





Appendix E. Implementation plan

This implementation plan details how each of the Strategy's actions will be achieved. It specifies the timeframes for delivering the actions:

-  **Ongoing:** to be implemented in the short-term and become business as usual
-  **Short-term:** by the end of 2027 (0–5 years)
-  **Medium-term:** by the end of 2032 (5–10 years)
-  **Long-term:** beyond 2032 (more than 10 years)

Each action is allocated to a lead organisation(s) that will be responsible for delivering the action. Many actions also have delivery partners – organisations and groups that will be collaborating with the lead(s) to deliver part of or the whole action. Other organisations or groups might contribute to the delivery of some actions as needed, for example, by providing information and/or participating in future discussions. They will be identified during the delivery of the actions.

Engagement with the community, Traditional Owners, stakeholders, peak bodies, community groups, businesses and agriculture groups will continue during the delivery of specific actions. The implementation plan flags the actions where this is expected, with additional details to be available during the delivery of the action.

The Victorian Government is committed to strengthening the role of Traditional Owners in water planning and management, and will continue to work in partnership with Traditional Owners throughout the implementation of this Strategy, should they self-determine to do so. Each RAP group in the region has been given the opportunity to collaborate

in the delivery of relevant actions related to their Country and will be supported to deliver on agreed implementation responsibilities as required.

The Strategy has identified five objectives. This implementation plan shows how delivery of the actions will help to achieve the Strategy's objectives.

Objectives

The Strategy's objectives are to:



secure the region's urban water future and safe drinking water supplies by using water more wisely and efficiently and increasing the use of manufactured water sources



return water to Traditional Owners across the region and strengthen Traditional Owners' role in water resource planning and management



maintain and improve waterway health for environmental and healthy Country outcomes and provide safe drinking water




















build the resilience of agriculture to a drying and variable climate



















provide for social and recreational uses and values of waterways

















Detailed decisions about the implementation and timing of actions will be made in line with standard government policy and budget processes. Many actions in the final Strategy can be funded via existing arrangements by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning or its delivery partners. This implementation plan flags which actions will be subject to a business case or additional investigation that will feed into future investment decision-making by government and/or water corporations for delivery. While many actions will be delivered within current programs and levels of investment, additional Government funding and/or increases in water bills may be required over the next decade for construction of new water supply options. However, this will be subject to the outcomes of detailed business cases for new water supply options and will feed into future urban water corporation pricing submissions during implementation. Water corporations will continue to engage with their customers to inform decisions about water services and their bills and affordability and cost of living pressures will be a key consideration in both water corporations' pricing submissions and government investment decisions related to implementation of this Strategy.

Key	
Future investment decisions	 Subject to a business case or additional investigation that will feed into future investment decision-making
	 Funding secured or likely to be secured within existing pathways
Engagement	 No additional engagement planned Progress on Strategy implementation will be reported in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's annual report
	 Additional engagement planned
















Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
Chapter 2: Using water efficiently						
<p>Action 2-1: Changing behaviours at home</p> <p>Urban water corporations, in partnership with the Victorian Government, will help people change water behaviours at home by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • setting a new aspirational average water use target for Melbourne of 150 litres per person per day, with regional water corporations setting equivalent per capita targets reflective of local conditions • developing and investing in water efficiency behaviour-change campaigns targeting residential users likely to generate the greatest water savings • using new technologies, such as apps and digital water meters that provide daily usage data, to encourage behaviour change. 	 By 2024	Urban water corporations	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning		 Led by urban water corporations	
<p>Action 2-2: Water efficient buildings</p> <p>The Victorian Government proposes to implement new variations to the National Construction Code, and stronger state building and plumbing regulations for water efficiency, to improve the water efficiency of all buildings, subject to a regulatory impact statement and stakeholder and community consultation.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Victorian Building Authority		 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
<p>Action 2-3: Better information and standards for appliances</p> <p>The Victorian Government will advocate for stronger minimum Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) scheme ratings for appliances and fixtures, and will collaborate with water corporations to increase awareness of WELS ratings and minimum standards in Victoria.</p>	 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Commonwealth and all states and territory governments			
<p>Action 2-4: Showerhead replacement</p> <p>The Victorian Government will develop a business case to expand statewide incentives for water-efficient showerheads and implement initiatives. This could include incentives for even more efficient showerheads or offering free installation.</p>	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Urban water corporations			



















Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 2-5: Community rebates and community housing retrofits</p> <p>Urban water corporations will continue to support customers who are vulnerable or experiencing hardship to become more water efficient and reduce their water bills through the Community Rebate and Community Housing Retrofit Programs.</p>	 Ongoing	Urban water corporations	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning			
<p>Action 2-6: Waterwise schools</p> <p>The Victorian Government, in collaboration with water corporations, will ensure that all government schools in the Central and Gippsland Region become waterwise, by participating in the Schools Water Efficiency Program (including use of school curriculum material) or other similar digital metering and education programs, by 2030, with a mid-term target of capturing 80 per cent of government schools by the end of 2026.</p>	 By 2030 (with a mid-term target of 80% by end 2026)	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Yarra Valley Water	Urban water corporations		 Led by Yarra Valley Water	
<p>Action 2-7: Maximising water efficiency in business and industry</p> <p>Urban water corporations, in partnership with the Victorian Government, will implement a targeted non-residential water efficiency program, including investigating the merits of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • benchmarking water usage across business and industry • re-introducing Water Management Action Plans (a tool used successfully during the Millennium Drought) • rebates for digital water meters (for large water users not captured by other programs) or other water efficiency upgrades. 	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Urban water corporations		 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
<p>Action 2-8: Targets for reducing urban water system leaks</p> <p>Urban water corporations will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set targets (where possible) for managing distribution system leaks and losses, which consider the broader social and environmental costs and benefits • work with the Essential Services Commission, Bureau of Meteorology and Water Services Association of Australia to review annual leakage reporting and increase transparency and benchmarking of leakage performance. 	 By 2025	Water corporations	-			

























Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
Chapter 3: Securing our water future through manufactured water						
<p>Action 3-1: Investigating options to expand the region’s desalination capacity</p> <p>The Victorian Government and water corporations will undertake planning and readiness work on several near-term desalination options to ensure that the region’s desalination capacity can meet system shocks and future needs. Options will be progressed through the Water Grid Plan.</p>	 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Water corporations		 Significant community engagement and input will inform any future decisions	
<p>Action 3-2: Incorporating consideration of water security into Plan Melbourne</p> <p>The Victorian Government will consider water security needs and the likely future expansion of desalination capacity in the review of Plan Melbourne.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	-		 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
<p>Action 3-3: Maturing the IWM investment framework</p> <p>The Victorian government, in collaboration with IWM forum partners, will improve how investments in IWM projects are made to best realise the multiple community and environmental benefits that are difficult to quantify when using all sources of water.</p>	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Regional and Greater Metropolitan Melbourne IWM forum partners	    	 Led by IWM forum partners	





















Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 3-4: Investigating options for large-scale recycled water and treated stormwater networks in Greater Melbourne</p> <p>The Victorian Government in collaboration with Greater Metropolitan Melbourne IWM forum partners will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Further investigate the feasibility of large-scale recycled water and treated stormwater networks to meet a range of uses and values in Greater Melbourne focusing on five regions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. west and north-west (Werribee and Maribyrnong Catchments) b. north (Northern Growth Area and surrounding agricultural areas) c. east (high-density redevelopments in the eastern and south-eastern suburbs and agricultural areas in Yarra Valley) d. south-east (South East Growth Area and agricultural areas in Pakenham and neighbouring regions) e. Mornington Peninsula. ii. Commence development of business cases for the feasible, large-scale networks. 	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Greater Metropolitan Melbourne IWM forum partners	    	 Led by IWM forum partners	
<p>Action 3-5: Investigating options for a large-scale recycled water and treated stormwater network in the Barwon Region</p> <p>The Victorian Government will support Barwon Water to investigate, in collaboration with the Barwon IWM forum partners, the feasibility of large-scale recycled water and treated stormwater schemes in the Barwon Region, including the Moorabool Valley, Surf Coast Hinterland, South Balliang and the Bellarine Peninsula. In the long-term, opportunities to connect these schemes to create a network will also be considered.</p>	 By 2025	Barwon Water	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Barwon IWM forum partners	   	 Led by Barwon Water	











Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 3-6: Developing catchment-scale IWM action plans for Greater Melbourne</p> <p>The Victorian Government, through the Greater Metropolitan Melbourne IWM forums, will develop action plans in the Werribee, Maribyrnong, Yarra, Dandenong and Western Port catchments to strategically drive delivery of their catchment scale IWM plans.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Greater Metropolitan Melbourne IWM forum partners	    	 Led by IWM forum partners	
<p>Action 3-7: IWM planning for regional Victoria</p> <p>The Victorian Government will explore the benefits of IWM planning at different scales using the Barwon and Moorabool basins as a case study.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Regional IWM forum partners	  	 Led by IWM forum partners	
<p>Action 3-8: Use of recycled water and stormwater for greener, open spaces</p> <p>The Victorian Government will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> grants to co-invest with water corporations and councils in infrastructure to use stormwater and recycled water to irrigate open spaces, facilitated through the IWM program one-off grants to managers of open space, to complete water use and efficiency audits for sporting grounds which identify and map opportunities to reduce, or substitute, demands on the potable water system. 	 By 2026	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Councils Open space managers Water corporations		 Led by IWM forum partners	

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 3-9: Strengthen IWM in land-use and infrastructure planning</p> <p>The Victorian Government will explore ways to clarify IWM objectives and strengthen IWM criteria in planning guidance material and policies, and will explore a potential requirement for the development and use of IWM plans at different geographic scales to guide land-use decisions related to future urban developments.</p>	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	IWM forum partners	    	 Led by IWM forum partners	
<p>Action 3-10: Develop template guidance for recycled water use to streamline approvals</p> <p>The Victorian Government, EPA and the water industry will develop templates to help industry apply and adjust to the new Victorian recycled water guidelines by streamlining documentation for approvals.</p>	 By 2023	VicWater	Environment Protection Authority Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Water corporations	 		
<p>Action 3-11: Identify priority projects to contribute to state of knowledge on emerging contaminants</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with the water sector to identify priority projects to enhance our knowledge of emerging contaminants.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Environment Protection Authority	Water corporations	   		
<p>Action 3-12: Improving stormwater regulations to support increased capture and use</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with water corporations and councils to review statewide stormwater licensing and supply arrangements and determine preferred statutory and non-statutory implementation options.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Water corporations Councils CMAs (including Melbourne Water)			






Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 3-13: Implement Melbourne Urban Stormwater Institutional Arrangements (MUSIA)</p> <p>The Victorian Government will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support Melbourne Water and the Municipal Association of Victoria (on behalf of local government) to implement the preferred option from the MUSIA review: the improved 60-hectare option embed the confirmed approach into policy or legislation. 	 By 2028	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Melbourne Water Municipal Association of Victoria	Councils	 		
<p>Action 3-14: Review stormwater management arrangements in the Lower Barwon</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with local government, Barwon Water and Corangamite CMA to review arrangements for managing stormwater as a resource for Geelong and the Bellarine.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Barwon Water Corangamite CMA City of Greater Geelong	 		
<p>Action 3-15: Develop a stormwater offsets framework</p> <p>The Victorian Government will develop a stormwater offsets framework to enable robust and consistent application of offsets for developers and local government to meet stormwater requirements in the Victoria Planning Provisions.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Councils	 		
<p>Action 3-16: Embedding stormwater flow requirements</p> <p>The Victorian Government will assess and explore the feasibility of options that include stormwater flow reduction targets into the Victoria Planning Provisions or other regulations.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Melbourne Water Councils CMAs (including Melbourne Water)	 		 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning







Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309















Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 3-17: Building community confidence in recycled water and stormwater</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with the water sector and EPA to develop and implement engagement and education programs that improve understanding of the benefits and risks of using recycled water and stormwater.</p>	 By 2026	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Environment Protection Authority Water corporations	  	 Led by water corporations	
<p>Action 3-18: Clearer guidance on recycled water accounting and reporting</p> <p>The Victorian Government will assess the need for clearer guidance on recycled water accounting and reporting, to increase the consistency and accuracy of recycled water data for a better understanding of its use and availability.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Water corporations			

