactions

##### Loans

There were no loans in existence by the Goulburn Broken CMA to responsible persons or related parties at the date of this report.

##### Shares

There were no share transactions in existence between the Goulburn Broken CMA and Responsible Persons and their related parties during the financial year.

### Note 22: Economic dependence

To attain its goals as detailed in its Regional Catchment Strategy, the Goulburn Broken CMA continues to be dependent upon future funding commitments from both the State and Australian Governments.

### Note 23 : Cash flow information

	Note	2015 \$000	2014 \$000
<b>a Reconciliation of cash</b>			
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:			
Cash at bank and on hand	5	12,489	13,266
<b>b Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with net result for the year</b>			
Net result for the period		(810)	2,626
<b>Non-cash flows in net result</b>			
Depreciation & Amortisation		499	491
Net loss (gain) on disposal of non-current assets		(88)	(16)
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>			
Decrease / (Increase) in receivables		2,042	(1,671)
(Increase) / decrease in prepayments		103	(146)
(Decrease) / Increase in provisions		(102)	35
Increase / (decrease) in unearned revenue		(679)	(10,538)
Increase / (decrease) in payables		(1,573)	(44)
Cash flows from operating activities		(608)	(9,263)

#### c Property plant and equipment

During the financial year the Goulburn Broken CMA acquired computer equipment with an aggregate fair value of \$42,232 (2014: \$58,349) by means of finance leases. These acquisitions are not reflected in the cash flow statement.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 24: Financial instruments

#### Interest risk rate exposures

The following table sets out the Goulburn Broken CMA's exposure to interest rate risk, including the contractual repricing dates and the effective weighted average interest rate by maturity periods. Exposures are predominantly from liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the Goulburn Broken CMA intends to hold fixed rate liabilities to maturity.

	Weighted average interest rate %	Floating interest rates \$000	Fixed interest rate maturing			Non-interest bearing \$000
			1 year or less \$000	1 to 2 years \$000	2 to 3 years \$000	
<b>2014-15</b>						
<i>Financial assets</i>						
Cash	1.97	10,488	2,000			2
Receivables						758
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>10,488</b>	<b>2,000</b>			<b>760</b>
<i>Financial liabilities</i>						
Lease liabilities	3.54		(35)	(28)	(15)	-
Payables						(1,079)
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(35)</b>	<b>(28)</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>(1,079)</b>
<b>Net financial assets (liabilities)</b>		<b>10,488</b>	<b>1,965</b>	<b>(28)</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>(319)</b>
<b>2013-14</b>						
<i>Financial assets</i>						
Cash	2.49	11,264	2,000	-	-	2
Receivables						2,783
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>11,264</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,785</b>
<i>Financial liabilities</i>						
Lease liabilities	4.71		(39)	(27)	(5)	-
Payables						(2,645)
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(39)</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(2,645)</b>
<b>Net financial assets (liabilities)</b>		<b>11,264</b>	<b>1,961</b>	<b>(27)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>140</b>

#### Fair value

The fair value of financial instruments must be estimated for recognition and measurement or for disclosure purposes.

Refer to Note 1(e) for accounting policy relating to disclosure of fair value measurement hierarchy.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015

### Note 24: Financial instruments (Cont'd)

The following tables present the entity's financial assets and financial liabilities measured and recognised at fair value at 30 June 2015 and 2014. It also shows the comparison between the carrying amount of the asset or liability and its fair value.

	2015	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
	Carrying amount \$000	Level 1 \$000	Level 2 \$000	Level 3 \$000
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Cash	12,489	-	12,489	-
Receivables	758	-	758	-
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>13,247</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,247</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Lease liabilities	78	-	78	-
Payables	1,079	-	1,079	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>-</b>

	2014	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
	Carrying amount \$000	Level 1 \$000	Level 2 \$000	Level 3 \$000
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Cash	13,266	-	13,266	-
Receivables	2,783	-	2,783	-
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>16,049</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,049</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Lease liabilities	71	-	71	-
Payables	2,645	-	2,645	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>-</b>

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives, and trading and available-for-sale securities) is based on quoted market prices at the end of the reporting period. The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the group is the current bid price. These instruments are included in level 1.

The carrying amounts of receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the group for similar financial instruments. The fair value of current borrowings approximates the carrying amount, as the impact of discounting is not significant.

The fair value of the financial assets and liabilities is included at the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale.

Cash, cash equivalents and non-interest bearing financial assets and financial liabilities are carried at cost which approximates their fair value. The fair value of other financial assets and financial liabilities is based upon market prices, where a market exists or by discounting the expected future cash flows at current interest rates.

# Appendix 1: Understanding progress and ratings

Compiled by Rod McLennan

Details on each investment area within sections of this annual report justify ratings provided. Further details, including graphs and reports, are on the Goulburn Broken CMA's website, [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au) and in relevant sub-strategies of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

The ordering of information, which helps develop consistency and understanding across the many aspects of catchment management, is part of implementing the 2004 Goulburn Broken Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Strategy.

The Goulburn Broken CMA understands that measuring progress in natural resource management is almost universally difficult and the quality of data systems used to

inform whole-of-Catchment-scale decisions is often poor. Nevertheless, decisions have to be made and the Goulburn Broken CMA is at the forefront of communicating progress.

## Evaluation, planning levels and decision-making cycles

Decisions in catchment management have vastly different timeframes, from daily operational decisions by extension officers to once-in-six-year strategic decisions by the Goulburn Broken CMA Board. The Goulburn Broken CMA arranges data to inform three critical and connected levels of evaluation for strategic planning and implementation, as shown in the table below.

### Evidence for three levels of decision-making

Evaluation level	Evaluation terminology	Typical key evaluation questions used to focus evaluation	Examples of evidence to inform evaluation
1	Annual performance	How did we go this year against what we said we would do?	Outputs (onground works and capacity building actions or tasks) achieved and funds spent against targets set in the Corporate Plan
2	Long-term strategy implementation progress	How have we gone against what we said we would do when we wrote the (various) strategies? How effective were the implemented measures?	Outputs and assumptions of their impact listed in strategies
3	Catchment condition change	What 'shape' is the issue we are managing in now? Was the original strategy appropriate? Have circumstances (such as new knowledge or different weather patterns) changed sufficiently to warrant a revised strategy? Does the investment mix need to be modified?	Resource condition; trends; tipping points; indicators of resilience, adaptation and transformation responses

### Annual performance

Annual performance is rated by measuring the outputs achieved against targets for the year. Targets are determined by the funds available and usually vary from those identified or implied in the relevant long-term strategy. This is because we mostly do not know what funds are available beyond one year and what funds are anticipated to be available at the time the strategy was written.

The Goulburn Broken CMA negotiates investment amounts and output targets to be delivered each year with Victorian and Australian Governments. Outputs are often common to several investment areas and targets and achievements are aggregated from projects within those areas.

There is usually a high degree of certainty in rating annual performance within a single investment area: funding is known, outputs and other indicators are well documented, and accounting mechanisms are sound.

Ratings of annual performance and long-term progress help to focus investment decision-makers such as the Board and government funding bodies. The use of these ratings for guiding decisions needs to be tempered by an understanding of the certainty of the rating.

Annual targets and achievements data in this report do not include outputs delivered beyond Goulburn Broken CMA's direct control, especially by those landholders who voluntarily pay for and undertake onground works. However, data on

these external outputs is also critical to inform long-term decisions and is increasingly captured by other means.

Outputs shown in this report are useful for decision making by government investors, Goulburn Broken CMA senior managers and the Goulburn Broken CMA Board. Monitoring finer-scaled outputs and inputs are more appropriate for individual project and sub-project decision making and are not shown in this report.

For detailed outputs in each program area, see the 'Outputs – detailed list of achievements' table on page 127. Detailed outputs relating to each investment area are listed in sections devoted to each investment area throughout this report.

### Long-term progress

Long-term progress ratings are needed for two separate areas of focus for decision-making:

- outputs achieved against what were intended to be achieved since the relevant strategy's inception (long-term strategy implementation progress)
- condition of the issue to be managed, such as water quality, native vegetation or community capacity.

There are often several individual strategic components to rate when determining an overall long-term progress rating within a single investment area. These individual ratings have varied data quality and this affects the certainty of the overall rating. Strategies for different investment areas vary



in formality and comprehensiveness, which is appropriate, so our certainty of understanding progress varies considerably.

Where outputs and long-term strategies are well defined and where they are accompanied by solid data management systems, such as for 'Investment- area 1a - Shepparton Irrigation Region salinity', then the certainty of long-term progress ratings increases.

Complete implementation of a strategy does not necessarily translate to desired condition change, because of external factors and perhaps inaccurate assumptions used at the time the strategy was written, especially assumptions related to funding levels, social and political circumstances and the weather.

### What does Catchment condition mean?

Measuring the condition of the Catchment has historically focused on discrete themes, including biophysical investment areas such as salinity, water quality, river health and biodiversity, and non-biophysical investment areas such as community capacity. 'Headline themes' were mandated as the way that 'management summary' and 'Catchment condition' reports would be structured in Victoria from 2009-10 (see page 88).

