GLENELG HOPKINS CMA

Annual Report

2025
2026



Glenelg Hopkins CMA

VICTORIA State Government

Formation & CMA's role

RESPONSIBLE BODY DECLARATION

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's (CMA) Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2026.



Catherine Redwood
Chairperson, Glenelg Hopkins CMA

MANNER OF ESTABLISHMENT AND MINISTERS

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. The Act is jointly and severally administered by the Minister for Water and the Minister for Environment.

The responsible Ministers were:

- the Hon. Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Water for the period from 1 July 2025 to 14 April 2026 and from 15 April 2026 to 30 June 2026 the Hon. Harriet Shing MLC, Minister for Water; and
- the Minister for Environment from 1 July 2025 to 14 April 2026, the Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP and the Hon. Enver Erdogan MP, Minister for Environment from 15 April 2026 to 30 June 2026.

NATURE AND RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is responsible, with others, for natural resource management within the region. It takes an integrated, whole-of-catchment approach by combining strategic planning with co-ordination for management of natural resources. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is an important link between community and government, supplying advice to the Federal and State Governments on environmental conditions, priorities, and direction within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

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OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES

The objectives, functions, powers and duties of Glenelg Hopkins CMA are largely contained within the following Victorian Acts:

- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994;*
- *Water Act 1989;*
- *Financial Management Act 1994;*
- *Audit Act 1994;*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982;*
- *Information Privacy Act 2000;*
- *Public Administration Act 2004;*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012.*

The functions, powers and duties of Glenelg Hopkins CMA under Section 12(1) - (4) of the *CaLP Act* are:

Each Authority has the following functions in respect of the region for which it has been appointed, to —

- Prepare a Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) for the region and to coordinate and monitor its implementation;
- Prepare special area plans for areas in the region and to coordinate and monitor their implementation;
- Promote the cooperation of persons and bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region in preparing and implementing the RCS and special area plans;
- Advise the Minister, and if requested by any other Minister, that other Minister on:
  - Regional priorities for activities by, and resource allocation to, bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region;
  - Guidelines for integrated management of land and water resources in the region;
  - Matters relating to catchment management and land protection;
  - The condition of land and water resources in the region.
- Promote community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation;
- Make recommendations to the Minister about the funding of the implementation of the RCS and any special area plan;
- Make recommendations to the Minister and the Secretary about actions to be taken on Crown Land managed by the Secretary to prevent land degradation;
- Advise the Minister and provide information to the Minister on any matter referred to it by the Minister;
- Carry out any other functions conferred on the Authority by or under this Act or any other Act.

Each Authority has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with, or as incidental to, the performance of its functions, including any function delegated to it.

Subsection (2) is not to be taken to be limited by any other provision of this Act that confers a power on the Authority. Each Authority has the duties conferred on it by or under this or any other Act.

The Authority has additional objectives, functions, powers and duties for waterway management, floodplain management and regional drainage conferred under Part 7 and Part 10 of the *Water Act 1989*.

Acknowledgement of Country

We express our deep respect and recognition of the Traditional Owners, along with the Aboriginal communities and organisations, within the Glenelg Hopkins region. We celebrate their rich cultural diversity and profound bond with the land.
Our homage extends to the Elders who have passed, those who are present, and those who are yet to guide us. We acknowledge the vested interests, rights, and responsibilities that the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities hold in the stewardship of land and water.

The Traditional Owners have consistently upheld their rights to their land, water, and other natural resources, as well as their cultural duty to protect the land.

Four Traditional Owner groups are entrusted with the preservation of cultural landscapes across the Glenelg Hopkins region - these include the Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, and Barengi Gadjin Land Council. The Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation, representing the Boandik Traditional Owners, also have significant ties and interests in the western part of the Glenelg River catchment.

We cherish our collaborative efforts, which contribute to the wellbeing of both people and the land.





Artwork by Thomas Day (Local Artist)

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Year in review

Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Report



Catherine Redwood
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2026



Adam Bester
Chief Executive Officer
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
30 June 2026

On behalf of the Board of Directors, management and staff, we are pleased to present the 28th Annual Report of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.

We are proud of what was achieved in 2025-26 through the collective efforts of staff, Board, Traditional Owners, landholders, Landcare, community groups, local government, industry, researchers and government partners.

The year marked 40 years of Landcare, recognising four decades of grass roots action across the region. We acknowledge the enduring contribution of Landcare groups, landholders and volunteers to sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, waterway health and strong rural communities.

Our commitment to Traditional Owner partnership and self-determination continued to grow during 2025-26, through work with Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation. Key initiatives included the Budj Bim Connections Flagship Waterway Project; the world-first release of captive-bred Glenelg Freshwater Mussels to the Crawford River with Budj Bim Rangers; and the Saving 17 project, in which Eastern Maar Guardians and Wadawurrung's Gobata Dja team surveyed declining Hoary Sunray populations and supported future recovery. Eastern Maar also contributed to the Rivers of Warrnambool project by leading works at the Hopkins River Reserve. Environmental water collaboration has included engagement on the 2026-27 seasonal watering proposal and taking staff from Gunditj Mirring TOAC into Reach 0 of the Glenelg River to highlight opportunities and challenges with the site. Participation in Regional Waterway Strategy planning further supported cultural knowledge, capability, connection to Country and stronger Traditional Owner leadership in caring for land and water.

A defining feature of the year was prolonged dry conditions across south-west Victoria. Rainfall offered some seasonal relief, but streamflows remained below average and placed pressure on farming communities, rivers, wetlands and native vegetation. The CMA worked with Agriculture Victoria, other agencies and regional partners to support landholders through workshops on regenerative agriculture, farmer wellbeing, water capture, informed fertiliser decisions and rehydrating landscapes following rainfall.

The CMA helped deliver the Victorian Government's CMA-led Drought Employment Program with Corangamite CMA. The program in the Glenelg Hopkins region provided meaningful off-farm employment for eight farmers, farm workers and agricultural business employees affected by hardship, while bringing forward pest and weed control, riparian fencing, revegetation, waterway improvement and habitat works. At Brucknell Creek, the Drought Employment Crew worked with GHCMA's regional works crew to install fish huts for the endangered South-west Victorian Blackfish. Training delivered to participants has included Chemical Users Permit, Chainsaw Operate and Maintain, First Aid, and Snake Bite Treatment. This training has enabled participants to take up ongoing permanent opportunities with other organisations.

Fire recovery was another major focus. The CMA continued longer-term recovery activities following the 2024-25 Grampians bushfires and commenced immediate recovery planning for farmers affected by the January 2026 Streatham-Skipton fires. Funded activities included site assessments, bank stabilisation, revegetation, riparian fence repairs, debris removal, erosion and sediment controls, and weed management. These actions protect environmental and cultural assets, reduce post-fire impacts on water quality and build resilience to future events.

During the year, the Victorian Government announced floodplain reforms, including stronger accountabilities for Floodplain Management Authorities to prepare and endorse flood mapping, faster introduction of improved flood-related planning and building controls, and the development of more accessible property-specific flood risk information. For GHCMA, these reforms reinforced the importance of our role in providing reliable flood advice, supporting councils and communities, and helping ensure future development decisions are informed by the best available flood risk information.

Our role in Integrated Water Management also continued to expand. During 2025-26, GHCMA strengthened its capacity in this area, including through the establishment of a dedicated Integrated Water Management role to support regional collaboration, identify opportunities across existing CMA programs, and embed IWM thinking into strategies, operations and decision-making.

Report from the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer *(continued)*

The complexity of estuary management remained a clear and ongoing challenge. The Glenelg Hopkins region contains eight major estuaries: the Hopkins, Merri, Moyne, Yambuk, Fitzroy, Surry and Glenelg estuaries, and Fawthrop Lagoon. These are dynamic environments where freshwater, seawater, sand movement, tides, rainfall, catchment inflows and community use all interact. They provide important fish nursery habitat, bird refuge, water quality functions, recreational opportunities and cultural values. This year was particularly challenging, with climate change influencing berm dynamics and reducing the frequency of natural estuary openings. These changes placed additional pressure on water levels, water quality and ecological processes, while also affecting recreation, access, infrastructure and other environmental and social values.

The Rivers of Warrnambool Flagship Project demonstrated integrated delivery across the lower Hopkins and Merri Rivers, Brucknell Creek and Deep Creek. During 2025-26, works included removal of exotic trees from 20.6 hectares at 12 sites, 1.9 kilometres of stock-exclusion fencing, revegetation across seven sites and 4.8 hectares, and installation of 20 instream habitat structures at Jellie Reserve. Engagement reached 729 participants, including schools, community groups, recreational users and Eastern Maar. Delivery aligned closely with the Platy Patch project, with April eDNA monitoring detecting platypus at all 10 sampled urban Merri and Hopkins sites.

The Budj Bim Flagship project remained one of the region's most important examples of cultural and environmental partnership. The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is UNESCO World Heritage listed and includes nationally significant wetlands, rivers and cultural values shaped by the lava flow from Budj Bim to the sea. The CMA continued to work alongside Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, Budj Bim Rangers, land managers and community partners to protect and restore priority aquatic habitats across the landscape.

Environmental water management required careful decisions in response to below-average streamflows and limited storage inflows. GHCMA commenced 2025-26 water deliveries, worked with landholders on the compensation-flow annual operating plan and delivered a small 126-megalitre release from Moora Moora Reservoir to the Glenelg River in December. This work supported connectivity, water quality and ecological resilience, while generating practical learning for future watering of Reach 0 and informing Traditional Owner and community discussion about the broader environmental water reserve.

The CMA also advanced natural capital and sustainable agriculture. The inaugural South West Natural Capital Forum in Warrnambool brought together 125 participants from farming, Traditional Owner organisations, Landcare, government, finance, research, insurance, forestry and community sectors to build regional capability and connect environmental values with investment and business decisions. The CMA completed the first stage of its VVP Nature Finance Initiative pilot. This was undertaken in partnership with CCMA, NCCMA, Melbourne Water and the Landscape Finance Lab, who all form part of the VVP Alliance. The second stage will commence in 2026-27 and will further investigate project pilots, investors and future governance arrangements.

The Green Sheep Project placed the region within a national climate-smart sheep initiative, with the CMA supporting farmer-ready demonstrations of resilient production, natural capital assessment and sustainability reporting. The project launch generated strong media and social media interest and expanded the conversation about practical climate-smart agriculture.

The CMA continued to invest in biodiversity and threatened-species recovery across priority landscapes. The Saving 17 project concluded after establishing a seed production area that produced more than two million seeds in its second year. During 2025-26, seed from threatened species was sown into 14 native grasslands, extending direct seeding to 18 participating landholder sites. The work included collaboration with Eastern Maar to reinforce severely declining and locally extinct Hoary Sunray populations, alongside targeted recovery of Button Wrinklewort. Together with ongoing Adamson's Blown-grass, Southern Bent-wing Bat, Growling Grass Frog and Red-tailed Black Cockatoo recovery work, these projects demonstrate the value of combining science, landholder stewardship and Traditional Owner knowledge to recover some of Australia's most threatened species.

Internally, the CMA continued to strengthen organisational capability and staff wellbeing. The refurbished Hamilton office provided improved accessibility and more modern, collaborative workspaces, supporting staff connection and a better customer experience. We acknowledge the commitment and professionalism of CMA staff and partners. The 2025-26 year required staff and delivery partners to respond to drought, fire recovery, flood reform, estuary management challenges, whilst continuing to delivery on its investor commitments alongside increasing community expectations. Looking ahead, these challenges will continue into 2026-27, alongside emerging risks such as H5N1. The CMA has already secured some initial funding for building the resilience of birds most susceptible to H5N1, and we will continue to work alongside organisations leading H5N1 preparedness and response.

We farewelled former Chair, Tony Ford and Directors, Christine Giles and Michelle Casanova and Board Observers Hannah Beks and Amber Briggs. All made a significant contribution to the CMA and the region. We welcomed incoming Directors, Susan Bosch and Anna Sweeney, with Catherine Redwood appointed as Chair in October 2025. The Board continually reviews financial management, growth opportunities through its Business Growth Strategy, stakeholder relationships and strategic opportunities. The Board held meetings in Hamilton, Warrnambool, and Port Fairy. The Board continues to hold approximately half its meetings away from Hamilton to meet with the community when around the region.

On behalf of the Board and Executive, we thank everyone who contributed to the work of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA in 2025-26. Together, we are continuing to support healthy, connected and resilient landscapes for current and future generations.

The CMA continued to invest in biodiversity and threatened-species recovery across priority landscapes. The Saving 17 project concluded after establishing a seed production area that produced more than two million seeds in its second year.



Operational & Budgetary Objectives

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE	A board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued. Submitted annually.	Submitted electronically on 29 August 2025 to Minister for Water.
	A risk management strategy/ plan approved by the board and being implemented.	The CMA has a Risk Management Plan that is approved by the Board and is being implemented. The Plan is updated annually and was last approved by the Board in June 2026.
	100% of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	A detailed audit of the CMA Board and Operational Policies was undertaken during the 2025-26 financial year. These processes have included staff, Audit and Risk Committee, and Board. Over the last three years, the Board (and Audit and Risk Committee) received 100% of Board Policies. The Board Policies Operational Review Schedule Guideline was finalised in December 2025 and a new rotation schedule has been implemented.
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Compliant with all standing directions, with updates required for annual procurement planning process.
REGIONAL PLANNING AND COORDINATION	A Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins RCS 2021-2027 was approved by the Minister and gazetted on 28 April 2022. A mid-term review was provided to DEECA in September 2025.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework/plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Community Engagement and Partnership Strategy 2019-2024 was developed in 2019-20. A renewal of the strategy was completed in June 2025, resulting in the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Community Engagement and Partnership Strategy 2025-2030.
	A Regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Landcare Support Plan 2021-2026 was completed by 30 June 2021.
	A Regional Waterways Strategy approved by the Minister.	The Glenelg Hopkins Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 was approved by the Minister in August 2014. A new Regional Waterway Strategy is being prepared at present.
	Regional Floodplain Strategy approved by the Board.	The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Floodplain Management Strategy was approved by the Board in December 2017 and was accepted by DELWP in April 2018.

PERFORMANCE AREA	PERFORMANCE TARGET	COMMENTS
REGIONAL DELIVERY	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the Board annually.	RCS Annual Implementation Reports have been presented to the Board in August 2023 and 2024. The results of the mid-term review were presented to the Board in September 2025.
	Projects/activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Projects that support implementation of the RCS were delivered and reported according to their associated funding agreements.
	Projects/activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Projects to implement the Regional Waterway Strategy and the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy have been delivered and reported on according to associated funding agreements. The Regional Floodplain Management Strategy was completed in 2018. The RFMS identified 74 actions that were considered a priority for investment over the 2018-2028 period within the Glenelg Hopkins region. These 74 actions were split across several categories with 89% of actions now completed or underway. Ongoing consultation with municipalities has resulted in further refinement and addition of actions.
STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER PART 10 OF THE *WATER ACT*	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice, and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	92.4% of Flood Advice were responded to within the prescribed period. 88.8% of Flood Referrals were responded to within the prescribed period. 96.5% of Works on Waterways Licences were issued within the prescribed period. 92.5% of Works on Waterways Advice were issued within the prescribed period.
STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER PART 11 OF THE *WATER ACT*	90% of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice, and licences) associated with irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	100% of irrigation management responses were issued within the prescribed response period.



Five-year summary
– financial performance at a glance

	2025-26 ($ '000)	2024-25 ($ '000)	2023-24 ($ '000)	2022-23 ($ '000)	2021-22 ($ '000)
Victorian Government contributions	14,563	7,947	7,750	9,109	7,517
Federal Government contributions	3,375	1,236	1,602	4,653	3,030
Other revenue	955	863	892	596	264
Total revenue	18,893	10,047	10,244	14,358	10,811
Total expenditure	12,050	10,113	11,427	10,926	9,001
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	6,843	(66)	(1,183)	3,432	1,810
Financial assets	19,355	13,040	13,917	14,562	11,000
Total assets	21,462	14,393	15,020	15,718	12,169
Liabilities	2,047	1,886	2,446	1,961	1,845
Net assets	19,415	12,507	12,574	13,756	10,324

CURRENT FINANCIAL REVIEW

OVERVIEW

In 2025-26 Glenelg Hopkins CMA achieved a net operating profit of $6.84 million, a $6.90 million positive variance to 2024-25. In 2025-26, expenditure was at a higher rate due to costs associated with EC6 projects.

BALANCE SHEET

Net Assets increased by $6.91 million during the reporting period. Total financial assets were $6.31 million higher, largely reflecting additional funding received for bushfire recovery projects. Property, plant and equipment increased by $753k due to the capitalisation of construction works at the Hamilton Office. Employee Provisions increased by $124k, driven by the continued accrual of employee entitlements and workforce growth.

CASH FLOW

The cash position is $19.85 million for the 2025-26 financial year, a $6.86 million increase from the previous year. This again related largely to the additional funding received for bushfire recovery projects.



Glenelg Hopkins CMA
2025-2026 year in review



Total Investment:
$18.89 MILLION

18
PARTNERSHIPS ESTABLISHED

334 HA
REVEGETATED

41
MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS



2,163 HA
PEST ANIMAL CONTROL

735 HA
WEEDS CONTROLLED

48 KMS
FENCING



11,952 PEOPLE
ENGAGED WITH AT EVENTS

Media

BROADCAST MEDIA:

250
MEDIA ITEMS

1,403,369
AUDIENCE

$416,117
ADVERTISING SPACE RATE EQUIVALENT

PRINT & ONLINE NEWS HIGHLIGHTS:

FEBRUARY 2:
ABC VICTORIA STATEWIDE INTERVIEW – Glenelg Freshwater Mussels

MAY 20:
ABC RURAL VICTORIAN COUNTRY HOUR – Live broadcast from Green Sheep Project launch



ONLINE MEDIA:

FACEBOOK/X/INSTAGRAM:

1191
posts

5,133,996
profile impressions

51,958
followers

262,994
engagements

5.6%
average post engagement rate

327,343
video views

YOUTUBE:

12,771
You Tube video views

600.7
hours watched

487
channel Subscribers

WEBSITE:

45,491
website visitors

322
daily visitor peak

HIGHLIGHTS:

TOP CONTENT FACEBOOK POST:



Posted: April 13, 2026
Impressions: 133,993
Engagements: 3,092
Shares: 80

MOST ENGAGED FACEBOOK POST:



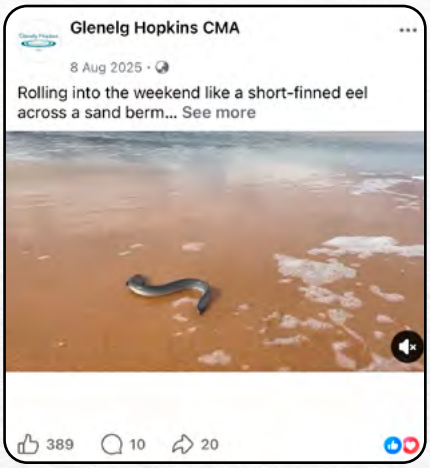
Posted: March 23, 2026
Impressions: 106,466
Engagements: 15,190
Comments: 107

TOP CONTENT INSTAGRAM POST:



Posted: March 23, 2026
Impressions: 389,680
Engagements: 8,157
Shares: 493

MOST VIEWED VIDEO:



Posted: August 8, 2025
Views: 16,615
Impressions: 28,859
Engagements: 1,656

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Vision and Purpose

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA seeks to align its Vision and Purpose with undertaking activities that will achieve strategic outcomes. It does so utilising the framework outlined below:



VISION: Achieving a healthy and sustainable relationship between the natural environment and the community's use of land and water resources.

DOMAIN: There are sufficient people and resources committed to actively improving the health, protection and sustainability of the environment and natural resources.

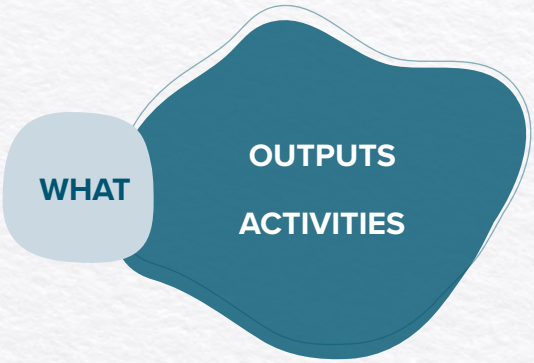
OUTCOMES: Climate change policy implementation, waterway & catchment health, water & sustainable agriculture, community engagement & partnerships, resilient & liveable cities & towns, Aboriginal cultural values & inclusion in the water sector, recreation values, floodplain management, environmental water, leadership diversity and culture and financial sustainability.

OUR PURPOSE: Working in partnership with landholders and the community to protect and enhance our region's land, water and biodiversity resources.



OUR APPROACH: Enabling, collaboration & inclusion, sustainability, learning & continuous improvement, health & well-being, leadership, VPS values and behaviours.

OUR STRATEGIES: Build capability & capacity, effective & demonstrated delivery, attract investment, regional leadership, people and safety. Knowledge growth, breadth & depth of participation, partnerships, integration & coordination, broad base of resourcing, regional MERI & planning, adapting for climate change, staff & organisational development, considered risk taking, strong governance & business management.



OUTPUTS: DEECA (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action) standard outputs, letter of expectation measures and business strategy performance indicators.

ACTIVITIES: Programs & projects.

