

ICM Policy Statement

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"...healthy rivers; healthy ecosystems and catchments; innovative, competitive and ecologically sustainable industries; and health regional communities"

Integrated Catchment management (ICM) is a process through which people can develop a vision, agree on shared values and behaviours, make informed decisions and act together to manage the natural resources of their catchment.

Why do we need this policy?

The Murray-Darling Basin is under threat. Rising salinity and a high demand for limited water and land resources are two of the major problems. We cannot protect the Basin under current levels of resource use. All partners must decide what they want for the future, what is possible given the constraints, and how these aims can be achieved by working together.

The ICM Policy Statement is a commitment by the community and governments of the Murray-Darling Basin to do all that needs to be done to manage and use the resources of the Basin in a way that is ecologically sustainable.

What are we trying to achieve?

The goals of the policy are to achieve: healthy rivers; healthy ecosystems and catchments; innovative, competitive and ecologically sustainable industries; and healthy regional communities.

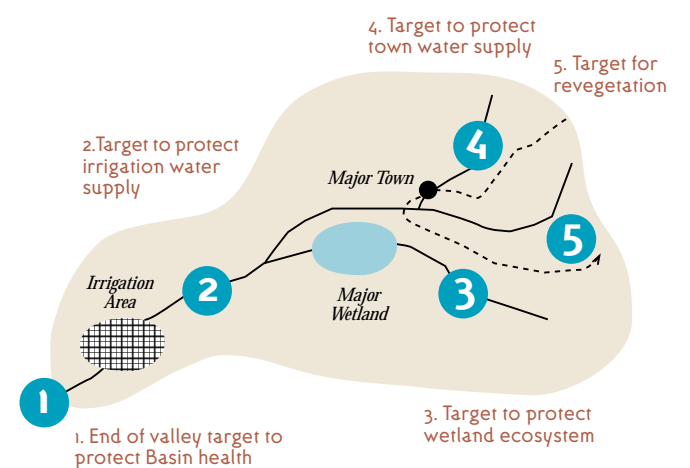
How will this be done?

Targets for catchment health will be set in each major catchment of the Basin as a "floor" on catchment health. They will incorporate targets for:

- water quality (salinity and nutrients)
- water sharing (consumptive / environmental flows)
- riverine ecosystem health
- terrestrial biodiversity

These targets will reflect the environmental, economic and social assets we agree to protect.

EXAMPLES OF TARGETS FOR A CATCHMENT



The capacity of government agencies, catchment management organisations, local government, and the broader community will be also be strengthened, particularly at catchment scale. Capacity includes legal, institutional, planning, management, financial, technical and information skills and capacities, and leadership skills.

The approach will take another ten years to build. It will require substantial government, community and industry leadership and commitment, and will significantly test the capacities of us all to manage the natural resource base for the benefit of both present and future generations.

LATEST NEWS

The Ministerial Council has just approved the ICM policy for public release in May.

