

Irrigation Futures

of the Goulburn Broken Catchment



Final Report 3 – Perspectives of future irrigation

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Documents in this series.

Final Report – Summary

Provides a brief introduction to the project and how the project objectives have been met.

Final Report 1 – Scenarios of the Future: Irrigation in the Goulburn Broken Region

Provides an overview of the region, drivers for change, scenarios, implications and strategies.

Final Report 2 – Regional scenario planning in practice: Irrigation futures of the Goulburn Broken Region

Provides a manual of project methodology for next-users.

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Irrigation Futures of the Goulburn Broken Catchment

Final Report 3 – Perspectives of future irrigation

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Perspectives of future irrigation

This document was developed by the Irrigation Futures project team as a contribution to Goulburn-Murray Water's irrigation reconfiguration processes. It has been included as a chapter in the *Shepparton Regional Atlas* as a part of Goulburn-Murray Water's *Strategic View of Assets and Service Needs*. This document summarises the scenarios and their implications for irrigation infrastructure planning.

Perspectives of Future Irrigation

Prepared by

David Robertson, QJ Wang, Leon Soste, Robert Chaffe and Clive Lyle

on behalf of

Goulburn Broken Irrigation Futures Project

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action
Salinity & Water
P U S R U L E

Australian Governments and local communities working together to prevent, repair and manage rising salinity and declining water quality across Australia.

Learning from the Scenarios

The four scenarios presented in this section describe alternative plausible futures for irrigated agriculture in the region and their implications on future irrigation water supply. Some of the drivers are common to all scenarios. For example, the emergence of new economic powers such as China and India providing both threats and opportunities for our industries. Other drivers diverge markedly, resulting in very different scenarios.

Scenario 1 "Moving on" depicts a steadily changing operating environment for the region. The industries in the region evolve successfully in response to international business conditions and moderate climate variability. In Scenario 2 "New Frontiers", agricultural production in the region declines over time because of a number of unfavourable conditions, most notably, the rise in synthetic food production. However, there is a sharp increase in the number of people who live in rural areas and work remotely, bringing a new and significant income stream to the region. Scenario 3 "Pendulum" describes how large shifts in water policy can dramatically change the face of the region. Scenario 4 "Drying up" highlights the vulnerability of the region to global economic recession and natural disasters such as drought.

The four scenarios represent four very different futures, as highlighted by the graphs below. Even though they are not predictions of the future, they provide useful test beds for examining the effectiveness of management strategies under a range of conditions. In the context of irrigation infrastructure planning, the four scenarios highlight a number of important issues.

Flexibility of irrigation infrastructure

There is great uncertainty in the size of the irrigated area and the amount of water use in the future. There may be periods of rapid contraction and expansion of irrigation. Thus there is a need to build flexibility into irrigation infrastructure, so that it is adaptable to future demands. Flexibility may be achieved through innovative system configurations, flexible distribution technologies, a mix of infrastructure ownership, and improved management systems.

Irrigation service level requirements

One of themes that emerged strongly from the scenarios is that the competitiveness of the agricultural industries in the region will depend on generating and marketing differentiated products. The industries are thus likely to demand greater levels of service in water supply than today. On the other hand, service requirements for water use on lifestyle properties are likely to be quite varied. Water supply to lifestyle properties may become more significant in the future as indicated by Scenario 2 "New Frontiers".

Integration with land use and environmental planning

The scenarios describe significant changes in land use over the next 30 years, within and between agricultural, lifestyle and environmental uses. These land use changes can radically alter the viability and requirements of irrigation infrastructure. Irrigation infrastructure planning needs to be closely linked with land use and environmental planning. This calls for a collaborative approach to planning by agencies, industry groups and the community.

Social and economic responsibility

The scenarios highlight the complexity of issues surrounding irrigation and the importance of involving stakeholders, including the community, in decision making. Changes to irrigation infrastructure and irrigation business viability can potentially have wide social consequences. Equity and social adjustment need to be carefully managed during periods of infrastructure change. Likewise, financial planning for infrastructure needs to make provision for industry down turns.

Large shifts in government policy on water can dramatically change the face of the region, as indicated by Scenario 3 "Pendulum". It is critical that the region actively influences all levels of government so that regional concerns and issues are addressed in policy development.

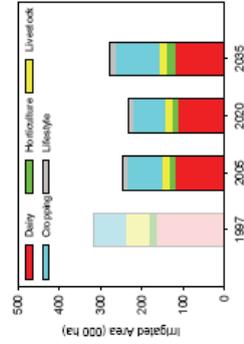
Planning for changes

The scenarios also point to some of the potential weaknesses of the region. For example, the relatively small size of irrigated land parcels makes the region uncompetitive when the market demands large-scale production systems, as indicated in Scenario 2 "New Frontiers". Significant restructuring will be required to overcome some of these weaknesses, but it should be done under the right conditions so that changes can be made smoothly. The scenarios suggest that there are only a limited number of windows of opportunity for large-scale restructuring. In Scenario 3 "Pendulum" for example, government may be lobbied to assist in land amalgamation during periods of major water policy shifts. To seize these opportunities, there is a need for having plans and options prepared in anticipation of future conditions.

