

IRRIGATION FUTURES OF THE GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT



**Milestone 4
June 2006**

**Primary Industries Research Victoria (PIRVic) - Tatura
Department of Primary Industries**

in collaboration with

**Community Engagement Network
Department of Sustainability and Environment**



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For more information contact:

Dr QJ Wang (Project Leader),
Leon Soste (Operational Manager) or
David Robertson (System Analyst)
Primary Industries Research Victoria
CRC for Irrigation Futures
Department of Primary Industries
Ferguson Road
Tatura, Victoria, 3616

Telephone: (03) 5833 5222

Facsimile: (03) 5833 5299

Project Team:

Dr QJ Wang (Project Leader), Leon Soste (Operational Manager), David Robertson (System Analyst), Sherridan Watt (Project Support) – Department of Primary Industries and Cooperative Research Centre for Irrigation Futures

Robert Chaffe (Workshop Facilitator) – Community Engagement Network, Department of Sustainability and Environment

Governance Committee:

Murray Chapman	National Program for Sustainable Irrigation, LWA
Deborah Courtney	Department of Primary Industries
Denis Flett	Murray Darling Basin Commission
Ian Moorhouse	Goulburn-Murray Water
John Pettigrew (Chair)	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
Mark Wood	Department of Sustainability and Environment

Stakeholder Reference Committee:

Mark Allaway, Allen Canobie, Bruce Cumming, Steve Farrell, Peter Gibson (Chair), Colin James, Peter McCamish, Ian Moorhouse, Chris Norman, Russell Pell, Derek Poulton, Ann Roberts, Nick Roberts, Nick Ryan, Ken Sampson, Alan Sutherland, David Taylor, John Thompson, Mark Wood.

Technical Working Group:

Narrative Team: Allen Canobie, Bruce Cumming, Joe Demase, Peter Fitzgerald, John Laing, David Lawler, Oliver Moles, Bev Phelan, Claire Pinniceard, Peter Sargent, Rien Silverstein, Kate Tehan.

Analysis Team: Bruce Anderson, David Bourke, John Dainton, Lyn Gunter, Shane Hall, Peter Langley, Derek Poulton, Kevin Preece, Durham Prewett, Ross Wall, Gordon Weller.

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Milestone 4 Report

Project:	Irrigation Futures of the Goulburn Broken Catchment (VPI3)
Principal investigator:	Dr QJ Wang
Project duration:	1 July 2003 – 30 June 2007
Report due date:	1 July 2006

Project Objectives

The objectives of the Irrigation Futures project are to:

- Facilitate key stakeholders to develop a shared vision on the future of irrigation in the Goulburn Broken catchment, and to identify scenarios of major constraints and opportunities and of regional response options.
- Understand the social, economic and environmental consequences of various scenarios through impact assessment based on an integration of the best available knowledge.
- Facilitate key stakeholders to build consensus on preferred regional options for future irrigation, and recommend regional follow-up actions.
- Develop a methodology that can be applied elsewhere in Australia for sustainable irrigation planning at a catchment scale.

Context for Milestone 4 Report

The background, underlying philosophy and methodology for this project are outlined in Milestone 1b Report. In particular, that Report includes the:

- Stakeholder Participation Plan (and its external review),
- Communication Plan,
- Evaluation Plan.

Milestone 2 Report provides details of the:

- Planning, recruitment and running of the stakeholder engagement processes,
- Capture, synthesis, review and dissemination of the outputs from those engagement processes,
- The literature review for, and subsequent development of, the assessment process to be used in Stage 3 of the project.

Milestone 3 Report provides:

- A compilation of the synthesised outputs from Stage 2. This comprises the:

- Aspirations of stakeholders for irrigated agriculture in the region,
 - Four External Scenarios describing the evolution of alternative plausible futures within which the region may have to operate over the next 30 years,
 - A suite of Regional Strategies to guide future regional actions,
 - A list of the assets within the region, and
 - A consolidated list of response options from all Workshops from which the suite of Regional Strategies were synthesised.
- The final version of the assessment process to be used in Stage 3.
 - Comments from the external reviewers on the proposed assessment process for Stage 3, and responses from the project team.
 - Details of the communication activities undertaken by project team from Jan – June 2005.

The Attachment to Milestone 4 Report provides:

- A summary of the Stage 3 method and implementation for scenario assessment and implication investigation.
- Stage 3 outputs including:
 - A snapshot of irrigation in the Goulburn Broken Region,
 - Four Scenarios describing plausible futures of irrigation in the region: the evolution of interplay between external operating environments, regional responses, and regional consequences,
 - Broad implications of the scenarios for the region and strategies,
 - Specific implications of the scenarios for irrigation infrastructure planning.
- Details of the communication activities undertaken by project team from July 2005 – June 2006.

Progress Against Milestone 4

The contract requirements for Milestone 4 are as follows:

- Data required for assessment assembled and documented.
- Assessment of scenarios completed, and results analysed and documented.
- Assessment results endorsed by Stakeholder Reference Committee.
- Attendance including presentation and poster display by Principal Investigator at annual Sustainable Irrigation Program Forum.
- Milestone Report 4 submitted for approval.

The work completed against each of these specific requirements is as follows:

Data required for assessment assembled and documented.

Status: Completed

The data for the assessment has been assembled and documented, and is embedded in the Attachment:

- Section 3 - A snapshot of irrigation in the Goulburn Broken Region,
- Section 7 - Specific implications of the scenarios for irrigation infrastructure planning,
- Appendix - Scenarios (Detailed)

Assessment of scenarios completed, and results analysed and documented.

Status: Completed

The process used for and outputs from the scenario assessment are presented in the Attachment.

Assessment results endorsed by Stakeholder Reference Committee

Status: Completed

The assessment results were endorsed by the Stakeholder Reference Committee at its meeting on 23 June 2006, with the following motion:

The SRC endorses that:

- *the process used during Stage 3 of the Irrigation Futures project to generate the assessment results is sound,*
- *the results are therefore likely to be plausible alternatives,*
- *which are worthy of further consideration and debate, and*
- *which can be used to inform decision-making within the regional community.*

Presentation and poster display at Annual Sustainable Irrigation Forum

Status: Completed

In addition, Dr QJ Wang presented a keynote paper on the Irrigation Futures project at the ANCID 2005 Conference, an invited plenary paper at the International Symposium on Sustainable Water Resources Management in Beijing 2005, and an invited paper at ABARE Outlook 2006 Conference. Mr Robert Chaffe presented a paper at the APEN 2006 International Conference.

Milestone 4 Report submitted for approval

Status: Completed

This Milestone 4 Report is submitted for approval.