CORANGAMITE CMA Annual Report



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COVER IMAGE: Regional Citizen Science Project Officer, Deirdre Murphy, surveys the waters at Barwon River estuary to collect data

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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

The CMA 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.

Chair and CEO Foreword

It is with pleasure that we present the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA) 2021-2022 Annual Report.

We are committed to achieving our vision of 'healthy and productive lands and waters cared for and enjoyed by thriving communities', and we are proud that throughout the year we have achieved some excellent outcomes towards this vision. Of particular note was the development of our new Regional Catchment Strategy, approved by the Minister in February 2022, and now being implemented in partnership with all our key delivery partners and communities.

We have continued to support, partner and encourage land managers, community groups and agencies to deliver on-ground works, which promotes sustainable agriculture, protects native vegetation and threatened species, and improves 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 sustainable dairies, riparian revegetation, threatened species, agroforestry, and cover cropping projects.

Throughout 2021-2022 we have continued our commitment to working in partnership to achieve even better catchment health outcomes. This has been formalised through Memorandums of Understanding with all three of our Water Corporation partners, and a draft agreement being developed with the Wadawurrung Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation. The region continues to have a strong Catchment Partnership Agreement supported by Traditional Owners, Agencies, local governments, and non-government organisations. This year the agreement was renewed with 19 partners, who oversaw the completion and launch of the new online Regional Catchment Strategy, and commenced the implementation of the strategy.

Under the Barwon Flagship agreement, we launched the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project, continuing the strong partnership with the Wadawurrung and other land managers to deliver a master plan for the Barwon River corridor, further demonstrating just how important our partners are, and the contribution this important project will make to the fastest growing area in Australia.

Management of the Barwon Through Geelong continues to deliver positive outcomes for residents, visitors and users of the river, with over one million people enjoying the river and parklands each year. This year we have improved the participation and experience for recreational users whilst protecting the environmental and cultural values of the river. A key area of improvement has been the completion of four new multiuse platforms along the river vastly improving the accessibility, safety and amenity.

We have continued to build our partnership with Landcare networks across the region, providing support for local community projects through the Victorian Landcare grants program, and a Landcare support plan.

Our partnerships are highly valued and we are proud that we have engaged with over 10,827 people and supported over 90 citizen science volunteers.





Other achievements include supporting nearly 3,000ha of weed control, property management plans covering 123ha, and over \$2m in grants distributed.

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

This year we had an investment of \$8.68m from the Victorian Government, primarily through agreements from the Water Health, Barwon Flagship Agreement, Environmental Water and Our Catchments, Our Communities Funding Programs. \$4.9m was received from the Australian Government through the Regional Landcare Program and \$265k investment from the Australian Government's Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program was also secured to support fish habitat restoration projects to improve habitat for native fish in the Barwon and Curdies Rivers and Corio Bay.

This year we continued delivery of the Australian Government's Wild Otways Initiative and Bellarine and Surf Coast Dunecare Project, including delivery of a second round of community grants supporting another 10 community projects, which will see a further \$141k invested in community-led on-ground works benefiting species including the Leafy Greenhood Orchid, Swamp Antechinus and Broad-toothed Rat.

We have also continued to deliver our Australian Government funded sustainable agriculture and threatened species protection projects. Key highlights of these projects include a partnership with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to deliver two cultural burns, the second release of captive bred Orange-bellied Parrots at Lake Connewarre, and the continued delivery of Sustainable Dairies and Master Tree Growers courses for local farmers.

The Corangamite CMA is proud to be a regional leader in taking action on climate change, becoming the first Natural Resource Management organisation to commit to reaching net zero emissions for our own operations by the start of 2024. To this end the organisation had developed a carbon neutrality action plan, with key actions implemented this year including the installation of electric vehicle charging points at both the Colac and Geelong offices and the purchase of our first 100% electric vehicle, installation of a 30kw solar panel system on the Colac office, and replacement of electric hot water service with heat pump. Implementation of the action plan is being led by a Business Sustainability Working Group.

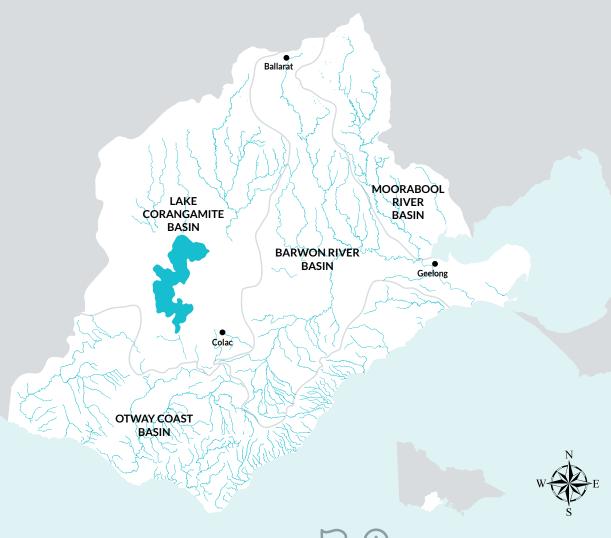
Finally, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has continued to present challenges for the organisation and our community. We have continued to deliver successfully on our projects and have adapted our delivery model and approaches to continue to support stakeholder participation and improve accessibility to our programs. 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.

C. Jerkins

Cath Jenkins Chair Mility

John Riddiford

The Corangamite CMA Region









Project Partnerships with community, Victorian and Australian governments, local municipalities, water authorities, industry and philanthropic organisations

152
community-based volunteer groups



Approximately
446,000
people live in the catchment

ABOUT THE REGION

The Corangamite CMA region in south-west Victoria is home to approximately 446,000 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% of the land privately owned, the remaining 22% publicly owned.

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 Queenscliffe 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 was 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 10 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 2021 to 27 June 2022 the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. The Hon Richard Wynne acted as the Minister for Water from 1 July 2021 to 22 August 2021.

From 27 June 2022 to 30 June 2022 the Hon Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Action.

The catchments landscape supports strong agriculture and forestry sectors, with 78% of the land privately owned, the remaining 22% publicly owned.

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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. The key to achieving this vision is land stewardship in partnership with the community, its landholders and other departments and agencies.

As such our vision for the Corangamite Region is:

'Healthy and productive lands and waters cared for and enjoyed 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 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 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 is:

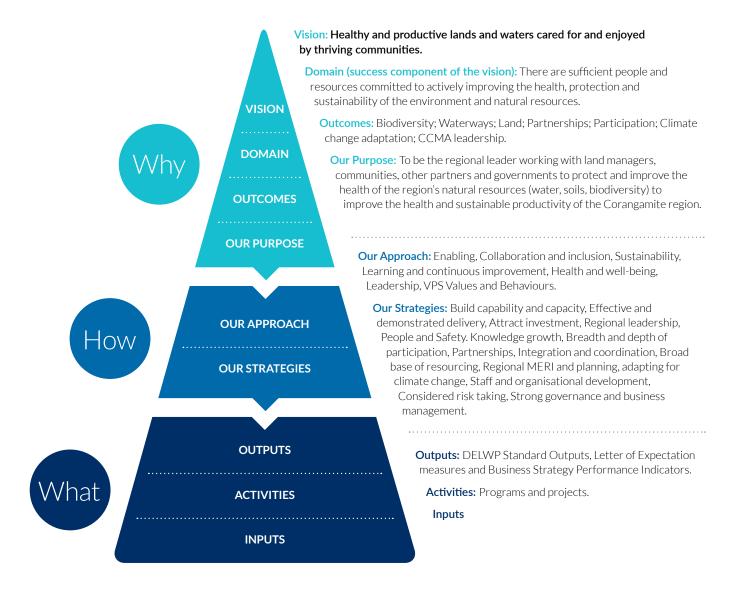
'To be the regional leader working with land managers, communities, other organisations and governments to protect and improve the health of the region's natural resources (water, soils, biodiversity) to improve the health and sustainable productivity of the Corangamite region.'

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.



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 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 own 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 are critical for our performance, growth and development.

Health and wellbeing

A healthy catchment both supports and is dependent on healthy communities and, 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 Board members. We aim to have a workplace and relationships that care for the health of our team and enhance their well-being. We recognise the importance of Mental Health and well-being and have adopted the Victorian Public Sector Mental Health and Well-being Charter.

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.

Leadership

 Actively implementing, promoting and supporting these values.

TAKING ACTION AND LEADING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CORANGAMITE REGION

The Corangamite CMA is committed to tackling the challenge of climate change by promoting regional climate change adaptation and mitigation programs and reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions for our own operations by 2024 - through our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan.

The overall goal of this plan is for the Corangamite CMA to reach net zero emissions for our own operations by the start of 2024 and move to 100% green power by the end of 2021. A key component of the plan is to reduce emissions as much as possible, and any remaining emissions to be offset through local projects in our region.

The Corangamite CMA helped secure funding for two Corangamite CMA led projects, the Climate Change Biodiversity Forum (\$30,000) and the Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program (\$45,000), and we are founding members of the Barwon South West Climate Alliance.

The Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program is a pilot program that will allow Corangamite CMA to assess carbon projects and align them to the carbon offset requirements of 10 local governments. The Corangamite CMA also continues to work in partnership with Deakin University's 'Blue Carbon Lab' on Blue and Teal carbon initiatives.

The Corangamite NRM Plan for Climate Change continues to provide 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.

REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES

Barwon South West Climate Alliance.

A regional partnership working to increase effective climate adaptation, reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, share knowledge and experience, and to co-ordinate a range of mutually beneficial climate adaptation and mitigation projects.

The Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program.

A joint initiative to support the region's Councils to offset their carbon emissions locally, through aligning carbon offsets with local natural resource management outcomes coordinated by the region's two CMAs (Corangamite and Glenelg Hopkins).

Moorabool River Environmental Flows.

Developing and negotiating better environmental flows for the Moorabool River and its tributaries to manage under a drying climate scenario.

Bunanyung Landscape Alliance - Biolink Project.

Working with the community and landholders to link the landscapes through strategic biolinks to support native fauna between Enfield and Wombat State Forests.

Blue Carbon Projects.

Ongoing coastal wetlands projects (including Karaaf) that align with blue carbon offset opportunities including the Australian Government's recently released coastal wetland method.

Teal Carbon Projects.

Research to quantify carbon offset opportunities at the Western District Lakes and farm dams, through future teal carbon methodologies.

Soil Carbon Projects.

Linking carbon offset markets with soil management outcomes, a partnership project between Landcare and the carbon market industry.

Gellibrand Carbon Offset Project.

Project involves Wannon Water meeting its carbon neutrality targets while achieving multiple NRM benefits including water quality.

Adaptation Pathways.

Developing adaptation strategies for the region's most impacted natural asset, the Western District Lakes, under climate change.

Highlights





1,453 EREFERRALS RECEIVED:

816 FLOOD ADVICE **530** PLANNING REFERRALS **107** WORKS ON WATERWAY PERMITS \$2.12m SRANTS DISTRIBUTED

2,894ha
WEED CONTROL





SUPPORTED LANDOWNERS WITH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PLANS COVERING 2.245ha

3,636ml
of ENVIRONMENTAL WATER DELIVERED



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. In 2021-2022 the agreement was renewed. The partnership agreement currently has 19 signatories. This year the CPA has been focused on the renewal and delivery of the Regional Catchment Strategy as its a priority project.

Launch of the Regional Catchment Strategy

The Renewal of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), an integrated planning framework for the management of land, water and biodiversity resources across the region, was delivered in collaboration with the Corangamite Catchment Partnership Agreement. The online RCS was launched by the partnership agreement group in May 2022, following Ministerial approval in February 2022.

Partner MoUs

This year, the Corangamite CMA has continued its MoUs with Barwon Water and Central Highlands Water and worked on delivering Joint Action Plans that underpin these MoUs. The Corangamite CMA has also signed a similar MoU with Wannon Water.

Corangamite CMA has also continued to work under an established MoU with Regional Roads Victoria to repurpose timber from roads projects as instream habitat for native fish.

Corangamite CMA have established a MoU with Parks Victoria for the artificial estuary openings, as required, for the Aire, Gellibrand and Curdies estuaries.

An MoU has continued between Corangamite CMA, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Parks Victoria and DELWP to support the successful delivery of the Wild Otways Initiative.

This MoU clearly defines the roles, responsibilities, shared priorities, and key partnership commitments between these organisations and the Corangamite CMA.

Integrated Water Management

The Corangamite CMA actively participates in three Integrated Water Management Forums and their associated workshop groups across the region. These include the Barwon, Central Highlands Water and the Great South Coast. All three have continued to implement their Strategic Directions Statements.

Orange-bellied Parrot protection project

The Orange-bellied Parrot Protection Program has seen another successful year through the partnership approach with DELWP, Zoos Victoria, Moonlit Sanctuary and BirdLife Australia. In May 2022, across two separate releases, 20 captive-bred Orange-bellied Parrots were released on the eastern shore of Lake Connewarre, all fitted with coded VHF tags, for tracking through antennae towers and a handheld receiver. OBP monitoring has occurred throughout Winter, with observations of both captive-bred released birds and natural migrants from Tasmania.

Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut

The Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project (previously known as the Barwon River Parklands) was officially launched in May 2022. The Corangamite CMA is the lead agency on the project acting on behalf of a number of State Government agencies, two local government authorities, Coastal Committee, G21 and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation. This project will set the strategic direction for investment to protect and enhance the waterways and their adjoining land between Meredith and Barwon Heads, linking recreational trails, connecting people to place and ensuring the important environmental assets including Ramsar listed wetlands, are not compromised

Guidance Note with Wannon Water for the management of extraction from the Gellibrand

Corangamite CMA and Wannon Water continued their partnership in 2021-2022, with an updated Guidance Note between the two agencies signed. The agreement allows flow recovery in the Gellibrand River during an artificial estuary opening of the Gellibrand River Estuary. Wannon Water may cease extraction during an artificial opening, which aims to improve the health of the estuary and reduce the risk of fish deaths.

Achievements, Operational Performance and Key Initiatives

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CONDITION

This section of the annual report provides an assessment of the condition of the region's environment and a reflection on the likely impact of annual scale actions, events and observed change within the previous year, and over the previous three years. A key purpose of monitoring changes in the operating context is to help identify opportunities for adapting and changing the way we manage the environment.

The report is structured in line with the state-wide outcome framework that links the regional outcomes sought by catchment communities, to the high level policy outcomes of the Victorian and Australian Government. These are outlined in each Regional Catchment Strategy (rcs.vic.gov.au).

How to interpret this report

The condition assessment for each theme describes the level of confidence or concern that catchment managers have in the future of the regional environment.

The assessment is based on a set of state-wide indicators outlined in the RCS outcomes framework, augmented with regionally specific indicators which have been selected based on criteria including availability and quality of data, and the linkages back to regional and policy outcomes.

As much as possible the reporting format attempts to provide a transparent path between the evidence and the assessment. It is not a definitive assessment but an assessment at a point in time based on the best available evidence.

TREND RATING		DESCRIPTION
+	Positive	The indicator is moving in a positive direction and is expected to have a positive impact.
\ominus	Neutral	The indicator is a neutral state, where movements may be significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact.
į.	Concerned	The indicator is moving in a negative direction and is expected to have a detrimental impact.
?	Unknown	The trend is unknown.

*The **trend** is the change over time in the indicator, which could be an environmental asset, a pressure or a management activity. The trend is assessed against the direction required to contribute to the achievement of regional outcomes.

СО	NDITION RATING	DESCRIPTION
o_	Good	The condition is classified as good.
2	Moderate	The condition is classified as moderate.
d)	Poor	The condition is classified as poor.
×	Not applicable	A condition rating is not applicable for this indicator.
?	Unknown	The condition for this indicator is not known and or assessable.

*Condition – where appropriate, a condition rating is provided that is based on the current state of the theme.

A condition rating is based on assessments of the assets, pressures and management activities represented by the theme.

The assessment is based on available science and expert advice as well as evidence gained during the preceding year.

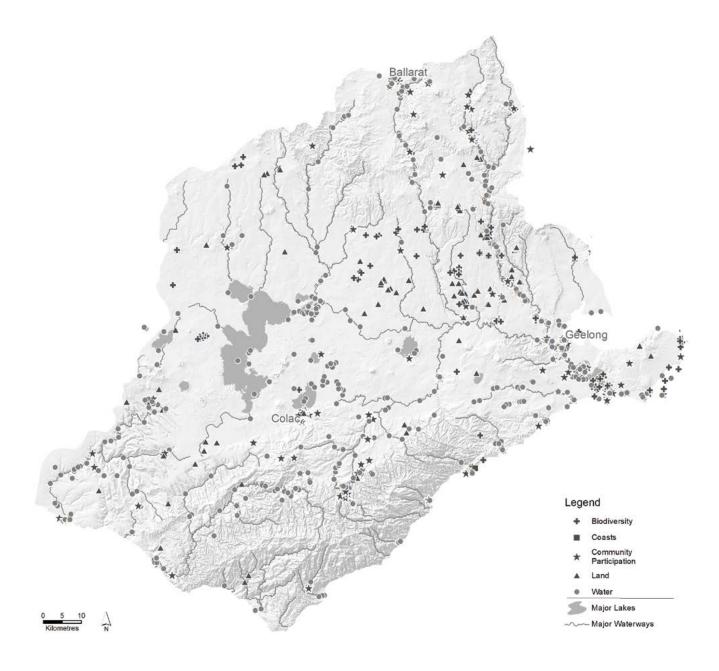


Regional catchment condition summary

	TRE	END#			
THEME	2021	OVER LAST 5 YEARS	CONDITION*	SUMMARY COMMENT	
Water	○ Neutral	○ Neutral	\(\text{Moderate} \)	2021-2022 was a normal to wet year, reasonably high rainfall led to increases in river inflows and the ability for the full delivery of all environmental water entitlements. There has been continued investment in enhancing waterways through riparian management as well as using the limited formal entitlements as effectively as possible to achieve environmental flow outcomes. Water quality parameters have slightly improved on the previous year.	
Land	○ Neutral	Concerned	M oderate	The 2021-2022 year was a relatively wet year, continuing a period of higher than average rainfall. Trends indicate a decrease in the area of exposed soil, most likely due to wet conditions. Land use changes are seeing a concerning decrease in native vegetation types and an increase in dryland cropping and hardwood plantations. 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 Corangamite CMA continues to work in a partnership approach to enhance sustainable agriculture practices in the region.	
Coast	○ Neutral	○ Neutral	A Moderate	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	Poor	The condition for the region's biodiversity is considered to be poor and of concern in 2021-2022. The concerning trend is predominantly due to historical pressures, such as introduced animal and plant species and land clearing being exacerbated by the increasing trends of urban encroachment, habitat fragmentation, climate variability and the spread of invasive species and diseases. The Corangamite CMA and other organisations undertake work to manage biodiversity and are achieving a positive trend in native vegetation extent, however the overall hectares are still very small in relation to the extent of cleared land and impacted biodiversity. The 2021-2022 year has seen targeted projects (Wild Otways Initiative, Orange-bellied Parrot project and Victorian Volcanic Plains project) delivering positive outcomes for threatened species across the region.	
Community	→ Positive	→ Positive	♂ Good	Communities in the Corangamite region continue to be active participants in natural resource management activities. Participation rates are steady. Programs continue to focus on engagement of communities, particularly Traditional Owner groups, and new participants, and the organisation has been successful in delivering online engagement activities. 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 2021-2022 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 rivers, 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 is responsible for coordinating the development and implementation of management actions to conserve and enhance waterways. Regional priorities are identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Table 1 identifies the water projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2021-2022, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 1: Water Projects undertaken in 2021-2022

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut (Barwon River Parklands) Masterplan and implementation The project will develop and partially implement a masterplan for the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut (Barwon River Parklands) including the following work packages: 1. Masterplan development • Setting vision and objectives consistent with community and Traditional Owner preferences and existing projects and planning activities • Selecting, prioritising and costing projects to meet the agreed vision and objectives • Conceptual design of high priority projects • Business case for investment in high priority projects • Governance and funding model assessment. 2. Design and approvals • Regulatory approvals for high priority projects • Detailed design of high priority projects. 3. Construction • Commencement of construction for high priority projects.	Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Partnerships Participation and investment	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values Resilient & liveable cities	Water – By 2027, waterway amenity will be improved for high priority urbanised waterways to enhance the user experience and connection to the natural landscape, compared to 2021 baseline. Water – By 2027, Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights to access and manage water will be acknowledged and respected including a strong Traditional Owner voice on catchment management. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.
The Living Moorabool Flagship Project The Living Moorabool flagship program is a large scale, place-based program with a 30-year vision defined by the community reference group of: "Healthy waterways, healthy people and healthy culture". This program will be delivered through ICM practices that incorporate a diversity of stakeholders. The project will focus on the following activities: • Facilitating improved coordination across activities and ensure sharing of knowledge with other key stakeholders • Planning and delivery of environmental water consistent with annual watering plans • Community engagement for environmental water • Maintenance of past riparian management investments and targeted new investments • Use of citizen science to better connect people to the river and inform management decisions.	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.



WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Upper Barwon Flagship Project Corangamite CMA has identified the upper Barwon River as the focus for investment as part of our Flagship Waterway project. The project will be delivered as a			Water – By 2027 there is an
large scale, long term (30 year) integrated catchment management project, with the focus over this three year period being on the collaborative planning and creation of the appropriate implementation strategies to enhance riparian management practices and improve the delivery environmental water further down the Barwon River. Therefore, the activities during 2022-2024 will be: Planning and Governance Planning and delivery of environmental water entitlement consistent with annual plans Waterway health: on-ground works	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values	improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.
and community education Community engagement for environmental water.			
City to Sea - Lower Barwon River and Ramsar Wetlands This project will deliver an integrated management program for the Bellarine Landscape Zone, including Delivery of Corangamite CMA's environmental water management functions for the lower Barwon wetlands; Undertaking Ramsar site coordination, monitoring and action implementation; Engaging landholders in river health and riparian management; Monitoring and management of threatened fish species; and Supporting citizen science and community engagement.	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values	Water – By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline. Water – By 2027, Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights to access and manage water will be acknowledged and respected. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.
Rivers of Gold and Western District Lakes This project builds on existing Ramsar, waterways protection and citizen science programs in the Western District Lakes and surrounding catchment, with activities that will: Improve the ecological character of the Western District Lakes (WDL) Ramsar site, its tributaries and surrounding lakes and Identify and manage drought refuges for EPBC-listed Yarra Pigmy Perch (YPP) in the Woady Yaloak River and Western District Lakes.	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values	Water – By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline. Water – By 2027, Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights to access and manage water will be acknowledged and respected. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Delivering ICM for the Gellibrand This project will maintain existing activities in the Gellibrand River and estuary and develop an integrated catchment management plan for the catchment. Upon the development of the plan, the existing activities will be adapted to reflect the plan's priorities. The activities include: Using best available evidence to create a catchment plan specific for the Gellibrand (this will be undertaken under 1780 in partnership with Wannon Water) Investigating opportunities to improve environmental flows in the river Maintaining existing riparian restoration sites Engaging landholders in waterway frontage	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.
protection within catchment plan priorities; • Engaging community in citizen science activities.			
 Surf Coast and Otways Restoration This project will improve estuary and river health outcomes in the Otway Coast Basin by: Supporting Traditional Owner cultural values and access to Country Maintaining existing riparian restoration sites Engaging with new landholders to develop waterway frontage management plans and Maintaining connections between community and waterway managers through support for citizen science monitoring. The Gellibrand catchment is excluded from this project and has been submitted as a separate integrated catchment management project due to its significance as a water supply catchment. 	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.
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 Partnerships	Recreational Values	Water – By 2027, waterway amenity will be improved for high priority urbanised waterways to enhance the user experience and connection to the natural landscape, compared to 2021 baseline Water – By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline.
Recreational Water Initiative This project will install multi-use and accessible platforms along the Barwon River allowing for increased passive recreation, fishing, canoe launching, motor boat berthing and dog swimming. It will also add increased rowing access for the Rowing Precinct and improved trail access to new river facilities.	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.
Fyans Park Boat Ramp Enhancement The project will improve the visitor facility at the Fyans Park boat ramp making it safer and easier to access.	Community Benefits	Recreational values	Water – By 2027, waterway amenity will be improved for high priority urbanised waterways to enhance the user experience and connection to the natural landscape, compared to 2021 baseline.

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Flood Mapping of the Woady Yaloak and Lough Calvert Drainage Schemes This project will capture the data (lidar and hydrology) required to complete detailed flood studies of both Corangamite CMA managed rural drainage schemes.	Corangamite CMA Leadership Partnerships Biodiversity Waterways Land Management Participation	Waterway & catchment health Recreational Values Aboriginal cultural values Resilient and liveable cities	Water – By 2027, there is an increased understanding of floodplain management in relation to ecological and cultural values and mechanisms to mitigate the risk of flooding.
The Living Moorabool - Barwon Water Investment			
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. It has been developed by the Victorian Government Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), with Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Melbourne Water and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder. Our role is to coordinate this process on one of the Governments 10 flagship waterways – the Moorabool River. This is funding from Barwon Water in support of the Living Moorabool project.	Waterways Corangamite CMA Leadership Biodiversity Partnerships	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy.
Reedy Lake Outlet Fishway (Construction)			
This project involves the construction of a fishway and new regulator on the Reedy Lake outlet channel and will include; detailed design, construction of a new spillway, installation of penstock gates and culverts. This project will be informed by the Lower Barwon Wetlands Connectivity report developed in July 2014 in consultation with the Lower Barwon Community Advisory Committee. Benefits of this project include: 1. Improved fish and eel passage between Reedy Lake and the Barwon River for estuarine/freshwater fish to complete their life-cycle 2. Improved ability to manage water levels in Reedy Lake and reduce the risk of private land inundation following major inflow events 3. Greater ability to achieve the objectives of the Lower Barwon Environmental Entitlement that will deliver environmental water to the Ramsar listed Reedy Lake over the next four years.	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Recreational values Aboriginal cultural values	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.
Corangamite Regional Drainage Support The Woady 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.	Waterways	Water for agriculture	Water – By 2027, Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights to access and manage water will be acknowledged and respected including a strong Traditional Owner voice on catchment management.



WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Caretaker of Waterway Health This project oversees and provides governance to the Corangamite CMA's Waterway Health program through: • Meeting responsibilities as the Caretaker of Waterway Health and associated responsibilities under the Water Act • Governance and oversight for the delivery of the Corangamite Wetlands Strategy (CWS) including strengthening of key partnerships that are enablers for planning and delivery (for example DELWP, ARI, Barwon, Wannon and Central Highlands Water, City of Greater Geelong, Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung) • Meeting responsibilities under the associated CMA Statement of Obligations • Contributing to state policy and strategy development (e.g. Waterway Managers Forum and Flagship Project Control Group) • Development and delivery of monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes in support of the CWS • Renewal as required through the Water Act of the CWS.	Corangamite CMA Leadership Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Resilient & liveable cities	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the efficiency of consumptive water use from our priority waterways will be improved though use of cost effective alternative water sources and demand management strategies. Water – By 2027, Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights to access and manage water will be acknowledged and respected including a strong Traditional Owner voice. Communities – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.
Floodplain Management This project delivers the Corangamite CMA's statutory responsibilities relating to Floodplain Management and Waterway Health as provided for in the Water Act 1989, the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Emergency Management Manual Victoria Part 7, Building Regulations 2018, Subdivisions Act 1988 and CMA Statement of Obligations. The project also coordinates the Corangamite CMA response to other referrals: Southern Rural Water – Take and Use, Works Licences, Annual Use Limits DJPR – Work Plans for mines and quarries EPA – Works Approvals.	Corangamite CMA Leadership Waterways	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Water – By 2027, there is an increased understanding of floodplain management in relation to ecological and cultural values and mechanisms to mitigate the risk of flooding. Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, waterway amenity will be improved for high priority urbanised waterways to enhance the user experience and connection to the natural landscape, compared to 2021 baseline. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment.

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Estuary permits and regulation This role is focused on risk management of artificial estuary openings using the EEMSS, responding to formal opening requests from Permit Holders and implementing, as per the relevant policies within the VWMS. It is also informed by the EPBC listing of Assemblages of species associated with open-coast salt-wedge estuaries of western and central Victoria ecological community. Other areas of focus for this activity include: • Focusing on improving current management arrangements where required at the permitted estuaries through updating (Curdies River, Painkalac Creek, and Anglesea River) or developing (Barham River, Erskine River, Gellibrand River, Aire River, Thompsons Creek, and Spring Creek) MoU's or guidance notes with stakeholders • Regular coordination and consultation with stakeholders to ensure estuaries are not opened in times of high risk • Improve stakeholder and community understanding of estuary opening.	Waterways	Water for agriculture	Water – By 2027, proactive management of coastal ecosystems by land managers and the community results in a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine and coastal environment. Water – By 2027, the water quality of priority estuaries are maintained or improved, compared to index of estuary condition 2019 baseline. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.
Woady Yaloak Diversion Scheme and Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme The Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme protects rural properties in the lower middle and upper loughs from flooding from Lake Colac while the Woady Yaloak Diversion Scheme is part of a flood protection program for agricultural properties around the shores of Lake Corangamite and Lake Gnarpurt. This activity involves routine maintenance and administration as operational drainage and flood mitigation schemes. Specifically, this involves inspection of infrastructure, planning for and overseeing of maintenance (weed and silt control); operation of the schemes in a time of flood; water quality and quantity monitoring; administration of the Cundare Pool Grazing licences on land managed	Participation Waterways	Recreational values Resilient & liveable cities	Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes.

by the CMA.



WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Barwon through Geelong The Barwon River through Geelong supports a diverse array of recreational, environmental and cultural activities. These include organised events and frequent casual use of the waterway and land for various activities. The CMA has overseen 40,000 participants in the last year at 90 different events, noting that the informal use of the river and parklands is even more significant. This significant asset within the City of Greater Geelong provides great economic benefit to the residents and visitors. The activity therefore needs to keep up with increasing demand to ensure that the assets are in good condition for the enjoyment and safety of the wider community. Therefore, this activity includes (but is not limited to): The planning and management for routine maintenance (e.g. mowing, tree management, plantings, weed control) and management of built and natural facilities and landscapes Incident management, monitoring and communications Event scheduling and management of waterway zones and usage Lease management (e.g. of rowing/canoe clubs) Broader communication and engagement with the Barwon Rivers Users Group – including executive support Participation in the Barwon River Parklands inter-agency working group Oversight when funding is available of the progressive implementation of the Barwon through Geelong Management Plan Safety works along the river including hazard removal and boat navigation and signage.	Corangamite CMA Leadership Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Resilient & liveable cities	Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways.
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 Uni 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. This project will then inform project Delivering ICM for the Gellibrand.	Corangamite CMA Leadership Partnerships Waterways Participation	Waterway & catchment health Recreational Values Aboriginal cultural values Resilient and livable cities Community engagement & partnerships	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the water quality of priority estuaries are maintained or improved, compared to index of estuary condition 2019 baseline.
Implementation of Regional Floodplain Management Strategy The Corangamite CMA has worked with its stakeholders (nine local councils, Victoria SES, Water Authorities, Committees of Management and others) to prepare a Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018-2028 (RFMS) which contains prioritised actions. This project involves the Corangamite CMA co-ordinating the implementation of this strategy with the stakeholders, provide technical advice associated with priority actions and lead the monitoring and evaluation process for the RFMS.	Participation Partnerships	Community engagement & Partnerships Improving performance and demonstrating outcomes	Water – By 2027, there is an increased understanding of floodplain management in relation to ecological and cultural values and mechanisms to mitigate the risk of flooding.

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE		
Upper Barwon Eel Investigation To conduct a survey to collect baseline data on Short-finned eel (and other fish) populations in the Barwon West Reservoir. The information collected will be used to inform the potential effect of the reservoir on eel populations throughout the system A brief summary will be provided to Corangamite CMA in autumn 2022 detailing: • The number and sizes of eels and other fish species collected • Key background information regarding their broader ecological significance and prevalence • An analysis and interpretation of the results as well as drawing on other existing information to answer the following questions: - Is the dam preventing eels from accessing the river upstream of the dam? - Is the dam likely to be having any implications to eel populations below it in the Barwon River? - Is the dam likely to or preventing eels from migrating downstream out of the dam?	Waterways Biodiversity Partnerships	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.		
Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp, Barwon River and Moorabool River Gauging Project 2021-2022 Pay for charges incurred by the Recipient under the southern Regional Water Monitoring Partnership (RWMP) to maintain and operate four water measurement sites during 2021-2022. The four sites are: Site 233269 Barwon River U/S Lower Barrage of Geelong Wetlands Site 233603 Reedy Lake at Connewarre Site 233604 Hospital Swamp at Connewarre Site 232242 Moorabool River at Coopers Crossing Meredith.	Waterways	Waterway & Catchment Health	Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.		
Safety and maintenance works at Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp 2021-2022 Project Pay for charges incurred by the Corangamite CMA to manage activities related to the maintenance and access works at Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp during 2021-2022. The activities include; • Access track maintenance, including grading, slashing and weed control • Channel reed cutting • Access track and infrastructure area slashing and weed control • Control gate maintenance for efficient operation • Corangamite CMA corporate management charges.	Waterways	Waterway & Catchment Health	Water - By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline.		
Flood hazard assessment mapping for future (year 2070) Sea Level Rise Scenario in the Barwon Heads/Lake Connewarre, Breamlea and Ocean Grove areas The project will re-run models from the Our Coasts project to produce inundation mapping under a 0.4 metre sea level rise scenario, aligning with projections for 2070 in the Victoria's Climate Science report 2019.	Planning and Management	Climate Change Resilient and Liveable Cities Community Engagement and Partnerships	Water - By 2027, there is an increased understanding of floodplain management in relation to ecological and cultural values and mechanisms to mitigate the risk of flooding. Communities - By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment.		

