

Managing Carp and the Native Fish Strategy

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Research and national policies and strategies

- Good understanding of carp biology**
- Management techniques identified and developed**
- Principles and Strategies for managing carp included in BRS Carp guide**
- But how is this knowledge and information applied at the local level?**

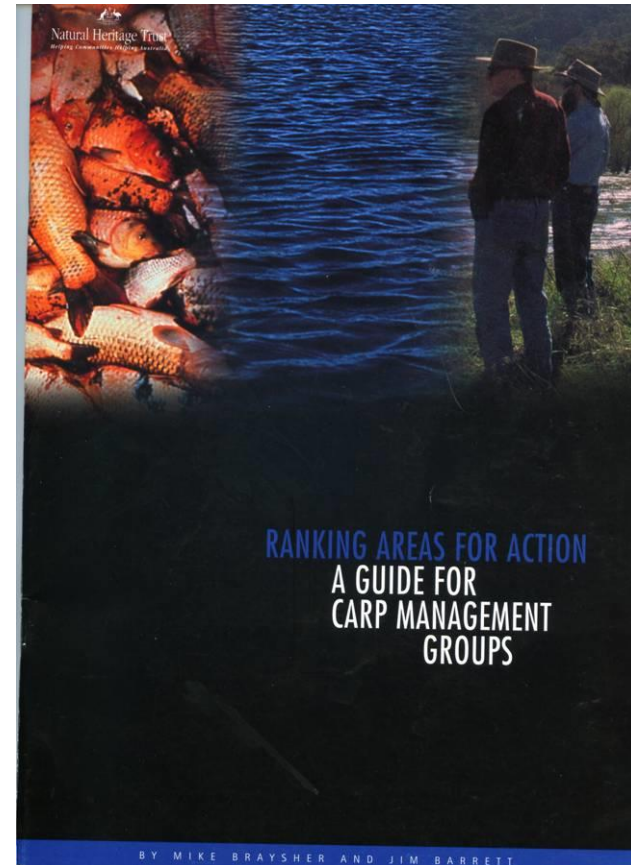
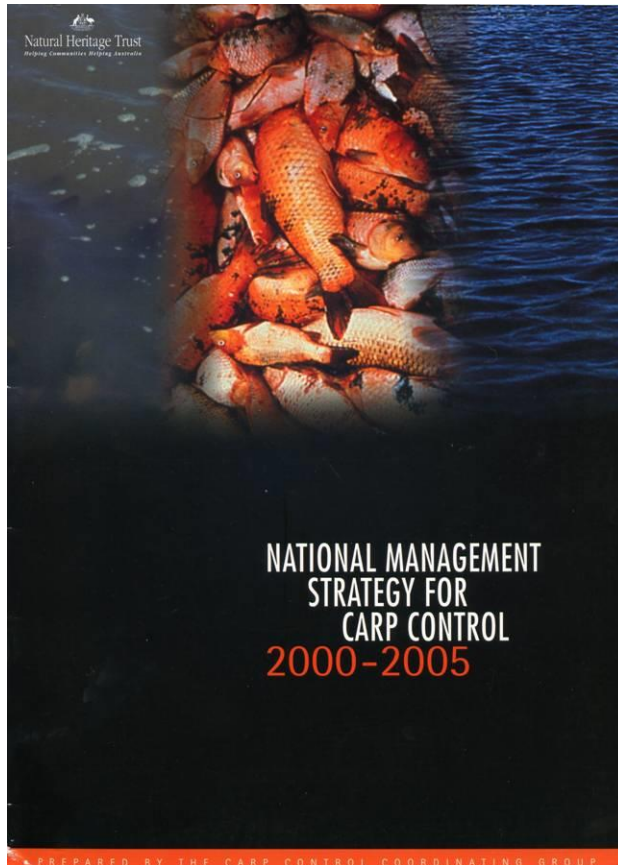
Stakeholders in pest fish management



