Our Catchments, Our Communities:

Building On The Legacy  
For Better Stewardship

Victoria. State Government

**Acknowledgement of Victoria’s Aboriginal communities**

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.

We are committed to genuinely partner, and meaningfully engage, with Victoria’s Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities to support the protection of Country, the maintenance of spiritual and cultural practices and their broader aspirations in the 21st century and beyond.

Contents

Minister’s foreword 4

Why Integrated Catchment Management works 5

Integrated Catchment Management 6

Community and partner focus 8

A legacy of achievements in the first four years 9

Achievements from collaboration 11

Focus on stewardship 12

Strategic direction going forward 15

Supplement 16

# Minister’s foreword

Victoria has a long and successful history of partnering with community to care for our catchment health in a way that benefits our environment, our community, and our economy.

Integrated Catchment Management is a partnership between the Victorian Government, Catchment Management Authorities, and communities to jointly manage catchments in a way that benefits everyone. It seeks to provide healthy, sustainable, and productive land, water and biodiversity maintained through strong community partnerships.

Our communities, and the partnerships we have with these communities, are why we have been so successful in delivering the first integrated catchment management strategy for Victoria *Our Catchments, Our Communities* (2016-2019).

This strategic direction statement, *Our Catchments, Our Communities*: Building on the legacy for better stewardship focuses on coordinated regional strategy, planning to care for catchments, and builds on the *Our Catchments, Our Communities* strategy, which laid the foundations for our current Integrated Catchment Management approach.

The on-ground projects supported by *Our Catchments, Our Communities* and delivered in regional communities through strong community partnerships have provided many benefits for our catchments and their waterways. A record 175 partnerships have improved the health and resilience of Victoria’s catchments, including undertaking 109,631 hectares of works. More than 21,600 people have been engaged in field days, workshops, meetings and training with significant level of partnering with Traditional Owners to protect cultural heritage, and increase awareness of Aboriginal values and aspirations. And every dollar invested in regional projects delivered as part of *Our Catchments, Our Communities* has leveraged $1.28 in partner cash and in-kind investment.

The Government is committed to continuing this partnership with community and is providing $21.75 million over four years, to improve the holistic management of land, water, and biodiversity of our catchments.

I look forward to the continued emphasis on regional community priorities to support healthy, productive, resilient, and liveable catchments across Victoria over the next three years.

Minister for Water

Richard Wynne MP

# Why Integrated Catchment Management works

Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) recognises that water, land, biodiversity, coasts and marine environments are parts of connected systems.

The use and management of one part of a system will impact on other parts, so it is important to consider catchments holistically and recognise that management is place-based. How we plan, invest and act to restore and manage our catchments allows positive outcomes to be delivered across different environments in an integrated way. This integrated approach to catchment management builds capacity for better stewardship and contributes to greater system resilience.

In Victoria, our experience shows that ICM is best delivered regionally and locally through a place-based approach that is collaborative and coordinated effectively by catchment management authorities (CMAs).

Each of the 10 CMAs develops a regional catchment strategy (RCS) in partnership with its communities to set the direction on how each catchment region is managed.

On-ground work is supported by robust planning, comprehensive engagement and innovation. ICM is flexible in both scope and in the types of interventions, and is based on strong partnerships and collaboration. It supports the development of innovative approaches to how we work and act together to support resilient regions and healthy communities.

ICM projects have also leveraged investment from a range of sources, including private industry and the other governments, to deliver agreed priorities for each region, and additional benefit derived from the participation and commitment of partners and communities.

The framework for ICM includes key policy directions for water, land and biodiversity and how catchment management partners and communities work together in a collaborative way in each region.

# Integrated Catchment Management

Healthy, sustainable and productive land, water & biodiversity maintained by ICM that is strongly community based, regionally focused & collaborative.

### Biodiversity

Victoria’s biodiversity is healthy, valued and actively cared for.

### Coast & Marine

SA healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment that benefits the Victorian community now and in the future.