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Survey Above - Floor Flooded Properties in Colac The project will survey the flood levels of known dwellings and other buildings within the flood extent in Colac. This data will then be used to calculate the Annual Average Damages (AAD) of flooding in the township, along with detailed property inundation tables for use in emergency management situations. The data is also useful as a reference for future data gathering, where the performance of the flood model can be checked against actual on ground damages.	Planning and Management	Climate Change Resilient and Liveable Cities Community Engagement and Partnerships	Water – By 2027, there is an increased understanding of floodplain management in relation to ecological and cultural values and mechanisms to mitigate the risk of flooding. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment.
Anglesea River estuary options investigation To partner with DELWP to develop and oversee a project investigating potential options to address acid issues currently being experienced in the Anglesea River estuary. The project aims to inform decision making by DELWP and Corangamite CMA on future management options for the Anglesea River that can meet expectations for multiple values and provide expert responses to questions raised by the community throughout the process. DELWP will engage a consultant to undertake this project with Corangamite CMA as a project partner.	Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Partnerships Participation and investment	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Recreational values	Water – By 2027, the water quality of priority estuaries are maintained or improved, compared to index of estuary condition 2019 baseline.
 Lower Barwon River Water Balance Investigation The key objectives of this work are to: Build an understanding of the past and current operation requirements of the lower Barwon tidal barrage and lower Barwon Wetland Infrastructure and objectives for management Understand current and future changes in river hydrology in response to catchment changes (e.g. changing climatic conditions, land use change and stormwater inputs) and how this will impact on the current and future operation requirements of the Lower Barwon River Define current and future management requirements for the management of the Lower Barwon River in response to changing climatic conditions, urban development and other catchment changes and test the sensitivity of alternative management arrangements for managing flows and water levels Develop recommendations for the future management of Lower Barwon River flows and water levels, via development of operating rules, new infrastructure or other management options if required to meet current and future needs and values of the lower Barwon River. 	Waterways Community benefits Partnerships	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Recreational values	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the water quality of priority estuaries are maintained or improved, compared to index of estuary condition 2019 baseline. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline. Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment.
Water-Salt Balance Model for the Lower Barwon Wetlands To be delivered by consultants, key activities will include reviewing the literature, previous technical reports and available data associated with the Lake Connewarre Wetland Complex, and development of a Source model (and building on existing available) of the system. A range of assessments under various hydrological scenarios will be undertaken, which may include likely water regimes in the context of riverine flooding, high rainfall/urban run-off, drought, and predicted future climate change conditions. High level interpretation of scenarios regarding vegetation communities will also be undertaken.	Waterways	Waterway and Catchment Health	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline.

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Water-Salt Balance Model for the Lower Barwon Wetlands To be delivered by consultants, key activities will include reviewing the literature, previous technical reports and available data associated with the Lake Connewarre Wetland Complex, and development of a Source model (and building on existing available) of the system. A range of assessments under various hydrological scenarios will be undertaken, which may include likely water regimes in the context of riverine flooding, high rainfall/urban run-off, drought, and predicted future climate change conditions. High level interpretation of scenarios regarding vegetation communities will also be undertaken.	Waterways	Waterway and Catchment Health	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline.
Barwon Flagship Part C - Enhancing Cultural and waterway amenity values in the Mid-Barwon Restoration works along the Barwon River and Leigh River and tributaries that flow in from Teesdale, Bannockburn and Shelford to Inverleigh. This is offering standard waterway incentives to Local Council and private landholders with waterway frontage for activities such as fencing, weed control, revegetation, off stream water for: 1. Culturally significant sites 2. Riparian Restoration 3. Amenity Values.	Waterways Community benefits Partnerships	Waterway & catchment health Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights to access and manage water will be acknowledged and respected including a strong Traditional Owner voice on catchment management. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.
Strategic modelling and analytical support for the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategies For the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (Corangamite CMA) to procure and manage water resource modelling and analysis on behalf of DELWP to support development of the CGRSWS.	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy.
Barwon River Waterway Rules Review This project will assist in reviewing the river rules for the Barwon River under Schedule seven of the VOZR. In particular looking at the section at Breakwater with the planned aqueduct removal.	Waterways	Waterway & catchment Health	Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways.

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Curdies Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project The Curdies River and estuary is a destination waterway for angling species such as Black Bream and Estuary Perch in south-west Victoria, close to Warrnambool. The performance of the recreational fisheries is consistent, though limited by lack of instream woody fish habitat. More fish habitat, augmented by angler input and scientific evidence, is needed to materially improve the performance of this fishery. The Curdies Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project aims to improve estuarine habitat for native fish and native angling species such as Black Bream in the estuary from immediately upstream of Curdievale to Peterborough (approximately 17km). This will be achieved through engaging with local anglers in planning, implementing and monitoring the outcomes of on-ground works such riparian habitat creation.	Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Partnerships Participation and investment	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Recreational values	Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.
Barwon Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project The Barwon River and Estuary is at the heart of burgeoning Geelong and is popular for fishing, paddling, and rowing. The performance of recreational fisheries is held back by limited instream woody fish habitat, and low abundance of key angling species. More fish habitat and access work, informed by angler input and scientific evidence, is needed to materially improve the performance of this fishery. The Barwon River Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Project will improve riverine and estuarine habitat for native fish, including angling species such as Estuary Perch, in the lower Barwon River between Buckley Falls and Lake Connewarre within the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site. This will be achieved through engaging with local anglers and Traditional Owners in planning and undertaking on-ground works such as instream habitat creation, riparian habitat restoration, weed management and rubbish removal as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.	Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Partnerships Participation and investment	Community engagement & partnerships Recreational values	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.
Corio Bay Fish Habitat Project The Corio Bay arm of Port Phillip Bay is a highly regarded fishing destination within Victoria, and the removal of commercial netting presents a fantastic opportunity to restore crucial fish habitats in the region to the benefit of recreational fishers and the regional community. The project will demonstrate rec fishers' capacity to conduct fish habitat restoration through a community approach, targeting functionally extinct shellfish reef habitats in the Corio Bay area. Rec fisher volunteers will utilize a toolbox of approaches to restore intertidal/shallow subtidal shellfish reef habitat, playing a central role in the restoration and monitoring activities. Additionally, through events, forums and on-ground participation, the project will provide clear, engaging science communication related to restoration ecology, developing environmental stewardship and fisheries science literacy within the local rec fishing community, further building capacity for future restoration programs.	Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Partnerships Participation and investment	Community engagement & partnerships Recreational values	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	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 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. 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.	Participation and investment Planning and Management	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Water for agriculture Recreational values Resilient & liveable cities	Water – By 2027, waterway amenity will be improved for high priority urbanised waterways to enhance the user experience and connection to the natural landscape, compared to 2021 baseline. Water – By 2027, Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights to access and manage water will be acknowledged and respected including a strong Traditional Owner voice on catchment management. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.
Working For Victoria - Youth Employment Program This project funds six graduate positions across the Corangamite CMA for a period of 12 months through the Working for Victoria Youth Employment Funds. The Working for Victoria (WFV) Fund has been established to provide jobs for unemployed Victorians, including those impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19). The WFV Public Sector Youth Employment Program (YEP) has been developed in partnership with the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) and is one of our major employment initiatives. Through it the VPS will provide paid employment for young people that will provide them work experience and training that will help them find ongoing employment in other roles.	Waterways Community benefits Biodiversity Partnerships Participation and investment	Working for Victoria	Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment. Water – By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline. Water – By 2027, the water quality of priority estuaries are maintained or improved. Water – By 2027, there is an increased understanding of floodplain management in relation to ecological and cultural values and mechanisms to mitigate the risk of flooding. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.
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.	Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Biodiversity Partnerships Participation and investment	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline.

WATER	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Port Phillip Bay Ramsar Boundary Review The project will engage stakeholders to ascertain their attitudes to any proposed extension of the Western Port Phillip Ramsar site as identified through an investigation by DELWP's Arthur Rylah Institute. This Corangamite CMA will manage stakeholder engagement to improve understanding of what stakeholders value about the Port Phillip West Ramsar Wetlands site and why they believe any particular wetland should be added to the site. It will also allow stakeholders to better understand the process for extending a Ramsar site boundary and what factors contribute to the decision. The engagement will be undertaken in line with a stakeholder engagement strategy and will manage stakeholder expectations, understand stakeholder values and ascertain the level of support for adding to the extent of the existing site and any objections. The project will be overseen by a steering committee with representatives from Corangamite CMA, PPWCMA, Melbourne Water, PV and DELWP Wetland Management. A report will be produced that indicates the level of stakeholder and land manager support for each proposed new wetland area and any new values or threats that were not identified as part of the Arthur Rylah Institute's investigation.	Waterways Corangamite CMA Leadership Partnerships	Waterway and catchment health	Water – By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline.
This project will support the 10 CMA regions in developing and delivering diverse citizen science opportunities for their communities to connect with, learn about and care for Victoria's waterways. It builds on the successful community monitoring and engagement undertaken through the Victorian Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch programs over the last 27 and 13 years respectively, which have fostered environmental stewardship and informed waterway management decisions. This project will also broaden the citizen science opportunities available to community to help generate new data, drive innovation and connect more community members to their waterway. The project will fund the Statewide Citizen Science Facilitator to: Coordinate state level planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes Support the regional delivery of citizen science Develop and maintain statewide communications and media Promote and instil state level policy directions for citizen science through program delivery and regional projects.	Waterways Biodiversity Participation Partnerships	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment

Highlights and Achievements

2021-2022

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

This year the Corangamite CMA has moved to a focus on place-based integrated catchment management projects. Key highlights of this approach include:

Living Moorabool Flagship

A series of connected projects that aim to improve the health of the river, delivering environmental outcomes and rehabilitating targeted areas of land. This project focuses on the Moorabool River from Lal Lal Reservoir down to the confluence with the Barwon River and is working on long term outcomes.

The Living Moorabool Flagship project has continued to build on existing relationships and expand the knowledge of the broader community with regard to the issues and values of the Moorabool River. This year there has been a greater emphasis on engaging Traditional Owners and working with them to achieve shared outcomes specifically in relation to Waterwatch activities involving the monitoring of water quality pre and post fresh events. Integration between the Citizen Science and environmental water teams has resulted in cross education and meaningful application of Waterwatch data.

Compilation of all 2021 Citizen Science Data from the Moorabool was undertaken the inaugural WTOAC Water Quality Report published. The project has continued to work in partnership with Fyansford Batesford Landcare and Moorabool Landcare and Geelong Landcare networks.

The Moorabool River Environmental Entitlement was delivered in accordance with the 2021-2022 Seasonal Watering Proposal, with almost all priority watering actions achieved due to a wet climate. Releases supported the migration and spawning of native fish and eels, as well as providing habitat for platypus, fish, eels, macroinvertebrates and the maintenance of native vegetation. Staff developed the 2022-2023 Seasonal Watering Proposal and undertook formal consultation with WTOAC and the Moorabool Stakeholder Advisory Committee, before submitting to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder. Environmental Water staff supported the renewal of the Central and Gippsland sustainable water strategy.

An Expression of Interest for waterway frontage protection incentives was open from 28th February to 31st March 2022. Funding was available for landholders with frontage on the upper and lower Moorabool River to complete protection and restoration works such as fencing, weed control, revegetation, stock crossings and off-stream water points, willow removal and pest animal management. 33 expressions of Interest were received, with 18 of these meeting eligibility requirements and 13 landholders successful in obtaining funding for their project that will improve 22kms of Moorabool River frontage over the next two years.

The collaborative project is supported by additional work funding from Barwon Water. Activities delivered this year include the commencement and completion of a Pathogen Risk Assessment Report focusing on passive recreation and drinking water in the Moorabool River. Targeted riparian works will then be implemented in priority locations based on the recommendations in this report. The project also funds a PhD candidate who is undertaking a study of the impacts of catchment land use on the Moorabool River.

Barwon Flagship

A series of connected projects to improve the health of the river and adjoining lands, while promoting community involvement.

This newly established flagship project is focused on long term change in the Barwon River with an initial focus on the upper sections including the East and West Branch of the Barwon to their confluence and Dewing Creek.

The Barwon Flagship project commenced with a strong emphasis on integration and collaboration. Governance arrangements were finalised in December 2021 followed by a community BBQ to initiate a conversation with the community about the opportunities presented by the Flagship project and a recent landholder study on attitudes to riparian fencing. A dedicated web page and Enewsletter were produced in April 2022 with a focus on providing accurate information to the community and stakeholders about issues in the Upper Barwon, such as environmental water release updates, riparian management and weed management (Willows and Sweet Reed Grass (Glyceria maxima). A range of options for innovative approaches to riparian management have been initiated and explored by the Flagship riparian team based on best practice and the recommendations from the landholder study. A new incentive package is being planned for implementation during 2022-2023 with a focus on restoring flow to the river and providing better flexibility to encourage more participation from landholders, whilst still maintaining some river health outcomes.

An Expression of Interest for the standard CMA incentives package was delivered in late 2021, with nine landholders expressing interest and five of these eligible for funding. Only two proceeded to the evaluation stage and both were successful in obtaining funding to complete works to restore 2.5kms of frontage in the upper Dewing Creek catchment.

On-ground works have also included working with five landholders on the West Barwon River where the Birregurra-Forrest Road flooded from the West Barwon Reservoir spill in July 2021. *Glyceria maxima* (Reed Sweet Grass) was slowing the flow through this 2.6km stretch of the river and in cooperation with adjacent landholders has been mechanically removed by a contractor. This work was completed to reduce the chance of the road flooding in the short-term while the reservoir is still at capacity and there is a high chance of it spilling again. The removal was very successful with the timing and flow conditions being perfect for minimal disruption to aquatic life and to avoid damage to the bed and banks. A dramatic change to the flow and water level was observed during and after the operation and future plans to enable long term management of *Glyceria* are in discussion with landholders, who have all been very supportive of the works.

The Upper Barwon River Environmental Entitlement was delivered in accordance with the 2021-2022 Seasonal Watering Proposal, with compliance partially met naturally in both branches during the wet period. The east branch recommendations were met naturally during the dry period. Dry period low flows in the west branch were insufficient to meet recommendations in this reach or reaches downstream due to weed choke points not allowing for larger releases, however, releases will have supported the river by providing pool habitat, improving water quality and maintaining or improving the condition of instream vegetation. Two communication pieces were produced regarding the Upper Barwon environmental water releases, one was a fact sheet focusing on land holders, which explained what Corangamite CMA's role is in regard to environmental water, and what the environmental benefits it has on the system, and the other was a fact sheet explaining Barwon Water's passing flows versus Corangamite CMA's environmental flows, and what to do in the event of flooding.

City to Sea - Lower Barwon and Ramsar Wetlands

Project to improve and protect the condition of the Ramsar wetlands, rivers, and waterways, and promote community involvement.

Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch groups active in the Barwon River catchment and Swan Bay catchment are producing long term data sets informing the catchment condition. Virtual presentations and in person field day and training events help maintain a connected network of volunteers. Engagement of local community through short term citizen science programs such as National Waterbug Blitz have been delivered with Geelong Landcare Network and OzFish, and through the Geelong Nature Forum with Geelong Field Naturalists and City of Greater Geelong.

This project includes delivery of the Barwon River Environmental Entitlement 2011. Water is managed through a statutory process according to expert advice to maximise a diversity of habitats at Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamps in line with Ramsar objectives. Planning involves Traditional Owners, partner agencies and community. A Fact Sheet for community was also produced this year outlining the process and purpose of water regime management at the wetlands.

Site condition surveys have taken place targeting high priority weed and threatened species, salt marsh habitat condition and assessments for management plans in order to contract Parks Victoria to undertake on ground works in the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site reserves. Bellarine Catchment Network was successful in their Wetland Education and Information program, which will aim to promote the Ramsar values and threatened species of the wetlands to the broader community. Other works include Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) monitoring for waterbirds, shorebirds, habitat and fish fry rookeries.

Surf Coast and Otways Restoration

Project to improve the condition of the rivers, estuaries and waterways and promote community involvement.

An Expression of Interest for waterway frontage protection incentives was delivered in late 2021. Funding was available for landholders with frontage on the Curdies River and a sub–set of rivers throughout the Otways and Surf Coast areas to complete protection and restoration works such as fencing, weed control, revegetation, stock crossings and off-stream water points, willow removal and pest animal management. Forty-three Expressions of Interest were received, with 26 of these meeting eligibility requirements and 16 landholders successful in the obtaining funding for their project. These projects will improve 13kms of frontage on the Curdies River (including the removal of willows from nearly 4kms) and 8.6kms of frontage along Thompsons, Duneed and Merrijig Creeks over the next two years.

Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch groups active at Curdies, Barham, Wye, Erskine, Painkalac, Anglesea, Spring and Thompson are producing long term data on the condition of coastal waterways. This dataset has contributed to water quality reports for Sherbrook River and Wye River. Short term citizen science program National Waterbug Blitz has been delivered with schools, and Landcare Networks (Heytesbury District and Surf Coast and Inland Plains) and community have collected eDNA water samples for the Great Australian Platypus Search.

In 2021-2022, the partnership agreement between Corangamite CMA and Barwon Water continued to support releases of environmental water from the Painkalac Creek Reservoir. Releases occurred throughout the year in between spill events to mimic natural flows for environmental and recreational benefits. When possible, fresh releases are scheduled to coincide with artificial estuary openings undertaken by Surf Coast Shire to help lower the risk of fish deaths and sustain the opening. Estuary and E-water staff frequently supported a significant number of working groups and engagement events in the Surfcoast/Otways.



Rivers of Gold and Western District Lakes

Project to improve and protect the condition of the Ramsar wetlands, rivers, and waterways, and promote community involvement.

An Expression of Interest for waterway frontage protection incentives was open in early 2022. Funding was available for landholders with frontage on the Woady Yaloak River and upper Yarrowee and Leigh River to complete protection and restoration works such as fencing, weed control, revegetation, stock crossings and off-stream water points, willow removal and pest animal management. 36 expressions of Interest were received, with 14 of these meeting eligibility requirements. All 14 landholders have been visited and have a site management plan with final bidding and project evaluations to occur in late July.

The citizen science program has seen a great response to recruitment efforts post COVID-19. We now have a number of sites on the Yarrowee and Leigh Rivers being monitored by community members and have strengthened our relationship with Friends of the Yarrowee and Leigh Catchment Group. An initial interest in Platypus and taking part in the Great Australian Platypus Search has resulted in increased action around water quality monitoring. We look forward to working together with these community groups on Celebrating the Yarrowee with the City of Ballarat this Spring.

Contracts for on-ground works with Greening Australia, Birdlife Australia and Parks Victoria have all been signed, with on ground works including weed control, fencing, threatened species monitoring and pest animal control. The Parks Victoria contract being the largest of the three with 165ha of Ramsar area under funded management, Parks are looking to hire a field staff member to undertake this work. Birdlife Australia and Greening Australia are both undertaking monitoring for the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) over the next two years, with Birdlife monitoring already having completed a winter bird count.

Delivering Integrated Catchment Management for the Gellibrand

Project to improve the condition of the estuaries, rivers, and waterways and promote community involvement.

Estuary staff continue to partner with Wannon Water during artificial estuary openings at the Gellibrand River estuary. The Guidance Note where Wannon Water temporarily ceases extraction during an opening was updated in 2021-2022.

An Expression of Interest for waterway frontage protection incentives was delivered in late 2021. Funding was available for landholders with frontage in the Gellibrand catchment to complete protection and restoration works such as fencing, weed control, revegetation, stock crossings and off-stream water points, willow removal and pest animal management. 22 expressions of Interest were received, with 17 of these meeting eligibility requirements and nine landholders successful in obtaining funding for their project that will improve 11kms of frontage in the Gellibrand catchment over the next two years.

Citizen science activities have included Great Australian Platypus Search eDNA sampling in Karwarren and long-term water quality data collection by Gellibrand EstuaryWatch and with Carlisle River Primary School through the River Detectives programs. Recruitment of volunteers post-COVID-19 has been occurring to reestablish Waterwatch monitoring at on-ground works sites.

Gellibrand Catchment Plan

This project undertook a detailed cost-benefit analysis of various management options to increase waterway health of the Gellibrand River catchment using an INFFER approach.

The project was undertaken in partnership with Wannon Water and involved engagement with a number of other stakeholders to develop the management options. The project provides a clear direction on the most cost-effective management actions to improve water quality and overall waterway health in the catchment. This work will be used to prioritise future investment in the Gellibrand Catchment under "Delivering Integrated Catchment Management for the Gellibrand".

Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project

The Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project (previously known as the Barwon River Parklands) covers the Lower Moorabool and Barwon Rivers stretching from near Meredith in the north on the Moorabool River to the Barwon River through Geelong and to the Barwon Heads estuary.

The Corangamite CMA is the lead agency on the project acting on behalf of a number of State Government agencies, two local government authorities, Coastal Committee, G21 and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation. Key highlights for the project in 2021-2022 include:

- 1. Wadawurrung Traditional Owners have named the project Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut translating to "places of many stories" supported by a Wadawurrung designed project logo
- 2. Commencement of a masterplan for the corridor to enhance the visitor experience including engagement with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, land managers and other interested government stakeholders
- Commencement of a review of the governance and funding model for the project including the analysis of various similar case studies
- 4. A joint Corangamite CMA and Wadawurrung Traditional Owner project launch event to promote the project name, logo and commencement of the masterplan
- 5. Supporting the planning of various infrastructure projects along the corridor including Golden Plain Shire Council's Moorabool River Reserve near the Riverstone Estate development and Parks Victoria's Sheepwash Boardwalk project at Barwon Heads.

Analysis of the social and economic values dependent on a flowing Barwon River through Geelong.

This project quantified the economic and social benefits of Barwon River flow through Geelong with and without recommended environmental water recovery scenarios.

The quantified economic and social benefits included recreational value, the increase in house prices close to the river and the economic return from major sporting events such as rowing regattas. The project showed that the optimum flows for environmental purposes is likely to increase the current economic return for the Lower Barwon River from \$19.9m per year to approximately \$23.7m per year which is an increase of \$3.8m per year. This increase in value is in addition to the cultural benefits and health and wellbeing of the community from increased flows. The study provides added justification for the restoration of flows in the Lower Barwon River and tributaries.

Fish Habitat Restoration Projects

The Curdies Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project has seen 40 instream habitat structures built and ready for insertion into the river.

There has been keen involvement from students from a local school who are also enthusiastic fishers and have helped build fish hotels. Work has commenced to revegetate the riparian zone of the estuary, with landholders recruited to protect 3ha of frontage.

The Barwon River Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Project sets out to improve riverine and estuarine habitat for native fish, including angling species such as Estuary Perch, in the lower Barwon River between Buckley Falls and Lake Connewarre within the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site.

In the last 12 months this project has seen the installation of approximately 600 tonnes of repurposed timber into the lower Barwon River between Gundog Lane at Breakwater and Lake Connewarre. The timber was donated from storm recovery events managed by Macedon Ranges Shire Council through Bushfire Recovery Victoria funding. Support by community volunteers, 2,000 plants have been planted along the riparian zone of the Barwon River through Geelong.

The Corio Bay Fish Habitat Project is sub-contracted to OzFish as it builds on recent large scale shellfish reef restoration projects within Port Phillip Bay. Sites for remediation have been chosen and assessments have taken place this year based on habitat suitability modelling and mapping provided by The Nature Conservancy. Repurposed scallop, mussel and oyster shells have been obtained from the Bass Straight commercial fishing industry and also from discarded restaurant waste. These are being processed and then will be deployed when ready.

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Floodplain Management

The CMA continues to experience an ongoing demand for its statutory services due to a number of significant growth and infill areas within its region.

Ballarat has shot past the 100,000 mark and the Ballarat City Council projects it will reach 185,000 by 2040¹. Geelong's growth is stronger than ever, with the Northern and Western Geelong growth areas constituting the largest greenfield planning project in regional Victoria, with a combined future population of approximately 110,000 new Geelong residents². Geelong's forecast population growth is 2.1% per annum from 2016 to 2036.

During 2021-2022, the Corangamite CMA responded to 145^3 statutory responses, a 5% increase (or 107 additional responses sent) to last financial year. Of these, 816 were flood advice requests, 530 were planning referrals and 107 were Works on Waterway permits.

There were also 251 visits to the Corangamite flood portal. A notably higher proportion of responses were flood advice requests. 72% of statutory requirements were met within the prescribed period, down 1% from last year's figure. The Corangamite CMA investigated and responded to 19 cases of unauthorised works.

The Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (CRFMS) 2018-2028 is progressing with 44 actions completed, 32 actions underway and 41 actions stalled/not started, with an additional two actions added this year. Unsurprisingly, the main reason some of the actions were unable to be achieved this year is due to COVID-19 and as such, the actions have been pushed back a year, namely VICSES's, relating to community engagement actions.

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Estuary permits and regulation

In 2021-2022, the estuaries team provided advice for 26 artificial estuary openings.

Nine Permits were issued in July 2021 to Permit Holders. Two Guidance Notes were updated with partner agencies in 2021-2022. A pilot learning session/learning exchange with expert ecologist Lance Lloyd was held by the CMA, with opportunity for WTOAC and Corangamite CMA staff to ask specific questions regarding eels in the catchment's estuaries.

- 1. Victoria's regional cities are growing outwards but many question whether the sprawl is sustainable. ABC News, 25 February 2022 Victoria's regional cities are growing outwards but many question whether the sprawl is sustainable ABC New
- 2. Geelong's growth. City of Greater Geelong Council website, Geelong's growth City of Greater Geelong (geelongaustralia.com.au)
- 3. Regional Development Victoria. https://www.rdvvic.gov.au/victorias-regions/geelong One development alone accounted for \$1,500,000,000 (a wind farm).

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Caretaker of Waterway Health

The Corangamite Caretaker of Waterway Health project has overseen the delivery of the Corangamite Regional Waterway Strategy and contributed to State policy delivery as required under the Water Statement of Obligations. The Waterway Protection Program has played a key role in restoring and protecting waterway frontages by engaging with Traditional Owners and working in partnership with the community and other stakeholders.

This year the CMA has commenced a review of the Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022. The Corangamite CMA has provided input to several State and regional Plans that contribute to Waterway health in the region. This has included the development of the Victorian Coast and Marine Strategy, the Surf Coast and Bellarine Distinctive Areas and Landscapes process, renewal of the Victorian Water Management Strategy and development of the Central and Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy.

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Barwon through Geelong

The Barwon through Geelong project continues to function as a routine maintenance program with multiple facets of management.

This year we have implemented the new maintenance contract that has provided more efficiencies in the management of the river; including the online GIS capture of asset condition ratings and a workflow that ensures risk is managed effectively, and a 12 monthly process for condition ratings for high-risk assets.

General maintenance and safety works continue to be carried out such as pathway maintenance, line marking, signage for land and water navigation, parklands signage, car park maintenance and various other fixtures such as decks, seats and tables.

The new multi-use platforms have been completed and have added a better visitor facility experience to users of the Barwon River. The CMA is in the process of engaging with the community to review the current rules to align with the aqueduct removal and the Barwon River Master planning process.

Over 90 events have taken place on CMA managed land with various community meetings and engagement efforts with the local community and event organisers.

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Drainage Schemes

The Routine maintenance and administration program has been delivered.

This year this has involved inspection of infrastructure, planning for and overseeing of maintenance (weed and silt control); operation of the schemes in a time of flood; water quality and quantity monitoring; administration of the Cundare Pool Grazing licences on land managed by the CMA. This year the CMA has also delivered significant infrastructure safety and operational upgrades across both drainage schemes.

The CMA has also completed a study to review the operational issues of both the CMA managed rural drainage schemes and detailed flood mapping and modelling of various operational scenarios and impacts of these.

Water-Salt Balance Model: Lower Barwon

The Water Salt Balance Model of the Lower Barwon Wetlands will look at inflows and outflows of water and salt through surface and groundwater paths under a range of present-day and future scenarios.

The modelled information will feed into current management actions, as well as future flows recommendations for Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamps.

Lower Barwon Infrastructure Projects

Infrastructure works have been completed in the lower Barwon including the tidal barrage weir and fishways, and the fishway at the Reedy Lake outlet.

The completion of works at the Reedy Lake outlet includes the construction of a new regulator, vertical slot fishway and elver ramp. In addition, the regulator has been automated so it can be operated remotely.

Since the lower Barwon tidal barrage weir and fishways project was completed, the CMA has been responding to concerns regarding localised flooding of land subject to inundation in the lower Barwon River. In response to landholder concerns, the CMA commissioned an independent review of the factors influencing the Hydrology of the lower Barwon and finalised the weir works with a post construction survey and some modifications to the weir to ensure the structure was at the same height as previous.



Table 2: Standard outputs delivered for the waterways program in 2021-2022

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Approval and advice - Advice	1,113			
Approval and advice – Lease	31			
Approval and advice – Permit	260			
Approval and advice – Referral Response	480			
Assessment - Cultural	4	25,895.24		
Assessment - Ecological	166	2,722.39		
Assessment - Flora	1	0.43		
Assessment - Invasive Species	1	12.78		
Assessment - Property	9	126.20		
Assessment - Social	1	6.50		
Assessment - Soil	1	0.26		
Assessment – Surface water	180	8,240.90		
Channel - Channel	4		4.25	
Channel - Drain	8		69.23	
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with conferences/seminars	1			28
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with field days	2			7
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with on-ground trials/demonstrations	1			0
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with training/workshop events	2			9
Controlling access – Installing structures	1	1.85		
Engagement event – Field day	1			10
Engagement event – Meeting	26			316
Engagement event – Workshop	2			12
Establishing and maintaining agreements	4	52.72		
Fence - Bollard	1		0.83	
Fence - Fence	2		2.14	
Grazing – Native vegetation protection	1	61.11		
Information management system – Database	9			
Information management system – Decision support	3			
Management agreement – Binding non-perpetual	46			
Monitoring structure – Measuring point	20			
Partnership – Agency	120			
Partnership – Community groups	45			
Partnership – Corporate	2			
Partnership – Mixed	101			
Pest animal control – Terrestrial	1	61.11		
Plan - Management	9			

Table 2: Standard outputs delivered for the waterways program in 2021-2022 (continued)

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Plan – Strategy	1	232.35		
Publication - Visual	5			
Publication - Written	34			
Removing weeds – Treat weeds – Initial	3	7.11		
Road - Road	2		5.83	
Road - Track	1		14.88	
Site preparation – Prepare site	4	7.10		
Skills and knowledge survey – Conduct skills and knowledge surveys	2			
Vegetation – Native indigenous	12	68.89		
Vegetation - Non-native	1	28.26		
Visitor facility – Building	33			
Visitor facility – Operations	35			
Visitor facility – Recreational	16			
Water – Environmental Water – Holdings	15	2,192.81		
Water – Mixed	9	464.24		
Water – Unregulated Flow	10	29,466.03		
Waterway Structure – Flow Regulator	13			
Waterway structure – Large wood	4			
Weed control – Non-woody	14	288.00		
Weed control – Woody	9	29.29		





Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut



CHALLENGE

The Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project covers the Lower Moorabool River and Lower Barwon River corridors stretching from near Meredith in the north, through the urban area of Geelong and to the Barwon Heads estuary in the south.

The natural assets of the project area and its ongoing enjoyment are increasingly under threat from rapid population growth, and climate change. Furthermore, fragmented management across five separate public land managers complicates and delays efforts to improve access, connectivity and waterway amenity.

