

2015 - 2016  
ANNUAL REPORT



Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

# 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 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.**

This year has seen significant advances in the management of natural resources in our region, enabled by funding support from the Victorian and Australian governments. There have also been important developments in Victorian strategic frameworks affecting water and natural resources. However, the on-going severe drought in south west Victoria has had a detrimental impact on water for agriculture in the region.

The Glenelg Hopkins region has always made a significant contribution to the Victorian and Australian economy through agricultural production. Following a review of the latest Australian Bureau of statistics data, we found that our region had the highest gross value of agricultural commodities in Victoria and the third highest for any NRM region in Australia. Through a range of programs the CMA works with landholders and other partners to improve sustainability in the agricultural areas of the region. This makes a clear contribution to regional prosperity.

While the region continues to be productive and prosperous the lack of rainfall has impacted severely. The Victorian Government's assistance to farmers affected by the drought was extended into this region later in the year and the CMA has taken on the role of establishing works teams for some drought affected people and offered advice on setting up stock containment areas. The continuing dry conditions have unfortunately also had serious impacts on our waterways, and this has necessitated some adaptive management on the CMA's part to maintain waterway resilience and assist recovery when flows increase. Water allocations to the Glenelg River have been extremely low this year, and available water has been carefully used to protect water quality. Our estuaries have also been impacted and seasonal closure of their openings has been more frequent and extended for much longer into the season than in previous years. One estuary, the Merri has been closed for the first time for many years with consequent impacts on upstream flooding.

There have been more resources available this year for waterway protection and rehabilitation. The Victorian Government released its Regional Riparian Action Plan which aims to accelerate delivery of on-ground riparian management works. Together with increased funding for waterways works under the last year of the EC3 program, we were able to continue restoration works in a number of priority waterways across the catchment.

There has been great uptake amongst landholders for riparian protection on the Wannon River, Hopkins River and Fiery Creek, and this has been assisted by the DELWP Good Neighbour Program to control riparian weeds.

Improvements have also progressed on some of the region's urban waterways. In conjunction with community groups, angling clubs, DELWP, Green Army teams and Conservation Volunteers, the Merri River in Warrnambool and the Grange Burn in Hamilton have been improved through weed removal, revegetation and habitat improvement. These projects illustrate the value of diverse partnerships and funding leverage to more effectively implement integrated waterway improvements in popular urban reaches.

In recognition of the dedication and commitment of staff working in the waterways team, the CMA was awarded the River Basin Management Society's Award for Innovation in October 2015 for the Carp Monitoring and Control Program. This is the second award we have received from this Society, and it is a source of pride for all in the CMA.

This year the CMA continued to collaborate on improving catchment management arrangements following the Victorian Auditor-General's audit into the effectiveness of CMAs. A major outcome of this work was the development and launch of the 'Our Catchments Our Communities - Integrated Catchment Management in Victoria 2016-19' strategy by the Hon Lisa Neville at Beaufort in our region. The Minister's launch of the Strategy is supported by specific resourcing for implementation, and this will enable greater community engagement and strengthened accountability to implement our Regional Catchment Strategy.

The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy was also launched this year and brings together a co-ordinated, strategic approach to preparing for and managing floods in a way that protects Victorian communities. For some years the CMA has been contributing to improving our preparedness for floods with the support of the Victorian Government, and this has continued over the last year. Flood studies to inform regional planning have progressed for the townships of Harrow, Heywood and Ararat, and flood controls have been incorporated into planning schemes for Warrnambool, Ballarat and Port Fairy following flood studies in past years.

The CMA has worked closely with local government to provide the best planning controls possible, and in the case of the Port Fairy Planning Scheme amendment, has agreed to advise on the impacts of flooding from the sea under a rising sea level. Our partnership with local government on flood management was augmented this year by the CMA providing assistance in the updating of municipal flood response plans across the region.



ABOVE: Bill Bell performing the smoking ceremony at the Partnership Statement signing between Gunditj Mirring TOAC and Glenelg Hopkins CMA at Mount Eccles in March 2016.

Building on the strengths of our long-term relationship with the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation the CMA signed a partnership agreement to formalise the commitment to strong and on-going joint working arrangements. This was a highlight in relations between the two groups, but is only one of a number of important achievements in working with Indigenous groups within our region. The CMA was pleased to be selected to be one of four Victorian CMAs that undertook a pilot project to examine and document the cultural significance of the region's waterways to the regions' Indigenous groups here. This is the first stage of a potentially larger quantification of how to meet the call from Indigenous people for rights to water in their Country.

The CMA has also made significant contribution to the development of Aboriginal Participation Guidelines that were developed for use by Victorian CMAs. Further cultural awareness training for staff was undertaken, and this will be a regular feature to ensure that new staff and Board Directors have an understanding and appreciation of the contemporary Aboriginal culture and needs in our region.

Throughout the year we have supported community groups to contribute to natural resource management. Coastal Community Grants and Landcare Grants were again offered this year, and the works undertaken contributed to riparian and coastal habitat protection, weed control and rubbish removal. Education, awareness raising and capacity building was also undertaken for rural groups to acknowledge their contribution to Landcare and sustainable agriculture. Under the Regional Landcare Program oral histories were collected from locals in Willaura, and a gathering of women involved in farming was held in Dunkeld.

The CMA continued to sponsor the Great South West Dairy Awards, and the winner of the NRM and Sustainable Agriculture award was from this region demonstrating outstanding NRM improvements. We also sponsored fishing groups, attended open days and held a number of successful engagement events to make anglers aware of the importance of habitat protection and environmental flows to maintaining fish habitat.

In October, four new Directors joined the Board, Georgina Gubbins, Damein Bell, Michelle Casanova and Antony Ford as Chairperson to work with the remaining Directors, Debbie Shea, John Sherwood, Ian Hastings, Karen Wales and Mike Wagg towards steering the CMA to a great future in our region. We would also like to thank those Directors who left the Board 30 September 2015, after providing their experience and knowledge for four years, Michael Craig, Roma Britnell, Jason Ritchie and Vin Gannon.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, we are pleased to present Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2016.

**Antony Ford**  
Chairperson  
Glenelg Hopkins CMA  
30 June 2016

**Kevin Wood**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Glenelg Hopkins CMA  
30 June 2016

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## THIS REPORT:

- Covers the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016
- Is the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Report for Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- Is prepared for Minister for Water, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Parliament of Victoria and the community
- Is a public document freely available on our website, easily accessed
- Is prepared in accordance with government and legislative requirements 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 2015-16
- Acknowledges the support of our community.

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Cover: Hopkins Falls. Photographer: Perry Cho

# 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

### Effective waterway and floodplain management

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

### A respected and accountable organisation

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

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AT A GLANCE

	2016 (\$ '000)	2015 (\$ '000)	2014 (\$ '000)	2013 (\$ '000)	2012 (\$ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	6,847	4,625	4,648	5,198	7,001
Federal Government contributions	2,497	3,137	3,828	3,580	3,970
Other revenue	714	1,098	988	475	687
Total revenue	10,058	8,860	9,464	9,253	11,658
Total expenditure	9,000	7,953	8,622	11,913	11,889
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,058	907	842	(2,660)	(231)
Financial assets	7,905	6,808	5,796	4,583	7,205
Non-financial assets	1,147	1,311	1,301	1,372	1,448
Total assets	9,052	8,119	7,097	5,955	8,653
Liabilities	1,333	1,355	1,308	1,009	1,046
Net assets	7,719	6,764	5,789	4,946	7,607

# WHO WE ARE

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is responsible, with others, for natural resource management within the southwest corner of Victoria. It takes an integrated, whole-of-catchment approach by combining strategic planning and coordination for the management of the regions 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 40.91 full time equivalent (FTE) staff in 2015-16 and had a gross turnover of \$9 million.

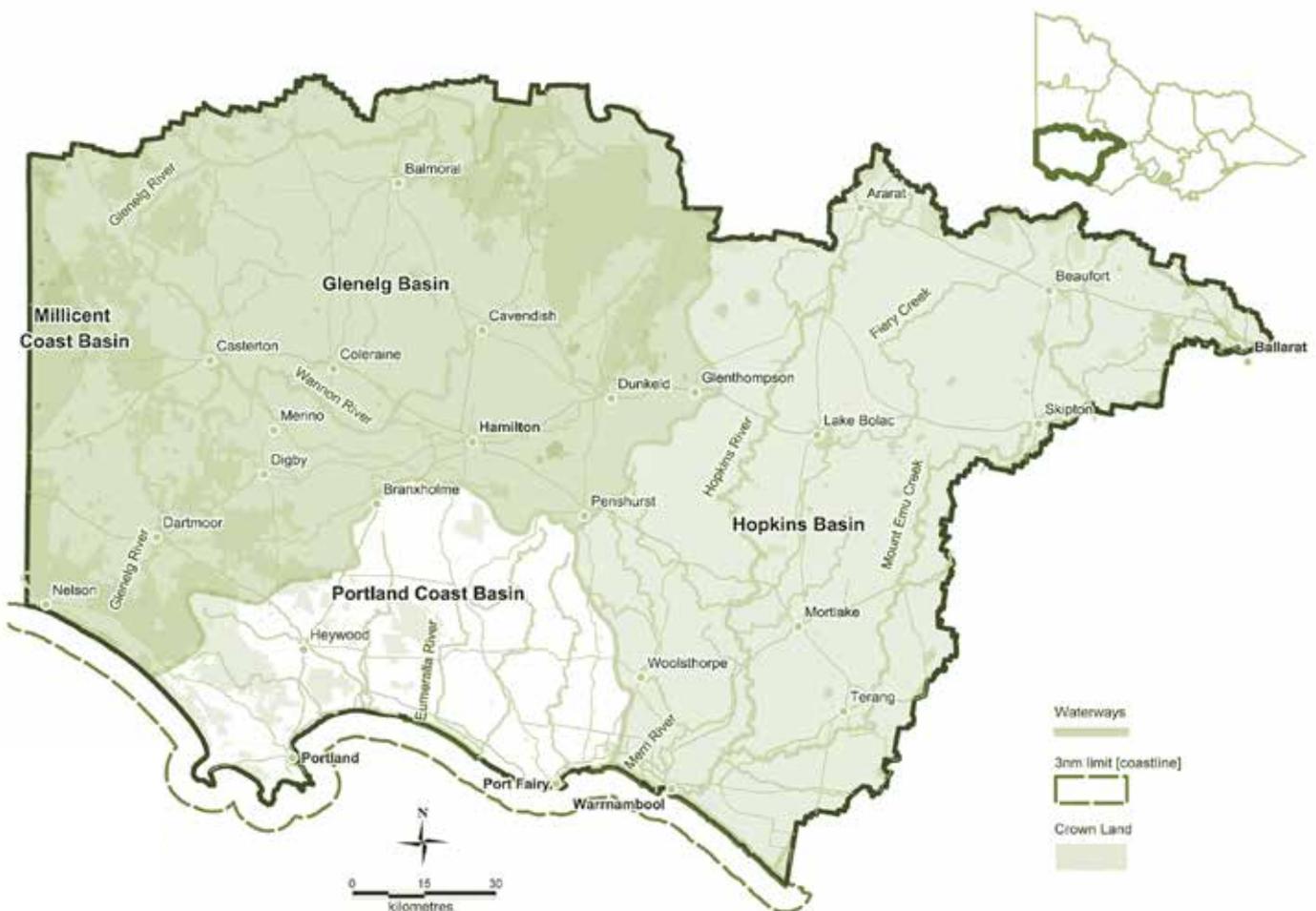
## Responsible Ministers

Glenelg Hopkins CMA was established in July 1997, under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and is also responsible for specific functions under the *Water Act 1989*.

The responsible Ministers for the 2015-16 reporting period were:

- from 1 July 2015 to 22 May 2016, the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water; and
- from 23 May 2016 to 30 June 2016, the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

The annual financial reporting requirements are embodied in the *Financial Management Act 1994*.



# HIGHLIGHTS

› **Launch of Our Catchments Our Communities.**

Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Lisa Neville launched Our Catchments, Our Communities - Victoria's first state-wide strategy for integrated catchment management in Beaufort in May 2016. The strategy reaffirms the regionally focused and community based approach to catchment management.

› **Launch of Gunditj Mirring / CMA Partnership Statement.**

The Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Partnership Statement is a strategic document acknowledging and honouring the successful working partnership between the two organisations.

Two of the highlights of the partnership project have included the Lake Condah restoration and the four year Gunditj Mirring Partnership Project that focused on the research and recording of traditional and contemporary Gunditjmara land management practices.

› **Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex Ramsar Site.** The outstanding natural wetland values of far south west Victoria are a step closer to international recognition under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance. Five documents to support the nomination are fully drafted. The proposed Glenelg Ramsar site encompasses Discovery Bay Coastal Park and part of the Lower Glenelg National Park. If successful, the nomination will provide international recognition, management investment and support for partnerships with local groups for future management of the area. The process to date has seen 14 consultation events over the last two years.



ABOVE: Damein Bell CEO Gunditj Mirring RNTBC, Kevin Wood CEO Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Denise Lovett Chair RNTBC and Antony Ford Chair of Glenelg Hopkins CMA with the Partnership Statements, signed at Mount Eccles.

› **Cultural Flows.** The Towards Cultural Flows Pilot project is investigating Traditional Owner values and uses for the Glenelg River. Traditional Owner interests, aspirations, challenges and opportunities for water management will also be documented, including any cultural flow interests for the river system. The project is being delivered by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in partnership with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Barengi Gadjin Land Council. The project will allow the integration of Aboriginal values and traditional knowledge into environmental water planning and delivery.

› **Award for Innovation in Waterway Management.** Glenelg Hopkins CMA was awarded the River Basin Management Society's Award for Innovation in Waterway Management in Melbourne on 9 October 2015. This is the second RBMS Awards Night to be held and was attended by over 160 people that came to celebrate the achievements of the industry. Judged by industry experts, Glenelg Hopkins CMA received the award for the Carp Monitoring and Control Program. This is the second RBMS award received by the CMA.



ABOVE: Alice Knight Chairperson Corangamite CMA, Antony Ford Chairperson Glenelg Hopkins CMA, The Hon Lisa Neville Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Karen Douglas Chairperson Wimmera CMA and Angus Hume Chairperson West Gippsland CMA at the launch of 'Our Catchments Our Communities' - Victoria's first state-wide strategy to integrated catchment management in Beaufort.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### › Glenelg Hopkins NRM Plan for Climate Change.

Substantial progress was made on the development of the region's first Natural Resource Management Plan for Climate Change. The community was invited to make comment on the draft document from 9 October until 6 November 2015. The Plan is expected to be finalised in August 2016.

### › A new Glenelg River Environmental Water Management Plan (EWMP) has been completed following a technical review process. The Plan makes the case for environmental water in the Glenelg River over the next 10 years and sets out the values, priorities and sites to be supported through environmental water management. EWMPs are the current platform for multi-year environmental water management and replaces the Wimmera and Glenelg Rivers Environmental Operating Strategy (2007).

### › Environmental flow outcomes. In 2015-16 the Glenelg River environmental flows program was impacted by critical water shortage resulting in the decline in the condition of much of the river. What limited water was available, was used to protect refuge habitats and fish surveys showed the persistence of fish species. The capture of two large Estuary Perch at Fulham Streamside Reserve demonstrated the largest known migration recorded for this species in the Glenelg River since Rocklands Dam was built.

### › Angler Engagement. The Glenelg River Angler Engagement project was a pilot engagement project funded by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to highlight the benefits of environmental flows to anglers along the Glenelg River. Sessions were held at Balmoral, Harrow, Casterton and Dartmoor over four days with over 100 keen anglers participating in fish surveys and discussions about environmental flows and river health management. The program has resulted in the most successful social media promotion for the CMA to date, with over 100,000 views of various photos and videos of the angler engagement workshops.



ABOVE: CMA staff discuss benefits of environmental flows with Dartmoor community and anglers.



ABOVE: Glenelg Hopkins CMAs Stephen Ryan and Adam Bester with other finalists in the Innovation category at the River Basin Management Society Awards.

### › Merri River Hotspot. The Merri River estuary is a popular fishing location in the heart of Warrnambool. The CMA in partnership with Warrnambool City Council, Arthur Rylah Institute, Fisheries Victoria, and community groups has focussed works in the lower reaches of the estuary to promote and improve fish habitat. Access to fishing sites was improved through the construction of two floating jetties. Rocks and timber structures were installed to provide habitat, weeds were removed and banks revegetated. Community days were held to promote the importance of both instream structures and bank vegetation to fish populations. This project is funded by the National Landcare Program and Recreational Fishing Levy Grants.

