

**Submission to House of Representative Standing Committee on  
Environment and Heritage into Catchment Management**

**from the**

**Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee (UMCCC)**

**Contents.**

1. Introduction
2. Description of Murrumbidgee Catchment.
3. The development of catchment management in Australia.
4. The value of a catchment approach to the management of the environment.
5. Total Catchment Management (TCM) contribution to managing environmental degradation, and achieving environmental sustainability.
6. The role of different levels of government.
7. Implementation of catchment management.
8. Monitoring, evaluating and reporting.

## **1. INTRODUCTION.**

This submission draws upon the experience of the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee (UMCCC) in Total Catchment Management (TCM). Its experience dates from its formation in 1992 as a sub-committee of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Committee (MCMC) and is substantially based on its interaction with all levels of government and the community in the management of natural resources.

We have attempted to order the material in the sequence that the Inquiry has sought, noting that there is some overlap between the terms of reference. We have attempted to identify issues of most relevance to the Inquiry.

Our submission is not necessarily detailed because of the limited resources available to the UMCCC.

## **2. DESCRIPTION OF THE MURRUMBIDGEE CATCHMENT.**

### **2.1 Physical.**

The total area of the greater Murrumbidgee catchment is 72 000 square kilometres which represents 9% of the total area of NSW/ACT and 7% of the Murray-Darling Basin. The Murrumbidgee catchment contributes 42% of the total water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin. The catchment stretches over 600km from east to west, from the southern tablelands and alpine areas in the east to the low rainfall riverine plains in the west. The Murrumbidgee catchment is highly variable in terms of its soils, climate and vegetation patterns. Landuse varies accordingly, to include grazing of sheep and cattle, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, reserves and urban and peri-urban development.

The upper Murrumbidgee catchment - the water catchment above Burrinjuck Dam, is 14 060 square kilometres and includes 2 400 square kilometres of the ACT. The upper Murrumbidgee catchment includes the Australian Capital Territory. A map of the upper Murrumbidgee catchment is at attachment 2.

### **2.2 Demographics.**

The total population of the Murrumbidgee Catchment in 1996 was approximately 530 000. The upper Murrumbidgee catchment population is approximately 379 000 of which 95% are urban residents. Canberra, lying within the ACT, is Australia's largest inland city, and the only major city in Australia located in the headwaters of a catchment.

### **2.3 Economic.**

About 59 000 square kilometres or 82% of the whole Murrumbidgee catchment is used for grazing and agriculture. Over 5 500 farms had a gross output in 1995-1996 of \$1.16 billion. The balance of the catchment is used for conservation reserves, urban areas and native and plantation forestry.

In 1994-1995 there were some 1 150 agricultural enterprises in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment covering 56% of the total land area.

## **2.4 The Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Coordinating Committee (UMCCC).**

### **2.4.1 Aims.**

#### A. Natural Resource Management

- ★ Ensure that the natural resources of the upper catchment of the Murrumbidgee valley are managed on an ecologically sustainable basis;
- ★ Recognise existing land uses and encourage land management practices which will maximise land use benefits and ensure ecologically sustainable development;
- ★ Maximise water quality and optimise quantity to enhance its potential for current and future users.

#### B. Community Awareness

- ★ Promote the implementation of Total Catchment Management (TCM) policies and programs;
- ★ Facilitate education and public awareness of TCM in the community;
- ★ Encourage active public participation in TCM.

#### C. Strategic Objectives

- ★ Identify catchment needs and issues specific to the upper Murrumbidgee catchment and draw these to the attention of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Committee;
- ★ Prepare strategies for ratification by the MCMC and for inclusion in the MCMC's strategic plan;
- ★ Coordinate and assist the community in developing local projects and preparation of submissions for funding;
- ★ Monitor, evaluate and report to the MCMC on the progress and performance of TCM programs;
- ★ Through the MCMC, provide a forum for resolving natural resource conflicts and issues.

