

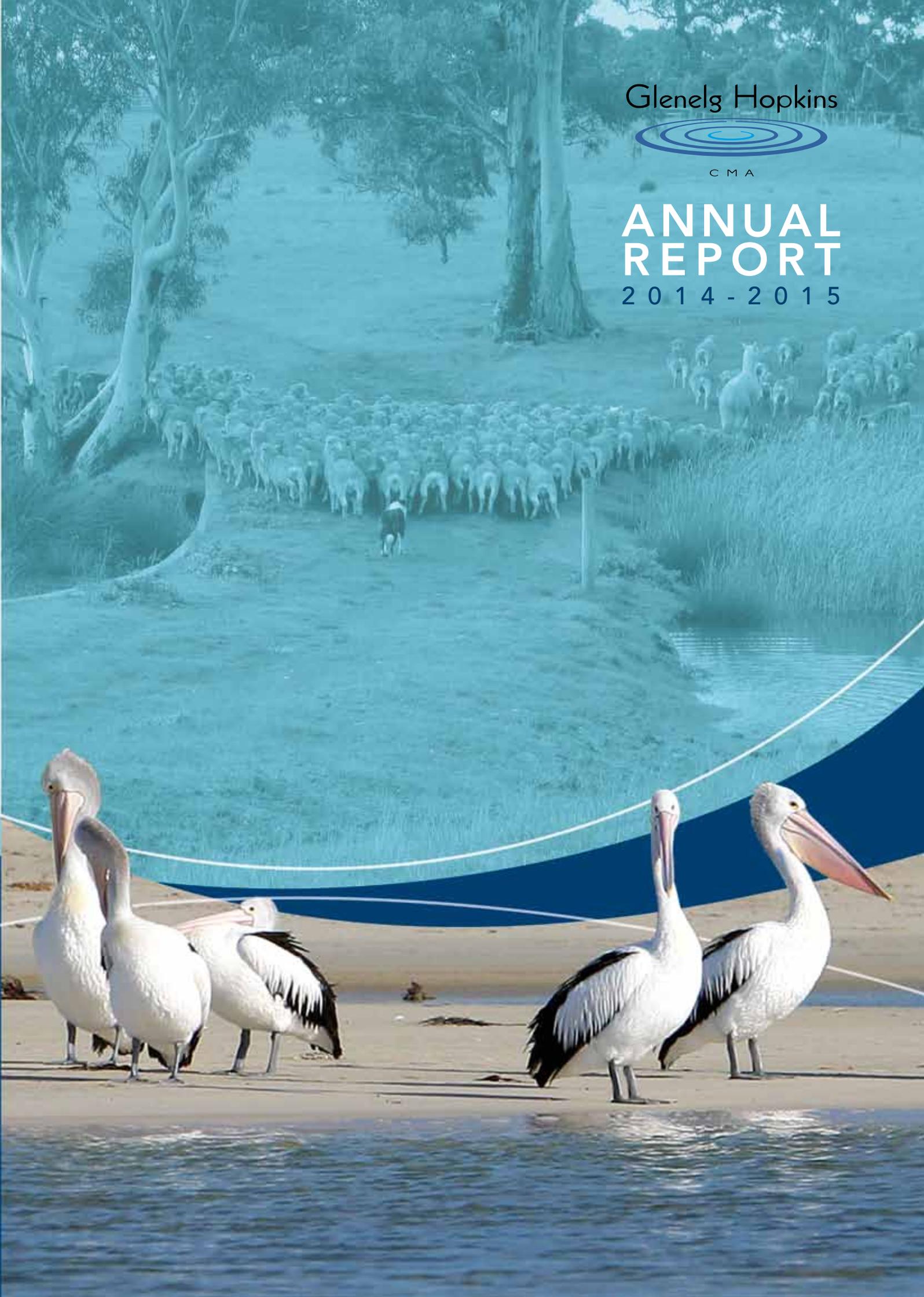
Glenelg Hopkins



C M A

# ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015



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## This report:

- Covers the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015
- Is the 17th Annual Report for Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- Is prepared for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, 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 2014-15
- Acknowledges the support of our community.

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FRONT COVER IMAGES: Sheep farming at Grangeburn Bocharra (courtesy Tania Parker). Pelicans at the Glenelg River Mouth, Nelson (courtesy James Pevitt)

## 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

The Board of Glenelg Hopkins CMA has set strategic objectives which together with 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
- Optimise funding for NRM projects by minimising corporate overheads

### 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

## Financial Performance at a Glance

	2015 (\$ '000)	2014 (\$ '000)	2013 (\$ '000)	2012 (\$ '000)	2011 (\$ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	4,625	4,648	5,198	7,001	7,602
Federal Government contributions	3,137	3,828	3,580	3,970	4,085
Other revenue	1,098	988	475	687	954
Total revenue	8,860	9,464	9,253	11,658	12,643
Total expenditure	7,953	8,622	11,913	11,889	10,238
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	907	842	(2,660)	(231)	2,405
Current assets	6,808	5,796	4,583	7,205	7,057
Non-current assets	1,311	1,301	1,372	1,448	1,556
Total assets	8,119	7,097	5,955	8,653	8,613
Current liabilities	1,177	1,157	720	754	616
Non-current liabilities	178	151	289	292	159
Total liabilities	1,355	1,308	1,009	1,046	775
Net assets	6,764	5,789	4,946	7,607	7,838

# HIGHLIGHTS

*Our focus and achievements this past year have been our partnerships and commitment to achieving long-term goals particularly through on-ground actions.*

**The Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Strategy** was completed in July 2014, recognising the Glenelg Hopkins region as one of the most productive agricultural regions in Australia. The Strategy provides a framework for government investment in management of soil on private and public land in the region through partnerships with community groups, industry groups and key government agencies.

**The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy** was launched by the Premier on 22 August 2014. The Strategy completely updates the CMA's first strategy, released in 2004 and provides a comprehensive guide for the management of the region's rivers, estuaries and wetlands over the next eight years.

**The Glenelg River Restoration Project** was a finalist for the 2014 International Riverprize contending with the best river management projects in the world. The project is recognised as Australia's biggest river fencing project and was awarded the 2013 Australian Riverprize.



ABOVE: Glenelg River, Moree

**The Merri River Fishing Hotspot** was developed with grants from the Australian Government and Victorian Recreational Fishing Levy. Installation of a floating jetty and instream rock structures increased fish habitat and access for fishing in the Merri River estuary.

The inaugural **Red Gum Shield** carp fishing competition, initiated by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and hosted by the Balmoral Angling Club at Harrow, attracted 75 anglers from 6 fishing clubs along the Glenelg River. A total of 87 carp were caught on the day.

The **Glenelg Hopkins CMA Works Crew** planted approximately 10,000 native trees on farms around the catchment and removed 10,000 pine wildings in partnership with Parks Victoria.

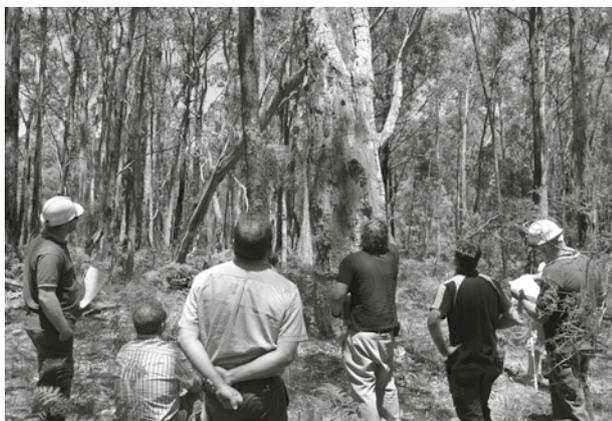
The **Maintenance Project** revisited priority areas in the Glenelg River catchment to secure previous investment and engage with new landholders. The project visited 40 landholders and delivered 69.3 km of waterway fencing and 262 ha of revegetation.



ABOVE: Traditional Fire Workshop with Uncle Rod Mason and Budj Bim Ranges Greg Shelton, Rowan Pickett and Michael Daly

A two day workshop brought together Gunditjmara elders, Budj Bim Rangers, Gunditj Mirring, DELWP and Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff to explore the use of **Aboriginal fire knowledge** to manage Country across the Budj Bim landscape. Trial burns using traditional knowledge were carried out across three Gunditjmara owned and managed Indigenous Protected Areas over the course of the workshop.

Learning About Guntijmara Country – **Junior Ranger Program**. In collaboration with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation a 10 week curriculum-based education program has been run with 70 Year 8 students from Baimbirdge College to explore and better understand the local history and culture of Gunditjmara people. Some of the program highlights have included a stone-tool workshop and field trips to look at the volcanic landscape of south west Victoria and how Gunditjmara people lived in and used this landscape over time.



ABOVE: Scar Tree Workshop with Tya Lovett

**Ararat Flood Study** has been progressed with Glenelg Hopkins CMA working with local, state and federal governments for a \$251,000 investigation to map flood extents and behaviour and improve community resilience to flooding.

The CMA collaborated with two municipalities to put in place **Flood Planning** controls using high reliability flood information for four townships in the CMA region at Port Fairy, Casterton, Portland and Narrawong. The flood warning needs were investigated for two townships and flood mitigation works were developed in Warrnambool in conjunction with Council.

**Waterway Action Plans** were developed to protect environmental values at Yambuk Lake, and reaches of Fiery Creek and the Wannon River. A total of 53 properties were visited and 23,325 ha assessed including 371 km waterway inspected in the target areas. Priority actions to protect the values of the waterways were identified and individual plans provided to participating landholders to allow waterway protection and rehabilitation in the coming years.

On the **Victorian Volcanic Plains** a total 597 ha were inspected and 24 management plans developed supported by stewardship payments to landholders to protect EPBC-listed grassland communities.

**Environmental Flow** benefits to the Glenelg River were evident in the results of the fishing survey undertaken as part of the Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring Program. In particular, abundance of flow-dependant EPBC-listed variegated pygmy perch have increased by 150 per cent and distribution of migratory species such as estuary perch has extended by 130 km.

An Australian government funded project encouraged participation of community members in **Ecological Surveys** to increase knowledge of species present and improve land management. Pannyabyr Landcare Group identified a total of 58 woodland bird species across six sites and over 65 community members participated in a fauna and flora Bioscan survey – hosted by DEWLP – on two grassy woodland areas.

Following the January fire in the Moyston and Maroona area, the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Works Crew assisted in the removal of damaged stock fences and participated in community clean-up days organised by the Victorian Farmers Federation. The CMA was subsequently granted funding under the **Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements** to re-instate projects damaged by the fire.

The CMA has partnered with Greening Australia, Newforest, PF Olsen, Alcoa and Federation University to restore 126 ha of land with native vegetation at the Weecurra property, south of Casterton. The project is part of the **South West Biolinks** project funded by the Australian Government.



ABOVE: Sheep farming – Grangeburn Bocharra

# WHO WE ARE

*Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority was established in July 1997 under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 as one of 10 Victorian CMAs.*

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 coordination 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 32.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in 2014-15 and had a gross turnover of \$8.86 million.

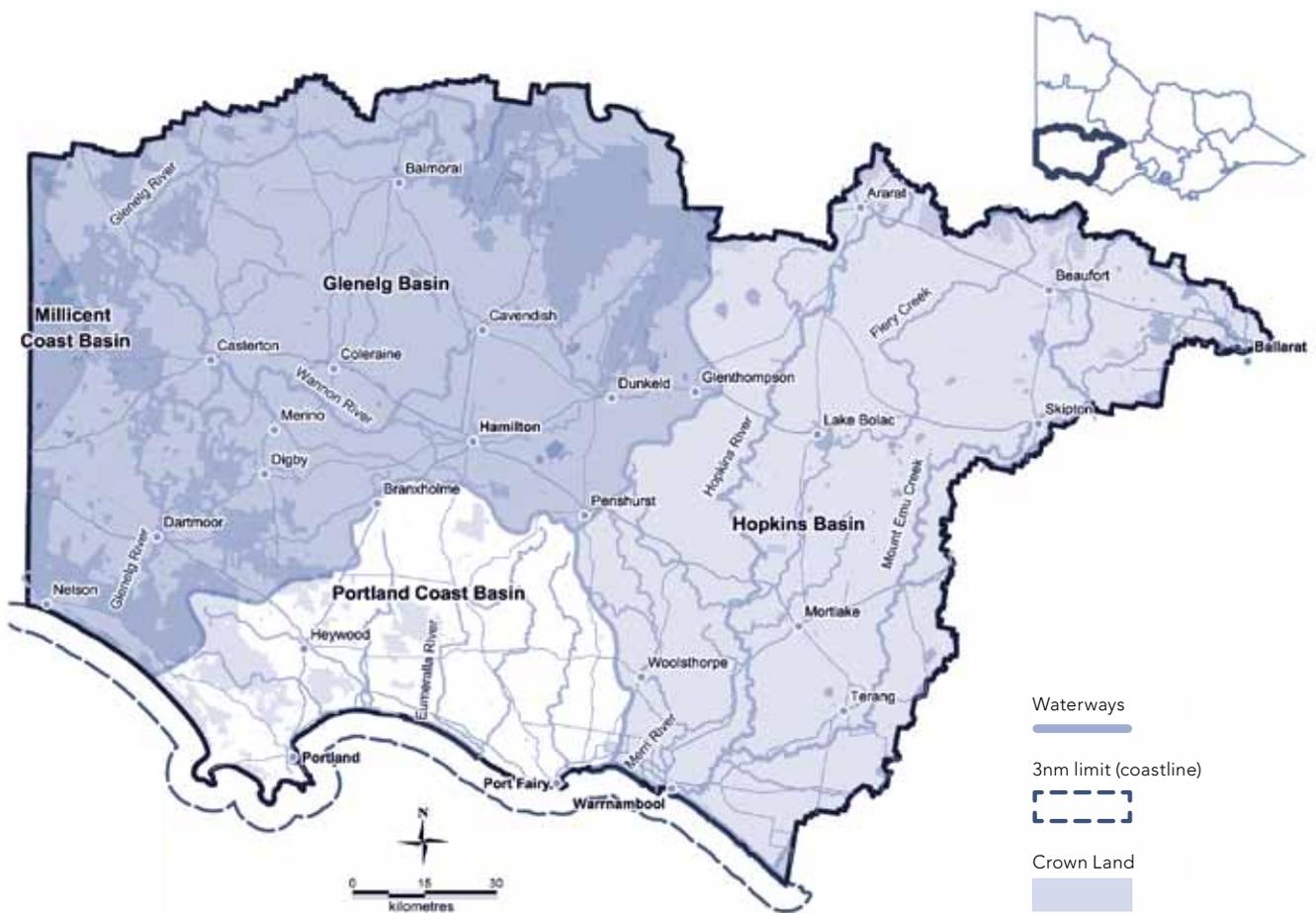
## Responsible Ministers

The responsible Ministers during the 2014-15 reporting period were the Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change and the Hon Peter Walsh MLA, Minister for Water from 1 July 2014 to 3 December 2014.

For the period of 4 December 2014 to 30 June 2015, the responsible Minister is the Hon Lisa Neville MP Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

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 reports to the Hon Lisa Neville.

The Glenelg Hopkins 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 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.

There are four 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, Ballarat, Ararat, Casterton, Port Fairy and Beaufort. More than 33,000 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 5<sup>th</sup> highest agricultural production region in 2012-13, producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$1,711 million. Glenelg Hopkins was the second highest contributor of Victorian NRM regions to the gross value of agricultural commodities in 2012-13.

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.

The Glenelg River and its tributaries support diverse aquatic and riparian ecosystems and provide habitat for a number of rare and threatened species. The lower section of the Glenelg is heritage-listed for its environmental significance. Salt-wedge estuaries at the mouth of rivers entering the sea are environmentally significant.

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. Water environments, together with extensive areas of public land and native vegetation, provide the basis for one of Australia's biodiversity 'hot spots'.

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## Report from the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer

*On behalf of the Board of Directors, management and staff, we are pleased to present the 17th Annual Report of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.*

The significant achievements in the Glenelg Hopkins region this year have only been possible as a result of the co-operation and hard work of many groups, agencies and landholders. The Annual Report provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the productive partnerships that contribute to a healthy catchment and the delivery of great NRM outcomes in our region.

Having enjoyed the significant achievements arising from the Australian Government's Caring For Our Country Program we were pleased to establish a new program of activities through the National Landcare Program. The continued support for regional delivery of NRM at the national level is critical if we are to continue our contribution to our nation's agricultural production and ensure that it is sustainable in the long-term. Through this program the CMA continues to work with a number of partners, particularly rural industry groups, Indigenous groups, NGOs, other government agencies, and of course the region's numerous community groups. These partnerships provide the majority of the CMA's regional outcomes that are funded under the NLP.

Again this year we have been very active in projects designed to protect and improve biodiversity in our region. Federal funding for habitat protection has enabled continued partnering with non-government organisations particularly Conservation Volunteers, Project Platypus and Birdlife Australia. Through another partnership the largest revegetation project yet undertaken in the region has been made possible by working with Greening Australia, Alcoa and the forest companies NewForest and P F Olsen. In the north of the catchment the Victorian Environmental Partnerships Program has enabled protection of important remnants on private land in a partnership with landholders and the Wimmera CMA.