### › Valuing the benefits of Victorian Waterway Management. Glenelg Hopkins CMA engaged consultants BDA Group and Intrinsic Scope to identify social and economic values for Victorian waterway management activities. The findings have been valuable in supporting the business case and funding development of regional case studies to communicate the benefits of waterway management to the public. This project was undertaken on behalf of all Victorian CMAs, DELWP and VEWH.

### › Grampians To Pyrenees Biolink. The Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink project was led by Project Platypus in partnership with Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Wimmera CMA, Trust for Nature, Parks Victoria, Central Biolinks and Conservation Volunteers Australia. In the Glenelg Hopkins region habitat protection and enhancement has focused on the ranges of the upper Hopkins River catchment. The Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Network, the Ararat Landcare and Upper Hopkins Land Management Groups have all been involved. Achievements for 2015-16 included 145 ha of remnant vegetation protected, 56 ha of revegetation, 25,460 plants established and four Trust for Nature covenants established. This was the final year of this three year project.

› **Victorian Volcanic Plains projects.** Management and protection of roadside and rail reserves is critical as they support remnant native grasslands. The value of these Victorian Volcanic Plains remnants was highlighted during two educational tours. The tours increased knowledge and awareness of threatened plant communities and the obligations of both users and managers to protect native plants and animals on these linear reserves. Mr Dan Tehan, Federal Member for Wannon, attended and announced the success of the VVP Stewardship Program. A total 516 ha of nationally threatened grassland communities are protected by the Round 2 VVP Stewardship Programme, of which 305 ha is permanently protected through Trust for Nature conservation covenants.

› **Waterway Management Masterclass - Twinning program.**

This year Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Australian River Restoration Centre (ARRC) ran the first Waterway Management Twinning Program. The program pairs river management professionals from across south-eastern Australia with the purpose of collaborating to deliver world-class river protection and rehabilitation projects. The Program has arisen from the CMA's 2013 Australian Riverprize win. The Program had 10 participants from six organisations including North Central CMA, OzFish Unlimited, the Arthur Rylah Institute, Melbourne Water, the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network and Glenelg Hopkins CMA. The CMA will be continuing the mentoring program over the next two years with support from DELWP.



ABOVE: Waterway Management Twinning Program participants (L to R), Craig Copeland (OzFish Unlimited), Adam Bester (Glenelg Hopkins CMA), Alanna Wright (Melbourne Water), Lisette Mill (Basalt to Bay Landcare Group), Stephen Ryan (Glenelg Hopkins CMA), Renae Ayres (Arthur Rylah Institute), Siwan Lovett (facilitator, Australian River Restoration Foundation), James Shaddick (North Central CMA), Emma Wolters (North Central CMA).

› **Green Army projects.** Over the last 12 months two Green Army projects have been sponsored by the CMA and delivered by Conservation Volunteers Australia. Launched by Federal Minister and local member Dan Tehan, the projects have achieved significant outputs such as 29,000 seedlings planted over 260 ha, 12,468 ha of weed control, 4.5 tonnes of rubbish removed from numerous locations, including the Yambuk Estuary Mouth and 45 bird/bat nest boxes constructed and installed at restoration sites.



ABOVE: Farming Fantasies, Rural Realities coordinators Lisa McIntyre, Heather Fleming, Una Allender and CMA's Marty Gent.

› **Women in Agriculture.** 85 women attended the rural women's forum 'Farming Fantasies - Rural Realities', sharing ideas and stories, and brainstorming actions for moving forward. Three inspirational regional women gave presentations on their experience living and working within rural communities. The afternoon workshop provided the CMA with an insight into the needs of farming women within the catchment.

› **South West Landcare Gathering.** 85 people gathered to hear about a variety of sustainable agriculture projects being undertaken in the catchment. Presenters gave an insight into topics such as zero till cropping and restorative farming, Integrated Pest Management, corporate farming and stories of Landcare successes. The day included a bus tour of projects undertaken in the Willaura area by the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group.

› **The 2013-2016 Glenelg Hopkins CMA Workplace Agreement** was due to expire on 30 April 2016. Glenelg Hopkins CMA undertook negotiation of a new Enterprise Agreement that is consistent with the Fair Work Australia (FWA) regulations. A new 2016-2020 Workplace Agreement has now been finalised and submitted to Victorian agencies for approval prior to submission to Fair Work for final approval and authorisation in the next financial year.

› **ICT Strategy.** The CMA engaged an external consultant to develop a 3-year ICT Strategic Plan. The Plan outlines how the CMA will progress from its current position to a desired environment. When implemented, the strategy will improve outcomes to our clients, and provide efficiencies through rationalisation of software systems and the development of long-term infrastructure to meet the needs of the organisation.

## OUR REGION

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

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

There are four 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.

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 3rd highest agricultural production region in 2013-14, producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$1,942 million. Glenelg Hopkins was the highest contributor of Victorian NRM regions to the gross value of agricultural commodities in 2013-14.

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 important Bird Areas (IBA) between Port Fairy and Warrnambool, Yambuk and the Discovery Bay Coastal Park
- Two Australian Government 'biodiversity hotspots' - the Victorian Volcanic Plains and South West Victoria
- 13 endangered Ecological Vegetation Communities
- The iconic Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, Orange-bellied Parrot and endemic Glenelg Spiny Cray, and 173 of Victoria's threatened species.

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

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



ABOVE: Fitzroy River estuary mouth.

# OPERATIONAL AND BUDGETARY OBJECTIVES

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

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

Performance Area	Performance target	Achievement commentary
<b>Business management and governance</b>	Submit annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Submitted electronically to Hon Lisa Neville 1 September 2015.
	A risk management strategy / plan approved by the board and being implemented.	The CMA has a risk management plan that is approved by the board and is being implemented. The plan is updated annually and was last approved by the board on 19 May 2016.
	100% of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	100% of Board Policies have been reviewed in the last three years  80% of Operational Policies have been reviewed in the last three years, this was due to changes in staffing roles.  An internal review of all operational policies in relation to current relevance and promoting best practice will be undertaken in 2016-17 and 2017-18.
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Full compliance.
<b>Regional planning and coordination</b>	A Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins RCS (2013-2019) was gazetted on 16 May 2013.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework / plan approved by the board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Partnership and Engagement Strategy was approved by the Board on 19 September 2014 and is being implemented.
	A regional Landcare support plan approved by the board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Strategy was approved by the Board on 14 December 2012 and is being implemented.
	A regional Waterways Strategy approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 approved by the Minister August 2014.
	A regional floodplain strategy approved by the board.	The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy was launched on 20 April 2016. The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Floodplain Management Strategy is currently being developed.
<b>Regional delivery</b>	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the board annually.	Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board reviewed the implementation of the RCS and major sub-strategies at the September 2015 Board meeting.
	Projects / activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Projects to implement the RCS were delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.
	Projects / activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy is reviewed annually by the board. 7 actions have been completed, 45 are in progress and 11 are yet to commence. All actions are to be completed over the life of the Strategy.  The Regional Floodplain Management Strategy is currently under development.
<b>Statutory functions under Part 10 of the Water Act</b>	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	84 of 88 of Flood Advice (95%) were responded to within the prescribed period  112 of 121 of Flood Referrals (93%) were responded to within the prescribed period.  14 of 14 Works on Waterway Advice issued within the prescribed period.  85 of 92 Works on Waterway Licences (92%) issued within the prescribed period.  1 of 1 Works on Waterway Referral issued within the prescribed period.
<b>Statutory functions under Part 11 of the Water Act</b>	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	100% of irrigation management responses were within the prescribed response period.

# CATCHMENT CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT REPORT 2015 - 2016

## OVERVIEW

This Condition and Management Report for 2015-16 fulfills Glenelg Hopkins CMA's responsibility under Section 19B of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to submit to the Minister and Victorian Catchment Management Council:

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

The report provides a summary of regional management activities undertaken during the reporting year to improve the condition of the region's land, water and biodiversity resources. It includes an overview of key achievements and activities towards implementing Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) 2013-2019 objectives and actions by the CMA, Department of Environment, Land, Water and

Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria (PV), Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) and community groups within the Glenelg Hopkins region. It includes a statement on condition at a catchment level, and where adequate information is available, an overall condition status summary rating.

A high-level overview of RCS progress, and the key programs and projects that have contributed to RCS implementation for 2015-16 is provided below. Individual management measures are outlined in the RCS. Some programs / projects may contribute to the achievement of one or more RCS management measure.

This Condition and Management Report is based on the nine thematic asset classes defined in the RCS. Further detail on activities undertaken in 2015-16 towards implementing RCS objectives and measures is provided in each asset section.

## Key Initiatives & Projects 2015-16

RCS objective	No. of 2015-16 measures implemented	Key programs / projects contributing to achievement of RCS measures
<b>Objectives that relate to all or multiple asset themes</b>		
Objective 1.1: Protect and Improve the region's waterways, wetlands and estuaries	1 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VWPIF Catchments for Communities Program (e.g. Waterway Action Plans, p. 16, 20)</li> <li>• VWPIF Environmental Water Management Program (p. 16)</li> <li>• DELWP Wetland Cropping Project (p. 18)</li> <li>• NLP Coastal Connections Project (p. 21)</li> <li>• NLP Threatened Species and Communities Project (p. 21)</li> </ul>
Objective 1.2: Reduce the impact of pest plants and animals on the region's natural resources and agricultural industries	1 of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South West Biolinks Project (p. 22)</li> <li>• Pine Wildling Removal Project (p. 22)</li> </ul>
Objective 1.3: Maximise biodiversity benefits of sequestering carbon in the landscape and minimise adverse effects	4 of 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRM Plan for Climate Change Project (p. 13)</li> </ul>
Objective 1.4: Protect and manage the visual character of the landscape	1 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner led</li> </ul>
<b>Community participation</b>		
Objective 2.1: Maintain and enhance community capacity, awareness and involvement in natural resource management with the region	6 of 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Landcare Coordinator Project (p. 13)</li> <li>• NLP Indigenous Partnerships for Improved NRM Project (p. 14)</li> <li>• Regional Landcare Facilitator Project (p. 14)</li> <li>• Twinning Project (p. 15)</li> <li>• Glenelg River Aboriginal Water Scoping Study (p. 15)</li> </ul>
Objective 2.2: Facilitate a collaborative approach to NRM	3 of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NLP Threatened Species and Communities Project (p. 21)</li> <li>• South West Biolinks Project (p. 22)</li> <li>• Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink (p. 22)</li> <li>• Pine Wildling Removal Project (p. 22)</li> <li>• NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project (p. 27)</li> </ul>
Objective 2.3: Support land managers in meeting their responsibilities as active stewards of the Catchment's land, water and biodiversity	1 of 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project (p. 27)</li> <li>• DELWP corporate functions (governance)</li> </ul>
Objective 2.4: Support farmers to incorporate environmental outcomes into their farm systems	1 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project (p. 27)</li> </ul>
<b>Rivers and Floodplains</b>		
Objective 3.1: Waterways classified as good or excellent in the Index of Stream Condition (ISC3) will remain as such in 2033	1 of 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VWPIF Catchments for Communities Program (e.g. Waterway Action Plans, p. 15-16)</li> </ul>
Objective 3.2: The condition of specified waterways currently classes as poor to moderate in the Index of Stream Condition (ISC3) is improved by 2033	1 of 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VWPIF Catchments for Communities Program (e.g. Waterway Action Plans, p. 15-16)</li> </ul>
Objective 3.3: Improve river health in relation to riparian extent, connectivity, hydrological regime and water quality	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VWPIF Catchments for Communities Program (e.g. Waterway Action Plans, p. 15-16)</li> <li>• Environmental Water Management Program (p.16)</li> </ul>
Objective 3.4: Increase provision of reliable flood information for settlements	4 of 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VWPIF Floodplain and Waterway Management Program (Regional Floodplain Strategy, p. 17)</li> <li>• Harrow Flood Investigation (p. 17)</li> <li>• Ararat Flood Investigation (p. 17)</li> </ul>
Objective 3.5: Improve river and floodplain management	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VWPIF Floodplain and Waterway Management Program (p. 17)</li> </ul>

Note: NLP = National Landcare Programme VWPIF = Victorian Water Program Investment Framework

RCS objective	No. of 2015-16 measures implemented	Key programs / projects contributing to achievement of RCS measures
<b>Wetlands</b>		
Objective 4.1: By 2033, improve the condition of wetlands, and maintain the diversity of wetland types (using IWC1 assessment for comparison).	7 of 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetland Cropping Project (p. 18)</li> <li>NLP Threatened Species and Communities Project (p. 18)</li> </ul>
<b>Estuaries</b>		
Objective 5.1: By 2033 improve the condition of estuaries across the region as compared with the 2018 IEC assessment.	5 of 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VWPIF Catchments for Communities Program (e.g. Waterway Action Plans for Fitzroy Estuary and Darlot Creek, p. 20).</li> </ul>
<b>Coasts</b>		
Objective 6.1: By 2033 maintain the condition of the coast and manage specific threats to improve condition where appropriate	7 of 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP Coastal Connections Program (p. 21).</li> </ul>
<b>Marine</b>		
Objective 7.1: By 2033 maintain the condition of the marine environment and manage specific catchment-based threats to improve condition where appropriate	4 of 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Marine Section (p. 22).</li> </ul>
<b>Terrestrial Habitat</b>		
Objective 8.1: Maintain extent and improve condition of terrestrial habitat	3 of 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South West Biolinks Project (p. 22).</li> <li>Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink Project (p. 22).</li> <li>NLP Threatened Species and Communities Projects (Victorian Volcanic Plains, p. 23).</li> </ul>
Objective 8.2: Improve connectivity of habitat for species populations and communities	3 of 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South West Biolinks Project (p. 22)</li> <li>Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink Project (p. 22)</li> </ul>
Objective 8.3: Public land is managed as the core of resilient ecosystems	1 of 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South West Biolinks Project (p. 22)</li> <li>Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink Project (p. 22)</li> </ul>
<b>Threatened Species and Communities</b>		
Objective 9.1: Improve the health of key populations of threatened species and communities	9 of 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP Threatened Species and Communities Projects (e.g. DELWP Threatened Flora and Fauna Program, Eastern Barred Bandicoot Protection, Linear Grassland Reserve Conservation and Connectivity across the VVP, Trust for nature Covenants and the Red Tailed Black Cockatoo project, p. 24).</li> </ul>
<b>Soil and Land</b>		
Objective 10.1: An improvement in soil condition as measured by key indicators by 2033	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project (p. 27)</li> </ul>
Objective 10.2: An increase in the area of soils managed within their capability	7 of 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP Regional Landcare Facilitator Project (p. 14)</li> <li>NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project (p. 27)</li> </ul>
Objective 10.3: By 2033 reduce the impact of soil based threats, including salinity and erosion, on waterways and wetlands as measured by improved ISC and IWC scores (turbidity and EC)	2 of 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP Regional Landcare Facilitator Project (p. 14)</li> <li>NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project (p. 27)</li> </ul>
Objective 10.4: By 2033 soils are managed for protection and enhancement of the beneficial ecosystem services provided by soils	1 of 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NLP Sustainable Agriculture Project (p. 27)</li> </ul>

## REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

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

Consistent with previous years, strong partnerships with the community, individuals and organisations have been key to the successful delivery of RCS actions over the reporting period; and good progress continues to be made on RCS implementation. Of the 112 management measures, 71% were completed in 2015-16.

A major focus for 2015-16 has been the development of the Glenelg Hopkins NRM Plan for Climate Change, which relates to four RCS management actions. The plan is expected to be finalised in early 2016-17 and will support the CMA in responding to and adapting to climate change by guiding the development and prioritisation of mitigation and adaptation actions.

Implementation of the RCS has been supported through a number of funding sources, including the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme and the State Government's Victorian Water Program Investment Framework the CMA's main sources of project funding for 2015-16. The Victorian Landcare Grants Program has provided important funding for on-ground works across the region.

## COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

### Management Highlights

Achievements towards implementing RCS community participation objectives and actions are highlighted below. The major actions arose from:

- Facilitating the development of partnership projects;
- Implementing the Regional Landcare Support Strategy;
- Implementing programs to build community capacity in NRM; and
- Community education programs to increase awareness of natural assets region and encourage actions that improve land, water and biodiversity outcomes.

### 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 Landcare grants program, funded by the Victorian Government, provided \$183,355 for landholders to protect priority wetlands, riparian areas and terrestrial vegetation, as identified through state and regional priorities.

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 Willaura, which was attended by around 85 people.

Presenters gave an insight into topics such as zero till cropping and restorative farming, integrated pest management, corporate farming and stories of Landcare successes. The day included a bus tour of projects undertaken in the Willaura area by the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group.

Landcare grants program achievements included:

- 20.18 km of fencing
- 31,895 trees planted
- 16 engagement and capacity building events
- 2.82 km of direct seeding
- 84.69 ha of revegetation

Administration grants were also allocated to 33 Landcare and natural resource management groups and 2 networks to assist with insurance and administration costs.

