

Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

Annual Report 2017-18



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 them to improve the health of Indigenous people and Country.

The PPWCMA Board and staff pay their respect 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.

This annual report outlines the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)'s progress against the performance indicators in its 2017-18 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.

An online version of this report is also available at ppwcma.vic.gov.au

2017-18 PORT PHILLIP & WESTERNPORT CMA ANNUAL REPORT

Published by the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA, Frankston

Phone: 03 8781 7900

Fax: 03 9781 0199

ISSN: 1836 - 2729 (Print)

ISSN: 1836 - 2737 (Online)

This annual report is printed on uncoated, 100 percent recycled stock using vegetable-based inks and water based glues.

Copyright © State of Victoria, Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, 2018. This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*. Copying for non-commercial/non-profit purposes is permitted subject to the publication being copied entirely. The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA believes that the information contained in this publication is accurate and reliable at the date of publishing.

It is the responsibility of the reader to avail themselves of the latest information and advice in respect of the information contained in this publication after this date.

Disclaimer: *This publication may be of assistance to you, but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequences which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.*

Front cover photo: Aerial view of the Grow West Community Planting Day 2017 in Telford Park, Darley. Image courtesy of Moorabool Shire Council.



CONTENTS

The Port Phillip and Western Port Region	2	Supporting Sustainable Agriculture	30
The Role of the PPWCMA	4	Engaging Indigenous Communities	32
2017-18 Highlights	6	Coordinating the Grow West Program	36
Chair's Message	7	Coordinating the Living Links Program	38
The PPWCMA Board	8	Coordinating the Yarra4Life Program	40
CEO's Message	10	Coordinating the Greening the Maribyrnong Program	42
Organisational Structure	11	Coordinating the Ramsar Protection Program	44
Summary of Performance	12	Coordinating the Valuing our Volcanic Plains Project	46
Coordinating the Regional Catchment Strategy	18	Catchment Condition	48
Providing Advice	20	Business and Culture	56
Raising Awareness	21	Financial Report	67
PPWCMA Project Map	22	Disclosure Index	94
Coordinating Government Grants	23	Acronyms	96
Supporting Landcare	26	Index	97
Supporting Sustainable Land Management	28		



PPWCMA staff at the Frankston foreshore in September 2017

The Port Phillip and **WESTERN PORT REGION**

4.5m+ people

1.3m hectares of land

45% farmland

39% native vegetation

600km of coastline

8400km waterways

The Port Phillip and Western Port region is home to over 4.5 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. Not surprisingly, some 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. Significant landscapes and vegetation, such as the Sunbury Rings, 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 volunteer Landcare and community groups.



The role of the **PPWCMA**

The PPWCMA supports organisations and communities in the Port Phillip and Western Port region to enhance the health and resilience of our land, water and biodiversity.

WHO WE ARE

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

The responsible Ministers for 2017-18 were the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

WHAT WE DO

The PPWCMA is responsible for:

- 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
- promoting community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

WHO WE WORK WITH

The PPWCMA works primarily with government departments, councils, water authorities, non-government environmental organisations, industry groups and community groups to protect and enhance the natural resources within the region.

The PPWCMA also works closely with the Victorian Government and Australian Government to secure funds for priority projects and direct them to organisations to undertake on-ground works.

At the local level, the PPWCMA helps landholders improve their knowledge, skills and practices and works with the broader public to increase participation in environmental conservation and gain their input on important environmental issues.



Visiting the Mud Islands in the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites during the 2017 Indigenous Wetland and Shorebird Conservation Training Program

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

2017-18

HIGHLIGHTS

- Total revenue of \$5.6 million secured
- 32 organisations signed on as partners to the Regional Catchment Strategy
- Formal partnership agreements signed with the Bass Coast Landcare Network and the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network
- PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan and Diversity and Inclusion Plan adopted
- \$421,033 allocated to 77 projects led by Landcare and community groups through the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants
- Over 5000 active and engaged users receiving information on PPWCMA projects, events and achievements via social media and enewsletters
- 66 Landcare groups and networks supported through the delivery of 10 Catchment Action Round Tables (CARTs)
- 24 events focusing on increasing farmer knowledge and adopting sustainable farming practices attracted 770 attendees
- Over 740 hectares of practice change reported as a direct result of trial and demonstration sites undertaken by the Regional Landcare Facilitator
- 561,000 trees (173,000 through Greening the Maribyrnong and 388,800 through Grow West) planted at 92 sites as part of the Greening the West - 1 Million Trees initiative
- 312 people (102 Indigenous) participated in 36 events aimed at improving Indigenous cultural awareness and understanding
- 200 community members planted 7000 trees at Telford Park in Bacchus Marsh as part of the Grow West Community Planting Day 2017
- Over 350 people attended the inaugural Discover Dandenong Creek Festival as part of Living Links' Transforming the Dandenong Creek corridor into a world-class urban Living Link project
- Burringma Biik (2.3 hectares of land purchased through Yarra4Life with funding from the Victorian Government, Australian Government and Trust for Nature) became part of Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve
- Traditional burning techniques (cool burns) used as a land management tool on 79 hectares of land in Sunbury and Melton as part of Valuing our Volcanic Plains Project
- Successful completion of all projects funded through the National Landcare Program and the PPWCMA appointed as the region's service provider for the Regional Land Partnerships Program
- \$150,000 in funding over two years secured from the Australian Government to investigate the feasibility of feral cat eradication on French Island



Representatives from the PPWCMA and Western Port Catchment Landcare Network signing their partnership agreement in November 2017

Chair's MESSAGE

It is with pleasure that I present the 2017-18 Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Annual Report. In my first year as the Board Chair, it's been a privilege to be part of an organisation that provides such a high level of leadership in natural resource management and strong partnerships with stakeholders and the community.

Our organisation continues to be well managed with strong governance, well-managed risks and adherence to the government's policies, which is a testament to those who have come before me. We faced some new challenges as the PPWCMA's funding position shifted, but a new strategic direction and corporate plan have helped us stay focused and resilient. Funding continues to be a challenge and we will need to be innovative to deliver strong outcomes with less resources.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT'S FUTURE

The Victoria Government's environmental strategy, *Biodiversity 2037*, began implementation this year and the PPWCMA has been a key contributor to the Biodiversity Response Planning process. We've also actively contributed to their *Water for Victoria* Integrated Water Management Forums held across the region in 2017-18. Both of these strategies aim to deliver a collaborative approach to catchment planning and action and align strongly with the Regional Catchment Strategy.

Continual review and improvement of the Regional Catchment Strategy was also ongoing in 2017-18 with 30 partners taking part in five forums in April 2018 to look at how the RCS assets and targets could be realigned to respond to new state and federal targets. We hope that this renewed focus and energy will assist us to work towards our goal of over 100 RCS partners by the end of 2022-23.

Now in their second year, the PPWCMA's three *Our Catchments, Our Communities* projects in Sunbury, Melbourne's south-east suburbs and the Mornington Peninsula are gaining momentum and community interest with 92.5 hectares of land undergoing revegetation this year. Their community-led, collaborative action is not only restoring landscapes, but creating a new generation of environmental stewards, helping us to contribute to the success of *Water for Victoria*.

In December 2017, we celebrated 150 years since the official naming of the Helmeted Honeyeater and 50 years of Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve by handing over 'Burungma Biik' to the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater and Parks Victoria. This 2.3 hectare of land was purchased with funds acquired through the Yarra4Life Program and contributes to the reserve's expansion to over 600 hectares and the preservation of our endangered species.

As our five-year National Landcare Program funded projects came to a close, we took the time to reflect on the past and were pleased that all partners and landholders reported high-levels of satisfaction. This put us in a strong position to submit a tender for the next five years and we were pleased to be selected as the service provider in the region for the Australia Government's Regional Land Partnerships Program.

EMPOWERING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

In 2017-18, the PPWCMA continued to empower and engage the region's diverse communities. \$421,033 in grants from the Victorian Government's Landcare Grants and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program were delivered to 77 Landcare and community environment groups. The grants enabled these groups to implement a wide range of environmental projects involving revegetation, invasive species removal and community awareness-raising activities.

We enhanced our strong relationships with the region's Landcare groups and networks, community groups and agricultural community. Farmer discussion groups and field days focused on productive and sustainable agriculture techniques. Through the Regional Landcare Facilitator program alone, over 740 hectares of sustainable agriculture practice change was reported by the region's farmers.

Our partnerships with the Indigenous community have also continued to grow, particularly through the work of our Regional Indigenous Facilitator. The Board had the opportunity to work with the region's three Traditional Owner organisations – Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri – on a reconciliation statement and tell this story on a Red Gum Tarnuk.

STRONG BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

The PPWCMA has again demonstrated excellent financial management, governance, risk management and project management across the organisation. All projects and key business indicators have been achieved throughout 2017-18.

The Board played an active role, participating in a wide range of 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 implementation of a number of key strategy documents including:

- Indigenous Participation Plan
- Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2018-23
- OH&S Strategy 2018-21
- Corporate Plan 2018-19

Thank you to our Board members, CEO and employees for their ongoing passion and dedication for continuing to care for the environment. Their hard work ensures outcomes of the highest standard for our environment and the community. I look forward to another exciting and busy year ahead; we have much to do, but I am hopeful that further funding will be confirmed.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the PPWCMA Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 2018.



Tania Foster

Chair
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Board
27 August 2018



The PPWCMA BOARD



CHAIR - TANIA FOSTER

Tania has over 25 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 Chartered Accountant.

She has spent the last 18 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.

In 2017-18, Tania served as Chair of the PPWCMA Board and the Business and Remuneration Committee from 1st October 2017 until 30th June 2018.



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 2017 to 30th June 2018 and served as Deputy Chair of the PPWCMA Board and a member of the Audit Committee, Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee, Yarra4Life Coordination Committee and Community Grants Regional Assessment Panel.



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 and the Gippsland Coastal Board.

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 2017 to 30th June 2018 and served as a member of the Audit Committee and Business and Remuneration Committee.



DR SANDRA BRIZGA

Sandra became a board member in October 2017. 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 was vice-president of the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group.

Sandra sits on the boards of the Central Coastal Board and 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 October 2017 until 30th June 2018 and served as a member of the PPWCMA's Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and Yarra4Life Coordination Committee.



NEVILLE GOODWIN OAM

Neville is a primary producer at Woodleigh and a former councillor and mayor of the Bass Coast Shire Council.

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

Neville was a Board member from 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018 and served as Chair of the PPWCMA Board (1st July - 30th September 2017) and as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and Business and Remuneration Committee.



OLIVIA LINEHAM

Olivia became a board member in October 2017. Olivia is a primary producer who operates a potato and dairy 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.

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

Olivia also likes to involve herself in her local community and has served on the board of her children's school and kindergarten.

Olivia was a Board member from 1st October 2017 until 30th June 2018 and served as a member of the PPWCMA's Community Grants Regional Assessment Panel.



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 is completing a PhD on the role of social learning in NRM governance.

She is also a director on the Western Port Seagrass Partnership, the Koonwarra Village School and the Energy Innovation Co-operative.

Moragh was a Board member from 1st July 2017 until 30th June 2018 and served as Chair of the PPWCMA's Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and as a member of the Living Links Coordination Committee.



LES MCLEAN

Les became a board member in October 2017. Les is a qualified accountant, with close to 20 years of management and 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 is currently Director Corporate Services of the Victorian Cytology Service Ltd.

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 October 2017 until 30th June 2018 and served as a member of the PPWCMA's Audit Committee and 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.

She 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.

Virginia currently works in the not-for-profit sector and is a member of local sustainability groups.

Virginia was a Board member from 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018 and served as a member of the PPWCMA's Audit Committee, Business and Remuneration Committee and Living Links Coordination Committee.



JANE JOBE

Jane served as a Board member from 1st July 2017 until 30th September 2017. Jane holds qualifications in Applied Science (Environmental Science) and a Bachelor of Business (Communications). She is co-founder of Southern Sustainable Developments, which creates residential estates with a focus on liveability and the environment.



GREG APLIN

Greg served as a Board member from 1st July 2017 until 30th September 2017. Greg is a qualified civil engineer and town planner with experience in general management and the planning and development of greenfields sites. Greg has managed numerous local government sustainable development initiatives, with particular emphasis on water, pest plant and animal issues.



SARAH EWING

Sarah served as a Board member from 1st July 2017 until 30th September 2017. Sarah is a geographer with extensive experience relevant to catchment management, in both research and education. Her particular interests are in knowledge management and the policy and practice of Landcare.

CEO's MESSAGE

2017-18 had many highlights for the PPWCMA. Substantial on-ground outcomes were achieved, projects funded through the National Landcare Program exceeded requirements and a major tender seeking a further five-years of investment was successful. Internally, the PPWCMA culture remained positive and strong, high standards of business and governance were maintained and a new strategic framework was developed to guide our future work.

MAJOR ON-GROUND ACHIEVEMENTS

The year saw our environmental and sustainable agriculture programs again achieve significant on-ground outcomes, supported by funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Victorian Government's *Water for Victoria* and *Our Catchments, Our Communities* initiatives. Highlights included:

- The continuing transformation of the degraded landscapes around Bacchus Marsh with 15 years of major revegetation facilitated by the Grow West program
- The increasing population of wild Helmeted Honeyeaters at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve contributed to by our Yarra4Life program
- Living Links program's rejuvenation of Dandenong Creek
- the support of migratory bird populations and other environmental values in the internationally-significant wetlands around Port Phillip Bay and Western Port
- Improved farming practices by hundreds of farmers as they are given opportunities to see, learn about and trial techniques such as compost under vines, native vegetation insectaries and variable fertiliser rate application.

HELPING OTHERS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

In addition to leading major on-ground programs, the PPWCMA coordinated the Regional Catchment Strategy, supported the Landcare movement, engaged Traditional Owners and managed grants programs. Though the roles vary, all of this work helps others to help the environment. Throughout 2017-18, our work to foster collaboration amongst many organisations, build their skills and help them undertake projects included:

- Working with partners to identify regional-scale targets for the Regional Catchment Strategy that reflect state and national policies and resonate with local communities so they can be used to generate partnerships and secure resources for priority projects
- Establishing formal partnership agreements with the Bass Coast Landcare Network and the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network
- Providing \$421,033 in grants to Landcare and community groups for priority projects, helping them provide 66,000 volunteer hours per year
- Implementing the PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan, including activities to increase cultural understanding within the PPWCMA and other organisations and providing assistance for Traditional Owner organisations to secure resourcing and build their capacity.

COMPLETING A FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM AND PREPARING FOR THE NEXT

2017-18 was the last year of the Australian Government's five-year National Landcare Program, which brought \$12 million into the region for environmental projects. The PPWCMA oversaw the completion of these projects and coordinated their evaluation and reporting. This gave the PPWCMA and its partners an opportunity to evaluate the landscape improvements and behaviour change that has occurred over the past five years. Videos and case studies were produced highlighting the key achievements and impacts of the projects.

The PPWCMA also used the successful completion of the program to obtain investment from the Australian Government. A substantial tender for the provision of community services and priority environmental and agricultural projects was developed in partnership with around 70 other organisations and led to the PPWCMA being appointed as the region's service provider for the Regional Land Partnerships program.

SUPPORTING A POSITIVE ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE

Through 2017-18, the PPWCMA continued to exhibit a strong organisational culture that embraces our values of collaboration, leadership, creativity and reliability. Highlights included:

- Continual improvement of our occupational health and safety system to ensure the PPWCMA is a safe workplace for our employees and those we work with
- Implementation of the PPWCMA's new Diversity and Inclusion Plan
- Staff engagement index above the public sector average
- A Board and staff that are committed to our work and our values.

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 REFRESHED DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE

Looking ahead, there are challenges for the PPWCMA associated with reduced revenue and staffing levels. However, opportunities to expand the PPWCMA roles have been identified including:

- Increasing our leadership of environmental grants programs
- Proposing projects for new government funding programs
- Trialling PPWCMA-led revegetation programs with water authorities to offset some of their carbon emissions
- Increasing leadership in community-based coastal and marine programs.

With a new strategic framework and a clear forward agenda in place, the PPWCMA's outlook is bright and I look forward to us continuing to deliver excellent environmental outcomes and community services.

David Buntine
CEO, Port Phillip & Westernport CMA



Organisational STRUCTURE

At the end of 2017-18, the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA employed a total of 15 staff, led by Chief Executive Officer, David Buntine.

The staff structure comprised the following four teams. These teams were supported by a Communications Coordinator.

BUSINESS TEAM

The Business Team coordinated the governance and business systems of the PPWCMA to ensure transparent, efficient and compliant management of all administrative, finance, human resource and governance obligations.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS TEAM

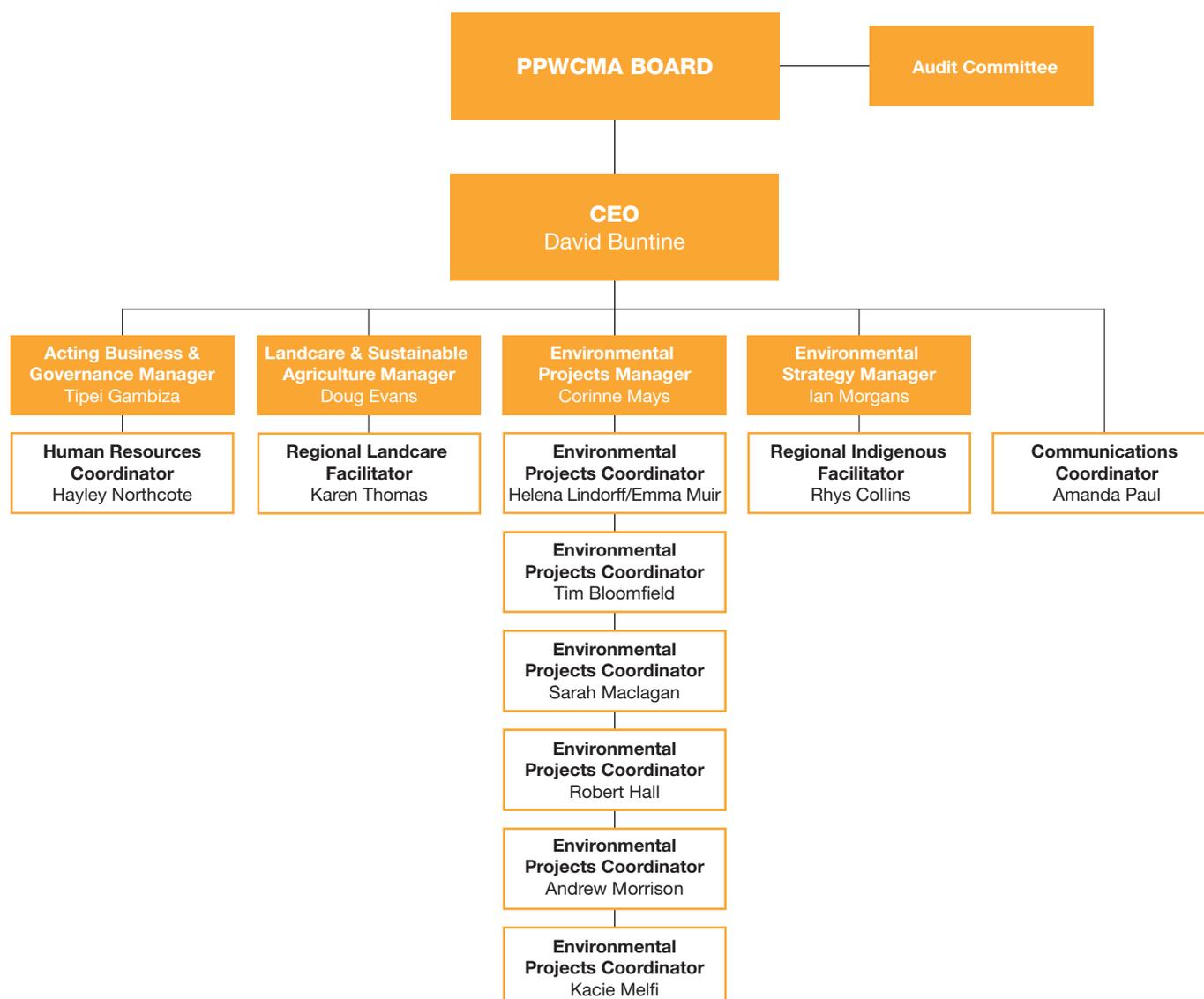
The Environmental Projects Team managed the delivery of major environmental projects including Grow West, Living Links, Yarra4Life, Greening the Maribyrnong, Valuing our Volcanic Plains and the Ramsar Protection Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGY TEAM

The Environmental Strategy Team managed the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy, responded to draft environmental strategies and plans of other organisations and actively engaged with the region's Traditional Owners.

LANDCARE AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE TEAM

The Landcare and Sustainable Agriculture Team supported Landcare groups and networks to design and deliver high quality projects, and supported farmers and agricultural industry groups to adopt sustainable farming practices.



Summary of PERFORMANCE

LEGEND



Achieved



Partially achieved



Not achieved

COORDINATING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
The Regional Catchment Strategy approved by the Minister.	✓	The Regional Catchment Strategy was approved by the Ministers in 2014 and remained in place throughout 2017-18.
Progress with implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the Board annually.	✓	The Board considered and approved an assessment of the progress and directions of the Regional Catchment Strategy in June 2018.
Projects/activities to implement the Regional Catchment Strategy are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	✓	Three major projects - Living Links, Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink (Mornington Peninsula) and Jacksons Creek (Sunbury) - continue to progress according to their funding agreements.
Diverse engagement activities are undertaken with regional stakeholders and community sectors to enhance integrated catchment management, catalyse partnerships and projects, and identify and consult on potential revisions to the Regional Catchment Strategy.	✓	44 representatives of 30 regional organisations attended five consultation forums to discuss proposed changes to the RCS. Support for the Healthy Waterways Strategy renewal aims to create opportunities for its proposed co-governance to an appropriate role in integrated catchment management.
Approval is secured from the Minister to make a set of changes to the Regional Catchment Strategy, particularly to maintain its connection to evolving State policy.	✓	RCS targets and redesigns that make a line-of-sight between local action, regional targets and Victorian and Australian Government goals are advanced but not ready for submission to the ministers.
A prospectus of priorities for implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy is developed and maintained.	✓	Draft prospectus entries have been prepared and consultations have proved partner support for the concept.
New revenue is secured to assist implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy.	✓	Funds received through the Victorian Government's <i>Our Catchments, Our Communities</i> initiative.
Our use of environmental accounting is introduced with a view to embedding it into the Regional Catchment Strategy.	×	Environmental accounting has not been significantly pursued this year and we await leadership from government on future directions.
The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA is readied for any new responsibilities it is assigned associated with planning and management for marine and coastal areas.	✓	PPWCMA established closer and regular contact with the Association of Bayside Municipalities in order to build knowledge and networks in coastal management. This pursues the single direction relevant to PPWCMA in the Victorian Government document, <i>Strengthening Victoria's Marine and Coastal Management: A Proposed Transition Plan</i> - "Strengthen existing coastal Catchment Management Authority engagement programs by establishing links to marine and coastal communities and networks".

PROVIDING ADVICE



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
A report on catchment condition is provided to the Minister as part of the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Annual Report using a framework of catchment condition reporting that is consistent with other CMAs.	✓	A catchment condition report is included in this Annual Report (page 48).
At least 3 additional pieces of advice are provided to the Minister for Water, Minister for Environment and Climate Change and/or DELWP on matters such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for major environmental programs for this region • Potential changes to the <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act</i> that could enhance it • Guidelines for the preparation of the next round of Regional Catchment Strategies • The potential use of environmental accounting for catchment condition monitoring and reporting. 	✓	Support for the Biodiversity 2037 Response Planning Working group at state and regional scales. Advice for DELWP on encouraging RCS targets renewals to be region-scale shares of statewide Biodiversity 2037 targets. Advice on RCS guidelines to VCMC and DELWP. Advice on community grants. Advice on review of <i>Marine and Coastal Act</i> . Advice on Integrated Water Management Forums.
At least 10 pieces of advice provided to other stakeholders (including submissions to major policies or strategies).	✓	Advice and practical support has been provided for provided for 14 strategic planning and policy projects.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY AWARENESS



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
A stakeholder and community engagement framework/plan approved by the Board.	✓	A statewide framework has been developed by all CMAs and the PPWCMA will use this to review their Community Engagement Strategy in the first half of 2018-19.
Various events conducted across the region through the year attracting total attendance of over 1,000 people.	✓	Events hosted by the PPWCMA (solely or in partnership with other organisations) attracted 8,837 attendees.
A growing audience established in social media channels including over 1,000 Facebook followers, 500 Twitter followers and 200 Instagram followers.	✓	At the end of 2017-18, the PPWCMA had 1875 Facebook followers, 653 Twitter followers and 430 Instagram followers.
A growing number of hits on Port Phillip & Westernport CMA websites.	✓	ppwcma.vic.gov.au had a 50% increase in page views compared to 2016-17 data.