### Communities

Effective community engagement and partnerships in catchment management.

### Land

Productive, effective and sustainable land management.

### Water

Safe, sustainable and productive water resources and healthy waterways.

### Climate Change

* Shared understanding of impact
* Building resilience through adaptation.

### Collaboration

* Leverage and build investment across interests for improved effectiveness
* Coordinated planning and delivery for improved efficiencies and alignment.

### Place-based

* ICM is grounded at sensible scales of action
* Priorities align community vision for a place with broader policy and program outcomes.

### Shared Benefits

* Prioritising actions that deliver value to a range of interests
* Multiple benefits are realised.

### Traditional Owners & Country

* Traditional Owner priorities for Country upheld and supported
* Traditional ecological knowledge applied to catchment management with Traditional Owners’ consent.

**Case study – Regional Catchment Strategies**

CMAs will develop 10 new RCS with partners including Traditional Owners, local government, landholders and communities.

RCS are the cornerstones of an integrated approach to regional natural resource management (NRM) planning and action.

RCS embrace community values and build priorities for NRM in an integrated approach set at the catchment level.

They provide a unique framework that describes these values and priorities as part of state and federal NRM legislation, policies and programs.

They are place-based, setting strategic directions for ICM and how it will be delivered with partners and communities.

**Case study – ICM provides for innovative partnerships and management approaches, with flexibility to build strong foundations.**

The Wimmera project – Enhancing the health and liveability of the Wimmera River enabled the Wimmera CMA to spend a significant amount of time building foundations with local government, Traditional Owners and the community (Apex Club) to revitalise a section of the Wimmera River and its surrounds. The project, planned and developed over several years, now includes a full loop walking track near Horsham with environmental and Traditional Owner interpretation, traditional plantings and a new canoe launch providing better access to the river.

The Perry Catchment project – Protecting our ponds allowed time and resources to develop a lasting relationship with Hancocks Victoria Plantations, to manage and maintain the once common, but now rare, ‘chain of ponds’ river system for the future. The major forestry group   
was keen to improve environmental stewardship of its properties in the catchment. As a result   
of longer lead times and flexible co-investment, the company has been able to work with the   
West Gippsland CMA and partners to improve environmental planning, address on site roading practices along the ponds and provide permanent protection by placing Trust For Nature covenants on its property.

**ICM is about community involvement, capacity and resilience in the face of these challenges.**

The Resilient Landscapes, Vibrant Communities approach in the Lower Goulburn has built capacity in the community to enhance the environmental linkage on private land between the Lower Goulburn and the Barmah National Parks.

This involved steady individualised engagement with the community on the local and global challenges facing them and the landscape within which they live. The project invested directly into supporting adaptation pathways for land and water and the community in this area. This project was built out of current Goulburn Broken RCS priorities. The project has resulted in significant increase in landholders’ preparedness to adapt and be resilient in the face of climate change.

# Community and partner focus

Central to ICM is a close connection to places that are important for communities, reflecting local values and priorities. Strong, targeted engagement and community participation allows informed decisions that consider different perspectives and the development of shared objectives for the environmental health of these significant places.

ICM brings together people and organisations as partners to identify and respond to regional challenges that cannot be solved by one stakeholder alone.

In protecting and enhancing the natural, cultural, recreational, and economic values of our catchments, ICM involves many partners - Traditional Owner corporations, Aboriginal groups, community groups and private landowners and managers in setting strategic directions and in the planning and delivery of projects.

### An approach to respond to ongoing challenges

ICM provides efficiency through integration, builds capacity for innovation, and flexibility to respond to key ongoing challenges at the local level that impact on catchment health, including:

* changing land use and management practices;
* declining condition of natural resources;
* population and demographic change;
* climate change impacts and significant events;
* stewardship of our natural resources; and
* limited availability, demands and uses of information.

