

GLENELG HOPKINS CMA

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019





THIS REPORT:

- covers the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019
- is the 21st Annual Report for Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- is prepared for the Minister for Water, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Parliament of Victoria and the community
- is a public document freely available on our website, easily accessed, easily understood and relevant to readers
- is prepared in accordance with government and legislative requirements. This includes the requirement under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* for Glenelg Hopkins CMA to submit "...a report on the condition and management of land and water resources in its region and the carrying out of its functions"
- provides an accurate record of the CMA's performance and finances against its core business strategy, the Corporate Plan, which can be accessed online at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au
- contains the Catchment Condition and Management Report 2018-19
- acknowledges the support of our community.

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Above: Traditional Owners, local landholders and agency representatives met together to celebrate CMA Flagship Waterways Project Budj Bim Connections at the Tyrendarra Aboriginal Protected Area in 2018.

Front Cover: Budj Bim Aboriginal Rangers and Glenelg Hopkins staff joined forces to build knowledge and skills around species monitoring along the Glenelg River, known as Bochara in the Dhaward Wurrung language. This included sampling and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates (pictured) and contributing to two-year a baseline survey of platypus distribution along the river.

YEAR IN REVIEW

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management and staff, we are pleased to present the 21st Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

This year has been one of substantial on-ground delivery, internal improvements to our accommodation in Warrnambool, communications and engagement, ICT and Human Resources, and a new Strategic Focus for our Board.

The CMA has delivered the largest program in its history with the successful completion of the flood recovery program, funded through the **Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements**. A total of 47 sites costing \$6.3 million have been completed before the deadline of 30 June 2019. A further \$2.59 million was sourced through the Victorian Government's Disaster Response and Recovery Actions funding in 2018-19 for recovery works continuing into 2019-20.

The CMA continued to work with local government during the year to improve the quality of flood information available to the community with the implementation of key actions from the **Glenelg Hopkins Regional Floodplain Strategy**. This included the completion of the Coleraine Flood Investigation undertaken in partnership with Southern Grampians Shire Council, continuation of the Cudjee Flood Investigation with Moyne Shire Council and the commencement of new projects - Mt Emu Creek Regional Flood Investigation with Corangamite and Pyrenees Shires and Raglan Flood Investigation with Pyrenees Shire.

The Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy (VRDS) has been released. The CMA has new responsibilities under the strategy including assisting in the development of Drainage Management Plans for landholders that wish to undertake drainage works. The CMA has been funded to undertake the Eumeralla and Nullawarre drainage pilot projects. The first community consultations were held this year with further work to be undertaken in 2019-20.

Further community engagement, modelling and providing recommendations for the management of these systems through the development of Drainage Management Plans. The project is being undertaken in partnership with DELWP, Moyne Shire and Warrnambool City Council.

The highlight of the **environmental watering** program this year was the discovery of an Australian Grayling in the Glenelg River, the first record in over 122 years. Environmental water delivered to the Glenelg River totaled 14,670 ML in 2018-19. Ecological monitoring undertaken during environmental watering has continued to demonstrate a positive response in the distribution and recruitment of a range of fish species. Record numbers of young Tupong continued moving upstream from the estuary and a range of freshwater species have recruited exceptionally well throughout the Glenelg. This year Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with GWMWater to coordinate a second trial water release from Moora Moora Reservoir into the Upper Glenelg River. This was the second time water for the environment has been released from Moora Moora Reservoir and continues to build an operational understanding of how water can be delivered into this reach.

A **Ramsar Coordinating Committee (RCC)** has formed to commence implementation of the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site Management Plan. During 2018-19, the RCC has overseen the establishment of good governance arrangements, commenced monitoring of critical components, processes and services and is currently implementing a range of infrastructure and community engagement projects.

Due to increased monitoring efforts at the Ramsar site, ecologists and community monitors have sighted breeding pairs of Magpie Geese, multiple sightings of Australasian Bittern, Eastern Ground Parrot and extended the known populations of EPBC listed orchids, Marron Leek Orchid and Swamp Greenhood. Projects initiated in 2018-19 and progressing through 2019-20 include

the Beach Road upgrade and replacing Simpsons Landing fixed-boat launching structure with a floating pontoon.

The Glenelg Hopkins region was very successful under the Australian Government's **Regional Land Partnerships Program**, which saw \$14.48 million of approved projects under both Rounds One and Two. With the assistance of numerous regional partners, the CMA has been developing and commencing delivery of the following projects:

- Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project
- Coastal Connections
- Protecting the Hooded Plover
- Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms
- Red-tails of the Glenelg Plain

Glenelg Hopkins CMA prioritises working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal community groups to promote and recognise Aboriginal culture and land management practices in the region. The CMA has an **Aboriginal Partnership Framework (2017-2027)** which is a guiding strategy for how we partner and support Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities within our catchment. The CMA has a partnership statement with Gunditj Mirring. We continue to strengthen our working relationship with them through joint projects and support for their World Heritage Nomination. We also work with Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Wadawurrung, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and the Burrendies Aboriginal Corporation on a range of projects that support Traditional Owner land and water priorities.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Waterway Management Twinning program

provides a rounded suite of activities to help participants build skills and networks important for becoming more effective waterway managers. Run over nine-months and three workshops, the 2018 program finished in October with the nine mentor/mentee partnerships presenting to an invited audience on their partnership projects. Eight mentor/mentee partnerships have started their Twinning journey in 2019.

Over the past year, Glenelg Hopkins and Southern Farming Systems have strengthened their partnership through the delivery of several projects. The **Glenelg Hopkins Soil Benchmarking project** is being delivered in partnership with Southern Farming Systems. The project aims to better understand the current condition of the regions' soils and identify soil constraints to production. The project will establish 100 soil monitoring sites across the Glenelg Hopkins region which will undergo a comprehensive soil testing. In addition to the Soil Benchmarking project, SFS is delivering the **Women on Farms project**. The project consists of a series of two-day workshops with the most recent focusing on Integrated Weed Management. The program is designed to build on the skills of rural women in the region and to be responsive to their needs.

The **Grange Burn Restoration Project** has continued this year with revegetation of over 21,100 plants across 11.9 ha of land. A total of 3.1 km frontage of the waterway has also been cleared of dense infestations of woody weeds, and over 12 ha of mulching and maintenance activities have been completed. Within the agricultural land downstream of Hamilton 800 m of stock exclusion fencing has been erected and two off stream water systems including six troughs and one solar pump have been installed. The CMA has also strengthened its partnership with Southern Grampians Shire Council and Wannon Water who are both now funding works along the Grange Burn to make it a key recreation destination for local residents and tourists. The CMA sponsored the Annual Hamilton Fun Run for the first time this year to increase community awareness and appreciation for the Grange Burn and promote it as a key recreational asset to Hamilton.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Victoria and Conservation Volunteers joined together to treat pine wildings in the south west of Victoria as part of the **Pine Wilding Control Project** to protect the habitat of the endangered South-eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo. With just over 1,000 of these iconic birds left, such work is important for the future survival of this species. To date this project has undertaken pine wilding control on over 2,800 hectares of remnant vegetation. This project is funded through the

Victorian Government's Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP) Projects.

Landcare continues to be strong in the region with many events being supported by the Victorian Landcare Facilitator. Some of these included the 2019 South West Landcare Gathering hosted by the Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Group, and the Victorian Landcare Conference, held in Halls Gap. The program has supported groups to undertake a range of activities that included, 27,285m of fencing, 38,740 trees planted, 36ha of direct seeding, 8 field days, and 19 Landcare publications. The Victorian Landcare Grants have been supplemented by a large in kind and financial contribution from members of \$297,800.

The CMA has an increased focus on Communication, Engagement and Partnerships over the last 12 months. As a result of this new focus, the CMA has employed a new **Communications and Engagement Advisor** and increased the use of digital technology for its engagement. A focus on social media engagement has increased the CMA's following on Facebook to over 16,000 from 4,200 and an increase in Instagram following to 1,000 from 54 in the previous financial year. The CMA also undertook a **Community Engagement and Partnership Survey** to explore community and partner perceptions of the CMA's performance across a range of indicators, understand future challenges and the role of communications and engagement. There was a very positive perception of our performance, with 90% of respondents reported a more favourable perception of performance and 77% of the words used to describe the CMA were positive, 16% neutral and only 7% negative. There was a 93% satisfaction rating for the CMA. These results, including improvement recommendations will help inform the development of the **Community Engagement and Partnership Strategy** and a **Communications Strategy**, due for completion in 2019-20.

The Long Term Accommodation Working Group approved the new accommodation arrangements for the **Warrnambool Office**. The Lava street office was relocated to Deakin University in late 2018 into a refurbished facility.

The CMA and Deakin are working on a Memorandum of Understanding whereby

both organisations are collaborating to work together more effectively.

The CMA continues to focus on business efficiencies through continued development of systems and policies in collaboration with CMAs. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is hosting a pilot program which is funding a statewide approach to collaboration and sharing of policies and procedures.

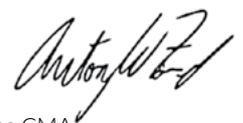
The **ICT implementation plan** continues to be delivered with Internet connectivity successfully uplifted during the year in both our office locations allowing us to continue to the next phase of ICT upgrades including Cloud based document management and record keeping.

Glenelg Hopkins continues to focus on a strong culture, support diversity and inclusion and invest in their staff with a development program introduced in early 2019 called **GHEquip**, which has identified a range of skill development, or learning strategies, across a suite of skill areas.

The Board has spent a part of the year resetting the **Strategic Plan**. Of particular emphasis was to build a plan to improve on the already good community engagement the organisation has established. This includes the development of a communication strategy to reach and engage a higher percentage of our community and build on collaborations in place with the diverse groups such as farming groups, to shires, to fishery groups. The Strategy also focuses on developing further links with our strong farming community across all production sectors, to increase agricultural productivity in hand with sustainability.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* we are pleased to present the Report of Operations for Glenelg Hopkins CMA for the Year ended 30 June 2019.

Antony Ford
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2019



Adam Bester
Chief Executive Officer
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2019



OUR VISION

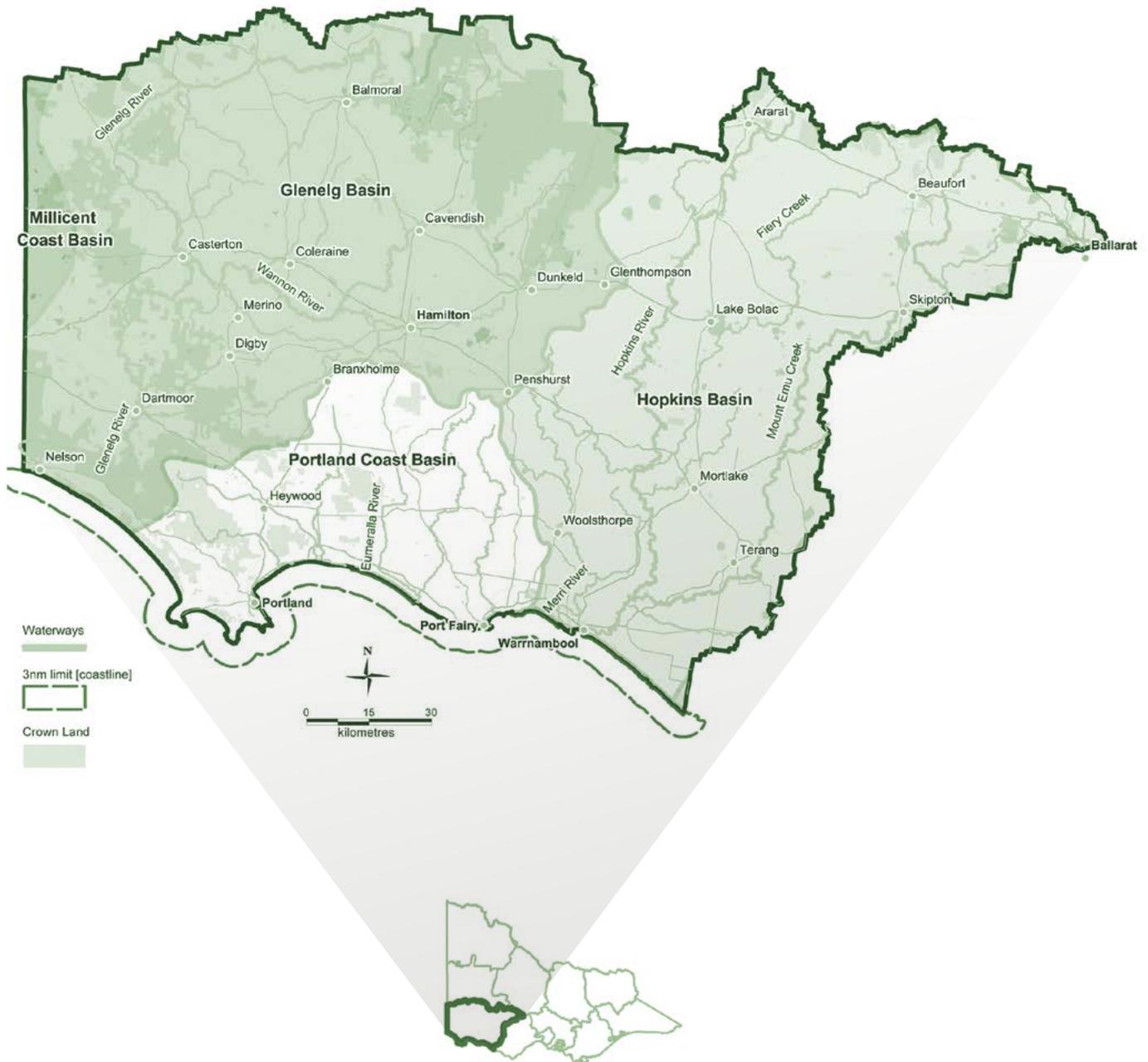
Achieving a healthy and sustainable relationship between the natural environment and the community's use of land and water resources.

PURPOSE

Working in partnership with landholders and the community to protect and enhance our region's land, water and biodiversity resources.

VALUES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA operates under four strategic objectives developed by the Board. The objectives, associated sub-objectives and the Regional Catchment Strategy provide guidance for the organisation in establishing business directions and activities.



Productive partnerships for a healthy catchment

- Foster active partnerships to strengthen the region's capacity in natural resource and waterway management
- Strengthen structures and processes for community engagement in regional strategies and plans
- Promote adaptation and knowledge sharing to build stakeholder capacity and resilience.

Integrated and sustainable catchment management

- Facilitate and coordinate the management of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner
- Target investment to enhance biodiversity, sustainable production and community resilience
- Advise on natural asset condition trends to inform resource allocation and management actions.

Effective waterway and floodplain management

- Manage environmental water effectively
- Provide efficient business process for statutory functions
- Provide regional leadership in floodplain management
- A respected and accountable organisation.

Recruit and sustain a professional, proactive and innovative workforce

- Deliver investment programs effectively and efficiently
- Manage business risk conservatively
- Optimise funding for NRM projects by minimising corporate overheads.

MANNER OF ESTABLISHMENT AND MINISTERS

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The responsible Ministers for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 were the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

NATURE AND RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is responsible, with others, for natural resource management within the region. It takes an integrated, whole-of-catchment approach by combining strategic planning with co-ordination for management of natural resources.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is an important link between community and government, providing advice to the Australian and State Governments on environmental conditions, priorities and direction within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES

The Objectives, Functions, Powers and Duties of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA are largely contained within the following Acts:

- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*;
- *Water Act 1989*;
- *Financial Management Act 1994*;
- *Audit Act 1994*;
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*;
- *Information Privacy Act 2000*; and

The functions, powers and duties of Glenelg Hopkins CMA are identified in the Statement of Obligations (SOO) under section 19E(1) (a) of the *Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act). The SOO:

- provide clarity on the way CMA activities should be undertaken and the level these activities should be performed. It specifies the obligations as to the performance of broad legislative functions and policy responsibilities;
- specify which obligations will be funded out of annual Corporate Allocations and Statutory Land Allocations and which obligations are to be funded by contracts or agreements between the Department of Sustainability & Environment and the CMA; and
- reflect an integrated and sustainable approach to catchment management.

This Statement should be read in conjunction with the Statements of Obligations for CMAs issued under the *Water Act 1989*, which identify additional objectives, functions, powers and duties in waterway management, floodplain management and regional drainage conferred under Part 7 and Part 10.

OPERATIONAL & BUDGETARY OBJECTIVES

Performance Area	Performance Target	Comments
Business Management and Governance	Submit annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Submitted electronically on 31 August 2018 to Hon. Lisa Neville Minister for Water.
	A risk management strategy / plan approved by the board and being implemented.	The CMA has a risk management plan that is approved by the Board and is being implemented. The Plan is updated annually and was last approved by the Board on 29 May 2019.
	100% of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	85% of Board policies have been reviewed in the last three years. 66% of Operational Procedures have been reviewed in the last three years (43 of 65 – all procedures not reviewed in the last three financial years are considered 'under review' and mostly consist of HR and IT-related procedures).
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Fully compliant with all standing directions with the exception of one with no material non-compliance.
Regional planning and coordination	A Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins RCS (2013-2019) was gazetted on 16 May 2013.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework / plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Partnership & Engagement Strategy is scheduled for updating in 2019-20.
	A Regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Strategy was approved by the Board on 14 December 2012, and expired at the end of 2018. It is intended that the updated Landcare Support Strategy will be incorporated into the next Regional Catchment Strategy update.
	A Regional Waterways Strategy approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-22 was approved by the Minister August 2014. In 2018,19, an Interim Review of this Strategy was completed with corrective actions incorporated into the RWS MERI Plan.
	A Regional Floodplain Strategy approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Floodplain Management Strategy was approved by the Board in December 2017 and was accepted by DELWP in April, 2018.
Regional delivery	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the Board annually.	The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board reviewed the implementation of the RCS and major sub-strategies at its August 2018 Board Meeting.
	Projects / activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Projects to implement the RCS were delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.
	Projects / activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy is reviewed annually by the board. 23 actions have been completed, 55 are in progress and 4 are yet to commence. All actions are to be completed over the life of the Strategy. The Regional Floodplain Management Strategy was completed in 2018. A review of priority actions was undertaken in 2019 in consultation with relevant agencies, 16 of 74 actions have been completed, 27 of 74 actions in progress, 31 action not started.
Statutory functions under Part 10 of the <i>Water Act</i>	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	97% of Flood Advice were responded to within the prescribed period. 95% of Flood Referrals were responded to within the prescribed period. 96% of Works on Waterways Licences were issued within the prescribed period. 100% of Works on Waterways Advice were issued within the prescribed period. 100% of Works on Waterways Referrals were responded to within the prescribed period.
Statutory functions under Part 11 of the <i>Water Act</i>	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	100% of irrigation management responses were within the prescribed response period.

OUR REGION

The Glenelg Hopkins region lies south of the Great Dividing Range in Victoria's south west.

The region is renowned for its agricultural production, scenic beauty, dramatic coastline and rich biodiversity.

It covers 26,910 sq km, extending from Ballarat in the east to the South Australian border in the west, and from the southern coast of Victoria to the townships of Harrow and Ararat in the north.

There are four main basins that occur within the region: Glenelg, Hopkins, Portland Coast and Millicent Coast. The boundaries of the region include marine and coastal waters out to the state limit of three nautical miles. The region is characterised by flat volcanic plains in the south, while the Grampians, Dundas Tablelands, and Central Highlands are dominant in the north.

Catchment facts

The region attracts large numbers of visitors to its world-class tourist attractions and boasts a variety of educational and research institutions.

A deepwater port is located in Portland and the region is strategically located with road access to Melbourne and Adelaide.

The region supports a permanent population of 130,000 with year-round tourism adding significantly to this number. Major cities and towns include Warrnambool, Hamilton, Portland, part of Ballarat, Ararat, Casterton, Port Fairy and Beaufort. More than 35,000 of the region's residents reside in Warrnambool, and strong population growth is occurring in the city.

The Glenelg Hopkins region has a rich resource base that supports diverse and growing industries. The main economic drivers are agriculture, fisheries, retail, manufacturing, health and community services, education and construction, while agriculture, forestry and fishing are the major employers.

The Glenelg Hopkins region is recognised as having some of the most fertile and productive soils in Australia. With more than 80 percent of the region dedicated to agricultural production, the protection and enhancement of the region's soil is clearly linked to regional prosperity and fundamental to ongoing sustainable food and fibre production. In 2017-18 the region was rated as the 2nd highest agricultural production region in Victoria and 4th highest in Australia, producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$2,245 million.

South western Victoria has a range of natural assets in the form of biodiversity, rivers, wetlands, soils, forests and coast. These natural resources support a unique quality of life.

The Glenelg Hopkins region contains a number of natural features that are of national and international significance, including:

- Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape (Mt Eccles / Lake Condah / Tyrendarra Area)
- The Grampians National Park
- Kanawinka Geopark (UNESCO listed), encompassing sites of geologic significance such as Wannon Falls, Tower Hill, Mt Noorat and Princess Margaret Rose Caves
- Glenelg River – the lower section of the Glenelg River is heritage-listed due to its environmental significance

- Western District Ramsar lakes – one lake in the region is recognised as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Three International Bird Areas (IBA) between Port Fairy and Warrnambool, Yambuk and the Discovery Bay Coastal Park
- Significant areas of two Australian Government 'biodiversity hotspots'
- 13 endangered Ecological Vegetation Communities
- The iconic Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo, Orange-bellied Parrot and endemic Glenelg Spiny Cray, and 173 of Victoria's threatened species.

Water is abundant across the southern part of the region and reliable in much of the rest. Numerous wetlands comprising 44 per cent of Victoria's total are spread throughout the region. The catchment contains substantial reserves of groundwater with varying salinities. Three regional groundwater systems underlie the region – the Otway, Murray and Highland – with other shallow local aquifers present.

The coastal areas have no parallel. Towering cliffs, extensive dune systems, broad vegetation remnants and unique marine habitats are home to diverse and rich ecosystems. Offshore areas are rich in marine life, with the continental shelf close to the shore and bringing in whales and large schools of bluefin tuna.

Area of the Region	26,910 sq km
Area of the Glenelg Basin	12,370 sq km
Area of the Hopkins Basin	9,897 sq km
Area of the Millicent Coast Basin	431 sq km
Area of the Portland Coast Basin	3,965 sq km
Length of Coastline	220 km

CATCHMENT CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT REPORT 2018-19

1.0 OVERVIEW

This Condition and Management Report for 2018-19 fulfils Glenelg Hopkins CMA's responsibilities under Section 19B of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to submit to the Minister and Victorian Catchment Management Council:

"A report on the condition and management of land and water resources in its region and the carrying out of its functions".

The report provides a summary of regional management activities undertaken during the reporting year by the CMA, regional partners and local communities to improve the condition of the region's land, water and biodiversity resources. A snapshot of outputs delivered by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in 2018-19 in partnership with the community is also presented.

The report provides a statement on condition at a catchment level, and a summary of issues and events that may impact on the longer-term condition of land and water resources in the region. Condition information is presented in accordance with the headline indicator themes of community, waterways, biodiversity, land and coasts, as identified in the Framework for Catchment Condition and Management Reporting in Victoria¹.

2.0 IMPLEMENTING THE REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY

The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (2013-2019) is the primary integrated strategic planning mechanism for the management of land, water and biodiversity resources within the Glenelg Hopkins region, and is an important building block in improving the condition of these resources over time. It provides an integrated framework for investing in and prioritising on-ground works and NRM projects within the region and was developed using an asset-based approach.

Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) objectives (20-year time frame) and management measures (six-year timeframe) were set at a regional level, for nine asset classes: community participation, rivers and floodplains, wetlands, estuaries, coasts, marine, terrestrial habitat, species populations and communities, and soil/land. Management measures (actions) were set for achievement within the life of the RCS.

A number of sub-strategies have been developed to support RCS implementation including the Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy (2014-22) and Soil Health Strategy (2014-19). These sub-strategies play an important role in shaping regional works programs and supporting the implementation of RCS actions.

As of 30 June 2019, 83% of RCS action were assessed as completed, 8% incomplete (some progress but not achieved to original intent), 4% not started and 5% abandoned. The number of completed RCS actions has increased substantially since 2017-18. This is due to the strategy reaching the end of its life in 2019.

Table 1 (*page 11*) presents the key programs and projects that were contributing to the achievement of RCS objectives and actions in 2018-19.

Table 1: Key programs and projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions in 2018-19

RCS objective	No. of 2018-19 actions implemented	Key programs/projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions
Objectives that relate to all or multiple asset themes		
Objective 1.1: Protect and improve the region's waterways, wetlands and estuaries	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) VWPIF Environmental Water Program VWPIF Ramsar Projects Environmental Water: Technical Investigations, Works and Measures Program VWPIF <i>Our Catchments Our Communities</i> VWPIF Regional Riparian Action Plan (RRAP) – Landcare Grants Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordination) NLP Coastal Connections and Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Projects
Objective 1.2: Reduce the impact of pest plants and animals on the region's natural resources and agricultural industries	1 of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOGA Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Weed Control NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms, Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project, Coastal Connections, Protecting the Hooded Plover) VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) BRP Pine Wildlings Project
Objective 1.3: Maximise biodiversity benefits of sequestering carbon in the landscape and minimise adverse effects	4 of 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF <i>Our Catchments Our Communities</i>
Objective 1.4: Protect and manage the visual character of the landscape	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner led
Community participation		
Objective 2.1: Maintain and enhance community capacity, awareness and involvement in natural resource management with the region	6 of 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) VWPIF Regional Riparian Action Plan (RRAP) – Landcare Grants VWPIF <i>Our Catchments Our Communities</i> VWPIF Environmental Water Community Engagement Project VWPIF Regional Floodplain Management Strategy Implementation Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordination) NLP Core Services NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture; Soils4Farms, Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project, Coastal Connections, Protecting the Hooded Plover) NLP Smart Farming Partnerships
Objective 2.2: Facilitate a collaborative approach to NRM	3 of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) VWPIF RRAP – Landcare Grants VWPIF <i>Our Catchments Our Communities</i> VWPIF Environmental Water Program VWPIF Twinning Program Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordination) NLP Core Services NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms, Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project, Coastal Connections, Protecting the Hooded Plover) NLP Smart Farming Partnerships
Objective 2.3: Support land managers in meeting their responsibilities as active stewards of the Catchment's land, water and biodiversity	1 of 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLP Core Services NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms, Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project) NLP Smart Farming Partnerships
Objective 2.4: Support farmers to incorporate environmental outcomes into their farm systems	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF RRAP Landcare Grants VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordination) NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms, Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project, Coastal Connections, Protecting the Hooded Plover) NLP Smart Farming Partnerships

Note: NLP = National Landcare Program, VWPIF = Victorian Water Program Investment Framework

RCS objective	No. of 2018-19 actions implemented	Key programs/projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions
Rivers and Floodplains		
Objective 3.1: Waterways classified as good or excellent in the Index of Stream Condition (ISC3) will remain as such in 2033	1 of 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg and Regional) VWPIF Improving Flows in the Upper Glenelg
Objective 3.2: The condition of specified waterways currently classed as poor to moderate in the Index of Stream Condition (ISC3) is improved by 2033	1 of 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Hopkins Works Program VWPIF Environmental Water Program
Objective 3.3: Improve river health in relation to riparian extent, connectivity, hydrological regime and water quality	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) VWPIF <i>Our Catchments Our Communities</i> VWPIF Environmental Water Program VWPIF Catchment Scale Sediment Monitoring
Objective 3.4: Increase provision of reliable flood information for settlements	6 of 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Statutory Water Functions (Floodplain and Waterway Management) VWPIF Regional Floodplain Management Strategy Implementation Flood investigations
Objective 3.5: Improve river and floodplain management	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Statutory Water Functions (Floodplain and Waterway Management) Flood investigations
Wetlands		
Objective 4.1: By 2033, improve the condition of wetlands, and maintain the diversity of wetland types (using IWC1 assessment for comparison)	8 of 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF <i>Our Catchments Our Communities</i> VWPIF Environmental Water Program NLP Projects (Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project and Coastal Connections) VWPIF Ramsar Site Management and Monitoring VWPIF Improving Flows in the Budj Bim Landscape
Estuaries		
Objective 5.1: By 2033 improve the condition of estuaries across the region as compared with the 2018 IEC assessment	7 of 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Coastal Works Program VWPIF Glenelg River Estuary Flow Requirements VWPIF Ramsar Projects BOGA Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Weed Control
Coasts		
Objective 6.1: By 2033 maintain the condition of the coast and manage specific threats to improve condition where appropriate	7 of 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLP Coastal Connections and Hooded Plover Projects VWPIF Environmental Water Program VWPIF Coastal Works Program BOGA Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Weed Control
Marine		
Objective 7.1: By 2033 maintain the condition of the marine environment and manage specific catchment-based threats to improve condition where appropriate	5 of 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) NLP Coastal Connections Clean Oceans Initiative

RCS objective	No. of 2018-19 actions implemented	Key programs/projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions
Terrestrial Habitat		
Objective 8.1: Maintain extent and improve condition of terrestrial habitat	7 of 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants) NLP Projects (Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project and Coastal Connections) BOGA Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Weed Control BRP Pine Wildlings Project
Objective 8.2: Improve connectivity of habitat for species populations and communities	4 of 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLP Projects (Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project and Coastal Connections) VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants, Regional Landcare Coordination and RRAP Grants)
Objective 8.3: Public land is managed as the core of resilient ecosystems	3 of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLP Coastal Connections VWPIF Ramsar Projects VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional)
Threatened Species and Communities		
Objective 9.1: Improve the health of key populations of threatened species and communities	10 of 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VWPIF Environmental Water Program NLP Projects (Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project, Coastal Connections, Protecting the Hooded Plover) Glenelg Ark, Glenelg Eden and Grampians Ark projects (partner led) VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional) BRP Pine Wildlings Project
Soil and Land		
Objective 10.1: An improvement in soil condition as measured by key indicators by 2033	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLP Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms Project NLP Core Services – Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator NLP Smart Farming Partnerships
Objective 10.2: An increase in the area of soils managed within their capability	9 of 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLP Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms projects NLP Core Services - Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator NLP Smart Farming Partnerships
Objective 10.3: By 2033 reduce the impact of soil-based threats, including salinity and erosion, on waterways and wetlands as measured by improved ISC and IWC scores (turbidity and EC)	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLP Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms Project NLP Core Services - Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator NLP Smart Farming Partnerships
Objective 10.4: By 2033 soils are managed for protection and enhancement of the beneficial ecosystem services provided by soils	1 of 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NLP Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms Project NLP Core Services - Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator NLP Smart Farming Partnerships

Note: NLP = National Landcare Program, VWPIF = Victorian Water Program Investment Framework

1. A number of RCS actions are designed to be implemented over the life of the strategy. This column refers to the number of actions that were scheduled to occur in 2016-17, that were assessed as being implemented to the level intended.

Implementation of the RCS has been supported through a number of funding sources, including the Australian Government's NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships Program (NLP) and the Victorian Government's Victorian Water Program Investment Framework, the CMA's two main sources of project funding for 2018-19.

3.0 CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

This section of the report includes an assessment of catchment condition across the headline indicator themes of community, waterways, biodiversity, land and coasts; and a report on progress and actions towards RCS implementation. It includes an overview of regional initiatives undertaken towards implementing RCS objectives and actions in 2018-19, and a summary of key project achievements for 2018-19.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA strategies and initiatives are designed to support integrated catchment management. As a result, programs and projects may contribute to RCS objectives and actions associated with more than one RCS asset class. In these instances, initiatives have been outlined under the headline indicator theme that relates most closely to the management activities being undertaken.

Annual catchment condition assessments are based on available science and expert advice as well as evidence gained during the reporting period, and are based on the criteria detailed in Table 2 (*below*). A positive assessment indicates a level of optimism about future direction; a concerned or highly concerned assessment indicates a more pessimistic view of the direction of environmental change.

Table 2: Assessment criteria for annual condition reporting

Assessment Criteria		
1. Positive	↑	An optimistic future with evidence that events during the year will have a positive impact on the longer term.
2. Neutral	→	A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.
3. Concerned	↓	A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.
4. Highly concerned	↓↓	A high level of concern that significant events during the year are likely to have an adverse impact in the longer term.

Details for each catchment indicator theme are presented separately in this report. An overall summary is provided in Table 3 (*below*).

