

Evaluating Policies for Management of the Murray-Darling Basin

Policy

An aim or general statement of intent by an organisation to develop and modify a particular set of circumstances. An example of a policy is 'to have halted and begun to reverse the worldwide incidence of malaria by 2015'.

Strategy

The means to achieve a policy. This is the break down of activities that ensure the development and implementation of policy. An example of a strategy is 'to have increased the number of doctors to provide vaccination programs against malaria'.

Evaluate

To express an opinion, support it with evidence and measure the extent to which sustainable management is achieved. Evaluation words are strengths and weaknesses, beneficial / detrimental etc.

Criteria

Standards or measures used to evaluate success and sustainability. Criteria help to determine what is most appropriate for the present and the future.

A range of criteria could be used to evaluate responses to management strategies in the Murray-Darling Basin. These could include:

1. The cost of implementation of the policy and strategies (is it affordable?)
2. How effective the response is to deal with the issue at a local, regional and national scale
3. The willingness of individual people and organisations to implement and abide by the proposal
4. The flexibility, fairness, incentives, and enforceability of the policy
5. Whether the response encourages sustainable development

Additionally....think about using SHEEPT as a guide and comment on relevant aspects. For example:

Social: What are the effects of this policy on people within and beyond the Basin?

Economic: How much has it cost to implement the policy? What are the benefits?

Environmental: What are the effects of the policies on the riverine environment of the Murray-Darling Basin?