The year has seen a large amount of activity aimed at improving catchment management arrangements, working with Victorian Government agencies, particularly the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, and after the election its successor the Department of Environment Land Water & Planning, as well as the Victorian Catchment Management Council and other CMAs.

This activity has progressed into a formal working arrangement between the CMAs, the DEWLP and the VCMC to implement the Government's response to the Victorian Auditor General's report into the Effectiveness of CMAs. This will continue into next year as well and offers a once in a generation opportunity to improve catchment management arrangements and provide a more efficient and effective model at a time when it is needed more than ever in the face of climate and land use change.

The CMA continued to work closely with a number of other agencies during the year to achieve sound planning for the region's environment. Seasonal Watering Proposals for the Glenelg River were developed for the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH) and the CMA provided advice on water sharing for the coming year on the newly established Western Rivers Advisory Group. We also continued to work closely with the Storage Manager, GWMWater, to ensure the timely release of water to the Glenelg River. Together with the Wimmera CMA and the VEWH, our CMA provided guidance and advice to the Toolondo Recreational Fishing Advisory Group on the best means of supporting that fishery, while protecting the gains made with environmental water in the Glenelg and Wimmera Rivers. To support coastal planning in our region the CMA made input to the new Western Region Coastal Plan developed by the Western Coastal Board.

Working closely with VicRoads has also produced benefits for the region. Ongoing planning for the Western Highway duplication between Ararat and Beaufort provided important flood information for waterways in that area. In another project, a major culvert replacement on Muddy Creek, the CMA consulted with VicRoads on the best means of protecting the creek, and arrived at a positive outcome where fish passage was incorporated into the new structure to protect threatened fish communities. The project was so successful that it was Highly Commended in the Victorian Engineers Excellence Award in September 2014.

Partnering with municipalities has been a strong part of the CMA's approach, and this continued throughout the year through our involvement in flood advice and planning scheme amendments. One such amendment has successfully incorporated high reliability flood information for the coastal town of Port Fairy into the Moyne Shire Planning Scheme, after more than 10 years of joint activity.

We also continued to work with the nearby City of Warrnambool to implement flood mitigation works for Russell Creek, one of that city's more flood prone areas. In order to protect waterways in our region we have been able to assist councils by offering the services of our waterway works crew for a wide range of projects.

While recognising the significant contribution to our region's natural resources that these partnerships bring, it is the partnerships with our community that stand out as the most enduring means of improving sustainability within our region. The CMA has supported and worked with Landcare and other groups to undertake works on properties of their members as well as on precious areas of public land that hold important environmental remnants. Some groups have investigated innovative practices to manage and improve soil health, contributing to the sustainability of agriculture, and others have participated in fauna and woodland bird monitoring. Many landholders have again undertaken works on their properties to protect waterways, wetlands and native vegetation with our support. We again had a strong presence with fishing groups, supporting the Red Gum Shield Fishing Competition on the Glenelg River, the Great South West Fishing Classic gathering in Warrnambool, and by implementing fish habitat improvements in the Merri River.

We were pleased to provide a helping hand on properties that had been badly affected by fires in the Maroona area, and we enjoyed contributing to the Landcare community by hosting the annual Landcare gathering, and by working with Landcare Facilitators on their projects. These activities all provide for a stronger Landcare imprint in our region and a great ethic to continue amongst our community groups.

At the close of the year the CMA hosted the Environmental Achievers Awards in Hamilton, to celebrate the significant achievements of the groups and individuals within our community who have contributed significantly to protect and improve our region's precious natural resources. The awards were well patronised with many nominations, reflecting the widespread commitment to protecting our environment.

For all of those who won awards in the six categories, and to those who nominated, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for their great efforts. A special mention is appropriate to the winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Liela Hubner from Nelson, who has done so much personally and within the Nelson Coastcare Group, to improve the environment of the Lower Glenelg River and the south west coast.

Her efforts are particularly significant in light of the major advances resulting from her long-term advocacy for the Lower Glenelg and Discovery Bay Wetlands to be included on the Ramsar Convention for Wetlands of International Importance. We at the CMA have progressed this nomination during the year and will continue to document the case in the hope of achieving acceptance of the listing during the coming year.

Our Board has worked collegiately and positively over this year to guide the CMA through a changing environment and position the organisation well to take advantage of the new opportunities that will be presented in the coming years. Our new Advisory Group, combining community and agency representatives, provided the CMA with useful guidance on our climate change strategy, as well as keeping us in touch with emerging issues in our region.

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 2015.



Kevin Wood  
Chief Executive Officer



Michael Wagg  
Chairperson

# OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY OBJECTIVES

*Our core businesses are partnering and relationship management and securing and investing funds in catchment planning and restoration.*

These are supported by developing organisational capability and operating a proactive, professional and innovative team. Glenelg Hopkins CMA reports progress against these objectives and indicators in its Corporate Plan. The following tables list key performance measures in achieving organisational objectives.

## Governance

Performance Area	Performance Indicators	Targets	Achievement Reporting
Board performance	Complete and submit an annual board performance assessment report, according to any Ministerial guidelines issued	By 31 August annually	The assessment report was submitted on August 25, 2014.
	Participation by board members in development activities	All board members participate in development activities	Board members participated in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A briefing on waterways management (sand extraction) July 2014</li> <li>• A briefing with Trust for Nature Chief Executive Officer February 2015</li> <li>• A Flood Management briefing February 2015</li> <li>• A Cultural awareness session in April 2015.</li> </ul>
Board charter	Develop and implement a board charter	The board charter is reviewed (and if necessary amended) by June 30 annually	A board charter with performance indicators was established in May 2010, and was reviewed in December 2014. In December 2014 the Board approved the creation of the following new policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Performance Assessment Policy</li> <li>• Board Conflict of Interest Policy</li> <li>• Board Dispute Resolution Policy.</li> </ul>
Risk and financial management	Compliance to risk management plans for each program	All programs have risk management plans in place Nil non-compliances with risk management plan	The Audit and Risk Committee oversee the risk management process for the organisation. The CMA maintains an organisational risk register that applies to all programs and areas of operation. Risk Management Framework and Plan, Risk Management Policy and the Risk Register have all been reviewed by the Executive Team and Board. 67 per cent of scheduled risk treatment plans were implemented.
Policies and procedures	Regular review of policies and procedures	Each policy and procedure is reviewed at least every five years	Governance policies and procedures are reviewed in line with the board schedule, 58 per cent of policies and procedures were reviewed during 2014-15.

## Efficiency and organisational performance

Performance Area	Performance Indicators	Targets	Achievement Reporting
Grant management	Administration costs of grants are minimised	10 per cent or less of grant funds is spent on administration	Administration charge on grants is an average of 10 per cent.
	Minimise time taken to determine grant applications	Grant applications are determined within one month of being received	Average time to process Partnership Projects applications is three weeks; average time to process Landcare grants is one month.

**Efficiency and organisational performance** (Continued)

Performance Area	Performance Indicators	Targets	Achievement Reporting
Regulatory waterway/ water functions	Number of days to process works on waterways permits	Not more than 20 working days	32 of 66 Works on Waterway Licence's were issued within 20 working days. 1 Works on Waterway Licence was not approved and took more than 20 days to respond. 66 of 66 Works on Waterway Licence's were issued within the prescribed period (25 working days). 1 Works on Waterway Licence was not approved, notification was within the prescribed period (25 working days).
	Number of days to process referrals for any works on or in relation to a dam	Not more than 20 working days	Nil received.
	Number of days to process referrals from local government on flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments, and planning and building approvals	Not more than 20 working days	120 of 145 referrals received were responded within 20 working days. 138 of 145 referrals received were responded within the prescribed period.
	Number of days to process enquiries from local government and the community on flooding	Not more than 20 working days	59 of 83 advice requests were responded within 20 working days. 77 of 83 advice requests were responded within the prescribed period.
	Number of days to process referrals for Water Use Licenses that don't meet the standard water-use conditions	Not more than 20 working days	Nil received.
	Number of days to process enquiries from Rural Water Corporations on irrigation and drainage plans and seasonal adjustments to annual use limits	Not more than 20 working days	1 of 1 referral received was responded within 20 working days.
	Number of days to process enquiries from Rural Water Corporations issuing Take and Use Licenses	Not more than 20 working days	1 enquiry was received and took more than 20 days to process.

**Effectiveness and environmental outcomes**

Performance Area	Performance Indicators	Targets	Achievement Reporting
Integrated River Health Management	Revise Regional Strategy for Healthy Rivers and Wetlands to plan for waterways in relation to their economic, social and environmental values	Regional River Health Strategy revised every six years	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Waterway Strategy was completed in 2014.
	Develop and revise Environmental Operating Strategies and Annual Watering Plans to manage the environmental water reserve in accordance with objectives	Environmental Operating Strategies developed or revised every five years Seasonal Watering Plans approved for all Environmental Entitlements	The Environmental Operating Strategies has been superseded by Environmental Water Management Plans. Due for completion in 2015-16. The Seasonal Watering Proposal for the Glenelg River Environmental Entitlement was submitted to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder in April 2015.
	Implement annual river health programs and activities to improve environmental values and health of water ecosystems	All annual river health targets and works programs achieved	100 per cent of annual river and wetland health targets and works programs achieved.

**Effectiveness and environmental outcomes** (Continued)

Performance Area	Performance Indicators	Targets	Achievement Reporting
Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)	Complete and submit the developed or revised RCS according to any guidelines, standards and related information issued	Submit the developed or revised RCS by the due date as required in any guidelines, standards and related information issued	The Glenelg Hopkins RCS was Gazetted on May 16, 2013. The Glenelg Hopkins RCS was submitted on the due date of 1 October 2012.
	Percentage of RCS annual actions implemented	All RCS annual actions implemented	70 per cent of annual RCS actions were implemented.
Regional Native Vegetation Plan (RNVP) implementation	Percentage of RNVP annual actions implemented	All RNVP annual actions implemented	The RNVP is no longer current.
Invasive plant and animal management	Regional Invasive Plant and Animal Strategies incorporating related priorities in all land tenures in the region	Invasive Plant and Animal Strategies revised by 30 June every five years	The Glenelg Hopkins Invasive Animal Strategy was revised in 2010. The Regional Weed Plan 2007-12 is no longer current.
Regional and statutory planning	Provide advice on dryland salinity, irrigation management, soil erosion, or any other land management issue identified in the local Municipal Strategic Statement as the referral body	100 per cent of referral responses provided for each issue	Nil received.
Salinity management	Implementation and periodic review of Regional Salinity Management Plans (RSMP) and Land and Water Management Plans (LWMP)	RSMP and LWMP completed RSMP and LWMP periodically reviewed RSMP and LWMP include annual actions to be implemented	The Soil Health Strategy was approved by the Board in July 2014. The Strategy incorporates the Regional Salinity Plan.
	Progress against annual action targets	All annual RSMP and LWMP actions and targets achieved	5 of 6 annual actions and 5 of 6 targets from the RSMP were achieved.
	Develop regional salinity targets and corresponding works programs in accordance with the Murray Darling Basin Salinity Agreement (for applicable CMAs only)	All annual salinity targets and works programs achieved	Not applicable.
	Annual report on the allocation and update of salt disposal entitlements submitted to the responsible Minister	By 31 July annually or as otherwise requested by the Responsible Minister	Not applicable.
Regional Landcare groups, networks and other community groups	Deliver the Regional Landcare Support Strategy, including coordination of Landcare at a regional scale	Evaluate and revise the strategy every five years	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy 2012-2018 was ratified by the Board on 14 December 2012 and is in the process of being implemented.

## Overview

This Condition and Management Report is based on the thematic asset classes, defined in the RCS:

- Community participation
- Rivers and floodplains
- Wetlands
- Estuaries
- Coasts
- Marine
- Terrestrial habitat
- Species populations and communities
- Soil and land

It should be acknowledged that while management highlights have been attributed to a particular asset class, many address multiple themes – thereby achieving multiple benefits. One such project is the development of the Regional NRM Plan for Climate Change.



ABOVE: Hopkins River Mouth (courtesy Darren Harris)

## Regional Catchment Strategy Implementation

*The Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2013-2019 is the primary planning framework for land, water and biodiversity management within the Glenelg Hopkins region; and is an important building block in improving the condition of these resources over time. It provides an integrated framework for investing in and prioritising on-ground works and NRM projects within the region.*

An asset-based approach was used to develop the RCS, providing a structured process to identify areas for priority attention and to achieve targeted outcomes.

Assets were defined using eight asset classes: rivers, wetlands, estuaries, coasts, marine, terrestrial habitat, species populations and communities, and soil and land. Objectives and management actions have been set for the entire region across these eight asset classes, as well as for community participation. The objectives are long-term (20 years) and provide the broad direction for future action, while short-term (6 years) management actions have been set for achievement within the life of the RCS.

Strong partnerships with the community, individuals and organisations have been key to the successful delivery of RCS actions over the past 12 months; and good progress continues to be made on RCS implementation. Of the 112 RCS management measures, 70 per cent were implemented in 2014/15. 85 per cent of 2014-15 projects have occurred in one of the six priority areas for intervention identified in the RCS; exceeding the regional target of 70 per cent.

Implementation of the RCS has been supported through a number of funding sources, including the Australian Government's Caring for Our Country / National Landcare Programme and State Government Victorian Waterways Program Investment Framework; the CMAs main sources of project funding for 2014-15. The Victorian Landcare Grants Program has provided important funding for on-ground works across the region, and also provided maintenance grants to existing groups. Projects funded through the Victorian Landcare Program have helped support the achievement of a number of community participation actions in the RCS, including the implementation of the Regional Landcare Support Strategy and annual events such as the Regional Landcare Gathering held at Hawkesdale.

Two key RCS actions were completed in 2014-15: the Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Strategy 2014-19 and the Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-22. Both sub-strategies were completed in July 2014, and support the implementation of the RCS.

Another major focus for 2014-15 has been the development of the Glenelg Hopkins NRM Plan for Climate Change, which relates to four RCS management actions, and is scheduled for completion in February 2016. The plan will support the CMA in responding and adapting to climate change by guiding the development and prioritisation of mitigation and adaptation actions and pathways.

As part of the development of the plan, the CMA has been involved in the Southern Slopes Climate Change Research Partnership (SCARP). The SCARP group has identified current best practice and innovative adaptation planning which the CMA will apply to planning approaches within the CMA context.

The RCS identifies a number of key focus areas to improve ecosystem resilience in a changing climate. These focus areas and related project highlights for 2014-15 include:

Key focus area	Project highlights
Maintaining and re-establishing ecosystem functions in large landscape-scale biolinks maintaining and improving the quality of existing habitats.	Major progress has been made on a number of large landscape scale initiatives including the South West Biolinks project, the Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink and the Victorian Environmental Partnerships Program projects (extending across the Upper Glenelg catchment and north through the Wimmera with 992 ha of land relevant to the Glenelg Hopkins region).
Reducing pest plants and animals threats.	Major regional projects that are contributing to pest animal control include: Glenelg Ark Fox Control (DELWP), Grampians Ark Fox Control (Parks Vic), Good Neighbour Program (DELWP), and the Judas Carp project (GHCMA). Projects that are contributing to pest plant control include: the SW Biolinks Project, Glenelg River Protection works, Fiery Creek Waterway Action Plan, Coastal Tender, Victorian Volcanic Plain Stewardship Program, Yambuk Waterway Action Plan, Habitat Tender, DELWP Threatened Flora and Fauna Program.
Improving habitat condition for threatened species.	Habitat condition for threatened species is being improved by a number of key initiatives including: the Victorian Volcanic Plain Stewardship Program, SW Biolinks project, Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink project, Linear Grassland Reserve Conservation and Connectivity across the Victorian Volcanic Plain, DELWP Threatened Flora and Fauna Program, Trust for Nature Covenants, and the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo project.
Making the best use of environmental water.	Delivery of the Environmental Water Program contributes significantly to this focus area. Delivery of environmental water was supported through the development of a Seasonal Watering Proposal and the Glenelg River Environmental Water Management Plan.
Reducing the threat of soil acidification and salinity and improving the capability of regional soils.	This focus area has been addressed primarily through delivery of the CMA's Sustainable Agriculture Program and DEDJTR's Land Health Program. These programs focus on increasing landholder awareness, knowledge and skills to manage soil and land resources sustainably as well as establishing projects with key regional partners.

The RCS also aims to improve preparedness for and resilience to future floods. In the past 12 months this has been supported through:

- Assessment of proposed development on land that is liable to flooding
- Development and housing of flood information for the region in order to improve overall knowledge of flood behavior
- Commencement of the Ararat Flood Investigation
- Partnerships with Moyne and Glenelg Shire Councils leading to the implementation of flood controls in municipal planning schemes for four townships.

# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

## Management highlights:

### *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 funded by the Federal Government until 2018. A key focus is to support Indigenous people to build capacity, knowledge and skills, where appropriate, for resource management in the catchment.

#### **Key activities for 2014-15:**

- Junior Ranger program developed and delivered in schools by the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation with the support of Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- Landholders engaged through the 'Yarns on Farms' extension program in collaboration with the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation
- Delivery of a mentoring and secondment program between government agencies, research institutions, Indigenous groups and Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- Supporting the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation to develop a long-term land and sea country plan
- Progress towards development of a Partnership Statement between Gunditj Mirring and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

### *Supporting Landcare*

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. The RLC also manages the Landcare grants program. The program, funded by the Victorian Government, provided approximately \$183,000 for landholders to protect priority wetlands, riparian areas and terrestrial vegetation, as identified through state and regional priorities.

