

CORANGAMITE CMA

Annual Report

2019-2020

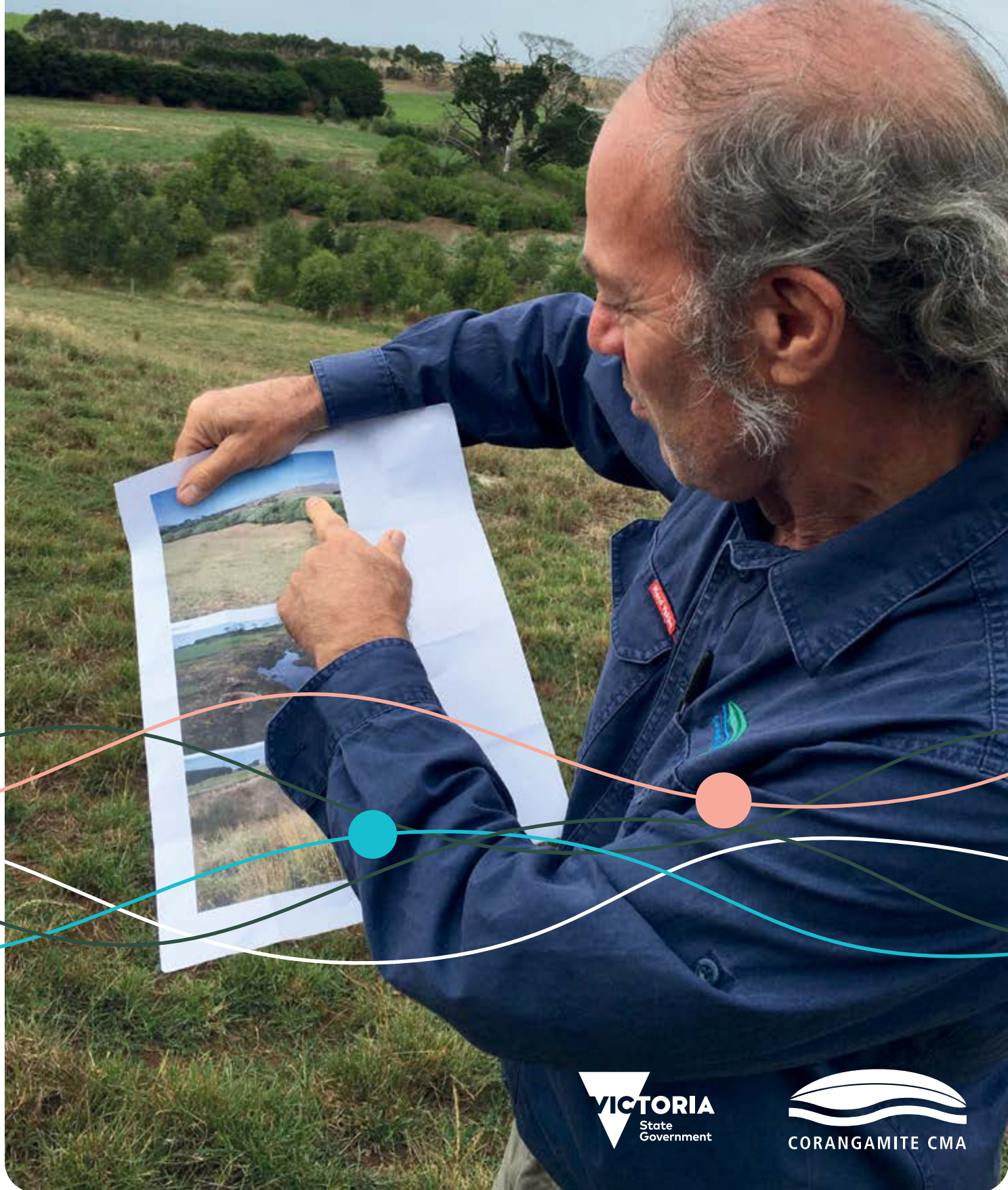


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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority works on the lands, waters and seas of the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar people and acknowledges them as Traditional Owners.

It recognises and respects the diversity of their cultures and the deep connections they have with Country. It values partnerships with communities and organisations to improve the health of Indigenous people and Country.

The Corangamite CMA Board and staff pay their respect to Elders, past and present, and acknowledge and recognise the primacy of Traditional Owners' obligations, rights and responsibilities to use and care for their traditional lands, water and sea.



CHAIRMAN AND CEO FOREWORD



It is with pleasure that we present the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) 2019-20 Annual Report.

We are passionate about achieving our vision of 'healthy and productive lands and waters cared for by thriving communities', and we are proud that throughout the year we have achieved some excellent outcomes towards this vision.

We have continued to support, partner and encourage land managers, community groups and agencies to deliver on-ground works, which promote sustainable agriculture, protect native vegetation and threatened species, and improve waterways across the Corangamite region.

We would like to acknowledge our project partners who have contributed to the design and delivery of projects across the region. Landowner participation and investment is a vital factor which allows us to achieve results. It is because of these partnerships we have seen some excellent outcomes achieved across a variety of projects, including on-farm water efficiency, sustainable dairies, fish habitat restoration and riparian revegetation projects.

Management of the Barwon Through Geelong continues to deliver positive outcomes for residents, visitors and users of the river, with over 1 million people enjoying the river and parklands each year. We have continued to increase the participation and experience for recreational users whilst protecting the environmental and cultural values of the river.

Throughout 2019-20 we have built on our commitment and investment to improving coordination and integration amongst our stakeholders to achieve even better catchment health outcomes.

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This is evident through the integrated projects we have delivered and by leading the Corangamite Catchment Partnership Agreement, a formalised partnership with government agencies across the region.

To this end we have consolidated partnership arrangements through developing or completing memoranda of understanding with the three water authorities, strengthened links with the nine local governments and supported 152 Landcare and Friends of groups. Strengthening our partnerships with the Traditional Owner groups in the region continues to be a priority.

To continue to build coordination and integration with land managers, communities, other organisations and governments we have undertaken a significant amount of activity in 2019-20. Our partnerships are highly valued and we are proud that we have engaged with over 17,264 people and supported over 123 citizen science volunteers.

Other achievements include supporting over 183 km of fencing, nearly 28,001 ha of weed control and property management plans covering 10,572 ha.

The significant outputs achieved in 2019-20 is the result of increased activity as the CMA approached the last year of the current four-year State government funding round, improved recording and using different techniques remotely that may reach a broader audience.

We would like to acknowledge the Victorian and Australian Governments, whose investment into the region has allowed us to deliver high quality projects across land, water, biodiversity and community themes.

A \$2.1 million Victorian Government investment in water infrastructure upgrades in the lower Barwon wetlands has improved the upstream migration of threatened fish and delivery of water for the environment in this Ramsar listed wetland.

This year we welcomed \$7.5 million of funding received through the Australian Government's Environment Restoration Fund to improve conservation outcomes in the Wild Otways and Surf Coast dunes. The CCMA is undertaking an extensive consultation process to develop projects that reflect scientific evidence and community input. The projects will work across the themes of pest animal control, small mammal conservation, rewilding, community grants and land stewardship, and will be delivered through to 2023.

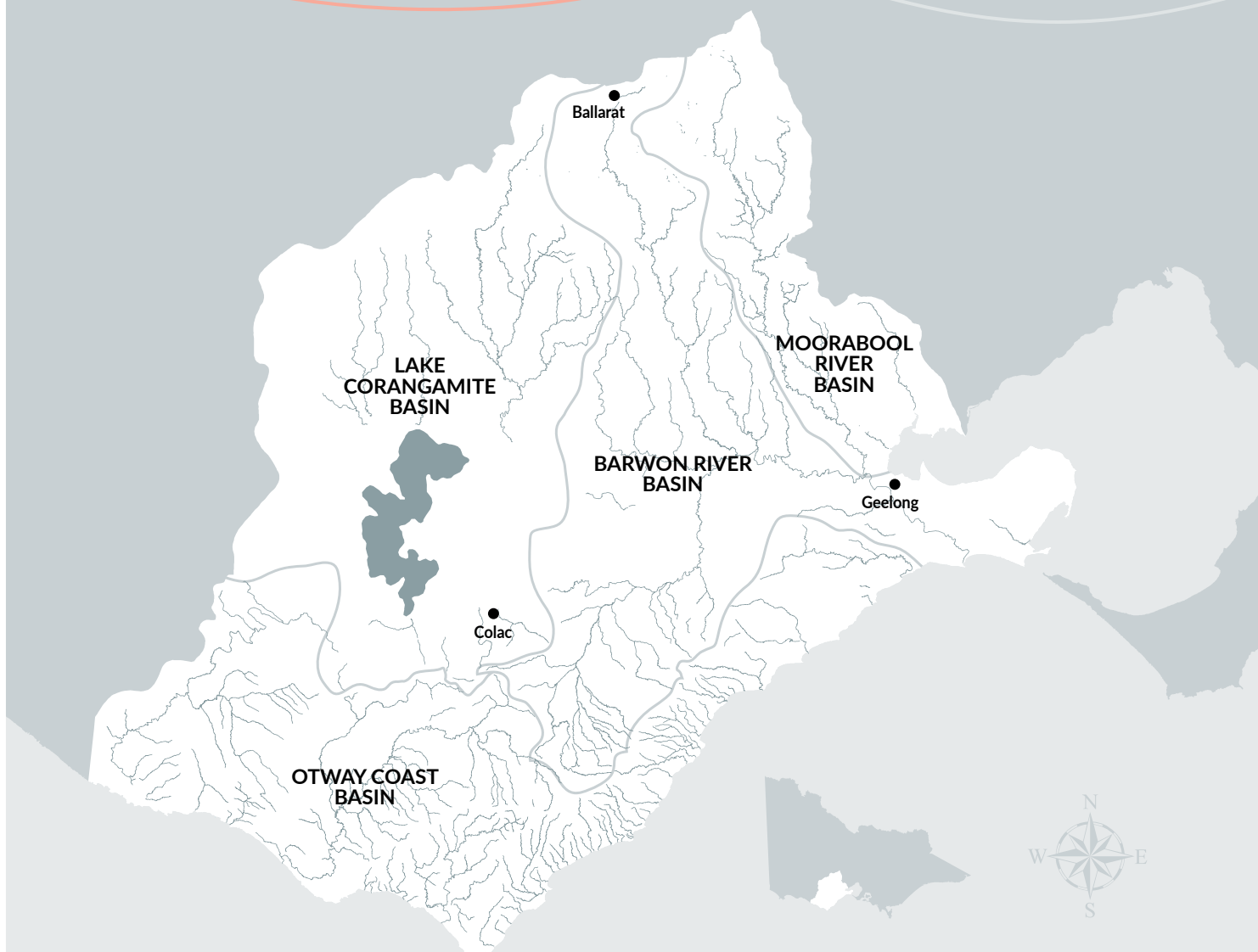
This year also saw us refurbish our Geelong office to improve safety and accessibility, and the installation of a 30KW solar panel and battery system in our Colac office, which will save 52 tonnes of emissions per year, the equivalent of taking 12 cars off the road.

We continue the important work of redeveloping our Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), which is the integrated planning framework for the management of land, water and biodiversity resources across the region. The strategy will reflect community aspirations for how the region is to be managed and we will be working to integrate these values with regional priorities in the context of state and federal legislation and policies.

Finally, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been an unprecedented challenge for the organisation and our community, but we have continued to deliver successfully on our projects and are confident we have the right people, systems and approaches in place to survive and thrive in the new "COVID-normal" future. We would like to thank the Board members and staff for their efforts in this challenging time, to help us protect and improve the health of the region's natural resources.

Alice Knight
Chair, OAM

John Riddiford
CEO



The Corangamite CMA Region

The catchment is
13,340
square kilometres


175
kilometres of coastline

152
community-based
volunteer groups




15,960
kilometres of waterways

Approximately
420,000
people live in the catchment



ABOUT THE REGION

The Corangamite CMA region in south-west Victoria is home to approximately 420,000 people. Its landscape is geographically diverse with spectacular coasts, vast volcanic plains and the soaring old growth forests of the Otways.

The catchment is 13,340 square kilometres, stretching from Ballarat to Geelong and along the coast to Peterborough in the west. Its landscape supports strong agriculture and forestry sectors, with 78 per cent of the land privately owned, the remaining 22 per cent publicly owned.

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It contains lakes and wetlands of national and international significance. Four river basins define the region:

- Moorabool
- Barwon
- Lake Corangamite
- Otway Coast.

Nine municipalities are part of Corangamite; the cities of Geelong and Ballarat, the Borough of Queenscliff and the shires of Colac Otway, Surf Coast, Golden Plains, Corangamite, Moorabool and Moyne.

FORMATION

The Corangamite CMA was formed by an Order in Council on 23 June 1997, to take effect from 1 July 1997, to oversee the management of land and water resources.

The Corangamite CMA's formation was based on an understanding and commitment to the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of those resources across the Corangamite CMA region.

The Corangamite CMA is established under the *Catchment and Land Protection (CaLP) Act 1994*.

On the same date, the Otway Region Water Authority was abolished and its responsibilities and ownership pertaining to the Lough Calvert drainage district were transferred to the Corangamite CMA.

CORANGAMITE CMA'S ROLE

The Corangamite CMA's role, in accordance with the *CaLP Act 1994* and the *Water Act 1989 Statement of Obligations*, is to:

- Identify priority activities and programs for implementation under the RCS
- Ensure community involvement in regional decision making and provide advice to the Victorian and Australian governments on priorities and allocation of resources
- Work with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to ensure work is coordinated with the Corangamite CMA and aligned with the goals of the RCS
- Establish and support community committees for RCS implementation and provide services relating to integrated waterway, floodplain and drainage management for the protection, maintenance and improvement of river health
- Provide direct service provision responsibility for waterway management, floodplain management and regional drainage functions (the Corangamite CMA has these provisions under parts seven and ten of the *Water Act 1989*)
- Provide advice to government on regional priorities, guidelines for integrated management of resources and matters relating to catchment management, land protection and the condition of land and water resources
- Comply with legislative requirements.

The relevant ministers for the period of this annual report:

From 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 were the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.



SECTION 1

Year in review

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VISION, VALUES AND APPROACH

OUR VISION FOR THE CORANGAMITE REGION

The Corangamite CMA wants the natural resources and environmental values of our region protected, maintained and improved for generations to come.

We believe that healthy ecosystems create productive land, soil, water and biodiversity within our catchment and are essential for the environmental, social and economic health of the communities in our region and beyond. The Corangamite CMA also believes that engaged, healthy, thriving and connected communities, who actively care for the environment and its natural resources, are imperative to ensure the long-term health of our catchments.

As such our vision for the Corangamite Region is:

Our vision:

*Healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities.*

.....

OUR PURPOSE

The Corangamite CMA is a statutory authority of the Victorian Government. Our roles and functions are defined in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and the *Water Act 1989*.

The key objectives of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* are to:

- Enable integrated and coordinated management of catchments which will:
 - Maintain and enhance the long-term land productivity while also conserving the environment; and,
 - Ensure the quality of Victoria's land and water resources and their associated plant and animal life are maintained and enhanced
- Provide for the control of noxious weeds and pest animals
- Encourage and support the participation of landholders, resource managers and community members in catchment management and land protection.

The key objectives of the *Water Act 1989* are to:

- Enable integrated management of the terrestrial phase of water
- Encourage and support the participation of landholders, resource managers and community members in catchment management and land protection
- Promote orderly, equitable and efficient use of water resources and make sure that water resources are conserved and properly managed for sustainable use for the benefit of present and future Victorians
- Provide for the protection and enhancement of environmental qualities of waterways and their in-stream uses, and for the protection of catchment conditions
- Maximise community involvement in the making and implementation of arrangements for the use, conservation and management of water resources.

Our purpose:

*To be the regional leader working with
land managers, communities, other
organisations and governments to protect
and improve the health of the region's natural
resources (water, soils, biodiversity) to improve
the health and sustainable productivity of the
Corangamite region.*

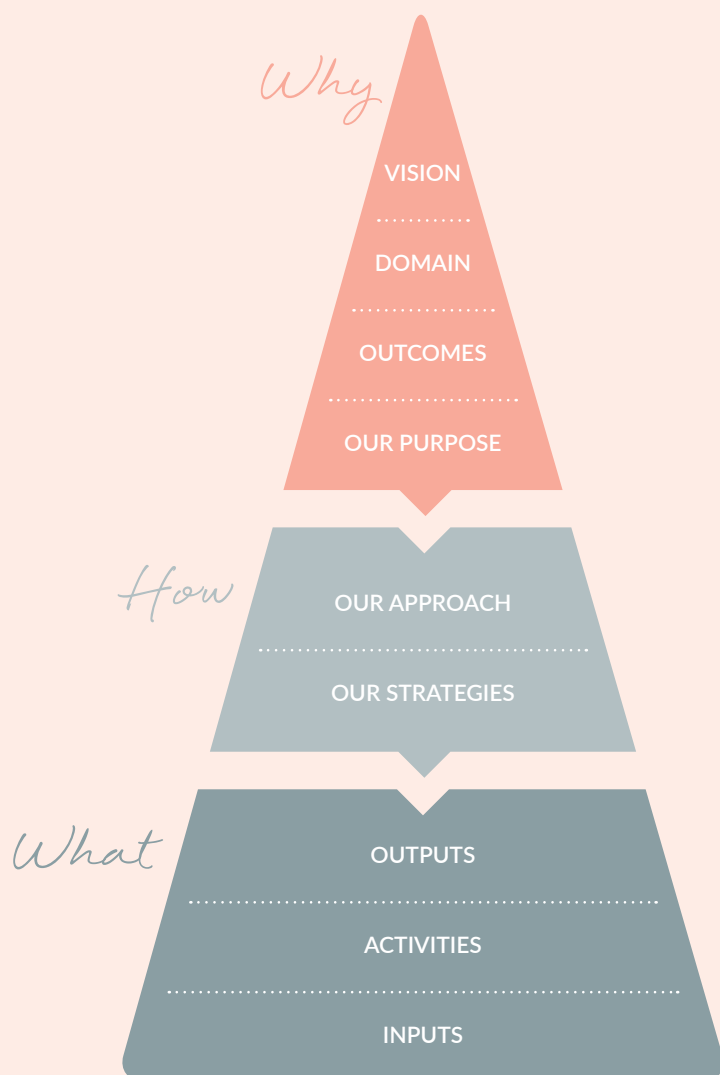
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Our roles and functions are also shaped by various government policies including the Water for Victoria water plan, the *Our Catchments, Our Communities* policy and Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037, and by our Statement of Obligations and the Minister for Water's Letter of Expectations.

To achieve the desired integrated catchment management outcomes for the Victorian Government at a local level, we involve communities in the preparation and implementation of regional strategies and plans.

These strategies and plans seek to integrate community values and regional priorities with state and federal legislation and policies that enable and support local solutions and action.

The Corangamite CMA seeks to align its Vision and Purpose to activities that will achieve these strategic outcomes. It does so utilising the framework outlined on the following page.



VISION

Healthy and productive lands and waters cared for by thriving communities.

DOMAIN (SUCCESS COMPONENT OF THE VISION)

There are sufficient people and resources committed to actively improving the health, protection and sustainability of the environment and natural resources.

OUTCOMES

Biodiversity; Waterways; Land; Partnerships; Participation; Climate change adaptation; CCMA leadership.

OUR PURPOSE

To be the regional leader working with land managers, communities, other partners and governments to protect and improve the health of the region's natural resources (water, soils, biodiversity) to improve the health and sustainable productivity of the Corangamite region.

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.

INPUTS



OUR APPROACH, VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

The approach we take is critical to our success. We have based our approach on six elements:

- Enabling
- Collaboration and inclusion
- Sustainability
- Learning and continuous improvement
- Health and wellbeing
- Leadership
- The Victorian Public Sector Values and Behaviours.

ENABLING

The work of looking after the catchments is largely done by land managers, Traditional Owners, communities, individuals and our partners; businesses and non-government organisations. Our role is to support, encourage and enable this and to help to maximise the results of their work. We do this by: listening to what they need and building capacity; providing, collecting and sharing knowledge; collaborating and building partnerships; linking people and partners; providing access to resources; and encouraging investment and guiding. We also play an important regional role in supporting governments to achieve the objectives and outcomes of their policies, legislation and investments.

The Corangamite CMA seeks to play a greater role in brokering funding for projects within the region and supporting increased investment for the region from a broader range of funding sources.

COLLABORATION AND INCLUSION

By partnering, cooperating and supporting others, we will achieve much greater results than if we work independently. We know that we need as many people as possible involved and engaged, and that there will be many different viewpoints and ideas on priorities and solutions. We value co-design and co-delivery of our processes to ensure everyone is heard, involved and valued, and that their contributions are acknowledged and celebrated. We also recognise the diversity in our communities and aim for our service delivery, communications and projects to ensure equity of access.

SUSTAINABILITY

Looking after the catchments is a long-term goal. We want our environment to be healthy now and for future generations. We want our lands to be able to produce water, food and fibre sustainably in the future. Protecting and improving the environment and natural resources requires action now and sustained long-term action. This requires immediate and sustained commitment from our communities and partners. The way we work and the work that we do will always focus on achieving sustainable outcomes. We ensure that our behaviours and operations support sustainable resource use and environmental protection. This will include moving towards Carbon Neutrality and ensuring our procurement practices consider impacts on the environment.

LEARNING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Looking after the environment and our natural resources is a complex task, and no one has all the answers now or for a rapidly changing future. We must therefore be constantly learning, adapting and improving. Everything we do won't always work as expected; quickly and openly learning from failure is as important as celebrating and building on successes. Our personal learning and continuous improvement is critical for our performance, growth and development.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

A healthy catchment both supports, and is dependent on, healthy communities; through our work, we aim to improve both. We also recognise that a healthy and successful Corangamite CMA is dependent on, and needs to support, healthy staff and directors. We aim to have a workplace and relationships that care for the health of our team and enhance their wellbeing.

LEADERSHIP

We aim to be a trusted and respected leader in environmental and natural resource management in our region by providing specialist expertise and delivery, thought leadership, support, coordination and enabling roles. We aim to be recognised for excellence, high performance and leading-edge approaches. We will also demonstrate personal leadership at all times and at all levels.

VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS

The Corangamite CMA is committed to being a high performing organisation, with excellent staff working in a productive and healthy culture that delivers great service for the community on behalf of the Victorian and Australian governments.

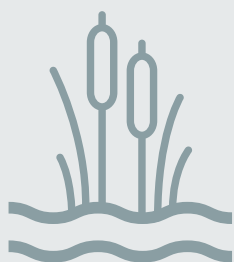
To do this we embrace and model the Victorian Public Sector Values and Behaviours:

- Responsiveness
 - Providing frank, impartial and timely advice to the Government
 - Providing high quality services to the Victorian community
 - Identifying and promoting best practice.
- Integrity
 - Being honest, open and transparent
 - Using powers responsibly
 - Reporting improper conduct
 - Avoiding any real or apparent conflicts of interest
 - Striving to earn and sustain public trust of a high level.
- Impartiality
 - Making decisions and providing advice on merit and without bias, caprice, favouritism or self interest
 - Acting fairly by objectively considering all relevant facts and fair criteria
 - Implementing Government policies and programs equitably.
- Accountability
 - Working to clear objectives in a transparent manner
 - Accepting responsibility for decisions and actions
 - Seeking to achieve best use of resources
 - Submitting to appropriate scrutiny.
- Respect
 - Treating others fairly and objectively
 - Ensuring freedom from discrimination, harassment and bullying
 - Using the views of others to improve outcomes on an ongoing basis.
- Human Rights
 - Making decisions and providing advice consistent with human rights
 - Actively implementing, promoting and supporting human rights.

The Corangamite CMA
is a respected and
trusted regional
leader in catchment
health and
management



Highlights



864

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

SUPPORTED LANDOWNERS
WITH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
PLANS COVERING



10,572ha

OVER

\$1.55m

IN GRANTS AWARDED



1,147



REFERRALS RECEIVED:

548 FLOOD ADVICE

528 PLANNING REFERRALS

71 WORKS ON WATERWAY PERMITS



17,264

PARTICIPANTS



183km

OF FENCING



8,001ha

WEED CONTROL

123

WATERWATCH
AND ESTUARYWATCH
CITIZEN SCIENTISTS



4,456ml

OF ENVIRONMENTAL
WATER DELIVERED

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The significant outputs achieved in 2019-20 is the result of increased activity as the CMA approached the last year of the current four-year State government funding round, improved recording and using different techniques remotely that may reach a broader audience.

Regional contributions

CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

The Catchment Partnership Agreement (CPA) is a partnership between government agencies: to strengthen coordination, collaboration and accountability; reduce duplication; and provide clarity on roles and responsibilities. The Corangamite CMA is the chair of the CPA and works on priority integrated catchment management projects across the region.

BARWON MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Barwon Ministerial Advisory Committee has been established to provide the Minister for Water with advice on actions needed to ensure the long-term health of the Barwon River and the major Leigh and Moorabool tributaries, particularly in the face of high-level development in the Geelong area. The Corangamite CMA has contributed technical information on a variety of topics as requested and participated in the consultation events.

REGIONAL FLOOD PLAIN STRATEGY

The Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (CRFMS) 2018-2028 is progressing well with 72 of the 108 identified actions either complete or underway. The Corangamite CMA has facilitated a program logic workshop with stakeholders to develop the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan, which is nearing completion. The Corangamite CMA has facilitated meetings with stakeholders to determine priority projects for future funding opportunities and to develop and update the work plan for each of the actions listed in the CRFMS.

RAMSAR BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Corangamite CMA has been engaged by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to assess community and stakeholder attitudes to extending the boundaries of the Port Phillip (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site. The boundary review is a recommendation from the review of the existing management plan and is based on an assessment by the Arthur Rylah Institute of sites adjoining or in proximity to the existing sites.

SOCIAL BENCH-MARKING STUDY

Professor Allan Curtis was engaged to conduct a survey of landholders with properties larger than 10 hectares across the Corangamite region that looked at landholder profiles, types of land use and trends among other issues. The report follows a similar survey and report conducted by Professor Curtis in 2006 and provides valuable information regarding land use trends as well as landowner attitudes, aspirations and intentions which will inform future planning for the Corangamite CMA, its partners and stakeholders.

BARWON RIVER PARKLANDS

The Barwon River Parklands is an initiative to increase public access to the unique environmental, cultural, and recreational values of the Moorabool River at Meredith through to where it joins the Barwon River in Geelong and through Geelong to Barwon Heads. The 2020 business case investigation determined that an immediate investment of \$1.1 million to develop a Masterplan and program team would identify a range of site-specific infrastructure and cultural, environmental and community projects, providing a direct stimulus to the local economy, and community activation opportunities whilst delivering an internationally significant series of open spaces and access to nature. This initiative is a significant partnership with the CMA, City of Greater Geelong, Parks Victoria, DELWP Barwon South West, Barwon Water, Wadawurrung, Barwon Coast Committee, Sport and Recreation Victoria, Golden Plains Shire, Department of Health and Human Services and Greater Geelong and Bellarine Tourism.

INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

The CMA actively participate in three Integrated Water Management Forums and their associated Working Groups across the region. These include the Barwon, Central Highlands Water and the Great South Coast. All three have delivered their Strategic Directions Statements and the CMA are leads for priority projects within each:

- Barwon: Barwon River Parklands Initiative
- Central Highlands Water: Enhancing Flows to the Leigh and Moorabool Rivers
- Great South Coast: Gellibrand Catchment – targeted interventions for water quality.

Furthermore, we are providing significant advice to other important projects such as the Integrated Water Management Plan for the future re-development of Batesford Quarry on the Moorabool River.

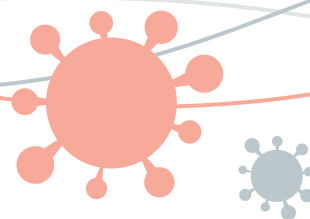
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NETWORK

The Corangamite CMA Community Engagement Network has been announced provide a forum for information exchange to:

- strengthen community understanding of Corangamite CMA's role in natural resource management within the region;
- identify community needs, issues and barriers to participation in natural resource management;
- provide community perspective into Corangamite CMA's strategies, plans and projects; and
- increase community advocacy and support for improved natural resource management in the region.

DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPES (DALs)

The Victorian Government have created legislation under the *Planning and Environment Act* to protect areas identified as important to Victorians that are coming under increasing pressure from development, visitation and climate change. A Localised Planning Statement under the legislation sets out how planning and decision-making for the declared area will be integrated. DALs have been proposed for the Bellarine and Surf Coast areas within the Corangamite Region.



COVID-19

The impact of COVID-19 has created an unprecedented challenge to the community and to the Corangamite CMA as we have sought to keep our staff and community safe, comply with restrictions whilst continuing with the important program work we do.

We have activated the stage 2 targeted response of our Action Plan and continue to follow direction and advice from the Victorian Government and the Victorian Chief Medical Officer.

On a positive note overall, we have been able to successfully continue to implement the majority of program activities utilising virtual mediums where possible or where social distancing can be safely achieved.

There have been some activities involving community engagement and on-ground activities that would have required close physical proximity that could not be undertaken in an alternate way. Where this has been the case, we have postponed those activities and have advised our investors regarding these impacts.

During the restricted period, face to face public meetings have been replaced with virtual meetings and the offices have been closed to the public. There has been increased focus on connecting with our Landcare networks and citizen science volunteers via a range of digital platforms, with regular online meetings, newsletters and webinars, and encouraging use of backyard citizen science apps. We have also continued to provide regular updates to our staff and stakeholders whilst continuing to deliver programs virtually or on-ground where appropriate social distancing can take place.

Approximately 90 per cent of our staff have been working from home in a relatively seamless manner thanks to the investment in ICT over the previous two years which supports flexible working.

Technology such as Microsoft Teams has allowed us to maintain regular contact with our staff, community, contractors and other agencies. We have been able to successfully run Board and Committee meetings remotely and successfully ran the Corporate Planning workshop with Board and staff members via Teams.

Strong relationships with landholders have allowed in most instances the continuation of on-ground works with little need for the landholder to be physically present.

We have introduced increased signage and communications around the Barwon through Geelong parklands to inform the community in relation to meeting government social distancing requirements and have closed at risk infrastructure. Planned events have been cancelled in line with restrictions.

Over the period of COVID-19 we have been continuing to monitor staff wellbeing including:

- Ensuring all staff have the correct working from home office setup and have a Working from Home Safe Work Method Statement completed
- Regular check-ins by managers with staff
- Establishment of the virtual staff chat site and virtual morning teas
- Weekly virtual CEO catchups
- Reviewing controls in relation to landholder interactions
- Undertaking a staff survey regarding the Corangamite CMA response to COVID-19 including how we can continue to support staff. As part of this survey we also asked staff for what has worked well and what we should continue post easing of restrictions
- Regular communication to staff from the CEO, including reminders around hygiene and also discussing mental health including support available (e.g. Employee Assistance Program)
- Management will be investigating the greater use of virtual meetings and the flexibility of working from home options whilst maintaining frontline services.

COVID-19 will provide challenges for the coming year in relation to the finances particular in regards to its impact on State Government funding, the delay of the State Government Budget and as we transition to the next Environmental Contribution (EC5) four year funding round. We are confident that we have sufficient cash flow, reserves and can support existing staffing levels to the 31st December 2020 based upon detailed budgeting over the short and medium term and the provision of interim supply bill funding over the next 6 months.

ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CONDITION

This section provides an assessment of the current state of the region's environment, and a reflection of why management interventions are being directed towards different assets, as well as the impact of natural events.

A key factor in monitoring the state of the catchment and prevailing climatic conditions is to help inform strategic actions. The assessment provided for each theme (detailed in Table 1) describes the level of confidence that catchment managers have for their catchment area in the future given the events of the previous 12 months, such as recently delivered interventions (i.e. protection or restoration works) or as result of the prevailing climatic conditions. The assessment is based on the best available evidence for each theme, including expert advice.

As per the previous annual report, the relevant parameters were continued in this annual assessment as some State monitoring programs are not repeated on an annual basis. Rubrics were again used for each theme to ensure a transparent judgement of annual condition.

In Victoria there are five applicable catchment condition themes; waterways, biodiversity, land, coast and; community.

These are assessed using the matrix in Table 1 and the summary of assessment for 2019-20 is in Table 2. More detailed assessment for each theme is presented within the highlight discussion for each theme that follows.

Table 1: Assessment criteria for annual reporting

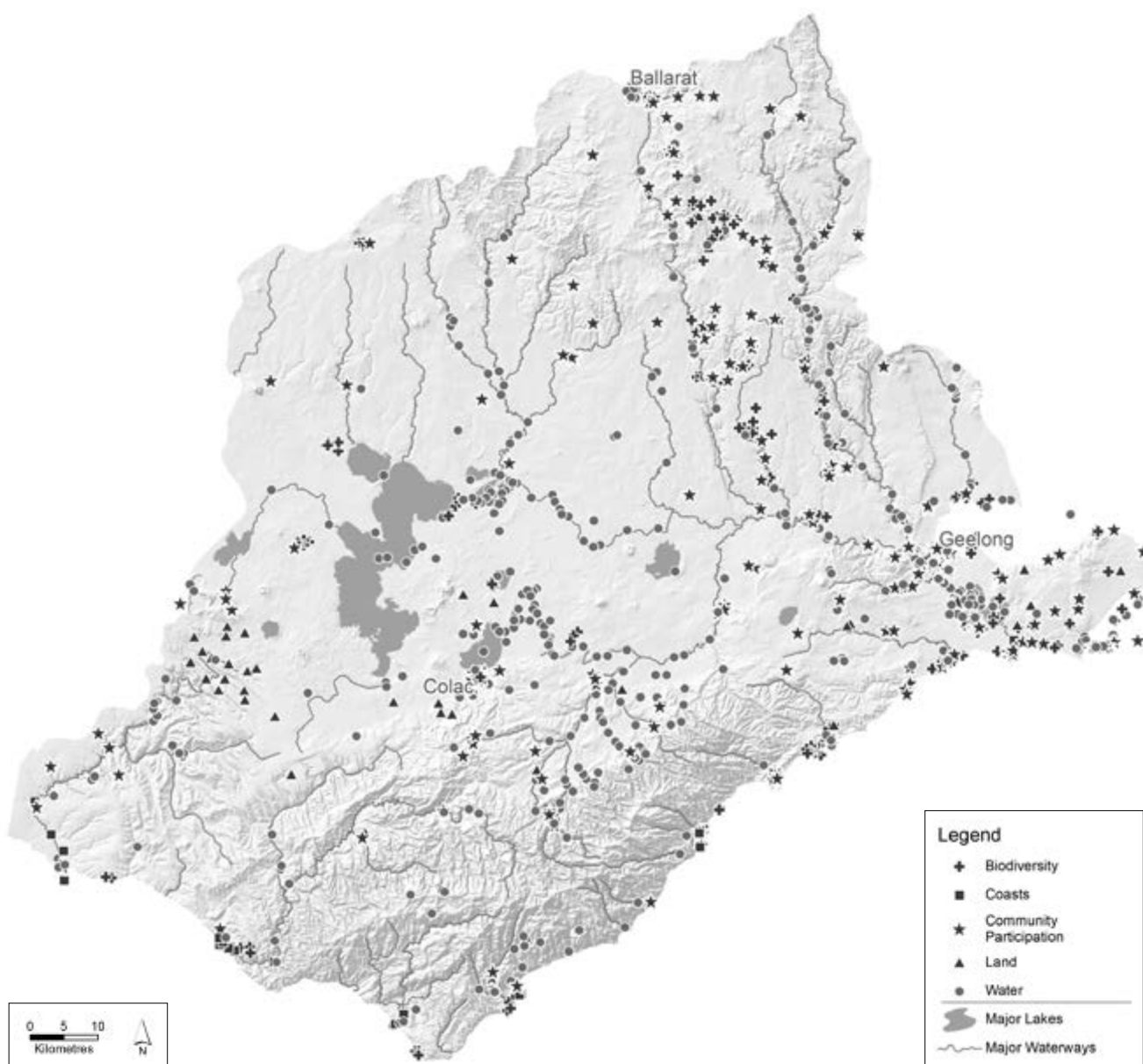
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA		
↑	1. Positive	An optimistic future, with evidence that events during the year will have a positive impact on the longer-term.
→	2. Neutral	A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer-term.
↘	3. Concerned	A level of concern, that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer-term.
↓	4. Highly concerned	A high level of concern, that significant events during the year are likely to have an adverse impact in the longer-term.

Table 2: Summary catchment assessments for each theme

THEME	2017-18 CONDITION ASSESSMENT	2018-19 CONDITION ASSESSMENT	2019-20 CONDITION ASSESSMENT	SUMMARY CONDITION ASSESSMENT 2019-20
Waterways	Neutral →	Neutral →	Neutral →	While there were periods of low rainfall and high rainfall, overall the season was average. There has been continued investment in enhancing waterways through riparian management as well as using the limited formal entitlements effectively as possible to achieve environmental flow outcomes. Water quality parameters have remained consistent with the previous year. The impacts of disaster such as bushfire are evident with impacts on riparian remnant vegetation.
Land Health	Neutral →	Concerned ↘	Concerned ↘	The 2019-20 year was the second hottest on record combined with a significant dry period through until April 2019. While climatic conditions in combination with challenges related to managing soils at farm scale and managing the impact of land use will all impact on the land assessment, the CMA continues to work in a partnership approach to enhance sustainable agriculture practices in the region.
Coasts	Concerned ↘	Concerned ↘	Neutral →	While there are management practices in place and estuary water quality was stable and there was an increase in saltmarsh, the coasts and estuaries of the region face significant challenges associated with the threats posed by climate change as well as population, land-use and developmental pressures on the natural values of these assets.
Biodiversity	Concerned ↘	Concerned ↘	Concerned ↘	The biodiversity of the region faces challenges associated with addressing and reversing continued land clearing, changing land use, urban development pressures and climate change stresses. While the Corangamite CMA and other organisations undertake work to manage biodiversity, the 2019-20 year has experienced delays of works funded under new Regional Land Partnerships program, but it is anticipated that these projects will proceed at a greater rate in the coming years.
Community	Positive ↑	Positive ↑	Positive ↑	Communities in the Corangamite region continue to be active participants in natural resource management activities. Participation rates are steady with an increase in involvement in on ground works. Programs continue to focus on engagement of communities, particularly Traditional Owner groups, Aboriginal communities, and new participants. Feedback from our events continues to be positive and constructive. The Corangamite CMA continues to be an active participant or lead in relevant regional forums with partners.

Figure 1 highlights the diversity of activities undertaken across the Corangamite region in 2019-20 by the various projects for each of the themes that are discussed in more detail below.

Figure 1: Map of the region highlighting where project activities across the themes have been undertaken





Waterways

Waterways, and the aquatic terrestrial ecosystems that they support, are the most notable characteristics of the Corangamite region.

The major waterway systems of the Barwon and associated Leigh and Moorabool river, the Western District Lakes and the Great Ocean Road waterways are unique and integral to the environmental, economic and social values of the region.

The Corangamite CMA is the regional caretaker of waterway health and is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of management actions to conserve and enhance waterways. Table 3 identifies the water projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2019-20, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 3: Water Projects undertaken in 2019-20

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Otway and Coastal Waterway Restoration Delivers major works and other priority actions to protect and enhance the rivers and estuaries within the region's coastal zone including the region's Great Ocean Road in line with the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Includes accelerated riparian activities under the Regional Riparian Action Plan.	Waterways Biodiversity Participation Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Participation has increased Partnerships have increased Joint priorities identified and pursued NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Protect waterways within special water supply catchments Maintain resilience of aquatic flora/fauna to variable climate conditions Sustain populations of threatened native fish
Barwon and Corangamite Waterway Restoration Delivers major works and other priority actions to protect and enhance the rivers and wetlands of Barwon, Moorabool and Corangamite Basins in line with the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Includes accelerated riparian activities under the Regional Riparian Action Plan and delivery of works for the Rivers 2040 trial site.	Waterways Biodiversity Participation Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Participation has increased Partnerships have increased Joint priorities identified and pursued NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost Effective solutions Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Protect waterways within special water supply catchments Maintain resilience of aquatic flora/fauna to variable climate conditions Sustain populations of threatened native fish
Corangamite Floodplain/ Waterway Statutory functions Delivers the Corangamite CMA's statutory functions for floodplain, rural drainage and waterway management under the <i>Water Act 1989</i> , including floodplain referrals and works on waterway approvals.	CCMA Leadership Waterways	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Resilient and liveable cities	Rivers, estuaries and floodplains Retain the ecological function of riverine and estuaryine floodplains and protect community infrastructure and values Protect waterways within special water supply catchments

Table 3: Water Projects undertaken in 2019-20 (continued...)

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Corangamite Regional Drainage Scheme Management This project delivers the maintenance and administration of the Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme and Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme, which Corangamite CMA manages and maintains as operational flood mitigation schemes.	Waterways	Water for agriculture	Secure productive agricultural land
Management of the Barwon River through Geelong This project involves the management of the Barwon River and designated riverside zones for a 20 km section through Geelong in accordance with the Authority's by-law No. 2 Barwon River, and the Barwon River through Geelong Management Plan 2007.	Participation Waterways	Recreational values Resilient and liveable cities	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values
Corangamite Caretaker of Waterway Health Delivers the planning, coordination and monitoring and evaluation for waterway health activities in the Corangamite CMA region in line with the Corangamite Waterway Management Strategy, including the planning, target setting and monitoring activities required to support the Rivers 2040 trial for the Moorabool. It also delivers strategic planning, engagement and operational estuary management functions (around artificial estuary mouth openings) to protect and enhance the estuaries of the region.	Waterways CCMA Leadership Biodiversity Partnerships Participation	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and Partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Resilient and liveable cities and towns Recreational values	Effective integrated NRM Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions Increased knowledge and improved practices Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Partnerships have increased
Corangamite Environmental Water Management Delivers the Corangamite CMA's Environmental Water Reserve functions under the <i>Water Act 1989</i> and corresponding CMA Statement of Obligations. Includes additional activities aimed at improving and demonstrating outcomes, shared benefits and community engagement.	CCMA Leadership Waterways	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Retain the ecological function of riverine and estuarine floodplains Protect community infrastructure and values
2016 Flood Recovery Works The objective of this project is to protect public infrastructure resulting from flooding that occurred in spring 2016. For the week of the 9th to the 16th September 2016 between 70 and 150 mm fell over the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region. At some locations over half of this rainfall fell on the 13th on very wet catchments resulting in significant stream rises in the smaller creeks in the Leigh River, Woody Yaloak River and Otway streams, with high localised impacts.	Waterways	Resilient and liveable cities	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Partnerships have increased NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values
Maintenance and Safety Works - Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp Access works will complement construction works at the Reedy outlet structure and ensure safer access for CMA staff.	Waterways	Waterway and catchment health Recreational values Aboriginal cultural values	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values

Table 3: Water Projects undertaken in 2019-20 (continued...)

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Monitor - Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp, Lower Barwon and Moorabool Maintain and operate Water gauging stations at Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamps, Lower Barwon River and Moorabool River.	Waterways	Waterway and catchment health Recreational values Aboriginal cultural values	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values
Barwon Tidal Barrage Upgrade/Construction This project will replace the existing Lower Barwon Tidal Barrage Weir with a new structure and fishway on the southern bank.	Waterways Biodiversity	Waterway and catchment health Recreational values water for agriculture	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values
Recreation Water Initiative - Barwon River Multi Use Platforms This project will install multi use and accessible platforms along the Barwon River allowing for increased passive recreation, fishing, canoe launching, motor board berthing and dog swimming. It will also add increased rowing access for the Rowing Precinct and improved trail access to new river facilities.	Waterways Partnerships	Recreational Values	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values
Disaster Recovery Actions for Barwon South-West Fires The Barwon South West Fires started on Saturday 17 March 2018 and burnt more than 14,600 hectares, 24 house and 57 sheds. This project will provide recovery assistance to reinstate vegetation and fencing near significant waterways impacted by the fire in the Corangamite region.	Waterways	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Partnerships have increased NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values
Flood Mapping of the Woody Yaloak and Lough Calvert Drainage Schemes This project will capture the data (lidar and hydrology) required to completed detailed flood studies of both Corangamite CMA managed rural drainage schemes.	Waterways CCMA Leadership	Climate change Waterway and catchment health	Increased knowledge and improved practices Improved climate change knowledge is used to inform planning and actions
The Living Moorabool The Living Moorabool Project is a strategic river management framework for planning, communicating and implementing long-term waterway work programs at a waterway or catchment scale.	Waterways CCMA Leadership Biodiversity Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Increased knowledge and improved practices Improved climate change knowledge is used to inform planning and actions
Reedy Lake Outlet Fishway (construction) Delivers the construction of a fishway and new regulator on the Reedy Lake outlet channel to improve fish and eel passage between Reedy Lake and the Barwon River and reduce the risk of private land inundation following major inflow events.	Waterways	Waterway and catchment health Recreational values Aboriginal cultural values	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values

Table 3: Water Projects undertaken in 2019-20 (continued...)

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Corangamite Regional Drainage Support</p> <p>The Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme and Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme have been allocated funding to support the avoidance or minimisation of impacts of rural drainage on environmental and cultural values through the development of environmental and cultural management plans. This process will provide guidance and build the capacity of land managers implementing improved management of rural drainage whilst cultural and environmental values are protected with increased efficiency.</p>	Waterways	Water for agriculture	Planning and activities informed by TO skills and knowledge
<p>Caring For Our Bays</p> <p>This project is auspiced for the Bellarine Catchment Network and aims to address the increasing threat of plastics in our oceans, through lifting the profile and appreciation of Corio Bay and Port Phillip Bay through a collaborative focus on preventing litter at its source. CFOB improves infrastructure and signage, engages community and business, delivers litter education and clean-up events and develops educational material.</p>	Waterways	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships	Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values
<p>Aire Valley Estuary Floodplain Project</p> <p>This project is to be focused on providing recommendations that can be used to inform the times of year when the Aire Valley estuary should not be artificially opened to protect human assets, focusing on minimising the risks on the environment of this human intervention. This project presents an exciting opportunity to change the landscape of the Aire Valley estuary floodplain, and in the process deliver improved outcomes for landholders, the environment and recreational use.</p>	CCMA Leadership	Waterway and catchment health	<p>Increased knowledge and improved practices</p> <p>Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values</p> <p>Maintain extent and improve quality of wetlands</p> <p>Maintain quality and extent of high value coastal assets</p>
<p>Construction of the lower Barwon Barrage Fishway</p> <p>This project will construct a fishway on the southern bank of the lower Barwon Barrage.</p>	Waterways	Waterway and catchment health	Sustain populations of threatened native fish
<p>Support for an Integrated Catchment Management Summit in 2020-21</p> <p>This funding is for Corangamite CMA to support the State-wide Summit Working Group (a sub-committee of the <i>Our Catchments, Our Communities</i> Strategic Reference Group) to deliver an Integrated Catchment Management Summit in 2020-21. The Summit aims to bring together a cohort of 250 key state partners from the water and catchments sector to share knowledge and discuss challenges in integrated catchment management across Victoria. Support from the CMA will be based on the directions of the State-wide Summit Working Group over the planning period.</p>	Planning and management Partnerships	Waterway and catchment health	Effective integrated NRM

Table 3: Water Projects undertaken in 2019-20 (continued...)

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Upper Barwon Landholder Study</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to engage Behaviour Works Australia to investigate landholder attitudes and beliefs, along the upper Barwon River, towards riparian management and understand what might motivate them to improve their land management practices.</p>	<p>Waterways Planning and Management Community benefits Partnerships Participation and investment</p>	<p>Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Water for agriculture</p>	<p>Partnerships have increased Aggregate investment has increased Joint priorities identified and pursued Effective integrated NRM Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions Increased knowledge and improved practices Improved climate change knowledge is used to inform planning and actions Increase landholders in NRM and sustainable agriculture good practices</p>
<p>Analysis of the social and economic values dependent on a flowing Barwon River through Geelong</p> <p>This project will comprise:</p> <p>Part 1. Significance of flows in the Barwon River. Analyse and quantify the risks of future climate change scenarios on the flows in the Barwon River, under a 'do nothing' flows scenario and assess the impacts/ benefits of potential water recovery on water quality and other flow dependent values.</p> <p>Part 2. Social and economic values of the Barwon River through Geelong. An investigation and analysis of the social and economic values that are derived from the river's ecosystem and natural capital.</p>	<p>Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Biodiversity Partnerships Participation and investment</p>	<p>Climate change Waterway and catchment health Recreational values Resilient and liveable cities</p>	<p>Joint priorities identified and pursued NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values Effective integrated NRM Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions Increased knowledge and improved practices Improved climate change knowledge is used to inform planning and actions Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Maintain resilience of aquatic flora/fauna to variable climate conditions Sustain populations of threatened native fish Maintain extent and improve quality of wetlands Key populations threatened flora and fauna are resilient and secure Maintain quality and extent of high value coastal assets</p>
<p>Gellibrand Catchment Plan (Wannon Water)</p> <p>The aim of this project is to create a catchment plan for the Gellibrand River in partnership with Wannon Water and engaging with other key stakeholders. The integrated waterway health plan will set the priority projects for on-going co-investment in the Gellibrand. The first stage of the project will be a synthesis conducted through Deakin University of the existing information in the system to understand current condition and threats. The second stage will be to use this information to inform prioritisation of management actions.</p>	<p>Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Biodiversity Partnerships Participation and investment</p>	<p>Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships</p>	<p>Partnerships have increased Aggregate investment has increased Joint priorities identified and pursued Effective integrated NRM Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions Increased knowledge and improved practices Improved climate change knowledge is used to inform planning and actions</p>

Table 3: Water Projects undertaken in 2019-20 (continued...)

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
2020-2021 Barwon Parklands Strategy Support The purpose of this project is to support the development of the Barwon Parklands Strategy. The Waterway Programs Branch is funding the Corangamite CMA for a position to support the implementation of the Bam/on Parklands Strategy. The funding will enable the CMA to engage a project manager to develop a business case for the strategy and support the activities of the Barwon Parklands Strategy Working Group. The position will also support the Barwon Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on matters relating to the Barwon Parklands Strategy.	CCMA Leadership Partnerships Waterways Participation	Waterway and catchment health Recreational Values Aboriginal cultural values Resilient and liveable cities Community engagement and partnerships	Partnerships have increased Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Joint priorities identified and pursued Effective Integrated NRM

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019-2020

Across the diversity of projects undertaken in the water program the following highlights and achievements have been summarised:

CARETAKER OF WATERWAY HEALTH

The Corangamite Caretaker of Waterway Health project continued to oversee and co-ordinate the planning and coordination of waterway health related activities through the Corangamite Regional Waterway Strategy as well as contributing to State policy delivery. The Corangamite social benchmarking study was completed and will contribute to the planning and delivery of waterway activities throughout the region. In addition, the project coordinated 13 CMA responses to State and regional legislation, policies, plans and strategies.

REGIONAL WATERWAY FRONTAGE RESTORATION PROJECTS

These projects involve the CMA working in partnership with private landholders, Landcare and public land managers to deliver on-ground actions in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy and action 3.4 of the Water for Victoria investment plan. Expressions of interest for incentive funding ended in early 2019-20 and an additional seven sites were contracted, and with fire recovery works being completed at 11 sites there were a total of 92 sites under active management during 2019-20. These projects have seen works such as fencing, off-stream water infrastructure, weed control and revegetation occur on over 166 km of waterway frontage and 860 ha of riparian vegetation, including removal of willows along 24 km of this frontage.

RECYCLED TIMBER CREATES REEL ESTATE FOR FISH

Fish populations in the Barwon River through Geelong have new underwater habitat thanks to the creative repurposing of timber saved from road construction projects. A dozen root-balls, or snags as they are commonly called by recreational fishers, were taken from the base of native hardwood trees and anchored to the riverbed downstream of Breakwater Bridge last week. The snags will provide extra habitat for native fish, including the 122,000 Estuary Perch released by the Victorian Fisheries Authority in the Barwon River over the last two years, and the threatened Australian Grayling. The timber re-use program is thanks to a landmark agreement signed in May 2019 between the state's waterways, roads and fisheries authorities for repurposing timber felled during road projects throughout Victoria.

<https://ccma.vic.gov.au/2020/02/28/recycled-timber-creates-new-reel-estate-for-fish/>

PLANTING TREES TO GIVE FISH A HELPING HAND

Anglers are participating in riparian restoration by revegetating popular fishing spots through the Angler Partnership Program. Two events were held in the Corangamite region during 2019-20, supported by VRFish and local angling clubs who planted thousands of trees along sections of the Curdies and Barwon Rivers. "Planting native trees is a great way to improve fish habitat in the river as it protects the bank from erosion and the woody debris provides shelter for fish, to protect them from predators" Geelong and District Angling Club's Steve Coleman.

<https://ccma.vic.gov.au/2019/09/30/3000-trees-planted-to-give-curdies-fish-a-helping-hand/>

<https://ccma.vic.gov.au/2019/07/15/planting-trees-to-give-barwon-river-fish-a-helping-hand/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kh71Z-OeCElandt=11s>

ENVIRONMENTAL WATER MANAGEMENT

The Corangamite CMA currently manages three formal environmental entitlements in the Moorabool River, Lower Barwon Wetlands, and the Upper Barwon River on behalf of the Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH). The management of these entitlements includes the development, implementation, and monitoring of annual Seasonal Watering Proposals delivered in partnership with water corporations, the VEWH, community groups, government agencies, public land managers and industry.

LOWER BARWON WETLANDS ENTITLEMENT

The CCMA has successfully completed the fourth year of a 4-year watering trial at Reedy Lake. This comprised three years of wetting and partial drying, followed by a fourth full water year in 2019-20. Hospital Swamps underwent a wetting and drying cycle as it has in previous years. The trial regime at Reedy Lake has also undergone independent expert review regarding its suitability in light of monitoring data, adaptive management for shared benefits, new information and stakeholder interests. The Lower Barwon Review was maintained as a fully independent process, run by external consultants who worked with independent wetland scientists, notable experts in their fields of birds, fish, vegetation and estuarine wetland ecology. The process engaged a wide range of stakeholders including hunters, licenced eel fishers, field naturalists, local property owners and partner agencies. Recommendations from this important review will guide priorities for future water management at the wetlands.

UPPER BARWON RIVER ENTITLEMENT

Water was released from the 2018 Upper Barwon Environmental Entitlement down the Upper Barwon East branch for the first time in 2019-20. A small release was also delivered down the Upper Barwon West branch. The fresh releases down the East branch had to be modified down from recommended rates due to extensive weed-based flow constrictions within the channel. Despite these limitations, flow was maintained through to Winchelsea throughout the dry summer period this year. A scoping paper on the channel constriction issue was also completed which will inform future complementary actions in the system to improve the delivery of environmental water.

MOORABOOL RIVER ENTITLEMENT

An extra 1,000 megalitres of environmental water was obtained for the flow stressed Moorabool River, allowing additional fresh events to occur to trigger fish migration and to increase base flow during the drier months to improve connectivity and water quality through the lower reaches. CCMA partnered with Traditional Owners, the Wadawurrung, the VEWH and Barwon Water to achieve this outcome.

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL WATER ACHIEVEMENTS

The Lower Moorabool River Groundwater and FLOWS project was completed. This project undertook a review of monitoring data from a broken concreted section of the Moorabool River as it flows past the Batesford Quarry. Findings from this project will be important in informing water recovery for the lower Moorabool. The CCMA is also undertaking work to improve environmental flow outcomes in a number of unregulated systems including the Anglesea River, Painkalac Creek, and the Gellibrand River.

LIVING MOORABOOL – FLAGSHIP PROJECT

The Living Moorabool project continued strong community and stakeholder engagement. The Knowledge Exchange was the highlight of 2019-20 and showcased the great work being done by community and agency partners and strengthened our collaborative efforts to protect the river. Over 30 people attended including landholders, community members, Traditional Owners, government staff and researchers. Feedback from Traditional Owner Michael Cook "I found the Moorabool knowledge exchange an extremely valuable. It was fantastic to see the various levels of expertise based around the Moorabool, from a cultural perspective it was very heart-warming to see that so many parties care for the system much like my Ancestors before me have done."

BARWON THROUGH GEELONG

Construction for the installation of new and improved multi-use platforms, to allow better access to the river for all people has commenced during the year. This will greatly benefit the growing population and the Corangamite CMA's obligation to cater for a range of recreational pursuits. Apart from the CMA, funding partners include DELWP, City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) and Victorian Fishing Authority.

Other significant activities for the year have included in-principle agreement of the revised land management and maintenance agreement between the CMA and CoGG; Conservation Volunteers Australia crews have undertaken weed management and revegetation activities, Barwon River user groups liaising and consultation for management advice. General maintenance and management activities continue including refurbished sections of walk paths.

Unfortunately, the low flows in the Barwon River over summer resulted in a minor blue-green algae event that required notification to all water users and the changes to some events. This also provided the CMA with an opportunity for the CMA to review and amend its communications to ensure clarity of advice.

Regrettably, the coronavirus pandemic in the second half of the financial year resulted in the Head of Schoolgirls Regatta being cancelled and all events since have been also been cancelled. The CMA has continued to provide coronavirus updates communications to the public since.

DRAINAGE SCHEMES

In addition to regular annual maintenance of the Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme and Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme, major infrastructure safety upgrades were completed including the repair of 30 bridges and the replacement of 15 water regulators across both schemes.

FLOODPLAIN STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The CMA continues to experience an ongoing demand for its statutory services on account of a number of significant growth and infill areas within its region. The Geelong Region is experiencing ongoing and significant development pressures, with projected growth in the Geelong region between 2016 and 2056 indicating a 98 per cent increase by 2056 to approximately 569,400 people¹. Similarly, the Ballarat Region is experiencing ongoing and significant development pressures, with projected growth in the Ballarat region between 2016 and 2056 indicating a 62 per cent increase by 2056 to approximately 259,500 people².

During 2019-20, the CCMA received and processed 1,117 statutory responses, a six per cent increase to last financial year. Of these, 535 were flood advice requests, 512 were planning referrals and 70 were Works on Waterways applications. There were also 100 visits to the flood portal. A notably higher portion of responses were planning responses and flood advice requests. The CCMA investigated and responded to 15 cases of unauthorised works.

During the 2019-20 year, an automated method of reporting using an Excel macro was developed by the Floodplain Team. The new reporting method has since been applied retrospectively to previous years in order to allow equivalent comparison between reporting periods and previous years. The total number of reported outputs are reasonably similar between the new automated and old manual methods (within two per cent).

LOWER BARWON WETLANDS

The Ramsar listed lower Barwon wetlands is a complex of fresh and saline lakes and wetlands 10 kilometres south of Geelong, Victoria's largest regional city. After European occupation, a series of weirs and regulators were installed in the wetlands to prevent saltwater entering the lower Barwon River and to mitigate flood risks to the city of Geelong. For decades the infrastructure was an impassable barrier for migratory fish, including Short-finned eels and the threatened Australian grayling. A 2016 regional fish barrier prioritisation study identified the lower Barwon wetlands complex as one of the highest priorities for removal of instream fish barriers.

In 2019 the Corangamite CMA oversaw the planning and construction of a new vertical slot fishway at Reedy Lake. The fishway was completed in April 2020 with immediate results; fish were observed the next day making their way through the precisely constructed system of pools and riffles. A nearby 'elver ramp' with climbing substrate allows Short-finned eels to migrate upstream.

An upgrade of the water regulator at Reedy Lake will also enable more efficient delivery of the Lower Barwon Environmental Entitlement, which manages water levels in the wetlands to improve the diversity of vegetation for birds, fish, frogs and other wildlife.

Near Reedy Lake, a decades-old tidal barrage weir on the lower Barwon River has been completely refurbished and a new, additional fishway and elver ramp has been installed.

These works will have immediate and long-lasting benefits for fish, plants, birds and other wildlife in the wetlands of the lower Barwon River, and will help improve fishing and recreational opportunities through Geelong for decades to come.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

The Citizen Science program has successfully engaged with community and schools to raise awareness and understanding of water quality and catchment health issues in Corangamite. The Program has maintained support to 123 volunteer monitors in the EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch programs to assess 143 waterway sites across the catchment. These long-term data sets have also been complemented by other innovative and diverse citizen science activities such as River Detectives and National Waterbug Blitz.

The Citizen Science program is supported by Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water and City of Ballarat. These mutually beneficial partnerships have raised community awareness and participation through waterway events and monitoring activities including at the Ballarat Begonia Festival, SpringFest, Brown Hill Festival and National Water Week Schools Event at Kirks Reservoir.

CCMA also joined with the community to gather valuable data at citizen science events such as the Barwon eDNA Platypus and Curdies eDNA Yarra Pygmy Perch surveys. During COVID-19 (coronavirus), restrictions have been applied to EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch volunteer monitoring and some events were cancelled. However, the volunteer community have been encouraged to continue their engagement with nature through "Backyard" citizen science activities and have been supported through regular eNewsletters and fact sheets to guide volunteers in the use of mobile citizen science apps. By continuing to increase community knowledge and awareness of waterway management and condition, through the CMA's education programs we can all work towards achieving positive waterway stewardship.

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1. Source: Victoria in Future 2019: Population projections 2016 to 2056 (DELWP, 2019). Calculated based on population growth of 283,000 by 2056 compared to actual population of 286,400 in 2016.

2. Source: Victoria in Future 2019: Population projections 2016 to 2056 (DELWP, 2019). Calculated based on population growth of 99,500 by 2056 compared to actual population of 160,000 in 2016.

Table 4 provides the outputs delivered across all water program projects in 2019-20.
Performance reporting indicates that all projects are on track to deliver against their investment requirements.

Table 4: Standard outputs delivered for the waterways program in 2019-20

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Channel - Drain	10		121.0	
Visitor facility - Building	11			
Visitor facility - Operations	35			
Visitor facility - Recreational	11			
Road - Road	10		12.8	
Crossing - Culvert	1			
Water storage - Tank	3			
Water storage - Trough	7			
Pump - Surface water	6			
Waterway Structure - Chute	1			
Waterway Structure - Fishway	2			
Waterway Structure - Flow Regulator	12			
Waterway Structure - Large Wood	11			
Waterway Structure - Outlet	1			
Monitoring structure - Measuring point	60			
Fence - Bollard	1		1.0	
Fence - Fence	43		43.9	
Vegetation - Native indigenous	70	467.6		
Vegetation - Non-native	25	29.8		
Weed control - Non-woody	21	295.1		
Weed control - Woody	73	509.6		
Pest animal control - Terrestrial	10	181.7		
Earthworks- Armouring	2			
Grazing - Riparian	30	185.6		
Water - River Reach	36	1,529.6		
Water - Wetland	20	35,229.9		
Approval and advice - Advice	723			
Approval and advice - Lease	8			
Approval and advice - Permit	235			
Approval and advice - Referral Response	528			
Management agreement - Binding non-perpetual	22	4,385.2		

Table 4: Standard outputs delivered for the waterways program in 2019-20 (continued...)

