

Table 1 | Key findings and recommendations identified by 2013–19 RCS review processes.

Key Findings	Recommendations
<p>Grouping regional assets into nine individual themes (i.e. rivers; wetlands; threatened species, populations and communities; terrestrial habitat; soils; agricultural land; groundwater; culture and heritage; and community capacity for NRM) no longer aligns with key planning and reporting frameworks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidate river and wetland assets into a ‘waterways’ theme to align with the Mallee Waterway Strategy (2014–22) framework • Consolidate threatened species and ecological communities, and terrestrial habitat assets into a ‘biodiversity’ theme to align with the state-wide Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037 strategy • Integrate soils and groundwater assets utilised for production into the agricultural land theme to align with the Victorian Mallee Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan (2020–29), and the Mallee Dryland Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (2017–23).
<p>The asset- based approach applied to identify priorities at the landscape scale (i.e. <i>asset value x risk x intervention</i> effectiveness) continues to provide an effective framework for integrating and targeting delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing landscape boundaries and incorporate new information (e.g. regional planning and prioritisation data, stakeholder* aspirations) into a revised set of local areas to inform regional priorities and delivery • Apply the Mallee Waterway Strategy (2014–22) prioritisation framework to river and wetland related activities • Apply new decision support tools (e.g. Strategic Management Prospects, Habitat Distribution and Importance Models) to inform prioritisation of biodiversity related activities.
<p>Significant changes in government policy, planning and investment frameworks that may influence the region’s strategic directions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key state and federal policy and planning changes, and incorporate into RCS renewal processes as appropriate.
<p>Significant changes in regional planning and prioritisation frameworks that may influence strategic/management directions and priorities at both the whole-of-region and landscape scale.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key regional and local strategic/planning changes, and incorporate into RCS renewal processes as appropriate.
<p>Identification of five priority landscapes for biodiversity linkages by the Mallee NRM Plan for Climate Change (2016) builds on and enhances the RCS’s targeted delivery framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and incorporate priority corridors as part of landscape scale (i.e. Local Area) approach to integrating and targeting delivery.
<p>The scale and scope of RCS Implementation Plans developed for each priority landscape did not allow for annual review and renewal within available resources, impacting on currency and stakeholder engagement/ application.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop ‘simple’ Local Area Action Plans to identify investment priorities and potential delivery partners for each landscape • Undertake annual reviews with local stakeholders* to ensure currency and facilitate increased collaborative action.
<p>Capturing management actions undertaken by all regional delivery partners represented a key information gap impacting on the extent to which RCS implementation and achievements could be measured and reported. The different reporting requirements and data collection systems that each organisation operates under limits the extent to which whole-of-region data can be effectively collected and collated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mallee CMA to continue to work with regional stakeholders* and state government departments to identify opportunities for increased consistency in data collection, and improved data sharing processes.

* Where ‘stakeholders’ encompass government and non-government organisations, Traditional Owners/First Peoples, and community based NRM/industry groups.