Figure 5: Glenelg Hopkins Vision & Purpose with Strategic Outcomes

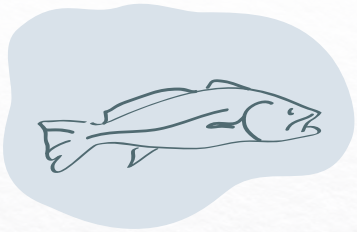
Strategic Objectives

The following key strategic objectives guide Glenelg Hopkins CMA in establishing and undertaking its core business and activities.



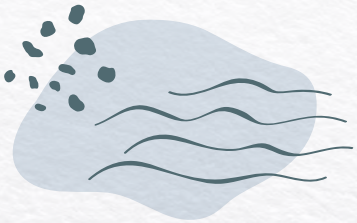
PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR A HEALTHY CATCHMENT

- Foster active partnerships to strengthen the region's capacity in natural resource and waterway management;
- Strengthen structures and processes for community engagement in regional strategies and plans;
- Promote adaptation and knowledge-sharing to build stakeholder capacity and resilience.



INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

- Facilitate and coordinate the management of catchments in an integrated and sustainable way;
- Target investment to enhance biodiversity, sustainable production and community resilience;
- Advise on natural asset condition trends to inform resource allocation and management actions.



EFFECTIVE WATERWAY AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

- Manage environmental water effectively;
- Provide efficient business processes for statutory functions;
- Provide regional leadership in floodplain management;
- Be a respected and accountable organisation.



RECRUIT AND SUSTAIN A PROFESSIONAL, PROACTIVE, AND INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE

- Deliver investment programs effectively and efficiently;
- Manage business risk conservatively;
- Optimise funding for NRM projects by minimising corporate overheads.

Minister's Letter of Expectations

RESILIENT AND LIVEABLE CITIES AND TOWNS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to support and promote this focus in our region through collaboration and partnerships with respect to river restoration along the Merri, Hopkins and Grange Burn rivers; Integrated Water Management activities in partnership with Wannon Water, local government and Traditional Owners; and partnerships with local communities. The CMA provides accurate flood advice and information to keep our communities safe.

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND NATURAL CAPITAL

This is a key focus for the next 5 years and a priority of the Business Growth Strategy. We have a commitment to mitigating climate risks and collaborating with agencies, landowners and Traditional Owners through activities such as carbon sequestration in soils and plantings, protection and improvement of blue and teal carbon habitats and increasing resilience of agricultural land. Natural capital and nature markets are emerging opportunities to diversify investment sources, inform land and water management, and help track impact. A Natural Capital Roadmap was developed in 2024 to help the organisation prepare and position for these opportunities.

RECOGNISE TRADITIONAL OWNER VALUES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has been working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Corporations for over 15 years, recognising and supporting important cultural values in the water sector. A mid-term review of the Glenelg Hopkins Aboriginal Partnership Framework was undertaken in 2022-23. The Framework was updated in early 2023-24, and partnerships with Traditional Owners will continue to be strengthened.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

RECOGNISE RECREATIONAL VALUES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is working towards delivering shared benefits along the Glenelg River and engaging with the community to identify recreational opportunities along the region's waterways and we will support communities and agencies developing social and recreational outcomes for well-being in line with the Victorian Government's Water for Victoria Strategy through the Regional Waterway Strategy. The CMA works with agencies and community to develop recreational infrastructure along key waterways to improve recreational access to water.

CUSTOMER, COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will continue to build on its relationships through the Catchment Partnership Agreement, Glenelg Hopkins Partnership and Engagement Strategy and the Regional Catchment Strategy. We will also support, strengthen and collaborate for improved catchment management performance through Vic Catchments.

LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY AND CULTURE

Glenelg Hopkins CMA will continue to position itself over the next five years as a provider of high-quality professional services, an employer of choice and an example to the region in line with its People & Culture Strategy.

WATERWAY AND CATCHMENT HEALTH

This is a foundational responsibility of Glenelg Hopkins CMA. Our regional priorities align strongly with the Victorian Government's priorities. Through investment received, the CMA will continue to provide leadership to improve the health of waterways, catchments, biodiversity and coastal and marine areas.

WATER FOR AGRICULTURE

We will improve agricultural productivity in line with the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy by building strong community commitment to sustainable farm practices, through supporting innovative practice and technology, and by implementing irrigation development guidelines in partnership with rural water corporations.

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA at a glance

THE GLENELG HOPKINS REGION LIES SOUTH OF THE GREAT DIVIDING RANGE IN VICTORIA'S SOUTH WEST.

The region is renowned for its scenic beauty, dramatic coastline and rich biodiversity. The boundaries of the region include marine and coastal waters out to the state limit of three nautical miles.

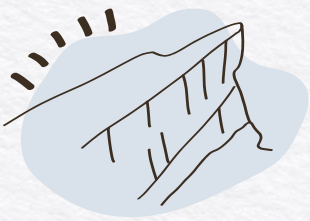
The region is characterised by flat volcanic plains in the south, while Gariwerd, Dundas Tablelands and Central Highlands are dominant in the north.

With a favourable climate and rich soils, 81% of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region is used for agriculture.

Based mostly on sheep, dairy, cattle, cereals and oil seeds, the region has the 3rd highest value of agricultural production of any NRM region in the nation and the highest in Victoria. The Glenelg Hopkins region contains natural features that are of national and international significance.

The Glenelg and Hopkins rivers and their tributaries, and the smaller rivers and creeks in the Portland and Millicent basins, are great locations for recreational water use including boating and fishing.





GARIWERD (GARIWERD NATIONAL PARK)

The Grampians National Park is home to a huge array of wildlife and landscapes alongside a rich and continuing Aboriginal history.



BUDJ BIM CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Incorporating Budj Bim National Park and the Budj Bim UNESCO World Heritage Landscape recognised for its Aboriginal cultural values.



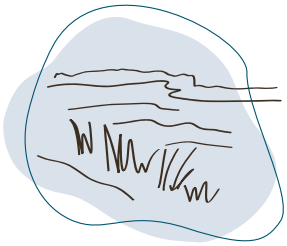
GLENELG RIVER

The lower section is heritage-listed due to its environmental significance.



IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS (IBA)

The areas between Port Fairy and Warrnambool, and on the Discovery Bay coast support a non-breeding population of the critically endangered Orange-bellied Parrot *(Neophema chrysogaster)*, a breeding population of the vulnerable Hooded Plover *(Thinornis cucullatus)*, and some significant migratory shorebird populations.



WESTERN DISTRICT RAMSAR LAKES

Recognised as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Lake Bookar is the only one of nine in the complex that occurs in the Glenelg Hopkins region.



31 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES

Including the Australasian Bittern *(Botaurus poiciloptilus)*, the Southern Bent-wing Bat *(Miniopterus orianae bassanii)* and the Orange-bellied Parrot *(Neophema chrysogaster)*.



GLENELG ESTUARY AND DISCOVERY BAY RAMSAR SITE

Stretching more than 22,000 ha and known for its rare dunes and a variety of threatened plant, waterbird and fish species.



74 CRITICALLY ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

Including the Wrinkled Cassinia *(Cassinia rugata)*, the Western Purple Diuris (*Diuris daltonii)* and the Langi Ghiran Grevillea *(Grevillea montis-cole subsp. brevistyla).*



DISCOVERY BAY MARINE NATIONAL PARK

Situated 20 km west of Portland, this park covers 3,050 ha and consists of basalt reefs and a high diversity of intertidal and shallow subtidal invertebrates such as rock lobster and abalone. It is an important site for whale watching.



THE REGION

Also has the Lower Glenelg National Park and Cobboboonee National Park and Forest.

Condition & Management Reporting

INTRODUCTION

Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, 'each Catchment Management Authority must include in its report of operations prepared under Part 7 of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, a report on the condition and management of land and water resources in its region and the carrying out of its functions'. Since 2022, CMAs have worked collectively to develop an approach to enable this reporting to be undertaken, consistent with the agreed Statewide outcomes framework that links regional outcomes and activity (management) to the high level policy outcomes of the Victorian and Australian Government.

ANNUAL CATCHMENT CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT REPORTING

This report provides a summary assessment of the condition and management of the region's environment and a reflection on the likely impact of annual scale actions, events, and observed change within the previous year. A key purpose of monitoring changes in the operating context is to help identify opportunities for adapting and changing the way we manage the environment. The full catchment condition and management report is contained within each CMA's Annual Report.

The report is structured in line with the state-wide outcome framework that links the regional outcomes sought by catchment communities to the high-level policy outcomes of the Victorian and Australian Governments. These are outlined in each Regional Catchment Strategy (**rcs.vic.gov.au**).

In 2025-26 reporting has a focus on catchment management ratings. The 2022-23 catchment condition ratings have been adopted and provided here for completeness, with an update to be undertaken in 2027 to align with the availability of data for condition indicators and the formal evaluation needs of the Regional Catchment Strategy.

HOW TO INTERPRET THIS REPORT

The assessment is based on a set of state-wide indicators outlined in the RCS outcomes framework, augmented with regionally specific indicators that have been selected based on criteria including availability and quality of data, and the linkages back to regional and policy outcomes.

This report provides a summary assessment for condition and management indicators at a theme level (water, biodiversity, land, coast and marine, communities and integrated catchment management).

The management assessment for each theme assesses the delivery of CMA programs and activities.

Reporting on management indicators is undertaken annually.

Reporting on catchment condition indicators is undertaken less frequently, reflecting the timeframes to observe changes in the natural environment and the availability of the supporting data. The 2025-26 annual report includes the 2022-23 condition ratings and an update on factors that may have influenced catchment over the preceding year.

As much as possible, the reporting format attempts to provide a transparent path between the evidence and the assessment. It is not a definitive assessment but an assessment at a point in time, based on the best available evidence.

CONDITION RATINGS

An overall condition rating for each theme is provided based on the 2022-23 Catchment Condition Report. CMAs assigned overall condition ratings at this time based on a set of condition indicators for each theme and consideration of other influencing factors. The assessment incorporated available science, expert advice and other evidence. The annual update aims to provide an overview of the factors that may have influenced catchment condition over the preceding year, or any new information relating to catchment condition that will inform future assessments.

CONDITION RATING	DESCRIPTION
Good	The condition is classified as good.
Moderate	The condition is classified as moderate.
Poor	The condition is classified as poor.
Not applicable	A condition rating is not applicable for this indicator.

2022-2023 CATCHMENT CONDITION RATING

2022-2023 CONDITION RATING					
Water	Land	Coast and Marine	Biodiversity	Community	Integrated Catchment Management



This report provides a summary assessment for condition and management indicators at a theme level (water, biodiversity, land, coast and marine, communities and integrated catchment management)

MANAGEMENT RATINGS

Management ratings are presented in summary form for each theme and are assessed by comparing the delivered activities for the financial year against the funded activities for the financial year. The table presents results based on the number of indicators assessed as meeting each category (Above expectations, Met expectations, Below expectations or Not applicable) with the total number of indicators assessed in each theme also provided. The overall management rating for each theme has been assigned by considering the individual indicator ratings and other influencing factors. The management summary text provides a rationale for the ratings including commentary on factors influencing the delivery of CMA programs such as climate, natural events, organisational capacity and socio-economic factors

MANAGEMENT RATING	DESCRIPTION
Above expectations	Delivery of activities and programs associated with this indicator is assessed as above expectations for the 12-month period (i.e. majority of activities delivered/targets met or exceeded).
Met expectations	Delivery of activities and programs associated with this indicator is assessed as having met expectations for the 12-month period (i.e. the majority of activities delivered/targets were met or almost achieved).
Below expectations	Delivery of activities and programs associated with this indicator is assessed as below expectations for the 12-month period (i.e. some critical activities/targets not delivered, or the majority of activities/targets not delivered).
Not applicable	A management rating is not applicable for this indicator.
Unknown	The rating for this indicator is not known and/or assessable.

2025-26 Catchment Condition Update

WATER

Waterway conditions across the region continued to be challenged by the cumulative impacts of prolonged dry conditions, reduced rainfall and declining seasonal streamflow, along with the ongoing threats from pest plants and animals. Several of the region's waterways were also affected by the previous year's fires in Gariwerd and the Skipton Streatham area fires.

LAND

Drought and dry conditions continued to persist for much of 2025-26, with large parts of the catchment recording the lowest rainfall on record over a 3-year period. Mean soil moisture was the lowest recorded since 2000, and the area of unprotected soil was the second highest since 2000. Managing the cumulative effects of drought and fire continues to be a challenge in the north-east of the catchment. Around 19,300 ha of farmland and crops were burnt in a wildfire near Streatham in January 2026.

COAST AND MARINE

The Glenelg Hopkins region has experienced a prolonged dry period, which is profoundly influencing estuarine dynamics. The extended dry period with very low freshwater inflows meant estuaries could not be maintained as open tidal systems. The health and function of intermittently closed and open estuaries (ICOLLs) in Southwest Victoria is further challenged by competing adjacent land uses, and the increasing unpredictability of climate conditions.

BIODIVERSITY

Current investment continues to be insufficient to offset habitat loss and degradation. The erosion of ecological resilience is exacerbated by extreme events and the changing climate, reducing overall biodiversity in terms of presence and abundance and increasing the risk of extinction and ecological collapse.

COMMUNITY

Community participation in natural resource management events and engagement continues to remain strong. Highlights include the sold out regional Natural Capital Forum; high levels of farmer engagement through the Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator program; school engagement activities through Platy Patch, Rivers of Warrnambool and Budj Bim Flagship Projects; and strong volunteer engagement for the Red-tail Black Cockatoo count. 230 volunteers contributed around 4,950 hours working on Victorian Landcare grant projects within the Glenelg Hopkins region.

Landcare group health scores remain steady, with 93% of groups reporting their group health as moving forward (46%), strong (32%), or thriving (15%).

2025-26 CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT RATING

The table below provides a high level summary of condition and management over the past 12 months under the themes of **Water**, **Land**, **Coast and Marine**, **Biodiversity**, and **Community**.

2025-26 MANAGEMENT RATING (no. Indicators assessed as meeting each category)						
THEME	✕ Not applicable	! Below expectations	O Met expectations	✓ Above expectations	Total no. indicators assessed	Overall rating
WATER	0	0	10	0	10	O
LAND	0	0	3	0	3	O
COAST AND MARINE	0	0	1	4	5	✓
BIODIVERSITY	0	0	1	2	3	✓
COMMUNITY	0	0	1	2	4	✓

WATER

Despite the challenges of prolonged dry conditions, declining streamflow, pest pressures and fires, the CMA and its partners successfully delivered planned activities including riparian management, over 150 ha of woody weed control, installation of 40 fish habitat structures, continued environmental water delivery and community engagement. An increase in irrigation development and water licence trade was also observed as a result of dry conditions.

Water indicators used in the assessment:

INDICATOR	MANAGEMENT RATING	COMMENT
Extent of protected or improved riparian land (ha)	**Met expectations**	938.7 ha of riparian land protected through fencing, weed control, pest animal control and revegetation activities in 2025-26.
Fence (km)	**Met expectations**	11.9 km
Vegetation (ha)	**Met expectations**	58.8 ha delivered. Some programs delayed revegetation activities due to ongoing dry conditions with works to be completed during spring planting season as planned.
Weed control (ha)	**Met expectations**	157.8 ha
Pest animal control (ha)	**Met expectations**	758 ha
Number of Management Agreements (perpetual or non-perpetual)	**Met expectations**	29 agreements including 11 Rivers of Warrnambool project sites, 2 Budj Bim Flagship Waterway project sites, and 5 wetland sites (Our Catchment Our Communities).
Environmental flow compliance	**Met expectations**	Compliance against objectives varied greatly across all reaches. Baseflow compliance was a low of 76% in Reach 1a and a high of 88% in Reach 1b. Fresh compliance was 100% in reach 1b and reach 2 but fell short of its target in reach 1a.
Waterway Structure (no.)	**Met expectations**	40 fish habitat structures installed in the Merri River for the Rivers of Warrnambool and Platy Patch projects.
***Water Act licenses* (no.)**	**Met expectations**	Works on Waterway licences – 370.
Statutory advice (no.)	**Met expectations**	Responses remain high as with recent years – flood referrals 188.



Activities contributing to management of water in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment for the 2025-26 period:

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS 2025-26
Project Name: Water for the Environment **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water** **Funder: State Government – EC6 Environmental Water**	
The project supported river connectivity and improved water quality for the Glenelg River system, delivering 10,372ML of environmental water and 1,263ML of passing flow, particularly in Reach 1a and 1b where salinity was an issue. The release of 385ML of compensation flow entitlement was used to benefit landholders and farms on the Glenelg River. An additional 126ML of environmental water was delivered through the Grampians National Park, in Reach 0.	11 ISC reaches received environmental water holdings. Passing flows were released (1 unregulated), and compensations flow used (1 consumptive). The e-water team presented to 196 participants and engaged with 330 people in field days. 55 publications (visual, audio, written).
Project Name: Rivers of Warrnambool Flagship **Project Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: State Government – EC6 WH Flagship On-ground works**	
This project is aligned and jointly delivered with the Platy Patch Project. Activities included expanding works on the Hopkins River to include gorse control on the Framlingham Streamside Reserve in collaboration with Eastern Maar Traditional Owner staff. This included a collaborative spraying day with 3 spray trailers from GHCMA and EMAC joining forces. A prioritised ecological monitoring plan was developed led by the Arthur Rylah Institute which will assist in tracking impact of project works over time associated with three themes; water quality, fish and vegetation.	20 instream habitat structures installed, 4.8 ha of revegetation, 7.1 ha of non-woody weed control, and 20.4 ha of woody weed control, 1.9 km fencing. 469 people engaged in project activities, 14 publications written and 10 sites monitored for fauna via eDNA.
Project Name: Platy Patch - The Urban Rivers Platypus Recovery Initiative **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DEECA, Melbourne Water, other CMAs, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and many others** **Funder: Australian Government funded, managed by DEECA**	
Platy Patch is progressing well, with a focus on large exotic tree removals involving local arborists. 10 Merri River sites were cleared of exotic overburden of Willow, Poplar and Pine (4.73 ha). Notable sites included widespread Poplar control at Jellie Reserve, Woodford, Pine control at Smiths Ln, Allansford and Willow control at Stewart Crt, Warrnambool. Platypus habitat structures were installed at Jellie Reserve, and revegetation occurred across 4 sites, including a school planting with 52 grade 5 & 6 students from Woodford Primary School planting 700 plants at the Jellie Reserve site.	20 instream habitat structures installed, 5.79 ha of weed control, 1.67 ha of revegetation, 1.1 km fencing. 89 people engaged in project activities, 4 publications written and 10 sites monitored for fauna via eDNA.
Project Name: Nursery fish habitat for the Hopkins River Estuary **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: VFA: Victorian Fish Habitat Fund – Stream 2**	
The project sought to improve juvenile fish survival and recruitment in the Hopkins River Estuary, through installing fish habitats throughout the estuary that are designed to support the early life stages of native fish species and contribute to long-term population stability. Two standardised fish surveys will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the installed habitats and monitor fish recruitment.	80 waterway structures installed.
Project Name: Brucknell Creek and Merri River Blackfish **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA** **Funder: VFA: Victorian Fish Habitat Fund – Stream 2**	
The project has been successfully completed, significantly increasing instream habitat to support recovery of the endangered Western Victorian Blackfish (*Gadopsis sp. nov.*). In Brucknell Creek, 90 purpose-built fish huts were installed, providing critical refuge habitat in smaller waterways by offering shelter from predators and improving survival opportunities. In the Merri River, 20 fish hotels were established to prepare key reaches for future Blackfish reintroduction, while also enhancing habitat for recreational angling species. Collectively, the project has improved habitat complexity, strengthened ecological resilience, and supports the long-term persistence and recovery of Western Victorian Blackfish populations.	0.7 km of waterways protected/ improved 110 Habitat structures installed 2 Fish surveys completed

Project Name: Ramsar Site Management - Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay
Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, PV, Gunditj Mirring TOAC, VFA, Glenelg Shire Council, Southern Rural Water.
Lead contract support from Birdlife Australia, Nature Glenelg Trust, Australis Biological.
Funder: State Government – EC6 WH – Ramsar

Management of the site remains on track, with ecological character maintained and all Limits of Acceptable Change currently met or likely to be met. Monitoring continues to show strong outcomes for threatened flora and fauna, including nationally vulnerable fish species and record orchid populations. Governance, coordination and renewal of the 2025-2032 Ramsar Management Plan have strengthened adaptive management. Key risks remain hydrological change, nutrient enrichment, coastal processes and invasive species. Priority actions include continued monitoring, hydrological investigations, pest plant and animal control, community engagement and strengthening Traditional Owner involvement in site management.	16 stakeholder meetings and 44 presentations/engagement activities Collaboration with 6 partner agencies 1 management plan (Annual Action Plan) 3 visual publications and maintenance of 1 information management database

Project Name: GEDB Ramsar Site Management Plan Renewal
Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DEECA, Parks Victoria, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation, Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)
Funder: State Government – EC5

The renewal of the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site Management Plan (2025-2032) provides an updated framework for protecting the site's ecological character and guiding management over the next seven years. Key changes include refined Resource Condition Targets, updated management strategies to address priority threats such as invasive species and climate change, and a stronger adaptive management framework supported by monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI). The renewed plan also places greater emphasis on Traditional Owner partnerships, incorporating Gunditjmara and Boandik knowledge and values into site management. The plan identifies hydrology, coastal processes, biodiversity conservation and community stewardship as ongoing priorities for maintaining the Ramsar site's internationally significant wetland values.	Monitoring of 8 measuring stations, 3 groundwater bores and 26 additional monitoring stations, 3 fauna and 3 flora assessments, 2.7 ha of native vegetation enhanced through supplementary revegetation, 3.3 ha of non-woody weed control and 69.2 ha of woody weed control, 1.9 ha of predator control (*Gambusia*), 5.31 tonnes of rubbish from priority beach-nesting and shorebird habitats, 1 written communication product and project promotion.

