

A healthy Wimmera catchment where a resilient landscape **supports a sustainable and profitable community**

2014-2015 Annual Report



Wimmera CMA

Report profile

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (WCMA) is established under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (VIC) (CALP Act). The responsible Ministers during the reporting period 1 July 2014 to 4 December 2014 were the Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change and the Hon Peter Walsh MLA, Minister for Water, Agriculture and Food Security and from December 2014 the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

The 2014-2015 annual report of Wimmera CMA is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

Other Wimmera CMA information is available from the Wimmera CMA office:

Previous Annual Reports

Wimmera CMA Corporate Plan 2014-2019

Regional Catchment Strategy

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Report of operations

Accountable Officers Declaration

In accordance with the Financial Management Act, 1994, I am pleased to present the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 2015.



Karen Douglas
Chairman
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority
August 26, 2015

Message from the Chair

I was very pleased that the Wimmera CMA was one of the four CMAs involved in the Victorian Auditor-General's Report on the Effectiveness of Catchment Management Authorities. I also welcomed the findings and recommendations of this important audit. As Chair of the CMA Chairs I was privileged to be part of a group consisting of Chairs, CEOs and senior Government people who had also worked to identify challenges and ways that we could improve our efficiency across the sector. The findings of the Audit reinforced and expanded on this work and it is now particularly pleasing to see the collaboration across all government agencies involved in the natural resource management industry working collectively and diligently to address the recommendations.

The change in the Victorian government and the current reviews being undertaken presents an opportunity for us to reflect, plan and participate in shaping policies and to deliver the priorities of the new government.

Preparing our communities for flooding throughout the catchment continue with Warracknabeal, Dunmunkle and Lower Wimmera River flood investigations due for completion next year. All have strong community participation and involvement which is of paramount importance to this process.

Major tree planting events, Yarrilinks, Project Hindmarsh and Project Platypus, were all well attended reflecting the effort of the groups in organising these important events. I appreciate the regular meetings that the CEO and I have with Landcare Presidents and their members.

In June the official launch of Habitat 141 was held bringing together major stakeholders in this very significant project of creating a bio link from the Victorian coast to outback NSW. I would like to recognise the many years of preplanning by many very dedicated and passionate supporters that have developed this project from a concept to this stage.



During the year we have enhanced our website and in line with our Communication Strategy to grow our connectedness throughout the region, we have introduced the targeted use of FaceBook. As mobile phone coverage improves and the NBN rolls out throughout the region we are able to increase utilisation of social media.

Our new approach to formally engage our local community is based on a more targeted and issue specific topics. Many of our previous Advisory Committee members remain very connected to the Organisation and continue to provide valuable knowledge.

We are excited that as we prepare for the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) mid-term review next year, the increased quality of satellite imagery and cross referencing of existing data will be able to deliver a more in-depth understanding of the changes in the catchment over time.

I would like to thank the members of the Board for their support throughout this past year and wish those who have decided not to apply for a further term success in their endeavours.



Karen Douglas
Wimmera CMA Board, Chair

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Dry conditions resulted in lower natural flows in creeks, rivers, wetlands and lakes. Some parts of our catchment had the lowest rainfall on record. We had strong demand for stock containment fencing and the use of environmental water provided much needed relief for many of our parched waterways.

In conjunction with Glenelg Hopkins CMA we delivered an environmental land tender which resulted in 5660 hectares of private land under improved management as part of the Victorian Environment Partnership Program.

Community events such as Chris Humfrey Wild Action Zoo attracted over 500 attendees to learn about the importance of our native plants and animals.

We successfully achieved ISO 9001 certification and continue to focus on innovation and best practice.

The development of our Carbon Ready Plan received good participation and engagement with our community who is interested in Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.

As a member of Toolondo Reservoir Recreational Fishing Advisory Group a close working relationship with Department of Economic Development, Jobs, DEWLP Policy, Transport and Resources-Fisheries staff, Environmental Water Holder Executive Officer, Glenelg Hopkins CMA CEO, GWM Water staff and recreational interest groups to identify potential opportunities to improve the management of the fishery at the renowned Toolondo Reservoir and the surrounding waterways.

Two Green Army teams sponsored by the Wimmera CMA continue to deliver on ground works around Horsham and Stawell engaging young people in practical natural resource management.

As convener of the working group responsible for developing a framework for catchment management and reporting in response to the Victorian Auditor-General's Report on Effectiveness of Catchment Management Authorities. It has been rewarding to work with a diverse and extensive range of stakeholders and partners all committed to the finding of the Effectiveness of CMAS Audit.

A joint project with the Wimmera Development Association and four local councils to establish a shared Geographic Information System (GIS) network will share WCMA's expertise in this ever expanding technology.



Two other projects that have strong community interest includes our work in the assessment of controlled water skiing in the Horsham weir pool and a scientific project with Full Flight Birds of Prey and Federation University that use raptors to reduce pest bird damage.

I would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of staff during the past 12 months, the strong support and leadership from the Board and various community members that have offered advice, assistance and expertise to ensure our services meet Australian and State Government investor expectations and community needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Brennan'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large initial 'D' and 'B'.

David Brennan
Chief Executive Officer

Manner of establishment

Wimmera CMA commenced in July 1997 by order of the Minister for Agriculture and Resources, taking over the functions and obligations of the Wimmera Regional Catchment and Land Protection Board. The CMA was established under the *CALP Act*.

Responsible ministers

July 1, 2014 – December 4, 2014

- the Hon Ryan Smith MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change
- the Hon Peter Walsh MLA, Minister for Water, Agriculture and Food Security

December 4, 2014 – June 30, 2015

- the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

Objectives, functions, powers and duties

The objectives, functions, powers and duties of Wimmera CMA are largely contained within the following Victorian Acts:

- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- *Water Act 1989*
- *Financial Management Act 1994*
- *Audit Act 1994*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Information Privacy Act 2000*
- *Public Administration Act 2004*
- *Protected Disclosures Act 2012*

The functions, powers and duties of Wimmera CMA under Section 12(1) – (4) of the *CALP Act* are:

“(1) Each Authority has the following functions in respect of the region for which it has been appointed, to—

- (a) Prepare a RCS for the region and to coordinate and monitor its implementation.
- (b) Prepare special area plans for areas in the region and to coordinate and monitor their implementation.
- (c) Promote the cooperation of persons and bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region in preparing and implementing the RCS and special area plans.
- (d) Advise the Minister, and, if requested by any other Minister, that other Minister on—
 - (i) Regional priorities for activities by, and resource allocation to, bodies involved in the management of land and water resources in the region; and

(ii) Guidelines for integrated management of land and water resources in the region; and

(iii) Matters relating to catchment management and land protection; and

(iv) On the condition of land and water resources in the region.

(e) Promote community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

(f) Make recommendations to the Minister about the funding of the implementation of the RCS and any special area plan.

(g) Make recommendations to the Minister and the Secretary about actions to be taken on Crown Land managed by the Secretary to prevent land degradation.

(h) Advise the Minister and provide information to the Minister on any matter referred to it by the Minister.

(i) Carry out any other functions conferred on the Authority by or under this Act or any other Act.

(2) Each Authority has power to do all things that are necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with, or as incidental to, the performance of its functions, including any function delegated to it.

(3) Subsection (2) is not to be taken to be limited by any other provision of this Act that confers a power on the Authority.

(4) Each Authority has the duties conferred on it by or under this or any other Act.”

The Authority has additional objectives, functions, powers and duties for waterway management, floodplain management and regional drainage conferred under Part 7 and Part 10 of the *Water Act*.

Nature and range of services provided

Our vision

Our vision is for a healthy Wimmera catchment, where a resilient landscape supports a sustainable and profitable community.

Our philosophy

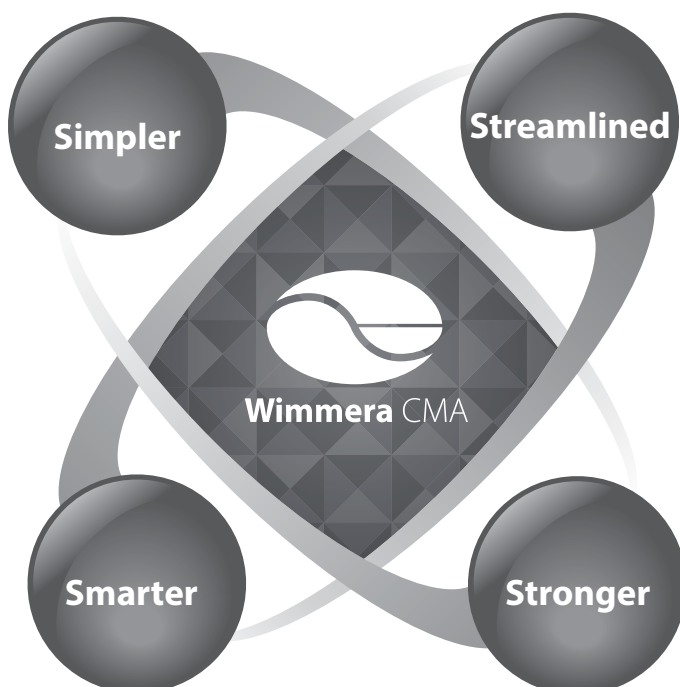
We aim to achieve a triple bottom line approach to all areas of our business, in the absence of any firm government policy or objective.

Our mission

Our mission is to be regarded as one of the most innovative and creative CMAs in Australia in 2016. To achieve this mission requires an organisational culture that is flexible, dynamic, accountable and embracing of change.

Our approach

To assist in delivering our objectives the following decision making framework is applied:



Our role

Wimmera CMA's role is to work closely with the community, key stakeholders and government agencies to develop plans, priorities and actions that increase opportunities for condition improvement whilst reducing risks to our key natural assets:

- Native vegetation;
- Threatened plants and animals;
- Wetlands;
- River and streams; and
- Soils.

Wimmera CMA sets out to mitigate threats and increase the quality, extent and connectivity of the Wimmera's natural assets as described in the RCS 2013-2019 and accompanying Action Plans. This is achieved by demonstrating leadership and providing a strategic overview of the threats, priorities and actions required.

Who we are

Wimmera CMA is one of ten CMAs in Victoria. Wimmera CMA is a statutory body that works with the community to achieve a healthy and sustainable environment. Wimmera CMA provides advice to the Australian and State Governments about environmental conditions, directions and priorities in the Wimmera region.

Eight community representatives make up the Wimmera CMA Board. The Board sets the organisation's strategic direction, ensures that Wimmera CMA meets statutory and financial responsibilities and that its activities reflect community values and expectations.

Our region

The Wimmera is located in western Victoria and extends from the Pyrenees ranges in the east to Lake Albacutya and the Big Desert National Park to the north and the South Australian border to the west. The region has a population of approximately 50,000 and about one quarter of its residents rely directly on agriculture for income.

The region predominantly comprises cleared agricultural land and includes the municipalities of Hindmarsh, West Wimmera, Horsham and parts of Yarriambiack, Northern Grampians, Ararat, Buloke and Pyrenees.

Natural Wimmera features include more than 3,000, or 25 percent of Victoria's wetlands, Grampians and Little Desert National Parks and the Wimmera River system, which all support a diverse range of plants and animals. The region also has productive agricultural soils and valuable groundwater.

The Wimmera catchment includes many cultural and environmental heritage sites. More than 2,000 sites of Indigenous archaeological significance are associated with the catchment's reserves, waterways, floodplains and wetlands.

The region is home to approximately 1,500 species of native plants and 420 species of native animals. These include 20 mammal, 40 reptile and more than 250 bird species.



This map has been designed for illustrative purposes only. It is not to scale.



Wimmera Catchment



Our stakeholders

A commitment from communities, agencies and industries to achieve sustainable NRM outcomes in the region is vital.

Wimmera CMA engages a community that is broad and diverse. This includes land managers, Indigenous communities, local government and Australian and State Government investors.

Group	Characteristics	Relationship
Landholders	Rural property holders, farmers, absentee land owners	Partners in the delivery of onground change through grants, engagement and incentive programs
Government departments	Victorian Government: Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, GWMWater, Parks Victoria Australian Government: Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture	Partners, compliance and investors
Community and Landcare networks, groups and members	Project Platypus, Hindmarsh Landcare Network, Yarrilinks, Kowree Farm Tree Group, Perennial Pasture Systems, Native Fish Australia, Wimmera River Improvement Committee, 'Friends of' groups	Partners, grant recipients, education and capacity building
Local government	Ararat, Buloke, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack	Partners, customers and investors
NRM organisations	Trust for Nature, Victorian No-Till Farmers Association, Birchip Cropping Group, Wimmera Farming Network, Greening Australia and Conservation Volunteers	Contractors, partners
Indigenous groups	Barengi Gadjin Land Council	Partner, advice
Wimmera CMA Board	Eight member Board appointed by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	Governance, policy, strategy
Consultation groups or committees	Soils, Threatened Species, Native Vegetation, Wetlands, Rivers and Streams	Advice
Community monitors	Four monitoring activities for birds, frogs, water and macroinvertebrates	Volunteers
Education sector	Department of Education network, teachers and school contacts, Federation University Australia, Charles Sturt University	Education partner, capacity building
Consultants and contractors	Numerous	Service providers

Operational and budgetary objectives

The following key performance indicators and targets are Wimmera CMA's commitments to deliver on legislative compliance requirements. This includes the *CALP Act* Statement of Obligations commenced on 1 July 2007; and the *Water Act* Statement of Obligations commenced on 19 October 2006.

Wimmera CMA reports progress against performance indicators and targets established in its corporate plan.

The following tables list key performance indicators which measure success in achieving the organisation's objectives.

Objective 1 – Governance

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Achievements
Board performance	Complete and submit an annual board performance assessment report, according to any ministerial guidelines issued	By 31 August annually	Completed by 31 August 2014
	Participation by board members in development activities	All board members participate in development activities	Proportion of board members participating in development activities was 100 percent
Board charter	Develop and implement a board charter	The board charter is reviewed (and if necessary, amended) by June 30 annually	Reviewed in August 2014
Risk and financial management	Compliance to risk management plans for each program	All programs have risk management plans in place	Whole of organisation risk management plan in place that incorporates all programs
		Nil non-compliances with risk management plans in place	Nil non-compliance
Policies and Procedures	Regular review of policies and procedures	Each Policy and Procedure is reviewed at least every five years	Wimmera CMA has a Policy Review Committee. Wimmera CMA reviews its policies consistent with it relevant policies and procedures.

Objective 2 – Efficiency and organisational performance

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Achievements
Grant management	Administration costs of grants are minimised	10 percent or less of grant funds is spent on administration	Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Community Grants were delivered with administration costs less than 10 percent
	Minimise time taken to determine grant applications	Grant applications are determined within one month of being received	2014-15 Victorian Landcare Grant applications were determined in 15 working days
Regulatory waterway/water functions	Number of days to process works on waterways permits	Not more than 20 working days	The average processing time for works on waterways permits was 13 days A total of 7 permits took more than 20 days to process
	Number of days to process referrals for any works on or in relation to a dam	Not more than 20 working days	No referrals were received for dams
	Number of days to process referrals from local government on flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments, and planning and building approvals	Not more than 20 working days	Section 52 referrals were responded to within an average of 18 days Section 55 referrals were responded to within an average of 11 days
	Number of days to process enquiries from local government and the community on flooding	Not more than 20 working days	81 requests for flood advice were received and responded to within an average of 8 days
	Number of days to process referrals for Water Use Licences that don't meet the standard water-use conditions	Not more than 20 working days	Nil received
	Number of days to process enquiries from Rural Water Corporations on irrigation and drainage plans and seasonal adjustments to annual use limits	Not more than 20 working days	Nil received
	Number of days to process enquiries from Rural Water Corporations issuing Take and Use Licences	Not more than 20 working days	Nil received

Objective 2 – Efficiency and organisational performance

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Achievements
Integrated river health management	Revise Waterway Strategy to plan for waterways in relation to their economic, social and environmental values	Waterway Strategy revised every four years	The Wimmera Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 received Ministerial approval.
	Develop and revise Environmental Operating Strategies and Annual Watering Plans to manage the environmental water reserve in accordance with objectives	Environmental Operating Strategies developed or revised every five years	The Environmental Operating Strategy has been reviewed and is in the process of being converted to an Environmental Water Management Plan.
		Annual Watering Plans approved for all Environmental Entitlements	Annual Watering Plans (now called Seasonal Watering Proposals) have been submitted for the rivers and Wimmera Mallee Pipeline wetlands for consideration by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder
	Implement annual river health programs and activities to improve environmental values and health of water ecosystems	All annual river health targets and works programs achieved	100 percent of annual river health targets and works programs funded were achieved
Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS)	Complete and submit the developed or revised RCS according to any guidelines, standards and related information issued	Submit the developed or revised RCS by the due date as required in any guidelines, standards and related information issued	Midterm review due in 2015/16 subject to funding.
	Percentage of RCS annual actions implemented	All RCS annual actions implemented	<p>RCS annual actions (outputs) are included in the annual investment plan to investors.</p> <p>The Catchment Condition Report included in this Annual Report outlines the performance against these outputs.</p> <p>Annual investment plans are produced for the delivery of strategic outcomes in line with federal, state and regional priorities.</p> <p>The RCS describes the objectives for the management of natural assets and the management measures to be put in place to achieve these objectives.</p>

Objective 3 – Effectiveness and environmental outcomes

Performance area	Performance indicators	Targets	Achievements
Invasive plant and animal management	Regional Invasive Plant and Animal Strategies incorporating related priorities in all land tenures in the region	Invasive Plant and Animal Strategies revised by 30 June every five years	Strategy due for review in 2015 subject to funding.
Regional and statutory planning	Provide advice on dryland salinity, irrigation management, soil erosion, or any other land management issue identified in the local Municipal Strategic Statement as the referral body	100 percent of referral responses provided for each issue	100 percent of referrals were responded to
Salinity management	Implementation and periodic review of Regional Salinity Management Plans (RSMP) and Land and Water Management Plans (LWMP).	RSMP and LWMP completed RSMP and LWMP periodically reviewed RSMP and LWMP include annual actions to be implemented	The Wimmera Regional Salinity Action Plan contains five and 20-year target actions (outputs) Annual outputs are developed through annual investment planning processes in consultation with investors Wimmera CMA has not been funded to review the Action Plan
	Progress against annual action targets	All annual RSMP and LWMP actions and targets achieved	Performance outlined in the Catchment Condition Report
	Develop regional salinity targets and corresponding works programs in accordance with the Murray Darling Basin Salinity Agreement (for applicable CMAs only)	All annual salinity targets and works programs achieved	Annual outputs are developed through annual investment planning processes in consultation with investors Performance against these outputs is outlined in the Catchment Condition Report
	Annual report on the allocation and update of salt disposal entitlements submitted to the responsible Minister	By 31 July annually or as otherwise requested by the responsible Minister	There is no salt disposal entitlement in the Wimmera CMA region
Regional Landcare groups, networks and other community groups	Deliver the Regional Landcare Support Strategy, including coordination of Landcare at a regional scale	Evaluate and revise the strategy every five years	Wimmera Landcare and Group Support Plan implemented, aligned with Wimmera RCS and the State Landcare Strategic Plan.

