Victorian Waterway Management Strategy: third edition

What We Heard: Stakeholder and Community Consultation



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VICTORIA State Government | Energy, Environment and Climate Action

Acknowledgements

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) thanks all individuals, organisations, communities and stakeholders who participated in consultation on the draft Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy. DEECA also acknowledges Kismet Forward for their support during the consultation.

Author

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, assisted by Kismet Forward.

Photo credit

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



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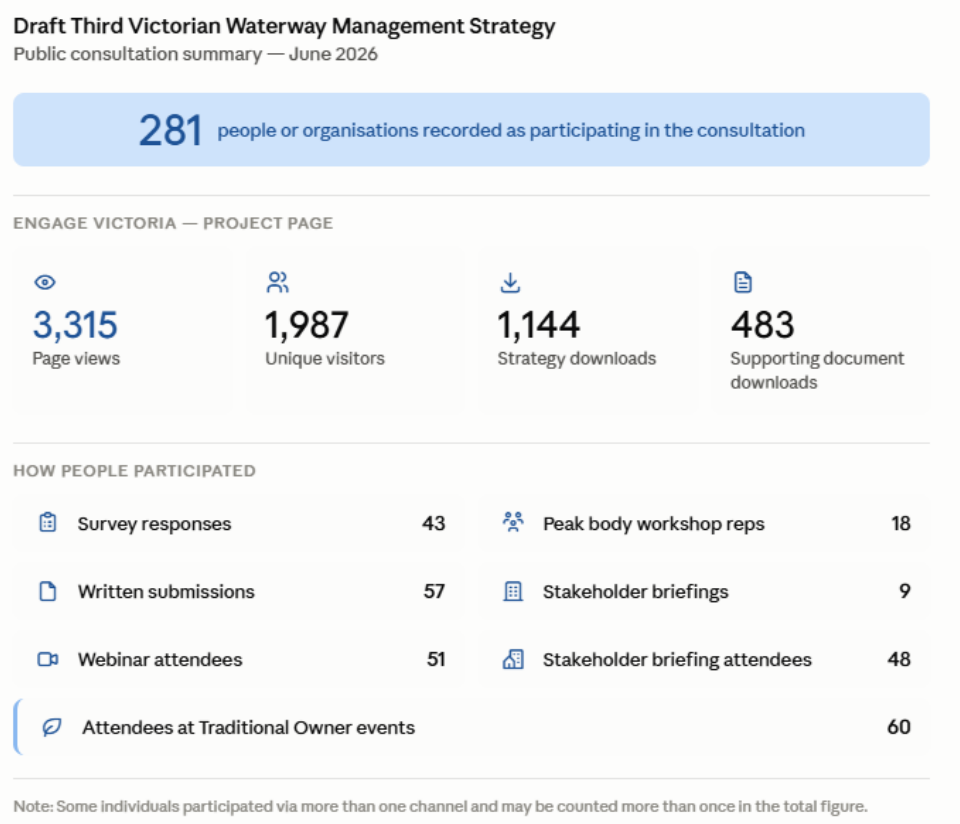
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Executive Summary

Public consultation on the draft Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (the Strategy) ran for four weeks in June 2026 and was hosted on Engage Victoria. A total of **281** individuals and organisations participated through surveys, written submissions, online webinars, a peak bodies workshop, Traditional Owner engagement sessions, and targeted stakeholder meetings. Feedback came from a wide range of organisations and individuals, including catchment management authorities, water corporations, local councils, Traditional Owner groups, peak bodies, community waterway groups, government agencies and researchers.



Overall reception

The draft Strategy was broadly welcomed as a significant improvement on the 2013 Victorian Waterway Management Strategy. Contributors recognised its stronger focus on climate change, Traditional Owner self-determination and integrated water management, and there was strong support for the draft Strategy's overall direction. Feedback was focused on opportunities to strengthen implementation, with contributors emphasising the importance of real action, clear accountability and adequate resourcing to realise the intended outcomes.

Key themes

The strategy's ambition is strongly supported, and contributors emphasised the importance of translating this ambition into tangible outcomes. Many contributors identified an opportunity to strengthen connection between the vision and delivery. Contributors highlighted the reliance on voluntary contributions, and called for stronger regulatory settings, clearer governance arrangements, enforceable planning requirements and dedicated funding. Funding challenges were identified by a range of stakeholders, particularly for local government, community organisations and formally protected sites such as Ramsar wetlands.

Traditional Owner rights and responsibilities are embedded in the Strategy. Many contributors noted the increased recognition of Traditional Owner rights and interests as one of the Strategy's most important advances since 2013.

The living entity concept is welcomed, and contributors are eager to see its practical application. Recognition of waterways as living entities was viewed positively, with contributors expressing interest in understanding how it will guide decision-making, governance and management in practice. Some called for the concept to be applied consistently across all waterway types and for further clarification of its legal and policy implications.

Monitoring and accountability are seen as important for tracking progress over time. Some contributors requested clear statewide targets, a coordinated monitoring framework, and a streamlined approach to monitoring that builds on existing datasets.

The focus on community stewardship and citizen science was warmly welcomed. Contributors recognised the importance of communities in caring for waterways, and called for continued investment in participation opportunities, data standards and community monitoring to inform formal reporting and decision-making.

What happens next

The Victorian Waterway Management Strategy team has carefully reviewed all feedback received. This input has informed the final Strategy and helped to strengthen its directions, implementation and long-term outcomes for Victorian waterways and communities.

1. Introduction

This section introduces the draft Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy. It explains what this report covers, including important limitations to keep in mind when reading the consultation process findings.

The Strategy

Victoria's waterways — rivers, wetlands, estuaries and floodplains — are central to the lives of all Victorians. They support our communities, regional economies and ecosystems, from cool mountain streams to popular coastal estuaries. They are places where people swim, fish, walk and connect with nature, and they hold deep cultural significance for Traditional Owners who have cared for Country for thousands of years.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has developed the draft Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (the Strategy) to guide the protection and care of waterways over the next ten years. It replaces the 2013 Victorian Waterway Management Strategy and builds on what we have learned since then. It is guided by a 50-year vision for waterways as healthy, diverse ecosystems that benefit everyone as our climate changes.

The draft Strategy provides a framework for government, waterway managers, Traditional Owners and regional communities to work together. It proposes four long-term outcome domains, which are expanded in the draft Strategy.

- Living, connected waterway ecosystems and habitats
- Victorians value, care for, use and enjoy waterways
- Effective waterway planning and management.
- Traditional Owner cultural rights and responsibilities for waterways

Together, these outcomes guide the draft Strategy's 68 policies and 49 actions.

Caring for waterways is a long-term commitment that spans generations. The Strategy sets out how Victoria will meet its responsibilities for waterway management under relevant state, national and international laws and agreements. Managing waterways and catchments well depends on regional planning, clear priorities and strong local delivery. The Strategy provides the framework for this to continue, while also responding to new challenges and updating policy directions since the 2013 Strategy was released.

The purpose of this report

Public consultation on the draft Strategy opened on 1 June 2026 and closed on 29 June 2026, running for four weeks. The consultation was hosted on Engage Victoria and open to all Victorians, including individuals, community groups, peak bodies and other interested organisations. Four webinars were held to help people learn about the draft Strategy before responding to a survey or writing a submission.

This report summarises the public feedback received during the consultation period. It also includes feedback gathered through separate engagement with partners and peak body groups.

2. Background and Approach

The draft Strategy was developed through a series of engagement activities spanning several years. This section outlines that process, describes how the 2026 public consultation was designed and delivered, and explains the role community feedback played in shaping the draft Strategy.