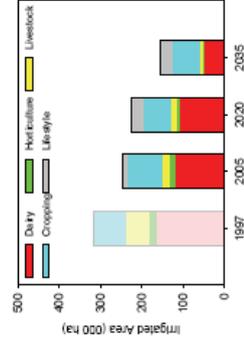
The issues highlighted above represent the learnings from the scenarios by the Goulburn Broken Irrigation Futures Project. The scenarios are intended to stimulate discussions on strategic approaches to irrigation infrastructure planning including reconfiguration. Therefore, readers are encouraged to use the scenarios to develop their own thoughts and ideas.

Comparing the Scenarios - Irrigated Area

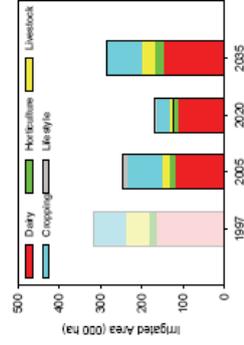
Scenario 1: Moving On



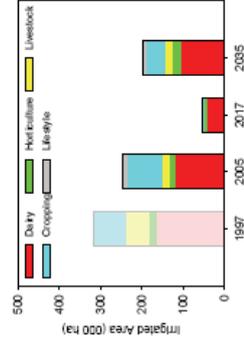
Scenario 2: New Frontiers



Scenario 3: Pendulum



Scenario 4: Drying Up



Summary of Scenario 1: Moving On

Driving Forces

2005-2020

- Free trade agreements signed with USA and ASEAN create demand for all agricultural products.
- Use of genetically modified organisms permitted for agriculture.
- Climate change results in a long period with no medium reliability water and hotter, wetter summers.
- 10% of irrigation water is traded to Sunraysia.
- Demand for lifestyle properties remains high.

2020-2035

- India and China become a significant market for agricultural products.
- Affluent consumers are becoming increasingly conscious of health and animal welfare issues.
- Climate remains relatively dry with only 25% of medium reliability water available.
- Water trade outside the region reduces.
- G-MW sold to Macquarie Infrastructure, prices increase and cross-subsidisation of infrastructure costs is reduced.
- Demand for lifestyle properties declines.

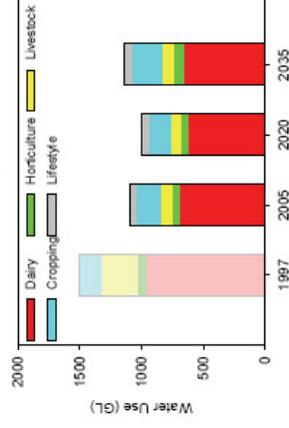
Impacts

- Regional economy continues to prosper despite global competition.
- Agricultural businesses become larger, more intense and have a greater diversity of products. Larger farms employ people who live in towns. Few small farms remain. Some small towns decline.
- Intensification of agriculture increases the necessity for nutrient management.
- More water in the Goulburn River due to government policy and downstream trade.
- Irrigators move toward the river and the upper reaches of the irrigation system (cheaper water).
- In preparation for privatisation, infrastructure condition and operations are modified to maximise the sale price.

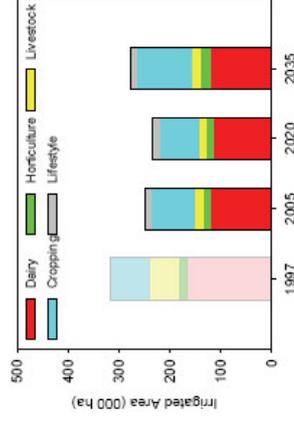
Implications

- Water demand pattern changes as farming systems move toward more annual species.
- Area under irrigation decreases (10%) then increases (30%) as more water becomes available.
- Irrigation water use initially decreases (10%) due to trade and then increases as some (25%) medium reliability water becomes available.

