

**DRAFT 3.0**  
**Donald Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan**  
**(NEIP)**

**1.BACKGROUND & PREAMBLE**

*Taken from the original proposal and is still current.*

The neighbourhood for the Donald NEIP is located on the lower Richardson River between the Rich-Avon Weir and Lake Buloke – the river’s terminal lake- and has a population of around 1200.

It centres on the township of Donald and lies within the Avon-Richardson catchment in one of the most severe salinity-affected areas in North Central Victoria.

There are real and immediate threats to the town’s environmental assets and to its economic and social well-being.

With respect to the natural assets, the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) recognises that these assets are potentially depreciating in value.

This recognition has been matched within the community by a general and increasing concern about the declining health of the Richardson River. Increased salinity, odour, loss of biodiversity, low stream-flows, loss of amenity and Donald’s ability to attract new businesses and residents are some of the issues that underlie this concern.

Approaches to the Buloke Shire Council, and various agencies such as the North Central CMA, former Avon-Richardson Implementation Committee and Department Of Primary Industries (DPI), have generated a number of studies, reports and recommendation that provide a wealth of valuable information but which have not yet been brought together under a single frame of reference.

This has made it difficult to establish a clear, common purpose and has resulted in some mixed messages being sent to the community on what is best management practice for the river.

Earlier in 2003, the North Central CMA, in response to community pressure over odour, carried out some trial silt removal works along a short stretch of the river within the Donald township boundaries. This was an expensive exercise where the North Central CMA and the community identified long-term benefits as uncertain.

The need to do something really constructive and sustainable remained.

In February 2003, the North Central CMA suggested that information from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) about developing a Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan (NEIP) should be put before the Donald community.

Through the auspices of the Donald and District Landcare Group, Donald 2000 Incorporated and the Buloke Shire Council, a public meeting was called to determine community consensus, and to bring together and integrate the work that had been done to date.

There was unanimous support to develop the proposal – the open, public and participatory process required as part of a NEIP, and the statutory recognition that bound partners to the extent of their commitment, making the concept attractive.

At the meeting, the Buloke Shire Council agreed to be the sponsoring organization for the Donald NEIP and lead the community through the formal stages of developing the proposal and plan.

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### 3.NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF SPONSOR

**Sponsor:**

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### 4.NAMES OF PARTNERS (INDIVIDUALS, ORGANISATIONS, POSITIONS/ROLES)

**Table 1**

Organisation	Individual	Role
Buloke and Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Kevin Spence	Coordinator
Buloke Bio-Link	Rob O'Shannessy	Project officer
Buloke Shire Council	Graeme Harris	Economic Development officer
Central Murray Regional Waste Management	Karen Fazzani	Executive Officer
Community Resource Centre	Peter Vallance	
Dept Primary Industries	Lindsay Ezard	
Dept Sustainability & Environment		
Donald & District Landcare / Donald Natural History Group	Ron Falla	Member
Donald & District Landcare Group	David Falla	Member
Donald & District Landcare Group	Ann Dunstan	Secretary
Donald 2000 Inc	Tony Phillips	Chairman
Donald Angling Club	Ray Walker	Chairman
Donald Archives	Lil Kirk	

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Role</b>
Donald chamber of Commerce	Joan Hardingham	President
Donald Community Centre	Peter Vallance	
Donald Golf Club	Robert Burton	
Donald High School	Ron Corrie	Principal
Donald Lions Club	Bob Robertson	Chairman
Donald Natural History Group	Ian Pendlebury	Chairman
Donald Primary School	Danny Forrest	Headmaster
Donald Recreation Reserve Committee	Andy Griffiths	Chairman
EPA		Regional Community Relations
EPA		Statewide Coordinator NEIP
GWM Water	John Martin	
Land Care	Leo Tellefson	Chairman
North Central CMA		Catchment Manager
North Central CMA	Darren Perry	Indigenous Facilitator
Northern Grampians Shire		CEO
South West Cultural Heritage Program	Alan Burns	Cultural Officer
St.Mary's Primary School	Les Butler	Principal
VR Fish	Robert Loats	
Waterwatch	Melanie Barrot	Waterwatch Facilitator

## **5.WHAT IS A NEIP?**

“Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan”

A NEIP will help communities to work together to enhance their environment and move forward to a sustainable neighbourhood.

A NEIP can be broad reaching and adaptable to a range of environmental issues that a community can face. While the plan in Donald’s case will naturally have a focus on the Richardson River it does not have to be restricted to that area. They are designed to build on and support other efforts to protect our environment to achieve sustainability.

This plan is endorsed by its sponsor Buloke Shire Council and approved by the EPA for Gazettal by the Victorian Government. The Plan requires responsible authorities within the meaning of the planning and Environment Act 1987 to have regard to the Donald NEIP when exercising their powers, functions and duties in relation to the segment of the environment to which this plan relates.

## **6.A DEFINITION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**

*Taken from the original proposal and is still current.*

### **Physical definition**

The physical neighbourhood is defined as the Richardson River and adjacent floodplain identified by the North Central Catchment Management Authority as Management unit 10 - Lower Richardson River (Avon Weir to Lake Buloke) River Reach 43.

The river in this section flows in a generally northerly direction from the Avon Weir operated by GWM Water (commonly referred to as Guthrie's Weir) to Lake Buloke, meandering through partially cleared farmland until the outskirts of Donald.

Passing the Donald Waste Water Treatment Plant, the Donald Golf Course and Myers Island, it then flows through the western section of the township, past a picnic area, Sealy's Island and the Donald Agricultural Grounds. It then continues to meander within 1 km to the west of the Borung Highway before draining into Lake Buloke.

