



GLENELG HOPKINS CMA

Annual Report

2019
2020





REPORT PROFILE:

MANNER OF ESTABLISHMENT AND MINISTERS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

The responsible Ministers for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 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, social & economic 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 above 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.

The 2019-20 Annual Report of Glenelg Hopkins CMA is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

Other Glenelg Hopkins CMA information is available from the Glenelg Hopkins CMA office and website:

- Previous Annual Reports
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA Corporate Plans
- Regional Catchment Strategy

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Acknowledgement

Glenelg Hopkins CMA proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Victoria and recognises their continuing connection to land, water and community.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution, interests and rights that Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities and organisations have in land and water management.

We value the opportunity to continue to build relationships and establish new partnerships for the health of people and Country.

RIGHT: Knowledge sharing is one of many activities carried out by Aboriginal Rangers on Budj Bim Country and the Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). Waterway restoration, weed control and aquatic habitat enhancement are some of the other responsibilities of the Budj Bim Rangers in protecting the productive volcanic plains and basalt lava flows that sustained Gunditjmara people for several millennia.



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 22nd Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

The 2019-20 financial year will be one that will be remembered for a long time. COVID-19 has changed our world and has also fundamentally changed how the CMA operates and engages with its community.

From March through to June, the CMA quickly responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by closing its office to the public and working remotely from home. This required bringing many of our actions under the ICT Strategy forward to enable staff to undertake their work from home and to communicate effectively with the rest of the organisation and our stakeholders.

Despite this disruption, staff quickly adapted to the new way of working and have still managed to complete many projects on time and to budget. Despite the restrictions on direct engagement with stakeholders and the community, the CMA has been able to still engage with more than 4,689 people at events over the financial year, largely by transitioning to online forums.

In response to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on engagement, the Landcare Coordinator established an online Landcare facilitator network for the region. There have been very high levels of participation and positive feedback that has enabled stronger networking, information sharing and peer collaboration as well as greater connection to key funding bodies.

In February the CMA in partnership with the Grasslands Society of Southern Australia (GSSA) and MLA held the “Front Foot Farming – Carbon Farming for the Future” forum in Hamilton. Targeting a cohort of proactive farmers, the one-day conference addressed the latest science and market information relating to carbon trading, carbon offsets, on farm emission management and emissions auditing.

A major highlight for the year was attending the River Basin Management Society Awards in Melbourne and jointly receiving an award for the Merri Alliance project for the Most Outstanding Waterway Management Project. This project has been a huge success and shows what can be achieved when organisations come together to transform a river. The CMA was also thrilled to be a project partner and to see Nature Glenelg Trust receive the Community Award for the Walkers Swamp Project.

Partnerships and engagement continue to be a strong focus of the CMA enhanced through the completion of a new ‘Communication Strategy. This Strategy sets the direction for communications over the next few years with a focus on our website, social media, branding and other traditional means of engagement. This strategy dovetails with the recently developed Partnership and Engagement Strategy.

The CMA and Deakin University consolidated their partnership through the development of a new MOU, which will focus on further collaborations and cooperative projects that relate to natural resource management and student education. This is in line with our CMA’s strategy to establish strong partnership links across the region.

The CMA continues to have strong partnerships with Traditional Owner groups across the region. A significant focus for the 2019-20 year has been traditional burns with Wadawurrung to improve and protect listed habitat such as grasslands in the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP), and with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC) to improve habitat for listed species such as Red-tailed Black Cockatoos and Australasian Bitterns. The CMA’s partnership with Gunditj Mirring TOAC has continued to support their management of the World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape via representation on the Budj Bim Council, and through on-ground projects including cultural burning, cultural indicator trials, Aboriginal Water Assessments (AWAs), weed control, wetland restoration and species monitoring. The CMA has also collaborated with Traditional Owner groups including Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Barengi Gadjin Land Council on the renewal of the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy and future investment proposals that support their interest in land, water and sea management.

A highlight for the environmental water program this year was the completion of the Warrock Fishway on the Glenelg River. A fish barrier near Warrock on the Glenelg River stood as the last major impediment to fish movement downstream of Rocklands Reservoir. Removing this barrier has opened fish passage to an additional 170 km of the Glenelg River plus tributaries, helping a range of endemic migratory fish species such as Tupong, Short-finned Eels, Lamprey and Estuary Perch. Benefits from the now well-structured environmental flows program continue to deliver significant benefits to much of the Glenelg River.



Recreational anglers continue to have a strong partnership with the CMA highlighted by the completion of a joint socio-economic research project with VRFish. The CMA continues to support and sponsor recreational events for local fishing clubs as well as state-wide events such as the Victorian Bream Classic.

This year the CMA also funded an upgrade to Simson's Landing near Nelson which is a key boating and fishing asset. Immediate benefits saw improved angler and community safety when launching and retrieving boats. The new floating structure remains at a constant height above the current water level, irrespective of whether the estuary mouth is closed or open.

There were notable staff milestones during the year with two staff reaching 10 years of service, three staff reaching 15 years of service and Tania Parker being our first staff member to reach 20 years of service. Their loyalty and commitment have resulted in significant improvements in natural resource management right across our region.

In addition, 2019-20 saw a change in our Board of Directors. Long term Directors Dr John Sherwood and Debbie Shea left the Board after 10 years of service, along with Georgina Gubbins who departed after a four-year term. In October 2019 the CMA welcomed Celia Tucker, Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil and Professor Gerry Quinn to our Board. They join the existing Directors Chris Giles, Damein Bell, Dr Michelle Casanova and Phil Saunders.

Much of the year has been taken up developing project bids for the Victorian government's Environmental Contribution (EC) process. EC funds the majority of the CMA's waterway health and statutory functions programs.

Unfortunately, due to the impacts of COVID-19, the state budget process was postponed to October-November 2020, so we will not know the outcome of the next four years of funding until then.

Significant effort has been directed towards the development of the region's fourth Regional Catchment Strategy since early 2020. The Glenelg Hopkins RCS is the key planning document for integrated catchment management across the catchment. Community and partners have been involved in helping to define Local Areas that reflect the region's social and biophysical systems through workshops, on-line surveys and one-on-one conversations. This has included regional Agency staff, NGOs, Landcare facilitators, Traditional Owners, Local Government Authorities (LGAs) and the CMA's Community Advisory Group members.

Further one-on-one engagement with Landcare groups, Traditional Owners and LGAs will continue to be a priority focus throughout 2020-21.

Over the coming year, the CMA will continue to operate where it can under new restrictions and will adjust to the changes that COVID-19 brings. We are committed to work with our stakeholders to provide the support that is required to help our community and economy recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

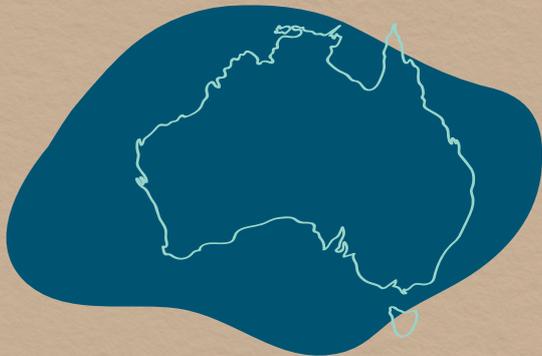


Antony Ford
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2020



Adam Bester
Chief Executive Officer
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2020

Glenelg Hopkins CMA 2019-2020 year in review



Total investment
\$10 million

\$4m FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

\$6m STATE GOVERNMENT

47

PARTNERSHIPS
ESTABLISHED

201^{HA}
REVEGETATED

124

MANAGEMENT
AGREEMENTS

71^{KM}
FENCING

2,013^{HA}
WEEDS
CONTROLLED

36,677^{HA}

PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

4,689

PEOPLE ENGAGED
WITH AT EVENTS

Media & Communications

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FOR 2019-2020

748 posts
REACH:
1.546 million

f 28,638 FOLLOWERS
 389 posts reach of 1.529 million

1,862 FOLLOWERS
 291 posts with 16,368 engagements

MOST POPULAR POSTS:

Tuesday Tweets

Weekly posts featuring bird images asking followers to identify the bird, followed by a reveal of the bird name, and species information.



Rainbow Bee Eater
 REACH: 91,691
 ENGAGEMENT: 17,492



Eastern Spinebill
 REACH: 50,086
 ENGAGEMENT: 8,934



Azure Kingfisher
 REACH: 48,719
 ENGAGEMENT: 8,381



Red-necked Avocet
 REACH: 45,722
 ENGAGEMENT: 7,114



Rainbow Bee Eater
 REACH: 44,072
 ENGAGEMENT: 9,979

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS FOR 2019-2020

33
 MEDIA
 RELEASES

1
 MEDIA AND
 COMMUNICATIONS
 STRATEGY

32 ((-|-|-))
 RADIO
 INTERVIEWS

Five year summary

- financial performance at a glance

	2020 (\$ '000)	2019 (\$ '000)	2018 (\$ '000)	2017 (\$ '000)	2016 (\$ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	6,082	12,205	9,078	6,677	6,847
Federal Government contributions	3,811	2,108	2,039	2,407	2,497
Other revenue	279	792	596	353	714
Total revenue	10,171	15,105	11,713	9,437	10,058
Total expenditure	12,349	14,323	10,750	9,953	9,000
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(2,203)	782	964	(483)	1,058
Financial assets	7,756	10,045	8,860	7,582	7,905
Non-Financial assets	1,117	698	1,011	1,091	1,147
Total assets	8,874	10,743	9,871	8,673	9,052
Liabilities	2,036	1,702	1,671	1,437	1,333
Net assets	6,838	9,041	8,200	7,236	7,719

CURRENT FINANCIAL REVIEW

OVERVIEW

In 2019-20, Glenelg Hopkins CMA achieved a net operating loss of \$2.2 million, a \$3.0 million variance from 2018-19. Both total income and expenses from transactions have decreased from the previous financial year, primarily due to revenue received in advance for the Treasury Advance program and carry over expenditure from both National Disaster Relief Recovery Arrangement (NDRRA) and Treasury Advance programs.

Both of these programs were as a result of the 2016 floods in the region.

BALANCE SHEET

Net assets have decreased by \$2.2 million over the year to \$6.8 million, mainly due to the decrease in total assets of \$1.9 million comprising \$2.3 million of decreases in financial assets, offset by an increase of \$419k in non financial assets. Total liabilities increased by \$334k because of the introduction of borrowings related to leases of \$319k and employee related provisions of \$46k.

The introduction of accounting standard AASB 16 (which related to the treatment of leases) has led to the introduction of borrowings in the balance sheet as well as the increase of non-financial assets.

We have also introduced intangible assets related to the development of a new internal accounting setup which has increased non-financial assets.

CASH FLOW

The overall cash deficit of \$2.5 million for the 2019-20 financial year was a net decrease of \$3.6 million compared to the previous year. This decrease was the result of a significant reduction in receipts from government for 2019-20 delivery due to funds being received in the previous period.

Net cash outflows from operating activities was \$2.4 million, a decrease from 2018-19 due to a decrease in funding received from government and a drop of payments to suppliers.

Operational Performance

The following key performance indicators and targets are Glenelg Hopkins CMA's commitments to deliver on legislative compliance requirements. This includes the *CALP Act Statement of Obligations* commenced on 1 July 2007; and the *Water Act Statement of Obligations* commenced on 19 October 2006 including Business Development

Activities as identified in the 2020-21 Corporate Plan and Regional Catchment Management Strategy Implementation.

Please note for a comprehensive overview of future initiatives please read our 2020-21 Corporate Plan and Operational performance is provided against each RCS theme and is reported

in the Catchment Condition and Management section and the Initiatives and key achievements.

The following table (page 9) lists key performance indicators which measure success in achieving the organisation's objectives.



OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
Business Management & Governance	Submitted annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Submitted electronically on 31 August 2019 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 14 May 2020.
	100% of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	78% of Board policies have been reviewed in the last three years. 50% of Operational Procedures have been reviewed in the last three years (34 of 68 – all procedures not reviewed in the last three financial years are considered 'under review'). GHCMA is currently undertaking an extensive audit of all policies and 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, of which is partially compliant, 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 new RCS is currently undergoing development and is due to be completed by 30 June 2021.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework / plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Community Engagement and Partnership Strategy 2019-2024 was developed 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 in 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 2019 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.	Projects to implement the Regional Waterway Strategy and the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy have been delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy is reviewed annually by the board. Thirty-One actions have been completed, 17 are in progress and 24 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 2020 in consultation with relevant agencies, 18 of 74 actions have been completed, 29 of 74 actions in progress, 27 actions yet to begin.
Statutory functions under Part 10 of the Water Act	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	86% of Flood Advice were responded to within the prescribed period. 89% of Flood Referrals were responded to within the prescribed period. 99% of Works on Waterways Licences were issued within the prescribed period. 33% 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 Water Act	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	88% of irrigation management responses were issued within the prescribed response period.

THE Glenelg Hopkins CMA Region

THE GLENELG HOPKINS REGION LIES SOUTH OF THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE IN VICTORIA'S SOUTH WEST.

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

THE GLENELG
HOPKINS CATCHMENT
IS **26,000**
SQUARE KILOMETERS



THE REGION HAS MORE THAN

7,600 WETLANDS,
115,000 HA
COVERING OR FOUR PERCENT
OF THE REGION'S AREA



Gleneelg Hopkins CMA at a glance

AUSTRALIA'S MOST
EXTENSIVE VOLCANIC
PROVINCE



COASTAL ZONE
EQUATES TO
50,463 HA
OF PARKS AND RESERVES



THE HIGHEST
AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION
REGION IN VICTORIA

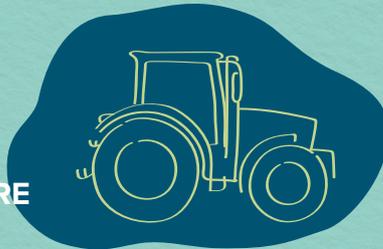


5 NATIONAL
PARKS

including Budj Bim World
Heritage Landscape



80%
OF LAND USED
FOR AGRICULTURE



1 UNESCO WORLD
HERITAGE SITE



2 RAMSAR
LISTED SITES



12 ENDANGERED/CRITICALLY
ENDANGERED
FAUNA SPECIES

21 Species listed under
EPBC ACT



22%
VICTORIA'S WETLANDS



11 ENDANGERED
FLORA SPECIES



Our Region Our Community

EMPOWERING PEOPLE



This program (the Grampians Ark fox control program) supports all the other landcare work we have achieved. It helps protect the critters we are encouraging to live within our predominately farming based ecosystem, through our revegetation, waterways and land protection. The Beer, Bait and BBQ event is a chance to be off farm, and socialising in a relaxed format, does not happen often, and we see the provision of this as a very important part of our Landcare work.

The Panyyabyr Landcare Group greatly thank the Glenelg Hopkins CMA and in particular the Our Catchment Our Communities program and Steering Committee, for their support, encouragement and belief in the continuation of our long running fox control program.

- Lisa McIntyre, Panyyabyr Landcare facilitator regarding fox control



We're lucky to have a strong partnership with Glenelg Hopkins CMA and be involved with the work CMA does to undo some of the damage that's been done to our Country historically. It's important that we get engaged and get resourced to be a part of that.

- Tyson Lovett-Murray, Gunditj Mirring Project Officer



This [cultural burning] is about putting fire spirit back and healing Country. We call fire Wiyn in our language and Wiyn Murrupp is our fire spirit. For us putting fire back into our Country is really important. ... Hopefully we will see more of this in the future

- Tammy Gilson, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner



Leadership is not wielding authority – it is empowering people

Vision and Purpose

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA seeks to align its Vision and Purpose to undertaking activities that will achieve these strategic outcomes. It does so utilising the framework outlined below:



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

DOMAIN (SUCCESS COMPONENT OF THE VISION): There are sufficient people and resources committed to actively improving the health, protection and sustainability of the environment and natural resources.

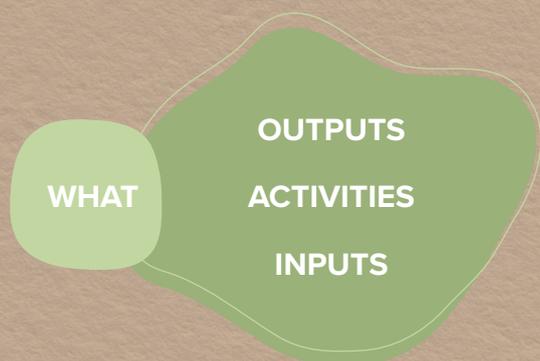
OUTCOMES: Climate change policy implementation, waterway & catchment health, water & sustainable agriculture, community engagement & partnerships, resilient & liveable cities & towns, aboriginal cultural values & inclusion in the water sector, recreation values, floodplain management, environmental water, leadership diversity and culture and financial sustainability.

OUR PURPOSE: Improving relationships between the environment and the community to achieve wise use of regional natural resources in partnership with the government.



OUR APPROACH: Enabling, collaboration & inclusion, sustainability, learning & continuous improvement, health & well-being, leadership, VPS values and behaviours.

OUR STRATEGIES: Build capability & capacity, effective & demonstrated delivery, attract investment, regional leadership, people and safety. Knowledge growth, breadth & depth of participation, partnerships, integration & coordination, broad base of resourcing, regional MERI & planning, adapting for climate change, staff & organisational development, considered risk taking, strong governance & business management.



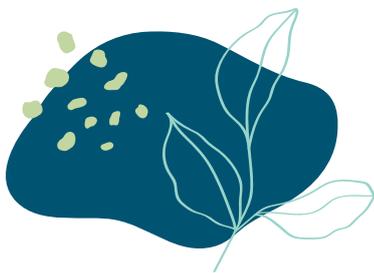
OUTPUTS: DELWP standard outputs, letter of expectation measures and business strategy performance indicators.

ACTIVITIES: Programs & projects.

An **INPUT** is the resources used to produce activity and output.

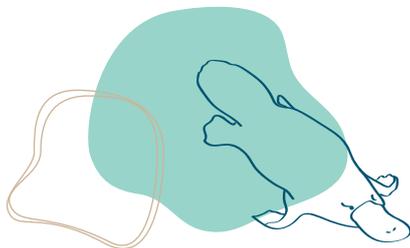
Strategic Objectives

The strategic direction of Glenelg Hopkins CMA provides guidance for the organisation in establishing its main business undertaking and activities:



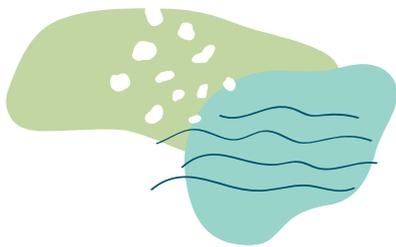
PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR A HEALTHY CATCHMENT

- 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 processes for statutory functions
- Provide regional leadership in floodplain management
- Be 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.

RESILIENT AND LIVEABLE CITIES AND TOWNS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to support and promote this focus in our region through collaboration and partnerships with respect to river restoration along the Merri and Grange Burn rivers; activities in line with Wannon Water; local governments and local communities

CLIMATE CHANGE

This is a key focus for the next 5 years. We have a commitment to mitigating risks and collaborating with agencies, landowners and Traditional Owners through activities such as carbon sequestration in soils and plantings, protection and improvement of blue carbon habitats and increasing resilience of agricultural land

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL VALUES AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has been working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Corporations for over 15 years, recognising and supporting important cultural values in the water sector. The Glenelg Hopkins Aboriginal Partnership Framework will be implemented over the next 5 years and partnerships with Traditional Owners will continue to be strengthened

RECOGNISES RECREATIONAL VALUES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will work towards delivering shared benefits along the Glenelg River and engaging with the community to identify recreational opportunities along the region's waterways and we will support communities and agencies developing social and recreational outcomes for well-being in line with the Victorian Government's Water for Victoria Strategy through the Regional Waterway Strategy

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will build on this through the Catchment Partnership Agreement, Glenelg Hopkins Partnership and Engagement Strategy and the next Regional Catchment Strategy. We will also support, strengthen and collaborate for improved catchment management performance through Vic Catchments

WATERWAY AND CATCHMENT HEALTH

This is a foundational responsibility of Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Our regional priorities align strongly with the Victorian Government's priorities. Through investment received, the CMA will continue to provide leadership to improve the health of waterways, catchments, biodiversity and coastal and marine areas

LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY AND CULTURE

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will continue to position itself over the next five years as a provider of high-quality professional services, an employer of choice and an example to the region in line with its Diversity and Inclusion Plan and through the CMA's succession planning strategy, GH EQUIP

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

We will improve agricultural productivity in line with the Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Strategy by building strong community commitment to sustainable farm practices, through supporting innovative practice and technology, and by implementing irrigation development guidelines in partnership with rural water corporations



Condition and management report

2019-20

1.0 OVERVIEW

This Condition and Management Report for 2019-20 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 2019-20 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 Victoria*.¹

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 2020, 87% of RCS actions were assessed as completed, 4% incomplete (some progress but not achieved to original intent), 4% not yet started, and 5% abandoned.

Table 1 (page 17) presents a summary of the key Glenelg Hopkins CMA programs and projects that were contributing to the achievement of RCS objectives and actions in 2019-20.

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



Table 1: Key Glenelg Hopkins CMA programs and projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions in 2019-20

RCS OBJECTIVE	NUMBER OF 2019-20 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 Our Catchments Our Communities 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 Our Catchments Our Communities
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 within 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 Our Catchments Our Communities 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 Our Catchments Our Communities 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 Programme VWPIF = Victorian Water Program Investment Framework

RCS OBJECTIVE	NUMBER OF 2019-20 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 Our Catchments Our Communities • 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 Our Catchments Our Communities • 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	NUMBER OF 2019-20 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 several 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 2019-20.

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 2019-20, and a summary of key project achievements for 2019-20.

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		
POSITIVE		An optimistic future with evidence that events during the year will have a positive impact on the longer term.
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.
CONCERNED		A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.
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

HEADLINE INDICATOR THEME	2017-18 ASSESSMENT	2018-19 ASSESSMENT	2019-20 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 drainage have been noted. Water quality in the Glenelg is continuing to decline.
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 via changes to agricultural practices. The area impacted by the 19/20 summer bushfires is still in a recovery phase. Native vegetation cover across most 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 threat to remaining biodiversity, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing.
LAND	Neutral 	Neutral 	Neutral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of exposed soil in 2019 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.

Table 3: Summary of catchment condition assessment (continued)

HEADLINE INDICATOR THEME	2017-18 ASSESSMENT	2018-19 ASSESSMENT	2019-20 ASSESSMENT	KEY EVIDENCE
COASTS	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The coastal environment remains subject to high demand for development and for recreational use and very little of the area is protected. Some recreational uses of beaches and dunes such as horse riding and dog walking threaten vulnerable breeding populations of endangered and migratory species. Estuaries and wetlands are important and complex coastal ecosystems that are subject to high human usage, artificial opening regimes, changed nutrient and sediment conditions (due to river flows) and are vulnerable to reduced flow driven by declining rainfall. Sea-level rise is anticipated to continue to erode beaches and dunes, which will reduce the area of protected coast, impact estuaries and coastal wetlands 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.