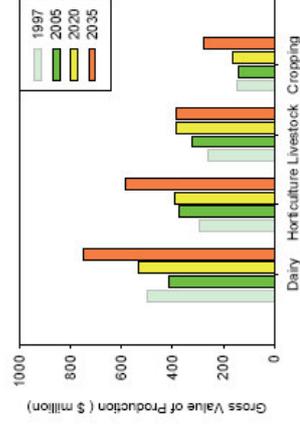
Farm Water Use



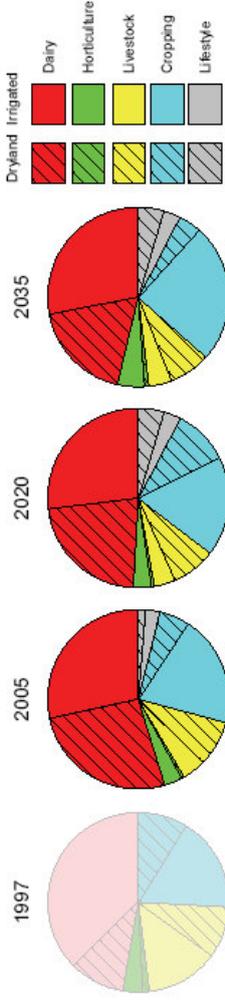
Irrigated Area



Farm Gate Gross Value of Production



Land Use



Description of Scenario 1: Moving On

2005-2020	WATER RELATED DRIVERS	NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS	INDUSTRY IMPACTS	REGIONAL IMPACTS
	<p>WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water reform white paper is progressively implemented, involving unbundling of water rights, instituting a process for infrastructure reconfiguration, making 'sales' water into an independent entitlement and returning 20% of 'sales' water to the environment. Water tariffs increase at the inflation rate. <p>CLIMATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrage decreases 10% with greater rainfall in summer. Runoff decreases by 25%. High-reliability water not affected, but no medium-reliability water available. Temperature increases, reduce the chill hours. <p>WATER TRADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% of irrigation water is traded to Sunaysia. Trade water trade is introduced with little impact. <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant impact envisaged from forestry developments in the upper catchment. While Melbourne Water may acquire some water from the region, the volume will be relatively small and have no significant impact. 	<p>NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free trade agreements with USA and ASEAN create new opportunities for export, but also problems with cheap imports. Genetically modified organisms introduced into agriculture. <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand from Asian markets grows. No change in competitiveness. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free trade agreement allows cheap imports. Industry diversifies to different products. Decrease in competitiveness. Moderate increase in price. Genetic modification used throughout the world. No impact on markets. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global demand for meat increases. No change in real price. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth linked to the dairy industry. Competitiveness due to genetic modification. Steady increase in real price. No change in real price. Biofuel demands for grain fulfilled by worldwide oversupply of grain. Little demand for grain from the region for biofuel production. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand up by 100%. 	<p>INDUSTRY IMPACTS</p> <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk production increases 30%. Fewer farms. Area of dairy farm land decreases 10%, enabled by genetic efficiency, grain and fodder imports, and increased irrigation. Irrigation water use decreases 5%. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross value of production increases 5%. Import challenges met through diversification into new products. Growth of new industries with controlled environment systems are small. Year round growth, but volumetric water requirements are small. Fruit production decreases 10%. No change in irrigated area. Irrigation water use decreases 5%. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production increases 20%. Land area decreases 5% through increased use of feedlots and irrigated systems. Irrigated area decreases 10%. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production increases 20%. No change in land area. Irrigation water use decreases 10%. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land area up by 100%. Irrigation water use increases 20%. 	<p>REGIONAL IMPACTS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional economy continues to prosper despite global competition. Import challenges are met through diversification into new products. Dairy, livestock and cropping will all absorb the regional water supply. Limited active intervention in land-use planning results in conflicts between agricultural production and lifestyle values. This could be resolved by allowing market-based mechanisms to drive change. In parallel, the delivery of infrastructure systems which enhance production agriculture, requires close co-operation with Local Government planning across the region. Water users in the region have been able to diversify into other markets. These remaining small farms, have developed niche markets. Larger farms employ people who tend to live in large towns. Many small towns are declining. More water flows down the Goulburn River due to government water reform and downstream trade. Careful management of this water ensures environmental benefits are achieved. Intensification of agriculture continues to be important due to the intensification of water use. <p>IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water demand pattern changes as farming systems move toward more annual pasture/crops. Irrigated area decreases 5%. Irrigation water use decreases 8%. Some timing changes associated with changes in farming systems. Highlights the general need for different water products.

2020-2035	WATER RELATED DRIVERS	NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS	INDUSTRY IMPACTS	REGIONAL IMPACTS
	<p>WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMW sold to Macquarie Infrastructure. Cross-subsidisation of infrastructure costs decreases as a result of privatisation. Water tariffs increase to build in a commercial profit and through decreased cross-subsidation. <p>CLIMATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate remains drier than historical average. Summer rainfall more intense. All high-reliability and 25% of medium-reliability water available. <p>WATER TRADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More internal trade and trade closer to main trunk channels. Trade outside the region reduces as limits to available land and water delivery capacity are reached. <p>STOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for water from Melbourne continues to have little impact. 	<p>NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China and India grow as a market for agricultural produce. Consumers become increasingly affluent and health conscious. <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand from Asian markets continues. No change in competitiveness. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Export growth to China and India. No change in competitiveness. No change in price. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global demand for meat continues. Slight decrease in competitiveness. Slight decrease in price. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth linked to the dairy industry. No change in competitiveness. Moderate decrease in price fodder used locally. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand flattens. 	<p>INDUSTRY IMPACTS</p> <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk production increases 30%. Increase in production of high-value nutraceuticals. Land area decreases, as farms become larger and more intense, and small farms exit. Irrigated area increases 5%. Irrigation water use increases 5%. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production increases 50% due to GM and market opportunities. Land area increases 50%. Growth of controlled environment production continues. Irrigation water use increases 50%. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in production. No change in land area. However grazing is important to production. Irrigated area increases 10%. Irrigation water use increases 10%. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production increases 100% due to genetic modification and increases in land and water use. Irrigated area increases 40%. Irrigation water use increases 40%. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in land area. No change in irrigation water use. 	<p>REGIONAL IMPACTS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water price increases do not hurt major industries because new owners need to maintain their customer base. Increases in water tariffs are greater at the 'bottom' of the system. Irrigators move toward the river and the upper reaches of the irrigation system where water tariffs are lower. Water price, although impact reduced by increased technology, systems and management. Privatisation and take-up of local distribution networks by farmer groups provides greater grower flexibility to respond to market changes. However, it also requires the working together of those grower groups to be effective. Irrigated area increases 20% as more water is available. Irrigation water use increases 15%, due to the availability of medium reliability water. Irrigation water use increases in preparation for privatisation, infrastructure condition & operations are managed to maximise the sale price.