The National Framework for Natural Resource Management Standards and Targets (2002) listed 10 similar types of theme as resource condition 'matters for target'. It also recommended indicator headings and indicators of progress. Resource condition indicator examples are depth to groundwater, soil acidity, total phosphorus levels in water and the extent of native vegetation present by interim biogeographical regionalisation of Australia sub-regions.

'Resource' can be interpreted from this National framework as referring to biophysical assets such as rivers, as well as to, perhaps erroneously, threats such as salinity. Resource condition can therefore be interpreted as being the biophysical state of the biophysical theme (or matter for target).

Resource condition indicators have been very useful in ordering information for decision makers whose focus is within particular investment areas. However, these indicators only provide part of the picture and there has been wide variability in their interpretation and use.

More information on the investment areas in an integrated context is needed to make better decisions. This means information on all elements that impact on particular investment areas is needed to rate the condition of the Catchment for that investment area.

The Goulburn Broken CMA promotes a broadening of focus from environmental elements only to social and economic elements also within each investment area, including the relationships between all elements.

Together, these elements form a complex, evolving, integrated socio-ecological system<sup>i</sup> in which humans are a part of nature. Ratings of Catchment condition for an investment area are therefore ratings of the socio-ecological system's condition related to that investment area.

The quality and availability of indicator data for the environmental (or resource condition) component varies considerably, and the Goulburn Broken CMA is in the early stages of documenting relevant social and economic indicator data. Despite the uncertainties that this presents, it is far more informative for decision making to present rolled up socio-ecological system ratings for Catchment condition rather than ratings based on resource condition indicators

alone. Progress within investment areas is usually rated by considering more than one element. For example, threatened species and native vegetation are two component elements within the biodiversity investment area.

Resource condition indicators are usually not a major consideration in rating progress within investment areas under 'The Business' because these investment areas merely have supporting functions.

### Investment areas and integration

The Goulburn Broken CMA focuses on 13 highly connected investment areas under 'The Environment' and 'The Business'. These investment areas relate closely to the different investment areas within government.

Service delivery is integrated across these investment areas to varying degrees and occurs at all levels. Integration is obvious at the scale of whole farm plans and is evident in the information in the 'Collaborations and communities' section. Integration is not so obvious at the strategic level because strategic approaches are usually required to focus on discrete investment areas framed by government investors. Planning for large projects is increasingly integrated across the investment areas. Integration can add cost and complexity. The benefits of integration need to outweigh these costs.

### Resilience, adaptability and transformability

Resilience thinking<sup>i</sup> helps to expand thinking to the whole of system. This approach evolved out of the Goulburn Broken CMA's sustainability and ecosystem services thinking and is a major focus of the Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019.

Characteristics of desired systems include:

- resilience: the capacity to withstand shocks and rebuild without collapsing into a different system
- adaptability: the capacity of participants to influence resilience
- transformability: the capacity to create a fundamentally new system if necessary.

Together, these characteristics can be considered as part of the resilience package.

Thinking about resilience ensures that fundamental questions are at the forefront of our minds, such as:

- Are our systems sufficiently resilient to withstand a shock?
- Are our systems close to a threshold (or tipping point into a completely different regime)?
  - is it better to accept that our systems are transforming into a different regime and accept that we should just focus on managing the change?
  - what interventions can or should be made to build resilience?

Resilience, adaptability and transformability are important components of investment areas under both 'The Environment' and 'The Business'.

<sup>i</sup> The above discussions on socio-ecological systems and resilience have drawn heavily from 'Resilience, Adaptability and Transformability in the Goulburn- Broken Catchment' (2009) by Walker, Abel, Anderies and Ryan; the Resilience Alliance website [www.resalliance.org](http://www.resalliance.org) and from 'Resilience Management – A Guide for Irrigated Regions, Communities and Enterprises' (2007) by Wolfenden, Evans, Essaw, Johnson, Sanderson, Starkey and Wilkinson.

## Appendix 2: Outputs - detailed list of achievements

Standard GB Threat or Impact Managed	Output	Land & Biodiversity Program		
		Target <sup>i</sup>	Achieved	% achieved
Threat				
Land and water use practices				
Stock grazing (ha = terrestrial; km = riparian)	Fence terrestrial remnant vegetation (ha) <sup>iii</sup>	189	385	204
	Fence wetland remnant (ha)	87	139	160
	Fence stream/river remnant (ha)			
	Fence stream/river remnant (km)			
	Off-stream watering (no.)			
	Binding Management Agreement (license, Section 173, covenant) (ha)	45	112	249
Induced Threat				
Saline water and high watertables				
Surface water <sup>iv</sup>	Laser levelling (ha) <sup>iii</sup>			
	Drain – primary built (km) <sup>v</sup>			
	Drain – community built (km)			
	Weir – replace (no.)			
	Farm reuse systems installed (no.) <sup>vi</sup>			
	Drain – additional water diverted from regional drains (ML)			
	Irrigation systems – improved (ha) <sup>vii</sup>			
	Pasture – plant (ha)			
Sub-surface water	Groundwater pumps – public installed (new; no.)			
	Groundwater pumps – private installed (new; no.)			
	Volume water pumped - increase (ML)			
	Tile drains – install (ha)			
	Revegetation - plantation / farm forestry (ha)			
Nutrient-rich & turbid water & suspended solids	Waste water treatment plants - install (no.)			
	Stormwater management projects (no.) <sup>viii</sup>			
In-stream and near-stream erosion	Bed and bank protection actions (km)			
Changed flow pattern	In-stream & tributary erosion controlled (km)			
	Water allocated - eq wetlands (ML) <sup>ix</sup>			
Weed invasion	Weeds – woody weed management (ha)	60	60	100
	Weeds – aquatic weeds controlled/eradicated (km)			
	Targeted infestations of weeds in high priority areas covered by control programs (ha) <sup>x</sup>	959	1,100	115
Pest Animals	Area of high priority rabbit infested land that are covered by control programs (ha)	1,242	1,496	120
	Area of high priority fox infested land covered by control programs (ha)	21,170	21,150	100
Impact				
Habitat loss - terrestrial	Revegetation - plant natives within or next to remnants (ha) <sup>xi</sup>	734	508	69
	Revegetation - plant natives away from remnants (ha)			
Habitat loss – in-stream	Fish release (no.)			
	Vertical slot fishway (no.)			
	Rock ramp fishway (no.)			
	Fish barrier removal (no.)			
	Establish SEAR (Significantly Enhanced Aquatic Refugia) (no.)			
Habitat loss – wetlands	Reinstate flood regime (ML)			
	Construct new wetland (ha)			
Habitat loss – Threatened species	Threatened Species Recovery Plan and Action Statements (no. projects)			
Planning	Whole farm plans (no.) <sup>xii</sup>			

i Targets are determined by considering levels of government funding as listed in the Corporate Plan and any subsequent adjustments over the financial year.

ii Includes 360 hectares of remnant protection in Bushfire Recovery Program in 2009-10.

iii Assumptions: 2010-11 = area put under Whole Farm Plans, including modernised + Farm Water Program onground achievements (226 hectares); 2011-12 = 90 per cent of area under Whole Farm Plans (25,841) + 70 per cent of Farm Water Program onground achievements (965; 1,783 was used to calculate figures in 2011-12 report); 2012-13 = Farm Water Program onground achievements (2,163) + 60 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (8,424) + modernised (9,075)]; 2013-14 = Farm Water Program SIR onground achievements (3,736) + 60 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (4,224) + modernised (4,403) - Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (3,736)]. 2014-15 = Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (478) + 60 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (4,143) + modernised (2,572) - Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (478)]. Target = Farm Water Program's SIR target (1,253) + 60 per cent of [area to be put under Whole Farm Plans (110) x average area of Whole Farm Plans (91) - Farm Water Program's SIR target (1,253)]

iv Surface water management enables the removal of excess rainfall run-off from irrigated lands, alleviating soil salinity. As part of an overall management plan for nutrients, nutrients loads are managed by collecting and reusing water from drains. Nutrient loads are monitored against the Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy nutrient target for drains.

v Fencing and laneways are relocated along primary drains to control stock. Drains are also hydro-mulched and seeded to provide vegetative cover on bare batters. 6 kilometres were constructed during 2009-10 and 3 kilometres were prepared for handover to Goulburn-Murray Water for it to manage. Handed-over drains not accounted for in 2005-06 and 2006-07 were recorded in 2007-08.

vi Reuse systems allow for the collection of high nutrient run-off and re-irrigation, reducing the water and nutrient loads leaving the farm. Figures include Farm Water Program installations. In 2014-15 the number of new farm reuse systems installed is assumed to be: 67 per cent of projects install a new system and 33 per cent reconnect the project area to an existing system. In 2012-13 and 2013-14 the number of new systems was assumed to be: 100 per cent of projects install a new system i.e. new systems and extensions of existing systems were both counted as 'new systems'.

vii Assumptions: 2014-15 area improved = laser levelling [which itself includes an assumption based on whole farm plan area - see footnote iii] + pressurised irrigation systems [micro or drip + irrigation]; 2013-14 = Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements (laser grading + overhead spray + drip; 3,736 + 567 + 0) + 70 per cent of area put under Whole Farm Plans [new (4,224) + modernised (4,403) less Farm Water Program's SIR onground achievements].

viii Stormwater management projects are undertaken on a one-to-one funding basis with local government.