#### **Achievements included:**

- More than 22 km of fencing
- Protection of 6.7 km of river
- More than 22,000 trees planted
- Over 24 ha of wetlands protected
- 26 engagement and capacity building events
- More than 53 ha of revegetation.

Administration grants were allocated to 36 Landcare and natural resource management groups and three networks to assist with insurance and administration costs.



ABOVE: South West Landcare Forum 2014 Chef Marc Oliver



ABOVE: GHCSMA Landcare Team: Mike Rees, Tony Lithgow, Kellie Nilsson and Dion Borg

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

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

The RLF is supporting 11 projects, involving 10 Landcare and community groups, more than 150 active members and 5 industry organisations.

### **Woodland Bird Monitoring Sessions**

This activity was funded by the Federal Government as a component of the CMA's Threatened Species and Communities programs. The general community was engaged in ongoing woodland bird monitoring, the collection of data on woodland birds and communicated the value of habitat for woodland birds. The first monitoring event was well supported through the Pannyabyr Landcare Group. In total 58 species were identified across 6 sites.

### **Bioscan**

This baseline flora and fauna survey (Bioscan) hosted by DELWP aims to increase knowledge of flora and fauna in two target grassy woodland areas. Over 65 community members participated in the survey. The project has increased the skills of regional Landcare groups and landholders in fauna identification and improved their knowledge of woodland values.

### **TEXT-A-CARP**

This project invites members of the public to text using SMS technology, any observations of carp in the Glenelg River. This data enables the recovery of tagged fish and the recording of non-tagged fish. TEXT-A-CARP also provides the opportunity for Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff to inform members about carp movements and the results of the project.

### **Red Gum Shield Carp Fishing Competition**

The Balmoral Angling Club hosted the first annual Red Gum Shield carp fishing competition at Harrow. Six fishing clubs were represented by 75 anglers in the competition for the Shield. The Shield, along with a cash prize, was won by the Casterton Angling Club for catching 25 of the total haul of 87 carp in the competition.

### **'Coastal Connections' Newsletter**

'Coastal Connections' newsletter emails have been widely distributed to coastal groups, agencies and key stakeholders on a bi-monthly basis to effectively promote coastal programs, volunteer opportunities and estuary management.

**CONDITION STATEMENT:**

*The Glenelg Hopkins community plays an integral role in the delivery of natural resource management actions and the maintenance and improvement of natural assets. 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, the CMA's partnership projects and participation at community forums and field days over the last decade.*

*The Glenelg Hopkins region was found to have high participation rates in both Federal and Victorian Government NRM projects in a 2011-12 Australian Bureau of Statistics survey, reflecting the strength of regional partnerships. The region also had a higher proportion of farming businesses using Glenelg Hopkins CMA as a source of information and advice compared to the State average for regional NRM organisations. The proportion of regional farmers that had indicated an improved understanding of land management and environmental issues was also high, when compared to the State average.*

*Traditional Owner groups and Indigenous communities continue to play a central role in regional land management. For example, the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Corporation manages significant parcels of land of high environmental, historical and cultural value, which form part of the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape.<sup>i</sup>*

*A wide range of programs centered on cultural heritage, culturally sustainable development and Indigenous ecological knowledge are working towards maintaining and improving partnerships and outcomes for communities within the region.<sup>ii</sup>*

*Waterways in the region have benefited from strong community involvement. Individual land managers (often in conjunction with Landcare groups, community groups or with assistance from the CMA) undertake works that both protect waterway values and assist in farm management. In 2009, the My Victorian Waterway Survey showed that respondents in the Hopkins basin had the highest level of participation in waterway improvement activities across Victoria.<sup>iii</sup>*



ABOVE: GHCMA Environmental Awards Recipients Kevin Sparrow, Justin Weaver, Mark Grimshaw, Leila Huebner with CEO Kevin Wood

## Management highlights:

### Works Crew

In 2014-15 the CMA continued to deploy a small works crew to undertake priority waterway restoration works in conjunction with landholders, community groups and local government across the Glenelg Hopkins region. The crew undertook fence maintenance, revegetation, debris cleanup and weed control. In addition, re-engagement with landholders and undertaking maintenance works strengthened partnerships and enhanced previously funded project sites.

### Works Crew achievements include:

- Rubbish removal on the Glenelg Estuary
- 7.7 km of environmental fencing
- 25.6 ha of non-woody weed control
- 81 ha of woody weed control
- 2 ha revegetation.

### Glenelg River Protection Works

Maintenance of previously funded on-ground works is a key principle of the Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy. This project is undertaking works to protect, restore and maintain priority waterway assets in the Lower and Upper Glenelg Waterway Management Areas. It is building on community interest and engagement in areas that have previously been the focus of Waterway Action Plans and Catchment Action Plans. A total of 21 projects were approved and funded. Achievements to date include: 68 kilometers of fencing, 204.9 hectares of weed control and 355 hectares of grazing regime change. Revegetation works will be undertaken in Spring and it is anticipated they will cover 183 hectares.

### Wannon Waterway Action Plan

A Waterway Action Plan is being developed for priority reaches in the Wannon River Waterway Management Area. This area provides important habitat for listed species such as Dwarf Galaxis, Growling Grass Frog, Yarra and Variegated Pygmy Perch and Broilgas, and forms an important biolink connecting the Wannon Reserve and the Grampians National Park. A final report will be presented to the community and landholders will be invited to lodge expressions of interest for on-ground works following confirmation of additional funding.

### Fiery Creek Waterway Action Plan

The Fiery Creek Waterway Action Plan is protecting and restoring waterway assets for Fiery Creek in the Upper Hopkins basin. In 2014-15 efforts built on community interest and partnerships established in the previous year with a coordinated cross tenure approach involving landholders, DELWP (Good Neighbour Program), local government (Pyrenees Shire Council and Ararat Rural City Council), the Beyond Bolac Community Action Group and the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group.

Projects have been developed with landholders to achieve a total of 81.6 ha assessed and targeted for woody weed control to date.



ABOVE: Fiery Creek Water Hole

### Woody Habitat and Sand Monitoring

Previous in-stream habitat works in the Glenelg River have included sand extraction and large wood installation. Monitoring of these works during this year has reduced community risk from potential movement of historic large wood installations. Despite high flows during 2014-15, large placements have not moved from their locations mapped in the 2012 survey. In addition, significant variation in bed morphology has been observed, indicating an increase in aquatic habitat and river health.



ABOVE: *Glenelg River Carp Management*

### **Carp Management and Control**

The CMA, in collaboration with the South Australian Research and Development Institute, has established an acoustic tracking array to monitor the movement of 131 tagged “Judas” carp across 300 river kilometres of the Glenelg River using 26 acoustic stations. The largest river carp tracking project in Australia; the study is designed to determine which factors stimulate behaviours such as large-scale movement, passage through migration bottlenecks and spawning or overwintering aggregations. These observations inform site selection for the most effective carp removal.

An array of targeted carp harvesting techniques are utilised. During the first harvest in December 2014, 462 kg of carp were removed from the waterway at 4 sites.

### **Environmental Water Management**

The Environmental Water Program contributes to the protection and maintenance of the ecological values of the Glenelg River by optimising available water resources to meet the strategic priorities of the Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy and the annual objectives of the Seasonal Watering Proposal. 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 15,499 ML. Passing flow obligations at Rocklands Reservoir contributed 5,219 ML toward the health of the Glenelg River.

Priorities through 2014-15 were refined as a result of prevailing dry conditions. Ecological objectives included:

- salinity maintained within target range at key sites
- continued improvement in the distribution and abundance of native fish
- riparian vegetation condition maintained despite dry conditions.

Management of environmental water continued to improve with new knowledge including:

- flow requirements of the Glenelg River between Moora Moora Reservoir and Rocklands Reservoir
- management of cease to flow conditions below Rocklands Reservoir
- improved risk management approaches
- consolidation of knowledge through the draft Environmental Water Management Plan
- creation of the Western Rivers Advisory Group to help share water between the Glenelg and Wimmera Rivers.

### **Floodplain and Waterway Management – statutory functions**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has the responsibility to deliver waterway and floodplain management functions as stated in the Statement of Obligations issued under the *Water Act 1989*. Assessments of proposed works on designated waterways are undertaken to ensure that the waterway health impacts are minimised by issuing licences with specific conditions.

The floodplain management function provides assessment of proposed development on land that is liable to flooding, or any land for which a person requests flood information. The CMA also has responsibilities to develop and hold flooding information for the region in order to improve overall knowledge of flood behavior in our region and in Victoria, and make it available for the community.

### **Ararat Flood Investigation**

This project is being delivered in partnership with Ararat Rural City Council, the Victorian and Federal Governments. The objective of the flood investigation is to develop flood and planning information for Ararat. It also includes the stormwater network to aid Council in identifying “hot-spots” where work on the stormwater system could be beneficial for stormwater flooding. The information from this project will provide intelligence for planning and responding to flood events, consider mitigation options and enable a planning scheme amendment to avoid development in flood prone areas.

### **Council Partnerships and Implementation of Flood Controls**

Partnerships with Moyne and Glenelg Shire Councils have seen flood controls implemented in municipal planning schemes for four townships across the region using the best available flood information.

The four townships covered by amended municipal planning schemes are:

- Port Fairy
- Casterton
- Portland
- Narrawong

### **CONDITION STATEMENT**

*The condition of waterways in the region varies from excellent to very poor, reflecting the level of modification and types of use. Waterways in near natural condition with high environmental values are generally in National and State Parks. Highly modified waterways are typically in urban areas or areas of intensive agriculture. These waterways do however, often support economic values and recreational activities.*

*The environmental condition of rivers in Victoria is assessed using the Index of Stream Condition (ISC).<sup>iv</sup> The third ISC report provides a summary of river health using data collected over a six-year period from 2004-10. ISC3 showed that stream condition varied considerably between the three basins in the Glenelg Hopkins region, with streams in the Glenelg basin being in best condition. 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 in moderate condition (68 per cent and 84 per cent respectively). The majority of stream length in the Hopkins basin was in poor condition (38 per cent) or very poor condition (56 per cent). This result is generally due to modified flow regimes, degraded riparian vegetation, poor bank condition and low water quality from elevated nutrients and salinity.*

*It should be noted that the 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.*

# WETLANDS

## Management highlights:

### *Wetland Management and Protection on Private Land*

Wetland management and protection on private land continues to be supported within the Glenelg Hopkins region through two Federal Government funded projects - Coastal Connections and Threatened Species and Communities. Works generally include fencing, reduced grazing pressure, weed control and, in some cases, revegetation. All projects involve multi-year agreements with landholders.

In 2015, the Coastal Tender program continued to fund protection and works on 47 ha of coastal and estuarine wetlands. A further 61 ha of mainly estuarine wetlands are in the process of being signed up through the Coastal Stewardship project, with management agreements written.

On the Victorian Volcanic Plains, 287 ha of critically-threatened Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands have management plans and associated agreements developed as part of the VVP Stewardship Round 2.

### *Gooseneck, Brady and Long Swamps Restoration*

Wetland restoration is a key goal in the new Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy. Nature Glenelg Trust has undertaken a number of wetland restoration projects with Parks Victoria, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, plantation companies, community groups and landholders. Three key projects include Gooseneck Swamp, Brady Swamp and Long Swamp. Hydrology has been restored in a number of wetlands, mainly through temporary or permanent blocking of outflowing artificially-constructed drains.

## CONDITION STATEMENT:

*The Glenelg Hopkins region has more than 5,400 wetlands, covering 73,000 ha or 3 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>v</sup> 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>vi</sup>*

*The Index of Wetland Condition (IWC) was developed by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) in November 2005 to measure the condition of wetlands across Victoria. The IWC measures aspects of a wetland's soils, water, plants and its catchment. DEPI coordinated an IWC assessment of wetlands in Glenelg Hopkins region in 2009 (see table below).*

*The assessment revealed that the majority of the wetlands surveyed were in good to excellent condition with the exception of meadows. Meadows are dry for extended periods and 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 fringing vegetation, impacts on hydrology and affects natural processes.*

**Wetland condition of selected wetlands based on 2009 IWC scores**

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

## Management highlights:

### *Yambuk Waterway Action Plan*

The Yambuk Waterway Action Plan was developed during 2014. This Plan focused on private and public land and waterways contributing to the health of the Yambuk Lake coastal wetland complex. 24 landholders and 58 associated properties were identified and assessed for waterway and remnant coastal habitat values. Rapid assessments and landholder discussions identified key values and threats across the 5,140 ha target area. 1,359 ha of remnant vegetation were mapped within the target area and of this, 755 ha (56 per cent) were assessed as having high threat weed species present. An "All About Yambuk" community workshop, attended by over 40 community members, presented the general findings of the WAP and opportunities to implement the Plan's recommendations.

Implementation of priority works in the Plan will see 1.23 km of waterway protected and enhanced through fencing, 1.5 ha of native revegetation works and the creation of two off-stream stock watering points, and 7 ha of priority weed treatment. Over 4,000 litres of rubbish were also removed from the Yambuk Lake estuary during a 'Litter Clean-up Day' with 20 participants removing rubbish from 500 m of very high value estuarine wetland vegetation.

### *Estuary Entrance Management*

The CMA's Estuary Entrance Management Program supported the coordination of estuary management and the ongoing monitoring of physicochemical parameters of the Glenelg, Surry, Fitzroy, Yambuk, Merri and Hopkins Estuaries. The CMA continued the population and utilisation of the Estuary Entrance Management Support System (EEMSS) to inform estuary entrance management decisions, development of Works on Waterways permits, liaising with land managers responsible for openings and communicating decisions to community members and key stakeholders.

The development of Estuary Opening Memoranda of Understanding for the above 6 estuaries has strengthened the CMA's working relationship with key stakeholders, assisted in clarifying key roles and responsibilities through formal documentation.



ABOVE: Glenelg Hopkins CMA in conjunction with the Green Army, Basalt to Bay Landcare Network and Yambuk Lake Angling Club representatives coordinated removing over 4,000 litres of rubbish from the Yambuk Lake Estuary

### *Merri River Pontoon and Habitat Hotspot*

The first of two floating jetties is open to the public. This project is funded by Victorian recreational fishing license fees and delivered by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA in partnership with Warrnambool City Council. The floating jetty provides a stable fishing platform that is accessible at different water levels. Revegetation and woody weed removal will also be undertaken in this project.

In addition, the Federal Government funded the installation of rocks to create a fish 'habitat hotspot' in the same section of the estuary. Recent fish surveys conducted by Arthur Rylah Institute have shown that the popular angling species black bream, estuary perch and mullet all use this section of river.

The rocks will increase fish habitat to benefit these species and will also increase habitat diversity for other aquatic animals.

### **CONDITION STATEMENT:**

*Several estuaries are recognised as nationally and internationally significant for their environmental value. The proximity of estuaries to coastal settlements exposes them to high levels of recreation and social use. Predicted population growth in coastal areas will increase development pressure, particularly along waterways. The high value of coastal agricultural land will contribute to the pressure on coastal land, including land adjacent to estuaries.*

*A Victorian Index of Estuary Condition (IEC) is currently in development and methods for assessing the health of Victoria's estuaries are being trialled. The IEC will identify aspects of the estuary that are suitable for measuring ecological condition in a consistent and systematic manner.*



ABOVE: Merri River Estuary

## Management highlights:

### Coastal Community Grants

Ten community groups were supported through Coastal Connections grants over two years to deliver a range of on-ground activities including pest plant and animal control, revegetation works, fauna surveys and litter clean-up activities. All projects included community engagement activities which promoted values associated with the coastal environment.

To date, over 50 different activities and events have been delivered which have engaged 26 groups and over 1,000 people. Over 60 items of communication have also been developed through group activities ranging from newspaper articles, social media posts and on-line blogs, event posters and a short promotional YouTube clip.

### Coastal Habitat Protection

The Coastal Habitat Protection Program aims to improve the protection of endangered native coastal and estuarine vegetation by providing management plans and financial incentives to land managers to protect and manage remnant vegetation on their properties. Two different funding mechanisms were used to provide incentives; Coastal Tender and Coastal Stewardship. Both provide best practice management activities to landholders. Under Coastal Tender, landholders submitted their own price for the delivery of the prescribed works that are protecting remnant coastal habitat. Only the sites offering best value for money were funded. Sites that protect critically endangered Coastal Saltmarsh were offered set rates under Coastal Stewardship. An area of 234 ha of good quality remnant coastal habitat is being protected through ten year agreements as at 30 April 2015.



### DELWP Coastal Threatened Flora and Fauna Program

This project is implementing specific high priority actions in the National Recovery Plan Actions for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) database within the coastal zone and adjacent areas, including the recently EPBC nominated Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Community.

#### Activities for 2014-15 include:

- Population monitoring for Mellblom's Spider-orchid, Limestone Spider-orchid, Coast Dandelion, Maroon Leek-orchid and Metallic Sun-orchid
- Post-fire response assessment of Metallic Sun-orchid
- Grazing regime change
- Community groups supported to deliver protection/propagation activities for threatened coastal orchids.

