

YARRA YARRA STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN REVISED MARCH 2015

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Lobbying:

- a.) The YYCG will Provide a strong lobby group for agency funding and information support.
- b.) We will influence strategies developed at the regional and sub regional level to ensure these are advantageous to all.
- c.) We will focus on the electronic media

Action required	Out puts	Who is responsible
a.) The Group is to lobby Governments and relevant agencies for support and recognition to fund priority projects	a.) Maintain regular contact with NACC and make periodic representation to other Regional NRM bodies. We need to support the Wheatbelt Catchment alliance (WCA) who have a 3M project before Government to rehabilitate large tracts of salt affected land through drainage and re vegetation	YYCMG Committee, WCA, Department of Regional Development
		Mile stones since 1997 a.) Since 2006 we have been constantly lobbying Government Groups for funding for on ground works but in recent times NRM funds have dried up. Up until then intensive lobbying resulted in developing initiatives using in excess of over \$5,000,000 in Public funds.
b.) Ensure information sharing between Yarra Yarra & other catchment groups to reduce overlap in funding applications & duplication of activities.	b.) Keep abreast of regional strategic developments through NACC reps. NACC will amalgamate sub regional projects where appropriate for stronger funding opportunities.	Who is responsible
		YYCMG NRM officer and NACC
		Mile stones since 1997 b.) This interaction has diminished over time some effort has been made recently to rectify this. In recent years NACC has practically ignored the presence of the YYCMG.

2. Awareness :

a.) Internally: We will establish communication links to and from YYCMG and local catchment groups

b.) Externally: We will communicate through our website..

c

Action required	Outputs	Who is responsible
<p>Sub section a)</p> <p>a.) We will endeavor to hold bi-monthly meetings if possible and rotate meeting venues</p> <p>b.) We will investigate the possibility of using the teleconference facility where possible.</p> <p>c.) We need to make better use of our Zone structure to ensure we keep better contact with the Catchment Community</p>	<p>a.) Bi monthly meetings will ensure a continuity of information and will allow members to anticipate meeting dates.</p> <p>b.) The NRM officer will be asked to investigate the implications of this.</p> <p>c.) We need to review the Zone structure and ensure a data base is established with Zone contacts We need to ensure that the community have access to monitoring results</p>	<p>YYCMG committee, YYCMG, NRM Officer</p> <p>Mile stones since 1997</p> <p>a.) We hold five meetings per year. Minutes of all meetings have been kept in a minute book since the inaugural meeting in 1997 We have established an office complex at Perenjori where most meetings are held and another at Kalannie To keep in contact with all stake holders we have created 11 Zones in the sub region and update workshops will be onducted at least once per year.</p>
<p>Sub section b)</p> <p>Our website will be continually updated</p>	<p>Current copies of minutes, agendas, the constitution and strategy will be available on the website a quarterly newsletter will be incorporated on the website</p>	<p>Who is responsible , YYCMG NRM Officer and other seconded experts.</p> <p>Mile stones since 1997</p> <p>A newsletter has been established</p>

DEVELOPMENT and PLANNING

1. Catchment Planning and Implementation.

- a.) Promote an integrated catchment planning process.
- b.) Implement those plans incorporating extensive revegetation, deep drainage and controlled overland water flows.
- c.) Continue to promote our plan to create revegetated corridors linking major lake systems and other Catchment Regions

Action required	Outputs	Who is responsible
<p>a) The Yarra Yarra has specific drainage problems with some ill-defined and “land locked systems” this issue needs urgent attention and it manifests itself as the most serious problem facing the Catchment.</p>	<p>a) Since 1997 we have captured a myriad of topographical and hydrological data that will culminate in the development and adoption of a catchment water management policy. We need funding to support a field officer to help with the development and implementation of this policy</p>	<p>YYCMG and Shires Department of Regional Development</p>
		<p>Mile stones since 1997</p>
		<p>a.) Digital elevation models have been developed for the whole Catchment and a water management policy that integrates the landscape on catchment by catchment basis been adopted. This policy has resulted in the formation of 60 individual catchments that have been condensed into 11 management zones from which information is extracted and stored in a regional data base. This process has been complimented by the holding of a series of workshops in the 11 Zones</p>

