

Regional Riparian Action Plan Year 1 achievements report

Accelerating on-ground riparian works across Victoria

The Victorian Government released the five-year *Regional Riparian Action Plan* in December 2015 to accelerate the delivery of on-ground riparian works¹.

This fact sheet summarises what has been achieved in the first year of the *Regional Riparian Action Plan*'s implementation. Implementing the Action Plan is also a key action in the Government's *Water for Victoria*.

Why protect and improve riparian land?

Healthy riparian land is critical to the health of our waterways. It plays a key role in helping to maintain healthy fish habitat in waterways, by filtering nutrients and sediments from catchment run-off, providing shade, providing a source of fish food and instream wood that fish need to shelter in streams and by helping to reduce bank erosion.

Furthermore, riparian land and waterways hold important cultural values for Victoria's Traditional Owners and are also important drivers of social, recreational and economic activity through fishing, tourism, walking and boating.



Riparian works on Little Creek.

Photo courtesy Goulburn Broken CMA

How is the Action Plan funded?

To implement the *Regional Riparian Action Plan*, Government allocated an additional \$10 million in 2015/16. This funding accelerated the implementation of on-ground riparian works, such as stock management fencing, revegetation, weed management and provision of infrastructure to support off-stream stock watering.

Furthermore, an additional \$30 million has been allocated from 2016/17 to 2019/20 to implement additional riparian works. This funding is part of the \$222 million the Victorian Government is investing in improving the health of waterways and catchments in regional Victoria.

How is the Action Plan being implemented?

Catchment management authorities (CMAs) are working collaboratively with landholders and community groups, including Landcare and angling groups, to undertake the riparian works, typically using incentives and grants.

Key achievements 2015/16 (Year 1)

Table 1: Riparian outcome measures achieved in 2015/16 in the nine CMA regions*

Riparian outcome measure	Amount delivered in Year 1	Five-year target
Length of riparian land where works have been undertaken to protect or improve its condition (km)	768	2,490
Area of waterway vegetation works undertaken to improve the health and resilience of waterways (ha)	11,588	28,190
Number of landholders who have worked with the CMA to undertake riparian works	417	1,810

*Melbourne Water does not receive funding from government under the Action Plan and its riparian outcomes are not included in the outcome measures table.

¹ Riparian land is land that runs along rivers, creeks and wetlands.

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Riparian project case studies

Wannon Restoration Project

The Wannon Restoration Project involved the Glenelg Hopkins CMA working with 47 landholders to undertake riparian works to improve the health of the Upper Wannon River and its tributaries. The Wannon River is a critical biolink connecting Grampians National Park and Wannon Reserve, both being key areas for recreation and tourism. The work is also helping to protect several threatened fish species and the growling grass frog.

With the aid of the additional funding, a total of 70 kilometres of fencing, 231 hectares of revegetation and 40 hectares of weed control were achieved.



Fencing and revegetation on the Wannon River.
Photo courtesy Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

Lower Mitchell Restoration Project

The Mitchell River supplies drinking water to the majority of towns in East Gippsland and provides irrigation water to the Lindenow Valley. The river flows into the Gippsland Lakes and is a major area for recreational activities, including fishing, rowing and swimming.

The East Gippsland CMA worked with Traditional Owners the Gunaikurnai, local Landcare groups, local landholders and the surrounding community. Works

included willow control, fencing, revegetation and stabilising the banks of the river with rock. The works have improved recreational access along the river and will improve habitat for native fish.

In 2015/16, the project achieved nearly five kilometres of fencing, five off-stream stock watering systems, 11 hectares of revegetation and 57 hectares of weed control.



Works crews undertaking revegetation on the lower Mitchell River.
Photo courtesy East Gippsland CMA.

Further information

Regional Riparian Action Plan

<http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/water/riivers,-estuaries-and-wetlands/regional-riiparian-action-plan>

More information about riparian management and how you can get involved can be obtained from your CMA:

East Gippsland CMA	5152 0600
West Gippsland CMA	1300 094 262
Corangamite CMA	5232 9100
Glenelg Hopkins CMA	5571 2526
Wimmera CMA	5382 1544
Mallee CMA	5051 4377
North Central CMA	5448 7124
Goulburn Broken CMA	5822 7700
North East CMA	1300 216 513

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