

2016 - 2017  
GLENELG HOPKINS CMA  
ANNUAL REPORT





## REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management and staff, we are pleased to present the 19th Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

The year has been one of substantial change, with drought giving way to floods, major strategies developed in natural resources management, and the reorientation of some of our delivery programs in response. Glenelg Hopkins CMA has adapted to these changes and continued to provide high quality services to our regional community while delivering sound business results.

In response to the drought of last year the Victorian Government established the Drought Employment Program which has achieved far more than initially planned. Primarily designed to provide employment to rural people impacted by the drought, our program was able to employ 12 individuals, training them in a range of areas, and equip eight of these participants to find employment after leaving the program. Partnerships were strengthened with two Shires in delivering the works, and the crews assisted 15 community groups and 72 landholders. Ironically, towards the end of the program, crews moved on to assist landholders affected by floods. It is a testament to the CMA's flexibility that we were able to quickly plan and implement programs to assist the community to deal with and recover from these natural disasters.

The September floods arose from abnormally warm waters to the north of Australia, which contributed to the nation's wettest May to September period on record, and Victoria's second wettest September on record. Many towns and rural areas were impacted by road closures, although most escaped damaging floodwaters within buildings. However, the township of Coleraine on Bryans Creek was not so fortunate and was flooded extensively. The CMA's floodplain management staff were able to assist for extended periods in the incident control centres advising the SES on expected flood behaviour and water heights.

The CMA continued to work with local government during the year to improve the quality of flood information available to the community. Flood studies and planning scheme amendments have been progressed for Ararat, Heywood, Harrow and the City of Ballarat. To provide a comprehensive flood management program in the region, the CMA led the development of a Regional Floodplain Management Strategy in conjunction with partners, particularly regional councils and the SES. The strategy will outline priorities for flood protection and flood warning over the next ten years and will be finalised for public comment next year.

Floods in the region also produced major damage to a number of waterways. The CMA applied for funding under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements to remediate the damage and has been granted approval to rehabilitate 69 sites. This large flood recovery program is now well underway, and will require a concerted effort to complete all works within the two-year time frame.

Wetter conditions have also improved outcomes for river health, due to natural river inflows and environmental releases from Rocklands Reservoir. Tracking of native fish in the Glenelg River found that estuary perch and tulong had migrated in response to summer water releases, and continued recolonising the upper reaches. This positive story of fish recovery has provided an ideal platform to communicate the benefits of environmental water to residents and stakeholders interested in the Glenelg.

Demonstrating the benefits of environmental water delivery to recreational users is a key initiative in Water for Victoria, and the CMA has been actively engaging the community, particularly the angling fraternity. We have shown anglers the eco-system in the rivers they fish, and how habitat improvement programs can benefit their prized species, particularly estuary perch funded by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder. In a pilot crowdfunding campaign funded through the Victorian Environmental Water Community Engagement Program and under the banner "Funds for Fish", Glenelg Hopkins CMA raised funds for fish habitat restoration while simultaneously increasing angler and community awareness of the benefits of waterway management.

With funding provided through the Victorian Government Regional Riparian Action Plan and the Waterway Health Program, we have continued to improve waterways in all basins. Our continued focus on priority waterways in the Glenelg basin since 2009, has now increased the length of waterway protected with fencing on almost 2,000 kms and we have worked with over 800 farming families to achieve this. The CMA worked with landholders on the Wannon River, and Mt Emu and Fiery Creeks, and discussed project opportunities with landholders on the Fitzroy and Darlots Creeks. The Fitzroy and Darlots Creeks are important elements of the unique national heritage listed Budj Bim landscape, and are targeted for improvement over the next three years through partnerships with landholders, including the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners. We have also continued work on urban waterways in Warrnambool and Hamilton, improving river health and recreational opportunities in conjunction with local communities and councils.

A new major catchment project commenced during the year as a four-year initiative under the state strategy Our Catchments Our Communities. It will see the protection of wetlands across a large landscape to the south and east of the Grampians National Park. Wetlands are a prominent part of this landscape, with some being quite large and recognized nationally, and one category, seasonally herbaceous wetlands, being listed under national legislation as critically endangered.

During the year we were pleased to partner with Traditional Owners to identify Aboriginal cultural values in water, funded through DELWP Rural Water Program (Aboriginal Water Unit). The project commenced last year as one of four pilots across Victoria and has been invaluable in assisting Traditional Owner groups, and water managers, to understand indigenous interests in water, and how our management can improve and strengthen their reconnection to Country. As a tangible illustration of what this might look like in the future, the CMA arranged an environmental water release to the Glenelg River in late February that was designed in consultation with two Traditional Owner groups to support contemporary cultural outcomes on the river in and around Harrow.

The Coastal Connections Project, supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and Victorian Government Waterway Health Program, continued with estuary management, coastal habitat protection through stewardships, and working with coastal community groups to manage threats. We also had detailed involvement in the planning for a new *Marine and Coastal Act*, with discussion on the implications for coastal CMAs. We expect that this will develop into a more robust and effective approach to managing the Victorian coast, which, while it is an environmentally sensitive part of the region is increasingly popular for visitors and permanent residents.

2016-17 was the final year in a major a six-year program of woodland and habitat protection and revegetation funded by the Australian Government. The South West Biolinks Project was an investment in landscape scale connectivity designed to combat fragmentation and protect a range of threatened species in our region. Over the course of the project new alliances were created with plantation companies and strengthened with community groups, NGOs and Traditional Owners. The results are impressive with a total of 545 ha of revegetation aiding the movement of fauna between habitat fragments. Weeds were controlled over more than 1,000 ha and 730 ha of remnant vegetation was protected or enhanced.

The CMA's people have worked very diligently throughout the year supporting landholders, community groups and partners in these and many other projects. This has included sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection, Indigenous partnerships, Landcare, environmental monitoring and project reporting. They were ably supported by a committed and hard working group who have kept the organisation and its staff operating effectively in an environment that displays good governance and efficient management.

Our Board has worked collegiately and positively over the year fashioning and assessing our strategic directions and maintaining close oversight of our compliance, culture and business results. There have been important strategic developments in the CMA's landscape which the Board has steered the organisation deftly through and provided the direction and support to maintain the CMA as a strong and effective organisation, well connected to our regional community.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* we are pleased to present the Report of Operations for Glenelg Hopkins CMA for the Year ended 30 June 2017.



**Antony Ford**  
Chairperson

Glenelg Hopkins CMA  
30 June 2017



**Kevin Wood**  
Chief Executive Officer

Glenelg Hopkins CMA  
30 June 2017

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### THIS REPORT:

- covers the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
- is the 19th Annual Report for Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- is prepared for the Minister for Water, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Parliament of Victoria and the community
- is a public document freely available on our website, easily accessed, easily understood and relevant to readers
- is prepared in accordance with government and legislative requirements. This includes the requirement under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* for Glenelg Hopkins CMA to submit "...a report on the condition and management of land and water resources in its region and the carrying out of its functions"
- provides an accurate record of the CMA's performance and finances against its core business strategy, the Corporate Plan, which can be accessed online at [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)
- contains the Condition and Management Report 2016-17
- acknowledges the support of our community.

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COVER: "Valdor" Wheat Harvest; John & Paul Phillips at Glenthompson. Image courtesy of Samantha Kaspers

## NATURE AND RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

### OUR VISION

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

### OUR OBJECTIVES

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

#### Productive partnerships for a healthy catchment

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

#### Integrated and sustainable catchment management

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

#### Effective waterway and floodplain management

- Manage environmental water effectively
- Provide efficient business process for statutory functions
- Provide regional leadership in floodplain management

#### A respected and accountable organisation

- Recruit and sustain a professional, proactive and innovative workforce
- Deliver investment programs effectively and efficiently
- Manage business risk conservatively
- Optimise funding for NRM projects by minimising corporate overheads

### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

	2017 (\$ '000)	2016 (\$ '000)	2015 (\$ '000)	2014 (\$ '000)	2013 (\$ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	6,677	6,847	4,625	4,648	5,198
Federal Government contributions	2,407	2,497	3,137	3,828	3,580
Other revenue	353	714	1,098	988	475
Total revenue	9,437	10,058	8,860	9,464	9,253
Total expenditure	9,953	9,000	7,953	8,622	11,913
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(483)	1,058	907	842	(2,660)
Financial assets	7,582	7,905	6,808	5,796	4,583
Non-financial assets	1,091	1,147	1,311	1,301	1,372
Total assets	8,673	9,052	8,119	7,097	5,955
Liabilities	1,437	1,333	1,355	1,308	1,009
Net assets	7,236	7,719	6,764	5,789	4,946

## WHO WE ARE

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

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

Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed 39.00 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in 2016-17 and had a gross turnover of \$10 million.

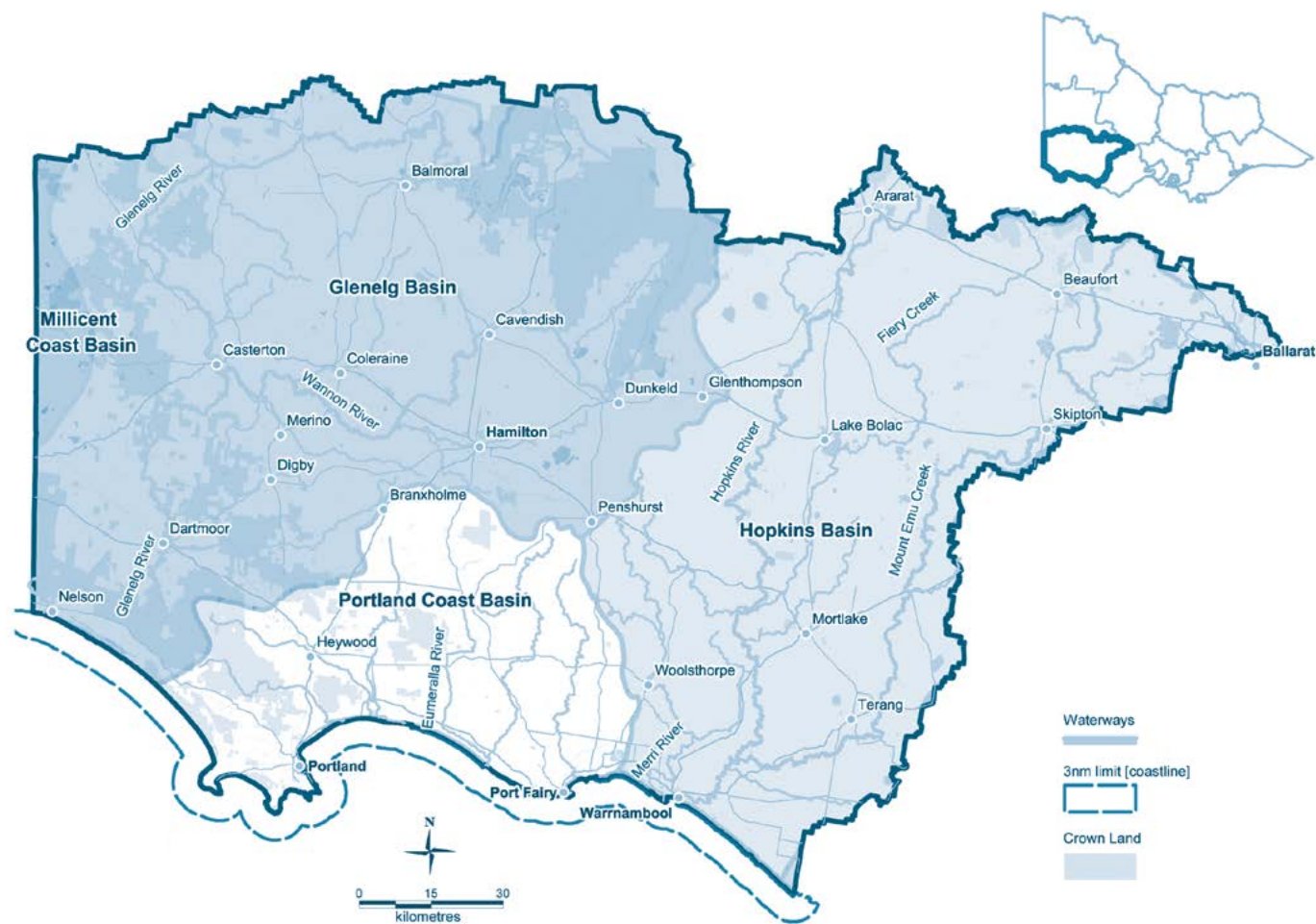
### Manner of Establishment

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority was established in July 1997, under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

### Responsible Ministers

The responsible Ministers for the 2016-17 reporting period were the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

The annual financial reporting requirements are embodied in the *Financial Management Act 1994*. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is also responsible for specific functions under the *Water Act 1989* and for these functions report to the Hon Lisa Neville.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Drought Employment Program** for 2016-17, funded through the Victorian Government, assisted 12 participants to receive training and employment delivering environmental works in the region. The two crews installed or repaired 78 km of fencing, mostly for fences damaged in the September floods, revegetated 70 ha of land and removed weeds from 141 ha. In the course of the program the crews assisted 61 farmers, six local governments, 15 community groups as well as Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria. A number of the land managers expressed their great appreciation for the work that crews performed on their properties.
- In September 2016, western Victoria experiencing some of its **worst flooding in 40 years**. In response, the CMA undertook aerial and ground surveys to assess the damage to waterways and associated infrastructure, and more than 260 flood damage sites were assessed for damage extent and eligibility for disaster relief funding. Following discussions with landholders and detailed documentation of waterway damage, the CMA has received approval under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements for the repair of 69 major erosion sites, mostly in the upper Glenelg basin.
- **Traditional Owner values** and uses for the Glenelg River have been documented in partnership with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) and Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC). Implementing two of the major initiatives of the Victorian Government's water plan Water for Victoria, the CMA investigated how to integrate Aboriginal values and traditional knowledge, and provide shared recreational benefits, into environmental water planning and delivery. As a result of the good working relationship with these two Traditional Owner groups, the timing of a summer water release to the Glenelg River was able to be coordinated to support contemporary cultural outcomes for Traditional Owners.
- This was the last year of a major habitat restoration program funded by the Australian Government in Glenelg Hopkins region. Called the **South West Biolinks Project**, it aimed to combat fragmentation and protect threatened species across a large expanse of the south west while sequestering carbon in native vegetation. The CMA partnered with plantation companies New Forests, PF Olsen and Timberlands, as well as landholders, Pallisters Reserve Committee, Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Gunditj Mirring TOAC. A total of 545 ha of revegetation will aid in the future movement of fauna between currently fragmented landscapes. Weeds were controlled over 1031 ha and 730 ha of remnant vegetation was protected or enhanced, transforming native forests and halting threatening processes.
- The CMA's three **Green Army projects** concluded in December 2016. The crews have achieved some outstanding results including 55,500 seedlings planted over 366 ha, 8.2 tonnes of debris removed, 130 ha of reserves maintained, 7.8 km of fencing and weeds controlled over 14,685 ha. Highlights across the three projects have been the collaboration with diverse groups, for example building fauna nest boxes with the Hamilton Men's Shed. Cultural awareness sessions hosted by Winda Mara, and Eastern Barred Bandicoot protection at the Hamilton reserve, partnering with DELWP and CVA.
- A major program of restoring the **Merri River** through Warrnambool saw continued progress during the year with willow removal across four large sites and a total of 1,200 m of riverbank cleared ready for planting. Downstream fish habitat was also improved through the introduction of tailored 'fish hotels' to suitable sites in the river. Community groups, angling groups, the Warrnambool City Council and local land developers have all contributed enthusiastically to the renewal project, and have committed to continuing the work in coming years.
- The region's leaders in environmental management were celebrated at the **2017 Environmental Achievers Awards** held in June. Awards were presented to Rod Bird for Lifetime Achievement, Jodie Honan for her individual contribution to conservation, Hamilton Field Naturalists Club for its environment works on waterways, primary producers Tim and Sally Philip, Friends of Pallisters Reserve, Budj Bim Tours in the Indigenous category, and in the Education category, both Hamilton and Alexandra College and Baimbridge College.
- The **Glenelg Hopkins Regional Floodplain Management Strategy** has been drafted in 2016-17. The CMA conducted 10 community drop-in sessions, nine Council/SES Workshops and four indigenous engagements. Information gathered is being used to inform floodplain management investment priorities and develop regional workplans over the 10-year lifespan of the Strategy. The Strategy is due to be completed by December 2017.
- The **Ballarat C178 Planning Scheme Amendment** was approved by the Minister for Planning late in the year, providing critical planning certainty for Victoria's third largest city. The amendment introduces overlays to the Burrumbeet Creek floodplain ensuring developments are reviewed to minimise future risk from flooding. This amendment is the culmination of six years of partnership effort between Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Ballarat City Council.
- The **Harrow and Ararat Flood investigations** were completed during the year. These projects were undertaken by the CMA in partnership with the West Wimmera Shire and the Ararat Rural City Councils. The flood mapping information provides high reliability flood data valuable for land use and flood mitigation planning, and for responding to flood events.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Community groups and private land managers have worked with the CMA during the year to protect and restore coastal habitat as part of the **Coastal Connections Project**. In 2016-17, the project supported a number of best-practice management activities including stock exclusion, weed and pest control on 292 ha, conservation covenants on 82 ha, protection of endangered coastal orchids and involvement of 11 community groups that ran field days, working bees, tours and clean-ups.
- The **Drought Refuge Engagement Project** involved 101 landholders in three field days, held at Yatmerone Wetlands near Penshurst, sites within the Panyyabyr Landcare Group area and at Mustons Creek. In the surveys a rare sub-species of river blackfish was found at Mustons Creek. This sub-species (soon to be described as a separate species) has only been found at three other sites in Victoria. Yatmerone Wetlands was found to contain western swamp crayfish, which is a nationally threatened species, and this is the first record of it at this site.
- Environmental watering** this year enabled a much needed improvement to the ecological health of the Glenelg River. A wet winter broke drought conditions across the region allowing increased allocations and passing flows for the Glenelg, and refreshing all the other waterways as well. Monitoring of water quality has shown a rapid improvement to conditions in the Glenelg River. A native fish tracking program identified estuary perch and tujung migrating upstream is association with summer water releases. This supports evidence from previous monitoring that native fish have been progressively recolonising the Glenelg River upstream of Casterton.
- The **CMA initiated a four year program** to improve community understanding of the benefits provided by environmental water in the Glenelg basin. Extensive engagement activities during the year included 14 media releases, 30 published articles, six radio interviews, 30 facebook posts, five videos, flow notifications, development of the mythbusters campaign, and a very successful school engagement program with the Balmoral and Casterton Schools. A total of 230 students, teachers and fishing club members participated in the school activities. Additional angler engagement activities included fishing competitions and the development of a video for the Merv Hughes Fishing Show.
- An innovative pilot was trialled to improve fish habitat across three CMA areas this year. Under the label **'Funds for Fish'** a crowdfunding campaign was conducted by several partners including the Australian River Restoration Centre and Glenelg Hopkins, Goulburn Broken and Corangamite CMAs. Funded through DELWP the trial had the objectives of identifying alternative funding sources for fish habitat restoration, and increasing participation by industry, anglers and community members. Glenelg Hopkins CMA easily reached its funding target and achieved a high level of campaign awareness and engagement with the community, key stakeholders and interest groups. The marketing campaign reached 319,548 people, had 4,372 likes, 471 comments and 1,631 shares or retweets, making it one of the most significant marketing campaigns across Victorian CMAs.

## OUR REGION

The Glenelg Hopkins region lies south of the Great Dividing Range in Victoria's south west. The region is renowned for its agricultural production, scenic beauty, dramatic coastline and rich biodiversity.

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

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

### Catchment facts

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

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

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

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

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

The region is one of Australia's major agricultural areas; and was rated as the 4th highest of Australia's 53 NRM regions in 2014-15, producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$2,046m. Glenelg Hopkins was the second highest contributor of Victorian NRM regions to the gross value of agricultural commodities in 2014-15.

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

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

- Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape (Mt Eccles / Lake Condah / Tyrendarra Area)
- The Grampians National Park
- Kanawinka Geopark (UNESCO listed), encompassing sites of geologic significance such as Wannon Falls, Tower Hill, Mt Noorat and Princess Margaret Rose Caves
- Glenelg River – the lower section of the Glenelg River is heritage-listed due to its environmental significance
- Western District Ramsar lakes – one lake in the region is recognised as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Three International Bird Areas (IBA) between Port Fairy and Warrnambool, Yambuk and the Discovery Bay Coastal Park
- Significant areas of two Australian Government 'biodiversity hotspots'
- 13 endangered Ecological Vegetation Communities
- The iconic Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Orange-bellied Parrot and endemic Glenelg Spiny Cray, and 173 of Victoria's threatened species.

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

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

**Performance targets and measures - as prescribed by Government.**

A summary of the CMA's performance against prescribed targets is provided below.

Performance Area	Performance target	Achievement commentary
<b>Business management and governance</b>	Submit annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Submitted electronically to 31 August 2016 to Hon Lisa Neville Minister for Water, Hon Liliana D'Ambrosio Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.
	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 18 May 2017.
	100% of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	96% of Board Policies have been reviewed in the last three years (39 of 40 – the only Board Policy not reviewed in the last three financial years is the Business Continuity Policy).  67% of Operational Procedures have been reviewed in the last three years (42 of 63 - all procedures not reviewed in the last three financial years are considered 'under review' and mostly consist of HR & IT-related procedures).
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Partial compliance with no material non-compliance.
<b>Regional planning and coordination</b>	A Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins RCS (2013-2019) was gazetted on 16 May 2013.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework / plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Partnership and Engagement Strategy was approved by the Board on 19 September 2014.
	A Regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy was approved by the Board on 14 December 2012 and is being implemented.
	A Regional Waterways Strategy approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-22 was approved by the Minister August 2014.
	A Regional Floodplain Strategy approved by the Board.	A Draft Regional Floodplain Management Strategy has been developed and released to Partners for Comment. The Strategy is expected to be completed by the 31st December 2017.
<b>Regional delivery</b>	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 the August 2016 Board Meeting.
	Projects / activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Projects to implement the RCS were delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.
	Projects / activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy is reviewed annually by the board. 12 actions have been completed, 46 are in progress and 10 are yet to commence. All actions are to be completed over the life of the Strategy.  A Draft Regional Floodplain Management Strategy has been developed.
<b>Statutory functions under Part 10 of the Water Act</b>	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	95% of Flood Advice were responded to within the prescribed period.  97% of Flood Referrals were responded to within the prescribed period.  94% of Works on Waterways Licences were issued within the prescribed period.  100% of Works on Waterways Referrals were issued within the prescribed period.
<b>Statutory functions under Part 11 of the Water Act</b>	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	100% of irrigation management responses were within the prescribed response period.

**1.0 OVERVIEW**

This Condition and Management Report for 2016-17 fulfills Glenelg Hopkins CMA's responsibility 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 2016-17 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*.<sup>1</sup>

**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 natural resource management (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 time frame) have been set at a regional level, for nine asset classes: community, waterways, biodiversity, land and coasts, marine, terrestrial habitat, species populations and communities, and soil/land. Management measures (actions) have been 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), Soil Health Strategy (2014-19), and Regional Landcare Support Strategy (2012-2018). These sub-strategies play an important role in shaping regional works programs and supporting the implementation of RCS actions.

Overall, good progress continues to be made on the implementation of the RCS and six-year management actions. As of 30 June 2017, 16 per cent of RCS actions were assessed as completed, 76 per cent in progress (or ongoing), 7 per cent not started, and 1 per cent abandoned.

