

Appendix 2 – RCS pre-draft consultation record and issues summary

RCS Pre-draft consultation record

Community and stakeholder views were sought at each of these meetings prior to developing the draft.

Date	Place	Group	Approx. attendance
8.8.2011	Elmhurst	Elmhurst Landcare Group	20
15.8.2011	Edenhope	West Wimmera Shire Council – officer level	4
24.8.2011	Stawell	Upper Wimmera Biodiversity Action Planning Group	6
25.8.2011	Horsham	Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Working Group	16
30.8.2011	Horsham	Horsham Rural City Council – officer level	2
1.9.2011	Natimuk	Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar	150
2.9.2011	Horsham	Horsham Rural City Council – CEO level	4
5.9.2011	Stawell	Wimmera District VFF Meeting	18
7.9.2011	Nhill	Hindmarsh Shire Council – councillor level	10
7.9.2011	Horsham	Public meeting, Commissioner of Environmental Sustainability & WCMA CEO on panel	40
12.9.2011	Horsham	Greening Australia	4
12.9.2011	Horsham	Horsham Rural City Council – councillor level	4
12.9.2011	Horsham	Dept of Planning and Community Development	3
13.9.2011	Nhill	Hindmarsh Landcare Network	8
13.9.2011	Nhill	Hindmarsh Shire Council – CEO level	4
13.9.2011	Warracknabeal	Yarriambiack Shire Council – CEO level	4
14.9.2011	Warracknabeal	Yarrilinks Landcare Network	8
14.9.2011	Horsham	Habitat 141	2
14.9.2011	Horsham	Wimmera Agroforestry Network	8
19.9.2011	Horsham	DPI & DSE reps – preliminary RCS meeting	4
22.9.2011	Horsham	Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance	4
23.9.2011	Horsham	Trust For Nature	3
26.9.2011	Brim	Brim Landcare Group	20
27.9.2011	Birchip	Birchip cropping group	4
28.9.2011	Horsham	Wimmera River Improvement Committee	10

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29.9.2011	Brim	Brim Topcrop group	15
30.9.2011	Edenhope	Council CEOs meeting	6
3.10.2011	Edenhope	Kowree Farm Tree Group	10
3.10.2011	Stawell	Project Platypus	10
5.10.2011	Horsham	RtBC Recovery Team	1
6.10.2011	Edenhope	West Wimmera Council Meeting	8
10.10.2011	Murtoa	Lions Club Meeting on request	10
11.10.2011	Horsham	WCMA combined advisory committees	35
12.10.2011	Warracknabeal	Yarriambiack Shire Council Meeting	6
12.10.2011	Horsham	DSE Threatened Species and Native Veg experts	6
13.10.2011	Horsham	DPI Soils, IPA experts	4
19.10.2011	Horsham	WCMA board induction	8
24.10.2011	Horsham	Vic No Till	3
27.10.2011	Laharum	Laharum Landcare Group	10
27.10.2011	Upper Catchment	Tour of sites with Doug Boatman, Project Platypus, other landholders	5
28.10.2011	Horsham	GWMWater	1
02.11.2011	Warracknabeal	Yarriambiack Ck Advisory Committee	4
03.11.2011	Horsham	CFA	2
04.11.2011	Horsham	DSE Fire Planning	2
15.11.2011	Joel Joel	Perennial Pasture Systems group	10
16.11.2011	Horsham	Advisory Committee – soils technical working group	12
29.11.2011	Horsham	Grampians to Little Desert Biolink Committee	1
29.11.2011	Horsham	Parks Vic	4
6-8.03.2011	Horsham	Field Days stall (based around RCS)	To -add
Written Submissions			
26.09.11	Whole Wimmera	Trust for Nature	
28.10.11	SouthWest	Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Team	

RCS pre-draft summary of issues raised

Issues raised during the pre-draft consultation phase that are of concern to the community include:

- We need a better understanding of floodplains, especially since channel decommissioning.
- Guidelines around debris removal from waterways would be useful because there was confusion over whether, or how much, debris causes flooding.
- Stock are still accessing significant portions of the Wimmera River and causing bed and bank erosion.
- Wimmera River flows: we need to achieve equitable water allocation between upper and lower catchments to meet community expectations.
- As conditions change from dry to wet, new threats are emerging for our regions wetlands; e.g. draining and raised beds.
- Government incentives need to achieve permanent change and include follow-up.
- There is an ongoing loss of paddock trees and very little recruitment of new trees.
- The focus on native vegetation has been on trees for many years but now we are becoming more aware of the need to focus on native grasslands.
- Pest and weeds are a major concern across our entire catchment.
- Need to improve communication and collaboration between NRM practitioners.
- We need to encourage more community understanding about threatened species—there is little knowledge about local threatened species, although the reduction in numbers of curlews and mallee fowl are felt by the broader community.
- We would love to increase our knowledge about soils, especially in terms of carbon and organic matter, particularly in light of current government programs relating to carbon emissions.
- 5% burn target will not protect built infrastructure and is too much for ecological optimum.
- Short-term funding cycles are frustrating and ineffective in achieving long-term gain.
- The CMA needs to take on a broader role in capacity building of community and volunteer groups to include engagement, education, and funding.