APPROACH

The initiative is driven by a desire to better integrate and connect public land managers while enhancing the environmental and cultural values. Current funding for the project of \$1.65m is provided through the Barwon Flagship Waterway Agreement as an action of the Rivers of the Barwon (*Barre Warre Yulluk*) Action Plan. The current funding covers a three-year program consisting of:

- 1. Development of a masterplan
- 2. Review of the governance and funding model
- 3. Business case, approvals and detailed design of high priority projects from the masterplan; and,
- 4. On-ground commencement of high priority projects (when combined with additional funding sources).

The masterplan is currently being developed to guide the future development of community infrastructure along the corridor to increase river access, provide greater recreational and tourism opportunities and enhance and promote the environmental and cultural features. The masterplan will integrate existing initiatives with new ideas generated from stakeholder engagement involving Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, community groups, river user groups, land managers and the general community.

RESULTS

The project continues to build strong relationships with project partners to co-ordinate activities and projects along the project corridor and pursuing funding opportunities. The masterplan and assessment of governance and funding model assessment is progressing with key recent achievements including:

- A joint Corangamite CMA and Wadawurrung project launch event supported by the initiative's partners
- Two full days of on-country site visits with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners to identify the cultural values of the river corridor and how they can be maintained and enhanced
- A series of "values plans" characterising the cultural, infrastructure and environmental assets of the river corridor
- Draft river segment objectives to guide the project ideas
- Consulting initially with key user groups before broader community consultation on values and opportunities.

KEY PARTNERS

The project is a partnership between a number of state government agencies, local government and a Registered Aboriginal Party, all with a shared interest in improving the amenity of the river corridor including: Barwon Water, City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire Council, Parks Victoria, G21 Geelong Regional Alliance, Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation, Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine, Barwon Coast Committee of Management and the Victorian Government.



CATCHMENT REPORT AND RATIONALE

NEUTRAL (

2021-2022 was a normal to wet year, reasonably high rainfall led to increases in river inflows and the ability for the full delivery of all environmental water entitlements. There has been continued investment in enhancing waterways through riparian management as well as using the limited formal entitlements as effectively as possible to achieve environmental flow outcomes. Water quality parameters have slightly improved on the previous year.

Rationale for assessment

- Investment has continued to enhance waterways through riparian and in-stream management and actions were completed at existing contracted projects. New incentive programs have been delivered across priority waterways in the region
- Landowners who are unable or unwilling to participate in waterway management programs require targeted engagement approaches, this year work commenced to develop a tailored approach to riparian protection in the Upper Barwon River

- Two formal river environmental water entitlements in the region are below what is recommended in flow studies for the Moorabool and the Barwon, but the CMA has been an active participant in the Gippsland and Central SWS process pursuing opportunities to secure additional water for cultural and environmental priorities
- The wetting and drying regime in the Lower Barwon Wetlands 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 an improvement on previous years with a higher number of waterways meeting the SEPP objectives, largely due to increased river inflows.

Waterway measures used in the assessment

EXTENT OF PROTECTED OR IMPROVED RIPARIAN LAND

The indicator reflects efforts to protect or improve the condition of riparian lands, including fencing, weed control, and revegetation and pest control (e.g. rabbits).

A range of activities delivered by the community and agencies contribute to habitat improvement and long-term improvements in the condition of waterways. Activities such as fencing and troughs for off-stream watering, revegetation and weed control, all support improved riparian and aquatic habitat and waterway condition. Table below provides a summary of waterway and habitat improvement activities that were supported by Corangamite CMA in partnership with community and other stakeholders, from 2013-2014 to 2021-2022 in riparian areas and waterways.

OUTPUTS/YEAR	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022
Structural Works									
Fence (km)	4	15	15	48	25	46	41	16	2
Water Storage – trough (no.)	0	0	1	5	1	20	7	3	0
Waterway Structure (no.)	16	1	12	11	20	32	43	35	13
Environmental Works									
Vegetation (ha)	17	54	85	179	168	97	507	295	97
Weed Control (ha)*	38	48	486	447	596	1,167	883	987	317
Planning and Regulation									
Management Agreement (no.)	10	27	25	55	45	64	37	18	46

Source: Corangamite CMA

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Rolling five year assessment – TREND

) Neutral

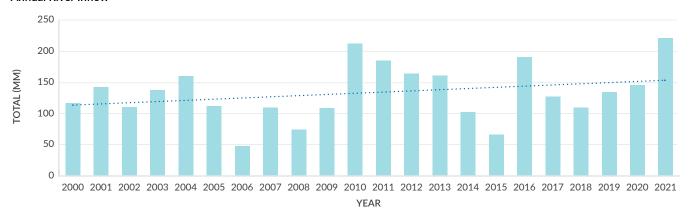
Neutral

RIVER INFLOWS

This indicator provides estimates of river inflows in Victoria.

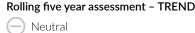
2021 was a wet year largely due to La Nina influences across the Corangamite catchment. This wet year follows a number of years with higher average rainfall. However long-term trends are showing decreases in river flows in the major river systems in the Corangamite region. The region typically experiences greater increases in rainfall and consequently river inflows in the southern areas, centred around the wetter Otway basin. The northern catchments are typically much drier.

Annual River Inflow



Source: Australia's Environment Explorer (wenfo.org)





EXTENT OF WETLANDS

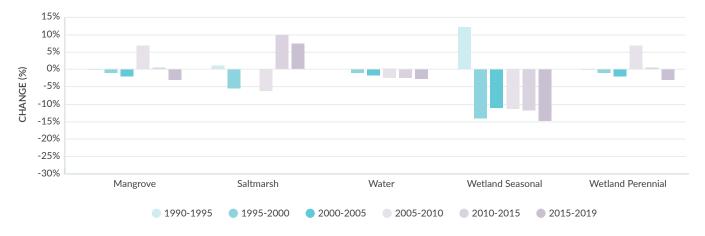
This indicator provides estimates of the overall rate of change in the extent and spatial distribution of wetlands and associated vegetation on public and private land in the Corangamite region.

The Corangamite region hosts significant areas of wetland habitats, including the internationally significant Ramsar listed Western District Lakes and Lake Connewarre complex. Past water management, planning decisions, and agricultural drainage have changed the course and flow of waterways and resulted in the loss of naturally occurring ephemeral wetlands.

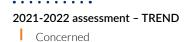
More recently there is increasing pressure on wetlands from encroachment through agricultural and urban development which reduces the condition of these areas. Climate Change is also a major threatening factor for wetlands in the region.

Perennial wetland cover has decreased by 23% from the 1989-1990 baseline, and seasonal wetlands have decreased by 15% over the same period. Saltmarsh cover has decreased by 7%.

Percentage change in wetland related land cover classes - Corangamite Region 1985-2019



Source: Victorian Land Cover Time Series (DELWP)





GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

This indicator provides information on groundwater resources in the Corangamite Region.

The stability or decline of groundwater systems depends on the amount of water recharging the system and on how much water is being used.

The following table summarises the general trends in groundwater levels in Corangamite Region, based on analysis of the State Observation Bore Network (SOBN) for the Victorian Water Accounts annual reports 2014-2019.

The wet season in 2022 has had a positive impact on the regions ground water catchments with the five and 10 year trends across all catchments being stable or rising.

GROUNDWATER LEVEL TRENDS JAN-MARCH	Bungaree ground water catchment	Cardigan ground water catchment	Colongulac ground water catchment	Gellibrand ground water catchment	Gerangamete ground water catchment	Warrion ground water catchment
JAN-MAR_2018_5yr	↓ Declining	↓ Declining	↑ Rising	→ Stable	→ Stable	↑ Rising
JAN-MAR_2018_10yr	↑ Rising	↑ Rising	→ Stable	↓ Declining	↓ Declining	↑ Rising
JAN-MAR_2019_5yr	↓ Declining	↓ Declining	→ Stable	→ Stable	↓ Declining	→ Stable
JAN-MAR_2019_10yr	→ Stable	↑ Rising	→ Stable	→ Stable	↑ Rising	↑ Rising
JAN-MAR_2020_5yr	→ Stable	→ Stable	→ Stable	→ Stable	→ Stable	→ Stable
JAN-MAR_2020_10yr	→ Stable	↑ Rising	→ Stable	→ Stable	↓ Declining	↑ Rising
JAN-MAR_2021_5yr	↑ Rising	↑ Rising	↑ Rising	→ Stable	→ Stable	↑ Rising
JAN-MAR_2021_10yr	↓ Declining	↑ Rising	→ Stable	→ Stable	↓ Declining	→ Stable
JAN-MAR_2022_5yr	↑ Rising	↑ Rising	→ Stable	→ Stable	↑ Rising	→ Stable
JAN-MAR_2022_10yr	↑ Rising	→ Stable	→ Stable	→ Stable	↑ Rising	→ Stable

Source: Southern Rural Water

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

+ Positive

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FLOW COMPLIANCE

This indicator considers 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 below provides a summary of what has been experienced for each of the systems.

Flow compliance over 2021-2022

MOORABOOL FLOW COMPLIANCE

Another wet year has resulted in a high volume of water in the environmental entitlement at Lal Lal reservoir. All winter/spring priority watering actions were met naturally due to Lal Lal reservoir spilling for majority of the wet season and even during early summer 2021. This allowed all recommended environmental water releases to be made during summer and autumn, achieving full compliance for the summer/autumn season and the entire water year.

UPPER BARWON FLOW COMPLIANCE

During the dry period, east branch recommendations were met naturally through a wet summer. Dry period low flows in the west branch were insufficient to meet recommendations in this reach or reaches downstream due to weed choke points not allowing for larger releases, however, releases will have supported the river by providing pool habitat, improving water quality and maintaining or improving the condition of instream vegetation. Although limited environmental water was delivered over the wet period due to flood risk, compliance was partially met in both the east and west branches naturally. Below the confluence of the east and west branches at Ricketts Marsh, both wet period freshes and low flows were met naturally.

LOWER BARWON FLOW COMPLIANCE

The 2021-2022 water year started with full wetlands which were successfully maintained in line with the 2021-2022 seasonal watering plan, throughout winter and spring. 2021-2022 was intended to be a summer draw-down year at both Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamps, following two full years at Reedy Lake. However, a range of factors including ongoing wet conditions prevented a draw down at Reedy Lake. Draw down was achieved at Hospital Swamps in 2021-2022. This seasonal variation is acceptable within a multi-year watering regime.

Source: Corangamite CMA

2021-2022 assessment - TREND



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Rolling five year assessment - TREND

+ Positive

WATER QUALITY (RIVERINE)

This indicator compares the Waterwatch data for 10 river reaches against the State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP).

This year was a normal to wet year.



pH (pH units)

Corangamite rivers assessed against SEPP Waters meeting objectives for pH (pH units) 90%

Electrical Conductivity (µS/cm)

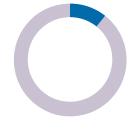
Corangamite rivers assessed against SEPP Waters meeting objectives for electrical conductivity (µs/cm) 70%

Corangamite rivers assessed against SEPP Waters meeting objectives



Turbidity (NTU)

Corangamite rivers assessed against SEPP Waters meeting objectives for turbidity (NTU) 67%



Dissolved Oxygen (% saturation)

Corangamite rivers assessed against SEPP Waters meeting objectives for dissolved oxygen (% sat) 11%

Corangamite rivers assessed against SEPP Waters not meeting objectives

Source: Waterwatch database

Note: To obtain the required number of data points for analysis using Victoria's Environmental Reference Standards, an approach was taken to extend the analysis period over 15 months i.e. dates 1st March 2020 to YTD (June) 2022 to compensate for the lockdown periods that could not be monitored in July to September.

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Neutral

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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 3 identifies the land projects undertaken by the CMA in 2021-2022, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 3: Land projects undertaken in 2021-2022

LAND	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
National Landcare 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 Corangamite CMA Leadership	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment.
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.	Partnerships	Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	By 2027 there is a 20% increase (compared to 2022) in private agricultural landholders engaging in sustainable land management practices. By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes.



Table 3: Land projects undertaken in 2021-2022 (continued)

LAND	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
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.	Waterways Corangamite CMA Leadership	Climate change Waterway & catchment health	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is a 10% increase in the regional community valuing biodiverse landscapes, planning for climate change adaptation and actively contributing to their protection, enhancement, and restoration. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region. Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures. Biodiversity – By 2027 120,000ha in priority locations are under sustained herbivore control.
NRM Regions Australia – SW Dairy Project Exploring partnership opportunities in dairy/NRM in South West Victoria. Share learnings with regional NRM organisations across Australia.	Build Capability and Capacity Regional Leadership	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships	Land - By 2027 there is a 20% increase (compared to 2022 levels) in private agricultural landholders engaging in sustainable land management practices.



Highlights and Achievements

2021-2022

Some of the highlights and achievements from the diversity of projects undertaken in the land program include:

Improving On-Farm Soil, Biodiversity and Vegetation for Larger Agricultural Enterprises in the Corangamite Region (Large Farms Project)

The Large Farms project continues to be implemented through our four sub projects working closely with our delivery partners.

Sustainable Dairies Program - West Vic Dairy and Ag Vic

The 5th round of the Sustainable Dairies Program is almost completed for the 2021-2022 financial year.

The program continues to get good uptake from landholders thanks to a very targeted recruitment process by West Vic Dairy. In this round, we have also worked with Glenelg Hopkins CMA to allow landholders more opportunities to attend the workshops that suit their availability. This has been a great opportunity for collaboration between the regions.

Soil Health Project (Pay Dirt, Cover cropping and sub-soiling trials, 100 Soil Tests) – Southern Farming Systems

Our partnership with Southern Farming Systems has delivered great on ground learnings through the cover cropping and sub-soiling trials.

Key learnings include:

- Improved yield results in sub-soiling areas
- Understand your sub soils (30-40cm) not just your top soil
- Better understanding required to address sub soil constraints such as bleaching or soil acidity
- Timing of Summer rains and paddock preparation, the key to cover cropping success.

We are also supporting the delivery of the new SFS workshop series called Pay Dirt. Developed with the support of MLA, the program equips farmers with the skills and knowledge to understand their pastures and soil health in order to make correct fertiliser decisions. After being postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, the program ran for the first time in Corangamite in early 2021. Further lockdowns and restrictions delayed the workshops and one on one extension, but the program is now complete with planning for the next workshop series underway with the Corangamite Rural Women's Network. A skills audit highlighted the improvement farmers can make in identifying their pasture species and the benefit this can have on future management decisions.

Master Tree Growers Course – Otway Agroforestry Network

The next Master Tree Growers (MTG) Course commenced on the 8th of April, this time in partnership with the Heytesbury District Landcare Network.

There were 51 expressions of interest from the information session and approximately 30 participants completing the course.

Innovation and Exchange - Landcare Networks

With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, our Innovation and Exchange sub project has been able to support eight Landcare events in recent months.

Topics such as Dung Beetles, Native grasses, Soil Carbon and Regenerative Agriculture have been covered in field days supported by funding from this project.

Small Blocks, Big Dreams Project

The Small Blocks, Big Dreams Project was developed as part of the Our Catchments, Our Communities (OCOC) component of the EC5 bid.

It responds to the increase in small property owners throughout the Corangamite Region and the need to support them to learn about environmental best management practices. It aims to create 'land stewards' who can provide guidance to other landholders within their local communities.

The project moved from the planning to implementation stage early in 2022 and was officially launched on the 22nd of February at the property of Xavier and Laura Meade (Barongarook Pork).

The project will consist of a series of workshops and property tours to support participants in developing a land stewardship action plan for their property. There will be introductory information sessions plus a series of workshops tailored to three specific groups of landholders:

- Artisan/small producers
- Lifestyle/Bush block owners and
- Livestock and horse property owners.

The introductory sessions will be open to up to 80 attendees per session. Participants are then eligible to submit an expression of interest to participate in a follow-up course consisting of a series of four sessions with small groups of up to 20 participants.

Moorabool Catchment Landcare group lead the Lifestyle/Bush Block owners theme with the introductory session completed on the 2nd of April at the Mount Rothwell Conservation and Research Reserve. The four workshops commenced on the 30th of April and finished on the 22nd of May in locations around the Ballan/Meredith area.

Central Otways Landcare Network will lead the Small Producers theme with their introductory session held on the 8th of May at Otway Estate in Barongarook. Workshops will run in July 2022.

Regional Landcare Coordination

The Regional Coordination project has supported groups and networks in the region through collaborative planning, communication and training activities.

The new Corangamite Landcare Support Plan has been developed and will be published in August. Professional development opportunities, such as Cascade Connections facilitator training and Cultural Awareness training for groups and networks, have been well received.

Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite

In October 2021 the successful recipients for the 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants were announced. In Corangamite 15 project grants and 34 support grants were funded with over \$350,000 total investment.

The projects started in late 2021 and will continue until late 2022. The project grants have supported local Landcare and environment groups to deliver a range of on ground works and community engagement activities.

Regional Agriculture Landcare 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, delivering and participating in events, sharing information and supporting project partnerships. During 2021-2022 the RALF has:

- Facilitated Corangamite CMA support and involvement in Landcare and agriculture industry group led projects, including Smart Farms Small Grants and the Future Drought Fund
- Facilitated three meetings of the South West Dairy Natural Resource Management reference group community of practice with stakeholders including industry, Landcare, milk processors, landholders and Government agencies
- Facilitated the Corangamite Rural Women's Network
 Community of Practice to undertake working group planning
 meetings and deliver two on farm events, including celebrating
 International Womens Day
- Facilitated two meetings of the Corangamite Sustainable Agriculture Steering Committee to provide strategic guidance and information sharing for the Corangamite CMA's Sustainable Agriculture projects

- Represented Corangamite CMA on various committees and working groups including the Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party, National Soil Strategy consultation, Heytesbury District Landcare Network 'Increasing Soil Carbon' project steering committee, National Landcare Conference 2022 program committee and abstract assessment
- Delivered guest speaker presentations at the online 2021
 National Landcare Conference, online 2021 Wimmera
 Biodiversity Seminar and 2022 National Regional Agriculture
 Landcare Facilitator Conference in Canberra
- Supported Corangamite CMA 'Regional Land Partnerships'
 Sustainable Agriculture project partners with project planning, promotion and evaluation. Partners include WestVic Dairy and Agriculture Victoria's 'Sustainable Dairies' program, Otway Agroforestry Network's 'Master TreeGrowers Course' with Heytesbury Landcare Network and Southern Farming Systems 'Pay Dirt' Meat & Livestock Australia soil health course
- Participated in the quarterly Corangamite Landcare Facilitators and Chairs forums to share information about sustainable agriculture programs and opportunities
- Facilitated working groups and project planning to support Landcare to deliver the 'Small Blocks Big Dreams' land stewardship workshop series, along with delivering presentations at the Bush Blocks and Small Producers introductory workshops
- Facilitated sustainable agriculture focused meetings between the Corangamite CMA and a range of partners including Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Southern Farming Systems, Federation University and the Centre for E-research and Digital Innovation, Agriculture Victoria, Landcare, National Centre for Farmer Health
- Developed three Victorian Landcare Award nominations to promote leaders in sustainable agriculture including the winning 'Landcare Farming Award' nomination, nominated three farmers for the Great South West Dairy Awards
- Produced the quarterly Corangamite Landcare eNews with 600+ recipients
- Victorian Landcare Grant assessment panel member
- Participated in the Victorian State RALF network and National RALF network with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

Table 4 provides the outputs delivered across all land program projects in 2021-2022. Performance reporting indicates that all projects are on track to deliver against their investment requirements.

Table 4: Standard outputs delivered for the land program in 2021-2022

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Agricultural Practices – Dryland	6	1,356.97		
Collecting, or synthesising baseline data – Collecting and/or synthesising baseline data sets	17	0.01		
Communication materials – Publishing communication materials	11			
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with field days	10			348
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with one-on-one technical advice interactions	33			152
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with training/workshop events	10			144
Developing farm/project/site management plan – Develop farm/project/site plans	47	553.73		
Engagement event – Conference	1			60
Engagement event – Field day	1			28
Engagement event – Meeting	3			25
Establishing and maintaining agreements	55	874.77		
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	2	0.01		
Farm management survey – Conduct farm management surveys	1	319.74		
Fire management actions – Treat fire management area	9	148.06		
Identifying the location of potential sites – Identify potential sites	19	1,268.63		
Improving land management practices – Implement area of practice change	55	882.55		
Negotiating with Community Landholders Farmers TO Ag groups etc – Negotiating with groups	1			
Partnership – Mixed	12			
Partnership – NGO	1			
Project planning and delivery of documents – Days project planning/preparation	8			
Publication - Written	3			
Removing weeds - Treat weeds - Initial	4	255.48		
Site preparation – Prepare site	28	534.00		
Skills and knowledge survey – Conduct skills and knowledge surveys	20			
Vegetation - Mixed	1	25.55		



The Sustainable Dairies Program

CHALLENGE

The Sustainable Dairies program was developed in response to the need for better collaboration between agencies working in the Dairy Industry and to assist Dairy Farmers to address issues such as nutrient run off, effluent management, water quality and soil health. The aim was to address these issues using strong partnerships and a coordinated education and extension program that would lead to positive outcomes for both productivity and the environment.

APPROACH

The Sustainable Dairies Program was initially developed in 2016 and funded as part of the Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning's (DELWP) Our Catchments, Communities Program (OCOC). Due to the success of the program, funding continued through the Large Farms Project as part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

In partnership with West Vic Dairy and Agriculture Victoria, the Sustainable Dairies program bought together key focus areas of the three organisations into a complete program.

The program included Fert\$mart (Dairy Australia nutrient management course), effluent management, soil acidity, soil carbon, compost and alternative fertilisers and soil biology. The content was spread over three classroom workshops and one field day.

The program

Day 1: Introduction to Sustainable Dairies and participants; Fert\$mart introduction – plant growth requirements; soil limiting factors; soil testing and result interpretation; the Fert\$mart plan; Effluent use and testing.

Day 2: Fert\$mart - Nutrient budgeting; soil structure and constraints including cation exchange capacity, salinity and acidity; soil carbon; Key soil nutrients - nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur.

Day 3: Alternative fertilisers; compost; Gibberellic Acid; in depth session on soil acidity; overview of the Fert\$mart plans and effluent use plans.

Day 4: Field Day – Soil biology, visual soil assessments and Corangamite CMA/ Landcare discussion on waterway health and increasing biodiversity on farms.

Participants also received free soil and effluent testing on site which would inform the development of a nutrient management plan and an effluent management plan.

RESULTS

Since 2016, over 60 Dairy Farmers have participated in the program over five rounds. Increased skills and knowledge from the program have resulted in planned actions such as;

- Fence and plantings on slips and waterways
- Actively manage compost
- Incorporate effluent into nutrient budget
- Reassess lime and fertilizer plans
- More revegetation on farm
- Better record keeping of our nutrients (soil testing)
- Learn more about Trace minerals.

Recent follow up site visits with participants from rounds one and two found they were continuing to focus on utilising compost and effluent as fertilizer alternatives which has led to improved effluent management as ponds are emptied more frequently. Some Dairy Farmers have moved into cover cropping and revegetation projects continue to be on the to do list but struggle to happen without assistance due to competing priorities.

The strong partnership between the lead organisations has been a key factor in the success of the program. This relationship has also led to the development of the South West NRM Dairy Group and highlighted the importance of working collaboratively within the Dairy Industry to achieve change.

KEY PARTNERS

The 'Sustainable Dairies' program is a partnership project between the Corangamite CMA, West Vic Dairy and Agriculture Victoria. The Heytesbury Landcare Network also plays a key role in supporting the delivery of the program.

CATCHMENT REPORT AND RATIONALE

NEUTRAL (-)



The 2021-2022 year was a relatively wet year, continuing a period of higher than average rainfall. Trends indicate a decrease in the area of exposed soil, most likely due to wet conditions. Land use changes are seeing a concerning decrease in native vegetation types and an increase in dryland cropping and hardwood plantations. 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 Corangamite 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 along with land use; annual crops require sowing each year with periods of fallow in between harvest and sowing the next crop. 2021-2022 was a relatively wet year with periods of higher than average rainfall. For the Corangamite region, typically the areas of greatest exposed soil are on the land use types grazing on modified pasture and dryland cropping. Whilst the figure for the last year shows a decreasing trend in the area of exposed soil, when compared with the previous two years, this is more than likely due to the wet summer

- Landuse change over time data shows decreases in native vegetation types, and significant increase in dryland cropping and hardwood plantations. Increases in urban and built environments contribute to an increase in extent of hard surfaces leading to impacts on waterways with increased stormwater. This is particularly concerning in coastal areas with saltwater systems getting an influx of fresh water
- 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 Federal 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. Agricultural commodities in the region continue to perform strongly
- The opportunity to engage landowners in sustainable agriculture events and projects has remained steady in this current financial year due to the further implementation of the Australian Government's Regional Land Partnership program.

Land measures used in the assessment

PERCENTAGE OF EXPOSED SOILS

This indicator enables the reporting of percentages of exposed soil in public and private land.

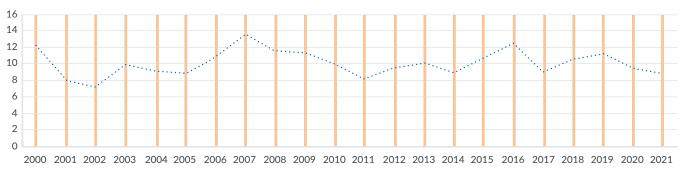
Vegetation groundcover varies between seasons, is based on changes in land management and is highly variable between years. Groundcover is a sub-component of land cover and can be used to infer land management practices. Ground cover is defined as the vegetation (living and dead), biological crusts and 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. The figure below illustrates the percentage of exposed soil over time as the surrogate for groundcover.

% of exposed soil



Source: ANU database

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Neutral

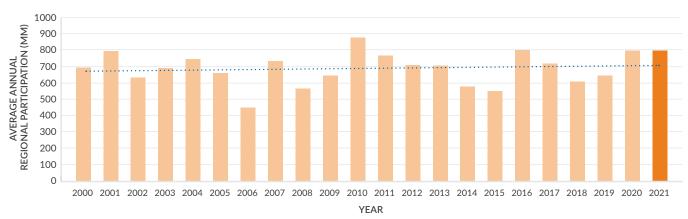
Rolling five year assessment - TREND

Concerned

ANNUAL RAINFALL

This indicator looks at the annual Rainfall. 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.

The figure below shows the annual rainfall in the Corangamite Region and indicates that across the region rainfall was higher than the previous years, with a wet winter followed by a wet summer. February was relatively dry, followed by again a wet autumn and early winter.



Source: ANU database

2021-2022 assessment – TREND

+ Positive

Rolling five year assessment - TREND

Neutral

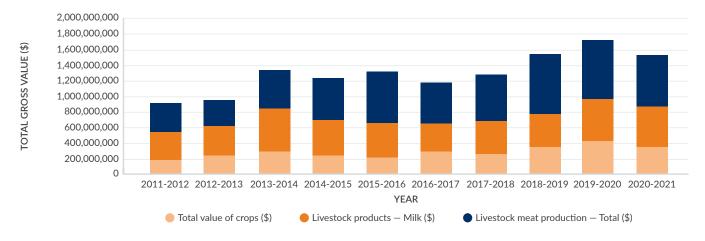
AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

This indicator aims to provide estimates of the type and gross value of agriculture commodities in the Corangamite Region.

The contribution of agriculture to the regional economy has been strong over the past three years. In 2020-2021:

- Total gross value of agricultural commodities in the Corangamite region was more than \$1,634m
- Gross value of crops was more than \$347m, with broad acre crops (wheat) having the greatest contribution
- Total gross value of livestock products was more than \$635m, including more than \$531m for milk products
- Livestock slaughtered (meat production) and other disposals was more than \$651m, to which cattle and calves contributed more than \$315m.

Total Gross Value in Agriculture - Corangamite Region



 $Source: ABS\ value\ of\ Agricultural\ commodities\ produced\ Australia$

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Neutral

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AMOUNT AND CHANGE OVER TIME OF LAND USE

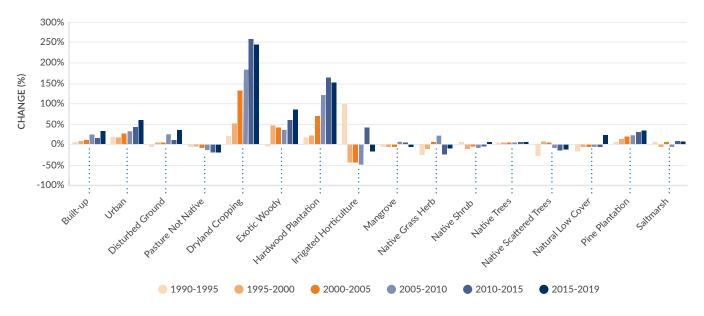
This indicator provides estimates of the current and overall rate of change in the extent and spatial distribution of land use classes on public and private land in Corangamite Region.

Over the period between 2015-2019, non-native pasture was the dominant land cover in the Corangamite region, comprising 61% of the total area (ha) covered among the classes analysed (not including water and wetland categories).

Native trees (22%) native grass herb (5%) and dryland cropping (3%) are the other most common land covers. The remaining land cover types account for only 7% of land cover. Over the time series (see figure below) there have been significant (100% or more) increases in dryland cropping and hardwood plantations.

Urban cover and Built-up cover (22%), which is associated with commercial or industrial development have both also increased. Increases in urban and built environments contribute to an increase in extent of hard surfaces leading to impacts on waterways with increased stormwater. This is particularly concerning in coastal areas with saltwater systems getting an influx of fresh water.

Percentage change in land cover classes - Corangamite Region 1990-2019



Source: Victorian Land Cover Time Series (DELWP)

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Concerned

Rolling five year assessment - TREND

Concerned

Coast

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 5 outlines the coast projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2021-2022, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 5: Coast and estuary projects undertaken in 2021-2022

COASTS	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Bellarine Dunecare – Protecting Sand Dunes on Victoria's Great Ocean Road and the Bellarine Peninsula This project will support on ground works to conserve coastal sand dune native flora and fauna habitat at risk of erosion, or of further erosion, from the Bellarine Peninsula to Marengo; and develop and support a Bellarine	OUTCOME Waterways Planning and Management Community benefits	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement &	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE Biodiversity – By 2027, there is a 10% increase in the regional community valuing biodiverse landscapes, planning for climate change adaptation and actively contributing to their protection, enhancement, and restoration. Biodiversity – By 2027, 90% of biodiversity planning, decision making, monitoring and data access is based on state-wide biodiversity decision tools and complemented by local specific information. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region. Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures. Biodiversity – By 2027 120,000ha in priority locations are under sustained herbivore control. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range
	Management	Community	of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment. Communities – By 2027, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country. Coastal and Marine – By 2027, proactive management of coastal ecosystems by land managers and the community results in a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine and coastal environment.



Table 5: Coast and estuary projects undertaken in 2021-2022 (continued)

COASTS	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Aire Valley Estuary Floodplain Project - Part 2 This project intends to assess options for adaptation to change and undertake a cost benefit and feasibility analysis of preferred alternative land management approaches that will be required in the Aire Valley. This will recognise the impact to, Traditional Owners, landholders, agencies and the community in the face of intensifying coastal hazard exposure due to climate change. This will include landholders that are currently impacted by inundation as well as those who will be inundated in the future.	Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Partnerships	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values Resilient & liveable cities	Land – By 2027 there is a 20% increase (compared to 2022 levels) in private agricultural landholders engaging in sustainable land management practices. Coast & Marine – By 2027, proactive management of coastal ecosystems by land managers and the community results in a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine and coastal environment. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment. Communities – By 2027, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country. Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the water quality of priority estuaries are maintained or improved, compared to index of estuary condition 2019 baseline. Water – By 2027, there is an increased understanding of floodplain management in relation to ecological and cultural values and mechanisms to mitigate the risk of flooding. Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is a 10% increase in the regional community valuing biodiverse landscapes, planning for climate change adaptation and actively contributing to their protection, enhancement, and restoration.

Highlights and Achievements

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

Bellarine and Great Ocean Road Dunecare Project

The Dunecare schools' program is designed to increase school students' engagement with dune systems through direct involvement in restoration activities such as planting and weeding as well as connecting with the traditional owners of the land and gaining an insight into the cultural significance of dune systems. The year has proven challenging due to COVID-19 disruptions however the team have created online content to engage schools remotely and continued to rebook cancelled visits in order to deliver the practical element of the project in terms two and three this year.

The on-ground works component of the program has commenced and land managers are undertaking a range of restoration activities including fencing, weed control, feral animal control and planting. A stakeholder working group has been established and is working towards sharing of knowledge, activities and strategies for restoration and protection of dune systems in adjoining land. The social research project is almost complete and will result in messaging guidelines to assist with signage along the coast from the Bellarine to Peterborough.

Table 6 provides the outputs delivered across all coast program projects in 2021-2022. Performance reporting indicates that all projects are on track to deliver against their investment requirements.

