
Glenelg Hopkins Landcare Support Strategy

2012–2018

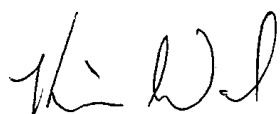
Foreword

The Glenelg Hopkins region has a long and proud history with the Landcare movement. Pioneering tree groups, early soil conservation work and the Potter Farmland Plan project are examples of the land stewardship ethic in this region. For 25 years Landcare has grown and evolved into a resilient community of volunteers. The Glenelg Hopkins Landcare Support Strategy outlines the ways in which Glenelg Hopkins CMA will support the region's Landcarers. The strategy was developed in consultation with the local Landcare community.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA, in partnership with the Victorian Government, are committed to supporting Landcare groups and Networks to achieve natural resource outcomes. The Landcare community is responsible for improving and maintaining significant sections of our region's natural assets.

Our region is renowned for its active and diverse community, which displays an adaptable and entrepreneurial "can-do" spirit. This spirit is no more clearly exemplified than through those people involved in Landcare.

The Strategy aims to support Landcare groups to operate effectively, engage the community, collaborate, do on ground works and tell the Landcare story. Through supporting these five functions Glenelg Hopkins CMA will build on the strong partnerships and work together towards a healthier environment.



Kevin Wood

CEO

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

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About the Strategy

Purpose

The Glenelg Hopkins Landcare Support Strategy (the Strategy) will guide investment and effort in supporting the Landcare movement within the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region. The document complements the Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan and aims to identify regionally specific actions.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA aims to support volunteers and landholders to undertake actions that improve the condition of our environment and the sustainability of farming, drawing on their local knowledge and expertise. By supporting Landcare in a strategic way - that includes the delivery of services and initiatives – it helps Landcare groups and networks to be more effective as they work to prevent the decline and improve the health of our natural resource base.

The Strategy recognises that natural assets found in the region are interconnected with natural assets found in neighbouring regions such as those of Wimmera CMA, Corangamite CMA and South Australian natural resource management (NRM) agencies. Effective implementation of the Strategy is reliant on strong and effective partnerships both within the Glenelg Hopkins region and with neighbouring CMAs and NRM bodies.

In alignment with the Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan, the strategy seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

- organised, effective and efficient groups and networks
- Landcare groups and networks are engaged with communities
- Landcare collaborates to increase its reach and impact
- Landcare achieves specific and measurable on-ground actions
- Landcare can tell its story.

Vision

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Vision Statement

“Achieving a healthy and sustainable relationship between the natural environment and the community’s use of land and water resources”

Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy Vision Statement

“Supporting communities in taking action to maintain and improve the natural environment and ensure the quality of life for current and future generations”



Above: Protecting Landscapes for a variety of functions.

Development Process

The development of this Strategy has been informed by a number of strategic plans; the Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan – Supporting Landcare for the Future, the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy 2012 - 2018, and a review of the existing Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy 2007 – 2012.

The recently released Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan outlines the five functions that Government aims to support through the Victorian Landcare Program. These five functions; operate, engage, collaborate, do and tell, form the themes for the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy 2012 - 2018.

Consultation Process

Landcare groups within the region were the focus of the community consultation program. The relevance and ownership of the Strategy was dependant on the effectiveness of consultation with these groups. A workshop format and package was developed to ensure continuity of feedback. This package was applied throughout the engagement with Landcare groups.

The Glenelg Hopkins Biodiversity and Land Health Advisory Group provided advice and guidance on the development of the strategy. A series of workshops were held with the Advisory Group to develop key aspects of the strategy. The Advisory Group includes representatives from the community, and NRM partner agencies such as DSE and DPI.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and the Victorian Landcare Team has been consulted throughout the development process.