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

- promoting the Landcare ethic and sustainable agricultural practices
- assisting with funding applications, membership and resources

- supporting the development, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of regional plans
- building and strengthening partnerships between regional stakeholders.

Project activities supported by the RLF program in 2015-16 included:

- Integrated pest management demonstrations undertaken in conjunction with Upper Hopkins Land Management Group
- Willaura Yarn - a community engagement event aimed at capturing the region's agricultural history over the past 150 years
- Maintaining resilience in tough times seminar, undertaken in conjunction with Perennial Pasture Systems Group
- Lake Bolac Eel Festival Environmental Forum support
- Biochar demonstrations with Tarragal Landcare Group.

### 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 Australian Government's National Landcare Programme. A key focus is to support Indigenous people to build capacity, knowledge and skills, where appropriate, for resource management in the catchment.

A highlight for the reporting period was the signing of a Partnership Statement between Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and Glenelg Hopkins CMA. The Partnership Statement outlines what the partnership goals are for the next six years, how these goals will be measured, and the principles that underpin the success of the partnership. It acknowledges and honours the successful working partnership between the two organisations.

Key activities undertaken for 2015-16 to build Indigenous community capacity to participate in NRM included:

- Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board endorsement of Aboriginal Participation Guidelines for Victorian Catchment Management Authorities
- Junior Ranger program developed and delivered in schools by the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC) with the support of Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- Landholders engaged through the 'Yarns on Farms' extension program in collaboration with GMTOAC
- Delivery of a mentoring and secondment program between government agencies, research institutions, Indigenous groups and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

**Woodland Bird Monitoring**

During October 2015 and April 2016 the Panyyabyr Landcare Group and Upper Hopkins Land Management Group engaged the local community to undertake woodland bird monitoring. This is the third consecutive year the monitoring events have been held. The event attracted a total of 53 community members in the two Landcare group areas with a total of 88 species of birds sighted across both events. The monitoring events form an important component of the regional Threatened Species and Communities program.

**Angler Engagement**

The Glenelg River Angler Engagement project was a pilot funded by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to illustrate the benefits of environmental flows with anglers along the Glenelg River. Sessions were held at Balmoral, Harrow, Casterton and Dartmoor over four days with over 100 keen anglers participating in fish surveys and discussions about environmental flows and river health management.

**Condition Statement**

**Overall Condition:** Good

**Community Participation Trend:** Steady

The Glenelg Hopkins community continues to play an integral role in the delivery of natural resource management (NRM) 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 grants, the CMA's partnership projects and participation at community forums and field days over the last decade.

CMA participation rates in NRM engagement events increased by 44 per cent in 2015-16, with 5,997 participants reported in 2015-16, compared with 2,664 in 2014-15.

The region was found to have high participation rates in both Australian and Victorian government NRM projects in a 2011-12 Australian Bureau of Statistics survey, reflecting the strength of regional partnerships. 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<sup>1</sup>.

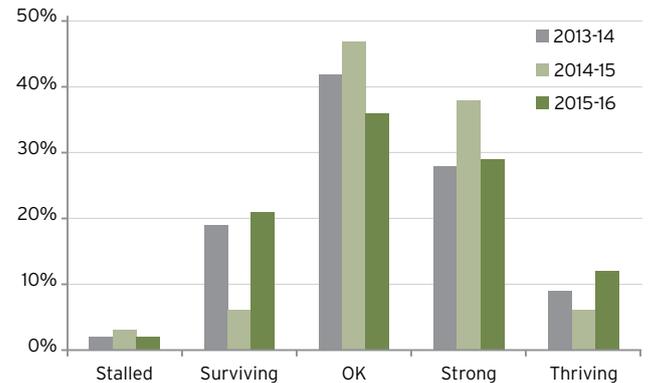
The Glenelg Hopkins region has 111 Landcare Groups. Of these groups, 56 are active and 55 are in recess and these figures have remained relatively constant over the past 3 years. The region is home to a further 49 community based natural resource management groups and five Landcare networks. Each year, groups are invited to complete a Group Health Survey, which records group perceptions of their current health and activity levels.

The results of the most recent Group Health Survey (out of 5) are shown in the table and graph (above right). The survey is completed by groups that participate in the Victorian Landcare Grants process. Results from previous surveys are shown for comparative purposes.

*Landcare Group Health Survey Results: 2013-14 to 2015-16*

Year	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Group Health Score	3.23	3.38	3.26
Respondents	43	32	42

*Landcare Group Health Survey Results: 2013-14 to 2015-16*



**RIVERS AND FLOODPLAINS**

**Management Highlights**

Key achievements towards implementing RCS and Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy actions for rivers and floodplains in 2015-16 are highlighted below.

**Aboriginal Water Values Project**

The Aboriginal Water Values project is a pilot project investigating Traditional Owner values and uses for the Glenelg River. The project aims to enable the integration of Aboriginal values and traditional knowledge into environmental water planning and delivery through documenting Traditional Owner interests, aspirations, challenges and opportunities for water management and cultural flow interests for the Glenelg River system. Documentation of the project's process and outcomes will contribute to an Aboriginal Water Framework for Victoria. The project is being delivered by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in partnership with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Barengi Gadjin Land Council.

**Waterway Management Masterclass - Twinning Program**

This year Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Australian River Restoration Centre ran the first Waterway Management Twinning Program. The program pairs river management professionals from across south-eastern Australia to foster collaboration and deliver world-class river protection and rehabilitation projects. The program has arisen from the CMA's 2013 Australian Riverprize win. The program had ten participants from six organisations including North Central CMA, OzFish Unlimited, the Arthur Rylah Institute, Melbourne Water, the Basalt to Bay Landcare Network and Glenelg Hopkins CMA. The CMA will be continuing the mentoring program over the next two years with support from DELWP.

### **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 2015-16 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 City Council), the 'Beyond Bolac Community Action Group' and the Upper Hopkins Landcare Group.

Key achievements for 2015-16 included: 11 landholder management agreements established covering 70 ha, 6,100 native trees and shrubs planted, 16 km of waterway fenced, 43 ha of woody weed control undertaken and two off-stream watering points established.

### **Wannon Waterway Action Plan Stage 2**

Stage 2 of the Wannon Waterway Action Plan was undertaken over an area of 47,000 ha of Bryan Creek above Coleraine, and the Wannon River catchment between Four Posts Reserve and the Grange Burn confluence. Glenelg Hopkins CMA Field Officers mapped threats and assets on waterways on agricultural and forestry land including erosion, stock access, fencing, remnant native vegetation, pest plant and animal issues and drought refuge pools. Forty landholders participated in the survey. Over 30 landholders have expressed an interest in undertaking works on their waterways. Subject to funding, more than 50 km of waterways could be protected.

### **Merri River Hotspot**

The Merri River estuary is a popular fishing location in the heart of Warrnambool. The CMA in partnership with Warrnambool City Council, Arthur Rylah Institute, Fisheries Victoria, and community groups have undertaken works in the lower reaches of the estuary to promote and improve fish habitat. Fishing access was also improved through the construction of two floating jetties. Instream habitats (rocks and timber structures) were installed, weeds were removed and banks revegetated. Community days were held to promote the importance of both instream structures and bank vegetation to fish populations. This project is being funded by the National Landcare Programme and Recreational Fishing Levy Grants.

### **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. Achievements include 62.24 kilometres of fencing, 156.31 hectares of weed control and 23.71 ha of revegetation.

### **Works Crew**

In 2015-16 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 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:

- 10.54 km of environmental fencing
- 19.95 ha of non-woody weed control
- 200.6 ha of woody weed control
- 3,275 native trees and shrubs planted.

### **Carp Monitoring and Control Program - River Basin Management Society Award**

The CMA, in collaboration with the South Australian Research and Development Institute, has established an acoustic tracking array to monitor the movement of 136 tagged "Judas" Carp across 300 river kilometers of the Glenelg River using 26 acoustic stations. This is the largest carp tracking project for a river system in Australia. The carp monitoring and control program was awarded the River Basin Management Society's Award for Innovation in Waterway Management in 2015-16. The study is designed to determine which factors stimulate behaviours such as large-scale movement, passage through migration bottlenecks and spawning or overwintering aggregations. Improved knowledge of these behaviours will enable refinement of cost-effective control strategies.

### **Environmental Water Management**

The Environmental Water Program contributes to 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 totaled 2,970 ML. Passing flow obligations at Rocklands Reservoir contributed 447 ML toward the health of the Glenelg River.

In 2015-16 the Glenelg River environmental flows program was impacted by critical water shortage resulting in the decline in the condition of much of the river. Importantly, the limited water available was used to protect refuge habitats with fish surveys showing persistence of fish species at these sites including two large Estuary Perch caught at Fulham Streamside Reserve - the largest known migration recorded for this species.

**Regional Floodplain Management Strategy**

Work on the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy commenced in 2015-16. The strategy is expected to address a number of RCS floodplain management related actions when complete. Regional Floodplain Management Strategies will provide the basis for assessing flood risk and setting regional priorities, and are the starting point for local governments and other stakeholders to identify priority flood management activities.

**Regional Flood Investigations**

A key action in the RCS is to 'undertake flood studies to improve knowledge of potential flood impacts on settlements'. The CMA commenced work on the Harrow Flood Investigation in 2015-16, and continued work on the Ararat Flood Investigation, which is expected to be completed in 2016-17. The projects are being undertaken by the CMA in partnership with West Wimmera Shire Council and Ararat Rural City Councils respectively, and the Victorian and Australian Governments. Project outputs will provide improved information for planning and responding to flood events, consider mitigation options and inform land use planning.

**Condition Statement**

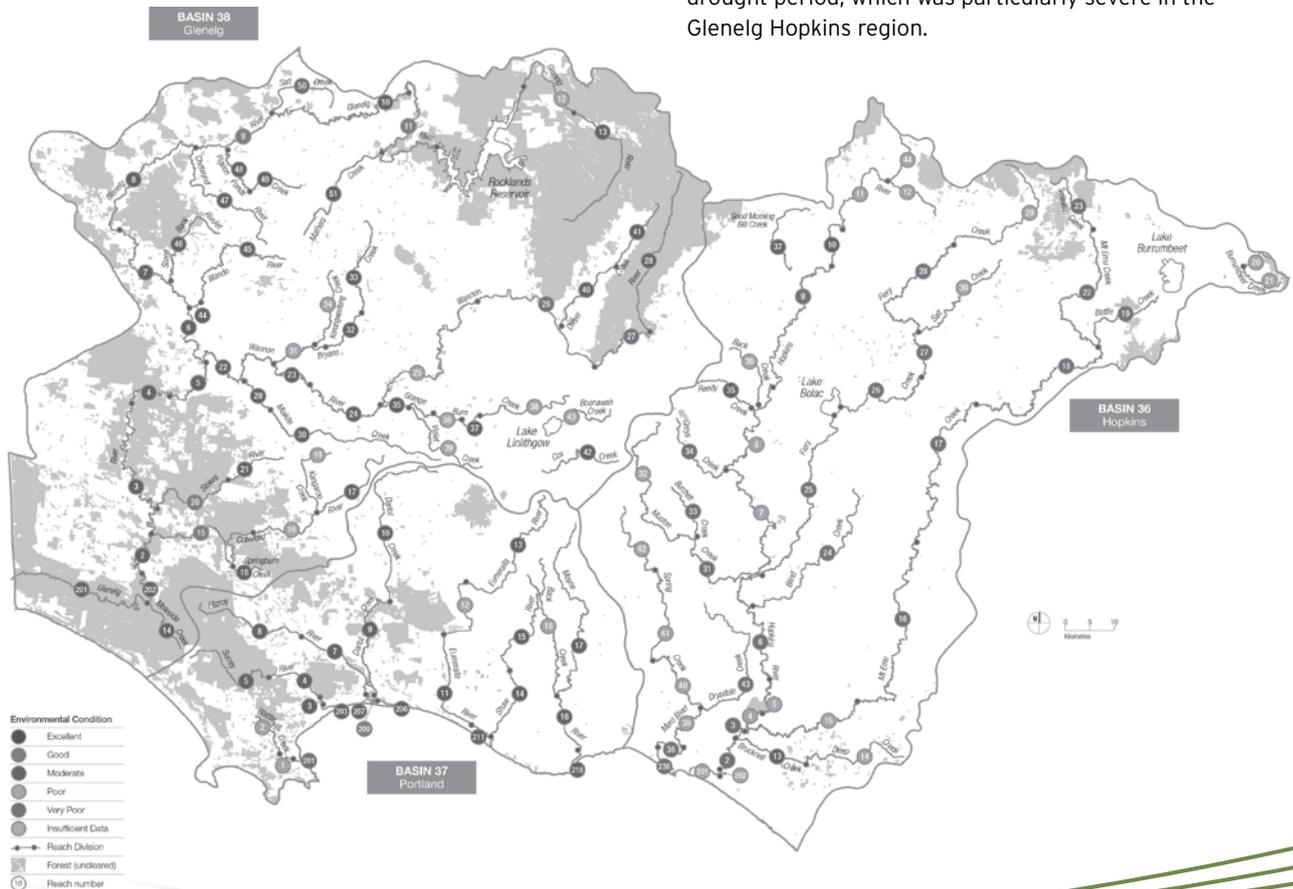
**Overall Stream Condition:** Very poor to moderate (84 per cent of assessed reaches were graded as being in moderate condition for the Portland Basin, 68 per cent in moderate condition for the Glenelg Basin and 56 per cent in very poor condition for the Hopkins Basin, during Index of Stream Condition 3 assessments).

The condition of waterways in the region varies from excellent to very poor, reflecting the level of modification of waterways 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 often support economic values and recreational activities.

The environmental condition of rivers in Victoria is assessed using the Index of Stream Condition. The last ISC was undertaken in 2010. ISC 3 results 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 (see map below). All reaches in good condition (14 per cent of reaches assessed) were in the Glenelg basin. Both the Glenelg and Portland basins had the majority of their stream length assessed in moderate condition (68 per cent and 84 per cent respectively)<sup>2</sup>. 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<sup>3</sup>.

It should be noted that the assessment coincided with a drought period, which was particularly severe in the Glenelg Hopkins region.

*Environmental Condition of Streams, ISC3, Glenelg Hopkins Region*



## WETLANDS

### Management Highlights

Key activities undertaken in 2015-16 towards implementing RCS and Regional Waterway Strategy actions for wetlands are highlighted below.

#### **Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex - Ramsar Nomination Process**

In January 2014, the State Government announced at a community function in Nelson that Glenelg Hopkins CMA would use part of its winnings from the Australian Riverprize to complete the necessary listing documentation to nominate the Glenelg Estuary as the next Victorian Ramsar site.

The Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex is a cluster of wetlands representing three ecologically and geomorphologically distinct environments:

- freshwater wetlands located along the inland side of the primary dune within the Discovery Bay Coastal Park;
- the Glenelg River Estuary including the western half of the Lower Glenelg National Park to the river mouth (excludes the section of river which lies in South Australia); and
- approximately 50 kilometres of beach and dune environment within the Discovery Bay Coastal Park, from the foot of the dunes to the low water mark.

Listing of the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex area as a new Ramsar site provides benefits in protecting highly significant wetland values, raising the profile of the wetlands and increasing the level of support for the use of this area. Additional benefits include enhancing tourism and contributing to wider local and regional economic sustainability.

A Draft Ramsar Management Plan was prepared as part of the nomination process for listing the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex under the Ramsar Convention and made available for public comment in late 2015-16.

### Impacts of Cropping on Wetlands

This project aims to assess the current and future risks to wetlands in Victoria from cropping, through an application of the vulnerability assessment framework. Cropping has the potential to impact on the condition and values of wetlands and has been identified as a threatening process to wetlands in fragmented landscapes in Victoria. There is currently limited information regarding the vulnerability of wetlands to cropping. The project will provide a vulnerability ranking of wetland types based on the potential impact of cropping on wetland condition, modified by the adaptive capacity (resilience) for each wetland type. It will also provide guidelines for managing the potential impacts of cropping. The project is expected to be completed in early 2016-17.

The impacts of cropping on wetlands project is contributing to the achievement of two RCS actions 'develop best management practices for wetlands', and 'review the effectiveness of current measures to mitigate the impact of land-used change on wetlands'.

### 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 Australian Government National Landcare Programme funded projects - Coastal Connections and Threatened Species and Communities. Works include fencing, reduced grazing pressure, weed control and in some cases, revegetation. All projects involve multi-year agreements with landholders.

In the 2015-16 period, the Coastal Tender program continued to fund protection and works on 46.9 ha of coastal and estuarine wetlands.

*BELOW: Discovery Bay Coastal Park  
(image courtesy of Marcel Hoog Antink).*



On the Victorian Volcanic Plains, 528.3 ha of critically-threatened Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands have had management plans and associated agreements completed as part of the NLP Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) Stewardship 2.

