

ACT and Region Catchment Strategy

Stakeholder Consultation Report





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Maintenance of specific Actions

Nice look - people

Structure

- Makes sense

- strategy driven for change

* Actions not priority order
"wording of short time"

Sustainable Development

- Erosion + Soil Control ✓
- Compliance ✓

- Quality of Resources

Emerging Contaminants -
(PPS)

- O + M.

(District)
- Policy of declining ✓
- Sustainable population
- Shouldn't just be accepted

Whats Missing

- links to Industry
sustainability through

- Disaster mgt - Fine

Process

- Impact on Catchments

- Growth - different drivers in different
- Impacts sections of catchment.

2

- Capacity to Corp Herpes response.
- great example for response.

Prospectus need to adapt to
emerging issues.

How to manage response to
uncertainty (climate)

Education in Schools.

Define community segments.

Community lead programs.

Manage expansion in buffer areas
(Nicholson)

Identification of feedback processes
- innovation in science tech change

3

- Acknowledging what has happened
in past.

- Capture the learning lessons. Building
on a base.

- Celebrate successes

- Funding partnerships + network building.

- How to manage Risk?

- Construction process of Estate developer

- WAC having a catchment levy.

- As concrete is replaced more focus on
impermeable surface.

- Urban Renewal opportunity for improvement

4

Stormway levies opportunity

Systems/Integrated Decision making
- too driven by sales. +
short term thinking.

- intergenerational thinking

- Actions / Targets / Baseline data.

Foreword

The ACT and Region Catchment Coordination Group would like to acknowledge the community and industry groups that have been involved in the catchment, and help look after urban parklands, countryside, nature reserves and waterways. Throughout the consultation process associated with drafting the ACT and Region Catchment Strategy, catchment community groups, Indigenous groups, industry, academics and government across the ACT and Region were approached for—and generous with—their input. The desire to seek community input was derived from the Coordination Group’s understanding of the integrated nature of community investment in the catchment, and recognises this extended community as a valuable resource to managing catchment resources and health. As such, a key theme of the strategy is dedicated to the community; focussing on sustaining the role of the community and capacity building to ensure the ACT and Region is adequately prepared to adapt to environmental, economic and policy changes.

The organisations targeted through the consultation process:

Peak organisations

- Community-based catchment groups (Molonglo, Southern ACT and Ginninderra)
- Conservation Council of the ACT
- Community, progress and resident’s organisations
- Indigenous community organisations (Onerwal Local Aboriginal Land Council, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body)
- ACT and Region Catchment and Landcare Association
- Landcare ACT
- Greening Australia Capital Region
- Capital Region Fishing Alliance
- Rural Landholders Association
- NSW Farmers

Professional/Academic

- Australian Water Association
- Canberra Urban and Regional Futures
- Planning Institute of Australia
- Master Builders Association
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- Institute of Applied Ecology, University of Canberra
- Fenner School, Australian National University
- Institute of Engineers

Local Government and Regional Development

- Capital Region Joint Organisation
- Regional Development Australia –ACT and Southern Inland committees

NSW Government

- Ministers for Planning, Primary Industry
- Local Members of Parliament
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Department of Planning and Environment
- Department of Primary Industries
- NSW Public Works

Business

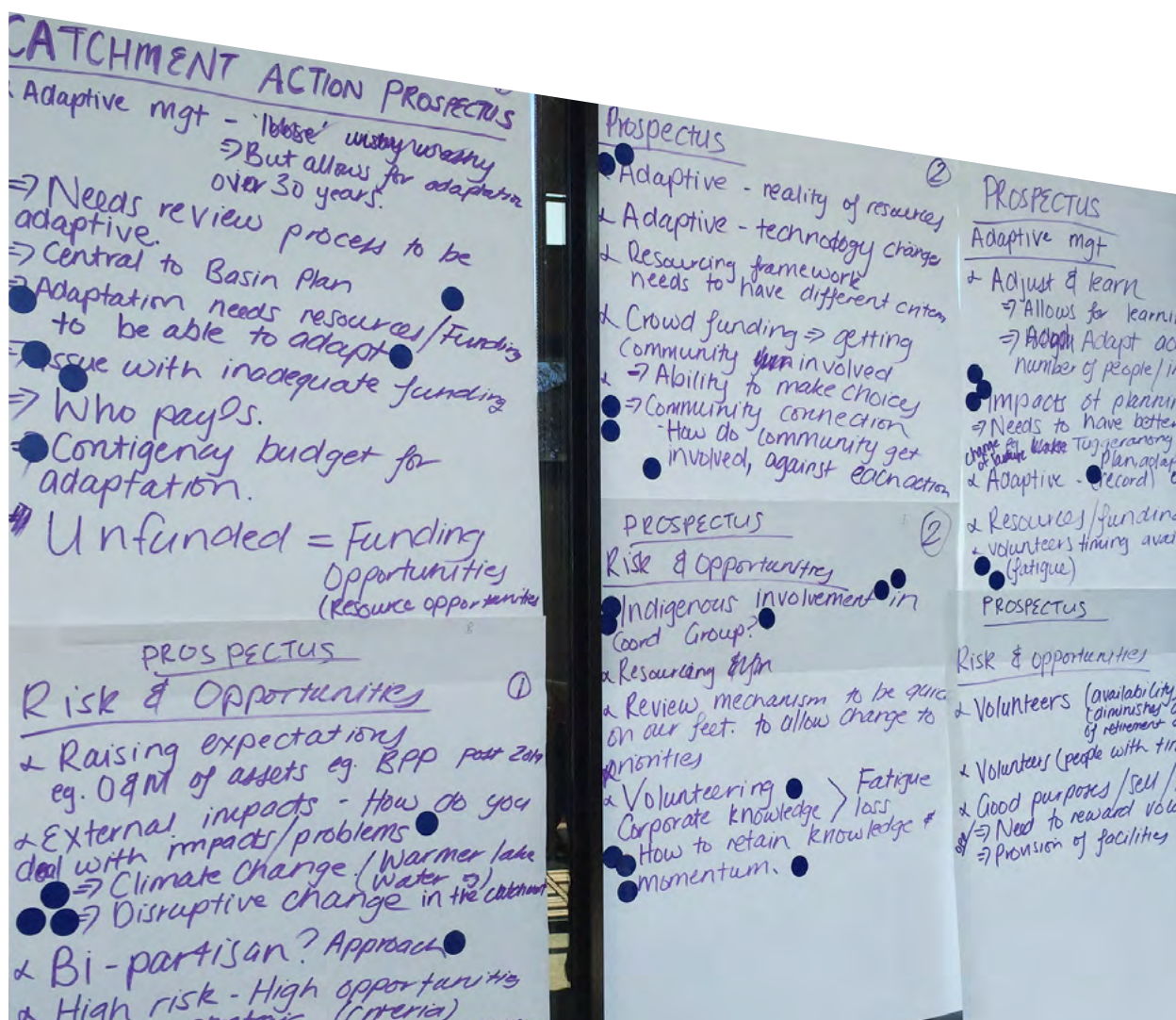
- Cooma Chamber of Commerce
- Yass Chamber of Commerce
- Queanbeyan Chamber of Commerce
- Snowy Hydro

Australian Government

- Murray–Darling Basin Authority

ACT Government

- Internal audiences in directorates (TAMS, CMTEDD, HD)
- Climate Change Council
- ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment



1. Introduction

The ACT and Region Catchment Strategy (the Catchment Strategy) was developed in the spirit of collaboration, with the establishment and facilitation of a consultation framework that encouraged early and ongoing contribution from stakeholders.

The purpose of stakeholder engagement was to:

- strengthen partnerships between directorates, local councils and stakeholders from the ACT and Region in the context of catchment management
- raise awareness of the proposed strategy and the Coordination Group, and gain support and confidence in the engagement process
- increase opportunities for a targeted but diverse range of input and feedback from stakeholders
- provide stakeholders with opportunities to identify their expectations, priorities and concerns when considering a cross border catchment management approach
- acknowledge the valuable input from stakeholders in both developing and implementing a catchment management strategy.

This Catchment Strategy Stakeholder Consultation Report has been prepared to outline the consultation and engagement process undertaken from developing the draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy to the final ACT and Region Catchment Strategy.

The ACT and Region Catchment Strategy Stakeholder Consultation report is split into two parts:

Phase 1: Developing the draft strategy

Phase 2: Finalising the strategy

The Catchment Strategy was developed by the ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group, which is an executive level group formed from the Commonwealth, ACT and NSW (state and local) governments, Icon Water and a community representative. It has an Independent Chairperson and was established as a statutory body under the *ACT Water Resources Act (2007)* to improve governance in catchment management. The purpose of the Coordination Group is to improve coordination and collaboration across the jurisdictions in terms of policy and planning initiatives and seek opportunities for joint investment in catchment management.

The Coordination Group agreed, as a priority, to develop a regional catchment strategy to achieve these general functions and deliver the vision of:

“Government, community and industry working together to produce a healthy, productive, resilient and liveable catchment region.”

This purpose of this strategy is to:

- provide a common vision to all agencies, organisations and individuals involved in catchment management in the region
- offer a mechanism to resolve jurisdictional challenges and capitalise on the opportunities for improved catchment management outcomes
- influence and connect related planning processes
- provide a mechanism to develop joint funding bids and prioritise investment and effort for the benefit of the region
- reinforce the connections between land and water, rural and urban and human interaction and community.

Consultation was undertaken prior to drafting the Catchment Strategy (Phase 1) and for a six-week period after releasing the draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy (Phase 2).

2. Phase 1: Process for collaborative engagement and consultation– Developing the Strategy

2.1 Phase 1 – Developing the Strategy: Consultation process

Initial stakeholder consultation targeted environmental, community, industry and regional development organisations, catchment groups, local councils and government bodies. Details of attendees at each workshop are provided at **Appendix 1**.

Prior to drafting the Catchment Strategy, public consultation was undertaken to ensure that stakeholders were informed and encouraged to provide feedback from the beginning of the process. This was done through:

- engaging independent consultants to facilitate the consultation process
- establishing an officer level working group
- conducting a series of regional workshops
- targeted stakeholder meetings
- a public online survey of community values to catchment management conducted by the University of Canberra.

Figure 1 below provides a brief overview of the stakeholder consultation process Phase 1.

