



Seven Creeks Action Plan

Fact Sheet 5 – Works Program

Introduction

Based on the high value attributes identified in Workshop #1 (see Factsheet #3) and the subsequent field assessment of the project area (see Factsheet #3), landholders, community representatives and natural resource management agencies met on the 22nd June 2011 to:

1. Draft goals (aspirational) for each of the high value attributes of Seven Creeks.
2. Determine specific management targets to achieve the goals.
3. Identify activities for each management target.

This information was then used to develop a Priority Works Program for Seven Creeks.

Goals

Attribute	Goal
Abundant Birdlife	The diversity and abundance of native bird species along Seven creeks is increased
Native Fish Species	The population of native fish species in Seven Creeks is maintained or enhanced
Healthy Riparian Vegetation	The condition and diversity of indigenous riparian vegetation along Seven Creeks is enhanced
Wetland Springs and Bogs	All wetlands, springs and bogs feeding into Seven Creeks are protected
Permanent Water Supply	Low flow periods in Seven Creeks have no further reduction in magnitude or increase in duration
Good Water Quality	Water quality in Seven Creeks meets SEPP (WoV) objectives for turbidity
Grazing Land	Manage livestock access to licensed Crown frontages along Seven Creeks to protect identified priority values
Recreational Opportunities	The existing recreational areas along Seven Creeks are maintained as low impact areas

Management Targets and Activities

Refer to the following table - Seven Creeks Works Program.

Seven Creeks Works Program

Management Targets	Category	Activities Activity	Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
Retain natural hydrology of springs	Education and Awareness	Avoid earthworks that drain or re-direct flows from wetlands eg tracks, dams, drains, embankments.	Develop factsheet on the impacts of draining or re-directing flows from wetlands	DSE, CMA	2
			Distribute factsheets and discuss issues and permit requirements with landholders within the project area	DSE, CMA	2
	Compliance and Enforcement	Maintain responsibility for licensing works on waterways	Assess permit applications as required	CMA	2
Maintain: - a summer/autumn environmental low flow of 10 ML/d or 'natural' upstream of Polly McQuinns weir - a winter/spring environmental low flow of 30 ML/d or 'natural' upstream of Polly McQuinns weir	Legislation and Policy	Develop local management rules for surface water and groundwater within the Seven Creeks catchment upstream of Polly McQuinns weir	Formally adopt and publish local management rules that document: - any limits, including sustainable diversion limits, permissible consumptive volumes or extraction limits that apply to the area; - surface water passing flow requirements for summer and winter; - trigger levels for applying restrictions on groundwater licences; - rules for applying rosters and bans for surface water and groundwater systems; and - monitoring and reporting requirements.	GMW	2 1
Undertake monthly turbidity sampling in Seven Creeks at the following locations: • at Smiths Bridge • upstream and downstream of the Seven Creeks/Spring Creek confluence • at Polly McQuinns Road (downstream of the weir)	Monitoring and Evaluation	Develop and implement a four-year monthly turbidity sampling program for Seven Creeks	Recruit waterwatch samplers	Waterwatch	1
			Locate and document sampling locations	Waterwatch	1
			Undertake monthly sampling	Volunteers	1
			Tabulate/plot results. Compare/contrast results with water quality data from the Victorian Water Quality Monitoring Network (VWQMN) site downstream of Polly McQuinns Weir (Site No. 405234). Document findings annually.	Waterwatch	1

Management Targets	Activities		Tasks	Responsibility	Priority	
	Category	Activity				
Control livestock access along lower reach (south-side) of project area	Compliance and Enforcement	Remove stock from unlicensed crown frontages	Confirm status of crown frontage	DSE/ Landholder	1	
			Inform adjoining landholder of frontage status and requirements		1	
			Ensure frontage boundary fencing is secure		1	
			Remove stock		Landholders	1
			Monitor compliance		DSE	1
Control sediment inputs upstream of project area	Investigation	Identify upstream sediment inputs	Complete stream assessments (stock access and bank stability) of Seven Creeks (Strathbogie to Shingle Hut Creek junction) and lower reaches of Bald Hill and Shingle Hut Creeks	CMA	1	
	Planning	Develop priority sediment control program	Develop priority sediment control program	CMA	1	
		Landholder meeting	Meet with affected landholders to present findings and discuss sediment control options	CMA	1	
	Management Strategy	Implement sediment control program	Implement sediment control program	CMA	1	
Maintain vegetative filter within Coach Road Creek	Investigation	Investigate stock access to lower reach (last 300m) of Coach Road Creek	Identify existing fencing arrangements and livestock access points	CMA	2	
			Discuss current stock management with adjoining landholders	CMA	2	
	Management Strategy	Exclude stock access to lower reach of Coach Road Creek	EITHER maintain existing stock exclusion arrangements	Landholders	2	
			OR fence and exclude stock from eastern bank of lower Coach Road Creek	CMA Landholder	2	