Project Name: Budj Bim Connections Flagship Waterway Project
Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation
Funder: State Government – EC6 WH – Flagship On-ground works

All DEECA approvals for large scale on-ground woody weed control at Tyrendarra, Homerton and Heywood were received in April 2026. Initial works began at Tyrendarra to control the Italian Buckthorn (IBT), cape ivy, gorse and reduce biomass at the site. Gorse and hawthorn control was completed at Heywood and juvenile woody weeds cut and painted along Palawarra (Fitzroy River). Community engagement activities have been numerous and included school and U3A tours on Country, presentations to SW Tafe and Warrnambool Field Naturalists, training days, meetings, social media, event attendance. Streamology was appointed as the successful consultant for the siltation and hydrology assessment of Killara (additional DEECA monitoring funding).	2 Management Agreements with private landholders, community engagement reached 396 people through tours on Country 5, presentations 2, IBT training sessions 2, social media publications 7 and representation at numerous meetings with Gunditj Mirring and Winda-Mara. Weed control over 10 ha.

Project Name: Regional Works
Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Victoria, SEA Landcare group, Friends of Forgotten Woodlands. Individual Land managers
Funder: State Government – EC6 WH – On-ground works

Significant progress was made toward development of the new Regional Waterway Strategy, guided by DEECA and Ministerial Guidelines. Draft strategic directions, outcomes and priorities were refined through ongoing collaboration with Traditional Owners, stakeholders and partner agencies. Traditional Owner values and aspirations continued to be embedded through targeted engagement activities and participation in strategy development. The focus landscapes prioritisation framework was developed and applied to 21 candidate landscapes to derive 14 for further investigation and writing into the RWS. The process supports transparent, evidence-based investment decisions across the region. The project also maintained critical datasets, coordinated state investment reporting, reviewed and administered surface water monitoring information and incorporated lessons from previous waterway management investments to inform future priorities.

Project Name: Victorian Water Cycle Adaptation Action Program (WCAAP) – Understanding River Vulnerability
Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, DEECA, VEWH, other CMAs
Funder: State Government – DEECA

The vulnerability of rivers to climate change was identified as a critical knowledge gap in the CMAs' Climate Adaptation Gap Analysis Report (Alluvium 2025). This project will enable waterway managers to understand the vulnerability of rivers and key attributes to climate change, which will in turn allow management to effectively support rivers now and into the future. Key achievements to date include establishment of the project control group, scoping work/gap analysis, and conceptual models developed and ready for socialisation and testing with subject matter experts. There has been good interest in the project and a number of CMAs have expressed interest in testing the process with case study rivers.

Activities contributing to management of water in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment for the 2025-26 period: *(continued)*

Project Name: 1. Grampians Yarram Gap Bushfire Recovery (Immediate) **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, individual land owners, Nature Glenelg Trust, Parks Victoria** **Funder: State Govt. DEECA supported by the Commonwealth Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA)**	
This project was established to support the protection and recovery of waterways, riparian areas and catchment assets affected by the Yarram Gap Road fire in the southern Grampians. During 2025-26, Glenelg Hopkins CMA implemented a staged, risk-based recovery program focused on urgent stabilisation, site assessment, engagement with land managers and delivery partners, and preparation for targeted works across priority public, private and covenanted land. The project has been guided by post-fire risk assessments, including the Rapid Risk Assessment Team findings and the Wannon River post-bushfire assessment, ensuring investment is directed to priority sites where works can reduce erosion, protect water quality, support biodiversity and strengthen longer-term catchment resilience.	Completion of priority assessment works, 3 initial debris and rubbish removals, 21 terrestrial structures installed, 2 partnerships, 1 assessment, and progress towards 200 ha weed control and 27 km fencing reinstatement targets.
Project Name: Long term recovery needs for Western Victoria bushfires **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, individual landowners** **Funder: State Govt. DEECA supported by the Commonwealth Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA)**	
Following the December 2024 Grampians National Park fire, this project is focused on protecting and restoring fire-impacted waterways, riparian areas and associated assets across priority catchments. Important achievements in 2025-26 included: spatial mapping of fire-impacted areas and priority works sites; desktop and field review of priority flow and biodiversity corridors; completion of early landholder and site assessments; development of landholder agreements; commencement of the recovery works expression of interest process; technical scoping for earthworks and waterway structures; and engagement with key partners including Parks Victoria, the Arthur Rylah Institute and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.	10 site assessments, 5 fencing outputs, 2 debris and rubbish removals, 2 terrestrial structures, 1 engagement activity, and 10 vegetation outputs completed. 3 partnerships in progress, and confirmed pipeline of ~13 km of fencing under contract, providing a strong foundation for accelerated delivery in 2026-27.
Project Name: Victorian Bushfires (Streatham-Skipton, January 2026) **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, individual landowners** **Funder: State Govt. DEECA supported by the Commonwealth Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement (DRFA)**	
The project agreement was executed in May 2026. Targeted works will replace and enhance previous works to protect fire-affected waterways, riparian areas and valuable aquatic habitat on Mt Emu Creek. Key activities to date have included governance, site access arrangements, stakeholder engagement, landholder EOI promotion, site assessments and prioritisation, ACHRIS searches, and development of compliant draft Landholder Agreements. Planning was informed by post-fire risk mapping, information from community meetings, Landcare Facilitator community liaison, and follow up of previous GHCMA funded project participants.	Assessment of 5 fire affected properties, 2 draft Landholder Agreements developed.
Project Name: Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority IWM Resourcing Initiative **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, DEECA, Wannon Water, Central Highlands Water, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Warrnambool City Council, Moyne Shire Council, Glenelg Shire Council, Southern Grampians Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, Ararat Rural City, Corangamite Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council and Ballarat City Council** **Funder: State Government – DEECA**	
An IWM Officer was employed in 2025 on a four-year contract. The IWM initiative aims to fundamentally shift the way water, land use planning and urban development opportunities are managed. Under the Victorian IWM framework CMAs along with regional councils, Traditional Owners and water corporations collaborate on projects that meet IWM aims, specifically to improve the natural environment; provide safe, secure and affordable water supplies and wastewater systems; manage flood risks; reflect traditional owner and community values; create jobs, economic opportunity and innovation. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is a member of the Great South Coast IWM Forum and the Central Highlands IWM Forum.	GHCMA led 3 grant applications and partnered in a further 6 in the recent round of state government IWM grants, announced in July 2026.
Project Name: Implementing the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: State Government – EC5 - EC6**	
There are currently 104 actions in the strategy, of which 85 are either completed or underway (82%), which is an increase of 7% from the previous year. In 2025-26 activities have included supporting delivery partners around the region in completing flood investigations, progressing planning scheme amendments and identifying gaps in floodplain intelligence. LGAs that GHCMA has either supported or led flood investigations for include Ararat Rural City, City of Ballarat, Corangamite Shire, Glenelg Shire, Moyne Shire, Pyrenees Shire and Warrnambool City Council. Planning scheme amendment preparation, consultation or panel representation has occurred within Glenelg Shire, Pyrenees Shire, Southern Grampians Shire, Warrnambool City and West Wimmera Shire. GHCMA has also been heavily involved in statewide reforms announced October 2025, which has included involvement in working groups and review of planning scheme amendment changes and guidance material.	

WATER CASE STUDY:

Creating fish huts for a unique local species



The Glenelg Hopkins CMA delivered a targeted habitat restoration project across Brucknell Creek and the Merri River to support recovery of the endangered Southwest River Blackfish *(Gadopsis marmoratus)*. Funded through the Victorian Government Fish Habitat Improvement Fund, the project reinstated critical instream habitat to improve shelter, breeding opportunities and juvenile survival for this unique southwest Victorian species.

The Southwest River Blackfish is a unique species only found in a few locations in the southwest. Due to isolation from other populations of blackfish, the Southwest River Blackfish has speciated from other populations and occurs only in the Hopkins and Merri Rivers, and the Brucknell and Darlot Creeks.

It is a fish that depends on complex instream habitat such as logs, root masses and undercut banks to breed and feed in and around. These habitat areas have been lost over time.

To address habitat loss, Glenelg Hopkins CMA secured $173,000 through the Fish Habitat Improvement Fund and delivered restoration works in priority waterways.

This required 90 purpose-built fish huts to be constructed and installed in Brucknell Creek by the Waterways Team, CMA Works Crew and Drought Employment Program staff.

These structures were specifically designed to provide refuge, congregation and breeding opportunities for blackfish.

A further 20 habitat structures created from larger logs and rocks were installed in the Merri River at Jellie Reserve, Woodford, increasing habitat complexity following woody weed removal works.

Monitoring surveys undertaken by Austral Research and Consulting assessed fish populations and habitat values, helping improve understanding of species distribution and habitat requirements.

The project supports the Victorian Fisheries Authority 10 in Ten program and has strengthened habitat resilience for native fish populations across southwest Victoria.

- *Below (l-r): Fish habitat being installed in the Merri River.*
  Installing fish huts in Brucknell Creek.

KEY OUTPUTS:

- 90 fish huts installed in Brucknell Creek.
- 20 habitat structures installed in Merri River.
- Enhanced instream habitat complexity.
- Improved refuge, breeding and juvenile survival opportunities.
- Monitoring surveys completed.

FUNDING DELIVERY PARTNERS:

Victorian Fisheries Authority, Austral Research and Consulting, the Victorian Government through the Fish Habitat Improvement Fund.





LAND

Significant gains were achieved through sustainable agriculture, irrigation, wetland stewardship, soil health, carbon farming and drought recovery programs. More than 3,000 ha of farmland adopted improved land management practices, while 177 ha of wetlands were protected through stewardship agreements and 1,022 ha received rabbit control. Expanded soil monitoring, on-ground revegetation, fencing and weed control works improved catchment resilience. Strong partnerships, community engagement and farmer wellbeing initiatives supported long-term sustainable landscape outcomes.

Land indicators used in the assessment

INDICATOR	MANAGEMENT RATING	COMMENT
Area of improved Agricultural Practices (ha)	**Met expectations**	206 ha now under swamp stewardship agreements for OCOC, and 3244 ha agricultural land is under improved practices as reported through the NHT Climate Smart Agriculture project.
Number of Assessments	**Met expectations**	A strong response to an EOI for wetland protection on agricultural land led to a large number of property assessments (OCOC project), whereas a reduction in the number of assessments possible in the Climate Smart Agriculture project resulted in adaptive management arrangements (negotiating to deliver in 2026-27).
Number of Property Plans	**Met expectations**	5 plans for managing for protection of wetlands on farming enterprises OCOC – 63 ha.

Activities contributing to management of land in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment for the 2025-26 period:

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS 2025-26
Project Name: Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust**	
The Glenelg Hopkins region experienced improved rainfall during the year, providing relief from prolonged dry conditions and supporting a cautious optimism among farmers. While drought recovery, water management, and resilience remain key priorities, progress was made in supporting regenerative agriculture, strengthening farmer networks, and promoting sustainable land management. Strong engagement supported knowledge sharing and collaboration across local, regional, and international networks. Farmer wellbeing remained central to all activities, with mental health awareness integrated into workshops, on-farm support, and community forums.	8 communication materials, 13 community negotiations, 1,578 participants at engagement events, 4 on-ground trials/demos with 84 participants, 4 technical advice with 8 participants, 10 conferences/seminars with 3,485 participants, 6 workshops with 186 participants.
Project Name: South West Sustainable Irrigation Program **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Agriculture Victoria and Southern Rural Water** **Funder: State Government – EC6 Sustainable Irrigation Program**	
The Sustainable Irrigation Program is administered by DEECA and is delivered in partnership with Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), extension staff from Agriculture Victoria and rural water corporations. The partnership with Deakin University to work together on a nutrient and drainage project has advanced, and has led to exploration of a new partnership with a private research organisation for future work. The team presented at Food and Fibre Great South Coast and Landcare events this year. We have responded to an increasing number of Take and Use water licensing referrals, and have received direct enquiries from applicants as a result of positive feedback from other landholders. Communications and interagency processes with Southern Rural Water are strengthening.	Responded to 13 Take and Use water licensing referrals, 2 Landholder Workshops, a Landholders Resource Library to be used in conjunction with the Irrigation System Performance Check videos on YouTube, representation on 4 statewide committees and forums.
Project Name: Our Catchments, Our Communities Sustainable Farming Landscape - protection, restoration and stewardship **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: State Government – EC6**	
Community engagement included presentations about frogs to the Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group and Upper Mt Emu Creek Network. A Deakin University Honours student presented on his frog research at Lake Bolac and published a paper on his research. The Lake Bolac Eel Festival in March 2026 attracted 500 attendees and at least 80 had conversations with staff at the GHCMA information table. An EOI for Swamp Stewardships attracted strong interest (15 applicants). Visits to eligible landholders resulted in assessment of 4,105 ha of farmland with 285 ha of wetlands. Five landholders entered into 8 year Swamp Stewardship Agreements. Farm visits were made to the 4 farmers with EC5 Swamp Stewardship, answering questions about the ways to improve management on the 7 Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands covering 114 ha.	Maintained 4 Management Agreements, (114 ha), 5 new Management Agreements for 8 wetlands covering 63 ha for 8 years, 1,022 ha of pest animal (rabbit) control around wetlands on 19 farms, 7 written publications, ~400 people at engagement events.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS 2025-26
Project Name: Brolga Wetland Habitat Improvement – AGL **Lead/Partners: GHCMA, AGL**	
These Agreements are Landholder contracts with the CMA for eight years to improve wetland management of eight EPBC listed Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands. Brolgas are known to feed and breed near all of these wetlands. Incentive payments are made to the Landholder for the first four years. The first two years were made by the OCOC EC5 project.	Supported improved wetland management of 8 EPBC listed Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands covering 114 ha.
Project Name: Sustainable Farms. Sustainable Futures **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: Australian Government – Natural Heritage Trust**	
Significant progress in the 2025-26 year includes improved land management practices across more than 3,000 ha of agricultural land as a result of participation in workshops, training events, and farm management planning. These outcomes have covered a variety of actions such as nutrient management, improved grazing management and species selection. The support for comprehensive farm planning courses is still strong, with many farmers seeing it as a part of succession planning and building resilience on farm.	2 Communication materials, 22 Community/stakeholder engagement events with pre and post skills and knowledge surveys, 2 land use transect surveys, 3,244 ha of improved land management practices.
Project Name: Supporting Victorian Farmers transition to low carbon future - Carbon farming outreach **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: State Government – DEECA**	
Through a partnership with Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, GHCMA was a delivery partner for the Carbon Farming Outreach Program funded project 'Supporting Victorian farmers transition to a low carbon future' in the region. The objectives (now completed) for the project were to support farmers and land managers to make decisions to reduce emissions, build capacity of trusted advisers to deliver independent advice, and facilitate access to clear, consistent and culturally appropriate information on carbon farming and low-emissions technologies and practices.	10 Carbon Farming Outreach Program events with 271 participants.
Project Name: National Soils Monitoring Program **Lead/Partners: Wimmera CMA/all Victorian CMAs** **Funder: State Government – DEECA**	
The CSIRO National Soils Monitor Project is a long-term initiative designed to improve understanding of soil condition and change across Australia by establishing a nationally consistent soil monitoring network. The project collects data on key soil health indicators, including soil carbon, nutrients, structure and biodiversity, to support sustainable land management and informed decision-making. Glenelg Hopkins CMA is currently undertaking field sampling across 79 monitoring sites throughout the region which represent a range of land uses and soil types, providing valuable baseline information that will help track changes in soil health over time and contribute to the national soil monitoring effort.	40 sites surveyed and sampled Staff training with CSIRO.
Project Name: Green Sheep Project **Lead/Partners: Sheep Producers Australia with Glenelg Hopkins CMA, NRM South, Holbrook Landcare Network and Wheatbelt NRM. Supported by Meat & Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation, Integrity Systems Company, AUS-MEAT, AMIC and the Southern Australia Livestock Research Council** **Funder: Australian Government Natural Heritage Trust**	
Led nationally by Sheep Producers Australia, Green Sheep Project is a collaborative initiative helping sheep producers better understand, measure and document environmental sustainability to support ongoing market access, productivity and profitability. A successful Launch Event in May at Kuleah Farm (owned by The Midfield Group) was attended by around 70 people representing grazing, cropping, dairy, environmental, Traditional Owners, community, not for profit, Industry bodies, State Government, Media, and commercial entities. 13 Expressions of Interest were received for demonstration sites, and site inspections have been completed, with various ideas for soil health, insect resilience, hydrology, ecological surveys, and audits considered. Baseline surveys have captured understanding, capabilities and knowledge gaps around Natural Capital.	Engagement events attended by 154 people, 3 assessments (baseline surveys) reaching 74 people, 8 property assessments.
Project Name: Drought Employment Program **Lead/Partners: GHCMA** **Funder: Victorian Government – DEECA**	

The Drought Employment Program was an initiative to support rural communities negatively affected by the drought in Southwest Victoria. To date, 8 participants have been recruited, inducted and received skills based training. Positively, 3 young participants have since taken up ongoing permanent employment opportunities with other organisations. The additional workforce has been a great boost to the GHCMA by working alongside our existing Regional Works Crew and increasing their capacity to deliver beneficial riparian outcomes. An effective and very positive team has been created and maintained.

Over 250 days of work were completed, supporting 10 landholder riparian revegetation projects, two Landcare revegetation sites, two remnant vegetation stock exclusion fencing projects, two riparian weed eradication project sites, 12 landholder weed eradication projects, one landholder riparian stock exclusion fence, and one landholder wetland fencing project through Landcare. The team also supported the Streatham-Skipton Fire Recovery Project by establishing three stock containment areas and undertaking 5 km of fence repair and/or removal. The team also supported an Authorised Artificial River Mouth Opening at the Fitzroy River.

LAND CASE STUDY:

Showcasing the natural opportunities of the South West



Keynote speaker at the South West Natural Capital Forum, Professor Hugh Possingham.

The inaugural South West Natural Capital Forum in October 2024 brought together leading experts from across Australia to the Glenelg Hopkins region to share insights on emerging natural capital approaches, nature markets and opportunities for the region. Attendees represented a diverse range of sectors, including landholders, Traditional Owners, not-for-profit organisations, universities, government agencies, finance and accounting professionals, agriculture, forestry and environmental consulting.

Natural capital accounting, carbon farming and nature finance are emerging opportunities in Australia for natural resource management and nature-based reporting. While significant progress is being made nationally and internationally, the latest knowledge and practical application do not always reach regional communities and land managers.

To help bridge this gap, Glenelg Hopkins CMA hosted the South West Natural Capital Forum on October 8, 2025.

The forum brought together experts and practitioners to share knowledge on natural capital, environmental markets and nature finance, while supporting capacity building and collaboration across sectors. Presenters included representatives from CSIRO, Rabobank Australia, Farming for the Future, La Trobe University, Chatsworth House, the University of Queensland, Accounting for Nature, and RMIT's Centre for Nature Positive Solutions.

Keynote speaker at the event was Professor Hugh Possingham of the University of QLD, Accounting for Nature, and the Biodiversity Council whose talk captured the imagination of the crowd about the possibilities locally.

The event was supported through partnerships with Rabobank, Warrnambool City Council, the National Carbon Farming Outreach Program, the Australian Government, the Victorian Government's Our Catchments Our Communities program, Landcare Victoria and the Western Region Rural Financial Counselling Service.

The event was a sell-out, with more than 130 attendees. Nearly half of these were regional landholders, reflecting strong local interest in natural capital opportunities.

Feedback from participants highlighted the value of increased access to information, networking opportunities, and cross-sector collaboration.

The forum strengthened regional awareness and capability in natural capital and nature finance and helped build relationships to support future initiatives across south-west Victoria.

- *Below (l-r): A sell-out crowd of attendees at the inaugural South West Natural Capital Forum in Warrnambool on October 8 2025. IMAGE: Glenelg Hopkins CMA.*
  Flyer promoting the Inaugural South West Natural Capital Forum.

KEY OUTPUTS:

- An inaugural forum event which attracted 130 attendees.
- Partnerships between the CMA and local, state and national organisations and funding partners.
- Capacity building in the local areas with access to some of Australia's leaders in natural capital accounting, carbon farming and nature finance markets.
- Promotion across a broad range of markets including the CMA newsletter, social media, and local broadcast media outlets.

PROJECT DELIVERY AND FUNDING PARTNERS:

Rabobank Australia, Warrnambool City Council, Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust, Victorian Government through the Our Catchments Our Communities program.





COAST AND MARINE

Continued dry conditions and resulting reduced streamflow, resulted in the regions intermittently open estuaries remaining closed for longer periods than usual and resulting in 7 artificial river mouth openings. During 2025-26, the CMA supported the implementation of the updated Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Ramsar Site Management Plan, advanced coastal resilience and hazard risk reduction projects, monitoring of estuarine and marine ecosystems, and strengthened collaboration with Traditional Owners in the management of Sea Country. Planning for coastal adaptation for environment and community remained a focus.

Coast and marine indicators used in the assessment

INDICATOR	MANAGEMENT RATING	COMMENT
Vegetation (ha)	**Met expectations**	27.5 ha achieved despite dry conditions. Additional targets for revegetation shifted to 2026-27 through adaptive management.
Estuary entrance management:	**Above expectations**	Due to challenging environmental conditions, additional management activities were required. Assessments: 18 Beach Berm Assessments required as part of Estuary Entrance Management. Earthworks: 7 Authorised ARMO's required across 4 estuaries.

