

Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

Annual Report 2018-19



The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA works on the lands, waters and seas of the Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri peoples and acknowledges them as Traditional Owners.

It recognises and respects the diversity of their cultures and the deep connections they have with Country. It values partnerships with their communities and organisations to improve the health of Indigenous people and Country.

The Board and staff of the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA pay their respects to Elders, past and present, and acknowledge and recognise the primacy of Traditional Owners' obligations, rights and responsibilities to use and care for their traditional lands, waters and seas.

2018-19 PORT PHILLIP & WESTERNPORT CMA ANNUAL REPORT

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This Annual Report outlines the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)'s progress against the performance indicators in its 2018-19 Corporate Plan.

It also includes information about:

- The PPWCMA, its Board and employees
- Programs and their results
- The work of partners and their contribution to the region's environmental goals
- The condition of some of the natural resources in the region
- Compliance with governance requirements
- Financial statements.

Front cover photo: PPWCMA staff and Roberto the Connie celebrate the release of the new Living Links Connies swap card series. *Alison Hoelzer.*

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Chair's FOREWORD

It is with pleasure that I present the 2018-19 Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Annual Report. It's been a privilege to spend another year as part of an organisation that provides such a high level of leadership in natural resource management, supported by our valued partnerships with stakeholders and the community.

The PPWCMA continued to have strong governance, well-managed risks and adherence to government policy throughout the year. Funding levels continued to be a challenge, but a clear strategic direction and an innovative approach to our work helped us continue to deliver positive outcomes.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT'S FUTURE

2018-19 kicked off the next phase of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and we're pleased to be delivering major projects and valuable services to support the region's environment and drive sustainable land management practices, including:

- Protecting and enhancing the ecological character of the Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) Ramsar sites by reducing feral cats, pigs, foxes, rabbits and weeds across 49,779 hectares
- Developing two habitat restoration plans for sites in the Yarra Valley that will contribute to saving the critically endangered populations of the Helmeted Honeyeater and Lowland Leadbeater's Possum over the next 5-10 years
- Directing funds to the Smart Farming for Western Port project, which in its first year supported 160 farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices that will improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation.

2018-19 also marked Grow West's 15th year of operation. Since its beginnings as a program to control serrated tussock, rabbits and manage erosion in the Upper Werribee Catchment, it's planted over 1.3 million trees across 2,500 hectares, becoming one of Australia's leading landscape restoration projects.

We worked with DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Agriculture Victoria to deliver the Our City in Nature event which explored Melbourne's relationship with its flora and fauna and brought 300 people from government agencies, councils, non-government organisations and community groups together to share knowledge and foster effective relationships.

Overall, we worked with our partners to deliver 108,180 hectares of pest plant and animal control, planted 212,607 trees and revegetated 221 hectares. We also engaged 5,349 people in 119 events and workshops, helping the communities of the region be better informed and more active in land, water and biodiversity management.

EMPOWERING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

The PPWCMA was pleased to provide over \$160,000 through the Victorian Landcare Grants 2018-19 to 47 Landcare and community environment groups, enabling them to implement on-ground and community awareness activities. We enhanced

our strong relationships with the region's Landcare groups and networks by signing a partnership agreement with the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network, the third network to do so.

Our partnerships with the Indigenous community have also continued to grow. The Board was proud to sign formal partnership agreements with the Bunurong Land Council and Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (Waddawurrung) in 2018-19. This means the PPWCMA now has agreements with all of the region's Registered Aboriginal Parties, confirming our commitment to work together for the health of the region's environment.

STRONG BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

The PPWCMA has again demonstrated excellent financial management, governance, risk management and project management across the organisation.

Board members were active participants in various committees including the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee, Audit Committee and Living Links, Grow West and Yarra4Life coordination committees.

It was also great to see the continuing implementation of our key strategies, such as the Indigenous Participation Plan and OH&S Strategy. New strategic documents, including a revised Corporate Plan and a Communications and Engagement Strategy were created through the year.

Thank you to our Board members, CEO and employees for their ongoing passion and dedication. Their hard work ensures outcomes of the highest standard for our environment and the community. I look forward to another exciting and busy year in 2019-20.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the PPWCMA Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 2019.



Tania Foster
Board Chair
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA
26th August 2019



Section 1

YEAR IN REVIEW

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CEO's REPORT

2018-19 was another great year for the PPWCMA. Substantial on-ground outcomes continued to be achieved, the organisation's culture remained positive and strong, with high standards of business and governance maintained. 2018-19 also saw a major transition from the previous National Landcare Program to the first year of the new five-year Regional Land Partnerships program funded by the Australian Government.

MAJOR ON-GROUND ACHIEVEMENTS

Our on-ground achievements have included:

- Grow West celebrating 15 years of transforming degraded landscapes in the Upper Werribee Catchment, including planting 1.3 million trees across 2,500 hectares
- Living Links' Enhancing Dandenong Creek Project attracting 2,081 residents from south-east Melbourne to 34 events that helped them connect with their natural environment
- Yarra4Life continuing to assist the Helmeted Honeyeater on its journey from survival to expansion through the creation of two detailed habitat restoration plans as part of the Great HeHo Escape project
- Protecting the environmental values of the region's internationally significant wetlands and migratory shorebirds by undertaking 49,779 hectares of pest animal and weed control across the Port Phillip (western shoreline) and Western Port Ramsar sites
- Increasing the skills and knowledge of 589 farmers around soil carbon and soil biology for improved farm productivity through the Smart Farming for Western Port project.

HELPING OTHERS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

In addition to leading major on-ground programs, the PPWCMA worked to foster collaboration amongst organisations, community groups and volunteers, build their skills and help them undertake on-ground work to protect and enhance the environment, including:

- Hosting the catchment partnership event *Our City in Nature* with DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Agriculture Victoria in May 2019, which attracted 300 representatives and volunteers from the environmental sector
- Signing partnership agreements with Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (Wadawurrung) and Bunurong Land Council
- Providing \$176,040 in grants to Landcare and community environmental groups for priority projects and leadership development through the Victorian Landcare Grants and Our Catchments, Our Communities Leadership Grants
- Establishing a formal partnership agreement with the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network
- Supported farmers and agricultural industry groups through the Regional Agriculture Facilitator to help

improve the sustainability, productivity and profitability of the region's agriculture, including supporting the Bunyip fire recovery.

SUPPORTING A POSITIVE ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE

Through 2018-19, the PPWCMA continued to exhibit a very healthy organisational culture that embraces our values of collaboration, leadership, creativity and reliability. Highlights included:

- Continual improvement of our occupational health and safety system
- Ongoing implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- A staff engagement index of 82 percent, well above the public sector average.

For the achievements of the year and for making this a great place to work, I sincerely congratulate and thank all the staff and Board members of the PPWCMA. Our staff are positive, committed, innovative and resilient, and it remains a great pleasure to be part of a team that can apply our passion for the environment within our everyday work.

A POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

The PPWCMA continues to face a number of challenges associated with reduced revenue and staffing levels. However, opportunities to expand the organisation's role are being actively pursued, including proposing projects for new government funding programs and increasing leadership in community-based coastal and marine programs.

With a clear forward agenda in place and a strong reputation as an efficient and creative organisation, I look forward to us continuing to deliver excellent environmental outcomes and community services.

David Buntine



CEO
Port Phillip &
Westernport CMA



2018-19 HIGHLIGHTS

5,349
people
participated in

 **119**
community
events

delivered by the PPWCMA and its partners including the 13th annual Grow West Community Planting Day and 2nd annual Discover Dandenong Creek Festival



Pest plant and animal control undertaken across

108,179
hectares

**NEW
PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENTS
SIGNED**

with the Bunurong Land Council and Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (Wadawurrung) and Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network



\$176,040
provided to

 **47**

Landcare and community environmental groups through community grants



1,400
hectares
of new farm
management
plans

through the Smart Farming for Western Port project

**OUR CITY
IN NATURE
CONFERENCE**

– attended by –

300 
environment sector
representatives & volunteers

212,607
trees, shrubs and
ground covers
planted across

 **221**
hectares

Summary of PERFORMANCE

✓ **ACHIEVED**

✓ **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**

X **NOT ACHIEVED**

Our community services

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2022-23)	2018-19 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 Collaborative strategy			
25 councils/government organisations 'signed on' as Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) partners.	25	✓	26 signed on with current RCS. More to be sought following development of next RCS.
Five other organisations 'signed on' as RCS partners.	5	✓	Six signed on with current RCS. More to be sought following development of next RCS.
Five major regional partner forums/events conducted (one per year).	1	✓	<i>Our City in Nature</i> held on 21 May 2019 with 300 partners and community volunteers in attendance.
 Landcare support			
84 Landcare groups in the Port Phillip and Western Port region.	84	✓	At the end of 2018-19, there were 88 groups in the region. The Drouin Rabbit Control Landcare Group was revived and the Macedon Landcare Group was formed in 2018-19.
2,500 Landcare members in the Port Phillip and Western Port region.	2,500	✓	67 Landcare, Friends of and other community environment groups reported 4,391 members in the 2017-18 group health report. The inclusion of non-Landcare groups in this survey mean this measure should be reviewed.
75% of rural land covered by Landcare groups.	75%	✓	75.1% of the region's private rural land is covered by Landcare groups (2017-18 Landcare Report Card).
Partnership agreements in place with nine of the region's Landcare networks.	3	✓	Three agreements with Landcare networks (Western Port Catchment Landcare network, Bass Coast Landcare Network and Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network) were in place at the end of 2018-19.
Secure \$160,000 per year to provide grants to Landcare groups and networks.	\$160,000	✓	\$176,040 secured in 2018-19 comprised of \$166,040 for Victorian Landcare Grants 2018-19, and \$10,000 for OCOC Leadership Grants which provided initiatives for developing emerging Landcare leaders.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2022-23)	2018-19 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 Indigenous participation			
Partnership agreements in place with the region's Indigenous organisations.	4	✓	At the end of 2018-19, agreements were in place with the region's three Registered Aboriginal Parties (Bunurong Land Council, Wurundjeri Tribe Council and Wadawurrung) as well as Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative.
Secure \$50,000 per year to provide grants to/procure services of Traditional Owner organisations.	-	✓	\$28,569 from existing projects was used to provide grants to and procure the services of the region's Indigenous organisations. This KPI has been reviewed for 2019-20.
Engage 100 Indigenous people in PPWCMA-led projects.	20	✓	Coordinators of existing projects engaged with 51 Indigenous people around the planning and delivery of activities in 2018-19.
Training and/or employment directly provided for 10 Indigenous people.	-	x	New funding will need to be secured for this work and this KPI has been reviewed for 2019-20. However some funding was provided through the Protecting and Connecting Species on the Mornington Peninsula project to support the Warreen Beek Rangers to undertake Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management with Trust for Nature.
 Community engagement			
2,000 followers of PPWCMA social media.	2,000	✓	At the end of 2018-19, PPWCMA social media accounts had a total of 3,811 social media followers - Facebook (2,478 - 32% growth in 2018-19), Twitter (733 - 12% growth) and Instagram (600 - 40% growth).
800 participants per year in rural events.	800	✓	2,061 participants at 58 PPWCMA (led and supported) rural events in 2018-19.
200 participants per year in urban events.	200	✓	3,288 participants at 61 PPWCMA (led and supported) urban events in 2018-19.

Our on-ground action

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2022-23)	2018-19 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 Waterways and wetlands			
Ecological condition of 20,000 hectares of the ~72,000 hectares of land within the Ramsar wetlands of the region supported by pest control activities.	4,000 hectares	✓	49,779 hectares of pest animal and weed control delivered in 2018-19 to enhance the ecological condition of the Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) Ramsar sites.
Maintain a feral cat population of less than 500 on French Island.	Maintain at <500	✓	A feral cat cage-trapping program was undertaken on French Island in 2018-19 with 40 feral cats removed. Approximately 100 feral cats remain on French Island.
 Native vegetation			
500 hectares of revegetation contributing to the establishment of new naturelinks.	100 hectares	✓	221 hectares of revegetation was undertaken in 2018-19, contributing to the establishment of new naturelinks.
Protection and enhancement of 100 hectares of priority areas of the ~195,000 hectares of threatened native vegetation types in the region.	100 hectares	✓	54,139 hectares of pest animal management and 8,726 hectares of weed control was undertaken in 2018-19 to protect and enhance threatened native vegetation types in the region.
 Native animals			
260 hectares of suitable new habitat established for wild populations of Helmeted Honeyeaters.	-	✓	In 2018-19, 50 hectares of weed control, 470 hectares of pest animal control, 0.7 hectares of revegetation was undertaken and two habitat restoration plans were created to protect and enhance habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater. New funding is required to continue to pursue this outcome.
Areas of habitat established/ improved for wild populations of Swift Parrot, Legless Lizard, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Growling Grass Frog and other threatened species.	-	x	New funding will need to be secured to achieve this outcome.
 Sustainable agriculture and land management			
500 of the ~5,000 farms in the region adopting sustainable land management practices.	100 farms	✓	160 farmers across the region adopted sustainable land management practices through the Smart Farming for Western Port project in 2018-19.

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Our organisational management

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2022-23)	2018-19 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 A healthy and efficient organisation			
Approximately 50% female representation amongst PPWCMA Board, managers and employees.	~50%	✓	At the end of 2018-19, female representation on the PPWCMA Board was 66% (6/9), 66% (2/3) within CEO and managers group and 66% (9/15) across the entire organisation.
Employee engagement index of at least 75%.	>75%	✓	PPWCMA employee engagement index in 2019 People Matter Survey was 82%.
500 hazard reports collected within the PPWCMA over five years to establish baseline data and underpin planning and responses.	100	✓	94 hazard reports were collected in 2018-19 and the organisation is on track for 500 reports over five years.
0 incidents (near misses) reports lodged within PPWCMA.	0	✓	The PPWCMA aims to have 0 incidents occur. The PPWCMA also encourages and promotes the reporting of all hazards, incidents and injuries. In 2018-19, the PPWCMA received three incident reports, which were all for minor incidents.
0 injuries and lost-time injuries sustained.	0-0	✓	The PPWCMA aims to have 0 injuries occur. The PPWCMA also encourages and promotes the reporting of all hazards, incidents and injuries. In 2018-19, the PPWCMA received three injury reports, which were all for minor injuries. 0 lost-time injuries were sustained.
0 incident notifications and Workcover claims lodged with Worksafe.	0-0	✓	No notifications or claims were lodged with Worksafe in 2018-19.
At least \$4 million in environmental management invested through the PPWCMA.	>\$4 million	✓	\$4.612 million investment was secured in 2018-19.
100% of PPWCMA projects delivered on time and budget.	100%	✓	100% of projects were delivered on time and within budget in 2018-19.
100% compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework.	100%	✓	100% compliance in 2017-18, verified in an internal audit completed in June 2018.



Our community services **COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY**

LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA is committed to making it beneficial and attractive for the region's natural resource managers, organisations and community groups to work together. The PPWCMA believes this will achieve optimum outcomes from the available resources and effort. A key mechanism to assist this goal is the development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS).

The PPWCMA aims to maintain a high quality RCS that fosters collaboration and coordination between Victorian Government organisations, Councils and many other organisations, groups and communities involved in environmental management.

The strategy currently has 32 regional organisations signed on as partners and the PPWCMA sees potential to increase this to over 100 in the years ahead if sufficient resourcing is secured to pursue this outcome.

The long-term vision of this work is to protect the environmental assets that are the cornerstones of healthy and resilient ecosystems in the region - waterways and wetlands, native vegetation, native animals, rural land, coasts, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Councils/government organisations 'signed on' as RCS partners	25	26
Other organisations 'signed on' as RCS partners	5	6
Major regional partner forums/ events conducted	5	1

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

Throughout 2018-19, the PPWCMA met with 24 of the region's organisations to discuss the purpose and effectiveness of the current RCS and potential improvements for the next RCS.

The PPWCMA provided input to the Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) to create a set of guidelines for the renewal of all Victorian regional catchment strategies. A project plan has also been created for the renewal of the Port Phillip and Western Port RCS, outlining how the PPWCMA will engage with the region's stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, to develop the new strategy.

A highlight of 2018-19 was the catchment partnership event, *Our City in Nature*, delivered by the PPWCMA in partnership with DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Agriculture Victoria. Close to 300 representatives and volunteers from the environmental sector attended this all day event to explore the theme 'Melbourne's relationship with its flora and fauna' (see case study).

More broadly, the PPWCMA actively contributed to the Water for Victoria Integrated Management Forums held across the region in 2018-19. The CEO was a member of the five forums and other staff contributed as members of technical working groups. The PPWCMA also provided advice and support on the development and implementation of the Strategic Directions Statements for the Western Port, Dandenong, Yarra, Maribyrnong and Werribee Integrated Management Forums.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

The next 12 months will focus on work to renew the RCS for the Port Phillip and Western Port region. Guidelines released by the VCMC in the second half of 2019 are expected to ensure that all Victorian CMAs present their region's RCS in a consistent online format. This will clearly demonstrate a coordinated approach and deliver a set of integrated, place-based natural resource management strategies covering the whole of Victoria. They will be developed hand-in-hand with Victoria's communities and integrate multiple government policies and programs for effective local delivery.

Stakeholder engagement is an important part of the RCS renewal process and the PPWCMA will liaise with a wide range of land managers and community sectors in the region. Traditional involvement is also a key component and the PPWCMA will work closely with the Bunurong Land Council, Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (Wadawurrung), and Wurundjeri Tribe Council.

Given the success of *Our City in Nature*, another catchment partnership event, or series of events, is planned for 2020.



OUR CITY IN NATURE

The PPWCMA already has strong relationships with DELWP, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and Agriculture Victoria and these partnerships were strengthened when the organisations came together to deliver *Our City in Nature: exploring Melbourne's relationship with its flora and fauna* in May 2019.

The sell-out, conference-style event was held at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre and was attended by close to 300 guests from a range of government organisations and agencies, non-government organisations, tertiary institutions and community environmental groups.

Our City in Nature showcased the PPWCMA's ability to collaborate with a wide range of natural resource management stakeholders to deliver an event that was engaging and improved guests understanding of the environmental issues in the region, including its native animal populations. The event also enabled networking opportunities for land managers and volunteers to connect and share experiences.

Of highlight was the range of high profile morning speakers that included the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP (Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Minister for Solar Homes), Mark Norman (Chief Conservation Scientist, Parks Victoria), John Thwaites (Chair, Melbourne Water), Jenny Gray (CEO, Zoos Victoria) and Dr. Scott Rawlings (Head of Science and Research, Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability). The event also featured a range of small round-table afternoon discussions (17 topics offered), which explored connecting people with nature, biodiversity-sensitive urban design, and cultural fire management. The day was closed with an inspirational presentation by the Cheltenham Secondary College Environment Team (in conjunction with Kids Teaching Kids) on their vision for Melbourne's future. Work is already underway to plan for next year's catchment partnership event or a series of events.

Clockwise from bottom left: Mark Norman, John Thwaites, The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Cheltenham Secondary College Environment Team with PPWCMA CEO David Buntine, Jenny Gray, City in Nature attendees.



Our community services

LANDCARE SUPPORT

LONG-TERM VISION

There are hundreds of community groups in this region that are active and influential in the protection and enhancement of natural resources. They include Landcare groups, Friends of groups and committees of management.

For around 15 years, the PPWCMA has provided strategic support for the Landcare movement in the region on behalf of the Victorian Government.

Key components of this support is staffing to engage with and provide services for the Landcare and community environmental groups and networks across the region as outlined in a regional Landcare Support Plan and a provision of grants to support the groups. Resourcing for this service is provided through the Victorian Government's Landcare Program.

By providing this support, our vision is to maintain a strong, active, capable and well-connected Landcare movement playing a valuable role in natural resource management.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Landcare groups	84	88
Landcare members	2,500	4,391
Proportion of rural land covered by Landcare groups	75%	75.1%
Partnership agreements in place with Landcare networks	9	3

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

At the end of 2018-19, there were 88 Landcare groups in the Port Phillip and Western Port region, as well as an estimated 400 Friends of and other community environmental groups. The PPWCMA provided a range of leadership and support activities to help these groups continue to take an active and central role in the region's land management including:

- Convening three Landcare facilitator meetings and three Landcare network leaders meetings
- Hosting two Landcare facilitator training events, one

focused on building and reviving groups and one focused on Indigenous cultural awareness

- Offering five \$1,000 subsidies to assist Landcare and community environmental groups to attend the National Landcare Conference and Awards in Brisbane in October 2018
- Sponsoring 20 volunteers from Landcare and community environmental groups to attend Trust for Nature and Bush Heritage's Celebrating Women in Conservation Breakfast in March 2019
- Supporting the Yarra Ranges Landcare Network to host an Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreat in June 2019, attended by 20 young Landcarers
- Assisting with the formation of a revived Drouin Rabbit Control Landcare Group and a new Macedon and Mt Macedon Landcare Group
- Signing a Partnership Agreement with the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network in February 2019, the third network to formalise their relationship in this way with the PPWCMA.

In 2018-19, the PPWCMA delivered \$166,040 in funding to Landcare and community environmental groups through the Victorian Landcare Grants 2018-19. 38 groups received support and start up grants and nine received project grants to undertake on-ground works and community building activities. The application process for the Victorian Landcare Grants 2019-20 occurred in May-June 2019 and the PPWCMA saw unprecedented interest with a total of 141 applications received, up from 83 in the 2018-19 grants. \$10,000 was also provided through the *Our Catchments*, *Our Communities* Leadership Grants. to support the development of emerging Landcare leaders.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

In 2019-20, the PPWCMA will continue its support activities, including facilitator and leader meetings. A second year of training events for Landcare will also be rolled out. The PPWCMA will also seek to put in place more partnership agreements with the region's Landcare networks.

Additional Victorian Government funds for volunteers involved in the wider environmental volunteering sector will lead to additional training events, which will be designed based on a training needs survey. A more coherent picture on the range and reach of Friends of groups will also become clearer with the Regional Landcare Facilitator sitting on the Victorians Volunteering for Nature Action Group.

The increased interest in Victorian Landcare Grants presents challenges in keeping groups engaged and motivated in the face of increased competition for grants.

