



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19





As a leader in Natural  
Resource Management  
we will inspire and  
facilitate partnerships  
and action to achieve  
improved catchment  
health.

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Catchment Management Authority 2019.

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The West Gippsland Catchment Management  
Authority would like to acknowledge and pay our  
respects to the Traditional Land Owners and other  
indigenous people within the catchment area: the  
Gunaikurnai, the Bunurong and Boon Wurrung,  
and the Wurundjeri people's. We also recognise the  
contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
people and organisations in Land and Natural  
Resource Management.

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# Overview of the report



## Highlights

### **Delivering Water for Victoria priorities**

During 2018-19 we fenced more than 69.12 kilometres of priority waterways, completed 197.97 hectares of revegetation, removed willows over 113.88 hectares, completed over 1,444,41 hectares of weed control and stabilising riverbeds and banks at 12 sites. This work will help reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering rivers and streams. In addition, we have formed a partnership with recreational angling groups including VR Fish, Australian Trout Foundation and local groups the Sale Fly Fishing Group and Leongatha Angling Club. During 2018-19, joint on-ground projects were delivered including a tree planting day on the Macalister River with over 30 people attending to learn about riparian environments and undertake important revegetation works.

### **Our Catchments, Our Communities**

The Protecting our Ponds project in the Providence Ponds and Perry River catchment continued to gain community support and momentum. A condition assessment was undertaken on a subset of the over 1,000 ponds found within the catchment. We identified more than 16 ponds at most risk of erosion and have begun works with partners to protect them. During 2018-19 we fenced 10 kilometres of chain of ponds waterways, completed over 800 hectares of weed control and planted 38 hectares of vegetation. A key partnership with HVP plantations and Trust for Nature has been developed and work to protect the chain of ponds waterways within the HVP managed estate is well underway.

### **Regional Landcare events**

A range of successful Landcare events were held throughout the year focusing on different projects and audiences. Highlights included an Intrepid Landcare Retreat in East Gippsland involving mountain biking and tree planting at the Colquhoun Mountain Bike Park. Intrepid Gippsland is going from strength to strength, aiming to inspire and empower young people (aged 18 to 35) to become involved in Landcare activities. Another highlight included the Landcare training event held at Wilsons Promontory involving five Landcare networks and WGCMA staff.

### **Supporting the community**

We coordinated the Victorian Landcare Grants which resulted in 32 projects resulting in more than 18 kilometres of fencing, nearly 18,000 indigenous plants and 6.94 hectares of weed control. Our new Community Engagement Network (CEN) was appointed in early 2019 which provides an information exchange between us and different sections of our community. The CEN has 26 community members and meets on a regular basis to learn and discuss various aspects of catchment management.

### **Partnerships with Traditional Owners**

This year, we renewed our MoU with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and signed an MoU with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC). Our ongoing commitment to cultural competency has strengthened communication and engagement with traditional land-owning groups. This commitment has resulted in an increase in work On Country throughout the region with the GLaWAC NRM work crews. We also have provided office space for GLaWAC staff to work from our Traralgon office.

### **Sustainable Irrigation Program**

The Lake Wellington Land and Water Management Plan was finalised in 2019 and provides a 10-year vision for sustainable irrigation and water management in the Lake Wellington catchment. This year the Sustainable Irrigation Program delivered 23 new or updated irrigation farm plans, which will influence 1,067 hectares of land in the Macalister Irrigation District. 28 on-farm irrigation efficiency projects (reuse systems, spray irrigation and best practice surface irrigation) were also completed covering an area of 1,086 hectares, providing estimated water savings of over 2,172 megalitres each year.

### **CORE 4**

The CORE 4 program is a Market Based Instrument (MBI) program that supports dairy farmers to reduce nutrient loss to waterways. In 2018-19 we implemented the CORE 4 program in the Macalister Irrigation District to reduce nutrient loss to the Ramsar-listed Gippsland Lakes. We allocated \$800,000 to 60 on-ground projects. These projects cover more than 10,000 hectares which is almost 20% of the Macalister Irrigation District. Together these projects are expected to save 19,200 kilograms of phosphorus and 104,000 kilograms of nitrogen per year.

### **National Landcare Program**

We were appointed to be the lead service provider for the West Gippsland Management Unit as part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program - Regional Land Partnerships (RLP) Program. Three key projects will be delivered as part of this Program, including the Alpine Peatlands Protection Program, Corner Inlet Connections and the Sustainable Agriculture Project. In addition to these projects, the Program will also support the Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator (RALF) position and our Indigenous Partnership Program. Through our RALF positions this year, we hosted and ran a one-day Managing Climate Risk in Agriculture Conference with over 200 attendees in Warragul. This successful event was funded by the National Landcare Program and included sponsorship from other local businesses and organisations.

### **Water for the environment**

Water for the environment is an important part of improving the health of rivers and wetlands in Gippsland. This year, 36,134 GL of water for the environment was released into the Thomson, Macalister and Latrobe rivers. This water is critical for native plants, fish and other animals. These flows can move sediment and nutrients through rivers, connect habitats and improve water quality. To complement and enhance the water for the environment releases, we successfully constructed the Thomson River Fishway, allowing for low flows around the Horseshoe Bend Tunnel. This exciting project enables connection of the waterway from the Gippsland Lakes to the Alps and provides fish passage for many species of fish including the EPBC-listed Australian Grayling.

## **Challenges**

### **Dry conditions – Wellington and East Gippsland Shires**

Part of the region (encompassing the Wellington and East Gippsland Shires) have experienced on-going dry conditions and were drought declared in 2018-19. As a result, we partnered on several initiatives to support the community including the Drought Employment Program, expansion of the Sustainable Irrigation Program and by providing support to community events.

### **Changing demographics**

Demographics in the region continue to change with an increase in absentee farmers, ageing landowners and urban-based farmers. This means we need to continue to evolve our approaches to engage landholders and support best practices to protect and improve the region's land and water resources.

### **Rural land use**

Increased population growth and urbanisation of rural land continue as people moving away from the city to the coast and countryside. This not only changes the demographics of the area but we are seeing increasing changes in rural land use.

### **Volunteer uncertainty**

The changing demographics of an ageing population may produce more, or fewer, volunteers and the region needs to meet these recruitment and retention challenges in the coming years. The role of Landcare and Waterwatch needs to be understood in this context.

### **Increased expectations**

There continues to be an increase in demand and expectations from individuals and communities wanting to undertake catchment improvement works. Having sufficient funding to support this demand is a challenge.

### **Industry transition**

The closure of Hazelwood power station along with an evolving timber industry will present some unique challenges in relation to land and water management in the years to come. The region is also experiencing an increase in large scale corporate-owned agricultural enterprises (e.g. horticultural and dairy sectors). There continues to be pressure on the dairy sector resulting from a downturn in the markets. This may affect some landholders' ability to engage in environmental restoration activities.

### **Climate change**

Climate change needs to be considered in our natural resource management (NRM) planning and in impact scenario planning. This will be particularly pertinent to coastal inundation, extreme events and water availability.

## **Key initiatives and projects**

We plan and implement initiatives around two key planning and delivery frameworks; our strategic focus is guided by a Board-endorsed five-year strategic plan. Supporting and activating this is our Corporate Plan that provides an annual depiction of programs, initiatives and projects developed and funded by both the state and Australian governments. These all contribute to the Corporate Plan objectives specifically relating to NRM; to manage the region under a 'whole of catchment' model and improve the region's priority landscapes. Key documents such as the Regional Catchment Strategy and the Regional Waterway Strategy support government policy and legislation and help guide funding. These documents are available on our website.

Table 1 (on page 5) is a summary of the key initiatives and projects delivered in 2018-19. This year, we implemented the third year of the four-year Victorian Water Program Investment (EC4) funding agreement. Percentage complete for these projects are based upon annual progress toward the overall four-year program and we expect all projects to be delivered on time in line with contractual obligations. EC4 delivers on state (Water for Victoria and Our Catchments, Our Communities) and regional priorities (Regional Catchment Strategy and Regional Waterway Strategy).

This was the first year of the suite of regional delivery projects funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program (NLP) under the Regional Land Partnerships Program. Three key projects include the Alpine Peatlands Protection Program, Corner Inlet Connections and the Sustainable Agriculture Project. In addition to these projects, it will also support the Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator position and our Indigenous Partnership Program as part of NLP RLP Core Services.

**Table 1: Key projects delivered in 2018/19**

Funding source	Project Name	Percentage complete
Australian Government funding	NLP Regional Land Partnerships (five-year project) – Corner Inlet Connections	20
	NLP Regional Land Partnerships (five-year project) – Alpine Peatlands	20
	NLP Regional Land Partnerships (five-year project) – Sustainable Agriculture	20
	NLP Regional Land Partnerships (five-year project) – Core Services	20
Victorian Water Program Investment Framework	2017-18 Victorian Landcare Grants in WGCMA	100
	WGCMA Statutory Functions	80
	Caretaker of Waterway Health	80
	Waterway Works – Corner Inlet	80
	Waterway Works – Gippsland Lakes and Tributaries	80
	Waterway Works – Other Priority Waterways	80
	WGCMA Strategic Floodplain Management	80
	Rivers 2040 Evaluation Trial Thomson River	80
	Protecting our Ponds	80
	Managing Environmental Water	80
	Thomson River Fish Passage	80
	Community Engagement for Environmental Water	80
	Sustainable Irrigation in WGCMA	80
Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee 2018	Dirty Rivers – reducing sediment to Lake Wellington	50
	CORE 4 – keeping nutrients on farm in Lake Wellington Catchment	50
	Protecting, enhancing and managing the fringing wetlands of Lake Wellington	50
Other state- based funding	VEPP – Cape Liptrap to Bunurong	100
	Biodiversity Response Planning: Bunurong Fox and Rabbit Control	25
	Biodiversity Response Planning: Dutson Downs	25
	Regional Landcare Coordination in West Gippsland	100
	Victorian Landcare Grants in WGCMA 2018-19	75
	Improving Ramsar Site Management – Corner Inlet	50
	CI Ramsar Effectiveness Monitoring Program	25

A summary of the work that has been delivered during the reporting period because of the key projects against DELWP standard outputs is provided in table two on page six. The outputs are recorded spatially by project staff as further evidence of achievement.

**Table 2: Outputs achieved in 2018-19**

Category	Output	Unit of Measure	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Structural works	Water storage	Number	29	29	14	22
	Irrigation infrastructure	Hectares	552	638	153	986
	Waterway structure	Number	-	1	1	-
	Terrestrial structure	Number	-	3	6	2
	Monitoring structure	Number	13	13	19	9
	Fence	Kilometres	69	91	74	87
Environmental works	Vegetation	Hectares	198	292	247	278
	Weed control	Hectares	1,444	1,334	2,350	3,453
	Pest animal control	Hectares	6,869	17,445	2,903	7,897
	Earthworks	Hectares	72	2	16	21
Management services	Water regimes	Number	21	21	10	4
Planning and regulation	Approval and advice	Number	1,345	872	1,269	937
	Management agreement	Number	53	55	39	29
	Assessment	Number	568	474	310	103
	Engagement event	Participants	5,169	2,360	2,772	1,330
	Partnership	Number	53	36	27	38
	Plan	Number	149	129	27	35
	Publication	Number	118	122	52	13
	Information management system	Number	3	3	5	1

## Summary of financial results

The budgeted financial performance for the 2018-19 financial year was a loss of \$1,325,424, comprising of budgeted revenue of \$10,973,640 less budgeted expenditure of \$12,299,064.

Actual revenue for the financial year was 5% over budget, due to additional project and partnership funding received.

Actual expenditure for the financial year was 11% over budget, due to higher than budgeted project expenditure on incentives and on-ground works. This is a timing difference, with works brought forward from future financial years.

**Table 3: Five-year financial summary**

Five-year financial summary	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income from Government	8,565	9,871	10,951	9,852	8,568
Total Income from Transactions	11,406	12,385	13,547	12,298	10,854
Total Expenses from Transactions	13,656	12,545	11,443	11,271	13,161
Net Result from Transactions	(2,250)	(160)	2,104	1,027	(2,307)
Net Result for the Period	(2,161)	(41)	2,121	1,098	(2,178)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	(1,388)	395	2,425	2,201	(1,720)
Total Assets	13,073	17,188	17,032	14,923	13,576
Total Liabilities	2,325	1,954	1,757	1,769	1,624

## Chair and CEO's report

The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority completed its 22nd year as a stable, mature and efficient organisation in one of Australia's most diverse natural resource regions. Together with our partners, from community groups to all forms of government, we continue to achieve meaningful results for our environment. We are an efficient and adaptive organisation which allows us to quickly and competently plan and implement programs and work to improve and protect the region's wonderful natural assets.

As a catchment management authority, we are committed to applying an integrated approach to environmental protection and restoration. This approach has been a major factor in our success and is a common feature of everything we do.

## Governance and support

At the core of our success is an ongoing commitment to working with a contemporary strategy that sets the direction and ensures we stay focused on the job at hand. This year we renewed our Strategic Plan (2019-24). The process ensured both the Board and staff are fully aligned in our approach and we are excited to be able to work together to ensure its delivery in the coming years.

<https://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/WGCMA-StrategicPlan2018-web.pdf>

A constant feature of our approach has been the engagement of energetic local people and organisations to take action that helps ensure future generations and the environment benefit from the wealth of our region's natural resources. While not a new concept, the need for integrated catchment management remains important, particularly in the face of climate change. It is our charter and we are determined to facilitate and coordinate our efforts well into the future.

Reflecting on and learning from the past, we understand that to achieve lasting results we need to nurture a partnership-focused culture, but we remain conscious of our need to be nimble and adaptive.

Leading our efforts is a diverse, skills-based and experienced Board with extensive links to the community. This ensures we are in touch with regional and local community needs, while helping government deliver its policies and programs and meet our statutory obligations.

Our four new board members have now been through a full annual cycle and whilst learning much, they have also made significant contributions to our functions and deliberations.

## Operating environment

Climatic conditions in the region continue to be variable. Lower rainfall is not only a challenge for farmers in our region but also impacts on ecological processes. On the back of lower river flows several estuaries closed their connection to the sea. This is a natural occurrence but does create challenges in striking a balance when considering the need to artificially reopen them.

It seems clear that seasonal variability, linked to climate change, will continue to feature within our region and as such we are developing and adapting plans and strategies to intelligently manage catchment and broader environmental systems subject to change.

Within the region we are seeing a considerable shift in industry. We are watching with interest the impacts of the transition of the Latrobe Valley as coal-driven power stations are phased out. We continue to work with government to understand the impacts as well as manage any changes that do arise that may impact on our waterways.

## Delivering results

Our commitment to delivering programs and initiatives funded by the Victorian and Australian governments continues, examples of these can be found throughout this Annual Report as well as on our continually evolving website, [www.wgcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au)

Progress in delivering the *Regional Waterway Strategy* has gathered significant momentum following the endorsement of key initiatives by the Victorian Government supporting policies articulated in *Water for Victoria* that was released during 2016-17. Playing our role in delivering on a state-wide commitment of \$222 million over four years for waterway health and integrated catchment management has been a major driver in shaping the work we do.

In terms of our organisational focus for the year, much of our work is underpinned by our annual action plan. This year we have achieved 97% delivery of identified actions. This is a testament to the staff who are both focused and professional in their conduct.

This year Victorian Government funding has helped deliver a range of important projects. We also embraced opportunities to deliver programs for the Australian Government as part of the National Landcare Program. These programs augment our long-term focus on Corner Inlet, the Red Gum Grassy Woodlands, Alpine Peatlands and Aboriginal partnerships. Central to these projects, and in demonstration of our partnership commitment culture, is the delivery of many activities by Landcare and other partner organisations.

Notable outputs delivered throughout the year include:

- over 215,483 hectares of weed inspected and treated to protect environmental assets.
- over 345 hectares of vegetation enhancement and protection to support biodiversity and river health outcomes.
- more than 15,487 hectares of land set to benefit from the completion of whole farm plans, irrigation farm plans and soil erosion management plans.
- 2,172 megalitres of on-farm water-saving measures to improve farm productivity and the environment.
- the completion of our annual Spartina control program in Corner Inlet and Anderson Inlet, where over 1,097 hectares of control work was completed.

A key function for us is our role in providing statutory services and advice. In the last financial year, we processed 811 planning permit referrals and requests for flood advice. In addition, we provide support and assistance to ensure appropriate permitting and planning is undertaken to protect waterways and floodplains in the region.

## Mature partnerships

At the core of our successes are the mature partnerships we enjoy with key groups that manage, protect and enhance the region's precious natural resource base.

In terms of our well-established partnerships, our relationship with Traditional Owners continues to grow. Once again it was extremely gratifying to build our organisational cultural competency and work closely with the Traditional Owners of the land and waters we are working hard to protect. Our work with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) is now strongly embedded in our planning and delivery activities. Our relationship with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) continues to grow. A re-signing of a unique MOU with GLaWAC as well as the establishment of a new MOU with Bunurong Land Council were gratifying moments this year.

Our relationship with Landcare remains strong as we support staff, groups and networks in their quest to improve catchment health at a local level. We continue our long-term commitment to provide material and administrative support for Landcare across the region.

This year we reviewed our long-standing advisory group structure and approach. Recognising that interacting with stakeholders is an evolving process we redesigned our approach and have now established a Community Engagement Network. This new format will allow us to involve more community members and hopefully provide a wider selection of experiences and views.

At a state level, it is fulfilling to be part of maturing industry. This year saw Vic Catchments gather momentum after its creation last year. Having ten CMAs working together in a coordinated and focused manner adds great value and drives many efficiencies through shared knowledge and action.

While partnerships are at the core of everything we do, periodically we highlight significant effort made by individuals or groups – this year we had great pleasure in hearing that Kathleen Brack was the recipient of the National Young Landcare Leader Award.

### Looking forward

Looking ahead, the 2019-20 year promises to be an exciting time for natural resource management with the continued delivery of key state policies related to catchment management, water and biodiversity. The establishment of the Marine and Coastal Act will have an impact on the five coastal CMAs and we are ready to extend our capacity in that aspect of business.

The continued roll-out of key policy directions through *Water for Victoria* and *Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037*, as well as *Our Catchments, Our Communities Integrated Catchment Management in Victoria 2016-19* have created opportunities for us and our partners to build on the work done in previous years. It is fulfilling to see this work taking shape in the region and evidence of successful delivery is found throughout this Annual Report.

We remain committed to helping government deliver on policy while maintaining our high standards in project delivery and sound governance at all levels of the organisation. We are also looking forward to delivering initiatives as part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program II as this takes shape.

Finally, we would like to thank our community, partner organisations, staff and Board for their dedication in delivering the many positive outcomes we have achieved over the past twelve months. We look forward to working with you all on the challenges ahead.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* we are pleased to present the *West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's Annual Report* for the year ending 30 June 2019.



Peter Jennings OAM (Chair)



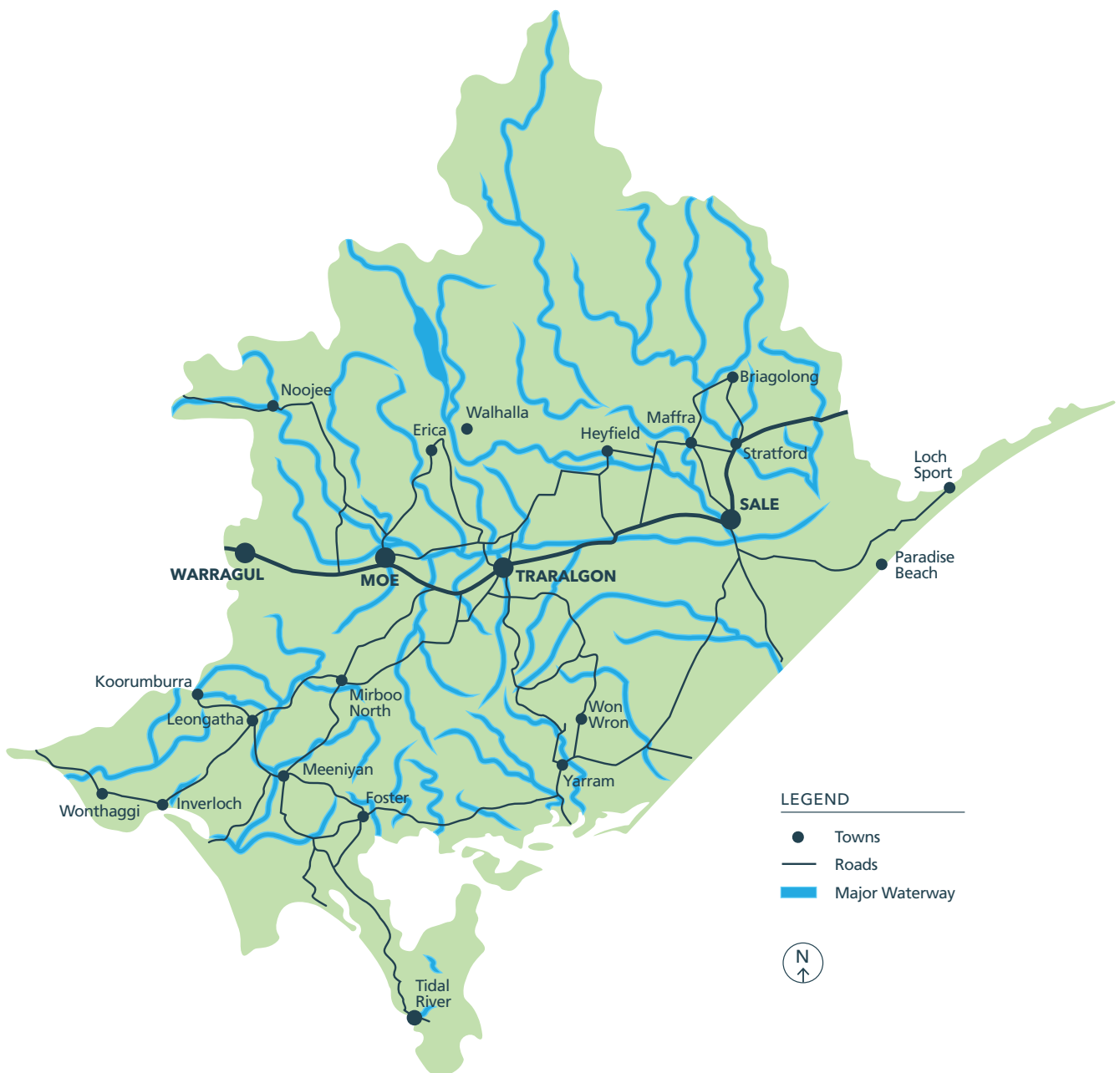
Martin Fuller (CEO)

# About the West Gippsland region



## Overview of the region

Total land area	17,685 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	200,000 approx.
Tenure	46% Public ownership and 54% Private ownership
Highest point	Mt. Howitt 1,738 metres
River basins	Latrobe, Thomson and South Gippsland
Biggest employment sector	Manufacturing, construction and agriculture
Traditional custodians	Gunaikurnai* (Brataualung, Brabralung, Tatungalung, Brayakaulung)  Kulin (Bunurong, Wurundjeri, Boon Wurrung)  <i>*Spelling endorsed by the Gunaikurnai elders in 2012</i>
Municipalities	Latrobe City, Wellington, Baw Baw, South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shire Councils. Plus, small areas of Mansfield and East Gippsland Shire Councils.
Bioregions	Gippsland Plain, Highlands Southern Fall, Strzelecki Ranges, Wilson's Promontory, Victorian Alps, East Gippsland Lowlands
Marine bioregions	Central Victoria, Flinders, Twofold Shelf and Victorian embayments
Wetlands of international importance	Gippsland Lakes and Corner Inlet Ramsar Sites
The region provides	23% of Australia's milk production, most of Victoria's electricity and gas (offshore), and about 60% of Melbourne's water



**Figure 1: West Gippsland region**

## The West Gippsland region and the environment we work in

Integrated catchment management is subject to changing trends due to increased understanding, the ongoing development of new conceptual frameworks, the advent or recognition of new threats and changes in capacity to deal with these as well as existing threats.

