

Gippsland Environmental Agencies



Gippsland Environmental Agencies (GEA) are committed to working together to improve the management of land, water and biodiversity resources across East and West Gippsland.

Working Together 2022-23

Gippsland Environmental Agencies (GEA) formed in 2014, when the leaders of several environment agencies agreed that collaboration could be improved. The membership of GEA has grown to incorporate 13 agencies across East and West Gippsland. In 2022– 23, they continue to work collaboratively and here are some of the highlights.

Catchment Partnership Agreement 2022 – combined and resigned!



In July 2022, the thirteen GEA members signed a combined Catchment Partnership Agreement. (CPA) . This brought together the previously signed East and West Gippsland CPA demonstrating the commitment to working across the region.

The purpose of the agreement is to strengthen coordination, collaboration and accountability, reduce duplication, and provide clarity on roles and responsibilities between key partners.

It encompasses the East and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Regions working cooperatively across the whole of Gippsland.

The CPA is a guiding document for the GEA partnership.

Updating the GEA Strategic Plan

In 2022 – 23, the GEA Forum committed to updating their Strategic Plan to reflect the connection across the agencies and commitment to collaboration.

Each agency has its own Strategic Plan to deliver on their priorities and legislative responsibilities.

The GEA Strategic Plan will identify the synergies across agencies and further opportunities to work collaboratively to improve the management of land, water and biodiversity in Gippsland.

The Plan will be released in September 2023, preliminary planning has identified 5 key areas of common focus for GEA for the next 10 years.

GEA—Key Areas of Common Focus

1. Our Traditional Owners
2. Our People
3. Our Partners
4. Our Legislative Responsibilities



Gippsland Environmental Agencies

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the region, the Gunaikurnai, the Bunurong, the Boonwurrung and the Wurundjeri Peoples, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and organisations in natural resource management and pay respects to Elders, past, present and emerging.

The Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) are the overarching strategies for managing our natural resources, including land, biodiversity, waterways and coasts across East and West Gippsland.

They are prepared by the CMAs on behalf of the region, developed in a collaborative process involving government and non- government organisations, Traditional Owners, and the broader community.

All GEA partners were involved in the development and implementation of the East and West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy's.

The RCS is underpinned by the aspirations of the region's Traditional Owners in the management of natural resources across the region.

For more information on the East and West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategies , please go to their websites.

[East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy \(eastgippsland.rcs.vic.gov.au\)](http://eastgippsland.rcs.vic.gov.au)

[West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy \(westgippsland.rcs.vic.gov.au\)](http://westgippsland.rcs.vic.gov.au)

Briefings:

GEA is of critical importance for collaboration, sharing, insights , understanding and skills sharing. Regular briefings provide members with the opportunity to create more integrated strategy and policy solutions.

Briefings in 2022- 23 included:

- ⇒ Forest Management Program in Gippsland
- ⇒ Regional Settlement Agreement Negotiations
- ⇒ Environmental Protection Agency – New Strategic Plan
- ⇒ Energy Transition in Gippsland including Offshore Wind and the role of Vic Grid

GEA is in the unique position of having a mix of resource managers with various accountabilities and responsibilities . There is huge potential to be the interconnection of strategic discussions.

What is on GEA's radar?

- ◇ Support for Traditional Owners in journey of self determination
- ◇ "Water for Life" - Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap
- ◇ Climate Change adaptations and mitigations
- ◇ Latrobe Valley Transition
- ◇ Commonwealth Games
- ◇ Building leadership opportunities and leadership development
- ◇ Forest Management Planning Gippsland
- ◇ Biodiversity Protection

2022– 23 GEA members

**DEECA: Darren McKenzie ,
Regional Director Gippsland**

**DEECA: Sam Quigley
Deputy Chief Fire Officer Gippsland**

**Ag Vic: Bruce Weston
Regional Leader South East**

**EGCMA: Graeme Dear / Amber Clarke
CEO**

**EGW: Steve McKenzie
Managing Director**

**EPA: Jessica Bandiera,
Regional Manager Gippsland**

**GW: Sarah Cumming,
Managing Director**

GLaWAC: Daniel Miller, CEO

GKTOLMB: Craig Parker, CEO

**Parks Vic: Kerri Villiers,
Regional Director Eastern**

**SGW: Robert Murphy,
Managing Director**

**SRW: Cameron FitzGerald,
Managing Director**

**TfN: Robyn Edwards,
Area Manager—Gippsland**

WGCMA: Martin Fuller, CEO

Belinda Brennan , Executive Officer

