

Glenelg Hopkins



C M A

*Protecting our future - Naturally*



Glenelg Hopkins  
WATERWAY STRATEGY  
2014-2022



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## CHAIR'S FOREWORD

*As a long-term resident who enjoys the benefits of our rivers, coast and wetlands, I am proud to release the 2014-2022 Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy to the community.*

This strategy follows the release of the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy in 2013, which provides the framework and policy direction for the management of rivers, estuaries and wetlands in the Glenelg Hopkins region and supports their current and future environmental, social, cultural and economic values. Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy also aligns with the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-19 that provides a planning framework for water and biodiversity in the Glenelg Hopkins region.

The strategy was developed by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in partnership with regional agencies involved in natural resource management, Traditional Owners, regional communities and other key stakeholders. The CMA recognises that community input and participation are essential to ensure that planning and implementation take account of the values the community places on waterways in the region.

This strategy replaces the Glenelg Hopkins River Health Strategy 2004-2009 and its associated addendum in 2010. The new strategy makes a number of improvements on the previous strategy, including a more integrated approach to waterway management that includes estuaries and wetlands. The drought and floods that have occurred over the past ten years have also necessitated a more flexible and adaptable approach to waterway management.

This strategy builds on a number of achievements of the previous strategy. Notable accomplishments include the Glenelg River Restoration Project, which was recently awarded the prestigious national environmental award – the Australian Riverprize. The CMA worked with agencies and communities in this project to complete 1,600 km of riparian fencing and plant more than half a million trees in the Glenelg basin. The creation of an environmental entitlement for the Glenelg River and the establishment of water delivery structures were significant achievements which will benefit the river and its downstream communities.

This strategy identifies high value waterways and priority management actions which will be undertaken over the next eight years. A regional work program has been included to guide investment and improve or maintain the values of these waterways. It is designed to be a practical document that will guide regional communities and agencies to improve our waterways, now and in the future.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Wagg', written in a cursive style.

**Mike Wagg**  
Chair Glenelg Hopkins  
CMA Board

## ABOUT THE STRATEGY

The Draft Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 (GHWS) provides a single planning document for river, estuary and wetland management in the Glenelg Hopkins region.

Development and implementation of the strategy delivers on key elements of the state-wide management approach for waterway management as outlined in the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013 (VWMS). The GHWS was developed by the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in partnership with regional agencies and boards involved in natural resource management, along with Traditional Owners, regional communities and other key stakeholders.

The GHWS outlines regional goals for waterway management that align with the objectives for waterways described in the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019 (RCS). High value waterways were identified and, from these, a subset of priority waterways was determined for the eight-year planning period 2014-2022. A strategic regional work program of management activities for priority waterways was developed to guide investment over this eight-year period.

The strategy also identifies regional priorities for environmental water management over the eight-year planning period, together with the complementary management activities required at these sites.

Implementation of management activities will improve or maintain the health of the region's rivers, estuaries and wetlands and contribute significantly to the community's use and enjoyment of waterways.

The regional work program will provide clear direction to guide investment in waterway management. These work priorities will provide guidance to the CMA, Victorian, local and Australian governments, community groups and private or philanthropic donors about where investment is required in the region over an eight-year period. This strategy provides investors with confidence that their annual funding of management activities is linked to a longer-term, strategic plan and leads to improvements in waterway health.

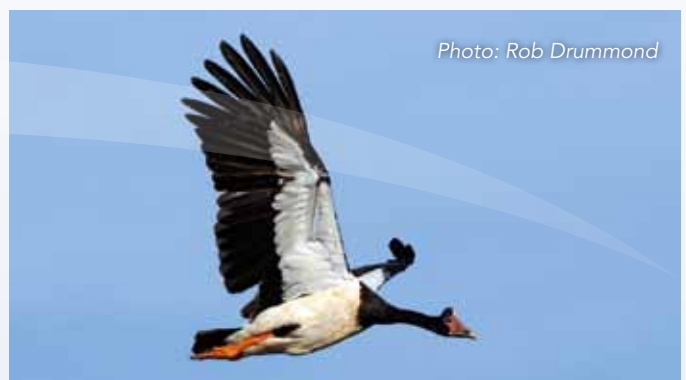
The content required for waterway strategies was outlined in guidelines published by the then Department of Sustainability and Environment and guidance notes developed in partnership with CMA waterway managers.

The strategy is guided by the direction and principles outlined in the VWMS. Drawing on the experience gained and lessons learned during the implementation of the Glenelg Hopkins River Health Strategy 2004-2009 and addendum, this new strategy will:

- improve the integrated waterway management planning framework
- incorporate estuaries and wetlands in regional waterway planning arrangements
- improve the regional priority setting process
- incorporate increased flexibility for responding to varying climatic conditions
- better integrate environmental water management with other waterway management activities.

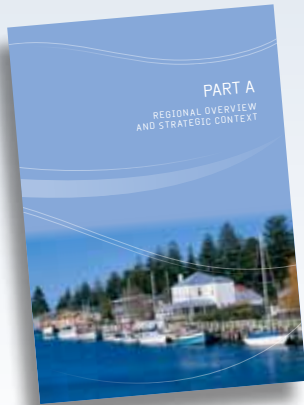
*Below left: Seasonal wetlands in the Wannon region.*

*Below right: Magpie Goose.*



*Photo: Rob Drummond*

# STRATEGY OVERVIEW



## Part A: REGIONAL OVERVIEW AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- Describes waterways in the Glenelg Hopkins region
- Outlines the process for strategy development including incorporation of community and Indigenous values
- Identifies key legislation and policy
- Discusses learnings and achievements from the previous river health strategy

See page 9.



## Part B: MANAGEMENT RESPONSES TO REGION-WIDE THREATS

- Provides an overview of broad management issues relevant to the entire region and identifies appropriate management actions.

See page 31.



## Part C: THE APPROACH USED IN WATERWAY PRIORITISATION

- Describes the strategy's vision, goals and guiding principles
- Describes the asset-based approach and use of the Aquatic Values Identification and Risk Assessment (AVIRA) tool for assessing environmental, social, cultural and economic values of waterways and risks to those values
- Identifies priority waterways and management regions
- Describes the program logic approach to identifying management objectives and high level management actions for priority waterways.

See page 52.



## Part D: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAM & STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

- Describes the process for developing targets including long-term resource condition targets (8+ years), management outcome targets (1-8 years) and management outputs (annually)
- Describes the eight-year work plan for priority waterways in each of the six Waterway Management Areas to achieve targets
- Describes the delivery approach and outlines monitoring, evaluation and reporting approach of strategy implementation.

See page 69.