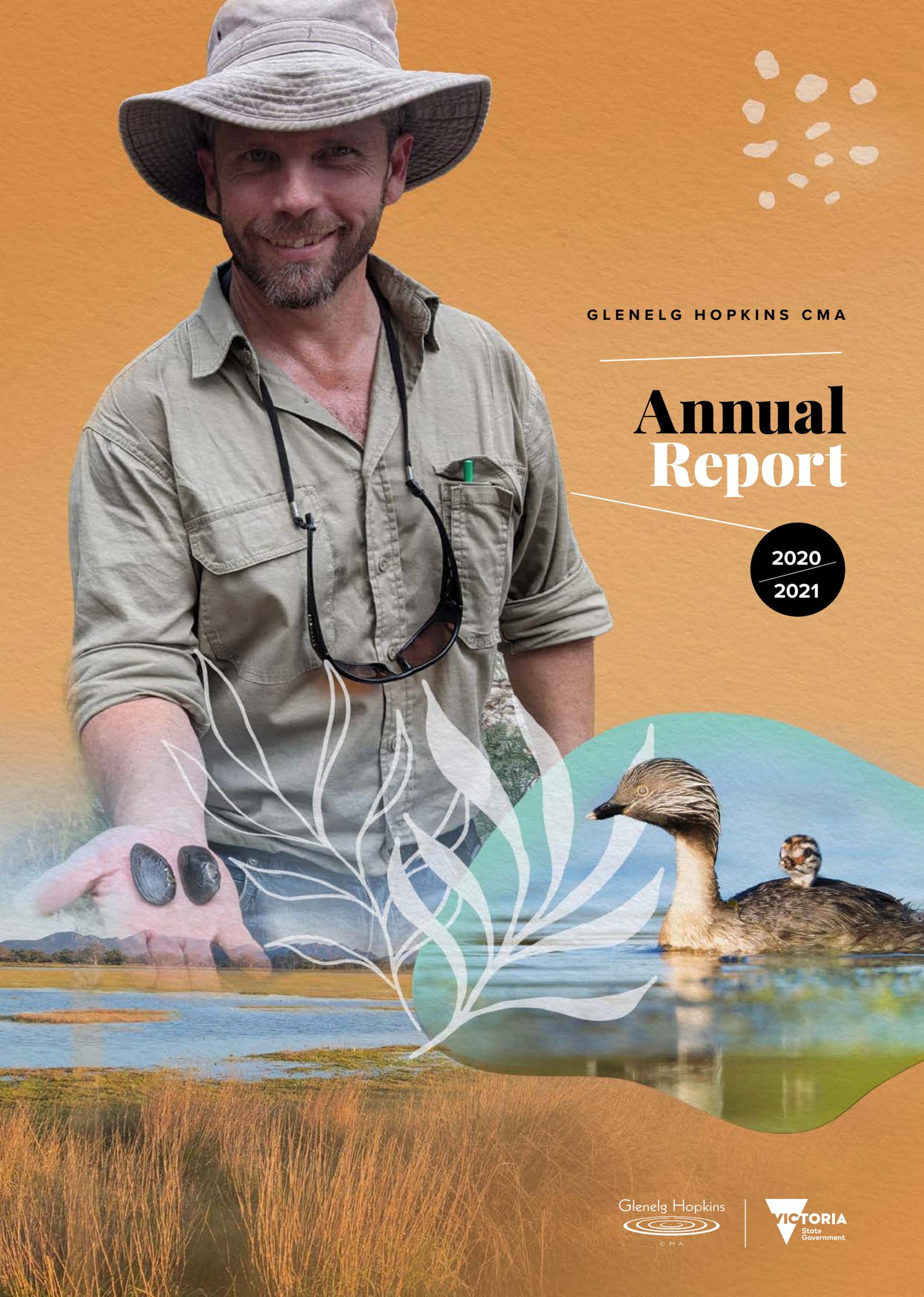




GLENELG HOPKINS CMA

# Annual Report

2020  
2021





# Formation & CMA's role

## **MANNER OF ESTABLISHMENT AND MINISTERS**

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is established under the *Water Act 1994*. The responsible Minister for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 was the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water. The Hon Richard Wynne acted as the Minister for Water from 15 February 2021 to 30 June 2021.

## **NATURE AND RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is responsible, with others, for natural resource management within the region. It takes an integrated, whole-of-catchment approach by combining strategic planning with coordination for management of natural resources. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is an important link between community and government, providing advice to the Australian and State Governments on environmental conditions, priorities and direction within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

## **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*

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

- provides 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;
- specifies 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
- reflects 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*. They identify additional objectives, functions, powers and duties in waterway management, floodplain management and regional drainage conferred under Part 7 and Part 10.

The 2020-21 Annual Report of Glenelg Hopkins CMA is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

Other Glenelg Hopkins CMA information is available from the Glenelg Hopkins CMA office and website:

- Previous Annual Reports
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA Corporate Plans
- Regional Catchment Strategy

## **Glenelg Hopkins CMA**

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Ph: 03 5571 2526

Email: [ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au)

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## Acknowledgement of Country

*We proudly acknowledge the Traditional Owners, and Aboriginal communities and organisations, in the Glenelg Hopkins region. We acknowledge their rich cultural diversity and intrinsic connection to Country. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and future. We recognise the interests, rights and obligations that Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities have in land and water management.*

*Traditional Owners have never ceded their rights to land, water and other natural resources, or their cultural obligations to look after Country.*

*Four Traditional Owner groups have responsibility for cultural landscapes across the Glenelg Hopkins region – Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation, representing Boandik Traditional Owners, also have interests and connections to Country in the western part of the Glenelg River catchment. We value our work together, for the health of people and Country.*

RIGHT: Cultural burn

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## COVID-19 IMAGE DISCLAIMER

Some of the images featured in this document do not comply with physical distancing, group numbers and face mask requirements under COVID-19 restrictions. These images were taken prior to these pandemic restrictions being enforced in Victoria.

# 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 23rd Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

The 2020-21 year has required significant adjustments to COVID-19. Despite the challenges, we have successfully coordinated the development of the region's most significant natural resource management planning document – the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). The RCS is the key planning document for integrated management across the catchment and was, for the first time developed as an on-line interactive platform. The draft for public consultation was approved by the CMA Board on 30 June. The strategy will be submitted to the Minister by 30 September 2021. To date the project has attracted approximately 900 participants at engagement events and involved 70 organisations/groups.

Delivery of our Communications Strategy continues to be a major focus, with substantial reach through our social media platforms. A total of 2.2 million people were reached with 10% engagement levels (well above the industry average of 0.6%).

The CMA joined the inaugural Victoria Nature Festival in September 2020. It was originally planned as an in-person event to deliver the Biodiversity 2037 outcome of 'encouraging Victorians to value and act for nature'. Due to Victoria's lockdown, the two-week festival became an online event. In an organisational first, we delivered three live streamed events through Facebook. 3,347 viewers had access to Budj Bim National Park, Walker Swamp and the Victorian Volcanic Grasslands. The videos created from these events have now been viewed over 14,800 times. This involvement with the

Victoria Nature Festival has introduced Glenelg Hopkins CMA and what we do to an entirely new audience.

In 2020-21 Glenelg Hopkins CMA continued its CEO engagement program with local government, discussing core responsibilities, providing briefings on activities of significance and pursuing opportunities for collaboration, including the renewal of the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy.

The CMA reaffirmed its strong partnership with Wannon Water with the re-signing of a three-year MOU. We also consolidated our partnership with Nature Glenelg Trust with a new MOU which focuses on further collaborations and cooperative projects that relate to wetland restoration and biodiversity.

These MOUs are in line with our CMA's strategy to establish strong partnerships across the region.

A highlight for this year has been our role in the \$500 million Working for Victoria Program - part of the \$1.7 billion Economic Survival and Jobs package launched in April 2020 by the Victorian Government to create employment opportunities for people impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Like other CMA's DELWP and LGAs, Glenelg Hopkins CMA developed a variety of activities working with private and public land managers and owners.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed two 10-person crews - one funded through Agriculture Victoria and the other through the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR). The works crews were based in Hamilton and Warrnambool/Portland and employed people in need of work from the surrounding communities of Coleraine, Cavendish, Mortlake, Dunkeld, Warrnambool and Hamilton.

The crews assisted public land managers, local farmers and Landcare groups across the region with natural resource management activities including revegetation, fencing, weed control and rabbit harbour destruction. Key achievements included 50,080 trees across 47 properties, 4.6 km of stock exclusion fencing, 88 ha of rabbit control and 500 ha of weed control.

Much of the State government's waterway program was put on hold this year due to COVID-19, with the focus being on building three-year business cases for on-ground works under the Victorian government's Environmental Contribution (EC) process. The outcome of the full three-year program should be known in the first half of 2021-22. Despite COVID-19 we have still been able to deliver core waterway functions such as our environmental water program, rural drainage and statutory floodplain programs.

A highlight this year was the announcement of funding under the Sustainable Irrigation Program. This is the first time the CMA has had access to the Sustainable Irrigation Program and it reflects the growing interest in irrigation development in the region. A key focus for the CMA over the next 12 months will be working with relevant authorities and industry groups to develop and implement the Irrigation Development Guidelines.

In 2018, the State Government launched a new strategy for rural drainage in Victoria. To convert this strategy into on-ground outcomes, the Victorian Government funded several CMA delivered projects. Glenelg Hopkins CMA successfully delivered the Eumeralla and Nullawarre Rural Drain Management Pilot project.

MOUs were signed by all parties in June 2021 and the first approvals for maintenance works under the new process were granted by DELWP and the CMA in mid-July 2021.

Recreational anglers continue to have a strong partnership with the CMA highlighted by the commencement of the Australian Government's Fisheries Habitat Program that is working with recreational anglers across our estuaries. The CMA continues to support and sponsor recreational events for local fishing clubs as well as state-wide events such as the Victorian Bream Classic.

There have been several highlights under the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnership Program., including:

- BirdLife Australia's Hooded Plover program growing from 40 to 1,500 volunteers in 15 years with 350+ land managers, as well as 58 chicks surviving and fledging as a direct result of the project
- 33 sites approved for funding which will protect and enhance over 211 ha of Australasian Bittern habitat
- implementation of a pilot project for on-line delivery of Whole Farm Plan training
- the release of approximately 31 Eastern Barred Bandicoots at the Tiverton enclosure site
- traditional burns with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (TOAC) to improve habitat for Red-tailed Black Cockatoos.

There were notable staff milestones during the year with three staff reaching 10 years of service, two staff reaching 15 years of service and Tim Covey being our second staff member to reach 20 years of service. Their loyalty and commitment have resulted in significant improvements in natural resource management right across our region.

A significant undertaking for Board and management this year has been to deliver a new operating model for Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Implemented in August 2021 and based on an exhaustive Business Sustainability Review, this new model supports the CMA in achieving its strategic direction and meeting current and future needs. Importantly, these include the need to be flexible, agile, and effective, and to be an efficient and financially sustainable organisation.

Whilst Board Directors undertook most of their meetings on-line, there were windows between COVID-19 lockdowns which enabled the Board to meet with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder Commissioners and staff at Harrow in April, and Gunditj Mirring TOAC and Wannon Water at a cultural awareness session at the Budj Bim World Heritage site in June.

The CMA is committed to pursuing any opportunities to advance social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians. This year we developed our first Social Procurement Strategic Plan. This involves tracking expenditure with Victorian Government suppliers that provide opportunities for Aboriginal people in the region, tracking expenditure amongst local businesses in our region and tracking the number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses we engage with.

Workplace Health and Safety has been a significant focus this year, particularly the wellbeing of our staff and community during the changing and challenging COVID-19 environment. The CMA has moved to new COVID-safe work practices and flexible working from home arrangements to better equip the organisation during COVID-19 restrictions and lockdowns. Over 2021-22 we are committed to work with our stakeholders and community under these new working arrangements to keep our staff and community safe, continue to deliver our funded programs and commence the implementation of the new Regional Catchment Strategy.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antony Ford'.

**Antony Ford**  
Chairperson  
Glenelg Hopkins CMA  
30 June 2021



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Bester'.

**Adam Bester**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Glenelg Hopkins CMA  
30 June 2021



# Glenelg Hopkins CMA 2020-2021 year in review



Total investment  
**\$10.5 million**

**\$3.1m** FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**\$7.3m** STATE GOVERNMENT

**24**

PARTNERSHIPS  
ESTABLISHED

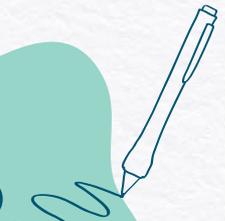
**1,291**<sup>HA</sup>

REVEGETATED

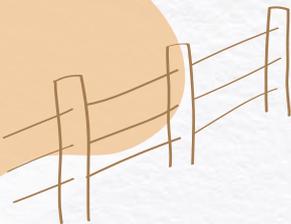


**66**

MANAGEMENT  
AGREEMENTS

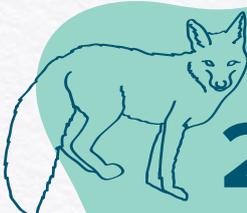


**80**<sup>KM</sup>  
FENCING



**1,865**<sup>HA</sup>

WEEDS  
CONTROLLED



**2,123**<sup>HA</sup>

PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

**7,565** PEOPLE  
ATTENDED EVENTS



# Media & Communications

The CMA uses traditional and emerging media as key tools in delivering its messages and achievements to the wider community. By using a combination of media outlets, the CMA can successfully communicate with a broad audience and engage with community members potentially previously missed with traditional communication methods.

## MEDIA:

TOTAL MEDIA AUDIENCE REACHED 2020-2021:

**2,282,500**



TOTAL VALUE OF MEDIA:

**\$1,227,010**



**687**

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



**1.576 million**  
IMPRESSIONS

**42,670**

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



**10%**

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT



**3** FACEBOOK LIVE EVENTS

ATTENDED BY

**3,347** PEOPLE



**22**

MEDIA RELEASES DISTRIBUTED



**280** MEDIA ARTICLES

(radio, print, online, TV)



**EARNED MEDIA VALUES:**

**OTHER MEDIA**  
(radio, print, online news, TV):

**\$1,135,506**

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
**\$91,504**



**FACEBOOK:**

**42,670** FOLLOWERS

314 posts reached 1,410,957



**INSTAGRAM:**

**1,955** FOLLOWERS

204 posts reached 128,301

**PRINT MEDIA:**



**COLUMN CENTIMETRES RECEIVED:**  
**20,048** (59,723 words)

**CIRCULATION REACHED:**  
**313,700** people

**BROADCAST MEDIA:**

**AIRTIME RECEIVED:**  
**369.650** minutes



**BROADCAST AUDIENCE REACHED:**  
**392,800** people

**MOST POPULAR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS:**



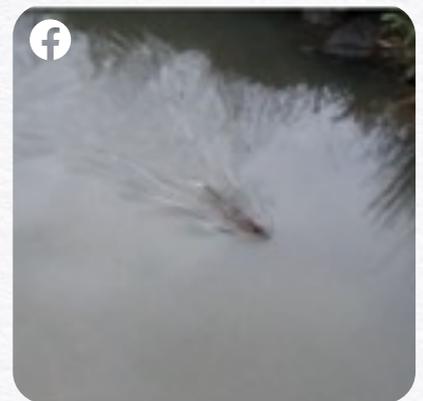
"CATCH OF THE YEAR. No Wait ... CATCH (and release) OF THE CENTURY. While this little grey fish may seem insignificant to some, it is infact a sensational discovery in the Glenelg River..."

**Reactions:** 3,406    **Shares:** 199  
**Comments:** 280    **Engagement:** 15,415



"The Combined benefits of working together with a cultural burn can extend far beyond the grasslands. The Wadawurrung Traditional Owners conducted a cool burn on..."

**Reactions:** 625    **Shares:** 73  
**Comments:** 98    **Engagement:** 4,603



"Is it a fish? Is it a platypus? No, its a Rakali if you are visiting the rivers of our catchment these school holidays keep an eye out for #Rakali - our native water rat. Quite the paddler above the..."

**Reactions:** 711    **Shares:** 73  
**Comments:** 66    **Engagement:** 3,282

# Five year summary

## - financial performance at a glance

	2021 (\$ '000)	2020 (\$ '000)	2019 (\$ '000)	2018 (\$ '000)	2017 (\$ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	7,305	6,082	12,205	9,078	6,677
Federal Government contributions	3,090	3,811	2,108	2,039	2,407
Other revenue	128	279	792	596	353
Total revenue	10,523	10,171	15,105	11,713	9,437
Total expenditure	9,334	12,349	14,323	10,750	9,953
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,189	(2,203)	782	964	(483)
Financial assets	8,889	7,756	10,045	8,860	7,582
Non-Financial assets	1,449	1,117	698	1,011	1,091
Total assets	10,338	8,874	10,743	9,871	8,673
Liabilities	1,824	2,036	1,702	1,671	1,437
Net assets	8,514	6,838	9,041	8,200	7,236

### CURRENT FINANCIAL REVIEW

#### OVERVIEW

In 2020-21 GHCMa achieved a net operating surplus of \$1.2 million, a \$3.4 million variance to 2019-20. Income has increased from prior year largely due to revenue received in advance for the 2021-22 financial year. Expenditure decreased due to the limitations and restrictions in place due to COVID. In June 2021 a land and building revaluation was conducted resulting in an asset revaluation increase of \$487K.

#### BALANCE SHEET

Net Assets have increased by \$1.7 million to \$8.5 million due to the increase in total assets by \$1.5 million (cash increase of \$1.1 million & non-financial assets by \$400K as a result of the land and building revaluation). Liabilities decreased by \$212K represented by the reduction in lease liabilities.

#### CASH FLOW

The cash surplus of \$1.1 million for the 2020-21 financial year was a net increase of \$3.6 million compared to the previous year. This increase was the result of revenue received in advance for the 2021-22 year in addition to a reduction in cash outflows due to the limitations and restrictions in place associated with COVID lockdowns over the course of the year.

## Disclosure of Grants and Transfer Payments

Due to COVID-19 the Victorian Landcare Grants were not delivered in the 2020-21 year.



# The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Vision and Purpose

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA seeks to align its Vision and Purpose with undertaking activities that will achieve these strategic outcomes. It does so utilising the framework outlined below:



**VISION:** Empowered communities nurturing a rich and connected landscape for all – today, tomorrow, together.

**DOMAIN:** There are sufficient people and resources committed to actively improving the health, protection and sustainability of the environment and natural resources.

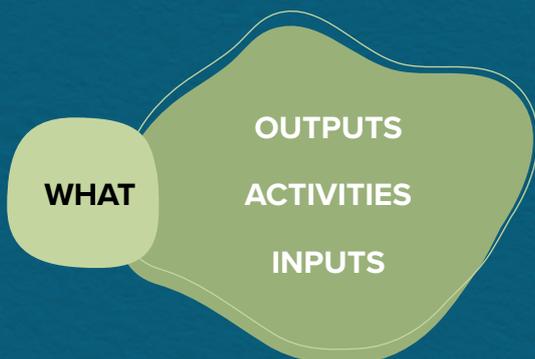
**OUTCOMES:** Climate change policy implementation, waterway & catchment health, water & sustainable agriculture, community engagement & partnerships, resilient & liveable cities & towns, Aboriginal cultural values & inclusion in the water sector, recreation values, floodplain management, environmental water, leadership diversity and culture and financial sustainability.

**OUR PURPOSE:** Working in partnership with landholders and the community to protect and enhance our region’s land, water and biodiversity resources.



**OUR APPROACH:** Enabling collaboration & inclusion, sustainability, learning & continuous improvement, health & well-being, leadership, VPS values and behaviours.

**OUR STRATEGIES:** Build capability & capacity, effective & demonstrated delivery, attract investment, regional leadership, people and safety. Knowledge growth, breadth & depth of participation, partnerships, integration & coordination, broad base of resourcing, regional MERI & planning, adapting for climate change, staff & organisational development, considered risk taking, strong governance & business management.



**OUTPUTS:** DELWP standard outputs, letter of expectation measures and business strategy performance indicators.

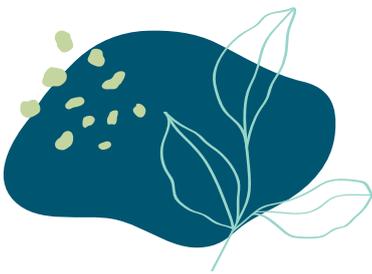
**ACTIVITIES:** Programs & projects.

An **INPUT** is the resources used to produce activity and output.

Figure 5: Glenelg Hopkins Vision & Purpose with Strategic Outcomes

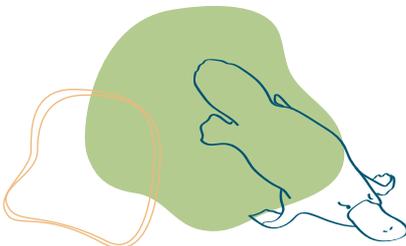
# Strategic Objectives

The strategic direction of Glenelg Hopkins CMA provides guidance for the organisation in establishing its main business undertaking and activities:



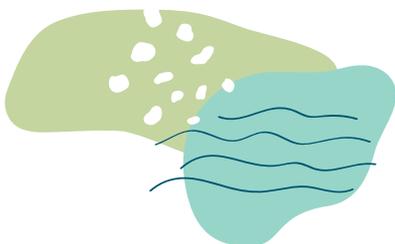
## PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR A HEALTHY CATCHMENT

- 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 processes for statutory functions
- Provide regional leadership in floodplain management
- Be 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.

**RESILIENT AND LIVEABLE CITIES AND TOWNS**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to support and promote this focus in our region through collaboration and partnerships with respect to river restoration along the Merri and Grange Burn rivers; activities in line with Wannon Water; local governments and local communities.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

This is a key focus for the next 5 years. We have a commitment to mitigating risks and collaborating with agencies, landowners and Traditional Owners through activities such as carbon sequestration in soils and plantings, protection and improvement of blue carbon habitats and increasing resilience of agricultural land.

**ABORIGINAL CULTURAL VALUES AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has been working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Corporations for over 15 years, recognising and supporting important cultural values in the water sector. The Glenelg Hopkins Aboriginal Partnership Framework will be implemented over the next 5 years and partnerships with Traditional Owners will continue to be strengthened.

**RECOGNISES RECREATIONAL VALUES**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will work towards delivering shared benefits along the Glenelg River and engaging with the community to identify recreational opportunities along the region's waterways. We will support communities and agencies developing social and recreational outcomes for well-being in line with the Victorian Government's Water for Victoria Strategy through the Regional Waterway Strategy.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will build on this through the Catchment Partnership Agreement, Glenelg Hopkins Partnership and Engagement Strategy and the next Regional Catchment Strategy. We will also support, strengthen and collaborate for improved catchment management performance through Vic Catchments.

**Glenelg Hopkins CMA**

**WATERWAY AND CATCHMENT HEALTH**

This is a foundational responsibility of Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Our regional priorities align strongly with the Victorian Government's priorities. Through investment received, the CMA will continue to provide leadership to improve the health of waterways, catchments, biodiversity and coastal and marine areas.

**LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY AND CULTURE**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will continue to position itself over the next five years as a provider of high-quality professional services, an employer of choice and an example to the region in line with its Diversity and Inclusion Plan and through the CMA's succession planning strategy, GH EQUIP.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

We will improve agricultural productivity in line with the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy by building strong community commitment to sustainable farm practices, supporting innovative practice and technology, and implementing irrigation development guidelines in partnership with rural water corporations.



# Operational Objectives

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
<b>Business Management &amp; Governance</b>	Submitted annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Submitted electronically on 28 October 2020 to Hon. Lisa Neville Minister for Water.
	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 26 May 2021.
	100% of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	59% of Board policies have been reviewed in the last three years. 36% of Operational Procedures have been reviewed in the last three years (18 of 50 – all procedures not reviewed in the last three financial years are considered 'under review'). GHCMA is currently undertaking an extensive audit of all policies and procedures with the aim to streamline/consolidate existing policies/procedures.
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Fully compliant with all standing directions with the exception of one, of which is partially compliant, with no material non-compliance.
<b>Regional planning and coordination</b>	A Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins RCS (2013-2019) was gazetted on 16 May 2013. A new RCS is currently undergoing development and is due to be completed by 30 September 2021.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework / plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Community Engagement and Partnership Strategy 2019-2024 was developed in 2019-20.
	A Regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Strategy was approved by the Board on 14 December 2012, and expired at the end of 2018. Landcare has been incorporated into the new RCS currently undergoing development.
	A Regional Waterways Strategy approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 was approved by the Minister in August 2014. In 2018-2019, an Interim Review of this Strategy was completed with corrective actions incorporated into the RWS MERI Plan.
	A Regional Floodplain Strategy approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Floodplain Management Strategy was approved by the Board in December 2017 and was accepted by DELWP in April, 2018.
<b>Regional delivery</b>	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the Board annually.	The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board reviewed the implementation of the RCS and major sub-strategies at its August 2020 Board Meeting. The final review of the RCS was provided to the Board in October 2020.
	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.	Projects to implement the Regional Waterway Strategy and the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy have been delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy is reviewed annually by the board. All actions are to be completed over the life of the Strategy. The Regional Floodplain Management Strategy was completed in 2018. A review of priority actions was undertaken in 2021 in consultation with relevant agencies; 25 of 74 actions have been completed, and 27 are in progress.