### **2.4.2 Membership and Participation.**

The UMCCC membership has been designed to follow the categories and balance set out in the NSW TCM Act, but modified to allow fuller participation by some sectors, particularly local government. Care has been taken to develop a committee of a workable size which adequately represents the diversity of interests across the catchment. Membership is by invitation to nominated organisations who appoint an individual to attend meetings. However all meetings are open and observers are welcome, with particular groups identified as having a particular interest in observer status. Members are encouraged to participate as individual members with particular expertise rather than as representatives of a constituency - in practice a blend of both occurs. The UMCCC meets on average 11 times per year.

The Australian Capital Territory Government and ACT agencies are also represented and are significant players on the UMCCC.

Attachment 1 summarises current UMCCC membership arrangements.

## **3. THE DEVELOPMENT OF CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA.**

This submission does not address the breadth of catchment approaches across the nation. However, it is noted that the Productivity Commission's 1999 report on ecologically sustainable land management, *A Full Repairing Lease*, supports catchment approaches to Natural Resource Management (NRM) and includes a useful discussion on the relative merits of models of catchment management in Australia, commenting that responsibilities are generally relatively limited.

### **3.1 The role and structure of Catchment Management Committees in NSW and MCMC/UMCCC.**

Catchment Management Committees in NSW have been established under the Total Catchment Management Act (1989). The detail of this structure is sufficiently documented as not to require further elaboration here.

The Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Committee was established in 1989/90 as one of the first TCM committees in NSW. It has been a difficult task for a relatively small committee of about 12 - 14 community members and a similar number of agency representatives to adequately address the number and variety of natural resource management (NRM) issues in a catchment as big and complex as the Murrumbidgee.

In the Murrumbidgee this problem has been partly addressed by the establishment of a number of sub-committees and working groups. These sub groups have arisen in an *ad hoc* manner to address particular needs. Consequently they are based on a mix of NRM issues, rural industry issues and subcatchment areas. The UMCCC is the largest sub-committee and the only one to be established on a subcatchment basis. This subcatchment approach has gone some way to modifying a pure catchment-based approach to take some account of demographic and economic "communities of interest". It has also resulted in a geographic area at a scale which appears to suit a strategic catchment approach to NRM planning.

It is considered that in large and diversified catchments the encouragement of sub-committees, analogous to UMCCC, would streamline and strengthen the work of the parent committees. Such an approach would

allow local communities and particularly local government to have closer contact with catchment management, as they develop understanding and ownership of NRM and TCM principles.

The structure of TCM committees in NSW has been compounded by the recent establishment of formal river management committees to advise on allocation and flow issues, and the encouragement for vegetation management committees to establish regional vegetation management plans based on bio-regions. There have also been varying requirements for structures to be established to meet the requirements of the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) for strategy development and the assessment of applications for funding. These requirements have caused public confusion, duplication of effort and reduced the capacity of catchment committees to pursue clear objectives.

It is recommended that the Inquiry consider and identify less complex and more efficient models of TCM and natural resource management which do not tie up the energy and resources of the community and government.

In NSW, there has also been a real resource inequity issue between small and large catchments, with all catchments, irrespective of physical size or population receiving the same support from the NSW government. Thus catchments smaller in size than the upper Murrumbidgee catchment and with a fraction of its population have received support via a full time facilitator and operational funding to the same level as that provided for the whole of the Murrumbidgee catchment.

We recommend that the Inquiry consider better methods of resource allocation, including the merits of systems based on competitive submissions.

### **3.2 Development of Catchment Management in the ACT.**

UMCCC notes the development of Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) in the ACT, and in particular the intention to encourage landcare groups to develop into networks based on water catchments or other appropriate local groupings. While these developments are still in the formative stage they may provide a strengthening of the relationship between landcare and catchment management and provide a framework which enables predominantly urban landcare groups to contribute more strategically to regional NRM.