2.2 Methods of Consultation

a. Independent consultants (Twyfords)

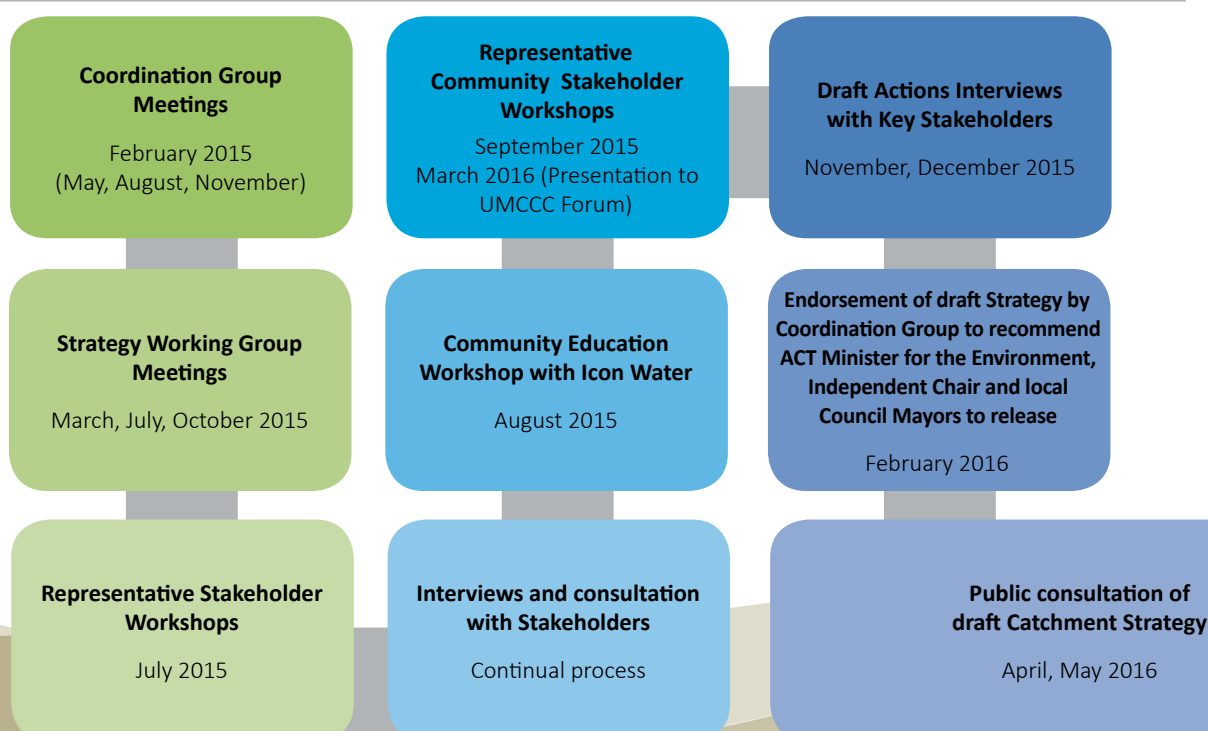
Independent consultants Twyfords were engaged to provide professional independent advice on the stakeholder consultation and engagement approach to be adopted in undertaking the development of the draft Catchment Strategy. Based on their advice an inclusive, cooperative approach was adopted to working with stakeholders.

b. Catchment strategy working group

The Coordination Group established an officer level working group to oversee the preparation of a draft Catchment Strategy for endorsement by the Coordination Group.

Two workshops (27 March 2015, 7 May 2015) allowed working group members to agree on the strategy goals and approach to the project, while a further broader stakeholder consultation meeting on 22 July 2015 confirmed that the framework developed was sound and assisted in structuring the regional workshops to be held later in the month.

Figure 1: Overview of Phase 1 consultation process



c. Regional stakeholder workshops

Three regional workshops were held geographically across the catchment in Murrumbateman, Cooma and Queanbeyan during the week commencing 14 September 2015.

The purpose of the workshops was to identify the key factors that will influence and shape the nature and condition of the catchment over the next 30 years and identify priority actions that can be addressed at the regional scale to enhance catchment health.

From the workshops, there was general agreement that the key factors influencing a future catchment state were likely to be the ability of multiple jurisdictions to collaborate and work with stakeholders on catchment outcomes, a growing population and planning for the landuse change associated with regional growth and the impact of climate change.

The workshops generally agreed that the identified actions in response to these factors could be grouped under the following key themes:

- improving **governance**
- increasing **community** capacity to adapt
- supporting **regional development** across the ACT and Region
- improving the condition of our **water, land and biodiversity** assets.

d. Targeted stakeholder meetings

Targeted stakeholder interviews and follow up conversations occurred throughout the drafting of the strategy. Catchment theme workshops were held with technical and community experts where specific expertise was recognised. In all, additional meetings were held with:

- Conservation Research, EPD
- Environment Division, EPD
- NSW Department of Planning (Southern Highlands Regional Growth Plan team)
- Environment Representative of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
- NSW/ACT Regional Climate Modelling (NARCLIM) Climate Change Research Centre team
- ICON Water
- Conservation Council of the ACT
- CURF
- South East Local Land Services
- Canberra Region Joint Organisation.

e. Online Survey - Social Expectations Survey of Water Use and Water Use Behaviour (University of Canberra)

The Coordination Group agreed to an online survey, conducted by the University of Canberra in July to August 2015. The ACT and Region Social Expectations of Water Use and Water Use Behaviour Research involved a mail out to all households across the ACT and Region to encourage their participation. The survey findings informed the development of the Catchment Strategy.

3. Outcomes from Phase 1 collaborative engagement and consultation

3.1 Key Summaries from workshops

Murrumbateman, 2015

- Stakeholder groups included CSIRO, government officers, Landcare, catchment groups and the Local Aboriginal Council. Key points included:
- acknowledgement of positive and effective work of existing community groups and volunteers – this work to be continued
- revisit scoping of stakeholders (more representation from industry/agriculture needed)
- focus on inclusion of Indigenous perspectives
- opportunities and risks of increasing rural residential development
- frequent turnover of rural residential property
- subdivision of agricultural lots, impact on agricultural development in the region
- proximity to the ACT drives population growth.

Cooma, 2015

Stakeholder representatives included local government officers and South East Local Land Services. Comments included:

- landholder interest in innovative ventures
- economic risks associated with a changing climate and the impact on natural ecosystems
- risk of competing priorities and agendas between jurisdictions caused by limited funding.

Queanbeyan, 2015

Stakeholder groups included government officers, catchment groups, Conservation Volunteers, Landcare, Community Councils and the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordination Committee and provided the following points:

- importance of ongoing resourcing to implement the strategy
- focus on the social and economic value of a healthy catchment that can be used for recreational purposes
- emphasis on data monitoring and sharing
- a need for a strategy that allows for adaptive management.

3.2 Consolidated Themes from Targeted Meetings

Across the course of consultation, findings were highly consistent, with the most common areas being:

- consistent approach to catchment management
- promoting catchment health
- the need for improved governance
- better coordination of data and research and improved accessibility to existing data and research
- importance of ongoing community education programs
- impacts of population growth.

See a detailed summary of the consultation outcomes for Phase One at Appendix 3.

4. Phase 2: Process for stakeholder consultation– Finalising the Catchment Strategy

4.1 Process for Public Consultation

The first draft of the ACT and Region Catchment Strategy was open to public comment for a six-week period from 30 April 2016 to 18 May 2016. Public consultation and engagement was open to all stakeholders. Consultation was also targeted at community representatives and industry professionals of the ACT and Region and NSW Government representatives, given the high level strategic nature of the Catchment Strategy.

Following formal consultation, this report was used by the Coordination Group to incorporate comments and feedback into the final Catchment Strategy.

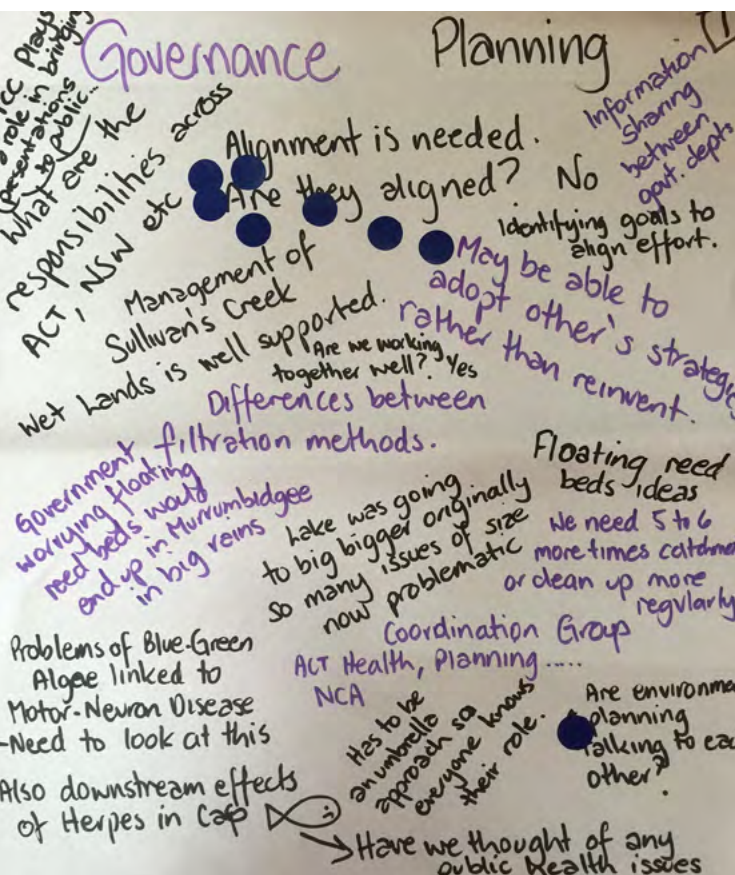
Following endorsement and approval from their respective organisations, the Coordination Group made an official recommendation to the ACT Minister for the Environment and Climate Change to seek the release of the final Catchment Strategy.

4.2 Methods of Consultation

Campaign

Over the course of the consultation period a number of avenues to encourage input from a diverse range of industry, community and government representatives were developed:

- A media release was issued by the ACT Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, inviting the public to comment on the draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy.
- Editorials were developed for the Canberra Times (14 May 2016) and other regional outlets.
- Coordination Group members were requested to place subsequent notices inviting the public to comment on the draft Catchment Strategy on their respective websites.
- Professor Ian Falconer, Chair of the Coordination Group participated in interviews where he invited members to comment on the draft Catchment Strategy including:
 - » 2XXfm Radio Landcare interview
 - » Written interview with Australian Water Association (AWA), circulated on 3 May 2016 to AWA members.
- Presentation on the draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy 18–19 March 2016 at the UMCCC forum and UMCCC executive meeting on 11 May 2016. All members present were encouraged to provide a response from their respective organisations via the webpage.



Haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au

All information was consolidated and available on an ACT Government online consultation platform, Haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au. Key features of the website include:

- background information
- key dates and contacts
- document library
- frequently asked questions
- forum questions
- related projects
- images.

Stakeholder workshops

Workshops were run by invitation (but also open to the general public) across the ACT and Region. The Coordination Group Secretariat circulated an invitation to a stakeholder database of approximately 140 representatives from ACT Government, NSW Government, catchment community groups, and industry, agricultural and indigenous representatives. The emails provided a brief summary of the draft Catchment Strategy, directing them to haveyoursayplanning.act.gov.au for further information, and invited stakeholders to download the documents, participate in forum questions or provide a more detailed submission. Follow up reminder emails were sent to the stakeholder database in the lead up to the workshop requesting that the invite be circulated to their organisations' wider network. A community-focused workshop was co-hosted by Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee (UMCCC) and an industry-focused workshop was co-hosted by the Australian Water Association (AWA). EPD also conducted an internal ACT Government workshop.

Targeted meetings

Meetings were held between the Chair, assisted by the Group Secretariat, and the NSW Minister for Primary Industries, The Parliamentary Secretary for SE NSW, local NSW Members of Parliament and senior NSW Officers.

Written submissions

Stakeholders and the general public were invited to provide submissions. An Issues Paper was prepared on relevant topics to allow the Coordination Group's organisations as well as other stakeholders an opportunity to respond with their opinions and expertise.

5. Outcomes from Phase 2 public and targeted Stakeholder Consultation

5.1 Campaign

The campaign successfully generated a response to the Catchment Strategy which can be seen in the results from Haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au, participation in stakeholder workshops and acceptance of targeted meetings with government representatives.

5.2 Haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au

Haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au was used to provide an easily accessible online platform to access all content relating to the draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy during the public consultation period, including:

- Draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy 2016–44
- Catchment Action Prospectus 2016–21
- ACT and Region Catchment Strategy – In Brief
- Stakeholder Consultation Report

All campaign content was linked to the website to encourage people to participate in the consultative process.