Wetland management and protection on private land project activities have contributed to the following RCS action:

*'through education and incentive programs, increase the number of private land managers implementing best wetland management practices'*.

## Condition Statement

**Overall Wetland Condition:** Good to excellent 64 per cent of Glenelg Hopkins region wetlands surveyed as part of the 2009 Index of Wetland Condition.

The Glenelg Hopkins region has more than 5,400 wetlands, covering 73,000 ha or three per cent of the region's area. This represents 14 per cent of Victoria's total area of wetlands and 44 per cent of the state's total number of wetlands<sup>4</sup>. The region's wetlands vary greatly, ranging from large and permanent freshwater lakes to small and ephemeral (non-permanent) freshwater meadows. Seasonal herbaceous wetlands, which are ephemeral, isolated freshwater wetlands, are particularly well represented. This wetland type is listed as critically endangered under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwlth) (EPBC).

Wetlands of the Glenelg Hopkins region are recognised as key areas for conservation under a number of international agreements. Lake Bookar, near Camperdown, is part of the Western District Lakes Ramsar site, which is recognised under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance, while several other wetlands support migratory water bird species listed under international bilateral migratory bird agreements with Japan, China and the Republic of Korea (JAMBA, CAMBA, and ROKAMBA) and the Convention on Migratory Species.

There are three Important Bird Areas (IBAs) including Yambuk Lakes complex IBA, Port Fairy to Warrnambool IBA, and Discovery Bay to Piccaninnie Ponds IBA. Sixteen of the region's wetlands are Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia listing.

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>5</sup>. A study conducted on a wetland cluster in the south eastern Grampians area showed a 45 per cent increase in incidences where wetlands have been impacted by cropping between 2010 and 2015<sup>6</sup>. All wetland types within the Glenelg Hopkins region currently face a range of threats that will be exacerbated by climate change. The two wetland types that will be most vulnerable to climate change are coastal and seasonal herbaceous wetlands<sup>7</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 quite common throughout the Glenelg Hopkins region and 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	

## ESTUARIES

### Management Highlights

Key activities undertaken in 2015-16 towards implementing RCS and Regional Waterway Strategy actions for estuaries are highlighted below.

#### Fitzroy Estuary and Darlot Creek Waterway Action Plan

Glenelg Hopkins CMA commenced the Waterway Action Plan (WAP) for the Fitzroy River estuary and associated catchment area in 2015-16. CMA Field Officers liaised with local landholders to gain an up-to-date understanding of the system and to gain an insight into their knowledge, priorities and potential concerns; and conducted property assessments with 20 landholders. As part of the WAP process, Budj Bim Rangers have identified priority works along Darlot Creek and the Fitzroy River. The project has also explored opportunities for inclusion of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge into Waterway Action Planning. This study will drive the strategic direction of on-ground works in the area over the next five years.

The Fitzroy Estuary is an integral part of the Budj Bim Landscape that is rich in Indigenous culture including stone huts as well as engineered wetlands and channels used to hold and harvest eels. The area contains the oldest known record of aquaculture in the world and supports many rare and threatened aquatic fauna including Grayling, Yarra Pygmy Perch, Dwarf Galaxias, Australasian Bitterns, Growling Grass Frogs and Glenelg Spiny Crayfish.

#### Glenelg River Estuary Response Investigation

This project is undertaking an initial investigation into the potential to deliver environmental water to support ecological objectives in the Glenelg River estuary and associated wetlands. The project will quantify water delivery to the estuary under different flow and tidal conditions and assess how inflows and the status of the estuary entrance affect water conditions. The results of this study may inform future use of the Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment Method (EEFAM) to determine the water regime requirements of the Glenelg River estuary.

#### *Trial Index of Estuary Condition results.*

*Summary of selected measures in each of five themes:*

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

### Condition Statement

#### Overall Estuary Condition: Moderate to Good

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

Several estuaries in the Glenelg Hopkins region are recognised at national and international levels for their environmental significance. The Glenelg River estuary is listed as a Heritage River under the *Heritage Rivers Act 1992 (Vic)* and as a wetland of national significance in the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia (DIWA). The Yambuk Lake complex, along with the Lower Merri River wetlands (Kellys and Saltwater swamps) are DIWA-listed wetlands. Estuaries provide important habitat for migratory bird species, which are protected under international agreements. The proximity of estuaries to coastal settlements exposes them to high levels of recreation and social use which could lead to future negative impacts on their overall condition. Predicted population growth in coastal areas will increase development pressure, particularly along waterways and the high-value of coastal agricultural land will also contribute to the pressure on coastal land, including land adjacent to estuaries.

The Index of Estuary Condition (IEC) was developed by Deakin University to measure the condition of estuaries across Victoria, with scores on estuary characteristics rated from 1 = very poor to 5 = excellent<sup>8</sup>. A recent IEC trial assessment was conducted and found that the condition of Glenelg Hopkins estuaries was from moderate to good (see *Table below*). The results should be viewed with caution as the scores only reflect a subset of measures that were assessed during the trial. The IEC trial indicated all estuaries, with the exception of Fawthrop Lagoon, have excellent physical form with respect to pre-European condition, however estuaries scored from very poor to good for hydrology. This lower score reflects regulated flow regimes and artificially opening the mouth of most estuaries to reduce the risk of flooding. Water quality was rated moderate to excellent across all estuaries in the region. Levels of sediment deposits in all but Lake Yambuk were scored from moderate to good. Estuarine flora, as measured by phytoplankton levels, was excellent in the Hopkins River estuary, but very poor to moderate across all other estuaries assessed. Phytoplankton is a measure of productivity and is influenced by nutrient levels, turbidity and stratification of the estuary. These levels may be influenced by surrounding land use practices.

## COASTS

### Management Highlights

Key activities undertaken in 2015-16 towards implementing RCS actions for coasts are highlighted below.

#### Western Regional Coastal Action Plan 2015-2020

The Western Coastal Board's Western Regional Coastal Plan (2015-2020) was endorsed by the Minister and gazetted in September 2015<sup>9</sup>. The update of the plan was identified as an action in the RCS.

The plan provides guidance to local coast managers in preparing Local Coastal Management Plans, and applies to the Western Coastal Region from Breamlea in the east through to the South Australian border in the west.

The Plan:

- interprets and implements the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014 and its hierarchy of principles at a regional scale
- recognises regional coastal values and the role of communities in caring for the coast
- identifies actions to address key challenges, including coastal flooding and erosion, foreshore management and visitation pressures.

#### Coastal Community Grants

Eleven community groups were supported through Coastal Connections grants during 2015-16 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 and/or promoted values associated with the coastal environment.

#### 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 296.2 ha of good quality remnant coastal habitat is being protected through ten year management agreements as of 30 April 2016.

An additional 82 hectares of remnant coastal habitat is being protected through on-title permanent protection by means of a conservation covenant (Trust for Nature).

### DELWP Coastal Threatened Flora and Fauna Program

This project addresses specific high priority actions in the Actions for Biodiversity Conservation (ABC) database within the coastal zone and adjacent areas, including in EPBC listed Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh Communities. Target threatened species include: Mellblom's Spider-orchid, Limestone Spider-orchid, Coast Dandelion, Maroon Leek-orchid and Metallic Sun-orchid. Species population monitoring has been carried out at 11 known sites, with a further 12 new sites surveyed for species presence over the 2015-16 period.

### Condition Statement

**Overall Condition:** Generally Poor

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 are in good condition, but this is typically related to the protection that is afforded to them (e.g. parks and reserve system). Where areas of the coastline are under high demand and subject to development pressures, coastal habitats tend to gradually fragment or are lost<sup>10</sup>.

The 220 km of Glenelg Hopkins coastline is subject to sea level rise, flooding and coastal erosion. With a changing climate, these impacts will be exacerbated with increases in wind speed, storm intensity and frequency, as well as changes in rainfall intensity and frequency<sup>11</sup>. A changing climate will have an effect on the health and functioning of coastal wetlands and estuaries. For example, loss of saltmarsh through greater erosion and increase saltwater intrusion through sea level rise. Salinity regimes can also be changed as a result of reduced freshwater flows into estuaries and more intense storms can create new estuary entrances or break through existing entrances<sup>12</sup>.

Coastal settlements located in low-lying areas within the catchment are already experiencing occasional inundation (e.g. Port Fairy). The Dutton Way area near Portland has been subject to erosion over many years and a 4.5 km sea wall has been built to protect residential properties and road infrastructure in this area<sup>13</sup>.

The condition of the region's wetlands, estuaries and native vegetation varies significantly along the coast. The Glenelg River Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetland Complex encompass freshwater wetlands, estuary, beach and dune systems that are in excellent condition<sup>14</sup>. Wetlands that retain water on at least a semi-permanent basis are generally in good condition, and regional estuaries in moderate to good condition based on the results of the recent IEC. Coastal vegetation is fragmented, with large areas of remnant vegetation found within protected areas such as National Parks, Coastal Parks and Reserves. Private land is mostly residential or utilised for agriculture. A key challenge is to maintain a healthy and diverse coastal ecosystem that exhibits connectivity on a landscape scale, particularly where the coast is in high demand or under threat from the implications of climate change.

## MARINE

### Management Highlights

Parks Victoria completed a series of dives in 2015 within Discovery Bay Marine National Park in order to gather marine life and natural history information within the Reserve. No marine pests were observed during the dives.

### 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, with special management areas including 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.

## TERRESTRIAL HABITAT

### Management Highlights

Achievements towards implementing RCS actions for terrestrial habitat are highlighted below. A key RCS objective is for public land to be managed as the core of resilient ecosystems. Regional biolink projects undertaken in 2015-16 have continued to focus on supporting resilient ecosystem management on public land with buffer zones and linkages. Activities have also focused on RCS actions that relate to protecting the condition of terrestrial habitat through revegetation and fencing, and developing conservation covenants to protect areas of high-value remnant vegetation.

### South West Biolinks Project

The South West Biolinks Project 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: 177 ha of revegetation, 506 ha of remnant protection or enhancement and 1,025 ha of pest plant control.

### Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink

This project is aimed at improving biodiversity connections between the Grampians and the Pyrenees region. The \$1.8 million Australian Government funded project was led by Project Platypus in partnership with Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Wimmera CMA, Trust for Nature, Parks Victoria, Central Biolinks and Conservation Volunteers Australia. 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.

This was the final year of this three year project. Achievements for 2015-16 included 145 ha of remnant vegetation protected, 56 ha of revegetation, 25,460 plants established and four Trust for Nature covenants established in the Glenelg Hopkins region.

### Pine Wildling Removal

The Pine Wildling Remove Project was carried out in the Drajurk State Forest in conjunction with DELWP, the Green Army and Conservation Volunteers Australia as part of the Victorian Government's Threatened Species Protection Initiative. The aim of the project was to remove pine wildlings from high priority Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (RtBC) habitat where pine wildlings threaten to suppress the regeneration of Stringybarks and understorey plants that are key dietary requirements for RtBC breeding success.

The project targeted the removal of pine wildlings from 7,000 ha of high-value public land. In addition, all RtBC sightings were reported via the BirdLife Australia hotline, increasing knowledge of population extent and feeding habits.

### Victorian Volcanic Plains Program

Payments were offered to landholders to protect nationally significant ecological communities on the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP) under Round 2 of the VVP Stewardship Programme. The second round of the program commenced in 2014-15 and is funded by the National Landcare Programme. Payments in the program varied, depending on the environmental value of the site and the type of agreement used to protect the sites (long-term management agreement or Trust for Nature conservation covenant). To date, 516 ha of nationally threatened grassland communities have been protected under Round 2 of the program, and of this figure, 306 ha has been permanently protected through Trust for Nature conservation covenants.

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

### South West Management Plan

The *Ngootyoong Gunditj Ngootyoong* Mara South West Management Plan was launched in May 2015. It is a strategic guide for managing and protecting over 130 parks, reserves and Indigenous Protected Areas in south west Victoria<sup>15</sup>. The plan identifies high-value natural assets and key threats to these assets, such as invasive animals. The plan integrates Gunditjmara Traditional Owners' knowledge into park management. The plan was prepared by Parks Victoria in partnership with Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, Budj Bim Council and DELWP. The completion of this document is identified as an action in the RCS, and an implementation plan is currently being developed.

### Condition Statement

**Overall vegetation extent:** Poor

**Overall native vegetation quality:** Data deficient

The extent of native vegetation has declined significantly since European settlement. Native vegetation is generally assumed to be in good to excellent condition in largely intact landscapes in the conservation and reserve system, but typically in poor to moderate condition in fragmented landscapes and with the potential of further decline through vegetation clearing, development pressure and weed infestations.

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.

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.

Four of Victoria's 14 broad natural ecosystem types are represented within these parks and other reserves, namely Coastal, Dry Forest and Woodlands, Heathland and Inland Waters and Wetlands<sup>16</sup>.

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.

Less than 18 per cent of the pre-European coverage of native vegetation within the region now remains. Of this amount, around 12 per cent occurs on Crown land, and five 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.

Within the Glenelg Hopkins Region, around 10 per cent or less of native vegetation cover remains in the Dundas Tablelands, Warrnambool Plain and Victorian Volcanic Plain Bioregions (compared to pre-1750 extent)<sup>17</sup>.

The condition of native vegetation by Victorian bioregion was modelled in 2010. Bioregions that relate to the Glenelg Hopkins region that had the highest percentage of assessed native vegetation scored as high and very high included the Glenelg Plain (81 per cent) and Bridgewater (66 per cent)<sup>18</sup>. The Victorian Bridgewater bioregion only occurs in the Glenelg Hopkins region. Bioregions with the highest levels of low and medium quality vegetation included the Victorian Volcanic Plain, Dundas Tablelands and Warrnambool Plain. The results should be interpreted with caution as the results aren't shown specifically by NRM region.

Mount Eccles National Park contains the largest remaining intact area of Stony Rises Herb-rich Woodland in the Victorian Volcanic Plain bioregion. Manna Gum tree condition assessment has been undertaken biannually in this area since 2004. The 2014 survey suggests that whilst the condition of Manna Gums is still in poorer condition than in 2004, there has been some recent recovery of the woodland possibly in response to higher rainfall in recent years and reduced browsing pressure from the Koala population.

Although the occurrence of intact native vegetation is lowest on private land, the region has seen an increase in formal protection of high-value remnant vegetation on properties over time. As of April 2016, 87 covenants were recorded in the region, covering 3,491 ha of land, including 2,906 ha of high-value vegetation from 56 Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)<sup>19</sup>.

## SPECIES POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

### Management Highlights

Activities undertaken in 2015-16 towards implementing RCS actions for species populations and communities have focused on continuing support for the regional Threatened Flora and Fauna Program and the implementation of high priority actions in high priority locations consistent with the Actions for Biodiversity Conservation database, building regional capacity through training and education programs to increase awareness of regional biodiversity assets, values and threats.

### 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 database for threatened species across the Victorian Volcanic Plains. These species include the: Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Pretty Leek-orchid, Gorae Leek-orchid, Fragrant Leek-orchid, Basalt Rustyhood, Robust Spider-orchid, Candy Spider-orchid, Wrinkled Cassinia. 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. The project aims to stabilise the status of eight threatened species regionally by 2018.

The program is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.



ABOVE: *Caladenia filamentosa* (Daddy Long Legs Orchid), image courtesy of Dr Michelle Casanova.

### Eastern Barred Bandicoot Protection

The Eastern Barred Bandicoot is considered extinct in the wild, and now only exists in captive populations. To ensure these populations persist, the CMA has been undertaking protection works at the Hamilton Parklands Reserve in partnership with Conservation Volunteers Australia, this includes the control of introduced animals, fence maintenance to exclude introduced predators, population monitoring, habitat management and involving the community in recovery activities.

A key highlight for 2016 was the release of 23 Eastern Barred Bandicoots from other locations at the Hamilton Parklands Reserve with the aim of increasing the genetic diversity and establishing a healthy breeding population.

### Glenelg Ark Project

This longstanding project was established in 2005 to assist with the protection of local populations of the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo, and the Common Brushtail Possum. The project is a collaboration between DELWP and Parks Victoria and is the largest fox control project on public land in south west Victoria, operating across 90,000 hectares. It is part of a suite of landscape scale fox control projects in Victoria, including Grampians Ark. The project has had a positive impact on native mammal recovery efforts in the region, with current data showing a 65 per cent increase in the number of Long-nosed Potoroos in areas baited for foxes.

### 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 through work undertaken in conjunction with local CFAs, VicRoads, rail track authorities and local government. Actions include habitat protection, strategic weed management and development and implementation of appropriate burning regimes. This will provide improved habitat for the Golden Sun Moth, Striped Legless Lizard and a suite of threatened flora species. The project is funded by the National Landcare Programme.