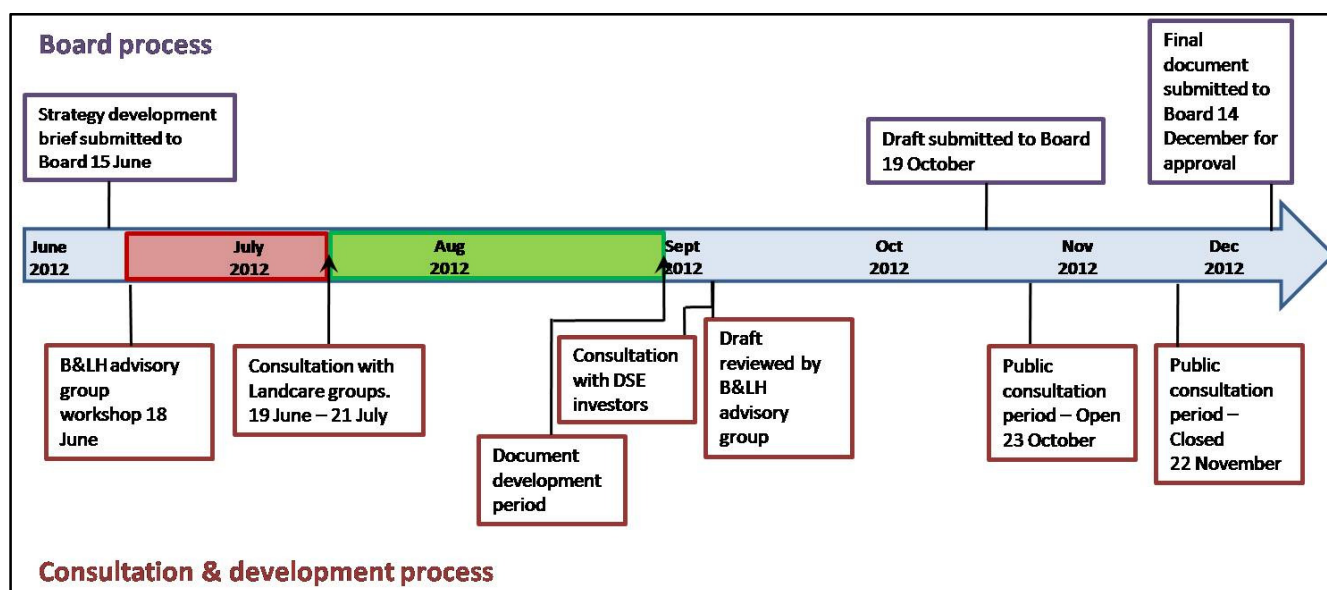


Figure 1 - Strategy development and consultation process timeline

The Draft Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy was released for public comment for a period of 31 days following CMA Board approval. The document has been accessible via the Glenelg Hopkins CMA website. Landcare community members were invited, through direct correspondence, to review the draft and provide comment.

Feedback received during the public consultation period has been considered and incorporated into the strategy. The final document was then submitted to the CMA Board for approval (Figure 1).

Regional Overview

Physical Environment

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

It covers approximately 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 (*Figure 2*). There are four basins that occur within the region: Glenelg, Hopkins, Portland Coast and Millicent Coast (*Figure 2*). The boundaries of the region include marine and coastal waters

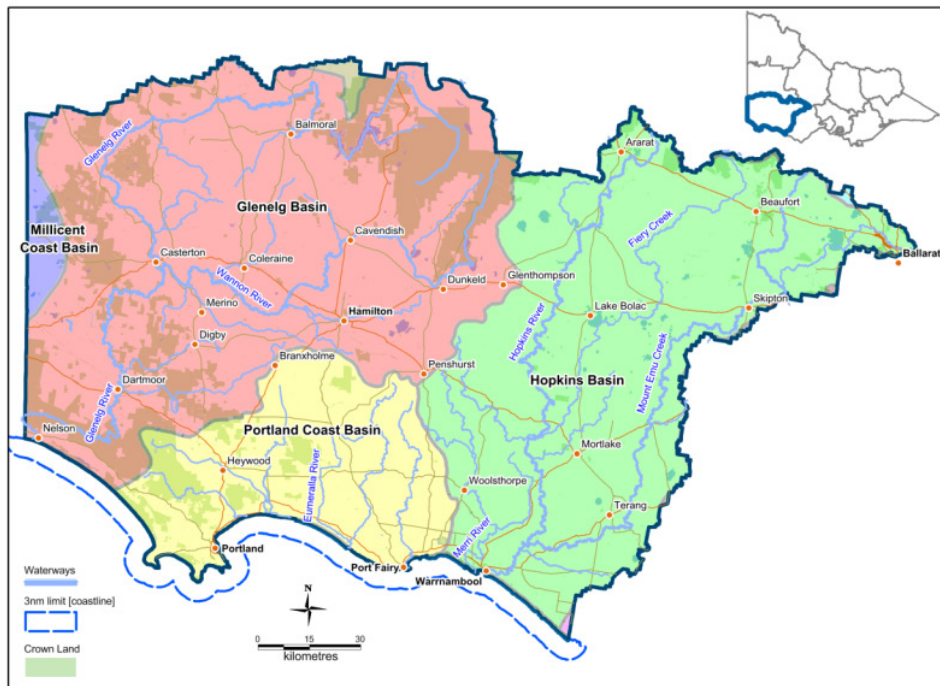


Figure 2 - Basins of the Glenelg Hopkins Region

out to the state limit of three nautical miles. The region is characterised by flat volcanic plains in the south, while the Grampians, Dundas Tablelands, and Central Highlands are dominant in the north.