2014-15																
Sustainable Irrigation Program			River & Wetland Health & Floodplain Management Program			Total Catchment			Total achieved							
Target <sup>i</sup>	Achieved	% achieved	Target <sup>i</sup>	Achieved	% achieved	Target <sup>i</sup>	Achieved	% achieved	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
						189	385	204	1,004	1,783	728	1,112	1,276	451	710	769
			0	29		87	168	193	128	73	160	78	8	609	1,794	22
			0	141		0	141		87	126	337	354	n/a	2,563	2,536	726
			70	70	101	70	70	101	42	6.8	26	93	63	185	315	162
			11	15	136	11	15	136	3	1	17	21	48	122	95	73
						45	112	249	0	329	360	434	906	363	373	1,625
6,507	4,220	65				6,507	4,220	65	6,671	12,662	24,505	19,546	14,170	20,476	8,525	4,490
										1	0	1.1	6	6	9	6
											1	1.4	4	5		
9	9	100				9	9	100	64	25	25	7	76	66	48	56
														0	200	75
	4,745						4,745		7,330		24,145	20,050	14,217	23,059	8,967	6,060
														152	75	391
														1	1	
											1	0	9	11	24	19
											75	0	1,827	1,794	3,237	3,462
																31
											2		1	1	1	3
			0.14	0.40	286	0.14	0.40	294	0.20	0.65	19	16	5	8	13	12
			0.20	0.60	300	0.20	0.60	294	1.00			131	207	102	543	19
				339,318			339,318		714,378	299,667	633,476	454,694	3,190	840	1,235	
			74	2,257	3,061	134	2,317	1,733	210							
			0	97		0	97		3	77	76	418	27	26	53	39
			78	2,259	2,906	1,037	3,359	324	3,643	953	1,372	424	38,525	36,964	11,138	9,637
						1,242	1,496	120	4,699	2,749	882	1,121	5,700	1,530	200	
			75	234	312	21,245	21,384	101	26,502	27,000	60,000	57,507	108,250	0	45,570	94,410
			22	41	191	756	549	73	1,211	2,957	1,995	1,383	1,403	945	460	758
										517						
									2				1			
											2			1	8	6
									15		20	0	16	59	30	2
												36	12	29	37	34
110	71	65				110	71	65	79	186	263	331	259	341	369	232

ix Target cannot be set with any confidence because achievement is prone to extreme variation, being affected by climatic and seasonal conditions. Volumes used since 2000-01 were reconciled in 2014 and some figures were adjusted. The NSW component of water delivered to Barmah Forest is included in these figures.

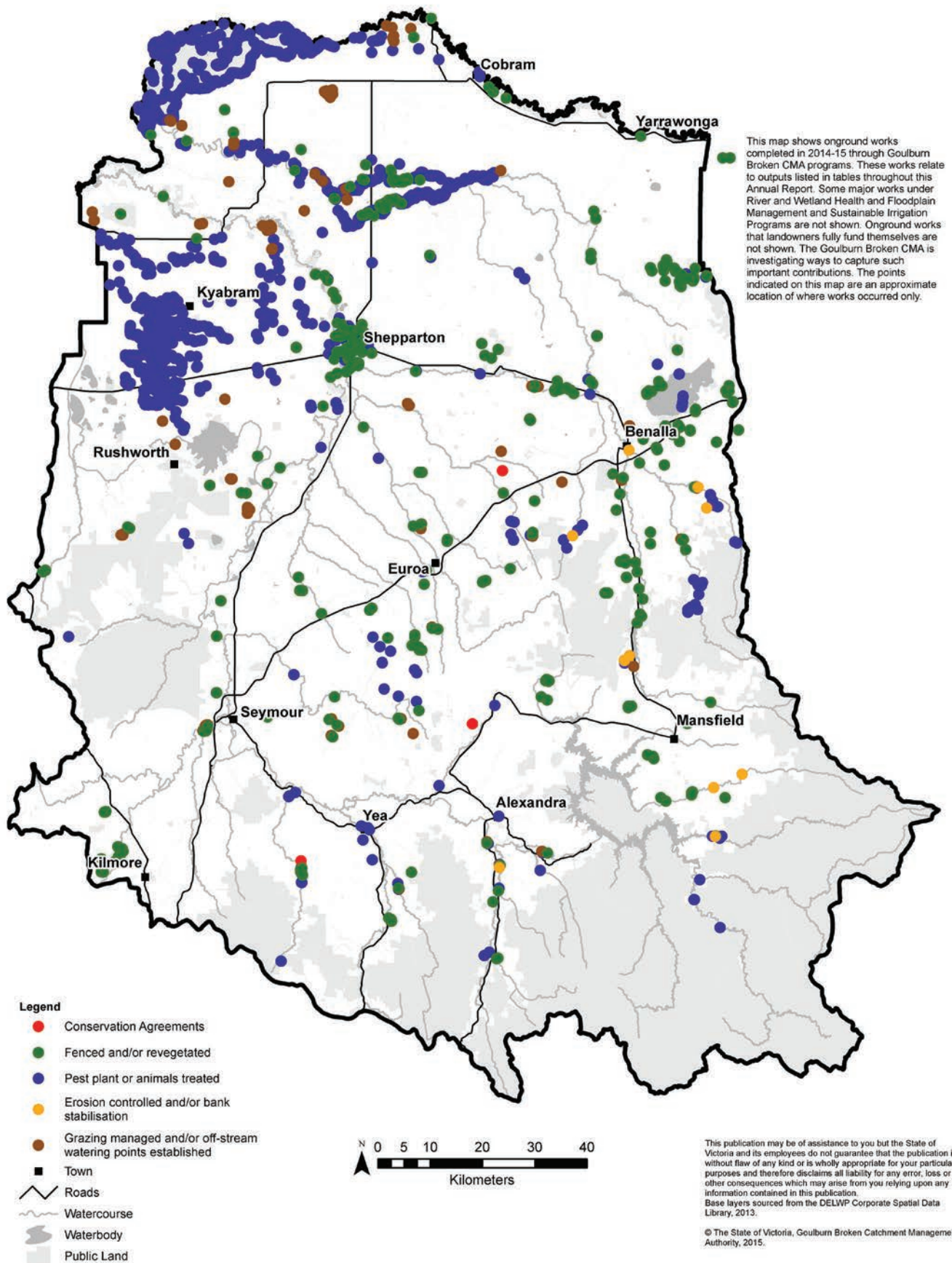
x This includes 'Weeds - woody weed management'. 2008-09 achievements include Department of Primary Industries, river health and Drought Employment Program works. Department of Primary Industries Biosecurity Victoria works were completed outside of the Corporate Plan from 2009-10. From 2010-11 achievements include Department of Primary Industries Farm Services Victoria, River health investment area and Fire Recovery Program works only. 2010-11 figures do not include achievement of 55,000 hectares for weeds in high priority areas and achievement of 12,200 hectares for high priority rabbit control (refer to investment table Invasive Plants and Animals). 2011-12 figures do not include an achievement of 14,300 hectares for weeds in high priority areas and an achievement of 15,800 hectares for high priority rabbit control (refer to investment table Invasive plants and animals). 2012-13 figures do not include 9,315 hectares for weeds and 10,500 hectares for rabbit control (refer to investment table Invasive plants and animals). 2013-14 figures do not include 12,880 hectares for weeds and 6,175 hectares for rabbit control (refer to investment table Invasive plants and animals). 2014-15 achievements do not include 10,060 hectares for weeds and 6,850 hectares for rabbit control completed by DEDJTR Biosecurity Victoria (see page 66).

xi Natural regeneration achievements from Bush Returns are included in this: 0 hectares for 2007-08 and 324 hectares for 2008-09. Natural regeneration from the Caring for Our Country Woodlands project and the E-M3C3 project are also included: 705 hectares and 10 hectares respectively for 2009-10. The Green Graze program contributed 1,189 ha to the grazing regime change works output in 2006-07, which is not included in the revegetation figures. Natural regeneration from the Caring for Our Country, Sustainable Farming Practices project are also included: 386 hectares for 2010-11, and 515.8 hectares for 2011-12. Natural regeneration from the Caring for Our Country, Targeting Landscape Scale Biodiversity project are included: 712 hectares for 2011-12 and 1,676.38 hectares for 2012-13. 2013-14 achievements do not include 1,080 hectares of revegetation achieved outside the Catchment through the Sand Ridge Woodlands project that Goulburn Broken CMA delivers in partnership with Murray Local Land Services and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. 2014-15 achievements do not include 175 hectares of revegetation achieved outside the Catchment through the Sand Ridge Woodlands project that Goulburn Broken CMA delivers in partnership with Murray Local Land Services and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

xii Figures for total catchment historically include those outside of Sustainable Irrigation Program also, which were for comprehensive Level 2 whole farm plans, equivalent to Shepparton Irrigation Region's whole farm plan. Level 1 is a short course that is a precursor to Level 2 and not included in these figures. In 2012-13 whole farm plans under the Land and Biodiversity Program were achieved by Department of Environment and Primary Industries, using funding received outside of the Corporate Plan.

