



Waterway Protection Program: Participating in waterway restoration works

FACT SHEET 1: Corangamite CMA's Waterway Protection Program offers funding to individuals or groups to complete activities that will restore the health of a waterway.

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 acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners.

Background

The waterways of the Corangamite region are diverse and complex ecosystems and the 'lifeblood' of many communities. They have unique environmental values, providing habitat for native fish, invertebrates and water birds, while supporting extensive vegetation communities. They also have strong cultural and historic significance, are a focal point for recreation and tourism, and provide water for people and industry.

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (Corangamite CMA) as the regional caretaker of waterway health, is responsible for coordinating management actions across

the region, to protect and enhance waterways. This action is guided by the Corangamite Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 which sets out a plan for the conservation and restoration of all water bodies in the region.

To encourage participation in waterway conservation and restoration the Corangamite CMA can provide funding for projects that can improve the health of a waterway and have benefits such as increase water quality, biodiversity, farm productivity, aesthetics, reduce erosion, sediment and nutrient input.

Activities such as fencing to exclude stock, removal of willows and other weeds and protecting or re-establishing indigenous vegetation can be funded.

Project requirements

All projects funded by the Corangamite CMA are required to exclude livestock access from the project area to protect the bank from erosion and avoid contamination from stock

being in or next to the water. There is a minimum buffer requirement, which is an average of 20m and not less than 10m in one spot. As part of an agreement with the dairy industry this buffer can be halved for dairy farms. All projects are required to use indigenous species for revegetation works.

Further details on project requirements and other eligibility criteria that apply to all participants can be viewed in on the Corangamite CMA website in Fact Sheet 2 – Eligibility requirements.

Who can apply

Corangamite CMA seeks to partner with interested farmers, land managers and community groups who are committed to achieving the protection of their local waterways.

If you have property along a waterway, you can express interest at any time by contacting Corangamite CMA or your local Landcare Network. We can then get in touch when funding is available for your area.

How to apply

The CMA runs an application process when funding is available. This process varies and is based on the scale of funding available and which locations it applies to. The CMA may run an advertised expression of interest process for large funding rounds that cover large geographic areas or may approach individual landholders for stewardship improvement works in targeted areas.

Check out the Corangamite CMA website for current opportunities.

The application process includes:

1. **Discussion** with a CMA project officer to determine whether you are eligible and willing to meet the project requirements.
2. **Site visit** - a CMA project officer will come out and discuss the scope and



Willow removal works along the Gellibrand River, during removal (top) and the site recovering 3 years (middle) and 8 years (bottom) after removal.

potential activities, collect environmental data, write a site management plan and cost the potential project.

3. You receive **a draft management plan to review**. Negotiate the proposed scope or activities and check that everything is achievable within the timeframes. Receive a bid sheet showing the maximum amount of funding you could receive to complete the activities in the management plan. For further information on maximum rates and minimum standards for works please view Fact Sheet 3.
4. If you wish to proceed to the evaluation stage, you sign and submit the bid sheet showing how much of the maximum funding you wish to claim.
5. Evaluation – all applicants have their projects evaluated against the criteria set for the funding round. This usually includes a cost benefit analysis looking at site preference, potential river health outcomes and project cost.
6. Successful projects are offered a Landholder Agreement and funding to complete the activities listed in the management plan.

Management agreements

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

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



Evolution of Matthews Creek 1950-2000's. Erosion from historical land clearing (1950's, top), stabilising but damage from stock access (early 2000's, middle), and erosion halted with fencing and then revegetation (mid 2000's, bottom).

Further information

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

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

*healthy and productive lands and waters
cared for by thriving communities*