Actions Required for Recovery of Native Fish



National Carp Strategy and Guide



Guide for management groups

- **Step by step guide**
 - lead local pest management groups through process
- **Based on:**
 - principles for pest animal management
 - recognise that carp are one element
 - focus on damage – what want to achieve
 - eradication usually not practicable
 - containment, sustained action or no management are the options

Guide is a tool

The process is merely a tool to assist managers:

- it asks a structured series of questions and issues to be considered about pests and the problems that they cause;**
- it assumes that pests are but one of several factors that need to be considered by managers to achieve the desired outcomes for an area.**

**Carp and their management was
used as a hook to bring participants
to the discussion table**

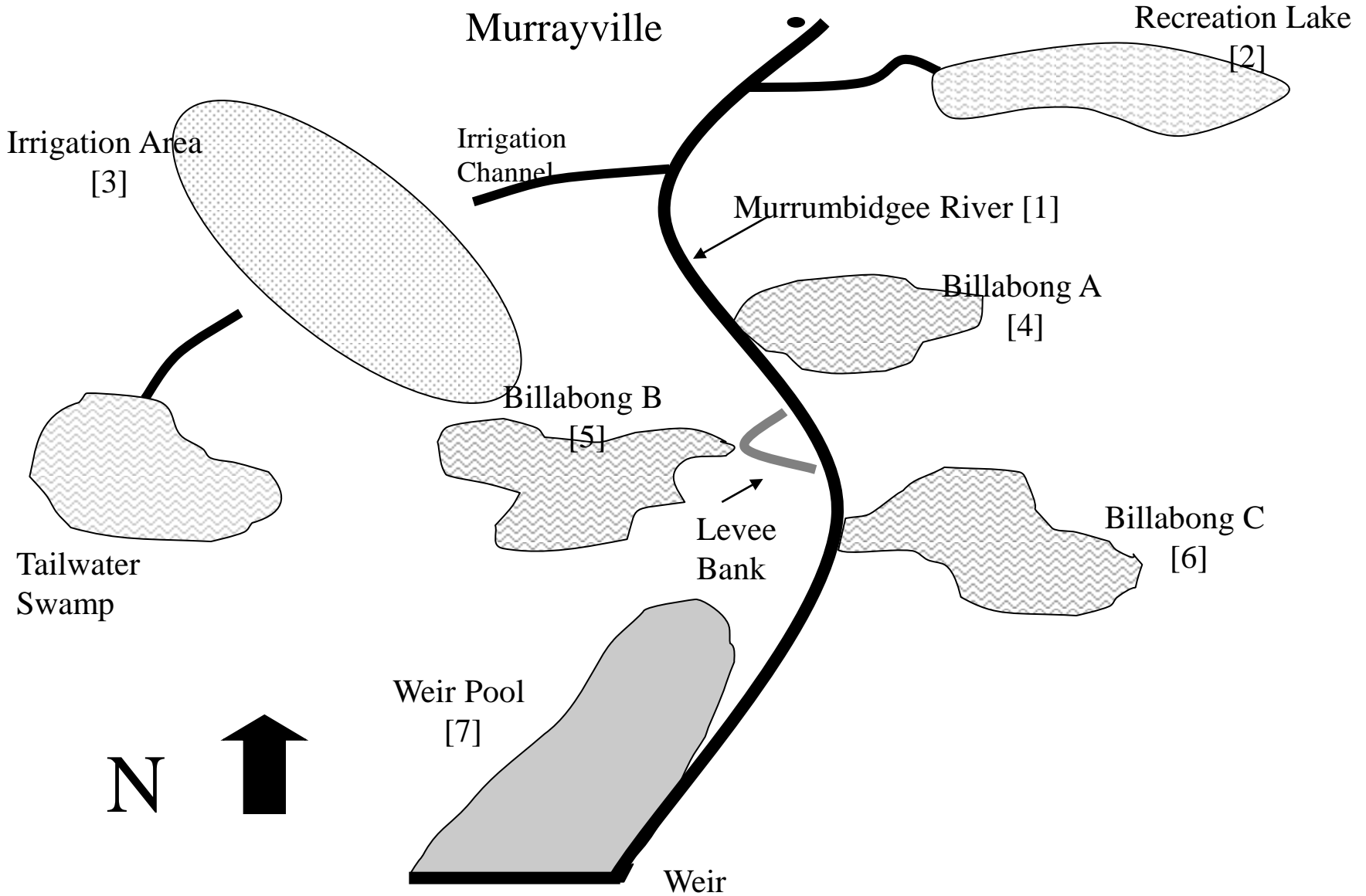
Process

- **Areas within the MDB identified through consultation with key players.**
- **Looked for areas where there was a passion for action**
 - **Had a core group that were willing to drive the process and undertake pre-planning**
 - **Good background information available.**
- **Used a facilitated workshop to develop basis of plan**

Clear management outcome

- **Need to be clear about desired outcome**
 - **Restore native fish**
 - **Improve recreational fishing**
 - **Water quality**
 - **Don't like carp/pest fish**
- **Outcome will shape strategy**
 - **Rocklands example**

Hypothetical Case Study - A Section of the Murrumbidgee River



Reality check

- *Is management technically feasible?*
- *Will the available management techniques work?*
- *Is it economically desirable?*
- *Is it environmentally acceptable?*
- *Is it politically acceptable?*
- *Is it socially acceptable?*

Reality Check

- *Economic factors*
 - **Will sufficient resources always be available for essential follow-up & ongoing maintenance?**
- *Political factors*
- **Is the proposed action consistent with:**
 - **local landcare or catchment group priorities and issues?**
- *Social factors*
- **Is there:**
 - **local enthusiasm and ownership by management?**
 - **commitment to long-term follow-up and maintenance?**
 - **the required neighbour cooperation/support?**
