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Glenelg Hopkins



CMA

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## Forum successfully brings minds together

Last month the CMA hosted the inaugural South West National Capital Forum in Warrnambool. The event was a huge success and had lots of great feedback and opportunities to network. The aim of the forum was to build regional capacity in natural capital and bring together sectors that do not usually connect. A total of 125 people attended the forum which included landholders, Landcare, government, Traditional Owner/Aboriginal businesses, accountants, lawyers, insurance), research, consultants, forestry, and not-for-profits. The event aimed to bring expert speakers to the region, recognising that whilst a lot is happening nationally and internationally in natural capital, much of this doesn't filter down to the regional level.

The calibre of speakers was high, and included some of Australia's leading natural capital experts. These included Hugh Possingham (University of QLD/Accounting for Nature/Biodiversity Council of Australia), Peter Macreadie (RMIT Centre for Nature Positive Solutions), Sarah Whinney (Chatsworth House), Angela Hawdon (Farming for the Future), Alison Osborne (RaboBank), Anthony O'Grady (CSIRO) and Alex Maisey (Latrobe University). A massive thankyou to Uncle Rob Lowe for the amazing Welcome to Peek Wurrung Country and sponsors Rabobank, Warrnambool City Council, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Landcare Victoria, the Rural Financial Counselling Service Victoria West and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

**Adam Bester**  
CEO

**Glenelg Hopkins CMA**



## **New Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board members announced**



***Glenelg Hopkins CMA chair Kate Redwood (left) with new Board members Anna Sweeny (centre) and Susan Bosch (right)***

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA has 2 new Board directors and a new chair following the announcement of CMA and Water Corporation Boards in September.

This year, the CMA had 3 retiring Board members, who have completed their terms and were not up for re-election.

The CMA farewelled long time chair of our board, Tony Ford, and Board members Chris Giles and Michelle Cassanova - who have all been fantastic voices and brought a wide range of experiences to the Board.

The new members of the Board are Anna Sweeny and Susan Bosch. Kate Redwood has been named as the new Board Chairperson.

The first meeting with the now 7 person CMA Board was held on October 29.

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## **Hands on for dung beetle workshops in Maroona and Hamilton**

The role dung beetles can play in helping farmers improve soil health and fertility through their natural behaviour of burying and breaking down animal waste was the key topic of interactive and hands on workshops in Maroona and Hamilton recently.

The workshops explored the role of dung beetles in improving soil health, controlling pests, boosting farm productivity, and also involved learning about the beetle biology, how to identify species and how to establish breeding nurseries on your farm.





## CMA NEWS:

# Glenelg Hopkins CMA Annual Report released

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA's annual report has been released following its tabling in the Victorian Parliament last week.

The annual report gives an overview of the CMA's operations for the 2024-2025 financial year including projects, organisational structure, costs, and staffing.

The report was endorsed by the CMA Board prior to being forwarded to the Government for tabling.

Read the [Annual Report here](#)  
or scan the QR code.



## Landcare grants announced across the catchment

The 2025 Victorian Landcare Grant recipients have been announced.

This year \$3.6 million in grants were announced and will support 509 Landcare and environmental volunteer groups across the state, helping fund on-ground works, community education and engagement activities, group development, and small grants supporting administrative functions, including insurance, incorporation and operational costs.

Locally Landcare Groups and Friends Of groups have received a total of \$315,386.

On the ground that looks like 22 project grants worth a combined total of almost \$299,000 and 31 support grants of \$500 each to help offset the cost of group administration costs.

This year, many of the project grants continue connection of previously completed works to provide some really significant landscape-wide projects, or build on privately funded landcare activities on farms to support their upscaling for a wider, local impact.



**\$315,386**

Funding announced for the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region under the 2025 Victorian Landcare Grants program

**22 project grants totaling \$298,886**  
**31 support grants of \$500 each**

Details: [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)

