



2022 -
2023

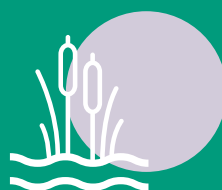
CORANGAMITE CMA

Annual Report



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority works on the lands, waters and seas of the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin Nation and the Kirrae Whurrong, Djagurd Woorroong, Gulidjan and Gadubanud People of the Maar Nation and acknowledges them as the Traditional Owners.

The Corangamite 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 acknowledges and recognises 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) 2022-2023 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.

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

We would like to acknowledge our project partners who have contributed to the design and delivery of projects across the region. Landowner participation and investment is a vital factor which allows us to achieve results. It is because of these partnerships we have seen some excellent outcomes achieved across a variety of projects, including sustainable dairies, riparian revegetation, threatened species, agroforestry, and cover cropping projects.

Throughout 2022-23 we have continued our commitment to working in partnership to achieve even better catchment health outcomes. This has been formalised through the maintenance of Memorandums of Understanding with all three of our Water Corporation partners, and a partnership agreement being signed 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 has continued with 19 partners, with a focus on implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy.

We have also signed an agreement with Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation to employ a CMA Partnerships Officer embedded in Eastern Maar. This position will help to assist with the design and delivery of current and future partnership projects and activities, and to facilitate communication between the organisations.

Under the Barwon Flagship agreement, we have completed the draft masterplan for the Kijarra-dja-bul Bullarto Langi-ut project, continuing the strong partnership with the Wadawurrung and other land managers to deliver a masterplan 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. The draft masterplan will be out for community consultation in 2023-24.

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 witnessed significant efforts in managing and recovering from flooding events, along with infrastructure repairs and pathway reconstruction works, all vastly improving 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.



Engaging with our community is important, and this year we have engaged with over 19,000 people and supported over 100 citizen science volunteers. Other achievements include supporting over 5,000ha of weed control, property management plans covering 2,214ha, and over \$1.1m in grants distributed.

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

This year we had an investment of \$6.683m from the Victorian Government, primarily through agreements from the Water Health, Barwon Flagship Agreement, Environmental Water and Our Catchments, Our Communities Funding Programs. \$4.31m was received from the Australian Government through the Regional Landcare Program and \$340k 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 River.

This year we saw the successful completion of the Wild Otways Initiative – a collaborative effort made possible by the generous investment of six million dollars from the Australian Government to protect our threatened species. We extend our gratitude to the Australian Government for their investment and shared vision on delivering this important project that has supported conservation works and scientific research within the Otways region.

This initiative was a testament to the power of collaboration – it worked across land tenure, with partner agencies, project partners, and key stakeholders, each playing a vital role bringing their expertise and skills to collectively make a significant impact on some big and challenging threats to the spectacular Otways environment.

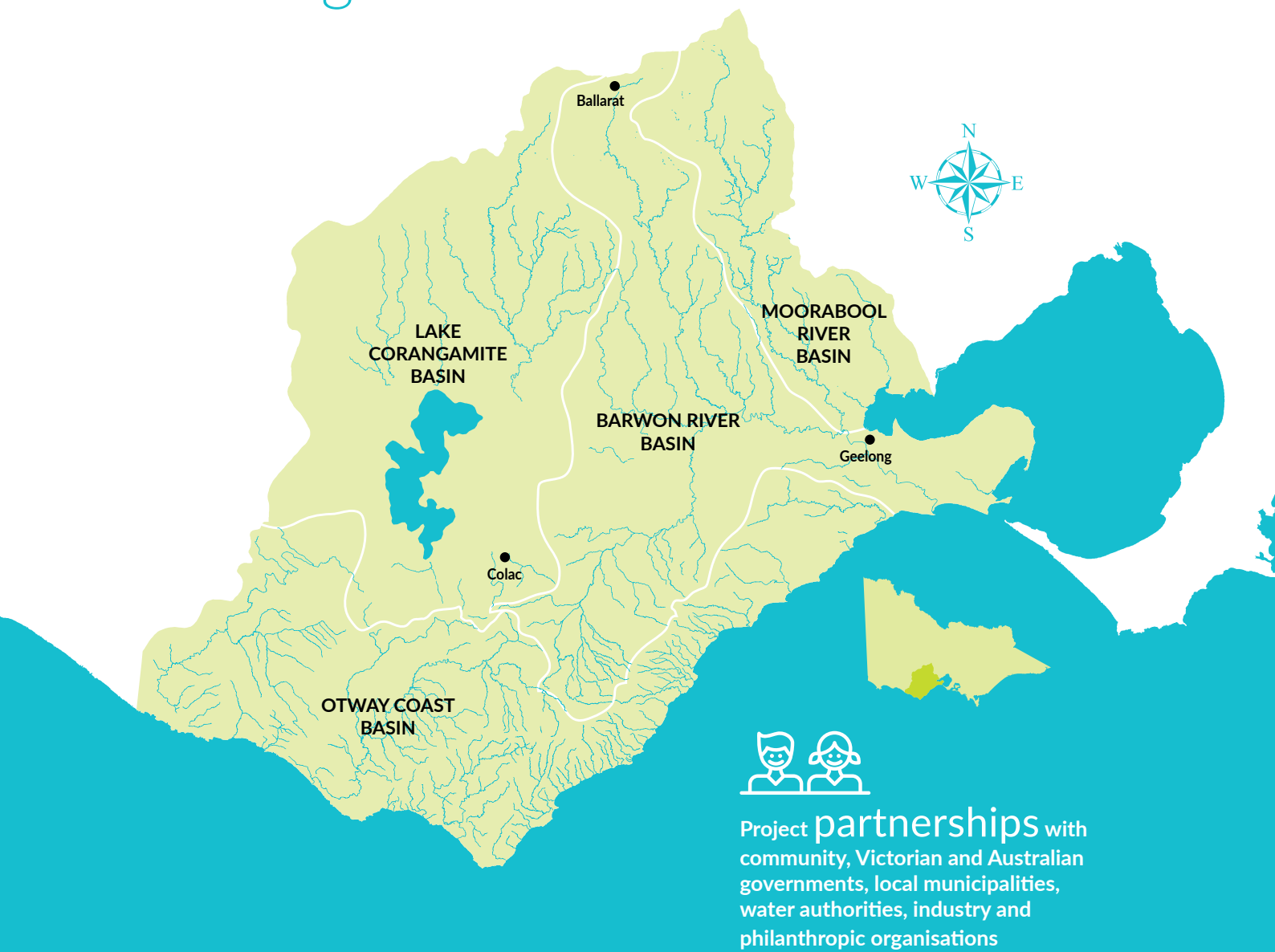
This year also saw the completion of our Australian Government funded sustainable agriculture and other threatened species protection projects. Key highlights of these projects include a continued partnership with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to deliver two cultural burns on Wadawurrung Country, and the third release of nineteen captivity bred, Orange-bellied parrots at Lake Connewarre, and the continued delivery of Sustainable Dairies and Master Tree Growers courses for local farmers.

Corangamite CMA is proud to be a regional leader in taking action on climate change, being 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. We continue to work towards minimising our carbon footprint with by monitoring scope 3 emissions of staff travelling to our worksites as well as working from home and have implemented a plant replacement program focusing on transitioning our vehicle fleet to 100% electric or hybrid vehicles. Implementation of the action plan is being led by a Business Sustainability Working Group.

Cath Jenkins - Chair

John Riddiford - CEO

The Corangamite CMA Region



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

The catchment is
13,340
square kilometres


175
kilometres of coastline

152
community-based
volunteer groups



15,960
kilometres of waterways

Approximately
446,000
people live in the catchment

RESPONSIBLE BODY DECLARATION

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present Corangamite CMA's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2023.



Cath Jenkins

Chair, Corangamite CMA
26 September 2023

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 Queenscliff and the shires of Colac Otway, Surf Coast, Golden Plains, Corangamite, Moorabool and Moyne.

FORMATION

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

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

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

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

CORANGAMITE CMA'S ROLE

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

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

The relevant ministers for the period of this annual report:

1 July 2022 – 4 Dec 2022

Hon Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Water

Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Environment & Climate Change

5 Dec 2022 – 30 Jun 2023

Hon Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Water

Hon Ingrid Stitt MP, Minister for Environment

The catchments landscape supports strong agriculture and forestry sectors, with

78% of the land privately owned, the remaining

22% publicly owned



SECTION 1

Year In Review

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Vision, values and approach

OUR VISION FOR THE CORANGAMITE REGION

The Corangamite CMA wants the natural resources and environmental values of our region protected, looked after 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. 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:

OUR VISION

'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
- 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
- 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.

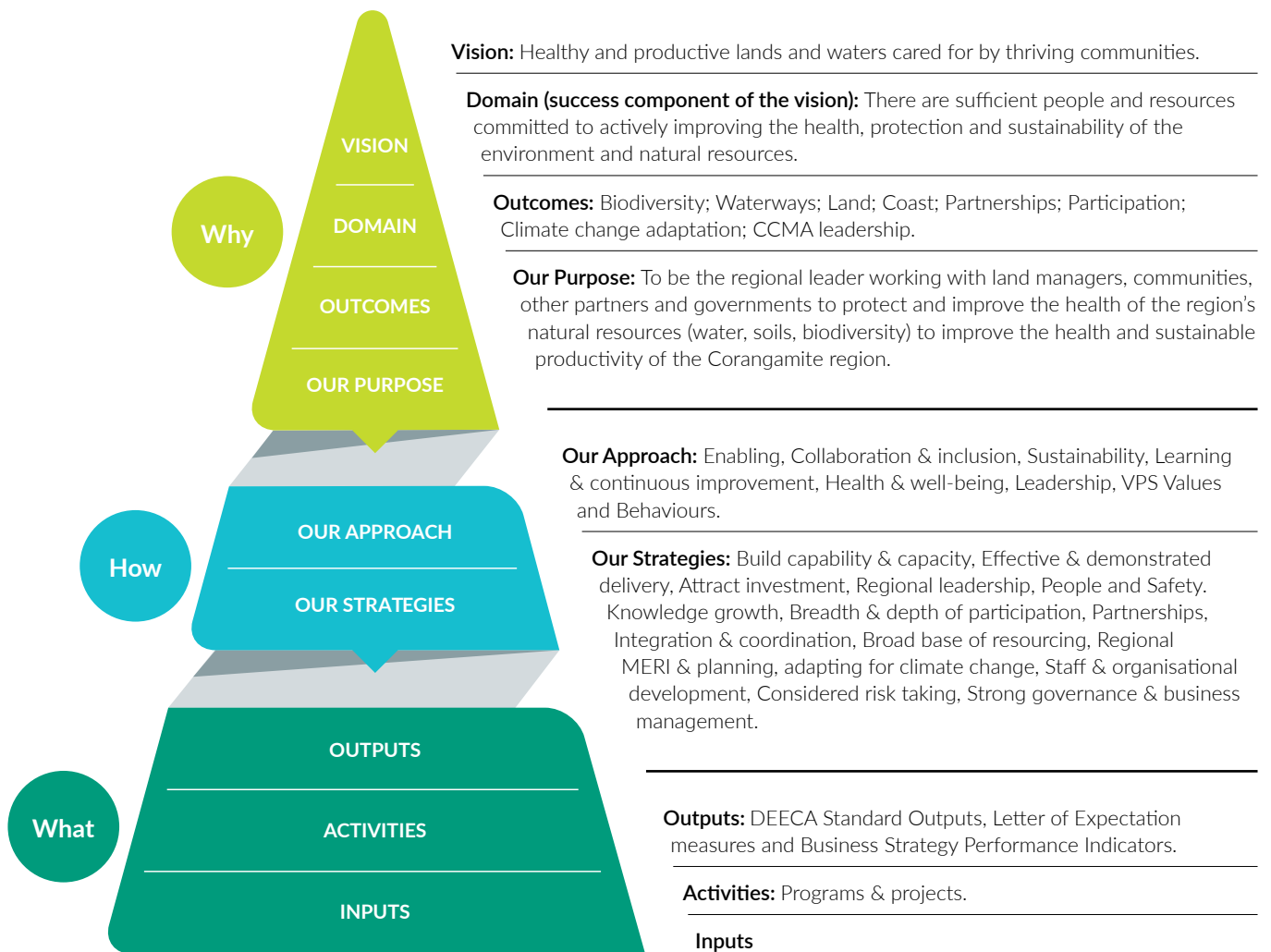
To achieve the desired integrated catchment management outcomes for the Victorian Government at a local level, we involve communities in the preparation and implementation of regional strategies and plans.

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 page 8.



The Corangamite CMA seeks to align its vision and purpose to undertaking activities that will achieve these strategic outcomes. It does so utilising the framework outlined below.



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. We will utilise effective information systems that enable co-operative planning and knowledge sharing.

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.

We will utilise established strong partnerships with Traditional Owner groups in the Corangamite regions that support the delivery of the Regional Catchment Strategy. We recognise that it will be through multi-agency co-operation that we will be able to support and address catchment health issues in our region. This requires us to actively build relationships and agreements with these Agencies to achieve the best outcomes.

Sustainability

Looking after catchments is a long-term commitment. We want our environment to be healthy now and for future generations and we want our lands to be able to produce water, food and fibre sustainably in the future. Protecting and improving our environment and natural resources requires immediate and sustained, long-term action 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. We must therefore be constantly learning, adapting and improving in the present and for a rapidly changing future. We know that not everything we do will work as expected and that quickly and openly learning from failure is as important as celebrating and building on successes. We also believe that our own personal learning and continuous improvement is critical for our performance, growth and development.

Health and well-being

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 wellbeing. We recognise the importance of mental health and wellbeing and have adopted the Victorian Public Sector Mental Health and Wellbeing 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

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. A key component of the plan is to reduce emissions as much as possible, and any remaining emissions to be offsets through local projects in our region.

The Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program, initiated in 2022, 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. Phase 1 of the project that involved the design and feasibility of the program has now been completed. 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. Continual support of 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.

Blue Carbon Projects. Ongoing coastal wetlands projects (including Karaaf) that align with blue carbon offset opportunities.

Teal Carbon Projects. Continual research to quantify carbon offset opportunities at the Western District Lakes and Farm Dams, through future team carbon methodologies.

VICTORIA CMA'S CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES

The Victorian CMA's continued to collectively fund a Climate Change Coordinator to provide support for CMA's, facilitate joint projects, enhance knowledge exchange, and provide coordinated input into policy and program design at State and Federal levels.

Victorian CMA Climate Change forums were held quarterly. They provided an opportunity for updates and presentations on relevant projects to ensure CMAs were across current Climate Change information and to facilitate networking opportunities across the CMA's and with other relevant organisations.

During 2022-23 significant progress was made to improve the understanding of opportunities and challenges of co-benefits and co-investments related to carbon offsets in the water sector. This is a relatively new and evolving space and overlaps with the natural capital and biodiversity markets.

A statewide project officer supported the work of the Climate Change Coordinator and also worked on Blue and Teal carbon opportunities, with strong links to the Blue Carbon Lab continuing, focusing on integrating efforts in supporting delivery of Regional Catchment Strategies, Biodiversity 2037, and the Natural Environment Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

Highlights



597

COMMUNITY
EVENTS



19,412

PARTICIPANTS

1,627 

REFERRALS RECEIVED:

895 FLOOD ADVICE

615 PLANNING REFERRALS

117 WORKS ON WATERWAY PERMITS

OVER

\$1.13m



IN GRANTS DISTRIBUTED



5,246ha

WEED CONTROL

102 WATERWATCH
AND ESTUARYWATCH
CITIZEN SCIENTIST
COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS



157ha

REVEGETATION

SUPPORTED LANDOWNERS
WITH PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
PLANS COVERING



2,214ha

3,034ml
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 2022-23 the partnership agreement has been maintained with 19 signatories. This year the CPA has been focused on the implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy as its priority project.

Partner MOUs

This year, the Corangamite CMA has continued its MOUs with Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water and Wannon Water, and implemented Joint Action Plans with Barwon Water and Central Highlands 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 has established an 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 Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, Parks Victoria and DEECA 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.

Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto Langi-ut

A draft masterplan has been developed for the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut project covering the Lower Moorabool River corridor from near Meredith to Geelong and the Barwon River corridor from Geelong to Barwon Heads. The objective of the masterplan is to further connect the community to the river corridor while protecting and enhancing the environmental and cultural values of the area. The masterplan was developed with input from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, State and Local Government stakeholders and the broader community, and will be opened for public consultation in 2023/2024.

Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation Partnership Officer Agreement

The Corangamite CMA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation (EMAC) signed an agreement to employ a CMA Partnerships Officer embedded in Eastern Maar. The purpose of this position is to facilitate and help grow the relationship between Eastern Maar and Glenelg Hopkins CMA and Corangamite CMA; to advance the interests of the Eastern Maar community and their ability to look after Cultural Landscapes through improved working relationships with CMAs; to assist with the design and delivery of current and future partnership projects and activities; and to facilitate communication between the organisations.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Partnership Agreement

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) and the Corangamite CMA formalised a shared commitment to continuing to work together to protect and enhance Wadawurrung Country through the signing of a partnership agreement. The agreement sets out how the two organisations will continue to work together to realise the shared priorities identified in *Paleert Tjaara Dja - Wadawurrung Country Plan*, to care for and protect Wadawurrung Country and Waters.

Wild Otways Initiative

Led by the CMA, the Wild Otways Initiative has addressed threats such as Foxes and Cats, Pigs and Deer and the plant pathogen *Phytophthora cinnamomi* across land tenures within the Otways and built a legacy through research, monitoring and action in mitigating these threats to small mammals in the region. The benefits of this program address a broad range of species in habitats that range from the coastal dunes through to tall forest, heathlands and woodlands. The Initiative has trialed innovative approaches to pig and phytophthora control and has shared information and approaches across regions and states to enhance the management of these significant threats.

The success of the Wild Otways Initiative lies in the collaboration and partnership between agencies, private land owners, contractors, research organisations and the community across the landscape. The scale and range of research and experimentation with new technologies and innovative methods would not have been possible without the genuine involvement of land management agencies, particularly DEECA and Parks Victoria. Involving private, not for profit research and management organisations has enabled engagement with landowners and community members who had been unwilling to participate in government-based programs and broadens the scope of works to private land parcels in critical habitat areas.

Curdies River Consultative Committee

In 2022 the Curdies River Consultative Committee was established with a membership comprising of six community representatives, Agriculture Victoria, West Vic Dairy, Wannon Water, Parks Victoria, Corangamite Shire, Moyne Shire, Environment Protection Authority, Heytesbury District Landcare Network, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Corangamite CMA. The Committee has been established to provide a transparent and effective platform for knowledge sharing, consultation and collaboration in relation to improving the health of the Curdies River and its tributaries.

Upper Barwon Flagship

The Barwon Flagship Project is initially focusing on the upper Barwon River, working together with landholders, key agencies and community groups to develop and trial strategies that can be applied to priority Willow and Glyceria chokes using riparian management practices. The priority is to improve the delivery of environmental water within the Upper Barwon and further down the Barwon River. Working in partnership with Barwon Water and the Upper Barwon Landcare Network, and taking a tailored and targeted approach to engaging landholders, the project has secured 3.8 km of continual West Barwon River frontage under management agreements to undertake riparian works.

