

Waranga Basin Land & On-Water Management Plan Implementation Schedule



High priority
 Medium priority
 Low priority
 Action complete or nearing completion

Act #	Action	Indicative Cost	Lead Agency	Schedule 2013-2017					Comments & Progress
				2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	
Section 6 - Community Awareness and Involvement									
1	Review the structure, membership and purpose of the Waranga Basin Community Reference Group as a basis for an ongoing, community-based approach to implement this Plan		G-MW. Support from Waranga Basin Community Reference Group, clubs and other stakeholders.						Limited interest in creating a community reference group resulted in GMW holding regular agency meetings and providing updates on actions in this schedule.
2	Develop improved public information on recreation, water quality issues, other land and on water issues, management issues, dam operation and water levels.		G-MW. Support from Waranga Basin Community Reference Group, clubs and other stakeholders.						Waranga Basin recreation guide completed in 2012. GMW is currently preparing a recreation communications strategy for all storages.
3	Develop an interactive website containing maps, plans, zones, FAQs, management arrangements and by-laws that can be used as a one stop shop for information about Waranga Basin		G-MW. Support from Waranga Basin Community Reference Group, clubs and other stakeholders.						Stanford Marketing have been engaged by G-MW to commence development of storage brochures and updated website information
4	Develop a strategy to promote Waranga Basin		Local tourism peak body, with support from Local Government and G-MW						Strategic Regional Marketing Plan currently underway is proposed to recognise product (inc. Waranga Basin). A further Promotional Strategy is dependent future budget allocations.
5	Increase the awareness of Waranga Basin by encouraging community-run events both on and off the water		Echuca Moama Tourism, Greater Shepparton City Council and Local Tourism Groups						Events Strategy currently being developed. Strategy seeks to outline ongoing role to develop and encouraged events. However implementation is dependent upon budget allocation.
6	Establish event policies and guidelines to support community events		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity.						Manager Land & On-Water developing events policy for G-MW
7	Consider opportunities to provide tourist photo lookouts with interpretive signage about the area		G-MW with support from local tourism peak body.						
Section 7 - Recreation and Tourism									
8	Undertake a quantitative survey of users of the various infrastructure points at Waranga Basin in order to determine current usage numbers		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						
9	Develop a recreational infrastructure and landscape master plan to assist in prioritising capital investment and maintenance		G-MW with the involvement of the Waranga Basin's commercial operators.						G-MW has allocated budget to prepare report on current recreation facilities at Waranga Basin. New fencing at Stuart Murray Channel Inlet to reduce risk of vehicle access to channel infrastructure and to protect existing vegetation completed May 2014.
10	Consider opportunities for defined walking and/or cycling trails		Relevant land manager with support from local tourism peak body, Tourism Victoria and Local Government.						Implementation and development of infrastructure in line with the Campaspe Walking and Cycling Strategy.
11	Consider separate designated areas for motorised trail bikes away from passive recreation areas.		Relevant land manager with support from local tourism peak body, Tourism Victoria and Local Government.						
12	Continue development of a Rail Trail between Rushworth and Murchison.		Local Government with support from community and local tourism peak body						Implementation and of the Campaspe Walking and Cycling Strategy. Implementation is ongoing. Rail Trail project is subject to a lease with VicTrack.
13	Explore potential for bird-watching activities and facilities such as bird hides and viewing platforms.		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						
14	Investigate the potential for nature-based tourism activities and events		G-MW, support from Waranga Basin Community Reference Group and clubs						MRTB product gap analysis underway. Murray-Campaspe Nature based Tourism Strategy proposal developed.
15	Review existing boat ramps in relation to access at all water levels, number, location safety issues , road access and parking	\$14,000	G-MW, involvement of Transport Safety Victoria, Victoria Water Police and support from Boating Industry Association of Victoria						G-MW has allocated budget to prepare report on current recreation facilities at Waranga Basin. Investigations into a Northern boat ramp are currently underway. Sapling Point - road upgrade and car park construction completed in April 2014. Old fence removal below FSL to reduce boating hazard completed June 2014.
16	Review vessel operation and zoning rules for the Basin, with a view to considering options for safe zones to separate passive water based recreation from power boating		G-MW, involvement of Transport Safety Victoria, Victoria Water Police and support from Boating Industry Association of Victoria						

