



GLENELG HOPKINS CMA

Annual Report

2021
2022



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 2021 to 25 June 2022 was the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water. The Hon Richard Wynne acted as the Minister for Water from 1 July 2021 to 22 August 2021. Ms Harriet Shing was the Minister for Water from 25 June 2022 to 30 June 2022. The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP was Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change from 1st July 2021 to 27th June 2022 and was Minister for Environment and Climate Action from 27th June 2022 to 30th June 2022.

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 co-ordination for management of natural resources. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is an important link between community and government, supplying 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 found in the Statement of Obligations (SOO) under section 19E (1) (a) of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP Act)*. The SOO:

- Provides clarity on the way CMA activities should be undertaken and the level at which 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 from annual Corporate Allocations and Statutory Land Allocations, and which obligations will be funded by contracts or agreements between the Department of Sustainability and 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.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

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Artwork by Thomas Day

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



Contents

FORMATION & CMA'S ROLE	2	OUR GOVERNANCE, OUR PEOPLE, OUR BUSINESS	53	FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION STATEMENT	74
YEAR IN REVIEW		Board Structure and Purpose	53	HOW THIS REPORT IS STRUCTURED	75
Chairperson's and CEO Report	5	Audit and Risk Committee	55	FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	76
Operational & Budgetary Objectives	7	Remuneration and Performance Committee	56	NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	83
Five year summary - financial performance at a glance	9	Community Advisory Group	57	DISCLOSURE INDEX & LEGISLATIONS	113
Glenelg Hopkins CMA 2021-2022 year in review	10	Organisational Structure	58	ENDNOTES	114
Media and Communications	11	Reporting Requirements	59	GLOSSARY	115
Vision and Purpose	13	Workforce Data	60		
Strategic Objectives	14	People & Culture	62		
Our Key Focus Areas	15	Youth Employment Program	63		
GLENELG HOPKINS CMA OUR REGION	16	Workforce Inclusion Policy	64		
CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT REPORT 2020-2021	18	Workplace Health and Safety	65		
The Regional Catchment Strategy	18	Compliance with Relevant Legislation	67		
Condition assessment and management report	18	Additional information available on request	70		
Water	20	Disclosure of Grants and Transfer Payments	71		
Land	30	Environmental Report - Reducing Our Environmental Impact	72		
Biodiversity	35				
Marine and coast	43				
Community	46				
Integrated Catchment Management	51				
Regional actions and achievements reporting	52				

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 outside of these pandemic restrictions being enforced in Victoria.

RIGHT: Our 'Connecting Harrow to the Glenelg' community planting day was held on the weekend the play Black Cockatoo was screened. (L-R) Lachie Turner, community member, Dave Nichols, CMA project manager, Kyle Shilling, Joseph Althouse, Colin Smith, Mark Nannup, Phoebe Grainer, Black Cockatoo cast, and elders Uncle Richard Kennedy, Uncle Ron Marks



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 24th Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

The CMA has successfully coordinated the delivery 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 has been developed with an on-line interactive platform. The Strategy was submitted to the Minister for Water in September 2021 and was approved in April 2022.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continued its engagement program with local government, led by the CEO, discussing core responsibilities, providing briefings on activities of significance, and pursuing opportunities for collaboration. These included the renewal of the Glenelg Hopkins RCS, implementation of the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy, and Integrated Water Management Projects.

The CMA continues to increase its social media and online engagement, with over 47,000 followers on social media platforms and a total of 24,127 visitors to its website.

Several projects initiated during the year combined best practice natural resource restoration works, public engagement, and infrastructure development. These include the *Platycam* livestream, the Rivers of Warrnambool project, actions on the Hopkins, Glenelg and Merri Rivers and Grange Burn, grassland restoration, and key conservation actions for endangered plants and animals.

The Grange Burn Restoration Project aims to restore and improve critical habitat for several listed species as well as improve the recreational use of the area. The river is being restored through partnerships with the community, school groups, and organisations such as Southern Grampians Shire Council.

The most exciting development for the Grange Burn this year was the implementation of *Platycam* – the world's only livestream of platypus in the wild. A pole-mounted, solar-powered livestreaming camera (*Platycam*), signage, and a sculpture were installed, together with weed removal, instream logs, and native vegetation planting along the banks. More than 100 people attended the livestream launch on 31 May 2022, and another 240 watched online. *Platycam* has received the widest media recognition of any CMA project, with stories and interviews reaching an estimated audience of 285,000 people. Social media posts from the launch and first two weeks of operation reached over 90,000 people, with over 23,000 engagements, and more than 27,000 video views on social media. The LIVESTREAM: *Platycam* platform itself has had over 23,500 views. The project has enhanced social awareness of waterway condition and its value as habitat for these unique and vulnerable animals.

The Rivers of Warrnambool Flagship Waterway Project was launched on the banks of the Merri River by Harriet Shing, Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Adam Bester CEO GHCA and Peter Schneider, CEO Warrnambool City Council. This project will protect and repair instream, riparian, wetland, and estuarine values of the lower reaches of the Hopkins and Merri Rivers.

With its focus on targeting the rehabilitation of these Rivers, the project will also address Water for Victoria's long-term goal to improve waterway health.

The Red-Tails of the Glenelg Plain Project supports actions to prevent further decline of the endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Priority actions address threats from habitat loss through regeneration of feed trees, protection and augmentation of nest sites, and the use of Traditional Burning techniques for wildfire management.

The CMA continues to coordinate the Protecting the Hooded Plover Projects with the aim to stabilise the Hooded Plover population along the coastline of Victoria and South Australia. In 2021-2022, this project directly contributed to 68 chicks surviving and fledging.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues infrastructure development to support recreation, health, and wellbeing. Significant projects have included:

- Planning for construction of improved boat launching infrastructure on the Glenelg River at Pritchards Landing and Sapling Creek
- Planning kayak launch facilities and walking paths along the Merri in partnership with Warrnambool City Council
- Installation of fish habitat to support key recreational fisheries in estuaries across the Hopkins and Portland Basins
- Partnership with Wellways to support staff and clients to connect with nature through participation in native vegetation planting.

ABOVE: Bruach Colliton Mayor Southern Grampians Shire Council and Adam Bester CEO GHCA at Hamilton's Grange Burn, a joint partnership project

Engagement with land managers, farmers, and Traditional Owner groups remains a focus for the CMA.

The CMA's 2-person works crew enables the CMA to:

- Immediately respond to natural disasters to help landholders secure fences and provide support at a time of uncertainty
- Help landholders experiencing personal hardship fulfil commitments to deliver works, and
- Increase the capacity of land managers to deliver works consistent with the RWS.

At the end of the fourth year of the Sustainable Agriculture program, a total of 111 engagement events have been supported with almost 2,300 participants. Whilst the move to an on-line format for workshops had been successful, partners and community welcomed the face-to-face gatherings. Over 30 workshops, or other engagement events, were held with a total participation of more than 800 farmers.

Farm productivity figures released in 2022 for the 2019-2020 years reveal that while many of us were in lockdown, farmers in the region were hard at work producing agricultural commodities with a gross value of \$2.8 billion. This places the Glenelg Hopkins region as the top agricultural producer of Australia's 55 NRM regions. Increase in Whole Milk production was an encouraging sign, reversing a downward trend since 2013. Value of cattle production continues its steady rise over the same period. A slight fall in sheep, lamb, and wool products is the first fall since 2012. Broadacre cropping now contributes \$405 million in gross value.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working with Traditional Owner communities to deliver National Landcare Program projects and create a two-way knowledge exchange for sustainable natural resource management and agricultural activities. Principally the CMA is working to progress the partnerships with the four Traditional Owner Corporations in the Glenelg Hopkins region towards a model of increasing self-determination, which may or may not include formal partnership statements.

Significant cultural learning activities were delivered for CMA staff, including:

- A 'Yarning Circle' led by senior Khirrae Whurrong (Eastern Maar) Traditional Owners for 10 CMA staff including Youth Employment Program staff, and
- The 2022 Integrated Staff Meeting, hosted by Gunditj Mirring TOAC at Lake Condah Mission. This included a cultural awareness tour of Tae Rak (Lake Condah) and the Lake Condah Mission.

Staff across the organisation supported the Youth Employment Program (YEP) funded by DJRP through DELWP by sharing knowledge, guidance, and mentorship. The program, with total funding of over \$400K, supported nine enthusiastic young people over nine months. Various skills and qualifications included in administration, communications, project management, WHS, HR, GIS, and on-ground works.

The CMA strives to be a safe and productive workplace. We have undertaken a large body of work through a Workplace Health and Safety action plan to modernise our safe work procedures, systems, and knowledge to help keep our staff and community safe. In 2022-2023, we are committed to working with our stakeholders and community to continually improve our safe work practices and to deliver our funded programs.

The CMA board continually reviews financial management, governance, and growth of the CMA, as well as its relationships and opportunities. On 1 October 2021, the Minister for Water re-appointed Chairperson Antony Ford for a further four-year term from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2025. In addition, Christine Giles was re-appointed to the Board until 30 September 2025 as a Board Director.

During 2021-2022 the Board held several meetings in Hamilton, Ballarat, and Warrnambool. The Board will continue to hold approximately half its meetings on-line and will engage with the community when at in-person meetings around the region.

In May 2022, the Board and Management met with Birdlife Australia CEO and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation along with Ballarat Council and departmental agency representatives in Ballarat.

In March 2022 the Board attended the Director Development Program in Melbourne, and in June 2022, the Board undertook Workplace and Good Governance training on-line via APT Consulting Group Pty Ltd.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Antony Ford".

Antony Ford
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2022



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Bester".

Adam Bester
Chief Executive Officer
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2022



Operational & Budgetary Objectives

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE	A board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued. Submitted annually.	Submitted electronically on 8th October 2021 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 25 May 2022.
	100% of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	A detailed audit of the CMA Board and Operational Policies was undertaken by consultant VOTAR Partners during 2021-2022. These processes have included staff, Audit and Risk Committee, and Board. In 2022 the Board (and Audit and Risk Committee) received 78% of Board Policies. It is anticipated that this process will be completed by the end of 2022. In 2021-2022 the CMA Health and Safety Committee also undertook a review of all policy, operational, and procedural documents as part of the Work Place Health and Safety Action Plan. Changes were approved in May 2022. In 2022-2023 an audit of HR policies and procedures will be undertaken.
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Fully compliant with all standing directions with the exception of two – both are partially compliant, with no material non-compliance.
REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION	A Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) approved by the Minister.	The new Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2021-2027 was approved by the Minister and gazetted on 28 April 2022.
	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 2019-2020.
	A Regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Plan 2021-2026 was completed by 30 June 2021.
	A Regional Waterways Strategy approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 was approved by the Minister in August 2014. A Final Review of this strategy is underway.
	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.

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
REGIONAL DELIVERY	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the Board annually.	The new Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2021-2027 was gazetted and commenced operation on 28 April 2022. The first implementation report will be presented to the Board at the end of 2022-2023.
	Projects/activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Projects that support implementation of the RCS were delivered and reported according to their 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 2022 in consultation with relevant agencies; 43 of 74 actions have been completed, and 15 are in progress.
STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER PART 10 OF THE WATER ACT	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice, and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	85.5% of Flood Advisories were responded to within the prescribed period. 96.7% of Flood Referrals were responded to within the prescribed period. 100% of Works on Waterways Licences were issued within the prescribed period. 86.5% of Works on Waterways Advice were issued within the prescribed period.
STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER PART II OF THE WATER ACT	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice, and licences) associated with irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	80% of irrigation management responses were issued within the prescribed response period.

Five year summary

- financial performance at a glance

	2022 (\$ '000)	2021 (\$ '000)	2020 (\$ '000)	2019 (\$ '000)	2018 (\$ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	7,517	7,305	6,082	12,205	9,078
Federal Government contributions	3,030	3,090	3,811	2,108	2,039
Other revenue	264	128	279	792	596
Total revenue	10,811	10,523	10,171	15,105	11,713
Total expenditure	9,001	9,334	12,349	14,323	10,750
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,810	1,189	(2,203)	782	964
Financial assets	11,000	8,889	7,756	10,045	8,860
Non-Financial assets	1,169	1,449	1,117	698	1,011
Total assets	12,169	10,338	8,874	10,743	9,871
Liabilities	1,845	1,824	2,036	1,702	1,671
Net assets	10,324	8,514	6,838	9,041	8,200

CURRENT FINANCIAL REVIEW

OVERVIEW

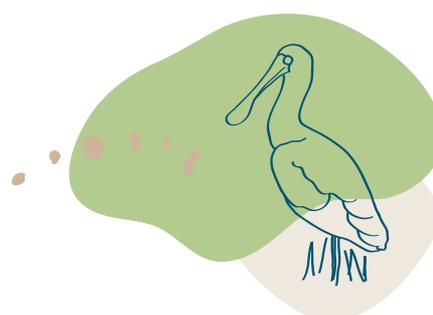
In 2021-2022 GHCMA achieved a net operating surplus of \$1.8 million, a \$0.6 million variance to 2020-2022. Income has increased slightly from prior year largely due to revenue received in advance for the 2022-2023 financial year. Expenditure decreased slightly due to the timing of project expenditure.

BALANCE SHEET

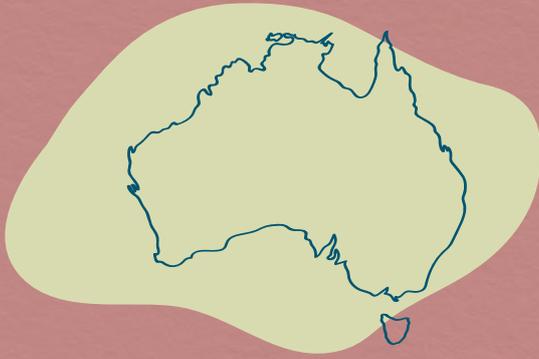
Net Assets have increased by \$1.7 million to \$8.5 million due to the increase in total assets by \$1.8 million (cash increase of \$2.9 million and non-financial assets decreased by \$280K as a result cloud-based software being expensed). Liabilities increased by \$21K.

CASH FLOW

The cash increase of \$2.9 million for the 2021-2022 financial year was a net increase of \$1.8 million compared to the previous year. This increase was the result of revenue received in advance for the 2022-2023 year in addition to a reduction in cash outflows due to the timing of project expenditure over the course of the year.



Glenelg Hopkins CMA 2021-2022 year in review



Total Investment:
\$11 million

\$3m FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

\$8m STATE GOVERNMENT

39

PARTNERSHIPS
ESTABLISHED

163^{HA}
REVEGETATED



50

MANAGEMENT
AGREEMENTS



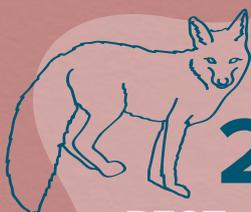
97

WATERWAY
STRUCTURES



1,683^{HA}

WEEDS
CONTROLLED



2,076^{HA}

PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

4,614

PEOPLE
ENGAGED WITH
AT EVENTS



Media

BROADCAST MEDIA:

137
MEDIA ITEMS

244,000
AUDIENCE

273.89
MINUTES BROADCAST

89,146
WORDS PRINTED

\$854,413
ADVERTISING SPACE RATE
EQUIVALENT

ONLINE MEDIA:

FACEBOOK/TWITTER/INSTAGRAM:



843
posts

6,562,294
profile impressions

47,370
followers



2,168,010
post impressions

234,926
engagements

10.3%
average post
engagement rate

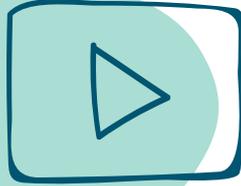
131,095
video views

YOUTUBE:

28,075
You Tube video views

1423.9
hours watched

235
channel Subscribers



WEBSITE:

24,127
website visitors

5,100
daily visitor peak



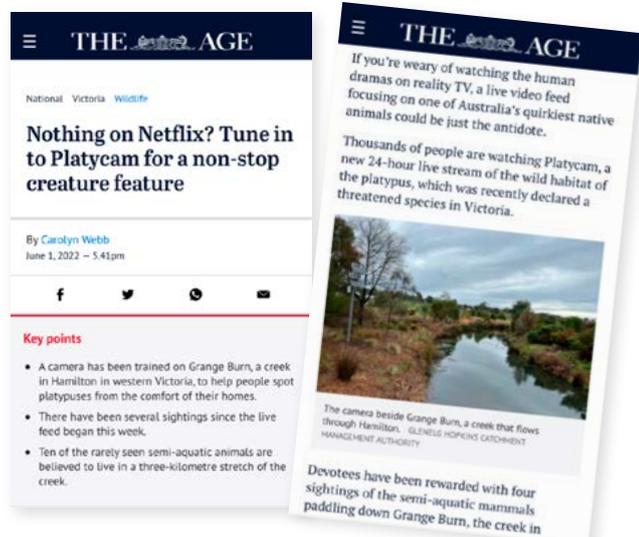
HIGHLIGHTS:

ABC NEWS WEEKEND BREAKFAST



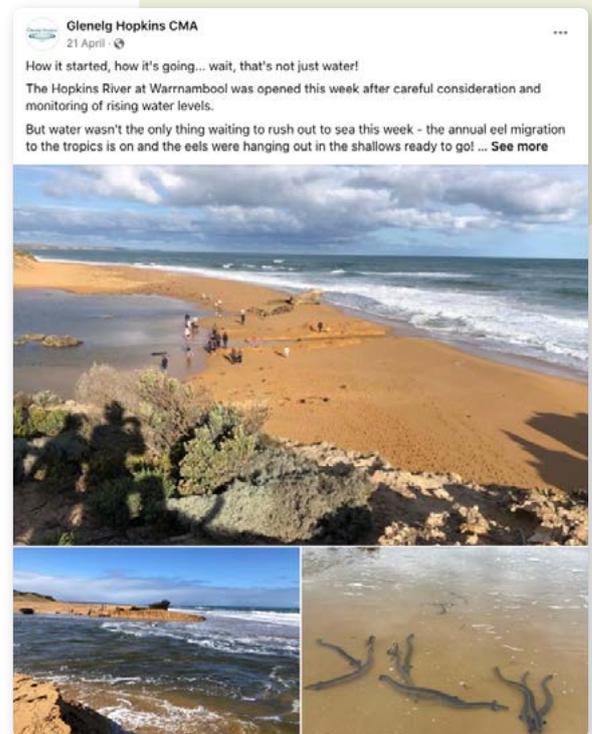
Platycam interview, 9.50am Saturday, June 4, 2022.
Duration: 6mins 19 seconds.

THE AGE NEWSPAPER



Platycam article, published online June 1, 2022;
and across pages two and three of print edition June 2, 2022.

MOST ENGAGED WITH SOCIAL MEDIA POST:



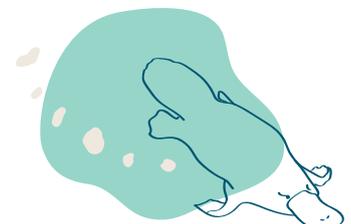
How it started, how it's going... wait, that's not just water!

The Hopkins River at Warrnambool was opened this week after careful consideration and monitoring of rising water levels...

Posted: April 21, 2022

Reach: 29,910

Engagements: 7,302



About the CMA

Our 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.

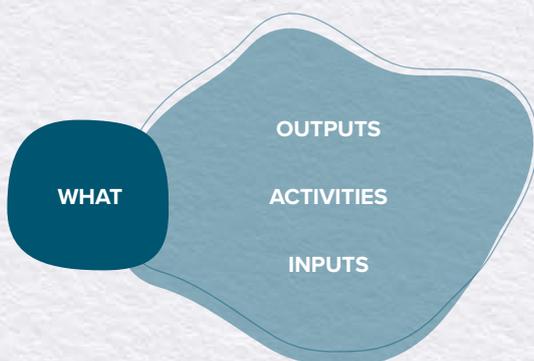
OUTCOMES: Climate change policy implementation, waterway and catchment health, water and sustainable agriculture, community engagement and partnerships, resilient and liveable cities and towns, Aboriginal cultural values and inclusion in the water sector, recreation values, floodplain management, environmental 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 and inclusion, sustainability, learning and continuous improvement, health and well-being, leadership, VPS values and behaviours.

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



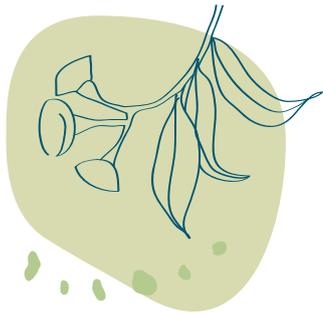
OUTPUTS: DELWP standard outputs, letter of expectation measures and business strategy performance indicators.

ACTIVITIES: Programs and projects.

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

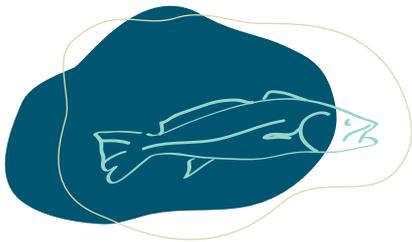
Strategic Objectives

The following key strategies guide Glenelg Hopkins CMA in establishing and undertaking its core business and activities.



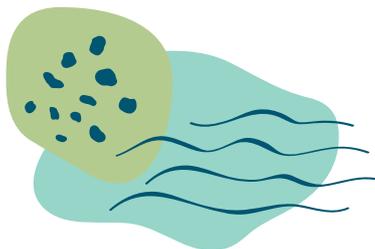
PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR A HEALTHY CATCHMENT

- 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.



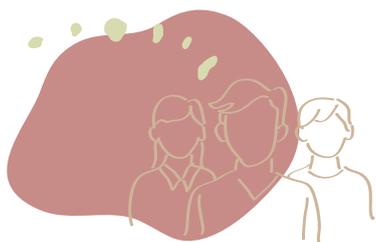
INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

- Facilitate and coordinate the management of catchments in an integrated and sustainable way
- 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.

Our Key Focus Areas

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. We align our activities with Wannon Water, local governments, and local communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE

This is a key focus for the next five years. We are committed 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

We have been working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Corporations for over 15 years, recognising and supporting important cultural values in the water sector. Partnerships will continue to be strengthened through the Glenelg Hopkins Aboriginal Partnership Framework, to be implemented over the next five years.

RECREATIONAL VALUES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA delivers shared benefits along the Glenelg River by working with the community to identify recreational opportunities along the region's waterways. Through the Regional Waterway Strategy we help communities and agencies develop social and recreational outcomes for well-being in line with the Victorian Government's Water for Victoria plan.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to build effective relationships 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.

WATERWAY AND CATCHMENT HEALTH

This is a foundational responsibility of Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Our regional priorities align strongly with those of the Victorian Government. 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

Through our Diversity and Inclusion Plan, which forms part of the CMA's succession planning strategy, GH EQUIP, we will continue to be a provider of high-quality professional services, an employer of choice, and an example to the region.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

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

Our Region

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, with the smaller rivers and creeks in the Millicent and Portland basins, are great locations for recreational water use including boating and fishing.



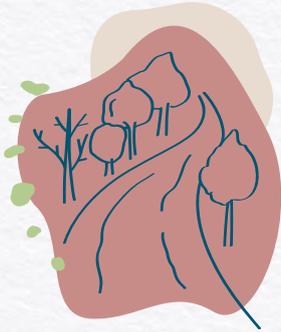
BUDJ BIM HERITAGE LANDSCAPE

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



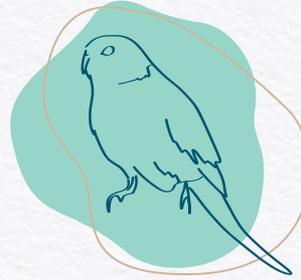
GARIWERD (GRAMPIANS NATIONAL PARK)

An inspirational and unique landscape and site of significant indigenous value.



GLENELG RIVER

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



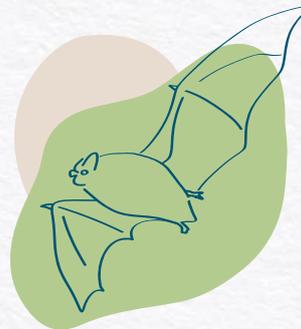
IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBA)

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.



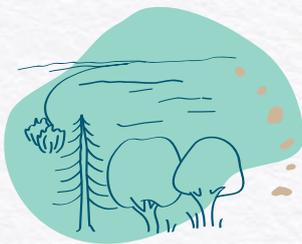
WESTERN DISTRICT RAMSAR LAKES

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



75 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.



THE REGION

Also has the Lower Glenelg National Park and Cobboboonee National Park and Forest.



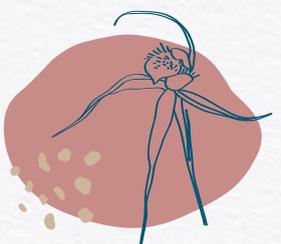
DISCOVERY BAY MARINE NATIONAL PARK

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 Wannon Falls, Tower Hill, Mt Noorat and Princess Margaret Rose Cave.



172 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

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

Catchment Condition & Management Report Overview

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 section of the Annual Report provides an assessment of the condition of the region's environment and a reflection on the likely impact of annual scale actions, events, and observed change within the previous year, and over the previous five years. A key purpose of monitoring changes in the operating context is to help identify opportunities for adapting and changing the way we manage the environment.