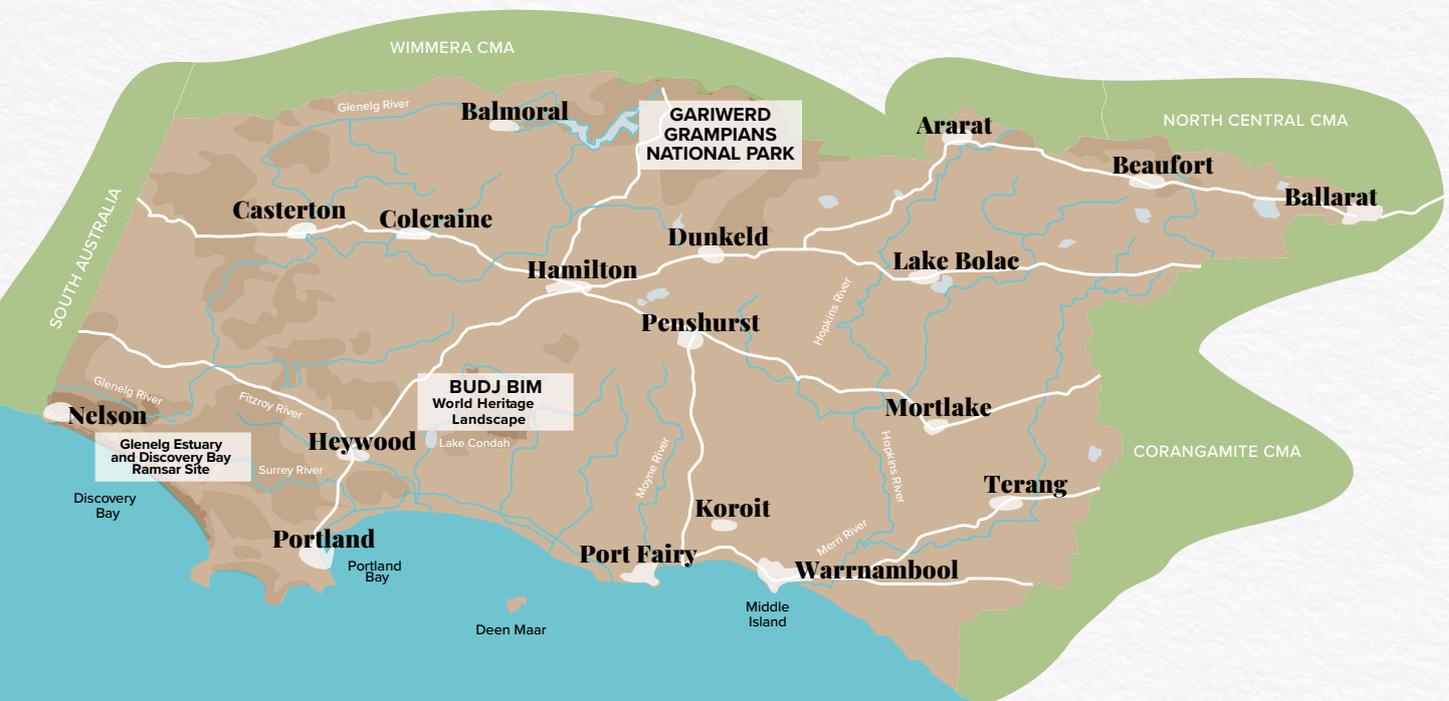
PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
<b>Statutory functions under Part 10 of the Water Act</b>	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	90% of Flood Advice were responded to within the prescribed period. 89% of Flood Referrals were responded to within the prescribed period. 82% of Works on Waterways Licences were issued within the prescribed period. 80% of Works on Waterways Advice were issued within the prescribed period. 100% of Works on Waterways Referrals were responded to 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 with irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	100% of irrigation management responses were issued within the prescribed response period.

# The Glenelg Hopkins CMA at a glance

## THE GLENELG HOPKINS REGION LIES SOUTH OF THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE IN VICTORIA'S SOUTH WEST.

The region is renowned for its scenic beauty, dramatic coastline and rich biodiversity. The boundaries of the region include marine and coastal waters out to the state limit of three nautical miles.

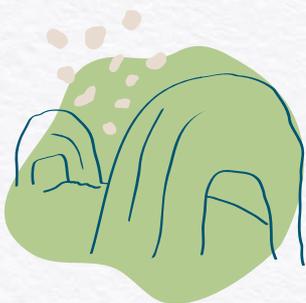
The region is characterised by flat volcanic plains in the south, while the Grampians, Dundas Tablelands and Central Highlands are dominant in the north.



With a favourable climate and rich soils, 81% of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region is used for agriculture.

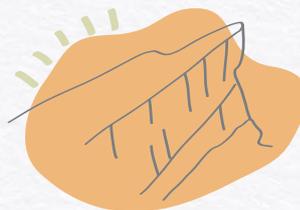
Based mostly on sheep, dairy, cattle, cereals and oil seeds, the region has the 3rd highest value of agricultural production of any NRM region in the nation and the highest in Victoria. The Glenelg Hopkins region contains natural features that are of national and international significance.

The Glenelg and Hopkins rivers and their tributaries, along with the smaller rivers and creeks in the Millicent and Portland Basins, are great locations for recreational water use including boating and fishing.



### BUDJ BIM HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

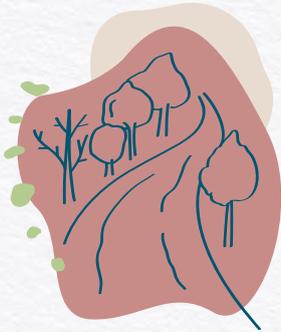
Incorporating Budj Bim National Park and the Budj Bim UNESCO World Heritage Landscape recognised for its Aboriginal cultural values.



### GARIWERD GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK

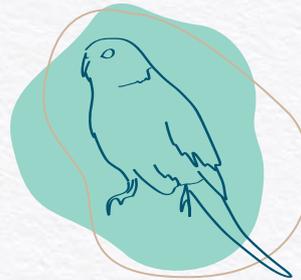
An inspirational & unique landscape and site of significant Indigenous value.

NATIONAL HERITAGE SITE



**GLENELG RIVER**

The lower section is heritage-listed due to its environmental significance.



**IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBA)**

Between Port Fairy and Warrnambool, and on the Discovery Bay coast, we support a non-breeding population of the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot, a breeding population of the vulnerable Hooded Plover, and some significant migratory shorebird populations.



**WESTERN DISTRICT RAMSAR LAKES**

Recognised as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Lake Bookar is the only one of nine in the complex that occurs in the Glenelg Hopkins region.



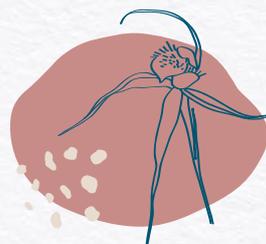
**31 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES**

Including the southern bent-wing bat, the southern right whale and the orange-bellied parrot.



**GLENELG ESTUARY AND DISCOVERY BAY RAMSAR SITE**

Stretching more than 22,000ha and known for its rare dunes and a variety of threatened plant, waterbird and fish species.



**69 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES**

Including the nationally listed spiny rice-flower and coast helmet-orchid.



**DISCOVERY BAY MARINE NATIONAL PARK**

Situated 20km west of Portland, this park covers 3,050ha and consists of basalt reefs and a high diversity of intertidal and shallow subtidal invertebrates such as rock lobster and abalone. It is an important site for whale watching.



**KANAWINKA GEO PARK**

Sites of volcanic geologic significance such as Wannan Falls, Tower Hill, Mt Noorat and Princess Margaret Rose Cave.

# Condition and management report

2020-21

## OVERVIEW

This Condition and Management Report fulfils Glenelg Hopkins CMA's responsibilities under Section 19B of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to prepare:

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

This report considers three elements:

- the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)
- condition and management assessments for each RCS theme: Community, Biodiversity, Water, Land, and Marine and Coast
- regional actions and achievements reporting to highlight output achievements for 2020-21.

## 1.0 THE REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY

A key focus for 2020-21 was the development of the region's fourth Regional Catchment Strategy. It will be submitted for Ministerial approval in September 2021 and addresses requirements of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, and the *CaLP Act* Statement of Obligations.

The RCS is being developed in collaboration with regional partners and the community and will be the primary integrated planning framework for land, water and biodiversity management within the Glenelg Hopkins region. The RCS sets long-term (20 year) objectives and medium term (6 year) objectives which will help guide investment for integrated catchment management in the region.

## 2.0 CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT REPORT

This component of the report provides a summary of condition and management highlights across each of the RCS themes of Community, Biodiversity, Water, Land, and Marine and Coast.

Each condition assessment is based on the best available information and expert advice and is summarised using the criteria detailed in Table 1 (*see below*).

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

Table 1: Assessment criteria for Annual Condition Reporting

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA		
<b>POSITIVE</b>	↑	An optimistic future with evidence that events during the year will have a positive impact on the longer term.
<b>NEUTRAL</b>	→	A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.
<b>CONCERNED</b>	↓	A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.
<b>HIGHLY CONCERNED</b>	↓↓	A high level of concern that significant events during the year are likely to have an adverse impact in the longer term.

Table 2 (page 19) presents a summary of condition assessments for each theme for 2020-21. Detailed information that informs these assessment summaries are provided for each theme in the following sections of this report.



Table 2: Summary of Catchment Condition Assessment

HEADLINE INDICATOR THEME	2018-19 ASSESSMENT	2019-20 ASSESSMENT	2020-21 ASSESSMENT	KEY EVIDENCE
<b>WATERWAYS</b>	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change represents a significant, long-term threat to the function and biota of waterways and wetlands, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing. Flow has declined in all major river systems which impacts water availability, river and estuary function and water quality.</li> <li>Observations of wetlands being lost via conversion to cropping and drainage have been noted.</li> <li>Water quality in the Glenelg is continuing to decline.</li> </ul>
<b>BIODIVERSITY</b>	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CMA has identified several instances of known high value wetlands and grasslands being modified via changes to agricultural practices.</li> <li>The area impacted by the 2019-20 summer bushfires is still in a recovery phase.</li> <li>Significant parts of the catchment are highly modified, with low levels of remnancy and are considered to be in poor condition for biodiversity.</li> <li>Climate change represents a significant threat to remaining biodiversity, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing.</li> <li>DELWP Land Cover Time Series data has identified a continuing loss of native grassland, scattered native tree and native shrub cover, and native wetland vegetation over the past 5 years.</li> <li>Within the region, 149 native plants and 47 native animals have had their conservation status provisionally elevated as the <i>FFG Act</i> moves into accordance with the Intergovernmental Common Assessment Method (CAM).</li> </ul>
<b>LAND</b>	Neutral →	Neutral →	Neutral →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of exposed soil in 2020 was below 10%, reducing risk of water and wind erosion.</li> <li>No major erosion events reported on farmland.</li> <li>Significant long-term challenges remain in managing the impact of land use on waterway health and managing soil health at the farm scale.</li> </ul>
<b>MARINE AND COAST</b>	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	Concerned ↓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The coastal environment remains subject to high demand for development and for recreational use and very little of the area is protected.</li> <li>Some recreational uses of beaches and dunes, such as horse riding and dog walking, threaten vulnerable breeding populations of endangered and migratory species.</li> <li>Estuaries and wetlands are important and complex coastal ecosystems that are subject to high human usage, artificial opening regimes, changed nutrient and sediment conditions (due to river flows) and are vulnerable to reduced flow driven by declining rainfall.</li> <li>Sea-level rise is anticipated to continue to erode beaches and dunes, which will reduce the area of protected coast, impact estuaries and coastal wetlands and put further pressure on coast-dependent species.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY</b>	Neutral →	Neutral →	Positive ↑	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community participation rates in CMA Natural Resource Management partnership projects have remained relatively steady.</li> <li>Landcare Group Health scores have remained consistent.</li> <li>Participation rates at engagement events was high in the last 12 months (<i>Table 8, page 47</i>).</li> </ul>

## 2.1 COMMUNITY

### 2.1.1 CONDITION STATEMENT

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	KEY EVIDENCE
<p><b>POSITIVE</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community participation rates in CMA NRM partnership projects have remained relatively steady.</li> <li>Landcare Group Health scores have remained consistent.</li> <li>Participation rates at engagement events was high in the last 12 months (Table 8, page 47).</li> </ul>

Volunteering is one of the most important mechanisms to support the delivery of the RCS. The region's Landcare program has been operating for 32 years and currently has five Landcare networks and 108 Landcare Groups. A further 49 community-based natural resource management groups are active in the region.

For the past 12 years, Landcare groups have been completing a 'group health survey' which provides a snapshot of how groups feel they are performing and allows them to highlight future priorities and any challenges being faced. The average group health scores out of five for the past 12 years are presented in Table 3 (below).

The scores have been consistent with a difference of only 0.39 between the highest score of 3.54 in 2018-19 and the lowest score of 3.15 in 2010-11.

Table 3: Landcare Group Health Survey Results 2008-09 – 2019-20

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
<b>Average Group Health Score</b>	3.43	3.41	3.15	3.48	3.26	3.23	3.38	3.26	3.46	3.24	3.54	3.43

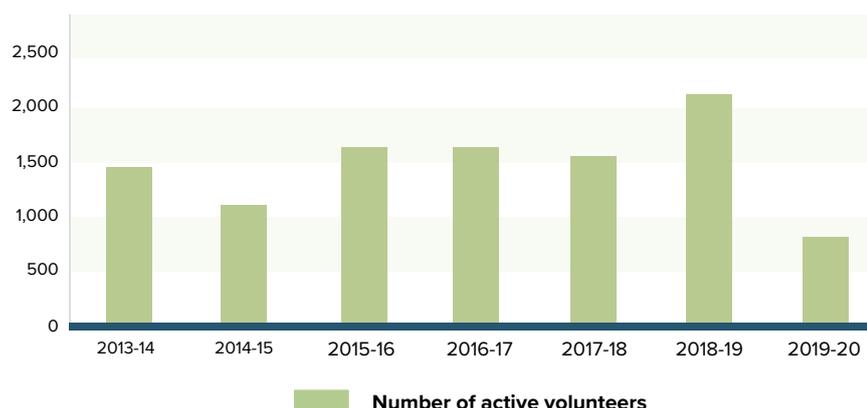
The total number of Landcare group members is also captured during the group health surveys and is presented in Figure 1 (below).

In addition to Landcare there is a broad range of environmental volunteer work in the region. Some examples include CFA volunteers burning roadsides, coastal nurdle hunting, community coastal monitoring, bird monitoring, Estuary Watch and whale recording.

Community-driven industry groups play a significant role in shared learning, local and regional connection, and innovation. Groups such as Southern Farming Systems, the Grassland Society of Southern Australia and Perennial Pasture Systems work with the region's landholders to build capacity, share knowledge and undertake demonstrations and investigations.

Building partnerships and integrating effort is important in delivering Integrated Catchment Management and provides a range of economic, social and recreational benefits for our local communities. Figure 2 (page 21) details the formal partnerships established, modified, or maintained between organisations and individuals, under CMA initiatives.

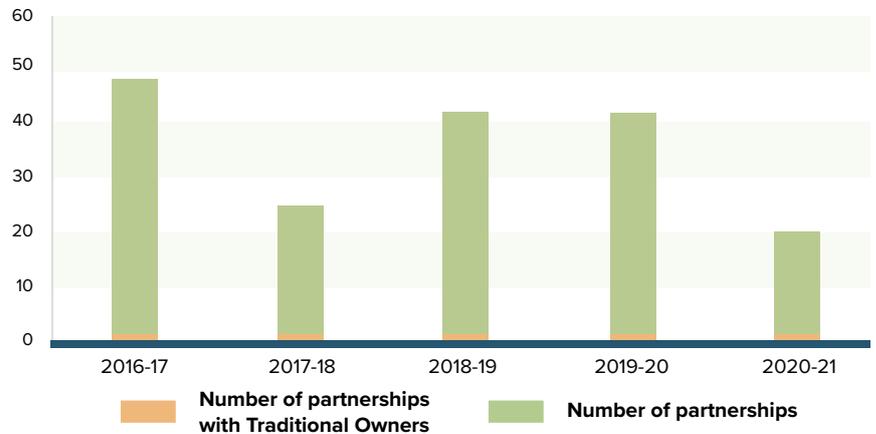
Figure 1: Number of Landcare Group Members within the Glenelg Hopkins Region



Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation manage the region’s cultural and environmental values through Indigenous Protected Areas, jointly managed National Parks and private land holdings.

The incorporation of Traditional Owner knowledge into integrated catchment management projects has been increasing and is supported by the new RCS currently in development.

Figure 2: Number of partnerships established, modified, or maintained in the Glenelg Hopkins Region



2.1.2 MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

LANDCARE COORDINATION	
<p>The Glenelg Hopkins Landcare program engages a Regional Landcare Coordinator to provide overall coordination, strategic advice and advocacy of Landcare. The RLC supports Landcare and environmental volunteering in the region to enable communities to take action for a healthy environment.</p> <p>The RLC works collaboratively with the region’s State funded Landcare Facilitators to assist them in supporting Landcare groups. COVID-19 restrictions have meant there was no ability to meet face to face individually or as a group. The RLC instituted a monthly on-line meeting with Facilitators, which has proven to be an excellent tool for sharing information and providing support. The RLC also assisted many Landcare groups in transitioning to on-line meetings, and delivering training events due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	<p>Victorian Government Funding provided through DELWP</p>
VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS	
<p>This project delivers a devolved small grants program on behalf of the Victorian Government as part of a coordinated and consistent approach across the State. The grants program supports the region’s Landcare and environmental volunteer groups/networks with funding for on-ground activities and group support.</p> <p>This year marked the finalisation of the Regional Riparian Action Plan (RRAP) - Landcare four-year program. This \$180,000 program delivered outstanding outputs in the Glenelg Hopkins region including 30 km of fencing and 128 ha of riparian zone protection.</p>	<p>Victorian Government Funding provided through DELWP</p>
OUR CATCHMENTS, OUR COMMUNITIES – REGIONAL INVESTMENT AND ON-GROUND PROJECT DELIVERY	
<p>The Glenelg Hopkins region 4-year Our Catchments, Our Communities (OCOC) Project contributes to a series of actions in the Our Catchments, Our Communities Strategy to reaffirm regionally focused and community-based approaches to catchment management, investment planning and on-ground project delivery. Some key highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 374 ha of wetlands (8 landholders) with improved management through the Landholder Incentives Program in the Greater Grampians region</li> <li>• Permanent conservation protection by Trust for Nature of two Nature Glenelg Trust managed wetlands, Green and Walker Swamps, covering 250 ha</li> <li>• Celebration of women on farms on International Rural Women’s Day with the release of three videos</li> <li>• The development of a new partnership agreement with Deakin University and Memorandum of Understanding with Nature Glenelg Trust and update of the partnership agreement with Wannon Water.</li> </ul>	<p>Victorian Government Funding provided through DELWP</p>
OUR CATCHMENTS OUR COMMUNITIES – REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY (RCS)	
<p>This project has involved the development of the next Glenelg Hopkins RCS. The RCS is the overarching plan for integrated catchment management within the Glenelg Hopkins region and has been developed in collaboration with Traditional Owners and regional agencies, organisations, groups and communities. The draft for public consultation was approved by the CMA Board on 30 June. The strategy will be submitted to the Minister by 30 September 2021. To date the project has attracted approximately 900 participants at engagement events and involved 70 organisations/groups.</p>	<p>Victorian Government Funding provided through DELWP</p>

**WATERWAY MANAGEMENT TWINNING PROGRAM**

The Waterway Management Twinning Program is a structured mentoring program, delivered collaboratively by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Australian River Restoration Centre (ARRC). The program facilitates the sharing and adoption of effective approaches in waterway management across the State. Run over the calendar year the 2020 Program had its first workshop face-to-face in February in Warrnambool with seven mentor/mentee partnerships from eleven different organisations. From there it was successfully adapted and supported to continue online.

Participants presented these projects to the waterway industry online in October and as written stories on [www.twinningiswinning.com.au](http://www.twinningiswinning.com.au).

Two Twinning Alumni shadowed the Program in 2020, learning how to run the mentoring program.

Victorian Government Funding provided through DELWP

**REGIONAL LAND PARTNERSHIPS – CORE SERVICES**

As a component of Regional Land Partnerships delivery, Core Services is a project which includes NRM planning and action prioritisation. It supports the community to participate in project delivery, undertaking communications and the provision of Regional Agriculture Land Facilitator (RALF) services. Highlights for 2020-21 include:

*NRM Planning – Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)*

This element of Core Services has supported the implementation of Australian Government NRM planning requirements in the RCS, as required through the Regional Land Partnerships program.

*Community Engagement and Participation*

Community engagement and participation is an important element across the delivery of all National Landcare Program projects. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working with a range of partners and community groups to: promote the continued use, support and reinvigoration of ecological knowledge to underpin biodiversity conservation; and to build community capacity and connection with the environment through activities that re-establish urban bush land, areas of Indigenous significance and the health of urban waterways.

*Indigenous Partnerships*

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working with Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal communities to deliver National Landcare Program projects and facilitate a two-way knowledge exchange in relation to sustainable natural resource management and agricultural activities, principally the use of traditional burning practices to heal Country and People. Another key focus has been delivery of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Aboriginal Partnership Framework and Traditional Owner involvement in the development of the RCS.

*Regional Agriculture Land Facilitator*

The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) project supports individuals, Landcare and agricultural production groups to adopt sustainable farm and land management practices by:

- promoting the Landcare ethic and sustainable agriculture 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.

Significant activities undertaken in 2020-21 as part of this project included:

- facilitating, attending and/or supporting 59 activities over the last 12 months
- co-hosting cover cropping webinars with the Corangamite CMA RALF and Southern Farming Systems
- coordinating meetings between Agriculture Victoria staff and community groups, which focussed on whole farm planning and on-farm biodiversity
- co-hosting and supporting the Perennial Pasture Systems Winter Farm Tour to Woorndoo, which was attended by 38 farmers
- facilitating sessions at Landcare group meetings which focussed on stock containment, integrated pest management, and carbon farming
- co-coordinating the DISA two day conference hosted by the Grasslands Society of Southern Australia, Southern Grampians Shire and other agencies.

Australian Government funding provided through NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships

***Woorndoo Chatsworth Landcare Group has received the final payment for our Victorian Landcare Grant. COVID-19 certainly sent us some curve balls on the delivery of this project.***

***Thank you for your patient and cooperative management of our various twists, turns and delays. Very much appreciated.***

*John Delpratt – Woorndoo Chatsworth Landcare Group*



## CASE STUDY:

# Agriculture Workforce Plan – Glenelg Hopkins Ag Work Crew

In July 2020, as part of the Agriculture Workforce Plan, 60 temporary full-time jobs were created. The program aimed to support farming communities and to keep Victorians working. The Glenelg Hopkins CMA hosted 10 of these positions, as the Ag Work Crew.

Based in Hamilton, the Ag Work Crew were recruited from the surrounding communities. Under strict COVID-19 safety requirements the crew worked across the region from Balmoral and Harrow in the north, to Portland and Warrnambool in the south, assisting private land managers with revegetation, stock exclusion fencing, weed control and rabbit warren destruction.

#### Partners:

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Agriculture Victoria, Upper Hopkins Land Management Group, Panyyabyr Landcare Group, local land managers, Australian Bluegum Plantations, Timberlands, South West TAFE and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

#### Investor:

Victorian Government.

Over 8 months the Ag Work Crew achieved:

- 987 hectares of Indigenous revegetation across 47 properties. This included planting several thousand widely spaced paddock trees, which will provide shade and shelter for stock.
- 4.6 km of stock exclusion fencing over 4 properties, including one kilometre of stock exclusion fencing on the Moyne River and Fiery Creek. In addition, one hectare of wetlands and two hectares of Red-tail Black Cockatoo habitat were fenced.
- 88 ha of rabbit warren destruction over 3 properties in the Victoria Valley.
- 379 ha of weed control over 16 properties, including control of pine wilding, coast wattle, gorse, briar rose and blackberry. Works were facilitated by the Upper Hopkins Land Management and Panyyabyr Landcare Groups.

The program focused on developing the skills and experience of participants to better prepare them for their next employment opportunity.

*‘Gorse is an ongoing problem in our area and it needs to be treated regularly to stay under control, so having support from the Ag Work Crew was a game-changer for those who participated in the program. I have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from landholders and stakeholders – everyone was impressed by the hard-working crew who did such an effective job on gorse control and revegetation.*

*Dr Ayesha Burdett-Landcare Facilitator  
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group*



Ag Work Crew

## 2.2 WATER

### 2.2.1 CONDITION STATEMENT

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	KEY EVIDENCE
<b>CONCERNED</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change represents a significant, long-term threat to the function and biota of waterways and wetlands. Medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing. Flow has declined in all major river systems which impacts water availability, river and estuary function and water quality.</li> <li>Observations of wetlands being lost via conversion to cropping and drainage have been noted.</li> <li>Water quality in many of our waterways does not meet EPA water quality objectives for at least one parameter and is continuing to decline.</li> </ul>

## RIVERS

The statewide Riparian Intervention Monitoring Program (RIMP) evaluates the responses of riparian land to weed control, revegetation and livestock exclusion<sup>1</sup>.

Vegetation condition assessment three years after intervention showed:

- total native vegetation cover increased ~2-fold
- native species richness increased ~1.5-fold
- planted and natural woody recruits increased ~9-fold
- woody weed abundance decreased to almost zero at most sites
- bare groundcover did not increase as found in unmanaged sites.