Summary of Scenario 2: New Frontiers

Driving Forces

2005-2020

- Free trade agreements signed with USA and ASEAN create demand for all agricultural products. Middle East trading partners lost due to our alliance with United States.
- Large increase in lifestyle developments.
- Genetically modified organisms prohibited.
- Community concern for the environment increases.
- Environmental flow entitlement increased through deal with medium reliability entitlement.
- Climate change results in long period with high reliability allocation of less than 100%.
- 15% of irrigation water is traded out of the region to Sunraysia and Northeast Victoria.

2020-2035

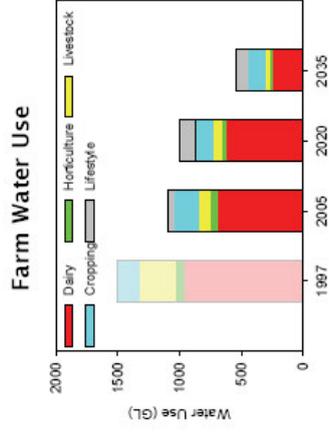
- International free trade is introduced.
- Fireblight and regulation cause a major decline in agricultural production across all industries.
- Synthetic food production significantly reduces the demand for naturally produced foods including dairy, horticultural and meat products, but substantially increases demand for grain.
- Demand for lifestyle properties plateaus.
- Genetically modified organisms allowed.

Impacts

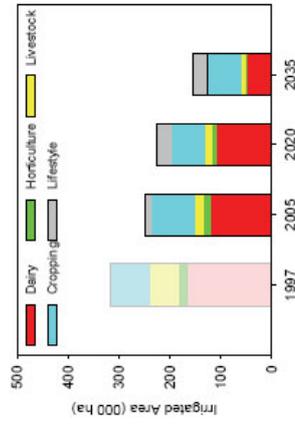
- Initially, a small decline in agricultural activity occurs due to the loss of markets. Followed by a substantial decline due to synthetic food production. Niche agricultural industries on some small properties cater for the health food market.
- Demand for grain causes increase in annual cropping. Large quantities of water trades to New South Wales where grain production is more efficient due to larger land parcel sizes. Water trade increases infrastructure costs for remaining irrigators.
- Regional economy is maintained by new lifestyle development. Lifestyle development is unplanned causing conflicts between agricultural production and lifestyle values.
- Land is reserved for environmental purposes.

Implications

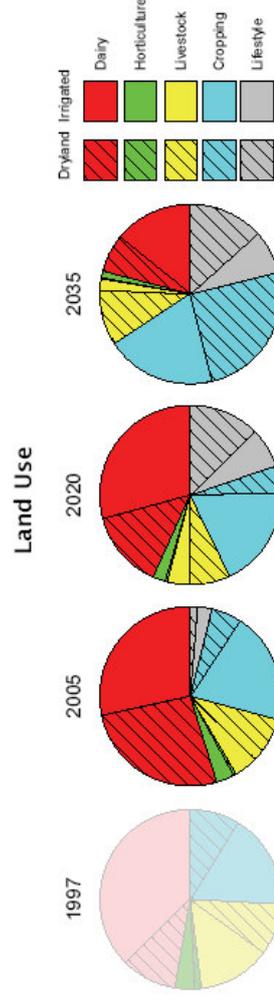
- Major contraction in most irrigated agricultural industries.
- Area under irrigation and irrigation water use decreases substantially (45%) due to water trade.
- Best areas for irrigation may change according to market demand for products and land availability.



Irrigated Area



Farm Gate Gross Value of Production



Description of Scenario 2: New Frontiers

2005-2020	WATER RELATED DRIVERS	NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS	INDUSTRY IMPACTS	REGIONAL IMPACTS
	<p>GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water pricing policy is progressively implemented, involving unbundling of water rights, instituting a process for infrastructure reconfiguration, making 'sales' water to independent entitlement and returning 20% of 'sales' water to the environment. Water tariffs increase at the inflation rate. Environmental flow entitlement increased through deal with environmental groups. Water entitlement. Volume of high-reliability water entitlement increases by 10% as medium reliability water entitlement is eliminated. Inertate water trade enabled but has no impact due to economic recession. <p>CLIMATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate remains drier than average. Climate remains drier than average. Water allocation of 95% of high-reliability water. <p>WATER TRADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% of irrigation water is traded to north east Victoria, and 10% to Sunraysia. 	<p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free trade agreements with USA and ASEAN create new opportunities for export, but also problems with cheap imports. Middle East trading partners lost through alliance with USA. Health and food safety imp ortant considerations in consumer purchases. Community concern for the environment increases. Increase in lifestyle developments and tourism. Cost of oil doubles causing a brief international recession. Use of genetic modification prohibited. <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand decreases. Small decrease in price. Small decrease in competitiveness. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free trade agreement allows cheap imports. Freight outbreak cripples pome fruit industry. Large price decrease as import restrictions on pome fruit lifted. Competition increases through marketing of clean and green image. Small increase in price for other fruit and vegetables. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International demand for meat reduces. No change in competitiveness. Small decrease in price. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competition reduces slightly due to less dairy. Competitiveness decreases. Moderate price decrease. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication technology enables significant increase in rural living. Demand for land substantially up. Demand for low cost rural housing up. 	<p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk production decreases 5%. Fewer farms and irrigated area decreases 10%. Water use decreases 10%. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pome fruit production decreases 75%. Other fruit and vegetable production increases 2 0%. Irrigated area decreases 40%. Irrigation water use decreases 40%. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production decreases 5%. Irrigated area decreases 20%. Irrigation water use decreases 25%. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production decreases 5%. Irrigated area decreases 20%. Irrigation water use decreases 25%. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction area increases 350%. Irrigation water use increases 150%. 	<p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lifestyle development increasingly underpins the economic base of the region, creating increased demand for service industries. Unplanned lifestyle developments cause conflicts between agricultural production and lifestyle values. <p>IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contraction in most industries especially export focused industries increases demand for irrigation infrastructure. Problems with meeting cost of water. Irrigated area decreases 10%. Irrigation water use decreases 10%.