The report is structured in line with the state-wide outcome framework that links the regional outcomes sought by catchment communities to the high-level policy outcomes of the Victorian and Australian Government. These are outlined in each Regional Catchment Strategy (<https://rcs.vic.gov.au>).

THE GLENELG HOPKINS REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY

A lot of what Glenelg Hopkins CMA and partners do is guided by the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). The new Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2021-2027 was gazetted on 28 April 2022. It is the overarching plan for integrated catchment management and was developed in collaboration with Traditional Owners, regional agencies, organisations, groups, and communities. It outlines the vision for the region, details priority direction, challenges, and opportunities, and establishes a framework for investment and partnership implementation.

It was developed as a website and can be accessed at: <https://glenelghopkins.rcs.vic.gov.au>

HOW TO INTERPRET THIS REPORT

The condition assessment for each theme describes the level of confidence or concern that catchment managers have in the future of the regional environment.

The assessment is based on a set of state-wide indicators outlined in the RCS outcomes framework, augmented with regionally specific indicators selected on criteria that include availability and quality of data, and the linkage to regional and policy outcomes.

The reporting format seeks to provide a transparent path between the evidence and the assessment. It is not a definitive evaluation but an assessment at a point in time based on the best available evidence.

Table 1: Assessment criteria for annual condition reporting

TREND	TREND RATING	DESCRIPTION
The trend is the change over time in the indicator, which could be an environmental asset, a pressure, or a management activity. The trend is assessed against the direction required to contribute to the achievement of regional outcomes.	Positive 	The indicator is moving in a positive direction and is expected to have a positive impact.
	Neutral 	The indicator is a neutral state, where movements may be significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact.
	Concerned 	The indicator is moving in a negative direction and is expected to have a detrimental impact.
	Unknown 	The trend is unknown.
CONDITION	CONDITION RATING	DESCRIPTION
Where appropriate, a condition rating is provided that is based on the current state of the theme. A condition rating is based on assessments of the assets, pressures and management activities represented by the theme. The assessment is based on available science and expert advice as well as evidence gained during the preceding year.	Good 	The condition is classified as good.
	Moderate 	The condition is classified as moderate.
	Poor 	The condition is classified as poor.
	Not applicable 	A condition rating is not applicable for this indicator.
	Unknown 	The condition for this indicator is not known and/or assessable.

REGIONAL CATCHMENT CONDITION SUMMARY

Table 2 presents a summary of condition assessments for each theme for 2021-2022. Detailed information that informs these assessment summaries is provided for each theme in the following sections of this report.

Table 2: Summary of catchment condition assessments for 2021-2022

THEME	TREND		CONDITION	SUMMARY COMMENT
	2022	Over last five years		
WATER	Neutral 	Concerned 	Poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inflows to most river systems remain significantly below pre-1997 averages Water quality in many systems is poor for many parameters and trending down due to intensification of agricultural land-use Victoria's Land Cover Time Series shows significant long-term and ongoing loss of seasonal and perennial wetlands.
LAND	Neutral 	Neutral 	Moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of exposed soil in 2021 was below 10%, reducing the risk of water and wind erosion The region is one of Australia's most productive agricultural regions. In 2020-2021 it was the highest ranked region in Australia based on gross market value No significant erosion events reported Ongoing challenge of managing land use and impacts on the health of soil, waterways, and biodiversity.
BIODIVERSITY	Concerned 	Concerned 	Poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria's Land Cover Time Series shows a continuing decline in cover for most native vegetation classes across the region, impacting on biodiversity through loss of habitat and reduced connectivity Poor condition of the region's waterways and wetlands also negatively impacts biodiversity Despite some significant successes, the combined pressures of land use change, hydrological change, changing fire regimes, land clearing, and pest and weed invasion continue to overwhelm current investment and are exacerbated by the changing climate.
MARINE AND COAST	Concerned 	Concerned 	Poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declines in most classes of native vegetation cover Sea level rise is a risk to beach dune and coastal salt marsh Competing demands for development and recreation use Adoption of the <i>Marine and Coastal Act</i> offers opportunity for greater protection of coastal areas.
COMMUNITY	Positive 	Neutral 	Good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landcare group health scores have remained consistent After a drop in Landcare group membership in 2019-2020 (mostly COVID-19 impact) membership numbers increased in 2020-2021 The number of partnerships has risen in the last 12 months Excellent participation rates at engagement events with 4,613 people participating Grant programs for community facilitated on-ground work are over-subscribed.

Water

EXTENT OF PROTECTED OR IMPROVED RIPARIAN LAND

The indicator reflects efforts to protect or improve the condition of riparian lands, including fencing, weed control, and revegetation and pest control (e.g., rabbits).

An extensive integrated program has been delivered across the region to improve river condition and health. More recently, monitoring has focused on measuring the long-term outcomes of river restoration and management activities at the site scale.

Activities have included off-stream watering points, pest control, revegetation, installation of fishways and fish habitats, management of catchment erosion and nutrient application, and management of point and non-point discharges to rivers (Table 3).

Table 3: Summary of waterway and habitat improvement activities that were supported by Glenelg Hopkins CMA in partnership with community and other stakeholders between 2016-2017 and 2021-2022 in riparian areas and waterways.

OUTPUT	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
1. STRUCTURAL WORKS								
1.2 Water storage	27	12	71	22	31	13	14	
1.9 Fence (km)	141.9	75.2	294.9	94	85.9	79.2	59.6	
2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS								
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	458.8	286.8	809.7	309.9	227	277	185.6	3.66
2.2 Weed control (ha)	1,891.8	2,310.4	3,572.2	6,454.2	551	709.3	580	1,095.6
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	596.3	601.3	999.5	33,658.7	379	33,236.8	407.5	535.4
2.8 Earth works (no.)				12	20			5
3. MANAGEMENT SERVICES								
3.1 Grazing (ha)	1,364.7	1,309.5	1,733.9	1,153	553.7	442.3	954.8	648.1
4. PLANNING AND REGULATION								
4.2 Management agreements (no.)	87	87	139	119	70	67	37	39

Recent results from the state-wide Riparian Intervention Monitoring Program (DELWP, 2017) indicate the following positive results in response to weed control, revegetation, and livestock exclusion measures:

- Increases in native vegetation cover,
- Increases in species richness,
- Reductions in woody weed abundance, and
- No increase in bare groundcover (DELWP 2019).

The outcome of riparian protection interventions was reported recently by the GHCMA's Proportion of Waterways Protected (PWP) project, including by Waterway Management Area (as defined in the Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-2022) (Figure 1).

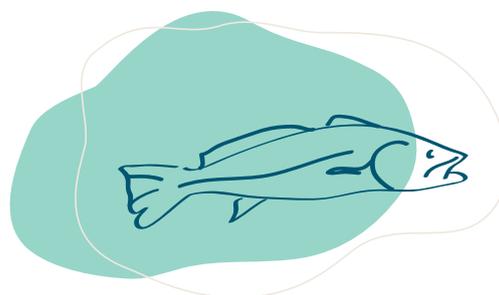
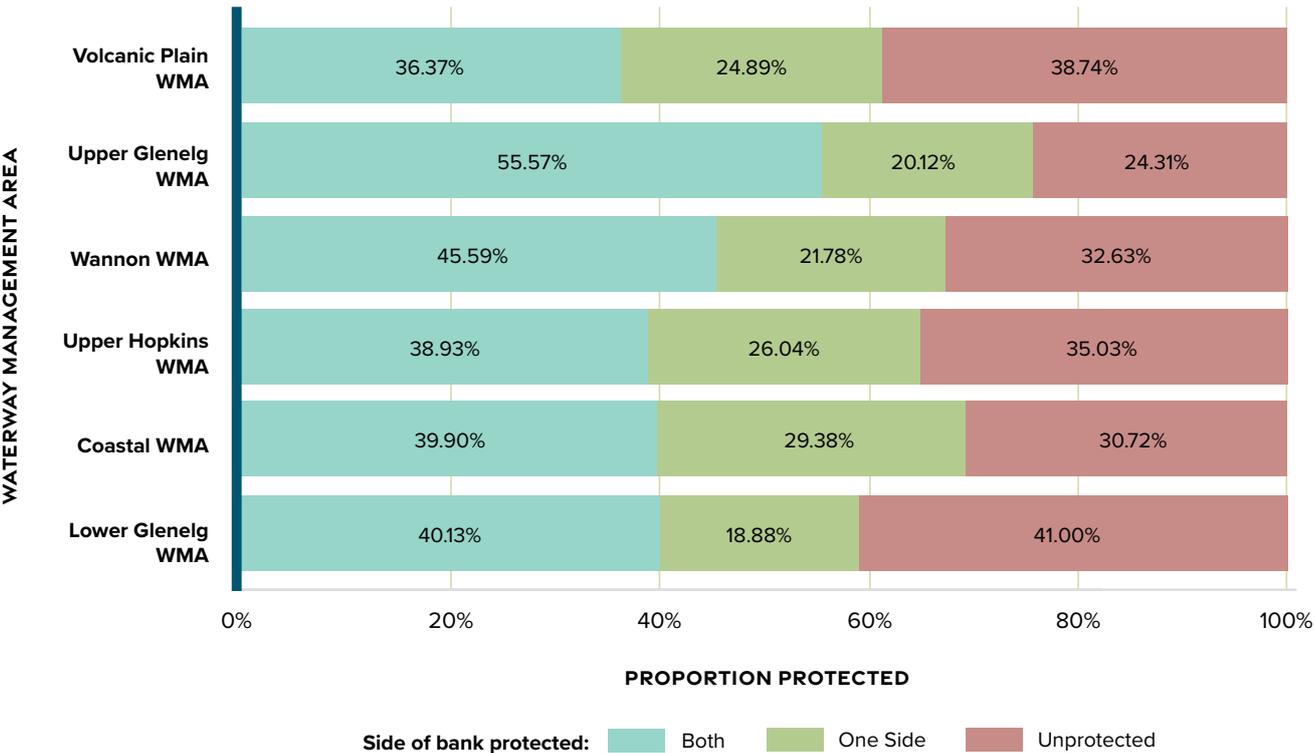


Figure 1: The proportion of GHCMA region Waterway Management Areas with full, partial, or no bank protection (denoted as both, one side, or unprotected).



2021-2022 Trend

Positive ✓

Rolling five-year Trend

Positive ✓

RIVER INFLOWS

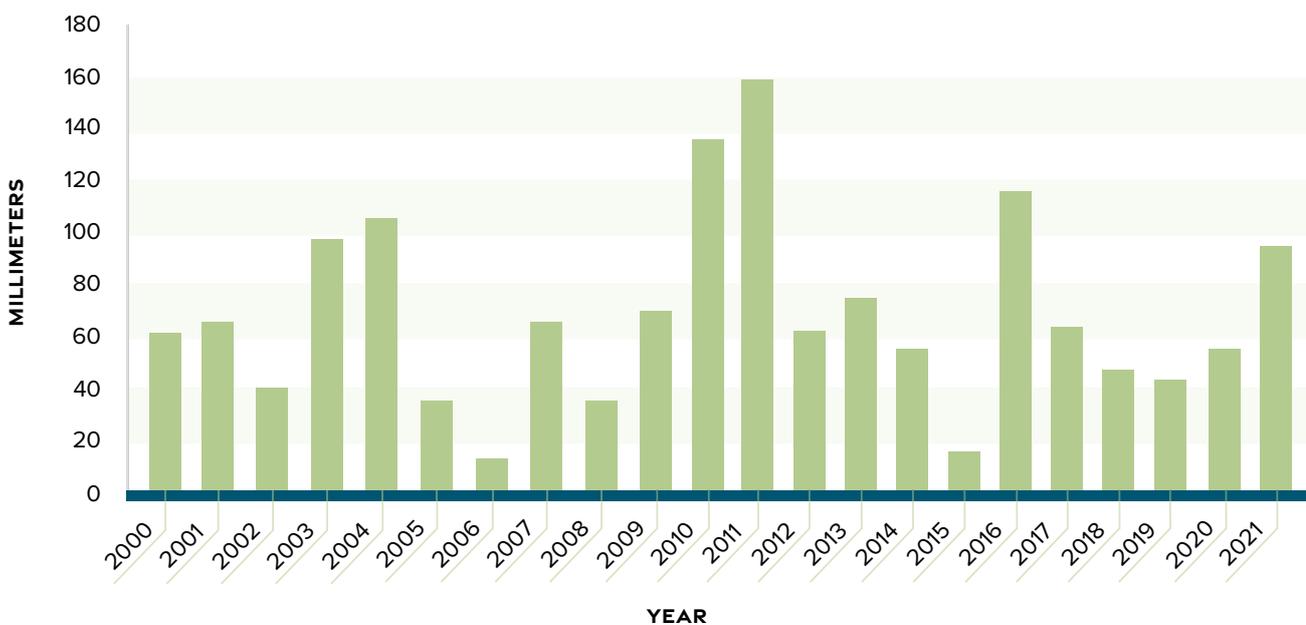
This indicator provides estimates of river inflows.

Over the past five years river inflows have been variable in the region, which is consistent with trends since 2000 (Figure 2). National modelling undertaken by the Australian National University indicates the annual river inflows in the Glenelg Hopkins region during 2021 were 96mm, which was significantly higher than previous four years. Over the longer term, average annual flow data (comparing the period 1973-1996 to 1997-2019) indicate substantial decline in flow volumes for the Glenelg Basin (57%) Portland Basin (40%) and Hopkins Basin (60%) (DELWP et al., 2020).

The Glenelg River is the only river in the region with a managed environmental water entitlement, involving managed water releases downstream of Rocklands Reservoir to support values including extraction and consumption, fish movement and water quality. This management has gone some way to countering the effects of both river regulation and climate change impacts, which has reduced natural flows downstream of Rocklands Reservoir. Managed water entitlement has made up more than 50% of the flow passing Rocklands Reservoir from 2010-2011.

Other rivers without large reservoirs have water sharing managed through passing flow rules at diversion points, limits on private dam construction, rosters, restrictions on when and how much water can be taken, and water trading rules.

Figure 2: Annual river inflows (mm) in the Glenelg Hopkins region over time (Source: Van Dijk et al., 2016).



2021-2022 Trend

Neutral

Rolling five-year Trend

Concerned

EXTENT OF WETLANDS

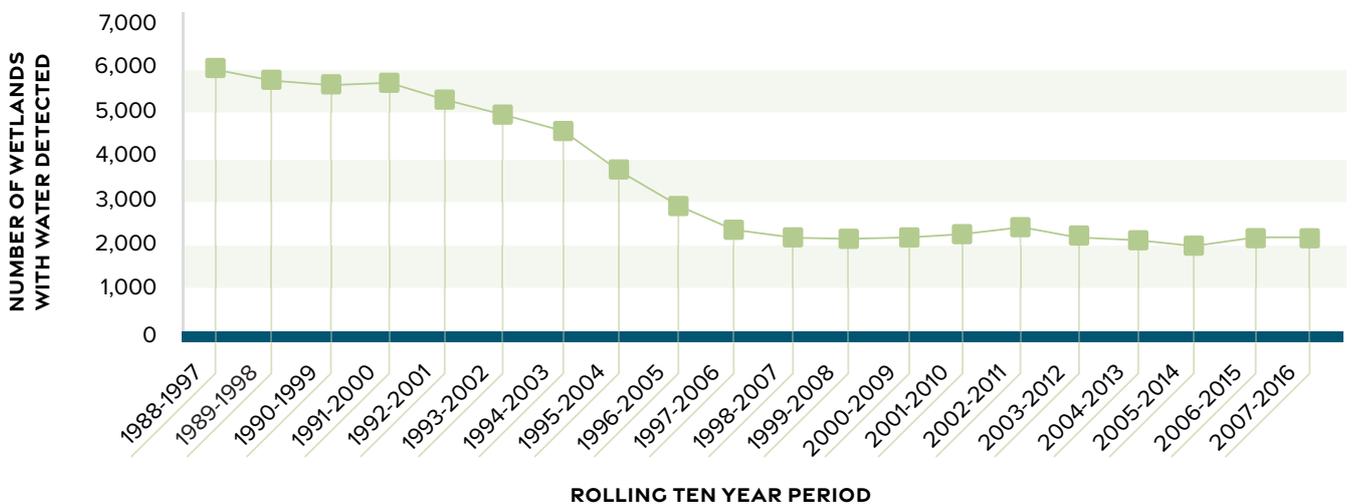
This indicator provides estimates of the overall rate of change in the extent and spatial distribution of wetlands and associated vegetation on public and private land in Victoria.

The Glenelg Hopkins region has more than 7,600 mapped natural wetlands, which represents 22% of the state's total number of wetlands. Wetlands cover 117,000ha, or 4%, of the region's area, contributing significantly to biodiversity as well as social, cultural, and recreational values.

The development of 80% of the region for agriculture, incorporating large scale drainage in many areas, combined with reductions in rainfall, has impacted both the condition and extent of wetlands.

Using satellite imagery from the Victorian Wetland Hydrology Monitoring project (DELWP, 2019) the number of wetlands with detectable water has dropped from around 6,000 of the 7,600 mapped wetlands of the region in the 1988-1997 decade to around 2,000 in the 2007-2016 decade (Figure 3).

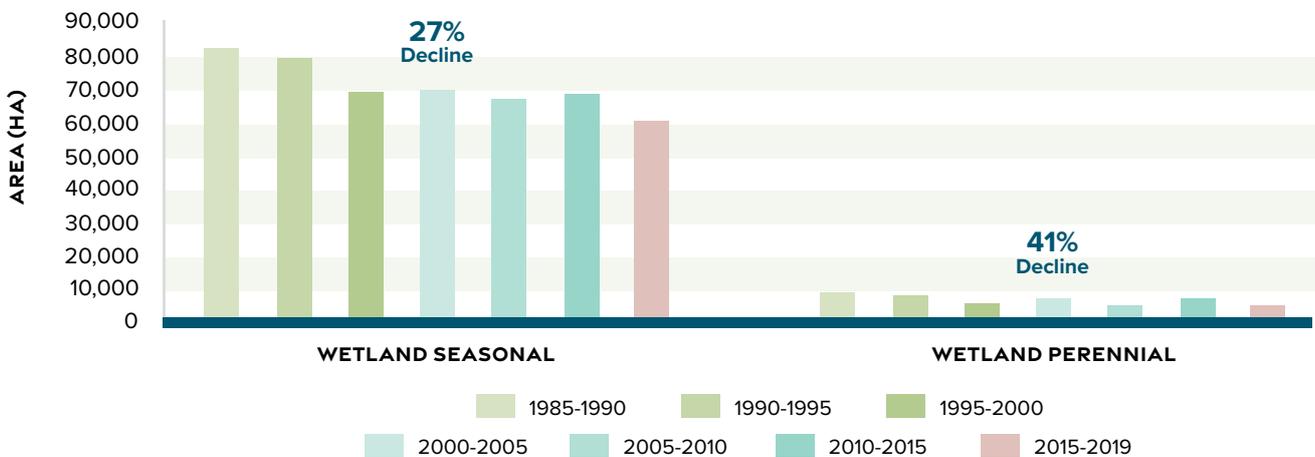
Figure 3: Declining number of wetlands with water detected in them over time (Source: Victorian Wetland Hydrology Monitoring project (Source: DELWP 2019).



Wetland vegetation cover has also declined significantly in both seasonal (27%) and perennial (41%) native wetlands since 1985 (Figure 4). The primary drivers are:

1. Climate change resulting in a step-change in rainfall in SE Australia around 1996-1997, and
2. Land use changes from grazing to either cropping or timber plantations.

Figure 4: Change in seasonal and perennial wetland vegetation cover (hectares) between 1985 and 2019.



2021-2022 Trend

Unknown

Rolling five-year Trend

Concerned

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

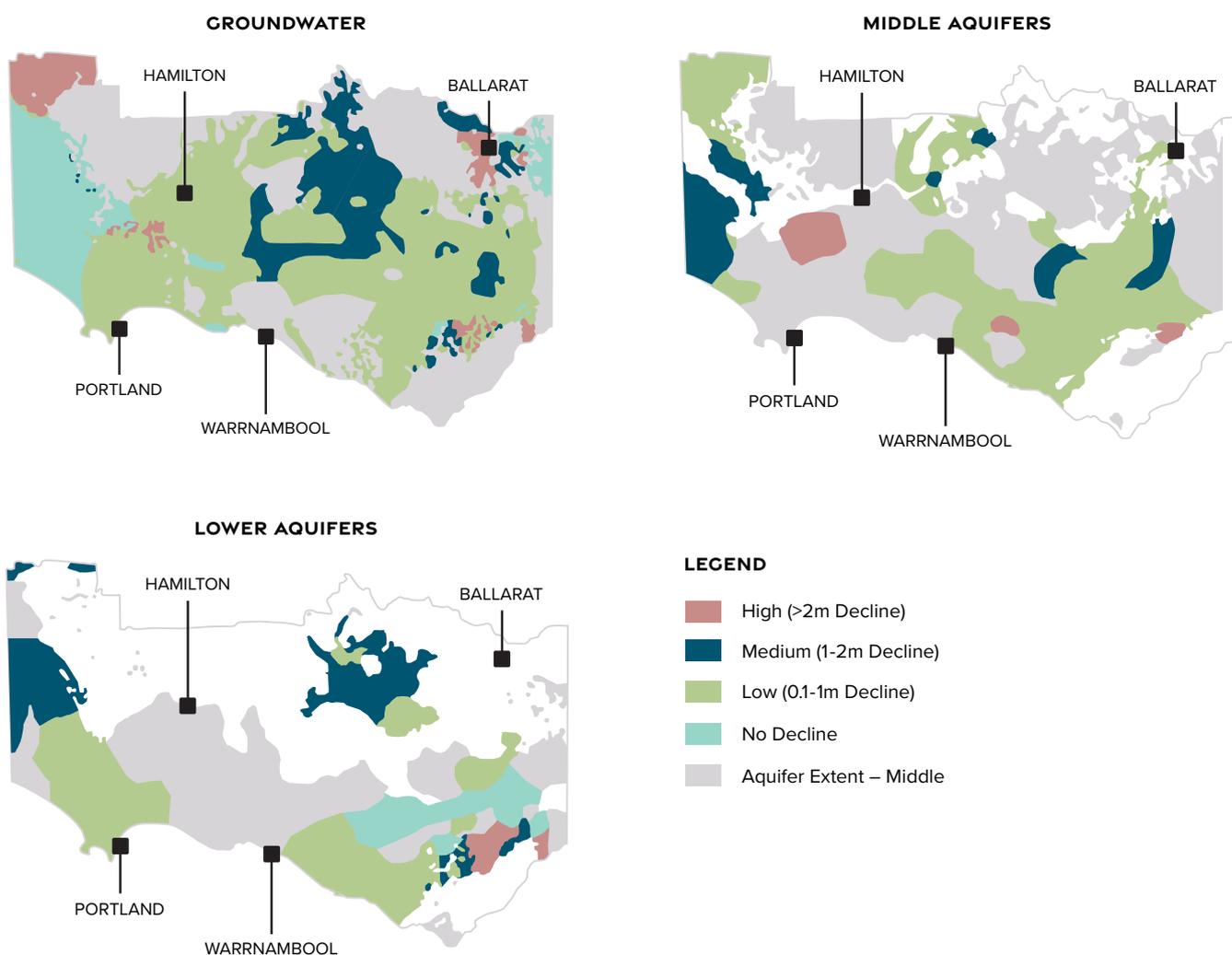
This indicator provides information on groundwater resources in Victoria.

The long-term water resource assessment for southern Victoria (DELWP, 2020) has identified a trend for declining water levels in upper, middle, and lower aquifers in the Glenelg Hopkins region (Figure 5).

This trend is attributed to changing seasonal rainfall patterns, with more variable rainfall less able to infiltrate to aquifers, declining annual rainfall volumes, and changing land-use practices (drainage of recharge areas, changing vegetation to types that use more water and reduce infiltration), and increased urbanisation.

Groundwater-dependent ecosystems are sensitive to changes in water table levels, and therefore declines pose a risk to those systems, including stream flows, wetlands, and some vegetation types.

Figure 5: Change in groundwater levels in the groundwater, middle and lower aquifers 1997-2017 c.f. 1975-1997 (Source: DELWP, 2020).