Table 4 (*below*) reflects efforts to protect or improve the condition of riparian lands, including fencing, weed control, revegetation and pest control through DELWP funded programs across the Glenelg Hopkins region since 2014-15.

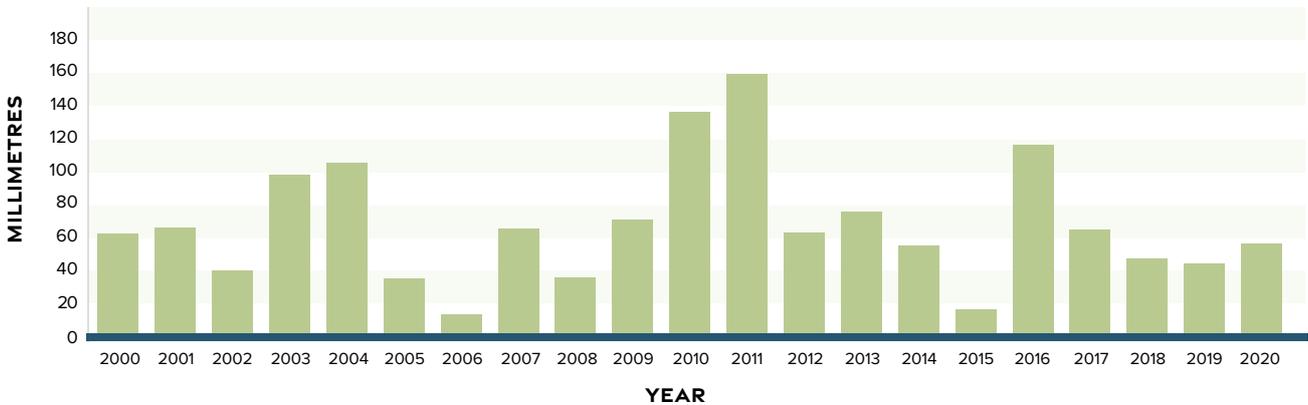
The changing climate is having a longterm impact on water in the landscape, run-off and river flow. “Victoria’s Water in a Changing Climate” found that Western Victoria catchments rainfall-runoff relationships shifted during and after the Millennium drought<sup>2</sup>. For some catchments, this relationship has not yet recovered.

The modelled flow into the rivers across the region is variable year to year (*Figure 3, page 25*).

Table 4: Reporting of key outputs that contribute to Riparian Zone Protection or improvement in the Glenelg Hopkins Region

OUTPUT	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
<b>Structural works</b>							
1.2 Water storage	27	12	71	22	31	13	14
1.9 Fence (km)	141.88	75.22	294.88	93.99	85.92	79.21	59.64
<b>Environmental works</b>							
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	458.78	286.80	809.69	309.86	226.96	277.04	185.62
2.2 Weed control (ha)	1,891.76	2,310.40	3,572.18	6,454.22	550.97	709.25	579.95
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	596.32	601.25	999.45	33,658.66	378.98	33,236.80	407.50
2.8 Earth works (no.)				12	20		
<b>Management services</b>							
3.1 Grazing (ha)	1,364.66	1,309.53	1,733.88	1,152.95	553.69	442.34	954.75
<b>Planning and regulation</b>							
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	87	87	139	119	70	67	37

Figure 3: Estimated annual river flow into the Glenelg Hopkins Region 2000 -2020  
(Australia's Environment Explorer - ANU-OZWALD)



A significant step-change in flow occurred after 1997 in south-eastern Australia. Annual average flow data in the period before 1997 compared to 1997-2020 show that flow volumes have decreased in the major basins by:

- 57% in Glenelg Basin (measured at the Glenelg River at Dartmoor)
- 40% in Portland Basin (measured at the Darlot Creek at Homerton)
- 60% in Hopkins basin (measured at the Hopkins River at Hopkins Falls).

The State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP Waters) defines environmental quality indicators and water quality objectives for waterways to protect beneficial uses. Most of the region’s rivers did not meet at least one objective (Figure 4 below). Between 1990 and 2019, across most flow conditions, water quality has declined in many of the region’s rivers and for some the change has been dramatic.

While it is unclear what is driving this change, it is likely to be related to the rapid intensification of land use, and use of high input agricultural systems.

Figure 4: Waterway Compliance with State Environment Protection Policy (Waters) Environmental Quality Objective Levels from 2010-2019 (SEPP WATERS)

WATER QUALITY PARAMETER	Glenelg River at Big Cord	Glenelg River at Sandford	Glenelg River at Dartmoor	Wando River at Wando Vale	Wannon River at Henty	Surry River at Heathmere	Moyne River at Toolong	Burrumbeet Creek at Lake Burrumbeet	Mt Emu Creek at Taroon	Hopkins River at Hopkins Falls
DISSOLVED OXYGEN	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x
TOTAL NITROGEN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TURBIDITY	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
SALINITY	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	x	✓	x	x

## WETLANDS

The development of 80% of the region for agriculture, large-scale drainage and reductions in rainfall have impacted the condition and extent of the region’s wetlands. Over 78% of shallow freshwater meadows and 66% of deep freshwater meadows have been lost across the region<sup>iii</sup>. A recent analysis of wetlands in the Southern Grampians area found at least 55% are cropped to some extent<sup>iv</sup>.

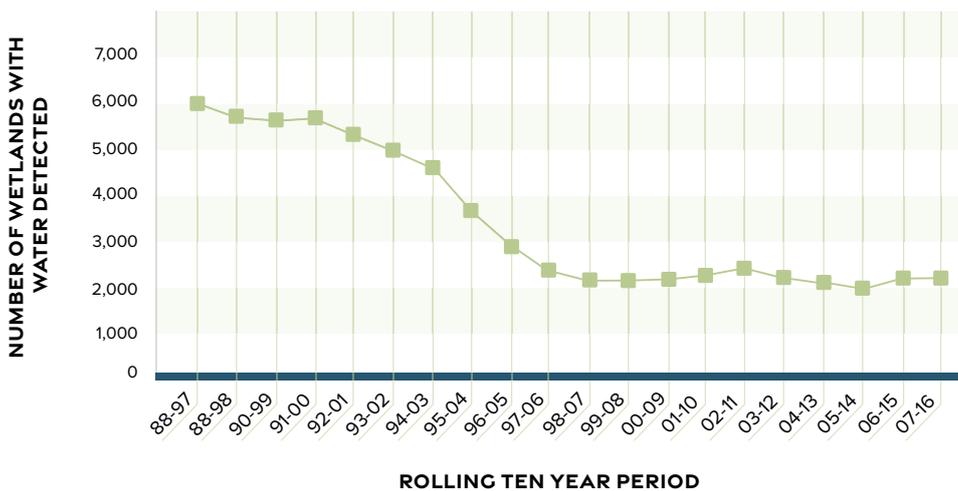
Wetland vegetation cover has declined significantly since 1985, declining 41% for perennial and 27% for seasonal wetlands. The Index of Wetland Condition was used to assess 261 wetlands in the region between 2009 and 2011. Wetlands on public land were found to be in generally better condition than those on private land (*Table 5 below*). Temporary freshwater marsh or meadows comprised 80% of poor to very poor condition wetlands. The assessment covered less than 2% of the region’s wetlands.

The Victorian Wetland Hydrology Monitoring project uses satellites to detect water in 7,600 wetlands in the region. Water was detected in 6,000 of the 7,600 wetlands in the 1988-1997 decade, but only 2,000 wetlands in the 2007-2016 decade (*Figure 5 below*). Shallow ephemeral wetlands were more likely to have no detectable water compared to deeper more permanent wetlands.

Table 5: Comparison of Wetland Condition on Public versus Private Land as assessed by the Index of Wetland Condition 2009-2011

WETLANDS ASSESSED ON PUBLIC LAND	WETLANDS ASSESSED ON PRIVATE LAND
59% (95) in excellent condition	3% (3) in excellent condition
32% (51) in good condition	9% (9) in good condition
6% (10) in moderate condition	31% (31) in moderate condition
0.6% (1) in poor condition	58% (58) in poor to very poor condition

Figure 5: Number of Wetlands detected per 10 year rolling period (DELWP 2019)



## ESTUARIES

The condition of the region's eight major estuaries is influenced by the landscape context they exist in, the interaction and availability of both fresh water and sea water and the degree to which they are influenced by local modifications and catchment inputs. Some of the region's estuaries run through urbanised environments, some have extensive agricultural catchments, and others have small catchments with large amounts of native vegetation remaining. Freshwater inflows are driven by surface water via rivers and creeks, but groundwater is also known to contribute to the hydrological function of some estuaries. Some estuaries are subject to more human modification than others, with the Moyne estuary kept artificially open, and others are impacted by catchment and stormwater pollutants, drainage and the development of infrastructure. Estuary, river, and catchment management programs seek to maintain the function and condition of our estuaries, in as natural a state as possible, to support ecological diversity and the use and enjoyment of our unique coastal systems.

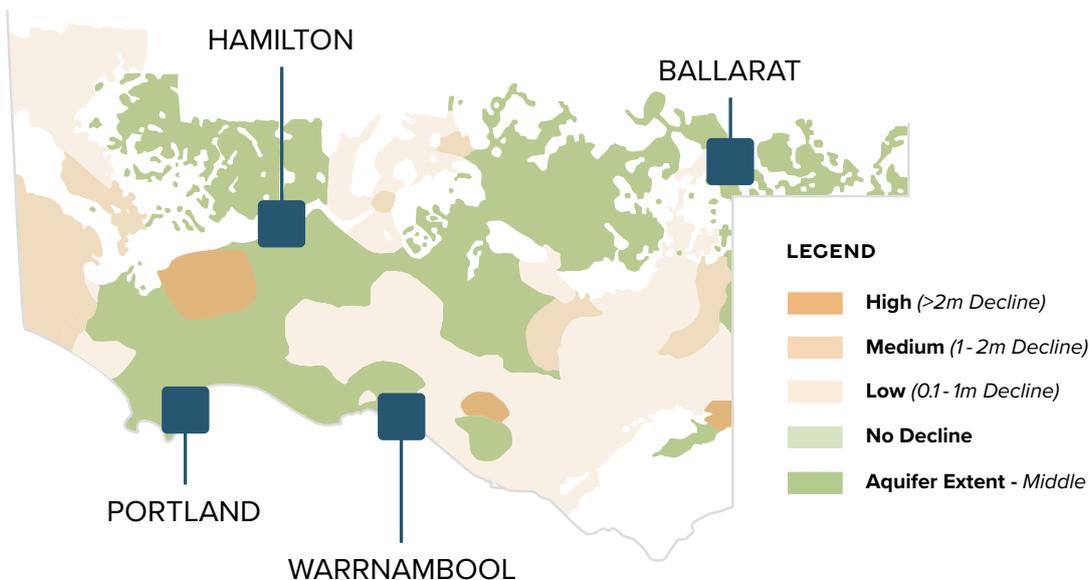
Estuary condition is classified via the Victorian Index of Estuary Condition (IEC). The IEC provides a snapshot of estuary condition at a point in time and focuses on five components of estuaries: fauna, flora, water quality, physical form (e.g. size and shape) and hydrology. IEC assessments were first completed in a 2015 trial across the 8 major estuaries in the region and classified the condition of estuaries as ranging from moderate to good. The IEC has been adapted since 2015 and more recent, and revised, results are due to be published in September 2021.

As the condition of estuaries is linked closely to the condition of the rivers that feed them, the Rivers section discusses many of the parameters that impact on estuarine condition.

## GROUNDWATER

The 2019 long-term water resource assessment for southern Victoria groundwater identified a trend for declining water levels in upper and middle aquifers in the region (*Figure 6 below*). This is possibly due to changed seasonal rainfall patterns with more variable rainfall less able to infiltrate aquifers and declining annual rainfall volumes. Changed land-use practices, such as drainage of recharge areas, changing to high water use vegetation types, and increased hard surfaces with urbanisation are also likely to have played a role in reduced infiltration.

Figure 6: Change in our Groundwater levels - Middle Aquifer from 1997 to present



2.2.2 MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

GLENELG WORKS PROGRAM	
<p>The Glenelg River Restoration Project aimed to improve waterway condition and biodiversity values in priority reaches of the Glenelg River and its tributaries. Highlights for 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• completion of Glenelg River restoration planning</li> <li>• final on ground works projects completed at 22 sites</li> <li>• sustained control and maintenance of the Mexican Pale Lily in the Glenelg River</li> <li>• continued Carp control to build resilience of native fish populations and the riverine ecosystem.</li> </ul>	<p>Victorian Government Funding provided through DELWP</p>
HOPKINS WORKS PROGRAM	
<p>The Hopkins Works Program supported river restoration on priority river reaches and wetlands of the Hopkins Basin. Key achievements for 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• successful woody weed control and revegetation along Brucknell Creek</li> <li>• Merri River Restoration Project activities completed including plantings contributed by Warrnambool Special Development School students and a land developer</li> <li>• reinstatement of water to Little Piccaninny with installation of earth wall and trickle structure</li> <li>• the Hopkins Wetland Restoration Project included promotional materials for protecting wetlands.</li> </ul>	<p>Victorian Government Funding provided through DELWP</p>
REGIONAL WORKS PROGRAM	
<p>The Regional Works Program provided information and capacity to support the delivery of riparian works across the Glenelg Hopkins region. This ensures effective program delivery and better-informed waterway management for rivers, wetlands and estuaries in the region. Key project outcomes for 2020-21 have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• surface water monitoring.</li> <li>• landholder engagement and surveying, revealing that 100% of landholders believe riparian works have improved waterway condition and would recommend other landholders complete similar works</li> <li>• regional Works Crew helping to reinstate fences and revegetation works after fires</li> <li>• the development of new baseline data sets.</li> </ul>	<p>Victorian Government Funding provided through DELWP</p>
WANNON WATER: ADAPTIVE WASTEWATER FOR SMALL TOWNS	
<p>As part of this Project, Wannon Water and Southern Grampians Shire Council have worked collaboratively to review, develop and assess the suitability of adaptive wastewater management solutions for the township of Peshurst.</p>	<p>Wannon Water and Southern Grampians Shire Council</p>
ESTUARY MANAGEMENT	
<p>The project delivers a range of statutory functions and community engagement activities focused on the regions eight major estuaries. Key achievements for 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the dissemination of estuary information to community members and stakeholders to improve communication, education and understanding of estuary dynamics and management implications</li> <li>• the maintenance and implementation of the CMA's Estuary Entrance Management Support System (EEMSS)</li> <li>• the monitoring and assessment of physico-chemical parameters within the region's intermittently closed salt-wedge estuaries</li> <li>• the coordination and delivery of Artificial River Mouth Opening (ARMO) protocols in-line with state and regional legislation</li> <li>• the support of community volunteers through the coordination of two citizen science EstuaryWatch groups on the Hopkins and Merri estuaries.</li> </ul>	<p>Victorian Government Supply Bill funding provided through the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning</p>
RAMSAR MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES – GLENELG ESTUARY AND DISCOVERY BAY RAMSAR SITE ACTIVITIES	
<p>This project seeks to implement priority on-ground and monitoring works consistent with the Glenelg Estuary Ramsar Management Plan. This represents a long-term and ongoing commitment to community engagement, delivery of works, and reporting and evaluation of management outcomes. Ramsar sites are managed as partnerships between community and government agencies to ensure the values of the site are not compromised.</p> <p>Significant activities undertaken in 2020-21 as part of this project included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a small trial of Beach Daisy treatment, supported by Working for Victoria crews</li> <li>• the completion of Beach-nesting, migratory and waterbird surveys for 2020-21.</li> </ul> <p>Fish population monitoring across the site continues to show strong connectivity to the Glenelg estuary. Populations of obligate freshwater species are continuing to rise in line with previous survey records.</p>	<p>Victorian Government Supply Bill funding provided through the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL WATER PROGRAM	
<p>This program provides strategic planning and delivery of the available environmental water entitlements in the region. The project focuses on the Glenelg River which is regulated by the Rocklands and Moora Moora Reservoirs. During 2020-21, environmental water delivered to the Glenelg River from Rocklands Reservoir totalled 8ML.</p>	<p>Victorian Government Supply Bill funding provided through the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning</p>
REGIONAL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION	
<p>The intent of the RFMS is to interpret and apply the policies, actions and accountabilities of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (VFMS) in managing flood risks at the regional and local levels. It provides a single, regional planning document for floodplain management and a high-level list of regional priorities to guide future investment. The primary role of the RFMS is to help agencies with floodplain management and flood emergency management functions to align their priorities and maximise community benefits with available funding. Twenty-five (34%) of the 74 RFMS actions are complete and twenty-seven (36%) are in progress.</p>	<p>Victorian Government Supply Bill funding provided through the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning</p>
STATUTORY WATER FUNCTIONS (FLOODPLAIN AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT)	
<p>This project supports the delivery of the CMA's floodplain and Waterway Management responsibilities. As part of this project, the CMA continued to support Local Government and VicSES in the development and review of Regional Municipal Flood Emergency Plans, Planning Scheme Amendments and general inquiries related to the catchment. The CMA's Floodplain and Works team responded to flood referrals and notices during the reporting period, provided flood advice responses, attended to inquiries &amp; compliance issues, and issued works on waterways licences.</p>	<p>Victorian Government Supply Bill funding provided through the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning</p>
REGIONAL FLOOD STUDIES	
<p><b>Warrnambool City Council (with support from Moyne Shire Council)</b></p> <p>This project is undertaking a Flood Investigation to determine the impacts of flooding at, and around, South Warrnambool. The project will assess flood risk and help to determine mitigation strategies including non-structural mitigation via incorporation of updated flood related planning controls into the Warrnambool City Planning Scheme.</p> <p><b>Southern Grampians Shire Council - Flood Investigation for Dunkeld and Planning Scheme Amendment.</b></p> <p>This flood investigation will enable the Shire and its flood risk management partners to understand flood behaviour for a range of flood magnitudes and will provide the necessary foundational information for completion of a range of flood risk reduction measures.</p> <p><b>Glenelg Shire Council</b></p> <p>The Fitzroy River and Darlots Creek regional flood investigation was completed in 2018. Adoption of this mapping into the Glenelg Shire Planning scheme as Land Subject to Inundation and Floodway Overlays is now required. This will rectify development controls and address the current lack of flood risk related planning controls for the township of Heywood.</p> <p><b>Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority in conjunction with Corangamite and Moyne Shires – Lower Mt Emu Creek regional flood study</b></p> <p>Lack of flood intelligence for a portion of the Lower Mt Emu Creek floodplain currently hinders effective flood response across the area, with particular emphasis on managing risks associated with the flooding of roads. The project will complement the recently completed Upper Mt Emu Creek regional flood study.</p>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through DELWP.</p>
GLENELG RIVER CULTURAL FLOWS PROJECT	
<p>Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (GMTOAC), Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC), Burrardies Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) on behalf of the South East Aboriginal Focus Group in South Australia, and Glenelg Hopkins CMA are working in collaboration to understand and document Aboriginal cultural values, uses and interests in the Glenelg River system. These values will inform a Cultural Flows plan through which the Glenelg River can be looked after according to Aboriginal cultural values in combination with scientific and ecological knowledge.</p> <p>In 2020-21 the focus moved towards identifying and testing avenues for Aboriginal water rights and ownership. On-Country meetings were held, and development of the River Yarns Virtual Visits platform continued.</p>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through the Department of Environment Water, Land and Planning</p>

2.2.2 MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS - CONTINUED

GLENELG FRESHWATER MUSSEL PROTECTION AND RECOVERY POST CRAWFORD RIVER FIRE	
To minimise the impact of the 2020 fire on the mussel, this project is improving habitat quality across the mussel's known and past distribution, protecting critical habitat where the mussel is now found, monitoring recovery progress and identifying other mussel populations in the Crawford River.	Australian Government funding provided through the Bushfire Wildlife and habitat Recovery Program
HABITAT FOR THE RIVERS OF WARRNAMBOOL	
This project is supporting more sustainable and productive fisheries with the reinstatement of in-stream habitat features and riparian vegetation along the Hopkins and Merri Rivers. As part of this project, partnerships are being further developed between local angling groups to construct habitat and undertake riparian plantings. This project also contributes to fish monitoring, and includes a strong communications element.	Australian Government Funding provided through the Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program
ENHANCING ESTUARIES IN THE PORTLAND BASIN	
This project is partnering with local angling groups to support sustainable and productive fisheries. Works will be delivered on five estuaries, the Moyne River, Yambuk Lake, Fitzroy River, Surry River and Fawthrop Lagoon to address invasive weeds, historic land clearing and de-snagging.	Australian Government Funding provided through the Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program

**Dear GHCMA**

***Thank you so much for collaborating with Nature Glenelg Trust ..... to fix the breach in the Julia St Lagoon, Portland.***

***After 2 years, we are thrilled to see fresh water back in the lagoon. The geotech bagging is holding the water in. There are fourteen swans flying in daily. One pair is mating. There does not seem to be a dominant pair any more. There are heaps of ducks, and the frogs are deafening. Insects are hatching. The swamp harriers are busy hunting again. We are watching closely for a bittern, and will advise you if we see it return.***

**Bronwyn Petrie**



## CASE STUDY:

# Ten years of watering for the Glenelg River

2020-21 marks the 10th anniversary of the completion of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, which significantly increased the Glenelg River's bulk Environmental Water entitlement. This has provided an opportunity to look at the positive responses and outcomes from environmental watering over the last decade.

During the millennial drought the Glenelg River was in a poor state, with much of the upper reaches reduced to shallow, saline pools. In April 2010, construction on the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline was completed.

The water savings from this pipeline provides an annual allocation of up to 40,560 ML of water to benefit the Glenelg and Wimmera Rivers. Targeted use of environmental water allocations, and implementation of a suite of integrated largescale river restoration works, have resulted in significant environmental improvements for the Glenelg River.

In 2014 the Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy was updated. The strategy was established to provide objectives and direction for the management of rivers. In the strategy ecological and environmental watering objectives were identified. These objectives represented measurable outcomes that could be improved by environmental water. Several of these objectives have been tracked as part of a statewide fish monitoring program at eight sites on the Glenelg River.

Highlights over the past 10 years have included:

- A four-fold increase in the abundance of the Glenelg Wimmera River Blackfish. In 2014 this species was identified as being unique from other River Blackfish species, with the Glenelg River hosting the largest population. During the millennial drought their population numbers in the Glenelg river were dire. Regulated environmental water delivery and improvements in water quality has seen the population recover. It is now one of the most abundant fish species in the Glenelg River.
- An increase in abundance and distribution of Tupong and Estuary Perch. These fish species are dependent on the connection between the estuary and freshwater reaches to complete their lifecycles and were absent from the freshwater reaches. Both the Tupong and Estuary Perch population have seen large population increases but more importantly can now be found throughout the Glenelg River. This increase is attributed to the connected river created by environmental flows and the removal of 12 fish barriers, which has resulted in an increase in their range by over 320 km.

- An increase in the population of Variegated Pygmy Perch. In 2010 the Variegated Pygmy Perch National Recovery Plan identified an altered flow regime being one of the major causes of population decrease. Listed as Vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC)*, the Variegated Pygmy Perch population has now increased by 350 %. This increase is due to a more natural flow regime being maintained in the river.

Finally, in the last, four years, the ecological response has been remarkable, with at least a 150% increase in all native fish species sampled in the Glenelg River, and the return to the river of the Australian Grayling, which had not previously been identified for 122 years. Once abundant throughout the coastal rivers of south-eastern Australia, Australian grayling populations have declined due to altered river flows, water extraction and barriers to fish movement such as weirs.



## 2.3 BIODIVERSITY

### 2.3.1 CONDITION STATEMENT

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	KEY EVIDENCE
<b>CONCERNED</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CMA has identified several instances of known high value wetlands and grasslands being modified via changes to agricultural practices</li> <li>The area impacted by the 2019-20 summer bushfires is still in a recovery phase</li> <li>Significant parts of the catchment are highly modified, with low levels of remnancy, and are considered to be in poor condition for biodiversity</li> <li>Climate change represents a significant threat to remaining biodiversity, medium term trends in declining average annual rainfall are continuing</li> <li>DELWP Land Cover Time Series data has identified a continuing loss of native grassland, scattered native tree and native shrub cover, and native wetland vegetation over the past 5 years</li> <li>Within the region, 149 native plants and 47 native animals have had their conservation status provisionally elevated as the <i>FFG Act</i> moves into accordance with the Intergovernmental Common Assessment Method (CAM).</li> </ul>

## HABITAT AND NATIVE VEGETATION

Over 81% of native vegetation has been lost from the region since European arrival. This loss is not evenly distributed across the region. The Greater Grampians has 89% native vegetation cover, but the Victorian Volcanic Plains (VVP), the largest bioregion, has just 7% (*Figure 7 below*). Despite this the VVP provides habitat for a disproportionately high amount of the region’s biodiversity.

Figure 8 (*page 33*) presents the change in dominant native vegetation cover in the region from 1985 to 2019. In summary:

- 47% of remaining native grassland has been lost since 2010 (*Figure 8b, page 33*)
- native vegetation cover in seasonal wetlands has declined by 27% (*Figure 8e page 33*)
- the total cover of scattered native paddock trees has declined by 11% since 1990 (*Figure 8c page 33*)

- the number of red gum paddock trees declined by 35% in parts of the region between 2003 and 2013, probably due to climate change<sup>vii</sup>
- native tree cover has increased slightly, particularly along watercourses, due to riparian protection and restoration works.