Initiatives and Key Achievements

Major Computing upgrade

During the period a major upgrade of desktop computers and operating system was undertaken. In conjunction with a hardware upgrade the Authority made the transition to Windows 8.1 operating system and upgraded to Microsoft Office 2013. The result of the upgrades has produced a more stable, modern and flexible computing environment for staff to work within. The upgrade has also enhanced communication abilities for communication with our main office computing infrastructure.

VAGO report on effectiveness of Catchment Management Authorities

Wimmera CMA participated in the Victorian Auditor General's audit of Effectiveness of Catchment Management Authorities. The Authority is actively participating with partners and stakeholders to address the recommendations from the audit report.

Wimmera Waterway Strategy

In 2015 the Wimmera Waterway Strategy 2014-22 received Ministerial approval. It is now being implemented as the eight year action plan for achieving long-term goals for the regions' waterways under the Wimmera RCS.

Enhanced Engagement

This year Wimmera CMA has adopted an enhanced engagement framework designed to improve its performance and meet its obligations for stakeholder and community engagement under Wimmera CMA's Statement of Obligations for the *Water Act 1989* and the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System certification

During this period the Wimmera CMA received certification of its Quality Management System under ISO9001:2008. This system ensures Wimmera CMA has an ongoing commitment to quality assurance and continuous improvement.

Floodplain Management Association

Wimmera CMA was successful in becoming the first Victorian CMA to be accepted into the National Floodplain Management Association.

Victorian Government Initiatives

Wimmera CMA has contributed to the development of the Regional Riparian Action Plan and a number of other Victorian waterway actions under the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy through the Victorian Waterway managers' forum and associated sub-committees.

Deliver \$7.5M of NRM projects

In 2014/15 Wimmera CMA successfully delivered 7.5 million dollars of Natural Resource Management projects working with a range of partners and community members to deliver on-ground works that contribute to the priorities outlined in our Regional Catchment Strategy and our vision of 'a healthy Wimmera catchment where a resilient landscape supports a sustainable and profitable community'.

Details of these projects and their achievements are outlined in the Catchment Condition section of this report.

National Landcare Programme

During 2014/15 Wimmera CMA worked with our Australian Government representatives and stakeholders to facilitate and manage the transition to the National Landcare Programme. This transition saw the completion of a number of Caring for our Country projects and the development of a detailed Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement framework.

Fire Recovery

In 2014/15 Wimmera CMA continued to work with landholders to undertake the rehabilitation and reinstatement of key environmental assets damaged as a result of the January 2014 Grampians – Northern Complex Fire.

In January 2015 the region was impacted by another large bushfire in the Moytson area which burnt approximately 5000ha. As a result of having the delivery mechanisms established and funding in place from the Grampians Fire Wimmera CMA were able to respond quickly and work with landholders to start recovery works.

Future Initiatives

Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy

Wimmera CMA will continue to work with the State Government in the development of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (VFMS).

In 2015-16 Wimmera CMA will begin developing a Regional Floodplain Management Strategy under the VFMS. Wimmera CMA will take a lead role in developing guidelines for regional strategies across the State.

Upgrade of Sever Infrastructure

In the ensuing year the Authority will update its server and storage infrastructure. This upgrade together with the personal computing upgrade to operating systems, software and hardware undertaken will ensure the Authority has a modern up to date computing infrastructure well into the future.

Catchment condition report

Executive summary

Highlight, challenges and observations

Low rainfall in 2014/15 had some impact on the finishing of crops. This combined with some severe frosts meant that yields and quality in many situation were well below expectations. If not for the innovative practices adopted by many Wimmera farmers the results may have been much worse.

Low rainfalls also led to well below average inflows to Wimmera Rivers, streams and wetlands for the second year in a row. Environmental water releases were critical in maintaining water levels in a number of waterways so aquatic flora and fauna could persist. Waterways such as Upper Mt William Creek, lower Wimmera River and Burnt Creek would have likely experienced fish deaths, blue green algae and vegetation decline if environmental water was not available. This water also allowed old and new social and recreational pursuits to develop and prosper, such as the reinvigorated Jeparit fishing contest that was a great success.

If low rainfall is experienced again this year the short term outlook for water releases may not be so good and we will be restricted to providing water to refuges pools only. Since the floods of 2011 rehabilitation work undertaken by the community and government investment has created a level of resilience so when good rainfall returns the ecosystem can bounce back.

Fire continues to play a significant part in our landscape as we again experienced large fires in the Moyston area. A recovery program was implemented to support landholders. Wimmera CMA, with the assistance of Project Platypus and DEWLP assisted landholder reinstate damaged riparian fences that had previously been established to protect native vegetation and waterways.

Wimmera CMA gained Ministerial approval the Wimmera Waterway Strategy 2014-2022 (WWS). The WWS sets an eight year regional work program for wetlands, rivers and streams aimed at achieving the objectives of the Regional Catchment Strategy. We have progressed the development of our Carbon Ready Plan (CRP) to a working draft that is currently being reviewed by stakeholders. The CRP sets out a series of priority actions designed to meet the objectives of the RCS for soils, native vegetation and threatened species. It complements the WWS by establishing mechanisms for the climate change mitigation and adaptation for all natural assets. We have tested and applied the plans logic against a number of current projects and hope to implement it fully in 2016 following stakeholder and community consultation.

Weeds continue to be a major concern for our landholders. African Love Grass and Fleabane are continuing to be a concern in many communities. With local farmers' adoption of minimum and zero till they've also had to adopt new weed control strategies (change in herbicide use, reliance on glyphosate). Fleabane however is glyphosate-resistant making it even more difficult to manage. In the coming years government, industry and the community will need to work together to tackle this threat. In 2015/16 the review of the Wimmera Invasive Pest Plant and Animal Strategy is due.

Just over 7% of North Wimmera Cropland Management Transect paddocks were burnt in autumn 2015, up from 5% recorded in autumn 2014. Burning has made a modest re-emergence in the past few years as landholders use a number of techniques to battle herbicide resistant weed and pests such as snails, slugs and mice. Through our engagement programs we have heard that landholders seek ongoing support to experiment and trial innovative methods to manage these issues and other including problem wildlife such as kangaroos and corellas.

Wimmera CMA continues to work with local government, emergency service agencies and the community to improve flood information across the region. Flood investigations in the Mt William Creek Catchment (including Pomonal and Dadswells Bridge) and the Upper Catchment (including Landsborough and Navarre) have been completed and new investigations in Warracknabeal/Brim, the lower Wimmera River and the Dunmunkle Creek have commenced. The information resulting from these investigations is vital in ensuring the community, emergency services agencies and local government can plan, prepare and respond to flooding efficiently and effectively. Wimmera CMA has also become the first Victorian CMA accepted into the Flood Management Association.

Wimmera CMA has also been called upon by the relevant planning authorities to provide input into a number of large development proposals including: the WIM150 mineral sands mine south of Horsham, a proposed dump site at Kanagulk and major roads projects. In each case Wimmera CMA has provided significant information and advice in relation to surface and ground water factors and the risks associated, including flooding and water quality.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Reporting on RCS Implementation

Wimmera CMA's Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) describes a collection of targets aimed at improving environmental condition in the Wimmera region. The RCS sets 20 year objectives for each asset type and six year management measures or targets.

For each thematic asset type, Wimmera CMA has linked the defined DEWLP standard outputs to the RCS objectives and management measures. The aim of this is to monitor, evaluate and report against the RCS.

As Wimmera CMA's projects are designed to incorporate integrated catchment management, standard outputs achieved in one project, may be relevant to multiple management measures. For the purpose of this report we have assigned the outcome to the most relevant assets.

The results of this process are summarised below, by asset type. For simplicity, the outcomes relating the management measures addressed this financial year are provided, but only a summary of the objectives achieved will be reported in this Catchment Condition Report.



Native Vegetation

RCS twenty-year objectives for native vegetation

1. Improve the management of existing native vegetation classes.
2. Strategically revegetate with indigenous species.
3. Bring 30,000 hectares (45 percent) of endangered vegetation on private land under ongoing and recognised best practice management standards.

RCS Implementation

The Native Vegetation actions were considered to align well with the RCS Objectives and Management Measures. Standard Outputs contributed to all Objectives and all Management Measures except numbers three and six. This was expected, as no native vegetation projects during this financial year were funded to specifically address disease threats or roadside pests although there was some work carried out by partner organisations.

Below is a summary of some of the activities delivered by Wimmera CMA which contributed to the Native Vegetation Management Measures during 2014-15.

RCS six-year management measures

Taking into consideration the condition, trends and threats to native vegetation, the following six-year management measures have been developed to deliver the twenty-year objectives for native vegetation health:

1. Update and review the Wimmera Native Vegetation Plan, with an aim to provide greater flexibility and strategic thinking in offset requirements under planning schemes, particularly for single paddock trees, connectivity and biolinks.

Note: At the time the Measures were developed, this Plan was highly relevant, however it has become redundant as a result of changes to the permitted clearing processes. The Wimmera CMA has developed a draft Carbon Ready Plan (CRP), which meets the objectives of this Measure.

2. Actively protect high conservation value native vegetation from threatening processes and sustain its conservation values.
 - 127.2 km of fencing established, installed, maintained and/or modified on private land
 - 1278.21 ha of woody and non-woody weed control conducted on private land, through partnerships
3. Ensure current biosecurity approaches adequately address disease threats.
 - No outputs to report this financial year.

4. Improve coordination with government agencies, local governments, industry groups, landholders and others for landscape-scale planning and planting of native vegetation, including revegetation activities.

- 1663.56 ha of ecological assessments conducted on private land, where landholders engaged with project facilitators and were educated about landscape-scale vegetation activities
- 194.38 ha of property assessments on private land, where project facilitators educated landholders about landscape-scale vegetation activities
- 633.83 ha of native vegetation permanently protected under covenant land

5. Continue to implement the Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy, and communicate information on activities and success to the broader community.

- 1488.96 ha of woody and non-woody weed control conducted on private land, through partnerships
- 9751.18 ha of terrestrial pest animal control conducted across the region, through partnerships. This included works on public land

6. Implement recommendations of the report by the independent group on roadside management.

- No outputs to report on actions by Wimmera CMA this financial year, however Local Government actions are likely to have contributed to this Measure.

7. Develop an action plan that will address potential increase in carbon sequestration activities through native vegetation actions.

- Development of the draft CRP, targeting carbon sequestration in the whole of Wimmera CMA region

Regional investment and management

Australian Government funded:

Threatened Vegetation Communities Protection and Enhancement

The objective of the project is to increase the protection and enhancement of Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act listed vegetation communities on private land in the Wimmera Bioregion through conservation tenders. Coordinated planning and engagement to deliver the tenders involved Wimmera CMA, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, the Indigenous community, local government, and Trust for Nature. Tenders awarded funds to local landholders for on-ground works, primarily invasive plant and animal control and fencing, to enable landholders to better manage threats to the ecological condition of EPBC listed communities in the Wimmera – Buloke Woodlands, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands, Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plain, and Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains. As part of the tender process training and education in best practice conservation and land management will be provided to landholders; Achievements included:

- Tender incentives were run across three different rounds targeting Buloke Woodlands, Grey box Woodlands and Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands;
- 891 hectares of native vegetation managed including weed and pest control.

NRM Plan for Climate Change 2014-15

Wimmera CMA has developed a working draft of its NRM Plan for Climate Change, to be known as the Wimmera Carbon Ready Plan. Achievements this year included:

- Attendance at state-wide CMA forum meetings- investigating collaborations and opportunities for developing consistency.
- Participated as a member of a steering committee that has oversight of a contract to assess vulnerable natural assets to climate change. All progress and financial reports were submitted on time. Two draft for the Plan we submitted for Australian Government review.
- Part 2 of stakeholder consultation took place to refine and clarify concepts.
- Spatial mapping occurred to identify priority areas for native vegetation work for climate change mitigation.
- Rules drafted to ensure maximum benefit of climate change actions and to manage any perverse outcomes. Many of these rules have been tested with stakeholders including CFA, Landcare and local government.
- Actions have been developed through literature assessment, local expert opinions and stakeholder input.

Victorian Government funded:

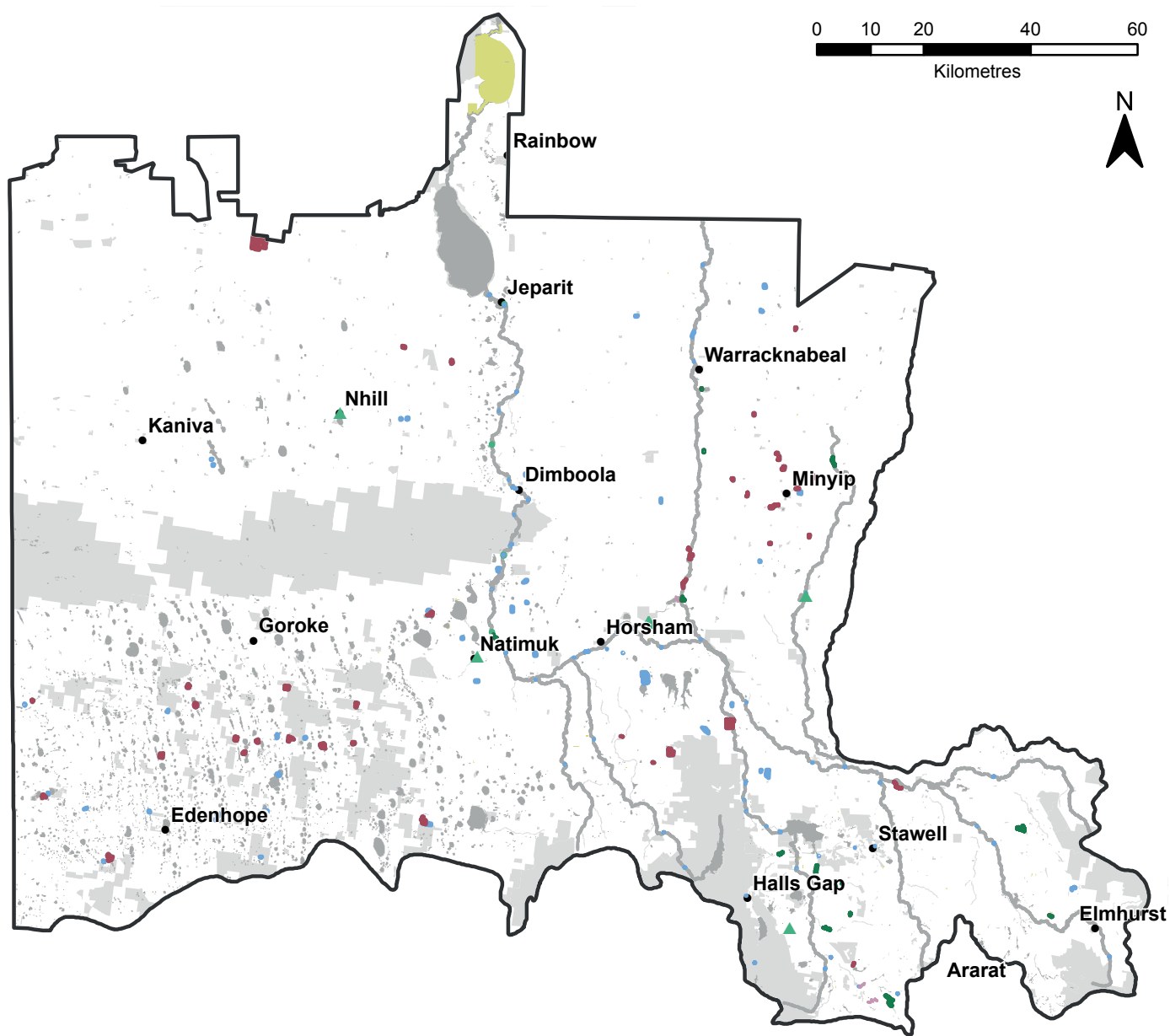
Habitat Tender

Delivered in partnership with Glenelg Hopkins CMA, this project

delivered a conservation tender to link forests of the south-western Victoria to the Mallee. Achievements included:

- Ninety seven expressions of interest being received resulting in 119 sites being assessed totalling over 9500ha.
- Tender evaluation bids were submitted for 76 sites totalling over 8000ha.
- Forty five sites under contract totalling 5660ha across the Wimmera & Glenelg Hopkins CMA regions.
- 4778ha of this was through sites in the Wimmera CMA region.
- Six new sites were permanently protected through Trust for Nature covenants totalling 978ha across both regions, three of these were in the Wimmera and covered 679 hectares.
- Two of the Wimmera CMA sites under tender agreement will be consolidated into one much larger covenant.

Wimmera CMA's Native Vegetation activities for 2014-15



Legend

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| ■ Incentive Site Assessments | ■ Incentive Revegetation | ■ Incentive Management Agreements |
| ■ RAMSAR Rabbit Control | ● Flora Surveys | |
| ▲ Native Vegetation Events | — Fire Recovery Fencing | |

Key achievements by partner organisations

A number of other organisations have contributed to the management of native vegetation. Some are outlined above as partnerships with Wimmera CMA. Other examples include:

Greening Australia (GA) conducted many activities aimed at delivering native vegetation outcomes.