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Management agreement - Binding perpetual	3	95.0		
Assessment - Cultural	3	6.6		
Assessment - Ecological	43	187.3		
Assessment - Fauna	1	6,230.6		
Assessment - Flora	1	0.2		
Assessment - Invasive Species	1	0.5		
Assessment - Property	39	372.4		
Assessment - Social	4	1.3		
Assessment - Soil	1	1.4		
Assessment - Surface water	22	30,561.4		
Engagement event - Awareness Raising	1			14
Engagement event - Field day	11			543
Engagement event - Meeting	51			774
Engagement event - Presentation	13			218
Engagement event - Training	4			20
Engagement event - Workshop	3			59
Partnership - Agencies/Corporates	133			
Partnership - Community groups	122			
Plan - Management	11	92,250.4		
Plan - Strategy	1	0.2		
Publication - Online/Printed	6			
Publication - Visual	1			
Publication - Written	2			
Information management system - Database	3			
Information management system - Decision support	2			

CURDIES PERCH SEARCH

CHALLENGE

The Yarra Pygmy Perch is a small-bodied, native fish species found in the Curdies River catchment. This species is under threat of extinction due to the degradation of aquatic environments, invasive fish species and reduced flows in our rivers. Historical survey records indicate that the species is confined to the middle reaches of the Curdies, and lower reaches of the Scotts / Cooriemungle Creek systems, the two major tributaries of the Curdies. Suitable habitat exists for the species throughout much of the catchment. In an effort to determine whether the Yarra Pygmy Perch exists more broadly in the catchment and so that key drought refuge habitats can be protected, a survey utilising eDNA was completed for the Curdies catchment.

APPROACH

On the 23rd November 2019, the Corangamite CMA, with the help of 14 local volunteers, used environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling at 31 sites across the Curdies River catchment to determine the distribution of Yarra Pygmy Perch. The closely related Southern Pygmy Perch and River Blackfish were also screened from the eDNA samples. This technique enables people to collect a small water sample from a site that is then sent off for laboratory analysis to screen for eDNA present within the sample and determine what aquatic species are present at the sampling site.

RESULTS

The results indicate that Yarra Pygmy Perch are present in around 65 kilometres of waterways in the Curdies catchment and improves our current understanding of their distribution. Interestingly, Southern Pygmy Perch were recorded across a much broader area and being closely related and utilising similar habitats, it is interesting that Southern Pygmy Perch are present in some of the more minor tributaries where Yarra Pygmy Perch were not recorded.

River Blackfish eDNA was sampled from ten locations and all 31 samples were also screened as part of the CESAR Eastern Australian Platypus Census, supported by the San Diego Zoo. Unfortunately, this sampling did not record the presence of either species. River Blackfish and Platypus have not been recorded in the Curdies River system for decades, and their decline would appear to coincide with the post-war settlement of the Heytesbury district and the broad scale land clearing of that time.

KEY PARTNERS

Local volunteer networks; local landholders and other river users as 'citizen scientists'; EnviroDNA; CESAR.

PYGMY PERCH ARE
PRESENT IN AROUND

65km OF WATERWAYS IN THE
CURDIES CATCHMENT



CATCHMENT CONDITION AND RATIONALE

NEUTRAL →

While there were periods of low rainfall and high rainfall, overall the season was average. There has been continued investment in enhancing waterways through riparian management as well as using the limited formal entitlements effectively as possible to achieve environmental flow outcomes.

Water quality parameters have remained consistent with the previous year. The impacts of disaster such as bushfire are evident with impacts on riparian remnant vegetation.

RATIONALE FOR ASSESSMENT

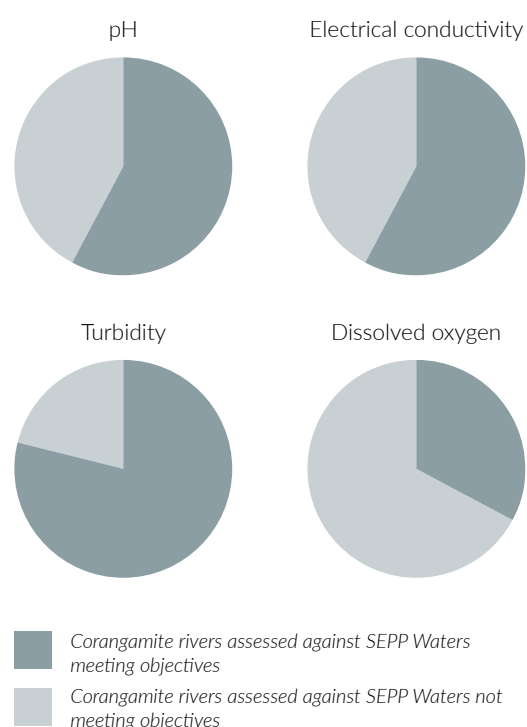
- The investment through incentives in riparian management over the 2019-20 year builds on previous management activities. A total of 92 sites across the region have now been invested in including an additional 11 sites in the 2019-20 financial year.
- Landowners who are unable or unwilling to participate in waterway management programs, require targeted engagement approaches.
- Two formal environmental entitlements in the region are below what is recommended in flow studies for the Moorabool and the Barwon but the CMA look for opportunities to make the best of natural flow conditions and ability to purchase additional water.
- The wetting and drying regime in the Lower Barwon is required to maintain the environmental character of the wetlands. This is adaptively managed where possible to accommodate shared benefits with user groups.
- Water quality results presented a mix of responses with some parts of the region more favourable than others. This is reflective of both landscape (e.g. high velocity streams), land use and the State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP) guidelines. Results are consistent with the previous year with the water quality parameters generally unchanged.

WATERWAY INFORMATION USED IN THE ASSESSMENT

The environmental condition of waterways is determined by the combined state of key characteristics such as habitat, water regimes, water quality, vegetation and connectivity. Broader catchment condition, land use, natural events like floods and bushfires, development and climate change can all directly influence the environmental condition and values of waterways. Waterway management needs to consider how both natural and anthropogenic factors (i.e. human impact via farming practices, recreation, urban development, etc.) impact on waterway condition and, therefore on the values of waterways. Water quality, riparian vegetation condition and flow compliance have been used to assess waterway condition and consideration given to those external factors that can impact on this assessment.

The water quality information was sourced from our extensive Waterwatch database and aggregated across the region from those rivers and streams that were identified as Index of Stream Condition reaches. Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions prevented 12 months of data collections and therefore to get greater than 11 data point, data was inclusive of April 2019 -April 2020. The 2019-20 results have been compared to the current SEPP guidelines. Figure 2 presents the status of the water quality parameters against SEPP.

Figure 2: Water quality parameters (pH, turbidity, electrical conductivity and dissolved oxygen) against SEPP guidelines



Riparian vegetation condition is based on a habitat hectare score against various condition criteria applied to public and private land sites across the region. The change in the assessment of condition this year has been influenced by the fact that quite a number of assessments were in the Curdies River fire recovery area and therefore impacts on remnant vegetation.

Table 5 presents the riparian vegetation condition results and highlights that just over half of the sites assessed were rated moderate or above.

Table 5: Riparian vegetation condition for 2019-20

RIPARIAN VEGETATION CONDITION BASED ON HABITAT HECTARE SCORE	AREA COVERED (HA)	AREA COVERED (%)
Condition rating of moderate or above	630	59
Condition rating of poor or very poor	923	41

Compliance against flow regimes is based on separate downstream compliance sites for the Moorabool and Upper Barwon, with flow attained, compared to desired summer and winter flow regimes. The Lower Barwon wetlands is based on an agreed wetting and drying regime for the two wetland systems. The narratives in table 6 provide a summary of what has been experienced for each of the systems.

Table 6: Flow compliance over 2019-20

MOORABOOL FLOW COMPLIANCE

The environmental entitlement for the Moorabool River has been in place for 10 years. This has allowed the majority of summer flow recommendations to be met over that time for the upper reaches below Lal Lal reservoir. This is a significant improvement for the river. In addition, a temporary purchase of water facilitated by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, allowed additional fresh events to occur this year, linked to fish migration. It also allowed increased base flow for several months which assisted flow and connectivity in the lower reaches over summer and autumn. Most flow recommendations were met in the upper reaches because of the extra water purchased by the VEWH. This is not normally possible as the entitlement only provides for a quarter of flow volumes recommended for minimum ecological function.

UPPER BARWON FLOW COMPLIANCE

In 2019-20, the majority of water from the Upper Barwon River environmental entitlement was delivered down the Upper East branch, which was the highest priority in the seasonal watering plan. Gauging on upper catchment is limited but 'low flow' compliance was achieved on the Upper East based on release volumes. Flow constrictions and a lack of entitlement prevented any further flow compliance on either of the upper branches. Looking further down-stream, flow can be measured at Ricketts Marsh near Birregurra and compliance was partially achieved for this reach. Environmental releases contributed to this compliance for summer 'low flow' only. Winter 'low flow' in this area was achieved through natural flow, and a range of other flow components were partially met through natural flow as well.

LOWER BARWON FLOW COMPLIANCE

The historical wetting and drying regime that has been in place for many years at Hospital Swamps was maintained. Full compliance was achieved with the adopted watering regime. A full wetting year was implemented at Reedy lake, following three years of wetting and partial drying. This was the fourth year in a four-year cycle which has been adopted to re-balance the ecology of the wetland following many years of artificial flooding. Full compliance was achieved.

Rainfall and the timing of rainfall will impact on agricultural production, opportunities to maximise environmental flow releases and water quality. The region typically experiences rainfall that increases towards the coast and decreases further north, especially through the winter months, due to natural rain shadow effects. Table 7 of rainfall figures (sourced from www.bom.gov.au) indicates that across the region rainfall was typically low over the summer months with a break being experienced in April.

Table 7: Annual rainfall for 2019-20

STATION	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	2019-20
Colac Post Office	82.8	82.5	47.7	51.2	45.9	25.2	28.9	37	15.6	85.9	81.4	32.8	616.9
Geelong Race Course	33.8	56.4	39.2	24.2	53.4	8.6	74	83.4	31.6	85	28.6	20.6	538.8
Cape Otway	134.4	94	81.4	52.2	70.2	29.2	43.6	45.8	33	73.2	91.8	42.8	791.6
Aireys Inlet	48.6	67	30	30.4	42	8.8	59	73.2	29	63.4	34.6	50.4	536.4
Sheoaks	41.6	45.6	31.8	32.6	32.2	2.6	49.4	101.4	29	74	53.2	24	517.4
Meredith	46	59.4	31.8	41.6	51.8	4.8	50	76.8	40.8	104	49.6	19.8	576.4
Camperdown	120.6	115	62.5	62.5	58	38	26.5	54	25	110.5	117.5	46.5	836.6
Lismore	67	78.6	55	52.6	50.6	11.8	60.4	48.8	19	91.6	87.6	42.8	665.8
Ballarat	50	75.6	46.6	30	61.2	5.4	70	45.6	27.2	104	63.4	39.2	618.2



Land

The Corangamite region has rich and diverse landscapes, reflecting its geological, climatic and human history. The natural resources of our region are critical to providing important flora and fauna, as well as sustaining the lifestyle of residents and visitors alike.

Corangamite CMA projects work with the region's dairy, grazing and cropping farmers to support practices of change for land health, sustainable farming and natural resource protection. Changes in soil management and sustainable farming practices have the potential to generate productivity and environmental improvements. Table 8 identifies the land projects undertaken by the CMA in 2019-20, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 8: Land projects undertaken in 2019-20

LAND HEALTH	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
National Land Partnerships Program Core Services Provides Core Engagement, Communication, Planning and Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator support to the broader National Landcare Program.	Waterways Biodiversity Participation Partnerships Land Management CCMA Leadership	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Increased breadth and depth of participation Increased and shared knowledge NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values Secure productive agricultural
Protecting the Victorian Volcanic Plains This project will be delivered on a landscape scale, using established partnerships and knowledge to deliver, across public and private land, improved land management practices across the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) within the Corangamite Management Unit. Community awareness programs will also be delivered to increase the knowledge of the community to increase the capacity of land managers to undertake and maintain works as well as to engage with Traditional Owners. The project will also support the management training of various land managers associated with the VVP's linear reserves, provide incentives to directly target specific on-ground works that enhance nationally threatened ecological communities on private land and deliver on specific actions that address EPBC listed species requirements on the VVP.	CCMA Leadership Partnerships Biodiversity Waterways Land Management	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Water for agriculture	Participation has increased Aggregate investment has increased Joint priorities identified and pursued Effective integrated NRM Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions Improved climate change knowledge is used to inform planning and actions Increase landholders in NRM and sustainable agriculture good practices Maintain extent and improve quality of wetlands Halt decline in quality and extent of NV and enhance connectivity Key populations threatened flora and fauna are resilient and secure
Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite 2019-20 The Victorian Landcare Program funds the Victorian Landcare Grants which are an annual grant funding for on-ground projects and group/network start-up, maintenance and support. The grants are currently delivered by the Catchment Management Authorities across the state.	Participation Biodiversity Waterways Land Management	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships	Work with landholders to increase their participation in natural resource management activities and programs so there is reduced impact on the region's natural resources from agricultural practices

LAND HEALTH	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Improving On-Farm Soil, Vegetation for Larger Agricultural (Yr 2-5) This project builds on the experiences of the Corangamite CMA in partnership with farmers, community groups (including Landcare) and agriculture industry groups of the Corangamite region) to enhance soil health and native vegetation on farms. Soil acidity has been identified as a regional soil health issue within the Corangamite region and this project will then focus on farmers within the central cropping areas of the region to adopt soil acidity management practices, while farmers within the southern dairy and cattle grazing areas of the region, will be, targeted to improve their capacity to manage dairy effluent, apply appropriate nutrient management regimes and incorporate native vegetation into farming systems. The overall approach is based upon knowledge and extension activities, supported by some financial incentive programs. Different approaches are tailored to suit different target audiences to ensure maximum engagement and participation.	Waterways Planning and management Biodiversity Partnerships	Build capability and capacity Regional leadership	Participation has increased Partnerships have increased Aggregate investment has increased Joint priorities identified and pursued Increased knowledge and improved practices Improved climate change knowledge is used to inform planning and actions Maintain or enhance solid condition for environment and agriculture Secure productive agricultural land Increase landholders in NRM and sustainable agriculture good practices
Regional Landcare Coordination 2019-20 The Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) program is funded by the Victorian Government's Landcare Program and supports 152 community-based environmental volunteer groups with more than 4,200 members. The Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) position develops and implements regional Landcare support plans, undertake capacity building with groups and networks and facilitate access to grants and other funding.	Participation Biodiversity Waterways Land Management	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Water for agriculture	Work with landholders to increase their participation in natural resource management activities and programs so there is reduced impact on the region's natural resources from agricultural practices

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019-2020

Across the diversity of projects undertaken in the land program the following highlights and achievements have been summarised:

SUSTAINABLE DAIRIES PROJECT

The Sustainable Dairies Project, originally designed under the State Government *Our Catchments Our Communities* is now part of the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnership project Improving On-Farm Soil, Vegetation and Biodiversity for Larger agricultural enterprises in the Corangamite Region. The success of the original project, delivered in collaboration with West Vic Dairy, Agriculture Victoria, and Landcare networks (Heytesbury and Central Otways) meant it was an ideal fit into the Large Farms Project enabling it to deliver natural resource and dairying benefits for a further 3 years.

Like the original project there is still a focus on nutrient and effluent management, but the new project is now broader in geographic scope and topics delivered. The topics include soil biology, soil acidity and biodiversity on farm to address landholder areas of interest and deliver longer-term land management benefits.

#WETCROPS19

Above-average rainfall across south west Victoria led to many crops showing the signs of waterlogging in the winter and spring of 2019. A twitter hashtag #WetCrops19 was established by Southern Farming Systems in conjunction with the Corangamite CMA's Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator. This provided a real-time public platform where farmers, agronomists and other technical experts could share observations, photos, information and learnings about managing crops impacted by waterlogging.

A #WetCrops19 workshop was held in Derrinallum led by Southern Farming Systems, supported by Agriculture Victoria and the Grains and Research Development Corporation. This provided an opportunity for facilitated discussions about management strategies, crop recovery tactics and / or choices to re-sow, with the social media hashtag introduced by the RALF at the workshop.

The result of the social media campaign was an array of information and photos being shared to support decision making across the high rainfall zone of south-west Victoria, including rainfall and climate data, decision making support tools, crop species and variety selection, chemical and fertilizer application best practice information.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE STEERING COMMITTEE

The CMA established a Regional Sustainable Agriculture Steering Committee in recognition of the opportunity that enhancing soil management and sustainable farming practices will significantly increase productivity gains and environmental improvements across the various agricultural industries in the region. While the committee will provide strategic guidance to the sustainable agriculture programs managed by the CMA there is also an opportunity for broader knowledge exchange, collaboration and increasing joint opportunities for land managers and farming entities.

REGIONAL AGRICULTURE LAND FACILITATOR

The RALF position, funded through the Australian Government, has successfully engaged with a range of community, Landcare, agriculture industry groups and Government agencies through facilitating conversations, sharing information and supporting project partnerships. During 2019-20 the RALF has:

- Led an online community of practice relating to waterlogged soils management on social media; #wetcrops19 on Twitter
- Facilitated Corangamite CMA support and involvement in Smart Farms Small Grants projects including the Southern Otway Landcare Network led 'From the Ground Up - Growing Regenerative Agriculture in Corangamite' three day conference
- Facilitated the establishment of the new Corangamite Sustainable Agriculture Steering Committee
- Supported WestVic Dairy and Agriculture Victoria to plan and evaluate the 'Sustainable Dairies' program that delivered a course consisting of four theory and on-farm sessions
- Partnered with the Surf Coast Shire Agribusiness network to deliver several activities including videos focusing on Southern Farming Systems' cover cropping and sub soil improvement projects
- Facilitated the Corangamite Rural Women's Network Community of Practice to deliver two workshops and one online virtual event
- Represented Corangamite CMA on various committees and working groups including the Colac Otway Shire Weeds Consultative Committee, Heytesbury District Landcare Networks 'Keeping Carbon on the Farm' project and the G21 Agribusiness Forum committee
- Supporting judging of the Great South West Dairy Awards 'Sustainability and Natural Resource Manager' category.

Table 9 provides the outputs delivered across all land program projects in 2019-20. Performance reporting indicates that all projects are on track to deliver against their investment requirements.

Table 9: Standard outputs delivered for the land program in 2019-20

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Fence - Fence	8		3.7	
Vegetation - Native indigenous	4	1.9		
Weed control - Non-woody	1	0.2		
Weed control - Woody	3	2.1		
Management agreement - Binding non-perpetual	3	0.1		
Assessment - Ecological	1	143.6		
Assessment - Property	2	13.7		
Assessment - Soil	13	1,718.4		
Engagement event - Awareness Raising	2			6

Table 9: Standard outputs delivered for the land program in 2019-20 (continued...)

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Engagement event - Conference	11			592
Engagement event - Field day	268			829
Engagement event - Meeting	102			829
Engagement event - Presentation	19			502
Engagement event - Training	12			225
Engagement event - Workshop	23			792
Partnership - Agencies/Corporates	8			
Plan - Property	2	10.1		
Plan - Strategy	1	0.0		
Publication - Online/Printed	2			
Publication - Visual	3			
Publication - Written	18			
Information management system - Database	1			
Collecting or synthesising baseline data - Collecting and/or synthesising baseline data sets	9	0.0		
Communication materials - Publishing communication materials	1			
Establishing and maintaining agreements - Establishing and maintaining agreements	4	0.7		
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	1	0.2		
Flora survey - Conduct Flora surveys	1	94,551.8		
Identifying the location of potential sites - Identify potential sites	5	2.5		
Negotiating with Community Landholders Farmers TO Ag groups etc - Negotiating with groups	13			
Project planning and delivery of documents - Days project planning / preparation	32			
Project planning and delivery of documents - Develop planning and delivery documents	7			
Removing weeds - Treat weeds - initial	1	52.3		
Site preparation - Prepare site	1	10.0		
Skills and knowledge survey - Conduct skills and knowledge surveys	12			
Community/stakeholder engagement - Involvement with training / workshop events	6			
Community/stakeholder engagement - Involvement with one-on-one technical advice interactions	4			

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENTERPRISE THROUGH ON-FARM WATER EFFICIENCY

CHALLENGE

The On-Farm Water Efficiency Project was developed in response to the need for more secure water flows to high-value environmental assets in the face of climate change. Since private landholders make up two-thirds of the Corangamite region, their participation, investment and knowledge, is vital in efforts to improve catchment health and at the same time enhance the sustainability of their enterprise.

APPROACH

The Corangamite CMA led the project with support from the water industry, Government, Landcare and the community. The Project delivered several on-farm pilot activities including testing the viability and effectiveness of modernised on-farm water capture technologies to meet future farming needs and achieve improved water efficiency. Additional catchment benefits such as improved water quality and increased biodiversity were also captured. The results and learnings from these pilot projects have been shared throughout the community through a range of communication materials and activities. The project was enabled through State Government funding under the *Our Catchments Our Community* program for integrated catchment management.



PRIVATE LANDHOLDER'S
PARTICIPATION IS VITAL IN
IMPROVING CATCHMENT
HEALTH

RESULTS

Four successful pilot projects were chosen for funding after a multi stage application process. The criteria used to assess the applications was based on several considerations relating to the environment, water, industry and project implementation. The successful projects were;

1. **Barongarook Pork.** This free-range pork farm was able to improve water efficiency and quality through installing a water filtration process using strategically placed native vegetation, sand and rocks. They also reduced evaporation through increased vegetation around the dam and upgrading troughs and underground piping to reduce wastage. The high value waterway, Boundary Creek was also fenced off and revegetated to protect it from stock and prevent nutrient run off.
2. **Langi Banool Beef.** This grazing property has improved water efficiency and quality through the fencing off and revegetation of dams and reticulating the water into troughs. The dams have become a haven for biodiversity and run off from the dam is filtered before reaching the nearby Yan Yan Gurt Creek.
3. **Bannockburn Vineyard.** A trial was undertaken at the vineyard to demonstrate the difference applying custom made compost to the vines can have on water retention, soil moisture and soil temperature. The result is less need to irrigate the vines (water savings), especially in the warmer months and a more consistent soil moisture profile (water use efficiency).
4. **Wellwood Walnuts.** This Organic Walnut Farm has adopted the policy of "making every drop count". Old inefficient irrigation systems are very hungry for water, by upgrading to a micro drop underground irrigation system, the orchard will require much less water allowing the savings to stay within the groundwater system.

The results of these pilot projects were captured in a series of videos and reports which allows the key learnings of the projects to be used for years to come.

KEY PARTNERS

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning; Landcare; Agriculture Victoria; Water Technology; Farming enterprises.

CATCHMENT CONDITION AND RATIONALE

CONCERNED ↘

The 2019-20 year was the second hottest on record combined with a significant dry period through until April 2019.

While climatic conditions in combination with challenges related to managing soils at farm scale and managing the impact of land use will all impact on the land assessment, the CMA continues to work in a partnership approach to enhance sustainable agriculture practices in the region.

RATIONALE FOR ASSESSMENT

The area of exposed soil within the Corangamite region is largely a function of climatic conditions. 2019-20 experienced dry months followed by a break in April with high rainfall (Table 7). For the Corangamite region, typically the areas of greatest exposed soil are on the land use types grazing on modified pasture and dryland cropping. The figure for the last year while showing an increasing trend in the area of exposed soil, is not increasing at the same rate as the previous year.

The Corangamite CMA works in partnership with key stakeholders in the region (Landcare, Agriculture Victoria, WestVic Dairy and Southern Farming Systems). Funding support is provided by Agriculture Victoria, Grains Research Development Corporation, the Australian and State Government to work with landholders to manage their land sustainably and protect land and water resources in the catchment primarily from the threats of soil degradation processes.

The opportunity to engage landowners in sustainable agriculture events and projects has steadied in this current financial year due to the further implementation of the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnership program.

LAND INFORMATION USED IN THE ASSESSMENT

Groundcover is a sub-component of land cover and can be used to infer land management practices. Ground cover is defined as the vegetation (living and dead), biological crusts and stone that is in contact with the soil surface.

The level and type of ground cover is important for land management as it plays an important role in:

- Protecting valuable soil resources from erosion
- Nutrient cycling
- Maintaining biodiversity.

The amount and distribution of ground cover can change in response to climate, land or soil type and land management, especially grazing intensity. Figure 3 illustrates the percentage of exposed soil over time as the surrogate for groundcover. The source for the information also illustrates that most of this is occurring over the Victorian Volcanic Plain Bio-region.

Figure 3: Percentage of exposed soil



Developed by Australian National University - Fenner School of the Environment and Society. Annual mean percentage of soil that is unprotected by living vegetation or litter as mapped from MODIS satellite imagery following the methodology of Guerschman and colleagues (CSIRO). Average amount of water stored in the soil profile during the year as estimated by the OzWALD model-data fusion system. Note this figure represents a calendar year average.



The Corangamite region's marine and coastal environment extends from Peterborough in the west to Limeburners Lagoon at Geelong in the east. It includes Ramsar listed wetlands of Swan Bay, the Great Ocean Road and a number of marine protected areas.

The coastal zone encompasses a number of environmental assets, including wetlands, estuaries, native vegetation and threatened species. Table 10 outlines the coast projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2019-20, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 10: Coast and estuary projects undertaken in 2019-20

COASTS	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Dunecare - Protecting Sand Dunes on Victoria's Iconic Surf Coast, Bellarine Peninsula and Great Ocean Road Australian Government election commitment. The Initiative is to focus on conserving coastal sand dune native flora and fauna habitat at risk of erosion from the Bellarine Peninsula to Marengo, including areas managed by organisations including Bellarine Bayside Coastal Management, Queenscliffe Borough Council, Barwon Coast Committee of Management, City of Greater Geelong, Surf Coast Shire, Parks Victoria, Barwon Water, the Great Ocean Road Committee, and Otway Coast Committee of Management.	Community benefits Biodiversity	Community engagement and partnerships	Halt the decline in quality (condition) and extent of high value native vegetation and enhance its connectivity Manage the threat of species extinction so that key populations are resilient and secure in the longer-term Maintain the quality and extent of high value coastal assets Joint priorities identified and pursued Effective Integrated NRM

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019-2020

Across the diversity of projects undertaken in the coast program the following highlights and achievements have been summarised:

COASTAL MANAGEMENT

A total of 1,164 hectares of coastal vegetation protected through the continued implementation of 22 CoastalTender contracts working in partnership with both public and private land managers, this includes 176 hectares of coastal saltmarsh. Actions include, but are not limited to, fence installation and revegetation, pest plant and animal control and grazing exclusion activities.

Over 458 hectares of coastal saltmarsh was managed for pest plants and animals as part of the Ramsar Program for the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site, including 335 hectares of coastal saltmarsh. This was delivered in partnership with Parks Victoria to improve coastal saltmarsh and waterbird habitat across the Ramsar site.

A community grants program was delivered as part of the Ramsar Program to allow the community to have greater participation in, and awareness of, the Ramsar site and its management. 10 community groups across the Bellarine Peninsula and Western Shoreline of Port Phillip Bay were successful with activities delivered focusing on sign installation, engagement and knowledge sharing events, workshops, opportunities for site management, canoe trips and bird watching events.

A Ramsar wetland interpretation and education program was delivered in collaboration with key partners Parks Victoria, Bellarine Catchment Network and the Marine and Freshwater Discovery Centre. This program delivered activities focused on producing and delivering education materials on the Ramsar site and its supporting values.

LAND SUBJECT TO INUNDATION OVERLAY 2 FOR THE CITY OF GREATER GEELONG (LSIO2)

Dealing with the effects of climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing coastal managers.

The Bellarine Peninsula – Corio Bay Local Coastal Hazard Assessment identified an expected increase in sea level rise of up to 0.8 metres over the next 80 years. When combined with an increase in expected storm intensity, it was identified that a one per cent AEP (1 in 100 year) coastal flood event under a 0.8-metre sea-level rise scenario would result in approximately 1,600 properties impacted within the Greater Geelong City Council region.

Most councils' flood overlays only relate to riverine flooding and only extend to the expected one per cent AEP flood extent expected under current climatic conditions. A house built today could expect a life span of 50 years or more which potentially exposes a lot of new buildings to future flood risks.

The City of Greater Geelong, in consultation with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the CMA made an amendment to their planning scheme (LSIO2). As part of the process, the Corangamite CMA had to determine how best to assess applications where the development would be impacted by such a large future flood level increase. The current Guidelines for Coastal Catchment Management Authorities were developed in 2012 and require updating.

Through discussions with Council, DELWP Floodplain Unit and the other Coastal CMAs, the Authority was able to develop an approach that assessed developments outside existing residential zones or that caused intensification (such as subdivisions) against the 0.8-metre sea-level rise. This approach would still provide protection against future risks while minimizing the risk of sterilizing land that has already been zoned for residential development.

PROTECTING SAND DUNES ON VICTORIA'S GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND THE BELLARINE

The Corangamite CMA was recently contracted by the Australian Government to deliver this new initiative valued at \$1.5 million over three years. This project includes the delivery of two projects, including a Small Grants Program and a Dune Care Stewardship Program. The project area includes the coastline between St Leonards and Marengo, Victoria. The Small Grants Program will fund priority works on coastal Crown land that will protect and restore coastal sand dune vegetation and habitat. The Dune Care Stewardship Program is an education-based program focusing on the protection of coastal sand dunes.

THOMPSONS CREEK ESTUARY COMMUNITY EVENT

A community engagement event was held at Thompson Creek estuary as the estuary floodplain was significantly inundated due to the estuary mouth being shut and heavy rainfall events. As a result Surf Coast Shire Council and City of Greater Geelong Council had received a number of requests from various community members to artificially open the estuary mouth.

To improve community understanding, the CMA lead a community education event with the Councils, other agencies and Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Group to explain natural estuary processes, citizen science and the collaborative role of the organisations in estuary management. This was designed to highlight the positive environmental benefits of floodplain inundation and the estuary opening process that balances protection of environmental and built assets. Over 50 members of the Breamlea community attended. After presentations from the CMA, a number of agencies, citizen science volunteers and independent scientists, there was a question and answer session. Questions focused on impacts to local assets and the potential risks of estuary opening such as impacts to nesting swans. The feedback provided from the event was positive with the community appreciating hearing about the roles and responsibilities of the various organisations involved in the management and protection of Thompson Creek.