Chapter 4: Sharing our water resources for multiple benefits














<p>Action 4-1: Investigate options to return water to the environment and Traditional Owners as manufactured water sources are planned for Greater Melbourne and Geelong</p> <p>The Victorian Government, in partnership with the water industry, will investigate options to return water to the Birrarung (Yarra River), Carran Carran (Thomson River), Mirrangbamurn (Maribyrnong River), Wirribi Yaluk (Werribee River), Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River) and Barwon River and Traditional Owners, whose Country these rivers are part of, when new regional-scale manufactured sources of water are brought online for Greater Melbourne and Geelong. Projects will be progressed via the Water Grid Plan (see Action 9-2), and costs and water sharing arrangements will be considered on a case-by-case basis through the development of a business case using a quadruple-bottom-line assessment.</p>	 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Water corporations CMAs (including Melbourne Water) Victorian Environmental Water Holder Traditional Owners	 	 Led by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
--	--	---	--	---	---	---












Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 4-2: Commitment to consider how river entitlements can be reduced via water efficiency, IWM and substitution with manufactured water sources</p> <p>Urban water corporations will consider how to reduce their reliance on river water for urban water security to enable river water to be returned to the environment and Traditional Owners across the region as they invest in water efficiency measures, IWM and reconfiguration of existing supply infrastructure, and manufactured supplies come online.</p> <p>Each urban water corporation across the region will investigate options for reducing their reliance on river water, and will work with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to, by the end of 2023, identify a volume of water that could be returned by 2032. The local options and volumes proposed will be considered alongside regional options identified in the Water Grid Plan using a preliminary quadruple-bottom-line assessment by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to inform planning under Policy 9-1. The most cost-effective package of incentives across the region that will meet urban water security, Traditional Owner and environmental water needs will progress with appropriate funding sources to enable implementation from 2024-25 onwards (in line with Action 9-6). Related targets for each urban water corporation will be developed, in line with funding and financing arrangements, and embedded in the Statement of Obligations.</p>	 Ongoing Proposals due by 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Urban water corporations Melbourne Water	 	 Led by urban water corporations	






















Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 4-3: Securing additional water for Geelong and the Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River)</p> <p>The Victorian Government and Barwon Water will co-invest in works to enable the return of 3.7 gigalitres per year of long-term average equivalent Moorabool water entitlement to be shared between the environment, the Wadawurrung for their self-determined use and to increase urban water security for Geelong over the long-term to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. upgrade pumps and extend the reach of the Melbourne-to-Geelong pipeline to increase capacity of the pipeline from 16 to 22 gigalitres per year by 2025 b. transfer a long-term average equivalent of 3 gigalitres per year of Barwon Water’s Lal Lal bulk entitlement and 0.7 gigalitres per year of Barwon Water’s Upper East Moorabool bulk entitlement in the Bostock Reservoir to the Wadawurrung and to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder by 2025 c. prioritise the creation of a south-central pooled resource and associated reforms (Action 9-3), while ensuring a short-term agreement between Barwon Water and the metropolitan water corporations is in place by 2025. This is dependent on if Action 9-3 is still in progress, which will specify water sharing such that Barwon Water can operate the augmented Melbourne-to-Geelong Pipeline at up to 22 gigalitres per year if needed once Barwon Water’s existing carryover in the Melbourne system has been used d. factor Barwon Water’s required water entitlement volume into the planning and decision-making for the south-central system’s next major augmentation, to increase Geelong’s urban water security. 	 By 2025	Barwon Water Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Victorian Environmental Water Holder Corangamite CMA Central Highlands Water Melbourne Water Greater Western Water South East Water Yarra Valley Water	  		



















Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 4-4: Determine how water returned in the Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River) will be shared between Wadawurrung and the environment</p> <p>The Victorian Government, in partnership with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Victorian Environmental Water Holder and Corangamite CMA, will determine the respective share of water that will be issued to Wadawurrung and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder under Action 4-3, and remove barriers to Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation accessing water (see actions in Section 6.5 and Section 6.6).</p>	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Victorian Environmental Water Holder Corangamite CMA	 		
<p>Action 4-5: Securing Warragul and Drouin's urban water supply</p> <p>The Victorian Government will secure Warragul and Drouin's urban water supply by increasing Gippsland Water's access to water from Tarago Reservoir by transferring 3.33 gigalitres of entitlement in the Yarra-Thomson system to Gippsland Water.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Gippsland Water Yarra Valley Water Melbourne Water			
<p>Action 4-6: Streamlining temporary water trades</p> <p>Central Highlands Water, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and the Corangamite CMA will work together to develop agreements to support temporary water trade in the Moorabool system, when conditions allow, from Central Highlands Water to the Wadawurrung and environment, at Lal Lal Reservoir. This will include consideration of how water can be made available to the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation.</p> <p>Lessons from this case study can be used across the region to make it easier for similar trades to occur for other rivers.</p>	 By 2027	Central Highlands Water	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Victorian Environmental Water Holder Corangamite CMA Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Barwon Water	 		

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 4-7: Guidance for decisions about unallocated water</p> <p>The Victorian Government will publish guidance for licensing authorities' decisions about unallocated water, to provide clarity and transparency on how all uses of water will be considered, including access to water for Traditional Owners.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Rural water corporations	  		
<p>Action 4-8: Reallocation of the Latrobe 3 – 4 Bench bulk entitlement</p> <p>The Victorian Government proposes that water from the 25 gigalitre Latrobe 3 – 4 Bench bulk entitlement will be made available to support the region's socio-economic transition and build its resilience to climate change. Three key outcomes will be achieved using two-thirds (around 16 gigalitres) of the entitlement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide priority environmental flows to support native fish species, macroinvertebrates, and platypus as well as supporting the many values and uses of the connected Gippsland Lakes system and Ramsar-listed wetlands • support cultural values and self-determined outcomes for Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners • underpin the continued resilience and future growth of irrigated agriculture. <p>A consultative process with key stakeholders, will establish how the benefits could best be shared to maximise the outcomes of this critical resource for the community.</p> <p>The remaining one-third of the entitlement (or up to 9 gigalitres) will be retained by government to provide continued flexibility to respond to emerging needs, including Victoria's future energy needs.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Southern Rural Water West Gippsland CMA Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Gippsland Water Victorian Environmental Water Holder	   	 <p>Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</p>	













Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 4-9: Returning water to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>The Victorian Government supports an application to return water to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation through the transfer of a 1.4 gigalitre water licence in the Birrarung (Yarra River), formally used by the Amcor Paper Mills and now held by the Victorian Government.</p>	 By 2022	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Melbourne Water			
<p>Action 4-10: Reconfiguring the Werribee system</p> <p>The Victorian Government will confirm feasibility and the preferred infrastructure plan by mid-2023. A business case will be developed to reconfigure the Werribee system to provide more climate-resilient water sources for non-drinking purposes and make better use of all sources of water and reservoirs in the local system.</p> <p>The project will consider the best combination of water supply options to meet the region's multiple demands and, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing fit-for-purpose recycled water (including appropriate salinity levels) for the Werribee and Bacchus Marsh irrigation districts, including the opportunity for irrigation expansion • harvesting stormwater from the Melton growth area for re-use, which will also protect local waterways • supplying recycled water from the Western Irrigation Network's Sunbury-to-Melton pipeline to irrigate open space and schools in the Melton growth area • using returned river entitlements to provide for environmental water recovery; water justice to the Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Traditional Owners; and urban supply • improving waterway health through complementary works at Werribee weir (see Action 8-10). 	 By 2024	Werribee System Reconfiguration Steering Committee (Southern Rural Water, Greater Western Water, Melbourne Water, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning)	Melton City Council Wyndham City Council Moorabool Shire Council	   	 Led by project leads and delivery partners	

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 4-11 Investigating optimisation of Yarra system passing flow arrangements</p> <p>The Victorian Government will investigate optimisation of passing flow arrangements for the Yarra system at Watts River below Maroondah Reservoir to identify opportunities to increase the benefits of passing flows for all users without reducing the reliability of existing entitlements.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Melbourne Water Victorian Environmental Water Holder	    	 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
<p>Action 4-12: Reviewing management arrangements for the Wangangarra / WyYung (Mitchell River) for all water users</p> <p>The Victorian Government will review the current management arrangements for the Wangangarra / WyYung (Mitchell River) to ensure that arrangements are fit-for-purpose and consistent with other systems across the state. Investigations will be made into whether additional entitlements could be made available to support additional consumptive use without compromising environmental and cultural values and where possible improve low flows during summer.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Southern Rural Water East Gippsland CMA Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	  	 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
<p>Action 4-13: Review of water resource risks in small, dry, peri-urban catchments</p> <p>Southern Rural Water will lead a project over two years to review resource risk and share evidence and reporting to build a shared understanding with communities on the risks, consequences and mitigation options we can use to address the increasing effects of small catchment dams.</p> <p>This project will focus on the upper Maribyrnong and upper Moorabool catchments (including tributaries) as identified hotspots, but recommendations from this review may be relevant to other catchments.</p>	 By 2024	Southern Rural Water	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	   	 Led by Southern Rural Water	










Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 4-14: Reviewing the Latrobe Reserve</p> <p>The Victorian Government will review the future need for the Latrobe Reserve as the Latrobe Valley transitions away from coal-fired electricity generation. The timing of the review aligns with the expected closure of the Yallourn Power Station in 2028. The review will consider how to adapt to changes in water use in the Latrobe system including the consequences of the closure of power stations, and to water availability due to a drying climate. The review will make recommendations for any entitlement rule changes.</p>	 By 2028	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Southern Rural Water All Latrobe System bulk/ environmental entitlement holders (including Gippsland Water and Victorian Environmental Water Holder) West Gippsland CMA	    	 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Southern Rural Water	
<p>Action 4-15: Developing a vision and plan for the water future of the Latrobe Valley</p> <p>The West Gippsland water sector and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation will work with the Victorian Government and the Latrobe Valley community and stakeholders to develop and implement a collaborative vision and works plan for the future of the Latrobe Valley and its waterways. The plan will determine the optimal water infrastructure arrangements to meet emerging environmental, cultural, economic and social water demands.</p>	 Vision and plan for short-term actions: by 2023  Plan for medium to long-term actions: by 2025  Implementation: ongoing	Gippsland Water West Gippsland CMA Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Southern Rural Water Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	-	    	 Led by project leads	









Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 4-16: Improving water management to deliver shared benefits</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with Traditional Owners, water corporations, waterway managers and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder to deliver improvements to water management in rivers, to benefit the environment and to support Traditional Owner cultural values and other shared benefits.</p> <p>This could be achieved through a combination of more flexible and efficient operations: the flexible use of passing flows (where appropriate), using consumptive water enroute, temporary trades (see Action 4-6) and building greater flexibility into environmental entitlements (where there are no adverse impacts on other existing entitlement holders).</p>	Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Water corporations CMAs (including Melbourne Water) Victorian Environmental Water Holder Traditional Owners			
<p>Action 4-17: Tracking and improving our understanding of interception activities, including small catchment dams and plantations</p> <p>The Victorian Government will track and improve the understanding of unlicensed water uses in the region, including small catchment dams and plantations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuing to monitor and report on the total volume of, and estimated take from, small catchment dams, including identification of emerging risks to water resources monitoring plantation and other large-scale tree-planting activities and assessing impacts on water resources. 	Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions Water corporations CMAs (including Melbourne Water)			
<p>Action 4-18: Updating groundwater management arrangements and implementing priorities for reform</p> <p>The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and rural water corporations will lead a staged approach to improve statewide groundwater management and licensing for the future.</p> <p>Priority areas of reform will be addressed with the active participation of Traditional Owners and key stakeholders including existing entitlement holders and the community.</p>	Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Rural water corporations	Traditional Owners CMAs (including Melbourne Water)		<p>Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and rural water corporations</p>	













Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
Chapter 6: Water Justice for Traditional Owners <i>Note: The following actions will be regularly reviewed and updated in line with outcomes from the treaty process.</i>						
Action 6-1: The Victorian Government will ensure that Traditional Owners are resourced in order to partner in the implementation of the Strategy's actions and policies in a self-determined way Funding will be provided for Traditional Owners to partner and participate in a self-determined way in the implementation of this Strategy's actions and policies as they relate to Mob, Country and self-determination.	 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Traditional Owners			
Action 6-2: The Victorian Government will work with water corporations to amend their Statement of Obligations (General) to include the cultural benefits framework in water planning and management The <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i> Statements of Obligations (General) will be reviewed together with the appropriate Traditional Owner group(s) to develop amendments to resource Traditional Owner participation and inclusion of the cultural benefits framework in all water planning, management and monitoring work, for consideration by the Minister.	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Traditional Owners Water corporations			
Action 6-3: Implement a Traditional Owner led principle review process The Victorian Government, in partnership with Traditional Owners, will ensure the Traditional Owner water sharing principles (see Policy 6-1) are being applied as intended and allow for an effective mechanism to review and update the principles as required.	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Traditional Owners			













Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 6-4: The Victorian Government will work to ensure that ownership of land is not a barrier to Traditional Owners applying for, or holding, water entitlements</p> <p>The Victorian Government will provide more appropriate mechanisms within the entitlement framework to support access to water for Traditional Owners for cultural use purposes.</p> <p>In the interim, the Victorian Government will work with Traditional Owners and public land managers to support identification of appropriate land parcels that can be nominated for assessment and decision making on applications for section 51 licences. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing Traditional Owners with information on public land that can be nominated to enable the application and issuing of licences for cultural use and streamlining permissions with public land managers. • working with Southern Rural Water and Melbourne Water to streamline the existing approval requirements to reduce red tape for Traditional Owners wanting to apply for a section 51 licence. 	<p> By 2025</p> <p> By 2022</p>	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	<p>Traditional Owners</p> <p>Southern Rural Water</p> <p>Water corporations</p> <p>Melbourne Water</p>			
<p>Action 6-5: Support Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation applications for unallocated water, including in the Ber'rawn (Tambo River) and South Gippsland basin (including the Lung Lung (Franklin River) and Albert River)</p> <p>Ensure Gunaikurnai can apply for unallocated surface and groundwater on and under Country.</p> <p>This will support the government's commitment to providing access to water for Traditional Owners.</p>	<p> By 2022</p>	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	<p>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Southern Rural Water</p> <p>East Gippsland Water</p> <p>Gippsland Water</p> <p>South Gippsland Water</p>			













Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 6-6: The Victorian Government will seek to return water in the Carran Carran (Thomson River) and Durt-Yowan (Latrobe River) to Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Seek opportunities to provide access to water in the Carran Carran (Thomson River) if new manufactured sources are brought online for the south-central system, to be used for self-determined purposes.</p> <p>Pursue opportunities for entitlements in the Durt-Yowan (Latrobe River) as the Latrobe Valley transitions away from coal fired power generation.</p>	 Long-term	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Melbourne Water Gippsland Water West Gippsland CMA Victorian Environmental Water Holder Southern Rural Water		 Through the Water Grid Plan (see Action 9-2)	
<p>Action 6-7: Evaluate opportunities to return water to Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation currently used by the Royal Botanic Gardens</p> <p>Evaluate opportunities and ways to give water to Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, including working with the City of Melbourne and the Royal Botanic Gardens to review the water entitlements given to them by Amcor for public use.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation City of Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Water			

















Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 6-8: Support applications for unallocated water, including in the Powlett and Bass Rivers</p> <p>Ensure Bunurong can apply for unallocated water in South Gippsland catchments that include the culturally significant Powlett and Bass Rivers and investigate other opportunities for access to surface water and groundwater in the region, as they present themselves.</p>	 By 2022	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Southern Rural Water South Gippsland Water			
<p>Action 6-9: The Victorian Government will seek to return water to the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation on Bunurong Country</p> <p>Seek opportunities to provide access to water if new manufactured sources are brought online for urban water security for the south-central system, to be used for self-determined purposes.</p>	 Long-term	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation Melbourne Water South Gippsland Water Victorian Environmental Water Holder		 Through the Water Grid Plan (see Action 9-2)	
<p>Action 6-10: Evaluate opportunities to return water to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation currently used by the Royal Botanic Gardens</p> <p>Evaluate opportunities and ways to give water to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, including working with the City of Melbourne and the Royal Botanic Gardens to review the water entitlements given to them by Amcor for public use.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation City of Melbourne Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne Water			

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 6-11: The Victorian Government will seek to return water in the Birrarung (Yarra River) to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Seek opportunities to provide access to water on the Birrarung (Yarra River) if new manufactured sources are brought online for urban water security in the south-central system, to be used for self-determined purposes.</p>	 Long-term	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Melbourne Water Victorian Environmental Water Holder		 Through the Water Grid Plan (see Action 9-2)	
<p>Action 6-12: The Victorian Government will seek to return water to Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation in the Mirrangbamurn (Maribyrnong River)</p> <p>Seek opportunities to provide access to water in the Mirrangbamurn (Maribyrnong River) if new manufactured sources are brought online for urban water security in the south-central system, to be used for self-determined purposes.</p>	 Long-term	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation Melbourne Water Victorian Environmental Water Holder		 Through the Water Grid Plan (see Action 9-2)	
<p>Action 6-13: Explore opportunities to return water to the Wadawurrung in Durdidwarrah wetland</p> <p>Wadawurrung and Barwon Water will work together to explore opportunities to return a volume of water to the Wadawurrung in Durdidwarrah Wetland.</p>	 By 2025	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Corangamite CMA Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Barwon Water			

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 6-14: The Victorian Government will seek to return water to the Wadawurrung in the Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River) and Parwan (Barwon River)</p> <p>Seek opportunities to provide access to water in the Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River) and/or Parwan (Barwon River) when alternative sources are found for urban customers supplied by Barwon Water and Central Highlands Water, to be used for self-determined purposes.</p>	 Long-term	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Barwon Water Central Highlands Water Corangamite CMA Victorian Environmental Water Holder		 Through the Water Grid Plan (see Action 9-2)	
<p>Action 6-15: Support applications for unallocated water in the Otway Basin, including in the Gellibrand River</p> <p>Ensure the Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation can apply for unallocated surface water and groundwater on and under their Country. This will support the Victorian Government's commitment to providing access to water for Traditional Owners.</p>	 By 2022	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation Southern Rural Water			
<p>Action 6-16: The Victorian Government will seek to return water to the Eastern Maar in the Barwon River</p> <p>Seek opportunities to provide access to water in the Barwon River when alternative sources are found for urban customers supplied by Barwon Water and Wannon Water, to be used for self-determined purposes.</p>	 Long-term	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation Corangamite CMA Barwon Water Wannon Water Victorian Environmental Water Holder		 Through the Water Grid Plan (see Action 9-2)	

