

Lower Barwon Seasonal Watering Proposal 20-21 Comments Register

Who	Comment	CCMA Response
Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation – Michael Cook	<i>'The Wadawurrung are supportive of what is within the plan and I look forward to what happens next. Thanks so much for the amount of time and energy you have put into this'</i>	Noted. Thankyou.
Field n Game Commercial Fishers Recreational Fishers (Received just immediately prior to SWP meeting)	<u>Reedy Lake:</u> <i>The 4yr trial to manage the identified threats of Tall Reeds & Carp has concluded. The expert review panel have identified that Tall Reeds and Carp are not encroaching or</i>	Noted. Thankyou. Even though tall reeds and carp have been identified by the expert review panel of the Lower Barwon Review to not be as big a threat to ecological character as first thought by Lloyd, does not mean that the historic watering regime and management approach has safeguarded ecological values and benefits to stakeholders. A wetting and partial drying regime is still recommended by the ERP as the best watering regime for the whole ecology of wetlands.

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



1800 002 262

info@ccma.vic.gov.au
ccma.vic.gov.au

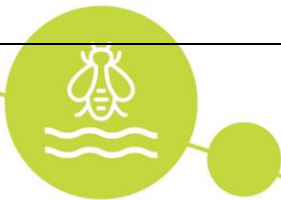
PO Box 159
64 Dennis Street
Colac, Victoria 3250

ABN: 60 355 974 029



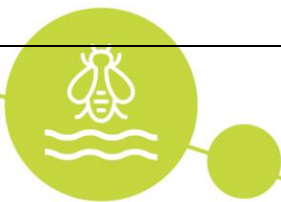
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p><i>compromising wetland values. We now know that the historic watering regime and management approach has safeguarded ecological values and benefits to stakeholders.</i></p>	<p><i>“It is important to note that the Expert Review Panel supports a wetting and drying regime for Reedy Lake. This fits the agreed watering objective and the science. Both the Lloyd et al. (2012) study and other research undertaken in coastal wetlands in Victoria (e.g. Raulings et. al. 2010, 2011; Boon 2011) show that a permanently full lake will lead to a decrease in biodiversity. Wetting and drying regimes produce a mosaic of different habitat types as the water availability fluctuates providing specialist habitat for a wide variety of different flora and fauna species to utilise. Productivity at wetlands adapted to a wetting and drying regime, such as Reedy Lake, is driven by the disturbances caused by fluctuating water levels, occasional periods of high water and occasional periods of very low water. Occasional wet years would occur intermittently during unusually high flow years but should not be seen as “normal” or desirable.” (Lower Barwon Review, Alluvium 2020)</i></p> <p>The need for a variable water level has now been recommended by 3 sets of independent experts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lloyd <i>et al.</i> Flow/ecology relationships and scenarios for the Lower Barwon Wetlands environmental entitlement: Final Report. Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd (2012)

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



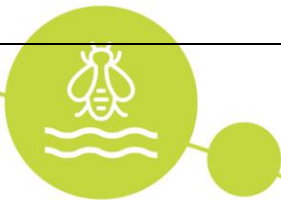
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p><i>There are NO quantifiable benefits identified by Loyds management approach only losses. The lake is showing signs of recovery to its previous healthy state. We will not expect any proposed changes to the historical watering.</i></p>	<p>2. Technical Assessment Panel Review Lower Barwon Wetlands, Flow Ecology Report (2012)</p> <p>3. Lower Barwon Review (Alluvium 2020)</p> <p>All of these assessments used the best available science at the time and followed evidence to produce a set of recommendations.</p> <p>The benefits to Loyds management approach are clearly outlined in his report, and those principles have been backed up by the TAP review and the Lower Barwon Review.</p> <p>The WetMAP work by ARI shows recovery of the floristic diversity at Reedy Lake since the wetting and drying regime was reinstated.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