Corangamite Community Engagement Network

In July 2022 the CMA relaunched the Corangamite Community Engagement Network with the appointment of 31 community representatives. A successful induction workshop was held in October, followed by the first Community Engagement Network Forum. This Forum focused on the Lower Moorabool River catchment and included a cultural education session delivered by the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation. A second Forum was run in May, focused on the Otways, featuring presentations from the Wild Otways Initiative and riparian restoration projects in the Gellibrand River catchment.

Achievements, Operational Performance and Key Initiatives

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.
 Neutral	The indicator is a neutral state, where movements may be significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact.
 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.

CONDITION [*] RATING	DESCRIPTION
 Good	The condition is classified as good.
 Moderate	The condition is classified as moderate.
 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

THEME	TREND*		CONDITION*	SUMMARY COMMENT
	2022-23	OVER LAST 5 YEARS		
Water	 Neutral	 Neutral	 Moderate	<p>The condition and management rating for water is moderate. Six key indicators that show a mix of trends have been used to determine a five-year rolling trend of neutral. The wet conditions and reasonably high rainfall led to a positive annual trend for river inflows. Environmental water flow compliance, water quality parameters, extent of protected or improved riparian land, and ground water indicators all show a neutral annual trend. The rolling five-year trend across the indicators are largely neutral, with a concerned trend for extent of wetlands.</p> <p>Historical clearing of riparian vegetation, stock access, weed infestations, extraction and instream barriers, along with the growing impacts of climate change, continue to impact water quality, flow, and riverine health particularly in the upper catchments of the Barwon, Moorabool, Leigh and Curdies Rivers.</p>
Land	 Neutral	 Concerned	 Moderate	<p>The condition and management rating for land is moderate. Four key indicators that show a mix of trends has been used to determine a five-year rolling trend of concerned. 22/23 was a relatively wet year, continuing a period of higher-than-average rainfall. This leads to a neutral annual trend in exposed soil, and positive annual trend in rainfall. The rolling five-year trend across the indicators shows a mix of results, with a concerned trend in both exposed soil and land use change over time, neutral trend in rainfall, and positive trend in agricultural commodities.</p> <p>Programs supporting sustainable agricultural practices and land stewardship continue to engage with property owners across the region; however the long-term trends in land use change, particularly significant increases in dry land cropping and decreases in native vegetation, are significant challenges to land health.</p>
Coast	 Neutral	 Neutral	 Moderate	<p>The condition and management rating for community is moderate. Two key indicators have been used to determine a rolling five-year trend of neutral. There is positive trend in the area of salt marsh protection and neutral trend in estuarine water quality leading to a neutral annual trend.</p> <p>Management practices are in place, estuary water quality was stable and there was an increase in saltmarsh; nevertheless 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. Critical water health issues (acidity, stormwater inflows, and cyanobacteria blooms) persist in several estuaries in the region.</p>

THEME	TREND*		CONDITION*	SUMMARY COMMENT
	2022-23	OVER LAST 5 YEARS		
Biodiversity	! Concerned	! Concerned	 Poor	<p>The condition and management rating for biodiversity is poor. Four key indicators have been used to determine a rolling five-year trend of concerned. There has been a notable increase in area of pest predator and herbivore control and weed control. No notable change has been observed in the extent of native vegetation or the area of permanent protection in the region, leading to a neutral annual trend.</p> <p>Species decline is still a critical challenge facing biodiversity in the Corangamite Region, predominantly due to pressures exacerbated by the increasing trends of urban encroachment, habitat fragmentation, climate variability and the spread of invasive species and diseases. Whilst there is a positive trend in the extent of management interventions being delivered, it is still minor in comparison to the extent of the problem, and there is limited capacity to clearly determine the impact this is having on feral animal populations in the region.</p>
Community	+ Positive	+ Positive	 Good	<p>The condition and management rating for community is good. Four key indicators have been used to show a positive annual and positive rolling five-year trend. There has been an increase in both Traditional Owner partnerships and total number of Catchment Partnerships Agreement members. The total number of partnerships continues to increase in number compared to last year. The Landcare health survey continues to reflect that most groups in the Corangamite region are moving forward or above. Citizen Science volunteer numbers have increased this year after a decline over the past five years (largely due to COVID-19 restrictions).</p>

The full Catchment Condition and Management Report including all indicators can be viewed at <https://corangamite.rcs.vic.gov.au/tracking-progress/>

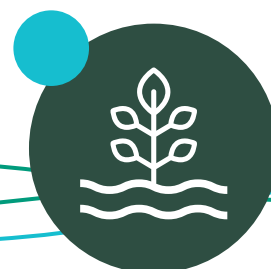
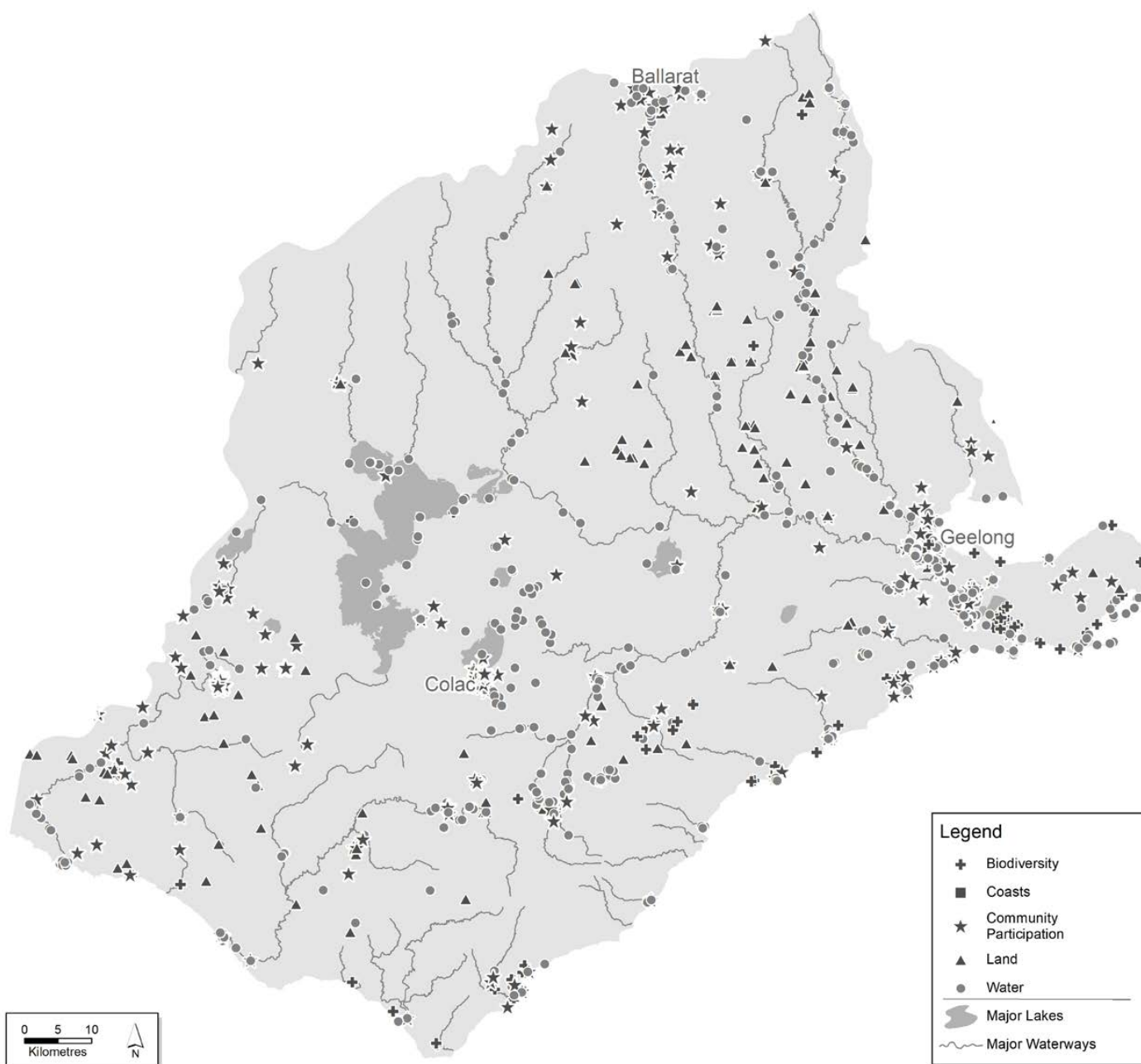


Figure 1 highlights the diversity of activities undertaken across the Corangamite region in 2022-23 by the various projects for each of the themes that are discussed in more detail below.

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



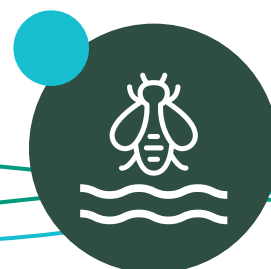
Waterways

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 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 2022-23, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 1: Water Projects undertaken in 2022-2023

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto langi-ut (Barwon River Parklands) Masterplan and implementation</p> <p>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:</p> <p>1. Masterplan development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>2. Design and approvals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory approvals for high priority projects Detailed design of high priority projects <p>3. Construction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencement of construction for high priority projects. 	<p>Waterways</p> <p>Planning and management</p> <p>Community benefits</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Participation and investment</p>	<p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p> <p>Recreational values</p> <p>Resilient & liveable cities</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.</p>



WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>The Living Moorabool Flagship Project</p> <p>This large scale, place-based program has a 30-year vision defined by the community reference group: "Healthy waterways, healthy people and healthy culture"; and will be delivered through Integrated Catchment Management practices that incorporate a diversity of stakeholders and activities. Over the life of the Living Moorabool, this will be achieved through a range of interventions.</p> <p>The project will focus on the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Waterways</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Participation</p> <p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Climate change</p> <p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p>	<p>Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrogeological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Upper Barwon Flagship Project</p> <p>The upper Barwon River is a focus for investment as part of this Flagship Waterway project. The project will be delivered as a large scale, long term (30 year) integrated catchment management project, focused on 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. Activities during this funding period (2023-25):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Waterways</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Participation</p> <p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Climate change</p> <p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p> <p>Resilient & liveable cities</p>	<p>Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrogeological regime and water quality compared to 2022 baselines in priority waterways defined in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>City to Sea – Lower Barwon River and Ramsar Wetlands</p> <p>This project will deliver an integrated management program for the Bellarine Landscape Zone, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Supporting citizen science and community engagement. 	<p>Waterways</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Participation</p> <p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Climate change</p> <p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Water – By 2027, Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Traditional Owner rights to access and manage water will be acknowledged and respected.</p> <p>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.</p>

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the ecological character of the Western District Lakes Ramsar site, its tributaries and surrounding lakes and • Identify and manage drought refuges for EPBC - listed Yarra Pygmy Perch in the Woody Yaloak River and Western District Lakes. 	Waterways Biodiversity Participation Partnerships	Climate change 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.
Delivering Integrated Catchment Management Plan 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using best available evidence to create a catchment plan specific for the Gellibrand (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. 	Waterways Biodiversity Participation Partnerships	Waterway & catchment health Aboriginal cultural values Recreational values	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrogeological 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.
Surf Coast and Otways Restoration This project will improve estuary and river health outcomes in the Otway Coast Basin by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Waterways Biodiversity Participation Partnerships	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	Water – By 2027 there is an improvement in riparian extent and condition, hydrogeological 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.
The Living Moorabool – Barwon Water Investment 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 Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA, formerly DELWP), with Catchment Management Authorities, Melbourne Water and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder. Our role is to coordinate this process on one of the Government's 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.

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Floodplain Management</p> <p>This project delivers the Corangamite CMA's statutory responsibilities relating to Floodplain Management and Waterway Health as provided for in the <i>Water Act 1989</i>, the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>, <i>Emergency Management Manual Victoria Part 7</i>, <i>Building Regulations 2018</i>, <i>Subdivisions Act 1988</i> and CMA Statement of Obligations.</p> <p>The project also coordinates the Corangamite CMA response to other referrals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern Rural Water - Take and Use, Works Licences, Annual Use Limits DJPR - Work Plans for mines and quarries EPA - Works Approvals. 	<p>Corangamite CMA Leadership</p> <p>Waterways</p>	<p>Climate change</p> <p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Estuary permits and regulation</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>CCMA Leadership</p> <p>Waterways</p>	<p>Climate change</p> <p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Water – By 2027, the water quality of priority estuaries is maintained or improved, compared to index of estuary condition 2019 baseline.</p> <p>Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.</p>



WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme and Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme</p> <p>The Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme protects rural properties in the lower middle and upper loughs from flooding from Lake Colac. The Woody 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of infrastructure, planning for and overseeing 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. 	Waterways	Water for agriculture	Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes.
<p>Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Barwon through Geelong</p> <p>The Barwon River through Geelong supports a diverse array of recreational, environmental and cultural activities, and provides great economic benefit to the residents and visitors to the City of Greater Geelong (CoGG).</p> <p>The CMA has overseen 40,000 participants in the last year at 90 different events, plus significant informal use of the river and parklands. To keep up with increasing demand, and to ensure that the assets are kept in good condition for the enjoyment and safety of the wider community, this project delivers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (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. 	Participation Waterways	Recreational values Resilient & liveable cities	<p>Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Implementation of Regional Floodplain Management Strategy</p> <p>The CCMA 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. In this project the CCMA will co-ordinate 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.</p>	CCMA Leadership Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Resilient & 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.

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp, Barwon River and Moorabool River Gauging Project</p> <p>Pay for charges incurred by the Recipient under the southern Regional Water Monitoring Partnership (RWMP) to maintain and operate four water measurement sites.</p> <p>The four sites are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
<p>Woody Yaloak and Lough Calvert priority works</p> <p>The Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme and Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme were built in the late 1950s in response to major floods, which resulted in prolonged periods of inundation of agricultural land around Lake Corangamite and the Loughs to the north-east of Colac. Both schemes divert water from these areas to the Barwon River at Ricketts Marsh and near Inverleigh. The schemes are managed in accordance with the provisions of the Water Act 1989, which includes both ongoing maintenance of the schemes and operation of the schemes in accordance with agreed operational rules.</p> <p>While both schemes are still capable of being operated, they need significant maintenance to remain viable into the future and to ensure they are compliant with current OH&S regulations.</p> <p>The need to make significant infrastructure upgrades and manage risk in regard to the two drainage schemes was highlighted by two recent independent investigations commissioned by the Corangamite CMA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woody Yaloak diversion scheme and Lough Calvert drainage scheme asset review, TGM, 2015 • Woody Yaloak diversion scheme and Lough Calvert drainage – An investigation into sustainable funding models and institutional arrangements, Cummings and associates 2016 • Key deliverables and project activities listed in the project plan are based on the recommendations in these two reports and will address the risks associated with both schemes. These studies highlight the need to rationalise the schemes' infrastructure and determine appropriate long-term asset ownership and management, particularly for scheme crossings. 	Waterways	Water for agriculture	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.
<p>Future Integrated Catchment Works – DEECA Funded</p> <p>Future projects to deliver on regional Integrated Catchment Works.</p>	Waterways	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.

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Future Integrated Catchment Works – Other Funding Sources Future projects and leveraged funding from partners to deliver on regional Integrated Catchment Works.	Waterways	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. 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.
Reviews and Investigations Various small projects to undertake reviews and maintenance of waterways currently underway.	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. 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-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 (& 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 & 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
<p>Barwon Flagship Part C – Enhancing Cultural and waterway amenity values in the Mid-Barwon</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally significant sites • Riparian restoration • Amenity values. 	<p>Waterways</p> <p>Community benefits</p> <p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p> <p>Recreational values</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.</p>
<p>Strategic modelling and analytical support for the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategies</p> <p>For the CCMA to procure and manage water resource modelling and analysis on behalf of DEECA to support development of the CGRSWS.</p>	<p>Waterways</p>	<p>Waterway & catchment health</p>	<p>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.</p>

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Caretaker of Waterway Health</p> <p>This project oversees and provides governance to the CCMA's Waterway Health program through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting responsibilities as the Caretaker of Waterway Health and associated responsibilities under the <i>Water Act</i> • Governance and oversight for the delivery of the CWS including strengthening of key partnerships that are enablers for planning and delivery (for example DEECA, ARI, Barwon, Wannon and Central Highlands Water, CoGG, Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung) • Meeting responsibilities under the associated CMA Statement of Obligations • Contributing to state policy and strategy development (eg 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 <i>Water Act</i> of the CWS. 	<p>Waterways CCMA Leadership Biodiversity Partnerships Participation</p>	<p>Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values Resilient and liveable cities and towns Recreational values</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Curdies Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project</p> <p>The Curdies River and estuary is a destination waterway for angling species such as Black Bream and Estuary Perch. 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. This 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 17 km); 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.</p>	<p>Waterways Planning and management Community benefits Partnerships Participation and investment</p>	<p>Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Recreational values</p>	<p>Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.</p>

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Barwon Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Waterways</p> <p>Planning and management</p> <p>Community benefits</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Participation and investment</p>	<p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Recreational values</p>	<p>Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.</p>
<p>Corio Bay Fish Habitat Project</p> <p>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 recreational 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 utilise 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.</p>	<p>Waterways</p> <p>Planning and management</p> <p>Community benefits</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Participation and investment</p>	<p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Recreational values</p>	<p>Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.</p>
<p>DEECA Support for Monitoring and MEL Planning for Flagships</p> <p>DEECA has provided a small amount of funding to support Flagship</p> <p>MERI Planning and monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MERI Plan for the new Barwon Flagship project • Planning and design of native vegetation monitoring activities. 	<p>Waterways</p>	<p>Waterway and Catchment Health</p>	<p>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.</p>

WATER	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Lake Colac Outfall Access Arrangements This project will explore access arrangements for the Lake Colac outfall regulator and associated infrastructure.	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.
Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamps wetlands bird monitoring 2023-24 Undertake monitoring of water birds through the season (September 2023 to March 2024) – Water bird acoustic and visually observed data. Provide draw-down advice – Written, independent advice January-March 2024 (or as guided by the monitoring results) as guided by the monitoring results. Provide a Final Report – Written summary of monitoring results and advice 31 March 2024 (or as guided by the monitoring results).	Waterways Planning and management	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.

Highlights and Achievements

2022-2023

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

The Corangamite CMA continued to focus on place-based integrated catchment management projects. Key highlights of this approach include:

Barwon Flagship

A successful community drop-in session hosted by Forrest Gerangamete Landcare Group engaged with 70 participants.

Completed a community survey that captured the community's river values to inform future project activities and plans. Delivery of a Waterway Health Plan for the upper Barwon River in partnerships with Barwon Water and Upper Barwon Landcare Network. Successful delivery of Citizen Science programs including community engagement activities and supporting community volunteer monitors. Continued delivery of the Upper Barwon River environmental water entitlement priorities outlined in the 2022-2023 Seasonal Watering Proposal (SWP).