Figure 7: The extent of native vegetation cover (ha) remaining in the Glenelg Hopkins Bioregions compared to original extent (Pre-1750), (Victorian Land Cover Time Series, DELWP)

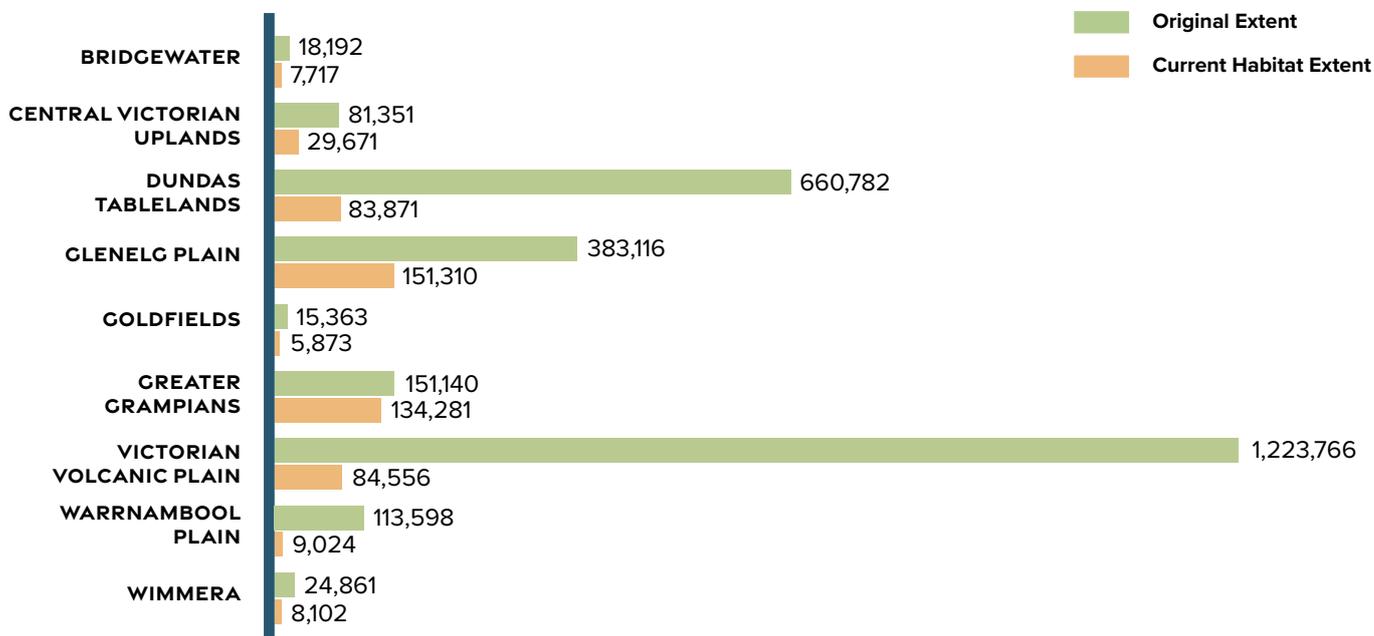
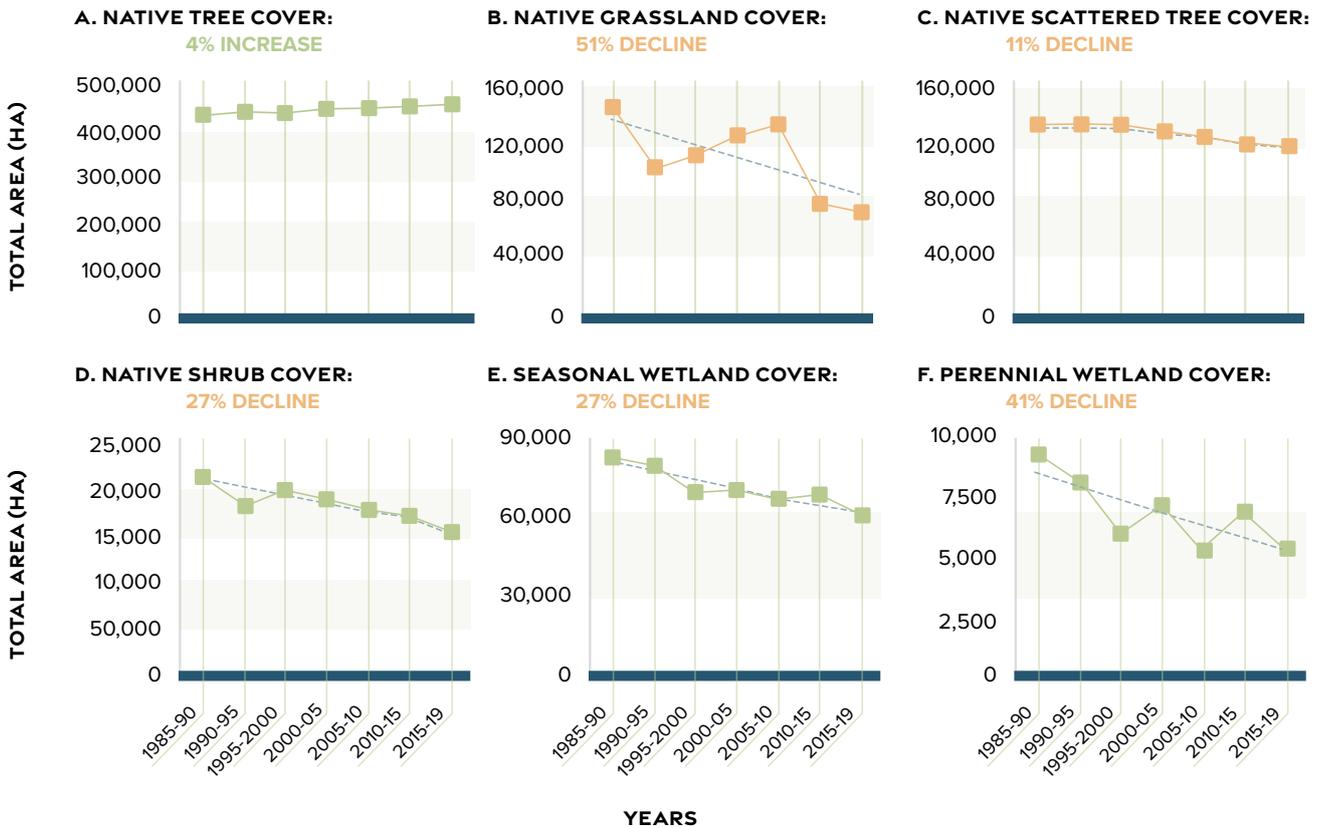


Figure 8: Change in Dominant Native Vegetation Cover in the Glenelg Hopkins Region from 1985-2019  
(Victorian Land Cover Time Series, DELWP)



**Threatened Native Species**

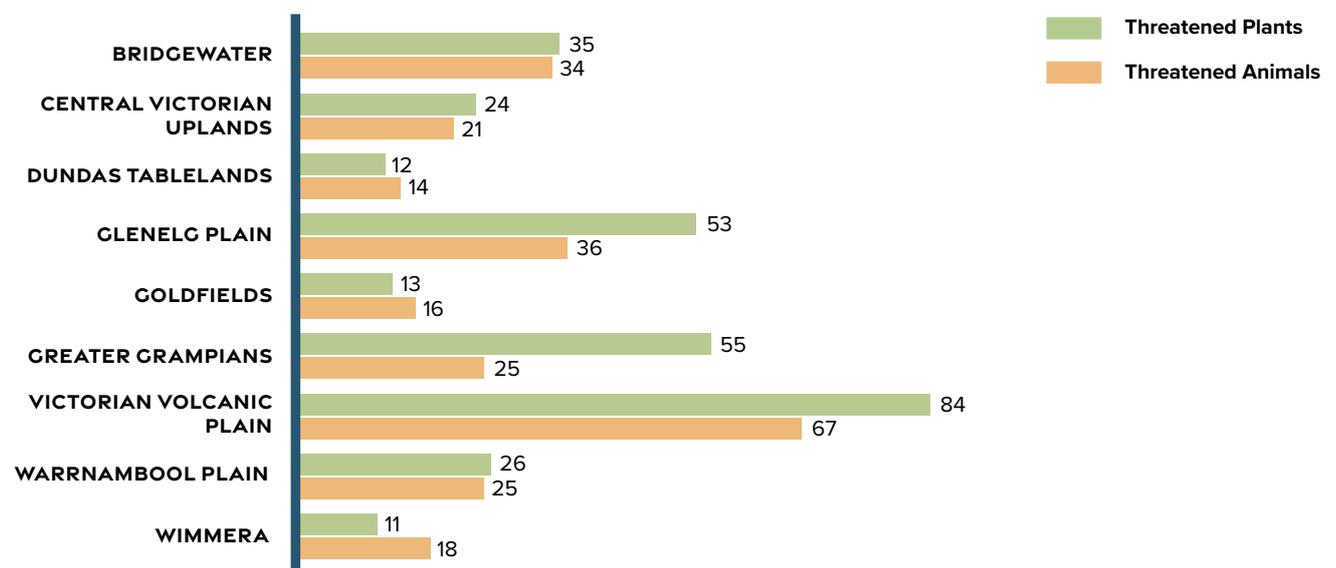
Victoria is experiencing a period of rapid species decline. Within the Glenelg Hopkins region, 295 (21%) native species are threatened with extinction, including 103 (22%) animals and 192 (14%) plants. A further one hundred species are critically endangered, 141 endangered and 54 vulnerable, including:

31 critically endangered animal species, including the Southern Bent-wing Bat, the Southern Right Whale and the Orange-bellied Parrot;<sup>vii</sup> and 69 critically endangered plant species, including the nationally listed Spiny Rice-flower and Coast Helmet-orchid.<sup>ix</sup>

Figure 9 presents the number of threatened plants and animals in each bioregion within the Glenelg Hopkins

region. Many of the threatened species share habitat and threats. The Victorian Volcanic Plains is the most heavily cleared bioregion and has the highest number of threatened species.

Figure 9: The number of Threatened Plants and Animals in each Bioregion within the Glenelg Hopkins Region (NATUREKIT)



2.3.2 MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

RED-TAILS OF THE GLENELG PLAIN	
<p>This Australian Government funded Regional Land Partnerships project supports actions to prevent further population decline of the endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (SeRtBC). Key achievements for 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6,540 seedlings of Brown Stringybark planted over 40 ha of private land</li> <li>• 25 ha of low intensity burns undertaken by Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners</li> <li>• maintenance on 12 SeRtBC nest boxes</li> <li>• installation of bioacoustic monitoring devices in 15 nest boxes</li> <li>• annual Cocky Count held in May with 1,230 birds sighted, including 344 in the Glenelg Hopkins region</li> <li>• 75 volunteers participating in searches over 1,476 sq kms of SeRtBC habitat</li> <li>• 2 sites of high value SeRtBC habitat on private land identified for permanent protection.</li> </ul>	<p>Australian Government funding provided through NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships Program</p>
VICTORIAN VOLCANIC PLAINS RECOVERY PROJECT	
<p>This project delivers activities across private and public land tenures and targets endangered ecological communities of the VVP including Natural Temperate Grassland, Grassy Eucalypt Woodland and Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands. The project also aims to protect and enhance the trajectory of three critically endangered species – the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Button Wrinklewort and Spiny Rice-flower. Highlights for 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• permanent protection of a new Seasonal Herbaceous Wetland (100 ha site)</li> <li>• the release of approximately 31 Eastern Barred Bandicoots at the Tiverton enclosure site</li> <li>• planting of thirty-two Spiny Rice-flower seedlings in the Skipton Common to increase population diversity</li> <li>• the collection of seed from five populations of the Button Wrinklewort, and securing this seed in a national seedbank.</li> </ul>	<p>Australian Government funding provided through NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships Program</p>
PINE WILDING CONTROL IN STRINGYBARK WOODLANDS	
<p>This collaborative project involving Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Conservation Volunteers Australia, Parks Victoria, DELWP and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation is ensuring a coordinated approach to pine wilding control in Brown Stringybark woodlands. The aim of this project is to enhance the habitat of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. The project is using UAV imagery to help identify pine infestations and ensure that they are treated. The project has treated 1,421 ha.</p>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through Biodiversity Response Planning</p>
ESTABLISHING A CLIMATE REFUGE AND SEEDBANK FOR DECLINING AND THREATENED SPECIES OF THE VICTORIAN VOLCANIC PLAIN (WANNON WATER)	
<p>At the Dunkeld Water Reclamation Plant, a trial to establish a climate refuge for vulnerable Victorian Volcanic Plain flora species is underway. It will build and share knowledge and skills about how to establish and maintain a climate refuge for the region's biodiversity.</p>	<p>DELWP BSW Climate Adaptation Project grant</p>
PROTECTION OF MANNA GUM FOREST, BUDJ BIM NATIONAL PARK (PARKS VICTORIA)	
<p>This project aims to protect the Stony Rises Woodland EVC and minimise further decline in canopy condition; protect living cultural heritage and landscape values in Stone Country; and reduce Koala density to sustainable levels that allow regeneration of Manna Gum condition to an acceptable level. Over 200 koalas were treated with implants in 2020-21.</p>	<p>Parks Victoria</p>
GRAMPIANS ARK, GRAMPIANS-GARIWERD NATIONAL PARK (PARKS VICTORIA)	
<p>Grampians Ark is a 226,000 ha landscape-scale, tenure-blind project delivered in collaboration with Panyyabyr and Mirranatwa Landcare groups. Grampians Ark aims to integrate fox and feral cat control at the scale and intensity needed to protect native small mammals, reptiles and birds across the national heritage listed Gariwerd landscape. The project seeks to protect native mammals at risk, particularly high priority species listed under State and Australian Government legislation where fox predation is a significant threatening process. Focus species include the Brush-tail Rock Wallaby, Heath Mouse, Long-nosed Potoroo, Smoky Mouse and Southern-Brown Bandicoot.</p> <p>As part of this project, small mammal trapping has been occurring since 2008, to monitor post-fire impacts and small mammal recovery. Currently this includes over 100,000 camera trap nights of survey effort, making it one the largest small mammal monitoring programs in Australia. Highlights for 2020-21 included the detection of a Long-nose Potoroo, the first in many years, and a Southern Brown Bandicoot, the first to be recorded in the area since 2013.</p>	<p>Parks Victoria</p>

<b>FERAL CAT CONTROL, GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK (PARKS VICTORIA)</b>	
Research has shown that the population of feral cats is increasing in the Grampians National Park. With funding from the Biodiversity Response Program, Parks Victoria has initiated a landscape-scale project to reduce the population of feral cats using baits. A total of 1,185 Curiosity® feral cat baits were deployed across 15,000 ha of the park as part of this project in 2020-21.	Victorian Government funding provided through Biodiversity Response Planning
<b>DEER AND GOAT CONTROL IN GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK (PARKS VICTORIA)</b>	
This project aims to reduce the impact of deer and goats in the Grampians National Park. A total of 337 goats and 294 red deer have been removed from the park since 2019. 40 goats and 294 red deer were removed in 2020-21.	Parks Victoria
<b>'GETTING GOATS OUT OF MOUNT NAPIER': LOCAL ERADICATION OF GOATS, MT NAPIER STATE PARK (PARKS VICTORIA)</b>	
This collaborative project between Parks Victoria, landholders, Hamilton Field Naturalists and Budj Bim Rangers is aiming to reduce the impact of feral goats in significant Stony Rises Woodlands within the 3,000 ha reserve. The population of goats in Mt Napier State Park was originally thought to be around 40, but the project has identified a much larger population. So far 341 goats have been controlled to date, way beyond the initial estimates. 160 goats were removed from the park in 2020-21 via ground and aerial shooting operations in targeted areas.	Parks Victoria
<b>BUDJ BIM INTEGRATED PEST ANIMAL PROJECT (DELWP)</b>	
<p>This project aims to assist with recovery of areas impacted by the 2019-20 Victorian bushfires. Budj Bim's invasive species management program has been developed with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Winda-Mara Budj Bim rangers to implement a coordinated, strategic program focusing on feral pigs, deer and weeds.</p> <p>The integrated program has included successful control using the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ground shooting of Fallow deer and foxes</li> <li>• feral pig baiting and trapping</li> <li>• aerial shooting of feral pigs, Red deer, Fallow deer, and foxes</li> <li>• early invader weed species survey</li> <li>• pig program</li> </ul> <p>Both Rangers and Gunditj Mirring Field Crew have shared learnings and improved skills to undertake a successful integrated invasive species program. The program has been extended for 2021-22.</p>	Victorian Government funding provided through the Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery program
<b>SOUTHERN BROWN BANDICOOT GENE MIXING PROJECT (DELWP)</b>	
Gene-pool mixing is a new technique to address the key threat of loss of genetic diversity and adaptive potential in declining fragmented populations. This project will produce and implement best practice guidelines for assessing and mitigating these genetic risks in the Southern Brown Bandicoot.	Victorian Government funding provided through DELWP
<b>EASTERN QUOLL FEASIBILITY PROJECT (DELWP)</b>	
This project investigated the interest of Eastern Maar and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners in establishing populations of Eastern Quolls to address their cultural objectives for this species. It evaluated the suitability of existing and potential new safe haven sanctuaries for establishing Eastern Quolls on the Traditional Owners' respective Country.	Victorian Government funding provided through DELWP
<b>WEEDS AND PESTS ON PUBLIC LAND – GLENELG EDEN (DELWP)</b>	
This is a landscape-scale invasive flora eradication and control project across the southern parts of the Far South West. 80% of listed infestations have been treated, and several new infestations identified. 110 sites were treated this year.	Victorian Government funding provided through the Weeds and Pests on Public Land Program
<b>REDUCING BUSHFIRE RISK – NATIVE VEGETATION IMPROVEMENT – GLENELG PINES (DELWP)</b>	
This landscape scale eradication and control project is targeting Radiata Pine in stringybark woodlands to halt and prevent eucalypt canopy decline, in turn protecting a critical food source for the endangered South-Eastern Red-tail Black Cockatoo. 5,083 ha of high, moderate and low infestation areas have used a combination of mechanical, manual, and follow up (fire) treatments.	Victorian Government funding provided through Biodiversity Response Planning

GOOD NEIGHBOUR PROJECT (DELWP)	
<p>This project is dedicated to single-species woody weed treatments in established stands of <i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> in lowland forests around Portland and Heywood. Key achievements for 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• treatment of 120 ha of <i>Pittosporum</i></li> <li>• treatment of a further 100-200 ha of <i>Pittosporum</i> at medium infestation density by the South West Woody Weeds Action Taskforce volunteer group.</li> </ul>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through DELWP</p>
GLENELG ARK (DELWP)	
<p>Glenelg Ark is a landscape scale fox baiting program which aims to facilitate the recovery of the Southern Brown Bandicoot and Long Nosed Potoroo across 90,000 ha of public estate in South West Victoria. There are 3 control areas (unbaited) and 3 treatment sites (baited) that are monitored annually to determine what effect the program is having on the target species. A complementary monitoring program has also been implemented for feral cats over autumn in Lower Glenelg National Park to estimate feral cat density.</p> <p>Glenelg Ark monitoring data is being used by University of Melbourne to create distribution models of the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long Nosed Potoroos and Red Fox throughout the Glenelg Ark operational footprint.</p>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through the Weeds and Pests on Public Land Program</p>
ECOLOGICAL BURNING (DELWP)	
<p>Ecological burns are planned burns with the primary objective of meeting environmental outcomes, rather than risk-based outcomes. Nine specific ecological burns occurred in 2020-21 over an area of around 1,000 ha, targeting a mix of pine wildings, coastal wattle, and winter heath.</p>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through DELWP</p>
SALLOW WATTLE REMOVAL (DELWP)	
<p>This is a project to remove high threat, invasive weed species within sensitive areas of the Grampians National Park. Areas were mulched to reduce the spread within the national park.</p>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through Biodiversity Response Planning</p>
LINEAR RESERVES PROJECT (DELWP)	
<p>Protection and enhancement of Natural Temperate Grasslands on Crown land reserves has resulted in the following achievements for 2020-21: 500 ha of targeted weed control on road reserves, 220 ha of ecological burning in partnership with CFA, and survey and mapping of high threat grasses (Chilean Needle Grass, Serrated Tussock) in partnership with Golden Plains Shire.</p>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through Biodiversity Response Planning</p>



## CASE STUDY:

# Red-tails of the Glenelg Plain Cultural Burning Project

The endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii graptogyne*) occurs in south-west Victoria and south-east South Australia. It only feeds on the fruit of Brown and Desert Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri* and *E. arenacea*). Hot burns, where fire scorches the tree canopy, can limit food production for up to a decade. Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation are re-introducing cultural cool burns into Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat, supporting cultural practices, protecting the species' food resources, and reducing bushfire risk.

DELWP Forest Fire division and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation worked together to identify potential burn sites. Glenelg Hopkins CMA conducted vegetation monitoring on vegetation/fuel composition and impacts on South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo food resources. Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation staff burnt 16 ha of heathland and Stringybark woodland in July 2020 alongside DELWP Forest Fire crew. The burn was low-intensity, patchy and did not scorch the Stringybark canopy.

The next cultural burn in South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat is planned for July 2021.

**Partners:**

Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, DELWP Forest Fire Management.

**Investor:**

This project has been supported through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

*Red-tailed Black Cockatoo.  
Image credit to Luke Leddy*



*Burns using traditional techniques removed flammable understorey growth while leaving valuable red-tail food sources in the tree tops undamaged.*



## 2.4 LAND

### 2.4.1 CONDITION STATEMENT

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	KEY EVIDENCE
<b>NEUTRAL</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of exposed soil in 2020 was below 10%, reducing risk of water and wind erosion.</li> <li>No major erosion events reported on farmland.</li> <li>Significant long-term challenges remain in managing the impact of land use on waterway health and managing soil health at the farm scale.</li> </ul>

## LAND USE

The region has undergone extensive land clearing for agriculture and urban development since European settlement. Around 83% of the original native vegetation has been cleared, and 81% of land is now farmed. Agricultural land use varies considerably across the catchment and is influenced by a range of factors including: land capability (e.g. soil type, terrain), commodity prices and access to supporting infrastructure. Major agricultural land use classes include cropping, dairy, sheep and beef production. Most regional farms are mixed operations, producing more than one agricultural commodity. Cropping, often in conjunction with sheep or cattle, is dominant in the north-east of the catchment, while dairying is dominant around Warrnambool and in the region's south-east. Softwood (mostly *Pinus radiata*) and hardwood forestry plantations are a common feature of the landscape, particularly in the western and south-west parts of the catchment.

Public land accounts for 18% of the Glenelg Hopkins land area. This includes four National Parks – Lower Glenelg (27,300 ha), Mount Richmond (4,280 ha), Cobboboonee (18,510 ha), Grampians (Gariwerd) (167,219 ha) and Budj Bim (5,470 ha) – as well as State Parks and other public land reserves. An important feature is the region's five Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs).

Managed for biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural values, IPAs cover almost 4,000 ha and include the coastal island of Deen Maar, Tyrendarra, Framlingham Forest, Kurtonitj and Lake Condah. Private land conservation covenants, totalling around 4,400 ha, provide valuable habitat for species in areas that are poorly represented by public reserves, as well as enhancing habitat connectivity between reserves.

Grazing, predominately for sheep, beef and dairy cattle, is the major land-use within the Glenelg Hopkins region. Dryland grazing accounts for around 76% of agricultural land use. As shown in Figure 10 (page 39), the area of land under cropping has increased significantly over the past 30 years, from around 34,000 ha in 1990, to almost 200,000 ha in 2018-19 (12% of regional agricultural land use). This transition from grazing to cropping has been particularly evident in the north-east of the catchment. Softwood plantation area has remained relatively steady over the past 30 years, at around 60,000 to 70,000 ha; while the area under hardwood plantations has increased significantly, peaking at around 140,000 ha in 2015 (Figure 10).

The conversion of land to pasture after harvest of hardwood plantations has become more common in recent years as the industry has moved to consolidate hardwood resources, limiting locations to areas that can be

profitably managed, harvested and transported. Irrigated horticulture area has continued to increase in the region (Figure 10, page 39).

The 2018 State of the Parks report examined the condition and change since 2013 of 31 reserves in the region. While no reserves were classed as in 'excellent' condition, 58% were assessed as being in 'good' condition. Of these, most had maintained their condition, except for the Mortlake Common Flora Reserve, which had declined, and Mount Buangor State Park, which had improved. Thirty-five per cent of reserves were assessed as being in 'fair' condition, with three in continued decline (Bats Ridge Wildlife Reserve, Grampians National Park (Gariwerd), Lake Linlithgow and Bullrush Swamp Reserve). The Black Ranges State Park was the only reserve identified to be in 'poor' condition, with its condition having continued to decline since 2013. Where decline in condition was identified across the region's reserves, key drivers included invasion of weeds and pest animals, bushfire, inappropriate water regimes, over-abundant native animals, tree dieback and impacts from visitors.

In 2020-21, an additional 479 ha across 7 covenants was placed under conservation covenant; adding significantly to the area under covenant within the region (Table 7, below).