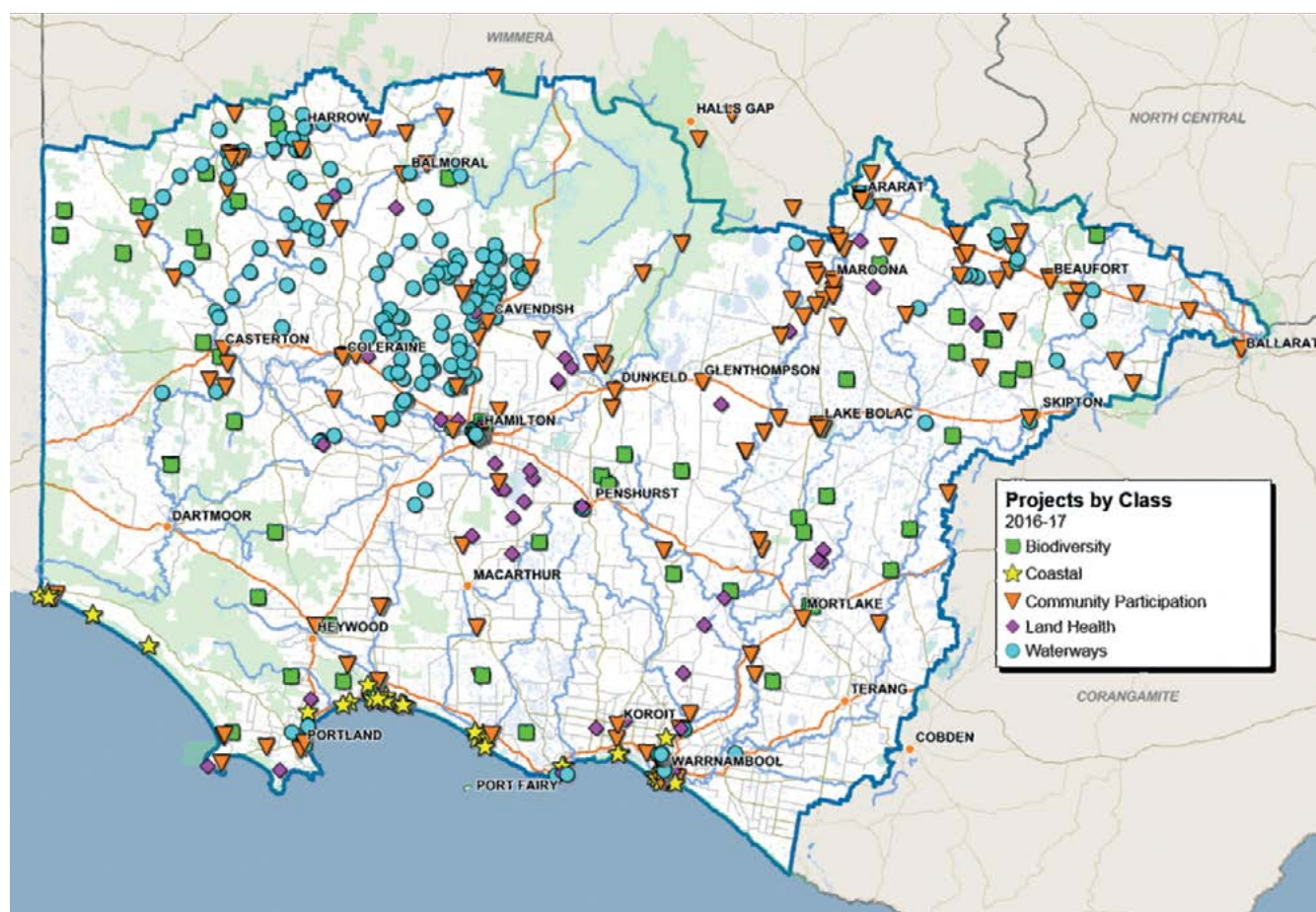
A highlight for 2016-17 was the release of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Climate Change Strategy. This Strategy will support the CMA in responding to and adapting to climate change by guiding the development and prioritisation of regional mitigation and adaptation actions.

Implementation of the RCS has been supported through a number of funding sources, including the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme (NLP) and the Victorian Government's Victorian Water Program Investment Framework, the CMA's two main sources of project funding for 2016-17.

The location of management activities associated with CMA led programs for 2016-17 is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Location of management activities in the Glenelg Hopkins region for 2016-17



### 3.0 CONDITION ASSESSMENT 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 2016-17, and a summary of key project achievements for 2016-17.

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 1. 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 1: Assessment criteria for annual condition reporting

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

Details for each catchment indicator theme are presented separately in this report. An overall summary is provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of catchment condition assessment criteria for annual condition reporting

Theme	Condition assessment	Condition assessment summary
Community	Neutral →	Community participation rates in CMA NRM partnership projects have remained relatively steady. Landcare group health scores have remained relatively stable.
Waterways	Concerned ↓	A number of reports and incidents of wetland loss during 2016-17, due to cropping of ephemeral wetlands. High rainfall and flooding occurred in September 2016 which resulted in significant damage to waterways in the upper Glenelg Basin and Hopkins Basin. The recent extremes in climatic and river conditions are likely to have caused stress to macro-invertebrate, amphibian, platypus and water rat populations in the Glenelg River.
Biodiversity	Neutral →	No significant bushfires. Positive outcomes observed for some threatened species across the region. Above average rainfall benefited many terrestrial and aquatic species, and vegetation communities. Over-browsing by Koalas in the mixed Eucalypt woodlands of the far south west of the catchment remains a significant concern.
Land	Neutral →	No significant bushfires. No major erosion events reported on farmland. Annual average ground cover rates remained stable. Significant long-term challenges remain in managing the impact of land use on waterway health and managing soil health at the farm scale.
Coasts	Concerned ↓	With the exception of land protected within parks and reserves, the coastal environment remains under significant pressure from agriculture, and development near urban centres. Coastal areas are experiencing increases in population and tourism activity. Pollution, erosion and loss of coastal habitat are major threats. Coastal settlements located in low-lying areas within the region are already experiencing occasional inundation.

### 3.1 Community Condition Statement

The community headline indicator theme reports on community participation in NRM and Landcare group health results.

#### Regional context

The Glenelg Hopkins community plays 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 clearly 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 Gunditjmara Traditional Owners through the Budj Bim Council. The Gunditjmara Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation also manages significant parcels of land of high environmental, historical and cultural value, which form part of the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.

Table 3: Current level of community participation

Activity	Participation in 2016-17*	Approximate hours 2016-17
Contributing to on-ground works (CMA partnership activities)	179 management agreements	N/A
Attending skills and training events (CMA partnership activities)	714 people	4,159
Taking part in awareness raising activities (CMA partnership activities)	3,501 people	19,620
Working as collaborators in planning and decision making (CMA partnership activities)	1,778 people	7,997

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

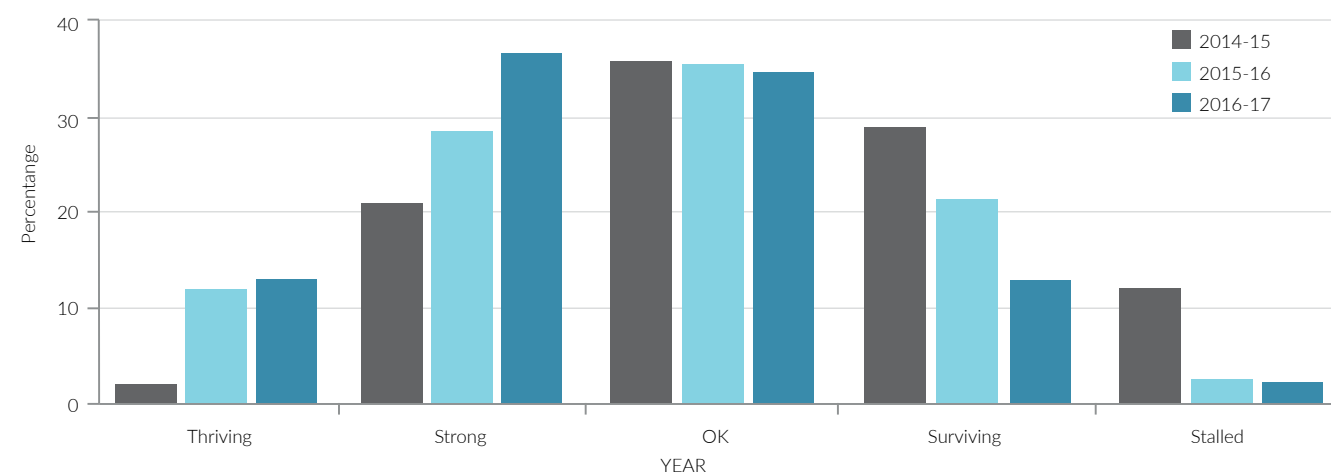
The Glenelg Hopkins region has 111 Landcare Groups. Of these groups, 58 were assessed as active and 53 as in recess. These figures have remained relatively constant over the past three years. The region is home to a further 49 Community Based Natural Resource Management groups and five Landcare networks. Each year, groups are invited to complete a Group Health Survey, which records group perceptions of their current health and activity levels.

The results of the most recent Group Health Survey are shown in Table 4 (ranked from a score of 1 - stalled, to 5 - thriving) and Figure 2. The survey is completed by regional groups that participate in the Victorian Landcare Grants Program. In 2016-17, there were fewer groups that self rated as surviving or stalled, compared to 2015-16, and 2014-15; with around 48 per cent of respondents rating their group as strong or thriving. The level of groups self rating as o.k. was similar to previous years.

Table 4: Landcare Group Health Survey Results 2013-14 to 2016-17

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Group Health Score	3.23	3.38	3.26	3.46
Respondents	43	32	42	47

Figure 2: Landcare Group Health Survey Results 2014-15 to 2016-17



Annual community indicator theme assessment 2016-17

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key evidence
Neutral →	A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.	Community participation rates in CMA NRM partnership projects have remained relatively steady. Landcare group health scores have remained relatively stable.

Reasons for assessment:

- Community participation rates in CMA NRM partnership projects have remained relatively steady (see Figure 1).
- Landcare group health scores have remained relatively stable, with a slight increase in average group health scores for 2016-17.

- There was a small change in the number of active Landcare Groups at a regional level (56 to 58). The Balmoral Land Management and Farm Tree group, and the Eumeralla Landcare Group re-activated after more than 5 years in recess.

Management Report

Key initiatives that have been undertaken in 2016-17 towards implementing RCS community participation objectives and actions are summarised in Table 5. Most CMA programs contain activities aimed at increasing community participation in NRM. The following section provides a snapshot of key programs and projects that were undertaken in 2016-17 to support and improve community participation in NRM. Initiatives were focussed on the following RCS actions:

- collaborating with Indigenous communities, community organisations, local government agencies, tertiary institutions and industry groups to develop partnership projects and joint initiatives (to support RCS implementation);

- community education programs to increase awareness of natural assets within the region and encourage actions that improve land, water and biodiversity outcomes;
- implementing programs to build community capacity in NRM;
- undertaking community awareness and extension activities to promote NRM and best management practices in agriculture; and
- implementing the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy.

Table 5: Key programs and projects contributing to achievement of RCS community participation objectives and actions in 2016-17

RCS objective	No. of 2016-17 measures implemented <sup>1</sup>	Key programs/projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions <sup>2</sup>
<b>Objectives that relate to all or multiple asset themes</b>		
Objective 2.1: Maintain and enhance community capacity, awareness and involvement in natural resource management with the region	6 of 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional)*</li> <li>VWPIF Regional Riparian Action Plans (RRAP) – Landcare Grants</li> <li>VWPIF Our Catchments Our Communities</li> <li>Riparian Project Website Development and Crowdfunding Concept – Funds for Fish</li> <li>VWPIF Environmental Water Community Engagement Project*</li> <li>VWPIF Regional Floodplain Management Strategy Implementation*</li> <li>Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordination)</li> <li>Glenelg River Aboriginal Water Scoping Study</li> <li>NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture*, Regional Landcare Facilitator, Threatened Species and Communities Program, Coastal Connections*, Indigenous Partnerships for NRM)</li> <li>Biodiversity Fund – South West Biolinks*</li> <li>Green Army Projects</li> <li>Drought Refuge Engagement Project</li> <li>Glenelg River Drought Refuge Protection Project</li> </ul>
Objective 2.2: Facilitate a collaborative approach to NRM	3 of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional)*</li> <li>VWPIF RRAP Landcare Grants</li> <li>VWPIF Our Catchments Our Communities</li> <li>VWPIF Environmental Water Program*</li> <li>Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordination)</li> <li>Glenelg River Aboriginal Water Scoping Study</li> <li>NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture*, Regional Landcare Facilitator, Threatened Species and Communities Program, Coastal Connections*, Indigenous Partnerships for NRM)</li> <li>Biodiversity Fund - South West Biolinks*</li> </ul>
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"> <li>NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project*</li> </ul>
Objective 2.4: Support farmers to incorporate environmental outcomes into their farm systems	1 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF RRAP Landcare Grants</li> <li>Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordination)</li> <li>NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture*, Regional Landcare Facilitator, Threatened Species and Communities Program, Coastal Connections*, Indigenous Partnerships for NRM)</li> </ul>

Note: NLP = National Landcare Programme, 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.

2. Initiatives may contribute to one or more RCS objectives / actions. Achievements for programs / projects marked \* are discussed elsewhere in this report.



**Key initiatives and achievements**

**Our Catchments, Our Communities**

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

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

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

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

Key activities undertaken in 2016-17 include the development of an on-ground works project plan aimed at improving the condition of wetlands in the Greater Grampians region; completion of foundation activities required to implement the 4-year program; and coordination and planning of regional engagement events and activities to strengthen integrated catchment management within the region.

**Supporting Landcare**

**Regional Landcare Coordinator and Victorian Landcare Grants**

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

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

The VLGs have been supplemented by a large in-kind and financial contribution by Landcare members. Key achievements for VLG projects completed in 2016-17 included:

- over 29.3 km of fencing;
- 5.4 km of direct seeding;
- 29,360 trees planted;
- 23 workshops / field days; and
- in-kind contributions from landholders, valued at approximately \$269,000.

**South West Landcare Gathering**

The 6th Annual South West Landcare Gathering was held in Portland and attended by approximately 70 people. The event was co-hosted by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the South West Coast Action Landcare Network. Presentations were provided on the use of shelterbelts to improve lambing percentages, how the Friends of the Great South West Walk group were tackling the difficult task of revegetation on coastal sites, and the use of Biochar. The day included a bus tour of projects undertaken in the far south-west of the catchment by local Landcare groups, to exchange knowledge and share learnings.

**Regional Riparian Action Plan Landcare Grants**

As part of the Regional Riparian Action Plan, Landcare grants were provided to two groups in the region: Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group and Upper Hopkins Land Management Group. These grants support groups in undertaking on-ground riparian works in priority areas (e.g. fencing, revegetation and vegetation enhancement and weed management).

**Celebrating 30 Years of Landcare**

Victoria celebrated its 30 Year Anniversary of Landcare on 25 November 2016. The Victorian Government provided a \$10,000 grant to the CMA to fund regional activities to celebrate the 30 Year Anniversary of Landcare in Victoria. Grants were provided to 13 regional groups to assist in preparing brochures, books or videos to celebrate achievements; and to host local Landcare celebration events and activities.

**Aboriginal Water Values Project**

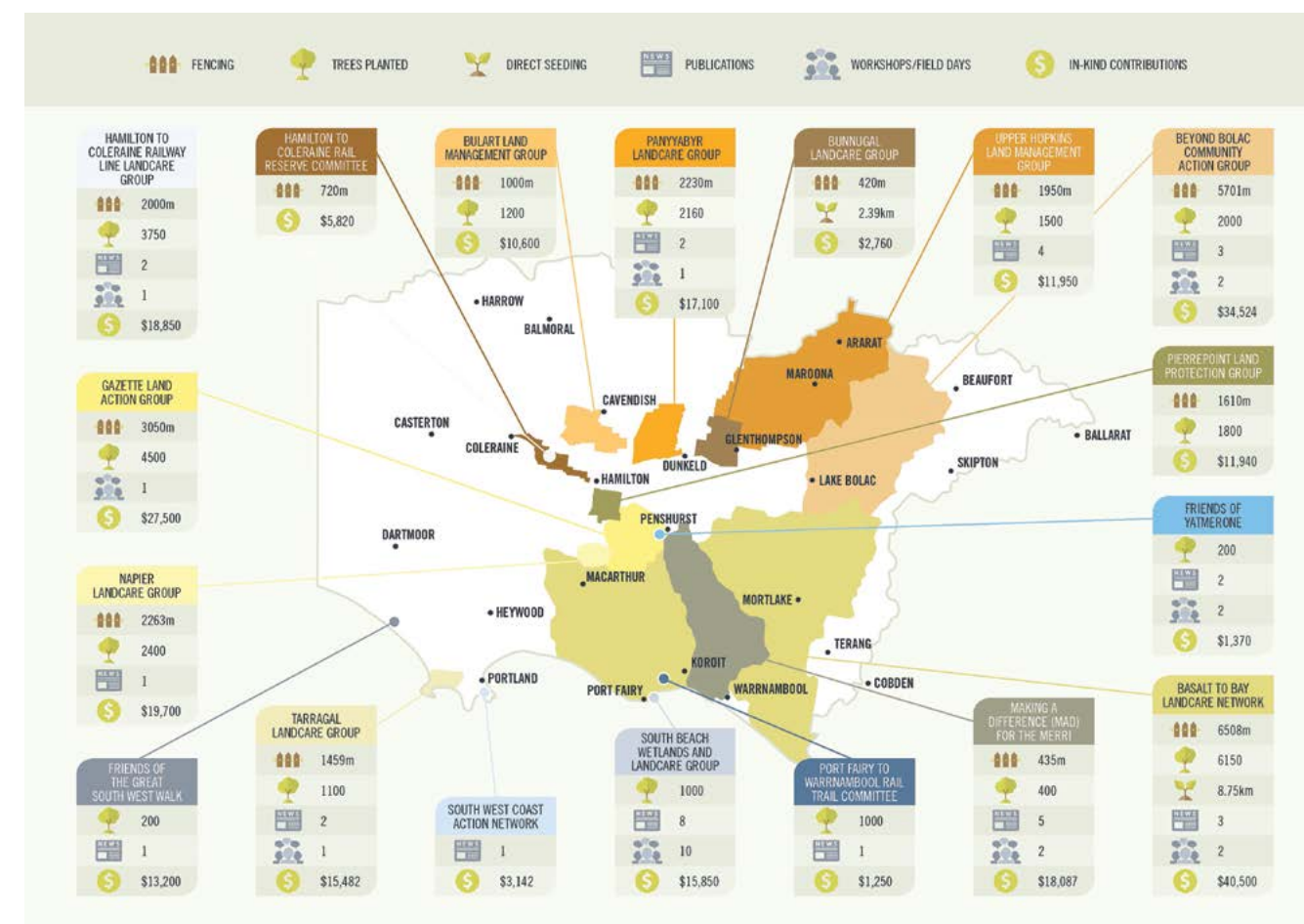
The Aboriginal Water Values project is a pilot project investigating Traditional Owner values and uses for the Glenelg River. The project aims to enable the integration of Aboriginal values and traditional knowledge into environmental water planning and delivery through documenting Traditional Owner interests, aspirations, challenges and opportunities for water management and cultural flow interests for the Glenelg River system. Documentation of the project’s process and outcomes will contribute to an Aboriginal Water Framework for Victoria (see case study page 18). The project was funded by the Victorian Government.

**Green Army Projects**

The CMA’s three Australian Government funded Green Army projects concluded in December 2016. Across the three projects the crew have achieved some outstanding results including:

- 55,500 seedlings planted over 366 ha;
- 8.2 tonnes of debris removal;
- 130 ha of site preparation and maintenance; and
- 7.8 km of fencing; and
- 14,685 ha of weed control.

Figure 3: Overview of Victorian Landcare Grants Projects completed in 2016-17



**National Landcare Programme Projects**

**NLP Indigenous Partnerships for Improved Natural Resource Management**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is assisting Traditional Owner groups and Indigenous communities to participate in sustainable natural resource management and agricultural activities. This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme. A key focus is to support Indigenous people to build capacity, knowledge and skills, where appropriate, for resource management in the catchment.

Key activities undertaken in 2016-17 as part of this project included:

- involvement of approximately 150 Year 8 and Year 9 students from Baimbridge College in the ‘Learning about Gunditjmarra Country’ program with the CMA and Gunditj Mirring;
- workshops with Gunditj Mirring and Wadawurrung to support the reinstatement of cultural burning across the landscape;

- involvement of Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Borengi Gadjin Land Council in provision of cultural awareness training to the CMA Board and staff;
- production of ‘Fiery Creek – Connecting the Catchment’ DVD to tell the story of the Fiery Creek from the perspective of the local community, including the Indigenous history of the catchment; and
- landholders engaged through the ‘Yarns on Farms’ extension program in collaboration with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

The development of the Fiery Creek DVD was supported through funding from the Australian Government’s National Landcare Programme, Landcare Australia and the Australian Communities Foundation.

**NLP Threatened Species and Communities – Community Engagement Project**

As part of this project, 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.

Key achievements for 2016-17 include:

- Glenelg Hopkins CMA continued to partner with the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group and the Panyyabyr Landcare Group to facilitate the **Woodland Bird Monitoring** program. Forty-eight community members participated in the four monitoring sessions held in 2016-17.
- Development of **Parti-parti Mirring-yi (Birds in Country) App** to showcase Aboriginal knowledge of woodland birds in the Glenelg Hopkins region. The development of the app was supported by funding from the Research Unit for Indigenous Language and the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.
- Update of **Glenelg Hopkins Woodland Bird Booklet**. In addition to the app, the Glenelg Hopkins Woodland Bird Booklet has been updated to include Aboriginal bird knowledge from a range of language groups across the region, including Jardwadjali, Djab Wurrung, Bundanditj, Wadawurrung and the South West Aboriginal languages. Compilation of archival and present-day Aboriginal bird knowledge for south west Victorian languages was undertaken by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in collaboration with the Laka Gunditj Language Program, the Eastern Maar Nation, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Research Unit for Indigenous Language at The University of Melbourne.

**Riparian Project Website Development and Crowdfunding Concept Project**

The main objective of this project was to develop a trial website and crowdfunding project to promote and showcase riparian projects across at least three CMA regions. The project aimed to increase industry, angler and community involvement in riparian management activities. The theme of the trial was centred around native fish habitat establishment. Under the 'Funds for Fish' crowdfunding theme, Glenelg Hopkins CMA achieved its crowdfunding target. The project played an important role in increasing community awareness of riparian projects. The marketing campaign reached 319,548 people, had 4,372 likes, 471 comments and 1,631 shares or retweets.

**CASE STUDY:  
GLENELG RIVER ABORIGINAL  
WATER VALUES**

**CHALLENGE:** Water For Victoria, the first comprehensive state-wide water plan in over 10 years, will improve water security for communities, protect Victorian jobs and agriculture, recognise Aboriginal water values and improve environmental health.

**APPROACH:** In a first for Victoria, an environmental flow release into the Glenelg River has supported both environmental outcomes as well as Aboriginal cultural values.

Aboriginal water values for the Glenelg River were identified as part of a two-year partnership project involving Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC), Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) and Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Adjusting planned environmental water releases to better protect Aboriginal values at culturally significant locations, such as Harrow, is an important outcome of the project.

**RESULTS:** The water released from Rocklands Reservoir between 21st February and 1st March 2017 improved river health and reduced salinity, while at the same time, helped sustain the health of Country for Traditional Owners who have a continuing connection to the Glenelg River system.

Environmental benefits of the water release were monitored by the Arthur Rylah Institute who fitted estuary perch and tumpung with electronic tags to track their migration up the Glenelg River. In another first for the region, time-lapse cameras were used to record the extent of flow and environmental response.

Some of the Aboriginal values at Harrow supported by environmental water releases include cultural heritage sites, particularly scarred trees, and native plants which are sources of traditional foods and medicines. Information from the project will be incorporated into environmental water planning and delivery through Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Gunditj Mirring TOAC, BGLC, and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

**3.2 Waterways (rivers, estuaries, wetlands)  
Condition Statement**

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

**Regional context**

The Glenelg River is the largest river in south-west Victoria and contains some of the best condition river reaches in the region. Significant tributaries of the Glenelg River include the 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 5,400 wetlands, covering 73,000 ha or three per cent of the region's area. This represents 14 per cent of Victoria's total area of wetlands and 44 per cent of the state's total number of wetlands<sup>i</sup>. The region's wetlands vary greatly, ranging from large and permanent freshwater lakes to small and ephemeral (non-permanent) freshwater meadows. Seasonal herbaceous wetlands, which are ephemeral, isolated freshwater wetlands, are particularly well represented. This wetland type is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC). Sixteen of the region's wetlands are listed in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA).

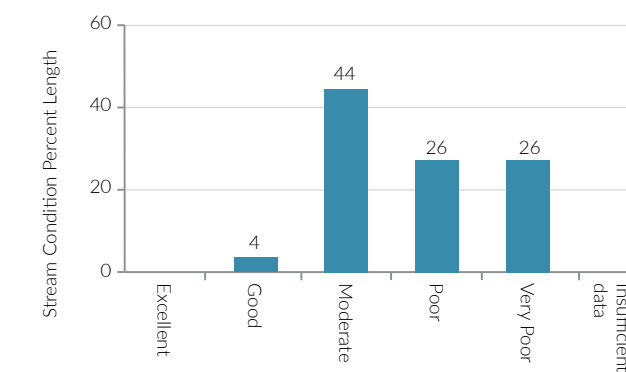
The extent of wetlands in the region has declined by approximately 60 per cent since European settlement, primarily due to drainage and conversion to agriculture<sup>ii</sup>. A recent study conducted on a wetland cluster in the south-eastern Grampians area showed a 45 per cent increase in incidences where wetlands have been impacted by cropping between 2010 and 2015<sup>iv</sup>. All wetland types within the Glenelg Hopkins region currently face a range of threats that will be exacerbated by climate change.

