

13 March 2019



Goulburn Broken CMA submission to the Draft Victorian North and Murray Water Resource Plan

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA) supports the draft Victorian North and Murray Water Resource Plan. The GB CMA has had input into the plan development over the past 18 months and would like to acknowledge that the plan draws on an extensive body of knowledge, data and experience from a large number of research projects, plans, strategies, community and experts over the last twenty years and more.

We support the approach of using the strong water management framework within Victoria as a basis for our ongoing management to ensure that many identified improvements or adjustments that are outside the requirements of the Murray Darling Basin Plan can be made within the State decision structure.

The Authority was pleased to note the inclusion of:

- the serious risk to Goulburn River and Barmah Forest ecology from increasing water demands from the lower Murray River,
- acknowledgement of the high degree of cooperation and collaboration between the various State agencies, water authorities and the community, and
- emphasis on the increasingly important role that local indigenous bodies can bring to the management of water resources.

We strongly support the need to further investigate the impacts of high unseasonal flows on Goulburn River ecology. With support from the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Goulburn Broken CMA is undertaking work in this area currently.

The draft plan considers the impacts and risks of additional farm dams and stock and domestic take (currently low) and agree that further work is needed in this area to determine the scale of the impacts as part of the upcoming review of the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy.

Further work is also needed on addressing constraints to maximise the benefits of environmental water as outlined in Basin-wide and State watering plans and strategies.

The Goulburn Broken CMA looks forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to ensure the rivers in the northern Murray region of Victoria remain healthy and resilient into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Norman', is written over a white background.

Chris Norman
Chief Executive Officer

www.gbcbma.vic.gov.au

**SHEPPARTON
Head Office**

168 Welsford Street
PO Box 1752
Shepparton VIC 3632
Tel: (03) 5822 7700
Fax: (03) 5831 6254

BENALLA

89 Sydney Road
PO Box 124
Benalla VIC 3672
Tel: (03) 5822 7700

YEA

5/10 High Street
Yea VIC 3717
Tel: (03) 5797 4400