Table 3: Summary of catchment condition assessment

Indicator Theme	2016-17 Assessment	2017-18 Assessment	2018-19 Assessment	Key Evidence
Waterways	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change represents a significant, long-term threat to the function and biota of waterways and wetlands, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing. Observations of wetlands being lost via conversion to cropping and pasture improvement have been noted. Water quality in most waterways exceeds SEPP guidelines.
Biodiversity	Neutral →	Neutral →	Concerned ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CMA has identified several instances of known high value wetlands and grasslands being modified. The area impacted by the St Patricks Day fires of 2018 is in a phase of recovery. Native vegetation cover in parts of the catchment is below the minimum threshold for sustaining ecological function. Significant parts of the catchment are highly modified, with low levels of remnancy and are considered to be in poor condition for biodiversity. Climate change represents a significant, long-term threat to biodiversity, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing.
Land	Neutral →	Neutral →	Neutral →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of water and wind erosion of soil mitigated with ground cover remaining above 90%. No major erosion events reported on farmland. Significant long-term challenges remain in managing the impact of land use on waterway health and managing soil health at the farm scale.

Table 3: Summary of catchment condition assessment (continued)

Indicator Theme	2016-17 Assessment	2017-18 Assessment	2018-19 Assessment	Key Evidence
Coasts	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The coastal environment remains subject to high demand for development, and very little of the area is protected. Some recreational uses of beaches and dunes such as horse riding and dog walking threaten breeding populations of endangered and migratory species. Sea-level rise is anticipated to continue to erode beaches and dunes, which will reduce the area of protected coast and put further pressure on coast-dependent species.
Community	Neutral →	Neutral →	Neutral →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community participation rates in CMA NRM partnership projects have remained relatively steady. Landcare group health scores have remained relatively steady.

3.1 COMMUNITY

Condition Statement

The community headline indicator theme reports on community participation in natural resource management (NRM) and Landcare Group Health results.

Regional context

The Glenelg Hopkins community and landholders play an integral role in the delivery of NRM actions and in maintaining and improving the condition of the region's land, water and biodiversity resources. There is a strong community and land manager commitment to improve natural resource outcomes across the region. This is evident with the uptake for Landcare grants, the CMA's partnership projects and participation at community forums and field days over the last decade.

Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal communities play a central role in regional land management. For example, Budj Bim National Park is cooperatively managed by Parks Victoria and Gunditjmara Traditional Owners through the Budj Bim Council. The Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation also manages significant parcels of land of high environmental, historical and cultural value, which form part of the proposed Budj Bim UNESCO World Heritage Landscape.

Community Benchmark – Community Participation Rates and Landcare Group Health Survey Results

Current levels of community participation for a range of activities are outlined in Table 4 (page 16). This table also makes a comparison to rates of participation recorded for 2017-18 which indicates that levels of participation across all measures are comparable to 2017-18, with the exception of the 'attending skills and training events' category in which participation is double that of 2017-18.

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) through its South West Victoria office delivered a total of 299 project days and 11,368 volunteer hours across public land during the 2017-18 year. In addition to this, two Green Army programs were delivered, one based at the Hamilton Eastern Barred Bandicoot enclosure and one along the Warrnambool coast line targeted at improving the condition of Orange Bellied Parrot habitat. A summary of CVA projects is provided in Table 6 (page 17).

The Glenelg Hopkins region has 108 Landcare Groups. Of these groups, 58 were assessed as active and 50 in recess. These figures have remained relatively constant over the past 3 years. The region is home to a further 49 Community Based Natural Resource Management groups and five Landcare networks. Each year, groups are invited to complete a Group Health Survey, which records group perceptions of their current health and activity levels.

The results of the most recent Group Health Survey are shown in Table 5 (page 16) (ranked from a score of 1 – just hanging on, to 5 – trail blazers) and Figure 2 (page 16). The survey is completed by regional groups that participate in the Victorian Landcare Grants Program. In 2018-19, there were slightly more groups that self-rated as struggling along or just hanging, compared to 2016-17 and 2017-18; with around 58% of respondents rating their group as strong or thriving, an increase from the previous two years. Group health remains relatively steady compared to last year.

In addition to Landcare projects, the CMA supports private landholders, community groups and local government to deliver partnership projects in targeted areas of the region. In 2018-19 these included implementation of the Wannon Waterway Action Plan (stage three), the Merri River Restoration project, implementation of the Hopkins Wetland Restoration project, implementation of the Budj Bim Waterway Action plan and Maintenance and Landholder Engagement project. The CMA also has a regional works crew that assists in project delivery.

Conservation Volunteers Australia through its South West Victoria office delivered a total of 366 project days and 13,504 volunteer hours over the 2018-19 year. A summary of CVA projects is provided in Table 6 (page 17).

Table 4: Current level of community participation

Activity	Participation in 2017-18*	Participation in 2018-19*
Contributing to on-ground works (CMA partnership activities)	146 management agreements	159 management agreements
Attending skills and training events (CMA partnership activities)	676 people	990 people
Taking part in awareness raising activities (CMA partnership activities)	3,281 people	4,114 people
Working as collaborators in planning and decision making (CMA partnership activities)	1,280 people	1,137 people

Note: *The same person may have attended one or more events.

Table 5: Landcare Group Health Survey Results 2015-16 to 2018-19

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Group Health Score	3.46	3.51	3.54
Respondents	47	37	52

Figure 2: Landcare Group Health Survey Results 2016-17 to 2018-19

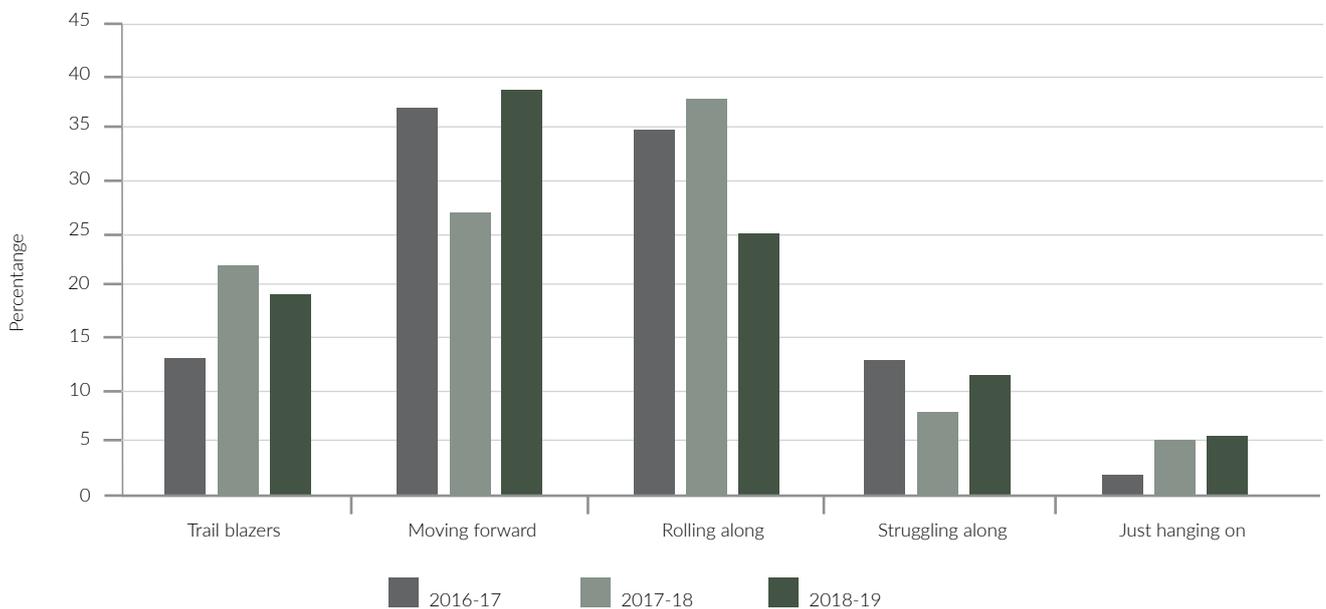


Table 6: CVA projects for 2018-19

Project Location	Project Partners	Key Outcomes	Total Project Days	Total Volunteers Days	Total Volunteer Hours
Pine wilding in South West Victoria	Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DELWP	Mapped pulled out or lopped or stem injected pine wildlings in various state parks and reserves	101	484	3,872
Tyrendarra catchment planting and environmental weed control	Glenelg Hopkins CMA	Clean up days as well as selective weed control to prevent the establishment of spiny rush, selective weed control in fenced reserves and further diversification and enhancement planting	36	149	1,192
Greenline Koroit, St Helens, Pretty Hill, Riverside Rd and various shelterbelts and revegetation projects	Basalt to Bay Landcare Network Inc, and Local Farmers	Selective environmental weed control in a range of bushland and road reserves, farm shelter belt plantings and revegetation projects with various local farmers	31	159	1,272
Discovery Bay Environmental Weed Control	Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Victoria	Selective intervention and control on range of emergent environmental weeds in the Discovery Bay Coastal Park and Mt Richmond areas	64	339	2,712
Portland Cliffs, and Bushland reserves	SouthWest Environmental Alliance	Upgraded 5.5 km of perimeter fence and realigned a small section of fence to improve fence integrity. Volunteers conduct regular patrols of fence perimeter to check integrity and provide maintenance	63	142	568
Pt Danger Environmental weed control	Pt Danger Committee of Management	Selective intervention and control on range of environmental weeds	17	77	616
Environmental weed control Grange Burn, Wannan Falls	Southern Grampians Shire Council and local community groups	Weed control in revegetation and wetland areas on the Grange Burn and environmental weed control at the Wannan Falls Reserve	10	35	280
Merri River Habitat Restoration	Glenelg Hopkins CMA	Revegetation maintenance as well as the collection of timber and construction of Fish Hotels	17	79	632
Environmental Weed control in the Moyne Shire	Moyne Shire Council	Selective environmental weed control on selected road reserves	8	29	232
Hamilton Bandicoot Enclosure Fence Upgrade	DELWP, Glenelg Hopkins CMA	Realigned a small section of fence to improve fence integrity	15	74	592
Warrnambool Habitat planting	Warrnambool City Council	Planting and guarding of 1,500 riparian tubestock	1	11	88
Glenelg Eden Project	DELWP	Selective intervention and control on a range of emergent environmental weeds in the region	35	121	968
Totals			343	1,588	12,704

Annual community indicator theme assessment 2018-19

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key Evidence
Neutral 	A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community participation rates in CMA NRM partnership projects have remained relatively steady. Landcare group health scores have remained relatively steady.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Most CMA programs contain activities that are aimed at increasing community participation in NRM. The following section provides a snapshot of key programs and projects that were undertaken in 2018-19 to support and improve community participation in NRM. Initiatives were focussed on the following RCS actions:

- collaborating with Aboriginal communities, community organisations, local government agencies, tertiary institutions and industry groups to develop partnership projects and joint initiatives (to support RCS implementation);
- community education programs to increase awareness of natural assets within the region and encourage actions that improve land, water and biodiversity outcomes;
- implementing programs to build community capacity in NRM; and
- undertaking community awareness and extension activities to promote NRM and best management practices in agriculture.

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Our Catchments, Our Communities

Our Catchments, Our Communities – Victoria's first state-wide strategy for integrated catchment management was launched in Beaufort in May 2016. The strategy reaffirms the regionally focused and community-based approach to catchment management.

The Glenelg Hopkins region 4-year *Our Catchments, Our Communities (OCOC)* Project is supporting the delivery of RCS priorities, and contribute to actions 3.1, 1.2, 2.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2 and 5.1 in the *Our Catchments, Our Communities Strategy* over four years. It is one of the major programs being undertaken regionally to support RCS Objective 2.1 and 2.2:

- Objective 2.1: Maintain and enhance community capacity, awareness and involvement in natural resource management within the region; and
- Objective 2.2: Facilitate a collaborative approach to NRM.

The project is working with partners across the catchment to strengthen regional investment processes, coordination and partnerships; and to refine catchment reporting processes at a state and regional level. The project is also delivering on-ground projects in partnership with regional stakeholders.

Key activities undertaken in 2018-19 include:

- The Nature Glenelg Trust has undertaken major restoration works at Walker Swamp. 100 supporters attended the community celebration day in September 2018. The project has funded major on-ground works to remove the mounds and furrows of the former blue gum plantation and fence 5 km of the boundary. Other achievements include an investigation into the best hydrological restoration options, engagement with Traditional

Owners, development of a monitoring plan and drafting of a management plan. A permanent conservation covenant is also being developed. From leverage funds Nature Glenelg Trust has been able to start a citizen science bird monitoring program, undertake base line monitoring of the flora and fauna, fill in 26 km of drains, modify levees and install a new regulator on the outlet drain, completing all hydrological restoration works.

- The first full year of the Landholder Incentives Program across the Greater Grampians region for the improvement of wetlands on private land. Eight landholders are currently participating in the program with 374.19 ha of wetlands benefiting from improved management practices such as 8.1 km of fencing and controlled grazing to reduce the organic load.
- The continuation of an extension program delivered by Agriculture Victoria to promote sustainable land and wetland management practices across the greater Grampians region of the catchment. A 'Whole Farm Plan (FP21)' course was attended by 12 farmers in Lake Bolac, and two follow up workshops have been run. The GrazFert program attracted an additional nine producers and the Seasonal Grazing Management Field Day had 18 farmers.
- The continuation of the Panyyabyr Landcare group Fox Baiting Program in the Victoria Valley, Grampians. The project provides funds to the existing Grampians Ark Fox Baiting Program on private land. Eighteen private landholders participate with one contractor paid and 10 landholders volunteering to bait in three 10-week bait pulses a year. In total this covers 32,000 ha of private land.

Twining Project

The Waterway Management Twining Program is a structured mentoring program, focussing on improving the on-ground delivery of Victorian riparian restoration projects. The program provides an opportunity for sharing and adoption of effective approaches in waterway management between all those working in waterway management across the State.

The Waterway Management Twining Program is being collaboratively delivered by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Australian River Restoration Centre (ARRC) and is overseen by a Steering Committee with representatives from Glenelg Hopkins CMA, ARRC and the Victorian Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning (DELWP). The Twining Program is based on industry-based mentoring principles and practices that have been tailored for the NRM sector. Implementation of this program has been supported through funding from the Victorian Government (VWPIF program) and the Australian River Basin Management Society.

The nine mentor/mentee partnerships established in early 2018 presented on their diverse waterway management projects to an audience of 21 guests including many of their managers. Their projects ranged from environmental water for Traditional owners to offset shortfalls, and stories of iconic sites along the Murray. Their project outcomes have been shared as stories on the Twining website: www.twiningiswinning.com.au.

Eight mentor/mentee partnership were matched from applications for the 2019 Program which commenced in March. Again, participants come from a diverse range of organisations covering six CMAs, two consultancy companies, DELWP and the Victorian Catchment Management Council. Projects range from supplementing instream habitat to streamside vegetation to recycled water.

Environmental Water Communications

Key achievements associated with the implementation of the Environmental Water Communications Strategy in 2018-19 included: 6 media releases, 2 radio interviews, 45 Facebook posts, 7 videos, flow notifications, advertisements and posters.

The Water Resources Team attended and/or organised 20 engagement events. This provided opportunity to liaise with and/or present to some 950 people about environmental, social and cultural values of the Glenelg River, including the management and benefits of environmental flows. Participants included the general public, anglers, schools, landholders, Traditional Owners, environmental groups and agencies.

Community monitoring of platypus in the Glenelg River

The rationale for the project is to undertake initial monitoring for platypus in sections of the upper Glenelg River to support environmental water communications and engagement activities. The project aims to:

- build public awareness of this species and support for environmental water management through community participation and communication;
- improve knowledge of the distribution of platypus populations to help inform environmental water management;
- provide training opportunities for Budj Bim and Barengi Gadjin Land Council Rangers and Traditional Owners in best practice monitoring techniques; and
- provide opportunities for knowledge exchange between Ranger groups, Traditional Owners, community groups and schools.

Key achievements for 2018-19 included the completion of a fauna assessment using environmental DNA techniques to establish the presence/absence of Platypus. Budj Bim Rangers helped sample from Rocklands Reservoir to Harrow in 2018 and from Dergholm to Battersby Camp in the Lower Glenelg National Park in 2019. Thirteen of the 39 sites tested positive for platypus, with below Dergholm having more positive sites. Rangers shared their experience about the project and CMA partnership in a video which was well received on Facebook. This project has also allowed the CMA, with support from Rangers and Traditional Owners, to more broadly engage communities about the status and ecology of the Glenelg River health, including details of the platypus survey and results. This included a community event at Harrow in March, and children and parents involved in a Winda-Mara school holiday event in April.

Angler engagement

In recent years, Glenelg Hopkins CMA has developed strong networks with influential anglers through direct engagement and participation in fishing competitions and fish surveys, electrofishing and fish habitat restoration projects. In 2018-19, Glenelg Hopkins CMA provided sponsorship support of the Vic Bream Classic catch and release series on the Glenelg and Hopkins rivers.

Supporting Landcare

Regional Landcare Coordinator and Victorian Landcare Grants

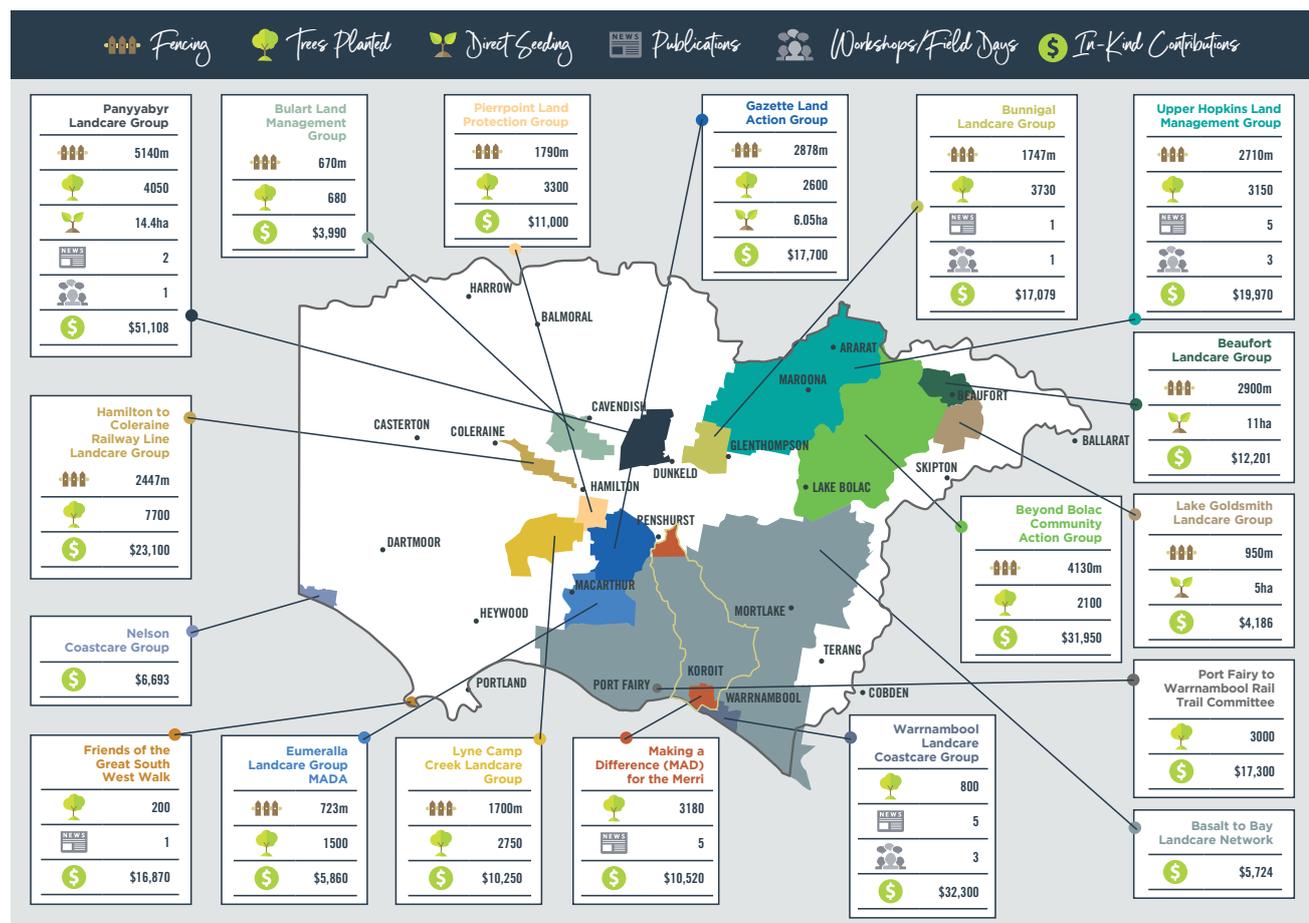
The Victorian Government supports the region's Landcare and community based natural resource management groups by funding a Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) in Glenelg Hopkins CMA. The RLC assists Landcare groups with training, preparation of funding applications and provision of relevant resources; and assists in building community knowledge of regional and state NRM plans, priorities and programs.

The RLC also manages the Victorian Landcare Grants (VLG) Program at a regional level. The devolved grants program is funded by the Victorian Government and has supported groups to undertake a range of activities that include on-ground works, awareness-raising events and production of publications. An overview of the Victorian Landcare Grants Projects completed through the 2017-18 program is provided in Figure 3 (page 20). On-ground works focussed on protecting priority wetlands, riparian areas and terrestrial vegetation, as identified through state and regional priorities.

The VLGs have been supplemented by a large in-kind and financial contribution by Landcare members. Key achievements for VLG projects completed through the 2018-19 program included:

- over 13.06 km of fencing;
- 28.03 ha of revegetation;
- 8 workshops / field days attracting 198 participants; and
- In-kind contributions from landholders, valued at approximately \$287,800.

Figure 3: Overview of Victorian Landcare Grants Projects completed in 2017-18



Regional Riparian Action Plan Landcare Grants

As part of the Regional Riparian Action Plan, Landcare grants were provided to three groups in the region: Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Network, Lyne Camp Creek Land Management Group and Making a Difference for the Merri. These grants support groups in undertaking on-ground riparian works in priority areas (e.g. fencing, revegetation and vegetation enhancement, weed management).

Glenelg River Cultural Flows Project

In collaboration, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of the South East Aboriginal Focus Group, Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Griffith University will expand on the work carried out in the Towards Cultural Flows scoping project (June 2015 to June 2017). Aboriginal water values, uses and interests will continue to be documented to elicit Aboriginal environmental outcomes and cultural flow objectives for the Glenelg River system.

Budj Bim Cultural Indicators Trial

Glenelg Hopkins CMA Flagship Waterway Project, Budj Bim Connections, works with landholders and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to improve the ecological condition of waterways across the Budj Bim landscape and provide opportunities for Aboriginal people to share knowledge and participate in waterway management. In this project, Gunditjmarra Traditional Owners trialled measures in the Aboriginal Waterways Assessments (AWA) Program for assessing the Aboriginal cultural values of the Flagship waterways – Lake Condah, Darlot Creek, Fitzroy River and estuary, and associated wetlands. The AWA program is based on a Māori originated tool and developed by the Murray Darling Basin Authority in partnership with the Northern Basin Aboriginal Nations, Murray Lower Darling Rivers Aboriginal Nations (MLDRIN) and several Aboriginal Nations. The results of this project will be used to inform monitoring, evaluation and reporting as part of the DELWP Flagship Waterway Program.

National Landcare Program Projects

Community engagement and participation

Community engagement and participation is an important element across delivery of all National Landcare Program projects. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working with a range of partners and community groups to: promote the continued use, support and reinvigoration of ecological knowledge to underpin biodiversity conservation; and to build community capacity and connection with the environment through activities that re-establish urban bush land, areas of Aboriginal significance and the health of urban waterways.

Key achievements for 2018-19 included:

- Engagement and participation in project delivery from approximately 3,641 people
- Grasslands bus tour attracting 40 participants looked at different examples of grassland management and the positive and negative aspects of this management

- Woorndoo CFA grasslands 'walk and talk' attracted 18 participants and promoted the work that the CFA is doing to maintain roadside grasslands
- Community workshops attracting numerous community volunteers including:
 - Capacity building events for 440 farmers and training offered through the Sustainable Agriculture project
 - Bittern surveys (Birdlife)
 - Aboriginal burning project (Gunditjmara Traditional Owners)
 - Hooded Plover nest monitoring (Birdlife)
 - Beach nesting bird monitoring (Birdlife)
 - Migratory shorebird monitoring (Birdlife)
 - Orange-bellied Parrot winter count (Nature Glenelg Trust).

Aboriginal Partnerships

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working with Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal communities to delivery National Landcare Program projects and facilitate a two-way knowledge exchange in relation to sustainable natural resource management and agricultural activities. Another key focus has been delivery of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Aboriginal Partnership Framework.

Key activities that have been delivered through these partnerships in 2018-19 include:

- Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Aboriginal burning project engagement and planning;
- Coastal Connections Aboriginal burning project which has resulted in a 5 ha wetland burn to improve habitat for the Australasian Bittern;
- Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms engagement event run through South West Holistic Farmers which looked at farming for cultural and financial outcomes. This event brought together farmers to better understand farm outcomes sought by Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation and to look at regenerative, holistic farm practices;
- Cultural competency programs between the CMA and Baimbridge College;
- Training and capacity building activities; and
- Attendance at regional meetings including the Budj Bim Council.

CASE STUDY

OUR CATCHMENTS OUR COMMUNITIES – WALKER SWAMP

CHALLENGE: The Glenelg Hopkins catchment has approximately 44 percent of Victoria's total number of wetlands*. These wetlands provide important habitat for numerous species in the region, including endemic and threatened or endangered species such as Growling Grass Frog and Western Swamp Crayfish, as well as a range of other important or iconic species such as the Brolga and White-bellied Sea Eagle. The extent of the region's wetlands has declined by approximately 50 percent since European settlement¹ and further declines are likely to occur without intervention and modification to current land use practices in the region.

APPROACH: Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with the not for profit environmental organisation Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT), AGL Energy and Hamilton Field Naturalists Club to buy land (200 ha) surrounding a large ephemeral wetland (50 ha) Walker Swamp. In 2017, NGT purchased adjacent floodplain, creating the 400 ha Walker Swamp Reserve and is currently \$12,000 off totally crowd funding that cost. The Reserve and its catchment have been extensively drained and planted in Blue Gums. Over the last 12 months through contactors and many community volunteers, extensive restoration works have taken place.

RESULTS: Over 2,570 community volunteer hours enabled the *Walker Swamp Reserve* restoration

- Over 90 ha of furrows and mounds from the failed Blue Gum plantation were removed from the wetland areas.
- Eight kilometres of new fence and 5 km of upgraded fence completed the fencing of the perimeter of the Reserve.
- Traditional Owner engagement has continued to build a relationship for the management of the Reserve. A management plan has been developed
- 110 ha of plantation Blue Gums were removed, and 120 ha of coppicing stumps treated revealing over 100 ha of scattered remnant River Red Gum, Rough Barked Manna Gum and Blackwood trees, along with Sand Forest habitat on the lunette bank.
- After conducting a hydrological options study, NGT used its DELWP Climate Change Innovation grant to remove 26 km of drains, raise two levees and remove one. A team of keen volunteers and 2,500 sand bags a new regulator was built on the outflow drain.
- Lynchs Crossing Road has been raised by 50 cm and new culverts installed to accommodate high static water levels and facilitate the movement of water south from Walker Swamp into the southern wetlands.
- A new car park and walking path, a bird hide fence and a 5 metre high bird-watching tower have been installed for managing public access to the wetlands through Landcare funding.
- A monitoring plan has been developed and Landcare funding enabled 30 keen community members undertook a 10-week citizen science bird monitoring course. Baseline data has been collected on vegetation, red gum condition, water quality, birds, macroinvertebrates, frogs, terrestrial vertebrates and invertebrates.
- 105 people have undertaken 5 fieldtrips to the *Reserve*
- 120 people attended a day long celebration at the *Reserve* in September 2018

This project helps complete the floodplain scale restoration of the Wannon River floodplain delta, where the river braids after flowing out of the steep south east edge of the Grampians National Park. Previous projects between Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) and Glenelg Hopkins CMA have undertaken hydrological restoration at Gooseneck and Brady's swamps, downstream of Walker Swamp.

KEY PARTNERS: Nature Glenelg Trust (a not-for-profit environmental organisation), Trust for Nature, AGL Energy, Hamilton Field Naturalists Club (community partner) and Parks Victoria as a key non-financial partner as are several neighbouring landholders.

3.2 WATERWAYS (RIVERS, ESTUARIES, WETLANDS)

Condition Statement

This section provides an overview of the condition of the region's rivers, wetlands and estuaries.

Regional context

The Glenelg River is the largest river in south-west Victoria and contains some of the best condition river reaches in the region. Significant tributaries of the Glenelg River include the Wannan, Chetwynd, Stokes, Crawford and Wando rivers. The four main catchments within the Portland Coast basin are the Moyne, Eumeralla-Shaw system, Darlot Creek-Fitzroy River system and the Surry River. These are relatively short rivers, which drain the immediate inland areas and flow to the Southern Ocean. The Hopkins River is a major waterway draining the eastern part of the region and enters the Southern Ocean at Warrnambool. The Hopkins basin is largely cleared and used for agriculture. All basins have high value environmental reaches, which support rare and threatened flora and fauna.

The region's rivers support a range of social values including fishing, boating, camping, swimming, picnicking and bushwalking. Rivers contribute to the region's economy and are valued for the supply of water for agriculture, sand mining, drinking water, tourism and fishing.

The region has more than 5,400 wetlands, covering 73,000 ha or three per cent of the region's area. This represents 14 per cent of Victoria's total area of wetlands and 44 per cent of the state's total number of wetlandsⁱⁱ. The region's wetlands vary greatly, ranging from large and permanent freshwater lakes to small and ephemeral (non-permanent) freshwater meadows. Seasonal herbaceous wetlands, which are ephemeral, isolated freshwater wetlands, are particularly well represented. This wetland type is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC). Sixteen of the region's wetlands are listed in the *Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia* (DIWA).

In 2018, Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay became Australia's 66th Wetland of International Importance under the internationally recognised Ramsar convention. The Ramsar site is located in the western part of the Lower Glenelg National Park, most of the Discovery Bay Coastal Park and the Nelson Streamside Reserve and covers approximately 22,000 hectares. The area is known for its rare peatlands and dunes which support a diverse range of waterbirds, fish and plants, are number of which are threatened species.

The extent of wetlands in the region has declined by approximately 60 percent since European settlement, primarily due to drainage and conversion to agricultureⁱⁱⁱ. A recent study conducted on a wetland cluster in the south-eastern Grampians area showed a 45% increase in incidences where wetlands have been impacted by cropping between 2010 and 2015^{iv}. All wetland types within the Glenelg Hopkins region currently face a range of threats that will be exacerbated by climate change, in particular, changes in the timing and amount of rainfall which will impact how much water wetlands receive and how long they retain water for. The abundant shallow marsh wetlands of the region are very susceptible to localised reductions in rainfall, due to their reliance on local runoff.

Rivers benchmark – Index of Stream Condition 3

The environmental condition of rivers in Victoria is assessed using the Index of Stream Condition (ISC). The last ISC assessment in the region was undertaken in 2010 (ISC 3).

The condition of waterways in the region varies from good to very poor, reflecting the level of modification of the waterways and types of land use. Waterways in near natural condition with high environmental values are generally found in the more forested areas of the catchment. Forty-eight per cent of assessed reaches in the region were in moderate to good condition, with the remainder in poor to very poor condition (Figure 4 - below).

The best condition reaches were typically in the Glenelg and Portland Coast basins in the west of the catchment, and those in the poorest condition in the Hopkins basin, which has the largest proportion cleared for agriculture.

ISC results showed that stream condition varied considerably between the three main basins in the region, with streams of the Glenelg Basin being in best condition (Figure 5 - page 23). All reaches in good condition (14 per cent of reaches assessed) were in the Glenelg Basin. Both the Glenelg and Portland basins had the majority of their stream length assessed as in moderate condition (68 per cent and 84 per cent respectively)^v. Much of the stream length in the Hopkins basin was assessed as in poor condition (38 per cent) or very poor condition (56 per cent). This was generally due to modified flow regimes, degraded riparian vegetation, poor bank condition and low water quality from elevated nutrients and salinity^{vi}. It should be noted that the ISC3 assessment coincided with a drought period, which was particularly severe in the Glenelg Hopkins region. These conditions impacted on several measures of the ISC, in particular water quality and hydrology.

