

Victorian Catchment Management Authorities

# Actions & Achievements Report 2022



Celebrating

# 25

years of CMAs



**VIC CATCHMENTS**

A Collaboration of CMAs

Celebrating  
**25**  
years of CMAs

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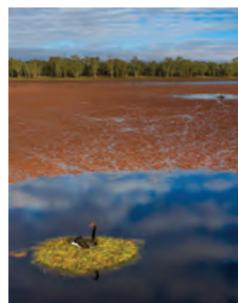
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### Acknowledgement of Victoria's Aboriginal communities

The Victorian Catchment Management Authorities acknowledge Victoria's Aboriginal community and their rich culture and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land, water and biodiversity on which we rely.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.



Cover photo: Swan nesting at Lake Kramen, Mallee CMA

Growling Grass Frog, image by Jarrod Boord.

# Minister's Foreword



## 25 YEARS OF CONNECTION AND PROTECTION

For 25 years, Victoria's Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) have been changemakers for the state's waterways.

Keeping our waterways healthy for future generations is no small task and the hard work of CMAs and their community-based partnerships has made an enormous difference to the health and sustainability of our catchments.

Each CMA has delivered lasting results for catchments through collaboration, dedicated natural resource management, and ongoing partnerships with regional communities. This includes a strong commitment to Traditional Owner engagement and access to water rights and self-determination.

This 2021-22 Victorian Catchment Management Authorities' Actions and Achievements Report demonstrates how our CMAs continue to protect and enhance our natural environments in changing climatic circumstances while contributing to social, economic, and cultural community values.

The importance of our CMAs to response, relief and recovery efforts in situations of emergency and natural disaster speak to the vital role they play in communities across Victoria, including those impacted by bushfires, floods, and climate change.

Across the state, Regional Catchment Strategies have been developed with community to provide a vision for future catchment management, backed by science and planning strategies.

In the Goulburn Broken catchment at Moodie Swamp, the EPBC-listed Sloane's Froglet call was confirmed for the first time, after a delivery of 1,000 megalitres of water for the environment. From the mountains to the sea, our CMAs' innovative, collaborative programs continue to support our communities and environment to thrive.

CMAs proudly lead the Victorian Government's regional support for Landcare, in sync with 600 Landcare groups and 64 facilitators.

In caring for our natural assets, working partnerships enabled 640,000 hectares of pest plant and animal control and 13,000 hectares of revegetation in 2021-22. Over 3,000 hectares of improved agricultural practices were implemented and 30,000 community members participated in CMA events with nearly 1,000 partnerships established or maintained.

Threatened species have been in continual focus, with evidence of our critically endangered frogs, birds and mammals benefitting from healthier catchments and waterways as well as community and volunteer involvement.

In the Glenelg Hopkins catchment, the *Coastal Connections* project achieved agreements with 12 landholders for improved management of 91 hectares of Australasian Bittern habitat and two new breeding territories over 350 hectares of habitat were discovered.

Further achievements include partnering with angling clubs in East Gippsland to install 50 Snowy River fish habitat structures, two new fishways at Cohuna and Koondrook Weirs, and flood recovery works to stabilise fragile riverbeds and banks at 44 sites along our rivers.

In the Corangamite catchment, the launch of the *Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto Langi-ut* project will continue the strong partnership with the Wadawurrung and other land managers to deliver a master plan for the Barwon River corridor.

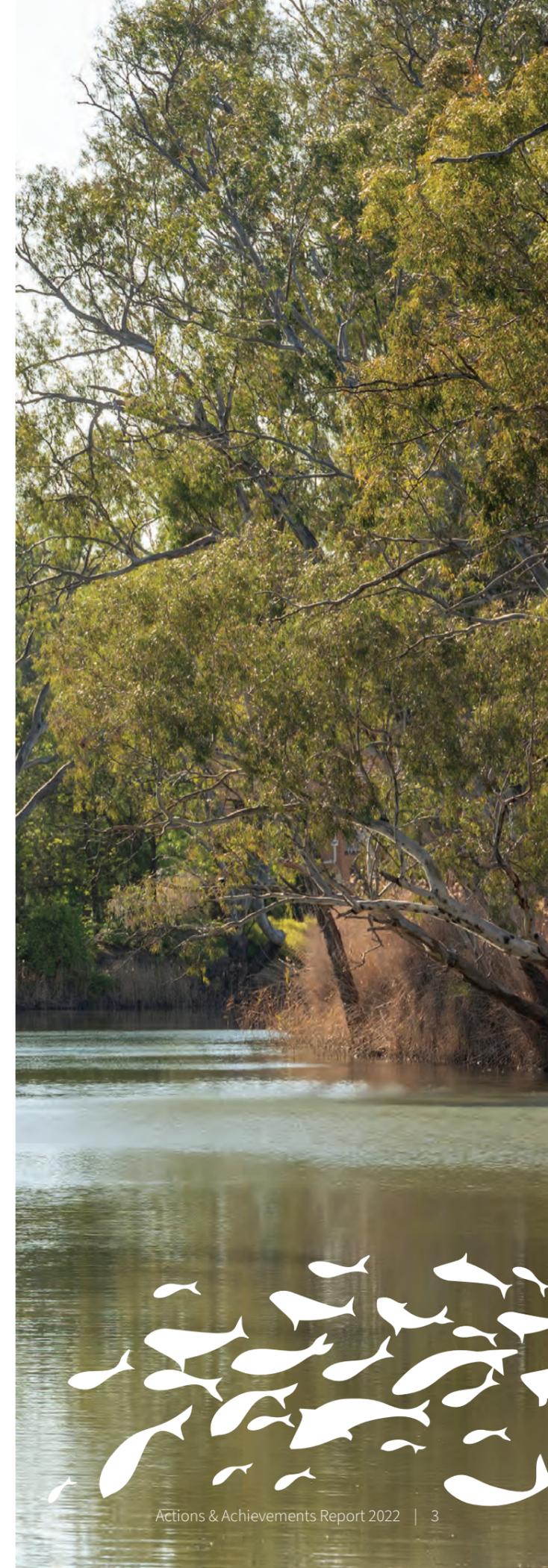
Our CMAs also continue to demonstrate the value of gender equality, with women representing 61 per cent of CMA Board memberships, and 55 per cent of all employees. The work to develop further opportunities for diversity within CMAs also continues as part of an ongoing commitment to workplaces which are ever more representative of the communities they serve.

The achievements and legacy outlined in this Report are illustrative of the hard work and passion of many people within our CMAs and communities across Victoria over the past 25 years.

I am excited to see how our waterway managers will continue to support climate action, progress innovation and inclusivity, and continue to protect the enduring health of our waterways. I also look forward to seeing more of these genuine and meaningful outcomes which benefit Traditional Owners, existing entitlement holders, and all Victorians in the years to come.

**Harriet Shing**  
Minister for Water

Above: Platytus surveys continue to find new animals, Wimmera CMA.



# Vic Catchments Chair Overview

This year's Actions and Achievements Report is again an incredible example of how much CMAs and Melbourne Water deliver for their communities.

Despite some ongoing challenges with COVID-19 our hard working and dedicated people continued to get things done side by side with their communities. It's a great example of the nimble and adaptive nature of our industry that we can continue to deliver such amazing outcomes in times of significant disruption.

On 1 January 2022 Port Phillip and Westernport CMA (PPWCMA) was fully integrated into Melbourne Water. As a result, we have welcomed Melbourne Water into the fold. While PPWCMA is no more, many of their staff remain and their legacy is one that Melbourne Water (MW) will continue to drive forward.

Several CMAs completed the renewal of their Regional Catchment Strategies (RCSs) this year, with others to follow. The RCSs are the cornerstone of integrated catchment management planning in our regions. They have been developed with the community and will prioritise our work over the next eight years. The new strategies align with Australian and Victorian Government priorities and now act as a prospectus for future investment.

CMAs and MW are excited to have started delivering projects funded under Tranche 5 of the Victorian Government's Environmental Contribution. It is very pleasing that we can move forward with the certainty of three years of funding with our communities as we look to implement waterway outcomes.

Earlier in 2022 we were thinking of our colleagues in Queensland and NSW as they were dealing with what in some cases were record floods, and now Victoria is also experiencing flooding through many catchments and river systems. We were reminded about the impacts of climate change and the role CMAs play in continually improving our flood management information and supporting recovery efforts.

2022 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> year of CMAs. This year's report outlines some of the key achievements across the State delivered by CMAs and MW in partnership with the community. There are significant benefits that come from the consistency and stability that the CMAs have provided over the past 25 years. We have long term experienced people that live within their communities and understand what make them tick. This means we are problem solving organisations that are agile, responsive and adaptive. Certainty and consistency allow for a long-term vision where we look to the future and dedicate ourselves to landscape change side by side with the community. We have achieved great outcomes for our natural environments, agricultural landscapes and communities in our 25 years, and we are only just getting started.

**Peter Hilbig**  
Chair, Vic Catchments

## Board Chairs

The Vic Catchments forum was established in February 2017 to showcase Victoria's integrated catchment management framework. Each CMA region has a Ministerially appointed Board of local people responsible for setting strategic directions for regional land, biodiversity and water management and monitoring and evaluating its performance.



Catherine Jenkins  
CORANGAMITE



Ewan Waller  
EAST GIPPSLAND



Antony Ford  
GLENELG HOPKINS



Helen Reynolds  
GOULBURN BROKEN



Allison McTaggart  
MALLEE



Julie Miller Markoff  
NORTH CENTRAL



Dr Christine Cunningham (PhD)  
NORTH EAST



Tania Foster  
(1 July - 31 December 2021)  
PORT PHILLIP & WESTERNPORT



John Thwaites  
(1 January - 30 June 2022)  
MELBOURNE WATER



Mikaela Power  
WEST GIPPSLAND



Peter Hilbig  
WIMMERA



# CMA Regions

Victoria's integrated Catchment Management Framework is working to protect and enhance our rivers and landscapes while supporting productivity from our land and water resources.

## GOULBURN BROKEN

Covers 24,000 km<sup>2</sup> of which two thirds is under private ownership. Extends north from the outskirts of Melbourne to the Murray River. It yields 11% of the Murray Darling Basin's water despite making up only 2% of its area.

## NORTH CENTRAL

Covers 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> (13% of the state). It is home to 250,000 people, is valued for its internationally recognised environmental assets and supports a diverse agriculture sector.

## NORTH EAST

Extends across 19,000 km<sup>2</sup> between the Murray River in the north, Victorian Alps in the south and Warby Ranges in the west. The region is home to 100,000 people, provides 38% of Murray Darling Basin's water and is 55% public land.

## MALLEE

Covers almost 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> making it the largest catchment area in Victoria. It runs along the Murray River from Nyah to the South Australian border and south through vast dryland cropping areas and public reserves.



## EAST GIPPSLAND

Covers 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> and approximately 80% publicly owned mainly as significant State forests, national and coastal parks. Features the Ramsar listed Gippsland Lakes and six declared Heritage Rivers.

## WIMMERA

Covers 30,000 km<sup>2</sup> straddling the Wimmera River. Agriculture is the dominant land use, economic driver and employment sector. A quarter of the 50,000 people who live in the region depend directly on agriculture for their income.

## WEST GIPPSLAND

Covers 18,000 km<sup>2</sup> from Warragul to the Gippsland Lakes and from the Great Dividing Range to Wilsons Promontory. It provides most of Victoria's electricity, 60% of Melbourne's water storage and 20% of Australia's milk production.

## GLENELG HOPKINS

Covers 26,000 km<sup>2</sup> and characterised by flat volcanic plains in the south and Grampians, Dundas Tablelands and Central Highlands in the north. One of Australia's most productive farming regions with 80% cleared for agriculture.

## CORANGAMITE

Extends across 13,000 km<sup>2</sup> of which 78% is in private ownership. The region has rich and diverse landscapes ranging from expansive volcanic plains to coastal environments and the Otway Ranges.