Australia is a signatory to several international agreements on the environment and is a Contracted Party to the Ramsar Convention for the protection of wetlands of international significance for migratory wading birds. Australia has 15 intergovernmental agreements on issues such as the environment, salinity and water reform. Policy frameworks are developed by state and federal governments to reflect current thinking and provide interpretation to resource managers at a regional level.

Catchment management authorities have an important role as caretakers of river health and as the manager of the environmental water reserve. These roles and the historic experience operating in long periods of drought, allows us to have a clear focus on understanding water yields and water needs in the region over the coming years.

We are also well-positioned to assist during recovery following natural disasters. Historically the organisation has coordinated recovery efforts relating to both fire and flood. In both instances, we were available to undertake assessment work of damage and work with government to develop programs that can be rolled out to assist in rehabilitation.

The region is also subject to varying social, economic and environmental trends that will affect how Gippsland's natural resource base is managed into the future, including:

- impacts of an expanding peri-urban fringe
- increasing demand for water
- climate change influencing weather patterns, sea levels, flooding and coastal erosion
- managing environmental impacts associated with extractive industries and their rehabilitation
- intensification of the traditional primary industry base
- diversification of agribusiness
- changing economics and politics of agriculture
- industrial restructuring and downsizing
- ageing farming community
- changing land use
- increasing threats from pest plants and animals

The West Gippsland region has a unique landscape consisting of rolling hills, extensive networks of rivers, streams and creeks, wetlands, red gum plains, mountain ranges, vast floodplains and coastal areas. This diversity is attractive to tourism and recreation and the proximity to Melbourne places continual pressure on the environment because of urban expansion.

The region's waterways and aquifers are also being placed under pressure to provide high-quality water to meet the residential demands of Melbourne and the increased use of water for intensive farming, agriculture, urban, power generation and other industrial use.

Gippsland has a variety of primary industries including dairying, forestry, grazing and intensive horticulture. These activities have attracted an increase in secondary and tertiary industries that have significantly contributed to the increase of GDP for the region.

The region also boasts major fossil fuel deposits that are mined to produce most of Victoria's electricity. We work closely with the mining industry to ensure impacts on the region's natural resources, including the coastline, are minimised. At the same time, we work closely with our communities across the region so that we can reflect their views to government on the impacts of continued extraction of fossil fuels and the adoption of alternative sources of energy.

# Catchment reporting







The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and ten Victorian catchment management authorities (CMAs) have worked together to develop an improved framework for annual catchment condition reporting. The state-wide framework includes a set of agreed catchment condition indicators and aims to provide a more consistent approach across Victoria. We adopted the framework for reporting from 2016-17 onward.







This year's report provides a high-level assessment of the condition of waterways, biodiversity, land, coast and community within our region. It is based on the best available data, expert advice and evidence gathered by us and our partners throughout the year. A summary of the catchment condition assessment is provided below for each of the five themes.

It is important to recognise that overall catchment condition changes very slowly over time and catchment-wide assessments are usually only available at irregular and widely spaced intervals.

**Table 4: catchment condition assessment summary**

Theme	Previous 3-year Assessment	Annual Assessment	Summary Condition Assessment 2018-19
<b>Waterways</b>			<p>There have been variable climatic conditions over the past three years, but no specific events or challenges this year to increase concern about the future of managing waterways.</p> <p>Monitoring data is showing good fish migratory and recruitment numbers.</p> <p>Secure investment in waterway health through the Victorian Government's EC4 funding program and cohesive coordination arrangements for the Gippsland Lakes through the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee make us hopeful for the future.</p>
<b>Biodiversity</b>			<p>Although it was a drier than average year, there have not been any extreme events throughout the past three years that might have longer-term consequences.</p> <p>Modelling shows that tree cover across the region has remained relatively stable at around 54 per cent.</p> <p>Discovery of two new sites with resident Growling Grass Frogs in the Gippsland Lakes area is promising.</p> <p>A condition assessment of the chain of ponds waterways undertaken in 2018-19 has found that the Providence Ponds and Perry River catchment contains the most extensive occurrences of Wet Verge Herbland known in Victoria.</p> <p>Overall, supporting ecosystems appear stable, or in a slow decline and there are still pressures on native ecosystems from a range of threats, including pest animals.</p>

**Table 4: catchment condition assessment summary** *continued...*

Theme	Previous 3-year Assessment	Annual Assessment	Summary Condition Assessment 2018-19
<b>Land</b>			<p>This was a drier than average year but there were no major fires, flood or pest outbreaks throughout the past three years that might have long term consequences.</p> <p>The annual percentage of exposed soil in the region has remained relatively low for the past three years at around five per cent.</p> <p>Sustainable-agriculture-focused programs have been well attended and there has been an increase in area covered by landholder agreements, management plans and land under formal covenants.</p> <p>A continuing trend towards large scale horticulture and urban expansion may result in increased soil exposure and run off.</p>
<b>Coasts</b>			<p>The continuing demand for urban expansion along the coast places pressure on coastal habitats that are not protected within formal parks and reserves.</p> <p>An increase in coastal erosion has been observed during the last three years.</p> <p>Monitoring and management of pest plants and animals in the coastal and marine environments are generating positive results.</p> <p>An improvement in estuary closure management over the past year has resulted in no coastal urban inundation.</p>
<b>Community</b>			<p>Participation in on-ground works increased this year.</p> <p>There has also been an increase in the percentage of Landcare groups categorised as 'Rolling along smoothly' and 'Moving forward' in Landcare group health scores this year.</p>

## Management of land and water resources

### Waterways

#### The condition of rivers, wetlands and estuaries

Waterways in the West Gippsland region are of high environmental, social, economic and cultural value. They provide important habitat for a range of plants and animals including places of refuge in times of drought. Our waterways support community values which include the supply of water for industrial, agricultural and domestic use and recreational pursuits such as kayaking, bird watching and fishing. The Gunaikurnai, Bunurong and Boon Wurrung peoples have a strong cultural connection to waterways across the region.

In the north of the region the Thomson, Macalister, Avon and Perry rivers flow from alpine areas and the forested slopes of the Great Dividing Range. The Thomson and Macalister rivers have their flow regulated in the mid- to upper-catchments by the major storages of Thomson Reservoir (primarily for Melbourne's domestic supply) and Lake Glenmaggie (for the Macalister Irrigation District). Further downstream on the Thomson River, Cowwarr Weir also diverts water for the Macalister Irrigation District (MID).

The Avon and Perry rivers in the far east of the region are unregulated. The upstream reaches of the Avon River flow through wilderness areas before entering land used for grazing and irrigated horticulture. The Perry River is a chain of ponds waterway and is ephemeral for much of its length. The Perry joins the Avon River upstream of the estuary and then flows to Lake Wellington.

In the central part of the region is the Latrobe River. The catchment of the Latrobe River features vast tracts of forest through the Strzelecki Ranges and the Great Dividing Range, where tributary streams rise and flow to the Latrobe River and ultimately to Lake Wellington. The main types of land use include agriculture and mining for brown coal, used at major thermal power stations to produce electricity. Blue Rock Dam and Moondarra Reservoir are two major storages on tributaries of the Latrobe River, with Lake Narracan located on the Latrobe itself just upstream of the Yallourn power station.

In South Gippsland, the waterways are short and flow from the Strzelecki and Hedley ranges through productive agricultural land as well as areas of high conservation value (including Wilsons Promontory and the Tarra Bulga National Park). The major rivers of South Gippsland include the Powlett, Tarwin, Franklin, Agnes, Albert and Tarra rivers. Further east are Bruthen and Merriman creeks. All the South Gippsland rivers are unregulated; however, there are a number of off-stream storages in the Tarwin and Powlett river catchments and off-takes for domestic township water supply on several rivers and creeks.

Over 1,500 wetlands larger than one hectare are in our region. Together they total more than 44,000ha. We have several significant wetlands and wetland complexes, including two internationally important Ramsar sites (Corner Inlet and Gippsland Lakes) and 11 sites listed as nationally important under the *Directory of Important Wetlands Australia*.

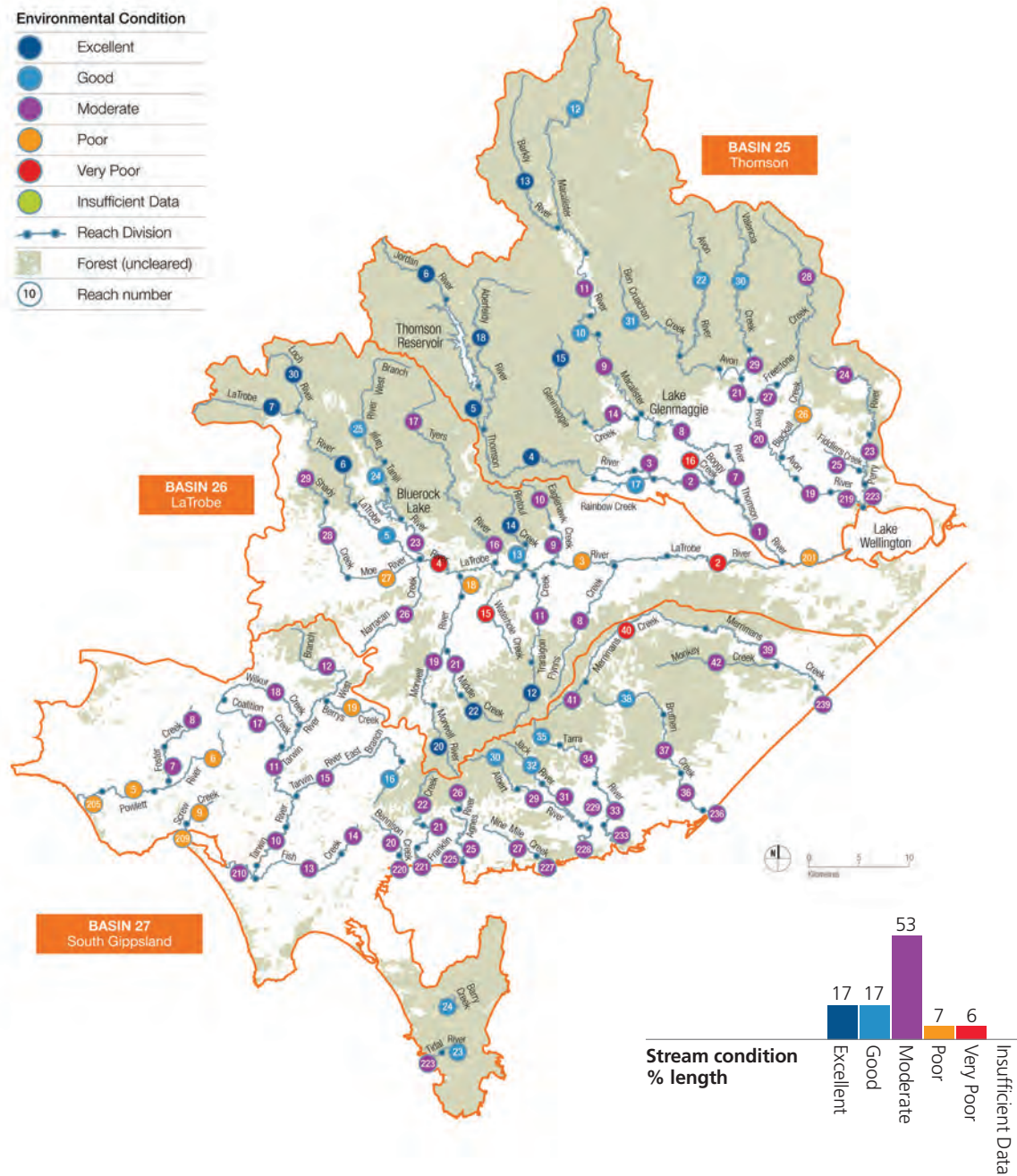
Estuaries located along the region's coastline include brackish mouths of rivers and streams that flow into the ocean or a large embayment (Corner Inlet), coastal barrier lagoons (Jack Smith Lake, Gippsland Lakes) and inlets (Anderson and Shallow inlets).

The environmental condition of waterways is dependent upon habitat, water regimes, water quality, vegetation and connectivity. External factors including land use, urban development, recreational activities, extraction of water, extreme events (drought, floods and bushfires) and climate change can all directly influence the environmental condition and values of waterways.

### Waterways Benchmark – The Index of Stream Condition

The environmental condition of rivers in Victoria is assessed using the Index of Stream Condition (ISC) benchmarking tool. The ISC brings together data from a variety of sources to give a detailed overview of river and stream conditions across the state. The ISC examines five sub-indices: hydrology (flow regimes), streamside zone (native vegetation extent, condition and weeds), physical form (bank stability, woody debris and artificial barriers), water quality and aquatic life (macroinvertebrates).

The third and most recent ISC benchmarking exercise was undertaken in 2010. The overall results for West Gippsland indicate that 34% of the stream lengths assessed were in excellent to good condition, with 53% in moderate condition (see Figure 1 on page 15). Forty-nine per cent of the reaches that were assessed demonstrated an overall improvement in condition between 2004 and 2010.



**Figure 3: West Gippsland Index of Stream Condition Results**

- Over half (55%) of the stream length in the Thomson basin was found to be in good or excellent condition. Of the remainder, 41% of stream length was in moderate condition and just 3% and 1% in poor and very poor condition respectively.
- One-third (34%) of the stream length in the LaTrobe basin was in good or excellent condition, with a further 44% in moderate condition, 9% in poor condition and 13% in very poor condition.
- Almost three-quarters (74%) of the stream length in the South Gippsland basin was in moderate condition. Of the remainder, 10% was in good condition, 10% was in poor condition and 5% was in very poor condition. Only 0.4% (representing one reach) of stream length was found to be in excellent condition.



### Waterways Benchmark – The Index of Wetland Condition

The Index of Wetland Condition (IWC) assesses the condition of Victoria’s wetlands. The IWC has 13 variables that measure six aspects of wetland condition including the wetland catchment, physical form, hydrology, water properties, soils and biota. Assessments in West Gippsland were conducted in 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2018-19. 117 wetlands have been assessed using the IWC. Of the sites assessed, the majority were in moderate to good condition (28 and 58 respectively), 18 were in excellent condition and 13 were in poor to very poor condition. Wetlands in the moderate to very poor categories had much lower scores for the catchment and hydrology sub-indexes. This may be attributed to drought conditions experienced in 2009-10 and pressure from surrounding land use. It is important to note that the wetlands assessed only represent a small percentage of existing wetlands within the region.

### Waterways Benchmark – The Index of Estuary Condition

A consistent method for assessing the environmental condition of Victorian estuaries has been developed by DELWP. The Index of Estuary Condition (IEC) consists of five themes: physical form, hydrology, water quality, flora and fauna. Victorian estuaries are being monitored between 2017 and 2020 to deliver the first state-wide IEC assessment.

**Table 5: 2018-19 Annual Waterways Condition Assessment**

Waterways Assessment			
Overall Rating	Previous 3-year assessment	Annual Assessment	Condition Assessment 2018-19
Positive			An optimistic future with evidence that events during the year will have a positive impact in the long term.

#### Reasons for assessment:

- Below-average rainfall again in 2018-19.
- Decreased annual river inflow compared to last year.
- Variable climatic conditions over the past three years.
- No moderate or major flood events.
- Several fires occurred in more remote areas of the region during summer this year.
- Drought conditions in the east of the region.
- Monitoring data is showing good fish migratory and recruitment numbers.
- Secure investment in waterway health for the next financial year through the Victorian Government’s EC4 funding program.
- Successful delivery of environmental flow releases and implementation of strategic waterway project.
- Dry conditions were less favourable than last year for establishing riparian revegetation throughout the year.
- Cohesive coordination arrangements for the Gippsland Lakes through the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee.

## Program Highlights

### **Delivering Water for Victoria priorities**

This year's annual regional waterway program, our core waterway health program, delivered some key programs aligned to the Water for Victoria priorities. These are listed below.

### **Regional Riparian Action Plan Landcare Partnerships**

We partnered with South Gippsland Landcare Network, Yarram Yarram Landcare Network and the Bass Coast Landcare Network to deliver on-ground riparian projects on waterways throughout the region including Tarwin River (Black Spur), Powlett River and Albert River (Hiawatha) and Golden Creek. Works included over two hectares of revegetation, 4.3 kilometres of fencing and 7.6 hectares of weed control.

### **Flagship waterways**

As part of the state-wide trial of the Rivers 2040 framework, we selected the Thomson River between Cowwarr Weir and Macalister River confluence as our pilot site. This project aims to complete two key objectives: a natural riparian corridor from the Gippsland Lakes to the Alps and address future avulsion risks of Rainbow Creek. In 2018-19, this project engaged with five key landholders and completed works which included more than seven kilometres of fencing to protect the Thomson River and significant billabongs, willow control works and planting several thousand plants. In addition, the development of a Rainbow Creek Management Plan commenced and will be developed collaboratively with local community/landholders and agencies.

### **Headwater willow control**

In 2018-19 the far upper reaches of the Jack and Albert Rivers, Aberfeldy and Thomson Rivers have been targeted as part of a four-year program to tackle willow infestations. In 2018-19, over 200 kilometres of willow inspection and weed control (where needed) were completed. The program aims to remove willows in the headwaters and therefore protects riverbanks downstream from re-infestation.

### **Lake Wellington integrated NRM**

Funded through the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee, we've been working in partnership with Greening Australia, Trust for Nature, GLaWAC, Parks Victoria, Latrobe Catchments Landcare Network and GippsDairy to reduce nutrients and sediments reaching the Gippsland Lakes. The program also aims to protect and enhance the fringing wetlands of Lake Wellington. Works delivered as part of this program include:

- Supporting dairy farmers in the Macalister Irrigation District to retain nutrients on farm.
- Protecting riparian vegetation through fencing.
- Revegetation and weed control on key sites.
- Protecting and improving fringing wetlands of Lake Wellington.

### **Protecting our Ponds**

The Providence Ponds and Perry River catchment is unique as it hosts one of the most intact pond systems in Australia. Chain of Ponds waterways were once common across south-eastern Australia and are now very rare. Rare and threatened plant species were found this year as part of a field-based assessment of the Chain of Ponds waterways near Munro.

As part of an assessment of the ponds' condition, nine rare or threatened plant species, previously not known to be in the area, were found. These include several species of Fireweed, a range of herbs such as rare Winged Water-Starwort, Eastern Bitter-cress and Pale Swamp Everlasting, as well as River Swamp Wallaby-grass and the small Grey Scentbark tree.

Ecologists from Pathways Bushland and Environment undertook an inventory and then designed and implemented a field-based assessment of the ponds' current condition. Over 1,000 ponds of various sizes were identified and mapped in the catchment area and a subset was then rated, based on the Index of Wetland Condition method.

The overall condition rating of our Chain of Ponds system was Good, which reflects their relatively intact nature. Unfortunately, due to historic land-use changes and the current impact of deer, the vegetation component was rated as Poor to Moderate.

### ***Thomson River Fishway***

The Thomson River Fishway was successfully constructed in 2018-19 to allow for fish passage around Horseshoe Bend. The commissioning and completion of the fishway occurred in the 2019-20 financial year. Creating fish passage on this part of the Thomson River has been a long collaborative process with many stakeholders and delivers on one of the Victorian Government's priorities in the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (2013).

### ***Flexible approach to water for the environment***

Low rainfall and the impact of drought required a different approach to water releases this year. Our usual Water for the Environment program would see the Thomson, Macalister and Latrobe rivers have an autumn environmental flow which would see higher flows of water released into the system. After researching and consulting experts in river health we have chosen for all three rivers to only receive enough water to maintain river health in these dry conditions.