COORDINATING COMMUNITY GRANTS



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Grants programs are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	✓	All project delivery and reporting timeframes have been met.
Grants assessment processes are undertaken within one month of the close of application period.	✓	The grant allocations were determined within 11 business days of applications closing.
Investors and grantees report high-levels of satisfaction with grants processes.	✓	Both investors and grantees have reported high level satisfaction with grants processes.
Efficiency and value for money are demonstrated from the grants processes including the effective delivery of the expected grants activities and the leveraging of additional investment.	✓	On average for every dollar invested two times that amount was leveraged through additional investment either through cash or in-kind.

SUPPORTING THE LANDCARE MOVEMENT



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
A regional Landcare Support Plan approved by the Board.	✓	The PPWCMA's Landcare Support Plan remained in place throughout 2017-18.
Activities to implement the regional Landcare Support Plan are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.

The annual Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants program delivered and providing grants for Landcare groups and networks.	✓	77 Landcare groups and networks were provided with funding through the 2017-18 Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants.
A partnership agreement established with Landcare Victoria Inc.	✓	A partnership agreement between VicCatchments and Landcare Victoria Inc. was established in April 2018 and has replaced the need for an agreement with the PPWCMA.
Partnership agreements established with at least 7 of the region's Landcare networks.	✓	Partnership agreements established with Bass Coast Landcare Network and Western Port Catchment Landcare Network.
Data on regional Landcare collected and reported in a regional Landcare Report Card.	✓	Landcare Report Card 2016-17 was published in December 2017.
Support is provided for Landcare Victoria Inc. to establish a 'Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare' forum.	✓	While this forum is yet to be established, support was provided regarding its development.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities that fulfil the commitments associated with supporting sustainable land management.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
'Conservation Action Plans' are completed to at least draft level for 10 Landcare networks.	✓	Draft Conservation Action Plans developed for nine Landcare networks.
At least 125 people participate in 5 'Catchment Action Round Tables' in 2017-18.	✓	193 people attended 10 Catchment Action Round Tables in 2017-18.
At least eight short videos produced that capture the experiences and achievements of Landcare participants in Conservation Action Planning and/or Catchment Action Round Tables.	✓	11 videos produced.
At least 200 farmers attend workshops that demonstrate sustainable agriculture practices.	✓	14 workshops held, attracting 428 attendees.
Representatives from at least two different Traditional Owner organisations share their goals to farmers in farmer discussion groups.	✓	Representatives from the Bunurong and Wurundjeri presented at separate farmer discussion groups.
Stakeholders involved in the delivery of Conservation Action Planning, Catchment Action Round Tables and other activities report high-levels of satisfaction.	✓	Feedback sheets from all events reported an average of 8.1/10 for 'overall value and quality'.

SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities that fulfil the commitments associated with supporting sustainable agriculture.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
Relationships strengthened with six agricultural industry groups.	✓	Industry groups reported at evaluation summit that the project "has been exceptional at building relationships with industry which has led to greater cooperation".
At least 60ha of land changed to using a sustainable agriculture practice.	✓	740.13ha of practice change associated with trial and demonstration sites reported in 2017-18.
At least 60 people engaged in sustainable agriculture events.	✓	10 events focusing on increasing farmer knowledge in 2017-18, attracting 342 attendees.
Five sustainable agriculture trials completed and reported upon.	✓	Trials into compost under vine, native insectaries, variable fertiliser rates, multi-species pasture cropping, and native grasses and groundcover in orchard mid-rows undertaken.
Learnings from at least one trialled agricultural practice extended to audiences well beyond the Port Phillip and Westernport region.	✓	Presentation on planting native vegetation to Tasmanian orchardists and segment on ABC Country Hour Tasmania.
Stakeholders involved in the delivery of sustainable agriculture activities report high-levels of satisfaction with the activities.	✓	Landholders and partners reported high levels of satisfaction.
At least eight video case studies produced that capture stakeholder experiences and perspectives on the value and achievements of the Regional Landcare Facilitator project.	✓	Eight videos created focusing on trials and best practice.

ENGAGING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities that fulfil the commitments associated with the 'Engaging Indigenous Communities' project.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
Establishment and maintenance of a Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Indigenous Participation Plan.	✓	The Indigenous Participation Plan was endorsed by the PPWCMA in August 2017. See page 34 for implementation report.
Establishment and maintenance of formal Partnership Agreements with at least three Indigenous organisations in the region.	✓	Partnership agreements established and maintained with Wurundjeri, Wadawurrung and Wathaurong Cooperative.
Indigenous partners, and other stakeholders, report high-levels of satisfaction with the delivery of the 'Engaging Indigenous communities' project.	✓	All partners reported high-levels of satisfaction.
At least 300 people engaged in activities conducted as part of the 'Engaging Indigenous communities' project, of which at least 50 are Indigenous.	✓	312 people (33% Indigenous) participated in 36 events.

COORDINATING THE GROW WEST PROGRAM



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Grow West project.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
Up to 580ha of land improved through threat management and native plantings.	✓	1926ha of land improvement activities (tree planting, pest plant and animal control) undertaken.
At least 200 participants involved in on-ground environmental actions in the Grow West area.	✓	200 volunteers participated in the Grow West Community Planting Day in July 2017.
Landholders and partners participating in the delivery of on-ground works report high-levels of satisfaction with the incentive and grants process.	✓	Landholders and partners report high levels of satisfaction with the Grow West program.
Significant, long-term funding is secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of works associated with Grow West.	✓	\$240,000 secured through the Victorian Government's Biodiversity On Ground Hubs for the Protect and Connect Melbourne's project.

COORDINATING THE LIVING LINKS PROGRAM



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Living Links project.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
At least 15ha treated for pest plants and/or animals and 10 ha revegetated.	✓	55.5ha of weed control and 22.5ha of revegetation at 24 priority sites.
At least 500 volunteers and community members involved in up to 25 events.	✓	22 community events and 41 frog monitoring sessions attracted 1251 attendees.
Partners and community members participating in Living Links report high-levels of satisfaction and that it is achieving urban biodiversity improvement.	✓	Survey responses from partners and feedback from participants at community events indicate a high level of satisfaction.
Additional long-term significant funding is secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of works associated with Living Links.	✓	'Transforming the Dandenong Creek corridor into a world-class urban living link' project funded through <i>Our Catchments, Our Communities</i> initiative until 2021.



COORDINATING THE YARRA4LIFE PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Yarra4Life project.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
Up to 461ha of land improved through management of threats and plantings of native vegetation.	✓	233ha of pest animal control, 13ha of revegetation, 27ha of weed control and 5.6km of fencing established to protect 17ha of habitat.
At least 50 volunteers, land managers and Indigenous people participate in activities that improve their knowledge and skills in managing land for threatened species.	✓	11 community engagement events, attended by 344 participants, conducted in 2017-18.
Landholders and partners participating in the delivery of on-ground works report high-levels of satisfaction with the incentive and grants process.	✓	Survey responses and feedback from partners and incentives program participants indicate a high level of satisfaction.
Additional long-term significant funding secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of landscape-scale works associated with Yarra4Life.	✓	The Great HeHo Escape project funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program for 2018-19.



COORDINATING THE GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG PROJECT

PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Greening the Maribyrnong project.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
Up to 250ha of land improved through the management of threats and planting of new native vegetation.	✓	96ha of weed control and 198ha of rabbit control undertaken to support work to restore Jackson's Creek in Sunbury.
Landholders and partners participating in the delivery of on-ground works report high-levels of satisfaction with the incentive/grants process.	✓	Landholders and partners report high levels of satisfaction with the Greening the Maribyrnong Program.
Enhanced local media profile for the Greening the Maribyrnong project including engagement with local schools, corporate organisations and community groups.	✓	Strong connections have been created with Salesian College Sunbury through the 'Restoring the natural glory of Jacksons Creek at Sunbury'.
Additional long-term significant funding secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of works associated with Greening the Maribyrnong.	✓	No significant long-term funding secured in 2017-18, but application has been made to the Biodiversity Response Planning Program.



COORDINATING THE RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Ramsar Protection Program.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
Approximately 20,000ha treated for pest plants and animals.	✓	21,000ha of various works to deal with feral cats, foxes, rabbits, goats and pigs and 2000ha of weed control undertaken in 2017-18.
Over 500 volunteers and community members participating in activities and events.	✓	1388 community members involved in workshops, public events and forums in 2017-18.
Landholders and partners participating in the delivery of on-ground works and community engagement activities report high-levels of satisfaction with the Ramsar Protection Program.	✓	100% program partners that completed the evaluation survey reported high levels of satisfaction with the program.
Partnerships and capacity building with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities demonstrate improved management of Ramsar wetlands and commitment to on-going collaboration for future management.	✓	Three-day Indigenous Wetland and Shorebird Conservation workshop delivered to 20 Indigenous participants in November 2017.
Additional long-term significant funding is secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of landscape-scale works in the Ramsar sites.	✓	\$640,000 in funding over four-years secured from the Victorian Government to implement actions in the new Western Port Ramsar Site Management Plan. \$150,000 in funding over two years secured from the Australian Government to investigate the feasibility of feral cat eradication on French Island.



COORDINATING THE VALUING OUR VOLCANIC PLAINS PROJECT

PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Valuing our Volcanic Plains project.	✓	All activities delivered in 2017-18 were in line with the relevant funding requirements.
Improved management of approximately 52ha of grasslands through the application of ecological burning and other on-ground works.	✓	875ha of weed management, 235ha of rabbit control and 79ha of ecological burning undertaken in 2017-18.
At least two Indigenous organisations and 10 Indigenous participants engaged in capacity building for grassland management.	✓	Representatives from Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri engaged in grassland management activities through traditional burns.
Landholders and partners report high-levels of satisfaction with the stakeholder engagement, activities and achievements of the Valuing our Volcanic Plains Program.	✓	Landholders and partners report high levels of satisfaction with the Valuing our Volcanic Plains project.

MAINTAINING HIGH STANDARDS OF GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND A HEALTHY ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE



PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
Submit a Board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	✓	The 2016-17 Board performance assessment report was developed and submitted in accordance with the guidelines.
A risk management strategy/plan approved by the Board and being implemented.	✓	The risk management approach and Risk Register were reviewed and approved by the Board during 2017-18.
100 percent of the CMA's policies reviewed every three financial years.	✓	All relevant PPWCMA policies reviewed during 2017-18.
Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist Our additional aspirations.	✓	HBL Mann Judd found that the PPWCMA complied with all requirements for a total of 74 Directions.
The 2016-17 Annual Report accepted by the Minister for Water.	✓	2016-17 Annual Report tabled in Parliament on 21 September 2017.
The 2017-18 Corporate Plan approved by the Minister for Water.	✓	The PPWCMA 2017-18 Corporate Plan was approved by Minister Neville in June 2017.
All compliance requirements (as documented in the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Compliance Schedule) completed on time.	✓	All requirements outlined in the compliance schedule where completed as per agreed deadlines.
The Victorian Auditor General's Office audit of the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's 2016-17 financial statements results in no adverse findings or significant recommendations.	✓	Financial Statements in 2016-17 Annual Report approved by VAGO in August 2017.
Audits commissioned by the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA as part of its internal audit program result in no adverse findings or significant recommendations.	✓	All audits conducted in 2017-18 resulted in no adverse findings or significant recommendations.
Development and adoption of a Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Diversity and Inclusion Plan.	✓	PPWCMA Diversity and Inclusion plan adopted by the PPWCMA Board in August 2017. See page 63 for implementation report.
A high 'Engagement Index' score maintained for Port Phillip & Westernport CMA staff as measured in the annual Victorian Government 'People Matter' survey.	✓	The 2018 engagement index score was 74%, a slight decrease from the 2017 score of 78%, but the score was still higher than the comparator group. See page 62 for more information.
All elements of the Australian Government's 'expected performance standards' for the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA achieved.	✓	All government processes delivered in line with the funding requirements.

Coordinating the REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY

32 organisations signed
on as RCS partners

RCS targets reviewed in
response to new state
and federal targets

Probability of persistence
assessment conducted for
the region's native animals

STRATEGY FOR A COMPLEX REGION

The Port Phillip and Western Port region's land, waterways, coasts and bays are managed by over 38 local councils, 14 public authorities and over 300 community-based organisations and committees of management make daily decisions about its use, management and conservation.

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA is committed to making it beneficial and attractive for the region's natural resource managers to work together by maintaining a high-quality Regional Catchment Strategy that fosters collaboration and coordination between all these organisations and helps them to make plans and take actions that contribute to common goals for conservation.

At the end of 2017-18, 32 organisations were signed on as RCS partners. Each partner had contributed targets and commitments for the future of the Strategy's seven ecological assets.

The strategy and a full list of all current RCS partners can be viewed at www.ppwrcs.vic.gov.au

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-18

RCS targets that pursue state and national strategies

Major improvements to the RCS have been made possible this year with the publication of the Victorian Government's *Biodiversity 2037 Strategy* and the Australian Government's *Threatened Species Strategy*. Both strategies are built on measured goals and provide the basis for regional targets that are direct and proportional contributors. This is a step forward in PPWCMA's endeavour to make regional strategy a benefit for its partners.

In March and April 2018, five consultation forums were held with RCS partners in response to the shift in state and federal targets. 44 representatives from 30 organisations, both current and potential RCS partners, discussed proposed changes to the RCS that would align with the state and federal targets and provide a line-of-sight between local action and the aims of the region's major public investors.

Participants showed wide support for new RCS targets, as well as a prospectus of projects and formal partnership proposals. They also revealed a desire to pursue bigger revegetation and covenanting targets than those calculated for our region by *Biodiversity 2037* modelling.

Reviewing the persistence of native animals in the region

In early 2018, the PPWCMA commissioned a project to re-run its 2008 assessment of the probability of persistence for every amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal and fish species ever recorded in the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

The project provides a much-needed measure of biodiversity change in the region over the past decade. The project also aims to further test the method PPWCMA pioneered in 2008 to see if it can be used more widely by CMAs and other organisations. Some initial, yet significant, findings have already been observed.

- There has been a large increase in animal observation records. The 2008 study was based on 425,443 records. These included the results of monitoring since 1835. This data set has now grown five times, to over 3.5 million records. Improved database technologies and accessibility, better data management and the growth of citizen science have contributed to this growth.
- There is greater diversity of species. The re-run of the assessment found 86 more species of amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and fish, with 504 species found in 2008 and 590 in 2018. Further study of the data will be needed to assess how many of these 86 new species are likely to persist in the region and how many new records are exotics or vagrants or re-classifications of known species.

Final results and interpretations will be published in the second half of 2018. The analysis method and its 2008 findings are available in the Regional Catchment Strategy at ppwrcs.vic.gov.au

Innovative research to improve NRM governance

PPWCMA has been part of a unique consortium of conservation practitioners and academics working on projects arising from a systemic inquiry. Six inquiry groups mapped and identified where research and action might address weaknesses and barriers to success. The Garden for Wildlife and Measure for All projects are two such actions.

Gardens for Wildlife is a three-year pilot investigating how locally owned and co-designed projects to help urban residents create 'wildlife gardens' can connect them with nature and inspire support for wider nature conservation action. Since it began in Knox 2016, seven new Gardens for Wildlife programs have been established in Melbourne and six more are in planning stages (see case study for more information)

Measures for All investigated a hypothesis that a drag-on effort and effect is created when agencies, groups and individuals all use different perspectives and language for planning, investment and reporting while assuming theirs is equally well understood by everyone else.

When the project ended in June 2018, its findings had shown that:

- Methods need to be developed to help parties achieve mutual understanding of what they each need to measure and why
- Research needs to be conducted into why already established measurement methods haven't been adopted
- Capacity for logic-based planning and decision-making needs to be increased at local and regional levels.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2018-19, work will focus on:

- Publishing the new RCS regional targets and using the renewed RCS aims to recruit new partners, especially among Landcare networks and non-government organisations
- Progressive confirmation of sub-region targets that are more relevant and measurable at local scale and easier for Partners to support in word and deed
- Regional forums on topics of wide interest and partner co-designs for data collection, evaluation, learning and reporting
- Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the strategy and progress towards its targets
- Publishing the first edition of a prospectus of priority action projects to pursue regional targets.

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
The Regional Catchment Strategy approved by the Minister.	✓
Progress with implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the Board annually.	✓
Projects/activities to implement the Regional Catchment Strategy are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	✓
Diverse engagement activities are undertaken with regional stakeholders and community sectors to enhance integrated catchment management, catalyse partnerships and projects, and identify and consult on potential revisions to the Regional Catchment Strategy.	✓
Approval is secured from the Minister to make a set of changes to the Regional Catchment Strategy, particularly to maintain its connection to evolving State policy.	✓
A prospectus of priorities for implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy is developed and maintained.	✓
New revenue is secured to assist implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy.	✓
Our use of environmental accounting is introduced with a view to embedding it into the Regional Catchment Strategy.	×
The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA is readied for any new responsibilities it is assigned associated with planning and management for marine and coastal areas.	✓

Case Study

GARDENS FLOURISH FOR WILDLIFE

In 2014, the Institute for Sustainable Futures calculated that less than 40 percent of the Melbourne metropolitan area was covered with trees and shrubs. Their research found that grass and bare ground cover half of the city area and on private property new buildings now cover sites previously occupied by gardens.

Gardens planted with local Australian native species not only make living spaces in the suburbs for birds, reptiles and insects, but they build residents' skills, confidence and ownership in caring for land. 'Gardens for Wildlife' is a three year pilot project that encourages residents and businesses to create gardens that support local wildlife.

The project builds on existing partnerships between community conservation groups and their local council to help residents undertake wildlife gardening that complements Council's conservation assets and work. It aims to use a shared interest in nature as a theme for strengthened social connections while improving participants' health and wellbeing through experiencing and caring for nature.

The project began in 2016 with a model partnership between Knox City Council, Knox Environment Society and the Knox community. Two year on, it has helped germinate new partnerships between councils and community groups in Whitehorse, Boroondara, Cardinia, Bayside, Stonnington, Frankston and Yarra Ranges. A Gardens for Wildlife Coordinating Group has now been established, which the PPWCMA is a member of, and the network of interested and supporting participants has grown to include 24 local government areas from across Victoria.

The Gardens for Wildlife pilot will continue until 2019, however it has already shows itself to be a well-established and self-sustaining program that has huge potential to support the 'Connecting People with Nature' goals in the Victorian Government's *Biodiversity 2037* strategy.

Visit gardensforwildlifevictoria.com for more information.



Gardens for wildlife attract many native animals, including beneficial insects and pollinators

Providing **ADVICE**

Catchment condition report compiled in line with statewide framework

Advice provided for 14 strategic planning and policy projects

PPWCMA an active contributor to the Healthy Waterways Strategy

Part of PPWCMA's role as the region's catchment management authority is to advise government and partners on regional priorities, resource allocation, the condition of land and water resources and other matters relating to catchment and land protection.

When providing advice the PPWCMA focuses on assisting organisations to build consistent ways of defining and measuring their assets and using these methods for comparison and learning. This coordinated approach improves the quality and effectiveness of environmental planning, resulting in better conservation outcomes for the region.

PROVIDING ADVICE TO PARTNERS

In 2017-18, the PPWCMA provided advice and support for the development of the Casey Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Cardinia Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, Wyndham City Forest and Habitat Strategy, Frankston Green Wedge Plan, Casey Green Wedge Plan, Maroondah Vegetation Strategy Review and the development of its Community Consultative Committee, Mornington Peninsula Green Wedge Plan and EPA's SEPP Waters of Victoria Review.

The PPWCMA provided advice to VicRoads around meeting growing pressure to participate in and adopt documents like the Regional Catchment Strategy and Healthy Waterways Strategy. Engagement was also undertaken with the Association of Bayside Municipalities to develop knowledge and networks for both parties.

PROVIDING ADVICE TO THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

Throughout 2017-18, the PPWCMA provided advice and support to the Victorian Government on a range of new and existing policies.



The health of the region's rivers are a key part of the Healthy Waterways Strategy

Strategic advice was provided on the development of Biodiversity Response Planning for *Biodiversity 2037*, which focused on the funding allocations process. This allowed the PPWCMA to work with its partners to review the RCS targets for the region and investigate how they could link more closely with the state and federal targets.

The PPWCMA also provided advice and support for the development of the Strategic Directions Statement for the Western Port, Dandenong, Yarra, Maribyrnong and Werribee Integrated Water Management Forums, held throughout 2017-18.

The PPWCMA continued to advocate for a coordinated approach to regional catchment strategies and provided advice to the VCMC and DELWP on the development on statewide RCS guidelines. It also providing detailed guidance on the establishment of the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*.

HEALTHY WATERWAYS STRATEGY

In 2017-18, the PPWCMA made a considerable contribution to the development of Melbourne Water's renewed Healthy Waterways Strategy (HWS) including ensuring that the HWS and the RCS compliment and support each other by:

- Discussing the HWS and RCS as a whole-catchment/whole-region strategy to several councils
- Designing HWS partnership agreements that can be linked to RCS partnerships
- Making provisions for HWS monitoring to contribute to RCS reporting on regional targets for native vegetation and native animals
- Exploring the possibility of establishing forums to direct HWS implementation into wider RCS matters.

These initiatives progress the PPWCMA's aims to enhance integrated catchment management and catalyse new partnerships and projects with a key partner.

2017-18 TARGETS

ACHIEVEMENT

A report on catchment condition is provided to the Minister as part of the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Annual Report using a framework of catchment condition reporting that is consistent with other CMAs.



At least 3 additional pieces of advice are provided to the Minister for Water, Minister for Environment and Climate Change and/or DELWP.



At least 10 pieces of advice provided to other stakeholders (including submissions to major policies or strategies).



Raising **AWARENESS**

Over 8000 people attended PPWCMA workshops, festivals, tours and field days

Victorian CMAs Community Engagement and Partnerships Framework created

Monthly social media reach of over 100,000 people

The Port Phillip and Western Port region is home to over 75 percent of Victorian residents and is a key tourist destination, with over 100 million annual visits to just its waterways and bays. These diverse features offer a number of unique engagement opportunities, as well as some challenges.

The substantial urban population, many with little understanding of environmental issues, are a target audience for increasing knowledge and action within their communities. At the same time, government organisations and community groups provide opportunities to deliver tangible, on-ground engagement activities with landowners, practitioners and individuals with a specific interest in NRM priorities.

EVENTS

In 2017-18, the PPWCMA hosted and participated in a wide range of events that attracted 8837 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, partners and the broader community and some highlights included:

- July 2017: Grow West Community Planting Day
- December 2017: Helmeted Honeyeater's 150th birthday celebrations and announcement of Burrungma Biik
- February 2018: Dog's Breakfast Ramsar wetland awareness event
- March 2018: Women on Farms Gathering, Mornington Peninsula
- April 2018: Discover Dandenong Creek Festival

ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS

As the public continues to shift towards digital media, the PPWCMA has 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. This has included:

- Creating five Facebook pages focused on special-interest topics - Landcare, agriculture, Indigenous matters, wildlife and the outdoors
- Using images and videos to increase visibility and engagement
- Giving project outcomes and achievements a local face, while framing them within a state or national context
- Collaborating with other organisations to create shared messaging that reaches wider audiences and highlights the value of working together
- Exploring new technologies including online tours and virtual reality.