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

**Rivers benchmark - Index of Stream Condition 3**

The environmental condition of rivers in Victoria is assessed using the Index of Stream Condition (ISC). The last ISC assessment in the region was undertaken in 2010 (ISC 3). The condition of waterways in the region varies from good to very poor, reflecting the level of modification of the waterways and types of land use. Waterways in near natural condition with high environmental values are generally found in the more forested areas of the catchment. Forty-eight per cent of assessed reaches in the region were in moderate to good condition, with the remainder in poor to very poor condition (Figure 4). 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.

**Figure 4: Glenelg Hopkins Index of Stream Condition**



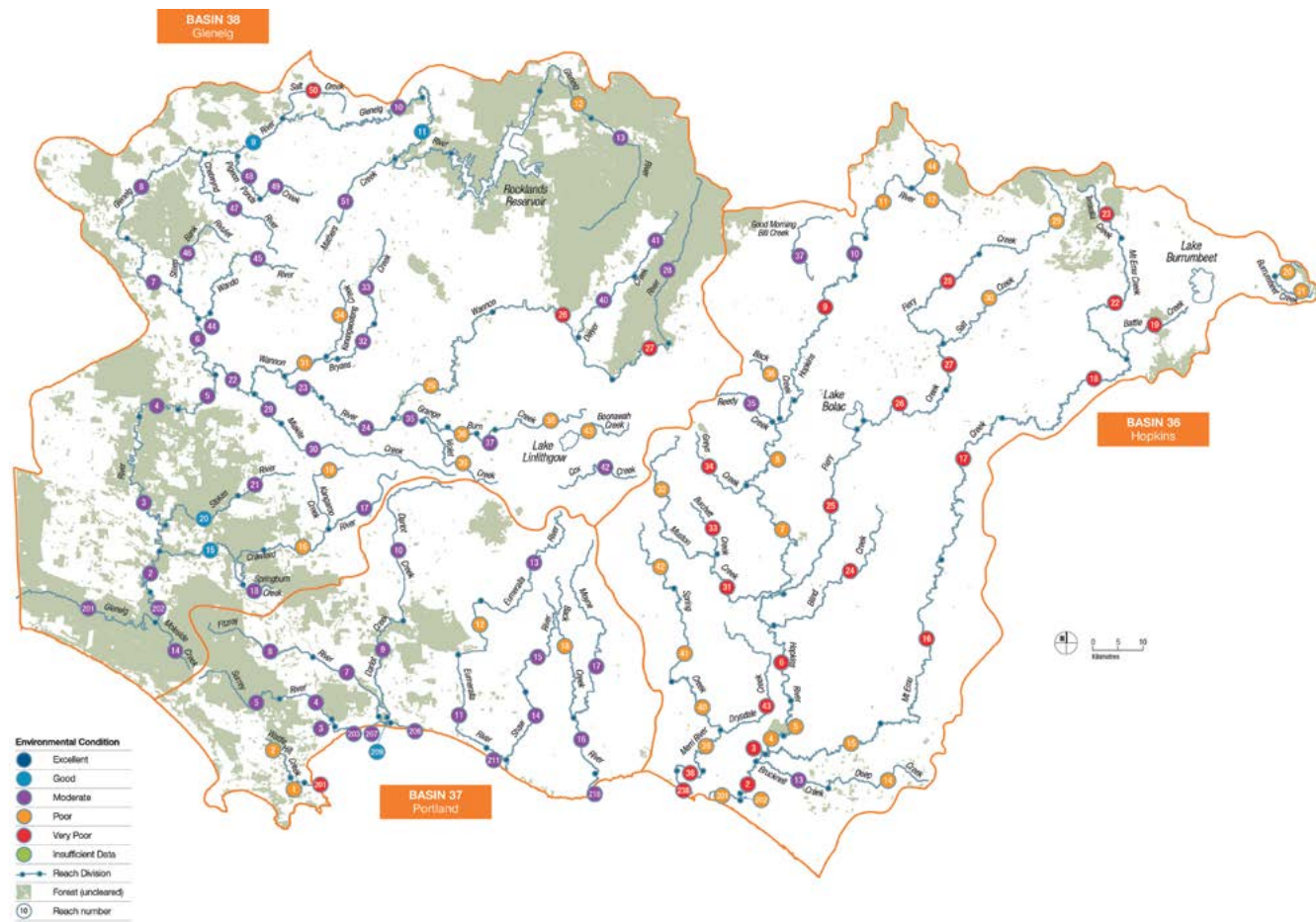
ISC results showed that stream condition varied considerably between the three main basins in the region, with streams of the Glenelg Basin being in best condition (Figure 5). All reaches in good condition (14 per cent of reaches assessed) were in the Glenelg Basin. Both the Glenelg and Portland basins had the majority of their stream length assessed as in moderate condition (68 per cent and 84 per cent respectively)<sup>v</sup>.

Much of the stream length in the Hopkins Basin was assessed as in poor condition (38 per cent) or very poor condition (56 per cent). This was generally due to modified flow regimes, degraded riparian vegetation, poor bank condition and low water quality from elevated nutrients and salinity<sup>vi</sup>. 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.

<sup>i</sup> 2013/14 figures only captured outputs related to State Government investment. Subsequent years included State and Commonwealth funded outputs.



Figure 5: Glenelg Hopkins Index of Stream Condition 3 Reaches



**Wetlands benchmark – Index of Wetland Condition**

An Index of Wetland Condition<sup>vii</sup> assessment was undertaken in the region in 2009. The IWC measures six aspects (sub-indices) of wetland condition: the wetland catchment, physical form, soils, water properties, hydrology, and biota (e.g. vegetation structure and health). The results of the IWC are presented in Table 6.

The assessment revealed that 64 per cent 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	2	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	

**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<sup>viii</sup>. A recent IEC trial completed in 2015 found that the condition of Glenelg Hopkins estuaries scored an average of moderate to good (results presented in Table 7). The results should be viewed with caution as the scores only reflect a subset of measures that were assessed during the trial. The IEC trial indicated all estuaries, with the exception of Fawthrop Lagoon, have excellent physical form with respect to pre-European condition, however estuaries

scored from very poor to good for hydrology. This lower score reflects regulated flow regimes and artificially opening the mouth of most estuaries to reduce the risk of flooding. Water quality was rated moderate to excellent across all estuaries. Levels of sediment deposits in all but Lake Yambuk were scored from moderate to good. Estuarine flora, as measured by phytoplankton levels, was excellent in the Hopkins River Estuary, but very poor to moderate across all other estuaries assessed. Phytoplankton is a measure of productivity and is influenced by nutrient levels, turbidity and stratification of the estuary. These levels may be influenced by surrounding land use practices.

Table 7: Trial Index of Estuary Condition Results – Summary of Selected Measures in Each of Five Themes

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

**Annual waterways assessment 2016-17**

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key evidence
Concerned ↓	A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A number of reports and incidents of wetland loss during 2016-17, due to cropping of ephemeral wetlands.</li> <li>High rainfall and flooding occurred in September 2016 which resulted in significant damage to waterways in the upper Glenelg Basin and Hopkins Basin.</li> <li>The recent extremes in climatic and river conditions are likely to have caused stress to macro-invertebrate, amphibian, platypus and water rat populations in the Glenelg River.</li> </ul>

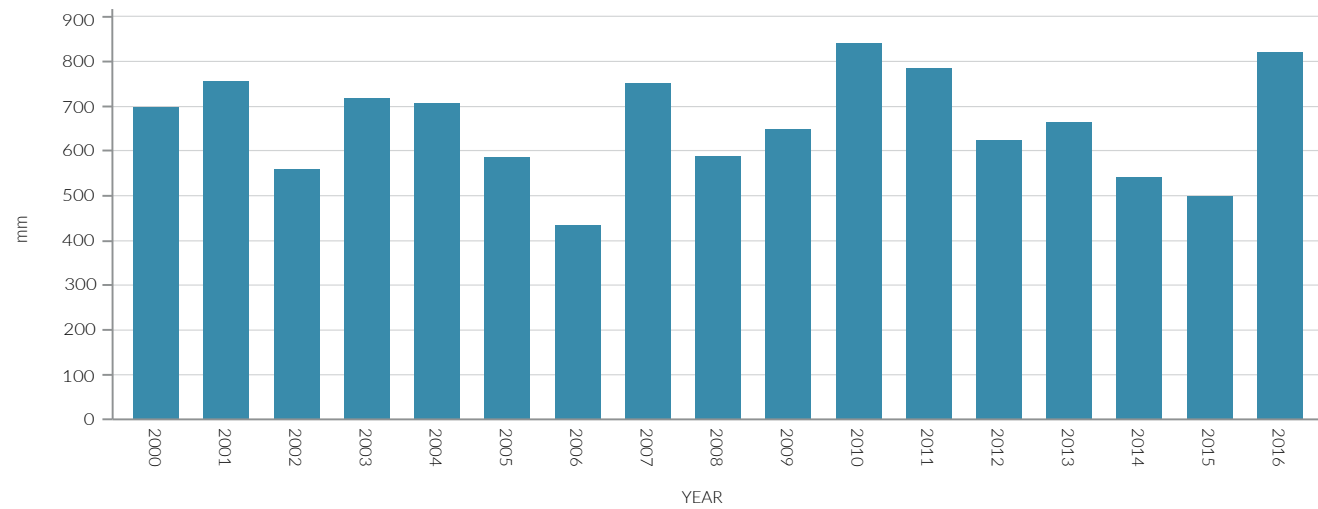
**Reasons for assessment:**

- There has been a number of reports and incidents of wetland loss over the last 12 months. This is primarily due to cropping of ephemeral wetlands on the Victorian Volcanic Plain.
- High rainfall and flooding occurred in September 2016 which resulted in significant damage to waterways in the upper Glenelg Basin and Hopkins Basin.
- In the Glenelg Basin, Mathers Creek and the Chetwynd and Wannon Rivers were hardest hit with significant movement of sand through these systems. The upper Hopkins River, Fiery Creek and Mt Emu Creek were the most impacted in the Hopkins Basin.
- The recent extremes in climatic and river conditions are likely to have caused stress to macro-invertebrate, amphibian, platypus and water rat populations in the Glenelg River.

- Estimated annual precipitation for 2016 (Figure 6) was the second highest recorded in the region since 2000;<sup>x</sup> leading to the highest estimated annual river inflows for that period<sup>x</sup> (Figure 7). The high flows inundated floodplains, providing vegetation communities with much needed water following a period of drought in 2015-16. While the high flows provided benefits to floodplain vegetation, the high velocity flows also scoured banks, and in some cases uprooted already stressed riparian and instream vegetation in a number of areas.
- Habitat for aquatic species was severely constrained during the dry conditions experienced in 2015-16. The floods that broke these dry conditions in September 2016 are likely to have provided an opportunity for some aquatic species to migrate. The high flows extended into spring, providing conditions to support the migration and spawning of many native fish species. The velocity and extended duration of high flows may, however, have reduced the ability of some small bodied native species to move and spawn.

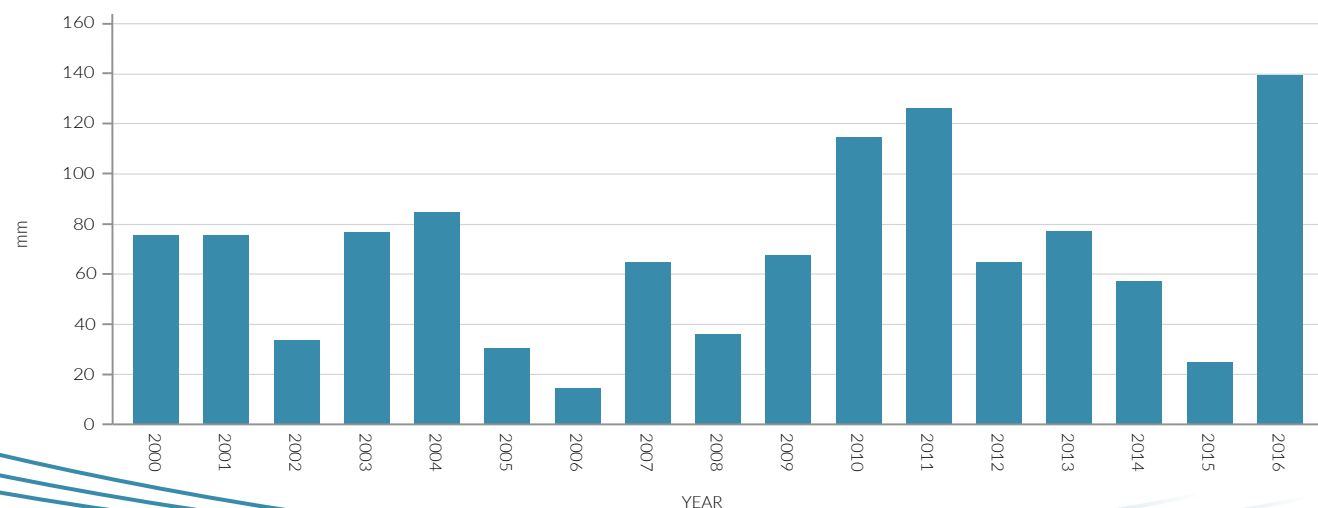
**Figure 6: Annual rainfall for the Glenelg Hopkins region (2000-2016)**

(Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2016, developed by the Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online).



**Figure 7: Estimated annual river inflow in the Glenelg Hopkins region 2000-2016**

(Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2016, 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).



**Management Report**

**Flood Response and Recovery**

The region experienced significant flooding in September 2016. Monthly rainfall was at least double the long-term average over parts of western Victoria, and in some regions, was the wettest September on record. Across the Glenelg Hopkins region, eight weather stations with at least 100 years of rainfall data recorded their highest September rainfalls on record in 2016. These included Ballarat, Beaufort, Cavendish, Lake Bolac, Moutajup, Trawalla, Willaura and Hamilton.

The Coleraine community was significantly impacted, and according to long-term residents, flooding of this magnitude hadn't been seen at Coleraine since the major regional flood event of March 1946.

The CMA activated its Flood Response Action Plan over this period, and supported VicSES through the provision of flood advice and flood intelligence information.

Flooding across the Glenelg Hopkins region in September and October 2016 resulted in significant damage to waterways and CMA-funded projects. On 28 September 2016, the Victorian Government issued advice that all municipalities in the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region were eligible for natural disaster assistance.

From early October 2016, the CMA responded to approximately 90 phone calls from landholders affected by flooding, with field officers visiting sites to inspect damaged fencing and infrastructure and the CMA drought crews helping in the removal of debris from fencing, and maintenance and repair of fencing.

Aerial surveys of the upper Glenelg River catchment (including the Wannon River) and upper Hopkins River catchment (including Fiery and Mt Emu Creeks) were undertaken in early October 2016 to identify sites showing significant flood damage that required on-ground investigation. Rapid assessments were then undertaken of approximately 260 sites across the Glenelg and Hopkins basins, providing the CMA with a database of works required and costings to undertake works.

The database of works was used to develop an initial application to the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTR) under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA). This first application was submitted on 23 December 2016. A second Phase 2 application was submitted to DTF on 9 March 2017. Conditional approval has been received for both applications, totalling \$6.9m across 69 sites. As at 30 June 2017, a third Phase 2 application is being prepared covering approximately 10 sites. Works are required to be completed by 30 June 2019.

Some regional works and projects were delayed as a result of the flood event, resulting in time variations being required for some projects. This is not expected to have a material impact on the outcomes or results of these projects longer term.

**RCS implementation for waterways**

Key initiatives undertaken in 2016-17 towards implementing RCS objectives and actions for waterways (rivers and floodplains, wetlands and estuaries) are summarised in Table 8. Initiatives were focussed on supporting implementation of the following RCS actions:

- implementing the Regional Waterway Strategy
- developing and implementing action plans for priority waterways
- developing and implementing the Seasonal Watering Proposal
- developing the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
- undertaking flood studies to improve knowledge of potential flood impacts on settlements
- working with local government to amend planning schemes to reflect best available flood information
- reviewing estuary management plans (Merri and Hopkins Estuary Management Plans).

A highlight for 2016-17 was completion of the relevant Ramsar nomination documents as evidence to support the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex as a site of international significance under the Ramsar Convention. Submission of these documents to the Victorian Government will precipitate a formal state government review of the nomination documents, and if satisfied, the Victorian Minister for Water will request the Australian Government to consider the nomination.



**Table 8: Key programs and projects contributing to achievement of RCS waterway objectives and actions in 2016-17**

RCS objective	No. of 2016-17 measures implemented <sup>1</sup>	Key programs/projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions <sup>2</sup>
<b>Objectives that relate to all or multiple asset themes</b>		
Objective 1.1: Protect and improve the region's waterways, wetlands and estuaries	1 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal* and Regional)</li> <li>VWPIF Environmental Water Program</li> <li>Environmental Water: Technical Investigations, Works and Measures Program</li> <li>VWPIF Our Catchments Our Communities*</li> <li>VWPIF Regional Riparian Action Plan (RRAP)- Landcare Grants*</li> <li>Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordination)*</li> <li>NLP Coastal Connections*</li> </ul>
<b>Rivers and Floodplains</b>		
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"> <li>VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg and Regional)</li> <li>NLP Coastal Connections*</li> </ul>
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"> <li>VWPIF Hopkins Works Program</li> <li>VWPIF Environmental Water Program</li> </ul>
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"> <li>VWPIF Works Program (Hopkins and Glenelg)</li> <li>VWPIF Our Catchments Our Communities*</li> <li>Riparian Project Website Development and Crowdfunding Concept*</li> <li>VWPIF Environmental Water Program</li> <li>Glenelg River Aboriginal Water Scoping Study*</li> </ul>
Objective 3.4: Increase provision of reliable flood information for settlements	4 of 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Statutory Water Functions (Floodplain and Waterway Management)</li> <li>VWPIF Regional Floodplain Management Strategy Implementation</li> <li>Harrow Flood Investigation and Ararat Flood Investigation</li> </ul>
Objective 3.5: Improve river and floodplain management	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Statutory Water Functions (Floodplain and Waterway Management)</li> <li>Harrow Flood Investigation and Ararat Flood Investigation</li> </ul>
<b>Wetlands</b>		
Objective 4.1: By 2033, improve the condition of wetlands, and maintain the diversity of wetland types (using IWC1 assessment for comparison)	6 of 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Our Catchments Our Communities*</li> <li>VWPIF Environmental Water Program</li> <li>NLP Threatened Species and Communities Program*</li> <li>NLP Coastal Connections*</li> </ul>
<b>Estuaries</b>		
Objective 5.1: By 2033 improve the condition of estuaries across the region as compared with the 2018 IEC assessment	6 of 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Coastal Works Program</li> </ul>

Note: NLP = National Landcare Programme, 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.

2. Initiatives may contribute to one or more RCS objectives / actions. Achievements for programs / projects marked \* are discussed elsewhere in this report.

**Key initiatives and achievements**

**Glenelg Hopkins Regional Waterway Strategy Implementation**

Delivery of the Regional Waterway Strategy is underpinned by the Victorian Water Program Investment Framework (VWPIF). Good progress is being made on annual management outcomes and targets. The Strategy is entering its fourth year of implementation.

This strategy is nearing mid-point of implementation with monitoring of outcomes and progress also directed by the Regional Waterway Strategy MERI Plan. An interim review is scheduled in 2017.

Highlights for the past financial year include development of the Fitzroy River and Darlot Creek Waterway Action Plan, a pre-cursor to the more significant Budj Bim Waterway Action Plan, delivery of the Glenelg River Seasonal Watering Plan and implementation of priority funded work for the Wannon Waterway Action Plan.

**Victorian Water Program Investment Framework (2016-2020)**

A number of Victorian Government funded initiatives are being implemented regionally as part of the VWPIF, which support RCS and Regional Waterway Strategy implementation. Key waterway initiatives are outlined below. Coastal water programs and projects are outlined in the Coasts section of this report.

**Hopkins Works Program**

This project will protect and maintain waterways in the Hopkins Basin by supporting engagement of landholders, community groups and the dairy industry to develop Waterway Action Plans for Brucknell and Mt Emu Creeks; and on-ground works, particularly willow removal, on the Merri River.

Highlights for 2016-17 included 4.52 km of weed control, 1.76 ha of revegetation and 0.54 km of fencing along the Merri River. Field and desktop assessments were also completed to define the target area for the Mount Emu Creek Waterway Action Plan.

**Glenelg Works Program**

This project will maintain and improve the ecological values of the Glenelg Basin waterways by supporting:

- priority on-ground works from the Wannon Waterway Action Plan (reach 38-25 lower) developed in 2015-16;
- engagement of landholders to develop a Waterway Action Plan for Wannon River (reach 38-24);
- carp control and native fish monitoring;
- priority on-ground works along the Grange Burn; and
- establishment, maintenance and management of instream habitat.

Good progress was made with implementing the Wannon Waterway Action Plan in 2016-17, with 71 km of fencing erected to exclude stock from waterways, 191.8 ha of vegetation completed, and weed control undertaken over 255 ha. One ha of revegetation was also completed along the Grange Burn Creek, as well as 8.8 ha of weed control.

**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.

The works crew completed 3.9 km of fencing, 11.3 ha of revegetation and 40.6 ha of weed control as part of this program in 2016-17. Property assessments were also conducted over 561.1 ha, and management agreements established over 26.4 ha.

**Twinning Project**

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

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

Nine mentor/mentee partnerships were established in early 2017. Participants come from a diverse range of organisations including CMAs, Landcare, DELWP, Water Authorities and private consulting. The range of projects being worked on are equally as diverse, and include improving the capacity of Aboriginal Water Assessment auditors, investigating the feasibility of using fish-safe pumps in Victoria and investigating the reintroduction of small native fish to Barmah Forest.

### Regional Floodplain Management Strategy Implementation

The Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (RFMS) will address RCS measure 3.4.1 when complete (development of a regional floodplain management plan); and has been a major area of focus for the CMA in 2016-17.

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 will provide 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 is leading the development of the RFMS in collaboration with the local community, LGAs, VicSES and other partner agencies.

The CMA undertook a series of Community Open House drop-in sessions in Skipton, Hamilton, Port Fairy, Warrnambool, Heywood, Beaufort, Ararat, Ballarat, Harrow and Casterton in 2016-17 to seek the community's input into developing the strategy. Around 90 community members attended and provided feedback. Workshops were also held with each of the main Local Government Authorities occurring in the region, VicSES and the region's five Traditional Owner Groups. A draft of the RFMS is planned to be available for public comment in late 2017.

### Statutory Water Functions Project (Floodplain and Waterway Management)

This project supports the delivery of the CMA's floodplain and waterway management responsibilities. As part of this project, the CMA continued to support Local Government and VicSES in the development and review of Regional Municipal Flood Emergency Plan. The Floodplain and Works Team also provided extensive support to VicSES during the September 2016 floods. The CMA's Floodplain and Works team responded to 122 flood referrals and notices during the reporting period, provided 103 flood advice responses, and issued 93 works on waterways licences.

Other activities that this project supported in 2016-17 included:

- acting as the local point of contact for the DELWP led Fitzroy River/Darlots Creek Regional Flood Investigation;
- supporting Southern Grampians Shire in undertaking the Coleraine Flood Study;
- participation of CMA staff on Working Group for Port Fairy Coastal and Structure Planning Project;
- participation of CMA staff on Project Control Group for the Barwon Southwest Local Coastal Hazard Assessment Scoping Project; and
- working with Ballarat City Council on the Ballarat C178 Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce flooding overlays within the catchment of Burrumbeet Creek, which was gazetted on 6 July 2017.

### Regional Flood Studies

A key objective of the RCS is to increase the provision of reliable flood information for settlements. Flood studies were completed in 2016-17 for Ararat and Harrow to improve knowledge of potential flood impacts on these settlements (RCS measure 3.4.4). The projects were undertaken by the CMA in partnership with Ararat Shire Council and West Wimmera Shire Council respectively, with funding support from the Victorian and Australian Government.

Work on the Coleraine Flood Study commenced in 2016-17, and is being led by Southern Grampians Shire, with support from the CMA. Good progress was also made on the DELWP led Fitzroy River/Darlots Creek Regional Flood Investigation, which will improve flood information for the Heywood locality. The project is expected to be completed in 2017-18.

### VWPIF Environmental Water Program (2016-20)

The VWPIF Environment Water Program is comprised of a number of sub-projects are provide below.

The **EWR officer** provides strategic planning and delivery of the available environmental water entitlements in the region. The project focuses on the Glenelg River which is regulated by the Rocklands and Moora Moora Reservoirs. Environmental water delivered to the Glenelg River from Rocklands Reservoir totalled 2,765 ML. Monitoring of water quality after releases in 2016-17 showed a rapid improvement to conditions in the Glenelg River.