### **3.3 What's in a name?**

Catchment management in NSW is called Total Catchment Management (TCM). In the ACT and some other states it is called Integrated Catchment Management (ICM). While some may see little consequence in the choice of adjective, others see a clear distinction.

"Total" has geographic connotations emphasising that it is the whole of the catchment and not just the river which is under consideration. "Integrated" is seen to refer to the need for agencies and organisations who come together in a management committee to work together to coordinate their activities.

Meanwhile market research suggests that the broader community is confused and alienated by a complex sounding title and responds negatively to the implications of control in "management".

It would be a constructive public relations exercise if across Australia we could agree on common, acceptable terminology to describe what has proved to be a powerful approach to NRM.

## **4. THE VALUE OF A CATCHMENT APPROACH TO THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.**

The catchment process has been an intuitive and natural way of thinking about natural resources in Australia, partly because of the significance of streamflows in a country where rainfall patterns are irregular, in inland areas relatively low, and rates of evaporation are very high.

In the experience of the UMCCC, the development and application of catchment management in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment has been a positive and practical force in unifying the efforts of the community and government in NRM. TCM has provided a framework for strategic NRM planning, while the community, and especially landcare groups, have provided the means for practical implementation of catchment plans.

The consideration of issues such as salinity, weed control, nitrification, algal infestation of waterways and loss of natural vegetation have underlined the value of planning and coordinating action using a catchment planning framework. Stormwater management, floodplain management, groundwater management and water allocation for both human activity and the environment cannot be addressed in any other sensible way.

This approach has facilitated the ownership of solutions and the definition of boundaries for sharing responsibility for addressing sustainability issues. Catchments, particularly in more hilly country, also reflect transport and settlement patterns suggesting that catchment management approaches are applicable to broader regional planning issues.

Section 5 discusses the critical relationship between the community based landcare movement and catchment management, and notes that the operation of UMCCC and landcare networks has provided an effective integration of community based landcare and catchment management.

We note that the Productivity Commission's 1999 report on ecologically sustainable land management, *A Full Repairing Lease*, found that there was no single model for NRM which could take account of the variety of environmental, social and economic circumstances across Australia. It suggested that local government could have a significant role in NRM but was frequently hampered by structural difficulties including inappropriate boundaries.

## **5. TCM CONTRIBUTION TO MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, AND ACHIEVING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

UMCCC considers that best practice NRM at the strategic level includes:

- ★ integration of efforts by all players such as community based Landcare, Federal, State and local government;
- ★ achieving an effective formal, land- use planning framework in a regional and/or catchment context;
- ★ addressing priorities to best use scarce resources;
- ★ seeking and applying best information; and
- ★ celebrating achievements.

### **5.1. The relationship between landcare and catchment management committees.**

There has been a vigorous debate among sections of the NSW landcare community seeking more direct input to government, and specifically landcare representation on catchment management committees. These calls appear to have been strongest where catchments are very large and the capacity of appointed catchment committees to deal with landcare issues is consequently reduced.

It is notable that the format and structure of the UMCCC appears to have achieved a workable integration of landcare and catchment management. The development of Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan (MCAP) [see 5.4] with a specific sections for upper, mid and lower subcatchments has provided a comprehensive planning framework for the on-ground activity of landcare groups.

The link between planning and implementation is strengthened by UMCCC providing a regular forum and attendant networks which facilitates regular communication between key catchment and landcare participants. In this way costly duplication of effort between landcare and catchment communities has been minimised. The integration of urban (very significant in this catchment) and rural landcare is being achieved.

A related point is that across Australia there appears to be a need to rationalise the understandings conveyed by "landcare". In *Landcare in Australia* the authors from Victoria and WA seem to count rural landcare groups as separate from "urban conservation groups" and "community associations engaged in practical Coast Action/Coastcare projects". In the upper Murrumbidgee catchment these different types of groups would all be regarded as landcare groups.