While a normal autumn environmental flow would aim to promote fish spawning, autumn flows this year were about protecting river health. This was identified as a way to protect aquatic flora and fauna and allow instream vegetation to remain wetted, allow water bugs to move around their habitats and maintain the water quality and critical ecological processes.

A total of 36.134 GL of water was released this year.

## Waterways case study – work on farm to protect Corner Inlet

More than 25,000 trees planted at a Toora North property to help stop erosion in its steep gullies are having a flow-on effect to improve seagrass and fish habitat in Ramsar-listed Corner Inlet.

According to West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's (WGCMA) Project Delivery Coordinator, Richard Allen, the project is one of the largest in the Corner Inlet catchment.

"There are three extremely steep gullies on the property which are difficult to farm," said Richard.

"When we visited the property, you could see water streaming down the gullies, gathering dirt and delivering it straight into the Agnes River. This project is going to change that."

The three gullies, covering ten hectares, have been fenced and a mixture of indigenous trees have been planted. These will have the combined effect of holding dirt and sediment in place while also creating new habitat for native wildlife.

"A 15-metre buffer along the bank of the river has also been fenced and planted out," continued Richard. "This helps filter any sediment and nutrients out of the water before it reaches the river, improving water quality and stopping these sediments reaching Corner Inlet.

"Before planting out the river there were some massive willows that needed to be removed. This was done with heavy machinery due to the size of them. Willows contribute to erosion and choke up the river. The new mix of indigenous trees will create a wildlife-friendly habitat.

"We're very lucky that the new property owners have seen this work as a priority and are partnering with us to help protect the river and ultimately Corner Inlet."

The property was originally a dairy farm and new owners Trevor and Elissa are keen to rehabilitate the steep slopes and turn it back to a more natural site.

"We're excited, both for the contribution to our natural environment and lifestyle," said Elissa.

"We look forward to watching the trees grow, provide habitat for our native animals and shelter from the elements for our stock and ourselves."

The 40-hectare property near the Toora wind farm is one of many helping to protect Corner Inlet as part of the Australian Government-funded Corner Inlet Connections program. Weeds have been removed and native trees planted across almost 15 hectares of the farm.

Corner Inlet is one of the most unique natural wonderlands in Australia supporting outstanding environmental values.

It is home to the amazing marine and coastal parks of Corner Inlet and Nooramunga, as well as the unique intertidal mudflats and barrier islands west of 90 Mile Beach.



## Biodiversity

### The condition of native habitat and the health of native species

West Gippsland is floristically diverse, with six of Victoria's 22 terrestrial bioregions represented in the region: all the Wilsons Promontory bioregion and most of the Strzelecki Ranges bioregion occur in West Gippsland. The Gippsland Plain bioregion is the most extensive bioregion and has been heavily impacted by historic clearing for agriculture, industry and settlement. The Highlands Southern Fall bioregion is the second most extensive and is mostly within public land in State Forests and Parks. The northern boundary cuts through the Alps bioregion and a small part of the East Gippsland Lowlands bioregion is encompassed on the eastern boundary of the region.

Four of the five Victorian marine bioregions are represented in the West Gippsland region: Central Victoria (San Remo to Cape Liptrap); Flinders (Wilson's Promontory to the western extent of the Ninety Mile Beach); Twofold Shelf (from the western extent of Ninety Mile Beach eastwards); and Victorian embayments (bays, inlets and estuaries).

While the region is home to diverse terrestrial, marine and aquatic flora and fauna species, many of these are threatened. Over 105 fauna and flora species listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and 193 of Victoria's threatened species formally listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act) have been recorded in the region. There is a high representation of endangered, rare and vulnerable ecological vegetation classes (EVC) across the region.

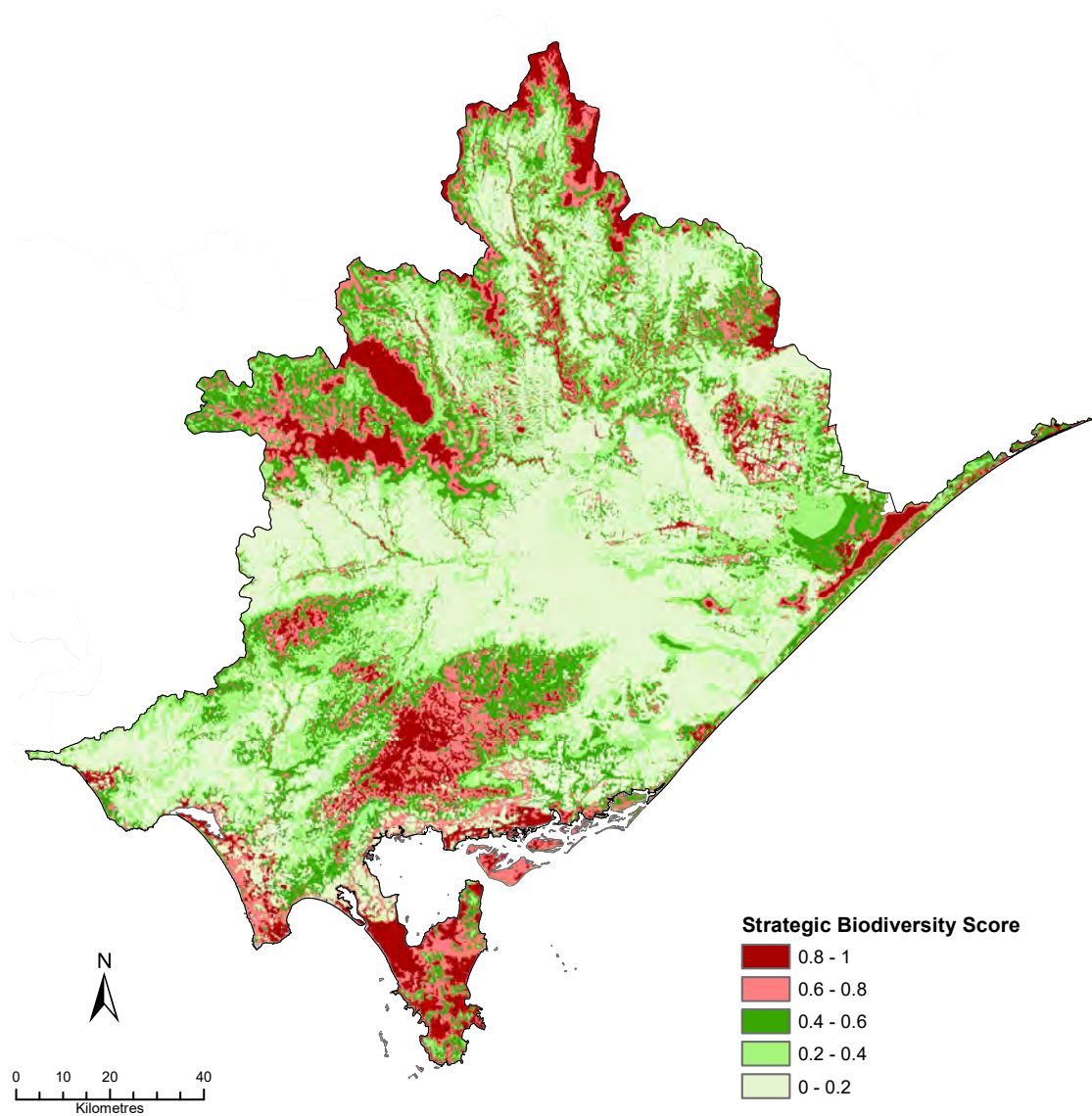
Approximately 48% of pre-1750 native vegetation cover remains, much of which is in a fragmented or degraded state. Most remaining native vegetation is located within public land, with very good native vegetation cover in the upper catchment areas. Conversely, native vegetation extent is classified as poor to moderate in the lower reaches of our catchments.

Habitat hectare assessments indicate native vegetation site conditions range from very poor to good. Sites in poorer condition are generally closer to towns (such as Wonthaggi, Leongatha and Stratford) and within areas of intense agricultural production.

A range of challenges can impact the condition of biodiversity within the West Gippsland region. These include fragmentation and lack of connectivity of remnant vegetation, reduced extent and condition of flora and fauna communities, competition from invasive plants and animals, urban development and climate change. Ongoing protection and restoration work is required to build the resilience of EVCs throughout the region for their survival into the future.

### Biodiversity Benchmark – Strategic Biodiversity Score

The biodiversity benchmark condition assessment is based upon Strategic Biodiversity Score mapping developed by DELWP. The mapping is based on multiple spatial models of vegetation condition, ecosystem types, rare and threatened species distribution and habitat and landscape context. Priority areas for biodiversity protection are identified based on the level of importance of natural values in that location. The scoring ranges from 0 to 1.0, where 1.0 represents areas of highest biodiversity value.



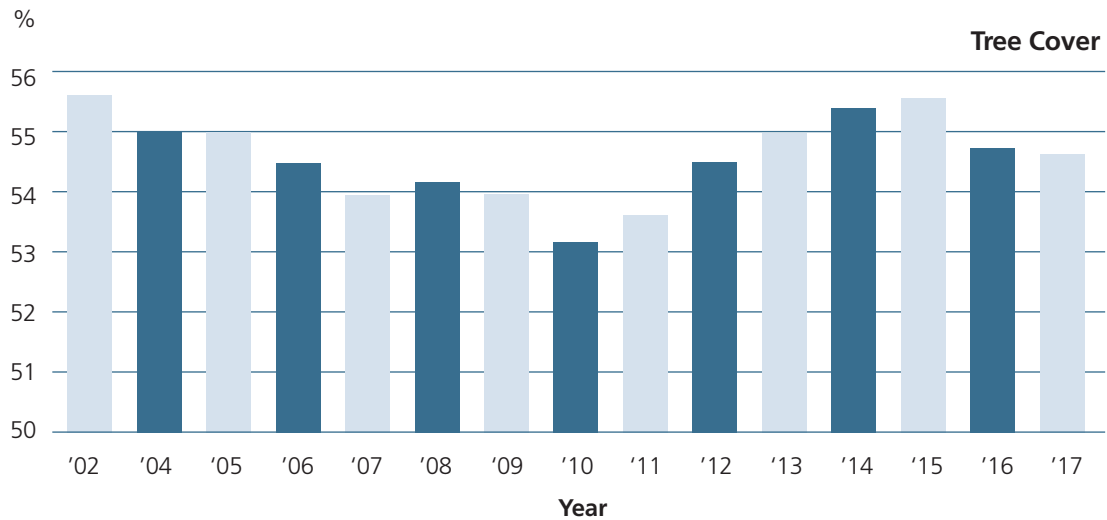
**Figure 3 Strategic Biodiversity Scores for the West Gippsland Region**

Large areas of high biodiversity value are found within the region, many of which are located within formal parks and conservation reserves on public land. Native forests, coastal and wetland environments, along with riparian zones provide important habitat and corridors for many flora and fauna species. Areas of lower biodiversity value are generally located in areas that have been historically cleared for agriculture, settlement and industry.

While there is significant revegetation and remnant protection work occurring throughout the region, fragmentation remains a significant threat to the overall condition of biodiversity.

### Biodiversity Benchmark – Percentage tree cover



Research conducted by the Australian National University indicates that the percentage of tree cover across the region has remained relatively stable between 2002 and 2017 (averaging around 54.5% cover).



**Figure 4: Percentage of Tree Cover in West Gippsland**

Per cent of area classified as forest at 25 metre resolution mapping using Landsat imagery following the NCAS classification. Source: Van Dijk, Albert. I.J.M., Summers, David (2016) Australia’s Environment Explorer, The Australian National University (<http://www.ausenv.online>)  
DOI: 10.4225/41/5934faf27397b

**Table 5: 2018-19 Annual Biodiversity Condition Assessment**

Overall Rating	Previous 3-year assessment	Annual Assessment	Condition Assessment 2018-19
Neutral			A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the long term.

### Reasons for assessment:

- Dry conditions were less favourable than last year for establishing riparian revegetation.
- Small gains were made due to revegetation and vegetation protection programs.
- Small losses due to urban development.
- Landscape-scale initiatives focused on the Bunurong Coast, Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Alpine Peatland communities throughout the past five years.
- Improved regional planning through the Biodiversity Response Planning (rollout of Biodiversity 2037) process leading to the development of several strategic projects delivered in 2018-19.
- Drought conditions impacted the eastern part of the region this year.
- Several summer bushfires impacting public and private land across the region.
- No major floods or pest outbreaks throughout the year.
- Implementation of targeted pest, plant and animal programs by a range of partners.
- Anecdotal evidence of increasing numbers and range of pest animals, i.e. deer.
- Anecdotal evidence of climate change impacts (e.g. species composition changes and geographic spread).

### Program Highlights

#### **Alpine Peatlands**

This was the first year of a five-year National Landcare Program RLP project to protect the EPBC listed Alpine Peatlands community from high priority threats and is a continuation of the previous five-year program. The project continues over ten years of investment by Parks Victoria and was developed in partnership with Parks Victoria and four other CMAs. Project work included willow and weed removal and the development of fire management plans. Information sessions targeted park user groups and an informal volunteer surveillance network was developed.

#### **VEPP Cape Liptrap to Bunurong Project**

This project is funded by the Victorian Environment Partnership Program (VEPP) and delivered in partnership with the South Gippsland Landcare Network. This was the final year of a five-year project to use market-based instruments to fund priority projects aimed at protecting, enhancing and connecting high-quality remnant vegetation in the Cape Liptrap and Bunurong areas. Project work included fencing remnant bushland, revegetation and weed control works with private landholders.

#### **BRP: Bunurong and Dutson Down Projects**

The implementation of the Biodiversity 2037 Plan commenced through the Gippsland Biodiversity Response Planning process and led to the funding of several projects throughout the region. We were funded to deliver two three-year projects: *Bunurong*, a partnership project with South Gippsland Landcare Network, Parks Victoria and Trust for Nature to undertake fox and rabbit control from Tarwin Lower through to Cape Liptrap and *Dutson Downs*, a partnership with Gippsland Water to work with GLaWAC to undertake threatened species protection work at Dutson Downs.

## Biodiversity case study

### Outfoxed

Any foxes or rabbits contemplating a sea change might want to reconsider their options, due to a new program being introduced along the Bunurong Coast.



The South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) has signed a contract with the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) to deliver a three-year fox and rabbit control program worth almost \$1 million. By June 2021, the program will have covered 16,000 Ha of coast from Venus Bay to Walkerville.

“This program should deliver a significant boost to the survival rate of native flora and fauna living along the coast,” said Martin Fuller, CEO of the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

“Landcare will work with public and private landowners to roll out the program and it will build on existing pest animal programs on public and private land.”

The program is funded by the Victorian Government as part of its Biodiversity Strategy. Farmers with existing pest control programs will be encouraged to continue these, with the assistance of the program.

“Community groups such as Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula, the Tarwin Lower Landcare Group and Walkerville Friends Group are just a few of the interested community people wanting to make a change,” said Mr Fuller.

“SGLN will deliver the project management and on-ground works through a number of avenues including volunteers, contractors, local experts and consultants.”

### What's at stake?

The Bunurong Coast supports a variety of nectar-feeding birds, while the open forests are important for hollow-dependent species such as the threatened Powerful Owl. 17 species of waders using Anderson Inlet are covered under international migratory bird agreements.

The Hooded Plover, a nationally vulnerable species listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, lives and breeds on the beaches. The orange-bellied Parrot, a critically endangered species also listed under the Act, has been recorded near Point Smythe.

Threatened mammals include the Swamp Antechinus, a heathland species, and a breeding colony of Common Bent-wing Bats.

Glenn Brooks-MacMillan, Coordinator of the South Gippsland Landcare Network said detailed planning of the project is currently underway.

“While pest animal management in this region has been active for some time, this recent injection of valuable resources will reinvigorate and help resource new landowners and groups to continue the great work.

“We will be calling on the community in the area for their expert knowledge and skills to help deliver this important program.”

This project has been funded by the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Response Planning program.

## Land

### The condition of the environment and long-term productivity

Soils are moderately well-structured across the West Gippsland region and support a range of natural ecosystems and agricultural enterprises. A large proportion of private land within the region is used for agricultural, industrial and residential purposes, with fertile soils dedicated to grazing, cropping and irrigated seasonal horticulture.

The condition of our soil and land is threatened by a range of processes including landslides, various types of erosion, soil structure decline, acidification and salinity. Erosion is a challenge in the steep slopes areas of the region including the Strzeleckis and Alpine areas. Naturally occurring (primary) salinity is present within the catchment. Induced salinity (secondary salinisation) occurs because of human activities. These activities have modified the landscape and the natural process, influencing the salt distribution. Approximately 24% (135,000ha) of private land has been assessed as being at high or very high risk of gully and tunnel erosion using a Land Use Impact Model (LUIM). Tunnel erosion is a hazard historically associated with vegetation clearing on steep slopes in areas such as the Strzelecki Ranges. Sheet, rill and bank erosion are other potentially threatening processes. Soils generally have a low susceptibility to wind erosion except for a few localised high-risk areas around Waratah Bay, the upper Powlett River, Nine Mile Creek, Screw Creek and Pound Creek. The Corner Inlet, west Strzelecki and north Strzelecki priority management areas are at most risk of all types of erosion. These form part of the *West Gippsland Soil Erosion Management Plan* target areas for prevention and treatment over 20 years.

Potential causes of salinity include land clearing, irrigation and seawater intrusions to low lying tidal floodplains. Significant areas of land at high salinity risk (with water tables less than two metres) occur in areas outside the Macalister Irrigation District, particularly in low lying coastal areas of South Gippsland that are predominantly used for dryland grazing. In these areas management interventions such as revegetation and the use of perennial pastures assist in preventing salt from rising to the surface and reducing the impacts of salinity discharge. Groundwater bores strategically located throughout the region are monitored by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) to assess groundwater levels and trends over time.

Acid sulphate soils are a risk in areas along the Bunurong Coast and within Corner Inlet, particularly in and around the saltmarsh, mudflat and mangrove environments. While acid sulphate soils are generally harmless when undisturbed, if they are excavated or drained the naturally occurring sulphides in the soil react with oxygen in the air to form sulphuric acid. This acid can kill plants and animals and contaminate drinking water and food sources such as shellfish.

Invasive plant and animal species continue to be a threatening process to land health including Paterson's Curse, Ragwort, Gorse, Blackberry, Serrated Tussock and African Lovegrass. Foxes, rabbits and deer are the predominant invasive animal species found across the region.

Government, conservation and community groups are working together to protect the region's soil and land while also maintaining long term agricultural productivity, opportunities for recreation and protection of important cultural values. Formal conservation parks and reserves, covenants, landholder agreements and management plans are all key tools used to help improve or conserve the condition of public and private land within the West Gippsland region.

## Land Benchmark – Land managed for conservation

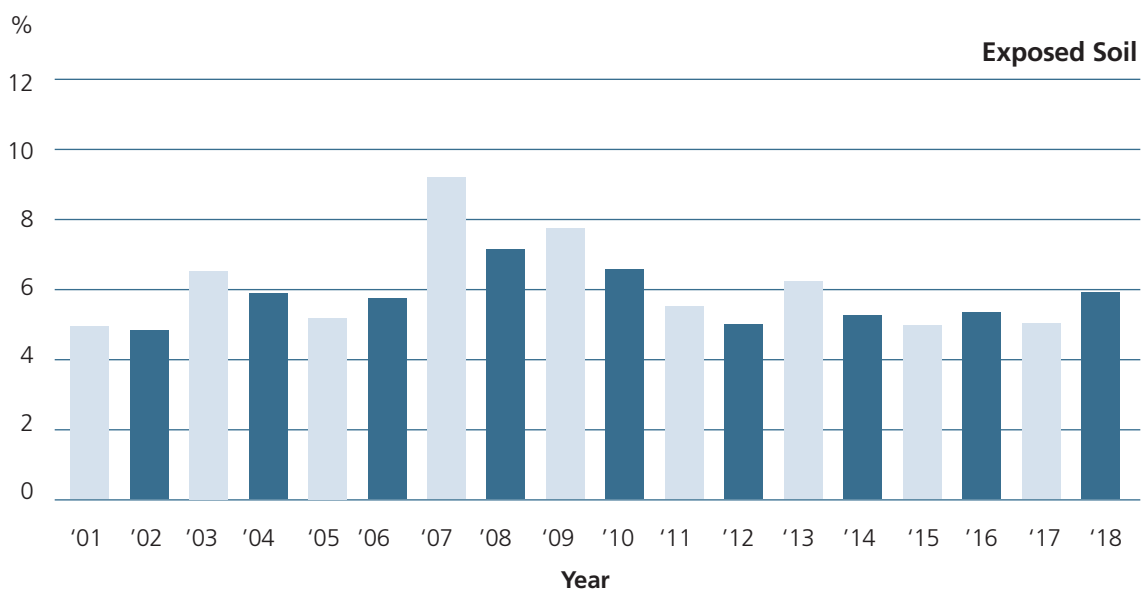
**Table 6: Area of Land Managed for Conservation**

Protection Type	Area Covered (ha)	Additional Area This Year (ha)
National parks*	143,347	11
State parks*	18,101	0
Trust for Nature covenants	6528	230
Trust for Nature owned properties	726	0
Landholder agreements, Sustainable Irrigation Program Farm Plans and Soil Erosion Management Plans	74,620	15,975
Other*	535,081	13,977

\* Data from Public Land Management dataset. 'Other' includes Coastal Reserve, Forest Park, Natural Features Reserve, Nature Conservation Reserve, NPA Schedule 3 Other Park, NPA Schedule 4 Park or Reserve, Regional Park, State Forest, Uncategorised Public Land, Wilderness Park.