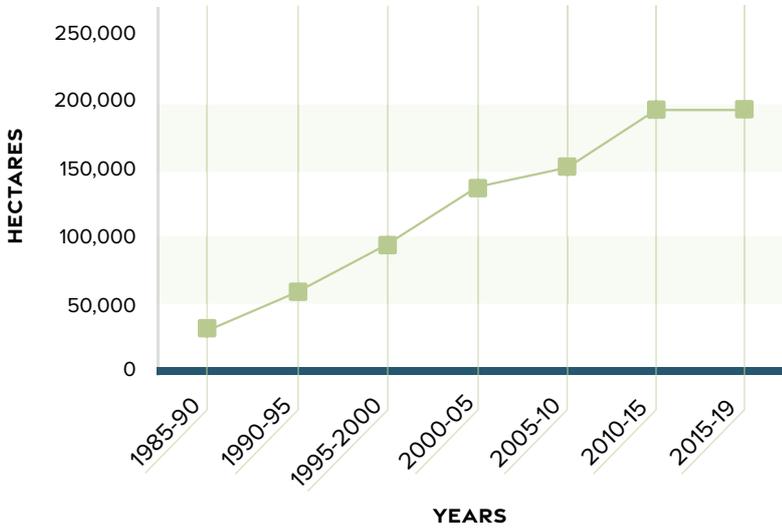
Table 7: Land managed for conservation in the Glenelg Hopkins Region

PROTECTION TYPE	NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS	PROPORTION OF TOTAL PROTECTED AREA (%)	TOTAL AREA (HA)	ADDITIONAL AREA (HA) IN 2020-21
<b>National Park</b>	5	42	2017,788	0
<b>State Park</b>	6	6	31,320	0
<b>Conservation Covenant</b>	109	1	4,888	479
<b>Indigenous Protected Areas</b>	5	1	3,884	0
<b>Other*</b>		50	246,563	0

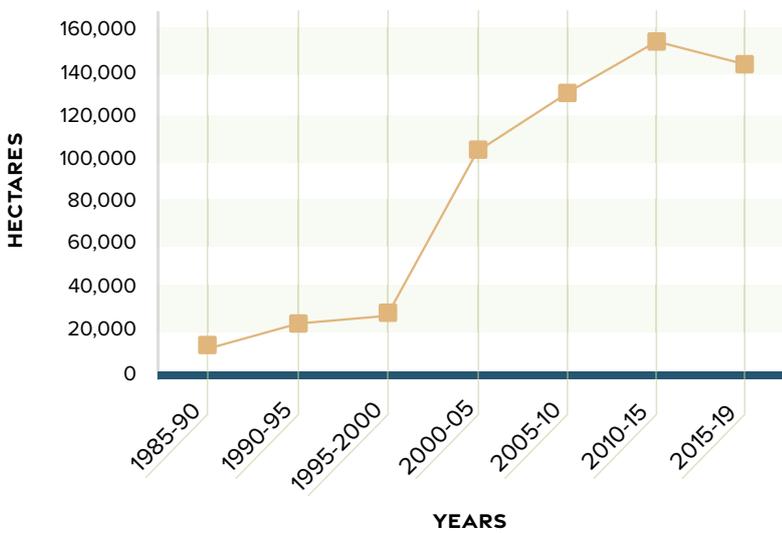
\*Other: includes any other protected area types listed in the region, e.g. Heritage River, Natural Features Reserve, Wilderness Zones, etc.

Figure 10: The extent of Land Cover for Dry Land Cropping, Hardwood Plantation and Irrigated Horticulture in the Glenelg Hopkins Region over time (Victorian Land Cover Time Series, DELWP)

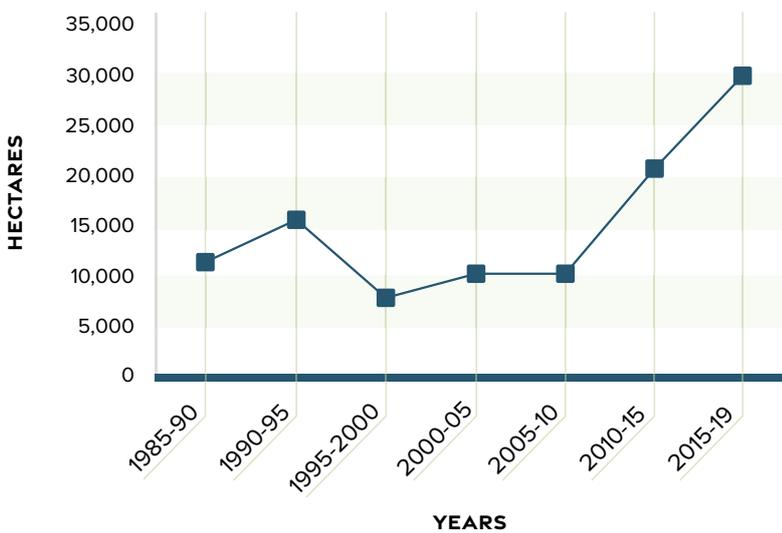
**DRY LAND CROPPING**



**HARDWOOD PLANTATION**



**IRRIGATED HORTICULTURE**



### Soil health

The region’s soil condition has been benchmarked through 100 soil monitoring sites, funded by the Australian Government’s Regional Land Partnerships Program. In 2019 soil test results showed 89% were acidic (pH <5.5) and would be expected to impact agricultural production. Soil carbon levels ranged from 0.5% to 10.6% and were closely associated with rainfall and highest under permanent pasture<sup>x</sup>. Sites will be retested in 2023.

Exposed, or bare soil is used as a proxy for erosion risk as it is more susceptible to wind or water erosion<sup>xi</sup>. The area of exposed soil across the Glenelg Hopkins region has varied little over the past 20 years (Figure 11, below), ranging from 6% to 12%, well below the erosion risk threshold of 30%.

### Sustainable primary production

The region is one of Australia’s most productive agricultural regions, producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$ 2,891.2 million in 2018-19<sup>xii</sup>, and is of national significance for its food and fibre production. The region is:

- Australia’s leading producer of sheep, lamb and wool products
- the third-largest producer of whole milk
- the largest producer of cattle and calves in Victoria.

Since 2010, the region has consistently ranked in the top 5 NRM regions nationally. In 2018-2019 the region was ranked 1st for gross value of agricultural commodities produced among Victoria’s 10 CMA regions (Figure 12, below).

Several trends are evident for the Glenelg Hopkins region based on an analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) gross value of agricultural commodities data from 2016 to 2019.

Over this period:

- The value of agricultural commodities increased for all major industry categories, except dairy.
- The gross value of commodities produced under the category ‘Other Agricultural Industries’ increased by \$5 million from 2016 to 2019. These industries include horticulture, viticulture, pig and chicken industries.
- Broadacre cropping commodity values rose dramatically, despite a significant fall in 2017-2018, achieving an average annual growth rate of 42% over the period.
- Cattle and calf values have remained fairly steady, with an average annual increase of 5%, however fluctuations in commodity returns saw significant rises and falls in the value of commodities produced over this period.
- The gross value of sheep, lamb and wool commodities produced increased 32% from 2016 to 2019 – with animals sold for meat rising by 42% and wool by 25%.
- The gross value of whole milk fell each year at an annual average rate of 6%.

Figure 11: Percentage of Exposed Soil in the Glenelg Hopkins Region 2010-20 (Australia’s Environment Explorer - ANU-OZWALD)

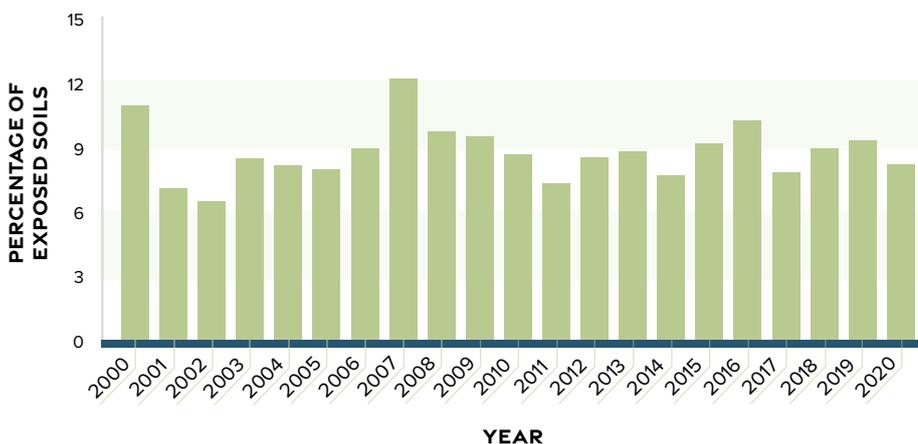
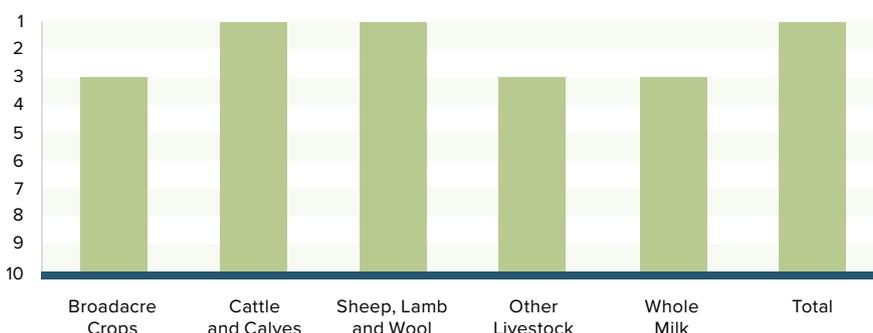


Figure 12: Value of Agricultural Commodities - Ranking of Glenelg Hopkins to Victoria’s 10 CMA Regions 2018-19



## 2.4.2 MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: SOILS4FARMS	
<p>This projects key focus is to reduce the risk of soil acidification. It supports farmers to further their knowledge and adopt practices to improve and protect the condition of the soil on their farms. Project highlights for 2020-21 included the implementation of a pilot project for on-line delivery of Whole Farm Plan training.</p>	<p>Australian Government funding provided through NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships Program</p>
SMART FARMING PARTNERSHIPS	
<p>As a part of this Southern Farming Systems project, Glenelg Hopkins CMA is coordinating the refinement and expansion of the Western Victorian soil moisture probe network and is leading the development of a satellite imagery platform for monitoring regional groundcover, crop and pasture growth (in partnership with Southern Farming Systems and CeRDI).</p>	<p>Funding provided to Southern Farming Systems through the Australian Government's NLP2 Smart Farming Partnerships program</p>
AGRICULTURE VICTORIA – BIOSECURITY RELATED ACTIVITIES	
<p>Inspections for serrated tussock were undertaken at 12 properties in the Dunkeld area, covering approximately 1,383 ha. Infestations of serrated tussock have reduced over time in this area, and a local eradication strategy is being pursued.</p> <p>A serrated tussock project was also undertaken in the Hamilton area during 2020-21. It included roadsides, and 74 properties covering an area of around 900 ha. Inspections occurred over properties with known infestations as well as surveillance properties to ensure the infestation had not spread. Plant numbers were found to have greatly reduced.</p> <p>Other 'regionally prohibited weeds' that were targeted across the region in 2020-21 included silver leaf nightshade at Mepunga, and Amsinckia at Noorat and Allansford, where three properties with known infestations were inspected. A further 27 properties were inspected for other 'regionally prohibited weeds' across 1,000 ha</p> <p>In addition, 50 properties across 6,000 ha's were inspected as part of a rabbit extension and compliance program supporting community led action in the Panyyabyr and Mirranatwa Landcare group areas. This activity also supported the protection of cultural heritage values at Bryan Swamp.</p> <p>Other activities undertaken in 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rabbit monitoring activities at the Tyrendarra rabbit monitoring site during spring and autumn, as part of the statewide data collection for rabbit population figures.</li> <li>• fox bounty collection at the Hamilton and Warrnambool centres, which recorded 3,536 and 3,873 respectively.</li> </ul>	<p>Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – Agriculture Victoria</p>
SOUTH-WEST SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION PROGRAM	
<p>The South-west Sustainable Irrigation Program supports developing and existing irrigation enterprises within the Glenelg Hopkins region to implement best-practice irrigation to maximise productivity, whilst minimising third party and environmental impacts of using water on land.</p> <p>'Over the past year the Program has worked with regional stakeholders to develop Irrigation Development Guidelines. Once completed, they will guide irrigation developments in meeting best practice standards to avoid or minimise the off-site impacts of irrigation water use. They provide guidance to both irrigators and government agencies on the process for approvals, matters for consideration and the conditions required for obtaining or modifying a take and use licence. Critically, they reduce the uncertainty for prospective developers by clarifying standards and expectations and offering a cost-effective way to facilitate development and achieve best practice.'</p> <p>'The CMA has partnered with Agriculture Victoria to commence preliminary data analysis of the irrigated agriculture industry, matching land use to water licences to gain an appreciation of where water is being used and what for. Further analysis will continue this year.</p> <p>A highlight of the year has been working more closely with regional stakeholders on sustainable irrigation, including Food and Fibre Great South Coast, Southern Rural Water, and Agriculture Victoria.'</p>	<p>Victorian Government funding provided through DELWP and the Victorian Water Program Investment Framework</p>

## CASE STUDY:

# Digital Innovation and Smart Agriculture Festival

The second Digital Innovation and Smart Agriculture (DISA) Festival was held in Hamilton in May 2021 under the theme “Smart Regions”. It provided insights into the latest on-farm commercial agricultural technology.

Southern Grampians Shire coordinated the festival, with Glenelg Hopkins CMA a major partner and workshop host alongside the Western District Grasslands Society Branch.

The festival included a series of Smart Agriculture Workshops, covering themes such as:

- managing waterlogging through precision drainage
- drone technology for farming
- soil moisture probes in pasture to identify key seasonal ‘tipping points’
- how technology is making stock handling safer, efficient and more informed
- integrating practical and meaningful technology into livestock enterprises
- on-farm security and WiFi connectivity
- choosing appropriate IoT for your farm
- smart farm sensors.

The DISA festival has grown significantly since 2019, with over 200 attendees in 2021, and is planned again for 2023.

**Partners:**

*Southern Grampians Shire, Southern Farming Systems, Western District Grasslands Society Branch and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.*



*Jonathan Jenkin (GHCMA) (CENTRE) Bindi Hunter (AgVic) and Andy Phelan (Thomas Elder Institute) discussing the Smart Farm demonstration trials.*

2.5 MARINE AND COAST

2.5.1 CONDITION STATEMENT

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT	KEY EVIDENCE
<p><b>CONCERNED</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The coastal environment remains subject to high demand for development and for recreational use and very little of the area is protected.</li> <li>• Some recreational uses of beaches and dunes such as horse riding and dog walking threaten vulnerable breeding populations of endangered and migratory species.</li> <li>• Estuaries and wetlands are important and complex coastal ecosystems that are subject to high human usage, artificial opening regimes, changed nutrient and sediment conditions (due to river flows) and are vulnerable to reduced flow driven by declining rainfall.</li> <li>• Sea-level rise is anticipated to continue to erode beaches and dunes, which will reduce the area of protected coast, impact estuaries and coastal wetlands and put further pressure on coast-dependent species.</li> </ul>

The marine environment does not have any formal agreed measures for assessing condition. The coastal environment condition is assessed through estuarine and wetland health and extent of native vegetation. The coastal environment is under extreme pressure and in marginal condition due to coastal development<sup>xiii</sup>. When this pressure is high coastal habitats fragment or are lost. Climate change adds further challenges and poses serious impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem health<sup>xiv</sup>. Catchment activities directly and indirectly affect the marine and coastal environment through nutrient and sediment enrichment of waterways, chemical pollution and reduced freshwater flows. Improved management of activities in the catchment can help improve coastal and marine condition.

From 1985 to 2019 there has been a 53% decline of seasonal and 30% decline of perennial wetland vegetation in the coastal environment (Figure 13, page 44).

Figure 14 (page 44) presents the change in dominant native coastal vegetation in the Glenelg Hopkins region from 1985 to 2019. There have been declines in the area of some native vegetation cover in the coastal environment, including a 65% decline in native scattered trees, 72% decline in native grassland, and 15% decline in natural low cover vegetation. Conversely, there have been some increases in the area of some native vegetation cover. For example, treed native vegetation cover area has increased by 3%, native shrubland by 35% and saltmarsh vegetation by 27%.



Figure 13: Change in Coastal Wetland Vegetation Area across the Glenelg Hopkins Region from 1985-2019  
(Victorian Land Cover Time Series, DELWP)

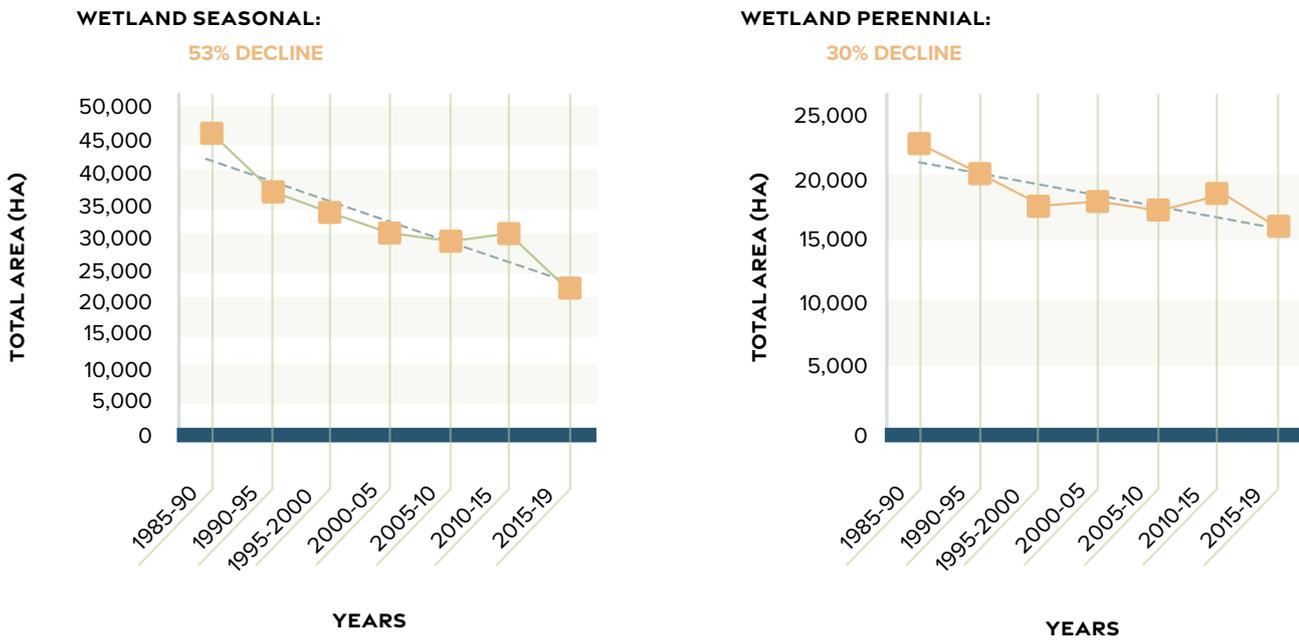
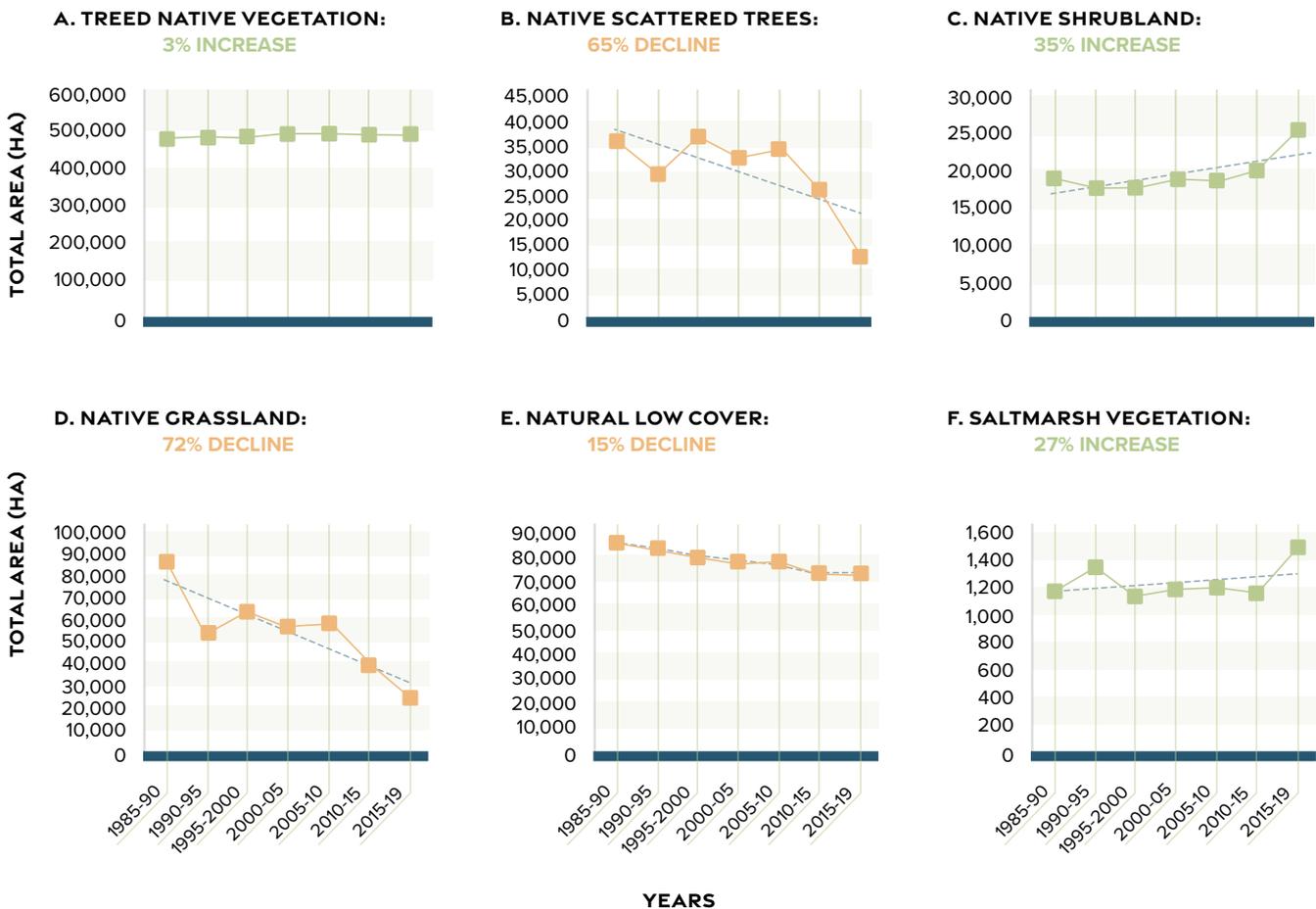


Figure 14: Change in dominant Native Coastal Vegetation Cover in the Glenelg Hopkins Region from 1985-2019  
(Victorian Land Cover Time Series, DELWP)



## 2.5.2 MANAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

COASTAL CONNECTIONS	
<p>This project aims to improve the trajectory of the Australasian Bittern and support recovery actions for regional populations of the threatened Orange-bellied Parrot and Eastern Curlew. The Bittern Incentives Program has been popular with landholders with 33 sites approved for funding which will protect and enhance over 211 ha of Bittern habitat. Project highlights for 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing a better understanding of Bittern distribution and landscape use through the implementation of a structured approach to surveying for Australian Bitterns at potential habitat sites</li> <li>• hosting a Bittern Expert Workshop involving 28 Bittern practitioners from WA, SA, Vic, NSW and Canberra</li> <li>• recording Orange-bellied Parrots in Peterborough (Winter 2020) and in Coorong (May 2021) – the first time in many years Orange-bellied Parrots have been record in, or passing through, either location</li> </ul>	Australian Government funding provided through Regional Land Partnerships
PROTECTING THE HOODED PLOVER AND PROTECTION FOR HOODED PLOVER CHICKS	
<p>This project aims to stabilise the Hooded Plover population along the entire coastline of Victoria and across their range into South Australia. Key achievements for 2020-21 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• undertaking 3,980 nest monitoring visits</li> <li>• 58 chicks surviving and fledging as a direct result of the project</li> <li>• conducting surveys of over 1,000 km of coastline, and counting 795 birds within the project boundary</li> </ul>	Australian Government funding provided through Regional Land Partnerships and the Environment Restoration Fund
SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE (DELWP)	
<p>This project involves a South-east Australian population assessment of the Southern Right Whale (SRW). This includes the ongoing collection of sightings and photo-identifications. In 2021 a drone study was recommenced to study SRW health and calf survival.</p>	DELWP
ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT RECOVERY PROGRAM (DELWP)	
<p>The Orange-bellied Parrot Recovery Program is managed by partner organisations within the Orange-bellied Parrot National Recovery Team. A variety of projects, from research to captive management, to wild population management and monitoring, are seeking to increase the likelihood that this species persists in the wild. Projects are funded by a variety of fund sources, and managed by many organisations.</p> <p>Following two successful breeding seasons in the wild, and two years of large-scale releases of captive-bred juveniles at the wild breeding site in late summer, the wild population broke many records in 2020-21. There was a notable increase in the number of birds known to be alive in the wild at the end of the breeding season, and expansion of the area of occupancy of the population in both the breeding and non-breeding range.</p>	Various

## CASE STUDY:

# 15 years of beach-nesting bird protection

The Hooded Plover, *Thinornis rubricollis rubricollis*, is a resident beach-nesting bird of southern and south-east Australia. It is listed as vulnerable under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. Low breeding success is caused by the crushing of eggs, disturbance of chicks and nesting birds by human activities, particularly off-leash dogs which also predate on flightless chicks, and vehicles on beaches in some states. These threats led to a population decline in the late 1990s.