Table 6: Standard outputs delivered for the coast program in 2021-2022

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	AREA OF	LENGTH OF	NUMBER OF
	COMPLETED	WORKS (HA)	WORKS (KM)	PARTICIPANTS
Engagement event – Meeting	1			95





Wild Otways Small Mammals Project

CHALLENGE

The Wild Otways Initiative Small Mammals project aims to determine the critical factors that support remaining refuge habitat for small mammals in the Western Otway Ranges and establish required management prescriptions and guidelines to support small mammal recovery in other areas, including the Eastern Otway Ranges.

APPROACH

Historical and current data has been used to determine the status of species; their distribution and relationship to habitat refuges; and factors that support refuges. A combination of camera trapping, Elliott trapping, scat surveys and DNA analysis is being used across a wide range of coastal and inland habitats to fill gaps in our knowledge of the current distribution of key threatened species. The target species include EPBC listed Long Nosed Potoroo, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Swamp Antechinus, Broad Toothed Rat, Smoky Mouse, New Holland Mouse and FFG Listed White Footed Dunnart.

RESULTS

Whilst this project covers surveys for the Carlisle Heath and inland Eastern Otways Ranges the significant findings from the second year of research indicate that refuges in sand dunes from Anglesea to Grassy Creek are providing significant habitat for Swamp Antechinus, Southern Brown Bandicoots and White-footed Dunnarts. This has significant management implications for these small and highly vulnerable areas and project partners are working with coastal land managers to plan their on-ground activities around these small mammal refuges. Healthy populations of Swamp Antechinus and Long Nosed Potoroos were found at sites at Cape Otway along the coast and Parker Inlet. The next stage of the project will focus on determining the trends in condition of threatened species and developing specific, pragmatic management interventions for land management agencies.

PARTNERS

The lead consultant for this project is Barbara Wilson Pty Ltd who is supported by Dr Phoebe Burns (Native Mouse Ecological Consulting), Dr Jack Pascoe (Conservation Ecology Centre) and Dr John White (Deakin University). Public land management agency staff have been playing a key role in collaborative workshops establishing management prescriptions as well as assisting in the field with camera trap placement.



CATCHMENT REPORT 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 declined this year, largely due to local blue green algae events this year. These incidents have a negative impact on turbidity results. Various factors can change the percentage of dissolved oxygen within an estuary including temperature and upper catchment flows
- The area of saltmarsh under protection remains relatively stable compared to previous years; 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 remain some tensions associated with the artificial openings across some estuaries
- The formation of the Great Ocean Road Coasts and Park Authority sets out management responsibilities for public land and marine waters and is a foundation for improved coastal management
- Bellarine Great Ocean Road Dunecare Initiative is investing in coastal management projects on-ground over the next 2-3 years
- Increased estuary opening to protect human assets.

Coast and estuary measures used in the assessment

SALTMARSH UNDER MANAGEMENT

This indicator looks at area of saltmarsh under contract.

The data below presents the area under contract for saltmarsh protection as a result of programs delivered by the CMA, this year there has been a large increase in area under contract with new contracts with Parks Vic for a large on-ground works program.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Saltmarsh protection (ha under contract)	711	717	235	514	475	1,888

Source: Corangamite CMA

. 2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Rolling five year assessment - TREND -) Neutral



WATER QUALITY (ESTUARINE)

This indicator compares the Waterwatch data for six estuaries against the State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP).

2021-2022 was a normal to wet year, leading to increased river inflows taking with it an increased load of sediment and nutrient into the region's estuaries causing issues around BGA and water quality. Presence of a blue green algae bloom at Curdies River estuary and Barwon River estuary will have an impact on water quality parameters including turbidity and dissolved oxygen levels.



Turbidity Top (NTU)

Corangamite estuaries assessed against SEPP Waters meeting objectives for TOP turbidity 17%



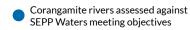
Dissolved Oxygen Top (% saturation)

Corangamite estuaries assessed against SEPP Waters meeting objectives for TOP dissolved oxygen (% sat) 33%



Dissolved Oxygen Bottom (% saturation)

Corangamite estuaries assessed against SEPP Waters meeting objectives for BOTTOM dissolved oxygen (% sat) 83%



Corangamite rivers assessed against SEPP Waters not meeting objectives

Source: EstuaryWatch database

Note: To obtain the required number of data points for analysis using Victoria's Environmental Reference Standards, an approach was taken to extend the analysis period over 15 months i.e. dates 1st March 2020 to YTD (June) 2022 to compensate for the lockdown periods that could not be monitored in July to September.

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Concerned

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Rolling five year assessment - TREND

Neutral





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% 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 7 identifies the biodiversity projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2021-2022, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 7: Biodiversity projects undertaken during 2021-2022

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BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Protecting Priority Threatened Species – Corangamite Coast (Yr 2-5) The Corangamite CMA has actively led 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 on-ground 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	Build Capability and Capacity Regional Leadership	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region. Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures. Biodiversity – By 2027 120,000ha in priority locations are under sustained herbivore control.
Connected Landscapes – Connecting Landholders 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% of Area Five's four 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 on-ground works that may not be addressed through a MBI.	Waterways Corangamite CMA Leadership	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region. Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures. Biodiversity – By 2027 120,000ha in priority locations are under sustained herbivore control.
Construction of the lower Barwon Barrage Fishway This project will construct a fishway on the southern bank of the lower Barwon Barrage.	Community benefits Biodiversity	Community engagement & partnerships	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.

Table 7: Biodiversity projects undertaken during 2021-2022 (continued)

BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Bellarine Peninsula Saltmarsh Restoration Through an INFERR Assessment completed in 2019, the eastern shoreline of Lake Connewarre was highlighted as having significant saltmarsh habitat for species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot, as well as carbon sink potential. Since then, the Corangamite CMA has established signed agreements with landholders in this priority area to undertake works (e.g., reducing grazing, fencing installation, weed control) according with management plans specific to improving the condition of coastal saltmarsh and Orange-bellied Parrot habitat on their property. With this funding available from DELWP, the Corangamite CMA would work with these existing landholders to continue to invest in priority areas and works based on the specific needs of the sites. In addition to the habitat restoration works, The Blue Carbon Lab at Deakin University is currently undertaking a Coastal Saltmarsh Migration Assessment to determine how predicted sea level rise and elevation changes may affect the distribution of Orange-bellied Parrot habitat in Swan Bay. The aim is to identify and define habitat areas for future protection in investment. As part of this assessment, Deakin will be providing recommendations for any future works, including best-practice methods for restoration of saltmarsh or to allow saltmarsh to migrate.	Biodiversity	Climate change Waterway & catchment health	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is a 10% increase in the regional community valuing biodiverse landscapes, planning for climate change adaptation and actively contributing to their protection, enhancement, and restoration. Biodiversity – By 2027, 90% of biodiversity planning, decision making, monitoring and data access is based on state-wide biodiversity decision tools and complemented by local specific information. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.
Wild Otways Initiative – Feral pig and deer eradication to protect native species in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland The project will be designed with feral animal control specialists to deliver highly strategic, intensive, responsive and sustained removal of introduced herbivores (deer and pigs) to protect native species and critical habitat (including EPBC-listed flora and fauna habitat and refugia).	Community benefits Biodiversity	Community engagement & partnerships	Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures.
Wild Otways Initiative – Community grants program to protect and restore native plants, wildlife and coastal environments This project provides grants to support the local community to deliver on-ground environment projects to protect and restore native plants, wildlife, and coastal environments in the Otways from Peterborough to Jan Juc. The project also includes an Otways web portal, Wild Otways Initiative-wide monitoring program and emergency response capacity.	Community benefits Biodiversity	Community engagement & partnerships	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is a 10% increase in the regional community valuing biodiverse landscapes, planning for climate change adaptation and actively contributing to their protection, enhancement, and restoration.

Table 7: Biodiversity projects undertaken during 2021-2022 (continued)

BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Wild Otways Initiative – Fox and feral cat control in planned-burn landscapes to protect threatened species in the Otway Ranges Research findings suggest that reducing both feral cat and fox densities in burned landscapes following a fire event may support native animal survival in those areas. This project will help determine the management and operational requirements for integrated feral cat and fox control in the Otways after a fire event.	Community benefits Biodiversity	Community engagement & partnerships	Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures.
Wild Otways Initiative – Protecting plant and animal biodiversity in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland from cinnamon fungus (Phytophthora cinnamomi) dieback. This project is to reduce the impact of Phytophthora dieback (Phytophthora cinnamomi) on the biodiversity of the Otway Ranges, including EPBC-listed species. The project aims to prevent the introduction and/or minimise the spread of Phytophthora cinnamomi into uninfected critical habitat areas (notably the Carlisle Heathlands) and reduce the impact of Phytophthora cinnamomi at infected sites critical to the conservation of threatened species.	Community benefits Biodiversity	Community engagement & partnerships	Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.
Wild Otways Initiative – Conserving threatened small mammals in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland This project aims to determine the critical factors that support remaining refuge habitat for small mammals in the western Otway Ranges and establish required management prescriptions and guidelines to support small mammal recovery in other areas, including the eastern Otway Ranges.	Community benefits Biodiversity	Community engagement & partnerships	Biodiversity – By 2027, 90% of biodiversity planning, decision making, monitoring and data access is based on state-wide biodiversity decision tools and complemented by local specific information.
Wild Otways Initiative – Rewilding threatened species in the Otway Ranges This project will identify and, if feasible, create the required conditions and support the reintroduction or 'rewilding' of one or more 'lost' and/or sparse threatened small mammal species important to the Otway Ranges, e.g. New Holland Mouse, Smoky Mouse, Broadtoothed Rat and Swamp Antechinus.	Community benefits Biodiversity	Community engagement & partnerships	Biodiversity – By 2027, 90% of biodiversity planning, decision making, monitoring and data access is based on state-wide biodiversity decision tools and complemented by local specific information.

Highlights and Achievements

2021-2022

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

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S WILD OTWAYS INITIATIVE

Community Grants Program

The Community Environment Grants program being delivered as part of the Wild Otways Initiative is a \$1m investment to support the delivery of projects to protect and restore native plants, wildlife and coastal environments in the area between Bells Beach to Peterborough, and the Otways hinterland.

This year the second round of funding was delivered, supporting another 10 community projects which will see a further \$141,000 invested in community-led on-ground works benefitting species including the Leafy Greenhood orchid, Swamp Antechinus and broad toothed rat.

Pig and Deer Project

This second year of the Pig and Deer project has seen targeted monitoring of pigs and deer using camera trapping and collaring of individual pigs and sows to determine their distribution and behaviour.

The engagement element of the project has seen a broad range of workshops with Landcare groups and interested private landowners in how to use the Feralscan app to record sightings and in a range of best practice control methods. The control element of the project has seen cage traps, Hogone baiting, and ground shooting of pigs undertaken on both public and private land across the Otways and game hunters engaging with landowners to sustainably harvest deer.

Fox and Cat

This project is in its second year of monitoring foxes and cats in planned burn landscapes of the Carlisle heath, collared animals as well as camera traps are tracking the movements and density of animals both before and after planned burns.

This year both baiting of foxes and shooting of cats has been undertaken in a number of burn blocks before and after fires in order to protect threatened small mammals such as Long Nosed Potoroos and Swamp Antechinus.

Small Mammals project

The Small Mammals project delivered significant gap filling surveys this year in addition to analysis of historical data on key threatened mammals in the Otways.

Trapping using cameras, Elliott and cage traps and DNA sampling of scats have identified significant refuges for small mammals including the Swamp Antechinus, Southern Brown Bandicoot and Broad Toothed Rat. The Eastern Otways has found small highly impacted refuges in dune systems associated with creeks draining to the ocean this has significant management implications for these small and highly vulnerable areas and project partners are working with coastal managers to plan their on-ground activities around these small mammal refuges.

Phytophthora management program

This year has seen a priority protection area decision making process involving land managers and experts in the field identify seven areas of significance for protection from Phytopthora dieback infestations.

A threat abatement plan specific to the Otways has been written and trial treatments of key areas with phosphite has commenced. A permit for off label application of phosphite has been submitted to the APVMA and is in the final stages of review. Greencard training and curriculum development has commenced with key agencies and associated hygiene protocol manuals and brochures have been produced for public and agency use.

Rewilding the Otways

This project commenced with phase one identifying candidate species for potential Rewilding in the Otway region, the second phase commenced this year with the procurement and commencement of four new projects aimed at creating the conditions required for Rewilding in the Otways.

An expanded pig and deer monitoring, and control program has commenced with three new monitoring areas, increased control efforts and a trial of InfraRed aerial monitoring for Pigs and Deer. Phytophthora rehabilitation in post disease landscapes is being undertaken in the Eastern Otways with the trial of a planting program involving Phytophthora sensitive species. Zoos Victoria is partnering to undertake a feasibility and trial translocation of Swamp Antechinus in the Otways beginning with sampling of existing populations for DNA analysis and ground truthing for potential translocation sites.

Orange-bellied Parrot Protection Project

The Orange-bellied Parrot Protection Program has seen another successful year through the partnership approach with DELWP, Zoos Victoria, Moonlit Sanctuary and BirdLife Australia.

In May 2022, across two separate releases, 20 captive-bred Orange-bellied Parrots were released on the eastern shore of Lake Connewarre, all fitted with coded VHF tags, for tracking through antennae towers and a handheld receiver. OBP monitoring has occurred throughout Winter, with observations of both captive-bred released birds and natural migrants from Tasmania. The maximum single group of a mixed flock (both released and migrant birds) observed this season has been 10. Birds have also been observed feeding on a range of wild food plants including Austral Seablite, Sea Barley-grass and Beaded Glasswort.

Over 250ha of saltmarsh habitat has been protected through partnerships with land managers. All site works have been focused on reducing grazing, particularly over the saltmarsh flowering and seeding period (Autumn to Spring), installing fencing to allow for effective management of stock and weed control to improve habitat condition.

On-ground vegetation monitoring has been undertaken to assess condition change, through guidance from the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

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

Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Stewardship Program

The Corangamite CMA is supporting landholders to protect critically endangered Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands and Natural Temperate Grassland on private land through 10-year voluntary management agreements (2022-2032).

The program includes financial incentives for on-ground management interventions, long-term flora and fauna monitoring, annual site meetings and landholder forums/workshops. This year, via targeted engagement, over 450ha of Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands and Natural Temperate Grasslands is now under 10-year agreement on private land. Two long-term monitoring programs have been established to track the change in condition of these threatened communities under management.

Grassy Eucalypt Woodland Cultural Burning Program

The Cultural Burning Program supports Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) to carry out cultural burns on public and private land.

This project aims to improve the understanding of the use of cultural burning as a management tool in Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands and embed Traditional Owner practices into natural resource management. The program is a partnership between land managers and stakeholders including Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, Forest Fire Management Victoria, Golden Plains Shire Council, CFA and private landholders. This year the program has supported 10ha of cultural burning in two high value grassy eucalypt woodlands sites led by WTOAC and supported by project partners. The long-term Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Cultural Burning Monitoring Program continued to track the change in condition of grassy eucalypt woodlands under the use of cultural burning as a management tool.

Linear Reserve Program

The Linear Reserve Program is managed by DELWP in partnership with Corangamite CMA and Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

This project aims to reduce critical threats to native grasslands on public roadsides, rail easements and reserves and enhance their condition, connectivity and resilience. The program consists of ecological burning by CFA volunteers and follow-up weed management, vegetation condition mapping and community engagement/education events. This year the program delivered 400ha of initial weed control and 119ha of ecological burning (by CFA volunteers) on high value grasslands and grassy eucalypt woodlands on public reserves.

This year, over 450ha of Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands and Natural Temperate Grasslands is now under 10-year agreement on private land.

Table 8 provides the outputs delivered across all biodiversity program projects in 2021-2022. Performance reporting indicates that all projects are on track to deliver against their investment requirements.

Table 8: Standard outputs delivered for the biodiversity program in 2021-2022

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Assessment – Ecological	4	119.12		
Collecting, or synthesising baseline data – Collecting and/or synthesising baseline data sets	5	5,155.32		
Communication materials – Publishing communication materials	10			
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with field days	2			
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with one-on-one technical advice interactions	15			12
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with training/workshop events	4			19
Controlling pest animals – Treating area for pest animals – Initial	1	48.29		
Developing farm/project/site management plan – Develop farm /project/site plans	9	82.45		
Engagement event – Meeting	3			6
Establishing and maintaining agreements	109	2,523.07		
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	8	8,786.72		
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes – Days maintaining monitoring regime	8	28,612.26		
Fauna survey – Conduct fauna surveys	13	21,901.87		
Fire - Ecological Fire Reduction	1	1.94		
Flora survey – Conduct Flora surveys	1	260.68		
Grazing – Biomass reduction	5	17.66		
Grazing – Terrestrial	6	283.74		
Identifying the location of potential sites – Identify potential sites	2	9,106.39		
Improving land management practices – Implement area of practice change	7	260.66		
Information management system – Decision support	1			
Negotiating with Community Landholders Farmers TO Ag groups etc – Negotiating with groups	4			
Pest animal control – Herbivore	5	271.81		

Table 8: Standard outputs delivered for the biodiversity program in 2021-2022 (continued)

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Pest animal control – Predator	2	342.04		
Pest animal control – Terrestrial	14	492.91		
Pest animal survey – Conduct survey for pest animals	1	48.29		
Project planning and delivery of documents – Days project planning/preparation	295			
Project planning and delivery of documents - Develop planning and delivery documents	5			
Removing weeds – Treat weeds	3	3,503.31		
Skills and knowledge survey – Conduct skills and knowledge surveys	2			
Weed control - Non-woody	34	1,799.49		
Weed control – Woody	26	776.84		
Weed distribution survey – Conduct weed distribution survey	4	285.22		





Protecting Priority Threatened Species of Corangamite Coast

"ORANGE-BELLIED PARROT (OBP) PROTECTION PROGRAM"

CHALLENGE

The Orange-bellied Parrot (OBP) Protection Program aims to increase the population of OBPs consistently utilising the habitat within the Corangamite region, particularly at Lake Connewarre and Swan Bay, as well as improve the condition of habitat vegetation.

APPROACH

The program utilises a partnership approach with DELWP, Zoos Victoria, Moonlit Sanctuary and BirdLife Australia.

To achieve an increase in population within the Corangamite region, management actions include releases of captive-bred OBPs at Lake Connewarre and protection of birds from feral predators through pest control. Following releases, a dedicated team (including passionate volunteers) have undertaken on-ground OBP monitoring through satellite tracking in Winter. In parallel with these measures, the saltmarsh habitat particularly around Lake Connewarre is being protected through partnerships with land managers. Flora and fauna monitoring is consistently being undertaken to examine improvement over time from these management actions.

RESULTS

In May 2022, across two separate releases, 20 captive-bred Orange-bellied Parrots were released on the eastern shore of Lake Connewarre, all fitted with coded VHF tags, for tracking through antennae towers and a handheld receiver. OBP monitoring has occurred throughout Winter, with observations of both captive-bred released birds and natural migrants from Tasmania. The maximum single group of a mixed flock (both released and migrant birds) observed this season has been 10. Birds have also been observed feeding on a range of wild food plants including Austral Seablite, Sea Barley-grass and Beaded Glasswort.

Over 250ha of saltmarsh habitat has been protected through partnerships with land managers. All site works have been focused on reducing grazing, particularly over the saltmarsh flowering and seeding period (Autumn to Spring), installing fencing to allow for effective management of stock and weed control to improve habitat condition.

On-ground vegetation monitoring has been undertaken to assess condition change, through guidance from the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

KEY PARTNERS

The Orange-bellied Parrot Mainland Release Program is led by DELWP, Zoos Victoria, BirdLife Australia and Moonlit Sanctuary. This project is supported by Corangamite CMA, through funding from the Australian Government.



CATCHMENT REPORT AND RATIONALE

CONCERNED



The condition for the region's biodiversity is considered to be poor and of concern in 2021-2022. The concerning trend is predominantly due to historical pressures, such as introduced animal and plant species and land clearing being exacerbated by the increasing trends of urban encroachment, habitat fragmentation, climate variability and the spread of invasive species and diseases.

The Corangamite CMA and other organisations undertake work to manage biodiversity and are achieving a positive trend in native vegetation extent, however the overall hectares are still very small in relation to the extent of cleared land and impacted biodiversity. The 2021-2022 year has seen targeted projects (Wild Otways Initiative, Orange-bellied Parrot project and Victorian Volcanic Plains project) delivering positive outcomes for threatened species across the region.

Rationale for assessment

• Introduced animal and plant species and land clearing, along with increasing trends of urban encroachment, habitat fragmentation, climate variability and the spread of invasive species and diseases, are all placing intense pressure on biodiversity in the region

- Threatened species and biodiversity projects are delivering positive outcomes, however the impact is small in the face of the extent of threats to biodiversity in the region
- There has been increases in knowledge and research delivered through the Wild Otways project providing valuable insights that will assist future biodiversity projects
- Specific projects such as the Orange-bellied Parrot protection, Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands, and Phytophthora management program are delivering positive outcomes for threatened species and biodiversity protection
- 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 is exploring opportunities through social benchmarking studies.

Biodiversity measures used in the assessment

EXTENT OF NATIVE VEGETATION

This indicator aims to provide estimates of the current and previous extent and spatial distribution of native vegetation on public and private land in the Corangamite Region.

Most of the current losses of native vegetation in the region may be attributed to loss in condition (80%) with 20% 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. The table below provides a listing of native vegetation extent, either being managed, under permanent protection or that has been re-vegetated.

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Remnant vegetation managed (hectares)	714	1,239	333	1,776	2,168	2,857
Remnant vegetation permanent protection (hectares)	0	38	133	N/A	454	38
Revegetation (hectares)	156	165	65	1,364	540	123

*Note: Data indicates additional hectares managed/protected/revegetated that year, in addition to maintenance of previously managed/protected/ revegetated hectares.

Source: Victorian Land Cover Time Series (DELWP)

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Neutral

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Rolling five year assessment - TREND

Neutral

AREA (HA) OF PEST HERBIVORE AND PREDATOR CONTROL

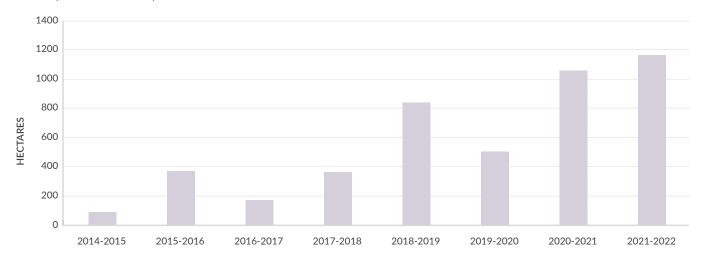
This indicator provides information on the area treated for pest control, including herbivore and predator control, under the CMA initiatives.

Invasive pest animals are one of the main threats to biodiversity, impacting environmental and socio-economic systems.

There are increasing populations of invasive animals such as european carp in waterways across the region. Feral deer, cats, foxes and pigs are growing in number, particularly in the Otway Ranges.

In 2021-2022, Corangamite CMA initiatives resulted in 1,168ha of pest predator and herbivore control.

Area of pest herbivore and predator control



Source: Corangamite CMA

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Concerned

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Rolling five year assessment - TREND

Concerned

AREA (HA) OF WEED CONTROL

This indicator provides information on the area treated for weeds under the CMA initiatives.

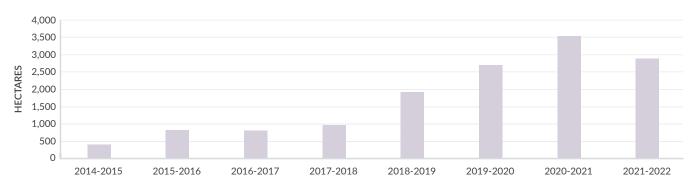
Environmental weeds significantly impact the quality of remnant native vegetation and habitat for fauna. Weeds also decrease agricultural land productivity, impact recreational opportunities, and pose challenges to the management of pest animals that benefit from the shelter provided by them.

Invasive plants such as Glyceria and Willow are causing problems in waterways across the region.

The increased spread of weeds across the landscape in the past decade is a rising concern among the community and land managers in the region.

In 2021-2022, Corangamite CMA initiatives resulted in 2,894ha of weed control across the region.

Area of weed control*



*Note: Management area where weeds controlled – does not factor in 'Treatment coverage %' Source: Corangamite CMA

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Concerned

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Rolling five year assessment - TREND

Concerned

AREA (HA) OF PERMANENT PROTECTION

This indicator provides information on the number, extent and distribution of government, Indigenous and privately protected areas in the Corangamite Region.

The Region has extensive National and State Park in the Otway Ranges, area of land protected is currently remaining stable.

PROTECTION TYPE	NUMBER OF PROTECTED AREAS	TOTAL AREA (HA)	PROPORTION OF TOTAL PROTECTED AREAS IN REGION (%)
National Park	3	115,079	79%
State Park	2	4,322	3%
Others (Public land)*	149	25,362	17%
Conservation Covenants	3	3,230	0%
Others (Private land)*	7	400	0%
TOTAL		145,201	100%

Public Land*

Others (Public land)* – Conservation Park, Heritage Park, Nature Feature Reserves, Nature Conservation Reserves, Reference Area

Others (Private land)* - Private Nature Reserve

Public Land* - Based on all public land as per PLM25

Public land compromises 21% of the Corangamite Region, which includes areas of permanent protection as part of a National Park, State Park or other public lands (115,079 ha). Additionally, over 3,000ha of private land is protected by conservation covenants

 $Source: Collaborative\ Australian\ Protected\ Areas\ database\ and\ Trust\ for\ Nature\ records$

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Neutral

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Community

Community members 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 9 outlines the community projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2021-2022, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 9: Community projects undertaken during 2021-2022

COMMUNITY	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Small blocks, big dreams: Engaging peri-urban landholders in best practice integrated catchment management This project will engage new peri-urban landholders in catchment management and empower them to adopt environmental best practices through a tailored farm planning program. The project will target smaller properties with intensive land uses, specifically: Artisan producers, Lifestyle farmers and Animal husbandry (e.g. horse owners). Most of these land uses are located near priority waterways, special water supply areas and/or	Participation Partnerships		
adjacent to or upstream of Ramsar wetlands. This project aims to increase landholder skills, knowledge and confidence in natural resource management and support landholders to implement practice change including pest plant and animal control, soil health and native vegetation improvements. It aims to develop landholders into 'catchment stewards' who can act as mentors for their neighbours and the local community.			

Table 9: Community projects undertaken during 2021-2022 (continued)

COMMUNITY	оитсоме	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Enhancing Regional and Local Partnerships Enhancing Regional and Local Partnerships will deliver engaged communities, strong partnerships and support Traditional Owner involvement in natural resource management (NRM) projects and programs in the Corangamite catchment management area. The project will build on the Our Catchment Our Communities work and learnings to support the: • Continuation and strengthening of the Corangamite Catchment Partnership Agreement • Development of the new Corangamite Community Engagement Network (a group of diverse community members skilled in delivering community input into NRM planning and projects) • Contribution to state-wide initiatives to support the development and promotion of Our Catchments Our Communities • Formalisation and strengthening of partnerships with the Traditional Owners of the Corangamite Region.	Participation Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment. Communities – By 2027, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country.
Barwon River amenity mapping and Traditional Owner engagement for RCS This project delivers on the following two tasks funded by DELWP as input to the Regional Catchment Strategy: • Undertake mapping of waterway amenity in the Barwon River Parklands region; and, • Engagement with Traditional Owners to ensure their values and culture are embedded in Barwon River waterway planning and management within the RCS. Both of the above tasks deliver on likely actions to be identified in the soon to be released Rivers of the Barwon Action Plan being prepared in response to recommendations from the Barwon River Ministerial Advisory Committee. The Regional Catchment Strategy provides the opportunity for DELWP and the Corangamite CMA to deliver on these actions.	Planning and Management	Resilient & liveable cities	Water – By 2027, waterway amenity will be improved for high priority urbanised waterways to enhance the user experience and connection to the natural landscape, compared to 2021 baseline Communities – By 2027, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country.

Table 9: Community projects undertaken during 2021-2022 (continued)

COMMUNITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Water Quality Monitoring of the Barwon Estuary - BEMPP Phase 2 This citizen science program will build on the dataset developed in BEMPP Phase one (2018-2019) with sanitary surveys and additional and more targeted water quality sampling to understand the source of bacteria and associated risks to human health. Use novel techniques to understand the relevant abundance of difference sources of bacteria where samples are found to exceed relevant water quality objectives. Develop and share information regarding healthy waterways and safe, water-based recreation with the community and raise awareness of the different roles and services of agencies and authorities in addressing water quality risk. Prepare a final report presenting the findings of investigations, recommendations for additional actions, and a project transition plan.	Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Recreational values Resilient & liveable cities	Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities and impacts on the environment.
2021 Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite The CMA will deliver a devolved small grants program, on behalf of the Victorian Government, as part of a coordinated and consistent delivery approach across the State. The grants program will support the region's Landcare and environmental volunteer groups/networks with funding for on-ground activities and group support. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available for projects and \$500 for support.	Community benefits Biodiversity Partnerships	Community engagement & partnerships	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Water – By 2027, the condition of Ramsar listed wetlands and other priority wetlands identified in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy will be maintained and improved compared to 2021 baseline. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region. Biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures. Coast & Marine – By 2027, proactive management of coastal ecosystems by land managers and the community results in a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine and coastal environment. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) have an increased awareness and understanding of the connection between human activities

Table 9: Community projects undertaken during 2021-2022 (continued)

COMMUNITY	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
2022 Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite The CMA will deliver a devolved small grants program, on behalf of the Victorian Government, as part of a coordinated and consistent delivery approach across the State. The grants program will support the region's Landcare and environmental volunteer groups/networks with funding for on-ground activities and group support. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for projects and \$500 for support.	Community benefits Biodiversity Partnerships	Community engagement & partnerships	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is a 10% increase in the regional community valuing biodiverse landscapes, planning for climate change adaptation and actively contributing to their protection, enhancement, and restoration. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region. Land – By 2027 there is a 20% increase (compared to 2022 levels) in private agricultural landholders engaging in sustainable land management practices. Coast & Marine – By 2027, proactive management of coastal ecosystems by land managers and the community results in a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine and coastal environment. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.
2021-2023 Regional Landcare Coordination in Corangamite The Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) program is funded by the Victorian Government's Landcare Program. The RLC supports 10 Landcare Networks across the Corangamite region, their Chairs and committees, their employed Facilitators and 80 community-based environmental volunteer groups. The RLC position develops and implements regional Landcare support plans, undertakes capacity building with groups and networks and facilitates access to grants and other funding.	Community benefits Biodiversity Partnerships	Community engagement & partnerships	Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment. Biodiversity – By 2027, there is a 10% increase in the regional community valuing biodiverse landscapes, planning for climate change adaptation and actively contributing to their protection, enhancement, and restoration. Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes.

Table 9: Community projects undertaken during 2021-2022 (continued)

COMMUNITY	ОИТСОМЕ	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
River Detectives in Corangamite Coordination of the River Detectives program for participation by schools and learning providers in the Corangamite Region.	Participation and investment	Community engagement & partnerships	Water – By 2027, the community's understanding and awareness of the environmental, social and economic values of water will be increased compared to 2022 baseline. Communities – By 2027, communities have the knowledge, skills and capacity to actively participate in and contribute to management of the region in a range of ways. Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.
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. This role is split 19 hours per week each from Corangamite CMA and Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation.	Corangamite CMA Leadership Partnerships Biodiversity Waterways Land Management	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Water for agriculture	By 2027, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country.



Highlights and Achievements

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

Working For Victoria - Youth Employment Program

The program completed at the Corangamite CMA on the 19th April 2022. The program funded nine young people for a period between six and 12 months.

Overall the program was an enormous success both for the Organisation and the participants. All participants were provided meaningful work that developed their experience and contributed to real outcomes for the CMA and the community we serve. Each participant was provided access to a mentor during their time at the CMA which was also well received. Of the nine participants:

- Four went directly to full time employment in other Organisations
- Four remain employed at the CMA
- One went directly to part time employment in another Organisation but will re-join us shortly for a part-time short-term contract.

Key projects the graduates supported the CMA on which will have long term benefits to the CMA and our region include:

- Supporting the development of the Regional Catchment Strategy
- Redesign of our CMA website to make it more accessible and user friendly
- Implementation of sharepoint online
- Supported the development of our Carbon Neutrality Action Plan
- Supported the implementation of a new finance and payroll system
- Supported the development of seasonal watering strategy
- · Supported biodiversity project delivery
- Supported the processing of floodplain advice and permitting.

