



BEFORE



AFTER

FLOOD RECOVERY STORIES

Glenfalloch Station

Wirn Wirndook Yeerung (Macalister River) swelled in the widespread June 2021 flood event in West Gippsland, leaving the waterway damaged and in need of repair.

Building flood resilience, naturally

When floodwaters subsided, the West Gippsland CMA and property managers at Glenfalloch Station swung into action to repair the damage to the waterway.

The team used their experience of previous floods to achieve the best results by working with natural materials and focusing on long-term resilience.

Machinery was brought in to smooth 200 metres of raw, vertical bank into a gentle slope using a technique known as 'battering'.

Logs and woody debris washed down by the floodwater were salvaged and dug into the bank. This helped with stabilisation and also provided habitat for frogs and fish.

Finally, almost 7,000 plants were put in the ground.

"Trees and shrubs provide the essential last step in flood recovery, acting like the reo in concrete to stabilise banks and to slow the water down in future flooding events," explained Elsa Burnell, West Gippsland CMA's Project Coordinator.

After 18 months, the repaired sites were in a strong shape to withstand future floods.

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.

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.