Website statistics indicate that 878 people visited the website during the consultation period. Of these:

- 570 people were ‘aware’, meaning that they visited at least one page on the website
- 309 were ‘informed’, meaning they visited multiple pages on the site
- 496 of visitors downloaded one or more of the documents from the online library
- 1 person participated in the online forum (from a NSW Government agency) .

5.3 Stakeholder Workshops

- 27-4-2016 Community Workshop Co-hosted by UMCCC
- 5-5-2016 Industry Workshop Co-hosted by AWA
- 9-5-2016 Internal ACT Government Workshop

See a list of attendees at Appendix 2. The community and industry workshops were facilitated by Helen Leayr and scribed by Kerri Hannaford from Communications Link. The ACT Government workshop was hosted by the Coordination Group Secretariat (Catchment Management, EPD).

Workshops were held as a round table discussion or smaller rotating group discussions dependant on the number of attendees. Areas of discussion included:

- strategy structure and catchment themes
- governance, policy and planning
- prospectus priorities, risks and opportunities
- targets and measuring outcomes.

Participants were asked to consider questions relating to the above topics to generate discussion, identify gaps and risks, and consider alternatives.

Emerging issues and themes

Overall the outcome of the stakeholder workshops indicated that stakeholders were highly supportive of the draft ACT and Region Catchment Strategy. Post workshop evaluation indicated people were pleased with the opportunity to contribute. A number of common themes and key areas of interest arose from the consultation workshops. A summary is provided below, and a detailed table detailing specific comments is provided at **Appendix 4**.

Catchment facts (Section 2 – The Catchment)

Workshops identified some catchment facts required technical corrections which will be incorporated into the final strategy.

Inter-jurisdictional matters

A central theme to the discussion was the involvement of NSW and the endorsement of the Catchment Strategy.

It was acknowledged that a collaborative model is needed as there is a perceived weakness across the catchment in terms of governance and policy alignment. It was noted by the Chair of the Coordination Group that the group is currently seeking a closer involvement with the NSW Government and its participation in the activities of the group.

There is already a strong involvement of NSW local government in the group. There is currently prepared for signature an Australian Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Collaboration which calls for stronger catchment management.

The importance of inter-jurisdictional linkages and relationships across organisations in the Commonwealth, ACT and NSW was stressed by participants; ensuring that high level policies and planning were communicated clearly to align officer level involvement with the goals of the actions in the strategy.

Information sharing

A matter that was raised across groups was communication and information sharing between governments and community. Information and knowledge sharing includes making interpreted data accessible across governments and open to the community. It also includes the availability of corporate and community knowledge to inform future decision making processes.

Actions, goals and priorities

Stakeholders requested some actions be re-worded to provide further clarity. For example, (in the Catchment Action Prospectus 2016–21) it was suggested that ‘funded, partially funded and unfunded’ implies a need for government funding for large areas of work, which may be understood differently across different areas of government. Stakeholders suggested the types of resources required to progress projects is not always about ‘funding’, it includes resources such as people, time, and support for policy as well as monetary budgets. To reinforce this it was suggested that the term ‘funding’ be changed to ‘resourcing’ to capture all the volunteer efforts, government resourcing and community power to deliver on actions.

Strong support was given to the adaptive management approach for the Catchment Action Prospectus; however, it was stated that the Coordination Group will need to consider contingencies for external factors such as climate change impacts and other disruptive changes (whether that is biophysical or anthropogenic such as administrative governmental changes) that may impact on the implementation of the Catchment Strategy.

Measuring success

Measuring success was a key point of discussion in relation to implementation the Catchment Strategy. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of maintaining continuous reporting on measurable outcomes that are relevant and understandable by the community. It was broadly agreed that biophysical targets, key performance indicators, process targets and behavioural change targets should be utilised to measure success.

Targeted Meetings

Throughout the months of March to May 2016, Professor Ian Falconer, Chair of the Coordination Group attended meetings with NSW Government representatives including:

- The Hon Niall Blair MP – Minister for Primary Industries, Minister for Land and Water
- The Hon Prue Goward MP – Member for Goulburn
- The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP – Member for Cootamundra and Parliamentary Secretary for South East NSW
- Mr James McTavish – Cross-Border Commissioner
- Department of Planning – Officers of the Wollongong Branch
- Professor Kate Auty – ACT Commissioner for Environment and Sustainability

The overall purpose of the meetings was to raise awareness of the Catchment Strategy and foster collaborative inter-jurisdictional relationships. To date these meetings are ongoing and the various parties were very supportive of the Strategy’s intent.

Written Submissions

A total of nine written submissions were received during the consultation period. These submissions were from:

- Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment
- Three individual members of the public
- Six submissions on behalf of various organisations

Written submissions have been addressed in Appendix 4 and submissions will be accessible online after the public consultation process.



Appendix 1:

Outcomes of Phase 1: Stakeholder Engagement Process

Approach to catchment management

There was general agreement on the fundamental approach to catchment management that should be taken in the development of the strategy.

The first was the need to maintain the integrity and functionality of the hydrological cycle. Secondly, many stakeholders considered that the presence of administrative boundaries were an impediment to holistic catchment management. Finally, stakeholders raised concerns about placing an appropriate value on the catchment and its ecosystem services. The latter was a reference to a community perception that investment in environment initiatives by government are at a disadvantage to investment in other capital works due to the difficulty in identifying the economic benefits of environmental works.

There was general support for applying the principle of adaptive management to the strategy, however there was robust discussion on how well it could be implemented. This related to other sections below on data and research, and on how best to understand the relationship between physical change in catchment condition and links to policies and programs.

Other key points:

- In approaching catchment management across the ACT and Region the five catchment themes that were developed from the consultative process and the recommended strategies and actions were highly supported.
- Decisions need to be evidence based, collaborative and undertaken for the long-term good of catchment health.

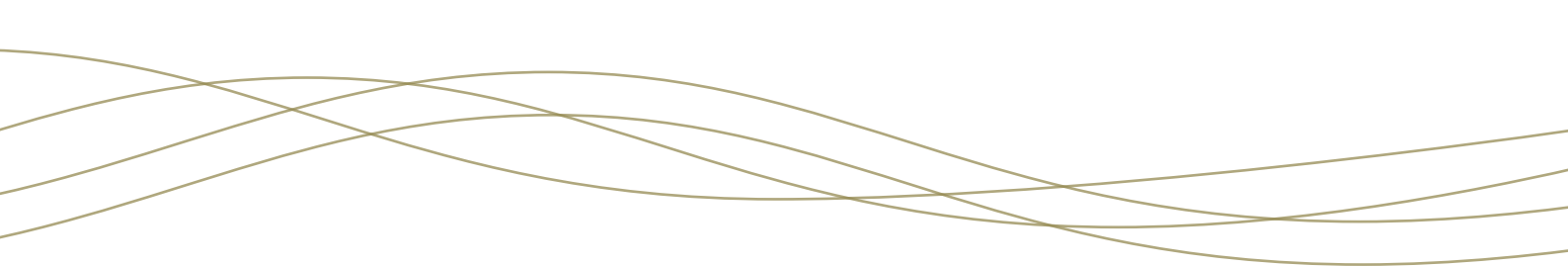
Promoting catchment health

There was clear acknowledgement by stakeholders that climate change was a key driver across all aspects of catchment health e.g. changes in rainfall seasonality patterns, concern for the health of vegetation under generally hotter drier conditions, potential for new weeds and pests etc.

Erosion and sedimentation emerged as a common issue from the workshops, with less emphasis on biodiversity. This may reflect an assumption by stakeholders that biodiversity, connectivity and ecosystem health are already being addressed appropriately and did not need to be highlighted at these workshops. However, care should be taken in drawing this kind of conclusion without further investigation.

Biosecurity was also raised as a key issue, with the range of concerns raised by stakeholders including the roles and responsibilities of state and local governments; how to best engage with landholders; how insufficient resources can be put to best use, and how particular threats, including the 'sleeper' pests and weeds, can be controlled. Engagement found that NSW has undergone state-wide legislation and planning review (see NSW Natural Resources Commission website www.nrc.nsw.gov.au), which has included establishing a Regional Weeds Advisory Group. We have identified an opportunity for the ACT Government and ACT stakeholders to be involved in this group. A strategy is currently being developed by the NSW Government to deal with pathways and new incursions within the Sydney to Canberra Corridor (being a hotspot due to high transportation levels). Biosecurity threats such as viruses like the epizootic haematopoietic necrosis (EHN) virus were identified as a major concern on native fish.

Water quality and protecting aquatic ecosystems was a concern for stakeholders.



A suggested action was developing some form of optimal health framework for the priority catchment's waterways that would detail the preferred level of ecosystem health based on the water source's individual characteristics such as social, environmental and economic benefits. Concern was raised on the water quality impacts from peak flows and storm events for different catchment characteristics. Continued emphasis on water conservation was also supported. The greatest concern was a secure water supply for the ACT and Region and ensuring we are able to live within our sustainable diversion limits.

The need for improved governance

The issue is the multiple number of jurisdictions with a stake in the catchment in different ways. Discussions related to roles and responsibilities, differences in policy, legislation, plans, compliance and enforcement practices. The stakeholder workshops yielded several perceptions of where these differences currently cause problems. The most prominent examples quoted were Googong Dam and its competing objectives for use; and the perception that erosion and sediment control practices are applied less stringently in some jurisdictions.

It is important to note that during the drafting of the Catchment Strategy, the NSW Government was undertaking a transformation of local government through the 'Fit for Future' process. Local councils are in a period of uncertainty over the possible mergers between local councils.

There was strong support for the governance, policy and planning strategies and draft actions.

Improve accessibility to existing data and research

There was general agreement that, due to the presence of major research institutions based in Canberra, the catchment had been relatively well studied. This knowledge capacity was seen as a great asset that could be better utilised. Generally people agreed on the concept of a free and publicly accessible portal where all research relevant to the catchment could be housed. However, many also recognised the substantial costs involved in such a venture and were keen to make sure other workable options were fully investigated.

Better coordination of data and research

In line with the above, stakeholders felt that gains could be made by a more coordinated approach to regular monitoring and evaluation. With regard to research, there was a view that regional consensus should be sought on the priority for future research projects, both in terms of prioritising the scope and nature of research to be undertaken and the possible pooling of existing resources for better regional outcomes.

Importance of ongoing community education programs

A wide range of suggestions for ongoing community education programs were received, reflecting a deeply held belief in their efficacy. Participants recognised that population growth will ensure the need for ongoing education, with new residents moving to the catchment who may have little detailed knowledge about their new home. Those involved in providing extension programs highlighted the need to provide refresher material on an ongoing basis, and also the need to provide the same content in different media formats.

With respect to the community education programs we note there:

- appears to be a number of existing tools for application with the peri-urban component of a catchment management program. South East Local Land Services have a peri-urban program, which generally covers biodiversity, water security, water efficiency, water quality management and general land management.
- is an established stakeholder networked called Capital Region Small Farm Groups.
- are currently a number of programs we could learn from including those run in the Sydney Water Catchment Area, Actsmart or other examples in waste management and recycling currently managed by CBR Joint organisation.
- There was strong support for the community strategies and actions that were presented to the stakeholders. One clear opportunity that arose was the opportunity to develop a catchment-wide education program on stormwater. Work has commenced on scoping this project.

Population growth

Population growth was acknowledged as both strength and a threat. When considered as strength, participants felt that increased numbers would aid in bids for funding, especially if joint projects were prepared. The logic was that a region with a high population base will have more political sway in attracting funds than lower population areas. Higher population base has a higher potential for the raising of an effective environmental or catchment levy. Finally, a higher population base could provide additional resources to existing (or future) community-based programs such as Waterwatch or Landcare etc.