The 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, Ballarat, Ararat, Casterton, Port Fairy and Beaufort. More than 33,000 of the region's residents reside in Warrnambool, and strong population growth is forecast for this area.



*Above: Agriculture is one of the region's main economic drivers.
Photos L-R: Steve Swain, Tania Parker and Tania Parker*

The Glenelg Hopkins region has a rich resource base that supports diverse and growing industry. 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, providing nearly 25 per cent of total employment. The area contains some of the most productive land in Victoria and is noted for its contribution to the gross value of Australian agricultural production.

South western Victoria has a range of natural assets in the form of biodiversity, waterways, wetlands, soils, forests and coast. The Glenelg Hopkins region contains a number of natural features that are of national and international significance, including the heritage listed Glenelg River, several wetlands that are listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands Australia, the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape, Grampians National Park, two of Australia's 15 biodiversity hotspots and a diverse range of flora and fauna. It is also home to the Red tailed Black Cockatoo, Southern Bentwing Bat and the Glenelg River Spiny Cray.

South western Victoria is a unique and diverse area of Australia. Glenelg Hopkins CMA strives to maintain and protect this region through its Vision and Mission.

Landcare within the Glenelg Hopkins Region

The Glenelg Hopkins community plays an integral role in the delivery of natural resource management actions and the maintenance and improvement of natural assets. Fostering a strong regional identity and connection with the environment will be key to achieving the objectives outlined in the Strategy. The following chapter provides a background and context of Landcare within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

There is already community and land manager commitment to improving natural resources across the region. This is clearly evident with the uptake in partnership projects, involvement in Landcare and participation at community forums and field days over the last 25 years. The Statewide Social Benchmarking results for waterways¹ showed that the Hopkins Basin had the highest score across all the state basins for people that are involved with rehabilitating native habitat.

Land managers within the region are characterised by their strong land stewardship, with the majority aspiring to pass on their property to future generations in better condition. This aspiration is illustrated by the strong Landcare network and volunteerism within the Glenelg Hopkins catchment. Landcare across the region takes a variety of forms and performs a range of functions, while maintaining the core objective of conserving natural resources, enhancing profitability and supporting communities². Programs conducted by a range of natural resource management organisations attract volunteers that play a significant role in data collection, on-ground works and feedback or issue identification.



Above: The region's Landcarers play a vital role in the maintenance and enhancement of natural assets.
Photos L-R: James Pevitt