Delivery of a new riparian works trial, adopting key recommendations from the Monash University Study (2021). The trial commenced in late 2022; five landholders have been secured to undertake riparian management to restore over six kilometres of waterway in the upper Barwon area, including willow removal, fencing and revegetation. Landholder engagement in the upper Barwon River has historically been difficult, and the new approach is significantly improving participation rates. Across all riparian projects in the upper Barwon, there are 13 sites equating to 11.8km of frontage and 40ha of riparian land, with one site within a known platypus area. The project works will provide shade for glyceria suppression, bank stability and other river health benefits.

The Living Moorabool Flagship Project

The flagship project has continued to enhance people's connection to the river through knowledge-sharing.

The Living Moorabool knowledge forum hosted presentations on Corangamite CMA and partner activities and projects within the flagship area. Throughout the flagship area, there were 14 sites monitored by 16 WaterWatch volunteers this year.

There has been continued support for the WTAOC water quality testing program, which investigates the effectiveness of e-water releases through monitoring water quality pre- and post-release. Expanding on this investigation, the e-water team working in partnership with WTAOC engaged with the Arthur Rylah Institute to develop a vegetation monitoring design for the Moorabool River. We have also continued delivery of the Moorabool River environmental water entitlement priorities outlined in the 2022-2023 SWP.

The riparian team have conducted 12 riparian works reviews of past projects in the flagship area. These projects equate to 18km of river frontage and 85ha of riparian habitat protected on the Moorabool River through investment in fencing, revegetation, weed control and pest animal control.

City to Sea – Lower Barwon and Ramsar Wetlands

Successful event with Minister for Water Harriet Shing launching Litter Trackers Burbs to Bay, with 22 students from Geelong High School and Northern Bay College.

Continued support for community volunteer monitors. National Waterbug Blitz angler partnership events on the Barwon River helped evaluate benefits of habitat restoration works. Delivery of the Lower Barwon Wetlands environmental water entitlement priorities outlined in the 2022-2023 SWP and the completion of flora assessments of both wetlands by aerial imagery analysis.

Successful delivery of on-ground works across all wetland sites within the Ramsar system, working closely with Parks Victoria. Pest plant and animal control undertaken at all Ramsar sites to improve the habitat for shorebirds and other native species using the sites. The wetland education and interpretation programs delivered high-quality education events and resources across the Bellarine and Geelong communities. Successful clean-up event held at Mud Island, where fifteen volunteers picked up plastic and rubbish.

Surf Coast and Otways Restoration

The CMA partnered with Barwon Water to deliver 11 releases of water for the environment in Painkalac Creek, working within constraints of increased flows when the reservoir spilled.

EstuaryWatch and Waterwatch groups monitored the condition of eleven estuaries and five rivers to inform management of coastal waterways resulting in two water quality reports for Wye and Curdies Rivers. In addition, National Waterbug Blitz events at angler partnership sites on the Curdies River helped evaluate the benefits of habitat restoration.

16 landholders, many in partnership with Landcare, are signed up for riparian works along 13km of the Curdies River and 8.6km of waterways in the Thompson Creek catchment.

Western District Lakes and Rivers of Gold

Corangamite CMA Citizen Science successfully delivered a Waterbug event at the Ballarat Begonia Festival through a long-standing partnership with Central Highlands Water, with over 50,000 people attending the festival.

Other activities Corangamite Citizen Science and Central Highlands Water have successfully partnered on include continued water quality monitoring of the Moorabool, Yarrowee and Leigh Rivers and National Water Bug Blitz training and events on these waterways. This mutually beneficial partnership over the last 16 years has achieved an increase in community participation through waterway events and monitoring activities.

Six landholders, many in partnership with Landcare, are signed up for riparian works along 8km of waterway on the Woody Yaloak and Yarrowee/Leigh Rivers, with willows recently being removed from 1.3km of the Yarrowee/Leigh River.

Successful delivery of on-ground works across seven of the nine wetland sites within the Ramsar system, working closely with Parks Victoria. A hydrology assessment has been completed with particular interest in how changes in surface water use in the surrounding catchments can influence water levels and other biota in the Ramsar lakes.

Continued monitoring of birds shows healthy populations of water birds continuing to use the site, and monitoring of salinity and hydrology, after an extended wet period shows many of the lakes benefitting from higher water levels and lower salinities.

Delivering Integrated Catchment Management for the Gellibrand

Delivery of PesticideWatch, a citizen science program that provides water quality data of the Gellibrand estuary.

Continued monitoring of the estuary mouth by EstuaryWatch volunteers. National Waterbug Blitz training was provided at Kawarren, and a family friendly Waterbug Discovery event at Gellibrand to raise community awareness of the waterway condition. Eleven riparian projects are underway in the Gellibrand Catchment, representing the protection of 20km of waterway frontage and approximately 65ha of revegetation and remnant protection. 48,000 plants are being planted.

Fish Habitat Restoration Projects. The Barwon River Fish Habitat Restoration Project

In a river clean-up/walk-and-talk event, local community members and recreational fishers removed rubbish along the river and reduced the impacts litter has on waterways and native fish.

In addition, 6ha of revegetation work were completed through a joint effort with community members and anglers at Sparrowvale Wetland Reserve, reducing erosion, filtering nutrients, and providing shade and future in-stream woody habitat for fish. A three-week operation along a 4.5km stretch in the Lower Barwon River saw 700 tonnes of tree logs and root balls installed, benefiting numerous fish species and passionate recreational fishers. Restoring this habitat is vital to improving the fishery, providing anglers with more fishing opportunities while contributing to the overall health of the river and the range of species that it supports.

The Curdies Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project

32 instream habitat structures built and ready for insertion into the river.

There has been keen involvement from the local community and passionate recreational fisherman; more than 28 people attended an Electrofishing Day Survey hosted in partnership with OzFish. More than 10ha of revegetation work has been completed.

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.

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Floodplain Management

The Statutory Functions Team successfully responded to a record 1,537 statutory responses, a 6% increase (of 82 additional responses sent) to last financial year. Of these, 798 were flood advice requests, 624 were planning referrals, and 113 were Works on Waterway permits.

Of particular note is the increased number of complex applications and advice requests received for development in floodplains. Response times have greatly improved: 88% of referrals responded to on time in 2023 (up 16% from last year's 72% response time), and over 90% responded to on time in the second half of the financial year.

The Corangamite CMA Floodplain Development Guidelines were developed and put on the website to provide better clarity to Council and developers around our requirements for developments impacted by flooding. The Colac Flood Study Floor Level Survey project was completed in May 2023. This project highlighted which buildings are likely to be affected by flooding, and thereby informs emergency response.

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Estuary permits and regulation

In 2022-23 the Corangamite CMA provided advice for 23 artificial estuary openings (AEOs).

The CCMA has held meetings with EMAC, Parks Victoria, DEECA, GORCAPA, Corangamite Shire, Moyne Shire and Colac Otway Shire to draft three new management agreements for the Curdies, Gellibrand and Aire estuaries. The agreements will establish greater integration and partnership in collaborative agency management of estuarine ecosystems in our region in the face of pressures such as EOs and climate change.

Funding was obtained to undertake the Aire Valley Estuary Floodplain Project Part 2. Part 1 focused on the environmental needs of the valley and estuary, which stated that the AEOs are restricting/harming the estuary – however, AEOs need to occur to protect agricultural land and other assets. Part 2 will seek to identify if AEOs will be effective in a climate change future and alternative land management methods that would not require AEOs.

Traditional Owner engagement has been a highlight in estuaries with heavy involvement and collaboration with EMAC, including being on the Steering Committee for the Aire Part 2 Project.

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Caretaker of Waterway Health

This year the Corangamite CMA successfully completed a review of the Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-22, which will help inform the development of the next Waterway Strategy due in 2026.

Emphasis on coastal areas has been a key priority in developing and implementing the five-year Victorian Marine and Coastal Strategy and establishing the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA).

Continued support has also been provided to the interagency group investigating management options for the Karaaf Wetlands. Support has been provided to the processes being developed for the renewal of the Victorian Water Management Strategy. Engagement with Traditional Owners concerning Water is Life, and Aboriginal water entitlements are ongoing.

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 witnessed significant efforts in managing and recovering from flooding events, along with infrastructure repairs and pathway reconstruction works. In October and November 2022, the river encountered extensive flooding, surpassing minor flood levels and requiring the river's and associated parkland's closure. After approximately two and a half weeks, the reserve and waterway were reopened to the public in December 2022, following the receding of the Barwon River to a manageable level in November 2022.

In November 2022, a significant cleanup operation was initiated with over 1,000m³ of silt from the site. Fallen trees and hazardous obstacles were cleared to ensure the safety of visitors, and a comprehensive assessment of the reserve's assets and infrastructure was conducted, resulting in repairs where necessary. These measures enhanced the overall safety of the reserve and improved the functionality of its facilities.

As part of ongoing improvements, 1.4km of pathway reconstruction works were undertaken along the Barwon River in Geelong. The reconstruction efforts aimed to enhance the overall condition and accessibility of these trail sections, improving public access throughout the river reserves.

Delivering on our Statutory Functions – Drainage Schemes

As the statutory manager of the Lough Calvert drainage scheme, the Corangamite CMA will commence releases of water from Lake Colac through the scheme on 21 July.

Lake Colac has had relatively low water levels for the past two decades. However, the subsequent La Nina years and wet seasons have increased lake levels. In December 2022, the Lake was the highest since the mid-1990s. The current operating rules for the scheme were adopted in 1993, and the scheme hasn't been operated since October 1996. So, the pending operation of the drainage scheme is a significant event for the Colac community.

Implementation of Regional Floodplain Management Strategy

The Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy is halfway through its ten-year implementation period.

The Corangamite CMA and its stakeholders completed the mid-term Implementation Report in May 2023, and it shows that of the 125 actions identified, 41.6% are complete, and 29.6% are funded and in progress. Some key actions underway or completed in the last 12 months include the Teesdale Flood Study and Planning Scheme Amendment and the completion of the 11 waterway flood studies in the City of Ballarat to enable the introduction of flood controls into the Ballarat Planning Scheme.

Water-Salt Balance Model, Lower Barwon

A water-salt balance model was successfully completed.

The model fills a critical information gap and provides Corangamite CMA with a more robust and representative understanding of how a range of factors influences salinity levels in the lower Barwon wetlands. These include management actions, local hydrology, current and predicted climate change and increased urban development. The model will inform future FLOWS recommendations to guide water regime management for optimised ecosystem function and biodiversity.



Table 2: Standard outputs delivered for the waterways program in 2022-23

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Approval and advice – Advice	949			
Approval and advice – Lease	16			
Approval and advice – Permit	275			
Approval and advice – Referral Response	616			
Assessment – Cultural	15	160.33		
Assessment – Ecological	47	640.77		
Assessment – Fauna	10	47,478.50		
Assessment – Flora	5	1,618.47		
Assessment – Geological	13	33.25		
Assessment – Invasive Species	2	8,248.17		
Assessment – Property	59	563.39		
Assessment – Social	1	6.50		
Assessment – Surface water	146	20,934.74		
Channel – Channel	4		4.25	
Channel – Drain	8		69.23	
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with conferences/seminars	1			23
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with field days	6			184
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with on-ground trials/demonstrations	2			32
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with training/workshop events	2			70
Controlling access – Installing structures	2	10.82		
Engagement event – Field day	12			316
Engagement event – Meeting	19			221
Engagement event – Presentation	7			123
Engagement event – Training	6			12
Establishing and maintaining agreements	2	12.55		
Fence - Bollard	1		0.83	
Fence - Fence	27		21.36	
Grazing- Species control	5	8.63		
Habitat augmentation – Augment area with structures or installations	2	86.63		
Information management system – Database	9			
Information management system – Decision support	3			
Management agreement – Binding non-perpetual	74			
Monitoring structure – Measuring point	19			

Table 2: Standard outputs delivered for the waterways program in 2022-2023 (continued)

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Partnership – Agency	130			
Partnership – Community groups	43			
Partnership – Mixed	105			
Pest animal control – Herbivore	18	2,063.55		
Pest animal control – Predator	13	2,012.84		
Plan – Management	11			
Publication – Visual	2			
Publication – Written	45			
Removing weeds: Treat weeds – initial	2	12.55		
Removing weeds: Treat weeds – follow up	1	3.83		
Road – Road	1		0.56	
Road – Trail	8		50.05	
Rubbish removal – Mixed	1	120.63		
Site preparation – Prepare site	2	9.83		
Skills and knowledge survey – Conduct skills and knowledge surveys	1			
Vegetation – Native indigenous	18	29.90		
Visitor facility – Building	33			
Visitor facility – Operations	35			
Visitor facility – Recreational	16			
Water: Environmental Water – Holdings	21	3,503.85		
Water – Unregulated Flow	10	29,466.03		
Waterway structure – Flow Regulator	11			
Waterway structure – Large wood	3			
Weed control – Non-woody	27	2,049.7		
Weed control – Woody	68	2,985.16		



CASE STUDY

The Living Moorabool Flagship Project

CHALLENGE

Flowing through Wadawurrung Country, the Moorabool River, Moorabool Yulluk, has great cultural significance for Traditional Owners. It is listed as a priority waterway in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy with significant environmental values. It is home to a range of waterbugs, platypus (Wad-Dirring), and native fish species of high conservation value.

The Moorabool River is now one of Victoria's most flow-stressed rivers due to significant anthropogenic activities, including the damming and extracting of water from the river. Three major water storages at the headwater, other major constructed barriers, farm dams, and climate change have impacted the quantity and quality of the river flow.

Prior to European settlement, flows in the Moorabool would have been seasonally variable, with high flows in winter and spring and low flows in summer and autumn. In its present state and aside from the last couple of wet years, the Moorabool River only receives 10% of the water required to support ecological values. Between She Oaks and Batesford, there are nine private diversion weirs that have slowed the river flow, changing the natural habitat, reducing diversity, and posing a significant barrier to native fish migration.

APPROACH

The Living Moorabool is a large-scale, long-term (30 years) rehabilitation project covering the area south of the Lal Lal Reservoir, the West Branch of Sutherland Creek, to the confluence with the Barwon River in Fyansford. The collaborative project is working to deliver the Living Moorabool flagship vision, "healthy waterways, healthy people and healthy culture."

To achieve this vision the Corangamite CMA has developed a series of connected programs which:

- work with landholders, the Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group, Geelong Landcare Network, and WTOAC to restore and maintain river frontage
- plan with WTOAC, Central Highlands Water, Barwon Water, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and Moorabool Stakeholder Advisory Committee to deliver water for the environment
- engage with the community, community groups, schools and WTOAC on citizen science and waterway health awareness
- coordinate to use resources more efficiently, identify opportunities and share knowledge.

These programs as a collective are designed to improve native vegetation and habitat within and alongside the river; provide water for the environment to improve water quality and habitat for fish and platypus; to recover and preserve the waterway for cultural values; and to enhance the community's connection to the river through valued engagement, awareness and sustainable use.

Water for the environment is central to the outcomes of the flagship project. The Moorabool River Environmental Entitlement was first secured in 2010 and sits within Lal Lal Reservoir.

It allows for a portion of water to be released from a reservoir primarily for environmental benefit and secondarily for cultural and social benefits. The current entitlement is subject to delivery rules with a maximum use of 7,500ML over three years, which provides the environment with an average of 2,500ML per year, dependent on the water level Lal Lal Reservoir.

The Moorabool River is very dependent on environmental water releases from Lal Lal Reservoir, with the current entitlement only a small proportion of what the river requires for basic ecological function. It can maintain river flow directly below the reservoir over dry periods but will often dry out over summer before reaching the Barwon River. This is exacerbated by the presence of the Batesford Quarry and the broken concrete re-alignment of the river. More water for the environment and cultural flows are required to improve native vegetation, provide a healthy habitat for platypus, water bugs and native fish and foster a pathway for natural fish migrations.

The Corangamite CMA, WTOAC, Barwon Water and Central Highlands Water looked into opportunities for more efficient water use, and use of recycled water and stormwater to reduce water extraction and increase river flows through the development of the Central and Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy (2022).

RESULTS

The integrated approach of the flagship programs has yielded the following results:

- The Moorabool River is annually supported with 2,500ML of environmental water via the Lal Lal Reservoir from the Moorabool River Environmental Entitlement (2010). Releases of the environmental water is focused on supporting life dependent on the river
- Working with Barwon Water, the Corangamite CMA times the environmental water releases to align with their transfer of water from Lal Lal Reservoir to their Moorabool Water Treatment Plant at She Oaks. This reduces water lost due to evaporation and the initial 'wetting up' which occurs when flow is increased
- The Victorian Government has committed to returning up to 6,500ML from the Moorabool Reservoir and up to 700ML from Bostock Reservoir for the environment and cultural purposes
- Increased cultural awareness and partnership with WTOAC through support of water monitoring programs, design of a vegetation monitoring plan, riparian site walks and consultation for environmental water delivery
- Improved community engagement and awareness achieved by knowledge forum, e-newsletters, flagship webpage, Waterwatch and River Detective programs, and riparian projects with landholders and Landcare Networks
- Current riparian projects have targeted specific areas in need of improved river frontage which will allow more environmental water to be delivered and flow further downstream. Past projects have been visited three and eight years from completion to ensure continued long-term benefits
- Engaging the Arthur Rylah Institute to create a vegetation monitoring plan.

KEY PARTNERS

Our partners are Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI), Geelong Field Naturalist Club, People for a Living Moorabool, Geelong Landcare Network, Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group, City of Greater Geelong, Golden Plains Shire, Moorabool Stakeholder Advisory Committee, members of the community, landholders, Parks Victoria, Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Barwon Water, Central Highlands Water, Southern Rural Water, and WTOAC.



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 2022-23, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 3: Land projects undertaken in 2022-2023

LAND	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Improving On-farm Soil, Vegetation and Biodiversity for larger agricultural enterprises in the Corangamite Management Unit</p> <p>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. This project will 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 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.</p>	<p>Waterways Planning and management Biodiversity Partnerships</p>	<p>Build capability and capacity Regional leadership</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes.</p>



Table 3: Land projects undertaken in 2022-2023 (continued)

LAND	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Regional Landcare Coordination The Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) program is funded by the Victorian Government's Landcare Program and supports 152 community-based environmental volunteer groups with more than 4,200 members. The 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.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • artisan producers • lifestyle farmers • animal husbandry. Most of these land uses are located near priority waterways, special water supply areas and/or 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.	Waterways Biodiversity Participation Partnerships	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural 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. 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. Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes. 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.
Protecting the Victorian Volcanic Plains This project will be delivered on a landscape scale, using established partnerships and knowledge to deliver, improved land management practices across the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) on public and private land within the Corangamite Management Unit. Community awareness programs will be delivered to increase the knowledge of the community to increase the capacity of land managers to undertake and maintain works and to engage with Traditional Owners. The project will also support the management training of various land managers associated with the VVP's linear reserves, provide incentives to directly target specific onground works that enhance nationally threatened ecological communities on private land and deliver on specific actions that address EPBC listed species' requirements on the VVP.	CCMA Leadership Partnerships Biodiversity Waterways Land Management	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values 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. 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.