## CONDITION STATEMENT:

*The coastal zone encompasses a number of values including estuarine health, wetland health, extent of native vegetation and the presence of threatened species.*

*Based on these considerations, it could be determined that overall, the coastal environment is under extreme pressure and may be considered to be in marginal condition. Some specific areas may be considered to be in marginal to good condition but generally this would be related to the protection that is afforded to them (for example areas of National Park).*

*A key challenge for improving or merely maintaining the condition of the coastal zone is coastal development.*

*Where areas of the coastline are under high demand and subject to development pressures, coastal habitats tend to gradually fragment or are lost. The likely impacts of climate change will add further challenges and pose serious impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem health.*

*LEFT: Thunder Point Coastal Reserve, Warrnambool*

# MARINE

## CONDITION STATEMENT:

*The Glenelg Hopkins marine environment provides a range of ecosystem services and is critical habitat for a number of rare and threatened species.*

*Marine National Parks and sanctuaries recognise and protect important marine habitats and species, cultural heritage and aesthetic values. Areas formally recognised within the region include the Discovery Bay Marine National Park and the Merri Marine Sanctuary.*

*These areas have been established under the National Parks Act 1975. In addition, special management areas have been identified at Cape Bridgewater, Lawrence Rocks, Portland Bay, Deen Maar Island and Logans Beach.*

*Key marine areas and associated threats were identified for western Victoria as part of the Western Marine Assets Identification Project. This work provides a foundation for future investigations of marine condition. However, there are challenges in describing and monitoring marine condition given the highly dynamic nature of the environment, and our limited understanding of marine biota and its response to threats that often act over large spatial scales.*

*For these reasons it is also challenging to measure the effectiveness of regulations in place to mitigate the impact of some threatening activities on the marine environment.*



ABOVE: Portland Harbour (courtesy Vin Gannon)

## Management highlights:

### *VVP Stewardship Program*

Payments were offered to landholders to protect nationally-significant ecological communities on the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP). Payments in the 10-year program varied, depending on the environmental value of the site and the extent of management actions to be undertaken to permanently protect the grassland. The stewardships protected 404 ha of grasslands on nine sites.

The Grassland Monitoring Framework developed by the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI), in collaboration with Trust for Nature (TfN), will assist with managing grassland communities by guiding the implementation of management activities.

The project also supported a VVP extension officer to work with local government, landholders, agencies, CFA, power companies and Federal Government compliance staff to increase awareness of grassland communities and encourage a cross-tenure approach to grassland protection.

### *South West Biolinks Project*

The South West Biolinks Project will invest \$2.5 million over six years to create biodiverse carbon sinks in the Glenelg Bioregion. Working with a range of regional partners, the project will improve connectivity of remnant vegetation on public and private land at five 'Biolink' sites. To date the project has achieved 25 ha of revegetation, 650 ha of remnant protection or enhancement and 860 ha of pest plant control.

### *Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink*

This project is aimed at improving the biodiversity connections along the Great Dividing Range between the Grampians and the Pyrenees. It is a collaboration between Project Platypus, Wimmera CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Victoria, Trust for Nature, Conservation Volunteers Australia and a number of local Landcare Groups. In the Glenelg Hopkins region the focus is in areas managed by the Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Network, the Ararat Landcare group and the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group.

#### **Achievements for 2014-15 include:**

- 85 ha of remnant vegetation protected
- 60 ha of revegetation
- 3 km of waterways fenced
- 10 km of revegetation fenced
- 27,400 plants established.

### *Habitat Tender*

The Victorian Environment Partnerships Program (VEPP) provided funding to Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Wimmera CMA to undertake a joint Habitat Tender across the Upper Glenelg catchment and north through the Wimmera to the desert parks. The project saw 22 landowners in the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region awarded contracts to undertake environmental works on 992 hectares of property. Activities included weed control, revegetation and fencing of environmentally sensitive areas for stock control.

## CONDITION STATEMENT:

*Large sections of high conservation value native vegetation are secured through numerous parks and reserves within the south west and north of the catchment, however other vegetation is often fragmented, especially across private land.*

*Major parks and reserves in the region include the Grampians National Park, Lower Glenelg National Park, and Cobboboonee National Park and Forest Park.*

*Less than 18 per cent of the pre-European coverage of native vegetation within the region now remains. Of this amount, approximately 12 per cent occurs on Crown Land, and 5 per cent on private land. Intact areas of native vegetation are of particular importance, as they contain much of the region's rare ecological vegetation communities.*

*The Lower Glenelg, Cobboboonee and Grampians National Parks and the Black Range State Park contain most of the intact native vegetation and habitat within the catchment, but there are also important vegetation remnants on private land, especially along waterways.*

*Other important examples of remnant native vegetation can be found along roadsides. 25 per cent of all plant species listed under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988, and 45 per cent of the remaining Western (Basalt) Plains Grassland communities occur on roadside reserves.*

*Areas in the west of the region and around the Grampians have not experienced the same widespread clearing as elsewhere within the region, leaving a large reserve of remnant vegetation and an opportunity to connect vegetation across the landscape. Re-establishment of connectivity is important for building ecosystem resilience to the effects of climate change and improving the potential of plants and animals to disperse and adapt.*

# SPECIES POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

## Management highlights:

### *Bioscan*

Bioscan, delivered by DELWP, is an intensive survey of all species which is conducted at selected sites where knowledge gaps exist for EPBC listed species and communities. In 2014-15 Bioscans were conducted at six sites in two locations; Ararat and Pannyabyr. All sites underwent a thorough vegetation assessment and surveys for a suite of faunal groups using the most current and effective methodologies, involving both specialist and community input. This forms baseline information for evaluation and ongoing monitoring to gauge the success of on-ground works for flora and fauna dispersal.

### *Linear Grassland Reserve Conservation and Connectivity across the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP)*

Over a five year period DELWP is conducting strategic roadside grassland protection over 3,200 ha to enhance and maintain connectivity. Actions include habitat protection, strategic weed management and development and implementation of appropriate burning regimes. This will provide protection for the Golden Sun Moth, Striped Legless Lizard and a suite of threatened flora species.

DELWP will work closely with local CFA brigades and local government to enhance and improve management of linear reserves across the Victorian Volcanic Plain.

### *DELWP Threatened Flora and Fauna Program*

The DELWP Threatened Flora and Fauna Program implements specific high priority actions from the National Recovery Plan and Actions for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) database for threatened species across the VVP. Flora species include: Pretty Leek-orchid, Gorae Leek-orchid, Fragrant Leek-orchid, Basalt Rustyhood, Basalt Peppercross, Robust Spider-orchid, Candy Spider-orchid, Wrinkled Cassinia, Grampians Bitter-pea and Grampians Globe-pea. Actions focus on threat mitigation, such as habitat enhancement (weed management and implementing sensitive fire regimes), supporting existing community networks, and conducting population and demographic monitoring protocols.

Actions for the Eastern Barred Bandicoot include the control of introduced animals, fence maintenance to exclude introduced predators, population monitoring, habitat management and involving the community in recovery activities.

### *Trust for Nature Covenants*

Covenants are a tool used in the Glenelg Hopkins region to deliver permanent protection of high-priority native vegetation, and coastal, wetland and riparian areas. The legally binding agreements are placed on the land title in perpetuity, which qualifies the area as being in the national reserve system.

During the course of 2014-15 covenants have provided permanent protection of 50 ha of nationally-significant ecological communities and two site management plans have been prepared for covenanted sites.

### *Grassland Monitoring*

A tiered monitoring approach for grassland protection has been developed and endorsed by DELWP and Trust for Nature. This has enabled Trust for Nature to establish a primary monitoring regime informed by paddock plans which deliver on-ground management triggers for covenanted properties. These management triggers engage and educate landholders, with more detailed (secondary and tertiary) monitoring to be undertaken to inform future management directions.

### *Red-tailed Black Cockatoo project*

The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Team and BirdLife Australia work across three NRM regions (Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Wimmera CMA and South East NRM Board (SA)) to coordinate and undertake the delivery of high-priority actions as identified in the National Recovery Plan. Three key activities include population monitoring, monitoring and mitigating threats, and community education, engagement and capacity building.

A focus has been on building community capacity to be involved in conserving and managing the Cockatoo across its habitat range (approximately 85,000 ha within Glenelg Hopkins CMA region).

The strong community engagement and education focus, using the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery as a flagship species, will also help improve and protect Stringybark and Buloke habitats used by numerous other fauna species.

## CONDITION STATEMENT:

The Glenelg Hopkins region has a high concentration of threatened species when compared with other areas of Victoria and Australia. The region is home to over 94 nationally listed threatened species including numerous endemic species, 3 nationally listed vegetation communities, and iconic species such as the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. The region is renowned for its floral values and supports more than 20 threatened species of orchid, with at least 10 listed nationally.

The ecosystems that provide habitat to threatened flora and fauna species and communities range from highly fragmented (Volcanic Plain) to largely intact (Grampians) and occur across private and public land.

Since 2003, a recovery program for 57 nationally or state-listed threatened species (47 flora and 10 fauna species) has been implemented across the Glenelg Hopkins region. These species range from the well-known Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby, Eastern-barred Bandicoot, Orange-bellied Parrot and Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo, to the little known Corangamite

Water Skink, Southern Bent-wing Bat, Basalt Greenhood, Portland Long-tongue Shell Orchid, Square Raspwort and the recently rediscovered Drunken Tussock-grass.

Priority actions such as threat abatement, habitat management and enhancement, and in some cases species reintroduction, have been implemented as part of the Glenelg Hopkins threatened species recovery program. Over the past 10 years these actions have stabilised the decline of most of the threatened species covered by this program.

The program has bridged numerous key knowledge gaps, such as species distributions, habitat requirements, life histories and behaviours. This knowledge is not only being used to boost species recovery and habitat management, it is contributing to other biodiversity programs, including fire and native vegetation management, major project developments, and waterways and wetland programs.



ABOVE: Upper Hopkins corridor across the landscape

# SOIL AND LAND

## Management highlights

### *Sustainable Agriculture*

The major aim of sustainable agriculture projects in Glenelg Hopkins CMA is to increase landholders awareness and knowledge of soil and land and how to improve productivity while protecting the soil resource. Projects were established with Victorian No-Till Farmers Association, Southern Farming Systems, WestVic Dairy, and DELWP to promote adoption of sustainable farm practices in cropping, dairy and broadacre grazing industries. Community groups were supported to host soil health events and undertake demonstration trials of innovative practices.

Monitoring land use change across the catchment was achieved through a biannual land use transect undertaken in partnership with DEDJTR. Paddocks under cropping have increased from 2 per cent to 12 per cent in Spring 2013 and 20 per cent in Spring 2014. Paddocks under permanent pasture have decreased by 5 per cent down to 70 per cent of paddocks monitored. Tree plantations represented 10 per cent of sites which is consistent with previous surveys.

### **Achievements include:**

- 121 farming entities adopted sustainable land management practices
- 13,872 ha under sustainable land management practices
- 19 farming entities trialled innovative land management practices
- 367 farming entities and 412 land managers improving knowledge and skills in managing our natural resources
- 74 regional community members increased leadership capacity
- 21 regional communities or groups increased engagement in natural resource management activities
- 2,500 community members increase awareness and understanding of the status of Australia's natural resources.



ABOVE: Site set up on Ewan Read's property near Streatham (courtesy Claire Moxham)



ABOVE: Aqua-till demonstration at the Grains Innovation Park to Glenelg Hopkins region farmers participating in the No-Till Experience Program

## CONDITION STATEMENT

The Glenelg Hopkins regional landscape is geologically diverse. The catchment contains 49 different soil types that vary in texture, structure, fertility and drainage characteristics. The resulting soils vary in suitability and capability for agricultural production and susceptibility to processes that would degrade soil health. More than 80 per cent of the region's soils have chemical or physical limitations affecting agricultural management for sustainable productivity and maximum recharge control. Limitations include nutrient deficiency, acidic topsoils, shallow soil profiles and poor soil structure.<sup>vii</sup>

More than 80 per cent of the region has been developed for agricultural use, primarily widespread grazing enterprises, cereal and oilseed cropping. A long history of agricultural production, together with the widespread removal of indigenous vegetation and rabbit infestations has contributed to a decline in the condition of regional soils.

The Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Strategy 2014-2019 provides a summary of soil condition at a regional level using a number of indicators:

- Dryland salinity – Estimated to affect more than 27,000 ha of the region. It impacts the region's agricultural production, water quality, river health, biodiversity and infrastructure
- Acidification – Most of the region has a high, inherent susceptibility to soil acidification, with an estimated 74 per cent of agricultural soils in the region strongly acidic. There is a risk of further soil acidification in parts of the region under agriculture, particularly in areas receiving more than 500mm of annual rainfall. The Glenelg Hopkins region has been identified in the 2013 Victorian State of the Environment Report as one of the Victorian NRM regions most at risk of soil acidification
- Wind and water erosion – While the actual condition status is unknown for the entire region, approximately 18 per cent has been estimated as having a high to very high inherent susceptibility to sheet and rill erosion and around 12 per cent for gully and tunnel erosion. Approximately 16 per cent of the region has been estimated as having a high to very high inherent susceptibility to wind erosion
- Decline of soil structure – While the actual condition status is unknown, 66 per cent of the region is considered highly susceptible to soil structure decline
- Waterlogging – In many areas waterlogging is a natural condition of the land, but in other parts it has been exacerbated by the clearing of native vegetation
- Water quality of streams – Degradation of soil and subsequent movement of soil through erosive processes (wind and water) can cause soil to become a threat to riparian health and degrade water quality. Along with threats of turbidity and sedimentation, movement of soil can carry urban and agricultural chemicals, salt and other pollutants. The Water Quality component of the 2010 ISC3 assessment considered total phosphorus, turbidity, salinity and pH. 21 of the region's 122 reaches were assessed for water quality, with results ranging from poor to excellent. Generally poorer results were observed for reaches associated with land that was cleared as opposed to reaches associated with land that was forested.



ABOVE: Precision planted canola (courtesy VicNoTill)

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES WITH ENVIRONMENT

*Relationships and communications 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 more than 16 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.

#### **2014-15 community engagement activities included:**

- promoting catchment management at industry events such as Hamilton Sheepvention and South West Dairy Field Days
- environmental and flood recovery projects in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia
- sponsoring and representation on the organising committee for the South West Soils Conference
- Landcare monthly e-newsletter and LandLife quarterly e-newsletter
- Provision of regular Environmental Water Bulletins
- Promoting sustainable use of waterways and fishing events such as the Red Gum Shield carp fishing competition, Warrnambool Offshore and Light Game Shipwreck Coast Fishing Classic, Rocklands Fishing Competition and South West Fishing Classic
- Sponsoring events such as Wannon Water National Water Week Competition, WestVic Dairy Awards and the 6th Biodiversity Across Borders Conference
- Building community capacity in management and monitoring of threatened Woodland Bird communities
- Providing opportunities for anglers to increase awareness of, and monitor Carp populations in the Glenelg River through TEXT-A-CARP.

#### **Community Advisory Group**

In 2014-15 the CMA established a new Advisory Group and recruited community and agency representatives. The Induction Meeting of was held on Friday 19 September 2014. Community members for this group are: Malcolm Rowe (Chair), Craig Oliver, Mark Bachmann, Graeme Ward, Justin Weaver, Singarayer Florentine, Jenny Emeny and indigenous representative Dennis Rose.

Agency representatives are provided by: DELWP, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Moyne Shire Council, Parks Victoria and WestVic Dairy.

Board representatives for this Group are: Directors Vin Gannon, Karen Wales and Ian Hastings.

The Advisory Group has received briefings on regional Landcare activities, environmental water and the Ramsar nomination process for the Glenelg Estuary and Long Swamp.

At the May 2015 meeting, the Advisory Group members received a briefing and participated in a workshop to contribute to the Glenelg Hopkins CMA NRM Plan for Climate Change Strategy. The members also provided feedback and contributed to the Environmental Water Program through the Seasonal Watering Proposal, the Environmental Water Management Plan and Communications Plan.

#### **Local Government Relations**

The Glenelg Hopkins region covers all or parts of 11 municipalities.

#### **Local government involvement in natural resource management is seen as a key strategic alliance that:**

- recognises the contribution of local government in this area
- supports local government and partner agencies in the continuous review of planning schemes
- identifies opportunities to partner in projects and activities
- enables the CMA to build the skills and capacity of local government to undertake NRM.

Collaborative partnerships between the CMA and regional municipalities ensure integrated and coordinated working arrangements, improved communications, a shared decision-making forum and a more productive planning and implementation environment for NRM.

In 2014-15 CEO Kevin Wood initiated a proactive liaison program with local government, identifying the core responsibilities of both agencies and pursuing opportunities for collaborative arrangements.

The CMA currently has an officer working with Warrnambool City Council on a part-time regular basis providing expertise in floodplain management and planning. 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's works crew regularly assists in activities such as fencing, spraying and weed removal for local government.

### Media

The media, particularly print, community newsletters 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 in connecting it with the community, greater effort is being directed toward communication through our website. Social media is also used, particularly Facebook and Twitter as a communications awareness-raising tool.

DELWP 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 93 per cent of the media coverage being favourable.