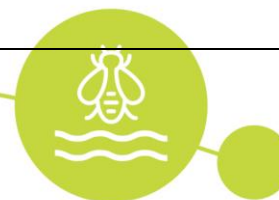
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p><i>Of concern to us as stake holders is the decision to lower the wetlands historic full water level. A level that has offered protection against the encroachment of tall reeds. The reduction to water levels now provides more favorable opportunities for tall reed expansion.</i></p> <p><u>Hospital Swamps.</u> <i>Hospital swamps was identified as well managed and in good ecological health by loyd. The expert review panel have identified that the hydrology loyd suggests of annual drying is incorrect. We will not accept any proposed changes to the historical watering regime and insist</i></p>	<p>CCMA are unable to inundate private land. The full level is therefore managed at 0.8m, noting that natural rain events often push the level higher.</p> <p>There is no evidence that has been presented to CCMA that the reduction in water level provides more favourable opportunities for tall reed expansion. As the authors have pointed out the ERP of the LBR have indeed identified that tall reeds may not be expanding at the site.</p> <p>Agreed that the new data provided in the Lower Barwon Review shows that Hospital Swamps has rarely completely dried, including in the last 4 years under CCMA management. CCMA has adjusted the terminology and graphics in the SWP 20-21 to improve clarity and are confident that the watering actions are still in line with Lloyds intent to maintain the historical regime.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



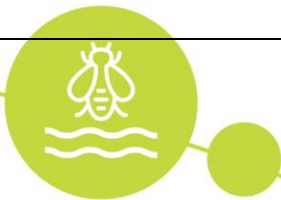
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p><i>that no further drying take place.</i></p> <p><i>Of concern to us as stake holders is the decision to lower the wetlands historic full water height and the threat that urban development now poses to these wetlands.</i></p>	<p>CCMA are unable to inundate private land. CCMA is working closely with City of Greater Geelong on mitigating the threat that urban development now poses to these wetlands.</p>
<p>Geelong Environmental Council- Geoff Gayner</p>	<p><i>'Supports the proposed 2020-21 watering plan and continued close monitoring of threatened bird life and vegetation'.</i></p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou.</p>
<p>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning - Philip A Mitchell</p>	<p><i>Hi Olivia and Sharon, Good work on putting this together – I think the proposed watering regime is a good reflection of the recommendations from the review. I've made some</i></p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou. Your comments through the document have been considered and amendments made as necessary.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



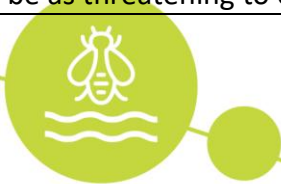
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<i>suggested minor edits in the attached.</i>	
Geelong Field Naturalists Club- Craig Morley	<p>Dear Olivia, Sharon, Jayden, Thanks for all your work and leadership over many months with all of this important work. I send this email on behalf of the Geelong Field Naturalists Club (GFNC) to accept the proposed 2020-2021 draft watering plan, as informed by the Reedy Lake Expert Panel review. One important put is that we would want the CCMA to err on the side of caution with any summer/late summer 'draw down' of water levels if there is the slightest piece of evidence that ibis and spoonbills and definitely</p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou. CCMA has committed to conducting pre-drawdown bird monitoring at the wetlands. This data will inform timing and rates of drawdown with a view to supporting breeding activity.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



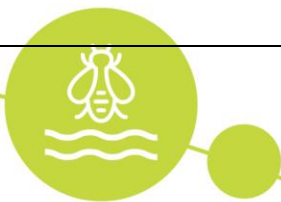
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>Australasian Bitterns are breeding in the area.</p> <p>We look forward to continuing involvement in this important venture.</p>	
<p>Field n Game Commercial Fishers Recreational Fishers</p>	<p>We formally request an opportunity to meet with the board to discuss our concerns about the processes and proposed management actions contained in the draft document.</p> <p>The agreed watering objective for the wetlands developed by the Lower Barwon Advisory committee in 2013.</p> <p>-Maintain the ecological character of the wetlands. "Ecological character is defined as the combination</p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou. The Port Phillip Bay & Western Shoreline Ramsar Management Plan, 2017 which is informed by the national guidelines states that the ecological character of the wetlands is described by identifying critical components, processes and benefits/services. Any change to these is to be assessed via the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC). For Reedy Lake the LAC is;</p> <p><i>A habitat mosaic will be maintained at Reedy Lake that comprises open water, emergent native vegetation (sedges, rushes and reeds) and lignum shrubland with no habitat comprising more than 70 percent of the total wetland area for more than five successive years.</i></p> <p>All the independent expert advice received to date recommended a wetting and partial drying regime to achieve that habitat mosaic.</p> <p>Because tall reeds and carp have been identified by the ERP to not to be as threatening to ecological character as first suggested by Lloyd</p>

healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities



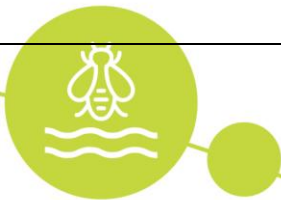
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>of ecosystem components, processes, benefits and services that characterised the wetland at the time of Ramsar listing in 1983.”</p> <p>These ecosystem, processes, services and benefits characterised in the National Ramsar framework guidelines include ecological components and processes including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Physical form -Physiochemical water -Biota -Processes - Hydrology 	<p>does not mean that the historic watering regime and management approach has safeguarded ecological values and benefits to stakeholders. A wetting and partial drying regime is still recommended by the ERP as the best watering regime for the wetlands.</p> <p><i>“It is important to note that the Expert Review Panel supports a wetting and drying regime for Reedy Lake. This fits the agreed watering objective and the science. Both the Lloyd et al. (2012) study and other research undertaken in coastal wetlands in Victoria (e.g. Raulings et. al. 2010, 2011; Boon 2011) show that a permanently full lake will lead to a decrease in biodiversity. Wetting and drying regimes produce a mosaic of different habitat types as the water availability fluctuates providing specialist habitat for a wide variety of different flora and fauna species to utilise. Productivity at wetlands adapted to a wetting and drying regime, such as Reedy Lake, is driven by the disturbances caused by fluctuating water levels, occasional periods of high water and occasional periods of very low water. Occasional wet years would occur intermittently during unusually high flow years but should not be seen as “normal” or desirable.” (Lower Barwon Review, Alluvium 2020)</i></p>

healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities



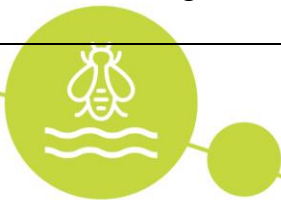
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>Also, wetland ecosystem benefits and services eg;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Commercial fishing -Recreational Hunting -Recreational angling -Nature observation <p>The changes made since 2016 to manage the claims that tall reed encroachment had exceeded 200% of Ramsar “limits of acceptable change.”</p> <p>The Lower Barwon Advisory Committee accepted this statement and agreed to a course of action to protect the values that the community enjoys from the wetlands.</p> <p>These claims have been disproven by the Expert Review Panel during the 2020 review process.</p>	

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



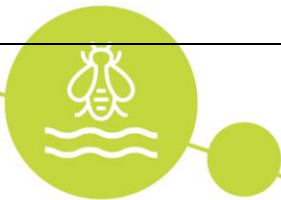
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>-Tall reeds had not increased since 2006.</p> <p>-Carp biomass was also low.</p> <p>The Review process established Lloyd's watering regime failed to deliver any reduction in tall reed distribution.</p> <p>The continuation of the trial watering proposal is not supported or warranted and is deemed by the community stakeholders as a threatening process changing the ecological character of the wetlands. Many damaging outcomes have been observed and reported during the trial watering</p>	<p>The CCMA is not managing the watering of the wetlands for tall reeds or carp. The CCMA is managing the wetlands for overall ecosystem health and biodiversity.</p> <p>ARI WetMAP work supports the effectiveness of reinstatement of a wetting and drying regime for biodiversity at the wetlands. This in turn supports maintenance of the ecological character of the wetlands.</p> <p>As no detail has been provided, it I assumed that the author is referring to the ibis deaths in 2018. The CCMA has committed to pre-draw down bird monitoring in the future to avoid juvenile bird mortality.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



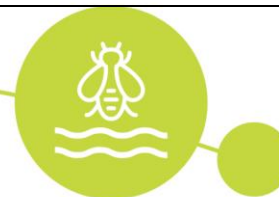
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>period. If this process continues the responsible agency Parks Victoria will be obliged to disclose this environmental damage to the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>The CCMA's obligation to follow the Spectrum of Public Participation (appendix 3 of the SWP) guidelines was not followed.</p> <p>The communities concern and values are not represented in the draft Lower Barwon Seasonal Watering Proposal 2020-21 and stakeholders do not support these recommendations.</p>	<p>The Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH) recommend use of the IAP2 spectrum. CCMA did follow the IAP2 spectrum, and the level of engagement chosen was 'involve'. This means that the CCMA;</p> <p>Work directly throughout a process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered</p> <p>We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.</p> <p>CCMA has given community stakeholders multiple opportunities for input and considered all views in developing watering actions at the Lower Barwon Wetlands. CCMA is legally obligated to manage the environmental water entitlement to achieve ecological outcomes, as</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