When viewed as a threat, strong population growth (and the associated development growth areas) places pressure on water supply and quality and contributes to a wide range of other threatening processes, in particular habitat loss and fragmentation. Rural residential development was discussed frequently for a range of challenges it presents, including habitat loss, removal of good quality agricultural land from production, and the need to supply infrastructure to service such dispersed settlements.

A growing population in the ACT and Region has resulted in large amounts of illegal dumping. The dumping of soil fill is a critical issue. Blitz on illegal dumping between the NSW and ACT governments shows an excellent example of previous collaboration of a program aimed at cracking down on illegal waste dumping from ACT building sites across the border on NSW farms. In 2012, NSW and ACT Environment Protection Authorities set up a checkpoint to inspect waste loads of trucks. General waste was also a common issue and it was highlighted that CBR Joint Organisation are currently developing cross-border approaches.

In a non-coastal and increasingly warmer climate, population growth will also place more recreational pressure on the catchment's waterways and wetlands. This will require careful management. Access to waterways and wetlands can help raise understanding and appreciation of the role of water in our lives but, at the same time, unrestricted use will damage the very qualities that people seek out.

Population growth was highlighted as the key factor that will influence the condition of the catchment.

Resourcing

Resourcing covered a wide range of topics, including the role of volunteers, community groups and staff and funding for programs and projects. The crucial role of volunteers involved in catchment management including Waterwatch, Landcare and Parkcare groups and the various catchment groups was acknowledged repeatedly. Without their activity over many years, stakeholders claimed that the catchment would be in a much more stressed condition. These volunteers represent a significant asset which needs to be nurtured.

However, it was acknowledged that the temporary nature of funding for support staff or projects made community-based catchment management more difficult. Participants noted that the recent withdrawal of funding for the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee had reduced their capacity to be as active in promoting information exchange and networking.

Participants also expressed frustration with the political nature of funding. In particular, it was noted how the chopping and changing of funding programs restricts the ability to undertake a carefully thought out and well integrated program. While noting this as a substantial problem, participants also recognised it was largely political in origin and would have to be managed as an ongoing risk. Participants also described a kind of emergency mentality (funding follows problems and media attention) that can have a positive or negative impact on catchment management.

3.3 Outcomes of the Online Survey - Social Expectations Survey of Water Use and Water Use Behaviour (University of Canberra)

The Coordination Group agreed to an online survey, conducted by the University of Canberra in July to August 2015. The ACT and Region Social Expectations of Water Use and Water Use Behaviour Research involved a mail-out to all households across the ACT and Region to encourage their participation.

The University of Canberra completed data collection and provided analysis on the attitudes, values and behaviours of ACT and NSW Local Government Areas (LGA) residents regarding their use of waterways, lakes and wetlands and factors affecting water quality.

4701 responses were received to the survey, with 919 from outside the ACT, providing a statistically valid sample for analysis both in urban and non-urban contexts in the region. The survey findings informed the development of the catchment strategy.

The survey was carried out on an internet-hosted platform. This ensured the data collected incorporated all the elements needed to inform the design of a behavioural change campaign, which included:

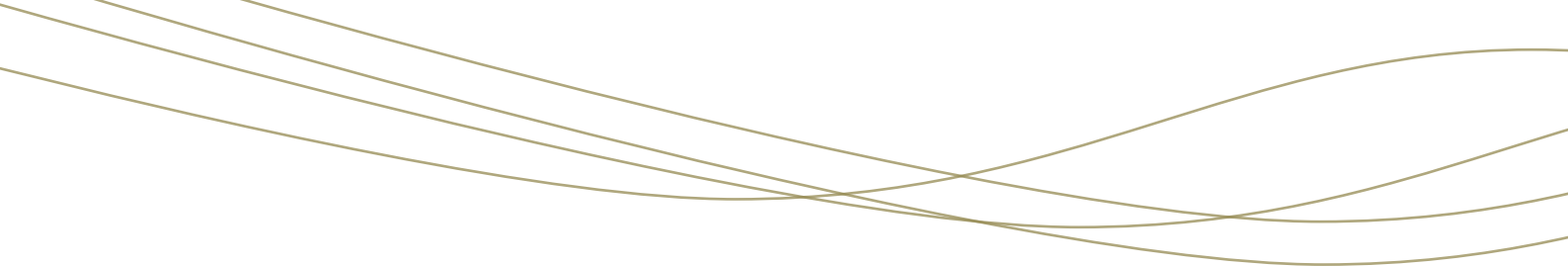
- demographic information (e.g. age, gender, education, income, occupation)
- type of dwelling (behaviours may differ for those living in houses versus units)
- geographic location (enabled comparison of behaviours of people living in different areas of the ACT and Region)
- water interactions location to watercourses and purpose of these interactions (e.g. recreation, commuting)
- engagement in behaviours relevant to water quality (e.g. whether people swept up autumn leaves, how they disposed of dog droppings on walks, how they disposed of oil)
- awareness of water quality issues
- values regarding water quality and desired benefits from the region's waterways.

Key messages emerging from the survey include:

- Our waterways are well used and highly valued by the community.
- Most people rate water quality in Canberra's lakes as poor.
- Most people support actions to improve water quality.
- Awareness campaigns are required to change behaviour.
- people are more likely to perceive poor water quality in lakes as a problem if they lived in the ACT whilst those living in the NSW local government areas were less likely to perceive this.
- Leaf litter or grass clippings going into the stormwater system had the highest rating of causes of water quality problems in the ACT and Region.

Findings for the ACT and Region include:

- Most waterways were used principally by those who lived in the same local government area the waterway is located in.
- The Murrumbidgee and Cotter River area in the ACT is used by 51% of ACT residents, 42% of Queanbeyan residents, 38% of Palerang resident, 30% of Cooma-Monaro residents and 28% of Yass residents.
- Lake Burley Griffin was used by 84% of Canberrans and also by a majority of respondents living in Queanbeyan (70%), Palerang (53%) and Yass (57%).
- Fishing was most common in rural rivers and reservoirs, particularly Lake Burrinjuck, Tantangara Reservoir, Googong Reservoir, the Goodradigbee River and Big Badga River.
- Swimming was most common around the Murrumbidgee/Cotter river area, Lake Burrinjuck and the Goodradigbee River.
- Overall, residents of the ACT and surrounding LGAs had views that were relatively consistent with the advice of water scientists regarding signs of poor water quality in the region.
- In general, residents of then rural LGAs (Palerang, Cooma-Monaro and Yass) were less likely to rate most issues as presenting a



problem for local water quality than residents of urban areas (ACT and Queanbeyan), with the following exceptions:

- » residents of all LGAs were equally likely to rate the use on rural properties of fertiliser, herbicides and pesticides as a problem for water quality, and gravel or dirt road surfaces washing into waterways
- » residents of rural LGAs were more likely than ACT and Queanbeyan residents to consider erosion of streambanks, stock getting in waterways, and soil/dirt entering waterways from rural properties as presenting large problems for water quality in their local region.
- Poor water quality in lakes was perceived to be a problem by 59% of residents, while 36% felt poor water quality in natural rivers, streams of creeks was a problem, and 33% that poor water quality in local wetlands was a problem.
- Rural landholders most commonly sourced information about water from other rural landholders, with 75% doing this.

Appendix 2 Workshop Attendances

Phase 1: Strategy Development

Monday 14 September 2015
Murrumbateman Country Inn -
10am to 2pm

- CSIRO Land and Water Flagship
- Murrumbateman Progress Association
- Natural Resources/Sustainability Officer, Yass Valley Council
- Ginninderra Catchment Group
- Natural Resource Management Programs (EPD)
- Roads ACT, TAMS
- SGS Economics and Planning
- Waterwatch, EPD
- Murrumbidgee Landcare
- Onerwal Local Aboriginal Council
- Public Officer, ACT Rural Land Association
- Inner North Community Council
- Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
- Conservation Council
- Catchment Management, EPD

Wednesday 16 September 2015
Cooma Hotel - 10am to 2pm

- South East Local Land Services
- Cooma Shire Council
- Conservation Council
- Catchment Management, EPD

Monday 21 September 2015
Queanbeyan RB Smith Community Centre -
9am to 1pm

- Natural Resource Management Programs
- Queanbeyan Landcare
- Woodlands and Wetlands Trust (Jerrabomberra)
- Molonglo Catchment Group
- Southern ACT Catchment Group
- Greening Australia
- Roads ACT, TAMS
- Queanbeyan Landcare
- Regional Development Australia
- Strategic Policy and Cabinet, CMTEDD
- Nature Conservation Policy EPD
- Environment Protection Authority, CMTEDD
- Chair, Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee
- South East Local Land Service
- Strategic Assessment, EPD
- Wetlands, Floodplains, Rivers
- Icon Water
- UMCCC
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Tuggeranong Community Council
- Office of the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
- Conservation Council
- Australian Institute of Energy
- Consult Australia
- Engineering/Economics, E2 Design Lab
- Environment and Health, NSW Government
- Queanbeyan Landcare
- Catchment Management, EPD

Appendix 3 Workshop Attendances

Phase 2: Draft Strategy Public Exhibition

Wednesday 27 April 2016
Jerrabomberra Community Centre –
4pm to 6pm

- Inner North Community Council
- Calibre Consulting
- Old Narrabundah Com Council
- Private Landowner
- UMCCC
- Tuggeranong Community Council
- Chair of the Coordination Group
- Environment and Planning Directorate
- Communications Link

Thursday 5 May 2016
Tuggeranong Community Arts Centre –
12pm to 2pm

- Woodlands and Wetlands
- Australian River Restoration Centre & Lovett Clarke Consulting
- LBG Guardians
- Parks and Conservation, TAMS
- Comma-Monaro Shire
- Murray Darling Basin Authority
- Ngannawal Aboriginal Corporation
- Molonglo Catchment Group
- Tuggeranong Community Council
- Nature Conservation Policy, EPD
- Institution of Engineers
- Director, Prentice Eco-Systems

- Nicole Lauder MLA – Member for Brindabella
- South East Local Land Services, NSW
- Icon Water
- Belconnen Community Council
- Arup Consulting Pty Ltd
- Yass Valley Council
- Emergency Services Agency ACT, JACS
- Chair of the Coordination Group
- Catchment Management, Environment, EPD
- Communications Link

*It should be noted that a number of people (approx. 15) attended the workshop on 5 May 2016 but did not RSVP or complete the sign in sheet.

Monday 9 May 2016
Environment and Planning Directorate DMPH
– 11:30am to 1pm

- Impact Assessment, EPD
- Nature Conservation Policy, EPD
- Conservation Research, EPD
- Parks and Conservation, TAMS
- Energy and Waste Policy, EPD

Appendix 4 Stakeholder Comments Table

General Catchment Strategy Related Comments

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
General content of Strategy	
1. AWA Community Workshop <i>Overall strategy</i> Feedback during the workshop was very positive about the Strategy and the post workshop evaluation indicated that people were pleased with the opportunity to contribute. Participants in the workshop strongly supported increased alignment across jurisdictions. Closely linked with the theme of alignment was the importance of collaboration, which was highlighted across all four areas of discussion, particularly with respect to the Prospectus and governance.	Noted.
2. Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra <i>Overall strategy</i> A step forward: We consider that the development of a strategy that aims to enhance collaboration and co-operation across the multiple jurisdictions involved in the management of the Upper Murrumbidgee catchment is a step forward for the region. We commend the approach to dealing with the challenges that face the region over the next 30 years.	Noted.
3. Southern ACT Catchment Group <i>Overall strategy</i> The Strategy is very comprehensive and the consultation process has been impressive in comparison with other consultations run on similar documents in the past.	Noted.
4. Southern ACT Catchment Group <i>Overall strategy</i> At the various workshops and presentations held over the consultation period, there has been an emphasis placed on the extensive work that is already taking place, much of it driven by community groups. However, this is not strongly reflected in the strategy where such groups are referred to in rather vague terms. A section identifying the various groups already working in this space across the region who are likely to assist with delivery of the strategy would be beneficial, both for governance and planning purposes	The Coordination Group greatly appreciates the efforts of community groups and the intent of the community theme is to recognise and support these groups. A mapping process of community groups involvement can be done in implementing these themes.
5. Landcare ACT <i>Overall strategy</i> The document first and foremost is a strategy designed to achieve alignment of government policy and process in a complex jurisdictional region. This should be “up there in lights” with no apologies and communicated very clearly. The need for this is recognised and supported by Landcare ACT.	Noted.

