



FLOOD RECOVERY STORIES

Avon River

The severity of the major rainfall event across Gippsland in 2021 led to a rapidly eroding gully posing a threat for the landholder, public and natural environment on a farm near Stratford.

Holding firm on the Avon

During the rainfall event, water rushed down an existing gully line into the Avon River, damaging vegetation, dumping a huge load of sediment into the waterway and severely eroding the bank.

Without intervention the erosion would only worsen with each rainfall event.

Large rocks were delivered and strategically positioned over the eroding gully to create a 'chute', or channel, for rainwater to flow gently down into the river.

The rock surface of the chute will protect the soil from being eroded and prevent sediment from entering the river system and flowing on into the Gippsland Lakes.

After constructing the rock chute with machinery, the team then got to work on revegetating the surrounding area. The plants will help to protect the structure, slow future flows and further stabilise the riverbank providing resilience in future rain events.

In June 2021, widespread storm and flood damage across Gippsland impacted in many catchments.

Since then, a comprehensive flood recovery program has been rolled out across more than 150 sites in partnership with local government, agencies and landholders supported by funding from Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Since the event, the flood recovery program delivered:

- 150 waterway structures.
- Just under 37 kilometres of fencing.
- Over 27 hectares of vegetation.
- Earthworks at 165 sites.
- 155 management agreements with landholders.

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We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Owners of the region, the Gindimurri, the Bawurong, the Boonwurrung and the Wurundjeri peoples, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country.