PAINKALAC CREEK ESTUARY MANAGEMENT

In the past Painkalac Creek, was generally opened as an emergency action. Now, in partnership with Surf Coast Shire Council the estuary is opened in line with permit conditions which allows the Corangamite CMA to run a risk-based assessment each time the estuary mouth is artificially opened. This approach allows the environmental risks to be considered and gives time to organise with Barwon Water a 'fresh' of water to be released from the Painkalac Dam to maintain water and habitat quality, as well as allowing nutrient and fish movement.

ANGLESEA RIVER SUMMER RELEASES

The Corangamite CMA collaborate with DELWP, Surf Coast Shire Council and Barwon Water during the summer months to determine when to release water from the Alcoa ash pond into the Anglesea River to top up the water level to avoid activating acid sulphate soils in the estuary. All long weekends from Christmas to Easter were considered when organising the releases due to the importance of tourism.

MANAGING PESTS TO HELP ORANGE-BELLIED PARROTS

CHALLENGE

The critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot is one of only three migratory parrot species in the world. Each year in autumn the wild population of around 100 migratory Orange-bellied Parrots make the 500-kilometre trip from their summer breeding grounds in Tasmania to over-winter in coastal saltmarsh in South Australia and southern Victoria, including the Bellarine Peninsula and Greater Geelong area. The Corangamite CMA is playing its part in a multi-agency, decades-long effort to save the species, by managing pests and weeds in the parrots' winter-feeding grounds along the Greater Geelong and Bellarine coast.

APPROACH

In 2019 the Corangamite CMA worked with Parks Victoria to improve over 230 hectares of coastal saltmarsh habitat across eight sites, including Lake Connewarre, Swan Bay, the Karaaf and Bancoora wetlands and Avalon Coastal Reserve. The on-ground works focused on managing foxes, cats, rabbits and weeds to reduce the risk of predation and improve growing conditions for the native plants and seeds that make up the parrot's preferred diet.

An additional component of this project involves awareness raising and in June 2019 a Community of Practice was established, where community and agency stakeholders came together to discuss ideas for Orange-bellied Parrot conservation in the region.

The next three-year phase of the Corangamite CMA's \$1.8 million project will focus on direct works such as fencing and grazing management, as well as support for planning, investigations and monitoring to address key threats.

The Corangamite CMA will also work with the Orange-bellied Parrot National Recovery Team, which includes the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Zoos Victoria, Parks Victoria and Birdlife Australia, to support releases of captive-bred birds and tracking of wild birds.

RESULTS

There are encouraging signs that the many years of work by the species' National Recovery Team is starting to pay dividends. In exciting news for birders everywhere, a captive-bred, wild-released juvenile Orange-bellied Parrot was sighted in April 2020, feeding on coastal saltmarsh in the northern Bellarine Peninsula.

KEY PARTNERS

The Corangamite CMA; Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning; Zoos Victoria; Parks Victoria; Birdlife Australia; Arthur Rylah Institute.



EACH AUTUMN AROUND 100 ORANGE-BELLIED PARROTS FLY

500km FROM
TASMANIA TO VICTORIA

CATCHMENT CONDITION AND RATIONALE

NEUTRAL →

While there are management practices in place and estuary water quality was stable and there was an increase in saltmarsh, the coasts and estuaries of the region face significant challenges associated with the threats posed by climate change as well as population, land-use and developmental pressures on the natural values of these assets.

RATIONALE FOR ASSESSMENT

- Water quality in the estuaries are stable due to limited rainfall negatively impacting on turbidity and dissolved oxygen. Various factors can change the percentage of dissolved oxygen within the estuary including temperature and flows.
- The additional saltmarsh under protection which has risen from 2018-19 due to the final year of funding under the current investment tranche, however, saltmarsh is particularly vulnerable to continued sea level rise forcing it inland further and land use pressures stopping migration, thus squeezing saltmarsh on the coastal fringe.
- The Corangamite CMA continues to work with key stakeholders and the community regarding estuary management that supports environmental outcomes, as well as asset protection. There remains some tensions associated with the artificial openings across some estuaries.
- While the Bellarine and Corio area has quality information on inundation improved information is required for other parts of the region. The CMA successfully worked with City of Greater Geelong on a planning scheme amendment for land subject to inundation in the coastal areas of Greater Geelong.
- Visitation to the Surf Coast increased at a rate of 7.5 per cent per annum over the period of 2011-12 to 2015-16 (Source: *Surf Coast Shire Visitor Insights, Australian Bureau of Statistics*), similar patterns could be expected for the rest of the Corangamite region's coastline. Coupled with extensive housing development and an increasing population in the region places coastal habitats under sustained and increasing pressures. While the Great Ocean Road Coasts and Park Authority is yet to be formed it will have management responsibilities for public land and marine waters.
- Additional Australian Government investment will deliver coastal management projects on ground over the next three-four years.

COAST AND ESTUARY INFORMATION USED IN THE ASSESSMENT

While most of the region's coastline is protected by a thin strip of coastal reserve, there are substantial marine reserves and a large area of coastline protected within Great Otway National Park. Critically, there are significant stretches of coast where agriculture and urban development are within close proximity to the coastal strip and to important lakes and estuaries.

Estuary water quality information was accessed from the EstuaryWatch database and compared to the draft SEPP guidelines. It should be noted that the aggregated information only represents seven of the forty estuaries in the region and these are typically ones in close proximity to townships and agriculture production, therefore not estuaries that experience more pristine conditions. The results are presented in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Water quality parameters against SEPP

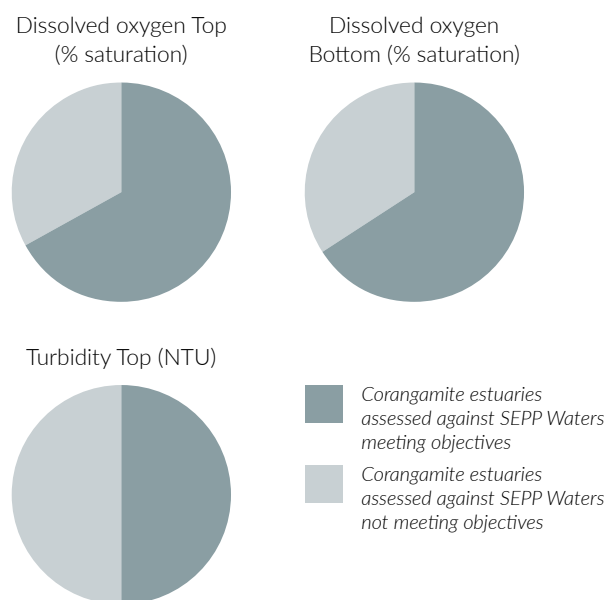


Table 12 presents the area under contract for saltmarsh protection as a result of programs delivered by the CMA and Table 13 presents the Hooded Plover breeding pairs per annum, sourced Birdlife Australia.

Table 12: Area under contract with the CMA for saltmarsh protection

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Saltmarsh protection (ha under contract)	571	717	711	717	235	514.36

Table 13: Number of Hooded Plover breeding pairs per annum

2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
9	9	11	14	12	14	13	18	16	19	19	N/A*	18

Source Birdlife Australia's monitoring program for the Hooded Plover in the region from Moggs Creek East to the Bellarine Peninsula.





Biodiversity

The Corangamite region is home to flora and fauna species unique to the area, many of which are dependent on the region's natural assets.

Since European settlement, the region has lost nearly 75 per cent of its original vegetation cover. Unfortunately, the region has over 300 species that are classified as threatened in Victoria, with 53 threatened on a national level.

The survival of threatened flora and fauna and ecological communities depends a great deal on the health of native vegetation and the continuing existence of other important habitats. Table 14 identifies the biodiversity projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2019-20, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 14: Biodiversity projects undertaken during 2019-20

BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Corangamite Conservation Tender Funded through stream one of the Victorian Environment Partnership Program (VEPP). This project targets habitat with high values for threatened species. Vegetation protection and revegetation projects have been funded.	Biodiversity Participation Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Halt the decline in quality (condition) and extent of high value native vegetation and enhance its connectivity Manage the threat of species extinction so that key populations are resilient and secure in the longer-term
Protecting Priority Threatened Species - Corangamite Coast (Yr 2-5) The Corangamite CMA has actively lead the delivery of a coastal program funded by the Australian Government that has included management for threatened species since 2008. This Project will build on the past work, experience, partnerships and knowledge to improve Orange-bellied Parrot habitat, across public and private land. The project will create opportunities to collaborate with BirdLife Australia and DELWP to deliver citizen science opportunities including continued delivery of the annual winter population monitoring delivered by community volunteers; deliver on-ground outputs on a larger scale across the Ramsar site through a grants process; provide incentives to directly target specific onground works on private land through a grants process and; incorporate Orange-bellied Parrot habitat requirements in current regional estuary mouth opening decision frameworks.	Waterways Planning and management Biodiversity Partnerships	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and Partnerships Water for agriculture Aboriginal cultural values	Maintain the extent of wetlands (by type) and improve their quality relative to 2009 benchmark data Halt the decline in quality (condition) and extent of high value native vegetation and enhance its connectivity Manage the threat of species extinction so that key populations are resilient and secure in the longer-term Maintain the quality and extent of high value coastal assets
Western District Lakes - Ramsar Site Management Ramsar site coordination - overseeing and coordinating the implementation of actions on the WDL Ramsar site with a broad range of stakeholders including Parks Victoria, Government Agencies, Local Government, Traditional Owners, and Trust For Nature.	Waterways CCMA Leadership Biodiversity Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Maintain the extent of wetlands (by type) and improve their quality relative to 2009 benchmark data

Table 14: Biodiversity projects undertaken during 2019-20 (continued...)

BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Port Phillip Bellarine - Ramsar Site Management Ramsar site coordination - overseeing and coordinating the implementation of actions on the PPB (WS) and BP Ramsar site with a broad range of stakeholders including Parks Victoria, Government Agencies, Local Government, Traditional Owners, and Trust For Nature.	Waterways CCMA Leadership Biodiversity Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Maintain the extent of wetlands (by type) and improve their quality relative to 2009 benchmark data
Ramsar Effectiveness Monitoring Effectiveness Monitoring on the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsular Ramsar Sites.	Waterways CCMA Leadership Biodiversity Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and Partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Participation has increased Partnerships have increased Aggregate investment has increased Joint priorities identified and pursued NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values Effective integrated NRM Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions Increased knowledge and improved practices Planning and activities informed by TO skills and knowledge Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Maintain resilience of aquatic floral fauna to variable climate conditions Maintain extent and improve quality of wetlands Halt decline in quality and extent of NV and enhance connectivity Key populations threatened flora and fauna are resilient and secure Maintain quality and extent of high value coastal assets
Implementation of high priority PPB and BP Ramsar management plan This project will fund Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to undertake high priority actions from the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site management plan. There are two components to this project: 1. The delivery of CEPA grants program across the site 2. Deer monitoring and control at Connewarre wetland complex.	Waterways CCMA Leadership Biodiversity Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Maintain the extent of wetlands (by type) and improve their quality relative to 2009 benchmark data

Table 14: Biodiversity projects undertaken during 2019-20 (continued...)

BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Connecting Landscapes to Biodiversity on the Victorian Volcanic Plain</p> <p>This project will build on the past work, experience, partnerships and knowledge to deliver services to control pest animals, remove pest weeds and improve land management practices, across public and private land within 75 per cent of Area Five's 4 Target areas across the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP).</p> <p>The services delivered over a three year project include: support awareness, engagement and capacity activities (not funded through the BRP program), deliver on-ground outputs on a larger scale across the three project sites through a market based instrument (MBI) program, provide incentives to directly target specific onground works that may not be addressed through a MBI.</p>	Partnerships Biodiversity	Waterway and catchment health	<p>Participation has increased</p> <p>Partnerships have increased</p> <p>Aggregate investment has increased</p> <p>Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions</p> <p>Increase landholders in NRM and sustainable ag practices</p> <p>Maintain resilience of aquatic flora/fauna to variable climate conditions</p> <p>Maintain extend and improve quality of wetlands</p> <p>Halt decline in quality and extent of NV and enhance connectivity</p> <p>Key populations threatened flora and fauna are resilient and secure</p>

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019-2020

Across the diversity of projects undertaken in the biodiversity program the following highlights and achievements have been summarised:

WILD OTWAYS INITIATIVE

In this financial year, the Australian Government confirmed funding for the CMA to lead the Wild Otways Initiative valued at \$6 million over three years. It includes delivery of a broad and inclusive environmental community grants program as well as five other projects that include Pig and Deer Eradication, Fox and Cat Management, Phytophthora Management, Small Mammal Conservation and Rewilding in the Otways. The project area includes the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road hinterland. This project represents an exciting investment opportunity to make significant inroads into threatened species research and management within the greater Otway's area, while also supporting local communities within the region.

Governance arrangements for the project have been confirmed, including the establishment of a high-level skills-based Project Steering Committee that will guide the delivery of the Initiative. The Committee includes members from across the environmental sector and the community.

CONNECTED LANDSCAPES PROJECT

Improving landscape connectivity across the fragmented landscapes of the Woody Yaloak, Leigh and Moorabool River catchments, this project promotes integrated catchment management by engaging with a broad range of stakeholders and community NRM groups to control pest animals and plants as well as improve management practices.

Building on past, partnerships and knowledge the project has been able to leverage from other funding sources to deliver on-ground works across a larger scale using a market base instrument approach and then supplement this with more targeted incentives. Ongoing support for awareness engagement and capacity activities has continued.

RAMSAR PROTECTION

The Ramsar Protection Program established a coordinating committee for each of the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula and Western District Lakes Ramsar sites made up of representatives from all land managers across the respective sites. Significant work has now occurred at both sites with monitoring of threatened species, water quality parameters and waterbirds occurring, and the delivery of on ground works programs to manage weed and pest animal infestations, install fencing and provide greater awareness of the values of the sites.

VICTORIAN VOLCANIC PLAINS

This project is delivered on a landscape scale using established partnerships and knowledge to deliver improved land management across public and private lands and with a stronger engagement and involvement with Traditional Owners. The lessons and knowledge from the evaluation of the former Plains Tender project as well as a detailed planning process will focus delivery of on-ground works and capacity building on the Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands. This focus on a specific geographic region of the VVP has enabled targeted communication.

Table 15 provides the outputs delivered across all biodiversity program projects in 2018-19. Performance reporting indicates that all projects are on track to deliver against their investment requirements.

Table 15: Standard outputs delivered for the biodiversity program in 2019-20

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Fence - Bollard	1		0.2	
Fence - Fence	3		0.6	
Vegetation - Native indigenous	2	4.9		
Weed control - Non-woody	42	1,637.4		
Weed control - Woody	19	753.4		
Pest animal control - Terrestrial	16	1,023.5		
Rubbish removal - Marine	4	158.9		
Grazing - Terrestrial	12	768.2		
Management agreement - Binding non-perpetual	15	2.5		
Assessment - Ecological	99	279,572.2		
Assessment - Fauna	6	6,037.2		
Assessment - Flora	1	0.7		
Assessment - Invasive Species	4	2.2		
Assessment - Surface water	9			
Engagement event - Field day	51			1,668
Engagement event - Meeting	25			83
Engagement event - Presentation	3			60
Engagement event - Workshop	3			46
Partnership - Agencies/Corporates	15			
Plan - Management	5	525,017.1		
Publication - Visual	2			
Publication - Written	28			
Communication materials - Publishing communication materials	1			
Establishing and maintaining agreements - Establishing and maintaining agreements	2	4.8		
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	2	3,236.0		
Fauna survey - Collecting and/or synthesising baseline data sets	1	1,084.5		
Identifying the location of potential sites - Identify potential sites	1	0.2		
Project planning and delivery of documents - Days project planning / preparation	3			
Weed distribution survey - Conduct weed distribution survey	1	281.1		

LINEAR RESERVES PROJECT OF THE VICTORIAN VOLCANIC PLAINS

CHALLENGE

The critically endangered Natural Temperate Grasslands of the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) were once widespread throughout the VVP, but the region has been extensively cleared for agriculture and less than one percent of the previous extent of the grasslands now remain. Most of the high-quality grasslands are limited to small, isolated pockets on roadsides and rail reserves.

The linear formation of these reserves makes the grasslands more susceptible to weed invasion which creates challenges for management. Weeds severely impact on native grasslands by competing for space, resources and pollinators. Other threats include vegetation clearing, fragmentation, rabbits, soil disturbance, road, rail and utilities works and maintenance, a lack of fire, and stock grazing and droving. While work has been undertaken in the past, more recent funding has enabled the Linear Reserves Project (LRP) to be continued.

APPROACH

The LRP uses a multifaceted approach to targeted weed control. High conservation value roadsides and reserves in the VVP are protected using selective herbicide control, fire management, stakeholder engagement and improved partnerships. Experienced weed control contractors target invasive pasture grasses and declared species including Phalaris, serrated tussock, Chilean needle grass and South African weed orchid.

The project also uses burning as a means to reduce weeds and the associated biomass in the grasslands. As burning is a natural process under which these native grasslands were formed, this process also has other ecological benefits for the grasslands and associated flora and fauna species. Where possible, weed spraying activities are coordinated as a follow-up control method on recently burnt sites to help maximise control effectiveness.

The LRP also aims to raise awareness of native grasslands and educate the community about their significance. To date, 15 field days and education events have been held, targeting specific audiences including weed contractors, utility managers, public land managers, local landholders, conservation and Landcare groups and government authorities. Grassland identification events have also been held to help spraying contractors learn more about the complexities of managing grassland ecosystems. Country Fire Authority (CFA) staff and volunteers have also attended field days focusing on the benefits of fire for enhancing grasslands.

RESULTS

A specific example of the success of the strong partnership approach is Vite Vite Rail Reserve in 2019. The small reserve, near Derrinallum, has high value grasslands with records of the threatened striped legless lizard and of seven threatened flora species, including spiny rice flower and fragrant leek orchid. The reserve's vegetation quality had been declining in recent years and it was in urgent need of management to prevent weed infestations.

Undertaking work on sites managed by rail authorities had previously been challenging as legislation requires on-site contractors to be supervised by an accredited Track Protection Officer, which has been cost prohibitive to the LRP. Through discussions with the Australian Rail and Track Corporation (ARTC), an agreement was reached which enabled safe and practical access to the site for approved LRP staff. ARTC arranged and funded a fence to be constructed between the rail track and the grassland vegetation to allow the site to be accessed safely by weed control contractors.

The first step of the Vite Vite site activities was to complete a site burn. CFA brigades from Lismore and Vite Vite coordinated a successful fuel reduction burn in May 2019. This resulted in a reduction of fuel load and weeds and an improvement in grassland vegetation quality.

KEY PARTNERS

CFA; local government; Regional Roads Victoria; Parks Victoria; Traditional Owners; specialist contractors; rail authorities; Federation University; La Trobe University; Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI).

THE LINEAR RESERVES
PROJECT AIMS TO
RAISE AWARENESS OF
NATIVE
GRASSLANDS



CATCHMENT CONDITION AND RATIONALE

CONCERNED ↘

The biodiversity of the region faces challenges associated with addressing and reversing continued land clearing, changing land use, urban development pressures and climate change stresses.

While the Corangamite CMA and other organisations undertake work to manage biodiversity, the 2019-20 year has experienced delays of works funded under new Regional Land Partnerships program, but it is anticipated that these projects will proceed at a greater rate in the coming years.

RATIONALE FOR ASSESSMENT

- There are still land clearing legacies, as per Biodiversity 2037.
- New funding programs means there is a lag time to establish new projects.
- There has been demonstrated success of sites under contract through monitoring of the PlainsTender project. This has highlighted the positive progress made by landholders under contract.
- Remnant and revegetation sites continue to be actively managed under the management agreements of past programs.
- Concerted effort is still required under future programs to engage those landholders who have either been unwilling or unable to engage in these programs in the past. The Corangamite CMA are exploring opportunities through social benchmarking studies.

BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION USED IN THE ASSESSMENT

Most of the current losses of native vegetation in the region may be attributed to loss in condition (80 per cent) with 20 per cent being removed through clearing (VEAC, 2011). The survival of threatened flora and fauna and ecological communities depends a great deal on the health of native vegetation, and the continuing of other important habitats that are threatened by human activities and vulnerable to climate change stress.

Table 16 provides a listing of native vegetation extent, either being managed, under permanent protection or has been re-vegetated. The increased numbers for the current financial year are reflective of increased delivery in the final year of a four year funding tranche. This includes significant investment in 2019-20 in biodiversity projects in the region through the *Our Catchment Our Communities*, Ramsar, and Biodiversity Response Plan projects.

Table 16: Native vegetation extent

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Remnant vegetation managed (hectares)	714.22	1239.33	332.61	1775.90
Remnant vegetation permanent protection (hectares)	0	37.77	132.70	N/A*
Revegetation (hectares)	156.06	164.53	64.88	476.08

**Note The CMA did not fund Trust for Nature during the 2019-20 financial year and therefore these figures are sourced from CMA only.*



Community

The community in the Corangamite region are active participants in a range of environmental activities that help improve the condition of the region's biodiversity, waterways and the way land is managed.

The Corangamite CMA has a focus on people working better together to coordinate planning, investment and on ground activities to achieve a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes. Table 17 outlines the community projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2019-20, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 17: Community projects undertaken during 2019-20

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Our Catchments, Our Community - Integrated NRM This project is driven by the Water for Victoria plan and the <i>Our Catchments, Our Communities</i> Strategy (OCOC). This project delivers actions to implement the OCOC strategy and improve the ability of the CMA to lead integrated catchment management with the community. It will focus on better engagement and coordination of regional partners, stakeholders and the community through effective local planning processes, a regional roundtable process and improved capacity building in collaborative decision making that drives ownership and accountability and delivers on the RCS.	Participation Biodiversity Waterways Partnerships	Climate change Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Water for agriculture	Effective integrated NRM Investment targeted to high value natural resources and cost effective solutions Increased knowledge and improved practices Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values Partnerships have increased
Our Catchments Our Communities - Statewide Pool Projects This project delivers on the OCOC Statewide Implementation. The funding supports the implementation of the Regional Catchment Partnership Agreement and to support regional leadership development.	Participation Partnerships	Community engagement and partnerships Improving performance and demonstrating outcomes	Increased knowledge and improved practices Partnerships have increased
State-wide Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch Continues the delivery of state-wide Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch coordination roles for Victorian CMAs and Melbourne Water.	Participation Waterways	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Increased breadth and depth of participation Increased and shared knowledge; Rivers, estuaries and floodplains; wetlands
Community Waterway Monitoring Continues the delivery of the Corangamite EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch programs involving community volunteers monitoring water quality to guide management decisions.	Participation Waterways	Waterway and catchment health Community engagement and partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Increased breadth and depth of participation Increased and shared knowledge; Rivers, estuaries and floodplains; wetlands

Table 17: Community projects undertaken during 2019-20 (continued...)

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>NRM Aboriginal Project Officer - Wadawurrung partnership</p> <p>Working with project managers and the broader organisation to improve Aboriginal awareness and participation. With a focus on engaging and building strong relationships with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities, this position will support the integration of Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Community Caring for Country aspirations in the planning and delivery of projects.</p>	Partnerships	<p>Community engagement and partnerships</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p>	<p>Participation has increased</p> <p>Partnerships have increased</p> <p>Joint priorities identified and pursued</p> <p>Increased knowledge and improved practices</p> <p>NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values</p> <p>Planning and activities informed by TO skills and knowledge</p>
<p>Barwon Parklands Strategy Business Case Development</p> <p>This project builds on previous works and will guide the development of a business case to progress the Barwon Parklands Masterplan.</p>	<p>CCMA Leadership</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Waterways</p> <p>Land Management</p> <p>Participation</p>	<p>Waterway and catchment health</p> <p>Recreational Values</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p> <p>Resilient and liveable cities</p>	<p>Partnerships have increased</p> <p>Aggregate investment has increased</p> <p>Joint priorities identified and pursued</p> <p>NRM respects and protects Aboriginal cultural values</p>
<p>2019-20 Barwon Parklands Strategy Support</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to support the development of the Barwon Parklands Strategy. The Waterway Programs Branch is funding the Corangamite CMA for a position to support the implementation of the Barwon Parklands Strategy. The funding will enable the CMA to engage a project manager to develop a business case for the strategy and support the activities of the Barwon Parklands Strategy Working Group.</p> <p>The position will also support the Barwon Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on matters relating to the Barwon Parklands Strategy.</p>	<p>CCMA Leadership</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Waterways</p> <p>Participation</p>	<p>Waterway and catchment health</p> <p>Recreational Values</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p> <p>Resilient and liveable cities</p> <p>Community engagement and partnerships</p>	<p>Partnerships have increased</p> <p>Retain the ecological function of waterways and protect community infrastructure and values</p> <p>Joint priorities identified and pursued</p> <p>Effective Integrated NRM</p>

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2019-2020

Across the diversity of projects undertaken in the community program the following highlights and achievements have been summarised:

LANDCARE

The CCMA Landcare program focused on three key action areas this year: 1. Communicating the value that Landcare provides the community; 2. Enhancing access of community Landcare to skills and knowledge; and 3. Operationalising the Statement of the partnership between the CCMA and Landcare Networks. Corangamite CMA continued to host the Corangamite region Landcare Chair's Forums and Landcare Facilitators meetings across the year to facilitate information sharing and progress our joint partnership. Meetings were moved online during COVID-19 restrictions and a monthly informal Community of Practice forum was set up to better support our Landcare Facilitators.

Through the Victorian Landcare Grants, the Corangamite CMA distributed 33 Support Grants and 21 Project Grants to Landcare and environmental groups across the region, totalling \$246,308 in value.

COVID-19 has impacted the planned engagement activities associated with the Victorian Landcare Program (Including the Victorian Landcare Grants 2019-20 Program). DELWP have confirmed a six month extension for output delivery of all Victorian Landcare Program funded activities. This includes Landcare Facilitator training, Landcare Group training and Traditional Owner involvement in Landcare activities. The release of the VLG 2020-21 Program (normally in May) has also been delayed.

Alternative and innovative ways of delivering meetings, workshops, training, networking and peer learning opportunities have been embraced during the last four months of the year. Online Governance Training has been made available to all Executive Members of our Landcare Networks and Groups and a 'Messaging for Change' four-part webinar series has been provided for our Landcare Facilitators to develop skills in promoting the Landcare story, which is in line with our key action area mentioned above.

The Corangamite Landcare Volunteer Recognition Program was launched during National Volunteer Week in May 2020 and nominees will be recognised through the media during National Landcare Week 3-9 August 2020 and at a special event later in the year.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

The Citizen Science program has successfully engaged with community and schools to raise awareness and understanding of water quality and catchment health issues in Corangamite. The Program has maintained support to 123 volunteer monitors in the EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch programs to assess 143 waterway sites across the catchment. These long-term data sets have also been complemented by other innovative and diverse citizen science activities such as River Detectives and National Waterbug Blitz.

The Citizen Science program is supported by Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water and City of Ballarat. These mutually beneficial partnerships have raised community awareness and participation through waterway events and monitoring activities including at the Ballarat Begonia Festival, SpringFest, Brown Hill Festival and National Water Week Schools Event at Kirks Reservoir.

The CMA's citizen science team collaborates closely with other CMA program areas. For example joining with the community to gather valuable data at citizen science events such as the Barwon eDNA Platypus and Curdies eDNA Yarra Pygmy Perch surveys, as well as supporting the joint delivery of an estuary information session at Thompson's Creek.

During COVID-19 (coronavirus), restrictions have been applied to EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch volunteer monitoring and some events were cancelled. However, the community have been encouraged to continue their engagement with nature through "Backyard" citizen science activities and have been supported through regular eNewsletters and fact sheets to guide volunteers in the use of mobile citizen science apps. By continuing to increase community knowledge and awareness of waterway management and condition, through our education programs we achieve positive waterway stewardship.

Table 18 provides the outputs delivered across all community program projects in 2019-20. Performance reporting indicates that all projects are on track to deliver against their investment requirements.

Table 18: Standard outputs delivered for the community program in 2019-20

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Fence - Fence	34		20.8	
Vegetation - Native indigenous	3	18.8		
Weed control - Non-woody	28	144.6		
Weed control - Woody	13	150.0		
Pest animal control - Terrestrial	18	118.4		
Grazing - Terrestrial	25	175.2		
Management agreement - Binding non-perpetual	31	255.5		
Assessment - Ecological	5			
Assessment - Surface water	197			
Engagement event - Conference	2			2
Engagement event - Field day	24			3,173
Engagement event - Meeting	26			187
Engagement event - Presentation	31			911
Engagement event - Training	46			208
Engagement event - Workshop	2			115
Partnership - Agencies/Corporates	56			
Partnership - Community groups	39			
Partnership - Mixed	123			
Plan - Property	20	245.5		
Plan - Strategy	2	6,294.9		
Publication - Written	53			
Information management system - Database	4			

SKILLS DATA AND STEWARDSHIP

CHALLENGE

Citizen Scientists (Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch volunteer monitors) provide significant contributions and value within the Corangamite CMA region. Volunteers deliver habitat surveys, water quality testing and aquatic macro-invertebrate surveys in rivers, lakes and wetlands and collect photo point monitoring, record observations, and sample physical and chemical parameters at Estuaries.

The CMA would like to ensure that volunteer satisfaction is met, and volunteer retention and recognition is maintained and built upon. The challenge is how the CMA honour volunteer monitoring data and ensure that the volunteer voice is respected, acknowledged and acted upon.

APPROACH

In 2019, we surveyed our Citizen Science monitors to seek feedback on how our programs could be improved into the future. The survey results told us that: 79 per cent of respondents thought that the data was important to the CCMA and that it should contribute to water management in a range of ways; 79 per cent thought that their work increased the availability of reliable and relevant data to waterway managers; and 83 per cent thought that their work has increased the knowledge of the community and waterway management to encourage waterway stewardship.

These survey results revealed to us that our Citizen Scientists wanted more communication from the CCMA around how the results of their monitoring were being used to improve estuary and waterway health and inform management decisions.

Based on the feedback provided, the following research and reports were completed.

- *Strategic Analysis of Waterwatch Monitoring Data 2020*, on Wadawurrung Country on the Moorabool River
- *Data Interpretation and Analysis of Barwon River Citizen Science Data 2020*.

RESULTS

These reports told us that water quality data captured through community monitoring helps waterway managers understand changes in river health over time and influences management actions. Testing water quality before and after Environmental flows (freshes), identifies values supported by a range of waterway conditions. Improving water quality and maintaining diverse macroinvertebrate communities are important for supporting vegetation communities, native fish populations and self-sustaining Platypus populations. These are important ecological and Wadawurrung Cultural values.

Some evidence of declining dissolved oxygen and impacted condition based on macroinvertebrates data suggest water quality and macroinvertebrate communities need to be improved to better support waterway values. Macroinvertebrate information provides valuable, ongoing feedback data for assessment of river management actions (including environmental flow releases). Sampling at a set period prior to a flow release then approximately a month afterwards ensures a meaningful assessment.

The CCMA values our strong relationship with our community volunteers developed over many years. The CCMA has introduced new initiatives to connect volunteers together through the hosting of online Communities of Practice forums; and increased communications by introducing monthly eNewsletters; providing water quality reports; presentations at network gatherings; infographics on our website; and fact sheets. We are now able to demonstrate the value of their data and communicate how it contributes to the work of the CCMA. We acknowledge the time our volunteers provide for data collection and thank them for their efforts.