Barwon River amenity mapping and Traditional Owner engagement for RCS

This project categorised and mapped waterway amenity along the Lower Moorabool River, the Lower Barwon River and the Yarrowee Leigh River through Ballarat expanding on concepts developed by DELWP.

Maps were developed showing the current and desired waterway amenity for the Yarrrowee Leigh River through Ballarat based on outcomes of a masterplan developed by the City of Ballarat plus current waterway amenity for the Lower Moorabool River and Lower Barwon River through Geelong to the Barwon Heads Estuary. The outcome is a transparent process for mapping waterway amenity which can be translated to other areas.

Water Quality Monitoring of the Barwon Estuary – BEMPP Phase 2

The Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove community are interested in understanding the health of the Barwon estuary.

Through the continuation of an established citizen science project, BEMPP2 aims to further investigate public health risks to a broader community who enjoy the estuary for recreational purposes.

Volunteers have monitored the estuary on a weekly basis to assess the health of the waterway from a recreational user perspective. Volunteer citizen scientists collected information on the water quality, including ammonia, pH, turbidity, and microbial enterococci sample (which is analysed in the laboratory), observational data including the flow and appearance of the water, and accompanying odour. An innovative technique to investigate the risk associated with the enterococci levels is being investigated further through microbial source tracking (MST). The project includes 10 sites in Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove, and has been focused on stormwater outfalls, drains and recreational swimming sites.

Regional Catchment Strategy

The Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) was launched in May 2022, following Ministerial approval in February 2022.

The new strategy is a blueprint for catchment health for the future and builds on previous achievements and lessons from the past. For the first time, the RCS is an online document that provides linkages to a wide range of information and resources.

The RCS integrates all catchment partners' natural resource management aims across the whole region and aligns to both state and federal government policy outcomes. The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority led the strategy's renewal in collaboration with Traditional Owner Groups, agencies, local government, landholders, and the broader community. The strategy is now in the implementation phase, led by the Catchment Partnership Agreement, the strategy is now being used as the basis to develop projects that protect and enhance regional and local scale environmental assets.

Landcare

The Regional Landcare Coordination project has supported groups and networks in the region through collaborative planning, communication and training activities.

The new Corangamite Landcare Support Plan has been developed and will be published in August. Professional development opportunities, such as Cascade Connections facilitator training and Cultural Awareness training for groups and networks, have been well received.

In October 2021 the successful recipients for the 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants were announced. In Corangamite 15 project grants and 34 support grants were funded with over \$350,000 total investment. The projects started in late 2021 and will continue until late 2022. The project grants have supported local Landcare and environment groups to deliver a range of on ground works and community engagement activities.

Statewide EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority hosts the Statewide EstuaryWatch Waterwatch facilitator.

In 2021-2022, the citizen science in Victoria's waterways program achieved the vision of engaging, activating and empowering communities to care for and improve the health of Victoria's waterways.

Table 10 provides the outputs delivered across all community program projects in 2021-2022. Performance reporting indicates that all projects are on track to deliver against their investment requirements.

Table 10: Standard outputs delivered for the community program in 2021-2022

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Assessment – Surface water	10	31.38		
Engagement event - Conference	36			3,641
Engagement event – Field day	30			2,285
Engagement event – Meeting	171			1,552
Engagement event – Presentation	36			1,099
Engagement event – Training	48			447
Engagement event – Workshop	20			517
Information management system – Database	2			
Partnership – Agency	35			
Partnership – Community groups	13			
Partnership – Corporate	4			
Partnership – Educational	25			
Partnership – Mixed	22			
Partnership - NGO	1			
Partnership – Research	2			
Partnership – Traditional Owners	2			
Plan – Strategy	2	13,219.45		
Publication - Visual	1			
Publication - Written	26			



2021 Victorian Landcare Grants Program and Wild Otways Initiative

COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In 2021 the Corangamite CMA ran two successful grant programs. The first – The Victorian Landcare Grants, aimed to support Landcare and environmental volunteer groups to deliver on groundworks. The second was the Community Environment Grants Program being delivered as part of the Wild Otways Initiative, a \$1m investment to support community environment groups to deliver restoration projects to protect native vegetation, wildlife, habitat, and coastal environments.

CHALLENGE

The Victorian Landcare Grants aim to provide support through education and capacity building in the Corangamite region. However, the challenge presented is that groups require financial support to achieve their aspirations for their local area and often for assistance with their administrative costs. The Community Environment Grants Program aims to engage with community-based environment groups across the Otways landscape.

To successfully deliver an easily accessible Community Environment Grants Program, the Corangamite CMA had to define the scope of activities and environmental values to which prospective grant recipient projects would contribute – targeting the investment to achieve the program's broader environmental outcomes: protection of threatened species and supporting habitat in the Otways.

APPROACH

The Victorian Landcare Grants had to assess and deliver the regional portion of \$4.09m in funding provided by the Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning. Assessment of project grants up to the value of \$30,000 and support grants of \$500.

The Community Environment Grants Program has been delivered in two phases. The Corangamite CMA opened round one grant in November 2020, followed by numerous online sessions with community groups to promote the program, guide applicants through the application process and refine the project scope and environmental objectives we were seeking to achieve with the support of the community through this program.

RESULTS

The 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants Program has supported 15 project grants, and 34 support grants were recommended for approval in the region. The approval for this funding was over \$325,000 and was granted by the Minister. Projects are well underway and are delivering important conservation work like revegetation, weed control, improving estuaries for aquatic wildlife and community events.

The Community Environment Grants Program supports 33 environmental restoration projects across the Otways, working with 17 community and not-for-profit environment groups. There has been substantial progress in terms of outputs for the program, with 7.8km of fencing erected to protect remnant vegetation. Revegetation has occurred across 73.5ha on 12 project sites planting 34,254 stems.

In addition, 1.5ha of direct seeding have also been completed on one site. Control of invasive weeds has been conducted across 209ha. Between these 17 community organisations, 93 community events have been conducted, engaging 1,422 participants in planting, weed control, monitoring and project planning activities. One project in partnership with the Conservation Ecology Centre is using trained detection dogs to target feral cat control in the Otways – to support threatened species such as the Long-nosed Potoroo in the western Otways.

PARTNERS

The Victorian Landcare Grant partners are the Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning, Landcare and environmental volunteering groups.

The Community Environment Grants Program is working in partnership with 17 community environment groups and not-for-profit organisations, including ANGAIR, Conservation Ecology Centre, and numerous 'Friends of' groups across the Otways; with coordinating support from Landcare networks in the Otways; Heytesbury and District Landcare Network (HDLN), Central Otways Landcare Network (COLN), Southern Otways Landcare Network (SOLN), Surf Coast and Inland Plains Network (SCIPN) and Upper Barwon Landcare Network (UBLN).

CATCHMENT REPORT AND RATIONALE

Assessment of communities in 2021-2022

POSITIVE +

Communities in the Corangamite region continue to be active participants in natural resource management activities. Participation rates are steady. Programs continue to focus on engagement of communities, particularly Traditional Owner groups, and new participants, and the organisation has been successful in delivering online engagement activities. The Corangamite CMA continues to be an active participant or lead in relevant regional forums with partners.

Rationale for assessment

- The Corangamite CMA continues to focus on strengthening partnerships with both Traditional Owner groups in the region, Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung. The partnership with Wadawurrung has resulted in their involvement in leading the design and delivery of successful projects, including the Moorabool River e-water monitoring program and the Cultural Burn Program
- The Corangamite CMA continues to sustain partnerships with a range of stakeholders. An example of this is the partnership with Zoos Victoria and DELWP to deliver the Orange-bellied Parrot mainland release trials

- The region maintained 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 Barwon South West Climate Alliance
- Each year, Landcare groups are invited to complete a Group
 Health Survey, which records group perceptions of their current
 health and activity levels. This year's group health survey results
 are stable, with numbers of groups reporting the moving forward
 category of above staying the same, and a very small reduction in
 the number of groups reporting they are just hanging on
- The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF) continues to be active in the region, working closely across a diversity of CMA and external programs to help facilitate improvement of knowledge and skills.

Community measures used in the assessment

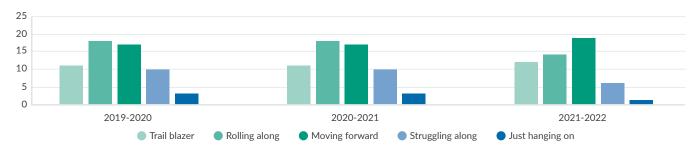
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING (LANDCARE/COMMUNITY NRM GROUPS - GROUP HEALTH SCORE)

This indicator provides estimates of Landcare volunteering contributions and commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development in Victoria.

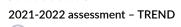
Each year, Landcare groups are invited to complete a Group Health Survey, which records group perceptions of their current health and activity levels; see figure below.

Survey results for 2021-2022 are positive and demonstrate that we have healthy groups in Corangamite, with the majority (87%) reporting themselves as in the 'moving forward' category or above. A small number of groups (2%) have emerged in the 'just hanging on' and 12% of respondents say they are struggling along.

Landcare Group Health Score



Source: Landcare Group Health Survey



Rolling five year assessment - TREND



NUMBER OF FORMAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT BETWEEN TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND KEY NRM AGENCIES

This indicator provides information on the number of formal partnerships established, modified, or maintained between organisations and individuals, under CMAs initiatives.

There is a growing recognition of Traditional Owners'/First Nations Peoples' self-determination, their rights and their role in NRM. There is also a growing commitment among Governments to elevate Traditional Owners/First Nations Peoples' role in the policy, planning and management of Country.

Traditional Owners/First Nations Peoples take a holistic, adaptive approach to management of Country. Government, as a natural resource manager, has taken steps to bridge different planning, governance and management arrangements through joint and co-management of some areas of public land, developing partnerships with Traditional Owners/First Nations Peoples and integrating Traditional Owners/First Nations Peoples, cultural values, practices, objectives and knowledge (where permission has been granted) into NRM.

In 2021-2022, Wadawurrung Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporation commenced the development of a formal partnership agreement with the Corangamite CMA.

Both Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung Aboriginal Traditional Owners Corporations are signatories to the Corangamite Catchment Partnership Agreement and have been involved throughout the implementation of the RCS. The Corangamite CMA is committed to continuing to work with Traditional Owners/First Nations Peoples to enable the application of their knowledge and practices in NRM.

Source: Corangamite CMA

2021-2022 assessment - TREND

Neutral

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Rolling five year assessment - TREND

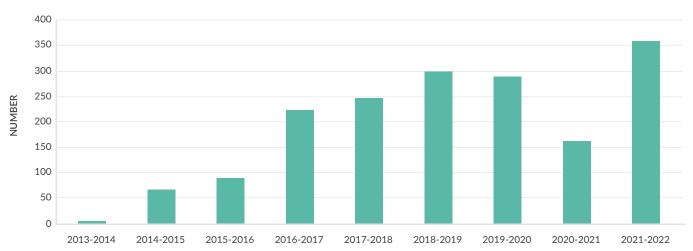
Neutral

NUMBER OF PARTNERSHIPS

This indicator provides information on the number of formal partnerships established, modified, or maintained between organisations and individuals, under the CMA initiatives.

Fostering and maintaining strong partnerships is a focus across all Corangamite CMA programs. The data below shows a positive trend in the number of partnerships.

Number of partnerships



Source: Corangamite CMA

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2021-2022 assessment – TREND
Positive

Rolling five year assessment – TREND

Positive

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 and Waterway Health Program
- Victorian Landcare Program
- Our Catchments, Our Communities.

The Corangamite CMA received project funding (excluding base funding) totalling \$8,682,642 through the Victorian Government in 2021-2022.

Australian Government

Australian Government's funding initiative to invest in the conservation and management of Australia's natural resource assets is primarily achieved through the Regional Land Partnerships Program. The aim of Regional Land Partnerships Program 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 \$5,179,842 in project funding from the Federal Government in 2021-2022, \$4,914,749 through the Regional Land Partnerships Program and \$265,093 through the Fisheries Habitat Restoration.

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Implementation of Regional Floodplain Management Strategy The Corangamite CMA has worked with its stakeholders (nine local councils, Victoria SES, Water Authorities, Committees of Management and others) to prepare a Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018-2028 (RFMS) which contains prioritised actions. This project involves the Corangamite CMA co-ordinating the implementation of this strategy with the stakeholders, provide technical advice associated with priority actions and lead the monitoring and evaluation process for the RFMS.	0	300,000	0	300,000
 Caretaker of Waterway Health This project oversees and provides governance to the Corangamite CMA's Waterway Health program through: Meeting responsibilities as the Caretaker of Waterway Health and associated responsibilities under the Water Act Governance and oversight for the delivery of the Corangamite Wetlands Strategy (CWS) including strengthening of key partnerships that are enablers for planning and delivery (for example DELWP, ARI, Barwon, Wannon and Central Highlands Water, City of Greater Geelong, Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung) Meeting responsibilities under the associated CMA Statement of Obligations Contributing to state policy and strategy development (e.g. Waterway Managers Forum and Flagship Project Control Group) Development and delivery of monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes in support of the CWS Renewal as required through the Water Act of the CWS. 	0	342,000	O	342,000

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Floodplain Management This project delivers the Corangamite CMA's statutory responsibilities relating to Floodplain Management and Waterway Health as provided for in the Water Act 1989, the Planning and Environment Act 1987, Emergency Management Manual Victoria Part 7, Building Regulations 2018, Subdivisions Act 1988 and CMA Statement of Obligations. The project also coordinates the Corangamite CMA response to other referrals: Southern Rural Water – Take and Use, Works Licences, Annual Use Limits DJPR – Work Plans for mines and quarries EPA – Works Approvals	0	566,800	O	566,800
Estuary permits and regulation This role is focused on risk management of artificial estuary openings using the EEMSS, responding to formal opening requests from Permit Holders and implementing, as per the relevant policies within the VWMS. It is also informed by the EPBC listing of Assemblages of species associated with open-coast salt-wedge estuaries of western and central Victoria ecological community. Other areas of focus for this activity include: • Focusing on improving current management arrangements where required at the permitted estuaries through updating (Curdies River, Painkalac Creek, and Anglesea River) or developing (Barham River, Erskine River, Gellibrand River, Aire River, Thompsons Creek, and Spring Creek) MoU's or guidance notes with stakeholders • Regular coordination and consultation with stakeholders to ensure estuaries are not opened in times of high risk • Improve stakeholder and community understanding of estuary opening.	0	316,100	2,000	318,100
Woady Yaloak Diversion Scheme and Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme The Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme protects rural properties in the lower middle and upper loughs from flooding from Lake Colac while the Woady Yaloak Diversion Scheme is part of a flood protection program for agricultural properties around the shores of Lake Corangamite and Lake Gnarpurt. This activity involves routine maintenance and administration as operational drainage and flood mitigation schemes. Specifically, this involves inspection of infrastructure, planning for and overseeing of maintenance (weed and silt control); Operation of the schemes in a time of flood; water quality and quantity monitoring; administration of the Cundare Pool Grazing licences on land managed by the CMA.	0	276,100	O	276,100

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Barwon through Geelong The Barwon River through Geelong supports a diverse array of recreational, environmental and cultural activities. These include organised events and frequent casual use of the waterway and land for various activities. The CMA has overseen 40,000 participants in the last year at 90 different events, noting that the informal use of the river and parklands is even more significant. This significant asset within the City of Greater Geelong provides great economic benefit to the residents and visitors. The activity therefore needs to keep up with increasing demand to ensure that the assets are in good condition for the enjoyment and safety of the wider community. Therefore, this activity includes (but is not limited to): The planning and management for routine maintenance (e.g. mowing, tree management, plantings, weed control) and management of built and natural facilities and landscapes Incident management, monitoring and communications Event scheduling and management of waterway zones and usage Lease management (e.g. of rowing/canoe clubs) Broader communication and engagement with the Barwon Rivers Users Group – including executive support Participation in the Barwon River Parklands inter-agency working group Oversight when funding is available of the progressive implementation of the Barwon through Geelong Management Plan Safety works along the river including hazard removal and boat navigation and signage.	0	778,000	0	778,000
The Living Moorabool Flagship Project The Living Moorabool flagship program is a large scale, place-based program with a 30-year vision defined by the community reference group of: "Healthy waterways, healthy people and healthy culture". This program will be delivered through ICM practices that incorporate a diversity of stakeholders. The project will focus on the following activities: Facilitating improved coordination across activities and ensure sharing of knowledge with other key stakeholders Planning and delivery of environmental water consistent with annual watering plans Community engagement for environmental water Maintenance of past riparian management investments and targeted new investments Use of citizen science to better connect people to the river and inform management decisions.	0	379,000	35,000	414,000

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Upper Barwon Flagship Project Corangamite CMA has identified the upper Barwon River as the focus for investment as part of our Flagship Waterway project. The project will be delivered as a large scale, long term (30 year) integrated catchment management project, with the focus over this three year period being on the collaborative planning and creation of the appropriate implementation strategies to enhance riparian management practices and improve the delivery environmental water further down the Barwon River. Therefore, the activities during 2022-2024 will be: Planning and Governance Planning and delivery of environmental water entitlement consistent with annual plans Waterway health: on-ground works and community education Community engagement for environmental water.	O	541,710	40,542	582,252
City to Sea - Lower Barwon River and Ramsar Wetlands This project will deliver an integrated management program for the Bellarine Landcape Zone, including: Delivery of Corangamite CMA's environmental water management functions for the lower Barwon wetlands Undertaking Ramsar site coordination, monitoring and action implementation Engaging landholders in river health and riparian management Monitoring and management of threatened fish species and Supporting citizen science and community engagement.	0	727,000	0	727,000
Rivers of Gold and Western District Lakes This project builds on existing Ramsar, waterways protection and citizen science programs in the Western District Lakes and surrounding catchment, with activities that will: Improve the ecological character of the Western District Lakes (WDL) Ramsar site, its tributaries and surrounding lakes and Identify and manage drought refuges for EPBC-listed Yarra Pigmy Perch (YPP) in the Woady Yaloak River and Western District Lakes.	0	399,000	0	399,000



WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Delivering ICM for the Gellibrand This project will maintain existing activities in the Gellibrand River and estuary and develop an integrated catchment management plan for the catchment. Upon the development of the plan, the existing activities will be adapted to reflect the plan's priorities. The activities include: Using best available evidence to create a catchment plan specific for the Gellibrand (this will be undertaken under 1780 in partnership with Wannon Water) Investigating opportunities to improve environmental flows in the river Maintaining existing riparian restoration sites Engaging landholders in waterway frontage protection within catchment plan priorities; Engaging community in citizen science activities.	0	236,000	35,000	271,000
 Surf Coast and Otways Restoration This project will improve estuary and river health outcomes in the Otway Coast Basin by: Supporting Traditional Owner cultural values and access to Country Maintaining existing riparian restoration sites Engaging with new landholders to develop waterway frontage management plans and Maintaining connections between community and waterway managers through support for citizen science monitoring. The Gellibrand catchment is excluded from this project and has been submitted as a separate integrated catchment management project due to its significance as a water supply catchment. 	0	241,000	0	241,000
Curdies Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project The Curdies River and estuary is a destination waterway for angling species such as Black Bream and Estuary Perch in south-west Victoria, close to Warrnambool. The performance of the recreational fisheries is consistent, though limited by lack of instream woody fish habitat. More fish habitat, augmented by angler input and scientific evidence, is needed to materially improve the performance of this fishery. The Curdies Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project aims to improve estuarine habitat for native fish and native angling species such as Black Bream in the estuary from immediately upstream of Curdievale to Peterborough (approximately 17km). This will be achieved through engaging with local anglers in planning, implementing and monitoring the outcomes of on-ground works such riparian habitat restoration, weed management and instream habitat creation.	45,617	0	O	45,617

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Barwon Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project The Barwon River and Estuary is at the heart of burgeoning Geelong and is popular for fishing, paddling, and rowing. The performance of recreational fisheries is held back by limited instream woody fish habitat, and low abundance of key angling species. More fish habitat and access work, informed by angler input and scientific evidence, is needed to materially improve the performance of this fishery. The Barwon River Fish Habitat Rehabilitation Project will improve riverine and estuarine habitat for native fish, including angling species such as Estuary Perch, in the lower Barwon River between Buckley Falls and Lake Connewarre within the Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site. This will be achieved through engaging with local anglers and Traditional Owners in planning and undertaking on-ground works such as instream habitat creation, riparian habitat restoration, weed management and rubbish removal as well as monitoring and evaluation activities.	109,729	O	O	109,729
Corio Bay Fish Habitat Project The Corio Bay arm of Port Phillip Bay is a highly regarded fishing destination within Victoria, and the removal of commercial netting presents a fantastic opportunity to restore crucial fish habitats in the region to the benefit of recreational fishers and the regional community. The project will demonstrate rec fishers' capacity to conduct fish habitat restoration through a community approach, targeting functionally extinct shellfish reef habitats in the Corio Bay area. Rec fisher volunteers will utilize a toolbox of approaches to restore intertidal/shallow subtidal shellfish reef habitat, playing a central role in the restoration and monitoring activities. Additionally, through events, forums and on-ground participation, the project will provide clear, engaging science communication related to restoration ecology, developing environmental stewardship and fisheries science literacy within the local rec fishing community, further building capacity for future restoration programs.	109,748	0	0	109,748
Corangamite CMA environmental water delivery gauging proposal 2020-2021 This project will fund four gauging stations relating environmental watering. Sites; • Site 233269 Barwon River U/S Lower Barrage of Geelong Wetlands • Site 233603 Reedy Lake at Connewarre • Site 233604 Hospital Swamp at Connewarre • Site 232242 Moorabool River at Coopers Crossing Meredith	0	15,348	0	15,348
Flood hazard assessment mapping for future (year 2070) Sea Level Rise Scenario in the Barwon Heads/Lake Connewarre, Breamlea and Ocean Grove areas The project will re-run models from the Our Coasts project to produce inundation mapping under a 0.4 metre sea level rise scenario, aligning with projections for 2070 in the Victoria's Climate Science report 2019.	0	8,625	0	8,625

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Survey Above-Floor Flooded Properties in Colac				
The project will survey the flood levels of known dwellings and other buildings within the flood extent in Colac. This data will then be used to calculate the Annual Average Damages (AAD) of flooding in the township, along with detailed property inundation tables for use in emergency management situations. The data is also useful as a reference for future data gathering, where the performance of the flood model can be checked against actual on-ground damages.	0	23,450	0	23,450
Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut (Barwon River Parklands) Masterplan and implementation				
The project will develop and partially implement a masterplan for the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut (Barwon River Parklands) including the following work packages: 1. Masterplan development • Setting vision and objectives consistent with community and Traditional Owner preferences and existing projects and planning activities • Selecting, prioritising and costing projects to meet the agreed vision and objectives • Conceptual design of high priority projects • Business case for investment in high priority projects • Governance and funding model assessment. 2. Design and approvals • Regulatory approvals for high priority projects • Detailed design of high priority projects. 3. Construction • Commencement of construction for high priority projects.	0	894,290	O	894,290
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	15,200	0	15,200
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. This project is a partnership with Barwon Water.	0	0	130,000	130,000

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Anglesea River estuary options investigation To partner with DELWP to develop and oversee a				
project investigating potential options to address acid issues currently being experienced in the Anglesea River estuary. The project aims to inform decision making by DELWP and Corangamite CMA on future management options for the Anglesea River that can meet expectations for multiple values and provide expert responses to questions raised by the community throughout the process. DELWP will engage a consultant to undertake this project with Corangamite CMA as a project partner.	0	20,000	0	20,000
Lower Barwon River Water Balance Investigation				
 The key objectives of this work are to: Build an understanding of the past and current operation requirements of the lower Barwon tidal barrage and lower Barwon Wetland Infrastructure and objectives for management Understand current and future changes in river hydrology in response to catchment changes (e.g. changing climatic conditions, land use change and stormwater inputs) and how this will impact on the current and future operation requirements of the Lower Barwon River Define current and future management requirements for the management of the Lower Barwon River in response to changing climatic conditions, urban development and other catchment changes and test the sensitivity of alternative management arrangements for managing flows and water levels Develop recommendations for the future management of Lower Barwon River flows and water levels, via development of operating rules, new infrastructure or other management options if required to meet current and future needs and values of the lower Barwon River. 	0	72,332	O	72,332
Upper Barwon Eel Investigation To conduct a survey to collect baseline data on short-finned eel (and other fish) populations in the Barwon West Reservoir. The information collected will be used to inform the potential effect of the reservoir on eel populations throughout the system. A brief summary will be provided to Corangamite CMA in autumn 2022 detailing: • The number and sizes of eels and other fish species collected • Key background information regarding their broader ecological significance and prevalence • An analysis and interpretation of the results as well as drawing on other existing information to answer the following questions: - Is the dam preventing eels from accessing the river upstream of the dam? - Is the dam likely to be having any implications to eel populations below it in the Barwon River? - Is the dam likely to or preventing eels from migrating downstream out of the dam?	0	0	11,591	11,591

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp, Barwon River and Moorabool River Gauging Project 2021-2022 Pay for charges incurred by the Recipient under the southern Regional Water Monitoring Partnership (RWMP) to maintain and operate four water measurement sites during 2021-2022. The four sites are: Site 233269 Barwon River U/S Lower Barrage of Geelong Wetlands Site 233603 Reedy Lake at Connewarre Site 233604 Hospital Swamp at Connewarre	0	22,787	0	22,787
 Site 232242 Moorabool River at Coopers Crossing Meredith. Fyans Park Boat Ramp Enhancement 				
The project will improve the visitor facility at the Fyans Park boat ramp making it safer and easier to access.	0	43,850	0	43,850
Corangamite CMA maintenance proposal 2020-2021 This project will cover the maintenance of channels and tracks relating environmental watering at Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamps.	0	26,628	0	26,628
Barwon Flagship Part C - Enhancing Cultural and waterway amenity values in the Mid-Barwon Restoration works along the Barwon River and Leigh River and tributaries that flow in from Teesdale, Bannockburn and Shelford to Inverleigh. This is offering standard waterway incentives to Local Council and private landholders with waterway frontage for activities such as fencing, weed control, revegetation, off stream water for: 1. Culturally significant sites 2. Riparian Restoration 3. Amenity Values.	0	260,000	0	260,000
Safety and maintenance works at Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp 2021-2022 Project Pay for charges incurred by the Corangamite CMA to manage activities related to the maintenance and access works at Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp during 2021-2022. The activities include; • Access track maintenance, including grading, slashing and weed control • Channel reed cutting • Access track and infrastructure area slashing and weed control • Control gate maintenance for efficient operation • Corangamite CMA corporate management charges.	0	42,421	0	42,421
Investigations Various small projects to undertake reviews	0	92,760	19,201	111,961
of waterways. Total	265,094	6,660,401	273,334	7,198,829

COASTS	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
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.	500,000	0	O	500,000
Aire Valley Estuary Floodplain Project - Part 2 This project intends to assess options for adaptation to change and undertake a cost benefit and feasibility analysis of preferred alternative land management approaches that will be required in the Aire Valley. This will recognise the impact to, Traditional Owners, landholders, agencies and the community in the face of intensifying coastal hazard exposure due to climate change. This will include landholders that are currently impacted by inundation as well as those who will be inundated in the future.	0	120,000	0	120,000
Total	500,000	120,000	0	620,000

BIODIVERSITY AUSTR GOVERI	IMENT GOVERNMEN		TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Protecting Priority Threatened Species – Corangamite Coast (Yr 2-5) The Corangamite CMA has actively led 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 on-ground works on private land through a grants process and; incorporate	239 0	0	422,939

BIODIVERSITY	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Wild Otways Initiative – Feral pig and deer eradication to protect native species in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland The project will be designed with feral animal control specialists to deliver highly strategic, intensive, responsive and sustained removal of introduced herbivores (deer and pigs) to protect native species and critical habitat (including EPBC-listed flora and fauna habitat and refugia).	430,558	0	0	430,558
Wild Otways Initiative – Fox and feral cat control in planned-burn landscapes to protect threatened species in the Otway Ranges Research findings suggest that reducing both feral cat and fox densities in burned landscapes following a fire event may support native animal survival in those areas. This project will help determine the management and operational requirements for integrated feral cat and fox control in the Otways after a fire event.	381,342	0	0	381,342
Wild Otways Initiative – Protecting plant and animal biodiversity in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland from cinnamon fungus (Phytophthora cinnamomi) dieback. This project is to reduce the impact of Phytophthora dieback (Phytophthora cinnamomi) on the biodiversity of the Otway Ranges, including EPBC-listed species. The project aims to prevent the introduction and/or minimise the spread of Phytophthora cinnamomi into uninfected critical habitat areas (notably the Carlisle Heathlands) and reduce the impact of Phytophthora cinnamomi at infected sites critical to the conservation of threatened species.	216,044	0	O	216,044
Wild Otways Initiative – Conserving threatened small mammals in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland This project aims to determine the critical factors that support remaining refuge habitat for small mammals in the western Otway Ranges and establish required management prescriptions and guidelines to support small mammal recovery in other areas, including the eastern Otway Ranges.	158,644	0	0	158,644
Wild Otways Initiative – Rewilding threatened species in the Otway Ranges This project will identify and, if feasible, create the required conditions and support the reintroduction or 'rewilding' of one or more 'lost' and/or sparse threatened small mammal species important to the Otway Ranges, e.g. New Holland Mouse, Smoky Mouse, Broadtoothed Rat and Swamp Antechinus.	337,850	0	0	337,850

BIODIVERSITY	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Wild Otways Initiative – Community grants program to protect and restore native plants, wildlife and coastal environments This project provides grants to support the local community to deliver on-ground environment projects to protect and restore native plants, wildlife, and coastal environments in the Otways from Peterborough to Jan Juc. The project also includes an Otways web portal, Wild Otways Initiative-wide monitoring program and emergency response capacity.	682,001	0	0	682,001
Bellarine Peninsula Saltmarsh Restoration Through an INFERR Assessment completed in 2019, the eastern shoreline of Lake Connewarre was highlighted as having significant saltmarsh habitat for species such as the Orange-bellied Parrot, as well as carbon sink potential. Since then, the Corangamite CMA has established signed agreements with landholders in this priority area to undertake works (e.g., reducing grazing, fencing installation, weed control) according with management plans specific to improving the condition of coastal saltmarsh and Orange-bellied Parrot habitat on their property. With this funding available from DELWP, the Corangamite CMA would work with these existing landholders to continue to invest in priority areas and works based on the specific needs of the sites. In addition to the habitat restoration works, The Blue Carbon Lab at Deakin University is currently undertaking a Coastal Saltmarsh Migration Assessment to determine how predicted sea level rise and elevation changes may affect the distribution of Orange-bellied Parrot habitat in Swan Bay. The aim is to identify and define habitat areas for future protection in investment. As part of this assessment, Deakin will be providing recommendations for any future works, including best-practice methods for restoration of saltmarsh or to allow saltmarsh to migrate.	0	160,000	0	160,000
Connected Landscapes - Connecting Landholders 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% of Area Five's four 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 on-ground works that may not be addressed through a MBI.	0	111,300	0	111,300

BIODIVERSITY	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Barwon South West (BSW) Carbon Offset Program The Barwon South West (BSW) Carbon Offset Program is a joint initiative between the Councils and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) within the BSW region of Victoria. The program's main objective is to support the region's Councils to offset their carbon emissions locally. This will be done through aligning carbon offsets with local natural resource management (NRM) outcomes coordinated by the region's two CMAs. While the program is aimed at Councils and CMAs within the BSW it is hoped to enable other organisations to be involved once the program has met initial Council requirements and has proven to be a successful model.	0	0	31,500	31,500
Reviews Various small projects to support Biodiversity.	10,000	0	15,000	25,000
Total	2,639,377	271,300	46,500	2,789,377

LAND	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Small blocks, big dreams: Engaging peri-urban landholders in best practice integrated catchment management. This project will engage new peri-urban landholders in				
catchment management and empower them to adopt environmental best practices through a tailored farm planning program. The project will target smaller properties with intensive land uses, specifically: • Artisan producers,				
Lifestyle farmers and				
 Animal husbandry (e.g. horse owners). Most of these land uses are located near priority waterways, special water supply areas and/or adjacent to or upstream of Ramsar wetlands. 	0	465,000	0	465,000
This project aims to increase landholder skills, knowledge and confidence in natural resource management and support landholders to implement practice change including pest plant and animal control, soil health and native vegetation improvements. It aims to develop landholders into 'catchment stewards' who can act as mentors for their neighbours and the local community.				
National Landcare Program Core Services Provides Core Engagement, Communication, Planning and Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator support to the broader National Landcare Program.	414,051	0	0	414,051

LAND	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
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.	370,400	O	5,023	375,423
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.	990,920	0	O	990,920
NRM Regions Australia – SW Dairy Project Exploring partnership opportunities in dairy/NRM in South West Victoria. Share learnings with regional NRM organisations across Australia.	0	15,000	0	15,000
Total	1 775 271	480,000	5.023	2 260 394



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Statewide Waterway Citizen Science This project will support the 10 CMA regions in developing and delivering diverse citizen science opportunities for their communities to connect with, learn about and care for Victoria's waterways. It builds on the successful community monitoring and engagement undertaken through the Victorian Waterwatch and EstuaryWatch programs over the last 27 and 13 years respectively, which have fostered environmental stewardship and informed waterway management decisions. This project will also broaden the citizen science opportunities available to community to help generate new data, drive innovation and connect more community members to their waterway. The project will fund the Statewide Citizen Science Facilitator to: Coordinate state level planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting processes Support the regional delivery of citizen science Develop and maintain statewide communications and media Promote and instil state level policy directions for citizen science through program delivery and regional projects.	0	288,720	O	288,720
Enhancing Regional and Local Partnerships Enhancing regional and local partnerships will deliver engaged communities, strong partnerships and support Traditional Owner involvement in natural resource management (NRM) projects and programs in the Corangamite catchment management area. The project will build on the Our Catchment Our Communities work and learnings to support the: • Continuation and strengthening of the Corangamite Catchment Partnership Agreement • Development of the new Corangamite Community Engagement Network (a group of diverse community members skilled in delivering community input into NRM planning and projects) • Contribution to state-wide initiatives to support the development and promotion of Our Catchments Our communities • Formalisation and strengthening of partnerships with the Traditional Owners of the Corangamite Region.	0	84,000	0	84,000
River Detectives in Corangamite Coordination of the River Detectives program for participation by schools and learning providers in the Corangamite Region.	0	0	35,000	35,000

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring of the Barwon Estuary – BEMPP Phase 2 This citizen science program will build on the dataset developed in BEMPP Phase one (2018-2019) with sanitary surveys and additional and more targeted water quality sampling to understand the source of bacteria and associated risks to human health. Use novel techniques to understand the relevant abundance of difference sources of bacteria where samples are found to exceed relevant water quality objectives. Develop and share information regarding healthy waterways and safe, water-based recreation with the community and raise awareness of the different roles and services of agencies and authorities in addressing water quality risk. Prepare a final report presenting the findings of investigations, recommendations for additional actions, and a project transition plan.	O	50,000	O	50,000
2021 Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite The CMA will deliver a devolved small grants program, on behalf of the Victorian Government, as part of a coordinated and consistent delivery approach across the State. The grants program will support the region's Landcare and environmental volunteer groups/networks with funding for on-ground activities and group support. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available for projects and \$500 for support.	0	243,321	0	243,321
2021-2023 Regional Landcare Coordination in Corangamite The Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) program is funded by the Victorian Government's Landcare Program. The RLC supports 10 Landcare Networks across the Corangamite region, their Chairs and committees, their employed Facilitators and 80 community-based environmental volunteer groups. The RLC position develops and implements regional Landcare support plans, undertakes capacity building with groups and networks and facilitates access to grants and other funding.	0	166,650	O	166,650
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	65,351	65,351
2022 Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite The CMA will deliver a devolved small grants program, on behalf of the Victorian Government, as part of a coordinated and consistent delivery approach across the State. The grants program will support the region's Landcare and environmental volunteer groups/networks with funding for on-ground activities and group support. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for projects and \$500 for support.	0	318,250	0	318,250
Total	0	1,150,941	100,351	933,042

SECTION 2

Our Organisation, Compliance and Disclosures

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Responsible Body Declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2022.