COMMUNITY

CONDITION STATEMENT

The community headline indicator theme reports on community participation in natural resource management (NRM).

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 Indigenous communities play a central role in regional land management. For example, Budj Bim National Park is cooperatively managed by Parks Victoria and Gunditjmarra 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 UNESCO World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural 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 (below). This table also makes a comparison to rates of participation recorded for 2018-19. Participation was lower than 2017-18 in most categories, when compared to 2018-19. This was mostly due to the impacts of COVID-19.

Conservation Volunteers Australia through its South West Victoria office delivered a total of 266 project days and 7,756 volunteer hours over the 2019-20 year. A summary of Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) projects is provided in Table 5 (page 22).

International volunteer teams as well as weekend trips for specific projects, operated for the first six months of the financial year.

From late March all volunteer programs were suspended due to COVID-19, which dramatically reduced the annual project days and volunteer hours.

Table 4: Current level of community participation

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATION IN 2018-19*	PARTICIPATION IN 2019-20*
Contributing to on-ground works (CMA partnership activities)	159 management agreements	126 management agreements
Attending skills and training events (CMA partnership activities)	990 people	283 people
Taking part in awareness raising activities (CMA partnership activities)	4,114 people	2,947 people
Working as collaborators in planning and decision making (CMA partnership activities)	1,137 people	1,411 people

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

Table 5: CVA projects for 2019-20

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, lopped or stem injected pine wildings in various state parks and reserves.	101	557	3,899
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.	14	71	119
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.	52	229	1,603
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.	15	19	133
Portland Cliffs, and Bushland reserves, Point Danger Environmental weed control	Southwest Environmental Alliance	Conducted community planting days and provided selective weed control to assist local community groups.	25	84	588
Environmental weed control Grange Burn, Wannon 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 Wannon Falls Reserve.	14	47	329
Merri River Habitat Restoration	Glenelg Hopkins CMA	Revegetation maintenance as well as the collection of timber and construction of Fish Hotels.	1	5	35
Environmental Weed control in the Moyne Shire	Moyne Shire Council	Selective environmental weed control on selected road reserves.	13	58	406
Warrnambool Bushfire recovery workshop	Department of the Environment and Energy, Warrnambool Mens Shed	Construction of nesting boxes for placement into fire affected areas	2	35	140
Glenelg Eden Project	DELWP	Selective intervention and control on a range of emergent environmental weeds in the Glenelg region.	29	72	504
Totals			266	1,177	7,756

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 three years. The region is home to a further 49 Community Based Natural Resource Management groups and five Landcare networks.

Annual community indicator theme assessment 2019-20

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	RATING	KEY EVIDENCE
<p>NEUTRAL</p> 	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community participation rates in CMA NRM partnership projects have remained relatively steady.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Working with community, individuals and organisations is central to how Glenelg Hopkins CMA operates. We engage to build capacity, support partnerships and ensure ownership of integrated catchment management in the region. This includes developing regional plans and strategies, supporting the significant efforts of Landcare and community networks and groups, and bringing together diverse partners to develop and deliver on-ground programs.

The following section provides a snapshot of key programs and projects that were undertaken in 2019-20 to support and improve community participation in NRM.

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Glenelg Hopkins Community Advisory Group

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 to and inform the CMA's strategic program.

In 2019-20 the Community Advisory Group participated in workshops contributing to the development of the CMA's Communication Strategy and Regional Catchment Strategy renewal process; informed the next round of waterway health investment; received briefings from Local Government Authorities and CMA staff on coastal stability, risk management and sea level rise; and joined Uncle Robbie Lowe and Dr John Sherwood on a tour of Moyjil, a significant Indigenous cultural site in Warrnambool.

Local Government

In 2019-20 Glenelg Hopkins CMA continued its CEO engagement program with local government discussing core responsibilities, providing briefings on activities of significance and pursuing opportunities for collaboration, including the renewal of the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is partnering with Pyrenees Shire on the Raglan Flood Investigation with the intention of moving toward a Planning scheme amendment, as well as Southern Grampians Shire on a flood related planning scheme amendment for Coleraine and Hamilton. The CMA continues to work with Warrnambool City Council on the Merri River Alliance and through the CMA works crew, regularly assists in activities such as fencing, spraying and weed removal for local government authorities.

Our Catchments, Our Communities

The Glenelg Hopkins region 4-year Our Catchments, Our Communities (OCOC) Project contributes to a series of actions in the *Our Catchments, Our Communities Strategy* to reaffirm regionally focused and community based approaches to catchment management, investment planning and on-ground project delivery.

Key highlights/activities undertaken in 2019-20 include:

- Nature Glenelg Trust winning the biannual national River Basin Management Society award for 'Involving Community in Waterway Management' in October 2019, for their on-going commitment to community involvement in the restoration of Walker Swamp over the past three years.
- The continued improvement of 374 ha of wetlands across private land through the Landholder Incentives Program in the Greater Grampians region with 8 landholders.

- The delivery of an extension program by Agriculture Victoria to promote sustainable land and wetland management practices across the greater Grampians region to over 80 landholders and farm managers, including stock containment field days and digital technology webinars.
- Pannyabyr and Mirranatwa Landcare groups implementing fox baiting across 36,800 ha of private land in the Victoria Valley to complement the 'Grampians Ark' baiting program carried out across Gariwerd (Grampians National Park).
- A 'Celebrating Wetlands' photographic competition held across the region from September 2019 to March 2020, with 46 entries received. Winning entries are currently displayed in the Lake Bolac Information Centre.
- The development and implementation of the CMA's Community Engagement and Partnerships Strategy (2019-2024).
- Maintaining 7 agreements with key regional partners including those with Wannon Water and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and developing a new Memorandum of Understanding with Deakin University.

Twining Project

The Waterway Management Twining Program is a structured mentoring program, focussing on improving the on-ground delivery of Victorian waterway restoration projects. It is delivered collaboratively by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Australian River Restoration Centre (ARRC). 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.

Eight mentor/mentee partnership participated in the 2019 program and came from a diverse range of organisations including six CMAs, two consultancy companies, DELWP and the Victorian Catchment Management Council. Projects delivered by each partnership ranged from supplementing instream habitat and streamside vegetation to recycled water.

The 2020 Program had its first workshop in Warrnambool with seven mentor/mentee partnerships. Eleven different organisations are participating this year including a mentor from the Monash Sustainability Institute. 2020 projects range from cultural outcomes through environmental watering to citizen science in schools. The 2020 mentoring program has had to adapt to COVID-19 requirements, with workshops held online. As part of this year's program, two Twining Alumni are shadowing the facilitator to learn how to run a mentoring program. Two scholarships have also been provided for an Aboriginal mentee and a Landcare mentee in 2020.

Environmental Water Communications

Environmental water reserve officers in 2019-20 continued to build awareness and acceptance of environmental watering and its ecological objectives amongst priority audiences as guided by the Environmental Water Communications Strategy (2016-2020). Importantly, communication around the benefits of regulated flows has also outlined synergies between environmental achievements and social, economic and cultural outcomes to boost community support for flow management. Information has been provided through 5 media releases resulting in numerous published articles,

2 radio interviews, 25 Facebook posts, 7 videos, flow notifications, advertisements and posters. Environmental water team members also organised or supported nine community events including Harrow's March long weekend celebrations, the Casterton Red Gum Shield annual carp fishing competition and the Winda-Mara school holiday program.

The inaugural four-year Glenelg Environmental Water Communications Strategy concluded with the 2019-20 financial year. A key achievement in early 2020 has been the review and renewal of this strategy and development of the 2020-2024 Glenelg Environmental Communications Strategy. The review process, undertaken by branding and communication consultants Cúpla, included an online survey of community members and key audiences. It found that the communications approach undertaken by Glenelg Hopkins through 2016-20 had produced an informed community base with a strong understanding of issues relating to environmental water management and its outcomes.

"Stakeholders are motivated by the idea of environmental water being used to improve the health, sustainability and resilience of waterways primarily for the benefit of native ecology, biodiversity and the wellbeing of native plants and animals." (Cúpla 2020)

The new strategy outlines objectives, priority audiences and communication and engagement tactics to grow the informed base over the next four-years while motivating more individuals to become actively involved in the process and advocating for environmental water.

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 assists the State funded Local Landcare Facilitators with advice and training opportunities.

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.

Funded Landcare groups have 18 months to complete VLG activities. Projects funded through the 2018-19 program are delivered in the 2019-20 year. An overview of the Victorian Landcare Grants Projects completed through the 2018-19 program is provided in Figure 1 (page 25). On-ground works focussed on protecting priority wetlands, riparian areas and terrestrial vegetation, as identified through state and regional priorities.

Each year, the impact of VLG activities is enhanced through both the additional funding leveraged by Landcare groups and the enormous in-kind contribution of the region's Landcare volunteers.

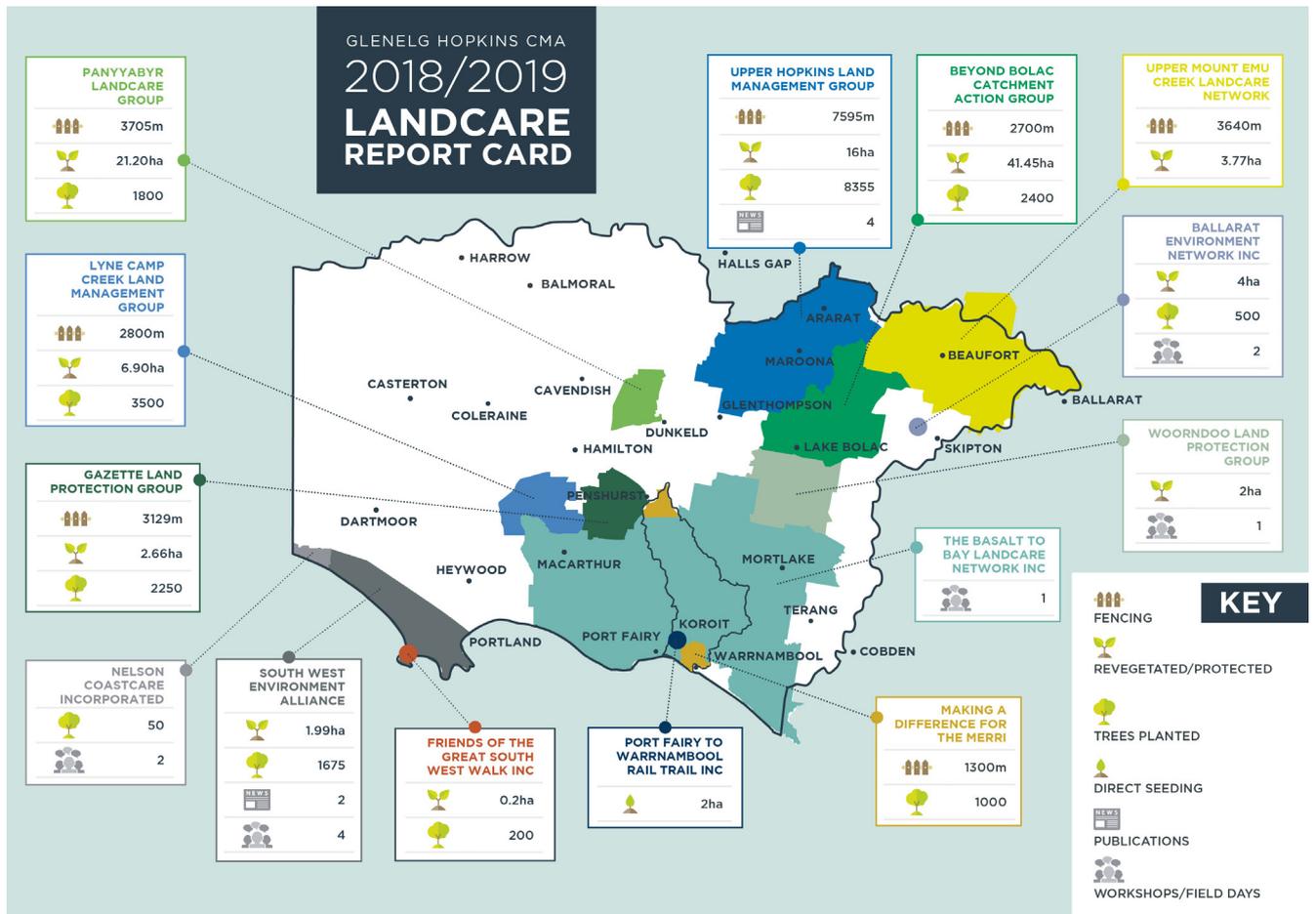
Key achievements for VLG projects completed in 2019-20 through the 2018-19 program included:

- fencing - over 24.8 km;
- revegetation - 100 ha;
- trees planted - over 21,000;
- 11 workshops and field days; and
- Landholder in-kind contributions - \$287,800

Regional Riparian Action Plan Landcare Grants

As part of the Regional Riparian Action Plan, Landcare grants were provided to three groups in the region Bunnugal Landcare Group, Culla Pigeon Ponds Land Management Group and Making a Difference for the Merri. These grants support groups to undertake on-ground riparian works in priority areas (e.g. fencing, revegetation and vegetation enhancement, weed management).

Figure 1: Overview of Victorian Landcare Grants Projects completed in 2018-19



Glenelg River Cultural Flows Project

In collaboration, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC), Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) and Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) on behalf of the South East Aboriginal Focus

Group in South Australia and Glenelg Hopkins CMA are working to understand and document Aboriginal cultural values, uses and interests in the Glenelg River system. These values will inform a Cultural Flows plan through which the Glenelg River can be looked after according to Aboriginal cultural values in combination with scientific and ecological knowledge.

In 2019-20 project staff travelled to Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Country to exchange knowledge with those Traditional Owners on their cultural flows and Aboriginal water projects. Although COVID-19 restrictions prevented on-Country gatherings the project team initiated a program of 'virtual visits' to important places on the river, through which cultural knowledge and values could be shared by elders and accessed by Traditional Owners and other stakeholders via online 'virtual tours'.

The Glenelg River, known as Bochara in Dhawuward Wurrung, Pawur in Bunganditj and Bogara in Wergaia-Jadavadjali languages, is a significant feature in the cultural landscape of south-west Victoria, for Wotjabaluk in the north, Gunditjmara in the south and Boandik in the west. The river features in creation stories from the region. Bochara-Bugara-Pawur continues to be an important place for Traditional Owners, who have inhabited the area for thousands of years, using the rich resources available along the river and associated habitats.

Budj Bim Cultural Indicators Trial – Stage 2

Glenelg Hopkins CMA Flagship Waterway Project, Budj Bim Connections, works with landholders and Gunditj Mirring TOAC 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 stage 1 of this project, Gunditjmarra Traditional Owners trialled Aboriginal Waterways Assessments (AWA) for assessing Aboriginal cultural values of the Flagship waterways – Lake Condah, Darlot Creek, Fitzroy River and estuary, and associated wetlands. The AWA tool 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 Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN) and several Aboriginal Nations. The assessment process involved ten Traditional Owners using the AWA tool to assess five Budj Bim sites over three days.

Through the AWA process Traditional Owners noted that good environmental health of the waterways is essential, although not always sufficient on its own, for maintaining cultural values and uses. Stage 2 of the project has developed ways to use the data drawn from the AWAs to shape the management plan for the Budj Bim Waterways, without requiring sensitive cultural information to be shared. As well as leading to modifications in the management of the waterways, Traditional Owner AWA assessments will also become part of the ongoing monitoring of the sites. Through this process Aboriginal cultural values and engagement become integral parts of 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 Indigenous significance and the health of urban waterways. In 2019-20, engagement and participation in project delivery involved approximately 2,814 people.

Indigenous Partnerships

Glenelg Hopkins CMA works with five Traditional Owner Groups across south-west Victoria - Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC), Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung, Burrendies Aboriginal Corporation and Barengi Gadjin Land Council - to deliver Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) projects and facilitate a two-way knowledge exchange in relation to sustainable natural resource management and agricultural activities, principally the use of traditional burning practices to heal country and people. In 2019-20 traditional burns have been undertaken to improve and protect listed habitat such as grasslands in the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP), and to improve habitat for listed species such as Red-tailed Black Cockatoos (RtBC) and Australasian Bitterns.

These burns have included:

- A VVP traditional burn was undertaken at Skipton Common by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners in partnership with CFA and CMA, in November 2019. Approximately 15 ha of VVP grassland containing *Pimelea spinescens* was burnt.
- Coastal Connections traditional burns were undertaken at Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) and Kurtonitj IPA led by Gunditj Mirring in partnership with DELWP and the CMA. Nearly 20 ha of wetlands were burnt at Tyrendarra IPA over 3 days in June and approximately 10 ha of wetland was burnt at Kurtonitj IPA in May. These burns are undertaken to improve habitat for the Australasian Bittern.

Through the Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms project, an engagement event was 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 and holistic farm practices.

The CMA also work with Burrendies Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) through

the Glenelg River Cultural Flows Project. BAC is based in Mount Gambier (SA), and represents Boandik people who are connected to the south western parts of the Glenelg River.

Another key focus has been delivery of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Aboriginal Partnership Framework (2017-2027). The purpose of the Framework is to support the full, effective and equitable participation of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities in natural resource management design and delivery.

Key activities that have been delivered in 2019-20 include:

- Engaging with the five Traditional Owner groups across the region in the development of the new Regional Catchment Strategy since January 2020 – Gunditj Mirring TOAC, EMAC, Wadawurrung, BGLC and BAC;
- Engaging with Gunditj Mirring TOAC, EMAC, Wadawurrung and BGLC on their interests and priorities for looking after waterways and wetlands over the next four years through the EC5 investment bid process;
- Attendance at quarterly Aboriginal Water Officer Network meetings, convened by the Aboriginal Water Unit
- Attendance at Victorian CMAs Indigenous Facilitator Network quarterly meetings;
- Training and capacity building activities, including a cultural awareness day at Heywood and Lake Condah delivered by Gunditj Mirring TOAC for Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff and internal CMA cultural inductions for staff. These inductions cover topics such as Indigenous partnerships, cultural protocols, cultural heritage procedures and projects delivered in partnership with Traditional Owner groups;
- Promotion of and CMA staff participation in events that recognise days of significance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including National Reconciliation Week in May/June 2020;
- Attendance at regional meetings including CMA representation on the Ministerial appointed Budj Bim Council; and
- Governance and recruitment support provided to EMAC through CMA staff secondment and involvement in selection panels.

CASE STUDY:

Wetland Photo Competition

BACKGROUND:

The Glenelg Hopkins catchment management region has over 7,600 wetlands, some big but a lot small, some wet all year others not, some fresh others salty. All these wetlands are important in providing habitat for plants, bugs, frogs and birds. They absorb and filter run-off, replenish ground waters and through growing plants, capture and store carbon. As most of the region's wetlands are on farms the community often does not see the variety of wetlands or the plants and animals that live in them.

The 'Celebrating Wetlands' photo competition was run as part of the *Our Catchments Our Community* project focusing on integrated catchment management for improved wetland management. It was held as a community engagement activity to encourage the community to get out and visit wetlands in the region.

Sharing those photos through an exhibition at the Lake Bolac Eel Festival would help the community discover and celebrate these wetlands, and the life that they support.

APPROACH:

The Lake Bolac Eel Festival committee were enthusiastic about showcasing the photos at the biannual festival in March 2020. The competition was advertised on the front page of their website, as well as the Glenelg Hopkins CMA website. Landcare groups advertised it in their newsletters, fliers were sent out to local primary schools and information centers, as well as being pinned up in local stores and community notice boards. The advertising started in September 2019 to allow the spring wetting and summer dry down with all the plant and animal activity associated with these times to be captured.

As most of the wetlands are on private land a category 'In my paddock - a wetland from your farm' was one of the three categories. The other categories were 'The wetland as home' (plants and animals that live in wetlands) and 'Scenic wetlands in the landscape'. The three categories had two sections - seventeen years and under and an open age category. Cash prizes of up to \$250 were offered. The photos were judged by representatives from Glenelg Nature Trust, Upper Hopkins Land Management Group and Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Winning photos were enlarged to A3 size, framed and donated to local information centers to showcase these assets of our region.

RESULTS:

The competition capturing the beauty of the wetlands within the Glenelg Hopkins region yielded some outstanding imagery with forty-six entries. From inhabitants of wetlands, wetlands at dawn and dusk, coastal wetlands and inland freshwater wetlands, the competition attracted a very high caliber of entries. Choosing winners for the judges was particularly difficult because of the diversity of the images entered.

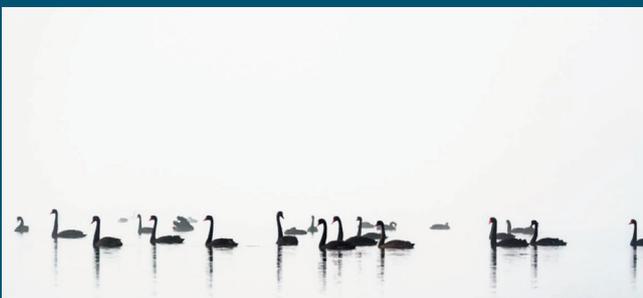
Winning entries of the photographic competition were due to be announced at the Lake Bolac Eel Festival on March 21, however, the event was postponed due to the COVID-19. Winning entries were featured on the Facebook and Instagram pages of Glenelg Hopkins CMA over a two-week period and published on Glenelg Hopkins CMA's website. It is hoped that they will be exhibited at the Eel Festival when it can proceed. Winning entries are currently displayed at the Lake Bolac Visitors Centre.

The most pleasing aspect of this competition were the variety of wetlands which were photographed with some stunning entries in the seventeen and under category. Photographers were from across the entire Glenelg Hopkins CMA region, as well as from visitors to the region.

Partners:

Lake Bolac Eel Festival Organising Committee, Nature Glenelg Trust, Upper Hopkins Land Management Group.

*'Swans' by Jock Carrison, over 17 winner for Scenic Wetland category.
'Wetland' by Jasmine Young, under 17 winner for Paddock Wetland category.*



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 Wannon, 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 7,600 wetlands, covering 115,000 ha or four percent of the region’s area. This represents 19 percent of Victoria’s total area of wetlands and 22 percent of the state’s total number of wetlands.

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* (Cwth) (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 ha. The area is known for its rare peatlands and dune wetlands which support a diverse range of waterbirds, fish and plants, including a number of 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^v. 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), and is therefore not necessarily an accurate reflection of current waterway condition. The condition of waterways in the region at that time varied 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 percent of assessed reaches in the region were in moderate to good condition, with the remainder in poor to very poor condition (Figure 2, 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.