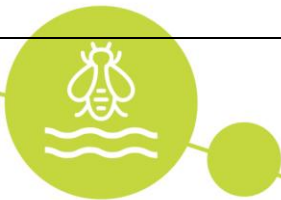
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>I respectfully request that the board delay a decision on the Draft Watering Proposal unit such time that the board can meet with the community stakeholders and consider our concerns.</p> <p>Please respond at your earliest convenience.</p>	<p>advised by the best available science and evidence. In doing so CCMA will minimize negative impacts on stakeholders wherever possible.</p> <p>The Board were presented with all the submissions and responses and decided it was not necessary, given the consultation on this matter, to meet with the community stakeholders as requested.</p>
<p>Commercial Licensed Eel Fisher – Ben Osborne</p>	<p>I/We do not accept the proposed changes to wetland hydrology which will impact the “Processes and Services of the sites” the wetlands must be returned to the historical hydrological regimes prior to Lloyds drainage intervention. Reedy Lake.</p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou.</p> <p>Even though tall reeds and carp have been identified by the expert review panel of the Lower Barwon Review to not be as big a threat to ecological character as first thought by Lloyd’ does not mean that the</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



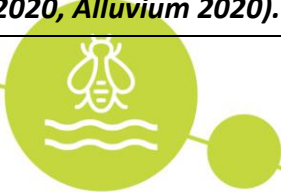
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed drainage of Reedy lake to 0.3 over summer will be detrimental to the aquatic flora and fauna. There is no ability to maintain the wetland once it reaches 0.3 the wetland will continue to dry past this point uncontrolled and pose a threat to wetland fish stocks. • Disconnecting the wetland from the Barwon river Alters fish passage and opportunities for fish movement. • The lowered water levels will restrict boating at the 	<p>historic watering regime and management approach has safeguarded ecological values and benefits to stakeholders.</p> <p>This statement is not supported by the expert advice. The expert advice recommends returning to Lloyd’s longer- term recommendations with original timing in order to support the processes and services of the site.</p> <p>In returning to Lloyd’s longer- term recommendations, the water at Reedy Lake will be managed to a higher overall level in summer than in the recent partial drying years.</p> <p>Because we are dealing with a natural system and need to work within the rules of the Barwon River Environmental Entitlement, levels may drop below 0.3m. This will be avoided where possible through a draw-down process that utilizes evaporation as much as possible and by providing top ups where ever possible.</p> <p>CCMA has just installed two ‘best practice fish ways at the lower Barwon wetlands and manipulate regulation structures to optimize fish passage. Fish passage has overall been improved since CCMA assumed management of water at the sites.</p> <p>CCMA are unable to legally inundate private land.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



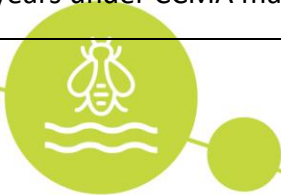
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>wetland and pose health and safety issues to operators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trial to manage Tall Reeds under Lloyds hydrological drainage regime has concluded. The expert review process has confirmed tall reeds and carp are not impacting lake values and are within limits of acceptable change under Ramsar. The historic watering regime should now be maintained. Lloyd drainage regime was proven unsuccessful in managing tall reeds and carp distribution. 	<p>Even though tall reeds and carp have been identified by the expert review panel of the Lower Barwon Review to not be as big a threat to ecological character as first thought by Lloyd’ does not mean that the historic watering regime and management approach has safeguarded ecological values and benefits to stakeholders. A wetting and partial drying regime is still recommended by the ERP as the best watering regime for the whole ecology of wetlands.</p> <p><i>“It is important to note that the Expert Review Panel supports a wetting and drying regime for Reedy Lake. This fits the agreed watering objective and the science. Both the Lloyd et al. (2012) study and other research undertaken in coastal wetlands in Victoria (e.g. Raulings et. al. 2010, 2011; Boon 2011) show that a permanently full lake will lead to a decrease in biodiversity. Wetting and drying regimes produce a mosaic of different habitat types as the water availability fluctuates providing specialist habitat for a wide variety of different flora and fauna species to utilise. Productivity at wetlands adapted to a wetting and drying regime, such as Reedy Lake, is driven by the disturbances caused by fluctuating water levels, occasional periods of high water and occasional periods of very low water. Occasional wet years would occur intermittently during unusually high flow years but should not be seen as “normal” or desirable.” (Lower Barwon Review 2020, Alluvium 2020).</i></p>

healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities



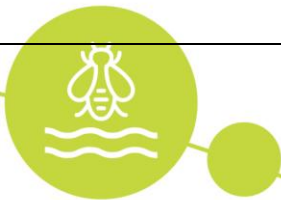
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>Hospital Swamp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were advised that Hospital swamps ecology was in good condition and that 	<p>The need for a variable water level has now been recommended by 3 sets of independent experts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lloyd <i>et al.</i> Flow/ecology relationships and scenarios for the Lower Barwon Wetlands environmental entitlement: Final Report. Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd (2012) 2. Technical Assessment Panel Review Lower Barwon Wetlands, Flow Ecology Report (2012) 3. Lower Barwon Review (Alluvium 2020) <p>All of these assessments used the best available science at the time and followed evidence to produce a set of recommendations.</p> <p>Agreed that the new data provided in the Lower Barwon Review shows that Hospital Swamps has rarely completely dried, including in the last 4 years under CCMA management. CCMA has adjusted the terminology</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



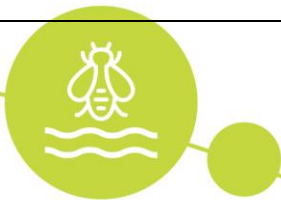
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>No change to management would be implemented. Since the watering entitlement was created the wetland has been drained to reflect an incorrect assessment in hydrology by Lloyd. The expert review process identified that the wetland does not regularly dry every summer. This position has been raised now every year as being incorrect by commercial fishers our catch data also supports our position that we were actively able to boat and fish the wetland late in summer when it is claimed to have been dry. We do not accept this unwarranted change to the wetlands hydrology and only support a return to the historic management levels pre-2016.</p>	<p>and graphics in the SWP 20-21 to improve clarity and are confident that the watering actions are still in line with Lloyds intent to maintain the historical regime.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



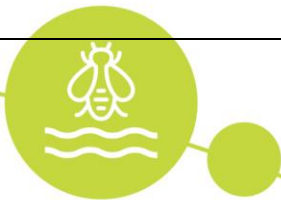
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>Summary - <i>“The changes to the wetland Hydrology of Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp are not consistent with the ecological character of the site at the time of listing. These changes have impacted wetland processes and services and will be reported to Ramsar. “</i></p>	<p>This statement is not supported by the science. The CCMA is managing the wetlands for overall ecosystem health and biodiversity. ARI WetMAP work supports the effectiveness reinstatement of a wetting and drying regime for biodiversity at the wetlands.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



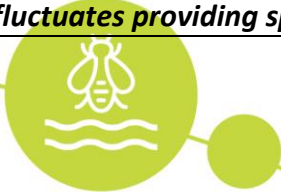
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
<p>Commercial Licensed Eel Fisher – Bill Allan</p>	<p>In my opinion that the DRAFT seasonal watering proposal document is well written and cleverly misleading. It contains a number of errors of fact.</p> <p>Eg. Field and Game have never been the “managers” of either wetland. The Fisheries and Wildlife Division (Ministry for Conservation) then Regional Management Division (Conservation Forests and Lands) were the responsible government agencies before Parks Victoria & DELWP.</p> <p>Field and Game volunteers installed most of the</p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou.</p> <p>The SWP states CCMA’s understanding is that Geelong Field and Game largely managed the <i>water</i> at the wetlands, via the regulating structures they installed. Additional wording has been added to reflect other interest groups and government agency involvement.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