## PORT PHILLIP & WESTERNPORT\*

Spans 13,000 km<sup>2</sup> that feed into Port Phillip and Westernport, and has a resident population of over five million whilst boasting some of Victoria's most productive farming lands and spectacular parks that are home to all four State flora and fauna emblems.

*\*On 1 January 2022, the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority officially integrated into Melbourne Water.*

*Melbourne Water is now the CMA for the Port Phillip & Westernport region.*

*Pictured: Powlett River/Kugerungmome Estuary, West Gippsland.*

# CMA's get it done



## Statewide achievements 2021-22

### CMA's look after natural assets

CMA's established 13,000 ha of native vegetation



### CMA's look after natural assets

CMA's undertook 640,000 ha of pest plant and animal control



### CMA's look after natural assets

Over 3,000 ha of improved agricultural practices were implemented



### CMA's are part of and work with our communities

CMA's produced over 1,300 publications including social media, videos, booklets, etc



### CMA's are part of and work with our communities

Over 30,000 people participated in CMA events



### CMA's work through partnerships

Nearly 1,000 partnerships were established or maintained



### CMA's support Traditional Owner Self Determination

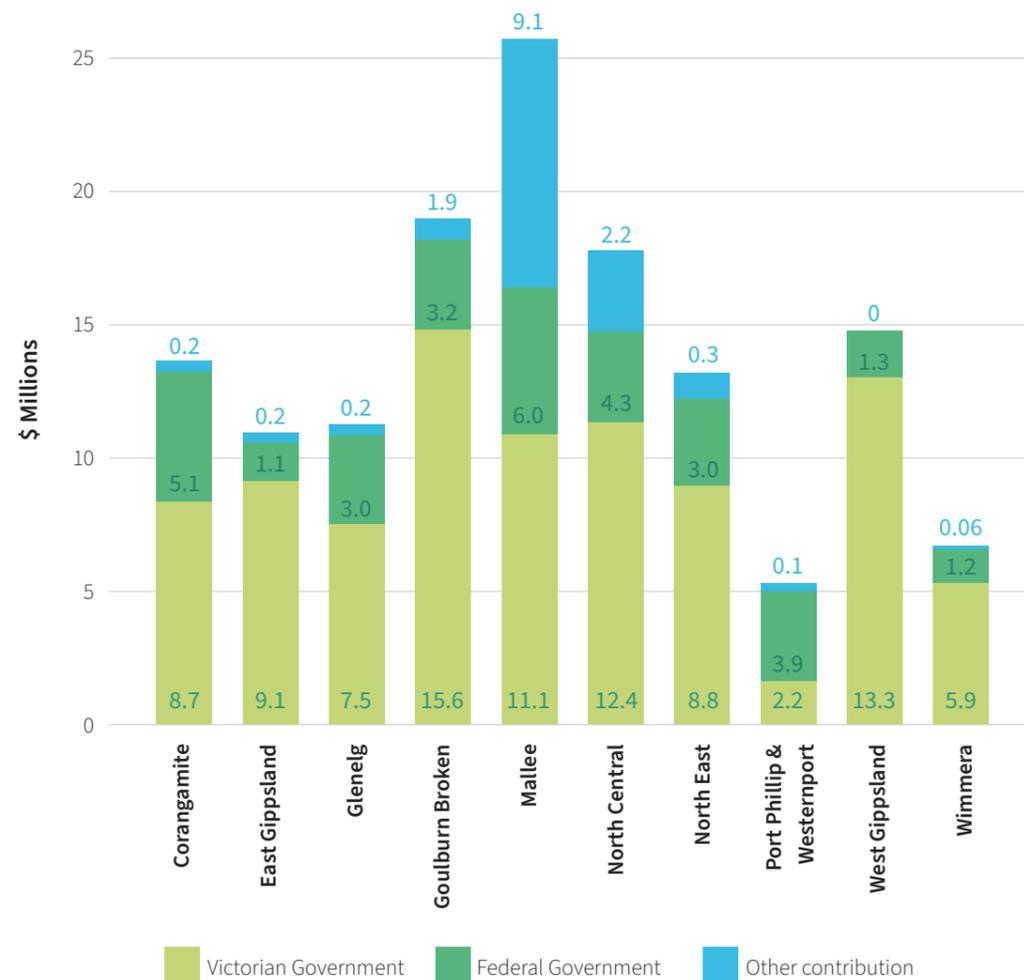
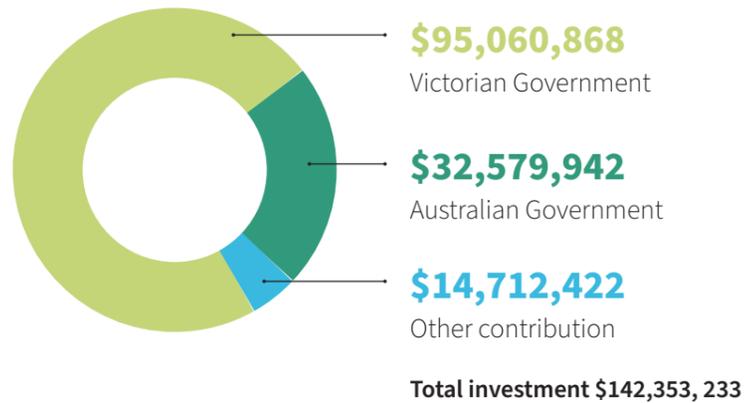
10/10 CMA regions work closely with their local TOs in supporting self determination



The Victorian Government contributed 67% of CMAs total funding in 21-22 totalling over \$95 million

The Australian Government contributed 23% of CMAs total funding in 21-22 totalling over \$32 million

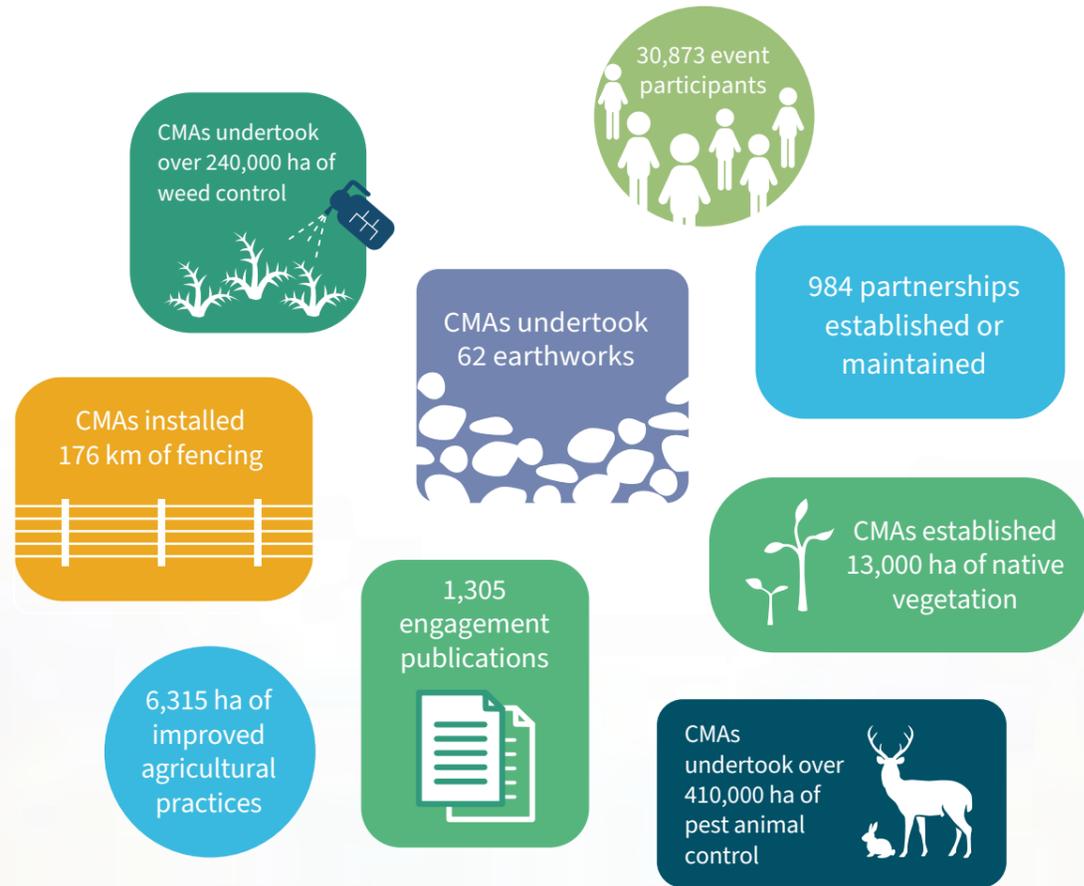
## Statewide investment 2021-22



## Statewide outputs 2021-22

Output Description	Target	State	Federal	Other	TOTAL	Percent Complete
		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	
<b>1. Structural Works</b>						
1.1 Channel (Km)	81	74	-	-	<b>74</b>	91%
1.2 Water storage (No.)	60	39	-	4	<b>43</b>	72%
1.3 Pump (No.)	2	-	2	-	<b>2</b>	100%
1.4 Irrigation Structure (Ha)	64	30	-	-	<b>30</b>	47%
1.5 Waterway structure (No.)	138	99	127	1	<b>227</b>	164%
1.6 Terrestrial Structure (No.)	1	-	-	-	<b>-</b>	-
1.7 Terrestrial feature (No.)	59	6	46	-	<b>52</b>	88%
1.8 Monitoring structure (No.)	122	139	2	7	<b>148</b>	121%
1.9 Fence (Km)	152	155	21	-	<b>176</b>	116%
1.10 Visitor Facility (No.)	77	112	-	-	<b>112</b>	145%
1.11 Road (Km)	38	24	2	-	<b>26</b>	68%
1.12 Crossing (No.)	2	-	-	-	<b>-</b>	-
1.13 Marine and Coastal Structure (No.)	341	328	267	5	<b>600</b>	-
<b>2. Environmental Works</b>						
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	6,202	8,893	4,067	28	<b>12,988</b>	209%
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	202,185	58,929	184,018	13	<b>242,960</b>	120%
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	285,219	221,127	188,807	7,138	<b>417,072</b>	146%
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife (Ha)	104	4	1,396	-	<b>1,400</b>	1346%
2.5 Threatened species response (No.)	10	6	3	-	<b>9</b>	90%
2.7 Soil treatment (Ha)	2	-	-	-	<b>-</b>	-
2.8 Earth works (No.)	6	62	-	-	<b>62</b>	1033%
2.9 Rubbish removal (Ha)	245	392	200	-	<b>592</b>	242%
<b>3. Management Services</b>						
3.1 Grazing (Ha)	18,730	609	923	-	<b>1,532</b>	8%
3.2 Agricultural practice change (Ha)	5,409	2,031	4,284	-	<b>6,315</b>	117%
3.3 Water (No.)	90	93	2	-	<b>95</b>	106%
3.4 Fire Regime (No.)	2,814	4,101	38	-	<b>4,139</b>	147%
<b>4. Planning and Regulation</b>						
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	4,124	6,802	149	-	<b>6,951</b>	169%
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	1,347	1,349	2,356	2	<b>3,707</b>	275%
4.3 Assessment (No.)	6,514	10,277	8,110	884	<b>19,271</b>	296%
4.4 Engagement event (No.)	15,288	16,461	14,043	369	<b>30,873</b>	202%
4.5 Partnership (No.)	954	882	97	5	<b>984</b>	103%
4.6 Plan (No.)	527	319	328	15	<b>662</b>	126%
4.7 Publication (No.)	1,135	744	542	19	<b>1,305</b>	115%
4.8 Information management system (No.)	58	57	1	-	<b>58</b>	100%

## Key statewide outputs 2021-22

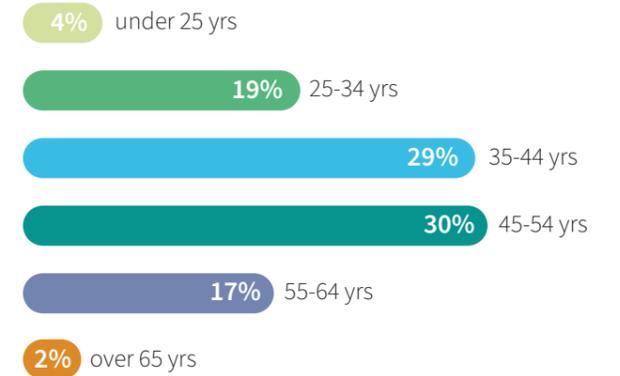


## Statewide diversity and inclusion 2021-22



Age	No. of staff
<25	17
25-34	81
35-44	127
45-54	130
55-64	73
65+	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>437</b>

### CMA staff age profile



### CMA staff

Victorian public sector	41	59
Victorian labour force	53	47
Water and land management	59	41

**61% of CMA Board members are women** compared to a Vic Public Sector average of 55%.



# Regional Actions and Achievements





# Corangamite

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year achievements

- ▶ Hundreds of Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch citizen scientists have monitored their local waterways and estuaries, providing datasets to support management decisions.
- ▶ Partnered with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Corporation to incorporate cultural values into Moorabool River management with cultural flows delivered and joint citizen science programs.
- ▶ Developed new approaches with the online Corangamite Knowledge Base in 2006, followed by NRM planning, Flood, Soil Health and Citizen Science data portals.