Table 3: Land projects undertaken in 2022-2023 (*continued*)

LAND	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite</p> <p>The Victorian Landcare Program funds the Victorian Landcare Grants which are an annual grant funding for on-ground projects and group/network start-up, maintenance and support. The grants are currently delivered by the Catchment Management Authorities across the state.</p>	<p>Community benefits</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Community engagement & partnerships</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.</p> <p>Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures.</p> <p>Land – By 2027, land manager capacity in effective management practices is increased to address the range of threats and market changes.</p> <p>Land – By 2027 there is a 20% increase (compared to 2022 levels) in private agricultural landholders engaging in sustainable land management practices.</p>

LAND	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite (cont.)</p> <p>The Victorian Landcare Program funds the Victorian Landcare Grants which are an annual grant funding for on-ground projects and group/network start-up, maintenance and support. The grants are currently delivered by the Catchment Management Authorities across the state.</p>	<p>Community benefits</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Community engagement & partnerships</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country.</p>
<p>Upper Barwon Landholder Study</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to engage Behaviour Works Australia to investigate landholder attitudes and beliefs, along the upper Barwon River, towards riparian management and understand what might motivate them to improve their land management practices.</p>	<p>Waterways</p> <p>CCMA Leadership</p> <p>Biodiversity</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Participation</p>	<p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Community engagement & partnerships</p> <p>Climate change and Waterway health</p> <p>Aboriginal cultural values</p> <p>Recreational values</p> <p>Resilient and liveable cities</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Land – By 2027 there is a 20% increase (compared to 2022 levels) in private agricultural landholders engaging in sustainable land management practices.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Highlights and Achievements

2022-2023

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

Small Blocks Big Dreams Project

The Small Blocks Big Dreams project has engaged several small landholders in catchment management and empowered them to adopt environmental best management practices through a tailored land stewardship program.

The project consists of a series of workshops and property tours to support participants to develop a 'My Property' land stewardship action plan for their property.

Workshops have been tailored to suit three specific groups of landholders:

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

During 2022-23 Upper Barwon Landcare Network successfully delivered two rounds of the program for horse and livestock owners.

Improving On-farm Soil, Vegetation and Biodiversity for larger agricultural enterprises in the Corangamite Management Unit

The Large Farms project is split into four sub-projects, plus the final collection of regional soil data in year 5:

- Sustainable Dairies (West Vic Dairy and Agriculture Victoria)
- Soil Carbon Project (SFS)
- Master Tree Growers Course and Education programs (Otway Agroforestry Network)
- Innovation and exchange program (Landcare/CCMA)
- Soil data capture (SFS).

Round 6 of the Sustainable Dairies project was delivered this year. Interest in the program remains high, with another 15 farms based around the Timboon area participating. The program continues to focus on delivering WestVic Dairy's FERTSMART program and Agriculture Victoria's best practice guidelines for Effluent Management. Participant feedback showed an average satisfaction score of 9.2 out of 10. Corangamite CMA's partnership with Southern Farming Systems has delivered great on-ground learnings through the cover cropping and sub-soiling trials, and the successful delivery of Pay Dirt – a key highlight. This equipped farmers with the skills and knowledge to understand their pastures and soil health to make correct fertiliser decisions. This year, the program partnered with the Corangamite Rural Women's Network and was hosted by the Upper Barwon Landcare Network.

The Master Tree Growers Course was delivered in the Central Otways region in partnership with Central Otways Landcare Network. Over seven weeks from April 2023, with approximately 30 participants registered. The course covered various topics relating to the growing and harvesting of trees, including the benefits of growing trees for conservation and profit, understanding the market for tree products, tree growth and management, and trees for shelter and biodiversity.

Corangamite CMA continues to work closely with the Otway Agroforestry Network, supporting several events promoting the value of more trees in the landscape and a highly successful mentoring program for its members. The Innovation and Exchange program continued to support Landcare running workshops and field days on various topics such as calculating carbon emissions, making bio fertilisers and cover cropping.

After five successful years, the Large Farms Program will end on June 30. An evaluation of the project was undertaken from December to March this year, with the outcomes showing the strength of the relationships between the delivery partners and project staff, the high standard of program delivery with a range of landholders and industry and the value in supporting existing groups and programs which have well-established connections with the farming community.



Regional Landcare Coordination

The Regional Landcare Coordination project has supported Landcare and environmental groups and networks through the development of a new Corangamite Landcare Support Plan, which was officially launched in September 2022 at the Corangamite Landcare Chair's and Facilitator's quarterly meeting.

The development of an Annual Action Plan workshoped at this meeting was finalised in December 2022. Implementation of the Corangamite Region Landcare Action Plan is well underway. The plan captures and strengthens Landcare relationships and priorities across the region, identifying and providing areas for professional development.

Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite

The 2021 round of Victorian Landcare Grants funded 15 project grants and 34 support grants across the Corangamite region through an investment of over \$350,000.

An additional \$319,352 worth of funds, volunteer hours and resources were reported with the completion of six of these projects, equating to \$3.13 cash and in-kind investment for every dollar granted in the 2021 Victorian Landcare Grants.

Achievements from these projects included the continuation of large landscape restoration projects such as the Heytesbury District Landcare Network BioFund, which planted 12,440 native plants and direct seeded 5.98 ha whilst building skills and connections throughout the community, schools and the Network's nursery.

In October 2022, the Minister for Environment announced successful 2022 Victorian Landcare Grants applicants. The Corangamite region had 18 successful project grants and 37 support grants, a total \$286,354.60 in funds. These projects are well underway and due for completion by the end of November 2023.

Applications for the 2023 Victorian Landcare Grant opened on 29th March 2023 and closed on 16th May 2023.

Protecting the Victorian Volcanic Plains

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) commenced co-management of 20 ha of grassy eucalypt woodlands (across public and private land) via a five-year Traditional Owner land stewardship program.

WTOAC continued the Grassy Eucalypt Woodlands Wiyn Murrup program burning two woodlands, implementing vegetation monitoring, and sharing their Wiyn Murrup story via video. Private land managers continued to protect over 450 ha of grassy eucalypt woodlands and native grasslands via a 10-year stewardship program, and 23 ha commenced permanent protection via covenant. Over 250 ha of ecological burning and 480 ha weed management was completed in partnership with DEECA along roadsides and public reserves with high-value native grasslands and grassy eucalypt woodlands. Community field days, and guides were delivered by the project steering committee to increase knowledge and awareness of these critically endangered ecological communities.

Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator

The Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator has engaged with Landcare, farming communities, agriculture industry and grower groups, Agriculture Victoria and other organisations to support the uptake of best practice and innovative farm practices.

The RALF predominantly supports community groups with a sustainable agriculture focus by promoting sustainable agriculture to farmers and land managers and assisting Landcare, industry and community groups to seek funding and build their capacity and skills. The RALF also played a key role in supporting the RLP agriculture projects being delivered with Southern Farming Systems, WestVic Dairy, Agriculture Victoria, Otway Agroforestry Network and Landcare, and facilitated several communities of practice.

Table 4 provides the outputs delivered across all land program projects in 2022-23. 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 2023-23

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Agricultural Practices – Dryland	13	1,395.74		
Collecting, or synthesising baseline data – Collecting and/or synthesising baseline data sets	19	21.95		
Communication materials – Publishing communication materials	6			
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with field days	8			326
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with one-on-one technical advice interactions	44			155
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with training/workshop events	22			318
Developing farm/project/site management plan – Develop farm/project/site plans	12	690.72		
Engagement event – Field day	4			255
Engagement event – Meeting	12			86
Engagement event – Workshop	15			274
Establishing and maintaining agreements	37	565.41		
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	2	0.01		
Farm management survey – Conduct farm management surveys	3	0.95		
Fire management actions – Treat fire management area	8	287.36		
Identifying the location of potential sites – Identify potential sites	15	2,965.29		
Improving land management practices – Implement area of practice change	34	571.94		
Partnership – Mixed	9			
Project planning and delivery of documents – Days project planning/preparation	12			
Publication – Written	4			
Removing weeds: Treat weeds – initial	10	483.87		
Site preparation – Prepare site	2	12.71		
Skills and knowledge survey – Conduct skills and knowledge surveys	58			
Vegetation – Mixed	11	110.59		



CASE STUDY

Small Blocks Big Dreams

CHALLENGE

The Small Blocks Big Dreams project is an initiative to empower landholders with smaller-sized properties to become land stewards and make their own environmental management decisions for their property. Much of the landscape in the Corangamite catchment is severely fragmented due to agriculture. The project aims to reduce this fragmentation by creating a more connected landscape and community from Ballarat to Geelong and into the Otways and Bellarine with a network of land stewards.

APPROACH

The Small Blocks Big Dreams project was launched in early 2022 and is funded by the Our Catchments, Our Communities program.

The project focussed on three key landholder groups: bush block owners, small producers, and horse and other livestock owners. The participants within each landholder group take part in a tailored 'Workshop Series' that consists of four workshops, an introductory session and a site visit organised by Landcare partners. The workshops provide participants with relevant information and property planning skills. Once they complete their 'My Property' report using the Corangamite CMA NRM Portal, they then receive \$2,000 in incentive money to support their planned on-ground works.

The workshops:

Bush Blocks (Round 1) – The first workshop series was run by Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group. Key topics covered included biodiversity, weed management and bush fire preparation.

Small Producers (Round 1) – Central Otway Landcare Network enlisted the help of agroecologist David Hardwick to teach participants about rural landscape logic and other NRM practices.

Horse Owners (Round 1 & 2) – Upper Barwon Landcare Network engaged a large group of horse owners that began making positive change shortly after the first workshop with the help of equiculture figure, Stuart Myers.

At the end of the 2023 financial year there are another two workshops pending with Bellarine Landcare Group, Geelong Landcare Network (Small Producers Round 2) and Southern Otway Landcare Network (Bush Blocks Round 2).

KEY PARTNERS

Key project partners as of July 2023 include Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group, Central Otway Landcare Network, Upper Barwon Landcare Network, Bellarine Landcare Group, Geelong Landcare Network and Southern Otway Landcare Network.

RESULTS

Since the workshops began, over 30 landholders have participated in the project. Increased skills and knowledge from the program have resulted in planned actions such as

- Improved grazing strategies reducing topsoil erosion and promoting rotational grazing
- Pest plant and animal control
- Native revegetation
- Soil and water testing
- Bird box establishment.



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 marine protected areas.

The coastal zone encompasses environmental assets including wetlands, estuaries, native vegetation and threatened species.

Table 5 outlines the coast projects undertaken by the Corangamite CMA in 2022-23, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 5: Coast and estuary projects undertaken in 2022-2023

COASTS	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Bellarine Dunecare – Protecting sand dunes on Victoria's Great Ocean Road and the Bellarine Peninsula</p> <p>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, CoGG, Surf Coast Shire, Parks Victoria, Barwon Water, GORCAPA, and Otway Coast Committee of Management.</p>	<p>Waterways</p> <p>Planning and management</p> <p>Community benefits</p> <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Participation and investment</p>	<p>Waterway & catchment health</p> <p>Community engagement & partnerships</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.</p> <p>Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures.</p> <p>Biodiversity – By 2027 120,000 hectares in priority locations are under sustained herbivore control 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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country.</p> <p>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.</p>

Table 5: Coast and estuary projects undertaken in 2022-2023 (continued)

COASTS	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Karaaf Wetland FLOWS related Study</p> <p>Corangamite CMA will undertake a two-stage study, using the FLOWS and adaption pathways methodology, to determine the effectiveness and feasibility of managing stormwater runoff impacts to coastal saltmarsh of the Karaaf wetlands through estuary openings.</p> <p>Stage 1 of the study will investigate if opening the estuary can create conditions favourable to saltmarsh vegetation in areas where saltmarsh die back has occurred. If it's found that estuary openings can benefit saltmarsh vegetation, Stage 2 of the study will proceed and a more detailed investigation into the overall impacts of maintaining an open estuary on the Karaaf wetlands will be undertaken.</p> <p>This project will fund Stage 1 of this FLOWS related study. It is envisaged that the findings from the FLOWS related study will be one component of a larger body of work to form an integrated management plan that considers stormwater management, cultural heritage and land management (eg pest, plant etc).</p>	Waterways Planning and management	Waterways and catchment health	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Highlights and Achievements

2022-2023

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 school's program was designed to increase 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 program has engaged with 13 schools, 1,035 students and held 20 sessions with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners.

The on-ground works component of the program has been completed with fencing, weed control, feral animal control and planting. The stakeholder working group has shared knowledge, activities and strategies for restoring and protecting dune systems in adjoining land. The social research project produced consistent messaging guidelines that land managers have used for signage along the coast from the Bellarine to Peterborough.

Table 6 provides the outputs delivered across all coast program projects in 2022-23. 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 2022-23

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Communication materials – Publishing communication materials	2			
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with training/workshop events	7			
Controlling access – Installing structures	12	274.51		
Controlling pest animals – Treating area for pest animals – follow-up	2	237.24		
Controlling pest animals – Treating area for pest animals – initial	4	135.91		
Establishing and maintaining agreements – Establishing and maintaining agreements	12			
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	5			
Negotiating with Community Landholders Farmers TO Ag groups etc – Negotiating with groups	1			
Removing weeds: Treat weeds – Follow up	17	504.22		
Removing weeds: Treat weeds – initial	3	20.28		
Revegetating habitat – Revegetate habitat	7	37.37		



CASE STUDY

Dunecare Project

CHALLENGE

The Bellarine and Great Ocean Road Dunecare Project spanned the coastline from Saint Leonards to Marengo across both Maar and Wadawurrung Country.

Coastlines are increasingly impacted by threatening processes including climate change, invasive plants, invasive predators and anthropogenic factors that contribute to coastal erosion. This project aimed to protect and restore critical coastal habitat for EPBC listed small mammals and protect cultural heritage across tenures.

APPROACH

The Dunecare project was designed to encourage collaboration between coastal land managers and improve management techniques. A total of 11 coastal grants were distributed between Parks Victoria, GORCAPA, Surf Coast Shire (SCS), Barwon Coast CoM and the City of Greater Geelong. Regular working group meetings allowed grant managers to connect, collaborate and share ideas and resources to find better, more informed and more efficient ways to manage dune habitat.

RESULTS

Working relationships between agencies strengthened significantly throughout Dunecare, with project partners contracting works to align with neighbouring tenures. At Point Impossible SCS engaged in rabbit warren mapping and fumigation but were unable to rip the warrens due to cultural heritage. Upon advice from GORCAPA, who manage neighbouring land, SCS varied their project plan to include retrofitting existing fence line with wire mesh, preventing rabbits from re-entering and colonising fumigated dens. GORCAPA directly assisted SCS in preparing the fence line and removing old wire to improve rabbit control results across both tenures, as well as for neighbouring Parks Victoria land.

Another key example of the success of the group is that of the management of Painkalac Creek, with GORCAPA managing the Painkalac dunes and SCS managing Mellors Swamp behind them. The creek line and dunes were subject to small mammal surveys as part of the Wild Otways Initiative's small mammal conservation project and were shown to be home to swamp antechinus. The Dunecare project meant land managers were aware of the research, and they engaged with ecologists from Barbara Wilson P/L to better understand the complex habitat requirements of small mammals in dune systems. Further upstream, a Wild Otways Community Environment Grant funded ANGAIR, in collaboration with Trust for Nature and Barbara Wilson, to rehabilitate a degraded horse paddock in the Painkalac Valley into an ephemeral wetland.

The intersection of these three distinct projects saw land managers revisiting and discussing pest plant management techniques.

Coast lines are volatile, variable and difficult to manage in an ever-changing climate. Increased storm surges cause beaches to become inundated with sand, and existing assets such as fencing can be buried, broken or washed away. This creates an expensive, complex and largely unsustainable management issue. Coastal grant managers trialed different styles of fencing throughout the project. It was agreed that classic wooden post 7-strand ring lock fencing was unsuitable due to becoming laden with seaweed and easily pushed over in wind. Parks Victoria innovated a new style of fencing – with simple heavy duty star pickets and two lines of plastic-coated wire – with the view that fences should act to guide people down appropriate access points, rather than a hard physical barrier that people can jump over regardless. This simple design allows for the fence to be picked up and dropped in again as sands ebb and flow, and is likely to be adopted by other project partners working on the Dunecare initiative as a much more cost effective and manageable design.

KEY PARTNERS

Parks Victoria, GORCAPA, Surf Coast Shire, Barwon Coast CoM, CoGG, ANGAIR, Barbara Wilson Pty Ltd.



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 2022-23, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 7: Biodiversity projects undertaken during 2022-23

BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Protecting Priority Threatened Species of the Corangamite Coast 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 builds 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 DEECA to deliver citizen science opportunities including continued delivery of the annual winter population monitoring delivered by community volunteers; deliver on-ground outputs on a larger scale across the Ramsar site through a grants process; provide incentives to directly target specific onground works on private land through a grants process; and incorporate Orange-bellied Parrot habitat requirements in current regional estuary mouth opening decision frameworks.	Waterways Planning and management Biodiversity Partnerships	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Water for agriculture Aboriginal cultural values	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. 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.
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 CCMA Leadership	Climate change Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	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. 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.

Table 7: Biodiversity projects undertaken during 2022-2023 (continued)

BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Adaptation Pathways for Biodiversity of the Barwon South West</p> <p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a forum for showcasing current climate change information/projects that are relevant to the management of biodiversity within the Barwon South West workshop and facilitate a co-designed approach for how the region can develop a 'Knowledgebase' of current climate change information that is relevant to the management of biodiversity within the Barwon South West incorporate the 'Knowledgebase' into the current South West Climate Change Portal using the 'Knowledgebase', develop a regional research priority online document that prioritises research gaps in managing the biodiversity assets of the Barwon South West under a changing climate. 	Participation and investment	Climate change	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Biodiversity – By 2027, there is an overall net gain of habitat for all flora and fauna species within the region.</p> <p>Biodiversity – By 2027, threats to biodiversity from pest species are recognised and appropriately controlled in priority locations across all land tenures.</p>
<p>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</p> <p>The project was designed and delivered 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).</p>	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.
<p>Wild Otways Initiative – Community grants program to protect and restore native plants, wildlife and coastal environments</p> <p>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 investigated the management and operational requirements for integrated feral cat and fox control in the Otways after a fire event.</p>	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.
<p>Wild Otways Initiative – Protecting plant and animal biodiversity in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland from cinnamon fungus (<i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i>) dieback.</p> <p>This project explored the impact of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> on the biodiversity of the Otway Ranges, including EPBC-listed species. The project aimed to prevent the introduction and/or minimise the spread of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> into uninfected critical habitat areas (notably the Carlisle Heathlands) and reduce the impact of <i>Phytophthora cinnamomi</i> at infected sites critical to the conservation of threatened species.</p>	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 2022-2023 (continued)

BIODIVERSITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
Wild Otways Initiative – Conserving threatened small mammals in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland This project aimed 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 aimed to 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, Smokey Mouse, Broad-toothed 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.
Traditional Owner Engagement – Biodiversity, Barwon South West This project will engage with the Traditional Owner groups of the Barwon South West to incorporate their views with respect to biodiversity and climate change. The focus will be on cultural species that are high priority to Traditional Owner groups to ensure that these species, vegetation communities and natural areas are incorporated into future adaptation pathways planning with Biodiversity 2037 within the Barwon South West.	Participation and investment Partnerships	Climate Change	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

2022-2023

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

The Australian Government's Wild Otways Initiative Community Grants Program

The Community Environment Grants program delivered as part of the Wild Otways Initiative was a \$1 million 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.