Activities contributing to management of coast and marine in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment for the 2025-26 period:

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS 2025-26
Project Name: Glenelg Hopkins Estuarine Seagrass Project **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, DEECA, Deakin University** **Funder: State Government. Victoria's Resilient Coast (DEECA)**	
The validation of the sidescan sonar mapping with drop camera photos has been completed. Seagrass beds containing *Zostera* and/or *Ruppia* are mapped for the Glenelg Hopkins region estuaries. Machine learning was used to process the 573 ha of estuary habitat sidescan sonar data collected in the summer of 2024-25 to identify 19.6 ha of seagrass. No seagrass was found in the Hopkins, Merri or Lake Yambuk estuaries in that summer of sampling. Seagrass has since been observed in Lake Yambuk. In the summer of 2025-26 the Deakin PhD project collected Zostera samples for within and between estuary genetic analysis. Zostera seeds were also collected for viability trials.	1 written publication.
Project Name: Estuarine Wetland Habitat Mapping Study **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, ARI** **Funder: State Government. Victoria's Resilient Coast (DEECA)**	
Significant progress has occurred during 2025-26, with the project on track for completion by the end of August 2026. Key achievements include the development of specialised spatial models, capable of taking Sentinel satellite imagery for any given year, and predicting the vegetation classes across our region's estuaries. This has produced annual maps between 2018 and 2026, which will be used for future tracking and objective reporting of vegetation coverage and change across different years.	
Project Name: Estuary Entrance Management **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, DEECA, Warrnambool City Council, Moyne Shire Council, Glenelg Shire Council, Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Parks Victoria** **Funder: EC6 VWPIF / Waterway Health – Water Statutory Functions**	
The Estuary Management project coordinates and delivers a Safe, Appropriate & Effective estuary entrance management on our region's six intermittently closed estuaries in-line with state protocols and policy. Key achievements in 2025-26 include year-round estuary water level, mouth status and water quality monitoring on six estuaries, along with beach berm assessments during periods of natural mouth closure. The project has also delivered on the CMA's statutory responsibility as Waterway Manager to consider artificial river mouth openings, along with associated stakeholder and community engagement, and the population and implementation of the Estuary Entrance Management Support System (EEMSS) database throughout the year. Seven Authorised Artificial River Mouth Openings (ARMOs) were required.	7 earthworks - dredging, 65 assessments (including 23 estuary water quality profiles and 33 Property & Beach Berm Assessments), 7 Estuarine Telemetry Stations maintained/operated, 29 stakeholders and community members engaged in ARMO decision making meetings.

Activities contributing to management of coast and marine in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment for the 2025-26 period: *(continued)*

Project Name: Coastal Community Engagement **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, EstuaryWatch, State CMAs** **Funder: State Government. EC5**	
The Coastal Community Engagement activity aims to increase community education and understanding of estuary dynamics and management decisions. Key achievements in 2025-26 include strong engagement at events, regular communications (Coastal Connections newsletters and social media posts), and the support and coordination of two citizen science EstuaryWatch groups on the Hopkins and Merri estuaries throughout the year.	105 participants engaged at 6 educational events, 2 community EstuaryWatch groups supported, 16 citizen scientists trained and engaged, 6 written publications, 7 social media posts.

Project Name: Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program (CERMP) Stage 2
Lead/Partner/s: DEECA, Parks Victoria, Local council (WCC, MSC, GSC), Traditional Owners (GM TOAC & EMAC)
Funder: Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program 2022-23 and Victoria's Resilient Coast (DEECA)

The CERMP is improving the resilience of high-value public assets across the region's six intermittently closed estuaries, supporting coastal hazard risk reduction, protection of critical infrastructure, and minimising the need for artificial estuary openings. Significant progress was made on Activity 1 – Estuarine Asset Register. A first-pass assessment of 1,102 surveyed elevation points was completed, ranking assets by value and threat level. This identified 56 high-value sites now undergoing detailed assessment of condition, integrity, lifespan, ownership and replacement value.



COAST AND MARINE CASE STUDY:

Flood reforms
reshaping flood studies



Flood reforms in Victoria will fundamentally reshape how the Glenelg Hopkins CMA (GHCMA) delivers current and future flood studies. Thesse reforms include new hazard based planning and building controls, stronger CMA accountabilities for flood mapping, and a streamlined, state led amendment process. Together, these changes will accelerate the pace of flood study implementation, increase technical expectations, and require more consistent, defensible mapping across the catchment.

The Victorian Government is updating flood risk information, planning controls, and building controls to support safer, climate resilient development.

Key elements include new hazard based risk categories (very high, high, moderate, low); faster, state led planning scheme amendments for flood controls; stronger CMA accountability for preparing and endorsing flood mapping; publicly accessible, property specific flood risk information; and updated DEECA guidelines for development in flood affected areas.

These reforms respond to the 2022 Victorian Flood Inquiry, national climate risk assessments, and community concerns about inconsistent flood information.

The reforms will significantly influence how the Glenelg Hopkins CMA (GHCMA) undertakes, updates, and implements flood studies across the Glenelg Hopkins region, these include:

Stronger mapping accountabilities

CMAs are now formally responsible for preparing and endorsing flood mapping before it enters the planning system.

- GHCMA must ensure all new and legacy studies meet updated hazard rating standards.
- Mapping must be defensible, consistent, and aligned with national flood hazard categories.

Faster implementation into planning schemes

Flood related planning scheme amendments will be state led by the Minister for Planning.

- GHCMA's role shifts from preparing amendments to providing endorsed mapping and technical justification.
- Implementation timeframes shorten, meaning flood studies must be "planning ready" earlier.

Hazard based controls change study outputs

Flood studies must now produce outputs that directly support hazard based planning and building controls:

- Clear identification of very high risk areas where development must be avoided.
- Differentiation of moderate and low risk areas for building system controls. This requires more detailed hydraulic modelling and spatial analysis.

Greater community transparency expectations

Reforms emphasise property level flood information and improved community communication.

Integration with climate change science

Victoria's Climate Science Report 2024 and the National Climate Risk Assessment highlight increasing rainfall intensity and more frequent severe flooding.

- Future flood studies must incorporate climate adjusted design events.
- GHCMA will need to revisit older studies to ensure they reflect updated climate projections.

The reforms ultimately aim to create faster, more consistent, and more transparent floodplain management.



Reforms ultimately aim to create faster, more consistent, and more transparent floodplain management.

KEY POINTS:

- Deliver hazard rated mapping ready for direct insertion into planning schemes.
- Provide clear development guidance aligned with new DEECA standards.
- Include climate adjusted modelling and updated design events.
- Be supported by transparent community facing documentation.
- Undergo rigorous technical review before endorsement.

BIODIVERSITY

Most activities funded for this year have been achieved despite challenging drought conditions and fire events. Highlights include direct seeding 10 threatened species into VVP grassland stewardship sites and a stewardship program to protect Growling Grass frog habitat. However, the achievements of the last year are insufficient to offset the on-going pressures of habitat loss, degradation, climate change and extreme events. Recent drought highlights the importance of adaptable management (e.g. being able to switch between weed control and revegetation based on condition). We continue preparedness work for H5N1 Bird Flu.

Biodiversity indicators used in the assessment:

INDICATOR	MANAGEMENT RATING	COMMENT
Vegetation (ha)	**Met expectations**	46.4 ha revegetation across Red-tail Black Cockatoo Habitat and the Victorian Volcanic Plains grasslands. Other revegetation activities were deferred by agreement due to unsuitable environmental conditions.
Pest herbivore and predator control (ha)	**Above expectations**	1,538 ha of control delivered, including substantial areas of pig and fox control in the Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetlands, and rabbits and hares on the Victorian Volcanic Plain.
Weed control (ha)	**Above expectations**	Delivery of 469 ha of weed control across the Victorian Volcanic Plain and Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetlands.



Activities contributing to management of biodiversity in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment for the 2025-26 period:

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS 2025-26
Project Name: Reversing Decline of the Critically Endangered Southern Bent-wing Bat **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: State Government. Nature Fund**	
The project concluded in March 2026. Over the last 3 years the project has improved 375 ha of Southern Bent-wing Bat foraging habitat, through removal of woody weeds to allow for natural regeneration of more moth-friendly species, a food source for the bats. Community volunteers, Portland Bay Press, SEA Landcare, field naturalists and landholders have contributed significantly to this project. A highlight was the Little Fat Bat printmaking workshop engagement activity, which saw participants including the Winda Mara Junior Rangers create lino prints for an exhibition held in Portland. Citizen scientists used iNaturalist to photograph and identify moths, supporting the Recovery Team's understanding of the range, size and number of moths available in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment area.	2,500 volunteer hours contributed, 375 ha of weed removal (life of project), 5 engagement events (workshops) with 30 participants.
Project Name: Glenelg Estuary and Discovery Bay Wetlands **Lead/Partners: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: Australian Government – NHT**	
The December threatened species monitoring (externally funded) recorded some of the highest figures documented for populations of the Ancient Greenling damselfly, Swamp Greenhood Orchid, and the nationally threatened Maroon Leek-orchid (Investment priority), since consistent monitoring began in 2018. Two years of pig control efforts are making a difference to protect flora and cultural values. A new pig trapping system has increased portability and effectiveness. Fox control supports protection of beach-nesting and shorebird habitat, increasing (threatened) bird survival rates. Two workshops were held with First Nations organisations: Beach-nesting bird identification and protection and a celebration of the cultural importance and Indigenous knowledge of the site. Waterbird diversity and abundance remain comfortably within Limits of Acceptable Change.	282 ha pig control, 1,142 ha fox control, 17 rounds of beach-nesting bird, shorebird, Orange-bellied Parrot and waterbird monitoring over 1,800 ha, 8 community workshops raising awareness and building skills in shorebird identification and monitoring.
Project Name: Improving the trajectory of the Glenelg Freshwater Mussel **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, ARI** **Funder: Australian Government. DISER (Saving Native Species - Priority Species)**	
This project worked to improve the trajectory of the Glenelg Freshwater Mussel by working with landholders to improve management of strategic habitat (stock exclusion fencing, woody weed control and revegetation of the riparian zone), securing long-term survival through a captive breeding program, and awareness raising. A project highlight was the successful release of captive-bred Glenelg Freshwater Mussel spat.	1.2 km of riparian fencing, 13 ha of riparian revegetation. 21 ha woody weed control, 80 community members engaged in awareness raising activities.
Project Name: Improving the trajectory of the Growling Grass Frog in the Glenelg Hopkins Region **Lead/Partners: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, NGT** **Funder: Australian Government – NHT**	
This project aims to improve the trajectory of the Growling Grass Frog (*Litoria raniformis*) through improved land management, protection, and restoration of priority habitat on private land. 34 sites were assessed and surveyed for habitat potential, and a subset have now been prioritised for stewardship agreements, with management plans and associated activities to support the Growling Grass Frog. 11 landholders were approved to receive Stewardship funding over a 5-year period.	1 Engagement event- training (11 attendees), 34 Assessments - Surveys completed for Property, Flora, Fauna, Surface Water Quality and environmental DNA.
Project Name: Restoring the Victorian Volcanic Plains **Lead/Partners: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, ARI, EMAC, Wadawurrung TOAC, CFA** **Funder: Australian Government – NHT**	
170 ha of native grassland managed as part of the 5th round of VVP Stewardship Program. The quality of these sites is high as the ARI Grassland Model identified sites that were otherwise unknown. A seed mix containing 10 threatened species was sown into 7 long-term monitoring grassland sites from Rounds 3 & 4 of the Stewardship program, while seedlings from the June 2025 sowing are establishing well. Seed for this came from the Victorian Government funded 'Saving 17 species' project (Nature Fund), highlighting the importance of leveraging funding from multiple sources. The 6th scalp site has been sown as part of the Penshurst Dunkeld Road restoration project, leaving 3 sites to sow. There have been many community engagement opportunities, ranging from talking to university students to presentations being made to Statewide grassland conservation groups, Field Naturalists groups and CFA volunteers.	7 sites direct seeded with threatened species, 5 community engagement events, over 1,400 ha of medium and high quality roadside burnt by CFA volunteers, one monitoring plot established to compare burning in January versus late Autumn.

Activities contributing to management of biodiversity in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment for the 2025-26 period: *(continued)*

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS 2025-26
Project Name: Reducing the risk of extinction in Adamson's Blown-grass **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, RBGV, private consultant** **Funder: Commonwealth Government. DISER (Saving Native Species - Priority Species)**	
Adamson's Blown-grass is a short-lived grass endemic to south-west Victoria, and is confined to inland saline habitats that are severely threatened by drainage and de-salinisation activities, over-grazing, cropping and weed invasion. Key activities included surveying known populations, conducting field surveys to find new sites, enhancing the diversity and quality of the current seedbank collections, by collecting seed from a broad range of populations and characterising seed quality and germination requirements.	Over 250,000 seeds stored from populations across the entire range of Adamson's Blown-grass, 13 new sites identified, largely in the western range of the species, 1 field day.
Project Name: Saving 17 Threatened Species on the Victorian Volcanic Plain **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, Grassland Flora** **Funder: State Government – Nature Fund (DEECA)**	
Monitoring of grasslands and seeded plots was undertaken with the Arthur Rylah Institute. 12,570 seedlings were counted, bringing the total number of new threatened plant populations established through the project to 115. An additional five landholder sites were then seeded in May, bringing the total number of private landholders involved in the project to twelve. Surveys of remnant populations of the nationally endangered Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor*) were completed in partnership with Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung in spring 2025. The results of this work identified a 95% decline in total number of plants across the species range and 8 population extinctions. Work to recover populations has initially occurred on Eastern Maar Country, adding approximately 20,000 Hoary Sunray seeds from the SPA to each of six declining populations. 20 population count surveys of the endangered Hoary Sunray were led by Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung on their respective Country.	1 million threatened plant seeds produced, 5 further native grasslands seeded adding up to 72 new threatened plant populations established with threatened plants, Supplementary seeding of 7 threatened plant populations close to extinction (1 Button Wrinklewort, 6 Hoary Sunray).
Project Name: Red-tail Recovery **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, Birdlife Australia, DEECA, Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation** **Funder: Australian Government. NHT**	
Critical feeding habitat for the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo was planted across 4 private properties with Brown Stringybark, Desert Stringybark and Buloke. Conservation agreements have been established with three additional landholders to undertake habitat revegetation in the coming months. The annual volunteer Cocky count attracted 218 volunteers across the species range. In the GHCMA region, the number of volunteers participating in the count is increasing each year. 1,443 birds were counted by volunteers in 2025. Birds were concentrated amongst the fruiting Desert Stringybark trees near Edenhope in the Wimmera. A large flock of 90 birds were recorded at Drajurk State Forest in the GHCMA region, a site where extensive weed control was undertaken in year 1 of the project.	3 sites identified for revegetation and management agreements, 46 ha of SeRtBC feeding habitat revegetated, 1 range-wide community volunteer population count, 1 survey of population recruitment across species range, and 1 range-wide food resource assessment.
Project Name: High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 Protected Species and Places Preparedness Program **Lead/Partner/s: GHCMA, EGCMA, MCMA, GBCMA, WCMA, NCCMA and Melbourne Water** **Funder: Funded by Australian Government (DCCEEW) delivered by State Government (DEECA)**	
Funding to 5 CMAs for regional delivery of H5N1 preparedness activities has been approved. Parks Victoria is completing on ground works in Discovery Bay including, fox and pig control, blocking illegal beach access including 4WD tracks. New camera equipment has been purchased for ongoing surveillance works.	

BIODIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Seeds of success on the Victorian Volcanic Plain



Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Aggie Stevenson (left) and Ben Zeeman undertaking seedling emergence monitoring in a private grassland.
IMAGE: Brad Farmilo, ARI.

Seeds are essential for conserving threatened plants, but collecting seed from small wild populations can increase extinction risk. To address this, Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with Grassland Flora to establish a Seed Production Area (SPA), producing around two million seeds over two years to create new populations and strengthen vulnerable existing populations. The SPA has been part of broader threatened flora recovery efforts across the Victorian Volcanic Plain, including work to secure the future of nationally endangered species such as Hoary Sunray and Adamson's Blown-grass.

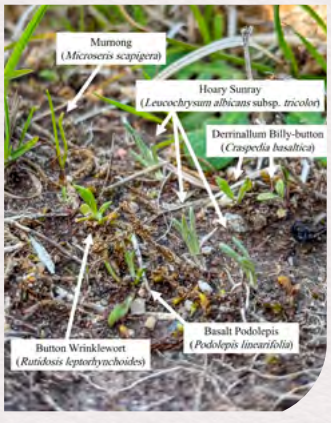
Using seed produced in the SPA, Glenelg Hopkins CMA worked with landholders to trial direct sowing of threatened plant seed into native grasslands, managed through the Victorian Volcanic Plain (VVP) Stewardship Program. Monitoring recorded 12,570 threatened plant seedlings across 12 sites, with emergence ranging from eight to 2,697 seedlings per site. Following the successful trial, six additional sites were seeded in June 2026. To date, 115 new threatened plant populations have been established.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to undertake population surveys of the nationally endangered Hoary Sunray (*Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor*). Surveys revealed a 95% decline in Victorian plant numbers and the loss of eight populations over the past decade. Recovery efforts have focused initially on Eastern Maar Country, where approximately 20,000 seeds produced in the SPA were added to each of six declining populations.

In additional to these projects, Glenelg Hopkins CMA also contributed to the recovery of Adamson's Blown-grass, an endangered species inhabiting seasonally flooded soils on the VVP. In partnership with Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, more than 250,000 seeds have been collected and stored to safeguard the species. The project identified 13 previously unknown populations and engaged private landholders to improve protection of the threatened grass. Together, these actions provide an important safeguard against extinction and help guide future recovery efforts.

These initiatives demonstrate the value of strategic seed production, science-based species recovery and strong partnerships with landholders, researchers and Traditional Owners. Together these efforts have made a significant contribution to the conservation of Victoria's threatened flora.





- *Below (l-r): Eastern Maar Guardians undertaking a population survey of the nationally endangered Hoary Sunray (Leucochrysum albicans subsp. tricolor). IMAGE: Ben Zeeman*

Seedling germination of threatened plants in native grassland on private land. IMAGE: Ben Zeeman

KEY OUTPUTS:

- 6 community engagement events.
- 32 ha of grassland under agreement and seeded with threatened plants.
- 37 vegetation surveys.
- Seed sown into 400m^2 monitoring plot at 24 separate sites.
  Total area = 9,600m^2.
- Weed control completed across 98 ha of native grassland.
- 31 seed collections of Adamson's Blown-grass, across a broad geographic range and genetic background.
- 13 new populations of Adamson's Blown-grass identified.
- More than 250,000 Adamson's Blown-grass seeds secured in the Victorian Conservation Seedbank.
- Populations found on the Dundas Tablelands were found to possess a distinctive genetic signature, thus underscoring the species unique conservation value.

DELIVERY AND FUNDING PARTNERS:

Grassland Flora, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Arthur Rylah Institute, Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria with funding through Victorian Government's Nature Fund, and co-contribution through the Australian Government's Natural Heritage Trust, Australian Government Saving Native Species Program.

COMMUNITY

Environmental water deliveries improved river health, water quality and drought resilience while providing benefits for both communities and agricultural production. Wetland restoration, habitat enhancement and threatened species conservation strengthened biodiversity and increased ecosystem resilience across the landscape. Drought employment initiatives increased on-ground delivery capacity, supporting revegetation, fencing and weed control projects that improved natural assets and land management outcomes. Community participation, stewardship activities, education programs and farmer engagement strengthened local knowledge, skills and capacity. Strong partnerships, including collaborations with Landcare and Traditional Owners, remained central to achieving landscape outcomes, fostering healthier environments, resilient communities and long-term stewardship of natural resources.

Community indicators used in the assessment

INDICATOR	MANAGEMENT RATING	COMMENT
Number of formal partnership agreements with Traditional Owners / First Nations	**Met Expectations**	Work is underway to renew the partnership statement with Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation. The EMAC/ CCMA/GHCMA Partnerships Officer role is going well. Activities with Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation and Barengi Gadjin Land Council are supporting stronger, future focused relationships.
Number of partnership agreements	**Met Expectations**	10 formal agreements in place.
Number of participants in engagement events	**Above Expectations**	10,759 participants in engagement events.
Number of Volunteers in CMA programs	**Above Expectations**	Strong participation across many program areas, projects, and events from our volunteers this year.
Total quantum of grants awarded	**Met Expectations**	Project grants were allocated to 23 groups to the value of $356,361 through Victorian Landcare Grants.