2021-2022 Trend

Unknown 

Rolling five-year Trend

Concerned 

Management Summaries

WATER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT	
<p>The project aims to preserve environmental values and health of water ecosystems. Key achievements for 2021-2022 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of two environmental water flows (December and March) to address a dry-very dry climate scenario • Planning, delivery, and monitoring of 9,801ml of environmental water, supporting the townships of Balmoral, Harrow, Casterton to Dartmoor • Development of the seasonal watering proposal in consultation with the Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group (GREWAG) and Traditional Owner organisations • Engaging with stakeholders and partners (e.g., GWMWater Storage Manager Reference Group meetings, Western Rivers Advisory Group meetings, and EWRO working group meetings) • Knowledge sharing with Traditional Owners about environmental watering objectives and desired cultural and ecological outcomes, and • Participation in the development and implementation of integrated water management plans for the Central Highlands and the Great South Coast. <p>The 2020-2024 Glenelg environmental water communications strategy has been used to build support of environmental water delivery in the Glenelg River. Outputs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winda-Mara junior ranger programs (January 2022) – water bug and fish monitoring activities on the Glenelg River • Johnny Mullagh cricket match weekend (March 2022) – 150 participants • Supporting school-aged girls STEM in water sensitive design – 120 participants, and • Mentoring of one Aboriginal Water Officer. 	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP (Environmental Water)</p>
FLOODPLAIN AND WATERWAY MANAGEMENT	
<p>This project supports the delivery of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's statutory functions, namely floodplain and waterway management responsibilities: providing flood advice, responding to statutory referrals, assessing, and issuing Works on Waterways Licenses, investigating compliance and enforcement issues, and working with both Local Government and VicSES to ensure that flood information is up-to-date and accurately reflected in the Municipal Flood Emergency Plans and Planning Schemes. Activities reported up to 31 May include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 799 registered applications (compared to 417 for 2020-2021) • 391 flood responses have been issued, and • 123 works on waterway responses have been issued. <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 245 enquiries have been attended to or are being resolved • Six planning scheme amendments are underway • Five VCAT hearings have been attended • 34 compliance issues are listed for action, and • Five Take-and-Use applications are underway. 	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP (Waterway Health)</p>
IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	
<p>This project supports delivery of the actions of the RFMS as both a lead and support agency. Work under this project involves meetings with delivery partners, periodical review, and update of RFMS actions, applying for and/or providing support for funding applications, assisting delivery partners with project management of flood investigations, involvement in planning scheme amendments and planning panels, and other further work with delivery partners to improve floodplain management and response functions. Of the 74 RFMS actions, 43 (58%) are now complete and another 15 (20%) are in progress.</p> <p>Regional flood studies</p> <p>The South Warrnambool Flood Investigation has been advertised for tender with the project expected to be awarded and commenced in the 2022-2023 financial year. It will determine both the riverine and coastal flooding impacts on South Warrnambool and will be a pivotal investigation for coastal flooding in the region. The Dartmoor and Nelson Flood Investigation has also been advertised for tender after successfully receiving funding through the Preparing Australian Communities Program. This project will commence in 2022-2023. Funding was received as part of the Preparing Australian Communities for the Southern Grampians flood planning for Coleraine and Dunkeld. It aims to identify the flood extent within the township of Dunkeld and apply flood related planning controls across Dunkeld and Coleraine to inform future development and town growth.</p>	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP (VWPIF)</p>

Management Summaries (*Continued*)

GLENELG FLOWS AND SHORTFALLS	
<p>This project will enhance existing environmental flow recommendations for the Glenelg River by incorporating Indigenous environmental knowledge, monitoring data, emerging knowledge, and climate change predictions. It will also use shortfall analysis to guide water recovery to protect values in the upper Glenelg River and the upper Wannon River. Key achievements for 2021-2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining membership of Steering Committee • Holding the Inaugural meeting. 	Victorian Government – DELWP (Environmental Water)
SOUTH-WEST SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION PROGRAM	
<p>This program supports the existing and developing irrigation enterprises to implement best-practice irrigation. Recognising a growing interest in irrigation within the region, support is provided through two SIP funding streams: 'Irrigation Frameworks' and 'Improving Wise Water Use and Best Practice. Key achievements for 2021-2022 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing a project officer • Supplying Southern Rural Water with 10 referral responses for eight Take-and-Use Licence applications • Drafting the Irrigation Development Guidelines and accompanying Fact Sheets. 	Victorian Government – DELWP (SIP – Irrigation Frameworks)
HABITAT FOR THE RIVERS OF WARRNAMBOOL	
<p>This program supports more sustainable and productive fisheries by reinstating 100 in-stream habitat features and 4ha of riparian vegetation along 2.95km of the Hopkins and Merri Rivers. Riparian works will provide a source of timber to mature and fall into the rivers. Work is supported by fish monitoring programs, partnerships with local angling groups and recreational fishers, and incorporates a strong communications and education element.</p>	Australian Government FHR
SUPPORTING REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGIES – URBAN WATERWAYS	
<p>This project focuses on protection and restoration of two significant urban waterways, namely the Grange Burn (Hamilton) and Merri River (Warrnambool) by building on existing programs. Activities will focus on weed control, the establishment of native vegetation, and the involvement of community groups to deliver and support works that educate and/or minimise harm and risks to the ecological health of these urban waterways.</p> <p>Grange Burn</p> <p>By end of July 2022 the remaining 5,000+ plants were planted via a collaborative event with local High School students. A concurrent project, “<i>Platycam</i>”, is reported in the Community case study.</p> <p>Merri River</p> <p>Planning, assessments, investigations, and consultation are underway for restoration of a natural wetland between Woodend Rd and Tarhook Rd. These works will align with Warrnambool City Council’s South of the Merri Precinct Plan and our CMA’s Rivers of Warrnambool Project.</p>	Wannon Water
ENHANCING ESTUARIES IN THE PORTLAND BASIN	
<p>Partnering with local angling groups, works to support sustainable and productive fisheries will be delivered on the Moyne River, Yambuk Lake, Fitzroy River, Surry River, and Fawthrop Lagoon estuaries – all popular fishing destinations in the region. This project will coordinate the installation of 4.4ha of instream habitat, 53ha of weed control and 5.3ha of revegetation over three years. In 2021-2022, over 2.1ha of brush-pile structures were installed in Yambuk Lake and Fitzroy River to benefit small bodied native fish and macroinvertebrates. This work will be built on next year with the installation of laydown snags and root balls.</p>	Australian Government FHR
ESTUARY MANAGEMENT PROJECT	
<p>The Estuary Management Project aims to protect and enhance priority regional estuaries through coordinated estuary entrance management, waterway and condition monitoring, and community engagement activities. The 2021-2022 Estuary Entrance Management activity has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed to improved management of six intermittently closed salt-wedge estuaries in the Glenelg Hopkins coastal region, and delivery of our statutory responsibilities regarding management of the Hopkins, Merri, Yambuk Lake, Fitzroy, Surry, and Glenelg River estuaries, and • Delivered five Artificial River Mouth Openings (ARMOs), which aligns with the long-term goal of reduced human interference in estuary entrance management. All openings were successfully delivered in partnership with local land managers and stakeholders under safe and appropriate environmental conditions. <p>The 2021-2022 EstuaryWatch and Coastal Community Engagement activity has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased the engagement, awareness, and motivation of our coastal community through six online publications and six community engagement events (157 participants), and • Supported our 12 EstuaryWatch volunteers on the Hopkins and Merri estuaries to monitor, advocate, and engage in coastal activities and the protection and management of Warrnambool’s estuaries. 	Victorian Government – DELWP (On-ground Works and CE)

IMPROVING RAMSAR SITE MANAGEMENT: GLENELG ESTUARY DISCOVERY BAY	
<p>This project delivers on Ramsar site coordination and management responsibilities at the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar site. In 2021-2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ramsar Coordinating Committee finalised the Annual Action Plan and delivery contracts for priority monitoring actions at the site • The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) for shorebirds and waterbirds were met for the second year running • Wetland water levels and estuary entrance conditions continued to be monitored to ensure the hydrology functions of the site are maintained • Monitoring of weed control at beach-nesting bird and shorebird zones indicated a marked difference in weed cover and habitat preference between control and treatment sites, and • A citizen science data collection project, aiming to better understand recreational pipi fishery use, commenced. 	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP (VWPIF)</p>
WESTERN WETLANDS AND RIVERS	
<p>Connecting Harrow to the Glenelg River</p> <p>This project partnered community and schools within the urban area of Harrow to deliver weed control and revegetation on the Glenelg River.</p> <p>Discussions also commenced with local Traditional Owners about the development of interpretative signage to be installed along the river near the town centre.</p> <p>Grange Burn Restoration Project</p> <p>The goal is to restore and improve critical habitat for the EPBC listed species Yarra Pygmy Perch, Variegated Pygmy Perch, Glenelg River Spiny Crayfish and Little Galaxias. Current threats are being addressed including the removal of structural weeds (English Ash, Poplars) and revegetation with 6,000 new local native seedlings to promote biodiversity and improve protection for endangered fauna. By partnering with the community, school groups, and organisations such as Southern Grampians Shire Council, restoration activities are being undertaken to fulfil environmental values, build on previously restored areas, and value-add to the recreational uses of the area.</p> <p>Wetlands of the West Glenelg</p> <p>Works focussed on improving the ecological values of wetlands through pest plant and animal control, fencing to control stock access, revegetation, and hydrological restoration. Activities are conducted across public and private land tenures. Approximately 200ha of pest plant control has been completed to date.</p>	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP (On-ground Works & CE)</p>
PRITCHARDS LANDING UPGRADE	
<p>The removal of the Pritchards Landing fixed jetty and replacement with a new pontoon-based jetty has achieved the following outcomes to support recreational fishing access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-abilities accessible jetty which is adaptive to changes in river height associated with estuary entrance closures and changes in sea-level • Capacity for three boats to tie-off during the heightened risk period of launching and recovering boats, improving safety and through-put, and • Modular construction resulting in the jetty extending 1.5m further into the river, providing greater depth during low tide. 	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP</p>
BROMFIELD STREET WEIR REMOVAL	
<p>This project will remove the redundant Bromfield Street weir, restoring fish passage, hydrology, and hydrodynamics of the Merri River estuary, and improving opportunities for recreational activities. Removal will increase the length of unimpeded flow by 50% to 21km upstream of the ocean, effectively providing improved fish passage along 647km of designated waterway within the Merri River catchment.</p>	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP</p>

Management Summaries (Continued)

REGIONAL PRIORITIES	
<p>Surface Water Monitoring</p> <p>This activity supports a cross-agency approach to monitoring water quality and responding to water quality events such as blue-green algae blooms across the Glenelg Hopkins Region. Delivered through the Regional Water Monitoring Partnership, it funds most of the CMA's flow, level, and water quality monitoring data, which in turn provides a substantial evidence base for adaptive management of waterways.</p> <p>Maintenance and Landholder re-engagement</p> <p>This activity supports landholders that were previously funded through EC to maintain works projects and pursue new opportunities. It enables the CMA to evaluate landholder views and audit previously funded sites. Outputs for 2021-2022 include landholder surveys/social assessments.</p> <p>Regional Works Crew</p> <p>This two-person crew enables the CMA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediately respond to natural disasters to help landholders secure fences and provide support at a time of uncertainty • Help landholders experiencing personal hardship fulfil commitments to deliver works • Increase the capacity of land managers to deliver works consistent with the RWS. <p>The Regional Works Crew have exceeded some program goals through the completion of 102.83ha woody weed control and 8.48km of fencing maintenance.</p>	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP</p>
BUDJ BIM CONNECTIONS	
<p>This new project, started in December 2021, has achieved:</p> <p>Riparian Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-ground works with GMTOAC have included 36ha Italian Buckthorn control at Tyrendarra Flora Reserve, 3ha of willow control at Tyrendarra Streamside Reserve • Completion of associated aerial imagery, and • The development of a MERI plan is underway – liaison complete, draft in progress. <p>Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of community activities has been undertaken including nine publications, events around education activities, and community awareness • A Community Day on Italian Buckthorn and, • Liaison with Heywood and District Secondary College and tour of Tyrendarra IPA with Winda-Mara. 	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP</p>

WATERWAYS CASE STUDY: Fish Habitat Installation Warrnambool

In 2017, Australia’s first river restoration crowdfunding project began. Under the program ‘Funds for Fish’, the Merri River project reached 153% of its funding goal to establish the first fish habitat in the Merri River. Although the amount of money raised was relatively small, the project proved impactful, reaching 319,548 people, and demonstrably increased industry, angler, and community awareness and involvement in the Merri River restoration. It is the most successful social media crowdfunding campaign in the CMA industry to date.

Before the project began, we asked local groups to prioritise what was most important to them as a key objective for the program. They identified instream habitat improvement – and once the fish habitat was installed in 2018, monitoring demonstrated increased fish abundance and improved distribution of size classes compared with pre intervention baseline results. For example, Black Bream populations increased by 89% and Yellow Eyed Mullet increased by 41%.

Since then, the CMA has effectively engaged anglers to help support and secure a wide range of ever larger projects that increase fish populations and recreational access. In a positive feedback loop, these projects increase social and traditional media engagement for the CMA.

This new focus on larger scale instream habitat development, through the *Habitat for the Rivers of Warrnambool* project, aims to support more sustainable and productive fisheries. The current goal is to reinstate over 100 in-stream habitat features and 4ha of riparian vegetation along 2.95km of the Hopkins and Merri Rivers. In 2020-2022, 70 individual habitat units were installed in both the Hopkins and Merri Rivers.

Fish habitats, comprising both constructed and natural features, will continue to be installed to provide medium-term outcomes, while long-term benefits will be secured through riparian works to provide a source of timber that will mature and fall into the rivers. The project has a clear plan, established partnerships, and an established and cost-effective method for delivering fish habitat projects in partnership with recreational fishers.

In April 2022, Glenelg Hopkins CMA hosted 40 community members for a fish habitat workshop in Warrnambool, Victoria, to enhance awareness of the habitat for the Rivers of Warrnambool project. Participants built habitats and Lewis Piles and placed them into the Hopkins River. Industry leaders in this new and growing field of “improving Fish Habitat” also presented the latest information on the day.

Partners/Investors:
This project is funded by the Federal Government’s Fisheries Habitat Restoration program and Victorian State Government EC5 On-ground Works & CE – New EC5 Flagship



ABOVE: Field Trip on the Hopkins River, Warrnambool during a Fish Habitat Workshop

Scan the QR code or click here to view a video about the Fish Habitat Installation Warrnambool.



RIGHT: Fish habitat being installed into the Hopkins River, Warrnambool

Land

PERCENTAGE OF EXPOSED SOILS

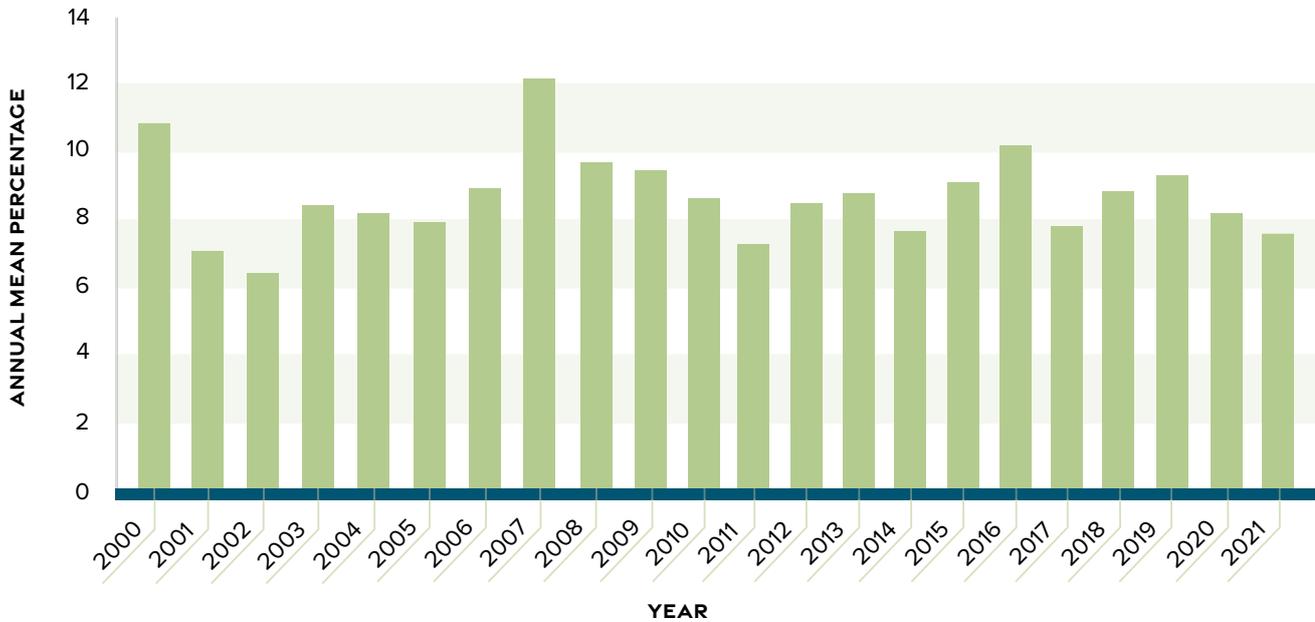
This indicator enables the reporting of percentages of exposed soil on public and private land.

Groundcover is commonly used as an indicator of soil health at a regional level. Bare soil can be used as a proxy for erosion risk because exposed soil is more likely to suffer from wind or water erosion as well as loss of organic carbon (VCMC, 2017).

The recommended amount of groundcover to maintain an acceptable risk of erosion in eastern Australia is 70%.

The percentage area of exposed soil across the Glenelg Hopkins region has varied only marginally on an annualised basis over the past 20 years, within the range of 6-12% (Figure 6). Data for 2021 indicated the area of exposed soil (7.6%) was slightly below average over the period 2000-2021 (8.7%).

Figure 6: Annual mean percentage of exposed soil in Glenelg Hopkins region over time.



2021-2022 Trend

Neutral

Rolling five-year Trend

Neutral

AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

This indicator aims to provide estimates of the type and gross value of agriculture commodities in Victoria.

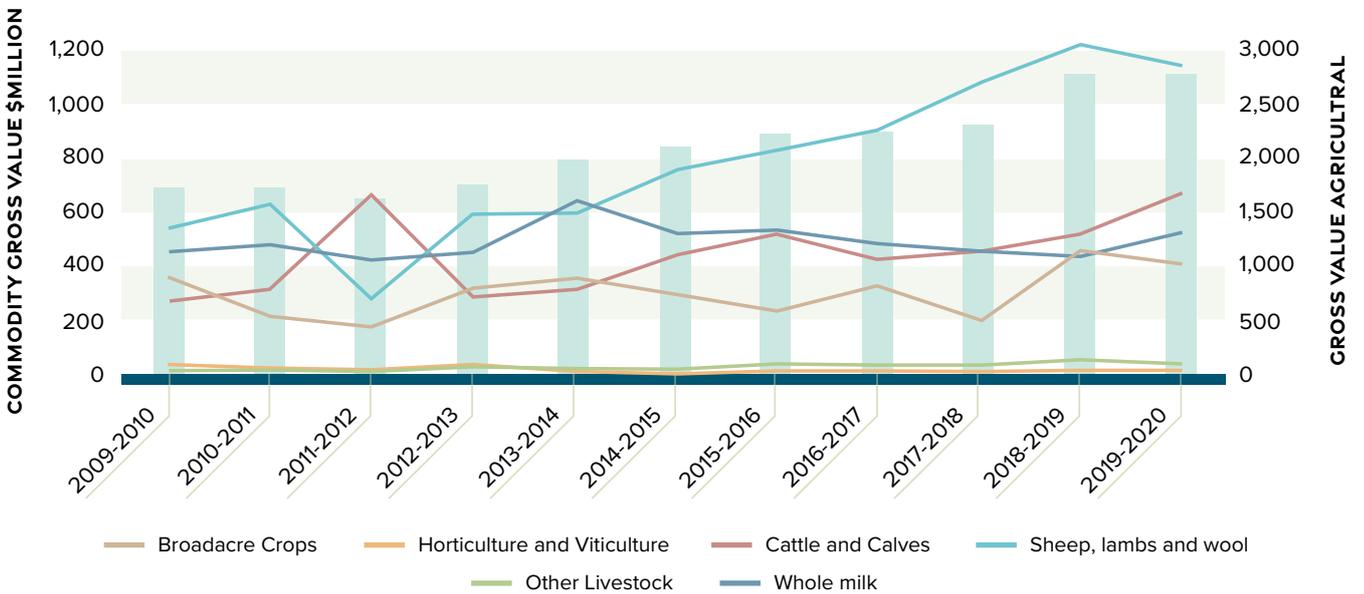
With rich soils and reliable rainfall, this region is home to a vibrant food and fibre sector, including red meat production, grains and cropping, wool, dairy, aquaculture, and forestry. The region is one of Australia’s most productive agricultural regions, with gross value of agricultural gradually increasing over the past decade from around \$1.67 billion in 2009-2010 to around \$2.8 billion in 2019-2020 (ABS 2021).

This makes it the highest ranking NRM region in Australia that year. Figure 7 presents the value of agricultural commodities in the Glenelg Hopkins region. In summary, 2019-2020 gross values for major commodities were:

- Broadacre crops \$405m
- Cattle and Calves \$668m
- Sheep, Lambs and Wool \$1,139m
- Whole Milk \$526m

Of note is an upward trend in Whole milk production in 2019-2020, partially reversing a trend of decline since 2013 (potentially indicating stabilisation of the industry).

Figure 7: Value of agricultural commodities produced in the Glenelg Hopkins region 2009-2020.

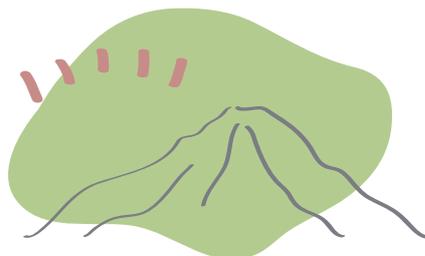


2021-2022 Trend

Positive ✓

Rolling five-year Trend

Positive ✓



AMOUNT AND CHANGE OVER TIME OF LAND USE

This indicator provides estimates of the current and overall rate of change in the extent and spatial distribution of land use classes on public and private land in Victoria.

Public land* accounts for 18% of the Glenelg Hopkins land area. Agricultural land accounts for 81% of land use, including cropping, dairy, sheep, and beef production. 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 common in the western and south-west parts of the catchment.

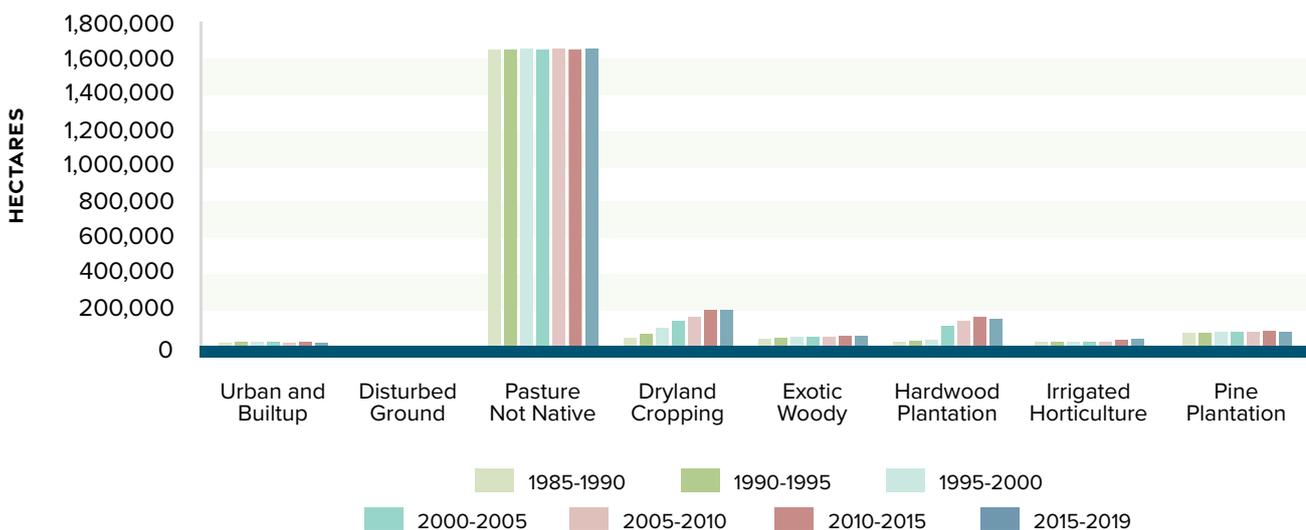
Figure 8 presents the extent of land cover classes in the Glenelg Hopkins region since 1985. In summary:

- The area under cropping has increased from around 34,000ha in 1990, to almost 200,000ha in 2018-2019
- There has been a decrease in land under grazing since 1990, however it currently accounts for 75% of agricultural land use in the region, and

- The area used for hardwood plantations peaked at around 14,000ha in 2015 (most significantly in the Glenelg catchment). More recently the focus has been on consolidation of resources, and conversion to pasture after harvest has become more common.

* (Public land) – Historical and Cultural Features Area, Natural Features Reserve, Nature Conservation Reserve, Regional Park, Scenic Reserve, State Forest, Wilderness Area

Figure 8: Extent of land cover classes in the Glenelg Hopkins region over time (Victorian Land Cover Time Series, DELWP).