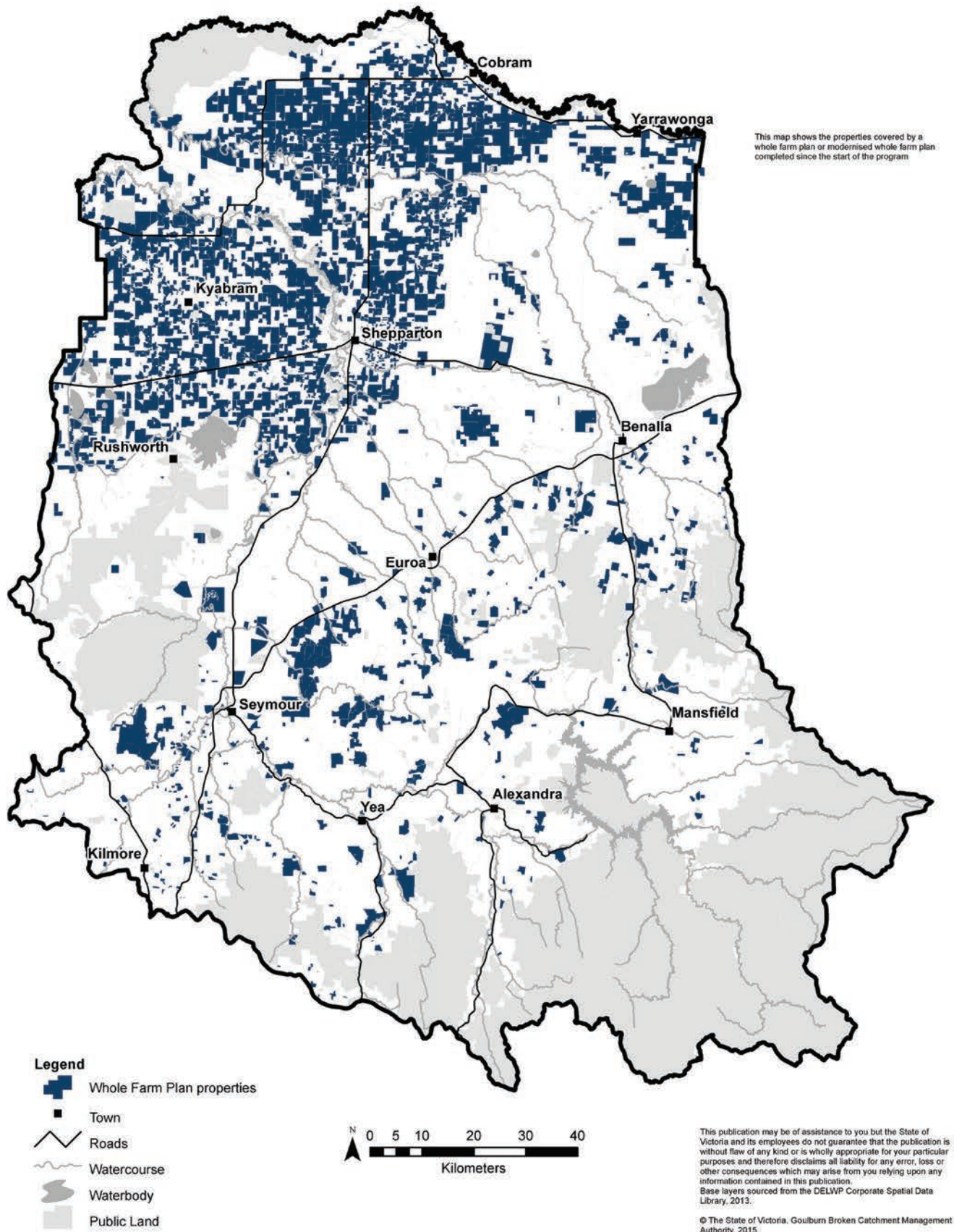
# Appendix 3: Works

1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015



# Appendix 4: Properties covered by a whole farm plan

To 30 June 2015



## Appendix 5: Roles of Catchment Partners

Agency / Authority / Organisation / Individual	Role relative to the development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy
Australian Government - Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry	The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) works to sustain the way of life and prosperity of all Australians. It does this by advising the government and our stakeholders how to improve the productivity, competitiveness and sustainability of our portfolio industries. Regionally, DAFF plays an important role in the implementation of the RCS funding projects across the Catchment.
Australian Government - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities	The Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities (SEWPaC) is responsible for a number of matters including; environment protection and conservation of biodiversity, natural, built and cultural heritage, environmental research, and water policy and resources. SEWPaC administers the <i>EPBC Act</i> . Regionally, SEWPaC plays an important role in the implementation of the RCS by funding projects across the Catchment.
Alpine Resorts Coordinating Council and Alpine Resort Management Boards	The Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council (ARCC) is a statutory body established under the Victorian Alpine Resorts Management Act 1997. It reports to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water and addresses issues of broad concern to alpine resort stakeholders and government and is focused on three key areas: Strategic positioning and advocacy, Co-operation and Research. The Alpine Resorts are permanent Crown land reserves, each managed by an Alpine Resort Management Board appointed by, and responsible to, the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water. The Boards are also established under the Alpine Resorts Management Act 1997. The Alpine Resort Management Boards are responsible for the development, promotion, management and use of each Alpine Resort. They also provide or arrange required basic services and utilities including water and energy supply, and sewerage and garbage disposal. The Boards are required to carry out their functions in an environmentally sound way and in accordance with an approved strategic management plan. Each Board is represented on the ARCC.
Community groups (e.g. CMNs, Landcare and environmental groups)	The Goulburn Broken Catchment's 91 natural resource management groups, 11 networks, and five sustainable farming groups mobilise community involvement, attract corporate, philanthropic and corporate funding, and influence and implement significant parts of the Regional Catchment Strategy in local areas, usually with an emphasis on onground works. They are represented on many of the CMA's advisory groups and steering committees.
Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (former – until December 2014)	Providing guidance about planning in Victoria is one of the roles of the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI). DTPLI is responsible for leading the development of Regional Growth Plans. Regional growth plans are being developed to provide broad direction for land use and development across regional Victoria. They will also provide more detailed planning frameworks for key regional centres. Regional Growth Plans will identify important economic, environmental, social and cultural resources to be preserved, maintained or developed. The Goulburn Broken Catchment sits within the Hume Regional Growth Plan area.
Department of Environment and Primary Industries (former – until December 2014)	The Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) is responsible for land and fire, regional services, natural resources and environment, water, agriculture and fisheries. DEPI designs and delivers policies and programs that enable Victoria's primary industries to sustainably maximise the wealth and wellbeing they generate. It is responsible for protection and management of natural resources. DEPI performs its range of functions in partnership with service delivery partners including catchment management authorities. It is responsible for administering the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i> and other important legislation. Regionally, DEPI provides funding and technical, extension and research services.
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	The purpose of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) is to create the conditions to sustainably develop the Victorian economy and grow employment. DEDJTR responsibilities include agriculture and fisheries and associated research, biosecurity, economic growth including regional development and transport including public transport.
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP) aims to protect and manage Victoria's natural and built environments - supporting economic growth and building communities while responding to increased population and climate change. DELWP is responsible for policies, programs, investment and regulation of the natural environment, water resources, planning, heritage protection, land information services, public land management and emergency response to fire and other emergencies. DELWP performs its range of functions in partnership with service delivery partners including catchment management authorities. It is responsible for administering the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i> and other important legislation.