The Habitat 141^o partnership continued co-ordination, planning and promotion including:

- Completion of the Habitat 141 whole of landscape plan and endorsement by the Habitat 141 Alliance
- Completion of Habitat 141 strategic plan which is endorsed by the Habitat 141 Alliance
- Habitat 141 website updated with improved wording and justification around the vision
- Downloadable Habitat 141 brochure made available to all
- Organisation of Habitat 141 Landscape Plan Launch at the Little Desert Nature Lodge
- Habitat 141 Wimmera Rivers, Woodlands and Wetlands annual stakeholder gathering held
- Monthly email communications maintained within the Habitat 141 Wimmera Rivers, Woodlands and Wetlands stakeholder group
- The Handbury Fund allows Greening Australia staff to dedicate time to partnership development, promotional activities and to participate in policy reviews that are relevant to Habitat 141
- Presentation on Habitat 141 given to Horsham Rural City Council
- Participation and submission to Horsham Rural City Council's review of Municipal Strategic Statement
- Greening Australia Habitat 141 webpage updated

The *Alcoa* 1 Million Trees project delivered in partnership with GA achieved:

- 20ha direct seeding within the Nurcoung Mallee fowl Corridor, with follow up planting planned in the new financial year
- Property restoration plans prepared, site preparation underway and plant and seed orders commissioned and paid for. Totalling 56 hectares across the Rainbow, Kaniva and Nurcoung district

The Habitat 141^o - Citizen Science engagement – Nurcoung Mallee fowl Corridor delivered three community events including:

- Two days with the Green Army – we achieved 90 hectares of private area searched and three new Mallee fowl mounds found
- 40 hectares of the Northern section of the Nurcoung Flora and Fauna reserve searched and two new mounds found
- 20 individuals engaged
- National Mallee fowl Recovery database updated

Trust for Nature (TFN)

An ongoing partnership between Bankmecu, TFN, Kowree Tree Farm Group and Landcare Australia continues to protect and restore native vegetation and habitat and connect areas of native vegetation. Achievements this year included:

- Approximately 20 Ha of revegetation by direct seeding. Minimay
- Back filling failure areas with approximately 500 seedlings at Ozenkadnook
- Ongoing pest plant and animal control with a focus species Bridal Creeper at Ozenkadnook.
- Bankmecu staff, local Community and schools tree planting day. Minimay
- Removal of invasive Cootamundra wattle and *Pinus radiata* from Stringybark at Ozenkadnook
- Destruction and treatment of rabbit warrens at Boorookpi.

The TFNs Green Army Protect aims to restore Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat in the Wimmera. Achievements in 2014-15 include:

- Mapped weed and rabbit invasion in native vegetation across 5 conservation covenants totaling over 1000 Ha.
- Treated and destroyed rabbit warrens across 1150 Ha hectares
- Delivered manual weed control of WONS Bone seed across 200 Ha of native vegetation at Nurcoung (cross tenure covenant, private non-protected, public land and roadside)
- Mapped Bridal Creeper invasions/locations roadside and covenant land.
- Delivered manual weed control of Sallow Wattle, one covenant Wartook Valley.
- Removed guards and re-guarded hundreds of Buloke seedlings at Snape Reserve.

TfNs two reserves, Wimmera Snape Reserve and Mt Elgin Swamp Reserve, contribute to the protected area within the Wimmera. Committees of Management and TFN work collaboratively to deliver education and awareness, threatened species management, pest plant and animal control, nesting box installation, revegetation, indigenous engagement and protection of culturally significant sites. Key outputs this year include:

- 600 hectares of weed control at Snape Reserve and ongoing rabbit warren destruction.
- Pulse grazing at Mt Elgin Swamp Reserve (300 Ha) to remove biomass, improve NV structure and reduce invasion by exotic grasses (wild oats, Rye grass, Veldt grass) and 300 hectares of rabbit control in partnership with the Sporting Shooters Association.
- <5 ha of naturally recovering Lignum and Red Gum, as a result of ongoing rabbit control.

DEWLP implemented the Victorian Biodiversity Assessment Guidelines and in doing so:

- Provided input into 25 Statutory Planning referrals involving the removal of native vegetation. Applications considered against decision guidelines and recommendations on level of impact and adequacy of proposed offsetting made to the relevant Regional Planning Authority.
- Provided support to Wimmera Local Government networks with quarterly "Local Government Planners" meetings chaired by DELWP to discuss current issues and initiatives.
- Attendance to Wimmera Machinery Field Days to liaise with members of the public, through verbal and written communication (fact sheets and handouts) to promote controls on the removal of native vegetation.
- Conducted environmental awareness sessions with Local Government Authorities to improve field crew knowledge and understanding of protecting roadside vegetation during maintenance and road improvement procedures.
- Provided pre-planning input to projects (such as the Murra-Warra and Bulgana Windfarms) with the potential for significant native vegetation / biodiversity impacts.
- Provided input to major projects via the Environmental Effects Statement process, such as the WIM 150 mineral sand mine.
- Conducted site visits and commented on proposed extractive industries.
- Provided technical assistance to Local Government Authorities investigating unauthorised native vegetation removal cases.
- Cooperated with the Federal Department of the Environment in their investigations of matters potentially impacting on matters of national environmental significance.
- Assessed and processed applications to remove native vegetation under the MOU for Vic Roads and Local Government.

Condition

Trends

The Wimmera Environmental Accounts showed that in 2010 the extent of terrestrial assets was about 28% of pre-European settlement. The remaining extent was of relatively good condition, with an average condition score of 0.69 (out of 1).

An increase in the detection of unauthorised removal of native

vegetation was recorded by DELWP this year, with over 300 trees and more than 20Ha of native vegetation removal occurring throughout the region. It is believed this is more likely to be a result of improved surveillance, vigilance and understanding from the community than actual increases in illegal clearing. A large portion of this clearing is being reported in the West Wimmera Shire. Reports are coming from the public, Local Governments and DELWP staff. Local Government are issuing Penalty Infringement Notices (PIN) and requiring offsets in some circumstances. Other Local Government Authorities need support to follow up on such activities and enforce penalties.

Permanent protection through covenants is becoming more challenging. The reasons for this and possible solutions need further investigation.

Trust for Nature (TFN) has observed that in the long term and short-term that large sites of native vegetation with good landscape context and connectivity have greater resilience than smaller fragmented areas. This applies both in terms of direct threats and edge effects from adjacent areas (pest plants and animals) and in terms of ecological process. Larger areas with a level of ecological function recover better naturally even with the known threats, whereas as smaller and more heavily modified land requires more active and sustained conservation effort to achieve ecological function. This is supported through evidence from observations, experience managing conservation programs, knowledge of the region and data.

General trend at TFN reserves is one of continuous improvement in extent and quality of native vegetation. Snape Reserve is an outstanding example of landscape scale recovery both naturally and by revegetation methods.

Long term efforts to control Weeds of National Significance (WONS) by landholders and relevant authorities have seen substantial improvement, in native vegetation health, for example the Nurcoun area.

Threats

The major threat to native vegetation continues to be land-use change. This includes EPBC listed threatened ecological communities on private land where incompatible land management practices result in these communities being destroyed or degraded.

A significant threat to native vegetation continues to be unauthorised clearance which is increasingly being reported.

A significant case where a large number of Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) trees were removed, has been referred to Federal Officers from the Department of the Environment recently, due to the importance of nesting habitat for Red Tail Black Cockatoos. A site visit by the officers has occurred and this case is still open at present. (DELWP 2015)

Predicted climate changes scenarios are likely to exacerbate the current threats to native vegetation. Long periods of drought, extreme temperatures and severe fires coupled with other threats such as weeds have been observed to impact on some of the Wimmera native vegetation communities, particularly around the Grampians and along waterways. Also the longer the delay in delivering priority revegetation projects the more challenging the task may be under lower rainfall scenarios.

A number of areas of native vegetation have been severely affected by rabbits both on private and public land, for example the Jilpanger and Tooan areas. There has been an increase in the severity of impacts on understory vegetation from rabbits.

Deer are increasingly being observed on small and more isolated areas which introduces in some areas a relatively 'new' threat. In previous years they were normally seen in core areas or patches that connected with large core area habitat like National Parks and State Forest.

The emergence of African Lovegrass is a concern to many land managers. Though it has been present in the Wimmera for some time, western highway infestations are now numerous and threatening many types of native vegetation and tenures of surrounding land. Land managers have been alerted to its presence, identification and threat level. It does not affect all parts of Wimmera presently but could do so, adapting easily to various soil types and with the potential of invading high quality remnant vegetation. Its aggressive nature limits other species and hence biodiversity. The biomass it creates is a harbour for vermin and increased fire risk.

Challenges and Opportunities

A persistent challenge is to secure the ongoing viability of threatened ecological communities by continuing to educate and assist landholders to undertake appropriate management measures. The continual high number of expressions of interest and landholder interest in native vegetation programs indicates that landholders are still willing and interested in undertaking projects to protect and enhance native vegetation on their properties.

The lack of available native vegetation offsets in the broker system within the Wimmera CMA area means that some LGAs and other organisations are having difficulty finding suitable offsets. DELWP is encouraging LGAs to secure offsets for their requirements. The CMA may also be able to play a role in facilitating offsets through their range of incentive programs.

Opportunities for the Wimmera to participate in carbon sequestration programs may eventuate. The challenge for the community is to understand these opportunities but also to ensure that they can navigate their way through the government's certification processes.

The Wimmera Carbon Ready Plan provides the opportunity to prioritise actions and locations for native vegetation actions that sequesters carbon. The draft plan also sets out conditions to ensure that native vegetation restoration actions do not impact on other community values. With the support of stakeholder consultation Wimmera CMA has developed protocols and mapping that will help manage challenges associated with large scale planting of native vegetation, in particular, fire management, water resources, public infrastructure and utilities, high quality agricultural land and future residential and industrial development and subdivisions.

There are ongoing opportunities for private and corporate investment into Habitat 141. The challenge is to demonstrate alignment with current government policy settings to take advantage of investment opportunities. Habitat 141 and its partner organisations need to progressively look to a broad range of

funding options to meet its objectives

Ongoing coordinated effort across land tenures is required to maintain the good work achieved through previous invasive pest plant and animal control efforts. This is vital to ensure that previous investments are secure.

Seed availability for native revegetation projects is a challenge as is the threat to our remnant vegetation from the increased pressure of seed collection. Given the demand there may be a need to develop seed production areas to support ongoing revegetation projects. This may also be overcome by continually improving the records of revegetation sites so that they can become reliable seed collection sites.

There is a need to find new or different ways to encourage landholder interest in permanent protection of native vegetation. One way may be to demonstrate ongoing stewardship support that assist landholders to manage threats to native vegetation on their property on an ongoing basis. A review of process and mechanisms to secure permanent protection on private land may be warranted.

Threatened plants and animals

RCS twenty-year objectives for threatened plants and animals

1. Demonstrate actions leading to improving the status of 20 percent of listed species occurring in the region.
2. Improve community awareness of local threatened species.
3. Improve coordination of communication and availability of information between agencies and the community to maximise benefits for threatened species.

RCS Implementation

Threatened Plants and Animals activities were considered to have moderate alignment with the RCS this financial year. Projects contributed to all Objectives, however Measures four and eight were not directly addressed. As mentioned in the Rivers and Streams section, other actions from partner organisations are likely to RCS outcomes and management measures.

Below is a summary of some of the activities which contributed to the Threatened Plants and Animals Measures during 2014-15.

RCS six-year management measures

Taking into consideration the condition, trends and threats to threatened plants & animals, the following six-year management measures have been developed to deliver the twenty-year objectives for threatened species:

1. Continue to support on-ground actions to reduce threats at specific sites.
 - Various threatened species recovery activities conducted by DELWP (funded by Wimmera CMA): pest control, seed collection, weed control, threatened species surveys and caging
2. Participate in the development of a statewide framework to improve the prioritisation of threatened species work and the communication of success.
 - A range of terrestrial threatened species recovery activities conducted by DELWP (Wimmera CMA funded) to help monitor and manage threatened species: pest control, seed collection, weed control, threatened species surveys and caging
3. Continue to implement WIPAMs to manage pest plant and animals and disease
 - 1488.96 ha of woody and non-woody weed control conducted on private land, through partnerships
 - 9751.18 ha of terrestrial pest animal control conducted across the region, through partnerships. This included works on public land

4. Ensure current biosecurity approaches adequately address disease threats.

- No outputs to report this financial year.

5. Undertake educational programs to improve community involvement and awareness of threatened plants and animals and the relevant threatening processes.

- Two public field days: one established; 'Chris Humfrey and the Live Action Zoo' and one sponsored; the Grampians Wildflower Show 2014
- Two EPBC Act informative public workshops co-ordinated
- Four publications produced; advertising for engagement events, and a media release for an upcoming raptor project targeting Corella management. Additionally, one publication sponsored: the book titled 'Birds and Plants of the Little Desert: A Photographic Guide' by Ian Morgan, Maree Goods and Graham Goods

6. Identify flagship species and ecological communities to promote landscape-scale habitat protection and improvement work.

- Two advertising publications produced, for events helping to promote and identify threatened species. Additionally, one publication sponsored: the book titled 'Birds and Plants of the Little Desert: A Photographic Guide' by Ian Morgan, Maree Goods and Graham Goods

7. Support and participate in existing networks to maximise information flow between agencies (e.g. recovery teams).

- Advertising publications produced for EPBC Act engagement events
- Maintained networks with DELWP, via Wimmera CMA-funded threatened species recovery activities

8. Establish and maintain a regional threatened species advisory committee that reports to the Wimmera CMA Board and includes representatives from key agencies.

Note: At the time the Measures were developed, advisory committees for all assets were active. Under the Enhanced Engagement Framework community and stakeholder representatives will be targeted for participation. As a result, there are no outputs to report this financial year.

9. Ensure that spatial information on threatened species is accessible and used by local governments and fire managers, so that these species are routinely accounted for in planning and operations.

- Wimmera CMA-funded threatened species projects, conducted by DELWP, produced spatial data which will be incorporated into the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas, for use by governments and the public

10. Implement actions that directly lead to improving the status of listed threatened species, with a focus on propagating and reintroducing flora species.

- A range of terrestrial threatened species recovery activities conducted by Royal Botanic Gardens and Australian Network for Plant Conservation (Wimmera CMA funded project): orchid re-introduction plans prepared for seven species, of which four species were prepared and approved by the Translocation Evaluation Panel
- Re-introduction of 410 *Caladenia xanthochila* orchids to private covenanted property through partnerships
- Successful mycorrhiza and seed propagation of five species of federally listed orchid species by the Royal Botanic Gardens and Australian Network for Plant Conservation (Wimmera CMA funded project)
- A range of terrestrial threatened species recovery activities conducted by DELWP (Wimmera CMA funded) helped monitor and manage threatened species: pest control, seed collection, weed control, threatened species surveys and caging

Regional investment and management

Australian Government funded:

Sustainable Environment Part A - Threatened Species

A partnership between Wimmera CMA, DELWP, Parks Victoria, ANPC and Birdlife designed at improving outcomes for EPBC listed threatened species.

Threatened flora activities included:

- One prescribed burn was completed on 28.3 hectares to manage the habitat of the Spiny Rice-Flower and Turnip Copperburr;
- Successful supplementary translocation of Jumping-jack Wattle at a previous translocation site to provide genetic diversity;
- Numerous plant surveys and monitoring was conducted for a range of plant species;
- Seed was collected from the Avenue Cassinia (*Cassinia tegulata*) sole population and two private property locations for Forked Spyridium (*Spyridium furculentum*).
- Habitat quality was improved for Wimmera Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens* subsp. *pubiflora*) through slashing and small scale burning on a 10 hectare reserve near Minyip;
- Continued propagation and maintenance of orchid species and updating of translocation plans in preparation for reintroduction in 2015/16.
- Multiple community groups and local organisations were involved in engagement or facilitation activities, including but not limited to the CFA, DELWP, Parks Victoria, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, Yarriambiack Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council, Hindmarsh Shire Council, Horsham Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, the state-wide *Pimelea spinescens* Recovery

Group, Wimmera Native Nursery, Trust for Nature, Greening Australia, VicRoads, and private landholders.