The CMA organised two field trips in conjunction with the CFA and DELWP to promote the significance of native grasslands across the Victorian Volcanic Plains. The field trips were well attended, with 73 participants across the two days. A selection of remnant roadside grasslands were visited to showcase appropriate management practices, with further discussion provided by CFA Vegetation Management Officers.

### Trust for Nature Covenants

During the course of 2015-16 covenants have provided permanent protection of 252 ha of nationally significant Ecological Communities and three site management plans have been prepared for covenanted sites.

Covenants in the Glenelg Hopkins region have delivered permanent protection of high-priority native vegetation, and coastal, wetland and riparian areas. Legally binding management agreements are placed on the land title in perpetuity, qualifying the area as being in the national reserve system.

### Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Project

The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (RtBC) 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 components to the RtBC 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 RtBC across its habitat range (approximately 85,000 ha within Glenelg Hopkins CMA region). Activities undertaken in 2015-16 included:

- habitat revegetation activities carried out in conjunction with local schools and scout groups
- annual RtBC flock counts and associated training sessions
- long-term seed crop monitoring of 200 stringybark trees at 10 sites across the RtBC range
- continued implementation and promotion of the RtBC Nest Incentive Scheme.

### Condition Statement

The Glenelg Hopkins area has a high frequency of threatened species<sup>20</sup>. Within the Glenelg Hopkins region, there are 205 species listed under the Victorian Government's *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. Of these listed species, seven are listed as extinct, six regionally extinct and one extinct in the wild (Eastern Barred Bandicoot). Thirteen of the *FFG* listed species in the region are critically endangered, 72 endangered, 40 are vulnerable and 13 near threatened.

Under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, Glenelg Hopkins has 116 species listed: six are extinct; nine critically endangered; 37 endangered; and 64 Vulnerable. Of note, the nationally threatened Dense Leek-orchid was discovered near Casterton during the reporting period.

The Endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo is one of the few fauna species in the region which is monitored annually. Much of the habitat for this species occurs within the Glenelg Hopkins region. Over the last few years numbers have been variable with the data showing that the most important factor affecting the population is the amount of Stringybark fruit available three years prior to monitoring.

There are eight threatened ecological communities in the Glenelg Hopkins region. Current Glenelg Hopkins investment contributes to improving the condition of Buloke Woodlands of the Riverina and Murray-Darling Depression Bioregions via the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo recovery work; Natural Temperate Grassland of the Victorian Volcanic Plains through the linear reserves project and Subtropical and Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh through the coastal habitat protection program.

### Changes to the Status of Threatened Species in the Glenelg Hopkins Region

Advisory lists are maintained by the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning and are based on technical information and advice provide by experts<sup>21,22</sup>. The Advisory lists are not the same as the statutory list of threatened species and communities established under the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act)* however many of the species on the list are also listed under the *Act*. Some species are also listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. For the purposes of this analysis the Advisory List has been used in preference to the *FFG Act* Threatened List as "changes to the Threatened List reflect the rate of public nominations rather than changes in either knowledge or actual status"<sup>23</sup>. Assessments of the conservation status of individual species are based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List categories and criteria.

In separating out the species relevant to the Glenelg Hopkins region entries into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas have been used. As such the analysis may include species no longer found in the region as well as species that only occur sporadically such as migratory birds.

### Vertebrate Fauna

Between 2007 and 2013 there has been a general increase in the number of species, listed as occurring in the Glenelg Hopkins region, being placed on the Victorian Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria (see *Table on page 28*). There have also been changes to the conservation status of 29 regionally occurring species (see *Table on page 28*). Most notably, the Eastern Barred Bandicoot has been upgraded from Critically Endangered to Extinct in the Wild; and the Southern Bent-wing bat has been upgraded from Endangered to Critically Endangered.

Both the Greater Sand Plover and the Spotted Bowerbird have been upgraded from Vulnerable to Critically Endangered. Five bird species have been added to the advisory list: the Ruddy turnstone Eastern Curlew and the Common Greenshank have been added to the list as Vulnerable; the Australian Little Bittern and the Curlew Sandpiper have been added as Endangered.

Numbers of major vertebrate species by conservation status for 2007 and 2013

	Mammals		Birds		Reptiles		Amphibians		Fish (freshwater)	
	2007	2013	2007	2013	2007	2013	2007	2013	2007	2013
Extinct	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Extinct in the Wild	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Regionally Extinct	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Critically Endangered	3	3	7	9	2	2	0	0	1	1
Endangered	2	3	22	26	1	2	2	0	2	3
Vulnerable	5	7	34	40	2	4	1	2	3	4
Near threatened	8	9	31	31	4	3	0	1	1	1
Data Deficient	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>

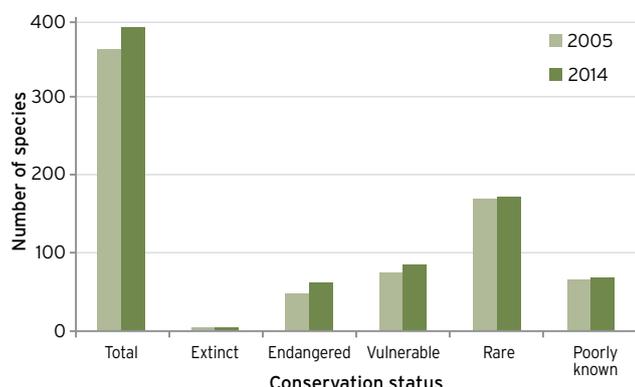
Change to Conservation Status from 2007-2013, for vertebrate species listed as occurring in the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region

Change to Conservation Status	Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Amphibians	Fish (freshwater)	Total
Upgraded	3	5	3	0	1	12
Added	4	7	1	0	0	12
Downgraded	2	2	0	0	1	5
Delisted	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Vascular Plants**

Between 2005 and 2014 there has been a significant increase in the number of vascular plant species placed on the Victorian Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna occurring in the Glenelg Hopkins region (see graph below)<sup>24, 25</sup>. In 2005 there were 365 vascular plant species listed to have occurred in the Glenelg Hopkins region on the Advisory List. In 2014, this number had risen to 392.

Number of Vascular Plant species by conservation status for 2005 and 2014



The only change in conservation status are for Annual Fireweed (*Senecio glabrescens*), and Branched Everlasting (*Conronidium adenophorum*) which have both been upgraded from rare to Vulnerable. There are 12 new species listed as Endangered; eight new species listed as Vulnerable; five new species listed as rare; and two new species listed as Poorly Known.

**Invertebrates**

The Advisory list of Threatened Invertebrate Fauna in Victoria - 2009<sup>26</sup> contains a number of species found predominantly in the Glenelg Hopkins region including the Critically Endangered Golden Sun Moth, Endangered Glenelg River Spiny Cray, the Western Cray and the Ancient Greenling (damselfly); and the Vulnerable Hairy Burrowing Cray, Portland Burrowing Cray, Aquatic Beetle (*Hygrobia australaiae*) and Caddisfly (*Hygrobia australaiae*). There is little information on invertebrates available and as such they are likely to be under-represented on Advisory Lists.

**Summary**

There are a number of threatened species with populations found primarily or exclusively within the Glenelg Hopkins region including the Glenelg River Mussel, the Heath Mouse, and Mellblom's Spider Orchid. For the majority of these regional species, conservation status has not changed since the publication on the first advisory lists; however two notable exceptions are the Easter-Barred Bandicoot and the Southern Bent-wing Bat.

The last remaining wild population of Eastern Barred Bandicoots occurred in Hamilton and the species was declared extinct in the wild in 2010 but had been considered functionally extinct since 2007<sup>27</sup>.

The Southern Bent-wing Bat has also been upgraded from Endangered to Critically Endangered. This species relies on only two maternity caves for successful breeding; one of these is in the Glenelg Hopkins region and the other across the border in South Australia. Causes for the observed population decline are not well understood.

## SOIL AND LAND

### Management Highlights

Key activities undertaken in 2015-16 towards implementing RCS soil and land actions and Soil Health Strategy actions are highlighted below.

#### Sustainable Agriculture Project

The aim of this CMA-led regional partnership project is to increase landholders awareness and knowledge of soil and land and how to improve productivity while protecting the soil resource. In 2015-16, projects were established with Victorian No-Till Farmers Association, Southern Farming Systems and DEDJTR to promote adoption of sustainable farm practices in cropping 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 has increased by 2 per cent of paddocks monitored from spring 2014 to spring 2015, continuing a trend observed in 2014-15. Land under permanent pasture has decreased by 1.5 per cent over the same period. Land use change from permanent pasture to cropping remains the most significant risk to soil health in the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region.

#### 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>28</sup>.

More than 80 per cent of the region has been developed for agricultural use, primarily widespread grazing enterprises and 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** - has been 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

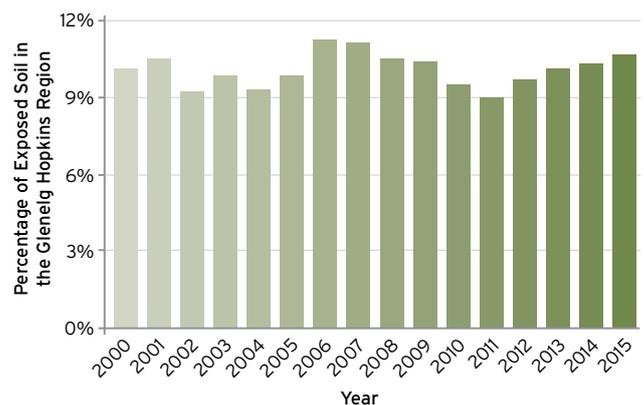
receiving more than 500 mm of annual rainfall. The Glenelg Hopkins region has been identified in the 2013 Victorian State of the Environment Report as one of the Victorian NRM regions most at risk of soil acidification

- **Wind and water erosion** - Approximately 18 per cent of the catchment 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 catchment has been estimated as having a high to very high inherent susceptibility to wind erosion
- **Decline of soil structure** - 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.

Ground cover can provide an indicator of soil health. Soil with a low percentage of groundcover is more susceptible to wind and water erosion<sup>29</sup>.

Exposed soil has been assessed nationally since 2000 by the Australian National University and mapped in the database 'Australia's Environment 2015.' The assessment is undertaken using CSIRO MODIS satellite imagery that captures images of the earth's surface every eight days over a 12-month period to analyse the percentage of ground not covered by living or dead plant material<sup>30</sup>. The database indicates that the percentage area of exposed soil across the Glenelg Hopkins region has varied marginally on an annualised basis between 2000 and 2015<sup>31</sup>. Regional trends in exposed soil are shown in the graph below.

Area of Exposed Soil (%) in the Glenelg Hopkins Region 2000-2015



Rates of exposed soil in the region have increased slightly since 2011 and coincide with a decrease in rainfall experienced over the same period. A decline in the average soil water availability was also detected between 2011 and 2015<sup>32</sup>, which could also be a limiting factor for maintaining groundcover.

# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES WITH ENVIRONMENT

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

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

2015-16 community engagement activities included:

- Promoting catchment management at industry events such as Hamilton Sheepvention and South West Dairy Field Days
- South West Landcare Gathering in Willaura with over 70 participants
- Women in Agriculture event - Farming Fantasies, Rural Realities with over 80 women attending
- Sponsoring and representation on the organising committee for the South West Soils Conference
- Landcare monthly e-newsletter and LandLife quarterly e-newsletter
- Promoting sustainable use of waterways and fishing events such as the Red Gum Shield Fishing Competition, Warrnambool Offshore and Light Game Shipwreck Coast Fishing Classic, Rocklands Fishing Competition and South West Fishing Classic
- Sponsoring events such as Wannon Water National Water Week Competition and the WestVic Dairy Awards
- 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 and engagement sessions with community
- Victorian Volcanic Plains Grasslands Tour in November 2015 with over 30 participating
- Engagement with schools for stone tool workshops and in undertaking visits to Lake Condah mission as part of the Junior Ranges program.

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

Existing community members on the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Advisory group are:

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

Agency representatives are provided by:

- DELWP
- DEDJTR
- Local Government
- Parks Victoria
- WestVic Dairy.

Board representatives for this Group are:

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

The Advisory Group has received briefings on the 2015-16 National Landcare Programme, investment opportunities, and regional Landcare activities.

The Group have also provided feedback into the development of the Glenelg Hopkins Climate Change Strategy, the Environmental Water Communications Strategy and the "Our Catchments, Our Communities" Integrated Catchment Strategy, as well as providing advice on establishing and maintaining strong Industry Partnerships.

In September 2015, the Group held their meeting at Lake Condah Mission where they participated in a tour of the cultural site and learned about the significance of the fish traps, fishways and landscape values.

## Local Government relations

In 2015-16 CEO Kevin Wood continued to develop a proactive liaison program with local government, identifying the core responsibilities of both agencies and pursuing opportunities for collaborative arrangements and providing briefings on activities of significance.

During 2014-15, the CMA had 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 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 88 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 2015-16, with contributions from partner organisations broadening the content.

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

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

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

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



ABOVE: South West Landcare Gathering 2016 at Willaura.

# OUR PEOPLE, OUR BUSINESS

## GOVERNANCE

### Board

A Board of nine community representatives governs Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Directors are appointed by the Minister following a public call for people with skills and catchment experience.

The Chairperson Antony Ford was appointed on October 1 2015 for a term of two years.

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

Key objectives for the Board are to:

- represent the interests of the community in natural resource management
- achieve integrated catchment management (as measured by improvement in resource condition)
- act as a steward for the natural resource base
- create effective partnerships
- develop appropriate action plans and support their implementation, including development of targets and measurement of achievement
- provide regional leadership in natural resource management.

### Governance

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

The Board reports to the Minister for Water, the Hon Lisa Neville and the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, and is accountable to Parliament and the community.

Accountability is further strengthened by the Auditor-General and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ABOVE: Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board (from left to right) Director Karen Wales, Chairperson Antony Ford, Directors Debbie Shea, Dr John Sherwood, Mike Wagg, Dr Michelle Casanova, Damein Bell, Georgina Gubbins and Ian Hastings.

*Board Member Meeting Attendance for 2015-16*

Name	Number of Meetings	Explanatory Note
Antony Ford	6/6	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 Appointed Board Chairperson 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017
Damein Bell	4/6	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Michelle Casanova	6/6	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Georgina Gubbins	6/6	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019
Roma Britnell	2/2	Appointed to the Board October 2011 to 30 September 2015
Michael Craig	1/2	Appointed to the Board October 2011 to 30 September 2015
Vin Gannon	1/2	Appointed to the Board October 2011 to 30 September 2015
Ian Hastings	7/9	Appointed to the Board November 2013 to 30 September 2017
Jason Ritchie	2/2	Appointed to the Board October 2011 to 30 September 2015
Debbie Shea	8/8	Appointed to Board July 2009 Acting Chairperson from 30 September 2015 to 26 October 2015 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
John Sherwood	6/8	Appointed to Board July 2009 Re-appointed to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
Michael Wagg	7/8	Appointed to Board July 2009 Appointed Chairperson July 2011 to 30 September 2015 Re-appointed Chairperson and to Board October 2013 to 30 September 2017
Karen Wales	8/8	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 2015-16 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 2015-16 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 was Peter Dryden who resigned in early 2016, subsequently Brian Demsem was appointed to the committee in 2016.

Board representatives from 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015 were Michael Craig, Ian Hastings and Debbie Shea. From November 2015 to 30 June 2016, the Board representatives were Directors Georgina Gubbins, Ian Hastings and Debbie Shea.

Non-voting staff members are executive officer Business and Finance Program Manager Kathy Connoley and Partnership and Investment Program Manager Michael Rees.

### Remuneration and Performance Committee

From 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015 the Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee was Board Chairperson Michael Wagg and membership included Directors Dr John Sherwood and Michael Craig.

From 27 October 2015 to 30 June 2016, the committee membership changed to Chairperson Antony Ford with Directors John Sherwood and Mike Wagg.

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 Kathy Connoley.