### Protecting the Victorian Volcanic Plains

The Victorian Volcanic Plains is a widespread bioregion of natural temperate grasslands stretching west from Melbourne to Portland near the South Australian border and covers an area of 22,000 square kilometres. A biodiversity hotspot, the region is of great significance to Traditional Owners, and supports more than 25 nationally threatened flora and fauna.

Since the mid-2000s, Corangamite CMA has worked with land managers and agencies to improve the management of approximately 15,500 hectares of the threatened ecological communities in the region through weed and pest animal control, fire and grazing management and community education.

The programs being delivered bring together Traditional Owners, landholders, government partners and community. They include:

- Protecting critically endangered grassy eucalypt woodlands, natural temperate grassland and native vegetation on private and public land.
- Supporting Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to carry out cultural burns.
- Delivering communications and engagement to improve awareness and increase participation.
- Pest plant and animal control.

“Since 2005 the CMA has been investing in the protection and restoration of the unique grassland and grassy eucalypt woodlands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain, providing critical habitat for a variety of animals including Fat-tailed Dunnarts, Striped Legless Lizards, Golden Sun Moths and Growling Grass Frogs.”

**Cath Jenkins**  
Corangamite CMA Chair

Barwon River Sunset, by Jarrod Boord.



Left: Arthur Rylah Institute Ecologist Dr Brad Farmilo undertaking vegetation assessments for the Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Stewardship Program on the Volcanic Plains. Right: Native grasses on the Volcanic Plains. Images Corangamite CMA.

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

The Wild Otways Initiative focuses on projects being undertaken in the areas from Jan Juc/ Bells Beach to Peterborough, the Great Otway National Park, and hinterlands.

### Outputs

- 400 sites monitored for threatened species, Swamp antechinus, Long-nosed potoroo, Southern brown bandicoot, Smoky mouse, New-holland mouse, White footed dunnart and Broad tooth rat.
- Mapping of abundance and distribution of small mammals in the Otways.
- Control chart reporting on threatened species status for management implementation.
- Engagement with land managers across the region to distribute results and discuss species management in the future.

### Investment

\$6M investment by the Australian Government, funded until 2023.

### Partners

Research and delivery partners include Conservation Ecology Centre, Barbara Wilson Pty Ltd, Zoos Victoria, Melbourne and Deakin universities, Parks Victoria, DELWP, private landholders, wild game harvesters, Landcare networks, community members and groups.

### Regional strategies

Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy, Protecting Victoria's Environment Biodiversity 20-37

### Big results for small mammals

In the beautiful forests and mountains of the Otways, a team effort is underway to protect special threatened species like Swamp Antechinus, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-Nosed Potoroo.

The Wild Otways Initiative focuses on achieving on ground outcomes to improve the protection and management of threatened species. Five major sub-projects will address the conservation of small mammals, the management of feral animals, control of dieback disease and options for rewilding.

In addition to these five projects, the initiative includes a \$1 million Community Environment Grants Program. This program will deliver 33 community driven projects that support the Wild Otways objectives to protect and enhance habitat values and manage threats to support the recovery of EPBC listed fauna in the Otways.

The research component of the project will contribute to land management agencies' planning and operating procedures. Knowledge in feral animal control and monitoring, hygiene protocols and treatment methods against dieback disease will be shared and skills training delivered to community members, private landholders and agency staff.

A framework for the integrated assessment of data collected will also be set up. This includes a web portal to provide access to information on outcomes from each of the sub-projects and this will be maintained as an ongoing legacy of the initiative. Linkages between the sub-projects will ensure landscape outcomes are achieved for conservation.

This approach also ensures Great Otway National Park and Otway Forest Park land managers can maintain the Wild Otways legacy into the future.

The Small Mammal Conservation project will be delivered under the Wild Otways Initiative

Managed by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, the Australian Government's Wild Otways. The initiative is a \$6 million collaborative research and land management program.



Female Swamp Antechinus, by Dr Barbara Wilson.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*Healthy and productive lands and waters cared for and enjoyed by thriving communities.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ Work with Traditional Owners on future management of water.
- ▶ Lead action on Climate Change.
- ▶ Continue work on threatened species protection to support our region's biodiversity.

### 2021 – 22 Achievements

- ▶ Renewed the Corangamite Catchment Partnership Agreement with 19 regional partners.
- ▶ Launched the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto Langi-ut project in partnership with the Wadawurrung and land managers to deliver a master plan for the Barwon River corridor.
- ▶ Took action on climate change as a leading Natural Resource Management organisation to commit to reaching net zero emissions by 2024.

### 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Channel (Km)	79	74	-	-	<b>74</b>
1.2 Waterway structure (No.)	13	17	-	-	<b>17</b>
1.3 Terrestrial feature (No.)	54	-	41	-	<b>41</b>
1.4 Monitoring structure (No.)	18	20	-	-	<b>20</b>
1.5 Fence (Km)	4	3	-	-	<b>3</b>
1.6 Visitor Facility (No.)	56	84	-	-	<b>84</b>
1.7 Road (Km)	32	21	-	-	<b>21</b>
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	314	123	541	-	<b>664</b>
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	2,354	2,894	3,765	-	<b>6,659</b>
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	496	1,168	48	-	<b>1,216</b>
2.4 Rubbish removal (Ha)	79	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Grazing (Ha)	25	363	-	-	<b>363</b>
3.2 Agricultural practice change (Ha)	2,663	1,357	1,143	-	<b>2,500</b>
3.3 Water (No.)	28	35	-	-	<b>35</b>
3.4 Fire Regime (No.)	9	1	9	-	<b>10</b>
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	1,706	1,885	-	-	<b>1,885</b>
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	507	48	173	-	<b>221</b>
4.3 Assessment (No.)	534	389	138	-	<b>527</b>
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	2,231	4,347	4,426	-	<b>8,773</b>
4.5 Partnership (No.)	371	365	-	-	<b>365</b>
4.6 Plan (No.)	18	12	58	-	<b>70</b>
4.7 Publication (No.)	104	79	33	-	<b>112</b>
4.8 Information management system (No.)	170	17	-	-	<b>17</b>



Left: Wild Otways Initiative Project Team features: Peter Ashton, Dr Jack Pascoe, Anthony Byrne, Sarah Holland-Clift and Katrina Lovett. Right: Community Environment Grants Program recipient, ANGAIR. Images Corangamite CMA.



# East Gippsland

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year achievements

- ▶ Established Gippsland Environmental Agencies in 2014 to improve collaboration and implement the Gippsland Catchment Partnership Agreement which was renewed in 2022.
- ▶ Worked with landholders, community and partner agencies to help the region recover from the devastating 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires.
- ▶ Restored and protected our flagship waterway the Cann River with community groups and continue to work towards the ongoing recovery of the river system.

### Restoring the mighty Snowy

The Snowy River has experienced considerable environmental changes over the last 100 years, notably the reduction in flows resulting from the Snowy Mountain scheme and the demise of large stretches of riparian vegetation due to development.

In addition, weeds, loss of pools and reduction of fish habitat, infilling of sand and removal of large wood from the river also had negative impacts.

Recovery of the river through the Snowy Rehabilitation program began in 2002 supported by the Victorian, NSW and Commonwealth governments.

East Gippsland CMA coordinated the program delivery in partnership with the local Aboriginal community, landholders, community, government agencies, local businesses and researchers.

Results have since flowed, and the river's recovery is well underway with riparian zones improved, grazing stock removed and partnerships with the Aboriginal community, landholders and recreational user groups. Australian Bass are also now well represented in angler catches.

“Our vision is to partner with our communities to enhance East Gippsland’s landscapes, biodiversity and cultural heritage. By working with Moogji Aboriginal Council, we are achieving this and working with local people with local knowledge and understanding. It is a win-win.”

**Ewan Waller**  
East Gippsland CMA Chair

*Snowy River Fish Habitat Logs, East Gippsland CMA*



*Left: Snowy River 2022, East Gippsland CMA. Right: Contractors on site, undertaking maintenance weed management, East Gippsland CMA.*

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

Snowy River Catchment and Far East Gippsland

### Outputs

- 9,000 plants
- 2.5ha revegetation
- 3 partnerships
- 2 written publications

### Investment

Victorian Government, Environmental Contribution 5

### Partners

Moogji Aboriginal Council, DELWP, Landholders, Marlo Angling Club, Parks Victoria

### Regional strategies

Snowy River Rehabilitation Program, Aboriginal Self Determination Plan, Regional Catchment Strategy, East Gippsland Regional Waterway Strategy

## From little things big things grow

East Gippsland is part of the tapestry of interwoven cultural landscapes that are the product of Aboriginal land managers’ skills, knowledge and activities over thousands of generations. The East Gippsland CMA’s partnership with Moogji Aboriginal Council is about working and learning together for the benefit of East Gippsland’s rivers – now and into the future.

Moogji has worked on the Snowy River rehabilitation program since it began in 2002. In 2006 Moogji established a natural resource management (NRM) crew to work on local waterways.

The NRM crew completed weed control, revegetation, fencing, clean up and maintenance along the Snowy and Buchan Rivers.

Moogji diversified their business with a small greenhouse on their Orbost property used for raising seedlings to plant along the banks of the Snowy River as part of the rehabilitation project.

They recently expanded the greenhouse giving them the ability to grow multiple species, including endangered species and supply hundreds of seedlings to the East Gippsland CMA and other agencies. The seedlings are grown from locally sourced seeds collected by Moogji’s NRM crew.

“Growing plants is good for your soul” said Bianca from Moogji. “If we can provide on the job experience knowing that it’s going to have a direct impact on the river we live near, then everyone benefits”.

The East Gippsland CMA’s revegetation projects created a demand for over 9,000 plants in 2021-22 as well as maintenance work for the NRM crew. The CMA has increased plant orders for the 2022-23 revegetation program, supporting Moogji to plan for future NRM operations.

The benefits of the partnership have been more than employing Aboriginal people to undertake natural resource management works. Moogji are an established local contractor providing an excellent standard of service through the NRM crew and supplying local indigenous plants. The knowledge and expertise of their employees is relied on across the region.

Below left: Moogji NRM crew controlling weeds along the Snowy River. Right: Moogji and EGCMA staff at the Moogji’s Orbost Nursery. Images East Gippsland CMA.