- Numerous engagement and communication activities were conducted including media releases, field days, newsletter articles, volunteer flora surveys, CFA volunteer prescribed burns, Recovery Team meetings,

Threatened fauna activities included:

- Golden Sun Moth recovery:
 - One news article on the success of ecological burning at Salisbury Bushland Reserve;
 - One draft brochure produced promoting the uniqueness of the Nhill-Salisbury populations of Golden Sun Moth (GSM) and the “story so far” of what has happened to the populations in the last decade;
 - Two events delivered to raise community awareness (support land managers, community groups or field days).
 - Twelve hectares managed to improve GSM habitat on Salisbury Bushland Reserve to improve including: a 1.5Ha ecological burn and 12 hectares of rabbit and weed control.
 - Five surveys undertaken to identify suitable habitat.
 - South- Eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery Plan’
 - Habitat and population monitoring found a total of 1545 birds, 77 more birds than the previous best tally of 1468 in 2012

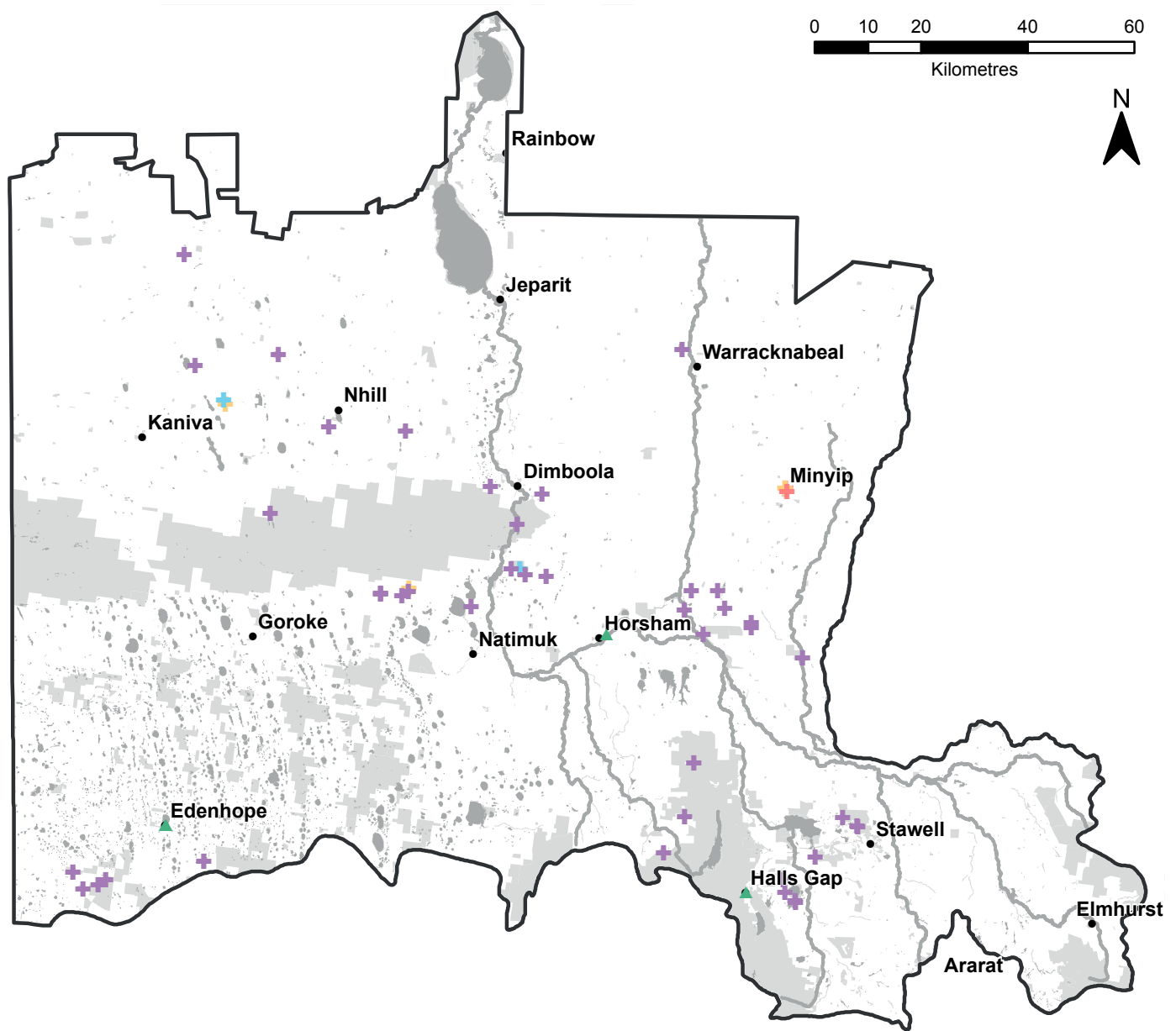
Key achievements by partner organisations

A number of other organisations have contributed to the management of threatened plants and animals. Some are outlined above as partnerships with Wimmera CMA. Other examples include:

TFN carried out a range of activities of benefit to threatened plants and animals including:

- Two new discoveries of Mallee Fowl on covenants, that are recovering cleared land in the north west of the region.
- Covenants established over known habitat for Brolga, likely habitat of Growling Grass-frog and EPBC Grey Box and derived Grassy Woodland community.
- Hundreds of hectares of Red tailed Black Cockatoo habitat protected through control of pest plant and animals including, rabbits, boneseed, and bridal creeper.
- Provision of habitat for the reintroduction and protection of EPBC listed orchids.
- Discovery of Wimmera Woodruff in Snape Reserve.
- Pest plant and animal control in TFN owned reserves.

Wimmera CMA's Threatened Plants and Animals activities for 2014-15



Legend

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
|  Threatened Species Events |  Fencing |  Surveys and Monitoring Activities |
|  Seed Collection |  Invasive Species Control | |

Condition

Trends

The use of iconic species such as the Mallee fowl or RtBC make it easier to gain support from the community to manage and protect habitat. It seems to be of interest and easy to get people involved in activities.

Overall Mallee fowl monitoring undertaken via the Victorian Mallee fowl Recovery Group has shown that Mallee fowl are moving out of the Little Desert National Park. Private land and crown land reserves are increasing important habitat for this species as they often require long-unburnt habitat. (GA 2015)

TfN covenant and stewardship records for some (if not all) threatened species suggests good indicators of short-term trends. It should be noted that while TfN anecdotal records are valuable, are recorded in key locations and are not a reliable indicator of the wider trends that come from annual surveys and counts. Sightings and discoveries (some new) have occurred for RtBC and Mallee Fowl in 14-15. Painted Dragon was also recorded in a fauna survey at Lawloit in 14-15. (TFN 2015)

Threats

Lack of habitat and fragmentation due to historical clearing is still the main threat facing many threatened species. The benefits too many species through the re-instatement of new habitat are yet to be quantified, however it is hoped that increasing our current knowledge of local populations (baseline data) will allow future research to occur in this area. (GA)

The decline in quality of native vegetation is also a significant threat. This is commonly caused by edge effect and invasive species. Commonly this is non-declared and non-WONS species which are highly invasive and change the vegetation structure and can be ecosystem changing. Veldt Grass, Tall Wheat-grass, Phalaris and Wild Oats are examples of this. Native Sallow Wattle is a woody example. Declared weeds and WONS (TFN 2015)

Inappropriate fire regimes can impact on many threatened species. Good communication and goodwill to co-operate and share information between agencies is the best tactic to achieve good outcomes via integrated management. (GA 2015)

Challenges and Opportunities

Emerging carbon markets may provide an opportunity to drive habitat improvement efforts through revegetation and native vegetation management efforts. For example 150 hectares of revegetation between Mt. Arapiles and the Little Desert National Park (Nurcoun) has been funded via the voluntary carbon market. The challenge is also having a streamlined legal framework that supports new industries such as carbon farmers.

There is a great opportunity for the Nurcoun Malleefowl Corridor to be written up as a case study looking at the landscape impact of returning connectivity to an area. (GA 2015)

Projects which focus Threatened Species conservation can be used to secure outcomes for multiple benefits. Using iconic species as the driver, many priority actions can be delivered where this is done is collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders. The private protected area estate in the Wimmera is large and in some cases very well connected with public land. Outcomes for threatened species can be achieved by appropriate management of habitat in areas that are not formally protected that contribute to these connections. (TFN 2015)

In 2014-15, Wimmera Landcarers brought TV personality and wildlife guru Chris Humphry to the Wimmera as part of the Wimmera Community Landcare Celebration. Chris is a passionate presenter and through his many activities has raised the profile of Australia's native wildlife. He attracted over 530 people to the event. Events such as these provide a great opportunity to engage a broad spectrum of the Wimmera community in natural asset management. Community partnerships played a key role in the success of this event.

Wetlands

RCS twenty-year objectives for wetlands

1. Wetlands with recognised conservation significance are protected and sustained. These include:
 - Lake Albacutya Ramsar site
 - Fourteen wetlands listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia
 - Wetlands that are known to provide habitat for migratory birds and threatened species
 - Seasonal herbaceous wetlands (freshwater) of the temperate lowland plains
2. The rate of decline in freshwater meadows and shallow freshwater marshes is decreased, as these meadows and marshes are under the greatest threat.
3. Wetlands continue to provide social, environmental and economic benefits valued by the community.

RCS Implementation

The Wetlands asset activities were considered to have excellent alignment with the RCS this financial year, as projects contributed to all Objectives and Measures. *Note:* As Objectives two and three are specific to certain wetland types, these are spatially determined. Only some Standard Outputs will apply under these, which explains why there may be some difference in statistics quoted in the Measures below.

Below is a summary of some of the activities which contributed to the Wetlands Measures during 2014-15.

RCS six-year management measures

Taking into consideration the condition, trends and threats to wetlands, the following six-year management measures have been developed to deliver the twenty-year objectives for wetland health:

1. Review, measure and implement waterway strategies.
 - Water delivered to wetlands as part of Seasonal Watering Plans, covering a total area of 87.75 ha
2. Actively protect wetlands with recognised conservation significance from threatening processes and sustain their conservation values.
 - 275.6 ha of private land placed under binding non-perpetual management agreements
 - Water regimes under Seasonal Watering Plans delivered water to significant wetlands, over a total area of 33.91 ha
3. Actively promote wetland protection.
 - 592.05 ha of ecological assessments conducted on private land, where landholders engaged with project facilitators and were educated about wetland protection activities
 - Attended the Wimmera Mallee Field days, providing information on the Wetland Protection incentive program to the public

4. Assist land managers to permanently protect and manage freshwater meadows and shallow fresh water marshes according to best practice.

- As per management measure two.

5. Increase the number of land managers implementing best practice wetland management.

- 428.67 ha of private land placed under binding non-perpetual management agreements

6. Prevent negative impacts to wetlands from new developments and land-use change by working with local governments and Department of Transport, Planning and Local infrastructure to implement wetland-specific planning scheme overlays.

- Continued negotiations to established the Horsham Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) plan for high value wetlands
- Advice provided for 12 referral responses in relation to ESO referrals

7. Review, update and implement the Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site Strategic Management Plan.

- Partnerships established through development of three projects, which were aimed at protecting and/or managing Lake Albacutya

Regional investment and management

Australian Government funded:

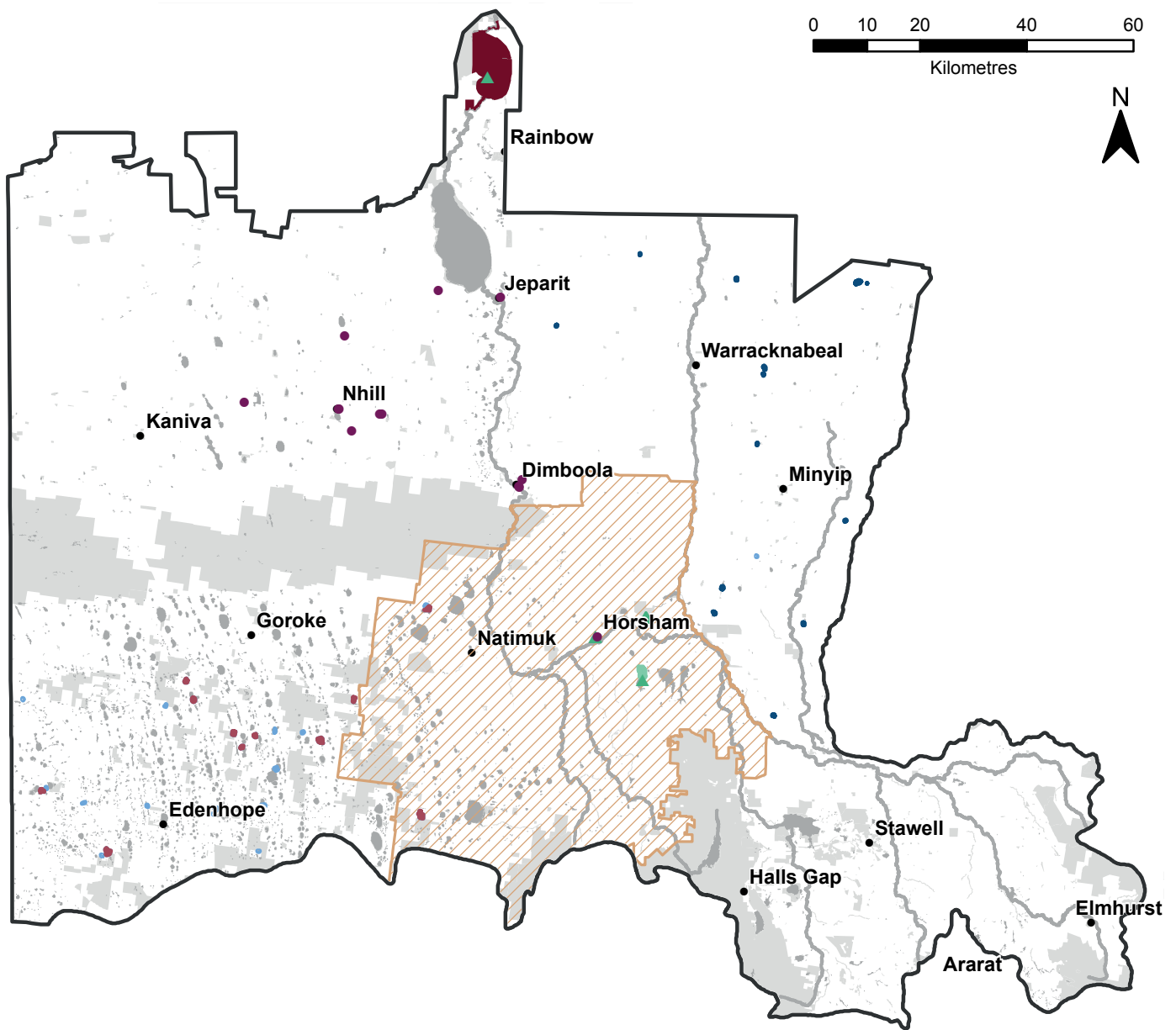
Protecting Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site

The aims of the project are to Enhance the ecological character of the Ramsar listed Lake Albacutya by maintaining and improving recruitment and regeneration opportunities for 559 hectares of Pine-Buloke vegetation communities recognised as culturally sensitive. It also aims to demonstrate an increase in community awareness and understanding of the Lake Albacutya Ramsar site cultural heritage values and their protection.

Achievements include:

- Seedling abundance and regeneration survey conducted.
- Rabbit spot transect survey conducted.
- BGLC works crews engaged to assist with and deliver a number of the activities including fumigation of 353 rabbit warrens over 5340 hectares and rabbit surveys.
- Four Indigenous people trained.

Wimmera CMA's Wetland activities for 2014-15



Legend

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Dock Lake Flow Study | Incentive Site Assessments | Incentive Management Agreements |
| RAMSAR Rabbit Control | Wetland Management Plans | Proposed Horsham ESO Development |
| Wetland Events | ESO Referrals | |

Victorian Government funded:

Thriving Community Wetlands 2014-15

This project seeks to ensure that Wimmera wetlands continue to provide substantial economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits to the Victorian and Wimmera communities. The project's objective is to protect, enhance and restore wetlands that are highly valued by the community. Achievements include:

- Twenty expressions of interest were received;
- Eleven sites were assessed covering 234 hectares;
- Four wetland management agreements were established over 162 hectares, one of which was under covenant. Wetlands subject to these agreements will be managed for conservation purposes, including controlling weeds and animal pests, fencing to improve stock management, enhancing native vegetation and revegetating areas;
- Continued planning with Horsham Rural City Council to progress the introduction of Environmental Significant Overlays (ESO) into their planning scheme to protect high value wetlands. Part of this process has included identifying the high value wetland to be included into the overlays.

Statutory Water Management

In addition to its floodplain management obligations set out under the rivers and streams section of this report, Wimmera CMA has referral obligations under environmental significance overlays in Hindmarsh Shire's planning scheme. The purpose of these overlays is to protect wetlands and their catchment areas from the impacts of inappropriate development. Wimmera CMA responded to three planning referral requests during 2014-15.

Wetland Environmental Watering

Wimmera CMA delivers environmental water to a number of Wimmera Wetlands on behalf of the VEWH. Key achievement this year include:

- Ten wetlands watered including a number of new wetlands connected to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline in partnership with Parks Victoria.
- Commencement of a study into the environmental water requirements for Dock Lake
- Environmental Water Management Plan developed for Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Wetlands

Waterway Strategy Development and Engagement

During 2014-15, 27 participants attended a Wimmera CMA coordinated information session designed to build landholder capacity to identify and manage critically endangered Seasonally Herbaceous Wetlands of the Temperate wetland plains on their properties. Key points of interest included:

- Presentations by representative from the Federal Government Department of Environment presented information on how to identify these wetlands on private property and obligations for their management under Federal legislation.
- Opportunities for landholders to access funding and advice to assist with managing seasonal herbaceous wetlands in the Wimmera.

Key achievements by partner organisations

Other organisations have contributed to the management of wetlands. Some are outlined above as partnerships with Wimmera CMA. In addition:

Trust for Nature conducted numerous activities contributing to wetland outcomes including:

- Two covenants approved in Wimmera in 14-15 were distinct wetland formations
- Many land management activities reported in the native vegetation section also assisted wetland values in TFN owned reserves, including pest and weed management.

Condition

Trends

The Wimmera Environmental Accounts produced in 2014 indicated that previous CMA investment has resulted in an increase of 1,164 ha or 3.7% in wetlands on private land being managed for conservation purposes. This trend has continued with high landholder interest resulting in both of the wetland incentive projects being oversubscribed in 2014/15.

2014-15 also saw the initial watering of a number of wetlands connected to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline in partnership with PV and private landholders which led to great outcomes for local fauna and wetland vegetation. In some cases environmental outcomes were enhanced by infrastructure works including the construction of additional channels and pipeline outlets completed at several wetlands in early 2015.

Data collected as part of the Ramsar protection project at Lake Albacutya provides evidence that demonstrates:

- An increased diversity of non-eucalypt wood land age classes.
- A downward and stable trend of rabbit abundance.
- Evidence of seedling recruitment.

Threats

As identified in the Regional Catchment Strategy the greatest threats to wetlands continue to be cropping and altered hydrology. This is particularly relevant to freshwater meadows, shallow freshwater marshes and semi-permanent and permanent saline wetlands predominately in the south-west Wimmera. This threat may be on the increase as seasonal condition remain dry.

The main threat to the conservation values of Lake Albacutya continues to be rabbits impacting on the valued non-eucalypt woodlands.

Challenges and Opportunities

Continuing dry conditions have the potential for many wetlands to dry out which could lead to them being cropped. It will be important for the Wimmera CMA to harness the interest of landholders in our wetland incentive programs to maximise the number and area of wetlands that are protected.

It will also be important to ensure landholders are aware of the legal ramifications of impacting on seasonally herbaceous wetlands under the EPBC Act. This may provide for a greater opportunity to influence land use change decisions around these wetlands.

Rivers and streams

RCS twenty-year objectives for rivers and streams

1. No decline in rivers and streams classified as good or excellent in the 2004 Index of Stream Condition.
2. Improvements in the condition of rivers and streams classified as poor to moderate in the 2004 Index of Stream Condition.
3. Rivers and streams classified as having high social or economic values in the Wimmera Waterway Health Strategy 2006–2011 will be maintained in value.
4. Eighty percent of riverine floodplain areas have accurate modelled flood mapping incorporated into council planning schemes. Such information is included in council and community supported emergency response plans.
5. Net gain in extent and quality of floodplain Ecological Vegetation Class.