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
Chapter 7: Water for Agriculture						
<p>Action 7-1: Planning for future investment in rural water infrastructure</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with water corporations to provide updated guidance for the development and delivery of rural water infrastructure projects in the region, in ways that consider the benefits to irrigators, the environment, Traditional Owners and regional communities.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Southern Rural Water	  	 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
<p>Action 7-2: Investigating opportunities for new irrigation development</p> <p>The Victorian Government will continue to work with Southern Rural Water to assess the feasibility of agricultural development and infrastructure in the focus areas identified through the Southern Victoria Irrigation Development project.</p>	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Southern Rural Water		 Led by Southern Rural Water	
<p>Action 7-3: Improving trade and transparency in Central and Gippsland water markets</p> <p>The Victorian Government will improve transparency and trade in water markets in the Central and Gippsland Region by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> improving the accessibility of information about water management and trade rules across southern Victoria, all in one place trailing an online water market exchange that helps buyers and sellers find each other and trade in a fair and efficient way investigating local opportunities to make water trade rules more flexible without impacting other water users or the environment. 	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Southern Rural Water		 Led by Southern Rural Water	
 By 2023						
 By 2024						

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
--------	-----------	------	-------------------	--------------------	------------	-----------------------------

Chapter 8: Healthy waterways for all

Action 8-1: Rehabilitating the Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River) at Batesford Quarry

The Victorian Government will investigate impacts to the Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River) from the closure of Batesford Quarry and fund preliminary investigations to determine the best methods of restoring and rehabilitating the river and preventing flow losses. These investigations consider environmental and Wadawurrung Traditional Owner cultural values. In addition it will contribute to the resilience and liveability of the North and Western Geelong Growth Area neighbourhoods through integration of this work with the IWM Plan.



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Corangamite CMA
Barwon Water
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
City of Greater Geelong
Quarry operator



Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and quarry operator.



Action 8-2: Increasing understanding of water needs of the Upper Moorabool and Leigh catchments

The Victorian Government, Corangamite CMA and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation will investigate flows required to protect environmental and Traditional Owner values for the upper Moorabool and Leigh catchments. This will also consider the relative importance of water recovery in these areas against existing water recovery targets for the Barwon catchment that includes both the Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River) and Leigh River.



Corangamite CMA

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
Victorian Environmental Water Holder



Led by Corangamite CMA



Action 8-3: Improving flows in Stony Creek

The Victorian Government will work with Melbourne Water, Barwon Water, Parks Victoria and the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation to explore options for improving flows in Stony Creek and Little River through operational changes. This will include assessing the feasibility of providing more transparent passing of natural flows from Lower Stony Creek Reservoir into Stony Creek.















Melbourne Water
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Barwon Water
Parks Victoria


































Led by Melbourne Water






















Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-4: Improving waterway health in the Barwon River</p> <p>The Victorian Government will improve waterway health in the Barwon River, increase the effectiveness of environmental water releases and address constraints to their delivery by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigating options to improve native fish migration at Buckley Falls restoring channel form and removing willows and reed sweet-grass from the upper Barwon River investigating risks of releasing higher volumes of water and prioritising works to mitigate them. 	 By 2027	Corangamite CMA	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation City of Greater Geelong Victorian Environmental Water Holder	  	 Led by Corangamite CMA	
<p>Action 8-5: Updating watering recommendations for Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamp</p> <p>The Corangamite CMA will update the watering recommendations for the Ramsar-listed Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamps, including the development of a water-salt balance model to support effective water management for the Ramsar-listed Reedy Lake and Hospital Swamps and to protect and improve these wetlands for all uses.</p>	 By 2025	Corangamite CMA	Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Victorian Environmental Water Holder	  	 Led by Corangamite CMA	










Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309













Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-6: Investigating the use of recycled water and stormwater for environmental flows in the Yarrowee and Leigh rivers</p> <p>The Victorian Government, Central Highlands Water, Corangamite CMA and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation will investigate options for using stormwater and recycled water from the South Ballarat Treatment Plant to improve flows and waterway health for the Yarrowee River, Leigh River and Moorabool Yulluk (Moorabool River).</p>	 By 2027	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Corangamite CMA Central Highlands Water Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation Victorian Environmental Water Holder	  		
<p>Action 8-7: Complete a feasibility study of the long-term management options to mitigate waterway health issues of the Anglesea River and estuary</p> <p>The Victorian Government, in partnership with the local community, will continue to investigate feasible long-term management options to improve the health of the Anglesea River and estuary.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Corangamite CMA	 	 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
<p>Action 8-8: Improving the health of Painkalac Creek</p> <p>The Corangamite CMA and Barwon Water will continue to work together to achieve environmental benefits in Painkalac Creek through coordinated releases from Painkalac Creek Reservoir.</p>	 Ongoing	Barwon Water	Corangamite CMA Surf Coast Shire	 		



















Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-9: Improving summer flows in the Gellibrand River</p> <p>The Victorian Government, Wannon Water, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation and Corangamite CMA will continue to work together to investigate a preferred water supply augmentation option to improve critical water flows in the Gellibrand River through the summer low flow period.</p> <p>This will be achieved through a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessing the expected environmental outcomes for each option to reduce water extraction from the Gellibrand River (independent expert report) completing a quadruple-bottom-line assessment of the preferred options, to identify the best way to improve flows in the Gellibrand River. 	 Ongoing	Wannon Water	Corangamite CMA Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation	 	 Led by Wannon Water	
<p>Action 8-10: Improving fish passage in the Wirribi Yaluk (Werribee River)</p> <p>The Victorian Government and Melbourne Water will work together to address barriers to native fish migration by undertaking detailed designs for a fishway at the lower Werribee Diversion Weir, and potential upgrades to the weir to improve the delivery of environmental water.</p>	 By 2027	Melbourne Water	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Southern Rural Water	 	 Led by Melbourne Water	
<p>Action 8-11: Improving the health of the Mirrangbamurn (Maribyrnong River)</p> <p>The Victorian Government will improve the health of the Mirrangbamurn (Maribyrnong River), increase the effectiveness of environmental water releases and address constraints to their delivery by exploring options to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> upgrade Rosslynne Reservoir outlet to allow larger releases of environmental water remove willows and other weeds and establish vegetation buffers in the upper catchment address barriers to fish movement in the upper Mirrangbamurn (Maribyrnong River). 	 By 2032	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Southern Rural Water Greater Western Water Melbourne Water Victorian Environmental Water Holder	 	 Led by Melbourne Water	