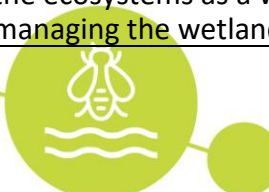
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>infrastructure that supported the wetland complex before CCMA's drainage actions were implemented and they remain the largest and most active conservation group who utilise the sites.</p> <p>I make no apology for being totally opposed to any management actions which lowers water levels or interrupts connectivity. These actions damage and devalue the ecology and wetland ecosystems and prevent the community from obtaining the maximum benefit from the sites.</p> <p><u>What we Know</u> - Prior to 2016 the Lower Barwon wetlands were sustainable and ecologically</p>	<p>This statement is not supported by the science. Even though tall reeds and carp have been identified by the expert review panel of the Lower Barwon Review to not be as big a threat to ecological character as first thought by Lloyd' does not mean that the historic watering regime and management approach has safeguarded ecological values and benefits to stakeholders. A wetting and partial drying regime is still recommended by the ERP as the best watering regime for the whole ecology of wetlands.</p> <p><i>"It is important to note that the Expert Review Panel supports a wetting and drying regime for Reedy Lake. This fits the agreed watering objective and the science. Both the Lloyd et al. (2012) study and other research undertaken in coastal wetlands in Victoria (e.g. Raulings et. al. 2010, 2011; Boon 2011) show that a permanently full lake will lead to a decrease in biodiversity. Wetting and drying regimes produce a mosaic of different habitat types as the water availability fluctuates providing specialist habitat for a wide variety of different</i></p>

healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities



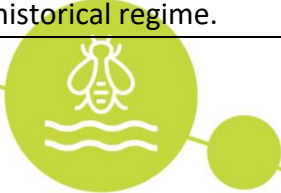
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>stable. Many naturalists consider them to be the most significant freshwater wetlands of their type west of Port Phillip Bay (at least to the Coorong in South Australia.)</p> <p>- Assumptions used by CCMA to justify their actions I.E that tall reeds or European Carp would destroy the ecological values at the sites have been proven wrong (see Expert Review Panels findings)</p>	<p><i>flora and fauna species to utilise. Productivity at wetlands adapted to a wetting and drying regime, such as Reedy Lake, is driven by the disturbances caused by fluctuating water levels, occasional periods of high water and occasional periods of very low water. Occasional wet years would occur intermittently during unusually high flow years but should not be seen as “normal” or desirable.” (Lower Barwon Review 2020, Alluvium 2020).</i></p> <p>The need for a variable water level has now been recommended by 3 sets of independent experts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Lloyd <i>et al.</i> Flow/ecology relationships and scenarios for the Lower Barwon Wetlands environmental entitlement: Final Report. Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd (2012) 5. Technical Assessment Panel Review Lower Barwon Wetlands, Flow Ecology Report (2012) 6. Lower Barwon Review (Alluvium 2020) <p>All of these assessments used the best available science at the time and followed evidence to produce a set of recommendations.</p> <p>CCMA’s management has been based on expert advice which considers the ecosystems as a whole, not just tall reeds and carp. The CCMA is managing the wetlands for overall ecosystem health and biodiversity.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



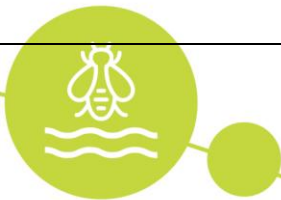
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>- Since 2016 we have destroyed or significantly altered the wetlands ecology and killed off at least two significant populations of endangered species - 1 largest self- supporting population of Yarra Pigmy Perch in the Barwon Catchment. 2 largest sustainable population of Growling Grass Frog on the Bellarine Peninsula .</p> <p>- CCMA consultant (Lloyd) claims that Hospital swamps dried over summer and that native fish abundance and diversity would be improve have proved wrong. Hospital</p>	<p>ARI WetMAP work supports the effectiveness reinstatement of a wetting and drying regime for biodiversity at the wetlands.</p> <p>CCMA have not seen any evidence to support this statement. Advice on the watering regime’s impacts to growling grass frogs has also been provided previously and does not support this statement.</p> <p>Agreed. New data provided in the Lower Barwon Review shows that Hospital Swamps has rarely completely dried, including in the last 4 years under CCMA management. CCMA has adjusted the terminology and graphics in the SWP 20-21 to improve clarity and are confident that the watering actions are still in line with Lloyds intent to maintain the historical regime.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