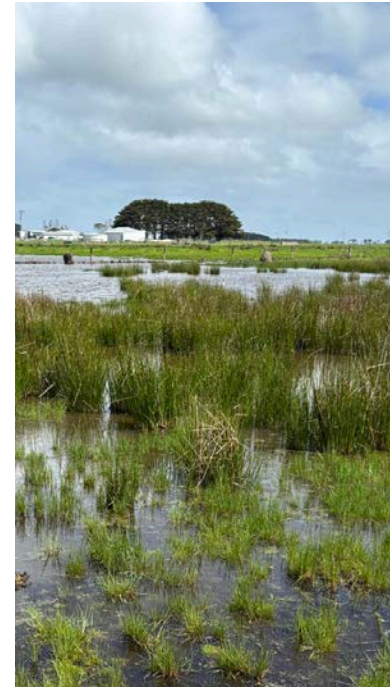


## CMA NEWS:

# Wetland across the catchment landscape visited for frogs project

Our team have been out and about undertaking site assessments for landholders with wetlands as part of the Growling Grass Frog Project. Not only have they found frogs, but also turtles, plants, and have also got a better understanding on how the wetlands are recovering from a very, very dry winter

It's taken them to landscapes in the catchments not often explored and connected them to landholders who are keen to protect and support their wetlands and what they contain - especially the frogs - with activities like fencing, and pest plant and animal control.



**See more of the wetlands visited [here](#)**

## Hopkins fish surveys find specimens of all shapes and sizes

Fish surveying in the Hopkins River has just been undertaken finding species of all shapes and sizes in the waterway.

The surveying was undertaken around the 80 pieces of habitat placed in the river for juvenile and foraging fish by Glenelg Hopkins CMA earlier this year.

This habitat installation was part of a project funded through the Victorian Government's Fish Habitat Improvement Fund and in partnership with Warrnambool City Council and a number of local angling clubs.

One of the most exciting finds was a 43cm (to fork) and 2kg Black Bream, full of spawn, which was estimated to be over 35 years of age (pictured top right). Its great to see these species breeding around the habitat areas!





## Grasslands sprouting to life as surveying gets underway

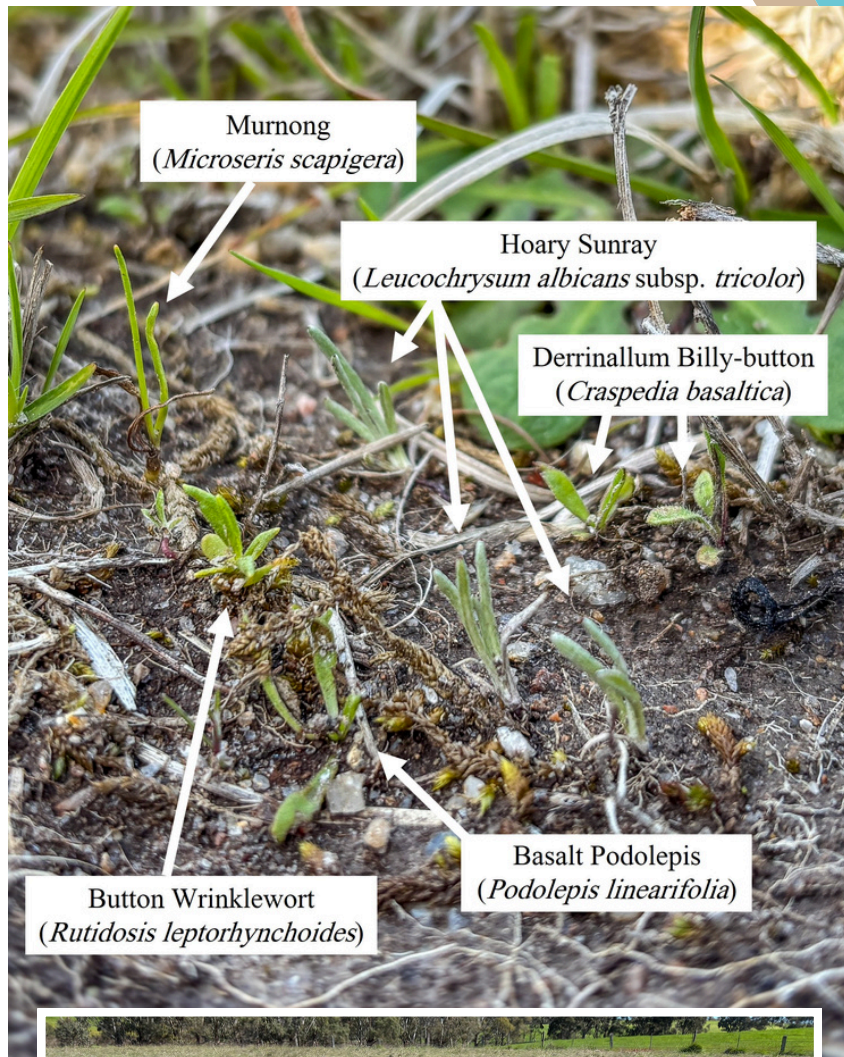
The CMA's Grassland team has made a start on surveying for seedling germination in plots seeded back in June. The seed comes from some of the most threatened plants that occur in VVP grasslands and was produced in the Saving 17 Seed Production Area.