The Rivers and Streams activities were considered to align well with the RCS this financial year, as projects contributed to all Objectives and all but one of the Measures. Measure three under the subtitle 'For instream habitat and channel form' was not addressed during projects this financial year. As some Objectives are spatially determined, there may be some difference in statistics under each Measure.

Below is a summary of some of the activities which contributed to the Rivers and Streams Measures during 2014-15.

RCS six-year management measures

Taking into consideration the condition, trends and threats to rivers & streams, the following six-year management measures have been developed to deliver the twenty-year objectives for river and stream health:

1. Review, update and implement waterway strategies.
 - Water assessments, covering 363,058.82 ha, completed as part of various flood investigations
 - Two management plans established for river reaches in the Wimmera catchment area; Seasonal Watering Plans and the Environmental Water Management Plan (EWMP)
 - Two CMA-wide strategic plans established: the draft Carbon Ready Plan (CRP) and the Wimmera Waterway Strategy (WWS)
 - Seven online/printed publications produced: VEFMAP vegetation and fish surveys, Seasonal Watering Plans, EWMP River, Waterways and Saline Pools reports

For riparian land:

1. Establish a network of managed and maintained riparian zones with high environmental value.
 - 19.49 ha of woody and non-woody weed control conducted, through partnerships
 - 19.46 ha of terrestrial pest animal control, also conducted through partnerships

2. Apply best practice management in riparian zones to improve flora and fauna habitat.
 - 120.24 ha of woody and non-woody weed control on private land conducted, through partnerships
 - 15.6 km of fences installed and 4.4km maintained on private land

For instream habitat and channel form:

1. Undertake on-ground management actions targeting bed and bank erosion and potential landslips.
 - Waterway structures: four rock chutes installed to target bank erosion
2. Restore diversity, habitats, connectivity and movement of instream material, through stabilisation of channels, banks substrate and riparian vegetation.
 - Revegetation of 47.99 ha of riparian vegetation, on private land
 - Waterway structures: four rock chutes installed, targeting bank substrate erosion
3. Apply best practice management for instream habitat, including adequate structural woody habitat to help native aquatic species such as native fish.
 - No outputs to report this financial year.

For water quality:

1. Reduce the impact of salinity on river and stream health.
 - Maintenance of the EWMP Saline Pools Sensor Array (a measuring station)
 - One research publication produced: the EWMP Saline Pools report
2. Limit nutrients, sediments, and other pollutants entering and being remobilised.
 - Four rock chute waterway structures installed, targeting bank substrate erosion
3. Work towards meeting State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) 2003 criteria for water quality.
 - Maintenance on one monitoring structure (measuring station): the EWMP Saline Pools sensor array
 - One management plan established under the Seasonal Watering Plans, covering an area of 705.43 ha
4. Coordinate water quality management projects to improve the quality of water in rivers and streams.
 - Two types of water assessments conducted; community water monitoring sites and a Wimmera CMA internal water quality run
 - Two online/printed publications produced: the Saline Pools report and an internal water-quality monitoring run report

5. Provide information on the trends in river and stream health in relation to water quality.

- Five online/printed publications produced: an internal water-quality monitoring run report and the EWMP River, Waterways and Saline Pools reports and a miscellaneous publication

For adequate flows:

1. Deal adaptively to climatic impacts on streamflows.

- One management plan established under the Seasonal Watering Plans, covering an area of 705.43 ha

2. Achieve minimum environmental water needs of priority rivers and streams under historic climate conditions.

- Water regimes delivered water to rivers covering an area of 655.57 ha, under Seasonal Watering Plans

3. Provide environmental water releases to improve water quality and enable diversity of aquatic and water dependant flora and fauna ecosystems and maintain channel form.

- As above

4. Seek additional environmental water where available such as through improving efficiency of water delivery or other water recovery activities.

- One management plan established under the Seasonal Watering Plans, outlining the water regimes of rivers in the Wimmera catchment area

5. Prevent additional flow-stress impacts, such as intense water extraction or land-use change activities (e.g. concentrated areas of new farm dams or forestry development) by acknowledging the recommendations of the *Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2011*.

- No outputs achieved this year

For aquatic ecosystems

1. Reduce impacts of exotic species on aquatic ecosystems

- Terrestrial pest animal control established on 114.91 ha of private land, through partnerships
- Woody and non-woody weed control established on 114.91 ha of private land, through partnerships
- A catchment-wide management plan established; the Wimmera CMA Carp Plan
- One online/printed publication on the carp reduction project

For the floodplain

1. Improve knowledge of floodplains and their flood characteristics, including the improvement of flood overlays

- Water assessments covering 363,058.82 ha were completed, as part of various flood investigations
- Four online/printed publications produced on various flood studies

2. Manage floodplains to minimise flood risk and damage to people and property.

- Ninety-seven statutory advice recommendations provided
- Decisions made on 28 waterway permits
- Advice for 288 referral responses provided in relation to ESO and floodplain and other statutory referrals

3. Enhance ecological values of floodplains.

- Revegetation activities conducted on 59.68 ha of private land
- Woody and non-woody weed control conducted on 120.24 ha of private land, through partnerships
- Terrestrial pest animal control on 120.24 ha of private land, conducted through partnerships

4. Achieve a balance between social, economic and environmental values on floodplains.

- Eight binding non-perpetual management agreements established on private land, covering an area of 120.24 ha
- Attendance at the Wimmera Mallee Field Days, where Wimmera CMA engaged with the community around flood issues and investigations
- Four community meetings held to inform communities about local flood investigations

Regional investment and management

Australian Government funded:

Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink

This project, led by Project Platypus Landcare Network, seeks to improve ecological connectivity between the Grampians and Pyrenees Ranges. Wimmera CMA's role is to assist land managers to restore riparian vegetation along waterways in strategic areas. Achievements in 2014-15 for rivers and streams include:

- Protection and enhancement of 34 hectares of remnant vegetation;
- Weed and pest control over 46 hectares.

Victorian Government funded:

2014 summer Bushfire suppression/recovery

The project objective in 2014/15 was to 'Reinstate damaged riparian fencing to consolidate and secure the benefits gained from previous environmental works'.

Achievements included:

- Supporting landholders reestablish 7.6 kilometers of environmental protection fencing.
- Reducing risks to water quality and improving access to water supply channels by reinstating fencing to restrict stock movement.

EWR Planning and Implementation

Wimmera CMA has delivered its management responsibilities for the EWR in 2014-15 and achieved the following:

- Delivered environmental water to 9 river reaches, including sections of the Wimmera River, MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek, Bungallally Creek and Mount William Creek;
- One seasonal watering plan developed for Wimmera Catchment rivers and streams;
- Two surveys conducted, one each for fish and vegetation.
- Continuing improvements in waterway condition through regular environmental water releases as shown through fish, water quality and vegetation monitoring.
- First time watering of a high value refuge pool in the Upper Mt William Creek in partnership with GWMWater.
- Other highlights include the discovery of a Peron's Tree Frog population on the Burnt Creek and further evidence of platypus breeding on the MacKenzie River.
- The commencement of the Dock Lake FLOWS study and Mt William Creek Streamflows Study as numerous projects to investigate potential upgrades to EWR infrastructure.

Statutory Water Management

Wimmera CMA manages a number of statutory and non-statutory processes for development and works activities within the Wimmera's waterways, floodplains and wetlands.

In 2014-15 Wimmera CMA responded to 236 formal statutory water management requests, comprising 81 floodplain advice enquiries, 144 floodplain planning referral responses, eight works on waterways license applications and three planning referral responses relating to wetlands (mentioned and mapped in the wetland asset component of the catchment condition report). These include:

- Building and development referrals;
- Flood advice requests;
- Subdivisions and certifications;
- Zoning overlay and planning scheme amendments;
- Signage, fencing and decking applications; and
- Bridge, road, works, earthworks and animal husbandry applications.

Wimmera CMA, in partnership with local governments and the community, worked on a number of flood investigations. This included:

- Completion of Flood investigations for the Upper Wimmera Catchment and the Mount William Creek Catchment; and
- Commencement of flood investigations for Brim/ Warracknabeal, Dunmunkle Creek, the Lower Wimmera River and Wartook/Horsham South.

As part of its referral obligations, Wimmera CMA has supported lead authorities by providing information and advice on the

following major projects:

- Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy;
- Western Highway duplication near Great Western;
- Horsham East channel decommissioning;
- WIM150 mine proposal South of Horsham;
- Waste disposal proposal;
- Horsham Bypass;
- School development projects in Horsham;
- Windfarms; and
- Bridges.

Thriving Community Rivers 2015-16

Wimmera CMA conducted a number of activities designed to provide and improvement economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits of the Wimmera's Rivers and Streams. Achievements included:

- Establishment of eight riparian management agreements between Wimmera CMA and landholders;
 - Construction of around 14 kilometers of fencing of remnant vegetation beside waterways
 - Management of 91 hectares and 54 hectares of native revegetation; and
 - Weeds and pest animals controlled over 91 hectares.
- Four waterway structures were constructed at two sites on Spring and wattle Creeks to reduce sediment moving downstream;
- Eleven new sites for waterway structures were inspected for future works and seven sites have had detailed design undertaken.
- Further assessment was completed that reviewed the current state of knowledge regarding saline pools in the Wimmera River and a report produced;
- A trial has commenced into carp distribution and movement using environmental DNA (e-DNA) techniques.
- Monthly surface water sampling and data collection was conducted at 53 water quality monitoring sites;
- An annual monitoring report was produced explaining observations from water quality monitoring over the last 12 months;

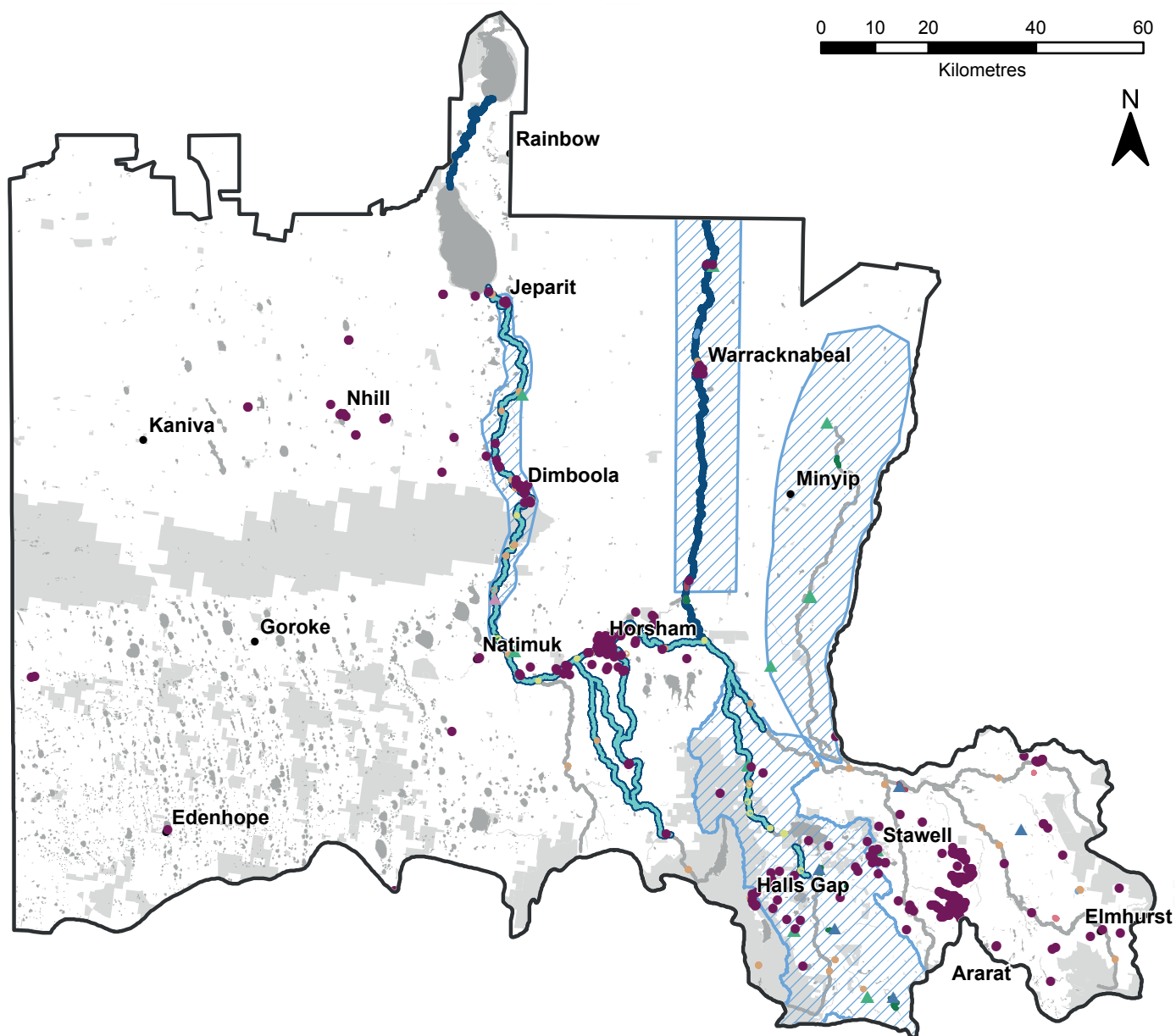
Waterway Strategy Development and Engagement

During 2013-14 Wimmera CMA reviewed and updated its Wimmera Waterway Strategy (WWS). The catchment-wide strategy provides an eight year action plan for achieving long-term goals for the regions' waterways by undertaking activities on priority rivers, creeks, lakes and wetlands. It sits under the Wimmera RCS.

In 2015 the Strategy:

- was approved by the relevant Ministers;
- printed and made available for viewing at the Wimmera CMA office;
- published on the Wimmera CMA website; and
- used to formulate funding proposal for 2015-16.

Wimmera CMA's River and Stream Activities for 2014-15



Legend

■ Incentive Revegetation	■ Incentive Site Assessments	■ Incentive Management Agreements
■ Environmental Water	■ Waterway Management Plans	■ Waterway Works
■ Fish Surveys	■ Water Quality Monitoring	■ Flood Investigations
▲ Waterways Events	▲ Pumps, Tanks and Troughs	▲ Salinity Monitoring Station
● Waterway Approval and Advice		

Condition

Trends

2014-15 was in the bottom 10% of inflow years and BoM data indicates that this pattern is indicative of a continuation of the Millennium Drought interspersed with a brief wet period in mid-2010 to early 2011. Therefore environmental watering actions have been steadily reducing through 2014-15. This in turn led to reductions in habitat and water quality. El Nino conditions in 2015 will further compound issues associated with a lack of water availability.

Field assessments have revealed short term improvements of riparian zones as a direct result of improved management. These improvements include reduced stock impacts on waterways, weed control, improved vegetation and ground cover providing improved water quality and a reduction in sediment loads.

Long term, reducing sediment loads through ongoing stabilisation of banks will improve biodiversity and connectivity by improving habitat.

Assessments have also revealed significant amounts of sediment being stored upstream of erosion control structures, directly reducing the amount of sediment being transported downstream impacting high value reaches.

This year CMA monitoring has shown improvements in the values of our rivers due to improved water regimes and water availability. In the near future this may decline if dry conditions persist and salinity level increase.

Regular environmental water releases resulted in continued improvements in waterway condition as demonstrated through fish, water quality and vegetation monitoring. Given the ongoing dry conditions these releases were critical in sustaining aquatic communities. This also led to the first watering of a high value refuge pool in the Upper Mt William Creek in partnership with GWMWater which contained a notable native fish community with large numbers of Southern Pygmy Perch, Australian Smelt and Flathead Gudgeon.

Threats

Low rainfall and low runoff rates continue to pose a threat to water quality and the health of aquatic life. Climate change/drought is a threat to water availability for environmental flows and subsequent impacts on ecosystems and water quality. Community aspirations to make water available for recreation in storages rather than natural waterways is an emerging issue with risks of environmental water being used to support recreational values rather than core environmental values. The aim will be to maximise recreational benefits while meeting environmental requirements.

An ongoing threat to rivers and streams is uncontrolled stock access and bed and bank erosion resulting in sediment loads moving downstream impacting high value reaches. The key threat to the lower Wimmera River includes increased salinity levels. Inappropriate grazing in some parts continues to threaten waterways. Saline groundwater continues to threaten parts of the Wimmera River.

An ongoing threat to best practice flood plain management has been the delay, in some local government areas, to updating planning schemes to reflect the new understanding of flood risk

brought about through flood investigations. This is a continuing challenge although this year saw a major achievement in the Hindmarsh Shire Council adopting recommendations from flood investigations for Jeparit and Dimboola.

Challenges and opportunities

The opportunity for continued onground works including both riparian management and erosion control works is evident with both activities having more landholders wanting to participate above the allocated funding. Additional funding provided through the Victorian Riparian Action Plan will assist the CMA fast track many of the objectives for riparian management outlined in the Wimmera waterway Strategy.

Environmental watering has gradually drawn down on carryover volumes established during the 2010-11 floods. There is no opening allocations forecast for 2015-16. With low levels of water available for the environment we will need to carefully plan for the delivery of EWR next year. Recognising this was likely environmental water actions were drastically curtailed in March 2015 to ensure that there would be volumes to undertake watering of priority refuges. Wimmera CMA will work with the community and stakeholders to achieve the best outcomes for the environment while taking into account economic and social values, including recreation opportunities. Refuge pools are likely to be the key to supporting the values of the river in the short to medium term. Innovation will be critical for example the delivery of water to the river via pipelines should be investigated. Improving the community's understanding of water resource planning and EWR implementation as well as demonstrating outcomes from environmental flows is a major opportunity this year as the community's interest will increase as a result of dry conditions. Challenges remain due to impacts of exotic species and impacts of poor water quality compounded by a lack of flow due to dry conditions.

There is an opportunity to further learn how the river reacts when under dry conditions and where our intervention might be best utilised. Monitoring will be a key activity this year to help indicate what areas of the river system is under stress and what impact our management actions are having.