## Land benchmark – Land cover

Research conducted by the Australian National University indicates that the annual percentage of exposed soil in the West Gippsland region, which is unprotected by living vegetation, has remained relatively low since 2001 (below 10%) (Figure 5). There was an increase in exposed soils in 2007, which was at the peak of the "Millennium Drought" (2001–09).

**Figure 5 Percentage of Exposed Soil in West Gippsland**

Annual mean percentage of soil unprotected by living vegetation or litter, derived from CSIRO mapping based on NASA MODIS imagery by the OzWALD model-data fusion system. Source: Van Dijk, Albert. I.J.M., Summers, David (2016) Australia's Environment Explorer, The Australian National University (<http://www.ausenv.online>) DOI: 10.4225/41/5934faf27397b

**Table 7: 2018-19 Annual Land Condition Assessment**

Land Assessment			
Overall Rating	Previous 3-year assessment	Annual Assessment	Condition Assessment 2018-19
Neutral			A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.

### Reasons for assessment:

- This was a drier than average year, with parts of the West Gippsland CMA region being drought declared.
- Several fires throughout the region in more remote areas during summer.
- No major flood or pest outbreaks.
- The region has experienced variable climatic conditions over the past three years.
- There have been no significant changes in land tenure through the designation of new parks or reserves.
- Increase in area covered by landholder agreements and management plans.
- An increase in area of land under formal covenants.
- Successful landholder engagement in sustainable-agriculture-focused programs (e.g. Fert\$mart, Healthy Soils, Sustainable Irrigation Program, CORE 4).
- Pressure on the dairy sector resulting from a downturn in markets. This may affect some farmer's ability to engage in environmental restoration activities.
- Anecdotal evidence of increased population and range of pest animals (particularly deer) across the region.
- The continuing trend of changes in land use toward large scale horticulture (increased soil exposure) and urban expansion (increased runoff).

### Program Highlights

#### Sustainable Irrigation Program

The renewal of the Lake Wellington Land and Water Management Plan was finalised and provides a 10-year vision for sustainable irrigation and water management in the Lake Wellington catchment. This year the Sustainable Irrigation Program delivered 23 new or updated Irrigation Farm Plans which will influence 1,067 hectares of land in the Macalister Irrigation District. Twenty-eight on-farm irrigation efficiency projects (reuse systems, spray irrigation and best practice surface irrigation) were also completed covering an area of 1,086 hectares, providing estimated water savings of over 2,172 megalitres each year.

#### CORE 4

The CORE 4 program is a Market Based Instrument (MBI) program that supports dairy farmers to reduce nutrient loss to waterways. In 2018-19 we implemented the CORE 4 program in the Macalister Irrigation District to reduce nutrient loss to the Ramsar-listed Gippsland Lakes. \$800,000 was allocated to 60 on-ground projects which commenced in 2018-19. These projects cover more than 10,000 hectares which is almost 20% of the Macalister Irrigation District. Together these projects are expected to save 19,200 kilograms of phosphorus and 104,000 kilograms of nitrogen per year.

### **Fert\$mart**

In 2018-19, 84 dairy farm businesses were engaged in a Fert\$mart program to develop whole-farm nutrient management plans. This program identifies optimum fertiliser requirements resulting in improved profitability and production while decreasing the risk of excess nutrients entering waterways. Fert\$mart was delivered in partnership with GippsDairy, Gippsland Water, local agronomists and landholders in several priority areas throughout the region including the Anderson Inlet and Tanjil catchments.

## **Land case study**

### **Wins for all under new land and water plan**

Irrigators, local rivers and the Gippsland Lakes are all winners under a new plan in the heart of the Macalister Irrigation District,

More than 50 people including local irrigators and representatives from government agencies, were on hand to launch the Lake Wellington Land and Water Management Plan.

The plan aims to improve farm productivity and profitability, while protecting the waterways and lakes in Gippsland's premier irrigation region.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), in partnership with Southern Rural Water (SRW) and Agriculture Victoria, developed the Lake Wellington Land and Water Management Plan with extensive input from the local irrigation community, industry and government.

Chief Executive Officer, Martin Fuller, said the document sets out a 10-year plan for how to manage irrigation farms.

"This is a real plan to improve the productivity and profitability of farms and care for the environment," Mr Fuller said.

"It's forward-looking and lays out the programs we want to run with and for farmers."

Local irrigators Graeme Anderson, Kate Mirams and Casey and Jason Birmingham had input into the plan and were part of a discussion panel at the launch. Michael Evans, Farm Manager at Mulgowie Farming Co was also part of the panel. They were joined by Gavin Prior (Southern Rural Water) and Gavan Lamb, who worked for the Sustainable Irrigation Program for 20 years.

The panel discussed changes to the region and shared their experience as irrigators.

The Lake Wellington Land and Water Management Plan replaces the existing Macalister Land and Water Management Plan.

"There have been a lot of changes in water use efficiency since the Macalister Plan was developed 10 years ago and irrigators have made a lot of positive changes in the way they manage farms," said SRW Managing Director Cameron FitzGerald.

"Modernisation has provided the opportunity for farms to move to best practice irrigation, supported by our agencies working together."

"This plan is appropriate for the current conditions," agreed WGCMA's Martin Fuller.

“It looks at how we can reduce the amount of nutrients entering our rivers, which will help prevent algal blooms and the associated environmental issues.

“It will help protect rivers, wetlands and the Gippsland Lakes and help manage the impacts of salinity and high-water table,” Mr Fuller continued.

“This, in turn, will protect the natural, cultural and social assets of the region for future generations.”

The Plan has also been expanded to cover the whole of the Lake Wellington catchment.

“This means that anything that runs into the Lakes from irrigation could potentially have access to the programs outlined in the Plan,” explained Mr Fuller.

“The focus has also been broadened out from dairy to include other industries, particularly horticulture.”

Copies of the Lake Wellington Land and Water Management Plan are available at [www.wgcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au).

The Lake Wellington Land and Water Management Plan was developed by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority through funding from the Victorian State Government.



## Coasts

### The condition of marine and coastal environments

West Gippsland's marine and coastal environment extends from San Remo in the west to opposite Lakes Entrance in the east. It includes the Ramsar-listed wetlands of Corner Inlet and Nooramunga and the Gippsland Lakes, a number of marine protected areas and over 20 estuaries.

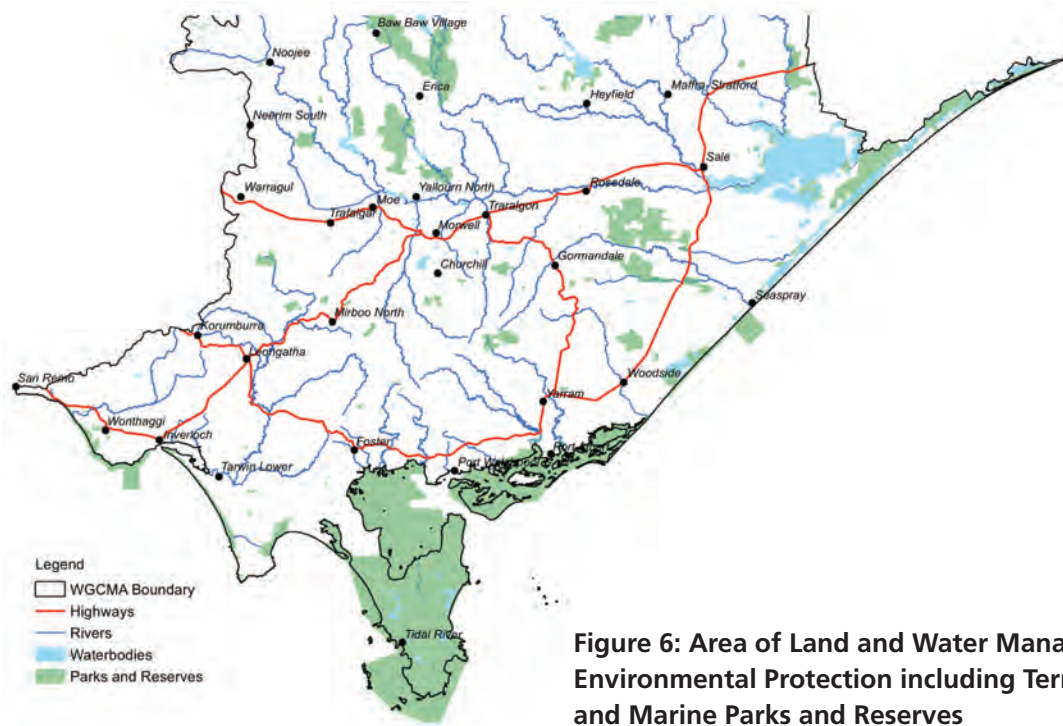
Protected areas include 18,000ha in Corner Inlet Marine and Coastal Park; 15,000ha in Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park; 15,555ha in Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park; 1,971ha in Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park; 2,050ha in Bunurong Marine National Park; 1,259ha in Bunurong Marine Park; and 2,650ha in the Ninety Mile Beach Marine National Park.

Some of the major threats to the condition of the coast and marine environments are coastal inundation, erosion, invasive plants, such as *Spartina*, and urban development expansion. In the future, flooding and coastal erosion are expected to be exacerbated by climate change impacts such as increases in wind speed, storm intensity and frequency, as well as changes in rainfall intensity and frequency.

A changing climate is also expected to influence the health and functioning of coastal ecosystems. For example, loss of saltmarsh through greater erosion and increased saltwater intrusion through sea-level rise. Salinity regimes can also be changed because of reduced freshwater flows into estuaries and more intense storms can create new estuary entrances or break through existing entrances.



### Coasts Benchmark – Level of protection for coasts

While most of the region's 623km of coastline is protected by a thin strip of coastal reserve, there are significant marine reserves and a large area of coastline protected within Wilsons Promontory National Park (see Figure 5). However, there are significant stretches of coast where agriculture and urban development are within close proximity to the coastal strip and to important lakes and estuaries.



**Figure 6: Area of Land and Water Managed for Environmental Protection including Terrestrial and Marine Parks and Reserves**

**Table 8: 2018-19 Annual Coasts Condition Assessment**

Overall Rating	Previous 3-year assessment	Annual Assessment	Condition Assessment 2018-19
Neutral			A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.

### Reasons for assessment:

- No major fire or flood events impacting the coast throughout the year.
- The dynamic coastline at Inverloch has been experiencing significant erosion in recent years, impacting on public access, amenity, and built assets.
- Localised coastal erosion event at Cape Paterson.
- No significant changes in land tenure through the designation of new parks or reserves.
- Continuing urban expansion and increasing runoff, particularly in coastal areas.
- Programs aimed at protecting and enhancing the coast and marine environments such as Corner Inlet.
- Connections, Lake Wellington Integrated NRM Project and Spartina control program, were successfully delivered over the past five years.
- Improved estuary closure management resulting in no coastal urban inundation.
- Monitoring and management of pest plants and animals in the coastal and marine environments including Spartina, foxes, sea-urchins and Northern Pacific Sea-stars.

### Program Highlights

#### Corner Inlet

This is the first year of the five-year Corner Inlet Connections project, funded by the Australian Government's latest National Landcare Program and builds on 10 years of delivery through this approach. The project was delivered in partnership with Parks Victoria, GLaWAC, Birdlife Australia and Yarram Yarram Landcare and South Gippsland Landcare networks. The main activities this financial year included:

- The development of a Strategic Fox Control Management Plan for fox control on the Barrier Islands.
- More than 150.22 hectares of Spartina control.
- Stabilising 11 sites affected by hillslope and gully erosion.
- Over 11 kilometres of fencing and more than 36 hectares of revegetation to protect waterways.
- Saltmarsh protection and enhancement works across 1.5 hectares.

#### Spartina control

In partnership with Parks Victoria, we coordinated a strategic approach to Spartina control which is a key threat in Corner Inlet, Shallow Inlet and Andersons Inlet. In 2018-19 the highlights included the implementation of the Spartina Control Management Plan which included 1,097 hectares of actual Spartina treatment.

### Estuary management

In 2018-19 we undertook a range of projects to help protect, enhance and improve the management and understanding of estuaries. Key activities included:

- Coordinating Estuarywatch volunteers including establishing a new group with Parks Victoria at Tidal River.
- A highly successful community event at Screw Creek with over 50 community members.
- Undertaking a study at the Ayr Creek estuary and working with the community to explore management options in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council.
- The successful monitoring of estuary openings at Bourne, Powlett and Wreck creeks.

### Coasts case study

#### A perfect match at Corner Inlet

A 550-acre property at Manns Beach has been the focus of saltmarsh protection works for more than a decade.

Owned by Yarram local, Esme Rash, the property has been in her family for more than 120 years.

According to West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Project Coordinator, Tanya Cowell, the 390-acre work site is important as part of the Corner Inlet Connections Project.

“Corner Inlet is an extremely important wetland site,” explained Tanya. “The salt marshes on Esme’s property form part of a transitional habitat between the ocean and the land. It’s fantastic to be able to work with Esme and our partners to protect this precious part of Corner Inlet.”

Saltmarsh filters pollutants, stabilises sediments, traps and processes nutrients and protects the shoreline from erosion.

“Saltmarsh in Corner Inlet provides habitat and food for many birds, juvenile fish and invertebrate species. They are a critical component of the Corner Inlet ecosystem,” continued Tanya.

One of the partners on the Corner Inlet Connections project is the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC). Funded through the Australian Government’s National Landcare Program, crews from GLaWAC work at different sites across Corner Inlet once per month. This area is part of the traditional lands of the Gunaikurnai’s Brataualung clan.

Bronson Ritchie, GLaWAC’s Natural Resource Management Crew Leader, said the crews enjoyed the work on Corner Inlet.

“It’s good to see this country,” said Bronson. “We probably wouldn’t otherwise see it if we weren’t working here.”

“At this property, we’re treating Boxthorn and Briar Rose. The Boxthorn can get quite big and can sometimes have wombats or hog deer hiding under them.”

Corner Inlet possesses a rich Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal archaeological sites and artefacts can be found on farmland, in the bush and along waterways.

These sites are important as they show how the Gunaikurnai used the land and the close and continuing connection the Gunaikurnai have to their country.

Some of these sites have been recorded, however many have not yet been found and protected. GLaWAC's Registered Aboriginal Party Manager, Russell Mullett encouraged landowners to let the work crews know if they think they have any Aboriginal archaeological sites on their property.

"Many landowners aren't aware that they have Aboriginal artefacts such as scar trees, shell middens or even burial sites on their properties, and by working with GLaWAC they can help us record, protect and manage our Aboriginal cultural heritage Mr Mullett said.

Tanya said through this work, the NRM works team from GLaWAC works on priority sites in Corner Inlet every month, as part of our Corner Inlet Connections program.

This project is supported by West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. For more on the Corner Inlet Connections Project go to [wgcm.vic.gov.au](http://wgcm.vic.gov.au).



## Community

### The benefits that flow from community participation

Gippsland communities are very resilient as they continue to have a positive outlook despite the environmental and economic challenges in recent years. Some of the challenges include changing demographics (an ageing farming population and in-flux of sea- and tree-changers), changing land use (increasing urban development and smaller lots on agricultural land), challenging commodity prices and a changing climate.

Despite these challenges, local communities and groups throughout Gippsland are actively working together to enhance, restore and protect the environment. Landcare has affirmed itself as a major NRM service deliverer through five robust, sophisticated and well-run Landcare networks that operate at a landscape scale. They remain a vital driver of NRM activity, working directly with private landholders and government agencies to address a wide range of NRM issues.

Landholders are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of soil health. Soil experts conduct industry workshops and field days throughout the region which are extremely well attended.

A network of Waterwatch and Estuarywatch volunteers provide a vital role in NRM by regularly monitoring sites throughout the region and collecting ongoing data about the health of the West Gippsland waterways.

Community benchmark – Community participation

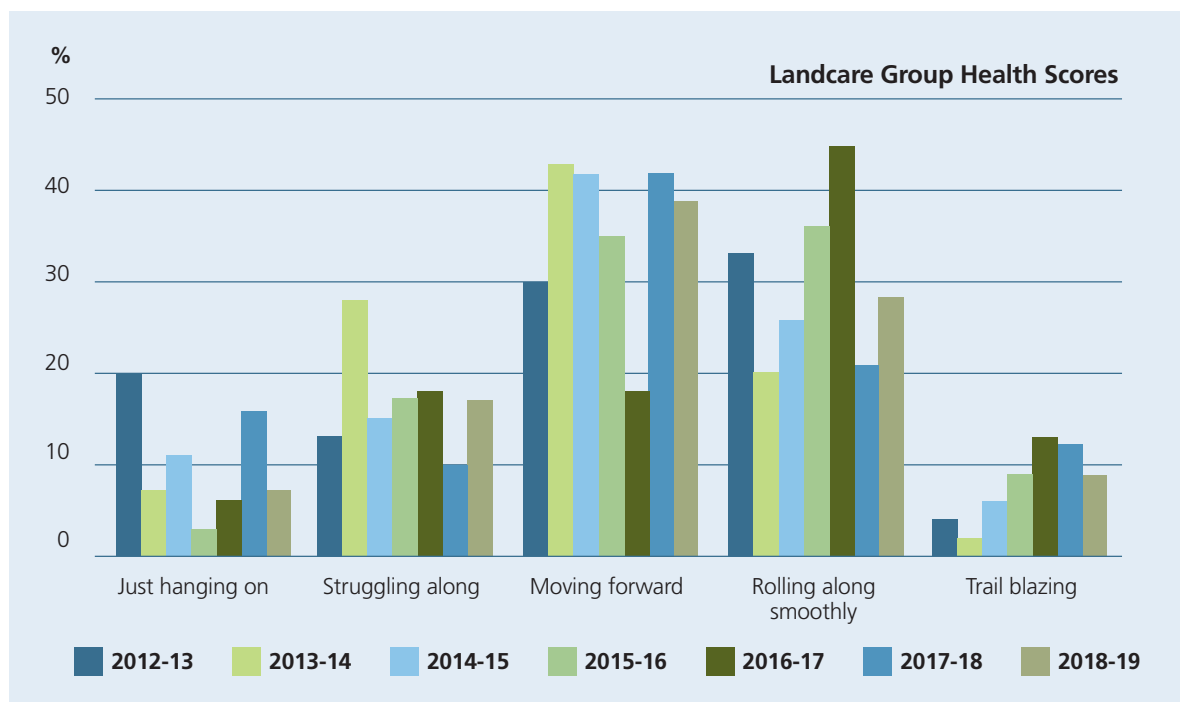
**Table 9: Community Participation**

Activity	Number of participants in 2018-19	Number of participants in 2017-18
Contributing to on-ground works	544	426
Attending skills and training events	162	117
Taking part in awareness-raising activities	3,311	1,175
Working as collaborators in planning and decision making	1,634	1,850

Community benchmark – Landcare Group Health Scores



**Table 10: Landcare Group Health Scores**

Category/Year	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13
5 = Trail blazing	5	6	7	5	3	1	2
4 = Rolling along smoothly	15	11	23	21	14	11	15
3 = Moving forward	21	22	9	20	22	23	14
2 = Struggling along	9	5	9	10	8	15	6
1 = Just hanging on	4	8	3	2	6	4	9
Total responses	54	52	51	58	53	54	46
<b>Average Group Health Score</b>	<b>3.15</b>	<b>3.04</b>	<b>3.43</b>	<b>3.29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.81</b>	<b>2.89</b>



**Figure 7: Average Landcare Group Health Score 2012 to 2019**

**Table 11: 2018-19 Annual Community Condition Assessment**

Land Assessment			
Overall Rating	Previous 3-year assessment	Annual Assessment	Condition Assessment 2018-19
Positive			An optimistic future with evidence that events during the year will have a positive impact in the longer term.

### Reasons for assessment:

- Well organised and coordinated Landcare network and groups.
- Strong regional partnership between WGCMA and Landcare networks.
- Slight increase in average Landcare group health scores compared to last year.
- Increase in percentage of Landcare groups categorised as 'Rolling along smoothly' compared to last year and a slight decrease in those categorised as 'Just hanging on'.
- Increase in percentage of Landcare Groups categorized as 'Moving forward' compared to three years ago.
- Increased participation rates in WGCMA activities and events.
- Cultural Heritage training and positive partnership with Traditional Owner groups.
- Improved regional partnerships among agencies demonstrated by the recent signing of the Regional Catchment Partnership Agreements.

### Program Highlights

#### Our Catchments, Our Communities

The third year of an integrated catchment management project, Protecting Our Ponds, funded by the Victorian Government's Our Catchments, Our Communities initiative has seen great progress in community support and on-ground works.

The Protecting Our Ponds project in the Providence Ponds and Perry River catchment, continued to gain community support and momentum. We identified 16 ponds at most risk of erosion and have begun works with partners to protect them. During 2018-19 a key partnership with HVP plantations has been developed and work to protect the 'chain of ponds' waterways on their property is well underway.

#### Regional Landcare

Successful Landcare events were held throughout the year; one of the highlights was an Intrepid Landcare Retreat in East Gippsland involving mountain biking and tree planting at the Colquhoun Mountain Bike Park. Intrepid Gippsland is going from strength to strength and aims to inspire and empower young people (aged 18 to 35) to become involved in Landcare activities. Another highlight included the Landcare training event held at Wilsons Promontory involving five Landcare Networks and WGCMA staff.

We also coordinated the Victorian Landcare Grant, this resulted in 32 projects totalling:

- more than 18 kilometres of fencing
- nearly 18,000 indigenous plants and
- almost seven hectares of weed control.

### **Partnerships with Traditional Owners**

This year, we have renewed the MoU with GLaWAC and signed an MoU with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC). Our ongoing commitment to cultural competency has strengthened communication and engagement with traditional land-owning groups. This commitment has resulted in an increase in work On Country throughout the region with the GLaWAC NRM Work Crews. Work on Country activities in 2018-19 included:

- GLaWAC works crews have worked monthly on Corner Inlet projects, including revegetation and weed management.
- GLaWAC NRM work crews have undertaken revegetation and weed control work as part of the WGCMA Regional Waterway Program.

