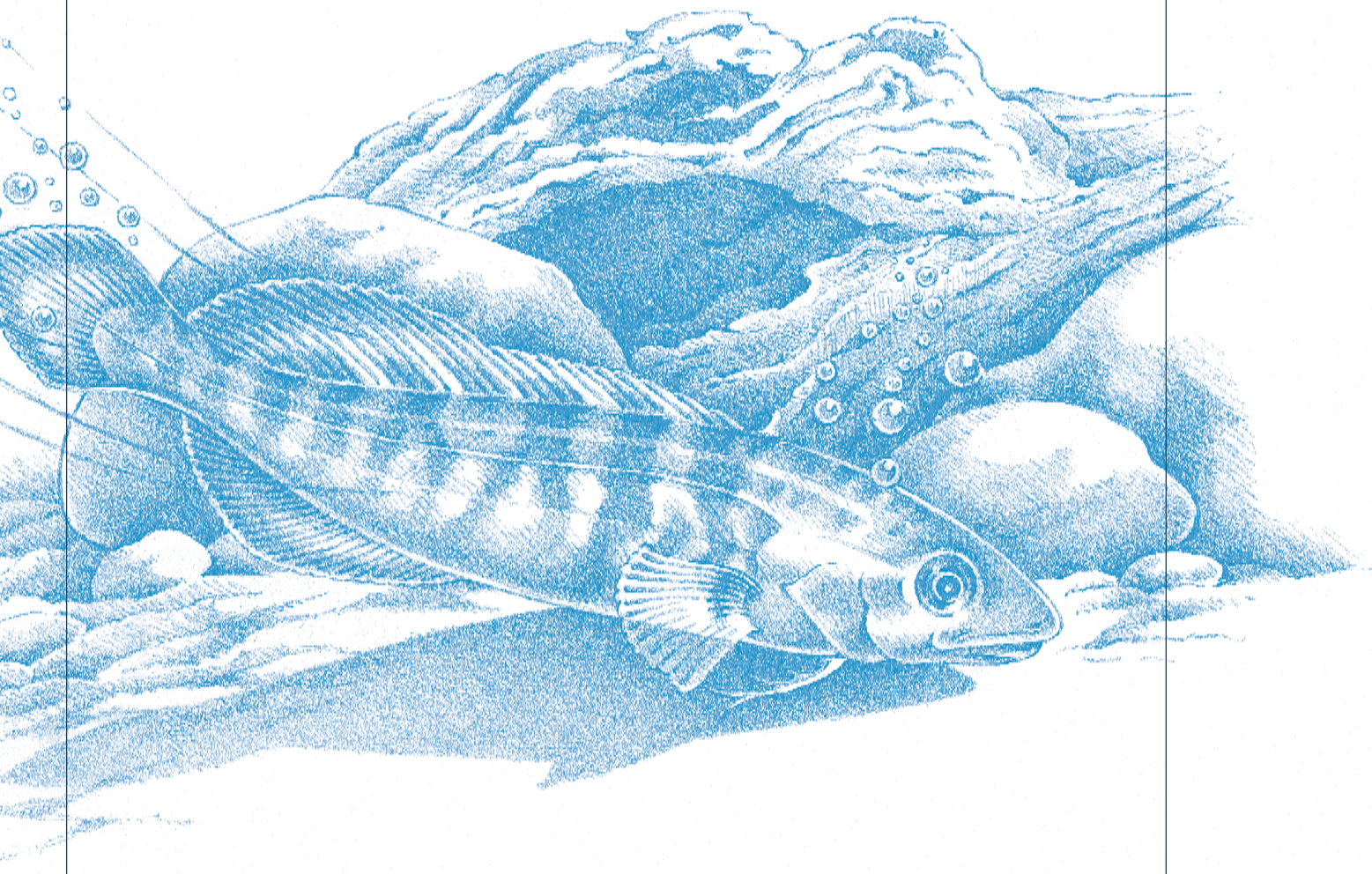


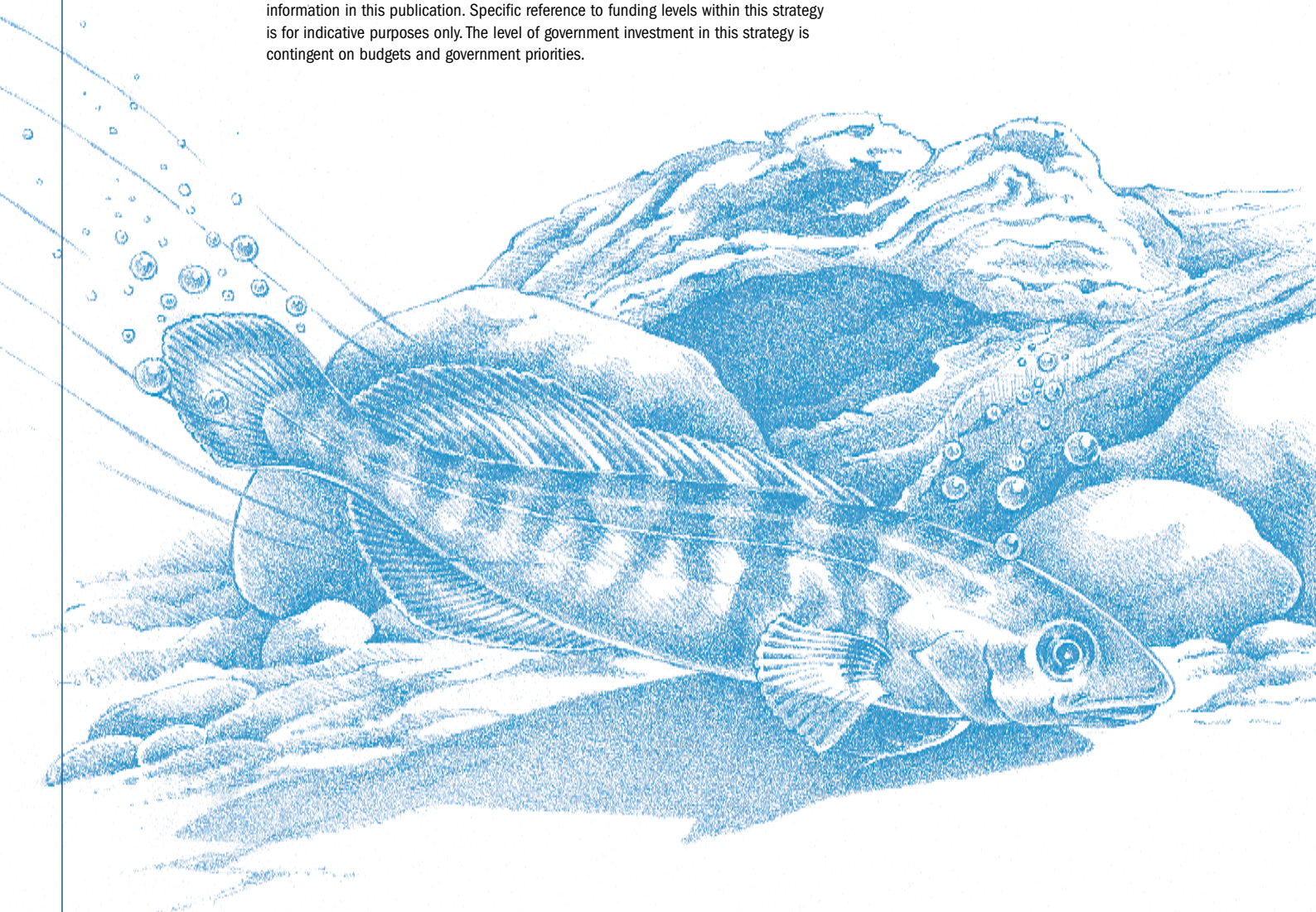
Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy Addendum



Melbourne Water is owned by the Victorian Government. The Victorian Government in its Our Water Our Future action plan assigned Melbourne Water the caretaker of river health and gave Melbourne Water responsibility for waterway management, regional drainage and floodplain management, the management of the environmental water reserve, and water quality monitoring throughout the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

Melbourne Water works closely with the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to protect and improve the region's rivers and creeks. The CMA is responsible for the overall strategic management of natural resources and regional planning for the Port Phillip and Westernport region through the development of a Regional Catchment Strategy.

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims any liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from you relying on the information in this publication. Specific reference to funding levels within this strategy is for indicative purposes only. The level of government investment in this strategy is contingent on budgets and government priorities.