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 2: Glenelg Hopkins Index of Stream Condition

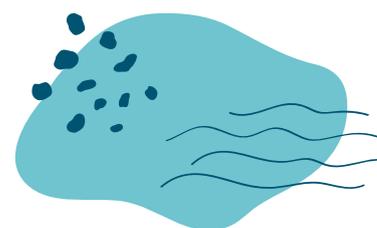
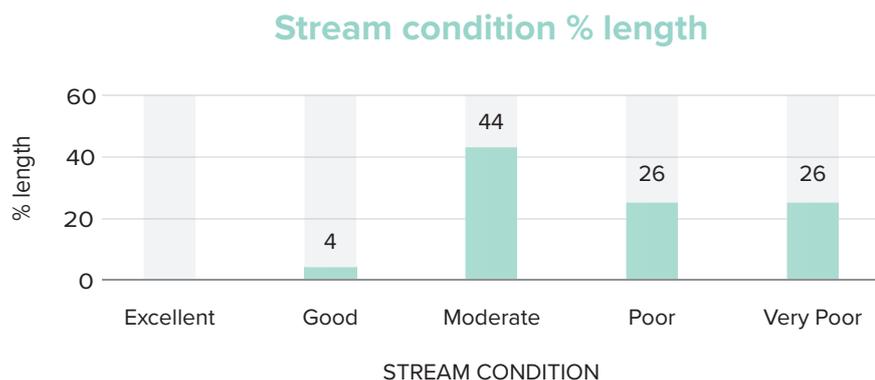
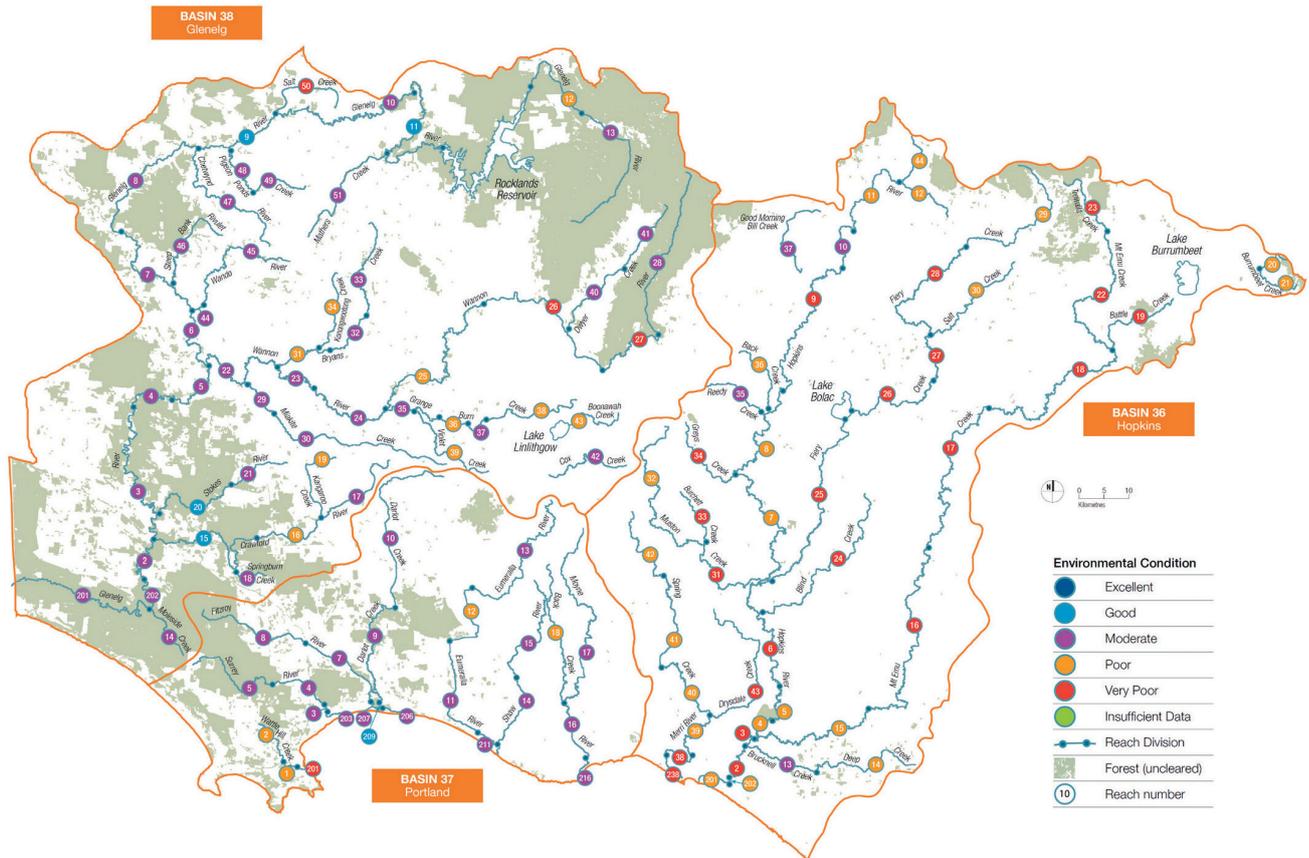


Figure 3: Glenelg Hopkins Index of Stream Condition 3 Reaches



Wetlands benchmark – Index of Wetland Condition

An Index of Wetland Condition^{vii} assessment was undertaken in the region in 2009 and is therefore not necessarily a reflection of the current health of wetlands in the region. The IWC measured 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 6 (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 6: Glenelg Hopkins Region Index of Wetland Condition Results

TYPE	WETLANDS SURVEYED (%)			WETLAND CONDITION CATEGORY (NUMBER)				
	Proportion of all Wetlands	Percent 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	

Hydrology

The availability of water to rivers and wetlands is a key determinant of their condition. The Long-Term Water Resource Assessment (DELWP, 2019) found that there has been a long-term decline of flows in the region, with a decline of 6% in the Glenelg Basin, 12% in the Portland Basin and 6% in

the Hopkins Basin. Figure 4 (below) shows the annual average rainfall for the region. Figure 5 (below) shows modelled flow into rivers across the region and Figure 6 (below) shows the maximum percentage of the region inundated with water (that is in wetlands or rivers). Rainfall correlates very closely with inflow into rivers, estuaries and

wetlands. Rainfall in 2018 and 2019 was lower than in the previous 2 years with corresponding reductions in water available to the environment. Volumes of water in storage has also declined.

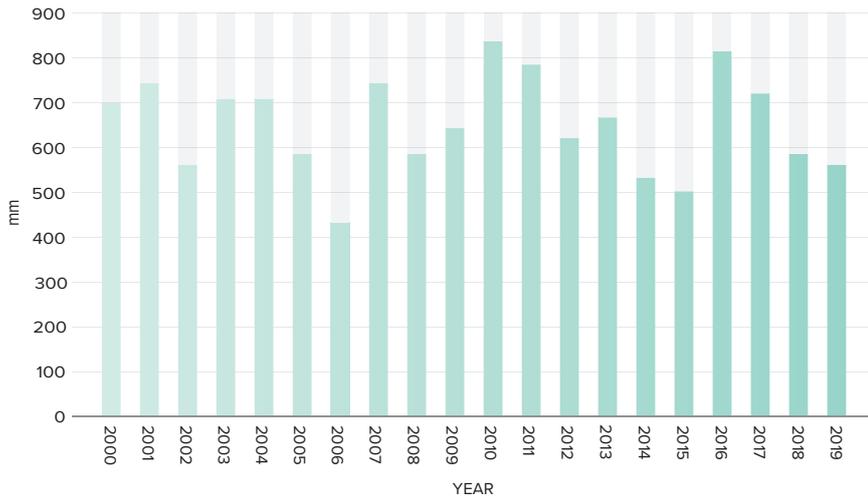


Figure 4: Annual rainfall for the Glenelg Hopkins region (2000-2019)

Source: Australia’s Environment Explorer 2019, developed by the Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online.

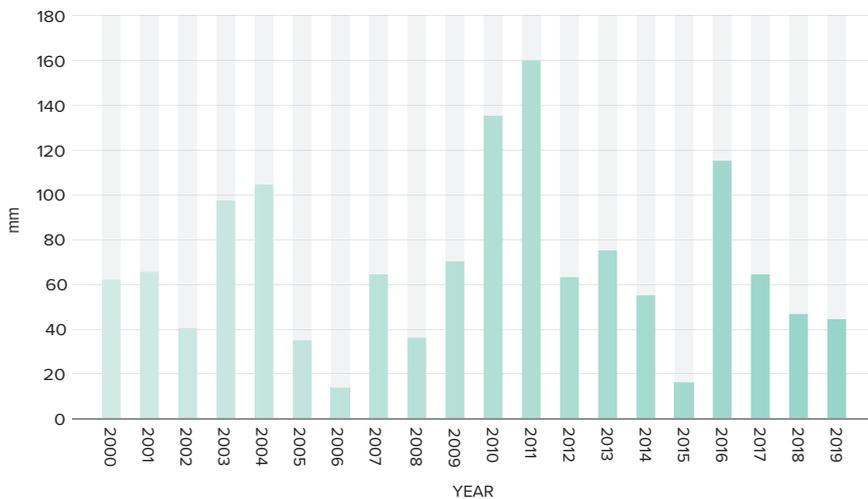


Figure 5: Estimated annual river inflow in the Glenelg Hopkins region (2000-2019)

Source: Australia’s Environment Explorer 2019, 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.

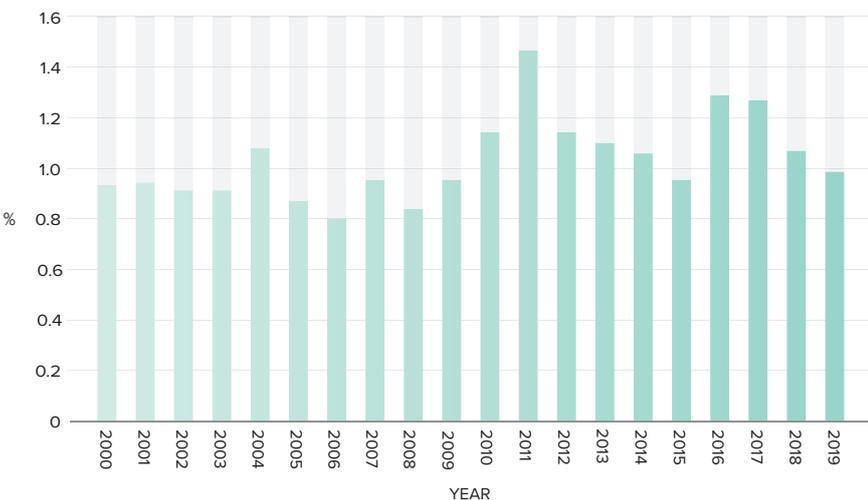


Figure 6: Annual maximum water extent for the Glenelg Hopkins region (2000-2019)

Source: Australia’s Environment Explorer 2019, 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.

Evidence of change

Increases in the area of cropping across the catchment have been observed from the latest land use change mapping undertaken by DELWP. 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. Several recreationally important wetlands and lakes are also prone to near annual blue-green algae outbreaks due to nutrient inputs.

Annual waterways assessment 2019-20

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	RATING	KEY EVIDENCE
<p>CONCERNED</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 and drainage have been noted. • Water quality in the Glenelg is continuing to decline.

Reasons for assessment:

- Reduced rainfall and runoff is impacting the amount of water available to maintain rivers and wetland function.
- The 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 rivers and estuaries throughout the catchment, encouraging fish movement and recruitment results.
- Further reports of cropping of seasonal wetlands in the Victorian Volcanic Plain were received in 2019-20 indicating an on-going threat to this wetland type as agricultural land use changes and intensifies (with reference to land use change data from DELWP).

MANAGEMENT REPORT

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Highlights for the past financial year have included:

- completion of the Glenelg River Weir rock-ramp fishway at Warrock;
- 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; and
- Establishing the second 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 a Waterway Action Plan for Brucknell Creek and on-ground works, particularly willow removal, on the Merri River. Significant highlights for each waterway are listed below.

During 2019-20 on the Merri River achievements included:

- 5,800 plants rehabilitated across 4 ha which included various private landholders and community sites;
- 1,200 m of riverbank cleared of willows to increase recreational fishing access and improve habitat; and
- 1,290 m of fencing.

The Hopkins Wetland Restoration Project including:

- 5 landholder management agreements covering 87.54 ha;
- 4,700m fencing installed;
- 2 waterway structures installed for restoring wetland hydrology; and
- 11 written publications, 1 visual publication, 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 66 km of waterway frontage through 86 km of stock exclusion fencing, and 348 ha of revegetation and 36 ha of woody weed control. Off-stream water storage included 26 troughs and a total of 11 crossings were installed. This has involved works with 45 landholders across 93 projects.

During 2019-20, 14.25 km of fencing and 60 ha of revegetation were completed across 11 projects to protect 8 km of waterway. These works have included the final stages of Stage 3, as well as the early stages of Stage 4 with works undertaken on the Wannon River, Wennicott Creek and Miakite Creek.

The final stage of the Wannon WAP on-ground works will be completed by December 2020 which will include a further 5 landholders who were funded for projects with unspent funds from Stage 4 of the Wannon WAP in priority areas of previous WAP's. The outputs from these five projects will contribute to the overall Glenelg Program and include 12.36 km of fencing and 11.46 ha of revegetation.

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; and
- 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 2019-20 include the CMA Work Crew supporting 3 community groups, 3 local governments and 13 land managers in their environmental land management works. This work involved 2.68 km of fence installation and maintenance, 2.05 ha of indigenous revegetation, 115 ha of woody weed removal and 21 ha of nonwoody weed removal.

The Landholder and Re-engagement project conducted 23 property assessments with follow-up revegetation to be completed by December 2020.

Since 2016 the project has conducted 114 property assessments, 108 social surveys, completed 73 ha of infill revegetation and maintained 11.40 km of fencing.

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.

Eighteen (24%) of the 74 RFMS actions have been completed to date, and 29 (39%) are in progress. The strategy has been developed to be implemented over a 10-year timeframe.



Statutory Water Functions Project (Floodplain and Waterway Management)

This project supports the delivery of the CMA's Floodplain and Waterway Management. 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, Planning Scheme Amendments and general inquiries related to the catchment. The CMA's Floodplain and Works team responded to flood referrals and notices during the reporting period, provided flood advice responses, attended to inquiries and compliance issues, and issued works on waterways licences. The following floodplain management priority actions have also been supported during 2019-20:

- The Coleraine Flood Investigation, led by Southern Grampians Shire Council was completed in late 2019. The Southern Grampians Shire planning scheme amendment to update the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) and Flood Overlay (FO) covering the towns of Hamilton and Coleraine, based on the results of the 2012 Hamilton Flood Study and 2018 Coleraine Flood Investigation, has also been completed.
- The Raglan Flood Investigation has been completed and is being led by Pyrenees Shire Council. A planning scheme amendment will follow with options also being investigated for flood warning / gauging equipment.
- The Mount Emu Regional Flood Investigation is being led by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in partnership with Pyrenees and Corangamite Shires. This project is a first for the CMA region in that the investment in the flood investigation will translate directly into establishment of a new Glenelg Hopkins CMA region formal flood warning service (BoM delivered). A planning scheme amendment is also underway in the Pyrenees Shire as part of this investigation.

- Moyné Shire has been working on the implementation of revised flood controls (LSIO and FO) for the Port Fairy township to account for projected worsening of flooding into the future because of rising mean sea level. Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to work with Moyné Shire on this significant planning scheme amendment.
- The Warrnambool Floodplain Management Plan and the Russell Creek Flood Warning system led by Warrnambool City Council. The project is ongoing, and the formal amendment process is planned to be completed later this year.

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 completed or in the process of being finalised over the past 12 months include the Raglan Flood Investigation (led the Pyrenees Shire), and the Mount Emu Creek Regional Flood Investigation (led by Glenelg Hopkins CMA for the Corangamite and Pyrenees Shires).

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. All contracted works undertaken as part of this program have been completed. One site on the Mt Emu Creek will have additional work undertaken in February 2021.

Rural Drainage Pilot Project

The CMA has been funded to undertake the Eumeralla and Nullawarre drainage pilot projects. Under this pilot, the CMA is assisting with the development of Drainage Management Plans in these areas for landholders that wish to undertake drainage works. Under this pilot, the CMA is assisting with the development of Drainage Management Plans in these areas for landholders who wish to undertake drainage works. The project is being undertaken in partnership with DELWP, Moyné Shire and Warrnambool City Council.

VWPIF Environmental Water Program (2016-20)

The VWPIF Environmental Water Program is comprised of several sub-projects. An overview of key achievements for 2019-20 is provided below.

Environmental Water Officers provide 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. During 2019-20 environmental water, delivered to the Glenelg River from Rocklands Reservoir, totalled 10,329ML. Ecological monitoring undertaken during environmental watering has continued to demonstrate a positive response in the distribution and recruitment of a range of aquatic plant and fish species. This was highlighted through annual condition monitoring through the Victorian Environmental Flow Monitoring and Assessment Program (VEFMAP), conducted in March 2020.

Tupong continued to be widespread throughout the river although most of the population has shifted to larger and older individuals over the last two years. The recruitment of River Blackfish this year, along with strong recruitment in previous years, has resulted in a healthy River Blackfish population. Data revealed a broad size range of more than 500 River Blackfish surveyed. This represents the most blackfish captured and measured in VEFMAP history indicating a positive trend in abundance and high confidence in the sample size. Over 650 Variegated Pygmy Perch of mixed sizes were also captured in the VEFMAP survey, again representing the highest abundance recorded since the VEFMAP project began.

Glenelg Hopkins water resources staff attended numerous community engagement events and meetings this year to highlight the ecological importance of and achievements from delivering environmental water. This included field events with school groups, Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Rangers, angling clubs, landholders and communities. Media releases, social media stories, posters and videos were delivered to inform and engage audiences. A 2020-2024 Glenelg Environmental Water Communications Strategy has been developed to succeed the inaugural 2016 four-year strategy and guide efforts to increase public advocacy in future.

The **Warrock Fishway Project** has restored fish passage to much of the Glenelg River. A fish barrier near Warrock on the Glenelg River stood as the last major impediment to fish movement downstream of Rocklands Reservoir. The barrier was first identified by Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff in 2000 and fish passage design work began at the site in 2017. Having secured funding from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to undertake design work, further investment was attracted from the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH) in 2018.

Construction began on the 73 m long rock ramp fishway ahead of schedule at the end of November 2019. The project required over 3,000 tonnes of material sourced from throughout south west Victoria and construction took just over four weeks to complete. This project has successfully restored fish passage to an additional 170 km of the Glenelg River plus tributaries. This will improve migration capacity for a range of endemic fish species such as tupong, short-finned eels, lamprey and estuary perch that need to move upstream and downstream to complete their life cycles. It will also enhance localised movement of non-migratory fish species such as river blackfish.

Three temporary streamflow gauges have been installed as part of the **Improving Flows in the Upper Glenelg** project. These are located at key points along the upper Glenelg River and water infrastructure channels associated with Moora Moora Reservoir. Data from these gauges has been used to understand the hydrological impact of water diversions through this reach. This year Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with GWMWater to coordinate a release from Moora Moora Reservoir into reach 0 which incorporates an environmentally significant section of the river within the Grampians National Park. This was the third year that water for the environment has been released from Moora Moora Reservoir.

The **Improving Flows in the Budj Bim Landscape** project seeks to improve knowledge of waterways and wetlands on the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. The project also 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.

This project has focused on:

- Developing a collaborative relationship and empowering Traditional Owners to drive the project direction;
- Undertaking a hydrological investigation at Kurtonitj IPA and a regional-scale hydrological investigation to further increase the knowledge of the 'water journey' through the Budj Bim landscape;

- Delivering the Tyrendarra Hydrological and Hydraulic Modelling study to provide significant detail of the pre-European and current water flow regimes through the IPA wetland system. A Tyrendarra water restoration trial has also commenced. The objective of the trial is to divert 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;
- Upgrading the existing water outlet gate at the Lake Condah weir bypass channel to allow remote monitoring and operation; and installing a surface water monitoring site at the Lake Condah outfall;
- Developing a basic set of weir operation rules to assist Gunditj Mirring in the management of Lake Condah. Lake Condah management objectives have also been developed to guide the operational rules.

CASE STUDY:

Merri River Urban Waterway Restoration Project

The Merri River through Warrnambool is a significant natural asset and is benefitting from a coordinated and concerted approach to improving its environmental and recreational values. Planning and works have focused on improvements within urban growth footprints to reverse damage caused by large-scale clearing of native vegetation along the banks.

With significant changes in land-use along the Merri River impacting river health, partners realised there is much to be gained by pooling resources and working collaboratively, with a shared vision and a shared work plan for restoration of the river. During 2016 the Merri Alliance was formed; a collective of 10 local community groups and organisations with a strong interest in seeing a healthier Merri River. The formation of the Merri Alliance accelerated on-ground environmental works and capitalised on Warrnambool's growth.

This Alliance includes a significant number of agencies, industries, developers and community groups that all work together, which capitalises on the cumulative impact of all interest groups working together being much greater than the individual impact of each organisation.

The Merri Alliance has been significantly transforming the Merri landscape from largely weed-infested and highly grazed frontages to a green, recreational corridor and an ecologically healthier river.

A total of 1,220 people have participated across 50 engagement events thus far, including fishing clinics, school educations programs and tree planting days. To date 25 ha of weeds, including willows and poplars have been removed from 7.3 km of the river and replaced with 18,700 native plants. A total of 114 habitat structures and two fishing platforms have been created to boost native fish populations and improve angler access. Instream monitoring has also shown that habitat has boosted black bream populations by 89%.

While organisations can deliver their projects independently, there is strong lines of communication via the Alliance that look for opportunities to value add to each other's projects. The Alliance is built on a culture of generosity and enthusiasm, which has proved to be a model for success.

The project and the Merri Alliance were recognised for their achievements in late 2019 when they won the national River Basin Management Society award for Most Outstanding Waterway project.

Partners of the project include:
Members of the Merri Alliance.



The Merri River has benefitted from the support of a large number of volunteers (pictured below left and below right) which led to the project being awarded the Australian River

Basin Management Society award for Most Outstanding Waterway project (below centre). The Award was accepted by (from left) Glenelg Hopkins CMA chair Tony Ford, MAD for the Merri group secretary Karen Wales and Glenelg Hopkins CMA CEO Adam Bester.



BIODIVERSITY

CONDITION STATEMENT

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*.

The region straddles two 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 historical and 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 recreational activities.