Figure 4: Glenelg Hopkins Index of Stream Condition

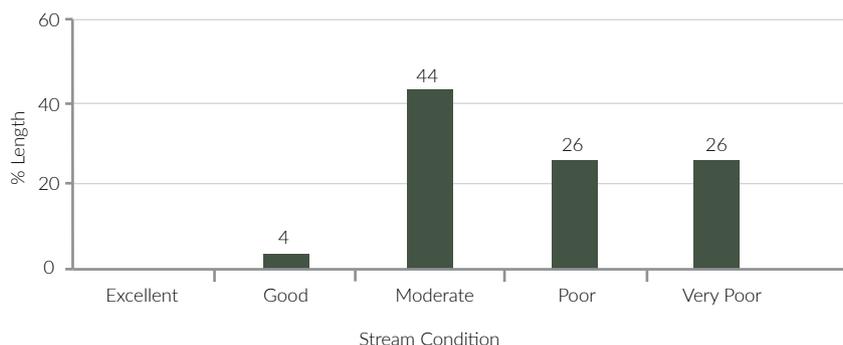
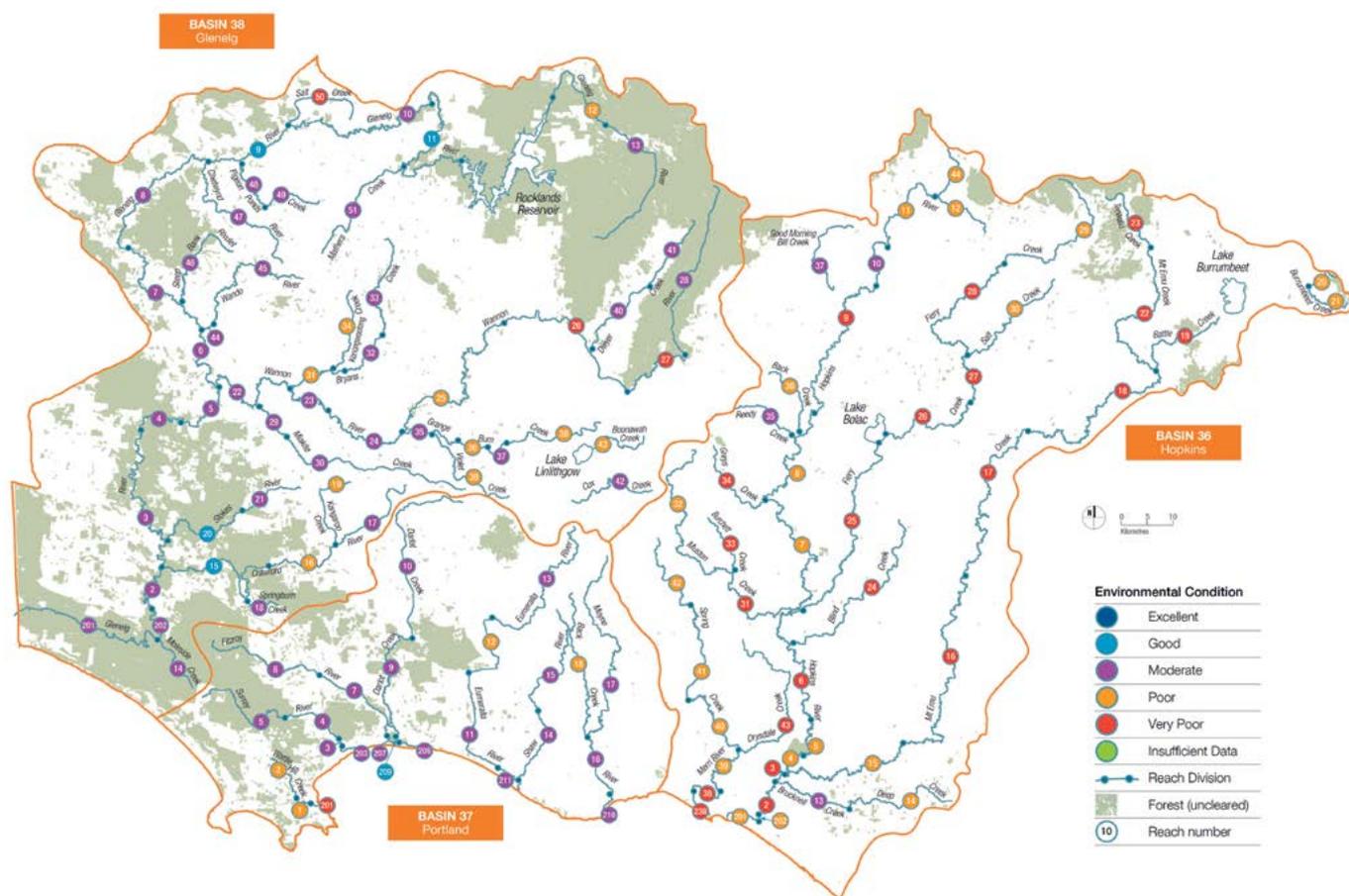


Figure 5: Glenelg Hopkins Index of Stream Condition 3 Reaches



**Wetlands benchmark
– Index of Wetland Condition**

An Index of Wetland Condition^{vii} assessment was undertaken in the region in 2009. The IWC measures six aspects (sub-indices) of wetland condition: the wetland catchment, physical form, soils, water properties, hydrology, and biota

(e.g. vegetation structure and health). The results of the IWC are presented in Table 7 (below).

The assessment revealed that 64% of wetlands surveyed in the region were in good to excellent condition with the exception of shallow freshwater meadows.

Meadows are dry for extended periods and are therefore more vulnerable to conversion to agricultural use. Of the wetlands that remain in the region, most are on private land. Many are accessed by stock, which reduces the fringing vegetation, impacts on hydrology and affects natural processes.

Table 7: Glenelg Hopkins Region Index of Wetland Condition Results

Type	Wetlands Surveyed (%)			Wetland Condition Category (number)				
	Proportion of all Wetlands	Per cent Surveyed	Percentage of all types Surveyed	Excellent	Good	Insufficient Data	Moderate	Poor
Deep marsh	12.3%	6.9%	27.0%	30	15		4	1
Shallow marsh	20.3%	4.1%	27.0%	33	6	2	5	4
Meadow	47.4%	2.5%	37.8%	17	8	1	13	31
Open water	13.9%	0.8%	3.8%		3		1	3
Permanent saline	1.5%	8.0%	3.8%	3	3		1	
Semi permanent saline	4.5%	0.4%	0.5%				1	

Anecdotal evidence of change

Increases in the area of cropping across the catchment have been observed. The change from a grazing to a cropping landuse has impacted on seasonal herbaceous wetlands which are susceptible to disturbance of the wetland bed by ripping and ploughing.

In the Glenelg River, where a long-term focus on river restoration has been coupled with environmental flows, benefits are starting to be observed for fish breeding and persistence. This is especially so for Tupong and River Blackfish, though it is too early to be sure that these results will be sustained over the long-term.

In the Glenelg River, water quality shows a long-term decline since at least the 1990's. Many other waterways exceed water quality targets in the State Environment Protection Policy.

Annual waterways assessment 2018-19

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key Evidence
<p>Concerned</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change represents a significant, long-term threat to the function and biota of waterways and wetlands, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing. • Observations of wetlands being lost via conversion to cropping have been noted. • Water quality in the Glenelg is continuing to decline.

Reason for assessment:

The availability of water to waterways and wetlands is a key determinant of their condition, Figure 6 (below) shows the annual average rainfall for the region. Figure 7 (page 25) shows modelled flow into rivers across the region and Figure 8 (page 25) shows the maximum percentage of the region inundated with water (that is in wetlands or waterways). Rainfall correlates very closely with inflow into rivers, estuaries and wetlands. Rainfall in 2018 was lower than in the previous 2 years with corresponding reductions in water available to the

environment. Reduced rainfall, and reduced spring rainfall under climate change impact the amount of water available to maintain waterways and wetland function.

Condition of estuaries is assumed to be relatively constant.

Environmental water released from reservoirs is an important element for maintaining river health when flows are declining.

The removal of barriers to fish movement, re-snagging and other on-ground works to protect and restore

riparian areas are contributing to improved condition of waterways and estuaries throughout the catchment, and resultant encouraging fish movement and recruitment results.

Further reports of cropping of seasonal wetlands in the Victorian Volcanic Plain were received in 2018-19 indicating an on-going threat to this wetland type as agricultural land use changes and intensifies.

Figure 6: Annual rainfall for the Glenelg Hopkins region (2000-2018)

Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2018, developed by the Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online.

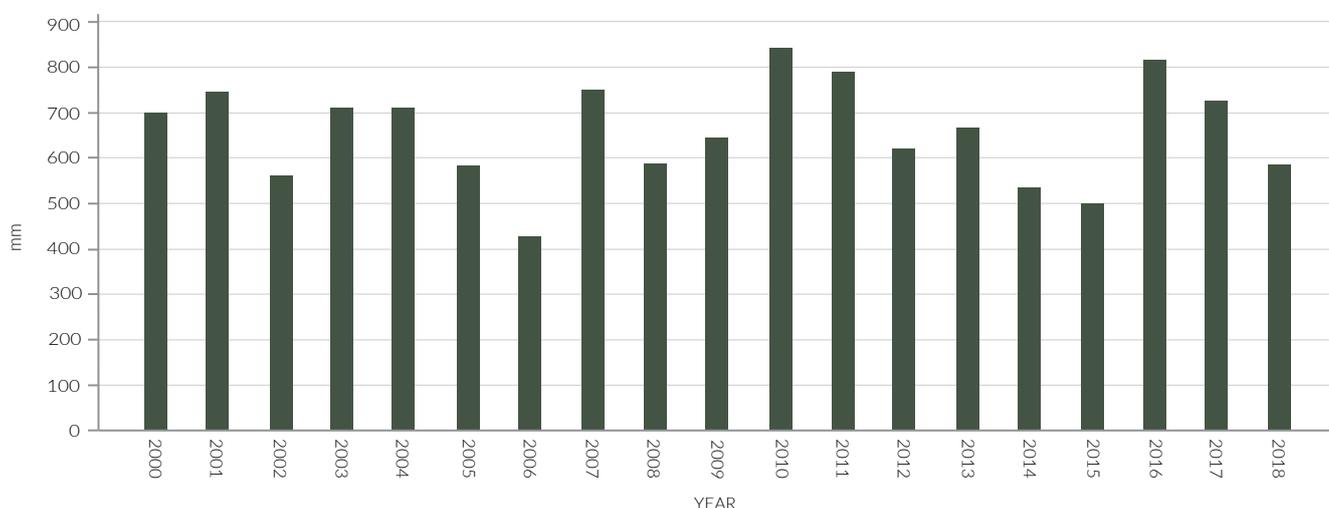


Figure 7: Estimated annual river inflow in the Glenelg Hopkins region 2000-2018

Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2018, developed by the Australian National University - Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online). Total surface and substrate runoff into the river as estimated by the OzWALD model data fusion system.

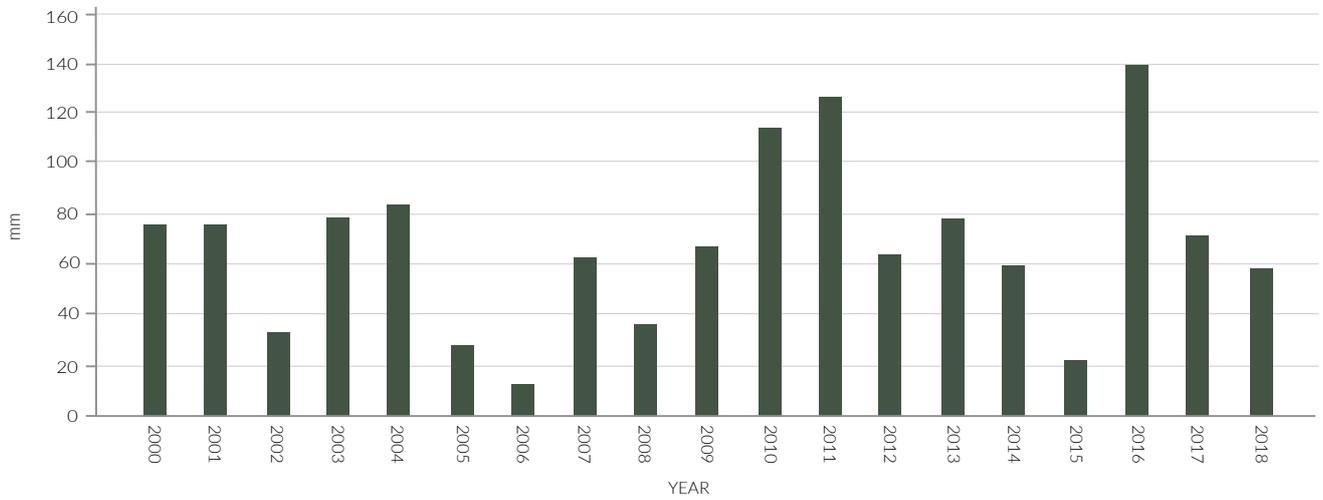
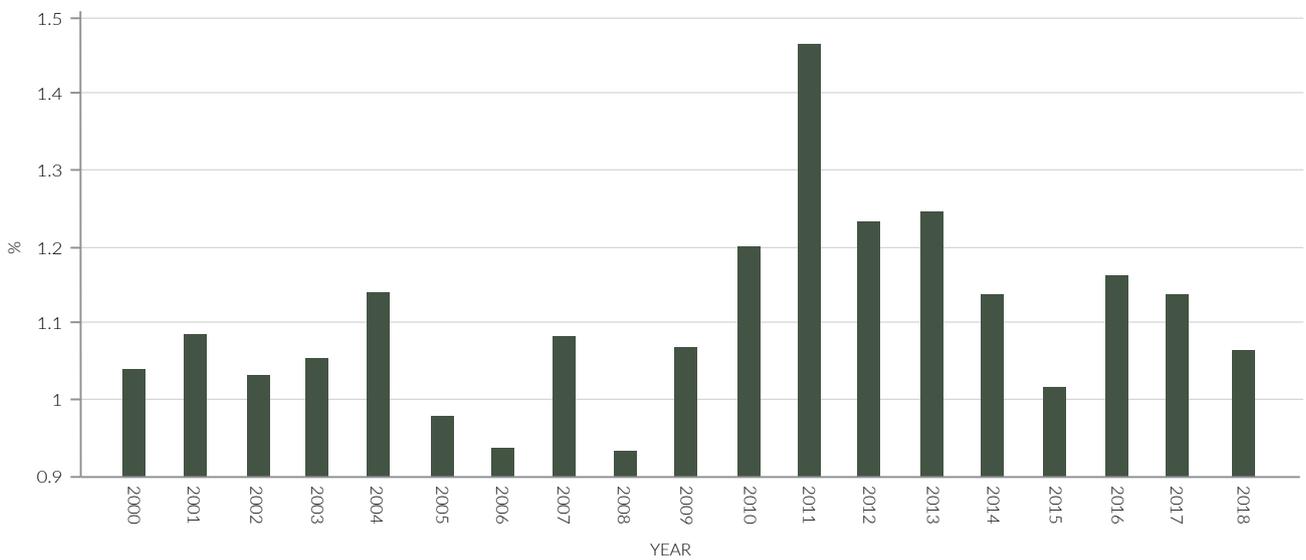


Figure 8: Annual maximum water extent for the Glenelg Hopkins 2000-2018

Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2018, developed by the Australian National University - Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online). Annual maximum water extent, derived from NASA MODIS imagery and Geoscience Australia's Water Observations from Space mapping by the OzWALD model-data fusion system.



MANAGEMENT REPORT

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Glenelg Hopkins Regional Waterway Strategy Implementation

Delivery of the Regional Waterway Strategy is underpinned by a number of Victorian Government funded initiatives being implemented regionally as part of the Victorian **Water Program Investment Framework (2016-2020)**, which support RCS and Regional Waterway Strategy implementation. Excellent progress is being made on annual output targets. The Strategy has completed its fourth year of implementation.

In 2019 an interim review of the Waterway strategy was completed. This review showed significant progress towards achieving outcomes from the RWS including:

- 20 (22%) of region-wide management responses to identified threats are complete. A further 56 (69%) are in-progress
- Overall, 55% of region-wide management responses to address regional threats have either been delivered, are fully funded or will be delivered provided current resourcing continues. A further 34% are partially funded but require additional financial commitment for remaining years of strategy. Of the remaining actions, 7% are not resourced (financial or FTE) and 4% are no longer relevant and will not be delivered
- 64 of 475 actions of the asset-based works program are complete. A further 47 actions are in-progress
- On-ground works have been undertaken on 7 out of 9 priority estuaries; 35 out of 40 priority river reaches; and 14 of 59 priority wetland complexes

- A pilot assessment of the likelihood of achieving Management Outcome Targets (MOTs) for the Coastal Management Area shows 40 out of 68 MOTs (59%) have a high likelihood of achievement given completed and planned works. A further 22 MOTs (32%) have no significant barriers to success other than providing adequate resourcing to complete action in the GHRWS. Six MOTs have no identified progress or a significant barrier to success evident.

Highlights for the past financial year have included delivery of:

- significant control of Willows along the Merri River;
- priority on-ground works associated with the Mt Emu Creek, Hopkins and Wannon Waterway Action Plans;
- the Improving Flows in the Budj Bim Landscape project to support traditional owners to protect and improve environmental values and restore traditional cultural practices and heritage places in the proposed World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape on Gunditjmara Country; and
- Establishing the first year of Ramsar monitoring and on-ground works to, maintain and improve the condition of the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar site.

Coastal water programs and projects are outlined in the Coasts section of this report.

Hopkins Works Program

This project protects and maintains waterways in the Hopkins Basin by supporting engagement of landholders, community groups and the dairy industry to develop Waterway Action Plans for Brucknell and Mt Emu Creeks; and on-ground works, particularly willow removal, on the Merri River. Significant highlights for each waterway are listed below.

During 2018-19 on the Merri River achievements included:

- 2,860 plants rehabilitated across 1.66 ha which included four community planting days and various private landholders
- 1,910 metres of riverbank cleared of willows to increase recreational fishing access
- three letter drops, one community information session and an interpretive sign to provide community information and input into rehabilitation projects and discuss local views and opinions on restoration works
- 865 metres of fencing and installation of two off stream stock trough systems.

Completion of the Mt Emu Creek Waterway Action Plan including:

- 10 landholder management agreements
- 20 km of fencing installed, 13,000 plants established, and 123 ha of water frontage protected. Aerial drone footage of the 'before' and 'after' landscape was also recorded for each site.

Start of the Hopkins Wetland Restoration Project including:

- 3 landholder management agreements
- 4.4 km fencing installed, with further works to be completed in 2019-20
- development of a decision support tool, a wetlands communication and engagement strategy, 6 written publications, 2 visual publications, 1 audio publication and 1 workshop with 12 participants.

Glenelg Works Program

This project maintains and improves the ecological values of the Glenelg basin waterways by supporting priority on-ground works for reaches identified in the Wannon Waterway Action Plan and assessing sites for future projects.

Since 2016, works as part of the Wannon River Waterway Action plan (WAP) have protected 49 km of waterway frontage through 65 km of stock exclusion fencing, and 218 ha of revegetation and weed control. This has involved works with 21 landholders across 23 projects.

During 2018-19 16kms of fencing and 53 ha of revegetation and 38 ha of woody weed control were completed across 12 projects to protect 18 km of waterway. These works have included the final stages of Stage 2, as well as the early stages of Stage 3 with works undertaken on the Konongwootong and Wennicott Creeks.

Planning for the final stage of the Wannon WAP has commenced.

Thirty-two property assessments were undertaken over March and April 2019, totalling 94 ha and 23 km of waterway with the Wannon River/Miakite Creek catchment. This has resulted in 28 project proposals which will be assessed by an approval panel in July 2019. Works as part of the final stage of the Wannon WAP will commence this year to be completed by December 2020.

To date the Grange Burn restoration project has established over 21,100 plants across 12.4 ha of land, 3.1 km frontage of the waterway has been cleared of dense infestations of woody weeds from 10.8 ha and over 12 ha of mulching and maintenance activities have been carried out. Within the agricultural land downstream of Hamilton 800 m of stock exclusion fencing has been erected and two off stream water systems including six troughs and one solar pump were installed.

Regional Works Program

This project aims to maintain and improve the ecological values of regional priority waterways by supporting:

- a regional works crew, to protect and restore waterways in key regional towns working in partnership with local government, landholders and community groups
- landholder project audits, re-engagement and project maintenance activities
- contribution to the Surface Water Monitoring Partnership, review of Blue Green Algae Response Plans and participation in Integrated Water Management Plan meetings
- monitoring, evaluation and reporting of outcomes, development of a Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy Monitoring, Evaluation Reporting and Improvement (MERI) Plan and spatial reporting through the waterway strategy database linkage tool.

Key achievements for 2018-19 include the CMA Work Crew supporting 4 Community Groups, 3 Local Governments and 27 land managers in their environmental land management works. This work involved 10.5 km of fence installation and maintenance, 42 ha of Aboriginal revegetation, 259 ha of woody weed removal and 33 ha of non woody weed removal. Value was added to this work by the creation of 6 written publications in the form of various local media articles and Facebook posts.

Regional Floodplain Management Strategy Implementation

RCS measure 3.4.1 (development of a regional floodplain management plan) has been completed with the finalisation of the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (RFMS) in 2017. The intent of the RFMS is to interpret and apply the policies, actions and accountabilities of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (VFMS) in managing flood risks at the regional and local level. It provides a single, regional planning document for floodplain management and a high-level list of regional priorities to guide future investment.

The primary role of the RFMS is to help agencies with floodplain management and flood emergency management functions to align their priorities and maximise community benefits with available funding. The CMA led the development of the RFMS in collaboration with the local community, LGAs, VicSES and other partner agencies. The CMA undertakes an annual review of progress on relevant floodplain management actions contained within the RFMS through consultation with councils.

Statutory Water Functions Project (Floodplain and Waterway Management)

This project supports the delivery of the CMA's floodplain and waterway management responsibilities. As part of this project, the CMA continued to support Local Government and VicSES in the development and review of Regional Municipal Flood Emergency Plans. The CMA's Floodplain and Works team responded to flood referrals and notices during the reporting period, provided flood advice responses, and issued works on waterways licences. The following floodplain management priority actions have been supported during 2018-19;

- The Coleraine Flood Investigation, led by the Southern Grampians Shire Council was completed in late 2019
- The Cudgee Flood Investigation is ongoing and is being led by Moyne Shire
- The Raglan Flood Investigation has commenced and is being led by Pyrenees Shire Council
- The Mount Emu Regional Flood Investigation is being led by GHCMMA in partnership with Pyrenees and Corangamite Shires
- Participation of CMA staff on a Working Group for Port Fairy Coastal and Structure Planning Project
- The Warrnambool Floodplain Management Plan led by Warrnambool City Council
- The Russell Creek Flood Warning Project led by Warrnambool City Council.

Regional Flood Studies

A key objective of the RCS (RCS measure 3.4.4) is to increase the provision of reliable flood information for settlements. Flood studies currently underway are the Cudgee Flood Investigation in Moyne Shire, the Raglan Flood Investigation in Pyrenees Shire and the Mount Emu Creek Regional Flood Investigation which is being led by the CMA.

VWPIF Environmental Water Program (2016-20)

The VWPIF Environmental Water Program is comprised of several sub-projects. An overview of key achievements for 2018-19 are provided below.

The **EWR officer** provides strategic planning and delivery of the available environmental water entitlements in the region. The project focuses on the Glenelg River which is regulated by the Rocklands and Moora Moora Reservoirs.

Environmental water delivered to the Glenelg River from Rocklands Reservoir totalled 14,485 ML. Ecological monitoring undertaken during environmental watering has continued to demonstrate a positive response in the distribution and recruitment of a range of fish species. Last year, record numbers of young Tupong were recorded moving upstream from the estuary to the freshwater reaches. Numbers of tupong remain high suggesting water for the environment has supported this species through the 2018-19 flow year. Survey results also showed a 75 per cent increase in blackfish and Variegated Pygmy Perch numbers on the previous 12 months. This is driven by unprecedented recruitment due to improved water quality that is supported by releases of water for the environment.

The **Glenelg River Weir Bypass** project will investigate how best to negate the last major fish barrier on the Glenelg River. This will benefit both migratory and non-migratory fish populations in the Glenelg River by ensuring upstream and downstream migration of fish species under low flow conditions. The scope of the project has evolved and will now look to design a fishway to be constructed at the barrier. Work undertaken in 2018-19 has included landholder engagement and the development of a concept and detailed design for a fishway structure to inform future works. Works on the new fishway will commence in 2019-20.

Three temporary gauges have been installed as part of the **Improving Flows in the Upper Glenelg** project. These are placed through Reach 0 of the Glenelg River and water infrastructure channels. Data from these gauges will be used in a hydrology study in the final year of the project. The hydrology study will assess data and update the environmental flow study for this reach to benefit a range of EPBC listed species. This year the Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with GWM Water to coordinate a release from Moora Moora Reservoir into reach 0. This was the second year that water for the environment has been released from Moora Moora Reservoir. This undertaking is helping to build an operational understanding of how water can be delivered into this reach.

The **Improving Flows in the Budj Bim Landscape** project seeks to improve water flow pathways for rivers and wetlands on the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. This area once supported a unique aquaculture system, unlike anything else in the world. The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape on Gunditjmarra Country was proposed for the World Heritage List in July 2019 in recognition of its immense historical and cultural significance. The project aims to improve our understanding of water flow pathways across the Budj Bim landscape to protect and improve environmental values and restore traditional cultural practices and heritage places.

To date the focus has been around:

- developing a collaborative relationship and empowering Traditional Owners to drive the project direction
- successfully upgrading the existing gate site at the Lake Condah bypass channel to allow remote monitoring and operation, and the successful installation of a surface water monitoring site at the Lake Condah outfall. This will allow the development of a 'basic' set of weir operational rules to greatly assist Gunditj Mirring in the management of Lake Condah
- delivering the Tyrendarra Hydrological and Hydraulic Modelling study as part of the 'Improving flows to the Budj Bim landscape' sub-project. The study provides significant detail of the pre-European and current water flow regime through Tyrendarra IPA wetland system. A major objective of the study is to divert a proportion of flows from a northern agricultural drain to the Tyrendarra wetland system to reactivate pre-European flow, an aquaculture system and enhance significant cultural and ecological values
- undertaking a hydrological investigation at Kurtonitj and a regional-scale hydrological investigation to further increase the knowledge of the 'water journey' through the Budj Bim landscape.

The **Permanent Restoration of Long Swamp project, delivered by** Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT), is a 3-year project that commenced in 2018-19. The project will permanently restore Ramsar-listed wetland habitat at Long Swamp. The project has re-created a sand dune to replace the previous restoration trial structure, permanently closing the artificial outlet and securing sustainable water management across up to 1,057 hectares of public land. Years 2 and 3 of the project will focus on revegetation and follow-up environmental assessments, before eventual handover of site management to Parks Victoria.

Fish Monitoring conducted by NGT since 2014, indicates that increased connectivity, following the restoration works, has contributed to the recent colonisation of Yarra Pygmy Perch at Nobles Rocks and increased presence of Common Galaxias and detection of two other diadromous fish (e.g. Tupong, Short-finned Eel) throughout central Long Swamp. The overall status of the threatened Yarra Pygmy Perch throughout Long Swamp has improved, while the invasive Eastern Gambusia has become more abundant. The other threatened species Little Galaxias, has shown declines in recent years, suggesting the species may be occupying newly flooded fringing habitat (beyond our sampling sites), or has been impacted by increased competition or predation from the Eastern Gambusia.

Wannon wetland complex and Wannon River. Nature Glenelg Trust has undertaken fish monitoring of the Wannon River wetland complex (i.e. Brady, Gooseneck and Walker swamp) since 2014 to monitor fish responses to on-ground restoration works. Additional monitoring has occurred along the Wannon River (upstream and downstream of the wetlands) to identify key refuge pools for native fish.

Most recent wetland monitoring in spring 2018 showed the recovery of two populations of threatened species, Little Galaxias and Western Swamp Crayfish, despite earlier indications of population decline during extended dry periods in 2015-2016.

Restoration works at Walker swamp have included:

- Developing a Hydrological restoration options assessment
- Removing 90 ha of mounding from failed blue gum plantations in the wetland bed
- Upgrading the site fencing
- Backfilling 26 km of artificial drains.

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)- Flood Recovery

The Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) is a jointly funded Australian and Victorian Government program aimed at providing assistance to those affected by widespread flooding experienced across the region in 2016.

Fourteen construction tender packages were released, covering 26 sites, with on-ground works commencing in early November 2018. Construction works were completed at 35 sites in 2018-19, bringing the total sites completed under NDRRA to 47 – 96% of contracted works. Works completed included rock chutes, trickle pipe units and levee banks, GEOWEB grass chutes and a coir log network.

Disaster Relief and Response- Flood Recovery

The Disaster Relief and Response Flood Recovery is funded by the Victorian Government, and aims to provide funding for flood recovery works **not** covered under the NDRRA. In 2018-19, the CMA was successful in attracting \$2.59 million in funding for fencing and revegetation works to protect flood recovery structures built under the NDRRA Flood Recovery Project, and further construction works at flood damaged sites.

Key highlights and achievements for 2018-19 included detailed surveys undertaken at six sites and eight detailed design drawings and construction plans drafted. Fencing at 25 sites was completed by 30 June 2019.

CASE STUDY

FIRST CONFIRMED CATCH OF AUSTRALIAN GRAYLING IN THE GLENELG RIVER IN OVER A CENTURY

BACKGROUND: Australian grayling, once abundant throughout the coastal rivers of south-eastern Australia, require appropriate flows to trigger and enable spawning migrations. Adult fish need to move upstream to spawn and juvenile fish require suitable conditions to return downstream to their nursery areas in the ocean and estuaries. Altered river flows and barriers to fish movement have contributed to a dramatic decline in this species. Research by ARI scientists in other Victorian coastal river systems has shown that Australian grayling benefit from flow pulses or 'freshes' that stimulate spawning migrations.

APPROACH: The release of environmental water into the Glenelg River from reservoirs helps to maintain flows and improve water quality and there is a mounting body of evidence to show that native fish are reaping the benefits from releases of water over the past decade. A range of native fish move freely between fresh and saltwater habitats on the back of improved river connectivity and flows. Estuary perch (*Macquaria colonorum*), Tupong (*Pseudaphritis urvillii*) and Black bream (*Acanthopagrus butcheri*) are recorded migrating significant distances upstream - 270, 240 and 70 kilometres respectively.

Widespread work by the CMA and landholders through the Glenelg River Restoration Project to install fish habitat, remove barriers to migration, control erosion and improve water quality have also benefitted native fish.

RESULTS: Ongoing research through the Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring and Assessment Program (VEFMAP) has shown marked improvements in the abundance and range of important native fish species in the river system. This has included a tenfold increase in numbers of the critically endangered variegated pygmy perch (*Nannoperca variegata*) and a doubling of numbers of river blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*).

An Australian grayling (*Prototroctes maraena*) was captured during fish surveys in the Glenelg River in February 2019, providing the first confirmed record of this nationally threatened native fish in the Glenelg in 122 years. Scientists from the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) made the exciting discovery which provides an encouraging sign that delivering environmental water to the Glenelg is supporting instream conditions for flow-dependent native species. The Australian Grayling was caught downstream of Casterton near Myaring Bridge in reach 3 during ARI surveys for the Native Fish Report Card program, supported by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA).

PARTNERS: Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA).

3.3 BIODIVERSITY

Regional context

The Glenelg Hopkins region has significant, but often threatened, biodiversity. Over 215 species are listed as threatened under the Victorian Government's *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*; and 130 species listed under the Australian Government's *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Significant areas of the region also occur in two of 15 recognised Australian Government biodiversity hotspots (the Victorian Volcanic Plain and South Australia's south-east/Victoria's south-west). These areas were identified as hotspots due to their many endemic species and associated levels of current and future conservation threats.