YARRA RANGES INTREPID LANDCARE LEADERSHIP RETREAT

Inspiring the next generation of conservationists and land managers was at the heart of the Yarra Ranges Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreat, supported by the PPWCMA and delivered by Yarra Ranges Landcare Network and Intrepid Landcare in May 2019.

Intrepid Landcare has run a string of successful retreats in Victoria in recent years, including the Macedon Ranges Intrepid Leadership Retreat and Western Port Intrepid Leadership Retreat, which was also supported by the PPWCMA.

The retreat attracted 43 applicants, a record for Intrepid Landcare and featured a weekend full of activities to motivate and challenge 20 young participants to find their own way to contribute and make a difference. Presentations by Wurundjeri Elders, Healesville Sanctuary and the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater provided a real life snapshot of the collective power of volunteering.

One participant said, “It was such a welcoming, supportive and inspiring retreat that really opened my eyes to all the incredible work of Landcare and other conservationists... before the retreat I was passionate and wanting to enact change in the world, but was lost on where to start... I’ve now found my tribe.”

While it was clear that the weekend was profound for the participants, who left motivated and inspired, an unexpected outcome came from existing members of the Yarra Ranges Landcare Network who said they were “reminded of how beautiful their area is and how enriching their work is”.

A lively Facebook group is continuing to develop ideas, with a Yarra Ranges Intrepid Landcare group expected to be established. The event was funded through the Victorian Government’s *Our Catchments Our Communities* Leadership Grants.



Yarra Ranges Intrepid Landcare Leadership Retreat participants.

LANDCARE CULTURAL AWARENESS

Landcare groups are becoming increasingly aware of the need to engage Traditional Owner groups when planning or undertaking environmental works. Complexities surrounding cultural heritage checks, other legalities and often a lack of direct communication with Traditional Owners can lead to misunderstandings and missteps.

In a DELWP survey, Landcare facilitators rated cultural knowledge as their second most important training need. As a result of this, DELWP allocated funding to address this through training and development activities.

16 Landcare facilitators and other Landcare members, as well as six PPWCMA and Melbourne Water representatives, took part in a cultural awareness bus tour in April 2019. Co-designed by the PPWCMA and Wurundjeri Tribe Council and led by Wurundjeri Elder, Uncle Bill Nicholson, the tour visited three important Wurundjeri sites - Horseshoe Bend Farm, Wil im ee Mooring (Mt William) and Marrup Tamboore.

Uncle Bill talked about the arrival of Europeans and their early interactions with Wurundjeri, the many seasons and seasonal observations guiding life for the Wurundjeri and the grappling for lost knowledge that continues for his people.

He spoke about the challenges today for Indigenous Australians and emphasised the need for land managers to work alongside Indigenous organisations to confront environmental degradation and add to reconciliation.

A mutual respect permeated the day, with participants gaining the extra quality of learning on Country.



Landcare facilitators participate in a smoking ceremony.



Our community services

INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

LONG-TERM VISION

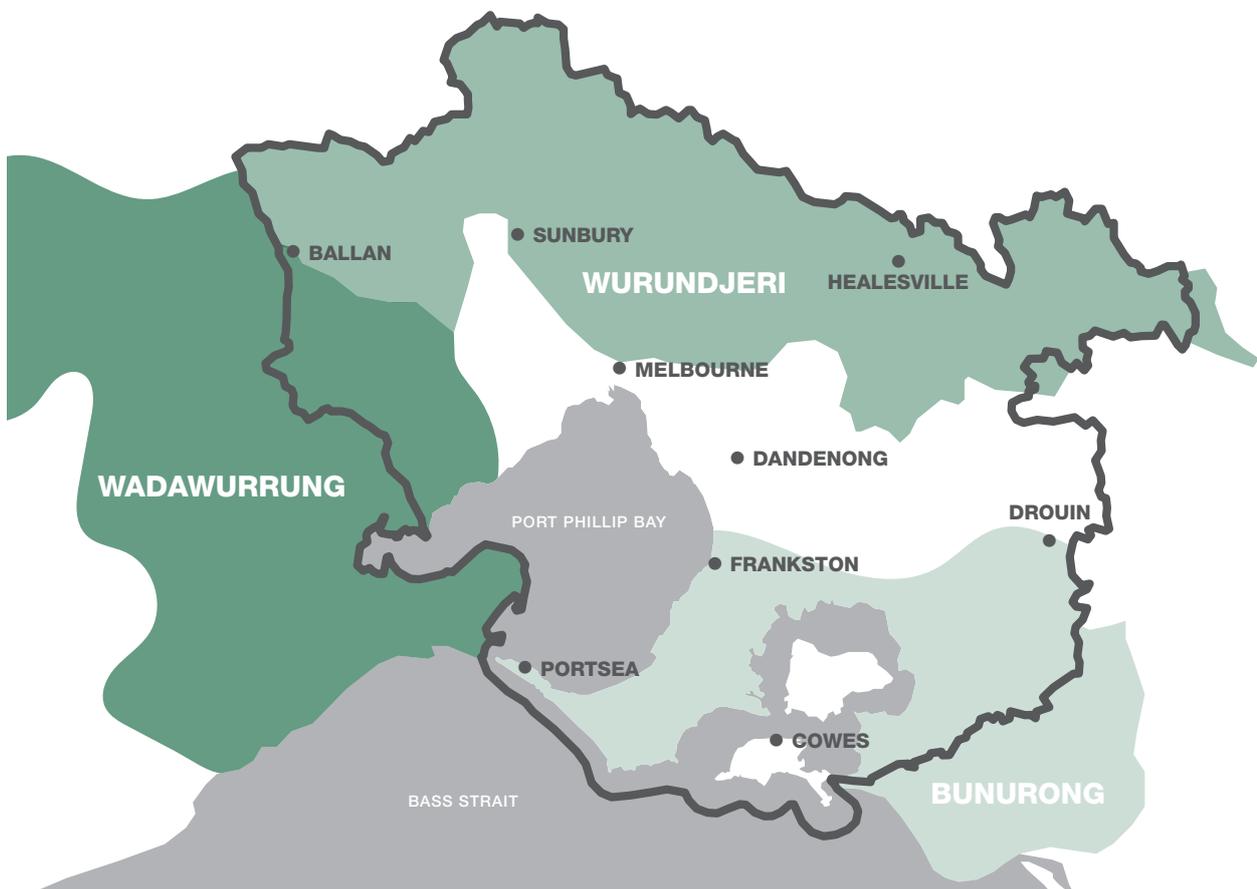
The PPWCMA recognises that the Traditional Owners of the region have an ancient and continuing connection to Country and retain traditional knowledge about caring for its land, water and biodiversity.

The PPWCMA seeks to contribute to Traditional Owners being strongly connected to their Country, knowledgeable and active in traditional practices, and engaged, respected and influential in the planning and implementation of natural resource management for this region.

There are three Traditional Owner groups with Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) status in this region - Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (Wadawurrung), Wurundjeri Tribe Council and Bunurong Land Council.

The PPWCMA is committed to supporting Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities, organisations and individuals to retain and enhance their connection to Country. The PPWCMA has an Indigenous Participation Plan in place and has committed to:

- Communicating and interacting regularly with Indigenous organisations of the region
- Supporting Indigenous people to document and protect their rights to traditional knowledge
- Enhancing the capacity of Indigenous communities to conserve and protect land, water and biodiversity
- Supporting Indigenous people to re-learn, practice and pass on their traditional knowledge
- Involving other partners in our Indigenous partnership activities and communicating to them the significant and mutual benefit of engaging Indigenous organisations in planning, decision making and action.



FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Partnership agreements in place with Traditional Owner organisations	4	4
Grants to/ procurement of Traditional Owner organisations	\$50,000	\$28,569
Engagement of Indigenous people in PPWCMA-led projects	100	51
Training and/ or employment directly provided for Indigenous people	10	Supported TFN Cert IV course

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

The PPWCMA has maintained engagement with the region's RAPs throughout 2018-19, particularly around project work. This has included:

- The Regional Agriculture Facilitator assisting Bunurong Victorian Government funded aquaponic bush food project.
- A bus tour for Landcare facilitators co-designed and hosted by the PPWCMA and Wurundjeri Tribe Council in April 2019, which visited three important Wurundjeri sites and shared information around cultural heritage and culturally-sensitive land management.
- Supporting representatives from Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation to travel to Brisbane in November 2018 for the National Landcare Conference and Awards. Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation won the 'Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare' Award



Bunurong Land Council CEO Dan Turnbull and Chair Aunty Dyan Summers sign partnership agreement with PPWCMA CEO David Buntine and Chair Tania Foster.

for their work on Coranderrk.

- Yarra4Life consulting closely with both the Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation and Worawa Aboriginal College as part of the development of the Coranderrk to Yarra Habitat Restoration Plan.
- Supporting Trust for Nature (TFN) to deliver a second round of a Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management course to seven Warreen Beek rangers.

The PPWCMA has also continued to achieve significant actions outlined in the Indigenous Participation Plan.

The PPWCMA signed partnership agreements with the Watharung Aboriginal Corporation (Wadawurrung) and the Bunurong Land Council. This means that PPWCMA now has partnership agreements with all three RAPs in the region.

Guidance for Indigenous procurement was included in the PPWCMA Procurement Policy and an Indigenous Protocol Policy was developed, approved and implemented. An Applied Indigenous Cultural Learning e-Learning module was also developed in 2018-19 and all PPWCMA employees completed the training.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

The PPWCMA's key priority for 2019-20 is to maintain the trusted relationships that have been established with Indigenous partners, particularly as new projects commence and existing projects evolve. This will be achieved by having meetings with the RAPs and regularly reviewing the partnership agreements.

The PPWCMA will continue to provide its employees with learning and development opportunities to enhance their personal cultural awareness and will complete its reconciliation statement.

The PPWCMA will review its Project Management Framework to ensure compliance with cultural heritage management obligations.



PPWCMA CEO David Buntine accepting a symbolic gift from Wadawurrung woman, Corrina Eccles in recognition of their organisations' partnership.



Our community services

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

LONG-TERM VISION

As outlined in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, the PPWCMA is expected to promote community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

The PPWCMA fulfils this responsibility through a range of communication channels and activities with some aimed at particular organisations and sectors and some aimed at broader community audiences. This program aims for the communities of the region to be informed, engaged and active in land, water and biodiversity management.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Followers of PPWCMA social media	2,000	3,811
Participants in rural events	800 per year	2,061
Participants in urban events	200 per year	3,288

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

In 2018-19, the PPWCMA hosted and supported urban and rural community events that attracted 5,349 people. From festivals to field days, all of them focused on raising awareness of environmental issues and helping others to make a difference. Participants included Landcare members, farmers, partner organisations and the broader community.

As the public continues to shift towards digital media, the PPWCMA increased its focus on social media, websites and other forms of online communication by exploring new and innovative ways to engage with and educate the region's residents and visitors. Special-interest Facebook pages – PPWCMA Grows Agriculture and PPWCMA loves Landcare

– continue to establish themselves and engage new followers and a Facebook page was also created for Living Links. The PPWCMA also continued to utilise audio visual content, such as images and videos, to increase visibility and understanding and collaborate with partner organisations to reach wider audiences and highlights the value of working together.

In 2018-19, Victoria's CMAs rolled out a joint social media campaign to highlight the contribution they make to Victoria's natural assets, communities and economy. Shared messaging was put out across all Victorian CMA Facebook pages on significant days (eg World Wetlands Day) with #CMAsGetItDone.

By the end of 2018-19, the PPWCMA had 2,547 followers across its Facebook pages, 741 followers on Twitter and 610 followers on Instagram. It also had 2,994 people receiving regular enewsletters. All of these accounts show strong levels of engagement with an average total monthly reach of approximately 100,000 people.

In 2018-19 the PPWCMA built on the work in Victorian CMA's Community Engagement and Partnerships Framework and developed the *PPWCMA Communications and Engagement Strategy 2019-22*. The strategy provides guidance for the next three years on the organisation's approach to delivering high-quality and consistent communications that support good engagement.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

In 2019-20, the PPWCMA will begin to roll out the actions of the Communications and Engagement Strategy. The PPWCMA will also continue to promote the Australian Government's five-year outcomes under the National Landcare Program.

The Victorian Government's *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037* plan also presents some key opportunities for community engagement under 'Goal 2: Victorians Value Nature'. The PPWCMA's strong relationships with hundreds of organisations working directly with local communities puts it in strong position to deliver on this objective.



Grow West Planting Day volunteers at Sheoak Hill.

GROW WEST COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

On Sunday 15th July 2018, 190 volunteers gathered at Sheoak Hill in Glenmore for the 2018 Grow West Community Planting Day. This was Grow West's 13th annual planting day and was one of their biggest events, providing an important opportunity for the community to help to rejuvenate and restore local landscapes.

Sheoak Hill is a 552 hectare former cropping and grazing property nestled between Brisbane Ranges National Park and Werribee Gorge

State Park, in the Rowsley Valley. The goal of the Sheoak Hill project is to re-establish a link between the two parks by managing existing vegetation, controlling weeds and rabbits and revegetating both the flats as well as the shallow and highly erodible hillsides.

Volunteers planted 5,433 seedlings on the day. These efforts not only help to reform this important corridor for threatened wildlife, such as Swift Parrot and Brush-tailed Phascogales, but further connect the community

to their environment and encourage ongoing environmental stewardship.

The planting day is also a good example of the impact of clear and meaningful collaboration. Event partners and contributors included Victorian National Parks Association, Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee, Melbourne Water, 15 Trees, G.J Gardner Homes, Bendigo Bank Bacchus Marsh, Bacchus Marsh Lions Club, Victorian Mobile Landcare Group and Dera Sacha Sauda.

SUPPORTING FIRE RECOVERY IN BUNYIP

In March 2019, Bunyip State Forest and surrounds suffered bushfires as the result of lightning strikes during a storm. With such a dry spring and summer, within 24 hours 29 houses were destroyed, along with pastures, fencing, shelterbelts and several biodiversity Landcare revegetation sites, such as Mt Cannibal. With Black Saturday in 2009, the area has now faced two significant bushfires in the last decade that have impacted the farming community.

In response to a need for community engagement around natural environment recovery, a natural environment sub-committee was created as part of the broader fire recovery program and the PPWCMA's Regional Agriculture Facilitator has been an active member of this group. The committee shares resources and knowledge to support the community's natural environment and agricultural recovery.

The Bunyip fire has highlighted the interest and need from landholders to access information that is non-conventional, particularly around non-chemical weed control and regenerative farming approaches. In response to this, the committee hosted a field day on weed identification and non-chemical control of pasture weeds. Education materials were created to support the event and

future events are planned.

The PPWCMA's response to these events has shown its value as an organisation that is adaptive and responsive to community needs and able to step in to fill resource gaps during challenging times. The committee will continue to operate until at least the end of 2019 and will continue to respond to community requests for support and information.



Burnt shelterbelt in Bunyip North.



Our on-ground action

WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS

LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA plays a particular role in wetland health in the region by leading a number of projects funded by the Victorian Government and Australian Government that contribute to the health and resilience of Ramsar wetlands.

This work complements the significant roles in waterway and wetland management of various other organisations including Melbourne Water (as the waterway management authority for the region) and Parks Victoria.

The Ramsar wetlands in the Port Phillip and Western Port region are healthy and resilient with their ecological condition at high levels, threats to the ecological condition contained at low levels, diverse and healthy habitats and native animal populations and increasingly healthy populations of threatened species including birds and mammals.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Ecological condition of some of the ~72,000 hectares of land within the Ramsar wetlands of the region supported by pest control activities	20,000 hectares	49,779 hectares
Management of feral cat population on French Island	Maintained at <500	Appx. 100 feral cats remain

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

In 2018-19, \$620,000 of Victorian Government and Australian Government funds was dedicated to protecting the ecological condition of the Port Phillip (western shoreline) and Western Port Ramsar wetlands. As a result, 49,453 hectares of works was undertaken to deal with feral cats, foxes, rabbits, goats and pigs and 326 hectares was treated for weeds such as Spartina and Boxtorn.

Over the nine years that the Ramsar Protection Program has been in operation, there have been major ecological improvements to native vegetation communities, particularly sensitive saltmarsh and mangrove ecosystems.

Managing sites for noxious weeds has allowed native ground-cover to re-establish in areas once dominated by African Boxtorn and other habitat-altering weeds. Removing these weeds has contributed to reducing harbor for invasive animals such as foxes and rabbits.

Integrated pest animal management across the Ramsar sites has achieved substantial reductions in goats, feral cats, foxes, pigs, deer, rabbits and black rat abundance. Monitoring has recorded increased sightings of native animals, including small mammals and resident and migratory shorebirds and waterbirds.

A strong focus was also placed on increasing community awareness of Ramsar wetlands in the Port Phillip and Western Port region. A number of activities were undertaken which included workshops, public events and forums which involved 507 community members.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

2019-20 will see the continued delivery of the Two Great Ramsar Wetlands project funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, with numerous pest animal and weed control activities to be undertaken. Planning is also underway to commence a feral cat eradication project on French Island.

Collaboration with partner organisations to deliver significant pest animal and weed control activities will also continue with the funding allocated to this work from the Victorian Government. Community engagement and participation will continue to strengthen with targeted workshops, forums and events planned over the coming years.

RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Ramsar Protection Program aims to maintain or improve the ecological values of Western Port and Port Phillip Bay's western shoreline, internationally significant wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention.

The program's focus is on managing key threats to wetland values through the control and eradication of pest animals, including feral cats, foxes, rabbits and goats, and removing invasive weeds, such as African Boxthorn and Spartina. Significant emphasis is also placed on community engagement activities to raise awareness of the environmental values of these Ramsar-listed wetlands.

This highly successful, multi-partner program is delivered through collaboration with multiple organisations and land managers that deliver small and large-scale projects and on-ground works. These partnerships mean that pest plant and animal control can be coordinated and planned together to ensure optimum results across a large area.



Left: Black-winged Stilt. Right: monitoring wildlife cameras on French Island.

Established: 2010

Location: Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) and Western Port

Funding: Victorian Government and Australian Government

Partners:

- Parks Victoria
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Phillip Island Nature Parks
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- BlueScope Steel
- Bass Coast Landcare Network
- Birdlife Australia
- City of Casey
- French Island Landcare
- Zoos Victoria
- Western Port Biosphere
- Melbourne Water
- DELWP
- Dept. of Environment and Energy
- Lang Lang Foreshore Reserve

RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM TWO GREAT RAMSAR WETLANDS

This five-year project aims to bring key agencies, land managers and community groups together to reduce the threats to the Port Phillip and Western Port Ramsar sites through landscape-scale actions including pest animal and weed control, revegetation, habitat augmentation and community engagement and education.

2018-19 was the first year of the project. A comprehensive INFFER (Investment Framework for Environmental Resources) assessment involving extensive stakeholder collaboration was completed to assist with prioritising investment into the future. The assessment resulted in a list of priority sites and activities that will be incorporated into the remaining four-years of the project.

Parks Victoria and French Island Landcare successfully trapped and culled 26 feral cats on French Island in 2018-19, contributing to the long-term goal of eradication. French Island Landcare have implemented a responsible pet ownership program, involving domestic cat sterilisation, GPS collaring, a domestic cat database and free micro-chipping.

Nature Glenelg Trust established a monitoring program to assist with a hydrological study of The Spit Wildlife Reserve. This study will help to inform a restoration strategy for 60 hectares of primary waterbird and shorebird habitat along Port Phillip Bay near Point Wilson.

Parks Victoria also completed pest animal control and monitoring of Black rats on Reef Island. Rangers have been trialling new control

techniques to improve effectiveness and reduce non-target interactions.

A focus for 2019-20 will be developing new partnerships with key stakeholders to implement INFFER assessment recommendations and expanding pest animal control efforts.

Project period: 2018-23

Location: Port Phillip Bay and Western Port

Funding: Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Partners:

- Nature Glenelg Trust
- Parks Victoria
- French Island Landcare

RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

RAMSAR SITE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

This three-year project is working to improve the management, coordination and monitoring of the Western Port Ramsar site.

In 2018-19, the PPWCMA led the Western Port Ramsar Site Coordination Committee through the development of a Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI) plan focusing on the assessment of ecological character and management effectiveness.

Parks Victoria and contractors completed a feral pig monitoring program on Quail Island. This involved island-wide monitoring of feral pig and native fauna populations and flora assessments to measure the condition and extent of saltmarsh vegetation (a priority threatened ecological vegetation community) prior to eradication.

In 2019-20, the PPWCMA will continue to implement priority actions identified in the Western Port

Ramsar Site Strategic Management Plan. It will also pursue further opportunities to engage with and involve the Traditional Owner, Bunurong Land Council, in project delivery.

RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

RAMSAR PROTECTION IN THE PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERN PORT REGION

This four-year project delivers on-ground conservation works and community engagement events that contribute to protecting the Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) and Western Port Ramsar wetland sites.

In 2018-19, a feral cat trapping program on Phillip Island, targeting the Observation Point/Rhyll Inlet high tide and Churchill Island/Fishers wetland area, was successfully implemented by Phillip Island Nature Parks, with eight feral cats trapped.

Parks Victoria coordinated an aerial feral pig control program on Quail Island, culminating in the removal of four feral pigs. Island-wide monitoring indicates that only two to four pigs now remain, with follow-up control scheduled for 2019-20. Parks Victoria also coordinated feral goat control on French Island, resulting in the removal of 20 feral goats.

The Western Port Biosphere developed a program to raise public

awareness of the environmental values of Western Port amongst recreational boat users and personal watercraft (eg jet skis) users to minimise the potential impacts to shorebirds and beach nesting birds. This campaign will roll out in 2019-20.

RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

FERAL CAT FRENCH ISLAND MONITORING

This island-wide monitoring program on French Island is establishing estimates of feral cat distribution and abundance in the lead up to a feral cat eradication program beginning in mid-2020. 55 remote cameras were installed to monitor feral cats on the island, as well as record other native and exotic fauna.

In 2018-19, feral cats were detected at 77 percent of the survey sites, suggesting that feral cats are dispersed across the majority of the

17,000 hectare island. Based on the finding of the monitoring program the average density of feral cats in French Island is estimated to be 0.55 cats per square kilometre, and total abundance estimated to be approximately 100 feral cats.

Ground-nesting birds have also been monitored through a combination of camera surveys, enviro-acoustic surveys and driving transect surveys. This data will be used as a benchmark for monitoring

future environmental change as a result of eradication activities.