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309















Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-12: Improving the health of the Kooyongkoot (Gardiners Creek)</p> <p>The Victorian Government will support a co-ordinating committee to oversee improvements to the health and amenity of Kooyongkoot (Gardiners Creek) in the Yarra catchment, in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.</p>	 By 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Agencies Local governments Community Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	  	 Led by a collaboration of agencies and local government	
<p>Action 8-13: Thomson River–Rainbow Creek waterway management plan</p> <p>The Victorian Government has funded a number of high-priority actions under the <i>Thomson River–Rainbow Creek waterway management plan 2020</i> and will seek to secure funding for the implementation of the remaining actions to address the risk of waterway avulsion to urban and rural water supplies and waterway health.</p>	 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	West Gippsland CMA Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Southern Rural Water Water corporations	  	 Led by West Gippsland CMA	
<p>Action 8-14: Improve flows in the Avon River</p> <p>West Gippsland CMA and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation will review and update the environmental water needs of the Avon River to protect environmental and Traditional Owner values and will work with relevant authorities to investigate options to improve critical flows.</p> <p>West Gippsland CMA, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and Southern Rural Water will continue to work together to improve knowledge and management of flows in the Avon River and connected groundwater for all uses.</p>	 By 2023  Ongoing	West Gippsland CMA	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Southern Rural Water Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	  	 Led by West Gippsland CMA	











Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-15: Build the Maffra Weir fishway (Wirn Wirndook Yeerung (Macalister River))</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with Southern Rural Water and West Gippsland CMA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete the detailed design of the proposed Maffra Weir fishway construct a fishway at Maffra Weir. This will improve native fish migration, breeding and diversity in the Wirn Wirndook Yeerung (Macalister River) and the broader Gippsland catchments and significantly improve the effectiveness of the environmental water releases, current and future. 	 By 2024	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	West Gippsland CMA Southern Rural Water Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation		 Led by West Gippsland CMA	
	 By 2027					
<p>Action 8-16: Improve the delivery of environmental water to the Durt-Yowan (Latrobe River) downstream of Rosedale</p> <p>The Victorian Government, West Gippsland CMA and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation will investigate options to remove constraints to the delivery of water for the environment in the Durt-Yowan (Latrobe River) downstream of Rosedale and, pending the outcomes of this investigation, prioritise options for implementation. This will significantly improve the effectiveness of environmental releases into the Durt-Yowan (Latrobe River).</p>	 By 2027	West Gippsland CMA	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Southern Rural Water Gippsland Water Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Victorian Environmental Water Holder		 Led by West Gippsland CMA	

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-17: Improve flows to the lower Latrobe wetlands</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with the West Gippsland CMA to upgrade watering infrastructure at the lower Latrobe wetlands to deliver freshwater flows into the wetlands more efficiently. This will improve the health of the wetlands in the medium-term, and allow time to plan for the long-term, in accordance with Australia's international obligations under the Ramsar Convention. The wetlands are a priority site for Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners and the local community.</p>	 By 2027	West Gippsland CMA	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation Victorian Environmental Water Holder	  	 Led by West Gippsland CMA	
<p>Action 8-18: Improve fish passage in Tyers River</p> <p>The Victorian Government will investigate options to provide fish passage in the Tyers River below Moondarra Reservoir (existing fish barriers between Moondarra and Latrobe confluence) to improve native fish migration and breeding and improve effectiveness of future environmental entitlements.</p>	 By 2027	West Gippsland CMA	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Gippsland Water Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation	  	 Led by West Gippsland CMA	

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-19: Improve flows in South Gippsland’s flow-stressed waterways</p> <p>West Gippsland CMA, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation will investigate flows required to protect environmental and Traditional Owner values of flow stressed waterways in priority South Gippsland waterways and will work with relevant authorities to investigate options to improve critical flows in these waterways. Waterways for consideration include Merriman Creek and the Tarra, Agnes, Tarwin and Powlett rivers.</p>	 By 2032	West Gippsland CMA	<p>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation</p> <p>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</p>	  	 <p>Led by West Gippsland CMA</p>	
<p>Action 8-20: Improve fish passage along Merriman Creek</p> <p>The Victorian Government will investigate options to address constraints to fish passage in Merriman Creek to improve native fish migration and breeding.</p>	 By 2027	West Gippsland CMA	<p>Gippsland Water</p> <p>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</p> <p>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation</p>	  	 <p>Led by West Gippsland CMA</p>	
<p>Action 8-21: Decommission the Nicholson River Dam</p> <p>The Victorian Government, with East Gippsland Water, the East Gippsland CMA and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation will decommission the Nicholson River Dam to improve waterway health and flows into the Gippsland Lakes.</p>	 By 2030	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	<p>East Gippsland CMA</p> <p>East Gippsland Water</p> <p>Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation</p>	  	 <p>Led by East Gippsland CMA</p>	

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-22: Develop guidelines for using recycled water for the environment</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with EPA to develop EPA guidelines for using recycled water for the environment, with the aim of improving the overall health of waterways while protecting human health.</p>	 By 2023	Environment Protection Authority	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning		 Led by the Environment Protection Authority	
<p>Action 8-23: Stormwater for the environment</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with Melbourne Water and other project partners to investigate harvesting and using stormwater for the environment, to improve waterway health and provide flows in stressed rivers. We will use the Sunbury and Melton growth areas to explore the possible benefits and enabling policy requirements.</p>	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Melbourne Water	Hume City Council Melton City Council	 	 Led by Melbourne Water	
<p>Action 8-24: Marine pollution load objectives for Port Phillip Bay and Western Port</p> <p>The Victorian Government will implement plans and undertake management actions to help reach the marine pollutant load objectives specified in the <i>Environment reference standard</i> (<i>Victoria Government Gazette</i> No. S245, 2021) for Port Phillip Bay and for Western Port.</p>	 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Environment Protection Authority Melbourne Water Water corporations Councils within Port Phillip Bay and Western Port catchments	 	 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 8-25: Marine pollution load objectives for Lake Wellington</p> <p>The Victorian Government will develop and implement plans to help reach the marine pollutant load objectives outlined in the <i>Environment reference standard (Victoria Government Gazette No. S245, 2021)</i> for Lake Wellington, including through the <i>Lake Wellington land and water management plan</i> (West Gippsland CMA 2018) and the <i>Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site management plan</i> (East Gippsland CMA 2015).</p>	 Ongoing	West Gippsland CMA	Environment Protection Authority Southern Rural Water Agriculture Victoria Gippsland Water Industry Landcare Landholders	 	 Led by West Gippsland CMA	
<p>Action 8-26: Marine pollution load objectives for Corner Inlet and Nooramunga</p> <p>The Victorian Government will develop and implement plans to help reach the marine pollutant load objectives outlined in the <i>Environment reference standard (Victoria Government Gazette No. S245, 2021)</i> for Corner Inlet and Nooramunga, including through the <i>Corner Inlet water quality improvement plan</i> (West Gippsland CMA 2013).</p>	 Ongoing	West Gippsland CMA	Environment Protection Authority Agriculture Victoria South Gippsland Water Industry Landcare Landholders	 	 Led by West Gippsland CMA	