### Email, print and web newsletters

*Landlife* is a web-based email publication which highlights achievements of natural resource management in the Glenelg Hopkins region. The e-magazine has been distributed quarterly in 2014-15, with contributions from partner organisations broadening the content.

The Landcare team has improved communication 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. 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.

# OUR PEOPLE, OUR BUSINESS

## 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 Michael Wagg was re-appointed chairperson on October 1 2013 for a term of four years.

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

Key objectives for the Board are to:

- represent the interests of the community in natural resource management
- achieve integrated catchment management (as measured by improvement in resource condition)
- act as a steward for the natural resource base
- create effective partnerships
- develop appropriate action plans and support their implementation, including development of targets and measurement of achievement
- 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 Environment Climate Change and Water, the Hon Lisa Neville 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 Federal Governments to direct funding in the region for this purpose.

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

The 2015-16 to 2019-20 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.



ABOVE: Board Tour in Casterton with local representatives (courtesy Vin Gannon)

### Board Member Meeting Attendance

Name	Number of Meetings out of 9	Explanatory Note
Michael Wagg	9/9	Appointed to Board July 2009 Appointed Chairperson July 2011 Re-appointed Chairperson and to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
Roma Britnell	6/9	Appointed to the Board October 2011 to 30 September 2015
Michael Craig	7/9	Appointed to the Board October 2011 to 30 September 2015
Vin Gannon	7/9	Appointed to the Board October 2011 to 30 September 2015
Ian Hastings	9/9	Appointed to the Board November 2013 to 30 September 2017
Jason Ritchie	7/9	Appointed to the Board October 2011 to 30 September 2015
Debbie Shea	9/9	Appointed to Board July 2009 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
John Sherwood	8/9	Appointed to Board July 2009 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
Karen Wales	8/9	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 met four times in the 2014-15 year as required by its charter.

The committee's primary objective is to assist the Board to fulfil its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities (including decision making) in relation to financial reporting, management of risk, maintaining a reliable system of internal controls, internal and external audit functions and monitoring the organisation's compliance obligations.

#### The main focus of the committee for the 2014-15 year was:

- monitoring the development and implementation of the CMA's Compliance Framework; and
- overseeing the implementation of the CMA's rolling three-year Strategic Internal Audit Plan.

The committee comprises three Board Directors and two independent representatives, one being the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Graham Shiell. The other independent member is Peter Dryden.

Board representatives from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 were Michael Craig, Ian Hastings and Debbie Shea. Non-voting staff members are Business and Finance Program Manager Marie McDonald and executive officer Partnership and Investment Program Manager Michael Rees.

### *Remuneration and Performance Committee*

The Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee is Board Chairperson Michael Wagg and includes Board Directors Dr John Sherwood and Michael Craig.

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
- succession planning.

The executive officer (non-voting) is Business and Finance Program Manager Marie McDonald.

### *Investment and Funding Committee*

The Investment and Funding Committee Chair is Director Mike Wagg and includes Board Directors Roma Britnell, Debbie Shea, Jason Ritchie and Michael Craig. The executive officer is Chief Executive Kevin Wood.

#### **The committee advises the Board on:**

- developing high-level strategic investment processes that define investment priorities
- providing leadership and direction for Glenelg Hopkins CMA investment planning and advice to the staff Strategic Investment Group
- reviewing the annual investment plan.

## Board Directors

### Chairperson

**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.

### 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.

**Mrs Roma Britnell** is the owner of three dairy properties in western Victoria. She has an Advanced Diploma in Agriculture and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Roma is an active advocate for agriculture, she is Vice President of the United Dairy Farmers of Victoria, is on the National Dairy Council and is a board member of the Geoffery Gardiner Foundation.

**Mr Michael Craig** holds a degree in Commerce/ International Business and a Diploma in Financial Markets. He is a self-employed farmer at Harrow, along the Glenelg River. Michael is Vice President of the Victorian Farmers Federation Livestock Council, Treasurer of the South West Sire Evaluation Scheme and a councillor on the Sheepmeat Council of Australia. Michael is also a 2015 Nuffield Scholar sponsored by Meat & Livestock Australia looking at alternative price discovery models in the sheep meat supply chain.

**Mr Vincent Gannon** is a self-employed primary producer, with experience in fisheries and marine resource management and community engagement. He is the General Manager of Operations Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation that is involved in beef production across its properties in the Western district. Winda-Mara also manages a number of land management and environmental programs involving the Budj Bim Rangers and the Budj Bim National Heritage Landscape. He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

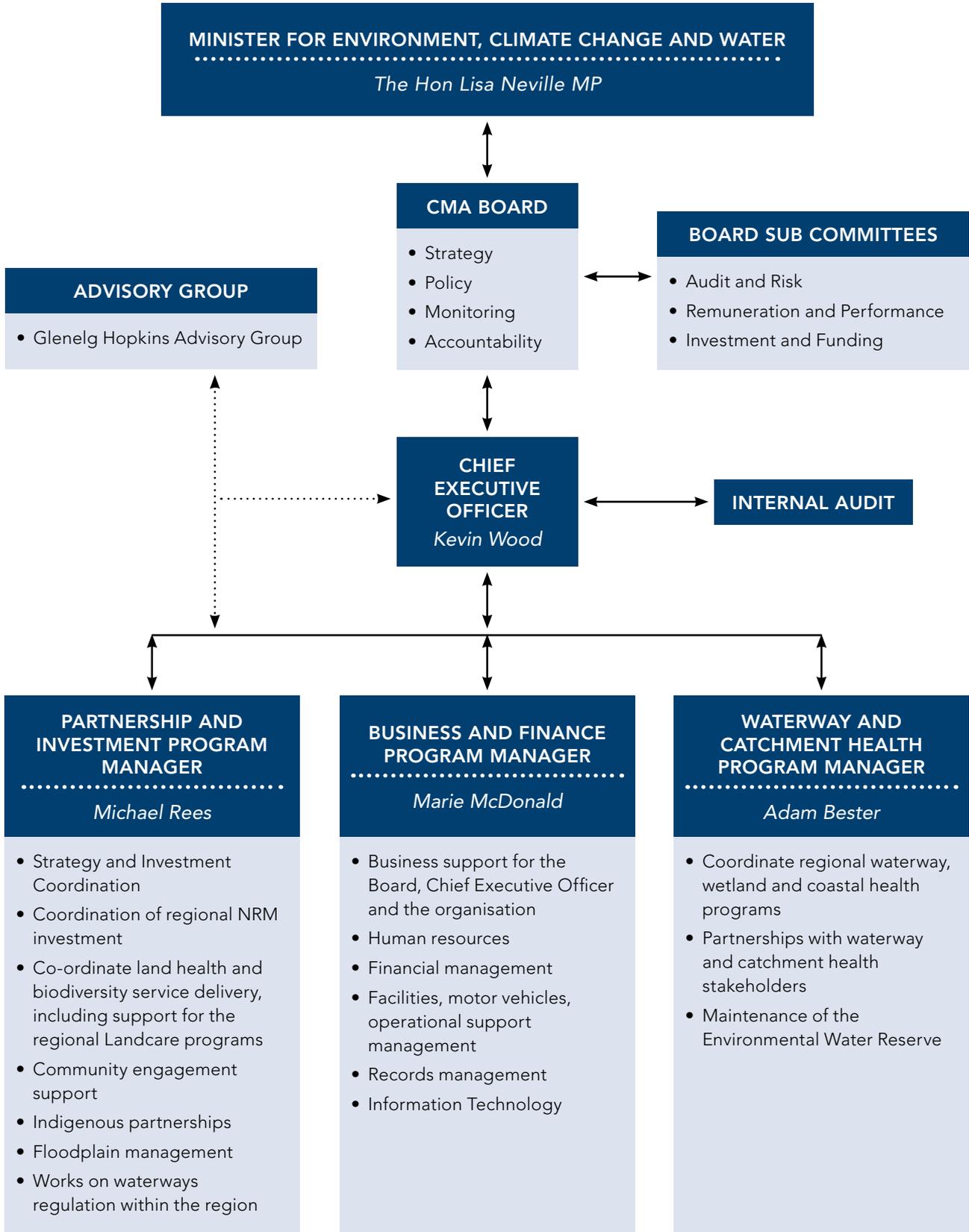
**Mr Ian Hastings** holds a Master of Science degree (University of California, Berkeley), a Bachelor of Science (Forestry) Honours degree (University of Melbourne), a Diploma of Forestry (Creswick) and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Ian retired from the Victorian Public 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.

**Mr Jason Ritchie** holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and is currently a property developer in Geelong. Previously Jason was a self-employed farmer of one of the largest cropping operations in south west Victoria.

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

**Ms 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, flood investigations and flood recovery programs.

#### 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 devolved grant and tender projects. 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 aims to encourage 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 culture and leadership development program
- Alignment of employee behaviours to agreed values and behaviours through performance reviews
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA supports 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 OH&S Committee meetings
- OH&S Committee training
- Review and revision of Safe Work Method Statements
- Workplace Inspections
- 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 2014-15.

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.

### Merit and Equity

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is committed to the Equal Employment Opportunity principles.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA staff are appointed following a comprehensive selection process. People are selected for vacancies and other employment opportunities solely on their merit. Merit is choosing people for the right reasons:

- attracting qualified people
- objective assessment against fair criteria
- selection for employment opportunities on individual ability.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA selects on merit for any opportunities that give one person an employment advantage over others, for example:

- selecting staff for appointment, transfer or promotion
- filling places on development and training programs
- determining staff projects
- rewarding good staff performance.

Women are represented in management roles within the CMA. One of three Program Managers and three of three senior management roles are held by women and 46 per cent of staff are women. The CMA employs an Indigenous Community Trainee.

### Work Cover claims

Measure	KPI	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
Incidents	No. of incidents	8	7	9
	Rate per 100 FTE	3.04	2.75	3.44
Claims	No. of lost time claims	0	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
Claims Cost	Average cost per standard claim	0	0	0

### 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

At the 30 June 2015 Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed 32.6 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in 2014-15 compared to 39.4 FTE staff in 2013-14.

	2014-15	2013-14
Executive Officers	4	5
Senior Managers	3	4
Administration Staff	7	11
Field Staff	23	24
Male	17.5	17.6
Female	15.1	21.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>39.4</b>

## Compliance and Disclosures

### National Competition Policy

Competitive neutrality seeks to enable fair competition between government and private sector businesses. Any advantages or disadvantages that government businesses may experience, simply as a result of government ownership, should be neutralised.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to implement and apply this principle in its business undertakings.

### 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 \$27.20.

#### Application

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received two requests for information during 2014-15 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members which were responded to in part and there were 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 members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC on the contact details provided below.

Please note that Glenelg Hopkins CMA is not able to receive protected disclosures.

#### 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 its website: [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/master-nav/about-ghcma/our-governance-structure/protected-disclosure-act-2012/](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/master-nav/about-ghcma/our-governance-structure/protected-disclosure-act-2012/)

### Contacts

#### Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption (IBAC) Commission

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, Michael Wagg, certify that Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has complied with the Ministerial Standing Direction 4.5.5 – Risk Management Framework and Processes.

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



Michael Wagg  
Chairperson

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

21 August 2015

### **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 2014-15.

There have been no cases of registered building practitioners becoming deregistered following work on buildings owned by Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

### ***Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003***

There were no tenders over \$1,000,000 entered into by Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2014-15.

### **Consultancies**

In 2014-15, there were 15 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2014-15 in relation to these consultancies was \$518,799 (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)

In 2014-15, there were 44 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2014-15 in relation to these consultancies was \$103,018 (excl. GST).

### **Major Contracts**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) during 2014-15.

### **Capital Projects**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA does not manage any capital projects.

### **Government Advertising Expenditure**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA expenditure in the 2014-15 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$150,000.

### 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*
- *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 DELP and the CMA; and
- Reflect an integrated and sustainable approach to catchment management.

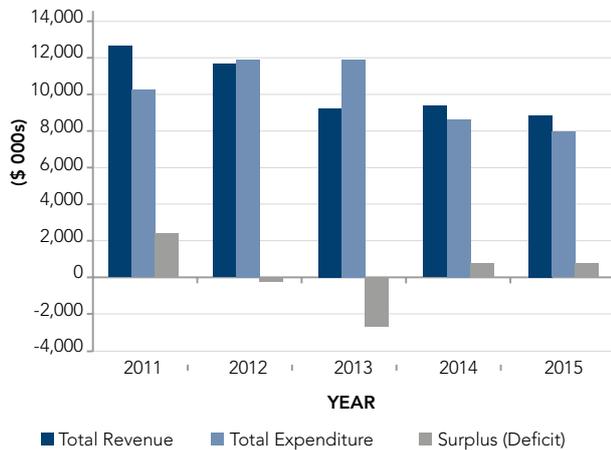
This Statement should be read in conjunction with, the Statement of Obligations for CMAs issued under the *Water Act 1989*, which identify additional objectives functions, powers and duties in waterway management, floodplain management and regional drainage conferred under Part 7 and Part 10.

## Environmental Report – Reducing our Environmental Impact

Objective	Measure	Use for 2012-13 (38.7 FTE)	Use for 2013-14 (39.4 FTE)	Use for 2014-15 (32.6 FTE)	2014-15 % ↑/↓ comparing prior 3-year averages	Quantity 2013-14	Quantity 2014-15	2014-15 % ↑/↓ comparing 1 year prior
Reduce Energy Use (Electricity)	kWh used per annum (x3 offices)	81,676	97,390	77,056	-16% ↓ Decrease	97,390	77,056	-24%
	kWh used per FTE per annum (x3 offices)	2,110.00	2,471.83	2,363.68	8% ↑ Increase	2,472	2,364	-4%
Reduce Paper Use	White A4 reams per annum	325	230	270	-1% ↓ Decrease	230	270	17%
	White A4 reams per FTE	8.4	5.84	8.28	25% ↑ Increase	6	8	42%
	White A3 reams per annum	9	3	0	-100% ↓ Decrease	3	0	-100%
	White A3 reams per FTE	0.23	0.08	0	-100% ↓ Decrease	0	0	-100%
Increase Paper Recycling	240 Litres recycled per annum	47	56	45	-4% ↓ Decrease	56	45	-20%
	240 Litres recycled per FTE	1.21	1.42	1.38	20% ↑ Increase	1.42	1.38	-3%
Reduce Toner Cartridges	Toner Cartridges consumed per annum	35	23	43	-5% ↓ Decrease	23	43	87%
	Toner Cartridges consumed per FTE	0.90	0.58	1.32	28% ↑ Increase	0.58	1.32	126%
Reduce Fuel Use	Fleet size	16	16	16	0% ↓ Decrease	16	16	0%
	Litres fuel consumed per annum	40,194	36,296	36,260	-12% ↓ Decrease	36,296	36,260	0%
	Litres fuel consumed per vehicle	2,475	2,269	2,266	-12% ↓ Decrease	2,269	2,266	0%
No. Flights Melbourne/Hamilton	One way flights	117	92	30	-71% ↓ Decrease	92	30	-67%
	One way flights per FTE	3.02	2.34	0.92	-63% ↓ Decrease	2.34	0.92	-61%
Reduced Water Consumption	Kls consumed 79 French St, Hamilton	111	92	89	-13% ↓ Decrease	92	89	-3%
	Kls consumed 84 French St, Hamilton	364	338	39	-85% ↓ Decrease	338	39	-88%
	Kls consumed 241 Lava St, Warrnambool	22	23	22	0% ↓ Decrease	23	22	-4%
	Overall Kls consumed per FTE	12.84	11.50	4.60	-53% ↓ Decrease	11.50	4.60	-60%

## Financial Compliance and Analysis

### Total Revenue and Expenditure 2014-15



### Major Changes or Factors Affecting Performance

No major changes impacted on the performance of Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2014-15.

### Significant Changes in Financial Position

In 2014-15, there were no significant changes in financial position. Glenelg Hopkins CMA's income was \$8.86 million and expenditure achieved was \$7.95 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:

2014-2015: \$180,000 - \$189,999

2013-2014: \$180,000 - \$189,999

### 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 (\$)	2015	2014
100,000 - 109,999		
110,000 - 119,999		
120,000 - 129,999		
130,000 - 139,999		3
140,000 - 149,999	2	
Total Executives	2	3
Annualised Employee Equivalent (AEE)	2.7	3.44
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$282,598</b>	<b>\$400,079</b>

### *Disclosure of grants and transfer 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 24 groups in 2014-15 for the purposes of supporting the administration of regional Landcare groups totalling \$10,000 and to 19 groups for implementing on-ground natural resource management projects totalling \$177,654.

2014-15 Victorian Landcare Grants Program recipients:

Group	Funding
Basalt to Bay Landcare Network	\$19,992
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	\$18,855
Bulart Land Management Group	\$2,010
Friends of the Great South West Walk	\$7,500
Friends of Yatmerone	\$300
Gazette Land Action Group	\$8,400
Hamilton to Coleraine Railway Line Landcare Group	\$14,950
Lyne, Camp & Arrandoovong Landcare Group	\$19,962
Making a Diffence (MAD) for the Merri	\$16,885
Mirranatwa Landcare Group	\$11,861
Nelson Coastcare Incorporated	\$1,633
Panyyabyr Landcare Group	\$11,950
Pierrepoint Land Protection Group	\$7,200
Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail Committee	\$500
Tarragal Landcare Group - Schools	\$2,861
The Trustee for Nature Glenelg Trust	\$10,000
UMEC - Burrumbeet Landcare Group	\$2,425
UMEC Landcare Network	\$9,069
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$11,300

## Certification to the Financial Statements

The attached financial statements for the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority have been prepared in accordance with 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 2015 and the financial position of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2015.