The eradication phase of the project is expected to begin in 2019-20 and funding will be sought to continue monitoring of feral cats and ground-nesting birds.

Project period: 2017-20

Location: Western Port Ramsar site

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- Parks Victoria
-



Celebrating World Migratory Bird Day 2019.

Project period: 2016-20

Location: Western Port

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- Phillip Island Nature Parks
 - Parks Victoria
 - Lang Lang Foreshore Committee of Management
 - Melbourne University
 - Western Port Biosphere
-



Planning feral pig control on Quail Island.

Project period: 2017-19

Location: French Island

Funding: Australian Government

Partners:

- Department of Environment and Energy
 - DELWP
 - Zoos Victoria
 - French Island Landcare
 - Parks Victoria
 - Charles Sturt University
-



A feral cat detected on a remote camera.



Our on-ground action

NATIVE VEGETATION

LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA leads and supports projects that enhance the extent, quality, security and connectedness of native vegetation in this region. Most are funded by the Victorian Government and Australian Government.

The PPWCMA's vision is that there will be extensive and diverse areas of native vegetation across the region's landscapes that are permanently protected, in good quality and managed chiefly for conservation and environmental purposes. In the long-term, a series of major naturelinks will be created, forming large north-south and east-west vegetation corridors, enabling species transit and improving ecosystem resilience to climate change and habitat fragmentation. Although some vegetation clearing will be permitted, it is hoped that there will be an overall net gain in the extent of native vegetation and its biodiversity values across the region. The extent, diversity, quality and connectedness of the native vegetation will ensure that it is resilient when threatened or affected by fire, disease, drought, pest animals, weeds or other issues.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Revegetation contributing to the establishment of new naturelinks.	500 hectares	221 hectares
Protection and enhancement of priority areas of the ~195,000 hectares of threatened native vegetation types in the region.	100 hectares	57,865 hectares

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

Significant progress has been made this year to the establishment and protection of naturelinks and threatened native vegetation across the Port Phillip and Western Port region. Through the PPWCMA's on-ground projects, 221 hectares of revegetation was undertaken with 212,607 trees, shrubs and ground covers planted. In addition, 57,865 hectares of threatened native vegetation was enhanced through 3,726 hectares of weed control, 54,139 hectares of pest animal control and 1.2 km of fencing.

Highlights for 2018-19 have included the commencement of the Deepening Connections project in the Maribyrnong Catchment and the Peaks to Plains project in the Werribee Catchment, both of which have been funded through the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Response Planning process. The three projects funded by the Victorian Government's *Our Catchments, Our Communities* initiative along the Jacksons Creek, Dandenong Creek and across the Mornington Peninsula continued to deliver substantial outcomes in terms of both on-ground works and community engagement and capacity-building.

Another significant achievement was the completion of the Greening the West - 1 Million Trees project. During 2018, the last 133,758 trees and shrubs were planted across Melbourne's west, with the 1 millionth tree planted in October 2018 in a special ceremony along the Kororoit Creek. This amazing achievement was due to the work of 15 government and community organisations, over 4,500 volunteers and over 100 private landowners who participated in 61 community events and tree planting days.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

In 2018-19, PPWCMA will continue to deliver its current environmental projects throughout the region. A number of projects will conclude in 2019-20, so additional funding will be pursued to continue to protect and enhance native vegetation and create new naturelinks across the region.

LIVING LINKS

Living Links is an urban nature program working to create a web of green spaces across Melbourne's south-east. The program aims to enhance biodiversity and to improve opportunities for people to experience the many benefits of connecting with nature in this urban setting. The PPWCMA coordinates Living Links on behalf of its partners, which include local government, government agencies and community groups.

A key focus in 2018-19 was the ongoing delivery of the Transforming the Dandenong Creek corridor project (below).

Living Links also established a partnership with RMIT University and non-profit, OFFICE, to review and update the mapping of Living Links priority corridors. This will be completed in 2019-20, with funding proposals to be developed for any gaps identified.

Living Links expanded its reach within the broader community through the

introduction of an e-newsletter and Facebook page and the creation of a series of 'Living Links Biodiversity' Connies swap cards.

An Ambassador School Program was also launched in 2019, with St. Louis de Montforts Primary School in Aspendale the inaugural ambassador (pictured below with Kingston Council and PPWCMA).



Established: 2006

Location: Dandenong Creek catchment (south-east Melbourne)

Funding: partner contributions

Partners:

- City of Bayside
- City of Casey
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Kingston
- City of Knox
- City of Maroondah
- City of Monash
- City of Whitehorse
- Frankston City Council
- Yarra Ranges Shire Council
- Melbourne Water
- South East Water
- Parks Victoria
- VicRoads
- Bushwalking Victoria
- Conservation Volunteers Australia

LIVING LINKS TRANSFORMING THE DANDENONG CREEK CORRIDOR

This four-year project aims to improve the environmental values at 38 priority sites along the Dandenong Creek corridor and engage local communities to better understand and appreciate the natural values of this important biolink.

In 2018-19 the project undertook 72.5 hectares of weed control (16.6 hectares new and 55.9 hectares ongoing), 16.9 hectares of revegetation and the installation of 18 nesting hollows. 34 community events attracted 2,081 attendees, including the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival, planting days, litter clean-ups and citizen science events.

Whitehorse City Council came on board in 2018-19 as the 7th delivery partner. Lyndale Greens Primary School was sponsored to participate in the 'Kids Teaching Kids' program (during which they

investigated pollution in Dandenong Creek). Social research on the use and appreciation of the Dandenong Creek corridor was also completed by Deakin University Masters students and researchers.

2019-20 will be the final year for the project and will focus on completing remaining environmental works, continuing community engagement activities and celebrating the project's successes.



Project period: 2016-20

Location: Dandenong Creek corridor (22km section between Heathmont and Dandenong North)

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- City of Casey
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Knox
- City of Maroondah
- City of Monash
- City of Whitehorse
- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria

Djirri Djirri Dancers at the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival.

GROW WEST

Since 2003, Grow West has worked with landholders and the community to undertake one of Victoria's largest revegetation projects. Its vision is to rejuvenate up to 10,000 hectares of the Upper Werribee Catchment by creating vegetation connections between the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park.

Grow West turned 15 in 2018-19 and celebrated this milestone at a special event in April 2019 which was attended by 50 current and former community and partner representatives. In that time, Grow West has worked with over 30 organisations, established 1.3 million plants over 2,500 hectares, worked with 48 landholders and over 3,000 volunteers to plant 56,000 plants at 13 community planting day events.

Grow West prides itself in engaging the community in its annual planting day event. At the 2018 planting day 5,433 trees were planted by 190 volunteers at Sheoak Hill in the Rowsley Valley (see page 17). It also continues to coordinate large landscape projects and for the past three years has partnered with Parks Victoria and Trust for Nature in undertaking a large-scale pest plant and animal control program (see right).

Established: 2003

Location: Upper Werribee Catchment

Funding: partner contributions, Victorian Government, Australia Government

Partners:

- Southern Rural Water
- Melbourne Water
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Parks Victoria
- Conversation Volunteers Australia
- Moorabool Landcare Network
- Landholder representatives
- DELWP



Grow West contributors, past and present, celebrate its 15th birthday.

GROW WEST PROTECTING AND CONNECTING SPECIES IN MELBOURNE'S WEST

This three-year project aims to protect and enhance threatened plants and animals in Melbourne's west by undertaking large-scale pest plant and animal control programs in the Upper Werribee Catchment. Effort is concentrated within the three large public reserves - Lerderderg State Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Brisbane Ranges National Park - and adjoining private properties, covering an area of approximately 30,000 hectares.

The on-ground control work targeted pest animals (goats, deer, rabbits, pigs and cats) along with pest weed species (Sallow Wattle, Gorse, African Weed Orchid and Serrated Tussock), which pose a threat to native species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* including the Swift Parrot, Brush-tail Phascogale, Growling Grass Frog, Diamond Firetail, Bacchus Marsh Wattle, Clover Glycine and Velvet Daisy Bush.

In 2018-19, the project treated 1,855 hectares for pest plants, surveyed 52,317 hectares for pest animals and engaged 13 landholders. These activities supported works that have been carried out by landholders and community environmental groups.

2019-20 will be the final year for the project. It will continue to deliver pest plant and animal control activities across the entire project area, as well as engage the Traditional Owner, Wadawurrung.

Project period: 2016-20

Location: public and private property adjoining Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- Parks Victoria
- Trust for Nature
- Friends of Brisbane Ranges



Remote camera footage of fallow deer in Brisbane Ranges National Park.

GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG

Greening the Maribyrnong is a major environmental program revitalising degraded escarpments of the Maribyrnong Valley through the control of weeds and pest animals and the revegetation of native habitat. Its long-term ambition is to establish a naturelink stretching from the Macedon Ranges to inner Melbourne.

Greening the Maribyrnong brings organisations and community groups together to work collaboratively to deliver a range of on-ground projects. The PPWCMA coordinates Greening the Maribyrnong on behalf of its partner organisations, managing projects and leading the delivery of on-ground works, monitoring and reporting.

In addition to the project works outlined in the following pages, Greening the Maribyrnong controlled 16 hectares of woody weeds and planted 9,900 trees and shrubs spread over 39 hectares in 2018-19.

Established: 2011

Location: Maribyrnong catchment

Funding: project funds

Partners:

- DELWP
- Melbourne Water
- City West Water
- Western Water
- Parks Victoria
- Brimbank City Council
- Hume City Council

- Maribyrnong City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Lead West
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Melbourne Airport
- Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland Reserve
- Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley
- Friends of the Organ Pipes National Park
- Jacksons Creek Eco Network
- Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network
- Villawood Properties
- Wurundjeri Tribe Council
- Friends of Steele Creek

GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG RESTORING THE NATURAL GLORY OF JACKSONS CREEK

This three-year project is working to establish a substantial corridor of native vegetation along 10.5 kilometres of the creek (between the Emu Bottom Wetlands and Salesian College) to decrease stress on remnant native vegetation as a result of urban development.

In 2018-19, the project has undertaken 24.5 hectares of revegetation, 196 hectares of weed control, 138 hectares of rabbit management and 400 metres of fencing. The Wurundjeri Tribe Council's Narrap Land Management Team were engaged to manage weeds and rabbits infestations along the creek and around the important cultural heritage site, known as the Sunbury Rings. These works are hoped to contribute to maintaining a viable habitat for Platypus, observed in this section of the creek in early June.

16 community events were held in 2018-19, focused on helping re-invigorate the local community group to ensure there is a commitment

to the corridor and its health in the years to come. An area of Salesian College land has also been made available for community plantings and the school community has been engaged through Duke of Edinburgh students and a parents group.

2019-20 will be the final year of the project. Additional plantings will be undertaken along the creek and infill plantings in existing revegetation areas. Community and student/parent planting days will also be held. Existing weed control will be consolidated and extended using a Melbourne Water funding contribution to the project.

Established: 2017-20

Location: Maribyrnong catchment

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- DELWP
- Melbourne Water
- Western Water
- Hume City Council
- Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland Reserve
- Jacksons Creek Eco Network
- Villawood Properties
- Wurundjeri Tribe Council



Wurundjeri Narrap Rangers clearing exotic species along Jacksons Creek.

GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

This three-year project protects remnant biodiversity along creek lines in an area covering 6,700 hectares south of Darraweit Guim. The waterways of Deep Creek and Konagaderra Creek provide habitat for several significant species including Platypus, Growling Grass Frog, Southern Brown Toadlet and Swift Parrot.

The deeply incised gorges of the waterways and the grassy woodlands that surround them are iconic Victorian landscapes. The biodiversity within this landscape is impacted by weed invasion, vegetation clearing, urban expansion and pest animals, such as rabbits and foxes. Weeds and rabbits significantly reduce the capacity for native plants and animals to flourish and regenerate. Control of these threats offers the best 'bang for buck' in the protection of habitat for native species.

2018-19 was the project's first year and the focus was on the establishment of a project reference group and engaging an initial round of landholders. On-ground works are anticipated to commence in 2019-20. Further landowner engagement and topic-based field days will form part of the project implementation.



Project period: 2018-21

Location: South of Darraweit Guim

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- Melbourne Water
 - Macedon Ranges Shire
 - Hume City Council
 - Mitchell Shire
 - Clarkefield Landcare Group
 - Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group
-

A canopy of River Bottlebrush and Red Gum over Deep Creek near Darraweit Guim.

PEAKS TO PLAINS

This three-year project protects threatened flora and fauna species in the You Yangs and across the Werribee Plains to Little River through the control of invasive weeds, rabbits and goats.

The granitic peaks of the You Yang Ranges and surrounding low lying grasslands of the Werribee Plains are some of Victoria's most ecologically significant landscapes. Working across the landscape, the project will enhance 7,000 hectares for species such as the Spiny Rice-flower, Button Wrinklewort, Eastern Barred Bandicoot and the Plains Wanderer.

In 2018-19, 192 hectares of weed and pest control were undertaken, with three control activities conducted and 12 goats dispatched. Project partner, Parks Victoria, set up remote cameras within the You Yangs Regional Park and observed double the number of goats than were originally estimated. Weeds

such as Boneseed have also been tackled thanks to two volunteer days run by the Little River Community Landcare Group.

In 2019-20, the project will see monthly goat eradication activities conducted in the You Yangs Regional Park and weed and rabbit eradication begin on the private properties adjoining the park



Project period: 2018-20

Location: You Yangs State Park (north and north west of the park)

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- Geelong City Council
 - Parks Victoria
 - Nature West
 - Melbourne Water
 - Little River Community Landcare Group
-

Environmental monitoring being conducted in the You Yangs.

GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG / GROW WEST

GREENING THE WEST - 1 MILLION TREES

Initiated in 2015 with \$5 million from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, the Greening the West - 1 Million Trees project was an ambitious plan to plant 1 million trees across Melbourne's west. Melbourne's western suburbs have an average tree canopy coverage of less than 10 percent, compared with the urban Victoria average of 18.83 percent.

Led by LeadWest, with support from the PPWCMA, the project aimed

to address the shortage of tree canopy cover in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

In 2018-19, the PPWCMA planted 118,150 trees and shrubs in the Werribee and Maribyrnong catchments through the Grow West and Greening the Maribyrnong programs, contributing to the total 1,072,320 trees and shrubs planted through the project. October 2018 saw the 1 millionth tree planted in one of the revegetation sites alongside the Kororoit Creek.

Project period: 2015-19

Location: Melbourne's west

Funding: Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Partners:

- Melbourne Water
 - City West Water
 - VicRoads
 - Friends of Lower Kororoit Creek
 - Parks Victoria
 - Local councils
-

GREENS BUSH TO ARTHURS SEAT BIOLINK

Delivered by the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network, this project is re-establishing a connection between two of the largest patches of remnant vegetation on the Mornington Peninsula (Greens Bush and Arthurs Seat) through revegetation, weeding and pest control across 23 private properties. It will also benefit local fauna through improving habitat and provide greater opportunities for their movement across the landscape.

In 2018-19, the project undertook 8.9 hectares of revegetation, 34.9

of weed control, 204 hectares of pest animal control and installed 11 nesting boxes. The project also involved local schools and community groups in 18 workshops and planting days.

In 2019-20, the project will finish its weed control and revegetation activities and undertake follow up vegetation quality assessments to map changes over the project period.

Project period: 2017-20

Location: Mornington Peninsula

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network and associated groups
 - Mornington Peninsula Shire
 - Parks Victoria
 - SPIFFA
 - Melbourne Water
 - Chisholm TAFE
 - Birdlife Australia
 - Scouts Australia
 - Local landholders
-

PROTECTING AND CONNECTING SPECIES ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA

This four-year project is protecting the most vulnerable species in the Mornington Peninsula. Works focus on protecting the Coast Helmet Orchid, Frankston Spider Orchid, Leafy Greenhood and the endangered Dainty Maidenhair Fern, as well as the Hooded Plover, Australasian Bittern, White Footed Dunnart and other threatened species.

In 2018-19, the project delivered 73 hectares weed control, 166 hectares of pest animal control and established

an MOU between Trust for Nature and Bunurong Land Council.

The project also supported Trust for Nature to deliver the Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management course for seven Warreen Beek rangers. This built on the success of the inaugural program delivered in 2017-18.

2019-20 will be the final year of the project and the priorities will be completing final pest plant and animal control works and delivering community engagement events.

Project period: 2016-20

Location: Mornington Peninsula

Funding: Victorian Government

Partners:

- Trust for Nature
 - Parks Victoria
 - Mornington Peninsula Shire
-



Our on-ground action

NATIVE ANIMALS

LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA plays a role in supporting native animal species in this region, including the protection and improvement of some threatened species, by leading projects when funded by the Victorian Government, Australian Government or other sources.

The PPWCMA's vision is that the region's populations of native animal species will be diverse and healthy. The number of native fish, mammal, amphibian, reptile and bird species that inhabit the region now will be retained, and populations of many threatened species will have stabilised or significantly improved. The diversity and health of the native animal species will ensure they are resilient when threatened or affected by natural disasters, climate change, pests or other issues. This will contribute to the overall health of the region's environment and enabling future generations to benefit from the native wildlife of the region.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Areas of habitat established/improved for wild populations of Helmeted Honeyeaters.	260 hectares	475ha pest animal control, 51ha weed control, 0.5ha revegetation, 8ha fencing
Areas of habitat established/improved for wild populations and other threatened species.	0 hectares	0 hectares

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

Starting in October 2018, Yarra4Life commenced the 12-month Great HeHo Escape project funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Zoos Victoria and the Victorian Government. It focused on developing habitat restoration plans at two locations, with the view to establishing new satellite populations of Helmeted Honeyeater and Lowland Leadbeater's Possum over the next 5-10 years.

The Great HeHo Escape project has also worked with 20 private landowners in the Yellingbo area to undertake priority works on their properties to create new habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

The Great HeHo Escape project will conclude in 2019, with the final activities including a hydrology restoration plan for Burungma Biik, some further restoration works and a community event. The Yarra4Life Committee will focus on securing new funding to support the implementation of the Habitat Restoration Plans developed as part of the Great HeHo Escape project. In 2019-20, the Yarra4Life Committee will also act as a forum for land managers to contribute to the implementation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area's Draft 10 Year Plan.

Additional investment will be pursued during 2019-20 to improve or establish habitat for wild populations of other native animal species across the region, including the Swift Parrot, Legless Lizard, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Growling Grass Frog.



Juvenile Lowland Leabeater's Possum. *Kylle Fiedeler.*

YARRA4LIFE

Yarra4Life is a major environmental program in the Yarra Valley that improves, increases and protects habitat for native animals including the Helmeted Honeyeater and the Leadbeater's Possum. Its long-term goal is to have habitat links from the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve north to the Yarra Ranges National Park, south east to Kurth Kiln Regional Park, and west to the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Yarra4Life focused its work in 2018-19 around achieving the goals of its strategic plan - connecting ecosystems in the Yarra4Life area, connecting people with the natural environment and connecting Yarra4Life coordination partners.

The Yarra4Life Coordination Committee entered into a partnership with DELWP to support the implementation of the Yellingbo Conservation Area's draft 10 year plan. The Yarra4Life Environmental Working Group partnered with Yarra Ranges Council to support its Birds to Butterfields project, which seeks to improve the quality of habitat for Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

A focus for 2018-19 was the delivery of The Great HeHo Escape project. 2019-20 will see the final elements of this project completed, after which Yarra4Life will focus on improving and developing new communications materials and seeking new funding opportunities and projects.

Established: 2006

Location: Yarra Valley

Funding: partner contributions

Partners:

- Parks Victoria
- Yarra Ranges Council
- Melbourne Water
- Yarra Ranges Landcare Network
- Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater
- Trust for Nature
- VNPA
- Friends of Leadbeater's Possum
- DELWP
- Zoos Victoria
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Wurundjeri Tribe Council
- Conservation Volunteers Australia

YARRA4LIFE THE GREAT HEHO ESCAPE

This single year project sets the stage to move the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater from survival to expansion beyond its current range by planning for new habitat areas.

Two habitat restoration plans were developed in 2018-19 and a landholder incentives program that has supported the establishment of new habitat locations beyond the reserve. The PPWCMA also partnered with Parks Victoria to continue and expand the deer control and monitoring program within Yellingbo Nature Conservation 475 hectares of pest animal control and 51 hectares of weed control was undertaken across public and private land, as well as 0.5 hectares of revegetation to create new habitat and 8 hectares of fencing to protect existing habitat and revegetation areas.

New habitat has been created through continuing revegetation works at Burrungma Biik.

A Helmeted Honeyeater schools education tool kit was developed in partnership with Birdlife Australia and Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater. The kit is designed to support teaching and learning within schools about Victoria's bird emblem and was launched at a teacher professional development event in May 2019.

The project will finalise some elements in early 2019-20, including a hydrology restoration plan for Burrunga Biik, some revegetation works and a community engagement event. The PPWCMA will continue to drive and seek funding for the implementation of habitat restoration work recommended in the two restoration plans.

Project period: 2018-19

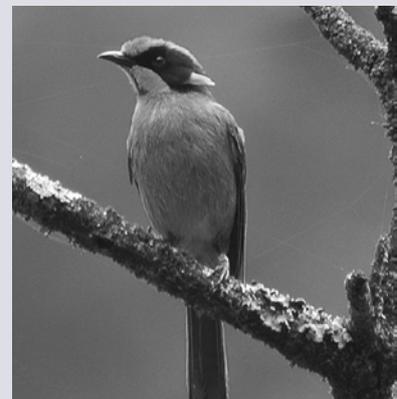
Location: Yarra Valley

Funding: Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Victorian Government, Zoos Victoria

Partners:

All Yarra4Life partners plus:

- Birdlife Australia
- Greening Australia
- Biosis



The critically-endangered Helmeted Honeyeater. *Merryn Serong.*



Our on-ground action

SUSTAINABLE

AGRICULTURE AND

LAND MANAGEMENT

LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA contributes to sustainable agriculture and land management in this region by delivering or supporting projects when funded by the Victorian Government and Australian Government.

