

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STAGE 3**

### ***9.1 Technical, Social and Economic Analysis***

**9.1.1 Identify economic and social impacts, and summarise physical impacts (previously identified) of degradation**

**9.1.2 Determine current rates of change of management practices ie. without a plan / incentives**

**9.1.3 Evaluate Interim Plan ie BMOs - landuse percentages and management practices**

#### **9.1.3.1 Technical Evaluation**

Determine the expected positive and negative impacts due to degrading processes, and the rates of change resulting from proposed changes in landuse and management. eg. salinisation – to what degree will the proposals address rising water tables and over what length of time? This would include assessment of both on-site and off-site environmental aspects eg biodiversity, Macquarie Marshes, downstream irrigation, as well as changes within the Little River catchment.

The impacts of the proposed options on the rates of degradation need to be estimated in order to undertake economic analysis.

#### **9.1.3.2 Economic**

An economic evaluation needs to

- consider requirements of prospective funding bodies
- allocate resources efficiently
- assist the planning process
- show whether the benefits of a project exceed its costs
- determine which options have the highest benefits
- determine which option is the most cost effective if the project benefits are similar.

Undertake economic analysis, which assesses

- the costs of proposed changes,
- differences between current income and income under the proposed landuses,
- benefits of the proposed changes and
- the costs associated with "doing nothing".

A detailed analysis of the proposed changes in the five Land Management Units where the most change is required (which cover 72% of catchment) should be undertaken for the priority BMOs.

The priority LMUs (and the areal extent within the catchment) are as follows:

- Red Brown Earths (23%)
- Non Calcic Brown Soils (22%)
- Siliceous Sands (17%)
- Red Podzolics (9%)
- Riparian (1%)

### **9.1.3.3 Social Analysis**

Assess potential impacts on population movement, opportunities for employment, need for new skills, need for rural readjustment, property amalgamation etc. There may be some additional economic costs to be brought to account subject to these outcomes.

### **9.1.3.4 Impediments**

Identify institutional arrangements that may lead to degradation or overuse of the land and water resource, or impede change, including compatibility of this plan with current government regulation and policy.

### **9.1.3.5 Cost sharing arrangements**

Assess the proportion of private benefit v public benefit of the proposals. Determine incentives required to implement change. Investigate options for cost sharing eg. polluter pays, user pays, beneficiary pays / compensates using MDBC guidelines.

## **9.1.2 Institutional Arrangements**

Make recommendations as to the most effective means of administering the plan, and LRLG's relationship with other organisations in the region involved in Natural Resource Management.

- Relationship to and integration with other planning organisations within Wellington-Dubbo- Cabonne area eg. local government, WDLM etc.
- Options for involvement with DUAP, and statutory planning regulations
- Relationship with CWCMB and other water and vegetation reforms
- Alignment with agencies
- Look at administration options and corporate governance issues

Undertake a "sign off process" where other groups with an interest in the region support the plan.

## **9.1.3 Revise Action Plan**

The Interim Plan may need to be reworked in light of the technical, economic and social analysis undertaken in Stage 3. If current options are inadequate to address the issues, or are uneconomic to implement, then the plan may need to investigate *alternative land use options* - both agricultural and non agricultural. If this was necessary, further consultation may be required.

## **9.1.4 Implementation Plan**

Produce schedules of annual costs to implement the plan, time frames for delivery, levels of incentive payments needed, and how the action plan will be delivered and administered.

Identify potential regional development programs and other funding sources to assist with investment for the plan and associated development of infrastructure from state and federal government, plus private investors.

### **9.1.5 Reporting**

- Produce a short report which covers all three stages of the Catchment Action Plan for general distribution
- Produce and promote a detailed report for distribution to funding bodies, agencies, local government and other potential investors
- Develop an Investment prospectus for investors eg agribusiness, banks, sponsorship
- Revise and action communications plan

### ***9.2 Additional Information Required***

The following additional activities are recommended to be undertaken as part of Stage 3, or through some alternative process. Without these additional data sources, there will be inadequate benchmarks to monitor the progress of the Plan.

#### **Social and Economic Profile and Current Management Practices of the Region**

1. Collate and analyse data on existing management practices (in order to assess level of change required in management practices (BMOs) as well as landuse eg direct drill v conventional, annual v perennial pastures)
2. Update landuse figures (possibly from satellite imagery)
3. Collate data on current income, cash flow and debt levels etc of landholders in different industries / enterprises (assess capacity of landholders to pay for change)
4. Social / demographic data for region