Moogji and EGCMA staff at the Moogji’s Orbost Nursery, East Gippsland CMA.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*We are leaders in integrated catchment management, partnering with our communities to enhance East Gippsland’s landscapes, biodiversity and cultural heritage.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ Supported landholders through the challenges of floods by stabilising eroded banks, re-constructing fencing and clearing fence lines.
- ▶ The renewed Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee allocated funding to partner agencies and community groups to deliver collaborative projects across the catchment.
- ▶ Strengthened partnerships with local Angling Clubs and installed 50 fish habitat structures in the Snowy River.
- ▶ Work in partnership with Aboriginal People to promote and foster self-determination and healthy Country.
- ▶ Implement a strategic and integrated program to control willows along waterways, focussing on high value stream and areas recovering from bushfires.
- ▶ Work together to support integrated future fire management planning to provide environmental, social, economic and cultural outcomes and coordinate effort to mitigate against, and assist in climate change adaptation.

### 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Water storage (No.)	14	12			12
1.2 Waterway structure (No.)	56	6	50		56
1.3 Monitoring structure (No.)	10	6		5	11
1.4 Fence (Km)	15	13			13
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	41	15	2		17
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	998	998	90		1,088
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	4,300		300		300
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Grazing (Ha)	79	63			63
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	241	363	1		364
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	15	12	8		20
4.3 Assessment (No.)	406	199	148		347
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	918	201	48	35	284
4.5 Partnership (No.)	141	74		3	77
4.6 Plan (No.)	19	23	3	1	27
4.7 Publication (No.)	148	53	47		100
4.8 Information management system (No.)	3	3			3





“Platycam has generated interest in a Glenelg Hopkins CMA project like nothing before it, garnering national and international media attention to a waterways project and icon species.”

**Antony Ford**  
Glenelg Hopkins CMA Chair

Community members participating in revegetation activities on the banks of the Glenelg River, Harrow. Image Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

# Glenelg Hopkins

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year achievements

- ▶ Supported Eastern Barred Bandicoot recovery efforts since the 1980s. In 2022, it became the first Australian animal to move from Extinct in the Wild to Endangered.
- ▶ Completed over 24 flood investigations spanning 18 townships and three regional flood mapping projects to improve flood response and preparedness, increase community awareness and inform development decisions.
- ▶ Supported the region’s Landcare program which has been operating for 33 years and currently has 52 Landcare Groups with around 1,500 volunteers.

### Restoring the Glenelg River

The Glenelg River starts in the Grampians, winding through western Victoria and South Australia, before flowing into the sea at Nelson. At over 500 km, it is one of Victoria’s longest rivers.

In the early 2000s, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, with community groups and other agencies, started the Glenelg River Restoration Project. The ambitious project aims to restore biodiversity values and river health.

Around 700 landholders have been involved in implementing key restoration activities. The over 2,000 kilometres of fencing installed makes it the largest riparian fencing program across Australia and 85% of the Upper Glenelg River is now fenced.

Results are positive with the river’s natural features reemerging and several native fish species have extended their range by hundreds of kilometres.

More recently, two Australian grayling have been found in the Glenelg River for the first time in 122 years and numbers of the critically endangered Pygmy Perch have increased tenfold.



Left and centre shows before and after of works restoring the Glenelg River. Right: The Glenelg River. Images Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

Grange Burn, Hamilton Victoria

### Outputs

- Installation of platypus habitat, solar-powered livestreaming camera, sculpture, riverbank revegetation, accessible seating.
- In person event participants: 100
- Online event participants: 240
- Media coverage of project launch audience size: 285,000 people.
- Social media posts audience: reach over 90,000 people; 23,000 engagements; 27,000+ video views.
- The livestream views: 23,500+
- Post launch community planting events on the waterway: 3 schools (1 primary, 2 secondary), Wellways Australia, Rotary Club of Hamilton, Wannon Water, Southern Grampians Shire Council.

### Investment

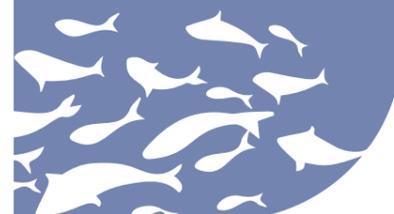
\$75,000

### Partners

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Southern Grampians Shire Council, Arthur Rylah Institute

### Regional strategies

Glenelg Hopkins RCS, Biodiversity 2037 Strategy



### Platycam captures images and imaginations

Platycam is the world’s only livestreaming camera broadcasting platypus in the wild.

The novel approach to wildlife monitoring was designed to connect people to nature which is one of the key components of the Victorian Government’s Biodiversity 2037 Strategy. The project also aligned with the Victorian Government’s funding for platypus, which was listed as vulnerable in Victoria in 2021. It built on significant and long-term waterway rehabilitation works undertaken by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA on the Grange Burn waterway in Hamilton – a known platypus habitat.

Platycam brings this project to life and is delivered by a pole-mounted, solar-powered livestreaming camera. The project site is easily accessible and signage, along with a chainsaw-carved wooden sculpture featuring three platypus were installed to mark the location. Southern Grampians Shire Council assisted the process by installing accessible seating and pathways areas to encourage enjoyment of the waterway and its immediate surrounds.

The project launch event in May 2022 was attended by 100 people and 240 enthusiasts enjoyed the livestream event online. The livestream was switched on and the sculpture unveiled. of the sculpture, signage and seating Hamilton Gray Street Primary School revegetated the banks to complete the project.

Media coverage of the project has been very positive, with articles printed nationally and interviews on major radio stations. Within the first month, social media posts from the launch and subsequent sightings of platypus on the camera reached over 90,000 people and the livestream had been viewed over 23,500 times.

Since the project launch, interest in improving the waterway has increased significantly with community planting events undertaken with primary and secondary schools, disability service providers, Rotary groups, and project partner organisations. The community involvement and interest on social media around spotting of platypus in the Grange Burn has also increased.

Sharing the love of platypus through Platycam has been a great success and demonstrates how using different ways to engage the community with waterways has long term environmental and community benefits.



Platycam project installation, Glenelg Hopkins CMA.



Platycam launch event included the final revegetation works undertaken by the students from Hamilton Gray Street Primary School, Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*Empowered communities nurturing a rich and connected landscape for all – today, tomorrow, together.*

### Future aspirations

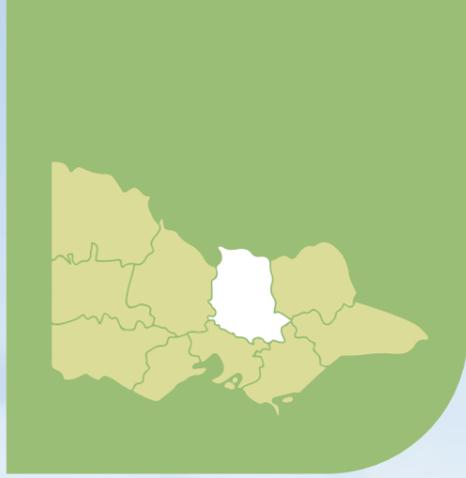
- ▶ Support Traditional Owner Groups to lead more land and water partnerships and activities.
- ▶ Help to incorporate public use, cultural and environmental values, flooding assessments, sea level rise and climate change adaptation into planning.
- ▶ Implement catchment stewardship and partnerships that connect people to the environment and increase its capacity/resilience to climate impacts.

### 2021 – 22 Achievements

- ▶ Launched the Rivers of Warrnambool Flagship Waterway Project to protect and rehabilitate natural values of the Hopkins and Merri rivers.
- ▶ 12 landholder agreements through Coastal Connections to improve 91 hectares of Australasian Bittern habitat.
- ▶ Launched Future Ready Regions Drought Storyboard website to help farmers plan for climate change.

### 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Waterway structure (No.)	22	20	77	-	<b>97</b>
1.2 Terrestrial feature (No.)	5	-	5	-	<b>5</b>
2.1 Monitoring structure (No.)	54	33	-	-	<b>33</b>
2.1 Fence (Km)	2	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
2.1 Visitor Facility (No.)	-	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	74	4	159	-	<b>163</b>
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	506	439	1,245	-	<b>1,683</b>
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	2,302	181	1,895	-	<b>2,076</b>
2.4 Threatened species response (No.)	3	-	3	-	<b>3</b>
2.5 Earth works (No.)	2	5	-	-	<b>5</b>
2.6 Rubbish removal (No.)	10	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Grazing (Ha)	-	-	849	-	<b>849</b>
3.2 Agricultural practice change (Ha)	2,622	-	-	-	<b>-</b>
3.3 Water (No.)	14	12	2	-	<b>14</b>
3.4 Fire Regime (No.)	3	-	10	-	<b>10</b>
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	232	751	-	-	<b>751</b>
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	35	2	48	-	<b>50</b>
4.3 Assessment (No.)	171	191	31	-	<b>222</b>
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	3,070	2,375	2,238	-	<b>4,613</b>
4.5 Partnership (No.)	34	36	3	-	<b>39</b>
4.6 Plan (No.)	14	4	-	-	<b>4</b>
4.7 Publication (No.)	271	93	47	-	<b>140</b>
4.8 Information management system (No.)	10	9	-	-	<b>9</b>



# Goulburn Broken

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year highlights

- ▶ Significantly improved fish passage by removing or modifying 35 fish barriers and opening up 868 kilometres of stream.
- ▶ Enhanced the natural environment, soils and water and provided certainty to the region by protecting 73,000 hectares of highly productive land from salinisation and waterlogging through the actions of the *Shepparton Irrigation Region Land and Water Management Plan*.
- ▶ Reduced natural disaster risk through four urban levee schemes, flood warning services for seven systems and Goulburn Broken Community Flood Portal.

### Nature calls long-serving employees

For 25 years Goulburn Broken CMA has worked with communities and partner organisations to protect and improve the catchment's land, water and biodiversity and two staff members have been there since day one.

Tom O'Dwyer and Collin Tate both started their careers with GBCMA on the very same day that CMAs began in Victoria – 1 July 1997.

Two-and-a half decades on, they continue to work to protect the environment, having been part of the many changes in catchment management.

“There has been an evolution of waterway management in that time,” Tom said.

“There's a much more sophisticated approach now than in the early days - a far greater understanding of how the river, landscape and natural environment function as a whole.”

Collin said he loved revegetation work and seeing the results over the years - tree planting, habitat work, watching the fish populations come back.

“I've also seen generational changes in farming and agricultural practices with lots of improvements over time in land and stock management.”

Tom and Collin highlighted that the community and the environment have faced numerous challenges over the past 25 years including fires, flood and extended drought with the resilience of both being a key factor in recovery.

“In the 25 years of the Goulburn Broken CMA we have worked as one with our partners, land managers and communities, to protect the health of the region's environment for now and the future. Together we have made a real and lasting difference.”

**Helen Reynolds**  
Goulburn Broken CMA Chair

*Gaynor Swamp and agricultural landscape. Goulburn Broken CMA.*



Left: Collin Tate and Tom O'Dwyer have been with the Goulburn Broken CMA since its inception on 1 July 1997. Centre: Before revegetation – The Broken River at Barwite in 2008. Right: After revegetation – The Broken River at Barwite in 2018. Images Goulburn Broken CMA.

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

Seven, King Parrot, Hughes and Hollands creeks.

### Outputs

- 4 Fauna assessments
- 4 Publications
- 1.87km of fencing
- 2.75ha of revegetation
- 3 Management agreements

### Investment

Victorian Government – Waterway Health Program

### Partners

Arthur Rylah Institute  
Parks Victoria  
DELWP  
Australian Platypus Conservancy

### Regional strategies

Goulburn Broken Regional Waterway Strategy

## Environment right for native fish

The Millennium Drought and summers of 2015-2016 and 2019 were tough for native fish populations in Goulburn Broken waterways but there's been good news this year with fish numbers thriving due to habitat restoration and good rainfall.

Native fish are flourishing in the Goulburn River system. Works to protect the riparian zone and create instream habitat have supported the increase in the Seven, King Parrot, Hughes and Hollands creeks.