Biodiversity benchmarks

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 percent of the pre-European coverage remaining in the region. Most occurs on Crown land with around five percent on private land. Remnant vegetation by bioregion, compared to original extent (pre-1750) figures is shown in Figure 7 (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 and have less than 10 percent of their original native vegetation cover (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^{ix}. Despite having undergone extensive habitat loss, the VVP provides habitat for a disproportionately high proportion of the region's biodiversity. There are more native species found on the VVP than any other Glenelg Hopkins bioregion, despite other bioregions such as the Greater Grampians and Glenelg Plain having retained much larger amounts of total native vegetation cover. The most heavily cleared of the VVP ecological communities have been the Natural Temperate Grassland and Grassy Eucalypt Woodland, both of which are

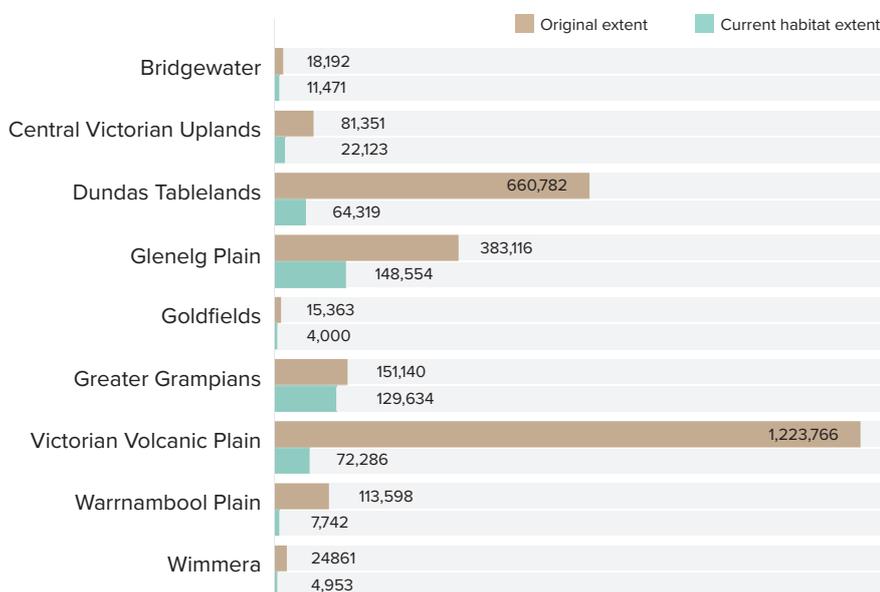
listed as Critically Endangered under the *Commonwealth EPBC Act*. It is estimated that less than one percent of these communities remain in Victoria.

In recent years, across the region, there has been an acceleration in the loss of another Critically Endangered ecological community - Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands of the Temperate Lowland Plains, which occur largely on private land across the VVP, the Glenelg Plain and the Dundas Tablelands. Between 2010 and 2016, there was a 40 percent increase in cropping of these wetlands in a large cluster south-east of the Grampians^x.

There is evidence that other key habitats are also in decline across the region, for example, a recent analysis of Red Gum paddock trees, found that the number of Red Gum paddock trees declined by 35 percent in parts of the Glenelg Hopkins region between 2003 and 2017.

The Parks Victoria 2017 State of the Parks evaluation considered trends in the condition of natural values. Evaluation was undertaken by park managers and is largely a qualitative assessment, but based on quantitative assessment where available. Current condition was at the time of assessment (December 2017 – February 2018), while trends were determined from July 2013.

The following table (page 37) provides a summary of this evaluation for 31 parks found within the Glenelg Hopkins region. The majority of regional parks and reserves were assessed as being in a stable condition.



(data source: Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2013-2019)

Figure 7: The extent of native vegetation cover (ha) remaining in each of the Glenelg Hopkins bioregions compared to original extent (pre 1750)

Annual biodiversity assessment 2019-20

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	RATING	KEY EVIDENCE
<p>CONCERNED</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 via changes to agricultural practices. • The area impacted by the 19/20 summer bushfires is still in a recovery phase. • Native vegetation cover across most 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 threat to remaining biodiversity, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing.

Reasons for assessment:

Threatened ecological communities, including the EPBC listed ecological communities Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic plains, and Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands of the Temperate Lowland 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 long lived 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, including changed water availability and changed fire behaviour, represent a significant challenge for the biodiversity values of the region.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Threatened Species and Communities

Several long-standing projects are being undertaken within the Glenelg Hopkins region that support the recovery of threatened species and ecological communities 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.

Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project (National Landcare Program 2)

The Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Recovery Project funded through the National Landcare Program finished its second year in 2019-20. Coordinated activities ran across land tenures, 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 were implemented to improve the condition of the threatened ecological communities and species. Actions were implemented by a range of partners including DELWP, CFA, 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 8 (page 39).

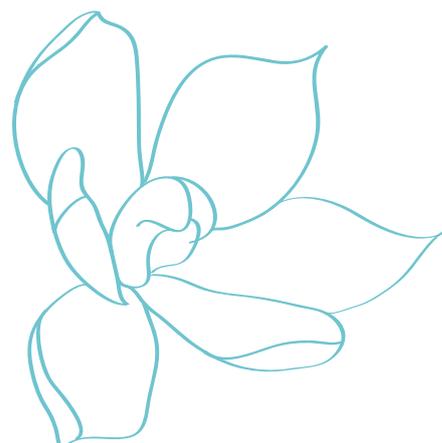


Table 8: Project contributions to NLP2 RLP National Landcare Program outcomes

NLP 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	NLP2(RLP) Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project. Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plain	The Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Stewardship Program, works with private landholders to manage high-quality remnants of critically endangered ecosystems. In 2019-20 fifteen additional sites were entered under stewardship agreements, protecting 324 ha of endangered communities.
By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved	NLP2(RLP) Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project. <i>Perameles gunnii</i> Victorian subspecies (Eastern Barred Bandicoot (Mainland))	Support the population at Hamilton parklands and assist with the reintroduction of bandicoots at Tiverton, a 920 ha feral animal enclosure. Control of predators (foxes and cats) and other pests across the Tiverton site, community engagement events, monitoring and fence maintenance to protect existing populations and reintroduction sites.
	NLP2(RLP) Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project. <i>Pimelea spinescens</i> subsp. <i>spinescens</i> (Plains Rice-flower, Spiny Rice-flower, Prickly Pimelea)	Support recovery through seed collection, assessment of population 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 and landholders. Cultural and ecological burns completed with partners across 215 ha.
	NLP2(RLP) Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project. <i>Rutidosia leptorrhynchoides</i> (Button Wrinklewort)	Support 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. Control of weeds over 100 ha, and ecological burning are other key activities.

South Eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo recovery actions

South Eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo recovery activities, coordinated by BirdLife Australia, include the annual count which was unable to occur this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. As an alternative, a local ‘Look to the Skies’ monitoring event was held with participants searching for birds on their own properties. The total number of birds seen on the day was 748 from 18 different sighting reports. Although no birds were sighted in the Glenelg Hopkins region, a flock of 156 birds was sighted before the event at Strathdownie. Given the change in monitoring method, this year’s count is unable to be compared to previous years. However, the ‘Look to the Skies’ event was useful in identifying sites for undertaking flock counts.

The flock counts revealed a continuation of the trend identified in previous years, with the mean ratio of female/juvenile birds to male birds at 54%. This trend has continued despite much higher than usual seed production in *Eucalyptus arenacea* following a heavy, range-wide flowering event in Autumn 2019.

Over 2019-20, the ‘Increasing Critical Food Supply for the Endangered South-Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo (SERTC) project funded through the Victorian Government’s Biodiversity Response Planning Program and managed by Greening Australia, established 41,000 trees greater than two metres at maturity across 400 ha of Stringybark forest habitat in the Victorian section of Habitat 141 to increase food supply for the nationally endangered South Eastern Red-Tailed Black Cockatoo, as well as providing improved habitat for the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and the vulnerable Long-nosed Potoroo.

Innovative approaches continue to be trialled to support monitoring and recovery. For example, during the 2019-20 SERTBC breeding season, Birdlife Australia deployed sound recorders at 11 artificial nest boxes in the Powers Creek area which were known to have Red-tails nesting at the time. Sound data were analysed using a semiautomated method, which combined automated call recognition and manual verification. Sound data were analysed using a semi-automated method, which combined automated call recognition and manual verification.

In the 2019-20 season, up to 38% of active nests survived to fledging. One was re-nested within the season, with the second pair of SERTBC’s occupying the nest the day after the previous chick had fledged.

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 continued across the region in 2019-20, including Glenelg Eden (weed control) and Glenelg Ark (pest animal control). These projects are funded by the Victorian Government and led by DELWP and 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 ha. 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. The project is currently working in partnership with the University of Melbourne and the 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 11 years over an area that comprises 80,000 ha of public land. Glenelg Eden has over 115 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 approximately 80% of new and emerging weeds in the project area in the 2019-20 financial year.

Pine wilding Control

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is implementing a Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP) project to protect Brown Stringybark forest from pine wildling infestation, seeded from adjacent pine plantations. Brown Stringybark is the only food source for Red Tailed Black Cockatoos in the southern parts of the species distribution. The project has treated approximately 1,100 ha with approximately 90-95% treatment success (monitoring estimates).

Protecting and re-establishing native vegetation

During 2019-20, the 'Reconnecting Budj Bim' project funded through the Australian Government's 20 Million Trees Programme and managed by Greening Australia, mixed indigenous ecological knowledge with leading edge revegetation techniques. The project established 60,400 trees across 150 ha 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 2019-20, the 'ACCOR Plant for the Planet 2018' project supported by Accor, Pur Project and Clarins and managed by Greening Australia, established 5,000 trees across 8 ha of previously cleared farmland at Cape Bridgewater. This provided a range of on farm and biodiversity benefits, including improving habitat for the nationally endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Trust for Nature registered one covenant on title in 2019-20 providing permanent protection for 65 ha of vital habitat.

Victorian Government Biodiversity On-Ground Action and Biodiversity Response Planning projects

The Victorian Government's Biodiversity On-ground Actions Program just completed its final 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 address key threats to a range of species in the grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plan, wetlands and woodlands of the Glenelg Plain, and coastal zone (Table 10, page 41). The 'regional hub projects' involve agencies and organisations working together to address threats to a range of important native species in priority areas. These projects were completed by 30 June 2020, and are summarised in Table 10 (page 41).

A second stream of funding was received in 2018-19 through Biodiversity Response Planning (BRP), as detailed in Table 11 (page 41). This shows the diversity of threat abatement and species support activities being implemented across the region.

https://info.ghcma.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/LukeLedy_Naracoorte_018-08-April-2016-copy-1024x613.jpg



Table 9: Parks Victoria treatment of pest animals in the Glenelg Hopkins region (2019-20)

SPECIES	LOCATION	REMARKS
Red Deer	Grampians National Park	Removal of 173 deer.
Goats	Grampians National Park	Removal of 119 feral goats.
Goats	Mt Napier State Park	Removal of 105 feral goats.

Table 10: 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
By 2023, the trajectory of species targeted under the Threatened Species Strategy, and other EPBC Act priority species, is stabilised or improved	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, Glenelg Hopkins CMA
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

Table 11: Summary of Biodiversity Response Planning projects

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	CMA REGION(S) PROJECT LOCATED IN	PROJECT SUMMARY	PARTNERS
Permanent restoration of Long Swamp, Discovery Bay Coastal Park	Nature Glenelg Trust	Glenelg Hopkins	A current restoration trial structure is to be replaced with a re-created sand dune.	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 brolga, 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 ha of private and public land.	Glenelg Hopkins CMA Parks Victoria DELWP Gunditj Mirring TOAC
Addressing key threats to native grassland linear reserves on the Victorian Volcanic Plains	DELWP	Glenelg Hopkins	This project will improve the quality and connectedness of natural temperate grasslands on the Victorian Volcanic Plains by reducing critical threats from priority, and new and emerging, weeds. Strategic management activities will include weed mapping, targeted weed control and ecological/cultural burning across 1420 ha.	Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Golden Plains Shire
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 ha of Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands of the Temperate Lowland Plains and other key wetland habitat for brolga, growling grass frogs, Corangamite water skink, Australasian bittern and migratory bird species such as Latham's snipe.	Glenelg Hopkins CMA Corangamite CMA DELWP
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</i> spp.). Targets for this project are 690 ha of mechanical and 3,091 ha of manual treatments over the three years.	N/A

Table 11: Summary of Biodiversity Response Planning projects (continued)

PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	CMA REGION(S) PROJECT LOCATED IN	PROJECT SUMMARY	PARTNERS
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. The 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
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 poisoning 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. 10 sites treated for invasive weeds.	Glenelg Hopkins CMA Golden Plains Shire
Glenelg ark project - next phase	DELWP	Glenelg Hopkins	To facilitate the recovery of native mammal populations by broad scale fox baiting across an extra 17,000 ha, and trial several feral cat management options within the project areas (7,400 ha).	N/A
Increasing Biodiversity Benefits across the Ramsar Western District Lakes	Greening Australia	Glenelg Hopkins / Corangamite	Enhance native vegetation within the Victorian Volcanic Plains Western District Ramsar Lakes. Partnering with public and private landholders and coordination of weed and predator activities will be undertaken across 1,000 ha over 3 years.	N/A
Increasing critical food supply for the endangered SE RTBC	Greening Australia	Glenelg Hopkins	This project aims to establish 70,000 Stringybark trees across 700 ha 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	Protection of significant biodiversity values of the Otway landscape through control of 41,000 ha of highly invasive pest plant species, such as Boneseed, Sweet Pittosporum, Sallow/Coast Wattle and Broom.	N/A
Iconic estates - Glenelg / Grampians	Trust for Nature	Glenelg Hopkins / Wimmera	This project will provide for the ongoing protection across 300 ha 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; critical feeding habitat for South Eastern Red-Tailed Black-Cockatoo (SERTBC).The activities will benefit a range of other native flora and fauna species.	Conservation Volunteers Australia Parks Victoria Gunditj Mirring TOAC DELWP

CASE STUDY:

Wyn (fire) for Country demonstration site

BACKGROUND:

Aboriginal cultural burning has been a fundamental part of looking after Country for thousands of years. Glenelg Hopkins CMA has been partnering with Traditional Owner Groups and other Agencies to integrate this practice more broadly into land management practices across the catchment.

APPROACH:

In November 2019 Glenelg Hopkins CMA worked with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to coordinate a successful grassland burn at Skipton Common. Around 15 ha of natural temperate grassland was burnt as part of the Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery project, funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

Not only is natural temperate grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains a critically endangered ecosystem, Skipton Common also harbours the critically endangered spiny rice-flower, *Pimelea spinescens*. A major threat to both the ecosystem and the shrub is inappropriate fire regimes. Regular cool-season burns favour the spiny rice-flower and the diversity of the system overall, by burning back tall grasses which otherwise shade out the rice-flower and other small species. Much of the spiny rice-flower's biomass is underground so it bounces back quickly after the cool burns.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners led the burn and started the fire in the traditional way with handfuls of grass tied together forming torches. Moving into the wind they lit up the grass as they walked, creating numerous fire fronts which slowly fanned out across the landscape. These burns have significant cultural and social benefits. Wadawurrung Traditional Owner, Tammy Gilson, conducted a smoking ceremony as part of a Welcome to Country for everyone who attended the burn, highlighting the essential benefits of fire for healing people and Country.

RESULTS:

The slow, low-intensity, cool burn resulted in a patchy mosaic of burnt and unburnt areas across the site. The burnt areas were cool to touch moments after the fire front passed. These areas allow sun penetration and encourage new growth.

Partners:

Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation, Ballarat Environment Network, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and the Country Fire Authority.

Cultural burning on the Skipton Common was undertaken in November 2019 with Wathaurung Traditional Owners and not only improved the temperate grasslands of the region, but also increased the understanding of the importance of the practice to traditional owners. Wathaurung Traditional Owner, Tammy Gilson, conducted the smoking ceremony as a Welcome to Country for the activity.



LAND

CONDITION STATEMENT

The Land theme reports on the management of land 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^{xvii}. 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 is fundamental to ongoing sustainable food and fibre production. In 2018-19 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 \$2,695 million^{xix}.

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 and maintenance of ground cover is essential for sustainable production, and the prevention of soil erosion. Ground cover also plays an important role in maintaining biodiversity and nutrient cycling.

The Australian National University has assessed the extent of 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^{xx}. The maximum percentage of exposed soil across the Glenelg Hopkins region for all years to December 2019 is shown in Figure 9 (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 10, (below) and is an estimate of the average amount of water stored in the soil profile during the year. Average soil water estimated for 2019 was 359 mm which is below the 19-year average of 399 mm.

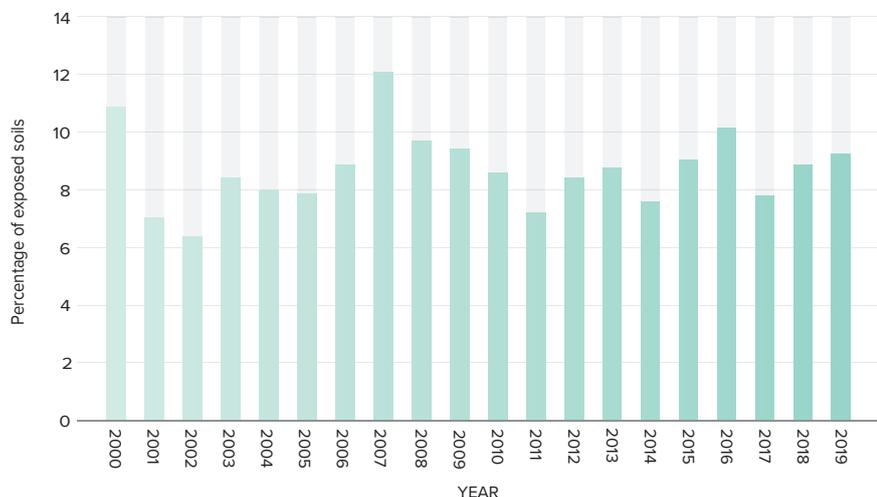


Figure 9: Percentage of exposed soil in the Glenelg Hopkins region (2000-2019)

Source: Source: Australia’s Environment Explorer 2019, developed by the Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online.

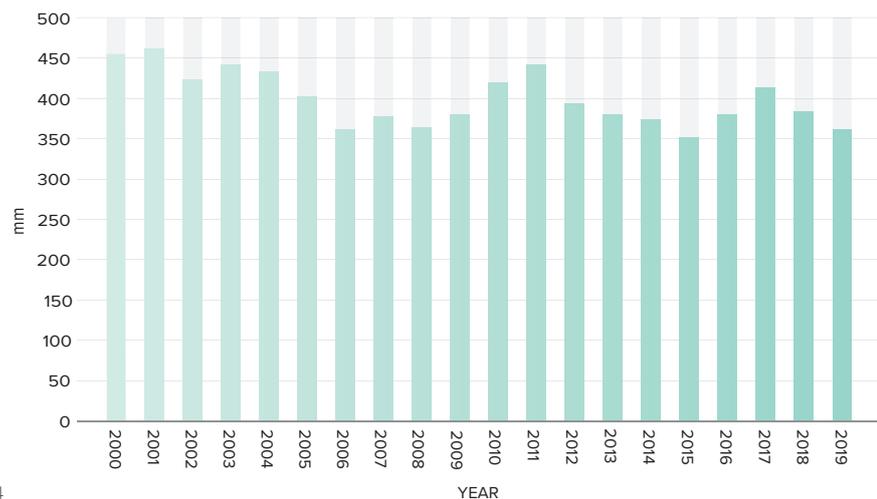


Figure 10: Average soil water availability in the Glenelg Hopkins region (2000-2019). Average amount of water stored in the soil profile during the year as estimated by the OzWALD model-data fusion system

Australia’s Environment Explorer 2019, developed by the Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online.

Table 12 (opposite) provides an indication of the area of land managed for conservation in the Glenelg Hopkins region. An additional 66 ha was placed under conservation covenant during 2019-20, and 126 landholder management agreements were established over 1,242 ha. As of 30 June 2020, 4,409 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 12: 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	102 covenants, 4,409 ha	1 covenant, 66 ha
Landholder agreements	841 agreements, 28,925 ha (output recorded since 2013/14)	126 agreements, 1,242 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.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

KEY INITIATIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Sustainable Agriculture: Soils4Farms

Commencing in 2018-19, this is a five-year project funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. With a strong emphasis on community engagement the project will support farmers to build knowledge and increase the adoption of practices to improve and protect the condition of soil, appropriate to their farming system. Priority focus areas for engagement are soil acidification processes; risks to production and profit; and land management practices that reduce soil acidity.

Examples of land management practices that have featured in recent project activities are soil testing for pH to inform lime application, efficient use of fertilisers and maintaining ground cover targets in grazing and cropping enterprises. Project partners will be drawn from agricultural industry bodies, the Landcare community and Traditional Owner groups.

Effective partnership development has been identified as a crucial mechanism for ensuring effective and empowered community action that will improve sustainable land management, create strong local networks and increase the likelihood of behaviour change towards innovative practices.



Key achievements for 2019-20 included:

- developing 31 communication and information publications;
- establishing 10 partnership agreements (government agencies, industry groups, Landcare and farm production groups);
- delivering 16 on-farm workshops or field days, achieving an attendance of 427 farmers and farm service providers;
- supporting four soil health webinars attended by 137 with an additional 257 views of the recorded material; and
- funding 9 farm businesses to complete Dairy Australia's Fert\$mart Nutrient Management program.

One of the most significant outcomes for this project is the development of the Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Knowledge Base. This will enable public access to soil data collected through direct sampling as part of this program and combined with a range of external data layers held by Victorian and Australian Government agencies. Once completed this information will provide a powerful tool for land use planning and provide a tool to monitor the impact of soil management practices over time.

NLP Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitatory

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

The RALF supports individuals, Landcare and agricultural 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; and
- building and strengthening partnerships between regional stakeholders.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA works with a range of partners and community groups to build awareness and uptake of sustainable agricultural practices including best practice grazing management, pest insect control and biodiversity conservation.

Significant activities undertaken in 2019-20 as part of this project included:

- a farm Study Tour delivered in partnership with Perennial Pasture Systems attracting 150 attendees; and
- partnering with the Southwest Environmental Alliance Network to host the inaugural Australia and New Zealand National Biochar Study Tour attended by more than 100 delegates.

Smart Farming Partnerships – Southern Farming Systems

The Smart Farming Partnership Program continued its involvement in Smart Technology Demonstration Trials in Western Victoria in collaboration with partner organisations such as Southern Farming Systems, Agriculture Victoria and the Grasslands Society of Southern Australia.

Now in its second year, the trials involved numerous technical support/provider companies and featured the latest technology available to be used on-farm including: sensors for animal monitoring, soil moisture recordings and water levels in tanks/dams. Activities this year largely focussed on producing case studies to assess and communicate the viability of a range of innovative equipment and technology. These studies will be provided to farmers through a range of multimedia platforms.