### **Social definition**

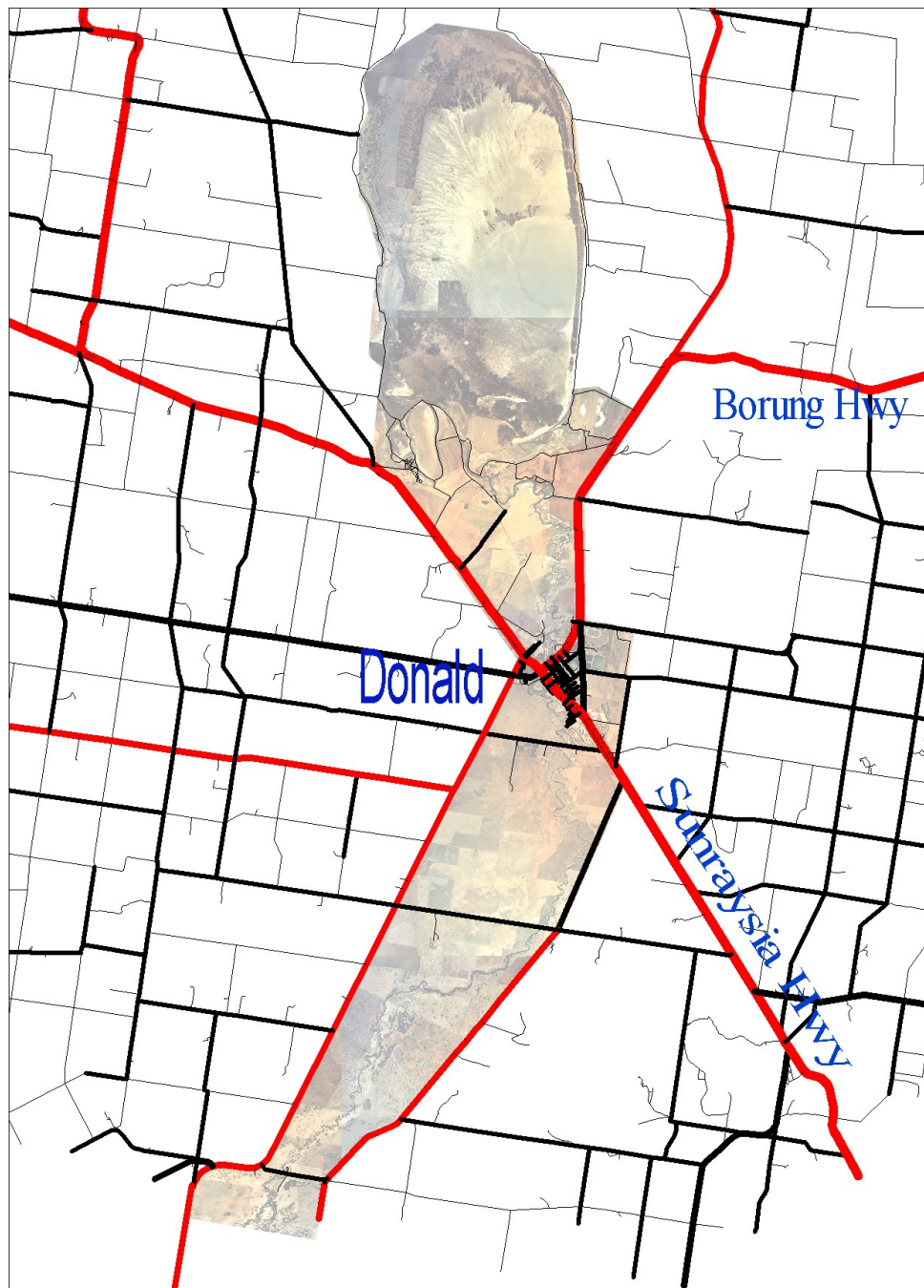
The makeup of this neighbourhood community will be anyone that lives, works, and plays or is responsible for regulation or management of areas within the boundaries of this geographical neighbourhood.

Some members of this community for Donald may include people who live outside the physical neighbourhood.

The Indigenous people who traditionally occupied the area were known as members of the Jardwadjali tribe.

The area was first settled by Europeans in the 1840s - with the gold rushes of the 1850's, the selections of the 1870's and the development of the Wimmera-Mallee Stock and Domestic Supply System bringing many more people to the area.

Major agricultural activities include cropping (cereals, oilseeds and legumes) and grazing (mainly sheep). Donald Township supports a small manufacturing and service base whose development is strongly supported by the Buloke Shire.



Map 1 - Map showing the Donald NEIP area as a satellite image.

## 7.WHY WE ARE UNDERTAKING A NEIP

After an extended and exhaustive community consultation, the needs for doing a NEIP in Donald are as the NEIP proposal.

As a testament to the original proposal and its authors and their thorough research and knowledge of the Donald area it is appropriate to include the original concerns as extracted from the original proposal:-

Key Issues that have been identified by partners developing this NEIP include

- Odour – anaerobic processes occurring within the silt and sediment exposed when the river is low cause an odour that residents consider to be offensive. The added concern is that this will not be attractive to visitors or potential migrants to the town
- Algal blooms and dead fish are regular occurrences
- Loss of once productive recreational angling locations. The Richardson River below the weir at Rich Avon and Downstream of the Apex Park located at Donald, were in the past, identified by regional anglers as highly productive fishing areas for introduced (Salmonids, Redfin) and native fish species.
- Amenity – While there has been considerable community efforts to beautify and improve amenity along the river, there still remains a lot more that could be done to capitalise on its value as a community asset
- Stormwater/litter – Urban stormwater runoff enters the Richardson River through Donald and is considered to be a high threat to the water quality of the river to Lake Buloke (NCCMA, 2003). In the past, the river has also been illegally used as a dumping ground for other items of rubbish such as tyres and tar drums.
- Silt and sedimentation – the Richardson River flows entirely across an alluvial plain with moderate to low sinuosity and pools of varying depth. There is unconfirmed evidence that land clearing and other agricultural activities have led to increased sediment loads entering the river during associated rainfall events. It is widely considered that the build up of these sediments is contributing to the anaerobic odours and loss of important aquatic community refuge areas.
- Saline groundwater intrusion – intrusion of rising groundwater tables threaten the health of riparian and littoral ecosystems. This saline water also contributes to the hyper salinity found in pools along the river
- Low flows and hyper salinity – small natural flows fail to pass the Avon Weir and on occasions releases of saline water from the bottom of the weir pool during the domestic and stock water delivery season, together with the impacts of saline groundwater intrusion, may be contributing to hyper salinity within the river
- Nutrients/effluent – there is a generally moderate threat of diffuse nutrient inputs along the Richardson River associated with run-off. High concentrations of both nitrogen (twice the EPA objective) and phosphorus are common in Donald (NCCMA, 2003)  
(n.b. The NCCMA Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (January 2003) identifies the Donald Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) as a potential nutrient point source. However, Grampians Water has in place management procedures to reduce the threat that include stringent monitoring of groundwater. Grampians Water acknowledges that there might be some community perception about the WWTP, which it is prepared to address through actions identified in the plan)
- Biodiversity – only 4% of the riparian vegetation along this stretch of the Richardson River is considered to be in good condition. 96% is marginal. Many large trees show signs of dieback and death. In some sections, in-stream weed and algal growth is evident. Limited in-stream habitat opportunities exist in the Richardson River in this section and aquatic habitat is generally very poor

- Erosion/bank stability – loss of adequate vegetation along many stretches of the riparian zone threatens to undermine the stability of the banks and contribute to increased erosion and sediment transport
- Infrastructure – there is growing evidence that salinity could potentially threaten the integrity of roads and buildings in and around Donald
- Stream-flow/pipeline – there is a need to ensure adequate and appropriate stream-flows down the Richardson River for summer or other freshening flushes. This concern is linked to uncertainty over the proposed Wimmera-Mallee pipeline and its compound effect on the availability of water for flows through the Donald township
- Regional development and sustainability – Donald’s future and ability to attract investment and development opportunities is linked to the health and amenity of the River
- Education/information on best practice – there is a need to provide education and information opportunities to the community to support them in their choices
- Cultural heritage – the conservation of indigenous and non-indigenous cultural heritage values should be an integral part of improving the river as an asset

In addition, the community and partners see the NEIP as a

- Tool to help bring about a basic cultural change in people’s attitudes and behaviour
- Process which will develop a community consensus and purpose, resulting in a consistent community signal to government, catchment organisations and state agencies
- Process that will integrate the expectations and aspirations of the community with local and regional plans or strategies

**Who is concerned ?**

**Table 2**

Avon Plains Landcare	Donald Lions Club
Buloke Bio-Link	Donald Natural History Group
Buloke & Northern Grampians Landcare Network	Donald Pony Club
Buloke Shire Council	Donald Primary School
Central Murray Regional Waste Management	Donald Racing Club
Community Resource Centre	Donald Recreation Reserve Committee
Department of Primary Industries	Donald Tennis Club
Dept Sustainability & Environment	Donald VFF
Donald & District Landcare	Environment Protection Authority
Donald 2000 inc.	Farmers and Land Managers

Donald Aerodrome	GWM Water
Donald Angling Club	North Central CMA
Donald Bowling Club	Northern Grampians Shire Council
Donald Businesses and Industry	Parks Victoria
Donald Chamber of Commerce	South West Cultural Heritage Program
Donald Community	St.Mary's Primary School
Donald Croquet Club	Tourism Association Group
Donald Friends & Neighbours	VR Fish
Donald Golf Club	Waterwatch
Donald High School	

### Unity in addressing the issues

It will combine many aspects that have already been identified in so many Plans, Strategies and Studies. The Donald NEIP will have these brought together to bring about unity in vision and a plan that will take us forward to a healthy neighbourhood that we all desire.