Key achievements associated with the implementation of the **Environmental Water Communications Strategy** in 2016-17 included: 14 media releases, 30 published articles, 6 radio interviews, 30 facebook posts, 5 videos, flow notifications, development of the mythbusters campaign, and a very successful school engagement program with the Balmoral and Casterton Schools. A total of 230 students, teachers and fishing club members participated in the school activities. Angler engagement activities included fishing competitions and the development of a video for the Merv Hughes Fishing Show.

The **Glenelg River Weir Bypass** project will benefit both migratory and non-migratory fish populations in the Glenelg River by ensuring upstream and downstream migration of fish species under low flow conditions. This will result in immediate improved access to 245 km of waterway available for fish passage. Work undertaken in 2016-17 included option analysis and landholder engagement to inform future work.

The installation of three temporary gauges is planned under the **Improving Flows in the Upper Glenelg** project along Reach 0 (upstream of Rocklands) of the Glenelg River and water infrastructure channels for four years, with a hydrology study in year four of the project. The hydrology study will assess data and update the environmental flow study for this reach to recognise the potential for future environmental watering for EPBC listed species. Year one of the project has focussed on identifying technologies and locations for monitoring.

The **Improving Flows in the Budj Bim Landscape** project seeks to improve water flow pathways for rivers and wetlands on the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. The landscape is currently under nomination for World Heritage Status for its unique cultural values.

The **Permanent Restoration of Long Swamp** will result in the permanent restoration of sustainable hydrology over 1100 ha of Long Swamp, via the conversion of the trial structure to a reinstated, revegetated dune. Improving connectivity between the Glenelg River estuary and Long Swamp will benefit a suite of threatened species. Monitoring of fish and vegetation communities across the many wetlands that make up Long Swamp highlighted the effectiveness of the temporary weir structure at boosting the health of these wetlands and restoring much need habitat for vulnerable species such as the Variegated Pygmy Perch and Little Galaxias.

### Environmental Water: Technical Investigations, Works and Measures Program

The CMA completed a number of projects under the Environmental Water: Technical Investigations, Works and Measures Program in 2016-17.

The objective of the **Understanding Glenelg River Estuary Responses to Freshwater Inflows Project** was to provide an initial investigation of the potential to deliver environmental water to support the ecological objectives in the Glenelg River estuary and whether a full estuary environmental flow assessment is warranted. This project has quantified the significance of environmental flow events on a range of physical and ecological values for the Glenelg River estuary.

The aim of the **Glenelg River Drought Refuge Protection Project** was to improve the effectiveness of drought refuges for native fish within the Glenelg River, through extensive carp removal effort from identified carp hotspots. The project has now been completed, and included the production of a short film on the importance of removal of carp from Glenelg River drought refuges. This project was delivered despite the challenge of working around significant flooding events. Carp were removed from eight sites along the Glenelg River in the drought declared West Wimmera Shire. Very few carp were caught during the field work period which is most likely as a result of carp spreading out through the system during the flooding events of winter 2016. The project team managed to remove 96 carp from refuge habitats.

The **Drought Refuge Engagement Project** involved the delivery of three field days to communicate the importance of drought refuge habitats in partnership with the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI).

The objectives of the project were to:

- improve landholders/community awareness of the importance of refugia during drought conditions and threats posed to these refugia from certain land management practices;
- provide data on the location of endemic and threatened fish species; and
- raise the profile of endemic fish species, in particular species reliant on these drought refuges.

The project highlighted to the community the risks of pumping drought refuge pools dry, and the significant impacts that this could have on species such as the EPBC listed Little Galaxias, Yarra Pygmy Perch, Variegated Pygmy Perch and the newly identified South West River Blackfish.

### CASE STUDY: DELIVERING THE ENVIRONMENTAL WATER SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

**CHALLENGE:** The Victorian community currently has a limited understanding of environmental water and the benefits it provides to the environment as well as shared benefits for recreation and the economy. Water for Victoria has an objective for the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to work with waterway managers to identify and report on opportunities for shared benefits from environmental watering, which will support recreational benefits for local communities.

**APPROACH:** The Glenelg Hopkins CMA has recently developed a communications strategy to guide engagement around Glenelg River environmental flow benefits.

The strategy identifies key messages and appropriate delivery methods for various target groups such as anglers, landholders and residents. The strategy includes a costed action plan for the next four years.

A small schools program has been developed from this strategy, that involves written information and field days for 2 schools (Balmoral Community College, Casterton Secondary College) to educate school children around the importance of environmental flows to fish and other wildlife in the Glenelg River.

**RESULTS:** Three school events have been held to highlight the benefits of environmental watering, they include: an electrofishing event with Balmoral Community College (Years 4-8), a salinity school session with Balmoral Community College (Years 4-10) and a salinity school session with Casterton Secondary College (Year 7 and Year 10). In total 230 students participated in the events. Educational materials were developed for both events including a pre-lesson for events and materials for completion on the day. Seven media articles from these events were printed in local newspapers, highlighting the benefits of environmental water.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Balmoral High School, Casterton Secondary College, Balmoral Angling Club, Austral Research and Consulting and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.



### 3.3 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*. Significant areas of the region also occur in two of 15 recognised Australian Government biodiversity hotspots (the Victorian Volcanic Plain and South Australia's south-east/Victoria's south-west). These areas were identified as hotspots due to their many endemic species and associated levels of current and future conservation threats.

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

#### Biodiversity benchmark

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

The extent of native vegetation has declined significantly since European settlement, with less than 18 per cent of the pre-European coverage remaining in the region. Of this amount, around 12 per cent occurs on Crown land and five per cent on private land. Remnant vegetation by bioregion, compared to pre-1750 figures is shown in Table 9. The Greater Grampians bioregion is the most intact bioregion within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

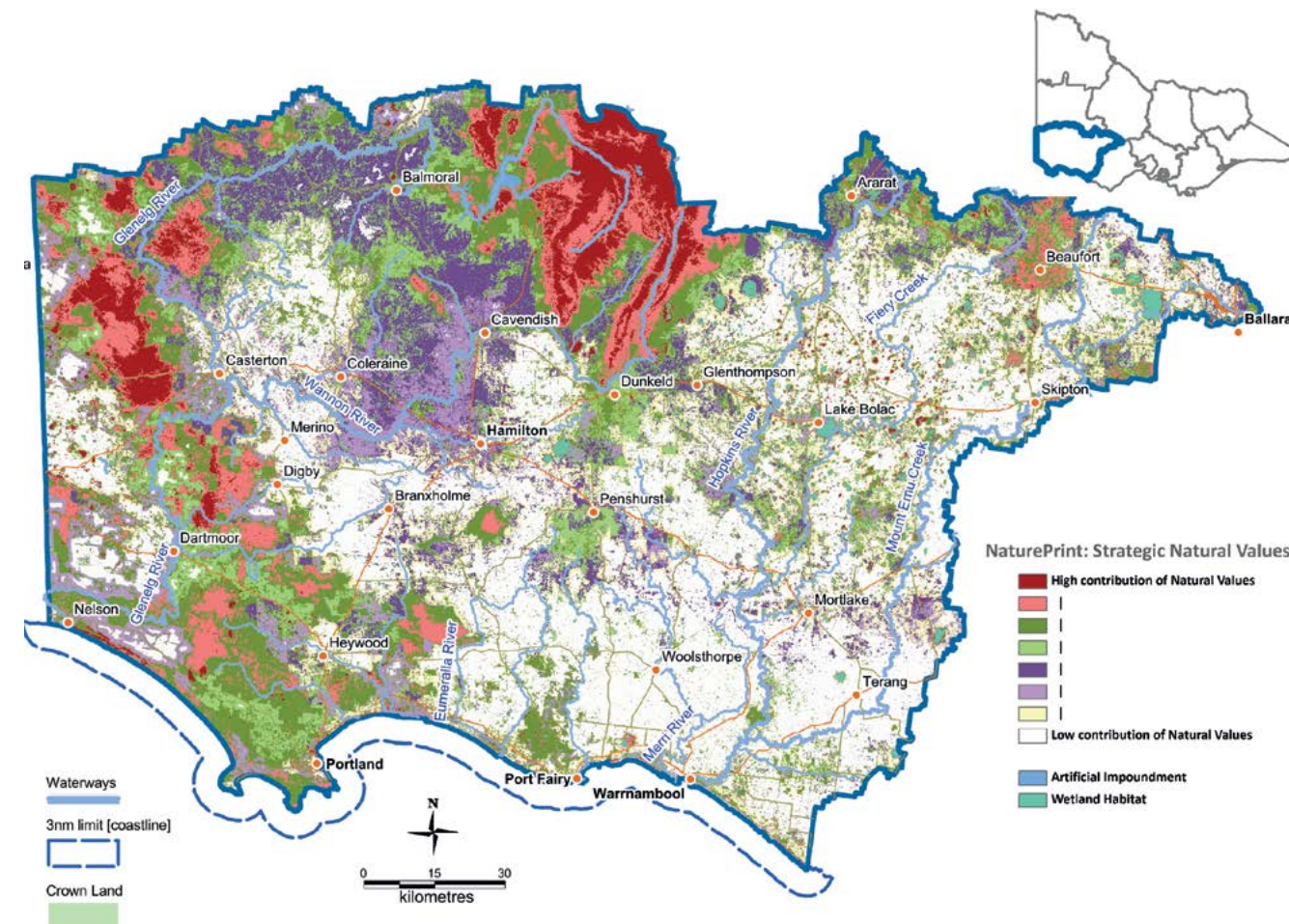
The Victorian Volcanic Plain, Dundas Tablelands, and Glenelg Plain are the three largest bioregions in the Glenelg Hopkins region by area with around 10 per cent less native vegetation cover remaining in them (compared to pre-1750 extent).<sup>xi</sup>

The Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion, which covers a large percentage of the region, is the most cleared in the state.<sup>xii</sup> Although extensively cleared, there is considerable variation in the extent of native vegetation within this bioregion, with the proportion remaining west of Caramut generally higher than elsewhere. While there are good condition blocks in the far south west at Mount Napier, Budj Bim (Mount Eccles), Anya and Narrawong, these blocks are dominated by forests and woodlands, rather than the grassy plains that are characteristic of other parts of the bioregion.<sup>xiii</sup>

Table 9: Remnant vegetation compared to pre-1750 figures

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

Figure 8: NaturePrint Version 2.0 strategic natural values contributing most to biodiversity in the Glenelg Hopkins region



The Dundas Tablelands occurs in two areas of the catchment, and is separated by the Greater Grampians bioregion. Both blocks have been extensively modified. Much of the remaining native vegetation occurs in the larger blocks of remnant vegetation on public land on the north-east flank of the western block<sup>xiv</sup>. A very high proportion of remaining vegetation in the eastern block of the Dundas Tablelands occurs on private land, encompassing a large number of ephemeral wetlands<sup>xv</sup>.

Although connectivity is moderate to high, particularly to the north-west of Dunkeld, site condition is generally poor. Remnant vegetation associated with wetlands and streams in this area is generally of poor to moderate site condition, but comparatively well connected compared to other bioregions that have been mostly cleared. There are also a number of major roads in the eastern block of the Dundas Tablelands that retain highly connected remnant vegetation, which is generally in poor condition<sup>xvi</sup>.

The northwest block of the Glenelg Plain between Dergholm and Chetwynd is of good site condition within the majority of public land, and retains vegetation that is highly connected<sup>xvii</sup>.

Figure 8 shows the areas in the Glenelg Hopkins region that contribute most to biodiversity conservation and was developed using DELWP's NaturePrint Version 2.0 biodiversity planning tool. High value biodiversity areas are depicted in red, pink and dark green and include areas such as the Lower Glenelg, Cobboboonee and Grampians National Parks, Dergholm and Black Range State Parks, Tooloy-Lake Mundi Wildlife Reserve, Wilkin Flora and Fauna Reserve, Crawford River Regional Park, and Weecurra and Hotspur State Forests. While highly fragmented in nature, a number of remnants on the Victorian Volcanic Plain are also considered to be significant habitat. Some important vegetation remnants on private land also remain, especially along waterways.

The Parks Victoria 2013 State of the Parks evaluation considered trends in the condition of natural values in parks over the period 2010 to 2013 and assessed current condition as at June 2013. Assessments are informed by local staff and other expert knowledge coupled with quantitative monitoring data, where available. Table 10 provides a summary of this evaluation for 31 parks found within or partly within the Glenelg Hopkins region. The majority of regional parks and reserves were assessed as being in a stable condition.

Table 10: Summary of Parks Victoria State of Parks Report 2013 data for the Glenelg Hopkins region (Source: Parks Victoria)

Condition of natural values	Number of parks	Park	Condition trends
<b>Excellent</b>	1	Mortlake Common Flora Reserve	Condition was maintained
<b>Good</b>	20	Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve	Condition was maintained
		Cape Nelson Lighthouse Reserve	Condition was maintained
		Cape Nelson State Park	Condition was maintained
		Cobboboonee National Park	Condition was maintained
		Cobra Killuc Wildlife Reserve	Condition improved
		Crawford River Regional Park	Condition was maintained
		Dergholm State Park	Condition was maintained
		Discovery Bay Coastal Park	Condition was maintained
		Discovery Bay Marine National Park	Condition improved
		Ecklin South Swamp Nature Conservation Reserve	Condition improved
		Glenelg River, Fulham SS.R.	Condition was maintained
		Grampians National Park	Condition was maintained
		Kaladbro Wildlife Reserve	Condition was maintained
		Lake Linlithgow & Bullrush Swamp Lake Reserve	Condition was maintained
		Langi Ghiran State Park	Condition declined
		Lower Glenelg National Park	Condition was maintained
Merri Marine Sanctuary	Condition was maintained		
Mount Napier State Park	Condition was maintained		
Mount Richmond National Park	Condition was maintained		
Narrawong Flora Reserve	Condition was maintained		
<b>Fair</b>	10	Ararat Hills Regional Park	Condition was maintained
		Bay of Islands Coastal Park	Trend in condition unknown
		Belfast Coastal Reserve	Condition was maintained
		Black Range State Park	Condition was maintained
		Lake Elingamite Lake Reserve	Condition was maintained
		Mount Buangor State Park	Condition declined
		Mount Eccles National Park	Condition declined
		Tooloy-Lake Mundi Wildlife Reserve	Condition declined
		Tower Hill Wildlife Reserve	Condition declined
		Wilkin Flora and Fauna Reserve	Condition declined
<b>Poor</b>	0	Not applicable	Not applicable

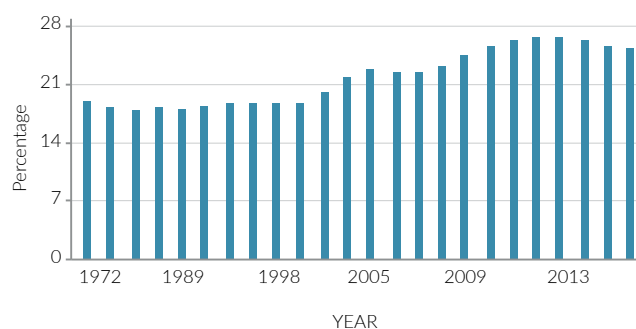
**Tree Cover**

Regional tree cover has increased from around 19 per cent in 2000 to 26 per cent in 2016 (Figure 9). Much of the increase in regional tree cover from 2000 is likely to be from increases in plantations in the 'green triangle' area of the catchment (e.g. blue gum plantations) and farm forestry.

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

Figure 9: Tree cover in the Glenelg Hopkins region - per cent of area classified as forest

(Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2016, developed by the Australian National University - Fenner School of the Environment and Society).



**Annual biodiversity assessment 2016-17**

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key evidence
Neutral →	A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant bushfires.</li> <li>Positive outcomes observed for some threatened species across the region.</li> <li>Above average rainfall benefited many terrestrial and aquatic species, and vegetation communities.</li> <li>Over-browsing by Koalas in the mixed Eucalypt woodlands of the far south west of the catchment remains a significant concern.</li> </ul>

**Reasons for assessment:**

- No significant bushfire events were recorded in the region in 2016-17.
- While the ability to measure the condition and trend of threatened species over a 12-month period is often difficult, some positive outcomes were observed. The protected population of Eastern Barred Bandicoots at Hamilton Parklands continued to increase following the release of 20 bandicoots in April 2016. The species is listed as extinct in the wild. A number of threatened orchid species were also seen to have good emergence and flowering, with no negative impacts to species populations recorded at sites monitored.
- Estimated annual precipitation for 2016 was the second highest recorded in the region since 2000<sup>xxi</sup> while estimated annual river inflows for 2016 were the highest since 2000<sup>xxii</sup>. This is likely to have had positive effects for many riparian and terrestrial species.

For example:

- Above average rainfall and associated wetland filling in 2016-17 resulted in good breeding success for species such as the Growling Grass Frog and Broilga.
- The high river flows extended into spring, providing conditions to support the migration and spawning of many native fish species.
- The high flows provided much needed inundation of many floodplain and riparian vegetation communities, supporting their recovery from an extended dry period. The wet conditions that continued throughout spring are likely to have supported flowering, seed set and dispersal for many species.

- Although little is known of their lifecycles, Glenelg Spiny Freshwater Crayfish are thought to be particularly sensitive to poor water quality, especially when moulting. The species distribution is restricted to the Glenelg River system in south-western Victoria and five spring-fed coastal streams in south-eastern South Australia (including Ewen Ponds system). It is expected that populations will have been impacted by dry conditions in 2015-16, however improved water quality following high flows in the Glenelg River in 2016-17 are likely to have increased available habitat and food resources for the species.
- Negligible breeding success in the past 3 years for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, and associated record low stringy bark seed production (the bird's key food source) has raised concerns about the extinction risk for the species.
- The recent extremes in climatic and river conditions are likely to have caused stress to macroinvertebrate, amphibian, platypus and water rat populations in the Glenelg River.
- Over-browsing by Koalas in the mixed Eucalypt woodlands of the far south west of the catchment remains a significant concern.
- Ongoing government investment in threat mitigation including Grampians Ark, Glenelg Ark and Glenelg Eden pest control programs.



Management Report

RCS implementation for biodiversity

Key programs and projects contributing towards implementing RCS biodiversity objectives and actions in 2016-17 are summarised in Table 11.

Table 11: Key programs and projects contributing to achievement of RCS biodiversity objectives and actions in 2016-17

RCS objective	No. of 2016-17 measures implemented <sup>1</sup>	Key programs/projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions <sup>2</sup>
<b>Terrestrial Habitat</b>		
Objective 8.1: Maintain extent and improve condition of terrestrial habitat	3 of 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg, Hopkins, Coastal and Regional)*</li> <li>Landcare (Victorian Landcare Grants)*</li> <li>NLP Projects (Threatened Species and Communities Program, Coastal Connections*)</li> <li>Biodiversity Fund - South West Biolinks</li> <li>Victorian Government Biodiversity On-ground Action Grants (CMA &amp; partner led)</li> </ul>
Objective 8.2: Improve connectivity of habitat for species populations and communities	3 of 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP Coastal Connections</li> <li>Biodiversity Fund - South West Biolinks</li> </ul>
Objective 8.3: Public land is managed as the core of resilient ecosystems	1 of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP Coastal Connections</li> <li>Biodiversity Fund - South West Biolinks</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Species and Communities</b>		
Objective 9.1: Improve the health of key populations of threatened species and communities	9 of 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Environmental Water Program*</li> <li>NLP Projects (Threatened Species and Communities Program, Coastal Connections*)</li> <li>Biodiversity Fund - South West Biolinks</li> <li>Glenelg Ark, Glenelg Eden and Grampians Ark projects (partner led)</li> </ul>

Note: NLP = National Landcare Programme, 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.

2. Initiatives may contribute to one or more RCS objectives / actions. Achievements for programs / projects marked \* are discussed elsewhere in this report.

Key initiatives and achievements

Threatened Species and Communities

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

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

Notable projects that are being undertaken regionally include:

- Eastern Barred Bandicoot recovery projects at Hamilton Parklands and Tiverton;
- South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo recovery project;
- National Landcare Programme Threatened Species and Communities Project, being delivered in partnership with DELWP and Birdlife Australia;
- Long Swamp restoration project which is benefiting Yarra Pygmy Perch, Dwarf Galaxias, Swamp Antechinus, Swamp Skink, Growling Grass Frog, Brolga, Australasian Bittern, Ground Parrot and a suite of flora species; and
- Glenelg Ark which is a landscape scale fox baiting project aimed at benefiting selected small mammal species including the Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long-nosed Potoroo.

Key regional projects and activities that have been undertaken in 2016-17 towards implementing RCS objectives and associated actions for threatened species and communities are outlined opposite.

NLP Threatened Species and Communities Project – DELWP and Birdlife Australia

This project aims to work with a range of partners and community groups to protect and enhance 2,200 ha of the 33,600 ha of existing nationally listed ecological communities and manage 85,330 ha for threatened species over the Glenelg Hopkins region. The project area is primarily focused on the Victorian Volcanic Plains and Goldfields Bioregions, both of which are regional, state and national priorities. Target threatened species include the Striped Legless Lizard, Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Golden Sun Moth, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Swift Parrot, Brolga and ten threatened flora species. Four nationally threatened Ecological Communities are being targeted through this project: Natural Temperate Grasslands, Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands. A range of targeted extension and monitoring activities across the project area are being delivered by DELWP and BirdLife Australia (BA.) These will reduce critical threats to, and enhance the condition, connectivity, resilience and knowledge of, threatened species and communities through the implementation of specific high priority National Recovery Plan and Actions for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) database actions.

Major activities that are being undertaken as part of this project include:

- weed control and monitoring of Linear Reserves (DELWP);
- threatened flora monitoring (DELWP);
- community engagement (DELWP and BA);
- pest management and monitoring of Eastern Barred Bandicoots (DELWP and Conservation Volunteers Australia); and
- monitoring and protection of Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (BA).

Key achievements for 2016-17 included:

- weed control and monitoring of 5 ha of high quality linear reserve grasslands;
- 20 sites monitored for seven threatened flora species (Pretty Leek-orchid, Gorae Leek-orchid, Fragrant Leek-orchid, Basalt Rustyhood, Robust Spider-orchid, Candy Spider-orchid, Wrinkled Cassinia);
- 25 community engagement activities relating to threatened species, including a presentation to around 250 people at the annual Fred Rodgers orchid seminar, and engaging 85 volunteers in the annual count for the Red Tail Block Cockatoo; and
- maintaining the predator proof fence at Hamilton Parklands for the protection of Eastern Barred bandicoots.

**NLP Protection of Ecological Communities & Grassland Monitoring Project**

The Protection of Ecological Communities Project is working with a range of partners and community groups to continue to protect and enhance 625 ha of the 33,600 ha of existing nationally listed ecological communities over the Glenelg Hopkins region. From July 2013 to December 2014, the Protection of Ecological Communities Project successfully protected 350 ha of priority ecological community on the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP), and the remaining 275 ha will be protected through agreements between Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Trust for Nature. The project area is primarily focused on the VVP and Goldfields Bioregions, both of which are regional, state and national priorities. There are four nationally threatened Ecological Communities (ECs) that will be targeted through this project. A range of targeted extension activities on the VVP, including a stewardship and covenanting program, have been utilised to maximise uptake and ensure best-value sites are protected and secured into the future.

Key achievements for 2016-17 include:

- annual grassland monitoring field work was conducted on 30 sites across the VVP. This is the third year of monitoring and the diversity of some plant genera was higher than previous monitoring.
- 726.3 ha of critically endangered ecological communities (Natural Temperate Grassland and Grassy Eucalypt Woodland of the VVP and Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands of the Lowland plains) are being actively managed under CMA management agreements. Grassland sites are monitored each Spring for their general structural health and biomass levels.
- 278.25 ha of Natural Temperate Grassland and Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland that are protected by on-title Trust for Nature Conservation Covenants have been actively managed in accordance with site management plans.

This project was supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

**CASE STUDY:  
SOUTH WEST BIOLINKS: RECONNECTING THE LANDSCAPE**

**CHALLENGE:** South Australia's south-east/Victoria's south-west is one of only 15 nationally recognised 'Biodiversity Hotspots' and is within Zone 1 of the Habitat 141 corridor. While there are large sections of high conservation value native vegetation secured through numerous parks and reserves, the vegetation is often fragmented or of poor quality, especially across private land. This fragmentation is a key risk for many dispersal dependent threatened species. In addition, pine wildings are a significant weed in the landscape that are a key threatening process to species such as the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.

**APPROACH:** The approach to combat fragmentation required a long-term landscape approach, working predominantly on private land. Activities to address this threat included large scale revegetation, weed control to improve the quality of existing remnant patches and identification and protection of existing remnants from threats such as stock grazing. To prioritise sites for intervention modelling was required to determine where the best gains could be made to revegetation and remnant protection. This modelling was undertaken by Greening Australia based on work to prioritise the Habitat 141 landscape. Plantation companies own and manage a significant proportion of the private land in the target area and were a key focus for this project. Monitoring of key threatened species was another important component to help prioritise sites but to also gather data to determine the response of these species to interventions.

