

Basin 3: Ovens River Basin

In the 2007/08 period seven WAP's will be implemented in the Ovens Basin. The Reedy and the Fifteen Mile Creeks enter the Ovens near the Heritage section. Both creeks had geomorphic studies carried out in the 2004/05 period in response to a report carried out by Dr. Wayne Erskine in 1994 which determined that the greatest risk to the Lower Ovens was the sediment load from both of these systems.

1. Fifteen Mile Creek Waterway Action Plan – The development of the Fifteen Mile creek plan has been completed and on-ground works have commenced. Sediment load assessments for extraction have been completed. Six landholders will participate in WAP implementation in 2007/08, whilst consolidating revegetation sites from previous years affected by drought. Works will include fencing and revegetation, sand extraction, exotic weed and willow control.

2. Reedy Creek Waterway Action Plan - In 2005 a Waterway Action Plan was developed in conjunction with the Reedy Creek communities to create a master plan for how the creeks were to be managed over time. The Reedy Creek has a completed plan and on-ground works have commenced. This year, works will include exotic vegetation control and revegetation. Successful sediment extraction has occurred within the Byawatha reach and it is anticipated that major sediment extraction in the lower reaches will occur in the future. Currently eight landholders are participating in this project and it is estimated that twenty landholders will be involved in this WAP in 2007/08.

3. Wangaratta Urban Waterway Action Plan - The aim of this WAP is to maintain and improve good native vegetation, control exotic vegetation, regeneration and revegetation of native species along the Wangaratta urban creeks. This WAP is being implemented in conjunction with the Rural City of Wangaratta. The North East CMA will undertake works such as:

- Maintenance of floodways.
- Phragmites australis control.
- Weed control in Wareena Wetland

4. King River Management Project - This is the third year of this project. The aim of this project is to remove willow species from the upper reaches of the King River. Approximately six landholders will participate in large-scale willow removal and revegetation works. Works will again focus on the area above Lake William Hovell (this area has been damaged by bushfire in the previous twelve months).

5. King River/Cropper Creek and Ovens River/Deep Creek Avulsion - This is the third year of this project. This project is being implemented on the King River/Croppers Creek and Deep Creek/Ovens River. The objective of the project is to manage instabilities (cultivation, willow, sediment accumulation and erosion) to reduce the potential risk of avulsions and breakaways. Five landholders will be participating in works near the Snow Road at Oxley. Four landholders are involved in this year's program along Deep Creek.

6. Happy Valley Creek Maintenance -This is the third year of this project. This project is being implemented on the Happy Valley Creek, south-east of Myrtleford. The aims of the project are to manage:

- Sediment accumulation.
- Willow removal.
- Bank erosion.

These actions will reduce the potential of avulsions and breakaways. Four landholders will be participating in this project. With fencing and revegetation consolidated from previous years.

7. Ovens River Black Willow Management Plan - This is the fourth year of this project. The objective of this project is to eradicate seeding willow (*Salix nigra*) from the mid Ovens River between Everton and Tarrawingee. Willow regrowth will be managed to increase the occurrence of remnant native species, significant flora and structural intactness. These actions will also reduce the impact of exotic flora on endangered EVC's. In 2007/08 four landholders have signed agreements and up to twenty landholders will be involved in this project, with follow-up spraying on willows from previous sites.