The major threat to biodiversity across the region is continued loss of habitat through clearing of native vegetation and drainage of wetlands. The main drivers for this loss are agricultural intensification, including conversion from grazing to cropping; population and industry growth and infrastructure development including road and rail. Other key contributors to the decline of biodiversity across the region include climate change, pest plants and animals, overabundant native wildlife and increased use of public land for commercial and recreational activities.

Biodiversity benchmark

The extent and condition of native habitat and the health of native species

The extent of native vegetation has declined significantly since European settlement, with less than 18 per cent of the pre-European coverage remaining in the region. Of this amount, around 12 per cent occurs on Crown land and five per cent on private land. Remnant vegetation by bioregion, compared to pre-1750 figures is shown in Table 8 (below). The Greater Grampians bioregion is the most intact bioregion within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

The Victorian Volcanic Plain, Dundas Tablelands, and Glenelg Plain are the three largest bioregions in the Glenelg Hopkins region by area with around 10 per cent or less of native vegetation cover remaining in them (compared to pre-1750 extent)^{viii}.

The Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion, which covers a large percentage of the region, is the most cleared in the state^x. Although extensively cleared, there is considerable variation in the extent of native vegetation within this bioregion, with the proportion remaining west of Caramut generally higher than elsewhere. While there are good condition blocks in the far south west at Mount Napier, Budj Bim (Mount Eccles), Annya and Narrawong, these blocks are dominated

by forests and woodlands, rather than the grassy plains that are characteristic of other parts of the bioregion^x.

The Dundas Tablelands occurs in two areas of the catchment and is separated by the Greater Grampians bioregion. Both blocks have been extensively modified. Much of the remaining native vegetation occurs in the larger blocks of remnant vegetation on public land on the north-east flank of the western block^{xi}. A very high proportion of remaining vegetation in the eastern block of the Dundas Tablelands occurs on private land, encompassing a large number of ephemeral wetlands^{xii}. Although connectivity is moderate to high, particularly to the north-west of Dunkeld, site condition is generally poor. Remnant vegetation associated with wetlands and streams in this area is generally of poor to moderate site condition, but comparatively well connected compared to other bioregions that have been mostly cleared. There are also a number of major roads in the eastern block of the Dundas Tablelands that retain highly connected remnant vegetation, which is generally in poor condition^{xiii}.

The northwest block of the Glenelg Plain between Dergholm and Chetwynd is of good site condition within the majority of public land and retains vegetation that is highly connected^{xiv}.

Table 8: Remnant vegetation compared to pre-1750 figures (Source: Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2013-2019)

Bioregion	Pre-1750 area (ha)	Remnant vegetation remaining (ha)	Percentage of original	No. of endangered regional EVCs
Greater Grampians	151,140	129,634	86%	22
Bridgewater	18,192	11,471	63%	4
Glenelg Plain	383,116	148,554	39%	34
Wimmera	24,861	4,953	20%	16
Goldfields	15,363	4,000	26%	9
Central Victorian Uplands	81,351	22,123	27%	12
Dundas Tablelands	660,782	64,319	10%	49
Warrnambool Plain	113,598	7,742	7%	18
Victorian Volcanic Plain	1,223,766	72,286	6%	58
Total	2,672,169	465,082	17.4%	222

Figure 9: NaturePrint Version 2.0 strategic natural values contributing most to biodiversity in the Glenelg Hopkins region

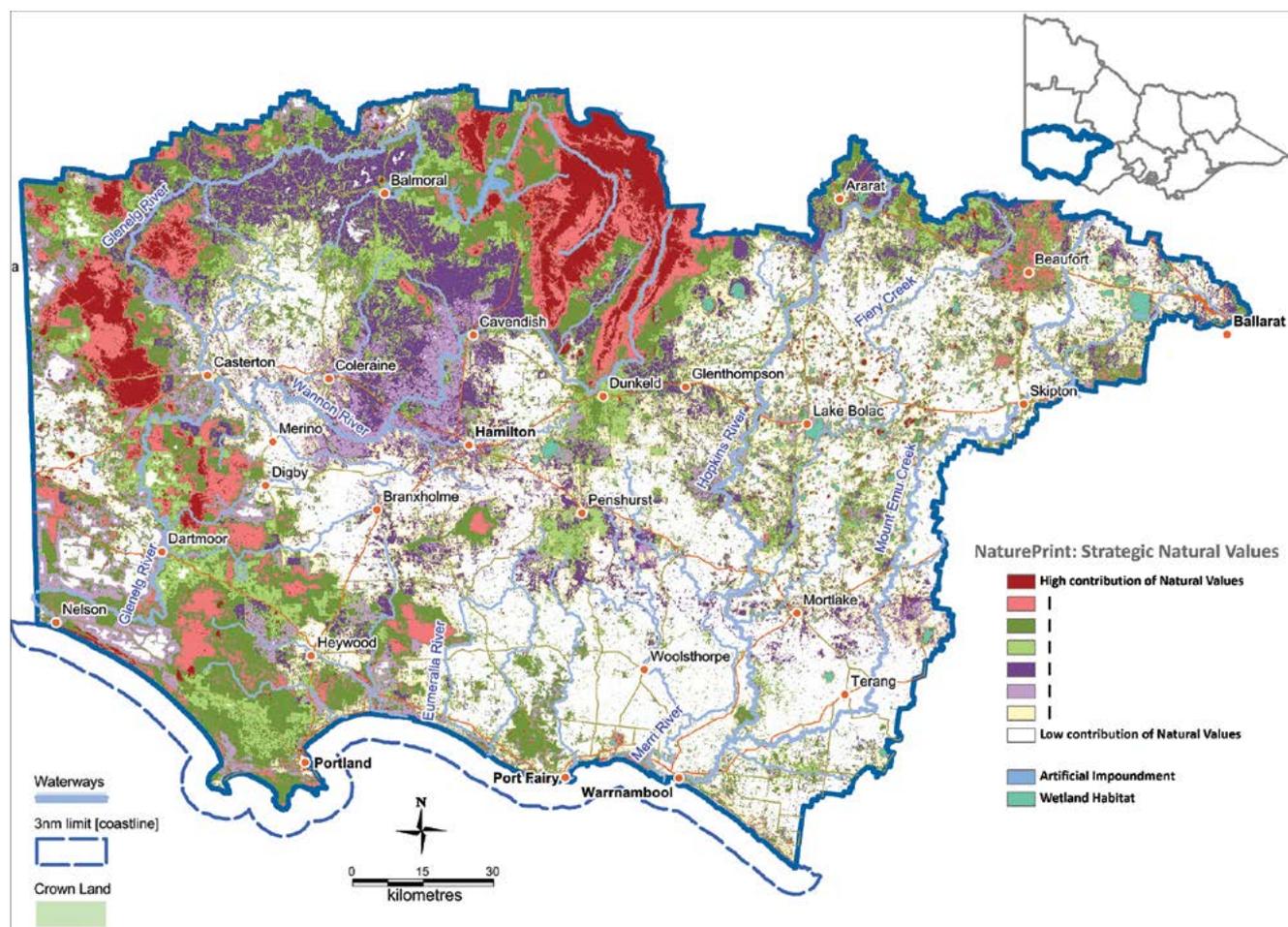


Figure 9 (above) shows the areas in the Glenelg Hopkins region that contribute most to biodiversity conservation and was developed using DELWP’s NaturePrint Version 2.0 biodiversity planning tool.

High value biodiversity areas are depicted in red, pink and dark green and include areas such as the Lower Glenelg, Cobboboonee and Grampians National Parks, Dergholm and Black Range State Parks, Tooloy-Lake Mundi Wildlife Reserve, Wilkin Flora and Fauna Reserve, Crawford River Regional Park, and Weecurra and Hotspur State Forests. While highly fragmented in nature, a number of remnants on the Victorian Volcanic Plain are also considered to be significant habitat. Some important vegetation remnants on private land also remain, especially along waterways.

The Parks Victoria 2013 State of the Parks evaluation considered trends in the condition of natural values in parks over the period 2010 to 2013 and assessed current condition as at June 2013. Assessments are informed by local staff and other expert knowledge coupled with quantitative monitoring data, where available.

Table 9 (page 33) provides a summary of this evaluation for 31 parks found within or partly within the Glenelg Hopkins region. The majority of regional parks and reserves were assessed as being in a stable condition.

Tree Cover

Regional tree cover has increased from around 19% in 2000 to 25% in 2017 (Figure 10 - page 33). Much of the increase in regional tree cover from 2000 is likely to be from increases in plantations in the ‘green triangle’ area of the catchment (e.g. blue gum plantations) and farm forestry.

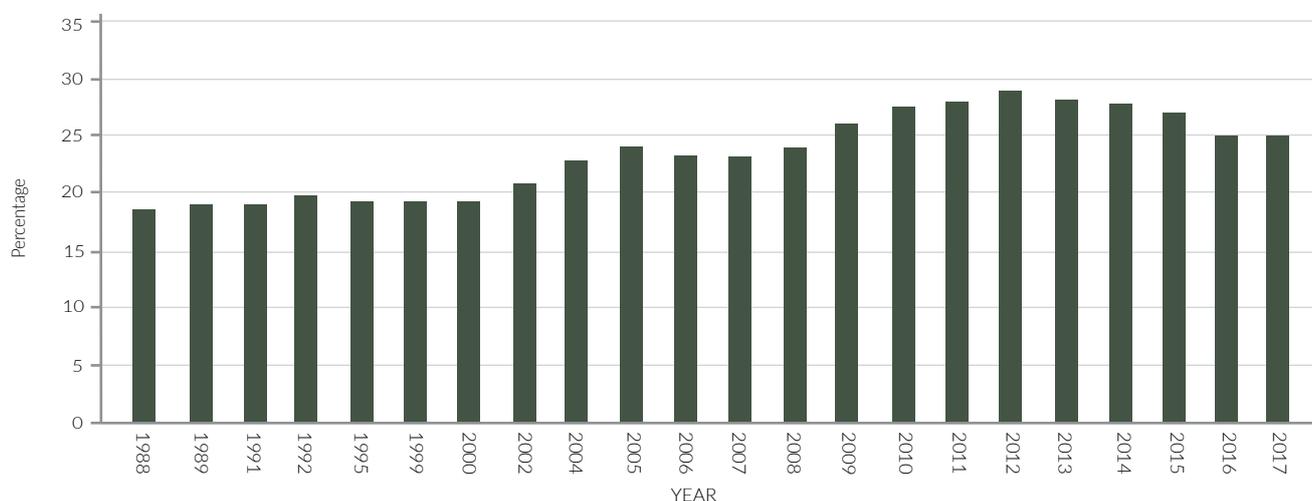
As the climate of the Glenelg Hopkins region becomes less suitable for existing vegetation communities, it is likely that there will be a gradual change in species composition^{xv}. For some habitat types, it is likely that a drying climate will result in a decline in tree cover. Research completed through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility indicates that to reliably improve future landscapes for biodiversity relative to current ones, native vegetation cover needs to be restored to approximately 30 per cent^{xvii}.

Table 9: Summary of Parks Victoria State of Parks Report 2013 data for the Glenelg Hopkins region (Source: Parks Victoria)

Condition of natural values	Number of parks	Park	Condition trends
Excellent	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Good	18	Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve Cape Nelson State Park Cobboboonee National Park Cobra Killuc Wildlife Reserve Crawford River Regional Park Dergholm State Park Discovery Bay Coastal Park Discovery Bay Marine National Park Ecklin South Swamp Nature Conservation Reserve Glenelg River, Fulham Streamside Reserve Langi Ghiran State Park Lower Glenelg National Park Merri Marine Sanctuary Mortlake Common F.R. Mount Buangor State Park Mount Napier State Park Mount Richmond National Park Narrowong Flora Reserve	Condition was maintained Condition declined Condition improved Condition was maintained Condition was maintained Condition was maintained
Fair	11	Ararat Hills Regional Park Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve Bay of Islands Coastal Park Belfast Coastal Reserve Budj Bim National Park Grampians National Park Lake Elingamite Lake Reserve Lake Linlithgow & Bullrush Swamp Lake Reserve Toooly-Lake Mundi Wildlife Reserve Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve Wilkin Flora and Fauna Reserve	Condition was maintained Condition declined Condition was maintained Condition was maintained Condition was maintained Condition declined Condition was maintained Condition declined Condition was maintained Condition was maintained Condition was maintained
Poor	1	Black Range State Park	Condition declined
Unknown	1	Kaladbro Wildlife Reserve	Trend in condition unknown

Figure 10: Tree cover in the Glenelg Hopkins region – percent of area classified as forest

(Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2017, developed by the Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment and Society)



Climate

The 20-year climate trend in the Glenelg-Hopkins region continues to be one of declining rainfall. This is observed throughout the year, with rainfall in the wetter parts of the year below average or very much below average (see Figure 11 - opposite). The reduction of rainfall directly impacts the frequency and extent of wetland inundation, and of riverine floods. It may also have impacts on vegetation reproduction and productivity of trees upon which species depend.

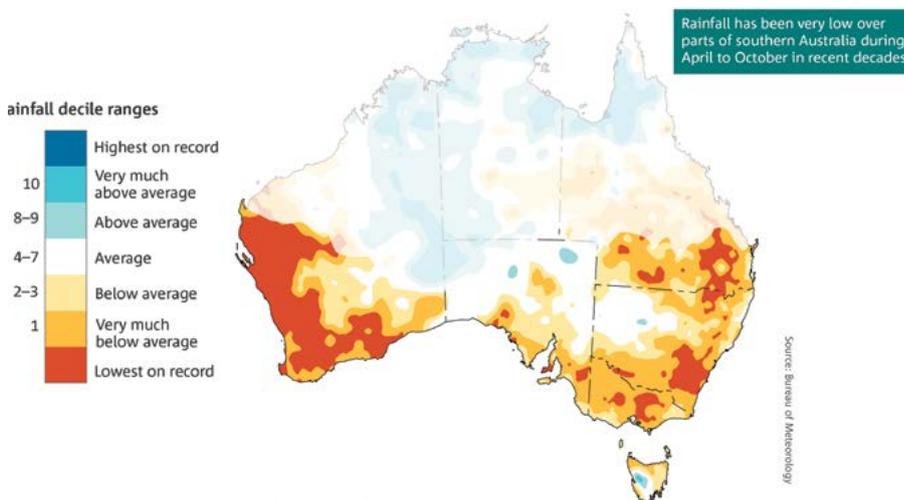
The changing climate has also led to an increase in the annual sum of the Forest Fire Danger Index, which is an indicator of the severity of fire weather conditions. The positive trend means that the length and intensity of the fire season in the Glenelg Hopkins region is increasing (see Figure 12 - opposite). 2018-19 had relatively low fire activity across the Glenelg Hopkins region, however the large fireground impacted by the St Patricks Day bushfires of early 2018 were still in a phase of recovery this year.

Anecdotal evidence of change

Throughout the year the CMA has received several reports of wetland and grassland modification, including threatened ecological communities. This is consistent with a long-term trend in the catchment as land-use is intensified.

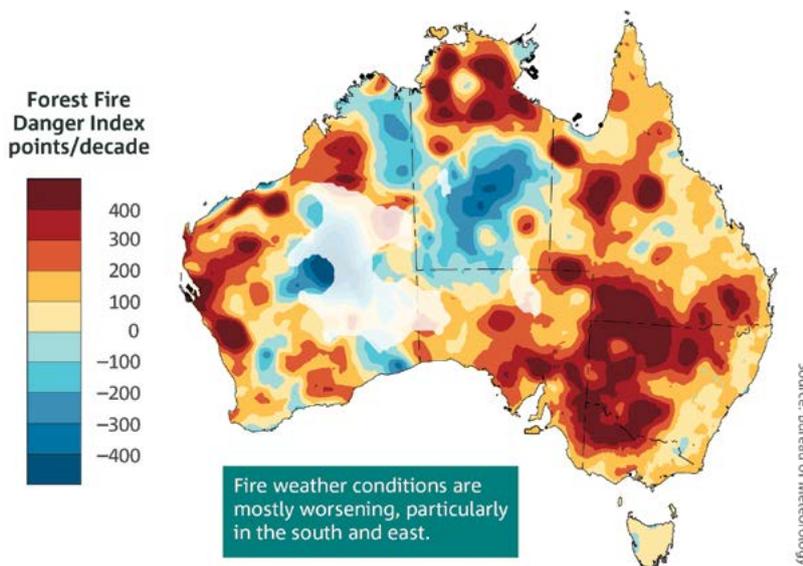
Some areas of stony country were also reported to have been impacted by rock-crushing to support improved cropping. The conversion of land formerly used for grazing to cropping has been observed to have other impacts across the catchment with resultant losses of seasonal herbaceous wetlands.

Figure 11: April to October rainfall deciles for the last 20 years (1999-2019)^{xviii}



April to October rainfall deciles for the last 20 years (1999-2018). A decile map shows where rainfall is above average, average or below average for the recent period, in comparison with the entire rainfall record from 1900. Areas across northern and central Australia that receive less than 40 per cent of their annual rainfall during April to October have been faded.

Figure 12: Forest Fire Danger Index trend from 1978 to 2017^{xviii}



Trends from 1978 to 2017 in the annual (July to June) sum of the daily Forest Fire Danger Index – an indicator of the severity of fire weather conditions. Positive trends, shown in the yellow to red colours, are indicative of an increasing length and intensity of the fire weather season. A trend of 300 FFDI points per decade is equivalent to an average trend of 30 FFDI points per year. Areas where there are sparse data coverage such as central parts of Western Australia are faded.

Annual biodiversity assessment 2018-19

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key Evidence
<p>Concerned</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMA has identified several instances of known high value wetlands and grasslands being modified. • The area impacted by the St Patricks Day fires of 2018 is in a phase of recovery. • Native vegetation cover in the catchment is below the minimum threshold for sustaining ecological function. • Significant parts of the catchment are highly modified, with low levels of remnancy and are considered to be in poor condition for biodiversity. • Climate change represents a significant, long-term threat to biodiversity, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing.

Reason for assessment:

Threatened ecological communities, notably the EPBC listed ecological community Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic plains, once covered substantial parts of the region, although recovery efforts are succeeding at restoring sites at the local scale, these communities remain critically endangered.

The catchment supports large numbers of threatened species, both state and nationally listed, threats to these species are often catchment scale or larger and operate over long timeframes. Recovery of species and their habitats is a slow process.

Monitoring of key species in the catchment including the South Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo and Brolga indicates that successful recruitment remains a concern for these species.

The public land estate remains a critical component of the remnant habitats of the catchment, supporting significant biodiversity values across the landscape, most parks are noted to be in stable condition.

Climate change represents a significant challenge for the biodiversity values of the catchment.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Threatened Species and Communities

Several long-standing projects are being undertaken within the Glenelg Hopkins region where actions are being implemented at a landscape or species-specific level to support the conservation of the region's threatened species; and contribute to the RCS objective of improving the health of key populations of threatened species and communities.

Species benefiting from these projects include the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, Southern Bent-wing Bat, South-eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo, Yarra Pygmy Perch, Dwarf Galaxias, Striped Legless Lizard, Golden Sun Moth, Spiny Rice Flower, White Sunray, Trailing Hop-bush, Fragrant Leek-orchid, Limestone Spider-orchid, Maroon Leek-orchid, Mellblom's Spider-orchid, Metallic Sun-orchid, Gorae Leek-orchid, Pretty Leek-orchid, Basalt Rustyhood, Robust Spider-orchid, Candy Spider-orchid, Basalt Sun-orchid, Coastal Dandelion and Wrinkled Cassinia. Many of these flora species are endemic, or largely endemic to the region.

A range of organisations including government departments, non-government organisations and traditional owner groups are working across the catchment to protect and restore biodiversity.

Key regional projects and activities that have been undertaken in 2018-19 towards implementing RCS objectives and associated actions for threatened species and communities are outlined on page 36.

Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Recovery Project (National Landcare Program 2)

The Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Recovery Project funded through the National Landcare Program targets the critically endangered Natural Temperate Grassland of the VVP ecological community. It is estimated that less than 0.5% of these once widespread VVP grasslands remain in moderate to high ecological integrity. Coordinated activities will run across land tenures, working with private landholders and public land managers to protect and enhance three critically listed EPBC Act ecological communities and three critically endangered species.

A combination of incentive programs, monitoring, ecological and traditional burning, seed collection and species reestablishment, knowledge and awareness raising activities, will lead to an improvement in the condition of the listed threatened ecological communities and species. Recovery actions for the community were implemented by a range of partners including DELWP, traditional owner organisations, local landholders and community volunteers.

This project has four main elements which are contributing to the National Landcare Program outcomes indicated in Table 10 (below).

The project commenced in 2018-19 and major achievements to date include:

- 45 potential stewardship sites assessed, with 227 ha now fenced and under management agreement. 198 native species were recorded, including four threatened species
- Control of weeds over 689 ha
- Ecological burning over 273 ha achieved
- Pest animal control to support the release of Eastern Barred Bandicoot at Tiverton, including extensive fox, cat, hare and rabbit control and completion of a predator proof fence around the property
- At the Hamilton Parkland Bandicoot site, there are three regular volunteers on a weekly basis doing fence maintenance, rabbit warren surveys, trapping and spot light tours
- Widespread communication and education activities, including workshops, social media and other publications.

In 2018-19 DELWP implemented a range of actions to complement the project's outcomes including:

- Through the Eastern Barred Bandicoot Icon Species Project, a range of access, tree pruning, feral animal control and monitoring activities at Hamilton Parklands and Tiverton
- 317 ha of weed control to improve the quality of grassland habitat across the Victorian Volcanic Plains.

South Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo

South Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo recovery activities, coordinated by BirdLife Australia, included the annual count which, in the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, was undertaken by 72 volunteers, covering 1,682 km of tracks in Stringybark habitat. 494 birds were counted in the region contributing to the 1,193 counted across the species' range, significantly higher numbers than the 830 counted in 2017-18. Flock counts, which follow the annual count each year, revealed that, consistent with other years, the mean proportion of female and juvenile birds in flocks was about 50%. Current food shortages as indicated by stringybark phenology monitoring could be a cause of the lack of successful breeding in the species.

Table 10: VVP Recovery Project contribution to NLP2 RLP outcomes

NLP Regional Land Partnerships Outcome	Investment Priority	Contribution in the Glenelg Hopkins region
By 2023, the implementation of priority actions is leading to an improvement in the condition of EPBC Act listed Threatened Ecological Communities	Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	The Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Stewardship Program, which works with private landholders to manage high-quality remnants of critically endangered ecosystems on private land.
By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved	<i>Perameles gunnii</i> Victorian subspecies (Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Mainland))	Eastern-barred Bandicoot recovery, which to support the population at Hamilton and assist with the reintroduction of bandicoots at Tiverton, a 920 ha property.
	<i>Pimelea spinescens subsp. spinescens</i> (Plains Rice-flower, Spiny Rice-flower, Prickly Pimelea)	Spiny Rice-flower recovery including seed collection and assessment of populations status at 10 sites, establishment and maintenance of ex-situ breeding sites, increasing community awareness and developing a burn plan for known populations in partnership with Traditional Owners, Community Groups, landholders and agencies.
	<i>Rutidosia leptorrhynchoidea</i> (Button Wrinklewort)	Button Wrinklewort Recovery, including introduction of burning at three known populations, genetic testing, development of a seedbank, establishment and maintenance of ex-situ breeding sites and controlling access to key populations.

Habitat loss assessments have also been conducted across the species range to determine rates of habitat loss over the past 10-13 years and compare them to a previous study. The results of this study indicate that there is a substantial improvement in rates of habitat loss, especially for habitat types such as brown stringybark and eucalypts. However, paddock tree cover is declining across all major habitat types.

To inform recovery of the South Eastern Australian Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo DELWP has been experimenting with artificial nest boxes. Twenty artificial nest boxes were placed experimentally on live and dead trees, to test whether diameter of nest box or nest box placement influenced likelihood of use by SERTBC or by other cockatoos. Cameras were used to monitor visitors to each nest box, recording a range of native birds and Starlings visiting the boxes.

Greening Australia, DELWP and the GHCMA are working together to increase habitat for the South Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo. During 2018-19, 12,000 trees (tubestock) over 100 ha have been planted and 257 ha have been direct seeded in the Drajurk State Forest to increase the amount and quality of habitat.

Another DELWP project aims to remove and clear pine trees from stringy-bark woodlands on public land through a variety of methods. In 2018-19 the Glenelg Pines project has treated 800 ha using mechanical and manual methods.

Focused on increasing food availability, the complementary Greening Australia project, 'Increasing Critical Food Supply for the Endangered South-Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo' project funded through the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Response Planning Program, established 36,500 trees across 350 hectares of Stringybark forest habitat in the Victorian section of Habitat 141. The project also provided improved habitat for the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and the vulnerable Long-nosed Potoroo.

Brolga

In April 2019 the Brolga census was conducted, across Victoria and south-eastern South Australia at their summer-autumn flocking sites. The count had two aims; to get a better estimate of total population size, and to estimate the proportion of young birds to give an idea of the amount of successful nesting and recruitment that had occurred in the previous two years. Counters recorded a total of eighteen flocks ranging from pairs through to the largest flock of 159 birds in the Willaura area, closely followed by 157 at Bool Lagoon (SA). Small numbers of birds were recorded as far east as Lake Weering near Cressy, with bigger flocks south of Streatham and near Peshurst.

Only 7% of birds counted were noted to be juvenile or sub-adults. This figure is at the lower end of estimates for Victorian flocks and is well below last year's result of 13%. This suggests that breeding success and/ or survivorship in the past year has been poor, most likely due to wetlands either not filling or drying out early.

Koala Management

Koala population control through the implantation of a contraceptive occurred in Budj Bim National Park in Autumn 2019. This annual program is to protect the park's Stony Rises Manna Gum Woodland, maintain a sustainable population of koalas and minimise habitat loss. Ongoing monitoring of koala population numbers and tree condition canopy assessment was also conducted to measure the long-term outcomes and effectiveness of the control program. The koala population survey found a slight population increase in 2018, but is generally stable at around 5,000 animals. As predicted, Manna Gum canopy recovery from past over-browsing is slow and tree condition remains poor. However, since 2016 there has been substantial improvement in the overall condition of Manna Gums with a reduced rate of tree mortality and defoliation levels, and an increase in foliage cover.

PEST PLANT AND ANIMAL CONTROL

Glenelg Ark and Glenelg Eden Programs - DELWP and Parks Victoria

Several landscape scale pest plant and animal threat mitigation projects were undertaken across the region in 2018-19, including Glenelg Eden (weed control), Glenelg Ark (pest animal control). These projects are funded by the Victorian Government, and led by DELWP in collaboration with Parks Victoria.

The longstanding Glenelg Ark project was established in 2005 to assist with the protection of local populations of the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, and the Common Brushtail Possum in the far south west of the catchment. The project is the largest scale fox control project on public land in south-west Victoria, operating across 90,000 hectares. Overall the monitored native species have shown a significant positive response to baiting. The number of sites occupied by Southern Brown Bandicoots increased by 67% at Mt Clay between 2016 and 2017. Long nosed Potoroos occupied 27% more sites at locations with fox control. There has been a significant decline in bait take from 2005 to 2018 in Treatment Management Zones (TMZ) versus Non-Treatment Management Zones (NTMZ). Similarly, fox density data has shown 86% less foxes in treated areas compared to non-treated areas. The project is currently working in partnership with University of Melbourne and Arthur Rylah Institute undertaking research in the project area to determine fox and feral cat densities over the project area and in the Otways.

Glenelg Eden is a strategic, landscape scale weed management project that focuses on the detection and removal of high risk weeds that threaten the biodiversity values of the Far South West of Victoria. The project has been operating for 10 years over an area that comprises nearly 80,000 hectares of public land. Glenelg Eden has over 110 actively delimited and targeted infestations across the landscape. Of these 41 are targeted for eradication and 8 of these infestations are likely to be eradicated from their respective management zones within the next few years. To date, the Glenelg Eden project has also treated 80% of new and emerging weeds in the project area.

Table 11: Parks Victoria treatment of pest plants and animals in the Glenelg Hopkins region

Species	Location	Estimate Treated Areas (Ha)
Sallow Wattle <i>Acacia longifolia subsp. Longifolia</i>	Grampians National Park (south)	Surveillance and control of 16,053 ha
Red Deer Control (aerial)	Grampians National Park (south)	25,939.4
Red deer shoot activity (ground)	Grampians National Park (south)	8,813.6
Goat Control (aerial and ground)	Grampians National Park (south)	25,939.4
Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Grampians National park and Black Range State Park	79,247.0
Goat control	Mount Napier State Park	4,982.8
Red fox	Belfast Coastal Reserve	1,660

Feral Pig Control

Feral pigs are an emerging threat to biodiversity values in the catchment, 208 feral pigs have been captured in pig traps since the project started in April 2015. In 2018-19 DELWP has been working closely with Gundjt Mirring Aboriginal Traditional Owner Corporation, to undertake feral pig trapping on Aboriginal Protection Areas (Kurtonitj) to protect Cultural Heritage values.

37 feral pigs were captured in 2018-19.

LANDSCAPE REVEGETATION PROJECTS

Greening Australia Projects

During 2018-19, the 'Reconnecting Budj Bim' project funded through the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme and managed by Greening Australia, mixed Aboriginal ecological knowledge with leading-edge revegetation techniques to establish 170,000 trees across 170 hectares of Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain within the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape to improve connectivity and habitat for the endangered Spotted-tailed Quoll and Swift Parrot.

During 2018-19, the 'ACCOR Plant for the Planet 2018' project supported by Accor, Pur Project and Clarins and managed by Greening Australia, established 7,000 trees across 15 hectares of Basalt Shrubby Woodland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain in collaboration with Australian Bluegum Plantations to improve riparian habitat for a range of woodland species.

Victorian Government Biodiversity On-Ground Action Funding

The Victorian Government's Biodiversity On-ground Actions Program is in its third year of delivery. Approximately \$1.405 million of funding has been allocated to four landscape scale threatened species threat mitigation projects within the region. These projects will address key threats to a range of species in the grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain, wetlands and woodlands of the Glenelg Plain, and coastal zone (Table 12 - page 39). The 'regional hub projects' involve agencies and organisations working together to address threats to a range of important native species in priority areas. Each project has received \$300,000 funding in Round 1 and is to be completed by 30 June 2020.

Table 12: Regional Hub Projects

Project	Lead Organisation	Locality	Funding Received	Partners
Improving the quality and connectedness of grassland communities on the Victorian Volcanic Plain	DELWP	Woorndoo-Dundonnell	Round 1: \$300,000	DELWP Barwon South West, Corangamite CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Victoria, Corangamite Shire, Moyne Shire, ARTC, VicRoads, La Trobe University, Royal Botanic Gardens, Nargundy Pty Ltd Tiverton, Trust For Nature
Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Weed Control	Glenelg Hopkins CMA	Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Coastal Park	Round 1: \$300,000 Round 2: \$100,000	Glenelg Shire, Nature Glenelg Trust, Nelson Coastcare, Greening Australia, Parks Victoria, DELWP Barwon South West, GHCA
Threatened species habitat restoration in the Wilkin Woodlands and Wetlands	Nature Glenelg Trust	Wilkin	Round 1: \$300,000 Round 2: \$105,000	Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Birdlife Australia, RTBC Recovery Team, Greening Australia, Parks Victoria, DELWP
Habitat restoration for threatened species of wetlands in the Glenelg Plain	Nature Glenelg Trust	Glenelg Plain	Round 1: \$300,000	Parks Victoria, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DELWP, Trust for Nature

A second stream of funding was received in 2018-19 through Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP), as detailed in Table 13 (page 41).

CASE STUDY

SPINY RICE-FLOWER RECOVERY ON THE VICTORIAN VOLCANIC PLAINS

CHALLENGE: The Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens*) is considered the most endangered plant found in native grasslands on the Victorian Volcanic Plain and regular burning is the key to its long-term survival. Regular burning to reduce grass cover provides the space needed for seedlings to grow, while also preventing adult plants from being smothered by the native grasses. As most of the Spiny Rice-flowers biomass is below ground, fire does not harm the adult plants which are able to re-sprout in the months following a burn. Spiny Rice-flower is not the only plant in the grasslands that need fire, grasslands have evolved with fire and many species benefit from burning.