The PPWCMA's vision is that the ring of rural and semi-rural land around urban Melbourne will continue to provide substantial benefits for the community, economy and environment of Victoria. These areas will retain productive, diverse, sustainable agriculture enterprises and industries with substantial economic benefit and local food security for Victoria. They will simultaneously provide expansive 'green space' featuring natural habitat and open landscapes supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health, and enabling Melbourne's communities to connect with nature and readily enjoy liveability and recreational benefits.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Adoption of sustainable land management practices on some of the ~5,000 farms in the region	500 farms	160 farms

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

The PPWCMA's sustainable agriculture and land management activities in 2018-19 centered around two projects funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program – Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator (RALF) and Smart Farming in Western Port delivered by the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network (WPCLN). Both were projects in Phase One of the National Landcare Program (2013-18) and have been re-funded until 2023 as part of Phase Two, with 2018-19 being their first year.

32 farmers covering 1,400 hectares completed new farm management plans as part of the Smart Farming for Western Port project. Through the RALF project, the PPWCMA participated in 36 meetings with industry partners and stakeholders and presented at six events, five specifically focused on native insectaries.

In addition to delivering the RALF project activities and supporting the Smart Farming in Western Port project, the PPWCMA's Regional Agriculture Facilitator also provided a range of specialist services to partner organisations including:

- Developing a 'Guide to compost use in vineyards' tool for Sustainability Victoria, based on the Compost Under Vines trial results
- Assisting Bunurong Land Council with a feasibility study for its Water for Victoria funded aquaponic bush food project
- Being a member of the Bunyip Fire Natural Environment Recovery Sub-committee and delivering workshops and support to affected landholders.

2018-19 also saw the PPWCMA complete the following joint agricultural trials with local partners:

- Native insectaries trial with Agribusiness Yarra Valley (supported by the Victorian Government's Horticulture Innovation Fund)
- Variable fertiliser rate trial with Balliang and Fibre (supported by the Victorian Government's Port Phillip Bay Fund).

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

In 2019-20, the PPWCMA will continue to roll out the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator project and support the Smart Farming in Western Port project.

The Regional Agriculture Facilitator will engage in several stakeholder committees, including the Yarra Ranges Rural Advisory Committee, Dryland Manager's Forum, Cardinia Food Movement- farmland protection and advocacy working group and Macedon Ranges Smart Farming Regenerative Agriculture project.

The PPWCMA will continue to develop a regenerative agriculture project and seek funding for this and other innovative agriculture projects that contribute to improved land, water and biodiversity outcomes.

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE AND LANDCARE FACILITATOR

The Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator (RALF) project works with farmers, community groups and agricultural industry groups across the region to engage and inform on innovative, best practices and relevant new government policy to help improve the sustainability, productivity and profitability of agriculture.

In 2018-19, the RALF project achieved this by:

- Participating in 36 meetings with industry partners and stakeholders
- Presenting at six events
- Reaching people on biosecurity stories relevant to the region on the PPWCMA Grows Agriculture Facebook page
- Completing a Horticulture Innovation fund insectary project with Agribusiness Yarra Valley

- Completing a Victorian Government (Port Phillip Bay Fund) funded project
- Supporting the Bunyip fire recovery
- Nominating Strawberry Springs for Farm Biosecurity Producer of the Year (which was successful).

In 2019-20, the RALF project will continue to support several stakeholder committees and projects, including the Bunyip fire recovery.



Project period: 2018-23

Location: Port Phillip and Western Port region

Funding: Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Partners:

- Western Port Catchment Landcare Network
- Other Landcare networks and groups
- Local government
- Agribusiness Yarra Valley
- Sustainability Victoria
- Deakin University
- Melbourne University
- Precision Agriculture
- Other industry bodies and research organisations

Landholders and partners with Charles Massy at his regenerative farming workshop in May 2019.

SMART FARMING FOR WESTERN PORT

This five-year project being delivered by the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network (WPCLN), is increasing awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation by farmers in the Western Port catchment.

The project builds on the success of a similar project funded by the 2013-18 phase of the National Landcare Program. In 2018-19, the project engaged 753 farmers,

held 36 discussions and farm walks, activities, hosted eight fields days attracting 589 farmers (including regenerative farming workshops with Charles Massy and Andre Leu), ran two GrazFert programs and established five on-farm demonstration sites.

In 2019-20, key activities will include 48 farmer discussion group workshops, eight field days, two GrazFert programs and monitoring seven on-farm demonstration sites for soil carbon and productivity.



Project period: 2018-23

Location: Western Port catchment

Funding: Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Partners:

- Bass Coast Landcare Network
- South Gippsland Landcare Network
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Agriculture Victoria
- Melbourne Water

Discussion group farmers inspect a lucerne crop. WPCLN.



Our Organisational Management

A HEALTHY AND EFFICIENT ORGANISATION

LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA has responsibilities for providing a safe workplace, a diverse and inclusive culture and sound governance and financial management, as outlined in various instruments including:

- Victorian Government legislation including the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- The PPWCMA Statement of Obligations
- A letter of expectations from the Minister for Water.

As part of these responsibilities, the PPWCMA is committed to ensuring:

- High standards of occupational health and safety for our people and those that work with us
- A healthy organisational culture with high levels of staff engagement, tailored learning and development activities for Board members and staff and implementation of its Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- High standards of business management including governance, financial management, compliance, risk management and project management.

The PPWCMA always strives to be a safe workplace with a highly-engaged workforce and high standards of governance and financial management that fulfil all the requirements of a Victorian Government statutory authority.

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2022-23 target (under current funding)	2018-19 progress
Female representation amongst PPWCMA Board, managers and employees	~50%	66%
Employee engagement index	>75%	82%
Hazard reports collected within PPWCMA to establish baseline data and underpin planning and responses	500 over five years	94
Incident (near miss) reports lodged within PPWCMA	0	3
Injuries/lost time	0/0	3/0
Incident notifications/ Workcover claims lodged with Worksafe	0/0	0/0
Investment through the PPWCMA in environmental management	>\$4m/year	\$4.612 million
Projects delivered on time and budget	100%	100%
Compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework	100%	100%

PROGRESS IN 2018-19

Project management

A significant component of the PPWCMA's operations is the delivery of projects. These projects may relate to various areas of the organisation including environmental, agricultural, community and corporate services and be large or small in nature and complexity. No matter the size or complexity, the PPWCMA ensures that all projects are delivered on time and on budget.

PPWCMA has in place a comprehensive Project Management Framework which ensures a high standard and consistent approach to project management across all projects. In 2018-19, PPWCMA commenced a refresh of the Project Management Framework, with improvements to be implemented throughout 2019-20.

Investment

The total revenue secured by the PPWCMA during 2018-19 was \$4.612 million. Most of this revenue was for work undertaken in 2018-19 and the remainder was received in advance for work to be undertaken in 2019-20.

This level of revenue satisfies the PPWCMA indicator of annual investment being above \$4 million, but is low in comparison to average annual revenue of the PPWCMA over the past 15 years. The PPWCMA will be seeking to increase the annual revenue for 2019-20 and future years.

Workplace data

	As at 30 June 2019							As at 30 June 2018						
	All employees		Ongoing		Fixed term & casual			All employees		Ongoing		Fixed term & casual		
	H/C	FTE	Full time H/C	Part time H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE	Full time H/C	Part time H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE
Gender														
Male	6	5.8	4	1	4.8	1	1	8	7.62	6	2	7.62	-	-
Female	9	6.7	5	3	6.6	1	.1	8	5.71	3	4	4.8	1	.91
Age														
15-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
35-44	10	8.6	6	3	7.6	1	1	8	5.8	4	4	5.8	-	-
45-54	5	3.9	3	1	3.8	1	.1	4	3.71	2	1	2.8	1	.91
55-64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2.82	2	1	2.82	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Classification														
Executive	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Manager	2	2	2	-	2	-	-	4	3.82	3	1	3.82	-	-
Other	12	9.5	6	4	8.4	2	1.1	11	8.51	5	5	7.6	1	.91
Senior employees+														
Executive \$200,000-\$219,999	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Total	15	12.5	9	4	11.4	2	1.1	16	13.33	9	6	12.42	1	.91

H/C = headcount FTE = full time equivalent + Senior employees are employees that receive more than \$182,070 total remuneration package

Employment and conduct principles

The PPWCMA applies the Victorian Government's Public Sector Values and Employment Principles, as described in the *Public Administration Act 2004* by:

- Adopting policies and procedures that are consistent with the public sector employment principles
- Promoting the PPWCMA values, which are consistent with the public sector values
- Requiring employees to operate under a Code of Conduct which is consistent with the public sector code of conduct
- Providing regular employment obligations refresher training which focuses upon equal employment opportunity, human rights and the Code of Conduct
- Ensuring that induction training focuses upon equal employment opportunity, human rights and the Code of Conduct
- Ensuring employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections
- Applying merit and equity principles when recruiting employees and ensuring that internal and external recruitment selection processes assess and evaluate applicants fairly and equitably on the basis of key selection criteria and accountabilities without discrimination.

Workforce inclusion policy

The PPWCMA's vision is to have a workforce that reflects the diverse community it serves and to be a great place to work for all. To achieve this vision, the PPWCMA developed a three year Diversity and Inclusion Plan in August 2017. In 2018-19 the PPWCMA implemented a number of actions within the plan including:

- 100 percent of employees undertaking Equal Employment Opportunity, Bullying and Harassment and Human Rights e-learning in late 2018
- Encouraging substantial learning and development activities in all staff development plans
- Embracing and promoting a number of awareness days such as IDAHOBIT, Harmony Week, Refugee Week and Wear it Purple Day.

The PPWCMA's current Workforce data shows that:

- Nine of the 15 employees are female, with two of the three management team members female
- The majority of employees are aged between 34-44
- Most employees were ongoing, with only two employees currently on a fixed-term contract.

Workplace culture

Each year the PPWCMA participates in the People Matter Survey, conducted by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. This survey enables employees to provide confidential feedback on how they experience the organisation as a place to work, and is an important measure that the PPWCMA uses to understand employee engagement and satisfaction.

In May 2019, the PPWCMA participated in the survey with a participation rate of 100 percent.

Job satisfaction

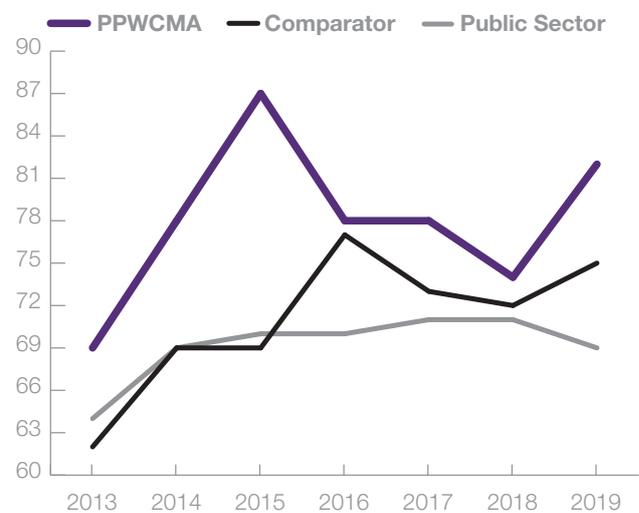
The results of the 2019 People Matters Survey indicated that the level of overall job satisfaction has decreased slightly to 80 percent, from 83 percent in 2018.

Industrial relations

No time was lost in 2018-19 due to industrial accidents or disputes.

Engagement index

The Employee Engagement Index measures the PPWCMA's employees' sense of pride, attachment, inspiration, motivation and advocacy as it relates to the PPWCMA. In 2019, the PPWCMA had an Employee Engagement Index score of 82 percent, a significant increase from 74 percent in 2018. This is higher than the comparator group* average of 75 percent.



*Comparator group includes 10 other Victorian CMAs and water corporations that undertook the People Matter Survey in 2018-19



PPWCMA staff participating in a team building activity that explored their organisational values of Collaboration, Leadership, Creativity and Reliability).

Occupational health and safety

The PPWCMA's OH&S vision is that our employees work in a safe environment and return home safely every day and adopt and maintain practices that improve their overall health and wellbeing. The OH&S safety management system strives for continual improvement and includes:

- A comprehensive OH&S Policy, Committee Charter, Procedure Manual and Strategy
- A OH&S Committee that meets at least quarterly and conducts regular workplace inspections
- A OH&S induction for all new employees and refresher training for existing employees
- A proactive health and wellbeing program.

In 2018, the PPWCMA Board approved a three-year OH&S Strategy. This strategy identified the following four improvement areas:

1. Leadership and accountability
2. Managing our risks in the workplace
3. Improving contractor and volunteer management
4. Developing a culture of hazard,

OH&S performance indicators

Measure	Indicator	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Hazards	Hazards identified	94	1	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	752	7.5	5.7
Incidents	No. of incidents	3	1	2
	Rate per 100 FTE	24	7.5	11.3
Injuries	No. of injuries	3	1	3
	Rate per 100 FTE	24	7.5	17
WorkCover claims	Number of standard claims	0	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
	Number of lost time standard claims	0	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
	Average cost per standard claim	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Number of minor claims	0	0	0
Fatalities	Fatality claims	0	0	0
WH&S Committee	Meetings	5	4	4
	Site inspections	6	4	4

incident and injury reporting.

During 2018-19, the PPWCMA achieved a number of actions outlined in the OH&S Strategy including:

- Changing the OH&S reporting culture. In 2018-19 the OH&S Committee educated employees on the importance of reporting hazards, and set an ambitious target of increasing hazard reports from 1 in 2017-18 to 100 in 2018-19. 94 hazards were subsequently reported in 2018-19. This does not mean that the PPWCMA suddenly had a more hazardous workplace, rather that all hazards are being reported. This enabled the PPWCMA to proactively review their OH&S risks and controls using comprehensive data
- Comprehensive OH&S reporting, monitoring and evaluation measures being embedded as standing items in Board meetings, OH&S Committee meetings and staff meetings.

A summary of OH&S measures is included in the table below.

OUTLOOK FOR 2019-20

The total revenue and staffing levels for the PPWCMA in 2018-19 were significantly lower than previous years, and these are forecast to be stable but continue to be relatively low in 2019-20.

The PPWCMA will therefore pursue opportunities that could strengthen the PPWCMA such as:

- Coordination of some coastal and marine management work including development of a Regional and Strategic Partnership for the north-western section of Port Phillip Bay
- Leadership of relevant environmental grants programs in this region
- Leadership of more and/or larger projects funded by the environmental contributions levy

- Partnerships with water authorities to offset nutrient inputs or carbon emissions through local revegetation programs managed by the PPWCMA
- Coordination of some aspects of threatened species enhancement programs.

In 2018-19 there was a major transition from the previous National Landcare Program arrangements to the first year of a new five-year Regional Land Partnerships program funded by the Australian Government. The transition is now complete so 2019-20 should see a smooth continuation of the new program and the projects it is funding in this region.

The PPWCMA will also strive for continuous improvement in all aspects of the business and maintain a focus on its values and the continuing professional development of employees and Board members.



PPWCMA Board and staff members with representatives from the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network at the organisations' partnership agreement signing in February 2019.

Other DISCLOSURES

COMPLIANCE

Internal audit

The PPWCMA engages external professionals to undertake an internal audit program. Reviews undertaken in recent years dealt with the risk management framework, contractor appointment and management, protective data security standards, exposure to fraud, community and stakeholder engagement, financial management compliance framework, occupational health and safety and performance excellence.

All reviews have consistently reported that the PPWCMA maintains a high standard of governance and risk minimisation. Recommendations from all reviews, and their implementation, are monitored by the Audit Committee.

Risk management

The PPWCMA identifies, reports and monitors risk in a practical and effective way. Risk identification and management is included on many meeting agendas including Board, committee and employee meetings. The PPWCMA Audit Committee reviews the Risk Management Framework annually and receives quarterly reports on risk. Internal audit reviews are undertaken regularly using the PPWCMA's risk criteria.

Results of these reviews are reported to the Audit Committee prior to submission to the Board with recommendations recorded in a register and their implementation is monitored by the Audit Committee. The PPWCMA's overall risk profile is low with the highest ranked risk associated with funding levels.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) EXPENDITURE

For the 2018-19 reporting period, the PPWCMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$86,260, with the details shown below:

Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure Total	\$86,260
Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure Total = A + B	\$0
Operational expenditure A	\$0
Capital expenditure B	\$0

"ICT expenditure" refers to the PPWCMA's costs in providing business-enabling ICT services. It comprised "Business As Usual" (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

"Non-BAU ICT expenditure" relates to extending or enhancing the PPWCMA's current ICT capabilities.

"BAU ICT expenditure" is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement

I, Tania Foster, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.



Tania Foster
Chair, PPWCMA Board
26th August 2019

Making an FOI request

Requests for access to information and documents can be made in writing by submitting the Freedom of Information Access Request Form along with the application fee. This form is available to download at ppwcma.vic.gov.au. From 1st July 2019 the application fee is \$29.60.

Request can be sent via post or email:

- Port Phillip & Westernport CMA, Level 1, 454 – 472 Nepean Hwy, FRANKSTON, VIC, 3199
- enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au

An information statement is published on ppwcma.vic.gov.au

COMPLIANCE AGAINST STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Act/Policy	Compliance requirements	Comment
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	Prepare, coordinate, monitor and review of Regional Catchment Strategy.	The Regional Catchment Strategy was approved by the Minister in 2014 and remained in place in 2018-19.
	Submit to the Minister an Annual Report on PPWCMA operations, the condition and management of land and water resources in the region, and financial status.	The 2017-18 PPWCMA Annual Report contained a catchment condition report was tabled in Parliament on 20 September 2018.
	Submit to the Minister each a 'Corporate Plan' articulating key result areas against which performance can be measured.	The Corporate Plan 2019-20 was submitted to the Minister in June 2019.
	Board members to declare new interests at each board meeting and maintain a register of members' private interests. Members to submit a primary return on appointment and an ordinary return annually.	PPWCMA Board members completed Declarations of Members' Interests throughout 2018-19 and a Register Board members' interests is maintained.
Public Administration Act 2004	Comply with the Victorian Government's Public Sector Employment Principles.	In 2019, the PPWCMA applied the Victorian Government's Public Sector Employment Principles, as described in the Act.
	Participate in the People Matter Survey conducted by Victorian Public Sector Commission.	100% of PPWCMA staff participated in the 2018-19 People Matter Survey.
Freedom of Information Act 1982	To provide the community access to, as far as possible, information held by the PPWCMA. Applicants have the right to apply for access to documents held by the PPWCMA. This includes documents created by the PPWCMA and supplied to the PPWCMA by an external organisation or individual.	For the 12 months ending 30 June 2019, the PPWCMA received three Freedom of Information requests. All of these requests were from the general public. Of the requests received, two were acceded to (one was withdrawn by the applicant). Decisions were made within 30-45 days and no requests were subject to review by OVIC or VCAT. See page 37 for information on the PPWCMA's FOI application process.
Protected Disclosure Act 2012 (PD Act)	The PD Act enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.	The PPWCMA is a public body for the purposes of the PD Act and has a Protected Disclosure Procedure that complies. For more information see page 42.
Financial Management Act 1994	Undertake a review of operations and advise the Minister regarding compliance with Financial Management Compliance Framework (FMCF).	In 2018-19 the PPWCMA undertook a review of its operations which lead to the PPWCMA reporting 100% compliance with the FMCF.
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014	Ensure all personal information collected by the PPWCMA is held securely and any disclosures are handled in accordance with the ten Information Privacy Principles.	The PPWCMA reviewed its Privacy Policy in 2018-19 and it is in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
Building Act 1993	Comply building and maintenance provisions of the Act.	The PPWCMA does not own or control any government buildings and is exempt from notifying its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the Building Act 1993.

Act/Policy	Compliance requirements	Comment
Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006	The use of cultural heritage management plans, interacting with registered Aboriginal parties to evaluate management plans, and enter into cultural heritage agreements.	In 2018-19 the PPWCMA fulfilled the requirements of the Act.
Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003	This policy is applied when tenders are let of greater than \$1 million in regional Victoria and \$3 million in metropolitan Melbourne.	The PPWCMA did not let any tenders of this scale in 2018-19.
Competitive Neutrality Policy	Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest.	The PPWCMA continued to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.
Equal Opportunity Act 2010	Ensure that PPWCMA staff are aware of and comply with the Act.	The PPWCMA is an equal opportunity employer and has policies for complaint reporting and resolution.
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004	Report Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) issues at each board meeting and in the Annual Report.	In 2018-19, any OH&S issues were reported at each Board meeting and in the Annual Report.
Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009	Comply with the Award system which provides a minimum set of terms and conditions for PPWCMA employees.	The PPWCMA's policies and the 2018 enterprise agreement comply with the Award system.
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority Act 1996 Victorian Government Risk Management Framework (VGRMF)	Comply with the Victorian Government Risk Management Framework.	In 2018-19, the PPWCMA reviewed its compliance with the VGRMF and attested as being compliant.
DataVic Access Policy (2012)	The DataVic Access Policy provides direction on the release, licensing and management of Victorian Government data so that it can be used and reused by the community and businesses.	The PPWCMA complies with the DataVic Access Policy but has not supplied any data sets to DataVic during 2018-19.
Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework	Maintain a register of gifts, benefits and hospitalities offered to staff.	The PPWCMA has policies that comply with the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework and maintains a register of gifts, benefits and hospitality.
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006	Requires public authorities to act consistently with charter rights when making decisions, developing policies and providing services.	The PPWCMA continued to provide information regarding rights and responsibilities to all new staff as part of the induction process and refresher training every three years.
The Local Jobs First Act 2003	Introduced in August 2018, the Act brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) Policy. Public sector bodies are required to apply the Act in all projects valued at \$3 million or more in metropolitan Melbourne or statewide, or \$1 million in regional Victoria.	In 2018-19, the PPWCMA did not have any projects that were required to apply the Act.

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE

Details of consultancies valued at \$10,000 or greater

In 2018-19, there were six consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2018-19 in relation to these consultancies is \$238,734 (excluding GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined below.

Details of consultancies under \$10,000

In 2018-19, the PPWCMA engaged one consultancy valued at under \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2018-19 in relation to this consultancy was \$1,698 (excluding GST).