2020-2035	WATER RELATED DRIVERS	NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS	INDUSTRY IMPACTS	REGIONAL IMPACTS
	<p>GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barrages at mouth of Murray River removed giving large water savings. Large salt discharge entitlement increased by 100%. Agricultural land purchased to produce wildlife and tourism corridors and wetlands across the region. Some prior stream areas retired. Climate dries further. <p>WATER AVAILABILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation constant due to water saved at barrages. <p>WATER TRADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large volume of water (55%) traded to grain growers in southern NSW as they have larger land parcels. 	<p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disease and regulation causes major production reduction across all industries. Competition increases. Genetically modified organisms permitted to decrease food prices and increase exports. Synthetic food production of milk, meat and fruit. Oil substitution occurs (electricity, fuel cells etc). Small increase in energy cost. <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial decrease in demand due to synthetic food production. Small niche for high price real milk. Small increase in price. Large decrease in competitiveness. <p>HORTICULTURE & LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similar to dairy although hit later. Small increase in price due to demand for real food. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For grain increases greatly as raw feedstock for synthetic food production. Substantial increase in competitiveness. Large increase in price. Demand for land plateaus. 	<p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk production decreases 50%. Irrigated area decreases 35%. Irrigation water use decreases 60%. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fruit and vegetable decreases 50%. Irrigated area decreases 50%. Irrigation water use decreases 50%. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production decreases 50%. Irrigated area decreases 50%. Irrigation water use decreases 50%. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production water use decreases 50%. No change in production. No change in irrigated area. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in irrigated area. Irrigation water use decreases 20%. 	<p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant decline in agricultural economic activity due to loss of markets and technological advances. This results in a large contraction in demand for irrigation infrastructure and infrastructure costs. Small land parcels limit the ability of the region to respond to changes in markets and remain competitive. Niche production systems increase on small properties. Large areas of land are reserved for environmental purposes, recreation and biodiversity conservation. <p>IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major contraction in most industries. Cropping maintained. Irrigated area decreases 30%. Irrigation water use decreases 45%. All year demand for niche industries. Best areas (soils, parcel size etc) for current land use may be different in the future land uses. Annual cropping highly responsive to water availability.

Summary of Scenario 3: Pendulum

Driving Forces

- 2005-2020**
- Free trade agreements signed with USA and ASEAN create demand for all agricultural products.
 - Multinationals take over food processing plants.
 - Genetically modified organisms prohibited.
 - High energy costs create demand for biofuels.
 - Government returns 3500 GL of environmental water to Murray River. Victoria contributes 1500 GL through buy back of all medium reliability and 30% of high reliability water, at premium prices. Some water trades into Goulburn Valley from NSW.
 - Water buy back coupled with government purchase, amalgamation and auction of land.

2020-2035

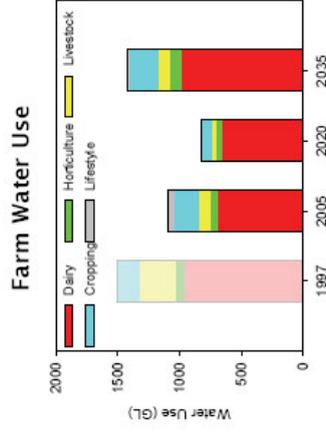
- Chinese Yuan floated and China grows as a market for agricultural products.
- Genetically modified free status becomes a marketing advantage.
- Government reverses policy and returns water to agriculture by auction. Proceeds of auction fund development of distribution infrastructure which is transferred to irrigator cooperatives.
- Wet climate sequence causes floods.

Impacts

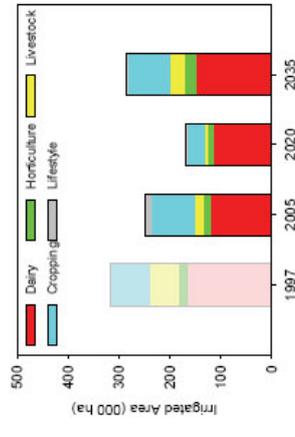
- Initially the regional economy declines as water is returned to the environment. Unemployment rises considerably as demand for service industries decreases.
- Perception of little additional benefit resulting from water being returned to the environment.
- Subsequently, the economy booms as international market conditions improve and policy reversal means more water is available for agriculture.
- Labour shortages occur.
- Planned adjustment of land and water resources allows infrastructure costs to be managed and leads to an improved match between land capability and use.
- Increased rainfall and floods lead to a re-emergence of water logging and salinity problems.