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
--------	-----------	------	-------------------	--------------------	------------	-----------------------------







Chapter 9: A new approach to planning and delivering water supplies

Action 9-1: Ongoing adaptive planning activities for future water supply options

Urban water corporations will undertake adaptive planning and commence early readiness activities for future urban water supply options that also consider opportunities to return some river water to Traditional Owners and the environment. Readiness activities will include:

- early planning, preparatory work and feasibility studies on potential options, quantification of opportunities to improve urban water security as well as return water to rivers via substitution or reconfiguration of existing supply infrastructure.
- potential inputs to preliminary business cases as projects progress to the readiness stage either as regionally significant water options via the Water Grid Plan or via urban water strategies or IWM forums for local projects (see Figure 9.1).

See **Action 4-2, Action 9-2, Action 9-5** and **Action 9-6**.

 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	-		  	 Through the Water Grid Plan (see Action 9-2) or urban water strategies	
	Urban water corporations					
	Melbourne Water					

Action 9-2: Publish a Water Grid Plan





The Victorian Government will work with urban water corporations to produce an inaugural Water Grid Plan in 2023, including decision-making triggers.














Once this is in place, the Victorian Government will then work with urban water corporations to track progress of the portfolio of options included in the inaugural plan, and adaptively update a Water Grid Plan.









The Water Grid Plan (as updated annually) will identify potential future urban water supply options and guide incremental readiness investments in climate-resilient water supplies when triggers are met. It will also ensure that, as options are developed, work is completed to identify opportunities to enable a proportion of substituted water entitlements to be returned to the environment and Traditional Owners on the completion of projects.

 Inaugural Water Grid Plan: by 2023	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Urban water corporations		  	 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and supported by urban water corporations and Melbourne Water	
 Annual updates: Ongoing		Melbourne Water				
 Decision-making triggers: by end of 2022		Victorian Environmental Water Holder				
		Traditional Owners				

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 9-3: Create a south-central pooled resource and associated reforms</p> <p>The Victorian Government will work with bulk entitlement holders in the connected Melbourne Supply System to reform existing entitlements arrangements to create a south-central pooled resource and appropriate supporting entitlement arrangements.</p> <p>The pooled resource will combine the Yarra-Thomson system and Victorian Desalination Project, simplifying the process as both the need to introduce more manufactured water to the Melbourne system increases and the dependence on the Melbourne system by connected regional urban water corporations grows.</p> <p>This action will investigate various aspects of the current system to ensure arrangements support the creation of an effective south-central pool. This will involve a work program to review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bulk entitlements • existing seasonal allocation method • current carryover rules • sharing and trading processes • cost sharing arrangements, for both existing supplies and new supplies • any other measures that would support the creation of an effective south-central pool. <p>Feasibility assessments have revealed the absence of the fundamental conditions for an effective urban water market in south-central Victoria and will not be investigated further as part of this action.</p> <p>The creation of a south-central pool supports the aims of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy by assisting future returns of water to the Traditional Owners and the environment through a more simple, consistent and transparent process for sharing water.</p>	 By 2025	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Urban water corporations – Melbourne retailers and connected regionals Melbourne Water Victorian Environmental Water Holder			

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 9-4: Revising Melbourne Water’s diversion limit compliance method</p> <p>Melbourne Water will work collaboratively with the Victorian Government and other stakeholders to ensure that the revised diversion limit compliance method meets its long-term objectives. These are the sustainable management of water resources in the system, and stakeholders’ expectations, while Melbourne Water meets its other diversion limit compliance related obligations under its bulk entitlements.</p>	 By 2026	Melbourne Water	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	 		
<p>Action 9-5: Building community knowledge and involvement in water management</p> <p>The Victorian Government, CMAs and water corporations will commit to a program of work to improve ongoing dialogue with Victorians about meeting the region’s long-term water needs. By 2024 this will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a review of public data and information sources about water. 2. a review of community engagement programs. 3. recommendations to build community knowledge about water and improve multi-way dialogue between the water sector, Traditional Owners and the community. <p>Traditional Owners will self-determine their participation in this program of work.</p>	 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Water corporations CMAs (including Melbourne Water) Victorian Environmental Water Holder	    	 Led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	

Action	Timeframe	Lead	Delivery partners	Strategy objective	Engagement	Future investment decisions
<p>Action 9-6: Apply principles for public investment in water infrastructure projects</p> <p>The Victorian Government will apply the following principles for public investment in water infrastructure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government funding will be considered where there are net public benefits such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing water affordability for urban water customers providing cultural benefits (applying the Cultural Benefits Framework) and enabling water to be returned to Traditional Owners enabling water to be returned to the environment to meet identified water deficits providing economic benefits to the region improving environmental and climate adaptation providing social, wellbeing or recreational benefits. The selection of water infrastructure projects will use a quadruple-bottom-line assessment, that considers cultural, economic, environmental and social costs and benefits to maximise community benefits (see Section 9.1), demonstrating that the chosen project is the most effective way to achieve customer and public benefits. Victorian Government funding agreements must be consistent with relevant legislation, policies and strategies. Where applicable, business cases must be consistent with Department of Treasury and Finance guidelines. 	 Ongoing	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Water corporations	    		

Chapter 10: Delivering the Strategy

<p>Action 10-1: Strengthening the five yearly assessment</p> <p>The five yearly assessment will be used to check on progress against all of the Strategy’s objectives during implementation. If the 5 yearly assessment finds that the implementation of the Strategy is not on track to deliver its 10-year commitments, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will investigate options to bring the review of the Strategy that is required after 10 years forward so that the actions in the Strategy can be updated as needed.</p>	 By 2027	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	-	    		
---	--	---	---	---	---	---

Please see icon legend on pages 308 and 309