KEY PARTNERS

Arthur Rylah Institute; Corangamite Citizen Scientists (EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch volunteer monitors); Department of Environment Land Water and Planning - Statewide EstuaryWatch Waterwatch Program; Wauthaurung Aboriginal Corporation.

REFERENCES

Survey of Citizen Science Monitors in the Corangamite CMA Region Final Report_03/12/19

Strategic Analysis of Waterwatch Monitoring Data for Corangamite CMA_Final Report_Mar2020.



CATCHMENT CONDITION AND RATIONALE

POSITIVE ↑

Communities in the Corangamite region continue to be active participants in natural resource management activities.

Participation rates are steady with an increase in involvement in on ground works. Programs continue to focus on engagement of communities, particularly Traditional Owner groups, Aboriginal communities, and new participants. Feedback from our events continues to be positive and constructive.

The Corangamite CMA continues to be an active participant or lead in relevant regional forums with partners.

RATIONALE FOR ASSESSMENT

- The CMA has established partnerships with both Traditional Owner groups in the region, Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung. The partnership with Wadawurrung has resulted in their involvement in the design and delivery of successful projects, including the Moorabool River Aboriginal Water Project and the Upper Barwon, Yarrowee and Leigh FLOWS study.
- Support for a community led alliance to establish itself has been successful, which brought more than 15 NRM groups together to form a shared vision for integrated catchment management across the northern catchment of the region.
- The Corangamite CMA continues to sustain partnerships with a range of stakeholders. An example of this is the partnership with WestVic Dairy and Agriculture Victoria for the delivery of the Sustainable Dairies Project.
- The region implemented the Catchment Partnership Agreement with 17 regional NRM government agencies. This partnership provides a strong foundation for delivering a coordinated approach to responding to community driven priorities in natural resources management.
- Corangamite CMA actively participates in a number of key forums for the region. These include three Integrated Water Manager Forums that resulted in the development of Strategic Decision Statements supported by priority projects; G21 Alliance and the Great Ocean Road Task Force and the implementation of the agreed action plan.

- Each year, Landcare groups are invited to complete a Group Health Survey, which records group perceptions of their current health and activity levels, see Figure 5. This year's group health survey results are the same as last years', the numbers have not changed and therefore this indicates that we have maintained volunteering levels.
- Landcare group capacity and competency varies across the region. The community is changing and some Landcare groups are moving with the changing with the times, while others lack this capacity. There is a trend towards Landcare members being primarily from an older demographic.
- The Regional Agriculture Land Facilitator (formerly RLF) continues to be active in the region, working closely across a diversity of CMA and external programs to help facilitate improvement for knowledge and skills.

INFORMATION USED IN THE ASSESSMENT

Engagement with the community and partners in the management of natural resources occurs in many different ways. The Corangamite CMA helps support the region's 152 Landcare and community NRM groups and 11 Landcare networks. Over 420 volunteer members were engaged through the EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch programs, while others were engaged with directly in facilitated capacity building events; and one-on-one meetings with landholders.

Table 19 highlights the number of participants engaged over time and what they have been engaged in. It is evident from this table the numbers have increased, even under the COVID-19 restrictions in the last 4 months. This increase is a result of increased activity as the CMA approached the last year of the current four-year State government funding round, improved recording and using different techniques remotely that may reach a broader audience.

Each year, Landcare groups are invited to complete a Group Health Survey, which records group perceptions of their current health and activity levels (Figure 5). 2019-20 survey results generally indicated positive and healthy groups in Corangamite, with the majority (78 per cent) reporting themselves as in the 'moving forward' category or above. A small number of groups (0.05 per cent) have emerged in the 'just hanging on' category and 22 per cent of respondents say they are struggling. The 2020-21 survey is about to be released and we expect that COVID-19 may impact those results.

Table 19: Participants across different activities

ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATION IN 2016-17	PARTICIPATION IN 2017-18	PARTICIPATION IN 2018-19	PARTICIPATION IN 2019-20
Contributing to on-ground works (CMA sponsored activities, Trust for Nature and Landcare)	337	568	569	682
Attending skills and training events (CMA sponsored activities, Trust for Nature and Landcare)	1,000	1,269	1,103	1,466
Taking part in awareness raising activities (CMA sponsored activities and Landcare)	12,338	6,181	7,313	8,406
Working as collaborators in planning and decision making (CMA sponsored activities)	199	258	194	430
Being consulted to help determine appropriate action (CMA sponsored activities)	427	366	1,490	1,690

Figure 5: Corangamite Landcare Group Health survey

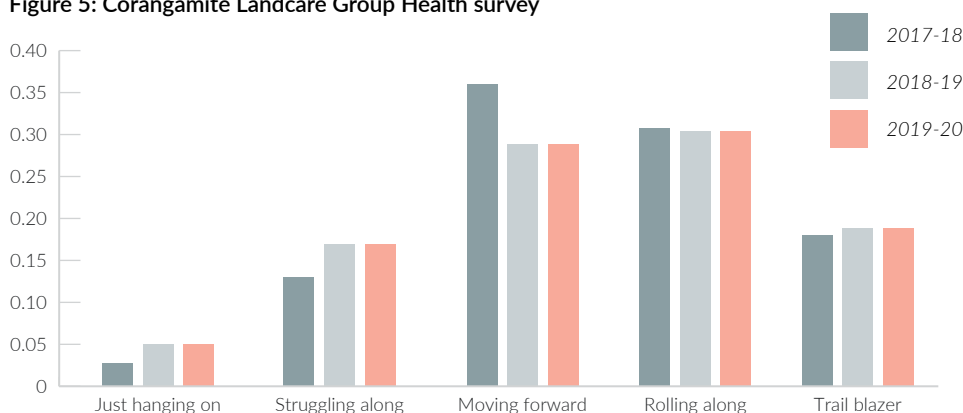
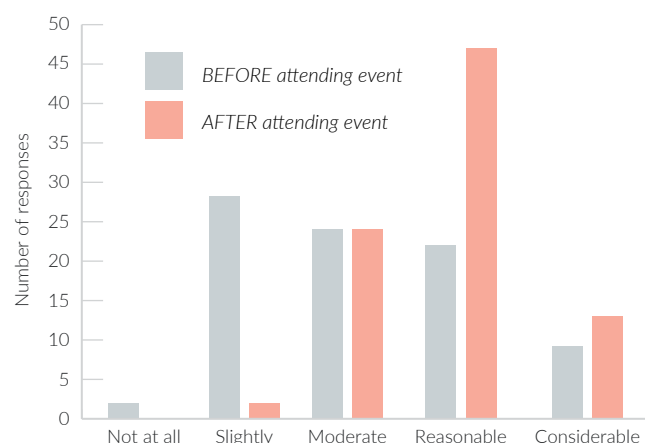
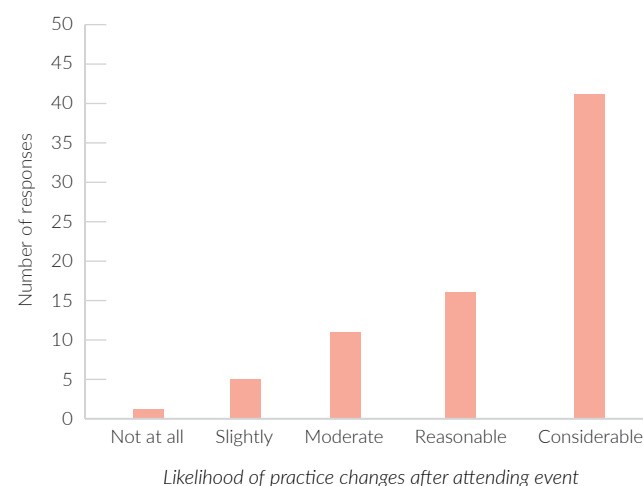


Figure 6: Skills confidence, knowledge and practice change potential

How would you rate your skills/knowledge/confidence before and after attending RALF event?



What is the likelihood of you changing your practices after attending RALF event?



Source: Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator.

MAXIMISING NRM INVESTMENT IN THE REGION

The Corangamite CMA develops and submits applications for major funding rounds, primarily to the Victorian and Australian governments.

The Authority also submits grant and tender applications to secure additional funding for the region as opportunities arise throughout the year.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT

The Victorian Government provides funding under the *Water Act 1989* and the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The main funding sources from the Victorian Government include:

- Environmental Water Program, Waterway Health Program and Floodplain Management Program
- Victorian Landcare Program
- *Our Catchments, Our Communities*.

The Corangamite CMA received project funding (excluding base funding) totalling \$7,135,298 through the Victorian Government in 2019-20.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Australian Government's funding initiative to invest in the conservation and management of Australia's natural resource assets which is primarily achieved through the Regional Land Partnerships Program. The aim of Regional Land Partnerships is to protect, conserve and provide for the productive use of Australia's water, soil, plants and animals and the ecosystems in which they live and interact, in partnership with governments, industry and communities.

The Corangamite CMA received \$1,197,970 in project funding from the Federal Government in 2019-20, through the Regional Land Partnerships Program.

	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VIC GOV'T AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
WATER				
Otway and Coastal Waterway Restoration Delivers major works and other priority actions to protect and enhance the rivers and estuaries within the region's coastal zone including the region's Great Ocean Road in line with the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Includes accelerated riparian activities under the Regional Riparian Action Plan.	0	513,600	15,000	528,600
Barwon and Corangamite Waterway Restoration Delivers major works and other priority actions to protect and enhance the rivers and wetlands of Barwon, Moorabool and Corangamite Basins in line with the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Includes accelerated riparian activities under the Regional Riparian Action Plan and delivery of works for the Rivers 2040 trial site.	0	853,000	55,000	908,000
Corangamite Floodplain/Waterway Statutory functions Delivers the Corangamite CMA's statutory functions for floodplain, rural drainage and waterway management under the <i>Water Act 1989</i> , including floodplain referrals and works on waterway approvals.	0	853,000	0	760,000

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VIC GOV'T AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Corangamite Regional Drainage Scheme Management This project delivers the maintenance and administration of the Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme and Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme, which Corangamite CMA manages and maintains as operational flood mitigation schemes.	0	283,000	0	283,000
Management of the Barwon River through Geelong This project involves the management of the Barwon River and designated riverside zones for a 20 km section through Geelong in accordance with the Authority's by-law No. 2 Barwon River, and the Barwon River through Geelong Management Plan 2007.	0	882,000	0	882,000
Corangamite Caretaker of Waterway Health Delivers the planning, coordination and monitoring and evaluation for waterway health activities in the Corangamite CMA region in line with the Corangamite Waterway Management Strategy, including the planning, target setting and monitoring activities required to support the Rivers 2040 trial for the Moorabool. It also delivers strategic planning, engagement and operational estuary management functions (around artificial estuary mouth openings) to protect and enhance the estuaries of the region.	0	386,484	2,000	388,484
Corangamite Environmental Water Management Delivers the Corangamite CMA's Environmental Water Reserve functions under the <i>Water Act 1989</i> and corresponding CMA Statement of Obligations. Includes additional activities aimed at improving and demonstrating outcomes, shared benefits and community engagement.	0	397,000	0	397,000
2016 Flood Recovery Works The objective of this project is to protect public infrastructure resulting from flooding that occurred in spring 2016. For the week of the 9th to the 16th September 2016 between 70 and 150 mm fell over the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region. At some locations over half of this rainfall fell on the 13th on very wet catchments resulting in significant stream rises in the smaller creeks in the Leigh River, Woody Yaloak River and Otway streams, with high localised impacts.	0	225,738	0	225,738
Maintenance and Safety Works - Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp Access works will complement construction works at the Reedy outlet structure and ensure safer access for CMA staff.	0	9,500	0	9,500
Monitor - Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp, Lower Barwon and Moorabool Maintain and operate Water gauging stations at Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamps, Lower Barwon River and Moorabool River.	0	43,000	0	43,000

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VIC GOV'T AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Recreation Water Initiative - Barwon River Multi Use Platforms This project will install multi use and accessible platforms along the Barwon River allowing for increased passive recreation, fishing, canoe launching, motor board berthing and dog swimming. It will also add increased rowing access for the Rowing Precinct and improved trail access to new river facilities.	0	380,000	0	380,000
Flood Mapping of the Woody Yaloak and Lough Calvert Drainage Schemes This project will capture the data (lidar and hydrology) required to completed detailed flood studies of both Corangamite CMA managed rural drainage schemes.	0	127,000	0	127,000
The Living Moorabool The Living Moorabool Project is a strategic river management framework for planning, communicating and implementing long-term waterway work programs at a waterway or catchment scale.	0	0	130,000	130,000
Caring For Our Bays This project is auspiced for the Bellarine Catchment Network and aims to address the increasing threat of plastics in our oceans, through lifting the profile and appreciation of Corio Bay and Port Phillip Bay through a collaborative focus on preventing litter at its source. CFOB improves infrastructure and signage, engages community and business, delivers litter education and clean-up events and develops educational material.	0	99,000	0	99,000
Aire Valley Estuary Floodplain Project This project is to be focused on providing recommendations that can be used to inform the times of year when the Aire Valley estuary should not be artificially opened to protect human assets, focusing on minimising the risks on the environment of this human intervention. This project presents an exciting opportunity to change the landscape of the Aire Valley estuary floodplain, and in the process deliver improved outcomes for landholders, the environment and recreational use.	0	47,516	0	47,516
Construction of the lower Barwon Barrage Fishway This project will construct a fishway on the southern bank of the lower Barwon Barrage.	0	545,000	0	545,000
Upper Barwon Landholder Study The purpose of this project is to engage BehaviourWorks Australia to investigate landholder attitudes and beliefs, along the upper Barwon River, towards riparian management and understand what might motivate them to improve their land management practices.	0	50,000	0	50,000

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VIC GOV'T AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Support for an Integrated Catchment Management Summit in 2020-21 This funding is for Corangamite CMA to support the State-wide Summit Working Group (a sub-committee of the <i>Our Catchments, Our Communities</i> Strategic Reference Group) to deliver an Integrated Catchment Management Summit in 2020-21. The Summit aims to bring together a cohort of 250 key state partners from the water and catchments sector to share knowledge and discuss challenges in integrated catchment management across Victoria. Support from the CMA will be based on the directions of the State-wide Summit Working Group over the planning period.	0	50,000	0	50,000
Analysis of the social and economic values dependent on a flowing Barwon River through Geelong. This project will comprise: Part 1. Significance of flows in the Barwon River. Analyse and quantify the risks of future climate change scenarios on the flows in the Barwon River, under a 'do nothing' flows scenario and assess the impacts/benefits of potential water recovery on water quality and other flow dependent values. Part 2. Social and economic values of the Barwon River through Geelong. An investigation and analysis of the social and economic values that are derived from the river's ecosystem and natural capital.	0	150,000	0	150,000
Gellibrand Catchment Plan (Wannon Water) The aim of this project is to create a catchment plan for the Gellibrand River in partnership with Wannon Water and engaging with other key stakeholders. The integrated waterway health plan will set the priority projects for on-going co-investment in the Gellibrand. The first stage of the project will be a synthesis conducted through Deakin University of the existing information in the system to understand current condition and threats. The second stage will be to use this information to inform prioritisation of management actions.	0	0	20,000	20,000
2020-21 Barwon Parklands Strategy Support The purpose of this project is to support the development of the Barwon Parklands Strategy. The Waterway Programs Branch is funding the Corangamite CMA for a position to support the implementation of the Bam/on Parklands Strategy. The funding will enable the CMA to engage a project manager to develop a business case for the strategy and support the activities of the Barwon Parklands Strategy Working Group. The position will also support the Barwon Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on matters relating to the Barwon Parklands Strategy.	0	60,000	0	60,000
Investigations Various small projects to undertake reviews of waterways.	0	29,531	0	29,531
Total	0	5,891,369	222,000	6,113,369

BIODIVERSITY	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VIC GOV'T AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Protecting Priority Threatened Species - Corangamite Coast Funded through stream one of the Victorian Environment Partnership Program (VEPP). This project targets habitat with high values for threatened species. Vegetation protection and revegetation projects have been funded.	0	27,010	0	27,010
Protecting Priority Threatened Species - Corangamite Coast (Yr 2-5) The Corangamite CMA has actively lead the delivery of a coastal program funded by the Australian Government that has included management for threatened species since 2008. This Project will build on the past work, experience, partnerships and knowledge to improve Orange-bellied Parrot habitat, across public and private land. The project will create opportunities to collaborate with BirdLife Australia and DELWP to deliver citizen science opportunities including continued delivery of the annual winter population monitoring delivered by community volunteers; deliver on-ground outputs on a larger scale across the Ramsar site through a grants process; provide incentives to directly target specific onground works on private land through a grants process and; incorporate Orange-bellied Parrot habitat requirements in current regional estuary mouth opening decision frameworks.	182,167	0	0	182,167
Western District Lakes - Ramsar Site Management Ramsar site coordination - overseeing and coordinating the implementation of actions on the WDL Ramsar site with a broad range of stakeholders including Parks Victoria, Government Agencies, Local Government, Traditional Owners, and Trust For Nature.	0	35,000	0	35,000
Port Phillip Bellarine - Ramsar Site Management Ramsar site coordination - overseeing and coordinating the implementation of actions on the PPB (WS) and BP Ramsar site with a broad range of stakeholders including Parks Victoria, Government Agencies, Local Government, Traditional Owners, and Trust For Nature.	0	35,000	0	35,000
Ramsar Effectiveness Monitoring Effectiveness Monitoring on the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsular Ramsar Sites.	0	26,000	0	26,000
Connecting Landscapes to Biodiversity on the Victorian Volcanic Plain This project will build on the past work, experience, partnerships and knowledge to deliver services to control pest animals, remove pest weeds and improve land management practices, across public and private land within 75 per cent of Area Five's 4 Target areas across the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP). The services delivered over a three year project include: support awareness, engagement and capacity activities (not funded through the BRP program), deliver on-ground outputs on a larger scale across the three project sites through a market based instrument (MBI) program, provide incentives to directly target specific onground works that may not be addressed through a MBI.	0	191,050	0	191,050
Total	182,167	314,060	0	496,227

LAND HEALTH	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VIC GOV'T AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
National Land Partnerships Program Core Services Provides Core Engagement, Communication, Planning and Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator support to the broader National Landcare Program.	416,175	0	0	416,175
Improving On-Farm Soil, Vegetation for Larger Agricultural (Yr 2 -5) This project builds on the experiences of the Corangamite CMA in partnership with farmers, community groups (including Landcare) and agriculture industry groups of the Corangamite region to enhance soil health and native vegetation on farms. Soil acidity has been identified as a regional soil health issue within the Corangamite region and this project will then focus on farmers within the central cropping areas of the region to adopt soil acidity management practices, while farmers within the southern dairy and cattle grazing areas of the region will be targeted to improve their capacity to manage dairy effluent, apply appropriate nutrient management regimes and incorporate native vegetation into farming systems. The overall approach is based upon knowledge and extension activities, supported by some financial incentive programs. Different approaches are tailored to suit different target audiences to ensure maximum engagement and participation.	385,767	0	0	385,767
Protecting the Victorian Volcanic Plains This project will be delivered on a landscape scale, using established partnerships and knowledge to deliver, across public and private land, improved land management practices across the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) within the Corangamite Management Unit. Community awareness programs will also be delivered to increase the knowledge of the community to increase the capacity of land managers to undertake and maintain works as well as to engage with Traditional Owners. The project will also support the management training of various land managers associated with the VVP's linear reserves, provide incentives to directly target specific onground works that enhance nationally threatened ecological communities on private land and deliver on specific actions that address EPBC listed species requirements on the VVP.	213,861	0	0	213,861
Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite 2019-20 The Victorian Landcare Program funds the Victorian Landcare Grants which are an annual grant funding for on-ground projects and group/network start-up, maintenance and support. The grants are currently delivered by the Catchment Management Authorities across the state.	0	253,869	0	253,869
Reviews Various small projects to undertake reviews of landhealth.		0	18,057	40,324
Total	1,015,803	253,869	18,057	1,287,729

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VIC GOV'T AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Our Catchments, Our Community - Integrated NRM This project is driven by the Water for Victoria plan and the <i>Our Catchments, Our Communities</i> Strategy (OCOC). This project delivers actions to implement the OCOC strategy and improve the ability of the CMA to lead integrated catchment management with the community. It will focus on better engagement and coordination of regional partners, stakeholders and the community through effective local planning processes, a regional roundtable process and improved capacity building in collaborative decision making that drives ownership and accountability and delivers on the RCS.	0	391,000	0	391,000
Our Catchments Our Communities - Statewide Pool Projects This project delivers on the OCOC Statewide Implementation. The funding supports the implementation of the Regional Catchment Partnership Agreement and to support regional leadership development.	0	0	30,000	30,000
Community Waterway Monitoring Continues the delivery of the Corangamite EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch programs involving community volunteers monitoring water quality to guide management decisions.	0	270,000	54,666	324,666
NRM Aboriginal Project Officer - Wadawurrung partnership Working with project managers and the broader organisation to improve Aboriginal awareness and participation. With a focus on engaging and building strong relationships with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities, this position will support the integration of Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Community Caring for Country aspirations in the planning and delivery of projects.	0	0	58,767	58,767
Barwon Parklands Strategy Business Case Development This project builds on previous works and will guide the development of a business case to progress the Barwon Parklands Masterplan.	0	15,000	0	15,000
Total	0	676,000	143,433	819,433

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN NRM IN THE CORANGAMITE REGION

The Corangamite NRM Plan for Climate Change provides guidance to the Corangamite CMA and other regional NRM agencies in developing adaptation and mitigation actions to address the impact of climate change on our region's natural ecosystems.

The Corangamite CMA has partnered on a number of statewide projects including:

- Greening Australia's Establishing Victoria's Ecological Infrastructure – a Guide to Creating Climate Future Plots. Climate Future Plots are areas of revegetated and restored land which incorporate genetic and/or species diversity to enhance habitat resilience to the uncertain and unpredictable effects of climate change; and

- University of Melbourne's Growing Landscape Carbon project. This is an online brokerage platform to facilitate investment in trees growing on private land.

The Corangamite CMA has also worked on a number of regional projects including:

- Involvement in DELWP's Regional Adaptation Strategies (Barwon South West and Grampians);
- Developing a Restoration Action Plan for Avalon Coastal Reserve in partnership with Parks Victoria, DELWP, the Nature Conservancy, Melbourne Water and Deakin University's Blue Carbon Lab; and
- Blue Carbon Lab's – Deakin PhD: Release of greenhouse gasses from small agricultural dams, investigating the role of agricultural dams in the carbon cycle and determine opportunities for carbon offsetting within agricultural enterprises.



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OUR ORGANISATION

THE BOARD

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Board for 2019-20 included Alice Knight (Chair), Ken Latta (Deputy Chair), Catherine Jenkins, Fiona Cumming, Lia Sarto, Nick Renyard, Cathy Phelps, Wayne Weaire, Tamara Boyd and Jack Speirs.

The Board is accountable for the overall performance of the Authority. Its role is to guide and govern the organisation to ensure it meets its responsibilities as determined in the *Water Act 1989* and *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

CHAIR - ALICE KNIGHT, OAM

1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

Alice Knight, together with her brother Kevin, is a primary producer and director of a 1,700 hectare fine wool pastoral property at Pittong. She is a recipient of an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for her services to the community, Landcare, environment, the CFA and the Anglican church.

Alice's passion is Landcare and the Woody Yaloak Catchment Group, and she spends many hours working with and encouraging others involvement in landscape change. Alice and her brother Kevin have received the prestigious national award, the McKell Medal, for conservation farming and community involvement in natural resource management, with Alice also being the recipient of the Joan Kirner Award in 2016. She recently retired from the Beaufort and Skipton Health Service Board after 25 years of service.

This is Alice's fourth term as Chair on the Corangamite CMA board, having previously been a board member for six years from 2000 to 2006. During 2019-20 Alice was Chair of the Remuneration Committee, a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and ex-officio to all other board standing committees.

FIONA CUMMING

1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

Dr Fiona Cumming's career was in nutrition, dietetics and scientific research, which later led her into senior positions in the regulation of foods and therapeutic goods, including complementary medicines. She grew up on a sheep farm at Timboon, in a family which lived by strong environmental principles. After retiring from her career which took her to many interstate and international roles, Fiona is focusing her energy on contributing to her local community and its natural resources; nurturing the land as well as its people.

She owns three farms outside Geelong, two of which adjoin the iconic Thompson Creek. One of these is a historic property of 100 acres which is a working crop and sheep farm. Through the efforts of her parents, and now Fiona and her husband Brendon, it has become an eco-haven for native and indigenous plants and animals. Fiona is a pilot, and this farm and the third nearby, where she and Brendon farm cattle, are also airfields which provide operating bases for her beloved 1964 Cessna 150 plane.

In recent years, Fiona has chaired the Surf Coast Shire Health and Wellbeing Committee (2010-13), the Surf Coast and Inland Plains Landcare Network Inc (2013-16), has joined the Otway Agroforestry Network and completed its Master Tree Growers course (2013). Fiona has received many awards during her career, including a Corangamite Landcare Recognition Award in 2015. In 2016, a lecture was given in her honour at the 33rd National Conference of the Dietitians Association of Australia.

During 2019-20, Fiona served as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and the Business Growth Plan Committee.

CATHERINE JENKINS

1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

Cath Jenkins and her family own and operate a grazing property in South Purrumbete. Cath is also an Agribusiness Consultant with RM Consulting Group and current Chair of the Dairy Industry Leadership Group.

Cath has a keen interest in the local community and regularly contributes through committees and advisory groups. Cath has experience working with landholders across the Corangamite catchment as Coordinator of the Dairy Young Leaders Network, an Area Manager with Fonterra and as an Agribusiness Banker with ANZ. Cath has an Agricultural Science degree and postgraduate qualifications in professional writing.

Cath and her husband Adam have four school-age children.

During 2019-20, Cath served as Chair of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and a member of the Audit and Risk Committee.



KEN LATTA

1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

Dr Ken Latta had a long and distinguished career in the Victorian public service. He held senior and executive roles in the Department of Education and Victoria Police and was CEO and Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board. Ken was awarded a Public Service Medal for services to leadership and reforms in the fields of Victorian Education. Ken has been recognised with an honorary doctorate from Victoria University. Ken has extensive board experience and was chairman of Harness Racing Victoria.

Ken has a Diploma of Agricultural Science, a Trained Technical Teacher's Certificate, a Bachelor of Science (Hons) a Graduate Diploma of Educational Administration and a Master of Business Administration.

During 2019-20, Ken served as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and member of the Remuneration Committee.

NICK RENYARD

1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

Nick Renyard operates a 400-hectare, 550-cow dairy farm with his family near Timboon. He has served three years as a director of DemoDairy, ten years as a Victoria Central Councillor for United Dairyfarmers, and five years as a director for Australian Dairy Farmers Limited. As part of his involvement in the dairy industry he has been on numerous committees, particularly relating to animal health, animal welfare and farm systems.

Nick has an Advanced Diploma of Agriculture.

During 2019-20, Nick served as Chair of the Business Growth Plan Committee and member of the Remuneration Committee.

LIA SARTO

1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020

Lia Sarto manages a farming operation at Derrinallum where she runs cattle, sheep and a cropping enterprise. Lia has had a successful career in the private sector, previously working for Nortel Networks, Rio Tinto and Engie.

At Nortel Networks, Lia developed business solutions for customers. At Rio Tinto, Lia worked in marketing, scenario planning and government relations, including the evaluation and implementation of climate policy across the group. For Engie, Lia was Director of Strategy and Regulation where she led a team with the focus on developing a credible roadmap for future growth within a tightly regulated market.

Lia has a Bachelor of Engineering (Communications) and a Master of Business Administration.

During 2019-20, Lia served as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and Business Growth Plan Committee.

CATHY PHELPS

1 October 2019 - 30 June 2020

Cathy Phelps has over 14 years experience in the leadership and management of agriculture sector research, development and extension programs in the areas of natural resource management and climate risk, both dairy and cross sector. She facilitated the development of numerous partnerships with Victorian CMAs to address common primary industry issues including soil health, climate risk and water quality.

Cathy holds a Masters in Sustainable Agriculture and a BSc in Agriculture.

During 2019-20, Cathy served as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

WAYNE WEAIRE

1 October 2019 - 30 June 2020

Wayne Weaire is a primary producer and irrigator of 20 years, having owned and managed irrigation and dryland farms in the Corangamite, Goulburn and North East Catchments of Victoria since 1984. He is a farmer who seeks for innovative planning and enablement of natural resource and environmental conservation.

Wayne has also had years of Senior Executive experience in a government entity and in private health and is a graduate of the Company Director's Course with the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

During 2019-20, Wayne served as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Business Growth Plan Committee.

TAMARA BOYD

1 July 2019 - 30 September 2019

Dr Tamara Boyd is an environmental engineer with a PhD in groundwater trade. Prior to establishing as an independent consultant, Tamara managed Parks Victoria's ecological water program. In that role she worked closely with federal and state agencies, regional authorities and local communities to improve catchment resilience and optimise water regimes.

A Victoria Fellowship enabled Tamara to undertake a study mission into groundwater management in the US, Canada, South Africa and the UK.

She is also a fellow of the Peter Cullen Trust Science to Policy leadership program and a recipient of a National Emergency Medal for services performed during the 2009 Victorian bushfires. Tamara is passionate about conveying the benefits a healthy environment brings to society, the economy and our own wellbeing.

She is actively involved in community leadership and volunteer programs in the Ballarat region.

During 2019, Tamara served as a member of the Remuneration Committee.

JOHN (JACK) SPEIRS

1 July 2019 - 30 September 2019

Jack Speirs is a past Director of Land and Water Australia and Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority. He was awarded the 14th McKell Medal in 2004 by the Australian, State and Territory governments to an individual to publicly recognise excellence and achievement in natural resource management in Australia. Jack owned and managed 'Satimer', an 1,850 acre property located in Victoria's Nareen district, which has pioneered innovative and sustainable farming practices in southern Victoria. The property is now owned and managed by the next generation.

The property was a Potter Farmland Plan demonstration farm.

Jack has a Diploma in Farm Management and is a Fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, following graduation from the Australian Rural Leadership Program. He is a member of the steering team for development and production of Meat Livestock Australia's Southern Beef Programs Technical Resource Package "More Beef from Pastures". He was on the Sustainable Grazing Systems 1998-03 Victoria and South Australia regional committee and chair.

During 2019, Jack served as the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and a member of the Remuneration Committee.

2019-20 Board meeting attendance

BOARD MEMBERS 2019-20	BOARD	AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE	REMUNERATION	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE	BUSINESS GROWTH PLAN COMMITTEE
Alice Knight	9/9	N/A	3/3	1/2	N/A
Catherine Jenkins	9/9	4/5	N/A	3/3	N/A
Fiona Cumming	8/9	N/A	N/A	3/3	3/3
Cathy Phelps	6/6	N/A	2/2	2/2	N/A
Ken Latta	8/9	5/5	3/3	N/A	N/A
Lia Sarto	8/9	5/5	N/A	N/A	3/3
Wayne Weaire	6/6	2/3	N/A	N/A	2/2
Nicholas Renyard	9/9	N/A	2/2	1/1	3/3
Tamara Boyd	2/3	N/A	1/1	N/A	N/A
Jack Speirs	2/3	2/2	1/1	N/A	N/A



The core roles of the standing committees are:

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

To monitor and evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of the corporate governance and risk management frameworks.