Previous consultation and engagement

Developing the draft Strategy was a collaborative process informed by DEECA's engagement with communities and stakeholders through:

- The 2022 My Victorian Waterway Survey, which asked Victorians about their connection to waterways, what they value about them, and what they hope for their future. The survey was available in seven languages and completed by over 6,000 people.
- A 2023 Discussion Starter hosted on Engage Victoria, which built on what was heard in the 2022 survey. It focused on healthy waterways in a changing climate and community connections to waterways. The Discussion Starter ran for six weeks and generated 67 survey responses, 23 written submissions and 109 registrations for online events.
- Partners, including Traditional Owners, catchment management authorities (CMAs) and water corporations, were consulted on policies and actions affecting how they deliver their core responsibilities, including under the *Water Act 1989*.
- Key stakeholders, such as government agencies and local councils, contributed to policies influencing how they meet their statutory responsibilities, including under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
- Peak bodies provided input on how their constituencies use and care for waterways.
- Broader community and stakeholder groups informed policies relating to waterway use and the management of adjacent land.

The Traditional Owner engagement process was structured to progressively inform the development of the draft Strategy. It began with early engagement to design the approach and governance model, followed by a statewide forum to present that approach and discuss initial policy directions. Participation in thematic working groups then enabled more detailed policy discussion and testing of potential solutions. Regional workshops, 1:1 meetings and ongoing online sessions aimed at strengthening Traditional Owner roles have supported this process by maintaining open communication, responding to questions and advice and providing updates on the draft Strategy's development.

Consultation objectives

The public consultation on the draft Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy invited feedback from all Victorians to inform its finalisation. It also informed Victorians about the next steps in finalising the Strategy.

The community's influence

The consultation on the draft Strategy was pitched at the 'Consult' level of public participation. This means DEECA sought community feedback on the draft Strategy, with a commitment to listen, acknowledge the views received, and explain how that feedback influenced the final decisions. While community members do not make the final decision about what is included in the Strategy, their input directly informs it.

Community members were told that their input would help shape:

- **The Strategy's overall direction,** including themes or issues that may have been missed.
- **Proposed policies and actions,** including whether a policy could work better or be more closely aligned with the Strategy's goals.
- **The Strategy's vision and outcomes,** including views on the wording and intent.
- **Clarity of the Strategy's content,** including whether something was unclear or could be better explained, such as how data or statistics are presented.

Feedback on these consultation topics is reported in this document.

They were also informed that the following were non-negotiable – i.e., outside the scope of the consultation:

- **The role of Traditional Owners**, who have cultural rights and are key partners in managing waterways.
- **Content that conflicts with existing Victorian Government policy or legislation**, including the State's climate change framework.
- **Content covered in other government strategies, plans, and commitments**, including management of the marine environment, flood risk management and water allocations, sharing and entitlements.
- **Topics unrelated** to the Strategy's vision, outcomes, policies or actions.
- **Issues specific to individual regions or waterways**.

Out-of-scope feedback is noted in Section 5 of this report.

About the reporting of feedback

The feedback received through this consultation was wide-ranging and, as is common in public consultation, reflected diverse views and interests. We have done our best to represent the full range of views fairly in Section 4. While every comment has been read and considered, we have not included every individual comment in this report.

The report does not include the opinions or recommendations of the report's authors, and comments have not been fact-checked for accuracy.

We have used the following terms to describe feedback sources:

- **Respondent** – someone who completed one or both surveys.
- **Submitter** – someone who lodged a submission, including those who used the template downloaded from Engage Victoria.
- **Contributor** – a respondent, submitter or anyone else who provided feedback about the draft Strategy.
- **Participant** – someone who attended an event or provided feedback.

% shows the proportion of respondents who selected a particular response among those who answered that question. ***(n=)*** refers to the number of people who answered a question.

The What We Heard section of this report is organised as follows:

- **Part x – General feedback** summarises the comments made about each Part of the Strategy through the short survey and submissions.
- **Chapter x – General feedback** summarises feedback received about each chapter of the Strategy through the detailed survey and submissions.
- **Chapter x – Specific feedback** summarises feedback on individual policies or actions that multiple contributors raised.

3. Consultation activities and who participated

This section describes the range of activities through which people could participate in the consultation and provides an overview of who took part. Feedback was gathered through two online surveys, written submissions, Traditional Owner drop-in sessions, a peak bodies workshop, and one-on-one meetings.

Participation overview

A total of **281** individuals or organisations participated in this consultation through surveys, submissions, webinars and meetings. Some people participated through multiple channels and may be counted more than once in this figure.

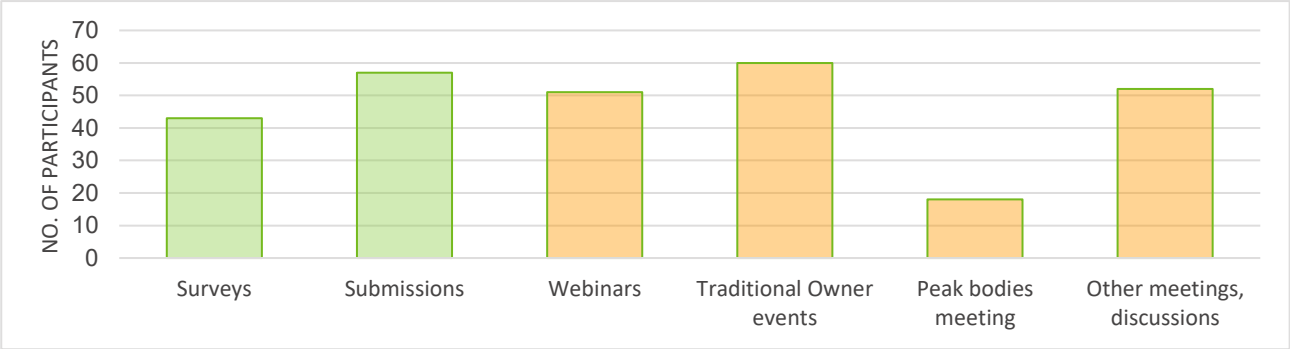


Figure 1: How many people or organisations participated (*n=281*)
Formal feedback was gathered through surveys and submissions.
Feedback was only recorded during other stakeholder events if explicitly requested.

Engage Victoria

A project page for the draft Strategy was established on Engage Victoria[1] to support the consultation. The page described the project and provided access to the draft Strategy and appendices, a Q&A document and 15 fact sheets summarising the draft Strategy's key components. It also outlined the ways people could participate, with links to surveys, submission templates and webinar registration pages.

The project page received **3,315** views from **1,987** unique visitors during the 4-week consultation period (1-29 June 2026). The draft Strategy, in PDF or accessible Word format, was downloaded **1,144** times. There were **483** downloads of supporting documents, including Strategy appendices, the Q&A document and Fact Sheets. In addition, **78** submission templates were downloaded.

Surveys and submissions

Two online **surveys** were available on the Engage Victoria page during the consultation period.

The *Short Survey: General feedback on the Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* was designed for participants with limited time and focused on the draft Strategy's overall direction. It asked for:

- Their level of support for the draft vision
- Their level of support for the draft outcomes
- High-level feedback on any of the seven parts of the draft Strategy
- Any other general feedback on the draft Strategy

[1] https://engage.vic.gov.au/victorian-waterway-management-strategy

The *Detailed Survey: Feedback on individual policies and actions in the Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy* enabled individuals and organisations to provide detailed feedback on any aspect of the draft Strategy, including its 68 policies or 49 actions.

A total of **43** people responded to either the short or the detailed online survey, and some may have completed both. **74%** (32) responded as individuals; the remainder on behalf of an organisation (see Appendix 2). The most common way survey respondents learned about the draft Strategy was through DEECA (**31%**).

Feedback could also be provided through a written **submission**. Submitters could use a downloadable submission template based on the same questions as the online surveys, or submit in any format they preferred.

A total of **57** submissions were received via the downloadable template or emailed directly to DEECA. **85%** of submitters were organisations, spanning a wide range of sectors including catchment management authorities, water corporations, local councils, Traditional Owner groups, community and Landcare organisations, government agencies, peak bodies, and research and scientific societies (see Appendix 2). **15%** of submissions were from individuals. The most common way the 40 submitters who uploaded their submissions via Engage Victoria learned about the consultation was through DEECA (**57%**).