**RESULTS:** A number of rare and threatened species were identified in or adjacent to areas treated. These species included Heath Mouse, Swamp Antechinus, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, broilgas and Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

A total of 545 ha of revegetation was completed which will aid future movement of fauna between currently fragmented landscapes. A total of 1031 ha of weed control and 730 ha of remnant vegetation protection or enhancement was also completed. This has led to high levels of transformation in native forest; and halting of threatening processes such as weed contamination and stock grazing.

**KEY PARTNERS:** New Forests, PF Olsen, Timberlands, landholders, Pallisters Reserve Committee, Greening Australia, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.

Table 12: Regional Hub Projects

Project	Lead Organisation	Locality	Partners
Improving the quality and connectedness of grassland communities on the Victorian Volcanic Plain	DELWP	Woorndoo-Dundonnell	DELWP Barwon South West, Corangamite CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Victoria, Corangamite Shire, Moyne Shire, ARTC, VicRoads, La Trobe University, Royal Botanic Gardens, Nargundy Pty Ltd Tiverton, Trust For Nature
Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Weed Control	Glenelg Hopkins CMA	Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Coastal Park	Glenelg Shire, Nature Glenelg Trust, Nelson Coastcare, Greening Australia, Parks Victoria, DELWP Barwon South West, GHCMA
Threatened species habitat restoration in the Wilkin Woodlands and Wetlands	Nature Glenelg Trust	Wilkin	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	Parks Victoria, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DELWP, Trust for Nature

**Grampians Ark, Glenelg Ark and Glenelg Eden Programs**

Several landscape scale pest plant and animal threat mitigation projects were undertaken across the region in 2016-17, including Glenelg Eden (weed control), Glenelg Ark and Grampians Ark (pest animal control). These projects are funded by the Victorian Government, and led by Parks Victoria (Grampians Ark) and DELWP (Glenelg Eden and Ark).

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 a collaboration between DELWP and Parks Victoria and is the largest fox control project on public land in south-west Victoria, operating across 90,000 ha. It is part of a suite of landscape scale fox control projects in Victoria, including **Grampians Ark**. In 2005, only 35 per cent of monitored Glenelg Ark sites had Long-nosed Potoroos recorded and by 2015, this had increased to 50 per cent of sites. Over the same period, the number of monitored sites where Southern Brown Bandicoots were recorded also increased (from 32 per cent in 2005, to 62 per cent in 2015).

**Terrestrial Habitat**

A key RCS terrestrial habitat objective is for public land to be managed as the core of resilient ecosystems. Regional biolink projects undertaken in 2016-17 have continued to focus on supporting resilient ecosystem management on public land with buffer zones and linkages. Activities have also focused on RCS actions that relate to protecting the condition of terrestrial habitat through revegetation and fencing, and developing conservation covenants to protect areas of high-value remnant vegetation.

**South West Biolinks Project**

The South West Biolinks Project was completed in 2016-17. The Australian Government's National Landcare Programme funded project invested \$2.5m over six years to create biodiverse carbon sinks in the Glenelg Bioregion; and to undertake large scale habitat restoration across important biolink zones in the Habitat 141 area (see case study page 34).

**Victorian Government Biodiversity On-Ground Action Funding**

Approximately \$1.2m was allocated in 2016-17 by the Victorian Government's Biodiversity On-ground Actions program across four landscape scale threatened species threat mitigation projects within the region. These projects will address key threats to a range of species in the grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plan, wetlands and woodlands of the Glenelg Plain, and coastal zone (Table 12). The 'regional hub projects' involve agencies and organisations working together to address threats to a range of important native species in priority areas. Each project has received \$300,000 funding, and is to be completed by 30 June 2020.



### 3.4 Land Condition Statement

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

#### Regional context

The Glenelg Hopkins region is recognised as having some of the most fertile and productive soils in Australia<sup>xiii</sup>. With more than 80 per cent of the region dedicated to agricultural production, the protection and enhancement of the region's soil is clearly linked to regional prosperity; and fundamental to ongoing sustainable food and fibre production<sup>xiv</sup>. In 2014-15 the region was rated as the 4th highest agricultural production region in Australia, producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$2,046m<sup>xv</sup>.

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 is identified as one of Australia's national sustainability indicators. Maintenance of ground cover is essential for sustainable production, and helps protect soils from erosion. Soil with a low percentage of groundcover is more susceptible to wind and water erosion. Ground cover also plays an important role in maintaining biodiversity and nutrient cycling.

The Australian National University has assessed exposed soil nationally since 2000. The assessment is undertaken using MODIS satellite imagery that captures images of the earth's surface every eight days over a 12-month period to analyse the percentage of ground not covered by living or dead plant material<sup>xvi</sup>. The percentage of exposed soil across the Glenelg Hopkins region for 2016 is shown in Figure 10. The data indicates that the percentage area of exposed soil across the Glenelg Hopkins region has varied marginally on an annualised basis, with a slight decrease experienced between 2015 and 2016 (Figure 10). This decrease is likely to be linked to a year on year change in average soil water availability (Figure 11).

There were no additions to the public reserve system within the Glenelg Hopkins region in 2016-17 (Table 13). An additional 542.3 ha was placed under conservation covenant during 2016-17, and 179 landholder management agreements were established over 4,680 ha. As of 30 June 2016, 4,101.3 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.

Figure 10: Percentage of exposed soil in the Glenelg Hopkins region 2000-2016

(Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2016, developed by the Australian National University - Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online).

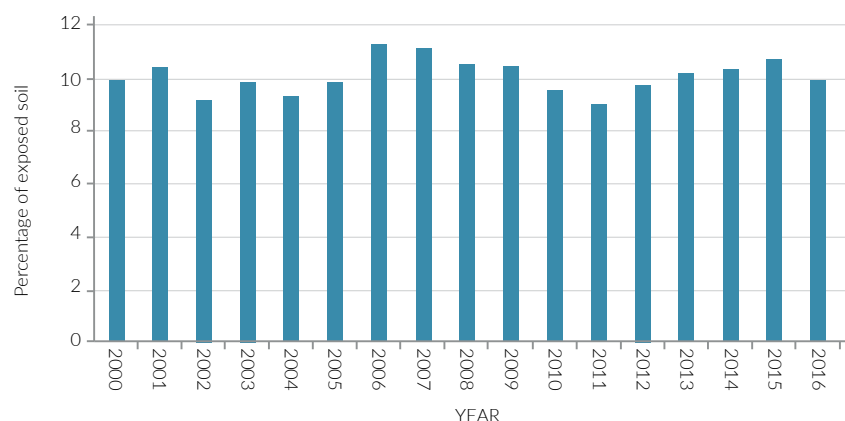


Figure 11: Average soil water availability in the Glenelg Hopkins region 2000-2016

(Source: Australia's Environment Explorer 2016, developed by the Australian National University - Fenner School of the Environment and Society, www.ausenv.online).



Table 13: Land managed for conservation in the Glenelg Hopkins region

Protection type	Number/Area covered	Additional area this year
National Parks*	207,788.44 ha	
State Parks*	31,320.25 ha	
Other public land**	243,771.82 ha	
Trust for nature covenants	4,101.3 ha (as at April 2017)	542.3 ha (as at April 2017)
Landholder agreements	427 agreements, 12,052 ha (output recorded since 2013-14)	179 agreements, 4,680 ha

\*Data from Public Lands Management spatial dataset

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

#### Annual land assessment 2016-17

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key evidence
Neutral →	A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No significant bushfires.</li> <li>No major erosion events reported on farmland.</li> <li>Annual average ground cover rates remained stable.</li> <li>Significant long-term challenges remain in managing the impact of land use on waterway health and managing soil health at the farm scale.</li> </ul>

#### Reasons for assessment:

- There were no significant bushfires in 2016-17.
- While there were reports of erosion along regional waterways from the 2016 floods, no major erosion events were reported on farmland.
- Annual average ground cover rates remained stable. The estimated percentage of exposed soils for the region decreased slightly in 2016, from 10.6 per cent in 2015 to 9.9 per cent in 2016. Exposed soil was estimated to average 13.9 per cent over the summer period (minimum groundcover over this period was 84 per cent).
- The trend towards increased cropping reversed in 2017, with a drop of almost 10 per cent in cropping area observed on regional transects compared to 2016. The reduction in cropping observed along regional transects in 2017, compared to 2016 is likely to be linked to the abnormally high winter rainfall received in 2016 and associated waterlogging.
- There remain significant threats to the long term productivity of soils in the region from historical land management practices that have led to widespread removal of indigenous vegetation and a vulnerability for infestation by pest plants and animals. From time to time, these changes still result in localised increases in wind and water erosion, dryland salinity, soil acidification, decline of soil structures and loss of soil organic carbon.
- There have been no significant changes in land tenure through the designation of parks and reserves.
- Trust for Nature covenants (perpetual agreements) were established over 542.3 ha in 2016-17 (135 ha in 2015-16, 75 ha in 2014-15, and 104 ha in 2013-14).

#### Management Report

##### RCS implementation for soil and land

Key initiatives undertaken in 2016-17 towards implementing RCS objectives and actions for soil and land are summarised in Table 14. Initiatives were focussed on supporting the implementation of the following RCS actions:

- implementing the Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Strategy;
- investigating opportunities for soil capability mapping under different land management practices; and
- promoting increased levels of awareness and adoption of land management methods to maintain or improve the health and productivity of soils.

**Table 14: Key programs and projects contributing to achievement of RCS soil and land objectives and actions in 2016-17**

RCS objective	No. of 2016-17 measures implemented <sup>1</sup>	Key programs/projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions <sup>2</sup>
<b>Soil and Land</b>		
Objective 10.1: An improvement in soil condition as measured by key indicators by 2033	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stock Containment Area Grants</li> <li>NLP Sustainable Agriculture Program</li> <li>NLP Regional Landcare Facilitator</li> </ul>
Objective 10.2: An increase in the area of soils managed within their capability	8 of 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stock Containment Area Grants</li> <li>NLP Projects (Sustainable Agriculture, Regional Landcare Facilitator)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>NLP Sustainable Agriculture Program</li> <li>NLP Regional Landcare Facilitator</li> </ul>
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"> <li>NLP Sustainable Agriculture Program</li> <li>NLP Regional Landcare Facilitator</li> </ul>

Note: NLP = National Landcare Programme, 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.

2. Initiatives may contribute to one or more RCS objectives / actions. Achievements for programs / projects marked \* are discussed elsewhere in this report.

**Key initiatives and achievements**

**NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project**

This project is supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. It is delivered through established or new partnerships with industry, government agencies and community based organisations. Engagement of community groups (Landcare, production and industry) is increasing through facilitated support to investigate innovative farming practices through on-farm trials and demonstrations.

Key achievements for 2016-17 include:

- partnerships maintained with Victorian No-Till Farmers Association, Southern Farming Systems, DEDJTR, West Vic Dairy and community groups to promote adoption of sustainable farm practices in cropping and broadacre grazing industries;
- a Holistic Management Seminar conducted in partnership with South West Holistic Farmers was held at Dunkeld with attendance from 98 farmers and farm service providers;
- approximately 70 producers attended the Better Beef Conference, which was supported by this project. Presentations ranged from a beef market situation update and outlook, capitalising on the good times and succession planning; and

- monitoring land use change across the catchment through a biannual land use transect undertaken in partnership with DEDJTR. The 2017 survey identified a reversal in trend towards cropping with a drop of almost 10 per cent in the area used for cropping compared to 2016 levels. This is likely to be linked to the abnormally high winter rainfall received in 2016 and associated waterlogging that occurred in many areas.

**NLP Regional Landcare Facilitator Project**

The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Facilitator (RLF) is funded by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Programme. The RLF supports individuals, Landcare and production groups to adopt sustainable farm and land management practices by:

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

Project activities supported by the RLF project in 2016-17 included:

- understanding the basics of soil testing workshop, undertaken in conjunction with South West Prime Lamb Group;
- drought ready workshop, undertaken in collaboration with Perennial Pasture Systems Group and Ararat Rural City Council;
- 8th Annual Perennial Pasture System conference, which was attended by around 100 people and focussed on making the most of legume pastures;
- integrated pest management (IPM) demonstrations undertaken in conjunction with Upper Hopkins Land Management Group, and IPM awareness workshops hosted by Tarragal Landcare Group;
- grazing and alternative perennial grass demonstration sites located at Yambuk and Macarthur;
- cropping cultivar yield and disease resistance workshop, led by Southern Farming Systems, with discussion topics on IPM; and
- biochar demonstrations and field days, hosted by Tarragal Landcare Group.

**Glenelg Hopkins Land Suitability Project**

The Glenelg Hopkins Land Suitability Project is a partnership between Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Southern Grampians Shire Council and Deakin University (Centre for Regional and Rural Futures) to model land suitability for a selected set of agricultural commodities across the catchment. Commodities will be modelled for suitability under current and predicted climatic conditions up to the year 2050. The project is contributing to the following RCS action: 'investigate opportunities for soil capability mapping under different land management practices'.

Initial commodity maps were completed in 2016-17 and validated through extensive community and industry engagement. Initial reports have also been compiled that explore the possible implications of climate change on agriculture, and land use in the region. The project is being led by Deakin University; and has been supported through funding from the Australian Government, Southern Grampians Shire and Deakin University.

**Victorian Government Drought Employment Program**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received funding from the Victorian Government to employ a small drought crew. The Drought Employment Program provides employment and training opportunities for local residents, including farmers and rural workers affected by the drought and the opportunity to earn off-farm income. The CMA employed two drought crews as part of this program, with one based in Hamilton, and the other in Ararat to undertake environmental works in collaboration with landholders, local governments, agencies and community groups. The project provided part-time or full-time employment for 14 individuals.

With the winter and spring of 2016 being one of the wettest experienced in western Victoria, activities for the Drought Crews shifted focus in September 2016, and centred around helping farmers who had experienced flood damage on their properties. Over the course of the next six months, the two crews assisted 34 land owners and cleared many tonnes of debris off 60.6 km of fencing, including the standing up of fences knocked flat by the debris.

The two crews achieved the following outputs in 2016-17:

- 18.26 km of fences installed;
- 60.61 km of fences maintained;
- 70 ha of indigenous revegetation; and
- 141 ha of weed removal

**Round 2 Stock Containment Area Grants Program**

The Round 2 Stock Containment Area (SCA) Grants Program provided support to farmers in drought affected areas in the Shires of West Wimmera, Ararat Rural City, Horsham Rural City and Pyrenees Shire to undertake works to protect their soils by installing a SCA. Stock containment areas were supported on 20 regional properties through this program. The number of SCAs on properties varied from one to three; and the total area of the properties where SCAs were established covered 20,601 ha. The grants program was funded by the Victorian Government, and jointly delivered by the CMA and DEDJTR. The CMA administered the grants program, with on-ground extension and assessments undertaken by DEDJTR.

**Agriculture Victoria projects**

Agriculture Victoria undertakes property inspections to support community led action on state-wide priority established pests and to protect high value catchment assets. Agriculture Victoria Biodiversity Officers inspected 25,148 ha of land in the Glenelg Hopkins region in 2016-17 to facilitate the management of declared invasive plants and pest animals.

Rabbit biocontrol was also boosted in the region with the release of the rabbit calicivirus, (Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus K5) in 2016-17, helping to reduce the risks of soil erosion.

A pasture cropping demonstration site has been running in the Glenelg Hopkins region for four years. Agriculture Victoria recorded eight properties undertaking the same techniques as a result of their involvement in the demonstration. The area covered by these properties is 7,600 ha.

Over the past 12 months, Agriculture Victoria provided advice on dam repair and designing drought proof dams to farmers. The program provided an opportunity to work with 29 regional farmers in 2016-17.



**CASE STUDY:  
HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT – ADAPTING  
TO A CHANGING CLIMATE**

**CHALLENGE:** Increasing climate variation and incidence of extreme events saw the Weaver family accept the reality of climate change and relocate their sheep and cropping operation from Boort to Balmoral in 2009.

Seeking water security, the Weavers purchased 'Woodlands' with frontage to the Glenelg River and pipeline access to stock and domestic water. Historic open access of cattle to the river, and set stocking, had damaged and denuded river banks, while poor quality annual grasses dominated phalaris/sub-clover pastures and areas of bare earth were extensive.

**APPROACH:** In 2010, the Weavers became part of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Glenelg River Restoration Project to protect and restore the Glenelg River, wetlands and tributaries. In 2012, with an aim to increase farm production, profit and landscape condition the Weavers took up an opportunity with the CMA to undertake a 12-month Planned Grazing demonstration trial.

**RESULTS:** With support from the CMA, the Weavers have fenced some 21 km of waterway, gully and environmentally sensitive areas to exclude stock. Alternative water points for stock were established. Impressive results from the Planned Grazing demonstration trial, led the Weavers to move to a Holistic Management approach to managing their land, animals and business.

Planned Grazing has allowed proliferation of native grasses (Weeping Grass, Kangaroo Grass and Wallaby Grass) as part of managed succession for annual to perennial dominated pastures with a notable absence of bare ground. Changes to management approach and farm infrastructure has enabled the Weavers to increase both profit and landscape condition.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Glenelg Hopkins CMA, South West Holistic Farmers.

**3.5 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.

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

The Glenelg Hopkins coastal zone is shown in Figure 12. The coastal zone incorporates a diverse range of ecosystems, and provides critical habitat for threatened species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot and Hooded Plover, as well as important shorebird sites. This zone includes three Important Bird Areas: (sites of global bird conservation importance) – Yambuk Lakes Complex IBA, Port Fairy to Warrnambool IBA and Discovery Bay – Piccaninnie Ponds IBA.

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

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

**Coast benchmark - level of protection for coasts, Index of Wetland Condition, Index of Estuary Condition**

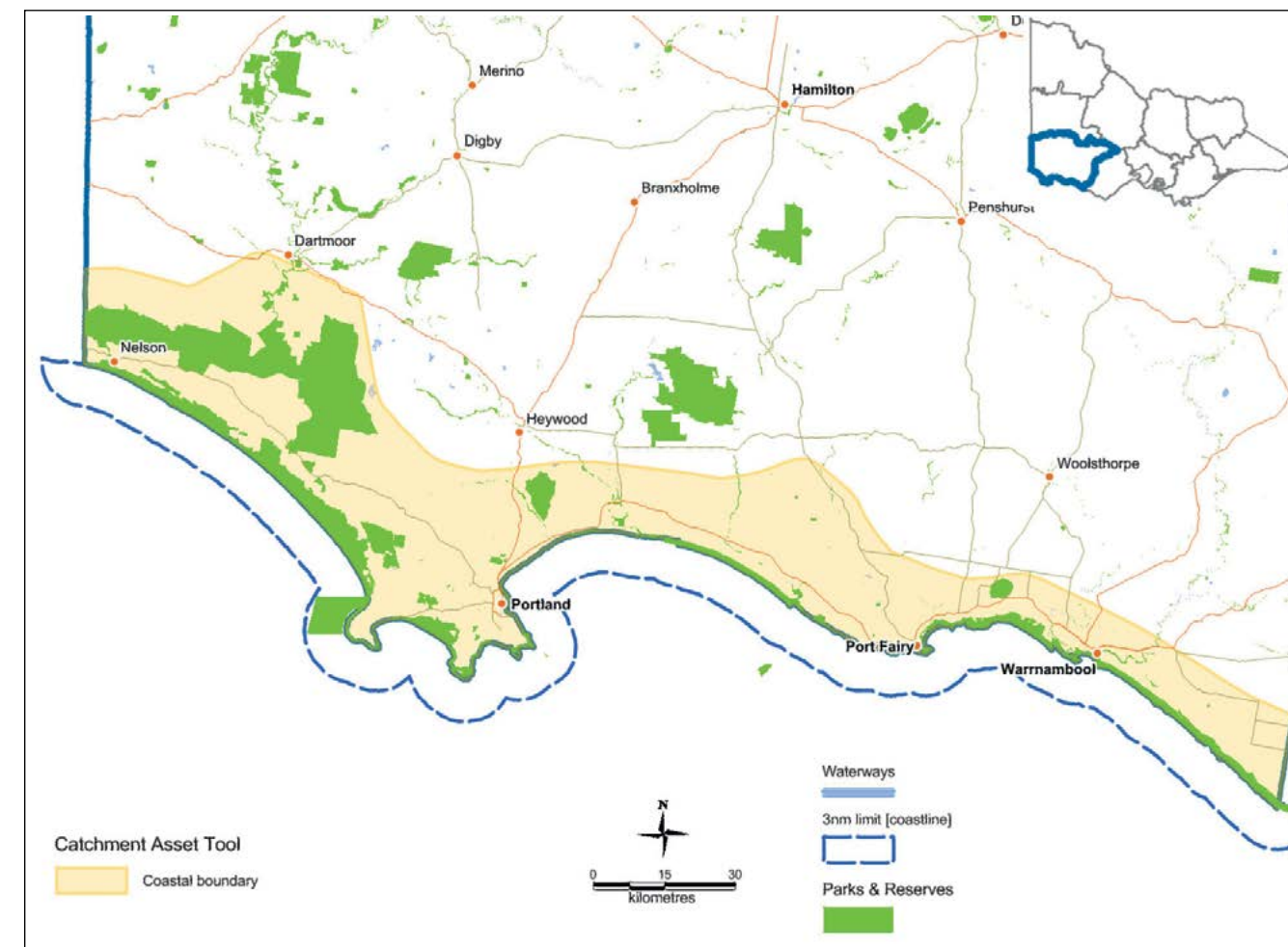
**Level of Protection for Coasts**

Figure 12 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<sup>xxviii</sup>.

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

Figure 12: Extent of parks and reserves in the coastal zone



**Index of Estuary Condition (IEC), and Index of Wetland Condition (IWC)**

The condition of the region's wetlands and estuaries varies significantly along the coast. The Glenelg River Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex encompass freshwater wetlands, estuary, beach and dune systems that are in excellent condition<sup>xxix</sup>. Wetlands that retain water on at least a semi-permanent basis are generally in good condition, and estuaries are in moderate to good condition based on the results of the recent IEC trial. Further information on regional IEC and IWC results is provided in the Waterways section of this report.

Wetlands on private land are often smaller in size and are more fragmented. Many are open to stock access and can become sinks for agricultural drainage and runoff. Coastal residential development has impacted several areas of coastal wetlands through drainage, conversion and exposure to recreational use. They are also particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as inundation from rising sea levels and storm surges.

Annual coast assessment 2016-17

Annual Assessment	Rating	Key evidence
Concerned ↓	A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the exception of land protected within parks and reserves, the coastal environment remains under significant pressure from agriculture, and development near urban centres.</li> <li>Coastal areas are experiencing increases in population and tourism activity. Pollution, erosion and loss of coastal habitat are major threats.</li> <li>Coastal settlements located in low-lying areas within the region are already experiencing occasional inundation.</li> </ul>

Reasons for assessment:

- With the exception of land protected within parks and reserves, the coastal environment remains under significant pressure from agriculture, and development near urban centres.
- Coastal areas are experiencing increases in population and tourism activity. Pollution, erosion and loss of coastal habitat are major threats.
- Coastal settlements located in low-lying areas within the region are already experiencing occasional inundation (e.g. Port Fairy).

- Wetlands that retain water on at least a semi-permanent basis are generally in good condition. A recent IEC trial indicated that estuaries are in moderate to good condition.
- The status of rare and threatened coastal orchids monitored by DELWP in 2016-17 as part of the NLP Threatened Species and Communities Program, is that most monitored orchid populations were in a stable condition.

Management Report

RCS implementation for the coast and marine

Key initiatives undertaken in 2016-17 towards implementing RCS objectives and actions for coasts and marine are summarised in Table 15 and outlined below.

Table 15: Key programs and projects contributing to achievement of RCS coast and marine objectives and actions in 2016-17

RCS objective	No. of 2016-17 measures implemented <sup>1</sup>	Key programs/projects contributing to achievement of RCS objectives and actions <sup>2</sup>
<b>Coasts</b>		
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"> <li>NLP Coastal Connections</li> <li>Biodiversity Fund - South West Biolinks*</li> <li>VWPIF Environmental Water Program*</li> </ul>
<b>Marine</b>		
Objective 7.1: By 2033 maintain the condition of the marine environment and manage specific catchment-based threats to improve condition where appropriate	3 of 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Works Programs (Glenelg*, Hopkins*, Coastal and Regional*)</li> <li>NLP Coastal Connections</li> </ul>

Note: NLP = National Landcare Programme, 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.

2. Initiatives may contribute to one or more RCS objectives / actions. Achievements for programs / projects marked \* are discussed elsewhere in this report.