Membership:

- Ken Latta (Chair)
- Catherine Jenkins
- Wayne Weaire
- Lia Sarto

(all are independent members)

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

To oversee the management, performance and remuneration of the CEO and advise on significant human resource policies.

Membership:

- Alice Knight (Chair)
- Ken Latta
- Cathy Phelps
- Nick Renyard

REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE

To ensure the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and supporting strategies are being effectively implemented and resources are being maximised to progress implementation of natural resource management outcomes.

Membership:

- Catherine Jenkins (Chair)
- Fiona Cumming
- Cathy Phelps
- Alice Knight

BUSINESS GROWTH COMMITTEE

Develop and monitor the Business Growth Plan of the Corangamite CMA. The Business Growth Plan focuses on opportunities to increase investment to improve waterway health, mitigate the risks of climate change and support biodiversity.

Membership:

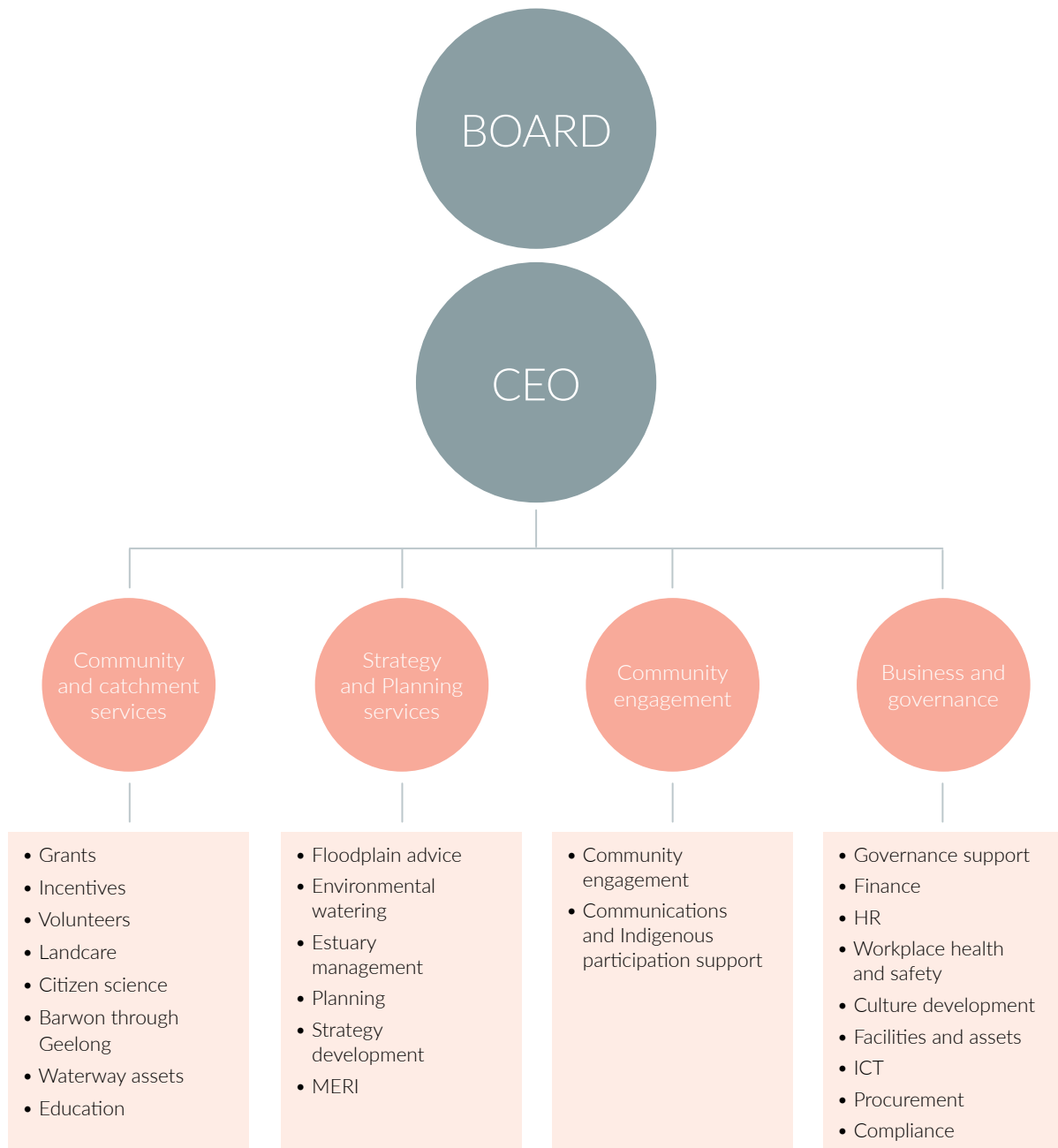
- Nick Renyard (Chair)
- Wayne Weaire
- Lia Sarto
- Fiona Cumming

EXECUTIVE TEAM

- Chief Executive Officer
John Riddiford
- General Manager Business and Governance Services
Chris Thompson
- General Manager Community and Catchment Services
Sarah Holland Clift
- General Manager Strategy and Planning Services
Helen Watts
- Communications and Engagement Coordinator
Amy Leith



ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



COMPLIANCE AND DISCLOSURES

ORGANISATION CULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Corangamite CMA Culture Development Program supports the organisation's leadership and performance goals, and guides our values and behaviours.

During 2018-19, the Authority reviewed its organisational Vision, Purpose, Values and Behaviours through workshops with staff and the board. These focus the Corangamite CMA's role and the way it operates including: being an effective partner; enabling communities, landholders, other organisations and governments to work together to improve the health and productivity of our natural and agricultural lands and waters; and to improve the social, economic and physical and mental health and wellbeing of our communities.

The Authority participated in the Victorian Public Sector People Matter Survey 2019 which attracted a 68 per cent staff response rate. The results indicated a positive outcome in the areas of human rights, respect, safety, diversity and inclusion, and integrity. The results also identified improvement opportunities within the areas of psychosocial safety and change management.

During 2019-20, the Corangamite CMA continued to work with staff on the implementation of the action plans from Culture Development Program and People Matter Survey 2019.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Service milestones are recognised and celebrated at an annual staff event.

The following staff reached service milestones during 2019-20:

- Jemma Harper (5 years)
- Jess Lill (5 years).

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Corangamite CMA Diversity and Inclusion Plan for 2017-2021 articulates how we support gender equity, diversity and inclusion in our workforce.

The CCMA Diversity and Inclusion Plan also demonstrates how we enable the full diversity of our community to access our services and participate in planning and actions to improve catchment health. The Corangamite CMA recognises the positive benefits of gender equity, diversity and inclusion within its workforce of 40 employees (see table on page 68).

The Corangamite CMA is committed to equal opportunity in the workplace and providing a workplace for staff free of all forms of discrimination, bullying and harassment. Our aim is to promote fairness and equity where the rights of individuals are supported, and all staff are treated with respect and dignity.

We are building an inclusive workplace to help realise the potential of all employees, embrace differences, apply diverse thinking to innovation and deliver services to Victorian communities. All positions can be worked flexibly, and we encourage job applications from Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, people of all ages and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

Staff turnover for 2019-20 was five per cent as a result of natural attrition. Through the year, five positions were advertised externally with a total of 47 applications received.

Throughout the year the Corangamite CMA further supported opportunities for young people, engaging one trainee, one graduate position and two paid internships from Deakin University.

In partnership with Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation, an Aboriginal NRM Participation Officer, split 0.5 at each organisation, has been employed. This role has a focus on engaging and building strong relationships with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities, while supporting the integration of Traditional Owner and Aboriginal Community Caring for Country aspirations in the planning and delivery of projects.

LEARNING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Learning and development opportunities were identified through annual staff professional development plans. The following courses were undertaken throughout the year to enhance staff knowledge and capabilities.³

- Monthly Cyber Security Training
- Duty of Care for Victorian Employees/Managers
- Equal Opportunity for Employees/Managers
- Bullying and Harassment for Employees/Managers
- Drugs and Alcohol Awareness
- OHS for Managers and Supervisors
- Contact Officers
- Public Interest Disclosure
- Information Management, Privacy and Security
- Cultural Awareness
- Purchasing and procurement policy and procedure training
- Project Management
- First Aid and CPR
- 4WD
- Trailer Towing
- Work specific conferences and workshops.

Workforce data as at 30 June 2020

	2016-17 #	2016-17 FTE	2017-18 #	2017-18 FTE	2018-19 #	2018-19 FTE	2019-20 #	2019-20 FTE	2019-20 TARGETS %
Aboriginal Victorians	2	1.8	1	0.8	2	2	2	1.8	6
Gender profile:									
Board (M / F)	5 / 3	NA	4 / 5	NA	4 / 4	NA	3 / 5		
Staff (M / F)	23 / 22	40.6	16 / 16	27.5	11 / 18	25.1	10 / 19	26.2	50 / 50
Executives (M / F) ¹	3 / 1	4.0	3 / 1	4.0	2 / 1	3.0	2 / 2	4.0	50 / 50
Management (M / F) ²	4 / 2	6.0	6 / 2	7.9	3 / 1	4.0	5 / 2	6.2	60 / 40
Age profile:									
Youth cohort (under 35)	15		4		7	6.6	8	8.0	33
Mature cohort (55+)	8		10		8	7.4	8	7.5	20
Staff with part-time work arrangements³	11		9		8	4.1	9	5.4	3
Staff % agreement with CCMA equal employment opportunity principles⁴	59%		NA		69%		NA		80

Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

NA: Data not available.

1: GSERP and non-GSERP senior personnel who oversee the operation and directions of the business.

2: Excluding Executives.

3: Subject to staff demand.

4: People Matter Survey results.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OH&S)

The Corangamite CMA is committed to the health and safety of all staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors, ensuring it complies with its obligations under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.

The Authority's OH&S Committee consists of staff and management representatives who meet regularly with the aim of building a workplace culture that ensures health and safety is a priority. The Committee met six times for the year. In the last quarter of the 2019-20, an OH&S working group was established to assess known high risk and hazards for staff and undertake a gap analysis.

As a result staff working groups have been on the review of existing/implementation of new policies and procedures in the areas of:

- Use of Vessels
- Working Alone and Remotely
- First Aid
- Hazard identification Risk Assess and control
- Drug and Alcohol
- Safe Work Method Statement
- Working Outdoor on Total Fire Ban
- Managing Challenging and Unreasonable Community Members Behaviour
- Hazardous Substance and Dangerous Goods Procedure
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Contractor Management
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Vehicle Safety Policy.

The revised policies and procedures will be finalised and implemented in the first quarter of 2020-21.

During 2019-20 there were seven reported incidents/hazards, with no lost time injuries. All incidents/hazards were investigated, and corrective actions implemented where applicable.

YEAR	REPORTED INCIDENTS/HAZARDS	REPORTED INCIDENTS PER 100 FTE	LOST TIME INJURIES	LOST TIME INJURIES PER 100 FTE
2015-16	16	0.39	0	0
2016-17	11	0.27	0	0
2017-18	5	0.18	0	0
2018-19	5	0.16	0	0
2019-20	7	0.19	0	0

The Corangamite CMA Occupational Health and Safety Management System Improvement Strategy prioritises actions to improve the Authority's safety management system over four years. During 2019-20, 82 per cent of actions were completed.

STAFF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Authority values and supports the health and wellbeing of staff and during the year developed a Staff Mental Health and Wellbeing procedure and program. The purpose of this procedure is to promote, maintain and establish initiatives for the mental health and wellbeing of all staff, ensure a safe work environment, and encourage staff to take responsibility for their own mental health and wellbeing. The Corangamite CMA has adopted the VPS Mental Health and Wellbeing Charter.

Corangamite CMA believes that the mental health and wellbeing of our staff is key to our organisational success and sustainability. The CCMA continues to provide a number of initiatives to staff under the Mental Health and Wellbeing program including access to the Employee Assistance Program by all employees and their families, access to Contact Officers and Family Violence Contact Officers, and staff who have completed a mental health first-aid certificate.

All staff and board members were offered flu vaccinations during May 2020 and weekly fruit boxes are available in the offices. Numerous staff events were held during the year including morning teas and social club lunches to strengthen relationships in a relaxed social setting and increase opportunities for information sharing.

COVID-19 provided a significant challenge to the Corangamite CMA in terms of workplace safety. More information on the actions and initiatives to support staff safety and wellbeing are included on page 13.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

In April 2020, the Corangamite CMA entered into a shared service arrangement with Barwon Water for the provision of high-level Human Resources and OH&S business partnering. The arrangement will see the Corangamite CMA gain access to extensive senior Human Resources experience and capacity whilst still retaining Corangamite CMA employed Human Resources administrative support. The arrangement further allows the Corangamite CMA to leverage expertise to further mature its Human Resources and OH&S systems.

The following internal human resource policies and procedures were reviewed and adopted during the year⁴:

- Resolution of Grievances Procedure Recruitment and Selection Procedure
- Professional Development Plan (PDP) Procedure
- Human Resources Policy
- CEO and Executive Management Succession Planning Policy
- Coaching Counselling and Disciplinary Action Procedure.



COMPLIANCE WITH RELEVANT LEGISLATION

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY POLICY

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure 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.

The Corangamite CMA continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

Information relevant to the headings listed in Financial Reporting direction 22H of the *Financial Management Act 1994* is available on request at the Corangamite CMA's office, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Information includes:

- statements that declarations of pecuniary interests have been completed by all relevant officers
- details of publications produced by the Corangamite CMA and how these can be obtained
- details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the Corangamite CMA
- a list of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee and their achievements
- details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the OH&S of employees
- details of any major external reviews carried out on the entity
- details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
- details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the entity to develop community awareness of the entity and its services
- general statement on industrial relations within the entity and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes
- details of all consultancies and contractors.

The information is available on request from:

Business and Governance Services General Manager
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Phone: 03 5232 9100 Email: info@ccma.vic.gov.au

BUILDING ACT 1993

The Corangamite CMA owns or controls four government buildings located at Geelong, Colac and Cressy and, consequently, is required to include a statement on its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993* in relation to those buildings.

The Corangamite CMA requires that appropriately qualified consultants and contractors are engaged for all proposed works on land controlled by the Corangamite CMA, and that their work and services comply with current building standards. All such consultants and contractors are expected to have appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*.

The Corangamite CMA requires that appropriately qualified consultants and contractors are engaged for mandatory testing of emergency and exit lighting in accordance with relevant standards; for monthly, quarterly and bi-annual inspections; preventive routine maintenance of mechanical services; and monthly and annual fire service audits.

The Corangamite CMA complied with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993* in its building and maintenance activities.

FINANCING COSTS AND LEASE LIABILITIES

The Corangamite CMA has one property it leases. Full financial impacts are available in the Financial Statement (see page 83) in line with new accounting standard AASB16 Leases.

DISCLOSURE INDEX

An index identifying the Corangamite CMA's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements is contained in Appendix 2 (see page 130).

LOCAL JOBS FIRST - VICTORIAN INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* requires public bodies and departments to report on implementation of the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (Local Jobs First - VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) policy. Public bodies are required to apply VIPP and MPSG policy in all projects over \$1 million in regional Victoria.

MPSG applies to all construction projects valued at \$20 million or more.

No tenders or service projects were issued by the Corangamite CMA greater than \$1 million for the year ending June 2020.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE

Nil reports: the Corangamite CMA's expenditure in the 2019-20 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

BANK LOANS, BILLS PAYABLE, PROMISSORY NOTES, DEBENTURES AND OTHER LOANS

The Corangamite CMA did not have any bank loans, bills payable, promissory notes, debentures or any other loans during the year.

Inventories by class	N/A
Intangible assets	N/A
Overdrafts	N/A
Authorised and issued capital	N/A
Ex-gratia payments	N/A
Amounts written off	N/A
Charges against assets	N/A
Assets received without adequate consideration	N/A
Motor vehicle lease commitments	N/A

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has continued to create an unprecedented challenge to the community and to the Corangamite CMA as we have sought to keep our staff and community safe, comply with restrictions whilst continuing with the important program work we do. Management have considered subsequent events in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and have assessed no material impact on the Corangamite CMA's financial position but whilst not expecting a significant impact it's difficult to reliably estimate the potential impact on our operations, future results and financial position.

The Authority is still under the Victorian State of Emergency stage 3 restrictions and there were no further subsequent events between 30 June 2020 and the date this report went to print that had a material impact on the Corangamite CMA's financial position.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI)

The Act allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Authority. The purpose of the Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by the Authority. This comprises documents both created by the Authority or supplied to the Authority by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes.

The Act allows an organisation to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information.

Examples of documents that may not be accessed include: cabinet documents; some internal working documents; law enforcement documents; documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice; personal information about other people; and information provided to an Authority in-confidence.

From 1 September 2017, the Act was amended to reduce the Freedom of Information (FOI) processing time for requests received from 45 to 30 days. However, when external consultation is required under ss29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, the processing time automatically reverts to 45 days. Processing time may also be extended by periods of 30 days, in consultation with the applicant. With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times. However, obtaining an applicant's agreement for an extension cannot occur after the expiry of the timeframe for deciding a request.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the Authority, under section 49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

Making a request:

FOI requests can be made in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
64 Dennis Street, Colac, Victoria 3250
PO Box 159, Colac, Victoria 3250
Email: info@ccma.vic.gov.au Ph: 03 5232 9100

When making an FOI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, and clearly identify what types of material/documents are being sought.

The current fee for applications is \$29.60. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large, and the search for material, time consuming.

More information regarding FOI can be found at www.ovic.vic.gov.au

FOI Statistics and Timeliness

The Corangamite CMA received two Freedom of Information (FOI) requests for 2019-20 period from the general public.

The Corangamite CMA made no decisions regarding FOI with one application transferred to another department and one application still being processed in line with the Act.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION

There has been no significant change in financial position.

MAJOR FACTORS OR CHANGES AFFECTING PERFORMANCE

There has been no significant changes affecting performance.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 2012

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012* enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

WHAT IS A 'PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE'?

A Public Interest Disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body. The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is a 'public body' for the Act.

The Corangamite CMA does not tolerate improper conduct by employees, nor the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct. It is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety or the environment.

HOW DO I MAKE A 'PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE'?

You can make a Public Interest Disclosure about the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority or its board members, officers or employees by contacting the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission on the contact details provided below. Please note that the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is not able to receive Public Interest Disclosures.

HOW CAN I ACCESS THE CORANGAMITE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY'S PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS FROM DETRIMENTAL ACTION?

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a Public Interest Disclosure about Corangamite Catchment Management Authority or its employees.

You can access Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's procedures on its website at: www.ccm.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.

COMPLIANCE WITH CARERS RECOGNITION ACT 2012

The Corangamite CMA has taken all practical measures to comply with its obligations under the *Carers Recognition Act*. These include provisions within the enterprise agreement to support Carers through provisions such as carer's leave and flexible work arrangements.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION

I, Alice Knight, Chair of the Corangamite CMA Board, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Corangamite CMA has no Material Compliance Deficiencies with respect to the applicable Standing Directions made under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) EXPENDITURE

For the 2019-20 reporting period, the Corangamite CMA had a total expenditure of \$618,110, with the details shown below:

ALL ICT OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE		ICT EXPENDITURE RELATED TO PROJECTS TO CREATE OR ENHANCE ICT CAPABILITIES	
Business As Usual (BAU)	Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU)		
ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure	Operational expenditure	Capital expenditure
Total	Total = A + B	A	B
\$453,179	\$164,931	\$10,995	\$153,936

"ICT expenditure" refers to Corangamite CMA costs in providing business-enabling ICT services.

It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

"Non-BAU expenditure" relates to extending or enhancing Corangamite CMA current ICT capabilities.



SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Corangamite CMA achieved a deficit of \$2,972,606 for 2019-20 against a budgeted deficit of \$6,742,185.

INCOME

Income for the period was \$9,894,912 compared with a budget of \$9,325,919, a positive variance of approximately \$569,003.

In a positive year for the Corangamite CMA the key variances predominantly related to:

- No funding agreements assessed as falling under new accounting AASB15, following advice from VAGO (\$909,000)
- Offset by Regional Landcare Co-ordination and Statewide Waterwatch and Estuary Watch project funding phased in 2019-20 but received in June 2019 (\$455,000).

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure for the period was \$12,867,518 compared with a budget of \$16,068,094; a positive variance of \$3,200,576.

The positive variances are predominantly related to a higher level of vacancies throughout the year than budgeted, EC4 rollover of funds to support staffing salaries/program delivery until the December 2020 to continue program delivery, and final incentive payments to landholders extending into the first half of 2020-21. In particular:

- EC4 rollover of funds to support staffing salaries/ program delivery until the December 2020 to continue program delivery (\$937,000 staffing and \$500,000 program expenditure). The Victorian State Budget delayed to October 2020 which has delayed announcement of EC5 projects until end of 2020.
- Final incentive payments and contractor payments under the Waterway Grants program and *Our Catchment Our Communities* program now expected to be completed before 31st December 2020 (\$638,000).

Notably, employee expenses are down by approximately \$724,000 representing the significant number of vacancies held particularly in the first half of 2019-20.

BALANCE SHEET

Current assets are well above budget with a cash and cash equivalents balance of \$10,442,286; significantly higher than a budget of approximately \$7,484,536. This is due to delays in project expenditure as outlined above.

In 2018-19 a managerial asset revaluation occurred in line with FRD 103H Non Financial physical assets on Corangamite CMA land and buildings. This represents the first revaluation since 2016 and resulted in a \$2.9 million upward revaluation in assets.

Overall the Corangamite CMA maintains a healthy balance sheet with a healthy cash position and equity of \$47,772,570.

Summary of financial results - last five years for the financial year ended 30 June 2020

	2016 \$	2017 \$	2018 \$	2019 \$	2020 \$
Income and Expenditure					
Victorian Government Funding	10,862,181	7,341,352	8,993,586	10,832,073	7,978,498
Australian Government Funding	2,751,529	2,632,205	2,165,200	1,122,982	1,197,970
Other Income	873,277	626,884	427,388	650,416	718,443
Total Operating Revenue	14,486,986	10,600,441	11,586,175	12,605,471	9,894,911
Total Expenses	10,765,317	12,968,527	11,530,478	10,606,314	12,867,517
Surplus / (Deficit)	3,721,669	-2,368,087	55,697	1,999,157	-2,972,606
Assets and Liabilities					
Current Assets	12,395,373	10,585,669	11,207,623	13,311,875	11,282,530
Non Current Assets	37,899,074	37,277,629	36,822,619	39,162,388	38,838,202
Total Assets	50,294,447	47,863,298	48,030,243	52,474,264	50,120,732
Current Liabilities	2,047,300	1,984,873	2,076,215	1,655,539	1,947,636
Non Current Liabilities	99,938	99,303	119,208	73,548	400,526
Total Liabilities	2,147,238	2,084,176	2,195,423	1,729,087	2,348,162
Total Equity	48,147,209	45,779,123	45,834,819	50,745,176	47,772,570

CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANCIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

The Corangamite CMA engaged contractors and consultants throughout the year at a total cost of \$5,441,631.

CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANCIES > \$10,000

There were 61 Consultants or Contractors whose cost exceeded \$10,000 at a total cost of \$5,219,346*.

There were 89 Consultants or Contractors whose cost was less than \$10,000 at a total cost of \$222,285.

CONSULTANT/CONTRACTOR	\$
Pensar	1,687,367
Programmed Property Services	386,474
Department of Environment Land Water and Planning	279,653
Uptime Services Management	211,873
Alluvium Consulting Pty Ltd	203,005
Bellarine Catchment Network	129,000
Hays Specialist Recruitment	121,642
Aquatech Civil	121,300
RMCG	113,708
RL Blake Pty. Ltd	113,008
Aalto Pty Ltd	111,222
A.S. Miner Geotechnical	95,808
Tree Management Services	95,745
Natural Decisions	88,324
Federation University	70,000
Greening Australia	62,000
Associate Think	60,415
Southern Farming Systems	60,000
Ecowise Environmental Pty Ltd	53,620
WestVic Dairy Inc	52,656
GHD Pty Ltd	51,608
Otway Agroforest Network	51,500
University of Melbourne	48,625
Water Technology	46,365
Encader Consulting	46,021
EcoLogic Education	45,847
Biodiversity Solutions	44,200
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	40,575
Lloyd Environmental Pty Ltd	38,920
Terra Culture	38,796
Goldfields Weed Management	38,770

CONSULTANT/CONTRACTOR	\$
Australian Aquatic Solutions	35,580
Thompson Berril	33,623
Heytesbury Landcare Group	33,445
John Riddiford and Associates	32,400
First Person Consulting	30,505
Elstone Diving Services	29,483
Instream Solutions	27,160
Deakin University	25,784
Ballarat Tree Fella	25,600
Port Phillip and Westernport CMA	25,000
St. Quentin Consulting	24,300
Catchment Ecological Solutions	23,840
G-Force Recruitment	23,539
Findex	20,645
Water Modelling	18,300
Horton International	18,182
Cameron Civil	16,685
Barwon Water	15,125
Teach Flora Fauna	15,000
All Acres Contracting	14,075
Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation	13,603
Fluid Group	13,286
Kerrie Addison	13,248
Dwyer Rural Fencing	13,195
Discover EI Solutions	12,825
Kismet Forward	12,000
Land and Water Re	11,530
MRL Media	11,525
The Waterbug Co	11,316
Spatial Vision	10,500

*This information is available on the Corangamite CMA website.

OFFICE-BASED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

CATEGORY	MEASURE	BENCHMARK FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006 (48 STAFF)	USE FOR 2019-20 (36.5 FTE)	USE FOR 2018-19 (32.9 FTE)
Reduce energy use (electricity)	Megajoules per FTE	447,177/48 = 9,316 Mj per staff no.	307,758 or 8,432Mj per FTE	361,365 or 10,967Mj per FTE
	Total greenhouse gas emissions	172 tonnes or 3.25 tonnes per staff no.	87 tonnes or 2.38 tonnes per FTE	105 tonnes or 3.19 tonnes per FTE
Purchase green power	% green power	Nil	20%	20%
	Adjusted greenhouse gas emissions	172 tonnes or 3.25 tonnes per staff no.	70 tonnes or 1.91 per FTE	84 tonnes or 2.55 per FTE
Reduce paper use	A4 reams per FTE	726/48 = 15.25 per staff no.	148 or 4.06 per FTE	191 or 5.81 per FTE
Reduce fuel use (LPG, ULP, Premium ULP, Diesel)	Litres per FTE per annum	85,165/48 = 1,795	19,248 or 527.4 per FTE	21,878 or 683.7 per FTE
Reduce vehicle CO ₂ emissions fuel (LPG, ULP, Premium ULP, Diesel)	Greenhouse gas	N/A	2/2	3/3
Reduce water consumption (Office)	Litres per FTE	160,000/48= 3,333 litres per staff no.	56,000 litres or 1,521 litres per FTE	80,000 litres or 2,429 litres per FTE
Reduce Waste	Total waste/litre per FTE	Not available	54,160 litres or 1,484 litres per FTE	57,910 litres or 1,758 litres per FTE
	Diverted from landfill per annum	Not available	23,190 litres or 533 litres per FTE	23,190 litres or 704 litres per FTE
	Adjusted waste to landfill/per FTE	Not available	34,720 litres or 951 litres per FTE	34,720 litres or 1,054 litres per FTE

Energy and Waste reduction activities for 2019-20 included:

- upgrading of the airconditioning plant at Colac Office
- increased move to paperless office
- vehicle fleet consolidation and,
- implementation of microsoft teams teleconferencing.

Energy usage in part was down due to first full year of Solar Panels being installed. Paper usage, fleet emissions, water and energy usage also down due to COVID-19 and an increase in staff working from home. In 2020-21 a sustainability working group has been created to identify initiatives. An energy audit and carbon neutrality plan will further be undertaken in 2020-21.

DISCLOSURE OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

In accordance with the requirements of the Directors of the Minister for Finance, the Annual Report must include a statement about compliance with the disclosure of major contracts greater than \$10 million. The Corangamite CMA did not have any contract greater than \$10 million.

DISCLOSURE OF GRANTS AND TRANSFER PAYMENTS

The Corangamite CMA has provided grants to natural resource management community groups and organisations as part of the Victorian Landcare grants that the Corangamite CMA is responsible for distributing in the Corangamite region. Grants were provided to groups in 2019-20 for the purposes of supporting the administration of regional Landcare groups and implementing on ground natural resource management projects.

Victorian Landcare Grants 2019-20 Corangamite Landcare Grant recipients

PROPONENT	PROJECT TITLE	FUNDING
Anglesea Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna (ANGAIR)	Anglesea Heath Woody Weed Removal	\$5,500
Anglesea Aireys Inlet Society for the Protection of Flora and Fauna (ANGAIR)	Rehabilitation and Protection of Painkalac Valley Wetlands	\$18,663
Australasian Native Orchid society Victorian Group	Saving Caladenia maritima from Extinction	\$8,000
Bamganie Meredith Landcare Group	Self Sustaining Revegetation	\$3,624
Bellarine Landcare Group	Koala Country - rediscovering and conserving the Bellarine's hidden native fauna and their habitats	\$17,900
East Otway Landcare	Health and Regeneration of the Bambra Bushland	\$8,000
Friends of Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve	The Edwards Point Wildlife Reserve Biodiversity Protection Project	\$5,350
Friends of Ocean Grove Nature Reserve	Ocean Grove Nature Reserve - Ecological Assessment Report	\$10,400
Heytesbury District Landcare Network	Improving the landscape and increasing productivity with Biofund	\$19,800
Land and Water Resources Otway Catchment Inc	Restoring Healthy Native Habitat in the Gellibrand River Catchment	\$11,450
Lismore Land Protection Group	Engaging the Lismore Community in Landcare, a 4 part series	\$2,450
Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group	Investigating abundance of selected species of fauna in rivers within the Moorabool Catchment Landcare area	\$16,364
Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group	Community engagement in woody weed removal and revegetation in Paddock Creek Reserve, Gordon	\$8,755
Mount Elephant Community Management Inc	Restoring Danthonia and Themeda Grasslands to Mount Elephant Scoria Cone	\$11,060
Napoleons Enfield Landcare group	Stretching Down the Yarrowee	\$14,465
Southern Otway Landcare Network	Aire Valley Wildlife and Biodiversity Link	\$12,580
Surf Coast Mountain Bike Club Inc.	Sustainable trails to stop the spread of Phytophthora cinnamomi	\$2,869
The Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Reserves Committee of Management	People, Place and the Plains: Protecting VVP ecosystems and connecting communities at Mt Leura, Camperdown	\$18,975
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	Living Sustainably in Upper Barwon	\$9,300
Woody Yaloak Catchment Group	Vegetation corridors across the Woody Yaloak Catchment	\$16,640
Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group	From the Ashes	\$6,875
33 community support grants		\$15,850
Total		\$244,870



SECTION 3

financial statements

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2020 • 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 2020 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 APES 110 <i>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>
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
26 October 2020



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

HOW THIS REPORT IS STRUCTURED

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2020 in the following structure to provide users with the information about the Authority's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

BALANCE SHEET

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

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The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared and compliance with reporting regulations

2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Revenue 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

3.3 Lease expenses

3.4 Other operating expenses

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 Property, plant and equipment: Carrying amount

5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Other key assets and liabilities

5.1 Receivables

5.2 Payables

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6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

Cash flow information, commitments for expenditure

6.1 Cash flow information

6.2 Leases and Right of Use Assets

6.3 Commitments for Expenditure

6.4 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

8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

8.2 Other economic flows included in net result

8.3 Reserves

8.4 Responsible persons

8.5 Remuneration of executive officers

8.6 Related parties

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

8.8 Subsequent events

8.9 Changes to Accounting Policies

8.10 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

8.11 Glossary of technical terms

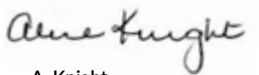
DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The attached financial statements for the Corangamite Catchment Management 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 2020 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2020.