### **Angler Riparian Partnership Program (ARPP)**

Through our ARPP, our partnership with local anglers and angling groups is going from strength to strength. A highlight of the partnership this year was a planting day on the Macalister River at Glen Falloch Station. More than 30 people attended, planting 500 native trees and shrubs at the junction of the Macalister River and Stony Creek, near Licola. The group included representatives from the Australian Trout Foundation, Victorian Fly Fishers Association, Southern Fly Fishers, Bairnsdale and Sale Fly Fishing Clubs and government agencies. Some keen fishers travelled up to four hours to join in.

### **Community Engagement Network (CEN)**

This year saw us transition from a Community Advisory Group format to the Community Engagement Network (CEN) as part of our commitment to community consultation and engagement. There were more than 40 applicants for the Network and the WGCMA board selected 26 individuals to sit on the network. The CEN reflects the diversity of our community and includes bushwalkers, farmers, fishers, teachers, engineers, people who love camping, photographers, artists and more.

The CEN plays an important role in bringing community issues to us, as well as providing information about what we're working on back to their communities.

### **Irrigator Reference Group**

For the first time ever, we established an irrigator reference group consisting of local irrigators from across the Lake Wellington Catchment. This was an action identified by irrigators as important in the Lake Wellington Land and Water Management Plan. The group has an advisory role on program, like those offered through our Sustainable Irrigation Program and the Macalister Irrigation District incentives program.

## Community case study

### Productive partnership

Finding the right partner isn't just the realm of dating shows. Productive and fruitful partnerships involve trust, commitment and a shared vision for the future. Over the years, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's relationship with Landcare has helped us work toward the goals we set to rehabilitate and protect our landscape and environment.

The extent of the Landcare partnership ranges from broad support for Landcare Networks, a program of community grants, and support for a range of field days, workshops and events, through to working together on on-ground projects like tree planting and weed control. For Project Delivery Team Leader Matt Bowler, that close connection with Landcare is vital.

"We share a vision for effectively managing natural resources and helping farmers be more productive, efficient and environmentally friendly," explained Matt.

"It's not always about developing major projects. Sometimes a small contribution from us can help Landcare get a project underway or it can complement other work we are doing."

### Black Spur Wetland

Matt says the Black Spur Wetland project is a good example of the multiple benefits of a strong connection with Landcare.

"The area is a snapshot of what South Gippsland looked like before European settlement but it was run down and in need of restoration."

Local landholders and members of the Nerrena Landcare group agreed. They were keen to save the Strzelecki gums and the Swamp Paperbark and provide a habitat for native species including koalas and platypus and the Sword Grass Butterfly.

The small group of volunteers applied for funding to develop a plan for the future of the Wetland, incorporating the rail trail restoration and the proposed realignment of the South Gippsland Highway. The Plan took a twenty-year view to redeveloping the area. Improving water quality, weed control and restoring native vegetation and biodiversity were vital.

Nerrena Landcare group member, Kate Walsh, is excited to see the plan being embraced and endorsed by others.

"The group developed the plan and vision, which we've been able to share with others."

Matt said the CMA was happy to allocate money for weed control to help to get the project up and running because it also aligned with our priorities.

"Landcare has driven this project and now it's great to see the Major Roads Project Authority commit to revegetating a significant part of the area as part of their \$50 million highway realignment project."

Already the community is seeing the benefit of the united approach to this unique area.

"At the moment, there are swans nesting in the wetlands and we have platypus swimming down the river," said Kate. "When you walk along the rail trail you really appreciate the remnant vegetation."

As well as playing a small role in what has blossomed into a major rehabilitation project, the CMA has also been able to contribute through our willow control program.

### **Minnie Ha Ha Falls**

Willow control was also the basis for the WGCMA involvement with the Albert River Landcare Group's Hiawatha Reserve project at Minnie Ha Ha Falls. Scott Elliot from the Yarram Yarram Landcare Network said the location of the reserve is important, as it is at the headwaters of the Albert River.

"It's at the epicentre of our Jack and Albert River Restoration Project, which focuses on improving the health of the river from source to mouth," explained Scott.

"We've also been doing weed control, spraying, revegetation and fencing, in partnership with WGCMA, Hancock Victoria Plantations, the council and the local hall committee."

The reserve is popular with visitors and campers which is threatening the health of the river and the remnant vegetation.

"There has been renewed interest in the area from day-trippers and for bushwalking, sight-seeing and fishing," said Scott. "There were fantastic facilities in the past, but they had to be removed, due to pressures of time, use and vandalism.

"Landcare's involvement to date has been to improve hiker access and we're working with Wellington Shire Council to get further support to upgrade the facilities."

He said members of the Albert River Landcare Group had identified the need and continued to drive the project.

"This is an excellent example of a community-led project getting some fantastic momentum and partner buy-in," said WGCMA's Matt Bowler.

"The work will improve the aesthetics and usability of the Hiawatha Reserve and protect the ecology of the area.

"Our staff will carry out willow control works in the area. This links in with work that has already been completed upstream of the site, as part of our willow removal Headwaters program."



## Summary of Grants to community

**Table 8: Summary of Grants Provided Throughout the Year**

Network	Source	Amount
Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network	Victorian Landcare Grant	\$15,220
Yarram Yarram Landcare Network	Victorian Landcare Grant	\$5,000
Korumburra Landcare Group	Victorian Landcare Grant	\$20,000
Gippsland Intrepid Landcare Group	Victorian Landcare Grant	\$5,944
Woodside Landcare Group	Victorian Landcare Grant	\$17,800
Friends of Turtons Creek	Victorian Landcare Grant	\$5,080
Arawata Landcare Group	Victorian Landcare Grant	\$18,685
Powlett Project Landcare	Victorian Landcare Grant	\$20,000
Kongwak Hills Landcare Group	Victorian Landcare Group	\$19,968
Three Creeks Landcare Group	Victorian Landcare Group	\$20,000

The grants were provided to assist Landcare groups in implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy and subordinate plans. The VLG Landcare support grants were paid to 40 groups at \$500 per Landcare group.

## Regulatory services

We are responsible for regulatory activities for waterways, floodplains and rural drainage. We also contribute to strategic planning across the region including participating in planning scheme amendments and improving the understanding of flood behaviour by developing flood studies.

During 2018-19, we responded to 243 planning permit referrals. We responded to 570 flood advice requests regarding drainage, annual use limits, whole farm plans and Southern Rural Water enquiries in an average response time of 8.6 days. We issued 75 works on waterways permits in an average response time of 7.5 days.

We continued to provide floodplain management and works on waterways services on a contractual basis to East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA). On behalf of EGCMA we responded to 70 planning permit referrals and a further 141 flood advice and Southern Rural Water enquiries. We also issued 40 works on waterways permits.

In 2018-19, we continued providing floodplain management services on a contractual basis to Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA). On behalf of CCMA we responded to 375 planning permit referrals and flood advice enquiries. In addition to this we helped North Central Catchment Management Authority to deliver their floodplain management function while they were understaffed for a short period.

We continued to support DELWP in the further development and refinement of the FloodZoom planning system. We assisted DELWP with expert user input which enabled DELWP to provide significant enhancements and improved usability to the system.

We continued providing both Wellington and Baw Baw shire council with technical expertise as they pursued planning scheme amendments across their local government areas. We also provided technical expertise to South Gippsland Shire Council as they prepared and then exhibited updates to their planning scheme which included new flood mapping in Toora.

Significant progress was made during 2018-19 to produce and update flood information for our region. We finalised a flood study for the lower Latrobe and Thomson rivers; the study provides valuable information which will be used in flood preparedness and response, flood mitigation, planning scheme amendments and for insurance purposes.

In partnership with Federation University's Industry Placement Program and industry leaders, floodplain mapping has also been completed for the upper Traralgon Creek. Mapping is currently underway for the upper reaches of the Tarwin River.

The West Gippsland Floodplain Management Strategy was completed in 2017. We developed the strategy on behalf of key local stakeholders such as the SES, local government and the community. The strategy identified the significant flood risks across the region, analysed the mitigation options and determined priority actions to be implemented over the lifetime of the strategy. Implementation of the strategy commenced during 2018-19 with three actions completed and another 18 of the 47 actions underway.



# Our Organisation

## Our purpose

We coordinate the integrated management of land and water resources within the region. We aim to achieve ecologically and economically sustainable development of natural resource-based industries; protection of land and water resources and conservation of natural and cultural heritage. We have done this since 1997 by working with communities, industries and government agencies to protect and enhance the condition of the region's natural resource assets.

We exist to implement integrated catchment management to improve priority landscapes.

## Our vision

### Our vision

***A healthy catchment, valued and cared for by the community, that underpins the environmental, social, cultural and economic wealth of the region.***

### Our work

We work with our partners and stakeholders to protect and repair the health and extent of the natural resources that remain in our catchment. We do this through meaningful partnerships and relationships with agencies and the community, founded on trust, respect and common goals.

We achieve these outcomes through positive, highly energised staff that are appropriately supported by board, management, policies, procedures and systems. We ensure our investors are satisfied; we manage risk and ensure we stay well clear of trouble.

## Our Principles and Values

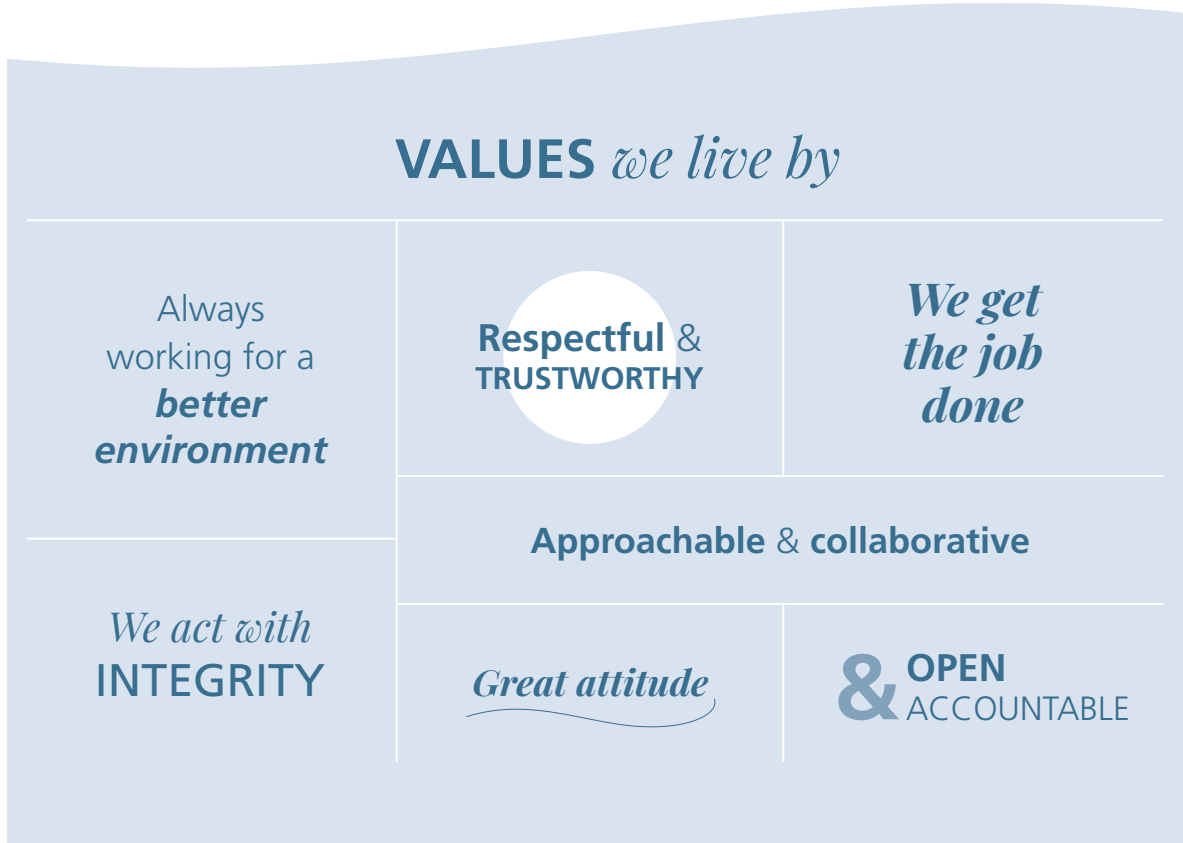
We ensure all activities we undertake are relevant, transparent, accountable and reliable. In undertaking our activities, we will act with integrity, fairness and credibility. We will share knowledge and information, be prepared to accept change and seek to continuously improve the activities in which we are involved.

We value and encourage participation of the community and other key stakeholders.

We are committed to integrated catchment management and targeted investment that is focused on long-term outcomes for our region.

Our partners and alliances are of the utmost importance to our operation and the development and implementation of the integrated catchment management priorities and plans.

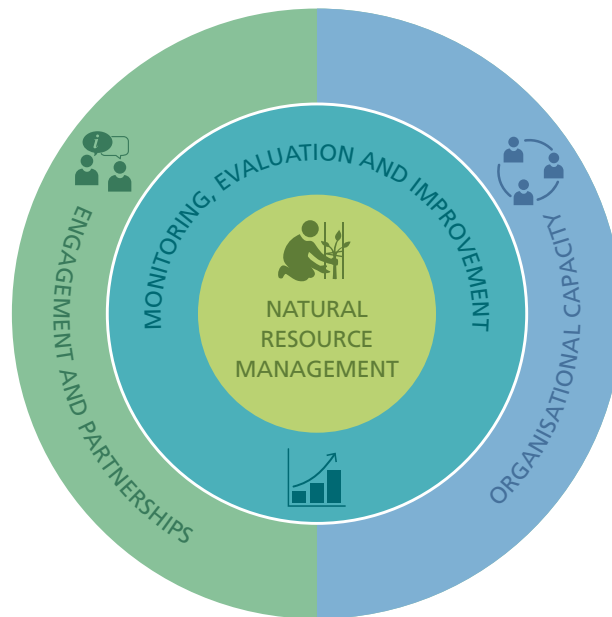
We look to operate in an environment that is based on mutual respect, open communication, sharing of success, and the acknowledgement of achievements.



**Values we live by:**

- Always working for a better environment
- Acting with integrity
- Operating with respect and being trustworthy
- Being approachable and collaborative
- Having a great attitude
- Getting the job done
- Being open and accountable

## Key and common areas of focus



### 1 Natural Resource Management

***“We are here to improve West Gippsland’s priority landscapes through exemplary integrated regional catchment management.”***

**Outcome: The region’s land and water resources are valued, protected and improved**

#### Objectives:

- In accordance with the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and other regional plans and strategies:
  - Protect and improve the region’s priority landscapes to enhance their productivity and resilience.
  - Increase community awareness of values, knowledge, skills and advocacy of desired practices.

#### Tactics:

- Improve organisational capability, partnerships, engagement, and monitoring/evaluation systems.
- Draw on the wealth of local, traditional and scientific knowledge held by staff, partners and the community to:
  - Improve our understanding of catchments and coasts including processes and impacts.
  - Apply a deeper, data-driven understanding of changing landscape and community trends.
  - Strengthen evidence-based decisions.
  - Perform statutory functions to benefit our natural resources and the communities that rely on them.
  - Position ourselves as the region’s knowledge-bank for changing catchment conditions and practical responses.
  - Influence decision-makers on environmental management from mountain to coast, under a ‘whole of catchment’ model.
- Develop investment strategies that support the integrated management of our priority landscapes.
- Secure project funding using collaborative and intelligent systems and processes.
- Implement, monitor, evaluate, adaptively manage and improve the delivery of strategies and plans.

## 2 Organisational capability

***“We are here for the long term: viable, vibrant and effective.”***

**Outcome: An efficient, well-run and reliable organisation**

### **Objectives:**

- Attract, nurture and retain a diverse, passionate, professional workforce.
- Maintain and improve IT&C systems to improve efficiency and maintain continuity of organisational knowledge.
- Appropriate governance is in place to:
  - Ensure financial stability and security for the WGCMA.
  - Meet and surpass community expectations in areas of risk, compliance and our statutory responsibilities.

### **Tactics:**

- Develop a work culture that celebrates success and rewards collaboration.
- Support staff with training, fit-for-purpose systems and procedures.
- Strengthen leadership by providing staff with opportunities for development.
- Maintain a strong, diligent board and executive with appropriate governance, financial, audit and risk management processes.
- Implement, monitor, evaluate, adaptively manage and improve IT and corporate strategies and plans.

## 3 Community engagement and partnership

***“We invite others to join us in our quest to protect, enhance or restore our region and to create a healthier catchment.”***

**Outcome: Community and regional partners are working together with trust and respect, to protect and improve our catchment.**

### **Objectives:**

- Increase the number of catchment-enhancing partnerships across the region.
- Increase the strength and impact of partnerships.
- Engage wider sectors of the community in catchment health projects.
- Increase awareness, knowledge, skills and confidence of the community and partners.

### **Tactics:**

- Maintain and nurture strategic relationships with investors, agencies, organisations, community groups individuals, local Indigenous communities and Traditional Owners who can help us achieve our NRM, financial and organisational goals.
- Engage with the community to better understand shared issues, to advocate for solutions and to share models of success.
- Increase understanding of barriers to increase participation, strengthen partnerships, build capacity and take action consistent with Regional Catchment Strategy objectives.
- Strengthen WGCMA's profile and reputation in the community as an agent of positive change and regional support.
- Increase the WGCMA's leadership profile within regional, state and national agencies.
- Implement, monitor, evaluate, adaptively manage and improve community engagement and partnerships framework.

## 4 Measurement and evaluation

***“Measurement and evaluation is an essential, common feature of all our work because the knowledge we gain enables us to improve our work.”***

**Outcome: Evidence-based improvement of our work.**

### Objective:

- Embed monitoring, evaluation, adaptive management, improvement and communication of the work we do across all parts of the organisation.
- Initiate and support quantitative research through collaboration with academic bodies.

### Tactics:

- Embed key evaluation questions into all strategies and plans (effectiveness, impact, appropriateness, efficiency and legacy).
- Measure, monitor and map changes in the region’s natural assets using our monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) framework.
- Develop and support collaborative MER frameworks, leveraging community support where possible.
- Maintain timely and transparent communication of progress and outcomes with our partners.
- Share and celebrate successes: create a narrative that engages and places the wider community in the story of better catchment management.
- Implement, monitor, evaluate, adaptively manage and improve the MER and project management frameworks.

## Our Organisation

We were established to provide integrated management of land and water resources within the region. The state government established 10 CMAs on 1 July 1997 following a state-wide review of catchment management structures.

### The Board

We are governed by a skills-based Board appointed by the minister/s who administer the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. Our responsibilities include strategic and policy direction for the integrated management of land, biodiversity and water through South, Central and West Gippsland. It operates under the legislative base of many Acts.

The main Acts are the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, *Water Act 1989*, *Financial Management Act 1994*, *Audit Act 1994*, *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2012* and *Public Administration Act 2004*.

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act (CaLP Act) 1994* and the *Water Act 1989* define our main purposes as follows:

- to set up a framework for the integrated management and protection of the catchment
- to encourage community participation in the management of land and water resources
- to set up a system of controls on noxious weeds and pest animals.

The Board also has a Charter which is in line with DELWP's Governance Guidelines for Statutory Authorities which was formally adopted in June 2005. Details of our Board Members are available on pages 42 and 43.

The relevant Ministers have issued us with a Statement of Obligations under the *CaLP Act 1994* and *Water Act 1989*. The Minister for Water has also issued a Letter of Expectation on which we are delivering. These documents are a key part of the framework that guides the function and activity of the organisation.

Within this framework, one of our primary roles is engaging with the community to develop and implement the *Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)*. The RCS is a framework for integrated land and water management in the region. It outlines the priority issues for the region through broad consultation with our community and other stakeholders.

The RCS is the overarching strategy for the development, management and conservation of land and water resources in the region and is formally reviewed every six years.

Within this context, we are responsible for developing annual regional investment priorities within the Department's Victorian Water Program Investment Framework. The Board sets priorities in consultation with state and Australian Government investors, with regional agency stakeholders and through our community engagement and partnerships framework. The annual investment package is endorsed by the relevant Ministers. Funds then become available for all successful projects.

### Community Advisory Group - Transition to a new Community Engagement Network

December 2018 marked the third and final year of the northern and southern Community Advisory Groups.

This was the sixth Community Advisory Group (CAG), which has been in place since the early 2000s and carried on from the Community Consultative Committees established in 1997 as part of the *CaLP Act*.

CAG members attended meetings, strategy presentations, input sessions and cultural heritage training. They received regular email updates and newsletters and invitations to board strategic planning sessions and CMA events.

In October 2018, we reviewed the CAG structure and made recommendations to our board to make minor changes to provide a more flexible, modern and meaningful experience for members and to engage a wider cross section of the community. The board endorsed the creation of a new, single Community Engagement Network (CEN).

## CEN Charter

The CEN charter is now updated with a revised purpose.

A forum to:

- exchange NRM information
- identify community NRM needs, issues and barriers to participation
- provide community perspective into strategies, plans and projects and
- strengthen WGCMA's profile and reputation in the community through advocacy of NRM issues, solutions and WGCMA activities.

Expressions of interest (EOIs) opened in January 2019 with over 40 people from across Gippsland applying for a position. It was a high-quality field and 26 people were chosen by a board appointed panel, based on diversity, geographic spread, and strong links to community.