# A legacy of achievements in the first four years

The on-ground component of the investment in the first four years under *Our Catchments, Our Communities* has strengthened and fostered best practice ICM and the benefits it provides. A further investment of $21.75 million from 2021 to 2024 will support ICM partners to build on the legacy of the following achievements in the first four years:

### Delivering local and regional community priorities

Investment into the purchase of Walker Swamp is an innovative approach that has responded to community concerns and needs reflected in the Glenelg Hopkins RCS. The purchase and new management regime, with landholders providing ongoing integrated land, water and biodiversity management to protect and improve critically endangered wetlands, has seen the return of abundant flora and fauna.

### Improving water supplies for regional communities

A partnership between North Central CMA and Coliban Water is improving the quality of drinking water in three main water storages. On-ground catchment works with private landholders is a new approach to offset costly water treatment infrastructure while helping to build environmental and social value.

### Protecting cultural heritage values

In partnership with Traditional Owners, landholders on the Red Gum Plains in East Gippsland are increasing their awareness of Gunaikurnai cultural heritage when undertaking on-ground works and working together to preserve and manage the land, wetlands and biodiversity across the agricultural landscape.

### Contributing to regional economic growth while protecting environmental values

Enabling tourism access to Lake Tyrell, while managing and minimising environmental impacts, is part of a broader approach to improve habitats in the Avoca Basin and its terminal lakes in the Mallee region. The Wimmera River is improving due to restoration works that are also supporting recreation access and minimising its impacts. Monitoring and planning for climate change impacts is supporting resilience of agricultural enterprises in the Goulburn Broken region.

### Increasing participation of Traditional Owners to support their aspirations

All Registered Aboriginal Parties have been engaged by CMA, with 22 Traditional Owners and Aboriginal groups involved in projects to date. Approximately 3 per cent of *Our Catchments, Our Communities* funding was invested into Victorian Aboriginal groups, which exceeds the Government’s procurement target of 1 per cent.

### Investing in innovative partnerships and management approaches

Partnerships have been developed with those not traditionally involved in protecting natural resources. West Gippsland’s Perry River catchment is being restored and protected on public and private land with the private forestry industry and landowners.

**ICM Partnerships with Traditional Owners**

ICM strengthens partnerships and creates more efficient, mutual and respectful relationships. Partnership arrangements between Traditional Owner Corporations, CMA, landholders and the broader community have been fostered and enhanced through ICM. These partnership arrangements support works on Country to improve landscapes.

Through these partnerships, the *Our Catchments, Our Communities* program is enabling Traditional Owners to care for Country and engage the broader community in ICM projects. Elders are transferring knowledge about important places to young people in land management teams, building self-awareness, confidence and pride in their identity through delivery of projects on Country.

Traditional Owners have been able to promote and build their culture and associated businesses, with their teams gaining more insight into restoration works being done across Country. Awareness of cultural heritage values has increased, and additional potential sites of significance identified across Victoria. There has also been improved understanding about traditional ecological knowledge as well as the science behind the work.

The next phase of ICM will build on the successes of Aboriginal inclusion and partnerships with Traditional Owners. Where it can contribute, ICM will support aspirations for Aboriginal   
self-determination.

# Achievements from collaboration

This collaborative model has achieved many outputs through directly investing in catchment management and leveraging co-investment through partnerships and engagement with community, including the establishment and maintenance of:

* 16,000,000 dollars in *Our Catchments, Our Communities* on-ground investment
* 20,081,554 dollars in leverage
* 55 visitor facilities including recreational, operations and buildings
* 16.7 kilometres of roads and trails
* 12 stock troughs
* 14 waterway structures including rock chutes, flow regulators, and water pumps
* 104 terrestrial features including nest boxes and natural ground features
* 156.27 kilometres of fencing and bollards
* 1,188.40 hectares of native indigenous vegetation
* 11,123.76 hectares of woody and non-woody weed control
* 117,112.30 hectares of pest animal control
* 7.67 hectares of earth works including levelling and armouring
* 244.06 hectares of rubbish removal
* 1,069.43 hectares of grazing regime change
* 5,694 hectares of agricultural practice change
* 16 ML of water delivered
* 136.85 hectares of ecological fire regime implementation
* 53 approvals and advice provided including permits
* 193 management agreements – perpetual and non-perpetual
* 466 assessments made
* 21,672 participants at engagement events
* 735 partnerships
* 138 plans
* 425 publications including written, visual and audio
* 5 information management systems