Action required	Outputs	Who is responsible
<p>b. Stage I of the Yarra Yarra regional drainage program has been completed. Stage 2 planning is in its final stage of development. YYCMG are working closely with the Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance who are lobbying Governments for funds to support “on ground works” for salinity management. If funds do become available then YY will be eligible to access funds to implement Stage 2 which includes surface and ground water drainage and a revegetation program.</p>	<p>b) Provide a sustainable integrated surface water control system so that planning and implementation at farm level can be done effectively without detriment to adjoining properties</p> <p>Large scale revegetation will need to be implemented establishing corridors linking existing remnant vegetation and major reserves and lake verges. A surface water management plan needs to be developed incorporating the surface water channels adjacent to established deep drains and other surface water delivery systems</p>	
		YYCMG, WCS Department of Regional Development.
		Mile stones since 1997
		<p>b.) Major drainage lines have been defined and during Zone workshops the status of most of these arterial water ways has been established. Stage 1 of the Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage Program has been completed, with 112 km of deep drains being established and complimented with around 180km of surface water channels. The drains have been fenced off and an extensive re vegetation program implemented.</p>

2. Farming Systems

Action required	Out puts	Who is responsible
<p>Since the establishment of the YYCMG in 1997 The Liebe group have crop rotation and farming systems well in hand. We expect the Morawa farm improvement group to be active in this field also. We will use both these organizations and others as an information base.</p> <p>However the YYCMG have established significant Melaleuca plantations adjacent to the deep drains anticipating a future brushwood industry. This initiative needs to be followed up.</p>	<p>YYCMG will focus more on Natural Resource Management Issues.</p> <p>Keep in touch with Georgie Troup regarding future development of the Brushwood industry.</p>	Farm improvement Groups
		Mile stones since 1997
		<p>There are a number of farm improvement groups now operating in the Sub region we have invited reps from these bodies onto our management committee and will cooperate with them in the development of sustainable farming systems by providing support for biodiversity management and surface and ground water control. Over 400,000 melaleuca seedlings have been planted within the drain reserves.</p>

3. Biodiversity

Action required	Out puts	Who is responsible
<p>a) Encourage the fencing off and re vegetation of lake verges and connecting waterways and other remnants to promote reestablishment of complementary understory and natural eco systems.</p>	<p>a.) We need to take the opportunities to access Government Grants at all levels and continue the good work of interacting with individual farmers established by the NACC incentives program.</p>	<p>YYCMG, Department of Regional Development, Lottery west, NACC</p> <hr/> <p>Mile stones since 1997</p> <p>a.) We have had little success engaging the corporate sector in our activities as we do not provide a commercial base for them to promote their activities. The lotteries Commission through the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation have been most supportive over this time While there has been a slowdown in Government Funding for regionally based initiatives. NACC have kept the pot boiling with numerous individual biodiversity projects. As an integral part of Stage 1 of the YY Regional Drainage Program. A study was done in conjunction with UWA of the biota within the lake systems and the impact of deep drainage on their existence.</p>
<p>b) Maintain existing links with the Wild Flower society and the State Herbarium</p>	<p>b.) We need to revisit the Kalannie Branch of the State Herbarium and ensure that the specimens are kept in good order. We need to reintroduce awareness programs so that he local community can become involved in the identification of local species of natural bush.</p>	<p>Who is responsible</p> <p>WF Soc, YYCMG, Ian Fordyce</p> <hr/> <p>Mile stones since 1997</p> <p>b.) Originally contact was maintained with the State Herbarium. Unfortunately since the end of Stage 1 of the Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage Program this connection has lapsed.</p>

FOCUS CATCHMENTS

The focus catchment program has been dropped by Government

RESEARCH MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- a.) Hydrology research and evaluation / The collation of data
- b.) Recognition of data

Action required	Outputs	Who is responsible
<p>a.) YCMG have established comprehensive data sets relating to water tables and vegetation status we need to ensure this data collection is maintained and the public are made aware of the outcomes of the analysis of this information.</p>	<p>a.) Maintain our comprehensive monitoring system for established observation bores, vegetation transects and weirs within waterways. To do this we need to acquire funding to support a full time field officer to carry out these and other duties.</p>	<p>LCDs, AGWA, DOLA, Rokit Science</p>
		<p>Mile stones since 1997</p>
		<p>a.) Since 1997 we have conducted a series of workshops in each of the 11 Zones in the sub region and we are collecting. We have been collecting data from selected bores in these Zones. This information is then stored in our Regional Data Base. Around 2.4 GB of data has been collected and collated during Stage I of the Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage program and is archived waiting for an independent assessment and publishing.</p>

Action required	Outputs	Who is responsible
<p>b.) Around 2.4 GB of data has been collected and collated during Stage I of the Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage program and is archived waiting for an independent assessment and publishing. Around 2.4 GB of data has been collected and collated during Stage I of the Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage program and is archived waiting for an independent assessment and publishing.</p>	<p>b.) The YYCMG are affiliated with the Wheatbelt Catchment Alliance (WCA) The WCA are currently seeking funds through the Department of Regional Development to do an independent assessment of all the data Collected during the Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage Program.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mile stones since 1997</p> <p>b.) Since 1997 the YYCMG have collected a lot of valuable information but Government Agencies have been reluctant to promote these findings and nothing has been published for the scrutiny of the greater public.</p>

INCREASE LOCAL CAPACITY

- a.) Catchment administration
- b.) We need to use the established Zone structure to reconnect with the Catchment Community.