Implications

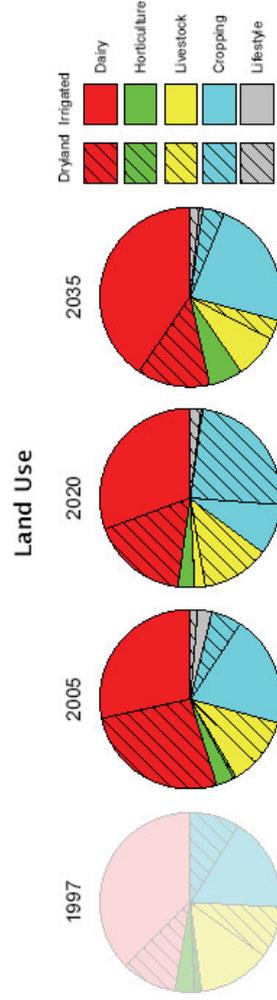
- Changes in government policy enable large changes in irrigated area and water use to be planned.



Irrigated Area



Farm Gate Gross Value of Production



Description of Scenario 3: Pendulum

2005-2020	WATER RELATED DRIVERS	NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS	INDUSTRY IMPACTS	REGIONAL IMPACTS
	<p>WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water resources management becomes a Federal responsibility. Lack of perceived benefits from environmental flows. Water infrastructure is reconfigured, making 'sales' water into an independent entitlement and returning 20% of 'sales' water to the environment. New government policy introduced to return and additional 1250-1500% water entitlement. Increase water trade enabled. Government buys back all medium reliability water entitlement and 30% of the high reliability water entitlement at premium prices. Government initiates land restructuring program, resuming land, restructuring land boundaries and auctioning dryland properties. Water trading system is restructured in conjunction with land restructuring, resulting in some water savings and no change in water tariffs. <p>CLIMATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rainfall remains slightly drier than 'normal'. <p>WATER TRADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sumatera purchases NSW water. Interstate water trade results in water flowing from NSW to the region (5%). 	<p>NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free trade agreements with USA and ASEAN create new opportunities for export, but also problems with cheap imports. Multi-nationals corporations take over processing facilities in the region. Use of genetically modified organisms prohibited. Large increase in energy costs and interest rates. Biofuels industry grows. <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity for export to Asian markets grows. Small increase in price. No change in competitiveness. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free trade agreement allows cheap imports. Small decrease in price. Decrease in competitiveness. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Export to Asian markets expands. Demand increases. Small increase in price. No change in competitiveness. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth linked to the dairy industry. Increase in demand for bio-fuel feedstock. Small increase in price. Increase in competitiveness. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand declines, and some return to Melbourne. 	<p>INDUSTRY IMPACTS</p> <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in milk production as water remains in dairy and horticulture. Fewer farms. Land area remains constant. Irrigated area decreases 5%. Irrigation water use decreases 5%. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production decreases 30% due to lack of competitiveness. Irrigated area decreases 20%. Irrigation water use decreases 20%. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production decreases 60%. Irrigated area decreases 60%. Irrigation water use decreases 60%. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production decreases 60%. Irrigated area decreases 60%. Irrigation water use decreases 60%. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land area decreases 50%. Irrigation water use decreases 90% (gold into market). 	<p>REGIONAL IMPACTS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned decline in irrigation occurs, causing significant adverse economic impacts to both agricultural and service industries. Remaining dairy, livestock and cropping producers manage adverse conditions by growth in efficiency and scale. Niche industries and glasshouse production increase, but remain small in terms of overall water use and regional value of production. Unemployment increases due to the decline in agriculture and service industries. Significantly more water in the Goulburn and Murray Rivers results in little additional perceived environmental benefits, given the significant economic impacts. Planned re-adjustment of land leads to better matching of water supply and demand. <p>IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farming systems will move toward more dryland pasture and crops. Irrigated area decrease 30%. Irrigation water use decreases 25%.