Agriculture Victoria projects

During 2019-20, Agriculture Victoria delivered a range of projects to mitigate the impacts of invasive plants and animals. These projects have included:

- annual monitoring and treatment of known Mexican feather grass sites, a State prohibited weed, being managed toward state-wide eradication;
- containment of regionally prohibited weeds including serrated tussock, silver leaf nightshade, golden thistle, Amsinckia and spiny burr grass; and
- gorse and rabbit management projects supporting community led action and protection of high value catchment assets.

Agriculture Victoria has undertaken 237 invasive plant and animal property inspections over 55,992 ha within the Glenelg Hopkins region during 2019-20.

A range of extension services were delivered under Agriculture Victoria's dairy, grains and meat/wool programs. In particular, the Land Health project aims to support dryland farmers to achieve a long-term outcome of "productive, resilient and sustainable Victorian dryland farming systems integrated with regional landscapes".

The total number of attendees (excluding staff from the Department) participating in Agriculture Victoria led activities in the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment was 3,707.



Smart farming trials

CASE STUDY:

Growing climate change resilience – Wattle tree seed production demonstration site

BACKGROUND:

On-farm diversification is a promising strategy for farmers to adapt to climate change while also contributing to diverse food production, healthier diets, and a better use of agricultural biodiversity. In order to investigate the feasibility of one form of revenue diversification, Gazette farmers Jeff and Morna Semmens have planted a one acre demonstration trial plot of 350 wattle trees from six different species. The demonstration plot has been designed to assess the suitability of this stony barrier country to growing wattle trees and compare the potential of each wattle species for food production.

Wattle seed (*Acacia spp*) has a low glycaemic index, high levels of protein and provides a good source of magnesium, zinc, calcium, iron and selenium. It has been a staple food ingredient for Indigenous Australians for at least 4,000 years. More recently, there has been a small but increasing demand for wattle seed as part of the commercial bush food market. Wattle trees are often used in planting programs for mine site rehabilitation, ameliorating land degradation and to combat rising watertables and dryland salinity.

Many *Acacia* species are moderately saline tolerant, as well as hardy, adaptable and drought tolerant. In addition to this they appear to represent a low input, low cost crop and be suited to specific selection as shelter belt trees with revenue potential from seed production.

This trial has the potential to improve sustainable agricultural practices by increasing the options for low cost food production that is suited to a changing climate. In doing so, it represents an example of income diversification and if successful may improve the economic viability of the farm operation and therefore increase the climate resilience of the farming enterprise.

APPROACH:

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has supported this demonstration site through a Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) demonstration site grant. This project aligns with the key objectives of the RALF program by supporting the development of knowledge and awareness relating to sustainable agricultural practices, building strong regional relationships and supporting climate adaptation practices.

RESULTS:

The objectives for year 1 (2019-20) of this three-year project were to plan, prepare and plant the demonstration site and deliver a demonstration site tour event to build interest in and awareness of this work and other sustainable agricultural practices. The expert guidance of an experienced agroforestry consultant ensured a sound experimental design and resulted in the establishment of a demonstration site consisting of 350 trees with 6 species of edible wattle. The site tour held in November attracted 40 attendees (mostly farmers and producers).

The next two years will focus on monitoring and maintenance until the end of the third year where there will be field days held to undertake the seed harvest and weigh and document for comparison of production and growth data.

Key Partners:

Gazette Land Action Group
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
Boonderoo Partnership
Edible Wattle Seed Consultancy



THE 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. As defined in the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*, the marine and coastal environment includes all private and public land and waters between the outer limit of Victorian coastal water and five kilometres inland of the high-water mark of the sea.

The Glenelg Hopkins region has 220 km of coastline in varying condition, the extent of the coastal zone is shown in Figure 11 (page 49). It 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 several internationally Important Bird Areas (IBAs); Yambuk Lakes Complex IBA, Port Fairy to Warrnambool IBA and Discovery Bay – Piccaninnie Ponds IBA. The coastal zone also supports two nationally listed threatened ecological communities – *Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh*, and the *Assemblage of species associated with open-coast salt-wedge estuaries of western and central Victoria*.

Coastal areas are some of the most utilised parts of the landscape, with 77 percent of Victorians reporting that they visit the coast at least once a year^{vi}. Most visitors do so for the purpose of recreation, including walking, swimming, and relaxing. 80 percent of Victorians^{xxiii} surveyed identified the coast and marine environments as the state's most important natural feature.

The region's marine resources are diverse and support valuable fisheries, tourism as well as significant ecological values. The region is a famous breeding and feeding zone for a range of whale species and other marine mammals and supports giant kelp forests and sea grass beds matrix.

The rich coastal zone has supported a long history of cultural use with some of the earliest evidence of human habitation in Australia found along the coastline. There are many sites of historical and current significance to the Traditional Owners of the region, including part of the World Heritage listed Budj Bim Cultural Landscape.

The region's estuaries are some of its most significant, and utilised, environmental, social and economic assets. 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. Estuaries within the region naturally 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 open.

The Glenelg River estuary is the longest in Victoria, extending 75 km upstream from the coast. The Glenelg River estuary was internationally recognised for its exceptional values in 2018 when it was listed as part of the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar site. The Glenelg River estuary was described in detail through the Ramsar listing process. It supports a range of distinct and diverse assemblage of wetland, estuary and waterbird values. 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}.

Marine values

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 13 (Page 49).

Protection for Coast and Marine values

Coastal vegetation across the regional coastline 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 Forest^{xxv} and Narrawong Flora Reserve, Mount Richmond National Park, Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve, Belfast Coastal Reserve, Bay of Islands Coastal Park 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.

Figure 11 (page 49) 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 ha.

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^{xxvi}.

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.

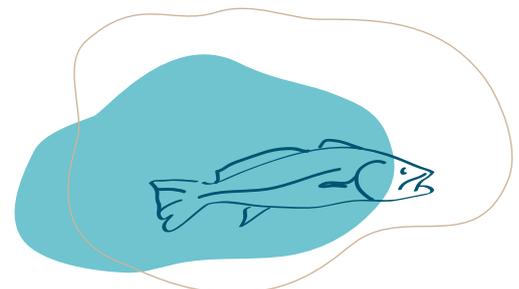


Table 13: VEAC Marine values summary (source: adapted from VEAC, 2019^{xxiv})

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



Figure 11: Extent of parks and reserves in the coastal zone

Impacts of catchment activities, coastal access and development on marine and coastal condition

Development in coastal areas impacts on the condition of coastal and marine resources. Increased populations, either resident or visitors, also mean increased clearance, development and pressure on recreational assets like beaches, waterways, estuaries and fringing bushland.

Increased development can lead to other indirect impacts on the coastal or marine environment, for example, increased volumes of water with high nutrient and sediment load water discharging via estuaries into marine environments. The quality and quantity of water discharged to the marine environment is influenced by urban wastewater but also from agricultural catchments. Poor water quality is known to have a direct impact on seagrasses which occur along the coast and contribute to the productive and diverse fish populations of the region’s estuaries and beaches.

Estuary and coastal wetland condition

The condition of the region’s coastal 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^{xxvii}. Wetlands in the coastal zone are observed to be in generally good condition if they retain water on at least a semi-permanent basis, and estuaries are in moderate to good condition based on the results of the

2015 IEC trial. Wetlands that are drained or are disconnected from their original water sources however, are generally in poor condition.

Where wetlands exist alongside estuaries, they are dependent on high river water levels to seasonally inundate the wetlands and maintain their condition. A large number of coastal wetland habitats have been developed for grazing. Closer to urban areas, they may also be backfilled or drained to support roads, houses or other assets.

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}. An IEC trial completed in 2015 found that estuaries in the Glenelg Hopkins region ranged from moderate to good condition (results presented in Table 14, below).

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 the artificial opening 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 Hopkins River estuary is the most closely studied estuary in the region and was observed to have extensive and healthy seagrass beds over a number of decades up until 2016, when seagrass extent was noted to have declined markedly^{xxviii}. Seagrass communities are notoriously difficult to re-establish, taking many years or decades to regrow, and are highly significant nursery habitats for a range of species, including many fish.

Climate impacts

Many coast and marine values, including wetlands, estuaries and beaches are directly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. These direct impacts include inundation from rising sea levels and storm surge, increased storm intensity, combined with lower river flows (as rainfall decreases). More poorly understood are the potential impacts of climate change on function of the coastal ecosystems, for example the impacts of warming sea temperature on the timing and strength of the Bonney upwelling; marine nutrients and their uptake; the spread of marine pests and impacts to fish breeding and stocks.

Table 14: Trial Index of Estuary Condition Results 2015 – 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				-
Surry 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

Annual coasts assessment 2019-20

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	RATING	KEY EVIDENCE
<p>CONCERNED</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 for recreational use and very little of the area is protected. • Some recreational uses of beaches and dunes such as horse riding and dog walking threaten vulnerable breeding populations of endangered and migratory species. • Estuaries and wetlands are important and complex coastal ecosystems that are subject to high human usage, artificial opening regimes, changed nutrient and sediment conditions (due to river flows) and are vulnerable to reduced flow driven by declining rainfall. • Sea-level rise is anticipated to continue to erode beaches and dunes, which will reduce the area of protected coast, impact estuaries and coastal wetlands and put further pressure on coast-dependent species.

Reasons for assessment:

- Relatively little of the coastal landscape extent is under government or permanent protection.
- 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.
- The marine productivity of the regional coast is dependent on large scale processes like the Bonney Upwelling. The impacts of rising sea temperatures on the upwelling and associated dependent values are poorly understood.
- Changes to marine environment condition e.g. seagrass, kelp, whale populations, fish stocks etc are poorly documented and challenging to monitor within the region.
- 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 of the coastal zone on the international stage.

- 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.

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. Core activities include delivering the CMA's statutory responsibilities relating to estuary monitoring and management and increasing knowledge and capacity of community groups. This project also supports private landholders and Traditional Owners to improve the health of waterways, wetlands and estuaries.

Key activities in 2019-20 included:

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

The 2019-20 Budj Bim Restoration activities contributes to the CMA four-year Flagship Waterway program - Budj Bim Connections. Annual outputs achieved for the activity include:

- 1 wetland reflooding trial;
- 5 land management agreements;
- 2.14 km of riparian and remnant vegetation fencing;
- 4.1 ha of weed control;
- 11.1 ha of revegetation;
- 5 off-stream stock watering points;
- 5 written and visual publications;
- 181 people engaged at training events, field days and workshops;
- collaboration and partnerships with local organisations, landholders and Traditional Owners to complete on-ground works.

The Coastal Works Project has also delivered the additional following outputs through the estuary entrance management and a coastal community engagement activities:

- 15 water quality assessments throughout the region's estuaries;
- 4 authorised artificial river mouth openings;
- 104 participants engaged through 7 training and workshop events;
- 6 communications and publications delivered to over 100 recipients; and
- 2 Estuary Watch volunteer groups supported with 12 dedicated community volunteers on the Merri and Hopkins estuaries.

Ramsar projects

Ramsar projects are focused on the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar site and provide for coordination of Ramsar site management, monitoring and on-ground projects aimed at improving the condition of the site.

In 2019-20 the Ramsar projects achieved the following key outputs:

- Simons boat ramp landing upgrade to support improved recreational access when estuary water levels are high;
- convening the site Ramsar Coordinating Committee;
- monitoring of fish, birds, ancient greenlings and native vegetation across the site;
- inaugural Ramsar Community Forum (2 day event - 40 local community participants);
- investigation into the hydrological function of different wetland types at the site to inform management;
- videos to promote the site and project activities;

- control of invasive weeds including pine wildlings, Italian Buckthorn, African Boxthorn and Myrtle-leaf Milkwort in the Glenelg estuary riparian vegetation, including through Nelson Streamside Reserve and adjoining walking tracks;
- control of Cape Beach Daisy and Marram Grass along the Discovery Bay Beach, particularly at heavy infestations known to be suitable Hooded Plover nesting locations; and
- developing a detailed design and scope of works to lift the level of Beach Road and improve hydrological connectivity via the Eel Creek culvert.

NLP2 Coastal Connections and Hooded plover projects

A range of projects focused on nationally listed threatened bird species that use coastal habitats were delivered over 2019-20. These projects were funded via the Australian government’s National Landcare Program (Regional Land Partnerships) and Environment Restoration Fund delivering outcomes as indicated in Table 15 (below).

The following key activities were completed during the current year:

- 9 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;
- completion of over 13 ha of Bittern habitat burnt with Traditional Owners to satisfy ecological and cultural outcomes;
- monitoring of potential Bittern and Hooded Plover habitat to determine populations, identify priority habitats and develop monitoring and restoration approaches;
- replacement of signage and fencing lost in the 2019-20 summer bushfires in Kangaroo Island (SA) and East Gippsland;
- 70 potential sites identified as supporting habitat for key species; and
- two Orange Bellied Parrots were recorded in the region in May 2020, the first recorded sighting in four years.

Table 15: Project contributions to National Landcare Program outcomes

NLP OUTCOME	INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND 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.	NLP2(RLP) Coastal Connections project <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.
	NLP2(RLP) Coastal Connections project <i>Neophema chrysogaster</i> (Orange-bellied Parrot)	Shorebird Recovery supports recovery actions for the Orange-bellied Parrot and Eastern Curlew by supporting population monitoring and protection of habitat on public and private land.
	NLP2(RLP) Coastal Connections project <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> (Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew)	
	NLP2(RLP) Protecting the Hooded Plover project <i>Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis</i> (Hooded Plover (eastern))	Support recovery of Hooded Plover populations along the south-eastern coastline of Victoria and South Australia by protecting nesting sites and habitat, monitoring populations and increasing community knowledge about threats to HP.
	Environment Restoration Fund Protection for Hooded Plover chicks project <i>Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis</i> (Hooded Plover (eastern))	Increased support to increase the survival of Hooded plover chicks.

CASE STUDY:

Infrastructure for healthy estuaries and healthy people

BACKGROUND:

Across the world, estuaries are a focal point for people due to their stunning water views, beach access points and excellent fishing opportunities. These highly attractive parts of our landscape are complex and rich ecosystems defined by freshwater catchment flows, and ocean and tidal processes.

In Victoria, seasonally-closed salt-wedge estuaries support protected ecological communities. The estuary mouth intermittently closes during the year due to the build-up of a sandbar across the river opening. During the wetter season, freshwater inflows from the catchment or groundwater can lead to the estuary mouth 'opening', allowing the estuary water levels to fall again.

River mouths opening and closing is a natural part of the cycle of estuary processes in south west Victoria. The process is essential for the life cycle of many protected and important fish species targeted by recreational anglers, however, at times, high estuary water levels, can lead to localised flooding of public and private infrastructure and property. To address this, innovative infrastructure is being designed and built to accommodate the estuary's natural river fluctuations, allowing year-round public access while enabling nature to flourish.

APPROACH:

Locations and infrastructure susceptible to flooding have been identified through local consultation and, through sensitive waterway planning, estuary managers have designed floating infrastructure that rises and falls with the estuary to accommodate the needs of the waterway, its users, and local residents.

RESULTS:

Immediate benefits are provided to estuary users, particularly recreational fishers and boaters, with this infrastructure providing year-round access to estuaries. Longer term benefits are found in the estuary's ecosystems with thriving fish populations, satisfied anglers and the businesses that support those visitors as there is less restriction of estuary use, and less intervention in the natural opening and closing process of the waterway.

An example of this flexible infrastructure can be seen at Simson's Landing where one of the two fixed-timber pontoons on the Glenelg River was replaced with an aluminium floating pontoon. The project had over-whelming support by the local community, who had a strong desire for year-round, safe access to the Glenelg estuary.

Immediate benefits were improved angler and community safety when launching and retrieving boats. The new structure remains at a constant height above the current water level, irrespective of whether the estuary mouth is closed or open.

This was clearly demonstrated in May 2020 when waterway users were able to access the estuary via the new infrastructure, when the other fixed boat ramp was inundated with water due high water levels in the estuary.

Longer term benefits flow to the important ecosystems that make up the true value of estuaries. Native plants and animals that depend on the intermittently closed, salt-wedge estuary process can continue to prosper and grow out as part of their life cycle.

Appropriately designed infrastructure allows estuaries to function naturally while supporting recreational use and enjoyment of rivers. By being able to develop a solution which allowed these natural processes to occur also delivers on the Victorian Government's commitment to protecting the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar site.

Key Partners:

Nelson Foreshore Committee of Management

DELWP Department of Environment Land Water Planning

Parks Victoria

Glenelg Estuary Discovery Bay Ramsar Coordinating Committee

EBAZ Pty Ltd

Glenelg Hopkins CMA



The pontoon at Simsons Landing on the Glenelg River is an excellent example of how estuary management can include flexible infrastructure solutions so the environment and the community can benefit.

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 12 (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 13 (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 14 (below) shows the number of publications developed and disseminated to keep stakeholders and the broader community informed.

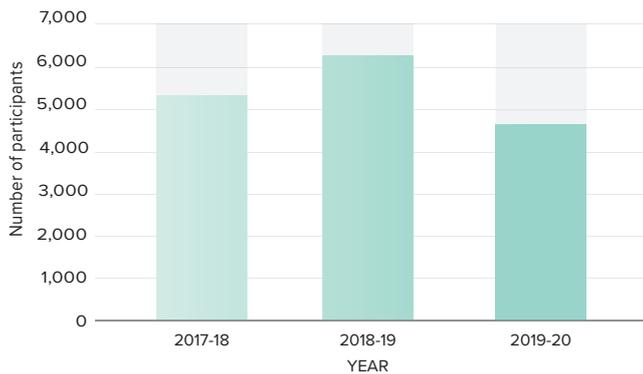


Figure 12: Number of participants at engagement events

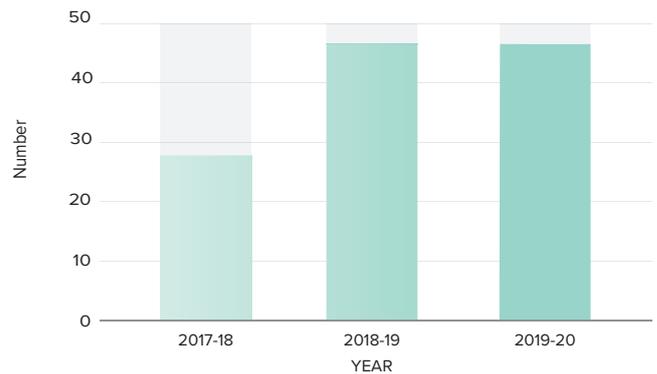


Figure 13: Number of formal partnerships established, maintained or modified

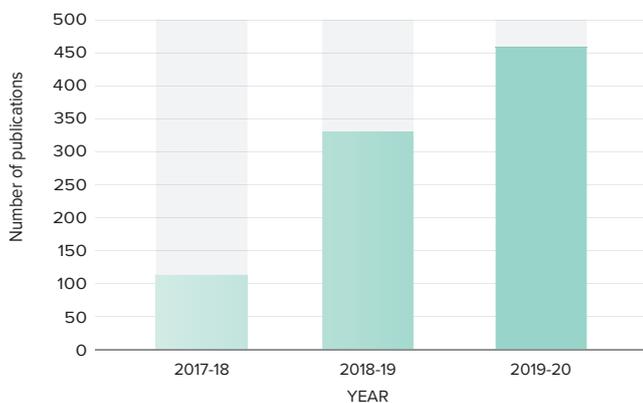


Figure 14: Number of publications established, maintained or modified (including fact sheets, media releases, newsletters, reports, websites, television and social media).

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, and
- extreme event preparedness.

Figure 16 (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 17 (below) and Figure 18 (below) respectively.

Figure 19 (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.

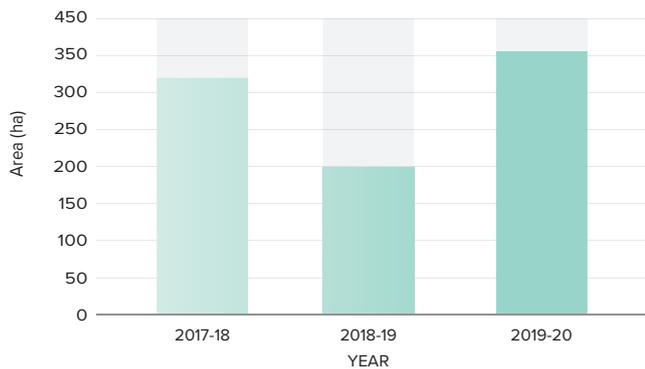


Figure 16: Area of vegetation established, modified or maintained(ha) (includes direct seeding, planting, mulching, guarding and thinning)

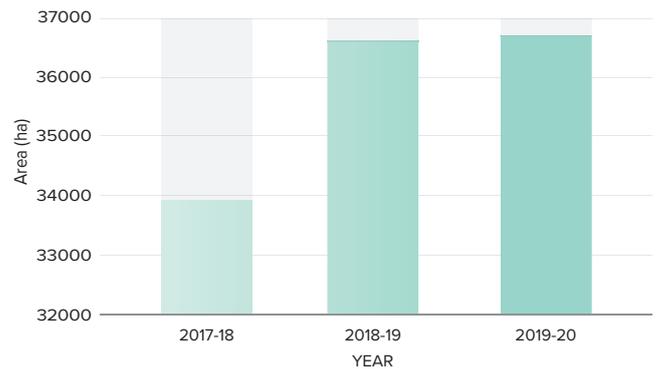


Figure 17: Area of pest animal control (ha) (gross area over which pest animals were controlled by killing, removing or restricting them)

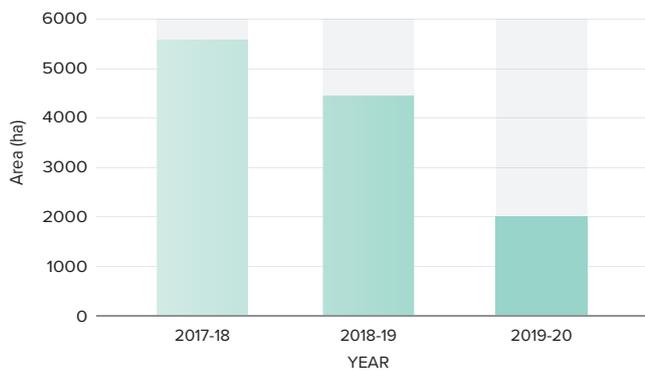


Figure 18: Area of weed control (ha) (gross area over which weeds were controlled by killing, removing or restricting them)

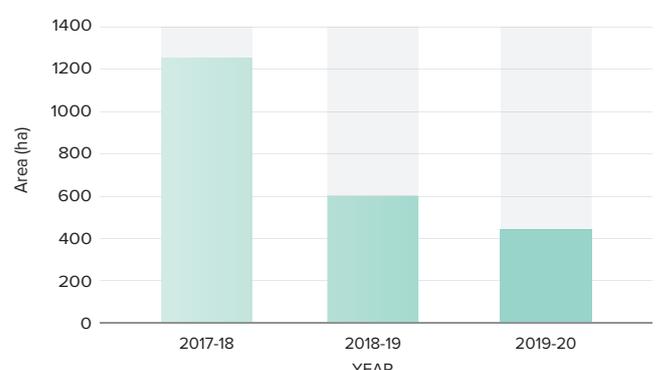


Figure 19: Area of grazing regime change (ha) (the area over which grazing by livestock has been established, maintained, modified or removed)

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; vegetation structure and diversity, and available habitat.