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

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 21 August 2015.



Michael Wagg  
Chairperson



Kevin Wood  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Accountable Officer)



Marie McDonald  
Business and Finance Program Manager

Dated: 21 August 2015

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Board Members, Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

#### *The Financial Report*

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015 of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority which comprises the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the accountable officer's and chief finance and accounting officer's declaration has been audited.

#### *The Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The board members of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, and for such internal control as the board members determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### *Auditor's Responsibility*

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

## Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

### *Independence*

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

### *Opinion*

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

MELBOURNE  
26 August 2015



John Doyle  
Auditor-General

## Comprehensive Operating Statement

for the financial year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Income from Operating Activities</b>			
Government contributions	4(a)	7,762,565	8,476,396
<b>Income from Non-Operating Activities</b>			
Interest	4(b)	154,914	147,070
Other income	4(b)	942,925	841,025
Net gain / (loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	4(c)	0	0
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>8,860,404</b>	<b>9,464,491</b>
<b>Expenses from Operating Activities</b>			
Depreciation	5(c)	85,157	86,378
Employee Costs	5(a)	3,769,808	3,834,718
Materials, Maintenance, Grants, Contracts and Consultancies	5(b)	3,173,857	3,591,516
Leases expenses		262,207	270,200
Other expenses		662,557	839,708
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>7,953,587</b>	<b>8,622,520</b>
<b>NET RESULT FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>906,817</b>	<b>841,971</b>
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be classified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus		68,437	
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE RESULT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>975,254</b>	<b>841,971</b>

The comprehensive operating statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Balance Sheet***as at 30 June 2015*

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	6,534,773	5,528,602
Receivables	8	260,785	248,388
Prepayments		12,900	18,763
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>6,808,458</b>	<b>5,795,753</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	1,310,717	1,300,933
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>1,310,717</b>	<b>1,300,933</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>8,119,175</b>	<b>7,096,686</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	10	576,775	498,688
Provisions & employee benefits	11	600,570	658,558
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>1,177,345</b>	<b>1,157,246</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Employee benefits	11	177,807	150,671
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>177,807</b>	<b>150,671</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,355,152</b>	<b>1,307,917</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>6,764,023</b>	<b>5,788,769</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed capital	12(a)	3,156,946	3,156,946
Reserves	12(b)	564,061	495,624
Accumulated funds	12(c)	3,043,016	2,136,199
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>6,764,023</b>	<b>5,788,769</b>

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	Accumulated Surplus/ (Deficit) \$	Contributed Capital \$	Reserves \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2013		1,294,224	3,156,946	495,624	4,946,794
Net result for the period	12(c)	841,971	0	0	841,971
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>		<b>2,136,195</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>	<b>495,624</b>	<b>5,788,765</b>
Net result for the period	12(c)	906,817	0	0	906,817
Other Comprehensive Income "Transfer of Increments/Decrements on Revaluation of Land and Buildings"	12(b)			68,437	68,437
<b>Balance at 30 June 2015</b>		<b>3,043,012</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>	<b>564,061</b>	<b>6,764,019</b>

The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Interest received		164,342	137,738
Net GST received from the Australian Taxation Office		131,994	183,279
Other income		891,123	1,591,140
Receipts from Government		7,660,548	8,377,438
		<b>8,848,007</b>	<b>10,289,595</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments to suppliers		4,004,248	4,588,987
Payments to employees		3,800,661	3,677,843
Financial Institution Charges		2,478	1,738
Net GST paid to the Australian Taxation Office		7,945	70,563
		<b>7,815,332</b>	<b>8,339,131</b>
<b>NET CASH (OUTFLOW) / INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	18	<b>1,032,675</b>	<b>1,950,464</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment	9(b)	(26,503)	(14,444)
<b>NET CASH (OUTFLOW) / INFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>(26,503)</b>	<b>(14,444)</b>
<b>NET INCREASE / (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD</b>		<b>1,006,172</b>	<b>1,936,019</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		5,528,602	3,592,583
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	7	<b>6,534,773</b>	<b>5,528,602</b>

The cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## NOTE 1

### Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) Basis of Accounting

##### (i) General

The financial report includes separate financial statements for the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (Authority) as an individual reporting entity. This financial report is a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and notes accompanying these statements for the period ending 30 June 2015.

The general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AASs), Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and applicable Ministerial Directions. The Authority is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied.

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

The annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Authority's Board on 21 August 2015.

##### The principal address is:

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority  
79 French Street,  
Hamilton, VIC 3300

##### (ii) Accounting policies

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

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

Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to align with current presentation and disclosure.

##### (iii) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in this financial report are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Authority operates ('the functional currency'). The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Authority's functional and presentation currency.

##### (iv) Classification between current and non-current

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be realised or paid. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be turned over within the next twelve months, being the Authority's operational cycle - see 1(l) for a variation in relation to employee benefits.

##### (v) Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the report have been rounded to the nearest dollar. Figures in the financial report may not equate due to rounding.

##### (vi) Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for the revaluation of financial assets, all certain classes of property, plant and equipment and investment property.

##### (vii) Accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with AASs requires the use of certain accounting estimates that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies.

The most significant accounting estimates undertaken in the preparation of this financial report relate to:

- estimation of useful lives
- the impairment of assets
- employee benefits
- accrued expenses and revenue.

**(viii) Financial Statement Presentation**

The Authority has applied the revised AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements which became effective for reporting periods beginning, on or after, 1 July 2014, and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures which became effective for reporting periods beginning on, or after, 1 July 2014.

**(b) Changes in accounting policies**

Subsequent to the 2013-14 reporting period, the following new and revised Standards have been adopted in the current period with their financial impact detailed as below.

**(i) AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements**

AASB 10 provides a new approach to determine whether an entity has control over an entity, and therefore must present consolidated financial statements. The new approach requires the satisfaction of all three criteria for control to exist over an entity for financial reporting purposes:

- (a) The investor has power over the investee;
- (b) The investor has exposure, or rights to variable returns from its involvement with the investee; and
- (c) The investor has the ability to use its power over the investee to affect the amount of investor's returns.

Based on the new criteria prescribed in AASB 10, the Authority has reviewed the existing arrangements to determine if there are any additional entities that need to be consolidated into the group. The Authority has concluded that there are no additional entities that have met the control criteria and has not been required to amend the financial statements.

**(ii) AASB 11 Joint Arrangements**

In accordance with AASB 11, there are two types of joint arrangements, i.e. joint operations and joint ventures. Joint operations arise where the investors have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities of an arrangement. A joint operator accounts for its share of the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. Joint ventures arise where the investors have rights to the net assets of the arrangement; joint ventures are accounted for under the equity method. Proportionate consolidation of joint ventures is no longer permitted.

The Authority has reviewed its existing contractual arrangements with other entities to ensure they are aligned with the new classifications under AASB 11. It has concluded that the existing classification for the current joint ventures remains appropriate and has not been required to amend the financial statements.

**(iii) AASB 12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities**

AASB 12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities prescribes the disclosure requirements for an entity's interests in subsidiaries, associates, joint arrangements and extends to the entity's association with unconsolidated structured entities.

The Authority does not have any interests in associates or joint ventures.

**(c) Revenue****(i) Fees and Charges**

Revenue is recognised when the services to which they relate have been provided.

**(ii) Government grants and contributions**

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. However, grants and contributions received from the Victorian State Government, which were originally appropriated by the Parliament as additions to net assets or where the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Water have indicated are in the nature of owners' contributions, are accounted for as Equity – Contributions by Owners in accordance with FRD 119A Transfers through Contributed Capital.

Grants from the government are recognised at their fair value where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the Authority will comply with all attached conditions.

**(iii) Interest**

Interest Income is recognised using the effective interest rate method, in the period in which it is incurred.

## NOTE 1

### Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (d) Expenses

##### (i) Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets

All non-current physical assets that have a limited useful life are depreciated. Where assets have separate identifiable components that have distinct useful lives and/or residual values, a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

Major depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year, unless otherwise stated:

Asset	2015	2014
Buildings	8 to 47	8 to 47
Plant and equipment	4 to 5	4 to 5
Furniture and office equipment	5 to 10	5 to 10
Motor vehicles	5	5

##### (ii) Employee Benefits

These expenses include all costs related to employment (other than superannuation which is accounted for separately) including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments and WorkCover premiums.

##### (iii) Superannuation

The amount charged to the Comprehensive Operating Statement in respect of superannuation represents contributions made or due by the Authority to the relevant superannuation plans in respect to the services of Authority 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 the Authority is required to comply with.

##### (iv) Repairs and maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold, the cost is capitalised and depreciated.

##### (v) Other expenses

Other costs which are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The carrying amounts of any inventories held for distribution are expensed when distributed.

##### (e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents recognised on the Balance Sheet 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 readily convertible to known amounts of cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value.

##### (f) Receivables

Receivables consist of:

- contractual receivables, such as debtors in relation to goods and services, accrued investment income; and
- statutory receivables, such as amounts owing from the Victorian Government and Goods and Services Tax (GST) input tax credits recoverable.

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

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

Contractual receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less an allowance for impaired receivables.

Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Collectability of contractual receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for doubtful debts 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. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The amounts credited to the provision are recognised as an expense in the comprehensive operating statement.

#### **(g) Prepayments**

Prepayments 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.

#### **(h) Recognition and Measurement of Assets**

##### **(i) Property, plant and equipment**

Property, plant and equipment represents non-current physical assets comprising land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment, furniture and office equipment and motor vehicles, used by the Authority in its operations. Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000 (2014 \$1,000) and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as an asset. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Where assets are constructed by the Authority, the cost at which they are recorded includes an appropriate share of fixed and variable overheads.

Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration by the Authority are recognised at fair value at the date of acquisition.

##### **(ii) Measurement of Non-Current Physical Assets**

All non-current physical assets are recognised initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment in accordance with the requirements of Financial Reporting Direction (FRD)103E Non-Current Physical Assets.

Revaluations are conducted in accordance with FRD 103E. Scheduled revaluation is undertaken every five years with an annual assessment of fair value to determine if it is materially different to the carrying value. If the difference to carrying value is greater than 10 per cent, a management revaluation is undertaken while a movement greater than 40 per cent will normally involve an Approved Valuer (usually the Valuer General of Victoria) to perform detailed assessment of the fair value. If the movement in fair value since the last revaluation is less than or equal to 10 per cent, then no change is made to carrying amounts.

Plant, equipment and motor vehicles are measured at fair value. For the plant, equipment and vehicles asset class, where the Authority is able to demonstrate that there is no evidence that a reliable market-based fair value (or other fair value indicators) exist for these assets, depreciated replacement cost could represent a reasonable approximation of fair value.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the comprehensive operating statement. When revalued assets are sold, it is the Authority's policy to transfer the amounts included in other reserves in respect of those assets to accumulated funds.

##### **(iii) Revaluations**

Revaluation increments are credited directly to equity in the asset revaluation reserve surplus/(deficit), except that, to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense in determining the net result, the increment is recognised as revenue in determining the net result.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as an expense in the net result, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of assets, they are debited to the asset revaluation reserve.

Revaluation increases and revaluation decreases relating to individual assets within a class of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are offset against one another within that class but are not offset in respect of assets in different classes.

Revaluation reserves are not transferred to accumulated surplus/(deficit) on derecognition of the relevant asset.

## NOTE 1

### Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (iv) Impairment of Assets

Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives are tested annually as to whether their carrying value exceeds their recoverable amount. All other assets are assessed annually for indicators of impairment, except for inventories.

If there is an indication of impairment, the assets concerned are tested as to whether their carrying value exceeds their recoverable amount. Where an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written-off by a charge to the Comprehensive Operating Statement except to the extent that the write-down can be debited to an asset revaluation reserve amount applicable to that class of asset.

The recoverable amount for most assets is measured at the higher of depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. It is deemed that, in the event of the loss of an asset, the future economic benefits arising from the use of the asset will be replaced unless a specific decision to the contrary has been made.

An impairment loss on a revalued asset is recognised directly against any revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation reserve for that same class of asset.

A reversal of an impairment loss on a revalued asset is credited directly to equity under the heading revaluation reserve. However, to the extent that an impairment loss on the same class of asset was previously recognised in the comprehensive operating statement, a reversal of that impairment loss is also recognised in the comprehensive operating statement.

#### (i) Operating Leases

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the lessor) are charged to the Comprehensive Operating Statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease, in the periods in which they are incurred, as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

#### (j) Financial Instruments

##### (i) Recognition

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value, plus in the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through profit and loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or the issue of the financial asset or liability. Subsequent to initial recognition, the financial instruments are measured as set out below:

##### (ii) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date which are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables are included in trade and other receivables and other receivables in the balance sheet. Loans and receivables are recorded at amortised cost less impairment.

##### (iii) Held to maturity investments

Held to maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Authority's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. If the Authority were to sell other than an insignificant amount of held to maturity financial assets, the whole category would be tainted and reclassified as available for sale. Held to maturity financial assets are included in non-current assets, except for those with maturities less than 12 months from the reporting date, which are classified as current assets. Any held-to maturity investments held by the Authority are stated at amortised cost.

**(iv) Fair Value**

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments.

Consistent with AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, the Authority determines the policies and procedures for both recurring fair value measurements such as infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and financial instruments and for non recurring fair value measurements such as assets held for sale, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 13 and the relevant Financial Reporting Directions.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

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

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, the Authority has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, the Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing 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.

The Valuer General Victoria (VGV) is the Authority's independent valuation agency in relation to valuation of property, plant and equipment.

The Authority in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

**(k) Payables**

Payables consist of:

- contractual payables, such as accounts payable and unearned income. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid, and arise when the Authority becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of those goods and services; and
- statutory payables, such as goods and services tax and fringe benefits tax payables.

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as financial liabilities 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 a contract.

The contractual payables are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

**(l) Employee Benefits**

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.

**(i) Wages and salaries and annual leave**

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non monetary benefits annual leave and accumulating sick leave, are all recognised in the provision for employee benefits as 'current liabilities', because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

Depending on the expectation of the timing of settlement, liabilities for wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave are measured at:

- undiscounted value if the Authority expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

## NOTE 1

### Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (ii) Long Service Leave

Liability for Long Service Leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

Unconditional LSL is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements as a current liability, even where the Authority does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value if the Authority expects to wholly settle within 12 months; and
- present value if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non current LSL liability is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an other economic flow.

#### (iii) Termination benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or when an employee decides to accept an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. The Authority recognises termination benefits when it is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

#### (iv) Employee Benefit On-Costs

Provisions for on costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are recognised separately from the provision for employee benefits.

#### (v) Employee Benefit Performance payments

Performance payments for the Authority's Executive Officers are based on a percentage of the annual salary package provided under their contract(s) of employment. A liability is recognised and is measured as the aggregate of the amounts accrued under the terms of the contract to balance date.

#### (m) Contributions by owners

Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions or distributions have also been designated as contributions by owners. Transfers of net assets arising from administrative restructurings are treated as distributions to or contributions by owners.

#### (n) Asset Revaluation Reserve

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record asset revaluation increments and decrements in the value of non-current physical assets.

#### (o) Taxation

The Authority is not liable for Income Tax.

#### (p) Commitments

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are disclosed by way of notes (refer to NOTES 13 and 14) at their nominal value and inclusive of the goods and services tax (GST) payable. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

***(q) Contingent assets and Contingent liabilities***

Contingent assets and Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note (refer to NOTE 15) and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

***(r) Events after the reporting period***

Assets, liabilities, income or expenses arise from past transactions or other past events. Where the transactions result from an agreement between the Authority and other parties, the transactions are only recognised when the agreement is irrevocable at or before the end of the reporting period.

Adjustments are made to amounts recognised in the financial statements for events which occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue, where those events provide information about conditions which existed at the reporting date.

Note disclosure is made about events between the end of the reporting period and the date the financial statements are authorised for issue where the events relate to conditions which arose after the end of the reporting period that are considered to be of material interest.

***(s) Goods and Services Tax***

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows arising from operating activities are disclosed in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis – i.e., inclusive of GST. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable or payable to the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

***(t) Objective and funding***

The Authority is responsible for the coordinated control of natural resource management within the broader catchments of south west Victoria. 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.