The sites we have seeded are all Kangaroo Grass dominated remnants that occur on farms, with management being supported through the VVP Stewardship Program. This is the first time GHCMA have ever tried combining a landholder stewardship program with establishing new threatened plant populations through direct seeding.

Early results have been really promising, with seedlings being recorded in the 100s. Numbers have been particularly high for the Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans* subsp. *tricolor*) and Derrinallum Billy-button (*Craspedia basaltica*), but also good numbers for Button Wrinklewort (*Rutidosia leptorhynchoides*), Murnong (*Microseris scapigera*), Basalt Podolepis (*Podolepis linearifolia*) and Large-headed Groundsel (*Senecio macrocarpus*).

Trying to count tiny seedlings, generally just a few millimetres tall is a challenging task and requires the team to get up close and person with the grasslands - working their way methodically across surveying quadrats on their stomachs.

This project has been jointly funded through the Victorian Government's Nature Fund and the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust



Keep up to date with what we're up to at the CMA!



Glenelg Hopkins CMA



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## Importance and benefits of sheep eID from the comfort of home

Learn about eID without getting in the yards!

Join for a FREE webinar with a focus on the practical implementation and use of eID data to boost farm productivity and reduce methane emissions on November 7.

Learn about:

- Key benefits of adopting eID technology
- Practical tips for effective data management
- Aligning data collection with your farm's strategic goals
- Building a data collection calendar tailored to your business
- Turning raw data into actionable insights

**Further information is available on the event flyer at the end of this newsletter**



## Make the most of the salty farm spots with Adamson's Blown-grass

Join a field day on Thursday, 13 November in the Cavendish area to see how Adamson's Blown-grass might be the species you want growing in those salty non-productive areas on your farm that are so frustrating to make useful.

See the Adamson's Blown-grass growing in its saline habitat, how it can assist in rehabilitating salt scalds and stabilising creek banks, then return to Cavendish Memorial Hall to talk about the genetics of this cryptic species and see its germination requirements. The field day runs from 10am to 1pm and it is a free event with lunch included.



**For further information, see the event flyer at the end of this newsletter or visit [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au)**



## ENVIRONMENTAL WATER UPDATE:

# 2024-2025 Environmental Water flows in the Glenelg River review

The past watering year in the Glenelg River was tough, with persistent and intensifying dry conditions. Winter and spring 2024 saw drought across much of western Victoria, and the situation remained dry through summer.

In response to this dry start to the season and to get ahead of the dry conditions, by November 2024, a decision was made for early releases of environmental water and compensation flows. This was due to declining streamflow and rising salinity levels. These flows were critical in sustaining connectivity and improving water quality throughout the system.

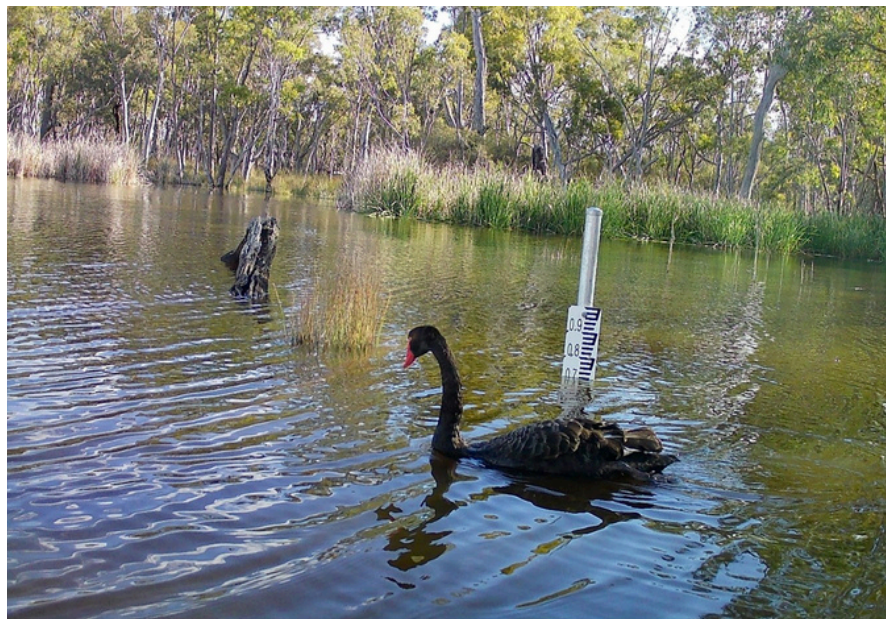
“We got a fright last year when salt levels rose so dramatically. Going into Summer this year, in the northern end of the catchment we’re more concerned about quality rather than quantity because we have on farm storages that are better than last year,” Balmoral farmer, Justin Weaver, said.

