



Waterway Protection Program 2016-2020

Project Background

Rivers, estuaries and wetlands are important natural assets that underpin a range of important social, economic and environmental services valued by the community. These services include but are not limited to; the provision of clean water, a range of recreational opportunities, habitat for native species and aesthetic and cultural values associated with the strong attachment people have for waterways. In recognition of this importance, the Victorian Government is providing through the Water for Victoria – Water Plan and Regional Riparian Action Plan funding for on-ground works, providing land managers and community groups the opportunity to be supported in protecting or enhancing their waterways.

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) as the regional caretaker of waterway health, is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of management actions across the Corangamite region, to protect and enhance its waterways (rivers, streams, estuaries and wetlands). Priority waterways for action have been identified within the Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022, with the aim of protecting key social, economic, environmental and cultural values across the Corangamite region to benefit the broader community.

The Corangamite Waterway Strategy is one of a number of key sub-strategies under the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) 2013-2019.

The Corangamite CMA seeks to partner with interested land managers and community groups who are committed to achieving the protection of their local waterways. In order to be a part of this incentive program, and to facilitate project ownership, the Corangamite CMA is encouraging appropriate co-investment from participants.

As per previous years, the majority of the available funding for 2016-2020 will be targeted to priority reaches within the region identified through Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022. Some minor investment is also available for high value projects on non-priority waterways.

The focus of works under the program will be to improve riparian zones and waterways by excluding stock, removing willows, stabilising bed and banks and protecting or re-establishing indigenous vegetation.

Project Eligibility

It is important that government investment in on-ground restoration works are targeted towards priority waterways identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 and the investment focus for 2016-2020 (refer above). To find out if your potential project site is on a priority waterway and focus area contact either your local Landcare facilitator, Corangamite CMA officer (details below) or the Corangamite CMA directly on 1800 002 262. The Corangamite Waterway Strategy can be found [here](#)

The CMA will also work with other motivated landholders, land managers, community groups or other organisations who do not fall within priority waterway areas. This may be in other forms such as information and technical advice to parties seeking to conduct similar riparian restoration works in adjoining waterways. The CMA also has a small amount of investment (less than \$ 50K) available to support projects sourced via Landcare, which may or may not be associated with priority waterways. It is expected that, all pest plants and animals that are currently the responsibility of the land-manager, will be managed sufficiently prior to project implementation.

Management Agreements

In order to accept funding supplied by the Corangamite CMA, landholders abutting waterways or community groups must sign onto a legally binding contract, known as a Waterway Management Agreement. These agreements detail the project that is being funded, its terms and conditions and the landholder's or community group's long-term management obligations for the project area.

By signing onto an agreement, landholders or community groups are committing to take on the management of that area into the future. This is an important component of this program, as it is aimed at building capacity within individuals, and provides for security of investment by the CMA on behalf of the Victorian Government.

Further Information

For further information on the waterway protection program, please see the next column for your appropriate CMA staff member based within your landscape zone in Figure 1. If you are unsure as to which area you may fall within, please call the **Corangamite CMA** on **1800 002 262**

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In considering project proposals, the Corangamite CMA also encourages prospective applicants to review the Corangamite NRM Portal.

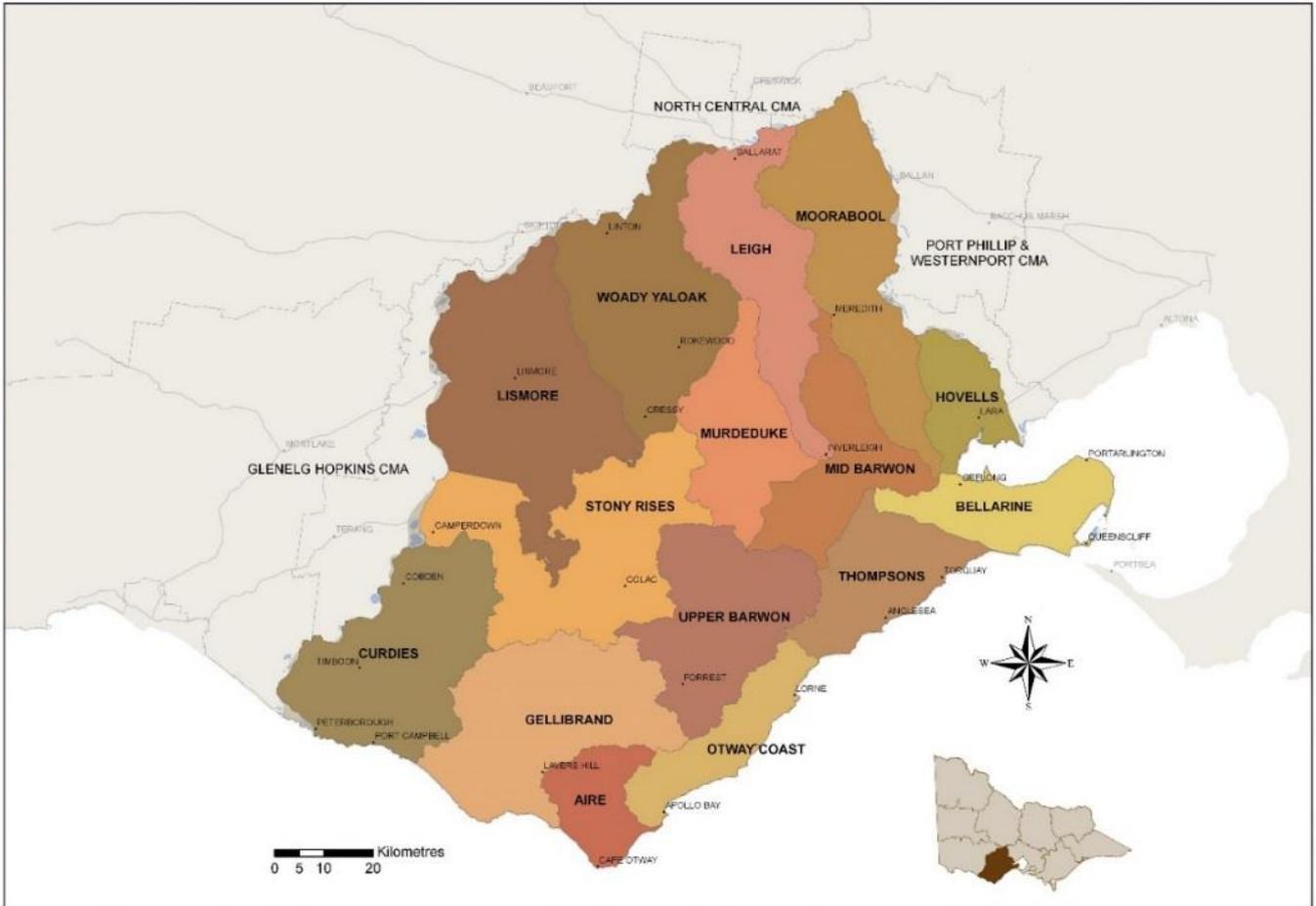


Figure 1. Landscape zones within the Corangamite Region – more detailed maps are available via the Waterway Strategy link (above).

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