With the likely dry conditions it may also be an opportune time to further expand trials for carp removal. This couples with e-DNA analysis may provide worthwhile as carp populations contract to isolated waterholes. This may be particularly imported in identified habitat refuges.

Opportunities for the floodplain area will stem from the development of the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy. The Strategy will confirm government policy and clarify roles and responsibilities which will guide the local planning and management of all relevant agencies. The commencement of the review of the Wimmera's Regional Floodplain Management Strategy will provide an opportunity to engagement with stakeholders to identify the priority flood mitigation actions for the next decade and to confirm roles and responsibilities.

Soils

RCS twenty-year objectives for soils

The overall outcome for soils will be to ensure land managers have the capacity, skills and knowledge to improve soil productivity and resilience to environmental change. Resilient soils will, in turn, support a productive farming system and a healthy environment and community that is prosperous in the face of climatic and economic challenges.

This outcome will be achieved by increasing the number of landholders (80 percent) adopting best management practices that improve soil:

1. Productive capacity.
2. Resilience against extreme weather events and economic perturbations.
3. Rainfall use efficiency and water holding capacity.
4. Environmental amenity (e.g. reduced greenhouse gas emissions).
5. Organic matter and biological activity.
6. Resilience against degradation on other natural assets.

RCS Implementation

The Soils activities were considered to have moderate alignment with the RCS this financial year, as projects contributed to all Objectives, but only Measures one, six, seven and eight.

It should be noted, that the RCS was designed to include actions from partner organisations, and therefore not all Measures are achievable by Wimmera CMA alone. It is likely that more of the Soils Measures have in fact been addressed to some degree, by partner organisations.

Below is a summary of some of the activities which contributed to the Soils Measures during 2014-15.

RCS six-year management measures

Taking into consideration the condition, trends and threats to soil, the following six-year management measures have been developed to deliver the twenty-year objectives for soil health:

1. Maintaining or improving ground cover.
 - 31.7 km of fencing was established, installed, maintained or modified on private land as part of various saltbush programs and trials
 - 207.68 ha of revegetation works conducted on private land through saltbush programs and trials
2. Increasing soil organic matter (including soil carbon).

No outputs to report this financial year.

3. Improving beneficial soil biological activity.

No outputs to report this financial year.

4. Recovering areas of dryland salinity.

No outputs to report this financial year.

5. Improving nutrient efficiencies.
No outputs to report this financial year.

6. Enhancing landholder knowledge of soil health.

- Thirteen workshops: four Partnership Forums established, one 'Landcare workshop for horse owners' co-ordinated, three regional Landcare facilitator meetings attended, three chemical resistance workshops, and two various 'Victoria No Till Farming' events sponsored
- Sponsorship of the Victoria No Till Farming annual conference
- One training event conducted for Landcare facilitators
- Installation of the Warracknabeal soil moisture probes (bore monitoring structures)
- Three field day events established or sponsored; a saltbush field tour and event and Perennial Pastures' *Chicks in the Sticks* event, all targeted at landholder engagement and soil health awareness

7. Supporting research and development.

- 2.4 km of fencing installed or modified on private land as part of saltbush programs and trials
- 10.09 ha of private land placed under binding non-perpetual management agreements, as part of saltbush trials
- 128.25 ha of private land placed under cropping management agreements, as part of soil trials
- 0.96 ha of private land placed under a land use management agreement, as part of saltbush trials
- Installation of the Warracknabeal soil moisture probes (bore monitoring structures)
- Maintenance of 49 bores in the bore monitoring network

8. Improving partnerships between landholders and soil health agencies.

- 42.1 km of fencing on private land established, installed, maintained or modified
- 235.34 ha of private land placed under binding non-perpetual management agreements
- Installation of the Warracknabeal soil moisture probes (bore monitoring structures)
- Maintenance of 49 bores in the bore monitoring network
- One groundwater pump and four surface water pumps installed on private land

Regional investment and management

Australian Government funded:

Cropping with Compost Trials

The project aim was to trial and demonstrate innovative on-farm technology to increase carbon sequestered in soils through the addition of compost treatments as a replacement for chemical fertilizer-driven crop nutrients on properties in the Wimmera

cropping region in Victoria. Key achievements included:

- Three trials continued at Broughton, Vectis and Wonwondah;
- Results of trials were presented at two community events involving 36 landholders.
- Peer driven increase in farmer knowledge of the use of innovative practices/technologies to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emission/increase carbon stored in soil.
- Local farmers valued the opportunity to trial innovative on-farm technology that to increase carbon sequestered in local soils though the addition composts as a replacement for chemical fertiliser-driven crop nutrient in cropping systems.

Trials to Increase Soil Carbon Stocks on lighter soils in the northern Wimmera

The aim of the project is to increase soil carbon stocks on light sandy soils, including non-wetting sands, assess the applicability of Organic Amendment addition and clay modification in increasing productivity and raise the knowledge and awareness in the use of locally sourced OA to improve soil health. Key achievements this year included:

- Five trial sites maintained Propodollah and Telopea Downs;
- One presentation of trial method and results to 40 conference participants at the 2014 National Soils Conference in November 2014;
- Baseline soil samples collected;
- One spring crop walk conducted with 20 participants attending.

Nitrous Oxide Trials - Improved rotations and fertilizer decisions to decrease nitrous oxide losses

This project involved on-farm trials and demonstrations of practices for reducing nitrous oxide emissions associated with broadacre cropping. Achievements this year included:

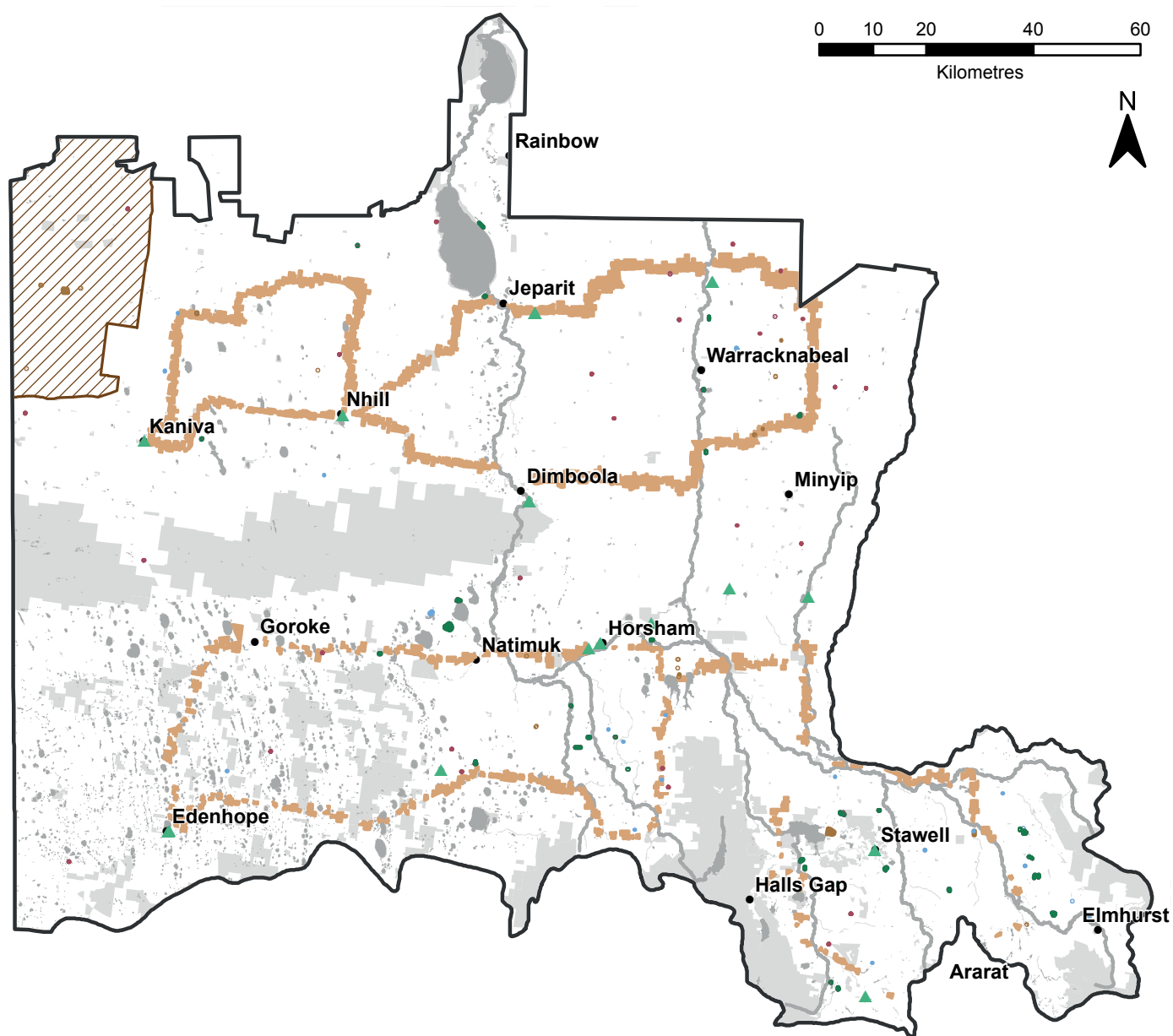
- Continuation of trial methodology at five Wimmera sites;
- Collection of results;
- Results of trials were presented at two community events involving 16 landholders.
- Current results indicate that in the Wimmera management has little impact on nitrogen emissions.

Securing Wimmera Sustainable Agriculture Outcomes - Sustainable Agriculture

The aim of this project is to build capacity for landholders to increase their long term returns and improve soil productivity, sustainability and resilience to environmental change through farmer network support, group-driven workshops and conferences, on-farm trials and demonstrations, extension, and land stewardship incentives to build momentum for management practice change. Achievements this year included:

- Implementation of the Greening the Desert saltbush research trials on three Wimmera properties;
- Implementation of the Southern Wimmera Land Use and Land Management Transect to complement the Wimmera Cropland Management Transect;
- Implementation of VNTFA's cover cropping demonstration trials in partnership with 4 other CMAs and the DEDJTR, to investigate local strategies for improving soil health through retaining a cover over the summer fallow period;
- Fifty six stock containment sites established, prioritised according to soil erosion risk.
- Three part time Regional Landcare facilitator positions established to facilitate adoption of sustainable agriculture practices.
- Implementation of a range of trials with the Perennial Pasture Systems group including soil moisture monitoring in partnership with GHCMA, Stawell Cocksfoot comparison trial, Uplands Cocksfoot comparison trial, and Giberillic acid trial;
- Delivery of community capacity building activities including a Mt William Creek community catchment walk and a Chicks in the Sticks event for female farmers in the upper catchment focused on innovative farming techniques.
- Implementation of an education program at 8 rural primary schools to raise awareness among farming families of the International Year of Soils and local soil health management issues;
- Delivery of chemical resistance workshops with DEDJTR staff and local groups in three communities – Moyston, Noradjuha and Kaniva.

Wimmera CMA's Soils Activities for 2014-15



Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| ■ Incentive Revegetation | ■ Incentive Site Assessments | ■ Incentive Management Agreements |
| ■ Agricultural Trials | ■ Agricultural Transects | ▨ Soil Sampling |
| ▲ Soils Events | | |

Victorian Government funded

State Landcare

This project aims to provide regional Landcare coordination and actively participate in the delivery of the Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan regionally in partnership with DELWP, and provide a devolved grants process for the regions Landcare groups to address local environmental priorities through the delivery of on ground works. Achievements this year include:

- Over 530 locals attended the Wimmera Community Landcare Celebration with Chris Humfrey;
- New groups were established including the Horsham Urban Landcare Group, other groups were reactivated including Quantong Landcare Group;
- The Regional Landcare Awards were delivered in partnership with Volunteering Western Victoria;
- Cultural heritage training was delivered with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and the Victorian Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator;
- Victorian Landcare Facilitator program investment enabled local groups to secure five facilitator positions to assist communities to deliver revegetation and biodiversity protection activities, with Wimmera facilitators working closely together to strengthen the role and scope of these positions;
- Victorian Landcare Grants were provided to 21 groups to support the delivery 1210ha of weed control, 1370ha of rabbit control, and training workshops for 43 community Landcarers.
- Maintenance grants and start up grants were also provided to new and existing groups in the region;
- Groups were supported to deliver community tree planting weekends, including Yarrilinks, Project Hindmarsh and National Tree Day events.

Key achievements by partner organisations

A number of other organisations have contributed to the management of soils. Some are outlined above as partnerships with Wimmera CMA. Other examples include:

Perennial Pasture Systems

PPS continued to gain members in the Upper Wimmera and continued long term project management, extension activities, and field days. It successfully conducted its 6th annual conference and its 6th annual study tour.

PPS gained funding for a new pasture persistence project through MLA, which commenced in spring 2014.

Condition

Trends

As was observed in 2013-14, meetings and planning with groups identified that farmers are proactively adopting better farming techniques and managing their farms in a sustainable manner. Landholders were generally concerned about significant pest and weed problems on public land and the ability of the region to control them.

African Love Grass and Fleabane are continuing to grow as a concern in many communities. With local farmers' adoption of minimum and zero till they've also had to adopt new weed control strategies for example change in herbicide use and reduced reliance on glyphosate. Fleabane however is glyphosate-resistant making it even more difficult to manage.

Compared to GHCA trials, local trials has shown low nitrous oxide emissions from broadacre cropping in the Wimmera. Over the last three seasons N₂O losses from broadacre cropping in the Wimmera have been low, however there were circumstances where emissions were much higher. The challenge for low to medium rainfall growers is how best to manage this risk across large areas and diverse seasonal conditions. Ultimately N₂O mitigation is likely to be achieved through synchronisation of nitrogen supply with crop demand. Assessment of rotational effects on nitrogen supply, found that generally, chickpea supplied less nitrogen to the following crop than vetch, and that earlier termination of vetch for hay or brown manure rather than grown for seed conserved slightly more soil water. The project demonstrated how pulse type (chickpea v vetch) and their management will influence available resources and associated level of input required to achieve potential yields in following crops.

The spring rainfall of 2014 was well below average and created many issues for the region's farmers. Farmer groups such as PPS member farmers and other across Wimmera started planning for the failed season in late winter. For example, in the Upper catchment, sales of surplus sheep were brought forward to reduce stocking pressure and paddocks were progressively grazed to a level where there was adequate ground cover before they were removed to stock containment areas. The ground cover on most farms was at a level that negated any erosion issues and stock health was well managed through a difficult time. (modified from PPS 2015)

Threats

In the Wimmera soil health issues have been largely driven by the impact of soil erosion by wind and water, soil waterlogging in the southern and western Wimmera, and soil sodicity in the surface and subsoil over large areas of the cropping soils of the Wimmera.

Uncertainty around future funding opportunities to build on farm trials and demonstrations could jeopardise the good work that has taken place. It may also result in a reduced level of interest from landholder to participate if further work is required but not supported.

The failed spring continued the run of difficult seasons with rainfall deficiencies requiring a higher level of farm management to protect both farm profitability and land assets. (PPS)

Challenges and Opportunities

Discussions with groups, through the Wimmera Landcare program and other projects, indicate that landholders are very committed to sustainable farming and would value ongoing support for tackling agricultural opportunities and challenges. In planning for future support, there is a need to recognise that groups require flexibility and autonomy to set their own direction and evolve independently within a regional priority setting framework outlined in the draft Wimmera Carbon Ready Plan. Activities in the Wimmera has succeeded where they have responded to local community and environmental needs, which differ across the region.

Many partners have identified that the lack of long term funding remains a challenge to deliver positive outcomes for soils management. Seasonal conditions also provide challenges in the establishment and management of long term soil improvement actions.

There is general consensus that extension activities and the opportunity for land managers to observe successful farmers, help overcome the obstacles thrown up by adverse seasonal conditions. Mentoring and demonstration will continue to be a focus in the Wimmera.

Stock prices have been at high levels, negating some of the financial pressure of the failed spring. A good season would create profit opportunities for the region's farmers at current stock prices which could see investment into Landcare, infrastructure or pasture improvement works. (PPS)

Fire Management

RCS Implementation

No projects during this financial year contributed to the Fire Management Objectives or Measures (therefore having incomplete alignment with the RCS). There were no projects specifically aimed at fire management funded in 2014-15.

Objectives

1. During the development of the RCS an area identified for improvement was a lack of managed burns on private land. Burning for fuel reduction, at a frequency and intensity that is right for the vegetation type, can be a positive management tool for both fire prevention and the environment. The prevention aspect is particularly relevant where patches of native vegetation on private land exist near residential areas.
2. Using fire as a tool in the management of native vegetation is an area that needs further research and development in the Wimmera. Using fire requires ecological knowledge to plan, and there are risks and resource requirements associated with undertaking the burns. Many landholders have patches of native vegetation that have long been un-burnt and are likely to remain so in the future. There are potential benefits for both safety and for native fire dependant species if the relevant authorities can work with landholders to provide information and support.

1. Wimmera CMA, CFA and DEPI will investigate opportunities to take a more integrated approach to managing burns that could concurrently benefit safety and environmental values. These organisations will work together to implement more integrated fire management arrangements, including the involvement in municipal fire management plans.

No outputs to report this financial year.

Emerging Opportunities and Challenges

RCS Implementation

The Emerging Opportunities and Challenges target activities were considered to have excellent alignment with the RCS this financial year, as projects contributed to all Measures. The single Objective of this target is:

Objective

1. Work with the community to proactively manage any emerging opportunities and challenges.

Actions which contributed to the Emerging Opportunities and Challenges Management Measures during 2014-15 include:

1. Develop a regional management plan for sequestration and other carbon market activities, so that negative outcomes are avoided, and multiple benefits for biodiversity, productivity and the community are optimised.

- Development of a Wimmera CMA region-wide strategy - the CRP
- Engagement with the public about the CRP at the Wimmera Mallee Field Days
- Installation of the Victorian Fire Risk Register (VFRR) restriction layers - an information management system for decision support

2. Ensure the community is aware of, and has the opportunity to contribute to discussions around the future development of the region.