“The data clearly shows that salinity levels on the river went from toxic to well within an acceptable level as soon as the first pulse of flows went through, with salinity levels dropped from over 7000 to 1400  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ,” Justin Weaver, said.

Con't page 8 ...



***The benefit of environmental flows at Fraser's Swamp.  
ABOVE prior to flows; BELOW after flows reached the swamp***



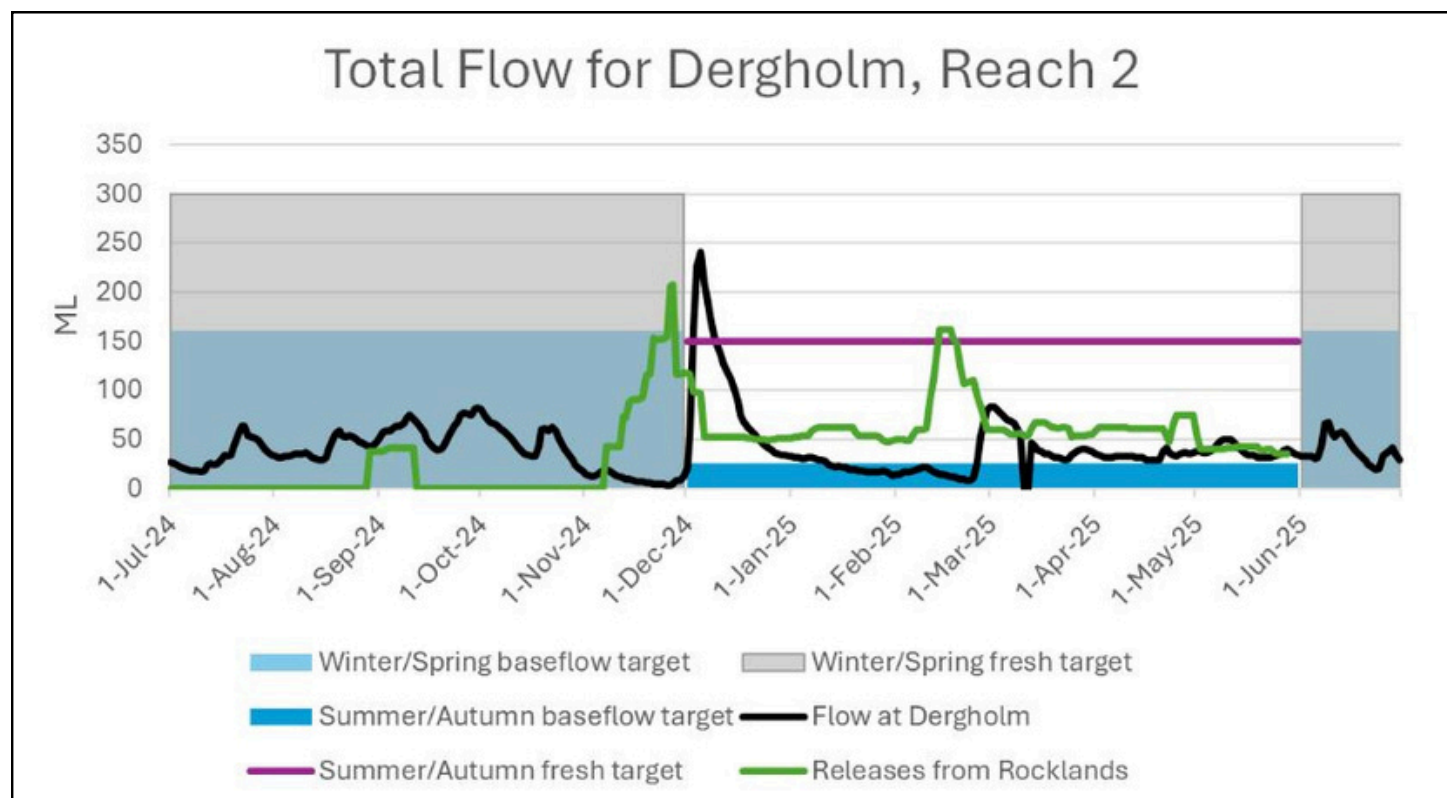
*If it weren't for environmental flows and compensation flows, we would have seen significant production losses on farms and quite possibly animal deaths, both domestic and native.*