Figure 2 shows how survey respondents and some submitters described their connections with waterways (multiple options were permitted). 'Community group/not-for-profit organisation' was the most commonly selected connection, followed by 'recreational waterways user' and 'government or state-owned corporation'.

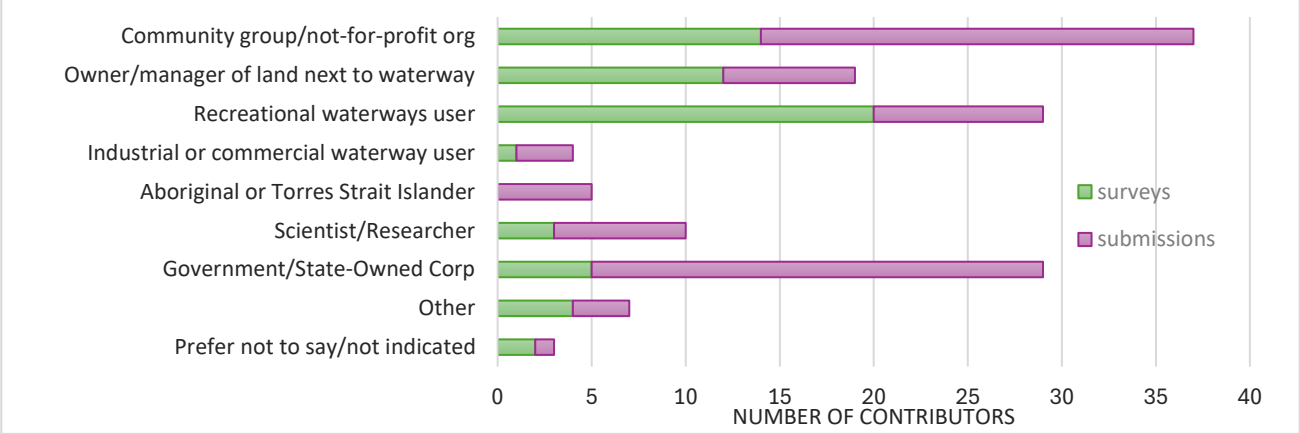


Figure 2: How contributors described their connection to waterways *(n=100).*

Some contributors reported living in the Victorian regions shown in Figure 3. If they responded on behalf of an organisation, the nominated region(s) were those in which the organisation is based or covers. Multiple regions could be entered.

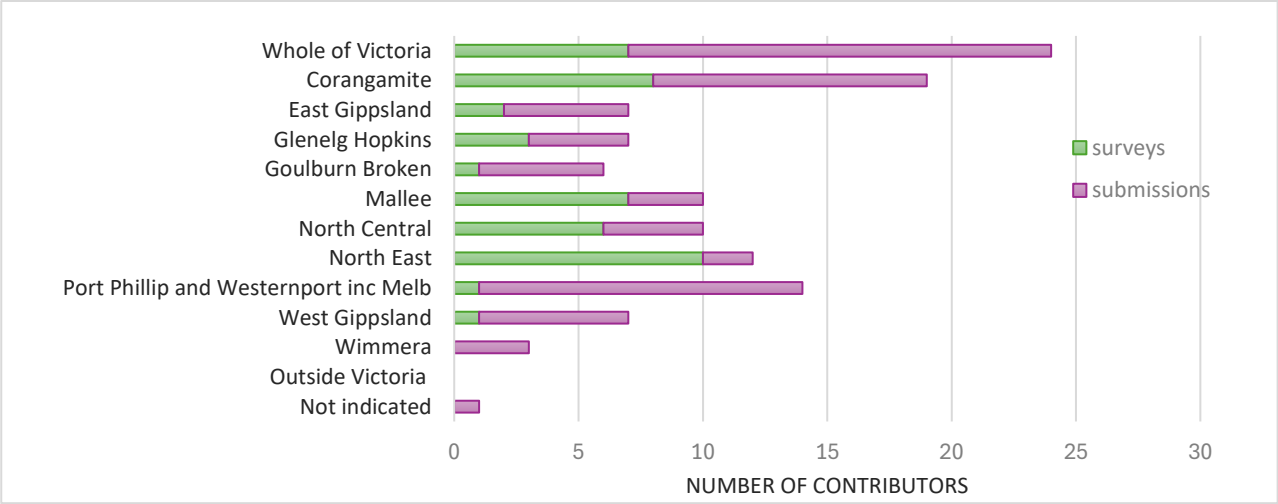


Figure 3: Location of contributors *(n=100)*

Traditional Owner events

Online ‘drop-in sessions’ were held with Traditional Owners on May 5 and June 12, 17 and 23, with **18** participants from **15** Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owner groups. Briefings were also held with the Aboriginal Waters Officers Network on 4 June (**25** participants), and the Traditional Owner Corporation Caucus on 11 June (**16** attendees). These complemented 1:1 meetings with Traditional Owner groups and the other engagement pathways that have occurred throughout the development of the strategy.

Webinars

Four public webinars were held on 10, 15, 22 and 23 June, during and after business hours, to help people learn about the draft Strategy and ask questions before completing a survey or submission.

A total of **51** people attended the webinars. Some attendees said they were attending on behalf of an organisation, including **67%** (34) who represented Victorian Government departments and statutory bodies. Other attendees were from local councils, industry and community associations, an animal welfare organisation, and a consulting firm.

35% (19) of attendees lived or were based in the Port Phillip and Westernport region. Other regions with strong representation included North East (**16%** of attendees) and North Central (**10%**). No one from the Mallee or Wimmera regions attended.

Peak Bodies workshop

Peak bodies are organisations that represent the shared interests of a particular industry, sector or group by advocating on their behalf, providing guidance, or coordinating action across their members. In this report, peak bodies include industry associations, professional bodies, and sector-wide advocacy groups.

An online workshop was held on 23 June with peak body representatives to provide information on the Strategy development, gather feedback on the draft, and understand their key areas of interest.

The workshop was attended by **18** representatives from **13** organisations, including community waterway alliances and friends groups, catchment management authorities, Landcare, recreational fishing and game, agriculture, property development, and local government.

Other stakeholder meetings and discussions

In addition to the above, **9** briefings were held with stakeholder organisations including the Concerned Waterways Alliance (11 June), Victorian Waterways Management Forum and Catchment Management Authority CEOs (11 June), Victorian Farmers Federation (15 June), Victorian Environmental Water Holder Commissioners (22 June), Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (15 June), Agriculture Victoria (24 June), Urban Waterways Alliance (24 June), Environment Protection Authority (25 June) and VicWater (29 June). A total of **48** stakeholders attended these meetings; discussions were not taken as formal feedback unless explicitly stated.

4. What We Heard

This section summarises the feedback received on the draft Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy during the consultation period. It presents what contributors told us about the draft Strategy's vision, outcomes and each of its seven parts.

Strategy Part 1. Strategy framework and context

General feedback

General feedback on Part 1 reflected broad satisfaction with the draft Strategy's overall quality and direction.

What was welcomed:

- The Strategy is a significant improvement on the 2013 version — more cohesive, well-structured and compelling.
- The embedding of Traditional Owner rights, self-determination and cultural knowledge within waterway governance represents best practice and is strongly supported.
- The increased emphasis on climate change, resilience and adaptation reflects contemporary catchment management practice and gives the draft Strategy credibility.

Contributors sought clearer accountability and implementation in some areas. Views included:

- Stronger accountability and implementation mechanisms are desirable, to ensure the Strategy’s aspirations and objectives are achieved in practice.
- The range of community values associated with waterways, including lawful and responsible recreational use, should be more comprehensive.
- Governance and funding arrangements need greater clarity to support effective delivery.