By the end of 2017-18, the PPWCMA had 1875 followers across its Facebook pages, 653 followers on Twitter and 430 followers on Instagram. It also had 2200 people receiving regular newsletters. All of these accounts show strong levels of engagement with an average total monthly reach of 100,000 people.

ppwcma.vic.gov.au enjoyed steady growth throughout 2017-18. Website visits increased by 50 percent (compared with 2016-17 data) with an average of 3090 page views every month. This increase can be attributed to regular and engaging stories on the website's blog and a strategy of directing social media and newsletter readers to the website, as well as an increase in embedded video content. growwest.com.au also experienced a 52 percent increase in page views.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In 2017-18, the PPWCMA played a key role in the review and updating of the Community Engagement and Partnerships Framework and Toolkit for Victoria's Catchment Management Authorities. Victoria's CMAs have a long and successful history of collaborating with their local communities for integrated catchment management outcomes and the framework builds on this by encouraging ongoing commitment, resourcing, skill development and improvement across the state. The PPWCMA will use this framework to update its own community engagement strategy.

LOOKING FORWARD

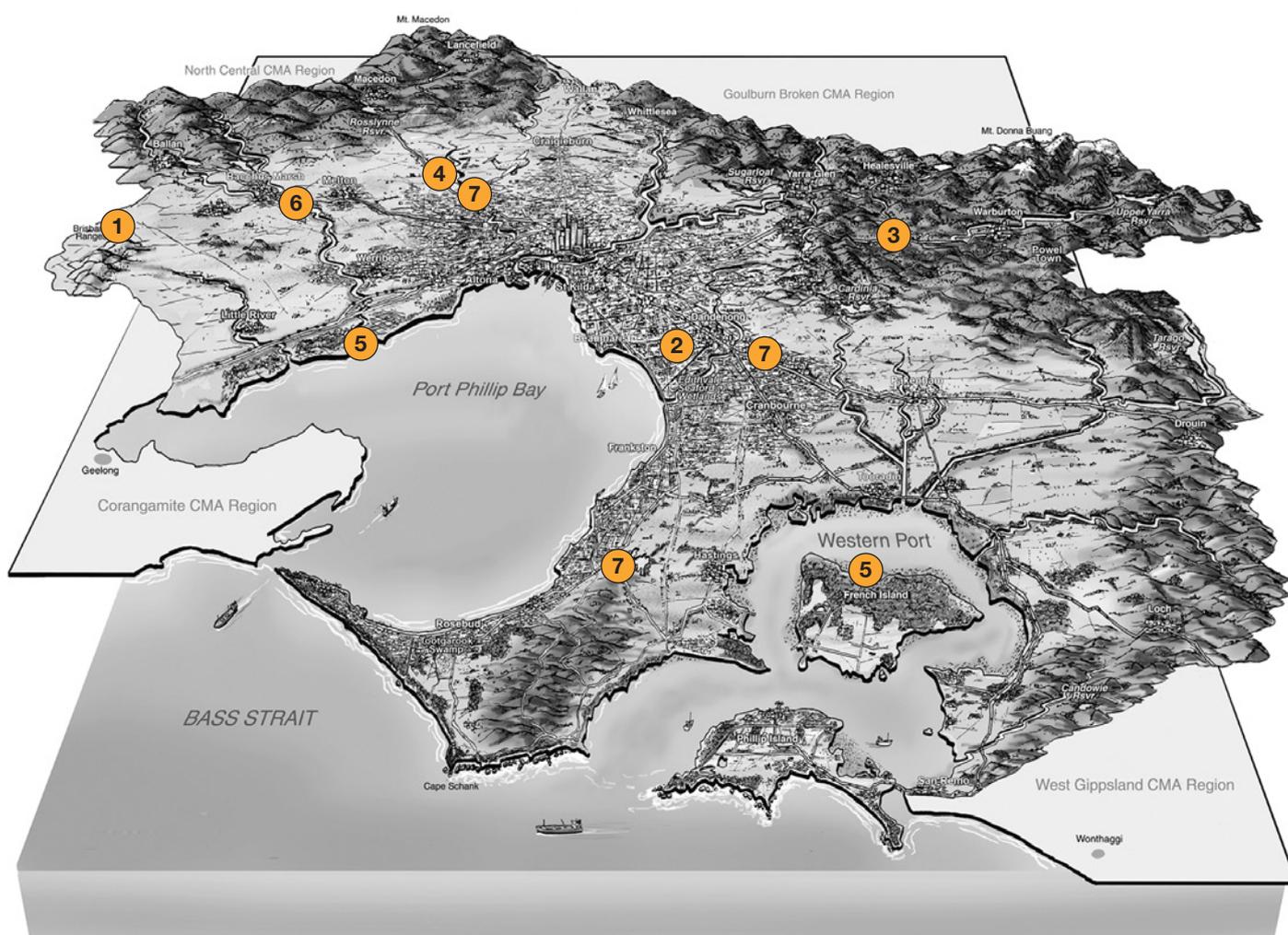
In 2018-19, the PPWCMA will review its community engagement strategy and communications plan. The PPWCMA will also continue its innovative use of social media, audio visual content and other new technologies to significantly increase its engagement with the region's growing population.

The Victorian Government's *Biodiversity 2037* strategy presents some key opportunities for community engagement. The PPWCMA's strong relationships with hundreds of organisations working directly with local communities will provide an ideal platform to contribute to 'Goal 2: Victorians Value Nature' and inspire and educate Victorians to become environmental advocates.

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
A stakeholder and community engagement framework/plan approved by the Board.	✓
Various events conducted across the region through the year attracting total attendance of over 1,000 people.	✓
A growing audience established in social media channels including over 1,000 Facebook followers, 500 Twitter followers and 200 Instagram followers.	✓
A growing number of hits on Port Phillip & Westernport CMA websites.	✓

Project **MAP**

This map outlines the major projects being delivered by the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA. Detailed information on each project's actions and achievements for 2017-18 are outlined on pages 18-47.



REGION-WIDE PROJECTS

- Regional Catchment Strategy (p18-19)
- Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants (p23-25)
- Supporting Landcare (p26-27)
- Supporting sustainable land management (p28-29)
- Supporting sustainable agriculture (p30-31)
- Engaging Indigenous communities (p32-35)

REGION-SPECIFIC PROJECTS

1. Grow West (p36-37)
2. Living Links (p38-39)
3. Yarra4Life (p40-41)
4. Greening the Maribyrnong (p42-43)
5. Ramsar Protection Program (p44-45)
6. Valuing our Victorian Volcanic Plains (p46-47)
7. *Our Catchments, Our Communities* funded projects (p25,39,43)

Coordinating GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Over \$1.74 million from Victorian Government programs directed to priority projects

Over \$2.3 million from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program directed to priority projects

\$421,033 within those funds provided to local communities for 77 projects through the 2017-18 PPWCMA Community Grants

For more than a decade, the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA has coordinated the roll-out of various Victorian Government and Australian Government funding streams and grants programs.

In 2017-18, this included \$1.74 million of Victorian Government funds and \$2.3 million from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Resourcing for PPWCMA to coordinate the grants was provided as part of each investment agreement and was generally in the order of 10 percent of the particular investment.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDED PROJECTS

PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING
Regional Landcare Coordination	\$569,654
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants*	\$191,703
Ramsar wetland protection in Port Phillip and Western Port	\$345,000
Our Catchments, Our Communities Projects and Coordination (Sunbury, Dandenong Creek and Mornington Peninsula)	\$646,000
DELWP Biodiversity Hubs: Protecting and Connecting Species and Communities on the Mornington Peninsula	\$55,000
Total	\$1,747,351

*\$171,033 of the community grants funding was provided to community groups through the 2017-18 Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants. Seven projects were funded to undertake on-ground works and community-based activities and 55 groups received support funding (as shown in the table on page 24). The grant allocations were determined within 11 business days of applications closing.

NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM FUNDED PROJECTS

PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING
Regional Indigenous Facilitator	\$167,000
Regional Landcare Facilitator	\$167,000
Demonstrating sustainable farm practices in the Western Port, Port Phillip and Yarra catchments	\$349,000
Building the capacity of farmers to adopt sustainable agricultural and land management practices in the Port Phillip and Western Port region	\$203,040
Building the capacity of Landcare groups and networks to facilitate the adoption of sustainable environmental management practices by landholders in Port Phillip and Western Port.	\$167,000
Protecting the ecological values of the Western Port Ramsar site	\$369,200
Protecting the ecological values of the Port Phillip Bay - Western Shoreline Ramsar site	\$96,000
Permanent protection of habitat to support listed species and communities	\$111,000
Protecting and connecting listed communities and species on the Victorian Volcanic Plains	\$217,000
Protecting and connecting listed species in the Yarra Ranges	\$222,000
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants*	\$278,000
Total	\$2,346,240

*\$250,000 of the community grants funding was provided to community groups through the 2017-18 Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants. 15 projects were funded to undertake on-ground works and community-based activities (as shown in the table on page 24). The grant allocations were determined within 11 business days of applications closing.

COMMUNITY GRANTS AWARDED IN 2017-18

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS	FUNDING
Andersons Creek Catchment Area Landcare Group	\$500
Arthurs Creek and District Landcare Group	\$500
Australian Landcare International	\$500
Back Creek Landcare Group	\$500
Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group	\$17,611
Bessie Creek / Ararat Creek Landcare Group	\$500
Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group	\$500
Bullengarook Landcare Group	\$500
Bunyip Landcare Group	\$500
Cannibal Creek Landcare Group	\$500
Cardinia Catchment Landcare Inc.	\$500
Christmas Hills Landcare Group	\$29,424
Chum Creek Landcare	\$500
Clarkefield and District Landcare Group	\$500
Cottles Bridge Landcare Group	\$500
Deep Creek Landcare Group (Romsey/Lancefield)	\$500
Devilbend Landcare Group	\$500
Dunns Creek Landcare	\$500
Friends of Braeside Park	\$7,950
Friends of Merri Creek	\$23,242
Friends of Sassafras Creek	\$17,210
Friends of Steele Creek	\$29,784
Gisborne Landcare Group	\$500
Hurstbridge District Landcare Group	\$500
Jindivick Landcare Group	\$500
Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group	\$500
Kinglake Landcare Group	\$500
Labertouche Landcare and Sustainable Farming Group	\$500
Loch / Nyora Landcare Group	\$500
Macclesfield Landcare Group	\$500
Main Creek Catchment Landcare Group	\$500
Manton and Stony Creek Landcare Group	\$500
Merricks Coolart Catchment Group	\$500
Middle Yarra Landcare Network	\$500
Montrose Upper Landcare Group (MULGa)	\$500
Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network	\$500
Mount Lyall Landcare Group	\$500
Mount Toolebewong and District Landcare	\$500
Neerim & District Landcare Group	\$500
Newham & District Landcare Group	\$500
Nillumbik Horse Action Group	\$500
Olinda Creek Landcare Group Inc	\$500
Phillip Island Landcare	\$500
Poowong & District Landcare Group	\$500
Red Hill South Landcare Group	\$500
Sheepwash Creek Catchment	\$500
South West Mornington Peninsula Landcare	\$18,312
Southern Ranges Environment Alliance	\$500
St Andrews Landcare	\$500

Strathewen Landcare Group	\$500
Sunbury Landcare Association	\$500
Toomuc Landcare Group	\$500
Triholm Landcare Group	\$500
Truganina Landcare Group	\$500
Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network	\$500
Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group	\$500
Watsons Creek Catchment Group	\$500
Western Port Catchment Landcare Network	\$500
Westernport Feral Alliance	\$500
Western Port Swamp Landcare	\$500
Yarra Ranges Landcare Network	\$500
Yarra Valley Equestrian Landcare Group	\$500
Total	\$171,033

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GRANT RECIPIENTS	FUNDING
Bass Coast Landcare Network	\$29,554
Bass Valley Landcare Group	\$29,652
Bend of Islands Conservation Association	\$4,709
Cairnlea Conservation Reserves COM	\$25,770
Cape Woolamai Coast Action Inc.	\$12,938
Dunmoochin Landcare Group	\$15,081
Friends of Emerald Lake Park	\$29,710
Friends of Westgate Park Inc.	\$9,500
Habitat Restoration Fund	\$6,600
Monbulk Landcare Group	\$19,000
Moorabool Landcare Network	\$26,000
Pinkerton Landcare Group	\$17,960
Safety Beach Foreshore Landscape Committee Incorporated	\$6,046
Western Port Swamp Landcare	\$8,680
Yarra Ranges Landcare Network	\$8,800
Total	\$250,000

PERFORMANCE TARGETS FOR 2017-18	ACHIEVEMENT
Grants programs are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	✓
Grants assessment processes are undertaken within one month of the close of application period.	✓
Investors and grantees report high-levels of satisfaction with grants processes.	✓
Efficiency and value for money are demonstrated from the grants processes including the effective delivery of the expected grants activities and the leveraging of additional investment.	✓

Case Study

GREENS BUSH TO ARTHUR'S SEAT BIOLINK

Funded through the Victorian State Government's, *Our Catchments Our Communities* initiative, the Greens Bush to Arthur's Seat Biolink project is being delivered by the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network. The project aims to re-establish a connection between two of the largest patches of remnant vegetation on the Mornington Peninsula (Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat) through revegetation, weeding and community pest control across 20 private properties.

Over the past year the project has achieved a broad range of outputs including the development of 20 landowner agreements detailing works to be undertaken, fencing of five hectares of land for revegetation across six of the properties, fox control program across approximately 100 hectares and planting of more than 7,000 indigenous plants across 21 hectares.



Volunteers at a National Tree Day Planting in July 2017

Case Study

PROTECTING AND CONNECTING SPECIES AND COMMUNITIES IN MELBOURNE'S WEST

In 2016-17 the PPWCMA, Parks Victoria and Trust for Nature received \$300,000 from the Victorian Government's Biodiversity On-ground Action Initiative to deliver the Protecting and Connecting Species and Communities in Melbourne's West project over a four year period. This project builds on Grow West's work over the last 15 years by undertaking pest plant and animal threat mitigation activities across 30,000 hectares of Lerderderg State Park, Werribee Gorge State Park, Brisbane Ranges National Park and adjoining private properties.

The work will provide a large boost to the works that have been carried out by Parks Victoria within these areas and adjacent to the parks, to protect and enhance threatened species and biodiversity assets within the catchment. The project is targeting pest animals including goats, deer, rabbits, pigs and cats along with weed species such as Sallow Wattle, Gorse, African Weed Orchid and Serrated Tussock, with the aim of improving habitat for native species such as the Swift Parrot, Brush-tail Phascogale, Growling Grass Frog and Diamond Firetail.

This collaborative partnership, cross-tenure project is providing a great example on how we can all work together to protect threatened environmental assets.



Fallow Deer spotted in sensor camera in the Brisbane Ranges National Park

Case Study

RESTORING THE WERRIBEE RIVER VOLCANIC GORGE

The Werribee Gorge in Pinkerton, just north of Melbourne, is a breathtaking landscape and one Landcare group is working hard to restore this incredible and significant area. In 2017, Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group received a grant of \$17,960 through Port Phillip and Westernport CMA's Community Grants Program which was funded through the National Landcare Program.

Over the last six months the group have worked with Wurrundjeri's Narrap Land Management Team and local contractors to undertake weed and rabbit control and direct seed native grasses across an area of four hectares.

The group have also held a very successful community open day, enabling the local community to view and learn about the restoration process undertaken by the group, Melbourne Water and Western Water. This project will contribute to the protection and enhancement of nationally threatened grassland and escarpment vegetation communities across the Victorian Volcanic Plains.



Participants at the Pinkerton Landcare and Environment Group Community Open Day

Supporting **LANDCARE**

Landcare groups covered 75.7 percent of all private rural land in the region

Twice yearly forums held for leaders and facilitators of the region's 13 Landcare networks to plan and act together

Partnership agreements signed with two Landcare networks

During 2017-18, the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA continued to provide strategic support and leadership for the region's Landcare movement. This support and leadership was guided by the PPWCMA Landcare Support Plan and coordinated by a Regional Landcare Coordinator position funded by the Victorian Landcare Program.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR A STRONG REGION

In 2017-18, the PPWCMA signed partnership agreements with the Bass Coast Landcare Network and the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network to reflect the organisations' commitment to an ongoing collaborative and productive relationship. This was strengthened by the creation of a statewide Memorandum of Understanding between VicCatchments (on behalf of Victoria's CMAs) and Landcare Victoria. The MoU ensures a productive partnership that builds the capacity of both Landcare Victoria and the CMAs.

Regular email, telephone and social media communication was undertaken with the 84 Landcare groups, 13 networks and 250+ other community environment groups in the region, alerting them to opportunities including the potential for funding from the Victorian

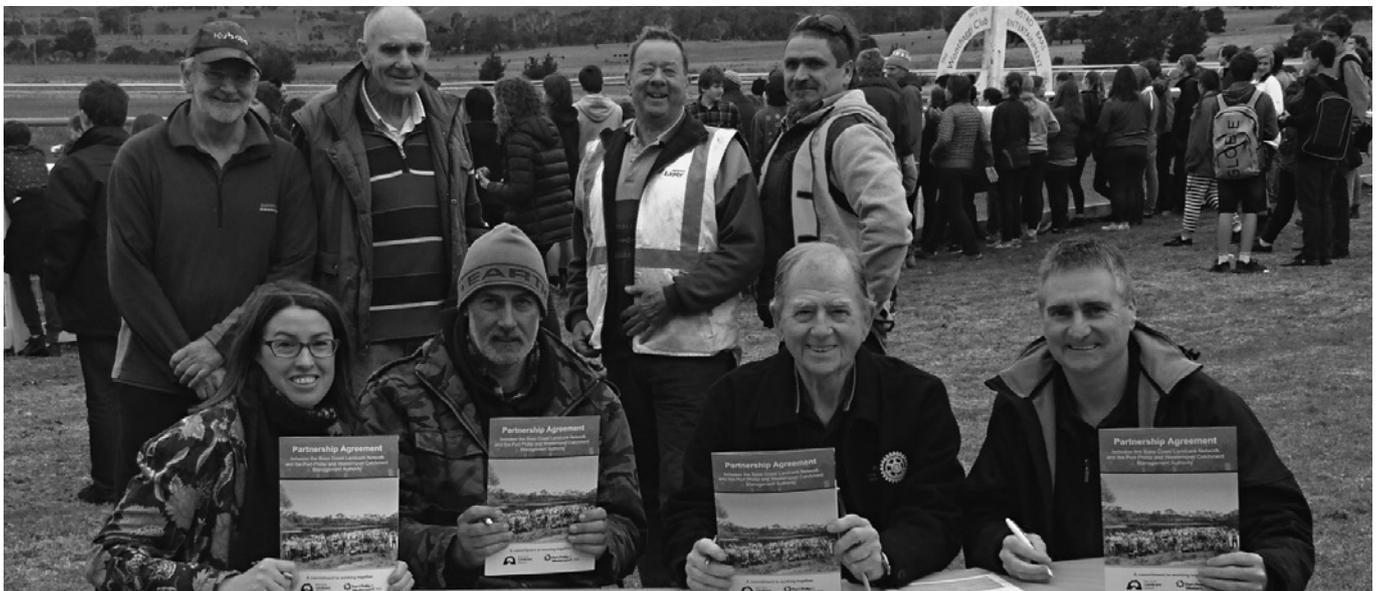
Landcare Program and National Landcare Program through the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants.

HELPING GROUPS AND NETWORKS COLLABORATE

In 2017-18, the Regional Landcare Coordinator convened a forum for the leaders of Landcare networks, and a forum for local Landcare facilitators. The purpose of these forums was to share and learn from each other, stay informed, create connections to senior staff in agencies such as Melbourne Water and DELWP, provide a shared voice and collaborate where opportunities arise.

The forums in 2017-18 focused on ensuring Landcare could meaningfully participate in the Healthy Waterways Strategy refresh process and Biodiversity Response Planning - decision-making around investment to implement *Biodiversity 2037*. Two more forums were organised for convening in July 2018.

The Regional Landcare Coordinator also assisted 66 Landcare groups and networks to collaborate with one another, along with various agencies, by supporting the delivery of ten Catchment Action Round Tables (CARTs) across the region.



Bass Coast Landcare Network and PPWCMA representatives signing their partnership agreement

COMMUNITY GRANTS

The PPWCMA delivered \$421,033 of Victorian and Australian Government funding to community groups in 2017-18 through the annual Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants. 55 groups received support grants of \$500 and 22 larger projects were funded to undertake on-ground works and capacity building activities.

The Regional Landcare Coordinator supported delivery of the grants through development of the grant guidelines and example projects, providing advice on grant applications to prospective applicants and being a member of the Regional Assessment Panel.

The Regional Landcare Coordinator also coordinated the rollout of the 2018-19 Victorian Landcare Grants in readiness for announcement in July 2018. This involved working with RLCs from the other CMAs to provide a consistent approach in terms of timing, guidelines, and application and assessment processes.

LANDCARE REPORT CARD

Data collected from 54 Landcare groups and 7 Landcare networks was compiled into the Port Phillip and Western Port Landcare Report Card 2016-17. The report card showed that there are 84 Landcare groups in the region covering 706,740 hectares (55.3 percent of the region). Landcare groups cover 75.7 percent of all private rural land.

For the 2017-18 year, Landcare volunteers contributed an estimated \$2 million in value through their volunteer time delivering activities related to on-ground works, learning, administration and communication. To read the full report card go to ppwcma.vic.gov.au

LOOKING AHEAD

The PPWCMA will continue to pursue the directions outlined in the Regional Landcare Support Plan. Funding from the Victorian Landcare Program for the Regional Landcare Coordinator role and community grants is central to this work.

Forums for Landcare network leaders and Landcare facilitators will be continued to ensure collaboration and coordination across the region. Other opportunities to support Landcare, consistent with the PPWCMA Landcare Support Plan, will be pursued.

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
A regional Landcare Support Plan approved by the Board.	✓
Activities to implement the regional Landcare Support Plan are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	✓
The annual Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Community Grants program delivered and providing grants for Landcare groups and networks.	✓
A partnership agreement established with Landcare Victoria Inc.	✓
Partnership agreements established with at least 7 of the region's Landcare networks.	✓
Data on regional Landcare collected and reported in a regional 'Landcare Report Card'.	✓
Support is provided for Landcare Victoria Inc. to establish a 'Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare' forum.	✓

Case Study

VICTORIAN LANDCARE AWARD FOR CORANDERRK

In September 2017, the Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation was the recipient of the 2017 Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award for their work as the owners of the historic property Coranderrk in the Yarra Valley. They were nominated by PPWCMA staff who recognised the diverse and strong partnerships that have been established and were integral to the property's success.

Their goal is to rejuvenate Coranderrk as a working farm, important habitat for native fauna and as a place to bring Wurundjeri people together on Country. Partnerships with the local community, Yarra Ranges Council, Melbourne Water, Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, Yarra Ranges Landcare Network, PPWCMA and more have enabled the Wurundjeri people, through their Narrap Land Management Team, to be empowered to work on their Country while gaining new skills.

The award judges were impressed by the innovative and powerful partnerships that the project has fostered and judged it to be an outstanding example of leadership and Indigenous natural resource management that is delivering tangible on-ground outcomes as well as social and economic value too.

The Regional Landcare Coordinator provided some funds to representatives of Wandoon Estate so they could attend the 2017 Victorian Landcare Awards presentation function at Government House, where they were thrilled to be announced as the winners.

Wandoon Estate is the Victorian nominee in the 'Australian Government Partnerships for Landcare Award' category at the 2018 National Landcare Awards, which will be held in October 2018.



Jacqui Wandin and Uncle Dave Wandin of Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation receive their Landcare Award from the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and Her Excellency the Hon Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria.

Supporting Sustainable **LAND MANAGEMENT**

Five-year, \$1.75 million projects funded through the National Landcare Program

Over 480 farmers and Landcare members directly involved in events

Four farmer discussion groups, 13 field days and 10 CARTS held in 2017-18

In 2017-18, the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA completed two five-year projects aimed at supporting Landcare and farmer groups to improve sustainable agriculture and land management. These projects were funded with \$1.75 million through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

WORKING WITH LANDCARE GROUPS

A goal of the projects was to improve the contribution of local community action towards national, state and regional environmental goals. To achieve this the PPWCMA assisted Landcare groups and networks to develop high quality conservation plans and landholders to adopt biodiversity best practice through the use of Conservation Action Planning (CAP) and Catchment Action Round Tables (CARTs).