# Focus on stewardship

Investment priorities (2021 to 2024 - $21.75 million) will build better catchment stewardship with regional and local communities, Traditional Owners and key sector partners based on the solid foundations of the last four years of ICM investment.

Our vision for *Our Catchments, Our Communities* remains:

*Healthy, sustainable and productive land, water and biodiversity maintained through Integrated Catchment Management that is strongly community-based, regionally-focused and collaborative.*

We are building on the legacy of the *Our Catchments, Our Communities* strategy by focusing on coordinated regional strategy and planning, improved partnerships and the delivery of better catchment stewardship through improved leadership, agency and community capacity and the demonstration of effective action. Further developing catchment stewardship is essential for this phase of ICM to foster greater shared direction and responsibility in the way we manage our natural resources.

Reviewing strategic directions for ICM and strengthening our approach regionally is timely, with RCS scheduled for renewal. Bringing together policies and priorities at national, state and local scales is reflected in our planning processes.

Creative and innovative approaches to ICM enables landscape scale on-ground projects. A systems-focus embraces water, land and biodiversity to deliver multiple outcomes across environmental, economic, cultural and social values.

Collaboration and working together remain a foundation for achieving outcomes efficiently and to leverage contributions from different sources. Building capacity and resilience is important more than ever with the challenges of climate change and impacts of significant events.

Partnerships remain an important tool for collaboration and integration. Building on our partnerships with Traditional Owners provides an opportunity for ICM to support how we can contribute to enabling Aboriginal self-determination in the way we plan and deliver ICM.

The model adopted under *Our Catchments, Our Communities* for on-ground delivery has been supported and embraced by partners and communities. It offers time to engage, plan and align objectives for projects, allows flexibility to meet community needs and foster innovation, and multiple year project funding can be accommodated when required. These remain core principles for the next phase of ICM on-ground delivery across Victoria.

## Figure 2. What we are going to do 2020/2021

### Planning

Regional Catchment Strategies Delivering local and regional community priorities

* 10 new RCS

### Investment & Delivery

Delivering Catchment Stewardship

* On-ground landscape scale projects
* Delivering environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes

### Investment & Delivery

Delivering Catchment Stewardship

* On-ground landscape scale projects
* Delivering environmental, cultural, social and economic outcomes

### Partnerships

Partnerships & Agreements

* Implementation of Catchment Partnership Agreements
* Partnerships with Traditional Owners
* Enabling catchment stewardship with the community

### MERI Framework

Demonstrating good catchment stewardship

## What we will achieve 2024

Improve place-based catchment stewardship delivered through strategic regional ICM planning, coordinated on-ground implementation, effective partnerships and community capacity.

## The long term outcome

Active stewardship to improve catchment health and resilience.

**What is Catchment Stewardship?**

Catchment stewardship is the management of land, water and biodiversity across the catchment that provides additional public benefit (environmental, economic, cultural and social value), going beyond basic duty of care through best practice management.

Catchment stewards are people who leave natural resources in a better condition than their current state.

Good stewardship uses strong private and public sector, Traditional Owner, and community partnerships to plan, coordinate and deliver valuable action on the ground.

# Strategic direction going forward

The three-year ICM program will support our long-term outcome of active catchment stewardship to improve catchment health and resilience. Figure 2 identifies the key program components where effort will be focused.