Chapter 1. The Strategy framework

Vision

The draft Strategy included the following 50-year vision statement:

> Victorian waterways are sustained diverse ecosystems that provide environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits for everyone, even as our climate changes.
>
> Waterways are collaboratively managed with Traditional Owners, acknowledging and enabling their custodial obligations to care for Country.
>
> Victorians value and understand these waterways as living and life-giving systems, actively participating in waterway decision-making and management.

Short survey respondents and users of the submission template were asked whether they supported or opposed the vision. Consolidated responses for the **45** contributors who answered the question are shown in Figure 4, showing that **82%** supported or strongly supported the vision.

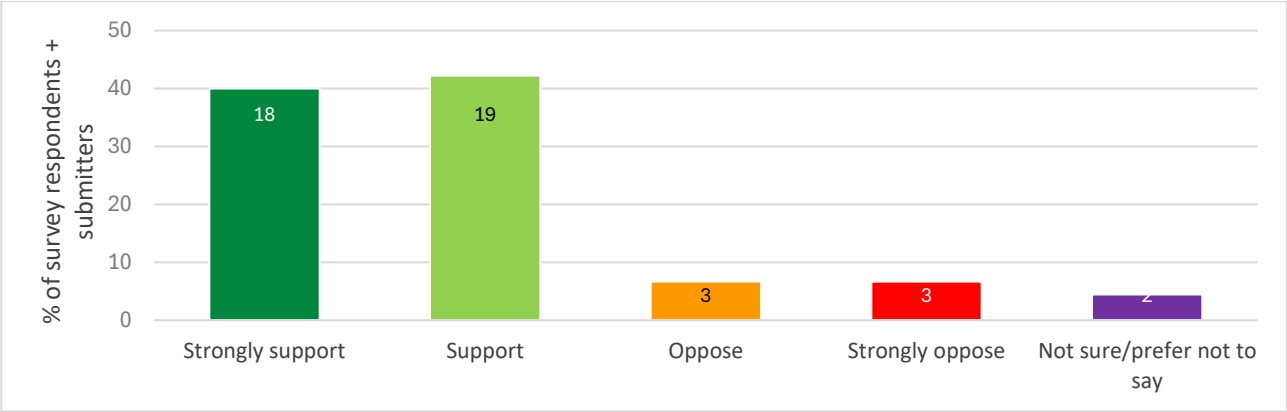


Figure 4: Level of support for the vision *(n=45)*

(The numbers on each bar show how many contributors indicated that level of support)

Some of those contributors explained their support for or opposition to the vision, as summarised below.

Level of support	Summary of comments
Strongly support or support	• The vision is broadly supported for its recognition of Traditional Owners, collaborative management, climate resilience and waterways as living, connected systems. • The wording needs to be simpler, clearer and easier for a wide audience to connect with. • The recognition of waterways as living entities is strongly supported, and needs to mean something in practice, not just in principle. • Other parts of the draft Strategy appear to contemplate ecological decline occurring, which is not seen as consistent with this Vision. • The vision's ambition is supported and will only be achieved if it is matched by funding, capacity, and clear delivery pathways. This includes a more explicit recognition of the roles that professionals, volunteers, community organisations and responsible recreational users play. • The scope of the vision should be broadened, with requested additions including links between waterways and public health, the distinct characteristics of different waterway types, and recreational use.
Strongly oppose or oppose	• Opposition to the Vision was often framed in terms of opposition to particular outcomes of the Strategy. • Concern was raised about the potential regulatory and cost burden on farmers, particularly regarding perceived changes to grazing on wetlands on private land.

Other submissions also sought the language in the Vision to be stronger and more inspiring to motivate real action and address the long history of waterway degradation, climate change and development pressure. Comments on the level of detail were varied, with some asking the vision to be made more specific and some seeking for it to be broadened or simplified.

Outcomes

Short survey respondents and submission template users were asked to what extent they supported or opposed the draft Strategy's four long-term (20-year) outcomes under the following headings:

1. Living, connected waterway ecosystems and habitats
2. Victorians value, care for, use and enjoy waterways
3. Efficient and effective waterway planning and management
4. Traditional Owner cultural rights and responsibilities for waterways

Consolidated responses from **46** contributors are shown in Figure 5. All four outcomes received strong support from contributors. Outcomes 1 and 2 attracted the highest levels of support, with 93% of respondents supporting or strongly supporting each. Outcome 3 was supported or strongly supported by 87% of respondents, with a small number opposing it. Outcome 4 was supported or strongly supported by 78% of respondents.

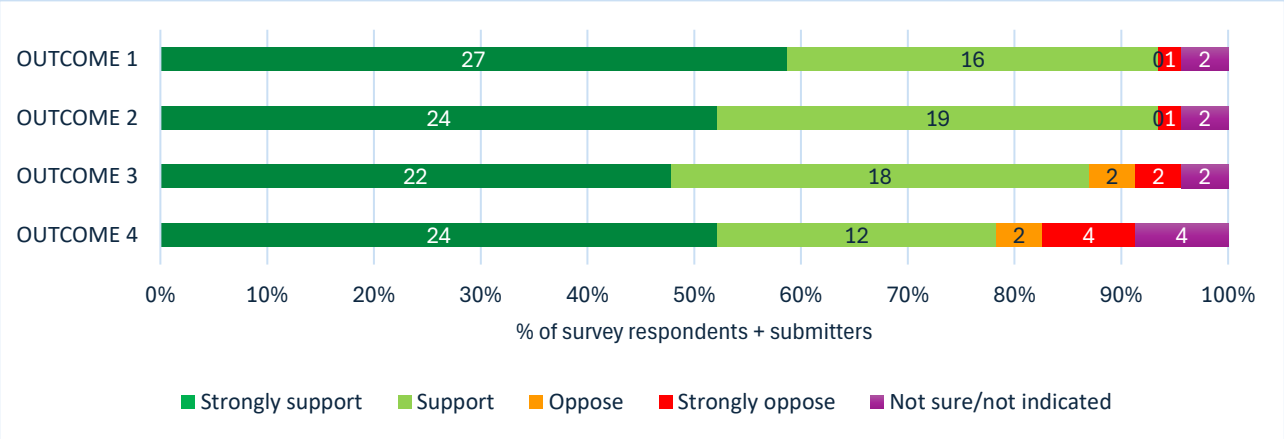


Figure 5: Level of support (or otherwise) for each outcome (n=46)

(The numbers on each bar show how many contributors indicated that level of support)

Some contributors (including those attending meetings) explained their support for or opposition to the outcomes, as summarised below.

Outcome	Summary of comments
Outcome 1: Living, connected waterway ecosystems and habitats	Contributors who supported or strongly supported the outcome (93%) said: • Framing waterways as living, connected entities with intrinsic value is strongly supported. It should be reflected in the vision and carried through the Strategy. • Active management is essential to achieve this outcome • The outcome should also be broadened to cover all waterway-dependent species, not just significant ones. • Two policies were seen to undermine this outcome — the managed decline pathway in Policy 26, and the fact that Policy 1's living entity recognition has no legal force.
Outcome 2: Victorians value, care for, use and enjoy waterways	Views from contributors who supported or strongly supported the outcome (93%) include: • The intrinsic value of waterways should be recognised alongside their value to people. • A broader range of recreational uses should be included. • Human uses of waterways should not override environmental needs.

Outcome	Summary of comments
Outcome 3: Efficient and effective waterway planning and management	Views from contributors who supported or strongly supported the outcome (87%) include: • Supported in principle as an improvement on the 2013 Strategy, but the outcome lacks the governance, funding and implementation mechanisms needed to deliver it in practice. • Clearer links between outcomes, policies and actions are needed, with stronger guidance on roles and responsibilities across agencies. • Many decisions affecting waterway health, including land use, water allocation and development approvals, are governed by laws and policies outside the Strategy's control. Contributors who opposed or strongly opposed the outcome said: • The Strategy does not provide adequate governance, funding, or implementation support, particularly for regional local governments managing waterways, stormwater, and constructed waterways in growth areas. • Some water management authorities lack the capacity to deliver this outcome.
Outcome 4: Traditional Owner cultural rights and responsibilities for waterways	• Contributors who supported or strongly supported the outcome (78%) said it was a genuine step forward from 2013, with broad support for co-design, co-delivery and recognition of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. • A small number of respondents suggested that the Strategy should place greater emphasis on the shared responsibility of all Victorians to care for waterways, alongside recognising the role of Traditional Owners.