Fencing off the riparian area from livestock, enhancing habitat connectivity and vegetation diversity has helped protect the water quality in the creeks and create the ideal environment for native fish.

These works also help build resilience in the waterways so that when there are challenges such as low-flow conditions, the impacts on the fish are reduced.

Seven Creeks is unique due to its populations of two nationally endangered fish species - Macquarie Perch and Trout Cod. Of the 437 fish recorded in the creek's February 2022 fish survey, 200 were Trout Cod and 129 were Macquarie Perch. In some sections of the creek, the Macquarie Perch numbers were the highest they've been since 2017. The adult population of Trout Cod increased in one reach by 30% in the past 12 months.

Long-term fish survey results from King Parrot Creek indicate it has one of the healthiest populations of Macquarie Perch in the Goulburn catchment. The Perch were the most abundant native species recorded in the 2022 survey of the creek and all were in excellent condition.

An increase in the relative abundance of river blackfish indicates the species is also beginning to recover from the cease-to-flow period in 2019.

The number of southern pygmy perch was slightly less in 2022 than the previous year but the species continues to show recovery from the Millennium Drought when they were undetected between 2006 and 2013.

In addition to impressive native fish numbers, a platypus baby boom was noted in King Parrot Creek. Sixteen platypuses were recorded in a survey carried out by the Australian Platypus Conservancy, including three very healthy juvenile males and six females.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*Resilient landscapes, thriving communities.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ Reverse the declining health of the Catchment's land, water and biodiversity and implement pathways to adapt and transform to drivers of change.
- ▶ Give effect to priorities in First Nations Country Plans.
- ▶ Build values of environmental stewardship amongst an increasingly diverse community.

## 2021 – 22 Achievements

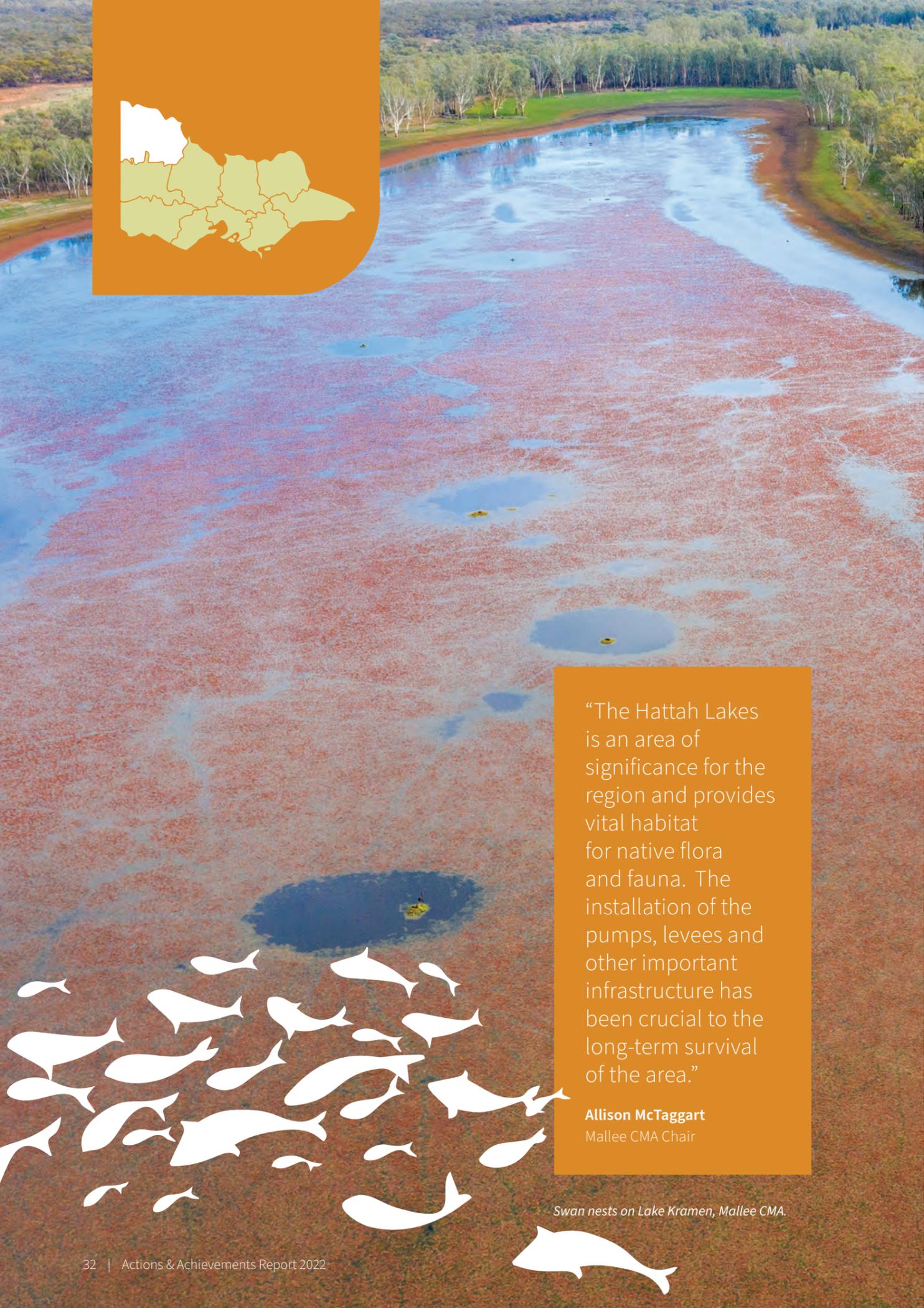
- ▶ Completed the *Ribbons of Blue Sashes of Green* project creating 500 hectares of wildlife corridors along creeks, through paddocks and around dams.
- ▶ Confirmed the call of the EPBC-listed Sloane's Froglet at Moodie Swamp for the first time, after delivering 1,000 megalitres of water for the environment.
- ▶ The enduring Partnership Team Forum, that brings together key stakeholders to address natural resource management priorities in the catchment, celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Water storage (No.)	7	10	-	-	<b>10</b>
1.2 Waterway structure (No.)	16	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
1.3 Monitoring structure (No.)	21	21	-	-	<b>21</b>
1.4 Fence (Km)	16	22	-	-	<b>22</b>
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	316	173	201	-	<b>374</b>
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	1,848	481	1,627	-	<b>2,108</b>
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	118,207	75,360	81,886	-	<b>157,246</b>
2.4 Threatened species response (No.)	3	4	-	-	<b>4</b>
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Grazing (Ha)	219	149	73	-	<b>222</b>
3.2 Water (No.)	1	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
3.3 Fire Regime (No.)	7	3	-	-	<b>3</b>
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	1,095	1,550	-	-	<b>1,550</b>
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	40	16	22	-	<b>38</b>
4.3 Assessment (No.)	1,275	1,079	145	1	<b>1,225</b>
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	1,435	1,630	1,592	-	<b>3,222</b>
4.5 Partnership (No.)	116	129	-	-	<b>129</b>
4.6 Plan (No.)	98	46	1	1	<b>48</b>
4.7 Publication (No.)	183	63	144	3	<b>210</b>
4.8 Information management system (No.)	2	3	-	-	<b>3</b>



Left and centre: Fish surveying in King Parrot Creek, Goulburn Broken CMA. Right: Strong platypus numbers were recorded in King Parrot Creek surveying, image Australian Platypus Conservancy.



# Mallee

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year highlights

- ▶ Installed environmental infrastructure at the Hattah Lakes in 2013 which was the largest of its kind in Australia.
- ▶ Delivered essential environmental water flows to the Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes to support significant populations of endangered and threatened flora and fauna.
- ▶ Enabled Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community to continue cultural practices and knowledge sharing at the lakes through the Hattah Lakes infrastructure project.

*Hattah Kulkyne Lakes are the largest series of floodplain lakes along the Murray River and without intervention through the delivery of environmental flows the site would have continued to deteriorate.*

### Life giving water for the Lakes

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, in Mallee Country, is a Ramsar listed wetland and refuge for important flora and fauna. The delivery of environmental water via the Hattah Lakes infrastructure project has been vital to its ongoing survival.

The 13,000 hectare Ramsar-listed lakes provide drought refuge for birds, animals and vegetation, while the significant cultural and social values of the landscape continue to connect Traditional Owners and community members with this amazing Country.

Hattah Lakes were once regularly connected to the river and received life giving flows. Due to river regulation, reduced flooding and water availability, the floodplains and lakes required infrastructure to supply vital water to ensure its survival.

The installation of the pumps, regulators and levees in 2013 was an iconic moment for the National Park. The infrastructure was one of Australia's largest environmental projects and ten years in the planning. The park has since received six environmental flows, two natural flooding events and drawdowns and drying between inundation, reflecting the natural cycle for floodplain lakes.

Hattah Lakes are a much loved area and a vital part of our floodplain health and play a significant role in supporting our natural ecosystem.

“The Hattah Lakes is an area of significance for the region and provides vital habitat for native flora and fauna. The installation of the pumps, levees and other important infrastructure has been crucial to the long-term survival of the area.”

**Allison McTaggart**  
Mallee CMA Chair

Swan nests on Lake Kramen, Mallee CMA.



Messengers Pumps Outlet and Lake Kramen during drawdown.

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

Chaffey Park Oval, Merbein  
Victoria 3505

### Outputs

- 890 engagement event participants
- Partnerships
- Gender impact assessments

### Investment

Connecting Community to  
Waterways

### Partners

Mildura Rural City Council, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Murray Darling Basin Authority, Lower Murray Water, Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area, SuniTafe Primary Industries, EnviroEdu, Petaurus Education Group, Local Land Services, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Western Landcare NSW, Transport for NSW (Maritime), Maritime Safety Victoria

### Regional strategies

Regional Catchment Strategy

## Sunray Warriors adventuring for the environment

Sunray Warriors – An Environmental Adventure is a multi-agency environmental education event offering hands-on, interactive activities for primary aged students. The event is free for primary schools within the Sunraysia region and is available to schools in both Victoria and New South Wales and coordinated by Mallee CMA.

Originally held as a one-day event during National Water Week, Sunray Warriors – An Environmental Adventure! was expanded into a stand-alone two-day event in 2018, due to increased demand from both schools and agencies seeking participation and inclusion.

In March 2022, the Mallee CMA in partnership with 13 other agencies held the event for 890 primary school students representing 11 schools.

Students enjoyed either a morning or afternoon session, starting with an Acknowledgement of Country before rotating through four 30-minute activities, all offering hands-on and interactive content. Activities included:

- boat safety
- live demonstration of native and threatened wildlife species
- an informative presentation on Aboriginal culture and traditional land management practices
- how to reduce, reuse and recycle waste
- native bees and the role they play in our environment
- the values of wetlands and threatened species of the Mallee
- construction of seed bombs to understand the importance of native plants
- how water is shared between the environment, agriculture and people
- water conservation
- the importance of wetlands for our native animals expressed through Aboriginal dance
- sustainable gardening practices and how and where fruit and vegetables grow
- how to identify waterbugs and the role they play in wetland health.

The event was offered at no cost making it accessible to small rural communities that would not normally have this opportunity. The structure of activities and event location took accessibility into consideration including the requirements students of all ages from the Mildura Specialist School.

Sunray Warriors aims to empower and educate our future environmental leaders, including students from diverse backgrounds, remote communities, and with physical and intellectual disabilities, demonstrates the importance of equity and inclusivity in engagement.

Left: Sunray Warriors playing didgeridoo.



Uncle Willie performing an Acknowledgment of Country.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*Healthy and resilient landscapes being cared for by connected communities.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ Manage agricultural land to optimise productive capacity, while avoiding or minimising environmental impacts.
- ▶ Protect Aboriginal culture and heritage and embed Traditional Owner led practices in the management and healing of Country.
- ▶ Connected and resilient communities lead positive change across our natural, cultural and productive landscapes.