The objectives are:

* RCS set strategic directions. Renewed RCS will contain a consistent set of ICM outcomes across the 10 CMA regions. They will align catchment priorities of local and regional communities to key policy and programs developed by the Victorian Government and incorporate Aboriginal cultural values and traditional ecological knowledge.
* Delivery of better stewardship. Place-based on-ground catchment stewardship projects deliver water, biodiversity, land health and productivity benefits for regional and local communities and Traditional Owners. The delivery of cultural, social and economic outcomes will be aligned to regional priorities. Recovery from extreme events or improving environmental resilience will also be supported.
* Effective partnerships and improved capacity. Implementation of catchment partnership agreements will continue to strengthen existing arrangements at the regional level. Partnerships with Traditional Owners will support involvement in planning and decision-making. Partnerships will support RCS development and implementation through strengthened participation. They will enable the stewardship of our catchments and contribute to building the capacity of regional communities.

Our priorities to support the outcome are:

* Priority 1. Develop 10 new regional catchment strategies.
* Priority 2. Align ICM with Traditional Owners’ aspirations for Country.
* Priority 3. Work with and invest in communities to develop and deliver landscape scale catchment stewardship projects.
* Priority 4. Build the capacity of NRM communities – stewardship, adaptation to climate change impacts, recovery from extreme events.
* Priority 5. Partner to improve coordination and collaboration between NRM agencies at state, regional and local levels.
* Priority 6. Develop a robust framework to strengthen catchment stewardship, and measure the impact of ICM on environmental, social and economic values aligned to national and international approaches.
* Priority 7. Improve alignment and consistency of state, regional and local NRM outcomes.
* Priority 8. Improve consistency, availability and management of NRM information.