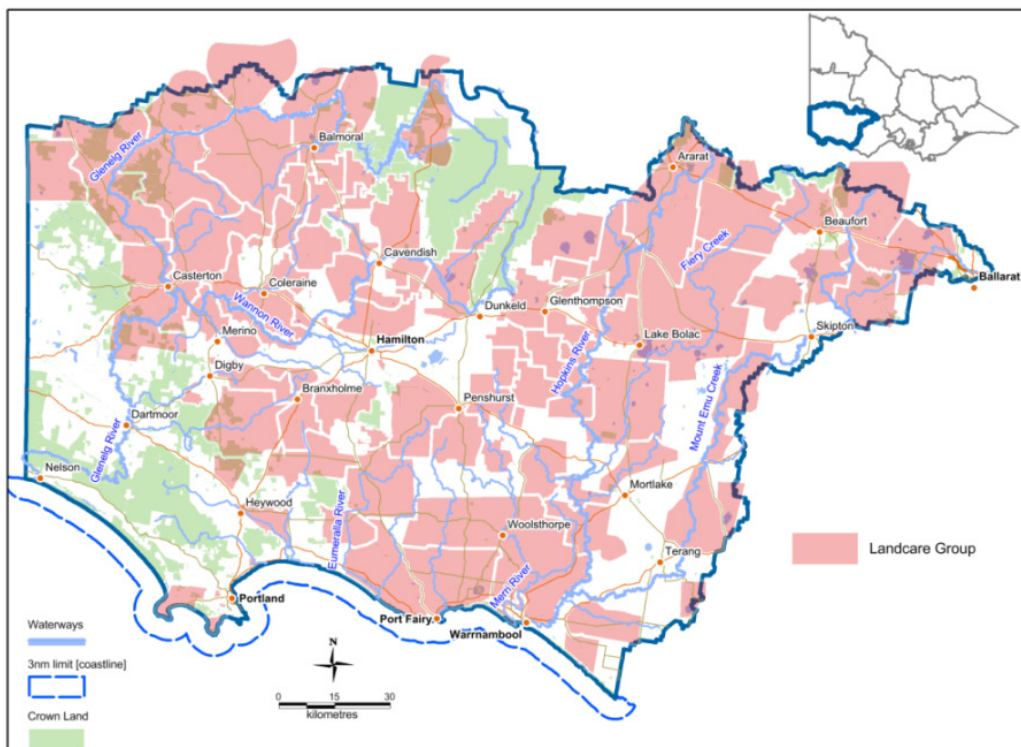


Figure 3 - Approximate distribution of Landcare groups within the Glenelg Hopkins catchment

Connecting historical actions to present-day environmental issues, and recognising the diverse way that people view the environment is an important consideration for natural resource management³.

Many community-based natural resource management groups and networks do not have 'Landcare' in their title, but are still considered part of the Landcare community. These groups are collectively referred to as community-based natural resource management groups (CBNRM). The approximate distribution of Landcare groups and networks within the region is illustrated in Figure 3.

To appreciate the current position of Landcare groups in the Glenelg Hopkins region it is useful to compare the local situation with our regional counterparts and the state average. At a state level the number of Landcare groups expanded rapidly through the 1990s, from 100 groups in 1990 to 700 in 1995. By 1998 numbers of groups peaked at 890 and declined to 721 in 2004⁴. Today, across Victoria there is an estimated 800 Landcare groups, plus 500 urban conservation groups and 200 community associations engaged in practical Coastcare projects⁵. This expansion and contraction was replicated in the Glenelg Hopkins region. From a high of 115 Landcare groups in 2002, the region currently supports over 100 Landcare and CBNRM groups.

Landcare within the Glenelg Hopkins region has been operating since the Dundas Black Range Landcare Group was established in 1987. The achievements of Landcare over the past 25 years are celebrated in the book "Landcare Snapshots: 'Celebrating 25 years of Landcare in the Glenelg Hopkins region" (2012).

Strategic Alignment

Link to other Strategies

The community participation chapter of the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) identifies objectives and measures and these have been considered and incorporated into this Strategy. The development and implementation of the Strategy is in alignment with:

- Glenelg Hopkins CMA Corporate Plan 2011-12 to 2015-16 - Performance Indicator; Evaluate and revise the Regional Landcare Support Strategy every five years
- RCS 2012 – 2018 Management Measure (2.1.2) - Update and implement the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy by the end of 2013.

Figure 5 summarises the relationship between the Strategy and relevant Australian and Victorian legislation, policies and strategies. Relevant regional linkages are also shown.