Similar confusion appears in various policy forums, arising possibly from a lack of comprehensive national data on the number, composition and focus of "landcare or equivalent" groups. The tendency of state and federal funding bodies to develop specific "care" and "watch" programs (coastcare, rivercare, waterwatch) as subsets of the landcare genre has added to the confusion. Certainly all community groups which

undertake practical action to address NRM issues can be eligible to access NHT funds, whether they are urban or rural groups, or working on private or public land.

The cause of both landcare and TCM would be advanced by developing national data on landcare activity, leading to a common vocabulary to effectively describe participants in practical NRM issues.

The confusion is reflected in TCM where there is an ongoing debate about the balance of representation on TCM committees. In substantially rural catchments farming and farmers have a major role and responsibility in both landcare and TCM. By contrast the upper catchment demographics underscore the reality that there is a range of land managers who contribute to the management of the catchment. Similar scenarios exist for many other catchments, particularly those in coastal areas. In heavily urbanised catchments with consequent impacts on water quality and biodiversity, urban catchment/landcare groups must be able to contribute to TCM in positive ways. Flexible criteria for the membership of catchment committees would enable diverse land management arrangements to be more accurately reflected in committee composition.

## **5.2. The Relationship between Local Government and Catchment management committees.**

While local government has become increasingly involved in TCM and NRM, there are impediments to effective involvement, notably the historically arbitrary drawing of local government boundaries. The UMCCC supports and has advocated the position that local government boundaries should, where possible, coincide with catchment and bio-region boundaries. It regrets that the current reviews in NSW of both local government and catchment management do not appear to be actively considering such an approach.

Realignment of local government boundaries to reflect key NRM issues could have the potential to position local government as a key player in NRM issues. Overlaps between local government and catchment management committees could be minimised, and the resource constraints endured by catchment committees could be overcome through local government capacity to raise environmental levies.

The UMCCC recently expressed its position in relation to the role of the (NSW) State Government to facilitate sustainable management of natural resources, in the following resolution:

*“The UMCCC strongly supports amendments to relevant planning, local government and environment management legislation in order to establish a common legislative framework to support natural resource management activities and opportunities of local governments, catchment management committees and other organisations with responsibilities in this area”.*

## **5.3. Regional Environmental Planning.**

The Productivity Commission's 1999 report on ecologically sustainable land management, *A Full Repairing Lease*, found that there is growing support for regional environmental strategies, and that local government has a fundamental role to play in this process. This may be through organising councils into groupings or where appropriate, amalgamate or amend boundaries. Expansion of the role of local government in NRM will depend on the clarification of relative roles of levels of government, landcare and catchment organisations.

In the Australian Capital Region, (overlapping the upper Murrumbidgee catchment) the ACT government and local government have combined resources to develop a Regional State of the Environment Report, with a strong catchment theme. The report has been produced in a user friendly CD ROM and will be updated on a regular basis.

## **5.4. Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan for Natural Resource Management (MCAP).**

The development of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan for Natural Resource Management (MCAP) by the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Committee formally commenced in 1996, although preliminary studies were undertaken in 1995. The final report was released in 1998. The MCAP, together with the regional Strategy, has become a key, integrative document for community groups and government agencies tackling NRM issues. MCAP has the capacity to direct scarce resources to address NRM issues and provides guidelines and information to develop plans and projects at the finer level. Importantly,

MCAP identifies priority issues, and options to facilitate value for money projects. A communication process is continuing to promote the MCAP to the community and local government.

## 5.5. Best Information.

The UMCCC has supported numerous information dissemination opportunities including publications, workshops and field inspections to support the development and implementation of MCAP. A growing number of research articles and management plans have been developed directly out of the UMCCC or with UMCCC support. These include:

- *Collation of technical knowledge for the upper Murrumbidgee catchment* ("Soil Erosion, Phosphorus and Dryland Salinity in the Upper Murrumbidgee: Past Changes and Current Findings" 1999)
- Development of the *Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Willow Management Strategy 1998*
- *Bredbo and the Bidgee*, Management Strategies for the Murrumbidgee River and its tributaries in the Bredbo District: Bredbo Community Landcare Group Inc.
- Queanbeyan River Corridor Management Plan.