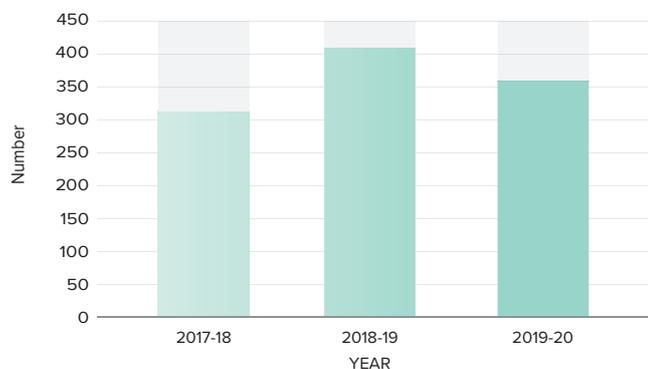


Figure 20: Number of approvals and advice provided (records the number of decisions made in regard to permits, licences, leases and planning referrals, as well as advice provided to another agency or individual)

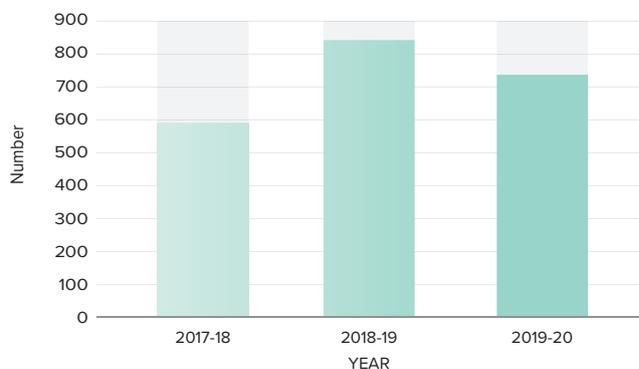


Figure 21: Number of site based or landscape scale assessments (includes social, land, water and biodiversity assessments and can include monitoring activities to ensure compliance with policy and regulation and new and emerging weeds and pest animals)

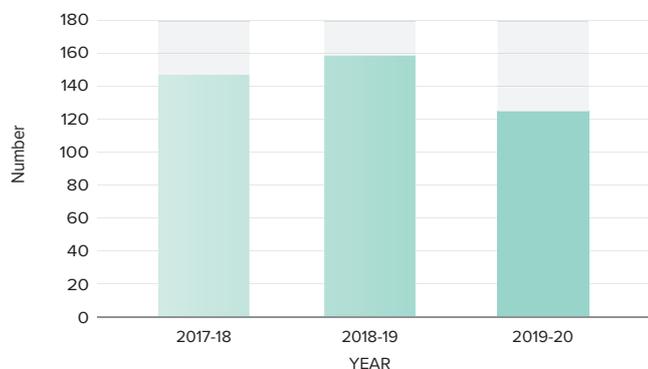


Figure 22: Number of agreements developed (agreements developed/reviewed in relation to management of a specific location. Includes agreements attached to title, legal conservation covenants or agreements placed on the property title for land parcel)

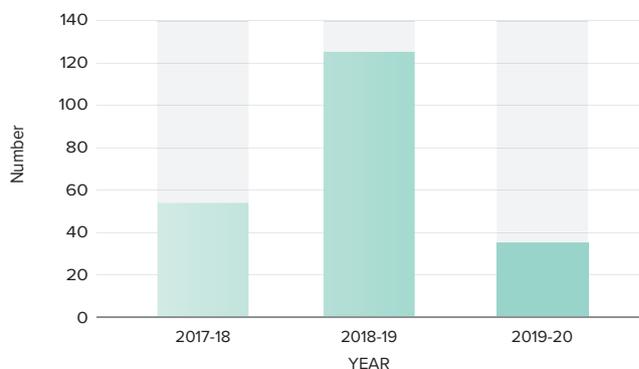


Figure 23: Number of plans or strategies developed (includes engagement, property, management plans, and strategies and should be for a defined location)

4.2 Regional output achievements

Table 16 presents the total outputs achieved for 2019-20.

Table 16: Actions and Achievements - output reporting for 2019-20

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL			
		State	Commonwealth	Other	Total
Structural works					
1.1 Channel (km)					
1.2 Water storage (no.)	27	8	3		11
1.3 Pump (no.)	2	2			2
1.4 Irrigation structure (ha)					
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)	9	7	3		10
1.6 Terrestrial structure (no.)	2	6			6
1.7 Terrestrial feature (no.)	7		17		17
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	49	80			80
1.9 Fence (km)	80	70	1		71
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)		1			1
1.11 Road (km)					
1.12 Crossing (no.)	1	1			1
Environmental works					
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	510	357			357
2.2 Weed control (ha)	1,892	1,486	527		2,013
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	33,050	33,242	3,435		36,677
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife control					
2.5 Threatened species response (no.)	8		26		26
2.6 Emergency species response (no.)			1		1
2.7 Soil treatment (ha)	4	4			4
2.8 Earth works (no.)	8	5	3		8
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)					
Management services					
3.1 Grazing (ha)	365	449			449
3.2 Agricultural practices (ha)	110		720		720
3.3 Water (no.)	53	14	70		84
3.4 Fire regime (no.)	4		5		5
Planning and regulation 348					
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	355	344	16		360
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	219	76	48		124
4.3 Assessment (no.)	784	195	542		737
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	2,388	1,845	2,694	150	4,689
4.5 Partnerships (no.)	56	44	3		47
4.6 Plan (no.)	27	13	23		36
4.7 Publication (no.)	240	217	234		451
4.8 Information management system (no.)	7	8			8

4.3 Regional delivery of projects

Figure 24 details project highlights, including partner led projects, for the 2019-20 year.

Iconic Estates Grampians/Glenelg: Trust for Nature project to provide ongoing protection across 300 ha of habitat on private land.

Pine Wildling Control: CVA has been undertaking pine wildling control in various state parks and reserves.

Increasing Critical Food Supply for the Endangered SE Red-tailed Black Cockatoo: Greening Australia project established 36,500 trees across Stringybark forest habitat in the Victorian section of Habitat 141o to increase food supply for the SE Red-tailed Black Cockatoo as well as providing habitat for Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-nosed Potoroo.

Threatened species habitat restoration in the Wilkin Woodlands and Wetlands: DELWP, BirdLife, RTBC Recovery Team, Greening Australia, Parks Victoria.

Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo Monitoring: BirdLife Australia deployed bioacoustic sound recorders at 11 artificial nest boxes.

Habitat restoration for threatened species of wetlands in the Glenelg Plain: Nature Glenelg Trust.

Accor Plant for the Planet 2018: Greening Australia project supported by Accor, Pur Project and Clarins, establishing 5,000 trees across 8 ha of previously cleared farmland at Cape Bridgewater.

Restoration of Long Swamp, Discovery Bay Coastal Park: Nature Glenelg Trust project to permanently restore Ramsar-listed wetland habitat.

Glenelg Eden: DELWP, Parks Victoria and CVA strategic, landscape-scale weed management project that focuses on detection and removal of high-risk weeds.

Glenelg Pines: DELWP project to remove pine trees from stringy-bark woodlands on public land to enhance habitat for SE Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

Eastern Barred Bandicoot: This project, involving DELWP, CVA and CMA contributed to 100 ha of pest weed and animal control at Hamilton Parklands and preparation of Tiverton for reintroduction of EBBs.



Feral Pig Management: Commencing in April 2015, DELWP has trapped 208 feral pigs on public land.

Weed Management in Lower Glenelg and Discovery Bay: A number of projects undertaking weed control measures across threatened coastal habitat. Project partners include Glenelg Shire, Glenelg Nature Trust, Nelson Coastcare, Greening Australia, Parks Victoria, DELWP, and CVA.

CVA Catchment Planting and Environmental Weed Control: Tyrendarra, Portland Cliffs and Bushland reserves, Point Danger, roadside reserves within the Moyne Shire, Warrnambool, Koroit and Pretty Hill, Grange Burn and Wannan Falls, Discovery Bay.

Glenelg Ark: DELWP and Parks Victoria project undertaking fox baiting for the past 13 years.
Glenelg Ark – next phase: trialling feral cat management options in the Cobboboonee National Park and Mount Clay State Forest and integrating with current fox control.

Deen Maar
(Lady Julia Percy Island)

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

Grampians Sallow Wattle Control: Parks Victoria project to contain Sallow Wattle to its current extent to protect herb-rich woodlands.

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

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

Grampians introduced predators – feral cats: Parks Victoria.

Covenants: Trust for Nature registered 1 on-title covenants, protecting 65.49 ha.



Agriculture Victoria extension services: delivered under dairy, grains and meat/wool programs

Corangamite CMA

Agriculture Victoria Invasive Program Delivery: Agriculture Victoria undertook 237 plant and animal property inspections over 55,992 ha.

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.

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

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

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

Reconnecting Budj Bim: Greening Australia project establishing 60,400 trees across 150 ha to improve habitat for Spotted-tailed Quoll and Swift Parrot within the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.

CVA Bushfire Recovery Workshop in Warrnambool: construction of nest boxes.

Agriculture Victoria Pest Plant and Animal mitigation projects: Annual monitoring and treatment of Mexican feather grass sites, containment of regionally prohibited weeds, gorse and rabbit management projects supporting community led action.

Our Governance, Our People, Our Business

BOARD STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE

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.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

Chairperson

Mr Antony Ford has over 40 years' experience in Australian and international agribusiness, of which 28 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 fin fish aquaculture company and until recently has led 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 development, strategic planning and action delivery across the Region.

Deputy Chairperson

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.

Michelle was voted Deputy Chairperson at the November 2019 Full Board meeting.



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.

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 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.

Professor Gerry Quinn holds a Bachelor of Science in Zoology, a PhD in Marine Biology and has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. He is a current Chairperson in Marine Biology at Deakin University and has served on several statutory bodies, advisory committees and government public entities. Gerry's latest research has focused on the effect of humans on the condition of estuaries and developing models for linking coastal environments to nearby land and catchment processes.

Gerry joined the Board 1 October 2019.

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.

Ms Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil is a dairy farmer and teacher who has a Master of Education degree and a Certificate IV in Governance. She has previously worked in diverse fields such as banking and finance, venue management and sports development across four countries. Karrinjeet has communication and collaboration skills and is a creative thinker.

Karrinjeet joined the Board 1 October 2019.

Ms Celia Tucker holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation and Heritage) and lives and works on a sheep farm with her husband at Willaura North. She is interested in both the environmental and agricultural sectors and has previously worked at both local and state government level in these fields. The farming enterprise Celia and her husband operate places a strong focus on protecting and enhancing the natural capital and biodiversity on their property to ensure profitability for future generations. She serves on several committees and is an active 'Landcarer' supporting other primary producers in her community who wish to undertake Landcare work.

Celia joined the Board 1 October 2019.

GOVERNING BOARD 2019-20

NAME	NUMBER OF MEETINGS	EXPLANATORY NOTE
Antony Ford	10/10	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	7/10	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019 Re-appointed 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023
Michelle Casanova	7/10	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019 Re-appointed 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023
Christine Giles	8/10	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021
Georgina Gubbins	2/2	Departed as Board Director 30 September 2019
Gerry Quinn	7/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023
Phil Saunders	10/10	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021
Debbie Shea	2/2	Departed as Board Director 30 September 2019
John Sherwood	2/2	Departed as Board Director 30 September 2019
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	8/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023
Celia Tucker	8/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit and Risk committee consisted of the following members in 2019-20:

- **Brian Densem**
(independent)
- **Bonnie Holmes**
(independent)
- **Phil Saunders**
(Director)
- **Debbie Shea**
(Director to September 2019)
- **Georgina Gubbins**
(Director to September 2019)
- **Karrinjeet Singh Mahil**
(Director from October 2019)
- **Michelle Casanova**
(Director from October 2019)

The Audit & Risk Committee comprises three Board Directors and two independent representatives, one being the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. Board representatives from 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019 were Directors Georgina Gubbins, Debbie Shea and Phil Saunders. From 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020 the Directors were Phil Saunders, Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil and Michelle Casanova.

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

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 2019-20, the committee met three times. Attendance of committee members is detailed in the table (below).

REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

From 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019, the Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee was Board Chairperson Antony Ford with Directors

John Sherwood and Michelle Casanova as members.

On the 30 September 2019, Director Sherwood left the Board. At the November 2019 Full Board meeting Directors Chris Giles and Damein Bell were appointed to the Remuneration and Performance Committee with Antony Ford remaining as Chair.

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 Faye Lee attend via invitation.

LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP

The Long Term Accommodation Working Group Terms of Reference were rescinded at the Full Board meeting in November 2019 and the Group was closed. There were no meetings in 2019-20.

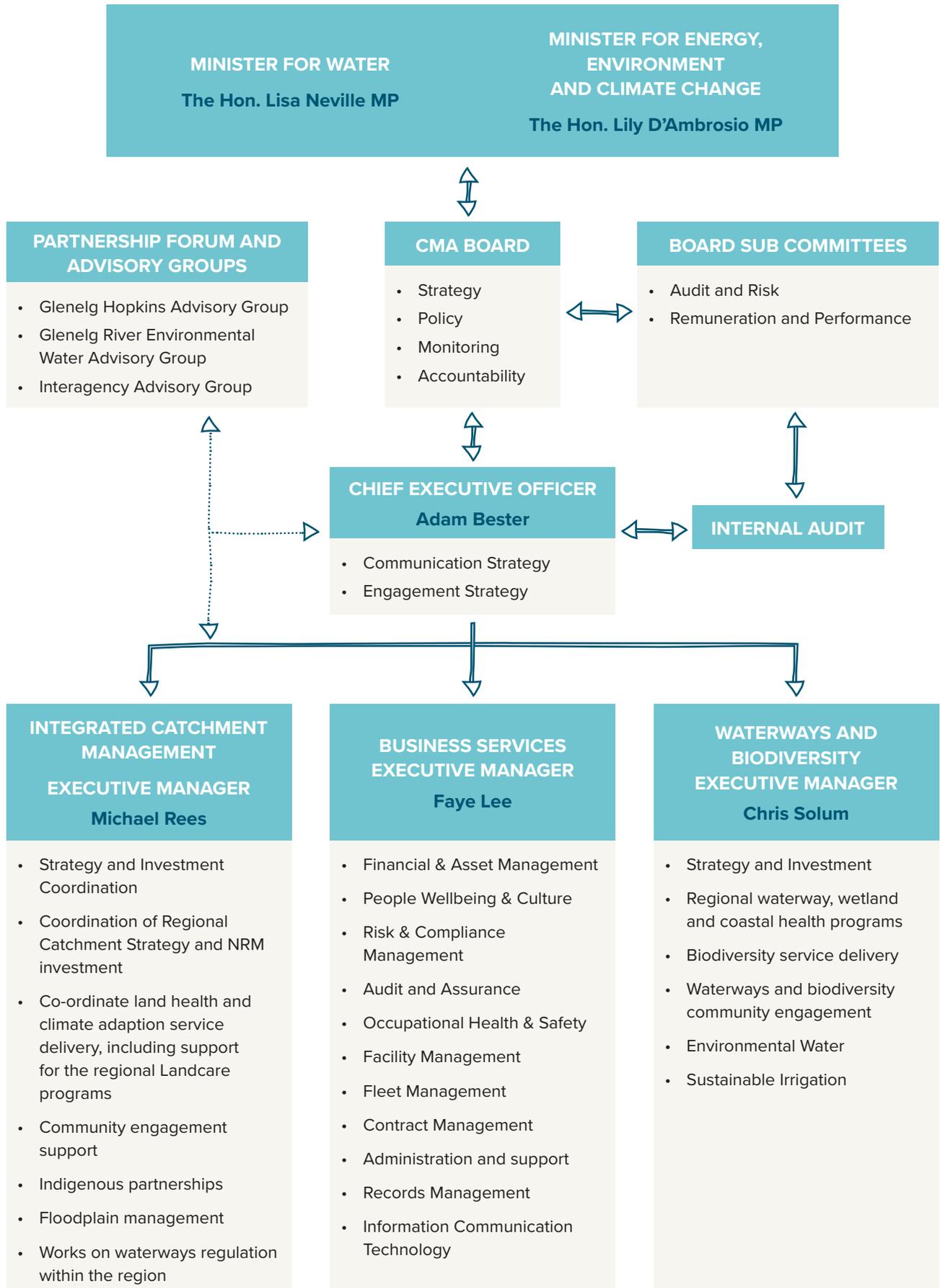
AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE FOR 2019-20

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	AUG-19	NOV-19	FEB-20	MAY-20	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Brian Densem	1	No Meeting	1	1	3 of 3	100%
Bonnie Holmes	1	No Meeting	1	1	3 of 3	100%
Georgina Gubbins	-	No Meeting	N/A	N/A	0 of 1	0%
Debbie Shea	1	No Meeting	N/A	N/A	1 of 1	100%
Phil Saunders	1	No Meeting	1	1	3 of 3	100%
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	N/A	No Meeting	1	1	2 of 2	100%
Michelle Casanova	N/A	No Meeting	1	1	2 of 2	100%

REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE FOR 2019-20

REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE	AUG-19	SEP-19	JUN-20	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Antony Ford	1	1	1	2 of 2	100%
Michelle Casanova	1	-	-	1 of 2	50%
John Sherwood	1	-	-	1 of 1	100%
Damein Bell	-	1	1	2 of 2	100%
Christine Giles	-	1	1	2 of 2	100%

Organisational Structure



WORKFORCE DATA

The following table discloses the headcount and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all active employees of Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed at the last full pay period in June of the current reporting period (2019) and in the last full pay period in June of the previous reporting period (2020).

30 JUNE 2019

	ALL EMPLOYEES		ONGOING			CONTRACT		
	NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	FTE	FT NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	PT NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	FTE	FT NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	PT NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	FTE
GENDER								
MALE	24.00	21.89	9.00	5.00	12.99	5.00	5.00	8.90
FEMALE	28.00	22.19	5.00	14.00	14.30	4.00	5.00	7.89
AGE								
15-24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25-34	10.00	8.28	5.00	5.00	8.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
35-44	16.00	13.76	7.00	6.00	10.96	1.00	2.00	2.80
45-54	19.00	16.60	2.00	6.00	6.90	6.00	5.00	9.70
55-64	6.00	4.74	0.00	2.00	1.14	2.00	2.00	3.60
65+	1.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.69
BANDS								
G	2.00	1.39	0.00	1.00	0.70	0.00	1.00	0.69
H	3.00	2.30	0.00	1.00	0.80	0.00	2.00	1.50
I	4.00	3.90	1.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.90
J	7.00	6.52	1.00	2.00	2.82	2.00	2.00	3.70
K	25.00	20.27	9.00	12.00	17.27	0.00	4.00	3.00
L	7.00	5.70	3.00	3.00	4.70	1.00	0.00	1.00
EXEC	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	4.00
TOTALS	52.00	44.08	14.00	19.00	27.29	9.00	10.00	16.79

30 JUNE 2020

	ALL EMPLOYEES		ONGOING			CONTRACT		
	NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	FTE	FT NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	PT NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	FTE	FT NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	PT NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	FTE
GENDER								
MALE	25.00	22.79	10.00	5.00	13.89	5.00	5.00	8.90
FEMALE	21.00	16.50	5.00	11.00	12.30	2.00	3.00	4.20
AGE								
15-24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25-34	9.00	8.22	3.00	2.00	4.52	2.00	2.00	3.70
35-44	14.00	10.30	3.00	8.00	7.78	2.00	1.00	2.60
45-54	17.00	15.19	5.00	4.00	8.39	3.00	5.00	6.80
55-64	6.00	5.50	4.00	2.00	5.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
65+	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
BANDS								
G	1.00	0.70	0.00	1.00	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
H	1.00	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.80
I	3.00	2.90	1.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.90
J	7.00	6.52	2.00	2.00	3.82	1.00	2.00	2.70
K	23.00	18.54	8.00	11.00	15.44	1.00	3.00	3.10
L	7.00	5.83	4.00	2.00	5.23	0.00	1.00	0.60
EXEC	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	4.00
TOTALS	46.00	39.29	15.00	16.00	26.19	7.00	8.00	13.10

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).

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

In May 2020, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Enterprise Agreement 2020-21 was approved by the Fair Work Commission and came into effect on 20 May 2020. This included the agreement to a roll-over of the previous agreement, providing for an additional 2.5% pay increase for staff covered under the agreement.

The organisation looks to negotiate a 4-year agreement in early 2021.

Following the approval of the new enterprise agreement the organisation aims to adopt and review a number of internal human resource policies and procedures over the coming months

SERVICE AWARDS

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA values the contribution and dedication of its long service staff members.

The following staff reached service milestones during 2019-20:

- Aggie Stevenson (15 years)
- Hannah Brook (15 years)
- Graeme Jeffery (15 years)
- Stacey Grace (10 years)

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

Individual staff and teams were also recognised by their peers for positive contributions that supported the organisation's achievement of its goals and objectives. A total of 14 reward and recognition nominations were approved for outstanding effort, for staff who performed above and beyond their roles.

LONG-TERM STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

2019-20 has seen the development of the first 'People and Culture Strategy' commence. The People and Culture Strategy 2021-26 will be the overarching strategy articulating our commitment and priorities to developing and embedding the best possible programs, solutions and systems for managing our people, and in turn to support the delivery of our business goals.

This will be a long-term commitment by us, in us. The strategy will clearly articulate our five-year approach; including our strategic HR outcomes, actions and measures for success and will set us up to be a great place to work.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (GH EQUIP)

In 2018-19 Glenelg Hopkins CMA launched 'GH Equip' that outlines the application of a range of skill development, or learning strategies, across a suite of skill areas that we have identified as vital to our future. Throughout 2019-20 Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to strive to create a flow of knowledge throughout the organisation that will enable us to achieve and sustain a competitive position within the NRM industry.

Strategic initiatives developed and identified under GH Equip are linked to focus areas within the CMA environment. Within the People and Culture Strategy, a core pillar will focus on 'Growth'. GH Equip will play an integral role in informing where, who and how we focus our efforts on capability development.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN 2017-18 – 2021-22

Glenelg Hopkins CMA recognises a diverse workplace that reflects the community in which we operate helps us to better relate to our communities and make more informed decisions. Understanding and embracing diversity will strengthen the organisation, improving staff morale and broadening thinking.

