

Introduction

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA undertake Waterway Action Plans (WAP) to identify priority actions which will contribute directly to waterway health on a sub-catchment level.

In 2016, 20 landholders across 52 property titles and 3355 hectares were engaged and assessed for waterway and habitat values. Landholder discussions and waterway condition assessments identified key values and threats associated with these waterways.

Key findings

Both private and public land managers showed strong support for maintaining and improving estuary and waterway values.

Proposed activities include:

- controlling stock access to waterways on private land
- becoming involved in coordinated pest control programs across private and public land
- undertaking streamside revegetation and habitat restoration works throughout the area

Next steps

The CMA have funding to deliver priority WAP actions over the next four years (2020).

During this time, two further WAP studies will be undertaken to include upstream sections of the Fitzroy and Darlot systems.

The continued support of the community and landholders will be critical to the ongoing management and protection of this area.

Please contact the CMA on 5571 2526 if you would like to become involved in this program.



Where; The WAP area encompasses all properties adjoining the Fitzroy River estuary, along with the two major tributaries of the Fitzroy River and Darlot Creek downstream of the Princess Highway, Tyrendarra. Future WAP studies will extend upstream towards Heywood and Lake Condah.

“Achieving waterway improvements will only be possible through mutually beneficial partnerships with the community and both private and public land managers.”

Jarred Obst, GHCMA Coastal Projects Coordinator

DIRECT ACTIONS & ACTIVITIES



HEALTHY WATERWAYS

- The protection and management of the riverbanks is critical to the ongoing health of the Fitzroy estuary.
- Over two-thirds of the waterways have been protected by proactive landholder actions, however 10.9 km (or 28% of of the system) could be managed better by controlling stock access and addressing weed issues.
- *The CMA will offer grants to assist with waterway fencing, revegetation, weed control and off-stream stock watering points.*



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- Over 770 hectares of native vegetation exist within the study area (or 22%), particularly along the estuary margins, stone country and coastal dune systems.
- Fragmentation of vegetation across the landscape however, along with invasion of high threat weeds, remain a concern.
- *The CMA will offer grants to undertake targeted revegetation and habitat restoration works on public and private land.*



PEST PLANT CONTROL

- The invasion and spread of pest plants is regarded as the highest threat to the health and biodiversity values of the Fitzroy River - estuary and Darlot Creek systems.
- Coordinated pest management programs across private and public land need to continue in order to address these threats.
- *The CMA will offer grants to undertake targeted pest management works on public and private land.*

SUPPORTING ACTIONS & ACTIVITIES



The CMA will also work with key partners and stakeholders to;

- Support and maintain the recreational and biodiversity values of streamside reserves, in conjunction with public land managers and the volunteer-based Reserves Committee of Management.
- Ensure knowledge and experiences of the Gunditjmara Traditional Owners and other landholders are shared and integrated into project design and delivery.
- Address key knowledge gaps through strategic research including;
 - improved treatment of high threat weeds
 - flow requirements of the Budj Bim system
 - barriers to native fish migration
 - life history requirements of key aquatic species such as the Glenelg spiny crayfish and the short-finned eel.

While different views on Willow management exist, the CMA hope to work with the community and willing landholders to undertake a coordinated and targeted Willow control program which addresses critical impacts of this 'Weed of National Significance'.