C. Jerkins

Cath Jenkins
Chair
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
17 October 2022

Our Organisation

THE BOARD

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Board for 2021-2022 included Alice Knight (Chair July to September), Catherine Jenkins (Chair from October) Ken Latta (Deputy Chair), Fiona Cumming, Lia Sarto, Nick Renyard, Cathy Phelps, Wayne Weaire and Michael Watson.

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 - Catherine Jenkins

1 October 2021 - 30 June 2022

Cath Jenkins and her family live on their farm in South Purrumbete where they operate a free-range egg business and livestock operation. Cath also works as an independent agribusiness consultant with Brolga Co Pty Ltd.

Previously Cath has worked in roles as an Agribusiness manager with ANZ and as an Area Manager with Fonterra, where she worked closely with farming clients in the Colac and Cobden districts. Cath was previously the chair of the Dairy Industry Leadership Group and past treasurer of Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West.

She has an Agricultural Science degree and postgraduate qualifications in professional writing. She is also a member and graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Cath and her husband Adam have four school-age children.

Cath is passionate about rural communities and working with landholders. She enjoys working with the Corangamite CMA to make sure our catchment's natural resources are enhanced while ensuring rural communities and enterprises can thrive.

This was Cath's first term as Chair of the Corangamite CMA board, having previously been a board member for six years. During 2021-2022, Cath was Chair of the Remuneration Committee, a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and ex-officio to all other board standing committees.

Chair - Alice Knight

1 July 2021 - 30 September 2021

Alice Knight, together with her brother Kevin, is a primary producer and director of a 1,700ha 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 Country Fire Authority and the Anglican church.

Alice's passion is Landcare and the Woady 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 was Alice's fifth term as Chair of the Corangamite CMA board, having previously been a board member for six years from 2000 to 2006. During 2021 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 2021 - 30 June 2022

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 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.

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 2021-2022, Fiona was Chair of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and a member of the Business Growth Plan Committee.

Deputy Chair - Ken Latta

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

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 2021-2022, Ken was Deputy Chair of the Board and a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

Nick Renyard

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

Nick Renyard operates a 400ha, 550-cow dairy farm with his family near Timboon. He has served three years as a Director of DemoDairy, 10 years as a Central Councillor for United Dairyfarmers of Victoria and five years as a Director of Australian Dairy Farmers Limited and currently holds a Directorship of Dairy Food Safety Victoria. 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 and a Diploma of Governance.

During 2021-2022, Nick was Chair of the Business Growth Plan Committee and a member of the Remuneration Committee.

Lia Sarto

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

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 2021-2022, Lia was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Business Growth Plan Committee.

Cathy Phelps

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

Cathy Phelps has over 18 years' experience in the leadership and management of sustainable agriculture sector research, development and extension programs in the areas of natural resource management and climate risk, both dairy and cross sector. Prior to moving to Victoria in 2000 Cathy worked with the irrigated cropping and extensive grazing industries in northern NSW where she owned a beef cattle property. Cathy was a member of the Australian Government National Landcare Advisory Committee from 2014 to 2017 and has been on many technical advisory committees relating to sustainable agriculture and climate risk including the UN FAO LEAP, Biodiversity Technical Advisory Group. Currently Cathy works as a consultant in sustainable agriculture research and reporting.

Cathy holds a Masters in Sustainable Agriculture, a BSc in Agriculture (Hons) and a Diploma of Governance.

During 2021-2022, Cathy was a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and the Business Growth Committee.

Wayne Weaire

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

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 2021-2022, Wayne was Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee.

Michael Watson

1 October 2021 - 30 June 2022

Michael Watson provides a consultancy service supporting government & private business in ensuring the highest standard of governance is present in all organisational activities.

Michael also advises on Strategic Planning and Business Planning development and implementation that supports the business mission and vision with an emphasis on Risk Management reviews to highlight opportunities for future success.

Over the past 25 years, Michael has held several senior management positions within government business enterprises responsible for providing essential services for a significant part of Victoria's community.

Michael held senior leadership positions as Chief Financial Officer and Company Secretary for 25 years with Barwon Water.

During this time Michael lead several sector wide teams across the Victorian Water Industry including the Governance working group which advised the government on many of the reforms and improvements adopted across the sector.

Michael is passionate in ensuring State owned utilities are focused on delivering strong governance, financial sustainability, matched with customer service and environmental management.

Michael holds a Master of Business Administration, is a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia, Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

During 2021-2022, Michael was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Remuneration Committee.



2021-2022 Board Meeting Attendance

BOARD MEMBERS 2021/2022	BOARD	AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	REMUNERATION COMMITTEE	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE	BUSINESS GROWTH PLAN COMMITTEE
Cath Jenkins	10/10	4/5	1/1	6/6	1/1
Alice Knight	3/3	1/2	2/2	3/3	N/A
Fiona Cumming	10/10	N/A	N/A	6/6	2/2
Ken Latta	9/10	4/5	3/3	N/A	N/A
Lia Sarto	9/10	4/5	N/A	N/A	2/2
Nicholas Renyard	10/10	N/A	3/3	N/A	2/2
Wayne Weaire	10/10	5/5	N/A	1/2	1/1
Michael Watson	8/8	2/2	1/1	N/A	N/A
Cathy Phelps	10/10	N/A	N/A	6/6	1/1



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: Wayne Weaire (Chair), Ken Latta, Lia Sarto and Michael Watson. (All are independent members).

Remuneration Committee

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

Membership: Catherine Jenkins (Chair), Ken Latta, Nick Renyard, Michael Watson.

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: Fiona Cumming (Chair), Cathy Phelps, Catherine Jenkins, Wayne Weaire.

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), Cathy Phelps, Lia Sarto and 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

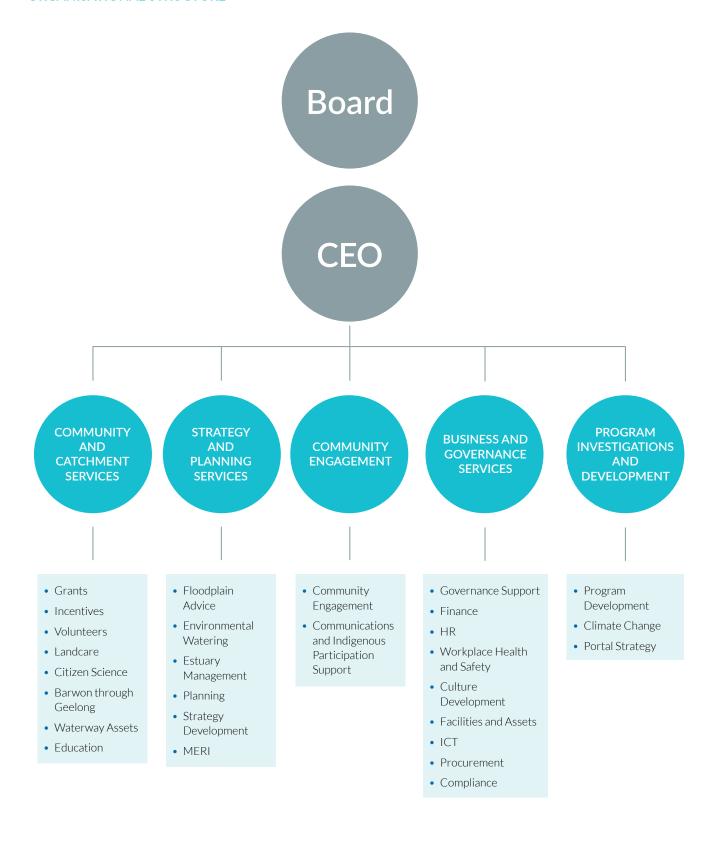
General Manager Planning and Strategy Services

Helen Watts

Communications and Engagement Coordinator

Amy Leith

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



ORGANISATION CULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Corangamite CMA culture development approach supports the organisation's leadership and performance goals and guides our values and behaviours. It is our Vision, Purpose, Values and Behaviours that 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 2021 which achieved a 72% staff response rate. The results indicated a positive outcome in the areas of human rights, respect, responsiveness, and team support. Overall job satisfaction remained high at 70% which was pleasing in a year significantly disrupted by COVID-19.

The Corangamite CMA has just completed its 2022 People Matter Survey with a response rate of 90%. While the CMA continues to implement strategies from the 2021 action plan, further measures may be included following analysis of the 2022 results.

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 2021-2022:

- Kelly Snell (10 years)
- Wayne McLaren (10 years)
- Kristen Lees (10 years)
- Janis Taylor (10 years)
- Geoff Taylor (10 years)

Diversity and Inclusion

The Corangamite CMA Diversity and Inclusion Plan has been renewed for 2021-2024. It articulates how we support gender equity, diversity and inclusion in our workforce.

Workforce data as at 30 June 2022

	2017	-2018	2018	-2019	2019	-2020	2020	-2021	2021	-2022	2022-2023
	#	FTE	TARGETS %								
Aboriginal Victorians	1	0.8	2	2	2	1.8	2	1.8	2	1.8	5
Gender profile:											
Board (M/W)	4/5	NA	4/4	NA	3/5	NA	3/5	NA	4/4	NA	50/50
Staff (M/W)	16/16	27.5	11/18	25.1	10/19	26.2	13/24	33.9	14/25	32.95	45/50
Executives (M/W) ¹	3/1	4.0	2/1	3.0	2/2	4.0	2/2	4.0	2/2	4	50/50
Management (M/W) ²	6/2	7.9	3/1	4.0	5/2	6.2	5/2	6.4	5/3	7	50/50
Age profile:											
Youth cohort (under 35)	4		7	6.6	8	8.0	13	12.6	11	10.04	25
Mature cohort (55 and over)	10		8	7.4	8	7.5	11	10.5	13	12.2	25
Staff with part-time work arrangements ³	9		8	4.1	9	5.4	11	7.3	12	8.5	Subject to staff demand
Staff % agreement with Corangamite CMA equal employment opportunity principles ⁴	NA		69%		NA		NA		77%		80

Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

NA: Data not available.

- 1: VPSC and non-VPSC senior personnel who oversee the operation and directions of the business.
- 2: Excluding Executives.
- 3: Subject to staff demand.
- 4: People Matter Survey results.

The Corangamite CMA 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 51 employees.

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.

Voluntary staff turnover for 2021-2022 was 15.7% and throughout the year eleven new employees commenced with the Authority.

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.

- · Monthly Cyber Security Training
- Contact Officer refresher training
- Manual Handling
- Office Ergonomics
- Bullying and Harassment for employees and managers
- Sexual Harassment
- Equal Employment Opportunity for employees and managers
- Fire Safety
- Project Management
- Work specific conferences and workshops
- Support for various tertiary course work

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. Key activities for the 2021-2022 year included:

- System implemented for capturing OHS training in D365FO
- Implementation of the 2021 2025 OH&S Management System Improvement Strategy and ongoing monitoring.
- Monitoring and regular review of the Corangamite CMA COVID-19 Safe plan.
- Promotion, training and reporting on the use of Staysafe, an app that supports staff to keep in touch with the CMA when out in the field including a duress functionality.
- · Contributed to review of OHS procedures.
 - OHS Consultation Procedure
 - OHS Issue Resolution Procedure
 - Workplace Inspection Procedure
 - Working from home Procedure
- Training and Development
 - Two Mental Health sessions, one for Managers and Volunteer Coordinators and another for staff.
 - First Aid and CPR training for staff
 - Health and Safety Representative (HSR) training, initial and refresher for OHS Committee members



We are building an inclusive workplace.

During 2021-2022 there were eleven reported incidents/hazards, with no lost time injuries. All incidents / hazards were investigated, and corrective actions implemented where applicable. An increase in reported incidents is in part the result of increased communication to staff to ensure hazards and incidents are reported.

YEAR	REPORTED INCIDENTS/ HAZARDS	REPORTED INCIDENTS PER 100 FTE	LOST TIME INJURIES	LOST TIME INJURIES PER 100 FTE
2016-2017	11	0.27	0	0
2017-2018	5	0.18	0	0
2018-2019	5	0.16	0	0
2019-2020	5	0.14	0	0
2020-2021	7	0.16	0	0
2021-2022	11	0.25	0	0

STAFF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Authority values and supports the health and wellbeing of staff. The Corangamite CMA continues to adopt the VPS Mental Health and Wellbeing Charter, has its own Staff Mental Health & Wellbeing procedure and program and supports the Health and Wellbeing Committee made up of staff and management representatives. Corangamite CMA believes that the mental health and wellbeing of our staff is key to our organisational success and sustainability.

The Corangamite CMA continues to provide several initiatives to staff under the Health & Wellbeing program including access to the Employee Assistance Program by all employees and their families, access to Contact Officers trained in Bullying and Harassment and Family Violence and hosts several informal activities to promote health and wellbeing across the Authority including staff get togethers to celebrate various notable days and a regular health and wellbeing newsletter.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

The renewal of the Corangamite CMA Enterprise Agreement 2021-2025 included the re-establishment of a Staff Consultative Committee that provides the opportunity for both employees and management to actively consult. The Staff Consultative Committee has met three times with key activities including monitoring the implementation of the 2021 People Matter Action Plan and Diversity and Inclusion Plan as well as developing a Flexible Work Arrangements 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 22 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: 1800 002 262 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.

In 2021-2022:

Number of major works projects undertaken (>\$50,000)	0
Number of building permits, occupancy permits or certificate of final inspection issued in relation to buildings owned	O building permits O occupancy permits C certificates of occupancy B
Number of emergency orders and building orders issued in relation to buildings	O emergency orders O building orders
Number of buildings that have been brought into conformity with building standards during the year	O buildings brought into conformity

Financing costs and lease liabilities

The Corangamite CMA has one property it leases. Full financial impacts are available in the Financial Statements (see page 151) in line with accounting standard AASB16 Leases.

Disclosure index

An index identifying the Corangamite CMA's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements is contained in Appendix 3 (see page 162).



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 \$1m in regional Victoria.

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

No tenders or service projects were issued by the Corangamite CMA greater than \$1m for the year ending June 2022.

Government advertising expenditure

Nil reports: the Corangamite CMA's expenditure in the 2021-2022 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

Social Procurement Framework

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is fully committed to supporting the Government's directions under the Social Procurement Framework and we recognise that we play a key role in advancing social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

In 2021, the Corangamite CMA reviewed its Social Procurement Strategy to enable a strategic, agency-wide approach to how it will deliver social and sustainable outcomes through our procurement in accordance with the Social Procurement Framework and beyond. The Strategy further identifies clear target areas of procurement where the Corangamite CMA can increase procurement.

In the revised Strategy, the Corangamite CMA prioritised five SPF objectives – detailed in the table below, with their associated reporting metrics. These SPF objectives were chosen based on their high degree of alignment with the Corangamite CMA's strategic direction and values as well as being best positioned to advance our identified social procurement opportunities.

OBJECTIVE PRIORITISED	OUTCOME SOUGHT	SPF REPORTING METRIC	22/23 TARGET	2021-2022 PERFORMANCE
Women's equality and safety	Gender equality within Victorian government suppliers	Number of Victorian Government suppliers that have a gender equality policy Number of Victorian Government suppliers that have implemented a family violence leave policy	To be captured	To be captured
Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people	Purchasing from Victorian Aboriginal businesses	Number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged	6	4
	Employment of Victorian Aboriginal people by suppliers to the Victorian Government	Total expenditure with Victorian Aboriginal businesses	\$106,000	\$27,396
Opportunities for Victorians with disability	Purchasing from Victorian social enterprises and Australian Disability Enterprises	Number of Victorian social enterprises and Australian Disability Enterprises	5	3
	Employment of Victorians with disability by suppliers to the Victorian Government	Total expenditure with Victorian social enterprises and Australian Disability Enterprises	\$15,000	\$8,873
Sustainable	Job readiness and employment	Number of businesses engaged within regions experiencing entrenched disadvantage	34	38
Victorian Regions	for people in regions with entrenched disadvantage	Total expenditure and % of total expenditure with businesses within the region experiencing entrenched disadvantage*	\$306,000	\$115,027
		Number of Victorian social enterprises engaged	5	2
Supporting Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors	Purchasing from Victorian social	Number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged	6	4
	enterprises and Aboriginal businesses	Total expenditure with Victorian social enterprises	\$73,000	\$695,732
		Total expenditure with Victorian Aboriginal businesses	\$106,000	\$27,396

^{*}Note use of decile one and two in calculation

The total number of social benefit suppliers engaged by the Corangamite CMA for the 2021-2022 period was 46.

Achievements

The Corangamite CMA has:

- Reviewed its Social Procurement Strategy in November 2021, taking learnings from the implementation of the first strategy, incorporating targets and evaluating the metrics captured and reported internally.
- Revised its Purchasing and Procurement Policy and Procedure to more clearly articulate the approach to Social Procurement.
- Undertaken awareness activities with staff to support the implementation of its revised Social Procurement Strategy.
- Continued six monthly reporting to its Board on Social Procurement Indicators.
- Imbedded a 10% factor into its evaluation template for procurement
- Incorporated social procurement into our approach to market templates
- Incorporated into its vendor registration form, a requirement from suppliers on whether they have a family violence policy.
- Implemented improved data collection processes so that it now has approximately six years of social procurement data.
- Engaged closely with local Traditional Owner Corporations to increase engagement including cultural heritage assessments.
- Commenced reporting on progress of achieving targets in its annual report

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

In the period commencing early October 2022, there was significant rainfall events across the Corangamite CMA catchment region. This led to moderate flooding in the Barwon River to which the Corangamite CMA owns recreational assets through Geelong. At present, water levels have yet to reside to a level to allow a full review of any damage and cleanup costs required. At present any costs can not be reliably measured.

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

Fol requests can be made in writing to the 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 Phone: (03) 5232 9100

When making a 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 \$30.60. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large, and the search for material, time consuming.

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

Fol Statistics and Timeliness

The Corangamite CMA received no Freedom of Information (FoI) requests for 2021-2022 period from the general public.

The Corangamite CMA made no decision regarding Fol in relation to a FOI received in the previous year.

Significant changes in financial position

There has been no significant change in financial position.

Major factors or changes affecting performance

There have 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 purposes of 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 Corangamite 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.ccma.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.

Financial Management Compliance Attestation

I, Cath Jenkins, 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 2021-2022 reporting period, the Corangamite CMA had a total expenditure of \$537,588 with the details shown below:

ALL ICT OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE	ICT EXPENDITURE RELATED TO PROJECTS TO CREATE OR ENHANCE ICT CAPABILITIES			
Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure Total	Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure Total = A + B	O perational expenditure	Capital expenditure	
\$437,765	\$99,823	\$0	\$99,823	

 $[&]quot;ICT expenditure" \ refers \ to \ Coranga mite \ CMA \ costs \ in \ providing \ business-enabling \ ICT \ services.$

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

Key Initiatives and Projects

The Corangamite CMA has continued to implement the key initiatives and projects as outlined in its Corporate Plan. Progress in relation to its externally funded projects are outlined in the Achievements, Operational Performance and Key Initiatives section above. A key initiative this year has been the development and implementation of a Carbon Neutrality Action Plan. Progress on this is outlined in the below Office Based Environmental Impact section of the report of operations.

Other key business, governance and systems projects and initiatives implemented for the year have included:

 Updating of our Risk Management Framework and approach in line with the Victorian Government Risk Management Framework

- In Collaboration with the Federation University we have continued to implement changes to our knowledge base portals in line with our Portal Strategy
- As outlined earlier in the report we have completed our Regional Catchment Strategy
- We have improved our reporting systems through the implementation of a number of PowerBI and ARCGIS dashboards around asset management, financial management, procurement and NRM output reporting. This included the engagement of an intern from Deakin University to support.

[&]quot;Non-BAU expenditure" relates to extending or enhancing Corangamite CMA current ICT capabilities

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Corangamite CMA achieved a surplus of \$1,637,544 for 2021-2022 against a budgeted deficit of \$3,068,871.

Income

Income for the period was \$15,659,951 compared with a budget of \$14,163,875, a positive variance of approximately \$1,496,076.

In a positive year for the Corangamite CMA the key variances predominantly related to Landcare Grants Funding (\$333,000), Corporate Funding (\$777,000), Floodplain Strategy Implementation (\$150,000) and approximately \$250,000 of various new projects signed over the final two months of the year and income received in advance.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the period was \$14,022,407 compared with a budget of \$17,232,746; a positive variance of \$3,210,339.

The positive variance are predominantly related to delays caused by flooding in the region, timing of Ministerial announcements, finalisation of EC5 projects and ongoing impacts of COVID-19 have provided challenges in expending funds in the year. In a challenging year we still managed to expend higher than the previous three years by at least \$1m. In particular:

- Incentives expenditure was down approximately \$665,000 primarily due to the delay in the signoff of the EC5 projects (Round two projects signed off in late December 2021) and a delay in the EOI process for on-ground works for EC5 projects and some initial issues with number of applications in eligible sites in the Victorian Volcanic Plains RLP project. Strong interest in the EC5 EOIs and our changed approach to allocating more funds in advance (70%) will support us demonstrating the money being allocated earlier in the program going forward.
- Operational expenditure was down approximately \$605,000 due to delays in signoff of EC5 projects lower (\$150,000), lower than budgeted corporate expenditure as a result of COVID-19 and not being in the office (\$300,000) and underspends across various projects (\$150,000).

- Consultants were well down (approximately \$2,000,000) on budget primarily due to:
 - i. Identified savings in Regional Landcare Program Wild Otway Initiatives Rewilding Project of \$540,000 previously budgeted as consultants that were approved for allocation across five projects, including three project expansions to other WOI sub-projects and two new projects recommended under Stage one of the Rewilding project.
 - iii. Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut (Barwon River Parklands Project): The release of the tender for the masterplan was two months later than planned due to timing of the release of the Rivers of the Barwon Action Plan. However, the two consultant contracts have now been signed and commenced works – \$269,000.
 - iii. Delays in signoff of EC5 projects
 - iv. A number of items were budgeted as Consultants under the Wild Otways Initiative Project but upon invoicing were coded under Contractors (\$747,000)
- Employee expenses: after being down earlier in the year due to vacancies, costs exceeded budget by approximately \$50,000) as vacancies were filled and additional resourcing in the form of Project Officers were engaged to support project delivery.

BALANCE SHEET

Current assets are well above budget with a cash and cash equivalents balance of \$19,982,206; significantly higher than a budget of \$11,558,000. This is due to additional income provided in advance and delays in project expenditure as outlined above.

In 2022, a management review of Corangamite CMA land, buildings and infrastructure occurred in line with FRD 103 resulting in an asset revaluation of Non Financial physical assets. This has resulted in a \$3,870,524 upward revaluation in assets. This was primarily due to a significant increased value of parkland and water infrastructure assets particularly around on Barwon through Geelong. Overall the Corangamite CMA maintains a healthy balance sheet with a healthy cash position and equity of \$65,378,570.

	2018 \$	2019	2020 \$	2021 \$	2022 \$	
Income and Expenditure						
Victorian Government Funding	8,993,586	10,832,073	7,978,498	12,121,748	9,891,109	
Australian Government Funding	2,165,200	1,122,982	1,197,970	4,741,004	5,179,842	
Other Income	427,388	427,388 650,416		584,028	589,000	
Total Operating Revenue	11,586,175	12,605,471	9,894,911	17,446,780	15,659,951	
Total Expenses	11,530,478	10,606,314	12,867,517	13,216,475	14,022,407	
C 1 ((D C))	FF (07	4 000 457	0.070 (0)	4 000 005	4 (07 544	
Surplus/(Deficit)	55,697	1,999,157	-2,972,606	4,230,305	1,637,544	
Assets and Liabilities						
Current Assets	11,207,623	13,311,875	11,282,530	16,073,952	19,982,206	
Non Current Assets	36,822,619	39,162,388	38,838,202	46,036,847	49,136,806	
Total Assets	48,030,243	52,474,264	50,120,732	62,110,799	69,119,012	
Current Liabilities	2,076,215	1,655,539	1,947,636	1,923,965	3,114,149	
Non Current Liabilities	119,208	73,548	400,526	316,333	626,293	
Total Liabilities	2,195,423		1,729,087 2,348,162		3,740,442	
Total Equity	45,834,819	50,745,176	47,772,570	59,870,502	65,378,570	

Contractors and consultancies for the financial year ended 30 June 2022

The Corangamite CMA engaged contractors and consultants throughout the year at a total cost of \$4,803,416.

Contractors and Consultancies > \$10,000

There were 56 Consultants or Contractors whose cost exceeded \$10,000 at a total cost of \$4,650,962*. There were 47 Consultants or Contractors whose cost was less than \$10,000 at a total cost of \$152,454.

CONSULTANT/CONTRACTOR	\$
Conservation Ecology Centre Pty Ltd	666,128
Department of Environment Land Water and Planning	550,776
Barbara Wilson Pty. Ltd.	316,511
Parks Victoria	260,614
Programmed Property Services	255,083
Zoos Victoria	214,000
Alluvium Consulting Pty Ltd	180,259
Elstone Diving Services Pty Ltd	144,534
University of Melbourne	126,560
Barwon Asset Solutions Pty Ltd	120,776
RMCG	103,016
Federation University Australia	96,220
Deakin University (Geelong)	91,580
Southern Farming Systems	85,000
Otway Agroforestry Network	83,250
Water Technology	73,625
Pensar Project Infrastructure Pty Ltd	61,969
Acacia Pest Control	60,520
Tree Management Services	58,597
Deja Eight Pty Ltd – Evans Earthmoving	58,520
Central Otway Landcare Network	58,376
Australian Aquatic Solutions	49,200
Streamline Media and Communications Group	48,523
Bellarine Catchment Network	48,000
Thompson Berrill Landscape Design	47,570
WestVic Dairy Inc	47,267
Natural Logic (Australia) Pty Ltd	47,044
Biodiversity Services	45,048

CONSULTANT/CONTRACTOR	\$
Patrick Bonney	45,000
Natural Decisions Pty Ltd	41,360
Frank Lane (GSDM)	40,750
OzFish Unlimited Ltd	40,000
Birdlife Australia	38,182
Proud Mary Consulting Pty Ltd	35,200
ALS Water and Hydrographics Pty Ltd	32,924
Dept Jobs, Precincts and Regions	31,900
Barwon Water	25,259
Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation	24,432
Hays Specialist Recruitment	24,107
Kismet Forward	23,980
Flora Victoria	23,900
Harwood Andrews Lawyers	23,200
Goulburn Broken CMA	20,000
Deakin University (Warrnambool)	19,000
RL Blake Pty. Ltd	18,400
Goldfields Weed Management	18,171
Water Modelling Solutions Pty Ltd	17,310
SMEC Australia Pty Ltd	14,920
Austral Research and Consulting	14,550
Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group	12,800
Elk Creative	12,380
Glassmetal Industries PTY. LTD	12,335
Paul Kelly Creative	11,490
Christine Jones	10,500
Hello Consulting Group Pty Ltd	10,350
Gillian Hayman Facilitation and Project Services	10,000



^{*}This information is available on the Corangamite CMA website.

OFFICE BASED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

CATEGORY	MEASURE	BENCHMARK FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006 (48 STAFF)		USE FOR 2021-2022 (43.4 FTE)		USE FOR 2020-2021 (44.3 FTE)	
		AMOUNT	PER STAFF	AMOUNT	PER FTE	AMOUNT	PER FTE (44.3)
Total Facilities	Total Usage – Megajoules	447,177	9,316	196,046	4,139	179,621	4,055
Total Energy Use	Total greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes)	172	3.25	55.3	1.2	50.7	1.1
Electricity Supplied to the Grid	Supplied to Grid – Megajoules	Not Measured	Not Measured	67,433	1,111	48,202	1,088
(Solar Export)	Adjusted greenhouse gas emissions	Not Measured	Not Measured	19.0	0.3	13.6	0.3
Durchase groon rewer	% green power	Nil 100% fro		100% from mber 2021	20%		
Purchase green power	Adjusted greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	32.3	0.7	10.1	0.2
Adiostad Facus Harry	Total Usage – Megajoules	447,177	9,316	128,613	3,028	131,420	2,967
Adjusted Energy Usage	Total greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes)	172	3.25	4.0	0.2	27.0	0.6
Paper use	A4 reams	726	15.25	46	1.07	52	1.18
Transportation - Reduce fuel use (LPG, ULP, Premium ULP, Diesel)	Litres	85,165	1,795	15,001	345.65	14,218	320.95
Transportation - Reduce vehicle emissions Fuel (LPG, ULP, Premium ULP, Diesel)	Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO ₂)	193.0	4.021	40.4	0.93	42.6	0.96
Water consumption (Office)	Litres	160,000	3,333	75,900	1,749	48,965	1,105
	Total waste (Litres)	Not available	Not available	24,960	575.12	28,800	650.11
Reduce Waste	Diverted from landfill per annum	Not available	Not available	6,240	136.54	10,080	227.54
	Adjusted waste to landfill	Not available	Not available	18,720	431.34	18,720	422.57

In February 2022, the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Board endorsed the authority's Carbon Neutrality Action Plan. The plan provides a roadmap for leadership on Climate Action in the Corangamite region as well as moving to Carbon Neutral utilising the Climate Active Certification methodology by 2024. A number of the initiatives outlined below stem directly from our Action Plan.