The program supported 33 community projects to protect and restore native plants, wildlife and coastal environments in the Otways. These projects delivered nearly 160km of stock exclusion fencing, >90,000 stems planted, 12ha of direct seeding, 392ha of weeding, 255 community events with 2,417 participants, 58 vegetation assessments and 7.1km of track maintenance. This year all 33 community projects were completed across the project areas benefiting species such as the southern brown bandicoot, Swamp Antechinus and Leafy Greenhood Orchid.

Pig and Deer Project

In the third year of the Pig and Deer project, targeted monitoring of pigs and deer in two more focus areas occurred, using camera trapping and collaring of individual pigs and sows to determine their distribution and behaviour.

In the engagement element of the project a range of Landcare groups and private landowners, as well as local industry, used the Feralscan app to record sightings and apply best practice control methods across the landscape. The control element of the project saw cage traps, Hoggone baiting, and ground shooting of pigs undertaken on both public and private land across the Otways and game hunters engaging with landowners to harvest deer sustainably.

Fox and Cat Project

In its third year of monitoring foxes and cats in planned burn landscapes of the Carlisle heath, collared animals, as well as camera traps, the project tracked the movements of animals before and after planned burns.

This year three planned burns have applied patchy burn patterns to the landscape to protect the habitat and home ranges of small, threatened mammals such as Long Nosed Potoroos and Swamp Antechinus. A second round of baiting and shooting was trialed in a number of burn blocks after fires in order to protect threatened mammals.

Small Mammals project

The project continued to deliver significant gap-filling surveys in this final year in addition to analysis of historical data on key threatened mammals in the Otways.

Mapping has been produced to highlight the results from camera trapping and Elliot trapping as well as DNA sampling of scats showing refuges across the Otways from the coast to inland areas for the target threatened small mammals. Work with project partners to manage small, highly impacted refuges, particularly on the coastal dunes, has assisted land managers to plan their on-ground activities around these small mammal refuges.

Phytophthora Dieback Management Program

This year, the permit application to the APVMA for the off-label use of phosphite to slow the spread of Phytophthora dieback outbreaks was approved.

An aerial application of phosphite was trialed at three sites across the Otways, focusing on the priority protection areas developed in the first phase of the program. Hand spraying was also trialed with five contractors, including the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Gobata Dja team. Greencard training across eight organisations was delivered to more than 200 people from land management agencies, Landcare groups and local shires.

Rewilding the Otways

The four new projects aimed at creating the conditions for Rewilding in the Otways were completed this year.

An expanded pig and deer monitoring program identified and helped to control populations of pigs in new areas of the Otways and engaged new local partners from both industry and farming in the project. Phytophthora rehabilitation in a post-disease landscape was undertaken with phosphite-treated sensitive species at a trial site. Aerial monitoring and mapping of Phytophthora infestations across both National and Forest Park focused on the priority protection areas and helped to direct management actions such as phosphite treatment. Zoos Victoria partnered to undertake extensive sampling of Swamp antechinus in the region, with mapping and genetic analyses helping to direct future translocation projects. Trials of feeding and microchip reading stations were undertaken along with expert elicitation on the next steps for the protection of this threatened small mammal.



Orange Bellied Parrot Protection Project

Another successful year was delivered in this project through the partnership approach with DEECA, Zoos Victoria, Moonlit Sanctuary and BirdLife Australia.

19 Orange-bellied Parrots were released into the wild at Lake Connewarre in the final year of the seven-year Mainland Release Trial. This year, Zoos Victoria and Deakin University are also trialing a new tracking system called ATLAS, which uses tiny radio transmitters that communicate with fixed tracking receivers in the field. This technology allows the collection of fine-scaled information about the movement and habitat use of these birds, with the aim of building our knowledge about how they use Victoria's coastal habitats.

Just six years ago, fewer than 50 Orange-bellied Parrots were in the wild. Since this trial began in 2017, more than 120 birds have

been released at Victorian sites. These birds have joined wild birds, creating the largest flock of Orange-bellied Parrots in the past 15 years.

Over the last three years, annual monitoring of Orange Bellied Parrot habitat at Lake Connewarre and Swan Bay has been undertaken with assistance from the Arthur Rylah Institute. The monitoring has been assessing the condition of the Coastal Saltmarsh, the preferred habitat of Orange Bellied Parrots, to evaluate whether management actions put in place by landholders are helping to either maintain or improve the quality of this vegetation. Table 8 provides the outputs delivered across all biodiversity program projects in 2022-23. 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 2022-23

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Assessment – Flora	14	222.46		
Collecting, or synthesising baseline data – Collecting and/or synthesising baseline data sets	1	18.23		
Communication materials – Publishing communication materials	39			
Community/stakeholder engagement – Conferences and seminars	3			7,800
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with field days	28			1,660
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with one-on-one technical advice interactions	13			58
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with on-ground works	3			23
Community/stakeholder engagement – Involvement with training/workshop events	12			272
Controlling pest animals: Treating area for pest animals – initial	4	135.91		
Controlling pest animals: Treating area for pest animals – follow up	3	285.53		
Developing farm/project/site management plan – Develop farm/project/site plans	3	127.51		
Establishing and maintaining agreements	133	293.07		
Establishing and maintaining monitoring regimes	11	60.14		
Fauna survey – Conduct fauna surveys	5	52,658.62		
Flora survey – Conduct Flora surveys	2	470.19		
Grazing – Access management	4	108.47		

Table 8: Standard outputs delivered for the biodiversity program in 2022-23 (continued)

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Habitat augmentation – Installing structures	55			
Identifying the location of potential sites – Identify potential sites	1	0.06		
Improving land management practices – Implement area of practice change	2	276.18		
Management agreement – Binding non perpetual	5	116.87		
Negotiating with Community Landholders Farmers TO Ag groups etc – Negotiating with groups	1			
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	64	1,500.57		
Site preparation	3	19.61		
Skills and knowledge survey – Conduct skills and knowledge surveys	8			
Undertaking emergency interventions to prevent extinctions	1			
Weed control – Non-woody	4	108.47		
Weed control – Woody	2	16.81		
Weed distribution survey – Conduct weed distribution survey	1	279.59		





CASE STUDY

Phytophthora Dieback Management Program

CHALLENGE

Phytophthora (pronounced *fy-TOFF-thora*) is a microscopic water mould that lives in soil, water and plants. Its effect can be devastating; by invading the roots of susceptible plants, it prevents their nutrient and water uptake, causing the plant to die. Following infestation and subsequent loss of susceptible plant species, the vegetation becomes simplified and dominated by grasses and sedges that are resistant to the pathogen. This in turn can have devastating consequences on native fauna.

In Victoria there is little accurate data or mapping of occurrence of the pathogen and few options for managing Phytophthora (apart from hygiene measures) and with a warming climate and growing population the rate of spread is increasing. The disease is prevalent in heathlands and heathy woodlands of the coastal plains and inland areas of the Otways and impacts both plants and threatened small mammals that rely on those plants for food, shelter and protection. This project aimed to map the pathogen across the Otways, trial treatment methods and introduce training in hygiene measures.

APPROACH

The project began by determining seven priority protection areas derived from a decision-making process involving local land managers and relevant local stakeholders. An Otways-specific Threat Abatement Plan (TAP) was written to guide future management in line with the National TAP.

In order to treat the disease, a permit for off-label application of phosphite was submitted to the APVMA and several research permits allowed for trials of this treatment to test for Phytotoxicity in local species of plants as part of a PhD research project. An aerial trial of phosphite application was undertaken once a permit was approved and this was followed up with hand spraying in Priority Protection Areas. A hygiene training program was devised and implemented across agencies and key stakeholders in the region along with the production of legacy training materials.

RESULTS

- Mapping of priority protection areas has provided much needed information to target hygiene measures and phosphite spraying across the region and has been shared with land management agencies.
- The granting of a three-year Victorian off-label permit for phosphite spraying has facilitated the trial of both aerial and hand spraying and the associated cost-benefit analysis of both methods.
- Parks Victoria and DEECA staff, registered contractors and Traditional Owner groups have been trained in phosphite hand spraying methods and implemented those methods through the hand spraying trial.
- A pre- and post-spray monitoring system was devised and implemented to track the efficacy of the treatment using simple measures that field staff can collect.
- A hygiene training program was designed and delivered across the region to more than 230 people, targeting key stakeholders and land managers as well as community groups and traditional owners.
- Hygiene protocols have been distributed in the form of manuals, brochures and a training video to broaden the reach and legacy of the project.

KEY PARTNERS

Barbara Wilson Pty Ltd, Parks Victoria, DEECA, Field Air Services, WTOAC, local contractors, Department of Conservation, Biodiversity and Attractions (Western Australia), EMAC.

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 2022-23, with the outcome and priority policy areas linking the project contribution to the Corporate Plan.

Table 9: Community projects undertaken during 2022-2023

COMMUNITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
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.	Partnerships	Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	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, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country.
Enhancing Regional and Local Partnerships This 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Partnerships	Community engagement & partnerships Improving performance and demonstrating outcomes	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, the increased capacity of Traditional Owner Groups enables their increased involvement in decision making that affects their Country.



Table 9: Community projects undertaken during 2022-2023 (continued)

COMMUNITY	OUTCOME	POLICY PRIORITY AREA	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY OBJECTIVE
<p>Statewide Waterway Citizen Science</p> <p>This project will support the ten 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.</p> <p>The project will fund the Statewide Citizen Science Facilitator to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	Participation Waterways	Waterway & catchment health Community engagement & partnerships Aboriginal cultural values	<p>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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.</p>
<p>River Detectives in Corangamite</p> <p>Coordination of the River Detectives program for participation by schools and learning providers in the Corangamite region.</p>	Participation Waterways	Community engagement & partnerships	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Communities – By 2027, communities (local, new and visitor) are encouraged, educated and enabled to further connect with and responsibly care for the natural environment.</p>

Highlights and Achievements

2022-2023

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

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Partnership Agreement

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Corangamite CMA formalised a shared commitment to continuing to work together to protect and enhance Wadawurrung Country through the signing of a partnership agreement.

The agreement sets out how the two organisations will continue to work together to realise the shared priorities identified in *Paleert Tjaara Dja - Wadawurrung Country Plan*, to care for and protect Wadawurrung Country and Waters.

Statewide Waterway Citizen Science

A trial Quality Assurance Quality Control (QAQC) program was developed to standardise how water quality measurements are collected by coordinators and volunteers.

30 years of waterway citizen science was celebrated with a state event for coordinators and volunteers to recognize contributions across the years.

River Detectives

The River Detectives Schools program was delivered in 20 schools across the Catchment, supporting them to understand, appreciate and care for their local waterways.

A key part of River Detectives is providing equipment and training of teachers in water testing so schools can adopt a local waterway that has meaning for them and investigate catchment health with their students. In 2023 we provided teacher professional development sessions in Colac and Geelong and all attending gave great feedback and showed much excitement about how the River Detectives program can enhance their students' understanding of both community and catchments

Table 10: Standard outputs delivered for the community program in 2022-23

OUTPUT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER COMPLETED	AREA OF WORKS (HA)	LENGTH OF WORKS (KM)	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
Engagement event – Conference	4			490
Engagement event – Field day	75			3,496
Engagement event – Meeting	147			1,403
Engagement event – Presentation	24			652
Engagement event – Training	82			371
Engagement event – Workshop	41			788
Information management system – Database	1			
Partnership – Agency	25			
Partnership – Community groups	34			
Partnership – Traditional Owners	2			
Plan – Property	3	15.21		
Publication – Visual	12			
Publication – Written	37			



CASE STUDY

Corangamite Community Engagement Network

CHALLENGE

In 2020 the CMA launched the first Corangamite Community Engagement Network, successfully recruiting a diverse cross section of community representatives to the network. As the network was initiated COVID-19 restrictions came in and lasted for the majority of 2020 and 2021.

Attempts were made to continue the network through online forums and events; however, participation was low. In 2021 all network activities were paused as the CMA reviewed the model to determine the best approach to improving participation.

APPROACH

A revised model of the Corangamite Community Engagement Network was launched in early 2022, with a clear focus on education, awareness raising and networking through face-to-face engagement. This model positioned the network with the primary purpose of fostering community advocates for Natural Resource Management in the Corangamite region, through two annual face-to-face field-based forums focused on key issues and projects in the region.

The number of network members had gradually declined over 2020 and 2021, so the revised model was launched with a renewal of existing members who wished to continue, and a broad recruitment campaign for new members.

RESULTS

In July 2022, the CMA Board endorsed the renewed membership of 17 existing members, and the appointment of an additional 14 community representatives to the network, for a three-year term. These 31 network members represent a good spread of individuals from across the region and from diverse backgrounds. Members included NRM graduates, farmers, Landcare volunteers, marketing, education, and consultancy professionals; and collectively were involved in a large number of community organisations including Rotary, sporting, environment and other interest groups.

An induction workshop was held in October 2022 attended by nearly all members. This workshop provided an opportunity for members to meet each other and key CMA staff so that the network could start to form and introduced members to the breadth of work being delivered by the CMA.

The first field-based forum was a tour of the lower Moorabool River in November 2022. The tour included a cultural education session delivered by the Wadawurrung, and presentations from CMA staff on our Citizen Science, Environmental Water, and Riparian Works programs on the Moorabool River, and on the Kitjarra-dja-bul Bullarto Langi-ut project.

The second forum was a tour of the Carlisle Heath and upper Gellibrand River. This forum included a presentation of the Wild Otways Initiative and visit to phytophthora effected areas with a demonstration of hygiene practices that will help control the spread of this deadly pathogen.

Members also learnt about the Gellibrand River Integrated Catchment Management project, local riparian restoration works, and the carbon offsetting and natural accounting work the CMA is leading.

Participation in network events is strong, with network members providing positive feedback on both the format and content of network events. The face-to-face model is critical to supporting the networking outcomes and strengthening connections both between members and with staff.

Network members comments:

I am loving these forums and am getting a lot out of them.

Thank you for organising the field visit on Tuesday and for all the attached information. I found it most interesting and it was useful to spend the travel time with a staff member. We were able to ask questions and talk more generally about the CMA.

Thanks for another fantastic event. It was quite sad seeing the damage Phytophthora is causing to native vegetation, but was valuable seeing it firsthand.

KEY PARTNERS

The Corangamite Community Engagement Network is supported by DEECA through funding allocated through Our Catchment Our Communities.

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 \$6,683,143 through the Victorian Government in 2022-23.

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 \$4,612,749 in project funding from the Federal Government in 2022-23.

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Caretaker of Waterway Health	0	342,000	0	342,000
Floodplain Management	0	717,000	0	717,000
Estuary permits and regulation	0	443,000	0	443,000
Woody Yaloak Diversion Scheme and Lough Calvert Drainage Scheme	0	276,000	0	276,000
Barwon through Geelong	0	835,000	0	835,000
The Living Moorabool Flagship Project	0	247,000	0	247,000
Upper Barwon Flagship Project	0	259,390	0	259,390
City to Sea – Lower Barwon River and Ramsar Wetlands	0	761,000	0	761,000
Rivers of Gold and Western District Lakes	0	427,000	0	427,000
Delivering ICM for the Gellibrand	0	236,000	0	236,000
Surf Coast and Otways Restoration	0	241,000	0	241,000
Curdies Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project	195,429	0	0	195,429
Barwon Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Project	144,861	0	0	144,861
Flood hazard assessment mapping for future (year 2070) Sea Level Rise Scenario in the Barwon Heads/ Lake Connewarre, Breamlea and Ocean Grove areas	0	7,125	0	7,125
Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamp, Barwon River and Moorabool River Gauging Project 2021-22	0	37,250	0	37,250
Fyans Park Boat Ramp Enhancement	0	4,385	0	4,385

WATER	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Safety and maintenance works at Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp Project	0	80,238	0	80,238
DEECA Support for Monitoring and MEL Planning for Flagships	0	35,000	0	35,000
Lake Colac Outfall Access Arrangements	0	151,412	0	151,412
Reedy Lake, Hospital Swamps wetlands bird monitoring 23-24	0	10,000	0	10,000
WaterWay Protection Program CCMA and BW	0	0	200,000	200,000
Curdies River Riparian Works	0	196,593	0	196,593
Investigations	0	21,000	10,000	31,000
Total	340,290	5,327,393	210,000	5,877,683

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	500,000	0	0	500,000
Karaaf Wetland FLOWS related Study	0	15,000	0	15,000
Total	500,000	15,000	0	515,000

BIODIVERSITY	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Protecting Priority Threatened Species – Corangamite Coast (Yr 2-5)	375,728	0	0	375,728
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	368,955	0	0	368,955
Wild Otways Initiative – Fox and feral cat control in planned-burn landscapes to protect threatened species in the Otway Ranges	333,762	0	0	333,762
Wild Otways Initiative – Protecting plant and animal biodiversity in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland from Phytophthora cinnamomi dieback	186,394	0	0	186,394
Wild Otways Initiative – Conserving threatened small mammals in the Otway Ranges, Bells Beach (Ironbark Basin) and Great Ocean Road Hinterland	156,533	0	0	156,533

BIODIVERSITY	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Wild Otways Initiative – Rewilding threatened species in the Otway Ranges	346,152	0	0	346,152
Wild Otways Initiative – Community grants program to protect and restore native plants, wildlife and coastal environments	412,000	0	0	412,000
Bellarine Peninsula Saltmarsh Restoration	0	40,000	0	40,000
Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program	0	13,500	0	13,500
Traditional Owner Engagement – Biodiversity, Barwon South West	0	20,000	0	20,000
Reviews	23,070	12,000	0	35,070
Total	2,202,594	85,500	0	2,288,094

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	0	478,000	0	478,000
National Landcare Program Core Services	431,352	0	0	431,352
Improving On-farm Soil, Vegetation and Biodiversity for larger agricultural enterprises (Yr 2-5)	370,400	0	455	370,855
Protecting the Victorian Volcanic Plains	768,113	0	0	768,113
Total	1,569,865	478,000	455	2,048,320

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT (\$)	OTHER VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, COUNCILS AND PARTNERS (\$)	TOTAL INVESTMENT (\$)
Statewide Waterway Citizen Science	0	285,000	0	285,000
Enhancing Regional and Local Partnerships	0	84,000	0	84,000
River Detectives in Corangamite	0	0	35,000	35,000
2021-2023 Regional Landcare Coordination in Corangamite	0	33,000	0	33,000
2023 Victorian Landcare Grants in Corangamite	0	375,250	0	375,250
Total	0	777,250	35,000	812,250



SECTION 2

Our Organisation, Compliance and Disclosures

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Our Organisation

THE BOARD

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority Board for 2022-2023 included Catherine Jenkins (Chair), Wayne Weaire (Deputy Chair), Fiona Cumming, Lia Sarto, Nick Renyard, Cathy Phelps, Ken Latta 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 2023**

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 and business coach with Brolga Co Pty Ltd. In June 2023, Cath was appointed as Chair of Vic Catchments.