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Start date	End date	Total approved project fee (excl. GST)	Expenditure 2018-19 (excl. GST)	Future expenditure (excl. GST)
Natural Decisions Pty Ltd	INFFER assessment of Ramsar wetlands and French Island feral cat eradication feasibility	1 Jul 2018	11 Jun 2019	\$74,550	\$74,550	nil
Biosis Research Pty Ltd	Undertake research and provide habitat restoration plans for the Yellingbo to Butterfields area project	1 Apr 2019	30 Jun 2019	\$39,971	\$39,971	nil
Scientec Research Pty Ltd	Monitoring of efficiency of 2019 aerial feral pig control operation on Quail Island	1 Feb 2019	28 Apr 2019	\$30,000	\$30,000	nil
Scientec Research Pty Ltd	Monitoring of feral cat and wildlife populations on Phillip Island	1 Jul 2018	2 Aug 2018	\$28,105	\$28,105	nil
RM Consulting Group	PPWCMA Ramsar review and future program planning	1 Jul 2018	19 Nov 2018	\$25,827	\$25,827	nil
Ecology & Infrastructure Intenational Pty Ltd	Undertake surveys and report on persistence of population of native animals	2 Jul 2018	30 Apr 2019	\$24,281	\$24,281	nil
Greening Australia	Undertake research and provide habitat restoration plans for the Coranderk area project	1 Apr 2019	31 Jul 2019	\$40,000	\$16,000	\$24,000

OTHER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Significant changes in financial position

There were no matters which changed the PPWCMA's financial position in 2018-19.

Significant changes or factors affecting performance

There were no significant changes or factors which affected the PPWCMA's performance during 2018-19.

Government advertising expenditure

The PPWCMA has incurred nil government advertising expenditure for 2018-19.

Disclosure of major contracts

The PPWCMA did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) in 2018-19.

Capital projects

The PPWCMA has not undertaken any capital projects during 2018-19.

International travel

There was no international travel undertaken by PPWCMA Board members or employees acting on behalf of the PPWCMA during 2018-19.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Current year financial review

The PPWCMA manages its finances in line with the Financial Management Act 1994 and the associated Directions of the Victorian Government Minister for Finance. The Financial Statements included in this report have been audited and certified by the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

Through 2018-19, the PPWCMA focused on fulfilment of its statutory responsibilities and contractual obligations

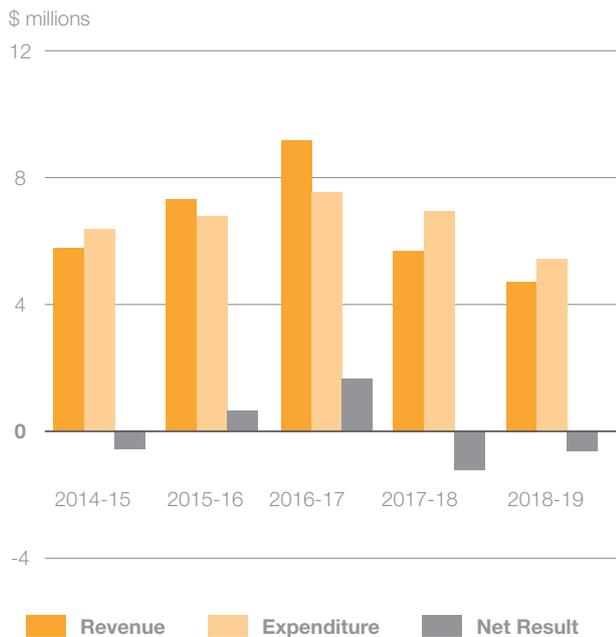
and achievement of its Key Performance Indicators whilst maintaining low operating costs across the business.

The 2018-19 Financial Statements show that the PPWCMA received total revenue of \$4.6 million and a deficit of \$0.7 million at year end. The deficit reflects the PPWCMA's expenditure of funding that was received in advance in 2017-18 and was committed to be expended on projects in 2018-19.

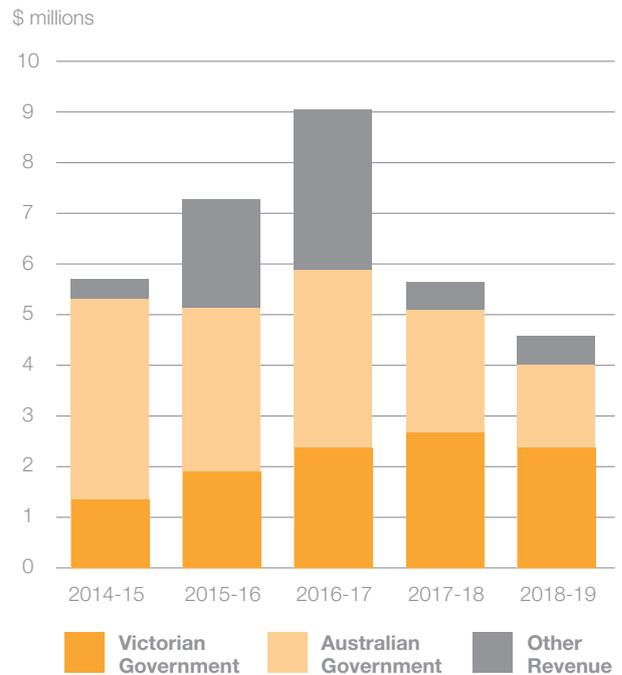
Five-year financial summary

Revenue	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
Victorian Government contributions	2,399,836	2,726,562	2,440,186	1,896,568	1,399,010
Australian Government contributions	1,605,410	2,346,240	3,491,635	3,327,601	3,904,233
Other revenue	607,029	543,092	3,093,726	2,004,150	354,190
Total revenue	4,612,275	5,617,894	9,025,547	7,228,319	5,657,433
Expenses	5,322,591	6,866,200	7,448,534	6,683,571	6,255,471
Net result for the reporting period	(710,316)	(1,248,306)	1,577,013	544,748	(598,038)
Net cash flow from operating activities	(833,060)	(1,234,276)	1,474,740	577,312	(862,921)
Total assets	3,507,303	4,084,947	5,369,945	3,891,021	3,240,360
Total liabilities	829,280	696,608	733,300	831,389	725,476

PPWCMA five-year financial performance summary



Sources of PPWCMA finances over five years



STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INFORMATION

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA 2018-19 Annual Report is available at www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au.

Additional information available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the PPWCMA and are available on request, subject to the provisions of relevant legislation and policies including the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

- Details of publications produced by the PPWCMA about itself
- Details of any major external reviews carried out on the PPWCMA
- Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the PPWCMA to develop community awareness of the entity and its services
- A statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers of PPWCMA
- Details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees, not otherwise detailed in the report of operations
- A statement of the extent to which the PPWCMA committees' purposes have been achieved.

The information is available on request from:

Tipei Gambiza
Finance Coordinator
Phone: 03 8781 7900
Email: enquiries@ppwcm.vic.gov.au

Additional information included in annual report

Details on the following items have been included in this annual report, on the pages indicated below:

- Assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees (page 35)
- A statement on industrial relations within PPWCMA (page 34)
- A list of the PPWCMA's major committees, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved (page 61)

Information that is not applicable to the PPWCMA

- Details of shares held by senior officers as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary
- Details of major research and development activities undertaken by the PPWCMA (none were undertaken in 2018-19)
- Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged (none charged in 2018-19).

Making a Protected Disclosure

The Protected Disclosure Act 2012 (PD Act) enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

- Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:
- Mismanagement of public resources
- Risk to public health or safety or the environment
- Corruption.

The conduct must be criminal in nature or a matter for which an officer could be dismissed.

The PPWCMA is a public body for the purposes of the Act and has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making

a protected disclosure about the organisation or its employees. You can access the PPWCMA's procedures at ppwcm.vic.gov.au.

You can make a protected disclosure about the PPWCMA or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC on the contact details below. Please note that the PPWCMA is not able to receive protected disclosures.

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria
Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000
Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001
www.ibac.vic.gov.au
1300 735 135

Section 2

OUR REGION

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About the **PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERN PORT REGION**

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The Port Phillip and Western Port region is home to over 5 million people (75 percent of Victoria's population) and boasts some of Victoria's most productive farming lands, spectacular parks, picturesque landscapes and diverse natural ecosystems.

The activities and lifestyles of the region's urban and rural residents and its thriving tourism industry are underpinned by the diversity and health of its natural resources. This, along with the challenges associated with a growing population and changing climate, means the region's natural resources need to be carefully managed.

NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA

The extensive range of habitats and natural ecosystems found in the region are home to many species of native flora and fauna. While there has been substantial development and alteration of the region's landscape, 39 percent retains native vegetation, including several areas of significant grasslands.

Around 34 percent of this is protected in parks or reserves and managed for conservation, while a further 20 percent is found on other public land. The remaining 46 percent is retained on private land.

Many native animals have adapted to the change, but around 340 flora species and 200 animal, bird, fish and reptile species are considered under threat of local or total extinction. Victoria's bird emblem, the Helmeted Honeyeater, is one of these.

PARKS AND RESERVES

The region is home to thousands of parks and reserves that support rare and diverse flora and fauna species and provide highly-valued recreation and tourism areas. This includes eight national parks, six state parks, eight marine protected areas and many regional, metropolitan and local parks and conservation reserves.

AGRICULTURE

Of the 1.3 million hectares of land in the region, around 45 percent is rural farmland with industries including horticulture, dairying, poultry farming, beef farming, horse management and viticulture.

The region produces the second highest agricultural yield, in dollars per year, among Victoria's ten catchment management regions.

WATER RESOURCES

The region's water storage and waterway systems provide most of the potable supply for 75 percent of Victoria's population, as well as many other economic, social and environmental benefits.

There are around 8400 kilometres of waterways, attracting around 100 million recreational visits annually. More than 900 wetlands are dotted across the region, three of which are listed as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

THE BAYS AND COAST

The catchment meets the sea at the Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and each has significant ecological, economic and community values. The bays support commercial fishing, aquaculture and three major ports and provide the most popular recreational fishing areas in Victoria. Over 90 million recreational visits are made to the bays and beaches of the region's 600 kilometre coastline every year.

CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

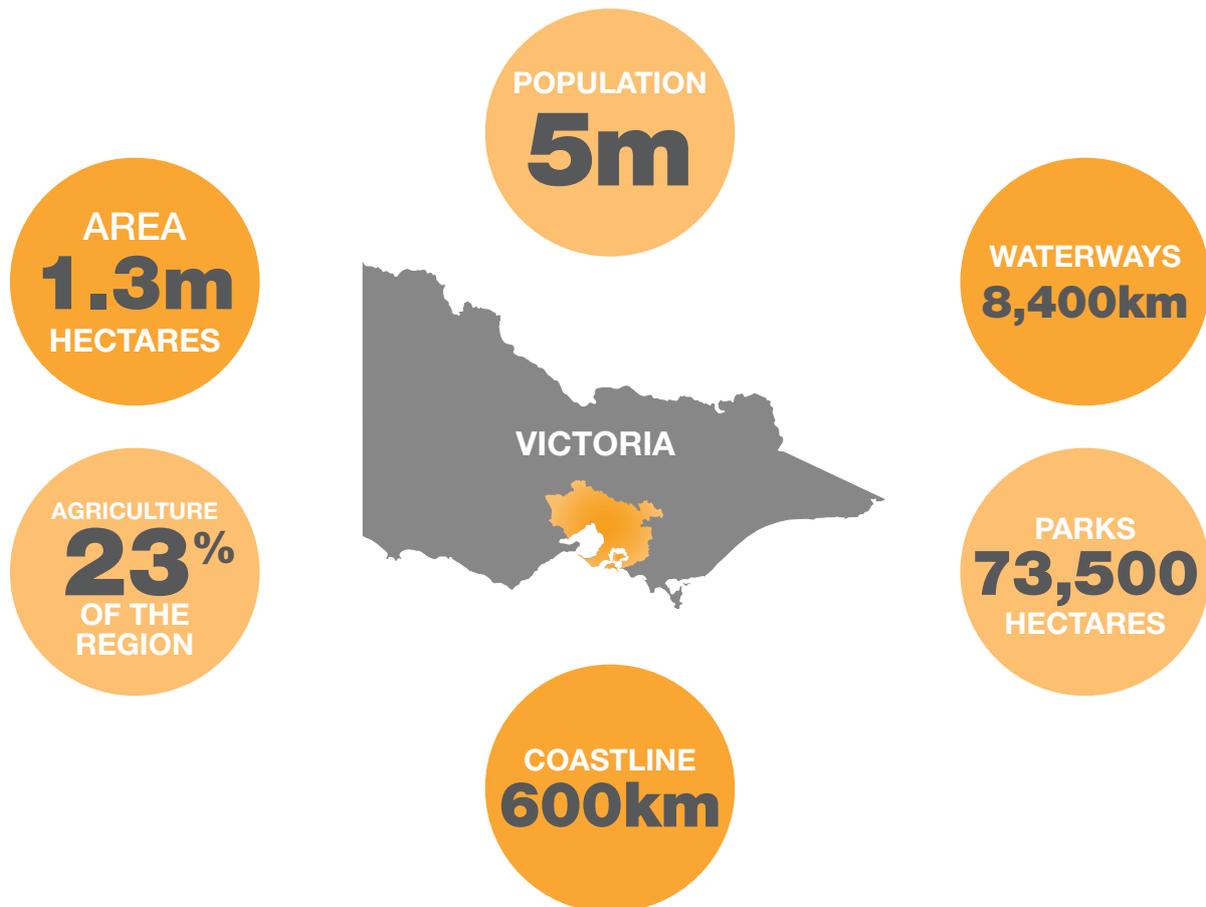
The region is home to many sites of cultural significance, including important Indigenous sites which have creation and Traditional Owner stories associated with them. Stone quarries, coastal shell middens, geological formations and scar trees are all scattered across the region. Many significant landscapes and vegetation retain important cultural and environmental values.

MANAGING THE REGION'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The region's environment, as measured by indicators such as air and water quality, is generally good. These factors are fundamental to Melbourne's reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities.

Managing the natural resources in this region is a complex task. Many people and organisations play a part, including government departments and agencies, local councils, non-government organisations, agricultural and industry bodies and community environmental groups.

Catchment CONDITION



CONTEXT

This report provides a snapshot of some aspects of the environmental condition of the Port Phillip and Western Port region – the state of its biodiversity, waterways, land, coast, bays and community stewardship. It fulfils the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's responsibility under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to submit a report on the condition and management of land and water resources in its region.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Significant natural features: Port Phillip Bay, Western Port, Phillip Island, Dandenong Ranges National Park, Yarra Ranges National Park, Brisbane Ranges National Park.

Major waterways: Yarra River, Maribymong River, Werribee River, Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands (Ramsar-listed), Port Phillip Bay Western Shoreline and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site, Dandenong Creek, Bunyip River, Lang Lang River, Bass River.

Registered Aboriginal Parties: Bunurong Land Council, Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation (Wadawurrung) and Wurundjeri Tribe Council.

SUMMARY OF THE PPWCMA'S VIEW OF TRENDS

Theme	2017-18 assessment	2018-19 assessment	Summary of condition assessment
Biodiversity	Highly concerned	Highly concerned	There is concern at the decline in biodiversity of this region due to significant pressure on native plants and animals from various sources including urban development, invasive species and climate change.
Waterways	Neutral	Neutral	While government bodies and communities are actively contributing to waterway health, there are threats and impacts from urbanisation, population growth and climate change.
Land	Concerned	Concerned	Loss of productive agricultural land to urban uses remains a concern.
Coasts	Concerned	Concerned	Coastal development, invasive species and climate change continue to contribute to a decline in environmental condition of coastal areas.
Port Phillip Bay and Western Port	Positive	Positive	Data shows that the region's bays are in good condition. Regular environmental monitoring occurs.
Community engagement and stewardship	Positive	Positive	There is strong community contribution to environmental management in this region, particularly from Landcare and community environmental groups.

BIODIVERSITY – NATIVE VEGETATION

The diversity, extent and quality of the Port Phillip and Western Port region's native vegetation is essential to the health and diversity of all living things.

Before settlement, the region's 1.3 million hectares were covered by approximately 100 different native vegetation communities. However, 2005 data from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) showed about 500,000 hectares of native vegetation remains; about 39 percent of the pre-settlement cover.

AREA	EXTENT (AREA OF NATIVE VEGETATION AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL AREA)	QUALITY (% OF NATIVE VEGETATION WITH QUALITY SCORE GREATER THAN 0.5, IN A SCALE OF 0-1)
Mornington Peninsula	28%	45%
Moorabool, Melton, Wyndham and Greater Geelong	39%	62%
Urban Melbourne	11%	24%
Macedon Ranges, Hume and Whittlesea	30%	46%
Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik	74%	85%
Casey, Cardinia and Baw Baw	33%	67%
Bass Coast, South Gippsland and Islands	31%	67%

This table summarises DELWP's 2005 estimates of native vegetation extent and quality across seven sub-regional divisions.

Clearing and decline have also reduced vegetation diversity. Of the 100 kinds of vegetation communities existing in the 1830s, two-fifths are now listed as 'endangered', 'vulnerable', 'depleted' or 'rare'.

One third of the region's native vegetation is secured in parks and conservation reserves. An assessment of public land by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council in 2017 found that terrestrial biodiversity values were highest on public land. Therefore, the protection and enhancement of native vegetation on public land is one of the state's and region's highest priorities.

But this priority alone will not protect biodiversity as most of the region's native vegetation is on private land. There is a critical need for better systems to encourage and reward private landholders to protect native vegetation on their land and to discourage illegal clearing and non-compliance with clearing permit conditions.

More recently, the State of the Environment Report 2018 published by the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability shows that most biodiversity indicators are recorded as 'poor' and are trending downwards with only one indicator (private land conservation) trending upwards.

More information on native vegetation, including links to the above-mentioned reports, is available in the Regional Catchment Strategy at ppwrcs.vic.gov.au.

BIODIVERSITY – NATIVE ANIMALS

The PPWCMA recently commissioned a report (draft, unpublished) on the likely persistence of native animal species in the Port Phillip and Western Port region. The report draws on species records to estimate the probability of each species of native fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals persisting in areas of the region at the end of 2016. This was a repeat of the same analysis undertaken in 2005-06.

An important change since 2005-06 is that there has been a substantial increase in species records due to the contributions of government agencies that manage species databases and the public through citizen science programs. There were around 400,000 records for 1839-2006. In the ensuing decade, the number of records increased by more than seven-fold to over 3 million.

With the influx of data, it is estimated that 627 native species are recorded as having occurred in the region at some time since 1839. In general, birds and amphibians seem to have fared the best in retaining species whereas fish species generally have shown the greatest declines. Preliminary results for each taxonomic group in each area of the region are in the table below.

The report draws on existing databases and is an objective, repeatable method for calculating the probability of a species persisting in a given area. However, further scrutiny of the records is required to take non-native species out of the analysis. There are also important limitations to the methods used in this study, including that it doesn't assess the health or range of species populations. For example, a species such as the Helmeted Honeyeater can have a small population, a confined range and be listed as a threatened species but have a high persistence rating in that area because sightings are regularly recorded. Conversely, some species may be relatively common in an area but if the databases do not contain recent records of sightings then the probability of persistence can be low.

This analysis for the Port Phillip and Western Port region could be undertaken for local areas across the other catchment management regions of Victoria to develop a state-wide picture of species diversity, persistence and trends.

Reporting areas	Number and percentage of species likely to be persisting					
	Fish	Amphibians	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals	Total
Bass Coast, South Gippsland & Islands	2/15 (13%)	6/10 (60%)	11/22 (50%)	217/274 (79%)	19/34 (56%)	255/355 (72%)
Casey, Cardinia & Baw Baw	8/26 (31%)	10/16 (63%)	19/30 (63%)	236/291 (81%)	29/41 (71%)	302/404 (75%)
Macedon Ranges, Hume, Mitchell & Whittlesea	5/20 (25%)	13/16 (81%)	21/34 (62%)	235/279 (84%)	32/43 (74%)	306/392 (78%)
Moorabool, Melton, Wyndham & Greater Geelong	4/20 (20%)	10/13 (77%)	18/34 (53%)	284/337 (84%)	33/41 (80%)	349/445 (78%)
Mornington Peninsula	5/18 (28%)	11/13 (85%)	16/26 (62%)	225/295 (76%)	17/33 (52%)	274/385 (71%)
Greater Melbourne	18/32 (56%)	15/20 (75%)	33/39 (82%)	303/374 (81%)	29/49 (59%)	397/514 (77%)
Yarra Ranges & Nillumbik	13/26 (50%)	11/14 (79%)	22/37 (59%)	228/277 (82%)	37/46 (80%)	311/400 (78%)

WATERWAYS

There are many agencies, organisations, groups and community sectors that have a role in the protection and management of waterways. DELWP has led the development of Water for Victoria and the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy which established the state-wide policy framework for water and waterway management.

In the Port Phillip and Western Port region, Melbourne Water is the designated waterway management authority and caretaker of river health. Melbourne Water has led the development and implementation of the Healthy Waterways

Strategy 2018-28, which outlines the region's contribution to meeting the state-wide aims. The Environment Protection Authority, Parks Victoria, councils, community groups and individual landowners also make very important contributions.

The Healthy Waterways Strategy provides a comprehensive strategic direction towards a regional vision for the health of rivers, estuaries and wetlands in the Port Phillip and Western Port region. A major focus is that urbanisation, population growth and climate change pose enormous challenges to success.

With regards to water quality, routine monitoring is completed at designated sites and given a Water Quality Index (WQI) score that combines the results of six standard water quality parameters - nutrients, water clarity, dissolved oxygen, salinity, metals and pH. A summary of water quality for the catchments of the region from the Yarra and Bay Report Card 2017-18 is shown in table below. Visit yarraandbay.vic.gov.au to view the full report card.

The assessments reflect the profound impacts of urbanisation and intense rural land use have on water quality in this region. Monitoring sites in forested parks in upper catchment areas are protected from development

and achieved 'very good' and 'good' scores. Water quality generally declines as waters flow from the rural middle catchment and pass through more developed and urbanised areas.

Water quality is only one factor determining the health of streams in the region. The Healthy Waterways Strategy also aims to protect and enhance habitat, flows, connectivity and physical form to support nature conservation and human amenity values. Visit melbournewater.com.au to view the strategy.