- Eighty-five ecological and 148 property assessments conducted on private land as part of various incentive programs, where landowners can engage with field officers about environmental stewardship
- Three soil assessments as part of the *Greening the Desert* (saltbush trial) project
- Twenty-four community and steering committee workshops established for flood investigations
- Four flood investigation online/printed publications produced
- Sponsorship of three conferences on agricultural and scientific research; Victoria No Till Farming Annual Conference, the Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar and the Biodiversity Across the Borders conference
- Three strategic Wimmera CMA region-wide plans established: the WWS Plan, the CRP Plan and the Aboriginal Participation Plan

3. Continually improve and share knowledge.

- Involvement in eleven field day events, including the Wimmera Mallee Field Days attendance, Wimmera CMA saltbush tour, 'Chris Humfrey and the Wild Action Zoo' event, Yarrilinks and the Apex Island forum
- Forty-four workshop events, including community meetings for flood studies, flood study partnership forums, chemical resistance workshops, Landcare events and EPBC Act informative workshops
- Production of 53 publications (mostly reports), sharing knowledge with stakeholders including the public
- Six training events co-ordinated, including Landcare facilitator training and cultural heritage training

Emergency Management

RCS Implementation

The Emergency Management target was considered to moderately address the RCS this financial year, as only one of the two Measures was addressed. The single Objective of this target is:

Objective

1. A well prepared community, with plans in place to respond to and recover from emergencies as efficiently and effectively as possible

Actions which contributed to the Emergency Management Measure during 2014-15 were:

1. Regional government agencies work more closely to build capacity for incident management.
 - One engagement event workshop on the Stawell Tyre Fire attended
 - Four water assessments (flood studies and flood extents) established for Dunmunkle, Mt William and Lower Mt William and Warracknabeal, increasing knowledge and awareness of flood characteristics in Wimmera regions
 - Twenty-nine workshop events, including steering committee and community meetings for flood studies, flood study partnership forums and the Dock Lake community forum
2. Continually improve emergency management by implementing best practice management techniques.

No outputs to report this financial year.

Summary of the financial results for 2014-15

Five-year financial summary ('000)

	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue From Government	7,740	8,097	7,116	7,591	8,803
Other Revenue	290	386	367	705	506
Total Revenue	8,030	8,483	7,483	8,296	9,309
Expenses	8,148	6,438	8,613	9,850	8,515
Net Operating Result	(118)	2,045	(1,130)	(1,554)	794
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held	(190)	2,649	(1,332)	(1,471)	867
Total Assets	6,992	7,134	5,056	6,059	7,667
Total Liabilities	877	900	873	742	796
Total Equity	6,115	6,234	4,183	5,317	6,871

Victorian Landcare Grants 2014-2015

Wimmera CMA has provided grants to certain organisations as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants program in 2014 – 2015.

Group	Amount	Grant
Yanac Broughton Landcare Group	14,000	Yanac Broughton community rabbit control
Eastern Hindmarsh Landcare Group	12,000	Eastern Hindmarsh pest and weed control project.
Hindmarsh Landcare Network	7,600	Hindmarsh landholder skills and awareness raising.
Nhill South Landcare Group	500	Winiam walk for wealth.
Sandsmere-Yarrock Landcare Group	3,000	Sandsmere community weed and rabbit control.
Woorak community and land management group	11,000	Woorak pest and weed community clean up.
Kaniva District Landcare Group	12,900	Weed control and revegetation.
Rainbow Golf Club volunteer committee	3,000	Rabbit control in preparation for revegetation.
Telopea Downs Agricultural and Landcare Group	13,000	Telopea Downs community rabbit busters.
Barengi Gadjin Land Council	3,500	Wotjobaluk people looking after country.
Polkemmet Duchembegarra Landcare Group	14,000	Community rabbit action project.
Natimuk Urban Landcare Group	9,900	Natimuk community boneseed and rabbit control.
Jallukar Landcare Group	11,000	Jallukar Landcare weed control.
Project Platypus	11,500	Capacity building for Landcare in the Upper Wimmera.
Moyston Landcare Group	9,700	Enhancing the Moyston town fringe.
Elmhurst Landcare Group	13,550	Pyrenees protection project.
Crowlands Landcare Group	14,000	Crowlands area gorse and blackberry control.
Concongella Landcare Group	6,500	Concongella Landcare community capacity building.
Stawell Urban Landcare Group	11,380	Broom control, Ironbarks education and litter clean up in Stawell.
Quantong Landcare Group	12,000	Quantong threat abatement program.
Horsham Special School	960	Horsham Junior Landcare project coordination.
Maintenance grants for 5 groups	2,387	
Start up grant (Horsham Urban Landcare Group)	268	
TOTAL	197,645	

Significant Changes in Financial Position during the Year

There were no significant matters which changed our financial position in the reporting period.

Major Changes or Factors Affecting Performance

There were no significant changes or factors affecting our performance during the reporting period.

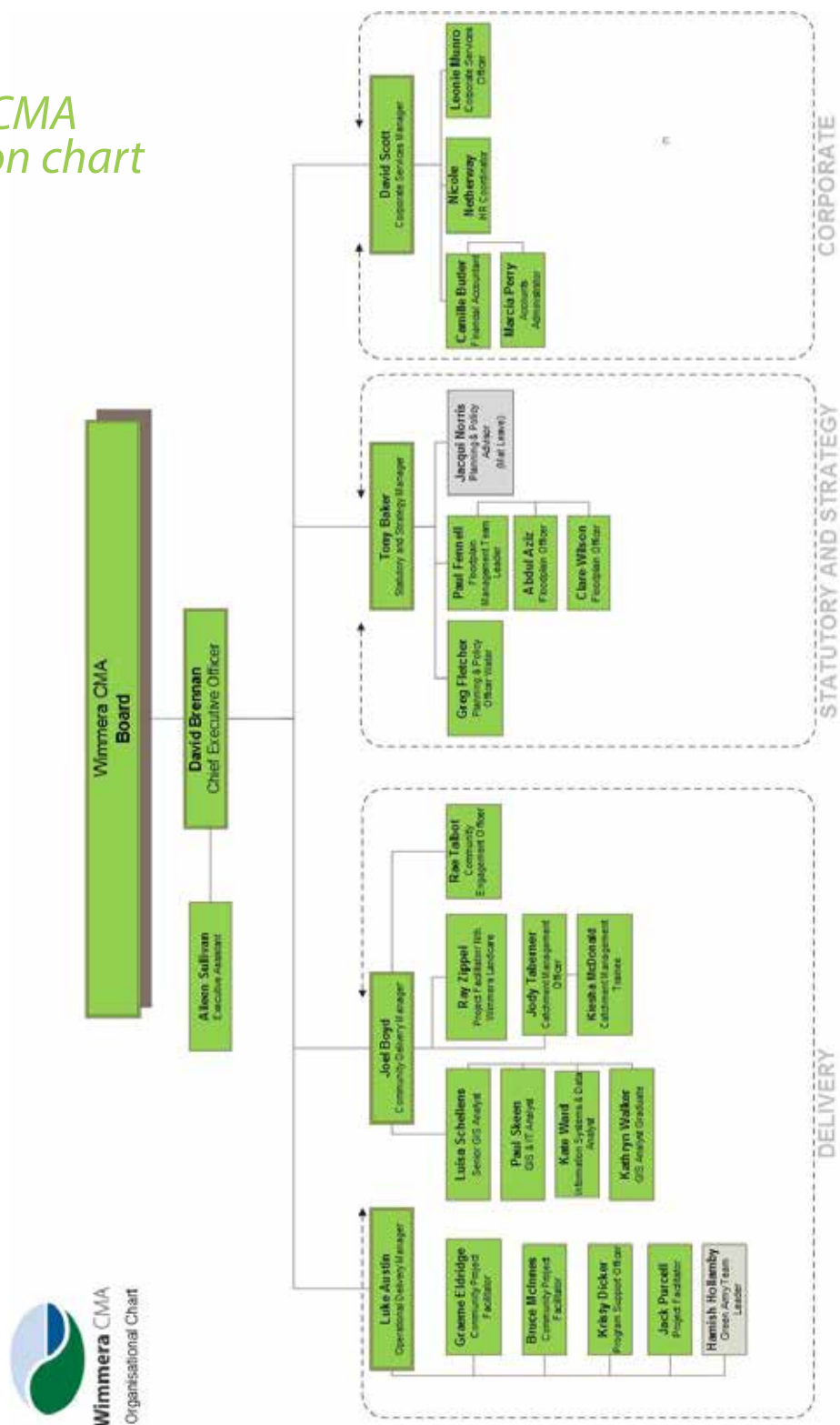
Subsequent Events

There were no events occurring after balance date which significantly affect Wimmera CMA's operations in subsequent reporting periods.

Capital Projects

The Wimmera CMA does not manage any capital projects

Wimmera CMA organisation chart

Last Updated 16th July 2015

Board of management

The Wimmera CMA Board is appointed by the Victorian Government's Minister for Environment and Climate Change and Minister for Water. Board members have experience and knowledge in land management, water resources management, natural resource management, primary industry, business management and community engagement. The Wimmera CMA Board is accountable for the overall performance of the Authority. Its role is to guide, govern and provide professional and strategic advice regarding the development of Wimmera CMA's strategic direction for land, biodiversity and water management.

Karen Douglas continued in her role as Chair of the Wimmera CMA Board following her reappointment to a second term on 1 October 2013. Jessica Adler, Amity Dunstan, Damien Holmes and Emelia Sudholz were also continuing board members. David Drage, John Goldsmith and Dean Johns were appointed as board members on 14 October 2013.

Board member	Term of appointment
Karen Douglas (Chair)	Appointed Chair 1 July 2011 – 30 September 2013 Reappointed Chair 1 October 2013 – 30 September 2017
Jessica Adler	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2015
Amity Dunstan	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2015
Damien Holmes	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2015
Emelia Sudholz	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2015
David Drage	14 October 2013 – 30 September 2017
John Goldsmith	14 October 2013 – 30 September 2017
Dean Johns	14 October 2013 – 30 September 2017

Karen Douglas - Chair

Karen Douglas has been a member of the Wimmera CMA Board since 2006 and was appointed Chair effective July 2011 and reappointed until 2017. She currently is Chair of the Chairs of the CMA's group. Karen is a member of a broadacre cereal cropping family farming enterprise at Beazleys Bridge, Gre Gre and Marnoo. She spent many years working as a librarian both in the local secondary college and later the Wimmera Regional Library, before joining J R Burns Accounting. Karen is Deputy Chancellor of Federation University Australia, is a member and past Chair of the Stawell Regional Health Board, and a member of McCallum Services. She served nine years as a councillor on the Northern Grampians Shire, serving four terms as Mayor and was the inaugural Chair of the North Central Local Learning and Employment Network. Her interests apart from her family, including grandchildren, include corporate governance, strengthening opportunities for this region especially for young people, reading and music.



Emelia Sudholz - Deputy Chair

Emelia has been a member of the WCMCA Board since October 2011 and was appointed Deputy Chair in November 2013. Emelia is an agricultural scientist, teacher and partner with her husband in a cropping and sheep farm business at Rupanyup South. Emelia has a strong background in water management and is on the board of the Wimmera Development Association (WDA). Emelia brings experience in NRM, stakeholder engagement, governance and a strong farming background and involvement to the Board. She is committed to the Wimmera after moving here 19 years ago and is heavily involved in local community groups.



Jessica Adler

Jessica was appointed to the Wimmera CMA Board in 2011 after enjoying 15 months as the external member on the Authority's Audit & Risk Management Committee. Jessica is an accountant holding a CPA designation and a Bachelor of Commerce with majors in accounting and finance. She has worked throughout the Wimmera in public practice and is a Financial Accountant with Donald Mineral Sands and the ASX listed Astron group. She also sits as an independent member on the Audit committees of Buloke and West Wimmera Shire Councils. Jessica and her husband Wayne farm in the Coromby area near Murtoa with their family utilising No-Till methods of farming. Soil health and increasing resilience in the agricultural sector are high on her consciousness.



Amity Dunstan

Amity was appointed to the WCMA Board in October 2011. With qualifications in Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Agriculture in conjunction with her family farming business, Amity understands the complexity of catchment management and stakeholders' expectations. Amity's consultancy work specializes in row crops and sustainable continuous cropping systems. She brings to the board great knowledge and experience from her careers in farm forestry research, community capacity building, vocational training, farm economics and farm transitional change management. Amity is an advocate of life-long learning and off-farm participation.



Damien Holmes

Damien was appointed to the Wimmera CMA Board in October 2011. As a fifth generation Nurrabel farmer Damien Holmes brings a practicing farmer's focus to the Wimmera CMA Board. Damien describes himself as 'an excited, enthusiastic young farmer keen to have a say on the direction farming is going in this part of the world'. Prior to joining the WCMA Board Damien was president of the Wimmera Conservation Farming Association. His vision for the future of NRM is to maintain the land and water assets to ensure they remain productive and viable for future farming families.



David Drage

David was appointed to the Board in October 2013. David brings a diverse mix of farming, Landcare, community and waterway experience and involvement to the Board. David lives on the family farm with his wife and two children. The farm grows winter cereals and legumes and they run a small flock of Merino ewes for wool and prime lamb production. There is also a strong focus on preserving and conserving the remaining remnant buloke and box vegetation on the farm. David's long-term goals are utilising his land-based resources for food production and his family's livelihood while preserving the farm to ensure it is handed onto the next generation in the best possible condition. David is a member of several community groups including Warracknabeal Apex Club and Lah Landcare Group.



Dean Johns

Dean was appointed to the Wimmera CMA Board in October 2013. Dean is passionate about how links between farming and environmental health secure the long-term future of his farm asset. Dean sees his new role on the Board as a way to apply the analogies of what happens on his own farm across the catchment. Dean has had previous board roles with Wimmera Development Association and the Victorian Institute for Dryland Agriculture. He was also president of the Wimmera Machinery Field Days Committee for two years. Dean is currently working as FMC's Wimmera, Mallee & Southwest Victoria Territory Sales Manager. Dean says the Wimmera is widely recognised for its agricultural production potential and catchment management is a key part of the region's ability to reach this potential.



John Goldsmith

John was appointed to the Wimmera CMA Board in October 2013. John grew up in the Donald area and now lives in Horsham. John is keen, through his role with the Board, to contribute to long-term sustainability of the Wimmera. For the past 23 years John has worked at Longerenong College and has been General Manager for the past 6 years. In his current role, John deals with farmers and farming issues on a daily basis, through the college's 1070-hectare cropping, sheep and beef cattle enterprise. He is also surrounded by young people, who are starting their agricultural careers, and their contribution to the Australian agricultural industry.



Board Meeting Attendance

Board member	Meetings attended 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015
Karen Douglas – Chair	6 of 6
Jessica Adler	6 of 6
David Drage	6 of 6
Amity Dunstan	5 of 6
John Goldsmith	6 of 6
Damien Holmes	6 of 6
Dean Johns	6 of 6
Emelia Sudholz	5 of 6
Total Meetings	6

Board governance committees

The Board has delegated responsibility for many functions to the Board sub-committees.

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

Audit, Risk & Finance Committee

This committee meets at least four times a year and has responsibility for the oversight and management of financial and organisational risks, financial reporting, compliance with relevant laws and regulations and maintenance of efficient and effective audit functions.

Members of the Audit, Risk & Finance Committee:

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

Jessica Adler, Committee Chair (independent)

Amity Dunstan (Independent)

Dean Johns (Independent)

Glenda McLean (Independent) Sept 2014 - June 2015

Business & Planning Committee

This Committee is responsible for the oversight of the development and review of the RCS, Investment Proposals and Annual Corporate Planning including monitoring, evaluation, governance, compliance requirements and strategic alignment to organisation objectives.

Members of the Business & Planning Committee:

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

Damien Holmes (Committee Chairman)

Karen Douglas, (ex-officio)

John Goldsmith

Emelia Sudholz

Performance and Remuneration Committee

This Committee meets on an as needs basis and its role to monitor, review and make recommendations to the Board regarding:

- The recruitment and appointment of the Chief Executive Officer;
- The remuneration and incentive policies for the CEO;
- The performance appraisals of the CEO; and
- The succession plans for the CEO.

Members of the Remuneration Committee:

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

Karen Douglas (Board & Committee Chairman)

Emelia Sudholz (Board Deputy Chair)

David Drage

Advisory committees

An enhanced engagement framework was introduced on December 10 2014. Up to this date the Advisory Committee members provided advice to the Board on:

- The implementation and review of NRM programs in their area;
- Local and emerging issues in the development and ongoing review of NRM plans;
- The delivery of the RCS;
- Emerging and existing catchment issues;
- Board-initiated reviews.

This process was applied using a framework based on Analysis, Design, Delivery and Review which underpins the approach of the organisation and can therefore supplement and reinforce the strategic directions the organisation will adopt.

- Analysis: Review strategic documents, including investment plans, policies and government objectives;
- Design: Based on the analysis of the NRM issue and using a "decision making framework" that incorporates collective knowledge and expertise to design an appropriate response to the issue;
- Delivery: Implement designed response and gather data on impact; and
- Review: Assess the yearly progress on meeting the objectives of the RCS.

The selection of committee members was based on several guiding principles such as extending the breadth of engagement throughout the region, ensuring a geographic component where relevant, strengthening the relationships with relevant department initiatives and personnel, local government and practising landholders.

1 July 2014 – 10 Dec 2014

Native Vegetation Advisory Committee

30 June 2014 – 10 December 2014

Adam Blake

Leigh Blackmore

Robert Harding

Ted Brown

Annette Jones

Steffen Schultz

Steve Talbot

Karen Douglas (Board Representative)

Threatened Species Advisory Committee

30 June 2014 -10 December 2014

Darryl Argall

Ryan Duffy

Gil Hopkins

Leanne Jackman

Pauline Rudolph

Amity Dunstan (Board Representative)

Wetlands Advisory Committee

30 June 2014 – 10 December 2014

Wayne Caldw

Peter French

Bernie Fox

John Griffiths

Stuart Lardner

Ross McDonald

Stuart McFarlane

Rob O'Shannessy

Richard Wait

Damien Holmes (Board Representative)

John Goldsmith (Board Representative)

Rivers & Streams Advisory Committee

30 June 2014 -10 December 2014

Gary Aitken

Graham Campbell

Andrea Cooper

Ken Flack

Michael Greene

Peter Hallam

James McFarlane

Jim McGuire

Brad Mitchell

Michael Stewart

Emelia Sudholz (Board Representative)

David Drage (Board Representative)

Soils Advisory Committee

30 June 2014 - 10 December 2014

Roger Armstrong

James Boyle

De Anne Ferrier

George Holden

Peter Jackman

Julie May

Chris Pittock

Rob Shea

Annette Smith

Jessica Adler (Board Representative)

Dean Johns (Board Representative)

Enhanced engagement framework

Following December 2014 Wimmera CMA Board adopted an enhanced engagement framework. The framework provides a more flexible approach to community engagement where fit for purpose engagement structures are established on an as needs basis. This increases the engagement reach of the organisation but also delivers efficiencies for the CMA and participants.