Key initiatives and achievements

VWPIF Coastal Works Program

This four-year, Victorian Government funded program aims to improve and maintain the region's estuaries and coastal waterways on the Budj Bim landscape by supporting:

- estuary management including estuary opening decisions;
- estuary water monitoring including community involvement in EstuaryWatch;
- engagement of landholders, including Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Group, to develop a Waterway Action Plan for the Budj Bim Landscape; and
- on-ground works on the Fitzroy River estuary, Darlot Creek and associated wetlands.

The main area of focus for this program in 2016-17 has been implementation of the Budj Bim Landscape Waterway Action Plan, which was completed in 2015-16, and woody weed control in the Fitzroy estuary and Darlot Creek areas. Outputs achieved by this project included over three km of fencing, 6 ha of woody weed control, and establishment of landholder management agreements covering 60 ha.

NLP Coastal Connections Project

This project is supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's Landcare Programme. The aim of this project is to work with community groups, and public and private land managers in the high priority coastal zone of the Habitat 141 'Outback to Ocean' wildlife corridor to protect and restore 520 ha of coastal vegetation and wetlands. The project focuses on increasing connectivity of vegetation communities at nationally significant wetlands (Lower Merri and Yambuk Lake) and to enhance critical habitat for EPBC-listed species including the Orange-bellied Parrot. A range of targeted engagement activities and incentive types are utilised to maximise uptake and ensure best-value sites are protected and secured into the future.

Key achievements for 2016-17 include:

- 292 ha of stock exclusion, weed and pest control on high value coastal land;
- on-title permanent protection of 82 ha of remnant coastal habitat through conservation covenants (Trust for Nature);
- protection of endangered orchids including Mellblom's Spider-orchid, Coast Dandelion, Maroon Leek-orchid and Metallic Sun-orchid;
- eleven community groups running field days, working bees, tours and clean-up days attracting 1,403 people; and
- supporting over 13 community groups to deliver on-ground works covering 23 ha.

CASE STUDY:  
BUDJ BIM 2040

**CHALLENGE:** The Budj Bim 2040 project aims to achieve the following three key outcomes by 2040:

- Riparian areas are connected and condition improved by woody weed management, stock exclusion and revegetation.
- Connectivity of aquatic environments is improved by fish barrier removal and improved knowledge of river and wetland hydrology and potential barriers to water movement.
- Different knowledge and experiences are shared and integrated by engaging with Gunditjmarra Traditional Owners and other landholders, and using Indigenous Ecological Knowledge in project design and delivery.

The project area includes Darlot Creek and Fitzroy River and estuary, and numerous associated wetlands, which form part of the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. The landscape is a volcanic plain that encompasses the area from Mt Eccles to the sea. The basalt lava flow created a series of wetlands and rivers including Lake Condah, Darlot Creek and Fitzroy River and estuary. In 2010, Lake Condah was restored and the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners and other landholders are now focusing on protecting and restoring other waterways in the landscape.

The area supports manna gum woodlands and many rare and threatened aquatic fauna including Yarra pygmy perch, Australasian bitterns, growling grass frogs and Glenelg spiny crayfish. The landscape is rich in Gunditjmarra cultural heritage places, including stone huts and engineered wetlands and channels used to hold and harvest eels. This site contains the oldest known record of aquaculture in the world. These values will be further realised if the current World Heritage nomination of the landscape is successful.

**APPROACH:** A Waterway Action Plan (WAP) was undertaken in 2015-16. Landholders with properties along the estuary reach were visited and any actions required to address threats to the waterway were identified. Grants were offered to landholders in 2016-17, using a partnership approach, to undertake the recommended on-ground works; predominantly weed treatment and some fencing to restrict stock access.

**RESULTS:** In addition to development of the waterway action plan, which involved property assessments over 3,700 ha, the project to date has achieved 1.5 km waterway fencing and approximately 34 ha of weed treatment.

**KEY PARTNERS:** Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Winda Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Budj Bim Rangers, Parks Victoria, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning and Glenelg Shire Council.



**Ramsar Nomination**

A report was prepared for the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex as part of the required nomination documentation for the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex (the Ramsar site) as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. The development of the report was overseen by a Steering Committee, comprising representatives from Parks Victoria, DELWP and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

**Australia's World Heritage Tentative List – Budj Bim Cultural Landscape**

The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape was placed on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List in January 2017. Part of this area occurs within the coastal zone. It will stay on the list for 12 months before being considered for World Heritage listing, and if successful, will be the first Australian location to be World Heritage Listed exclusively for its cultural heritage values. The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape contains evidence of one of the world's largest and oldest aquaculture systems, dating to around 600 years ago<sup>xx</sup>.

**4.0 REGIONAL ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS REPORTING**

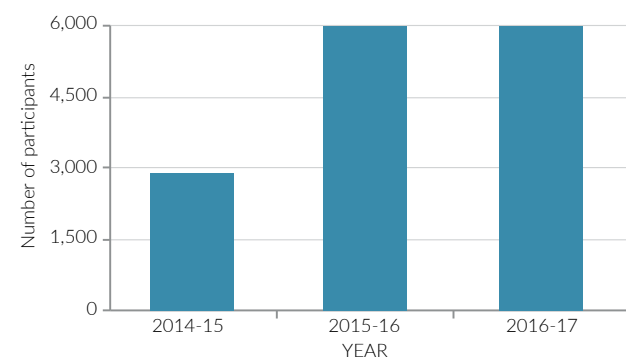
**4.1 Key Focus Areas**

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

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

The Glenelg Hopkins regional contribution to these focus areas is shown below, as well as trend data.<sup>3</sup>

**Figure 13: Number of participants at engagement events**



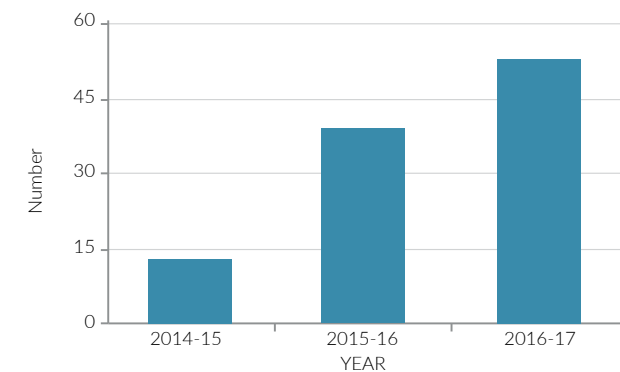
<sup>3</sup> 2013/14 figures only captured outputs related to Victorian Government investment. Subsequent years included Victorian Government and Australian Government funded outputs.

**4.1.1 Engage Victoria's communities in natural resource management**

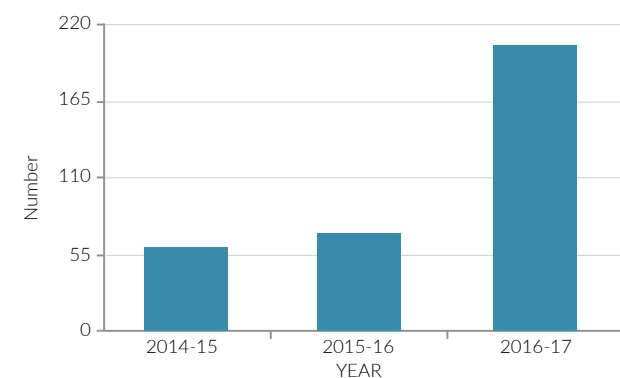
This key focus area contributes directly to goal one of Our Catchments, Our Communities "Effective community engagement in catchment management", and reports on a selection of outputs in the "planning and regulation" standard output class. These outputs contribute to collaboration, skills and awareness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

Figure 13 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 14 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 15 shows the number of publications developed and disseminated to keep stakeholders and the broader community informed.

**Figure 14: Number of formal partnerships established, maintained or modified**



**Figure 15: Number of publications established, maintained or modified (including fact sheets, media releases, newsletters, reports, websites, television and social media)**



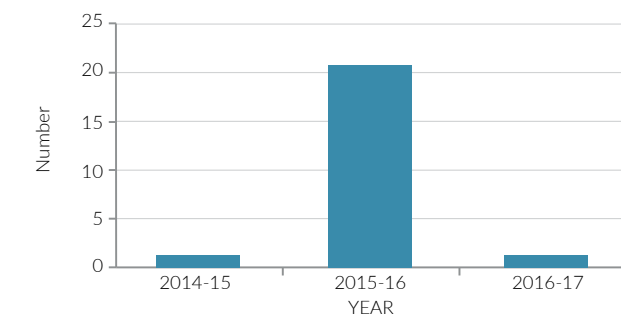
**4.1.2 Protect and improve the environmental condition of Victoria's waterways, land and biodiversity**

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:

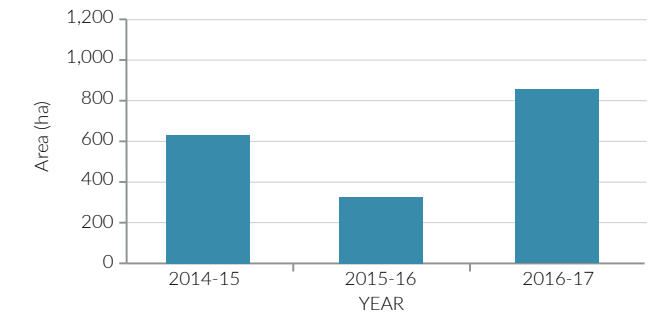
- productivity, soil properties and soil stability;
- species recovery, species control and habitat availability;
- amenity;
- vegetation extent, structure and diversity;
- water quality, environmental water, groundwater;
- cultural heritage; and
- extreme event preparedness.

The number of waterway structures that were installed or modified, for the period 2014-15 to 2016-17, is shown in Figure 16. This output includes the construction of fishways, rock chutes, and flow regulators. Figure 17 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 18 and Figure 19 respectively. Figure 20 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.

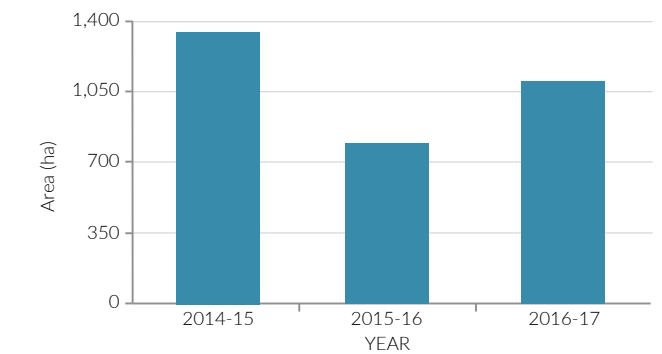
**Figure 16: Number of waterways structures installed or modified**



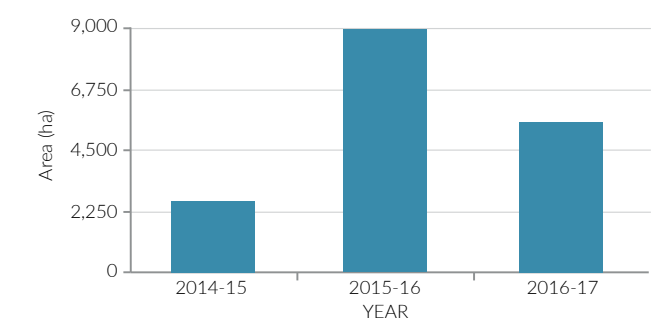
**Figure 17: Area of vegetation established, modified or maintained (ha) (includes direct seeding, planting, mulching, guarding and thinning)**



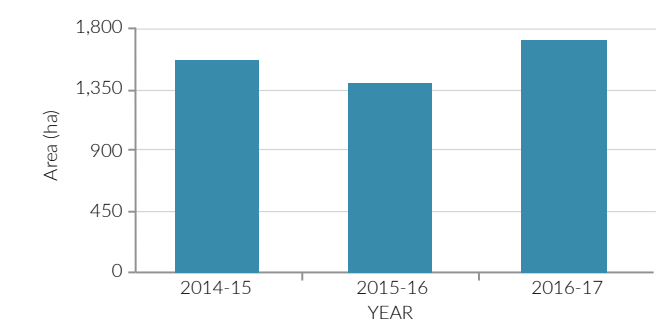
**Figure 18: Area of pest animal control (ha) (gross area over which pest animals were controlled by killing, removing or restricting them)**



**Figure 19: Area of weed control (ha) (gross area over which weeds were controlled by killing, removing or restricting them)**



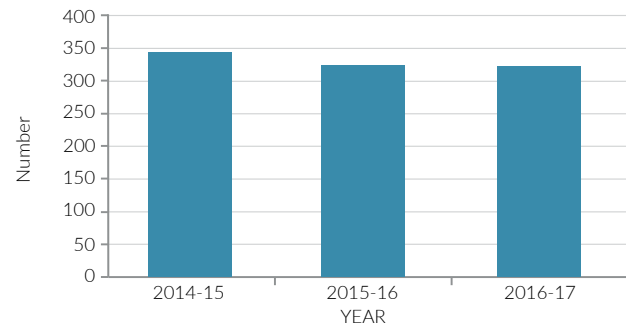
**Figure 20: Area of grazing regime change (ha) (the area over which grazing by livestock has been established, maintained, modified or removed)**



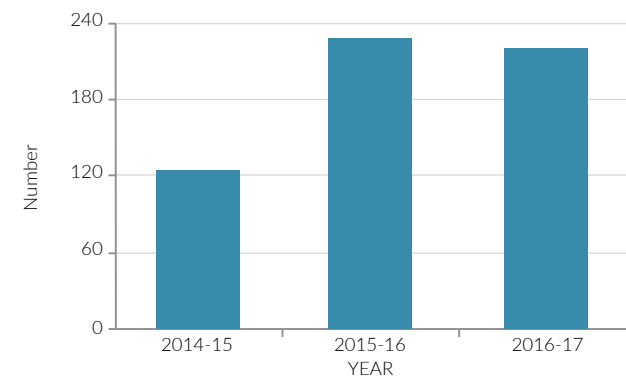
**4.1.1 Provide good governance and leadership**

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

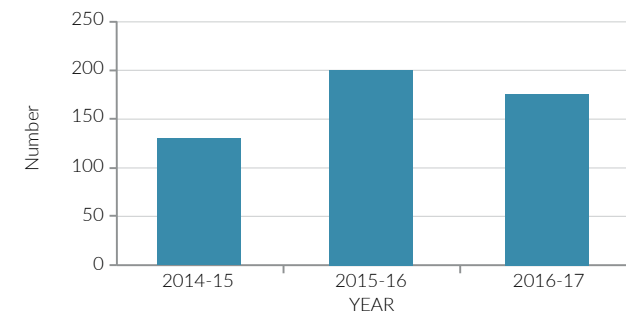
**Figure 21: Number of approvals and advice provided (records the number of decisions made in regard to permits, licences, leases and planning referrals, as well as advice provided to another agency or individual)**



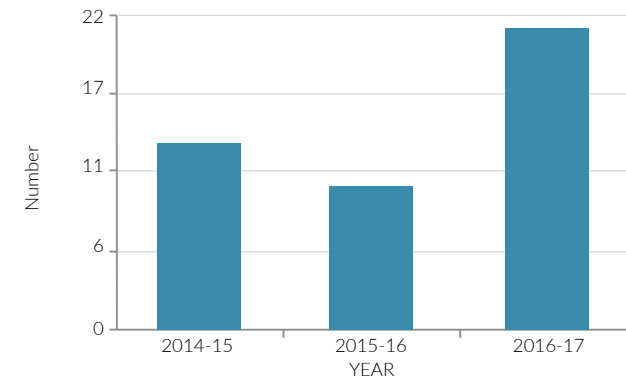
**Figure 22: Number of site based or landscape scale assessments (includes social, land, water and biodiversity assessments and can include monitoring activities to ensure compliance with policy and regulation and new and emerging weeds and pest animals)**



**Figure 23: 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 24: 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 2016-17. Outputs were significantly higher than forecast in some cases. This was generally due to significant on ground achievements and participation at engagement events.

**Table 16: Actions and Achievements - output reporting for 2016-17**

Output	Target	Actual			Total
		State	Commonwealth	Other	
<b>Structural works</b>					
1.1 Channel (km)	0				
1.2 Water storage (no.)	10	45	24		69
1.3 Pump (no.)	4	6			6
1.4 Irrigation structure (ha)	0				
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)	1		1		1
1.6 Terrestrial structure (no.)	3	1			1
1.7 Terrestrial feature (no.)	0				
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	52	37			37
1.9 Fence (km)	79	230	43		272
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)	0				
1.11 Road (km)	0				
1.12 Crossing (no.)	2	11			11
<b>Environmental works</b>					
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	314	562	289		851
2.2 Weed control (ha)	1,887	3,470	2,062		5,532
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	225	479	625		1,104
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife control	0				
2.5 Threatened species response (no.)	0		1		1
2.6 Emergency species response (no.)	0				
2.7 Soil treatment (ha)	0				
2.8 Earth works (no.)	0				
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)	0				
<b>Management services</b>					
3.1 Grazing (ha)	1,064	512	1,209		1,721
3.2 Agricultural practices (ha)	5,000		7,666		7,666
3.3 Water (no.)	11	12			12
3.4 Fire regime (no.)	0		10		10
<b>Planning and regulation</b>					
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	348	328			328
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	91	136	43		179
4.3 Assessment (no.)	298	194	26		220
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	2,170	2,271	3,722		5,993
4.5 Partnerships (no.)	49	52	1		53
4.6 Plan (no.)	16	20	1		21
4.7 Publication (no.)	121	185	20		205
4.8 Information management system (no.)	8	7			7



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

Integral and respected relationships have driven engagement between the CMA and the south-west Victorian community for the last 20 years.

Activities in partnership with our community have included tree planting, revegetation, farm planning, soil testing, catchment health, fauna protection, flood recovery, Indigenous ecological knowledge, Landcare and funding assistance.

Strong partnerships have been forged with organisations in the public and private sectors and assisted the CMA in fulfilling its natural resource management responsibilities.

2016-17 community engagement activities included:

- promoting catchment management at industry events such as Hamilton Sheepvention and South West Dairy Field Days;
- South West Landcare Gathering in Portland with approximately 70 participants;
- Landcare monthly e-newsletters, Coastal Connection updates and Landlife e-newsletters;
- promoting sustainable use of waterways and fishing events such as the Red Gum Shield Fishing Competition, Warrnambool Offshore and Light Game Shipwreck Coast Fishing Classic, Rocklands Fishing Competition and South West Fishing Classic;
- sponsoring the Wannon Water National Water Week Competition;
- building community capacity in management and monitoring of threatened woodland bird communities;
- Environmental Water Forum held in Casterton with more than 25 participants;
- demonstrating electrofishing to Women in Agriculture event at Harrow with over 12 women attending;
- two separate engagement events with Balmoral Community College to show students the value of environmental watering including electrofishing on the Glenelg River (86 participants) and a salinity simulation of the Glenelg River over summer (79 participants);
- engagement with Casterton Secondary College to demonstrate the value of environmental watering (65 participants);
- a Biochar use field day was held at Portland in conjunction with the Taragal Landcare Group attracting 40 participants including a number of RIST staff members;
- a number of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) workshops where held throughout the year located at Portland, Victoria Valley and Moyston attracting 50 participants;

- two field days highlighting a number of drought tolerant grazing cultivars where held at Yambuk and Macarthur attracting 20 participants;
- undertaking Funds for Fish Crowdfunding campaign to promote the importance of fish habitat for increasing fish populations; and
- assist the community in the establishment of the South West Victorian Ozfish Unlimited chapter which now has 30 members.

## GLENELG HOPKINS ADVISORY GROUP

Community members on the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Advisory group are:

- Malcolm Rowe (Chair)
- Craig Oliver
- Mark Bachmann
- Graeme Ward
- Justin Weaver
- Singarayer Florentine
- Jenny Emeny
- Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil
- Denis Rose (indigenous representative).

Agency representatives are provided by:

- DELWP
- DEDJTR
- Parks Victoria.

Board representatives for this Group are:

- Michelle Casanova (Director)
- Karen Wales (Director)
- Ian Hastings (Director).

During 2016-17 the Advisory Group received briefings and participated in workshops on the Climate Change Strategy, regional Landcare updates, the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy, Regional Catchment Strategy, Deakin Land Capability Study and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Social Media Policy.

The Group also provided feedback into the Environmental Water Communications Strategy and an angler engagement approach for the delivery on Waterway Health projects. A communication workshop was held with the Advisory Group community members and CMA staff on approaches to communicate with various stakeholders. An Environmental Water tour of the Upper Glenelg catchment was also held, visiting Rocklands Reservoir and a property at Balmoral.

## Local Government relations

In 2016-17 CEO Kevin Wood continued the proactive liaison program with local government, identifying the core responsibilities of both agencies and pursuing opportunities for collaborative arrangements and providing briefings on activities of significance.

The CMA works closely with local governments in the floodplain management area, providing advice on planning referrals, developing planning scheme amendments for flood management and updating Municipal Emergency Management Plans. The CMA has conducted workshops with nine councils across the region to jointly develop floodplain management priorities for inclusion in the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy. The CMA is assisting Southern Grampians Shire Council in the management of the Coleraine Flood Investigation.

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

## Media

The media, including print, community newsletters, social media, and regional radio, is a primary tool in delivering CMA messages to the wider community. While the CMA understands the important role print and electronic media plays, communication through our website is also considered a critical aspect for engaging the community.

Agriculture Victoria and the CMA publish a fortnightly column in the Hamilton Spectator, helping to reinforce the connection between the CMA and environmental management and its partnership with agriculture.

Through regional newspapers, the CMA has strongly promoted many events and activities across south west Victoria with the majority of the media coverage being favourable.

## Email, print and web newsletters

During 2016-17 *LandLife* transferred to an online publication, highlighting achievements of natural resource management in the Glenelg Hopkins region and emailed through to our stakeholder listing of over 300 people.

The e-magazine was distributed three times in 2016-17, with contributions from partner organisations broadening the content.

The Landcare team communicates with Landcare and NRM groups and the wider community through its monthly Landcare e-newsletter which provides a snapshot of news, grants and environmental and sustainable agricultural activities. Activities are promoted from a range of organisations, including the CMA, DELWP, Landcare and NRM groups. The newsletter is housed on the Landcare gateway website, and linked through an email database.

An e-newsletter is published to improve engagement and provide information to community members interested in Environmental Water in the Glenelg River. The Glenelg River Update was distributed via an email database and is made available on the CMA website regularly.

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

The CMA has partnered with the Australian River Restoration Centre and now has a hosted site on Riverspace. The website provides key information on the Glenelg River Restoration Project and associated Twinning Project.

**GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

**Board**

A Board of nine 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 appointed in October 2015 for a term of two 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 measurement of achievement; and
- provide regional leadership in natural resource management.

**Governance**

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

The Board reports to the Minister for Water, the Hon Lisa Neville and the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, and is accountable to Parliament and the community. Accountability is further strengthened by the Auditor-General and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Governance involves the relationships between the Victorian Government, the Board, Executive Team and stakeholders.

Governance in Glenelg Hopkins CMA encourages strong performance and provides community confidence in the organisation. This allows the CMA to operate efficiently and effectively as well as responding strategically to changing demands.

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

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

The Annual Report provides information on achievement of business results and the implementation of the Corporate Plan.

The 2016-17 to 2020-21 Corporate Plan reinforces the organisation's commitment to sustainability, adaptive management and responsible environmental stewardship. It calls for innovation and continuous improvement while meeting legislative and corporate governance requirements.

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

The four strategic objectives are productive partnerships for a healthy catchment, integrated and sustainable catchment management, a respected and accountable organisation and effective waterway and floodplain management.

**Board Member Meeting Attendance for 2016-17**

Name	Number of Meetings	Explanatory Note
Antony Ford	7/7	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 Appointed Board Chairperson 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017
Damein Bell	5/7	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Michelle Casanova	6/7	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Georgina Gubbins	7/7	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Ian Hastings	7/7	Appointed to the Board November 2013 to 30 September 2017
Debbie Shea	7/7	Appointed to Board July 2009 Acting Chairperson from 30 September 2015 to 26 October 2015 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
John Sherwood	7/7	Appointed to Board July 2009 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
Michael Wagg	5/7	Appointed to Board July 2009 Appointed Chairperson July 2011 to 30 September 2015 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
Karen Wales	7/7	Appointed to Board March 2013 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017

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

**BOARD COMMITTEES**

**Audit and Risk Committee**

The Audit and Risk committee consisted of the following members in 2016-17:

- Graham Shiell, Chairman (independent)
- Brian Densem (independent)
- Georgina Gubbins (Director)
- Ian Hastings (Director)
- Debbie Shea (Director).

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.

**Audit and Risk Committee Attendance for 2016-17**

Name	Number of Meetings
Graham Shiell	4/4
Brian Densem	4/4
Georgina Gubbins	4/4
Ian Hastings	4/4
Debbie Shea	4/4

- 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.

