

Regional Riparian Action Plan Year 2 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 second 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 by improving habitat for animals both on land and in the waterway.

Riparian land and waterways also 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).



Revegetation on the lower Tambo River.
Photo courtesy East Gippsland 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 and angling groups, to undertake the riparian works, typically using incentives and grants.

Key achievements 2016/17 (Year 2)

Table 1: Riparian outcome measures achieved in 2016/17 and over the first two years of the plan in the nine CMA regions*.

Riparian outcome measure	Amount delivered in Year 2	Amount delivered to date	Five-year target
Length of riparian land where works have been undertaken to protect or improve its condition (km)	760	1,527	2,490
Area of waterway vegetation works undertaken to improve the health and resilience of waterways** (ha)	16,692	26,121	28,190
Number of landholders who have worked with the CMAs to undertake riparian works	345	762	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) The high area delivery after two 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.

(2) Two CMAs revised their 15/16 area outcomes compared to the totals published in the RRAP Year 1 achievements report, to ensure consistency with statewide outcome measure reporting protocols.

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Riparian project case studies

Caring for the Campaspe Project

The Campaspe River – one of Victoria's major Murray River tributaries and home to Murray cod and several threatened terrestrial species such as the squirrel glider and swift parrot – is the focus of the North Central CMA's Caring for the Campaspe project.

Working with landholders, Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises, Conservation Volunteers Australia and local school groups the project delivered works to improve the health of riparian vegetation at 28 sites in 2016/17. The works included 6 kilometres of fencing and 2 off-stream watering troughs to protect 27 hectares of riparian land from the impacts of livestock and to complement the delivery of environmental flows, 34 hectares of woody weed control and 96 hectares of native revegetation.

"Seeing all the trees planted by the North Central CMA grow up has also been very enjoyable. We also enjoyed feeling that we were supported by the CMA in the work we were doing to restore and revegetate the land."

Karen Coffield & David Feith, Redesdale landholders



Kyneton Secondary College students tree planting on the Campaspe River. Photo courtesy North Central CMA.

Community engagement events, including the Campaspe Carp Catch, Kids by the Campaspe, Campaspe High Tea (for women), presentations to local school students and information displays at agricultural field days, attracted more than 300 participants.

Strathbogrie Streams – Hughes Creek Project

Containing one of the few remaining populations of the nationally endangered Macquarie perch in Victoria, the Hughes Creek is a priority waterway for instream and riparian restoration works in the Strathbogrie Streams Project being undertaken by the Goulburn Broken CMA.

Working with eight landholders, local community and Landcare members and two angling groups, in 2016/17 the CMA completed more than 10 kilometres of riparian fencing (protecting almost 250 hectares of riparian land from over-grazing by stock), revegetated 22 hectares, controlled woody weeds over 24 hectares and installed two alternative stock watering points. Work also included trial planting of sedges to stabilise instream sediment that threatens to smother critical Macquarie perch habitat pools and spawning sites.



Local angling groups at a planting day on the Hughes Creek. Photo courtesy Goulburn Broken CMA.

"It's been terrific to be involved in this project and see how the efforts of our group members and local landholders to create habitat for Macquarie perch and other native species are making a difference."

Native Fish Australia (Victoria) President Tim Curmi

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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