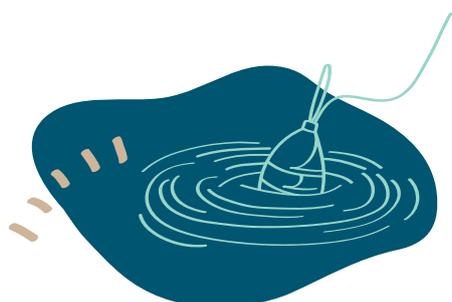


2021-2022 Trend

Neutral

Rolling five-year Trend

Neutral



Management Summaries

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: SOILS4FARMS	
<p>Soils4Farms is a partnership between Glenelg Hopkins CMA, industry organisations, the Landcare community, and Traditional Owner groups to help farmers to improve and protect the condition of soil, vegetation, and biodiversity within a productive and profitable farm business.</p> <p>With acidification being the priority threat to regional soils and long-term farm productivity, Soils4Farms provides training and learning opportunities to support farmers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understand soil and soil processes, • Learn about practices and approaches for improving soil condition, • Adapt their farm to a warmer, drier more variable climate, and • Maintain production and profit against land, climate, and market challenges. <p>To better understand regional trends in soil condition over time, Soils4Farms will establish 100 soil monitoring sites on commercially operated farms across the CMA region. Soil testing will be undertaken in years one and five of the project, with a goal to repeat five-yearly testing into the future. This enables trends in condition to be identified.</p> <p>In 2021-2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 community engagement events (workshops, field days) were held, with 824 farmers attending, • 8 agreements were maintained or established with project delivery partners, • 1 regional land use survey was undertaken and report completed, and • 29 whole of farm plans were created. 	<p>Australian Government – NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships</p>
SMART FARMING PARTNERSHIPS	
<p>This project, led by Southern Farming Systems, is now complete. Glenelg Hopkins CMA coordinated the refinement and expansion of the Western Victorian soil moisture probe network and led the development of a satellite imagery platform for monitoring regional groundcover, crop, and pasture growth (in partnership with Southern Farming Systems and CeRDI). Key outputs include the <i>My Farm Dashboard</i>, which gives on-demand automated access to climate records, seasonal forecast data, satellite derived pasture biomass estimates, soil moisture probe data, and historic commodity prices.</p>	<p>Southern Farming Systems through the Australian Government – NLP2 Smart Farming Partnerships</p>
NRM DROUGHT RESILIENCE PROGRAM	
<p>The aim of this project was to increase the drought resilience of farmers and agricultural enterprises in the Glenelg Hopkins region by creating an online repository of recently developed local research, data, and tools to support drought adaptation. It has been delivering a capacity-building and extension program to enable farmers to access and use the material for farm planning.</p>	<p>Commonwealth Government – Future Drought Fund</p>
AGRICULTURE VICTORIA ACTIVITIES (INVASIVE PROGRAM, BUSINESS RESILIENCE TRAINING)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections for Serrated Tussock were undertaken at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 7 properties in the Dunkeld area, covering approximately 740ha all seed set prevented, two Legal Notices to control served – 60 properties in the Hamilton area, covering approximately 2,097ha all seed set prevented, three Legal Notices to control served – 10 properties in the Upper Hopkins area, covering over 16,501ha and – 39 properties under the Serrated Tussock Regionally Prohibited Weed Surveillance Project, covering over 4,353ha one Legal Notice to control served. • Inspections for the Regionally Prohibited Weed Program: Silver Leaf Nightshade, Golden Thistle, Amsinckia, Spiny Burr Grass were undertaken at nine properties, totalling over 1,310ha all infestations contained. <i>NOTE: For every \$1.00 invested in Regionally Prohibited Weed control an average benefit of \$7.95 can be delivered</i> • 3 properties inspected, covering over 410ha for the Rabbit compliance program in and around Bryan Swamp • 14 properties inspected, covering over 920ha to support sustained community led action on blackberry in the Dartmoor district along the Glenelg River • 28,304 fox scalps collected (Hamilton and Warrnambool). Total 151,454 since 2011 • Mexican Feather Grass infestations monitored and treated towards eradication • Rabbit monitoring at Tyrendarra – Maintaining unique long-term data on Victorian rabbit populations, effectiveness of RHD, conventional control measures, and to inform strategic rabbit management • Assisting Municipal Councils towards coordinated roadside invasive plant and animal management • Attendance at a local rabbit action group meeting at Tower Hill to provide best practice advice to private and public land managers and, • Farm Business Resilience Training – the Dunkeld BestWool/BestLamb Group started meeting in person again in May and June 2021-2022 after a two-year, COVID-related hiatus. 	<p>Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – Agriculture Victoria</p>
AGRICULTURE VICTORIA ACTIVITIES – GRAINS, MEAT, AND WOOL	
<p>Agriculture Victoria’s activities improved farmer knowledge, skills, and decision-making to protect and improve soil quality, manage farm risks, and support natural disaster preparation and recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 grains related activities (228 attendees), • 62 meat and wool related activities (751 attendees). <p>The desired long-term outcome is “productive, resilient, and sustainable Victorian dryland farming systems integrated with regional landscapes”.</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – Agriculture Victoria</p>

LAND CASE STUDY:

Filling the 'seed' gap – Bush Regeneration workshops

Two current key drivers of the Soils4Farms project are to improve soil by increasing ground cover, and to increase the diversity of both pasture species and active soil organisms on farms.

Farmers and Landcare groups are committed to increasing diversity of plants of local provenance in revegetation projects. However, it is increasingly difficult to source these plants. The rising costs of seed collection, the expense of nurturing slow growing species, and difficulty in accessing mature plants has resulted in a reduced variety of species available through nurseries.

The Southwest Environment Alliance (SEA) Landcare network recognised an opportunity for Landcare to help fill the "seed gap" by collecting seeds and learning how to successfully propagate local plant varieties. Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with SEA and South West TAFE to develop and deliver a bush regeneration training program for Landcare groups and farmers.

In May 2022, the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Sustainable Agriculture project supported the first two workshops delivered by South West TAFE. Workshop one introduced participants to plant identification, seed collection, and propagation from seeds and cuttings. Workshop two covered seed extraction, cleaning, storage, growing tube stock, different planting methods, weed control, and maintenance. The third and final workshop will be held in February 2023, when a different variety of seeds become seasonably available for collection.

All those attending ranked the training as effective and reported a dramatic increase in their skills and confidence to identify endemic plants, collect seed, and commence their propagation. It is envisaged that other Landcare networks will see value in the training and look to holding the bush regeneration workshops for their groups in the future.

Partners:
Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Southwest Environment Alliance (SEA) Landcare network, South West TAFE (Portland campus)

Investors:
This project is funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program

RIGHT: SEA Landcare network members clear husks from collected seed using a fan



Biodiversity

EXTENT OF NATIVE VEGETATION (HA)

This indicator aims to provide estimates of the current and previous extent and spatial distribution of native vegetation on public and private land in Victoria.

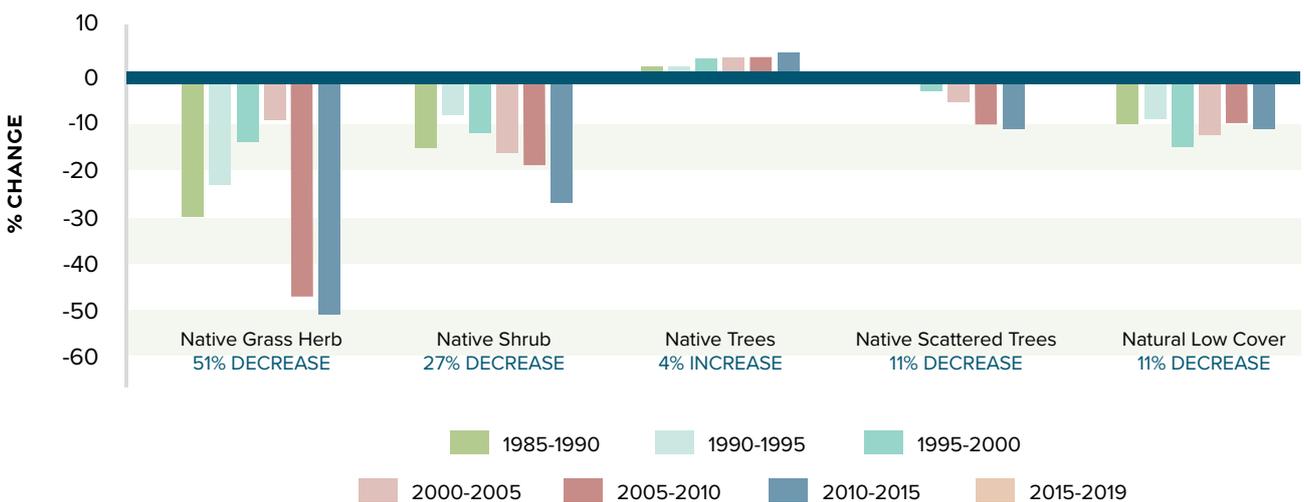
Based on the Victorian Landcover Time Series (DELWP) from the 1985 to 2019 baseline period, there have been declines in most classes of native vegetation cover (Table 4).

Table 4: Changes in hectares for vegetation classes across the Glenelg Hopkins region over time from the 1985-1990 baseline period, adapted from the Victorian Landcover Time Series (DELWP).

	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2019
NATIVE GRASS HERB	147,145	102,765	113,179	126,364	134,621	78,433	71,679
NATIVE SHRUB	21,811	18,490	20,168	19,152	18,244	17,607	15,848
NATIVE TREES	444,005	448,928	447,214	455,130	455,589	458,712	463,222
NATIVE SCATTERED TREES	132,800	133,294	133,015	128,599	125,626	119,770	118,200
NATURAL LOW COVER	10,133	9,158	9,185	8,582	8,892	9,159	8,974

This resulted in an 11% decline for native scattered trees, 51% decline in native grass herblands, a 27% decline in native shrub cover and a 11% decline on natural low cover from the baseline period (1985-1990). The only classes showing an increase since the 1985-1990 period are native tree cover with a 4% increase and saltmarsh with a 27% increase (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Percentage change in land cover of vegetation classes across the Glenelg Hopkins region over time from the 1985-1990 baseline period, adapted from the Victorian Landcover Time Series (DELWP).



2021-2022 Trend

Concerned

Rolling five-year Trend

Concerned

AREA (HA) OF PEST CONTROL

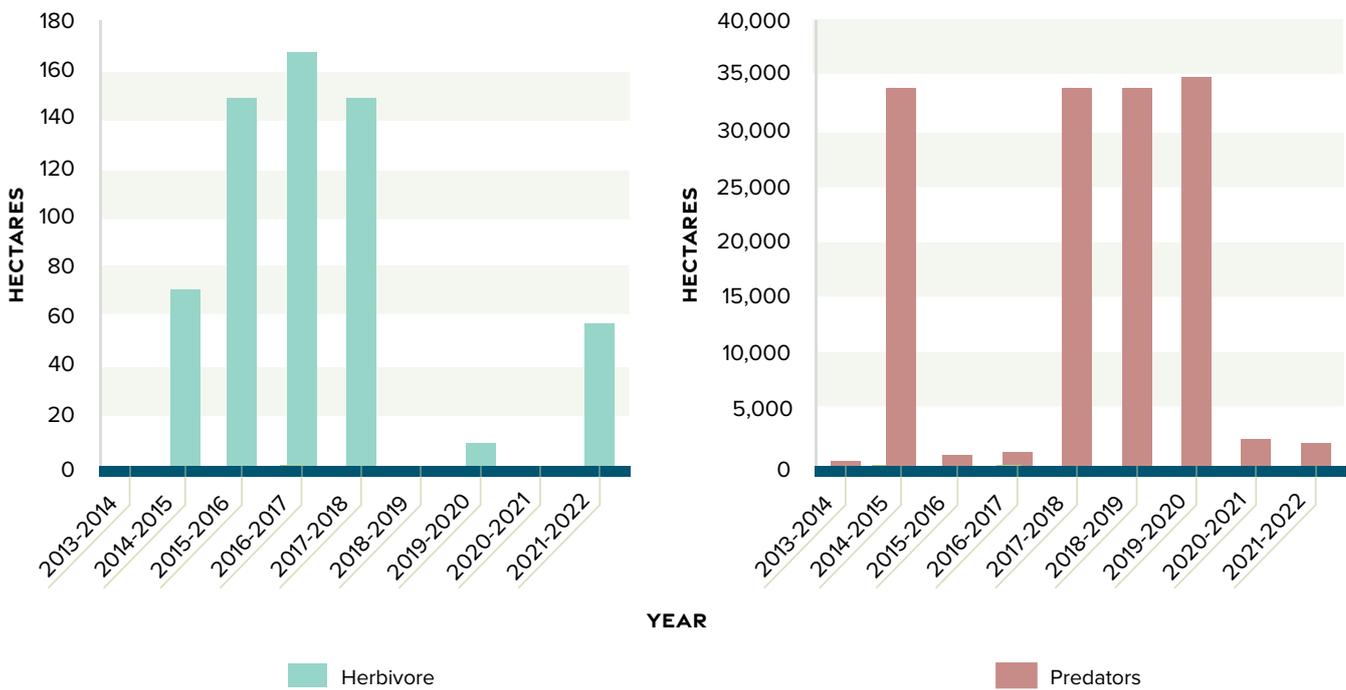
This indicator provides information on the area treated for pest control, including herbivore and predator control, under CMA's initiatives.

Species composition of the Glenelg Hopkins region has undergone a dramatic transformation since European arrival. To date, 41 pest animals and 653 introduced plants have been recorded in the region. In the south-west of the region on the Glenelg Plain, there has been extensive work to protect vulnerable animals from predation through the Glenelg Ark project.

Overall, 2,076ha were treated for pest control in 2021-2022 (2,019ha for foxes, 57ha for rabbits) under Glenelg Hopkins CMA initiatives (Figure 10). This was just below the 2,302ha target for this year. This target was significantly reduced from the targets of the previous three years when a large area was targeted for fox control under the Our Catchment Our Community Program.

Despite substantial effort and progress for control of some pest species (i.e., foxes), there are significant emerging issues with other species (i.e., pigs).

Figure 10: Pest control measures under Glenelg Hopkins CMA initiatives from 2013 to 2021.



2021-2022 Trend

Concerned

Rolling five-year Trend

Concerned

AREA (HA) OF WEED CONTROL

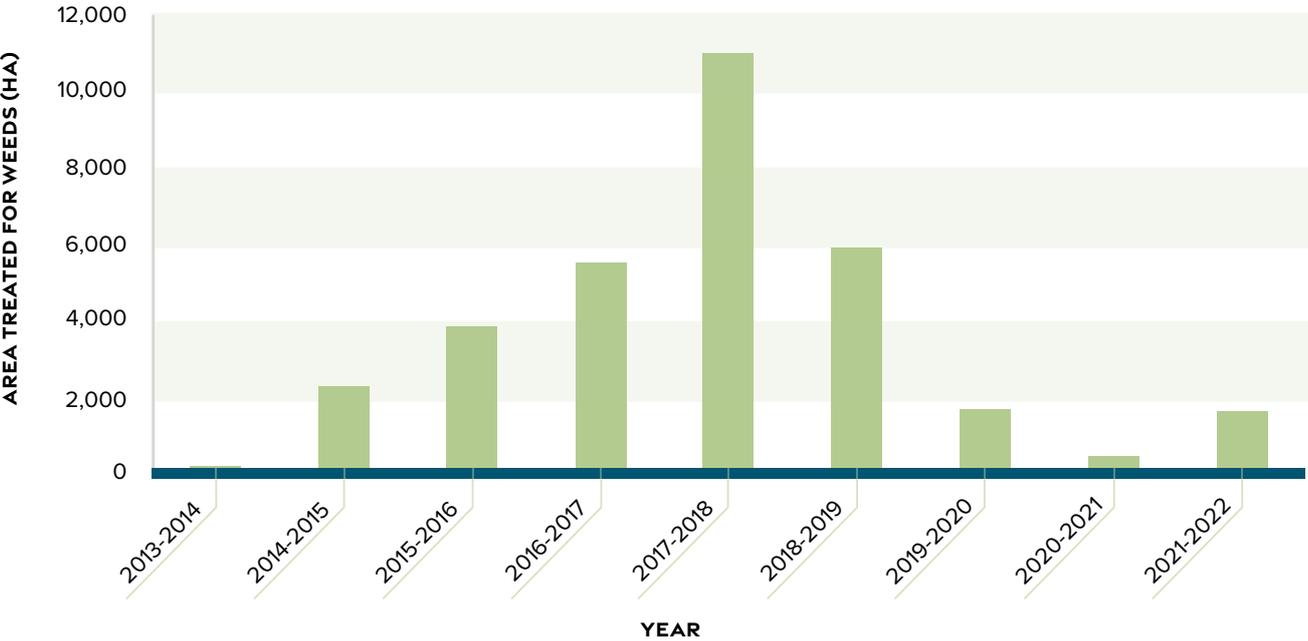
This indicator provides information on the area treated for weeds under CMA’s initiatives.

Grassy ecosystems of the region face a threat from introduced pasture grasses. One of the most concerning species is *Phalaris*, which can rapidly out-compete native species and alter fire behaviour. For example, *Phalaris*-dominated roadsides accumulate higher levels of biomass, burn three times as intensely, and are far more unpredictable than fire on native-dominated roadsides.

In areas such as the Glenelg Plain and Dundas Tablelands, woody species such as pine, coast wattle, and hedge wattle commonly invade forests and woodlands, developing dense canopies that can inhibit the recruitment of native plants.

This process has also been occurring in the Grampians within the Victoria Valley, where manuka has invaded red gum woodland, possibly in response to a decline in fire frequency and the legacy of historical grazing. Figure 11 indicates weed treatment activity in the region since 2013.

Figure 11: Areas treated for weeds in the Glenelg Hopkins region over time.

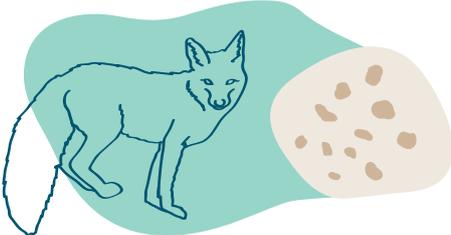


2021-2022 Trend

Concerned !

Rolling five-year Trend

Concerned !



AREA (HA) OF PERMANENT PROTECTION

This indicator provides information on the number, extent and distribution of government, Indigenous, and privately protected areas in Victoria.

Public land accounts for 18% of the Glenelg Hopkins land area. This includes five National Parks – Lower Glenelg (27,300ha), Mount Richmond (4,280ha), Cobboboonee (18,510ha), Gariwerd (Grampians) (167,219ha) and Budj Bim (5,470ha) – as well as State Parks and other public land reserves, including five Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) covering almost 4,000ha and private land conservation covenants totalling around 5,250ha (Table 5).

Table 5: Number, extent and distribution of government, Indigenous and privately protected areas in Glenelg Hopkins region in 2022.

PROTECTION TYPE	NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS	TOTAL AREA (HA)	% OF TOTAL PROTECTED AREAS IN THE REGION
NATIONAL PARK	5	222,779	44
STATE PARK	6	31,320	6
OTHERS (PUBLIC LAND)*		246,563	48
INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AREAS	5	3,884	1
CONSERVATION COVENANTS AND OTHERS (PRIVATE LAND)**	111	5,250	1

*Others (Public land) – Historical and Cultural Features Area, Natural Features Reserve, Nature Conservation Reserve, Regional Park, Scenic Reserve, State Forest, Wilderness Area

**Others (Private land) – Private Nature Reserve

2021-2022 Trend

Positive 

Rolling five-year Trend

Neutral 

Management Summaries

RED-TAILS OF THE GLENELG PLAIN	
<p>This project supports actions to prevent further decline of the endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (SRBC). Priority actions address threats from habitat loss through regeneration of feed trees, protection and augmentation of nest sites, and use of Traditional Burning techniques for wildfire management. Key achievements for 2021-2022 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent protection of 60ha of known South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat • Monitoring of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat, food resources and ecological responses to Traditional Burning techniques, and • Revegetation of 56ha of Brown Stringybark feeding habitat. 	<p>Australian Government – NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships</p>
VICTORIAN VOLCANIC PLAINS RECOVERY PROJECT	
<p>The Victorian Volcanic Plains Recovery Project will enhance three critically listed <i>EPBC Act</i> ecological communities and three critically endangered species (Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Button Wrinklewort, and Spiny Rice-flower). Activities run across land tenures, working with private landholders and public land managers. Key achievements for 2021-2022 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 738.6ha of critically endangered Ecological Communities are under management agreement with either the CMA or TfN • Ecological burns conducted by CFA volunteers in high conservation native grassland roadsides, with follow-up weed control programs. The Westmere group burnt over 250km in the 2021-2022 burn season • Three successful field days in November 2021 • Evidence of recruitment in the new Eastern Barred Bandicoot population at Tiverton • 460 Spiny Rice-flower seeds delivered to the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria for viability testing and germination • New Button Wrinklewort populations going well, with low biomass levels; it is anticipated that we will start to see recruitment this year, and • The first 1.2ha of scalped sites along the Penshurst Dunkeld Rd sown down to native grassland in partnership with Department of Transport and La Trobe University. 	<p>Australian Government – NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships</p>
PROTECTION OF CRITICAL HABITAT VALUES OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LISTED BUDJ BIM CULTURAL LANDSCAPE	
<p>This new project will protect regenerating woodlands and cultural heritage (including ancient eel traps and stone house structures) from the impacts of increasing feral pig infestations after the 2019-2020 bushfires. A secondary activity will focus on sustaining the control of weeds in the fire footprint. Approximately 65% of the area (6,400ha) was affected by the bushfires.</p> <p>In 2021-2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project initiation with partners was completed (DELWP, Barwon South West and Gunditj Mirring TOAC) • A project agreement with DELWP Barwon South West was signed • One engagement activity was held, introducing land managers, including Gunditjmara Traditional Owners, neighbours, and stakeholders to monitoring and treatment plans for feral pigs • Two social media communications informing the community about the project, the feral pig issue on the Budj Bim landscape, and pig monitoring techniques • Baseline data and recommended pig trap locations reports prepared by DELWP, and • Services relating to pig and weed treatments due for delivery in 2022-2023. 	<p>Australian Government – NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships</p>
BLOWING AWAY ON THE PLAINS: RECOVERY OF ADAMSON'S BLOWN GRASS ON THE VVP	
<p>The GHCMA will lead a project to address decline and threats to <i>Lachnagrostis adamsonii</i>, listed as Endangered under the <i>EPBC Act 1999</i> and <i>FFG Act 1988</i>. Most remnant populations are in south-west Victoria, on roadsides and private land, in slow moving creeks, depressions and seasonally inundated drainage lines that are saline. Most known populations are <1ha. Threats include altered hydrology, weed invasion, disturbance, and inappropriate grazing. Activities will largely be delivered in 2022-2023, including monitoring, population viability analysis, on-ground threat abatement, and community engagement.</p>	<p>Australian Government – Environment Restoration Fund</p>

Management Summaries (Continued)

MANAGING PINE INVASION OF FEEDING HABITAT OF THE RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO	
<p>This project focuses on mitigating pine invasion of habitat of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Recent mapping and modelling indicate that pine infestation impacts between 9-53% of their habitat. Past investments in control are beginning to show results but many sites remain untreated. Working with project stakeholders, including private and public land managers, the project will take a targeted, landscape-scale approach, focussing on an area with the most frequent records of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo. Works to be conducted into the 2022-2023 year aim to reduce pine infestations in feeding habitat to a level considered manageable in the future.</p>	<p>Australian Government – Environment Restoration Fund</p>
GREENING AUSTRALIA – INCREASING FOOD SUPPLY FOR THE SOUTH-EASTERN RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO	
<p>In 2021-2022, Greening Australia established 100,000 Desert Stringybark seedlings across 862ha of degraded Stringybark forest habitat in Drajurk and Roseneath State Forests. The plantings are intended to increase food supply for the nationally endangered South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and provide improved habitat for the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and the vulnerable Long-nosed Potoroo. This complements previous work undertaken by DELWP to control pine wildlings across these areas.</p>	<p>Funded through a partnership with AstraZeneca</p>
PARKS VIC – GLENELG ARK	
<p>This project has undertaken fox control in over 90,000ha of highly significant habitat. As a result, there has been a substantial decline in fox numbers, leading to an increase in population numbers of the threatened southern brown bandicoot and long-nosed potoroo.</p>	<p>Funded through a partnership with AstraZeneca</p>
PARKS VICTORIA – PROTECTION OF MANNA GUM FOREST, BUDJ BIM NATIONAL PARK	
<p>The koala management project protects the Stony Rises Woodland EVC, minimising further decline in Manna gum canopy condition and protecting living cultural heritage and landscape values in Stone Country. In 2021-2022 this included six weeks of koala fertility treatment and monitoring of the koala density in the park.</p>	<p>Parks Victoria</p>
<p>A deer control program was implemented in BBNP. In 2021-2022, with support from the Western Region Parks Victoria Deer Control Program, DELWP and Gunditj Mirring, aerial control operations removed 238 Fallow Deer.</p>	<p>Parks Victoria, funded by Bushfire Recovery Response Program, DELWP</p>
PARKS VICTORIA – GRAMPIANS ARK, GRAMPIANS-GARIWERD NATIONAL PARK	
<p>Grampians Ark is a 226,000ha landscape-scale, tenure blind project delivered in collaboration with Panyyabyr and Mirranatwa Landcare groups. Grampians Ark integrates fox control at the scale and intensity needed to protect native small mammals, reptiles and birds across the national heritage listed Gariwerd landscape. As part of this project, small mammal trapping has been occurring since 2008, to monitor post-fire impacts and small mammal recovery, one the largest small mammal monitoring programs in Australia.</p>	<p>Parks Victoria</p>
PARKS VICTORIA – DEER AND GOAT CONTROL IN WESTERN VICTORIA RESERVES	
<p>With funding from the Victorian Deer Strategy Implementation fund and Biodiversity Response Planning, Parks Victoria conducted pest herbivore control to reduce the impact of grazing in protected areas. Parks Victoria conducted aerial control operations at Jancourt Nature Conservation Reserve, and ground shooting and aerial control at Mt Napier State Park. Thermal monitoring was trialed at Mortlake Common Flora Reserve.</p>	<p>Parks Victoria</p>
TRUST FOR NATURE (TFN) – CONSERVATION COVENANTS	
<p>In 2021-2022 TfN has protected an additional 361.84ha of habitat with conservation covenants registered on title:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walker Swamp, totalling 197.05ha was sourced by GHMA through the Our Catchments Our Communities program Two covenants in the Greater Grampians Bioregion totalling 164.79ha were sourced by the Victorian Government through Biodiversity Response Planning program and TfN Iconic Estate Projects. 	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP (OCOC) and Biodiversity Response Planning program, and TfN Iconic Estate Projects.</p>

DELWP – BUDJ BIM INTEGRATED INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROGRAM	
<p>Activities to assist with recovery of areas impacted by 2019-2020 bushfires include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50,000+ hectares of herbivore control delivered • 165 feral pigs and 148 deer removed from the landscape so far. 	Victorian Government through BBRR Program
DELWP – ICON FUNDING – HAMILTON AND TIVERTON SAFE HAVENS	
<p>Hamilton Tree safety removal around predator-proof fence, Creation of the Hamilton Safe Haven Macropod management plan.</p> <p>Tiverton Improvement to the boundary management vehicle track.</p>	Funded through BioDiv
DELWP – BUSHFIRE BIODIVERSITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY (BBRR) PROGRAM – RESILIENCE PROJECTS	
<p>Hamilton Sanctuary \$500,000.00 to replace fence and extend the enclosure by 7ha.</p> <p>Southern Brown Bandicoot Gene pool mixing Completion of collections of biopsies from animals across the state to describe genetic risk. Agreements with two sites to host outbred animals.</p>	Victorian Government through BBRR Program
DELWP – BIODIVERSITY RESPONSE PLANNING (BRP) – GLENELG PINES	
Treatment of 5,083ha Radiata Pine in stringybark woodlands – using a combination of treatments including mechanical, manual, and follow up (fire).	Victorian Government through BRP
DELWP – SOUTH-EASTERN RED-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO POPULATION MONITORING	
Report provided to Birdlife Australia. Flock count data for more than 500 birds and five flocks.	Funded – Birdlife Australia
DELWP – MONITORING OF SOUTH-WEST VICTORIAN BROLGA POPULATION	
Data collected from 552 birds at nine flocks. Average of 14% of flocks were (<2yo).	
DELWP – WEEDS AND PESTS ON PUBLIC LAND (WPPL) – GLENELG EDEN AND GLENELG ARK	
<p>Both now getting refunded in four-year cycles.</p> <p>Glenelg Eden Treated over 80% of listed infestations and made significant reductions in species cover over most infestations.</p>	Victorian Government through WPPL Program

RIGHT: Connecting Harrow to the Glenelg, community planting day



BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY:

Roadside burning of critically endangered native grassland

Roadside burning of grassy vegetation by community volunteers through the Country Fire Authority (CFA) has long been an important activity for reducing bushfire risk in Victoria's rural landscapes. On the Victorian Volcanic Plain, the practice has also been critical for conserving high-quality and critically endangered native grassland. However, the practice of roadside burning has been in decline.