The NEIP in Donald will combine the efforts of many partners from government, community organizations, businesses and individuals so that we can work together to achieve an outcome that would never be achieved by any single identity.

It will bring strength to our neighbourhood's vision, "**Committed to a Healthy Richardson River**" providing us with the tools to achieve a healthy sustainable environment.

## 8.EXISTING PROGRAMS, STRATEGIES OR ACTIVITIES IN THE DONALD NEIGHBOURHOOD AND RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT

**Table 3**

Past programs, strategies, activities <i>(Produced By)</i>	Approximate yr(s) program ran for	Nature of program	What worked	What didn't work
Avon Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy <i>(North Central CMA)</i>	January 2003 five years	Water quality and nutrient inflows to surface water	Information documented and used in funding applications	Not adopted at Community level
Avon Richardson Nutrient Action Plan Parts A & B <i>(North Central CMA)</i>	September 2003	Overview of catchment and Water quality data at Donald explained.	Problems Identified	Some actions still to be implemented
Lower Avon-Richardson Salinity Scoping Study <i>(SKM)</i>	Developed over 2 years	Used science to scope out potential solutions to salinity.	Has shown good direction for future work to be done.	Community lack appreciation of the document.

<b>Past programs, strategies, activities</b> <i>(Produced By)</i>	<b>Approximate yr(s) program ran for</b>	<b>Nature of program</b>	<b>What worked</b>	<b>What didn't work</b>
Donald township groundwater interception feasibility study <i>(DPI – Hekmeijer)</i>	June 2004	Investigation into ground water pumping	Has recommended options for further investigation and development.	Insufficient monitoring bores in some places
Avon-Richardson Salt and Water Balance Study <i>SKM-CLPR</i>	August 2000	Scientific but readable document 177 pages	Give good detail and description of salt and water movement in catchment	No executive summary and document not circulated widely
Environmental Flow Recommendations for Avon-Richardson & Issues paper <i>(SKM)</i>	October 2005	Scientific base data as to healthy river flows	Good reference for current & historical flows in the river & required environmental flows	Is not a full Stream Flow Management Plan
Avon-Richardson Floodplain Management Plan <i>(EGIS Consulting)</i>	June 2000 Ongoing	Floodplain Management	Proposed specific projects	Very few projects completed due to: - resources, regulation compliance
North Central River Health Strategy <i>(North Central CMA)</i>	Released September 2005	The key regional document providing direction and management of river health across the region.	Provides priorities with actions and targets with the investment requirements	
Our Water Our Future <i>(DSE Victoria)</i>	June 2004 Ongoing	Securing a sustainable a water resource	Funding available	Actions needs to be promoted at a local level
Our Environment Our Future <i>(DSE Victoria)</i>	2006	Victorian environmental sustainability framework	Clearly sets out environmental objectives and targets	
Avon-Richardson Whole of Catchment plan <i>(North Central CMA)</i>	2000/2002	Catchment based plan that combined all aspect of Natural Resource Management (NRM)	Community support and a single document for the NRM in the catchment	Out of date no longer recognized in the North Central CMAs RCS
Avon-Richardson river basin floodplain management plan cultural heritage desktop study <i>(Egis Consulting)</i>	August 1999	Contains both indigenous european history	Good reference to what is available for Indigenous history	No longer available
Basic Community Profile <i>(Aust. Bureau Statistics)</i>	2001 Census	Post code 3480 census data	Reputable data source	Not exactly the same as the NEIP area
Buloke Shire Council Urban Stormwater Management plan Volume 1 <i>(SKM)</i>	November 2001	A plan to improve environmental management and quality of stormwater runoff in urban areas		

<b>Past programs, strategies, activities</b> <i>(Produced By)</i>	<b>Approximate yr(s) program ran for</b>	<b>Nature of program</b>	<b>What worked</b>	<b>What didn't work</b>
Buloke Shire Council Urban Stormwater Management plan Volume 1 (SKM)	November 2001	A plan to improve environmental management and quality of stormwater runoff in urban areas		
Feasibility study Donald Township Stormwater Re-use <i>(Coomes Consulting)</i>	June 2004	Formulate an appropriate stormwater re-use layout	Gives good basic detail on the Donald stormwater system	Could have looked at other alternatives
Buloke Shire Council Corporate Plan <i>(Buloke Shire Council)</i>	2003-2006	Corporate plan & annual business plan	Easily to understand	
Buloke Shire Council Environment Policy and Strategy <i>(Buloke Shire Council)</i>	2006	Buloke Shire Council working to becoming environmentally sustainable		
Second Generation Dryland salinity management plan for the North Central region	2002-	Provides overview of salinity issues and outlines an action plan addressing Dryland salinity	Draft only	
Street, Road, Park and Reserve Tree Policy <i>(Buloke Shire Council)</i>	2006	To establish an overall environmentally sensitive cost effective management program		
Sustainable Water Use Plan <i>(Buloke Shire Council)</i>	Draft 2006-11	Review potable use by the Buloke Shire Council	In development	
North Central Regional Catchment Strategy <i>(North Central CMA)</i>	2003-2007	Over arching document for natural resource management in North Central	Gives good strategic directions	Community lack appreciation of the document.
State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) <i>(Environment Protection Act 1970)</i>	Amended June 2003	Victorian Government Act	Provides legal framework for authorities and community to abide to.	

## **9.DONALD NEIPS VISION**

The abiding wish of the community is to have a well-managed, attractive and healthy river where it is a pleasure to live, work and play. Their passion and desire is summarised by:

### **“Committed to a Healthy Richardson River”**

The following sections are laid out in the Tables 4 & 5 following:

## **10.OBJECTIVES**

The Donald NEIP is made up of four general objectives. These objectives are drawn from the communities imputes using their aims and concerns. Using these objectives, the community is able to form clear directions that they are able to focus on.

Through these objectives we can move forward to our vision “Committed to a Healthy Richardson River”.

The drivers for these objectives are thirty-one different targets and these are explained in the next section and Table 4.

The four objectives are: -

- 1.Smart Water Use in the Donald Neighbourhood
- 2.Improved river health and salinity outcomes for the lower Richardson River Wetlands.
- 3.Improved litter management for the Donald Neighbourhood
- 4.Provide education and information on the natural environment and cultural heritage for the Donald Community.

