

Regional Riparian Action Plan Year 3 achievements report

Accelerating on-ground riparian works across Victoria

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

This fact sheet summarises what has been achieved in the third year of the *Regional Riparian Action Plan*'s implementation. Implementing the plan is a key action in *Water for Victoria*, the Government's plan for managing our water resources now and into the future.

Why protect and improve riparian land?

Riparian land is land that runs along rivers, creeks and wetlands. Riparian vegetation is critical to the health of our waterways by improving water quality, reducing erosion and improving habitat for animals both on land and in the waterway.

Riparian land and waterways hold important cultural values for Victoria's Traditional Owners and are important for social, recreational and economic activity (e.g. fishing, picnics, walking and agriculture).



Angling groups at a planting day on the Steavenson River
Photo courtesy Goulburn Broken CMA

How is the Action Plan funded?

To implement the plan, the Victorian Government allocated \$10 million in 2015/16 and a further \$30 million from 2016/17 to 2019/20 to implement additional riparian works. The \$30 million is part of the \$222 million provided by the Government to improve the health of waterways and catchments in regional Victoria.

This funding is accelerating 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.

How is the Action Plan being implemented?

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

Key achievements 2017/18 (Year 3)

Table 1: Riparian outcome measures achieved in 2017/18 and over the first three years of the plan in the nine CMA regions*.

Riparian outcome measure	Amount delivered in Year 3	Amount delivered to date	Five-year target
Length of riparian land where works have been undertaken to protect or improve its condition (km)	767	2,294	2,490
Area of waterway vegetation works undertaken to improve the health and resilience of waterways** (ha)	6,880	33,000	28,190
Number of landholders who have worked with the CMAs to undertake riparian works	247	1009	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.

** The high area delivery after three years compared to the 5-year target is due to efficiencies in CMAs' delivery of riparian work including access to larger areas to undertake works.

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Examples of riparian projects

Wimmera River – ‘Big Water’

For over a decade the Wimmera CMA has been working with landholders and the community to create an important habitat corridor and refuge for native species while improving access and recreational opportunities, along an important section of the Wimmera River north east of Horsham.

In 2017/18, the CMA in partnership with landholders, primary school groups and a local disability employment enterprise, undertook weed control and revegetated 15 hectares including planting over 1500 native trees, shrubs and grasses.

A working bee involving the Horsham Angling Club also saw 47 hectares of frontage cleaned up with two truckloads of rubbish removed. The area known as ‘Big Water’ is a popular recreational area known for its ability to hold significant amounts of water during dry conditions.

In future, fencing, a new boat ramp and other infrastructure to enhance both recreational and angling experiences at the site will be installed.

“This is a great fishing spot. It will improve the area and encourage people to come out here and fish and picnic as well.”

Neil Delaney, Horsham Angling Club member



Horsham Angling Club volunteers clean up Big Water

Photo courtesy Wimmera CMA.

Protecting Flynnns Creek

Flynnns Creek is an important tributary of the Latrobe River, flowing to the Ramsar listed Gippsland Lakes. West Gippsland CMA and Landcare have been working to create a continuous link of vegetation along the creek and help improve water quality into the Lakes.

Working with four individual landholders, the Latrobe Catchments Landcare Network and the Flynnns Creek Farm Discussion Group, over 2,400 trees were planted in 2017/18 - along 2.4 kilometres of the creek protecting 17 hectares of riparian land. Willows have also been removed at many sites along the creek.



Revegetation on Flynnns Creek

Photo courtesy West Gippsland CMA.

“The health of the creek is important. I have a patch of land which I planted out only a year ago and the growth and difference we’ve seen in this time is impressive.”

Marshall Dean, Flynnns Creek beef farmer

Further information

Regional Riparian Action Plan

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

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

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