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
General content of Strategy	
<p>6. Landcare ACT</p> <p><i>Overall strategy</i></p> <p>To provide a successful long-term framework to facilitate the required alignment further consideration needs to be given to the “actions” (which are actually more like objectives or strategies), to ensure that they are high level and governance focussed but achieve appropriate Coordination Group accountability. Some the actions are detailed and lower-level (e.g. Actions 4 and 18) and would be better placed in the Investment Prospectus as their presence actually results in some confusion about whether the strategy is supposed to be a high level alignment document or an on-ground strategy. Further consideration needs to be given to ensure that the final document is pitched at the right level to achieve this main purpose. If a more action-oriented strategy is desired then more tangible actions and targets would be required.</p>	<p>The actions in the strategy highlight the intergrated and holistic nature of catchment management.</p>
<p>7. Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra</p> <p><i>Vision</i></p> <p>However the strategy remains very focused on processes rather than high level vision. There is no evidence that there is an overall commitment to creating a ‘line in the sand’ to prevent further degradation of waterways. A vision equivalent to the ‘no net loss’ approach taken to terrestrial vegetation would create a headline that would clearly illustrate the need for the structures and processes outlined here.</p> <p>There are additional notable omissions from the strategy that deserve further consideration in finalizing it for the region.</p>	<p>The Catchment Strategy is a high-level governance strategy focused at catchment management. The suggestion for a vision associated to waterways only addresses one component of considering catchment management. However, this comment is useful when considered in developing Action 5 – developing targets which when adopted will set the pathway for improvement.</p>
<p>8. Landcare ACT</p> <p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>Given the general public audience, there needs to be somewhere up-front a definition of what ‘a catchment’ is, emphasising that it is simply a geographical measure. The relevance for this document is that it includes actions for both the land and water, as a holistic approach in managing a catchment. Given that catchment management is also very similar to ‘natural resource management’, a short explanation of how this strategy fits with NRM planning (e.g. water focus, governance etc.) would also be useful as part of the introductory context.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The ACT and Region is described in Section 2.has been better defined as a social catchment within the Upper Murrumbidgee.</p>
<p>9. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council</p> <p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>Maybe put the strategy in context with other related documents earlier on to help clarify that this is a broad document without specific actions and timeframes — the Prospectus and Implementation Plans don’t seem to be referred to until section 6.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Amended to:</p> <p>The Catchment Strategy is supported by the Catchment Action Prospectus 2016-2021 and a Stakeholder Consultation Report. It is to be noted that future implementation plans and operational plans have not been developed.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
General content of Strategy	
<p>10. Landcare ACT</p> <p><i>Table 1</i></p> <p>Communities (ACT) should be 'Catchment Strategies' and 'Catchment Groups' instead of 'Catchment Management Strategies' and 'Catchment Management Groups' (i.e. no 'management' in the titles). It may be worth including 'Landcare networks' (similar to NSW) in brackets to facilitate explanation.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Change:</p> <p>Catchment Strategies and Catchment Groups.</p>
<p>11.AWA Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Monitoring, evaluation and review</i></p> <p>Regularly reporting on targets was very well supported and received the highest number of votes during the weighting exercise. This theme was also reflected during discussion around the importance of maintaining continuous measurable outcomes that are relevant and understandable by the community.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Section 7 addresses monitoring, evaluation and review. It also explains that targets will be developed as will key performance indicators as part of the proposed activity.</p> <p>Section 7 change:</p> <p>Tabling of the Coordination Group's annual report in the assembly will include a statement by the Minister responding to any advice given, or recommendations made, in the group's annual report. The annual report will be made available to the public.</p>
<p>12. AWA Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Monitoring, evaluation and review</i></p> <p>Regular reporting on targets is very important and should be linked to behaviour change. Defining clearly what is measurable and ensuring continual monitoring is important. What is measurable should clearly related to target outputs and outcomes.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>This comment will also be considered in the implementation of Action 5.</p> <p>Section 7 change:</p> <p>The annual report will be made public. Regularly reporting on targets or key performance indicators is important in determining behaviour change.</p>
<p>13. North Canberra Community Council</p> <p><i>Monitoring, evaluation and review</i></p> <p>Measuring implementation: the strategy would be strengthened if it included a commitment to developing a framework or guidelines for assessing the actions relevant to the objectives outlined for the catchment themes.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Section 7 change:</p> <p>Monitoring, evaluation and review of the Catchment Strategy will include developing a framework or guideline to assess the actions against the catchment theme's goals and to what extent they have contributed towards the Catchment Vision.</p>
<p>14. AWA Community Workshop</p> <p>Needs to define a sustainable population level.</p>	<p>The strategic planning departments (NSW, local government and the ACT) provide a forward planning approach to land supply and delivery. Implementing catchment planning principles through Action 10 will be centred on sustainability.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>15. Landcare ACT</p> <p><i>Actions</i></p> <p>Overall the document presents the framework ('program logic', goals, themes, actions) clearly and in an accessible and attractive way. The strategy actions however, are broad, open-ended and sound more like direction statements i.e. objectives or strategies. They could be re-named as such, allowing the more detailed activities in the Investment Prospectus to be re-named more appropriately "Actions" (with a shorter time frame). Noting, however, that some of these actions are similar, and are also rather broad and amorphous, and could be improved.</p>	<p>The actions are intended to be high level actions rather than a catchment action plan or on-ground strategy. The Catchment Strategy sets out the principles for governance, describes the key factors that will affect the catchment over the next 30 years. Short, medium and long term priorities will be addressed in the implementation phase.</p>
<p>16. UMCCC Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Catchment Theme: Governance, policy and planning</i></p> <p>Support for the crossover theme being central part of the structure.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>
<p>17.AWA Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Catchment Theme: Governance, policy and planning</i></p> <p>Sustainable development, including consideration of erosion and sediment control, contaminants and on-going operations and maintenance of developments.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>There are a number of actions (3, 5, 6 10, 11, 12, 18 and 19) that captures this and this will be noted in the implementation of the actions.</p>
<p>18. Southern ACT Catchment Group</p> <p><i>Catchment Theme: Governance, policy and planning</i></p> <p>There are however some sections which need fine tuning to clarify what it is the document is actually providing guidance for. It is understood that the purpose of the Catchment Management Coordination Group is to streamline coordination between inter-jurisdictional bodies responsible for the management of our region's catchments. The Strategy appears to go beyond this in places with plans for specific actions rather than coordination of a regional approach.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Regional coordination is the intent of the Catchment Strategy. The Catchment Action Prospectus is focused around collaboration and coordination for the Catchment Strategy implementation.</p>
<p>19. UMCCC Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Governance, policy and planning: Building collaborative relationships</i></p> <p>Action 1</p> <p>A good understanding and respect for the role of governance in the Strategy is required from all stakeholders. There was a suggestion that the role of the community in governance could be strengthened.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee represents the community on the Coordination Group however reference to community can be made more explicit.</p> <p>Change:</p> <p>Building collaborative relationships refers to the organisational structure and relationships between the many organisations (including community) with an interest in catchment management.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>20. AWA Community Workshop <i>Governance, policy and planning: Building collaborative relationships</i></p> <p>Action 1 Suggested a new democracy- citizens jury's; deliberative democracy to establish shared goals and invest in the catchment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing projects, coordination of aligned projects from bottom up • Information sharing; aligning resources and policy to be a shared goal and priority • Big governance issue; lower levels need the corporate memory. This is essential at the working level; consistency is extremely important. Community councils can help this as they have a long history and can hold people accountable. 	<p>Noted. New democracy comment is an implementation matter and will be considered during implementation of developing the decision making framework.</p> <p>Managing projects will involve some bottom up coordination. Community is integral to the delivery and implementation of the catchment strategy.</p> <p>Third and fourth point is captured in the Catchment Strategy.</p>
<p>21. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council <i>Governance, policy and planning: Building collaborative relationships</i></p> <p>Action 1 Develop a risk based framework and prioritise actions through Triple Bottom Line (TBL) approach. Actions to be referred to members for inclusion in respective four year delivery programs.</p> <p>Utilise a TBL approach to engage community and experts to assess best value and prioritise projects for endorsement by the Group prior to implementation.</p>	<p>The Catchment Strategy proposes to develop a decision making framework. This comment will be considered during implementation. An operational plan will be developed which will scope out the works.</p>
<p>22. AWA Community Workshop <i>Governance, policy and planning: Building collaborative relationships</i></p> <p>Action 1-2 Missing or requires more attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community led programs • Funding partnerships and network building • Systems and integrated decision making is important, including longer term, intergenerational thinking and not being driving by 'sales' 	<p>Agreed. Action 2 focuses on funding partnerships while many of the actions focus on network building between communities, industry and government. UMCCC's appointment to the Coordination Group was designed to assist with this objective.</p> <p>Action 1 involves an integrated decision making framework.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>23. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council <i>Governance, policy and planning: Building collaborative relationships</i></p> <p>Action 2 Consider possible funding through the introduction of Environmental Levies or CBRJO levy.</p>	<p>Noted. This option will be explored. The Catchment Strategy proposes to develop an investment and resourcing framework. An operational plan will be developed which will scope out the works.</p>
<p>24. Commissioner <i>Governance, policy and planning: Information and knowledge sharing</i></p> <p>Actions 3 It is not clear to what extent the catchment data will be made available to the public, particularly to those groups in active catchment management.</p> <p>The strategy could be further strengthened through inclusion of a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanism to allow community access to relevant data, providing high quality information to support catchment management activities. E.g. using a tool like ACTMAPi • Method through which the community could contribute their own data to the catchment knowledge management framework. 	<p>The Catchment Strategy proposes to develop a knowledge and information management strategy relating to catchment data collection and release of this data. An operational plan will be developed which will scope out the works for the knowledge and information management strategy.</p> <p>Community data input to the catchment knowledge management framework is strongly supported. There are currently mechanisms such as the Catchment Health Indicator Program (CHIP) where Waterwatch monitoring data is utilised in a report. However there are areas of improvement and this will be considered at implementation.</p>
<p>25. UMCCC Community Workshop <i>Governance, policy and planning: Information and knowledge sharing</i></p> <p>Actions 3 Support was expressed for the prominence of governance in the Strategy and that Action 3 – is a good start with collaboration across data.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>26. AWA Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Governance, policy and planning: Information and knowledge sharing</i></p> <p>Actions 3</p> <p>Missing or requires more attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of acknowledging what have happened in the past • There was also a common theme around valuing corporate memory and managing projects from the ground, rather than at a high level 'big government' perspective. 	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Action 3 incorporates the importance of information and knowledge sharing from the past. However wording will be added to make it more explicit.</p> <p>Change:</p> <p>Evidence-based decision making will be informed by cross-jurisdictional monitoring and reporting programs on catchment attributes/biophysical parameters such as water quality, land and biodiversity condition and soil health and be informed by past experience through information and knowledge sharing from community, industry and government.</p>
<p>27. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council</p> <p><i>Governance, policy and planning: Information and knowledge sharing</i></p> <p>Actions 3</p> <p>Data to be centrally accessible and managed in a way that benefits all stakeholders.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This comment will be addressed in the implementation of the matter.</p>
<p>28. AWA Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Governance, policy and planning: Information and knowledge sharing</i></p> <p>Actions 4</p> <p>Missing or requires more attention: How to manage responding to uncertainty, such as climate change</p>	<p>Action 4 speaks of a catchment wide assessment of vulnerability of climate change and proposes to implement the recommended further work from this assessment.</p> <p>Change:</p> <p>Vulnerabilities of the catchment relating to climate change will be identified through a gap analysis and extend from existing work done to date and will inform and influence future catchment activities. This will include applying the precautionary principle approach to managing the uncertainty surrounding climate change impacts.</p>
<p>29. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council</p> <p><i>Governance, policy and planning: Information and knowledge sharing</i></p> <p>Actions 4</p> <p>The catchment assessment should assign a risk management framework prioritising climate change actions.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This comment is an implementation matter and will be considered during implementation. An operational plan will be developed which will scope out the works.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>30. UMCCC Community Workshop <i>Governance, Policy and Planning: Policy and Planning</i></p> <p>Action 5 Broad group discussion on measurable targets and whether the Strategy and Prospectus needed to define more explicit measureable outcomes or targets. It was further noted that the story behind what is being achieved can be just as important.</p> <p>The use of biometric/biophysical targets was commented on by a few participants as an important tangible measure of progress. However discussion included suggestions that biophysical targets may also not be appropriate as influencers outside our control may lead to a measured fail, although significant achievement has been made against our goals.</p> <p>It was further suggested that development of 'biophysical' targets be better at a later stage.</p>	<p>Noted. The robustness of conversation surrounding this topic shows strong differing views and the importance to work together in developing any catchment targets or indicators.</p> <p>Change: Develop agreed catchment targets and/or key performance indicators on catchment health indicators</p> <p>What does this mean? Investigating existing and new catchment targets and/or key performance indicators, whichever is the appropriate allows jurisdictions to assess actions or decisions towards better catchment health and provides an indication of the level of change required to maintain catchment health.</p>
<p>31. UMCCC Community Workshop <i>Governance, Policy and Planning: Policy and Planning</i></p> <p>Action 5 Discussion by the groups around targets and measuring outcomes was very varied, although there was general agreement to it's importance.</p>	<p>Agreed. Refer to UMCCC Workshop comment above on targets.</p>
<p>32. Southern ACT Catchment Group <i>Governance, Policy and Planning: Policy and Planning</i></p> <p>Action 6 At the presentation given to the UMCCC, Prof Falconer spoke at length about the importance of proper regulation of the construction industry, citing recent major breaches of legislation and an almost total failure on the part of the ACT Government to issue penalties for infringements as evidence that this is an area which needs serious review. Again, this is not reflected in the strategy. There is a focus on WSUD and the performance of urban infrastructure after construction is complete, but very little about how water quality impacts and land degradation will be managed during development and construction.</p>	<p>There are a number of actions that deal with issues such as sediment and erosion control during construction, for example Action 5, 6, 10, 13 and 18. Action 6 particularly focuses on aligning enforcement between NSW and the ACT on catchment management practices.</p> <p>A stormwater Education program is in development and will provide professional training to operators in the construction industry.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>33. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council <i>Governance, Policy and Planning: Policy and Planning</i></p> <p>Action 7 Consider alignment of enforcement and compliance resources which reflect cross border controls and requirements. For example soil erosion controls on building sites and the introduction of Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad unit.</p>	<p>This comment is covered in Action 6.</p>
<p>34. Southern ACT Catchment Group <i>Communities theme</i></p> <p>The involvement of Indigenous peoples in the strategy unfortunately feels rather tokenistic. There is a paragraph about the importance of this region to Aboriginal groups in the introductory section of the 'Communities' stream, but this is not expanded on anywhere in the strategy and Aboriginal involvement is not mentioned again in the Communities section which we would strongly like to see corrected. Activities reflecting Aboriginal values and uses of the catchment are isolated and lacking context; Indigenous involvement should be more generally integrated throughout the strategy as part of all activities.</p>	<p>Action 7 talks of land owners and managers in a way to acknowledge the traditional landowners, but changes have been made to provide clarity.</p> <p>Change: Action 7: Strategically support the role and work undertaken by peak stakeholder groups, volunteers and land owners and managers (including Indigenous land owners).</p>
<p>35. Landcare ACT <i>Communities theme</i></p> <p>The recognition of the importance of community capacity, through its identification as a theme in the strategy, is strongly supported by Landcare ACT. The rural landholders and various volunteer groups and individuals supported by Landcare ACT members are a key resource for catchment management and protection in the ACT. However the network provided by the Landcare ACT membership also needs to be recognised as a significant asset. The membership network provides the ACT region community with organisational "infrastructure", and education and capacity building services, and could provide more, with appropriate resources. The strategy is currently silent on this substantial existing network and this should be addressed (e.g. p21, Box 5).</p> <p>The draft should include a reference to the established strong community networks that enable community to engage and respond to environmental and policy changes. The level of knowledge and expertise of the community (as a basis of citizen science, for example) is also a key part of the regional community asset worth mentioning.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>However there are many important stakeholder groups from community, industry and across government. The Stakeholder Consultation Feedback report elaborates the importance of community to inform the consultation of the Catchment strategy.</p> <p>Change: Box 5: The ACT and Region consists of many diverse stakeholder groups from community (including Indigenous groups), industry and governmental groups associated with catchment management.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>36. Landcare ACT <i>Communities theme</i></p> <p>Suggested change goal to: “The community values and remains strongly connected to the catchment, has the capacity and support to contribute to improved catchment health and to quickly adapt to environmental, economic and policy changes”.</p>	<p>The Coordination Group and the release of the Catchment Strategy offer a mechanism to resolve jurisdictional challenges and capitalise on the opportunities for improved catchment management outcomes to manage regional growth. It also provides a mechanism to develop joint funding bids and prioritise investment and effort for the benefit of the region. It has not been explicitly stated in this goal however actions developed in the implementation plan will satisfy this suggestion.</p>
<p>37. Landcare ACT <i>Communities: Adaptability</i></p> <p>Action 7 Suggested change to: “Sustain and strengthen community-based catchment networks and stakeholders to facilitate broader community adaptation in support of the goals of the strategy.”</p> <p>The detail under Action 7 in the Investment Prospectus is lacking specificity and also needs further consideration. It is not clear what outcomes the Coordination Group seeks. Landcare ACT suggests that the outcomes sought might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong community leadership and support network • Regional coordination and collaboration • Resources for community investment • Community organisation’s achieving best practice 	<p>Sustaining and strengthening community-based networks is important. Action 7 focuses on strategically supporting these networks through the mention of volunteers and peak stakeholder groups.</p> <p>In relation to the prospectus, it should be noted that this piece of work will be better known when an operational plan is developed which will scope out the works. This comment will be considered during implementation and focused around the outcomes being sought.</p>
<p>38. AWA Community Workshop <i>Communities: Adaptability</i></p> <p>Action 8 Missing or requires more attention: Disaster management considerations</p>	<p>Action 8 is specifically dedicated to developing an integrated emergency catchment response plan for pre and post emergency responses to catchment management.</p>
<p>39. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council <i>Communities: Adaptability</i></p> <p>Action 8 Emergency Response Plan should detail responsibilities in the event of an emergency.</p>	<p>As above. However assuming that the comment relates to catchment management responsibilities and not emergency event responsibilities this can be further explored. Emergency event responsibilities are outside the role of the Catchment Strategy and Coordination Group however the Emergency Services Commissioner is a member of the Coordination Group.</p>