Other comments about Chapter 1

- Waterways as living entities should be the driving idea behind the whole Strategy, with their health and intrinsic value placed ahead of social and economic benefits.
- The Strategy framework needs a clearer structure, including better visual distinction between the 50-year vision and shorter-term outcomes, a clear line of sight between outcomes and chapter-level priorities and actions. The policies and actions should be brought together in one place and numbered so it's easy to see how they connect.
- Key terms should be defined early, vision statement wording tightened, and language throughout should be positive and action-oriented rather than risk-focused.
- The statement about Traditional Owner cultural practices should be updated to reflect the contemporary and evolving nature of Traditional Owner roles in water management.

Chapter 2. The importance of Victorian waterways

Feedback on Chapter 2 focused on how waterway values are framed and how the conditions framework is presented. Overall, there was support for the chapter, with feedback focused on increasing clarity.

Contributors felt the liveability section could be strengthened by more clearly highlighting the role of waterways in community wellbeing and social connection. Figure 2 of the Strategy attracted several constructive suggestions, including clearer classification of cultural water, recognition of the physical form and function of waterways alongside habitat, and the inclusion of microbial water quality as a condition measure, given its importance to safe recreational use.

Several contributors commented on the Strategy’s focus on balance. Commenters noted that an equal balance between competing values is not always possible or appropriate. Diverse views were provided on how balance should be treated, including some statements that ecological health should come first when trade-offs are needed, and some statements that non-ecological values and uses should be more strongly emphasised.

Chapter 3. Waterway management challenges

Feedback on Chapter 3 provided suggestions for improving clarity and adding detail to a chapter broadly recognised as helpful in setting the context for the Strategy. Contributors suggested drafting improvements and detail, including updates to impacts described in the historical section and the management responses these prompted, helping readers better understand current waterway condition.

On climate change, contributors called for a clearer link between hotter, drier conditions and increased competition for water, including for environmental flows. Coastal pressures, such as sea-level rise, marine intrusion and coastal squeeze (the narrowing of habitat between rising seas and fixed development), were seen as under-recognised, and should be framed as challenges requiring active restoration rather than managed decline. Industrial change in rural Victoria was also noted as an area which could have more detail including change driven by the end of native forest harvesting.

More broadly, contributors suggested that Chapter 3 should use more positive, action-oriented language, framing waterway management as a means to improve values rather than as risk management.

Strategy Part 2. The management approach

General feedback

Contributors supported the draft Strategy's ambitions, particularly recognition of waterways as living entities and emphasis on climate change. There was a perceived gap between what it commits to and what it can realistically deliver. Some contributors felt the Strategy needed clarity on how its aspirations would be translated into practical action. Several contributors raised concerns about perceived management of decline under climate change, particularly around protected sites.

What was welcomed:

- The recognition of waterways as living, connected entities aligns with Traditional Owner perspectives and legislation such as the *Yarra River Protection Act 2017*.
- Adaptive management and working with regional communities to set locally relevant waterway outcomes.
- The Strategy's stronger emphasis on climate change, resilience and adaptation pathways planning is a genuine improvement on the 2013 Strategy and reflects contemporary catchment management practice.

Key concerns:

- The Strategy recognises waterways as living entities, but this recognition has no real legal or practical effect. It is seen to be contradicted by other policies in the draft Strategy, particularly those relating to transition planning.
- The living entity concept needs to extend beyond major rivers to include tributaries, headwaters, unnamed waterways, wetlands and floodplains, backed by stronger laws and clearer decision-making criteria.

Chapter 4. Waterway management levers

General feedback

The overall management approach in Chapter 4 was broadly supported, but contributors often said that good intentions must be backed by real action. The "balanced uses" framing was a particular concern for several contributors, who argued that ecological health must be the priority value. Others were concerned that emphasis on ecological health may compromise other values and uses.

A recurring theme was the need for the Strategy to carry more weight beyond the DEECA water portfolio, with stronger connections to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Environment Protection Act 2017*. This was seen as especially important for Ramsar wetlands, due to a risk that protection will fall through the gaps between different agencies and governance arrangements.

Contributors from the agriculture sector noted that food security and agricultural adaptation are largely missing from the draft Strategy's response to climate change and should be included alongside environmental objectives. From others concerned about reduced availability, we heard that getting water back into the environment remains critical in some regions. These policies of water security and supply are out of scope and instead covered in Sustainable Water Strategies.

Specific feedback

Feedback was given on 3 policies and 2 actions in Chapter 4. Two policies with consistent feedback from multiple contributors were:

- Policy 1 (*Waterways as living and connected entities*): The living entity concept was widely welcomed, but contributors consistently called for it to mean something in practice, applied throughout the whole Strategy, not just stated as a principle at the beginning.
- Policy 2 (*Land use planning system for waterway outcomes*): There was widespread support for land-use planning reforms, with multiple contributors calling for the Strategy to be legally binding in the Victorian Planning Provisions, for CMAs to have mandatory referral status, and for stronger treatment of intensive agriculture as a key pressure.

Chapter 5. Planning for resilience, transition and transformation

General feedback

The stronger focus on climate change in Chapter 5 was broadly welcomed as a significant improvement on the 2013 Strategy. However, a recurring concern was that adaptation should not come to mean accepting ecological decline. The chapter should place greater emphasis on active waterway improvement, including restoring natural flow patterns and protecting groundwater-dependent areas as refuges for plants and animals as the climate changes.

Some contributors were concerned the adaptation approach came across as defeatist and that more proactive language, with a clearer focus on avoiding and minimising future harm, would better reflect the Strategy's intent and help bring communities along.

It was also thought that adaptation planning should recognise the importance of aquatic ecosystems and floodplains for land-based biodiversity, not just aquatic species.

Some contributors sought better information on how monitoring and evaluation is incorporated into the regional priority setting process and feeds back into decision-making.

Specific feedback

Feedback was given on 3 policies and 1 action in Chapter 5. Those receiving comments from multiple contributors were:

- Policy 4 (*Planning for resilience, transition and transformation*) highlighted varied opinions among contributors: some welcomed the adaptive planning approach, while others strongly opposed the perceived management of decline, arguing it risks normalising avoidable ecological decline.
- There was strong support for Policy 5 (*Principles for regional waterway strategies*). Some contributors felt the alignment between regional waterway strategies and existing delivery programs could be emphasised more.

Strategy Part 3. Traditional Owners' cultural and ancestral rights and responsibilities in waterway management

Chapter 6. Understanding and progressing Traditional Owners' cultural and ancestral rights and responsibilities in waterway management

Feedback reported in this section was provided by Traditional Owners. It reflects the views shared through this engagement process and should not be taken as representing the views of all Traditional Owners.

General Feedback

Traditional Owner contributors broadly supported the direction of Chapter 6, while consistently calling for the Strategy to go further in turning its commitments into practical action.

A recurring message was that the Strategy should actively support Traditional Owner leadership and decision-making authority in waterway management, not just involvement or participation. Several Traditional Owner groups called for the Strategy to position itself as an enabling framework for cultural governance, supporting Traditional Owner authority and self-determined management of Country rather than setting out high-level principles that may not drive real change.

Multiple Traditional Owner contributors called for the language across the Strategy to be reviewed and made consistent. Several Traditional Owner groups also called for broadening the Strategy's definition of cultural rights. Traditional lore and law, spirituality, identity, and connection to Country should be included to better reflect the full scope of Traditional Owner cultural rights and responsibilities.