### Community Engagement Network Members

<b>Anna Larkin</b> , Briagolong	<b>Barry Rogers</b> , Warragul	<b>David McAninly</b> , Staceys Bridge
<b>David Sutton</b> , Inverloch	<b>David Meikle</b> , Meeniyan	<b>Diedre Griepsma</b> , Inverloch
<b>Evan De Gooyer</b> , Korumburra	<b>Geoff Gooch</b> , Wurruk	<b>Gerard Condon</b> , Bushy Park
<b>Greg Rose</b> , Stratford	<b>Ian Code</b> , Leongatha	<b>James Stranger</b> , Traralgon
<b>Jim Forsyth</b> , Stratford	<b>Jo Caminiti</b> , Cowwarr	<b>Joey Boothby</b> , Inverloch
<b>Liz Fleming</b> , Traralgon	<b>Madeline Watts</b> , Eagle Point	<b>Max Fletcher</b> , Pakenham
<b>Michael Hobson</b> , Port Albert	<b>Natalie Goodfellow</b> , Stony Creek	<b>Natasha Marty-Cripps</b> , Leongatha
<b>Nicole Creaser</b> , Korumburra	<b>Peter Warner</b> , Wurruk	<b>Rhonda Hastie</b> , Moe South
<b>Tony Pitt</b> , Nilma North	<b>Trevor Colvin</b> , Yarram	

The CEN group is diverse and includes bushwalkers, four-wheel drivers, farmers, recreational and commercial fishers, hunters, teachers, accountants, engineers, agronomists, people who love camping, photographers, artists and more.

An induction was held in May with the purpose of:

- building awareness about what we do and
- providing clarity in the role and expectations of CEN members.

The next CEN Network will be held in September at the Heart Morass near Sale and will highlight how working in partnership can achieve amazing results that one organisation singly would never be able to achieve.

We'll also be discussing water for the environment, floodplain management, legacy assets and changes in salinity in the Gippsland Lakes. These are issues that have been raised as topics of interest for the group.

## The Board and committees

### Peter Jennings OAM (Chair)

Peter was first appointed to the board on 1 October 2017. In the last financial year, he attended 11 of the 12 board meetings. Peter holds qualifications in farming, science, education, management and company directorship. He moved from NSW to Gippsland in 1981 after working as a science teacher and at Outward Bound. He has been involved with local government, both as a councillor and commissioner and with the Rural Financial Counselling Service, both as a counsellor and Executive Officer. Peter is a past member of the Gippsland Coastal Board, the Shire of Alberton River Improvement Trust, the Corner Inlet Waterway Authority and was chair of the Gippsland Grammar Board. He has also had many years of involvement with the VFF, CFA and Landcare.

### Christine Holland

Christine was first appointed to the board on 1 October 2011. In the last financial year, she attended all 12 board meetings. Christine has an expansive career in directorship across a range of industry sectors. Presently she is a Director of West Gippsland Healthcare Group, Executive Committee member of Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN and member of the AICD Gippsland Committee. She has extensive experience in business management, human resources and communication and presently works as a career consultant. Christine is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

### Warrick Wilson

Warrick was first appointed to the board on 1 October 2011. In the last financial year, he attended nine out of the 12 board meetings. Warrick holds tertiary qualifications in agricultural science and business management. He is employed as an agribusiness relationship manager with Suncorp Bank. He has extensive experience across Gippsland and Victoria in customer-facing roles, working with a diverse range of primary producers. He has developed strong networks with twelve years' experience as an agri-bank manager assisting with customers' finance and business management requirements. Prior to this Warrick was employed in roles associated with grain marketing, agronomy and rural financial counselling.

### Jane Hildebrant

Jane was first appointed to the board on 14 October 2013. In the last financial year, she attended all 12 board meetings. Jane holds qualifications in education, librarianship, environmental studies and town planning. She has extensive experience in local government, community engagement, strategic planning, governance, teaching, racehorse training, mixed farming and Landcare and now manages her own farm at Briagolong. Jane was a councillor at Wellington Shire and Mornington Peninsula Shire, a member of Maffra and Districts Landcare Network Board and Monash Maffra Research Steering Committee.

### Jodie Mason

Jodie was first appointed to the board on 1 October 2017. In the last financial year, she attended 11 of the 12 board meetings. Jodie is employed as a forest research manager with Forest and Wood Products Australia. She has over 20 years' professional experience in forest management and environmental auditing and has worked in operational and consulting roles for the public and private sectors across Australia and internationally. Jodie is an experienced independent environmental auditor, having led large multidisciplinary teams on forestry and infrastructure audits. Jodie has worked with government and industry on forest policy and provided expert witness advice to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal on managing plantations. Jodie has a forest science degree and postgraduate business management qualifications (MBA), and was previously a Board Member of Australian Forestry Standard Ltd.

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**Courtney Mraz  
(Deputy Chair)**

Courtney was first appointed to the board on 27 October 2015. In the last financial year, she attended 10 of the 12 board meetings. Courtney is a local farmer with qualifications in agricultural science and agribusiness.

She has strong board experience and is experienced in water resource management and stakeholder engagement. She is passionate about the local community and her family.

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**Belinda Nave**

Belinda was first appointed to the board on 1 October 2017. In the last financial year, she attended 11 of the 12 board meetings. Belinda is a primary producer involved in the family's wagyu beef enterprise. She holds qualifications in Environmental and Marine Science and has extensive experience in NRM including managing on-ground environmental projects, strategic coastal projects, heritage projects and complex environmental assessments.

Belinda has worked in the public and private sectors in Gippsland and Melbourne. She has proven experience in engaging with stakeholders at the state, local government and community levels. Belinda is passionate about improving the family farm through revegetation and protecting waterways and is an active volunteer in her local community.

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**Mikaela Power**

Mikaela joined our board on 27 October 2015 and holds qualifications in arts, education and business. In the last financial year, she has attended 11 of the 12 board meetings. Mikaela has worked in the public and private sectors in Gippsland, Melbourne and overseas.

She was re-elected to the Baw Baw Shire Council in 2016 and chaired the West Gippsland Library Board for four years. Mikaela's community involvement includes Landcare, education, sport and the arts. Mikaela, her husband Chris and their family have lived in west, south and central Gippsland and currently live on a small farm in West Gippsland.

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**Jane Oakley**

Jane was first appointed to the board on 1 October 2017. In the last financial year, she attended 10 of the 12 board meetings. Jane has experience in local government and was previously the Regional Director of Regional Development Victoria Gippsland at the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation. Jane has held senior leadership roles with Telstra Corporation, primarily in sales and marketing. Jane has been a previous Director of Latrobe Regional Hospital and is a current member of the Gippsland Water Board. She has a Graduate Certificate in Regional Leadership; Diploma Practice Management; Diploma Competitive Systems and Practices. Jane is also an accredited MBTi facilitator and a Graduate of the AICD.

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## Board membership of committees

During the 2018-19 year our Board members participated on the following committees:

- **Audit and Risk Committee** – Christine Holland and Jodie Mason
- **Remuneration Committee** – Peter Jennings (OAM), Christine Holland, Jane Oakley
- **Corporate Committee** – Mikaela Power, Jane Hildebrant, Courtney Mraz and Warrick Wilson
- **Landcare** – Courtney Mraz, Belinda Nave and Jodie Mason

## Audit and Risk Committee

The main responsibilities of the audit and risk committee are to:

- Review and report independently to the Board on the annual report and all other financial information and reports.
- Assist the Board in reviewing the effectiveness of the organisation's internal control environment covering:
  - effectiveness and efficiency of operations
  - reliability of financial reporting
  - compliance with applicable laws and regulations and
  - determine the scope of the internal audit function and ensure its resources are adequate and used effectively, including coordination with the external auditors.
- Maintain effective communication with external auditors.
- Consider recommendations made by internal and external auditors and review the implementation of actions to resolve issues raised.
- Oversee the effective operation of the risk management framework.

Independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee are Vince Philpott (Chairperson) and Ian Gibson.

**Table 9: Audit and Risk Committee membership and meeting attendance 2018-19**

Name	Independent	Term	Attended	Eligible to attend
Vince Philpott Chairperson	✓	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019	4	4
Christine Holland	✗	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019	4	4
Jodie Mason	✗	1 May 2018 to 30 June 2019	4	4
Ian Gibson	✓	1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019	3	4

## Internal Audit Plan

Audits have been undertaken in accordance with the Internal Audit Plan. This plan was developed in consultation with the Internal Auditor and the Risk and Audit Committee. Reviews carried out this year were:

- Financial Management Compliance Framework
- Compliance with Statement Obligations Requirements
- Statutory Planning Advice (with a specific focus on Floodplain and Waterway Protection Functions)

## Organisational Structure

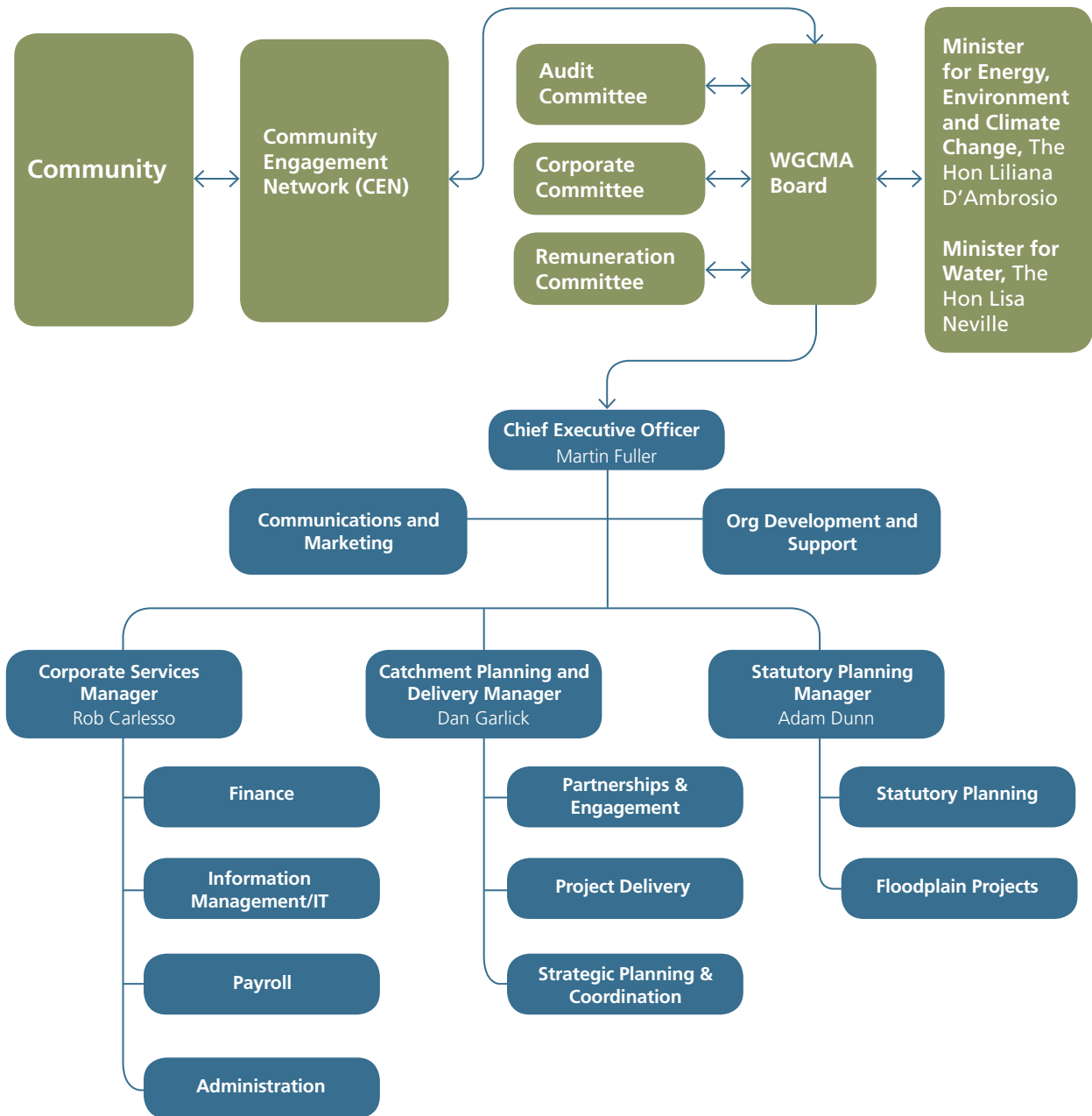


Figure 9: WGCMA's organisational structure

## Our Staff

### Workforce Data

The following table discloses the head count and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all our active public service employees, employed in the last full pay period in June of the current reporting period, and in the last full pay period in June of the previous reporting period (2018).

**Table 9: Headcount and FTE as at June 2019 and June 2018**

	June 2019								June 2018					
	All employees (i)		Ongoing (ii)			Fixed term and casual		All employees (i)		Ongoing (ii)			Fixed term and casual	
	Number (head count)	FTE	Full time (head count)	Part time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Full time (head count)	Part time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE
<b>GENDER</b>														
Male	22	19	15	2	16	5	3	17	16	12	5	16	0	0
Female	29	22	11	15	20	3	2	29	22	9	17	20	3	2
Self-described	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>AGE</b>														
15-24	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-34	7	6	5	1	6	1	1	7	6	4	3	6	0	0
35-44	17	12	6	8	11	3	1	13	10	5	7	10	1	1
45-54	16	14	11	4	14	1	1	17	15	11	6	15	0	1
55-64	10	7	4	4	6	2	1	9	7	1	6	5	2	1
65+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
Other (iii)	48	38	24	16	34	8	4	42	34	18	21	32	3	2
Senior Management	3	3	2	1	3	0	0	3	3	2	1	3		0
Executives	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Total Employees</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

Note: FTE numbers may not total due to rounding.

- (i) Excluded are those on leave without pay, external contractors/consultants, and temporary staff employed by employment agencies.
- (ii) Ongoing employees include people engaged on an open-ended contract of employment and executives engaged on a standard executive contract who were active in the last full pay period of June.
- (iii) Other includes administrative and field staff.
- (iv) Employees have been correctly classified in line with the Policy and Standard Model.

## Health & Safety Statement

The Authority complies with the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*. It is committed to providing and maintaining a safe work environment that does not pose health and safety risks to employees, contractors, visitors and volunteers. It recognises that work health and safety is extremely important and minimising risks to health and safety is the joint responsibility of the Board, management and employees. We will continue to promote a culture of awareness and focus on continuous improvement in work health and safety.

## OH&S Committee

The OH&S Committee meets quarterly and is chaired by the CEO. Committee Members are elected as per our Work Health and Safety Committee Policy, with membership including one representative per work location, one management representative and one HR representative. During 2018-19 the committee met four times to focus on and review key topics including:

- training requirements
- workplace inspections
- evacuations drills
- Safe Work Method Statements
- incident reporting processes
- the WH&S Manual and strategy
- hazard reporting process and focus
- health and wellbeing initiatives: skin checks and flu shots
- contractor induction

Training needs were identified and conducted throughout the year including:

- First Aid training and CPR updates (21 participants)
- Mental Health First Aid refresher training (15 participants)
- Defensive Driver Training (33 participants)

Throughout the year, we have had twelve incidents or near misses reported, including 10 involving minor damage to motor vehicles, and two near misses reported. This represents 29 incidents per 100 FTEs.

There were no notifiable incidents that were required to be reported to the Victorian Workcover Authority for the reporting period.

**Table 9: WH&S Five-year Summary**

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14
Reported hazards/incidents (i)	<b>12</b>	10	10	11	9	5
Lost time standard claims	<b>nil</b>	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Average cost per claim	<b>nil</b>	nil	nil	nil	nil	\$77.00
Training Events	<b>3</b>	3	4	4	4	3

(i) Reported internally

## DataVic Access Policy

Consistent with the DataVic Access Policy issued by the Victorian Government in 2012, the information included in this Annual Report will be available at [www.data.vic.gov.au](http://www.data.vic.gov.au) in electronic readable format.

## Environmental Report

### Reducing our environmental impact

Our organisation and staff are committed to the implementation of the Resource Smart Program and reducing the organisation's environmental impact. During the 2018-19 year we have achieved the following results in line with our Environmental Management Strategy:

**Table 10: Resource Smart Program five-year summary**

Objective	Measure	Use for 2018-19 (41 FTE)	Use for 2017-18 (38 FTE)	Use for 2016-17 (39 FTE)	Use for 2015-16 (38.98 FTE)	Use for 2014-15 (39.9 FTE)	Totals	Notes*
<b>Reduce Energy Use (Electricity)</b>	Total FTE per annum	135,574 kWh	113,334 kWh	178,323 kWh	147,633 kWh	132,939 kWh	692,846 kWh	2% decrease
		3,306 kWh	2982 kWh	4572 kWh	3693 kWh	3331 kwh		
<b>Purchase of Green Power</b>	% Green Power	100%	100%	10%	10%	10%	100%	100% Green Energy Purchased
<b>Reduce Paper Use</b>	White A4 reams per annum	119	127	138	216	251	1,114	132 less reams
	Reams per FTE	2.9	3.34	3.6	5.4	6.29		
<b>Increase Use of Recycled Paper</b>	White A4 reams	92	86	102	133	270	831	100% of all purchased paper is recycled
<b>Paper Recycling</b>	Kg per annum	1,490	1,852	1,990	1,531	2,887	9,750	100% of used paper is recycled
	Kg Per FTE	36	48	51.03	38.31	72.35		
<b>Reduce Fuel Use</b>	Litres used	41,706	41,586	37,871	44,351	50,647	216,431	8,941 litre decrease
<b>Reduce Water Consumption</b>	Kilolitres used per annum	305	357	487	340	634	2,123	44% Decrease

\*Notes are five year comparisons – 2014-15 to 2018-19

# Good Governance



## Report against Corporate Plan targets

The specific projects we undertake are developed through the Victorian Water Program Investment Framework and National Landcare Program processes and lodged with the Victorian and Australian governments. Once endorsed by Government our staff and Board develop an Annual Action Plan.

To ensure we can report to the Minister against governance requirements, key performance indicators have been included in this report that will complement the outcomes required in our investment plans. These are detailed below.

Performance area	Performance target	Achievement
<b>Business management and governance</b>	Submit annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Compliant with guidelines issued.
	A risk management strategy/plan approved by the board and being implemented.	Plan is approved by the board and is being implemented.
	One hundred per cent of the CMA's policies reviewed and approved by the board every three financial years.	100% of relevant policies reviewed.
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Full compliance was achieved.
<b>Regional planning and coordination</b>	A Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) approved by the minister.	Approved and being implemented.
	A regional waterways strategy approved by the minister.	Approved and being implemented.
	A Regional Floodplain Strategy approved by the board.	Approved and being implemented.
	Land and water management plans (LWMP) in designated irrigation areas (or equivalent) approved by the board.	Approved and being implemented.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework/plan approved by the board.	Approved and being implemented.
	A regional Landcare support plan approved by the board.	Approved and being implemented.
<b>Regional delivery</b>	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and any major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the board annually.	RCS Program reviewed and reported to Board.
	Projects/activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Approved projects and activities are being delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.

Performance area	Performance target	Achievement
<b>Regional delivery</b>	Projects/activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Approved projects and activities are being delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.
	Projects/activities to implement LWMP are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Approved projects and activities are being delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.
<b>Statutory functions under part 10 of the Water Act</b>	Ninety per cent of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	Achieved 99%
<b>Statutory functions under part 11 of the Water Act</b>	Ninety per cent of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	>90% achieved

In addition to the performance areas and indicators outlined above the WGCMA monitors the organisation's progress against its five-year Corporate Strategic Plan and the Key Areas of Focus outlined on page 45. This is done through an annually approved Action Plan which cascades down through staff work plans and is reported quarterly to the Board. For 2017-18 a 97.4% delivery was achieved for the Action Plan.

## Community inclusion

### *Multicultural Victoria Act 2004*

Our support for cultural diversity and the involvement of women, youth and Indigenous communities took a variety of forms this year.

Our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) was re-signed this year at an event with the GLaWAC Board and Elders Council. Very few changes were made to this MoU and it has remained a priority in all projects and programs within their Native Title area.

Internally we updated our Indigenous Partnership Policy and Procedures throughout the year. We also have access to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage register and a set of protocols around its use. This access is enabling us to better inform the cultural heritage component of our project work and that of Landcare groups in our region.

An MoU has been signed with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, we have our first contract together in place and the partnership is progressing well.

Our organisational cultural competence program is ongoing, and we had nine new staff complete stage one training, with seven completing stage two. An additional 75 staff members from 13 other agencies completed stage one, with 27 completing stage two. We now consistently offer our organisational cultural competence training to other interested agency staff in the region.

This year has seen our commitment to the process of cultural competency continue to gain momentum in all levels of projects and programs. There has been an increase in GLaWAC work On Country, and in traditional ecological knowledge, communication and engagement.

Our staff and GLaWAC staff are comfortable to work together at all levels from administration to management. This is a great achievement and makes for a good working relationship.

Our Cultural Competency program has had an impact on Traditional Owner groups in the region with them recognising us as “a leader and advocate for Traditional Owner self-determination” (Dickson, 2018).

## Partnerships with Traditional Land-owning groups in the WGCMA region

### **Gunaikurnai**

The MoU with GLaWAC has been re-signed. It has continued to operate with opportunities for involvement encouraged from the beginning of all projects undertaken during this time. A highlight of this year was beginning to work together on a cultural water project with two Cultural Water Officers from GLaWAC now based in our Traralgon Office. Our staff are providing a support role to these staff and work together with them weekly.

A WGCMA and GLaWAC sub-committee continued to meet to address issues relevant to both organisations. This group maintains oversight of our work together. Under the terms of the MoU, the two organisations are working together regularly in the three key areas, with several projects beginning this year. This group provides oversight of our contracted joint projects together.

The Corner Inlet Connections project has seen monthly On Country work continue this year and other agencies now contract GLaWAC directly in this project area, including Greening Australia The WGCMA works team also contract GLaWAC for projects in other areas of the catchment.