	Very good or good quality	Fair quality	Poor or very poor quality	Overall water quality rating	Recent trend
Dandenong Catchment	0%	0%	100%	Very poor	Stable
Maribyrnong Catchment	59%	27%	14%	Fair	Improving
Mornington Catchment	0%	0%	100%	Very poor	Stable
Werribee Catchment	0%	64%	36%	Fair	Improving
Yarra Catchment	23%	15%	62%	Poor	Improving
Western Port Catchment	8%	50%	42%	Poor	Stable

LAND

Primary production in the Port Phillip and Western Port region has been estimated to have a total value of \$17 billion (ABS, 2012); the highest of the ten catchment management regions in Victoria. This reflects the intensive, high value farming that occurs in and around Melbourne in a variety of agricultural industries.

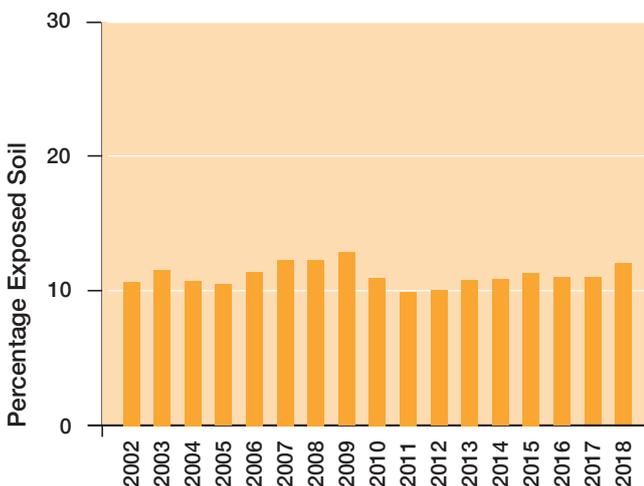
Relatively high average rainfall for the region enables much of the region's soil to retain vegetation cover throughout the year. This means there is relatively low risk of widespread soil erosion. The table below outlines the percentage of exposed soil in the Port Phillip and Western Port region between 2012 and 2018 (Australia's Environment Explorer, 2018).

The higher rainfall and irrigation areas support high-yield agriculture where soil maintenance is a priority for most landowners. Lower rainfall areas, generally in the west of the region, can be more susceptible to soil erosion, soil quality decline, rabbit and weed infestations.

Significant factors that impact the condition of land and landscapes in this region include:

- New housing and industry development and associated infrastructure reducing the area of productive land inside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and maintaining pressure for future movements of the UGB into adjoining rural land
- High farming intensity or management neglect on some land areas, especially where future development is expected
- Continuing net growth in weed and pest animal infestations decreasing soil health, land resilience, productivity and profitability
- Removal and fragmentation of native vegetation and habitat across the region
- A climate that is becoming warmer and dryer.

The University of Melbourne released a report in 2019 titled Foodprint Melbourne: Roadmap for a resilient and sustainable Melbourne foodbowl. The report indicates that the Port Phillip and Western Port region has the capacity to meet around 40 percent of its food needs and over 80 percent of its fresh vegetable needs alone.



However, Melbourne's population is growing significantly and is impacting on the region's ability to continue to produce fresh food. More than twice the amount of growth is occurring along urban fringes where agriculture production is located, rather than in established areas. If this trend continues, by 2066 the region's food production could fall to 18 percent, potentially leading to higher food costs

due to the need for importing from other areas of Victoria, Australia or other countries.

From a broad perspective, the PPWCMA is concerned that the health and resilience of the land and landscapes in the region is declining. The PPWCMA is particularly concerned regarding the ongoing pressure for the loss of productive agricultural land to urban uses.

COASTS

The 600 kilometres of coastline in the Port Phillip and Western Port region contain diverse habitats and values that are heavily visited and utilised. Much of the coast has been and continues to be impacted by urban development, coastal settlement, high levels of recreational use and invasive species.

The amount and quality of native vegetation, as indicators of the environmental value of the coastal zone, is summarised in the table below. For more information, visit the Regional Catchment Strategy at ppwrccs.vic.gov.au.

From a broad perspective, the PPWCMA is concerned that the overall environmental condition of coasts in the region is reducing. However, a new *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* is now in place and a new Marine and Coastal Policy is under development and aims to provide a strong framework for future protection and management of coasts. There are also many organisations that actively contribute to the health of the coasts, including:

- The PPWCMA's Ramsar Protection Program directing funds from the Australian Government and Victorian Government to priority works being undertaken by Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, local councils, community groups and others to control weeds, feral cats and foxes, protect native vegetation and raise community awareness of the values of coastal wetlands
- The management of coastal areas by many community-based foreshore committees through weed management, fencing, erosion management and revegetation
- A Coastal Assets Protection Program, led by DELWP, to identify built assets at risk from climate change impacts
- A Port Phillip Bay Hazard Assessment, also led by DELWP, to assess the extent of three key coastal hazards - inundation, coastal erosion and groundwater change - under several climate change scenarios
- Ongoing work of the Association of Bayside Municipalities to coordinate coastal council projects, policy, planning and advocacy.

COASTAL ZONE	APPROX. LENGTH (KM)	AVERAGE WIDTH (M)	APPROX. AREA (HA)	AREA OF NATIVE VEGETATION (HA)	PROPORTION OF ZONE WITH NATIVE VEGETATION (%)
Phillip Island ocean	42.3	258	1,091	922	85
Phillip Island bay	36.9	120	443	52	12
French Island south	23.6	342	807	693	86
French Island north	40.4	349	1,411	1,293	92
Western Port east	55.3	141	778	556	71
Western Port north	40.4	451	1,821	1,338	73
Hastings	22.9	460	1,053	662	63
Sandy Pt to Flinders	33.1	435	1,440	1,121	78
Flinders to Pt Nepean	45.5	451	2,050	1,782	87
Port Phillip Bay eastern beaches	115.5	83	959	440	46
Port Phillip Bay north western shoreline	60.1	446	2,681	1,505	56
Geelong	22.6	54	121	33	27
Corio Bay south	35.1	100	351	210	60
Swan Bay	36.2	931	3,369	725	22
Queenscliffe	7.1	106	75	52	69
Total	617	299	18,454	11,384	62

PORT PHILLIP BAY AND WESTERN PORT

Port Phillip Bay and Western Port are priority environmental, social and economic assets. Risks to their condition include climate change, increased recreational use, litter, nutrients, sediment and pollutant loads and extreme weather events such as storms and peak rainfall events which transport large volumes of sediments, nutrients and pollutants from rivers and drains into the bays over short periods of time.

	PORT PHILLIP BAY	WESTERN PORT
Coastline	333 km	295 km
Total area	1,930 km ²	680 km ²
Average depth	13 m	3 m
Greatest depth	24 m	6 m
Catchment area	9,790 km ²	3,721 km ²
Catchment population	4.5 million people	45,000 people

The State of the Bays 2016 Report by the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability reported on the condition of water quality, intertidal vegetation, water and shore birds and carbon sequestration for the bays. It is available at ces.vic.gov.au.

Water quality monitoring is conducted by the Environment Protection Authority at six sites in Port Phillip Bay and two sites in Western Port. The water quality at individual sites is given a WQI score by combining the results of standard water quality parameters such as nutrients, water clarity, dissolved oxygen, salinity and algae.

As reported in the 2017-18 Yarra and Bay Report Card (see table below and yarraandbay.vic.gov.au), water quality for Port Phillip Bay is rated 'good' and has remained relatively stable since 2002. Western Port was also reported is rated 'good' and quality has improved in recent years.

The PPWCMA is of the view that the condition of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port is generally improving, and that continued improvement is likely into the future.

Many government organisations and communities have contributed to understanding and improving the health of the bays, including:

- Councils conducting a range of litter management programs and community stakeholders around the bay active in beach cleaning programs, such as Beach Patrol
- EPA Victoria's Beach Report Program providing daily recreational water quality forecasts for swimmer safety and conducting weekly microbial (e-coli) monitoring for 36 popular swimming beaches between 1 December 2018 and 11 March 2019
- DELWP continuing to support the implementation and delivery of priority actions of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017-27
- Programs such as Coastcare and EstuaryWatch continuing to provide important data for monitoring Port Phillip Bay and Western Port.

	Very good or good quality	Fair quality	Poor or very poor quality	Overall water quality rating	Recent Trend
Port Phillip Bay	89%	11%	0%	Good	Stable
Western Port	77%	23%	0%	Good	Stable

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP

Many agencies, organisations, groups and community sectors engage with community sectors to improve the community's connection with nature and to build a stewardship ethos.

The Landcare movement in this region includes 86 Landcare groups and 13 networks directly involving around 3,000 landowners managing properties. Together these individuals and groups cover 704,740 hectares (55.1 percent of the region) and represent 75.1 percent of all private rural land.

The Landcare movement is complemented by approximately 400 'Friends of' and community environmental groups operating in urban and peri-urban areas and committees of management in coastal areas.

The Port Phillip and Western Port Landcare Report Card 2017-18 indicated that volunteers associated with these

groups contributed over \$3 million value in volunteer time to stewardship and protection of natural resources. They also provided significant additional benefits by educating the broader community, fostering resilient communities and engaging the youth of today to be the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

At a wider community level, there is a surge in community participation in various citizen science, education and local environmental restoration programs

From a broad perspective, the PPWCMA is of the view that the participation and stewardship by the region's natural resource management community is generally strong and improving, and that continued improvement is likely into the future.

KEY CHALLENGES FOR MANAGEMENT

A perennial challenge in this region is the large number of land managers and planning authorities who each have a stake in the management of natural resources. The large number of organisations and high population means there are significant resources dedicated to environmental management but coordination between the many players is difficult to sustain at scales likely to create improvements.

Other significant challenges in the management of land, water and coastal resources in this region have been:

- Continuing rapid population growth and associated land use change. The trade-offs this demands between social, economic and environmental values mostly favour development that is not designed in ways that compromise economy or profit or environmental conservation
- Urban densification that is progressively eliminating nature from urban environments through the loss of residential gardens in favour of townhouse development
- Infrastructure development that will potentially impact on nearby environmental assets
- Climate change which presents rapidly emerging threats and uncertainties for natural resource management and planning.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT OUTPUTS IN 2018-19

The PPWCMA directed funds from the Victorian Government, Australian Government and other sources to numerous priority projects across the region in 2018-19. Some of the outputs collectively achieved with these funds are highlighted below.

221

hectares of new vegetation established

4,103

hectares treated to manage weeds

104,076

hectares treated to manage pest animals

1.2

kilometres of new fencing installed

0.6

hectares treated with an environmental fire regime

1,400

hectares with changed agricultural practices

6,179

participants at engagement events

Including:

- 800 at the Discover Dandenong Creek Festival
- 300 at the Our City in Nature conference
- 226 at 20 PPWCMA committee meetings
- 190 at the Grow West community planting day

43

agreements developed or maintained

Including:

- 20 landholder agreements for The Great HeHo Escape project
- 21 landholder agreements for the Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink project
- 2 land management agreements for the Peaks to Plains project

114

partnerships developed or maintained

Including:

- A catchment partnership agreement with 17 organisations
- 32 Regional Catchment Strategy partners
- 4 Traditional Owner partnership agreements
- 3 Landcare network partnership agreements

66

plans developed or maintained

Including:

- The Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy
- PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan
- PPWCMA Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- 32 farm management plans through the Smart Farming for Western Port Project
- 2 habitat restoration plans through The Great HeHo Escape project

657

publications produced and distributed

Including:

- 517 posts across 4 Facebook pages
- 32 newsletters and enewsletters
- 7 reports
- 1 education kit

Section 3

OUR ORGANISATION

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The role of the **PPWCMA**

ROLE OF THE PPWCMA

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA is a Victorian Government statutory authority established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

The responsible ministers for 2018-19 were the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Minister for Solar Homes.

The PPWCMA is responsible for:

- Preparing a Regional Catchment Strategy and coordinating its implementation
- Advising on regional priorities and resource allocation
- Promoting cooperation in the management of land and water resources
- Advising on matters relating to catchment and land protection
- Advising on the condition of land and water resources
- Promoting community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

In addition, a Statement of Obligations and a Letter of Expectations issued to the PPWCMA by the Minister for Water ensure a focus on:

- Community engagement and partnerships
- Recognising and supporting Aboriginal inclusion
- Mitigating climate change
- Collaboration with water corporations and local government in planning processes
- Advancing cultural diversity and gender equity
- Financial sustainability
- Clear demonstration of outcomes being achieved.

In line with these obligations, the PPWCMA is focused on fostering collaboration; making it beneficial for the many relevant government and non-government organisations to work together efficiently and achieve outstanding outcomes with their collective resources and effort.

The PPWCMA also provides community services, including supporting Landcare groups and networks, engaging Indigenous communities, working with landholders to promote sustainable agriculture and enhancing community awareness of environmental issues.

At a project level, the PPWCMA works closely with the Victorian and Australian Governments to secure funds for priority on-ground projects undertaken by various organisations.

The PPWCMA also takes direct action to improve catchment and environmental condition. It coordinates the delivery of several multi-stakeholder environmental projects such as Grow West and Living Links, and is active in works to enhance wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention.

Our VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

REGIONAL VISION

A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT in the Port Phillip and Western Port region

OUR PPWCMA MISSION

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITIES in the Port Phillip & Western Port region to enhance the health and resilience of our land, water and biodiversity

OUR COMMUNITY SERVICES



COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY

- Regional Catchment Strategy with many committed partners



LANDCARE SUPPORT

- Many active and capable Landcare/ community groups



INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

- Strong and growing Indigenous participation



COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

- A large community audience
- High levels of community participation

OUR ON-GROUND ACTION



WATERWAYS & WETLANDS

- Enhancing Ramsar wetlands



NATIVE VEGETATION

- Protecting and improving threatened native vegetation types
- Creating 'naturelinks'



NATIVE ANIMALS

- Supporting threatened native animal species



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND LAND MANAGEMENT

- Increasing the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices

ENABLED BY



A HEALTHY AND EFFICIENT ORGANISATION

- A safe workplace
- Sound governance and financial management
- Efficient project delivery
- An engaged workforce
- Substantial funding for on-ground outcomes

UNDERPINNED BY OUR VALUES



COLLABORATION

We value teamwork and we work with others to identify and achieve optimum outcomes



LEADERSHIP

We are champions for a healthy environment in this region and we assist and motivate others to contribute



CREATIVITY

We value energy and enthusiasm; we embrace challenges and explore new ways of working to create solutions



RELIABILITY

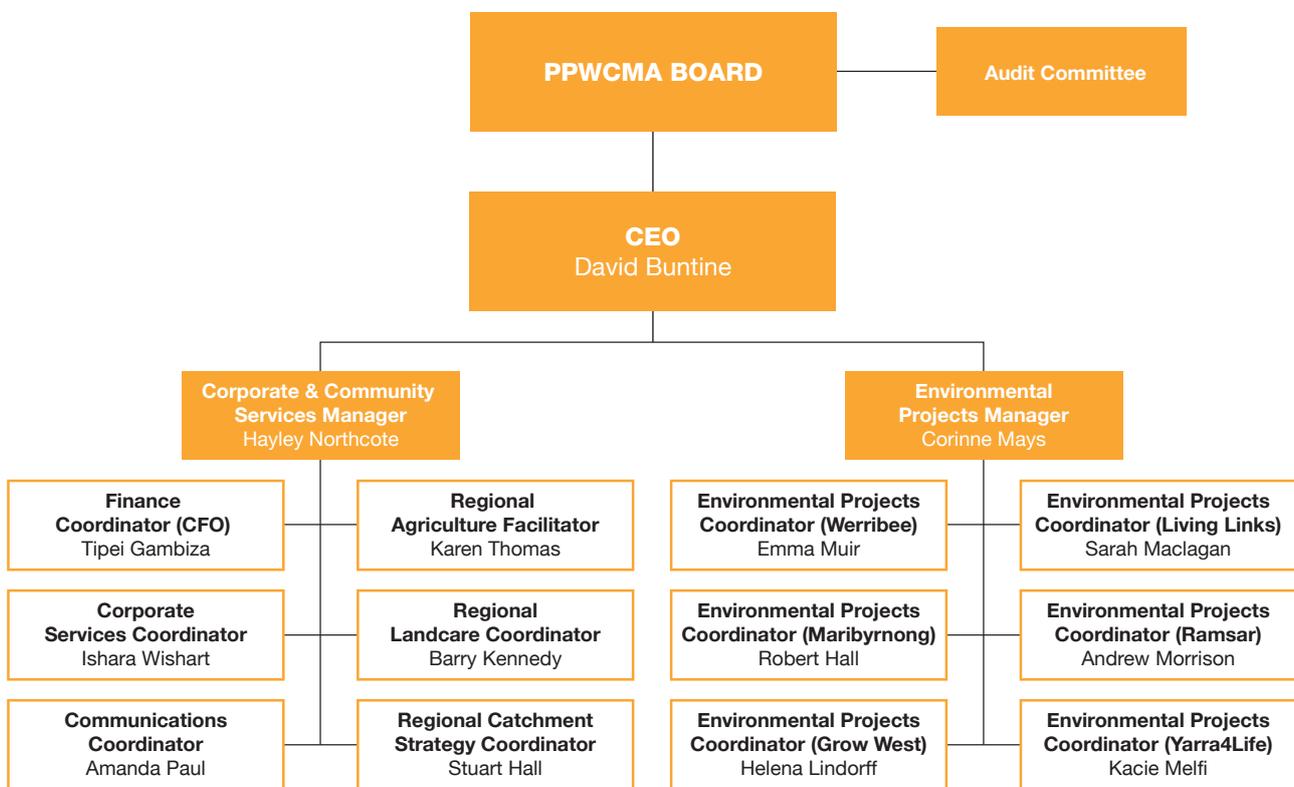
We do what we say we will do; we deliver on our promises

Organisational STRUCTURE

At the end of 2018-19, the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA employed a total of 15 staff, led by Chief Executive Officer David Buntine.

The Corporate and Community Services Team coordinated the organisation's governance, business systems and communications, implemented the Regional Catchment Strategy, and supported Landcare and community environmental groups, farmers and agricultural industry groups.

The Environmental Projects Team managed the delivery of major environmental projects including Grow West, Living Links, Yarra4Life, Greening the Maribyrnong and the Ramsar Protection Program, as well as government funding obligations, data outputs and reporting.



The PPWCMA BOARD

BOARD MEMBERS

The PPWCMA Board is skills-based with nine members at the end of 2018-19. The board is accountable for the overall performance of the PPWCMA and its role is to guide and govern the organisation to ensure it meets its responsibilities as determined in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

During 2018-19, the Board reported to the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Minister for Solar Homes.



Tania Foster - Chair

Tania has over 28 years of experience across numerous regions and industries, including mining, manufacturing, chartered accounting, transport, engineering, utilities and banking.

She holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA),

Bachelor of Commerce and is a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants of Australia.

Tania has spent the last 19 years working in Financial Services covering a wide range of roles, including Finance, ATM Network, Strategy, Treasury, Product and Sales Management, Data and Operations.

Tania is currently CFO Corporate and Institutional Banking at National Australia Bank Limited and is also Director of BPAY Pty Ltd.

Tania was a Board member from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2019 and served as Chair of the PPWCMA Board and Chair of the Business and Remuneration Committee.



Susan Anderson

Susan is a primary producer and small business owner in Bunyip with conservation qualifications and extensive Landcare and environmental community contacts through the Western Port catchment. She is also a life member and President of the

Bunyip Landcare Group.

Susan is actively involved in several local organisations, including reserve management, and is an advocate for increased awareness and conservation of natural values.

Susan was a Board member from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019 and served as Deputy Chair of the PPWCMA Board and as a member of the Audit Committee, Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and Living Links Coordination Committee.



Allan Bawden PSM

Allan is an experienced CEO and board member in the local government and not-for-profit sectors.

He now divides his time between serving as a company director, consulting to boards and governing bodies on strategy and

governance and pursuing his interest in primary production.

Allan currently chairs the Southern Alpine Resort Management Board and is a member of the Alpine Resort Coordinating Council.

He holds an MBA from Melbourne University and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He was made a life member of the Bass Coast Landcare Network in 2014.

Allan was a Board member from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019 and served as a member of the Audit Committee and Business and Remuneration Committee.



Dr Sandra Brizga GAICD

Sandra has over 30 years' experience in river, catchment and coastal management, working as an independent consultant since 1995.

Sandra has qualifications in geography, geomorphology,

environmental law and finance and is the President of the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group.

Sandra also Chairs the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management and is a Trustee of Trust for Nature. She is also a Fellow of the Peter Cullen Trust and an Honorary Life Member of the River Basin Management Society.

Sandra was a Board member from 1st July 2018 until 30th June 2019 and served as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee, Audit Committee and Yarra4Life Coordination Committee.



Neville Goodwin OAM

Neville is a primary producer at Woodleigh and has a long history of community representation and public service.

Neville is a former councillor and mayor of the Bass Coast Shire Council and before this served as

Commissioner at the City of Wyndham.

Neville is a long-serving community representative on the Bass Coast Shire Council Major Events Committee and a member of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Board. He is also the Chair of the Grantville Community Market and Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee, and previously sat on the Board of Bass Coast Regional Health.

Neville was a Board member from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019 and served as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and Business and Remuneration Committee.



Olivia Lineham

Olivia is a primary producer who operates a mixed farming enterprise on her property in Cora Lynn with her husband and three children. She has strong links in the agricultural community and strives to meet industry best practices on farm.

Olivia holds a Masters of Environment and Bachelor of Applied Science Degree and over the last 15 years has worked for the Victorian Government and local government on sustainability education and climate change (adaption and mitigation).

Olivia sits on the Rural Women Network Steering Committee. She is also actively involved in her local community and has served on the board of her children's school and kindergarten.

Olivia was a Board member from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019 and served as a member of the Community Grants Regional Assessment Panel and Yarra4Life Coordination Committee.

Moragh Mackay

Moragh is a facilitator of social learning in the natural resources and environmental field.

Her main focus is bringing people with diverse views together to plan purposeful and concerted action towards environmental sustainability.

Moragh worked for 15 years with Landcare groups and networks across Victoria and completed a PhD on the role of social learning in NRM governance.

She is currently Chair of the Energy Innovation Co-operative and works on environmental and economic development opportunities with Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations.