Activities contributing to management of community in the Glenelg Hopkins catchment for the 2025-26 period:

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY	OUTPUTS 2025-26
Project Name: Regional Landcare Coordination (25-27) **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Landcare** **Funder: Victorian Government – Landcare**	
A Regional Landcare Coordinator (RLC) supported Landcare and volunteering across Glenelg Hopkins during 2025-26, strengthening NRM sector relationships. Glenelg Hopkins CMA partnered with Wimmera and Mallee CMAs to host the two-day training event 'Best of the West' in Port Fairy, involving 30 participants including facilitators, CMA staff, and DEECA representatives. The peer-learning format received positive feedback. DEECA held a valuable Q&A session with facilitators. The Best of the West 2026 event promoted collaboration and future planning. The RLC coordinated a meeting to support the mid-term review of the Regional Catchment Strategy.	1 Engagement event – training attended by 30 people, 10 meetings with Local Landcare Facilitators.
Project Name: Victorian Landcare Grants **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Landcare** **Funder: Victorian Government – Landcare**	
The CMA delivers a devolved grants program for Landcare and environmental volunteer groups, and networks on behalf of the Victorian Government. This is part of a coordinated and consistent approach across the State and routinely attracts many applications from across the Glenelg Hopkins region. The 2025-26 program was vastly oversubscribed with 43 applications totaling over $516,366. The CMA received $337,250 from DEECA. The 18 month program was conducted from 30 June 2024 to 30 November 2026. Two categories of grants were available - project grants, (<$20,000) and administration support grants ($500 for groups). There were 23 groups who received project grants with a further 22 groups receiving support grants.	Project grants were allocated to 23 groups to the value of $356,361. Group projects are due for completion on 30 November 2026.
Project Name: Our Catchments Our Communities - Regional Partnerships for Catchment Health in the Glenelg Hopkins region **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: Victorian Government – EC5-EC6**	
This project supports the maintenance and strengthening of relationships across the catchment to build capacity and support partnerships for enhanced integrated catchment management. The South West Natural Capital Forum in October 2025 brought together the farming, environment, forestry, Traditional Owner, government, banking and finance, and research sectors to explore the emerging opportunities and trends in natural capital and nature-based markets. Significant partner engagement supported the mid-term review of the Regional Catchment Strategy. The Community Advisory Group and Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group were renewed for a new term and continue to provide strategic support and guidance. There was a strong focus on Traditional Owner partnerships.	3 Advisory groups maintained 1 Publication - written ~200 attendees at engagement events - meetings 125 people attended engagement events - training 10 Partnerships maintained.
Project Name: Sustainable Agriculture Facilitator – South West Regenerative Farming Group **Lead/Partner/s: Glenelg Hopkins CMA** **Funder: Australian Government – NHT**	
Increasing interest and expanding trials in regenerative agricultural practices supported the establishment of a peer network in 2024, which subsequently expanded to function as an active community of practice with 85 active participants and two special interest groups: the Woolsthorpe/ Panmure and Dunkeld/Mooralla Groups.	6 formal meetings Multiple informal gatherings and network activities as directed by the CoP.

COMMUNITY CASE STUDY:

Musseling up the Glenelg



Glenelg River Freshwater Mussel adults found in Stokes River. IMAGE: Glenelg Hopkins CMA

The Reversing the Trajectory of the Glenelg Freshwater Mussel project was delivered to improve the environment and number of the critically endangered Glenelg Freshwater Mussel *(Hyridella glenelgensis)* in its only habitat in the world – tributaries of the Glenelg River around Dartmoor in southwest Victoria – but went on to deliver a world first for the species.

The project delivered a world first for the species with a release of captively bred mussels in January 2026. The release into the Crawford River, which included juvenile mussels and adults used in the breeding program, was undertaken with project partners, Victorian Fisheries Authority, Gunditjmara Traditional Owners and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

The project ran from 2024 and concluded in early 2026 having exceeded the three key project goals of Working with landholders to improve management of strategic habitat; securing long-term survival through a captive breeding program; and raising community awareness of the species.

The project collected a number of wild mussels through the process of brailing along the waterways with staff from Glenelg Hopkins CMA, the Arthur Rylah Institute and Gunditjmirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation collecting species over the course of the first 12 months of the project.

These were housed and successfully captively bred by staff at the Victorian Fisheries Authority's Snob's Creek Conservation Hatchery. It was the first time this species has been captively bred in the world.

Other activities over the course of the project included working with landholders along known habitat areas to fence riparian zones and prevent stock from accessing the waterway. Livestock can degrade the banks and increase water turbidity. As filter feeders, the mussels are effectively smothered when the water is muddied up, and so fencing of livestock from the river, increased plantings of native vegetation along waterways, and removal of woody weed species has assisted in ensuring water remains clear for species survival.

Community engagement aspects of the project included showcasing the species and the project at Sheepvention in Hamilton, school visits at Dartmoor Primary School educating students on the species and a social media campaign with project team members highlighting the how and why of the project and species with 'One Mussel Minute'.

- *Below (l-r): Glenelg Freshwater Mussels are found by brailing along the bottom of the waterway.*

  Water Quality Testing in the Crawford River by Arthur Rylah Institute's Tarmo Raadik and Mike Nichol. IMAGES: Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

KEY OUTPUTS:

- 21 hectares woody weed control.
- 13 hectares of riparian revegetation.
- 1.2 km of riparian fencing.
- 104 community members engaged through extension activities.
- Successful development of breeding techniques and release of juvenile mussels into the wild.

PROJECT DELIVERY AND FUNDING PARTNERS:

This project was funded by the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust Saving Native Species program and delivered by Glenelg Hopkins CMA with the Victorian Fisheries Authority, the Arthur Rylah Institute and Gunditjmirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.





Regional actions and achievements reporting

The table below presents the total outputs achieved for 2025-26

OUTPUT	VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT	AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT	TOTAL
1. STRUCTURAL WORKS			
1.1 Channel (km)			
1.2 Water storage (no.)			
1.3 Pump (no.)			
1.4 Irrigation structure (ha)			
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)	20	20	40
1.6 Terrestrial structure (no.)			
1.7 Terrestrial feature (no.)			
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	92		92
1.9 Fence (km)	47.46	0.43	47.89
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)			
1.11 Road (km)			
1.12 Crossing (no.)			
2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS			
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	276.26	57.78	334.04
2.2 Weed control (ha)	226.92	507.76	734.68
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	1075.86	1537.48	2163.34
2.4 Over-abundant wildlife control			
2.5 Threatened species response (no.)	16		16
2.6 Emergency species response (no.)			
2.7 Soil treatment (ha)			
2.8 Earth works (no.)	0.7		0.7
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)	5.31		5.31
3. MANAGEMENT SERVICES			
3.1 Grazing (ha)			
3.2 Agricultural practices (ha)	1,063	3,244	4,307
3.3 Water (no.)	13		13
3.4 Fire regime (no.)		41	41
4. PLANNING AND REGULATION			
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	837		837
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	28	13	41
4.3 Assessment (no.)	195	64	259
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	6,489	5,463	11,952
4.5 Partnerships (no.)	18		18
4.6 Plan (no.)	8		8
4.7 Publication (no.)	128	10	138
4.8 Information management system (no.)	8		8

Our Governance, Our People, Our Business

Board structure and purpose

A Board of community representatives governs Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

Directors are appointed by the Minister following a public call for people with skills and catchment experience.

Chairperson, Antony Ford was re-appointed in October 2021 until 30 September 2025 (inclusive).

Chairperson Catherine Redwood was appointed Chair in October 2025.

The Board is responsible and accountable for the good governance, strategic direction, and effective and efficient operation of the organisation.

Key objectives for the Board are to:

- Represent the interests of the community in natural resource management;
- Achieve integrated catchment management (as measured by improvement in resource condition);
- Act as a steward for the natural resource base;
- Create effective partnerships;
- Develop appropriate action plans and support their implementation, including development of targets;
- Provide regional leadership in natural resource management.



OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD

Catherine Redwood AM was appointed to the Board 1 October 2023 and then appointed as Chair from 1 October 2025.

Catherine Redwood is an experienced director, having been a board member of Melbourne Health, State Trustees Limited and MacKillop Family Services among a number of board appointments over the last 25 years. Ms Redwood has also served as an elected local government councillor for four terms, including serving as Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Ms Redwood lives within the Glenelg Hopkins catchment on a farm, Chepstowe, located on Baillie's Creek in the upper East of the catchment, and which is run with a strong focus on protecting its western plains grassland.

Ms Redwood chairs the Remuneration and Performance Committee.
Ms Redwood was appointed to the Board as Chair on 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2029.

Chairperson, Antony Ford had over 40 years' experience in Australian and international agribusiness, and concluded his term with the CMA board on 30 September 2025.

Deputy Chairperson, Dr Michelle Casanova has a PhD in Botany and is Principal at Charophyte Services, a consultancy aimed at providing best practice, scientific research, information, and assessment concerning water plants and wetlands. Dr Casanova's term on with the CMA board concluded on 30 September 2025.

Deputy Chair, Professor Gerry Quinn holds a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Zoology, a PhD in Marine Biology, and has completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.

Before his retirement from Deakin University, he was Chair in Marine Biology and served a term as Head of the Warrnambool Campus. He has also been part of several statutory bodies, advisory committees, and government public entities.

Prof Quinn's research background has focused on the ecology of marine, freshwater and estuarine habitats and the effect of human activities on the environmental condition of these ecosystems.

Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil is a dairy farmer and teacher, who has a Master of Education degree and a Certificate IV in Governance. She has previously worked in diverse fields such as banking and finance, venue management, and sports development across four countries.

Ms Singh-Mahil has communication and collaboration skills and is a creative thinker.

Celia Tucker holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Parks, Recreation, and Heritage) and lives and works as a sheep and broadacre cropping farmer with her husband at Willaura North. She is interested in both the environmental and agricultural sectors, and has previously worked at both local and state government level in these fields. The farming enterprise Ms Tucker and her husband operate places a strong focus on protecting and enhancing the natural capital and biodiversity to ensure profitability for future generations. She serves on several committees and is an active 'Landcarer', supporting other primary producers in her community who wish to undertake Landcare work.

Rowan Mackenzie has held strategic management and consulting roles focused on environment, sustainability, waste, public health and emergency management challenges. Mr Mackenzie holds qualifications in civil engineering and natural resource management.

Mr Mackenzie was appointed to the Board on 1 October 2023.

Anna Sweeney is a Director of Wattlepark farm and a consultant with over 20 years of experience in Environmental Management, Sustainable Agriculture and Community Engagement. Anna has worked across Public, Private and Not for Profit sectors, with roles at Agriculture Victoria, Parks Victoria, URS Australia and Goolarabooloo Millibinyarri Indigenous Corporation.

Ms Sweeney has qualifications in science, social science and a master's degree in environmental science from the University of Melbourne. Ms Sweeney also holds the position of Chairperson at the Western District Health Service and is an experienced Board Director. Ms Sweeney was appointed to the Board on 1 October 2025.

Susan Bosch lives and works on a wool/sheep farm at Woorndoo, with a strong emphasis on enhancing biodiversity through tree planting and wetland restoration.

Ms Bosch has had a career as a lawyer in both the private and public sector (having worked at VLA for 11 years) and prior to that she managed an occupation rehabilitation company in Melbourne and worked for a time in the Victorian public service.

Ms Bosch has degrees in Agricultural Science and Law, and post-graduate qualifications in Business Administration and Social Science. She previously served 8 years on the Board at Aberlea Aged Care in Mortlake and has been a board member of the Salt Creek Charitable Trust since its inception in 2017.

Ms Bosch was appointed to the Board on 1 October 2025.

Chris Giles was a member of the Board from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2025.

The Board also had two Board Observers, Ms Amber Briggs (Independent Aboriginal Delegate) and Ms Hannah Beks (Associate Board Member) who participated with Board for meetings and activities until September 2025.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA Board Attendance for 2025-2026:

NAME	NUMBER OF MEETINGS	EXPLANATORY NOTE
Antony Ford	2/2	Board term concluded 30 September 2025
Michelle Casanova	2/2	Board term concluded 30 September 2025
Christine Giles	1/2	Board term concluded 30 September 2025
Catherine Redwood	9/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2027 Appointed to the Board as Chairperson 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2029
Susan Bosch	7/7	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2029
Anna Sweeney	7/7	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2029
Celia Tucker	9/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023 Re-appointed to the Board 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2027
Rowan Mackenzie	8/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2027
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	8/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023 Re-appointed to the Board 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2027
Gerry Quinn	9/9	Appointed to the Board 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2023 Re-appointed to the Board 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2027

Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk committee consisted of the following members in 2025-26:

- **Brian Densem** (Independent Chair)
- **Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil** (Director)
- **Gerry Quinn** (Director)
- **Rowan Mackenzie** (Director)
- **Susan Bosch** (Director)
- **Richard Ainio** (Independent)
- **George Ambrose** (Independent)

The Audit and Risk Committee comprises three Board Directors and three independent representatives.

Independent representatives are the Committee Chair, Brian Densem, Richard Ainio and George Ambrose.

Board representatives from July 2025 to October 2025 were Directors Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil, Gerry Quinn and Rowan Mackenzie. In October Director Susan Bosch replaced Director Mackenzie and remained on the Committee through to 30 June 2026.

The Executive Officer role is held by a non-voting staff member, Executive Manager – Corporate Services.

The responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee are set out in Standing Direction 3.2.1.1. Key responsibilities of the Committee are to:

- Review and report independently to the Board on the annual report and all other financial information published by Glenelg Hopkins CMA;
- Assist the Board in reviewing the effectiveness of Glenelg Hopkins CMA's internal control environment covering:
  - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations;
  - Reliability of financial reporting; and
  - Compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Determine the scope of the internal audit function and ensure its resources are adequate and used effectively, including coordination with the external auditors; and
- Oversee the effective operation of the risk management framework.

In 2025-26, the committee met four times. Attendance of committee members is detailed in the table below.

Audit and Risk Committee Attendance for 2025-2026:

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBER	SEP 2025	NOV 2025	FEB 2026	MAY 2026	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Brian Densem	1	1	1	1	4/4	100%
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	1	1	1	1	4/4	100%
Gerry Quinn	1	1	1	1	4/4	100%
Rowan Mackenzie	1				1/4	100%
Richard Ainio	1	1	1	1	4/4	100%
George Ambrose	1	1	1	1	4/4	100%
Susan Bosch		1	1	1	3/4	100%



Remuneration and Performance Committee

From 1 July 2025 to 30 September 2025, the Chair of the Remuneration and Performance Committee was Board Chairperson, Antony Ford.

Director Kate Redwood was appointed to the Committee in October 2023 and became Chair of the Committee in October 2025.

Director Chris Giles was a member of this Committee until her term on the Board concluded at 30 September 2025. In October 2025 Directors Anna Sweeney and Celia Tucker joined Kate Redwood on the Committee.

The Committee's primary objective is to advise the Board on senior staff appointments, remuneration, and performance evaluation.

In particular, the committee advises the Board on:

- Appropriate executive level remuneration and employment agreements;
- Specification of CEO performance measures;
- Evaluation of CEO performance; and
- Succession planning.

In the last 12 months, the Remuneration and Performance Committee have focused on CEO performance evaluation. There is no Executive Officer for this Committee, however CEO, Adam Bester and Executive Manager – Corporate Services, Faye Lee attend via invitation.

Administration support is provided by Executive Office Coordinator, Janette Albert.

The Committee's primary objective is to advise the Board on senior staff appointments, remuneration, and performance evaluation

Remuneration and Performance Committee Attendance for 2025-2026:

REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE MEMBER	NOV 2025	FEB 2026	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Kate Redwood	1	1	2/2	100%
Celia Tucker	1	1	2/2	100%
Anna Sweeney	1	1	2/2	100%



Accommodation Steering Committee

The Accommodation Steering Committee was reinstated in October 2025, consisting of Director Rowan Mackenzie as Chair, with Director Kate Redwood being a committee member.

The Committee was formed to consider and develop options for future accommodation for the organisation.

The Executive Officer role for this Committee is Executive Manager – Corporate Services, Faye Lee.

Administration support is provided by Executive Office Coordinator, Janette Albert.

The Accommodation Steering Committee earlier focused on Hamilton office design and refurnishing, including sourcing a designer and considering building design options for the CMA office. In 2026 the Committee has shifted focus to Warrnambool Office design and refurbishment, and oversight of the development of the next 10 year Accommodation Strategy for GHCMA.

Accommodation Steering Committee Attendance for 2025-2026:

ACCOMMODATION STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER	FEB 2026	MAY 2026	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED	% OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Kate Redwood	1	1	2/2	100%
Rowan Mackenzie	1	1	2/2	100%

Community Advisory Group

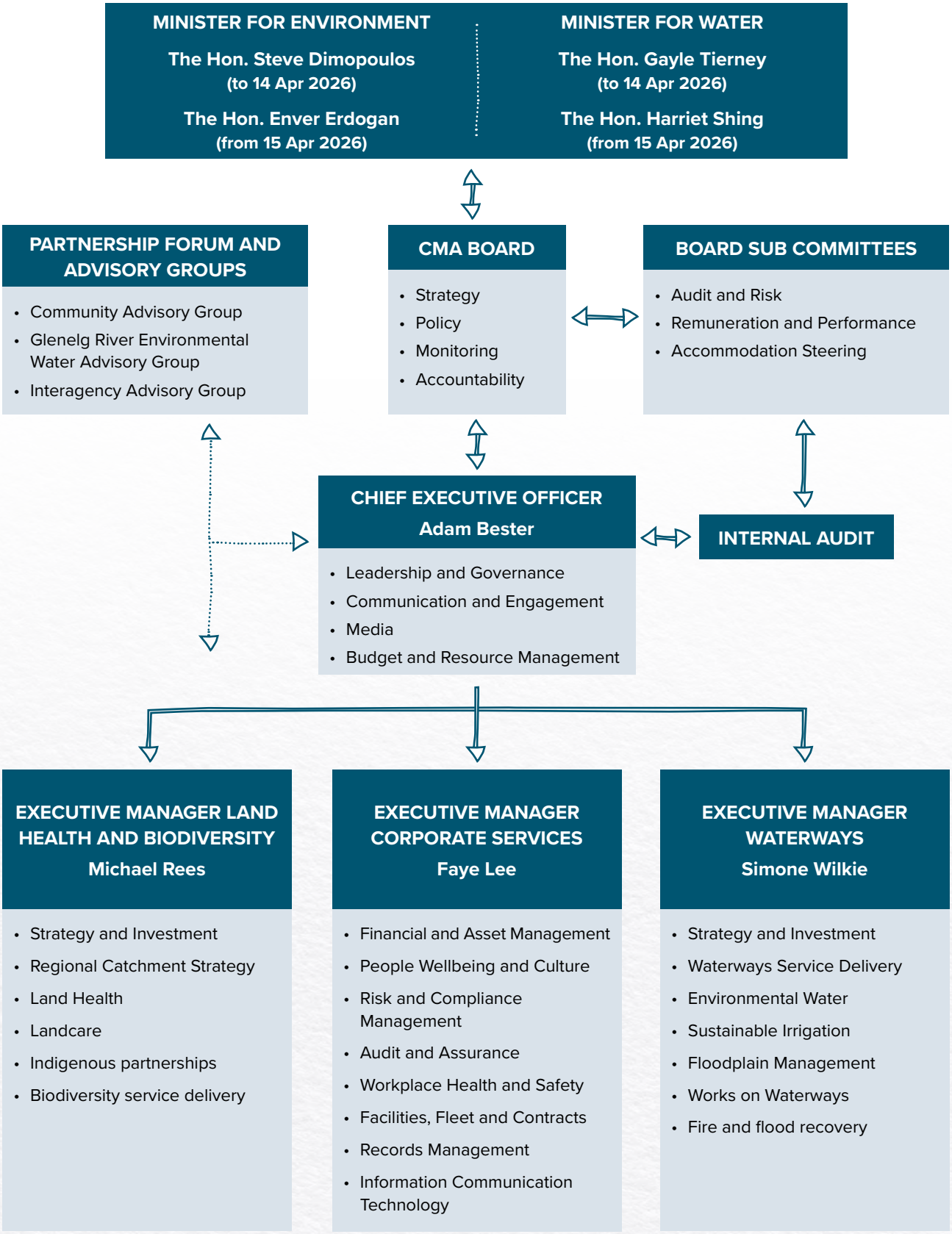
The Glenelg Hopkins Community Advisory Group is a valued advisory body that helps connect the community and CMA.

The previous three-year term concluded in early 2026, following the completion of member recruitment for the next term. During their term, members provided valuable input into strategic planning processes, including the Regional Waterway Strategy and Regional Catchment Strategy reviews. The group's final field visit was to Dunkeld Pastoral, where members learned about the property's conservation program, including its quoll breeding facility.

Recruitment for the new three-year term was undertaken between November 2025 and January 2026. Eleven members were appointed, representing a broad range of skills, experiences and geographic areas across the region. The newly appointed Community Advisory Group and Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group members participated in a joint induction in February 2026 and held their first meeting in May 2026, providing input into the Regional Waterway Strategy review, and a discussion on the Western Sustainable Water Strategy.