The Belfast Coastal Reserve was identified in 2018 as one of the most critical coasts for breeding and wintering. It has ~12% of the Victorian population and the largest density of breeding Hooded Plovers<sup>vi</sup>.

BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Program has been protecting Hooded Plovers through on-ground management since 2006. Friends of the Hooded Plover volunteers are at the heart of the successful program, collecting data from beaches, educating beach users, and erecting signage and fencing around breeding sites. The program celebrated 15 years of beach-nesting birds protection in 2021.

#### Program highlights include:

- growing from 40 to 1,500 volunteers in 15 years with 350+ land managers; and
- arresting the decline of the Hooded Plover population.

#### Partners:

*BirdLife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Program, Friends of the Hooded Plover volunteer groups, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, West Gippsland CMA, East Gippsland CMA, Corangamite CMA, Kangaroo Island Landscape Board and Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board.*



*Hooded Plovers benefit from the shorebird nesting program. Image: Birdlife Australia*

### 3.0 REGIONAL ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS REPORTING

#### 3.1 REGIONAL OUTPUT ACHIEVEMENTS

Table 8 presents the total outputs achieved for 2020-21

Table 8: Output Achievements for 2020-21

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL		
		State	Commonwealth	Total
<b>Structural works</b>				
1.1 Channel (km)				
1.2 Water storage (no.)	6	6	12	18
1.3 Pump (no.)				
1.4 Irrigation structure (ha)				
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)			18	18
1.6 Terrestrial structure (no.)				
1.7 Terrestrial feature (no.)				
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	72	72		72
1.9 Fence (km)	60.11	59.86	19.69	79.55
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)				
1.11 Road (km)				
1.12 Crossing (no.)	2	2		2
<b>Environmental works</b>				
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	1,176.94	1,172.94	117.74	1,290.68
2.2 Weed control (ha)	1,605.49	1,165.49	699.98	1,865.47
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	2,068.90	368.90	1,754.51	2,123.41
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife control				
2.5 Threatened species response (no.)	4		15	15
2.6 Emergency species response (no.)				
2.7 Soil treatment (ha)				
2.8 Earth works (no.)	3	3		3
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)				
<b>Management services</b>				
3.1 Grazing (ha)	551.37	441.37	1,347.10	1,788.47
3.2 Agricultural practices (ha)				
3.3 Water (no.)	10	9		9
3.4 Fire regime (no.)	15		15	15
<b>Planning and regulation 348</b>				
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	427	422	2	424
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	73	45	21	66
4.3 Assessment (no.)	497	73	3,894	3,967
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	4,000	1,648	5,917	7,565
4.5 Partnerships (no.)	24	24		24
4.6 Plan (no.)	20	6	17	23
4.7 Publication (no.)	176	57	133	190
4.8 Information management system (no.)	9	9		9

# Community Advisory Group

The Glenelg Hopkins Community Advisory Group is one of the vehicles by which the CMA engages with the community in the development and adaptive management of the Regional Catchment Strategy, sub-strategies and action plans. Members of the Advisory Group bring community perception and local knowledge in specific natural resource management that contributes to and inform the CMA's strategic program.

In 2020-21, the Community Advisory Group participated in five workshops, 3 workshops contributing to the development of the Regional Catchment Strategy. The group also joined 2 workshops that informed the next round of waterway health investment and received a briefing on the Budj Bim World Heritage site from Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.



*Adam Bester CEO (L) and Crag Oliver Advisory group Chair (R) welcome new Advisory group members - Shea Rotumah, Sabine Schreiber, Susan Bosch and Ayesha Burdett*

# Our Governance, Our People, Our Business

## BOARD STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE

A Board of eight 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 re-appointed in October 2017 for a term of four years. The Board is responsible and accountable for the good governance, strategic direction and effective and efficient operation of the organisation.

### Key objectives for the Board are to:

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

## OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

### Chairperson

**Mr Antony Ford** has over 40 years' experience in Australian and international agribusiness, of which 28 years has been at senior executive level and on the boards of food manufacturing, horticultural, aquaculture and other institutions. In the recent past he has been a CEO, senior executive and board member in production horticulture, a large fin fish aquaculture company and until recently has led the regional food and fibre development body in the Great South Coast of Victoria.

In addition, he continues to work in the food production and food manufacturing space in advisory capacities as an agribusiness consultant in SE and SW Australia. He continues to be involved in industry development, strategic planning and action delivery across the Region.

### Deputy Chairperson

**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.

Michelle was voted Deputy Chairperson at the November 2019 Full Board meeting.

*Jacinta Ermacora – Board Chair, Wannon Water and Glenelg Hopkins CMAs Chair Antony Ford, reaffirmed the strong partnership between the 2 organisations with the re-signing of a three-year MOU.*



## 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.

**Ms Chris Giles** is the Chief Executive Officer at Portland District Health and has considerable experience as a leader and manager of regional, rural and remote public health services.

She holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Management along with nursing and midwifery qualifications. Chris has a background in agriculture and currently has an interest in an irrigation property, with past experience in sheep, dairy and poultry farming. She is currently a Board Director for a Health ICT alliance and has held the elected role as a Shire Councillor.

Chris has also been actively involved in Land and Sea Management initiatives working with local Traditional Owners in the Torres Strait.

**Professor Gerry Quinn** holds a Bachelor of Science in Zoology, a PhD in Marine Biology and has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. He has served as Chair in Marine Biology and Head of Campus at Deakin University and also on several statutory bodies, advisory committees and government public entities. Gerry's research has focused on the effect of humans on the condition of estuaries and developing models for linking coastal environments to nearby land and catchment processes.

**Mr Phil Saunders** is a beef farmer at Tyrendarra specialising in the production of vealers for the domestic market. He has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and a Bachelor of Business – Accountancy. He is deputy chair of the Board of Heywood Rural Health and chair of their finance sub-committee.

He is also an independent member of the Glenelg Shire Council audit committee.

**Ms Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil** is a dairy farmer and teacher who has a Master of Education degree and a Certificate IV in Governance. She has previously worked in diverse fields such as banking and finance, venue management and sports development across four countries. Karrinjeet has communication and collaboration skills and is a creative thinker.

**Ms Celia Tucker** holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation and Heritage) and lives and works on a sheep farm with her husband at Willaura North. She is interested in both the environmental and agricultural sectors and has previously worked at both local and state government level in these fields. The farming enterprise Celia and her husband operate places a strong focus on protecting and enhancing the natural capital and biodiversity on their property to ensure profitability for future generations. She serves on several committees and is an active 'Landcarer' supporting other primary producers in her community who wish to undertake Landcare work.

## GOVERNING BOARD 2020-21

NAME	NUMBER OF MEETINGS	EXPLANATORY NOTE
Antony Ford	10/10	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 Appointed Board Chairperson 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2017 Re-appointed to the Board and as Chairperson 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021
Damein Bell	7/10	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019 Re-appointed 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023
Michelle Casanova	9/10	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019 Re-appointed 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023
Christine Giles	8/10	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021
Gerry Quinn	10/10	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023
Phil Saunders	6/6	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021. <i>Phil Saunders was on leave from July 2020 through to end of October 2020</i>
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	10/10	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023
Celia Tucker	10/10	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023

**AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

The Audit and Risk committee consisted of the following members in 2020-21:

- **Brian Densem**  
(independent)
- **Bonnie Holmes**  
(independent)
- **Phil Saunders**  
(Director)
- **Karrinjeet Singh Mahil**  
(Director )
- **Michelle Casanova**  
(Director)

The Audit & Risk Committee comprises three Board Directors and two independent representatives.

Independent representatives are the Committee Chair, Brian Densem, and Bonnie Holmes.

Board representatives from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 were Directors Phil Saunders, Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil and Michelle Casanova.

The Executive Officer role is held by non-voting staff member, Executive Manager – Business Services.

The responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee are set out in Standing Direction 3.2.1.1.

Key responsibilities of the Committee are to:

- review and report independently to the Board on the annual report and all other financial information published by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
- assist the board in reviewing the effectiveness of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's internal control environment covering:
  - effectiveness and efficiency of operations;
  - reliability of financial reporting; and
  - compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- determine the scope of the internal audit function and ensure its resources are adequate and used effectively, including coordination with the external auditors; and
- oversee the effective operation of the risk management framework.

In 2020-21, the committee met four times. Attendance of committee members is detailed in the table (*below*).

**REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE**

From 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, the Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee was Board Chairperson Antony Ford with Directors Damein Bell and Chris Giles as members.

The committee's primary objective is to advise the Board on senior staff appointments, remuneration and performance evaluation.

In particular, the committee advises the Board on:

- appropriate executive level remuneration and employment agreements
- specification of CEO performance measures
- evaluation of CEO performance
- succession planning.

There is no Executive Officer for this committee, however CEO Adam Bester and Executive Manager Business Services Faye Lee attend via invitation. Administration support is provided by Executive Office Coordinator Janette Albert.

There were two scheduled meeting for the Board Remuneration and Performance Committee, September 2020 - March 2021.

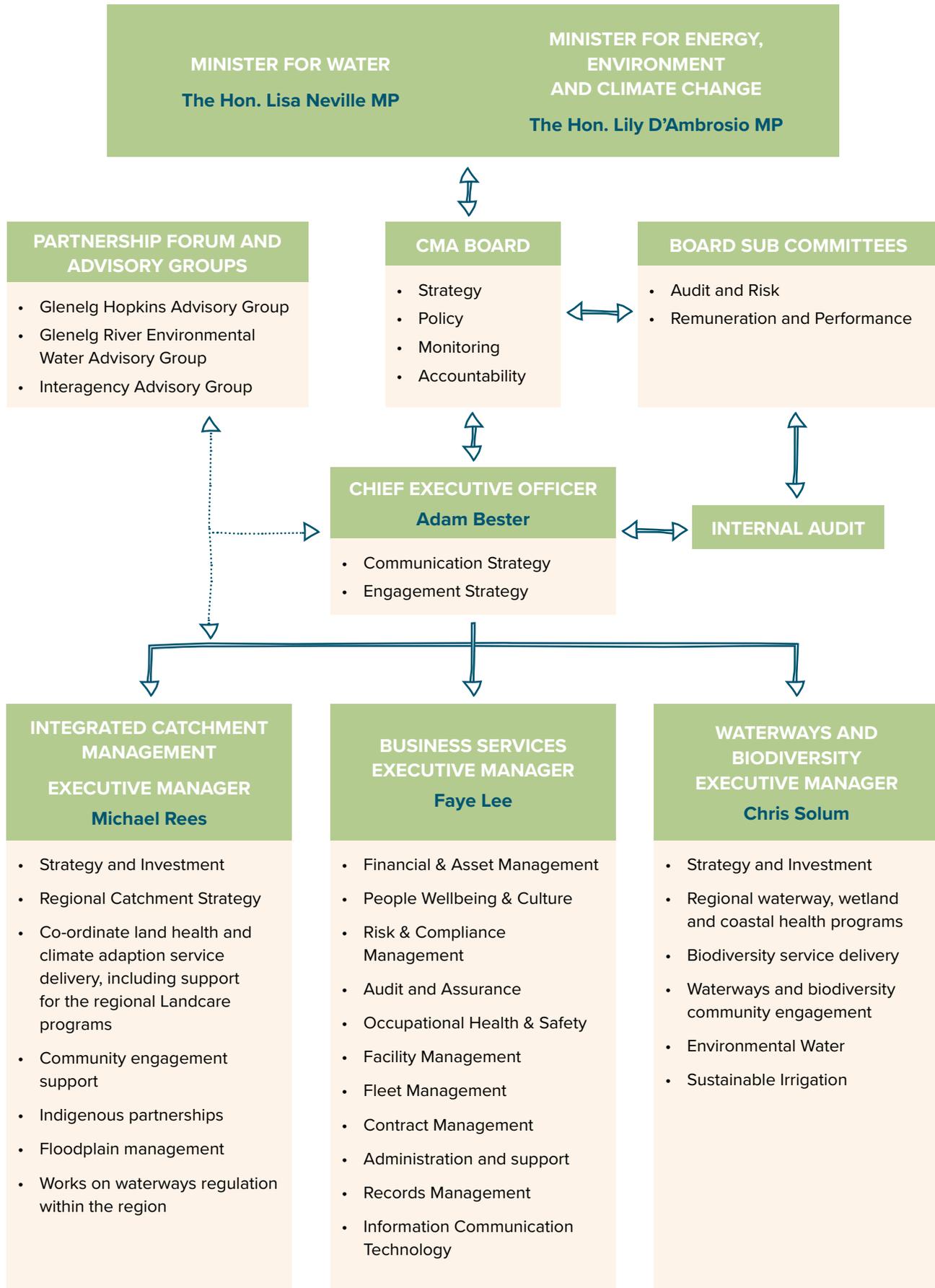
**AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE FOR 2020-21**

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	OCT-20	NOV-20	FEB-21	MAY-21	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Brian Densem	1	1	1	1	4 of 4	100%
Bonnie Holmes	1	1	1	1	4 of 4	100%
Phil Saunders	1 (via proxy)	1	1	1	4 of 4	100%
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	1	1	1	0	3 of 4	75%
Michelle Casanova	1	1	1	1	4 of 4	100%

**REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE FOR 2020-21**

REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE	SEPTEMBER-20	MARCH-21	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Antony Ford	1	1	2 of 2	100%
Damein Bell	1	1	2 of 2	100%
Christine Giles	1	1	2 of 2	100%

# Organisational Structure

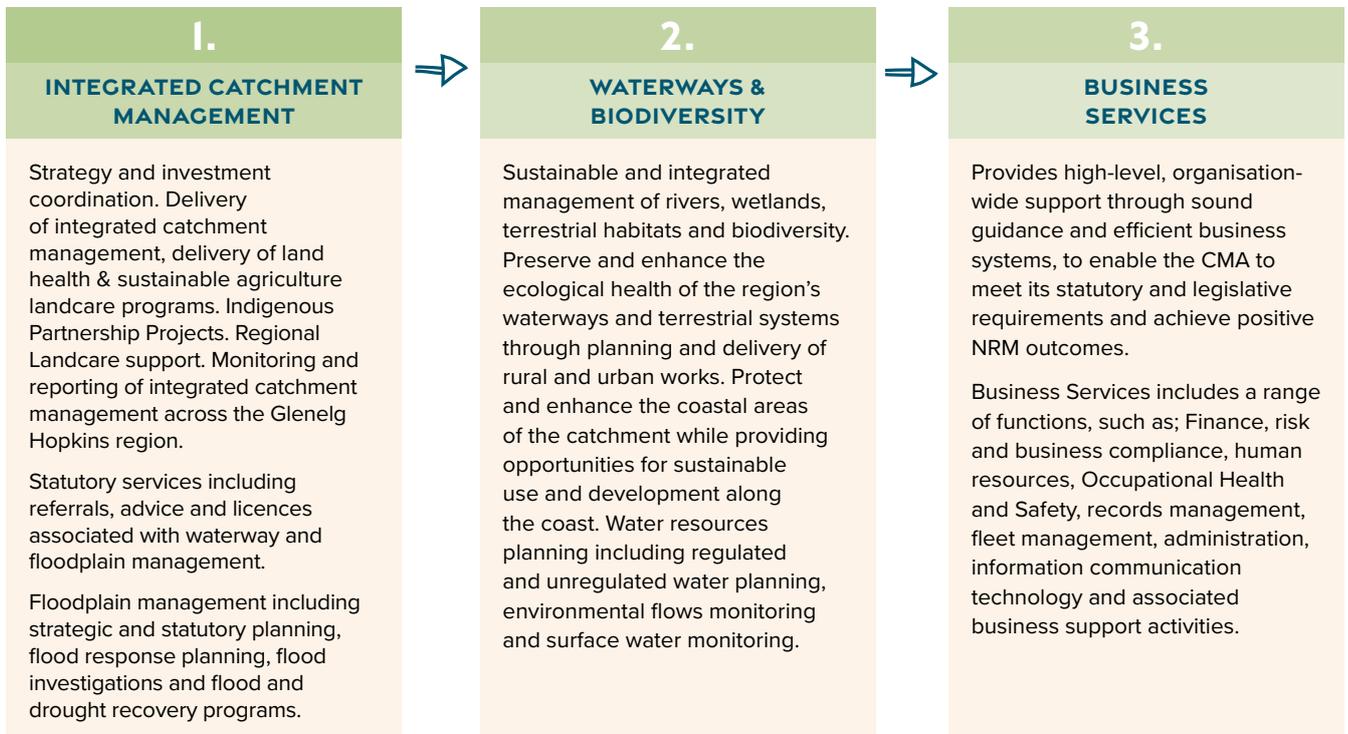


## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

There are three program areas within the CMA:

Integrated Catchment Management, Waterways and Biodiversity, and Business Services.

These are supported by the CEO office which manages the relationship with the Board and provides cross organisational support relating to the involvement and reputation of the CMA.



## WORKFORCE DATA STATISTICS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed 44 staff (36.5 full time equivalent), compared to 46 staff (39.2 full time equivalent) on 30 June 2020. The proportion of women was 45%, compared to 46% on 30 June 2020.

Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

CLASSIFICATION	2020-2021		2019-2020	
	NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	FTE	NUMBER (HEADCOUNT)	FTE
Executive Officers	4	4	4	4
Senior Managers	4	3.6	7	5.8
Administration Staff	10	7.5	7	6.4
Project Staff	26	21.4	28	23
Total Male	24	20.9	25	22.7
Total Female	20	15.6	21	16.5
Total Self-described	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39.2</b>

Notes:

- All figures reflect employment levels during the last full pay period in June of each year.
- Excluded from workforce data include: those on leave without pay or absent on secondment, external contractors/consultants, and temporary staff employed by employment agencies.
- Ongoing employees include people engaged on an open-ended contract of employment and executives engaged on a standard executive contract who were active in the last full pay period of June.
- FTE describes the full time equivalent of a position
- Classification descriptors, Executive Officers are those engaged on individual executive contracts, Senior Managers are those at Band L of the Glenelg Hopkins Enterprise Agreement, Administration staff are engaged in supporting organisational needs, and Project staff are primarily funded directly through projects.

# People & Culture



## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Enterprise Agreement 2020-21 was approved by the Fair Work Commission and came into effect on 20 May 2020. In early 2021 we sought a further 12-month roll-over agreement as we recognised that our ability to begin planning for a new 4-year agreement had been impacted by the events of 2020. Staff and Management have agreed to this approach, and we are working with DELWP and Industrial Relations Victoria to prepare the agreement for approval by the Fair Work Commission.

The organisation looks to negotiate a 4-year agreement in early 2022.

Following the approval of the new enterprise agreement the organisation aims to adopt and review a number of internal human resource policies and procedures over the coming months.

## SERVICE AWARDS

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA values the contribution and dedication of its long service staff members.

The following staff reached service milestones during 2020-21:

- Tim Covey (20 years)
- Jarred Obst (15 years)
- Susie Hand (15 years)
- Jacinta Bailey (10 years)
- Stephen Ryan (10 years)
- Chris Wilson (10 years)

## REWARD AND RECOGNITION

Individual staff and teams were also recognised by their peers for positive contributions that supported the organisation's achievement of its goals and objectives.

A total of 18 reward and recognition nominations were approved for outstanding effort, for staff who performed above and beyond their roles.

## LONG-TERM STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

2020-21 has seen the continued development of the first 'People and Culture Strategy'. The People and Culture Strategy 2021-26 will be the overarching strategy articulating our commitment and priorities to developing and embedding the best possible programs, solutions and systems for managing our people, and in turn to support the delivery of our business goals.

This will be a long-term commitment by us, in us. The strategy will clearly articulate our five-year approach; including our strategic HR outcomes, actions and measures for success and will set us up to be a great place to work.

## LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (GH EQUIP)

In 2018-19 Glenelg Hopkins CMA launched 'GH Equip' that outlines the application of a range of skill development, or learning strategies, across a suite of skill areas that we have identified as vital to our future. Throughout 2020-21 Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to strive to create a flow of knowledge throughout the organisation that will enable us to achieve and sustain a competitive position within the NRM industry.

Strategic initiatives developed and identified under GH Equip are linked to focus areas within the CMA environment. Within the People and Culture Strategy, a core pillar will focus on 'Growth'. GH Equip will play an integral role in informing where, who and how we focus our efforts on capability development.

## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN 2017-18 – 2021-22

Glenelg Hopkins CMA recognises a diverse workplace that reflects the community in which we operate helps us to better relate to our communities and make more informed decisions.

Understanding and embracing diversity will strengthen the organisation, improving staff morale and broadening thinking.

ABOVE: L-R Field Services Manager Rob Addinsall (L) and GHCMA CEO Adam Bester (R) congratulating Tania Parker and Tim Covey on 20 years of service with Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

# Workforce Inclusion Policy

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has an action to promote the availability of flexible working arrangements, with the number of flexible working arrangements to be reported annually.

The following table (*below*) outlines Glenelg Hopkins actual progress against this action in 2020.

## PUBLIC SECTOR VALUES AND EMPLOYMENT PRINCIPLES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has introduced policies and practices that are consistent with the VPSC’s employment standards and provide for fair treatment, career opportunities and the early resolution of workplace issues.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has advised its employees on how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts and how it deals with misconduct.

### Public sector values (section 7, PAA)

The public sector values are: Responsiveness, Integrity, Impartiality, Accountability, Respect, Leadership and Human Rights.

### Public sector employment principles (section 8, PAA)

Public entities are required to have in place employment processes that will ensure that:

- employment decisions are based on merit
- public sector employees are treated fairly and reasonably
- equal employment opportunity is provided
- human rights as set out in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities are upheld
- public sector employees have a reasonable avenue of redress against unfair or unreasonable treatment.

### Codes of conduct and standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC), include:

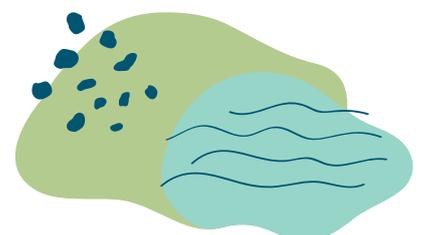
- the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees
- the Conflict of Interest Policy Framework and the Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework.

For further information, please refer to the VPSC’s website ([www.vpsc.vic.gov.au](http://www.vpsc.vic.gov.au)).

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION PLAN INITIATIVE	MEASURE	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2020-21	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2019-20
Promote the availability of flexible working arrangements	Number of staff with flexible working arrangements	100%	58%

Notes:

- Includes part-time employment, purchased leave and individual flexibility arrangements, data sourced from workplace data.
- Reported as a percentage against headcount as per 2019-20 and 2020-21 Workforce Data.
- The internal employee guideline to enable working from home & satellite offices (OC.HR.4) was updated in November 2018 to allow better access for staff. This has now been included in the measure of flexible working arrangements.



# Occupational Health & Safety

Workplace Health and Safety has been a significant focus to ensure the wellbeing of our staff and community during a changing and challenging COVID-19 environment. A review of the Health & Safety management system incorporated working from home, psychological health, strengthening senior management commitment, improving accountability and system efficiencies. The Health & Safety Committee (H&S Committee) worked tirelessly to continuously improve, revisiting its structure, strategies, governance, and overall influence to be an optimal value-add to the CMA.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is progressively working towards the priorities outlined in the Victorian State Government & VPSC *Leading the Way Workplace Health & Safety Strategy*, combined with internal strategic objectives to improve injury management and reduce any future workers compensation claims. A renewed focus from leadership along with additional resourcing has allowed a cultural shift in the attitudes, training and practice of safety across all departments.

Programs and initiatives:

- An innovative and practical add on safety system was required and resourced to support the 2020/21 DJPR & Agriculture Victoria 'Working for Victoria' (WfV) program. This was to accommodate an influx of people and change in the type of work and risks employees faced in the field. It was a short-term labour program and the CMA maximised safety with the funding available.
- Designed a campaign to promote risk identification. Therefore, there is an increase in hazards reported, actioned and mitigated this financial year. Everyone plays a part in risk mitigation and injury management. Clearly defining communication roles and accountability has been critical in ensuring injuries are not exacerbated and in reducing standard claims.
- The incident and hazard reporting system has moved to an electronic system to better meet regulatory and record keeping requirements. iAuditor aims to streamline incident and hazard reporting to ensure reporting functions and data collection are uniform across the CMA, whilst making it easy for the end user. iAuditor inspections are used to capture compliance records on the ground, in the field in real time, remove the need for paper records, identify hazards and improve reporting timeframes.

## Executive Officer Data

An Executive Officer (EO) is defined as an executive under Part 3 of the PAA or a person to whom the Victorian Government's Policy on Executive Remuneration in Public entities applies.

All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current and corresponding previous reporting year.

The definition of an EO does not include a statutory office holder or an Accountable Officer.

No EO disclosure required for less than three executives.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	#ACTIONS	% COMPLETED
Inclusive leadership and governance.	9	67%
Effective policies, procedures and systems that create a diverse and inclusive workplace	8	87%
Building a diverse and inclusive organisation	8	87%
Improved knowledge and capacity of equity, diversity and inclusive practices	14	78%

• *Workforce Metrics*

EOY 2020 - 2021 METRICS	2019-2020	2020-2021
Hazards reported, no.	3	13
Rate per 100 FTE	8	35
Total incidents, no.	8	15
Rate per 100 FTE	20	41
Incidents requiring first aid and/or further medical treatment, no.	3	4
No. of Standard claims	0	3
Rate per 100 FTE	0	8.2
No. of lost time Standard claims	0	1
Rate per 100 FTE	0	2.7
Fatality claims	0	0
Average cost per Standard claim	0	\$760
Percentage of claims with RTW plan <30 days	0	85%
Evidence of agreed structure of designated workgroups (DWGs), health and safety representatives (HSRs), and issue resolution procedures (IRPs)	100%	100%
Number of OHS Committee meetings	6	7

## Compliance with Relevant Legislation

### Local Jobs First

#### *Local Jobs First Act 2003*

There were no tenders over \$1,000,000 entered into by Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2020-21.