10 CARTs were conducted during 2017-18 in the Werribee, Middle Yarra, Yarra, Western Port, Bass Coast and South Gippsland, Mornington Peninsula and Northern regions. The CARTs were attended by 193 people from 66 Landcare groups/networks and 40 other natural resource management organisations, ranging from Melbourne Water, local councils to local friends of groups. The CARTs enhanced the relationships and collaboration between Landcare groups and local agencies.



Mapping new project ideas at the Werribee Catchment Action Round Table

Ongoing support and facilitation was provided to four Landcare networks (incorporating 19 target Landcare groups) to extend the CAP process and increase understanding for the implementation of the network plans. 15 target Landcare groups and networks also received support through the provision of up-to-date maps and guides to guide on-ground best practice.

FARMER DISCUSSION GROUPS

Four existing farmer discussion groups - Ballan, Romsey, Sunbury and Women in Sustainable Agriculture (WiSA) - continued to be supported in 2017-18. The Romsey Farmer Discussion Group met in December to discuss pests and diseases that can become established on properties and how to recognise some infectious diseases, as well as how to create farm biosecurity plans. The Ballan Farmer Discussion Group met twice to learn about pasture assessment using pasture squares, as well as the importance of plant cover and biomass for protection of soil from erosion and weed infestation.

The Sunbury Farmer Discussion Group met on five occasions throughout the year and covered topics including the role of bees in pollination and horticultural crops, using structure in shelterbelts for biodiversity and productivity, pests and diseases that can become established on properties, how to recognise some infectious diseases and how to create a Farm Biosecurity Plan.

The Women in Sustainable Agriculture (WiSA) leadership group continued to grow. The group organised six activities that focused on leadership capacity, marketing and resilience. Some members were also involved in the design and delivery of the 2018 'Women on Farms Gathering', which was attended by 200 women from across the state.

FARMER CAPACITY BUILDING EVENTS

In 2017-18 the PPWCMA worked with a range of partners to run a number of capacity-building events for farmers and landholders that encouraged them to adopt sustainable farming practices. 14 events were delivered, attracting a total of 428 attendees.

Field days were held showcasing existing trials and demonstrations and a number of events were also jointly run with Landcare groups/networks to encourage landholders to adopt sustainable land management practices.

Topics included:

- Cover cropping and pasture cropping
- Visual soil field assessments
- Sustainable horse ownership
- Property planning
- Marketing and social media
- Attracting young people to Landcare

The PPWCMA also participated in the Wandin-Silvan Field Day, 2018 Women on Farms Gathering and supported an Intrepid Landcare Retreat for the Western Port Catchment as activities to increase community engagement and participation in sustainable land management practices.



Native grasses expert Graeme Hand inspects a multi-species cover cropping site in Myrning

LOOKING AHEAD

With the winding up of these two projects, an evaluation summit for each was convened. Stakeholders that had been engaged through the activities delivered as part of the projects were invited to hear about achievement of project outcomes, view a number of short videos featuring participant interviews and offer their perspectives on the projects. The feedback overall painted a picture of stakeholders supporting the way the projects were delivered and having gained benefit from these projects in a variety of ways.

With the completion of these two projects the extent and nature of the PPWCMA's continued support for sustainable land management will depend on the pursuit of future funding opportunities.

Case Study

LITTLE RIVER COMMUNITY LANDCARE GROUP

A keystone for sustainable land management in the Port Phillip and Western Port region is the 80+ Landcare groups that bring local landholders together to learn from each other and care for the land and natural environment they share. That is why it is always great news when a new Landcare group emerges in an area where interest has declined.

The newly-formed Little River Community Landcare Group is one such group, which revitalised Landcare in the Little River area by picking up on the past efforts of the Corio Landcare Group and the Little River Improvement Group.

Through the Sustainable Land Management project, a public forum was held with the Little River community to discuss how there could be more community involvement in the natural environment. Discussion around the purpose and aims of the previous groups revealed a real passion was for doing restoration work along the river and for weed control in the Victorian Volcanic Plains grassland, so the decision was made to combine the existing groups' efforts.

An executive committee was formed and planning for activities and projects commenced, kicking off their first meeting in February 2018. The group has already hosted a Clean-up Australia Day event for the Little River and started looking for funding to help tackle the serious threat of Tiger Pear that is spreading along the river.



The first meeting of the Little River Community Landcare Group

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
Delivery of activities that fulfil the commitments associated with supporting sustainable land management.	✓
'Conservation Action Plans' are completed to at least draft level for 10 Landcare networks.	✓
At least 125 people participate in 5 'Catchment Action Round Tables' in 2017-18.	✓
At least eight short videos produced that capture the experiences and achievements of Landcare participants in Conservation Action Planning and/or Catchment Action Round Tables.	✓
At least 200 farmers attend workshops that demonstrate sustainable agriculture practices.	✓
Representatives from at least two different Traditional Owner organisations share their goals to farmers in farmer discussion groups.	✓
Stakeholders involved in the delivery of Conservation Action Planning, Catchment Action Round Tables and other activities report high-levels of satisfaction.	✓

Supporting Sustainable **AGRICULTURE**

Regional Landcare Facilitator employed through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Ten events focusing on increasing farmer knowledge in 2017-18, attracting 342 attendees

Over 740ha of practice change as a result of trial and demonstration sites

REGIONAL LANDCARE FACILITATOR

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA employed a Regional Landcare Facilitator funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. In 2017-18, the facilitator worked with a range of agricultural industry groups across the region to advance the understanding of profitable, sustainable agriculture techniques and further develop existing demonstration sites.

The work of the facilitator was also supported by a range of promotional and engagement activities, including the creation of a 'PPWCMA Grows Agriculture' Facebook page, the release of eight videos focusing on trials and best practice and a presentation on planting native vegetation to Tasmanian orchardists and segment on ABC Country Hour Tasmania.

FARMER CAPACITY-BUILDING EVENTS

The Regional Landcare Facilitator worked with various partners to run ten farmer capacity building events in 2017-18, which together attracted 342 attendees, including:

- IPM workshop for the insectary demonstration site landholders
- Field trip with the Wurundjeri Narrap Team to look at native seed production at Flora Victoria
- Multi-species pasture cropping workshop and farm walk
- Farm walk looking at using native grasses and groundcovers for diversity in orchard mid-rows
- Women on Farms Gathering 2018 on the Mornington Peninsula



Balliang farmer, James Pedder at an IPM workshop

DEMONSTRATIONS AND TRIALS

A number of demonstrations and trials conducted through the Regional Landcare Facilitator concluded in 2017-18. All showed promising results and there is strong interest from landholders and industries to extend the current trials and establish new sites to broaden the data. 2017-18 evaluation data reported 740.13 hectares of practice change as a result of trial and demonstration sites.

All of the trials are summarised below and in the case study on the next page, but more information, including fact sheets and videos are available at ppwcma.vic.gov.au

Compost under vine

This project has been trialling fine compost and compost mulch from urban green waste (in comparison with a control - no compost) in a 100cm wide strip under the vines at four vineyards on the Mornington Peninsula. 2017-18 was the final year for the project and a final results day was held in June 2018.

Overall, the results showed that the simple practice of covering the undervine area with a dark mulch led to better plant health, improved winegrape quality and reduced water and soil temperature stress.

Native grasses for mid-row benefits

In partnership with Red Hill Cherry Farm and Native Seeds Pty Ltd, a trial site was established using native grasses as a mid-row perennial groundcover to improve management practices such as soil stability, herbicide use and pest management.

The native grass trial site was sown in December 2015 and after a dry summer which delayed germination, a site visit in Autumn 2018 showed good signs of established native grasses, however not many of the native groundcovers could be found. They will be trialled under the tree line to secure establishment and allow them to naturally recruit into the mid-rows.

Variable fertiliser rates

The Regional Landcare Facilitator has been working with the Balliang Food and Fibre Group to conduct variable rate fertiliser trials to introduce new soil technology and principles onto their farms. The aim is to improve nitrogen and phosphorous efficiency, unlock yield potential and generate economic savings and benefits to the environment.

These environmental benefits are important in this area which hosts the endangered plains grassland vegetation community and waterways which drain into Ramsar wetlands. Balancing this with good farm practices ensures the farms remain productive whilst protecting the natural resource base. The group was a recipient of a grant through the Victorian Government's Port Phillip Bay Fund to expand the trial.

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

The Regional Landcare Facilitator spent time in 2017-18 working with Traditional Owners to support their goals and aspirations for establishing Indigenous economic development opportunities in agriculture. The focus has been on blending contemporary agricultural practices with traditional knowledge to grow and harvest native plant foods and fibre products. Some activities have included:

- Taking the Wurundjeri Narrap Team on a site visit to look at Flora Victoria's native grass production
- Nominating Wandoon Estate for a Victorian Landcare Award (which they won) and assisting them to prepare their National Landcare Awards nomination
- Meeting with Bunurong Land Council to discuss economic development opportunities and grants for establishing a bush food enterprise.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Regional Landcare Facilitator role at the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA has been funded for 2018-19 in Phase 2 of the National Landcare Program and is now known as the Regional Agriculture Facilitator (RAF).

The RAF will provide ongoing support to industry groups and farmers by providing information on emerging best practices, emerging issues, sharing trial results and informing of government policy change. The role will support agricultural industry groups to develop new project ideas and seek grant assistance with particular focus on supporting the Indigenous landowner's access funding to meet goals and aspirations for agricultural business and working on Country.

The RAF will also regularly seek out ideas and opportunities for project development to fund both small and large-scale agricultural projects at the PPWCMA.

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
Delivery of activities that fulfil the commitments associated with supporting sustainable agriculture.	✓
Relationships strengthened with six agricultural industry groups.	✓
At least 60 hectares of land changed to using a sustainable agriculture practice.	✓
At least 60 people engaged in sustainable agriculture events.	✓
Five sustainable agriculture trials completed and reported upon.	✓
Learnings from at least one trialled agricultural practice extended to audiences well beyond the Port Phillip and Westernport region.	✓
Stakeholders involved in the delivery of sustainable agriculture activities report high-levels of satisfaction with the activities.	✓
At least eight video case studies produced that capture stakeholder experiences and perspectives on the value and achievements of the Regional Landcare Facilitator project.	✓

Case Study

NATIVE INSECTARIES FOR INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Over the last two years, the PPWCMA's Regional Landcare Facilitator has been investigating ways that farmers can improve their farm biodiversity, in combination with adopting sustainable land management principles, by trialling native insectaries.

An insectary is a group of plants that provide a protective niche for natural predators by providing shelter, a regular supply of pollen and nectar and a water source for a range of beneficial arthropod species.

A lot of research on this topic has been done in the past by Retallack Viticulture in South Australia, but there didn't seem to be much known about the practice in Victoria. The Regional Landcare Facilitator used the South Australian research to design a simple on-farm trial with Fielderberr Farm in Cockatoo, with the aim that it could be easily replicated by growers in the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

A main insectary was planted along a fence line between two paddocks (pictured) and smaller plantings were scattered across the production area in pre-existing empty garden beds and surrounding the 'you-pick' gazebo. To monitor insect diversity and abundance across the property, sticky traps and pit fall traps were installed, with monitoring conducted regularly during spring and summer.

The second year of the trial was in 2017-18 and has shown strong results. Although seasonal variations influence fluctuations in both beneficial and pest insects, the monitoring shows that the diversity and abundance of beneficial insects that can be found living in the native insectary habitat clearly demonstrates the value of incorporating them into farm planning. There will always be something present close by to predate and parasitise pests aiding existing IPM programs and the overall resilience of the farm to respond and bounce back from chemical interventions when necessary.



After initial planting at Fielderberr Farm in August 2016

Plants in full flower in December 2017

Engaging Indigenous COMMUNITIES

PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan developed and adopted

Formal partnership agreements developed with three of the region's Indigenous organisations

312 people (33% Indigenous) participated in 36 events aimed at improving awareness and understanding of Indigenous culture

REGIONAL INDIGENOUS FACILITATOR

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA employs a Regional Indigenous Facilitator funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program to:

- Increase the capacity of Indigenous people and organisations to participate in natural resource management planning and activity at local and regional scales
- Support Traditional Owners to raise the awareness of land, water and nature conservation managers in government and community-based organisations of their NRM goals and aspirations
- Assist Indigenous organisations to document and communicate their traditional land and water management practices, natural resource management (NRM) goals and aspirations and cultural heritage values
- Understand and adopt Indigenous organisations' preferred methods of working with the PPWCMA, other public authorities and Landcare groups.

INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION PLAN

The PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan was endorsed by the PPWCMA Board in August 2017. The document guides the organisation in its goal to collaborate with and support Indigenous organisations and communities when planning and implementing natural resource management programs in this region. It also supports the PPWCMA Board and staff to improve their knowledge and understanding of Indigenous cultural values, enabling them to extend this to others that they work with including government agencies, community groups, landholders and the broader public.

A number of actions were developed to support the PPWCMA to achieve the plan's aspirations and goals. These actions and the progress made towards them in 2017-18 are outlined on pages 34-35.

The document is supported by three partnership agreements (Wathaurong, Wurundjeri and Wadawurrung), which are an active part of the PPWCMA's work. Partnership agreements with Bunurong and Boon Wurrung are in progress, but all five Indigenous organisations have NRM goals and aspirations summaries.

BUILDING CAPACITY

In 2017-18, the Regional Indigenous Facilitator focused on building the capacity of Indigenous organisations to seek employment and take

leadership roles in natural resource management within their community. Some achievements around this have included:

- Providing Indigenous Environment Grants to the Wurundjeri Council to support three Elders and their three sons and three community members to attend the National Indigenous Fire Workshop Cape York in July 2017. Wurundjeri participants made new contacts with industry and academic practitioners which has led to development of management plans, monitoring methodologies and employment. Wurundjeri attended the 2018 workshop and will host the Workshop in 2019.
- Advancing our relationship with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, who gained Registered Aboriginal Party status in 2017-18, and supporting their NRM aspirations. A PPWCMA Indigenous Environment Grant and in-kind support assisted Bunurong to develop a Business Plan for an NRM team.
- Providing supportive training and education opportunities including WiseWaterways workshop trained five Wurundjeri Narrap team members in river health and waterway management; a Certificate III Conservation Land Management course with Holmesglen TAFE for 10 Indigenous people to provide employment pathways (Trust for Nature and PPWCMA secured funding through DELWP's Biodiversity 2030 grants).



PPWCMA staff and Wurundjeri after making a traditional bark canoe from a River Red Gum on the Yarra River

- Supporting the region's Traditional Owners and the Valuing Victorian Volcanic Plains project to plan and undertake two burn events (one in Sunbury and one in Melton). This included attending the South East Australia Fire Forum in Canberra at the University of Canberra.
- Supporting the Wurundjeri community to create stone axes in community workshops then use them to make a traditional bark canoe from a River Red Gum on the Yarra River.

RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Through the Regional Indigenous Facilitator, the PPWCMA coordinated, hosted, supported and participated in events aimed at improving Indigenous cultural awareness and understanding. 312 participants were involved in 36 meetings, field days and planning sessions, with Indigenous Australians comprising 33 percent of the participants. Some highlights included:

- Induction to the Indigenous people of the PPWCMA region and presentation to four new PPWCMA Board members and two new staff.
- Wurundjeri Narrap team presentations on return from the National Indigenous Fire Workshop
- All staff and board members gathered with all three Traditional Owners to develop a reconciliation statement and tell this story on a red gum Tarnuk
- Wadawurrung working with Moorabool Landcare groups to educate on the values of cultural heritage and working together on land management
- Reconciliation Week activity in March 2018 with Boon Wurrung and Bunurong
- Cultural burns in Sunbury and Melton involving the Wurundjeri Narrap Land Management Team, Wadawurrung, local councils and community environmental groups

LOOKING AHEAD

The Regional Indigenous Facilitator role and associated activities will continue in 2018-19 with funding through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Changes in funding and the Regional Indigenous Facilitator role will present some challenges, including maintaining trusted relationships of the same level with the region's Indigenous organisations.

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
Delivery of activities that fulfil the commitments associated with the 'Engaging Indigenous communities' project.	✓
Establishment and maintenance of a Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Indigenous Participation Plan.	✓
Establishment and maintenance of formal Partnership Agreements with at least three Indigenous organisations in the region.	✓
Indigenous partners, and other stakeholders, report high-levels of satisfaction with the delivery of the 'Engaging Indigenous communities' project.	✓
At least 300 people engaged in activities conducted as part of the 'Engaging Indigenous communities' project, of which at least 50 are Indigenous.	✓

Case Study

INDIGENOUS WETLAND AND SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION TRAINING PROGRAM

Since 2014 the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA has offered a Wetland and Shorebird Conservation Training Program for Indigenous Australians. The training program is designed to meet the aspirations of our Indigenous partner organisations who aspire to increase their knowledge and capacity, and to participate in environmental management.

This successful initiative involves the Ramsar Protection Program working alongside the Regional Indigenous Facilitator delivered in partnership with Victorian Indigenous people, BirdLife Australia and Corangamite CMA.

The 2017 program was a three-day event held in November focused on Ramsar sites on the western shoreline of Port Phillip Bay and the Bellarine Peninsula. Participants visited the internationally-important Western Treatment Plant at Werribee, Lake Connemara Wildlife Reserve, Swan Bay and Mud Islands, as well as Thirteenth Beach near Barwon Heads to study the Hooded Plover beach-nesting bird project.

Participants learn how to identify a range of birds, giving them the necessary skills to monitor bird populations and take a lead role in natural resource management on their Country. Industry experts detail wetlands, bird identification, wetland management and conservation monitoring. The training program showcased to participants the management actions that help protect wetlands and manage the threats to these sensitive ecosystems.

The 20 Indigenous participants included representatives from Eastern Maar, Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative, Wimmera CMA and Glenelg Hopkins CMA, and rangers from Wurundjeri's Narrap Team, Barengi Gadjin Land Council, and Budj Bim rangers from Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation. The 2017 program was delivered through the Ramsar Protection Program with funding from the National Landcare Program.



2017 program participants at the Western Treatment Plant on the western shoreline of Port Phillip bay (Ramsar site)

REPORTING ON THE INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION PLAN

On track
 Minor delay
 Major delay or barrier

INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION PLAN ACTIVITY		COMMENT AND STATUS		
1	Provide induction and training for Board members and staff in ways that help build cultural competency	<p>1. Include Indigenous cultural awareness in the induction process for new Board members and staff Presentation to board meeting for new members and Induction checklist for new staff, e.g. Emma Muir</p> <p>2. Include ongoing Indigenous cultural awareness training for all Board members and staff as a prominent part of the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's cultural competency training program Close the Gap Day with Bunurong and Boon Wurrung</p> <p>3. Provide opportunities in work time for all staff to take part in Indigenous cultural awareness activities Tandurrum at Federation Square</p>		
	2	Increase the awareness and recognition of Aboriginal people's knowledge and aspirations within our workplace and within our work	<p>1. Develop a Port Phillip & Westernport CMA 'reconciliation statement' All staff and board participated in developing a statement with Traditional Owners. The Tarnuk displaying the statement is due for completion mid 2018</p> <p>2. Develop and display representations of local Indigenous culture within the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA office(s) Display items on show in the board room will be mounted with a regional map to complete the display; awaiting items from Bunurong Land Council</p> <p>3. Develop documents outlining Indigenous people's goals and aspirations for participation in natural resource management, agreed to by the Indigenous organisations of this region Completed and reviewed annually with Indigenous organisations Partnership agreements</p> <p>4. Include targets within the annual work performance plans of Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Staff outlining their contributions to the Indigenous goals and aspirations A method needs to be established to encourage this to happen and record where/when it occurs All staff completed e-learning task</p> <p>5. Promote and advocate the agreed Indigenous aspirations to other organisations in relevant forums and meetings Promotion and advocacy by the RIF, project managers and management through the RCS, CARTs and the regional grant process</p> <p>6. Include statements from the region's Indigenous organisations in the Regional Catchment Strategy All completed</p>	
		3	Meet our legal obligations regarding Aboriginal participation	<p>1. Include processes to meet legal obligations within the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's project management framework Aboriginal Procurement Policy drafted Section 3 of the Project Management Framework (Project Oversight)</p> <p>2. Provide training for relevant staff regarding the legal obligations of working in culturally-sensitive places PPWCMA staff have participated in multiple training events since 2013</p> <p>3. Include clauses within Port Phillip & Westernport CMA grant guidelines and contracts that respond to relevant legal obligations of the CMA and grant recipients Grant guidelines have been updated annually since 2014. PPWCMA contributed to Victorian Landcare guidelines and Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP) process 2018</p> <p>4. Share and promote information regarding cultural heritage and legal obligations with organisations, Landcare networks and groups, landholders and others that may be involved in natural resource management in this region Hosted regular events supporting government, water retailers, Landcare and community groups Social media posts</p> <p>5. Ensure Port Phillip & Westernport CMA employment processes address legal obligations PPWCMA are an inclusive Equal Opportunity Employer with Indigenous Participation Plan and Diversity Inclusion Plan</p>
4			Establish and follow protocols to ensure the free, prior and informed consent of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities for projects that affect their rights and interests	<p>1. Develop an Indigenous Protocol Policy to ensure the acknowledgement of Traditional Owners is expected practice at relevant Port Phillip & Westernport CMA events Acknowledgement is developed and used in current plans and documents. Policy not yet endorsed</p> <p>2. Include protocols and steps for the engagement of Indigenous organisations in the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's project management framework Section 6 of the Project Management framework. New partnership agreement with Wadawurrung and Bunurong Land Council and existing with Wurundjeri and Wathaurong Coop.</p> <p>3. Ensure that Indigenous organisations are appropriately informed, consulted and/or involved in the planning and implementation of relevant Port Phillip & Westernport CMA projects Regular discussion and support meetings and known goals and aspirations accessible to all staff. PPWCMA staff consult TOs during project development eg NLP2 and BRP in 2018</p>

5	Provide supportive workplace arrangements for staff and contractors as they engage with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities, including appropriate resourcing and time for project and program delivery	1. Include the provision of adequate time for Indigenous engagement as a requirement in the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's project management framework	This is currently done well but not across all projects from NLP1, NLP2 will see 100% status
		2. Ensure that staff reserve adequate time and budget for Indigenous engagement within the planning and delivery of their projects	This is currently done well but not across all projects from NLP1, NLP2 will see 100% status
6	Achieve meaningful engagement and building of trust and mutual respect with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities	1. Develop formal partnership agreements between the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA and each of the Indigenous organisations in the region	2 existing partnership agreements. 2 new partnership agreements. Regular meetings, dialogue and discussion
		2. Establish and foster strong personal relationships between Port Phillip & Westernport CMA personnel and Indigenous Elders/leaders	All staff can refer to some Elders and Traditional Owners by name. Examples: Bunurong Sea Country Team project proposal, RIF project evaluation meetings, renewal of work to complete Wadawurrung Agreement, Great contribution of TOs to the Phillip Is staff & Board retreat.
		3. Provide opportunities for Indigenous people to be involved in relevant Port Phillip & Westernport CMA activities	We always invite relevant representatives to events. e.g. CARTs, sustainable agriculture initiatives, Grow West Planting Day, Yellingbo, fire initiatives
7	Ensure respect for Aboriginal people's culture, knowledge and obligations to Country through our work	1. Conduct respectful acknowledgements at relevant Port Phillip & Westernport CMA events	All staff now acknowledge country at start of gatherings and are supported to do so
		2. Arrange for formal welcomes at relevant events (with financial support for these services)	All staff have an appreciation of when this is required and how to arrange a booking
		3. Include acknowledgements and relevant Indigenous information in Port Phillip & Westernport CMA documents including the Corporate Plan and Annual Report	Standard text is available for documents and Communications staff always check to ensure this is relevant and appropriate
		4. Promote Indigenous culture, values and aspirations through Port Phillip & Westernport CMA communications channels including newsletters, websites and social media	We are active promoters via Facebook, newsletter and email
8	Provide for Aboriginal people to be actively represented in our relevant decision-making processes	1. Seek Indigenous representation in grants assessment committees (with financial and technical support where possible)	BRP process. Supported across fire projects
		2. Promote opportunities for Board and staff positions to Indigenous organisations and communities	PPWCMA will prepare adequately to support Indigenous applicants when Board vacancies occur
9	Achieve participation of Aboriginal communities and organisations in our projects and programs	1. Seek Traditional Owner representation in project steering groups/committees (with financial and technical support where possible)	Yarra4Life have a steering committee member support by Wurundjeri Council. Each TO group has provided a support letter for Catchment Partnership
		2. Ensure Port Phillip & Westernport CMA-led projects such as Yarra4Life, Ramsar Protection Program, Living Links, etc. each include at least one target regarding their relationship with Indigenous organisations of the region	Project staff have selected where a representative is able and capable of representing their community for current and NLP2
		3. Provide Indigenous organisations with annual updates on relevant Port Phillip & Westernport CMA-led projects	Delivered by the RIF role as part of regular meetings
		4. Promote and facilitate the participation of Indigenous people from this region in broad policy and project development processes such as those for the Victorian Water Plan, Victorian Cultural Water networks, development of Indigenous fire protocols and practices, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), bush foods, etc.	Yarra Strategic Plan. Healthy Waterways Strategy. Biodiversity Response Planning. Integrated Water Strategy
10	Support Aboriginal groups in their pursuit of economic opportunities and employment in land and water management	1. Develop an Indigenous Procurement Policy that enables efficient engagement of Indigenous organisations and people in the provision of relevant services	Policy is written for adoption within PPWCMA Procurement Policy
		2. Develop opportunities for Indigenous employment as a priority where possible	Ongoing committed through to continue pursuing this via partnership agreements
		3. Communicate funding and employment opportunities to Indigenous organisations and assist them to pursue relevant opportunities	Achieved through regular communication e.g. Bunurong Sea Country Team project proposal
		4. Advocate to other organisations for the inclusion of Indigenous employment opportunities within their programs	Ongoing collaboration with other CMA regions and Vic Government, water retailers, e.g. Cert III Holmesglen and developing Bunurong NRM team, Narrap team. Wadawurrung NRM knowledge
		5. Support the development of skills by Indigenous people that will increase their prospects for employment	Certificate III Conservation Land Management Holmesglen, Bunurong Sea Country Team project proposal with guarantees of work from 3 councils.
11	Support initiatives that contribute to health and wellbeing and to closing the gap of disadvantage	1. Support and participate in 'Close the Gap Day' events	Close the gap activities with Boon Wurrung and Bunurong. Support training and employment
		2. Promote programs that benefit Indigenous education, social participation, health, wellbeing and safety	PPWCMA support many training, education, employment and active participation initiatives with each of the partner 5 Indigenous organisations

Coordinating the **GROW WEST PROGRAM**

Over 388,000
trees planted by
48 landholders
in 2017-18

Seven organisations and
five community members
an active part of the Grow
West Implementation
Committee

200 community
members planted 7000
trees at Telford Park in
Bacchus Marsh

14 YEARS OF LANDSCAPE REHABILITATION

Since 2004, Grow West has worked to improve degraded landscapes around Bacchus Marsh, in Melbourne's west. Its vision is to rejuvenate up to 10,000 hectares and develop vegetation connections across landscapes between the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park.