Contents

Executive Summary	2
1. Introduction	4
1.1 Port Phillip & Westernport Regional River Health Strategy	4
1.2 Melbourne Water's Water Plan	6
2. Development of the RRHS Addendum	7
2.1 Revision of Catchment Specific Actions	7
2.2 Revision of Regional Actions	7
2.3 Revision of 5-Year Implementation Targets	8
2.4 Revision of Budgets	17
3. Overview of RRHS Addendum Program	19
RRHS Addendum Budgets 2008/09 to 2012/13	19
5-year Waterway Works Program	19
5-year Works Implementation Targets	20
5-Year Community, Education & Partnership Targets	20
4. Appendices	27
Appendix 1: Importance Ranking of Rivers and Creeks in the Regional River Health Strategy and the Prioritisation of Actions	27
Appendix 2: Relationship Between 'Sub Management Units', 'Management Units' and 'Major Catchments' in the Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy	29
Appendix 3: 5-year Waterway Health Program costs for 2008/09 to 2012/13 31 by Management Unit*	32
Appendix 4: 5-year Implementation targets 2008/09 to 2012/13 by Management Unit	34
Appendix 5: Guide to Interpreting Management Unit Catchment Actions and Targets in Appendix 5	36
Appendix 6: 5-year Catchment Specific Actions by Management Unit 2008/09 to 2012/13	37

Executive Summary

The Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy (RRHS) is an overarching strategy that had Ministerial endorsement in November 2006. The RRHS incorporates a range of waterway issues including riparian management, aquatic habitat, channel form, water quality, stream flows, recreation, heritage and floodplain management. On a catchment-by-catchment basis it identifies environmental, social and economic values of waterways and threats to those values.

RRHS waterway management priorities are classified into 'Region wide' and 'Waterway Health' (catchment actions) programs. Waterway Health programs are divided into 10 categories, including Channel Form (CF), Riparian Management (RM), Aquatic Habitat (AH), Investigations (INV), Planning (P), Flow Management (FM), Water Quality (WQ), Recreation (RE), Heritage (HE) and Floodplain & Drainage (FD).

Waterway Health program actions in the RRHS were allocated according to very high priority (and high priority riparian management actions) that become the focus for the first 5 years of Strategy implementation (2005 to 2010); and moderate to low priorities that are the focus for the following 15 years (2010 to 2025). Waterway targets were also set as part of the RRHS and provide a means for assessing progress. Targets are 5-year 'Implementation' targets (to 2010), 10-year 'Resource Condition' targets (to 2015) and 'Community Engagement' targets.



Melbourne Water is a statutory corporation fully owned by the Victorian Government, and is a water resources manager, providing water, sewerage and recycled water services to retail water businesses and waterways and drainage services to the greater Melbourne Community. On 1 January 2004, the Essential Services Commission became responsible for the economic regulation of the Victoria water industry. This responsibility includes setting prices and service standards for regulated services provided by the State's water businesses. Melbourne Water's Statement of Obligations requires the submission of a Water Plan to the Essential Services Commission. This Plan is designed to enable the Commission to determine prices for prescribed services for the Water Plan period.

Melbourne Water's first Water Plan, that covered the period between 2005/06 to 2007/08, summarises the outcomes Melbourne Water needs to deliver, the actions required to achieve these outcomes and the associated capital (CAPEX) and operating (OPEX) costs. The Water Plan also summarises the implications of these actions for the overall revenue requirement and prices. The second Water Plan (Water Plan 2) will cover a 5-year period between 2008/09 to 2012/13.

Within the Water Plan there are key program areas, including the Waterways Condition program. Outcomes Melbourne Water needs to deliver and actions required to achieve these Waterways Condition program outcomes are largely sourced from the Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy. Although the Regional River Health Strategy provides a pivotal role in establishing Waterways Condition Program budgets and targets for Melbourne Water, the 5-year and longer-term actions (and associated targets) do not align with the Water Plan periods.

The purpose of this document, the Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy Addendum, is to align RRHS priorities and targets for the Water Plan 2 period between 2008/09 to 2012/13. As the purpose of this Addendum is to establish budgets and targets for Melbourne Water, the Addendum only covers the actions and targets that are Melbourne Water's responsibility. Other than water quality (WQ) program actions, that will be revised and identified through Melbourne Water's Water Quality Strategy in a parallel process, the focus of the Addendum are actions relating to the riparian management (RM), aquatic habitat (AH), channel form (CF), flow management (FM), planning (P), stream health investigations and research (INV).

The Addendum development process did not seek to undertake a process of re-prioritising actions or identifying an extensive list of new actions. The process essentially involved:

1. removal of completed regional and catchment specific actions
2. addition of the next highest priority RRHS actions from the 6 to 20-year program into the 5-year program
3. review of action wording to clarify intent
4. extension of existing targets out to 2013
5. review of budget allocations for specific actions

As well as presenting the 2008/09 to 2012/13 budgets, actions and targets, this RRHS Addendum also captures the process and assumptions behind its development (Chapter '2'). Summary program information is presented in Chapter '3' and revised regional and catchment actions are presented in Appendices.