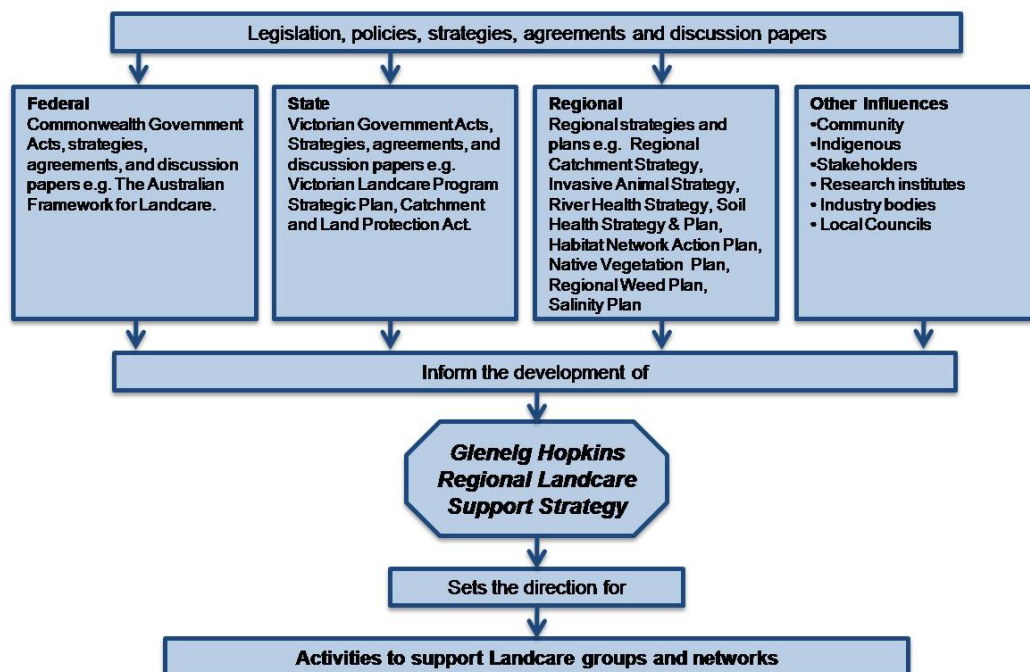


Figure 5 - Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy Strategic Context

Examples of Key Landcare Achievements to Date

1970s

- Volunteer groups combat soil erosion on district scale
- Group starts connecting Black and Dundas Ranges with tree corridors—first farm biolink

1984

- Potter Farmland Plan commences Hamilton district (Glenthompson, Melville Forest, Nareen)

1987

- Dundas Black Range Landcare Group launched
- DPI Hamilton evaluates 60+ tree species for timber production 1987-91
- DPI Hamilton researches tree direct-seeding 1987-1990
- Lake Condah Mission transferred to Gunditjmara people

1988

- Mirranatwa Landcare Group launched
- Bunnugal Landcare Group launched
- Wando River Landcare Group launched
- Potter Farmland Plan ends; Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning (HIRL) continues tours

1989

- Victoria Point Landcare Group launched
- Bushy Creek Landcare Group launched
- Konongwootong Landcare Group launched

1990

- Alcoa supporting community across SW Victoria; Portland Seedbank early project

1991

- Fourth Victorian Landcare Conference held Monivae, Hamilton, July

1992

- Glenthompson Catchment Group established; comprising of seven Landcare groups
- Glenelg Region Integrated Farm Forestry project (GRIFF) 1992-95

1994

- Victorian government permanently reserves Peter Francis Points Arboretum

1995

- Southern Farming Systems Group forms (Geelong, Streatham, Hamilton, Gippsland and Tasmania)

1997

- The Glenelg Hopkins CMA pioneered its first Regional Catchment Strategy
- Blue gum plantations first appear in region

1998

- Secretariat for International Landcare (SILC) forms in Hamilton

1999

- Hopkins Moyne Landcare Network launches 444,000 Trees

2002

- Alcoa Living Landscapes commences Portland region

- State Government funds 10 Regional Landcare Coordinator positions, including in the Glenelg Hopkins region

- Landcare Achievement Awards initiated

2003

- Glenelg Hopkins 2003-2007 Regional Catchment Strategy was the first to be approved in Australia by joint State/Federal Governments
- The CMA strengthens its involvement in Landcare with the appointment of 10 federally funded Landcare Facilitators

2005

- Inaugural Eel Festival and Healing Walk, Lake Bolac

2007

- Making A Difference (MAD) established in Merri catchment
- Basalt to Bay Landcare Network formed
- Gunditjmara people win Native Title over 14,000ha of Crown Land

2009

- Major Landcare recovery efforts after Black Saturday

2011

- Victorian Landcare Conference celebrates Landcare's twenty-fifth anniversary
- Gunditjmara and Eastern Maar peoples granted native title to Deen Maar (Lady Julia Percy Island), Crown land between Dunkeld and Yambuk

2012

- Update of Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy
- Victorian State Government funded the Victorian Local Landcare Facilitator Initiative

Functions

Glenelg Hopkins CMA recognises that Landcare belongs to the community, and respects Landcare's independence and autonomy, and its partnership. The CMA wants to support, not direct Landcare.