## **11.TARGETS**

With thirty-one broad ranging targets the Donald NEIP will have everyone feel some sense of pride in reaching a target that they have an affinity with. The overall effect of this will be to build social capital and community capacity, while this is not listed as a target or an objective, is a goal that the Donald NEIP aspires to.

While the targets themselves will achieve a great deal, the holistic effect of achieving these targets will bring an even greater positive effect for the Donald neighbourhood. The funding required to achieve these targets have good merit and should be successful under the current governments guidelines and so with facilitation and cooperation the targets are achievable.

These targets are goals that we can achieve and are to be implemented by thirty-one actions, which are explained in the next section and table 5.

For a list of the 31 Targets and how they are applied to the objectives refer to: - Table 4. pg.18.

## **Actions**

These actions form the manageable size projects that will deliver us to our vision and are the building blocks for the Donald NEIP.

The Donald NEIP has thirty-eight actions and explaining detail is given below. A full list is shown on table 5, showing the key aspects to the operation and management of the actions. It is envisaged that more actions will be developed through the life of the NEIP so the list is not considered final.

### Water Savings

Local plumbers have a long and valuable experience in the use of rainwater tanks and other environmentally sound solutions.

They are aware of the Green plumber program and are supportive of it.

In addition to this there is a registered Green Plumber from Warracknabeal that can service the Donald neighbourhood.

What are Green Plumber's?

The green Plumber Program is run by the "The Master Plumbers & Mechanical Services Association of Australia" and offer training covering four main areas and is outlined on their web site as follows: -

*"GreenPlumbers® Climate Care*

*Hot water heating, heating & cooling - GHG abatement, customer service, energy star ratings.*

*GreenPlumbers® Caring for Our Water*

*Water sustainability, stormwater management, water conservation, water efficient products, water recycling opportunities, rainwater, water audits, international technology & developments.*

*GreenPlumbers® Solar Hot Water*

*State/Federal rebate schemes, solar installations, and solar technology/products.*

*GreenPlumbers® Water Efficient Technology (WET)*

*Grey water, rainwater, water recycling, new developments, new technology & products, public health and environmental safety."*

Water is a valuable resource and the actions of the "Promotion of Green Plumber Program <sup>action 4.7</sup>" and "Green Plumber training <sup>action 4.8</sup>" is an important aspect to saving water.

Other actions that will contribute to savings in water are "**Tanks installed Donald Primary School** <sup>action 1.1</sup>" and more tanks are envisaged in the neighbourhood by the action of "**Applications made for funding of tanks on public buildings** <sup>action 1.2</sup>".

Actions such as "**Facilitate community in watersmart garden & home rebate scheme** <sup>action 1.3</sup>" leading to the "**Installing 30 water saving products** <sup>action 1.4</sup>".

"**Establish a water wise garden for promotion** <sup>action 4.5</sup>" is an action that will lead the community by example and show what can be done in the neighbourhood. An additional benefit to the water wise garden is the use of perennial plants that will have a positive effect on lowering ground water table.

The Buloke Shire Council are to directly participate in one of these initiatives and

**“Progress the sustainable water use management plan for the Buloke Shire Council <sup>action 1.5</sup>”** is an action that has been started with the Donald NEIP instigating the initial application.

### River & Wetland Health

Interest in storm water reuse for the Donald Township is a program that was progressing before the start of the Donald NEIP. Donald 2000 Inc is the manager of the current project and the Donald NEIP has been able to facilitate and have it proceed to its current stage.

It is currently at the design phase and is to be completed by November 2006 subject to funding being granted. The natural progression for this program is to the construction phase and this will need strong financial support. The Buloke Shire Council and North Central CMA with the support of state and federal Governments through their water reform packages will be able to support this project for the multiple benefits from economic, environment and the social aspects. The action for this is the **“construction of storm water reuse scheme <sup>action 1.6</sup>”**.

The action to **“Build water sensitive urban design treatment train with wetland <sup>action 2.01</sup>”** will help to manage pollution that comes from the stormwater and enhance the natural ecosystems within the Richardson River at Donald. One site adjacent to the Goodwin Village would appear to have a natural structure that would lend itself to enhancement as a wetland. Other sites such as the old swimming pool site at the bottom of McCulloch St. would be another site suitable for a wetland.

The Richardson River has a well identified problem with its salt loads however there is an additional issue with excess levels of nutrient in the river as well.

An investigation has been done by Waterwatch Victoria and has identified the Richardson River as having a very high nutrient load in the form of Total Phosphorus (P) with measurements ranging from 0.40 mg/L P to 0.01 mg/L P. Waterwatch recommended a Total of 0.01 mg/L P or less for a healthy water body while the EPA (2002) SEPP WoV objective is 0.040mg/l.

These high levels of P recorded by Waterwatch are also shown in the wider Avon Richardson Catchments this data is detailed in the Avon - Richardson Nutrient Action Plan - Part A (SKM 30/09/2003) also showing high levels of P.

Two actions are made to further advance the control and understanding of the problem these actions are: - **“Monitor phosphorus & ammonia <sup>action 2.02</sup>”** and **“Design and instigate the construction of a stormwater trap <sup>action 2.03</sup>”**

The Rich-Avon Weir managed and operated by GWM Water has had considerable influence on the Richardson River in Donald. The flow has changed *“with a reduction in the duration of flows of approximately 10 ML/day”* (Sinclair Knight Merz 2005). This is to say that the number of 10 ML a day flows that occur in a year are now considerably less than would have occurred if the weir was not in place. Conversely the *“very low flows (~1 ML/day) downstream of the Rich Avon Weir are maintained for longer than would be under natural conditions.”* (Sinclair Knight Merz 2005). It has also been of concern that in the past the operation of the weir has seen the first flushing flows out of the weir pool, which are highly saline being transferred downstream along the Richardson River often left settling in the river at Donald.

The foundation for the next action comes from the "*Environmental Flow Recommendations for the Avon-Richardson*" to "**operation of Rich-Avon weir to maintain the minimum recommended environmental flows**" <sup>action 2.04</sup> SKM 19 October 2005.

The history of the weirs in the Donald Township goes back to 1884 when Mr. Kramer completed his contract for the construction of a weir at Donald (The Times). Although the weirs that remain are relatively small.

Surveys have shown that the removal of Weirs in Donald would not be effective in draining the river and so would be ineffectual in allowing the river to be flushed with low flows.

The use of a higher weir has been suggested from some community members as a way to improve the river amenity and environment. The positives for this could be improved amenity and recreation opportunities and the hydraulic water pressure that may keep saline ground water out of the water body within the river. The negatives are increased salinity to surrounding neighbourhood; loss of trees through waterlogging and the water requirement to maintain these levels is simply not available.

While there may be some positive aspects to this idea after considering the negative implications it would appear that it is not a feasible prospect.

Currently the best option is to do nothing with the weirs. The action for the weirs in Donald township is to "**Document current position and detail of weirs in Donald**" <sup>action 4.11</sup> so as to create unity and dispel the misinformation regarding weirs.

The North Central CMA have in place the following actions 2.09 through to 2.18 as part of the North Central River Health Strategy and the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy. These actions are broad ranging and when implemented will improve the river health and wetlands of the neighbourhood. Key aspects of the actions are the protection of the rivers edges and fragile erosion areas, weed control and management of river nutrients from agricultural areas and urban storm water.