## BOARD DIRECTORS

### Chairperson

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

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

### Deputy Chairperson

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

### Directors

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

**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.

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

**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 & 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.

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

**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.

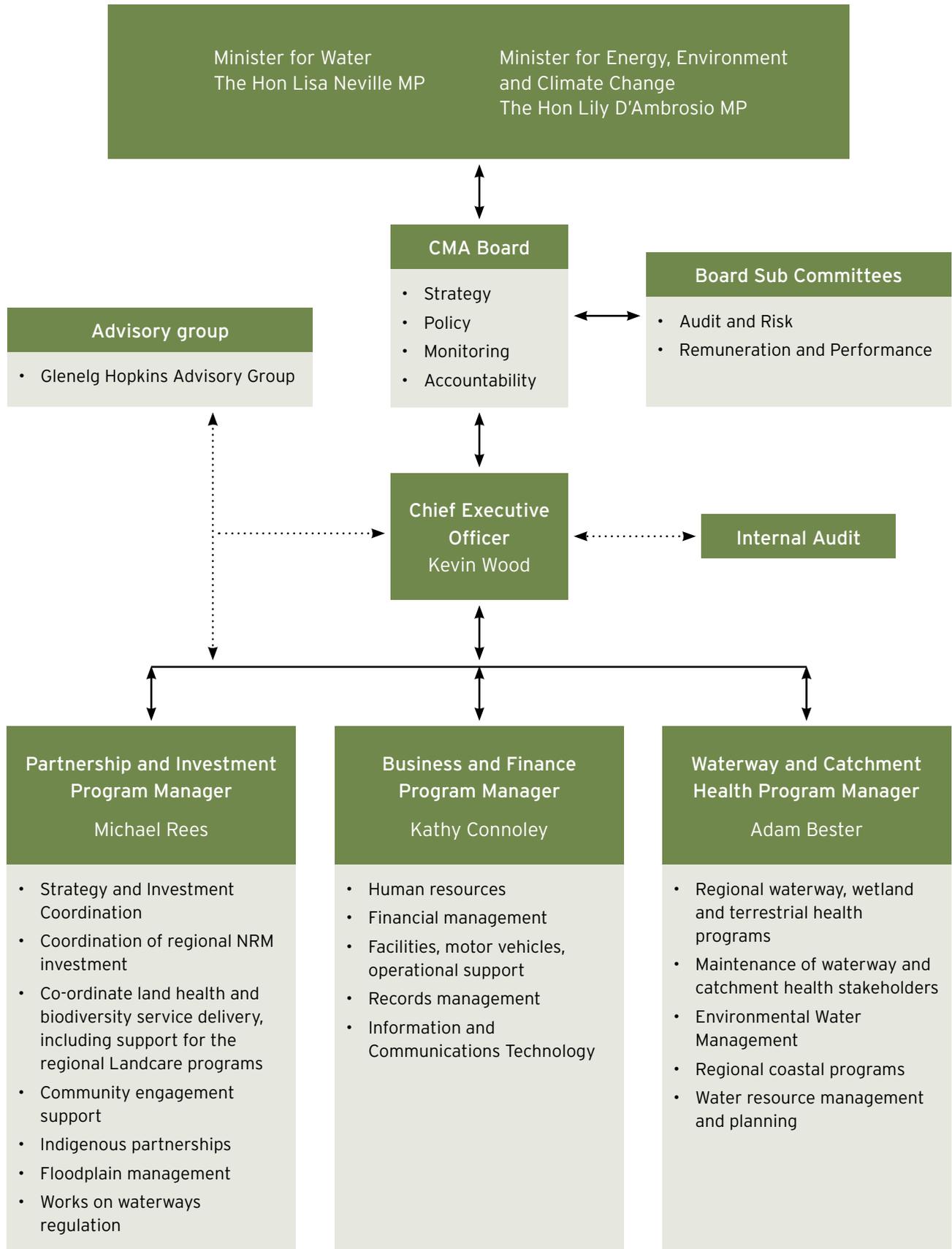
**Mr Jason Ritchie** holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering and is currently a property developer in Geelong. Previously Jason was a self-employed farmer of one of the largest cropping operations in south west Victoria.

**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.

**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.

## ORGANISATIONAL CHART



## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### Program Definition

#### Partnership & 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 & Catchment Health

Sustainable and integrated management of rivers, wetlands, estuaries, terrestrial habitats and biodiversity. Preserve and enhance the ecological health of the region's waterways and terrestrial systems through planning and delivery of on-ground works 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 encouraging peer recognition for staff that have 'gone that extra mile'. A five-tiered reward system is based on different criteria and has been embraced by staff since its introduction
- Engaging staff in a workforce obligations workshop
- Alignment of employee behaviours to agreed values and behaviours through performance reviews
- Negotiating a new four year workplace agreement
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA supports a Staff Management Work Group (SMWG), which meets quarterly to discuss improvements to the work environment.

#### Work Cover Claims

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

### Values and Behaviours

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

### Occupational Health and Safety

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

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

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

- Regular OHS Committee meetings
- OHS Committee training
- Review and revision of Safe Work Method Statements
- Workplace Inspections
- 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 was one Work Cover claim for 2015-16.

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

## Public Administration Employment and Conduct Principles

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 solely on their 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.

Merit is choosing people for the right reasons:

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

Women are represented in management roles within the CMA. One of three Program Managers and four of five senior management roles are held by women and 50 per cent of staff are women. The CMA employs an Indigenous Community Trainee.

### Community inclusiveness

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

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

### Workforce Data

Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed 46 staff (40.91 full-time equivalent) compared to 37 staff (32.56 full time equivalent) on 30 June 2015. The proportion of women was 50 per cent (compared to 46 per cent on 30 June 2015).

Glenelg Hopkins CMA Workforce (FTE) as at June 30 2016

	2015-16	2014-15
Executive Officers	4	4
Senior Managers	5	3
Administration Staff	7	7
Project Staff	30	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>37</b>
Male	20.61	17.49
Female	20.3	15.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>40.91</b>	<b>32.56</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 \$27.90.

#### Application

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received no requests for information during 2015-16 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members and as a result there was no resulting appeals to VCAT.

### Key Initiatives and Projects

Since 1 July 2015, Glenelg Hopkins CMA has undertaken several major programs and initiatives that have supported implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy, including: Commonwealth funded National Landcare Program - Regional delivery and Biodiversity Fund; Victorian Government funded Catchments for Communities; Floodplain and Waterway Management; Environmental Water Management; Landcare, and the Grampians to Pyrenees regional partnership project.

Up to 30 June, Glenelg Hopkins CMA has committed \$1.7 million of Commonwealth funding which includes the major programs of National Landcare Program \$1.6 million, and Biodiversity Fund \$148,000. Glenelg Hopkins CMA will continue to implement the Biodiversity fund until 30 June 2017 and the National Landcare Program - Regional delivery until 30 June 2018, through committing \$2.4 million of Commonwealth funding in 2016/17.

Up to 30 June, Glenelg Hopkins CMA has committed \$4.4 million of Victorian Government funding which includes major programs Catchments for Communities \$2.0 million, Floodplain and Waterway Management \$513 000, Environmental Water Management \$295,000 and Landcare \$334,000. In 2016-17 Glenelg Hopkins CMA will continue to implement programs through \$4.8 million of Victorian Government including Landcare and the new 4 year Victorian Water Program Investment Framework (VWPIF) program which will continue until 2020. The VWPIF program includes activities previously delivered as part of the Catchments for Communities, Floodplain and Waterway Management and Environmental Water Management programs and the new Our Catchments Our Communities project.

## **Protected Disclosures Act 2012**

### **Compliance with the Protected Disclosure Act 2012**

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

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

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

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

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- Mismanagement of public resources; or
- Risk to public health or safety of the environment; or
- Corruption.

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

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

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

<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 Victoria

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street  
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Mail: IBAC GPO Box 24234 Melbourne Victoria 3001

Internet: [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: See the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

## **Risk Management Compliance Attestation**

I, Antony Ford certify that 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.



**Antony Ford**

Chairperson

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

18 August 2016

## **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 2015-16.

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 2015-16.

## **Consultancies**

In 2015-16, there were 43 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater.

The total expenditure incurred during 2015-16 in relation to these consultancies is \$997,573 (excluding 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 2015-16, there were 22 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2015-16 in relation to these consultancies was \$76,420 (excl. GST).

### Major Contracts

Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) during 2015-16.

### Capital Projects

Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not manage any capital projects during 2015-16.

### Government Advertising Expenditure

Glenelg Hopkins CMA expenditure in the 2015-16 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$150,000.

### Information Communication Technology (ICT) Expenditure

For the 2015-16 reporting period, the Glenelg Hopkins CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$471,210, with the details shown below:

Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure Total	Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure Total = A + B	Operational expenditure A	Capital expenditure B
\$419,610	\$51,600	\$51,600	-

“ICT expenditure” refers to Glenelg Hopkins CMA costs in providing business-enabling ICT services. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

“Non-BAU ICT expenditure” relates to extending or enhancing Glenelg Hopkins CMA current ICT capabilities.

“BAU ICT expenditure” is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to on-going activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

### Availability of Other Information

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has available the following documents as specified in the *Financial Management Act 1994*, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:

- publications produced by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the places where the publications can be obtained
- relevant officers have duly completed declarations of pecuniary interests. These are treated as confidential documents
- major external reviews
- changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged
- major research and development activities undertaken
- overseas travel undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
- major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the CMA to develop community awareness of the organisation and its services
- assessments and measures to improve the OH&S of employees
- Statement of Industrial Relations within the CMA, including time lost through industrial accidents and disputes

- list of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved
- Details of all consultancies and contractors including those engaged, services provided and expenditure for each engagement.

### Objectives, Functions, Powers and Duties

The Objectives, Functions, Powers and Duties of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA are largely contained within the following Acts:

- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Water Act 1989*
- *Financial Management Act 1994*
- *Audit Act 1994*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Information Privacy Act 2000*
- *Public Administration Act 2004*

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

These Obligations provide:

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

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



ABOVE: Minister Lisa Neville with Bill Sharp Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group, Tony Ford Chairperson, Kevin Wood CEO of Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Don Rowe Upper Hopkins Land Management Group at the announcement of the Regional Riparian Action Plan Landcare Grants in Beaufort.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

Objective	Measure	Quantity 2014-15	Quantity 2015-16	2015-16 % ↑/↓ comparing 1 year prior
Reduce Energy Use (Electricity)	kWh used per annum (x3 offices)	77,056	73,224	-5%
	kWh used per FTE per annum (x3 offices)	2,364	1,790	-24%
Reduce Paper Use	White A4 reams per annum	270	230	-15%
	White A4 reams per FTE	8	6	-.3%
	White A3 reams per annum	0	3	300%
	White A3 reams per FTE	0	1	100%
Increase Paper Recycling	240 Litres recycled per annum	45	36	-20%
	240 Litres recycled per FTE	1.38	.88	-36%
Reduce Toner Cartridges	Toner Cartridges consumed per annum	43	20	-53%
	Toner Cartridges consumed per FTE	1.32	.49	-63%
Reduce Fuel Use	Fleet size	16	12	-25%
	Litres fuel consumed per annum	36,260	30,432	-16%
	Litres fuel consumed per vehicle	2,266	2,536	12%
No. Flights Melbourne / Hamilton	One way flights	30	23	-23%
	One way flights per FTE	0.92	0.56	-39%
Reduced Water Consumption	Kls consumed 79 French St, Hamilton	89	108	21%
	Kls consumed 84 French St, Hamilton	39	380	876%*
	Kls consumed 241 Lava St, Warrnambool	22	24	9%
	Overall Kls consumed per FTE	4.60	12.52	172%

\*Water leak was identified at one Hamilton office while office was unoccupied.

## FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE AND ANALYSIS

### Total Revenue & Expenditure for 5 years



#### Major Changes or Factors Affecting Performance

No major changes impacted on the performance of Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2015-16.

#### Significant Changes in Financial Position

In 2015-16, there were no significant changes in financial position. Glenelg Hopkins CMA's income was \$10.05 million and expenditure achieved was \$9.0 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:

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

2014-15: \$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 (\$)	2016	2015
100,000 - 109,999		
110,000 - 119,999		
120,000 - 129,999	1	
130,000 - 139,999		
140,000 - 149,999	2	2
Total Executives	3	2
Annualised Employee Equivalent	3.0	2.0
<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$409,662</b>	<b>\$282,598</b>

## Disclosure of Grants and Payments

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has provide grants to natural resource management community groups and organisations as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants within the Glenelg Hopkins region. Grants were provide to 34 groups in 2015-16 for the purposes of supporting the administration of regional Landcare groups totalling \$14,400 and to 18 groups for implementing on-ground natural resource management projects totalling \$183,355.

2015-16 Victorian Landcare Grants Program recipients:

Group	Funding
Basalt to Bay Landcare Network	\$17,643
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	\$20,000
Bulart Land Management Group	\$5,800
Bunnugal Landcare Group	\$2,257
Friends of the Great South West Walk	\$7,140
Friends of Yatmerone	\$1,378
Gazette Land Action Group	\$19,875
Hamilton to Coleraine Railway Line Landcare Group	\$2,880
HCRL Landcare Group	\$16,675
Making a Difference (MAD) for the Merri	\$12,197
Napier Landcare Group	\$13,002
Panyyabyr Landcare Group	\$13,984
Pierrepoint Land Protection Group	\$9,450
Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail Committee	\$1,400
South Beach Wetlands and Landcare Group	\$19,460
South West Coast Action Network	\$388
Tarragal Landcare Group - Schools	\$8,076
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$11,750

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## **ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S DECLARATION**

The attached financial statements for the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority have been prepared in accordance with Standing Directions 4.2 of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

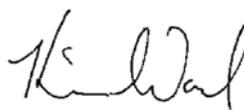
We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2016 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2016.

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

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 18 August 2016.



**Antony Ford**  
Chairperson



**Kevin Wood**  
Chief Executive Officer  
(Accountable Officer)



**Kathy Connoley**  
Business and Finance Program Manager

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

#### *The Financial Report*

I have audited the accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2016 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 accountable officer's declaration.

#### *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, I and my staff and delegates have 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 2016 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  
22 August 2016



for Dr Peter Frost  
Acting Auditor-General

**COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT**

for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Income from transactions</b>			
Government contributions	2(a)	9,344,661	7,762,565
Interest	2(b)	156,398	154,914
Other income	2(c)	557,607	942,925
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>10,058,665</b>	<b>8,860,404</b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Employee expenses	3(a)	3,956,813	3,769,808
Depreciation	3(b)	87,894	85,157
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3(c)	3,844,540	3,173,857
Lease expenses	3(d)	259,168	262,207
Other operating expenses		849,616	662,557
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>8,998,032</b>	<b>7,953,587</b>
<b>Net result from transactions (net operating balance)</b>		<b>1,060,634</b>	<b>906,817</b>
<b>Other economic flows included in net result</b>			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	4(a)	(11,640)	-
Other gain/(loss) from other economic flows	4(b)	8,825	-
<b>Total other economic flows included in net result</b>		<b>(2,815)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>1,057,819</b>	<b>906,817</b>
<b>Other economic flows - other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net result</b>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	16	(102,867)	68,437
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b>954,951</b>	<b>975,254</b>

The comprehensive operating statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET**

as at 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	15(a)	7,158,693	6,534,773
Receivables	5	746,125	260,785
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>7,904,817</b>	<b>6,795,558</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	6(a)	1,138,344	1,310,717
Other non-financial assets	7	8,404	12,900
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>1,146,749</b>	<b>1,323,616</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>9,051,566</b>	<b>8,119,175</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	8	400,920	576,775
Employee benefits	9	931,673	778,377
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,332,592</b>	<b>1,355,152</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>7,718,974</b>	<b>6,764,023</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Contributed capital		3,156,946	3,156,946
Reserves	16	461,194	564,061
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		4,100,834	3,043,016
<b>Net worth</b>		<b>7,718,974</b>	<b>6,764,023</b>
Commitments for expenditure	11 & 12		
Contingent assets and contingent liabilities	13		

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

for the year financial year ended 30 June 2016

	Accumulated Funds \$	Contributed Capital \$	Reserves \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2014	2,136,195	3,156,946	495,624	5,788,765
Net result for the period	906,817	-	-	906,817
Other comprehensive income	-	-	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>
Net result for the period	1,057,819	-	-	1,057,819
Other comprehensive income	-	-	(102,867)	(102,867)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2016</b>	<b>4,100,831</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>	<b>461,194</b>	<b>7,718,970</b>

*The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.*

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

for the year ended 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Receipts from government		8,902,812	7,660,548
Interest received		150,556	164,342
Net Goods and Services Tax received from the ATO		38,549	131,994
Other receipts		545,784	891,123
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>9,637,702</b>	<b>8,848,007</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments to suppliers		5,188,016	4,006,726
Payments to employees		3,794,692	3,800,661
Net Goods and Services Tax paid to the ATO		1,044	7,945
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>8,983,753</b>	<b>7,815,332</b>
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>15(b)</b>	<b>653,949</b>	<b>1,032,675</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchases of non-financial assets	<b>6(b)</b>	(30,028)	(26,503)
<b>Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities</b>		<b>(30,028)</b>	<b>(26,503)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>623,920</b>	<b>1,006,172</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		6,534,773	5,528,602
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	<b>15(a)</b>	<b>7,158,693</b>	<b>6,534,773</b>

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

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

These annual financial statements represent the audited general purpose financial statements for the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority for the year ending 30 June 2016. The purpose of the report is to provide users with information about the Authority's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

### (A) Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

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

The annual financial statement were authorised for issue by the Authority's Board on 18 August 2016.

