Lower Loddon Irrigators Recovery Package
Increasing resilience of farming communities on the floodplain

Australia is a land of droughts and flooding rains…

Victoria’s 2010-11 Floods

Lower Loddon January 2011 Flood Event
January 2011
Lower Loddon Flood Footprint

Effectiveness of river levees?

Flood response – protect key assets

March 2011…still inundated
Hardship, politics and flood recovery planning

Action, not more flood studies
- Integrated water policy
- Multi-agency cooperation
- Regional leadership
- Resilience thinking

Targeted land use change

Facilitating Irrigator Recovery
Supply System Modernisation

Flood Recovery Objectives Achieved?

1. Reduce the risk to farm businesses
2. Reduce the risk to dwellings and other key assets
3. Reduce the risk of government investment in land use not compatible with the flood hazard

Flood Recovery: Land Use Change and Asset Protection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Classification (2008-09)</th>
<th>Pre Flood (hectares)</th>
<th>Post Flood Recovery Package</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Livestock - Dairy Cattle</td>
<td>831</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex Dairy - Fodder Production / Mixed</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigated Cropping</td>
<td>2526</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Livestock Grazing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock - Beef Cattle</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Cropping (&gt; 20 ha)</td>
<td>1214</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential / Lifestyle (0.4 - 20 Ha)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant Residential / Lifestyle (0.4 - 20 Ha)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>same</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL 5,600 ha 2500 ha with changed land use

Ring Protection levees
Lessons learnt

- Incentive funding must be sufficient for irrigators to afford to relocate
- Have acceptable options for the most vulnerable landholders who do not want to relocate
- Timeframes need to be clear and upfront to provide certainty in decision-making
- Be flexible to landholder needs

Lessons learnt

- Structural change is a bitter pill, that requires clear technical and economic justification
- Land use change requires clear eligibility criteria and priorities, regional leadership and a steady hand
- Face to face contact and empathy is important
- Don’t rely on the media or a single committee to keep the community accurately informed

Flood Risk Assessment = Likelihood x Consequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Description</th>
<th>Flood Hazard</th>
<th>Society, economic, environment conditions</th>
<th>Risk Mitigation</th>
<th>Flood Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border River North Strzelecki area</td>
<td>Medium frequency, moderate depth and duration floods to moderate depth and duration floods</td>
<td>Land use transition to floodprone and wetland</td>
<td>Source water and sediment control</td>
<td>Very high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loddon River Feild</td>
<td>Medium frequency, moderate depth at floodplains</td>
<td>Low soil erosion, shallow soil, low floodplain susceptibility</td>
<td>Source water and sediment control</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benangro Plains area</td>
<td>Medium frequency, shallow to moderate depth at floodplains</td>
<td>Low soil erosion, shallow soil, low floodplain susceptibility</td>
<td>Source water and sediment control</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>