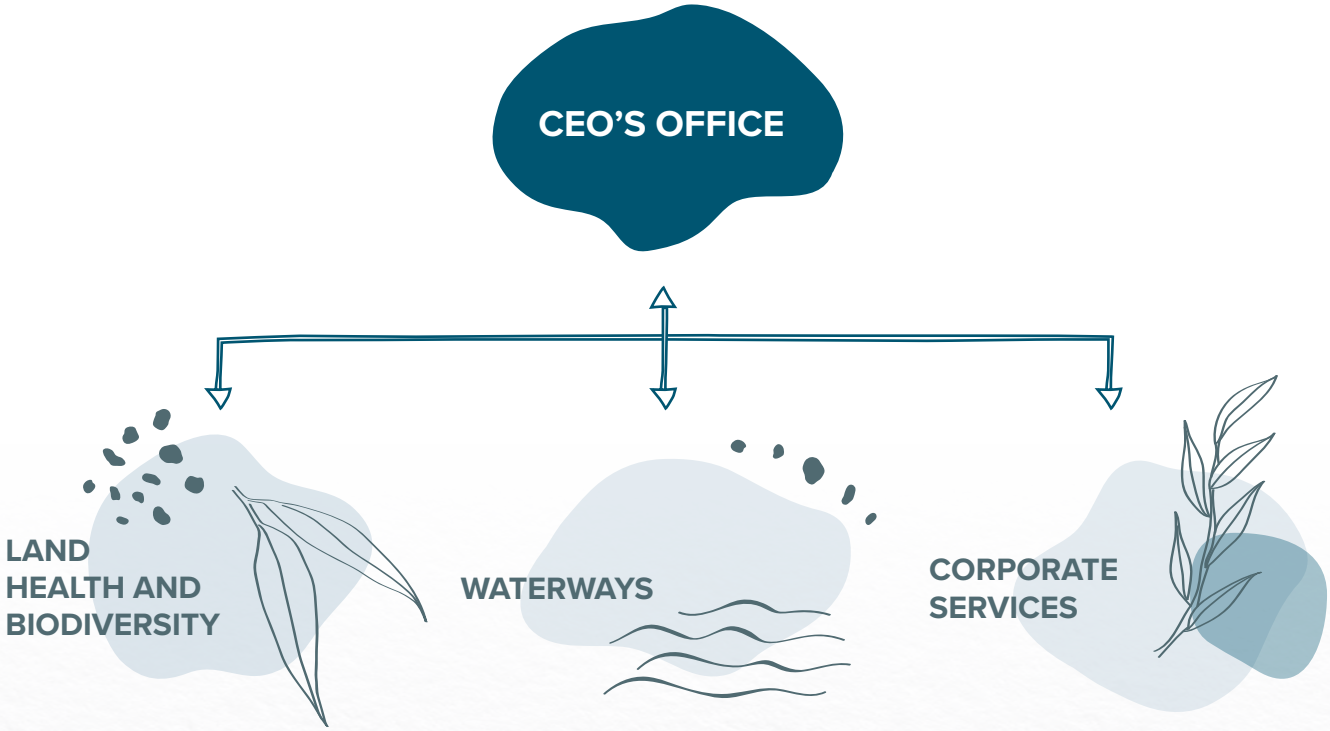
The Community Advisory Group will continue to play an important role in providing advice to the CMA on strategic planning, adaptive management, catchment reporting, and integrated catchment management issues and opportunities. The group is supported through the Victorian Government's Our Catchments Our Communities program.

Organisational Chart



Reporting Requirements

There are three core programs within the CMA: Land Health and Biodiversity, Waterways, and Corporate Services. The CEO's Office oversees the flow of activity within and between these programs, manages the relationship with the Board, and provides cross-organisational support relating to our involvement and reputation.



CMA delivers a diverse range of environmental and community based NRM programs, projects, and partnerships aimed to continually improve the condition of the region's land and biodiversity. These activities include sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, Indigenous partnerships, and Landcare and community grants programs.

The development and implementation of the Glenelg Hopkins Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), coordination of strategy and investment, and monitoring and reporting are also delivered within this area of our business.

CMA provides sustainable, comprehensive, and integrated management of rivers, wetlands, and terrestrial habitats. Our focus here is to preserve and enhance the region's ecological health through planning and delivery of targeted and effective rural and urban waterway works. We aim to build strong community commitment to sustainable farm practices, through supporting innovative practice and technology, and by implementing sustainable irrigation development guidelines.

CMA works to protect and enhance the coastal areas of the catchment, while providing opportunities for sustainable use and development along the coast. We also undertake regulated and unregulated water planning and monitor environmental flow and surface water.

Statutory services include referrals, advice, and licenses associated with waterway and floodplain management.

CMA's floodplain management includes strategic and statutory planning, flood response planning, flood investigations, and flood and drought recovery programs.

CMA guides and supports every department with high-level, integrated, and efficient business systems that enable the CMA to meet its statutory and legislative requirements and achieve positive NRM outcomes.

Corporate Services encompasses key organisational functions including finance, people and culture, procurement and legal management, asset management, risk and compliance, workplace health and safety, information communication technology, records management, and business administration. These services provide essential support to enable effective governance and operational delivery.

WORKFORCE DATA STATISTICS

The following table discloses the head count and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all active public service employees of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA employed in the last full pay period in June (2026) of the current reporting period, and in the last full pay period in June (2025). Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

Details of employment levels in June 2025 and 2026:

JUNE 2026:

	ALL EMPLOYEES		ONGOING			FIXED TERM AND CASUAL		
	Number (headcount)	FTE	Full-time Number (headcount)	Part-time Number (headcount)	FTE	Full-time Number (headcount)	Part-time Number (headcount)	FTE
GENDER								
Men	23	20.95	10	9	17.31	3	1	3.64
Women	36	28.32	8	17	20.38	2	9	7.94
Self-described	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
AGE								
15-24	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
25-34	6	5.70	2	2	3.70	2	0	2.00
35-44	17	12.61	5	7	9.33	1	4	3.28
45-54	23	19.36	5	13	15.56	1	4	3.80
55-64	11	9.60	5	4	8.10	0	2	1.50
65+	2	2.00	1	0	1.00	1	0	1.00
CLASSIFICATION								
1	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
2	6	4.78	1	2	2.50	1	2	2.28
3	3	2.80	1	1	1.80	1	0	1.00
4	6	4.40	2	1	2.60	0	3	1.80
5	5	3.90	1	3	3.40	0	1	0.50
6	26	21.86	6	15	17.76	2	3	4.10
7	2	1.80	1	1	1.80	0	0	0.00
8	6	4.73	2	3	3.83	0	1	0.90
9	1	1.00	1	0	1.00	0	0	0.00
Exec	4	4.00	3	0	3.00	1	0	1.00
Total employees	**59**	**49.27**	**18**	**26**	**37.69**	**5**	**10**	**11.58**

JUNE 2025:

	ALL EMPLOYEES		ONGOING			FIXED TERM AND CASUAL		
	Number (headcount)	FTE	Full-time Number (headcount)	Part-time Number (headcount)	FTE	Full-time Number (headcount)	Part-time Number (headcount)	FTE
GENDER								
Men	20	18.58	11	7	16.58	2	0	2.00
Women	25	19.07	5	14	14.88	2	4	4.19
Self-described	2	2.00	2	0	2.00	0	0	0.00
AGE								
15-24	1	1.00	1	0	1.00	0	0	0.00
25-34	4	3.70	1	2	2.70	1	0	1.00
35-44	12	9.18	6	4	8.29	0	2	0.89
45-54	21	17.58	4	12	13.28	3	2	4.30
55-64	8	7.19	5	3	7.19	0	0	0.00
65+	1	1.00	1	0	1.00	0	0	0.00
CLASSIFICATION								
1	0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0	0	0.00
2	3	2.18	1	1	1.79	0	1	0.39
3	3	2.80	1	1	1.80	1	0	1.00
4	5	4.00	2	2	3.50	0	1	0.50
5	4	3.50	3	0	3.00	0	1	0.50
6	22	18.37	8	14	18.37	0	0	0.00
7	1	0.80	0	1	0.80	0	0	0.00
8	5	4.00	2	2	3.20	0	1	0.80
9	1	1.00	1	0	1.00	0	0	0.00
Exec	3	3.00	0	0	0.00	3	0	3.00
Total employees	**47**	**39.65**	**18**	**21**	**33.46**	**4**	**4**	**6.19**

People & Culture

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

In June 2024, we successfully obtained approval from the Fair Work Commission for a new four-year Enterprise Agreement. The Glenelg Hopkins CMA Enterprise Agreement 2023-2027 remains in place for the 2025-26 period, continuing to provide a range of benefits for staff.

This achievement was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Staff Management Work Group, People and Culture Team, and Management. At the time, the negotiation process involved engagement with and approval through DEECA, Industrial Relations Victoria (IRV) and DTF, culminating in approval by the Fair Work Commission.

SERVICE AWARDS

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA values the contribution and dedication of its long service staff members.

The following staff reached service milestones during 2025-26:

- Tania Parker (25 years)
- Tim Covey (25 years)
- Jarred Obst (20 years)
- Stephen Ryan (15 years)
- Chris Wilson (15 years)
- Tatjana Linke (10 years)

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

Individual staff and teams were also recognised by their colleagues for their positive contributions towards the organisation's achievement of its goals and objectives.

A total of 63 reward and recognition nominations were approved for outstanding effort by staff who performed above-and-beyond their roles.

LONG-TERM STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

In October 2023, the CMA Board approved our first People and Culture Strategy. The five-year Strategy is in effect from 2023-2028 and is a comprehensive, overarching, measurable plan that prioritises our people. It highlights our three core values; Professional, Collaborative and Innovative and addresses our four priorities; A Great Place to Work, A Skilled and Capable Workforce, Working Together and Diversity and Inclusion.

The Strategy sets out our commitment to embed the best possible programs, systems and solutions to enable everyone to enhance their job satisfaction and work together to deliver our business goals.

This is a long-term commitment by us, in us. The purpose is to enable growth, engagement, and wellbeing of our people through a skilled and adaptable workforce that effectively addresses complex environmental challenges.

Service milestones during 2025-26:

Tania Parker (25 years)

Tim Covey (25 years)

Jarred Obst (20 years)

Stephen Ryan (15 years)

Chris Wilson (15 years)

Tatjana Linke (10 years)



Workforce Inclusion Policy

Glenelg Hopkins CMA actively promotes and recognises days of cultural and societal significance. We report the progress annually. Outlined below is a comparison of our progress in the current and previous years.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE STRATEGY - DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PLAN 2023-2028	MEASURE	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2025-2026	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2024-2025	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2023-2024	ACTUAL PROGRESS IN 2022-2023
We value and support diversity and inclusion	At least 5 days celebrating diversity and inclusion are supported annually (Year 1: 3 days)	Met	Met	Met	Not captured

PUBLIC SECTOR VALUES AND EMPLOYMENT PRINCIPLES

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has introduced policies and practices consistent with the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC) employment standards. They provide for fair treatment, career opportunities, and the early resolution of workplace issues.

The CMA advised employees on how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts, and how the CMA deals with misconduct. Online training is provided for new employees, and in-person training 3-yearly, for all staff on Workplace Obligations, with a focus on Public Sector values, employment principles, and the VPSC Code of Conduct.

Public sector values (section 7, PAA)

The public sector values are Responsiveness, Integrity, Impartiality, Accountability, Respect, Leadership, and Human Rights.

Public sector employment principles (section 8, PAA)

Public entities are required to have in place employment processes that will ensure that:

- Employment decisions are based on merit;
- Public sector employees are treated fairly and reasonably;
- Equal employment opportunity is provided;
- Human rights as set out in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities are upheld;
- Public sector employees have a reasonable avenue of redress against unfair or unreasonable treatment.

Codes of conduct and standards issued by the VPSC, include:

- The Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees;
- The Conflict of Interest Policy Framework and the Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework.

For further information, please refer to the VPSC's website: (**www.vpsc.vic.gov.au**).



WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS)

Workplace Health and Safety Policy Statement.

The CMA continues to strengthen our understanding of Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) to achieve positive safety outcomes for all workers and workplaces.

The CMA is proactive in enhancing the health and safety of our people. We are committed to:

- Ensuring the provision of a safe workplace for our employees, contractors, and subcontractors who operate in the CMA workplace, as far as reasonably practicable;
- Implementing a robust WHS management system;
- Continuing to identify, manage and eliminate WHS risks for all our people;
- Supporting the early, safe, and productive return to work of ill or injured staff;
- Engaging with staff and their representatives to support a positive culture of awareness and responsibility for safety and continuous safety improvement;
- Inspiring employees to support and use a range of programs to care for their physical and mental health, safety, and wellbeing;
- Providing training and guidance to staff, relative to their roles and responsibilities;
- Coordinating, monitoring, and evaluating health and safety initiatives and activities as part of the CMA's WHS management system.

Achievement of the CMA's WHS objectives depends on the cooperative efforts of everyone concerned. Everyone has a responsibility to keep the workplace safe and to help foster a positive safety culture.



HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE 2025-2026

4	4	4	3	1
meetings	designated work groups	health and safety reps	management reps	people and culture reps

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY ACHIEVEMENTS 2025-2026

- Completion of annual WHS Action Plan and Training Schedule;
- Promotion and optimisation of Workplace Health & Safety reporting platform;
- Increased Incident, Near Miss & Hazard Reporting;
- Development of Operational Risk Assessment;
- Continued focus on Psychological Health Regulations compliance;
- Review of key operational policies and procedures.

Start Safe,
Work Safe,
Stay Safe

"SAFETY FIRST" CAMPAIGN:

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's "Safety First" Campaigns provide employees and management with consistent, practical and topical guidance on a variety of health and safety matters, keeping WHS at the forefront of our daily activities.

NO. POSTS 2025-26: 9

AVERAGE VIEWS PER POST: 30



EOY 2025-26 METRICS	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Hazards reported, no.	13	2	**19**
Rate per 100 FTE	31	5	**39**
Total incidents, no.	10	24	**27**
Rate per 100 FTE	24	61	**55**
Incidents requiring first aid and/or further medical treatment, no.	2	7	**8**
No. of Standard claims	1	0	**3**
Rate per 100 FTE	2	0	**6**
No. of lost time Standard claims	0	0	**0**
Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	**0**
Fatality claims	0	0	**0**
Average cost per Standard claim	$0	$0	**$1,249**

Compliance with Relevant Legislation

EXECUTIVE OFFICER DATA

An Executive Officer (EO) is defined as an executive under Part 3 of the PAA, or a person to whom the Victorian Government's Policy on Executive Remuneration in Public Entities applies.

All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current year and corresponding previous reporting year.

The definition of an EO does not include a statutory office holder or an Accountable Officer.

No EO disclosure is required for fewer than three executives.

LOCAL JOBS FIRST

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority did not commence or complete any projects during 2025-26 that were subject to the requirements of the *Local Jobs First Act 2003*. As such, there are no Local Jobs First matters to report for the period.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING EXPENDITURE

In the 2025-2026 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA's expenditure on government campaigns did not exceed $100,000.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the 2025-26 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.

CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE

Details of consultancies (valued at $10,000 or greater)

In 2025-2026, there were 23 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were $10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during this period in relation to these consultancies was $1,187,397.55 (excl. GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined on Glenelg Hopkins CMA's website at: **www.ghcma.vic.gov.au**

Details of consultancies (valued at less than $10,000)

In 2025-26, there were 13 consultancies engaged during the year, where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than $10,000.

The total expenditure incurred during this period in relation to these consultancies was $61,710.35 (excl. GST).

SOCIAL PROCUREMENT

The Glenelg Hopkins CMA undertook capability and awareness activities to support our first Social Procurement Strategic Plan.

While the three prioritised SPF objectives guide our procurement delivery, the CMA is committed to pursuing any opportunities to advance social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

To address the Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people objective, we:

- Continued tracking expenditure with Victorian Government suppliers that provide opportunities for Aboriginal people in the region.

To address the Sustainable Victorian regions objective, we:

- Continued tracking our expenditure amongst local businesses in our region.

To address the Sustainable Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors objective, we:

- Continued tracking the number of Victorian Aboriginal businesses engaged.

The majority of individual procurement activities undertaken in 2025-26 fell within the 'below threshold' band of Victoria's Social Procurement Framework where social procurement approaches are encouraged but not mandatory.

EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT

In 2025-26, the Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not activate Emergency Procurement in accordance with the requirements of government policy and accompanying guidelines.

ICT EXPENDITURE

For the 2025-26 reporting period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA had a total ICT expenditure of $847,067 with the details as shown below:

- ICT expenditure refers to Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's costs in providing business enabling ICT services within the current reporting period.
- It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.
- NON-BAU ICT expenditure $375,212 relates to extending or enhancing Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority's current ICT capability. In 2025-26 this primarily related to the costs of implementing new Finance and HR system Technology One.
- BAU ICT Expenditure $471,855 is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

MAJOR CONTRACTS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA did not award any major contracts during 2025-26.

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

DISCLOSURE OF PROCUREMENT COMPLAINTS

FRD 22 applies to all entities that are within the scope of the Victorian Government Purchasing Board (VGPB) goods and services supply policies.

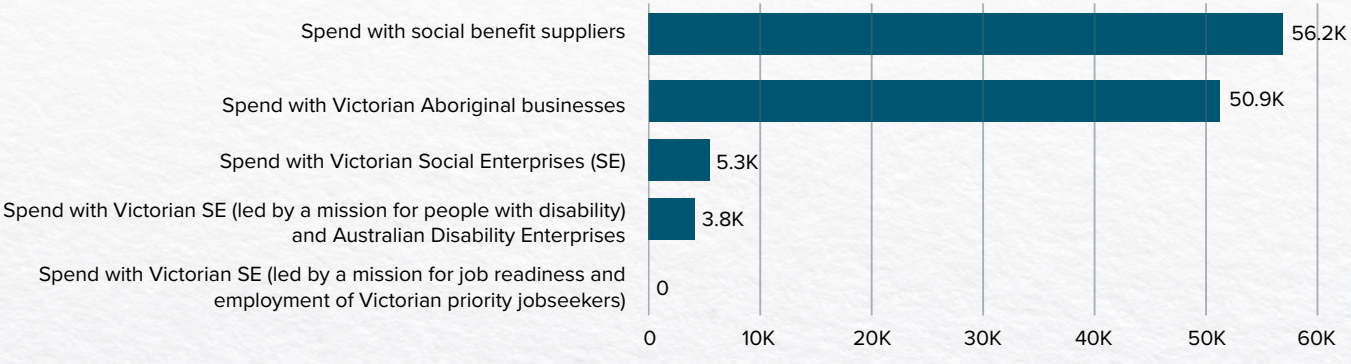
Under the VGPB Governance Policy, entities must disclose in their annual report key details in relation to each complaint received.

Nil complaints were received during the 2025-26 Financial year.

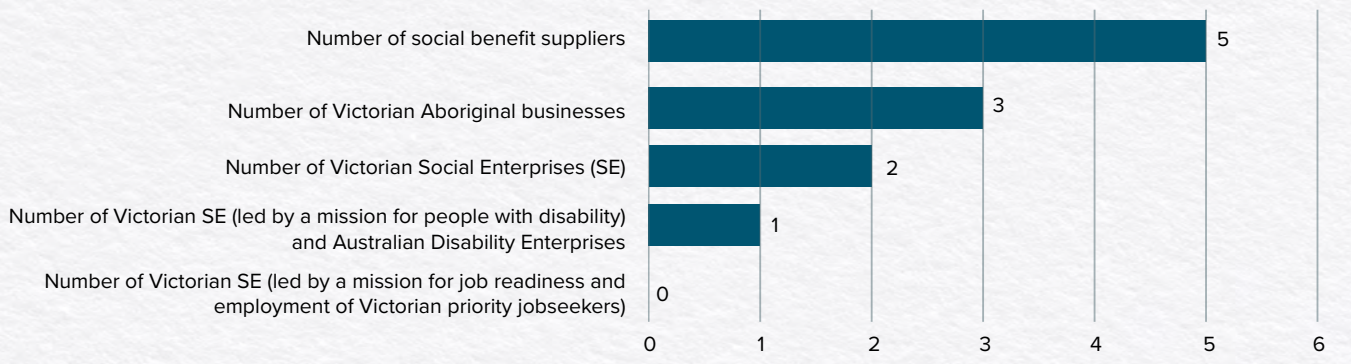
REVIEWS AND STUDIES EXPENDITURE

During 2025-26, there were nil reportable reviews and studies undertaken.

Total Spend $ (excluding GST) by Category



Total Suppliers by Category



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OPERATION

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is considered a 'Government Agency' under the terms of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Accordingly, Glenelg Hopkins CMA complies with the procedures prescribed under which members of the public may gain access to information held by agencies.

Requests for information should be forwarded to the:

Freedom of Information Officer, Janette Albert, PO Box 502 or 79 French Street Hamilton 3300, or via **foi@ghcma.vic.gov.au**, accompanied by an application fee of $34.50.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA received one request for information during 2025-2026 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* from community members, and there were no resulting appeals to VCAT.

COMPLIANCE WITH *BUILDING ACT 1993*

Glenelg Hopkins CMA owns one and operates two regional offices located in Hamilton and Warrnambool.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA complies with the *Building Act 1993*, Building Regulations 2018, and the National Construction Code, and retains a copy of occupancy permits required for its owned building. Glenelg Hopkins CMA conducts and reports on scheduled inspections of its owned building to ensure compliance with building standards and regulations. The internal control system allows Glenelg Hopkins CMA to satisfactorily manage risks.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's offices in Hamilton and Warrnambool (Deakin University) conformed with building standards during 2025-26. There were no emergency orders or building orders issued in relation to the buildings.

There were renovation works completed during 2025-26 in our Hamilton premises.

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY POLICY

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure that where services compete, or potentially compete, with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest.

Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation.

This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service. Glenelg Hopkins CMA continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 2012

Compliance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012.

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (*PD Act*) enables people to report improper conduct by public officers and public bodies.

The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make these disclosures and protect them when they do.

WHAT IS A PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE?

A Public Interest Disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct about a public officer or a public body.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is a public body for the purposes of the *Act*.

What is improper or corrupt conduct?

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- Mismanagement of public resources;
- Risk to public health or safety or the environment;
- Corruption.

The conduct must be criminal in nature or a matter for which an officer could be dismissed.

How do I make a Public Interest Disclosure?

You can make a Public Interest Disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA or its board members, officers, or employees by contacting IBAC on the contact details provided.

Please note that Glenelg Hopkins CMA is not able to receive Public Interest Disclosures.

How can I access Glenelg Hopkins CMA's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has established procedures to protect someone from detrimental action in reprisal for making a Public Interest Disclosure about Glenelg Hopkins CMA or its employees.