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Actions	
<p>40. Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra</p> <p><i>Communities: Adaptability</i></p> <p>Action 9</p> <p>The science community of the ACT has made a significant contribution to our understanding of catchment processes and, in particular, the way in which our freshwater systems function and can be managed for ecological benefit. While best available science plays a part in the mission statement for the Catchment Strategy, it is notably absent throughout the remainder of the document. The strategy would benefit from considering how the four major research institutions within the region (The University of Canberra, The Australian National University, UNSW-ADFA and CSIRO) could be involved in contributing to achieving the stated mission and embedding science in many of the</p> <p>19 actions of the strategy. We recommend that the 'Activities summary' for each of the proposed actions include specific reference to the role of high quality research in informing action. The appointment of a scientific reference committee would provide access to the wealth of research experience and capacity present in the ACT.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Catchment Action Prospectus explicitly states that implementation of actions will involve collaboration with educational institutions in the "who is involved" overview.</p> <p>Action 8 proposes a number of activities which includes using peak bodies to develop industry best practice catchment management principles. Action 11 speaks of developing regional capacity, which again would have connections with institutions. It could however, be made more explicit.</p> <p>Change in Catchment Action Prospectus (Who is involved?):</p> <p>This may include engagement with the Australian Government Department of the Environment..... recognised research and educational institutions. The ACT and Region is home to a number of major research institutions who could be involved in contribution to achieving the stated mission and embedding science in the actions and proposed activities.</p> <p>Engagement and consultation will be determined when scoping out each action and its related activities.</p>
<p>41. UMCCC Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Communities: Education and promotion</i></p> <p>Action 9</p> <p>Broader education is needed. Needs stronger reference to education.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Change:</p> <p>Build community understanding about on catchment health to promote behaviour change through a broad range of communication and education strategies</p> <p>Activities summary</p> <p>Urban and peri urban catchment wide advisory programs and campaigns focused on education</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>42. AWA Community Workshop <i>Communities: Education and promotion</i></p> <p>Action 9 Missing or requires more attention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education in schools • How to engage, educate, speak a common language to collaborate 	<p>Refer to above UMCCC Community Workshop Action 9 comment on change in terms of education.</p> <p>Implementation of any action will ensure to take on board the common language comment.</p>
<p>43. Southern ACT Catchment Group <i>Communities: Education and promotion</i></p> <p>Action 9 The Communities section would benefit from some re-working, preferably in consultation with stakeholder groups, to better clarify the intended outcomes. The Education and Promotion action is particularly unclear in its intention.</p>	<p>Noted. Refer to the above.</p>
<p>44. North Canberra Community Council <i>Communities: Education and promotion</i></p> <p>Action 9 It will be essential for success to raise awareness, in all components of the community, of the fundamental importance of a healthy catchment. This should of course encompass residents. It is particularly important to also reach politicians, bureaucrats, developers, builders and farmers.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>45. Landcare ACT <i>Communities: Education and promotion</i></p> <p>Action 9 This action does not currently make sense: capacity building is not the same as education and raising awareness. Capacity building is about training, skill and knowledge development to underpin change, providing materials and funds to undertake actions. It is different from awareness raising programs and promotional campaigns. Capacity building actions need to include supporting networks designed to deliver capacity building activities, such as developing the tools and processes of monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>Suggest re-wording to: “Build community understanding about the values of catchments, the impacts of human activities and the benefits of a healthy catchment, through strategic education and engagement programs.”</p>	<p>Community capacity building is addressed in the UMCCC Workshop comment below. Please see comment in item 46 below.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>46. UMCCC Community Workshop</p> <p><i>Communities: Adaptability; and Education and Promotion</i></p> <p>Actions 7 – 9</p> <p>There was considerable discussion around capacity building and developing a better understanding of how capacity building related to educating stakeholders. Capacity building includes educating the community, creating buy-in from government agencies (ACT and NSW) as well as providing physical resources and operational support such as through MOUs. Building capacity was also linked to discussion around describing particular actions as funded or unfunded as with the right community education non-cash resources can be generated to support actions.</p>	<p>Agreed.</p> <p>Add in: References to community capacity.</p> <p>Adaptability: The actions under this theme are intended to support communities to adapt to changes that can be predicted with reasonable accuracy. Community capacity and building understanding starts at supporting the work that is currently undertaken by peak stakeholder groups, volunteers and land owners and land managers. It relates to a transfer of catchment knowledge and information onto other people and organisations. This can be done through having engaged communities and a channel to do so. A resilient community is able to adapt itself to maintain function.</p> <p>Education and promotion: The Social Expectations Survey of the ACT and Region Waterways ... found that understanding of catchment processes by the wider community is relatively low. Therefore it is important to build capacity and community understanding to strengthen skills, competencies and abilities of people and communities to the benefits of good catchment health.</p> <p>Action 9 (what does this mean?): The community's catchment literacy and understanding will be strengthened through the enhancement of skills and abilities. Targeted campaigns will be developed to promote...</p>
<p>47. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council</p> <p><i>Communities: Education and promotion</i></p> <p>Action 9</p> <p>Continue to fund Catchment Coordinators for these roles.</p>	<p>Noted and will be considered in the implementation of Action 2.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>48. Martin Chalk <i>Regional Development: Settlement Patterns</i></p> <p>Action 10 The link between population and the demand for water is axiomatic and it is disappointing that a strategy to estimate the total water availability in the catchment and, therefore, the viable population for the catchment is not included. Throughout the document there is an underlying acceptance of inevitable population growth and only in section 3.2 is an attempt made to list both the positive and negative consequences of such growth. Thereafter, growth and prosperity are the mantra.</p>	<p>Agreed in principle, comment is in agreement to the Catchment Strategy however captured in other areas as explained below.</p> <p>Action 10 and Action 12 relates to developing regional capacity to implement and maintain sustainable water infrastructure. The proposed activity includes clarifying the volume and quality of all water resources available in the region for sustainable water supply and has been considered by the strategy.</p> <p>In relation to catchment planning principles, it should be noted that this piece of work will be better known when an operational plan is developed.</p> <p>It should also be noted that that increasing our understanding of the finite nature of the catchment is covered in many of the actions.</p>
<p>49. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council <i>Regional development: Settlement Patterns</i></p> <p>Action 10–11 The CBRJO and Councils, with guidance from NSW Planning, are well placed to incorporate planning controls that support the ambitions of the Strategy into the next iteration of LEP's and DCP's.</p> <p>For action 11 As per comment in Action 10, planning controls such as WSUD can be incorporated into LEP's and DCP's.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>50. Southern ACT Catchment Group <i>Regional Development: Settlement Patterns</i></p> <p>Action 10 There is no consideration given to transport planning, which will be a critical part of sustainable urban areas in future. It will also have a major effect on regional catchment management and biodiversity protection for example through habitat fragmentation and restriction of movement between fragments, increased surface run-off, and risks from increased vehicle traffic.</p>	<p>Action 10 proposes to develop sustainable catchment management planning principles.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>51. UMCCC Community Workshop <i>Regional Development: Settlement Patterns</i></p> <p>Action 10 It was noted that other relevant studies and documents need to be considered such as the Basin Priority Project and the Waste Strategy.</p>	<p>The Basin Priority Project is mentioned in the Catchment Strategy.</p> <p>Action 10 speaks of a regional approach to waste management but refers to the multi-jurisdictional strategy Regional Waste Management Strategy through the CBR Joint Region.</p> <p>Reference can be explicitly made to the ACT Waste Feasibility Study.</p> <p>Add in: In conjunction with the Regional Waste Management Strategy, the ACT Government is engaging with community on the ACT Waste Feasibility Study. The ACT Waste Feasibility Study is a whole of Government program which is looking at how it can improve waste management and meet the ACT Government's waste policy targets including achieving over 90% resource recovery by 2025 and a carbon neutral waste sector by 2020. This includes a number of projects including a review of the existing waste strategy, auditing and improving waste data, implementing new waste legislation and planning for the future of waste infrastructure. There is opportunity to delve into the knowledge, findings and information that will come out of this process.</p>
<p>52. Martin Chalk <i>Regional Development: Infrastructure provision and renewal</i></p> <p>Action 11 The meaning of Action 11 indicates that it is about doing more with less- a laudable but ultimately finite concept. Where is the discussion about doing less with what we have?</p>	<p>The activities proposed with Action 11 offers a range of activities that encourages better implementation of infrastructure planning through to building community and industry capacity and understanding on sustainable water infrastructure. The types of activities proposed encourages being resourceful where it is required the most.</p>
<p>53. AWA Community Workshop <i>Regional Development: Infrastructure provision and renewal</i></p> <p>Action 11 Opportunities to consider stormwater levies</p>	<p>Noted. At the moment the NSW local councils are able to operate stormwater management levies. This is an ACT Government matter which requires consideration.</p>