2020-2035	WATER RELATED DRIVERS	NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS	INDUSTRY IMPACTS	REGIONAL IMPACTS
	<p>WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water resources management becomes a Federal responsibility. Lack of perceived benefits from environmental flows. Water infrastructure is reconfigured, making 'sales' water into an independent entitlement and returning 20% of 'sales' water to the environment. New government policy introduced to return and additional 1250-1500% water entitlement. Increase water trade enabled. Government buys back all medium reliability water entitlement and 30% of the high reliability water entitlement at premium prices. Government initiates land restructuring program, resuming land, restructuring land boundaries and auctioning dryland properties. Water trading system is restructured in conjunction with land restructuring, resulting in some water savings and no change in water tariffs. <p>CLIMATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rainfall remains slightly drier than 'normal'. <p>WATER TRADE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sumatera purchases NSW water. Interstate water trade results in water flowing from NSW to the region (5%). 	<p>NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China floats its currency, which strengthens against the Australian dollar. China continues to grow as markets for agricultural products and services expand. Multi-national corporations owning processing facilities exploit their position. Australia's genetically modified free status becomes a competitive advantage. <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Export to Asian markets expands. Demand increases. Small increase in price. Increase in competitiveness due to genetically modified free status. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exports to China and India grow. Demand increases. Large increase in price. Increase in competitiveness due to genetically modified free status. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global demand for meat increases. Small increase in price. Increase in competitiveness due to genetically modified free status. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in demand linked to growth in the dairy industry. Increase in price. Increase in competitiveness. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No demand as a result of land use planning rules. 	<p>INDUSTRY IMPACTS</p> <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk production increases 40%. Land area increases 10%. Irrigated area decreases 30%. Irrigation water use increases 50%. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production increases 100%. Irrigated area increases 100%. Irrigation water use increases 100%. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production increases 200%. Irrigated area increases 300%. Irrigation water use increases 150%. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production increases 300%. Irrigated area increases 150%. Irrigation water use increases 200%. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change in land area. Irrigation water use increases 1000%. 	<p>REGIONAL IMPACTS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reversed water policy and market conditions produce a rapid expansion of irrigated agriculture. Water infrastructure is reconfigured, making 'sales' water into an independent entitlement and returning 20% of 'sales' water to the environment. Periods of above average rainfall and floods lead to salinity and water-logging problems emerging. <p>IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water infrastructure is expanded and water delivery. Irrigated areas increase 70%. Irrigation water use increases 70%. 'New water' targeted to best areas.

Summary of Scenario 4: Drying Up

Driving Forces

2005-2020

- Financial crisis in the United States creates a global recession that reduces international trade considerably between 2009 and 2012.
- As global economy recovers, China begins to export high value horticultural products and import cheaper bulk commodities.
- Australian dollar strengthens making agricultural products expensive to overseas purchasers.
- Use of genetically modified organisms prohibited.
- Drought commences in 2012 lasting until 2020.
- High reliability irrigation water allocations between 2015 and 2020 are 80%, 50%, 30%, 90%, 100%.

2020-2035

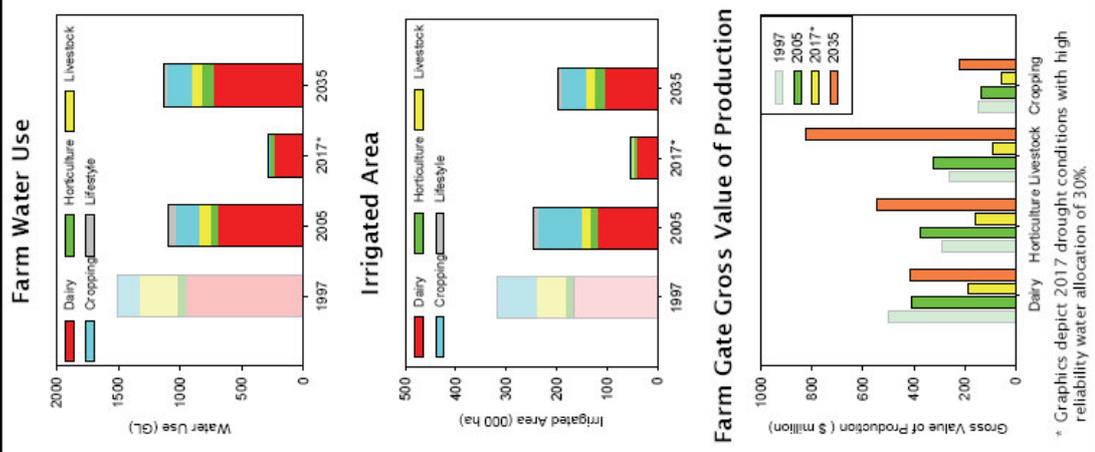
- International export markets recover.
- International and domestic markets demand healthy food.
- Genetically modified free status becomes a marketing advantage.
- Government assists restructure and redevelopment of agriculture with focus on health food, environmental sustainability and animal welfare.
- Climate becomes wetter and enables medium reliability allocation of 25%.

Impacts

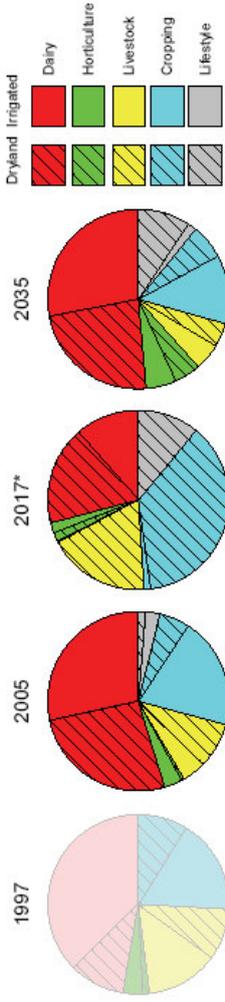
- Initially, all agricultural industries and the regional economy is decimated by international market collapse and prolonged drought. The population is stable because employment opportunities are poor elsewhere.
- Unemployment is very high.
- Irrigators unable to pay for costs of infrastructure maintenance.
- Subsequently, regional economy booms as international markets grow and water availability increases.
- Growth of agricultural industries is constrained by land parcel size.
- Drought increases the frequency of severe bushfires.