Members are appointed by the board, usually for a three year term, and are subject to the committee's terms of reference. Meetings are held quarterly and at any other time on request of a committee member or the internal or external auditor. In 2016-17, the committee met four times. Attendance of committee members is detailed in the table below.

**Remuneration and Performance Committee**

From 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, the Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee was Board Chairperson Antony Ford with Directors John Sherwood and Michael Wagg as members.

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.

The executive officer (non-voting) for 2016-17 was Business and Finance Program Manager Kathy Connoley.

**Remuneration and Performance Attendance for 2016-17**

Name	Number of Meetings
Antony Ford	3/3
Michael Wagg	3/3
John Sherwood	3/3



## BOARD DIRECTORS

### Chairperson

**Mr Antony Ford** has over 35 years' experience in Australian and international agribusiness, of which 25 years has been at senior executive level and on the boards of food manufacturing, horticultural and other institutions. Recently, Tony has been a senior executive and board member in production horticulture and food manufacturing at McCain Foods and as CEO at the largest amenity and vegetable nursery in Australia, Boomaroo Nurseries.

Presently consulting with the Korda Mentha advisory group he continues to work in the fresh vegetable, production glasshouse, fruit and broad scale agriculture, fruit and horticultural sectors. He has been involved in industry policy development and strategic planning across the industries, states and countries he has operated within.

### Deputy Chairperson

**Ms Debbie Shea** holds a range of qualifications in primary industry and business management and has had extensive experience managing a large-scale wool enterprise at her property, balancing production and conservation issues. She is active in several Ararat-region community groups and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

### Directors

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

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

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

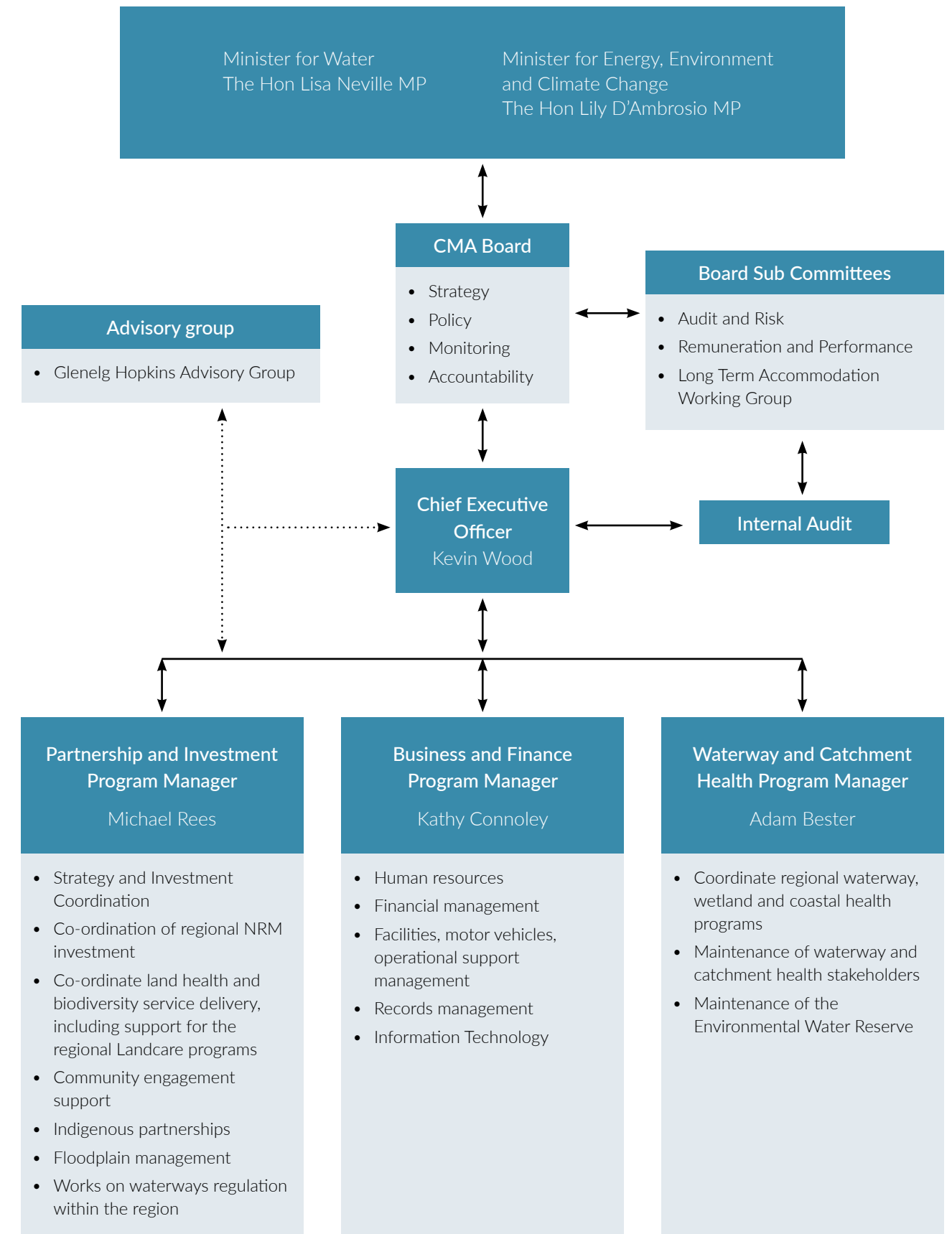
**Mr Ian Hastings** holds a Master of Science degree (University of California, Berkeley), a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) Honours degree (University of Melbourne), a Diploma of Forestry (Creswick) and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Ian retired from the Victorian Public Service in November 2012 after over 46 years experience in land, biodiversity, catchment and water resources management with the then Department of Sustainability and Environment and its predecessors.

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

**Mr Michael Wagg** holds a Degree in Agricultural Science, Diploma in Project Management and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Concurrent with running sheep properties near Cavendish and Chetwynd for 25 years, he has worked in various natural resource management and community engagement positions with government agencies. He is now a Director with Jarrapool Project Management and Consulting Pty Ltd, working mainly with rural research and development organisations.

**Ms Karen Wales** holds a Diploma of Natural Resource Management, Diploma of Applied Science in Horticulture and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has 13 years' experience as a Landcare facilitator for various Landcare networks and was a partner in the family sheep and cropping farm at Caramut until recently. Currently she works for South West Institute of TAFE as the Land Based Program Advisor. She is actively involved with other regional Landcare groups in a volunteer capacity.

## ORGANISATIONAL CHART



## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### Program Definition

#### Partnership and Investment

Strategy and investment coordination. Sustainable and integrated management of soils, flora and fauna through partnerships. Regional partnerships with community and Government. Indigenous partnership projects. Regional Landcare Support. Monitoring and reporting of integrated catchment management across the Glenelg Hopkins region. Statutory services including referrals, advice and licences associated with waterway and floodplain management. Floodplain management including strategic and statutory planning, flood response planning and flood investigations.

#### Waterway and Catchment Health

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

#### Business and Finance

Finance and business, human resources, records management, administration, information technology and associated business support activities.

### Human Resource Management

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

- a Reward and Recognition Program encouraging peer recognition for staff that have 'gone that extra mile'. A five-tiered reward system is based on different criteria and has been embraced by staff since its introduction;
- engaging staff in a workforce obligations workshop;
- alignment of employee behaviours to agreed values and behaviours through performance reviews;

#### Work Cover Claims

Measure	KPI	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Incidents	No. of incidents	7	8	5	21
	Rate per 100 FTE	17.77	24.54	12.22	53.85
Claims	No. of lost time claims	0	0	1	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	2.44	0
Claims Cost	Average cost per standard claim	0	0	\$7,958	0
FTE		39.40	32.60	40.91	39.00

Note: Significant increase in incidents reported is as a result of an awareness campaign run by the OHS Committee to ensure all incidents (near misses) are reported. The committee feels that this information is vital in improving the safety of employees.

- negotiating a new four year workplace agreement; and
- Supporting a Staff Management Work Group (SMWG), which meets quarterly to discuss improvements to the work environment.

### Values and Behaviours

Staff conduct strongly reflects public sector values as prescribed in the *Public Administration Act, 2004*. The values and behaviours are reported against performance reviews as part of employee review and development. The benefit of this approach is to encourage individual behaviours toward a desired organisational culture.

### Occupational Health and Safety

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

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

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

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

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

There were no Work Cover claims for 2016-17.

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

### 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](http://www.vpsc.vic.gov.au)).

#### Community inclusiveness

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is committed to policies, programs and strategies delivering culturally appropriate services to the Victorian community. Current practices of inclusive and thorough public consultation ensure all people who have an interest in investigations are kept informed and have the opportunity to have an input into the organisation's deliberations.

This also includes the work carried out by our Indigenous Community Facilitator. Information and guidelines have been developed to assist Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff interact or engage with indigenous people and organisations.

#### Workforce Data

Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed 44 staff (39.00 full-time equivalent) compared to 46 staff (40.91 full time equivalent) on 30 June 2016. The proportion of women was 52 per cent, compared to 50 per cent on 30 June 2016.

### Glenelg Hopkins CMA Workforce as at June 30 2017

	2016-17	2015-16
Executive Officers	4	4
Senior Managers	5	5
Administration Staff	7	7
Field Staff	28	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>46</b>
Male	18.71	20.61
Female	20.29	20.3
<b>Total (FTE)</b>	<b>39.00</b>	<b>40.91</b>

Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

#### Notes:

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

## COMPLIANCE AND DISCLOSURES

### National Competition Policy

Under the National Competition Policy (NCP), the guiding legislative principle is that legislation, including future legislative proposals, should not restrict competition unless it can be demonstrated that:

- the benefits of the restriction to the community as a whole outweigh the cost; and
- the objectives of the legislation can only be achieved by restricting competition.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to comply with the requirements of the NCP.

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 CMA is working to ensure that Victoria fulfils its requirements on competitive neutrality reporting for technological based businesses against the enhanced principles as required under the Competition and Infrastructure Reform Agreement.



**Workforce inclusion policy**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working towards developing a Diversity and Inclusion Plan during 2017.

**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 \$28.40.

**Application**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received no requests for information during 2016-17 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members and as a result there was no resulting appeals to VCAT.

**Protected Disclosures Act 2012**

**Compliance with the Protected Disclosure Act 2012**

The *Protected Disclosures Act 2012* enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The *Act* aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

**What is a 'protected disclosure'?**

A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is a 'public body' for the purposes of the *Act*.

**What is 'improper or corrupt conduct'?:**

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- mismanagement of public resources; or
- risk to public health or safety of the environment; or
- corruption.

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

**How do I make a 'Protected Disclosure'?**

You can make a protected disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA or its Board Directors, officers or employees by contacting the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission IBAC on the contact details (opposite).

**How can I access Glenelg Hopkins CMA's procedures for the protection of persons for detrimental actions?**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA or its employees.

You can access Glenelg Hopkins CMA's procedures on our website <http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/about-us/governance>

**Contacts**

**Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption (IBAC) Commission 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](http://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.

**Risk Management Compliance Attestation**

I, Antony Ford certify that the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has complied with Ministerial Direction 3.7.1, except for maintaining a register of indemnities. Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is committed to continuous improvement and will complete this requirement in 2017-18.

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



**Antony Ford**  
Chairperson  
Glenelg Hopkins CMA  
17 August 2017

**Compliance with Building Act 1993**

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

Glenelg Hopkins CMA complies with the *Building Act 1993*, the Building Regulations 2006 and associated statutory requirements and amendments. Glenelg Hopkins CMA conducts and reports on quarterly 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 conformed with building standards during 2016-17. There have been no cases of registered building practitioners becoming deregistered following work on buildings owned by Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

**Local Jobs First - Victorian Industry Participation Policy**

There were no tenders over \$1,000,000 entered into by Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2016-17.

**Consultancies**

In 2016-17, there were 45 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2016-17 in relation to these consultancies was \$164,933 (excl. GST). Details of the individual consultancies are outlined on Glenelg Hopkins CMA's website at [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au).

**Major Contracts**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not award any major contracts during 2016-17. A major contract is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10m or more.

**Capital Projects**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA does not manage any capital projects.

**Government Advertising Expenditure**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA expenditure in 2016-17 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

**Information Communication Technology (ICT) Expenditure**

For the 2016-17 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$402,271 with the details as shown below:

Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure Total	Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure Total = A + B	Operational expenditure A	Capital expenditure B
\$362,719	\$39,552	\$39,552	-

- 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 relates to extending or enhancing Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's current ICT capabilities.
- BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

**Availability of Other Information**

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.

**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
- *Public Administration Act 2004*.

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

These Obligations provide:

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

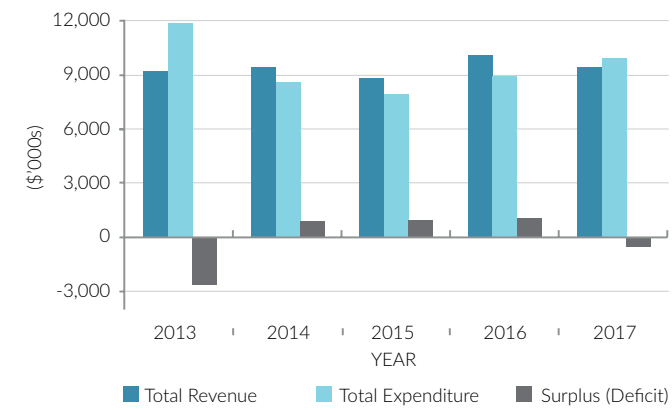
This Statement should be read in conjunction with, the Statements of Obligations for CMAs issued under the *Water Act 1989*, which identify additional objectives functions, powers and duties in waterway management, floodplain management and regional drainage conferred under Part 7 and Part 10.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT – REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Objective	Measure	2016-17 %		Quantity 2015-16	Quantity 2016-17	2016-17 %
		↑/↓ comparing prior 3 year averages	↑/↓ comparing 1 year prior			
Reduce Energy Use (Electricity)	kWh used per annum (x3 offices)	-18%	↓ Decrease	73,224	80,937	11%
	kWh used per FTE per annum (x3 offices)	20%	↑ Increase	1,790	2,075	16%
Reduce Paper Use	White A4 reams per annum	-10%	↓ Decrease	230	233	1%
	White A4 reams per FTE	-14%	↓ Decrease	5.62	5.97	6%
	White A3 reams per annum	-57%	↓ Decrease	3	9	200%
	White A3 reams per FTE	-50%	↓ Decrease	1	.23	215%
Increase Paper Recycling	240 Litres recycled per annum	-22%	↓ Decrease	36	57	58%
	240 Litres recycled per FTE	-26%	↓ Decrease	0.88	1.46	66%
Reduce Toner Cartridges	Toner Cartridges consumed per annum	-58%	↓ Decrease	20	20	0%
	Toner Cartridges consumed per FTE	-58%	↓ Decrease	.49	.51	5%
Reduce Fuel Use	Fleet size	-25%	↓ Decrease	12	13	8%
	Litres fuel consumed per annum	-24%	↓ Decrease	30,432	33,489	10%
	Litres fuel consumed per vehicle	1%	↑ Increase	2,536	2,576	2%
No. Flights Melbourne / Hamilton	One way flights	-70%	↓ Decrease	23	18	-22%
	One way flights per FTE	-69%	↓ Decrease	0.56	0.46	-18%
Reduced Water Consumption	Kls consumed 79 French St, Hamilton	12%	↑ Increase	108	120	11%
	Kls consumed 84 French St, Hamilton	126%	↑ Increase	380	30	-92%
	Kls consumed 241 Lava St, Warrnambool	9%	↑ Increase	24	33	38%
	Overall Kls consumed per FTE	76%	↑ Increase	12.52	4.69	-63%

**FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE AND ANALYSIS**

**Total Revenue and Expenditure for 5 years**



**Major Changes or Factors Affecting Performance**

No major changes impacted on the performance of Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2016-17.

**Significant Changes in Financial Position**

In 2016-17, there were no significant changes in financial position. Glenelg Hopkins CMA's income was \$9.43 million and expenditure achieved was \$9.95 million.

**Events Subsequent to Balance Date**

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

**Accountable Officer Disclosures**

Remuneration received or receivable by the Accountable Officer, in connection with the management of the Authority, was in the range:

2016-17: \$200,000 - \$209,999

2015-16: \$190,000 - \$199,999

**Executive Officer Disclosures**

The number of executive officers, other than responsible persons, whose total remuneration falls within the specified bands above \$100,000 are as follows:

Income Band (\$)	2016-17	2015-16
100,000 - 109,999		
110,000 - 119,999		
120,000 - 129,999	1	1
130,000 - 139,999		
140,000 - 149,999	2	2
<b>Total Executives</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Annualised Employee Equivalent (AAE)	3.0	3.0
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$426,055</b>	<b>\$409,662</b>



**Disclosure of Grants and Payments**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has provide grants to natural resource management community groups and organisations as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants within the Glenelg Hopkins region. Grants were provide to 48 groups in 2016-17 for the purposes of supporting the administration of regional Landcare groups totalling \$20,800 and to 25 groups for implementing on-ground natural resource management projects totalling \$237,732.

2016-17 Victorian Landcare Grants Program recipients:

Group	Funding
Balmoral Land Management and Tree Group	\$1,500
Beyond Bolac Community Action Group	\$29,950
Bulart Land Management Group	\$4,540
Bushy Creek Landcare Group	\$9,185
Eumeralla Landcare Group - MADA	\$1,775
Friends of Cape Nelson Landcare	\$1,840
Friends of the Great South West Walk	\$7,900
Friends of Yatmorone	\$1,940
Hamilton to Coleraine Railway Line Landcare Group	\$24,728
Killarney Coastcare	\$4,310
Lyne Camp Creek Landcare Group	\$15,514
MAD for the Merri	\$19,857
Mirranatwa Landcare Group	\$3,784
Napier Landcare Group	\$6,817
Nelson Coastcare Incorporated	\$1,156
Pierrepoint Land Protection Group	\$8,215
Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail Committee	\$3,200
Portland Field Naturalists Club	\$400
Snake Valley Landcare Group - UMEC	\$9,311
Tarragal Landcare Group	\$20,800
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$26,215
UMEC Lake Goldsmith Stoneleigh	\$21,108
Upper Mount Emu Creek (UMEC) Landcare Network	\$6,180
Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network Inc.	\$7,507

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2017 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2017.

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 25 August 2017.



**Anthony Ford**  
Chairperson



**Kevin Wood**  
CEO and Accountable Officer



**Kathy Connoley**  
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

# Independent Auditor's Report

## To the Board of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2017</li> <li>• comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li> <li>• cash flow statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• notes to the financial statements</li> <li>• declaration in the financial statements.</li> </ul> <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2017 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
<b>Basis for Opinion</b>	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under the Act are further described 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 Australia. 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>
<b>Board's responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<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, and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

<b>Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report</b>	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, 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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 our 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</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>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.</p>
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**COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT**

for the financial year ended 30 June 2017

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Income from transactions</b>			
Government contributions	2.2.1	9,084,123	9,344,661
Interest	2.2.2	138,651	156,398
Other income	2.2.3	214,327	557,607
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>9,437,100</b>	<b>10,058,665</b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,441,852	3,956,813
Depreciation	4.1.1	91,051	87,894
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	4,212,667	3,844,540
Lease expenses	3.3	244,167	259,168
Other operating expenses		964,234	849,616
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>9,953,971</b>	<b>8,998,032</b>
<b>Net result from transactions (net operating balance)</b>		<b>(516,870)</b>	<b>1,060,634</b>
<b>Other economic flows included in net result</b>			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (i)	8.2	2,524	(11,640)
Other gain/(loss) from other economic flows	8.2	30,888	8,825
<b>Total other economic flows included in net result</b>		<b>33,412</b>	<b>(2,815)</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>(483,459)</b>	<b>1,057,819</b>
<b>Other economic flows - other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net result</b>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	0	(102,867)
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b>(483,459)</b>	<b>954,951</b>

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, except when these are taken through the asset revaluation surplus.

**BALANCE SHEET**

as at 30 June 2017

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6.1	7,368,942	7,158,693
Receivables	5.1	213,199	746,125
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>7,582,141</b>	<b>7,904,817</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	1,085,946	1,138,344
Other non-financial assets	5.3	4,886	8,404
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>1,090,832</b>	<b>1,146,749</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>8,672,973</b>	<b>9,051,566</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	5.2	373,417	400,920
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,064,041	931,673
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,437,457</b>	<b>1,332,592</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>7,235,515</b>	<b>7,718,974</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		3,617,375	4,100,834
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	461,194	461,194
Contributed capital		3,156,946	3,156,946
<b>Net worth</b>		<b>7,235,515</b>	<b>7,718,974</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

for the year ended 30 June 2017

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Receipts from government		9,387,637	8,902,812
Interest received		149,031	150,556
Net Goods and Services Tax received from the ATO		158,928	38,549
Other receipts		278,980	545,784
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>9,974,576</b>	<b>9,637,702</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments to suppliers		5,449,602	5,188,016
Payments to employees		4,278,596	3,794,692
Net Goods and Services Tax paid to the ATO		0	1,044
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>9,728,198</b>	<b>8,983,753</b>
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	6.1.1	<b>246,378</b>	<b>653,949</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchases of non-financial assets	4.1.2	(39,456)	(30,028)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets	8.2	3,327	0
<b>Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities</b>		<b>(36,129)</b>	<b>(30,028)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>210,250</b>	<b>623,920</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		7,158,693	6,534,773
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	6.1	<b>7,368,942</b>	<b>7,158,693</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

for the year financial year ended 30 June 2017

	Accumulated Surplus \$	Physical asset revaluation surplus \$	Contributed Capital \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2015	3,043,015	564,061	3,156,946	6,764,022
Net result for the year	1,057,819	-	-	1,057,819
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	(102,867)	-	(102,867)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>4,100,834</b>	<b>461,194</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>	<b>7,718,974</b>
Net result for the year	(483,459)	-	-	(483,459)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b>3,617,375</b>	<b>461,194</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>	<b>7,235,515</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



**NOTE 1 ABOUT THIS REPORT**

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority 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 the Report of operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

**Basis of preparation**

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

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

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

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

- employee benefit provisions (Note 3.1.2);
- accrued revenue (Note 5.1);
- accrued expenses (Note 5.2);
- fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3);
- estimation of useful life (Note 4.1.1).

**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	2017 \$	2016 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	9,084,123	9,344,661
Interest	2.2.2	138,651	156,398
Other income	2.2.3	214,327	557,607
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>9,437,100</b>	<b>10,058,665</b>

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

**2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS**

**2.2.1 Government contributions**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>State Government</b>		
Catchment Planning	987,205	987,205
Second Generation Landcare	251,200	458,000
River Health	4,233,064	4,296,471
Floodplain Management	357,364	300,000
Natural Disaster	114,685	121,528
Other State Funding	734,047	683,950
	<b>6,677,565</b>	<b>6,847,154</b>
<b>Commonwealth Government</b>		
Caring for Our Country - Competitive	0	20,000
National Landcare Program	1,960,458	1,960,458
Other Commonwealth Funding	446,100	517,049
	<b>2,406,558</b>	<b>2,497,507</b>
<b>Total Government contributions</b>	<b>9,084,123</b>	<b>9,344,661</b>

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

## NOTE 2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS (CONT.)

## 2.2.2 Interest

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Interest on bank deposits	138,651	156,398

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

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Partnership Contributions	49,000	524,183
Rental Income	11,812	-
Sundry	153,515	33,423
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>214,327</b>	<b>557,607</b>

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

Income from property rentals is recognised as income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

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

## 3.1 EXPENSES INCURRED IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES

	Notes	2017 \$	2016 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,441,852	3,956,813
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	4,212,667	3,844,540
Lease expenses	3.3	244,167	259,168
Other operating expenses		964,234	849,616
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>9,862,920</b>	<b>8,910,138</b>

## 3.1.1 Employee expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Salaries & wages	3,083,793	2,831,172
Annual leave	299,563	277,204
Long service leave	4,902	-
Other leave	298,767	251,162
Defined contribution superannuation expense	412,037	296,559
Other employee expenses	185,835	162,532
Movement in provisions for employee benefits	156,955	138,184
<b>Total employee benefit expenses</b>	<b>4,441,852</b>	<b>3,956,813</b>

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

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

## NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (CONT.)

## 3.1.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet

**Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions**

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

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

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Time in lieu and RDO:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	26,439	23,937
<b>Annual leave:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	222,876	215,625
<b>Long service leave:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	70,510	70,952
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	416,094	333,543
	735,919	644,057
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	84,662	78,625
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	65,499	52,505
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>886,080</b>	<b>775,187</b>
<b>Non-current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Long service leave:</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	153,757	135,203
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	24,204	21,283
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<b>177,961</b>	<b>156,486</b>
<b>Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs</b>	<b>1,064,041</b>	<b>931,673</b>
	<b>2017 \$</b>	
<b>Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision</b>		
<b>Opening balance</b>		
Additional provisions recognised	152,413	
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	21,952	
Unwind of discount and effect of changes in the discount rate	-	
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>174,365</b>	

## NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (CONT.)

**Wages and salaries, time in lieu and annual leave:**

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

**Long service leave (LSL):**

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

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

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

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

## 3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

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

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

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

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

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Defined contribution plans:</b>		
Vision Super Saver	109,400	97,680
Vic Super	46,978	39,289
Other private schemes	255,659	159,590
<b>Total</b>	<b>412,037</b>	<b>296,559</b>

There was \$29,747 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2017 (2016: \$24,309)



## NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES (CONT.)

## 3.2 MATERIALS, MAINTENANCE, GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCIES

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Materials	140,521	111,768
Repairs and maintenance	46,607	52,971
Grants paid	1,585,854	1,751,240
Contractors	1,473,808	912,964
Consultants	965,877	1,015,597
<b>Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies</b>	<b>4,212,667</b>	<b>3,844,540</b>

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

## 3.3 LEASE EXPENSES

	2017 \$	2016 \$
Operating lease payments	244,167	259,168
<b>Lease expenses</b>	<b>244,167</b>	<b>259,168</b>

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.