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<p>54. North Canberra Community Council</p> <p><i>Regional Development: Infrastructure provision and renewal</i></p> <p>Action 11</p> <p>The addition to ‘densification’ and the notion that Canberra’s huge open spaces are of little or no value except for residential development needs to be balanced with the ongoing sustainability of the environment in the face of climate change. ‘Liveability’ for all species is the key consideration. Applications for ‘development’ of green space and development applications for residential properties also should be seriously considered as part of the urban landscape mix and ways to promote connectivity be investigated and included and implemented in building codes.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Action 11 deals with endorsing the adoption of living (green) infrastructure.</p>
<p>55. Martin Chalk</p> <p><i>Water (all actions)</i></p> <p>Because the strategy makes no attempt to assess the carrying capacity of the catchment, Actions 12 to 15 are going to be necessarily skewed away from an optimal outcome.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Carrying capacity should be considered at the time of scoping out the proposed activity of clarifying the volume and quality of all water resources available in the region for sustainable water supply (Action 12).</p>
<p>56. Mel Preuss</p> <p><i>Water (all actions)</i></p> <p>The draft Strategy does not go far enough in describing strategies to slow run-off across urban areas, to improve the quality of run-off, and to support rainfall across the ACT into the future. Substantial green tree cover is an essential element in mitigating the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>Actions 13, 14 and 25 focuses on improving water quality and aquatic ecosystem health. It should be noted that the described activities would focus on slowing run-off across urban areas etc.</p> <p>Note that there are several water sensitive urban design actions with proposed activities surrounding supporting green (living) infrastructure notably, Action 10 and 11.</p>
<p>57. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council</p> <p><i>Water: Water quality</i></p> <p>Investigate monitoring and maintenance of mass balance in our ponds and lakes.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Catchment Strategy proposes to develop a decision making framework. This comment is an implementation matter and will be considered during implementation. An operational plan will be developed which will scope out the works.</p>

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<p>58. Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra</p> <p><i>Water: Aquatic Ecosystems, Cultural Waters and Environmental Flows</i></p> <p>Action 14</p> <p>Operation of Tantangara Dam removes more than 95% of the flow from the river at that point, with significant consequences for the instream biological communities downstream of the Dam (including the threatened Macquarie Perch). However government agencies that are concerned with the provision of environmental flows consider that the Murrumbidgee River is unregulated until it reaches Burrinjuck Dam. This is a consequence of Tantangara Dam being operated under the Snowy Hydro legislation, rather than any of the water resources legislation. This is a stumbling block for the future management of flow in the river and limits potential outcomes for freshwater ecosystems of the region.</p> <p>We suggest that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. given the objectives of the strategy are focused on regional cooperation and collaboration, that Snowy Hydro should be included in the regional discussions. 2. the strategy should work toward the water resource management agencies recognizing the significant regulation of the Upper Murrumbidgee River. 3. environmental flows for the upper Murrumbidgee River should be a future priority of the strategy. 	<p>In relation to points 1 and 2, the Catchment Strategy covers the ACT and Region which could be considered a social catchment. This includes the entire Murrumbidgee River catchment upstream of Burrinjuck Dam excluding the upper Goodradigbee River in the Tumut local government area (LGA). The strategy covers only the Murrumbidgee catchment component of the Snowy Monaro Regional LGA.</p> <p>Where appropriate, the Coordination Group will engage with the Snowy-Hydro on action-to-action basis which relate to the Snowy-Hydro.</p> <p>In relation to point 3, Action 14 proposes to manage environmental flows in the different jurisdictions in conjunction with each and managed with the objective of maintaining ecosystem health and function. This comment will be taken into consideration in the implementation of this action.</p>
<p>59. Landcare ACT</p> <p><i>Water: Aquatic Ecosystems, Cultural Waters and Environmental Flows</i></p> <p>Action 14</p> <p>Landcare ACT is concerned that there is limited coverage of Aboriginal cultural outcomes- this is currently only listed as a priority in Action 14 and partly in Action 17. It is suggested that this area requires further development in the context of what purports to be a long-term strategy.</p>	<p>Agree.</p> <p>Indigenous cultural waters has been separated as its own action.</p>

Stakeholder comments	EPD Secretariat
Actions	
<p>60. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council <i>Water: Aquatic Ecosystems, Cultural Waters and Environmental Flows</i></p> <p>Action 14 Recognise significant areas with “a sense of place within the catchment. Celebrate the diversity and culture with educational messages and involvement of the community</p>	<p>Agreed. Note that with the removal of Indigenous cultural waters as its own separate action.</p> <p>Add in to activities summary: Recognise significant areas with “a sense of place within the catchment. Celebrate the diversity and culture with educational messages and involvement of the community</p>
<p>61. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council <i>Water: Groundwater</i></p> <p>Action 15 Improve mapping and access to data.</p>	<p>Add in to activities summary: Improve mapping and access to data.</p>
<p>62. Mel Preuss <i>Land and Biodiversity: Biosecurity</i></p> <p>Action 16 The biodiversity and economic impacts of weeds along watercourses and across catchment areas, and further you have not identified included strategies to deal with weeds is not covered. Effective strategies are urgently required, as for example, in the past 10 years invasive weeds like blackberries have colonised Point Hutt to Pine Island and Paddys River. Weed management strategies need to be spelled out in the Strategy as weeds and their control influences and impacts on biodiversity, water flows, water quality and accessibility to water courses.</p>	<p>Noted. However as the actions are high level actions and not a catchment action plan or on-ground strategy, the comment will be considered at the operational level when proposed activities are implemented.</p>
<p>63. Queanbeyan—Palerang Regional Council <i>Land and Biodiversity: Biosecurity</i></p> <p>Action 16 Provide expert advice and guidance on biosecurity proposals eg Carp Eradication</p>	<p>The Catchment Strategy proposes a number of management interventions. This comment is an implementation matter and will be considered during implementation. An operational plan will be developed which will scope out the works.</p> <p>However more information on carp eradication can be added into the Catchment Strategy.</p>