A consistent message from several Traditional Owner groups was that the Strategy must go beyond Registered Aboriginal Parties and include all Traditional Owner groups in engagement, planning, decision-making and implementation.

Strategy Part 4. Waterway management themes

General Feedback

Part 4 attracted strong engagement, with contributors broadly welcoming the draft Strategy's direction but questioning whether its ambitions can be delivered in practice. The management levers proposed, including land use planning, governance arrangements and the living entity concept, were seen as steps in the right direction.

What was welcomed:

- The recognition of waterways as living, connected entities and the central role of Traditional Owners in caring for Country.
- The overall direction of Part 4 including new land-use planning policies, science-based approaches to wildlife and waterway management and the involvement of community groups and volunteers in monitoring.
- Regulation and enforcement of unauthorised land clearing, pollution and other damage to waterways.

Key concerns:

- The commitments to recognition of waterways as living, connected entities and the central role of Traditional Owners in caring for Country should be given genuine legal force rather than remaining as statements of intent.
- The Strategy leans too heavily on voluntary action and flexible arrangements. Without clearer, enforceable standards and penalties, there is a risk that critical waterway protections will not be achieved.

- Funding pathways are unclear which creates doubt about how achievable some actions are.
- Some contributors were unclear why stormwater is not seen as both an impact on waterways and a possible benefit as an alternative water source.

Chapter 7. Water for the environment

General feedback

Overall, contributors understood the role of the water entitlement framework in supporting the draft Strategy's vision, but many felt it needed more balance.

Contributors welcomed the focus on environmental watering. There were also comments that a more balanced approach to water management is needed. Many contributors sought action on recovering more water (out of scope), protecting existing supplies, integrating groundwater more, and better explanation of the Strategy's actions in protecting unregulated waterways.

Specific Feedback

Feedback was given on 13 policies and 7 actions in Chapter 7. Those receiving comments from multiple contributors were:

- support for Policy 22 (*Protecting groundwater-dependent ecosystems*) and seeking even stronger protection and better alignment with groundwater management practices.
- Policy 20 (*Principles for charging for environmental water holdings*), particularly storage charges. Some supported the new policy, while some questioned specific information about cost changes that would affect their region.
- There was a range of views about Policy 24 (*Using recycled water for the environment*). Several supported the use of recycled water with conditions; others opposed its use in specific catchments without proper community engagement and strong ecological benefit requirements.

Chapter 8. Wetlands

General feedback

Contributors welcomed the extra focus on wetlands compared to the last Strategy. Some pointed out that restoring wetlands matters as much as stopping further loss and asked for clearer guidance on when a wetland is deemed "lost" and therefore no longer protected.

Many contributors requested better definition and guidance distinguishing natural wetlands from constructed water bodies to avoid mismanagement.

Concern was raised from the agricultural sector about the perceived additional controls on grazing in wetlands without understanding the practical and economic consequences.

Many contributors were concerned that the policy on Ramsar boundaries is misaligned with the international obligations for protection and could result in an acceptance of loss rather than ambition to protect.

Specific feedback

Feedback was given on 6 policies and 2 actions in Chapter 8. Those receiving multiple comments were:

- Multiple contributors supported Policy 25 (*Governance, management planning and monitoring, evaluating and reporting of Ramsar sites*), seeking stronger monitoring and

management within Ramsar site management plans and assured alignment with Commonwealth process for Ramsar management principles.

- The most contested policy in the Strategy was Policy 26 (*Responding to potential changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites*). Multiple contributors strongly opposed the managed decline and cost-effectiveness trigger as inconsistent with Australia's Ramsar obligations.

Chapter 9. Riparian

General feedback

Contributors welcomed the recognition of impacts on drinking water catchments, the drive to exclude stock from waterways, the preference for Riparian Management Licences over Grazing Licences, and a more consistent approach to public recreation.

The Strategy acknowledges that riparian conditions and water quality are declining, but some contributors thought the response is insufficient to reverse this trend.

Several contributors from farming backgrounds opposed what they saw as new restrictions on grazing along waterways on private land, saying the regulatory burden on farmers was too high.

Other suggested additions included new goals focused on strategically improving waterways in landscapes that matter for terrestrial biodiversity and targeted restoration of cleared riparian land. It was suggested that incentives for large-scale, connected riparian revegetation as part of the resilience approach will be important as landscapes become more fragmented.

Specific feedback

Feedback was given on 6 policies and 2 actions in Chapter 9. Of those, multiple contributors supported Policy 33 (*Managing riparian land*), consistently calling for stronger and more enforceable riparian management standards, including clearer roles for water corporations and stronger landholder guidance.

Chapter 10. River channels

General feedback

Many contributors expressed support for the policies in enabling better management of the river channel, particularly ‘fluvial corridors’.

Some contributors saw the river channel as too narrow a focus, and this should be broadened to the waterway as a whole system that includes the floodplain.

Specific feedback

Only a small number of contributors provided feedback on 4 policies and 2 actions in Chapter 10.

Further clarity or guidance was sought on the application of some policies and implications for private landholders and private assets, regarding avulsions.

Chapter 11. Water quality

General feedback

Contributors welcomed real progress in the water quality space, especially the commitment to setting default guidelines for harmful substances and the Strategy's transparency about declining water quality.

Some contributors thought improvements could be made by linking waterway condition to drinking water safety, recreational and public health risks, and the human and animal health risks posed by

algal blooms and vector-borne disease. Some concerns regarding local issues were raised including availability of information to the public and the magnitude of water testing.

The siloed inclusion of water quality was noted, that it should be treated as a central issue that connects across all chapters. Some contributors thought more focus is needed on ecosystem health (not just human use), urban and farm runoff pollution, as well as the recognition of emerging pollutants such as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), innovative solutions such as distributed smart rainwater tanks, and stronger action to prevent industrial pollution.

Specific feedback

Feedback was given on 4 policies and 4 actions in Chapter 11. In particular, multiple contributors supported Policy 45 (*Development of toxicant default guidelines*), with some calling for stronger discharge standards, faster EPA reviews, and the inclusion of impacts on animal health and welfare.

Chapter 12. Estuaries

General feedback

There was support for the recognition that estuary management be integrated, including planning for climate change, and focused on maintaining ecological function and regional values.

Some contributors would have liked to see a bolder and more forward-looking approach about change, incorporating active planning for environmental changes that are already underway and unavoidable. Some suggested a default transition approach be applied to all estuaries, rather than being determined regionally.

Others felt the Strategy could go further to directly address how agriculture and drainage affect estuaries and apply active management and investment, rather than accepting transition because an estuary no longer resembles its original condition.

Specific feedback

Feedback was given on 4 policies and 3 actions in Chapter 12. In particular, multiple contributors shared concern about Policy 48 (*Managing estuary entrances*), asking for clearer, more specific decision criteria for artificial estuary openings, better treatment of emergency management scenarios, or a requirement that decisions on openings at Ramsar estuaries be consistent with maintaining ecological character.

Chapter 13. Invasive species

General feedback

General feedback on this chapter focused mainly on carp, weeds, pest animals, disease and fish stocking. Carp control received strong support, reflecting the scale of the problem across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Some contributors were concerned that recent funding cuts to weed and pest control would make it difficult to maintain current efforts, let alone improve them. Some sought stronger government action overall, including federal funding support for infrastructure and better enforcement of obligations for both private landholders and government agencies. Some "pest" species were described as being useful for farming, so rules shouldn't be one-size-fits-all.

A common suggestion was to treat disease as a major threat to waterways, especially given the recent bird flu (H5) outbreak on mainland Australia.

There were differing views on fish stocking throughout the feedback on whether waterways should continue to be stocked, or not, with introduced fish species.

A small number of contributors provided feedback on 2 policies and 2 actions in Chapter 13.