Action required	Outputs	Who is responsible
<p>a.) In recent years the Yarra Yarra Catchment Regional Council had been established to oversee and manage NRM in the Yarra Yarra Catchment. This organization took the role of Local Government Authority. The YYCMG remained operative as more of an advisory group. However because of lack of Government funding support the YYCRC was disbanded in 2014. We now find that the Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group now need to resume full responsibility for NRM in the Yarra Yarra Catchment</p>	<p>a) YYCMG wish to establish an overarching LCDC to provide regulation and sustainability for YYCMG, this process is underway and needs to be reactivated. It is mandatory for a representative from each Shire in the region to be present at LCDC meetings which would be held in conjunction with YYCMG meetings. We need to encourage the Shires to contribute towards a full time employee for the YYCMG</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DAF Shire Councils YYCMG</p> <p>Mile stones since 1997</p> <p>Relevant agency representatives have been invited to sit on our management committee. There has been little attendance by them at meetings. A strong alliance was established with the seven shire councils in the Sub region and a Catchment Authority was established with shire reps making up the board. Unfortunately this organization has now been dissolved due to lack of Government support for on ground works.</p>
<p>b.) During the initial planning stages of the YYCMG catchment boundaries were identified using digital elevation models. We were able to identify 11 secondary catchment within the management area that were identified as Zones and were used to establish catchment groups for management and communication purposes. We need to use these divisions as a means of reconnecting with the Catchment community.</p>	<p>b.) Starting from 2015 we need to organize a series of Zone meetings to interact with the Zone members to evaluate the mood of the catchment and identify the projects that would be best able to fit the aspirations of Catchment Members.</p>	<p>Mile stones since 1997</p> <p>Zone meetings were most successful during the establishment of the original Yarra Yarra Strategy and Action Plan and provided the basis for large regional projects that have since been implemented.</p>

FUNDING AND FINANCE

- a.) Gain resources for whole of catchment./ Yarra Yarra Enterprise Account
- b.) Drain maintenance fees /collection process
- b.) Funding for the effective operation of YYCG.

Action required	Outputs	Who is responsible
<p>a). Over the years YYCMG have developed a number of initiatives that have proved to be good money spinners for the Region, as a result we have a healthy bank account holding useful reserves (see financial statement AGM 2015)</p>	<p>a.) A big proportion of funds have come from contracts secured for local projects such as the drilling program and RTK surveying. If the \$30M WCA project gets off the ground then those opportunities may present themselves again. In the meantime the drilling rig and truck are stored undercover on the Hudson property and the truck is being leased during harvest as a fire truck.</p> <p>Under the Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage program over 40,000 Broom Bush seedlings were established within the confines of the drain reserve with an eye to accessing the Brushwood industry. We need to keep abreast of the development of this initiative.</p>	<p>.YYCMG, Brushwood Growers Association. WCA</p> <hr/> <p>In the past YYCMG have generated a substantial amount of income from some of it’s initiatives</p>

Action required	Outputs	Who is responsible
<p>c.) As an integral part of the Yarra Yarra Regional Drainage Program farmers who benefited from the establishment of deep drains on their properties were required to pay an ongoing service fee for the maintenance of the drains. With the demise of the YYC Regional Council we have been left with a void for the regulation of the management of these drains.</p>	<p>c.) The YYCMG needs to vigorously pursue the establishment of an overarching Regional LCD to fill the void left by the demise of the Catchment Regional Council. It is still possible to do this and we are a long way down the track to achieving this. This would provide the legislative powers to collect a fee from drain beneficiaries. Unfortunately something legally binding is required. We also need to revise the way drainage fees collected are allocated.</p>	<p>YYCMG, DAF, Shires .</p>
<p>d.) Since the inception of the YYCMG NRM Officers have been funded as an integral part of our big regional projects with investment of public funds in excess of \$5M over this period. However in recent years Government funding for large scale regional projects has dried up. So we will need to find other sources of funding for coordination staff if we wish to stay afloat.</p>	<p>d.) We have approached the Shires in the Region to consider sharing the cost of 1 FTE of an employee to be responsible for the many tasks that have been outlined in this Strategy. Obviously this would not cover all of these responsibilities and funding from within other grants would have to fill the gap. However it is essential that we are able to maintain a field officer/ project overseer. We have approached the appropriate Shires and the General consensus was that if NACC would fund one day a week then the Shires would consider the proposal. Just on one front we need an officer to carry out yearly inspections in conjunction with a shire foreman/ engineer to ensure they are satisfactorily maintained. We need to pursue this vigorously.</p>	<p>Shires, YYCMG</p>