Moragh was a Board member from 1st July 2018 until 30th June 2019 and served as Chair of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and as a member of the Living Links Coordination Committee.



Les Mclean

Les is a qualified accountant, with 20 years of senior management and over 10 years of executive leadership experience in the Victorian health sector and Victorian water industry.

A Fellow of CPA Australia and Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors, Les was Director Corporate Services/ Chief Financial Officer of the Victorian Cytology Service Ltd. for the past 5 years.

Les has previously served on a number of voluntary boards including the Victorian Institute of Water Administration, AgriWest and is a Life Member of the Sunbury Little Athletics Club.

Les was a Board member from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019 and served as Chair of the PPWCMA's Audit Committee (1st November 2018 – 30th June 2019) and as a member of the Grow West Coordination Committee.



Virginia Wallace

Virginia holds qualifications in Law and Arts (Hons) and has practiced as a lawyer, as well as worked across both corporate and government operations.

Virginia has previously run solar power and hot water bulk buys for local communities

and established a local sustainability group, as well as been involved in her family's waste management and recycling business. She is also a member of local sustainability groups.

Virginia was a Board member from 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019 and served as a member of the Audit Committee and Business and Remuneration Committee.

BOARD GENDER BALANCE DATA

The gender balance of the PPWCMA Board, as at 30th June 2019 and compared to 2017-18, is outlined in the following table.

Board members	2018-19	2017-18
Male	3	3
Female	6	6
Total	9	9

BOARD MEETINGS

Six PPWCMA Board meetings were held during 2018-19. The attendance of Board members at the meetings is outlined in the following table.

Board member	No. of meetings attended
Tania Foster (Chair)	5/6
Susan Anderson (Deputy Chair)	6/6
Allan Bawden	6/6
Sandra Brizga	4/6
Neville Goodwin	5/6
Olivia Lineham	6/6
Moragh Mackay	1/6
Les McLean	6/6
Virginia Wallace	5/6

BOARD COMMITTEES

A number of committees, established by the Board, made important contributions to the governance and compliance of the PPWCMA in 2018-19. These committees each have membership and a charter approved by the Board and report at Board meetings. The membership and charter of each committee are reviewed on a regular basis.

Business and remuneration committee

The Business and Remuneration Committee met on two occasions in 2018-19. The items addressed by the Committee included development of the CEO Work Performance Plan, mid-year and end-year assessment of CEO performance, development of advice to the Board regarding CEO remuneration, planning of the Board's annual performance assessment and oversight of the PPWCMA's compliance with government policy. Membership and attendance at Business and Remuneration Committee meetings is outlined in the following table.

Member	No. of meetings attended
Tania Foster (Chair)	2/2
Neville Goodwin	2/2
Allan Bawden	2/2
Virginia Wallace	2/2

Audit committee

The Audit Committee met on five occasions in 2018-19. The key items addressed included planning and oversight of internal audit projects, oversight of the risk management framework and oversight of the preparation of the PPWCMA's annual financial statements and review of compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework and Tax Compliance Framework.

The main responsibilities of the audit committee are to:

- Review and report to the Board on all other financial information published by the PPWCMA
- Determine the scope of the internal audit function and ensure its resources are adequate and used effectively, including coordination with the external auditors
- Consider recommendations made by internal and external auditors and review the implementation of actions to resolve issues raised
- Oversee the effective operation of the risk management framework.

The outcome of the review is reported to the PPWCMA Board.

The PPWCMA Audit Committee undergoes an annual performance review and as part of this process identifies any professional development opportunities for members to strengthen individual performance and the overall performance of the committee. The outcome of the review is reported to the PPWCMA Board.

Membership and attendance at the Audit Committee meetings is outlined in the following table.

Member	No. of meetings attended	Independent member
Les McLean (Chair)*	5/5	Yes
John Rundell^	2/2	Yes
Susan Anderson#	1/2	Yes
Allan Bawden	5/5	Yes
Sandra Brizga ^à	3/3	Yes
Virginia Wallace	4/5	Yes

* Chair from 1st November 2018

^ Ceased to be chair and committee member on 30th October 2018

Ceased to be committee member on 30th October 2018

à Committee member from 1st November 2018

Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee

The Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee met three times in 2019-20. The committee's major focus was the ongoing coordination of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and preparation for the upcoming renewal of the strategy. Membership and attendance at the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee meetings is outlined in the following table.

Member	No. of meetings attended
Moragh Mackay (Chair)	2/3
Susan Anderson	3/3
Neville Goodwin	3/3
Sandra Brizga	3/3

Community Grants Assessment Panel

The Community Grants Assessment Panel meets to assess the applications submitted for the PPWCMA Community Grants. The 2018-19 community grants process occurred in May-June 2017-18, so no Community Grants Assessment Panel meetings were held in 2018-19.



The PPWCMA Board (Allan Bawden and Moragh Mackay not pictured).

Section 4

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HOW THIS REPORT IS STRUCTURED

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) has pleasure in presenting its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 and provides users with the information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it. It is presented in the following structure:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. About this report

The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared and compliance with reporting regulations

2. Funding delivery of our services

- 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Victorian Government grants and contributions
- 2.3 Australian Government grants and contributions
- 2.4 Other contributions
- 2.5 Interest
- 2.6 Other income

3. The cost of delivering services

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Grant payments
- 3.3 Employee benefits
- 3.4 Supplies and services

4. Key assets available to support output delivery

- 4.1 Recognition of plant and equipment
- 4.2 Depreciation and impairment
- 4.3 Classes of plant and equipment
- 4.4 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of plant and equipment
- 4.5 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Comprehensive operating statement
- Balance sheet
- Cash flow statement
- Statement of changes in equity

5. Other assets and liabilities

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables

6. Financing our operations

- 6.1 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.2 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.3 Committed funds reserve

7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

- 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
- 7.2 Fair Value Measurements
- 7.3 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

8. Other disclosures

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Responsible persons
- 8.3 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.4 Related parties
- 8.5 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.6 Subsequent events
- 8.7 Change in accounting policies
- 8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Declaration in the **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

HOW THIS REPORT IS STRUCTURED

The attached financial statements for the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2019 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2019.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 26th August 2019.



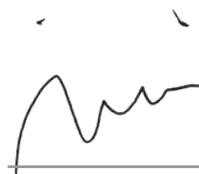
Ms Tania Foster

Board Chair
Port Phillip and Westernport
Catchment Management Authority
(Chair)



Ms Hayley Northcote

Acting Chief Executive Officer
Port Phillip and Westernport
Catchment Management Authority
(Accountable Officer)



Mr Tipei Gambiza

Finance Coordinator
Port Phillip and Westernport
Catchment Management Authority
(Chief Finance & Accounting Officer)



Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2019 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2019 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

MELBOURNE
30 August 2019



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue			
Victorian Government grants and contributions	2.2	2,399,836	2,726,562
Australian Government grants and contributions	2.3	1,605,410	2,346,240
Other contributions	2.4	533,879	438,553
Interest	2.5	54,229	75,276
Other income	2.6	18,921	31,263
Total Revenue		4,612,275	5,617,894
Expenses			
Grant payments	3.2	1,802,799	2,910,614
Employee benefits	3.3	1,813,758	2,049,580
Supplies and services	3.4	1,699,339	1,897,753
Depreciation	4.2	6,695	8,253
Total Expenses		5,322,591	6,866,200
Net Result For The Year		(710,316)	(1,248,306)
Total Comprehensive (Deficit)/Surplus For The Year		(710,316)	(1,248,306)

The above comprehensive operating statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.1	3,074,323	3,907,382
Receivables	5.1	417,304	137,172
Prepayments		2,233	20,255
Total Current Assets		3,493,860	4,064,809
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and equipment	4.3	13,443	20,138
Total Non-Current Assets		13,443	20,138
TOTAL ASSETS		3,507,303	4,084,947
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	383,844	230,326
Employee benefits	3.3.2	430,389	441,590
Total Current Liabilities		814,233	671,916
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee benefits	3.3.2	15,047	24,692
Total Non-Current Liabilities		15,047	24,692
TOTAL LIABILITIES		829,280	696,608
NET ASSETS		2,678,023	3,388,339
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		903,061	975,189
Committed funds reserve	6.3	1,774,962	2,413,150
TOTAL EQUITY		2,678,023	3,388,339

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Committed Funds Reserve \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	3,970,575	666,070	4,636,645
Transfer (from)/to accumulated surplus	(1,557,425)	1,557,425	-
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	-	(1,248,306)	(1,248,306)
Balance at 30 June 2018	2,413,150	975,189	3,388,339
Balance at 1 July 2018	2,413,150	975,189	3,388,339
Transfer (from)/to accumulated surplus	(638,188)	638,188	-
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	-	(710,316)	(710,316)
Balance at 30 June 2019	1,774,962	903,061	2,678,023

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Government grants and other contributions		4,260,045	5,607,441
Interest received		53,177	80,829
Other contributions		18,921	31,263
Total Receipts		4,332,143	5,719,533
Payments			
Employees		(1,773,555)	(2,123,817)
Grants		(1,802,799)	(2,910,614)
Suppliers and other payments		(1,482,006)	(2,290,228)
Net GST Refunds received from ATO		(106,842)	370,850
Total Payments		(5,165,202)	(6,953,809)
NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	6.1.1	(833,059)	(1,234,276)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(833,059)	(1,234,276)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		3,907,382	5,141,658
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	6.1	3,074,323	3,907,382

The above cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

NOTE 1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) was established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* on 29 October 2002. On that date the Authority acquired all the designated property, rights, liabilities, obligations, powers and functions of the Catchment and Land Protection Board, which was abolished on the constitution of the Authority. Its principal address is:

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
Level 1, Landmark Corporate Centre
454 - 472 Nepean Highway, Frankston, VIC 3199

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the Annual Report which does not form part of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying AAS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement'.

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest one dollar.

Compliance information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting (AASB 1049).

These financial statements cover the Authority as an individual entity.

The Authority is a not-for-profit entity for the purposes of preparing the financial statements and where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 26th August 2019.

NOTE 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Introduction

The principal activities of the Authority are:

- preparing a Regional Catchment Strategy and coordinating and monitoring its implementation,
- promoting cooperation in the management of land and water resources,
- advising on regional priorities and resource allocation,
- advising on matters relating to catchment and land protection,
- advising on the condition of land and water resources, and promoting community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

To enable the Authority to deliver its activities, it receives income predominantly through Victorian and Australian Government contributions.

Contributions are both general purpose (not subject to conditions regarding their use) and specific purpose (paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use). Where such contributions are for a particular purpose they are reported and administered as committed project funds (refer to note 6.3).

NOTE 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES - CONTINUED

Structure

- 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Victorian Government grants and contributions
- 2.3 Australian Government grants and contributions
- 2.4 Other contributions
- 2.5 Interest
- 2.6 Other income

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Victorian Government grants and contributions	2,399,836	2,726,562
Australian Government grants and contributions	1,605,410	2,346,240
Other contributions	533,879	438,553
Interest	54,229	75,276
Other income	18,921	31,263
Total income from transactions	4,612,275	5,617,894

2.2 Victorian Government grants and contributions

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	2,399,836	2,726,562
Total	2,399,836	2,726,562

2.3 Australian Government grants and contributions

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Regional Landcare Partnership (RLP)	1,605,410	2,346,240
Total	1,605,410	2,346,240

Government grants and contributions for the financial year are recognised as operating revenue on receipt or when the Authority obtains control of the contribution and meets certain other criteria as outlined by AASB 1004 Contributions, whichever is the sooner, and disclosed in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as Government grants and contributions.

2.4 Other contributions

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Local Government and Agencies	234,023	256,707
Corporate sponsorship	3,000	6,187
Partner contributions	296,856	175,659
Total	533,879	438,553

Other contributions for the financial year are recognised as operating revenue on receipt or when the Authority obtains control of the contribution and meets certain other criteria as outlined by AASB 1004 Contributions, whichever is the sooner, and disclosed in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as Other contributions.

NOTE 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES - CONTINUED

2.5 Interest

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Interest income	54,229	75,276
Total	54,229	75,276

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate method, in the period in which it is earned.

2.6 Other income

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Other income	18,921	31,263
Total	18,921	31,263

Other income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

Introduction

This note provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Authority in delivering services. In note 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost associated with the provision of services are recorded.

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

Significant judgement: employee benefit provisions

In measuring employee benefits, consideration is given to the expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using a single weighted average discount rate based on market yields of national government bonds in Australia that reflects the estimated timing and amount of benefit payment.

Structure

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Grant payments
- 3.3 Employee benefits
- 3.4 Supplies and services

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Grant payments	3.2	1,802,799	2,910,614
Employee benefits	3.3	1,813,758	2,049,580
Supplies and services	3.4	1,699,339	1,897,753
Total expenses from transactions		5,315,896	6,857,947

NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

3.2 Grant payments

	2019 \$	2018 \$
General purpose grants	1,802,799	2,910,614
	1,802,799	2,910,614

Grants payments are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or become payable. They include transactions such as grants payments made to Victorian Government owned agencies, local government and community groups.

3.3 Employee benefits

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Salaries and wages	1,326,484	1,517,489
Annual leave	118,670	130,904
Long service leave	60,515	20,052
Employer superannuation contributions	125,085	156,155
Other employee expenses	183,004	224,980
	1,813,758	2,049,580

3.3.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

3.3.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Annual leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	72,990	72,818
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	2,674	6,796
Long service leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	29,781	53,718
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	260,388	242,863
Time in lieu		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	8,605	7,722
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	15,938	19,566
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	40,013	38,107
Total current provisions	430,389	441,590
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Employee benefits	13,059	21,416
On-costs	1,988	3,276
Total non-current provisions	15,047	24,692
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	445,436	466,282

Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Opening balance	60,949	69,951
Net additional provisions recognised and reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	(3,010)	(9,002)
Closing balance	57,939	60,949

NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

Annual leave and time in lieu

Liabilities for annual leave and time in lieu are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

Liabilities for annual leave and time in lieu are all recognised in the provision for employee benefits as 'current liabilities' as per AASB 119 Employee Benefits, because the Corporation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities. These are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the Authority expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value – if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as it is taken.

Long service leave

Unconditional LSL is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements as a current liability, even where the Authority does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the Authority expects to wholly settle within 12 months; and
- present value – if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL liability is measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the Authority.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised in the 'net result from transactions', except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised in the net result as other economic flow.

On costs

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

3.3.3 Employer superannuation contributions

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period. The Authority does not recognise any defined benefit liabilities because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. Instead, the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) discloses in its annual financial statements the net defined benefit cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability (on behalf of the State as the sponsoring employer).

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Authority contributes to both accumulation (defined contribution) and defined benefit plans. Superannuation contributions are made to the plans based on the relevant rules of each plan and any relevant compulsory superannuation requirements that the Authority is required to comply with. The defined benefit plan provides benefits based on years of service and final average salary.

NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

The Authority's contribution details and amounts expensed in relation to the employee superannuation funds are as follows:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	2019		2018	
		Rate %	\$	Rate %	\$
Vic Super	Accumulation	9.5	43,673	9.5	63,730
Emergency Services & State Super	Defined Benefits	10.3	14,434	10.3	14,161
Vision Super	Accumulation	9.5	13,846	9.5	17,675
Equipsuper	Accumulation	9.5	11,631	9.5	8,824
Australian Ethical Super	Accumulation	9.5	10,664	9.5	4,567
HOST plus	Accumulation	9.5	9,691	9.5	8,743
Rest Superannuation	Accumulation	9.5	5,204	9.5	-
Uni. Super	Accumulation	9.5	4,890	9.5	8,774
IOOF Portfolio Service	Accumulation	9.5	2,525	9.5	1,513
Future Super	Accumulation	9.5	2,314	9.5	2,555
Plum Super Fund	Accumulation	9.5	2,109	9.5	1,608
Allan Bawden Super Fund	Accumulation	9.5	1,171	9.5	1,208
Australian Super	Accumulation	9.5	1,153	9.5	7,932
Others	Accumulation	9.5	1,780	9.5	14,865
TOTAL			125,085		156,155

There were no loans from the Superannuation Funds to the Authority during the year. There were \$14,078 outstanding superannuation contributions as at 30 June 2019 (2018: \$nil).

3.4 Supplies and services

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Administration expenses	268,493	291,536
Operational expenses:		
Contractors	711,480	698,591
Consultants	240,432	-
Plants & Planting Equipment	115,039	534,746
Motor Vehicle Expenses	111,314	132,457
Occupancy expenses	252,581	240,423
	1,699,339	1,897,753

Supplies and services expenses are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. These include the general day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations.

NOTE 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

Introduction

The Authority controls plant and equipment assets that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities, comprising furniture, equipment, computers and accessories.

Significant judgement: fair value measurement

Where the assets included in this note are carried at fair value, additional information is disclosed in note 4.5 and note 7.2 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

Structure

- 4.1 Recognition of plant and equipment
- 4.2 Impairment of Assets
- 4.3 Classes and depreciation of plant and equipment
- 4.4 Movement during the financial year
- 4.5 Fair value determination: non-financial physical assets

4.1 Recognition of plant and equipment

Initial recognition

Items of plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition. Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000 (2018: \$1,000) and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as assets. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Subsequent measurement

Plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset) and is summarised below by asset category.

Refer to Note 4.5 for additional information on fair value determination of plant and equipment.

4.2 Depreciation and impairment

Depreciation

All non-current physical assets that have finite useful life are depreciated except for items under operating leases. Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Furniture and equipment	2,377	3,510
Computers and accessories	4,318	4,743
	6,695	8,253

Depreciation rates within each asset class are consistent with the previous year and are:

Asset class	Depreciation rate
Furniture and equipment	10%
Computers and accessories	20%

NOTE 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY - CONTINUED

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of plant and equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset may be impaired.

The assets concerned are tested as to whether their carrying value exceeds their recoverable amount. Where an asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written off, except to the extent that it can be debited to an asset revaluation surplus amount applicable to that class of asset.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. However, this reversal should not increase the asset's carrying amount above what would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

The recoverable amount for most assets is measured at the higher of current replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell.

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

4.3 Classes of plant and equipment

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Computers & Accessories		
At fair value	56,019	56,019
Less accumulated depreciation	(47,771)	(43,453)
	8,248	12,566
Furniture & Equipment		
At fair value	44,640	44,640
Less accumulated depreciation	(39,446)	(37,068)
	5,194	7,572
Total Plant and Equipment	13,443	20,138

4.4 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of plant and equipment

	Computers and accessories \$	Furniture and equipment \$	Total \$
Opening Balance 1 July 2018	12,566	7,572	20,138
Depreciation expense	(4,318)	(2,377)	(6,695)
Closing Balance 30 June 2019	8,248	5,195	13,443
Opening Balance 1 July 2017	17,309	11,082	28,391
Depreciation expense	(4,743)	(3,510)	(8,253)
Closing Balance 30 June 2018	12,566	7,572	20,138

NOTE 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY - CONTINUED

4.5 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the Authority.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The following table shows that fair values of all non-financial physical assets are the same as the carrying amounts. Refer to note 7.2 for descriptions of the fair value hierarchy categories.

Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets as at 30 June 2019

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2019 \$	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1(i) \$	Level 2(i) \$	Level 3(i) \$
Computers and Accessories at fair value	8,248	-	-	8,248
Furniture and Equipment at fair value	5,195	-	-	5,195

Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets as at 30 June 2018

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2018 \$	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1(i) \$	Level 2(i) \$	Level 1(i) \$
Computers and Accessories at fair value	12,566	-	-	12,566
Furniture and Equipment at fair value	7,572	-	-	7,572

Notes: (i) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, see note 7.2

There have been no transfers between levels during the period. For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

Plant and equipment are held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the carrying amount depreciated cost method. There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2019.

Reconciliation of level 3 fair value

	Computers and accessories \$	Furniture and equipment \$
2019		
Opening Balance	12,566	7,572
Depreciation	(4,318)	(2,377)
Closing balance	8,248	5,195
2018		
Opening Balance	17,309	11,082
Depreciation	(4,743)	(3,510)
Closing balance	12,566	7,572

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

NOTE 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY - CONTINUED

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Computers and accessories	Depreciated cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Furniture and equipment	Depreciated cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment

NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Authority's operations.

Significant judgement: accrued revenue and accrued expenses

Accrued revenue and accrued expenses represent goods or services that have been received or supplied but have not been invoiced. In estimating the amount of an accrued revenue or accrued expense, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed.

Structure

5.1 Receivables

5.2 Payables

5.1 Receivables

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Contractual		
Trade receivables	399,353	74,635
Security deposits	6,500	6,500
Accrued interest	1,052	8,523
Statutory		
GST Input Tax Credit receivables	10,399	47,514
Total Receivables	417,304	137,172
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current receivables	417,304	137,172
Non-current receivables	-	-

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised costs'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The Authority holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes. The Authority applies AASB 9 for initial measurement of the statutory receivables and as a result statutory receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction cost.

Details about the Authority's impairment policies, exposure to credit risk, and the calculation of the loss allowance are set out in note 7.1

NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - CONTINUED

5.1.1 Past due but not impaired trade receivables

As of 30 June 2019, the Authority did not have trade receivables past due (2018: Nil)

The other amounts within receivables do not contain impaired assets and are not past due. Based on credit history, it is expected that these amounts will be received when due.

5.2 Payables

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current Contractual		
Trade creditors	259,047	134,040
Accrued expenses	85,405	70,959
Current Statutory		
PAYG withheld	25,314	25,327
Superannuation	14,078	-
Total Payables	383,844	230,326

Payables consist of:

- **Contractual payables** classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and
- **Statutory payables**, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days. No interest is charged on the 'other payables' for the first 30 days from date of invoice.

NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations and other information related to financing activities of the Authority. This includes disclosures on financial instruments balances, such as cash balances.

Structure

- 6.1 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.2 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.3 Committed funds reserve

6.1 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments with an original maturity of four months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash on hand	600	600
Cash at bank	705,356	128,739
Cash at call	2,368,367	600,043
Short term deposits	-	3,178,000
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents*	3,074,323	3,907,382

* \$1,774,962 of \$3,074,323 cash and cash equivalents held at balance date are committed to specific projects for which funding has been provided to the Authority (2018: \$2,413,150 of \$3,907,382) - refer to note 6.3 for further information.

