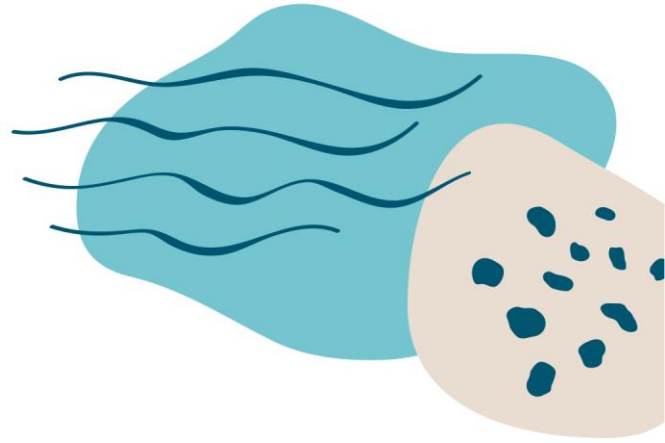


Media Release



2 December 2021

WATER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FLOWS IN GLENELG

Water for the environment will begin flowing to the Glenelg River this month to improve water quality and keep the river healthy over summer.

The flow will help maintain plant diversity and connectivity along the river as fish, platypus and other species move about to feed and breed.

Waterway Executive Manager, Chris Solum said Glenelg River communities and landholders downstream of Rocklands would also benefit from the environmental flows heading into summer.

"Although water for the environment is primarily about protecting river health and species, it benefits everyone who uses or enjoys the river downstream of Rocklands, Mr Solum said.

"Better water quality and water levels improve recreational opportunities such as kayaking, fishing, camping and swimming over summer, and protect Aboriginal cultural sites and values."

Environmental water releases began this week. The priority is to support river conditions between Rocklands Reservoir and Casterton - an area heavily impacted by reduced natural inflows and water diversion at Rocklands.

"We will deliver a pulse of water in mid-December peaking at 120 megalitres a day and a continuous low flow - also known as a base flow - of 40 to 60 megalitres a day over the summer period.

"Our goal is to maintain water quality and protect edge and shallow-water habitats as well as deeper pools for the species that depend on them," Mr Solum said.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has planned and managed environmental water releases to the Glenelg River for over a decade informed by scientific and technical assessments and community advice.

"We have a good understanding of how to protect the river in both wet and dry seasons using the water entitlement we receive each year from the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH)," Mr Solum said.

Regular surveys to measure fish response to environmental flows through the Victorian Environmental Flow Monitoring and Assessment Program have revealed stunning improvements for native fish populations.

The abundance of migratory tui and common galaxias have increased by 16 and six times, respectively. The numbers of blackfish sampled have risen four-fold and numbers of the threatened variegated pygmy perch, by 350 per cent.

Glenelg Hopkins works with VEWH and Rocklands Reservoir manager GWMWater to deliver water for the environment as part of the Victorian Government's \$222 million investment to improve the health of waterways and catchments.

The Seasonal Watering Plan and information about water for the environment and its benefits can be found at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au.

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