## NOTE 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

### (u) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period. As at 30 June 2015, the following standards and interpretations had been issued but were not mandatory for financial year ending 30 June 2015. The Authority has not, and does not intend to, adopt these standards early.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 9 Financial Instruments	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 Jan 2018	The preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 9, however it will continue to be monitored and assessed.
AASB 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts	AASB 14 permits first-time adopters of Australian Accounting Standards who conduct rate-regulated activities to continue to account for amounts related to rate regulation in accordance with their previous GAAP.	1 Jan 2016	This standard is not applicable to the Authority as it does not conduct rate-regulated activities.
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	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 Jan 2017 (Exposure Draft 263 - potential deferral to 1 Jan 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 1056 Superannuation Entities	AASB 1056 replaces AAS 25 Financial Reporting by Superannuation Plans. The standard was developed in light of changes in recent years, developments in the superannuation industry and Australia's adoption of IFRS. Some of the key changes in AASB 1056 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the level of integration between AASB 1056 and other AASB standards</li> <li>• a revised definition of a superannuation entity</li> <li>• revised and consistent content for the financial statements</li> <li>• use of fair value rather than net market value for measuring assets and liabilities</li> <li>• revised member liability recognition and measurement requirements</li> <li>• revised disclosure principles.</li> </ul>	1 Jul 2016	This standard is not applicable to the Authority as it is not a superannuation entity and hence will have no impact.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part E Financial Instruments]	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 Jan 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 2014-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & AASB 138]	Amends AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 138 Intangible Assets to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establish the principle for the basis of depreciation and amortisation as being the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits of an asset</li> <li>• prohibit the use of revenue-based methods to calculate the depreciation or amortisation of an asset, tangible or intangible, because revenue generally reflects the pattern of economic benefits that are generated from operating the business, rather than the consumption through the use of the asset.</li> </ul>	1 Jan 2016	This standard is not applicable to the Authority as it does not use the revenue-based method for depreciation and amortisation and hence will have no impact.
AASB 2014-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 & 128]	Amends AASB 127 Separate Financial Statements to allow entities to use the equity method of accounting for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in their separate financial statements.	1 Jan 2016	This standard is not applicable to the Authority as they are not required to prepare separate financial statements and hence will have no impact.
AASB 2014-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture [AASB 10 & AASB 128]	AASB 2014-10 amends AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements and AASB 128 Investments in Associates to ensure consistent treatment in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The amendments require that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a full gain or loss to be recognised by the investor when a transaction involves a business (whether it is housed in a subsidiary or not)</li> <li>• a partial gain or loss to be recognised by the parent when a transaction involves assets that do not constitute a business, even if these assets are housed in a subsidiary.</li> </ul>	1 Jan 2016	This standard is not applicable to the Authority as they are not required to prepare consolidated financial statements and do not any investments in associates and hence will have no impact.
AASB 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, AASB 124 & AASB 1049]	The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures to not-for-profit public sector entities. A guidance has been included to assist the application of the Standards by not-for-profit public sector entities.	1 Jan 2016	The amending standard will result in extended disclosures on the Authority's key management personnel (KMP), and the related party transactions.

In addition to the new standards and amendments above, the AASB has issued a list of other amending standards that are not effective for the 2014-15 reporting period (FRD 120I). In general, these amending standards include editorial and reference changes that are expected to have insignificant impacts on public sector reporting.

## NOTE 2 Financial risk management

The Authority's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, but primarily risks of market risk (interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Authority's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Authority. The Authority uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include sensitivity analysis in the case of interest rate and ageing analysis for credit risk. The Authority does not enter into derivative financial instruments and does not speculate in any type of financial instrument.

The Board and Senior Management are responsible for monitoring and managing the financial risks of the Authority. They monitor these risks through monthly board meetings where monthly management reports are presented and analysed.

The main risks the Authority is exposed to through its financial instruments are as follows:

### (a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices will affect the fair value or future cash flows of the Authority's financial instruments. Market risk comprises of foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk and other price 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.

#### (i) Interest Rate Risk

The Authority's exposure to market interest rates relates primarily to the Authority's term deposits. The interest rate on the Authority's term deposits is fixed and therefore the Authority is not exposed to any material interest rate risk

At balance date term deposits totalled \$5,750,000, with a weighted average interest rate of 2.61 per cent (2014: term deposits totalled \$4,000,000, with a weighted average interest rate of 2.67 per cent).

All trade creditors and accruals are non-interest bearing.

### Interest Rate Sensitivity Analysis

A change of 1 per cent in interest rates would have increased/(decreased) the net result by the amounts detailed below. The analysis assumes that all other variables remain constant.

		Interest rate risk			
		-1%		+1%	
		Result \$	Equity \$	Result \$	Equity \$
Cash and Cash Equivalents					
2015	6,534,773	(65,348)	(65,348)	65,348	65,348
2014	5,528,602	(55,286)	(55,286)	55,286	55,286

### (b) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Authority as a result of a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument failing to meet its contractual obligations. Credit risk arises principally from the Authority's receivables and financial assets available for sale.

The Authority has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults. The Authority measures credit risk on a fair value basis.

The Authority does not have any significant credit risk exposure to any single counterparty or any group of counterparties having similar characteristics other than the Government. The credit risk on liquid funds is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies.

All investments are held with the Treasury Corporation of Victoria.

### (c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority manages its liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash reserves and continually monitoring the Authority's expenditure commitments and cash flow needs.

**(d) Fair Value**

The fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities has been estimated for recognition, measurement and for disclosure purposes.

Management consider that the carrying amount of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the financial statements approximates their fair values.

The carrying amount of creditors and accruals at 30 June 2015 approximates market value.

The fair values and net fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are determined as follows:

- the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities with standard terms and conditions and traded on active liquid markets are determined with reference to quoted market prices; and
- the fair value of other financial assets and financial liabilities are determined in accordance with generally accepted pricing models based on discounted cash flow analysis.

Transaction costs are included in the determination of net fair value.

### **NOTE 3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements**

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 relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to NOTE 1 (h));
- superannuation expense (refer to NOTE 1 (d) (iii)); and
- actuarial assumptions for employee benefits provisions based on likely tenure of existing staff, patterns of leave claims, future salary movements and future discounts rates (refer NOTE 1 (l)).

## NOTE 4 Revenue

### (a) Government Contributions

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Contributions to operations:</b>		
State Government		
Catchment Planning/Corporate Governance	802,331	905,482
Second Generation Landcare	346,000	341,000
River Health/Healthy Waterways	2,957,224	2,724,919
Environmental Water Program	424,000	0
Other State Funding	96,032	676,508
Commonwealth Government		
Caring for Our Country	1,470,344	2,450,572
Caring for Our Country - Competitive Grants	45,000	35,000
National Landcare Program	980,228	0
NRM Climate Ready Plan	21,206	401,245
Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme	126,200	153,670
Biodiversity Fund	494,000	788,000
Total Government contributions shown as operating revenue	7,762,565	8,476,396
<b>TOTAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>7,762,565</b>	<b>8,476,396</b>

### (b) Other revenues

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Interest	154,914	147,070
Other:		
Regional contributions	830,870	548,554
Sundry	112,055	292,471
	942,925	841,025
Total other revenues	1,097,839	988,095
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>8,860,404</b>	<b>9,464,490</b>

## NOTE 5 Expenses

### (a) Employee Costs

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Salaries and Wages	2,695,729	2,776,614
Annual Leave	272,245	286,749
Long Service Leave	88,232	16,836
Movement in Provisions for Employee Benefits (AL and LSL)	(30,853)	0
Other Leave	248,207	257,548
Employer superannuation contributions	303,565	271,055
Salary On Costs	192,683	225,916
	<u>3,769,808</u>	<u>3,834,718</u>

### (b) Materials, Maintenance, Grants, Contracts and Consultancies

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Materials	48,448	17,257
Repairs and Maintenance		
Motor Vehicles and Plant	6,024	8,153
General	22,696	64,226
Consultants	713,089	762,273
Contractors	1,058,122	1,193,886
Grants Paid	1,325,479	1,545,721
	<u>3,173,857</u>	<u>3,591,516</u>

### (c) Depreciation

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Plant and equipment	23,081	23,636
Furniture and office equipment	18,166	18,833
Buildings	43,909	43,909
	<u>85,157</u>	<u>86,378</u>

## NOTE 6 Remuneration of auditors

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Audit fees paid or payable to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of the Authority's financial report:		
Paid/Payable as at 30 June 2014	0	9,150
Paid/Payable as at 30 June 2015	9,600	0
	<b>9,600</b>	<b>9,150</b>

*(amounts are exclusive of GST)*

## NOTE 7 Cash and cash equivalents

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Cash and cash equivalent assets</b>		
Cash at bank	684,773	1,028,602
Deposits at call	100,000	500,000
Investments		
Term Deposits - Treasury Corporation of Victoria	5,750,000	4,000,000
The deposits are bearing floating interest rates between 2.22 per cent and 2.76 per cent (2014 2.57 per cent and 3.04 per cent)		
	<b>6,534,773</b>	<b>5,528,602</b>

The cash and investments total above includes grant funds held for agreed specific projects. These projects with a closing balance of \$3,538,652 (2014 \$2,629,642) will be completed in future accounting periods. Refer NOTE 14.

## NOTE 8 Receivables

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Current Receivables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade debtors	188,684	130,665
Accrued Interest on Term Deposits	21,076	30,504
	209,759	161,169
<b>Statutory</b>		
GST Receivable	51,026	87,219
	260,785	248,388
<b>TOTAL RECEIVABLES</b>	<b>260,785</b>	<b>248,388</b>

These amounts generally arise from the usual operating activities of the Authority. Trade Debtors were raised within the previous 3 months and are expected to be paid in full. Collateral is not normally obtained.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
The ageing analysis of Trade receivables is as follows:		
Up to 6 months	188,684	128,502
Over 6 months	0	2,163
	<b>188,684</b>	<b>130,665</b>

The Authority has no exposure to changes in the foreign exchange rate, and the carrying amounts of the Authority's current receivables are denominated in Australian dollars.

Due to the short-term nature of the current receivables, their carrying value is assumed to approximate their fair value. The Authority does not hold any collateral as security. Refer to NOTE 2 for more information of the risk management policy of the Authority.

## NOTE 9 Property Plant and Equipment

### (a) Classes of property, plant and equipment

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Land</b>		
At fair value	555,000	555,000
	555,000	555,000
<b>Buildings</b>		
At fair value	638,734	698,558
Accumulated depreciation	0	(84,353)
	638,734	614,205
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
At fair value	155,052	130,094
Accumulated depreciation	(88,430)	(65,349)
	66,622	64,745
<b>Furniture and office equipment</b>		
At fair value	189,138	187,594
Accumulated depreciation	(138,777)	(120,610)
	50,361	66,983
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,310,717</b>	<b>1,300,933</b>

#### Basis of valuation

Land and buildings were independently valued as at 30 June 2011 by the Valuer-General Victoria. Land was valued at market value. Buildings were valued based on depreciated replacement cost.

The Authority has amended the fair value of buildings based on the four year indices issued by the Valuer-General Victoria. The effective date of this recognition is 30 June 2015.

*(b) Movements during the reporting periods*

Carrying Amount	Land \$	Buildings \$	Plant and Equipment \$	Furniture and Office Equipment \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2013	555,000	658,114	73,936	85,816	1,372,866
Additions	0	0	14,444	0	14,444
Depreciation	0	(43,909)	(23,636)	(18,833)	(86,378)
Balance as at 1 July 2014	555,000	614,205	64,745	66,983	1,300,933
Additions	0	0	24,958	1,545	26,503
Revaluations	0	68,437	0	0	68,437
Depreciation	0	(43,909)	(23,081)	(18,166)	(85,157)
Balance as at 30 June 2015	555,000	638,734	66,622	50,361	1,310,717

Refer NOTE 1 for the accounting policy relating to disclosure of the fair value measurement hierarchy.

The Authority has no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis in the current reporting period.

The Fair Value measurement hierarchy for assets as at 30 June 2015 is presented on page 72. Please note this does not reconcile to the tables presented above as this only includes those assets measured at fair value.

## NOTE 9 Property Plant and Equipment

(c) Fair Value measurement hierarchy for assets as at 30 June 2015.

	Carrying amount as at 30 Jun 15 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 (i) \$	Level 2 (i) \$	Level 3 (i) \$
<b>Land at Fair Value</b>				
Non-Specialised Land	555,000	0	555,000	0
Specialised Land		0	0	0
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Buildings at Fair Value</b>				
Specialised Buildings	0	0	0	0
Non-Specialised Buildings	638,734	0	0	638,734
Heritage Assets	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>638,734</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>638,734</b>
<b>Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Plant and equipment	66,622	0	0	66,622
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66,622</b>
<b>Furniture and office equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Furniture and office equipment	50,361	0	0	50,361
<b>Total Furniture and office equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>50,361</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50,361</b>

	Carrying amount as at 30 Jun 14 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 (i) \$	Level 2 (i) \$	Level 3 (i) \$
<b>Land at Fair Value</b>				
Non-Specialised Land	555,000	0	555,000	0
Specialised Land		0	0	0
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Buildings at Fair Value</b>				
Specialised Buildings	0	0	0	0
Non-Specialised Buildings	614,205	0	0	614,205
Heritage Assets	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>614,205</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>614,205</b>
<b>Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Plant and equipment	64,745	0	0	64,745
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>64,745</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64,745</b>
<b>Furniture and office equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Furniture and office equipment	66,983	0	0	66,983
<b>Total Furniture and office equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>66,983</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66,983</b>

Note:

(i) Classified in accordance with the Fair Value hierarchy, see NOTE 1 (j) (iiii).

(ii) Vehicles are categorised to Level 3 assets as the depreciated replacement cost is used in estimating the Fair Value. There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

### ***Non-Specialised Land and Buildings***

Non specialised land and buildings are 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.

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings, an independent valuation was performed by independent valuers Egan National Valuers (Vic) 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 has been applied to the subject asset. The effective date of the valuation is 30 June 2011. The Authority has amended the Fair Value of buildings based on the four years indices issued by the Valuer-General Victoria. The effective dates of this recognition is 30 June 2015.

To the extent that non specialised land and buildings do not contain significant, unobservable adjustments, these assets are classified as Level 2 under the market approach.

### ***Specialised Land and Buildings***

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.

The CSO adjustment is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement, and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible. As adjustments of CSO are considered as significant unobservable inputs, specialised land would be classified as Level 3 assets.

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.

The Corporation conducted an assessment at 30 June 2015 with no material movement identified since the 2011 valuation.

As per the requirements of FRD 103 (E), fair value assessments have been conducted as at 30 June 2015 on land and building assets, taking into account the VGV Land and Building Indices and it was determined that there were no material movements requiring formal revaluations.

### ***Plant and equipment***

Plant and equipment is held at fair value. When plant 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. Plant and equipment would be classified as Level 3 assets.

As per the requirements of FRD 103 (E), fair value assessments have been conducted as at 30 June 2015 on plant and equipment assets.

### ***Furniture and Office Equipment***

Furniture and Office equipment is held at fair value. Fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method. Furniture and Office equipment would be classified as Level 3 assets.

As per the requirements of FRD 103 (E), fair value assessments have been conducted as at 30 June 2015 on furniture and office equipment assets.

## NOTE 9 Property Plant and Equipment

### Reconciliation of Level 3 Fair Value

2015	Non-Specialised buildings \$	Plant and equipment \$	Furniture and Office Equipment \$
Opening Balance	614,205	64,745	66,983
Purchases (sales)	0	24,958	1,545
Depreciation	(43,909)	(23,081)	(18,166)
Subtotal	(43,909)	1,877	(16,622)
Revaluation	68,437	0	0
Subtotal	68,437	0	0
Closing Balance	638,733	66,622	50,361

2014	Non-Specialised buildings \$	Plant and equipment \$	Furniture and Office Equipment \$
Opening Balance	658,114	73,936	85,816
Purchases (sales)	0	14,444	0
Depreciation	(43,909)	(23,636)	(18,833)
Subtotal	(43,909)	(9,192)	(18,833)
Closing Balance	614,205	64,745	66,983

### Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Fair Value at 30 June 2015	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Average cost \$ or Years of Useful Life	Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Plant and equipment	66,622	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment	\$1,000-\$16,114 (average \$1,586 per unit) 4-5 years (4 years)	A significant increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value. A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Furniture and Office Equipment	50,361	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of furniture and equipment	\$1,000-15,269 (average \$1,361 per unit) 5-10 years (7 years)	A significant increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value. A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.

*Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations*

	Fair Value at 30 June 2014	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Average cost \$ or Years of Useful Life	Sensitivity of fair value measurement to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Plant and equipment	64,745	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment	\$1,000-\$16,483 (average \$1,741 per unit) 4-5 years (4 years)	A significant increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value. A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Furniture and Office Equipment	66,983	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of furniture and equipment	\$1,000-\$15,632 (average \$1,810 per unit) 5-10 years (7 years)	A significant increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value. A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.

## NOTE 10

### Payables

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Current Payables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade payables	11	0
Accrued expenses	505,160	494,730
Other	19,937	3,957
	<b>525,108</b>	<b>498,688</b>
<b>Statutory</b>		
PAYG payable	51,667	0
	<b>51,667</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL PAYABLES</b>	<b>576,775</b>	<b>498,688</b>

The carrying amounts of the Authority's trade and other payables are denominated in Australian Dollars. Due to the short-term nature of the current payables, their carrying value is assumed to approximate their Fair Value.