### (B) Basis of accounting preparation and measurement

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

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

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

- the fair value of land, buildings, plant and equipment (refer to Note 1 (K));
- superannuation expense (refer to Note 1 (G));
- actuarial assumptions for employee benefits provisions based on likely tenure of existing staff, patterns of leave claims, future salary movements and future discount rates (refer to Note 9).

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.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention except for non-financial physical assets which, subsequent to acquisition, are measured at a revalued amount being their fair value at the date of the revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent impairment losses.

Consistent with AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, the Authority determines the policies and procedures for both recurring fair value measurements such as 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 of the Minister for Finance.

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:

<b>Level 1</b>	Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
<b>Level 2</b>	Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
<b>Level 3</b>	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 reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer General Victoria (VGV) is the Authority's independent valuation agency for non-current assets.

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

**(C) Reporting entity**

The financial statements cover the Authority as an individual reporting entity.

**(i) Objectives and funding**

The Authority is responsible for the co-ordinated control of natural resource management within the broader catchments of Glenelg Hopkins. The role of the Authority is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Associated with this role the Authority carries out strategic planning and advises Government.

**(D) Scope and presentation of financial statements****(i) Comprehensive operating statement**

The comprehensive operating statement comprises three components, being 'net result from transactions', 'other economic flows included in net result', as well as 'other economic flows - other comprehensive income'. The sum of the former two, represents the net result.

The net result is equivalent to profit of loss derived in accordance with AASs.

Other economic flows' are changes arising from market re-measurements. They include gains and losses from disposals of non-financial assets and revaluations of non-financial physical assets.

**(ii) Balance sheet**

Assets and liabilities are presented in liquidity order with assets aggregated into financial assets and non financial assets.

Current and non-current assets and liabilities are disclosed in the notes, where relevant. In general, non-current assets or liabilities are expected to be recovered or settled more than 12 months after the reporting period, except for the provisions of employee benefits, which are classified as current liabilities if the Authority does not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liabilities within 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

**(iii) Cash flow statement**

Cash flows are classified according to whether or not they arise from operating, investing, or financing activities. This classification is consistent with requirements under AASB 107 Statement of Cash Flows.

**(iv) Statement of changes in equity**

The statement of changes in equity presents reconciliations of non-owner and owner changes in equity from opening balances at the beginning of the reporting period to the closing balances at the end of the reporting period.

**(v) Rounding**

Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar, unless otherwise stated. Figures in the financial statements may not equate due to rounding.

**(E) Changes in accounting policies**

Subsequent to the 2014-15 reporting period, no new and revised standards have been adopted in the current period.

However on 1 July 2016 the Authority adopted the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) 2008 long service leave model which uses a single weighted average discount rate. As the 2004 model would no longer be supported or maintained by DTF.

**(F) Income from transactions**

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

**(i) Government 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.

**(ii) Interest**

Interest Income is recognised using the effective interest rate method which allocate the interest over the relevant period.

## NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT.)

### (iii) Other income

Other income includes partnership contributions and income from administration of statutory regulations.

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

All other income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

### (G) Expenses from transactions

Expenses from transactions are recognised as they are incurred, and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

#### (i) Employee expenses

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.

#### (ii) 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 the Authority's 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.

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

All non-current physical assets that have a limited useful life are depreciated. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life.

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

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

Estimated useful lives for the different assets classes are listed below and are consistent with the prior year, unless otherwise stated:

Asset	Useful Life
Buildings	8 - 47 years
Plant and equipment	4 - 5 years
Furniture and office equipment	5 - 10 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

#### (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 of \$1,000 (2015: \$1,000), the cost is capitalised and depreciated.

#### (v) Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable.

### (H) Other economic flows included in the net result

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

#### (i) Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets

The net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets includes any gain or loss on the disposal of non-financial assets, and is recognised at the date of disposal as the difference between the proceeds and the carrying value of the asset. Revaluation gain/(loss) of non-financial assets - refer to Note 1 (K).

#### (ii) Impairment of non-financial assets

If there is an indication of impairment, the assets concerned are tested as to whether their carry value exceeds their recoverable amounts. Where an asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written off as an other economic flow, except to the extent that the written-down can be debited to an asset revaluation surplus amount applicable to that class of asset. Refer to Note 1 (K) in relation to the recognition and measurement of non-financial assets.

#### (iii) Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows

The revaluation of the present value of the long service leave liability due to changes in the bonds interest rates.

**(I) Financial Instruments**

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

**(i) Loans and receivables**

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost less any impairment. Trade and other receivables are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Loans and receivables category includes cash and deposits, trade and other receivables, but exclude statutory receivables.

**(ii) Financial liabilities at amortised cost**

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

Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all of the Authorities contractual payables.

**(J) Financial assets****(i) Cash and deposits**

Cash and deposits recognised on the balance sheet comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits held at call with financial institutions, and other short-term highly liquid investments (with an original maturity of three months or less) that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value.

**(ii) Receivables**

Receivables consists of:

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

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as loans and receivables (refer to Note 1 (I) *Financial Instruments* for recognition and measurement). 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.

Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an on-going basis. Bad debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off, and classified as a transaction expense.

A provision for impaired receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the allowance 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 allowance are classified as other economic flows in the net result.

**(K) Non-financial assets****(i) Property, plant and equipment**

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

All non-financial physical assets are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Cost is measured as the fair value of the assets given or liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal consideration, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition. Where assets are constructed by the Authority, the cost at which they are recorded includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project, and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads.

Plant and equipment, office furniture and equipment and motor vehicles are measured at fair value. For the plant and equipment, office furniture and equipment and motor vehicle asset classes, 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.

## NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT.)

### (ii) Revaluations of non-financial physical assets

All non-financial 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) 103F *Non-Financial Physical Assets*.

Scheduled revaluations are performed every five years based upon the asset's government purpose classification, with annual fair value assessments conducted annually using the VGV Land and Building indices and other relevant fair value indicators for indications of material changes in values. If it appears that the movement in fair values as indicated by the compounded impact of the VGV indices since the last interim or scheduled revaluation is equal to or greater than 40 per cent, an Approved Valuer is used to perform a detailed assessment of the fair value. If the movement in fair value appear to be less than 40 per cent but greater than 10 per cent, a managerial revaluation is undertaken. If the movement in fair value is less than or equal to 10 per cent, then no change is made to carrying amounts.

Net revaluation increases are recognised in 'other economic flows - other comprehensive income', and accumulated in equity under the assets revaluation reserve. However, the net revaluation increase is recognised in the net result to the extent that it reverses a net revaluation decrease in respect of the same class of property, plant and equipment previously recognised as an expense in the net result.

Net revaluation decrease is recognised in 'other economic flows - other comprehensive income', and accumulated in equity under the asset revaluation reserve, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of property, plant and equipment. Otherwise, the net revaluation decrease are recognised immediately as other economic flows in the net result. The net revaluation decrease recognised in 'other economic flows - other comprehensive income' reduces the amount accumulated in equity under the assets revaluation surplus.

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

### (iii) Intangible assets

Intangible assets represent identifiable non-monetary assets without physical substance. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation/ amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is expected that additional future economic benefits will flow to the Authority.

### (iv) Other non-financial assets - Prepayments

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

## (L) Liabilities

### (i) Payables

Payables consists of:

- contractual payables, such as accounts payable 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 and are classified as financial instruments and categorised as financial liabilities at amortised cost (refer to Note 1 (I)).

### (ii) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Authority has a present obligation, the future sacrifice of economic benefits is probable, and the amount of the provision can be measured reliably.

The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

Provisions for employee benefits includes:

- *Wages and salaries and annual leave*

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are all recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Liabilities expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured at the nominal value. Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

Regardless of the expected timing of settlements, provisions made in respect of wages and salaries and annual leave are classified as a current liability because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

- *Long service leave*

Liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL liability amounts expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured at the nominal value. Unconditional LSL liability amount that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

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

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

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

- *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.

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

## **(M) Leases**

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases.

Operating lease payments, are recognised as an expense in 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. The leased asset is not recognised in the balance sheet.

## **(N) Equity**

### **(i) 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 to or distributions by owners 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.

### **(ii) 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) Commitments**

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and external program commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are disclosed by way of a note (refer to Note 11 & 12) 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.

## **(P) Contingent assets and contingent liabilities**

Contingent assets and liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note (refer to Note 13) and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

**NOTE 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONT.)**

**(Q) Accounting for the goods and services tax**

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated 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 the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which are recoverable or payable to the ATO are presented as operating cash flows.

**(R) Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective**

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2016 reporting period. DTF assesses the impact of all these new standards and advises the Authority of their applicability and early adoption where applicable. The following is a list of the AASs issued but are not yet effective for the 2015-16 reporting period.

<b>Standard / Interpretation</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after</b>	<b>Impact on financial statements</b>
AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>	The key changes include the simplified requirements for the classification and measurement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier, as opposed to the current approach that recognises impairment only when incurred.	1 January 2018	The preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 9, however it will continue to be monitored and assessed.
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.	1 January 2018	The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements. The Standard will also require additional disclosures on service revenue and contract modifications.
AASB 2014-1 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part E Financial Instruments]</i>	Amends various AASs to reflect the AASB's decision to defer the mandatory application date of AASB 9 to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 as a consequence of Chapter 6 Hedge Accounting, and to amend reduced disclosure requirements.	1 January 2018	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 9 to the 2018-19 reporting period in accordance with the transition requirements.
AASB 2015-8 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Effective Date of AASB 15</i>	This standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 15 from 1 January 2017 to 1 January 2018.	1 January 2018	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 15 to the 2018-19 reporting period in accordance with the transition requirements.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 16 Leases	The key changes introduced by AASB 16 include the recognition of most operating leases (which are current not recognised) on balance sheet.	1 January 2019	<p>The assessment has indicated that as most operating leases will come on balance sheet, recognition of lease assets and lease liabilities will cause net debt increase.</p> <p>Depreciation of lease assets and interest on lease liabilities will be recognised in the income statement with marginal impact on the operating surplus.</p> <p>The amounts of cash paid for the principal portion of the lease liability will be presented within financing activities and the amounts paid for the interest portion will be presented within operating activities in the cash flow statement.</p> <p>No change for lessors.</p>
AASB 2014-4 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 &amp; AASB 138]</i>	<p>Amends AASB 116 <i>Property, Plant and Equipment</i> and AASB 138 <i>Intangible Assets</i> to:</p> <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 January 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 2015-6 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, AASB 124 &amp; AASB 1049]</i>	The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 <i>Related Party Disclosures</i> 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 January 2016	The amending standard will result in extended disclosures on the Authority's key management personnel (KMP), and the related party transactions.

**NOTE 2. INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>(a) Government Contributions</b>		
<b>State Government</b>		
Catchment Planning	987,205	802,331
Second Generation Landcare	458,000	346,000
River Health/Healthy Waterways	4,596,471	2,957,224
Environment Water Program	-	424,000
Other State Funding	805,478	96,032
	<b>6,847,154</b>	<b>4,625,587</b>
<b>Commonwealth Government</b>		
Caring for Our Country Guaranteed	-	1,470,344
Caring for Our Country Competitive	20,000	45,000
National Landcare Program	1,960,458	980,228
Other Commonwealth Funding	517,049	641,406
	<b>2,497,507</b>	<b>3,136,978</b>
<b>Total Government contributions</b>	<b>9,344,661</b>	<b>7,762,565</b>
<b>(b) Interest</b>		
Interest on bank deposits	<b>156,398</b>	<b>154,914</b>
<b>(c) Other Income</b>		
Partnership Contributions	524,183	830,870
Sundry	33,423	112,055
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>557,607</b>	<b>942,925</b>

**NOTE 3. EXPENSES FROM TRANSACTIONS**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>(a) Employee expenses</b>		
Salaries & wages	2,831,172	2,695,729
Annual leave	277,204	272,245
Long service leave	-	88,232
Other leave	251,162	248,207
Employer superannuation contribution	296,559	303,565
Salary on-costs	162,532	192,684
Movement in provisions for Employee Benefits	138,184	(30,853)
<b>Total employee expenses</b>	<b>3,956,813</b>	<b>3,769,808</b>
<b>(b) Depreciation</b>		
Plant & equipment	24,804	23,081
Office furniture & equipment	13,723	18,166
Buildings	49,367	43,909
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>87,894</b>	<b>85,157</b>
<b>(c) Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies</b>		
Materials	111,768	48,448
Repairs and maintenance	52,971	28,720
Grants paid	1,751,240	1,325,479
Contractors	912,964	1,058,122
Consultants	1,015,597	713,089
<b>Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies</b>	<b>3,844,540</b>	<b>3,173,857</b>
<b>(d) Lease expenses</b>		
Operating lease rental expenses	259,168	262,207
<b>Lease expenses</b>	<b>259,168</b>	<b>262,207</b>

**NOTE 4. OTHER ECONOMIC FLOWS INCLUDED IN NET RESULT**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>(a) Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets</b>		
Impairment of property, plant & equipment	(11,640)	-
<b>Total net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets</b>	<b>(11,640)</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>(b) Other gain/(loss) from other economic flows<sup>(i)</sup></b>		
Net gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of long service leave liability	8,825	-
<b>Total other gain/(loss) from other economic flows</b>	<b>8,825</b>	<b>-</b>

(i) Revaluation gain/(loss) due to changes in bond rates.

**NOTE 5. RECEIVABLES**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Current receivables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade receivables	574,848	188,684
Accrued revenue	26,917	21,076
	601,765	209,759
<b>Statutory</b>		
GST input tax credits recoverable	144,360	51,026
<b>Total current receivables</b>	<b>746,125</b>	<b>260,785</b>

Please refer to Note 14 for the ageing analysis and for the nature and extent of risks arising from contractual receivables.

**NOTE 6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>(a) Gross carrying amount and accumulated depreciation</b>		
<b>Land at fair value</b>	203,360	555,000
<b>Buildings at fair value</b>		
Gross carrying amount	826,500	638,734
Accumulated depreciation	-	-
Net carrying amount	826,500	638,734
<b>Plant and equipment at fair value</b>		
Gross carrying amount	185,081	155,052
Accumulated depreciation	(113,234)	(88,430)
Net carrying amount	71,846	66,622
<b>Office furniture and equipment at fair value</b>		
Gross carrying amount	189,138	189,138
Accumulated depreciation	(152,500)	(138,777)
Net carrying amount	36,638	50,361
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,138,344</b>	<b>1,310,717</b>

**NOTE 6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONT.)****(b) Movements in carrying amounts**

	Land at fair value \$	Buildings at fair value \$	Plant and equipment at fair value \$	Office furniture and equipment at fair value \$	Total \$
<b>2015/16</b>					
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>638,734</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>50,361</b>	<b>1,310,717</b>
Additions	-	-	30,028	-	30,028
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	(340,000)	237,133	-	-	(102,867)
Impairment loss	(11,640)	-	-	-	(11,640)
Depreciation	-	(49,367)	(24,804)	(13,723)	(87,894)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>203,360</b>	<b>826,500</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>36,638</b>	<b>1,138,344</b>
<b>2014/15</b>					
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>614,205</b>	<b>64,745</b>	<b>66,983</b>	<b>1,300,933</b>
Additions	-	-	24,958	1,545	26,503
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	68,437	-	-	68,437
Impairment loss	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(43,909)	(23,081)	(18,166)	(85,156)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>638,734</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>50,361</b>	<b>1,310,717</b>

## (c) Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets

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

Note:

(i) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, see Note 1(b).

(ii) Vehicles are categorised to Level 3 assets if the depreciated replacement cost is used in estimating the fair value.

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

**NOTE 6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONT.)****(c) Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets (continued)**

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 15 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$
<b>Land at Fair Value</b>				
Non-specialised land	555,000	-	555,000	-
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>555,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Buildings at Fair Value</b>				
Non-specialised buildings	638,734	-	-	638,734
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>638,734</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>638,734</b>
<b>Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Plant and equipment	66,622	-	-	66,622
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>66,622</b>
<b>Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Office furniture and equipment	50,361	-	-	50,361
<b>Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>50,361</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,361</b>

**Non-specialised land & non-specialised buildings**

Non-specialised land and non-specialised 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.

An independent valuation of the Authority's non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings was performed by Preston Rowe Paterson on behalf of the Valuer-General Victoria. The valuation was performed using the market approach. Valuation of the assets was determined by analysing comparable sales and allowing for shape, size, topography, location and other relevant factors specific to the asset being valued. The effective date of the valuation is 30 June 2016.

To the extent that non specialised land and buildings do not contain significant, unobservable adjustments, these assets are classified as Level 3 under the market approach.

For the Authority's non-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, non-specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

**Plant and equipment and Office furniture and equipment**

Plant and equipment and office furniture and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment or office furniture and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2016.