**Implement action 1.1 of the North Central River Health Strategy - To protect and enhance multiple values associated with riparian vegetation through fencing and enhancement plantings along priority reaches** <sup>action 2.09</sup>.

**Implement action 1.2 of the North Central River Health Strategy -Undertake exotic flora control to protect and enhance values** <sup>action 2.10</sup>.

**Implement action 2.1 of the North Central River Health Strategy - Reinstate suitable in-stream habitat to protect and enhance values** <sup>action 2.11</sup>.

**Implement the following action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS):**

- Stream and gully erosion

- Intensive animal industries

- Agricultural – nutrient awareness, buffer strips and best management practices

- Urban – nutrient awareness, urban stormwater, septic and waste-water treatment

<sup>action 2.12</sup>.

**Implement the action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS) identified in the nutrient-related actions (above)** <sup>action 2.13</sup>.

**Implement the action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS) identified in the sediment-related actions (above)** <sup>action 2.14</sup>.

**Implement priority actions recommended in the Draft North Central Dryland Management Plan (under review) (SKM 2002)** <sup>action 2.15</sup>.

**Undertake the IWC assessment of wetlands connected to reach 43. Implement specific wetland management actions as identified in the Regional Wetlands Strategy** <sup>action 2.16</sup>.

**Protect and enhance threatened fish populations as per Instream Habitat, Riparian Zone and Water Quality actions 2.13 – 2.19** <sup>action 2.17</sup>.

**Assess man-made barriers to fish migration and prioritise their removal or modification** <sup>action 2.18</sup>.

### Salinity

The North Central CMA recognises the salinity as a major issue in the Lower Richardson River and they have been instrumental in the development of the “Lower Avon Richardson Scoping Study”. This was focused on finding an appropriate strategy to manage salinity in the Donald area, also significant is the current work being done developing the Salinity Investment Framework 3 (SIF3). The next actions are based on this work

**Use science and research to develop adaptation techniques for the Donald NEIP’s saline environment** <sup>action 2.06</sup>.

**Use research tools such as soil testing including EM 38 to accurately** <sup>action 2.07</sup>.

**Encourage and support the implementation of adaptive techniques for sustainable outcomes in the Lower Richardson’s saline environment** <sup>action 2.08</sup>.

Using this scientific approach using soil tests and other data we can use a systematic approach that will progressively adapt and improve management using the available tools being they perennial plant species either trees or fodder or other adaptive technics

This work needs to be done over a very large area and so is a costly program and will need to be supported over a considerable number of years

### Sewer infrastructure

It is recognized that the sewer system in Donald has a substantial amount of ground water intrusion. This leakage has been estimated to be in the 18 to 23 megalitre range per year.

There are two documents that Grampians Water have had done that refer to the ground water intrusion and while they show some detail such as *“Main salt input (1380kg/day) appears to be from low flows of saline groundwater infiltration.”* (Montgomery Watson Harza) and has made assumptions such as *“The overall risk of land salinisation is hence considered low at this site.”* (Sinclair Knight Merz) The evidence and statements from these documents is qualified and is not considered conclusive and is shown with the recommendation *“Further monitoring is required before risks can be accurately quantified.”* (Sinclair Knight Merz)

The high salinity level of above 6000 ec at the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) due to the ground water intrusion places some risk to the site and limits the potential of timber production at the WWTP. Without a reduction in salinity of the wastewater the potential of value adding to the wastewater is quite problematic. The

timber plantation at the site would improve with basic forestry management and irrigation without the contamination from the saline water. The improved production from these measures would see a return environmentally through greater ground water use as well as greater timber production for use in various projects such as a community woodlot.

To address the concern's with the WWTP we have these actions: -

**“Study and review monitoring since the SKM Report (2002) to update and accurately ascertain, Donald WWTP impacts on groundwater”** <sup>action 4.2”</sup>

**“Maintain an understanding of ground water impacts from the Donald WWTP and adopt a strategy to for the continued protect of the environmental assets”** <sup>action 4.4”</sup>

**“Develop management guidelines for the plantation at WWTP”** <sup>action 2.05”</sup>

While enacting these actions there is a need to inform the community through out the process, as there is a community perception that the sewer system is contributing to high nutrient levels in the Richardson River.

### Ground water as a resource

The use of saline ground water as a commercial resource has great potential in the Donald Neighbourhood as it has a large resource that is readily available at easy pumping depths.

Work has been done on varies projects and some have potential to become viable industries for the Donald Neighbourhood. There are a large number of potential uses that could prove viable as a base for productive businesses. Investigations into some of these uses included: -

Distichlis for irrigated Fodder production.

Seaweed grown for the production of agar, which has ready markets.

Sand mining could be a large user in its refining process.

Aquaculture production.

The action **“Opportunity study and development of a strategy leading to viable business using ground water”** <sup>action 2.19”</sup> is an actions that will progress the use of this resource.

### Waste Wise Events

Waste Wise Events are an initiative of Sustainability Victoria that adds a number of positive features to an event.

The reduction of litter that has been run using waste wise initiatives is quite substantial and can save the organization considerably in clean up costs. This on its own would be justification to run events as Waste Wise Events but when you consider the educational aspects of waste management of the greater community at such events the running of any event as waste wise should be seen as an all round positive. The actions here are **“Promote the waste wise program to event mangers”** <sup>action 4.6”</sup> and **“Showcase the waste wise program”** <sup>action 3.2”</sup>.

### Plastic Bag Free Neighbourhood

The wasteful habit of using the single use plastic checkout bags is a product that we can do without and the community supports the elimination of this form of plastic bag from our town.

As part of the Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group bid to have a plastic bag free region Donald neighbourhood are pleased to accept the challenge to become plastic bag free and Cr. Leo Tellefson is the Champion for this challenge.

The action is to **“Participate the plastic bag free program** action 3.1”.

### Dog Poo

It is generally accepted that it is the responsibility of the pet owner to clean up its dog’s droppings. In the interest of the neighbourhood environment and the communities well being this attitude needs to be reinforced with positive promotional material to achieve a high observance.

Actions to engender these attitudes are **“Distribute advisory leaflet on pet owner responsibilities** action 4.9” at the time of registering their dog and the action to **“Strategically place bins for collection of dog faeces and general litter** action 3.3” within the town would also serve as a positive reminder for pet owners to do the right thing.

### Acknowledge Indigenous Land and Culture

The acceptance that the Indigenous communities were the first custodians of this land of which the Donald NEIP is part goes without question. The Donald neighbourhood today has little left that would readily remind us of the rich cultural heritage that the Indigenous communities had, indeed there is now a very limited number of Indigenous people living in and or having an active connection with the Donald NEIP area.

With this lack of modern day understanding it is recommended to promote this rich history with an action for the Donald community in a **“Joint venture with Indigenous groups to produce & display cultural heritage information** action 4.10”

### Information

There is diverse range of programs and regulations from government’s authorities and service utilities. The community needs to have access to this information obtainable from a central point that the community can have easy access too. This is to be adopted by the action to **“establish one stop shop for information on natural resource management programs and initiatives** action 4.1”.