Previously Cath has worked in roles as an Agribusiness manager with ANZ and as an Area Manager with Fonterra, where she worked closely with many farming clients in the Corangamite region. 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 is a member and graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In 2017 she was a runner-up for the Victorian Rural Women's Award.

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 is Cath's first term as Chair of the Corangamite CMA board, having previously been a board member for six years. During 2022-23, 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.

Deputy Chair – Wayne Weaire **1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023**

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 2022, Wayne was Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee. During 2023, Wayne was a member of the Remuneration Committee.

Fiona Cumming **1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023**

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 2022, Fiona was Chair of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and a member of the Business Growth Plan Committee. During 2023 Fiona was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Ken Latta

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

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 2022, Ken was Deputy Chair of the Board and a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Remuneration Committee. During 2023, Ken was Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Nick Renyard

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Nick Renyard operates a 400ha, 580-cow dairy farm with his family near Timboon. He has served three years as a Director of DemoDairy, ten years as a Central Councillor for United Dairyfarmers of Victoria, 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 2022, Nick was Chair of the Business Growth Plan Committee and a member of the Remuneration Committee. During 2023, Nick was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee.

Lia Sarto

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

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 2022, Lia was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Business Growth Plan Committee. During 2023, Lia was a member of the Remuneration Committee.

Cathy Phelps

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

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. Currently Cathy works as a consultant in sustainable agriculture research and reporting.

Cathy holds a Masters in Sustainable Agriculture, a BSc in Agriculture (Hons), a Diploma of Governance (ICDA) and is a member of the AICD.

During 2022, Cathy was a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and the Business Growth Committee. During 2023, Cathy was a member of the Remuneration Committee.

Michael Watson

1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Michael Watson provides a consultancy service supporting government and 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 support 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 2022, Michael was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee and the Remuneration Committee. During 2023, Michael was a member of the Audit and Risk Committee.

2022-2023 Board Meeting Attendance

BOARD MEMBERS 2022/2023	BOARD	AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE	REMUNERATION COMMITTEE	REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE	BUSINESS GROWTH PLAN COMMITTEE
Cath Jenkins	11/11	5/5	5/5	0/1	NA
Fiona Cumming	11/11	2/2	NA	1/1	1/1
Ken Latta	10/11	5/5	1/1	NA	NA
Lia Sarto	10/11	2/3	4/4	NA	0/1
Nicholas Renyard	10/11	2/2	1/1	NA	1/1
Wayne Weaire	11/11	3/3	4/4	1/1	NA
Michael Watson	10/11	5/5	1/1	NA	NA
Cathy Phelps	9/11	NA	3/4	1/1	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: Ken Latta (Chair), Michael Watson, Nick Renyard, Fiona Cumming. (All are independent members)

Remuneration Committee

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

Membership: Catherine Jenkins (Chair), Wayne Weaire, Lia Sarto, Cathy Phelps.

Note: Both the **Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee** and the **Business Growth Plan Committee** completed their priority functions and were closed-off in November 2022.

Executive Team

Chief Executive Officer

John Riddiford

General Manager Business and Governance Services

Chris Thompson (1 July 22 - 11 Jan 23)

Ashley Roberts (3 April - 30 June 23)

General Manager Community and Catchment Services

Sarah Holland Clift

General Manager Strategy and Planning Services

Helen Watts

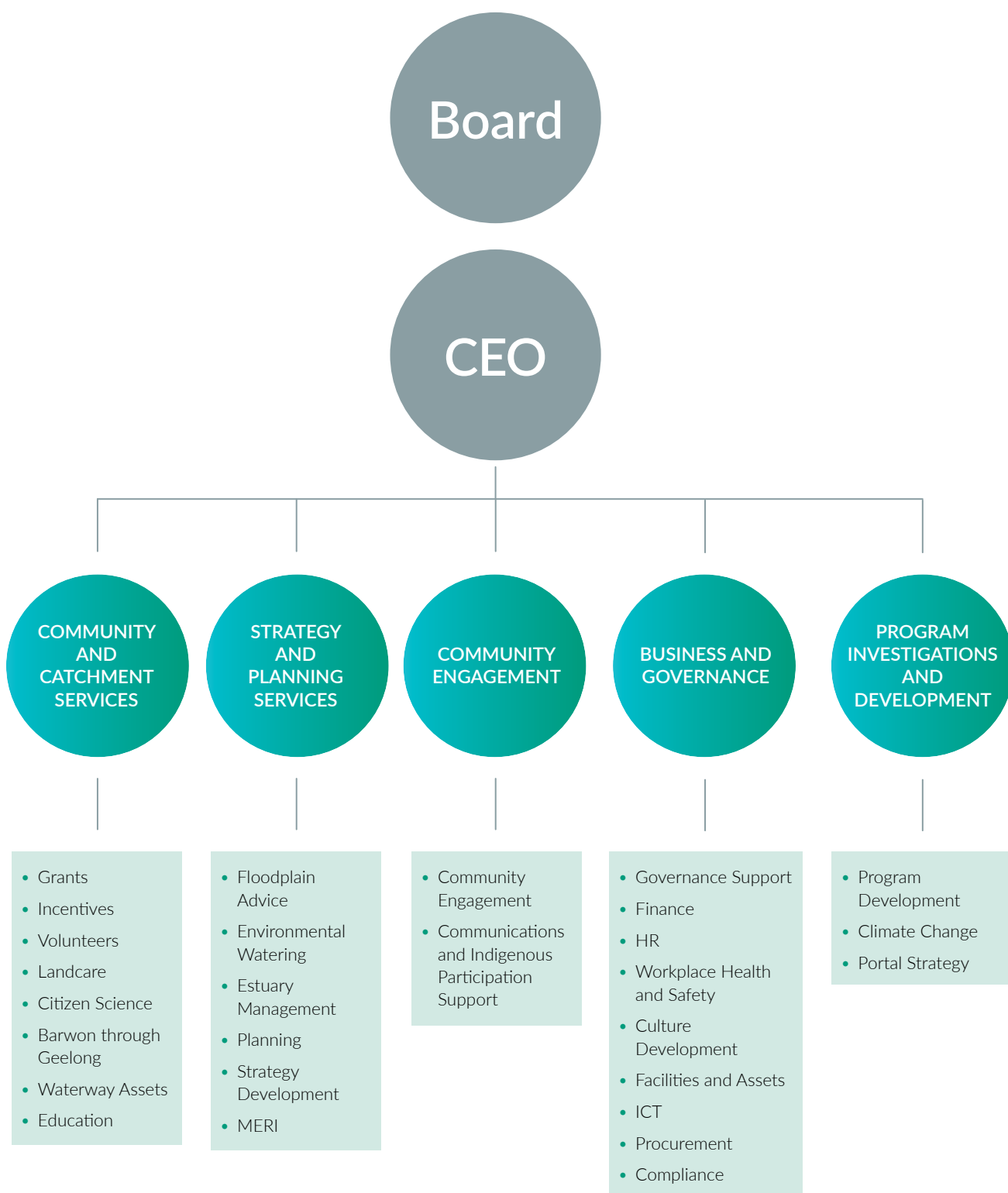
Communications and Engagement Coordinator

Amy Leith





ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



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 2022 which achieved a 90% staff response rate – an excellent outcome and an indicator of strong employee engagement. The results were overall very positive with 70% overall job satisfaction, 73% engagement and 92% inclusion. Questions around coping, staying connected with colleagues and effectively performing our roles as we transition through COVID-19 and back to the office scored between 75-93% which is also very positive.

Corangamite CMA has just completed its 2023 People Matter Survey again with a response rate of 90%. While the CMA continues to implement strategies from the 2022 action plan, further measures may be included following analysis of the 2023 results.

Staff Achievements

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 2022-23:

- Karen O'Keefe (10 years)
- Jayden Woolley (15 years)
- Chris Pitfield (15 years)
- Deirdre Murphy (15 years)
- Denis Lovric (20 years)

Diversity and Inclusion

The Corangamite CMA Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2022-2025 articulates how we support gender equity, diversity and inclusion in our workforce.

Workforce data as at 30 June 2023:

	2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024
	#	FTE	#	FTE	#	FTE	#	FTE	#	FTE	TARGETS %
Aboriginal Victorians	2	2	2	1.8	2	1.8	2	1.8	1	0.6	5
Gender profile:											
Board (M/W)	4/4	NA	3/5	NA	3/5	NA	4/4	NA	4/4	NA	50/50
Staff (M/W)	11/18	25.1	10/19	26.2	13/24	33.9	14/25	32.95	13/29	37	50/50
Executives (M/W) ¹	2/1	3.0	2/2	4.0	2/2	4.0	2/2	4	2/2	4	50/50
Management (M/W) ²	3/1	4.0	5/2	6.2	5/2	6.4	5/3	7	5/3	7	50/50
Age profile:											
Youth cohort (under 35)	7	6.6	8	8.0	13	12.6	11	10.04	18	16.4	25
Mature cohort (55 and over)	8	7.4	8	7.5	11	10.5	13	12.2	20	18.8	25
Staff with part-time work arrangements ³	8	4.1	9	5.4	11	7.3	12	8.5	19	12	Subject to staff demand

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 55 employees.

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 2022-23 was 15% and throughout the year 13 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
- 3 x Diversity and Inclusion Modules – Core Inclusion, Disability and LGBTIQ+ Awareness in the Workplace
- Privacy and the Workplace
- Project Management
- Wadawurrung Cultural Education training
- Conflict and Client Interaction training
- Work specific conferences and workshops
- Support for various tertiary course work.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OH&S)

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 2022-23 year included:

- Participation in the OHS system internal audit and implementation of audit recommendations
- Ongoing implementation and monitoring of the 2021-2025 OH&S Management System Improvement Strategy.
- Contributed to review of OHS procedures.
 - PPE Procedure
 - Hazard Incident, Near Miss, Injury Reporting and Investigation Procedure
 - OHS Policy
 - Injury Management Work Related Procedure
 - Injury Management Non Work Related Procedure
 - Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods Procedure
 - Contractor Health and Safety Management Procedure
 - Working Outdoors on Total Fire Ban Days and Fire Season Procedure
 - Emergency Management (Business Operations) Procedure
- Training and Development
 - Occupational Health and Safety Fundamentals
 - Snake and Spider awareness training
 - Fire Safety
 - Warden Training
 - Canoe and Kayak training
 - 4-wheel drive and trailer towing training
 - First Aid and CPR training for staff
 - Health and Safety Representative (HSR) training, initial and refresher for OHS Committee members



During 2022-23 there were ten reported incidents/hazards, near misses, with no lost time injuries. All incidents/hazards/near misses were investigated, and corrective actions implemented where applicable.

YEAR	REPORTED INCIDENTS/HAZARDS	REPORTED INCIDENTS PER 100 FTE	LOST TIME INJURIES	LOST TIME INJURIES PER 100 FTE
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
2022-2023	10	0.20	0	0

STAFF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Authority values and supports the health and wellbeing of staff. 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. Corangamite CMA continues to provide several initiatives to staff under the Health & Wellbeing program including access to the Employee Assistance Program for all employees and their families, and 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 Staff Consultative Committee continues to meet regularly to provide the opportunity for employees and management to actively consult. The Staff Consultative Committee key activities have included monitoring the implementation of the 2022 People Matter Action Plan, monitoring implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion Plan and consulting on several Procedure reviews.

- Professional Development Plan Procedure
- Resolution of Grievances Procedure
- Human Resources Policy
- Recruitment and Selection Procedure
- Training and Development 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.

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 Corangamite CMA and how these can be obtained
- details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by 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

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.

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*.

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.

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

In 2022-2023:

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	0 building permits 0 occupancy permits 0 certificates of occupancy
Number of emergency orders and building orders issued in relation to buildings	0 emergency orders 0 building orders
Number of buildings that have been brought into conformity with building standards during the year	0 buildings brought into conformity

Financing costs and lease liabilities

Corangamite CMA has one property it leases. Full financial impacts are available in the Financial Statement (see page 80) in line with accounting standard AASB16 Leases.

Disclosure index

An index identifying Corangamite CMA's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements is contained in Appendix 3 (see page 129).



Local Jobs First – Victorian Industry Participation Policy Implementation

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

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

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

Government advertising expenditure

Nil reports: Corangamite CMA's expenditure in the 2022/23 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100,000.

Social Procurement Framework

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.

Corangamite CMA's Procurement prioritises 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 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	2022-2023 TARGET	2022-2023 PERFORMANCE	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	To be captured
Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people	Purchasing from Victorian Aboriginal businesses	Number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged	6	3	4
	Employment of Victorian Aboriginal people by suppliers to the Victorian Government	Total expenditure with Victorian Aboriginal businesses	\$106,000	\$232,459	\$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	10	3
	Employment of Victorians with disability by suppliers to the Victorian Government	Total expenditure with Victorian social enterprises and Australian Disability Enterprises	\$15,000	\$161,455	\$8,873
Sustainable Victorian Regions	Job readiness and employment for people in regions with entrenched disadvantage	Number of businesses engaged within regions experiencing entrenched disadvantage Total expenditure and % of total expenditure with businesses within the region experiencing entrenched disadvantage*	34 \$306,000	27 \$270,613	38 \$115,027
Supporting Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors	Purchasing from Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal businesses	Number of Victorian social enterprises engaged Number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged Total expenditure with Victorian social enterprises Total expenditure with Victorian Aboriginal businesses	5 6 \$73,000 \$106,000	18 3 \$247,632 \$342,713	2 4 \$695,732 \$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 2022-23 period was 38.

Achievements

Corangamite CMA has:

- continued 6 monthly reporting to its Board on Social Procurement Indicators.
- signed agreements with both Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.
- engaged closely with local Traditional Owner Corporations to increase engagement including cultural heritage assessments.

Bank loans, bills payable, promissory notes, debentures and other loans

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

There were no subsequent events between 30 June 2022 and the date this report went to print that had a material impact on Corangamite CMA's financial position.

Freedom of Information (Fol)

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 (Fol) 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 Fol 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

Corangamite CMA received no Freedom of Information (Fol) requests for 2022-23 period from the general public.

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. Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is a 'public body' for the purposes of the *Act*.

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 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 Corangamite Catchment Management Authority is not able to receive Public Interest Disclosures.

How can I access 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 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 2022-2023 reporting period, the Corangamite CMA incurred total expenditure of \$558,343 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	Operational expenditure A	Capital expenditure B
\$477,315	\$81,028	\$0	\$81,028

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

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

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

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL RESULTS

Corangamite CMA incurred a deficit of \$2,188,449 for 2022-23 against a budgeted deficit of \$3,921,000.

Income

Operating Income for the period was \$13,353,696 compared with an initial budget of \$12,296,530, a positive variance of \$1,057,166

This positive variance predominantly related to Flood Recovery payments of \$1.0 million with a further \$0.15 million additional income earned through higher investment rates and average balances across the year.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the period was \$15,573,166 compared with a budget of \$16,217,530; a positive variance of \$644,364.

This positive variance is predominantly related to delays caused by flooding in the region, and supply chain impacts of the economy re-emerging from the effects of COVID-19.

- Incentives expenditure was down approximately \$382,314 primarily due some initial issues with number of applications in eligible sites. All incentives have now been allocated and the shortfall will be made up in the following year.
- Employee expenses showed a considerable underspend against budget of \$347,517 due to staffing shortages across the year, particularly earlier in the year as COVID-19 restrictions eased and worker availability changed with shifting social patterns. Positions are now filled and Corangamite CMA once again has a full staff complement.

BALANCE SHEET

Current assets are well above budget with a cash balance of \$14,405,77, 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.

Overall Corangamite CMA maintains a healthy balance sheet with a healthy cash position and equity of \$63,190,121.

Summary of financial results – last five years for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	2019 \$	2020 \$	2021 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$
Income and Expenditure					
Victorian Government Funding	10,832,073	7,978,498	12,121,748	9,891,109	7,718,340
Australian Government Funding	1,122,982	1,197,970	4,741,004	5,179,842	4,768,196
Other Income	650,416	718,443	584,028	589,000	898,181
Total Operating Revenue	12,605,471	9,894,911	17,446,780	15,659,951	13,384,717
Total Expenses	10,606,314	12,867,517	13,216,475	14,022,407	15,573,166
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,999,157	(2,972,606)	4,230,305	1,637,544	(2,188,449)
Assets and Liabilities					
Current Assets	13,311,875	11,282,530	16,073,952	19,982,205	17,355,688
Non Current Assets	39,162,388	38,838,202	46,036,847	49,136,805	48,342,912
Total Assets	52,474,264	50,120,732	62,110,799	69,119,010	65,698,600
Current Liabilities	1,655,539	1,947,636	1,923,965	3,114,148	2,192,848
Non Current Liabilities	73,548	400,526	316,333	626,292	351,429
Total Liabilities	1,729,087	2,348,162	2,240,297	3,740,440	2,544,277
Total Equity	50,745,176	47,772,570	59,870,502	65,378,570	63,154,323

Contractors and consultancies for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

Corangamite CMA engaged contractors and consultants throughout the year at a total cost of \$6,572,504.

Contractors and Consultancies > \$10,000

There were 67 Consultants or Contractors where total fees payable were \$10,000 or more. The total expenditure incurred during 2022-23 relating to these consultancies was \$6,400,607.

Details of individual consultancies are outlined at Corangamite CMA's website at www.ccma.vic.gov.au

Contractors and Consultancies < \$10,000

There were 45 Consultants or Contractors where total fees payable were \$10,000 or less. The total expenditure incurred during 2022-23 relating to these consultancies was \$171,897.

Emergency Procurement

In 2022-23 Corangamite CMA activated Emergency Procurement on one occasion in accordance with the requirements of government policy and accompanying guidelines.

One contract valued at or more than \$100,000 was awarded in connection with the emergency, as described below.