APPROACH: The burning of native grassland is a major component of the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Stewardship Program being undertaken by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA though funding provided by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. The Stewardship Program is a core component of the overarching VVP Recovery Project, encouraging working relationships between landholders and Glenelg Hopkins CMA to ensure beneficial environmental outcomes. The Stewardship program provides support to landholders to burn their grasslands.

RESULTS: Five ha of Spiny Rice-flower habitat was burnt to promote recovery and the Stewardship Program has been very successful in helping landholders to understand the importance of their grassland areas. The landholders involved have been highly motivated to protect these areas and ensure that future generations will be able to see these unique species and ecosystems. The project will continue to monitor the recovery of the Spiny Rice-flower over the next four years.

PARTNERS: The burning of native grasslands on private land has been made possible through positive relationships developed between farmers, grassland ecologists and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

Table 13: Biodiversity Response Planning projects

Project title	Project lead	CMA Regions Project located in	Project Summary	Partners
Permanent restoration of Long Swamp, Discovery Bay Coastal Park	Nature Glenelg Trust	Glenelg Hopkins	This project aims to provide for the permanent restoration of internationally important (Ramsar convention listed) wetland habitat in Long Swamp.	DELWP Barwon South West, Corangamite CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Victoria, Corangamite Shire, Moyne Shire, ARTC, VicRoads, La Trobe University, Royal Botanic Gardens, Nargundy Pty Ltd Tiverton, Trust For Nature
Grampians/Glenelg landscape wetland restoration program - restoring the hydrology of drained wetlands, especially on private land	Nature Glenelg Trust	Glenelg Hopkins / Wimmera	The hydrological restoration and rehabilitation of wetland habitat for broilga, growling grass frogs (<i>Litoria raniformis</i>), western swamp crayfish (<i>Gramastacus insolitus</i>), little Galaxias (<i>Galaxiella toourtkoourt</i>) and Australasian bittern (<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i>) across 220 hectares of private and public land.	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) landscape wetland restoration program - restoring the hydrology of drained wetlands, especially on private land	Nature Glenelg Trust	Glenelg Hopkins / Corangamite	The hydrological restoration of 100 hectares of Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands of the Temperate Lowland Plains and other key wetland habitat for broilga, growling grass frogs, Corangamite water skink, Australasian bittern and migratory bird species such as Latham's snipe.	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
Glenelg pine project - scaled and integrated restoration of stringybark woodlands	DELWP	Glenelg Hopkins	The scaled and integrated restoration of stringybark woodlands by mechanically and manually removing pine wildlings (<i>pinus spp.</i>). Targets for this project are 690 hectares of mechanical and 3,091 hectares of manual treatments over the three years.	N/A
Grampians Sallow Wattle control	Parks Victoria	Glenelg Hopkins / Wimmera	This project aims to contain Sallow Wattle to its current extent and density to protect herb-rich woodlands and species impacted by Sallow Wattle invasion (e.g. Grampians Duck Orchid) and work in partnership with Barengi Gadjin Land Council to develop a native food enterprise using sallow wattle seed.	N/A
Grampians Herbivores - Goats and Rabbits	Parks Victoria	Glenelg Hopkins / Wimmera	An Integrated approach to reduce the distribution and abundance of herbivores (goats and rabbits) to improve the floristic diversity and structure of ground layer vegetation of herb-rich woodlands and Grampians endemic montane shrublands in high conservation areas in the Grampians National Park.	N/A
Grampians Herbivores - Deer	Parks Victoria	Glenelg Hopkins / Wimmera	An integrated approach to reduce the abundance of deer to improve ground layer vegetation in priority herb-rich woodlands. Project will be supported centrally to also build capability state-wide in delivery of deer management techniques using the Grampians National Park as one of the control locations.	N/A

Project title	Project lead	CMA Regions Project located in	Project Summary	Partners
Grampians Introduced Predators - Feral Cats	Parks Victoria	Glenelg Hopkins / Wimmera	It is anticipated Victorian legislative changes will enable broad-scale management of feral cats in priority sites across the Grampians. This project complements over 22 years investment in landscape-scale fox 1080 poison baiting in the Grampians. Monitoring suggests feral cats are now as prevalent as foxes with large-scale feral cat control urgently needed.	N/A
Addressing key threats to native grassland linear reserves on the Victorian Volcanic Plains	DELWP	Glenelg Hopkins	To improve quality and connectedness of natural temperate grasslands on the Victorian Volcanic Plains by reducing critical threats from priority, and new and emerging, weeds.	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Golden Plains Shire
Glenelg ark project - next phase	DELWP	Glenelg Hopkins	To facilitate the recovery of native mammal populations at risk from predation by foxes and feral cats in far south-west Victoria. To be achieved by broad scale fox baiting across an extra 17,000 hectares, and trial several feral cat management options within the project areas (7,400 hectares.).	N/A
Increasing Biodiversity Benefits across the Ramsar Western District Lakes	Greening Australia	Glenelg Hopkins / Corangamite	To enhance landscape scale native vegetation within the Victorian Volcanic Plains Western District Ramsar Lakes, consisting of significant ecological communities and threatened flora and fauna species. Partnering with public and private landholders' coordination of weed and predator activities will be undertaken across 1,000 hectares over 3 years.	N/A
Increasing critical food supply for the endangered South-Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo (SE-RTBC).	Greening Australia	Glenelg Hopkins	This project aims to establish 70,000 Stringybark trees across 700 hectares determined through spatial prioritisation to increase critical food supply for the SE-RTBC.	N/A
Otway Landscape pest, plant and animal management	Parks Victoria	Glenelg Hopkins/ Corangamite	This project aims to provide for the protection of the significant biodiversity values of the Otway landscape through containment and control across 41,000 hectare of highly invasive pest plant species, such as Boneseed, Sweet Pittosporum, Sallow/Coast Wattle and Broom, that have the ability to alter ecosystem functioning and reduce habitat suitability.	N/A
Iconic estates - Glenelg / Grampians	Trust for Nature	Glenelg Hopkins / Wimmera	This project will provide for the ongoing protection across 300 hectares of Victoria's most important habitat on private land, in partnership with local and regional networks and individual landholders.	N/A
Pine Wildling Control in Brown Stringy bark woodlands	GHCMA	Glenelg Hopkins	This collaborative project supports removal of pine wildlings from brown stringy bark woodlands; a critical feeding habitat for South-Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo (SE-RTBC). In addition to enhancing SE-RTBC habitat, the activities will benefit a range of other native flora and fauna species.	N/A

3.4 LAND

Condition Statement

The Land theme reports on the management of land (private and public) within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

Regional context

The Glenelg Hopkins region is recognised as having some of the most fertile and productive soils in Australia^{xx}. With more than 80 percent of the region dedicated to agricultural production^{xx}, the protection and enhancement of the region’s soil is clearly linked to regional prosperity and fundamental to ongoing sustainable food and fibre production. In 2017-18 the region was rated as the 2nd highest agricultural production region in Victoria and 4th highest in Australia, producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$2,245 million^{xxi}.

Substantial changes in land use have occurred in the region since the early 1990s. While broad acre grazing is still prominent, there have been significant increases in the area of land used for dairying, cropping and blue gum plantations.

Although there are large sections of high conservation value native vegetation secured in parks and reserves, other vegetation is often fragmented, particularly on private land. Intact areas of native vegetation on private land are of particular importance, as they often contain threatened ecological vegetation communities. There has been a long history of programs undertaken across the region to increase the area of land managed for conservation through landholder management agreements and covenants.

Land benchmark - Ground cover and land managed for conservation

Ground cover can provide an indicator of soil health^{xxii}. Maintenance of ground cover is essential for sustainable production and helps protect soils from erosion. Soil with a low percentage of groundcover is more susceptible to wind and water erosion. Ground cover also plays an important role in maintaining biodiversity and nutrient cycling.

The Australian National University has assessed exposed soil nationally since 2000. The assessment is undertaken using MODIS satellite imagery that captures images of the earth’s surface every eight days over a 12-month period to analyse the percentage of ground not covered by living or dead plant material^{xxiii}.

The percentage of exposed soil across the Glenelg Hopkins region for 2018 is shown in Figure 13 (below).

The data indicates that the percentage area of exposed soil across the Glenelg Hopkins region has varied marginally on an annualised basis.

Average soil water availability is presented in (Figure 24 – below) and is an estimate of the average amount of water stored in the soil during the year. Average soil water availability estimated for 2018 was 501 mm which is close to the 18-year average of 500 mm.

Figure 13: Percentage of exposed soil in the Glenelg Hopkins region 2010 - 2018

(Source: Australia’s Environment Explorer 2018, developed by the Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online)

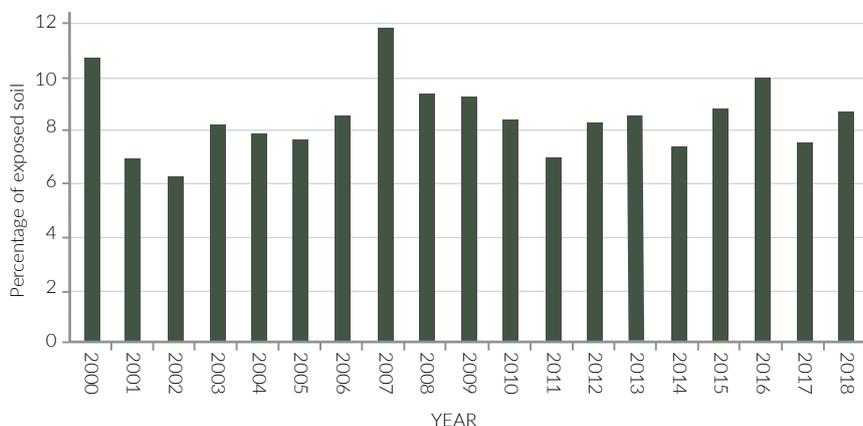


Figure 14: Average soil water availability in the Glenelg Hopkins region 2000 - 2018

Average amount of water stored in the soil profile during the year as estimated by the OzWALD model-data fusion system. (Source: Australia’s Environment Explorer 2018, developed by the Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online)

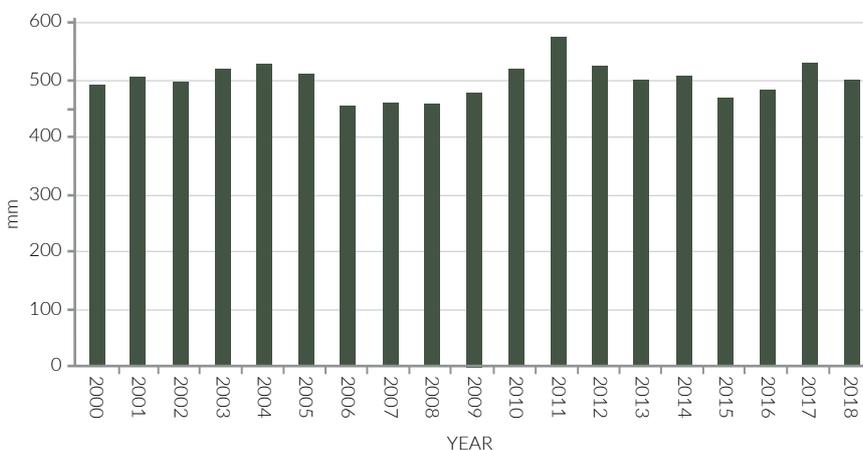


Table 14 (below) provides an indication of the area of land managed for conservation in the Glenelg Hopkins region. An additional 70.42 ha was placed under conservation covenant

during 2018-19, and 142 landholder management agreements were established over 8,696 ha. As of 30 June 2018, 4,123 ha of land within the Glenelg Hopkins region was under

Trust for Nature covenants (perpetual agreements). The purpose of these covenants is to permanently conserve and protect the natural, cultural or scientific values of the land.

Table 14: Land managed for conservation in the Glenelg Hopkins region

Protection type	Number/Area covered	Additional area this year
National Parks*	207,788 ha	0
State Parks*	31,320 ha	0
Other public land**	243,771 ha	0
Trust for Nature conservation covenant	101 covenants, 4,343.766 ha	3 covenants, 70.42 ha
Landholder agreements	715 agreements, 27,683 ha (output recorded since 2013/14)	142 agreements, 8,696 ha

*Data from Public Lands Management spatial dataset

"Other public land" includes Coastal Reserves, Natural Catchment Areas, Forest Park, Marine Sanctuaries, Natural Features Reserves, Nature Conservation Reserves, NPA Schedule 3 Other Parks, Proposed National Parks Act, Regional Parks, State Forests.

Annual land assessment 2018-19

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key Evidence
Neutral ➔	A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of exposed soil in 2018 below 10%, reducing risk of water and wind erosion. No major erosion events reported on farmland. Significant long-term challenges remain in managing the impact of land use on waterway health and managing soil health at the farm scale.

Reason for assessment:

- On crop land, area of stubble retained increased from 15.2% in April 2018 to 20.4% in April 2019, and area of low ground cover decreased by 2.2%^{xxiv}
- No major erosion events were reported on farm land
- During 2018 (most recent available), there was an average of 92 per cent ground cover^{xxv}

- There remain significant threats to the long-term productivity of soils in the region from historical land management practices that have led to widespread removal of Aboriginal vegetation and the vulnerability for infestation by pest plants and animals. From time to time, these changes still result in localised increases in wind and water erosion, dryland salinity, soil acidification, decline of soil structure and loss of soilorganic carbon

- There have been no significant changes in land tenure through the designation of parks and reserves
- Trust for Nature covenants (perpetual agreements) were established over 70.42 ha in 2018-19.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms

This project commenced in 2018-19 is being supported for five years by the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program. The project will support farmers to further knowledge and adopt practices to improve and protect the condition of soil, appropriate to their farming system. With a strong emphasis on community engagement, the project will build on farmer awareness and understanding of soil acidification processes, risks to production and profit, and acidity ameliorating land management practices. Practices will include, but not limited to: soil testing for Ph to inform lime application, efficient use of fertilisers and maintaining ground cover targets in grazing and cropping enterprises. In delivery of this project, Glenelg Hopkins CMA is partnering with industry organisations, the Landcare community and Traditional Owner groups to empower community action for improved sustainable land management, strengthened local networks and increased adoption of innovative practices.

This project is contributing to two of the National Landcare Program outcomes as indicated in Table 15 (below).

The implementation of the NLP Sustainable Agriculture project in 2018-19 enabled 21 community/stakeholder events to be held. Events attracted a total of 495 people.

Key achievements for 2018-19 include:

- Publication of more than 30 communication materials
- Establishment of agreements with 10 partners (government agencies, industry groups, Landcare and farm production groups) for the collaborative planning and implementation of 22 community engagement events and two baseline data collection and synthesis activities
- Capacity building events have achieved a cumulative attendance of over 440 farmers
- Baseline data for soils achieved through the project has demonstrated prevalence of soil acidity across the region and will inform and guide future project initiatives
- The establishment and strengthening of relationships between community groups and industry organisations
- 10 farm businesses completed the Dairy Australia, Fert\$mart Nutrient Management program
- Eight farm businesses completed the Agriculture Victoria, Farm Plan 21, whole farm plan workshop series and produced a whole farm plan tailored to their farm system and landscape.

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RLF) is funded by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Program.

The RLF supports individuals, Landcare and production groups to adopt sustainable farm and land management practices by:

- promoting the Landcare ethic and sustainable agricultural practices
- assisting with funding applications, membership and resources
- supporting the development, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of regional plans
- building and strengthening partnerships between regional stakeholders.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working with a range of partners and community groups to promote sustainable agriculture practices including best practice grazing management, pest insect control and biodiversity conservation.

Table 15: Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms Project contribution to NLP2 RLP outcomes

NLP Regional Land Partnerships Outcome	Investment Priority	Contribution in the Glenelg Hopkins region
By 2023, there is an increase in the awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation	Soil acidification	Increasing awareness and knowledge of appropriate land management within the region through provision of information, communication and education and community engagement activities. Adoption of recommended land management practices.
By 2023, there is an increase in the capacity of agriculture systems to adapt to significant changes in climate and market demands for information on provenance and sustainable production	Climate change adaptation	

Key activities undertaken in 2018-19 as part of this project included:

- Continuing to partner with the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group and Panyyabyr Landcare Group to facilitate the Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- The Southwest Environment Alliance Network held a site saving activity at the Portland Biochar demonstration site in May 2019 with 20 network members taking part on the day.

Smart Farming Partnerships – Southern Farming Systems

The first Digital Innovation and Smart Agriculture festival was held at Hamilton over two days in June.

The workshop involved numerous technical support/provider companies and individuals discussing the latest technology available to be used on-farm including: gateways, sensors for soil moisture recordings, water levels in tanks/dams and several drones. The workshop included several farm visits and a full day conference attended by approximately 140 people.

The festival was delivered in partnership with Southern Grampians Shire Council.

Agriculture Victoria projects

During 2018-19, Agriculture Victoria undertook a range of activities to support community led action on a number of state-priority established pests and weeds, including but not limited to Serrated Tussock, Silver Leaf Nightshade, Golden Thistle, Amsinckia, Spiny Burr Grass, Gorse and Rabbits.

Agriculture Victoria also undertook property inspections to support community led action on state-wide priority established pests and to protect high value catchment assets. Agriculture Victoria Biodiversity Officers inspected 306 properties and covered an area of 35,558 ha of land in the Glenelg Hopkins region in 2018-19 to facilitate the management of declared invasive plants and pest animals.

A range of extension services were delivered under Agriculture Victoria's dairy, grains and meat/wool programs and to provide support under drought and dry seasonal conditions. The total number of attendees (excluding staff from the Department) participating in these activities was 3,705.

The total hectares for land health activities (specifically for the South West region) was 195,862 ha.

CASE STUDY

SMART TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION TRIALS FOR SUSTAINABLE OUTCOMES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA (GHGMA) is leading the way in its innovative approach to collaborating with farmers, local government, state government and technology providers to improve farm sustainability through use of new sensor technology.

In 2018, the Southern Grampians Shire (SGS) activated a LORA (long range) digital wireless data network. With the roll out of new technology and advancement in low cost sensor capabilities there was strong interest from farmers, service providers, and SGS to see smart technology utilised for collection of real time on farm data for day to day management and to inform long-term decision making. Changing to an automated electronic system via sensors has the potential for significant savings along with providing important insights on trends and patterns – particularly during times of significant variation.

Initiated by GHGMA a collaborative technology demonstration trial program across four local farms was developed to educate farmers (and stakeholders) about the benefits and challenges of the smart sensor technology while also highlighting the region (and industry) for its innovation and sustainable management practices. Key technology examined in the trial includes wireless soil moisture and temperature probes, weather stations, tank monitors, electric fence monitors and livestock trackers. The trials were the key "Farm Tours" focus in the Digital Innovation and Smart Agriculture Conference held in Hamilton during May and will also feature prominently at Sheepvention in August.

PARTNERS: Grasslands Society of Southern Australia, Southern Farming Systems, Southern Grampians Shire, Agriculture Victoria and commercial equipment providers Agri Ace, Meshed, Wild Eye, Simply Farm and Telstra.

THE GLENELG HOPKINS COAST

Condition Statement

The Coast theme reports on the condition of marine and coastal environments within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

Regional context

Coasts are the interface between marine and terrestrial environments. They include beaches, cliffs, intertidal zones, coastal wetlands, marshes, mangroves, lagoons, coastal floodplain forests and the estuarine portions of waterways.

The Glenelg Hopkins region consists of 220 km of coastline in varying degrees of condition, which is subject to coastal erosion, sea level rise and flooding. With a changing climate, these impacts will be exacerbated with increases in wind speed, storm intensity and frequency, as well as changes in rainfall intensity and frequency^{xvii}.

The Glenelg Hopkins coastal zone is shown in Figure 15 (page 46). The coastal zone incorporates a diverse range of ecosystems and provides critical habitat for threatened species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot and Hooded Plover, as well as important shorebird sites. This zone includes three Important Bird Areas: (sites of global bird conservation importance) – Yambuk Lakes Complex IBA, Port Fairy to Warrnambool IBA and Discovery Bay – Piccaninnie Ponds IBA. The coastal zone also includes the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC) listed ecological community – Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, which is found in small areas along the coast, generally associated with estuaries.

Coastal vegetation is fragmented, with the larger areas of remnant vegetation found within the parks and reserve system, in areas such as Lower Glenelg National Park, Discovery Bay Coastal Park, Mt Clay State^{xviii}. Forest and Narrawong Flora Reserve, Mount Richmond National Park, Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve, and Cape Nelson State Park.

Marine National Parks and sanctuaries recognise and protect important marine habitats and species, natural features, cultural heritage and aesthetic values. Areas formally recognised within the region include the Discovery Bay Marine National Park near Portland and the Merri Marine Sanctuary near the mouth of the Merri estuary. In addition, special management areas have been identified at Cape Bridgewater, Lawrence Rocks, Portland Bay, Deen Maar Island and Logans Beach.

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC)ⁱⁱ published an assessment of the values of the Victorian marine environment in 2019. They considered the marine values of the region's coastline divided into the following biounits with different characteristics values and threats. A summary of their findings is shown in Table 16 (page 47).

There are eight major estuaries in the Glenelg Hopkins region: Glenelg River estuary, Fawthrop Lagoon, Surry River estuary, Fitzroy River estuary, Yambuk Lake, Moyne River estuary, Merri River estuary and the Hopkins River estuary. Most estuaries within the region close intermittently following the formation of a sand bar at the estuary mouth. Both the Moyne estuary and the smaller outlet associated with Fawthrop Lagoon are artificially kept permanently open.

Estuaries benchmark – Index of Estuary Condition

The Index of Estuary Condition (IEC) was developed by Deakin University and is intended to assess the condition of Victorian estuaries, with scores on estuary characteristics rated from 1 = very poor to 5 = excellent^{vi}. A IEC trial completed in 2015 found that the condition of Glenelg Hopkins estuaries scored an average of moderate to good (results presented in Table 17 - page 47).

The results should be viewed with caution as the scores only reflect a subset of measures that were assessed during the trial. The IEC trial indicated all estuaries, with the exception of Fawthrop Lagoon, have excellent physical form with respect to pre-European condition, however estuaries scored from very poor to good for hydrology.

This lower score reflects regulated flow regimes and artificially opening the mouth of most estuaries to reduce the risk of flooding. Water quality was rated moderate to excellent across all estuaries.

Levels of sediment deposits in all but Lake Yambuk were scored from moderate to good. Estuarine flora, as measured by phytoplankton levels, was excellent in the Hopkins River Estuary, but very poor to moderate across all other estuaries assessed. Phytoplankton is a measure of productivity and is influenced by nutrient levels, turbidity and stratification of the estuary. These levels may be influenced by surrounding land use practices.

The Glenelg River Estuary was recognised for its exceptional values in 2018 when the site was listed as part of the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar site. The Ramsar site includes portions of the Lower Glenelg National Park, the Discovery Bay Coastal Park and the Nelson Streamside Reserve. The Glenelg River estuary is the longest in the bioregion, extending 75 km. The Ramsar site includes a range of different ecosystems including freshwater wetlands, fen peatlands, the Glenelg Estuary and the beach and dune system. The Glenelg River estuary was described in detail via the listing process for the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar site. It is the longest estuary in Victoria, extending 75 km from the coast.

The Glenelg River estuary was described in detail through the Ramsar listing process. It is a salt wedge estuary with three distinct layers that vary under different tidal and freshwater inflow conditions. Maintaining this variability in salinity and dissolved oxygen regimes is important for many biological and chemical functions and processes. The variability is closely linked to the opening and closing of the estuary mouth^{iv}.

Table 16: VEAC Marine values summary (Source: adapted from VEAC, 2019)

Biounit Name	Key characteristics	Key Natural Values	Key Threats
Glenelg From the SA border into Discovery Bay	Glenelg River Estuary Sub tidal reefs High energy coastline Bonney Upwelling	Blue Whale feeding Shorebirds (inc Hooded plover) Conservation listed communities and species Giant Kelp forests	Sea level rise Storm surge impacts to coastline and estuary opening Elevated nutrient from land sources lead to changes to algal growth, epiphytes, potential contamination of seafood. Abalone viral ganglioneuritis Marine pests include green shore crab Weeds Disturbance of beach nesting birds Marine debris
Discovery Bay Includes Discovery Bay Marine National Park (MNP).	Strong winds and swells Bonney Upwelling Moderate to strong tidal streams High-energy, wave-dominated beaches and rocky shores, sublittoral reef, coastal cliffs, dunes and lagoons	Pygmy blue whale feeding Cape Bridgewater Australian fur seal haul out Shorebirds (inc Hooded plover) Endangered seabirds Great white and Grey nurse shark Southern bluefin tuna Portland reefs Deep calcarenite reefs Southern hooded shrimp and sparse seagrass Underwater cliffs dominated by dense common kelp Sea caves, blow holes and petrified forest Conservation-listed communities and species	Alterations in waves and currents reduce seagrass productivity Sea level rise reduces area for seagrass Sea temperature rises impacts to a range of species including Bull kelp Marine pests, invasive algae and weeds Disturbance of beach nesting birds Marine debris and litter from urban areas.
Cape Nelson From western Bridgewater Bay to east of Port Fairy	5 estuaries Strong winds and swells Submerged volcanic structures Deep low profile reef systems Capes, promontories and islands (Deen Maar) High-energy, wave-dominated beaches and rocky shores, sublittoral reef, coastal cliffs, dunes and lagoons	High energy common kelp communities Australian fur seal breeding colony, long-nosed fur seals, Australian sealions and southern elephant seals (Deen Maar) Significant sea bird colonies Largest Australasian Gannet colony (Lawrence rocks) Seagrass (<i>Amphibolis antarctica</i>) beds in Portland bay Conservation-listed communities and species	Alterations in waves or currents reduce seagrass productivity Sea level rise alters frequency of estuary mouth opening Decreased freshwater flows alter frequency of estuary mouth opening and salinity regime Artificial estuary opening Coastal modifications and development Port of Portland, proximity to shipping lanes, use by recreational boats Marine pests, invasive algae and weeds Disturbance of beach nesting birds Marine debris from ocean and litter/other debris from urban areas

Table 17: Trial Index of Estuary Condition Results – Summary of Selected Measures in Each of Five Themes

Estuary	Physical Form	Hydrology	Water Quality	Sediment	Flora	Overall
Glenelg River	5	1.5	3.5	4	3	3
Fawthrop Lagoon	4	2				-
Surrey River	5	4	3.5			3
Fitzroy River	5	2	4.5	4	3	4
Lake Yambuk	5	2	3.5	2	1	3
Moyne River	5	3				-
Merri River	5	1	3.5	3	1	3
Hopkins River	5	1	3.5	4	5	4

Table 18: Summary of critical services within the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site

Critical ecosystem service	Description
Diversity of wetland types	The site comprises a network of interconnected wetland types including freshwater permanent wetlands, intermittently inundated marshes, estuarine waters and intertidal sandy beaches.
Special geomorphic features	The site is significant for a number of geological and geomorphic features; in particular the dune slack system is rare, if not unique, within the bioregion.
Provides physical habitat (for waterbirds)	The site provides a network of habitats for waterbird feeding, roosting and breeding. Species that are supported by the site represent a wide range of functional groups (e.g. fishers, waders, ducks) each with different habitat requirements.
Threatened wetland species and ecosystems	One nationally listed ecological community and eight nationally or internationally listed species of conservation significance are supported by the site.
Ecological connectivity	The Ramsar site has a range of distinct wetland types which are both hydrologically and ecologically connected. The connection between the marine, estuarine and freshwater components is significant for fish migration and reproduction.

The Ecological Character Description of the Ramsar site, describes in detail Limits of Acceptable Change (LACs) for a range of functions, processes and species that are critical to maintaining the function and values of the site^{iv}.

Level of Protection for Coasts

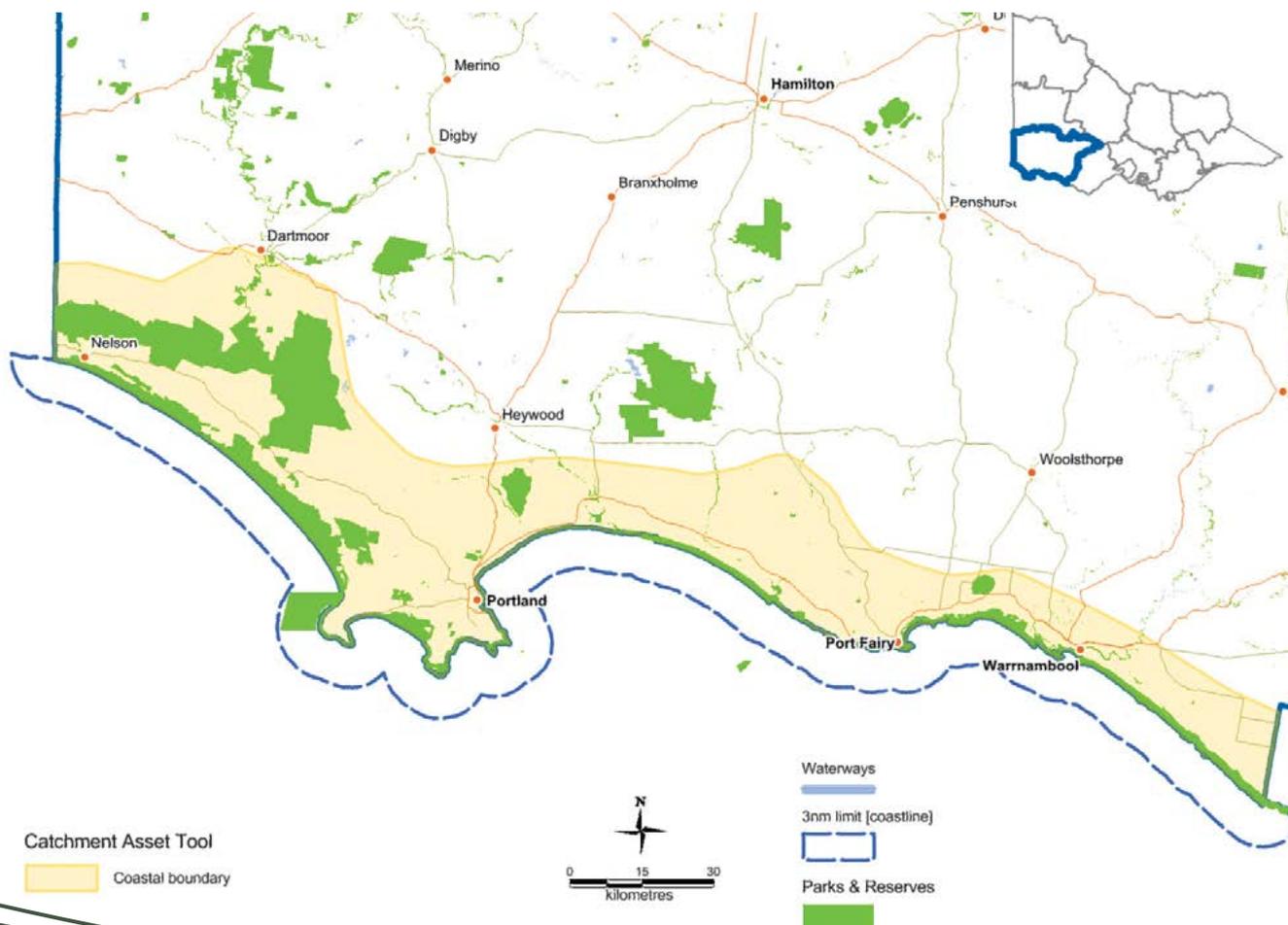
Figure 15 (below) shows the extent of land within the coastal zone which is managed for environmental protection through parks and reserves. This equates to approximately 50,463 hectares.

Private land is mostly residential near townships, or utilised for agriculture. Where areas of the coastline are

under high demand and subject to development pressures, coastal habitats tend to gradually fragment or are lost^{xxx}.

A key challenge is to maintain a healthy and diverse coastal ecosystem that exhibits connectivity on a landscape scale, particularly where the coast is in high demand or under threat from the implications of climate change.

Figure 15: Extent of parks and reserves in the coastal zone



Estuary and wetland condition

The condition of the region’s wetlands and estuaries varies significantly along the coast. The Glenelg River Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex encompass freshwater wetlands, estuary, beach and dune systems that are in excellent condition^{xxxi}. Wetlands that retain water on at least a semi-

permanent basis are generally in good condition, and estuaries are in moderate to good condition based on the results of the recent IEC trial. Further information on regional IEC and IWC results is provided in the Waterways section of this report.