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 the 22nd October 2020.



A. Knight
Chairperson



J. Riddiford
CEO and Accountable Officer



C. Thompson
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	NOTES	2020 \$	2019 \$
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	9,176,468	11,955,055
Interest	2.2.2	131,239	204,649
Other revenue and income	2.2.3	551,249	445,767
Total income from transactions		9,858,956	12,605,471
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefit expenses	3.1.1	4,082,594	3,550,449
Depreciation and impairment	4.1.1	819,624	767,465
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	7,393,053	5,583,920
Lease expenses		-	55,379
Interest Expense	6.2 (b)	10,045	-
Other operating expenses		562,201	622,635
Total expenses from transactions		12,867,517	10,579,848
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		(3,008,561)	2,025,623
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (i)	8.2	35,955	(26,466)
Net result		(2,972,606)	1,999,157
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus		-	2,911,200
Comprehensive result		(2,972,606)	4,910,357

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(i) Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets includes unrealised and realised gains/(losses) from revaluations, impairments, and disposals of all physical assets and intangible assets, except when these are taken through the asset revaluation surplus.

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	NOTES	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.1	10,442,286	12,183,132
Receivables	5.1	840,244	1,128,743
Total financial assets		11,282,530	13,311,875
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	38,476,318	39,074,064
Right of use assets	6.2 (c)	308,571	-
Other non-financial assets	5.3	53,313	88,324
Total non-financial assets		38,838,202	39,162,388
Total assets		50,120,732	52,474,263
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	1,216,421	1,090,064
Lease Liabilities	6.2 (c)	310,649	-
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	821,092	639,023
Total liabilities		2,348,162	1,729,087
Net assets		47,772,570	50,745,176
Equity			
Accumulated deficit	8.3	(6,778,870)	(3,806,264)
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	33,124,517	33,124,517
Committed funds reserve	8.3	-	-
Contributed capital	8.3	21,426,923	21,426,923
Net worth		47,772,570	50,745,176

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	NOTES	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		9,686,412	11,326,547
Interest received		131,239	239,382
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (i)		489,226	563,440
Other receipts		531,376	207,466
Total receipts		10,838,253	12,336,835
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		12,385,209	10,892,619
Interest and other costs of finance paid		10,045	-
Total payments		12,395,254	10,892,619
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	6.1.1	(1,557,001)	1,444,216
Cash flows from financing activities			
Principal element of lease liability		(53,783)	-
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from financing activities		(53,783)	-
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets	4.1.2	(228,607)	(198,285)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets	8.2	98,545	-
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities		(130,062)	(198,285)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(1,740,846)	1,245,931
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		12,183,132	10,937,201
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.1	10,442,286	12,183,132

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	ACCUMULATED DEFICIT \$	PHYSICAL ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2018	(5,805,421)	30,213,317	21,426,923	45,834,819
Net result for the year	4,910,357	-	-	4,910,357
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-
Transfers to/(from) reserves (i)	(2,911,200)	2,911,200	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2019	(3,806,264)	33,124,517	21,426,923	50,745,176
Net result for the year	(2,972,606)	-	-	(2,972,606)
Transfers to/(from) reserves (i)	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2020	(6,778,870)	33,124,517	21,426,923	47,772,570

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(i) The amounts transferred from accumulated deficit and physical asset revaluation surplus consists of revaluation of land (\$2,836,100) and buildings (\$75,100).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

1. NOTES TO THE REPORT

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is a government authority of the State of Victoria, established on 1 July 1997.

Its principal address is:

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
64 Dennis Street
Colac, Victoria, 3250

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

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.

The following standards have been adopted by CCMA:

- **AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers** AASB 15 Revenue from contracts with customers, which replaces AASB 118 Revenue. AASB 15 requires the Authority to recognise revenue when the Authority satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer. The Authority has adopted AASB 15 as at 1 July 2019 and has applied the new rules on a modified retrospective basis as mandated by the DTF through FRD 121 Transitional requirements on the application of AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. As a result, comparatives for 2018/19 in our 30 June 2020 accounts have not been restated. The transition adjustment was \$0 and was made directly to retained earnings. Further disclosures in relation to AASB 15 are at Note 8.9 of this report.

- **AASB 16 Leases** AASB 16 Leases was issued in February 2016 and replaces AASB 117 Leases. It will result in almost all leases being recognised on the balance sheet, as the distinction between operating and finance leases is removed for lessees. Under the new standard, an asset (the right to use the leased item) and a financial liability to pay the obligation for lease payments are recognised. The Authority has adopted AASB 16 as at 1 July 2019 and has applied the new rules on a modified retrospective basis as mandated by the DTF through FRD 123 Transitional requirements on the application of AASB 16 Leases. As a result, comparatives for 2018/19 in our 30 June 2020 accounts have not been restated. The transition adjustment was \$0 and was made directly to retained earnings. Further disclosures in relation to AASB 16 are at Note 8.9 of this report.
- **AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profits** AASB 1058 Income for Not-for-Profits replaces requirements of income transactions previously accounted for under AASB 1004 Contributions. It establishes principles for not-for-profit entities that apply to (a) transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value principally to enable a not-for-profit Corporation to further its objectives; and (b) the receipt of volunteer services. It will apply to capital grants from government and grants with no sufficiently specific performance obligation. The Authority needs to determine whether a transaction falls under AASB 1058 or actually a contract with a customer under AASB 15. The Authority has adopted AASB 1058 as at 1 July 2019 and has applied the new rules on a modified retrospective basis as mandated by the DTF through FRD 122 Transitional requirements on the application of AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities. As a result, comparatives for 2018/19 in our 30 June 2020 accounts have not been restated. The transition adjustment was \$0 and was made directly to retained earnings. Further disclosures in relation to AASB 1058 are at Note 2.2 and 8.9 of this report.

Accounting Estimates

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 based on professional 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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 Australian Accounting Standards 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);
- estimation of useful life (Note 4.1.1);
- accrued revenue (Note 5.1);
- accrued expenses (Note 5.2);
- operating lease commitments (Note 6.2)
- fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3.1);
- 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 8.9);
- the timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (Note 8.9);
- determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligation (Note 8.9);
- for leases, determining whether the arrangement is in substance short-term arrangement (Note 8.9); and
- estimating discount rate when not implicit in the lease (Note 8.9).

COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards 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 101 Presentation of Financial Statements.

Where appropriate, those Australian Accounting Standards 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.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the impact on the financial statement

In March 2020, the Victorian government announced a state of emergency and imposed Stage 3 restrictions on the community in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 has created an unprecedented challenge to the community and to the Corangamite CMA as we have sought to keep our staff and community safe, comply with restrictions whilst continuing with the important program work we do.

Overall the pandemic has had a significant impact on the operating and economic environment for the Corangamite CMA and a number of policies were introduced to assist such as providing rent relief to lessees, payments to suppliers within 10 working days, support our workforce to manage the difficulties with home school via flexible working arrangements and special leave, establish remote working environments as well as to protect the health and wellbeing of our staff and the community.

We activated the stage 2 targeted response of our Action Plan and followed direction and advice from the Victorian Government and the Victorian Chief Medical Officer. We have been able to successfully continue to implement the majority of program activities utilising virtual mediums where possible or where social distancing can be safely achieved. Staff were effectively able to work from home during this time and our Offices have remained closed to the public. There have been some activities involving community engagement and on-ground activities that would have required close physical proximity that could not be undertaken in an alternate way. Where this has been the case, we have postponed those activities and have advised our investors regarding these impacts.

Management have considered the impacts of COVID-19 on the judgements and assumptions applied to accounting policies. Management have assessed no change in account balances affected by COVID-19. The impacts and assessments have been considered on assets and liabilities which are detailed in Note 5.1.5 Fair value determination, Note 5.1.3 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment, Note 8.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures, Note 8.2 Contingent assets and liabilities, Note 8.3 Fair value determination and Note 8.8 Subsequent Events.

Additional financial impacts have been considered on revenue and expense items in line with the government's announcements and Corangamite CMA policies, such as the rent relief policy. This did have an impact on the revenue collected on licenses and rent within Note 2.2.3.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The Authority's overall objective is for the co-ordinated control of natural resource management within the Corangamite region. The role of the Authority is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy and meet its responsibilities under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and *Water Act 1989* along with their complimentary Statement of Obligations.

The vision, purpose and strategies of the Authority is outlined in greater detail in the Authority's Corporate Plan.

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

	NOTES	2020 \$	2019 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	9,176,468	11,955,055
Interest	2.2.2	131,239	204,649
Other revenue	2.2.3	551,249	445,767
Total income from transactions		9,858,956	12,605,471

Income and revenue are accounted for consistently with the requirements of the relevant accounting standards disclosed in the following notes.

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the income can be reliably measured at fair value.

Significant judgement: revenue recognition

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for under AASB 15 as revenue from contracts with customers, with revenue recognised as these performance obligations are met.

- (a) contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004;
- (b) revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- (c) income for not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058;
- (d) a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- (e) a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- (f) a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS

2.2.1 Government contributions

	2020 \$	2019 \$
State Government (Income for not-for-profit entities)		
Landcare	253,869	192,086
River Health/Healthy Waterways	5,828,641	8,151,202
Base Funding	843,200	843,200
Our Catchment, Our Communities	441,000	436,000
Bush Fire Recovery	-	462,000
Other State Funding	611,788	747,585
	7,978,498	10,832,073
Commonwealth Government (Revenue from contract with customers)		
National Landcare Program	1,197,970	1,122,982
	1,197,970	1,122,982
Total Government contributions	9,176,468	11,955,055

The Authority applies AASB 1058 when the grants received by the Authority are not enforceable and don't have sufficiently specific performance obligations. The Authority also applies AASB 1058 to capital grants that are controlled by the Authority. The impact of initially applying AASB 1058 on the Authority's grant income is described in Note 8.9. Due to the modified retrospective transition method chosen in applying AASB 1058, comparative information has not been restated to reflect the new requirements [AASB 1058. C3(b)]. The adoption of AASB 1058 did not have an impact on Other comprehensive income and the Statement of Cash flows for the financial year.

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for under AASB 15 as revenue from contracts with customers. Revenue is recognised at the point in time the Authority satisfies the performance obligation by completing the relevant service as specified in the contract. This is recognised based on the consideration specified in the funding agreement and to the extent that it is highly probable a significant reversal of the revenue will not occur. As this funding is invoiced in arrears of the work performed, the funding payments are normally received after the relevant obligation is satisfied. The adoption of AASB 15 did not have an impact on Other comprehensive income and the Statement of Cash flows for the financial year, refer to Note 8.9.

Previous accounting policy for 30 June 2019

Grant income arises from transactions in which a party provides goods or assets (or extinguishes a liability) to the Authority without receiving approximately equal value in return. While grants may result in the provision of some goods or services to the transferring party, they do not provide a claim to receive benefits directly of approximately equal value (and are termed 'non-reciprocal' transfers). Receipt and sacrifice of approximately equal value may occur, but only by coincidence.

Some grants are reciprocal in nature (i.e. equal value is given back by the recipient of the grant to the provider). The Authority recognises income when it has satisfied its performance obligations under the terms of the grant. For non-reciprocal grants, the Authority recognises revenue when the grant is received. Grants can be received as general-purpose grants, which refers to grants which are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be received as specific-purpose grants, which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

2.2.2 Interest Revenue

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Interest on bank deposits	131,239	204,649

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

2.2.3 Other Income

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Partnership Contributions	383,490	344,566
Rental Income	21,854	21,947
Employee Contributions	19,039	22,839
Ancillary Trading	126,866	56,415
Total other income	551,249	445,767

Partnership contributions and Recoverable costs consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects. The Authority has determined that all Partnership Contributions are recognised as income of not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058 as contracts are not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations. There was no impact of initially applying AASB 1058 on the Authority's Partnership Contributions and Recoverable Costs. Due to the modified retrospective transition method chosen in applying AASB 1058, comparative information has not been restated to reflect the new requirements [AASB 1058.C3(b)]. The adoption of AASB 1058 did not have an impact on Other comprehensive income and the Statement of Cash flows for the financial year.

Income from property rentals is recognised as income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Employee Contributions are recognised when the right to receive income is established.

All other income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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 costs associated with the provision of services are recorded.

Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions

In measuring employee benefits, 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.

STRUCTURE

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies

3.3 Lease expenses

3.4 Other operating expenses

3.1 EXPENSES INCURRED IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES

	NOTES	2020 \$	2019 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,082,594	3,550,449
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	7,393,053	5,583,920
Lease expenses		-	55,379
Interest Expense	6.2 (b)	10,045	-
Other operating expenses		562,201	622,635
Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services		12,047,893	9,812,383

3.1.1 Employee expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Salaries & wages	2,992,086	2,579,750
Annual leave	423,075	359,891
Long service leave	116,347	78,112
Other leave	123,364	121,394
Superannuation	327,440	284,472
Other	101,469	94,887
Movement in provisions for employee benefits	(1,187)	31,943
Total employee expenses	4,082,594	3,550,449

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, superannuation, payroll tax, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

Superannuation represents compulsory contributions made by the Authority to the superannuation plan in respect to the current services of Authority staff.

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or when an employee decides to accept an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Authority is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

3.1.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet

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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Time in lieu		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	30,293	41,767
Annual leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	270,359	184,759
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	-	-
Long service leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	39,215	22,379
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	278,689	253,465
	618,556	502,370
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	42,595	31,267
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	34,928	31,838
Total current provisions	696,079	565,475
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Long service leave		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	111,090	65,340
Provisions for on-costs		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	13,923	8,208
Total non-current provisions	125,013	73,548
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	821,092	639,023
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision		
Opening balance	71,313	
Additional provisions recognised	21,320	
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	-	
Unwind of discount and effect of changes in the discount rate	(1,187)	
Closing balance	91,446	

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave, time in lieu 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.

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 amounts 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.

3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits. The Authority does not have any employees on a defined benefit superannuation plan.

The Authority does not recognise any defined benefit liability because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to Superannuation is employer contributions for members that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Contribution plans		
Vision super	105,841	111,933
Other private schemes	221,599	172,539
Total	327,440	284,472

There was \$17,493 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2020 (2019: \$12,817).

3.2 MATERIALS, MAINTENANCE, GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND CONSULTANCIES

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Materials	82,319	57,744
Repairs and maintenance	112,674	71,636
Grants paid	1,543,595	1,983,901
Contractors	3,999,889	2,166,594
Consultants	1,441,742	1,098,018
IT Software & Support	212,834	206,027
Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	7,393,053	5,583,920

Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

INTRODUCTION

The Authority controls property, plant and equipment 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.

Significant judgement: Fair value measurement

Where the assets included in this section are carried at fair value, additional information is disclosed in Note 7.3 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

STRUCTURE

4.1 Property, plant and equipment: Carrying amount

4.1 TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT		ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		NET CARRYING AMOUNT	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land at fair value	16,767,768	16,767,768	-	-	16,767,768	16,767,768
Buildings at fair value	790,100	790,100	(101,210)	(73,965)	688,890	716,135
Works assets at fair value	22,525,301	22,525,301	(2,348,816)	(1,761,612)	20,176,485	20,763,689
Plant and equipment at fair value	1,151,252	1,065,841	(637,945)	(540,280)	513,307	525,561
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	28,826	28,826	(28,154)	(27,358)	672	1,468
Motor vehicles at fair value	365,674	567,524	(214,402)	(302,809)	151,272	264,715
Work in progress	177,924	34,727	-	-	177,924	34,727
Net carrying amount	41,806,845	41,780,087	(3,330,527)	(2,706,024)	38,476,318	39,074,063

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.

The cost of constructed non-financial physical assets includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads.

Subsequent measurement

Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings are 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.

Works assets are measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Fair value for plant and equipment and office furniture and equipment that are specialised in use (such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern) is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method.

Vehicles are valued at fair value. The Authority acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers in the Authority who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Charge for the period		
Buildings	27,245	24,655
Motor vehicles	50,853	84,064
Works assets (Infrastructure)	587,204	587,204
Plant & equipment	97,665	69,097
Office furniture & equipment	797	2,445
Depreciation for assets	763,764	767,465
Depreciation on Right of use assets		
Right of use assets - Buildings	51,305	-
Right of use assets - Motor vehicles	4,555	-
Total depreciation	819,624	767,465

NB: The table incorporates depreciation of right-of-use assets as per AASB 16 Leases.

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, is not depreciated.

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	40 years
Buildings - Right of use assets	7 years
Works assets (Infrastructure)	10 - 100 years
Plant and equipment	3 - 10 years
Furniture & office equipment	3 - 10 years
Motor vehicles (including Motor vehicles - Right-of-use-assets)	4 - 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of Property, Plant and Equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the assets may be impaired.

The assets concerned are tested as to whether their carrying value exceeds their recoverable amount. Where an asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written off as an 'other economic flow', except to the extent that it can be debited to an asset revaluation surplus amount applicable to that class of asset.

If there is an indication that there has been a reversal in impairment, the carrying amount shall be increased to its recoverable amount. However this reversal should not increase the asset's carrying amount above what would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised in prior years.

The recoverable amount for most assets is measured at the higher of depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Recoverable amount for assets held primarily to generate net cash inflows is measured at the higher of the present value of future cash flows expected to be obtained from the asset and fair value less costs to sell.

4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment

	LAND AT FAIR VALUE \$	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	WORKS ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE \$	PLANT & EQUIP. AT FAIR VALUE \$	OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIP. AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES AT FAIR VALUE \$	WORK IN PROGRESS AT COST \$	TOTAL \$
2020								
Opening balance	16,767,768	716,135	20,763,689	525,561	1,469	264,715	34,727	39,074,064
Additions	-	-	-	85,410	-	-	143,197	228,607
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(62,590)	-	(62,590)
Depreciation	-	(27,245)	(587,204)	(97,665)	(797)	(50,853)	-	(763,764)
Closing balance	16,767,768	688,890	20,176,485	513,307	672	151,272	177,924	38,476,317
2019								
Opening balance	13,931,668	665,690	21,350,893	213,239	18,458	347,198	231,364	36,758,510
Additions	-	-	-	161,977	-	1,581	34,727	198,285
Transfers	-	-	-	231,364	-	-	(231,364)	-
Write-Offs	-	-	-	(11,922)	(14,544)	-	-	(26,466)
Revaluation	2,836,100	75,100	-	-	-	-	-	2,911,200
Depreciation	-	(24,655)	(587,204)	(69,097)	(2,445)	(84,064)	-	(767,466)
Closing balance	16,767,768	716,135	20,763,689	525,561	1,469	264,715	34,727	39,074,064

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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

5.3 Other non-financial assets

5.1 RECEIVABLES

Significant judgement: Accrued revenue

Accrued revenue represent goods or services that have been delivered but have not been invoiced to the customer.

In estimating an amount of accrued revenue, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed, and the extent of the costs incurred that are recoverable.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current receivables		
Contractual		
Trade receivables	657,647	1,006,341
Accrued revenue	9,795	9,795
	667,442	1,016,136
Statutory		
Tax credits recoverable	172,802	112,607
Total current receivables	840,244	1,128,743

Contractual receivables 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. Subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost less any impairment.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments.

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 7.1.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current payables		
Contractual		
Trade payables	989,563	893,327
Accrued expenses	159,405	133,083
Other payables	3,017	3,017
	1,151,985	1,029,427
Statutory		
PAYG	35,242	39,104
Superannuation	18,918	13,477
Payroll tax	10,276	8,056
	64,436	60,637
Total current payables	1,216,421	1,090,064

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial liabilities at amortised cost'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, they are measured at amortised cost.

Statutory payables 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	MATURITY DATES		
		LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-6 MONTHS \$
2020				
Payables				
Trade payables	989,563	989,563	-	-
Accrued expenses	159,405	159,405	-	-
Other payables	3,017	3,017	-	-
Total	1,151,985	1,151,985	-	-
2019				
Payables				
Trade payables	893,327	893,327	-	-
Accrued expenses	133,083	133,083	-	-
Other payables	3,017	3,017	-	-
Total	1,029,427	1,029,427	-	-

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

Payables for supplies and services have an adjusted credit period of 10 working days inline with Government policy during COVID-19.

5.3 OTHER NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Current other assets		
Prepayments	53,313	88,324
Total current other assets	53,313	88,324

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

6. HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations 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 8.2 and 8.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

STRUCTURE

- 6.1 Cash flow information
- 6.2 Leases and Right of Use Assets
- 6.3 Commitments for Expenditure
- 6.4 Carry forward project funding

6.1 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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet		
Cash at bank	1,523,849	1,192,101
Deposits at call	8,918,437	10,991,031
Balance as per cash flow statement	10,442,286	12,183,132

6.1.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Net result for the period	(2,972,606)	1,999,157
Non-cash movements		
(Gain) / loss on disposal of non-current assets	(35,955)	26,466
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	819,624	767,465
	(2,188,937)	2,793,088
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	288,499	(858,321)
Decrease/(increase) in other non-financial assets	35,011	(24,215)
(Decrease)/increase in payables	126,357	(515,946)
(Decrease)/increase in employee related provisions	182,069	49,610
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	(1,557,001)	1,444,216

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

6.2 LEASES AND RIGHT OF USE ASSETS

The Authorities leasing activities

The Authority leases property and motor vehicles. The lease contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1-7 years with an option to renew the lease after that date. Lease payments for properties are renegotiated every five years to reflect market rentals.

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees (Under AASB 16 Leases from 1 July 2019) – 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 lease incentive received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred.

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. The right-of-use assets are also subject to revaluation. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

6.2 (a) Right-of-use Assets

The Balance Sheet shows the following amounts relating to leases.

There is a nil balance as at 30 June 2019 as the first application of AASB 16 was 1 July 2019.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Right of use assets		
Buildings	273,607	-
Motor Vehicles	34,965	-
Total right of use assets	308,572	-
Initial recognition of AASB 16	324,912	-
Additions	39,520	-
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(55,860)	-
Closing Balance	308,572	-
Lease Liabilities		
Current	58,062	-
Non-current	252,587	-
Total lease liabilities	310,649	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

6.2 (b) Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement relating to leases:

	2020 \$
Depreciation charge of right of use assets	
Building	51,305
Vehicles	4,555
Total	55,860
Interest Expense on lease liabilities	10,045
Total amount recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement	65,905

6.2 (c) Amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet

The balance sheet shows the following amounts relating to leases:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Right-of-use assets		
Building	273,607	-
Vehicles	34,965	-
Right-of-use assets	308,572	-
Lease liabilities		
Current	58,062	-
Non – Current	252,587	-
Lease liabilities	310,649	-

6.2 (d) Amounts recognised in the Statement of Cashflows

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Cashflows for the year ending 30 June 2020 relating to leases:

	2020 \$
Total cash outflow for leases	53,783

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

For any new contracts entered into on or after 1 July 2019, 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.

Separation of lease and non-lease components

At inception or on reassessment of a contract that contains a lease component, the lessee is required to separate out and account separately for non-lease components within a lease contract and exclude these amounts when determining the lease liability and right-of-use asset amount.

Recognition and measurement of leases as a lessee (under AASB 16 from 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 fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or profit and loss if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Authority has elected to account for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets 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 profit or loss 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 'Right of use assets' and Lease liabilities are presented as 'Lease Liabilities' in the balance sheet.

Recognition and measurement of leases (under AASB 117 until 30 June 2019)

In the comparative period, leases of property, plant and equipment were classified as either finance lease or operating leases.

The Authority determined whether an arrangement was or contained a lease based on the substance of the arrangement and required an assessment of whether fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of the specific asset(s); and the arrangement conveyed a right to use the asset(s).

Leases of property, plant and equipment where the Authority as a lessee had substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership were classified as finance leases. Finance leases were initially recognised as assets and liabilities at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payment, each determined at the inception of the lease. The leased asset is accounted for as a non-financial physical asset and depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset or the term of the lease. Minimum finance lease payments were apportioned between the reduction of the outstanding lease liability and the periodic finance expense, which is calculated using the interest rate implicit in the lease and charged directly to the consolidated comprehensive operating statement.

Contingent rentals associated with finance leases were recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Assets held under other leases were classified as operating leases and were not recognised in the Authority's balance sheet. Operating lease payments were recognised as an operating expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

6.3 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and external program commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and exclusive 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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
External Program commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	2,010,069	1,617,531
1 to 5 years	-	27,186
5 years or more	-	-
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	2,010,069	1,644,718
Operating lease commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	-	67,440
1 to 5 years	-	195,347
5 years or more	-	-
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	-	262,787
Total operating lease commitments payable (including GST)	-	289,066
Less GST recoverable from ATO	-	26,279
Total operating lease commitments payable (excluding GST)	-	262,787

For 2019 Operating lease commitments relate to office facilities with lease terms between one and five years. These contracts do not allow the Authority to purchase the facilities after the lease ends, but the Authority has the option to renew each of the leases at the end of the lease term. For 2020 these have been recognised as right of use assets.

As at 30 June 2020 the Authority had \$0 in capital expenditure commitments (2019: \$0).

6.4 CARRY FORWARD PROJECT FUNDING

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the 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 Australian Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and fund can be 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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 high 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

Introduction

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.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash & Deposits	10,442,286	12,183,132
Receivables	840,244	1,128,743
Total Financial assets	11,282,530	13,311,875
Financial Liabilities		
Payables	1,216,421	1,090,064
Lease Liabilities	310,649	-
Total Financial Liabilities	1,527,070	1,090,064

Categories of financial instruments

Financial Assets at amortised cost 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).

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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

7.1.1 Financial instruments: Impairment of Financial Assets

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.

On this basis, the Authority determines the opening loss allowance on initial application date of AASB 9 and 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 \$
1 July 2019						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	1,013,096	-	-	3,040	-	1,016,136
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 June 2020						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	662,442	-	-	5,000	-	667,442
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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

7.1.2 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	CONTRACTUAL FINANCIAL ASSETS - LOANS AND RECEIVABLES \$	CONTRACTUAL FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT AMORTISED COST \$	TOTAL \$
2020			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	10,442,286	-	10,442,286
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	657,647	-	657,647
Accrued revenue	9,795	-	9,795
Total contractual financial assets	11,109,728	-	11,109,728
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	989,563	989,563
Accrued expenses	-	159,405	159,405
Lease liabilities	-	310,649	310,649
Other payables	-	3,017	3,017
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	1,462,634	1,462,634
2019			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	12,183,132	-	12,183,132
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	1,006,341	-	1,006,341
Accrued revenue	9,795	-	9,795
Total contractual financial assets	13,199,268	-	13,199,268
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	893,327	893,327
Accrued expenses	-	133,083	133,083
Other payables	-	3,017	3,017
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	1,029,427	1,029,427

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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 financial risk management committee of the Authority.

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 debtor is the Victorian Government. 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 Westpac Bank and National Australia Bank.

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 does not have any borrowings, and 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE %	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	INTEREST RATE EXPOSURE		
			FIXED INTEREST RATE	VARIABLE INTEREST RATE	NON-INTEREST BEARING
			\$	\$	\$
2020					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	1.05%	10,442,286	-	10,442,286	-
Contractual receivables	-	667,442	-	-	667,442
Total financial assets		11,109,728	-	10,442,286	667,442
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	1,151,985	-	-	1,151,985
Lease Liabilities	-	310,649	310,649	-	-
Total financial liabilities		1,462,634	310,649	-	-
2019					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	1.92%	12,183,132	-	12,183,132	-
Contractual receivables	-	1,016,136	-	-	1,016,136
Total financial assets		13,199,268	-	12,183,132	1,016,136
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	1,029,427	-	-	1,029,427
Total financial liabilities		1,029,427	-	-	1,029,427

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 \$	EQUITY \$	NET RESULT \$	EQUITY \$
2020					
Cash and deposits (i)	10,442,286	(52,211)	(52,211)	52,211	52,211
2019					
Cash and deposits (i)	12,183,132	(60,916)	(60,916)	60,916	60,916

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$10,442,286 (2019: \$12,183,132) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2020 : \$10,442,286 X 0.5% = \$52,211
- 2019 : \$12,183,132 X 0.5% = \$60,916

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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.

Contingent assets

As at 30 June 2020, the Authority has no known contingent assets. (2019: Nil)

Contingent liabilities

As at 30 June 2020, the Authority has no known contingent liabilities. (2019: Nil)

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 2020-21 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets

Cash and deposits

Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Accrued revenue

Financial liabilities

Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses
- Other payables
- Lease liability

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Fair value measurement hierarchy

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2020 \$	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	950,000	-	950,000	-
Specialised land	15,817,768	-	-	15,817,768
Total Land at Fair Value	16,767,768	-	950,000	15,817,768
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	688,890	-	613,790	75,100
Right of use assets - Buildings	273,607	-	273,607	-
Total Buildings at Fair Value	962,497	-	887,397	75,100
Works (Infrastructure) assets at Fair Value				
Works (Infrastructure) assets	20,176,485	-	-	20,176,485
Total Works (Infrastructure) at Fair Value	20,176,485	-	-	20,176,485
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	513,307	-	-	513,307
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	513,307	-	-	513,307
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	672	-	-	672
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	672	-	-	672
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	151,272	-	151,272	-
Right of use assets - Motor Vehicles	34,965	-	34,965	-
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	186,237	-	186,237	-

Note:

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Fair value measurement hierarchy

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2019 \$	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD USING:		
		LEVEL 1 \$	LEVEL 2 \$	LEVEL 3 \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	950,000	-	950,000	-
Specialised land	15,817,768	-	-	15,817,768
Total Land at Fair Value	16,767,768	-	950,000	15,817,768
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	716,135	-	716,135	-
Total Buildings at Fair Value	716,135	-	716,135	-
Works (Infrastructure) assets at Fair Value				
Works (Infrastructure) assets	20,763,689	-	-	20,763,689
Total Works (Infrastructure) at Fair Value	20,763,689	-	-	20,763,689
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	525,561	-	-	525,561
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	525,561	-	-	525,561
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	1,469	-	-	1,469
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	1,469	-	-	1,469
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	264,715	-	264,715	-
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	264,715	-	264,715	-

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

The fair value of the financial assets and liabilities is included at the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate fair value:

The Authority conducted an assessment of assets at 30 June 2019 with a material movement identified in specialised land and non-specialised buildings since the 2016 valuation. It was also considered works (infrastructure) assets had minimal movement in valuation based on their location, the type of assets, and that only minor maintenance is undertaken on such assets.

Fair value assessments have been performed for all classes of assets in this purpose group and the decision was made that movements were not material (less than or equal to 10 per cent) for a full revaluation. The next scheduled full revaluation for this purpose group will be conducted in 2021.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings, an independent valuation was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria 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 which are considered to have nominal or no added improvement value, and are classified as Level 2 fair value measurements. 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 2016.