Strategy Part 5. Urban waterways

General feedback

General feedback for Part 5 was limited but broadly supportive of the draft Strategy's focus on urban waterways.

What was welcomed:

- The attention to urban waterways and their values was seen as an important and overdue priority, with strong overarching support across the policies and actions.

Key concerns:

- Many contributors supported the policies and actions but sought greater clarity on governance arrangements, the role of different stakeholders and interaction with regional waterway and catchment planning.

Chapter 14. Managing for urban waterway values and protecting waterways from the impacts of excess urban stormwater

General feedback

Contributors were broadly enthusiastic about the dedicated urban waterways policies and the recognition of how urban waterways connect dense communities with nature, provide habitat corridors, and help cool cities.

There was some concern that the ambition was too modest and could risk accepting or locking in ongoing decline rather than driving real improvement. Some thought that the outcomes could be reframed to protect waterways that are already in good condition, while actively improving degraded ones.

Some contributors called for stronger regulatory tools, enforceable planning triggers, and dedicated funding to embed available approaches rather than promoting them through guidance.

Whilst there was support for stormwater management, some perceived that the focus was primarily metropolitan issue and may miss fast-growing regional centres like Geelong, Ballarat and Warrnambool.

Many contributors sought clearer governance, early consultation on planning changes, and better alignment with related reforms, including the renewal of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, flood reforms, and landscape/environmental overlays.

Specific feedback

Feedback was given on 4 policies and 10 actions in Chapter 14, two of which received comments by multiple contributors:

- Policy 55 (*Integrating urban waterway management with regional waterway planning*) was supported by multiple contributors who called for integrated water management to be a standard requirement.
- Many contributors supported Policy 56 (*Protecting waterways from excess urban stormwater*), but consistently called for stronger targets, enforceable requirements, dedicated funding for retrofitting existing infrastructure, and the policy to more clearly apply to regional cities and towns, not just metropolitan Melbourne as perceived.

Strategy Part 6. Communities value and enjoy waterways

General feedback

Part 6 generated strong interest and positive feedback, with many contributors welcoming the draft Strategy's focus on community relationships to waterways. Some thought the chapter could go further in supporting communities to play a genuine role in waterway management as active partners.

What was welcomed:

- The recognition of community stewardship, volunteering and contribution to caring for the land was strongly welcomed as community groups not only improve waterway health but also connect people to one another and to their local environment.
- Citizen science was widely supported as both a practical source of knowledge for waterway managers and a powerful way to build community relationship to waterways.
- Broadening participation and addressing barriers to engagement were seen as positive steps forward.

Key concerns

- Lawful and responsible hunting should also be included as a recreational activity on waterways, and restrictions on recreational access should be evidence-based and clearly explained.
- Some contributors were concerned that there isn’t strong enough connection to the living entity concept. Communities should be actively supported to see waterways as living systems and themselves as having a genuine role in caring for them.

Chapter 15. Community wellbeing and citizen science

General feedback

The Strategy's recognition of community stewardship, volunteering and citizen science was broadly and strongly welcomed. Contributors from across the community and waterway management sectors expressed strong support for this chapter's direction, with several noting it as one of the most important parts of the draft Strategy.

Some contributors felt that the draft Strategy undervalues citizen science, being treated as a monitoring tool, rather than recognising its contribution to building community expertise, stewardship and long-term connection to waterways.

Some contributors also called for greater attention to environmental education, schools and youth engagement, with programs such as WaterWatch and EstuaryWatch suggested for inclusion in school curricula to build the next generation of waterway stewards.

Others felt that practical barriers faced by community organisations and underrepresented groups need to be assessed. It was raised that the intended outcomes section should be strengthened to include water literacy, meaningful data collection and community wellbeing alongside the existing outcomes.

A small number of contributors provided feedback on 3 policies and 4 actions in Chapter 15.

Chapter 16. Recreational use of waterways

General feedback

The chapter's overview of the social, economic and health benefits of recreational waterway use was welcomed. Many noted the value of waterways to recreation and tourism and encouraged its inclusion.

Some contributors thought that recreation planning should be more closely linked to environmental and cultural values. This feedback called for clearer guidance locally on how to manage growing recreational pressure while protecting water quality, ecological condition and cultural heritage, including the cumulative impacts of increased use over time.

It was noted that the draft Strategy does not recognise swimming as a recreational activity. Contributors called for the Victorian Water Safety Strategy to be referenced as a companion document and for water safety to be considered in waterway planning and management.

Some contributors felt local guidance on waterways affected by algal blooms or contamination could be clearer, and that greater transparency is needed about waterway health information. Others thought the Strategy should recognise the link between recreational use, public health and water supply protection more strongly.

At sensitive sites like Ramsar wetlands, some contributors thought the Strategy should better reflect the environmental risks of recreation, and that recreational use at coastal Ramsar sites should be consistent with maintaining their ecological character.

A small number of contributors provided feedback on 4 policies in Chapter 16.

Strategy Part 7. Delivering the Strategy

General feedback

General feedback on Part 7 was mixed. The overall framework for implementation, funding, emergency management and adaptive management was welcomed by some as a solid foundation. Others raised concerns regarding funding, accountability, monitoring and the role of local government and community organisations, and therefore whether the Strategy's ambitions can be delivered in practice.

What was welcomed:

- The Strategy's mix of tools, including regulation, incentives, and on-the-ground work, provides a solid foundation for delivery.
- The emphasis on Traditional Owner self-determination, climate adaptation and evidence-based decision-making in the management principles.
- The inclusion of a cumulative impact assessment for works on waterways and the focus on monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management are important steps forward.

Key concerns:

- The Strategy must be genuinely embedded across all levels of government and the community. Effective delivery requires a whole-of-government commitment, with clear accountability and guidance on how competing priorities will be resolved in practice.
- There isn’t a clear delivery model for community organisations. Practical pathways are needed for volunteer monitoring, citizen science, habitat works and incident reporting, with community groups involved in planning and implementation, not just consultation. Including data standards and training would ensure agency confidence in community contributions.

Chapter 17. Implementation

General feedback

Chapter 17 received support for its comprehensive and well-structured framework for implementation. It also received calls for clearer roles, responsibilities, and accountability.

Some contributors found the focus on governance and frameworks was strong, but thought the draft Strategy also should provide clear, measurable targets and define what success would look like for aspects such as water quality, fish recovery and riparian health.

Many contributors questioned the availability of funding and resources available to achieve what the draft Strategy aims to achieve.

Specific feedback

Feedback was given on 2 policies and 1 action in Chapter 17.

Some contributors were concerned about Policy 65 (*Cost-sharing principles for waterway management*), requesting greater clarity on how cost-sharing principles will be applied in practice, and clearer guidance on dispute-resolution roles.

Other feedback included a request to add an overarching animal welfare principle to the management principles, reference legislation supporting Traditional Owner self-determination, address industrial pollution through a dedicated policy, and core funding for community waterway groups.

Chapter 18. Knowledge and adaptive management

General feedback

A common concern by contributors was that the monitoring and evaluation framework in Chapter 18 could be significantly strengthened. Some contributors felt that Victoria does not currently monitor its waterways effectively and the draft Strategy does not appear to address this. Some feel that monitoring should be simple, consistent and carried out regularly so that results can be trusted and compared over time and regular reporting should track against the Strategy's goals.

Some feedback noted the strong datasets that already exist through CMAs and Melbourne Water that are not connected in any way for reporting and accountability. Some contributors thought that current monitoring doesn't give agencies enough information to assess whether waterway impacts are unfairly concentrated in some areas, as the Long Term Waterway Resource Assessment requires.

Others requested that biocultural knowledge be treated on par with Western scientific knowledge in monitoring and evaluation, not as a supplementary input, and that Traditional Owner knowledge systems should be genuinely embedded in how waterway condition is assessed and reported.

A small number of contributors provided feedback on 2 policies in Chapter 18.