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Management Targets	Category	Activities Activity	Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
Encourage natural regeneration by controlling livestock	Investigation	Identify and define current grazing regime practices for frontages	Meet with landholders (individually) and discuss: - frontage requirements ie what the land is used for - grazing regimes adopted over the past 10 years (eg timing, duration, density) - pros and cons (from observation) of various regimes adopted	DSE, CMA	1
			Document findings	CMA	1
		Trial various grazing regimes to determine optimum regime that considers both livestock and vegetation requirements	Develop methodologies for grazing regime trials		1
			Implement trials	CMA/DSE/ Landholders	1
			Document findings and make recommendations		1
Implement recommendations	DSE/CMA	2			
Replant tree species in open landscapes where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur	Management Strategy	Restore overstorey vegetation on Polly McQuinns water reserve	Site preparation for revegetation (spot spraying - 50 spots per hectare (over 2 years)	GVW	1
			Revegetate - 50 indigenous trees species planted and guarded per hectare (over 2 years)	GVW	1
Increase species number and diversity by controlling woody weeds and supplementary planting with indigenous vegetation (particularly along creek banks)	Management Strategy	Control woody weeds, particularly blackberry (<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>) and willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.)	Maintain current blackberry control program (annual treatment)	DSE/ Landholders/ Landcare	2
			Stem-inject all isolated willows and retain in-situ (unless instream)	CMA	1
	Management Strategy	Enhance riparian understorey vegetation on licensed crown frontages	Site preparation for revegetation (spot spraying - 500 spots per hectare (over 3 years)	DSE/CMA/ Landholders	2
			Revegetate licensed frontage (as appropriate) - 500 indigenous shrub species planted and guarded per hectare (over 3 years)	DSE/CMA/ Landholders	2

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Management Targets	Activities		Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
	Category	Activity			
Replant shrub species in open landscapes where natural regeneration is unlikely to occur	Management Strategy	Enhance/restore riparian understorey vegetation on unlicensed crown frontages	Monitor plant regeneration (native and exotic) post stock removal	DSE/CMA	2
			Control/maintain herbaceous and woody weed outbreaks as appropriate (annual treatment for 3 year period)	DSE/CMA	2
			Site preparation for revegetation (spot spraying - 500 spots per hectare)	DSE/CMA	2
			Revegetate unlicensed frontage (as appropriate) - 500 indigenous shrub species planted and guarded per hectare	DSE/CMA	2
	Management Strategy	Restore understorey vegetation on Polly McQuinns water reserve	Site preparation for revegetation (spot spraying - 500 spots per hectare (over 2 years))	GVW/DSE/CMA	2
			Revegetate - 500 indigenous shrub species planted and guarded per hectare (over 2 years)	GVW/DSE/CMA	2
Minimise the cover and extent of creeping buttercup (Ranunculus repens)	Investigation	Develop weed control program	Assess the extent of the problem and identify control options/methods that will be: a. effective in treating the problem; b. practical in treating the problem; and c. low risk to other values (on-site and off-site).	DPI/CMA	1
	Management Strategy	Implement program	Implement the most appropriate control options/methods	DPI/DSE/CMA	1
Enhance groundcover vegetation at the Bridge to Bridge reserve	Management Strategy	Replant tussock grasses, sedges and rushes within the Bridge to Bridge Reserve	Site preparation for revegetation (spot spraying - 500 spots per hectare (over 4 years))	DSE/ CMA	2
			Revegetate - 500 indigenous shrub species planted and guarded per hectare (over 4 years)	DSE/ CMA	2
Maintain current quantity of instream woody debris	Compliance and Enforcement	Maintain responsibility for licensing works on waterways	Assess permit applications as required	CMA	1
Prevent the establishment of any future instream barriers to fish migration	Compliance and Enforcement	Maintain active responsibility for licensing works on waterways	Assess permit applications as required	CMA	1