Agency / Authority / Organisation / Individual	Role relative to the development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy
Environment Protection Authority	The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) sole role is to regulate pollution and has independent authority to make regulatory decisions under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> . Based on its regulatory risk model EPA prioritises its compliance and enforcement activity by addressing the biggest risk to the environment and health. EPA aspires to create a healthy environment that supports a liveable and prosperous Victoria. By effectively regulating pollution in Victoria, we strive to deliver clean air, healthy waterways, safe land and minimal disturbances from noise and odour for Victorians.
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is a statutory authority established under the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> . It plays a pivotal role in NRM in the Catchment. There are many policies that inform this role, listed in Appendices three and four. The Goulburn Broken CMA prepares the Goulburn Broken RCS and coordinates and monitors its implementation. It does this by working with all tiers of government, other agencies, community groups, industry, individuals, and research and funding organisations.
Goulburn-Murray Water	Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) has substantial interaction with the environment, partnerships with a number of stakeholders and legislative requirements leading to a large and diverse environmental risk profile. GMW aims to maximise water resource availability for customer use, while meeting key environmental goals and contributing to a sustainable and productive natural environment. GMW's environmental objectives are listed in the Environment Policy Statement. In summary GMW is committed to minimising and preventing any adverse impact on the environment caused by our activities. Activities and initiatives include catchment management (including salt interception management), surface and sub-surface drainage support, water quality and land management planning.
GMW Connections Project	The GMW Connections Project is investing more than \$2 billion to develop a water delivery network to match these changing needs and to support the many, varied and exciting opportunities for irrigated agriculture across Northern Victoria. The Project will also provide important opportunities and benefits for environmental and urban water users and will ensure the ongoing contribution of irrigated agriculture to our regional, state and national economies.
Goulburn Valley Water	Goulburn Valley Water's (GVW) delivery of water and sewage services to its customers has a considerable impact on non-renewable natural resources. Primary objectives of the organisation include a commitment to improve environmental performance by minimising resource demand and preventing pollution. In order to translate these commitments into practice, the organisation has established an Environment Policy and an Environmental Management System (EMS).
Individuals / land managers	Under the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i> , responsibilities of land managers include (but are not limited to) take all reasonable steps to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals</li> <li>• Eradicate regionally prohibited weeds</li> <li>• Prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled weeds</li> <li>• conserve soil and avoid contributing to land degradation on someone else's land.</li> </ul> Land managers must also seek authority to interfere, obstruct or carry out works in relation to a waterway, bore or drainage course, or (in some cases) a private dam. Regionally, landholders across the Catchment invest significant resources (time, money and land) into activities that contribute to meeting the objectives of the Regional Catchment Strategy. This contribution is further outlined in the People section of the Assets of the Goulburn Broken Catchment supplement.
Industry groups	Peak industry groups such as Murray Dairy and the Victorian Farmers Federation can strongly influence catchment management through their networks with regional land managers.
Local government	Services provided by councils are diverse. They include property, economic, human, recreational and cultural services. Councils also enforce State and local laws relating to such matters as land use planning, environment protection, public health, traffic and parking and animal management. They maintain significant infrastructure, provide a range of services and enforce various laws for their communities (DPCD, 2012a). Local government plays a significant role in land use planning, which is administered under the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> , with each municipality having a local planning scheme that describes directions and controls for developments (DPCD, 2012b). They also have other important roles including public awareness, engagement and education as well as local partnerships such as Conservation Management Networks. Regionally, the Goulburn Broken CMA actively participates in development of environment strategies for the Benalla Rural City, Campaspe Shire, City of Greater Shepparton, Mansfield Shire, Moira Shire and Strathbogie Shire Councils. The Goulburn Broken CMA is a key member and supporter of the Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group led by Moira Shire in partnership with the other local governments represented in the catchment.

## Appendix 5: Roles of Catchment Partners (Cont'd)

Agency / Authority / Organisation / Individual	Role relative to the development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy
Other groups	The Goulburn Broken CMA and community and advisory groups develop close relationships with many organisations as needs arise during research, planning and implementation, including Victorian Farmers Federation, the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance, Committees of Management (Crown land reserves) and the various environment and climate action groups across the Catchment.
Parks Victoria	<p>Under the <i>Parks Victoria Act 1998</i>, Parks Victoria's (PV) responsibilities are to provide services to the State and its agencies for the management of parks, reserves and other public land. With the approval of the Minister, it may also provide land management services to the owner of any other land used for public purposes. The Act requires that, in carrying out its functions, Parks Victoria must not act in a way that is not environmentally sound. Parks Victoria's responsibilities encompass the management of: all areas reserved under the <i>National Parks Act 1975</i>, metropolitan waterways and adjacent land under the <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i>, nominated Crown land reserved under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>, conservation reserves reserved under the <i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i> and managed in accordance with approved land use recommendations under the <i>Land Conservation Act 1970</i>, areas reserved under the <i>Heritage Rivers Act 1992</i>, planning for all Ramsar sites and management of some sites, piers and jetties in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and recreational boating on these Bays pursuant to powers conferred by the <i>Marine Act, 1988</i> and the <i>Port of Melbourne Authority Act 1958</i>, other areas as specified under the <i>Parks Victoria Act 1998</i> (Parks Victoria, 2012b)</p> <p>Regionally, Parks Victoria and the Goulburn Broken CMA work jointly in the delivery of Commonwealth and State funded projects.</p>
Traditional Owners	The role of Traditional Owners is outlined in the introduction of this document. In addition, Registered Aboriginal Partners have responsibilities relating to the management of Aboriginal cultural heritage under the Act. These include evaluating Cultural Heritage Management Plans, providing advice on applications for Cultural Heritage Permits, decisions about Cultural Heritage Agreements and advice or application for interim or ongoing Protection Declarations.
Trust for Nature	<p>Trust for Nature (TfN) is Victoria's specialist private-land conservation statutory entity whose statewide services include covenanting, land purchase, ongoing post-protection landowner support, short-term management agreements and environmental market agreements. Conservation covenants protect the natural features of an area in perpetuity, and ensure, through management plans, that any use is compatible with the conservation of the land's natural or cultural values.</p> <p>TfN works in securing the permanent protection and ongoing management of high quality remnants within the Catchment, adding value to the conservation of biodiversity, community engagement and the National Reserve System.</p>
Victorian Catchment Management Council	The Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) is appointed under the <i>CaLP Act 1994</i> . Its statutory roles are to advise the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, and other Ministers as requested, on land and water management issues; to report annually on operation of the <i>CaLP Act</i> ; and report every five years on the environmental condition and management of Victoria's land and water resources, through the VCMC Catchment Condition Report.



## Appendix 6: Major strategic references

### LEGISLATION

#### FEDERAL LEGISLATION

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*

*Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975 (Register of the National Estate)*

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

*Native Title Act 1993*

*Water Act 2007*

#### STATE LEGISLATION

*Aboriginal Heritage Act, 2006*

*Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997*

*Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972*

*Building Regulations 1996*

*Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*

*Climate Change Act 2010*

*Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987*

*Cooperative Management Agreement 2004*

*Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*

*Environment Protection Act 1970*

*Equal Opportunity Act 1995*

*Fisheries Act 1995*

*Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*

*Forests Act 1958*

*Heritage Rivers Act 1992*

*Land Act 1958*

*Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*

*Murray-Darling Basin Act 1993*

*National Parks Act 1975*

*Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*

*Parks Victoria Act 1998*

*Planning and Environment Act 1987*

*Reference Areas Act 1978*

*Subdivision Act 1988*

*State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) 2003*

*Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004*

*Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*

*Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972*

*Victorian Environment Assessment Council Act 2001*

*Water Act 1989*

*Wildlife Act 1975*

*Victorian Environment Assessment Council Act 2001*

*Water Act 1989*

*Wildlife Act 1975*

### RELEVANT POLICIES, STRATEGIES and AGREEMENTS

#### INTERNATIONAL

China Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 1986

Convention of Migratory Species (Bomm Convention) 1979

Greenhouse Gas Protocol ([www.ghgprotocol.org](http://www.ghgprotocol.org))

Japan Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 1974

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Republic of Korea Australia Migratory Bird Agreement 2009

#### FEDERAL

A Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (EA 2001)

A Framework for Determining Commonwealth Environmental Watering Actions 2009

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030

Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2007

Barmah-Millewa Environmental Management Plan (MDBA) 2005

Basin Salinity Management Strategy (MDBA 2001–2015)

Living Murray First Step Decision (MDBC 2003)

Murray–Darling Basin Plan 2012

Murray- Darling Native Fish Management Strategy

National Framework for the Management and Monitoring of Australia's Native Vegetation (2001)

National Greenhouse Accounts Factors – Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

National Indigenous Reform Agreement (Closing the Gap)

National Water Quality Management Strategy (ARMCANZ and ANZECC 1992)

Strategy for Australia's National Reserve System 2009–2030

The Australian Weeds Strategy (revised 2007)

The Clean Energy Future Initiative

Wetlands Policy of the Commonwealth Government of Australia 1997

## Appendix 6: Major strategic references (Cont'd)

### RELEVANT POLICIES, STRATEGIES and AGREEMENTS (Cont'd)

#### STATE

Advisory lists of rare and threatened species in Victoria (DEPI)
Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan 2004 (Alpine Resorts 2020 Strategy)
Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria 2009
Indigenous Partnership Framework 2007-10 (reviewed 2010)
Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework 2010
Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action (Revised 2005)
Our Water Our Future (DSE 2004)
Policy for Sustainable Recreation and Tourism on Victoria's Public Land 2002
Public Administration Act 2004 (employment and conduct principles)
Soil Health Strategy 2012 (DEPI)
State Environment Protection Policy (Groundwaters of Victoria) 1997
State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) 2003
Sustainability Charter for Victoria's State Forests 2006
Threatened Species Recovery Plans (DEPI)
Victoria's Nature based Tourism Strategy 2008-2012
Victoria's Salinity Management Framework 2000
Victorian Action Plan for Second Generation Landcare 2002
Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission 2009
Victorian Bushfire Strategy 2008
Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2013
Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan (DEPI 2012)
Victorian Flood Management Strategy 1998
Victorian Planning Provisions 1998-1999
Victorian River Health Strategy 2002 (DNRE 2002)
Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013 (DEPI 2013)