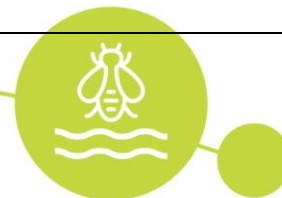
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>swamps holds water over most summers and native fish numbers and diversity are well below previous levels EG the commercial harvest of short fin eel is less than 10% of pre drainage production.</p> <p>- Rapid drawdowns have seriously disrupted the feeding and breeding cycles of most wetland species and caused ibis to abandon fledglings at the rookery. I estimated over 95% of chicks starved or were taken by predators at Reedy Lake. I also observed increased mortality of Black Swan and coot possibly from botulism.</p> <p>- Whilst heavy metal and acid sulphate discharges may be</p>	<p>Short fin eel populations have been in decline over several decades across the entire Southeast corner of Australia. There is no evidentiary link between the current watering regime and the short fin eel harvest.</p> <p>CCMA has committed to a gentler draw down and pre-draw down bird monitoring in the future to avoid juvenile bird mortality.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



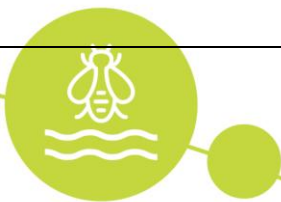
Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>controllable if water levels are maintained above 30cm, arsenic releases will continue to be an unacceptable risk. They increased dramatically during the trial.</p> <p>- The CCMA decision to lower the overflow height at both Hospital Swamps and Reedy Lake without undertaking an informed risk assessment may not only prevent the wetlands from achieving complete recovery but may have created a situation which enables tall reeds.</p>	<p>This statement is not supported by the GHD work conducted to monitor potential heavy metal release. Nor is supported by the expert review panel advice provided in the Lower Barwon Review.</p> <p>The CCMA has not made the decision to lower the overflow height at either Hospital Swamps or Reedy Lake. The Reedy Lake outlet upgrade will maintain existing levels of the Lake as per directions in the Lower Barwon Wetlands Seasonal Watering Proposal. In upgrading the site, OHS risks for regulator operators are now reduced and fish and eel passage is now provided via the installation of the fishway and elver ramp. These works were explored and recommended as part of the Lower Barwon Wetlands Connectivity Study completed in 2014 by Water Technology.</p>
<p>Parks Victoria – Stuart Wilsher</p>	<p>Parks Victoria acknowledges the CCMA's rigour in ensuring</p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>this process is interdependently validated.</p> <p>This initiative is welcomed and will provide significant benefits to the Hospital Swamp component of Lake Connewarre.</p>	<p>Your comments through the document have been considered and amendments made as necessary.</p>
<p>BSW DELWP – Peter Lawson</p>	<p>BSW DELWP are comfortable with the Lower Barwon Wetland Seasonal Watering Proposal 2020-1. This is based on the below advice provided by the Lower Barwon Review 2020 for the coming year, but noting that the Flow Ecology Study and future watering proposal is to be updated in 2022. The only other comment I would make is that the Reedy Lake draw down should be left to evaporation, rather than assisted reduction as much as</p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou. It is CCMA’s intention, as you have suggested, that the Reedy Lake draw-down be left to evaporation, rather than assisted reduction as much as is practicable. The watering action has been worded to reflected this, whilst allowing flexibility for seasonal variation. Typos in document corrected.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*



Who	Comment	CCMA Response
	<p>is practicable, as this was one of the primary points of contention at the last meeting of the Lower Barwon CAG.</p>	
<p>Bill Lussier – Victorian Fisheries Authority</p>	<p>I am happy with the SWP and have no issues/ concerns with its objectives, implementation or the expertise that went into its development.</p> <p>Commercial eel fishing is recognised in the plan and this area has been a source of livelihood for eel fishers for many years. I would hope that in implementing this plan and in developing future plans that consideration is given to this activity.</p>	<p>Noted. Thankyou. Eel fishing has been the focus of considerable work related to the management of these wetlands in the past and will continue to be a key consideration. The recent infrastructure works will improve connectivity for all fish species including eels.</p> <p>In returning to Lloyd’s longer- term recommendations, the water at Reedy Lake will be managed to a higher overall level in summer than in recent partial drying years, with a gentler rate of draw-down.</p> <p>It is expected that a healthy and productive wetland will benefit all species.</p>

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*