2019-20 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE

Occupational Health and Safety has continued to focus on the review of our all-employee OHS committee, procedures and supporting Work documentation. Work is underway to streamline Occupational Health and Safety onto a cloud-based platform, for employees and managers to access and manage employees' health in a timely and efficient manner. This year saw a host of wellbeing initiatives offered including:

- flu immunisations extended to employees and their households
- the launch of a new Employee Assistance Program offered both through virtual and face-to-face with a focus holistic wellbeing including fitness, healthy eating, mindfulness and various resources to support employees during COVID-19. The Employee Assistance Program has also been extended to employee's immediate family and is free of charge
- access at all sites of sit/stand desks to assist with good ergonomic practice.
- As part of the People and Culture Strategy, currently under development, there will be a strategic focus on the holistic wellbeing of our employees. Work is already underway to review and implement robust Key Performance Indicators for OHS throughout all roles and will be implemented in 2020-21.

WORKFORCE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	#ACTIONS	% COMPLETED
Inclusive leadership and governance.	9	67%
Effective policies, procedures and systems that create a diverse and inclusive workplace	8	87%
Building a diverse and inclusive organisation	8	87%
Improved knowledge and capacity of equity, diversity and inclusive practices	14	78%

WORKFORCE METRICS

EOY 2019 - 2020 METRICS	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Hazards reported, no.	5	5	3
Rate per 100 FTE	12	10	8
Total incidents, no.	8	14	8
Rate per 100 FTE	19	31.43	20
Incidents requiring first aid and/or further medical treatment, no.	##	##	3
No. of Standard claims	0	2.25	0
Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
No. of lost time Standard claims	0	0	0
Rate per 100 FTE	0	44.54	0
Fatality claims	0	0	0
Average cost per Standard claim	0	#	0
Percentage of claims with RTW plan <30 days	0	#	0
Evidence of agreed structure of designated workgroups (DWGs), health and safety representatives (HSRs), and issue resolution procedures (IRPs)	Completed	Completed	Completed
Number of OHS Committee meetings	5	5	6

Unknown as new data set/reporting only commenced in 2019-20

RISK & COMPLIANCE

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.

Local Jobs First

Local Jobs First Act 2003

There were no tenders over \$1,000,000 entered into by Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2019-20.

Government Advertising Expenditure

Glenelg Hopkins CMA expenditure in 2019-20 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

Consultancy Expenditure

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

In 2019-20, there were 33 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2019-20 in relation to these consultancies was \$1,673,083 (excl. GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined on Glenelg Hopkins CMA's website at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

Details of consultancies (valued at less than \$10,000)

In 2019-20, there were 28 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000.

The total expenditure incurred during 2019-20 in relation to these consultancies was \$143,525 (excl. GST).

ICT Expenditure

For the 2019-20 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$488,436 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 \$83,472 relates to extending or enhancing Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's current ICT capability
- BAU ICT Expenditure \$404,964 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 2019-20. 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.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received no requests for information during 2019-20 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members, and there were no resulting appeals to VCAT.

Compliance with *Building Act 1993*

Glenelg Hopkins CMA owns one, and operates two 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 a copy of an occupancy permits required for its owned building. 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 2019-20. 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 *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012 (PID Act)* enables people to make a disclosure about corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is a public body for the purposes of the *PID Act*.

What is a public interest disclosure?

A public interest disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body.

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

'Detrimental action' is action taken against a person in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure.

How do I make a public interest disclosure?

You can make a public interest disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC (details below).

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is not able to receive public interest disclosures.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA, its board members, officers or employees. You can access Glenelg Hopkins CMA's procedures on its website at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

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.

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 33 groups in 2019-20 for the purposes of supporting the administration of regional Landcare groups totaling \$16,500 and to 21 groups for implementing on-ground natural resource management projects totaling \$268,333.

GROUP	AMOUNT
Gazette Land Action Group	\$19,997
Friends of Yatmerone	\$5,830
Friends of Pallisters reserve	\$2,337
Southwest Environment Alliance	\$19,782
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$9,496
Lake Cartcarrong Management Committee	\$16,182
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	\$9,350
Hamilton Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee of Management	\$1,344
Belfast Coastal Reserve Action Group Inc	\$12,065
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$18,146
Basalt to Bay Landcare Network	\$7,040
Friends Great South West Walk	\$8,000
Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Network	\$10,322
Southwest Environment Alliance	\$17,340
Mirranatawa Landcare Group	\$19,930
Gazette Land Action Group	\$19,982
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$15,854
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$11,154
Bunnugul LCG	\$19,265
Mad for the Merri	\$4,936
Culla Pigeon Ponds	\$19,979

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

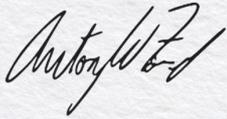
OBJECTIVE	MEASURE	QUANTITY 2018-19	QUANTITY 2019-20	2019-20 % ↑/↓ COMPARING 1 YEAR PRIOR
Reduce Energy Use (Electricity)	kWh used per annum	96,623	64,737	-33%
	kWh used per FTE per annum	2,169	1,648	-24%
Reduce Paper Use	White A4 reams per annum	178	106	-40%
	White A4 reams per FTE	4.00	2.70	-32%
	White A3 reams per annum	18	12	-33%
	White A3 reams per FTE	0.40	0.31	-24%
Increase Paper Recycling	240 Litres recycled per annum	22	23	5%
	240 Litres recycled per FTE	0.49	0.59	19%
Reduce Toner Cartridges	Toner Cartridges consumed per annum	35	7	-80%
	Toner Cartridges consumed per FTE	0.79	0.18	-77%
Reduce Fuel Use	Fleet size	15	14	-7%
	Litres fuel consumed per annum	35,621	31,233	-12%
	Litres fuel consumed per vehicle	2,375	2,231	-6%
No. Flights Warrnambool-Melbourne	One way flights	35	0	-100%
	One way flights per FTE	0.79	0.00	-100%
Reduced Water Consumption	KLs consumed per annum	213	164	-23%
	Overall KLs consumed per FTE	4.78	4.17	-13%



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.

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

Antony Ford
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2020

How this report is structured

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 in the following structure to provide users with information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comprehensive operating statement

Balance sheet

Cash flow statement

Statement of changes in equity

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. About this report

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

2. Funding delivery of our services

Revenue recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources

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

3. The cost of delivering services

Operating expenses of the Authority

- 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

4. Key assets available to support output delivery

Land, buildings, works assets, plant and equipment, office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, and intangible assets

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

5. Other assets and liabilities

Other key assets and liabilities

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables
- 5.3 Other non-financial assets
- 5.4 Right-of-use-assets and lease liabilities

6. Financing our operations

Cash flow information, commitments for expenditure and carry forward project funding

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

7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

Financial risk management, contingent assets and liabilities as well as fair value determination

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

8. Other disclosures

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

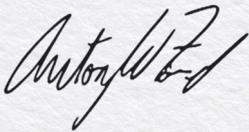
DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2020 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2020.

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 October 2020.



Antony Ford
Chairperson



Adam Bester
CEO and Accountable Officer



Faye Lee
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• balance sheet as at 30 June 2020• 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 2020 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>
Other Information	<p>The Board is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a materially misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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

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

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

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

MELBOURNE
22 October 2020



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	9,892,984	14,313,292
Interest	2.2.2	69,872	165,814
Other income	2.2.3	208,695	625,882
Total income from transactions		10,171,551	15,104,988
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,702,936	4,777,578
Depreciation	4.1.1	54,356	71,763
Amortisation	5.4	200,678	-
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	6,568,727	8,298,786
Lease expenses	3.3	58,976	258,867
Interest expense	6.1	10,691	-
Other operating expenses	3.4	752,585	915,692
Total expenses from transactions		12,348,949	14,322,686
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		(2,177,398)	782,302
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (i)	8.2	(25,231)	-
Net result		(2,202,629)	782,302
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		(2,202,629)	841,044

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 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.2	6,677,775	9,149,758
Receivables	5.1	1,079,034	541,774
Assets Held for Sale	4.2	-	353,895
Total financial assets		7,756,809	10,045,427
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	623,658	665,008
Right-of-use assets	5.4	315,914	-
Intangible assets	4.3	177,924	-
Other non-financial assets	5.3	-	32,863
Total non-financial assets		1,117,496	697,871
Total assets		8,874,306	10,743,298
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	387,439	419,520
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,328,791	1,282,910
Lease liabilities	6.1	319,837	-
Total liabilities		2,036,066	1,702,429
Net assets		6,838,239	9,040,869
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		3,161,357	5,363,987
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	519,936	519,936
Contributed capital		3,156,946	3,156,946
Net worth		6,838,239	9,040,869

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2020

	Notes	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		9,121,503	14,570,722
Interest received		69,872	197,204
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (i)		214,942	-
Other receipts		227,974	607,807
Total receipts		9,634,291	15,375,733
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		12,036,562	14,183,918
Goods and services tax Paid to the ATO (i)		-	34,997
Interest and other costs of finance paid		10,691	-
Total payments		12,047,252	14,218,915
Net cash flows from / (used in) operating activities	6.3.1	(2,412,962)	1,156,818
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets	4.1.2 & 4.3	(200,168)	(23,315)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets	8.2	337,903	-
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities		137,735	(23,315)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of capital portion of lease liabilities		(196,756)	-
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities		(196,756)	-
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(2,471,983)	1,133,503
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		9,149,758	8,016,255
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.2	6,677,775	9,149,758

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

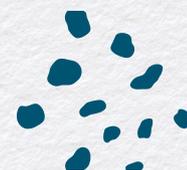
Note: (i) GST received from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
for the year financial year ended 30 June 2020

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	PHYSICAL ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 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	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2019	5,363,986	519,936	3,156,946	9,040,867
Net result for the year	(2,202,629)	-	-	(2,202,629)
Transfers to/(from) reserves	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2020	3,161,357	519,936	3,156,946	6,838,239

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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 following standards has been adopted by GHCMA:

Accounting policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

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

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, AASB 16 Leases and AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profits. All effective as of 1 January 2019 (and thus GHCMA on 1 July 2019).

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

AASB 15 Revenue from contracts with customers, which replaces AASB 118 Revenue AASB 111 Construction Contracts and related interpretations requires the Authority to recognise revenue when the Authority satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer. The Authority has adopted AASB 15 as at 1 July 2019 and has applied the new rules on a modified retrospective basis as mandated by the DTF through FRD 121 Transitional requirements on the application of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. As a result, comparatives for 2018-19 in our 30 June 2020 accounts have not been restated. Further disclosures in relation to AASB 15 are at 8.4 of this report.

AASB 16 Leases

AASB 16 Leases was issued in February 2016 and replaces AASB 117 Leases. It will result in almost all leases being recognised on the balance sheet, as the distinction between operating and finance leases is removed for lessees. Under the new standard, an asset (the right to use the leased item) and a financial liability to pay the obligation for lease payments are recognised. The Authority has adopted AASB 16 as at 1 July 2019 and has applied the new rules on a modified retrospective basis as mandated by the DTF through FRD 123 Transitional requirements on the application of AASB 16 Leases. As a result, comparatives for 2018-19 in our 30 June 2020 accounts have not been restated. Further disclosures in relation to AASB 16 are at note 5.4 and 8.4 of this report.

AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profits

AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profits replaces requirements of income transactions previously accounted for under AASB 1004 Contributions. It establishes principles for not-for-profit entities that apply to (a) transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable a not-for-profit Corporation to further its objectives; and (b) the receipt of volunteer services. It will apply to capital grants from government and grants with no sufficiently specific performance obligation.

Corporation needs to determine whether a transaction falls under AASB 1058 or actually a contract with a customer under AASB 15. The Corporation has adopted AASB 1058 as at 1 July 2019 and has applied the new rules on a modified retrospective basis as mandated by the DTF through FRD 122 Transitional requirements on the application of AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities. As a result, comparatives for 2018-19 in our 30 June 2020 accounts have not been restated. Further disclosures in relation to AASB 1058 are at note 2.2.1 and 8.4 of this report.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions

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 AASBs 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:

- Determining whether the performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether the arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 or AASB 1058 (note 8.9);
- The timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (note 8.9)
- Determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligation (note 8.9)
- For leases, determining whether the arrangement is in substance short-term arrangement (note 8.9); and
- Employee benefit provisions (note 3.1.2);
- Accrued revenue (note 5.1); and
- Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (note 7.3).

The COVID-19 is a new form of coronavirus in which the virus causes respiratory infections. COVID-19 has led to a global health pandemic due to the millions of infections and deaths around the world.

NOTE 1 ABOUT THIS REPORT (CONT.)

This has led governments from around the world to take drastic actions to control to outbreak. The Authority has been under the Victorian State of Emergency restrictions from March 16 2020, currently under stage 3 restrictions. This means that residences only have 4 reason to leave home: shopping for necessary goods or services, compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment, exercise and work or education, if you can't do it from home.

This had led the Authority to send home all employees and require employees to work from home full-time with the exception of site visitors as required without breaching State of Emergency rules. JobKeeper payments are not eligible to federal, state and local governments along with connected agencies, the Authority falls under this, hence why it didn't receive this assistance.

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	2020 \$	2019 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	9,892,984	14,313,292
Interest	2.2.2	69,872	165,814
Other income	2.2.3	208,695	625,882
Total income from transactions		10,171,551	15,104,987

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.

Significant judgement: revenue recognition

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for under AASB 15 as revenue from contracts with customers, with revenue recognised as these performance obligations are met.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Authority has an unconditional right to receive the cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the asset, the Authority recognises any related contributions by owners, increases in liabilities, decreases in assets, and revenue ('related amounts') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards.

Related amounts may take the form of:

- (a) contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004;
- (b) revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- (c) income for not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058;
- (d) a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- (e) a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- (f) a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

NOTE 2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (CONT.)**2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS****2.2.1 Government contributions**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
State Government		
Income as not-for-profit		
Catchment Planning	1,097,704	1,035,286
River Health	3,385,000	3,802,000
Floodplain Management	320,000	350,000
Natural Disaster	379,695	3,658,945
Other State Funding	900,011	3,359,044
	6,082,410	12,205,275
Commonwealth Government		
Income recognised as revenue from contracts with customers AASB 15		
National Landcare Program	3,810,574	2,108,017
	3,810,574	2,108,017
Total Government contributions	9,892,984	14,313,292

The Authority applies AASB 1058 when the grants received by the Authority are not enforceable and doesn't have sufficiently specific performance obligations. The Authority also applies AASB 1058 to capital grants that are controlled by the Authority.

Under AASB 15 income will only be recognised when or as the performance obligations under the contract are satisfied, potentially resulting in a deferral of income as compared to accounting under AASB 1004.

Contracts in general at the Authority can be grouped in 5 categories:

- Government funding to support Corporate or Statutory functions which represents funding to support broad based statutory or back office services and contains no clear performance obligations. On this basis this funding is treated under AASB 1058 as revenue on received at point in time.
- Government funding to undertake projects with performance obligations in the form of standard Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) outputs which is considered to be a single specific performance obligation and these contracts are treated under AASB 1058 as revenue on received at point in time.
- Contracts with no documented performance obligations in the form of short-term projects funded through DELWP or other funding bodies are treated under AASB 1058 as revenue on received at point in time.
- Commonwealth Government funded contracts with funding provided in arrears upon delivery of specific performance obligations. These contracts outline when invoicing is made based upon successful completion of service units which contain specific transaction pricing. These are billed in arrears upon delivery of service units and are treated under AASB 15 as revenue on received over a period of time as completed.
- Commonwealth Government funding to undertake Core Services with funding to support broad based core services. Whilst these contracts include obligations they are not specifically defined and relate primarily to delivery of reports. On this basis these are treated under AASB 1058 as revenue on received at point in time.

NOTE 2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (CONT.)**2.2.2 Interest**

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Interest on bank deposits	69,872	165,814

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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Partnership Contributions	192,845	578,154
Rental Income	-	20,966
Sundry	15,850	26,761
Total other income	208,695	625,882

Partnership contributions and Recoverable costs consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects. The Authority has determined that all Other Revenue are recognised as income of not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058 as contracts are not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations. There was no impact of initially applying AASB 1058 on the Authority's Partnership Contributions and Recoverable Costs. Due to the modified retrospective transition method chosen in applying AASB 1058, comparative information has not been restated to reflect the new requirements [AASB 1058.C3(b)]. The adoption of AASB 1058 did not have an impact on Other comprehensive income and the Statement of Cash flows for the financial year.

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	2020 \$	2019 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,702,936	4,777,578
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	6,568,727	8,298,786
Lease expenses	3.3	58,976	258,867
Other operating expenses	3.4	752,585	915,692
Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services		12,083,224	14,250,923

3.1.1 Employee expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Salaries & wages	3,327,496	3,344,240
Annual leave	373,084	355,981
Long service leave	77,595	15,902
Other leave	337,024	343,197
Defined contribution superannuation expense	374,914	380,877
Other employee expenses	148,037	164,076
Movement in provisions for employee benefits	64,784	173,304
Total employee benefit expenses	4,702,936	4,777,577

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.

The COVID-19 global health pandemic has not effected the judgement or assumption in regards to annual leave, long service leave, time in lieu and RDO.

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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Time in lieu and RDO:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	15,667	32,077
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	286,258	243,816
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	78,729	71,520
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	643,334	568,302
	1,023,989	915,715
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	58,288	99,445
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	101,270	89,459
Total current provisions	1,183,547	1,104,619
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Long service leave:		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	125,490	155,929
Provisions for on-costs		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	19,754	22,362
Total non-current provisions	145,244	178,291
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	1,328,791	1,282,910
	2020 \$	2019 \$
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision		
Opening balance	211,266	190,237
Additional provisions recognised	-	-
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	(31,954)	(74,432)
Unwind of discount and effect of changes in the discount rate	-	(53,403)
Closing balance	179,312	211,266

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 currently contributes to defined contribution plans only.

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 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:

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Defined contribution plans:		
Vision super	189,971	165,997
Vic super	43,726	37,926
Other private schemes	141,217	176,954
Total	374,914	380,877

There was \$30,910 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2020 (2019: \$NIL)

NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (CONT.)**3.2 MATERIALS, MAINTENANCE, GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCIES**

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Materials	162,790	327,381
Repairs and maintenance	19,973	25,291
Grants paid	1,185,201	1,371,759
Contractors	3,384,155	5,020,663
Consultants	1,816,608	1,553,693
Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	6,568,727	8,298,787

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

3.3 LEASE EXPENSES

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Operating lease payments	-	258,867
Short-term lease expenses	58,976	-
Lease expenses	58,976	258,867

From 1 July 2019, the following lease payments are recognised on a straight-line basis (note 8.4):

- Short-term leases – leases with a term less than 12 months; and
- Low value leases – leases with the underlying asset's fair value (when new, regardless of the age of the asset being leased) is no more than \$10,000.

Variable lease payments that are not included in the measurement of the lease liability (i.e. variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate and which are not, in substance fixed) such as those based on performance or usage of the underlying asset, are recognised in the Comprehensive operating statement (except for payments which has been included in the carrying amount of another asset) in the period in which the event or condition that triggers those payments occur.

Accounting policy prior to 1 July 2019

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
- 4.3 Intangible assets

4.1 TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT		ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		NET CARRYING AMOUNT	
	2020 \$	2019 \$	2020 \$	2019 \$	2020 \$	2019 \$
Land at fair value	91,560	91,560	-	-	91,560	91,560
Buildings at fair value	575,682	592,542	(119,012)	(92,214)	456,670	500,328
Plant and equipment at fair value	229,000	215,818	(181,155)	(175,172)	47,845	40,646
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	146,198	209,142	(118,615)	(176,667)	27,583	32,475
Net carrying amount	1,042,439	1,109,062	(418,781)	(444,053)	623,658	665,008

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.

The COVID-19 global health pandemic has not effected the judgement or assumption in regards to the impairment of total property, plant and equipment.

Whilst no impairments are applicable at 30 June 2020, the fair value of land and buildings will continue to be subjected to the impacts of COVID-19 in future accounting periods.

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 and office furniture and equipment.

4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Charge for the period		
Buildings	34,419	46,615
Plant & equipment	15,044	19,777
Office furniture & equipment	4,892	5,372
Total depreciation	54,356	71,764

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.

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

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
Right-of-use assets	2 - 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.

Impairment

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.

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 \$
2019-20					
Opening balance	91,560	500,328	40,646	32,475	665,008
Additions	-	-	22,244	-	22,244
Disposals	-	(9,237)	-	-	(9,237)
Depreciation	-	(34,419)	(15,044)	(4,892)	(54,356)
Closing balance	91,560	456,670	47,845	27,583	623,658
2018-19					
Opening balance	203,360	730,295	57,111	17,843	1,008,610
Additions	-	-	3,312	20,004	23,315
Asset Held for Sale	(123,000)	(230,895)	-	-	(353,895)
Revaluation	11,200	47,542	-	-	58,742
Depreciation	-	(46,615)	(19,777)	(5,372)	(71,764)
Closing balance	91,560	500,328	40,646	32,475	665,008

NOTE 4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY (CONT.)**4.2 ASSETS HELD FOR SALE**

	2020 \$	2019 \$
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.

4.3 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Computer Software		
Gross carrying amount		
Opening Balance	-	-
Additions - Work in Progress	177,924	-
Closing balance	177,924	-

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible amortisation assets with finite useful lives are amortised as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight line basis over their useful lives. The Computer software in development and not in use relates to the implementation of a new finance, payroll and human resource system that is a two year project. At the end of the financial period the project was in the application development stage. This project is scheduled to be finished during the 2020-21 financial period.

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
- 5.4 Right-of-use-assets and lease liabilities

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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current receivables		
Contractual		
Trade receivables	1,037,219	285,017
	1,037,219	285,017
Statutory		
GST input tax credits recoverable	41,815	256,757
	41,815	256,757
Total current receivables	1,079,034	541,774

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.

The COVID-19 global health pandemic has not effected the judgement or assumption in regards to contractual or statutory receivables.

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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current Payables		
Contractual		
Accrued expenses	353,403	416,601
Other payables	2,962	2,920
	356,366	419,521
Statutory		
Superannuation	31,073	-
	31,073	-
Total current payables	387,439	419,521

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

5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	MATURITY DATES		
		LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-6 MONTHS \$
2020				
Payables:				
Accrued expenses	353,403	353,403	-	-
Other payables	2,962	2,962	-	-
Total	356,366	356,366	-	-
2019				
Payables:				
Accrued expenses	416,601	416,601	-	-
Other payables	2,920	2,920	-	-
Total	419,521	419,521	-	-

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days, reduced to 10 days due to COVID-19.