### Government Advertising Expenditure

Glenelg Hopkins CMA expenditure in 2020-21 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

### Consultancy Expenditure

#### Details of consultancies (valued at \$10,000 or greater)

In 2021, there were 20 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater.

The total expenditure incurred during 2021 in relation to these consultancies was \$1,057,401.38 (excl. GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined on Glenelg Hopkins CMA's website at [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)

#### Details of consultancies (valued at less than \$10,000)

In 2021, there were 15 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2020-21 in relation to these consultancies was \$75,409.97 (excl. GST).

# Social Procurement Framework

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA is fully committed to supporting the Government’s directions under the Social Procurement Framework and we recognise that we play a key role in advancing social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

In 2020, the CMA developed a Social Procurement Strategy to enable a strategic, agency-wide approach to how it will deliver social and sustainable outcomes through our procurement in accordance with the Social Procurement Framework and beyond.

In that Strategy, the CMA prioritised three SPF objectives (*detailed in the table below*), with their associated reporting metrics. These SPF objectives were chosen based on their high degree of alignment with the CMA’s strategic direction and values as well as being best positioned to advance our identified social procurement opportunities.

## Achievements

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA undertook capability and awareness activities to support our first Social Procurement Strategic Plan.

While the three prioritised SPF objectives guide our procurement delivery, the CMA is committed to pursuing any opportunities to advance social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

To address the Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people objective, we:

- Commenced tracking expenditure with Victorian Government suppliers that provide opportunities for Aboriginal people in the region.

To address the Sustainable Victorian regions objective, we:

- Commenced tracking our expenditure amongst local businesses in our region.

To address the Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors objective, we:

- Commenced tracking the number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged.

The majority individual procurement activities undertaken in 2020-21 fell within the 'below threshold' band of Victoria’s Social Procurement Framework where social procurement approaches are encouraged but not mandatory.

The CMA will commence reporting on its progress against the SPF Objectives using the reporting metrics detailed in the table above in subsequent annual reports.

## ICT Expenditure

For the 2020-21 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$449,549 with the details as shown below:

- ICT expenditure refers to Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority’s costs in providing business enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure
- NON-BAU ICT expenditure \$77,480 relates to extending or enhancing Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority’s current ICT capability

- BAU ICT Expenditure \$372,069 is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

## Major Contracts

Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not award any major contracts during 2020-21. A major contract is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10 million or more.

## 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 \$30.10.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received no requests for information during 2020-21 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members, and there were no resulting appeals to VCAT.

OBJECTIVE PRIORITISED	OUTCOME SOUGHT	SPF REPORTING METRIC
Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people	To achieve the outcome of buying from Aboriginal businesses GHSCMA will continue to foster relationships with our Aboriginal partners	Number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged and the number as a proportion of the suppliers used by the CMA
Sustainable Victorian regions	The CMA will focus on increasing employment throughout the region and identify and explore opportunities as part of category procurement and individual procurement activity planning	Number of businesses engaged by the CMA within regions experiencing entrenched disadvantage
Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors	Purchasing from Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal businesses	Number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged

### Compliance with *Building Act 1993*

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

Glenelg Hopkins CMA complies with the *Building Act 1993*, the Building Regulations 2018 and the National Construction Code, and retains a copy of an occupancy permits required for its owned building. Glenelg Hopkins CMA conducts and reports on scheduled 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 (Deakin University) conformed with building standards during 2020-21. There were no major works, emergency orders or building orders issued in relation to buildings.

### Competitive Neutrality Policy

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest.

Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.



### Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

*Compliance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

*The Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012 (PID Act)* enables people to make a disclosure about corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is a public body for the purposes of the PID Act.

#### *What is a public interest disclosure?*

A public interest disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body.

'Improper or corrupt conduct' involves substantial mismanagement of public resources, risk to public health or safety or the environment, or corruption.

'Detrimental action' is action taken against a person in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure.

#### *How do I make a public interest disclosure?*

You can make a public interest disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC (*details below*).

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is not able to receive public interest disclosures.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure about [agency name], its board members, officers or employees. You can access Glenelg Hopkins CMA's procedures on its website at: [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) 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

### Contacts

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) 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.

### Additional Information Available on Request

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.

# Environmental Report

## REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

OBJECTIVE	MEASURE	QUANTITY 2019-20	QUANTITY 2020-21	2020-21 % ↑/↓ COMPARING 1 YEAR PRIOR
Reduce Energy Use (Electricity)	kWh used per annum	64,737	41,882	-35%
	kWh used per FTE per annum	1,648	1,147	-30%
Reduce Paper Use	White A4 reams per annum	106	35	-67%
	White A4 reams per FTE	2.70	0.96	-64%
	White A3 reams per annum	12	4	-67%
	White A3 reams per FTE	0.31	0.11	-64%
Increase Paper Recycling	240 Litres recycled per annum	23	14	-39%
	240 Litres recycled per FTE	0.59	0.38	-34%
Reduce Toner Cartridges	Toner Cartridges consumed per annum	7	0	-100%
	Toner Cartridges consumed per FTE	0.18	0.00	-100%
Reduce Fuel Use	Fleet size	14	12	-14%
	Litres fuel consumed per annum	31,233	26,857	-14%
	Litres fuel consumed per vehicle	2,231	2,238	0%
No. Flights Warrnambool-Melbourne	One way flights	0	0	0
	One way flights per FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reduced Water Consumption	KLs consumed per annum	164	143	-13%
	Overall KLs consumed per FTE	4.17	3.92	-6%

# Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF) maturity assessment

The following sections summarise the CMA's assessment of maturity against the requirements of the Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF). The AMAF is a non-prescriptive, devolved accountability model of asset management that requires compliance with 41 mandatory requirements. These requirements can be found on the DTF website (<https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/infrastructure-investment/asset-management-accountability-framework>).

The CMA's target maturity rating is 'competence', meaning systems and processes fully in place, consistently applied and systematically meeting the AMAF requirement, including a continuous improvement process to expand system performance above AMAF minimum requirements.

## LEADERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY (requirements 1-19)

The CMA has met or exceeded its target maturity level under most requirements within this category.

The CMA partially complied with some requirements in the areas of asset management reporting and resourcing requirements. There is no material non-compliance reported in this category. A plan for improvement is in place to improve the CMA's maturity rating in this area.

## PLANNING (requirements 20-23)

The CMA has met its target maturity level in this category.

## ACQUISITION (requirements 24 and 25)

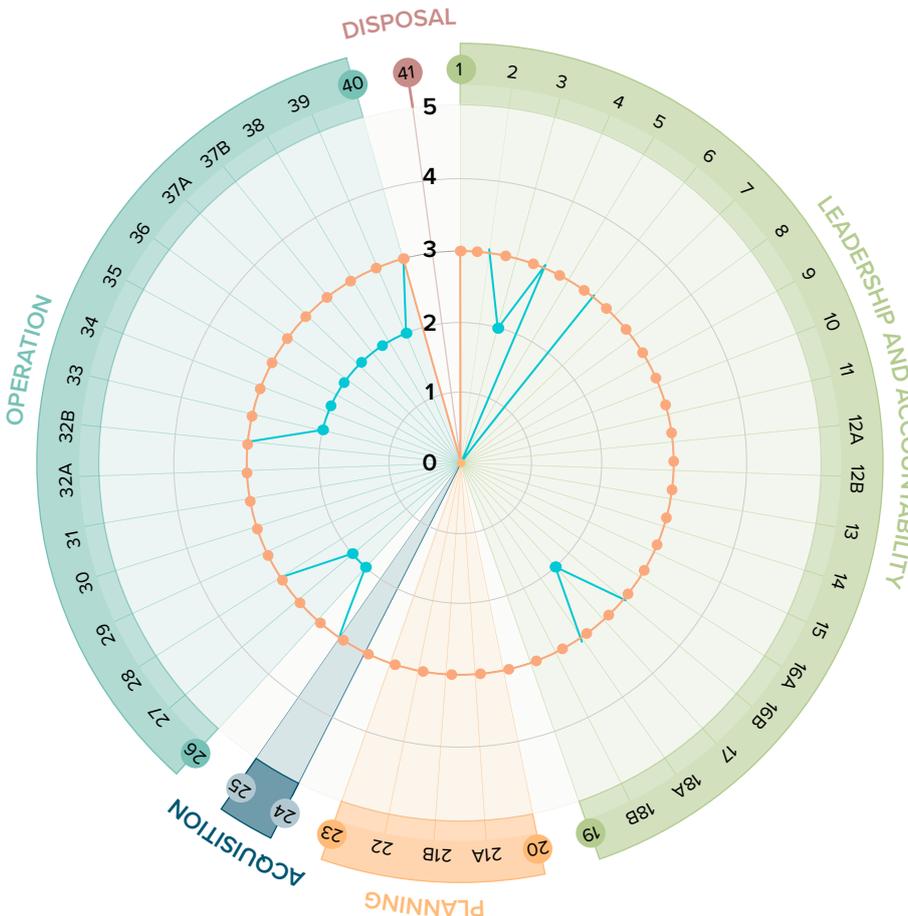
The CMA has met or its target maturity level in this category.

## OPERATION (requirements 26-40)

The CMA has met or exceeded its target maturity level under most requirements within this category. The CMA partially complied with some requirements in the areas of monitoring and preventative action and information management. There is no material non-compliance reported in this category. The CMA is developing a plan for improvement to establish processes to proactively identify potential asset performance failures and identify options for preventative action where necessary.

## DISPOSAL (requirement 41)

The CMA has met its target maturity level in this category.



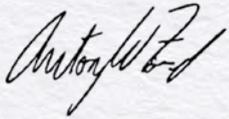
STATUS	SCALE
Not Applicable	N/A
Innocence	0
Awareness	1
Developing	2
Competence	3
Optimising	4
Unassessed	U/A

●●●● Overall Maturity  
●●●● Target Maturity

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION STATEMENT

I Antony Ford on behalf of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority certify that the Glenelg Hopkins CMA has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Minister of Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Antony Ford', written in a cursive style.

**Antony Ford**  
Chairperson  
Glenelg Hopkins CMA  
30 June 2021

# How this report is structured

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 in the following structure to provide users with information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Comprehensive operating statement

#### Balance sheet

#### Cash flow statement

#### Statement of changes in equity

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. About this report

The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared and compliance with reporting regulations

### 2. Funding delivery of our services

Revenue and income recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources

- 2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our service
- 2.2 Income from transactions

### 3. The cost of delivering services

Operating expenses of the Authority

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies
- 3.3 Lease expenses
- 3.4 Other operating expenses

### 4. Key assets available to support output delivery

Land, buildings, works assets, plant and equipment, office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, and intangible assets

- 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment
- 4.2 Assets Held for Sale
- 4.3 Intangible assets

### 5. Other assets and liabilities

Other key assets and liabilities

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables

### 6. Financing our operations

Cash flow information, commitments for expenditure and carry forward project funding

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

### 7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

Financial risk management, contingent assets and liabilities as well as fair value determination

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

### 8. Other disclosures

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Other economic flows included in net result
- 8.3 Reserves
- 8.4 Responsible persons
- 8.5 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.6 Related parties
- 8.7 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.8 Subsequent events
- 8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective
- 8.10 Economic dependency

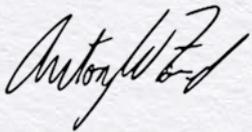
## DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2021 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2021.

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 29 September 2021.



**Antony Ford**  
Chairperson



**Adam Bester**  
CEO and Accountable Officer



**Faye Lee**  
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

# Independent Auditor's Report

## To the Board of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

<p><b>Opinion</b></p>	<p>I have audited the financial report of Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2021</li> <li>• comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li> <li>• cash flow statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies</li> <li>• declaration in the financial statements.</li> </ul> <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2021 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
<p><b>Basis for Opinion</b></p>	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
<p><b>Other Information</b></p>	<p>The Board is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a materially misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>
<p><b>Board's responsibilities for the financial report</b></p>	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

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**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

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MELBOURNE  
6 October 2021



Paul Martin  
*as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria*

## COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

### for the financial year ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Revenue and income from transactions</b>			
Government contributions	2.2.1	10,395,544	9,892,984
Interest	2.2.2	18,574	69,872
Other income	2.2.3	109,137	208,695
<b>Total revenue and income from transactions</b>		<b>10,523,255</b>	<b>10,171,551</b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,909,648	4,702,936
Depreciation	4.1.1	54,241	54,356
Amortisation	6.2.2	181,555	200,678
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	3,546,084	6,568,727
Lease expenses	3.3	172,067	58,976
Interest expense	6.1	3,766	10,691
Other operating expenses	3.4	466,768	752,585
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>9,334,129</b>	<b>12,348,949</b>
<b>Net result from transactions (net operating balance)</b>		<b>1,189,126</b>	<b>(2,177,398)</b>
<b>Other economic flows included in net result</b>			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (i)	8.2	-	(25,231)
<b>Net result</b>		<b>1,189,126</b>	<b>(2,202,629)</b>
<b>Other economic flows - other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net result</b>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	486,607	-
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b>1,675,733</b>	<b>(2,202,629)</b>

(i) 'Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets' includes unrealised and realised gains/(losses) from revaluations, impairments, and disposals of all physical assets and intangible assets, except when these are taken through the asset revaluation surplus.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

**BALANCE SHEET**

as at 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6.3	7,793,152	6,677,775
Receivables	5.1	1,095,472	1,079,034
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>8,888,624</b>	<b>7,756,809</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	1,066,364	623,658
Right-of-use assets	6.2	177,132	315,914
Intangible assets	4.2	206,250	177,924
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>1,449,746</b>	<b>1,117,496</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>10,338,370</b>	<b>8,874,306</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	5.2	374,395	387,439
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,263,217	1,328,791
Lease liabilities	6.2	186,785	319,837
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,824,398</b>	<b>2,036,066</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>8,513,972</b>	<b>6,838,239</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		4,350,483	3,161,357
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	1,006,543	519,936
Contributed capital		3,156,946	3,156,946
<b>Net worth</b>		<b>8,513,972</b>	<b>6,838,239</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

### for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Receipts from government		10,395,544	9,121,503
Interest received		18,574	69,872
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (i)		-	214,942
Other receipts		109,137	227,974
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>10,523,255</b>	<b>9,634,291</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		9,104,955	12,036,562
Goods and services tax Paid to the ATO (i)		122,617	-
Interest and other costs of finance paid		3,766	10,691
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>9,231,337</b>	<b>12,047,252</b>
<b>Net cash flows from / (used in) operating activities</b>	6.3.1	<b>1,291,918</b>	<b>(2,412,962)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchases of non-financial assets	4.1.2 & 4.2	(38,665)	(200,168)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets	8.2	-	337,903
<b>Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities</b>		<b>(38,665)</b>	<b>137,735</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>			
Repayment of capital portion of lease liabilities		(137,876)	(196,756)
<b>Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>(137,876)</b>	<b>(196,756)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>1,115,377</b>	<b>(2,471,983)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		6,677,775	9,149,758
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	6.3	<b>7,793,152</b>	<b>6,677,775</b>

Note: (i) GST received from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

### for the financial year ended 30 June 2021

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	PHYSICAL ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2019	5,363,986	519,936	3,156,946	9,040,867
Net result for the year	(2,202,629)	-	-	(2,202,629)
Transfers to / (from) reserves	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>3,161,357</b>	<b>519,936</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>	<b>6,838,238</b>
Net result for the year	1,189,126	-	-	1,189,126
Transfers to / (from) reserves	-	486,607	-	486,607
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>4,350,483</b>	<b>1,006,543</b>	<b>3,156,946</b>	<b>8,513,972</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

# Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021



## NOTE 1 ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (GHCMA) is a government authority of the State of Victoria, established on 1 July 1997 by the state government.

Its principal address is:

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority  
79 French Street  
Hamilton VIC 3300

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in Catchment Reporting, which does not form part of these financial statements.

### Basis of preparation

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

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

### Accounting policies

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

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

### Judgements, estimates and assumptions

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

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

- Determining whether the performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether the arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 or AASB 1058 (note 2);
- The timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (note 2)
- Determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligation (note 2)
- For leases, determining whether the arrangement is in a substance short-term arrangement (note 6.2)
- Employee benefit provisions (note 3.1.2);
- Accrued revenue (note 5.1); and
- Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (note 7.3).

### COVID-19 Health Pandemic

During the 2020 reporting period a viral pneumonia caused by a previously unknown pathogen emerged internationally. The pathogen was identified as a novel coronavirus subsequently named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), more commonly known simply as Coronavirus, which causes the illness known as Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The effects of COVID-19 are pervasive, and has impacted all industries, with infection numbers surging globally.

Initial responses by the Government included travel restrictions, both nationally and internationally, social distancing guidelines, declarations of State of Emergency across the nation, and eventually implementation of lock-downs across the country. During this time, the Government also implemented various initiatives to limit the financial impact of COVID-19, including:

- business financial assistance packages;
- JobSeeker and JobKeeper policies;
- moratorium on rental evictions as well as rental relief grants; and
- essential workers receiving free childcare during the crisis.

The Victorian Government also encouraged Departments and Agencies, including the Authority, to ensure that suppliers receive payments within five days of invoices where possible.

While the Authority has been affected by COVID-19, the effects have been limited to date. The Authority was well placed to transition to working remotely, and as such the closure of our offices had minimal affect on our activities. The Authority has utilised a number of initiatives to attempt to combat the effects on the staff and the community by COVID-19 and its accompanying restrictions, which to date have showed some success. The Authority has also been able to maintain its existing staffing levels throughout the crisis.

From a financial perspective, as the Authority's funding is predominantly through State and Commonwealth Government Contributions, and the majority of the Authority's dealings are with other Government Departments and Agencies, management does not currently consider COVID-19 to have a material affect on any judgements or assumptions applied in the preparation of these financial statements.

Additional government funding was provided in the form of Working for Victoria, an initiative to keep Victorians in the workforce and to keep the economy moving.

The ongoing impact of lock-downs and restrictions has slowed the impact of expenditure over the course of the year.

## Compliance Information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

## NOTE 2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

### Introduction

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

To enable the Authority to deliver on its objectives, it receives income predominantly through State and Commonwealth Government Contributions.

### Structure

- 2.1 Summary of revenue and income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Income from transactions

### 2.1 SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND INCOME THAT FUNDS THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	10,395,544	9,892,984
Interest	2.2.2	18,574	69,872
Other income	2.2.3	109,137	208,695
<b>Total revenue and income from transactions</b>		<b>10,523,255</b>	<b>10,171,551</b>

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

### Significant judgement: revenue recognition

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for under AASB 15 as revenue from contracts with customers, with revenue recognised as these performance obligations are met.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Authority has an unconditional right to receive the cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash.

On initial recognition of the asset, the Authority recognises any related contributions by owners, increases in liabilities, decreases in assets, and revenue ('related amounts') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- (a) contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004;
- (b) revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- (c) income for not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058;
- (d) a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- (e) a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- (f) a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

## 2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS

### 2.2.1 Government contributions

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>State Government</b>		
<b>Income as not-for-profit AASB 1058</b>		
Catchment Planning	840,965	1,097,704
River Health	3,767,000	3,385,000
Floodplain Management	159,972	320,000
Natural Disaster	37,397	379,695
Working for Victoria	1,157,110	-
Other State Funding	1,342,873	900,011
	<b>7,305,318</b>	<b>6,082,410</b>
<b>Commonwealth Government</b>		
<b>Income recognised as revenue from contracts with customers AASB 15</b>		
National Landcare Program	2,895,976	3,810,574
Other Commonwealth Funding	194,250	-
	<b>3,090,226</b>	<b>3,810,574</b>
<b>Total Government contributions</b>	<b>10,395,544</b>	<b>9,892,984</b>

#### Grants recognised under AASB 1058

The Authority has determined that the grant income included in the table above under AASB 1058 has been earned under arrangements that are either not enforceable and/or linked to sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Authority has unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the assets, the Authority recognises any increase in liabilities, decrease in assets, and revenue ('related amount') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assts.*

#### Grants recognised under AASB 15

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15.

**2.2.2 Interest**

	<b>2021</b> <b>\$</b>	<b>2020</b> <b>\$</b>
Interest on bank deposits	<b>18,574</b>	<b>69,872</b>

Interest income includes interest received on bank term deposits. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

**2.2.3 Other income**

	<b>2021</b> <b>\$</b>	<b>2020</b> <b>\$</b>
Partnership Contributions	76,085	192,845
Sundry	33,052	15,850
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>109,137</b>	<b>208,695</b>

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, The Authority has determined that all Other Revenue are recognised as income of not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058 as contracts are not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations.

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

### NOTE 3 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

#### Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Authority in delivering services. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost association with the provision of services are recorded.

#### Structure

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies
- 3.3 Lease expenses
- 3.4 Other operating expenses

#### 3.1 EXPENSES INCURRED IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES

	Notes	2021 \$	2020 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,909,648	4,702,936
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	3,546,084	6,568,727
Lease expenses	3.3	172,067	58,976
Other operating expenses	3.4	466,768	752,585
<b>Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services</b>		<b>9,094,568</b>	<b>12,083,224</b>

#### 3.1.1 Employee expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Salaries & wages	3,682,462	3,327,496
Annual leave	370,306	373,084
Long service leave	64,926	77,595
Other leave - time in lieu and RDO	339,974	337,024
Defined contribution superannuation expense	409,339	374,914
Other employee expenses	112,967	148,037
Movement in provisions for employee benefits	(70,324)	64,784
<b>Total employee benefit expenses</b>	<b>4,909,648</b>	<b>4,702,935</b>

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

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

### 3.1.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet

#### **Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions**

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

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

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Time in lieu and RDO:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	19,792	15,667
<b>Annual leave:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	289,214	286,258
<b>Long service leave:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	62,884	78,729
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	639,547	643,334
	<b>1,011,437</b>	<b>1,023,989</b>
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	54,948	58,288
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	81,157	101,270
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>1,147,541</b>	<b>1,183,547</b>
<b>Non-current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Long service leave:</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	102,650	125,490
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	13,026	19,754
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<b>115,676</b>	<b>145,244</b>
<b>Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs</b>	<b>1,263,217</b>	<b>1,328,791</b>
	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision</b>		
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>179,312</b>	<b>211,266</b>
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	(30,181)	(31,954)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>149,131</b>	<b>179,312</b>

**Wages and salaries and annual leave**

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

**Long service leave (LSL)**

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

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

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

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

**3.1.3 Superannuation contributions**

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Authority currently contributes to defined contribution plans only.

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

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

	<b>2021</b> <b>\$</b>	<b>2020</b> <b>\$</b>
<b>Defined contribution plans:</b>		
Vision super	204,319	189,971
Vic super	40,585	43,726
Other private schemes	164,435	141,217
<b>Total</b>	<b>409,339</b>	<b>374,914</b>

There was \$32,403 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2021 (2020: \$30,910)

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

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Materials	139,647	162,790
Repairs and maintenance	14,714	19,973
Grants paid	662,897	1,185,201
Contractors	1,411,781	3,384,155
Consultants	1,317,045	1,816,608
<b>Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies</b>	<b>3,546,084</b>	<b>6,568,728</b>

Materials, grants, contracts, consultancies are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

### 3.3 LEASE EXPENSES

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Short-term lease expenses	172,067	58,976
<b>Lease expenses</b>	<b>172,067</b>	<b>58,976</b>

The lease payments are recognised on a straight-line basis:

- Short-term leases – leases with a term 12 months or less; and
- Low value leases – leases with the underlying asset's fair value (when new, regardless of the age of the asset being leased) is no more than \$10,000.

### 3.4 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 incurred.

## NOTE 4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

### Introduction

The Authority controls property and other investments that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the key resources that have been entrusted to the Authority to be utilised for delivery of those outputs.

### Structure

- 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment
- 4.2 Intangible assets

### 4.1 TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT		ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		NET CARRYING AMOUNT	
	2021 \$	2020 \$	2021 \$	2020 \$	2021 \$	2020 \$
Land at fair value	150,000	91,560	-	-	150,000	91,560
Buildings at fair value	850,000	575,682	-	(119,012)	850,000	456,670
Plant and equipment at fair value	275,307	229,000	(231,955)	(181,155)	43,352	47,845
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	100,296	146,198	(77,284)	(118,615)	23,012	27,583
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>1,375,603</b>	<b>1,042,439</b>	<b>(309,239)</b>	<b>(418,781)</b>	<b>1,066,364</b>	<b>623,658</b>

### Initial recognition

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

### Subsequent measurement

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

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

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

Non-specialised buildings and works assets are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method.

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

### 4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Charge for the period</b>		
Buildings	34,837	34,419
Plant, equipment & motor vehicles	14,833	15,044
Office furniture & equipment	4,571	4,892
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>54,241</b>	<b>54,357</b>

All buildings, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are depreciated.