GHCMA surveyed CFA volunteers within the rural distribution of the Victorian Volcanic Plain and identified that the decline in the extent of roadside burning in the region was driven by declines in the number of volunteers, increases in regulation, and changes in land use. However, volunteers generally considered roadside burning very important for reducing bushfire risk, and most considered it at least somewhat important for maintaining native grassland.

Discussion of these findings between CFA volunteers and environmental agencies led to a novel approach to roadside burning in the Westmere fire region in 2021-2022, where many of the highest quality remnant grasslands occur. By burning earlier in the fire season, volunteers were able to participate prior to their busy crop harvesting period, increasing burnt roadside vegetation from just a few km annually (from 2013-2021) to 250km in the 2021-2022 season.

Burning earlier in the season may be an option to ensure roadside grasslands continue to receive critical burns, but monitoring will be essential to understand what this means for the ecological community. In response, GHCMA established a regime of detailed ecological monitoring in highly diverse roadside native grassland to monitor responses for developing guidelines around burning early. Initial results indicate early burning results in patchy burn patterns. However, follow-up floristic surveys in spring are required to determine what this means for the ecological community.

Partners:
DELWP (Linear Reserves Project), Corangamite CMA, and the CFA.

Investors:
This project is funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.



ABOVE: Highly diverse and regularly burnt native grassland on the Victorian Volcanic Plain

Scan the QR code or click here to visit the website and video



RIGHT: Grassland monitoring plot examining ecological responses to early season burns

Marine and Coast

EXTENT OF COASTAL VEGETATION (MANGROVE, SALTMARSH, AND OTHER REGIONALLY RELEVANT SPECIES)

This indicator provides estimates of the overall rate of change in the extent and spatial distribution of coastal vegetation on public and private land in Victoria.

Based on the Victorian Landcover Time Series (DELWP) From the 1985 to 2019 baseline period, there have been declines in most classes of native vegetation cover (Table 6).

The most significant reduction has been in the extent of the native grass herb category (-72%) followed by native scattered tress (-65%), wetland seasonal (-53%), wetland perennial (-30%) and natural low cover (-15%). There has been a 3% increase in native trees and a 27% increase in saltmarsh.

Table 6: Changes in hectares for vegetation classes across the coastal zone of the Glenelg Hopkins region over time from the 1985-1990 baseline period, adapted from the Victorian Landcover Time Series (DELWP).

	1985-1990	1990-1995	1995-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010	2010-2015	2015-2019	% CHANGE
WETLAND PERENNIAL	22,647	20,441	17,721	18,180	17,493	18,637	15,956	-30
WETLAND SEASONAL	46,073	36,746	33,836	30,402	29,137	30,463	21,793	-53
SALTMARSH	1,170	1,339	1,130	1,167	1,196	1,157	1,489	27
NATURAL LOW COVER	85,659	82,730	79,348	77,778	77,821	73,462	72,584	-15
NATIVE SCATTERED TREES	36,152	29,541	36,835	32,696	34,233	26,320	12,532	-65
NATIVE TREES	480,923	485,044	486,897	490,328	491,364	493,667	494,424	3
NATIVE SHRUB	18,996	17,757	17,780	18,942	18,703	20,279	25,601	35
NATIVE GRASS HERB	87,142	53,786	63,571	56,471	58,388	39,325	240,26	-72

2021-2022 Trend

Concerned 

Rolling five-year Trend

Concerned 

Management Summaries

COASTAL CONNECTIONS

This project aims to stabilize or improve the trajectory of three bird species with a connection to the coast: the Australasian Bittern, Orange-bellied Parrot, and migratory shorebirds – in particular the Eastern Curlew. Key actions focus on the protection and improvement of critical habitat and community-based population monitoring. In 2021-2022:

- Artificial drainage was blocked at three sites, prolonging seasonal inundation. This ensures food and habitat availability during the Bittern nesting season
- Twelve landholders have committed to improving the management of 91ha of suitable Bittern habitat through agreements providing technical advice and incentives
- 800 distinct hours where a booming Australasian Bittern can be heard among our recordings
- 229 observations of Australasian Bittern were recorded
- Possibly more than 30 Australasian Bitterns using the region (16 territories with booming males)
- Bittern population monitoring has discovered two new breeding territories, over 350ha habitat
- Condition of over 480ha (50ha over target) of the Orange-bellied Parrot’s known winter habitat monitored to inform the selection of future release sites of captive-bred birds, and
- Migratory shorebird monitoring on public and private land has confirmed that nine different species of shorebirds have used our coast throughout the year.

Australian Government – NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships

PROTECTING THE HOODED PLOVER (RLP) AND PROTECTION FOR HOODED PLOVER CHICKS (ERF)

This project aims to stabilise the Hooded Plover population along the coastline of Victoria and South Australia. Hooded Plovers have a low rate of breeding success of 5-10% and can have multiple nesting attempts over an 8-month period. In 2021-2022:

- This project directly contributed to 68 chicks surviving and fledging
- 160 nesting territories were monitored (exceeding target of 77), 101 of which were actively protected through signage or signage and fencing
- 161 nesting attempts were recorded
- 25 of the 101 intensively managed territories produced 41 fledglings
- 13 of the 59 remote territories requiring no active protection produced 27 fledglings, and
- The 22 workshops and the mentoring this project supported generated more volunteer activity, including extra sites monitored, and a total of 3,724 weekly nest monitoring visits.

The number of fledglings per pair for this project is 0.43, the overall for the monitored population in across South Australia and Victoria is 0.78; the average required for population maintenance is 0.45.

Australian Government NLP2 RLP and Environment Restoration Fund

DELWP – DEEN MAAR ISLAND RABBIT ERADICATION PROJECT

Activities include development of a Feasibility Study on methodologies and likely strategy for eradicating rabbits from Deen Maar Island, and partnering with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation.

Victorian Government through BBRR Program



RIGHT: One of the baby Hooded Plover chicks being protected through our works

MARINE AND COAST CASE STUDY:

Tide Gauge Trigger Levels for Sea Level Rise Adaptation Pathways

Sea level along the coast of Victoria has risen 22.5cm since 1880. The United Nations Environment Program annual Emissions Gap Report (2020) indicates that despite a brief dip in carbon dioxide emissions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is still heading for a temperature rise of more than 3°C this century – far beyond the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C. This puts the current emissions trajectory in line with the higher emissions scenarios (SSP3-7 and SSP5-8.5) under which mean sea level at Portland is expected to rise by 24cm by the 2050s (Clarke et al, 2019).

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that sea levels will continue to rise for centuries at least, even if effective emissions reduction action is implemented, though the rate of rise might slow. So, a “set-and-forget” approach to land use and development conditions is not a viable long-term option for coastal flood risk management. Accounting for rising mean sea level in coastal development decisions requires complex judgements of the timeframe over which land may be used and developed before the benefits are outweighed by flood risks.

Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) are Victoria's regional Floodplain Management Authorities and are charged with providing advice on flood risk. They therefore have an implied duty of care to understand and track the potential impacts of climate change on flood risk.

The “Tide Trigger Levels for Sea Level Rise Adaptation Pathways” project has developed a clear and practical adaptation pathway logic to underpin decisions to implement the next iteration of planning controls, including the minimum floor level for development (Nominal Flood Protection Level) set by the CMA.

Victoria's current policy for dealing with the sea level rise issue requires strategic and statutory land use and development planning processes to account for no less than 0.8m of sea level rise by the year 2100. The logic developed by the project compliments this policy by using direct measurement of sea level provided by the Portland Tide gauge to make real world attainment of risk thresholds clear, whether these thresholds (e.g., 0.8m sea level rise) are reached according to the projected timeframes (e.g., by the year 2100), or whether they are reached over an unexpected timeframe. In this way, the logic adds a “second string” to the “risk management bow” that provides for greater confidence that decisions affecting use and development of land now, are justified in the longer term so that unsustainable flood damage costs are avoided in the future.

The logic developed also supports decision making for other sea level rise adaptation actions, including investment in future flood investigations for sea level rise greater than that accounted for by currently available flood risk mapping. The study has focused on the GHCA region, but the approach is applicable to any location along the Victorian coast.

An additional outcome of the project is information indicating that places like Port Fairy and South Warrnambool are likely to suffer inundation of low-lying areas every second week (coinciding with mean high water spring tide) by the 2060s (this is equivalent to a present day 1% AEP storm tide). Images below indicate what this will look like on the ground. Regular impact of this nature will cause substantial community disruption to services (e.g., roads and drainage infrastructure).

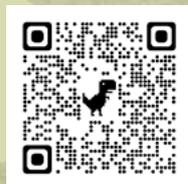
Partners:

Development of this document was supported by the Victorian Government through the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy – Yearly Delivery Plan 2021-2022 – Barwon Southwest



ABOVE: Ocean Drive, Courtesy of Moyne Shire, June 2022

Scan the QR code or click here to visit the web page



RIGHT: Port Fairy Warf, Courtesy of Warrnambool Standard, June 2014



Communities

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING (LANDCARE/COMMUNITY NRM GROUPS – GROUP HEALTH SCORE)

This indicator provides estimates of Landcare volunteering contributions and commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development in Victoria.

Volunteering is one of the most important mechanisms to support the delivery of the RCS. The region’s Landcare program has been operating for 33 years and currently has approximately 52 Landcare Groups. A further 49 community-based natural resource management groups are active in the region.

For the last 13 years, Landcare groups have been completing a ‘group health survey’. This provides a score out of five for each group based on how they feel they are performing. Table 7 presents the average survey results for the past 10 years. Over this period, average scores have been consistent.

Figure 12 presents the breakdown of Landcare group health against the five categories of ‘Trail blazers’, ‘Moving forward’, ‘Rolling along’, ‘Struggling along’ and ‘Just hanging on’, for the past three years.

Table 7: Landcare Group Health Survey Results 2008-2009 to 2020-2021.

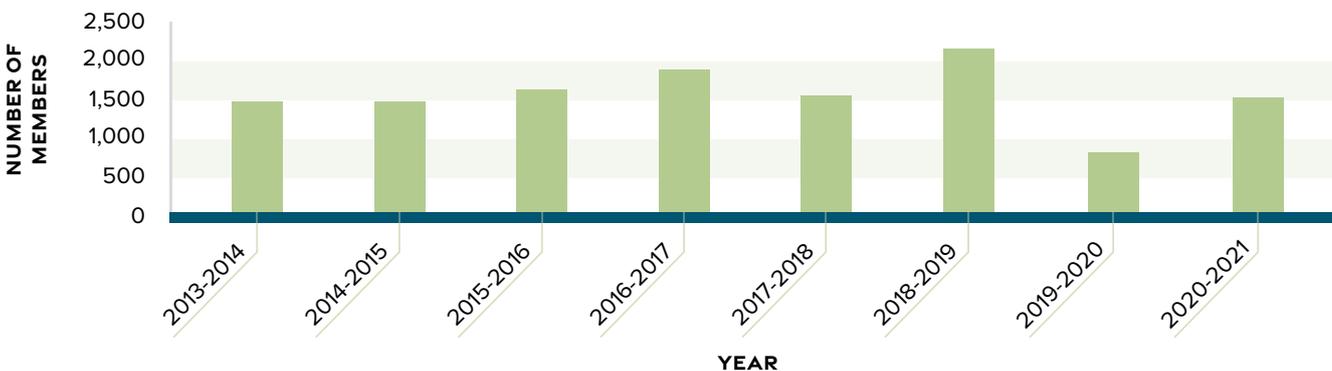
2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
3.49	3.26	3.23	3.38	3.26	3.59	3.51	3.54	3.39	3.29

Figure 12: Breakdown of Landcare group health scores 2018-2019 to 2020-2021.



Figure 13 presents the number of Landcare group members in the region since 2013-2014. In 2019-2020, the total number of Landcare group members declined and is most likely correlated with COVID-19 restrictions and a low response rate to the survey collating this data. 2020-2021 saw an increase in the number of Landcare group members.

Figure 13: Number of Landcare Group members (as reported by admin support grant recipients) within the Glenelg Hopkins region since 2013-2014.



2021-2022 Trend

Neutral

Rolling five-year Trend

Neutral

NUMBER OF FORMAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT BETWEEN TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND KEY NRM AGENCIES

This indicator provides information on the number of formal partnerships established, modified, or maintained between organisations and individuals, under CMA's initiatives.

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**.

The GHCMA Aboriginal Partnership Framework, developed with Traditional Owner groups, outlines the development of partnership agreements with each group in the region over the next four years. As the strategy progresses, it is envisaged that Integrated Catchment Management partnerships outside CMA initiatives will be recorded and promoted.

In 2016 Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA ratified a formal partnership agreement which records the principles that underpin the work done together. The Partnership Statement outlines the commitment of both Gunditj Mirring and Glenelg Hopkins CMA to continue their partnerships with the aim of a more sustainable and resilient future for the health of people and country.

2021-2022 Trend

Positive ✓

Rolling five-year Trend

Positive ✓

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



Management Summaries

CORE SERVICES

As a component of Regional Land Partnerships delivery, the Core Services project involves 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 2021-2022 include:

NRM Planning – Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)

The new RCS was formally gazetted in May 2022. In addition, the MERI Plan development is well underway, and the social benchmarking survey will be going out to tender in the first quarter 2022-2023.

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:

1. Promote the continued use, support, and reinvigoration of ecological knowledge to underpin biodiversity conservation, and
2. To build community capacity and connection with the environment through activities that re-establish urban bushland, areas of Indigenous significance, and the health of urban waterways.

Indigenous Partnerships

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working with Traditional Owner 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 CMA is working to progress the partnerships with the four Traditional Owner Corporations in the Glenelg Hopkins region towards a model of increasing self-determination, which may or may not include formal partnership statements. Significant cultural learning activities were delivered for CMA staff:

- A ‘Yarning Circle’ led by senior Khirrae Whurrong (Eastern Maar) Traditional Owners was held for 10 CMA staff including Youth Employment Program staff, and
- The 2022 Integrated Staff Meeting was hosted by Gunditj Mirring TOAC at Lake Condah Mission and included a cultural awareness tour of Tae Rak (Lake Condah) and the Lake Condah Mission.

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.

Significant activities in 2021-2022 revolved around reconnecting post COVID-19, face-to-face community events, and reengaging with commercial networks/partners. These activities included:

- Conducting Victorian Landcare project audits across the catchment
- Attending and supporting the Sustainable Water Forum hosted by the Great Southcoast Food and Fibre group, attended by 70 participants
- Supporting several events for Southern Farming Systems “Women on Farms” Perennial Pasture Systems (e.g., soil knowledge day), and South West Prime Lamb Group “Dung Beetle Workshop”, and
- Attending the National Soils Advocate Forum and the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator conference.

Australian Government
– NLP2 Regional Land Partnerships



RIGHT: Tyson Lovett-Murray, Gunditj Mirring TOAC hosting GHSCMA staff at Tae Rak (Lake Condah)

OUR CATCHMENT OUR COMMUNITY PROGRAM	
<p>On-Ground Stewardship</p> <p>This project is focused on strategic partnerships and farmer engagement to improve catchment health and climate resilience through support of wetland cultural knowledge and health, and connectivity in the agricultural landscape of the Greater Grampians. Key engagements included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In February, three Landcare groups in the Greater Grampians (Gariwerd) focus region received small grants (<\$10,000) to review or develop their strategies over the next 18 months (Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group, Upper Hopkins Land Management Group, and Skipton) • The Lake Bolac Eel Festival, 26th March 2022 • A Sustainable Soils workshop at Tatyoon on April 21 with 20 participants (funded by GHCMA Capacity Building Grants), and • The Landscape Scale grants scheme, opened 6th of May. <p>Partnerships and Capacity</p> <p>This project maintains and strengthens key regional and local relationships for enhanced integrated catchment management and aims to build capacity, share knowledge, increase leadership, and support partnerships. A highlight for this year is the return to face-to-face engagements, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glenelg River Environmental Watering Advisory Group met in Harrow in April, providing feedback on Seasonal Watering Plan, and • Community Advisory Group met in Dunkeld in June to provide feedback on Waterway Strategy, with a visit to Walker Swamp. <p>These actions meet catchment partner agreement obligations.</p> <p>In addition, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held an initial meeting with GMTOAC to review partnership agreement needs, and • Awarded two community leadership development grants. 	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP (Our Catchment, Our Communities)</p>
MERRI RIVER CONNECTIONS	
<p>The key objective is a healthy river flowing through a network of open spaces and cultural landscapes, providing an integrated range of community experiences that promote health and wellbeing. The project was officially launched by State Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Harriet Shing, in February 2022.</p> <p>Funding will facilitate construction of all-ability walking tracks, seating, and watercraft launching facilities at Platypus Park in west Warrnambool. It will provide an anchoring point to foster community partnerships and deliver wider objectives including cultural value promotion and preservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, enhancement, and restoration of native habitat for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP (Other – Recreation Values Program)</p>
LANDCARE COORDINATION	
<p>A Regional Landcare Coordinator provides overall coordination, strategic advice, and advocacy to enable communities to act for a healthy environment. The RLC works collaboratively with the region’s State funded Landcare Facilitators to assist them in supporting Landcare groups. With relaxing COVID-19 restrictions in 2022 the RLC has met face-to-face with Landcare facilitators and land carers. Monthly on-line meeting with Facilitators have consistently provided an excellent tool for sharing information and providing support.</p>	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP</p>
VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS	
<p>This project delivers a devolved grants program on behalf of the Victorian Government as part of a coordinated and consistent approach across the State. The program supports the region’s Landcare and environmental volunteer groups/networks with funding for on-ground activities and group support. This years’ program was vastly over-subscribed with applications totalling over one million dollars. The CMA successfully petitioned to DELWP for additional funds lifting the budget from \$258,000 to just over \$500,000.</p>	<p>Victorian Government – DELWP</p>

COMMUNITY CASE STUDY: *Platycam*

Platycam is part of the Grange Burn Platypus Habitat Project undertaken in early 2022, which installed new habitat in the Grange Burn waterway in Hamilton in the form of trees and logs. The site is a known habitat for Platypus. A pole-mounted, solar-powered livestreaming camera (*Platycam*), signage and a sculpture to identify the site for the community was installed, together with weed removal and native vegetation planting along the banks.

Platycam is the only livestreaming camera of Platypus in the wild in the world. Its novel approach was aimed at connecting people to nature, one of the key components of the Victorian Government's Biodiversity 2037 Strategy. The project also aligned with the Victorian Government's funding of the species, which was listed as vulnerable in Victoria in 2021. Its success lies in its simplicity. The platypus is arguably the most unique animal in the world and seeing one in its natural habitat is difficult for many people. Previous livestreaming activities undertaken by the Glenelg Hopkins CMA had proved popular and successful. The *Platycam* livestream brings the platypus to people, irrespective of where they are located.

The site itself is easily accessed by the public, so unique signage and a chainsaw-carved wooden sculpture featuring three platypus were installed to mark the location. The site preparation was greatly assisted by Southern Grampians Shire Council which installed accessible seating and a pathway to encourage enjoyment of the waterway and its immediate surrounds.

Platycam was launched on May 31. Over 100 people attended the launch in person, with another 240 people watching online. The launch included the planting of the native vegetation on the banks with students from Hamilton Gray Street Primary School. Since its launch, *Platycam* has received the widest media recognition of any other CMA project, with stories and interviews appearing on 3AW Melbourne, The Age Newspaper, The Herald Sun, ABC Victoria, and syndicated stations and publications around Australia, along with local media outlets with an estimated audience size of 285,000 people. Social media posts from the launch and first two weeks of operation reached over 90,000 people, had over 23,000 engagements, and had more than 27,000 video views. The **LIVESTREAM: *Platycam*** has had over 23,500 views.

Partners:
DELWP, Arthur Rylah Institute, Southern Grampians Shire Council.



ABOVE: *Platycam* launch (L-R) Bruach Colliton, Mayor, Southern Grampians Shire Council; Adam Bester, CEO, Glenelg Hopkins CMA; Diane Crowther, Arthur Rylah Institute

LIVESTREAM:
Platycam | Glenelg Hopkins CMA
(ghcma.vic.gov.au)



RIGHT: Uncle Johnny Lovett opening the *Platycam* launch, with Adam Bester, CEO, Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Bruach Colliton, Mayor, Southern Grampians Shire Council



Integrated Catchment Management

NUMBER OF PARTNERSHIPS

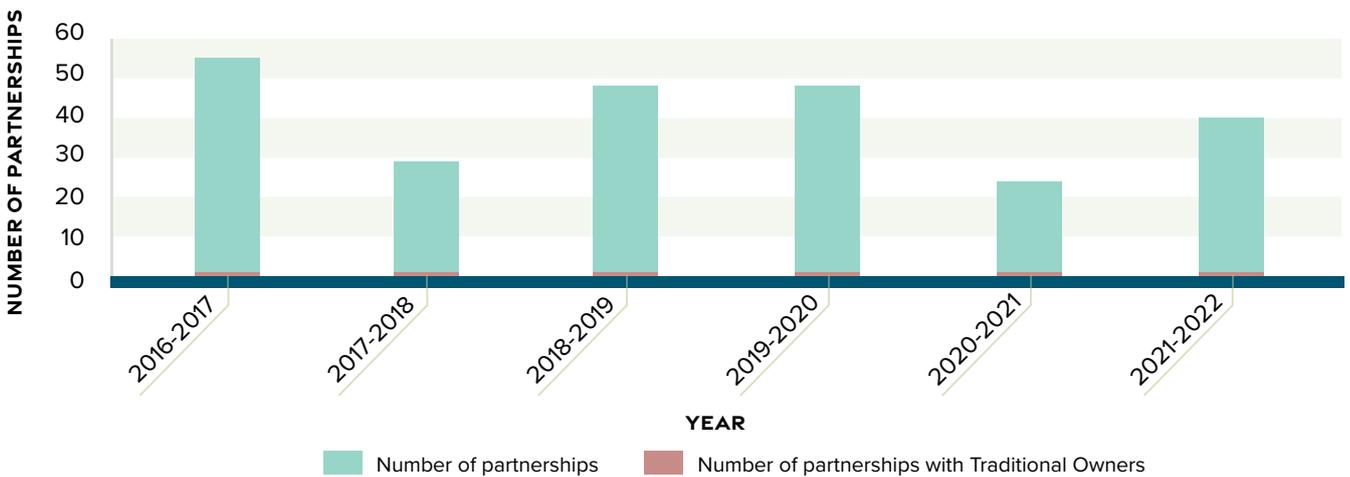
This indicator provides information on the number of formal partnerships established, modified, or maintained between organisations and individuals, under CMA's initiatives.