The role of the UMCCC has become increasingly complex in recent years, drawing upon a commensurate increase in the time and resources of its members. A sample of activities which all seek to gather and/or disseminate information include:

### A. Workshops:

- ★ 'What the Community Wants', (1995) and subsequent series of community workshops preparatory to the development of MCAP.
- ★ '*Landscapes of the Future. Past Changes, Future Visions*' July 10 and July 13 1997
- ★ Fuji Zerox "*Landcare Means Business*" Forum
- ★ Black Willow and invasive willow identification days.

### B. Forums for discussion of issues dealing with sustainable agriculture, water reforms, regional development, Landcare structure, land-use planning issues such as rural residential development and dryland salinity.

- ★ As an example, the UMCCC has provided leadership in relation to the serious impediments to the control of serrated tussock, contributing to the declaration of serrated tussock as a Weed of National Significance.
- ★ The UMCCC regularly passes information, community feedback and advice to local, State and Federal government on a wide range of topical issues, in response to member requests.

### C. Regular, recognised forum for presentations by experts and scientists and community leaders on a variety of TCM/NRM issues.

- ★ for example presentations on State of the Environment Reporting, Dryland Salinity, Serrated Tussock management, native fish studies, Impacts and implications of Farm Dams on Catchment Yield etc.

### D. Effective forum over the years for the coordination of local funding

- ★ Landcare, Drought landcare Program and NHT applications and contribution to the regional assessment of applications process.

### E. Participation in public Inquiries.

- ★ Research and presentation of two submissions to the Snowy Water Inquiry in 1998.
- ★ Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry on National Competition Policy.
- ★ Contribution to public consultations relating to NSW environmental reform agenda.

### F. Survey of members in relation to issues, and reviewing the operation and role of the Committee.

- ★ This survey suggests that the capacity of UMCCC to provide accessible accurate and up-to-date information and networking is one of the main benefits of membership.

This level of activity reflects a desire among both community and agency members for a forum to assist with information flow, networking and coordination, and advocacy. We believe that the value of the forum has been demonstrated, and recommend that adequate resources be provided to allow similar effective organisations to continue their work.

## **6. THE ROLE OF DIFFERENT LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN TCM.**

### **6.1 Local Government involvement.**

All six local governments and the ACT are regular and active participants in and supporters of UMCCC. Local government appears to value the structure as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, as a means to overcome professional isolation, and as a body able to present independent and considered views on NRM to government.

This situation is in contrast to the parent committee of the whole Murrumbidgee catchment where (under the provisions of the TCM Act) there are 3 local government representatives but some 32 local government areas. Under such an arrangement the formally appointed catchment committee cannot meet local government needs in the way that a subcommittee covering a smaller area can.

Financial support by local government to UMCCC is increasing. Since its inception in 1992, Councils have provided UMCCC with monthly meeting venues at no cost. More recently the ACT Government through the Department of Urban Services, Environment ACT, have provided matching funding for a NHT grant to support a part time facilitator, with a contribution also coming from the Queanbeyan City Council.

Recent moves to encourage rationalisation and/or amalgamation of local government areas and operations have seen some councils support the realignment of local government boundaries to more closely match catchment boundaries. It remains to be seen how this issue will be resolved.

### **6.2 State and Commonwealth Government Involvement.**

States have direct responsibility for land use planning and environmental protection, both of which are effectively implemented through a TCM framework. While the implementation of TCM has made encouraging progress it requires a measure of certainty and better resourcing if it is to achieve its full potential.