Coastal residential development has impacted several areas of coastal

wetlands through drainage, conversion and exposure to recreational use. They are also particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as inundation from rising sea levels and storm surge. Coastal development and recreational and tourism pressure continue to present challenges in the management of coastal and marine values.

Annual coasts assessment 2018-19

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key Evidence
<p>Concerned</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The coastal environment remains subject to high demand for development, and very little of the area is protected. Some recreational uses of beaches and dunes such as horse riding and dog walking threaten breeding populations of endangered and migratory species. Sea-level rise is anticipated to continue to erode beaches and dunes, which will reduce the area of protected coast and put further pressure on coast-dependent species.

Reasons for assessment:

- Relatively little of the coastal extent is under government or permanent protection
- The Coastal Connections Project, which aims to address the decline of Australasian Bittern populations, as well as support the recovery of migratory shorebirds within the region has achieved significant planning, monitoring and engagement activities that will support the recovery of these species and their habitats along the coastline
- The coast and marine resources of the region are recognised for their wild and natural values, but face considerable threats from climate change, including increased storm surge, sea level rise and increasing temperatures which may result in changes to morphology, biodiversity and processes
- Coastal assets are impacted by infrastructure including towns and ports with their resultant impacts from recreational, tourism and development activities
- The regional population is relatively concentrated along the coast which is also popular for tourism and recreation

- The World Heritage listing of the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape and the Ramsar listing of the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar site recognise the values and condition of the coastal zone within an international context.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

VWPIF Coastal Works Program

The Coastal Works Program protects and enhances priority waterways in the CMA's coastal region. This project supports landholders and the Gunditjmarra community to improve the health of waterways on the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. Other activities include the CMA's statutory responsibilities relating to estuary monitoring and management and increasing knowledge and capacity of community groups.

Key activities in 18/19 included:

- estuary management including estuary opening decisions
- estuary water monitoring including community involvement in Estuary Watch
- on-ground works on the Lower Fitzroy River, Darlot Creek and associated wetlands.

The 2018/19 Budj Bim Restoration activities contributes to the CMA four-year Flagship Waterway program - Budj Bim Connections.

Life to date outputs achieved for the project include:

- 10 Property assessments
- 31 ha of weed control
- 13 ha of revegetation
- 260 people engaged at events, field days and workshops
- 47 participants at on-ground skills training events
- On-going monitoring of estuaries and water quality
- Collaboration and partnerships with local organisations to complete on-ground works.

The Coastal Works Project has delivered the additional following outputs through the estuary entrance management program:

- 21 water quality assessments throughout the region’s estuaries
- 6 engagement events covering 127 participants
- 6 communications and publications delivered to over 100 recipients
- 2 EstuaryWatch volunteer groups supported which containing 11 dedicated community volunteers on the Merri and Hopkins estuaries
- Review of the Surry and Glenelg River Estuary Management Plans (EMP).

NLP2 Coastal Connections and Hooded plover projects

The five-year Coastal Connections Project commenced in 2018-19 and has worked with delivery partners (Birdlife Australia) and stakeholders to mitigate threats to species targeted under the National Threatened Species Strategy along the Glenelg Hopkins CMA coastline. A range of sub projects make up this project and are contributing to the NLP2 Regional Land Partnership outcomes as indicated in Table 19 (below).

The following key activities were completed during the initial year of the project:

- 6 workshops or other events engaging landholders and community members in management, planning or recovery actions
- Access to nesting shorebird sites controlled along the coastline to protect birds from trampling, vehicles, dogs and other human disturbance

- 331 ha of fox baiting along the Discovery Bay coastline to protect nesting birds and other shorebirds from predation
- Development of a burn plan with Traditional Owners for potential habitat for the Australasian Bittern to satisfy ecological and cultural outcomes. The burn was successfully completed over 5 ha
- Monitoring of potential Bitten and Hooded Plover habitat to determine populations, identify priority habitats and develop monitoring and restoration approaches.

The Hooded plover activities under this project will complement activities being delivered across the range of the species by Birdlife Australia. The CMA is managing a new project via Birdlife Australia with funding from the National Landcare Program 2 to monitor and protect the bird across its range, extending into South Australia.

Table 19: Coastal Connections Project and Hooded Plover Project contributions to NLP2 RLP outcomes

NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships Outcome	Investment Priority	Contribution in the Glenelg Hopkins region
By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved.	<i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i> (Australasian Bittern)	Australasian Bittern Recovery – aims to improve wetland habitat by improving land management practices, hydrological regimes and traditional fire regimes on private land. It will also establish a Bittern population monitoring regime.
	<i>Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis</i> (Hooded Plover (eastern))	Shorebird Recovery supports recovery actions for Hooded Plover, Orange-bellied Parrot and Eastern Curlew by supporting population monitoring and protection of habitat on public and private land.
	<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i> (Orange-bellied Parrot)	Shorebird Recovery supports recovery actions for Hooded Plover, Orange-bellied Parrot and Eastern Curlew by supporting population monitoring and protection of habitat on public and private land.
	<i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> (Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew)	Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site works - to improve the ecological character by controlling predators and weeds at the site. It will also establish a steering committee and develop a stakeholder engagement strategy.
By 2023, there is a restoration of, and reduction in threats to, the ecological character of Ramsar sites, through the implementation of priority actions.	Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site	Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site works - to improve the ecological character by controlling predators and weeds at the site. It will also establish a steering committee and develop a stakeholder engagement strategy.

Belfast Coastal Reserve predator control

Belfast Coastal Reserve predator control has been undertaken by Parks Victoria through seasonal fox baiting in the park to reduce the threat of fox predation and protect nesting birds in the breeding season.

The Belfast Coastal Reserve provides habitat for significant faunal values, including breeding sites for the Hooded Plover.

CASE STUDY

FLAGSHIP WATERWAY PROGRAM – CONDAH MISSION WILLOW TREATMENT 2019

CHALLENGE: The Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation in 2019 to address the invasion and spread of willows, a Weed of National Significance, along Killara (Darlot Creek) at the Condah Mission. These works aimed to improve waterway health, deliver water savings to Killara, increase capacity of the local Budj Bim Rangers and improve the recreational and cultural connection to this significant waterway.

APPROACH: In autumn 2018, a CMA Waterway Action Plan found that the invasion and spread of willows as an extremely high threat to the biodiversity values and health of the Fitzroy River and Killara systems. Further property inspections with Gunditj Mirring's Aboriginal Water Officer Ben Church identified that the section of Killara flowing through the Condah Mission property was a highly strategic location in the overall management of willows within the Budj Bim landscape, and that the area holds a very strong recreational and cultural connection within the Gunditjmara community. This connection was also confirmed during the 2019 Aboriginal Water Assessments, which were carried out at strategic locations across the Budj Bim landscape.

A partnership was subsequently developed between the CMA and Gunditj Mirring which once complete will treat priority woody weeds on 3.6 hectares and 1.4 km of Killara, along with delivering site rehabilitation works.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA Project Manager Jarred Obst said 'through our partnership with Gunditj Mirring, the CMA engaged Australis Biological to deliver the works due to their expertise and skills in willow treatment, along with their wide range of experience working in culturally sensitive Indigenous Protected Areas across Australia, which was extremely important'.

RESULTS: Stage one works were successfully completed in May 2019, resulting in 1 km and 1.9 hectares of area treated. Works were extremely challenging due to the complexity of the infestations and poor access to the site; however, the results have made a big impact on the local community.

Gunditj Mirring's Ben Church said, 'After seeing the works out there at the mission, at how much exposure the works have provided to Killara, it brought up a lot of memories from when I was a kid and when we used to go down to the creek to fish, swim and just be present'. 'It has provided the Gunditjmara community with greater access to such a significant and special place. Any work that helps reinstate 'Country' to me is deadly and the willow works down there is no exception. Australis Biological have done an amazing job, and I know the mob will be so happy with the outcome of the first stage. It's helped bring some life back to that part of Killara!' said Ben.

During the treatment process, an opportunity to involve, train and build capacity within the Budj Bim Ranger Program was also identified. Jarred Obst said 'We were able to spend time with the Rangers to demonstrate why various treatment techniques are used, along with important safety considerations with willow treatment. This was a fantastic outcome that will have long-term benefits for the management of this and other traditionally owned land within the Budj Bim landscape'.

PARTNERS: Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation & Budj Bim Rangers.

4.0 REGIONAL ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS REPORTING

4.1 KEY FOCUS AREAS

Each year the ten Victorian CMAs contribute to a state-wide actions and achievements report, which highlights a selection of outputs aligned with three key focus areas:

1. Engage Victoria’s communities in natural resource management.
2. Protect and improve the environmental condition of Victoria’s waterways, land and biodiversity.
3. Provide good governance and leadership.

The Glenelg Hopkins regional contribution to these focus areas is shown below, as well as trend data.

4.1.1 Engage Victoria’s communities in natural resource management

This key focus area contributes directly to goal one of *Our Catchments, Our Communities* “Effective community engagement in catchment management”, and reports on a selection of outputs in the “planning and regulation” standard output class. These outputs contribute to collaboration, skills and awareness outcomes.

Figure 16 (*below*) shows the number of participants at engagement events, such as field days, presentations, training or workshops, which are designed to raise or improve skills or increase collaboration between communities and organisations.

Figure 17 (*below*) shows the number of formal partnerships established, maintained or modified that provide an opportunity to engage with government, industry and the community; and includes partnerships with industry bodies, community groups, government agencies or individuals to support local action. Figure 18 (*below*) shows the number of publications developed and disseminated to keep stakeholders and the broader community informed.

Figure 16: Number of participants at engagement events

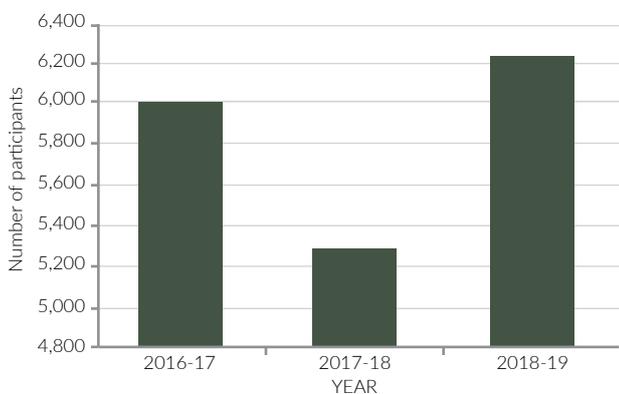


Figure 18: Number of publications established, maintained or modified (including fact sheets, media releases, newsletters, reports, websites, television and social media)

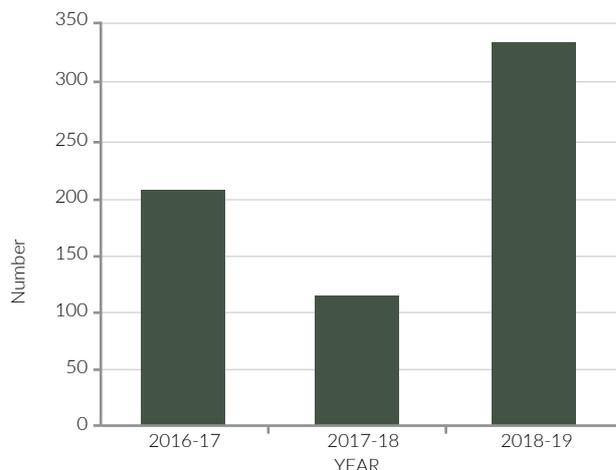


Figure 17: Number of formal partnerships established, maintained or modified

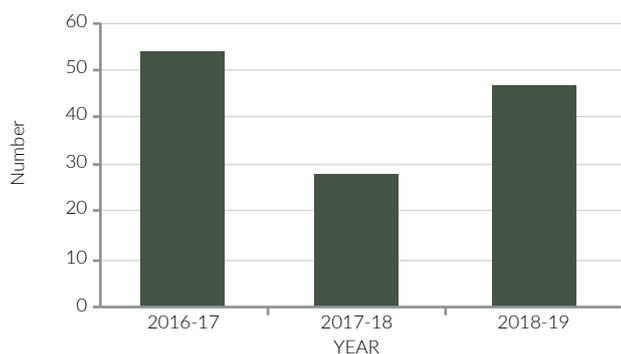
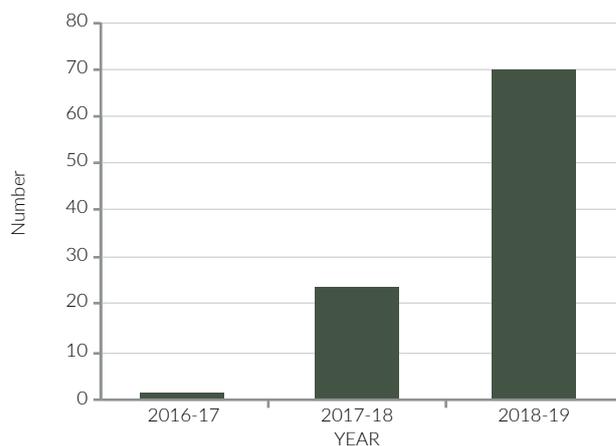


Figure 19: Number of waterways structures installed or modified



4.1.2 Protect and improve the environmental condition of Victoria’s waterways, land and biodiversity

This key focus area reports on a selection of standard outputs in the following classes: structural works, environment works and management services.

These outputs contribute to management outcomes relating to:

- productivity, soil properties and soil stability
- species recovery, species control and habitat availability
- amenity
- vegetation extent, structure and diversity
- water quality, environmental water, groundwater
- cultural heritage
- extreme event preparedness.

The number of waterway structures that were installed or modified, for the period 2016-17 to 2018-19, is shown in Figure 19 (page 50). This output includes the construction of fishways, rock chutes, and flow regulators. Figure 20 (below) shows the area of vegetation established, modified or maintained, and includes activities such as direct seeding, planting, thinning and mulching. The area of land on which pest animal control and weed control has been undertaken over the past four years is shown in Figure 21 (below) and Figure 22 (below) respectively. Figure 23 (below) indicates the area of land on which grazing regime change has occurred, such as controlling of access in line with best practice, or removal of livestock.

Figure 20: Area of vegetation established, modified or maintained (ha) (includes direct seeding, planting, mulching, guarding and thinning)

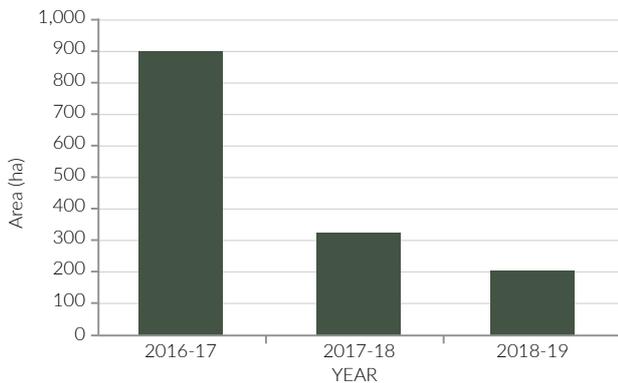


Figure 22: Area of weed control (ha) (gross area over which weeds were controlled by killing, removing or restricting them)

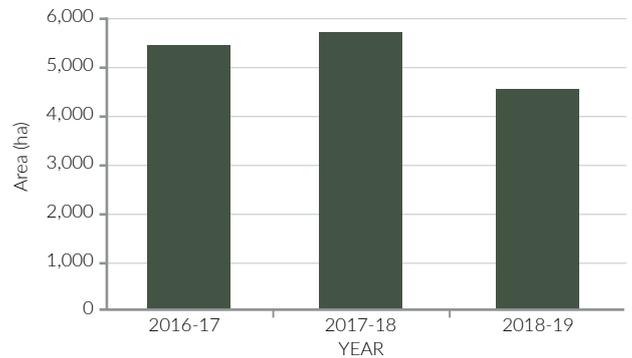


Figure 21: Area of pest animal control (ha) (gross area over which pest animals were controlled by killing, removing or restricting them)

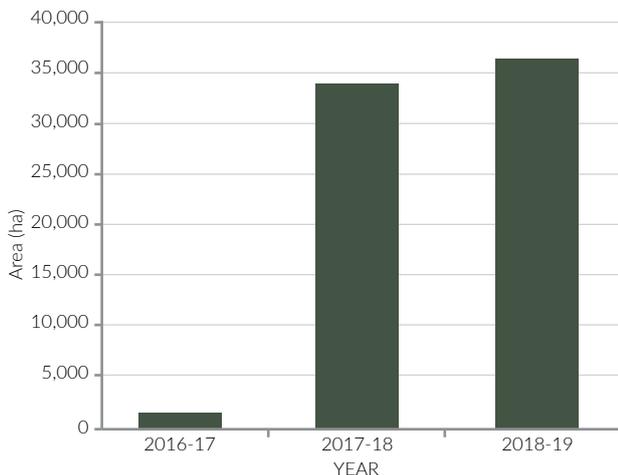
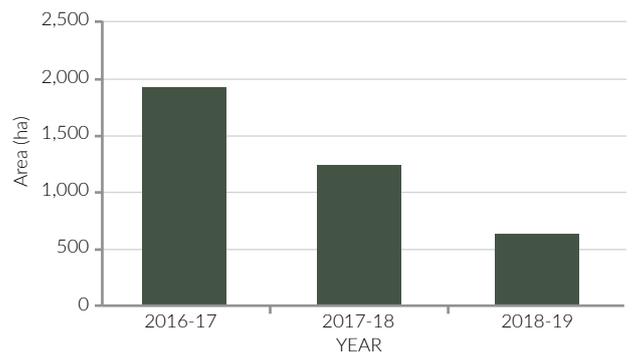


Figure 23: Area of grazing regime change (ha) (the area over which grazing by livestock has been established, maintained, modified or removed)



4.1.3 Provide good governance and leadership

This focus area reports on a selection of standard outputs in the “planning and regulation” standard output class. These outputs contribute to outcomes relating to: governance; skills, awareness and collaboration; cultural heritage; and vegetation structure and diversity, and available habitat.

Figure 24: Number of approvals and advice provided (records the number of decisions made in regard to permits, licences, leases and planning referrals, as well as advice provided to another agency or individual)

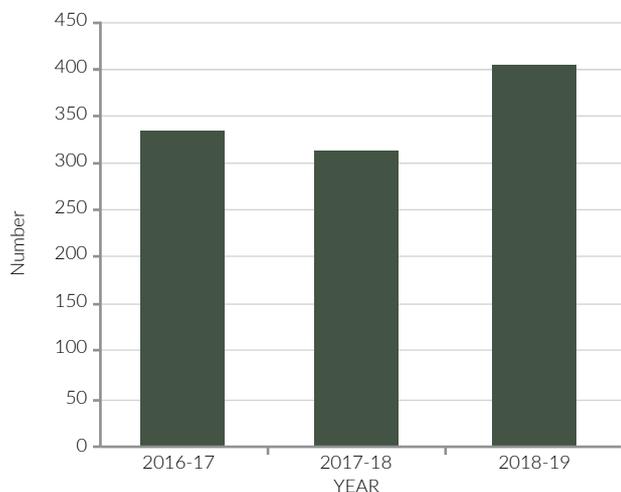
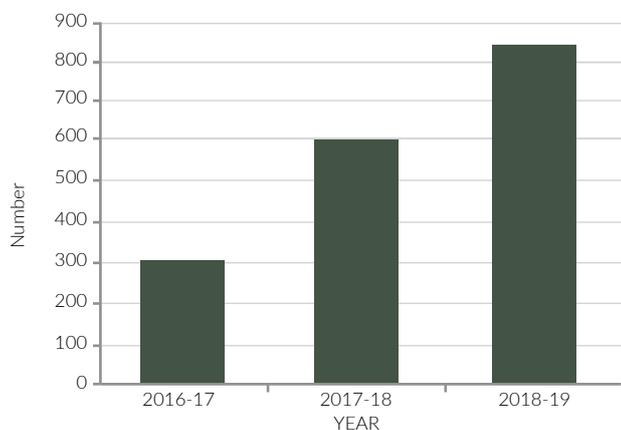


Figure 25: Number of site based or landscape scale assessments (includes social, land, water and biodiversity assessments and can include monitoring activities to ensure compliance with policy and regulation and new and emerging weeds and pest animals)



4.2 REGIONAL OUTPUT ACHIEVEMENTS

Table 20 presents the total outputs achieved for 2018-19 (page 55).

Figure 26: Number of agreements developed (agreements developed/reviewed in relation to management of a specific location. Includes agreements attached to title, legal conservation covenants or agreements placed on the property title for land parcel)

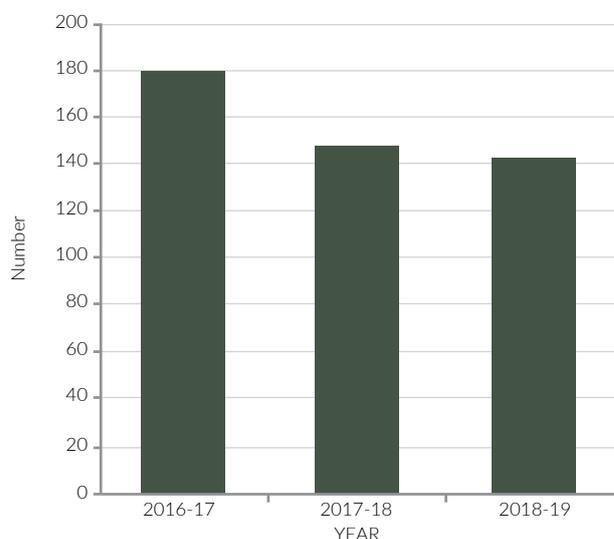


Figure 27: Number of plans or strategies developed (includes engagement, property, management plans, and strategies and should be for a defined location)

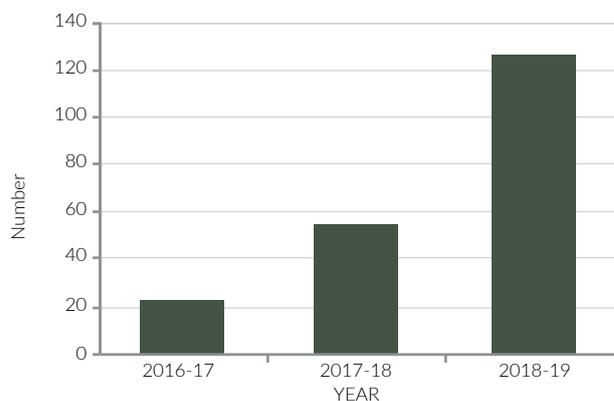
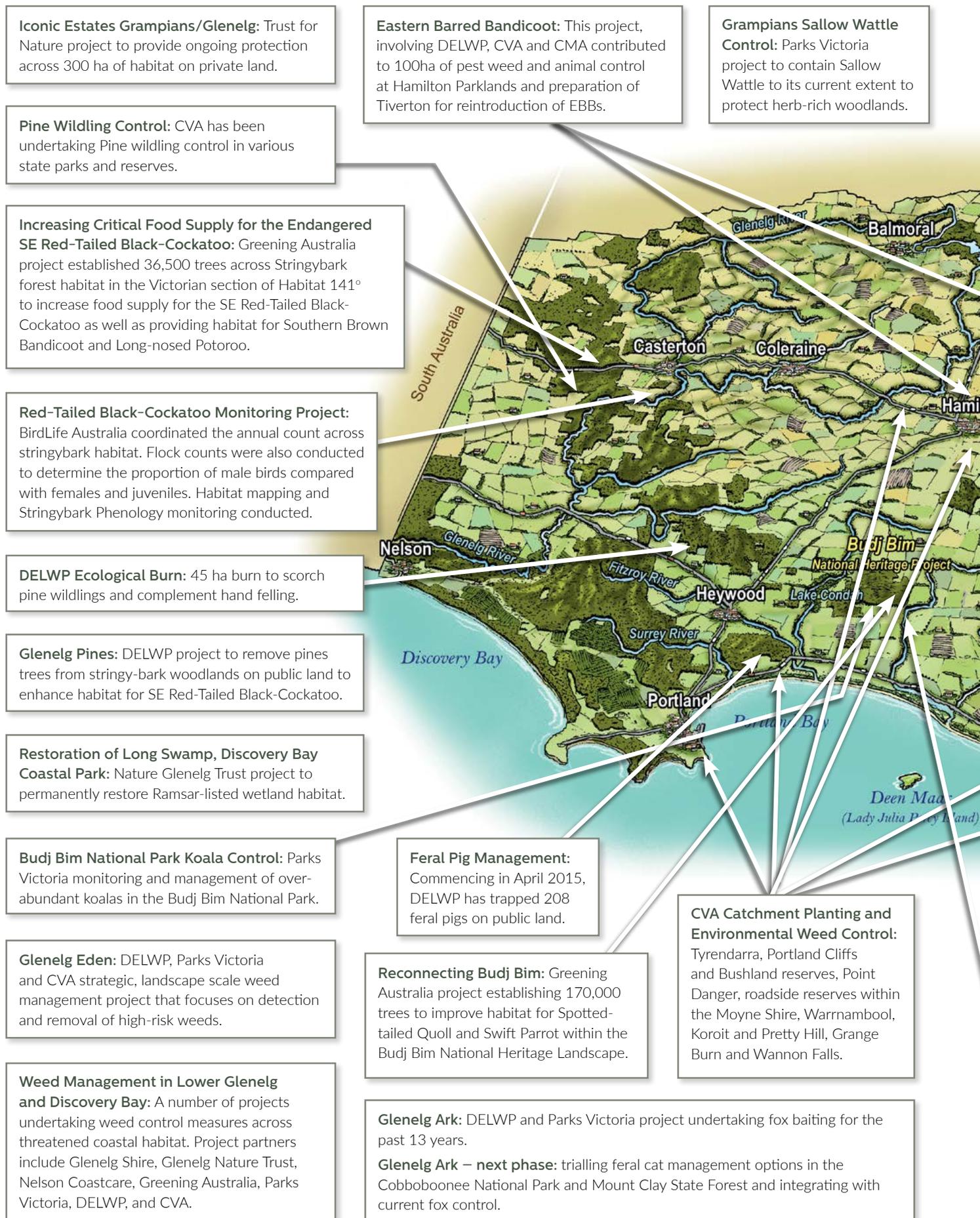


Table 20: Actions and Achievements - output reporting for 2018-19

Output	Target	Actual			
		State	Commonwealth	Other	Total
Structural works					
1.1 Channel (km)					
1.2 Water storage (no.)	12.0	18	11		29
1.3 Pump (no.)	7.0	2			2
1.4 Irrigation structure (ha)					
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)	98.0	32	38		70
1.6 Terrestrial structure (no.)	6.0	3	1		4
1.7 Terrestrial feature (no.)					
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	61.0	76			76
1.9 Fence (km)	99.0	125	11		136.1
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)					
1.11 Road (km)			0.01		
1.12 Crossing (no.)	5.0	1	2		3
Environmental works					
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	99.0	200.8			200.8
2.2 Weed control (ha)	3,191.0	3,882.8	620		4,502.9
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	33,882.0	33,193	3,426		36,619.1
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife control					
2.5 Threatened species response (no.)	4.0		16		16
2.6 Emergency species response (no.)					
2.7 Soil treatment (ha)					
2.8 Earth works (no.)	31.0	2	29		31
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)					
Management services					
3.1 Grazing (ha)	447.0	603.6			603.6
3.2 Agricultural practices (ha)	130.0		404.5		404.5
3.3 Water (no.)	15.0	12	1		13
3.4 Fire regime (no.)	4.0		3		3
Planning and regulation 348					
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	358.0	394	12		406
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	147.0	102	57		159
4.3 Assessment (no.)	734.0	484	360		844
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	3,444.0	3,432	2,809		6,241
4.5 Partnerships (no.)	47.0	47			47
4.6 Plan (no.)	112.0	42	84		126
4.7 Publication (no.)	221.0	206	127		333
4.8 Information management system (no.)	10.0	13			13

4.3 REGIONAL DELIVERY OF PROJECTS

Figure 28 details project highlights, including partner led projects, for the 2018-19 year.





Parks Victoria Pest Plant and Animal Control (including Glenelg Ark program): Treatment/control of Sallow Wattle, Red Deer, Goats and Foxes.

Grampians/Glenelg Landscape Restoration Program: Nature Glenelg Trust project to restore hydrology of drained wetlands.

Agriculture Victoria extension services: Agriculture Victoria led a range of services under its dairy, grains and meat/wool programs, reaching 3,705 participants. Total area for land health activities was 195,862 ha.

Walker Swamp: Nature Glenelg Trust has delivered outputs from four grants: Hydrological study, wetland management plan and onground works including restoration of natural drainage patterns.

Grampians Herbivores – Goats, Rabbits and Deer: Parks Victoria integrated approach to reduce the distribution and abundance of goats, rabbits and deer.

Agriculture Victoria Pest Plant and Animal Control: Agriculture Victoria support of community led action on pests and weeds, including Serrated Tussock, Silver Leaf Nightshade, Golden Thistle, Amsinckia, Spiny Burr Grass, Gorse and Rabbits.

Corangamite CMA
Agriculture Victoria Invasive Program Delivery: Agriculture Victoria inspected a total of 306 properties and 35,558 ha for invasive plants and animals.

Covenants: Trust for Nature registered 3 on-title covenants, protecting 59.42 ha.

Victorian Volcanic Plain Landscape Wetland Restoration Program: Nature Glenelg Trust project restoring the hydrology of 100 ha of drained wetlands.

Brolga Census: Annual Brolga count at their summer-autumn flocking sites to estimate population size and estimate the level of successful breeding from the previous two years.

Improving the Quality and Connectedness of Grassland Communities on the VVP: Led by DELWP, this collaborative project aimed to improve the quality of EPBC and FFG listed grasslands and grassy woodlands and a suite of threatened species.

Goat Control: Parks Victoria goat control in Mount Napier State Park.

Belfast Coastal Reserve Predator Control: Parks Victoria seasonal fox baiting to reduce the threat to nesting birds in the breeding season.

Merri River Habitat Restoration: CVA with GHCMA revegetation and construction of fish hotels.

Accor Plant for the Planet 2018: Greening Australia project supported by Accor, Pur Project and Clarins, establishing 7,000 trees across 15 ha of Basalt Shrubby Woodland of the VVP in collaboration with Australian Bluegum Plantations.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES WITH ENVIRONMENT

Relationships and communication with our community are central to the Glenelg Hopkins CMA ethos. Accordingly, close working partnerships with residents, landholders, agencies, industry groups and investors thread through all CMA objectives.

Integral and respected relationships have driven engagement between the CMA and the south-west Victorian community for over 20 years. Strong partnerships have been forged with organisations in the public and private sectors and assisted the CMA in fulfilling its natural resource management responsibilities.

In 2018-19 key community engagement activities included:

- Promoting catchment management at industry events such as Hamilton Sheepvention;
- 2019 South West Landcare Gathering hosted by Upper Mount Emu Creek;
- Landcare monthly e-newsletters, Coastal Connection updates and Landlife e-newsletters;
- Promoting sustainable use of waterways and fishing events such as the community planting days along the Merri River and installation of fish hotels with groups including CVA, Ozfish Unlimited, Mad for the Merri, Wannon Water, Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network;
- Supporting community capacity in monitoring threatened woodland bird communities with Landcare groups and platypus monitoring with Budj Bim Rangers and Winda-Mara school holiday program;
- Coordinating investor and community tours to the Budj Bim World Heritage Landscape;
- Supporting Southern Farming Systems to run a series of Women on Farm workshops;
- Supporting the Landcare Victoria Inc. Landcare Conference held in Halls Gap;

- Recognising and acknowledging the efforts, skill and passion and knowledge of the south west Victorian volunteers during 2019 National Volunteers Week;
- Coordinating the Junior Ranger Program with Gunditj Mirring TOAC, Budj Bim Rangers and Baimbridge College showing the history of the eel aquaculture system located at Lake Condah;
- Supporting Southern Grampians Shire Council to host the inaugural Greater Hamilton Digital Innovation and Smart Agriculture 2019 Festival;
- Sponsoring Vic Bream Classic, Glenelg River and Hopkins River legs and the red gum classic carp fishing comp;
- Coordinating on-ground revegetation support for landholders affected by the 2018 Southwest fires;
- CMA Board hosting a community lunch in the region in Lake Bolac;
- Coordinating community consultation sessions for the Coleraine Flood Investigation;
- Hosting the annual CMA Aboriginal NRM Facilitator Network meeting;
- Supporting the Cavendish community through participation and sponsorship of the Cavendish Red Gum Festival;
- Attending the Tyrendarra and Casterton Shows to promote threatened species and waterway health and management in the region;
- Provided Regional NRM Leadership Grants to support leadership development opportunities for local communities involved in natural resource management via the *Our Catchments Our Communities*; and
- Hosted the 2019 Glenelg Hopkins Environmental Achievers Awards event celebrating the environmental champions of the region.