You can access Glenelg Hopkins CMA's procedures on its website at: **www.ghcma.vic.gov.au**

Contacts

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1 North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001

Internet: **www.ibac.vic.gov.au**

Phone: 1300 735 135

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



Additional Information Available on Request

Glenelg Hopkins CMA has the following documents available as specified in the *Financial Management Act 1994*, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:

- Publications produced by Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the places where the publications can be obtained;
- Declarations of pecuniary interests by relevant officers. These are treated as confidential documents;
- Major external reviews;
- Changes in prices, fees, charges, rates, and levies charged;
- Major research and development activities undertaken;
- Overseas travel undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit;
- Major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the CMA to develop community awareness of the organisation and its services;
- Assessments and measures to improve the OH&S of employees;
- Statement of Industrial Relations within the CMA, including time lost through industrial accidents and disputes;
- List of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved;
- Details of all consultancies and contractors including those engaged, services provided, and expenditure for each engagement.

Disclosure of Grants and Transfer Payments

The CMA delivers a devolved grants program for Landcare and environmental volunteer groups and networks on behalf of the Victorian Government.

This is part of a coordinated and consistent approach across the State, and routinely attracts many applications from across the Glenelg Hopkins region.

The 2025-26 program was oversubscribed with applications totalling over $475,000. The CMA received $337,250 from DEECA. Additionally the CMA utilised $15,000 of returned funds from abandoned projects from previous years.

The 2025-26 grant program was conducted from May to August 2025. Two categories of grants were available – project grants (<$20,000) and administration support grants ($500 for groups). There were 54 applications submitted from groups/networks to the value of $473,496.00.

Support grants were provided to 17 groups/networks, totalling $8,500. Project grants were allocated to 24 groups to the value of $308,196. Group projects are due for completion on the 30 November 2026.

- 40.78 km fencing
- 214.02 ha revegetation
- 64,012 trees planted.



Glenelg Hopkins CMA – Victorian Landcare Grants 2026-26

GROUP NAME	TOTAL PAYMENT
Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network Inc.	$19,882
Dunrobin Landcare Group	$20,000
Dunrobin Landcare Group	$20,000
Friends of Yatmerone Reserve	$9,044
Hamilton Coleraine Rail Reserve Committee Inc.	$9,999
Panyyabyr Landcare Group	$19,324
Hamilton to Coleraine Landcare Group	$18,175
Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Network Inc.	$18,377
Woorndoo Chatsworth Landcare Group	$6,950
The Gringe Improvement Group	$10,598
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	$20,000
Pierrepoint Land Protection Group	$4,529
Bunnugal Landcare Group	$17,894
Panyyabyr Landcare Group	$12,029
Panyyabyr Landcare Group	$12,190
Mooralla Landcare Group	$13,058
Bulart Land Management Group	$10,723
Bulart Land Management Group	$6,998
Mooralla Landcare Group	$17,291
Upper Mount Emu Creek Landcare Network	$13,992
Beyond Bolac Catchment Action Group	$11,310
Upper Hopkins Land Management Group	$18,552

Environmental Reporting

The data reported in this section is in line with the reporting requirements under Financial Reporting Direction 24 Reporting of environmental data by government entities. The environmental data captured in 2023-24 is used as a baseline for reporting of these indicators.

The operational boundary for this reporting period includes a fleet of 11 vehicles plus Glenelg Hopkins CMA 3 offices and 1 shed as outlined below:

- Warrnambool (Office) - Princes Hwy Warrnambool - space leased from Deakin University.
- Hamilton (Office) – 66 Gray Street, Hamilton - space rented from Wannon Water (temporary to September 2025).
- Hamilton (Office) – 79 French Street, Hamilton - owned property.
- Hamilton (Shed) – 55 Portland Road, Hamilton - leased.

As per the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Organisational Environmental Footprint Policy, the CMA is committed to ensuring the protection of the environment through a range of practices and initiatives including minimising environmental impacts through reduction of its own environmental footprint.

To support this commitment, Glenelg Hopkins CMA formalised in early 2024 it's Organisational Environmental Sustainability Plan 2024-2030. Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the plan provides a roadmap to:

- Reach Net Zero emissions by 2030 (Scope 1 and 2 emissions)
- Increase use of renewable energy
- Transition its fleet to increase the mix of hybrid/electric vehicles
- Reducing waste to landfill by 30% by 2027
- Strengthening its biosecurity protocols by 2025 (completed)
- Improving environmental outcomes through the Glenelg Hopkins CMA's supply chain by reviewing its procurement practices in line with ISO 20400: Sustainable Procurement.

To date, Glenelg Hopkins CMA has completed 6 of 15 actions from its Environmental Sustainability Plan 2024-2030 with a further 3 in progress. Actions completed to date included a review of biosecurity protocols and vehicle fleet requirements.

For the 2025-26 period, Glenelg Hopkins CMA completed a substantial tenancy fit out for its Hamilton Office. A NABERs assessment will be undertaken in the first quarter of 2026-27.

ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

In 2025-26, purchased electricity consumption reduced significantly due to:

1. The Hamilton Office undergoing renovations from December 2024. This was partially offset by consumption of non-directly purchased electricity from its temporary office accommodation in Hamilton.
2. An increased energy efficiency at the Hamilton Office as a result of the refurbishment.

With the development of the Glenelg Hopkins CMA Sustainability Action Plan, a range of initiatives to reduce and offset the emissions of its Offices will be implemented. In January 2024 Glenelg Hopkins CMA moved its electricity across to 100% Greenpower at its Hamilton Office and the increase in Greenpower for 2024-25 reflects a full year in use.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA notes that future electricity usage will likely increase as it transitions its fleet to electric vehicles.

INDICATOR	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
Total electricity consumption (MWh)	33.8	45.6	47.4
Purchased Electricity - Consolidated			
Glenelg Hopkins CMA Offices[a]	13.1	20.7	31.1
Not directly purchased but from outside the organisation (MWh)			
Glenelg Hopkins CMA Offices[b]	20.7	24.9	16.3
Total electricity offsets (MWh)	31.2	36.6	25.2
Greenpower[c]	31.2	36.6	25.2

Notes:

(a) Hamilton offices. Data is taken directly from energy supplier invoices.

(b) Warrnambool office and temporary Hamilton office accommodation. Data is estimated based upon total usage received from lessors and proportioned based upon floor space. The electricity for the leased shed at 55 Portland Road is not available through invoices and is immaterial.

(c) 100% Green Power at Warrnambool and 100% Green Power at the Hamilton Office.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Glenelg Hopkins CMA reports its greenhouse gas emissions broken down into emission 'scopes', consistent with national and international standards. Scope 1 emissions are from sources that Glenelg Hopkins CMA owns or controls such as fleet vehicles, whilst Scope 2 are from indirect emissions from Glenelg Hopkins CMA's use of electricity from the grid.

An increase in the number of vehicles contributed to a higher fuel use in 2025-26 and in turn, resulted in increased Scope 1 emissions. A further full year of 100% Greenpower at its Hamilton Office resulted in Scope 2 emissions again being 0.

In line with its Environmental Sustainability Plan, Glenelg Hopkins CMA plans to:

1. Install solar panels at its Hamilton Office which will increase its renewable energy usage and reduce its emissions (2027-28).
2. Transition its fleet to hybrids and electric vehicles (Commenced).

These activities will increase its renewable energy usage and reduce its emissions over the coming years.

INDICATOR	2025-2026	2024-2025	2023-2024
Total Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions (Tonnes CO_2-e)	56	48	65
Total Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions (Tonnes CO_2-e)	0	0	18
Total greenhouse gas emissions (Tonnes CO_2-e)	56	48	83

TRANSPORTATION

Glenelg Hopkins CMA's fleet comprises 11 vehicles. The vehicles are used for the purpose of employees commuting between offices, to meetings with other stakeholders and in going out into the field for site inspections and meeting landholders. As such, it needs a mixture of vehicles suited to main road and offroad driving that can carry equipment.

The number of vehicles at Glenelg Hopkins CMA increased to 11 in this reporting period due to an increase in the number of executive vehicles leased and the retention of another vehicle for the drought program. In 2025-26 Glenelg Hopkins CMA, in line with its Sustainability Action Plan, commenced undertaking a staged approach to the transition of its fleet to hybrid and/or electric vehicles by 2030 through the purchase of its first battery hybrid.

INDICATOR	2025-2026	%	2024-2025	%	2023-2024	%
Number and proportion of vehicles	11	100	9	100	11	100
Passenger vehicles[(a)]	11	100	9	100	11	100
Petrol	3	11	1	11	3	27
Diesel/Biodiesel	8	89	8	89	8	73

Notes:

(a) Passenger vehicles include all leased Glenelg Hopkins CMA vehicles used for its operations

REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



REDUCE ENERGY USE*

kWh used per annum

33,780 in 2025-2026

45,552 in 2024-2025

26%↓ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

kWh used per FTE per annum

685 in 2025-2026

1,149 in 2024-2025

36%↓ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

REDUCE PAPER USE

White A4 reams per annum

34 in 2025-2026

25 in 2024-2025

26%↑ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

White A4 reams per FTE

0.69 in 2025-2026

0.63 in 2024-2025

18%↑ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

White A3 reams per annum

0 in 2025-2026

2 in 2024-2025

100%↓ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

White A3 reams per FTE

0 in 2025-2026

0.08 in 2024-2025

100%↓ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

INCREASE PAPER RECYCLING



240 Litres recycled per annum

28 in 2025-2026

18 in 2024-2025

56%↑ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

240 Litres recycled per FTE

0.57 in 2025-2026

0.45 in 2024-2025

35%↑ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

REDUCE FUEL USE

Litres fuel consumed per annum

21,464 in 2025-2026

17,915 in 2024-2025

20%↑ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

Litres fuel consumed per vehicle

1,951 in 2025-2026

1,991 in 2024-2025

2%↓ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

REDUCED WATER CONSUMPTION*



KLs consumed per annum

211 in 2025-2026

235 in 2024-2025

10%↓ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

Overall KLs consumed per FTE

4.29 in 2025-2026

5.93 in 2024-2025

22%↓ 2025-2026

% Comparing one year prior

**Note estimate for Warrnambool Office and temporary Hamilton Office accommodation based upon data provided from lessors and based upon % floor space.*



Financial Reports

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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMPLIANCE ATTESTATION STATEMENT

I, Kate Redwood on behalf of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority certify that the Glenelg Hopkins CMA has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Minister of Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority Audit and Risk Committee verifies this.



Catherine Redwood
Chairperson
Glenelg Hopkins CMA
24 September 2025

How this report is structured

The Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 in the following structure to provide users with information about the Authority's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Comprehensive operating statement

Balance sheet

Cash flow statement

Statement of changes in equity

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 ABOUT THIS REPORT

The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared and compliance with reporting regulations

NOTE 2 FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Income recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

2.2 Income from transactions

NOTE 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 Other operating expenses

NOTE 4 KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

Land, buildings, and equipment

4.1 Total property, plant and equipment

NOTE 5 OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Other key assets and liabilities

5.1 Receivables

5.2 Payables

NOTE 6 FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

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

6.1 Lease Liabilities

6.2 Cash flow information and balances

6.3 Commitments for expenditure

6.4 Carry forward project funding

NOTE 7 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, 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

7.3 Fair value determination

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES

Additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report

8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

8.2 Changes in Accounting Policy

8.3 Responsible persons

8.4 Remuneration of executive officers

8.5 Related parties

8.6 Remuneration of auditors

8.7 Subsequent events

DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The attached financial statements for the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

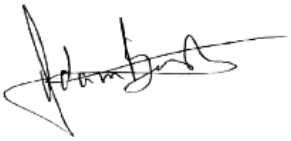
We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, cash flow statement, statement of changes in equity and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2026 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2026.

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 24 September 2026.



Catherine Redwood
Chairperson



Adam Bester
CEO and Accountable Officer



Faye Lee
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

Independent Auditor's Report

Victorian Auditor-General's Office

To the Board of Glenelg - Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of Glenelg - Hopkins Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2026 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cashflow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information • declaration in the financial statements. In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures.
Basis for opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report* section of my report. My independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975.* 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 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (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. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	The Board is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Financial Management Act 1994,* 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. 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.

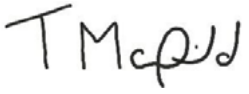
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

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 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 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 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 the internal controls 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 controls
- 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 September 2026

Timothy Maxfield
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	17,937,742	9,183,253
Interest	2.2.2	701,878	526,130
Other income	2.2.3	253,413	337,334
Total income from transactions		**18,893,034**	**10,046,717**
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	5,721,123	5,077,703
Depreciation and amortisation	4.1.3	205,486	592,588
Materials, maintenance, grants, and consultancies	3.2	2,443,550	1,976,138
Contractors	3.2	2,634,621	1,459,624
Interest expense	6.1.2	6,169	3,946
Other operating expenses	3.3	1,039,570	1,002,763
Total expenses from transactions		**12,050,519**	**10,112,762**
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		**6,842,515**	**(66,045)**
Net result		**6,842,515**	**(66,045)**
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Items that will not be reclassified to net result		-	-
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus		64,379	-
Comprehensive result		**6,906,894**	**(66,045)**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.*

BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.2	19,262,913	12,989,727
Receivables	5.1	92,284	50,440
Total financial assets		**19,355,197**	**13,040,167**
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	2,106,754	1,352,980
Total non-financial assets		**2,106,754**	**1,352,980**
Total assets		**21,461,951**	**14,393,147**
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	575,987	538,081
Lease liabilities	6.1	165,241	165,158
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	1,306,223	1,182,302
Total liabilities		**2,047,451**	**1,885,541**
Net assets		**19,414,500**	**12,507,606**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		15,186,632	8,344,117
Physical asset revaluation surplus		1,070,922	1,006,543
Contributed capital		3,156,946	3,156,946
Net worth		**19,414,500**	**12,507,606**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.*

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		17,959,250	9,896,201
Interest received		701,878	526,130
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (ii)		180,378	570,057
Other receipts		253,413	463,301
Total receipts		**19,094,920**	**11,455,690**
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		11,948,789	10,579,637
Interest and other costs of finance paid		6,169	3,946
Total payments		**11,954,958**	**10,583,583**
Net cash flows provided by / (used in) operating activities		**7,139,961**	**872,107**
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(775,946)	(643,552)
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		**(775,946)**	**(643,552)**
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of principal portion of lease liabilities (iii)		(90,830)	(99,291)
Net cash provided by / (used in) financing activities		**(99,291)**	**(99,291)**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		**6,273,186**	**129,264**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		12,989,727	12,860,463
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.2	**19,262,913**	**12,989,727**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes:

(i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting.*

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

(iii) The Authority has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS $	PHYSICAL ASSET REVALUATION SURPLUS $	CONTRIBUTED CAPITAL $	TOTAL $
Balance at 1 July 2024	8,410,162	1,006,543	3,156,946	12,573,651
Net result for the year	(66,045)	-	-	(66,045)
Balance at 30 June 2025	**8,344,117**	**1,006,543**	**3,156,946**	**12,507,606**
Net result for the year	6,842,515	64,379	-	6,906,894
Balance at 30 June 2026	**15,186,632**	**1,070,922**	**3,156,946**	**19,414,500**

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note: (i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Notes to the Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

NOTE 1 ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Glenelg Hopkins 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:
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority
79 French Street
Hamilton VIC 3300

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the Report of operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are Tier 2 general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with AASB 1060 *General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities* (AASB 1060) and Financial Reporting Direction 101 *Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards* (FRD 101).

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.

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures 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.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the prior year.

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 AAS 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 expenses (Note 5.2);
- estimating discount rate when not implicit in the lease (Note 6.1);
- determining whether the lease arrangement is in substance short-term arrangement (Note 6.1);
- lease terms (Note 6.1);
- determining whether the performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether the arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 or AASB 1058 (Note 2.2.1);
- the timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (Note 2.2.1);
- determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligations (Note 2.2.1);
- fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3).

Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the report have been rounded to the nearest dollar. Figures in the financial report may not equate due to rounding.

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 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

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.

NOTE 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 Glenelg Hopkins. 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

Significant judgement: Grants Contributions

The Authority has determined that all grant income is recognised as income of not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058, except for grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations and accounted for as revenue in accordance with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers.

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Government contributions	2.2.1	17,937,742	9,183,253
Interest income	2.2.2	701,878	526,130
Other income	2.2.3	253,413	337,334
Total income from transactions		**18,893,034**	**10,046,717**

2.2 INCOME FROM TRANSACTIONS

2.2.1 Government contributions

	2026 $	2025 $
State Government		
Income recognised as income of not-for-profit entities under AASB 1058		
Catchment Planning	1,076,705	828,774
River Health	4,011,321	3,314,054
Floodplain Management	1,699,502	340,000
Natural Disaster	5,149,583	1,647,000
Other State Funding	2,626,064	1,817,567
	14,563,175	**7,947,395**
Commonwealth Government		
Revenue recognised as revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15		
Natural Heritage Trust	2,567,667	1,013,858
Other Commonwealth Funding	806,900	222,000
	3,374,567	**1,235,858**
Total Government contributions	**17,937,742**	**9,183,253**

Grants recognised under AASB 1058

The Authority has determined that the grant income included in the table above under AASB 1058 has been earned under arrangements that are either not enforceable and/or linked to sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Authority has unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the assets, the Authority recognises any increase in liabilities, decrease in assets, and revenue ('related amount') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards.

Related amounts may take the form of:

- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15 *Revenue with Contracts from Customers*;
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16 *Leases*;
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*; or
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.

Grants recognised under AASB 15

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15.

Revenue is recognised when the Authority satisfies the performance obligation by providing the relevant services. This is recognised based on the consideration specified in the funding agreement and to the extent that it is highly probable a significant reversal of the revenue will not occur.

The funding payments are normally received in advance or shortly after the relevant obligation is satisfied.

2.2.2 Interest

	2026 $	2025 $
Interest on bank deposits	**701,878**	**526,130**

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

2.2.3 Other income

	2026 $	2025 $
Partnership Contributions	77,219	280,116
Sundry	176,194	57,217
Total other income	**253,413**	**337,334**

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, and are recognised as income on receipt as they do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations, and are disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as other income.

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

NOTE 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 costs associated with the provision of services are recorded.

Structure

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

3.2 Materials, maintenance, grants and consultancies

3.3 Other operating expenses

3.1 EXPENSES INCURRED IN DELIVERY OF SERVICES

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Employee expenses	3.1.1	5,721,123	5,077,703
Materials, maintenance, grants and consultancies	3.2	2,443,550	1,976,138
Contractors	3.2	2,634,621	1,459,624
Other operating expenses	3.3	1,039,570	1,002,763
Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services		**11,838,864**	**9,516,228**

3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	2026 $	2025 $
Salaries & wages	4,069,021	3,634,756
Annual leave	404,868	438,785
Long service leave	44,743	156,774
Other leave	328,240	326,161
Defined contribution superannuation expense	593,358	535,057
Other employee expenses	138,295	154,032
Movement in provisions for employee benefits (i)	142,598	(167,862)
Total employee benefit expenses	**5,721,123**	**5,077,703**

Note: (i) The increase in movement in provisions for employee benefits in 2026 is due staff accruing additional Long Service Leave entitlements as years of service increase. The provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, where the carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows, using a wage inflation and discount rate that reflects the time, value of money and risks specific to the provision.

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, payroll tax, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums. The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

3.1.2 Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions

In measuring employee benefit provisions, consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, history 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.

	2026 $	2025 $
Current provisions:		
Annual Leave	409,639	421,355
Time in lieu and RDO	42,398	32,189
Long service leave	656,483	597,951
Provision for on-costs	66,361	68,030
Total current provisions for employee benefits	**1,174,881**	**1,119,524**
Non-current provisions:		
Employee benefits	117,004	56,161
On-costs	14,338	6,616
Total non-current provisions for employee benefits	**131,342**	**62,777**
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	**1,306,223**	**1,182,302**

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as current liabilities, because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability, as the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Annual leave balances of less than 6 weeks are measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, whilst balances above 6 weeks are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

No provision has been made for sick leave, as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax and workers compensation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred. The on-costs provision is immaterial.

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 amounts 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 Authority.

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 Authority.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an ‘other economic flow’ in the net result.

3.2 MATERIALS, MAINTENANCE, GRANTS & CONSULTANCIES AND CONTRACTORS

	2026 $	2025 $
Materials	165,548	165,691
Repairs and maintenance	10,924	15,781
Grants paid	561,752	571,692
Consultants	1,705,326	1,222,974
Contractors	2,634,621	1,459,624
Total materials, maintenance, grants and consultancies	**5,078,171**	**3,435,762**

Grants are recognised in the period in which they are paid or payable.

Materials, maintenance and consultants are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

Contractors are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

3.3 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	2026 $	2025 $
Other expenses	1,039,570	1,002,763
Total other operating expenses	**1,039,570**	**1,002,763**

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 incurred.

NOTE 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

4.1 TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT		ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION		NET CARRYING AMOUNT	
	2026 $	2025 $	2026 $	2025 $	2026 $	2025 $
Land at fair value	191,500	150,000	-	-	191,500	150,000
Buildings at fair value	1,588,500	850,000	-	(591,600)	1,588,500	258,400
Buildings Works in Progress at cost (i)	-	624,287	-	-	-	624,287
Plant and equipment at fair value	589,391	529,343	(442,957)	(385,513)	146,434	143,830
Office furniture and equipment at fair value	106,959	100,296	(88,988)	(87,726)	17,971	12,570
Right-of-Use Assets: building and vehicles (ii)	484,196	365,260	(321,847)	(201,367)	162,349	163,893
Net carrying amount	**2,960,545**	**2,619,186**	**(853,791)**	**(1,266,206)**	**2,106,754**	**1,352,980**

Notes:

(i) Represents costs of renovations at 79 French St Hamilton Office completed by June 2026.