### **Boon Wurrung**

Staff and family members attended Tanderrum ceremony at Federation Square at the invitation of the Boon Wurrung Foundation.

### **Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation**

Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (BLCAC) has contributed to regular stakeholder meetings; we recently signed an MoU together which will govern our work together moving forward. We have scheduled Cultural Heritage training sessions for Landcare groups within the Bunurong RAP area.

### **Indigenous Participation Project review**

A comprehensive independent review of the Indigenous Participation Project has been completed using data from 2015 to 2018. This report has been summarised and used to develop our plan for the coming five years, we plan to build upon all of the good work done to date to create more opportunities for Indigenous involvement with us.

### **Partnerships and projects**

Our Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Officer (ACHO) has developed partnerships with Indigenous communities and assisted employees to extend their understanding of Native Title and Indigenous Cultural Heritage in Gippsland. The ACHO is a member of the following committees:

- Brayakaulung Advisory Group – Latrobe City, Morwell
- CMA state-wide Indigenous Facilitators' Network
- Close the Gap Campaign
- Reconciliation Week and
- NAIDOC Week.

The ACHO has developed partnerships, worked on projects, and sought advice and resources from many organisations including Close the Gap campaign and the Human Rights Commission. We have also participated in the following research projects:

- state-wide Landcare Cultural Heritage initiative
- Bunurong Land Council business plan and
- Aboriginal Victoria feedback to ACHLMA process.

The ACHO has provided input on:

- the GLaWAC MoU
- the BLCAC MoU
- our cultural heritage policy and procedure
- artworks and traditional stories for the flood management plan
- internal reports
- ACHRIS protocol and
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge literature review.

Thirteen agencies had staff members complete cultural competence training with us including DELWP, Bass Coast Landcare Network, South Gippsland Landcare Network, Latrobe Landcare Network, Greening Australia, Trust for Nature, Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, EPA, South Gippsland Sentinel Times, GippsDairy, Agriculture Victoria and Energy Australia.

### **Working with youth**

Throughout the year we have been involved in mentoring GLaWAC Cultural Water staff, GLaWAC Rangers and Indigenous trainees in other NRM agencies. This work is now a target in our plan for the coming five years; to date training/mentoring has taken place in project planning, water quality monitoring, Blackfish habits and habitats and data collection.

### **Involving Women**

Seven members of our Board are female. Nearly half of the community engagement network (CEN) membership is female. Of our 38 (FTE) employees, 58% are female, 42% male.

## Workforce Inclusion Policy

We are working towards creating a balanced working environment where equal opportunity and diversity are valued. We developed a Diversity and Inclusion Plan in 2017-18 with actions to be implemented over the next two years.

A focus for this year has been to promote the availability of flexible work arrangements with staff. Flexible work arrangements include options to work part-time, work from home and to be able to purchase additional leave.

Diversity and Inclusion Plan Initiative	Measure	Actual progress for 2018-19	Actual progress for 2017-18
Promote the availability of flexible work arrangements	Number of staff with flexible work arrangements	73% of staff	64% of staff

Note: reported as a percentage against headcount figure.

## Statutory Reporting

### Manner of Establishment and Relevant Minister

Our organisation was established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The responsible Ministers for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 were the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water, and the Hon Liliana (Lily) D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

### Employment and Conduct

The *Public Administration Act 2004* specifies several employment and conduct principles that must be observed by public sector organisations and their employees.

We are committed to the principles of equal employment opportunity (EEO). Employment decisions are based on merit where employees are treated fairly and reasonably and have an appropriate avenue to redress against any unfair and unreasonable treatment.

We recruit, promote and train employees based on merit and open competition without prejudice or discrimination.

### *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

In the 2018-19 reporting period, there were two requests from the general public for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Decisions for these two requests were made within the statutory 30-day time period.

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (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.

Information about the type of material produced by the Authority is available on the Authority's website.

The Act allows the Authority 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 the Authority in-confidence.

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.

In the 2018-19 reporting period, there were two requests from the general public for information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. Decisions for these two requests were made within the statutory 30-day time period and were accepted.

### **Making a request**

FOI requests can be lodged online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.foi.vic.gov.au" www.foi.vic.gov.au](http://www.foi.vic.gov.au). An application fee of \$29.60 applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large, and the search for material, time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Authority's Freedom of Information team, as detailed in s17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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

Requests for information should be directed to:

Rob Carlesso, FOI Officer  
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority  
PO Box 1374, Traralgon VIC 3844  
T: 1300 094 262 | Fax: (03) 5175 7802  
E: [robc@wgcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:robc@wgcma.vic.gov.au)

### **Statement of Availability of Other Information**

Information relevant to Financial Reporting Direction 22H of the *Financial Management Act 1994* is held at our office and is available on request, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. The *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* establishes a regime for the responsible collection and handling of personal information in the Victorian public sector. We comply with the ten Information Privacy Principles. This information is available on request by contacting Rob Carlesso, FOI Officer. Further information is available at the Privacy Victoria website [www.privacy.vic.gov.au](http://www.privacy.vic.gov.au).

### **Protected Disclosure**

The *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* enables people to make disclosures about corrupt or 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.

A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body. We are a public body for the purposes of the Act. You can make a protected disclosure about the organisation or its board members, officers or employees by contacting the Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC). IBAC's contact details are provided below. Please note that we are not able to receive protected disclosures.

We have established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about the organisation or our employees. You can access this procedure on our website at [www.wgcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au)

Disclosures of corrupt or improper conduct by us or our employees may be made to the following:

Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria  
Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3001  
GPO Box 24234, Melbourne VIC 3001

T: 1300 735 135

Website: [www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

See the website above for the secure email disclosure process which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

### *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

Under Section 4 of the *Public Administration Act 2004*, catchment management authorities come within the meaning of public authorities. Accordingly, we are required to act compatibly with the charter and consider human rights when making decisions. This responsibility is set out in the Charter and the *Public Administration Act 2004* and the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public-Sector Employees. We ensure that human rights are considered when making decisions, providing advice and delivering services and when changes are made to guidelines, policies or the legal framework. We also ensure that our grievance processes comply with the Charter and are consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004*. In the reporting period, there were no complaints related to the Charter.

### *Local Jobs First Act 2003*

We were not required to submit a return as there were no tenders over \$1 million during the reporting period.

### Capital Projects

Nil Report.

We did not have any capital projects during the reporting period that exceeded the disclosure threshold of \$10 million.

### Consultancies and major contracts

During the 2018-19 financial year, there were no consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants was \$10,000 or greater.

During the 2018-19 financial year, there were three consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2018-19 in relation to these consultancies is \$3,810 (excluding GST).

We did not enter into any major contracts during 2018-19.

A 'major contract' is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10 million or more.

### Government advertising expenditure

Our expenditure on government campaigns did not exceed \$100,000 in the 2018-19 reporting period.

## Information and Communication Technology expenditure

For the 2018-19 reporting period we had a total ICT expenditure of 610,687 with the details shown below:

Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure (Total)	Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure (Total = Operational expenditure and Capital expenditure)	Operational expenditure	Capital expenditure
\$621,505	\$94,015	\$84,553	\$9,462

ICT expenditure refers to the 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 ICT expenditure relates to extending or enhancing current ICT capabilities. BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

### *Building Act 1983 Compliance*

We own two depot buildings located in Maffra and Cowwarr and comply with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993* for these existing buildings. No major projects over \$50,000 were undertaken for these buildings.

### *Competitive Neutrality Policy*

Competitive neutrality seeks to enable fair competition between local government and private sector businesses. Any advantages or disadvantages that government businesses may experience, simply because of government ownership, should be neutralised. We continue to implement and apply this principle in our business undertakings.

### *2018-19 Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement*

I, Peter Jennings, on behalf of the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA), certify that the WGCMA has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.



Peter Jennings OAM, (Chair)

26 August 2019

### **Significant changes in financial position**

Our financial position has had no major change to base programs compared to previous years and cash on hand committed to projects and other activities remains available into the future.

### **Major changes or factors affecting performance**

There were no changes or factors which affected our performance during the reporting period.

### **Subsequent events affecting future operations**

There were no events occurring after balance date which may significantly affect our operations in subsequent reporting periods.

## Disclosure index

This Annual Report is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to help identify compliance with each of the statutory disclosure requirements.

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# Finances



## How this report is structured

The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 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

Revenue recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources

- 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our service
- 2.2 Income from transactions

### 3. The cost of delivering services

Operating expenses of the Authority

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

### 4. Key assets available to support output delivery

Land, buildings, works assets, plant and equipment, office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, and intangible assets

- 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment
- 4.2 Intangible assets

### 5. Other assets and liabilities

Other key assets and liabilities

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables
- 5.3 Other non-financial assets

### 6. Financing our operations

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

- 6.1 Cash flow information and balances
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**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

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8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

8.2 Other economic flows included in net result

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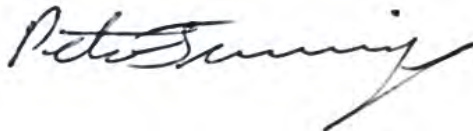
## Declaration in the Financial Statements

The attached financial statements for the West Gippsland 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 2019 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2019.

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 August 2019.



Peter Jennings  
*Chairperson*



Martin Fuller  
*CEO and Accountable Officer*



Robert Carlesso  
*Chief Finance & Accounting Officer*

## COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Income from transactions</b>			
Government contributions	2.2.1	8,564,583	9,871,421
Interest	2.2.2	270,403	274,865
Other income	2.2.3	2,571,506	2,238,805
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b><u>11,406,491</u></b>	<b><u>12,385,091</u></b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,934,516	4,515,912
Depreciation	4.1.1	376,553	365,855
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	7,190,772	6,436,267
Lease expenses	3.3	262,197	288,191
Other operating expenses	3.4	892,554	939,125
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b><u>13,656,592</u></b>	<b><u>12,545,350</u></b>
<b>Net result from transactions (net operating balance)</b>		<b><u>(2,250,101)</u></b>	<b><u>(160,259)</u></b>
<b>Other economic flows included in net result</b>			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (i)	8.2	88,943	119,425
<b>Net result</b>		<b><u>(2,161,157)</u></b>	<b><u>(40,835)</u></b>
<b>Other economic flows - other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Items that will not be reclassified to net result</b>			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	-	-
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b><u>(2,161,157)</u></b>	<b><u>(40,835)</u></b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6.1	13,478,374	15,241,603
Receivables	5.1	111,676	261,303
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>13,590,049</b>	<b>15,502,905</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	1,650,347	1,590,898
Intangible assets	4.2	56,967	28,837
Other non-financial assets	5.3	100,916	65,208
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>1,808,230</b>	<b>1,684,943</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>15,398,279</b>	<b>17,187,848</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	5.2	654,308	474,359
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,670,978	1,479,339
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>2,325,286</b>	<b>1,953,698</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>13,072,994</b>	<b>15,234,151</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		334,365	334,365
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8.3	395,359	395,359
Committed funds reserve	8.3	3,981,827	6,142,983
Contributed capital		8,361,442	8,361,442
<b>Net worth</b>		<b>13,072,994</b>	<b>15,234,151</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Receipts from government		8,725,308	9,881,146
Interest received		280,879	310,632
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (i)		502,982	313,932
Other receipts		2,637,941	2,201,025
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>12,147,110</b>	<b>12,706,735</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		13,535,151	12,312,177
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>13,535,151</b>	<b>12,312,177</b>
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	6.1.1	<b>(1,388,041)</b>	<b>394,558</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchases of non-financial assets	4.1.2	(637,088)	(449,467)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets	8.2	261,900	184,463
<b>Net cash (outflow) / inflow from investing activities</b>		<b>(375,189)</b>	<b>(265,004)</b>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(1,763,230)</b>	<b>129,554</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		15,241,603	15,112,049
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	6.1	<b>13,478,374</b>	<b>15,241,603</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

Note:

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

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the financial year ended 30 June 2019

	Accumulated surplus	Physical asset revaluation surplus	Committed funds reserve	Contributed capital	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2017	334,365	395,359	6,183,818	8,361,442	15,274,984
Net result for the year	(40,835)	-	-	-	(40,835)
Transfers to/(from) reserves (i)	40,835	-	(40,835)	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2018</b>	<b>334,365</b>	<b>395,359</b>	<b>6,142,983</b>	<b>8,361,442</b>	<b>15,234,150</b>
Net result for the year	(2,161,157)	-	-	-	(2,161,157)
Transfers to/(from) reserves (i)	2,161,157	-	(2,161,157)	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>334,365</b>	<b>395,359</b>	<b>3,981,827</b>	<b>8,361,442</b>	<b>13,072,994</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

Note:

(i) The amounts transferred from accumulated surplus to committed funds reserve consists of carry forward project funding that has been set aside for the purpose of funding specific projects.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2019

### 1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

The West Gippsland 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:                    West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority  
16 Hotham Street  
Traralgon, VIC 3844

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in Catchment Reporting, 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.

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 AASs 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 revenue (Note 5.1);
- accrued expenses (Note 5.2);
- fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3).

#### 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 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

From 1 July 2018, the authority has been recording the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments, replacing AASB 139's incurred loss approach with AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss Approach. The AASB 9 simplified approach is taken to measure the expected credit losses using a lifetime expected credit loss allowance (Note 7.1).

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 West Gippsland. The role of the Authority is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Associated with this role the Authority carries out strategic planning and advises Government.

To enable the Authority to deliver on its objectives, it receives income predominantly through State and Commonwealth Government Contributions.

### Structure

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

2.2 Income from transactions

#### 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	8,564,583	9,871,421
Interest	2.2.2	270,403	274,865
Other income	2.2.3	2,571,506	2,238,805
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b><u>11,406,491</u></b>	<b><u>12,385,091</u></b>

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

#### 2.2 Income from transactions

##### 2.2.1 Government contributions

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>State Government</b>		
Catchment Planning	1,045,686	1,597,325
Sustainable Irrigation	1,432,000	972,000
River Health	4,499,500	4,832,575
Floodplain Management	176,000	254,000
Natural Disaster	131,372	64,821
Other State Funding	733,977	165,500
	<b><u>8,018,536</u></b>	<b><u>7,886,221</u></b>
<b>Commonwealth Government</b>		
National Landcare Program	491,047	1,985,200
Other Commonwealth Funding	55,000	-
	<b><u>546,047</u></b>	<b><u>1,985,200</u></b>
<b>Total Government contributions</b>	<b><u>8,564,583</u></b>	<b><u>9,871,421</u></b>

Government grants and contributions are recognised as income from transactions on receipt or when the Authority obtains control of the contribution and meets certain other criteria as outlined in AASB 1004 *Contributions*, whichever is the sooner, and disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as government contributions.

##### 2.2.2 Interest

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Interest on bank deposits	<b><u>270,403</u></b>	<b><u>274,865</u></b>

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

**2.2.3 Other income**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	\$	\$
Partnership Contributions	2,326,215	1,987,702
Rental Income	15,500	16,000
Employee Contributions	224,091	214,453
Ancillary Trading	5,700	20,650
<b>Total other income</b>	<b><u>2,571,506</u></b>	<b><u>2,238,805</u></b>

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, and are recognised as income from transactions when an entitlement is established or on receipt, whichever is the sooner, and disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as other income.

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

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

**3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES****Introduction**

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Authority in delivering services. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost association with the provision of services are recorded.

**Structure**

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

**3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services:**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
		\$	\$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	4,934,516	4,515,912
Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies	3.2	7,190,772	6,436,267
Lease expenses	3.3	262,197	288,191
Other operating expenses	3.4	892,554	939,125
<b>Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services</b>		<b><u>13,280,039</u></b>	<b><u>12,179,495</u></b>

**3.1.1 Employee expenses in the comprehensive operating statement**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	\$	\$
Salaries & wages	3,426,599	3,213,858
Annual leave	331,803	323,782
Long service leave	49,289	94,525
Other leave	344,374	299,134
Defined contribution superannuation expense	361,162	338,265
Defined benefit superannuation expense	21,268	20,509
Other employee expenses	208,380	240,865
Movement in provisions for employee benefits	191,640	(15,026)
<b>Total employee benefit expenses</b>	<b><u>4,934,516</u></b>	<b><u>4,515,912</u></b>

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

### 3.1.2 Employee related provisions 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.

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Time in lieu and RDO:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	34,311	36,192
<b>Annual leave:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	295,492	305,043
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	21,117	26,378
<b>Long service leave:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	73,271	61,293
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	970,341	794,790
	<u>1,394,532</u>	<u>1,223,696</u>
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	47,516	52,524
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	127,201	115,127
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<u>1,569,249</u>	<u>1,391,347</u>
<b>Non-current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Long service leave:</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	90,146	77,152
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	11,583	10,840
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<u>101,729</u>	<u>87,992</u>
<b>Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs</b>	<u>1,670,978</u>	<u>1,479,339</u>
		2019
<b>Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision</b>		\$
<b>Opening balance</b>		178,491
Additional provisions recognised		7,809
<b>Closing balance</b>		<u>186,300</u>

#### 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.

#### 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 entity.

Unconditional LSL represents long service leave entitlements accrued for employees with more than 7 years of continuous service.

Conditional LSL is classified as a non-current liability and measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

### 3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Authority contributes to both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The defined benefit plans provide benefits based on year of service and final average salary.

The Authority does not recognise any defined benefit liability because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. The Department of Treasury and Finance discloses in its annual financial statements the states net defined benefits cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability.

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.

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

	2019	2018
<b>Defined benefit plans: (i)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Vision super defined benefits scheme	9,797	9,630
Government superannuation office	11,471	10,879
<b>Defined contribution plans:</b>		
Vision super	135,809	125,141
Vic super	25,295	26,180
Other private schemes	200,058	186,944
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>382,430</u></b>	<b><u>358,774</u></b>

(i) The bases for determining the level of contributions is determined by the various actuaries of the defined benefit superannuation plans.

There was \$14,716 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2019 (2018: \$13,853)

### 3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies

	2019	2018
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Materials	449,493	341,606
Repairs and maintenance	70,436	88,940
Grants paid	887,159	830,883
Contractors	5,726,849	5,034,194
Consultants	56,836	140,644
<b>Total materials, maintenance, grants, contracts and consultancies</b>	<b><u>7,190,772</u></b>	<b><u>6,436,267</u></b>

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

### 3.3 Lease expenses

	2019	2018
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Operating lease payments	262,197	288,191
<b>Total lease expenses</b>	<b><u>262,197</u></b>	<b><u>288,191</u></b>

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense in the comprehensive operating statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The leased asset is not recognised in the balance sheet.

### 3.4 Other operating expenses

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

## 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.

### Structure

- 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment
- 4.2 Intangible assets

### 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land at fair value	401,000	401,000	-	-	401,000	401,000
Buildings at fair value	280,000	280,001	(21,000)	(14,000)	259,000	266,001
Works assets at fair value	151,000	151,000	(22,650)	(15,100)	128,350	135,900
Plant and equipment at fair value	235,246	230,390	(211,331)	(202,227)	23,916	28,163
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	714,941	699,301	(627,948)	(573,810)	86,994	125,491
Motor vehicles at fair value	1,234,202	1,174,078	(483,114)	(539,735)	751,087	634,343
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>3,016,389</b>	<b>2,935,770</b>	<b>(1,366,043)</b>	<b>(1,344,872)</b>	<b>1,650,347</b>	<b>1,590,898</b>

### 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.

### 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.

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

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

### 4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Charge for the period</b>		
Buildings	7,000	7,000
Works assets	7,550	7,550
Plant & equipment	10,213	11,028
Office furniture & equipment	64,927	54,970
Motor vehicles	280,267	275,905
Intangible assets	6,596	9,403
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>376,553</b>	<b>365,855</b>

All buildings, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are depreciated.

Land, which is considered to have an indefinite life, is not depreciated.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

<b>Asset</b>	<b>Useful Life</b>
Buildings	40 years
Works assets	20 years
Plant and equipment	3 - 20 years
Furniture & office equipment	3 - 10 years
Motor vehicles	4 years
Intangible assets	3 - 10 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.

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

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

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

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

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

	Land at fair value	Buildings at fair value	Works assets at fair value	Plant and equipment at fair value	Office furniture and equipment at fair value	Motor vehicles at fair value	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2018-19</b>							
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>28,163</b>	<b>125,491</b>	<b>634,343</b>	<b>1,590,898</b>
Additions	-	-	-	5,965	26,761	545,827	578,553
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(331)	(148,816)	(149,147)
Depreciation	-	(7,000)	(7,550)	(10,213)	(64,927)	(280,267)	(369,957)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>259,000</b>	<b>128,350</b>	<b>23,916</b>	<b>86,994</b>	<b>751,087</b>	<b>1,650,347</b>
<b>2017-18</b>							
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>273,001</b>	<b>143,450</b>	<b>36,121</b>	<b>106,754</b>	<b>602,596</b>	<b>1,562,922</b>
Additions	-	-	-	3,840	76,686	423,819	504,345
Disposals	-	-	-	769	2,980	(116,167)	(119,916)
Depreciation	-	(7,000)	(7,550)	(11,028)	(54,970)	(275,905)	(356,452)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>28,163</b>	<b>125,491</b>	<b>634,343</b>	<b>1,590,898</b>

## 4.2 Intangible assets

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Computer Software</b>		
<b>Gross carrying amount</b>		
Opening Balance	765,312	830,712
Additions	-	-
Additions - Work in Progress	34,727	-
Disposals	-	(65,400)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<u>800,039</u>	<u>765,312</u>
<b>Accumulated depreciation</b>		
Opening Balance	(736,476)	(792,473)
Depreciation	(6,596)	(9,403)
Depreciation Adjustment	-	65,400
<b>Closing balance</b>	<u>(743,072)</u>	<u>(736,476)</u>
<b>Net book value at end of financial year</b>	<u>56,967</u>	<u>28,837</u>

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible produced assets with finite useful lives are depreciated as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight line basis over their useful lives.