Grow West has worked with a range of landholders on revegetation projects ranging from one to over 100 hectares. In total, over 2500 hectares have been revegetated with the aim to enhance biodiversity, reduce the spread of noxious weeds and pest animals, reduce erosion and improve landholder skills and participation.

The success of the project is due to the strong collaboration between the organisations and community, who come together to provide direction, support and advice to ensure that the dedicated landholders receive the best management advice.

Landholders who benefit from Grow West are often new to property ownership as well as from established farming enterprises. The success of the Grow West Project is evident through the landholders who repeatedly support the project and continue a successful collaboration of organisations.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-18

During 2017-18, Grow West delivered on-ground works and coordination for a range of projects:

- \$50,000 from partner organisations, including the Moorabool Shire Council, Melbourne Water and Southern Rural Water to contribute to the ongoing planning and coordination of Grow West.
- \$240,000 the Victorian Government's Biodiversity On Ground Hubs for the Protect and Connect Melbourne's project.

In 2017-18, implementation of the Greening the West – 1 Million Trees project in the Grow West area continued, with 48 landholders planting 388,862 trees.



Looking into the Rowsley Valley from Yaloak Estate, one of Grow West's Greening the West project sites

Community engagement continued to be a focus during 2017-18. At the annual Grow West Community Planting Day, held in July 2017, 200 volunteers planted over 7000 seedlings across three hectares of land, contributing to the overall goals of Grow West.

Grow West also supported the Bacchus Marsh Rotary Community Art Show again, awarding a \$500 prize to photographer Burnie McRitchie for his interpretation of the Grow West landscape. His work titled Four Boobook Owls shows the curious eyes of local barking owls nesting in a tree along the Werribee River.

LOOKING AHEAD

Grow West will continue its engagement with the wider community through the annual Grow West Community Planting Day in July 2018. In 2018-19, the planting day will be held at Sheoak Hill, a 552ha 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. Grow West envisages planting 5000 seedlings at this ambitious site.

Grow West will also like to focus on its communication plan by increasing awareness of the project within the region by way of its online presence, display opportunities and raising its profile by acknowledging past projects and revisiting landholders and telling their story in different mediums.



Winner of the 2018 Grow West Art Prize, Four Boobook Owls by Burnie McRitchie

2017-18 TARGETS

ACHIEVEMENT

Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Grow West project.



Up to 580ha of land improved through threat management and native plantings.



At least 200 participants involved in on-ground environmental actions in the Grow West area.



Landholders and partners participating in the delivery of on-ground works report high-levels of satisfaction with the incentive and grants process.



Significant, long-term funding is secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of works associated with Grow West.



Case Study

7000 TREES PLANTED AT TELFORD PARK

The annual planting day is one of the Grow West's biggest events and is an important opportunity involved the broader Bacchus Marsh community in the rejuvenation and restoration of local landscapes. In 2017-18, the Moorabool Shire Council hosted the event on Sunday 16th July at one of their reserves, Telford Park, which is located next to the council offices in Darley, Bacchus Marsh.

Grow West has been working with Moorabool Shire for many years now on their environmental reserves, so it was exciting to run an annual community planting day at a reserve where local residents will see the direct benefit.

Telford Park is a 16 hectare park, named after its last private land owner, William Telford, who died in 1928. It was a landfill site during the mid-20th century and while some revegetation has occurred since then, more native vegetation is required to prevent erosion affecting local waterways and to help the site become a refuge for native fauna.

In addition to 6000 that were trees planted on the day, another 1000 were planted by school students on Thursday 20th July, meaning the planting goal of 7000 was reached.

Grow West thanks the many organisations, local groups and volunteers that helped make the day a success including Victorian National Park Association, Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee, Bacchus Marsh Lions Club, Victorian Mobile Landcare Group, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Dera Sacha Sauda, the Bacchus Marsh Scouts and Girl Guides and the Bacchus Marsh community.

The event was funded through the Greening the West – 1 Million Tree program which is supported by the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Program (part of the National Landcare Program). The project creates a unique opportunity to make substantial, wide ranging improvements to the liveability and sustainability of the west.



Some of the many enthusiastic volunteers who came to the 2017 Grow West Community Planting Day

Coordinating the **LIVING LINKS PROGRAM**

Collaborative action to create an urban web of green spaces that connect people and nature

Environmental works at 24 priority sites in 2017-18, including 22.5ha of revegetation and 55.5ha of weed control

22 community events in 2017-18, including the inaugural Discover Dandenong Creek Festival

PARTNERSHIPS FOR A WORLD-CLASS URBAN ECOSYSTEM

For the past 11 years, Living Links has brought together a wide range of partners who share a vision to create a web of green spaces where people and nature connect in Melbourne's south-east. By creating a web of high quality, interconnected green spaces and recreational trails, the program aims to enhance urban biodiversity and to improve opportunities for people to experience the many benefits of connecting with nature.

Living Links is a collaboration between numerous organisations and community groups, including:

- 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
- Bushwalking Victoria
- Conservation Volunteers Australia.

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA coordinates Living Links on behalf of the partner organisations by convening a Coordination Committee, managing the project's finances and employing project staff who lead project delivery, reporting and promotion.



Fishing enthusiasts gather at Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong for World Wetlands Day 2018

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-18

2017-18 saw the continued delivery of the 'Transforming the Dandenong Creek corridor into a world-class urban Living Link' project, funded \$1 million through the Victorian Government's *Our Catchments, Our Communities* initiative. By June 2020, the project will have improved environmental values at 38 priority sites along the creek corridor and engaged over 2000 people to better understand and appreciate the natural values of this important waterway.

In 2017-18, project works included 55.5 hectares of weed control (21.5 hectares new and 34ha ongoing) weed control and 22.5 hectares of revegetation at 24 priority areas, as well as installation of nesting hollows and fencing of sensitive areas. 22 community events attracted 1251 attendees, including 10 planting days, 2 litter clean-up events, 2 frog monitoring training sessions, 3 bird discovery walks, 1 night walk, 3 other educational events, and the inaugural Discover Dandenong Creek Festival (see case study).

Our efforts to increase citizen science monitoring of frog populations along the Dandenong Creek, in partnership with Melbourne Water, have paid off with 197 Frog Census reports received in 2017-18, as opposed to 80 reports received over the previous 20 years.

Other project activities included creation of a Wild Families Activity Sheet, sponsoring a local primary school to take part in the Kids Teaching Kids program, and initiating two Masters of Research projects with Deakin University to undertake social research into community use and appreciation of the Dandenong Creek corridor.

For the broader Living Links program, 2017-18 has seen a strong focus on project communications and marketing, including finalising our new Communications Plan, producing five short videos to promote Living Links and our projects, revitalising our website, and compiling the collective achievements of all Living Links partners into a two-page Annual Snapshot. We have also been reviewing and updating our Strategic Plan for the next five years.



Some excited young bird watchers on a Backyard Bird Discovery Walk at JW Manson Reserve in October 2017

2017-18 TARGETS

ACHIEVEMENT

Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Living Links project.	✓
At least 15ha treated for pest plants and/or animals and 10ha revegetated.	✓
At least 500 volunteers and community members involved in up to 25 events.	✓
Partners and community members participating in Living Links report high-levels of satisfaction and that it is achieving urban biodiversity improvement.	✓
Additional long-term significant funding is secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of works associated with Living Links.	✓

LOOKING AHEAD

The next two years will see the continued delivery of on-ground and community engagement works as part of the 'Transforming the Dandenong Creek corridor' project. The Living Links program was identified as a priority project by the Dandenong Catchment Integrated Water Management Forum partners and it is hoped that this will lead to new funding opportunities.

Immediate priorities for the broader Living Links program include development of a schools engagement program, carrying out a gap analysis to identify 'missing links' in the network of shared trails and green spaces across the region, and seeking major funding to continue our work to extend and enhance urban green spaces.

Case Study

DISCOVER DANDENONG CREEK FESTIVAL

The inaugural 'Discover Dandenong Creek Festival' was held on Thursday 12th April at Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North. The purpose of the festival was to celebrate the natural wonders of the Dandenong Creek. It was jointly hosted by Living Links and the City of Greater Dandenong, as part of the \$1 million project funded by the Victorian Government's *Our Catchments, Our Communities* initiative to transform the Dandenong Creek corridor into a world-class urban Living Link.

Dandenong Creek is a very important waterway for Melbourne's south-east - not only because of its considerable environmental values (such as providing habitat and connectivity for wildlife) - but also because it offers so many of Melbourne's residents an opportunity to connect with nature on a daily basis. It is one of the 17 priority corridors identified in the Living Links masterplan.

Over 350 people attended the event, including many families with young children. There was face-painting, nature craft, science activities, carp fishing, waterbug identification, native fish and frog displays, guided wetland walks, a native plant giveaway, live music, Indigenous dancing, and a live native animal show.

Gabrielle Williams, State Member for Dandenong, attended on behalf of the Victorian Government and the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water. Ms Williams spoke on the importance of valuing our green spaces and connecting with them for our health and wellbeing.



Harry Habitat, Sarah Maolagan (Living Links Coordinator), Gabrielle Williams (Member for Dandenong), Lily Litter and David Buntine (CEO, PPWCMA)

Coordinating the **YARRA4LIFE PROGRAM**

Completed five-year, \$1 million project funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program

233ha pest animal control, 13ha of revegetation and other on-ground works undertaken in 2017-18

Secured a further \$299,100 from the Australian Government to support the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum

CREATING NEW HABITAT CONNECTIONS IN THE YARRA VALLEY

Yarra4Life is a major environmental project in the Yarra Valley that aims to protect, improve, increase and connect habitat for native animals including the Helmeted Honeyeater and the Leadbeater's Possum.

A 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, thereby expanding the habitat range for these and other native animal species.

Partner organisations working together in Yarra4Life in 2017-18 included:

- Parks Victoria
- Yarra Ranges Council
- Melbourne Water
- Yarra Ranges Landcare Network

- Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater
- Trust for Nature
- Victorian National Parks Association
- Friends of Leadbeater's Possum
- DELWP
- Zoos Victoria
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Wurundjeri Land Council Inc
- Conservation Volunteers Australia.

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA coordinates Yarra4Life on behalf of the partner organisations by convening a coordination committee, managing the project's finances and employing project staff who lead the delivery on on-ground works, reporting and promotion.



The Yarra4Life Coordination Committee at Karwarra Australian Plant Garden

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-18

In 2017-18 Yarra4Life completed a five-year, \$1 million project funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

This included the completion of on-ground works by eight landholders allocated funding through round two of the private land incentives program. These works have improved habitat for Helmeted Honeyeater's in high-priority locations.

Major habitat restoration works at Coranderrk were completed through a grant awarded to the Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation for fencing, weed control and revegetation works at its 'Coranderrk' property near Healesville. This final stage included the weed control and planting a further 10,000 indigenous plants across 5.4 hectares.

These works complete a multi-year project including the planting of 20,000 plants across 10.8 hectares, 5.3 kilometres of fencing protecting 18.2 hectares as well as weed and pest animal control in high priority area of the property. These works have been specifically designed to meet the habitat requirements of Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's possum as well as fit in with the farming objectives of the Estate.

Stage one of restoration works at Burringma Biik have been completed. With the assistance of Trust for Nature, this 2.3 hectares parcel of land was purchased with funding from both the Victorian Government's Threatened Species Protection Initiative and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and has been transferred into the National Reserve System. Restoration works included deer exclusion fencing around 3.4 hectares and weed control across the site, including the removal of willows, blackberry and prunus species and the revegetation of 2 hectares.



Corrine May from the PPWCMA and landowner Pat inspect tree planting on Pat's property as a result of the Yarra4Life private land incentives program.

A total of 11 community engagement events, attended by 385 participants, have been conducted through Yarra4Life. Events range from weed identification field days to a celebration event run in partnership with the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater to officially announce Burringma Biik and celebrate 150 years since the naming of the Helmeted Honeyeater.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Great He Ho Escape project will commence in 2018-19. This project will be funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and will focus on restoring habitat at two locations, with the view to establishing new satellite populations of Helmeted Honeyeater within 5-10 years.

Case Study

BURRUNGMA BIIK

Burringma Biik is a 2.3 hectare parcel of land purchased with funding from both the Victorian Government's Threatened Species Protection Initiative and the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and has been transferred into the National Reserve System. Through Yarra4Life Trust for Nature were engaged to negotiate the purchase and transfer of the land and in October 2017 final settlement was reached and restoration of the site commenced.

Stage one of restoration works have been delivered by the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater and involved weed control across the site, including the removal of willows, blackberry and prunus species and high density revegetation across approximately half the site.

A deer exclusion fence has also been installed to protect the revegetation works. A total area of 3.4 hectares has been protected by this 800m fence. Plans are in place to continue revegetation and other restoration works at the site through the Great He Ho escape project.

The name Burringma Biik was assigned to the site by Wurundjeri Elders after consultation and a site visit in early 2017. The name means 'misty lands' in Woi wurrung, the traditional language of the Wurundjeri people.



James Merlino MP, Bob Anderson from Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater, Victoria Marles, CEO, Trust for Nature and Kacie Melfi from PPWCMA celebrating the transfer of Burringma Biik and 150 years since the naming of the Helmeted Honeyeater.

2017-18 TARGETS

ACHIEVEMENT

Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Yarra4Life project.	✓
Up to 461ha of land improved through management of threats and plantings of native vegetation.	✓
At least 50 volunteers, land managers and Indigenous people participate in activities that improve their knowledge and skills in managing land for threatened species.	✓
Landholders and partners participating in the delivery of on-ground works report high-levels of satisfaction with the incentive and grants process.	✓
Additional long-term significant funding secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of landscape-scale works associated with Yarra4Life.	✓

Coordinating the **GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG PROGRAM**

22 organisations
working together to
improve the Maribyrnong
Valley environment

173,000 trees planted
at 44 sites as part of the
Greening the West One
Million Trees initiative

96ha of weed control and
198ha of rabbit control
undertaken to support
work to restore Jackson's
Creek in Sunbury

An environmental vision for the Maribyrnong Valley, Greening the Maribyrnong is a major environmental program of works aimed at revitalising some of the degraded escarpments of the Maribyrnong Valley through control of weeds and pest animals and revegetation with native habitat. Its long-term ambition is to establish a nature link stretching from the Macedon Ranges to inner Melbourne.

Greening the Maribyrnong brings together a number of organisations and community groups, including:

- 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 Land Council
- Friends of Steele Creek

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA coordinates Greening the Maribyrnong on behalf of the partner organisations. Two project coordinators were employed to work collaboratively with partner organisations, managing the project's finances and leading the delivery of on-ground works, monitoring and reporting.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-18

During 2015-16, the PPWCMA was announced as a key delivery partner in the \$5 million Greening the West – 1 Million Trees project, which forms part of the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Program.

2017-18 has seen the major implementation of this project within the Maribyrnong catchment with 173,000 trees planted at 44 sites using both tubestock and direct seeding methods of revegetation.

The 'Restoring the natural glory of Jacksons Creek at Sunbury' project aims to establish a nature link along Jacksons Creek between the Emu Bottom Wetlands and Salesian College on the edge of Sunbury, has seen substantial works take place. Funded through the Victorian Government's *Our Catchments, Our Communities* initiative, the project has undertaken



Before and after direct seeding at a landholder's Greening the West – 1 Million Trees project site in Romsey

96 hectares of weed control, 198 hectares of rabbit control and is shifting 49 hectares of land from a traditional grazing regime to revegetation with native trees and shrubs. These works were preparation for the planting of 25,000 trees and shrubs in the winter of 2018.

The project received an allocation of \$300,000 through the Victorian Government's Our Catchments Our Communities initiative. The project aims to improve native vegetation along the river valley, help local animals including the Growling Grass Frog, Swift Parrot and Platypus, improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, protect and showcase significant Indigenous sites and provide community education about the natural values of the creek. Partners in the project include Melbourne Water, Salesian College, Wurundjeri Land Council, Hume City Council and the Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland.

During 2017-18, Greening the Maribyrnong also continued its maintenance work along six kilometres of Emu Creek in partnership with Melbourne Water. This project has been running for the last four years and will conclude in the third quarter 2018.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 'Restoring the natural glory of Jacksons Creek at Sunbury' project will be the major delivery focus during 2018-19 with community plantings to be held in conjunction with the Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland Reserve.

Follow up maintenance and replacement plantings under the Greening the West – 1 Million Trees project will be completed in 2018-19.

Ongoing engagement and collaboration between partners involved in Greening the Maribyrnong will also continue into 2017-18.

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Greening the Maribyrnong project.	✓
Up to 250ha of land improved through the management of threats and planting of new native vegetation.	✓
Landholders and partners participating in the delivery of on-ground works report high-levels of satisfaction with the incentive/grants process.	✓
Enhanced local media profile for the Greening the Maribyrnong project including engagement with local schools, corporate organisations and community groups.	✓
Additional long-term significant funding secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of works associated with Greening the Maribyrnong.	✓

Case Study

COLLABORATING FOR A LIVEABLE SUNBURY

The 'Restoring the natural glory of Jacksons Creek at Sunbury' project is working to establish a substantial buffer corridor of native vegetation along 10.5 kilometres of the creek (between the Emu Bottom Wetlands and Salesian College) in order to decrease stress on remnant native vegetation as a result of urban development.

The Jacksons Creek corridor is home to local populations of the Swift Parrot, Growling Grass Frog and Platypus, but it is also home to a growing local community. Urban growth and development is proceeding at a very rapid pace in the Sunbury area. In recent years, the population has reached 35,000 with further development in this growth corridor estimated to lead the Sunbury-Diggers Rest area to house 71,000 people.

Jacksons Creek runs through the centre of this corridor and supports the community with natural amenity, a sense of being not far from nature and general liveability. These competing priorities has brought often fractious relationships between developers and local community groups.

Greening the Maribyrnong, through this is project, has sought to bring government, the community and businesses together to achieve a shared vision for all. In addition, the Wurundjeri Land Council's Narrap land management team have been playing an important role in the delivery of on-ground works, including undertaking cultural burns on the project site.

Part of the project area is subject to development planning approvals, but while these associated processes play out, the project has brought the local Friends of Group together with the land owner, land manager and the developer to agree on returning a section of grazing land to indigenous trees and shrubs.

This area of land will extend the Emu Bottom Wetland Reserve and provide both an important environmental buffer as well as an opportunity for community engagement. As the project enters its second year it is shifting its focus onto engaging the broader Sunbury community, through community plantings being run in conjunction with the Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland, with the first one planned for August 2018.



Wurundjeri's Narrap Team participate in a cool burn of the community planting site adjacent to Emu Bottom Wetland Reserve on Salesian College

Coordinating the **RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM**

\$3.12 million over five years from the Australian Government to protect Ramsar wetlands

\$640,000 in funding over four-years from the Victorian Government to implement actions in the Western Port Ramsar Site Management Plan

\$150,000 in funding over two years secured from the Australian Government to investigate the feasibility of feral cat eradication on French Island

PARTNERSHIPS TO PROTECT OUR WETLANDS

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 is coordinated by the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA and funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

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.

This highly successful, multi-partner program is delivered through collaboration with multiple organisations and land managers including:

- 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
- Lang Lang Foreshore Reserve COM

These partnerships ensures that pest plant and animal control can be coordinated and planned together to ensure optimum results across a large area.

Significant emphasis is also placed on community engagement activities to raise awareness of the environmental values of these Ramsar-listed wetlands. A variety of information sessions, community workshops and events, as well as activities with local Indigenous groups, have helped promote the uniqueness and importance of these wetlands.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-18

2017-18 has been a productive year for the Ramsar Protection Program. Approximately \$620,000 was dedicated to various works that dealt with feral cats, foxes, rabbits, goats and pigs cumulatively across 21,000 hectares. In addition, 2000 hectares were treated for weed control. Over the five years that the project 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 boxthorn 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 both Ramsar sites has achieved substantial reductions in goats, feral cats, foxes, pigs, deer,



Aerial view of Altona Coastal Park and Port Phillip Bay

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 1388 community members.

Highlights included:

- Compilation of a multi-media package, including video and interactive mapping, to promote the program and its partners, and increase awareness of Ramsar wetlands in the Port Phillip and Western Port region
- A three-day Indigenous Wetland and Shorebird Conservation workshop delivered in partnership with Corangamite CMA and BirdLife Australia attended by 20 Indigenous participants who learnt about wetland ecology and identifying Australian waterbirds and shorebirds, helping to boost their future employment opportunities

LOOKING AHEAD

Implement the eradication phase for feral cats on French Island.

Collaboration with partner organisations to deliver significant pest animal and weed control activities will continue in 2018-19 with the funding allocated to this work from the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Community engagement and participation will continue to strengthen with numerous workshops, forums and events planned over the coming years.



Installing signage at The Spit Wildlife Reserve with Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria

Case Study

FERAL CAT ERADICATION ON FRENCH ISLAND

PPWCMA are working with the Australian Government's Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner to investigate future options for the eradication of feral cats on French Island.

In 2017, PPWCMA commissioned an assessment of the feasibility, benefits and costs of feral cat eradication using the Investment Framework for Environmental Resources (INFFER) approach. The assessment has involved an evaluation of proposed project activities; a review of available information, interviews with relevant experts and stakeholders, two workshops with stakeholders and the French Island community, and extensive review of draft reports by the project steering committee. This feasibility assessment process determined that a 'whole of island' feral and stray cat eradication option was realistic and achievable, with a benefit to cost ration of 1 to 1.16.