General comments

Along with comments on individual parts and chapters, a range of general comments on the draft Strategy were received, summarised below.

Clarity, targets and accountability

Many contributors felt the draft Strategy's language was soft. Words like "investigate", "encourage" and "explore" appear to lack commitment to real action. In addition, some felt the ‘by 2030/2035’ timelines aren't urgent enough. There were repeated calls for clear, measurable targets so progress can be tracked and someone held accountable, with some warning that past strategies became "empty rhetoric" without firm targets.

Funding and government commitment

Several councils, water corporations and community groups warned the Strategy risks becoming an aspirational document unless the government commits real, long-term funding and formally prioritises delivery, rather than funding it year by year.

Agriculture

Some contributors from the agricultural sector felt that agriculture is treated as just another pressure on waterways rather than being recognised as playing a role in managing land alongside them.

Coastal connections and consultation

Coastal groups asked for clearer links between upstream catchment decisions (flows, water quality, stormwater and land use) and downstream coastal and estuary health, as well as being clear and transparent where the community is consulted.

Emerging pressures

Data centres were flagged as an emerging threat to catchments due to their water demands.

Minor corrections

Some smaller factual and technical errors were raised, including outdated terminology, editorial errors and incorrect/superseded references.

5. Out-of-scope comments

Engage Victoria listed the aspects of the draft Strategy that could be influenced by feedback, as well as out-of-scope (non-negotiable) matters (see Section 2 of this report – The Community's Influence). This section summarises out-of-scope feedback.

Flood risk management

Several contributors raised concerns about flooding and flood risk management. This is the responsibility of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, not the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy.

Traditional Owner emphasis

As stated in the consultation, the role of Traditional Owners in waterway management is not open for debate. Traditional Owners have recognised cultural rights and are established partners in waterway management.

Environmental water availability and entitlements

Many comments related to environmental water availability, the reliability of water entitlements, targets for environmental water recovery, water for agriculture and other uses under a changing climate, and long-term watering plans. These matters are governed by separate frameworks, including Water Resource Plans, Sustainable Water Strategies and the *Water Act 1989*, and fall outside the scope of the Strategy.

Many comments were also received calling for stronger protections to stop water entitlements from being acquired by mining and other extractive industries, and for a dedicated plan to address the combined and cumulative effects of farm dams, catchment interception and other unregulated water take. These are also matters for separate frameworks and processes.

Specific local or regional waterway issues

Some comments related to specific waterways, local programs or regional issues that fall outside the scope of a statewide Strategy. Where appropriate, these deidentified comments have been passed on to the relevant catchment management authority for consideration in their regional waterway Strategy renewal processes.

Fish welfare and stocking

Several contributors raised concerns about fish welfare in recreational fishing and called for non-native fish stocking to be phased out in favour of native species. Fish welfare and stocking practices are governed by the *Fisheries Act 1995* and fall outside the scope of the Strategy.

Farming and landholder concerns

Several out-of-scope comments were made about the regulatory burden on farmers (particularly re avulsion damage to private property and general opposition to controls). Farming groups asked for an assessment of the costs and trade-offs of new rules, such as wetland protections.

Specific suggestions

Several contributors made detailed suggestions on matters that go beyond what the Strategy can address directly. These included specific planning controls and buffer widths, species lists, recycled water supply, electronic stock-exclusion collars, *Water Act 1989* reform, natural capital markets, unregulated farm dam limits, blue-carbon commitments for coastal Ramsar sites, barriers facing community waterway organisations, and funding and implementation arrangements.

These suggestions have been provided to the relevant policy areas for consideration through separate policy, regulatory or program processes.

Limitations of the consultation

The consultation provided valuable feedback from stakeholders and community members across Victoria. However, the consultation approach and timeframe resulted in some limitations to keep in mind when reading this report.

The public consultation was held entirely online, which may have made it harder for some people to participate, particularly those with limited internet access or who are less comfortable using technology.

Written materials were in English only, which may have made it harder for some people from non-English-speaking backgrounds to take part. We did not specifically target children, young people or other groups who can be harder to reach.

People who chose to take part were likely already interested in waterways, and those with strong views are also more likely to respond than those with little or no opinion.

The four-week consultation period may not have given everyone enough time to read a lengthy, technical document and prepare a detailed response. Four weeks was not enough for many organisations to consult members and present consolidated views. It was also not sufficient for Traditional Owner groups to complete cultural governance processes.

These limitations do not reduce the value of the feedback we received. The findings reflect the views of those who chose to have their say and do not necessarily represent those of all Victorians.

6. Where to from here

The Victorian community and stakeholders bring unique knowledge, experience and perspectives about waterways. The feedback received through this consultation—from individuals who swim, fish and walk along our waterways, Traditional Owners, scientists, farmers, industry, waterway managers, local councils and peak bodies—reflects the depth and diversity of the values and uses of waterways and the relationships Victorians have with their waterways. This kind of input is essential to ensuring the final Strategy is actionable, reflects a genuine range of views, and is fit for purpose for the decade ahead.

The Victorian Waterway Management Strategy team has carefully reviewed all submissions and survey responses. It is considering changes needed before the final Victorian Waterway Management Strategy is released later in 2026. All feedback has been read and considered, and the final Strategy will be stronger as a result.

Appendix 1: Abbreviations and terms used

CEWH	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
Contributor	A respondent, submitter or anyone else who contributed feedback
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
IWM	Integrated Water Management
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
Participant	Someone who attended an event or provided feedback.
Respondent	Someone who completed one or both surveys
Submitter	Someone who lodged a submission
The Strategy	Third Victorian Waterway Management Strategy
VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design

Appendix 2: Contributing organisations

Submissions were received from the following organisations:

- Bangerang Aboriginal Corporation
- Central Highland Region Water Corporation
- City of Whittlesea
- Coastal Waterways and Wetlands Alliance
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
- Concerned Waterways Alliance
- Corangamite CMA
- Department of Health, Community and Public Health Division
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Earthwatch Institute
- East Gippsland Shire Council
- Environment Protection Authority Victoria
- Field and Game Australia
- Friends of Campbells Creek Landcare Group
- Friends of Gippsland Lakes
- Friends of Latrobe Water
- Friends of Merri Creek
- Game Management Authority
- Gippsland Water
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA
- Goulburn Broken CMA
- Goulburn Valley Environment Group
- Greater Western Water
- GWMWater
- Landcare Victoria
- Latji Latji
- Life Saving Victoria
- Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association
- Melbourne Water
- North East CMA
- Parks Victoria
- People for a Living Moorabool
- River Basin Management Society
- RSPCA Victoria
- Southern Rural Water
- Stormwater Victoria
- Surf Coast Shire Council
- Tati Tati Kaiejin
- Taungurung Land and Waters Council
- Urban Waterways Alliance
- Victorian Environmental Water Holder
- Victorian Farmers Federation
- Victorian Fisheries Authority

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Wimmera CMA
Wimmera-Mallee Headworks System – Storage Manager
Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung
Yarra Riverkeeper Association

Survey responses were received from:

Aireys Inlet and District Association
City of Greater Geelong
Coastal Waterways and Wetlands Alliance
Concerned Waterways Alliance
Corangamite CMA
Department of Health, Community and Public Health Division
Earthwatch Institute
Environment Protection Authority Victoria
Field and Game Australia
Friends of Campbells Creek Landcare Group
Friends of Gippsland Lakes
Friends of Merri Creek
Goulburn Broken CMA
Goulburn Murray Landcare Network
Goulburn Valley Environment Group
Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority
Greater Western Water
Landcare Victoria
Native Fish Australia (Vic)
North East CMA
Paynesville Plungers
RSPCA Victoria
Regional Development Victoria Grampians
River Basin Management Society
Stormwater Victoria
Victorian Farmers Federation
Werribee River Association
West Gippsland CMA
Yarra Riverkeeper Association



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