Implications

- Initially, a large decrease in irrigation water use and area irrigated as drought decreases allocations, followed by a large increase in irrigated area and water use as the drought subsides.
- Water returns along existing irrigation infrastructure as no restructuring occurred during drought.
- Infrastructure declines during times of little maintenance.



Land Use



Description of Scenario 4: Drying up

2005-2020	WATER RELATED DRIVERS	NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS	INDUSTRY IMPACTS (2017)	REGIONAL IMPACTS (2017)
	<p>WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments assist rural communities and provide support to accelerate production growth. • Regional restructuring and zoning used in the region based on soils and access to infrastructure. • Water tariffs increase at the inflation rate. • No additional water allocated to the environment. <p>CLIMATE AND WATER AVAILABILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate slightly wetter than normal. • All high reliability and 25% of medium reliability available. 	<p>NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free trade agreements with USA and ASEAN create new opportunities for export, but also problems with cheap imports. • Financial crisis in the USA causes a world recession between 2009 and 2012. The USA dries up as a market and capital is withdrawn from overseas. • Australian dollar increases in value. • International economy recovers around 2012. • China exports high value horticultural products and imports cheap bulk commodities. <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USA dominates international market. • Small decrease in price. • Decrease in competitiveness. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on local market. • Moderate price decrease. • Large decrease in competitiveness. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global demand for meat holds but USA dominates market. • Small price decrease. • Decrease in competitiveness. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in demand. • Large price increase at 2017 due to drought. • Competitiveness falls. • LIFESTYLE • Strong demand and migration from cities especially. 	<p>INDUSTRY IMPACTS (2017)</p> <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk production decreases 50% after 3 years of drought. • Banks seize many farms which exit dairying. • Processors restructure and one export processor centrally located. • Irrigated area decreases 65%. • Irrigation water use decreases 65%. <p>HORTICULTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production decreases 50% due to lack of competitiveness and processor scales back production but retains presence. • Irrigated area decreases 50%. • Irrigation water use decreases 50%. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production decreases 70%. • Irrigated area decreases 95%. • Irrigation water use decreases 95%. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production decreases 70%. • Irrigated area decreases 95%. • Irrigation water use decreases 95%. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land area increases 150%. • Water use decreases 95%. 	<p>REGIONAL IMPACTS (2017)</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional market collapse coupled with prolonged drought decimates all agricultural enterprise and the regional economy. • The region experiences severe unemployment, and during the recession the population remains stable because employment prospects are no better elsewhere. • The drought increases the frequency of bushfires in the region. <p>IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigated area decreases 80%. • Irrigation water use decreases 70%. • Major community discontent regarding payment of water fees during the drought. • C-MW loses major part of income and receives cash injection to continue.

2020-2035	WATER RELATED DRIVERS	NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS	INDUSTRY IMPACTS	REGIONAL IMPACTS
	<p>WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GOVERNMENT POLICY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governments assist rural communities and provide support to accelerate production growth. • Regional restructuring and zoning used in the region based on soils and access to infrastructure. • Water tariffs increase at the inflation rate. • No additional water allocated to the environment. <p>CLIMATE AND WATER AVAILABILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate slightly wetter than normal. • All high reliability and 25% of medium reliability available. 	<p>NON-WATER RELATED DRIVERS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full recovery from drought and recession. • Australia's ban on genetically modified organisms is a major barrier to international trade. • International and domestic consumers demand health food. • Government assists restructure of agriculture with strong focus on health food, environmental sustainability and animal welfare in order to tap international demand. <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Export to all international markets expands. • Demand increases. • Price increase. • Increase in competitiveness due to genetically modified free status. <p>HORTICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar to dairy. • Moderate price increase. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No demand following previous large migration and regulations protecting right to farm. 	<p>INDUSTRY IMPACTS</p> <p>DAIRY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow and limited recovery. • Milk production increases 30%. • Milk production in lifestyle farms become industry standard. • Irrigated area increases 15%. • Irrigation water use increases 200%. • Most new large investment will take place in the region on greenfield sites. • Land around towns become lifestyle farms. • Production increases 200%. • Irrigated area increases 200%. • Water use increases 200%. <p>LIVESTOCK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production increases 70%. • Irrigated area up and water use increases 1900%. <p>CROPPING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production increases 240%. • Irrigated area increases 1000%. • Irrigation water use increases 1500%. <p>LIFESTYLE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase with conversion of most small horticulture to lifestyle farms. • Irrigated area increases 1000%. • Water use increases 1000%. 	<p>REGIONAL IMPACTS</p> <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional economy booms as irrigated agriculture expands due to increasing availability of water and government provides cash incentives. • Labour is in short supply. • Limited land restructuring during drought constrains growth. • Conservation and environmental improvement works undertaken to enhance market advantage of genetic modification free status. • Increased flow in the Murray and Goulburn Rivers due to wetter climate. <p>IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure allowed to decline in the last period. Poor condition at the start of this period. Injection of investment required. • Rapid increase in area irrigated and water delivery. • Irrigated area increases 260%. • Irrigation water use increases 260%. • Dairy system following existing infrastructure pattern. • C-MW needs to be able to manage boom & bust financial cycles.