#### REGIONAL

Dryland Landscape Strategy 2009-2011
Goulburn Broken Biodiversity Strategy 2010-2015
Goulburn Broken CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Policy 2011
Goulburn Broken CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2014
Goulburn Broken CMA Climate Change position paper 2007
Goulburn Broken Climate Change Integration Strategy 2012
Goulburn Broken Corporate Plan 2014-15 to 2018-19
Goulburn Broken Communications and Marketing Strategy 2012-2018
Goulburn Broken Community Engagement Strategy 2014-2015
Goulburn Broken Community and Landcare Support Plan (Draft) 2013
Goulburn Broken Dryland Salinity Management Plan 1990 (and reviews 1995, 2001, 2008)
Goulburn Broken Floodplain Management Strategy 2002-2012 (GB CMA 2002)
Goulburn Broken Invasive Plants and Animals Strategy 2010-2015
Goulburn Broken Land Health Statement Draft 2014
Goulburn Broken Landcare Support Strategy 2010 Draft
Goulburn Broken Native Vegetation Plan 2003
Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 (GBCMA 2014)
Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy 2005-2015, Addendum (GB CMA 2010)
Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (Interim) 2014-2016
Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy 1996-2016 (GB CMA 1996)
Goulburn Broken Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 (GB CMA 2014)
Goulburn Broken Workforce Strategy 2013-2018
Goulburn Broken CMA Capability Framework 2013
Hume Regional Growth Plan
Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities (Hume Strategy)
Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment 2004
Municipal Planning Schemes
Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2009
Review of Goulburn Broken Water Quality Strategy 1996-2016 (Brian Garrett and Associates 2001)
Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy 1990-2020
Wetlands Strategy for the Goulburn Broken Catchment (GB CMA 2003)
Yorta Yorta Cooperative Management Agreement 2004
Yorta Yorta Nation Whole of Country Plan 2012-2017
Yorta Yorta Traditional Land Management Agreement 2010
Various Memoranda of Understanding

## Appendix 7: Compliance with the *Protected Disclosures Act 2012*

*The Protected Disclosures Act 2012* was part of a package of integrity reforms introduced by the Victorian Government, which also established the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

The Protected Disclosures Act enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct within the public sector without fear of reprisal. It aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

### What is a 'protected disclosure'?

A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is a "public body" for the purposes of the Act.

### What is 'improper or corrupt conduct'?

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- mismanagement of public resources; or
- risk to public health or safety or the environment; or
- corruption.

The conduct must be criminal in nature or a matter for which an officer could be dismissed.

### How do I make a 'Protected Disclosure'?

You can make a protected disclosure about the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority or its board members, officers or employees by contacting the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission on the contact details provided below.

Please note that the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is not able to receive protected disclosures.

### How can I access the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority or its employees. You can access Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's procedures on its website at: [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)

### Contacts

#### Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000.

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001.

Internet: [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: see the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

## Appendix 8: Community Grants

Below is a list of grants paid to community groups and organisations for projects during the 2014-15 financial year

Total Grants paid to community groups and other organisations 2014-15	Amount paid \$ (ex GST)
<b>Australian Government - Biodiversity Fund</b> The overall objectives of the Biodiversity Fund are to help land managers establish, manage and enhance native vegetation on their land, increase our stores of carbon in the landscape and, in so doing, maintain ecosystem function and improve the resilience of our ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.	
Birds, Bush & Beyond	
Sand Ridge Woodland Bird Survey Project	\$38,000.00
Cerberus Pty Ltd trading as Applied Conservation Science Consulting	
Direct Seeding Monitoring – findings and further recommendations	\$10,000.00
Euroa Arboretum	
Direct seeding monitoring	\$2,310.00
Promotion of Biodiversity Spring and Funding Opportunities	\$5,000.00
Goulburn Valley Community Energy	
Direct seeding monitoring	\$8,000.00
Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network	
How much revegetation is enough?	\$35,000.00
Service delivery support to Biodiversity fund	\$11,000.00
Murray Local Land Services	
Revegetation of Sand Ride Woodlands	\$153,434.52
NSW Parks	
Revegetation of Sand Ride Woodlands	\$141,332.00
Rad.Com/Apostolic Church Australia	
Indigenous Works Crew, Delivering On Ground Biodiversity Programs in the GB Catchment.	\$20,000.00
Redgate Revegetation	
Direct seeding monitoring	\$2,100.00
Regent Honeyeater Project	
Seed production area and seed collection coordination	\$20,000.00
South West Goulburn Landcare Network	
Remnant Protection & Revegetation - Biodiversity Fund	\$12,000.00
Service delivery support to SWGLN to deliver Biodiversity fund carbon	\$10,000.00
Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network	
Direct seeding monitoring	\$16,000.00
Remnant Protection & Revegetation - Biodiversity Fund	\$10,000.00
Wetlandia' long term monitoring project	\$5,000.00
Up2Us Landcare Alliance	
Remnant Protection & Revegetation - Biodiversity Fund	\$12,000.00
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	
Goulburn Broken Seed Production Area Project and Sand Ridge Woodland Project	\$30,000.00

Total Grants paid to community groups and other organisations 2014-15	Amount paid \$ (ex GST)
<b>Australian Government - Caring for Our Country</b> Caring for our Country seeks to achieve an environment that is healthier, better protected, well managed, resilient and provides essential ecosystems services in a changing climate. Specific objectives include: maintenance of ecosystems services, including ecological and cultural values, now and into the future; protection of our conservation estate; enhanced capacity of Indigenous communities to conserve and protect natural resources; sustainable production of food; innovating in Australian agriculture and fisheries practices; reduced impact of weeds and pests on agriculture; improved management of agriculture and fisheries and the natural resource base; skilled and capable Landcare community.	
<b>Australian Processing Tomato Research Council Inc (APTRC)</b>	
Liquid gypsum applied via sub-surface drip irrigation system	\$10,000.00
<b>Deakin University</b>	
Landscape Restoration Trial measuring indicators of change in bird species richness	\$35,000.00
<b>Euroa Arboretum</b>	
Box Ironbark Course	\$10,000.00
Building resilience in the restoration and revegetation industry of the Goulburn Broken Catchment	\$30,000.00
Promotion of Nationally Significant Eco-Systems	\$6,000.00
Woodlands Book - Information Gathering	\$2,500.00
<b>Gecko Clan</b>	
Agricultural residues and erosion control	\$10,000
Climate change - Addressing impacts of extreme weather events on livestock and production	\$34,000.00
Sustainable Futures in Agriculture	\$7,590
<b>Goulburn Murray Landcare Network</b>	
Bush Business project - increasing understanding of cultural values	\$10,340.00
Floodplain Ecology Course	\$10,000.00
Soil Health Forum	\$8,400.00
Still improving the uptake of sustainable farming practices in the GMLN	\$37,000.00
Wagga Wagga Wander	\$3,500.00
<b>Goulburn Valley Community Energy</b>	
Indigenous Seedbank	\$20,000.00
<b>Goulburn Valley Environment Group</b>	
Cooperatively linking industry, rural commodities, government and science to create a cluster of industries	\$10,000.00
<b>Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network</b>	
Promotion of Nationally Significant Eco-Systems	\$14,000.00
<b>Maize Association of Australia (MAA)</b>	
Stubble management options in a continuous Maize cropping system	\$10,000.00
<b>Moira Shire Council</b>	
Local government biodiversity reference group	\$20,000.00
<b>Molyullah &amp; Tatong Tree &amp; Land Protection Group</b>	
Supporting grass roots innovation	\$3,530.00
<b>Regent Honeyeater Project</b>	
Lurg Hills Regent Honeyeater Project - Ecological restoration on a landscape scale	\$175,000.00
<b>Strathbogie Tablelands Landcare Group</b>	
Strathbogie Alternative Fertiliser Trial site stage II	\$10,000.00