Energy use

Energy has reduced due to:

- Transferred all locations (Colac, Geelong, Cressy) to 100% Green Power in November 2021
- Full Year of the Solar Panels in use at the Colac Office + clean to maximise function
- Removal of second fridge from kitchen and change from large boiler to more energy efficient kettle
- Reduction Activities currently underway/planned:
- Carbon Neutrality Action Plan initiated with primary goal of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2025
- Colac office lighting exchanged with energy efficient LED lighting
- Investment in our aging air-conditioning system at Colac

Waste & recycling

Waste has reduced due to:

- New bins brought in to reduce recyclable and green waste going into landfill
- Composter placed in car park to process office green waste
- Energy efficient hand dryers installed in bathrooms
- Disposable kitchenware for BBQs replaced by reusable cutlery and crockery

Reduction Activities currently underway/planned:

- · Removal of all paper towel in office
- Undertaking a detailed waste audit to identify further opportunities

Paper Use

Paper has reduced due to:

- Encouragement of staff to print only when required
- Moved to 100% recycled printer paper

Reduction Activities currently underway/planned:

- Conscious program of moving more to electronic information management which has accelerated due to working from home
- Replacement of printer with a less technical and energy demanding option

Water consumption

Water consumption has reduced due to:

 More time spent in the Office than previous year with less COVID-19 disruption

Reduction Activities currently underway/planned:

 Using tank water for cleaning cupboard, courtyard tap, toilets, bathroom sinks

Transportation

- Electric Vehicle Charging station installed at Colac office
- Replaced five vehicles with one electric vehicle and four hybrid vehicles into our fleet
- Continued use of teleconferencing following where possible to reduce requirement for travel

Reduction Activities currently underway/planned:

- Replacement of fleet with electric/hybrid options
- · Purchase of carbon offsets when booking flights

Greenhouse Emissions

Greenhouse emissions have reduced as outlined above.

Reduction Activities currently underway/planned:

- Implementation of additional initiatives identified through Carbon Neutrality Plan and becoming Climate Active Certified.
- Formation of Carbon Neutrality Resource Exchange for staff on SharePoint
- Adopting the Climate Active Certification to measure our Carbon Footprint. This involves extending our scope three activities that we measure to include areas such as Staff Commute, Staff working from Home, Accommodation and Flight impacts.

Procurement

The Corangamite CMA has reviewed its Procurement and Purchasing Policy to place greater emphasis on the lifecycle stages that impact on the environment and engaging with suppliers who are committed to better environmental performance.

DISCLOSURE OF MAJOR CONTRACTS

In accordance with FRD12, 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 2021-2022 for the purposes of supporting the administration of regional Landcare groups and implementing on-ground natural resource management projects.

Victorian Landcare Grants 2021-2022 Corangamite Landcare Grant recipients

ORGANISATION	PROJECT TITLE	TOTAL GRANT
Bellarine Landcare Group Inc	Project Long-necked Turtle: Building biodiversity around farm dams whilst reducing greenhouse gas emissions	\$30,000
Heytesbury District Landcare Network	Connecting the landscape and people through the Biofund revegetation project	\$29,600
Torquay and District Landcare Group	'The small things within the big picture'	\$20,354
Barwon Coast Committee of Management	Become part of the Tribe Ramsar knowledge of the lower reaches of the Barwon estuary	\$10,650
Barrabool Hills Landcare group	Inspiring landholders to achieve landscape resilience and building on a 25 year legacy of landcare	\$2,000
Central Otway Landcare Network	Wrangling Ragwort in the Central Otways	\$29,329
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	The Upper Barwon Landcare Network and the Geelong Landcare Network Beetle Monitoring Program	\$29,958
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	UBLN Website Update	\$4,370
Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Reserves Management Committee Auspice: Corangamite Shire Council	People, Place and the Plains: Protecting VVP ecosystems and connecting communities at Mt Leura, Camperdown	\$30,000
Central Otway Landcare Network	Foundation Project – Friends of the Barongarook Creek	\$7,072
East Otway Landcare	Regenerating the old Bambra Tip into Habitat	\$9,202
Lismore Land Protection Group	Improving connectivity of the Corangamite Lakes landscape through revegetation	\$29,500
Central Otway Landcare Network	Otway Biofest 2022	\$24,113
Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group	The Revegetation Cycle	\$23,780
Bellarine Landcare Group	Yarram Creek - Private landholders protecting Swan Bay's salt marshes through eliminating Spiny Rush	\$29,500
Total		\$309,428



SECTION 3 Financial Statements

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:

- balance sheet as at 30 June 2022
- 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.

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2022 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of my report.

My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. 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 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (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.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other Information

The Board is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2022. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's reports thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a materially misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Board's responsibilities for the financial report

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 *Financial Management Act* 1994, 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.

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.

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 15 November 2022 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 2022 in the following structure to provide users with information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comprehensive operating statement

Balance sheet

Cash flow statement

Statement of changes in equity

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. About this report

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

2. Funding delivery of our services

Income and revenue recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources

- 2.1 Summary of income and revenue that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Income and revenue from transactions

3. The cost of delivering services

Operating expenses of the Authority

- $3.1\,\mathrm{Expenses}$ incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies
- 3.3 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 Total property, plant and equipment

5. Other assets and liabilities

Other key assets and liabilities

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables

5.3 Other non-financial assets

6. Financing our operations

Cash flow information, commitments for expenditure and carry forward project funding

- 6.1 Borrowings
- 6.2 Leases
- 6.3 Cash flow information and balance
- 6.4 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.5 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

Additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report

- 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 Change in accounting policies
- 8.10 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Declaration in the Financial Statements

The attached financial statements for the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (the 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 2022 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2022.

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 14 November 2022.

C. Jenkins Chair

J. Riddiford

CEO and Accountable Officer

C. Jerkins

C. Thompson

Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2022

	NOTES	2022	2021
	NOTES	Þ	\$
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	15,070,951	16,862,752
Interest	2.2.2	45,220	33,184
Other income	2.2.3	480,868	550,844
Total income from transactions		15,597,039	17,446,780
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	5,187,848	4,739,153
Depreciation and amortisation	4.1.2	932,280	784,557
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	7,309,230	7,277,920
Interest Expense	6.2.1	7,577	8,417
Other operating expenses	3.3	585,472	474,199
Total expenses from transactions		14,022,407	13,284,246
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	_	1,574,632	4,162,534
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (ii)	8.2	62,912	-
Net result		1,637,544	4,162,534
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	4.1.3	3,870,524	8,113,322
Comprehensive result		5,508,068	12,275,856

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

i. This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

ii. 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

as at 30 June 2022

NOTES	2022	2021 \$
Assets		
Financial assets		
Cash and deposits 6.3	16,647,691	13,007,754
Receivables 5.3	3,334,515	3,066,198
Total financial assets	19,982,206	16,073,952
Non-financial assets		
Property, plant and equipment 4.1	48,677,887	45,703,257
Right of use assets 4.1.1	395,272	250,433
Other non-financial assets 5.3	63,647	83,157
Total non-financial assets	49,136,806	46,036,847
Total assets	69,119,012	62,110,799
Liabilities		
Payables 5.2	2,336,527	1,052,716
Lease liabilities 6.3	395,377	252,513
Employee related provisions 3.1.2	1,008,538	935,068
Total liabilities	3,740,442	2,240,297
Net assets	65,378,570	59,870,502
Equity		
Accumulated surplus/(deficit) 8.3	(1,156,716)	(2,794,260)
Physical asset revaluation surplus 4.1.3	45,108,363	41,237,839
Contributed capital 8.3	21,426,923	21,426,923
Net worth	65,378,570	59,870,502

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

i. This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2022

NOTES	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts		
Receipts from government	15,408,806	15,102,578
Interest received	45,219	33,184
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (ii)	66,059	335,099
Other receipts	478,037	413,200
Total receipts	15,998,121	15,884,061
Payments		
Payments to suppliers and employees	12,375,159	13,234,079
Interest and other costs of finance paid	7,577	8,417
Total payments	12,382,736	13,242,496
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities 6.3.1	3,615,385	2,641,565
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchases of non-financial assets	(7,208)	(17,961)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets	103,091	-
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities	95,883	(17,961)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities (iii)	(71,331)	(58,136)
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities	(71,331)	(58,136)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,639,937	2,565,468
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	13,007,754	10,442,286
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year 6.3	16,647,691	13,007,754

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

i. This format is aligned to AASB 1049 Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.

ii. GST received from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.

iii. The Authority has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

as at 30 June 2022

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) \$	PHYSICAL ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 2020	(6,956,794)	33,124,517	21,426,923	47,594,646
Net result for the year	4,162,534	-	-	4,162,534
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	-	8,113,322	-	8,113,322
Balance at 30 June 2021	(2,794,260)	41,237,839	21,426,923	59,870,502
Net result for the year	1,637,544	-	-	1,637,544
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus (ii)	-	3,870,524	=	3,870,524
Balance at 30 June 2022	(1,156,716)	45,108,363	21,426,923	65,378,570

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

- $i. \ \ \, This form at is a ligned to AASB~1049~Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.$
- ii. The amounts recognised in the physical asset revaluation surplus consists of revaluation of land (\$3,126,100) and works assets (\$744,424).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2022

1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

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

Its principal address is: Corangamite Catchment Management Authority 64 Dennis Street, Colac, VIC 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.

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 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

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 AAS 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);
- Accrued expenses (Note 5.2);
- Estimating discount rate when not implicit in the lease (Note 6.1);
- Determining whether the lease arrangement is in substance short-term arrangement (Note 6.1);

- Lease terms (Note 6.2);
- 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 2.1);
- The timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (Note 2.1);
- Determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligations (Note 2.1);
- Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3).

Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amount in the report have been rounded to the nearest dollar. Figures in the financial report may not equate due to rounding.

Compliance Information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) 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 1049 Whole of *Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AASs 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.

COVID-19 Health Pandemic

During the 2022 reporting period, the impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continued to be pervasive, impacting across industries, both domestically and internationally.

While the Authority has been affected by COVID-19, the effects continue to be limited. The Authority continues to be well placed to work remotely when required, and as such the closure of our offices had minimal affect on our activities. The Authority has utilised a several initiatives to attempt to combat the effects on our staff and the community by COVID-19 and its accompanying restrictions, which to date have showed some success. The Authority has also been able to maintain its existing staffing levels throughout the crisis.

From a financial perspective, as the Authority's funding is predominantly through State and Commonwealth Government Contributions, and the majority of the Authority's dealings are with other Government Departments and Agencies, management does not currently consider COVID-19 to have a material affect on any judgements or assumptions applied in the preparation of these financial statements. COVID-19 restrictions have caused some minor delays in on-ground works and engagement events plus reduced operational expenses as staff worked from home, which has resulted in less expenditure than budgeted (Note 3.2).

2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Introduction

The Authority's overall objective is for the co-ordinated control of natural resource management within the broader catchments of Corangamite. The role of the Authority is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Associated with this role the Authority carries out strategic planning and advises Government.

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 and revenue that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Income and revenue from transactions

2.1 Summary of income and revenue that funds the delivery of our services

Significant judgement: Grants Contributions

The Authority has made the judgement that amounts received in relation to government contributions should be recognised under AASB 1058 on the basis that the relevant funding agreements do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations to satisfy the application of AASB 15.

NOTES	2022 \$	2021 \$
Government contributions 2.2.1	15,070,951	16,862,752
Interest income 2.2.2	45,220	33,184
Other income 2.2.3	480,868	550,844
Total income and revenue from transactions	15,597,039	17,446,780
2.2 Income and revenue from transactions		
2.2.1 Government contributions	2022 \$	2021 \$
Income recognised as income of not-for-profit entities under AASB 1058		
State Government		
Landcare	744,681	419,365
River Health/Healthy Waterways	7,245,586	2,144,271
Base Funding	1,208,467	1,264,800
Our Catchment, Our Communities	549,000	-
Working for Victoria	-	2,245,136
Victorian Government Supply Bill Funding	-	5,776,000
Other State Funding	143,375	272,176
	9,891,109	12,121,748
Commonwealth Government (Revenue from contract with customers AASB 15)		
National Landcare Program	5,179,842	4,741,004
Total Government contributions	15,070,951	16,862,752

Grants recognised under AASB 1058

The Authority has determined that the grant income included in the table above under AASB 1058 has been earned under arrangements that are either not enforceable and/or linked to sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Authority has unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the assets, the Authority recognises any increase in liabilities, decrease in assets, and revenue ('related amount') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- Revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- · A lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- A financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- A provision, in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

Grants recognised under AASB 15

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.

2.2.2 Interest

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest on bank deposits	45,220	33,184

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

2.2.3 Other income

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Partnership Contributions	269,333	363,015
Rental Income	17,170	16,753
Employee Contributions	26,413	22,546
Ancillary Trading	167,952	148,530
Total other income	480,868	550,844

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, and are recognised as income on receipt as they do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations, and are disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as other income.

Employee contributions include staff contributions towards the private use of motor vehicles.

Rental Income from leasing of surplus office spaces, which are operating leases, are recognised on a straight line basis over the lease term.

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

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 cost association with the provision of services are recorded.

Structure

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies
- 3.3 Other operating expenses

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

N	IOTES	2022 \$	2021 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	5,187,848	4,739,153
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	7,309,230	7,277,920
Interest Expense	6.2.1	7,577	8,417
Other operating expenses	3.3	585,472	474,199
Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services		13,090,127	12,499,689

3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Salaries & wages	4,050,358	3,602,173
Annual leave	390,376	487,764
Long service leave	76,593	52,848
Other leave	131,729	115,906
Superannuation	446,258	387,442
Other	95,917	98,265
Movement in provisions for employee benefits	(3,383)	(5,245)
Total employee benefit expenses	5,187,848	4,739,153

i. The decrease in movement in provisions for employee benefits in 2021 is due to reduction in the discount rate used to calculate the carrying amount of employee leave provisions. The provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, where the carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows, using a wage inflation and discount rate that reflects the time, value of money and risks specific to the provision.

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

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

3.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions

In measuring employee benefit provisions, 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.

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.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Time in lieu and RDO:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	58,849	48,711
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	358,197	318,470
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	52,591	51,532
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	286,971	304,227
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	58,180	50,904
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	35,551	36,986
Total current provisions	850,339	810,830
Long service leave: Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months Provisions for on-costs Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	140,761 17,438	110,772 13,467
Total non-current provisions	158,199	124,239
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	1,008,538	935,069
	2022	
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision		
Opening balance	101,357	
Additional provisions recognised	21,422	
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	(8,227)	
Unwind of discount and effect of changes in the discount rate	(3,383)	
Closing balance	111,169	

Wages and salaries and annual leave:

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

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability, as the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Annual leave balances are measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid.

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 amount 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 Authority.

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 Authority.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction.

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 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, and outstanding at year end, are as follows:

PAID CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR

	2022	2021 \$
Defined contribution plans:		
Vision super	118,055	114,012
Other private schemes	328,203	273,430
Total	446,258	387,442

CONTRIBUTIONS OUTSTANDING AT YEAR-END

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Defined contribution plans:		
Vision super	14,014	1,401
Other private schemes	42,665	2,687
Total	56,679	4,088

3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Materials	39,415	49,126
Repairs and maintenance	58,978	42,104
Grants paid	2,121,086	1,211,108
Contractors	3,319,415	4,024,243
Consultants	1,483,555	1,657,323
IT Software & Support	286,781	294,016
Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	7,309,230	7,277,920

Grants are recognised in the period in which they are paid or payable.

Materials, contractors and consultants are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

3.3 Other operating expenses

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Telephones and mobile data	36,620	58,473
Fleet expenses	32,541	25,974
Fares and accommodation	10,240	4,379
Insurance	66,125	63,567
Education, training, conferences and seminars	42,095	29,716
Meeting expenses	44,528	31,386
Other expenses	353,323	260,704
	585,472	474,199

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

Introduction

The Authority controls property and other investments 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 Total property, plant and equipment

4.1 Total property, plant and equipment

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT		ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		NET CARRYING AMOUNT	
	2022 \$	2021 \$	2022	2021	2022 \$	2021 \$
Land at fair value	19,172,100	16,046,000	-	-	19,172,100	16,046,000
Buildings at fair value (i)	1,750,000	1,750,000	(50,569)	-	1,699,431	1,750,000
Works assets at fair value	28,080,439	27,336,015	(729,577)	=	27,350,862	27,336,015
Plant and equipment at fair value	1,176,421	1,169,213	(771,860)	(713,433)	404,561	455,780
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	28,826	28,826	(28,826)	(28,779)	-	47
Motor vehicles at fair value (i)	225,396	365,674	(174,463)	(250,259)	50,933	115,415
Net carrying amount	50,433,182	46,695,728	(1,755,295)	(992,471)	48,677,887	45,703,257

i. Excluding right of use assets. Refer Note 4.1.1

4.1.1 Total right-of-use assets: buildings & motor vehicles

This note explores right-of-use assets, a subset of the Authority's total assets, where right-of-use assets represent the Authority's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term.

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION 2022 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2021 \$	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION 2021 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2021 \$
Buildings at Fair Value	324,912	(153,915)	170,997	324,912	(102,610)	222,302
Motor Vehicles at Fair Value	253,715	(29,440)	224,275	39,520	(11,388)	28,132
Net Carrying Amount	578,627	(183,355)	395,272	364,432	(113,998)	250,433

	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES AT FAIR VALUE \$
Opening Balance - 1 July 2021	222,302	28,132
Additions	-	214,195
Depreciation	(51,305)	(18,051)
Closing Balance - 30 June 2022	170,997	224,276

	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES AT FAIR VALUE \$
Opening Balance - 1 July 2020	273,607	34,965
Depreciation	(51,305)	(6,833)
Closing Balance - 30 June 2021	222,302	28,132

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. Assets transferred as part of a machinery of government change are transferred at their carrying amount.

Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000 and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as an asset. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees - 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 incentive received; plus
- · Any indirect costs incurred; and
- An estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Subsequent measurement

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

Non-specialised land is 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. The CSO adjustment reflects the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extend that the CSO adjustment is also equally applicable to market participants.

Non-specialised buildings and works assets are valued using the current replacement cost method.

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.

As per the requirements of FRD103 Non-Financial Physical Assets, right-of-use assets are subject to revaluation to Fair Value, whereby management undertake an assessment to determine whether the current lease payments under the contract approximate current market rentals for equivalent properties that would be paid in the current environment.

Management has completed an assessment at 30 June 2022 comparing current lease payments against current market rentals for equivalent properties and has determined that no adjustment to the right-of-use asset or liability is required.

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

Revaluation of property, plant and equipment

Non-financial physical assets are revalued at fair value every five years in accordance with the Government purpose classifications defined in Financial Reporting Direction 103 Non-Financial Physical Assets (FRD 103). The Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the Government's independent valuation agency and is used by the Authority to conduct these scheduled revaluations.

The Authority conducted an assessment at 30 June 2022 with a material movement identified in land and infrastructure since the 2021 valuation in accordance with the requirements of FRD 103.

The Authority in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset class through relevant data sources, in order to determine whether a revaluation is required.

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

Accounting for revaluation movements - land, buildings and works assets

Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset).

Revaluation increases or decreases arise from differences between an asset's carrying value and its fair value.

Revaluation increases and decreases relating to individual assets in a class of PPE, are offset against other assets in that class but are not offset against assets in different classes. An asset revaluation surplus is not transferred to accumulated funds on the de-recognition of the related asset.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense, in which case the increment is recognised immediately as revenue.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as an expense, except to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve applicable to the same class of assets, in which case the decrement is debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

4.1.2 Depreciation and amortisation

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Charge for the period		
Buildings	50,569	48,621
Works assets	729,577	565,828
Plant & equipment	58,427	75,488
Office furniture & equipment	47	625
Motor vehicles	24,304	35,857
Total depreciation	862,924	726,419
Depreciation on Right of use assets		
Buildings	51,305	51,305
Motor vehicles	18,051	6,833
Total depreciation	932,280	784,557

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 and is not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

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 opposite:

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)	3 - 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.

Impairment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

4.1.3 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 AND EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE \$	MOTOR VEHICLES AT FAIR VALUE \$	TOTAL \$
2021-22							
Opening balance	16,046,000	1,750,000	27,336,015	455,780	47	115,415	45,703,257
Additions	-	-	-	7,208	-		7,208
Disposals	=	=	-	-	-	(40,178)	(40,178)
Revaluation (ii)	3,126,100	=	744,424	-	-	=	3,870,524
Depreciation	-	(50,569)	(729,577)	(58,427)	(47)	(24,304)	(862,924)
Closing balance	19,172,100	1,699,431	27,350,862	404,561	-	50,933	48,677,887
2020-21							
Opening balance	16,767,768	688,890	20,176,485	513,307	672	151,272	38,298,393
Additions	=	=	=	17,961	-	-	17,961
Transfers	=	448,899	(448,899)	=	-	-	-
Revaluation (i)	(721,768)	660,833	8,174,256	-	-	-	8,113,321
Depreciation		(48,621)	(565,828)	(75,488)	(625)	(35,857)	(726,419)
Closing balance	16,046,000	1,750,000	27,336,015	455,780	47	115,415	45,703,257

i. An independent valuation of the Authority's land, buildings and works assets was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria as at 30 June 2021.

 $ii. \ A\, Management\, valuation\, was\, undertaken\, at\, 30\, June\, 2022\, in\, relation\, to\, Land\, and\, Asset\, Works.$

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

	2022 \$	2021 \$
	Ψ	Ψ
Receivables		
Contractual		
Trade receivables	3,290,491	1,210,766
Contract assets	44,024	1,759,569
	3,334,515	2,970,335
Statutory		
Tax credits recoverable	-	25,636
Payroll tax	-	70,227
	-	95,863
Total receivables	3,334,515	3,066,198
Represented by:		
Current Receivables	3,334,515	3,066,198

Receivables consist of:

- Contractual receivables, which 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. The Authority holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measures them at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. Subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost less any impairment;
- Contract assets relate to the department's right to consideration in exchange for services provided to customers for works completed, but not yet billed at the reporting date. The contract assets are transferred to receivables when the rights become unconditional, at this time an invoice is issued. This occurs when the department issues an invoice to the customer. The balance of the contract assets at 30 June 2022 was impacted by timing of the services completed by contractors and is not billable at this stage. The works are expected to be completed and recovered in 2022-23 year; and
- Statutory receivables, which do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes.

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.

5.2 Payables

Significant judgement: Accrued expenses

Accrued expenses represent goods or services that have been received or supplied but the invoice was received following the closure of accounts. In estimating the amount of an accrued expense, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Payables		
Contractual		
Trade payables	1,626,830	732,449
Accrued expenses	561,550	261,288
Other payables	3,216	3,017
Total current provisions	2,191,596	996,754
Statutory		
PAYG, Tax credits Payable & FBT	72,591	-
Superannuation	65,225	54,928
Payroll tax	7,115	1,034
	144,931	55,962
T	0.007.507	4.050.747
Total payables	2,336,527	1,052,716
Represented by:		
Current Payables	2,336,527	1,052,716

Payables consist of:

- Contractual payables, classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and
- Statutory payables, that 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.
- Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables (i)

MATURITY DATES

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	NOMINAL AMOUNT	LESS THAN 1 MONTH	1-3 MONTHS \$	3-6 MONTHS \$
2022					
Payables					
Trade payables	1,626,830	1,626,830	1,626,830	-	-
Accrued expenses	561,550	561,550	561,550	-	-
Other payables	3,216	3,216	3,216	-	-
Total	2,191,596	2,191,596	2,191,596 -		-
2021					
Payables					
Trade payables	732,449	732,449	732,449	-	-
Accrued expenses	261,288	261,288	261,288	261,288 -	
Other payables	3,017	3,017	3,017	-	-
Total	996,754	996,754	996,754 -		-

Note:

5.3 Other non-financial assets

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current other assets		
Prepayments	63,647	83,157
Total other assets	63,647	83,157

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.

i. Maturity Analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

6. HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) 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 7.1 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

- 6.1 Borrowings
- 6.2 Leases
- 6.3 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.4 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.5 Carry forward project funding

6.1 Borrowings

NOTES	2022 \$	2021 \$
Current borrowings		
Lease Liabilities (i) 6.2	109,045	60,419
Total current borrowings	109,045	60,419
Non-current borrowings		
Lease Liabilities (i) 6.2	286,332	192,094
Total non-current borrowings	286,332	192,094

Note:

6.1.1 Maturity Analysis of borrowings

MATURITY DATES

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	NOMINAL AMOUNT \$	LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1 TO 3 MONTHS \$	3 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR \$	1 TO 5 YEARS \$	5+ YEARS \$
2022							
Lease Liabilities	395,377	395,377	7,872	15,762	85,411	286,332	=
Total	395,377	395,377	7,872	15,762	85,411	286,332	-
2021							
Lease Liabilities	252,513	252,513	5,026	10,057	45,335	192,094	-
Total	252,513	252,513	5,026	10,057	45,335	192,094	-

6.1.2 Interest expense

01212 mes. est dipondo	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest on leases liabilities	7,577	8,417
Total interest expense	7,577	8,417

Interest expense includes the interest component of the lease repayments, and is recognised in the period in which it was incurred through lease expenses in the comprehensive operating statement.

i. Secured by assets leased. Leases liabilities are effectively secured as the right to the lease assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

6.2 Leases

Significant judgement: Lease Terms

In determining the lease term, the Authority considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option. The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects this assessment.

The Authority leases various properties. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. Rental contracts are typically for fixed periods of between 1 to 7 years, with up to extension options of between 1 to 5 years typically available.

Leases with a contract term of 1 year and a value of less than \$10,000 are either short-term and/or leases of low value and are recognised on a straight-line basis.

Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are presented in Note 4.1.1

6.2.1 Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022 relating to leases:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	7,577	8,417
Total amount recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement	7,577	8,417

6.2.2 Amounts recognised in the Cashflow Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Cashflow Statement for the year ending 30 June 2022 relating to leases:

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	7,577	8,417
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities	71,331	58,136
Total cash outflow for leases	78,908	66,552

For any new contracts entered into, 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.

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 to fixed payments.

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

Short term and low value leases

The Authority has elected to account for short-term and low value leases 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 net result 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 'property plant equipment' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'borrowings' in the balance sheet.

6.3 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.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	50,000	1,156,843
Deposits at call	16,597,691	11,850,911
Balance as per cash flow statement	16,647,691	13,007,754

6.3.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to cash flow from operating activities

6.3.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to cash flow from operating activities				
	2022 \$	2021 \$		
Net result for the period	1,637,544	4,162,534		
Non-cash movements:				
(Gain)/loss on disposal of non-current assets	(62,912)	=		
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	932,280	784,557		
	2,506,912	4,947,091		
Movements in assets and liabilities:				
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(268,317)	(2,225,954)		
Decrease/(increase) in non-financial assets	19,510	(29,844)		
(Decrease)/increase in payables	1,283,811	(163,704)		
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	73,470	113,976		
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	3,615,386	2,641,565		

6.4 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

6.4.1 Total commitments payable

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Operating commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	4,177,560	1,973,957
1 to 5 years	408,470	1,370,961
5 years or more	-	-
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	4,586,030	3,344,918

6.5 Carry forward project funding

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the facilitation and 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 Commonwealth Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and is 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.

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 higher 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

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.

Categories of financial instruments

Financial Assets 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 and lease liabilities).

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.

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.

Under this approach, the expected loss rate for the year ending 30 June 2022 has been calculated at 0%, and as such no loss allowance has been recognised. The Authority has a low expected loss rate due to majority of funding sourced from State and Federal government.

On this basis, the Authority determines 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 \$
30 June 2021						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	2,926,134	-	44,000	202	-	2,970,335
Loss Allowance	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 June 2022						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	3,317,172	299	15,200	1,844	-	3,334,515
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.

7.1.2 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	FINANCIAL ASSETS AT AMORTISED COST \$	FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AT AMORTISED COST \$	TOTAL \$
2022			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	16,647,691	-	16,647,691
Receivables: (i)			
Trade receivables	3,290,491	-	3,290,491
Accrued revenue	44,024	-	44,024
Total contractual financial assets	19,982,206	-	19,982,206
Contractual financial liabilities			
Payables: (i)			
Trade payables	=	1,626,830	1,626,830
Accrued expenses	-	561,550	561,550
Other payables	-	3,216	3,216
Borrowings:			
Lease Liabilities (ii)	-	395,377	395,377
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	2,586,973	2,586,973
2021			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	13,007,754	-	13,007,754
Receivables: (i)			
Trade receivables	1,210,766	-	1,210,766
Accrued revenue	1,759,569	-	1,759,569
Total contractual financial assets	15,978,089	-	15,978,089
Contractual financial liabilities			
Payables: (i)			
Trade payables	-	732,449	732,449
Accrued expenses	-	261,288	261,288
Other payables	-	3,017	3,017
Borrowings:			
Lease Liabilities (ii)	-	252,513	252,513
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	1,249,267	1,249,267

i. The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts.

 $ii. \ \ Lease\ Liabilities\ are\ measured\ using\ AASB\ 16\ and\ have\ been\ included\ here\ for\ completeness\ of\ financial\ liability\ disclosures.$

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 CEO and the Board.

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 debtors are the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. 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 National Australia Bank and Westpac Bank.

The Authority records the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments applying AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment include the Authority's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

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 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.

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE %	WEIGHTED		INTEREST RATE EXPOSURE			
		AVERAGE CARRYING INTEREST RATE AMOUNT	FIXED INTEREST RATE \$	VARIABLE INTEREST RATE \$	NON-INTEREST BEARING \$		
2022							
Financial assets							
Cash and deposits	0.30	16,647,691	-	16,647,691	-		
Contractual receivables		3,334,515	-	-	3,334,515		
Total financial assets		19,982,206	-	16,647,691	3,334,515		
Financial liabilities							
Contractual payables		2,191,596	-	-	2,191,596		
Lease Liabilities		395,377	395,377	-	-		
Total financial liabilities		2,586,973	395,377	-	2,191,596		
2021							
Financial assets							
Cash and deposits	0.31	13,007,754	-	13,007,754	-		
Contractual receivables		2,970,335	-	-	2,970,335		
Total financial assets		15,978,089	-	13,007,754	2,970,335		
Financial liabilities							
Contractual payables		996,754	-	-	996,754		
Lease Liabilities		252,513	252,513	-	<u>-</u>		
Total financial liabilities		1,249,267	252,513	-	996,754		

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.

INTEREST RATE

		-50 BASIS POINTS		+50 BASIS POINTS	
	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	NET RESULT \$	REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	NET RESULT \$	REVALUATION SURPLUS \$
2022					
Cash and deposits (i)	16,647,691	(83,238)	=	83,238	=
2021					
Cash and deposits (i)	13,007,754	(65,039)	-	65,039	-

i. Cash and deposits includes \$16,647,691 (2021: \$13,007,754) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

^{• 2022:\$16,647,691} X 0.5% = \$83,238

^{• 2021: \$13,007,754} X 0.5% = \$65,039

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 2022, the Authority has no known contingent assets.

Contingent liabilities

As at 30 June 2022, the Authority has no known contingent liabilities

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 2022-23 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets

Cash and deposits

Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Accrued revenue.

Financial liabilities

Lease liabilities

Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses
- · Other payables.

7.3.1 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Fair value measurement hierarchy

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2022 \$	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	955,000	-	955,000	-
Specialised land	18,217,100	-	-	18,217,100
Total Land at Fair Value	19,172,100	-	955,000	18,217,100
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	1,699,431	-	1,699,431	-
Right of use assets - Buildings	170,997	-	170,997	-
Total Buildings at Fair Value	1,870,428	-	1,870,428	-
Works assets at Fair Value				
Works assets	27,350,862	-	-	27,350,862
Total Infrastructure at Fair Value	27,350,862	-	-	27,350,862
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	404,561	-	=	404,561
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	404,561	-	-	404,561
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	50,933	-	50,933	-
Right of use assets - Motor Vehicles	224,276	-	224,276	-
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	275,209	-	275,209	-

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

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2021 \$	FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD USING:		
		LEVEL 1 \$	LEVEL 2 \$	LEVEL 3 \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	955,000	-	955,000	-
Specialised land	15,091,000	=	-	15,091,000
Total Land at Fair Value	16,046,000	-	955,000	15,091,000
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	1,750,000	-	1,750,000	-
Right of use assets - Buildings	222,302	=	222,302	=
Total Buildings at Fair Value	1,972,302	-	1,972,302	-
Works assets at Fair Value				
Works assets	27,336,015	-	-	27,336,015
Total Infrastructure at Fair Value	27,336,015	-	-	27,336,015
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	455,780	-	-	455,780
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	455,780	-	-	455,780
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	47	-	-	47
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	47	-	-	47
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	115,415	-	115,415	-
Right of use assets - Motor Vehicles	28,132	-	28,132	-
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	143,547	-	143,547	-

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

Non-specialised land & 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 Direct Comparison approach. The valuation of the subject property using this method we have had regard to the individual characteristics of the subject property relative to our analysis of the available market evidence. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

Right of Use non-specialised buildings are valued as per the requirements of AASB 16 *Leases*. This is detailed further in Note 6.2.