## 2021 – 22 Achievements

- ▶ 198,000 hectares of targeted environmental works were completed to protect the region’s priority natural, cultural and productive landscapes.
- ▶ Established and maintained 53 management agreements with land managers to deliver targeted Natural Resource Management activities.
- ▶ Supported 6,900 stakeholders to participate in 24 delivery partner forums with 98% of participants rating their overall delivery as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’.

## 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Irrigation Structure (Ha)	58	3	-	-	3
1.2 Waterway structure (No.)	5	-	-	-	-
1.3 Monitoring structure (No.)	-	-	2	-	2
1.4 Fence (Km)	4	8	-	-	8
1.5 Visitor Facility (No.)	18	26	-	-	26
1.6 Road (Km)	6	3	-	-	3
1.7 Crossing (No.)	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	681	512	593	-	1,105
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	16,704	1,364	15,902	-	17,267
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	125,244	120,102	54,882	-	174,984
2.4 Threatened species response (No.)	4	2	-	-	2
<b>Management services</b>					
3.2 Water (No.)	43	34	-	-	34
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	142	103	3	-	106
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	71	45	8	-	53
4.3 Assessment (No.)	574	428	119	8	555
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	4,052	3,527	3,115	258	6,900
4.5 Partnership (No.)	101	83	10	2	95
4.6 Plan (No.)	87	44	23	2	69
4.7 Publication (No.)	262	217	79	15	311
4.8 Information management system (No.)	20	19	1	-	20



“While flooding is a vital ecological process that maintains catchment integrity, we acknowledge that floods of this magnitude cause significant financial loss and emotional strain to communities.”

**Julie Miller Markof**  
North Central CMA Chair

*Great Egret at Little Reedy Lagoon, image David Kleinert.*

# North Central

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year highlights

- ▶ Enabled Traditional Owner self-determination to care for Country, to ensure Aboriginal knowledge, cultural values and perspectives are incorporated into natural resource management, including through projects such as Lake Boort and Reedy Lagoon environmental watering.
- ▶ Worked with farmers, through Trust for Nature, to permanently protect and enhance habitat for one of the world’s most endangered birds – the Plains wanderer – on Victoria’s northern plains grasslands.
- ▶ Developed a 20-year integrated catchment management plan for the Upper Coliban Catchment and the 130,000 residents that rely on its water quality. Boosted habitat connectivity and built cultural and lifestyle values.

### Supporting communities in times of crisis

After 12 years of drought, 2010-11 delivered record-breaking rainfall and floods to the Campaspe, Loddon, Avoca and Avon–Richardson catchments. North Central CMA’s active response under statutory responsibilities was the largest, most sustained and most demanding flood response in our history.

For the first time, North Central CMA enacted its Flood Response Plan in early 2011 following the widespread flooding that impacted 25% (780,000 hectares) of the region. The flooding events were greater than or close to the 100-year Average Recurrence Interval Flood on all the region’s river systems.

Our response was immediate, supporting Vic SES and undertaking emergency and priority flood mitigation works such as clearing debris and repairs to levees, flood pegging and mapping and stream gauge reinstatements.

In early 2011 our team contacted 850 landholders and over 1,100 fencing, erosion, drainage and levee assessments were completed between February and May.

In June 2011, the Victorian Government confirmed \$2.7 million to implement the Flood Recovery Employment Program that employed 60 people and received \$9 million Natural Disaster Relief funding from Department of Treasury and Finance. This joint investment funded extensive repair works.

Post 2021-11, we’ve worked with local government and communities to develop 19 Flood Management Plans and Studies that have resulted in flood mitigation works for several flood affected towns and updates to municipal planning schemes. Flood warning systems have been upgraded including automated gauges for Charlton, Rochester and Donald and gauge boards in Creswick, Dunolly and Carisbrook.

Our ongoing work to support and build community resilience and preparedness for future flooding events is, and will be, our lasting legacy.



*Left: Charlton township in flood January 2011. Right: Loddon River floodplain January 2011. Images North Central CMA.*

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

Campaspe River Redesdale, Elmore, Kyneton

### Outputs

- 92 kilometres fencing
- 198 hectares riparian works
- 66 troughs installed
- 403 hectares woody weed control
- 271 hectares revegetation
- 3,930 engagement event participants
- 160 management agreements
- 28 surface water assessments

### Investment

Victorian Government

### Partners

Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Campaspe Shire, DELWP, Parks Victoria, Goulburn Murray Water, Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, Yorta Nations Aboriginal Corporation, Upper Campaspe Landcare Network, Echuca Moama Landcare, Strathallan Family Landcare, Longlea & District Landcare, Campaspe Valley Landcare, Kyneton Angling Club, and Rochester and District Angling Club.

### Regional strategies

North Central RCS 2021-27, North Central Regional Waterway Strategy 2014-22, North Central CMA Reconciliation Action Plan, Dja Wurrung Country Plan 2014-34 – Dhelkunya Dja, Taungurung Country Plan – Taungurung Buk Dadbagi, Yorta Yorta Whole-Of-Country Plan 2021-2030

## Caring for the Campaspe

It takes a community to care for a river. Caring for the Campaspe, a 10-year Flagship Waterway project, did just that with activities aimed to protect and enhance vegetation along the 250 kilometre river and improve ecosystem health.

The \$7.6 million initiative was the first large-scale, on-ground works project to deliver improvements for the Campaspe River from its headwaters near Ashbourne to the Murray River at Echuca. It was designed to complement water for the environment deliveries and provide environmental, social and cultural outcomes.

The Campaspe has several threatened vegetation communities and provides habitat for threatened wildlife, such as the Swift Parrot and Squirrel Glider.

Since 2012, North Central CMA has delivered fencing, off-stream watering, weed control and revegetation incentives in partnership with land managers along the river. From Lake Eppalock to Echuca, these activities complemented the delivery of water for the environment to achieve demonstrated improvements in river health such as native fish diversity and abundance.

Community engagement increased awareness and understanding of the river’s values, threats and management. Information and advice were provided directly to landholders managing river frontages and at community events to cover cultural heritage, environmental flows and weed control.

Citizen scientists played an important role in measuring environmental condition change. In 2022, ten community volunteers, Taungurung Land and Waters Council and ten primary/secondary schools regularly monitored 28 sites along the river’s length.



Campaspe River willow removal, fencing and revegetation, Carlsruhe (2016/2019), image North Central CMA.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*Working in Partnership for a Healthy Catchment.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ Traditional Owners lead self-determined participation in natural resource planning and management.
- ▶ Active and resilient communities adapt to challenges including climate change.
- ▶ Healthy waterways and floodplains are managed for shared benefits.

## 2021-22 Achievements

- ▶ Delivered 98 gegalitres of water for the environment to several Ramsar listed wetlands, floodplains and major systems of the Campaspe and Loddon rivers.
- ▶ Secured non-traditional funding of \$713,000 from the Agnico Eagle Group to continue the statewide school-based River Detectives Program for the next three years.
- ▶ Constructed two new fishways at Cohuna and Koondrook Weirs to connect 140 kilometres of prime fish habitat in Gunbower Creek with 530 kilometres of open Murray River.

## 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Water storage (No.)	36	17	-	4	<b>21</b>
1.2 Pump (No.)	2	-	2	-	<b>2</b>
1.3 Waterway structure (No.)	6	-	-	1	<b>1</b>
1.4 Terrestrial feature (No.)	-	6	-	-	<b>6</b>
1.5 Fence (Km)	44	24	6	-	<b>30</b>
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	286	308	237	5	<b>550</b>
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	701	2,912	100	28	<b>3,040</b>
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	8,402	8,746	1,967	-	<b>10,713</b>
2.4 Threatened species response (No.)	4	4	2	-	<b>6</b>
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Grazing (Ha)	25	261	-	-	<b>261</b>
3.2 Agricultural practice change (Ha)	18,400	-	3,089	-	<b>3,089</b>
3.3 Water (No.)	10	69	1	-	<b>70</b>
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	2,511	3,727	-	-	<b>3,727</b>
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	42	26	9	-	<b>35</b>
4.3 Assessment (No.)	390	1,075	104	2	<b>1,181</b>
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	1,670	3,090	1,071	717	<b>4,878</b>
4.5 Partnership (No.)	42	44	-	1	<b>45</b>
4.6 Plan (No.)	28	14	11	-	<b>25</b>
4.7 Publication (No.)	101	81	19	11	<b>111</b>
4.8 Information management system (No.)	2	4	-	1	<b>5</b>

# North East

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year highlights

- ▶ Developed a strong and unifying vision to guide floodplain management through the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018-28.
- ▶ Renewed the North East Regional Catchment Strategy in 2004, 2013 and 2021 - leading the partnership with Traditional Owners/First Nations peoples, NRM agencies and Landcare.
- ▶ Continued recovery efforts from the 2019-20 bushfires when more than 430,000 hectares of land (22% of the catchment) were impacted by fires, most severely in the Upper Murray.

### Willows and waterways – a 25 year history

Willows were planted widely in north east waterways between the 1930s and 1980s to control erosion through bank stabilisation. However, by the 1990s, their negative impact on waterways was widely recognised. This spurred on development of policy to work with the community to reduce their spread and promote waterway health, including the protection of fragile Alpine Peatlands on the Bogong High Plains.

Over the past 25 years, willow control and restoring the over 2,700 kilometres of major and 10,500 kilometres of minor waterways has been our key focus.

Over time, control works have continually been informed by ongoing monitoring, community consultation and research reports commissioned by the CMA. This ensures a continual commitment to and improvement of managing willows.

North East CMA continues to work with partners and landholders across the Catchment to manage willows. In the five years to 2021-22, the CMA has undertaken 15,730 hectares of woody weed control across North East waterways and the story will continue.



“Whilst seeing the stumps and bare riverbank may be confronting to some in the short term, the CMA is committed to revegetating this site with native trees like the beautiful and shady Omeo Gum, blackwoods, black sallies and more, while leaving dead willow stumps in place to stabilise the riverbank until the natives have grown.”

**Dr Christine Cunningham**  
North East CMA Chair

*Federation Hill Wodonga – “I can visit any time, and there’s lot of wildlife and great views”. A winning photograph in My Favourite Place competition for the North East Regional Catchment Strategy. Image by Elisa Tack.*



Left: A site on the Ovens River immediately following the mechanical removal of ageing Crack Willow and poisoning of stumps. Right: The same Ovens River site with established native vegetation after more than 10 years. Images North East CMA.

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

- Ovens and King Rivers and tributaries
- Upper Murray – Mitta Mitta River and tributaries

### Outputs

- Headwater willow and control by Jaithmathang TABOO
- Reduced willows across 1 hectare of riverbank on the Mitta Mitta River

### Investment

Victorian and Australian Governments

### Partners

Parks Victoria, DELWP, Agriculture Victoria, North East Water, Trust for Nature, ARI Murray Darling, Freshwater Research Centre, CSIRO, Goulburn-Murray Water, Mt Hotham and Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Boards, Southern Hydro Pty Ltd, Omeo Angling Club, Mittagundi Outdoor Education Centre, Victorian Catchment Management Council, Friends of the Mitta Mitta, Traditional Owner / First Nations groups

### Regional strategies

Mitta Mitta River Waterway Management Strategy, North East Regional Catchment Strategy, North East Regional River Health Strategy, North East CMA NRM Plan 2021

## Partnering with Traditional Owners

Working with Traditional Owners and First Nations Peoples to facilitate increased involvement in strategic planning and NRM project delivery is a key priority for North East CMA. The meeting on Jaithmathang TABOO bimbale (tribal lands), including Falls Creek and the Bogong High Plains was an historic gathering between Jaithmathang TABOO and GLaWAC and the first time several members had visited their own Country. Traditional Owners, land managers and scientists focused on developing a collaborative vision for alpine land management.