The purpose of this Strategy is to outline and communicate the five functions that the CMA wants to support Landcare to undertake within the region. These functions are listed in *Figure 6*⁶. Each function has a corresponding list of actions identified. These actions will guide activity within the catchment, and are summarised in *Table 6*. The actions align with the Regional Catchment Strategy, State Government policy and the Victorian Landcare Program (VLP)

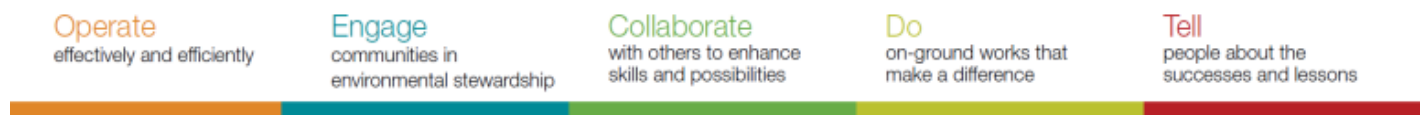


Figure 6 -The five functions of support for Landcare

These functions are linked; for example, well functioning Landcare groups and networks (OPERATE), will enable widespread environmental citizenship (ENGAGE), that will be enacted through participating in strong and connected Landcare groups and networks (COLLABORATE), which will deliver tangible on-ground improvements (DO), and garner public support and recognise achievements through appropriate monitoring, evaluation, performance reporting, and general communication (TELL).

The following pages describe the five functions of OPERATE, ENGAGE, COLLABORATE, DO and TELL.

Operate

A key role of the Strategy is helping Landcare groups and networks function well. The CMA recognises that Landcare would like a solid operating base, and at the same time knows that no Government program, including the Victorian Landcare Program, is eternal or unchanging.

To function at their best, groups and networks alike benefit from dedicated and supported voluntary leaders, and the facilitation and coordination services of professional Landcare support staff.

From a CMA perspective, it is valuable to gain an understanding of the overall health of Landcare groups and networks, how this may have changed over time, and which elements in particular may require specific support. Going forward, interactions between the CMA and Landcare will be streamlined, expectations will be made clear, and services and initiatives will be delivered. The aims of the operate function are shown in *Table 1*⁷.

| Establish | Maintain | Train | Grow | Facilitate | Coordinate | Streamline |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| Assist the establishment of new or lapsed groups and networks | Help maintain existing groups and networks by assisting them to meet basic operating requirements | Invest in training and development to build the operational skills of groups and networks | Support groups and networks to strengthen and/or grow to meet the needs of their community | Provide support to professional Landcare staff working as coordinators or facilitators at the local and landscape scale | Manage the delivery and coordination of core services and initiatives at the regional and state scale | Streamline administrative requirements and other interactions between the VLP and Landcare |

Table 1 - The aims of the Operate function

Engage

A key strength of Landcare lies in its close connection with local communities. Landcare is a way of bringing people together around common natural resource management issues; facilitating stewardship of the local landscape in an inclusive way. This local stewardship in turn builds more connected and resilient communities.

To engage people successfully, Landcare groups and networks need leadership, resources and skills to engage volunteers and landholders in lasting, productive and constructive relationships. Acknowledging that a few people can make a huge difference; a few more can often increase the impact.

Retaining and attracting volunteers is becoming more challenging. Increasingly, people are busy, and want to interact with Landcare and other volunteer organisations in ways that address their particular needs, circumstances, and preferred way of communicating. The aims of the engage function are shown in *Table 2*⁸.

| Research | Recruit | Inform | Innovate | Include | Seek |
|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Provide advice in respect to current research and information, and commission research to fill gaps where appropriate | Support Landcare to connect with, and recruit and retain volunteers including people for leadership and office bearer positions | Assist in raising people's awareness and level of understanding of local landscapes and associated natural resource management issues and management practices | Promote innovative thinking to help people engage with groups and networks | Emphasise the inclusive nature of Landcare in all communications and promotions | Support Landcare in seeking help from new sources of volunteers |

Table 2 - The aims of the Engage function

Collaborate

Landcarers recognise that partnerships are central to Landcare's success, providing a means to share knowledge, skills and resources. To collaborate effectively, Landcare needs to be able to locate organisations with common objectives and identify ways of developing partnerships that can add value to each other's work. Collaboration can include sharing information, seeking financial and other support, and participating in planning. Landcare can be a driver for change in communities, as well as being the people who do the on-ground works.