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

**Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value**

	<b>Non-Specialised buildings \$</b>	<b>Plant and equipment \$</b>	<b>Office furniture and equipment \$</b>
<b>2016</b>			
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>638,734</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>50,361</b>
Purchases (sales)	-	30,028	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	-
Gains or losses recognised in net result	-	-	-
Depreciation	(49,367)	(24,804)	(13,723)
Impairment loss	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>589,367</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>36,638</b>
Revaluation	237,133	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>237,133</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>826,500</b>	<b>71,846</b>	<b>36,638</b>
<b>2015</b>			
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>614,205</b>	<b>64,745</b>	<b>66,983</b>
Purchases (sales)	-	24,958	1,545
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	-
Gains or losses recognised in net result	-	-	-
Depreciation	(43,909)	(23,081)	(18,166)
Impairment loss	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>570,296</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>50,361</b>
Revaluation	68,437	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>68,437</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>638,733</b>	<b>66,622</b>	<b>50,361</b>

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

<b>2016 and 2015</b>	<b>Valuation technique</b>	<b>Significant unobservable inputs</b>
Non-specialised Buildings	Depreciated replacement cost	Direct cost per square metre Useful life of non-specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Office furniture and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of furniture and equipment

## NOTE 7. OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Current other assets</b>		
Prepayments	8,404	12,900
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>8,404</b>	<b>12,900</b>

## NOTE 8. PAYABLES

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Current Payables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade payables	15,525	11
Accrued expenses	290,305	505,160
Termination Benefits	-	-
Other payables	30,713	19,937
	336,544	525,108
<b>Statutory</b>		
FBT payable	-	-
PAYG payable	64,376	51,667
	64,376	51,667
<b>Total current payables</b>	<b>400,920</b>	<b>576,775</b>

Please refer to Note 14 for the ageing analysis and for the nature and extent of risks arising from contractual payables.

**NOTE 9. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Time in lieu and RDO</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	23,937	-
<b>Annual leave</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	215,625	207,212
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	-	3,144
<b>Long service leave</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	70,952	16,403
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	333,543	268,845
	644,057	495,604
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	78,625	64,102
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	52,505	40,864
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>775,187</b>	<b>600,570</b>
<b>Non-current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Long service leave</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	135,203	154,346
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	21,283	23,461
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<b>156,486</b>	<b>177,807</b>
<b>Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs</b>	<b>931,673</b>	<b>778,377</b>

## NOTE 10. SUPERANNUATION

The Authority makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. The defined benefit section provides lump sum benefits based on years of service and final average salary. The defined contribution section receives fixed contributions from the Authority and the Authority's legal or constructive obligation is limited to these contributions. Obligations for contributions of the Fund are recognised as an expenses in the Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are made or due.

### Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation categories receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings. For the year ended 30 June 2016 this was 9.5% (2015: 9.5%) required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation.

### Defined Benefit

As provided under 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 pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

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 purpose of AASB119 because of the pooled nature of the Fund defined benefit category.

### Funding arrangements

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

As at 30 June 2015, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category and it was determined that the vested benefit index (VBI) of the defined benefit category of which the Authority is a contributing employer was 105.8%. To determine the VBI, the fund Actuary used the following long-term assumptions:

Net investment returns	7.0% pa
Salary information	4.25% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.75% pa

Vision super has advised that the estimated VBI at 31 March 2016 was 102.4%.

The VBI is to be used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 2015 interim actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the defined benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

### Employer contributions

#### Regular Contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2015 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund's Actuary, 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 2016, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries (9.5% in 2015). This rate 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 benefits is calculated as the vested benefits index (VBI) multiplied by the benefit).

#### Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at actuarial investigation or the defined benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category 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. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

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 reasonable 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.

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 if there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be applied for the benefit of defined benefit employers where there are on-going defined benefit obligations. The surplus would be transferred to the fund accepting those defined benefit obligations (include 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.

### Superannuation contributions

Contributions by the Authority to superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2016 are detailed below:

	Rate	2016 \$	Rate	2015 \$
<b>Superannuation Fund</b>				
<b>Defined benefits</b>				
Vision super defined benefits scheme	9.50%	-	9.50%	26,314
<b>Accumulation</b>				
Vision Super Saver	9.50%	97,680	9.50%	108,318
Vic Super New Scheme	9.50%	39,289	9.50%	38,926
All Other private schemes	9.50%	159,590	9.50%	130,006
<b>Total contributions to all funds</b>		<b>296,559</b>		<b>303,565</b>

As at balance date there was \$24,309 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2016 (2015: \$21,666).

### 2015 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

The Fund's interim actuarial investigation as at 30 June 2015 identified the following in the defined benefit category of which the Authority is a contributing employer:

- A VBI surplus of \$130.8 million; and
- A total service liability surplus of \$239 million.

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 2015.

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 30 June 2015 VBI during August 2015.

**NOTE 11. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Operating and lease commitments payable<sup>(i)</sup></b>		
Less than 1 year	185,650	94,506
1 to 5 years	260,958	33,352
5 years or more	-	-
<b>Total commitments (inclusive of GST)</b>	<b>446,608</b>	<b>127,858</b>

As at 30 June 2016 the Authority had Nil in capital expenditure commitments (2015: \$Nil).

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

**NOTE 12. CARRY FORWARD PROJECT FUNDING**

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects funded by Victorian and Australian Government programs. The Authority received funding for specific projects which are guided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and delivered in line with the Authority's Corporate Plan approved by the responsible ministers.

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 15(a) - Cash and cash equivalents for balances on hand.

**NOTE 13. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Contingent Assets</b>		
As at 30 June 2016, the Authority has no known contingent assets.	-	-
<b>Contingent Liabilities</b>		
As at 30 June 2016, the Authority has no known contingent liabilities.	-	-

## NOTE 14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority's principal financial instruments comprise of cash and deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables) and payables (excluding statutory payables).

The Authority's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Authority manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Authority uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the Board of the Authority.

### (a) Categorisation of financial instruments

	Notes	Contractual financial assets - loans and receivables \$	Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
<b>2016</b>				
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and deposits	15(a)	7,158,693	-	7,158,693
Receivables: <sup>(i)</sup>				
Trade receivables	5	574,848	-	574,848
Accrued revenue	5	26,917	-	26,917
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>		<b>7,760,458</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,760,458</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
Payables:				
Trade payables	8	-	15,525	15,525
Accrued expenses	8	-	290,305	290,305
Termination benefits	8	-	-	-
Other payables	8	-	30,713	30,713
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>336,544</b>	<b>336,544</b>
<b>2015</b>				
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and deposits	15(a)	6,534,773	-	6,534,773
Receivables: <sup>(i)</sup>				
Trade receivables	5	188,684	-	188,684
Accrued revenue	5	21,076	-	21,076
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>		<b>6,744,532</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,744,532</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
Payables:				
Trade payables	8	-	11	11
Accrued expenses	8	-	505,160	505,160
Termination benefits	8	-	-	-
Other payables	8	-	19,937	19,937
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>525,108</b>	<b>525,108</b>

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

**NOTE 14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT.)****(b) Credit risk**

Credit risk arises from the contractual financial assets of the Authority, which comprise cash and deposits, and non-statutory receivables. The Authority's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is the Victorian Government. For debtors other than the Government, the Authority has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate. For cash assets, the Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. All cash and deposits are held with the Treasury Corporation of Victoria and National Australia Bank.

**Ageing analysis of contractual financial assets**

	Notes	Carrying amount \$	Not past due and not impaired \$	Past due but not impaired - Less than 1 month \$
<b>2016</b>				
<b>Receivables</b>				
Trade receivables	5	574,848	574,334	514
Accrued revenue	5	26,917	26,917	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>601,765</b>	<b>601,252</b>	<b>514</b>
<b>2015</b>				
<b>Receivables</b>				
Trade receivables	5	188,684	188,684	-
Accrued revenue	5	21,076	21,076	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>209,759</b>	<b>209,759</b>	<b>0</b>

**(c) Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority would be unable to meet its financial obligations as and when 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.

The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. The Authority does not have any borrowings, and maintains high levels of cash and deposits readily available to meet its financial obligations.

**Maturity analysis of contractual financial liabilities**

	Notes	Carrying amount \$	Maturity dates		
			Less than 1 month \$	1-3 months \$	3-6 months \$
<b>2016</b>					
<b>Payables</b>					
Trade payables	8	15,525	15,525	-	-
Accrued expenses	8	290,305	280,841	299	9,168
Termination benefits	8	-	-	-	-
Other payables	8	30,713	30,713	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>336,544</b>	<b>327,080</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>9,168</b>
<b>2015</b>					
<b>Payables</b>					
Trade payables	8	11	11	-	-
Accrued expenses	8	505,160	499,189	-	5,971
Termination benefits	8	-	-	-	-
Other payables	8	19,937	19,937	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>525,108</b>	<b>462,632</b>	<b>62,476</b>	<b>5,971</b>

**(d) Market risk**

The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with significant surplus funds held in term deposits and deposits at a call. The Authority has no exposure to foreign exchange risk or other price risk.

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

## NOTE 14. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT.)

### Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	Weighted average interest rate %	Carrying amount \$	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$
<b>2016</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	2.31	7,158,693	6,000,000	1,158,693	-
Contractual receivables	-	601,765	-	-	601,765
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>7,760,458</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>1,158,693</b>	<b>601,765</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	336,544	-	-	336,544
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>336,544</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>336,544</b>
<b>2015</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	2.61	6,534,773	5,750,000	784,773	-
Contractual receivables	-	209,759	-	-	209,759
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>6,744,532</b>	<b>5,750,000</b>	<b>784,773</b>	<b>209,759</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	525,108	-	-	525,108
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>525,108</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>525,108</b>

### Interest rate risk sensitivity

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

	Carrying amount \$	Interest rate			
		-100 basis points		-100 basis points	
		Net result \$	Revaluation surplus \$	Net result \$	Revaluation surplus \$
<b>2016</b>					
Cash and deposits <sup>(i)</sup>	7,158,693	(11,587)	-	11,587	-
<b>2015</b>					
Cash and deposits <sup>(i)</sup>	6,534,773	(7,848)	-	7,848	-

#### (e) Fair value

Due to the short-term nature of the Authority's financial instruments, their carrying amounts are assumed to be a reasonable approximation of their fair value.

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$1,158,693 (2015: 784,773) that is exposed to floating rates movements.

Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2016:  $\$1,158,693 \times -0.01 = -\$11,587$ ; and  $\$1,158,693 \times 0.01 = \$11,587$ .
- 2015:  $\$784,773 \times -0.01 = -\$7,848$ ; and  $\$784,773 \times 0.01 = \$7,848$ .

**NOTE 15. CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
(a) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents		
<b>Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet</b>		
Cash on hand	-	-
Cash at bank	658,693	684,773
Deposits at call	500,000	100,000
Term deposits (less than 3 months)	6,000,000	5,750,000
<b>Balance as per cash flow statement</b>	<b>7,158,693</b>	<b>6,534,773</b>
(b) Reconciliation of net result for the period		
<b>Net result for the period</b>	<b>1,057,819</b>	<b>906,817</b>
<b>Non-cash movements</b>		
Impairment of non-current assets	11,640	-
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	87,894	85,157
Change in revaluation of LSL	(8,825)	-
	1,148,528	991,974
<b>Movements in assets and liabilities</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(485,339)	(12,398)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	4,495	5,864
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(175,856)	78,088
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	162,121	(30,852)
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>653,949</b>	<b>1,032,675</b>

**NOTE 16. RESERVES**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
(a) Asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at beginning of year	564,061	495,624
Revaluation increments/(decrements) of non-current assets	(102,867)	68,437
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>	<b>461,194</b>	<b>564,061</b>

**NOTE 17. EX-GRATIA EXPENSES**

The Authority had no Ex-gratia expenses for the year ended 30 June 2016 (2015 \$0).

**NOTE 18. RESPONSIBLE PERSONS**

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

The persons who held the positions of ministers and accountable officers in the Authority are as follows:

Name	Position	Date held position
The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP	Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	01 July 2015 to 23 May 2016
The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP	Minister for Water	23 May 2016 to 30 June 2016
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	23 May 2016 to 30 June 2016
Kevin Wood	(CEO)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Antony Ford	(Chair)	27 Oct 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Damein Bell	(Board Member)	27 Oct 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Michelle Casanova	(Board Member)	27 Oct 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Georgina Gubbins	(Board Member)	27 Oct 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Debbie Shea	(Board Member & Deputy Chair)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Ian Hastings	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Dr John Sherwood	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Michael Wagg	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Karen Wales	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Jun 2016
Roma Britnell	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Sept 2015
Michael Craig	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Sept 2015
Vincent Gannon	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Sept 2015
Jason Ritchie	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2015 to 30 Sept 2015

**Remuneration**

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:

	2016	2015
<b>Income band</b>		
\$0 - \$9,999	7	-
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6	8
\$20,000 - \$29,999	-	1
\$180,000 - \$189,999	-	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	1	-
<b>Total numbers</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>\$310,984</b>	<b>\$362,555</b>

**Related party transactions**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Ms M.Casovana - Charophyte Services	40,500	-
Mr M. Craig - Tuloona Pastoral Services	-	11,319
<b>The aggregate amount paid in respect of goods and services</b>	<b>40,500</b>	<b>11,319</b>

Other than travel reimbursement there were no other transactions conducted with responsible persons or their related parties during the financial year ended 30 June 2016 (2015 \$0).

**Remuneration of executive officers**

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and accountable officers, whose total remuneration falls within the specified bands above \$100,000 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.

	Total Remuneration		Base Remuneration	
	2016	2015	2016	2015
<b>Income band</b>				
\$110,000 - \$119,999	-	-	-	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1	-	1	1
\$130,000 - \$139,999	-	-	-	-
\$140,000 - \$149,999	2	2	2	-
<b>Total number of Executive Officers</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total Annualised Employee Equivalent<sup>(*)</sup></b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>Total Remuneration</b>	<b>\$409,662</b>	<b>\$282,598</b>	<b>\$406,942</b>	<b>\$237,979</b>

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

**Remuneration and payments to other personnel (i.e. contractors with significant management responsibilities)**

The Authority made no payments to other personnel with significant management responsibilities.

**NOTE 19. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	9,800	9,600
Internal audit costs	49,748	26,577
<b>Total auditors'jy remuneration</b>	<b>59,548</b>	<b>36,177</b>

**NOTE 20. 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 and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Authority's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

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<b>Charter and purpose</b>		
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<b>Other disclosures as required by FRDs in notes to the financial statements</b>		
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FRD 119A	Transfers through contributed capital	N/A
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## Legislation

*Freedom of Information Act 1982*

*Building Act 1993*

*Protected Disclosure Act 2012*

*Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003*

*Financial Management Act 1994*

*Water Act 1989*

*Financial Management Act 1994*

*Public Administration Act 2004*

*Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*

*Audit Act 1994*

*Emergency Management Act 2013*

*Planning & Environment Act 1987*

# GLOSSARY

AAS	Australian Accounting Standard	LGNP	Lower Glenelg National Park
ABC	Actions for Biodiversity Conservation	LWMP	Land and Water Management Plan
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	MER	Monitor, evaluate and report
ATO	Australian Taxation Office	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
AASB	Australian Accounting Standards Board	NDRRA	National Disaster and Recovery Relief Arrangements
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NLP	National Landcare Program
CFA	Country Fire Authority	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia	PV	Parks Victoria
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinator
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance	RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
EBB	Eastern Barred Bandicoot	RNVP	Regional Native Vegetation Plan
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System	RNTBC	Registered Native Title Body Corporate
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	SCARP	Southern Slopes Climate Change Research Partnership
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Communities	SMWG	Staff Management Work Group
EWR	Environmental Water Reserve	TFN	Trust for Nature
FREP	Flood Recovery Employment Program	VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
GST	Goods and Services Tax	VBI	Vested Benefit Index
GWM	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
IBA	International Bird Area	VEPP	Victorian Environment Partnerships Program
IEC	Index of Estuary Condition	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
ISC	Index of Stream Condition	VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
IWC	Index of Wetland Condition	VGW	Valuer General Victoria
KPI	Key Performance Indicator	VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
LSL	Long Service Leave	WAP	Waterway Action Plan
		WONS	Weeds of National Significance

# FOOTNOTES

1. Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Glenelg Hopkins Soil Health Strategy 2014-2019, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Hamilton, 2014.
2. Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Index of Stream Condition: The Third Benchmark of Victorian River Condition, Department of Environment and Primary Industries, East Melbourne, 2013.
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4. Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Glenelg Hopkins Waterways Strategy 2014-2022, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Hamilton, 2014.
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6. Casanova, M. Current and Future Risks of Cropping Wetlands in Victoria: Technical Report, Draft, Hamilton, 2016.
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