**Justin Weaver, Balmoral**



## ENVIRONMENTAL WATER UPDATE:

# 2024-2025 Environmental Water flows in the Glenelg River review con't ...



These higher salinity levels were indicative of a similar trend occurring downstream of the Glenelg River, where Harrow (Reach 1b) and Dergholm (Reach 2) also benefited from environmental flows. Reach 0 (between Rocklands and Moora Moora Reservoir) received some of the first environmental flows in several years, supporting some of the catchment's most biodiverse habitats. Habitats downstream of Rocklands were assessed in March during an annual fish assessment, with ARI recording 13 native species and 4 exotic species. This was larger number of species recorded than the previous two years, with positive recruitment of blackfish and black bream and estuary perch continuing to move through the system on the back of freshening flows.

In terms of releases, although dry conditions made achieving winter/spring baseflow targets challenging, many summer/autumn watering objectives were successfully achieved in 2024–2025.

Specifically, the summer/autumn baseflows were maintained with the help of environmental water releases between Rocklands Reservoir and Casterton. Two summer/autumn freshes were also released this improved water quality throughout the system.

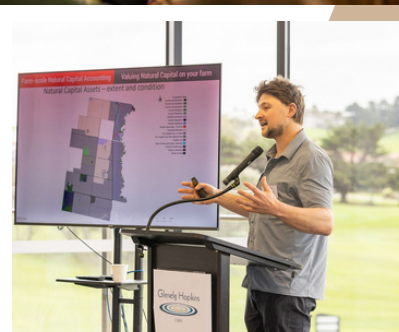
Overall, the watering actions in 2024–2025 were essential in managing the effects of prolonged drought conditions. They helped to maintain ecological function, reduce salinity, maintain river connectivity and support the landscape for both domestic and native species across the Glenelg River system.

Overall, the watering actions in 2024–2025 were essential in managing the effects of prolonged dry conditions in the river, and for the landholders and communities along the waterway. They helped to maintain ecological function, reduce salinity, maintain river connectivity and support the landscape for both domestic and native species, improving water quality across the Glenelg River system.



**CMA NEWS:**

# South West Natural Capital Forum - October 8



**Supported by:**

**Rabobank**



Australian Government



A Collaboration of CMAs



**View the image gallery  
from the forum online  
HERE**



## Learn why you want Adamson's Blown-grass in your salty paddock places

**Thursday 13th November  
10am – 1.30pm**

Meet at the woolshed at  
Kym Lyons property  
1955 East West Rd, Gatum

Join a field day to see how Adamson's Blown-grass might be the species you want growing in those salty non-productive areas on your farm that are so frustrating to make useful.

See the Adamson's Blown-grass growing in its saline habitat, how it can assist in rehabilitating salt scalds and stabilising creek banks, then return to Cavendish Memorial Hall to talk about the genetics of this cryptic species and see its germination requirements.





# Boosting livestock performance with eID

## Free Webinar with Elise Bowen

**AGRICULTURE VICTORIA**



**Landcare**  
Victoria Inc.

Join us for a webinar with a focus on the practical implementation and use of eID data to boost farm productivity and reduce methane emissions.

### Why should farmers attend?

Sheep eID allows for tracking individual animal performance with precision. By leveraging this data, farmers can unlock new opportunities to increase productivity across the flock and reduce emissions by identifying and managing high-impact animals

Suitable for farmers just starting with eID or more experienced farmers looking to refine your data strategy.

### Meet the Presenter

**Elise Bowen** – Elise is a trusted expert in sheep production, with years of industry experience helping producers lift performance through her business Sheep Data Management. Elise specialises in supporting farmers to collect and analyse sheep data to boost efficiency gains and fast-track genetic performance.

