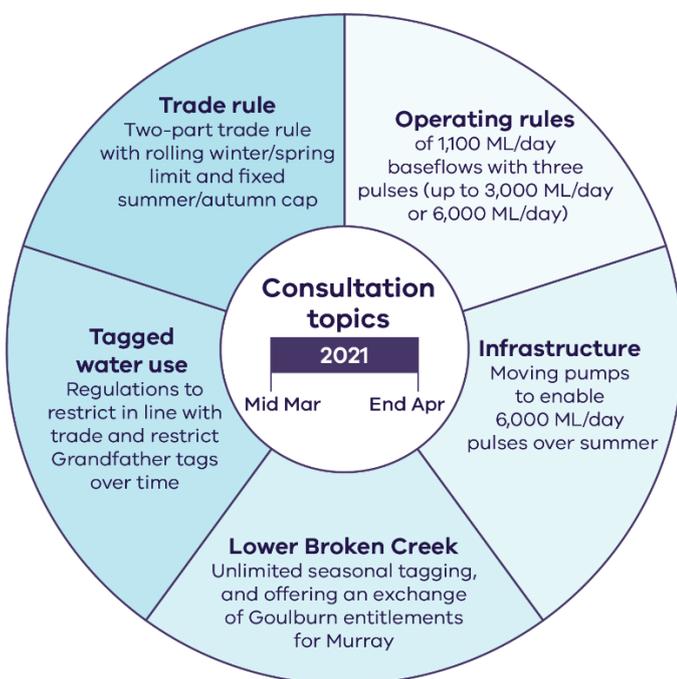




## Consultation snapshot

The Victorian Government prepared a Regulatory Impact Statement assessing the options for changes to the Goulburn to Murray operating, trade and tagged use rules. Consultation took place from 22 March to 30 April 2021.



## What we heard

### Operating rules

#### Option 1

*Lower flows and fewer pulses but less trade opportunity than Option 2.*

Stakeholders preferring Option 1 included Traditional Owner groups, recreational fishing groups, environmental groups, some irrigators in the Goulburn irrigation areas and Greater Shepparton City Council as they felt Option 1 provides the highest ecological, recreational and cultural considerations.

These groups also expressed concern for the potential impact of 6,000 ML pulses.

#### Option 2

*Preferred option to balance all objectives.*

Stakeholders preferring Option 2 included most Local Government groups, irrigators in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District, environmental water holders and Victorian Farmers Federation as it would provide opportunities for trade and access to water, whilst balancing environmental outcomes.

Environmental water holders said their support for Option 2 was contingent on additional flexibility for environmental watering within operating rules.

Many stakeholders, even amongst those advocating for lower or higher flows than prescribed under this preferred option appreciated that some change is required, and that Option 2 presents a balanced approach to achieving the objectives of the review.

#### Option 3

*Higher flows and more pulses but more trade opportunity than Option 2.*

Stakeholders preferring Option 3 included most irrigators in the Murray and industry stakeholder groups. These stakeholders said they would be comfortable with Option 2 if the in-channel pumps in the lower Goulburn River could be moved and greater opportunity to trade through higher pulses were guaranteed.

### Trade rule

There was general support for the structure of the two-part allocation trade rule proposed. Many irrigators felt it would provide greater certainty around when trade opportunity was available and felt that this change would be good for the broader water market.

# Goulburn to Murray trade rule review: Regulatory impact statement Consultation snapshot



**50**  
Face to face  
meetings across  
northern Victoria



**20**  
Online  
meetings

Available  
online

**5** Public  
webinars



**2,471**  
Website views

**969**  
Different visitors

## We heard from...

Traditional Owners, environmental, fishing and recreational stakeholders, irrigators, industry groups, local, state and federal government agencies, as well as individuals.

## Tagged use regulations

Generally, stakeholders supported making restrictions on tagged use in line with allocation trade enduring as they saw it as an important step to managing deliveries of inter-valley trade.

## We held meetings in:



Stakeholders were also generally in favour of restricting grandfathered tags in Victoria.

## Monitoring

The majority of stakeholders advocated for a monitoring and reporting program as part of implementation of any change to the Goulburn to Murray operating and trade rules, regardless of the option. As part of this monitoring, stakeholders want clear triggers for adjustment and review of the river operating rules should the lower Goulburn River not respond as expected. Traditional Owner groups welcomed the opportunity to be involved in a monitoring program.

## Lower Broken Creek

We heard strong opposition to restricting tagged use in line with the Goulburn to Murray allocation trade rule for any part of the year from irrigators in the Lower Broken Creek and Local Government. Irrigators in the Lower Broken Creek felt the proposed tagged use rules were too conservative to manage local risks.

## Further information

The full Closing the Loop Report can be found at: <https://engage.vic.gov.au/goulburn-murray-trade-rule-review>.

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