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Waterway Protection Program Fact Sheet 2

Eligibility requirements

To receive funding through the Waterway Protection Program all projects are required to meet the following requirements and eligibility criteria as set out in this Fact Sheet.

Project requirements

All projects funded by the Corangamite CMA are required to exclude livestock access from the project area to protect the bank from erosion and avoid contamination from stock being in or next to the water. There is a minimum buffer requirement, which is an average of 20m and not less than 10m in one spot. As part of an agreement with the dairy industry this buffer can be halved for dairy farms.

Eligible activities include:

- fencing, off-stream water infrastructure and stock crossings
- weed and rabbit control (above and beyond legal requirements)
- revegetation
- actions to prevent deer or native herbivore browsing
- willow control.

All eligible activities can be funded and need to meet a minimum work standard, refer to Fact Sheet 3 for these standards and the incentive rate available.

Ineligible activities

- Large scale erosion control

- Weeds or rabbits where legal responsibilities are not being met under the Catchment and Land Protection Act.

Site eligibility

To be eligible to receive funding sites must:

- Be located on waterway frontage and begin at the bank of the waterway and continue up to a maximum distance of 50m away from the bank.
- Be located along one of the **mapped eligible waterways** as per eligibility maps on the CCMA website.
- Meet the minimum buffer requirements:
 - An average of 20m with no less than 10m in any one spot.
 - Dairy properties: an average of 10m and no less than 5m in any one spot.
- Meet the land ownership criteria (as outlined below).

The CMA may vary eligibility requirements and minimum standards based on stewardship improvement works in targeted areas. The CMA will approach individual landholders on this basis and is outside the scope of this EOI.

Ineligible sites:

- The site cannot be part of an offset for permitted vegetation clearing elsewhere or an offset established under the EPBC Act.
- The proposed works must not be part of a current management agreement over the site.
- Sites that are not along water frontage or not along the mapped eligible waterways.
- Sites that have been funded before and the land manager has not changed (however these may be eligible for assistance through the CCMA maintenance program).

Eligible waterways

A sub-set of priority waterways under the Corangamite Waterway Strategy are the focus for investment over the next 3 years. This is to:

- protect drinking water supplies
- maintain sites with populations of nationally listed threatened fish species and/or potential habitat and refuge pools for these species (Yarra Pygmy Perch, Australian grayling, Australian mudfish and Little Galaxis)
- improve the health of waterways that flow into the Western District Lakes Ramsar site
- continue angler partnerships and support the Fish Habitat Restoration Program along the lower Curdies River.

Waterways are eligible for funding are mapped as **eligible waterways** on the CCMA website.

View these here:

[Click Here for Map](#)

Other sites from outside these eligible waterways can register an expression of interest for future funding opportunities. These waterways are marked on the eligibility maps.



Threatened native fish: Drought refuge and potential habitat pool for the nationally threatened Yarra Pygmy Perch on Thompson Creek (top) and native migratory fish, Australian grayling (bottom).

Land ownership requirements

Land managers wishing to participate in projects must meet at least one of the criteria listed here:

- The land manager has responsibility for the management of public land on behalf of the State or Commonwealth.
- The land manager owns and manages the site(s).

- The land manager owns the site(s) and engages or leases the site to someone else to manage it.
- The land manager leases the site(s) from another land owner. The land manager commits to undertaking the management actions and the owner agrees to co-sign the agreement, agreeing to the actions on their land. The recipient of the annual payments will be responsible for all the actions under the Management Agreement.
- The land manager holds a Crown land licence over the site(s) which covers the period of the agreement.
- The land manager manages a Crown land site(s) that is licensed to another person. The land manager commits to undertaking the management actions and the actual licence holder agrees to co-sign the contract agreeing to the actions on the land they hold licence over **or**
- A committee or organisation managing on site for a business/owner.

Land managers in the following situations are ineligible under the project:

- Land managers wishing to manage unlicensed Crown land. The site(s) will become eligible only if the person can obtain a Crown land licence.
- Land managers managing a Crown land site(s) that is licensed to another person where the Land manager commits to undertaking the management actions but the licence holder does not agree to co-sign the contract for the land under their licence.
- Land managers leasing the site(s) from a landowner, which the landowner does not agree to co-sign the agreement for actions on their land.
- Non-Government Organisations, committees or trusts that wishes to manage a site on behalf of business or another organisation where the landowner

does not agree to co-sign the agreement for management actions on their land.

- Land purchased through a Government grant (e.g. National Reserve System whereby the grant includes an expectation that the organisation receiving the grant has the funds to manage the land per the proposed works).

Previous recipients of CMA funding

Previous recipients of CMA funding are eligible providing they have a new site or are a new land manager of an old site.

For previous recipients that need assistance with an old site, you may be eligible for the CMA's maintenance program, contact the CMA for further information.

Public land

Public land sites are eligible, provided the applicant and the site meets all the other eligibility requirements.

Crown Land

Land managers that hold a Crown water frontage licence are eligible under this project.

Land managers that have adjacent crown water frontage but do not hold a Licence will need to obtain one to be able to participate.

Further information

Please visit the Waterway Protection Program page on the Corangamite CMA website or call **1800 002 262**

<https://ccma.vic.gov.au/waterways/waterway-management/waterway-protection/>

For further information on crown frontage licensing view this fact sheet:

https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/_d ata/assets/pdf_file/0025/540718/DELWP-Crown-Water-Frontage-Licences.pdf