North East CMA have partnered with Jaithmathang TABOO to deliver a range of activities including:

- The Mountain Pygmy-possum and Bogong Moth are totem species for the Jaithmathang TABOO people. Extensive engagement through the Regional Land Partnerships – Mountain Pygmy-possum Recovery program is imperative to support a Traditional Owners’ perspective to these species conservation.
- Regional Land Partnerships – Alpine Peatland Protection and Mountain Pygmy-possum Recovery program have contributed funding to support a grant to the Jaithmathang TABOO to develop a method for willow identification using remote sensing.
- Flagship Waterways – Upper Mitta Mitta (EC5) project has included engagement with Jaithmathang TABOO to utilise their technology to capture high resolution imagery of the lower Cobungra River catchment to assess woody weeds and inform planning.
- Integrated Water Management Project established with Jaithmathang TABOO to embed cultural perspectives into planning and projects in north east Victoria.
- Jaithmathang TABOO developed their Country Plan with support from North East CMA.
- Aboriginal Water Policy Officer has also worked with Jaithmathang TABOO to secure funding through DELWP to employ a Jaithmathang Water Officer and for a feasibility study exploring opportunities for Traditional Owner-led native plant business in the Victorian alpine region.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*Diverse, healthy and connected landscapes and communities.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ Waterways are valued, healthy and adaptively managed, supporting environmental, cultural, recreational and economic values.
- ▶ Biodiversity in north east Victoria is protected, improved and valued for its cultural, social and environmental significance.
- ▶ A diverse and connected community caring for and stewarding north east Victoria’s landscapes.

## 2021 – 22 Achievements

- ▶ Implemented the Embedding Climate Adaptation in Agriculture program which demonstrates how leading farmers are managing the risks of climate change.
- ▶ Partnered with local Landcare and primary schools to deliver the Upper Ovens Flagship Project –to treat invasive weeds and plant 1,000 plants.
- ▶ King River – Caring for Country program delivered water for the environment partnering with Taungurung Land and Waters Council, Victorian Environmental Water Holder and landholders.

## 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Waterway structure (No.)	16	47	-	-	<b>47</b>
1.2 Monitoring structure (No.)	16	16	-	-	<b>16</b>
1.3 Fence (Km)	36	45	-	-	<b>45</b>
1.4 Visitor Facility (No.)	1	1	-	-	<b>1</b>
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	172	67	85	-	<b>152</b>
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	1,340	1,938	1,208	-	<b>3,146</b>
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	34,500	9,284	48,746	-	<b>58,030</b>
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife (Ha)	100	-	1,394	-	<b>1,394</b>
2.5 Earth works (No.)	3	10	-	-	<b>10</b>
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Grazing (Ha)	7	14	-	-	<b>14</b>
3.2 Agricultural practice change (Ha)	50	585	-	-	<b>585</b>
3.3 Water (No.)	3	3	-	-	<b>3</b>
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	541	519	51	-	<b>570</b>
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	83	31	100	-	<b>131</b>
4.3 Assessment (No.)	219	284	6	-	<b>290</b>
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	3,494	3,640	2,542	-	<b>6,182</b>
4.5 Partnership (No.)	102	100	38	-	<b>138</b>
4.6 Plan (No.)	65	46	25	-	<b>71</b>
4.7 Publication (No.)	148	111	144	-	<b>255</b>
4.8 Information management system (No.)	4	4	-	-	<b>4</b>



# Port Phillip & Westernport

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year highlights

- ▶ Led long-term, landscape-scale flagship collaborations through Grow West, Yarra4Life and Living Links.
- ▶ Completed four Regional Catchment Strategies to provide the strategic direction for integrated catchment management in the Port Phillip and Westernport region.
- ▶ Developed and maintained strong and enduring partnerships with our region's three Registered Aboriginal Parties, 17 Landcare Networks and 85 Landcare Groups.

### Grow West grows best

For 20 years, the collaboration through the Grow West program has helped connect and restore 10,000 hectares of the upper Werribee catchment in Melbourne's west, and create biolinks between the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park.

Grow West was born from passionate community advocacy to improve the landscapes of the upper Werribee area that had been degraded through decades of overgrazing and clearing.

Collaboration between community groups, local government and State Government agencies has seen many great achievements. Grow West has planted over 1.3 million seedlings, managed pests and weeds on over 3,000 hectares, protected threatened grasslands and native animals, and built up the capacity and the knowledge of local landholders to care for the incredible natural environment of this part of Victoria.

A highlight of the program since it began in 2003 is the annual Grow West Community Planting Days that regularly attract over 200 volunteers from the local area and right across Melbourne to get their hands in the dirt and contribute to improving local landscapes.

“Grow West is truly a collaborative project where local communities work together with all levels of government and business to restore our unique landscape in the most effective and sustainable way.”

**Tania Foster**  
Former Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Chair

PPWCMA staff planting, image PPWCMA.



Left: Rowsley landscape 1970s, image Soil Conservation Authority. Right: Rowsley landscape 2018, image Roger MacRaild.

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

Macedon, Yarra Ranges and Nillumbik, Western Port and the Mornington Peninsula.

### Outputs

- 6 engagement events
- 123 participants
- 11 site visits

### Investment

This project has been delivered through the RALF project with support from Melbourne Water, Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways Incentives Program, and Regional Landcare Coordinator project.

### Partners

Cannibal Creek Landcare Group, Western Port Catchment Landcare Network, Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network, Northern Yarra Landcare Network.

### Regional strategies

Regional Catchment Strategy, Healthy Waterway Strategy

### New nurseries for Eco Engineers

Dung Beetles are known as ‘ecosystem engineers’ because they bury dung underground and turn nutrient loads into a natural fertiliser for pastures and soil health. In doing so, nutrient runoff is eliminated from farms, helping to keep our waterways healthy. Less dung in paddocks also means lower worm counts and reduces the need for drenches.

A new species of dung beetles has been released, meaning farmers across Australia have a renewed interest in ensuring they have covered their ‘beetle seasonal gaps’ by monitoring, breeding and now swapping beetles with other Natural Resource Management regions.

New species of dung beetles are being bred in ‘nurseries’ to fast track their breeding to be released across the region. As these are a new species, we are also not sure how successful they will be, so breeding in a confined space allows for monitoring of the emerging next generation of beetles and to set up more nurseries and free releases.

The program also involved the establishment of a dung beetle exchange program with another Natural Resource Management region, who have a species that should do well in Port Phillip region but doesn’t yet have a wide distribution available. These beetles arrived in autumn and in exchange, the Natural Resource Management region will receive some of the summer species that are in abundance.

Historical dung beetle releases have not been monitored for success. This project, however, will include field monitoring and also record observations onto a BioCollect project using the Atlas of Living Australia. This is a great example of the Landcare community and Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator networks working together to improve local environmental outcomes.



*Onthophagus Taurus found in field monitoring, image Karen Thomas.*

### 2021 – 22 Achievements

- ▶ In January 2022, Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority integrated into Melbourne Water – an exciting next step for natural resource management in Victoria.
- ▶ The new team finalised the draft Regional Catchment Strategy with more than 100 partner organisations signed on to support its delivery.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*A healthy and resilient environment in the Port Phillip & Westernport region.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ Benefits of the integration of the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA into Melbourne Water are realised.
- ▶ Strong partnerships built as a combined Water and Catchment Authority to create a health and resilient environment in the Port Phillip and Westernport region.

### 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Environmental works</b>					
1.1 Vegetation (Ha)	35	-	30	-	<b>30</b>
1.2 Weed control (Ha)	2,274	1,900	2,181	-	<b>4,081</b>
1.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	58,754	39,044	47,575	-	<b>86,619</b>
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
2.1 Approval and advice (No.)	16	-	18	-	<b>18</b>
2.2 Management agreement (No.)	8	4	3	-	<b>7</b>
2.3 Assessment (No.)	162	12	130	-	<b>142</b>
2.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	900	850	2,546	156	<b>3,552</b>
2.5 Partnership (No.)	26	22	11	1	<b>34</b>
2.6 Plan (No.)	37	5	31	-	<b>36</b>
2.7 Publication (No.)	50	6	154	-	<b>160</b>
2.8 Information management system (No.)	1	1	-	-	<b>1</b>



*Left: Geotrupes spiniger release from Tasmanian beetles. Right: Monitoring for dung beetles. Images by Karen Thomas.*



# West Gippsland

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year highlights

- ▶ Planted over 3.25 million trees to enhance waterways and create wildlife habitat.
- ▶ Removed 3/4 million hectares of weeds and installed 1,500 kilometres of fencing installed along riverbanks.
- ▶ Held more than 1,200 community events with over 26,000 participants, who have all contributed to improving the outcomes for waterways and the environment in West Gippsland.

### Lasting legacy for the Thomson

Across 25 years, West Gippsland CMA has worked with Traditional Owners, partners and community to transform waterways from the mountains to the sea, connecting rivers and people.

The spectacular catchment extends from Warragul and San Remo in the west to the Gippsland Lakes in the east, and from the Great Dividing Range in the north to Wilsons Promontory in the south. It is home to the Latrobe, Thomson and South Gippsland river basins.

Along our 25-year journey, more than three and a quarter million trees have been planted, almost three quarters of a million hectares of weeds have been removed and 1,500 kilometres of fencing installed along riverbanks.

There have also been 1,200 community events with over 26,000 participants, who have all contributed to improving the outcomes for waterways and the environment in West Gippsland.

One key legacy has been delivering a state priority to allow native fish passage between the Gippsland Lakes to the Victorian alpine region with the construction of the Thomson River Fishway in 2019.

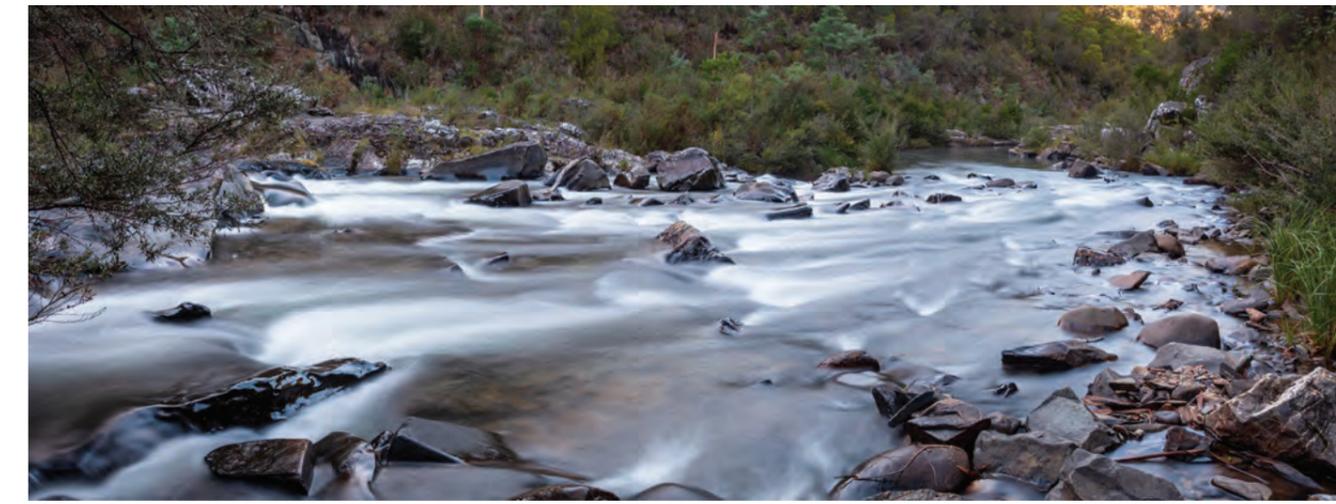
The initiative is already showing results with surveys revealing good numbers and distribution of the endangered tupoong, eels, Australian smelt and young blackfish above the fishway.