## Appendix 8: Community Grants (Cont'd)

Total Grants paid to community groups and other organisations 2014-15	Amount paid \$ (ex GST)
Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network	
Direct seeding monitoring	\$10,000.00
Landscape Discovery Tour; Upper Broken Catchment - Tablelands, Volcanoes, River Capture, Granite Intrusions & Floodplains	\$4,000.00
Promotion of Nationally Significant Eco-Systems	\$21,000.00
Striped Legless Lizards in the Strathbogie Ranges	\$3,650.00
Wetlandia' long term monitoring project	\$5,000.00
Superb Parrot Project	
Superb Parrot Project	\$30,000.00
Taungurung Clans	
Delivery of natural resource management activities in Taungurung Country	\$39,757.45
Trust for Nature	
Permanent protection of nationally significant woodlands and wetlands	\$100,000.00
Up2Us Landcare Alliance	
Inspiring small farms to grow big ideas	\$10,000.00
Upper Goulburn Landcare Network	
Learning with Landcare - 4 modules for small property owners	\$1,500.00
Victorian No Till Farmers Association	
Multi species cover cropping project - Yarrawonga demonstration trials	\$5,000.00
Warby Range Landcare Group	
Developing and caring for a healthy soil	\$8,000.00
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	
Delivery of NRM activities in Yorta Yorta Country. Note: some contract services were provided for Biodiversity Fund projects, however the majority was funded from Caring for Our Country.	\$428,507.88
<b>Australian Government – NRM Planning for Climate Change</b> 53 regional NRM organisations across Australia are undertaking projects to update existing regional NRM plans by February 2016. Updated regional NRM plans are expected to help to guide adaptation and planning for climate change impacts on the land, maximising the environmental benefits of carbon farming projects and biodiversity activities, and recognising and providing guidance to avoid and mitigate potential impacts to biodiversity, water resources and production systems.	
Goulburn Valley Waste & Resource Recovery Group	
Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance	\$10,000.00
<b>Victorian Government - Victorian Environmental Partnerships Program</b> The Victorian Government through the Victorian Environmental Partnerships Program, provides funding to the Goulburn Broken CMA to support landholders, groups and organisations to undertake practical, local action to address key threats to priority native vegetation and threatened species populations.	
Euroa Arboretum	
VEPP Site Visits Vegetation Surveys	\$6,000.00
<b>Victorian Government - Victorian Landcare Grants</b> The Victorian Government through Victorian Landcare Grants provides funding to the Goulburn Broken CMA to support Landcare and other community-based natural resource management groups to protect and restore the Victorian landscape by funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on-ground works that deliver on local, regional and State priorities</li> <li>- capacity building activities for land stewardship and on-ground change</li> <li>- projects that promote innovation through experimental trials and pilot programs</li> <li>- start-up funding (for new groups &amp; networks) and maintenance grants to ensure a strong Landcare base across the State</li> <li>- opportunities to promote Landcare and increase membership and volunteer numbers</li> </ul>	

Total Grants paid to community groups and other organisations 2014-15	Amount paid \$ (ex GST)
Alexandra Primary School	
Sustainable living and garden development	\$5,000.00
Ancona Valley Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Avenel Primary School	
Continuing environmental education and stewardship program on Hughes Creek	\$5,000.00
Balmattum Sheans Creek Landcare Group	
Take control program on emerging weeds within Balmattum Sheans Creek area / assisting new and old landholders with information	\$5,000.00
Broadford Land Management Group Inc	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Broken River Environment Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Creightons Creek Landcare	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Creighton's Creek Landcare Group	
Improving stream quality and land management in the Creighton's Creek Catchment	\$5,000.00
Delatite Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Euroa Arboretum	
Environmental Education in Schools - Avenel, Longwood, Euroa and Violet Town	\$10,000.00
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.25
Glenaroua Land Management Group	
Expanding on biolinks to increase biodiversity across the Glenaroua landscape	\$8,000.00
Goulburn Murray Landcare Network	
Biodiversity Education Aquatic Discovery program (BEAD)	\$20,000.00
Living the good life - tips for small landholders	\$15,580.00
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Granite Creeks Project	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Granite Creeks Project Inc	
The Granite Creeks ongoing integrated pest plant and animal control program	\$37,000.00
Greater Shepparton City Council	
RiverConnect Project	\$80,000.00
Home Creek/ Spring Creek Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Howqua Valley Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Hughes Creek Catchment Coaborative	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Hughes Creek Catchment Collaborative	
Integrated pest plant and animal control in the Hughes Creek Catchment	\$17,000.00

## Appendix 8: Community Grants (Cont'd)

Total Grants paid to community groups and other organisations 2014-15	Amount paid \$ (ex GST)
King Parrot Creek Environment Group Inc	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Longwood Plains Conservation Management Network	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Merton Landcare Incorporated	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Mitchell Surrounds Equine Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Mollyulah and Tatong Tree & Land Protection Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Molyullah & Tatong Tree & Land Protection Group	
Battling blackberries and emerging weeds	\$10,000.00
Muckatah Landcare Group	
Discovering biodiversity at PK Reserve with educational signs and plantings	\$2,450.00
Naring landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Nulla Vale Pyalong West Landcare Group Inc	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Peranbin Primary School	
Grassy woodland restoration and education program at the school's environmental blocks	\$5,000.00
South Cathedral Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
South West Goulburn Landcare Network	
Farmblitz	\$15,000.00
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Strath Creek Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Strathallan Family Landcare	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Strathbogie Ranges Conservation Management Network	
Engaging Absentee and New Landowners	\$15,000.00
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Strathbogie Tablelands Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Sunday Creek / Sugarloaf Subcatchments Inc	
Gorse control in the Sunday Creek / Sugarloaf subcatchments	\$17,000.00
The Friends of the Marysville Walks Inc	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
UGLN on behalf of Eildon Primary School	
Habitat study and improvement of habitat at Eildon Primary School	\$3,500.00
Undera Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Up2Us Landcare Alliance	
Integrated approach to weed management on private and public land	\$15,000.00
Meet, Talk and Act 2	\$6,000.00
Up2Us Landcare Network	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47



Total Grants paid to community groups and other organisations 2014-15	Amount paid \$ (ex GST)
Upper Broken River Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Upper Goulburn Landcare Network	
Environmental Education in Schools	\$15,000.00
Kids Teaching Kids Forum	\$5,000.00
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Pest animal control project	\$5,000.00
Pest Plant control	\$17,000.00
UT Creek Maintongoon Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Warby Range Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$338.47
Warrenbayne-Boho Land Protection Group	
Brush em off all over again - pest plant control	\$8,000.00
Willowmavin Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Wyuna Landcare Group	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
Yea Wetlands Committee of Management	
Maintenance & Startup grants	\$307.70
<b>Victorian Government - Victorian Water Program Investment Framework</b>	
The VWPIF supports an integrated approach to water investment in Victorian catchment regions through three programs: Catchments Program – to improve the health of Victoria’s catchments and waterways through effective and efficient integrated catchment management. Work collaboratively with key stakeholders to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- develop state-wide strategies, policies and programs</li> <li>- secure funds and oversee investment</li> <li>- drive transparency, accountability and performance through governance, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.</li> </ul> Sustainable Irrigation Program – a productive, efficient and sustainable irrigation industry supported by improved irrigation infrastructure. Environmental Water Program – to improve environmental outcomes for Victorian waterways and other water-dependent ecosystems through implementation of environmental water policy, projects, planning, delivery and reporting.	
Gecko Clan	
Waterway Protection - Fire Recovery	\$20,000.00
Goulburn Valley Water	
Stormwater Watch	\$15,000.00
Waterwatch	\$60,525.00
Strath Creek Landcare Group	
Building Resilience along the King Parrot Creek	\$16,273.60
Yea Wetlands Trust	
The Riparian Project - 3D animation	\$3,000.00
<b>Victorian Government – Other</b>	
The Victorian Government provides opportunities for investment in activities that help protect, enhance and strengthen the resilience of our quality built and natural environments, assets and resources.	
South West Goulburn Landcare Network	
Riparian fire recovery activities	\$30,000.00
Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre	
Violet Town Community Wetlands project	\$10,000.00
<b>Total Grants paid</b>	<b>\$2,212,672.81</b>

## Appendix 9: Disclosure Index

The Annual Report of the Goulburn Broken CMA is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index facilitates identification of the Authority compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

Information relevant to the headings listed in Financial Reporting Direction 22F of the *Financial Management Act 1994* is held at the Authority's office and is available on request, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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FRD 22F	Nature and range of services provided	6
	<b>Management and Structure</b>	
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## Glossary of terms

**Biolink:** areas identified for targeted action to increase ecological function and connectivity, improving the potential of plants and animals to disperse, recolonise, evolve and adapt naturally.

**Bioregions:** Large, geographically distinct areas of land with common biophysical characteristics such as geology, landform patterns, climate and ecological features.

**Carryover** was introduced in northern Victoria in early 2007 as an emergency drought measure to allow entitlement holders to carry over some unused water allocation to use in the following season.

**End-of-valley targets** have been proposed for major rivers contributing salt to the River Murray under the (Murray-Darling) Basin Salinity Management Strategy. The purpose of these targets is to maintain salinity levels at the benchmark site, Morgan in South Australia, at or under 800 EC for 95 per cent of the time. These enable within-valley targets to be set. The proposed end-of-valley targets are being investigated to align them with expectations and obligations of different parties at regional, State and Federal levels.

**GMW Connections** is a \$2 billion project funded by the Victorian Government, Commonwealth Government and Melbourne Water to develop a water delivery network to match changing needs and support opportunities for irrigated agriculture across Northern Victoria.

**Minimum (river) flow:** a minimum level of flow that the water authority needs to maintain in the river at a particular location, or a trigger below which water cannot be harvested from the river. Minimum flows are usually specified in water authority bulk entitlements or in environmental entitlements. (See also 'qualification of rights' below.)