Emergency Procurement activation summary

NATURE OF EMERGENCY	DATE OF ACTIVATION	SUMMARY OF GOODS AND SERVICES PROCURED UNDER NEW CONTRACTS	TOTAL SPENT ON GOODS AND SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO THE EMERGENCY	2021-2022 PERFORMANCE
Riverine flood Barwon River parklands	October 2022	Make safe works and repairs to infrastructure damaged by flooding event	\$495,377	One

OFFICE BASED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

CATEGORY	MEASURE	BENCHMARK FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2006 (48 STAFF)		USE FOR 2022-2023 (51.2 FTE)		USE FOR 2021-2022 (43.4 FTE)	
		AMOUNT	PER FTE	AMOUNT	PER FTE	AMOUNT	PER FTE
Total Energy Use	Total Usage - Megajoules	447,177	9,316	230,432	3,829	196,046	4,139
	Total greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes)	172	3.25	65.0	1.1	55.3	1.2
Electricity Supplied to the Grid (Solar Export)	Supplied to Grid – Megajoules	Not Measured	Not Measured	41,746	1,317	67,433	1,111
	Adjusted greenhouse gas emissions	Not Measured	Not Measured	11.8	0.4	19.0	0.3
Purchase green power	% green power	Nil		100% from November 2021		100% from November 2021	
	Adjusted greenhouse gas emissions	0	0	37.9	0.6	32.3	0.7
Adjusted Energy Usage	Total Usage – Megajoules	447,177	9,316	188,686	2,512	128,613	2,963
	Total greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes)	172	3.25	15.3	0.0	4.0	0.1
Paper use	A4 reams	726	15.25	79	1.55	46	1.07
Transportation – Reduce fuel use (LPG, ULP, Premium ULP, Diesel)	Litres	85,165	1,795	18,112	353.76	15,001	345.65
Transportation – Reduce vehicle emissions Fuel (LPG, ULP, Premium ULP, Diesel)	Greenhouse gas emissions (tonnes CO ₂)	193.0	4.021	48.8	0.95	40.4	0.93
Water consumption (Office)	Litres	160,000	3,333	99,000	1,934	66,800	1,539
Reduce Waste	Total waste (Litres)	Not available	Not available	31,920	623.44	24,960	575.12
	Diverted from landfill per annum	Not available	Not available	13,440	262.50	6,240	143.78
	Adjusted waste to landfill	Not available	Not available	18,480	360.94	18,720	431.34

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:

- COVID-19 and Working from Home reduced time in the office
- Full year of 100% Green Power, with all sites (Colac, Geelong, Cressy) transferred in November 2021
- Full Year of the Solar Panels in use at the Colac Office + clean to maximise function
- Carbon Neutrality Action Plan initiated with primary goal of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2025.

Reduction Activities currently underway/planned:

- Colac office lighting exchanged with energy efficient LED lighting
- Investment in our aging air-conditioning system at Colac
- Rationalisation of Geelong Office space reducing carbon footprint.

Waste & recycling

Net waste to landfill 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
- Removal of all paper towel in office.

Paper Use

Paper has reduced due to:

- COVID-19 and a reduced time in the Office for staff
- Encouragement of staff to print only when required
- Full implementation of online cloud electronic ICT systems accessible from anywhere reducing need for hard copy information
- Moved to 100% recycled printer paper.

Reduction Activities currently underway/planned:

- Replacement of printer with a simpler and less energy consuming alternative.

Water consumption

Water consumption has reduced due to:

- COVID-19 and a reduced time in the Office for staff
- Enhanced use of collected rainwater for non-drinking purposes.

Transportation

- 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

Average 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
- Adopting the Climate Active Certification to measure our Carbon Footprint. This involves extending our scope 3 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

Corangamite CMA has provided grants to natural resource management community groups and organisations as part of the Victorian Landcare grants that Corangamite CMA is responsible for distributing in the Corangamite region. Grants were provided to groups in 2022-23 for the purposes of supporting the administration of regional Landcare groups and implementing on-ground natural resource management projects.

Victorian Landcare Grants 2022-23 Corangamite Landcare Grant recipients

ORGANISATION	PROJECT TITLE	TOTAL GRANT
ANGAIR	Paikalac Saltwedge Revegetation and Small Mammal Habitat Restoration	\$20,000
Apollo Bay Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$500
Batesford, Fyansfordford, Stonehaven Landcare	Landcare support grant	\$500
Bellarine Catchment Network	Landcare support grant	\$500
Bellarine Landcare Group Inc	Landcare support grant	\$500
Birregurra Landcare FTLA	Landcare support grant	\$500
Bunanyung Landscape Alliance	Landcare support grant	\$500
Camperdown-Timboon Rail Trail Management Committee	Landcare support grant	\$500
Central Otway Landcare Network	Friends of Drakes Lagoon	\$15,755
Central Otway Landcare Network	Wrangling Ragwort in the Central Otways - Phase 2	\$16,200
Corangamite Shire	Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Management Committee project: People, Place and the Plains: Protecting VVP ecosystems and connecting communities at Mt Leura, Camperdown	\$19,800
Cultura (Multicultural Community Services Geelong Inc.)	Multicultural Landcare Engagement Project	\$17,000
Cundare Duverney Landcare Group	Increasing on-farm Biodiversity in the Cundare Duverney and Corangamite Lakes area through revegetation	\$19,845
East Otway Landcare Group	Landcare support Grant	\$500
Freshwater Creek Steiner School Association Inc.	Revegetation of Farming Land with Indigenous Plantings & Rabbit Exclusion Fence	\$13,500
Friends of Canadian Corridor Inc	Landcare support grant	\$500
Friends of Mt Leura	Landcare support grant	\$500
Friends of Paddock Creek Inc	Landcare support grant	\$500
Friends of the Bellarine Rail Trail	Landcare support grant	\$500
Friends of Yarrowee River	Landcare support grant	\$500
Garibaldi Environment Group or Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$500
Geelong Landcare Network	Geelong Landcare Network's landscape restoration and pest plant and animal management small grants program	\$16,670

ORGANISATION	PROJECT TITLE	TOTAL GRANT
Gerangamete Flats Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$500
Heytesbury & District Landcare Network	Linking the landscape through the Biofund project	\$20,000
Hordernvale Glenaire Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$500
Leigh District Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$500
Lismore Land Protection Group	Increasing on-farm biodiversity of the Lismore and Corangamite Lakes area through revegetation	\$18,370
Maude & District Landcare	Landcare support grant	\$500
Meredith Bamganie Landcare Grp	Landcare support grant	\$500
Moorabool Catchment Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$500
Moorabool Landcare Network Inc	Landcare support grant	\$500
Moorabool Landcare Network Inc	ChemCert Chemical Users Training	\$1,000
Murroon Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$500
Napoleons-Enfield Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$500
Ocean Grove Coastcare	Landcare support grant	\$500
Southern Otway Landcare Network	Southern Otway Beekeepers Support grant	\$500
Southern Otway Landcare Network	Otway Barham Landcare Group Support grant	\$500
Southern Otway Landcare Network	Shrub Club Community Nursery Support grant	\$500
Southern Otway Landcare Network	Otway Ocean Care Support grant	\$500
Southern Otway Landcare Network	Searching for Our Lost Snails: The Great Otway SnailBlazer	\$18,998
Southern Otway Landcare Network	Otway Fungi Interest Group	\$5,309
Southern Otway Landcare Network	Volunteer training	\$1,000
Southern Regenerative Farmers	Landcare support grant	\$500
Surf Coast Rabbit Action Network Inc.	Landcare support grant	\$500
Surf Coast and Inland Plains Landcare Network	Friends of Lake Modewarre Support grant	\$500
Surf Coast and Inland Plains Landcare Network	Completing the protection of Hindhaugh Creek	\$12,000
Swan Bay Environment Association	The Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff Pocket Park Project	\$6,080
Torquay Landcare Group	Part of the answer lies beneath our feet	\$10,707
Upper Barwon Landcare Network Inc	Farming sustainably in the Upper Barwon	\$7,900
Upper Barwon Landcare Network Inc	Education & Training	\$1,000
Upper Williamson Creek Landcare	Landcare support grant	\$500
Weering Eurack Landcare Group	Landcare support grant	\$370
Winchelsea Land and River Care	Landcare support grant	\$500
Wye to Wongarra Landcare	Landcare support grant	\$500
Yarrowee Leigh Catchment Group Inc.	Connecting to Country	\$9,420
Total		\$268,425



SECTION 3

Financial Statements

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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



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 2023 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

2.2 Income and revenue from transactions

3. The cost of delivering services

Operating expenses of the Authority

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

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 balances

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 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 2023 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2023.

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 26 September 2023.



Ms Cath Jenkins
Chair



Ms Amber Clarke
CEO and Accountable Officer



Mr Ashley Roberts CPA
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	NOTES	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	12,486,536	15,070,951
Interest		496,781	45,220
Other income	2.2.3	370,379	480,868
Total income from transactions		13,353,696	15,597,039
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	5,299,981	5,187,848
Depreciation and amortisation	4.1.3, 4.2	953,916	932,280
Materials, maintenance, grants and consultancies	3.2	3,607,320	3,989,815
Contractors		5,050,575	3,319,415
Interest expense on lease liability	6.2.1	10,602	7,577
Other operating expenses	3.3	650,772	585,472
Total expenses from transactions		15,573,166	14,022,407
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		(2,219,470)	1,574,632
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (ii)	8.2	31,021	62,912
Net result		(2,188,449)	1,637,544
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	4.1.3	0	3,870,524
Comprehensive result		(2,188,449)	5,508,068

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(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 2023

	NOTES	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.3	14,405,775	16,647,691
Receivables	5.1	3,105,359	3,334,515
Total financial assets		17,511,134	19,982,206
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	47,893,132	48,677,887
Right of use assets	4.1.1	339,113	395,272
Prepayments		110,667	63,647
Total non-financial assets		48,342,912	49,136,806
Total assets		65,854,046	69,119,012
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	1,274,478	2,336,527
Lease liabilities	6.1	335,064	395,377
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,054,383	1,008,538
Total liabilities		2,663,925	3,740,442
Net assets		63,190,121	65,378,570
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	8.3	(3,345,165)	(1,156,716)
Physical asset revaluation surplus	4.1.3	45,108,363	45,108,363
Contributed capital	8.3	21,426,923	21,426,923
Net worth		63,190,121	65,378,570

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(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 2023

	NOTES	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		13,230,650	15,408,806
Interest received		496,781	45,219
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (ii)		278,406	66,059
Other receipts		450,524	478,037
Total receipts		14,456,361	15,998,121
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		16,545,380	12,375,159
Interest and other costs of finance paid		10,602	7,577
Total payments		16,555,982	12,382,736
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	6.3.1	(2,099,621)	3,615,385
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(81,624)	(7,208)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets		42,455	103,091
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities		(39,169)	95,883
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities (iii)		(103,126)	(71,331)
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities		(103,126)	(71,331)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(2,241,916)	3,639,937
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		16,647,691	13,007,754
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.3	14,405,775	16,647,691

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(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

for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) \$	PHYSICAL ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS \$	CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL \$	TOTAL \$
Balance at 1 July 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
Net result for the year	(2,188,449)	-	-	(2,188,449)
Balance at 30 June 2023	(3,345,165)	45,108,363	21,426,923	63,190,121

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(i) This format is aligned 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 2023

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 2.2.1);
- the timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (Note 2.2.1);
- determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligations (Note 2.2.1);
- 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.

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.

2.2.1 Government contributions

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income recognised as income of not-for-profit entities under AASB 1058		
State Government		
Landcare	408,250	744,681
River Health/Healthy Waterways	6,465,966	7,245,586
Base Funding	239,999	1,208,467
Our Catchment, Our Communities	562,000	549,000
Other State Funding	42,125	143,375
	7,718,340	9,891,109
Commonwealth Government (Revenue from contract with customers AASB 15)		
National Landcare Program	4,768,196	5,179,842
Total Government contributions	12,486,536	15,070,951

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;

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.

2.2.3 Other income

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Partnership Contributions	277,390	269,333
Rental Income	8,026	17,170
Employee Contributions	28,485	26,413
Ancillary Trading	56,478	167,952
Total other income	370,379	480,868

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.

3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Salaries & wages	4,068,273	4,050,358
Annual leave	361,914	390,376
Long service leave	142,639	76,593
Other leave	139,212	131,729
Superannuation	483,711	446,258
Other	97,133	95,917
Movement in provisions for employee benefits	7,099	(3,383)
Total employee benefit expenses	5,299,981	5,187,848

- (i) The increase in movement in provisions for employee benefits in 2023 is due to increase 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.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Time in lieu and RDO:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	51,004	58,849
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	303,628	358,197
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	16,657	-
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	84,403	52,591
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	371,241	286,971
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	56,385	58,180
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	48,309	35,551
Total current provisions	931,627	850,339
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Long service leave:		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	109,182	140,761
Provisions for on-costs		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	13,574	17,438
Total non-current provisions	122,756	158,199
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	1,054,383	1,008,538

	2023 \$
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision	
Opening balance	111,169
Additional provisions recognised	7,099
Closing balance	118,268

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 of less than 6 weeks are measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, whilst balances above 6 weeks are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

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 and workers compensation 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		Contributions outstanding at year-end	
	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
Defined contribution plans:				
Vision super	107,402	118,055	13,114	14,014
Australian Super	61,018	46,433	6,674	4,051
Aware Super	57,173	59,441	5,978	5,185
Other private schemes	258,117	222,330	26,119	33,429
Total	483,710	446,259	51,885	56,679

3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Materials	71,811	39,415
Repairs and maintenance	80,480	58,978
Grants paid	1,132,402	2,121,086
Contractors	2,018,393	1,483,555
IT Software & Support	304,234	286,781
Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3,607,320	3,989,815

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

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

3.3 Other operating expenses

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Telephones and mobile data	38,992	36,620
Audit Fees - Victorian Auditor General's Office	16,500	16,000
Fleet expenses	38,007	32,541
Fares and accommodation	32,339	10,240
Insurance	88,610	66,125
Education, training, conferences and seminars	103,387	42,095
Meeting expenses	58,557	44,528
Public Relations	86,806	65,989
Utility Charges	29,642	22,431
Travel	25,571	11,263
Cleaning	21,846	29,223
Advertising	19,035	17,349
Audit Fees - Other	17,850	33,960
Printing and Photocopying	15,334	13,557
Other expenses	58,296	143,551
	650,772	585,472

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.

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 extent 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 2023 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 2023 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.

The construction market is being impacted by the uncertainty caused by high inflation, rising interest rates and increased costs of construction due to continued supply chain issues. As at the date of the valuation of buildings, the valuer considers that there are market uncertainties resulting in significant valuation uncertainties. The value assessed at valuation date may therefore change over a relatively short time period.

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 Total property, plant and equipment at fair value

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT		ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		NET CARRYING AMOUNT	
	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$	2022 \$
Land	19,172,100	19,172,100	-	-	19,172,100	19,172,100
Buildings (i)	1,750,000	1,750,000	(101,138)	(50,569)	1,648,862	1,699,431
Works assets	28,080,439	28,080,439	(1,474,043)	(729,577)	26,606,396	27,350,862
Plant and equipment	1,254,743	1,176,421	(821,263)	(771,860)	433,480	404,561
Office furniture and equipment	32,127	28,826	(29,113)	(28,826)	3,014	0
Motor vehicles (i)	154,873	225,396	(125,593)	(174,463)	29,280	50,933
Net carrying amount	50,444,282	50,433,182	(2,551,150)	(1,755,295)	47,893,132	48,677,887

(i) Excluding right of use assets. Refer Note 4.1.1

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

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 2023 \$	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION 2023 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2023 \$	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION 2022 \$	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2022 \$
RoU Buildings	324,912	(205,220)	119,692	324,912	(153,915)	170,997
RoUMotor Vehicles	296,528	(77,107)	219,421	253,715	(29,440)	224,275
Net Carrying Amount	621,440	(282,327)	339,113	578,627	(183,355)	395,272

	RoU BUILDINGS \$	RoU MOTOR VEHICLES \$
Opening Balance - 1 July 2022	170,997	224,276
Additions	-	42,813
Depreciation	(51,305)	(47,667)
Closing Balance - 30 June 2023	119,692	219,422

	RoU BUILDINGS \$	RoU MOTOR VEHICLES \$
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

4.1.2 Depreciation

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Charge for the period		
Buildings	50,569	50,569
Works assets	744,466	729,577
Plant & equipment	49,403	58,427
Office furniture & equipment	286	47
Motor vehicles	10,220	24,304
Total depreciation	854,944	862,924
Depreciation on Right-of-use assets		
Buildings	51,305	51,305
Motor vehicles	47,667	18,051
Total depreciation	953,916	932,280

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 below:

ASSET	USEFUL LIFE
Buildings	40 years
Buildings - Right-of-use assets	7 years
Works assets (Infrastructure)	10 - 100 years
Plant and equipment	3 - 10 years
Furniture & office equipment	3 - 10 years
Motor vehicles (including Motor vehicles - Right-of-use assets)	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 \$
2022-23							
Opening balance	19,172,100	1,699,431	27,350,862	404,561	-	50,933	48,677,887
Additions	-	-	-	78,323	3,301		81,624
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(11,433)	(11,433)
Depreciation	-	(50,569)	(744,466)	(49,403)	(286)	(10,220)	(854,944)
Closing balance	19,172,100	1,648,862	26,606,396	433,481	3,015	29,280	47,893,134
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
Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	(40,178)	-40,178.00
Revaluation (i)	3,126,100	0	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

Note:

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

(i) A Management valuation was undertaken at 30 June 2022 in relation to Land and Asset Works.

Management assessments on valuations were undertaken at 30 June 2023 for all asset categories. No material variations were observed.

5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Authority's operations.

5.1 Receivables

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Receivables		
Contractual		
Trade receivables	2,983,398	3,290,491
Contract assets	-	44,024
	2,983,398	3,334,515
Statutory		
GST input credits recoverable	121,961	-
	121,961	-
Total receivables	3,105,359	3,334,515
Represented by:		
Current Receivables	3,105,359	3,334,515

Receivables consist of:

- Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised cost'.
- 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

Accrued expenses

Accrued expenses represent goods or services that have been received or supplied but the invoice was received following the closure of accounts.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Payables		
Contractual		
Trade payables	853,091	1,626,830
Accrued expenses	255,493	561,550
Other payables	3,449	3,216
Total current provisions	1,112,033	2,191,596
Statutory		
PAYG	99,580	72,591
Superannuation	57,167	65,225
Payroll tax	5,698	7,115
	162,445	144,931
Total payables	1,274,478	2,336,527
Represented by:		
Current Payables	1,274,478	2,336,527

Payables consist of:

- Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.
- There is no difference in carrying and nominal amount and all amounts have a maturity less than 1 month for both years.

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.

6.1 Borrowings

	NOTES	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current borrowings			
Lease Liabilities (i)	6.2	106,390	109,045
Total current borrowings		106,390	109,045
Non-current borrowings			
Lease Liabilities (i)	6.2	228,673	286,332
Total non-current borrowings		228,673	286,332

Note:

(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.

6.1.1 Maturity Analysis of borrowings

	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	NOMINAL AMOUNT \$	MATURITY DATES				
			LESS THAN 1 MONTH \$	1 TO 3 MONTHS \$	3 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR \$	1 TO 5 YEARS \$	5+ YEARS \$
2023							
Lease Liabilities	335,063	335,063	8,866	17,732	79,792	228,673	-
Total	335,063	335,063	8,866	17,732	79,792	228,673	-
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	-

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.

6.2.1 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 2023 relating to leases:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	10,602	7,577
Total amount recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement	10,602	7,577

6.2.2 Amounts recognised in the Cashflow Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Cashflow Statement for the year ending 30 June 2023 relating to leases:

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest expense on lease liabilities	10,602	7,577
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities	103,126	71,331
Total cash outflow for leases	113,728	78,908

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.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	50,000	50,000
Deposits at call	14,355,775	16,597,691
Balance as per cash flow statement	14,405,775	16,647,691

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

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Net result for the period	(2,188,449)	1,637,544
Non-cash movements:		
(Gain)/loss on disposal of non-current assets	(31,021)	(62,912)
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	953,916	932,280
	(1,265,554)	2,506,912
Movements in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	229,156	(268,317)
Decrease/(increase) in non-financial assets	(47,020)	19,510
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(1,062,049)	1,283,811
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	45,845	73,470
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	(2,099,622)	3,615,386

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	1,996,627	4,177,560
1 to 5 years	-	408,470
5 years or more	-	-
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	1,996,627	4,586,030

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.