Management Targets	Activities		Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
	Category	Activity			
Confirm the presence/abundance of native fish species within the project area with particular emphasis on Macquarie Perch (<i>Macquaria australasica</i>)	Investigation	Improve current knowledge of fish distribution	Undertake fish surveys within suitable habitats	CMA, DSE (ARI)	1
Maintain and/or reinstate population of Macquarie Perch (dependent on findings from fish survey)			to be determined		
Manage Polly McQuinns Weir to maintain existing weir pool	Management Strategy	Maintain the current operation and function of Polly McQuinns weir	Inspect, maintain and repair weir structure as required	GVW	1
Maintain on-ground timber	Education and Awareness	Inform campers of habitat value of on-ground timber	Develop and erect signage stating that 'Only dead fallen wood may be collected for firewood but consider that such wood is also habitat for many animal species'. Refer also to Management Target 8.4.1	DSE	2
Protect aquatic vegetation within the water reserve	Compliance and Enforcement	Maintain/enhance current extent of aquatic macrophytes	Avoid dredging or spraying of aquatic macrophytes - particularly bulrushes (<i>Typha</i> spp.) and spikerushes (<i>Eleocharis</i> spp.)	GVW	2
Improve current knowledge of significant breeding areas	Investigation	Develop and implement a four-year quarterly bird survey for the project area	Recruit project manager	CMA	3
			Develop survey methodology		3
			Recruit bird observers		3
			Identify and locate survey locations		3
			Undertake quarterly surveys		3
			Summarise quarterly survey results		3
			Tabulate results and draft interim findings and recommendations report		3
			Undertake quarterly surveys		3
			Summarise quarterly survey results		3
			Tabulate results and draft final findings and recommendations report		3
Protect breeding areas	Management Strategy	Protect areas identified in the interim bird survey report	Implement recommendations from the interim bird survey report	DSE/CMA	3

Management Targets	Activities		Tasks	Responsibility	Priority
	Category	Activity			
Prevent injury/loss of birds from hunting	Education and Awareness	Discourage hunters from entering the water reserve	Develop and erect signage to discourage hunters entering the site (intention is to provide protection for native wildlife and address possible duty of care obligations involving firearm risks)	GVW	1
Prevent injury/loss of birds from introduced fauna	Management Strategy	Control foxes and feral cats	Develop and implement targeted control programs for foxes and feral cats using the following guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humane Cage Trapping of Wild Cats Integrated Fox Control 	DSE/CMA/DPI/GVW/Landholders	3
Maintain suitable water source for livestock	Incentive	Provide alternatives to uncontrolled access to waterway	Provide alternative water supplies as an incentive to control stock access to the waterway	CMA	1
Landholders comply with terms and conditions of a Crown frontage licence	Legislation and Policy	Comply with terms and conditions	Manage and maintain the frontage as per terms and conditions of the Crown frontage licence. Vary conditions of lease (as required) to achieve water quality and biodiversity and river health objectives	Landholders	2
	Compliance and Enforcement	Monitor compliance	Undertake routine assessments of licensed Crown frontages	DSE	2
Remove/control barriers that restrict access to northern bank	Management Strategy	Control blackberries within gullies and roadside vegetation	Initial herbicide application	GVW	1
			Follow-up maintenance and control of new outbreaks (annual treatment)	GVW	1
	Management Strategy	Install fence stiles	Install fence stiles to safely exit and re-enter crown frontage at backwater tributary crossing	GVW	3
Maintain tracks and infrastructure	Management Strategy	Replace/repair tracks, picnic tables, signs etc as required	Develop an asset inventory for the Bridge to Bridge reserve	Landcare	3
			Assess inventory annually and action items as appropriate	Landcare/DSE	3
Minimise the impact and 'footprint' of campsite within the frontage reserve.	Education and Awareness	Inform campers of general codes of conduct for low-impact camping	Develop and erect signage emphasising low-impact practices for camping eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring campfires are safe - taking all rubbish home - using only dead fallen timber for fires - no washing in the creek 	DSE	2

Priority 1 – Activities to be completed between 2012 and 2014

Priority 2 – Activities to be completed between 2015 and 2017

Priority 3 – Activities to be completed between 2018 and 2020

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