### Topics to be discussed:

- Key benefits of adopting eID technology
- Practical tips for effective data management
- Aligning data collection with your farm's strategic goals
- Building a data collection calendar tailored to your business
- Turning raw data into actionable insights



### Boosting livestock performance with eID webinar

**Date:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2025

**Time:** 3.00pm – 5.00pm

**Cost:** FREE

**RSVP:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

**Registration:**  
<https://forms.office.com/r/m0vZCRrkTg>

**Contact:** Bronwyn Bant

0427 529 232

[bronwyn.bant@wcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:bronwyn.bant@wcma.vic.gov.au)







# Join the VVP Grasslands bus tour

**Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

**9:15am–3.30pm**  
(bus departing 9.30am sharp)

**Meet @ Glenthompson Outdoor Swimming Pool**  
20 Memorial Rd, Glenthompson

*Join Associate Professor John Morgan on a tour of south-west Victoria's high-diversity native grasslands.*

*This year's tour will focus on rare and threatened plant hotspots, visiting important locations for the Button Wrinklewort, Featherheads, Hoary Sunray and more.*

*Along the way grassland variation across various geologies will be examined, from recent volcanic lava flows to ancient submarine sandstone.*

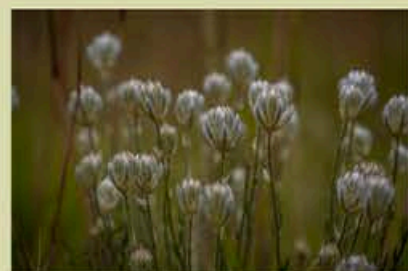
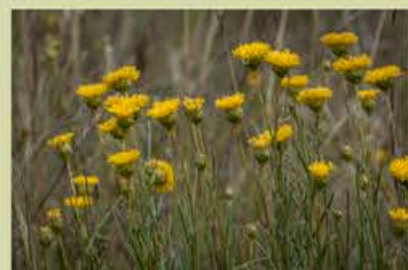


Australian Government

**FREE EVENT lunch included**  
**RSVP essential (inc dietary req)**  
**by Monday, November 17, 2025**

to Aggie Severson  
Ph: 0435 537 443 or  
e: [a.stevenson@ghcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:a.stevenson@ghcma.vic.gov.au)

*This project is funded by the Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust and delivered by Glenelg Hopkins CMA, a member of the Commonwealth Regional Delivery Partners panel.*





# Employment opportunities to off-set the impact of drought in SW Victoria

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA, through the Victorian Government's Drought Employment Program, is offering casual employment opportunities through until June 2026 for people experiencing hardship because of dry conditions. These positions can work around seasonal farm commitments or existing reduced employment.

The CMA Drought Employment Program provides a way for farmers, farm workers and workers from farm-related industries impacted by hardship due to drought conditions in the Glenelg Hopkins and Corangamite CMA regions to earn an income, increase their skills and build confidence in future employment opportunities by undertaking a range of different catchment health works, like fencing, revegetation and pest and weed control.



**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN for roles within the Drought Employment Program**  
Interested participants will need to complete an EOI found at  
[www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au) or scan the QR code

For further information, contact Craig Reid  
on (03) 5571 2526 or email: [craig.reid@ghcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:craig.reid@ghcma.vic.gov.au)





# H5N1 Bird Flu Information

## AVOID RECORD REPORT

**AVOID:** If you find dead or sick birds. Do not touch birds or attempt to move them.

**RECORD:** Take photos of dead and sick birds, and the surroundings. If possible, record the GPS location.

**REPORT:** Emergency Animal Disease Hotline **1800 675 888** or via the **ONLINE FORM**

## WHAT DO I REPORT?

### REPORT CLUSTERS:

5 or more sick or dead wild birds of any species, anywhere in Victoria.

### REPORT EVEN ONE:

- sick or dead penguin or pelican.
- sick or dead seagull or wader.
- sick or dead bird of prey (e.g. hawks, owls, eagles).
- sick or dead black swan, duck or goose.
- sick or dead marine mammal (e.g. seals, sea lions, dolphins).

## HOW DO I REPORT?

**Emergency Animal  
Disease Hotline  
1800 675 888**

**Complete the  
online reporting  
FORM HERE**

**Visit  
[birdflu.gov.au](http://birdflu.gov.au)  
for more info**