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17	Provide consistent and up to date boating safety information signage at all boating access points and information via brochures and internet.		G-MW, involvement of Transport Safety Victoria, Victoria Water Police and support from Boating Industry Association of Victoria						Waranga boating guide is available on the GMW web site.
18	Investigate suitability of the Basin for boating events, such as ski-racing and yachting.		G-MW, involvement of Transport Safety Victoria, Victoria Water Police and support from Boating Industry Association of Victoria						
19	Assess the current fish habitat and stocking situation		DPI (Fisheries) is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of G-MW, DSE, VRFish, and the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs.						
20	Seek community input into the type of fishery preferred at Waranga Basin		G-MW, support from Waranga Basin Community Reference Group, DSE, VRFish and the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs.						
21	Promote the fact that the Waranga Basin is stocked with fish		DPI (Fisheries) is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of G-MW, DSE, VRFish, and the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs.						
22	Establish monitoring programs		DPI (Fisheries) is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of G-MW, DSE, VRFish, and the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs.						
23	Encourage fishing related events		DPI (Fisheries) and fishing representative organisations						
24	Advocate for the protection and enhancement of appropriate fish habitat		DPI (Fisheries) is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of G-MW, DSE, VRFish, and the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs.						
25	Consider opportunities for accessible fishing places for all levels of ability		DPI (Fisheries) is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of G-MW, DSE, VRFish, and the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs.						
26	Investigate the need for a feasibility of fishways in channels to promote fish breeding and migration		DPI (Fisheries) is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of G-MW, DSE, VRFish, and the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs.						
27	Research current levels of Trout breeding in Channels		DPI (Fisheries) is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of G-MW, DSE, VRFish, and the Goulburn Valley Association of Angling Clubs.						
28	Review the demand and adequacy of current facilities for camping including effluent disposal facilities		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						
29	Evaluate the potential for future camp sites and develop a camping strategy based on the principles established in the Lake Hume strategy		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						

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30	Review existing tourism and accommodation facilities around Waranga Basin and identify opportunities for appropriate development.		Local tourism body with support from existing operators, land managers and regulating agencies.						A product gap analysis and opportunities for destination development completed. Results documented in 2009-2017 plan. Implementation dependent upon future funding.
31	Promote the Waranga Basin area as a tourism destination		Local tourism body with support from Local Government and Echuca Moama Tourism						Regional Strategic Marketing Plan currently under development.
32	Develop a Public Infrastructure and Foreshore Master Plan to help prioritise maintenance funding and future investment in public infrastructure		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with support from regulating agencies and local tourism peak body						G-MW has allocated budget to prepare report on current recreation facilities at Waranga Basin (See action 9)
33	Seek collaborative agreements between key agencies for improved management of public reserves		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity.						Discussions have been initiated with other agencies.
34	Develop a plan for monitoring and policing of regulations relating to public behaviour with relevant agencies to ensure safe use of the area		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with support from regulating agencies.						
35	Undertake regular public safety assessments of public reserves and boat ramps to maintain suitable safe access		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						TSV grant funding has been provided to investigate adequacy of existing boat ramps and potential for a Northern ramp
36	Investigate options to reduce vandalism		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity with support from Victoria Police						
37	Educate the community about non-access to unsafe areas		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity with the involvement of VicRoads and Victoria Police						Signage assessments are underway. On going minor community education initiated.
38	Develop a litter management strategy to minimise impacts of litter on the surrounding environment.		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						
39	Communicate litter management policy via brochures, signage and other communication tools		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						Waranga recreation guide available from GMW website
Section 8 - Land Management									
40	Review wastewater management strategies around Waranga Basin		G-MW and Local Government are primarily responsible for coordinating this action						New dispersion lines installed for embankment public toilets in 2012. New public toilet block constructed at Caravan Park reserve in 2012
41	Maintain and improve communication with local government and environmental departments to ensure appropriate development near Waranga Basin		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						
42	Develop and disseminate a reference guide to land management responsibilities around the Waranga Basin to ensure people know their obligations and where to go to resolve common issues		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						Reference guide has been included as an appendix to the plan
43	Review the impact of existing land-use activists on water quality		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with support from key management agencies						
44	Develop a better understanding of the impact of water quality on downstream land		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						
45	Review commercial leases, costs and benefits, with a view to ensuring appropriate standard of facilities are maintained and all development is sustainable		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with support from DSE for management of the Waranga Caravan Park lease.						Review of GMW commercial leases underway
46	Complete upgrades of club wastewater management systems to meet current Environment Protection Authority guidelines		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with support from DSE for management of the Waranga Caravan Park lease.						Upgrade of Waranga Boat Club system completed in 2012. Works to upgrade Caravan Park and reserve system underway. Fencing for Sapling Point lagoons to be completed by Club in 2015.