5.3 OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current other assets		
Prepayments	-	32,863
Total other assets	-	32,863

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 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (CONT.)**5.4 LEASES**

This note provides information for leases where the Authority is a lessee.

5.4.1 Amounts recognised in the balance sheet

There is a nil balance at 30 June 2019 as the first application of AASB 16 was 1 July 2019.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Right-of-use assets		
Buildings	76,144	-
Equipment	125,459	-
Vehicles	114,311	-
Total right-of-use assets	315,914	-
Opening balance	-	-
Adjusted opening balance	417,864	-
Additions	112,998	-
Disposals	(14,270)	-
Depreciation	(200,678)	-
Closing balance	315,914	-
Lease liabilities		
Current	(183,279)	-
Non-current	(136,558)	-
Total lease liabilities	(319,837)	-

5.4.2 Amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement

The comprehensive operating statement shows the following amounts relating to leases

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Amortisation charge of right-of-use assets		
Buildings	19,422	-
Equipment	94,833	-
Vehicles	86,423	-
Total	200,678	-
Other leases expenses		
Interest expense on lease liabilities	10,691	-
Expense relating relating to short-term leases	58,976	-
Total amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement	69,667	-

Amounts recognised in the statement of cash flows

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Cashflows for the year ending 30 June 2020 relating to leases.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Total cash outflow for leases	255,732	-

NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (CONT.)

The Authority's leasing activities and how these are accounted for.

The Authority leases various properties, equipment and vehicles. Rental contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1 to 5 years, but may have extension options as described below.

Contracts may contain both lease and non-lease components. The Corporation allocates the consideration in the contract to the lease and non-lease components based on their relative stand-alone prices.

Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants, but leased assets may not be used as security for borrowing purposes.

From 1 July 2019 leases are recognised as a right-of-use asset and a corresponding liability at the date at which the leased asset is available for use by Corporation.

Assets and liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured on a present value basis. Lease liabilities include the net present value of the following lease payments:

- Fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable
- Variable lease payment that are based on an index or a rate
- Amounts expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees
- The exercise price of a purchase option if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option, and
- Payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the lessee exercising that option.

Each lease payment is allocated between the liability and finance cost. The finance cost is charged to comprehensive operating statement over the lease period to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term on a straight-line basis. Lease payments to be made under reasonably certain extension options are also included in the measurement of the liability.

Right-of-use assets are initially measured at cost comprising the following:

- The amount of the initial measurement of lease liability
- Any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, less any lease incentives received
- Any initial direct costs, and
- Restoration costs.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term on a straight-line basis. If the Corporation is reasonably certain to exercise a purchase option, the right-of-use asset is depreciated over the underlying asset's useful life. While the Corporation revalues its land and buildings that are presented within property, plant and equipment, it has chosen not to do so for the right-of-use buildings held by the Corporation.

Subsequently the right-of-use asset are measured by applying a fair value model. Corporation applies the fair value model in AASB 140 Investment Property to its investment property, including right-of-use assets that meet the definition of investment property in AASB 140.

Corporation applies the revaluation model in AASB 116 to right-of-use assets that relate to a class of property, plant and equipment. The revaluation model is applied to all of the right-of-use assets that relate to that class of property, plant and equipment.

Payments associated with short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised on a straight-line basis as an expense in profit or loss. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less. Low-value assets comprise IT-equipment and photo copiers with individual values less than \$10,000 when new.

Corporation is exposed to future cash outflows to which the lessee is potentially exposed that are not reflected in the measurement of lease liabilities.

This includes exposure arising from:

- Variable lease payments
- Extension options and termination options
- Residual value guarantees
- Leases not yet commenced to which the lessee is committed.

Separation of lease and non-lease components

At inception or on reassessment of a contract that contains a lease component, the lessee is required to separate out and account separately for non-lease components within a lease contract and exclude these amounts when determining the lease liability and right-of-use asset amount. Recognition and measurement of leases as a lessee (under AASB 16 from 1 July 2019).

Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The Authority presents right-of-use assets as 'right-of-use assets' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'Lease liabilities' in the balance sheet.

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 Interest bearing liabilities
- 6.2 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.3 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.4 Carry forward project funding

6.1 Interest bearing liabilities

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current interest bearing liabilities		
Lease liabilities	(183,279)	-
Total current interest bearing liabilities	(183,279)	-
Non-current borrowings interest bearing liabilities		
Lease liabilities	(136,558)	-
Non-current borrowings interest bearing liabilities	(136,558)	-
Total interest bearing liabilities	(319,837)	

Borrowings refer to interest bearing liabilities mainly raised from public borrowings raised through the Treasury Corporation of Victoria, lease liabilities, service concession arrangement liabilities and other interest-bearing arrangements.

Interest bearing liabilities are classified as current liabilities unless the Corporation has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

The Authority has designated certain financial liabilities at fair value through net result to eliminate or significantly reduce the accounting mismatch that would otherwise arise. All other interest-bearing borrowings are initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

6.1.1 Maturity analysis of interest-bearing liabilities

	MATURITY DATES				
	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-12 MONTHS \$	1-5 YEARS \$
2020					
Payables:					
Lease liabilities	(319,837)	(16,491)	(32,982)	(134,787)	(135,578)
Total	(319,837)	(134,787)	(32,982)	(134,787)	(135,578)

NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS (CONT.)**6.1.2 Interest expense**

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Interest expense		
Interest on leases under AASB 16	10,691	-
Total interest expenses	10,691	-

Interest expense includes costs incurred in connection with the borrowing of funds and includes interest on bank overdrafts and short-term and long-term borrowings, amortisation of discounts or premiums relating to borrowings, interest component of lease repayments, service concession financial liabilities and the increase in financial liabilities and non-employee provisions due to the unwinding of discounts to reflect the passage of time. Interest expense is recognised in the period in which it is incurred.

The Authority recognises borrowing costs immediately as an expense, even where they are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of a qualifying asset.

6.2 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.

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	406,009	1,043,858
Deposits at call	6,271,766	8,105,900
Balance as per cash flow statement	6,677,775	9,149,758

6.3.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Net result for the period	(2,202,629)	782,302
Non-cash movements:		
(Gain) / loss on disposal of non-current assets	25,231	-
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	255,034	71,764
	(1,922,365)	854,066
Movements in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(537,260)	302,659
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	32,863	(30,863)
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(32,081)	(102,311)
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	45,881	133,268
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	(2,412,962)	1,156,818

NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS (CONT.)**6.3 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.

6.4.1 Total commitments payable

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Operating lease commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	-	241,091
1 to 5 years	-	280,476
5 years or more	-	-
Total	-	521,567
Intangible assets commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	89,158	-
1 to 5 years	-	-
5 years or more	-	-
Total	89,158	-
External program commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	1,399,678	4,444,544
1 to 5 years	2,017,761	3,416,439
5 years or more	-	-
Total	3,417,439	7,860,983
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	3,506,597	8,382,550

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. These have been recorded on the balance sheet as lease liabilities from 1 July 2019 under AASB 16.

Intangible assets commitments relate to the development of computer software for a new finance, payroll and human resource system that is a two year project. At the end of the financial period the project was in the application development stage. This project is scheduled to be finished during the 2020-21 financial period.

External program commitments relate to contract for contractors, consultants and other project delivery costs required to complete current projects that funding has been received for. These contracts expire at the end of each project. This is the first year that the Authority has disclosed these commitments, as such we have brought in last financial years commitment for comparison purposes.

As at 30 June 2020 the Authority had Nil in finance lease commitments (2019: \$Nil).

As at 30 June 2020 the Authority had no further capital expenditure commitments other than intangible assets commitment outlined above (2019: \$Nil).

6.4 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.

Financial Assets	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Cash and Deposits	6,677,775	9,149,758
Receivables	1,079,034	541,774
Total Financial Assets	7,756,809	9,691,532

Financial Liabilities	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Payables	387,439	419,520
Lease Liabilities	319,837	-
Total Financial Liabilities	707,276	419,520

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

**7.1.1 Financial instruments:
Impairment of Financial Assets**

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

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.

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 2019						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	77,319	206,744	-	954	-	285,017
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 June 2020						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	1,028,529	8,690	-	-	-	1,037,219
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.

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 \$
2020			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6,677,775	-	6,677,775
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	1,037,219	-	1,037,219
Total contractual financial assets	7,714,994	-	7,714,994
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Accrued expenses	-	353,403	353,403
Other payables	-	2,962	2,962
Lease liabilities	-	319,837	319,837
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	676,203	676,203
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	-	454,921	454,921

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

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.

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

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 (reduced to 10 days due to COVID-19) 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.

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE %	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	INTEREST RATE EXPOSURE		
			FIXED INTEREST RATE \$	VARIABLE INTEREST RATE \$	NON-INTEREST BEARING \$
2020					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	1.05	6,677,775	-	6,677,775	-
Contractual receivables	-	1,037,219	-	-	1,037,219
Total financial assets		7,714,994	-	6,677,775	1,037,219
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	356,366	-	-	356,366
Lease liabilities	3.38	319,837	319,837	-	-
Total financial liabilities		676,203	319,837	-	356,366
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	-	9,149,758	285,017
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	419,521	-	-	419,521
Total financial liabilities		419,521	-	-	419,521

NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS (CONT.)**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 \$
2020					
Cash and deposits (i)	6,677,775	(33,389)	(33,389)	33,389	33,389
2019					
Cash and deposits (i)	9,149,758	(45,749)	(45,749)	45,749	45,749

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$6,677,775 (2019: \$9,149,758) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2020: $\$6,677,775 \times -0.005 = -\$33,389$ and $\$6,677,775 \times 0.005 = \$33,389$
- 2019: $\$9,149,758 \times -0.005 = -\$45,749$; and $\$9,149,758 \times 0.005 = \$45,749$

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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Contingent Assets		
As at 30 June 2020, the Authority has no known contingent assets.	-	-
Contingent liabilities		
As at 30 June 2020, 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.

The COVID-19 global health pandemic has not effected the judgement or assumption in regards to land, buildings, plant and equipment or office furniture and equipment.

Management regards the VGV indices to be a reliable and relevant data set to form the basis of their estimates.

Whilst these indices are applicable at 30 June 2020, the fair value of land and buildings will continue to be subjected to the impacts of Covid-19 in future accounting periods.

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.

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

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 2019-2020 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

7.3.1 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Fair value measurement hierarchy

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2020 \$	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				
Non-specialised buildings	456,670	-	-	456,670
Right-of-Use Non-specialised buildings	76,144	-	-	76,144
Total Buildings at Fair Value	532,814	-	-	532,814
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	47,845	-	-	47,845
Right-of-Use plant and equipment	239,770	-	-	239,770
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	287,615	-	-	287,615
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	27,583	-	-	27,583
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	27,583	-	-	27,583

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

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

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2019 \$	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD USING:		
		LEVEL 1 \$	LEVEL 2 \$	LEVEL 3 \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	91,560	-	91,560	-
Total Land at Fair Value	91,560	-	91,560	-
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	500,328	-	-	500,328
Right-of-Use Non-specialised buildings	-	-	-	-
Total Buildings at Fair Value	500,328	-	-	500,328
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	40,646	-	-	40,646
Right-of-Use plant and equipment	-	-	-	-
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

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

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.

The Authority conducted an assessment at 30 June 2019 with a material movement identified in land and buildings since the 2016 valuation. An assessment of fair value was performed in accordance with FRD 103H and no change was required for the year ended 30 June 2020.

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 2020.

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

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 \$
2019-20			
Opening Balance	500,328	40,646	32,475
Purchases (sales)	-	22,244	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	95,566	421,026	-
Depreciation	(53,841)	(196,300)	(4,892)
Gains or losses recognised in net result	(9,239)	-	-
Subtotal	532,814	287,616	27,583
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	-	-	-
Subtotal	532,814	287,616	27,583
Closing Balance	532,814	287,616	27,583
2018-19			
Opening Balance	730,295	57,111	17,843
Purchases (sales)	-	3,312	20,004
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

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 Change in accounting policies
- 8.5 Responsible persons
- 8.6 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.7 Related parties
- 8.8 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.9 Subsequent events
- 8.10 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective
- 8.11 Economic dependency

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 2020 (2019 \$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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	337,903	-
Less written down value	(363,518)	-
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	(25,616)	-

8.3 RESERVES

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	519,936	461,194
Revaluation increments	-	58,742
Balance at end of financial year	519,936	519,936

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

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

8.4 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

AASB 16 Leases

This note explains the impact of the adoption of AASB 16 Leases on the Authority's financial statements.

The Authority has applied AASB 16 with a date of initial application of 1 July 2019.

The Authority has elected to apply AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach, as per the transitional provisions of AASB 16 for all leases for which it is a lessee. The cumulative effect of initial application is recognised in retained earnings as at 1 July 2019. Accordingly, the comparative information presented is not restated and is reported under AASB 117 and related interpretations.

On transition to AASB 16, the Authority has elected to apply the practical expedient to grandfather the assessment of which transactions are leases. It applied AASB 16 only to contracts that were previously identified as leases. Contracts that were not identified as leases under AASB 117 and Interpretation 4 were not reassessed for whether there is a lease. Therefore, the definition of a lease under AASB 16 was applied to contracts entered into or changed on or after 1 July 2019.

Leases classified as operating leases under AASB 117

As a lessee, the Authority previously classified leases as operating or finance leases based on its assessment of whether the lease transferred significantly all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the underlying asset to the Authority. Under AASB 16, the Authority recognises right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for all leases except where exemption is availed in respect of short-term and low-value leases.

On adoption of AASB 16, the Authority recognised lease liabilities in relation to leases which had previously been classified as operating leases under the principles of AASB 117. These liabilities were measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using the Authority's incremental borrowing rate as of 1 July 2019.

On transition, right-of-use assets are measured at the amount equal to the lease liability, adjusted by the amount of any prepaid or accrued lease payments relating to that lease recognised in the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019.

The Authority has elected to apply the following practical expedients when applying AASB 16 to leases previously classified as operating leases under AASB 117:

- Applied a single discount rate to a portfolio of leases with similar characteristics;
- Adjusted the right-of-use assets by the amount of AASB 137 onerous contracts provision immediately before the date of initial application, as an alternative to an impairment review;
- Applied the exemption not to recognise right-of-use assets and liabilities for leases with less than 12 months of lease term;
- Excluded initial direct costs from measuring the right-of-use asset at the date of initial application; and
- Used hindsight when determining the lease term if the contract contains options to extend or terminate the lease.

Practical expedients applied

In applying AASB 16 for the first time, the Corporation has used the following practical expedients to all its contracts as permitted by the standard and as mandated by the DTF:

- Applying a single discount rate to a portfolio of leases with reasonably similar characteristics
- Relying on previous assessments on whether leases are onerous as an alternative to performing an impairment review – there were no onerous contracts as at 1 July 2019
- Accounting for leases with a remaining lease term of less than 12 months as at 1 July 2019 as short-term leases
- Excluding initial direct costs from the measurement of the right-of-use asset at the date of initial application, and
- Using hindsight in determining the lease term where the contract contains options to extend or terminate the lease
- Accounting for low value leases.

Reconciliation of operating lease commitment to lease liability

	2020 \$
Operating lease commitments disclosed as at 30 June 2019	258,867
Less: short-term leases not recognised as a liability	(14,270)
Add/(less): contracts reassessed as lease contracts	158,997
Lease liability recognised as at 1 July 2019	<u>403,594</u>
Of which are:	
Current lease liabilities	177,702
Non-current lease liabilities	225,892

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)**AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers**

In accordance with FRD 121 requirements, the Authority has applied the transitional provisions of AASB 15, under modified retrospective method with the cumulative effect of initially applying this standard against the opening retained earnings at 1 July 2019. Under this transition method, the Authority applied this standard retrospectively only to contracts that are not 'completed contracts' at the date of initial application. Comparative information has not been restated.

The Corporation has not applied the fair value measurement requirements for right-of-use assets arising from leases with significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the entity to further its objectives as allowed under temporary option under AASB 16 and as mandated by FRD 122.

AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

In accordance with FRD 122 requirements, the Authority has applied the transitional provision of AASB 1058, under modified retrospective method with the cumulative effect of initially applying this standard against the opening retained earnings at 1 July 2019. Under this transition method, the Authority applied this standard retrospectively only to contracts and transactions that are not completed contracts at the date of initial application.

The Authority has not applied the fair value measurement requirements for right-of-use assets arising from leases with significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the entity to further its objectives as allowed under temporary option under AASB 16 and as mandated by FRD 122. Comparative information has not been restated.

Transition impact on financial statements

Impact on balance sheet due to the adoption of AASB 15, AASB 1058 and AASB 16 is illustrated with the following reconciliation between the carrying amounts at 30 June 2019 and the balances reported under the new accounting standards at 1 July 2019:

	BEFORE NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS OPENING 1 JULY 2019 \$	IMPACT OF NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS – AASB 16, 15 AND 1058 \$	AFTER NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS OPENING 1 JULY 2019 \$
Balance Sheet			
Total financial assets	10,045,427	-	10,045,427
Total non-financial assets	697,871	403,594	1,101,465
Total assets	10,743,298	403,594	11,146,892
Payables and contract liabilities	(419,520)	-	(419,520)
Employee related provisions	(1,282,910)	-	(1,282,910)
Lease liabilities	-	(403,594)	(403,594)
Total liabilities	(1,702,429)	(403,594)	(2,106,023)
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	5,363,987	-	5,363,987
Physical revaluation surplus	519,936	-	519,936
Other items in equity	3,156,946	-	3,156,946
Closing Balance	9,040,869	-	9,040,869

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

8.5 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 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Antony Ford	(Chair)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Debbie Shea	(Board Member & Deputy Chair)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Sep 2019
Adam Bester	(CEO)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Damein Bell	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Michelle Casanova	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Georgina Gubbins	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Sep 2019
Dr John Sherwood	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Sep 2019
Christine Giles	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Philip Saunders	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Celia Tucker	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Gerry Quinn	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahill	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2019 to 30 Jun 2020

Remuneration

Remuneration received or receivable by the Accountable Officer in connection with the management of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA during the reporting period was: \$210,000-\$219,999 (\$220,000-\$229,999 in 2018-19).

Income band	2020	2019
\$0 - \$9,999	6	-
\$10,000 - \$19,999	4	7
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	-
\$220,000 - \$229,999	-	1
Total number of Responsible persons	12	9
Total Remuneration \$	332,175	309,454

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.)**8.6 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.

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

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

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Share-based payments are cash or other assets paid or payable as agreed between the entity and the employee, provided specific vesting conditions, if any, are met.

Remuneration	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	427,892	388,882
Post-employment benefits	40,366	36,102
Other long-term benefits	11,028	11,965
Total remuneration	479,286	436,950
Total number of executives (i)	4	3
Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)	3.0	3.0

Notes:

(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.

8.7 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.

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

GHGMA 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	\$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	5,787,533
Department of Treasury & Finance	379,695
Wannon Water Corporation	40,096
Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority	35,000

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

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

Entity	Payments made \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	330,991
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	173,455
State Revenue Office	92,739
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions	73,000
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	81,343
Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority	25,000
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	33,423
Wannon Water Corporation	46,014

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	Executive Manager - Business Services (resigned April 2020)
Mr Michael Rees	Executive Manager - Integrated Catchment Management
Mr Chris Solum	Executive Manager - Waterways and Biodiversity
Mrs Faye Lee	Executive Manager - Business Services (commenced January 2020)

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	2020 \$	2019 \$
Short-term employee benefits	726,611	665,608
Post-employment benefits	68,951	62,187
Other long-term benefits	15,899	18,609
Total	811,461	746,404

There were no significant related party transactions or balances that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interest.

8.8 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	22,100	10,600
Internal audit costs	25,860	24,815
Total auditors' remuneration	47,960	35,415

The 2020 year includes the 2019 actual fee of \$10,900 and the 2020 accrual of \$11,200.

8.9 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Authority is still under the Victorian State of Emergency stage 3 restrictions. This will potentially effect the delivery deadline of projects due to the restrictions, this may have a flow-on effect in regards to competing for successful project bids in the future.

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

8.10 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 2020 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 2019-20 reporting period.

STANDARD / INTERPRETATION	SUMMARY	APPLICABLE FOR ANNUAL REPORTING PERIODS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER	IMPACT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
<i>AASB 1059 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.
<i>AASB 2018-5 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 2020	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
<i>AASB 2018-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Material</i>	This Standard principally amends AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements and AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors. It applies to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020 with earlier application permitted. The Authority has not earlier adopted the Standard.	1 January 2020	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
<i>AASB 17 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.
<i>AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current</i>	This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. It initially applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022 with earlier application permitted however the AASB has recently issued ED 301 Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current – Deferral of Effective Date with the intention to defer the application by one year to periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. The Department will not early adopt the Standard.	1 January 2023	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.

8.11 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Authority is dependent on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for the majority of its revenue used to operate the entity. At the date of this report, the Board of Directors has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support the Authority.

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.

LEGISLATION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE
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FRD 103H	Non-Financial Physical Assets	102
FRD 110A	Cash Flow Statements	77
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LEGISLATION*Freedom of Information Act 1982**Building Act 1993**Protected Disclosure Act 2012**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 1994*

Glossary



ABC	Actions for Biodiversity Conservation	IWC	Index of Wetland Condition
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	LAC	Limits for Acceptable Change
ARRC	Australian River Restoration Centre	LGA	Local Government Agencies
ARTC	Australian Rail Track Corporation	MERI	Monitor Evaluate Report and Improvement
BA	Birdlife Australia	ML	Megalitres
BAU	Business as Usual	MLDRAN	Murray Lower Darling Rivers Aboriginal Nations
BBNP	Budj Bim National Park	NCP	National Competition Policy 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 Cwlt Commonwealth	OCOC	<i>Our Catchments Our Communities</i>
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	PV	Parks Victoria
DIWA	Directory of Important Wetlands	PAA	<i>Public Administration Act</i>
DTR	Department of Treasury and Finance	RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
ECs	Ecological Communities	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy RLC Regional Landcare Coordinator
EEFAM	Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment Method	RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System	RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
EO	Executive Officer	RNVP	Regional Native Vegetation Plan
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Communities	SCA	Stock Containment Area
EWR	Environmental Water Reserve	SMWG	Staff Management Work Group
FFG	<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act</i>	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
FTE	Full-time Employee	VLG	Victorian Landcare Grants
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
GWMWater	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
IBA	Important Bird Areas	VEPP	Victorian Environment Partnerships Program
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission	VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
ICT	Information Communication Technology	VFMS	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy
IEC	Index of Estuary Condition	VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area	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
		WAP	Waterway Action Plan
		WESI	Weed at Early Stages of Invasion Protocols

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