## 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### Introduction

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

### Structure

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables
- 5.3 Other non-financial assets

### 5.1 Receivables

#### *Significant judgement: Accrued revenue*

Accrued revenue represent goods or services that have been delivered but have not been invoiced to the customer. In estimating an amount of accrued revenue, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed, and the extent of the costs incurred that are recoverable.

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Receivables</b>		
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade receivables	95,183	219,457
Accrued revenue	222	10,698
Other receivables	4,000	-
	<u>99,405</u>	<u>230,155</u>
<b>Statutory</b>		
GST input tax credits recoverable	12,271	26,699
FBT refund	-	4,449
	<u>12,271</u>	<u>31,148</u>
<b>Total receivables</b>	<u>111,676</u>	<u>261,303</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Current Receivables	107,676	261,303
Non-Current Receivables	<u>4,000</u>	<u>-</u>

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

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

Details about the Authority's impairment policies, the Authority's exposure to credit risk, and the calculation of the loss allowance are set out in Note 7.1.

## 5.2 Payables

### Significant judgement: Accrued expenses

Accrued expenses represent goods or services that have been received or supplied but have not been invoiced by the supplier.

In estimating the amount of an accrued expense, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed.

<b>Payables</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Contractual</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Trade payables	159,786	63,632
Accrued expenses	459,557	379,522
	<u>619,344</u>	<u>443,154</u>
<b>Statutory</b>		
FBT accrual	20,248	17,352
Superannuation	14,716	13,853
	<u>34,964</u>	<u>31,205</u>
<b>Total payables</b>	<u><b>654,308</b></u>	<u><b>474,359</b></u>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Current Payables	<u>654,308</u>	<u>474,359</u>

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

Statutory payables are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

### 5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

Carrying amount	Maturity dates		
	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months
\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2019</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Trade payables	159,786	159,786	-
Accrued expenses	459,557	450,657	8,900
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>619,344</b></u>	<u><b>610,444</b></u>	<u><b>8,900</b></u>
Carrying amount	Maturity dates		
\$	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months
\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2018</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Trade payables	63,632	63,632	-
Accrued expenses	379,522	373,022	6,500
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>443,154</b></u>	<u><b>436,654</b></u>	<u><b>6,500</b></u>

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

## 5.3 Other non-financial assets

<b>Current other assets</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Prepayments	100,916	65,208
<b>Total other assets</b>	<u><b>100,916</b></u>	<u><b>65,208</b></u>

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

## 6. HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations, and other information related to financing activities of the Authority.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments, such as cash balances. Notes 7.2 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

### Structure

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

### 6.1 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2019	2018
<b>Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:</b>	\$	\$
Cash on hand	900	900
Cash at bank	1,139,857	1,490,703
Deposits at call	12,337,617	750,000
Term deposits (less than 3 months)	-	13,000,000
<b>Balance as per cash flow statement</b>	<b><u>13,478,374</u></b>	<b><u>15,241,603</u></b>

#### 6.1.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Net result for the period</b>	<b>(2,161,157)</b>	<b>(40,835)</b>
<b>Non-cash movements:</b>		
(Gain)/loss on disposal of non-current assets	(88,943)	(119,425)
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	376,553	365,855
	<u>(1,873,547)</u>	<u>205,996</u>
<b>Movements in assets and liabilities:</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	149,627	(20,894)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	(35,708)	13,216
(Decrease)/increase in payables	179,949	120,802
(Decrease)/increase in employee benefits	191,640	75,837
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b><u>(1,388,040)</u></b>	<b><u>394,557</u></b>

### 6.2 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating lease 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.

#### 6.2.1 Total commitments payable

	2019	2018
<b>Operating lease commitments payable</b>	\$	\$
Less than 1 year	285,490	179,703
1 to 5 years	811,274	35,720
5 years or more	-	-
<b>Total commitments (inclusive of GST)</b>	<b><u>1,096,764</u></b>	<b><u>215,423</u></b>

Operating lease commitments relate to office, depot and car parking facilities with lease terms between one and five years. These contracts do not allow the Authority to purchase the facilities after the lease ends, but the Authority has the option to renew each of the leases at the end of the lease term.

As at 30 June 2019 the Authority had Nil in finance lease commitments (2018: \$Nil).

As at 30 June 2019 the Authority had Nil in capital expenditure commitments (2018: \$Nil).

### 6.3 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 high level of judgement to be applied, which for the Authority relate mainly to fair value determination.

### Structure

- 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
- 7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities
- 7.3 Fair value determination

### 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

#### Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract, and as such, do not meet the definition of financial instruments.

#### Categories of financial instruments

Financial Assets at amortised cost are measured at amortised cost if they are held by the Authority to collect contractual cash flows, the contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest, and if they not designated as fair value through net result. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, these financial assets are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment. The financial assets at amortised cost category includes cash and deposits, and trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all of the Authority's contractual payables (excluding statutory payables).

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

### 7.1.1 Financial instruments: Impairment of Financial Assets

From 1 July 2018, the authority has been recording the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments, replacing AASB 139's incurred loss approach with AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss Approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment include the Authority's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

#### Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The Authority applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure the expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about the risk of default and the expected loss rates. The Authority has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due, and select the credit loss rate based on the Authority's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward-looking estimates at the end of the financial year.

On this basis, the Authority determines the opening loss allowance on initial application date of AASB 9 and the closing loss allowance at the end of the financial year as follows:

	Current	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3 months - 1 year	1-5 years	Total
<b>1 July 2018</b>						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	220,194	1,770	3,792	4,400	-	230,155
<b>Loss Allowance</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Current	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3 months - 1 year	1-5 years	Total
<b>30 June 2019</b>						
Expected Loss Rate	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	85,765	11,440	-	-	2,200	99,405
<b>Loss Allowance</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-

#### 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. There was no loss allowance recognised at 30 June 2018 under AASB 139, and no additional loss allowance was required upon transition into AASB 9 on 1 July 2018.

## 7.1.2 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	Financial Assets at amortised cost \$	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
<b>2019</b>			
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	13,478,374	-	13,478,374
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	95,183	-	95,183
Accrued revenue	222	-	222
Other receivables	4,000	-	4,000
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>13,577,778</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,577,778</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	159,786	159,786
Accrued expenses	-	459,557	459,557
Other payables	-	-	-
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>619,344</b>	<b>619,344</b>
<b>2018</b>			
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	15,241,603	-	15,241,603
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	219,457	-	219,457
Accrued revenue	10,698	-	10,698
Other receivables	-	-	-
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>15,471,758</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,471,758</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	63,632	63,632
Accrued expenses	-	379,522	379,522
Other payables	-	-	-
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>443,154</b>	<b>443,154</b>

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

## 7.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Authority's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Authority manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Authority uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the financial risk management committee of the Authority.

**Financial instruments: Credit risk**

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Authority's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is the Victorian Government. For debtors other than the Government, the Authority has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate. For cash assets, the Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with a high credit rating assigned by international credit-rating agencies. All cash and deposits are held with the Westpac Bank and Australia and New Zealand Bank.

### Financial instruments: Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from being unable to meet financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. The Authority does not have any borrowings, and maintains high levels of cash and deposits readily available to meet its financial obligations. The Authority manages its liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash reserves and continually monitoring the Authority's expenditure commitments and cash flow needs.

### Financial instruments: Market risk

The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with significant surplus funds held in deposits at a call in the Central Banking System. The Authority has no exposure to foreign exchange risk or other price risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority is required to invest surplus funds with the State Government Central Banking System (CBS) in compliance with the Standing Directions 2018 under the Financial Management Act 1994 (2018 Directions). The floating interest rates provided by the Central Banking System expose the Authority to interest rate risk. Management monitors movements in interest rates on a daily basis.

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rates and the Authority's sensitivity to interest rate risk are set out in the table that follows.

### Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	Weighted average interest rate %	Carrying amount	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
			\$	\$	\$
<b>2019</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	1.97	13,478,374	-	13,477,474	900
Contractual receivables	-	99,405	-	-	99,405
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>13,577,778</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>13,477,474</b>	<b>100,305</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	619,344	-	-	619,344
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>619,344</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>619,344</b>
<b>2018</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	1.74	15,241,603	13,750,000	1,490,703	900
Contractual receivables	-	230,155	-	-	230,155
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>15,471,758</b>	<b>13,750,000</b>	<b>1,490,703</b>	<b>231,055</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	443,154	-	-	443,154
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>443,154</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>443,154</b>

**Interest rate risk sensitivity**

The sensitivity analysis below shows the impact on the Authority's net result and equity for a movement of 50 basis points up and down in market interest rates.

	Carrying amount \$	Interest rate			
		-50 basis points		+50 basis points	
		Net result \$	Revaluation surplus \$	Net result \$	Revaluation surplus \$
<b>2019</b>					
Cash and deposits (i)	13,478,374	(67,387)	-	67,387	-
<b>2018</b>					
Cash and deposits (i)	15,241,603	(7,454)	-	7,454	-

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$13,477,474 (2018: \$1,490,703) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2019:  $\$13,477,474 \times -0.005 = -\$67,387$ ; and  $\$13,477,474 \times 0.005 = \$67,387$
- 2018:  $\$1,490,703 \times -0.005 = -\$7,454$ ; and  $\$1,490,703 \times 0.005 = \$7,454$

**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.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Contingent assets</b>		
As at 30 June 2019, the Authority has no known contingent assets.	-	-
<b>Contingent liabilities</b>		
Guarantees for loans to other entities (i)	26,500	26,500

(i) The amount disclosed is the nominal amount of the underlying loan that is guaranteed by the Authority. The Authority has reviewed its financial guarantees and determined that there is no material liability to be recognised for financial guarantee contracts at 30 June 2019.

**7.3 Fair value determination***Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities*

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses the most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the Authority.

The Authority's property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value.

In addition, the fair values of other assets and liabilities which are carried at amortised cost, also need to be determined for disclosure purposes.

The Authority determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

**Fair value hierarchy**

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

### 7.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2018-19 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

#### Financial assets

Cash and deposits

Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Accrued revenue
- Other receivables

#### Financial 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 2019 \$	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	323,000	-	323,000	-
Specialised land	78,000	-	-	78,000
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>323,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	259,000	-	-	259,000
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>259,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>259,000</b>
Works assets at Fair Value				
Works assets	128,350	-	-	128,350
<b>Total Infrastructure at Fair Value</b>	<b>128,350</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>128,350</b>
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	23,916	-	-	23,916
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>23,916</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,916</b>
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	86,994	-	-	86,994
<b>Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>86,994</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>86,994</b>
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	751,087	-	-	751,087
<b>Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value</b>	<b>751,087</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>751,087</b>

Note:

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

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2018 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$
Land at Fair Value				
Non-specialised land	323,000	-	323,000	-
Specialised land	78,000	-	-	78,000
<b>Total Land at Fair Value</b>	<b>401,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>323,000</b>	<b>78,000</b>
Buildings at Fair Value				
Non-specialised buildings	266,001	-	-	266,001
<b>Total Buildings at Fair Value</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>266,001</b>
Works assets at Fair Value				
Works assets	135,900	-	-	135,900
<b>Total Infrastructure at Fair Value</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>135,900</b>
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	28,163	-	-	28,163
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>28,163</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,163</b>
Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value				
Office furniture and equipment	125,491	-	-	125,491
<b>Total Office furniture and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>125,491</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>125,491</b>
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	634,343	-	-	634,343
<b>Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value</b>	<b>634,343</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>634,343</b>

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

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

#### Non-specialised land & non-specialised buildings

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach. Under this valuation method, the assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets which are considered to have nominal or no added improvement value, and are classified as Level 2 fair value measurements.

For the Authority's non-specialised buildings, the depreciated replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, non-specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings, an independent valuation was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) to determine the fair value using the market approach. Valuation of the assets was determined by analysing comparable sales and allowing for share, size, topography, location and other relevant factors specific to the asset being valued. From the sales analysed, an appropriate rate per square metre was applied to the subject asset. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2016.

#### Specialised land

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 is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement, and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible. As adjustments of CSO are considered as significant unobservable inputs in nature, specialised land would be classified as Level 3 assets.

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

**Works assets**

Works assets represent an owned Quarry, which is valued using the depreciated replacement cost method.

An independent valuation of the Authority's works assets was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria (GVV) to determine the fair value using the market approach. Valuation of the assets was determined by analysing comparable sales and allowing for share, size, topography, location and other relevant factors specific to the asset being valued. From the sales analysed, an appropriate rate per square metre was applied to the subject asset. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2016.

**Motor vehicles**

Motor vehicles are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. 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.

**Plant and equipment and Office furniture and equipment**

Plant and equipment and office furniture and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment or office furniture and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2019.

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

**Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements**

	Specialised Land	Non- specialised buildings	Works assets	Plant and equipment	Office furniture and equipment	Motor vehicles
			\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2018-19</b>						
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>28,163</b>	<b>125,491</b>	<b>634,343</b>
Purchases (sales)	-	-	-	-	26,430	397,011
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	(10,213)	(64,927)	(280,267)
Gains or losses recognised in net result	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>17,950</b>	<b>86,994</b>	<b>751,087</b>
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>17,950</b>	<b>86,994</b>	<b>751,087</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>17,950</b>	<b>86,994</b>	<b>751,087</b>
<b>2017-18</b>						
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>28,163</b>	<b>125,491</b>	<b>634,343</b>
Purchases (sales)	-	-	-	-	73,706	307,652
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	-	-	(11,028)	(54,970)	(275,905)
Gains or losses recognised in net result	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>17,136</b>	<b>144,227</b>	<b>666,091</b>
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows - other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>17,136</b>	<b>144,227</b>	<b>666,091</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>78,000</b>	<b>266,001</b>	<b>135,900</b>	<b>17,136</b>	<b>144,227</b>	<b>666,091</b>

## Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Specialised land	Market approach	Community Service Obligation (CSO) adjustment
Non-specialised buildings	Depreciated replacement cost	Direct cost per square meter Useful life of non-specialised buildings
Works assets	Depreciated replacement cost	Direct cost per square meter Useful life of quarry
Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Office furniture and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of furniture and equipment
Motor vehicles	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of vehicles

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2016.

## 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

This section provides additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

### Structure

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Other economic flows included in net result
- 8.3 Reserves
- 8.4 Responsible persons
- 8.5 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.6 Related parties
- 8.7 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.8 Subsequent events
- 8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

### 8.1 Ex gratia expenses

Ex gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write-off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

The Authority had no ex gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2019 (2018 \$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.

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets</b>		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	238,090	239,348
Less written down value	(149,147)	(119,923)
<b>Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets</b>	<b>88,943</b>	<b>119,425</b>

### 8.3 Reserves

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
<b>Physical asset revaluation surplus: (i)</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	395,359	395,359
Revaluation increments	-	-
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b><u>395,359</u></b>	<b><u>395,359</u></b>
<b>Committed funds reserve: (ii)</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	6,142,983	6,183,818
Net transfers from accumulated funds	(2,161,157)	(40,835)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b><u>3,981,826</u></b>	<b><u>6,142,983</u></b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b><u>4,377,185</u></b>	<b><u>6,538,342</u></b>

#### Notes:

- (i) The physical assets revaluation surplus arises on the revaluation of land and buildings and works assets.
- (ii) The Committed funds reserve has been established to recognise that the Authority receives funding for programs in advance of the program works taking place. The Authority is committed to expending these funds in accordance with its Corporate Plan in succeeding years. At the end of the financial year any Accumulated Funds which represents unexpended program funding, has been transferred to the reserve.

### 8.4 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

The names of the persons who were responsible persons of the Authority at any time during the financial year were:

The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
The Hon. Liliana D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Peter Jennings	Chair	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Courtney Mraz	Board Member & Deputy Chair	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Martin Fuller	CEO	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Evelyn Hildebrant	Board Member	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Warrick Wilson	Board Member	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Christine Holland	Board Member	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Mikaela Power	Board Member	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Jodie Mason	Board Member	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Belinda Nave	Board Member	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Jane Oakley	Board Member	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019

#### Remuneration

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

Income band	2019	2018
\$0-\$9,999	0	3
\$10,000-\$19,999	8	8
\$20,000-\$29,999	1	1
\$30,000-\$39,999	0	0
\$220,000-\$229,999	1	1
<b>Total number of Responsible persons</b>	<b><u>10</u></b>	<b><u>13</u></b>
<b>Total Remuneration \$</b>	<b><u>360,334</u></b>	<b><u>356,099</u></b>

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 Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report.

### 8.5 Remuneration of executive officers

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provides a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered, and is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

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

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

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

Remuneration	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	373,645	332,757
Post-employment benefits	37,198	33,475
Other long-term benefits	8,804	8,501
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>419,647</b>	<b>374,734</b>
<b>Total number of executives (i)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.5</b>

Notes:

(i) 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)

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

### 8.6 Related parties

Related parties of the Authority include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

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

#### Significant transactions with government-related entities

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

Entity	Payments received
	\$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	8,193,131
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	1,117,609

Throughout the year the Authority also received partnership contributions from other CMA's for the recovery of shared business system expenses totalling \$420,314.

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

Entity	Payments made
	\$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	319,055
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	237,237
Parks Victoria	232,365
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	160,671
Gippsland Water	112,300

Key management personnel of the Authority includes all Responsible persons as listed in Note 8.4, and all members of the executive team which includes:

Mr Adam Dunn	Statutory Planning Manager
Mr Dan Garlick	Catchment Planning and Delivery Manager
Mr Robert Carlesso	Corporate Services Manager

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

Compensation of KMPs	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Short-term employee benefits	698,129	654,560
Post-employment benefits	68,024	64,051
Other long-term benefits	13,828	12,221
Termination benefits	-	-
Share-based payments	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>779,981</u></b>	<b><u>730,833</u></b>

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

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	13,900	13,400
Internal audit costs	21,584	30,043
<b>Total auditors' remuneration</b>	<b><u>35,484</u></b>	<b><u>43,443</u></b>

### 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 Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2019 reporting period. DTF assesses the impact of all these new standards and advises the Authority of their applicability and early adoption where applicable. The following is a list of the AASs issued but are not yet effective for the 2018-19

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2016-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Deferral of AASB 15 for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities from 1 January 2018 to 1 January 2019.	1 Jan 2019	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities to the 2019-20 reporting period.
AASB 2016-8 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This Standards amends AASB 9 and AASB 15 to include requirements and implementation guidance to assist not-for-profit entities in applying the respective standards to particular transactions and events. The amendments: • require non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements (i.e. taxes, rates and fines) to be initially measured and recognised in accordance with AASB 9 as if those receivables are financial instruments; and • clarifies circumstances when a contract with a customer is within the scope of AASB 15.	1 Jan 2019	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact for the public sector, other than the impacts identified for AASB 9 and AASB 15.
AASB 16 <i>Leases</i>	The key changes introduced by AASB 16 include the recognition of most operating leases (which are currently not recognised) on balance sheet.	1 Jan 2019	The assessment has indicated that as most operating leases will come on balance sheet, recognition of the right-of-use assets and lease liabilities will cause net debt to increase. Rather than expensing the lease payments, depreciation of right-of-use assets and interest on lease liabilities will be recognised in the income statement with marginal impact on the operating surplus. No change for lessors.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This Standard will replace AASB 1004 <i>Contributions</i> and establishes principles for transactions that are not within the cope of AASB 15, where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value to enable not-for-profit entities to further their objectives.	1 Jan 2019	The assessment has indicated that revenue from capital grants that are provided under an enforceable agreement that have sufficiently specific obligations, will now be deferred and recognised as performance obligations are satisfied. As a result, the timing recognition of revenue will change.
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer.	1 Jan 2019	The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements. The Standard will also require additional disclosures on service revenue and contract modifications.
AASB 1059 <i>Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors</i>	This standard addresses the accounting for a service concession arrangement by a grantor that is a public sector entity by prescribing the accounting for the arrangement from the grantor's perspective	1 Jan 2020	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2018-5 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Deferral of AASB 1059</i>	This standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 1059 from 1 January 2019 to 1 January 2020	1 Jan 2019	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2018-8 <i>Amendments to Accounting Standards - Right of use asset</i>	This standard amends the various AASB standards to provide an option for not-for-profit entities to not apply the fair value initial measurement requirements to a class or classes of right of use assets arising under	1 Jan 2019	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 17 <i>Insurance Contracts</i>	The new Australian standard eliminates inconsistencies and weaknesses in existing practices by providing a single principle based framework to account for all types of insurance contracts, including reissuance contract that an insurer holds. It also provides requirements for presentation and disclosure to enhance comparability between entities. This standard does not apply to the not-for-profit public sector entities. The AASB is undertaking further outreach to consider the application of this standard to the not-for-profit public sector.	1 Jan 2021	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact for the public sector.



## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Board of the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the financial report of the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2019</li> <li>• comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li> <li>• cash flow statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies</li> <li>• declaration in the financial statements.</li> </ul> <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2019 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>
<b>Basis for Opinion</b>	<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>
<b>Board's responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

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

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

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

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

MELBOURNE  
30 August 2019



Paul Martin  
*as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria*

“We commit to working respectfully and supportively with and for our staff, our communities and the environment. Our ethics are based on integrity, fairness and credibility. This forms the basis for how we at West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority approach all our work.”



*Cover images:*

*Front: Marlay Point, Lake Wellington at sunrise*

*Inside front: Lake Wellington near Sale*

*Above: Roger Lee from the 3 Creeks Landcare Group at his property near the coast*

*Back: Green Carpet recipients Ian and Gaye Cornthwaite at their property near Allambee*



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