The Commonwealth Government has a critical role in providing leadership, including for TCM. This must include providing long term certainty in national funding initiatives, and undertaking an urgent review and modification to the tax system to encourage more sustainable land use planning.

The tension between TCM and landcare is seen in some quarters as tension between state (TCM) and commonwealth (landcare) initiatives. Given the strongly complementary nature of these two approaches, leadership from both levels of government to reconcile these (implied) differences would have considerable impact at the grassroots level through reduced duplication and more effective use of funds.

## **7. IMPLEMENTATION OF CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT.**

### **7.1 Planning.**

The development of the Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan for Natural Resource Management (MCAP) formally commenced in 1996, although preliminary studies were undertaken in 1995. The final report was released in 1998. The MCAP, together with the regional Strategy, has become a key document for community groups and government agencies directing scarce resources to address NRM issues. Further discussion is in 5.4.

It is anticipated that MCAP will:

- ★ strengthen group confidence in developing project proposals, through a better understanding of the planning context and knowing plans are aligned;
- ★ promote greater coordination of actions, by addressing prioritised issues; and
- ★ enable community groups to consider the broad context and long term investment dimensions of their projects, consideration of all available options, appropriateness of management proposals and the demonstration values of the projects.



The MCAP includes detailed Action Tables, which importantly incorporate monitoring requirements and the design leads groups to think strategically and to constantly re-evaluate their thinking.

While it has been agreed that MCAP would be reviewed at regular intervals, a key issue is how such reviews will be resourced. The work required is clearly beyond the capacity of community volunteers, or existing staff, given the need for research and development, wide consultation, incorporation of economic data, and the printing and distribution of updated material.

A listing of issues relevant to the catchment, which have emerged in the 12 months since the release of MCAP highlights the magnitude of the review task: the national salinity report, wool industry report, Frenock availability, WONS, Snowy Water inquiry, reviews of TCM, local Government restructuring, national NRM strategy.

The Federal Government through its departments responsible for the NHT have rightly placed a heavy emphasis on the need for regional NRM planning. It must now be recognised that the initial investment of public funds into the development of plans like MCAP will only be fully realised if further resources are available to ensure that plans are regularly and fully updated.

## **7.2 Financial support, and resourcing.**

Apart from funds to support a part time facilitator the UMCCC has operated in an entirely voluntary capacity. Members receive no sitting fees or reimbursement of costs, despite the considerable time and travel contributed by most members, especially community members. Such altruism has brought a high level of respect for individual members and the committee generally. The committee can claim to make recommendations without undue influence. Nevertheless the number and range of issues it can consider are limited by the members and facilitators time and resources.

## **7.3 Impacts on members.**

Members put a lot of time into attending monthly UMCCC meetings, networking with their local constituencies, in working groups, representing the committee at local and regional forums, developing submissions and participating in workshops, bus tours and speaking commitments. A particularly heavy commitment is required of the Chair. In the absence of any financial support for these activities the cost and time constraints may limit those who are able to participate, and throw a disproportionately heavy load on those who do. Nevertheless there is still a perception in some sectors of the wider community that members are paid for their efforts. The equity of the existing situation must be questioned given the expectations placed on the committee without compensating or supporting resources.

## **7.4 Sustainable Regional Development.**

The sustainable management of natural resources is now recognised as a major contributor to regional development. There is an emerging awareness that sustainable regional development must integrate NRM with social and economic development.

That NRM is undertaken through a planning framework based on water catchments, while social and economic planning use different base areas pose some difficulties. For example data sets, where available, are seldom directly compatible. The development of an economic analysis component of MCAP was limited by lack of data, differing bases for comparison of data and lack of appropriate expertise.

Moreover the concepts and technical basis of environmental, economic and social planning are not shared by all TCM practitioners. While some linkages exist through committed individuals they are constrained by limited resources. In practice catchment committees require better access to expertise in the economic and social spheres, while economic and social planners require better access to NRM information.