A project coordinating committee consisting of French Island Landcare, Parks Victoria, Zoos Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, DELWP, and technical specialists has been established to guide this project. The 'French Island Feral Cat Eradication Project Plan' has been developed outlining the three operational phases (planning; foundational work; and eradication implementation) of feral cat eradication over the next twenty years. This committee will also advocate for changes to legislation and support the declaration of feral cats as a pest species in Victoria.

Entering the foundational phase, a recommendations report has been completed for the effective monitoring of cats and wildlife. This monitoring plan will help inform the project coordinating committee of the effectiveness of the existing feral cat trapping program, whilst providing baseline statistics of feral cat distribution and abundance across the entire island. Further survey work will be completed in 2018 to monitor key native species that are vulnerable to feral cat predation.



Setting up feral cat traps on French Island

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Ramsar Protection Program.	✓
Approximately 20,000ha treated for pest plants and animals.	✓
Over 500 volunteers and community members participating in activities and events.	✓
Landholders and partners participating in the delivery of on-ground works and community engagement activities report high-levels of satisfaction with the Ramsar Protection Program.	✓
Partnerships and capacity building with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities demonstrate improved management of Ramsar wetlands and commitment to on-going collaboration for future management.	✓
Additional long-term significant funding is secured to support on-going coordination and implementation of landscape-scale works in the Ramsar sites.	✓

Coordinating the VALUING OUR VOLCANIC PLAINS PROJECT

Five-year, \$980,000 project funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program

875ha of weed management, 235ha of rabbit control and 79ha of ecological burning undertaken during the project

\$168,027 provided to 3 councils in 2017-18 through the competitive incentive program

Valuing Our Volcanic Plains was a five-year, \$980,000 project coordinated by the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA, funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. 2017-18 was the final year of the project.

Targeting the Victorian Volcanic Plains to the west of Melbourne, the project combated invasive weeds and pest animals and improved land management practices in order to help threatened species such as the Striped Legless Lizard (*Delma impar*) and the Matted Flax-Lily (*Dianella amoena*).

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA employed a project coordinator to manage the project, including a competitive incentives program for delivery of works on private land. Strong collaboration between the Hume City Council, City of Greater Geelong, Melton City Council, Corangamite CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning were key to the successful delivery of the project.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017-18

In 2017-18, the final round of the competitive incentives program saw \$168,027 allocated to focus on the use of fire as a land management tool. This work aimed to increase native pasture grass availability and yield, while reducing hazardous fuels and suppressing weeds in the Victorian Volcanic Plains region.

This round was conducted in collaboration with councils and Indigenous organisations. Community engagement events such as burn workshops were held in conjunction with Wurundjeri Land Council and Wadawurrung.

875 hectares of land was treated for priority weeds, 235 hectares treated for rabbits and 79 hectares treated through ecological burning. These works are making a significant contribution to the protection and enhancement of EPBC-listed grasslands and grassy woodlands on the Victorian Volcanic Plains.

LOOKING AHEAD

Although the current round of funding for the Victorian Volcanic Plains is complete the work that has been done will be built on in the future by landholders, councils and government to ensure that they grasslands are conserved for future generations.

In particular, the work undertaken to coordinate the cool burns in the Volcanic Plains has built positive, long-term relationships that will lead to future collaboration.

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
Delivery of activities and on-ground works that fulfil the commitments associated with the Valuing our Volcanic Plains project.	✓
Improved management of approximately 54ha of grasslands through the application of ecological burning and other on-ground works.	✓
At least two Indigenous organisations and 10 Indigenous participants engaged in capacity building for grassland management.	✓
Landholders and partners report high-levels of satisfaction with the stakeholder engagement, activities and achievements of the Valuing our Volcanic Plains Program.	✓

Case Study

SUNBURY RINGS COOL BURN

Through the Valuing our Volcanic Plains project, the PPWCMA worked with the Wurundjeri Land Council and Hume City Council to undertake a cool burn at the Sunbury Rings in May 2018.

The use of traditional burning techniques (known as cool burns) for grassland management aims to encourage the growth of native plant species such as Ruby Saltbush, Kidney Weed and Tree Violet by minimising competition with weeds and germinating the seeds of native species after the fire.

The Sunbury Rings are located in the valley formed by Jacksons Creek with a steep eastern escarpment and gentler western escarpment. The range of volcanic hills and sedimentary slopes that run north-south to the west helped develop the large alluvial plains on the west bank of Jacksons Creek. These rich alluvial flats contributed to making Jacksons Creek an important source of food for both Aboriginal people and European settlers. The eastern bank connects to large basalt plains that run to Emu Creek. The steep embankment has been formed by Jacksons Creek cutting deeply into the basalt and is the dominating topographical feature of the area.

The landscape contains three Aboriginal earthen rings on the western slopes. It is likely that the area was used as an Aboriginal gathering place and these three extremely rare earth rings (Sunbury Rings) are evidence of Aboriginal land use. The rings are owned and managed by the Wurundjeri Land Council, who had expressed a desire to build their knowledge of traditional burning practices.

On 2nd May 2018, Hume City Council and Wurundjeri's Narrap Land Management Team delivered the burn under the guidance of Uncle Dave Wandin and Habitat Land Management. The burn was used as an education tool for other Indigenous groups, contractors, council representatives, friends of groups and Landcare members. It provided a story of the Indigenous use of fire and the opportunity for the participants to experience the cool burn with the area burnt being able to be walked on immediately.

The area had not been burnt for a period of years and the burn outcome will be positive in treating the weeds as well as encouraging the native grasses to return. The 10 hectare site was treated for serrated tussock, prior to the burn and then again after the burn. A vegetation survey was also done before and after to identify the outcomes of the burn.



Sunbury Rings cool burn in progress



Walking on the cool burn minutes after it was completed

Catchment CONDITION

CONTEXT

This report is a snapshot of selected indicators of environmental condition for the Port Phillip and Western Port region. It shows indicators for biodiversity, waterways, land, coast, bays and community stewardship.

This report 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



SUMMARY OF THE PPWCMA'S VIEW OF TRENDS

THEME	2016-17 ASSESSMENT	2017-18 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 & Western Port	Positive	Positive	Data shows that the region's bays, particularly Port Phillip Bay, are in good condition. Regular environmental monitoring occurs.
Community	Positive	Positive	There is strong community contribution to environmental management in this region, including from extensive Landcare groups and networks.

BIODIVERSITY (HIGHLY CONCERNED)

Native vegetation

The diversity, extent and quality of the region's native vegetation is essential to the health and diversity of all living things. Before settlement, all of the region's 1.3 million hectares was covered by approximately 100 different native vegetation communities.

The most recent data (2005) from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning shows about 500,000 hectares of native vegetation remains; about 39 percent of the pre-settlement cover. 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. Protection and maintenance of this vegetation is the top priority because its large area and security offer the most achievable conservation prospects. But this priority alone will not protect biodiversity because 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 information on native vegetation is available in the Regional Catchment Strategy at ppwrms.vic.gov.au. This table summarises the 2005 estimates of native vegetation extent and quality across seven sub-regional divisions.

AREA	EXTENT	QUALITY
	(AREA OF NATIVE VEGETATION AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL AREA)	(% 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%

Native animals

The table below summarises PPWCMA's commissioned analysis of the likely persistence of every amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal and fish species ever recorded in the region. It is important to note that this analysis does not reveal the size or health of animal populations but the likelihood that a species observed in the past can still be found.

PPWCMA has now commissioned this analysis twice; in 2008 and in 2018. Some initial findings include:

- There has been a massive increase in data over the past decade from around 500,000 records in 2008 to 3.5 million records in 2017. This is due to professional and citizen science contributing to public-access databases. This report is a celebration of the success of citizen science.
- More records means more reliable data and direction to species needing urgent and closer monitoring. Targeted monitoring by professionals, students and citizen science is a clear next step.
- The Probability of Persistence (PoP) method is proving to be relatively inexpensive and produces useful and informative results. PPWCMA's pilot can be applied to local areas across the other catchment management regions of Victoria to create a statewide picture.

These figures are from the draft 2018 findings. Final results and interpretations will be published in the second half of 2018. In the meantime, the analysis method and its 2008 findings are available in the Regional Catchment Strategy at ppwrms.vic.gov.au.

AREA	SPECIES LIKELY TO BE PERSISTING		
	NUMBER OF SPECIES EVER KNOWN	ESTIMATED NUMBER NOW	PERCENTAGE OF PAST KNOWN SPECIES
Bass Coast, South Gippsland & Islands (2018)	345	240	70
Casey, Cardinia and Baw Baw (2018)	379	285	75
Macedon Ranges, Hume, Mitchell & Whittlesea (2018)	376	288	77
Moorabool, Melton, Wyndham and Greater Geelong (2018)	428	332	78
Mornington Peninsula (2018)	370	256	69
Urban Melbourne (2018)	485	367	76
Yarra Ranges & Nillumbik (2018)	378	284	75

WATERWAYS (NEUTRAL)

Many agencies, organisations, groups and community sectors have a role in the protection and management of the region's waterways. In the Port Phillip and Western Port region, Melbourne Water is the designated waterway management authority and leads the development and implementation of the Healthy Waterways Strategy. The Environment Protection Authority, councils, Parks Victoria, community groups and individual landowners also make important contributions.

A major survey of public attitudes about the region's waterways was conducted in 2016. It showed high levels of satisfaction with local waterways and that satisfaction is largely driven by waterway condition. Almost half of all those surveyed said they visited their local waterway at least fortnightly. The top three roles of waterways were identified as providing a natural habitat for plants and animals, providing parkland/open space and a place for recreation. Communities have become increasingly aware of environmental problems and they value improvements in environmental condition. Farmers, Landcare networks and other community action groups play a significant role in contributing to improvements in the environmental condition of waterways through better on-farm management practices, local planting days and pest plant and animal control.

The Port Phillip and Westernport region has over 14,000 natural wetlands and nearly 60,000 constructed wetlands. Natural wetlands include natural lakes and marshes and coastal wetlands, while constructed wetlands include stormwater wetlands, treatment ponds and dams. Wetlands are important as habitat for many animals throughout their life cycles and provide refuge in times of drought. They are vital feeding grounds and nurseries for land, marine and freshwater animals. They store and supply critical components of the natural food chains for rivers and in-shore waters. Hundreds of bird species depend on the region's wetlands for all or part of their annual lifecycles. Migratory birds travel to Port Phillip and Western Port wetlands from as far away as Alaska, Siberia, China and Japan.

Recognising the economic values of waterways is essential to appreciating the wide scope of ecosystem services – the benefits that humans receive from nature. Economic costs and benefits delivered by waterways include:

- Urban water supply/storage
- Recreation and commercial tourism
- Natural water treatment and dilution/assimilation of waste
- Production from extractive uses
- Drainage and flood conveyance
- Increase in property values.

Declining waterway condition create economic costs for communities

- Loss of water quality and higher water treatment costs
- Costs of alternative water supplies
- Loss of recreation opportunities and tourism revenues
- Loss of land or public infrastructure such as roads and bridges
- Loss of diversity and abundance of aquatic plants and animals.

Melbourne Water's Yarra and Bay 2016-17 Report Card (see yarraandbay.vic.gov.au) provides the following overview of waterway health measured by water quality.

	VERY GOOD (HIGH QUALITY WATERWAYS) OR GOOD (MEETS WQ STANDARDS)	FAIR (SOME EVIDENCE OF STRESS)	POOR (UNDER CONSIDERABLE STRESS) OR VERY POOR (UNDER SEVERE STRESS)	OVERALL WATER QUALITY RATING	TREND OVER 15 YEARS
Dandenong Catchment	2.6%	0	97.4%	Very Poor	Stable
Mornington Catchment	0	0	100%	Poor	Stable
Yarra Catchment	29.6%	21.2%	49.2%	Poor	Improving
Maribyrnong Catchment	9.7%	76.4%	13.9%	Fair	Improving
Werribee Catchment	36.6%	20.4%	43%	Fair	Improving
Western Port Catchment	3.8%	46%	50.2%	Poor	Stable

(Note: the Yarra & Bay Report for 2017-18 was not available in time for this annual report)

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 achieve 'Very Good' and 'Good' scores. Water quality 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.

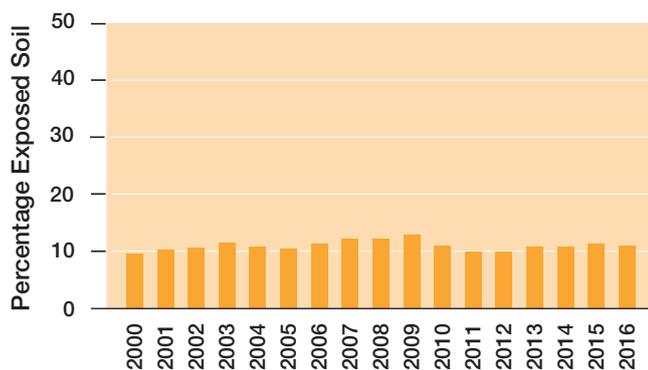
A major theme in Melbourne Water's new Healthy Waterway Strategy is that urbanisation, population growth and climate change pose enormous challenges to success.

LAND (CONCERNED)

Primary production in the Port Phillip & Western Port region has an estimated 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, as seen in the graph below. This means there is relatively low risk of widespread soil erosion.

The below tables outlines the percentage of exposed soil in the Port Phillip and Western Port region between 2000 and 2016 (*Australia's Environment Explorer, 2016*)



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 this region, can be more susceptible to soil erosion, soil quality decline, rabbit and weed infestations.

Councils, government agencies, non-government organisations, Landcare groups and networks, community groups, individual property managers and others seek to protect and improve land health. In 2017-18, this work included:

- PPWCMA led agricultural industry groups and farmers to improve sustainable land management practices. These included trials in the use of compost under grapevines and trials for improved soil protection and reduced pesticide use in horticulture. This program was supported by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (NLP).
- The NLP also supported an intensive program of planning and learning services for Landcare groups and networks across the region.
- An ongoing project led by the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network (and supported by NLP) using on-farm demonstrations and trials to support hundreds of farmers to increase their knowledge and adoption of innovative farming practices to improve productivity and natural resource condition.
- Council programs of land management grants and rate rebates to improve sustainable land uses.

These programs face significant factors that impact the condition of land and landscapes in this region including:

- New housing and industry development and associated infrastructure reduce the area of productive land inside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and maintain 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.

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 (CONCERNED)

The 600 kilometres of coastline in this region has diverse habitats and values and is heavily visited and used. Much of the coast has been 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 Regional Catchment Strategy (available at ppwracs.vic.gov.au) and shown in the table below.

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

From a broad perspective, the PPWCMA is concerned that the overall environmental condition of coasts in the region is reducing. Further, the PPWCMA is concerned that there is no consistent and applied method for measuring coastal condition nor monitoring program to assess change over time. The completion of the new Marine and Coastal Act may address this in the near future.

However, there are many organisations that undertook work in 2017-18 that contributed to the health of the coasts including:

- Ongoing implementation of the Ramsar Protection Program directing funds from the Australian and Victorian governments to priority works by Parks Victoria, Councils, Phillip Island Nature Parks, community groups and others to control weeds, feral cats and foxes, protect native vegetation and raise community awareness of the values of coastal wetlands.
- Management of coastal areas by many community-based foreshore committees thorough weed management, fencing, erosion management and revegetation.
- The Coastal Assets Protection Program led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to identify built assets at risk from climate change impacts.
- The ongoing work of the Association of Bayside Municipalities to coordinate coastal council projects, policy, planning and advocacy.

PORT PHILLIP BAY AND WESTERN PORT (POSITIVE)

Port Phillip Bay and Western Port are the region's top 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.

The State of the Bays 2016 report by the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (available at ces.vic.gov.au) reported on the condition of water quality, intertidal vegetation, water and shore birds and carbon sequestration for the bays and includes the information summarised below.

	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

Water quality monitoring is conducted at fixed sites in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port by the Environment Protection Authority and Melbourne Water for nutrients, water clarity, dissolved oxygen, salinity, algae, metals, water temperature and faecal contamination. It is one of the most complete environmental monitoring programs in the region.

The table below summarises water quality condition for Port Phillip Bay and Western Port. (Source: *State of the Bays 2016*)

WATER QUALITY INDICATOR	PORT PHILLIP BAY	WESTERN PORT
Water quality	Good	Poor
Phytoplankton levels	Good	Poor
Sediment contamination	Fair	Fair
Other indicators	Good	Good

During the summer season, the Environment Protection Authority also issues beach advisory alerts to inform public recreational users across Port Phillip Bay. Of the 36 beaches monitored between 2013 and 2016, 94-97 percent met the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) objectives for swimming.

Intertidal vegetation across the bays is predominantly comprised of mangroves, saltmarsh and seagrass. Since European settlement, Port Phillip Bay has retained 50% of its saltmarsh area and Western Port has retained 90 to 95 percent.

Sea level rise poses risks to saltmarsh communities. During the last major drought (1997-2009), Port Phillip Bay lost large areas of seagrass. Seagrass in Western Port declined between the mid-1970s to 1984 but then increased in the mid-1990s to 1999. The table below provides an overall assessment of these three intertidal habitats. (Source: *State of the Bays 2016*)

HABITAT	PORT PHILLIP BAY	WESTERN PORT
Saltmarsh	Fair	Fair
Mangrove	Good	Fair
Seagrass extent	Fair	Fair

Available bird data focuses on roosting shore birds for Port Phillip Bay and water birds for Western Port. Over the past 20 years, roosting shore birds have been declining globally and this pattern is seen in Port Phillip Bay. From 1981 to 2010, 16 migratory roosting shore bird species were monitored during the summer season along the western shoreline. Of these, 10 species have exhibited significant population decline. Similarly, several Western Port water bird species have experienced serious declines including terns, cormorants and the Australian Pelican. (Source: *State of the Bays 2016*)

BIRD	PORT PHILLIP BAY	WESTERN PORT
Roosting shore birds	Fair	NA
Water birds	NA	Fair

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 organisations contributed during 2017-18 to understanding and improving the health of the bays:

- The Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan was completed. The Plan has three main goals for stewardship, improved water quality, conservation of habitats and marine life
- Management of the marine parks and sanctuaries in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port by Parks Victoria
- The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning's Port Phillip Bay Fund assigning \$3.5 million to new projects by community groups and organisations.
- Environment Protection Authority's ongoing work aimed at reducing the amount of pollutants entering waterways and bays from rural, urban and coastal areas
- The Nature Conservancy's work to restore Port Phillip Bay's shellfish reefs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP (POSITIVE)

Continuing population growth challenges natural resource management in this region. Melbourne had the largest growth of all Australia's Greater Capital Cities (125,400) in 2016-17, followed by Sydney (101,600) and Brisbane (48,000). These three cities accounted for over 70% of Australia's population growth. By contrast, population in the rest of Victoria grew by only 19,000.

Five of Melbourne's outer suburbs ranked in Australia's top 10 largest growth suburbs - South Morang in the city's north, Cranbourne East in the south-east, Craigieburn-Mickleham in the north, Point Cook in the west and Epping.

With an increased population using and impacting on natural resources, a priority of the Victorian Government's new Biodiversity 2037 plan is to create opportunities for communities to better connect with their local natural areas and to identify understand the issues that must be addressed into the future.

The top three community concerns about environmental health relate to invasive weeds, feral animals and declining numbers of native animals (from Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015, available at regionalwellbeing.org.au) though the survey results need to be interpreted with caution due to the small sample size in a region with a population of 4.5 million people.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS TOP THREE



Perceived environmental health measures in the Port Phillip & Western Port region 2015 (Source: Schirmer et al., 2016).

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. Councils, the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and others make very important contributions.

The Landcare movement in this region includes 84 Landcare groups and 13 networks that together cover 75.7 percent of the region's rural land area and directly involve around 2,857 landowners managing properties. The 2016-17 Port Phillip & Western Port Landcare Report Card indicated that Landcare volunteers contributed an estimated \$2 million value in volunteer time delivering activities. This work achieves significant benefit for natural resources every year and the Landcare movement also provides significant additional benefits by educating the broader community, fostering resilient communities and engaging the youth of today to be the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

The Landcare movement in rural areas is complemented by hundreds of similar volunteer groups operating in urban and peri-urban areas such as 'Friends of' groups and committees of management that work in coastal areas.

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.

SUMMARY OF PROJECT OUTPUTS IN 2017-18

The PPWCMA directed funds from the Victorian Government, Australian Government and other sources to numerous priority projects across the region in 2017-18. Outputs collectively achieved with these funds included:

- 13.3 kilometres of fencing
- 705 hectares of new vegetation established
- 12,556 hectares treated to manage weed infestations
- 46,312 hectares treated to manage pest animals
- 79 hectares with environmental fire regime
- 1,591 hectares with changed agricultural practices
- 69 management agreements in place
- 8,837 participants at various community and stakeholder events
- 71 partnerships
- 21 plans produced
- 9 publications produced.

KEY CHALLENGES FOR MANAGEMENT

A perennial challenge in this region is the large number of land managers and planning authorities which 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 presents new threats and uncertainties for natural resource management and planning.

Business and CULTURE

High standards of business management and governance achieved

Employee engagement score of 74% in 2018 (above the public sector average)

An organisational culture embracing diversity and inclusion

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA strives for best practice business management, high standards of corporate governance, efficient delivery of its programs and excellent levels of health and wellbeing of its employees.

GOVERNANCE

The PPWCMA Board is skills-based with nine members at the end of the 2017-18 year. During 2017-18, 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.

The membership and qualifications of the Board are summarised on pages 8-9.

BOARD MEETINGS

Six PPWCMA Board meetings were held during 2017-18. The attendance of Board members at the meetings is summarised in the following table:

BOARD MEMBER	BOARD MEETINGS ATTENDED
Tania Foster*	5/5
Neville Goodwin	6/6
Susan Anderson	6/6
Virginia Wallace	5/6
Allan Bawden	4/6
Moragh Mackay	5/6
Sandra Brizga*	5/5
Olivia Lineham*	4/5
Leslie McLean*	5/5
Greg Aplin^	1/1
Sarah Ewing^	1/1
Jane Jobe^	1/1

* Appointed to the Board on 1st October 2017

^ Ceased to be a board and committee member 30th September 2017

Board gender balance data

The gender balance of the PPWCMA Board, as at 30th June 2018, is shown in the table below:

BOARD MEMBERS	2017-18	2016-17
Male	3	3
Female	6	5
Total	9	8

PPWCMA BOARD COMMITTEES

A number of committees, established by the Board, made important contributions to the governance and compliance of the PPWCMA in 2017-18. These committees each have membership and a charter approved by the Board and report at each Board meeting. The membership and charter of each committee are reviewed on a regular basis.

The Business and Remuneration Committee met on three occasions in 2017-18. 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 detailed in the table below:

MEMBER	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Tania Foster (Chair)	3/3
Neville Goodwin	3/3
Allan Bawden	2/3
Virginia Wallace	3/3

The Audit Committee met on five occasions in 2017-18. The key items addressed included planning and oversight of internal audit projects, oversight of implementation of the PPWCMA's annual financial statements and review of compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework and Tax Compliance Framework.

Membership and attendance at Audit Committee meetings is detailed in the table below:

MEMBER	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	INDEPENDENT MEMBER
John Rundell (Chair)	5/5	Yes
Allan Bawden	5/5	Yes
Susan Anderson	5/5	Yes
Virginia Wallace	3/5	Yes
Leslie McLean*	3/3	Yes
Jane Jobe^	2/2	Yes

* Appointed to the Board on 1st October 2017

^ Ceased to be a Board and Committee member 30th September 2017

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.

The PPWCMA had an external Chair of the Audit Committee, John Rundell, through 2017-18. John is a Chartered Accountant and Managing Director of Stratica, a risk consulting firm and qualified security assessor with offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Hong Kong. He has degrees in engineering, economics (with a major in accounting) and law. He is a former partner of KPMG, working globally, particularly in Asia. John has over 30 years' experience in accounting across both the public and private sectors. He is an accredited mediator and arbitrator, listed on the panels of numerous international arbitration centres. He was Chair of the Risk and Audit Committee of the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning for six years until October 2016. He is currently on the Board of Film Victoria and the Victorian Healthcare Association where he also chairs their audit and risk committee.

The Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee met six times in 2017-18. The Committee's major focus was the ongoing coordination of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). Membership and attendance at Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee meetings is detailed in the table below:

MEMBER	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Moragh Mackay (Chair)	5/6
Susan Anderson	6/6
Neville Goodwin	2/4
Sandra Brizga*	4/4
Sarah Ewing^	2/2
Greg Aplin^	2/2

* Appointed to the Board on 1st October 2017

^ Ceased to be a Board and Committee member 30th September 2017

A Community Grants Assessment Panel met twice in 2017-18 to assess the applications submitted for the PPWCMA Community Grants. Susan Anderson was the Board member on the panel at both sessions.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Since its formation, the PPWCMA has engaged external professionals to undertake an internal audit program. Reviews undertaken in recent years dealt with exposure to fraud, risk management framework, compliance with the Statement of Obligations, business operations, financial management, project management, statutory compliance, community engagement, stakeholder engagement and strategic planning, 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 are recorded in a register and their implementation is monitored by the Audit Committee.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Processes for the identification, reporting and monitoring of risks at the PPWCMA are practical and effective. Risk identification and management is included on many meeting agendas including Board, committee and employee meetings.

The PPWCMA Audit Committee undertakes an internal review of the risk management framework on a bi-annual basis and internal audit reviews are undertaken on a regular basis, the most recent completed in March 2018. Results of these reviews are reported to the Audit Committee prior to submission to the Board.

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 2017-18 reporting period, the PPWCMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$137,037, with the details shown below:

Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure Total	\$137,037
Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure	\$0
Total = A + B	
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.

COMPLIANCE

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 Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.



Tania Foster
Chair, PPWCMA Board
8th August 2018

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 2017-18.
	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.	2016-17 PPWCMA Annual Report contain a catchment condition report and was tabled in Parliament on 21st September 2017.
	Submit to the Minister each a 'Corporate Plan' articulating key result areas against which performance can be measured.	The Corporate Plan 2017-18 was submitted to the Minister in May 2018.
	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 2017-18 and a Register Board members' interests is maintained.
Public Administration Act 2004	Comply with the Victorian Government's Public Sector Employment Principles.	In 2017-18 the PPWCMA applied the Victorian Government's Public Sector Employment Principles, as described in the <i>Public Administration Act 2004</i> . See page 62 for more information.
Freedom of Information Act 1982	To provide the community access to, as far as possible, information held by the PPWCMA.	For the 12 months ending 30 June 2018, PPWCMA received 0 applications. See page 61 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 61.
Financial Management Act 1994	Undertake a review operations and advise the Minister regarding compliance with Financial Management Compliance Framework (FMCF).	The PPWCMA undertook a review of its operations and is reporting 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 2017-18 and it is in accordance with 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.
Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006	The use of cultural heritage management plans and interact with registered Aboriginal parties to evaluate management plans, and enter into cultural heritage agreements.	In 2017-18 the PPWCMA applied diligence with regard to the requirements of the Act and encouraged interaction and best practice through its Indigenous Facilitator.
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 have any tenders of this scale in 2017-18.

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 complies with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.
Equal Opportunity Act 2010	Ensure that PPWCMA staff are aware of and comply with the Act.	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 (OHS) issues at each board meeting and in Annual Report.	In 2017-18 OHS was 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.	PPWCMA's policies and the renewal of the enterprise agreement is in progress comply with Award system.
Government Advertising Expenditure	Disclosure of PPWCMA advertising expenditure under FRD 22H.	The PPWCMA has incurred no government advertising expenditure for 2017-18.
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority Act 1996 Victorian Government Risk Management Framework (VGRMF)	Comply with the Victorian Government Risk Management Framework.	The PPWCMA's reviewed its compliance with complied with the VGRMF and is attesting 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. The PPWCMA did not supply any data sets to DataVic during 2017-18.
Gifts, benefits and hospitality policy framework	Maintain a register of gifts, benefits and hospitalities offered to staff.	PPWCMA has a policy 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.	PPWCMA continued to provide information regarding rights and responsibilities to all new staff as part of the induction process.

Consultancy expenditure

In 2017-18 the PPWCMA did not engage any consultancies

Significant changes in financial position

There were no matters which changed the PPWCMA's financial position in 2017-18.

Significant changes or factors affecting performance

There were no significant changes or factors which affected the PPWCMA's performance during 2017-18.

Disclosure of major contracts

The PPWCMA did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) in 2017-18.

Capital projects

The PPWCMA has not undertaken any capital projects during 2017-18.

Industrial relations

No time was lost in 2017-18 due to industrial accidents or disputes.

International travel

There was no international travel undertaken by PPWCMA Board members or employees acting on behalf of the PPWCMA during 2017-18.

Availability of other information

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, Business and Governance Manager, Phone 03 8781 7900, email enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au.

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 2017-18)
- Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged (none charged in 2017-18).

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

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.

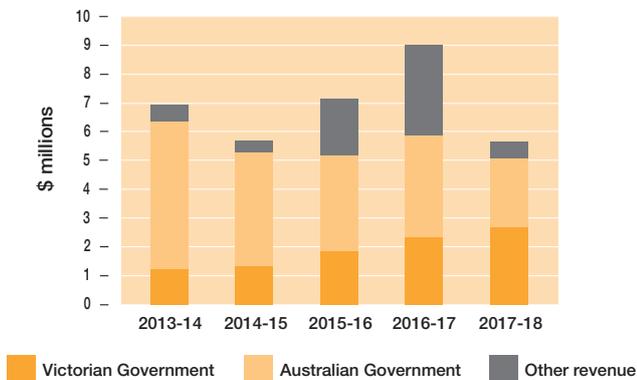
Through 2017-18, the PPWCMA focused on fulfilment of its statutory responsibilities and contractual obligations and achievement of its Key Performance Indicators whilst maintaining low operating costs across the business.

The 2017-18 Financial Statements show that the PPWCMA received total revenue of \$5.6 million and a deficit of \$1.2 million at year end. The deficit reflects the PPWCMA's expenditure of funding that was received in advance in 2016-17 and was committed to be expended on projects in 2017-18.

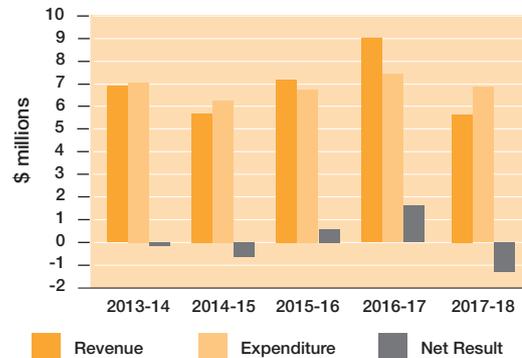
FIVE-YEAR SUMMARY OF PPWCMA FINANCES

	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
Revenue					
Victorian Government contributions	2,726,562	2,440,186	1,896,568	1,399,010	1,302,982
Australian Government contributions	2,346,240	3,491,635	3,327,601	3,904,233	5,100,428
Other revenue	543,092	3,093,726	2,004,150	354,190	547,560
Total revenue	5,617,894	9,025,547	7,228,319	5,657,433	6,950,970
Expenses	6,866,200	7,448,534	6,683,571	6,255,471	7,057,375
Net result for the reporting period	(1,248,276)	1,577,013	544,748	(598,038)	(106,405)
Net cash flow from operating activities	(1,234,276)	1,474,740	577,312	(862,921)	170,633
Total assets	4,084,947	5,369,945	3,891,021	3,240,360	4,195,170
Total liabilities	696,608	733,300	831,389	725,476	1,082,248

SOURCES OF PPWCMA REVENUE OVER FIVE YEARS



PPWCMA FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY



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 ppwcma.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

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001

Internet: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: See the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

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 2018 the application fee is \$28.90.

Request should be addressed to:
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA
Freedom of Information Officer
Level 1, 454 – 472 Nepean Hwy
FRANKSTON, VIC, 3199

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

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Workforce data

	AS AT 30 JUNE 2018							AS AT 30 JUNE 2017						
	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	8	7.62	6	2	7.62	-	-	11	10.62	8	2	9.62	1	1
Female	8	5.71	3	4	4.8	1	.91	9	7.03	4	5	7.03	-	-
Age														
15-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	1.6	1	1	1.6	-	-
35-44	8	5.8	4	4	5.8	-	-	10	8.8	6	3	7.8	1	1
45-54	4	3.71	2	1	2.8	1	.91	5	4.43	3	2	4.43	-	-
55-64	3	2.82	2	1	2.82	-	-	3	2.82	2	1	2.82	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Classification														
Executive	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Manager	4	3.82	3	1	3.82	-	-	4	3.45	2	2	3.45	-	-
Other	11	8.51	5	5	7.6	1	.91	15	13.2	9	5	12.2	1	1
Senior Employees*														
Executive \$200,000-\$219,999	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Total	16	13.33	9	6	12.42	1	.91	20	17.65	12	7	16.65	1	1

H/C = headcount

FTE = full time equivalent

* Senior employees are employees that receive more than \$159,501 total remuneration package

Employment and conduct principles

The PPWCMA applies the Victorian Government's Public Sector Employment Principles, as described in the *Public Administration Act 2004*. The PPWCMA ensures this 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
- Applying merit and equity principles when recruiting employees. Internal and external recruitment selection processes ensure that applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably on the basis of key selection criteria and accountabilities without discrimination.

Workplace culture

The PPWCMA and its employees are guided by, and committed to, its organisational values of Collaboration, Leadership, Creativity and Reliability.

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 the PPWCMA uses to understand employee engagement and satisfaction.

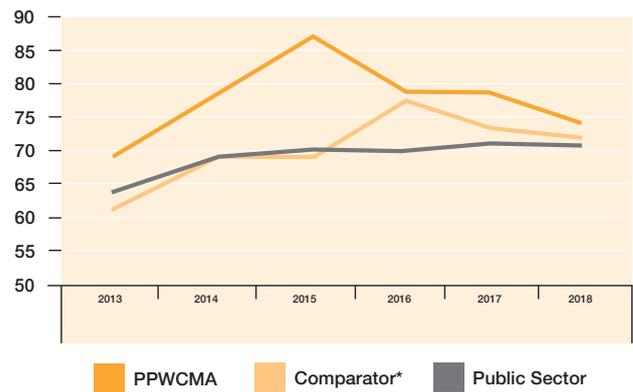
In May 2018 the PPWCMA participated in the survey and received a participation rate of 95 percent. The results were released in June 2018 and indicated that overall staff continue to be highly engaged and satisfied.

Job satisfaction

The level of overall job satisfaction in 2018 has slightly increased to 83 percent, from 80 percent in 2017.

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 2018 the PPWCMA had an Employee Engagement Index score of 74 percent, which has slightly decreased from 78 percent since 2017. This is higher than our comparator group* average of 72 percent and the public sector average of 71 percent.



*Comparator group includes 21 other Victorian CMAs and Water Corporations that undertook the People Matter Survey in 2018.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN

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 Diversity and Inclusion Plan in August 2017, and has implemented a number of actions within the plan. A summarisation of implementation progress to date is as follows.

On track
 Minor delay
 Major delay or barrier

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	TIME FRAME	COMMENTS
1 A model workplace and a diversity and inclusion leader The PPWCMA will be regarded as a model workplace regarding diversity and inclusion, and our Board and staff will champion diversity and inclusion beyond our organisation	Provide regular training and support to all Board members and staff to promote a strong understanding of, and support for, diversity and inclusion in the workplace	2017-18 & onwards	Training and awareness provided to all staff in February 2018.
	Include reference to implementation of the Diversity & Inclusion Plan into the Corporate Plan and specify contributions in individual staff work performance plans	2018-19 & onwards	The plan was referenced in the 2018-19 Corporate Plan. All employees must put a KPI in their 2018-19 Work Performance Plan to contribute towards the implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion Plan.
2 Gender representation The PPWCMA will strive for a reasonable gender balance within our Board, management and whole staff whilst applying the principle of equal employment opportunity	Trial an innovative recruitment approach by removing the name and gender of candidates from the initial assessment stage to prevent discrimination, stereotyping and potential hidden bias	2017-18 & onwards	The steps in our recruitment process are in place to trial this approach, but there has not been any recruitment to trial the approach since the Plan was approved.
	Ensure appropriate gender balance in recruitment/selection panels	2017-18 & onwards	This is a feature of the Recruitment and Selection Guidebook.
	Embrace and promote days of significance such as International Women's Day (IWD)	2017-18 & onwards	IWD on 8th March was promoted internally. A number of stakeholder/partner IWD initiatives were shared across social media.
	Promote programs that support women's progression into leadership positions	2017-18 & onwards	Women in Conservation Breakfast was attended by 3 female staff. Leadership Victoria programs and events were promoted to all staff. PPWCMA ran a Women in Agriculture Leadership Program.
	Encourage training and development for female staff that enhances their potential to advance towards executive and leadership positions	2017-18 & onwards	Women in Conservation Breakfast was attended by 3 female staff. Leadership Victoria programs and events were promoted to all staff.
3 Indigenous participation The PPWCMA will support and champion Indigenous participation within and beyond our organisation	Implement all of the actions in the PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan	2017-18 & onwards	See the separate progress report on pages 34-35 regarding implementation of the PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan.
4 Multicultural understanding The PPWCMA will not discriminate on the basis of cultural background (or similar) and will actively promote understanding of diverse ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic backgrounds within and beyond our organisation	Encourage staff to utilise their flexible working hours to participate in cultural and religious celebrations and events	2017-18 & onwards	At the February 2018 staff meeting employees were encouraged to work flexibly (e.g. swap working days) or to use their time in lieu to participate in cultural and religious celebrations and events.
	Implement internal and external communication activities to promote cultural and linguistic diversity and inclusion	2017-18 & onwards	Staff meetings have featured presentations from staff on religion and cultural values they have experienced and/or practice.
	Enhance and promote cultural days of significance such as Harmony Day	2017-18 & onwards	Harmony day was celebrated by Board Members and staff on 21st April 2018.
	Encourage staff to make educational presentations regarding different cultural, linguistic and religions at staff meetings	2017-18 & onwards	In 2017-18 employees made presentations at staff meetings on South Korean and Zimbabwean culture and language.
	Provide a quiet space that can be utilised for meditation or prayer	2017-18 & onwards	Quiet spaces have been identified at both Frankston and Sunbury.

	Become a member of the National Anti-Racism Partnership to contribute to the implementation of the National Anti-Racism Strategy and demonstrate our commitment to tolerance and anti-racism	2017-18 & onwards	Following communication with the Aust. Human Rights Commission it was decided not to pursue a partnership in 2017-18 due to limited PPWCMA capacity to deliver a significant anti-racism event.
	Include multicultural awareness training for staff as part of the PPWCMA corporate learning and development framework	2018-19 & onwards	To be commenced in 2018-19.
	Ensure our Employee Assistance Program providers are culturally competent	2018-19 & onwards	To be commenced in 2018-19.
	Explore the provision of culturally appropriate corporate clothing options for staff	2018-19	At a staff meeting, employees were encouraged to request culturally appropriate corporate clothing.
5 Life stage (age)	Encourage training and development for young staff that enhance the potential for them to advance in their careers	2017-18 & onwards	Staff are encouraged to have development plans that carefully consider their professional needs. Leadership Victoria programs and events were promoted to all staff.
The PPWCMA will not discriminate on the basis of age and will provide appropriate support for employees in all life stages	Include activities in our health and wellbeing programs that may be beneficial for mature age employees	2018-19 & onwards	A 'Financial Health' session was provided for all employees in February 2018. The PPWCMA partnered with Parks Vic and other Vic CMAs to submit a grant from the WorkWell Mental Health Improvement Fund to implement programs targeted at our mature age employees.
	Introduce mechanisms that assist mature age employees transition to retirement support	2018-19 & onwards	Draft 2018 EBA proposes changes to Long Service Leave (LSL) so that employees can take minimum 1 day LSL to enable retirement planning.
6 Sexual orientation and gender identity	Implement internal and external communication activities to promote LGBTQI awareness and inclusion	2017-18 & onwards	Harmony day was celebrated by Board Members and staff on 21st April. Wear it Purple Day will be promoted and celebrated in August 2018.
The PPWCMA will not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and will support the right to equality and fairness for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-gender diverse, intersex and queer people within and beyond our organisation	Embrace and promote days of significance such as International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia	2017-18 & onwards	Harmony day was celebrated by Board Members and staff on 21st April. Wear it Purple Day will be promoted and celebrated in August 2018.
	Ensure our Employee Assistance Program providers are LGBTQI inclusive and able to support LGBTQI employees	2018-19 & onwards	To be commenced in 2018-19.
	Develop an inclusive language guide and ensure that all PPWCMA policies have gender neutral terminology	2019-20 & onwards	To be commenced in 2019-20.
7 Disability	Implement internal and external communication activities to raise disability awareness	2017-18 & onwards	No significant activities or actions undertaken yet.
The PPWCMA will not discriminate on the basis of disability and will make reasonable adjustments to ensure employees with disabilities can undertake their roles	Embrace and promote events of significance such as International Day of People with Disability	2017-18 & onwards	International Day of People with a Disability is 3rd December. The PPWCMA will promote this day in 2018.
8 Health and wellbeing	Maintain a Health and Wellbeing Program and encourage participation from all employees	2017-18 & onwards	The 2017-18 Health and Wellbeing Program was fully implemented.
The PPWCMA will encourage and support employees to achieve and maintain good mental and physical health, work/life balance and personal resilience	Review policies and procedures regarding flexible working arrangements to ensure they foster employee health and wellbeing	2019-20	Policies will be reviewed as part of the normal cycle of PPWCMA policy review.

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 PPWCMA has long considered OH&S to be of utmost importance, and has strived for continual improvement. The OH&S safety management system 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

Following on from the state-wide desktop review of Victorian Catchment Management Authority OH&S systems in 2016-17, the PPWCMA commissioned a more detailed internal audit of the policies, procedures, structures and the implementation of the safety management system using AS/NZS 4801 as the review framework.

Following this audit, the PPWCMA quickly rectified the two elements of non-compliance, and has developed OH&S Strategy 2018-21 to improve upon areas of partial compliance. The strategy identifies the following four improvement areas to focus upon over the next three years, to achieve improved outcomes in a staged and prioritised manner:

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

Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Performance Indicators

MEASURE	INDICATOR	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Hazards	Hazards identified	1	1	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	7.5	5.7	0
Incidents	No. of incidents	1	2	6
	Rate per 100 FTE	7.5	11.3	36.6
Injuries	No. of injuries	1	3	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	7.5	17	6.1
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	4	4	6
	Site inspections	4	4	6

OUTLOOK FOR 2018-19

The PPWCMA will enter 2018-19 facing a number of changes.

The total revenue and staffing levels for the PPWCMA are forecast to be significantly lower than recent years, and there will be a major transition from previous projects to the first year of a new five-year Regional Land Partnerships program funded by the Australian Government.

There will also be a focus on implementation of a new strategic framework adopted by the Board in June 2018 and pursuit of opportunities that could strengthen the PPWCMA such as:

- Leadership of environmental grants programs in this region
- Leadership of more and/or larger projects funded by the environmental contributions levy and/or the Sustainability Fund
- Establishment of a long-term arrangement for water authorities to offset some carbon emissions through local revegetation programs managed by the PPWCMA
- Coordination of some aspects of threatened species enhancement programs funded through the Melbourne Strategic Assessment
- Coordination of some coastal and marine management work including the Coastcare program for 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. See page 5 for the PPWCMA's vision, mission and values.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE FOR 2018-19

2017-18 TARGETS	ACHIEVEMENT
Submit a Board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	✓
A risk management strategy/plan approved by the Board and being implemented.	✓
100 percent of the CMA's policies reviewed every three financial years.	✓
Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist Our additional aspirations.	✓
The 2016-17 Annual Report accepted by the Minister for Water.	✓
The 2017-18 Corporate Plan approved by the Minister for Water.	✓
All compliance requirements (as documented in the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Compliance Schedule) completed on time.	✓
The Victorian Auditor General's Office audit of the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's 2016-17 financial statements results in no adverse findings or significant recommendations.	✓
Audits commissioned by the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA as part of its internal audit program result in no adverse findings or significant recommendations.	✓
Development and adoption of a Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Diversity and Inclusion Plan.	✓
A high 'Engagement Index' score maintained for Port Phillip & Westernport CMA staff as measured in the annual Victorian Government 'People Matter' survey.	✓
All elements of the Australian Government's 'expected performance standards' for the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA achieved.	✓

Financial REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statutory declaration	68	Notes to and forming part of the statements	75-93
Independent auditor's report	69-70	1 – About this report	75
Comprehensive operating statement	71	2 – Funding delivery of our services	75
Balance sheet	72	3 – The cost of delivering services	77
Statement of changes in equity	73	4 – Key assets available to support output delivery	81
Cash flow statement	74	5 – Other assets and liabilities	83
		6 – How we financed our operations	85
		7 – Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements	87
		8 – Other disclosures	90

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 2018 and provides users with the information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it. It is presented in the following structure:

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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**
Revenue recognised in respect of Government grants contributions and other income sources
- 3. The cost of delivering services**
Operating expenses of the Authority
- 4. Key assets available to support output delivery**
Plant and equipment; furniture and equipment, and computers and accessories
- 5. Other assets and liabilities**
Other key assets and liabilities
- 6. Financing our operations**
Cash flow information, leases and commitments for expenditure
- 7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements**
Financial risk management, contingent assets and liabilities as well as fair value determination
- 8. Other disclosures**

DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 Minister for Finance 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 30th June 2018 and financial position of the Authority at 30th June 2018.

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 8th August 2018.



Ms Tania Foster
Board Chair
Port Phillip and Westernport
Catchment Management Authority
(Chairman)



Mr David Buntine
Chief Executive Officer
Port Phillip and Westernport
Catchment Management Authority
(Accountable Officer)



Mr Tipei Gambiza
Acting Business and Governance Manager
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 2018 • 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 2018 and their 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 <i>APES 110 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
15 August 2018



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Revenue			
Victorian Government grants and contributions	2.2	2,726,562	2,440,186
Australian Government grants and contributions	2.3	2,346,240	3,491,635
Other contributions	2.4	438,553	2,995,325
Interest	2.5	75,276	65,953
Other income	2.6	31,263	32,448
Total Revenue		5,617,894	9,025,547
Expenses			
Grant payments	3.2	2,910,614	3,546,697
Employee benefits	3.3	2,049,580	2,190,477
Supplies and services	3.4	1,897,753	1,700,369
Depreciation	4.2.1	8,253	10,991
Total Expenses		6,866,200	7,448,534
Net Result For The Year		(1,248,306)	1,577,013
Total Comprehensive (Deficit)/Surplus For The Year		(1,248,306)	1,577,013

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

BALANCE SHEET

As at 30 June 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.1	3,907,382	5,141,658
Receivables	5.1	137,172	179,750
Prepayments		20,255	13,646
Total Current Assets		4,064,809	5,335,054
Non-Current Assets			
Plant and equipment	4.2	20,138	28,391
Security deposits	5.1	-	6,500
Total Non-Current Assets		20,138	34,891
TOTAL ASSETS		4,084,947	5,369,945
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	230,326	197,933
Employee benefits	3.3.1	441,590	501,448
Total Current Liabilities		671,916	699,381
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee benefits	3.3.1	24,692	33,919
Total Non-Current Liabilities		24,692	33,919
TOTAL LIABILITIES		696,608	733,300
NET ASSETS		3,388,339	4,636,645
EQUITY			
Accumulated surplus		975,189	666,070
Committed funds reserve	6.3	2,413,150	3,970,575
TOTAL EQUITY		3,388,339	4,636,645

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 2018

	Committed Funds Reserve \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2016	2,076,713	982,919	3,059,632
Transfer (from)/to accumulated surplus	1,893,862	(1,893,862)	-
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	-	1,577,013	1,577,013
Balance at 30 June 2017	3,970,575	666,070	4,636,645
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

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 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities			
Receipts			
Government grants and other contributions		5,607,441	9,230,996
Interest received		80,829	51,875
Other contributions		31,263	32,448
Net GST Refunds received from ATO		370,850	209,480
Total Receipts		6,090,383	9,524,799
Payments			
Employees		(2,123,817)	(2,105,358)
Grants		(2,910,614)	(3,546,697)
Suppliers and other payments		(2,290,228)	(2,398,004)
Total Payments		(7,324,659)	(8,050,059)
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	6.1.1	(1,234,276)	1,474,740
Cash Flow from Investing Activities			
Payments for plant and equipment		-	(5,930)
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		-	(5,930)
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents		(1,234,276)	1,468,810
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		5,141,658	3,672,848
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	6.1	3,907,382	5,141,658

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.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. 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;'. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to align with current presentation and disclosure.