There are nine agencies that are to contribute information for this project they are the North Central CMA, Buloke Shire Council, DPI, DSE, EPA, Landcare, GWM Water, Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group and Water Watch. This facility would also be open for Indigenous groups to contribute.

The community resource centre would make an ideal location for this action.

In all there are thirty-eight actions and these are shown in table 5 showing the key aspects to the operation and management of the actions.

Table 4 shows how our actions flow through and contribute to achieving our vision.

**Table 4**

Vision	Objectives	Targets	Actions	
Committed to a Healthy Richardson River	1  Smart Water Use in the Donald Neighbourhood	20000 litres of tanks installed	1.1 Tanks installed Donald Primary School	1.2 Applications made for funding of tanks on public building
		30 individuals utilizing Garden & Home rebate scheme	1.3 Facilitate community in watersmart garden & Home rebate scheme	1.4 Individuals installing 30 water saving products
		Complete a sustainable water use management plan for Buloke Shire Council	1.5 Progress the sustainable water use management plan for the Buloke Shire Council	
		Complete one storm water reuse scheme	1.6 Construction of storm water reuse scheme for Donald	
	2  Improved river health and salinity outcomes for the lower Richardson River and Wetlands	One wetland completed	2.01 Build water sensitive urban design treatment train with wetland	
		Identify 90 % of rivers pollution points	2.02 Monitor Phosphorus & Ammonium in stormwater	
		Installation of one stormwater waste trap	2.03 Design and instigate the construction of a stormwater trap	
		Richardson river maintained with environmental flows	2.04 Operation of Rich-Avon weir to maintain the minimum recommended environmental flows	
		Plantation management implement	2.05 Develop management guidelines for the plantation at WWTP	
		Maintain the Lower Richardson (Reach 43) as a priority asset and specifically supported for investment in the "North Central Dryland Management Plan" (under review)	2.06 Use science and research to develop adaptation techniques for the Donald NEIP's saline environment.	2.07 Use research tools such as soil testing including EM 38 to accurately assess the current status of soil health.
	2.08 Encourage and support the implementation of adaptive techniques for sustainable outcomes in the Lower Richardson's saline environment.			

Vision	Objectives	Targets	Actions	
<b>Committed to a Healthy Richardson River</b>	Improved river health and salinity outcomes for the lower Richardson River and Wetlands	Riparian river frontage protected and enhanced on both banks equivalent to one quarter of the reach length. And a similar area operated under land management agreements within five years	2.09 Implement action 1.1 of the North Central River Health Strategy - To protect and enhance multiple values associated with riparian vegetation through fencing and enhancement plantings along priority reaches.	
		One quarter of total reach subject to riparian weed control at fenced sites and revegetated on both banks within five years	2.10 Implement action 1.2 of the North Central River Health Strategy -Undertake exotic flora control to protect and enhance values.	
		Reinstate suitable instream habitat into 5km of reach 43. within five years	2.11 - Implement action 2.1 of the North Central River Health Strategy - Reinstate suitable instream habitat to protect and enhance values.	
		Reduction in phosphorus loads by 8 tonnes and nitrogen loads by 106 tonnes at key monitoring sites within the Avon-Richardson catchment. This is a 2030 target from the ARNMS.	2.12 Implement the following action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS): • Stream and gully erosion • Intensive animal industries • Agricultural – nutrient awareness, buffer strips and best management practices • Urban – nutrient awareness, urban stormwater, septic and waste-water treatment.	
		Achieve 60% compliance with SEPP (WoV) objectives (from North Central RCS) or other target to be determined using a risk-based approach. This is a ten year target	2.13 Implement the action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS) identified in the nutrient-related actions (above).	
		Maintain compliance with SEPP (WoV) objective (from North Central RCS).	2.14 - Implement the action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS) identified in the sediment-related actions (above).	
		Reduce salt load by 612 tonnes per year (interim end-of-valley target) by 2022 (SKM 2002) Move toward achieving 60% compliance with SEPP (WoV) objective (from North Central RCS).	2.15 Implement priority actions recommended in the Draft North Central Dryland Management Plan (under review) (SKM 2002).	

Vision	Objectives	Targets	Actions	
<b>Committed to a Healthy Richardson River</b>	Improved river health and salinity outcomes for the lower Richardson River and Wetlands	Improvement in condition of high-environmental-value wetlands and no further decline in the extent of wetlands (from North Central RCS). This is a ten-year target.	2.16 Undertake the IWC assessment of wetlands connected to reach 43. Implement specific wetland management actions as identified in the Regional Wetlands Strategy	
		Maintain or improve existing viable populations of significant threatened species (from North Central RCS). This is a ten-year target.	2.17 Protect and enhance threatened fish populations as per Instream Habitat, Riparian Zone and Water Quality actions 2.13 – 2.19	2.18 - Assess man-made barriers to fish migration and prioritise their removal or modification.
		To have a business case for Commercial development of an industry using groundwater	2.19 Opportunity study and development of a strategy leading to viable business using ground water	
	3 Improved litter management for the Donald Neighbourhood	No Donald businesses using single use plastic bags	3.1 Support the plastic bag free program run by the waste management group	
		One event run as waste wise per year	3.2 Showcase the Waste Wise Program	
		2 Dog Poo bins installed	3.3 Strategically place bins for collection of dog faeces and general litter	
	4.  Provide education and information on the natural environment and cultural heritage for the Donald Community	Provide a single access point for the community to find information	4.1 Establish one stop shop for information on Natural resource management programs and initiatives	
		WWTP ground water impact study completed by March 2006 and communicated to stakeholders	4.2 Study and review monitoring since the SKM Report (2002) to update and accurately ascertain, Donald WWTP impacts on groundwater.	4.3 Maintain an understanding of ground water impacts from the Donald WWTP and adopt a strategy to for the continued protection of the environmental assets.
		One water wise garden established and information displayed	4.4 Display plants and information on water wise gardens	4.5 Establish a water wise garden for promotion
		Have event managers adopt waste wise principals	4.6 Promote the waste wise program to event mangers	
		Have one registered Green plumber by 2007	4.7 Promotion of Green plumber program	4.8 Plumbers undertaking Green plumber training

Vision	Objectives	Targets	Actions		
Committed to a Healthy Richardson River	Improved river health and salinity outcomes for the lower Richardson River and Wetlands	Establish pet owner responsibilities regarding Dog Poo	4.9	Distribute advisory leaflet on pet owner responsibilities	
		Indigenous heritage material created using local themes for educational & informative uses	4.10	Joint venture with Indigenous groups to produce & display cultural heritage information.	
		An informed community regarding the options for the Donald weirs	4.11	Document the current knowledge of Donald's Richardson river weirs and the current stance	

Table 5 shows the key aspects to the operation and completing actions over 3 years to 2009.