(ii) As a result of a change in FRD 104 Leases effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2025, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for reporting period 2026. The comparative information for reporting period 2025 is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value. For further information, refer to Note 8.3

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.

Items with a cost or value in excess of $1,000, or in the case of ICT equipment in excess of $200, and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as an asset. All other assets acquired are expensed.

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. The CSO adjustment reflects the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that the CSO adjustment is also equally applicable to market participants.

Non-specialised buildings are valued using the current replacement cost method.

Revaluation of property, plant and equipment

Non-financial physical assets are revalued at fair value every five years in accordance with the Government purpose classifications defined in Financial Reporting Direction 103 *Non-Financial Physical Assets* (FRD 103). The Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the Government's independent valuation agency and is used by the Authority to conduct these scheduled revaluations.

Revaluations may occur more frequently if fair value assessments indicate material changes in values. In such instances, interim managerial revaluations are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of FRD 103.

The Authority in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset class through relevant data sources, in order to determine whether a revaluation is required.

The Authority's assets relating to land and buildings were independently valued by the VGV as at 30 June 2026.

The construction market is being impacted by the uncertainty caused by high inflation, rising interest rates and increased costs of construction due to continued supply chain issues. As at the date of the valuation of buildings, the valuer considers that there are market uncertainties resulting in significant valuation uncertainties. The value assessed at valuation date may therefore change over a relatively short time period.

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

Accounting for revaluation movements – land and buildings

Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset).

Revaluation increases or decreases arise from differences between an asset's carrying value and its fair value.

Revaluation increases and decreases relating to individual assets in a class of PPE, are offset against other assets in that class but are not offset against assets in different classes. An asset revaluation surplus is not transferred to accumulated funds on the de-recognition of the related asset.

Revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve, except to the extent that an increment reverses a revaluation decrement in respect of that class of asset previously recognised as an expense, in which case the increment is recognised immediately as revenue.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as an expense, except to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve applicable to the same class of assets, in which case the decrement is debited directly to the asset revaluation reserve.

4.1.1 Total right-of-use assets

This note explores right-of-use assets, a subset of the Authority's total assets, where right-of-use assets represent the Authority's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term.

	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2026 $	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION 2026 $	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2026 $	GROSS CARRYING AMOUNT 2025 $	ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION 2025 $	NET CARRYING AMOUNT 2025 $
Buildings at Fair Value (i)	204,279	(181,312)	22,967	158,346	(130,554)	27,791
Motor Vehicles & Equipment (i)	279,916	(140,534)	139,382	206,914	(70,812)	136,102
Net Carrying Amount	**484,196**	**(321,847)**	**162,349**	**365,260**	**(201,367)**	**163,893**

	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE $	MOTOR VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE $
Opening Balance - 1 July 2025	27,791	136,102
Additions (i)	45,934	73,002
Right-of-use adjustment	-	-
Disposals	-	-
Depreciation	(50,758)	(69,722)
Impairment Losses		
Closing Balance - 30 June 2026	**22,967**	**139,382**

Notes:

(i) The addition relates to the renewal of the Portland Road Sheds lease and three new Motor Vehicles.

(ii) As a result of a change in FRD 104 Leases effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2025, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for reporting period 2026. The comparative information for reporting period 2025 is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value. For further information, refer to Note 8.3.

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees – Initial measurement

The Authority recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any incentive received; plus
- any indirect costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Right-of-use asset – Subsequent measurement

Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation, impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of the lease liability. The authority depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. Impairment of right-of-use assets is determined and accounted for in accordance with AASB *136 Impairment of Assets*.

Impairment of right-of-use assets

The Authority has assessed all right-of-use assets for impairment, and no indicators of impairment are identified as at 30 June 2026.

4.1.2 Depreciation and amortisation

All buildings, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are depreciated. Land is the exception to this rule.

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:

Asset	Useful Life
Buildings	8 - 47 years
Buildings - right-of-use	2 - 20 years
Plant and equipment	3 - 5 years
Office furniture & equipment	5 - 10 years
Right of use assets	2 - 5 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.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term.

Impairment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 I*mpairment of Assets* does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

4.1.3 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment

	LAND AT FAIR VALUE $	BUILDINGS AT FAIR VALUE (ii) $	BUILDINGS WORKS IN PROGRESS AT COST $	PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE $	OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT AT FAIR VALUE $	RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS (ii) $	TOTAL $
2025-26							
Opening balance	**150,000**	**258,400**	**624,287**	**143,830**	**12,570**	**163,893**	**1,352,980**
Additions	-	-	709,235	60,048	6,663	-	**775,946**
ROU adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	118,936	**118,936**
Transfer to Buildings	-	1,333,522	-1,333,522				**0**
Revaluation	41,500	22,879	-	-	-	-	**64,379**
Depreciation	-	(26,301)	-	(57,443)	(1,262)	(120,480)	**(205,486)**
Closing balance	**191,500**	**1,588,500**	**0**	**146,434**	**17,971**	**162,349**	**2,106,754**

Note:
(i) An independent valuation of the Authority's land and buildings was performed.
(ii) As a result of a change in FRD 104 Leases effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2025, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for reporting period 2026. The comparative information for reporting period 2025 is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value. For further information, refer to Note 8.2.

NOTE 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

5.1 RECEIVABLES

	2026 $	2025 $
Receivables		
Contractual		
Trade receivables	28,932	50,440
	28,932	50,440
Statutory		
GST input tax credits recoverable	63,352	-
	63,352	-
Total receivables	**92,284**	**50,440**

All receivables are current

Receivables consist of:

- Contractual receivables, which 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. The Authority holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measures them at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.
- Statutory receivables, which do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes.

Details about the Authority's impairment policies, 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.

	2026 $	2025 $
Payables		
Contractual		
Accrued expenses	558,758	531,604
Statutory		
Superannuation	17,229	-
PAYG/GST payable	-	6,477
	17,229	6,477
Total payables	**575,987**	**538,081**
Represented by:		
Current Payables	575,987	538,081

Payables consist of:

- Contractual payables, classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and
- Statutory payables, that 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.
- Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

NOTE 6 HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) and other information related to financing activities of the Authority.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments, such as cash balances. Note 7.1 provides additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

6.1 Lease Liabilities

6.2 Cash flow information and balances

6.3 Commitments for expenditure

6.4 Carry forward project funding

6.1 LEASE LIABILITIES

	Notes	2026 $	2025 $
Current lease liabilities			
Lease Liabilities (i)	6.1.1	101,026	84,190
Total current leases liabilities		**101,026**	**84,190**
Non-current lease liabilities			
Lease Liabilities (i)	6.1.1	64,214	80,968
Total non-current lease liabilities		**64,214**	**80,968**

Note: (i) Secured by assets leased. Leases liabilities are effectively secured as the right to the lease assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

6.1.1 Maturity analysis of borrowings

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE INTEREST RATE (%)			MATURITY DATES				
		CARRYING AMOUNT $	NOMINAL AMOUNT $	LESS THAN 1 MONTH $	1 TO 3 MONTHS $	3 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR $	1 TO 5 YEARS $	5+ YEARS $
2026								
Lease liabilities	3.7%	165,241	172,365	8,796	17,591	79,165	66,813	-
Total		**165,241**	**172,365**	**8,796**	**17,591**	**79,165**	**66,813**	**-**
2025								
Lease liabilities	3.0%	165,158	171,648	9,009	18,017	61,779	82,843	-
Total		**165,158**	**171,648**	**9,009**	**18,017**	**61,779**	**82,843**	**-**

Borrowings refer to interest bearing liabilities for lease liabilities.

Borrowings are classified as financial instruments. Interest-bearing liabilities are classified at amortised cost and recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, less directly attributable transaction costs. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

6.1.2 Interest expense

	2026 $	2025 $
Interest on leases liabilities	6,169	3,946
Total interest expense	**6,169**	**3,946**

Interest expense includes the interest component of the lease repayments, and is recognised in the period in which it was incurred through lease expenses in the comprehensive operating statement.

6.2 LEASES

Significant judgement: Lease Terms

In determining the lease term, the Authority considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option. The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects this assessment.

The Authority leases various properties. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. Rental contracts are typically for fixed periods of between 1 to 5 years, with up to extension options of between 1 to 10 years typically available.

Leases with a contract term of 1 year and a value of less than $10,000 are either short-term and/or leases of low value and are recognised on a straight-line basis. The Authority has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases.

6.2.1 Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are presented in Note 4.1.1

6.2.2 Expense recognised for short-term leases

The following amounts are recognised as expense relating to short-term leases.

	2026 $	2025 $
Expenses relating to short-term leases	29,391	101,695
Total amount recognised as an expense	**29,391**	**101,695**

The authority has elected to account for short-term leases using the practical expedients.

Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in profit or loss included in “other operating expenses” (see note 3.3) on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

6.2.3 Recognition and measurement of leases as a lessee

For any new contracts entered into, the Authority considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as ‘a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration’. To apply this definition the Authority assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations:

- Whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Authority and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- Whether the authority has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the Authority has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- Whether the authority has the right to take decisions in respect of ‘how and for what purpose’ the asset is used throughout the period of use.

Lease Liability – Initial Measurement

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or the Authority's incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable;
- variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

Lease Liability – Subsequent Measurement

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance to fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or net result if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

Short-term and low value leases

The Authority has elected to account for short-term and low value leases using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in net result on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The authority presents right-of-use assets as 'property plant equipment' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'liabilities' in the balance sheet

Future lease payments

	Minimum future lease payments (a)	
	2026 $	**2025 $**
Not longer than 1 year	105,552	88,805
Longer than 1 year but not longer than 5 years	66,813	82,843
Longer than 5 years	-	-
Minimum future lease payments	**172,365**	**171,648**
Less future finance charges	7,125	6,490
Present value of minimum lease payments	**165,241**	**165,158**

Note: (a) Minimum future lease payments include the aggregate of all base payments and any guaranteed residual.

6.3 CASH FLOW INFORMATION AND BALANCES

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

The authority's bank accounts are held in the Central Banking System (CBS) under the *Standing Directions 2018*.

	2026 $	**2025 $**
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash at bank	12,161,964	6,189,112
Deposits at call	7,100,949	6,800,615
Balance as per cash flow statement	**19,262,913**	**12,989,727**

Note: (a) *Cash and deposits bear variable interest rate with a weighted-average interest rate of 4% during the 2025-26 year.*

6.4 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

Commitments for future expenditure include operating 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.

6.4.1 Total commitments payable

	2026 $	2025 $
Commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	1,631,270	1,248,317
1 to 5 years	2,041,410	2,050,351
5 years or more	122,399	-
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	**3,795,079**	**3,298,668**

External program commitments relate to contract for contractors, consultants and other project delivery costs required to complete current projects that funding has been received for. These contracts expire at the end of each project.

6.5 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. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

Introduction

It is often necessary for the Authority to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information, as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher 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

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 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 are 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).

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired
- the authority retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a ‘pass through’ arrangement
- the authority has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
  - has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset
  - has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the authority has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the authority’s continuing involvement in the asset.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they originated. They are initially measured at fair value less 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 and borrowings (including lease liabilities).

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

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.

Under this approach, the expected loss rate for the year ending 30 June 2026 has been calculated at 0% (0% at 30 June 2025), and as such no loss allowance has been recognised. The Authority has a low expected loss rate due to the majority of funding sourced from State and Federal government.

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.

7.1.1 Financial instruments – Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category

	CARRYING AMOUNT $	NET GAIN/LOSS $	TOTAL INTEREST INCOME/ (EXPENSE) $	FEE INCOME/ (EXPENSE) $	IMPAIRMENT LOSS $
2026					
Financial assets at					
Cash and deposits	19,262,913	-	701,878	(1,591)	-
Trade receivables [a]	28,932	-	-	-	-
Write-Offs	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**19,291,845**	**-**	**701,878**	**(1,591)**	**-**
Trade payables [a]	430,236	-	-	-	-
Borrowings				-	
Lease liabilities	165,241	-	(6,169)	-	-
Total contractual financial liabilities	**595,477**	**-**	**(6,169)**	**-**	**-**
2025					
Financial assets at					
Cash and deposits	12,989,727	-	526,130	(1,726)	-
Trade receivables [a]	50,440	-	-	-	-
Write-Offs	-	-	-	-	-
Total financial assets at amortised cost	**13,040,167**	**-**	**526,130**	**(1,726)**	**-**
Trade payables [a]	503,236	-	-	-	-
Borrowings					
Lease liabilities	165,158	-	(3,946)	-	-
Total contractual financial liabilities	**668,394**	**-**	**(3,946)**	**-**	**-**

Note: *(a) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts payable and recoverable from Victorian Go and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).*

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.

	2026 $	2025 $
Contingent Assets		
As at 30 June 2026, the Authority has no known contingent assets.	-	-
Contingent liabilities		
VCAT Cases	50,000	-

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: Non-financial physical assets

Valuation techniques and significant assumptions of non-financial physical assets measured at fair value

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities amended AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement by adding Appendix F Australian implementation guidance for not-for-profit public sector entities. Appendix F explains and illustrates the application of the principles in AASB 13 on developing unobservable inputs and the application of the cost approach. These clarifications are mandatorily applicable annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. FRD 103 permits Victorian public sector entities to apply Appendix F of AASB 13 in their next scheduled formal asset revaluation or interim revaluation process (whichever is earlier).

Non-specialised land & non-specialised buildings

Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings are 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.

Right-of-use non-specialised buildings are valued as per the requirements of AASB 16 Leases. This is detailed further in Note 4.1.1.

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings (excluding right-of use-assets), 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 2026.

Plant & equipment, office furniture & equipment and motor vehicles

Plant & equipment, office furniture & equipment and motor vehicles are held at fair value. When plant & equipment, office furniture & equipment or motor vehicles are specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method. There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2026.

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

Description of significant assumptions applied to the fair value measurement valuations

	VALUATION TECHNIQUE	SIGNIFICANT ASSUMPTIONS
Non-Specialised land	Market approach	Recent comparable sales
Non-Specialised buildings	Market approach	Direct cost per square metre Useful life of non-specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Office furniture and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of office furniture and equipment
Motor vehicles	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of vehicles

There have been no significant changes to observable inputs for the 2025-26 year.

NOTE 8 OTHER DISCLOSURES

Introduction

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 Changes in Accounting Policy

8.3 Responsible persons

8.4 Remuneration of executive officers

8.5 Related parties

8.6 Remuneration of auditors

8.7 Subsequent events

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 2026 (2025: $0).

8.2 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

The Authority has made a change in accounting policy to change the measurement basis from the revaluation model to the cost model for the subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets arising from market leases, in accordance with the updated requirements under FRD 104.

Previously, the Authority had measured all right-of-use assets arising from market leases using the revaluation model under AASB 13. Following the change in accounting policy, the Authority will measure all right-of-use assets using the cost model. Right-of-use assets measured using the cost model are held at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of lease liability. Periodic revaluations are not required; however, the cost model requires annual impairment assessments in accordance with AASB 136.

Upon adoption of the cost model, the Authority has applied a modified retrospective approach. The approach takes the right-of-use asset's carrying amounts recorded under the revaluation model as at 30 June 2025 as the right-of-use asset's opening balances on application of the cost model.

Accordingly, the comparative information presented is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value.

Right-of-use assets arising from significantly below-market leases

The Authority is not required to make any adjustments to right-of-use assets arising from significantly below-market leases, including peppercorn leases, as the Authority already measures these right-of-use assets using the cost model in accordance with AASB 16 and FRD 104, and are thus not impacted as a result of this accounting policy change.

Impacts on financial statements

On transition to the cost model, there was no impact on the Authority's financial statements. No impairment was identified by the Authority for the right-of-use asset held as at 30 June 2026.

8.3 RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA), 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:

NAME	POSITION	DATE HELD POSITION
The Hon. Harriet Shing, MP	Minister for Water	15 Apr 2026 to 30 Jun 2026
The Hon. Gayle Tierney, MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2025 to 14 Apr 2026
The Hon. Enver Erdogan, MP	Minister for Environment	15 Apr 2026 to 30 Jun 2026
The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, MP	Minister for Environment	01 Jul 2025 to 14 Apr 2026
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio, MP	Minister for Climate Action	01 Jul 2025 to 30 Jun 2026
Antony Ford	Chair	01 Jul 2025 to 1 Oct 2025
Catherine Redwood	Chair	1 Oct 2025 to 30 Jun 2026
Adam Bester	CEO	01 Jul 2025 to 30 Jun 2026
Michelle Casanova	Board Member	01 Jul 2025 to 1 Oct 2025
Christine Giles	Board Member	01 Jul 2025 to 1 Oct 2025
Celia Tucker	Board Member	01 Jul 2025 to 30 Jun 2026
Gerry Quinn	Board Member	01 Jul 2025 to 30 Jun 2026
Karrinjeet Singh-Mahil	Board Member	01 Jul 2025 to 30 Jun 2026
Rowan Mackenzie	Board Member	01 Jul 2025 to 30 Jun 2026
Anna Sweeney	Board Member	1 Oct 2025 to 30 Jun 2026
Susan Bosch	Board Member	1 Oct 2025 to 30 Jun 2026

Remuneration

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

Income band	2026	2025
$0 - $9,999	3	
$10,000 - $19,999	6	7
$20,000 - $29,999	1	
$30,000 - $39,999		1
$250,000 - $259,999		
$290,000 - $299,999	1	1
Total number of Responsible persons	**11**	**9**
Total Remuneration $	**438,062**	**439,880**

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 State's Annual Financial Report.

8.4 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.

Remuneration (i)	2026 $	2025 $
Total remuneration	**594,534**	**583,742**
Total number or executives (i)	**3**	**3**
Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)	**3.0**	**3.0**

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 reported within the related parties note disclosure (Note 8.4).

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

8.5 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.

Transactions with government-related entities

Glenelg Hopkins CMA is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the state of Victoria. During the 2026 financial year, the Authority received funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS RECEIVED 2026 $
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Service Level Agreements	7,814,748
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of Expenses / Service Level Agreement	291,227
Mallee Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of Expenses	10,282
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	-
Victorian Fisheries Authority	Service Level Agreements	210,343
Parks Victoria	Service Level Agreements	22,000

The Authority received funding from the following government-related entities for the year ending 30 June 2025:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS RECEIVED 2025 $
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Service Level Agreements	7,685,969
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of Expenses / Service Level Agreement	81,601
Mallee Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of Expenses	4,915
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	150,000
Victorian Fisheries Authority	Service Level Agreements	222,154
Parks Victoria	Service Level Agreements	20,000

During the 2026 financial year, the Authority made payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS MADE 2026 $
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Reimbursement of expenditure and Service Supply Agreements	301,064
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Service Supply Agreement	96,221
Department of Transport and Planning	Service Level Agreement	-
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	18,250
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	Lease Agreements	115,943
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority	Insurance payments	77,643
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of expenditure	422,916
Wannon Water	Service Level Agreement	35,610
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreements and shared services	212,261
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Service Supply Agreement	141,300

During the 2025 financial year, the Authority made payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	NATURE OF TRANSACTION/S	PAYMENTS MADE 2025 $
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Reimbursement of expenditure and Service Supply Agreements	344,005
Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria	Service Supply Agreement	36,472
Department of Transport and Planning	Service Level Agreement	133,237
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	1,734
DTF VicFleet Lease Management	Lease Agreements	107,415
Victorian Managed Insurance Authority	Insurance payments	67,890
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority	Reimbursement of expenditure	45,211
Wannon Water	Service Level Agreement	32,916
North Central Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreements and shared services	61,580
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority	Service Level Agreement	34,329

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

Compensation of KMPs	2026 $	2025 $
Total	**900,152**	**879,521**

There were no significant related party transactions or balances that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interest.

8.6 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2026 $	2025 $
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	18,700	17,800
Internal audit costs	71,165	29,520
Total auditors' remuneration	**89,865**	**47,320**

8.7 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.

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LEGISLATION

Building Act 1993

CALP Act 1989

Financial Management Act 1994

Freedom of Information Act 1982

Local Jobs First Act 2003

Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012

Glossary

ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute
ARRC	Australian River Restoration Centre
BA	Birdlife Australia
CE	Community Engagement
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CeRDI	Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
EO	Executive Officer
EPBC	*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*
EWRO	Environmental Water Reserve Officer
FFG	*Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*
FHR	Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GH EQUIP	Glenelg Hopkins CMA Skills Development and Learning Strategy
GMTOAC	Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
GREWAG	Glenelg River Environmental Water Advisory Group
GWMWater	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
IBA	Important Bird Areas
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IPA	Indigenous Protected Area
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRV	Industrial Relations Victoria
LAC	Limits for Acceptable Change
MERI	Monitor, Evaluate, Report and Improve
NGT	Nature Glenelg Trust
NLP	National Landcare Program
Non-BAU	Non-Business As Usual
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OCOC	Our Catchments, Our Communities
PAA	*Public Administration Act*
RAMSAR	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
RFMS	Regional Floodplain Management Strategy
RHD	Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease
RLC	Regional Landcare Coordinator
RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
RWMS	Regional Waterway Management Strategy
SCA	Stock Containment Area
SIP	Sustainable Irrigation Program
TfN	Trust for Nature
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office
VCMC	Victorian Catchment Management Council
VFMS	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy
VicSES	Victoria State Emergency Service
VLG	Victorian Landcare Grants
VPS	Victorian Public Sector
VPSC	Victorian Public Sector Commission
VVP	Victorian Volcanic Plains
VWMS	Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
VWPIF	Victorian Water Program Investment Framework

Glenelg Hopkins CMA

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