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. 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. Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those of the prior year.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 8th August 2018.

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 on its objectives, 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

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Victorian Government grants and contributions	2,726,562	2,440,186
Australian Government grants and contributions	2,346,240	3,491,635
Other contributions	438,553	2,995,325
Interest	75,276	65,953
Other income	31,263	32,448
Total income from transactions	5,617,894	9,025,547

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the income can be reliably measured at fair value.

2.2 Victorian Government grants and contributions

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	2,726,562	2,440,186
	2,726,562	2,440,186

2.3 Australian Government grants and contributions

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
National Landcare Program	2,346,240	3,491,635
	2,346,240	3,491,635

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

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Local Government and Agencies	256,707	559,182
Corporate sponsorship	6,187	16,250
Partner contributions	175,659	2,413,623
Landholder contributions	-	6,270
	438,553	2,995,325

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

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Interest income	75,276	65,953
	75,276	65,953

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

2.6 Other income

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Other income	31,263	32,448
	31,263	32,448

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 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

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Grant payments	2,910,614	3,546,697
Employee benefits	2,049,580	2,190,477
Supplies and services	1,897,753	1,700,369
Total expenses from transactions	6,857,947	7,437,543

3.2 Grant payments

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
General purpose grants	2,910,614	3,546,697
	2,910,614	3,546,697

Grants payments are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable. They include transactions such as: grants, subsidies, personal benefit payments made in cash to individuals; payments made to Victorian Government owned agencies, local government, non-government schools, and community groups.

NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

3.3 Employee benefits

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Salaries and wages	1,517,489	1,551,420
Annual leave	130,904	155,502
Long service leave	20,052	40,508
Employer superannuation contributions	156,155	165,324
Other employee expenses	224,980	277,723
	2,049,580	2,190,477

3.3.1 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.

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	72,818	101,077
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	6,796	11,757
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	53,718	60,632
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	242,863	251,668
Time in lieu		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	7,722	10,882
	383,917	436,016
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	19,566	25,100
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	38,107	40,332
	57,673	65,432
Total current provisions	441,590	501,448
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Employee benefits	21,416	29,400
On-costs	3,276	4,519
Total non-current provisions	24,692	33,919
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	466,282	535,367

NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

3.3.2 Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Opening balance	69,951	61,712
Additional provisions recognised	-	8,239
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	(9,002)	-
Closing balance	60,949	69,951

3.3.3 Salaries and Wages and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) 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 salaries and annual leave 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. Liabilities for salaries and annual leave 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.

3.3.4 Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

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.

3.3.5 On costs

Provisions for on costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are recognised separately from the provision for employee benefits.

3.3.6 Performance payments

Performance payments for the Authority's Executive Officer are based on a percentage of the annual salary package provided under their contract of employment. A liability is recognised and is measured as the aggregate of the amounts accrued under the terms of the contracts to balance date.

3.3.7 Termination benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or when an employee decides to accept an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. The Authority recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

3.3.8 Employer superannuation contributions

The amount charged to the Comprehensive Operating Statement in respect of superannuation represents contributions made or due by the Authority to the relevant superannuation plans in respect to the services of the Authority's staff (both past and present).

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.

The Authority does not recognise any defined benefit liability in respect of the plan because the entity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees; its only obligation is to pay superannuation contributions as they fall due. The Department of Treasury and Finance discloses the Victorian Government's defined benefit liabilities in its disclosure for administered items.

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

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate %	2018		2017	
			\$	Rate %	\$	
Vic Super	Accumulation	9.5	63,730	9.5	69,629	
Vision Super	Accumulation	9.5	17,675	9.5	9,499	
Emergency Services & State Super	Defined Benefits	10.3	14,161	10.3	13,790	
Equip super	Accumulation	9.5	8,824	9.5	-	
Uni. Super	Accumulation	9.5	8,774	9.5	12,239	
HOST plus	Accumulation	9.5	8,743	9.5	8,081	
Australian Super	Accumulation	9.5	7,932	9.5	8,826	
Fiducian Super (DIY Master Plan)	Accumulation	9.5	6,688	9.5	8,515	
HESTA Super Fund	Accumulation	9.5	4,841	9.5	8,255	
Australian Ethical Super	Accumulation	9.5	4,567	9.5	6,104	
Future Super	Accumulation	9.5	2,555	9.5	2,324	
Care Super	Accumulation	9.5	2,302	9.5	10,389	
Cbus Super	Accumulation	9.5	1,417	9.5	2,130	
Others	Accumulation	9.5	3,946	9.5	5,543	
TOTAL			156,155		165,324	

There were no loans from the Superannuation Funds to the Authority during the year. There were no outstanding superannuation contributions as at 30 June 2018 (2017: \$20,142).

3.4 Supplies and services

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Administration expenses	291,536	302,625
Operational expenses	1,365,794	1,138,904
Occupancy expenses	240,423	258,840
	1,897,753	1,700,369

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 (excluding consultants that are reported separately).

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 7.2.2 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

Structure

- 4.1 Recognition of plant and equipment
- 4.2 Classes of plant and equipment
 - 4.2.1 Depreciation
- 4.3 Movement during the financial year
- 4.4 Revaluation of non-current physical assets
- 4.5 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets
- 4.6 Impairment of Assets

4.1 Recognition of plant and equipment

Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000 (2017; \$1,000) and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as assets. All other assets acquired are expensed. Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration by the Authority are recognised at fair value at the date of acquisition.

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 Classes of plant and equipment

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Computers & Accessories		
At fair value	56,019	56,019
Less accumulated depreciation	(43,453)	(38,710)
	<u>12,566</u>	<u>17,309</u>
Furniture & Equipment		
At fair value	44,640	44,640
Less accumulated depreciation	(37,068)	(33,558)
	<u>7,572</u>	<u>11,082</u>
Total Plant and Equipment	<u>20,138</u>	<u>28,391</u>

4.2.1 Depreciation

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Furniture and equipment	3,510	4,464
Computers and accessories	4,743	6,527
	<u>8,253</u>	<u>10,991</u>

All non-current physical assets that have a limited useful life are depreciated. Where assets have separate identifiable components that have distinct useful lives and/or residual values, a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

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 assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

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

4.3 Movement during the financial year

	Computers and accessories	Furniture and equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$
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
Opening Balance 1 July 2016	17,906	15,546	33,452
Additions	5,930	-	5,930
Depreciation expense	(6,527)	(4,464)	(10,991)
Closing Balance 30 June 2017	17,309	11,082	28,391

4.4 Revaluation of non-current physical assets

Revaluation increments are credited directly to equity in the asset revaluation reserve surplus/(deficit), except that, to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense in determining the net result, the increment is recognised as revenue in determining the net result.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as an expense in the net result, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of assets, they are debited to the asset revaluation reserve.

Revaluation increases and revaluation decreases relating to individual assets within a class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are offset against one another within that class but are not offset in respect of assets in different classes.

Revaluation reserves are not transferred to accumulated surplus/(deficit) on derecognition of the relevant asset.

4.5 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

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

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 of the contractual financial assets and liabilities 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 2018

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2018	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Level 2 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Level 3 ⁽ⁱ⁾
		\$	\$	\$
Computers and Accessories at fair value	12,566	-	-	12,566
Furniture and Equipment at fair value	7,572	-	-	7,572

Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets as at 30 June 2017

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2017	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Level 2 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Level 3 ⁽ⁱ⁾
		\$	\$	\$
Computers and Accessories at fair value	17,309	-	-	17,309
Furniture and Equipment at fair value	11,082	-	-	11,082

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 is 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 depreciated replacement cost method. There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2018.

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

Reconciliation of level 3 fair value

	Computers and accessories	Furniture and equipment
2018	\$	\$
Opening Balance	17,309	11,082
Purchases (Sales)	-	-
Depreciation	(4,743)	(3,510)
Closing balance	12,566	7,572

	Computers and accessories	Furniture and equipment
2017	\$	\$
Opening Balance	17,906	15,546
Purchases (Sales)	5,930	-
Depreciation	(6,527)	(4,464)
Closing balance	17,309	11,082

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

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

4.6 Impairment of Assets

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 depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Recoverable amount for assets held primarily to generate net cash inflows is measured at the higher of the present value of future cash flows expected to be obtained from the asset and fair value less costs to sell.

NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

This note 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

NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - CONTINUED

5.1 Receivables

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Contractual		
Trade receivables	74,635	122,553
Security deposits	6,500	6,500
Accrued interest	8,523	14,077
Statutory		
GST Input Tax Credit receivables	47,514	43,120
Total Receivables	137,172	186,250
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current receivables	137,172	179,750
Non-current receivables	-	6,500

Receivables consist of:

- Contractual receivables, such as debtors in relation to goods and services, and accrued investment income; and
- Statutory receivables, such as amounts owing from the Victorian Government and Goods and Services Tax (GST) input tax credits recoverable.

Contractual receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less an allowance for impaired receivables. Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition for all debtors. Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as loans and receivables.

Statutory receivables, are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments because they do not arise from a contract.

5.1.1 Provision for doubtful debts

Collectability of contractual receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. A provision for doubtful debts is established when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The amounts credited to the provision are recognised as an expense in the comprehensive operating statement.

As at 30 June 2018 there were no receivables regarded as uncollectible (2017: Nil).

5.1.2 Past due but not impaired trade receivables

As of 30 June 2018, the Authority did not have trade receivables past due (2017: 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.

5.1.3 Fair value and credit risk

Due to the short-term nature of the current receivables, their carrying value is assumed to approximate their value. The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date is the higher of the carrying value and the fair value. There was no significant exposure to credit risk at balance date.

5.2 Payables

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Current Contractual		
Trade creditors	134,040	69,894
Accrued expenses	70,959	76,116
Current Statutory		
PAYG withheld	25,327	31,781
Superannuation	-	20,142
Total Payables	230,326	197,933

NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - CONTINUED

Payables consist of:

- Contractual payables, such as accounts payable. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid, and arise when the Authority becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of those goods and services;
- Statutory payables, such as goods and services tax and fringe benefits tax payables.

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as financial liabilities at amortised cost. Statutory payables 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 a contract. The contractual payables are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Statutory payables, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, 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.

5.3.1 Fair Value

Due to the short-term nature of the current payables, their carrying value is assumed to approximate their fair value.

NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This note 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.

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Cash on hand	600	600
Cash at bank	128,739	232,279
Cash at call	600,043	712,779
Short term deposits	3,178,000	4,196,000
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents*	3,907,382	5,141,658

* \$2,413,150 of \$3,907,382 cash and cash equivalents held at balance date are committed to specific projects for which funding has been provided to the Authority (2017 \$3,970,575 of \$5,141,658) - refer to Note 6.3 for further information.

The short term deposits are bearing fixed interest rates between 1.90% and 2.11% (2017: 1.67% and 1.81%).

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

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Net result for the Reporting Period	(1,248,306)	1,577,013
Depreciation	8,253	10,991
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	49,077	(15,064)
(Increase) in Prepayments	(6,608)	(111)
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	32,392	(122,158)
(Decrease)/Increase in Employee Benefits	(69,084)	24,069
Net Cash Inflow/(Outflow) from Operating Activities	(1,234,276)	1,474,740

NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

6.1.2 Financing Arrangements

The Authority has no overdraft or other financing facilities (2017: 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 2018 the Authority had the following lease commitments:

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Within one year	135,038	310,138
Later than one year but not later than five years	9,501	102,244
Total Lease Commitments (inclusive of GST)	144,539	412,382

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 2018, the Authority had no outstanding capital commitments (30 June 2017: 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:

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Committed funds	2,413,150	3,970,575
Total cash funds	3,907,382	5,141,658

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

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

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.

7.1.2 Categories of financial instruments

Loans and receivables are financial instrument assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost less any impairment. Loans and receivables category includes cash and deposits, trade and other receivables, but exclude statutory receivables.

Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Bad debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off, and classified as a transaction expense. A provision for impaired receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they 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. Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all of the Authority's contractual payables.

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

	Contractual financial assets – loans and receivables and cash \$	Contractual financial liabilities – financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
2018			
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
2017			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5,141,658	-	5,141,658
Trade receivables	122,553	-	122,553
Security deposits	6,500	-	6,500
Accrued revenue	14,077	-	14,077
Total contractual financial assets	5,284,788	-	5,284,788
Contractual financial liabilities			
Trade payables	-	69,894	69,894
Accrued expenses	-	76,116	76,116
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	146,010	146,010

The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts.

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

7.1.3 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 and beta analysis in respect of investment portfolios to determine market 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 "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.

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.

	Interest rate exposure				
	Carrying Amount \$	Weighted average interest rate %	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
2018					
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	423,994

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.

	Interest Rate Risk				
	Carrying Amount \$	-1% Results \$	Equity \$	+1% Results \$	Equity \$
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 is the risk of financial loss to the Authority as a result of a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument failing to meet its contractual obligations. Credit risk arises principally from the Authority's receivables.

The Authority's exposure to credit risk is minimal due to the characteristics of each customer. The receivable balance consists primarily of Government entities and the risk of failure to meet their obligations is minimal. Receivable balances are monitored on an on-going basis to assess the exposure to bad debts. The Authority has an accounts receivable procedure in place for the collection of overdue receivables.

Credit quality of contractual financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired.

	Financial institutions (triple-A credit rating) \$	Government agencies (triple-A credit rating) \$	Other \$	Total \$
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
2017				
Cash and deposits	945,358	4,196,000	600	5,141,658
Receivables	-	-	122,553	122,553
Total contractual financial assets	945,358	4,196,000	123,153	5,264,211

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 does not have any interest bearing liabilities.

Impairment of financial assets

At each reporting date, the Authority assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale equity investment, a significant or prolonged decline in value of the instrument below its cost is considered as an indicator that the investment is impaired. If any such evidence exists for available for sale financial assets, the cumulative loss measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that financial asset previously recognised in profit or loss is removed from equity and recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement. Impairment losses are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement. Impairment losses recognised in the comprehensive operating statement on equity instruments classified as available for sale are not reversed through the comprehensive operating statement.

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.

The Valuer General Victoria (VGV) is the Authority's independent valuation agency in relation to valuation of plant and equipment.

NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

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 2017-18 reporting period. These financial instruments include:

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

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 2018 the Authority had no contingent liabilities and contingent assets (2017: 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 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 2018 (2017 Nil).

8.2 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance 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 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP	(Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Tania Foster	(Chair)	01 Oct 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Neville Goodwin	(Chair)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Sep 2017
Neville Goodwin	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Gregory Aplin	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Sep 2017
Sarah Ewing	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Sep 2017
Jane Jobe	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Sep 2017
Susan Anderson	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Virginia Wallace	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Allan Bawden	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Moragh Mackay	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Sandra Brizga	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Olivia Lineham	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Leslie McLean	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
David Buntine	(CEO)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018

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.

	2018	2017
Income band		
\$0-\$9,999	4	0
\$10,000-\$19,999	8	7
\$20,000-\$29,999	0	1
\$200,000-\$209,999	0	1
\$210,000-\$219,999	1	0
Total number of Responsible persons	13	9
Total Remuneration	\$352,914	\$330,468

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	
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	2,726,562
National Heritage Trust of Australia	71,897
Melbourne Water	55,000
Payments made	
During the year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:	
Entity	
Parks Victoria	352,668
Trust for Nature	236,600
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	110,444

NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

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 includes 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

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	320,245	301,187
Post-employment benefits	25,620	23,949
Other long-term benefits	7,049	5,512
Total	352,914	330,468

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.

8.5 Remuneration of auditors

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Amounts paid or payable to the Victorian Auditor General's Office for the audit of the Authority's financial statements.	13,500	13,200

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.

NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

8.7 New Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued that are not yet effective

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards (AAS's) have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2018 reporting period. The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) assesses the impact of all these new standards and advises the Authority of their applicability and early adoption where applicable.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual period beginning on	Impact on Authority's Financial Statement
AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>	The key changes include the simplified requirements for the classification and measurement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier, as opposed to the current approach that recognises impairment only when incurred.	1 Jan 2018	While the preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 9, it will continue to be monitored and assessed.
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.	1 Jan 2018	The current revenue recognition for grants is to recognise revenue upon receipt of the funds. Under the contractual arrangements the Authority has specific performance obligations to be fulfilled and the changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 will result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements. The Standard will also require additional disclosures on service revenue and contract modifications.
AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	AASB 1058 standard will replace the majority of income recognition in relation to government grants and other types of contributions requirements relating to public sector not-for-profit entities, previously in AASB 1004 <i>Contributions</i> . The restructure of administrative arrangement will remain under AASB 1004 and will be restricted to government entities and contributions by owners in a public sector context, AASB 1058 establishes principles for transactions that are not within the scope of AASB 15, where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value to enable not-for-profit entities to further their objective.	1 Jan 2019	The revenue recognition for operating grants will need to be analysed to establish whether the requirements under other applicable standards need to be considered for recognition of liabilities (which will have the effect of deferring the income associated with these grants). Only after that analysis would it be possible to conclude whether there are any changes to operating grants. The impact on current revenue recognition of the changes is the phasing and timing of revenue recorded in the profit and loss statement.
AASB 16 <i>Leases</i>	The key changes introduced by AASB 16 include the recognition of most operating leases (which are currently not recognised) on balance sheet.	1 Jan 2019	The changes in standard will result in the recognition of the Authority's operating leases on the balance sheet.

In addition to those Accounting Standards listed above, the AASB has also released a number of other Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations. The application of the Accounting Standards and Interpretations are not expected to have any significant impact on the Authority's financial statements, consequently they have not been specifically identified above.

Disclosure INDEX

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Annual Report 2017-18 is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian Government legislations and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of DELWP's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

LEGISLATION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE
MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS AND FINANCIAL REPORTING GUIDELINES		
REPORT OF OPERATIONS		
Declarations		
SD 5.2.3	Responsible body declaration	7
Charter and purpose		
	Chair's report	7
	Vision, mission and values	5
FRD 22H	Manner of establishment and ministers	4, 75
FRD 22H	Nature and range of services provided	4
FRD 22H	Objectives, functions, powers and duties	4
Management and structure		
FRD 22H	Organisational structure and corporate governance	11
FRD 22H	Governing board	8, 56
SD 3.2.1 & FRD 22H	Audit committee – membership and responsibilities	57
FRD 22H	Board committees	56
Financial and other information		
FRD 22H	Achievements, operational performance and key initiatives	6, 10, 12
FRD 22H	Summary of financial results	60
FRD 22H	Workforce data	61
FRD 22H	Occupational health and safety	65
FRD 22H	Public sector values and employment principles	62
FRD 22H	Workforce inclusion policy	63
FRD 15E	Executive officer data	90
FRD 22H	Significant changes in financial position	59
FRD 22H	Significant changes or factors affecting performance	59
FRD 22H	Subsequent events	92
FRD 25C	Victorian Industry Participation Policy	58
FRD 22H	Government advertising expenditure	59
FRD 22H	Consultancy expenditure	59
FRD 22H	Information and Communications Technology expenditure	57
FRD 12B	Major contracts	59
FRD 22H	Freedom of Information	58, 61
FRD 22H	Building Act 1993	58
FRD 22H	Competitive Neutrality Policy	59
FRD 22H & PD Act	<i>Protected Disclosure Act 2012</i>	58, 61
FRD 22H	Statement of availability of other information	59
FRD 10A	Disclosure index	94
FRD 30D	Design and printing requirements	Inside cover
SD 5.2.1	Publication of report online	Inside cover
	Disclosure of grants and transfer payments	23
	Capital projects	59
	DataVic Access Policy	59

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Declarations		58
SD 5.1.4	Financial management compliance attestation	58
SD 5.2.2	Declaration in financial statements	68
Other disclosures		
FRD 21C	Disclosure of responsible persons and executive officer	90
FRD 22H	Current year financial review	60
FRD 22H	Five-year financial summary	60
FRD 12B	Major contracts	59
FRD 10A	Disclosure index	94
FRD 22H	Subsequent events	92
FRD 103G	Non-financial physical assets	83
	Cash flow statement	74
LEGISLATION		
	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	58
	<i>Building Act 1993</i>	58
	<i>Protected Disclosure Act 2012</i>	58
	<i>Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003</i>	58
	<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>	58

ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	MEANING
BAU	Businesses As Usual
BRP	Biodiversity Response Planning
CARTs	Catchment Action Round Tables
CAP	Conservation Action Planning
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DELWP	Department of Environment Land Water and Planning
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i>
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 Employee
HWS	Healthy Waterways Strategy
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission of Victoria
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IWM	Integrated Water Management
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MERIT	Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting, Improvement Tool
NLP	National Landcare Program
NLP1	National Landcare Program Phase One (2014-15 to 2017-18)
NLP2	National Landcare Program Phase Two (2018-19 to 2022-23)
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PD Act	<i>Protected Disclosure Act 2012</i>
RAF	Regional Agriculture Facilitator
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
RIF	Regional Indigenous Facilitator
RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinator
RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
PPWCMA	Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority
RCS	Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy
SD	Standing Direction
SLMC	Sustainable Land Management Coordinator
TOs	Traditional Owners
VAGO	Victorian Auditors General's Office
WiSA	Women in Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Group

INDEX

2017-18 highlights	6	Disclosure Index	94
About the region	2	Diversity and Inclusion Plan	63
Acknowledgement of Country	Inside cover	Financial Report	67
Acronyms	96	Auditor General's report	69
Audit Committee	57	Balance Sheet	72
Board	8, 56	Cash Flow Statement	74
Business and Culture	56	Comprehensive Operating Statement	71
Catchment Condition	48	Declaration	68
Chair's Message	7	Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement	58
Chief Executive Officer's message	10	Notes to the Financial Statements	67
Community engagement	21	Greening the Maribyrnong	42
Community grants	23	Grow West	36
Compliance	58	ICT expenditure	57
Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006	58	Indigenous facilitation	32
Availability of other information	59	Indigenous Participation Plan	34
Building Act 1993	58	Living Links	38
Capital projects	59	Map	3, 22
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994	58	Mission	5
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006	59	Occupational Health and Safety	65
Competitive Neutrality Policy	59	Organisational structure	11
Consultancy expenditure	59	People and culture	61
DataVic Access Policy	59	Employment and conduct principles	62
Diversity and Inclusion	63	Engagement Index	62
Equal Opportunity Act 2010	59	Workforce data	61
Fair Work (Registered Organisations Act) 2009	59	Workplace culture	52
Five year financial summary	60	Providing advice	20
Freedom of Information Act 1982	58	Raising awareness	21
Financial Management Act 1994	58	Ramsar Protection Program	44
Gifts, benefits and hospitality policy framework	59	Regional Catchment Strategy	18
Government advertising expenditure	59	Report of Operations	4
Industrial relations	59	Responsible ministers	4
International travel	59	Risk management	57
Major contracts	59	Summary of Performance	12
Occupation Health and Safety Act 2004	59	Supporting Landcare	26
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014	58	Sustainable agriculture	30
Protected Disclosure Act 2012	58	Sustainable land management	28
Public Administration Act 2004	58	Valuing our Volcanic Plains	46
Significant changes in financial position	59	Values	5
Significant changes or factors affecting performance	59	Vision	5
Sources of PPWCMA revenue over five years	60	Yarra4Life	40
Summary of performance	60		
Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003	58		



PORT PHILLIP & WESTERNPORT CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Level 1, Landmark Corporate Centre
454-472 Nepean Highway
Frankston, Victoria, 3199

Phone: 03 8781 7900

Fax: 03 9781 0199

Email: enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au

Web: ppwcma.vic.gov.au