 - **What if a key person leaves?**

Five Workshops

- **Lachlan River**
- **Barham (Murray River)**
- **Moama (Murray River)**
- **Renmark (Murray River)**
- **Logan Albert (Queensland)**

Lessons

- **Pre-planning is essential**
 - Don't start until group is ready - may take long time
- **Where can, build on existing groups and work**
 - Landcare, salinity, weed control
- **Ensure key players are involved**
 - Decision makers
 - Those controlling purse strings
 - Strong critics as well as supporters
- **Facilitator can be crucial**

Lessons cont'd

- **Avoid generating false expectations**
- **Most people 'workshopped out'. Poor planning risks losing key players.**
- **Core group needs to understand the problem and all associated issues and have sufficient commitment to bring others on board.**

Lessons cont'd

- **Start with bite-sized chunks**
 - Don't spread resources too thinly – consolidate and then progress
- **Include a coordinator for the project**
 - Tasks slip if just an add on to usual job
- **Consider succession – individuals leave!**
- **Provide regular and open feedback**
 - During planning and implementation
 - On results and success.
- **Celebrate successes**

Opportunities

- **With NFS and River Rehabilitation Program can set carp guide within broader context**
 - Separate background from worksheets
- **New \$ and planning arrangements under NHT for Natural Resource Management Areas**
 - Incorporate into NRM blueprints
 - Development of local plans
 - Better chance of \$ for implementation
- **Design programs as adaptive management experiments**
 - to test management and techniques.

FOREFRONT

- **MDBC is a world leader in**
 - **Their approach to restoration of native freshwater fish**
 - **Management of the damage due to pest fish**

Essential to develop local ownership and commitment to action

Without a local group that is willing to take on the responsibility for developing and implementing the program, success is unlikely.

Coordinated group approach

- **Encourages group ownership**
- **More effective use of resources**
- **Action over a wider area**
- **Helps with underlying conflicts**
- **Encourages reluctant players**
- **Promotes awareness and interest in the issue**