**Table 5**

Actions	Responsible partner(s)	Resources required	Source of resources	Timeframe for action
1.1 - Tanks installed Donald Primary School	Donald Primary School	\$7,200 \$9,720	Donald Primary School Community Water Grant	In 2007
1.2 Applications made for funding of tanks on public building	Buloke Shire Council	\$1200	Sustainability Fund	2007/9
1.3 - Facilitate community in watersmart garden & home rebate scheme	GWM Water / NEIP Officer	\$2,000 \$3,000	GWM Water rebate Grant Funded Facilitator	2006-9
1.4 - Individuals installing 30 water saving products	Individuals	\$3,000	Owner / Rebate	2006-9
1.5 Progress the sustainable water use management plan for the Buloke Shire Council	Buloke Shire Council GWM Water	\$10,000 \$10,000	Grant Funding Buloke Shire Council	November 2006
1.6 Construction of storm water reuse scheme for Donald	Buloke Shire Council / Donald 2000	\$60,000 \$20,000 \$170,000 Final costs to be determined by design consultants	Buloke Shire Council GWMWater for Reservoir Grant Funding	2007-8
2.01 Build water sensitive urban design treatment train with wetland	Buloke Shire Council / Donald & District Landcare / Donald 2000	\$ Not yet determined	Community water grant	2007-9
2.02 Monitor phosphorus & ammonia in stormwater	Waterwatch	\$ 3,000 \$15,000 \$2,000	Waterwatch in-kind Grant funding Community in-kind	2007-9
2.03 Design and instigate the construction of a stormwater trap	Buloke Shire Council	\$ Not yet determined	Buloke Shire Council / Grant funding	2009

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible partner(s)</b>	<b>Resources required</b>	<b>Source of resources</b>	<b>Timeframe for action</b>
2.04 Operation of Rich-Avon weir to maintain the minimum recommended environmental flows	North Central CMA GWM Water	\$3,000 \$57,000 water cost	North Central CMA GWM Water	Flows 50% of years
2.05 Develop management guidelines for the plantation at WWTP	GWM Water	\$5,000 \$1000	Grant Funding GWM Water	2007
2.06 Use science and research to develop adaptation techniques for the Donald NEIP's saline environment.	North Cental CMA / DPI partner research organisations	To be determined in Dry land Management plan	North Central CMA	2007 and ongoing
2.07 Use research tools such as soil testing including EM 38 to accurately assess the current status of soil health.	North Central CMA / DPI	To be determined in Dry land Management plan	North Central CMA	2007 and ongoing
2.08 Encourage and support the implementation of adaptive techniques for sustainable outcomes in the Lower Richardson's saline environment.	North Central CMA / DPI	To be determined in Dry land Management plan	North Central CMA	2007 and ongoing
2.09 Implement action 1.1 of the North Central River Health Strategy - To protect and enhance multiple values associated with riparian vegetation through fencing and enhancement plantings along priority reaches.	North Cental CMA, DSE, DPI, LG, Landholders	1,037,000 346,000	Government Others	5 Years
2.10 Implement action 1.2 of the North Central River Health Strategy -Undertake exotic flora control to protect and enhance values.	North Cental CMA, DSE, DPI, LG, Landholders	155,000 52,000	Government Others	5 Years
2.11 - Implement action 2.1 of the North Central River Health Strategy - Reinstate suitable instream habitat to protect and enhance values.	North Cental CMA, DSE, DPI, LG	11,000 4,000	Government Others	5 Years

Actions	Responsible partner(s)	Resources required	Source of resources	Timeframe for action
2.12 Implement the following action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stream and gully erosion</li> <li>• Intensive animal industries</li> <li>• Agricultural – nutrient awareness, buffer strips and best management practices</li> <li>• Urban – nutrient awareness, urban stormwater, septic and waste-water treatment.</li> </ul>	North Cental CMA, EPA Victoria, DSE, DPI, LG, GWM Water Landholders	1,592,000	Governments	5 Years
2.13 Implement the action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS) identified in the nutrient-related actions (above).	North Cental CMA, EPA Victoria, DSE, DPI, LG, GWM Water Landholders	As above	As above	5 years
2.14 - Implement the action plans of the Avon-Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy (ARNMS) identified in the sediment-related actions (above).	North Cental CMA, EPA Victoria, DSE, DPI, LG, GWM Water Landholders	As above	As above	5 years
2.15 Implement priority actions recommended in the Draft North Central Dryland Management Plan (under review) (SKM 2002).	North Central CMA / DPI	To be determined in Dry land Management plan	North Central CMA	2007 and ongoing
2.16 Undertake the IWC assessment of wetlands connected to reach 43. Implement specific wetland management actions as identified in the Regional Wetlands Strategy	North Central CMA, DSE, Lanbdholders			
2.17 Protect and enhance threatened fish populations as per Instream Habitat, Riparian Zone and Water Quality actions 2.13 – 2.19	DSE / DPI and North Central CMA			Ongoing
2.18 - Assess man-made barriers to fish migration and prioritise their removal or modification.	DSE / DPI and North Central CMA			
2.19 - Opportunity study and development of a strategy leading to viable business using ground water	Donald Landcare Buloke Shire Council	\$5,000 \$1,200 \$21,200	Donald Landcare in-kind Buloke Shire Council Grant funding	2007
3.1 Community participate in the plastic bag free program	Central Murray Waste Management Group Buloke Shire Council		Central Murray Waste Management Group Buloke Shire Council	September 2006

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible partner(s)</b>	<b>Resources required</b>	<b>Source of resources</b>	<b>Timeframe for action</b>
3.2 Showcase the waste wise program	Waste Management group NEIP community	\$1,200 \$600 \$2,800	Waste Management group Buloke Shire Council Grant Funding	September 2006-9
3.3 Strategically place bins for collection of dog faeces and general litter	Buloke Shire Council / NEIP Community	\$500 \$200	Grant Funding Buloke Shire Council	2008
4.1 - Establish one stop shop for information on Natural resource management programs and initiatives	Community resource centre	\$2,700 \$16,500	9 different agencies Grant funding	2007-09
4.2 Study and review monitoring since the SKM Report (2002) to update and accurately ascertain, Donald WWTP impacts on groundwater	GWM Water	\$4,200	GWM Water	March 2007
4.3 Maintain an understanding of ground water impacts from the Donald WWTP and adopt a strategy to for the continued protection of the environmental assets.	GWM Water	\$3,000 \$6,500	GWM Water Grant Funding	2006
4.4 Display plants and information on water wise gardens	Donald Landcare / Natural History Group	\$900 \$1,800	Partner in-kind Grant funding	2006-09
4.5 Establish a water wise garden for promotion	Donald Landcare / Natural History Group	\$2,000 \$1,000 \$10,300	Partner Inkind Buloke Shire Council Grant funding;	2007
4.6 Promote the waste wise program to event mangers	Central Murray Regional Waste Management Group	\$2,000 \$800 \$3,600	Waste Management group Buloke Shire Council Grant Funding	2006-9
4.7 - Promotion of Green plumber program	NEIP Officer	\$800	Grant funding	In 2006-8
4.8 – Green plumber training	Hardinghams Plumbing / Onley's Holdings	\$1,650 \$1900	Partner costs Grant funding	2006-7
4.9 - Distribute advisory leaflet on pet owner responsibilities	Buloke Shire Council		Buloke Shire Council Sustainability Victoria	May 2006- 9
4.10 Joint venture with Indigenous groups to produce & display cultural heritage information	North Central CMA	\$2,000 \$3,000	North Central CMA Grant Funding	2006-08
4.11 - Document the current knowledge of Donald's Richardson river weirs and the current stance	North Central CMA	\$1,500	North Central CMA	2007