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. Statutory receivables and payables are not considered 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 2023 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.

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 \$
2023			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	14,405,775	-	14,405,775
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	2,983,398	-	2,983,398
Total contractual financial assets	17,389,173	-	17,389,173
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	853,091	853,091
Accrued expenses	-	255,493	255,493
Other payables	-	3,449	3,449
<i>Borrowings:</i>			
Lease Liabilities (ii)	-	335,064	335,064
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	1,447,097	1,447,097
2022			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	16,647,691	-	16,647,691
<i>Receivables: (i)</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			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	1,626,830	1,626,830
Accrued expenses	-	561,550	561,550
Other payables	-	3,216	3,216
<i>Borrowings:</i>			
Lease Liabilities (ii)	-	395,377	395,377
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	2,586,973	2,586,973

(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

Contractual receivables, contractual payables and lease liabilities don't have interest rate risk exposure. Only cash and deposits has an interest rate risk exposure. In 2023 the weighted average interest rate was 3.33% (2022: 0.30%)

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE %	CARRYING AMOUNT \$	INTEREST RATE EXPOSURE		
			FIXED INTEREST RATE \$	VARIABLE INTEREST RATE \$	NON-INTEREST BEARING \$
2023					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	3.33	14,405,775	-	14,405,775	-
Contractual receivables		2,983,398	-	-	2,983,398
Total financial assets		17,389,173	-	14,405,775	2,983,398
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables		1,112,033	-	-	1,112,033
Lease Liabilities		335,063	335,063	-	-
Total financial liabilities		1,447,096	335,063	-	1,112,033
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

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
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2023					
Cash and deposits (i)	14,405,775	(72,029)	-	72,029	-
2022					
Cash and deposits (i)	16,647,691	(83,238)	-	83,238	-

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$14,405,775 (2022: \$16,647,691) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2023 : \$14,405,775 X 0.5% = \$72,029
- 2022 : \$16,647,691 X 0.5% = \$83,238

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 2023, the Authority has no known contingent assets.

Contingent liabilities

As at 30 June 2023, 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.

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 2023 \$	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	1,648,862	-	1,648,862	-
Right-of-use assets - Buildings	119,692	-	119,692	-
Total Buildings at Fair Value	1,768,554	-	1,768,554	-
Works assets at Fair Value				
Works assets	26,606,396	-	-	26,606,396
Total Infrastructure at Fair Value	26,606,396	-	-	26,606,396
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	433,480	-	-	433,480
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	433,480	-	-	433,480
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	3,014	-	-	3,014
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	3,014	-	-	3,014
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	29,280	-	29,280	-
Right-of-use assets - Motor Vehicles	219,422	-	219,422	-
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	248,702	-	248,702	-

Note:

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

	CARRYING AMOUNT AS AT 30 JUNE 2022 \$	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	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
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	0	-	-	-
Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value	0	-	-	-
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	-

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.

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 2023, and in line with FRD103 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. This assessment indicated no material variations in the carrying value of specialised land.

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 2023 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. This assessment indicated no material variations in the carrying value of works assets.

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 2023.

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

	SPECIALISED LAND \$	WORKS ASSETS \$	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT \$	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT \$
2023				
Opening Balance	18,217,100	27,350,862	404,561	0
Purchases (sales)	-		78,323	3,301
ROU adjustment	-	-	0	0
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	0	0
Depreciation	-	(744,466)	(49,403)	(286)
Gains or losses recognised in net result	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	18,217,100	26,606,396	433,481	3,015
Subtotal	0	0	-	-
Closing Balance	18,217,100	26,606,396	433,481	3,015
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	0
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income				
Revaluation	3,126,100	744,424	-	-
Subtotal	3,126,100	744,424	-	-
Closing Balance	18,217,100	27,350,862	404,561	0

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 m ²) 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.

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 2023 (2022 \$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.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	42,455	103,091
Less written down value	(11,434)	(40,179)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	31,021	62,912

8.3 Reserves

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	45,108,363	41,237,839
Revaluation increments	0	3,870,524
Balance at end of financial year	45,108,363	45,108,363
Accumulated Deficit		
Balance at beginning of financial year	(1,156,716)	(2,794,260)
Net transfers from accumulated funds	(2,188,449)	1,637,544
Balance at end of financial year	(3,345,165)	(1,156,716)
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	63,190,121	65,378,570

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:

Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP	Minister for Environment & Climate Action	01 Jul 2022 to 4 Dec 2022
Hon Harriet Shing MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Hon Ingrid Stitt MP	Minister for Environment	5 Dec 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Catherine Jenkins	(Chair)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Fiona Cumming	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Nick Reynard	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Kenneth Latta	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Lia Sarto	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Catherine Phelps	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Wayne Weaire	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
Michael Watson	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023
John Riddiford	(CEO)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 Jun 2023

Remuneration

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

	2023	2022
Income band		
\$0-\$9,999	0	0
\$10,000-\$19,999	7	8
\$20,000-\$29,999	1	1
\$220,000-\$229,999	0	0
\$250,000-\$259,999	0	1
\$270,000-\$279,999	1	0
Total number of Responsible persons	9	10
Total Remuneration \$	424,225	414,965

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 on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Other long-term benefits include long service leave, other long-service benefit or deferred compensation.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

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.

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Remuneration (i)		
Short-term employee benefits	437,807	437,325
Post-employment benefits	44,147	41,455
Other long-term benefits	8,287	10,881
Termination benefits	-	-
Total remuneration	490,241	489,661
Total number of executives (ii)	4	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 2022-23

(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.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

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 2023 financial year, the Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities:

	FUNDING RECEIVED 2023 \$	FUNDING RECEIVABLE AT 30 JUNE 2023 \$
Entity		
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	7,548,727	-
Barwon Water	237,000	200,000
Central Highlands Region Water Authority	10,250	-
North Central CMA	35,000	-
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	127,488	-
Wannon Water	10,000	-

The Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities for the year ending 30 June 2022:

	FUNDING RECEIVED 2022 \$	FUNDING RECEIVABLE AT 30 JUNE 2022 \$
Entity		
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	9,751,850	-
Barwon Water	257,146	207,000
Central Highlands Region Water Authority	10,250	-
Department of Justice and Community Safety	32,075	-
North Central CMA	35,000	-
Victorian Environmental Water Holder	107,184	-

During the 2023 financial year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	PAYMENTS MADE 2023 \$	PAYABLE AT 30 JUNE 2023 \$	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	661,401	38,602	Service Supply Agreements
Parks Victoria	371,847	47,821	Service Supply Agreements
Zoos Victoria	411,522	-	Service Supply Agreements
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	75,594	-	Service Supply Agreements
Goulburn Broken CMA	154,689	61,541	Service Supply Agreements
Department of Transport and Planning	76,956	-	Service Supply Agreements
Wimmera CMA	33,000	-	Service Supply Agreements
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industries and Regions	32,550	4,935	Service Supply Agreements
Department of Treasury and Finance (VicFleet Lease Mgt)	53,854	-	Lease Agreements
Trust for Nature	57,827	-	Service Supply Agreements

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

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

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Compensation of KMPs		
Short-term employee benefits	816,049	810,179
Post-employment benefits	83,671	77,202
Other long-term benefits	14,746	17,245
Termination benefits	-	-
Share-based payments	-	-
Total	914,466	904,626

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

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	20,000	12,500
Internal audit costs	17,850	33,960
Total auditors' remuneration	37,850	46,460

8.8 Subsequent events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the authority, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the authority in future financial years.

8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2022-23 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 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.

AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement by adding authoritative implementation guidance and illustrative examples for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows.

Among other things, the Standard:

- specifies that an entity needs to consider whether an asset's highest and best use differs from its current use only when it is held for sale or held for distributions to owners under AASB 5 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations or if it is highly probable that it will be used for an alternative purpose;

- clarifies that an asset's use is 'financially feasible' if market participants would be willing to invest in the asset's service capacity, considering both the capacity to provide needed goods or services and the resulting costs of those goods and services;
- specifies that if both market selling price and some market participant data required to fair value the asset are not observable, an entity needs to start with its own assumptions and adjust them to the extent that reasonably available information indicates that other market participants would use different data; and
- provides guidance on the application of the cost approach to fair value, including the nature of costs to be included in a reference asset and identification of economic obsolescence.

This Standard applies prospectively to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024, with earlier application permitted.

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.



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 2022-2023
Business Management and Governance	Submit annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Board performance report submitted on 25th August 2022.
	A risk management strategy/plan approved by the board and being implemented.	The Board approved the risk management framework on 25th August 2022.
	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. 96% (92% 2022/23) of policies and procedures were reviewed in the last 3 years.
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Full compliance achieved with all Standing Directions.
Regional planning and coordination	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. The Community Engagement Framework was endorsed by the Board at the November 2018 meeting.
	A regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	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 waterways strategy approved by the minister.	The Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 was approved by the Minister in 2014.
	A regional floodplain strategy approved by the Board.	The Corangamite Regional Floodplain Management Strategy has been approved by the Board in February 2018 and delivered to DELWP who have signed off on the strategy.
Regional delivery	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the board annually.	The 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 2022-2023
Statutory Functions under part 10 of the Water Act	90 per cent of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	<p>72% of statutory requirements were met within the prescribed period, down 1% (73%) from previous Financial Year. The reasons for this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A high demand of referrals/flood advice: 1416 response requested up from 1346 in 2020/21 which corresponds to a 5% increase (or 70 additional responses). An additional 37 responses were registered in the 21/22FY 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 Road Duplication, wind farms among others. <p>Other tasks include stakeholder meetings, strategic planning, flood investigations, emergency response commitments, and flood data management.</p>

**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	2022-2023 PERFORMANCE
Healthy resilient and biodiverse environment	Increasing area (ha) of land managed for conservation.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
	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 waterway health	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.	Corangamite CMA has continued to build strong relationships with Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation and is continuing to develop relationships with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, with the signing of support agreements with both groups during the year. 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. Corangamite CMA continues to look to improve our own cultural competency and undertook Native Title and Aboriginal Heritage training during the year.
	Number of engagement processes with community or stakeholders that identified and considered recreational values of waterways.	Corangamite CMA has undertaken significant consultation in regard to Seasonal Watering Strategy that has involved consideration of recreational values, as has considerable engagement around Estuary openings. The Community Engagement Network has become a solid focus point for engagement. Further activities and achievements are outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES Ongoing EC5 funded projects consider recreation values in their development.
	Evidence that recreational values were considered in waterway health and environmental water planning and management.	The incorporation of Corangamite CMA's revised vision statement (amended in 2021/22) into all project plans reflects the importance given to recreational values: "Healthy and productive lands and waters cared for and enjoyed by thriving communities" in line with feedback from the RCS consultation process. Further activities and achievements are 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	2022-2023 PERFORMANCE
Improved waterway health	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
	Evidence of improvements to information sources (e.g. online).	The Corangamite CMA website was further reviewed and updated in 2022/23 to improve accessibility to information regarding projects and services of the CMA. 2022/23 saw Corangamite CMA has continue to develop social media and online newsletters to communicate with the community. We continue to develop our digital strategy to facilitate online access to data and communications.
	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.
	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.	After the renewal of the RCS Corangamite CMA has continued on-going consultation with Eastern Maar Traditional Owners, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners, NRM State agencies, industry representatives, local government, community groups, landholders and community representatives via physical and online workshops. In 2022/23 the Small Blocks Big Dreams project (part of the Our Catchments, Our Communities program) continued 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 which developed a strong relationship with the CMA.
Sustainable land management	Increasing number of land managers participating in sustainable land and water management practices.	In 2022/23 Corangamite CMA continued to work closely with Landcare and community groups 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 2022/23 the Australian Government Funded Large Farms project continued to work with land managers to develop sustainable land and water management practices, whilst the Small Blocks, Big Dreams project gathered speed. 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.

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

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2022-2023 PERFORMANCE
Sustainable land management	90% of stakeholders rating overall satisfaction with the Corangamite CMA at "Satisfactory" or better.	The most recent Corangamite CMA stakeholder survey in December 2020 improved on the results of the previous (2018) survey, increasing the CMA's Relevance from 80% to 91%. A further post-Covid survey is to be conducted.
	Healthy communities and supporting resilient environments.	Activities and achievements are outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
Partnerships are effective, diverse and delivering shared outcomes	Report on Catchment Partnership Agreements for your region in accordance with the Framework for Catchment Partnership Agreements.	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.
	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. We have partnered with Wannon Water for waterway improvements on the Gellibrand River.
	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, Corangamite CMA collaborated strongly with DEECA 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.	Corangamite CMA significantly increased its online presence with a significant increase in Facebook and other social media tools, building upon its digital strategy. Continued use of video conferencing as well as on ground forums has extended the means to communicate between ourselves and key stakeholders. Post Covid we have committed to holding Board Meetings across the region.
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 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.	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.

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

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2022-2023 PERFORMANCE
	Number of effective engagements and partnerships with Traditional Owners in water planning and management that have led to improved outcomes for Aboriginal communities.	<p>Corangamite CMA has continued to build strong relationships with Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation and is continuing to develop relationships with 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 onground assessments. Corangamite CMA continues to look to improve our own cultural competency.</p> <p>Corangamite CMA continues to apply its Social Procurement Strategy which includes targets and initiatives to increase spend with Aboriginal businesses.</p>
Increased resilience and adaptation of natural assets to climate change	Progress on climate change adaptation initiatives outlined in climate change and catchment strategies.	<p>Corangamite CMA is a member of both the Barwon South West and Grampians Adaptation Project coordinated by DEECA, 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.</p> <p>We continue to implement our 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.</p>
	Explore opportunities to sequester carbon and generate carbon offsets.	Corangamite CMA is developing a Barwon South West Carbon Offset Program with 10 LGAs. 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.	2022/23 again proved a challenging year for managing statutory obligations particularly for floodplain management, with 75% (up from 72% for the previous year) of statutory requirements met within the prescribed period primarily due to significant growth in the region resulting in a high demand for referrals/flood advice: 1,625 response requested up from 1,416 in 2021/22 reflecting the increased growth of Geelong and the Ballarat regions, placing significant strain on our resources.
	Improving diversity and inclusion.	<p>Corangamite CMA released a new Diversity and Inclusion strategy in June 2022. The new plan includes renewed focus and targets.</p> <p>Corangamite CMA continues to employ an individual with intellectual disability to support its administration function. This has provided an excellent appointment for the individual and the CMA.</p>

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

PERFORMANCE AREA	4 YEAR OUTCOME INDICATOR	2022-2023 PERFORMANCE
The Corangamite CMA is a respected and trusted regional leader in catchment health and management	Improving performance and demonstrated results against outcomes.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
	Developing strategies and goals that will increase cultural diversity in the workforce and gender equity in executive leadership and throughout the organisation.	Corangamite CMA continues to be committed to gender equity and diversity via implementing its Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, including in the executive leadership structures and remuneration. Corangamite CMA has committed to developing and implementing its Gender Equality Action Plan.
	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 DEECA to improve reporting systems and processes.	Via the CMA Corporate Services Managers group, the CMAs worked with DEECA and VAGO to improve governance and financial management processes, including streamlining the reporting process. The CMA Regional Investment Coordinators Group met regularly with DEECA to implement and maintain the 'Enquire' Grant Management System and to review the DEECA standard outputs.
	Demonstrate outcomes of government investment into waterways and catchment health.	As outlined in Section ACHIEVEMENTS, OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE AND KEY INITIATIVES
	Deliver efficiency through shared services, smarter procurement and lower-cost technology.	Corangamite CMA continued to be involved with one shared services arrangements with Barwon Water in relation to reception. Seven CMAs collaborated to implement a new finance and payroll system D365FO. The CMA Corporate Services Managers, via the DEECA funded Compliance Project, collaborated on shared governance activities and policies, including the implementation of a shared Internal Audit contract.
	Increase in the information available and its timely delivery to partners, community and investors.	Corangamite CMA continues to update and maintain its website, including links to information portals, including the NRM portal and research links. Corangamite CMA continues to develop this resource based upon its Portal Strategy.

DISCLOSURE INDEX

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

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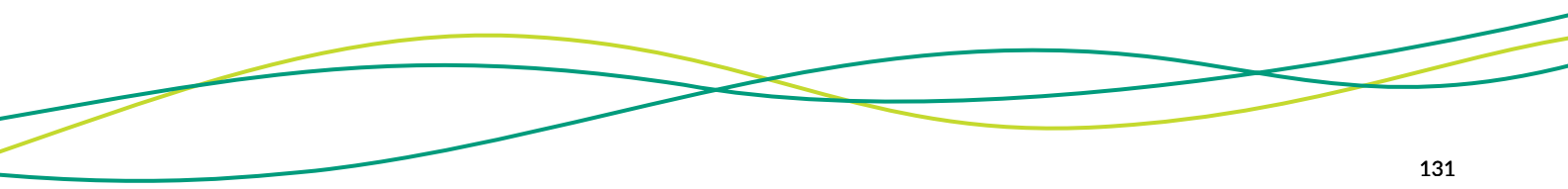
ACRONYMS AND TERMS

AEOs	Artificial Estuary Openings	MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	ML	Megalitre
ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
BAU	Business as Usual	MPSG	Major Project Skills Guarantee
CaLP	Catchment and Land Protection Act	No.	Number
CEO	Chief Executive Officer	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CGRSWS	Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategies	OAN	Otway Agroforestry Network
CMA	Catchment Management Authority	OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
CoGG	City of Greater Geelong	RALF	Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator
Corangamite CMA or CCMA	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Ramsar	Wetland Conservation Treaty named for Iranian location of the first convention (1971)
CPA	Corangamite Partnership Agreement	RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
CWS	Corangamite Wetlands Strategy	RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action	RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinators
DJPR	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	RLP	Regional Land Partnerships
EC5	Environmental Contribution Tranche 5	RWMP	Regional Water Monitoring Partnership
EEMSS	Estuary Entrance Management Support System	SFS	Southern Farming Systems
EMAC	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation	SPF	Social Procurement Strategy
EOs	Estuary Openings	SWP	Seasonal Watering Proposal
EPA	Environment Protection Authority	TAP	Threat Abatement Plan
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act	VIPP	Victorian Industry Participation Policy
Fol	Freedom of information	VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
FTE	Full-time equivalent	VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plain
GORCAPA	Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority	VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
ha	Hectare	WTOAC	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
ICT	Information and Communications Technology		
Km	Kilometre		

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CORANGAMITE CMA



ccma.vic.gov.au

64 Dennis Street, Colac, Victoria, 3250
PO Box 159, Colac, Victoria, 3250

PHONE 1800 002 262

EMAIL info@ccma.vic.gov.au