The VLP recognises that strong partnerships can lead to and enable better outcomes and is keen to assist Landcare to collaborate with Government and other entities. The aims of the collaborate function are shown *Table 3*⁹.

| Listen | Nurture | Cooperate | Share | Guide |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Encourage agencies at all levels of Government to listen to Landcarers when developing planning, priority-setting and policy | Develop the relationship between Landcare, the VLP, and other Government natural resource management and sustainable agriculture programs | Support groups and networks to find linkages with other organisations to collaborate on planning, and coordinating action | Assist Landcare groups and networks to share information on, and experiences of, best practice at the local and landscape scale | Provide guidance on potential collaborators for Landcare, and information on, how to negotiate and undertake partnerships |

Table 3 – The aims of the Collaborate function

Do

The common goal of Landcare groups and networks across Victoria is to enhance and protect the environment, including cultural heritage assets, by building environmental awareness, encouraging sustainable farming and land management practices, and undertaking on-ground works. As land is a productive asset for many people involved with Landcare, improved agricultural productivity can also be an important driver for, and result of, environmental action. Common activities and achievements include the management of priority weeds on public and private land; rabbit control; protecting, enhancing and/or establishing native vegetation; improving the health of soil and waterways; awareness raising; and the facilitation and coordination of field days.

The CMA values the contribution that Landcare makes to natural resource management and recognises that, through leveraging voluntary contributions of land, labour, and capital, Landcare provides very good value for public investment. On- ground improvements to the condition of the land are the key public outcome the CMA wants from its investment in Landcare. The aims of the operate function are shown in *Table 4*¹⁰.

| Strategise | Design | Act | Scale |
|--|---|---|--|
| Support the development of regional Landcare support strategies and local action plans | Encourage Landcare groups and networks to design appropriate solutions to their priority issues | Support Landcare groups and networks to undertake actions to improve the condition of the environment | Where the capacity and desire exists, encourage Landcare groups and networks to work on large-scale landscape change |

Table 4 – The aims of the Do function

Tell

Because there are many separate groups and networks across the state, it is difficult to tell the overall story of Landcare's achievements. However, telling the story is important to reward volunteers and landholders for their efforts, make sure Landcare is recognised and valued with a good public profile, to encourage more people to join Landcare, to be accountable to funders, and to grow the investment from sources beyond Government.

Improving the ability to tell the story of Landcare will require a focused effort up front. This will mean that in the short term, streamlining information collection, and evaluation and reporting processes will be a priority. In the longer term, improved systems and processes will save both Landcarers and the CMA time and money, and put Landcare in a better position to maintain widespread public recognition and support. The aims of the tell function are shown in *Table 5*¹¹.

| Simplify | Collect | Store | Publish | Celebrate | Publicise |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ensure that the monitoring, evaluation and reporting interactions between the VLP and Landcare are as simple yet effective as possible | Support groups and networks in collecting the information needed to tell Landcare's story | Retain data and information so that it can be accessed, and easily interpreted and shared | Publish the story about the performance of Landcare | Enjoy success and reward effort with recognition events | Promote the work done by Landcarers and others to tell the Landcare story |

Table 5 – The aims of the Tell function

Table of Actions

In alignment with the five functions outlined in *Figure 6* the following table of activities and measures has been developed. The activities identified will contribute to achieving the Strategy objectives and a number of management measures identified in the RCS 2012-2018. Activities identified within *Table 6* may align to more than one function and will be delivered over a six year period.

| Activity | Function | | | | | Measures |
|--|----------|--------|-------------|----|------|---|
| | Operate | Engage | Collaborate | Do | Tell | |
| 1. Develop a targeted community education program to increase awareness of natural assets within the region and encourage actions that improve land, water and biodiversity outcomes (2.1.3 RCS).* | | ✓ | | | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the conduct of 2 workshops/ presentations annually. Promote the involvement of peri-urban and urban communities in Landcare activities. |
| 2. Develop and implement programs to build community capacity in natural resource management (2.1.4 RCS).* | | ✓ | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain a DAFF National Landcare Facilitator project Steering Committee (Biodiversity and Land Health Advisory Group). Produce a History of Landcare Booklet. Contribute to a regional Soil Health Conference. |
| 3. Undertake community awareness and extension activities to promote natural resource management and best management practices in agriculture (2.1.5 RCS).* | | ✓ | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with R&D organisations and local land managers with sustainable practices to ensure the availability of regular high quality information. Produce bi-monthly regional Landcare newsletter and distribute. |
| 4. Improve inter-agency and cross border communication through active support of groups (2.2.2 RCS).* | | | ✓ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMA representatives on DemoDAIRY NRM Forum and Green Triangle forest products NRM group. Provide CMA support to 3 regional events annually. |
| 5. Collaborate with indigenous communities, community organisations, local government, agencies, tertiary institutions and industry groups to develop partnership projects and joint initiatives (2.2.1 RCS).* | | | ✓ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and facilitate the implementation of projects in conjunction with DSE, DPI, local government and other agencies. |
| 6. Seek opportunities for cross border and interagency partnerships to address mutual natural resource management priorities (2.2.3 RCS).* | | ✓ | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate invitation to 100 farmers to field days and other info sessions that deliver sustainable management strategies and ideas |
| 7. Raise land owner awareness of incentive programs (2.4.2 RCS).* | | ✓ | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and distribute available grant guides using Landcare database. Promote grant guides at community events. |
| 8. Coordinate CMA application writing workshop. | ✓ | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct one application writing workshop per annum. |
| 9. Promote the use of the Victorian Landcare Gateway and Glenelg Hopkins CMA websites. | ✓ | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a minimum of two training sessions per year on use of the Gateway website. |
| 10. Maintain the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Gateway website. | ✓ | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Glenelg Hopkins Gateway website bi-monthly. |
| 11. Conduct regionally based Landcare forums to share knowledge and experiences. | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct annual regional Landcare forum. |
| 12. Promote understanding of state, regional and local NRM priorities | | ✓ | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform groups of priorities in relation to funding opportunities and opportunities for input into relevant strategies and plans. |