Significant valuation uncertainty

The market that the assets are valued in is being impacted by the uncertainty that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has caused. The valuer has advised that the current market environment, impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19), creates significant valuation uncertainty. The value assessed at the valuation date may therefore change over a relatively short time period.

Specialised land

An independent valuation of the Authority's specialised land, an independent valuation was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria using the Direct Comparison approach whereby the subject properties are compared to recent comparable land sales or land with no added or nominal added improvement value sales and making adjustment for points of difference to establish the Fair Value. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

The Authority conducted an assessment at 30 June 2022, and in line with FRD 103 determined the requirement for a management revaluation due to a material movement identified in specialised land (in line with the Valuer General Land Indices) since the 30 June 2021 valuation.

Significant valuation uncertainty

The market that the assets are valued in is being impacted by the uncertainty that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has caused. The valuer has advised that the current market environment, impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19), creates significant valuation uncertainty. The value assessed at the valuation date may therefore change over a relatively short time period.

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 cost approach. Where the fair value of an asset is not able to be reliably determined using market-based evidence, the cost approach is considered to be the most appropriate surrogate basis to determine fair value. The cost approach involves the establishment of the gross current replacement cost (GCRC) of an asset, which is then depreciated over the asset's normal useful life (NUL) to reflect its effective age. Due regard is made to any estimated end-of-life residual value. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

The Authority conducted an assessment at 30 June 2022 following a review of works on Work Assets completed in the previous year with a material movement identified in works assets since the 30 June 2021 valuation.

Significant valuation uncertainty

The market that the assets are valued in is being impacted by the uncertainty that the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has caused. The valuer has advised that the current market environment, impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19), creates significant valuation uncertainty. The value assessed at the valuation date may therefore change over a relatively short time period.

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 current replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2022.

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

Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	SPECIALISED LAND	WORKS ASSETS	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT \$
2022				
Opening Balance	15,091,000	27,336,015	455,780	47
Purchases (sales)	=		7,208	=
Depreciation	=	(729,577)	(58,427)	(47)
Subtotal	15,091,000	26,606,438	404,561	-
Revaluation	3,126,100	744,424	-	-
Subtotal	3,126,100	744,424	-	-
Closing Balance	18,217,100	27,350,862	404,561	-
2021				
Opening Balance	15,817,768	20,176,485	513,307	672
Purchases (sales)	-	-	17,961	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	(448,898)	-	-
Depreciation	-	(565,828)	(75,488)	(625)
Subtotal	15,817,768	19,161,759	455,780	47
Revaluation	(726,768)	8,174,256	-	-
Subtotal	(726,768)	8,174,256	-	-
Closing Balance	15,091,000	27,336,015	455,780	47

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	VALUATION TECHNIQUE	SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS
Specialised land	Direct comparison approach	Sales evidence, unit of value by comparative basis (\$ per m²) adjusted for a Community Service Obligation (CSO) adjustment
Works assets	Cost Approach	Gross current replacement cost (GCRC) of an asset, which is then depreciated over the asset's normal useful life (NUL) to reflect its effective age. Due regard is made to any estimated end-of-life residual value
Plant and equipment	Current replacement cost	Useful life of the plant and equipment Cost per Unit
Office furniture and equipment	Current replacement cost	Useful life of the office furniture and equipment Cost per Unit

8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

Introduction

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 Change in accounting policies
- $8.10\,\mbox{Australian}$ Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

8.1 Ex gratia expenses

Ex gratia expenses are the voluntary payments 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 to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

The Authority had no ex gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2022 (2021 \$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.

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	103,091	-
Less written down value	(40,179)	-
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	62,912	-
8.3 Reserves		
	2022 \$	2021 \$
Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	41,237,839	33,124,517
Revaluation increments	3,870,524	8,113,321
Balance at end of financial year	45,108,363	41,237,839
Accumulated Deficit		
Balance at beginning of financial year	(2,794,260)	(6,956,794)
Net transfers from accumulated funds	1,637,544	4,162,534
Balance at end of financial year	(1,156,716)	(2,794,260)
Contributed Capital		
Balance at beginning of financial year	21,426,923	21,426,923
Balance at end of financial year	21,426,923	21,426,923
Total Reserves	65,378,570	59,870,502

Notes:

i. The physical assets revaluation surplus arises on the revaluation of land and buildings and works assets.

8.4 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA), 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 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
The Hon. Harriet Shing, MP	Minister for Water	27 Jun 2022 to 30 June 2022
The Hon. Richard Wynne, MP	Acting Minister for Water	01 Jul 2021 to 22 Aug 2021
The Hon. Liliana D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Alice Knight	(Chair)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Sept 2021
Catherine Jenkins	(Chair)	01 Oct 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Catherine Jenkins	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Sept 2021
Fiona Cumming	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Nick Reynard	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Kenneth Latta	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Lia Sarto	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Catherine Phelps	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Wayne Weaire	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
Michael Watson	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2021 to 30 Jun 2022
John Riddiford	(CEO)	01 Jul 2021 to 30 Jun 2022

Remuneration

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

	2022	2021
Income band		_
\$0-\$9,999	0	0
\$10,000-\$19,999	8	7
\$20,000-\$29,999	1	1
\$220,000-\$229,999	0	1
\$250,000-\$259,999	1	0
Total number of Responsible persons	10	9
Total Remuneration \$	414,965	375,468

The compensation detailed above excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receive. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act* 1968 and is reported within the State's Annual 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 or 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.

The Authority did not have any executive officers, other than the CEO, to whom the Victorian Government's Public Entity Executive Remuneration (PEER) Policy applies. The CEO is an accountable officer and therefore disclosed under Note 8.4.

ceased.			
	2022 \$	2021 \$	
Remuneration (i)			
Short-term employee benefits	437,325	443,978	
Post-employment benefits	41,455	41,455	
Other long-term benefits	10,881	10,598	
Termination benefits	-	-	
Total remuneration	489,661	496,031	
Total number or executives (ii)	3	3	
Total annualised employee equivalents (iii)	3	3	

Notes:

- i. The definition of Executive Officer as per FRD 15E has been adopted to identify key management personnel in 2021-22
- 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

Related parties of the Authority include:

- All key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- 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.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

Significant transactions with government-related entities

CCMA is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the state of Victoria. During the 2022 financial year, the Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities:

	FUNDING RECEIVED 2022 \$	FUNDING RECEIVABLE AT 30 JUNE 2022 \$	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S
Entity			
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	9,751,850	-	Service Level Agreements
Barwon Water	257,146	207,000	Service Level Agreements
Central Highlands Region Water Authority	10,250	-	Service Level Agreements
Department of Justice and Community Safety	32,075	-	Service Level Agreements
North Central CMA	35,000	-	Service Level Agreements
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	107,184	-	Service Level Agreements

The Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities for the year ending 30 June 2021:

	FUNDING RECEIVED 2021 \$	FUNDING RECEIVABLE AT 30 JUNE 2021 \$	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S
Entity			
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	10,315,586	-	Service Level Agreements
Department. of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	1,749,136	24,696	Service Level Agreements
Barwon Water	227,580	200,000	Service Level Agreements
Department of Transport	40,000	40,000	Service Level Agreements
Central Highlands Region Water Authority	34,570	-	Service Level Agreements
Wannon Water	20,308	-	Service Level Agreements

During the 2022 financial year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

	PAYMENTS MADE 2022 \$	PAYABLE AT 30 JUNE 2022 \$	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S
Entity			
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	726,036	240,324	Service Level Agreements
Parks Victoria	341,472	99,675	Service Level Agreements
Zoos Victoria	161,000	103,600	Service Level Agreements
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	131,075	109,533	Service Level Agreements
Goulburn Broken CMA	121,011	66,889	Reimbursement of Expenditure
Barwon Asset Solutions	120,776	49,706	Service Level Agreements
Department of Transport	99,909	-	Service Level Agreements
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	31,900	-	Service Level Agreements
Department of Treasury and Finance (VicFleet Lease Mgt)	17,580	-	Lease Agreement
Barwon Water	10,735	-	Service Level Agreements

During the 2021 financial year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

	PAYMENTS MADE 2021 \$	PAYABLE AT 30 JUNE 2021 \$	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S
Entity			
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	513,757	78,284	Service Level Agreements
Central Highlands Water	472,912	=	Service Level Agreements
Goulburn Broken CMA	184,331	73,832	Reimbursement of Expenditure
Barwon Water	62,318	15,125	Service Level Agreements
Parks Victoria	56,121	-	Service Level Agreements
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	53,850	-	Service Level Agreements
Wimmera CMA	43,000	-	Service Level Agreements
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	34,205	-	Service Level Agreements

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

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Compensation of KMPs		
Short-term employee benefits	810,179	782,716
Post-employment benefits	77,202	73,276
Other long-term benefits	17,245	15,507
Termination benefits	-	-
Share-based payments	-	-
Total	904,626	871,499

There were no significant related party transactions or balances that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interest.

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	12,500	12,000
Internal audit costs	33,960	28,340
Total auditors' remuneration	46,460	40,340

8.8 Subsequent events

In the period commencing early October 2022, there was significant rainfall events across the Corangamite CMA catchment region. This led to moderate flooding in the Barwon River to which the Corangamite CMA owns recreational assets through Geelong. At present, water levels have yet to reside to a level to allow a full review of any damage and cleanup costs required. At present any costs can not be reliably measured.

The continuing COVID-19 Health Pandemic is not expected to significantly affect the operations, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Authority in future financial years.

8.9 Change in accounting policies

8.9.1 Initial Application of the International Finance Reporting Standards Interpretations Commmittee (IFRS) Agenda Decisions.

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements

The international Finance Reporting Standards Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) has issued two final agenda decisions which impact SaaS arrangements:

- Customer's right to receive access to the supplier's software hosted on the cloud (March 2019) – this decision considers whether a customer receives a software asset at the contract commencement date or a service over the contract term.
- Configuration or customisation costs in a cloud computing arrangement (April 2021) – this decision discusses whether configuration or customisation expenditure relating to SaaS arrangements can be recognised as an intangible asset and if not, over what time period the expenditure is expensed.

The Authority's accounting policy has historically been to capitalise all costs related to SaaS arrangements as intangible assets in the Balance Sheet. The adoption of the above agenda decisions has resulted in a reclassification of intangible assets to the recognition as an expense in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, impacting both the current and prior periods presented.

Impact of Change in Accounting Policy

For the current year, \$8,301 of costs that would previously have been capitalised under AASB 138 Intangible assets were expensed. Cash outflows of \$8,301 were included in payments to suppliers and employees in the Cash Flow Statement that previously would have been included as purchases of non-financial assets.

The changes have been applied retrospectively with an adjustment of comparative opening balances at 1 July 2020. However, a separate statement of financial position as at 1 July 2020 is not provided because the overall impact of these changes is not considered material.

The impacts are summarised on following pages.

Impact on the Balance Sheet

	AS RESTATED \$	AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED \$	ADJUSTMENTS \$
 1 July 2020	Ψ	Ψ	Ψ
Assets			
Intangible assets	-	177,924	(177,924)
Total assets	0	177,924	(177,924)
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/deficit	(6,956,794)	(6,778,870)	(177,924)
Total Equity	(6,956,794)	(6,778,870)	(177,924)
30 June 2021			
Assets			
Intangible assets	-	43,923	(43,923)
Total assets	62,110,799	15,194,194	(43,923)
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/deficit	(2,794,260)	(2,572,413)	(221,847)
Total Equity	59,870,502	60,092,349	(221,847)

Impact on the Comprehensive Operating Statement

	AS RESTATED \$	AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED \$	ADJUSTMENTS \$
30 June 2021			
Depreciation and Amortisation	784,557	808,405	(23,848)
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	7,277,920	7,210,149	67,771
Net result	4,162,534	4,206,457	(43,923)
Comprehensive Result	12,275,856	12,319,779	(43,923)

Impact on the Cash flow statement

	AS RESTATED \$	AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED \$	ADJUSTMENTS \$
30 June 2021			
Payments to suppliers and employees	13,234,079	13,166,308	(67,771)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	2,641,565	2,709,336	(67,771)
Purchases of non-financial assets	17,961	85,732	67,771
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from investing activities	17,961	85,732	67,771

8.10 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2021-22 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to the Financial Statements. The Authority is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which includes:

AASB 17 Insurance Contracts

The operative date of this standard has been deferred by AASB 2020-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 and will supersede AASB 4 Insurance Contracts. AASB 17 seeks to eliminate inconsistencies and weakness in existing practices by providing a single principle-based framework to account for all types of insurance contracts, including reinsurance contracts that an insurer holds. The standard also provides requirements for presentation and disclosure to enhance comparability between entities.

The Australian Accounting Standards Board has currently issued an Exposure Draft (ED) 319 – *Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector*, proposing public-sector modifications to AASB 17 to facilitate the application by public sector entities. It is proposed that public sector entities would apply AASB 17 to annual periods beginning or after 1 July 2025, with earlier application permitted.

The Authority is in the process of analysing the impacts of these Standard. However, it is not anticipated to have a material impact. The Authority will not early adopt the Standard.

AASB 2020-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current

This Standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. 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.

AASB 2020-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current – Deferral of Effective Date was issued in August 2020 and defers the effective date to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 instead of 1 January 2022, with earlier application permitted.

The Authority is in the process of analysing the impacts of these Standard. However, it is not anticipated to have a material impact. The Authority will not early adopt the Standard.

Other Amending Standards

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods, but are considered to have limited impact on the Authority's reporting.

- AASB 2020-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments.
- AASB 2021-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definitions of Accounting Estimates.
- AASB 2021-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction.
- AASB 2021-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards.
- AASB 2021-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards
 Effective Date of Amendments to AASB 10 and AASB 128 and Editorial Corrections.

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 1 – PERFORMANCE TARGETS

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	PROGRESS 2021-2022
Business Management and Governance	Submit annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Board performance report submitted on 30/08/2021
	A risk management strategy/plan approved by the board and being implemented.	The Board approved the risk management plan on 26th August 2021 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. 92% 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.	1 Compliance Deficiencies (Non Material) recorded in 2021-2022 which will be addressed by November 2022.
	A regional catchment strategy (RCS) approved by the minister.	The renewed RCS was approved by the Ministers in February 2022.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework/plan approved by the board.	The Communications and Brand Strategy was endorsed at the November 2018 Board Meeting.
Regional planning and coordination	A regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Community Engagement Framework was endorsed by the Board at the November 2018 meeting.
COOLUMNATION	A regional waterways strategy approved by the minister.	The Landcare Support Plan has been developed in consultation with the Landcare Chairs and Facilitators and was approved by them at the June 2022 forum.
	A regional floodplain strategy approved by the Board.	The Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 was approved by the Minister in 2014.
Regional delivery	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the board annually.	The renewed RCS was approved by the Ministers in February 2022. The Regional Catchment Strategy Implementation Committee (Board Committee) meets quarterly to review progress of implementation.
	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 management projects/activities were delivered and reported in accordance with associated funding agreements under the Victorian Water Program Investment Framework.

APPENDIX 1 – PERFORMANCE TARGETS (CONTINUED)

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	PROGRESS 2021-2022
Statutory Functions under part 10 of the Water Act	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	72% of statutory requirements were met within the prescribed period, down 1% (73%) from previous Financial Year. The reasons for this include: • A high demand of referrals/flood advice: 1,416 response requested up from 1,346 in 2020-2021 which corresponds to a 5% increase (or 70 additional responses). An additional 37 responses were registered in the 2021-2022FY but not responded to prior to 30 June 2022. • Works on waterways applications increased by 27, up 35% from last FY. • Flood Advice requests increased by 71, up 10%. • Flood Portal Downloads increase by 121, up 93%. • The only decrease was planning referrals, decreasing by 28, down 5%. • The increase in complexity of applications is also noticeable particularly with large, multi-staged subdivisions associated with urban growth areas. • Inadequate resources (staff) to meet demand and hence response times not achieved. Despite two recruitment processes no suitable applicants were identified. • The increase in flood portal responses has almost doubled (93%) indicating more people are considering automated responses for general flood advice. However, this has also contributed to an increase in phone calls and email queries seeking clarification on flood related matters beyond just the general information provided (i.e. additional queries about floor levels, can we develop / subdivide etc.). Higher portal use is also attributed to phone queries being redirected to the portal. This has placed an additional burden on administrative staff (within and outside of the team) to redirect calls and messages to relevant staff members. • Ongoing reliance on external consultants to provide statutory support. • Significant increase in the number of reported unauthorised works which take considerable time to resolve. • Considerable staff time spent providing technical support to large projects across the region, such as Planning Scheme Amendments, flood studies, large scale (State Significant) construction projects such as rail duplication upgrades, Barwon Heads

^{**}Derived from the 2015 Ministerial Form guidelines

APPENDIX 2 – PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTCOMES AND LETTER OF EXPECTATION TARGETS

The table below outlines the key indicators that we will use to monitor and report on the achievement of outcomes.

The table recognises the longer-term nature of the outcomes we are aiming to achieve through the four-year indicators and the standard outputs that are reported annually that contribute to the achievement of the outcome indicator.

The indicators incorporate the outcome indicators aligned to the Minister for Water's priority areas as set out in the Letter of Expectations to CMAs.

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2021-2022 PERFORMANCE
	Increasing area (ha) of land managed for conservation.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
Healthy resilient and biodiverse environment	Increase condition and extent of native habitats.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
	Reduction in threats to priority flora and fauna.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
	Improved health of priority waterways and their catchments.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
	Increasing opportunities for Traditional Owner and Aboriginal communities to be respectfully engaged in waterway programs.	The Corangamite CMA has continued to build strong relationships with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation and is continuing to develop relationships with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation. The development of EC5 bids included consultation and incorporation of Country Plan outcomes into the project plans. In relation to our Australian Government Programs, we have actively collaborated and involved Traditional owners in a Cultural Burning program and in our Threatened Species project on-ground assessments. The Corangamite CMA continues to look to improve our own cultural competency and undertook Board and Staff cultural competency training with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation. During the year we continued to employ an Aboriginal NRM Project Officer, jointly funded with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation which provided an important resource in increasing engagement with Traditional Owners.
Improved waterway health	Number of engagement processes with community or stakeholders that identified and considered recreational values of waterways.	The renewal of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) has included significant consultation through 20 workshops and via the Engage Victoria site. Total number of non CMA attendees at workshops includes was 113 which included 80 community based attendees and 33 participants from various government agencies and municipalities. The RCS was approved by the Minister for Water in February 2022 and the implementation of the RCS has involved presentations to the different regions. The Corangamite CMA has undertaken significant consultation in regards to Seasonal Watering Strategy that has involved consideration of recreational values. In 2020-2021, a Community Engagement Network was formed with community representation across the Catchment. The TOR have been reviewed in 2021-2022 to more strongly focus the group on building capability and capacity of the network. Additional membership sought for the Network. Further activities and achievements are outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND

APPENDIX 2 - PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTCOMES AND LETTER OF EXPECTATION TARGETS (CONTINUED)

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2021-2022 PERFORMANCE
		The development of the Barwon Parklands Masterplan which included input from a number of agencies and Mapping of Amenities project along the Barwon River Parklands involved consideration of recreational values.
		The Regional Catchment Strategy and EC5 funded projects also considered recreation values in their development.
		4 projects that involve significant consideration of recreational values that are incorporated into the project design and implementation are:
	Evidence that recreational values were	Barwon through Geelong Statutory Functions project – this project manages the Barwon River Parklands.
	considered in waterway health and environmental water planning and management.	Recreational Water Initiative project – this project is updating recreational assets along the Barwon River
	environmental water planning and management.	Barwon River amenity mapping and Traditional Owner engagement for RCS project
		Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut (Barwon River Parklands) Masterplan and implementation project
		The Corangamite CMA's own vision statement was amended in 2021-2022 to reflect "Healthy and Productive Lands and Waters cared for and enjoyed by thriving communities" in line with feedback from the RCS consultation process.
Improved waterway health		Further activities and achievements are outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
пеаш	Participating in the development and implementation of integrated water management plans, particularly through prioritising measures to enhance urban waterway values.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
		In 2020-2021 the Corangamite CMA developed a Portal Strategy to increase the usability and accessibility of its information Portals. Three projects were undertaken in 2021-2022 with Federation Uni to further enhance the operation and usage.
	Evidence of improvements to information sources (e.g. online).	For the first time the RCS moved online and integrates with our NRM Planning portal.
		The Corangamite CMA website was further reviewed and updated in 2021-2022 to improve accessibility to information in regards to projects and services of the CMA.
		The Corangamite CMA has further invested and utilised Social media and online newsletters in 2021-2022 to communicate with the Community.
	Develop and coordinate the implementation of your new regional catchment strategy according to legislative changes and new guidelines established by the Victorian Catchment Management Council.	The revised Regional Catchment Strategy was approved by the Minister in February 2022. A Board Committee, called the RCS Implementation Committee, is established and overseeing its implementation.

APPENDIX 2 - PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTCOMES AND LETTER OF EXPECTATION TARGETS (CONTINUED)

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2021-2022 PERFORMANCE
Improved waterway health	Deliver integrated catchment management in line with Water for Victoria and building on the legacy of Our Catchments, Our Communities, for better catchment stewardship with strengthened performance across environmental, social and economic outcomes.	The renewal of the RCS has included significant consultation with Eastern Maar Traditional Owner, Wadawarrung Traditional Owner, NRM State Agencies, Industry representatives, Local Government, Community Groups, landholders and community representatives. This has been undertaken through 20 workshops and via the Engage Victoria site. Total number of non CMA attendees at workshops was113 which included 80 community based attendees and 33 participants from various government agencies and municipalities. In 2021-2022 the Small Blocks, Big Dreams project (part of the Our Catchments, Our Communities program) commenced with a strong focus on land stewardship for peri urban landholders. The Strategic Regional Partnerships project (also part of the Our Catchments Our Communities program) continued development of the Catchment Partnerships Agreement and the implementation of our Community Advisory Group.
Sustainable land management	Increasing number of land managers participating in sustainable land and water management practices.	In 2021-2022 the Corangamite CMA continued to run the Sustainable Agriculture Committee and worked closely with Landcare to support and deliver on-ground programs. Funded by the Commonwealth, the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator continued to support sustainable landcare practices across the catchment via education and engagement activities. In 2021-2022 the Australian Government Funded Large Farms project continued to work with land managers to develop sustainable land and water management practices. Further activities and achievements are outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
	Providing flexibility for agriculture to continue to adapt to change and help the sector do more with less water.	As above
	Demonstrated active partnerships in delivering integrated land management projects.	As above
Partnerships are effective, diverse and delivering shared outcomes	90% of stakeholders rating overall satisfaction with the Corangamite CMA at "Satisfactory" or better.	The Corangamite CMA undertook a stakeholder survey in December 2020 the results of which were an improvement on the previous survey undertaken in 2018. Relevance of the CMA increased from 80% to 91%.
	Healthy communities and supporting resilient environments.	Activities and achievements are outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
Increased breadth and depth of participation	Report on Catchment Partnership Agreements for your region in accordance with the Framework for Catchment Partnership Agreements.	The Corangamite CMA continues to chair a strong Catchment Partnership Agreement group with membership from Key Agencies and Traditional Owners. The group provided significant input into the development of the Regional Catchment Strategy. The terms of reference of the group was also reviewed in 2020-2021 to support more effective collaboration.
	Collaborating with water corporations and local government, including participation in Integrated Water Management Forums, to help facilitate integrated water management, with a focus on enhancing public open spaces (such as waterway corridors).	In the past two years the Corangamite CMA developed three MoUs with Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water and Wannon Water outlining collaboration activities and points of collaboration already in place. This group also jointed developed a communication for the public on the roles of agencies in water management.

APPENDIX 2 - PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTCOMES AND LETTER OF EXPECTATION TARGETS (CONTINUED)

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2021-2022 PERFORMANCE
	Evidence of collaboration with other organisations or agencies to support recreational values, such as sharing of information on recreational value planning or management with other organisations, partnerships with other organisations or agencies in site-based or regional projects, and/or amounts of co-investment with other organisations	In addition to the above, the Corangamite CMA collaborated strongly with DELWP and Parks Victoria to progress the Australian Government Funded Wild Otways Initiative. Further projects were developed with Barwon Water and Wannon Water to improve waterway health.
	Continue to build extensive, effective and consistent approaches to community engagement and partnerships in regional planning and implementation	In 2020-2021 the Corangamite CMA implemented a new Community Engagement Network with representation across the catchment to provide input into the RCS development. The terms of reference of this group were reviewed in 2021-2022 to increase the focus of the network on developing capability and capacity of the group. An additional call for membership was made in May/June 2022 to increase participation. Whilst COVID-19 provided challenges for engagement, the Corangamite CMA experimented in the use of online engagement means to reach community audiences including workshops and educational events held online as well as trialling podcasts. Corangamite CMA significantly increased its online presence with a significant increase in Facebook and other social media tools.
Increased breadth and depth of participation	Increase in community participation in natural resource management educational and behavioural change events supported by or coordinated by the Corangamite CMA	WaterWatch and EstuaryWatch programs continue to be very successful throughout the region. Additional activities and achievements are outlined in Activities and achievements are outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
	Work collaboratively with organisations and communities to strengthen engagement approaches and capacity.	As outlined above
	Commit to working collectively via Vic Catchments membership to strengthen collaboration and performance in the catchment management sector in Victoria.	The Corangamite CMA has committed to the Vic Catchments membership and strategic priorities including oversight of the state-wide working groups' project plans and identification of ministerial opportunities. The Corangamite CMA renewed its Social Procurement Strategy in November 2021 which includes targets and initiatives to increase spend with Aboriginal businesses.
	Number of effective engagements and partnerships with Traditional Owners in water planning and management that have led to improved outcomes for Aboriginal communities	The Corangamite CMA has continued to build strong relationships with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation and is continuing to develop relationships with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation. The development of EC5 bids included consultation and incorporation of Country Plan outcomes into the project plans. In relation to our Australian Government Programs, we have actively collaborated and involved Traditional owners in a Cultural Burning program and in our Threatened Species project on-ground assessments. The Corangamite CMA continues to look to improve our own cultural competency. The Corangamite CMA renewed its Social Procurement Strategy in November 2021 which includes targets and

APPENDIX 2 - PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTCOMES AND LETTER OF EXPECTATION TARGETS (CONTINUED)

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2021-2022 PERFORMANCE
Increased resilience and adaptation of natural	Progress on climate change adaptation initiatives outlined in climate change and catchment strategies.	Corangamite CMA is a member of both the Barwon South West and Grampians Adaptation Project coordinated by DELWP, is a founding member of the Barwon South West Climate Alliance and is an active contributor to the State-wide CMA Climate Network. Many climate change initiatives from our plan are being implemented through these forums. In 2021-2022 the Corangamite CMA developed a Carbon Neutrality Action Plan which outlines a plan of leadership in the region on Climate Change as well as moving to carbon neutrality (as evidenced by Climate Active Certification) by 2024.
assets to climate change	Explore opportunities to sequester carbon and generate carbon offsets.	Corangamite CMA is developing a Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program with 10 LGAs. The Corangamite CMA is also a partner in the State-wide Carbon Sequestration Project with all CMAs and Water Corporations, is exploring carbon offset opportunities with Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water and Wannon Water. We have also continued to explore both blue and teal carbon opportunities with Deakin's Blue Carbon Lab and are developing soil carbon opportunities with local Landcare Networks and South Pole.
	Fulfil statutory obligations for floodplain management, estuaries, drainage schemes and environmental water.	2021-2022 again proved a challenging year for managing statutory obligations particularly for floodplain management. Only 72% of statutory requirements were met within the prescribed period primarily due to significant growth in the region resulting in a high demand for referrals/flood advice: 1416 response requested up from 1147 in 2019-2020 which corresponds to a 23% increase over the past two years reflecting the increased growth of Geelong and the Ballarat regions. Inadequate resourcing to meet demands remains and hence response times not achieved.
The Corangamite CMA is a respected and trusted regional leader in catchment health and management	Improving diversity and inclusion.	In 2021-2022, the Corangamite CMA undertook a consultative approach to the redevelopment of its diversity and inclusion plan, with a new strategy endorsed by the Board in March 2022 and released in June 2022. The new plan includes renewed focus and targets. As part of the Youth Employment Program, the Corangamite CMA engaged eight young graduates (including six women and with different backgrounds) to various areas of the Corangamite CMA to obtained vital work experience and
		mentoring to continue to develop their skills and employability. In April 2022, the Corangamite CMA employed an individual with intellectual disability to support its administration function. This has provided an excellent appointment for the individual and the CMA.
	Improving performance and demonstrated results against outcomes.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES

APPENDIX 2 - PERFORMANCE AGAINST OUTCOMES AND LETTER OF EXPECTATION TARGETS (CONTINUED)

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2021-2022 PERFORMANCE
	Developing strategies and goals that will increase cultural diversity in the workforce and gender equity in executive leadership and throughout the organisation.	The Corangamite CMA was a lead participant in the Bridging The Gap program that seeks to improve Leadership opportunities for Women. The Corangamite CMA in 2021-2022 reviewed its Diversity and Inclusion plan which included an action plan based upon staff data, learnings from the Bridging the Gap program, people matters survey and staff input.
	Encouraging staff participation in the Victorian Public Sector Commission "People Matter Survey".	The most recent People Matter Survey had a response rate of 90%.
	Collaborate with DELWP to improve reporting systems and processes.	Via the CMA Corporate Services Managers group, the CMAs worked with DELWP to improve governance and financial management processes. The CMA Regional Investment Coordinators Group met regularly with DELWP to implement a new Grant Management System "Enquire" and to review the DELWP standard outputs.
The Commonwite CMA is	Demonstrate outcomes of government investment into waterways and catchment health.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
The Corangamite CMA is a respected and trusted regional leader in catchment health and management	Deliver efficiency through shared services, smarter procurement and lower-cost technology.	The Corangamite CMA continued to be involved with one shared services arrangements with Barwon Water in relation to reception. 7 CMAs collaborated to implement a new finance and payroll system D365FO.
		The CMA Corporate Services Managers, via the DELWP funded Compliance Project, collaborated on shared governance activities and policies.
		The Corangamite CMA in 2021-2022 moved across to four state procurement contracts and continued to implement the Victorian Government Purchasing Board expansion initiatives.
	Increase in the information available and its	In 2020-2021 the Corangamite CMA developed a Portal Strategy to increase the usability and accessibility of its information Portals. Three projects were undertaken with Federation Uni to further enhance the operation and usage in 2021-2022.
	timely delivery to partners, community and investors.	For the first time the RCS moved online and integrates with our NRM Planning portal.
		The Corangamite CMA further reviewed its website in 2021-2022 to improve accessibility to information in regards to projects and services of the CMA.



APPENDIX 3 – 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.

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ACRONYMS AND TERMS

ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute
BAU	Business As Usual
ВЕМРР	Barwon Estuary Monitoring Project Pilot
BRP	Biodiversity Response Plan
BGA	Blue Green Algae
CaLP	Catchment and Land Protection Act
CEN	Community Engagement Network
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFA	Country Fire Authority
COLN	Central Otways Landcare Network
Corangamite CMA (Corangamite CMA)	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
СРА	Corangamite Partnership Agreement
CPSU	Community and Public Sector Union
CRFMS	Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
CWS	Corangamite Wetlands Strategy
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DJPR	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
EC5	Environmental Contribution Tranche 5
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
FFG	Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act
Fol	Freedom of information
FTE	Full-time equivalent
GIS	Geographic Information System
На	Hectare
HDLN	Heytesbury and District Landcare Network
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission
MAC	Ministerial Advisory Committee

MBI	Market Based Instrument
MLA	Meat & Livestock Australia
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MPSG	Major Project Skills Guarantee
MST	Microbial Source Tracking
MTG	Master Tree Growers
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
No.	Number
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OCOC	Our Catchments, Our Communities
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PPB	Port Phillip Bay
RALF	Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator
RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinators
RLP	Regional Land Partnerships
SCIPN	Surf Coast and Inland Plains Network
SEPP	State Environment Protection Policy
SOBN	State Observation Bore Network
SPF	Social Procurement Strategy
ТО	Traditional Owner
UBLN	Upper Barwon Landcare Network
VEAC	Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
VHF	Very High Frequency
VIPP	Victorian Industry Participation Policy
VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plain
VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
WDL	Western District Lakes











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