Glenelg Hopkins Advisory Group

The Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group was established as the primary mechanism for engaging with the community and stakeholders on environmental watering activities in the Glenelg River.

This group provides an avenue for community knowledge to be incorporated in the annual environmental water planning process and is considered part of the CMAs decision-making process informing on the development of the Glenelg River Seasonal Watering Proposal prepared for submission to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

The community members on the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Advisory group are:

- Craig Olive (Chair)
- Mark Bachmann
- Graeme Ward
- Singarayer Florentine
- Jenny Emeny
- Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil
- Denis Rose (Aboriginal representative)
- Celia Tucker
- Adam Merrick
- Jodie Honan
- Shane Lowery

Board representatives for this Group are:

- Damein Bell (Director)
- Christine Giles (Director)
- Michelle Casanova (Director)

The Glenelg Hopkins Community Advisory Group is one of the vehicles by which the CMA engages with the community in the development and adaptive management of the Regional Catchment Strategy, sub strategies and action plans. Members of the Advisory Group bring community perception and local knowledge in specific natural resource management matters, that contribute and inform towards the CMA strategic program.

In 2018-19 the Advisory Group participated in the mid-term Glenelg Hopkins CMA Waterway Strategy review and a Community Engagement and Partnership Strategy workshop; received briefings on the state-wide Rural Drainage Strategy, Farmers for Climate Change Action and Deakin Land Capability Study; and joined the CMA Board on a tour of the Upper Hopkins catchment to discuss and view a range of CMA funded Landcare, biodiversity and sustainable agriculture projects, as well as the Tucker Farm Sanctuary initiative.

Local Government relations

In 2018-19 Glenelg Hopkins CMA continued the proactive liaison program with local government, identifying the core responsibilities of both agencies and pursuing opportunities for collaborative arrangements and providing briefings on activities of significance.

In 2018-19 Adam Bester commenced meeting with a number of Local Government CEO's to discuss opportunities for collaboration, identify any issues and provide an update on projects that were being undertaken in the municipalities.

The CMA works closely with local governments in the floodplain management area, providing advice on planning referrals, developing planning scheme amendments for flood management, and updating Municipal Emergency Management Plans. The CMA has consulted with nine councils across the region to review their relevant floodplain management priorities in the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy.

The CMA is partnering with Moyne Shire on the Cudgee Flood Investigation, Pyrenees Shire on the Raglan Flood Investigation, and Corangamite and Pyrenees Shires on the Mt Emu Creek Regional Flood Investigation. The CMA is also Partnering with Warrnambool City Council on the Russell Creek Flash Flood Warning Project.

The CMA's works crew regularly assists in activities such as fencing, spraying and weed removal for local government.

Media

The CMA uses traditional and emerging media as key tools in delivering its messages and achievements to the wider community. By using a combination of media outlets, the CMA can successfully communicate with a broad audience and engage with community members potentially previously missed with traditional communication methods.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA website continues to be a base for much of the organisation's project information and it is used in conjunction with other media to drive information out to various stakeholder groups.

Traditional media outlets – regional radio (including commercial and ABC stations) and regional print newspapers (including commercial newspapers and community newsletters/bulletins) are the most successful means of delivering information to rural audiences.

To this end, a fortnightly column in the Hamilton Spectator Saturday edition agricultural pages has continued foster the strong link between the CMA and agriculture. Additionally, media releases have been published promoting the CMA activities, including projects, achievements and events.

Fortnightly commercial radio segments interviewing the Glenelg Hopkins CEO has allowed the delivery of news and information out of the CMA on a regular basis in a more relaxed interview style to break down the formality of some of the authority's communications.

Social media has become a growing medium for the Glenelg Hopkins CMA and it currently has a presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA has achieved a strong following on social media, particularly Facebook, where it is the most followed NRM organisation in Australia with over 16,000 followers.

Using social media as a strategic engagement tool has allowed the CMA to engage with a wider audience and to wider demographics than is usually captured with traditional media.

The use of social media has allowed the CMA to easily deliver information to an audience in a range of formats– ie. text, images, and videos. It has also allowed the CMA to develop online partnerships with other organisations by cross-promoting events (workshops, field days, etc) and projects and news relating to our catchment area.

The placement of project videos onto the Glenelg Hopkins CMA YouTube channel has also helped drive audiences from short, social-media-hosted videos to longer, more in-depth videos on YouTube, further enhancing their knowledge of projects and their outcomes.

In 2019 an Instagram page was curated for the organisation which has allowed a more pictorially-based promotion of the catchment. This has allowed the CMA to promote the work being undertaken without relying on text-heavy formats and has grown from a small base to over 1,500 followers.

Email, print and web newsletters

The on-line base publication of the LandLife and Landcare newsletter continued in 2018-2019 to a combined audience of over 770 recipients.

These e-magazine/newsletters have been developed to include partner organisation information to broaden the content delivered to the stakeholders.

The distribution of the Landlife newsletter is around significant events within the GHCMA, including the RAMSAR listing and the Environmental Achiever Awards.

The Landcare newsletter is a communication tool for the Landcare team, communicating with Landcare and NRM groups and the wider community through a monthly delivery of an e-newsletter.

The newsletter provides a snapshot of news, grants and environmental and sustainable agricultural activities and promote activities of a range of organisations, including the CMA, DELWP, Landcare and NRM groups.

Additionally, the Coastal Connections email is distributed via email on a bi-monthly basis to provide information updates on the state of estuaries, and also provide information relating to associated media releases, opportunities for volunteer involvement and on-ground activities.

Additionally, information relating to the Twinning Project is hosted on the twinningiswinning.com.au website, which is updated as project participants complete their twinning activities.

The CMA's partnership with Australian River Restoration Centre continues through the website riverspace.com.au. This website provides key information on Australian rivers, creeks and wetlands, and the GHCMA projects relating the Merri, Grange Burn and Glenelg Rivers, The Victorian Volcanic Plains, Hopkins wetlands, Coastal Connections, Twinning Program and the Aboriginal Water Values and Budj Bim Restoration Project all feature on this site.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING (FINANCE)

FIVE YEAR SUMMARY – FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

	2019 (\$ '000)	2018 (\$ '000)	2017 (\$ '000)	2016 (\$ '000)	2015 (\$ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	12,205	9,078	6,677	6,847	4,625
Federal Government contributions	2,108	2,039	2,407	2,497	3,137
Other revenue	792	596	353	714	1,098
Total revenue	15,105	11,713	9,437	10,058	8,860
Total expenditure	14,323	10,750	9,953	9,000	7,953
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	782	964	(483)	1,058	907
Financial assets	10,045	8,860	7,582	7,905	6,808
Non-Financial assets	698	1,011	1,091	1,147	1,311
Total assets	10,743	9,871	8,673	9,052	8,119
Liabilities	1,702	1,671	1,437	1,333	1,355
Net assets	9,041	8,200	7,236	7,719	6,764

Current Financial Review

Overview

In 2018-19, Glenelg Hopkins CMA achieved a net operating result of \$782k, \$182k lower than in 2017-18. Both total income and expenses from transactions have increased from the previous financial year, primarily due to additional revenue and expenditure from the National Disaster Relief Recovery Arrangement (NDRRA), as a result of the 2016 floods in the region.

The Authority conducted an assessment of land and buildings at 30 June 2019, with a material movement identified since the 2016 valuation. This assessment realised an increase of \$59k to land and buildings, which contributed to the comprehensive result of \$841k, which is consistent with the past five years, except for 2017, which resulted in a small deficit.

Balance Sheet

Net assets increased by \$841k over the year to \$9.0 million, mainly due to increases in total assets of \$872k comprising \$1.18 million of increases in financial assets, offset by a reduction of \$313k in non-financial assets.

Total liabilities increased by \$30k as a result in reduction of payables, which was offset by an increase in employee related provisions.

Cash Flow

The overall cash surplus of \$1.13 million for the 2018-19 financial year was a net increase of \$486k compared to the previous year. This additional cash was the result of receipts from government for delivery in 2019-20.

Net cash inflows from operating activities was \$1,157 million, an increase from 2017-18 due to more cash funding received from government and slightly higher payments to suppliers.

Capital Projects

Glenelg Hopkins CMA does not manage any capital projects.

Subsequent Events

There were no significant events subsequent to the balance date that would have a material impact on the operations of Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

Disclosure of Grants and Transfer Payments

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has provided grants to natural resource management community groups and organisations as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

Grants were provided to 22 groups in 2018/19 for the purposes of supporting the administration of regional Landcare groups totalling \$11,000 and to 16 groups for implementing on-ground natural resource management projects totalling \$207,455.

2018-19 Victorian Landcare Grants Program recipients

Group	Funding
South West Environment Group	\$16,017.98
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$19,130.00
Nelson Coastcare Incorporated	\$1,017.50
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	\$17,450.00
The Basalt to Bay Landcare Network Inc	\$3,795.00
Panyyabyr Landcare Group	\$19,520.00
Woorndoo Land Protection Group	\$13,295.00
Friends of the Great South West Walk Inc	\$7,900.00
Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Network	\$16,744.00
Ballarat Environment Network Inc.	\$17,475.00
Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail Inc.	\$3,700.00
Lyne Camp Creek Land Management Group	\$15,575.00
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$15,561.50
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$11,526.00
Gazette Land Protection Group	\$15,328.50
Making a Difference for the Merri	\$13,420.00
South West Environment Group	\$16,017.98
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$19,130.00

GOVERNANCE AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is governed by a range of requirements stated in legislation, including the *Water Act 1989*, the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, the *Financial Management Act 1994* and the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

The Board reports to the Minister for Water, the Hon. Lisa Neville and the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, and is accountable to Parliament and the community. Accountability is further strengthened by the Auditor-General and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. It calls for innovation, collaboration and continuous improvement while meeting legislative and corporate governance requirements.

The Corporate Plan identifies the four strategic objectives developed by the Board, which associated with the objectives identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy provide guidance for the organisation in establishing our business direction and activities.

Governance in Glenelg Hopkins CMA encourages strong performance and

provides community confidence in the organisation. This allows the CMA to operate efficiently and effectively as well as responding strategically to changing demands.

The Chief Executive Officer is the main conduit between the Board and staff. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for daily operational management of the CMA in accordance with the law, decisions of the Board and government policies.

Natural resource planning within south-west Victoria begins with the Regional Catchment Strategy. The strategy forms the framework for natural resource management action within the catchment and assists the Victorian and Australian Governments to direct funding into the region for this purpose.

The Annual Report provides information on achievement of business results and the implementation of the Corporate Plan. The 2019-20 to 2023-24 Corporate Plan reinforces the organisation's commitment to sustainability, adaptive management and responsible environmental stewardship. It calls for innovation and continuous improvement while meeting legislative and corporate governance requirements.

A Board of eight community representatives governs Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Directors are appointed by the Minister following a public call for people with skills and catchment experience.

The Chairperson Antony Ford was re-appointed in October 2017 for a term of four years.

The Board is responsible and accountable for the good governance, strategic direction and effective and efficient operation of the organisation.

Key objectives for the Board are to:

- represent the interests of the community in natural resource management;
- achieve integrated catchment management (as measured by improvement in resource condition);
- act as a steward for the natural resource base;
- create effective partnerships;
- develop appropriate action plans and support their implementation, including development of targets; and
- provide regional leadership in natural resource management.

Governing Board

Name	Number of Meetings	Explanatory Note
Antony Ford	6/8	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 Appointed Board Chairperson 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 Re-appointed to the Board and as Chairperson 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021
Damein Bell	5/8	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Michelle Casanova	6/8	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Christine Giles	7/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021
Georgina Gubbins	8/8	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Phil Saunders	8/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021
Debbie Shea	8/8	Appointed to Board July 2009 Acting Chairperson from 30 September 2015 to 26 October 2015 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017 Re-appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2019
John Sherwood	7/8	Appointed to Board July 2009 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017 Re-appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2019

Apologies from Directors for non-attendance at meetings are received by the Chair prior to the meeting and approved by the Board.

Chairperson

Mr Antony Ford has over 35 years' experience in Australian and international agribusiness, of which 25 years has been at senior executive level and on the boards of food manufacturing, horticultural, aquaculture and other institutions. In the recent past he has been a CEO, senior executive and board member in production horticulture, a large finfish aquaculture company and presently leads the regional food and fiber development body in the Great South Coast of Victoria.

In addition, he continues to work in the food production and food manufacturing space in advisory capacities as an agribusiness consultant in SE and SW Australia. He continues to be involved in industry policy development, strategic planning and action delivery across the industries, he has operated within.

Deputy Chairperson

Ms Debbie Shea holds a range of qualifications in primary industry and business management and has had extensive experience managing a large-scale wool enterprise at her property, balancing production and conservation issues.

She is active in several Ararat-region community groups and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Directors

Mr Damein Bell is CEO of Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and has previously been a Board Member with the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and the Native Title Services of Victoria.

Dr Michelle Casanova has a PhD in Botany and is Principal at Charophyte Services, a consultancy aimed at providing best practice, scientific research, information and assessment concerning water plants and wetlands. Michelle lives and works on a fine-wool merino and cropping farm near Lake Bolac.

Ms Georgina Gubbins has been a Board member of Wannon Water since October 2011 with over 20 years' experience in Commercial Business and Corporate Governance and holds a Masters of Agribusiness. Georgina is a specialist red meat producer in the Glenelg River catchment and has undertaken extensive work on wildlife corridors and wetlands. In addition, Georgina is the Chair of the Great South Coast Food and Fibre Council and is a Graduate and Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Dr John Sherwood holds qualifications in science, philosophy, education and environmental studies, with extensive experience as a research scientist in freshwater, marine and estuarine systems and environmental management. He is Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Life and Environmental Sciences at Deakin University in Warrnambool.

Ms Chris Giles is the Chief Executive Officer at Portland District Health and has considerable experience as a leader and manager of regional, rural and remote public health services. She holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Management along with nursing and midwifery qualifications. Chris has a background in agriculture having and currently has an interest in an irrigation property, with past experience in sheep, dairy and poultry farming. She is currently a Board Director for a Health ICT alliance and has held the elected role as a Shire Councilor. Chris has also been actively involved in Land and Sea Management initiatives working with local Traditional Owners in the Torres Strait.

Mr Phil Saunders is a beef farmer at Tyrendarra specialising in the production of vealers for the domestic market. He has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and a Bachelor of Business – Accountancy. He is deputy chair of the Board of Heywood Rural Health and chair of their finance sub-committee. He is also an independent member of the Glenelg Shire Council audit committee.

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk committee consisted of the following members in 2018-19:

- Brian Densem (independent)
- Bonnie Holmes (independent)
- Debbie Shea (Director)
- Georgina Gubbins (Director)
- Phil Saunders (Director)

The Audit & Risk Committee comprises three Board Directors and two independent representatives, one being the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Brian Densem. The other independent member is Bonnie Holmes.

Board representatives from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 were Directors Georgina Gubbins, Debbie Shea and Phil Saunders.

The Executive Officer role is held by non-voting staff member, Executive Manager – Business Services, Kathy Connoley.

The responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee are set out in Standing Direction 3.2.1.1. Key responsibilities of the audit committee are to:

- review and report independently to the board on the annual report and all other financial information published by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority;
- assist the board in reviewing the effectiveness of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's internal control environment covering:
 - effectiveness and efficiency of operations;
 - reliability of financial reporting; and
 - compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- determine the scope of the internal audit function and ensure its resources are adequate and used effectively, including coordination with the external auditors; and
- oversee the effective operation of the risk management framework.

In 2018-19, the committee met four times. Attendance of committee members is detailed in the table (page 65).

Audit and Risk Committee Attendance for 2018-19

Audit & Risk Committee	Aug-18	Nov-18	Feb-19	May-19	Number of Meetings attended	% of Meetings attended
Brian Densem	1	1	1	1	4	100%
Bonnie Holmes		1	1	1	3	75%
Georgina Gubbins	1		1		2	50%
Debbie Shea	1	1	1	1	4	100%
Phil Saunders	1	1	1	1	4	100%
Kathy Connoley	1	1	1	1	4	100%

BOARD COMMITTEES**Remuneration and Performance Committee**

From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, the Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee was Board Chairperson Antony Ford with Directors John Sherwood and Michelle Casanova as members.

Director Debbie Shea attended the August 2018 meeting as proxy for Director John Sherwood.

The committee's primary objective is to advise the Board on senior staff appointments, remuneration and performance evaluation.

In particular, the committee advises the Board on:

- appropriate executive level remuneration and employment agreements;
- specification of CEO performance measures;
- evaluation of CEO performance; and
- succession planning.

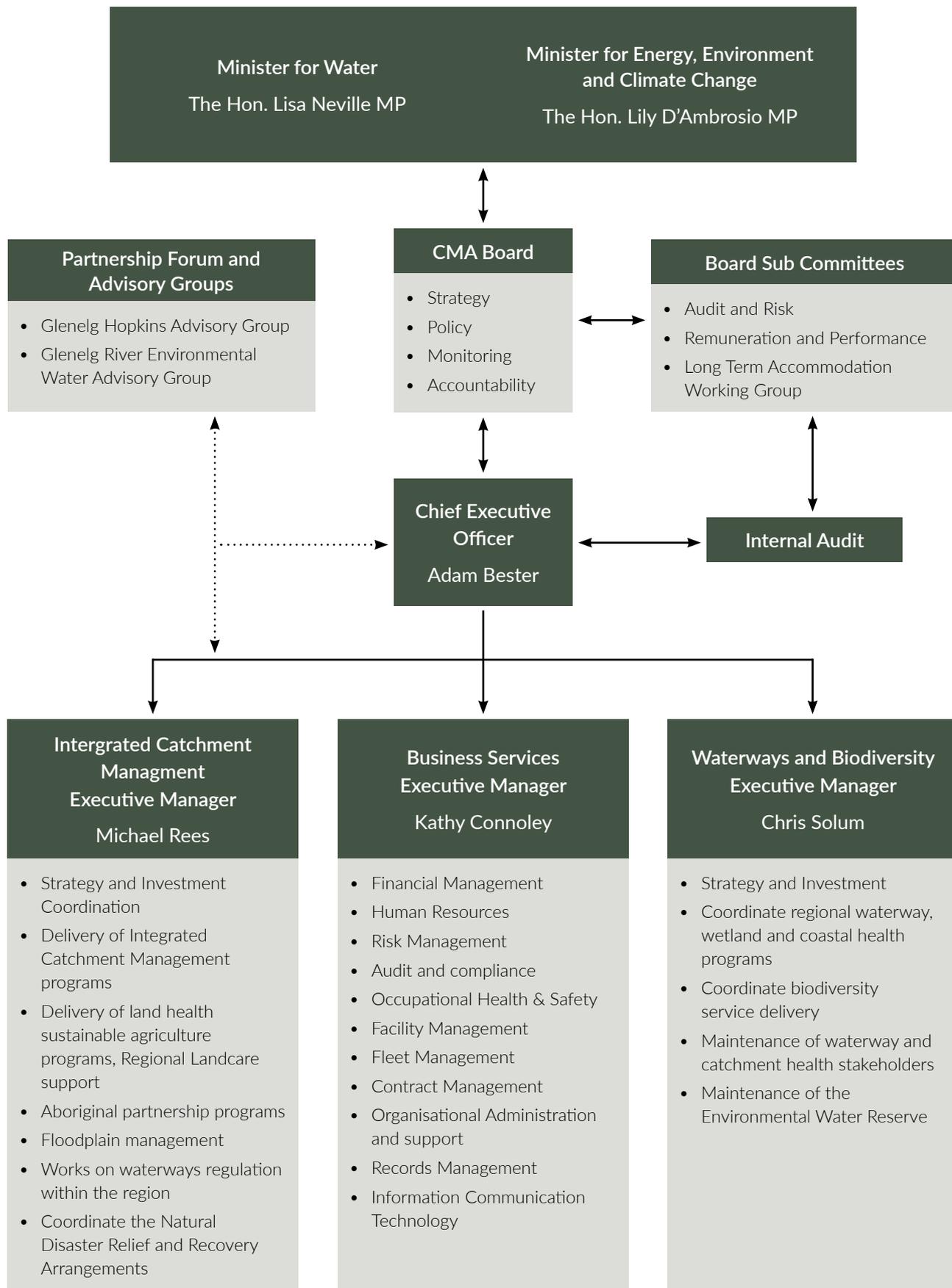
There is no Executive Officer for this committee, however CEO Adam Bester and Executive Manager Business Services Kathy Connoley attend via invitation. Administration support is provided by Executive Office Coordinator Janette Albert.

There was one scheduled meeting for the Board Remuneration and Performance Committee in August 2018. With the appointment of CEO Adam Bester, commencing 1 March 2018, the committee undertook a 100 day performance review in August and will undertake the next performance review in September 2019.

Remuneration and Performance Attendance for 2018-19

Remuneration and Performance Committee	August 2018	Number of Meetings attended	% of Meetings attended
Antony Ford	1	1	100%
John Sherwood	0	0	-
Michelle Casanova	1	1	100%
Debbie Shea	1	1	100%
Adam Bester	1	1	100%
Janette Albert	1	1	100%

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Integrated Catchment Management

Strategy and investment coordination. Delivery of integrated catchment management, delivery of land health & sustainable agriculture landcare programs. Aboriginal partnership projects. Regional Landcare support. Monitoring and reporting of integrated catchment management across the Glenelg Hopkins region.

Statutory services including referrals, advice and licences associated with waterway and floodplain management.

Floodplain management including strategic and statutory planning, flood response planning, flood investigations and flood and drought recovery programs.

Waterways & Biodiversity

Sustainable and integrated management of rivers, wetlands, terrestrial habitats and biodiversity. Preserve and enhance the ecological health of the region's waterways and terrestrial systems through planning and delivery of rural and urban works. Protect and enhance the coastal areas of the catchment while providing opportunities for sustainable use and development along the coast. Water resources planning including regulated and unregulated water planning, environmental flows monitoring and surface water monitoring.

Business Services

Provides high-level, organisation-wide support through sound guidance and efficient business systems, to enable the CMA to meet its statutory and legislative requirements and achieve positive NRM outcomes.

Business Services includes a range of functions, such as; Finance, risk and business compliance, human resources, Occupational Health and Safety, records management, fleet management, administration, information communication technology and associated business support activities.

WORKFORCE DATA

Public Sector values and employment principles

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has introduced policies and practices that are consistent with the VPSC's employment standards and provide for fair treatment, career opportunities and the early resolution of workplace issues.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has advised its employees on how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts and how it deals with misconduct.

Public sector values (section 7, PAA)

The public sector values are: Responsiveness, Integrity, Impartiality, Accountability, Respect, Leadership and Human rights.

Public sector employment principles (section 8, PAA)

Public entities are required to have in place employment processes that will ensure that:

- employment decisions are based on merit;
- public sector employees are treated fairly and reasonably;
- equal employment opportunity is provided;
- human rights as set out in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities are upheld; and
- public sector employees have a reasonable avenue of redress against unfair or unreasonable treatment.

Codes of conduct and standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC), include:

- the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees; and
- the Conflict of Interest Policy Framework and the Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework.

For further information, please refer to the VPSC's website (www.vpsc.vic.gov.au).

Human Resource Management

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has continued to improve employment relations through the following actions:

- a Reward and Recognition Program encouraging peer recognition for staff that have 'gone that extra mile'. A five-tiered system is based on different criteria and has been embraced by staff since its introduction;
- the development 'GH Equip' a skill development initiative which entails a range of learning strategies across a suite of focus areas. GH Equip is one of the outcomes from a workforce planning project undertaken throughout 2018-19;
- engaging the workforce in the VPSC 'People Matter Survey', to enable employees to have a say on how the organisation, leaders and colleagues practice the public sector values and employment principles. Results from the survey assist in identifying potential opportunities for improvement and help to understand employee engagement and job satisfaction;
- providing Health and Wellbeing initiatives for employees;
- continuing to deliver actions against the Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2017/18 – 2021/22;
- engaging staff in a workforce obligations workshop, to ensure staff conduct strongly reflects public sector values as prescribed in the PAA, 2004; and
- alignment of employee behaviours to agreed values and behaviours through performance reviews.

Workforce Data

Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed 52 staff (44.54 full time equivalent), compared to 49 staff (42.25 full time equivalent) on 30 June 2018. The proportion of women was 54%, compared to 53% on 30 June 2018.

Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA Workforce as at June 30 2019

	2018-19	2017-18
Executive Officers	4	4
Senior Managers	7	6
Administration Staff	10	9
Project Staff	31	30
Total Headcount Men	24	23
Total Headcount Women	28	26
Total	52	49
Male	22.49	21.79
Female	22.05	20.46
Total (FTE)	44.54	42.25

Notes:

- All figures reflect employment levels during the last full pay period in June of each year.
- Excluded are those on leave without pay or absent on secondment, external contractors/consultants, and temporary staff employed by employment agencies.
- Ongoing employees include people engaged on an open-ended contract of employment and executives engaged on a standard executive contract who were active in the last full pay period of June.
- FTE describes the full time equivalent of a position.

Workforce Inclusion Policy

In 2017-18 Glenelg Hopkins CMA developed its first Diversity and Inclusion Plan which strengthens the CMA's commitment to building a diverse and inclusive organisation.

The Diversity & Inclusion Plan is underpinned by three guiding principles:

- we will embrace and respect different backgrounds, values, cultures, experiences and viewpoints.

- we will remove barriers to ensure full participation within the workplace and a culture of belonging.
- we will act ethically ensuring equal opportunity employment, transparent, fair and equitable decision making, acknowledgement of human rights, a duty of care and a culture of consultation.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has recorded progress towards the targets and measures outlined in the Diversity and Inclusion Plan and the aggregated results are provided (page 69).

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has an action to promote the availability of flexible working arrangements, with the number of flexible working arrangements to be reported annually.

The following table (page 69) outlines Glenelg Hopkins actual progress against this action in 2018-19.

Status	2018/19	2017/18
Complete	76.8%	55.8%
In progress	11.6%	11.6%
Overdue	2.3%	4.7%
Not Yet Scheduled to Start	9.3%	27.9%

Note: Some measures cover multiple years and therefore will be reported on each year.

Diversity and Inclusion Plan initiative	Measure	Actual progress in 2018-19	Actual progress in 2017-18
Promote the availability of flexible working arrangements	Number of staff with flexible working arrangements	58%	47%

Notes:

- Includes part-time employment, purchased leave and individual flexibility arrangements, data sourced from workplace data.
- Reported as a percentage against headcount as per 2018-19 and 2017-18 Workforce Data.
- The internal employee guideline to enable working from home & satellite offices (OC.HR.4) was updated in November 2018 to allow better access for staff. This has now been included in the measure of flexible working arrangements.

Occupational Health and Safety

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is committed to ensuring all legislative requirements under the OH&S Act 2004 are being met and that a safe management system is in place to provide a preventative approach to OH&S.

The aim is to create an infrastructure within the organisation that will enhance the effectiveness of our OH&S policies, procedures, meetings, reporting and communication avenues.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has continued to improve health and safety through:

- regular OHS Committee meetings; OHS Committee training;
- review and revision of Safe Work Method Statements;
- workplace inspections; and
- independent Occupational Health and Safety Audit.

All OH&S policies and procedures are available to staff through an electronic shared documents point on the CMA intranet and discussed at regular program and staff meetings.

There was one Work Cover claim for 2018-19, no lost time was recorded.

All external contractors who undertake work for the Glenelg Hopkins CMA are provided with a Contractor Induction. They are required to produce evidence of their Work Cover status before starting work as well as a Safe Work Method Statement (or similar) that must meet a level of compliance that equals, as a minimum, the requirements in our own Risk Assessment for the project.

OH&S and Performance

Measure	KPI	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Incidents	Number of Incidents	14	8	21
	Rate per 100 FTE	31.43	18.93	53.85
Claims	No. of standard claims	1	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	2.25	0	0
	Number of lost time claims	0	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
Claims Cost	Average cost per standard claim	0*	0	0
FTE		44.54	42.25	39.00

Notes:

- *No expenditure against claim in 2018-19, total estimated cost is likely to be <\$1,000.
- Significant increase in incidents reported in 2016-17 was as a result of an awareness campaign run by the OHS Committee to ensure all incidents were reported.

Executive Officer Data

An Executive Officer (EO) is defined as an executive under Part 3 of the PAA or a person to whom the Victorian Government's Policy on Executive Remuneration in Public entities applies.

All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current and corresponding previous reporting year.

The definition of an EO does not include a statutory office holder or an Accountable Officer.

No EO disclosure required for less than three executives.

OTHER DISCLOSURES

Local Jobs First –

Local Jobs First Act 2003

There were no tenders over \$1,000,000 entered into by Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2018-19.

Government Advertising Expenditure

Glenelg Hopkins CMA expenditure in 2018-19 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

Consultancy Expenditure

In 2018-19, there were 29 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2018-19 in relation to these consultancies was \$1,523,899 (excl. GST).

Details of individual consultancies are outlined on Glenelg Hopkins CMA's website at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

ICT Expenditure

For the 2018-19 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$464,349 with the details as shown below:

- ICT expenditure refers to Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's costs in providing business enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure
- NON-BAU ICT expenditure \$87,987 (Capital \$572, Operational \$87,415) relates to extending or enhancing Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's current ICT capability
- BAU ICT Expenditure \$376,362 (all Operational) is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

Major Contracts

Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not award any major contracts during 2018-19. A major contract is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10 million or more.

Freedom of Information

Operation

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is considered a "Government Agency" under the terms of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Accordingly, Glenelg Hopkins CMA complies with the procedures prescribed under which members of the public may gain access to information held by agencies.

Requests for information should be forwarded to the Freedom of Information Officer, Janette Albert, PO Box 502 or 79 French Street, Hamilton, 3300, accompanied by an application fee of \$29.60.

Application

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received no requests for information during 2018-19 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members, finalised two requests for information submitted late 2017-18, and there was no resulting appeals to VCAT.

Compliance with *Building Act 1993*

Glenelg Hopkins CMA owns two and operates three regional offices located in Hamilton and Warrnambool.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA complies with the *Building Act 1993*, the Building Regulations 2018 and the National Construction Code, and retains copies of two occupancy permits required for owned buildings. Glenelg Hopkins CMA conducts and reports on scheduled inspections of its owned buildings to ensure compliance with building standards and regulations. The internal control system allows Glenelg Hopkins CMA to satisfactorily manage risks.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's offices in Hamilton and Warrnambool (Deakin University) conformed with building standards during 2018-19. There were no major works, emergency orders or building orders issued in relation to buildings.

Competitive Neutrality Policy

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest.

Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

Protected Disclosure Act 2012

Compliance with the Protected Disclosures Act 2012

The *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* (PD Act) enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies.

The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

What is a protected disclosure?

A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is a public body for the purposes of the Act.

What is improper or corrupt conduct?

- Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial
- mismanagement of public resources
- risk to public health or safety or the environment
- corruption.

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

How do I make a Protected Disclosure?

You can make a protected disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC on the contact details provided.

Please note that Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is not able to receive protected disclosures.

How can I access Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority or its employees. You can access Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's procedures on its website at: www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Contacts

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

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

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001

Internet: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 735 135

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

Additional Information Available on Request

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has available the following documents as specified in the *Financial Management Act 1994*, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:

- publications produced by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the places where the publications can be obtained
- relevant officers have duly completed declarations of pecuniary interests. These are treated as confidential documents
- major external reviews
- changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged
- major research and development activities undertaken
- overseas travel undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
- major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the CMA to develop community awareness of the organisation and its services
- assessments and measures to improve the OH&S of employees
- Statement of Industrial Relations within the CMA, including time lost through industrial accidents and disputes
- list of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved
- details of all consultancies and contractors including those engaged, services provided and expenditure for each engagement.