The Authority conducted an assessment of assets at 30 June 2019 with a material movement identified in non-specialised buildings since the 2016 valuation. The Authority conducted an assessment at 30 June 2020 with no material movement identified.

Specialised land

The market approach is also used for specialised land, although is adjusted for the community service obligation to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The community service obligation adjustment is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement, and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible.

As adjustments of community service obligation are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, specialised land would be classified as Level 3 assets.

An independent valuation of the Authority's specialised land was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria using the market approach adjusted for community service obligation. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2016.

The Authority conducted an assessment of assets at 30 June 2019 with a material movement identified in non-specialised buildings since the 2016 valuation. The Authority conducted an assessment at 30 June 2020 with no material movement identified.

Works assets

An independent valuation of the Authority's works assets was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria to determine the fair value using the depreciated replacement cost. 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 2016.

Motor vehicles

Motor vehicles are valued at fair value. The Authority acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers in the Authority who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the motor vehicles. These assets are classified as level 2 assets as there is an active secondary market where similar assets are valued, bought and sold in the ordinary course of business.

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 depreciated replacement cost method. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, these assets are classified as Level 3 fair value.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2020.

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	SPECIALISED LAND \$	WORKS ASSETS \$	PLANT & EQUIPMENT \$	OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT \$
2020				
Opening Balance	15,817,768	20,763,689	525,561	1,469
Purchases (sales)	-	-	85,410	-
Depreciation	-	(587,204)	(97,665)	(797)
Closing Balance	15,817,768	20,176,485	513,307	672

2019

Opening Balance	12,981,668	21,350,893	213,239	18,458
Purchases (sales)	-	-	161,977	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	231,364	-
Depreciation	-	(587,204)	(81,019)	(16,989)
Subtotal	12,981,668	20,763,689	525,561	1,469
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income				
Revaluation	2,836,100	-	-	-
Closing Balance	15,817,768	20,763,689	525,561	1,469

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	VALUATION TECHNIQUE	SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS
Specialised land	Market approach	Community Service Obligation (CSO) adjustment
Works assets	Depreciated replacement cost	Useful life of the works assets Direct cost per square metre
Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Useful life of the plant and equipment Cost per Unit
Office furniture and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Useful life of the office furniture and equipment Cost per Unit

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2016.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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 Other economic flows included in net result
- 8.3 Reserves
- 8.4 Responsible persons
- 8.5 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.6 Related parties
- 8.7 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.8 Subsequent events
- 8.9 Changes to Accounting Policies
- 8.10 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective
- 8.11 Glossary of technical terms

8.1 EX-GRATIA EXPENSES

The Authority had no ex-gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2020 (2019 \$0).

8.2 OTHER ECONOMIC FLOWS INCLUDED IN NET RESULT

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	98,545	-
Less written down value	(62,590)	(26,466)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	35,955	(26,466)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

8.3 RESERVES

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Physical asset revaluation surplus		
Balance at beginning of financial year	33,124,517	30,213,317
Revaluation increments	-	2,911,200
Balance at end of financial year	33,124,517	33,124,517
Accumulated Deficit		
Balance at beginning of financial year	(3,806,264)	(5,805,421)
Net transfers from accumulated funds	(2,972,606)	1,999,157
Balance at end of financial year	(6,778,870)	(3,806,264)
Contributed Capital		
Balance at beginning of financial year	21,426,923	21,426,923
Net transfers from accumulated funds	-	-
Balance at end of financial year	21,426,923	21,426,923
Total Reserves	47,772,570	50,745,176

8.4 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, 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:

The Hon Lisa Neville MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Alice Knight	(Chair)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Catherine Jenkins	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Tamara Boyd	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Sept 2019
John Speirs	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Sept 2019
Fiona Cumming	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Nick Reynard	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Kenneth Latta	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Lia Sarto	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Catherine Phelps	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
Wayne Weaire	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
John Riddiford	(CEO)	01 July 2019 to 30 Jun 2020

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Remuneration

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

	2020	2019
Income band		
\$0 - \$9,999	2	1
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7	7
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$150,000 - \$160,000	-	1
\$180,000 - \$200,000	1	-
Total number of Responsible persons	11	10
Total Remuneration \$	325,212	282,520

The compensation detailed above excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receive. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances are set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and are reported within the Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report.

8.5 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.

Share-based payments are cash or other assets paid or payable as agreed between the entity and the employee, provided specific vesting conditions, if any, are met.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Remuneration		
Short-term employee benefits	428,894	394,819
Post-employment benefits	39,491	36,873
Other long-term benefits	10,478	9,379
Termination benefits	-	-
Share-based payments	-	-
Total remuneration (i)	478,863	441,071
Total number of executives (i)	3	3
Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)	3	3

Notes:

(i) The definition of Executive Officer as per FRD 15E has been adopted to identify key management personnel in 2019-20.

(ii) 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 also reported within the related parties note disclosure (Note 8.6).

(iii) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

8.6 RELATED PARTIES

The Authority is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria. Related parties of the Authority include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members;
- 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.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Transactions with government-related entities (over \$20,000)

During the year, the Authority received funding from the following government-related entities:

	FUNDING RECEIVED \$	OWING AT 30 JUNE 2020 \$
Entity		
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	7,711,334	-
Barwon Water	226,166	130,000
Department of Treasury & Finance	135,133	-
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA	55,000	15,000
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	82,031	-
Wannon Water	20,000	-
Victorian Fisheries	50,000	50,000

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

	PAYMENTS MADE \$	OWING AT 30 JUNE 2020 \$
Entity		
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	283,213	58,710
Parks Victoria	134,511	-
Goulburn Broken CMA	234,809	49,813
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA	25,000	-
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	40,575	-

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of the Authority, directly or indirectly, this comprises Board Members and the Chief Executive Officer. Key management personnel include all Responsible persons as listed in Note 8.4, and all members of the executive team which include:

Mr Chris Thompson	Business and Governance General Manager
Ms Sarah Holland-Clift	Community and Catchment Services General Manager
Ms Helen Watts	Planning and Strategy Services General Manager

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Compensation of KMPs		
Short-term employee benefits	723,104	650,071
Post-employment benefits	66,528	60,735
Other long-term benefits	14,443	12,785
Termination benefits	-	-
Share-based payments	-	-
Total	804,075	723,591

Transactions with Key Management Personnel and Other Related Parties

Given the breadth and depth of State government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Purchasing Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions, there were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests.

8.7 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	11,800	11,500
Internal audit costs	10,320	27,485
Total remuneration of auditors	22,120	38,985

8.8 SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has continued to create an unprecedented challenge to the community and to the Corangamite CMA as we have sought to keep our staff and community safe, comply with restrictions whilst continuing with the important program work we do. Management have considered subsequent events in relation to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and have assessed no material impact on the Corangamite CMA's financial position but whilst not expecting a significant impact it's difficult to reliably estimate the potential impact on our operations, future results and financial position.

The Authority is still under the Victorian State of Emergency stage 3 restrictions and there were no further subsequent events between 30 June 2020 and the date this report went to print that had a material impact on the Corangamite CMA's financial position.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

8.9 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

In accordance with FRD 121 requirements, the Authority has applied the transitional provisions of AASB 15, under modified retrospective method with the cumulative effect of initially applying this standard against the opening retained earnings at 1 July 2019. Under this transition method, the Authority applied this standard retrospectively only to contracts that are not 'completed contracts' at the date of initial application.

Comparative information has not been restated.

AASB 1058 Income for not-for-profits

In accordance with FRD 122 requirements, the Authority has applied the transitional provision of AASB 1058, under modified retrospective method with the cumulative effect of initially applying this standard against the opening retained earnings at 1 July 2019. Under this transition method, the Authority applied this standard retrospectively only to contracts and transactions that are not completed contracts at the date of initial application. The Authority has not applied the fair value measurement requirements for right-of-use assets arising from leases with significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the entity to further its objectives as allowed under temporary option under AASB 16 and as mandated by FRD 122.

Comparative information has not been restated.

The adoption of AASB 1058 did not have an impact on Other comprehensive income and the Statement of Cash flows for the financial year.

AASB 16 Leases

This note explains the impact of the adoption of AASB 16 Leases on the Authority's financial statements.

The Authority has applied AASB 16 with a date of initial application of 1 July 2019.

The Authority has elected to apply AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach, as per the transitional provisions of AASB 16 for all leases for which it is a lessee. The cumulative effect of initial application is recognised in retained earnings as at 1 July 2019. Accordingly, the comparative information presented is not restated and is reported under AASB 117 and related interpretations.

Previously, the Authority determined at contract inception whether an arrangement is or contains a lease under AASB 117 and Interpretation 4 Determining whether an arrangement contains a Lease. Under AASB 16, the Authority assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease based on the definition of a lease as explained in Note 6.2 Leases.

On transition to AASB 16, the Authority has elected to apply the practical expedient to grandfather the assessment of which transactions are leases. It applied AASB 16 only to contracts that were previously identified as leases. Contracts that were not identified as leases under AASB 117 and Interpretation 4 were not reassessed for whether there is a lease. Therefore, the definition of a lease under AASB 16 was applied to contracts entered into or changed on or after 1 July 2019.

Leases classified as operating leases under AASB 117

As a lessee, the Authority previously classified leases as operating or finance leases based on its assessment of whether the lease transferred significantly all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the underlying asset to the Authority. Under AASB 16, the Authority recognises right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for all leases except where exemption is availed in respect of short-term and low-value leases.

On adoption of AASB 16, the Authority recognised lease liabilities in relation to leases which had previously been classified as operating leases under the principles of AASB 117. These liabilities were measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using the Authority's incremental borrowing rate as of 1 July 2019. On transition, right-of-use assets are measured at the amount equal to the lease liability, adjusted by the amount of any prepaid or accrued lease payments relating to that lease recognised in the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019.

The Authority has elected to apply the following practical expedients when applying AASB 16 to leases previously classified as operating leases under AASB 117:

- Applied a single discount rate to a portfolio of leases with similar characteristics;
- Adjusted the right-of-use assets by the amount of AASB 137 onerous contracts provision immediately before the date of initial application, as an alternative to an impairment review;
- Applied the exemption not to recognise right-of-use assets and liabilities for leases with less than 12 months of lease term;
- Excluded initial direct costs from measuring the right-of-use asset at the date of initial application; and
- Used hindsight when determining the lease term if the contract contains options to extend or terminate the lease.

For leases that were classified as finance leases under AASB 117, the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset and lease liability at 1 July 2019 are determined as the carrying amount of the lease asset and lease liability under AASB 117 immediately before that date.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Impacts on financial statements

On transition to AASB 16, the Authority recognised \$324,912 of right-of-use assets and \$324,912 of lease liabilities.

When measuring lease liabilities, the Authority discounted lease payments using its incremental borrowing rate at 1 July 2019.

The weighted average rate applied is 3.9 per cent.

	\$
July 2019. The weighted average rate applied is 3.9 per cent	
Total operating lease commitments disclosed at 30 June 2019	292,651
Discounted using the incremental borrowing rate at 1 July 2019	32,261
Finance lease liabilities as at 30 June 2019	-
Recognition exemption for:	
Short-term leases	-
Lease liabilities recognised at 1 July 2019	324,912

Transition impact on financial statements

Impact on balance sheet due to the adoption of AASB 15, AASB 1058 and AASB 16 is illustrated with the following reconciliation between the restated carrying amounts at 30 June 2019 and the balances reported under the new accounting standards at 1 July 2019.

	NOTES	BEFORE NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS OPENING 1 JULY 2019 \$	IMPACT OF NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS – AASB 16, 15 & 1058 \$	AFTER NEW ACCOUNTING STANDARDS OPENING 1 JULY 2019 \$
Balance sheet				
Total financial assets		13,311,875	-	13,311,875
Total non-financial assets		39,162,388	324,912	39,487,300
Total assets		52,474,263	324,912	52,799,175
Payables and contract liabilities				
Lease liabilities		-	324,912	324,912
Other liabilities		1,729,087	-	1,729,087
Total liabilities		1,729,087	324,912	2,053,999
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(3,806,264)	-	(3,806,264)
Physical revaluation surplus		33,124,517	-	33,124,517
Other items in equity		21,426,923	-	21,426,923
Total equity		50,745,176	-	50,745,176

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

8.10 AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNTING STANDARDS ISSUED THAT ARE NOT YET EFFECTIVE

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2020 reporting period. DTF assesses the impact of all these new standards and advises the Authority of their applicability and early adoption where applicable. The following is a list of the AASs issued but are not yet effective for the 2019-20 reporting period.

STANDARD / INTERPRETATION	SUMMARY	APPLICABLE FOR ANNUAL REPORTING PERIODS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER	IMPACT ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AASB 17 Insurance Contracts	<p>The new Australian standard eliminates inconsistencies and weaknesses in existing practices by providing a single principle based framework to account for all types of insurance contracts, including reissuance contract that an insurer holds. It also provides requirements for presentation and disclosure to enhance comparability between entities.</p> <p>This standard does not apply to the not-for-profit public sector entities. The AASB is undertaking further outreach to consider the application of this standard to the not-for-profit public sector.</p>	1 January 2021	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2018-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Material	<p>This Standard principally amends AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements and AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors. The amendments refine and clarify the definition of material in AASB 101 and its application by improving the wording and aligning the definition across AASB Standards and other publications.</p> <p>The amendments also include some supporting requirements in AASB 101 in the definition to give it more prominence and clarify the explanation accompanying the definition of material.</p>	1 January 2021	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non Current	<p>This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>1 January 2022</p> <p>However, ED 301 has been issued with the intention to defer application to 1 January 2023</p>	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

8.11 GLOSSARY OF TECHNICAL TERMS

Associates are all entities over which an entity has significant influence but not control, generally accompanying a shareholding and voting rights of between 20 per cent and 50 per cent.

Borrowings refers to interest-bearing liabilities mainly raised from public borrowings raised through the Treasury Corporation of Victoria, lease liabilities, service concession arrangements and other interest-bearing arrangements. Borrowings also include non interest-bearing advances from government that are acquired for policy purposes.

Commitments include those operating, capital and other outsourcing commitments arising from non-cancellable contractual or statutory sources.

Comprehensive result is the amount included in the operating statement representing total change in net worth other than transactions with owners as owners.

Controlled item generally refers to the capacity of a Authority to benefit from that item in the pursuit of the entity's objectives and to deny or regulate the access of others to that benefit.

Current grants are amounts payable or receivable for current purposes for which no economic benefits of equal value are receivable or payable in return.

Depreciation is an expense that arises from the consumption through wear or time of a produced physical or intangible asset. This expense is classified as a 'transaction' and so reduces the 'net result from transaction'.

Effective interest method is the method used to calculate the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Employee benefits expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments, defined benefits superannuation plans, and defined contribution superannuation plans.

Ex gratia expenses mean the voluntary payment 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 or to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability or claim against the entity.

Finance lease is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an underlying asset.

Financial asset is any asset that is:

- (a) cash;
- (b) an equity instrument of another entity;
- (c) a contractual right: – to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity; or – to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity; or

- (d) a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
 - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
 - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

Financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Financial liability is any liability that is:

- (a) a contractual obligation:
 - to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity; or
 - to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity; or
- (b) a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is:
 - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to deliver a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments; or
 - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments. For this purpose, the entity's own equity instruments do not include instruments that are themselves contracts for the future receipt or delivery of the entity's own equity instruments.

Financial statements in the Model report comprises:

- (a) a balance sheet as at the end of the period;
- (b) a comprehensive operating statement for the period;
- (c) a statement of changes in equity for the period;
- (d) a cash flow statement for the period;
- (e) notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- (f) comparative information in respect of the preceding period as specified in paragraph 38 of AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements; and
- (g) a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period when an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements, or when it reclassifies items in its financial statements in accordance with paragraphs 41 of AASB 101.

Grant expenses and other transfers are transactions in which one unit provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another unit without receiving approximately equal value in return. Grants can either be operating or capital in nature.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

While grants to governments may result in the provision of some goods or services to the transferor, they do not give the transferor a claim to receive directly benefits of approximately equal value. For this reason, grants are referred to by the AASB as involuntary transfers and are termed non-reciprocal transfers. Receipt and sacrifice of approximately equal value may occur, but only by coincidence. For example, governments are not obliged to provide commensurate benefits, in the form of goods or services, to particular taxpayers in return for their taxes.

Grants can be paid as general-purpose grants, which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants, which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

General government sector comprises all government Authorities, offices and other bodies engaged in providing services free of charge or at prices significantly below their cost of production. General government services include those that are mainly non-market in nature, those that are largely for collective consumption by the community and those that involve the transfer or redistribution of income. These services are financed mainly through taxes, or other compulsory levies and user charges.

Interest expense represents costs incurred in connection with borrowings. It includes interest components of lease repayments.

Interest income includes interest received on bank term deposits and other investments.

Leases are rights conveyed in a contract, or part of a contract, the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Net result is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'.

Non-financial assets are all assets that are not financial assets. It includes land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment, cultural and intangibles.

Operating result is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those that are classified as 'other nonowner movements in equity'. Refer also to 'net result'.

Other economic flows included in net result are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions. In simple terms, other economic flows are changes arising from market remeasurements. They include gains and losses from disposals, revaluations and impairments of non-current physical and intangible assets; fair value changes of financial instruments and agricultural assets; and depletion of natural assets (non-produced) from their use or removal.

Other economic flows – other comprehensive income

comprises items (including reclassification adjustments) that are not recognised in net result as required or permitted by other Australian Accounting Standards. They include changes in physical asset revaluation surplus; share of net movement in revaluation surplus of associates and joint ventures; and gains and losses on remeasuring available-for-sale financial assets. Payables includes short and long-term trade debt and accounts payable, grants, taxes and interest payable.

Produced assets include buildings, plant and equipment and certain intangible assets. Intangible produced assets may include computer software, motion picture films and research and development costs (which does not include the start-up costs associated with capital projects).

Receivables include amounts owing from government through appropriation receivable, short and long-term trade credit and accounts receivable, accrued investment income, grants, taxes and interest receivable.

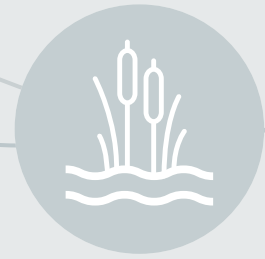
Sales of goods and services refers to income from the direct provision of goods and services and includes fees and charges for services rendered, sales of goods and services, fees from regulatory services and work done as an agent for private enterprises.

Supplies and services generally represent cost of goods sold and the day-to-day running costs, including maintenance costs, incurred in the normal operations of the Authority.

Taxation income represents income received from the State's taxpayers and includes:

- payroll tax, land tax and duties levied principally on conveyances and land transfers;
- insurance duty relating to compulsory third-party, life and non-life policies;
- insurance company contributions to fire brigades;
- motor vehicle taxes, including registration fees and duty on registrations and transfers; and
- other taxes, including landfill levies, licence and concession fees.

Transactions are those economic flows that are considered to arise as a result of policy decisions, usually an interaction between two entities by mutual agreement. They also include flows into an entity such as depreciation, where the owner is simultaneously acting as the owner of the depreciating asset and as the consumer of the service provided by the asset. Taxation is regarded as mutually agreed interactions between the government and taxpayers. Transactions can be in kind (e.g. assets provided/given free of charge or for nominal consideration) or where the final consideration is cash.



SECTION 4

Appendices – key performance indicators

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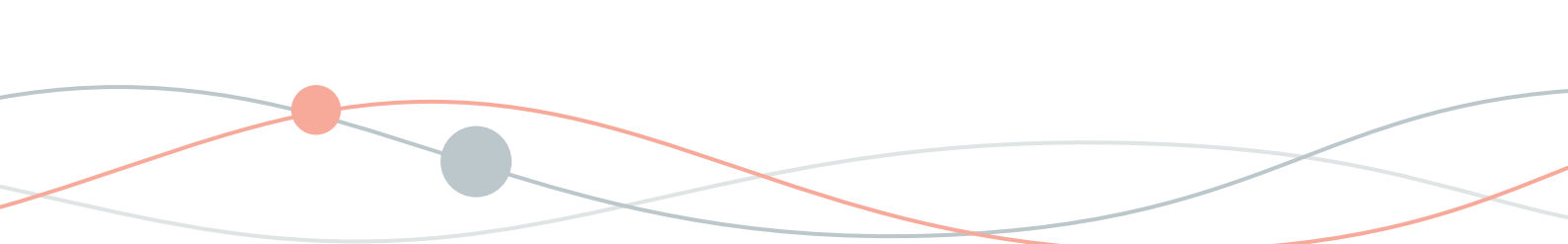
The Victorian Government set the following performance indicators and targets for all CMAs to report against annually.



APPENDIX NO 1

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	PROGRESS 2019-20
Business Management and Governance	Submit annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Board performance report submitted on 30 August 2019.
	A risk management strategy/plan approved by the board and being implemented.	The Board approved the risk management plan on 22 August 2019 which is being implemented.
	One hundred per cent of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	Review of the authority's policies and procedures is on-going. 93 per cent of policies and procedures were reviewed in the last three years.
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	2 Compliance Deficiencies (Non Material) recorded in 2019-20 of which one have been addressed by 30 June 2020 (down from eight in 2018-19).
Regional planning and coordination	A regional catchment strategy (RCS) approved by the minister.	The renewed RCS was approved by the Ministers in May 2013.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework/plan approved by the Board.	The Communications and Brand Strategy was endorsed at the November 2018 Board Meeting. The Community Engagement Framework was endorsed by the Board at the November 2018 meeting.
	A regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Corangamite CMA Board approved the Corangamite Landcare Support Plan in June 2013. In February 2019, the Corangamite CMA Board approved the Corangamite Landcare Review Final Report, which will provide the basis for an updated Corangamite Landcare Support Plan to be developed in partnership with the Landcare Chairs forum in 2019-20.
	A regional waterways strategy approved by the Minister.	The Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 was approved by the Minister in 2014.
	A regional floodplain strategy approved by the Board.	The Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy has been approved by the Board in February 2018 and delivered to DELWP who have signed off on the strategy.
Regional delivery	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the board annually.	The Board approved the midterm RCS review on 23 March 2017.
	Projects/activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	All waterway and floodplain manage projects/activities were delivered and reported in accordance with associated funding agreements under the Victorian Water Program Investment Framework.



PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	PROGRESS 2019-20
Statutory Functions under part 10 of the Water Act	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the board annually.	<p>86 per cent of statutory requirements were met within the prescribed period. The reason for this is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high demand of referrals/flood advice: 1,147 response requests up from 1,057 in 2018-19 which corresponds to an 8.5 per cent increase (or 90 extra responses). Inadequate resources to meet demand and hence response times not achieved. • ongoing training external consultants and WGCMA to provide statutory support. • significantly increased complexity of referrals/advice requiring experienced interpretation of low to medium reliability flood data. • highly technical responses required for large scale development at Armstrong Creek. Temporary drainage issues and irregular staged releases of developments resulting in complicated responses. • considerable resources contributing to the technical phase of the North West Geelong Growth Areas. Flood impacts assessments prepared by consultants were reviewed by technical group, completed late June 2019. <p>Other tasks include stakeholder meetings, strategic planning, flood investigations, emergency response commitments, and flood and estuary data management. Seasonal watering proposals for both the Moorabool River and Lower Barwon Wetlands were prepared and submitted to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder by the required timeframes.</p>

***Derived from the 2015 Ministerial Form guidelines.*

APPENDIX NO 2

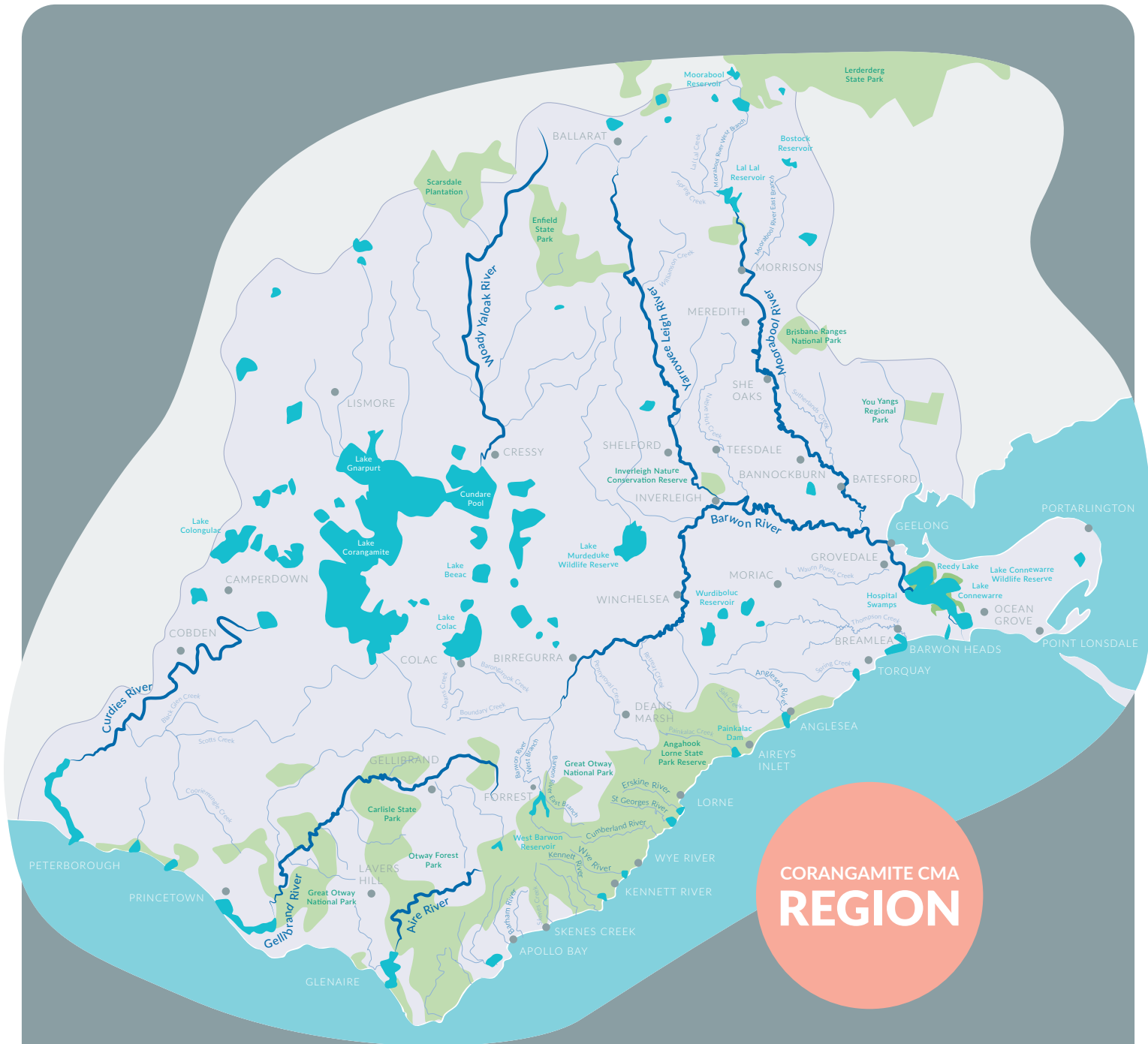
DISCLOSURE INDEX

The Annual Report of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Corangamite CMA's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

FRD	DISCLOSURE	PAGE	FRD	DISCLOSURE	PAGE
REPORT OF OPERATIONS			FINANCIAL STATEMENTS		
Charter and purpose			Financial statements required under Part 7 of the FMA		
FRD 22H	Manner of establishment and the relevant Ministers	5	SD4.2(b)	Comprehensive income statement	83
FRD 22H	Objectives, functions, powers and duties	5	SD4.2(b)	Balance sheet	84
FRD 22H	Nature and range of services provided	5	SD4.2(a)	Statement of changes in equity	86
Management and structure			SD4.2(b)	Cash flow statement	85
FRD 22H	Organisational structure	66	SD4.2(c)	Compliance with Australian accounting standards and other authoritative pronouncements	88
Financial and other information			SD4.2(c)	Compliance with Ministerial Directions	88
FRD 22H	Operational and budgetary objectives	128-129	SD4.2(c)	Accountable officer's declaration	82
SD 4.2(k)	and performance against objectives	73-74	Other disclosures in notes to the financial statements		
FRD 22H	Employment and conduct principles	66-69	FRD 11A	Disclosure of ex-gratia payments	116
FRD 29C	Statement of workforce data for current and previous	68	FRD 21C	Responsible person and executive officer disclosures	82
FRD 15E	Executive officer disclosures	117-118	Legislation		
FRD 22H	Summary of the financial results for the year	73	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>		70
FRD 22H	Significant changes in financial position during the year	71	<i>Building Act 1993</i>		70
FRD 22H	Major changes or factors affecting performance	71	<i>Local Jobs First Act 2003</i>		70
FRD 22H	Subsequent events	71	<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>		70
FRD 22H	Application and operation of <i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>	71	<i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012</i>		71
FRD 22H	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of <i>Building Act 1993</i>	70			
FRD 22H	Statement on National Competition Policy	70			
FRD 25D	Local Jobs First disclosures	70			
FRD 22H	Details of consultancies over \$10,000	75			
FRD 12B	Disclosure of major contracts	76			
FRD 24D	Reporting of office-based environmental impacts	76			
FRD 22H	Statement of availability of other information	70			
FRD 10A	Disclosure index	130			
FRD 22H	Government advertising expenditure	70			
FRD 103H	Non Financial Physical Assets	74			
FRD 22H	ICT Expenditure	72			

ACRONYMS AND TERMS

AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability	km	Kilometre
AHD	Australian Height Datum	LAS	Local Authorities Super
A-IFRS	Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards	LRP	Linear Reserves Project
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	MAC	Ministerial Advisory Committee
AVIRA	Asset Value Identification and Risk Assessment	MBI	Market-based instrument
BP	Bellarine Peninsular	MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement
BRP	Barwon River Parklands	MP	Member of Parliament
CaLP	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act</i>	No.	Number
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CEPA	Capacity-building, Education, Participation and Awareness	NV	Native Vegetation
CFA	Country Fire Authority	OCOC	Our Catchment Our Communities
CFOB	Caring for our Bays	OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
CoGG	City of Greater Geelong	OVIC	Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner
Corangamite CMA	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	PPB	Port Phillip Bay
CPA	Catchment Partnership Agreement	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
CPA	Certified Practising Accountant	RALF	Regional Agricultural Land facilitator
CRFMS	The Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
DAL	Distinct Area Landscape	RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinators
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	SEPP	Stat Environment Protection Policy
EC5	Environmental Contribution	TO	Traditional Owner
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System	VAGO	Victorian Auditor General's Office
EPA	Environment Protection Authority	VEAC	Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
EPBC	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i>	VEPP	Victorian Environmental Partnership Program
FMCF	Financial Management Compliance Framework	VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
FTE	Full-time equivalent	VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
ha	Hectare	VPS	Victorian Public Sector
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Committee	VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plain
		WDL	Western District Lakes
		Ramsar	Iranian town, location of the first convention (1971) where the Wetland Conservation Treaty was signed



CORANGAMITE CMA REGION



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