# Supplement

***Our Catchments, Our Communities* Projects 2016-2019**

Recent ICM projects have secured co-investment to achieve environmental, cultural, social and economic results that are important to the communities they serve. The Victorian Government is continuing co-investment in place-based ICM projects that reflect communities’ objectives set out in RCS, and will build on the legacy of these 2016-2019 projects.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mallee CMA** | |
| **Project** | **01. The Tyrrell Project: Ancient Landscapes, New Connections** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Habitats within the Avoca Basin agricultural landscapes are being improved and recreation access managed to minimise impacts on the environment including at Lake Tyrrell.  The fully integrated project is celebrating Aboriginal culture, sharing stories of the environment while protecting it. |
| **Key achievements** | * 13 recreation visitor facilities, 2.9 km track, 36 km fencing * 128 ha revegetation, 3,965 ha weed control, 5,903 ha pest animal control * 30 nest boxes Uttiwillock wetland * Revegetation and pest plant and animal control at Lake Tchum South * 4 picnic tables and 3 chairs on walkways at Green Lake * Engaged 844 people in field days, meetings, training and workshops |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $2.5 million investment / in-kind |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Wimmera CMA** | |
| **Project** | **02. Enhancing the Health, Environment and Liveability of the Wimmera River** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | The health and liveability of the Wimmera River is improving due to restoration works, improved recreation access minimising impacts on the environment, and protection of cultural heritage in partnership with Traditional Owners.  New partnerships and engagement with groups the Wimmera CMA hasn’t worked with in the past.  Local government investment in new plans and proposals to further enhance the Wimmera River and surrounds. |
| **Key achievements** | * 120 m of floating wetlands in the Dimboola Weir pool to address bank erosion from skiing and protect culturally sensitive areas * 40 ha of riparian frontage managed and enhanced for environmental, social and recreational uses * Reengagement of Langland’s Anabranch in the Horsham Weir Pool * 2 km of private river frontage opened/restored for public access * 6 recreation visitor facilities, 4 km trails, 7.8 km access roads * 10 waterway structures, 4.6 km fencing, 22 ha revegetation * 43 ha pest plant and animal control * Engaged 93 people in field days and meetings * Partners and stakeholders engaged through the Wimmera NRM forums |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $700,000 of investment |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Glenelg Hopkins CMA** | |
| **Project** | **03. Wetlands of the Greater Grampians** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Critically endangered wetland protected through the Walker Swamp Reserve purchase and improved management on adjoining private land.  Walker and Green Swamps and their catchment managed by Nature Glenelg. Trust for Nature covenanting underway to permanently protect 114 ha of shallow freshwater marsh and 135 ha of aquatic herblands. |
| **Key achievements** | * Protection and hydrological restoration of Walker Swamp * Improved management of 12 wetlands totalling 374 ha in partnership with * eight landholders * 732 ha weed control, 98,764 ha pest animal control * Improved grazing practices on 752 ha * 25 management agreements in place * 26 partnerships established * 1,848 people engaged in field or training days, workshops and meetings |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $851,426 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **North Central CMA** | |
| **Project** | **04. Land, Water and Fire: Healthy Country Plan for Boort, Lyndger,  Kinypanial System**  **05. Community Delivered ICM Project**  **06. Upper Coliban Integrated Catchment Management Plan** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Three place-based ICM approaches with diverse partnerships delivering community catchment priorities and water services.  Environmental improvements, water quality and quantity benefits implemented through the Integrated Upper Coliban Catchment Plan. Landscape restoration model with Landcare delivering large projects and building community capacity.  Cultural practices on Country strengthened through support to Dja Dja Wurrung for Country Planning. |
| **Key achievements** | * 11,955 ha of catchment stewardship * Investment into development and implementation of a catchment plan * 711 ha of revegetation * 686 ha weed control, 10,545 ha pest animal control * 18 km of fencing to protect water quality and environmental values * 99 ha of improved grazing or agricultural practices * 9 management agreements in place * 180 participants at field days |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $1,922,000 leveraged including 1:1 funding to deliver the Upper Coliban ICM Plan |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Corangamite CMA** | |
| **Project** | **07. Connected Landscapes: Adapting Corangamite’s Natural Assets to Climate Change**  **08. Protecting the Environment via On-farm Water Efficiency**  **09. Sustainable Dairy Management** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Fifteen community groups and their partners collaborating to plan and manage the impacts of climate change across the Central Victorian Uplands and Victorian Volcanic Plains.  Farm enterprises implementing modernised approaches and best practice for increased water efficiency and reduced offsite impacts in waterways.  Whole of property nutrient management improving dairy industry catchment stewardship. |
| **Key achievements** | * 33,000 ha of catchment stewardship across agricultural landscapes * Bunanyung Landscape Alliance formed with 15 NRM groups * Adaptation Pathways Plan for the Western District Lakes’ and Bunanyung Landscape Plan * 5,608 ha of improved agricultural practices * 21 km fencing providing stock/pest animal exclusion and 245 ha remnant vegetation protection * 295 ha weed control, 118 ha pest animal control * 31 management agreements in place * 1,072 people in field or training days, workshops and meetings |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $305,050 direct investment from landholders |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Goulburn Broken CMA** | |