Local government is a logical point at which these issues could converge and it attempts to participate in all of these areas but with very limited resources. Better defined, formalised and resourced partnerships between local government, catchment management and regional development organisations could overcome some of the present limitations.

Regional development and catchment management could develop as the formal advisory mechanisms to local government on integrated and sustainable development of natural resources. Current examples of this need are emerging eg through the MDBC report on salinity, the McLachlan report on the wool industry,

and the listing of weeds of national significance where an integrated approach will be required to achieve satisfactory outcomes.

## **6. MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REPORTING.**

### **6.1 State of the Environment Reporting.**

While State of Environment reports provide information for environmental planning and action, their direct relevance can be restricted by the same problems inflicted by the historical drawing of local government boundaries. This has been addressed in the Australian Capital Region, (overlapping the upper Murrumbidgee catchment) where a Regional State of the Environment Report which has been produced.

The Local Government Associations of NSW have supported the concept of regional reporting, but have raised the issue of duplication with other levels of SOE reporting, such as State of Catchment Reports in NSW.

### **6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation.**

Community based organisations are hampered by a lack of resources to undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation. This is compounded by a plethora of indicators, evaluation criteria and monitoring requirements of funding bodies. The long lead times of NRM projects before conclusive outcomes can be demonstrated also poses a real problem for community evaluation. Leadership from both state and commonwealth agencies to simplify, coordinate and communicate effective approaches is urgently required.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### MEMBERSHIP OF UPPER MURRUMBIDGEE CATCHMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

- ★ 3 MCMC members residing in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment
- ★ 6 Local Government representatives- Yarrowlumla, Queanbeyan, Cooma-Monaro, Yass, Gunning, Snowy River Councils
- ★ 3 Community & Landcare groups
- ★ 4 NSW Government Departments - DLWC, EPA, NSW Agriculture, NPWS
- ★ 2 ACT Government
- ★ 1 National Capital Authority
- ★ 2 Conservation interests
- ★ 2 Farmer Groups
- ★ 2 Service providers & Utilities
- ★ 1 Aboriginal Community
- ★ 1 Business Community

Membership to be reviewed every 2 years.

#### **Members responsibilities:**

- ★ Ensure communications with their respective constituencies including forwarding of copies of minutes or extracts of minutes as necessary.
- ★ Present views of their constituencies at UMCCC meetings.
- ★ Members have the right to send a delegate (who shall not have the right to vote) if they are unable to attend meetings. It is the members responsibility to brief their delegate, and to advise the Facilitator or Chair of the delegate's attendance.

#### **Chair and Deputy Chair**

- ★ To be declared vacant every year.
- ★ To be elected from among the community members, by members present on the day, using first past the post voting. Where there is no member available to serve as Chair, a suitably qualified community-based person may be co-opted, provided such person has a good understanding of catchment management and is supported by a majority of members.
- ★ To hold a deliberative vote only.

#### **Meetings**

- ★ Catchment coordinators attend meetings in their staff capacity.
- ★ Minutes will record attendances of members and observers separately;
- ★ Minutes to be sent to members only (who may pass them on if they consider it desirable).
- ★ Observers to be sent a briefer meeting report or other communication as recommended by the communications working group;
- ★ Observers may be invited to attend and speak on specific issues where they have an interest.

*ATTACHMENT 2*

**MAP OF UPPER MURRUMBIDGEE CATCHMENT**

## References

*Murrumbidgee Catchment Action Plan* : Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Committee 1998

*Murrumbidgee Catchment Regional Strategy 1999/02* : Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Committee

*Towards a Strategy Plan for the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment* : UMCCC 1996

*A Full Repairing Lease* : Productivity Commission 1999

*Landcare in Australia* : S. Marriott, T. Nabben, L. Polkinghorne, R. Youl. Landcare Australia 1999.

*Role for Local Government in Natural Resource Management* - NSW Local Government Association Discussion Paper.