| Activity | Function | | | | | Measures |
|---|----------|--------|-------------|----|------|--|
| | Operate | Engage | Collaborate | Do | Tell | |
| 13. Identify partnership opportunities with NGOs, volunteer groups, industry groups, agencies and others. | | ✓ | ✓ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to one joint project annually. |
| 14. Encourage networks/groups to develop action plans to guide Landcare activities. | | | ✓ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and distribute the Victorian Landcare Planning Toolkit. Offer planning training opportunities for groups and networks. |
| 15. Encourage Landcare groups/networks to develop projects demonstrating best management practice. | | | ✓ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute literature on NRM best management practice. Recommend speakers to groups. Conduct 2 workshops on sustainable agriculture practice. |
| 16. Conduct Group/Network Health Survey to identify opportunities and challenges. | | | ✓ | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct annual Group/Network Health Survey. |
| 17. Produce annual Landcare report card and distribute through various media formats. | | | | | ✓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate relevant information and publish report card. |
| 18. Coordinate 30th anniversary of Landcare celebrations. | | | | ✓ | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct 30th Anniversary of Landcare events (to be determined). |
| 19. Support coordination of regional Landcare awards | | | | ✓ | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glenelg Hopkins CMA Environmental Achievement Awards to be conducted biannually. |
| 20. Coordinate the administration of CMA Landcare grants. | | | | ✓ | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct CMA Landcare grants evaluation process. Complete reporting in accordance with investor timeline and output parameters. |
| 21. Provide a communication conduit between the Landcare community and government. | | ✓ | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent the region's interests at the state level. Represent the region's interests at the federal level. Contribute to the delivery of the Victorian Landcare Team work plan. |

* Management Measures as identified in the Community Participation chapter in the Regional Catchment Strategy 2012 - 2018

Table 6 - Activities and measures aligned with functions

Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting

The primary goal of this Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (MER) framework is to provide the processes and actions for understanding, improving and communicating the impact of managing the region's natural resource assets. Landcare groups and networks are often asked to participate in surveys and reviews from a variety of organisations or agencies. In implementing the MER framework due consideration will be given to streamlining and ensuring efficiencies when requesting information from volunteers, groups and networks.

This framework will provide the overarching direction for the application of MER principles and processes to the implementation of the Strategy.

A MER framework is vital for understanding success (and failures) and how best to learn from them. MER provides the information that is required to adaptively respond and manage programs in an often uncertain field of management.

The MER is based on the following principles:

- During the life of the Strategy, new information and knowledge will most likely become available. This information and knowledge will need to be incorporated into the Strategy by taking an adaptive management approach.
- Management interventions for natural resource management often have impacts at different temporal scales. Not all impacts of management interventions will be expected to be apparent within the lifetime of this strategy. Ongoing monitoring may be required to recognise these longer term achievements.
- The success of MER for the Strategy will require strong partnerships to ensure data and its interpretation is up to date and available. Data collection and sharing procedures may need to be established.
- Various standards (for example vegetation works standards and standard output protocols) are or will be available to support MER and should be considered.
- When applying this MER Framework consideration will need to be paid to sub-strategy and action plan implementation.

Group/Network Health surveys assist with monitoring and reporting on a range of issues that can affect the viability of groups. These surveys are particularly useful to groups themselves so they can identify and address their particular needs.

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