6.1.1 Reconciliation of net result for the year to net cash flows from operating activities

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Net result for the Reporting Period	(710,316)	(1,248,306)
Depreciation	6,695	8,253
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	(280,131)	49,077
Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments	18,022	(6,608)
Increase in Payables	153,518	32,392
(Decrease) in Employee Benefits	(20,847)	(69,084)
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	(833,059)	(1,234,276)

6.1.2 Financing Arrangements

The Authority has no overdraft or other financing facilities (2018: Nil).

6.2 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and inclusive of the goods and services tax (GST) payable. In addition, where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present values of significant individual projects are stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

6.2.1 Lease commitments

Operating leases relate to office facilities, vehicles, and office equipment with lease terms between one and five years, with an option to extend. All operating lease contracts contain market review clauses in the event that the Authority exercises its option to renew. The Authority does not have an option to purchase the leased assets at the expiry of the lease period. At 30 June 2019 the Authority had the following lease commitments:

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Within one year	147,992	135,038
Later than one year but not later than five years	159,349	9,501
Total Lease Commitments (inclusive of GST)	307,341	144,539

NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases; Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from lessor) are charged to the Comprehensive Operating Statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease, in the periods in which they are incurred, as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

6.2.2 - Capital Commitments

As at 30 June 2019, the Authority had no outstanding capital commitments (30 June 2018: Nil).

6.3 Committed funds reserve

The Authority is responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects primarily funded by Victorian and Australian Government programs. The Authority receives funding for specific projects which are guided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and delivered in line with the Authority's Corporate Plan approved by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

The projects funded by the Victorian and Australian Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and funding is received at various stages of the project life based on contractual agreements. At the end of the financial year there are some projects that have not reached completion but will be completed within the contractual terms in future financial periods. At balance date the Authority has cash and cash equivalents that will be utilised to complete these projects in future financial years, as follows:

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Committed funds	1,774,962	2,413,150
Total cash funds	3,074,323	3,907,382

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

Introduction

The Authority is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This note sets out financial instrument specific information, (including exposures to financial risks) as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a high level of judgement to be applied, which for the Authority relate mainly to fair value determination.

Structure

- 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
- 7.2 Fair Value Measurements
- 7.3 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

7.1.1 Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation.

From 1 July 2018, the Authority applies AASB 9 and classifies all of its financial assets based on the business model for managing the assets and the asset's contractual terms.

7.1.2 Categories of financial instruments under AASB 9

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- the assets are held by the Authority to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The Authority recognises the following assets in this category:

- a) cash and deposits;
- b) receivables (excluding statutory receivables)

7.1.3 Categories of financial assets previously under AASB 139

Loans and receivables and cash are financial instrument assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted on an active market. These assets and liabilities are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method (and for assets, less any impairment). The Authority recognises the following assets in this category:

- a) cash and deposits;
- b) receivables (excluding statutory receivables); and
- c) term deposits.

7.1.4 Categories of financial liabilities under AASB 9 and previously under AASB 139

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The Authority recognises the payables (excluding statutory payables) liabilities in this category.

7.1.5 Derecognition of financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired.

7.1.6 Derecognition of financial liabilities

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Financial instruments: Categorisation

	Cash and deposits \$	Financial assets at amortised cost \$	Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
2019				
Contractual financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3,074,323		-	3,074,323
Trade receivables		399,353	-	399,353
Security deposits	6,500		-	6,500
Accrued revenue		1,052	-	1,052
Total contractual financial assets	3,080,823	400,405	-	3,481,228
Contractual financial liabilities				
Trade payables	-	-	259,047	259,047
Accrued expenses	-	-	85,405	85,405
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	-	344,452	344,452

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

2018	Financial assets –loans and receivables and cash \$	Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3,907,382	-	3,907,382
Trade receivables	74,635	-	74,635
Security deposits	6,500	-	6,500
Accrued revenue	8,523	-	8,523
Total contractual financial assets	3,997,040	-	3,997,040
Contractual financial liabilities			
Trade payables	-	134,040	134,040
Accrued expenses	-	70,959	70,959
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	204,999	204,999

The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts.

7.1.7 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Authority's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Authority's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Authority.

This note presents information about the Authority's exposure to each of these risks, and the objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk.

The Authority uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include sensitivity analysis in the case of interest rate and other price risks, ageing analysis for credit risk. The Authority does not have foreign exchange risk as it does not trade outside of Australia.

The Authority's Board has the overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Authority's risk management framework. The Authority's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Authority.

The Business management team identifies, evaluates and manages financial risks in close co-operation with the Audit Committee. The Board provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as policies covering specific areas such as interest rate risk and investment of excess liquidity.

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices will affect the fair value or future cash flows of the Authority's financial instruments. Market risk comprises of interest rate risk and other price risk. The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk, and is limited to "Cash at call" funds.

Interest Rate Risk

The Authority's exposure to market interest rates relates to funds invested in the money market. The Authority does not have any borrowings. The Authority has minimal exposure to interest rate risk through its holding of cash assets.

Other Price Risk

The Authority has no exposure in other price risk.

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

Market Risk Sensitivity Analysis

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rates are set out in the table that follows.

2019	Carrying amount	Interest rate exposure			
		Weighted average interest rate %	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
Financial Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,074,323	1.50	-	3,073,723	600
Receivables	406,905	-			406,905
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	344,452	-			344,452
Total			-	3,073,723	751,957
Financial Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,907,382	1.89	3,178,000	728,782	600
Receivables	89,658	-			89,658
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	204,997	-			204,997
Total			3,178,000	728,782	295,255

The sensitivity analysis below has taken into account past performance, future expectations and economic forecasts. The Authority believes that a movement of 1% in interest rates is reasonable over the next 12 months.

2019	Carrying Amount \$	Interest Rate Risk			
		-1% Results \$	Equity \$	+1% Results \$	Equity \$
Financial Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,074,323	(30,737)	(30,737)	30,737	30,737
Receivables	406,905	-	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	344,453	-	-	-	-
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(30,737)	(30,737)	30,737	30,737
2018					
Financial Assets					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,907,382	(7,288)	(7,288)	7,288	7,288
Receivables	89,658	-	-	-	-
Financial Liabilities					
Payables	204,997	-	-	-	-
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(7,288)	(7,288)	7,288	7,288

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

Credit Risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Authority's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtors are the Australian Government and the Victorian Government.

In addition, the Authority does not engage in hedging for its contractual financial assets and mainly obtains contractual financial assets that are on fixed interest, except for cash and deposits, which are mainly cash at bank. The Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with high credit ratings.

Provision of impairment for contractual financial assets is recognised when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect a receivable. Objective evidence includes financial difficulties of the debtor, default payments, debts that are more than 90 days overdue, and changes in debtor credit ratings.

Contract financial assets are written off against the carrying amount when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Bad debt written off by mutual consent is classified as a transaction expense. Bad debt written off following a unilateral decision is recognised as other economic flows in the net result.

Except as otherwise detailed in the following table, the carrying amount of contractual financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk.

There has been no material change to the Authority's credit risk profile in 2018-19.

Credit quality of financial assets

	Financial institutions (triple-A credit rating) \$	Government agencies (triple-A credit rating) \$	Other \$	Total \$
2019				
Cash and deposits	3,073,723	-	600	3,074,323
Receivables		-	399,353	399,353
Total contractual financial assets	3,073,723		399,953	3,473,676
2018				
Cash and deposits	728,782	3,178,000	600	3,907,382
Receivables	-	-	74,635	74,635
Total contractual financial assets	728,782	3,178,000	75,235	3,982,017

Impairment of financial assets under AASB 9 – applicable from 1 July 2018

From 1 July 2018, the Authority has been recording the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments, replacing AASB 139's incurred loss approach with AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach.

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The Authority applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. The Authority has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due and select the expected credit loss rate based on the Authority's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forwardlooking estimates at the end of the financial year.

On this basis, the Authority determines there is no opening loss allowance on initial application date of AASB 9 and no closing loss allowance at end of the financial year.

Statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As the result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months expected losses. No loss allowance recognised at 30 June 2018 under AASB 139. No additional loss allowance required upon transition into AASB 9 on 1 July 2018.

The Authority's non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements are not financial instruments. However, they are nevertheless recognised and measured in accordance with AASB 9 requirements as if those receivables are financial instruments.

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity Risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority's policy is to settle financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of dispute make payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

The Authority manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves and banking facilities by continuously monitoring forecasts and actual cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and financial liabilities.

The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is equal to its total financial liabilities.

7.2 Fair Value Measurements

Consistent with AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, the Authority determines the policies and procedures for both recurring fair value measurements such as plant and equipment and financial instruments, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 13 and the relevant Financial Reporting Directions.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

In addition, the Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

7.2.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2019-20 reporting period. These financial instruments include:

Financial assets	Financial liabilities
Cash and cash equivalents	Payables
Receivables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trade payables• Accrued expenses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trade receivables• Accrued income• Security deposits	

7.3 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

As at 30 June 2019 the Authority had no contingent liabilities and contingent assets (2018: Nil)

NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

Introduction

This note provides additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

Structure

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Responsible persons
- 8.3 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.4 Related parties
- 8.5 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.6 Subsequent events
- 8.7 Change in accounting policies
- 8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

The Authority had no ex-gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2019 (2018 Nil).

8.2 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

8.2.1 Names

The names of the persons who were responsible persons of the Authority at any time during the financial year were:

The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP	(Minister for Water)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio	(Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Tania Foster	(Chair)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Neville Goodwin	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Susan Anderson	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Virginia Wallace	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Allan Bawden	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Moragh Mackay	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Sandra Brizga	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Olivia Lineham	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Leslie McLean	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
David Buntine	(CEO)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019

NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

8.2.2 Remuneration

The number of responsible persons, and their total remuneration received or receivable from the Authority in connection with the management of the Authority during the reporting period are shown in the table below.

Income band	2019	2018
\$0-\$9,999	0	4
\$10,000-\$19,999	8	8
\$20,000-\$29,999	1	0
\$210,000-\$219,999	1	1
Total number of responsible persons	10	13
Total Remuneration \$	371,771	352,914

The remuneration detailed above excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receive. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances is set by the Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968 and is reported within the Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report.

8.3 Remuneration of executive officers

The authority does not have executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) whose remuneration is disclosed in note 8.2.2 and note 8.4.2.

8.4 Related parties

The Authority is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the Victorian Government. Related parties of the Authority include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members;
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis as part of the ongoing course of business.

8.4.1 Significant transactions with government-related entities

Funding received

During the year, the Authority received funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	2019 \$	2018 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	2,419,836	2,726,562
Melbourne Water	61,410	55,000
Zoos Victoria	52,500	-

NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

Payments made

During the year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	2019 \$	2018 \$
Parks Victoria	467,760	352,668
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	80,000	110,444
Greater Dandenong Council	62,145	62,000
Greater Geelong City Council	61,180	62,013

8.4.2 Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Authority. Key management personnel of the Authority include all responsible persons as listed in note 8.2.1.

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Minister receives. The Minister's remuneration and allowances is set by the Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968 and is reported within the Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report.

Compensation of key management personnel

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Short-term employee benefits	317,829	320,245
Post-employment benefits	25,803	25,620
Other long-term benefits	28,139	7,049
Total	371,771	352,914

Remuneration comprises employee benefits in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered, and is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Other long-term benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

8.4.3 Transactions with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of Victorian Government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Public Administration Act 2004 and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Procurement Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Authority, there were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel and their close family members. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

8.5 Remuneration of auditors

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Amounts paid or payable to the Victorian Auditor General's Office for the audit of the Authority's financial statements.	13,800	13,500

8.6 Subsequent events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Authority, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Authority in future financial years.

8.7 Change in accounting policies

The Authority has elected to apply the limited exemption in AASB 9 paragraph 7.2.15 relating to transition for classification and measurement and impairment, and accordingly has not restated comparative periods in the year of initial application. As a result:

- any adjustments to carrying amounts of financial assets or liabilities are recognised at beginning of the current reporting period with difference recognised in opening retained earnings; and
- financial assets and provision for impairment have not been reclassified and/or restated in the comparative period.

This note explains the impact of the adoption of AASB 9 Financial Instruments on the Department's financial statements.

8.7.1 Changes to classification and measurement

On initial application of AASB 9 on 1 July 2018, the Authority's management has assessed for all financial assets based on the Authority's business models for managing the assets. The following are the changes in the classification of the Authority's financial assets:

- a) Contractual receivables previously classified as other loans and receivables under AASB 139 are now reclassified as financial assets at amortised cost under AASB 9. There was no difference between the previous carrying amount and the revised carrying amount at 1 July 2018 to be recognised in opening retained earnings.

The accounting for financial liabilities remains the same as it was under AASB 139.

The Authority's accounting policies for financial assets and liabilities are set out in note 7.1. The following table summarises the required and elected reclassification upon adoption of AASB 9. The main effects resulting from the reclassification are as follows:

As at 30 June 2018

	AASB 139 Measurement Categories \$	Amortised Cost \$	Fair value \$
AASB 139 Measurement Categories Loans and receivables and cash			
Receivables	83,158	83,158	-
As at 1 July 2018	83,158	83,158	-

8.7.2 Changes to the impairment of financial assets

Under AASB 9, all loans and receivables as well as other debt instruments not carried at fair value through net result are subject to AASB 9's new expected credit loss (ECL) impairment model, which replaces AASB 139's incurred loss approach.

NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

The Authority applies the AASB 9 simplified approach to measure expected credit losses based on the Authority's past history, existing market conditions and forward-looking estimates at the end of the financial year. The Authority has determined that the expected credit loss at 30 June 2019 is nil.

8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

The following AASs become effective for reporting periods commencing after 1 July 2019:

- AASB 16 Leases;
- AASB 15 Revenue from Contract with Customers;
- AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities; and
- AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantor

Leases

AASB 16 Leases replaces AASB 117 Leases, AASB Interpretation 4 Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease, AASB Interpretation 115 Operating Leases-Incentives and AASB Interpretation 127 Evaluating the Substance of Transactions Involving the Legal Form of a Lease. AASB 16 sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases and requires lessees to account for all leases on the balance sheet by recording a Right-Of-Use (RoU) asset and a lease liability except for leases that are shorter than 12 months and leases where the underlying asset is of low value (deemed to be below \$10,000).

AASB 16 also requires the lessees to separately recognise the interest expense on the lease liability and the depreciation expense on the right-of-use asset, and remeasure the lease liability upon the occurrence of certain events (e.g. a change in the lease term, a change in future lease payments resulting from a change in an index or rate used to determine those payments). The amount of the re-measurement of the lease liability will generally be recognised as an adjustment to the RoU asset. Lessor accounting under AASB 16 is substantially unchanged from AASB 117. Lessors will continue to classify all leases using the same classification principle as in AASB 117 and distinguish between two types of leases: operating and finance leases.

The effective date is for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The Authority intends to adopt AASB 16 in 2019-20 financial year when it becomes effective.

The Authority will apply the standard using a modified retrospective approach with the cumulative effect of initial application recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of accumulated surplus at 1 July 2019, with no restatement of comparative information.

Various practical expedients are available on adoption to account for leases previously classified by a lessee as operating leases under AASB 117. The Authority will elect to use the exemptions for all short-term leases (lease term less than 12 months) and low value leases.

In addition, AASB 2018-8 – Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Right-of-Use Assets (RoU) of Not-for-Profit Entities allows a temporary option for not-for-profit entities to not measure RoU assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms, since further guidance is expected to be developed to assist not-for-profit entities in measuring RoU assets at fair value. The Standard requires an entity that elects to apply the option (i.e. measures a class or classes of such RoU assets at cost rather than fair value) to include additional disclosures.

The Authority intends to choose the temporary relief to value the RoU asset at the present value of the payments required (at cost).

The Authority has performed a detailed impact assessment of AASB 16 and there is no significant potential impact in the initial year of application.

NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

Revenue and Income

AASB 15 supersedes AASB 118 Revenue, AASB 111 Construction Contracts and related Interpretations and it applies, with limited exceptions, to all revenue arising from contracts with its customers.

AASB 15 establishes a five-step model to account for revenue arising from an enforceable contract that imposes a sufficiently specific performance obligation on an entity to transfer goods or services. AASB 15 requires entities to only recognise revenue upon the fulfilment of the performance obligation. Therefore, entities need to allocate the transaction price to each performance obligation in a contract and recognise the revenue only when the related obligation is satisfied.

To address specific concerns from the 'not-for-profit' sector in Australia, the AASB also released the following standards and guidance:

- AASB 2016-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian implementation guidance for NFP entities (AASB 2016-8), to provide guidance on application of revenue recognition principles under AASB 15 in the not-for-profit sector.
- AASB 2018-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Public-Sector Licensors (2018-4), to provide guidance on how to distinguish payments receive in connection with the access to an asset (or other resource) or to enable other parties to perform activities as tax and non-IP licence. It also provides guidance on timing of revenue recognition for non-IP licence payments.
- AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities, to supplement AASB 15 and provide criteria to be applied by not-for-profit entities in establishing the timing of recognising income for government grants and other types of contributions previously contained within AASB 1004 Contributions.
- AASB 15, AASB 1058 and the related guidance will come into effect for not-for-profit entities for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. The Authority intends to adopt these standards in 2019-20 financial year when it becomes effective.

The Authority will apply the standard using a modified retrospective approach with the cumulative effect of initial application recognised as an adjustment to the opening balance of accumulated surplus at 1 July 2019, with no restatement of comparative information.

Grant revenue is recognised up front upon receipt of the funds under AASB 1004 Contributions. The impact of the changes on current revenue recognition under AASB 1058 is the potential phasing and deferral of revenue recorded in the operating statement.

The Authority has performed a detailed impact assessment of AASB 15 and AASB 1058 and it was assessed that the grant and contributions received from Note 2.2 to 2.4 which falls under the scope of AASB1004 will be unchanged under AASB 1058 as the revenue recognition treatment is to recognise revenue upon receipt of the funds.

Based on the assessment, the Authority determined that there is no material potential impact on the financial statements for each major class of revenue and income in the initial year of application.

Service Concession Arrangements: grantor

The Authority has not entered into any service concession arrangements and it has been assessed that this standard will have no impact on the Authority's financial statements.

Section 5

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Disclosure INDEX

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GRANTS RECIPIENTS

2018-19

VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS 2018-19 – SUPPORT GRANTS

Recipient	Amount
Australian Landcare International	\$500
Bacchus Marsh Council Trench Reserve Committee of Management Inc.	\$500
Bass Coast Landcare Network	\$500
Bass Valley Landcare Group	\$500
Bunyip Landcare Group	\$500
Cannibal Creek Landcare Group Inc.	\$500
Cardinia Catchment Landcare Inc.	\$500
Christmas Hills Landcare Group	\$500
Chum Creek Landcare Group	\$500
Deep Creek Landcare Group	\$500
Devilbend Landcare Group	\$500
First Friends of Dandenong Creek	\$500
French Island Landcare Group Inc.	\$500
Friends of Emu Bottom Wetlands Reserve Inc.	\$500
Friends of Stony Creek	\$440
Hurstbridge District Landcare	\$500
Jindivick Landcare Group Inc.	\$500
Little River Community Landcare Group	\$500
Macclesfield Landcare Group	\$500
McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.	\$500
Monbulk Landcare Group	\$500
Montrose Upper Landcare Group (MULGa)	\$500
Mt Lyall Landcare Group	\$500
Olinda Creek Landcare Group Inc.	\$500
Phillip Island Conservation Society Inc.	\$500
Phillip Island Landcare Group Inc.	\$500
Smiths Gully Landcare Inc.	\$500
Southern Ranges Environment Alliance	\$500
Toomuc Landcare	\$500

Recipient	Amount
Triholm Landcare Group	\$500
Truganina Landcare Inc.	\$500
Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network	\$500
Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group	\$500
Victorian Mobile Landcare Group Inc.	\$500
Westernport Feral Alliance Inc	\$500
Western Port Catchment Landcare Network	\$500
Whittlesea Landcare (start-up grant)	\$500
Yarra Ranges Landcare Network	\$500
TOTAL	\$18,940

VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS 2018-19 – PROJECT GRANTS

Recipient	Project name	Amount
Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group, Mt Martha Inc. (Berg Mt Martha)	Grassy Woodland Restoration, Citation Hill, Mt Martha, 2018	\$13,088
Cardinia Environment Coalition Inc.	Mt Cannibal Reserve: Reducing the threat of invasive weeds in a high value flora community	\$14,446
Friends of Carrum Foreshore	Carrum Foreshore Restoration Works	\$9,131
Friends of Merri Creek Inc.	Returning and re-learning: bringing cultural burns and locally rare plants back to Fawkner grasslands	\$19,668
Friends of Steele Creek	Protecting Wurundjeri Culture and Country Together	\$20,000
Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group	Bringing back koala habitat: Restoring Macphersons Lane in Main Ridge	\$15,767
Red Hill South Landcare Group	Red Hill South Biolink Habitat Improvement	\$19,000
South West Mornington Peninsula Landcare (SWaMP Landcare)	Protect & Connect Stage 2 – Maxwell Road – Moonah Woodland & Tootgarook Wetlands Restoration Project	\$20,000
Strathewen Landcare Group	Management of Invasive Weeds In the Upper Arthurs Creek Catchment	\$16,500
TOTAL		\$147,100

ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	MEANING
BAU	Businesses As Usual
BRP	Biodiversity Response Planning
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
EPBC	Nationally threatened native species and ecological communities, native migratory species and marine species as listed under the EPBC Act
FMCF	Financial Management Compliance Framework
FOI	Freedom of Information
FRD	Financial Reporting Direction
FTE	Full-time equivalent
HWS	Healthy Waterways Strategy
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission of Victoria
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INFFER	Investment Framework for Environmental Resources
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IWM	Integrated Water Management
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement
MERIT	Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting, Improvement Tool
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OCOC	Our Catchments, Our Communities
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PD Act	Protected Disclosure Act 2012
RALF	Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
RLP	Regional Land Partnerships
PPWCMA	Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority
RCS	Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy
SD	Standing Direction
TFN	Trust for Nature
TOs	Traditional Owners
VAGO	Victorian Auditors General's Office
WPCLN	Western Port Catchment Landcare Network



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