

## **Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority Adaptation Plan Case Study**

Goulburn Broken CMA is a natural resource management organisation for the Goulburn Broken catchment which covers almost 2.5 million hectares. The catchment is part of the Murray Darling Basin and the area consists of a mix of agriculture, forestry, tourism and public land. Over 200,000 people live within the Goulburn Broken catchment. (information from Goulburn broken CMA's website)

*The plan was implemented in 2016, currently in renewal.*

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### **Initial Plan Motivation:**

Prior to the adaptation plan, the CMA formulated a Climate Change Integration Strategy which integrated climate change into the organisation's operations. The federal government released the *Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Initiative* which was provided to all natural resource management bodies across Australia. The conditions on this funding was to create an adaptation plan. This was something that the CMA had wanted to create and the funding provided a resource and drive to complete it.

**Key stakeholders: Goulburn Broken CMA strategic planning department, federal government**

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### **Defining a Vision, Objective and Goals:**

The overarching Regional Catchment Strategy acted as the vision for the adaptation plan as it already outlined what was desired from the catchment. Within the Regional Catchment Strategy are the sub-strategies: waterways, land and biodiversity, climate change, people/community and Shepparton irrigation region land and water management plan. These sub-strategies and the overarching strategy had extensive public consultation and were therefore accurately centred on the necessary visions. The objective of the adaptation plan was to underpin the existing visions with climate change adaptation. These decisions were made in collaboration with key partner organisations and individual land owners, and were directed by the CMA steering committee.

**Key stakeholders: Previous community consultation, Goulburn Broken CMA strategic planning department, Goulburn Broken CMA steering committee, key partner organisations**

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### **Analysing Multiple Futures:**

A range of different climate scenarios were assessed under the key effects within the catchment to identify vulnerabilities. From this, case studies were created to pinpoint certain locations and characteristics to develop the analysis further, particularly as climate change was discovered to be only one of the drivers of vulnerability. This could also include land use change and economic change. In order to gather the information on the catchment vulnerabilities, different methods and tools were used within different areas and communities. This enabled the knowledge of community capacity to be utilised, and existing structure and systems to facilitate knowledge gathering and collaboration.

Key stakeholders: Community groups, community members, key partner organisations, Goulburn Broken CMA staff and structures, land care groups

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### **Choosing Priorities and Options for Adaptation:**

The vulnerability assessment laid the foundations for the adaptation priorities. It was understood that vulnerabilities were not necessarily the areas where the focus for adaptation should sit. An assessment of the adaptive capacity of the vulnerable areas was formulated to determine which aspects had an innate ability to adapt. This method enabled the areas to be identified which were both vulnerable and had little adaptive capacity. It was these areas that were taken to further consultation with key partner organisations and the community to explore adaptive pathways. This involved educating the community and partners about transformation to integrate changes to values as well as management.

Key stakeholders: Goulburn Broken CMA strategic planning department, key partner organisations, community members

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### **Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Improving and Learning (MERIL):**

The MERI framework is nested within the entire organisation's MERI plan which is held with the strategy for reviewing reports and plans. This occurs as an annual process. As the plan sits within the overarching Regional Catchment Strategy, reviews of that include reviews of the adaptation plan. The MERI framework is embedded into the culture of the CMA and is thus an integral part of the plan's development and implementation.

Key stakeholders: Goulburn Broken CMA strategic planning department, Goulburn Broken CMA staff and structures

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### **Biggest Challenge:**

There was an overlap with the formulation and implementation of the adaptation plan and research by expert advisory groups, whereby the research was happening simultaneously. It would have been beneficial for the CMA to have access to the research earlier to allow time to contextualise the information and integrate it into the adaptation plan. Another difficulty was translating that research into decision-making. In practice there are many different factors and value sets that can complicate decision-making, deciphering the different pathways and research into effective choices is complicated. This could be improved by unpacking the significance of new research and tools and how to integrate that into planning.

**Key stakeholders:** Expert research groups, Goulburn Broken CMA strategic planning department, Goulburn Broken CMA staff and structures, state government

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### **Biggest Success:**

Creating networks within the climate change and adaptation sector has been beneficial to long term knowledge sharing. This has also allowed an understanding of the skills that different people and organisations have which can be used for widespread advantage. This is particularly important for players developing adaptation plans to engage and connect with bodies that have experience within that. Through this, any new research and strategies can progress from what is already known and learnt to avoid making the same mistakes. Any funding that is allocated towards adaptation plans can then be used to progress existing work for the benefit of the whole sector and community. Another success was learning to deal with complexity and implementing a systems approach into planning.

**Key stakeholders:** Expert research groups, Goulburn Broken CMA strategic planning department, Goulburn Broken CMA staff and structures, state government, key partner organisations

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**Key Stakeholders:** Goulburn Broken CMA Strategic Planning Department, Goulburn Broken CMA staff and structures, Goulburn Broken CMA steering committee, key partner organisations, community members, community groups, land care groups, federal government, state government, expert research groups

**Key Resources:** Collaboration with other organisations and research groups within the adaptation and climate change sector; funding from federal and state government; utilising previous research to feed into new plans and strategies to minimise resource expenditure; existing partnerships and relationships within communities to strategically consult with the community (ensuring that consultation is also diversified).

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