**Modernised Whole farm Plan** is a plan revised to take account of the changed regional channel delivery infrastructure as a result of modernisation.

**Qualification of rights:** if on a seasonal basis there is insufficient water in a water supply system to meet critical water needs, a water shortage may be declared by the Minister for Water and rights to water may be qualified temporarily. A qualification of rights changes a legal entitlement. Rights that may be qualified include licenses, water shares, bulk and environmental entitlements. Private rights may be suspended, reduced, increased or otherwise altered after a water shortage has been declared.

**Regional Catchment Strategy** is a blueprint for integrated natural resource management across a geographic area.

**Registered Aboriginal Parties** are the voice of Aboriginal people in managing and protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage under the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. The Act recognises Aboriginal people as the primary guardians, keepers and knowledge holders of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

**Resilience:** The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganise while undergoing change so as to still retain essentially the same function, structure, identity, and feedbacks.

**Resource Condition Target** relates to the condition of the resource and can be measured over the short-term or the long-term depending on ease of measurement.

**Salt registers** of salt debits and credits are required to be maintained by the State under the Federal *Water Act 2007*. The delayed impacts of dryland salinity are accounted for in the B Registers. The Goulburn Broken CMA has set up the framework for the B Register and is establishing a process with DELWP and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority for entering data to complement data already in the A Register under the salinity and drainage strategy.

**Social-ecological systems (SES):** Linked and generally similar systems of people and nature, taking into account cultural, political, social, economic, ecological and technological components.

**Thresholds:** A breakpoint between two states of a system that must be exceeded to begin to produce some sort of effect or response.

**Tipping points:** A point where a small change can have a large effect on the state of a system.

## Abbreviations

AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board
AQF	Australian Qualifications Framework
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute
CaLP	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i>
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEWH	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
CfoC	Caring for our Country
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CMN	Conservation Management Network
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
DEPI	Department of Environment and Primary Industries (former)
DTF	Department of Treasury & Finance
EC	Electrical Conductivity unit
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Classes
FIEP	Fruit Industry Employment Program
FTE	Full-time Equivalent
GB RRHS	Goulburn Broken Regional River Health Strategy
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GL	Gigalitre
GMW	Goulburn-Murray Water
GST	Goods and Services Tax
ha	hectare
IT	Information Technology
km	kilometre
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
L	Litre
LWMP	Land and Water Management Plan
MDBA	Murray Darling Basin Authority
ML	Megalitre
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MLC	Member of the Legislative Council
MP	Member of Parliament
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
no.	Number
NRM	Natural resource management
NRIP	Natural Resources Investment Program
RCS	(Goulburn Broken) Regional Catchment Strategy
RSMP	Regional Salinity Management Plan
SIPAG	Sustainable Irrigation Program Advisory Group
SIR	Shepparton Irrigation Region
SIRCIS	Shepparton Irrigation Region Catchment Implementation Strategy
tCO <sub>2</sub> -e	Tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emitted
TfN	Trust for Nature
VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
YYNAC	Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

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## Recognising a major NRM contribution

Compiled by Cindy Doherty and Jim Castles

### Wayne Tennant 1960 - 2015



The Goulburn Broken CMA, Catchment and community lost a true warrior for our waterways when Wayne Tennant passed away on 4 August this year. Wayne worked in NRM for almost 30 years and was a champion of the riverine environment and the strategies to protect it.

Wayne's work in and around the Catchment commenced with Ian Drummond and Associates (ID&A) as a Waterway Engineer in Wangaratta from 1988. He was a consultant to the Broken River Management Board (formerly Broken River Improvement Trust), the Upper Goulburn Waterway Management Authority (formerly Shire of Seymour River Improvement Trust) and provided support to the Lower Goulburn Waterway Management Authority. These organisations merged with others to become the Goulburn Broken CMA in 1997.

Wayne was appointed to the role of Senior Natural Resource Manager (Waterways) with the Goulburn Broken CMA in 1998 and the Waterways/River Health Program expanded and developed under Wayne's leadership.

He was associated with a vast range of catchment and waterway management projects along the south Eastern freeboard of Australia, including two visits to China to build knowledge and partnerships (in support of University of Melbourne and AusAid).

Wayne wrote and contributed to over 46 publications regarding Waterway Management and River Health, and spoke at National and International Industry Workshops and Conferences. In 2012 he took part in the Rural Communities participation in water catchment management Australia, Bridge Over Water Culture Tour to Shanxi Normal University in China, and lectured and held workshops for a number of Universities.

The Goulburn Broken CMA River Health and Waterways Program was a National Finalist for the International River Symposium RiverPrize in 2000, and Wayne and his team went on to win the International River Symposium RiverPrize in 2001. Under Wayne's leadership, the Goulburn Broken CMA's Strategic River Health Team was again rewarded with the Banksia Environmental Foundation 2008 Water Award with the entry titled 'A Vision for the Broken River Basin.' These awards acknowledged the passion and expertise Wayne had for

River Health, as well as the engaging collaborative qualities he brought to the Goulburn Broken CMA.

Wayne's words, taken from River Heroes: Lessons from Thies Riverprize winners and finalists 1999-2006 report, perhaps sum up his principles and approach best, "working with rivers, not against them is the answer – patience, passion and working together."

Other key involvements of Wayne to increase knowledge within the Goulburn Broken Region included participation on associated research (with eWater CRC and Land and Water Australia), the Victorian Waterway Managers Forum and associated subcommittees, the MDBA Native Fish Strategy Community Taskforce, MDFRC Community Stakeholder Group and the Australian Institute for Company Directors (AICD). Wayne was also a member and Friend of the Peter Cullen Trust.

Whilst battling an ongoing illness, Wayne managed to lead the development of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Regional Waterway Strategy 2014-2022, which was endorsed by the Minister in 2014. Wayne continued to display his dedication to the future well-being of our Waterways and catchment by organising the Goulburn Broken CMA Research Workshop in May 2015. The aim of this very successful forum was to present the methods and findings on land, water and biodiversity research and monitoring in the catchment.

In June 2015, Wayne said the key to success was working with passionate and committed people with a shared vision.

"We have been fortunate to have strong community leaders in the region, through Landcare, Environmental groups, water users, universities and research organisations, local government, the Goulburn Broken CMA and its partner agencies," he said. "Another strength has been the integration of programs across the vast range of issue based programs."

"If we manage NRM through integrated frameworks, and utilise the knowledge we have gained along the way, we can address the issues of the past and take up the challenges of the future."

Wayne was a true leader in strategic planning for river and wetland health, and worked hard to successfully incorporate resilience thinking into his more recent work. He will leave a truly remarkable legacy for us all. Thank you Wayne.

### Staff list 2014-15

Aaron Findlay	Chris Norman	Geoff Earl	Kate Pendergast	Neville Atkinson	Tim Barlow
Annette Neessen	Christine Glassford	Gillian Mason	Katie Warner	Peter Geddes	Tom O'Dwyer
Annie Squires	Collin Tate	Guy Tierney	Keith Ward	Rachael Spokes	Tony Kubeil
Belinda Senini	Corey Wilson	Helen Murdoch	Kerry McFarlane	Rebecca Caldwell	Vicki Mackenzie
Brendan Stary	Darelle Siekman	Janice Mentiplay-Smith	Kiera Hole *	Rhiannon Apted	Wayne Tennant
Bianca Sulejman	David Lawler	Jenny Wilson	Kirsten Roszak	Richard Warburton	Zuzanna Lelito
Carl Walters	Dean Judd	Jim Begley	Lisa Duncan	Samantha Moreno	
Carla Miles	Eileen Curtis	Jim Castles	Mark Turner	Shannon Crawford	* YES Trainee
Casey Damen	Fiona Lloyd	Jo Wood	Mary Dimit	Simon Casanelia	
Charlie Sexton	Fleur Baldi	Karen Brisbane	Meegan Judd	Stan Gibney	
Chris Burnett	Gaye Sutherland	Kate Brunt	Megan McFarlane	Steve Wilson	
Chris Nicholson	Geoff Brennan	Kate Hill	Melanie Haddow	Sue Kosch	



## PARTNERS IN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

The health of the Catchment relies on many partner organisations and individuals. In fact, there are so many partner organisations of the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority that we have found it challenging to capture them all. Any partner logo not appearing above does not undervalue their contribution to the Catchment.

## CONTACTS AND OFFICE LOCATIONS OF GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



**MAIN OFFICE, SHEPPARTON**  
168 Welsford Street, Shepparton  
PO Box 1752, Shepparton Vic 3632  
phone: (03) 5822 7700  
fax: (03) 5831 6254  
email: reception@gbcma.vic.gov.au

**BENALLA**  
89 Sydney Road, Benalla  
PO Box 124, Benalla Vic 3672  
phone: (03) 5822 7700  
fax: (03) 5761 1547

**YEA**  
Shop 5/10 High Street,  
Yea Vic 3717  
phone: (03) 5797 4400  
fax: (03) 5797 3199