## NOTE 11 Provisions and Employee Benefits

### (a) Employee benefits and on costs

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Current</b>		
Annual leave and unconditional Long Service Leave entitlements, representing 7 years of continuous service, measured at Present Value		
Annual leave		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	207,212	209,123
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	3,144	7,222
Long service leave		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	16,403	16,836
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	268,845	311,007
On Costs		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	64,102	67,098
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	40,864	47,273
<b>Total Current</b>	<b>600,570</b>	<b>658,559</b>
<b>Non-Current</b>		
Annual leave and conditional long service leave entitlements, measured at Present Value		
Long Service Leave	154,346	130,791
On Costs	23,461	19,880
<b>Total Non-Current</b>	<b>177,807</b>	<b>150,671</b>
<b>Aggregate carrying amount</b>		
Current	600,570	658,559
Non-Current	177,807	150,671
<b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>778,377</b>	<b>809,230</b>

## NOTE 12 Contributed Capital, Reserves and Accumulated funds

### (a) Contributed capital

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at beginning of year	3,156,946	3,156,946
<b>BALANCE AT THE END OF YEAR</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>

### (b) Reserves

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>		
Balance at beginning of year	495,624	495,624
Transfer of increments/Decrements on Revaluation of non-current assets	68,437	0
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>	<b>564,061</b>	<b>495,624</b>
The asset revaluation reserve is used to record asset revaluation increments and decrements in the value of non-current physical assets.		
<b>Represented by</b>		
Land	340,000	340,000
Buildings	224,061	155,624
	<b>564,061</b>	<b>495,624</b>

### (c) Accumulated funds

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at beginning of year	2,136,199	1,294,228
Net result for the period	906,817	841,971
<b>BALANCE AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>3,043,016</b>	<b>2,136,199</b>

## NOTE 13 Commitments

### (a) Operating leases

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Non-cancellable operating lease commitments inc. GST</b>		
Commitments for minimum lease payments in relation to non-cancellable operating leases are payable as follows:		
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>		
Within one year	54,480	168,851
Later than one year but not later than five years	2,390	53,635
Later than five years	0	0
	<b>56,870</b>	<b>222,486</b>
<b>Properties</b>		
Within one year	23,202	22,482
Later than one year but not later than five years	7,734	29,976
Later than five years	0	0
	<b>30,936</b>	<b>52,458</b>
<b>Computer</b>		
Within one year	16,824	27,911
Later than one year but not later than five years	23,229	21,820
Later than five years	0	0
	<b>40,053</b>	<b>49,731</b>

### (c) Capital commitments

As at 30 June 2015 the Authority had Nil in capital expenditure commitments (2014: \$Nil).

## NOTE 14 Committed Funds

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects primarily funded by State and Federal Government programs. The Authority receives 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 Environment, Climate Change and 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.

Refer NOTE 7 – Cash and cash equivalents for balances on hand.

## NOTE 15 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

### Contingent Assets

As at 30 June 2015, the Authority has no contingent assets. (2014 \$nil).

### Contingent Liabilities

As at 30 June 2015, the Authority has no contingent liabilities. (2014 \$nil).

## NOTE 16 Superannuation

The Authority makes its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to various nominated funds chosen by its employees. Obligations for contributions to these funds are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are made or due.

### Vision Super Accumulation Fund

The accumulation funds category receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2015, this was 9.50 per cent required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation (for 2013/14, this was 9.25 per cent)). Our commitment to defined contribution plans is limited to making contributions in accordance with our minimum statutory requirements. No further liability accrues to the employer as the superannuation benefits accruing to employees are represented by their share of the net assets of the Fund.

The Superannuation Guarantee contribution rate is legislated to progressively increase to 12 per cent by 2025. The Superannuation Guarantee rate will remain at 9.5 per cent for 7 years, increasing to 10 per cent from 1 July 2021, and eventually to 12 per cent from 1 July 2025.

## NOTE 16 Superannuation

### *Vision Super Defined Benefits Fund*

As provided under Paragraph 34 of AASB 119, Employee Benefits, the Authority does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a multi-employer sponsored plan.

As a multi-employer sponsored plan, the Fund was established as a mutual scheme to allow for the mobility of the workforce between the participating employers without attaching a specific liability to particular employees and their current employer. Therefore, there is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of the Authority in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employer. While there is an agreed methodology to allocate any shortfalls identified by the Fund Actuary for funding purposes, there is no agreed methodology to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between the employers for the purposes of AASB 119 because of the pooled nature of the Fund's defined benefit category.

#### *(i) Funding Arrangements*

The Authority makes employer contributions to the defined benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund's Actuary.

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation was held as at 30 June 2014 and it was determined that the Vested Benefit Indexed (VBI) of the defined benefit category of which the Authority is a contributing employer was 103.4 per cent.

The Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) has introduced a prudential standard (SPS 160 – Defined Benefit Matters) to determine the funding requirements of a defined benefit (DB) arrangement. Under this standard:

- the VBI is the measure to determine whether there is an unfunded liability; and
- any unfunded liability that arises must be paid within three years.

Under SPS 160, the VBI is to be used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100 per cent, the actuarial investigation determined the defined benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position under SPS 160. As a result, the Fund Actuary determined that no change was necessary to the defined benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

The Fund's employer funding arrangements comprise of three components (which are detailed below) are:

1. Regular contributions – which are ongoing contributions needed to fund the balance of benefits for current members and pensioners;
2. Funding calls – which are contributions in respect of each participating employer's share of any funding shortfalls that arise; and
3. Retrenchment increments – which are additional contributions to cover the increase in liability arising from retrenchments.

The Authority is also required to make additional contributions to cover the contribution tax payable on the components 2 and 3 referred to above.

Employees are also required to make member contributions to the Fund. As such, assets accumulate in the Fund to meet member benefits, as defined in the Trust Deed, as they accrue.

#### *(ii) Employer contributions*

##### **(a) Regular Contributions**

On the basis of the results of the most recent full actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's Actuary as at 30 June 2014, the Authority makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2015, this rate was 9.50 per cent of members' salaries. This rate increased from 9.25 per cent for the year ended 30 June 2014 and will increase in line with the required Superannuation Guarantee contribution rate.

In addition, the Authority reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit (the funded resignation or retirement benefit is calculated as the VBI multiplied by the benefit).

**(b) Funding calls**

The Fund is required to comply with the superannuation prudential standards. Under the superannuation prudential standard SPS 160, the Fund is required to target full funding of its vested benefits.

There may be circumstances where:

- a fund is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation (i.e. its vested benefit index (VBI) is less than 100 per cent at the date of the actuarial investigation); or
- a fund's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than at the date of the actuarial investigations.

If either of the above occur, the fund has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. There may be circumstances where the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) may approve a period longer than three years.

The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97 per cent.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including the Authority) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall. The methodology used to allocate the shortfall was agreed in 1997 to fairly and reasonably apportion the shortfall between the participating employers.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's defined benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

The pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund are based on:

- The service periods of all active members split between the active members pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service period;
- The pensioner (including fixed term pension) liabilities which are allocated to the pre-1993 period.

The pre-1 July 1993 component of the shortfall is apportioned between the participating employers based on the employer's share of the total participating employer payroll at 30 June 1993.

The post-30 June 1993 component of the shortfall is apportioned between the participating employers based on the employer's share of the total participating employer payroll at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up. In the unlikely event that the Fund is wound up and there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be applied for the benefit of the defined benefit employers where there are ongoing defined benefit obligations. The surplus would be transferred to the fund accepting those defined benefit obligations (including the lifetime pension obligations) of the Fund.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

**Differences between calculations**

The Fund surplus or deficit (i.e. the difference between fund assets and liabilities) is calculated differently for funding purposes (i.e. calculating required contributions), for the calculation of accrued benefits as required in AAS 25 and for the values needed for the AASB 119 disclosure in the Authority's financial statements. AAS 25 requires that the present value of the defined benefit liability be calculated based on benefits that have accrued in respect of membership of the plan up to the measurement date, with no allowance for future benefits that may accrue.

**(c) Retrenchment increments**

During 2014-15, the Authority was not required to make payments to the Fund in respect of retrenchment increments (\$Nil disclosed in 2013-14). The Authority's liability to the Fund as at 30 June 2015, for retrenchment increments, accrued interest and tax is \$21207.78 (\$Nil in 2013-14).

**(iii) Latest actuarial investigation surplus amounts**

The Fund's latest actuarial investigation as at 30 June 2014 identified the following in the defined benefit category of which the Authority is a contributing employer:

- A VBI surplus of \$77.1 million; and
- A total service liability surplus of \$236 million.

## NOTE 16 Superannuation

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2014.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's defined benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses.

The Authority was notified of the results of the actuarial investigation during January 2015.

### (iv) Prior actuarial investigation surplus amounts

The Fund's prior actuarial investigation as at 31 December 2011 identified an unfunded liability of \$406 million (excluding contributions tax) in the defined benefit category. A total of \$2.6 million (excluding contributions tax) was outstanding as at 30 June 2015 (\$7.9 million amount for 2013/14).

The Authority was informed of its share of the shortfall on 2 August 2012 and the Authority's share of the shortfall amounted to \$ 58,004.61 (excluding contributions tax) which has been accounted for in the 2011-12 Comprehensive Operating Statement with Employee Benefits and in the Balance Sheet in Current Liabilities Provisions.

The Authority has \$Nil amount owing as at 30 June 2015 (\$Nil for 2013-14).

### (v) Accrued benefits

The Fund's liability for accrued benefits was determined in the 31 December 2014 actuarial investigation pursuant to the requirements of Australian Accounting Standard Board AAS25, Financial Reporting by Superannuation funds follows:

	\$ Million
30 June 2014	
Net Market Value of Assets	2,354.9
Accrued Benefits (per accounting standards)	2,061.9
Difference between Assets and Accrued Benefits	293.0
Vested Benefits (Minimum sum which must be paid to members when they leave the fund)	2,277.8

The financial assumptions used to calculate the Accrued Benefits for the defined benefit category of the Fund were:

Net Investment Return	7.50% p.a
Salary Inflation	4.25% p.a
Price Inflation	2.75% p.a

The next full actuarial investigation of the Fund's liability for accrued benefits will be based on the Fund's position as at 30 June 2017.

### Superannuation contributions

The Authority contributes in respect of its employees to the following superannuation schemes:

Fund	Type of Scheme	Rate %	2015 \$	Rate %	2014 \$
Vision Super	Defined benefits	9.50%	26,314	9.25%	7,053
Vision Super Saver	Accumulation	9.50%	108,318	9.25%	116,584
Vic Super New Scheme	Accumulation	9.50%	38,926	9.25%	41,897
All Other funds	Accumulation	9.50%	130,006	9.25%	103,787
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ALL FUNDS</b>			<b>303,565</b>		<b>269,321</b>

As at balance date there was \$21,666 (2014: \$Nil) in contributions payable to the above funds.

No balances were repayable in respect of loans made to the Authority from any fund.

The expected contributions to be refunded from the defined benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2016 is \$3,006.

## NOTE 17 Responsible persons related disclosures

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 persons who were responsible persons at anytime during the financial year were:

Name	Position
Honourable Ryan Smith, MP	Minister for Environment and Climate Change (1 July 2014 to 3 December 2014)
Honourable Peter Walsh, MLA	Minister for Water (1 July 2014 to 3 December 2014)
Honourable Lisa Neville, MLA	Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water (4 December 2014 to 30 June 2015)
Michael Wagg	(Chair)
Debbie Shea	(Deputy Chair, Board Member)
Dr John Sherwood	(Board Member)
Ian Hastings	(Board Member)
Roma Britnell	(Board Member)
Michael Craig	(Board Member)
Jason Ritchie	(Board Member)
Vincent Gannon	(Board Member)
Karen Wales	(Board Member)
Kevin Wood	(CEO)

## NOTE 17 Responsible persons related disclosures

### (a) Responsible persons

Remuneration paid to Ministers is reported in the Annual Report of the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Other relevant interests are declared in the Register of Members' Interests which each member of the Parliament completes.

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

Band	2015	2014
\$10,000 - \$19,999	8	8
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	1
<b>TOTAL REMUNERATION \$</b>	<b>298,545</b>	<b>304,783</b>

### Other transactions

#### Responsible Persons - related parties

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Mr M. Craig – Tuloona Pastoral Services	11,319	42,326
The aggregate amount paid in respect of goods and services.	11,319	42,326

There were no other transactions conducted with responsible persons or their related parties during the financial year ended 30 June 2015 (2013/14: Nil).

### (b) Executive Officers' Remuneration

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and managing directors, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the first two columns in the table below in their relevant income bands. The base remuneration of executive officers is shown in the third and fourth columns. Base remuneration is exclusive of bonus payments, long service leave payments, redundancy payments and retirement benefits. The total annualised employee equivalent provides a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Several factors affected total remuneration payable to executives over the year. A number of employment contracts were completed during the year and renegotiated and a number of executives received bonus payments during the year. These bonus payments depend on the terms of individual employment contracts. Some contracts provide for an annual bonus payment.

An executive officer retired in the past year. This has had a significant impact on total remuneration figures due to the inclusion of annual leave and long service leave payments.

Band	Total Remuneration		Base Remuneration	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
\$100,000 - \$109,999	0	0	0	2
\$110,000 - \$119,999	0	0	1	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	0	0	1	0
\$130,000 - \$139,999	0	3	0	0
\$140,000 - \$149,999	2	0	0	0
<b>Total number of Executive Officers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Annualised Employee Equivalent (*)</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>TOTAL REMUNERATION \$</b>	<b>282,598</b>	<b>400,079</b>	<b>237,919</b>	<b>335,146</b>

(\*) Annualised employee equivalent is based on paid working hours of 38 ordinary hours per week over the 52 weeks for a reporting period.

**NOTE 18**  
**Reconciliation of net result for the period**  
**to net cash flows from operating activities**

	<b>2015</b>	2014
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Net result for the period	906,817	841,971
Add/(less) Non-Cash Flows in Net Result		
Depreciation and amortisation	85,157	86,378
<b>Total Non-Cash Flows in Net Result</b>	<b>991,974</b>	<b>928,349</b>
<b>Changes in Assets and Liabilities</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(12,398)	734,769
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	5,864	(11,543)
(Decrease)/Increase in payables	78,088	150,092
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	(30,852)	148,797
<b>Total Changes in Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>40,701</b>	<b>1,022,115</b>
<b>Net Cash flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>1,032,675</b>	<b>1,950,464</b>

**NOTE 19**  
**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.

# DISCLOSURE INDEX

The Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Authority's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

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## Legislation

*Freedom of Information Act 1982*

*Building Act 1983*

*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 1986*

*Planning & Environment Act 1987*

# ACRONYMS AND TERMS

ABC	Actions for Biodiversity Conservation
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DEPI	Department of Environment and Primary Industries
EBB	Eastern Barred Bandicoot
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Communities
EWR	Environmental Water Reserve
FREP	Flood Recovery Employment Program
IBA	International Bird Area
GWM	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
IEC	Index of Estuary Condition
ISC	Index of Stream Condition
IWC	Index of Wetland Condition
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LGNP	Lower Glenelg National Park
LWMP	Land and Water Management Plan

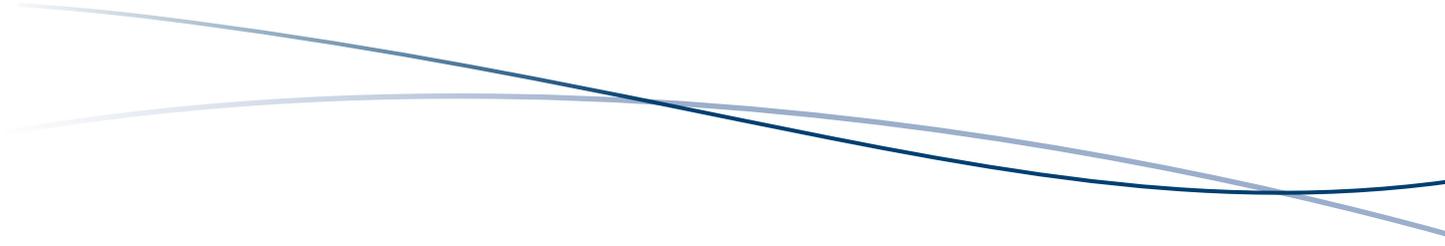
MER	Monitor, evaluate and report
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NDRRA	National Disaster and Recovery Relief Arrangements
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PV	Parks Victoria
RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinator
RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
RNVP	Regional Native Vegetation Plan
SCARP	Southern Slopes Climate Change Research Partnership
SMWG	Staff Management Work Group
TFN	Trust for Nature
VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
VEPP	Victorian Environment Partnerships Program
WP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
WAP	Waterway Action Plan
WONS	Weeds of National Significance

# FOOT NOTES



- <sup>i</sup> Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Strategy 2014-2019, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Hamilton, 2014.
- <sup>ii</sup> Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2019, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Hamilton, 2013.
- <sup>iii</sup> Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Glenelg Hopkins Waterways Strategy 2014-2022, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Hamilton, 2014.
- <sup>iv</sup> Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victorian Resources Online Statewide Index of Stream Condition, 2013, [http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/stream\\_cond\\_index](http://vro.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/stream_cond_index).
- <sup>v</sup> Glenelg Hopkins Waterways Strategy 2014-2022
- <sup>vi</sup> Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Glenelg Hopkins Waterways Strategy 2014-2022, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Hamilton, 2014.
- <sup>vii</sup> Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Strategy 2014-2019, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Hamilton, 2014.

BACK COVER IMAGES: *Brolgas at Kurtonitj, an Indigenous Protected Area near Heywood (courtesy Vin Gannon)*



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Glenelg Hopkins



C M A

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