

CMA puts SIF3 to the test

By Jill Griffiths

In North Central CMA, SIF3 has been put to the test and Geoff Park, a knowledge broker who works in the catchment, is positive about the effects.

"We thought we were using a targeted approach before, but using SIF3 has made us realise that we weren't," Geoff said.

"We found we weren't really having much effect in addressing the impact of salinity on high-value-environmental assets."

It has enabled catchment managers to better analyse work being done in the catchment and its protective effects.

"Our tendency has been to do a little bit of everything, because we couldn't make the hard calls. SIF3 enables us to make the hard decisions and allocate limited resources wisely."

Geoff explained the pathway to making decisions with SIF3 was logical and transparent.

"Not everyone will agree with the decisions, but they can follow our reasoning."

Geoff suggests past decision-making models have tended to be very complex, leading

to people either believing they must be good because of their complexity or else mistrusting them completely. It has enabled better partnerships to be built between researchers and catchment managers.

"We are confident that by focussing on the protection of high value environmental assets, limited resources are being expended for the greater public benefit," Geoff explained.

"The CMA is working in different places and exploring a wider range of options. Previously, the emphasis was on incentives and extension. While they are still important, we now take a broader approach and look at engineering options and applications of research and development; we are better consumers of research." 📌

More information

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