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<p>64. Commissioner for Environment and Sustainability</p> <p><i>Land and Biodiversity: Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Action 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caution with regard to inter-jurisdictional biodiversity offsets as a key component of the proposed regional approach to biodiversity conservation • The 2015 State of the Environment Report found currently there is insufficient evidence to judge the efficacy of both direct and indirect biodiversity offsets for achieving conservation outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The precautionary principle should be applied where impacts of biodiversity offsets are unknown. » Inter-jurisdictional biodiversity offsets should be considered only as a last resort, where other conservation mechanisms are unavailable. 	<p>Noted on first point.</p> <p>The on-ground outcomes necessarily need time to gauge the efficacy of offsets. For many offset sites this will take many years. Because of this Offset Management Plans included significant requirements for monitoring of outcomes, and the Planning and Development Act requires assessment of the effectiveness of the policy every five years. The systems are in place to monitor outcomes and to make adjustments to the policy if needed.</p> <p>Noted on second point.</p> <p>Both the EPBC and ACT Offsets policy already apply a precautionary approach to the use of offsets. The principles outlined in the policy support this precautionary approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offsets are required to deliver an overall conservation outcome that improves or maintains the viability of the aspect of the environment that is within the scope of the Policy and is impacted by the proposed action [net gain]; • be in proportion to the level of statutory protection that applies to the protected matter (this principle is taken into account through offset methodologies); • effectively account for and manage the risks of the offset not succeeding [security of offsets];

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	<p>The NSW Government similarly has a range of safeguards in its offset policy. The EPBC and ACT Offsets policy both already allow for offsets to occur inter-jurisdictionally. The decision maker must make sure that the proposed inter-jurisdictional offset meets the requirements of the policies in the same way that it would in the ACT. Management of offset sites across jurisdictions may need additional agreements relating to practical issues however, the decision maker would need to ensure that the same standards of management and outcomes are applied.</p> <p>The EPBC and ACT offsets policy requires an offset package (of direct offsets and other compensatory measures) must deliver an overall positive conservation outcome taking into account the viability of the species affected by the proposed development and ensuring that the package improves or maintains outcomes for the species' habitat. The tools used to assess offsets use a range of 'metrics' based on sound ecological theory to predict both the lost of biodiversity at development sites and the likely conservation outcomes at offset sites. The tools are updated from time to time to take into account new ecological information and also new threshold issues, if for example a species' status changes.</p> <p>Noted on third point. The primary objectives of the ACT's Offset Policy include this as a key consideration. The policy's objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure areas of high conservation value or irreplaceable assets are avoided, or avoided and mitigated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » environmental offsets are considered only after feasible and appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures have been taken.

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Actions	
<p>65. AWA Community Workshop <i>Land and Biodiversity: Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Action 17 Maintaining and enhancing the quality of nature reserves.</p>	<p>Noted. Action 17 supports this comment.</p>
<p>66. Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra <i>Land and Biodiversity: Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Action 17 Invasive species are a particular challenge in this area, and the relationships between this document and those which govern the management of pests and weeds needs to be made clear. In an immediate sense, the proposed control of European carp using carp herpes virus represents the single largest catchment management challenge in recent decades. This should be explicitly recognized in the document and the means for engaging with this process made clear.</p>	<p>Noted. However as the actions are high level actions and not a catchment action plan or on-ground strategy, the comment will be considered at the operational level when proposed activities are implemented.</p>
<p>67. North Canberra Community Council <i>Land and Biodiversity: Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Action 17 Regional Landscape Connectivity: the strategy needs to emphasise the necessity for a systematic and evidence-based approach to improve the capacity for flora and fauna survival by promoting connectivity between the various ecosystems, across agricultural and urban areas. This would require determining a sound rationale for how, what, when and why data should be collected. Accurate data should be used to guide the adjustment phase of the monitoring and evaluation process. Measures to improve connectivity across the peri-urban and urban areas should be actively developed and implemented. The strategy identifies that loss of green space will reduce connectivity and must be regarded as a threat to the catchment. However, there are also opportunities to create assistive corridors particularly with succession management and intelligent selection of tree and other plant species for planting along roads, in parks, wetlands and even in backyards. Even understories of appropriate species would assist connectivity and be, in most situations, a superior choice to vegetable gardens.</p>	<p>Noted. Action 3 focuses on promoting evidence based decision making for improved healthy catchments.</p>

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Processes		
68. UMCCC Community Workshop Term 'Prospectus' was recommended to be changed, the feeling was that it sounded like a private sector initiative. Suggested: The alternate title 'Catchment Progress Plan' was floated and supported by some. Implementation plan was also suggested.		Suggested name change will be put to the Coordination Group for their determination.
69. UMCCC Community Workshop The use of the Prospectus as a summary of actions and actions plan was supported. It was agreed that an Action Plan is needed to give the next level of detail to support the Strategy.		Agreed.
70. UMCCC Community Workshop There was considerable discussion around the use of the phrases "funded" and "unfunded" in the Prospectus. It was suggested that this implied a need for government funding for large areas of work, which may understood differently across different areas of government, such as Treasury. It needs to be articulated that the kinds of resources required to progress projects is not always 'funding', it includes resources such as people, real time, support for policy as well as money. To reinforce this it was suggested that the term funding be changed to resourcing.		Agreed. Change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resourced: current resources are available but may need to be re-aligned. • Partly Resourced: relevant programs and actions and activities are already funded by a number of organisations, however with a coordinated regional approach achieving better outcomes. Additional resources may be required for full implementation of some actions and activities. • Un-Resourced: new resources are required and are subject to funding bids.
71. UMCCC Community Workshop A number of risks were identified in discussions, these included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to engage across the political spectrum. • There are a lot of actions in the short-term, are they all achievable? • How long is funding secured for now and what for particularly within the Strategy? • Funding will be required from a range of groups. • Government groups and politicians need to be educated to achieve support and buy-in. • Sign-off by government is very important and that the Strategy is acknowledged by all parts of government including ACT and NSW. • The need for a 'strong will' to make the Strategy work? 		Noted. The comments relates to political engagement and securing of funding. The Coordination Group is committed to improving governance on catchment management within the region and acknowledges the risks identified in this workshop and will continue to work with each other in a collaborative relationship.

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72. AWA Community Workshop The importance of volunteers and recognising their corporate knowledge and potential for fatigue. There were suggestions about ways to reward volunteers, such as through improved facilities. Risks identified included increase in the retirement age, which delayed the time when people may seek out volunteering opportunities.		Agreed. The Prospectus focuses on building community capacity and will take note of the risk identified at the workshop.
73. AWA Community Workshop Adopting a collaborative approach to progressing the actions in the Prospectus was well supported, although it was noted that collaboration presents both risks and opportunities.		Agreed. The Prospectus focuses on collaboration in progressing actions and will take note of the risk concern identified at the workshop.
74. AWA Community Workshop Feedback was provided that building a community connection is important and it was suggested that the Prospectus identifying how communities can get involved with the actions.		Agreed in principle. However as the actions are high level actions involving community involvement, it will be at the operational level when proposed activities are implemented that a better understanding of community involvement would be scoped out.
75. AWA Community Workshop There were suggestions that adaptive management needs to be more explicitly referenced in the Prospectus, to demonstrate how we will learn from experience and better link it to the Strategy's yearly review.		Agreed. Add in to adaptive management section: The adaptive management and implementation approach allows us to evaluate and learn. This will be done through a formal monitoring, evaluation and review process. Recording the Catchment Strategy's success, lessons learnt and the effectiveness of actions and activities will involve reporting findings and recommendations of evaluation. It is important to record this information to allow for effective transfer of knowledge and information. Adjusting actions and activities will be required over the lifetime of the strategy to enhance the effectiveness.
76. AWA Community Workshop Funding implications for adaptive management were raised as a major risk to the Catchment Strategy implementation.		Noted and agreed. The Coordination Group will continue to work with the community to collaboratively to deliver the Catchment Strategy.

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77. Southern ACT Catchment Group The Action Prospectus needs further work to better articulate the actions and improve consistency between them; the current a mixture of governance, planning, social and geo/biophysical outcomes they describe is a little incoherent. There is also a real risk that the Prospectus may raise expectations that cannot ultimately be met; even though activities are identified as unfunded or partially funded, their inclusion establishes an expectation.		Actions and activities summaries in the Catchment Action Prospectus have been refined in parts. Note that “what does it mean” in the Catchment Strategy have also been refined to ensure better linkages back to the actions and activities summaries. The risks are noted.
78. UMCCC Community Workshop A key area of discussion was the importance of strong NSW Government engagement in the Strategy and its implementation. This included resourcing, consideration of cross border legislation and policies and an inter-jurisdictional approach. It was noted that NSW is on the Coordinating Committee and an MOU has been signed with further commitment being discussed currently.		Agreed. This continues to be an important governance matter. Although outside of the Catchment Strategy, the Chair has been actively been engaging with the NSW Ministries. Furthermore implementation of certain actions and activities will involve collaboration with community and peak bodies and will require proactive stakeholder engagement. Some actions and activities will also require specialist involvement of specific agencies within the Commonwealth, NSW and ACT governments that currently do not sit on the Coordination Group or, alternatively, involve external expert resources.
79. Landcare ACT The strategy does not provide clarity about the linkage of decision-making on the NSW side of the border. Does the Catchment Coordination Group provide advice to NSW Ministers as well, or does this only apply in the ACT?		As above.
80. UMCCC Community Workshop The group highlighted a concern about the ‘cost of doing nothing’ and recognising that a ‘business-case’ approach may be required to highlight to some stakeholders the benefits of investing in the Strategy and the costs associated with not investing.		This is a matter for the Coordination Group to determine however it would be advised that operational plans to scope out the required work to implement actions would be the first step.
81. North Canberra Community Council It would be advisable for a business case to be made to show actual investment in environmental management and the costs of damage to, and even losing ecosystem services and habitat in the area intended to be covered by the strategy. This should include the various strategies, studies and projects (e.g. waste and water management, tree conservation), implementation measures and opportunity costs.		As above.

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Processes		
82. UMCCC Community workshop The importance of inter and intra- jurisdictional linkages was stressed by participants; this included better evidence of the involvement at officer level to increase understanding of what is happening with the Strategy. It was suggested that a map showing the inter-directorate linkages within the ACT Government that have relevance to the Strategy would help demonstrate these relationships. The need for reporting by other ACT government agencies to the coordinating group was highlighted.	This is matter for the ACT Government. The ACT Government has measures such as promotional material to explain the different linkages between water policies.	
83. North Canberra Community Council To improve prospects for success, Integration of strategies & policies- not only inter-jurisdiction but also intra-governmental agencies and departments- should not be restricted to senior executives, but should also extended to project officer levels.	Noted and as above.	
84. AWA Community Workshop Volunteers were identified by workshop participants as an important part of the Strategy. Volunteers were recognised for their resources and input, but also for the corporate knowledge that they hold. It was noted that there were a number of challenges associated with continued support from volunteers, including impacts of the increase in retirement age and ways to reward volunteers.	Volunteers and community are recognised as an integral part of the Catchment Strategy and its implementation. This will be noted by the Coordination Group.	
85. AWA Community Workshop Involving indigenous representatives in the Coordination group was considered important and received strong support during the weighting exercise.	This is a matter for the Coordination Group to determine however it should be noted that the structure of the Coordination Group is defined by its legislative amendments.	
86. Institute for Applied Ecology, University of Canberra Given the objectives of the strategy are focused on regional cooperation and collaboration, that Snowy Hydro should be included in the regional discussions.	It is recommended that Snowy Hydro be addresses as a key stakeholder in Action 14.	
87. Landcare ACT Landcare ACT recommends that the Coordination Group give deeper consideration to the matter of community representation to ensure there are transparent ongoing processes which links to the diversity of the regional community. Community representation should focus beyond those not already aware and “connected” to catchment issues, e.g. include urban-based businesses. The strategy made little, if any, reference to business at all, and Landcare ACT views this as one of the challenging areas of future urban engagement. Landcare ACT would be pleased to assist in discussions about community representation and engagement.	Noted. Refer to item 86 above.	