## NOTE 4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

## Introduction

The Authority controls property, plant and equipment 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

## 4.1 TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$	2017 \$	2016 \$
Land at fair value	203,360	203,360	-	-	203,360	203,360
Buildings at fair value	826,500	826,500	(49,590)	-	776,910	826,500
Plant and equipment at fair value	218,354	185,081	(136,895)	(113,234)	81,459	71,846
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	189,138	189,138	(164,922)	(152,500)	24,216	36,638
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>1,437,353</b>	<b>1,404,079</b>	<b>(351,407)</b>	<b>(265,734)</b>	<b>1,085,946</b>	<b>1,138,344</b>

## Initial recognition:

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

## Subsequent measurement:

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

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

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

Specialised buildings are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method.

Fair value for plant and equipment and office furniture and equipment that are specialised in use (such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern) is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method.

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

## 4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Charge for the period</b>		
Buildings	49,590	49,367
Plant & equipment	29,039	24,804
Office furniture & equipment	12,422	13,723
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>91,051</b>	<b>87,894</b>

All non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are 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	Usefull life
Buildings	8 - 47 years
Plant & equipment	4 - 5 years
Furniture & office equipment	5 - 10 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

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

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

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

**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 \$
<b>2016-17</b>					
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>203,360</b>	<b>826,500</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>36,638</b>	<b>1,138,344</b>
Additions	-	-	39,456	-	39,456
Disposals	-	-	(804)	-	(804)
Depreciation	-	(49,590)	(29,039)	(12,422)	(91,051)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>203,360</b>	<b>776,910</b>	<b>81,459</b>	<b>24,217</b>	<b>1,085,945</b>
<b>2015-16</b>					
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>638,734</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>50,361</b>	<b>1,310,717</b>
Additions	-	-	30,028	-	30,028
Impairment loss	(11,640)	-	-	-	(11,640)
Revaluation	(340,000)	237,133	-	-	(102,867)
Depreciation	-	(49,367)	(24,804)	(13,723)	(87,894)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>203,360</b>	<b>826,500</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>36,638</b>	<b>1,138,344</b>

**NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES****Introduction**

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

**Structure**

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

**5.1 RECEIVABLES****Significant judgement: Accrued revenue**

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

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

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'loans and receivables'. 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.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Current receivables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade receivables	27,874	574,848
Accrued revenue	16,537	26,917
	44,411	601,765
<b>Statutory</b>		
GST input tax credits recoverable	168,788	144,360
<b>Total current receivables</b>	<b>213,199</b>	<b>746,125</b>

## NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (CONT.)

## 5.1.1 Ageing analysis of contractual receivables

	Carrying amount \$	Not past due and not impaired \$	Past due but not impaired - Less than 1 month \$
<b>2017</b>			
<b>Receivables:</b>			
Trade receivables	27,874	9,191	4,400
Accrued revenue	16,537	16,537	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,411</b>	<b>25,728</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>2016</b>			
<b>Receivables:</b>			
Trade receivables	574,848	574,334	514
Accrued revenue	26,917	26,917	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>601,765</b>	<b>601,252</b>	<b>514</b>

Trade and other receivables are due for settlement 30 days from the from the end of the month that they were invoiced. There are no material financial assets that are individually determined to be impaired.

## 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.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Current Payables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade payables	3,969	15,525
Accrued expenses	270,753	290,305
Other payables	22	30,713
	274,744	336,544
<b>Statutory</b>		
Superannuation	29,747	-
PAYG payable	68,926	64,376
	98,673	64,376
<b>Total current payables</b>	<b>373,417</b>	<b>400,920</b>

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

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

## NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (CONT.)

## 5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

	Carrying amount \$	Maturity dates		
		Less than 1 month \$	1-3 months \$	3-6 months \$
<b>2017</b>				
<b>Payables:</b>				
Trade payables	3,969	3,969	-	-
Accrued expenses	270,753	270,753	-	-
Other payables	22	22	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>274,744</b>	<b>274,744</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2016</b>				
<b>Payables:</b>				
Trade payables	15,525	15,525	-	-
Accrued expenses	290,305	280,838	299	9,168
Other payables	30,713	30,713	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>336,544</b>	<b>327,077</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>9,168</b>

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

## 5.3 OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Current other assets</b>		
Prepayments	4,886	8,404
<b>Total current other assets</b>	<b>4,886</b>	<b>8,404</b>

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



**NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS****Introduction**

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

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments, such as cash balances. Notes 8.2 and 8.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

**Structure**

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

**6.1 CASH FLOW INFORMATION AND BALANCES**

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

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:</b>		
Cash at bank	868,942	658,693
Deposits at call	500,000	500,000
Term deposits (less than 3 months)	6,000,000	6,000,000
<b>Balance as per cash flow statement</b>	<b>7,368,942</b>	<b>7,158,693</b>

**6.1.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Net result for the period</b>	<b>(483,459)</b>	<b>1,057,819</b>
<b>Non-cash movements:</b>		
(Gain)/loss on disposal of non-current assets	(2,524)	11,640
Depreciation of non-current assets	91,051	87,894
	(394,932)	1,157,353
<b>Movements in assets and liabilities:</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	532,926	(485,339)
Decrease/(increase) in other non financial assets	3,518	4,495
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(27,503)	(175,856)
(Decrease)/increase in employee related provisions	132,368	153,296
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>246,378</b>	<b>653,949</b>

**NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS (CONT.)****6.2 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE**

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

**6.2.1 Total commitments payable**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Operating and lease commitments payable</b>		
Less than 1 year	253,061	185,650
1 to 5 years	412,846	260,958
5 years or more	-	-
<b>Total commitments (inclusive of GST)</b>	<b>665,907</b>	<b>446,608</b>

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Total operating lease commitments payable</b>		
Total operating lease commitments payable (including GST)	665,907	446,608
Less GST recoverable from ATO	(60,537)	(40,601)
<b>Total operating lease commitments payable (excluding GST)</b>	<b>605,370</b>	<b>406,007</b>

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

As at 30 June 2017 the Authority had Nil in finance lease commitments (2016: \$Nil).

As at 30 June 2017 the Authority had Nil in capital expenditure commitments (2016: \$Nil).

**6.3 CARRY FORWARD PROJECT FUNDING**

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects funded by Victorian and Australian Government programs.

The Authority received funding for specific projects which are guided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and delivered in line with the Authority's Corporate Plan approved by the Minister for Water.

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

## NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### Introduction

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

### Structure

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

## 7.1 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS SPECIFIC DISCLOSURES

### Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability of equity instrument of another entity.

### Categories of financial instruments

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

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

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost. Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all of the Authority's contractual payables.

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

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

### 7.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	Contractual financial assets - loans and receivables \$	Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
<b>2017</b>			
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	7,368,942	-	7,368,942
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	27,874	-	27,874
Accrued revenue	16,537	-	16,537
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>7,413,353</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,413,353</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	3,969	3,969
Accrued expenses	-	270,753	270,753
Other payables	-	22	22
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>274,744</b>	<b>274,744</b>
<b>2016</b>			
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	7,158,693	-	7,158,693
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	574,848	-	574,848
Accrued revenue	26,917	-	26,917
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>7,760,458</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,760,458</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	15,525	15,525
Accrued expenses	-	290,305	290,305
Other payables	-	30,713	30,713
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>336,544</b>	<b>336,544</b>

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

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

## 7.1.2 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 high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. All cash and deposits are held with the Treasury Corporation of Victoria and National Australia Bank.

## Financial instruments: Liquidity risk

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

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

## Financial instruments: Market risk

The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with significant surplus funds held in term deposits and deposits at a call. 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 manages its cash flow interest rate risks by investing surplus funds into fixed rate financial instruments. Management has concluded for cash at bank and deposits at call as financial assets that can be left at floating rate without necessarily exposing the Authority to significant risk. Management monitors movements in interest rates on a daily basis.

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

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

## Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	Weighted average interest rate %	Carrying amount \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$
<b>2017</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	2.02	7,368,942	6,000,000	1,368,942	-
Contractual receivables	-	44,411	-	-	44,411
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>7,413,353</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>1,368,942</b>	<b>44,411</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	274,744	-	-	274,744
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>274,744</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>274,744</b>
<b>2016</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	2.31	7,158,693	6,000,000	1,158,693	-
Contractual receivables	-	601,765	-	-	601,765
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>7,760,458</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>1,158,693</b>	<b>601,765</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	336,544	-	-	336,544
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>336,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>336,544</b>

## Interest rate risk sensitivity

The sensitivity analysis below shows the impact on the Authority's net result and equity for a movement of 100 basis points up and down in market interest rates.

	Carrying amount \$	Interest rate			
		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Net result \$	Equity \$	Net result \$	Equity \$
<b>2017</b>					
Cash and deposits (i)	7,368,942	(13,689)	(13,689)	13,689	13,689
<b>2016</b>					
Cash and deposits (i)	7,158,693	(11,587)	(11,587)	11,587	11,587

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$1,364,479 (2016: \$1,158,693) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2017:  $\$1,364,479 \times -0.01 = -\$13,465$ ; and  $\$1,364,479 \times 0.01 = \$13,465$ .
- 2016:  $\$1,158,693 \times -0.01 = -\$11,587$ ; and  $\$1,158,693 \times 0.01 = \$11,587$ .



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

## 7.2 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

**Contingent Assets**

As at 30 June 2017, the Authority has no known contingent assets.

**Contingent Liabilities**

As at 30 June 2017, the Authority has no known contingent liabilities.

## 7.3 FAIR VALUE DETERMINATION

**Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities**

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

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

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

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

**Fair value hierarchy**

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used.

To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

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

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

**7.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities**

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2016-17 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

*Financial assets*

Cash and deposits

Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Accrued revenue

*Financial liabilities*

Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses
- Other payables

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

## 7.3.1 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

**Fair value measurement hierarchy**

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 17 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 <sup>0</sup> \$	Level 2 <sup>0</sup> \$	Level 3 <sup>0</sup> \$
<b>Land at Fair Value</b>				
Non-specialised land	203,360	-	203,360	-
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>203,360</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>203,360</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Buildings at Fair Value</b>				
Specialised buildings	776,910	-	-	776,910
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>776,910</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>776,910</b>
<b>Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Plant and equipment	81,459	-	-	81,459
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>81,459</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81,459</b>
<b>Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Office furniture and equipment	24,216	-	-	24,216
<b>Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>24,216</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,216</b>

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

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 16 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$
<b>Land at Fair Value</b>				
Non-specialised land	203,360	-	203,360	-
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>203,360</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>203,360</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Buildings at Fair Value</b>				
Specialised buildings	826,500	-	-	826,500
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>826,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>826,500</b>
<b>Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Plant and equipment	71,846	-	-	71,846
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>71,846</b>
<b>Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Office furniture and equipment	36,638	-	-	36,638
<b>Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>36,638</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,638</b>

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

**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 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.

For the Authority's specialised buildings, the depreciated replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

**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. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, these assets are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2017.

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 \$
<b>2016-17</b>			
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>826,500</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>36,638</b>
Purchases (sales)	-	38,652	-
Depreciation	(49,590)	(29,039)	(12,422)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>776,910</b>	<b>81,459</b>	<b>24,217</b>
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>776,910</b>	<b>81,459</b>	<b>24,217</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>776,910</b>	<b>81,459</b>	<b>24,217</b>
<b>2015-16</b>			
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>638,734</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>50,361</b>
Purchases (sales)	-	30,028	-
Depreciation	(49,367)	(24,804)	(13,723)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>589,367</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>36,638</b>
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	237,133	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>237,133</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>826,500</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>36,638</b>

**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 specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Office furniture and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of furniture and equipment

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2016.

**NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES****Introduction**

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

**Structure**

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Other economic flows included in net result
- 8.3 Reserves
- 8.4 Responsible persons
- 8.5 Remuneration of executive officers

- 8.6 Related parties
- 8.7 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.8 Subsequent events
- 8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

**8.1 EX-GRATIA EXPENSES**

The Authority had no Ex-gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2017 (2016 \$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.

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets</b>		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	3,327	-
Less written down value	(804)	-
Impairment of property, plant & equipment	-	(11,640)
<b>Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets</b>	<b>2,523</b>	<b>(11,640)</b>
<b>Other gain/(loss) from other economic flows</b>		
Net gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of long service liability	30,888	8,825
<b>Total other gain/(loss) from other economic flows</b>	<b>30,888</b>	<b>8,825</b>

**8.3 RESERVES**

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	461,194	564,061
Revaluation decrements	-	(102,867)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>461,194</b>	<b>461,194</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>461,194</b>	<b>461,194</b>

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

**NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)****8.4 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS**

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

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

Name	Position	Date held position
The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
The Hon. Liliانا D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Antony Ford	(Chair)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Debbie Shea	(Board Member & Deputy Chair)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Kevin Wood	(CEO)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Damein Bell	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Michelle Casanova	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Georgina Gubbins	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Ian Hastings	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Dr John Sherwood	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Michael Wagg	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017
Karen Wales	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2016 to 30 Jun 2017

**Remuneration**

Remuneration received or receivable from the Authority in connection with the management of the Authority during the reporting period was:

	2017	2016
<b>Income band</b>		
\$0 - \$9,999	0	7
\$10,000 - \$19,999	8	6
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	0
\$190,000 - \$199,999	0	0
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	1
<b>Total numbers</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>\$321,641</b>	<b>\$310,984</b>

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



## NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

## 8.5 REMUNERATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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

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

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.

Remuneration	2017 <sup>(iii)</sup> \$
Short-term employee benefits	379,822
Post-employment benefits	36,963
Other long-term benefits	11,091
Termination benefits	0
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>427,876</b>
<b>Total number of executives (i)</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)</b>	<b>3</b>

(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 9.6).

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

(iii) No comparatives have been reported because remuneration in the prior year was determined in line with the basis and definition under FRD 21B. Remuneration previously excluded non-monetary benefits and comprised any money, consideration or benefit received or receivable, excluding reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, including any amount received or receivable from a related party transaction. Refer to the prior year's financial statements for executive remuneration for the 2015-16 reporting period.

## 8.6 RELATED PARTIES

Related parties of the Authority include:

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

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

## NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)

## Significant transactions with government-related entities

During the year, the Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	Funding received
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	8,592,968
Victorian Water Program Investment Framework 2016-17	5,273,853
National Landcare Programme	1,981,881
Drought Employment Program	296,678
Victorian Landcare	254,325
Rural Drainage Support GHMA	200,000
Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Weed Control	180,000
Catchment Scale Sediment Modelling	100,000
Sandford Weir and Homerton Bridge Fishway Project	99,000
Victorian Water Program Investment Framework 2015-16	90,500
Improving Ramsar Site Management and Monitoring	50,000
Riparian Project Website and Crowdfunding Concept	46,731
DELWP Aboriginal Water - Indig NRM project officer	20,000
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources	124,820
Drought Relief Assistance	124,820

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

Entity	Payments made
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	279,386
Contractors	208,539
Consultants	59,312
Incentives	6,600
Repairs and Maintenance	4,935
State Revenue Office Victoria	163,939
Payroll Tax	163,939
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	45,297
Computer Software	45,297
Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport & Resources	40,850
Promotions and Public Relations	36,850
Contractors	4,000

Key management personnel of the Authority includes all Responsible persons as listed in Note 8.4.

**NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)**

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receives. 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.

	<b>2017 \$</b>
<b>Compensation of KMPs</b>	
Short-term employee benefits	548,956
Post-employment benefits	54,395
Other long-term benefits	16,743
Termination benefits	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>620,094</b>

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

**8.7 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS**

	<b>2017 \$</b>	<b>2016 \$</b>
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	10,000	9,800
Internal audit costs	36,430	49,748
<b>Total remuneration of auditors</b>	<b>46,430</b>	<b>59,548</b>

**8.8 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the authority, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the authority in future financial years.

**8.9 AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED THAT ARE NOT YET EFFECTIVE**

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2017 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 2016-17 reporting period.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>	The key changes include the simplified requirements for the classification and measurement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier, as opposed to the current approach that recognises impairment only when incurred.	1 January 2018	The preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 9, however it will continue to be monitored and assessed.
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.	1 January 2018	The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements. The Standard will also require additional disclosures on service revenue and contract modifications.
AASB 16 <i>Leases</i>	The key changes introduced by AASB 16 include the recognition of most operating leases (which are currently not recognised) on balance sheet.	1 January 2019	The changes in standard will result in the recognition of the Authority's operating leases on the balance sheet, recognition of the right-of-use assets and lease liabilities will cause net debt to increase.  Rather than expensing the lease payments, depreciation of right-of-use assets and interest on lease liabilities will be recognised in the income statement with marginal impact on the operating surplus.

**NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES (CONT.)**

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2010-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010)</i> [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127]	The requirements for classifying and measuring financial liabilities were added to AASB 9. The existing requirements for the classification of financial liabilities and the ability to use the fair value option have been retained. However, where the fair value option is used for financial liabilities the change in fair value is accounted for as follows:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the change in fair value attributable to changes in credit risk is presented in other comprehensive income (OCI); and</li> <li>other fair value changes are presented in profit or loss. If this approach creates or enlarges an accounting mismatch in the profit or loss, the effect of the changes in credit risk are also presented in profit or loss.</li> </ul>	1 January 2018	The amending standards is not expected to have a material impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2014-1 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part E Financial Instruments]</i>	Amends various AASs to reflect the AASB's decision to defer the mandatory application date of AASB 9 to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 as a consequence of Chapter 6 Hedge Accounting, and to amend reduced disclosure requirements.	1 January 2018	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 9 to the 2018-19 reporting period in accordance with the transition requirements.
AASB 2014-5 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</i>	Amends the measurement of trade receivables and the recognition of dividends.	1 Jan 2017, except amendments to AASB 9 (December 2009) and AASB 9 (December 2010) apply 1 Jan 2018.	The amending standards is not expected to have a material impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2014-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9</i>	Amends various AASs to incorporate the consequential amendments arising from the issuance of AASB 9.	1 Jan 2018	The preliminary assessment has not identified any material consequential amendments arising from the issuance of AASB 9, however it will continue to be monitored and assessed.
AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This standard replaces AASB 1004 Contributions and establishes revenue recognition principles for transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value to enable to not-for-profit entity to further its objectives.	1 Jan 2019	The assessment has indicated that revenue from capital grants that are provided under an enforceable agreement that have sufficiently specific obligations, will now be deferred and recognised as performance obligations are satisfied. As a result, the timing recognition of revenue will change.

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
<b>Report of Operations – FRD Guidance</b>		
<b>Charter and purpose</b>		
FRD 22C	Manner of establishment and the relevant Ministers	6, 53 91
FRD 22C	Purpose, functions, powers and duties	5, 37
FRD 22C	Nature and range of services provided	5
<b>Management and structure</b>		
FRD 22C	Organisational Structure	53
FRD 22C	Human Resource Management	54
FRD 22C, SD 2.2(f), (g)	Audit Committee Membership and Roles	51
<b>Financial and other information</b>		
FRD 10A	Disclosure index	57
FRD 11A	Disclosure of Ex-gratia Payments	90
FRD 12A	Disclosure of major contracts	57
FRD 15C	Executive Officer Disclosures	59
FRD 22H	Five-year summary of financial results	5, 59
FRD 22F SD 4.2(k)	Operational and budgetary objectives and performance against objectives	10
FRD 22F	Employment and conduct principles	55
FRD 22H	Consultancy Expenditure	57
FRD 29A	Statement of Workforce Data	53
FRD 22H	Occupational health and safety policy	54
FRD 22H	Summary of the financial results for the year	5
FRD 22H	Significant changes in financial position during the year	59
FRD 22H	Major changes or factors affecting performance	59
FRD 22H	Subsequent events	59
FRD 22H	Application and operation of the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	56
FRD 22H	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of <i>Building Act 1993</i>	57
FRD 22H	Statement on National Competition Policy	55
FRD 22H	Application and operation of the <i>Protected Disclosures Act 2012</i>	56
FRD 22H	Details of consultancies over \$100,000	57
FRD 22H	Details of consultancies under \$100,000	57
FRD 22H	Statement of availability of other information	57
FRD 22H	Standard Disclosures in the Report of Operations	55
FRD 22H	Environmental performance	58
FRD 25C	Victorian Industry Participation Policy disclosures	55
FRD 30D	Standard requirements for the design and print of Annual Reports	4
SD 4.5.5	Risk management compliance attestation	56

Legislation	Requirement	Page
SD 4.5.5.1	Insurance compliance attestation	N/A
SD 4.2(g)	General information requirements	1-60
SD 4.2(j)	Sign-off requirements	61
<b>Financial Report</b>		
<b>Financial statements required under Part 7 of the FMA</b>		
SD4.2(a)	Statement of Changes in Equity	67
SD4.2(b)	Comprehensive Operating Statement	64
SD4.2(a)(d)(e)(f)	Balance Sheet	65
SD4.2(b)	Cash flow Statement	66
<b>Other requirements under Standing Directions 4.2</b>		
SD4.2(c)	Compliance with Australian accounting standards and other authoritative pronouncements	94, 95
SD4.2(c)	Compliance with Ministerial Directions	61
SD4.2(d)	Rounding of amounts	N/A
SD4.2(c)	Accountable officer's declaration	61
<b>Other disclosures as required by FRDs in notes to the financial statements</b>		
FRD 103F	Non-current physical assets	75-76, 86-89
FRD 112D	Defined benefit superannuation obligations	73
FRD 119A	Transfers through contributed capital	N/A
FRD 120I	Accounting and reporting pronouncements applicable to the 2016-17 reporting period	68, 94, 95

**Legislation**

*Freedom of Information Act 1982*

*Building Act 1993*

*Protected Disclosures Act 2012*

*Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003*

*Financial Management Act 1994*

*Water Act 1989*

*Financial Management Act 1994*

*Public Administration Act 2004*

*Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*

*Audit Act 1994*

*Emergency Management Act 2013*

*Planning & Environment Act 1987*



## GLOSSARY

ABC	Actions for Biodiversity Conservation	NLP	National Landcare Program
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	NRM	Natural Resource Management
ARRC	Australian River Restoration Centre	NDRRA	National Disaster and Recovery Relief Arrangements
BA	Birdlife Australia	Non-BAU	Non-Business As Usual
BAU	Business as Usual	OCOC	Our Catchments Our Communities
BGLC	Barengi Gadjin Land Council	OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	PV	Parks Victoria
CFA	Country Fire Authority	PAA	Public Administration Act
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia	RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinator
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
DIWA	Directory of Important Wetlands	RNVP	Regional Native Vegetation Plan
DTR	Department of Treasury and Finance	RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
ECs	Ecological Communities	SCA	Stock Containment Area
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System	SMWG	Staff Management Work Group
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	VLG	Victorian Landcare Grants
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Communities	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
EWR	Environmental Water Reserve	VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission	VEPP	Victorian Environment Partnerships Program
ICT	Information Communication Technology	VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
IEC	Index of Estuary Condition	VFMS	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy
ISC	Index of Stream Condition	VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
ISC3	Index of Stream Conditions 2010	VicSES	Victoria State Emergency Service
IWC	Index of Wetland Condition	VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
LGA	Local Government Agencies	VWPIF	Victorian Water Program Investment Framework
MERI	Monitor Evaluate Report and Improvement	WAP	Waterway Action Plan
NCP	National Competition Policy		
NGO	Non-Government Organisation		

## ENDNOTES

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79 French Street,  
Hamilton, Vic 3300  
T: 03 5571 2526 F: 03 5571 2935  
E: [ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au)  
[www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)

