

Helping landholders adapt to climate change and variable resource availability

Water for a Healthy Country

National Research
FLAGSHIPS
Water for a Healthy Country



We are working with growers and community groups in South Australia's Riverland to develop strategies to help them manage and adapt to a drier future.

What is this study about?

This study will look at how future climates scenarios may affect the viability and profitability of regional irrigation and the region's economy. It will also consider ways farmers and the regional economy can adapt to change and will address potential environmental impacts of changes.

The project, based in South Australia's Riverland, uses computer models to project what the region's climate may look like into the future.

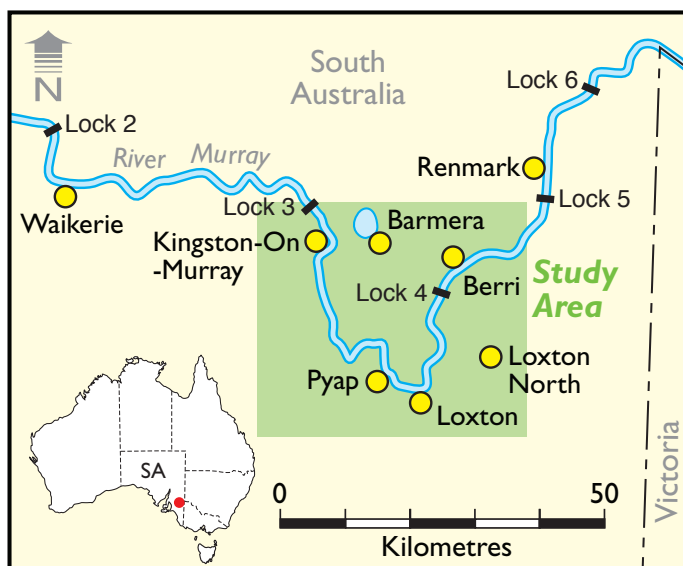
It builds on a major futures scenario analysis project recently completed for the Lower Murray region by CSIRO and partners. The Lower Murray Landscape Futures Project (Landscape Futures for the River Corridor - www.landscapefutures.com.au/) looked at the impacts on water supply, irrigation sector adaptation and regional economy of four climate scenarios, ranging from baseline conditions through to severe climate change using a best practice science triple bottom line approach.

What do we want to achieve?

1. To promote increased awareness of management options and strategies for dealing with climate change and climate variability at an on farm, district and regional scale.
2. To accelerate the uptake of climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies by communities by helping them to clarify their goals and better understand the consequences of their decisions.
3. To encourage the uptake of best practice management techniques and strategies to reduce the gap between climate change research and local practices.
4. To complement other government and industry programs and initiatives by helping deliver integrated solutions and a learning tool to deal with the impacts of climate change. In particular this project will help transfer of expertise in the triple bottom line analysis previously undertaken at a regional scale to particular local circumstances.

Fast Facts

- CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country Flagship and Loxton LAP have been contracted by the federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to work with local communities, growers, scientists, and natural resource managers to find out the most realistic management and adaptation strategies to deal with a drier future.
- This project will help us better understand ways to deal with what climate change and climate variability will mean for our farms, our district and our region.
- The work will take place in the Bookpurnong and Pyap to Kingston on Murray Land and Water Management Planning Regions in South Australia's Riverland.
- A number of options and scenarios will be developed based on talks with local irrigation groups, drawing on their specialised knowledge.
- Free computer-based decision tools to help evaluate the impact of local chosen scenarios will be developed and made available as part of the project.



What is the future vision of local growers regarding their business prospects?

The first phase, which began in July 2009, involves consulting with regional community groups to find out what is the future vision of local growers regarding their business prospects and adaptation at farm, district and regional economy scale

At a farm level, we want to ask questions such as: Are growers, on an individual level, going to stay in business facing climate challenges and less water availability? Are they considering changing crop selection and rotation? Are they willing to sell or trade their water for salinity benefit?

At a district level, we want to ask what considerations have to be taken into account regarding reconfiguration and down sizing to save delivery costs and capture ecosystem service benefits?

Have your say at one of our workshops

Four workshops in total will be held to explore and record community groups' opinions about their forecasted farming prospects, climate risks and a preliminary determination of what kinds of adaptation options could be considered on farm, district and region levels.

Workshops will be held with each of the two Land & Water Management Planning Groups of Bookpurnong and Pyap to Kingston on Murray in the Riverland Region of South Australia.

Two other workshops will held for natural resource managers and growers to highlight the main issues of climate change and share results from the science frontier in terms of climate change, water availability, water trading, policy, and to discuss possible adaptation strategies at local farm, irrigation district and regional economy level.

What's next?

A list of adaptation options of interest to each of the two groups will be developed for further evaluation in the second phase which will start in December 2009.



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CSIRO and the Flagships program

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