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47	Develop guidelines for short term grazing permits		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						New grazing license guidelines have been provided to licence holders with new licence documents
48	Review adequacy of storage perimeter fencing on grazing licence areas and adjoining private land used for grazing		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						G-MW has engaged a dedicated Land & On-Water Officer for Goulburn Weir and Waranga Basin to improve management of grazing licence conditions. Some fencing has been completed, more fencing will be done after a review of the perimeter fencing is completed.
49	Manage bushfire risks via existing Fire Management Plan, including communication to the public		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						G-MW fire protection plan is updated annually and provided to Council and CFA for reference and review
50	Ensure access is available and well signposted for fire vehicles via roads and to water supply points, especially during low water levels.		CFA with support from G-MW and road managers						
51	Assess the extent of erosion, and develop and Erosion Action Plan if required		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of nearby landholders and local Landcare groups						
52	Investigate and identify opportunities for revegetation plantings in high risk areas		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of nearby landholders and local Landcare groups						
53	Consider landscaping in "barren" high use public recreation areas		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of nearby landholders and local Landcare groups						Capital budget allocated to fence and revegetate sections of Harrimans Pooint and Caravan Park reserves in 2015/16
54	Manage grazing on perimeter land to minimise erosion risk		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with the involvement of nearby landholders and local Landcare groups						Discussions have been initiated with grazing licence holders and G-MW will continue to work with them to meet an appropriate level of grazing on Waranga Basin.
55	Implement construction of interception drain		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						Completed in 2013
56	Investigate salinity impacts from Waranga Basin and borrow pits on downstream land		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						
57	Develop a Pest Plants and Animals Action Plan to manage identified issues and protect environmental values		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action, with the involvement of nearby landholders and local Landcare groups						
58	Support weed awareness and education programs which encourage a cooperative approach to weed and pest management with adjoining landowners		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action, with the involvement of nearby landholders and local Landcare groups						
59	Investigate the impact of weeds around the Waranga Basin area and the impact on access and fire risk		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action, with the involvement of nearby landholders and local Landcare groups						
Section 9 - Water Quality									
60	Review existing water quality monitoring programs to ensure they are targeted and effective		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action						
61	Continue to proactively monitor water quality		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action						Ongoing water quality monitoring is in place
62	Identify and implement programs to manage risks to water quality		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action						

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63	Continue to monitor and manage Blue-green Algae in accordance with <i>Waranga Basin - Blue-green Algae Incident Response Plan</i> .		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						Ongoing Blue-green Algae monitoring is in place
64	Identify potential pollution sources in the Waranga Basin Catchment and potential impacts on water quality		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity, with involvement from urban water suppliers.						Water quality risk assessment has been undertaken by GMW to comply with requirements of Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015
65	Encourage environmental and education programs that assist in increasing awareness of water quality issues and ways to protect water quality		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this activity						
Section 10 - Health ecosystems									
66	Identify and implement management strategies to monitor, protect and enhance habitat for native species		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action, with the assistance and involvement of local Landcare groups, nearby landholders and DSE						
67	Continue fire protection works to reduce bushfire risks		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action, with the assistance and involvement of local Landcare groups, nearby landholders and CFA						Ongoing and ad hoc assessments and works are being conducted to minimize fire risk as is reasonably practicable. Waranga Basin fire protection plan has been implemented and is communicated to CFA annually.
68	Consider impact of grazing on native vegetation before approving short term grazing permits (see Section 8.3.2 Grazing Licences)		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action						Grazing licences will be assessed as they are received.
Section 11 - Cultural Heritage									
69	Undertake a comprehensive investigation of Non-Indigenous cultural heritage on the Waranga Basin foreshore and lake bed		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action, with support from local heritage and community groups						
70	Undertake a comprehensive investigation of Indigenous cultural heritage on the Waranga Basin foreshore and lake bed		G-MW is primarily responsible for coordinating this action, with support from local heritage and community groups						
71	Develop and promote viewing areas with signage to interpret historical sites		Local heritage and community groups with support from G-MW						