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 14 presents the number of partnerships that have been established, modified, or maintained in the region since 2016-2017.

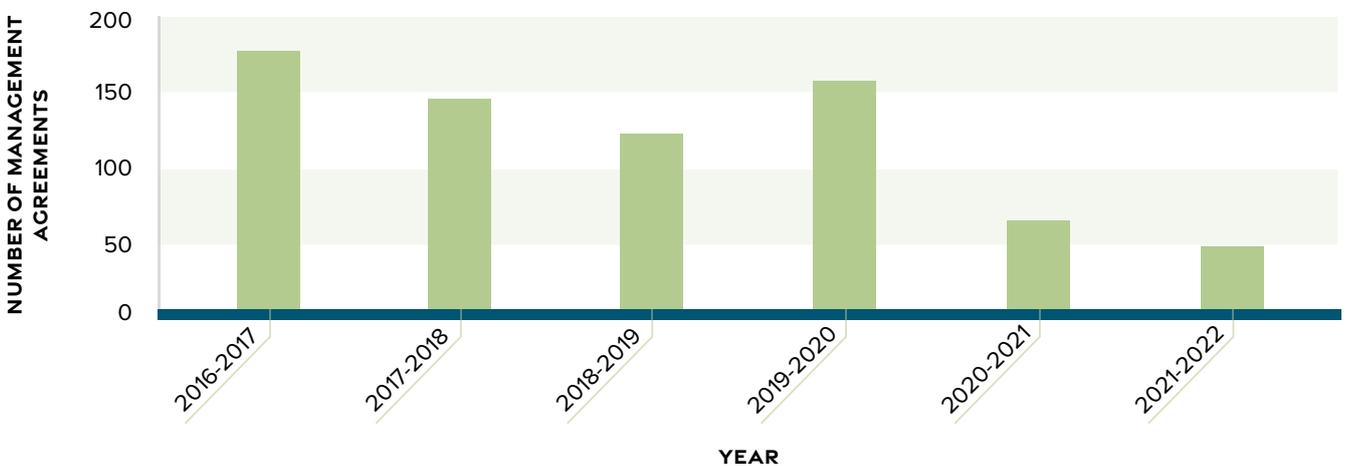
2020-2021 saw a decline in partnerships, possibly due to COVID-19 and a delay in the commencement of State funded projects.

Figure 14: Number of partnerships established, modified, or maintained in the Glenelg Hopkins region.



Management agreements, particularly with farmers and land managers, also provide support to integrated catchment management. Figure 15 presents the number of management agreements in the Glenelg Hopkins region since 2016-2017. The past two years has seen a reduction in the number of management agreements.

Figure 15: Number of management agreements in the Glenelg Hopkins region.



2021-2022 Trend

Positive

Rolling five-year Trend

Neutral

Regional actions and achievements reporting

Table 8 presents the total outputs achieved for 2021-2022.

Table 8: Output achievements for 2021-2022.

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL		
		State	Commonwealth	Total
I. STRUCTURAL WORKS				
1.1 Channel (km)				
1.2 Water storage (no.)				
1.3 Pump (no.)				
1.4 Irrigation structure (ha)				
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)	22	20	77	97
1.6 Terrestrial structure (no.)				
1.7 Terrestrial feature (no.)	5		5	5
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	54	33		33
1.9 Fence (km)	2.3			
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)		1		1
1.11 Road (km)				
1.12 Crossing (no.)				
2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS				
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	74.3	3.66	159.20	162.86
2.2 Weed control (ha)	506.2	438.57	1,244.52	1,683.09
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	2,302	180.57	1,895.11	2,075.68
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife control				
2.5 Threatened species response (no.)	3		3	3
2.6 Emergency species response (no.)				
2.7 Soil treatment (ha)				
2.8 Earth works (no.)	2	5		5
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)	20			
3. MANAGEMENT SERVICES				
3.1 Grazing (ha)			849.24	849.24
3.2 Agricultural practices (ha)	2,622			
3.3 Water (no.)	14	12	2	14
3.4 Fire regime (no.)	3		10	10
4. PLANNING AND REGULATION				
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	232	751		751
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	36	2	48	50
4.3 Assessment (no.)	172	191	31	222
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	3,070	2,375	2,238	4,613
4.5 Partnerships (no.)	34	36	3	39
4.6 Plan (no.)	14	4		4
4.7 Publication (no.)	168	93	47	140
4.8 Information management system (no.)	10	9		9

Our Governance, Our People, Our Business

Board structure and purpose

A Board of seven 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 2021 until 30 September 2025 (inclusive).

The Board is responsible and accountable for the good governance, strategic direction, and effective and efficient operation of the organisation. Key objectives for the Board are to:

- Represent the interests of the community in natural resource management
- Achieve integrated catchment management (as measured by improvement in resource condition)
- Act as a steward for the natural resource base
- Create effective partnerships
- Develop appropriate action plans and support their implementation, including development of targets, and
- Provide regional leadership in natural resource management.

OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

Chairperson Antony Ford has over 40 years' experience in Australian and international agribusiness, 28 of those 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 and large fin fish aquaculture. Until recently, Antony led the regional food and fibre development body in the Great South Coast of Victoria. He continues to work as an agribusiness consultant in food production in SE and SW Australia. He is also involved in industry development, strategic planning, and action delivery across the Region.

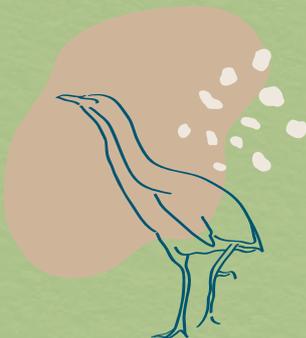
Deputy Chairperson Dr Michelle Casanova has a PhD in Botany and is Principal at Charophyte Services, a consultancy aimed at providing best practice, scientific research, information, and assessment concerning water plants and wetlands. Michelle lives and works on a fine-wool merino and cropping farm near Lake Bolac. She was voted Deputy Chairperson at the November 2021 Full Board meeting.

Damein Bell is a Gunditjmara traditional owner and a Fellow with the Royal Society of Victoria and an Atlantic Fellow. Damein is a Board Director with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Gunditj Mirring Services Pty Ltd.

Chris Giles was the Chief Executive Officer at Portland District Health until 11 April 2022 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 experience in sheep, dairy, and poultry farming. She has held the elected role at a Shire, and has been working with local Traditional Owners on Land and Sea Management and Health initiatives.

Professor Gerry Quinn holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Zoology, a PhD in Marine Biology, and has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. Before his retirement from Deakin University, he was Chair in Marine Biology and served a term as Head of the Warrnambool Campus. He has also been part of several statutory bodies, advisory committees, and government public entities. Gerry's research background has focused on the ecology of marine, freshwater and estuarine habitats and the effect of human activities on the environmental condition of these ecosystems.

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.



Celia Tucker holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation, and Heritage) and lives and works as a sheep and broadacre cropping farmer 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 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.

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. Phil ceased his term as a Director of Glenelg Hopkins CMA on 30 September 2021.

GHCMA Board Attendance for 2021-2022.

NAME	NUMBER OF MEETINGS	EXPLANATORY NOTE
Antony Ford	8/8	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 Re-appointed to the Board and as Chairperson 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2025
Damein Bell	5/8	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019 Re-appointed 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023
Michelle Casanova	8/8	Appointed to the Board 27 October 2015 to 30 September 2019 Re-appointed 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023
Christine Giles	8/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2021 Re-appointed to the Board 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2025
Gerry Quinn	8/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023
Phil Saunders	1/2	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	6/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023
Celia Tucker	7/8	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to September 2023



RIGHT: CMA Executives, staff and Board members at a Strategic Workshop day in Warrnambool

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk committee consisted of the following members in 2020-2021:

- **Brian Densem** (independent)
- **Bonnie Holmes** (independent)
- **Karrinjeet Singh Mahil** (Director)
- **Michelle Casanova** (Director)
- **Phil Saunders** (Director, part-term)
- **Gerry Quinn** (Director, part-term).

The Audit and 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 2021 to 30 June 2022 were Directors Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil and Michelle Casanova.

Phil Saunders was a Board representative from 1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021 and Gerry Quinn replaced Phil Saunders with a term from November 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The Executive Officer role is held by a non-voting staff member, Executive Manager – Corporate 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 2020-2021, the committee met five times. Attendance of committee members is detailed in the table below.

Audit and Risk Committee Attendance for 2021-2022.

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER	AUG 2021	SEPT 2021	DEC 2021	MAR 2022	MAY 2022	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Brian Densem	1	1	1	1	1	5/5	100%
Bonnie Holmes	1	1	1	0	1	4/5	80%
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	1	1	1	0	1	4/5	80%
Michelle Casanova	1	1	1	1	0	4/5	80%
Phil Saunders	1	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	2/2	100%
Gerry Quinn	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	3/3	100%

Remuneration and Performance Committee

From 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022, the Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee was Board Chairperson Antony Ford. Directors Damein Bell and Chris Giles are 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, and
- Succession planning.

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

There were three scheduled meeting for the Board Remuneration and Performance Committee: September 2021, February 2022, and April 2022.

Remuneration and Performance Committee Attendance for 2021-2022.

REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE MEMBER	SEPTEMBER 2021	FEBRUARY 2022	APRIL 2022	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Antony Ford	1	1	1	3	100
Damein Bell	1	1	1	3	100
Chris Giles	1	1	1	3	100



Community Advisory Group

We actively seek our community's input and collaboration to develop and manage the effective and adaptive action plans that underpin the Regional Catchment strategy. One way we do this is through the Glenelg Hopkins Community Advisory Group (CAG).

CAG regularly meets with diverse individuals and organisations interested or expert in specific resource management, or whose activities are relevant to the CMA's strategies. Their knowledge, advice, and deep understanding of local issues and opportunities help contribute to the CMA's strategic program development and implementation. This collaborative, immersive engagement works both ways – it also gives us the opportunity to report to our community on outcomes and achievements, monitor ongoing strategies and plans, and remain responsive to needs as they arise.

We also help implement the CMA's Catchment Partnership Agreement, supported by funding from the Victorian Government's "Our Catchments Our Communities" program.

CAG's final meet for 2022 was held in June, first with a morning session at Sterling Place, Dunkeld. We discussed current events in the region, reported highlights, and workshopped areas of opportunity that could optimise the Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy.

The afternoon's session was hosted by Nature Glenelg Trust (NGT) at the Walker Swamp wetland complex. Walker Swamp, in southern Gariwerd (Grampians), is the result of a partnership between NGT, Glenelg Hopkins CMA (via the Victorian Government's "Our Catchments Our Communities" program), and the Hamilton Field Naturalists Club. NGT outlined the post-Colonial journey of Walker Swamp – from natural wetlands drained for farming and blue gum plantation – now reclaimed and returned to a magnificent place of natural beauty that supports myriad aquatic and bird life.

The CAG was even lucky enough to spot a pair of Brolgas.

Recruitment for a new 3-year term of the CAG is under way.

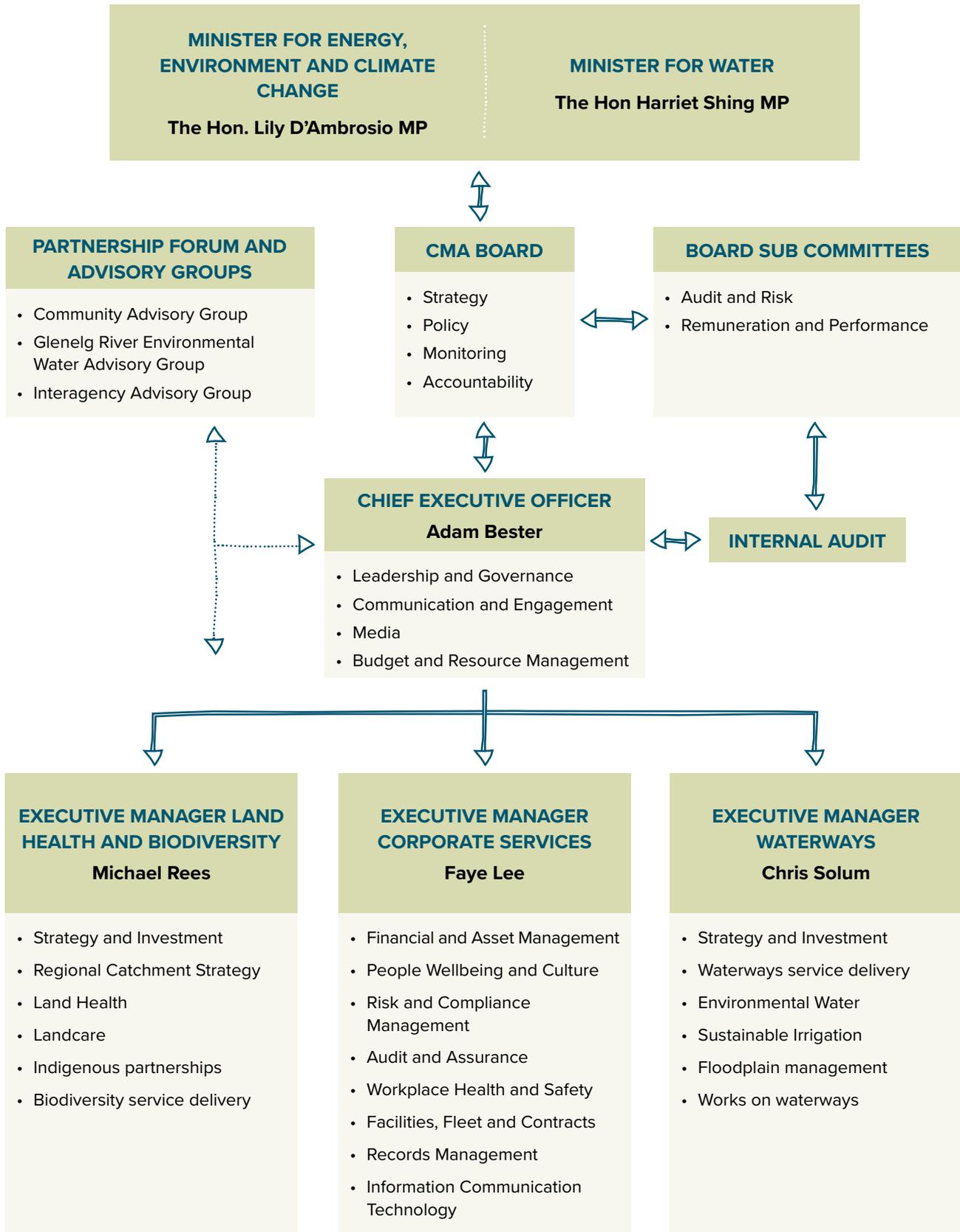


ABOVE: CAG members visit Walker Swamp, Dunkeld. (L-R) Graeme Ward, CEO Adam Bester, Sabine Schreiber, Mark Bachman and Shea Rotumah



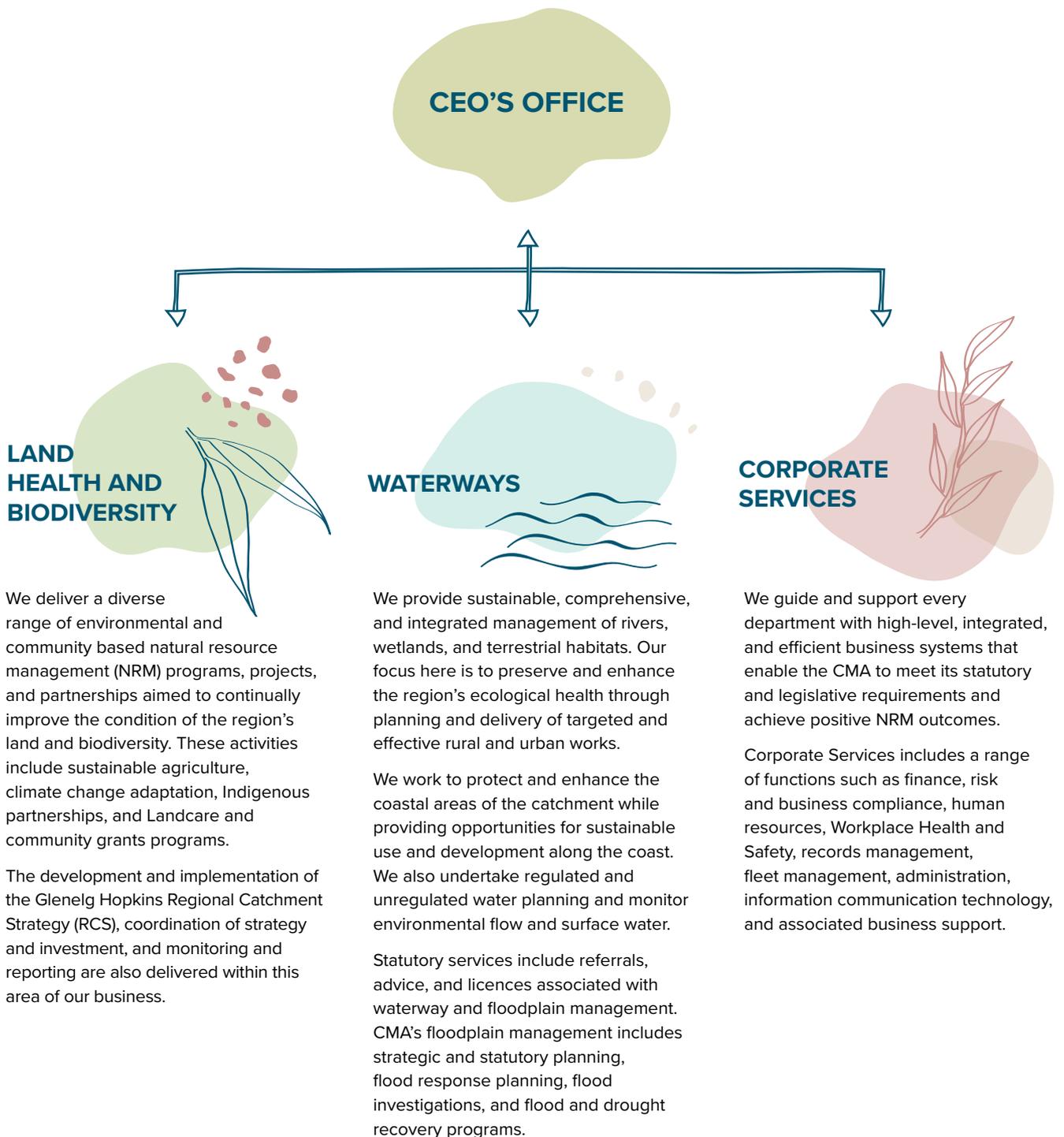
RIGHT: (L-R) Liam Meredith (staff member), Jodie Honan, Jenny Emeny (staff member), Adam Bester (CEO), Sabine Schreiber, Graeme Ward, Mark Bachman and Shea Rotumah

Organisational Chart



Reporting Requirements

There are three core programs within the CMA: Land Health and Biodiversity, Waterways, and Corporate Services. The CEO office oversees the flow of activity within, and between, these programs, manages the relationship with the Board, and provides cross-organisational support relating to our involvement and reputation.



WORKFORCE DATA STATISTICS

The following table discloses the head count and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all active public service employees of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed in the last full pay period in June (2022) of the current reporting period, and in the last full pay period in June (2021).

Details of employment levels in June 2021 and 2022.

	JUNE 2022:							
	ALL EMPLOYEES		ONGOING			FIXED TERM AND CASUAL		
	Number (headcount)	FTE	Full-time	Part-time	FTE	Full-time	Part-time	FTE
Number (headcount)			Number (headcount)	Number (headcount)		Number (headcount)		
GENDER								
Men	27	24.7	11	7	16.5	5	4	8.2
Women	27	20.9	6	8	11.5	3	10	9.4
Self-described	1	1.0	1	0	1.0	0	0	0.0
AGE								
15-24	2	1.4	0	0	0.0	1	1	1.4
25-34	10	7.8	3	2	4.2	2	3	3.6
35-44	14	11.3	4	4	6.7	1	5	4.6
45-54	20	17.8	6	7	11.6	3	4	6.2
55-64	8	7.5	5	2	6.5	1	0	1.0
65+	1	0.9	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.9
CLASSIFICATION								
G	1	1.0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1.0
H	4	3.0	0	0	0.0	1	3	3.0
I	1	0.9	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.9
J	12	10.7	6	1	6.9	1	4	3.8
K	25	20.2	9	12	17.8	0	4	2.4
L	7	6.0	3	2	4.3	1	1	1.7
Exec	5	4.8	0	0	0.0	4	1	4.8
Total employees	55	46.7	18	15	29.0	8	14	17.7

JUNE 2021:								
ALL EMPLOYEES			ONGOING			FIXED TERM AND CASUAL		
Number (headcount)	FTE	Full-time	Part-time	FTE	Full-time	Part-time	FTE	
		Number (headcount)	Number (headcount)		Number (headcount)	Number (headcount)		

GENDER

Men	24	20.9	8	7	13.5	4	5	7.4
Women	20	15.6	6	9	12.1	1	4	3.5
Self-described	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0

AGE

15-24	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
25-34	7	5.5	3	2	4.2	1	1	1.3
35-44	11	8.2	2	6	5.9	1	2	2.3
45-54	19	16.4	5	6	10.0	3	5	6.4
55-64	6	5.5	4	2	5.5	0	0	0.0
65+	1	0.9	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.9

CLASSIFICATION

G	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
H	1	0.8	0	0	0.0	0	1	0.8
I	3	2.5	1	0	1.0	0	2	1.5
J	4	6.9	3	1	3.9	1	3	3.0
K	24	18.8	7	14	17.2	0	3	1.6
L	4	3.6	3	1	3.6	0	0	0.0
Exec	4	4.0	0	0	0.0	4	0	4.0
Total employees	44	36.5	14	16	25.6	5	9	10.9

Note:

(a) In 2022, there is one Band K employee acting as Band L, due to the incumbent being on leave

(b) In 2022, there is one Executive on Long Service Leave, and a fixed-term employee is acting in the role

People & Culture

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Enterprise Agreement 2021-2022 was approved by the Fair Work Commission and came into effect on 19 January 2021.

In early 2021, we recognised that planning for a new 4-year agreement was being impacted by the events of 2020, and we sought a 12-month roll-over agreement. Staff and Management agreed to this approach. We worked with DELWP and Industrial Relations Victoria (IRV) to prepare the agreement for approval by the Fair Work Commission. The roll-over expires 31 October 2022.

Glenelg CMA will negotiate a new 4-year agreement in 2022 with DELWP and IRV.

SERVICE AWARDS

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

The following staff reached service milestones during 2021-2022

- Richard Murphy (15 years)
- Dion Borg (10 years)
- Sheree Kearns (10 years)
- Michael Rees (10 years)
- Kellie Nilsson Osmond (10 years).

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

Individual staff and teams were also recognised by their colleagues for their positive contributions towards the organisation's achievement of its goals and objectives. A total of 11 reward and recognition nominations were approved for outstanding effort by staff who performed above-and-beyond their roles.

LONG-TERM STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

2021-2022 has seen the continued development of our first 'People and Culture Strategy' – a comprehensive, overarching, measurable plan that prioritises our people over five years from 2022-2027. It sets out our commitment to embed the best possible programs, systems and solutions to enable everyone to enhance their job satisfaction and work together to deliver our business goals.

This is a long-term commitment by us, in us. It includes 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 2018-2019 Glenelg Hopkins CMA launched 'GH Equip', an initiative that identifies skills development and learning strategies in areas that are vital to our future.

This year we continued to build the CMA's knowledge, understanding, and practical application in key areas that enable us to achieve and sustain a competitive position within the NRM industry.