| **Project** | **10. Resilient Landscapes Vibrant communities: Linking Lower Goulburn**  **11. Resilient Landscapes Vibrant communities: Bogies and Beyond** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Capacity of Yorta Yorta Traditional Owners to work on Country strengthened.  Landscape connectivity being established between the Lower Goulburn and Barmah National Parks. Landowners engaged in habitat protection to connect vegetation across the Lower Goulburn landscape.  Communities participating in citizen science in the Strathbogies to understand links between climate change, vegetation dieback and groundwater. |
| **Key achievements** | * 1,172 ha of catchment stewardship * 351 ha of revegetation * 22 km of fencing * Improved grazing practices on 289 ha * 280 ha weed control, 252 ha pest animal control * 32 management agreements in place * 26 partnerships established * 790 people engaged in field days |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $609,404 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Port Phillip & Westernport CMA** | |
| **Project** | **12. Restoring the Natural Glory of Jackson’s Creek**  **13. Transforming the Dandenong Creek Corridor into a World Class Urban Link**  **14. Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Three projects mitigating the impacts of clearing and development and enhancing waterways, biodiversity, cultural and recreational values in urbanised environments.  Waterway corridors are being restored with revegetation linking habitat on private land. Significant community participation undertaking re-instatement works. |
| **Key achievements** | * Awareness and increased protection of the culturally significant Bora rings in Sunshine * Increased coordination with local government along the Dandenong Creek ‘Living Links’ corridor * 167 ha of revegetation * 572 ha of weed control, 1,080 ha of pest animal control * 31 management agreements in place * 8,826 participants in field days, meetings, training events and workshops * 165 partnerships |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $12,103,962 investment / in-kind contributions |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **North East CMA** | |
| **Project** | **15. Keeping Productive Landscapes Resilient in the Lower Ovens**  **16. Building Resilient Environmental and Social Networks in the Upper Mitta Mitta** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Integrated catchment management in two key catchments to connect people to their environments and build landscape resilience.  Protection and improved condition of vegetation corridors and wetlands, better connecting the Lower Ovens River to the Chiltern-Mt. Pilot and the Warby-Ovens National Parks.  Community partnerships improving in-stream and riparian habitats along the Mitta Mitta River, supporting better catchment health. |
| **Key achievements** | * Strengthened coordination between key catchment partners * Catchment Action Plans developed for the Upper Mitta Mitta and the Lower Ovens landscapes * 30 ha of revegetation * 826 ha weed control, 408 ha pest animal control * 25 management agreement in place * Effective community engagement with 3,861 participants in events * 69 partnership established |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $557,839 in-kind contributions |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **West Gippsland CMA** | |
| **Project** | **17. Protecting Our Ponds** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Restoration and protection of a unique chain of ponds in the Perry River catchment, including 300-400 on the HVP forestry estate.  Innovative partnerships with HVP for changed protocols, management practices, and a new approach to covenanting with Trust for Nature to protect and manage the pond system. |
| **Key achievements** | * A 20-year plan to protect and manage the ponds on the HVP estate * 20 priority erosion sites remediated * Formal protection of 59.1 ha * 18 management agreements in place. * Inventory/assessment of over 1,000 ponds * Conservation covenants in progress – HVP Plantations and private land * 4 cultural heritage assessments * On Country visits in the Perry River catchment * Community workshops/field trips * 18 km fencing, 41 ha revegetation, 3394 ha weed control * 46 ha pest animal control, 105 ha grazing regime change, 1 km earthworks * Engaged 379 people in field days, meetings and workshops |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $355,373 investment / in-kind |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **East Gippsland CMA** | |
| **Project** | **18. Implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy on the Red Gum Plains**  **19. Implementing the Regional Catchment Strategy in the Tambo Valley** |
| **Benefits & Outcomes** | Red Gum Plains wetlands are being improved delivering community waterways, agriculture and recreation priorities.  Increasing landowners awareness of Aboriginal cultural values with heritage sites identified and protected. Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners are engaged in works that support their connection to Country and benefit riparian corridors and wetlands.  Landowners actively involved in rehabilitating and enhancing reaches of the Tambo River. |
| **Key achievements** | * Cultural heritage sites identified and protected on private land * 22 km fencing * 68 ha of revegetation * 383 ha weed control * 13 management agreements in place * 1,777 participants in field or training days, workshops and meetings |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment** | $1.6 million |
| **Leverage** | $176,500 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Our Catchments, Our Communities investment total (for 19 on-ground projects)** | **$16 million** |
| **Leverage total** | **$20,081,554** |

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning   
Integrated Catchment Management in Victoria  
www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne  
ISBN 978-1-76105-014-5 (Print)  
ISBN 978-1-76105-015-2 (Online)

This document is also available on the internet at www.delwp.vic.gov.au.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2021. This work is licenced under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit

http://creativecommons.org/licence/by/4.0/.