**12.DEMONSTRATION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

<b>Involvement Activity</b>		<b>Have you undertaken the activity?</b>
<b>Workshops/public meetings</b>		
Publicise workshops etc in local papers		Yes 2 x 2
Publicise workshops etc on local radio		Yes 1
Publicise workshops etc by notices in the neighbourhood		Yes
Publicise workshops etc by email		Yes
Publicise workshops etc by telephone calls		Yes
Publicise workshops etc by letterbox drops		No
Cater for people of non-English-speaking background? If yes, how did you do this?		No
How many workshops did you hold, when, what was done at each one, how many, who facilitated/chaired and who attended (and were the same people in attendance or different)?  Facilitator Karen Newkirk		
Undertake feedback from the workshop by survey		No
Undertake feedback from the workshop verbally		Yes
If feedback was undertaken what was asked and what were the responses (attach a brief summary)		
<b>Community mapping</b>	Was community mapping undertaken?  Profile	Yes
<b>Information sessions/stalls</b>	Did you hold any information sessions? If so how many, what were the topics, who attended?	
	Did you hold any street or shopping centre stalls? If so how many, how many people attended, what information was provided?	
<b>Events/activities</b>	Did you hold any events/activities eg guided tours of the neighbourhood, litter/clean up days, open days, BBQs or social events, tree planting days? If so, what did you do whom came and how many participated?  Participated in Baby boomer festival, Donald Agricultural show and the landcare festival	
	Did you hold any competitions eg to generate ideas for the Neighbourhood EIP? If so, what was the topic, the audience and what was the response?	No

<b>Targeted meetings or conversations</b>	Did you specifically target any stakeholders to get involved in the Neighbourhood EIP through meetings or discussions? If yes, who with and who communicated them, how and why target those people?	GWM Water
<b>Interactive displays, models, community ideas mapping, photo surveys</b>	Were any of these or other activities used to develop the Plan? Community Ideas	
<b>Community skills survey</b>	Was a survey conducted to determine what skills partners had to contribute to the Neighbourhood EIP?	No
<b>NEIP newsletter</b>	Was a NEIP newsletter circulated? If yes, how frequently and who received it?	No
<b>Review of Drafts</b>	How many drafts did you produce? - Three	
	Did the partners review all the drafts? (if not, who reviewed the different drafts?)	
	What was done with the comments of those who reviewed drafts?	
	Were partners made aware of each others comments? If yes, how?	
	Was an explanation provided (explaining why different suggested changes were incorporated or rejected) produced? If yes, how? Not Applicable	
<b>Working group</b>	Was a working group established to guide the development of the Neighbourhood EIP?	Yes
	If yes, who was on the working group? Were minutes taken and circulated? How were differences in opinion resolved (eg vote, negotiate, compromises, sponsor or another group had final say)?  Team Members: - Leo Tellefson, Ann Dunstan, Rob Loats, Kevin Spence, Graeme Harris Lindsay Ezard, Rodney Chapman, Rob O'Shannessy Facilitator Keith McPherson.  Minutes Taken  Differences of opinion resolved by Negotiation and consensus formed with vote to affirm the position taken.	Yes
<b>Outcomes (note the survey of partners will help you answer these questions – provide a summary)</b>	What skills did partners acquire through the NEIP?	
	Were any new community groups formed?	
	What relationships were built and between whom?	

### **13.DEMONSTRATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH PLANS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

The Donald NEIP has a connection to all of the programs strategies and activities listed in Section 8 Table 3.

Highlights that are consistent with and have common targets with the Donald NEIP are: -

“Our Water Our Future” shares the same objective to save water.

Buloke Shire Council’s “Urban Stormwater Management Plan Volumes 1 & 2”  
The Donald NEIP utilises and builds on several of the strategies that are recommended in the “Urban Stormwater Management Plan”.

“North Central Regional Catchment Strategy” under the Dryland Package seeks the same outcome as the Donald NEIP and is expressed as “improved land and water salinity outcomes and improvements in biodiversity, wetland and waterway health.”

Supports the “North Central River Health Strategy” vision of “Waterways and wetlands will be managed sustainably to protect and enhance their diversity and ecological function while supporting the uses of the regional community”.

“Lower Avon –Richardson salinity scoping study” recommends action recommended in the NEIP including to address the salinity problem, with multiple actions including perennial plants and engineering solutions.

“Avon Richardson Nutrient Management Strategy” by adopting its recommendation for nutrient management in the Richardson River including silt traps.

“State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria)” as a preamble states, “to protect and rehabilitate the aquatic habits of our rivers, lakes, wetlands” and “by using land and water resources within their capabilities, and by avoiding and re-using wastes, particularly those generated from everyday activities”. This is clearly consistent with the objectives and actions within the Donald NEIP.

## **14.PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Guiding body/bodies:**

Buloke Shire Council / Donald and District Landcare

### **Members of body (person & organisation):**

Membership to the NEIP Team is open to the community and its long term members are: -

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Cr. Leo Tellefson ( Chairman )	Buloke Shire Council / Donald Landcare
Graeme Harris	Buloke Shire Council
Kevin Spence	Landcare – Buloke Shire Council
Ann Dustan	Donald & District Landcare
Rob Loats	Victorian Recreational Fishing
Rob O’Shannessy	North Central CMA
Lindsay Ezard	Dept. of Primary Industries
Tony Phillips	Donald 2000 Inc.
Keith McPherson (Facilitator)	Buloke Shire Council

### **Structure of the implementation group:**

Representatives from Buloke Shire Council, Donald & District Landcare, North Central CMA, Dept. of Primary Industries, Donald 2000 Inc and a key community representative together with an support officer to record minutes and progress actions.

### **Responsibilities of the guiding body:**

Buloke Shire Council to provide regulatory direction and officer support.

Donald NEIP Team to monitor and overview projects. The Donald NEIP TEAM has direct working relationship with the Donald and District Landcare

### **Administrative arrangements:**

Frequency of meetings – 3 Months

Reporting arrangements – Full written report yearly

3 Monthly update via press release and web site

Financial reporting 6 monthly

## **15.PROVISIONS FOR REVIEWING THE PLAN**

### **Who will be involved:**

Government authorities and community stakeholder

### **When will a full review occur?**

5 years

### **When will a compliance and effectiveness review occur:**

Yearly

### **What will the compliance and effectiveness review address:**

The financial, compliance and implementation and effectiveness of actions and administration effectiveness of the NEIP

## **16.CONTINGENCY OR EMERGENCY PLANS**

### **Who will meet?**

A committee of the current NEIP team with vacancies able to be filled from the current teams participating organizations. This group would recommend to the Buloke Shire Council, the governing authority for the Donald NEIP of actions needed in the case of an emergency situation. Should the need arise technical support is available to this group from North Central CMA, DPI and the Buloke Shire Council.

Resources for this activity would largely be in-kind and limited financial funding from the Buloke Shire Council is held in reserve for the Donald NEIP.

**Signatures of partners**

*“We, the undersigned, being partners in the attached NEIP, agree to undertake the actions specified in this NEIP and to implement this Plan in the spirit of NEIPs – with openness and active participation by all the partners”*

**17.SEPARATE SCHEDULE – NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS OF PARTNERS – NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
	Individual contact
	Position
	Address
	Phone number
	Fax
	Email