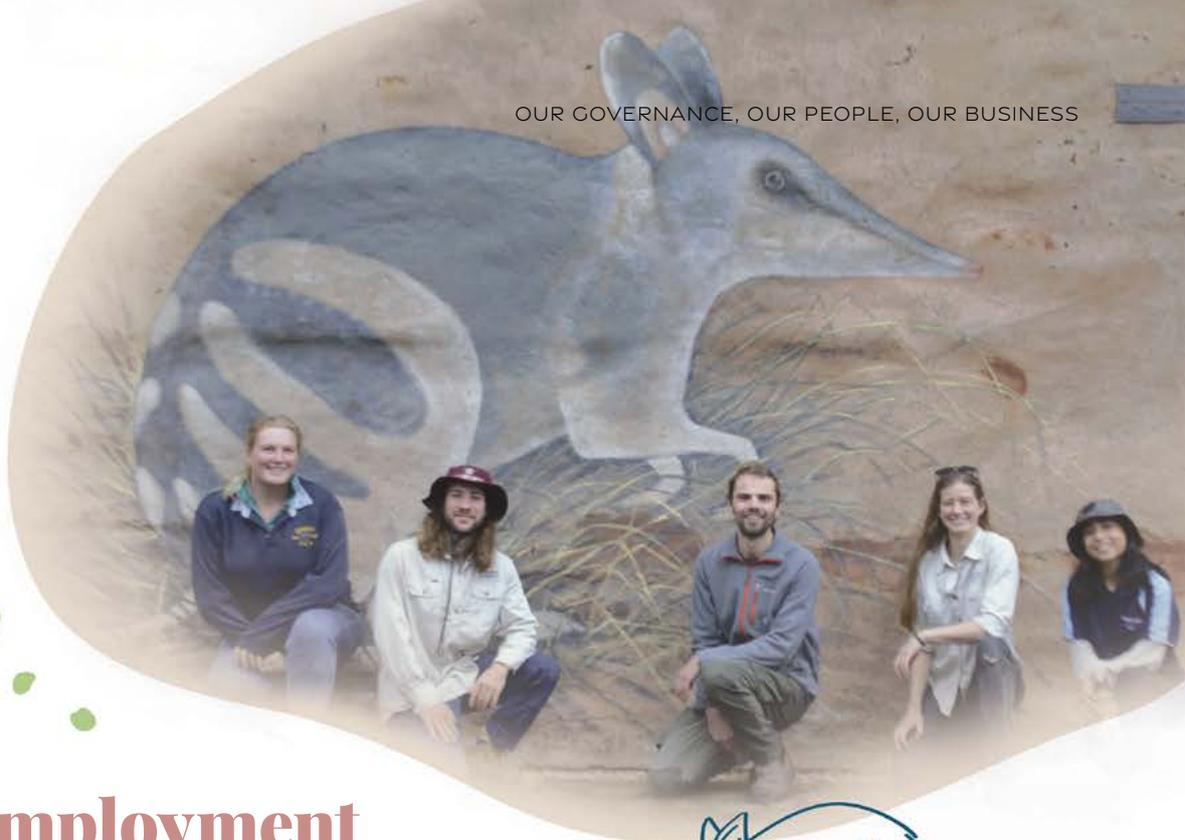
It's also important that these new, improved skills are relevant to focus areas within the CMA remit. Within the People and Culture Strategy, a core pillar will focus on 'Growth' – GH Equip will play an integral role in informing where, who, and how we focus our efforts in capability development.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN 2017-2018 – 2021-2022

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is a diverse workplace that reflects the community in which we operate and serve. This helps us better relate to our communities and make more informed and effective decisions. Understanding and embracing diversity strengthens the organisation, improves staff morale, and broadens thinking.



RIGHT: CMA Staff at Tae Rak Aquaculture Centre, Budj Bim Cultural Landscape



Youth Employment Program



It's vital our local young people have the opportunity to play an important part in the future stewardship of their natural environment and resources. Through the Department of Job, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) Youth Employment Program (YEP), we received \$409,200 in funding to create nine YEP staff positions for nine months to contribute to this goal. YEP was established to provide jobs, work experience, and training to help unemployed young people find ongoing employment, and we were able to host the selected candidates across all areas of our work, including field based, planning, project support, and corporate.

The newcomers began their career with us during COVID-19 lockdown, so it was a challenge to help them feel welcome to the CMA. However their enthusiasm, a carefully crafted plan for induction and mentoring, and the encouragement of our friendly team soon settled them in and had them up and running with their tasks.

Staff across the organisation offered YEP staff opportunities to learn about the CMA and NRM, including soil analysis, bandicoot trapping, water sampling, transect planting, and much more. In return, YEP staff helped their mentors complete projects in human resources, workplace health and safety, GIS, finance, *Platycam*, and our media library. They also undertook tasks in monitoring, compliance, statutory responses, and applications and archiving.

Although we were sad to see them finish at the end of the program, we are proud that each YEP staffer went on to other employment in their preferred career area. Five continued with the CMA on part-time or short-term contracts. We wish all our YEP staff the best with their future.

It's vital our local young people have the opportunity to play an important part in the future stewardship of their natural environment and resources.

ABOVE: YEP staff at Eastern-barred Bandicoot trapping at Hamilton Institute of Rural Learning. (L-R) Errin McNeilly, Jordan Lahy, Liam Meredith, Rhiannon Fischer, and Claudia Nheu

Workforce Inclusion Policy

Glenelg Hopkins CMA actively promotes flexible working arrangements. We report the number annually.

Outlined below is a comparison of our progress in the current and previous years.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN INITIATIVE	MEASURE	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2021-2022	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2020-2021
Promote the availability of flexible working arrangements	Number of staff with flexible working arrangements	100%	100%

Notes:

- Includes part-time employment, purchased leave, and individual flexibility arrangements. Sourced from workforce data
- Reported as a percentage against headcount as per 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 from workforce data
- The internal employee guideline to enable working from home and 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
- Whilst 100% was achieved in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, this has been partly attributed to employees working flexibly and remotely due to COVID-19. We continue to track this measure as employees return to the office.

PUBLIC SECTOR VALUES AND EMPLOYMENT PRINCIPLES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has introduced policies and practices consistent with the Victorian Public Sector Commissions (VPSC) employment standards. They provide for fair treatment, career opportunities, and the early resolution of workplace issues.

We have advised employees on how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts, and how the CMA deals with misconduct. In May 2022 we hosted training for all staff on Workplace Obligations, with a focus on Public Sector values, employment principles, and the VPSC Code of Conduct.

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; and
- Public sector employees have a reasonable avenue of redress against unfair or unreasonable treatment.

Codes of conduct and standards issued by the VPSC, include:

- The Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees; and
- 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).

Glenelg Hopkins CMA actively promotes flexible working arrangements.

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS)

Workplace Health and Safety Policy Statement

The CMA continues to strengthen our understanding of Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) to achieve positive safety outcomes for all workers and workplaces. We are proactive in enhancing the health and safety of our people. We are committed to:

- Ensuring the provision of a safe workplace for our employees, contractors, and subcontractors who operate in the CMA workplace, as far as reasonably practicable
- Implementing a robust WHS management system
- Continuing to identify, manage and eliminate WHS risks for all our people
- Supporting the early, safe, and productive return to work of ill or injured staff
- Engaging with staff and their representatives to support a positive culture of awareness and responsibility for safety and continuous safety improvement
- Inspiring employees to support and use a range of programs to care for their physical and mental health, safety, and wellbeing
- Providing training and guidance to staff relative to their roles and responsibilities
- Coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating health and safety initiatives and activities as part of the CMA's WHS management system.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE 2021-2022



7 meetings

4 designated work groups

4 health and safety reps

3 management reps

3 people and culture reps

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACHIEVEMENTS

WHS GOVERNANCE DOCUMENT REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT:

1 WHS Policy Statement

1 WHS Manual

1 safe work method statement template

30 safe work procedures

7 guidance notes

“SAFETY FIRST” CAMPAIGN:

Implementation of a “Safety First” Campaign to provide employees and management with topical information on a variety of health and safety matters, keeping WHS at the forefront of our daily activities

COMMENCED: June 2022

Views: 83

Topics covered: Ergonomics and Eye Strain, Manual Handling and Musculoskeletal Disorders, Social Connection

iAUDITOR OPTIMISATION:

iAuditor streamlines reporting functions and data collection across the CMA, whilst making it easy for the end user.

PRIORITY TEMPLATES BUILT/OPTIMISED IN 2021-2022 INCLUDE:

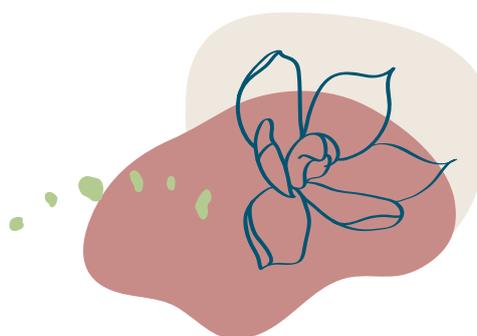
- Incident Reporting
- Hazard ID
- Take five Assessment
- Site Induction
- Quarterly Office Inspection.



EOY 2021-2022 METRICS	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Hazards reported, no.	3	13	3
Rate per 100 FTE	8	35	6
Total incidents, no.	8	15	13
Rate per 100 FTE	20	41	28
Incidents requiring first aid and/or further medical treatment, no.	3	4	7
No. of Standard claims	0	3	2
Rate per 100 FTE	0	8.2	4
No. of lost time Standard claims	0	1	3
Rate per 100 FTE	0	2.7	6
Fatality claims	0	0	0
Average cost per Standard claim	0	\$760	\$760
Percentage of claims with RTW plan <30 days	0	85%	66%

The completion of a large, short-term, field-based program in 2020-2021 saw a decrease in incident and hazard reporting in 2021-2022, coupled with the working remotely arrangements for the first six months of 2021-2022. This year the CMA has increased its focus on recovery from injury.

Although the majority of reported injuries were not serious, employees received the services of Treating Practitioners to ensure they were fit for work and the risk of exacerbating their injury was reduced.



Compliance with Relevant Legislation

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 year and corresponding previous reporting year.

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

No EO disclosure is required for fewer than three executives.

LOCAL JOBS FIRST

Local Jobs First Act 2003

There were no tenders over \$1,000,000 entered into by Glenelg Hopkins CMA during 2021-2022.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE

In the 2021-2022 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA's expenditure on government campaigns did not exceed \$100,000.

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE

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

In 2021-2022, there were 17 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2021-2022 in relation to these consultancies was \$1,017,424 (excl. GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined on Glenelg Hopkins CMA's website at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

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

In 2021-2022, there were 30 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during this period in relation to these consultancies was \$133,764 (excl. GST).



RIGHT: Emma Saligari at a Grange Burn planting day

SOCIAL PROCUREMENT

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 of individual procurement activities undertaken in 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$423,895 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 \$73,572 relates to extending or enhancing Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's current ICT capability
- BAU ICT Expenditure \$350,323 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 2021-2022. A major contract is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10m or more.



RIGHT: Windamara junior rangers investigating macroinvertebrates

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,
or via foi@ghcma.vic.gov.au,
accompanied by an application
fee of \$30.60.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received no requests for information during 2021-2022 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members, and there were no resulting appeals to VCAT.

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*, Building Regulations 2018, and the National Construction Code, and retains a copy of occupancy permits required for its owned building. Glenelg Hopkins CMA conducts and reports on scheduled inspections of its owned building 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 2021-2022. There were no major works, emergency orders or building orders issued in relation to the buildings.

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY POLICY

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure that 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* (PD Act) enables people to report improper conduct by public officers and public bodies.

The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make these disclosures and protect them when they do.

WHAT IS A PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE?

A Public Interest Disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct about a public officer or a public body.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is a public body for the purposes of the Act.

What is improper or corrupt conduct?

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial

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

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

How do I make a Public Interest Disclosure?

You can make a Public Interest Disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority or its board members, officers, or employees by contacting IBAC on the contact details provided.

Please note that Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority is not able to receive Public Interest Disclosures.

How can I access Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has established procedures to protect someone from detrimental action in reprisal for making a Public Interest Disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority or its employees. You can access Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's procedures on its website at: www.ghcma.vic.gov.au

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

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 the following documents available 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
- Declarations of pecuniary interests by relevant officers. 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.



RIGHT: A pair of Brolgas benefiting from the wetland protection activities undertaken by the CMA

Disclosure of Grants and Transfer Payments

The CMA delivers a devolved grants program for Landcare and environmental volunteer groups and networks on behalf of the Victorian Government. This is part of a coordinated and consistent approach across the State and routinely attracts many applications from across the Glenelg Hopkins region. The 2021-2022 program was vastly oversubscribed with applications totalling over one million dollars. The CMA successfully petitioned for additional funds from DELWP which lifted the budget from \$253,000 to just over \$525,000. This increased funding has gone a long way to provide more support to groups and their on-ground activities.

The 2021-2022 grant program was conducted from May to June 2021. Two categories of grants were available: project grants (<\$30,000) and administration support grants (\$500 for groups). There were 51 applications submitted from groups/networks to the value of \$1,070,857. Administration grants were provided to 28 groups/networks, totalling \$14,000. Project grants were allocated to 26 groups to the value of \$506,327.

Group projects are due for completion on the 30 November 2022. The contracted outputs are:

- 38.5km fencing
- 302ha revegetation
- 69,000 trees planted
- 39ha direct seeding
- 64ha weed control
- 31 field days/workshops
- 12 publications.

Due to COVID 19 the Victorian Landcare Grants were not delivered in the 2020-2021 year.



GROUP NAME	TOTAL
Pierrepoint Land Protection Group	\$11,927.00
Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail Inc.	\$3,300.00
Friends of the Great South West Walk	\$11,331.00
Wando River Landcare	\$29,906.00
Hopkins Falls Landcare Group	\$29,824.00
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	\$28,218.00
Mirranatwa Landcare Group	\$18,304.55
Bunnugal Landcare Group	\$7,498.00
The Basalt to Bay Landcare Network Inc	\$3,871.00
Making a Difference (MAD) for the Merri	\$13,813.65
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	\$26,140.00
Friends of the Glenelg River	\$6,000.00
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$27,425.00
Miners Rest Landcare Group	\$16,682.50
Hamilton Coleraine Railway Line Landcare Group	\$10,115.00
Making a Difference (MAD) for the Merri	\$29,900.00
Woorndoo Chatsworth Landcare Group	\$19,027.20
Lyne and Camp Creek Land Management Group	\$19,709.71
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$22,630.25
Southwest Environment Alliance	\$29,154.68
Gazette Land Action Group	\$28,860.50
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$28,843.00
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	\$29,399.75
Gazette Land Action Group	\$24,467.00
Wando River Landcare	\$29,979.24

Environmental Report

REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

REDUCE ENERGY USE (ELECTRICITY)

kWh used per annum

41,882 in 2020-2021

54,522 in 2021-2022

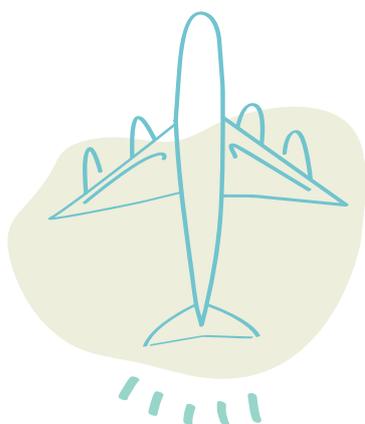
23% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

kWh used per FTE per annum

1,147 in 2020-2021

1,168 in 2021-2022

2% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior



NO. FLIGHTS WARRNAMBOOL-MELBOURNE

One-way flights

0 in 2020-2021

0 in 2021-2022

0 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

One-way flights per FTE

0 in 2020-2021

0 in 2021-2022

0 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

REDUCE PAPER USE

White A4 reams per annum

35 in 2020-2021

25 in 2021-2022

-40% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

White A4 reams per FTE

0.96 in 2020-2021

0.54 in 2021-2022

-79% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

White A3 reams per annum

4 in 2020-2021

3 in 2021-2022

-33% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

White A3 reams per FTE

0.11 in 2020-2021

0.06 in 2021-2022

-70% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

INCREASE PAPER RECYCLING

240 Litres recycled per annum

14 in 2020-2021

9 in 2021-2022

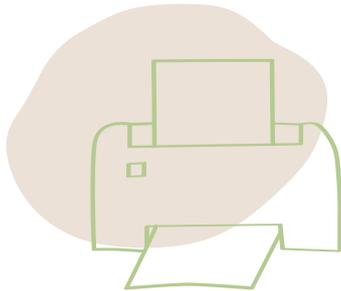
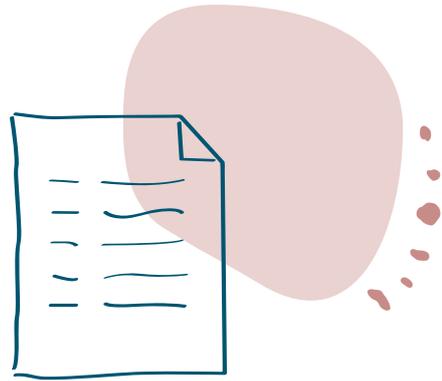
-56% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

240 Litres recycled per FTE

0.38 in 2020-2021

0.19 in 2021-2022

-99% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior



REDUCE TONER CARTRIDGES

Toner Cartridges consumed per annum

0 in 2020-2021

1 in 2021-2022

100% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

Toner Cartridges consumed per FTE

0.00 in 2020-2021

0.02 in 2021-2022

100% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

REDUCE FUEL USE

Fleet size

12 in 2020-2021

12 in 2021-2022

0% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

Litres fuel consumed per annum

26,857 in 2020-2021

21,946 in 2021-2022

-22% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

Litres fuel consumed per vehicle

2,238 in 2020-2021

1,829 in 2021-2022

-22% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior



REDUCED WATER CONSUMPTION

KLs consumed per annum

143 in 2020-2021

118 in 2021-2022

-21% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior

Overall KLs consumed per FTE

3.92 in 2020-2021

2.53 in 2021-2022

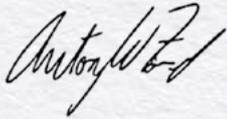
-55% 2021-2022
% Comparing one year prior



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', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Antony Ford
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2022

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 2022 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

Income recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

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

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 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 Lease Liabilities

6.2 Cash flow information and balances

6.4 Commitments for expenditure

6.5 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

Additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report

8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

8.2 Reserves

8.3 Responsible persons

8.4 Remuneration of executive officers

8.5 Related parties

8.6 Remuneration of auditors

8.7 Subsequent events

8.8 Change in accounting policies

8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

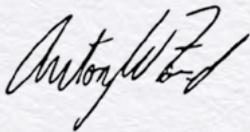
DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 2022 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2022.

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 30 November 2022.



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

Opinion	<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"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2022 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2022 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>
Basis for Opinion	<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 <i>APES 110 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>
Other Information	<p>The Board is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's reports 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.</p> <p>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>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<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.</p> <p>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>

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.

MELBOURNE
16 December 2022



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	10,546,790	10,395,544
Interest	2.2.2	26,553	18,574
Other income	2.2.3	237,606	109,137
Total income from transactions		10,810,949	10,523,255
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,902,963	4,909,648
Depreciation and amortisation	4.1.2	177,508	235,796
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	3,347,399	3,546,084
Interest expense	6.1.2	2,987	3,766
Other operating expenses		569,940	638,835
Total expenses from transactions		9,000,797	9,334,129
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		1,810,152	1,189,126
Net result		1,810,152	1,189,126
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	8.2	-	486,607
Comprehensive result		1,810,152	1,675,733

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.3	10,717,465	7,793,152
Receivables	5.1	282,429	1,095,472
Total financial assets		10,999,894	8,888,624
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	1,169,326	1,243,496
Intangible assets	4.2 / 8.8	-	206,250
Total non-financial assets		1,169,326	1,449,746
Total assets		12,169,220	10,338,370
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	415,910	374,395
Lease liabilities	6.2	74,400	186,785
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,354,786	1,263,217
Total liabilities		1,845,096	1,824,398
Net assets		10,324,124	8,513,972
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		6,160,635	4,350,483
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.2	1,006,543	1,006,543
Contributed capital		3,156,946	3,156,946
Net worth		10,324,124	8,513,972

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		11,359,833	10,395,544
Interest received		26,553	18,574
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (ii)		21,686	-
Other receipts		237,605	109,137
Total receipts		11,645,677	10,523,255
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		8,469,601	9,104,955
Goods and services tax Paid to the ATO (ii)		-	122,617
Interest and other costs of finance paid		2,987	3,766
Total payments		8,472,588	9,231,337
Net cash flows from / (used in) operating activities	6.2.1	3,173,089	1,291,918
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(136,402)	(38,665)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets		10	-
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities		(136,392)	(38,665)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities (iii)		(112,385)	(137,876)
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities		(112,385)	(137,876)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		2,924,312	1,115,377
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		7,793,152	6,677,775
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.2	10,717,464	7,793,152

Notes:

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

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

(iii) The Authority has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS \$	PHYSICAL ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2020	3,161,357	519,936	3,156,946	6,838,238
Net result for the year	1,189,126	486,607	-	1,675,733
Balance at 30 June 2021	4,350,483	1,006,543	3,156,946	8,513,973
Net result for the year	1,810,152	-	-	1,810,152
Balance at 30 June 2022	6,160,635	1,006,543	3,156,946	10,324,125

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022



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 the Report of operations, 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 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 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 AAS 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:

- employee benefit provisions (Note 3.1.2);
- accrued expenses (Note 5.2);
- estimating discount rate when not implicit in the lease (Note 6.1);
- determining whether the lease arrangement is in substance short-term arrangement (Note 6.1);
- lease terms (Note 6.2);
- 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 2.1);
- the timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (Note 2.1);
- determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligations (Note 2.1);
- fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3).

Rounding

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

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.

COVID-19 Health Pandemic

During the 2022 reporting period, the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continued to be pervasive, impacting across industries, both domestically and internationally.

While the Authority has been affected by COVID-19, the effects continue to be limited. The Authority continues to be well placed to work remotely when required, and as such the closure of our offices had minimal affect on our activities. The Authority has utilised a several initiatives to attempt to combat the effects on our 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. COVID-19 restrictions have caused some minor delays in on-ground works, which has resulted in less expenditure than otherwise expected (Note 3.2).

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 income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Income from transactions

2.1 SUMMARY OF INCOME THAT FUNDS THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Significant judgement: Grants Contributions

The Authority has made the judgement that amounts received in relation to government contributions should be recognised under AASB 1058 on the basis that the relevant funding agreements do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations to satisfy the application of AASB 15.

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	10,546,790	10,395,544
Interest income	2.2.2	26,553	18,574
Other income	2.2.3	237,606	109,137
Total income from transactions		10,810,949	10,523,255

2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS

2.2.1 Government contributions

	2022 \$	2021 \$
State Government		
Income recognised as income of not-for-profit entities under AASB 1058		
Catchment Planning	950,940	840,965
River Health	4,206,000	3,767,000
Floodplain Management	150,000	159,972
Natural Disaster	-	37,397
Working for Victoria	-	1,157,110
Other State Funding	2,209,823	1,342,873
	7,516,763	7,305,318
Commonwealth Government		
Income recognised as revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15		
National Landcare Program	2,329,231	2,895,976
Other Commonwealth Funding	700,795	194,250
	3,030,027	3,090,226
Total Government contributions	10,546,790	10,395,544

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

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest on bank deposits	26,553	18,574

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

2.2.3 Other income

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Partnership Contributions	204,494	76,085
Sundry	33,111	33,052
Total other income	237,605	109,137

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, and are recognised as income on receipt as they do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations, and are disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as other income.

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

3.1 EXPENSES INCURRED IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,902,963	4,909,648
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	3,347,399	3,546,084
Other operating expenses	3.3	572,927	638,835
Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services		8,823,289	9,094,568

3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Salaries & wages	3,576,598	3,682,462
Annual leave	266,109	370,306
Long service leave	60,462	64,926
Other leave	400,830	339,974
Defined contribution superannuation expense	421,654	409,339
Other employee expenses	97,251	112,967
Movement in provisions for employee benefits (i)	80,060	(70,324)
Total employee benefit expenses	4,902,964	4,909,648

Note: (i) The increase in movement in provisions for employee benefits in 2022 is due to an increase in the discount rate and oncosts used to calculate the carrying amount of employee leave provisions. The provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, where the carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows, using a wage inflation and discount rate that reflects the time, value of money and risks specific to the provision.

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 benefits 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.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Time in lieu and RDO:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	34,309	19,792
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	417,397	289,214
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	78,400	62,884
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	611,727	639,547
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	10,432	54,948
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	81,393	81,157
Total current provisions	1,233,658	1,147,541
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Long service leave:		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	106,904	102,650
Provisions for on-costs		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	14,224	13,026
Total non-current provisions	121,128	115,676
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	1,354,786	1,263,217

	2022 \$
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision	
Opening balance	149,131
Net reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	(43,082)
Closing balance	106,049

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.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability, as the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Annual leave balances of less than 6 weeks are measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, whilst balances above 6 weeks are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

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 amount that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

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.

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

3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

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

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

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Defined contribution plans:		
Vision super	182,655	204,319
Aware Super (formerly Vic super)	53,742	40,585
Other private schemes	185,257	164,435
Total	421,654	409,339

There was \$38,141 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2022 (2021: \$32,403)

3.2 MATERIALS, MAINTENANCE, GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCIES

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Materials	65,501	139,647
Repairs and maintenance	15,595	14,714
Grants paid	756,157	662,897
Contractors	1,762,382	1,411,781
Consultants	747,765	1,317,045
Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3,347,400	3,546,084

Grants are recognised in the period in which they are paid or payable.

Materials, contractors and consultants 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	
	2022 \$	2021 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$	2022 \$	2021 \$
Land at fair value	150,000	150,000	-	-	150,000	150,000
Buildings at fair value	980,108	980,108	(143,808)	(38,844)	836,300	941,264
Plant and equipment at fair value	384,856	275,307	(247,943)	(231,955)	136,913	43,352
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	100,296	100,296	(81,683)	(77,284)	18,612	23,012
Motor vehicles at fair value	272,652	440,587	(245,152)	(354,719)	27,500	85,868
Net carrying amount	1,887,912	1,946,298	(718,586)	(702,802)	1,169,326	1,243,496

4.1.1 Total right-of-use assets

This note explores right-of-use assets, a subset of the Authority's total assets, where right-of-use assets represent the Authority's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term.

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION 2022 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2021 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2021 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2021 \$
Buildings at fair value	130,108	(92,808)	37,300	130,108	(38,844)	91,264
Motor vehicles and equipment	272,652	(245,152)	27,500	440,587	(354,719)	85,868
Net carrying amount	402,760	(337,960)	64,800	570,695	(393,563)	177,132

	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$
Opening Balance - 1 July 2021	91,264	85,868
Additions	-	25,596
Disposals	-	(9,688)
Depreciation	(53,964)	(74,276)
Closing Balance - 30 June 2022	37,300	27,500

	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$
Opening Balance - 1 July 2020	95,566	251,100
Additions	34,542	24,911
Disposals	-	(16,680)
Depreciation	(38,844)	(173,463)
Closing Balance - 30 June 2021	91,264	85,868

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.

Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000, or in the case of ICT equipment in excess of \$200, and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as an asset. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees - Initial measurement

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 incentive received; plus
- any indirect costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

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. The CSO adjustment reflects the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that the CSO adjustment is also equally applicable to market participants.

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

Right-of-use asset - Subsequent measurement

The Authority depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease 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.

As per the requirements of FRD103 *Non-Financial Physical Assets*, right-of-use assets are subject to revaluation to Fair Value, whereby management undertake an assessment to determine whether the current lease payments under the contract approximate current market rentals for equivalent properties that would be paid in the current environment.

Management has completed an assessment at 30 June 2022 comparing current lease payments against current market rentals for equivalent properties and has determined that no adjustment to the right-of-use asset or liability is required.

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

Revaluation of property, plant and equipment

Non-financial physical assets are revalued at fair value every five years in accordance with the Government purpose classifications defined in Financial Reporting Direction 103 Non-Financial Physical Assets (FRD 103). The Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the Government's independent valuation agency and is used by the Authority to conduct these scheduled revaluations.

Revaluations may occur more frequently if fair value assessments indicate material changes in values. In such instances, interim managerial revaluations are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of FRD 103.

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

The Authority's assets relating to land and buildings were independently valued by the VGV as at 30 June 2021. 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.

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

Accounting for revaluation movements - land and buildings

Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset).

Revaluation increases or decreases arise from differences between an asset's carrying value and its fair value.

Revaluation increases and decreases relating to individual assets in a class of PPE, are offset against other assets in that class but are not offset against assets in different classes. An asset revaluation surplus is not transferred to accumulated funds on the de-recognition of the related asset.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense, in which case the increment is recognised immediately as revenue.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as an expense, except to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve applicable to the same class of assets, in which case the decrement is debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

4.1.2 Depreciation and amortisation

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Charge for the period		
Buildings	81,597	42,930
Plant & equipment	17,235	14,833
Office furniture & equipment	4,400	4,571
Motor Vehicles	74,276	173,463
Total depreciation and amortisation	177,508	235,796

Depreciation and amortisation for the period of which relates to right-of-use assets:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Charge for the period		
Buildings	53,964	8,092
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	74,276	173,463

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 and is not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

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
Buildings - right-of-use	2 - 20 years
Plant and equipment	4 - 5 years
Office furniture & 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.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term.

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.

4.1.3 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 \$	MOTOR VEHICLES AT FAIR VALUE \$	TOTAL \$
2021-22						
Opening balance	150,000	917,897	43,352	23,012	74,538	1,208,800
Additions	-	-	110,806	-	25,596	136,402
Disposals	-	-	(10)	-	-	(10)
ROU adjustment	-	-	-	-	1,641	1,641
Depreciation	-	(81,597)	(17,235)	(4,400)	(74,276)	(177,508)
Closing balance	150,000	836,300	136,913	18,612	27,499	1,169,325
2020-21						
Opening balance	91,560	532,661	47,845	27,583	239,770	939,420
Additions	-	-	10,339	-	24,911	35,250
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(16,680)	(16,680)
ROU adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation (i)	58,440	428,166	-	-	-	486,606
Depreciation	-	(42,930)	(14,833)	(4,571)	(173,463)	(235,796)
Closing balance	150,000	917,897	43,352	23,012	74,538	1,208,800

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

4.2 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Significant judgement: Determination whether configuration and customisation services are distinct from Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) access

Where the SaaS arrangement supplier provides both configuration and customisation services, judgement has been applied to determine whether each of these services are distinct or not from the underlying use of the SaaS application software. Distinct configuration and customisation costs are expensed as incurred as the software is configured or customised (i.e. upfront). Non-distinct configuration and customisation costs are expensed over the SaaS contract term.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Computer Software		
Gross carrying amount		
Opening Balance	206,250	177,924
Additions	11,368	-
Additions - Work in Progress	-	28,326
Other Operating Expenses	(217,618)	-
Closing balance	-	206,250
Accumulated depreciation		
Opening Balance	-	-
Amortisation	-	-
Closing balance	-	-
Net book value at end of financial year	-	206,250

Initial recognition

Purchased intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. When the recognition criteria in AASB 138 *Intangible Assets* is met, internally generated intangible assets are recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation and amortisation begins when the asset is available for use, that is, when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Subsequent measurement

Intangible produced assets with finite useful lives, are amortised as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight line basis over their useful lives.

Impairment of intangible assets

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

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements

SaaS arrangements are service contracts providing the Authority with the right to access the cloud provider's application software over the contract period. As such, the Authority does not receive a software intangible asset at the contract commencement date.

Please refer to Note 8.8 for the change in accounting policy relating to SaaS arrangements.

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

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Receivables		
Contractual		
Trade receivables	236,248	1,095,472
Statutory		
GST input tax credits recoverable	46,180	-
	46,180	-
Total receivables	282,428	1,095,472
Represented by:		
Current Receivables	282,428	1,095,472

Receivables consist of:

- Contractual receivables, which 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. The Authority holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measures them at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. Subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost less any impairment; and
- Statutory receivables, which do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes.

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 71.

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.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Payables		
Contractual		
Accrued expenses	204,556	275,949
Other payables	94,635	-
	299,191	275,949
Statutory		
Superannuation	38,141	32,403
PAYG/GST payable	78,578	66,042
	116,719	98,446
Total payables	415,910	374,395
Represented by:		
Current Payables	415,910	374,395

Payables consist of:

- Contractual payables, classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and arise from contracts.
- Statutory payables, that 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 (i)

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	NOMINAL AMOUNT \$	MATURITY DATES		
			LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-6 MONTHS \$
2022					
Payables					
Trade payables	204,556	204,556	204,556	-	-
Accrued expenses	94,635	94,635	94,635	-	-
Total	299,191	299,191	299,191	-	-
2021					
Payables					
Accrued expenses	275,949	275,949	275,949	-	-
Total	275,949	275,949	275,949	-	-

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, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) 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 7.1 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

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

6.1 LEASE LIABILITIES

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current lease liabilities			
Lease Liabilities (i)	6.1.1	43,715	114,283
Total current leases liabilities		43,715	114,283
Non-current lease liabilities			
Lease Liabilities (i)	6.1.1	30,685	72,502
Total non-current lease liabilities		30,685	72,502

Note: (i) Secured by assets leased. Leases liabilities are effectively secured as the right to the lease assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

6.1.1 Maturity analysis of interest-bearing lease liabilities

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	NOMINAL AMOUNT \$	MATURITY DATES				
			LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-12 MONTHS \$	1-5 YEARS \$	5+ YEARS \$
2022							
Lease liabilities	74,400	74,400	3,856	8,884	30,976	30,684	-
Total	74,400	74,400	3,856	8,884	30,976	30,684	-
2021							
Lease liabilities	186,785	186,785	12,693	29,928	71,662	72,502	-
Total	186,785	186,785	12,693	29,928	71,662	72,502	-

6.1.2 Interest expense

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest on leases liabilities	2,987	3,766
Total interest expense	2,987	3,766

Interest expense includes the interest component of the lease repayments, and is recognised in the period in which it was incurred through lease expenses in the comprehensive operating statement.

6.1 Leases

Significant judgement: Lease Terms

In determining the lease term, the Authority considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option. The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects this assessment.

The Authority leases various properties. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. Rental contracts are typically for fixed periods of between 1 to 5 years, with up to extension options of between 1 to 10 years typically available.

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 and are recognised on a straight-line basis. The Authority has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases.

6.1.3 Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are presented in Note 4.1.1

6.1.4 Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022 relating to leases:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	2,987	3,766
Expenses relating to short term leases	12,420	32,888
Total amount recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement	15,407	36,653

6.1.5 Amounts recognised in the Cashflow Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Cashflow Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022 relating to leases:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest on leases liabilities	2,987	3,766
Expenses relating to short term leases	12,420	32,888
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities	112,385	137,876
Total cash outflow for leases	127,792	174,529

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 Authority 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.

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

Lease Liability - Initial Measurement

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 - Subsequent Measurement

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 and low value leases

The Authority has elected to account for short-term and low value 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.

Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The authority presents right-of-use assets as 'property plant equipment' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'borrowings' in the balance sheet.

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.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	4,660,900	1,702,825
Deposits at call	6,056,565	6,090,327
Balance as per cash flow statement	10,717,465	7,793,152

6.2.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Net result for the period	1,810,152	1,189,126
Non-cash movements:		
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	177,508	197,846
	1,987,660	1,386,972
Movements in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	813,043	(16,438)
Decrease/(increase) in non-financial assets	239,303	-
(Decrease)/increase in payables	41,515	(13,044)
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	91,569	(65,573)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	3,173,089	1,291,918

6.3 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Commitments for future expenditure include operating commitments arising from contracts. 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

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Operating commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	800,255	1,224,537
1 to 5 years	-	800,255
5 years or more	-	-
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	800,255	2,024,792

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.

As at 30 June 2022 the Authority had no further expenditure commitments (2021: \$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 higher 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

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 and lease liabilities).

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.

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.

Under this approach, the expected loss rate for the year ending 30 June 2022 has been calculated at 0%, and as such no loss allowance has been recognised. The Authority has a low expected loss rate due to majority of funding sourced from State and Federal government.

On this basis, the Authority determines 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
30 June 2021						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	\$1,072,804	\$22,114	\$554	-	-	\$1,095,472
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 June 2022						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	\$214,248	-	\$22,000	-	-	\$236,248
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-

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.

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE %	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	INTEREST RATE EXPOSURE		
			FIXED INTEREST RATE \$	VARIABLE INTEREST RATE \$	NON-INTEREST BEARING \$
2022					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	0.25%	10,717,465	-	10,717,465	-
Contractual receivables	-	236,248	-	-	236,248
Total financial assets		10,953,713	-	10,717,465	236,248
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	299,191	-	-	299,191
Lease liabilities	-	74,400	74,400	-	-
Total financial liabilities		373,591	74,400	-	299,191
2021					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	0.24%	7,793,152	-	7,793,152	-
Contractual receivables	-	1,095,472	-	-	1,095,472
Total financial assets		8,888,624	-	7,793,152	1,095,472
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	275,949	-	-	341,992
Lease liabilities	-	186,785	186,785	-	-
Total financial liabilities		462,734	186,785	-	341,992

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 \$
2022					
Cash and deposits (i)	10,717,465	(53,587)	-	53,587	-
2021					
Cash and deposits (i)	7,793,152	(38,966)	(38,966)	38,966	38,966

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$7,793,152 (2021: \$7,793,152) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2022: $\$10,717,465 \times -0.005 = -\$53,587$; and $\$10,717,465 \times 0.005 = \$53,587$
- 2021: $\$7,793,152 \times -0.005 = -\$38,966$ and $\$7,793,152 \times 0.005 = \$38,966$

7.1.2 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	FINANCIAL ASSETS AT AMORTISED COST \$	FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT AMORTISED COST \$	TOTAL \$
2022			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	10,717,465	-	10,717,465
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	236,248	-	236,248
Other receivables	-	-	-
Total contractual financial assets	10,953,713	-	10,953,713
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	94,635	94,635
Accrued expenses	-	204,556	204,556
<i>Borrowings:</i>			
Lease liabilities	-	74,400	74,400
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	373,591	373,591
2021			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	7,793,152	-	7,793,152
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	1,095,472	-	1,095,472
Other receivables	-	-	-
Total contractual financial assets	8,888,624	-	8,888,624
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Accrued expenses	-	275,949	275,949
<i>Borrowings:</i>			
Lease liabilities	-	186,785	186,785
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	462,734	462,734

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

(ii) Lease Liabilities are measured using AASB 16 and have been included here for completeness of financial liability disclosures.

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 CEO and the Board.

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 debtors are the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. 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 National Australia Bank and the Australia and New Zealand Bank.

The Authority records the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments applying AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment include the Authority's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

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 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 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.

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.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Contingent Assets		
As at 30 June 2022, the Authority has no known contingent assets.	-	-
Contingent liabilities		
VCAT Cases	20,000	-

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 2022-23 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets

Cash and deposits
Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Other receivables

Financial liabilities

Lease liabilities
Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses

7.3.1 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Fair value measurement hierarchy

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2022 \$	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD USING:		
		LEVEL 1 ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$	LEVEL 2 ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$	LEVEL 3 ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	150,000	-	150,000	-
Total Land at Fair Value	150,000	-	150,000	-
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	799,000	-	799,000	-
Right-of-Use Non-specialised buildings	37,300	-	37,300	-
Total Buildings at Fair Value	836,300	-	836,300	-
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	136,913	-	-	136,913
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	136,913	-	-	136,913
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	18,613	-	-	18,613
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	18,613	-	-	18,613
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Right-of-Use assets - Motor	27,500	-	-	27,500
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	27,500	-	-	27,500

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

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2021 \$	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD USING:		
		LEVEL 1 ⁽¹⁾ \$	LEVEL 2 ⁽¹⁾ \$	LEVEL 3 ⁽¹⁾ \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	150,000	-	150,000	-
Total Land at Fair Value	150,000	-	150,000	-
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	850,000	-	850,000	-
Right-of-Use Non-specialised buildings	91,264	-	-	91,264
Total Buildings at Fair Value	941,264	-	850,000	91,264
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	43,352	-	-	43,352
Right-of-Use Plant and equipment	85,868	-	-	85,868
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	129,220	-	-	129,220
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	23,012	-	-	23,012
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	23,012	-	-	23,012

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

Non-specialised land & non-specialised buildings

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

For the Authority's non-specialised buildings, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, non-specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

Right-of-use non-specialised buildings are valued as per the requirements of AASB 16 *Leases*. This is detailed further in Note 6.2.

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings (excluding right-of use-assets), 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 current replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2022.

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

Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT \$	MOTOR VEHICLES \$
2021-22			
Opening Balance	43,351	23,012	74,538
Purchases (sales)	110,798	-	27,237
Depreciation	(17,235)	(4,400)	(74,276)
Subtotal	136,913	18,612	27,500
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-
Closing Balance	136,913	18,612	27,500
2020-21			
Opening Balance	47,845	27,583	239,770
Purchases (sales)	10,339	-	8,231
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	-
Depreciation	(14,833)	(4,571)	(173,463)
Subtotal	43,351	23,012	74,538
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Revaluation	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-
Closing Balance	43,351	23,012	74,538

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	VALUATION TECHNIQUE	SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS
Non-Specialised buildings	Current replacement cost	Direct cost per square metre Useful life of non-specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Office furniture and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of office furniture and equipment
Motor Vehicles	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of vehicles

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 Reserves
- 8.3 Responsible persons
- 8.4 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.5 Related parties
- 8.6 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.7 Subsequent events
- 8.8 Change in accounting policies
- 8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

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 2022 (2021 \$0).

8.2 RESERVES

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	1,006,543	519,936
Revaluation increments	-	486,607
Balance at end of financial year	1,006,543	1,006,543
Total Reserves	1,006,543	1,006,543

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

8.3 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)*, 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	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2021 to 26 Jun 2022
MP The Hon. Harriet Shing	Minister for Water	27 Jun 2022 to 30 Jun 2022
MP The Hon. Richard Wynne, MP	Acting Minister for Water	01 Jul 2021 to 22 Aug 2021
The Hon. Lilians D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Antony Ford	Chair	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Adam Bester	CEO	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Damien Bell	Board Member	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Michelle Casanova	Board Member	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Christine Giles	Board Member	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Philip Saunders	Board Member	01 Jul 2021 to 26 Dec 2021
Celia Tucker	Board Member	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Gerry Quinn	Board Member	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahill	Board Member	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022

Remuneration

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

Income band	2022	2021
\$0 - \$9,999	1	1
\$10,000 - \$19,999	3	7
\$20,000 - \$29,999	3	1
\$30,000 - \$39,999	1	-
\$200,000 - \$209,999	-	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	-
Total number of Responsible persons	9	10
Total Remuneration \$	329,500	296,259

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 State's Annual Financial Report.

8.4 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.

The Authority did not have any executive officers, other than the CEO, to whom the Victorian Government's Public Entity Executive Remuneration (PEER) Policy applies. The CEO is an accountable officer and therefore disclosed under Note 8.3.

Remuneration (i)	2022 \$	2021 \$
Short-term employee benefits	440,774	425,915
Post-employment benefits	43,941	39,392
Other long-term benefits	10,849	10,849
Total remuneration	495,565	476,156
Total number of executives (ii)	3	3
Total annualised employee equivalents (iii)	3.0	3.0

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 reported within the related parties note disclosure (Note 8.6).
- (ii) In the previous period, the Executive Officers disclosed included senior managers that held contracts under the previous Victorian Public Sector Commission's (VPSC) Government Sector Executive Remuneration Panel (GSERP). With the commencement of the Victorian PEER contracts in the 2020 reporting year, the senior managers no longer meet the PEER policy definition and are no longer reported as Executive officers in 2022.
- (iii) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

8.5 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

GHCMA is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the state of Victoria. During the 2022 financial year, the Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS RECEIVED 2022 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Service Level Agreements and Lease Agreement	6,926,068
Victorian Fisheries Authority	Service Level Agreements	146,956
Wannon Water Corporation	Service Level Agreements	20,000

The Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities for the year ending 30 June 2021:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS RECEIVED 2021 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Service Level Agreements	5,668,107
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions	Service Level Agreements	1,272,821
Wannon Water Corporation	Service Level Agreements	44,000
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	Service Level Agreements	20,000

During the 2022 financial year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS MADE 2022 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Reimbursement of expenditure and Service Supply Agreements	441,949
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of expenditure	233,079
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	Lease Agreements	92,856
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	Service Supply Agreement	66,055
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreements and shared services	58,374
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions	Service Level Agreements and shared services	41,000
State Revenue Office	Payroll Tax	39,842
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	33,000

During the 2021 financial year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS MADE 2021 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Reimbursement of expenditure and Service Supply Agreements	552,441
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of expenditure	176,316
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	Lease Agreement	89,834
Department of Jobs, Precincts & Regions	Service Level Agreement	77,000
State Revenue Office	Payroll Tax	75,696
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	43,000

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

Compensation of KMPs	2022 \$	2021 \$
Short-term employee benefits	734,679	691,910
Post-employment benefits	74,666	64,785
Other long-term benefits	15,720	15,720
Total	825,065	772,415

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

8.6 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	11,400	11,100
Internal audit costs	18,438	22,218
Total auditors' remuneration	29,838	33,318

8.7 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.

8.7 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

8.8.1 Initial Application of the International Finance Reporting Standards Interpretations Committee (IFRS) Agenda Decisions

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements

The international Finance Reporting Standards Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) has issued two final agenda decisions which impact SaaS arrangements:

- Customer's right to receive access to the supplier's software hosted on the cloud (March 2019) – this decision considers whether a customer receives a software asset at the contract commencement date or a service over the contract term.
- Configuration or customisation costs in a cloud computing arrangement (April 2021) – this decision discusses whether configuration or customisation expenditure relating to SaaS arrangements can be recognised as an intangible asset and if not, over what time period the expenditure is expensed.

The Authority's accounting policy has historically been to capitalise all costs related to SaaS arrangements as intangible assets in the Balance Sheet. The adoption of the above agenda decisions has resulted in a reclassification of intangible assets to the recognition as an expense in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, impacting both the current and prior periods presented.

Impact of Change in Accounting Policy

For the current year, \$217,618 of costs that would previously have been capitalised under AASB 138 *Intangible assets* were expensed. Cash outflows of \$217,618 were included in payments to suppliers and employees in the Cash Flow Statement that previously would have been included as purchases of non-financial assets.

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 2021-22 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to the Financial Statements. The Authority is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which includes:

AASB 17 Insurance Contracts

The operative date of this standard has been deferred by AASB 2020-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts* to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 and will supersede AASB 4 *Insurance Contracts*. AASB 17 seeks to eliminate inconsistencies and weakness in existing practices by providing a single principle-based framework to account for all types of insurance contracts, including reinsurance contracts that an insurer holds. The standard also provides requirements for presentation and disclosure to enhance comparability between entities.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has currently issued an Exposure Draft (ED) 319 – *Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector*, proposing public-sector modifications to AASB 17 to facilitate the application by public sector entities. It is proposed that public sector entities would apply AASB 17 to annual periods beginning or after 1 July 2025, with earlier application permitted.

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

AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian 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. A liability is classified as non-current if an entity has the right at the end of the reporting period to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. The meaning of settlement of a liability is also clarified.

AASB 2020-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Deferral of Effective Date* was issued in August 2020 and defers the effective date to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 instead of 1 January 2022, with earlier application permitted.

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

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 2020-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments*.
- AASB 2021-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definitions of Accounting Estimates*.
- AASB 2021-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction*.
- AASB 2021-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards*.
- AASB 2021-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections*.

Disclosure index

LEGISLATION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE
Report of Operations		
Charter and purpose		
FRD 22	Manner of establishment and the relevant Ministers	2
FRD 22	Purpose, functions, powers and duties	2
FRD 22	Key initiatives and projects	17
FRD 22	Nature and range of services provided	2
Management and structure		
FRD 22	Organisational structure	58
Financial and other information		
FRD 10	Disclosure index	113
FRD 12	Disclosure of major contracts	68
FRD 15	Executive officer disclosures	67
FRD 22	Employment and conduct principles	64
FRD 22	Operational objectives and performance	7
FRD 22	Occupational health and safety policy	65
FRD 22	Summary of the financial results for the year	9
FRD 22	Significant changes in financial position during the year	9
FRD 22	Major changes or factors affecting performance	9
FRD 22	Subsequent events	111
FRD 22	<i>Application and operation of Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	69
FRD 22	<i>Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of Building Act 1993</i>	69
FRD 22	Statement of National Competition Policy	69
FRD 22	<i>Application and operation of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012</i>	69
FRD 22	Details of consultancies over \$10 000	67
FRD 22	Details of consultancies under \$10 000	67
FRD 22	Disclosure of government advertising expenditure	67
FRD 22	Disclosure of ICT expenditure	68
FRD 22	Statement of availability of other information	70
SPF	Social Procurement Framework	68
FRD 24	Reporting of office based environmental impacts	72
FRD 25	Local Jobs First	67
FRD 22 & 29	Workforce Data disclosures	60
FRD 22	Workforce Inclusion Policy	64

LEGISLATION	REQUIREMENT	PAGE
Compliance attestation and declaration		
SD 5.1.4	Attestation for compliance with Ministerial Standing Direction	74
SD 5.2.3	Declaration in report of operations	5
Financial Statements		
SD 5.2.2	Declaration in financial statements	76
Other requirements under Standing Directions 5.2		
SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Australian accounting standards and other authoritative pronouncements	83
SD 5.2.1(a)	Compliance with Standing Directions	76
Other disclosures as required by FRDs in notes to the financial statements^(a)		
FRD 11	Disclosure of Ex gratia Expenses	107
FRD 21	Disclosures of Responsible Persons, Executive Officers and other Personnel (Contractors with Significant Management Responsibilities) in the Financial Report	109
FRD 110	Cash Flow Statements	81
FRD 112	Defined Benefit Superannuation Obligations	88
FRD 114	Financial Instruments – general government entities and public non-financial corporations	100

LEGISLATION*Freedom of Information Act 1982**Building Act 1993**Public Interest Disclosures 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*

Endnotes

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- II. DELWP (2017) Riparian Intervention Monitoring Program overview fact sheet 2017b. Melbourne: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.
- III. DELWP (2019) WetMAP – Victoria's Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program for environmental water. The State of Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Melbourne.
- IV. DELWP (2020) Long-Term Water Resource Assessment for Southern Victoria – Overview Report. East Melbourne: Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.
- V. DELWP, Bureau of Meteorology, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and the University of Melbourne (2020) Victoria's Water in a Changing Climate. The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2020.
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Glossary

ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	NRM	Natural Resource Management
ARRC	Australian River Restoration Centre	OCOC	Our Catchments Our Communities
BA	Birdlife Australia	PAA	Public Administration Act
CE	Community Engagement	RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
CeRDI	Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation	RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
CFA	Country Fire Authority	RHD	Rabbit hemorrhagic disease
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinator
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
EO	Executive Officer	RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation	SCA	Stock Containment Area
EWRO	Environment Water Reserve Officer	SIP	Sustainable Irrigation Program
FFG	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act	TfN	Trust for Nature
FHR	Fisheries Habitat Restoration program	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
FTE	Full-time Employee	VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
GH EQUIP	CMA skills development and learning strategy	VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	VFMS	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy
GREWAG	Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group	VicSES	Victoria State Emergency Service
GMMWater	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	VLG	Victorian Landcare Grants
IBA	Important Bird Areas	VPS	Victorian Public Sector
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission	VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
ICT	Information Communication Technology	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area	VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	VWPIF	Victorian Water Program Investment Framework
IRV	Industrial Relations Victoria	YEP	Youth Employment Program
LAC	Limits for Acceptable Change		
MERI	Monitor Evaluate Report and Improvement		
NGT	Nature Glenelg Trust		
NLP	National Landcare Program		
Non-BAU	Non-Business As Usual		



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