*“We are proud to have enabled the seasonal migration of native fish for the first time in over 100 years along one of the region’s most significant and ecologically important rivers.”*

“This 25-year milestone allows us to measure our impact and most importantly acknowledge our partners and the many hundreds of landholders and thousands of community members who’ve made it possible”

**Mikaela Power**  
West Gippsland CMA  
Board Chair

*Tidal River, Wilsons Promontory National Park – one of the RCS Local Areas. West Gippsland CMA.*



*Thomson River fishway, West Gippsland CMA.*

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

Walhalla, Noojee, Macalister, Thomson Rivers

### Outputs

- Received and responded to nearly 200 community reports of waterway damage.
- Undertook over 150 site assessments.
- Stabilised riverbeds and banks at 44 sites.
- Delivered significant amounts of waterway recovery works including:
  - 5 repaired or constructed waterway structures-
  - 14 kilometres of fencing repair or replacement-
  - 4 hectares of revegetation-
  - 17 hectares of remnant protection-
  - 1 hectare of weed control and 45 earthworks.

### Investment

Victorian Government

### Partners

Community, landholders, council, Parks Victoria and DELWP.

### Regional strategies

Regional Catchment Strategy

### After the floods

One significant rain event in June 2021 had lasting impacts across the West Gippsland catchment. A program of flood recovery works over the year means wildlife and wetlands are now recovering and thriving.

Floods are a natural part of the catchment cycle. After drought and bushfires in 2019, rains flooded the catchment resulting in up to one-in-one-hundred-year flood events in some of West Gippsland’s rivers.

West Gippsland CMA initially responded to hundreds of community calls, focusing on areas of urgent concern such as major tree and debris removal and fencing repairs.

In 2021-22, a recovery program was delivered in partnership with community, landholders, council, Parks Victoria and DELWP. Works included bank stabilisation, repairs to damaged fences and ultimately revegetation.

The team used their experience of previous floods to achieve the best results by working with natural materials and processes. In the upper Macalister, logs washed down the river were dug back into the banks to stabilise them and provide habitat for fish.

“All flood recovery works were done in partnership with communities, other government agencies and landholders to achieve the best possible outcome for the waterway and all stakeholders,” said Board Chair Mikaela Power.

“That is the great part about the CMA. We were able to respond quickly, using our local contacts and knowledge to effectively undertake much needed repair works.”

While floods are disruptive for humans, they also provide cues for animals, connect wetlands and are essential for waterway health.

“We are delighted with the natural river flows of the past year and their positive impacts along the river course into the lower Latrobe wetlands, such as triggering breeding events of birds, fish and wetland plants,” said Board Chair Mikaela Power.

“Over the past years, we’ve been managing environmental water through drought and fire seasons. This has laid down the groundwork to allow the environment to flourish when these natural flows come through.”



Loy Yang Creek in flood, West Gippsland CMA.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*Catchment Health – Gippsland’s Wealth.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ The people of Gippsland recognise the importance of our ecosystems, natural resource base, unique natural features and landscapes found within the region.
- ▶ Our inspired, knowledgeable, capable and resilient communities will ensure these continue to underpin the environmental, social cultural and economic wealth of the region.

### 2021 – 22 Achievements

- ▶ Embed climate-adapted decision making into the planning and delivery of land, water and biodiversity programs.
- ▶ Maintain the ecological character of Corner Inlet and the Gippsland Lakes.
- ▶ Recognise and establish formal provisions that protect Traditional Owners rights, interests, obligations and access to water.

### 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Channel (Km)	2	-	-	-	-
1.2 Water storage (No.)	3	-	-	-	-
1.3 Irrigation Structure (Ha)	6	27	-	-	27
1.4 Waterway structure (No.)	1	5	-	-	5
1.5 Terrestrial Structure (No.)	1	-	-	-	-
1.6 Monitoring structure (No.)	3	41	-	2	43
1.7 Fence (Km)	12	20	8	-	27
1.8 Road (Km)	-	-	2	-	2
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	8	15	4	-	19
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	67,758	72	68,379	13	68,464
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	170	15,032	1,050	7,138	23,221
2.4 Earth works (No.)	1	47	-	-	47
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Agricultural practice change (No.)	51	-	51	-	51
3.2 Water (No.)	1	8	-	-	8
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	19	1,584	1	-	1,585
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	41	69	39	-	108
4.3 Assessment (No.)	64	713	37	2	752
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	-	655	71	72	798
4.5 Partnership (No.)	21	43	-	-	43
4.6 Plan (No.)	52	44	32	-	76
4.7 Publication (No.)	15	123	48	-	171
4.8 Information management system (No.)	2	2	-	-	2



Lower Latrobe wetlands July 2021. West Gippsland CMA.



“Over the last 25 years uptake of new tools, technologies and practices has enabled our region’s farmers to tackle extremely complex challenges and adapt to significant changes in climate, weather and markets.”

**Peter Hilbig**  
Wimmera CMA Chair

Upper catchment, sheep and turbines.  
Wimmera CMA.

# Wimmera

## OUR LEGACY

### 25 Year highlights

- ▶ Empowered Traditional Owners to assist in managing of water for the environment at Ranch Billabong at Dimboola to improve community and environmental health.
- ▶ Improved environmental, social and economic values of the Wimmera River catchment since the millennium drought through water for the environment, waterway health works and improved recreational access.
- ▶ Supported strong and active Landcare, agricultural and citizen science community organisations to deliver grass roots actions to achieve Regional Catchment Strategy outcomes.

### Supporting, measuring and celebrating change in agriculture

Wimmera farmers and communities have a proven ability to adapt and manage a wide range of risks including climate variability, soil constraints and drought. Since its establishment Wimmera CMA has focused on supporting these efforts through strategic partnerships that improve access to science and ag tech tools promoting soil health.

- A quarter of a century of partnerships has contributed to:
- Farmers accessing more opportunities to educate themselves.
  - A stronger science base.
  - Farmers with more confidence and capacity to adopt and adapt to advanced technologies.

- Across the decades, some of the many highlights include:
- Establishment of Vic No-Till in 2002 by local farmers who shared an interest in soil health.
  - Social Drivers of NRM in the Wimmera landholder survey in 2002, which has become the longest running social benchmarking survey of its kind in Australia.
  - First Wimmera Cropland Management Transect survey to track trends in land cover and management practices in 2006. Today it is Australia’s longest running land use and land management field survey held twice annually across over 1,000 paddocks.

Looking to the future, data sharing is an area of increasing focus along with farm sensor connectivity and emerging technologies such as robotics, machine learning and drones to support ongoing efforts to build capacity to adapt and manage risk.



Left: Farmers are continually trialling new practices in the Wimmera.  
Right: CMA staff conducting the Wimmera cropping management transect survey.  
Images Wimmera CMA.

## 2021 – 22 CASE STUDY

### Location

Wimmera River including at Horsham, Dimboola and Jeparit and surrounds

### Outputs

- 1 Assessment
- 1 publication
- 2 watering actions
- 25.86ha agricultural practice change
- 116 ha assessments
- 1 plan

### Investment

EWR (21/22) – \$599K  
 Economic assessment (21/22) \$18K  
 OCOC (21/22) – \$220K

### Partners

Wimmera Development Association, Wimmera Mallee Tourism, GWM Water, VEWH, Local Government, Barengi Gadjin Land Council

### Regional strategies

Regional Catchment Strategy, Wimmera Waterway Strategy 2014-2022



## Understanding and delivering shared benefits from water

Wimmera CMA is working with regional partners and the community to understand the drivers of social, economic and cultural values of water for the environment and implementing actions that maintain and improve these values.

Over the past seven years, Wimmera CMA, in partnership with Wimmera Development Association, Wimmera Mallee Tourism, GWM Water and Local Government have been working together to improve the understanding of the social and economic value of waterways in the Wimmera. This includes the benefits to those that receive water for the environment.

Detailed studies have estimated that on average the waterways of the Wimmera Southern Mallee generate around \$30 million in economic benefits and \$3 million in health benefits. This year a detailed assessment of three specific events aimed to assess the benefit of water for the environment. The study showed that these events generated the following economic contributions:

- Horsham Fishing competition (\$542,166)
- Dimboola Barefoot Skiing event (\$185,051)
- Jeparit fishing competition (\$105,616).

All these events were made possible because of the benefits brought about from the delivery of water for the environment and other waterway health activities.

Wimmera CMA and partners including Barengi Gadjin Land Council, local government and community groups have been working together to increase this value by implementing a range of projects that create sustainable activation of these waterways.

This included:

- Development of walking tracks and foot crossings in Horsham.
- Negotiation of public access to private river frontage in Horsham as part of a major subdivisions.
- Improvement of facilities at the Barengi Gadjin Land Council owned Ranch Billabong.
- Installation of fishing and rowing/kayak floating pontoons in Horsham and Dimboola.
- Support for the Dimboola Boat and Water Ski Club to protect and enhance eroding banks through the installation of floating wetlands and revegetation.
- Financial and in-kind assistance in managing and running fishing competitions and events.

Fishing and picnicking at the Wimmera River Horsham, Wimmera CMA.



Water skiing on the Wimmera River, Dimboola.

## EMBRACING THE FUTURE

### Our Future Vision

*A healthy Wimmera catchment where a resilient landscape supports a sustainable and profitable community.*

### Future aspirations

- ▶ Discovered three new juvenile platypuses and one sub-adult in a stretch of the MacKenzie River, in the Gariwerd (Grampians) National Park.
- ▶ Coordinated a range of professional development opportunities to support Aboriginal staff as future leaders in catchment management.
- ▶ Supported farmers to install a Wimmera wide network of soil moisture probes and weather stations, at 72 sites, under the Australian Government’s Future Drought Fund.
- ▶ First Nations communities have developed stronger connections between the RCS and their own strategies and plans and have implemented relevant actions.
- ▶ Integrated catchment management has contributed to health, wellbeing and economic development (liveability) of the Wimmera region.
- ▶ New and emerging leaders in integrated catchment management are supported.

### 2021 – 22 Outputs

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Fed	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Waterway structure (No.)	3	3	-	-	3
1.2 Monitoring structure (No.)	-	2	-	-	2
1.3 Fence (Km)	19	20	7	-	27
1.4 Visitor Facility (No.)	2	-	-	-	-
1.5 Crossing (No.)	1	-	-	-	-
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (Ha)	20	20	-	-	20
2.2 Weed control (Ha)	1,621	3,173	201	-	3,373
2.3 Pest animal control (Ha)	43,521	2,954	42,261	-	45,214
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Grazing (Ha)	131	131	200	-	330
3.2 Agricultural practice change (Ha)	-	20	-	-	20
3.3 Water (No.)	13	20	-	-	20
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (No.)	268	370	1	-	371
4.2 Management agreement (No.)	98	17	81	-	98
4.3 Assessment (No.)	3	39	1,724	-	1,763
4.4 Engagement event (No. of participants)	701	3,054	3,869	-	6,923
4.5 Partnership (No.)	20	20	-	2	22
4.6 Plan (No.)	3	33	4	-	37
4.7 Publication (No.)	23	13	13	-	26
4.8 Information management system (No.)	1	-	-	-	-

# Contact information



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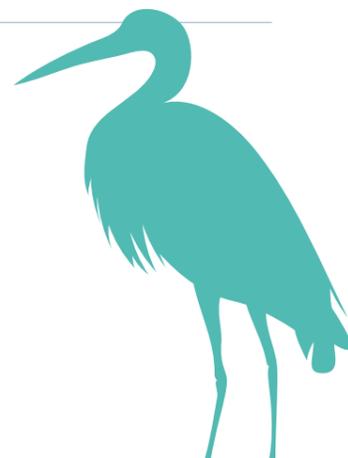
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*Pictured this page: Threatened Hooded Plovers and chick.  
Back cover: Wimmera River, Dimboola.*

“We have achieved great outcomes for our natural environments, agricultural landscapes and communities in our 25 years, and we are only just getting started.”

**Peter Hilbig**  
Chair Vic Catchments



Projects featured in this report were supported by Victoria's 10 CMAs, the community and a range of partners through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the Victorian Government.