Land, which is considered to have an indefinite life, is not 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. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

ASSET	USEFUL LIFE
Buildings	8 - 47 years
Plant and equipment	4 - 5 years
Furniture & office equipment	5 - 10 years
Right-of-use assets	2 - 5 years

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

#### Impairment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

- the technical feasibility of completing the intangible asset so that it will be available for use or sale;
- an intention to complete the intangible asset and use or sell it;
- the ability to use or sell the intangible asset;
- the intangible asset will generate probable future economic benefits;
- the availability of adequate technical, financial and other resources to complete the development and to use or sell the intangible asset; and
- the ability to measure reliably the expenditure attributable to the intangible asset during its development.

#### 4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment

	LAND AT FAIR VALUE \$	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$	TOTAL \$
<b>2020-21</b>					
Opening balance	91,560	456,671	47,845	27,583	623,658
Additions	-	-	10,339	-	10,339
Revaluation	58,440	428,166	-	-	486,606
Depreciation	-	(34,837)	(14,833)	(4,571)	(54,241)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>150,000</b>	<b>850,000</b>	<b>43,352</b>	<b>23,012</b>	<b>1,066,363</b>
<b>2019-20</b>					
Opening balance	91,560	500,328	40,646	32,475	665,009
Additions	-	-	22,244	-	22,244
Disposals	-	(9,237)	-	-	(9,237)
Depreciation	-	(34,419)	(15,044)	(4,892)	(54,357)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>91,560</b>	<b>456,671</b>	<b>47,845</b>	<b>27,583</b>	<b>623,658</b>

Note: An independent valuation of the Authority's land and buildings was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria as at 30 June 2021.

#### Significant valuation uncertainty

The market that the assets are valued in is being impacted by the uncertainty that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has caused. The valuer has advised that the current market environment, impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19), creates significant valuation uncertainty. The value assessed at the valuation date may therefore change over a relatively short time period.

**4.2 INTANGIBLE ASSETS**

	<b>2021</b> <b>\$</b>	<b>2020</b> <b>\$</b>
<b>Computer Software</b>		
<b>Gross carrying amount</b>		
Opening Balance	177,924	-
Additions - Work in Progress	28,326	177,924
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>206,250</b>	<b>177,924</b>

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible amortisation assets with finite useful lives are amortised as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight line basis over their useful lives. The Computer software in development and not in use relates to the implementation of a new finance, payroll and human resource system that is a two year project. At the end of the financial period the project was in the application development stage. This project is scheduled to be finished during the 2021-22 financial period.

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are tested for impairment whenever an indication of impairment is identified. The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in section 4.1.2.

## NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### Introduction

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

### Structure

5.1 Receivables

5.2 Payables

### 5.1 RECEIVABLES

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current receivables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade receivables	1,095,472	1,037,219
<b>Statutory</b>		
GST input tax credits recoverable	-	41,815
	-	41,815
<b>Total current receivables</b>	<b>1,095,472</b>	<b>1,079,034</b>

Receivables consist of:

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

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

Details about the Authority's impairment policies, the Authority's exposure to credit risk, and the calculation of the loss allowance are set out in note 7.1.

## 5.2 PAYABLES

### Significant judgement: Accrued expenses

Accrued expenses represent goods or services that have been received or supplied but have not been invoiced by the supplier. In estimating the amount of an accrued expense, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current Payables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Accrued expenses	275,949	353,403
Other payables	66,042	2,962
	341,992	356,366
<b>Statutory</b>		
Superannuation	32,403	31,073
	32,403	31,073
<b>Total current payables</b>	<b>374,395</b>	<b>387,439</b>

Payables consist of:

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

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

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

### 5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	MATURITY DATES		
		LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-6 MONTHS \$
<b>2021</b>				
<b>Payables:</b>				
Accrued expenses	275,949	275,949	-	-
Other payables	66,042	66,042	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>341,992</b>	<b>341,992</b>	-	-
<b>2020</b>				
<b>Payables:</b>				
Accrued expenses	353,403	353,403	-	-
Other payables	2,962	2,962	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>356,366</b>	<b>356,366</b>	-	-

Note: (i) Maturity Analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

## NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

### Introduction

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

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments, such as cash balances. Notes 7.2 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

### Structure

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

## 6.1 LEASES

The Authority leases various properties. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions.

Leases with a contract term of 1 year and a value of less than \$10,000 are either short-term and/or leases of low value. The Authority has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases.

### 6.1.1 Amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet

The balance sheet shows the following amounts relating to leases.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Right-of-Use assets</b>		
Buildings	91,264	76,144
Equipment	48,853	125,459
Vehicles	37,015	114,311
<b>Total Right-of-Use assets</b>	<b>177,132</b>	<b>315,914</b>
Opening balance	315,914	-
Adjusted opening balance	-	417,864
Additions	59,453	112,998
Disposals	(16,680)	(14,270)
Amortisation	(181,555)	(200,678)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>177,132</b>	<b>315,914</b>
<b>Lease liabilities</b>		
Current	(114,283)	(183,279)
Non-current	(72,502)	(136,558)
<b>Total lease liabilities</b>	<b>(186,785)</b>	<b>(319,837)</b>

### 6.1.2 Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement for the year ending 30 June 2021 relating to leases:

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Amortisation charge of Right-of-Use assets</b>		
Buildings	8,092	19,422
Equipment	96,167	94,833
Vehicles	77,296	86,423
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,555</b>	<b>200,678</b>
<b>Other leases expenses</b>		
Interest expense on lease liabilities	3,766	10,691
Expenses relating to short-term leases	172,067	58,976
<b>Total amount recognised in the statement of comprehensive statement</b>	<b>175,833</b>	<b>69,667</b>

### 6.1.3 Maturity analysis of interest-bearing liabilities

	MATURITY DATES				
	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-12 MONTHS \$	1-5 YEARS \$
<b>2021</b>					
<b>Payables:</b>					
Lease liabilities	-	(12,693)	(29,928)	(71,662)	(72,502)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(186,785)</b>	<b>(12,693)</b>	<b>(29,928)</b>	<b>(71,662)</b>	<b>(72,502)</b>
<b>2020</b>					
<b>Payables:</b>					
Lease liabilities	-	(16,491)	(32,982)	(134,787)	(135,578)
<b>Total</b>	<b>(319,837)</b>	<b>(16,491)</b>	<b>(32,982)</b>	<b>(134,787)</b>	<b>(135,578)</b>

### Amounts recognised in the statement of cash flows

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Cashflows for the year ending 30 June 2021 relating to leases.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Total cash outflow for leases</b>	<b>197,846</b>	<b>255,732</b>

For any new contracts entered into, the Authority considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the Authority assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations:

- Whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Authority and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- Whether the authority has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the department has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- Whether the authority has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

Assets and liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured on a present value basis. Lease liabilities include the net present value of the following lease payments:

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

#### **Lease Liability and Right-of-Use Asset - Initial Measurement**

As a lessee, the Authority recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or the Authority's incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable;
- variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

#### **Lease Liability and Right-of-Use Asset - Subsequent Measurement**

The right-of-use asset is subsequently amortised using the straight-line method from commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of the right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability. Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at fair value as set out in Note 7.3.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance to fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or net result if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

#### **Short-term leases**

The Authority has elected to account for short-term leases using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in net result on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## 6.2 CASH FLOW INFORMATION AND BALANCES

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

<b>Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:</b>	<b>2021 \$</b>	<b>2020 \$</b>
Cash at bank	1,702,825	406,009
Deposits at call	6,090,327	6,271,766
<b>Balance as per cash flow statement</b>	<b>7,793,152</b>	<b>6,677,775</b>

### 6.2.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	<b>2021 \$</b>	<b>2020 \$</b>
<b>Net result for the period</b>	<b>1,189,126</b>	<b>(2,202,629)</b>
<b>Non-cash movements:</b>		
(Gain) / loss on disposal of non-current assets	-	25,231
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	197,846	255,034
	<b>1,386,972</b>	<b>(1,922,365)</b>
<b>Movements in assets and liabilities:</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(16,438)	(537,260)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	-	32,863
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(13,044)	(32,081)
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	(65,573)	45,881
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>1,291,918</b>	<b>(2,412,962)</b>

### 6.3 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

#### 6.3.1 Total commitments payable

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Intangible assets commitments payable</b>		
Less than 1 year	8,031	89,158
1 to 5 years	-	-
5 years or more	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,031</b>	<b>89,158</b>
<b>External program commitments payable</b>		
Less than 1 year	1,216,506	1,399,678
1 to 5 years	800,255	2,017,761
5 years or more	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,016,761</b>	<b>3,417,439</b>
<b>Total commitments (inclusive of GST)</b>	<b>2,024,792</b>	<b>3,506,597</b>

Short-term leases were largely associated with the Working for Victoria program and were all completed by 30 June 2021. Other lease expenditure throughout the year was also completed by 30 June 2021.

Intangible assets commitments relate to the development of computer software for a new finance, payroll and human resource system that is a two year project. At the end of the financial period the project was in the application development stage. This project is scheduled to be finished during the 2020-21 financial period.

External program commitments relate to contract for contractors, consultants and other project delivery costs required to complete current projects that funding has been received for. These contracts expire at the end of each project. This is the first year that the Authority has disclosed these commitments, as such we have brought in last financial years commitment for comparison purposes.

As at 30 June 2021 the Authority had no further capital expenditure commitments other than intangible assets commitment outlined above (2020: \$Nil).

### 6.4 CARRY FORWARD PROJECT FUNDING

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

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

## NOTE 7 RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### Introduction

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

### Structure

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

### 7.1 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS SPECIFIC DISCLOSURES

#### Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract, and as such, do not meet the definition of financial instruments.

#### Categories of financial instruments

Financial Assets are measured at amortised cost if they are held by the Authority to collect contractual cash flows, the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest, and if they not designated as fair value through net result. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, these financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The financial assets at amortised cost category includes cash and deposits, and trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all of the Authority's contractual payables (excluding statutory payables).

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

#### Categorisation of financial instruments

<b>Financial Assets</b>	<b>2021 \$</b>	<b>2020 \$</b>
Cash and Deposits	7,793,152	6,677,775
Receivables	1,095,472	1,079,034
<b>Total Financial Assets</b>	<b>8,888,624</b>	<b>7,756,809</b>

<b>Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>2021 \$</b>	<b>2020 \$</b>
Payables	374,395	387,439
Lease Liabilities	186,785	319,837
<b>Total Financial Liabilities</b>	<b>561,180</b>	<b>707,276</b>

**7.1.1 Financial instruments:  
Impairment of Financial Assets**

**Contractual receivables at amortised cost**

The Authority applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure the expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about the risk of default and the expected loss rates. The Authority has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due, and select the credit loss rate based on the Authority's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward-looking estimates at the end of the financial year.

All financial assets and liabilities of the Authority are measured at amortised cost in line with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*.

On this basis, the Authority determines the opening loss allowance on initial application date of AASB 9 and the closing loss allowance at the end of the financial year as follows:

	CURRENT	LESS THAN 1 MONTH	1-3 MONTHS	3 MONTHS - 1 YEAR	1-5 YEARS	TOTAL
<b>1 July 2020</b>						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	1,028,529	8,690	-	-	-	1,037,219
<b>Loss Allowance</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>30 June 2021</b>						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	1,072,804	22,114	554	-	-	1,095,472
<b>Loss Allowance</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Statutory receivables at amortised cost**

The Authority's non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements are not financial instruments. However, they are nevertheless recognised and measured in accordance with AASB 9 requirements as if those receivables are financial instruments. Statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As a result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months expected losses.

### 7.1.2 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	FINANCIAL ASSETS AT AMORTISED COST	FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT AMORTISED COST	TOTAL \$
<b>2021</b>			
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	7,793,152	-	<b>7,793,152</b>
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	1,095,472	-	<b>1,095,472</b>
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>8,888,624</b>	-	<b>8,888,624</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Accrued expenses	-	275,949	<b>275,949</b>
Other payables	-	66,042	<b>66,042</b>
Lease liabilities	-	186,785	<b>186,785</b>
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	-	<b>528,777</b>	<b>528,777</b>
<b>2020</b>			
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6,677,775	-	<b>6,677,775</b>
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	1,037,219	-	<b>1,037,219</b>
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>7,714,994</b>	-	<b>7,714,994</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Accrued expenses	-	353,403	<b>353,403</b>
Other payables	-	2,962	<b>2,962</b>
Lease liabilities	-	319,837	<b>319,837</b>
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	-	<b>676,203</b>	<b>676,203</b>

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

### 7.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies

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

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

### Financial instruments: Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Authority's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

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

**Financial instruments: Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk arises from being unable to meet financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days (reduced to 10 days due to COVID-19) and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

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

**Financial instruments: Market risk**

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

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority is required to invest surplus funds with the State Government Central Banking System (CBS) in compliance with the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (2018 Directions). The floating interest rates provided by the Central Banking System expose the Authority to interest rate risk. Management monitors movements in interest rates on a daily basis.

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

**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>2021</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	0.24%	7,793,152	-	7,793,152	-
Contractual receivables	-	1,095,472	-	-	1,095,472
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>8,888,624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,793,152</b>	<b>1,095,472</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	341,992	-	-	341,992
Lease liabilities	2.13%	186,785	186,785	-	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>528,777</b>	<b>186,785</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>341,992</b>
<b>2020</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	1.05%	6,677,775	-	6,677,775	-
Contractual receivables	-	1,037,219	-	-	1,037,219
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>7,714,994</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,677,775</b>	<b>1,037,219</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	356,366	-	-	356,366
Lease liabilities	3.38%	319,837	319,837	-	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>676,203</b>	<b>319,837</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>356,366</b>

### Interest rate risk sensitivity

The sensitivity analysis below shows the impact on the Authority's net result and equity for a movement of 50 basis points up and down in market interest rates.

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	INTEREST RATE			
		-50 BASIS POINTS		+50 BASIS POINTS	
		NET RESULT \$	REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	NET RESULT \$	REVALUATION SURPLUS \$
<b>2021</b>					
Cash and deposits (i)	7,793,152	(38,966)	(38,966)	38,966	38,966
<b>2020</b>					
Cash and deposits (i)	6,677,775	(33,389)	(33,389)	33,389	33,389

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$7,793,152 (2020 \$6,677,775) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2021:  $\$7,793,152 \times -0.005 = -\$38,966$  and  $\$7,793,152 \times 0.005 = \$38,966$
- 2020:  $\$6,677,775 \times -0.005 = -\$33,389$  and  $\$6,677,775 \times 0.005 = \$33,389$

## 7.2 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Contingent Assets</b>		
As at 30 June 2021, the Authority has no known contingent assets.	-	-
<b>Contingent liabilities</b>		
As at 30 June 2021, the Authority has no known contingent liabilities.	-	-

## 7.3 FAIR VALUE DETERMINATION

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

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

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

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

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

### Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

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

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

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

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2021-22 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

*Financial assets*

Cash and deposits

Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Accrued revenue
- Other receivables

*Financial liabilities*

Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses
- Other payables

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

**Fair value measurement hierarchy**

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2021 \$	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	150,000	-	150,000	-
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>150,000</b>	-	<b>150,000</b>	-
<b>Buildings at Fair Value</b>				
Non-specialised buildings	850,000	-	850,000	-
Right-of-Use Non-specialised buildings	91,264	-	-	91,264
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>941,264</b>	-	<b>850,000</b>	<b>91,264</b>
<b>Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Plant and equipment	43,352	-	-	43,352
Right-of-Use plant and equipment	239,770	-	-	239,770
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>283,122</b>	-	-	<b>283,122</b>
<b>Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Office furniture and equipment	23,012	-	-	23,012
<b>Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>23,012</b>	-	-	<b>23,012</b>

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

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2020 \$	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD USING:		
		LEVEL 1 \$	LEVEL 2 \$	LEVEL 3 \$
<b>Land at Fair Value</b>				
Non-specialised land	91,560	-	91,560	-
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>91,560</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>91,560</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Buildings at Fair Value</b>				
Non-specialised buildings	456,670	-	-	456,670
Right-of-Use Non-specialised buildings	76,144	-	-	76,144
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>532,814</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>532,814</b>
<b>Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Plant and equipment	47,845	-	-	47,845
Right-of-Use plant and equipment	239,770	-	-	239,770
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>287,615</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>287,615</b>
<b>Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>				
Office furniture and equipment	27,583	-	-	27,583
<b>Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>27,583</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,583</b>

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

The fair value of the financial assets and liabilities is included at the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate fair value:

#### Non-specialised land & non-specialised buildings

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach. Under this valuation method, the assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets which are considered to have nominal or no added improvement value, and are classified as Level 2 fair value measurements.

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings, an independent valuation was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) to determine the fair value using the market approach. Valuation of the assets was determined by analysing comparable sales and allowing for share, size, topography, location and other relevant factors specific to the asset being valued. From the sales analysed, an appropriate rate per square metre was applied to the subject asset. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

#### Significant valuation uncertainty

The market that the assets are valued in is being impacted by the uncertainty that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has caused. The valuer has advised that the current market environment, impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19), creates significant valuation uncertainty. The value assessed at the valuation date may therefore change over a relatively short time period.

#### 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.

#### Right-of-Use assets

Right-of-Use assets are valued based on the net present value of management's estimate of current market rentals for an equivalent item, using a discount rate based on the Authority's incremental borrowing rate.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2021.

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

**Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements**

	NON-SPECIALISED BUILDINGS \$	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT \$
<b>2020-21</b>			
<b>Opening Balance</b>	532,814	287,616	27,583
Purchases (sales)	-	10,339	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	34,542	19,561	-
Depreciation	(42,930)	(188,296)	(4,571)
Gains or losses recognised in net result	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>524,426</b>	<b>129,220</b>	<b>23,012</b>
<b>Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income</b>			
Revaluation	428,166	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>952,592</b>	<b>129,220</b>	<b>23,012</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>952,592</b>	<b>129,220</b>	<b>23,012</b>
<b>2019-20</b>			
<b>Opening Balance</b>	500,328	40,646	32,475
Purchases (sales)	-	22,244	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	95,566	421,026	-
Depreciation	(53,841)	(196,300)	(4,892)
Gains or losses recognised in net result	(9,239)	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>532,814</b>	<b>287,616</b>	<b>27,583</b>
<b>Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income</b>			
Revaluation	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>532,814</b>	<b>287,616</b>	<b>27,583</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>532,814</b>	<b>287,616</b>	<b>27,583</b>

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

	VALUATION TECHNIQUE	SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS
Specialised buildings	Depreciated replacement cost	Direct cost per square metre ranging from \$1,400 - \$2,000 per square metre Useful life of specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Office furniture and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of furniture and equipment

## NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES

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

### Structure

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Other economic flows included in net result
- 8.3 Reserves
- 8.4 Responsible persons
- 8.5 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.6 Related parties
- 8.7 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.8 Subsequent events
- 8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective
- 8.10 Economic dependency

### 8.1 EX-GRATIA EXPENSES

Ex gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write-off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

The Authority had no ex gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2021 (2020 \$0).

### 8.2 OTHER ECONOMIC FLOWS INCLUDED IN NET RESULT

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

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets</b>		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	-	337,903
Less written down value	-	(363,518)
<b>Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(25,616)</b>

### 8.3 RESERVES

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	519,936	519,936
Revaluation increments	486,607	-
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b>1,006,543</b>	<b>519,936</b>

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

## 8.4 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

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

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

NAME	POSITION	DATE HELD POSITION
The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
The Hon. Richard Wynne, MP	Acting Minister for Water	15 Feb 2021 to 30 Jun 2021
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Antony Ford	(Chair)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Adam Bester	(CEO)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Damien Bell	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Michelle Casanova	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Christine Giles	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Philip Saunders	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Celia Tucker	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Gerry Quinn	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahill	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021

### Remuneration

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

Income band	2021	2020
\$0 - \$9,999	1	6
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7	4
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$200,000 - \$209,999	1	-
\$210,000 - \$219,999	-	1
<b>Total number of Responsible persons</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total Remuneration \$</b>	<b>296,259</b>	<b>332,175</b>

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

## 8.5 REMUNERATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

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

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

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Other long-term benefits include long service leave, other long-service benefit or deferred compensation.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Share-based payments are cash or other assets paid or payable as agreed between the entity and the employee, provided specific vesting conditions, if any, are met.

Remuneration	2021 \$	2020 \$
Short-term employee benefits	425,915	427,892
Post-employment benefits	39,392	40,366
Other long-term benefits	10,849	11,028
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>476,156</b>	<b>479,285</b>
<b>Total number of executives (i)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.0</b>

Notes: (i) The total number of executive officers includes persons who meet the definition of Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the entity under AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* and are also reported within the related parties note disclosure (Note 8.6).

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

## 8.6 RELATED PARTIES

Related parties of the Authority include:

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

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

### Significant transactions with government-related entities (over \$20,000)

GHCMA is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the state of Victoria. During the year, the Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	\$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	5,668,107
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions	1,272,821
Wannon Water Corporation	44,000
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	20,000

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

Entity	Payments made \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	552,441
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	176,316
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	89,834
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions	77,000
State Revenue Office	75,696
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	43,000

Key management personnel of the Authority includes all Responsible persons as listed in Note 8.5, and all members of the executive team which includes:

Mr Michael Rees	Executive Manager - Integrated Catchment Management
Mr Chris Solum	Executive Manager - Waterways and Biodiversity
Mrs Faye Lee	Executive Manager - Business Services

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

Compensation of KMPs	2021 \$	2020 \$
Short-term employee benefits	691,910	726,611
Post-employment benefits	64,785	68,951
Other long-term benefits	15,720	15,899
<b>Total</b>	<b>772,415</b>	<b>811,461</b>

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

## 8.7 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	11,100	22,100
Internal audit costs	22,218	25,860
<b>Total auditors' remuneration</b>	<b>33,318</b>	<b>47,960</b>

The 2020 year includes the 2019 actual fee of \$10,900 and the 2020 accrual of \$11,200.

## 8.8 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

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

The continuing COVID-19 Health Pandemic is not expected to significantly affect the operations, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Authority in future financial years.

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

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2020-21 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to the Model Financial Statements. The Authority is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which includes:

### **AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australia Accounting Standards - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current**

This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. It initially applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022 with earlier application permitted, however the AASB has recently issued *AASB 2021-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current - Deferral of Effective Date* to defer the application by one year to periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. The Authority will not early adopt the Standard.

The Authority is in the process of analysing the impacts of this Standard. However, it is not anticipated to have a material impact.

### **Other Amending Standards**

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods, but are considered to have limited impact on the Authority's reporting.

- AASB 17 *Insurance Contracts*.
- AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosure for For-Profit Tier 2 Entities*.
- AASB 2020-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Removal of Special Purpose Financial Statements for Certain For-Profit Private Sector Entities*.
- AASB 2020-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments*.
- AASB 2020-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Covid-19-Rent Related Concessions: Tier 2 Disclosures*.
- AASB 2020-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Interest Rate Benchmark Reform - Phase 2*.
- AASB 2020-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Tier 2 Disclosures: Interest Rate Benchmark Reform (Phase 2) and Other Amendments*.

## 8.10 ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Authority is dependent on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for the majority of its revenue used to operate the entity. At the date of this report, the Board of Directors has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support the Authority.

# Disclosure index

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

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**LEGISLATION***Freedom of Information Act 1982**Building Act 1993**Protected Disclosure Act 2012**Local Jobs Act 2003**Financial Management Act 1994**Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003**Water Act 1989**Public Administration Act 2004**Catchment & Land Protection Act 1994**Audit Act 1994*

# Glossary



ABC	Actions for Biodiversity Conservation	LAC	Limits for Acceptable Change
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	LGA	Local Government Agencies
ARRC	Australian River Restoration Centre	MERI	Monitor Evaluate Report and Improvement
ARTC	Australian Rail Track Corporation	ML	Megalitres
BA	Birdlife Australia	MLDRAN	Murray Lower Darling Rivers Aboriginal Nations
BAU	Business as Usual	NCP	National Competition Policy NGO Non-Government Organisation
BBNP	Budj Bim National Park	NGT	Nature Glenelg Trust
BGLC	Barengi Gadjin Land Council	NLP	National Landcare Program
BRP	Biodiversity Response Planning	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NDRRA	National Disaster and Recovery Relief Arrangements
CFA	Country Fire Authority	Non-BAU	Non-Business As Usual
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	OCOC	<i>Our Catchments Our Communities</i>
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia Cwth Commonwealth	OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	PV	Parks Victoria
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	PAA	<i>Public Administration Act</i>
DIWA	Directory of Important Wetlands	RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
DTR	Department of Treasury and Finance	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy RLC Regional Landcare Coordinator
ECs	Ecological Communities	RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
EEFAM	Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment Method	RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System	RNVP	Regional Native Vegetation Plan
EO	Executive Officer	RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	SCA	Stock Containment Area
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Communities	SMWG	Staff Management Work Group
EWR	Environmental Water Reserve	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
FFG	<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act</i>	VLG	Victorian Landcare Grants
FTE	Full-time Employee	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
GWMWater	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	VEPP	Victorian Environment Partnerships Program
IBA	Important Bird Areas	VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission	VFMS	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy
ICT	Information Communication Technology	VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
IEC	Index of Estuary Condition	VicSES	Victoria State Emergency Service
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area	VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
ISC	Index of Stream Condition	VWPIF	Victorian Water Program Investment Framework
ISC3	Index of Stream Conditions 2010	WAP	Waterway Action Plan
IWC	Index of Wetland Condition	WESI	Weed at Early Stages of Invasion Protocols

# Endnotes

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