OFFICE BASED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Objective	Measure	Quantity 2017-18	Quantity 2018-19	2018-19 % ↑/↓ comparing 1 year prior
Reduce Energy Use (Electricity)	kWh used per annum	96,932	96,623	0%
	kWh used per FTE per annum	2,294	2,169	-5%
Reduce Paper Use	White A4 reams per annum	246	178	-28%
	White A4 reams per FTE	5.82	4.00	-31%
	White A3 reams per annum	10	18	80%
	White A3 reams per FTE	0.24	0.40	71%
Increase Paper Recycling	240 Litres recycled per annum	35	22	-37%
	240 Litres recycled per FTE	0.83	0.49	-40%
Reduce Toner Cartridges	Toner Cartridges consumed per annum	17	35	106%
	Toner Cartridges consumed per FTE	0.40	0.79	95%
Reduce Fuel Use	Fleet size	13	15	15%
	Litres fuel consumed per annum	31,829	35,621	12%
	Litres fuel consumed per vehicle	2,448	2,375	-3%
No. Flights Warrnambool - Melbourne	One way flights	38	35	-8%
	One way flights per FTE	0.90	0.79	-13%
Reduced Water Consumption	Kls consumed per annum	251	213	-15%
	Overall Kls consumed per FTE	5.94	4.78	-20%

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION STATEMENT

I Antony Ford on behalf of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority certify that the Glenelg Hopkins CMA has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Minister of Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Audit and Risk Committee verifies this.



Antony Ford
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2019

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

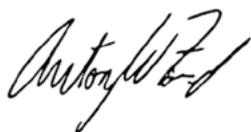
DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The attached financial statements for the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

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

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

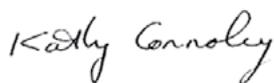
We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 21 August 2019.



Antony Ford
Chairperson



Adam Bester
CEO and Accountable Officer



Kathy Connoley
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

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

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

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



COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	14,313,292	11,117,170
Interest	2.2.2	165,814	142,215
Other income	2.2.3	625,882	453,810
Total income from transactions		15,104,988	11,713,195
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,777,578	4,488,311
Depreciation	4.1.1	71,763	79,488
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	8,298,786	4,966,069
Lease expenses	3.3	258,867	248,940
Other operating expenses	3.4	915,692	967,690
Total expenses from transactions		14,322,686	10,750,498
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		782,302	962,697
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (i)	8.2	-	2,545
Other gain/(loss) from other economic flows		-	(933)
Net result		782,302	964,309
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	58,742	-
Comprehensive result		841,044	964,309

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

(i) 'Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets' includes unrealised and realised gains/(losses) from revaluations, impairments, and disposals of all physical assets and intangible assets, except when these are taken through the asset revaluation surplus.

BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.1	9,149,758	8,016,255
Receivables	5.1	541,774	844,433
Assets Held for Sale	4.2	353,895	-
Total financial assets		10,045,427	8,860,688
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	665,008	1,008,609
Other non-financial assets	5.3	32,863	2,000
Total non-financial assets		697,871	1,010,609
Total assets		10,743,298	9,871,297
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	419,521	521,831
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,282,910	1,149,642
Total liabilities		1,702,429	1,671,473
Net assets		9,040,869	8,199,824
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		5,363,986	4,581,684
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	519,936	461,194
Contributed capital		3,156,946	3,156,946
Net worth		9,040,869	8,199,824

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		14,570,722	10,475,759
Interest received		197,204	127,361
Other receipts		607,807	455,124
Total receipts		15,375,733	11,058,244
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		14,183,918	10,399,431
Goods and services tax Paid to the ATO (i)		34,997	11,893
Total payments		14,218,915	10,411,324
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	6.1.1	1,156,818	646,920
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets	4.1.2	(23,315)	(2,152)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets	8.2	-	2,545
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities		(23,315)	393
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		1,133,503	647,313
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		8,016,255	7,368,942
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.1	9,149,758	8,016,255

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

(i) GST received from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year financial year ended 30 June 2019

	Accumulated Surplus \$	Physical asset revaluation surplus \$	Contributed Capital \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	3,617,375	461,194	3,156,946	7,235,515
Net result for the year	964,309	-	-	964,309
Balance at 30 June 2018	4,581,684	461,194	3,156,946	8,199,824
Net result for the year	841,044	-	-	841,044
Transfers to/(from) reserves	(58,742)	58,742	-	58,742
Balance at 30 June 2019	5,363,986	519,936	3,156,946	9,040,868

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2019

NOTE 1 ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA) is a government authority of the State of Victoria, established on 1 July 1997 by the state government.

Its principal address is:

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
79 French Street
Hamilton VIC 3300

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

Basis of preparation

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

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid. The AASB 9 simplified approach is taken to measure the expected credit losses using a lifetime expected credit loss allowance (Note 7.1).

The following standard has been adopted by GHCMA: AASB 9 Financial Instruments, effective as of 1 January 2018 (and thus GHCMA on 1 July 2018)

AASB 9 impact assessment

AASB 9 Financial Instruments, which replaces AASB 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement, introduces new requirements for recognition, classification and measurement, a new impairment model for financial assets based on expected credit losses and simplified hedge accounting. GHCMA has adopted AASB 9 as at 1 July 2018 and has applied the new rules on a modified retrospective basis. As a result, comparative accounts will not be restated. Further disclosures in relation to AASB 9 are at note 7.1

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

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AASs that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement or estimates', and relate to:

- employee benefit provisions (Note 3.1.2);
- accrued revenue (Note 5.1);
- accrued expenses (Note 5.2);
- fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3).

Compliance Information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

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

NOTE 2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Introduction

The Authority's overall objective is for the co-ordinated control of natural resource management within the broader catchments of Glenelg Hopkins. The role of the Authority is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Associated with this role the Authority carries out strategic planning and advises Government.

To enable the Authority to deliver on its objectives, it receives income predominantly through State and Commonwealth Government Contributions.

Structure

- 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Income from transactions

2.1 SUMMARY OF INCOME THAT FUNDS THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	14,313,292	11,117,170
Interest	2.2.2	165,814	142,215
Other income	2.2.3	625,882	453,810
Total income from transactions		15,104,987	11,713,195

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

2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS

2.2.1 Government contributions

	2019 \$	2018 \$
State Government		
Catchment Planning	1,035,286	935,205
Sustainable Irrigation	0	698,687
River Health	3,802,000	4,450,553
Floodplain Management	350,000	150,000
Natural Disaster	3,658,945	2,211,396
Other State Funding	3,359,044	631,745
	12,205,275	9,077,586
Commonwealth Government		
National Landcare Program	2,108,017	1,989,840
Other Commonwealth Funding	-	49,744
	2,108,017	2,039,584
Total Government contributions	14,313,292	11,117,170

Government grants and contributions are recognised as income from transactions on receipt or when the Authority obtains control of the contribution and meets certain other criteria as outlined in AASB 1004 *Contributions*, whichever is the sooner, and disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as government contributions.

NOTE 2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS (CONT.)

2.2.2 Interest

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Interest on bank deposits	165,814	142,215

Interest income includes interest received on bank term deposits. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

2.2.3 Other income

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Partnership Contributions	578,154	347,000
Rental Income	20,966	18,669
Sundry	26,761	88,141
Total other income	625,882	453,810

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, and are recognised as income from transactions when an entitlement is established or on receipt, whichever is the sooner, and disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as other income.

All other income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

Introduction

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

Structure

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies
- 3.3 Lease expenses
- 3.4 Other operating expenses

3.1 EXPENSES INCURRED IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,777,578	4,488,311
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	8,298,786	4,966,069
Lease expenses	3.3	258,867	248,940
Other operating expenses	3.4	915,692	967,690
Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services		14,250,923	10,671,010

3.1.1 Employee expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Salaries & wages	3,344,240	3,214,270
Annual leave	355,981	288,136
Long service leave	69,306	74,771
Other leave	343,197	326,198
Defined contribution superannuation expense	380,877	345,663
Other employee expenses	164,076	170,159
Movement in provisions for employee benefits	119,900	69,114
Total employee benefit expenses	4,777,577	4,488,311

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

The amount charged to the comprehensive income statement in respect of superannuation represents contributions made or due by GHCMA to the relevant superannuation plans in respect to the services of GHCMA staff (both past and present). Superannuation contributions are made to the plans based on the relevant rules of each plan and any relevant compulsory superannuation requirements that GHCMA is required to comply with.

NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (CONT.)

3.1.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet

Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions

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

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

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Time in lieu and RDO:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	32,077	32,514
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	243,816	249,427
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	71,520	79,676
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	568,302	457,019
	915,715	818,636
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	99,445	96,136
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	89,459	71,942
Total current provisions	1,104,619	986,714
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Long service leave:		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	155,929	140,769
Provisions for on-costs		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	22,362	22,159
Total non-current provisions	178,291	162,928
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	1,282,910	1,149,642
	2019 \$	2018 \$
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision		
Opening balance	190,237	174,365
Additional provisions recognised	-	-
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	21,029	15,872
Unwind of discount and effect of changes in the discount rate	-	-
Closing balance	211,266	190,237

NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (CONT.)

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

Long service leave (LSL)

Regardless of the expected timing of settlement, unconditional LSL is classified as a current liability because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these liabilities.

Unconditional LSL liability amounts expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured at the nominal value. Unconditional LSL liability amount that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

Unconditional LSL represents long service leave entitlements accrued for employees with more than 7 years of continuous service.

Conditional LSL is classified as a non-current liability and measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Authority contributes to both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The defined benefit plans provide benefits based on year of service and final average salary.

The Authority does not recognise any defined benefit liability because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. The Department of Treasury and Finance discloses in its annual financial statements the states net defined benefits cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to Superannuation is employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

The name, details and amounts expensed in relation to the major employee superannuation funds and contributions made by the Authority are as follows.

There was \$NIL in contributions outstanding to the schemes (*below*) as at 30 June 2019 (2018: \$NIL).

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Defined contribution plans:		
Vision super	165,997	125,377
Vic super	37,926	39,489
Other private schemes	176,954	180,797
Total	380,877	345,663

NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (CONT.)

3.2 MATERIALS, MAINTENANCE, GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCIES

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Materials	327,381	193,099
Repairs and maintenance	25,291	20,513
Grants paid	1,371,759	1,285,478
Contractors	5,020,663	2,295,425
Consultants	1,553,693	1,171,554
Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	8,298,787	4,966,069

Materials, grants, contracts, consultancies are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable.

3.3 LEASE EXPENSES

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Operating lease payments	258,867	248,940
Lease expenses	258,867	248,940

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the comprehensive operating statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The leased asset is not recognised in the balance sheet.

3.4 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable.

NOTE 4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

Introduction

The Authority controls property and other investments that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the key resources that have been entrusted to the Authority to be utilised for delivery of those outputs.

Structure

- 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment
- 4.2 Assets Held for Sale

4.1 TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2019 \$	2018 \$	2019 \$	2018 \$	2019 \$	2018 \$
Land at fair value	91,560	203,360	-	-	91,560	203,360
Buildings at fair value	592,542	826,500	(92,214)	(96,205)	500,328	730,295
Works assets at fair value	0	-	0	0	0	0
Plant and equipment at fair value	215,818	212,506	(175,172)	(155,395)	40,646	57,111
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	209,142	189,138	(176,667)	(171,295)	32,475	17,843
Motor vehicles at fair value	0	-	0	-	0	-
Net carrying amount	1,109,062	1,431,504	(444,053)	(422,895)	665,008	1,008,609

Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition. Assets transferred as part of a machinery of government change are transferred at their carrying amount.

Subsequent measurement

Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach, whereby assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets that are considered to have nominal value.

The market approach is also used for specialised land, although is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

Non-specialised buildings and works assets are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method.

Note 7.3 includes additional information in connection with fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

NOTE 4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY (CONT.)

4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Charge for the period		
Buildings	46,615	46,615
Plant & equipment	19,777	26,500
Office furniture & equipment	5,372	6,374
Total depreciation	71,764	79,488

All buildings, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are depreciated.

Land, which is considered to have an indefinite life, is not depreciated.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful life
Buildings	8 - 47 years
Plant and equipment	4 - 5 years
Furniture & office equipment	5 - 10 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

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

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

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

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

NOTE 4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY (CONT.)

4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment

	Land at fair value \$	Buildings at fair value \$	Plant and equipment at fair value \$	Office furniture and equipment at fair value \$	Total \$
2018-19					
Opening balance	203,360	730,295	57,111	17,843	1,008,610
Additions	-	-	3,312	20,004	23,315
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Asset Held for Sale	(123,000)	(230,895)	-	-	(353,895)
Revaluation	11,200	47,542	-	-	58,742
Depreciation	-	(46,615)	(19,777)	(5,372)	(71,763)
Closing balance	91,560	500,327	40,646	32,475	665,008
2017-18					
Opening balance	203,360	776,910	81,459	24,217	1,085,946
Additions	-	-	2,152	-	2,152
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(46,615)	(26,500)	(6,374)	(79,488)
Closing balance	203,360	730,295	57,111	17,843	1,008,610

4.2 ASSETS HELD FOR SALE

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Land	123,000	-
Buildings	230,895	-
Closing balance	353,895	-

Assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal, and are not subject to depreciation.

Non-current assets classified as held for sale (including disposal groups) are measured at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal, and are not subject to depreciation.

Non-current assets, disposal groups and related liabilities and assets are treated as current and classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This condition is regarded as being met when the sale is highly probable and the asset's sale (or disposal group sale) is expected to be completed within 12 months from the date of classification.

NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

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

Structure

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables
- 5.3 Other non-financial assets

5.1 RECEIVABLES

Significant judgement: Accrued revenue

Accrued revenue represent goods or services that have been delivered but have not been invoiced to the customer.

In estimating an amount of accrued revenue, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed, and the extent of the costs incurred that are recoverable.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current receivables		
Contractual		
Trade receivables	285,017	562,589
Accrued revenue	-	31,391
Other receivables	-	-
	285,017	593,980
Statutory		
GST input tax credits recoverable	256,757	250,453
FBT refund	-	-
	256,757	250,453
Total current receivables	541,774	844,433

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised cost'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost less any impairment.

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

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

NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (CONT.)

5.2 PAYABLES

Significant judgement: Accrued expenses

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

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current Payables		
Contractual		
Accrued expenses	416,601	449,268
Other payables	2,920	5,653
	419,521	454,921
Statutory		
Payroll tax	-	66,910
	-	66,910
Total current payables	419,521	521,831

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial liabilities at amortised cost'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, they are measured at amortised cost.

Statutory payables are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (CONT.)

5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

	Carrying amount \$	Maturity dates		
		Less than 1 month \$	1-3 months \$	3-6 months \$
2019				
Payables:				
Accrued expenses	416,601	416,601	-	-
Other payables	2,920	2,920	-	-
Total	419,521	419,521	-	-
2018				
Payables:				
Accrued expenses	449,268	449,268	-	-
Other payables	5,653	5,653	-	-
Total	454,921	454,921	-	-

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

5.3 OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current other assets		
Prepayments	32,863	2,000
Total other assets	32,863	2,000

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations, and other information related to financing activities of the Authority.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments, such as cash balances. Notes 7.2 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

- 6.1 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.2 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.3 Carry forward project funding

6.1 CASH FLOW INFORMATION AND BALANCES

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

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	1,043,858	1,416,255
Deposits at call	8,105,900	600,000
Term deposits (less than 3 months)	-	6,000,000
Balance as per cash flow statement	9,149,758	8,016,255

6.1.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Net result for the period	782,302	964,309
Non-cash movements:		
(Gain) / loss on disposal of non-current assets	0	(2,545)
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	71,763	79,488
	854,065	1,041,252
Movements in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	302,659	(631,234)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	(30,863)	2,886
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(102,310)	148,414
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	133,268	85,602
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	1,156,819	646,920

NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS (CONT.)

6.2 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Commitments for future expenditure include operating lease commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

6.2.1 Total commitments payable

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Operating lease commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	241,091	250,023
1 to 5 years	280,476	211,215
5 years or more	-	-
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	521,567	461,238

Operating lease commitments relate to office, depot and car parking facilities with lease terms between one and five years. These contracts do not allow the Authority to purchase the facilities after the lease ends, but the Authority has the option to renew each of the leases at the end of the lease term.

As at 30 June 2019 the Authority had Nil in finance lease commitments (2018: \$Nil).

As at 30 June 2019 the Authority had Nil in capital expenditure commitments (2018: \$Nil).

6.3 CARRY FORWARD PROJECT FUNDING

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

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

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

Introduction

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

Structure

- 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
- 7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities
- 7.3 Fair value determination

7.1 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS SPECIFIC DISCLOSURES

Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract, and as such, do not meet the definition of financial instruments.

Categories of financial instruments

Financial Assets at amortised cost are measured at amortised cost if they are held by the Authority to collect contractual cash flows, the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest, and if they not designated as fair value through net result. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, these financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment. The financial assets at amortised cost category includes cash and deposits, and trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

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

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

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)

7.1.1 Financial instruments: Impairment of Financial Assets

From 1 July 2018, the authority has been recording the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments, replacing AASB 139's incurred loss approach with AASB 9's *Expected Credit Loss Approach*. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment include the Authority's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

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

All financial assets and liabilities of the Authority are measured at amortised cost in line with AASB 9 Financial Instruments

On this basis, the Authority determines the opening loss allowance on initial application date of AASB 9 and the closing loss allowance at the end of the financial year as follows:

	Current	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3 months - 1 year	1-5 years	Total
1 July 2018						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	593,980	-	-	-	-	593,980
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 June 2019						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	77,319	206,744	-	954	-	285,017
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statutory receivables at amortised cost

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

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

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)

7.1.2 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	Contractual financial assets - loans and receivables \$	Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
2019			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	9,149,758	-	9,149,758
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	285,017	-	285,017
Total contractual financial assets	9,434,775	-	9,434,775
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Accrued expenses	-	416,601	416,601
Other payables	-	2,920	2,920
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	419,521	419,521
2018			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	8,016,255	-	8,016,255
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	562,589	-	562,589
Accrued revenue	31,391	-	31,391
Total contractual financial assets	8,610,235	-	8,610,235
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Accrued expenses	-	449,268	449,268
Other payables	-	5,653	5,652.53
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	454,921	454,921

(i) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts.

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)

7.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Authority's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Authority manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Authority uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the financial risk management committee of the Authority.

Financial instruments: Credit risk

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

Credit risk associated with the Authority's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is the Victorian Government. For debtors other than the Government, the Authority has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate. For cash assets, the Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with a high credit rating assigned by international credit-rating agencies. All cash and deposits are held with the Westpac Bank and National Australia Bank.

Financial instruments: Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from being unable to meet financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. The Authority does not have any borrowings, and maintains high levels of cash and deposits readily available to meet its financial obligations. The Authority manages its liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash reserves and continually monitoring the Authority's expenditure commitments and cash flow needs.

Financial instruments: Market risk

The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with significant surplus funds held in deposits at a call in the Central Banking System. The Authority has no exposure to foreign exchange risk or other price risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority is required to invest surplus funds with the State Government Central Banking System (CBS) in compliance with the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994 (2018 Directions)*. The floating interest rates provided by the Central Banking System expose the Authority to interest rate risk. Management monitors movements in interest rates on a daily basis.

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rates and the Authority's sensitivity to interest rate risk are set out in the table that follows.

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	Weighted average interest rate %	Carrying amount \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$
2019					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	1.93	9,149,758	-	9,149,758	-
Contractual receivables	-	285,017	-	-	285,017
Total financial assets		9,434,775	0	9,149,758	285,017
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	419,521	-	-	419,521
Total financial liabilities		419,521	-	-	419,521
2018					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	1.90	8,016,255	6,000,000	2,016,255	-
Contractual receivables	-	593,980	-	-	593,980
Total financial assets		8,610,235	6,000,000	2,016,255	593,980
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	454,921	-	-	454,921
Total financial liabilities		454,921	-	-	454,921

Interest rate risk sensitivity

The sensitivity analysis below shows the impact on the Authority's net result and equity for a movement of 50 basis points up and down in market interest rates.

	Carrying amount \$	Interest rate			
		-50 basis points		+50 basis points	
		Net result \$	Revaluation surplus \$	Net result \$	Revaluation surplus \$
2019					
Cash and deposits (i)	9,149,758	(45,749)	(45,749)	45,749	45,749
2018					
Cash and deposits (i)	2,016,255	(20,163)	(20,163)	20,163	20,163

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$9,149,758 (2018: \$2,016,255) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2019: $\$9,149,758 \times -0.005 = -\$45,749$; and $\$9,149,758 \times 0.005 = \$45,749$
- 2018: $\$2,016,255 \times -0.01 = -\$20,163$; and $\$2,016,255 \times 0.01 = \$20,163$.

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)

7.2 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Contingent Assets		
As at 30 June 2019, the Authority has no known contingent assets.	-	-
Contingent liabilities		
As at 30 June 2019, the Authority has no contingent liabilities.	-	-

7.3 FAIR VALUE DETERMINATION

Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities

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

The Authority's property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value.

In addition, the fair values of other assets and liabilities which are carried at amortised cost, also need to be determined for disclosure purposes.

The Authority determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

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

7.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2018-19 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets

Cash and deposits

Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Accrued revenue
- Other receivables

Financial liabilities

Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses
- Other payables

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)

7.3.2 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Fair value measurement hierarchy

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2019 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$	Level 2 ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$	Level 3 ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	91,560	-	91,560	-
Total Land at Fair Value	91,560	-	91,560	-
Buildings at Fair Value				
Specialised buildings	500,328	-	-	500,328
Total Buildings at Fair Value	500,328	-	-	500,328
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	40,646	-	-	40,646
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	40,646	-	-	40,646
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	32,475	-	-	32,475
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	32,475	-	-	32,475

(i) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, see Note 7.3.

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2018 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	203,360	-	203,360	-
Total Land at Fair Value	203,360	-	203,360	-
Buildings at Fair Value				
Specialised buildings	730,295	-	-	730,295
Total Buildings at Fair Value	730,295	-	-	730,295
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	57,111	-	-	57,111
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	57,111	-	-	57,111
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	17,843	-	-	17,843
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	17,843	-	-	17,843

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)

The fair value of the financial assets and liabilities is included at the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate fair value:

Non-specialised land & non-specialised buildings

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach. Under this valuation method, the assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets which are considered to have nominal or no added improvement value, and are classified as Level 2 fair value measurements.

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings, an independent valuation was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) to determine the fair value using the market approach. Valuation of the assets was determined by analysing comparable sales and allowing for share, size, topography, location and other relevant factors specific to the asset being valued. From the sales analysed, an appropriate rate per square metre was applied to the subject asset. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2016.

Plant and equipment and Office furniture and equipment

Plant and equipment and office furniture and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment or office furniture and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2019.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

The Authority conducted an assessment at 30 June 2019 with a material movement identified in land and buildings since the 2016 valuation.

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)

Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	Non-specialised buildings \$	Plant and equipment \$	Office furniture and equipment \$
2018-19			
Opening Balance			
Purchases (sales)			
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	(230,895)	-	-
Depreciation	(46,615)	(19,777)	(5,372)
Gains or losses recognised in net result	-	-	-
Subtotal	452,786	40,646	32,475
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	47,542	-	-
Subtotal	500,328	40,646	32,475
Closing Balance	500,328	40,646	32,475
2017-18			
Opening Balance			
Purchases (sales)	776,910	81,459	24,217
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	2,152	-
Depreciation	(46,615)	(26,500)	(6,374)
Gains or losses recognised in net result	-	-	-
Subtotal	730,295	57,111	17,843
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	-	-	-
Subtotal	730,295	57,111	17,843
Closing Balance	730,295	57,111	17,843

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Specialised buildings	Depreciated replacement cost	Direct cost per square metre Useful life of non-specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Office furniture and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of furniture and equipment

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2016.

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES

Introduction

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

Structure

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Other economic flows included in net result
- 8.3 Reserves
- 8.4 Responsible persons
- 8.5 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.6 Related parties
- 8.7 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.8 Subsequent events
- 8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

8.1 EX-GRATIA EXPENSES

Ex-gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write-off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

The Authority had no ex gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2019 (2018 \$0).

8.2 OTHER ECONOMIC FLOWS INCLUDED IN NET RESULT

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	-	2,545
Less written down value	-	-
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	-	2,545

8.3 RESERVES

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	461,194	461,194
Revaluation increments	58,742	-
Balance at end of financial year	519,936	461,194

(i) The physical assets revaluation surplus arises on the revaluation of land and buildings.

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

8.4 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

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

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

Name	Position	Date held position
The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
The Hon. Lilliana D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Antony Ford	(Chair)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Debbie Shea	(Board Member & Deputy Chair)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Adam Bester	(CEO)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Damien Bell	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Michelle Casanova	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Georgina Gubbins	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Dr John Sherwood	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Christine Giles	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Philip Saunders	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019

Remuneration

Remuneration received or receivable by the Accountable Officer in connection with the management of the Authority during the reporting period was: \$220,000 - \$229,999 (\$210,000 - \$219,999 in 2017-18).

Income band	2019	2018
\$0 - \$9,999	0	5
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7	5
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$60,000 - \$69,999	0	1
\$160,000 - \$169,999	0	1
\$190,000 - \$200,000	1	0
Total number of Responsible persons	9	13
Total Remuneration \$	309,454	329,179

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

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

8.5 REMUNERATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provides a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

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

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

Remuneration	2019 \$	2018 \$
Short-term employee benefits	388,882	398,178
Post-employment benefits	36,102	37,112
Other long-term benefits	11,965	13,264
Total remuneration	436,950	448,554
Total number of executives (i)	3	3
Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)	3.0	3.0

(i) The total number of executive officers includes persons who meet the definition of Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the entity under AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures and are also reported within the related parties note disclosure (Note 8.6).

(ii) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

8.6 RELATED PARTIES

Related parties of the Authority include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

Significant transactions with government-related entities (over \$20,000)

GHCMA is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the state of Victoria. During the year, the Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	Funding received \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	8,417,979
Department of Treasury & Finance	3,658,945
Treasury Corporation of Victoria	148,311
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	115,441

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

Entity	Payments made \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	581,319
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	109,427
State Revenue Office	91,151
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	68,325
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions	69,000
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	47,571
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	20,000
Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority	25,000

Key management personnel of the Authority includes all Responsible persons as listed in Note 8.4, and all members of the executive team which includes:

Mrs Kathy Connoley	Business Services Executive Manager
Mr Michael Rees	Integrated Catchment Management Executive Manager
Mr Chris Solum	Waterways and Biodiversity Executive Manager

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

Compensation of KMPs	2019 \$	2018 \$
Short-term employee benefits	665,608	692,425
Post-employment benefits	62,187	64,923
Other long-term benefits	18,609	20,385
Total	746,403	777,733

There were no significant related party transactions or balances that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interest.

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

8.7 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	10,600	10,300
Internal audit costs	24,815	35,320
Total auditors' remuneration	35,415	45,620

8.8 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

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

8.9 AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED THAT ARE NOT YET EFFECTIVE

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2019 reporting period. DTF assesses the impact of all these new standards and advises the Authority of their applicability and early adoption where applicable. The following is a list of the AASs issued but are not yet effective for the 2018-19 reporting period.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2016-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Deferral of AASB 15 for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities from 1 January 2018 to 1 January 2019.	1 January 2019	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities to the 2019-20 reporting period.
AASB 2016-8 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This Standards amends AASB 9 and AASB 15 to include requirements and implementation guidance to assist not-for-profit entities in applying the respective standards to particular transactions and events. The amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements (i.e. taxes, rates and fines) to be initially measured and recognised in accordance with AASB 9 as if those receivables are financial instruments; and • clarifies circumstances when a contract with a customer is within the scope of AASB 15. 	1 January 2019	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact for the public sector, other than the impacts identified for AASB 9 and AASB 15.
AASB 16 <i>Leases</i>	The key changes introduced by AASB 16 include the recognition of most operating leases (which are currently not recognised) on balance sheet.	1 January 2019	The assessment has indicated that as most operating leases will come on balance sheet, recognition of the right-of-use assets and lease liabilities will cause net debt to increase. Rather than expensing the lease payments, depreciation of right-of-use assets and interest on lease liabilities will be recognised in the income statement with marginal impact on the operating surplus. No change for lessors.

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This Standard will replace AASB 1004 <i>Contributions</i> and establishes principles for transactions that are not within the cope of AASB 15, where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value to enable not-for-profit entities to further their objectives.	1 January 2019	The assessment has indicated that revenue from capital grants that are provided under an enforceable agreement that have sufficiently specific obligations, will now be deferred and recognised as performance obligations are satisfied. As a result, the timing recognition of revenue will change.
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.	1 January 2019	The assessment has indicated that revenue from capital grants that are provided under an enforceable agreement that have sufficiently specific obligations, will now be deferred and recognised as performance obligations are satisfied. As a result, the timing recognition of revenue will change.
AASB 1059 <i>Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors</i>	This standard addresses the accounting for a service concession arrangement by a grantor that is a public sector entity by prescribing the accounting for the arrangement from the grantor's perspective.	1 January 2020	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2018-5 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Deferral of AASB 1059</i>	This standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 1059 from 1 January 2019 to 1 January 2020.	1 January 2019	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2018-8 <i>Amendments to Accounting Standards - Right of use asset</i>	This standard amends the various AASB standards to provide an option for not-for-profit entities to not apply the fair value initial measurement requirements to a class or classes of right of use assets arising under leases with significantly below-market terms and conditions.	1 January 2019	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 17 <i>Insurance Contracts</i>	The new Australian standard eliminates inconsistencies and weaknesses in existing practices by providing a single principle based framework to account for all types of insurance contracts, including reissuance contract that an insurer holds. It also provides requirements for presentation and disclosure to enhance comparability between entities. This standard does not apply to the not-for-profit public sector entities. The AASB is undertaking further outreach to consider the application of this standard to the not-for-profit public sector.	1 January 2021	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact for the public sector.

DISCLOSURE INDEX

The Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Authority's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

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Legislation

Freedom of Information Act 1982

Building Act 1993

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Local Jobs Act 2003

Financial Management Act 1994

Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003

Water Act 1989

Public Administration Act 2004

Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994

Audit Act 19947

GLOSSARY

ABC	Actions for Biodiversity Conservation	LAC	Limits for Acceptable Change
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	LGA	Local Government Agencies
ARRC	Australian River Restoration Centre	MERI	Monitor Evaluate Report and Improvement
ARTC	Australian Rail Track Corporation	ML	Megalitres
BA	Birdlife Australia	MLDRAN	Murray Lower Darling Rivers Aboriginal Nations
BAU	Business as Usual	NCP	National Competition Policy
BBNP	Budj Bim National Park	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
BGLC	Barengi Gadjin Land Council	NGT	Nature Glenelg Trust
BRP	Biodiversity Response Planning	NLP	National Landcare Program
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CFA	Country Fire Authority	NDRRA	National Disaster and Recovery Relief Arrangements
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	Non-BAU	Non-Business As Usual
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia	OCOC	Our Catchments Our Communities
Cwth	Commonwealth	OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	PV	Parks Victoria
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	PAA	<i>Public Administration Act</i>
DIWA	Directory of Important Wetlands	RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
DTR	Department of Treasury and Finance	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
ECs	Ecological Communities	RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinator
ECs	Ecological Communities	RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
EEFAM	Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment Method	RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System	RNVP	Regional Native Vegetation Plan
EO	Executive Officer	RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	SCA	Stock Containment Area
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Communities	SMWG	Staff Management Work Group
EWR	Environmental Water Reserve	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
FFG	<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act</i>	VLG	Victorian Landcare Grants
FTE	Full time Employee	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
GWMWater	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	VEPP	Victorian Environment Partnerships Program
IBA	Important Bird Areas	VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission	VFMS	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy
ICT	Information Communication Technology	VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
IEC	Index of Estuary Condition	VicSES	Victoria State Emergency Service
ISC	Index of Stream Condition	VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
ISC3	Index of Stream Conditions 2010	VWPIF	Victorian Water Program Investment Framework
IWC	Index of Wetland Condition	WAP	Waterway Action Plan
		WESI	Weed at Early Stages of Invasion Protocols

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