The framework is supported by guidelines which:

- require community and stakeholder engagement and communication to be considered during the development, implementation and evaluation of all projects; and
- establish minimum standards for the type of communication and engagement planning required for various types of projects.

An engagement register has been established to monitor our engagement activities.

Employment and conduct principles

Our staff

Providing a safe working environment and investing in people and efficient systems is an important part of Wimmera CMA's responsibilities. Wimmera CMA adheres to the employment and conduct principles as contained in the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

The following summarises workforce data, training, the *Multicultural Victoria Act 2004* support and the Occupational Health and Safety report undertaken by Wimmera CMA in 2014-2015.

Training and development

Wimmera CMA provides flexible working arrangements to provide a supportive and accommodating work environment that supports staff in pursuing further studies or training to enhance their skills.

Wimmera CMA is committed to providing training and support for the development of staff to meet the business objectives of the organisation.

Whole-of-organisation training provided

Wimmera CMA opted this year instead to hold two whole of organisation planning days.

Employment Support Program

A professional, confidential counselling service was made available to employees during the year. The employment support program provides counselling and support to employees to manage challenges both within the workplace and outside of it. Converge International (Incorporating Resolutions RTK) provides this service to Wimmera CMA.

Conduct Principles

The standards for code of conduct mirror those issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission as does the Conflict of Interest Framework and the Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework.

Occupational health and safety

Wimmera CMA has an internal Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Committee charged with oversight of the organisation's health and safety policies and procedures. During the year, Wimmera CMA maintained a designated work group process to manage OHS issues across the organisation. These work groups comprise of:

- In-field contract works;
- In-field monitoring;
- Community engagement; and
- Administration and management.

A representative and deputy were nominated and elected by members of each group. These representatives form the OHS Committee for Wimmera CMA.

Wimmera CMA Performance	Numbers				
	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012	2010-2011
Equivalent Full time Employees (FTE)	23	25	30	32.7	35.6
OHS incidents	5	5	11	20	6
OHS meetings	6	11	10	10	9
Claims under Equal Opportunity Act 1995	0	0	0	0	0
WorkCover claims	0	0	0	0	0
Staff trained in first aid (level 2)	6	13	12	13	9
Staff trained in workplace fire and emergency control procedure	4	4	10	10	11
Staff trained in fire extinguisher, hose-reel and blanket use and operation	8	10	13	17	16
Time lost to injury (days)	0	0	3.1	5	3

Industrial relations

No days have been lost due to industrial action.

Workforce data

Wimmera CMA employed 26 people (23 FTE) in 2014-2015. The breakdown in staff for Wimmera CMA is as follows:

Staff Details As at 30 June 2015	2014 -2015	2013 -2014	2012 -2013	2011 - 2012	2010 - 2011
Total staff	26	28	34	37	39
Staff FTE	23	25	30	32.7	35.6
Female staff	13	14	16	19	20
Male staff	13	14	18	18	19
Staff departures	4	6	5	6	9

Community Inclusiveness

Wimmera CMA recognises that the community comprises of a range of diverse and disparate communities. Wimmera CMA seeks to ensure that any special needs are considered when engaging these sections of the community in any of Wimmera CMA's activities.

Indigenous Participation and Engagement

The Wimmera landscape contains places where Aboriginal people lived; obtaining sustenance, expressing themselves artistically, passing on creation stories and cultural values, engaging in conflict, establishing alliances and social networks, trading goods, celebrating rites of passage and committing the departed to their final resting places.

Aboriginal occupation and use of the land has changed dramatically since European settlement.

Engaging with local Indigenous people is an important component in building a comprehensive understanding of Indigenous ecological knowledge, which enhances management of natural resources in the Wimmera.

This year saw a number of successful outcomes achieved between Wimmera CMA and the local Indigenous community, including:

- Staff participation and support for the delivery of the Delkia Aboriginal Best Start's events 'Welcome Baby to Country' and 'Ready for Learning' day
- Staff participation in Cultural Heritage training presented by Barengi Gadjin Land Council;
- Provide support to facilitate training for Barengi Gadjin Land Council staff
- Engage Barengi Gadjin Land Council work crew for on ground works
- Representation by staff on the Koorie Action Network
- Collaborations with the State Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator;

- Support for the Victorian CMA's Indigenous Facilitator Network meetings;
- Development of the Wimmera CMA's Aboriginal Participation Plan
- Participation in the process of developing Victorian CMA's Indigenous Engagement Guidelines; and
- Provide Wimmera CMA representation on the South West Aboriginal NRM Network

Young people

Wimmera CMA actively promotes the NRM industry amongst young people looking to enter the workforce or refine their career path through the provision of work placements and vacation project work where opportunities are available.

We work with tertiary education providers in providing work placement opportunities for students as part of their courses in NRM related fields; from certificate, undergraduate to post graduate studies. During 2014-15, we facilitated one work placement in the Delivery area in partnership with the Wimmera Development Association, and implemented a GIS Graduate position which provides training and profession development with mentoring by senior CMA staff.

Wimmera CMA has also implemented an Indigenous traineeship program in our organisation to help increase Aboriginal participation and engagement in NRM. The traineeship is designed to provide opportunities for younger members of the local Aboriginal community who have demonstrated business and leadership skills to further develop those skills and gain experience across the breadth of CMA activities, from on ground to strategic and corporate functions. The first participant in the program commenced in 2015.

Other areas where Wimmera CMA involved young people in 2014-15 include:

- A schools education program, implemented as part of the International Year of Soils, with environmental educator Jeanie Clark, focused on hands on learning and delivered over the course of the school year. 8 schools are involved in the program.
- The 2015 Wimmera regional Landcare young Landcare leader award, implemented in partnership with Volunteering Western Victoria and won by Callum Nicholson. Callum has helped bring hundreds of young Melbourne-based, interstate and international volunteers to join forces with locals involved in Project Platypus community tree planting activities in western Victoria over the last three years.
- A habitat design competition for students delivered in conjunction with the Wimmera Community Landcare Celebration featuring the high profile threatened species expert and TV presenter Chris Humfrey; and
- Junior Landcare activities delivered through the Horsham Rural City Council local Landcare facilitator, such as frog pond projects at Horsham North and Laharum primary schools.

Other disclosures

Victorian industry participation policy

The Victorian Industry Participation Policy applies to tenders of over \$1 million in regional Victoria. During the 2014-2015 reporting period, Wimmera CMA had no tenders of this size.

Consultancies

Details of consultancies valued at \$10,000 or greater

In 2014-2015, there were eleven consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2014-2015 in relation to these consultancies is \$572,802 excl. GST (\$456,531 excl. GST 2013-2014).

Details of individual consultancies are outlined on Wimmera CMA's website, at www.wcma.vic.gov.au.

Details of consultancies valued at less than \$10,000

In 2014-2015, there were five consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2014-2015 in relation to these consultancies is \$30,970 excl. GST (\$18,494 excl. GST 2013-2014).

Disclosure of major contracts

Wimmera CMA has not entered into any contracts valued in excess of \$10 million during 2014-2015.

Government Advertising Expenditure

Wimmera CMA's expenditure in the 2014-2015 period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$150,000.

Application and operation of the Protected Disclosure Act 2012 (VIC)

Compliance with the Protected Disclosure Act 2012 (PD Act)

The PD Act enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct within the public sector without fear of reprisal. The PD Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do so.

Under the PD Act, the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission of Victoria (IBAC) has a key role in receiving, assessing and investigating disclosures about improper conduct and detrimental action taken in reprisal for a disclosure by public bodies or public officers.

Disclosures to IBAC can be made in person, by phone, in writing or via email. More information is available on IBAC's website: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

The Wimmera CMA has developed a Protected Disclosure Policy and Procedure and they are available on our website: www.wcma.vic.gov.au

The Wimmera CMA has not sent or referred any disclosures to IBAC during 2014-2015.

Compliance with building and maintenance provisions

Wimmera CMA has complied with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*. The premises that Wimmera CMA occupies are leased.

National competition policy

Competitive neutrality seeks to enable fair competition between government and private sector businesses. Any advantages or disadvantages that government business may experience, simply as a result of government ownership, should be neutralised. The Wimmera CMA continues to implement and apply this principle in its business undertakings.

Application and operation of the Freedom of Information Act 1982

The Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by Wimmera CMA. Wimmera CMA is considered to be a 'Government Agency' under the terms of the FOI Act. Accordingly, it is required to comply with the procedures that have been prescribed under which members of the public may gain access to information held by agencies. A decision to release information is made by an Authorised Officer.

Freedom of Information requests are made in writing describing the documents requested and including a payment of the prescribed \$27.50 application fee. Further charges may be payable.

Freedom of Information fees and charges are not subject to GST. Requests to Wimmera CMA are administered by the Manager Corporate Services and should be sent to:

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

PO Box 479, Horsham Vic 3402.

Telephone: (03) 5382 1544.

Principal Officer: David Scott

Authorised Officer: David Scott

Wimmera CMA's powers are drawn from the CALP Act. Wimmera CMA held and maintained the following categories of documents:

- Correspondence files;
- Minutes of various meetings held by Wimmera CMA; and
- Technical reports and statistical information on Wimmera CMA matters.

During the reporting period there were nil requests for information.

Availability of additional information

Reports and general information can be accessed in person by attending our office at 24 Darlot Street, Horsham, during business hours. Wimmera CMA's Annual Report and some key policy documents can also be accessed via our website:

www.wcma.vic.gov.au.

Literature can be mailed upon request for a minimal charge. Requests for information can be requested by writing to the Chief Executive Officer, describing in as much detail as possible the nature of the document required.

Information relevant to the headings listed in Financial Reporting Direction 22C of the *Financial Management Act 1994* is held at Wimmera CMA's office and is available upon request, subject to the FOI Act.

Wimmera CMA has collected and collated details regarding the following information which is also available on request, subject to the FOI Act:

- Declarations of pecuniary interests completed by all relevant officers;
- Details of shares held by a senior officer as nominee, or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary;
- Wimmera CMA publications. They can also be accessed and downloaded from www.wcma.vic.gov.au
- Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the agency;
- Details of any major external reviews carried out on the agency;
- Details of major research and development activities undertaken by the agency;
- Details of overseas visits undertaken, including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit;
- Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the agency to develop community awareness of the entity and its services;
- Details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees. Also refer to occupational health and safety in this report in "Occupational health and safety" on page 55;
- Details on industrial relations within the agency, and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes. Also refer to employment and conduct principles in this report in "Employment and conduct principles" on page 54;
- A list of the agency's major committees, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved. Also refer to board governance committees in this report in "Board governance committees" on page 49;
- Details of all consultancies and contractors including consultants and contractors engaged, services provided and expenditure committed to for each engagement.

Office-based environmental impacts

Wimmera CMA continues to implement actions to improve the environmental sustainability of its operations. Actions are guided by Wimmera CMA's Environmental Sustainability Strategy, developed through Victoria's ResourceSmart Program. Actions include recycling e-waste, fluorescent tubes, glass, cardboard and paper, as well as use of energy-efficient office lighting, double-sided printing and water saving devices such as desert cubes.

Sustainability audits were conducted during 2014-2015 and the latest data for organisational energy, water and paper use, transportation, waste production and general recycling is highlighted below. Full-time equivalent (FTE) based indicators are adopted for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Energy consumption	4350 megajoules per FTE per year
Water consumption	15.1 kilolitres per FTE per year
Total waste production	35.1 kilograms per FTE per year
Fuel usage	2.9 kilolitres per vehicle
Paper	3300 sheets of A4 paper per FTE per year

The complete Wimmera CMA Environmental Sustainability Strategy can be found at www.wcma.vic.gov.au.

Risk management attestation

The risk management attestation provides assurance that the requirements of the RMF are built into the Authorities planning and reporting processes. The Standing direction 4.5.5 requires the accountable Officer (The Chair in this instance) to attest that:

- Risk management processes are in place consistent with the Australian/New Zealand Risk Management Standard (AS/NZS ISO 31000-2009).
- These processes are effective in controlling the risks to a satisfactory level.
- The Board and ARFC verifies that view.

'I, Karen Douglas Wimmera CMA Chair, certify that the Wimmera CMA has complied with the Ministerial Standing Direction 4.5.5 – Risk Management Framework and Process. The Wimmera CMA Audit, Risk and Finance Committee verifies this.'



Karen Douglas
Wimmera CMA Board Chair
24 June 2015

Financial statements

WIMMERA CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY ACCOUNTABLE OFFICER'S DECLARATION

The attached financial statements for Wimmera Catchment Management Authority have been prepared in accordance with Standing Direction 4.2 of the Financial Management Act 1994, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state, in our opinion, the information set out in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2015 and the financial position of the Authority as at 30 June 2015.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 21 August, 2015



Chairman
Karen Douglas



Accountable Officer
David Brennan



Chief Financial Officer
David Scott

Dated: 21/08/2015

**COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Income from Operating Activities			
Government Contributions	3(b)	7,740,399	8,097,347
Interest		184,200	162,621
Other income		105,766	137,294
Income from Non-Operating Activities			
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	3 (a)	-	86,228
Total Income		8,030,365	8,483,490
Expenses from Operating Activities			
Depreciation	2 (a)	239,373	270,018
Employee benefits	2(b)	2,526,084	2,717,584
Materials, Maintenance, Grants, Contracts & Consultancies	2(c)	4,675,565	2,657,722
Operating lease rental		126,492	149,460
Other		580,832	642,934
Total Expenses from Operating Activities		8,148,346	6,437,718
Net Result for the year		(117,981)	2,045,772
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Net Comprehensive Result for the year		(117,981)	2,045,772

The above Comprehensive Operating Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	Note	Contributions by owners \$	Reserves \$	Accumulated Funds \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2013		1,723,699	621,899	1,841,930	4,187,528
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	-	2,045,772	2,045,772
Transfers to Reserves		-	554,382	(554,382)	-
Balance at 30th June 2014	9	1,723,699	1,176,281	3,333,320	6,233,300
Total comprehensive income for the year		-	-	(117,981)	(117,981)
Transfers to Reserves		-	982,914	(982,914)	-
Balance as at 30 June 2015	9	1,723,699	2,159,195	2,232,425	6,115,319

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015**

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	5,917,024	6,106,925
Receivables	5	490,411	341,979
Prepayments		49,630	41,616
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		6,457,065	6,490,520
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	535,148	643,137
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		535,148	643,137
TOTAL ASSETS		6,992,213	7,133,657
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Payables	7	339,256	369,585
Employee benefits	8	455,496	464,895
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		794,752	834,480
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	8	82,142	65,877
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		82,142	65,877
TOTAL LIABILITIES		876,894	900,357
NET ASSETS		6,115,319	6,233,300
EQUITY			
Contributed Capital	9 (a)	1,723,699	1,723,699
Accumulated Funds	9 (b)	2,232,425	3,333,320
Reserves	9 (c)	2,159,195	1,176,281
TOTAL EQUITY		6,115,319	6,233,300
Contingencies	13	-	-
Commitments	11	-	-

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Government Contributions		7,642,050	8,587,448
Interest Received		248,924	195,416
Other Receipts		105,766	137,294
Net GST (paid)/received (i)		432,729	286,157
Payments to Employees and Suppliers		(8,487,985)	(6,550,217)
Net Cash Provided by/(Used in) Operating Activities	10	(58,516)	2,656,098
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Payments for Property, Plant & Equipment	6	(131,385)	(119,890)
Proceeds from sale of Property, Plant & Equipment		-	112,428
Net Cash (used In) Investing Activities		(131,385)	(7,462)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents Held		(189,901)	2,648,636
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		6,106,925	3,458,289
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	4(a)	5,917,024	6,106,925

(i) Goods and services tax received from Australian Taxation Office is presente on a net basis.

The above cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting

General

The financial reports of WCMA is a general purpose financial report that consists of an Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Cash Flow Statement and notes accompanying these statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the requirements of the Financial Management Act 1994 and applicable Ministerial Directions. Wimmera Catchment Management Authority is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial report.

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for profit entities have been applied.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in the preparation of these financial statements whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

This financial report has been prepared on an accrual and going concern basis.

The annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 21 August, 2015

The Principal address is:
24 Darlot Street
HORSHAM 3400

Accounting policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to align with current presentation and disclosure.

Functional and presentation currency

Items included in this financial report are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which Wimmera Catchment Management Authority operates ('the functional currency'). The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is Wimmera Catchment Management Authorities functional and presentation currency.

Classification between current and non-current

In the determination of whether an asset or liability is current or non-current, consideration is given to the time when each asset or liability is expected to be realised or paid. The asset or liability is classified as current if it is expected to be turned over within the next twelve months., being the Authority's operational cycle - see 1(f) for a variation in relation to employee benefits.

Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amounts in the report have been rounded to the nearest dollar. Figures in the financial report may not equate due to rounding.

Historical cost convention

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except where specifically stated.

Accounting estimates

The preparation of the financial report in conformity with AAS's requires the user of certain accounting estimates that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies.

The most significant accounting estimates undertaken in the preparation of this financial report relate to:

- * estimation of useful lives
- * the impairment of assets
- *provisions
- *employee benefits

Financial Statement Presentation

The Authority has applied the revised AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements which became effective for reporting periods beginning on or after , 1 July 2014 and AASB 1054 Australian Additional Disclosures which became effective for reporting periods beginning on or after, 1 July 2014.

(b) Changes in Accounting Policies

Subsequent to the 2013-14 reporting period, the following new and revised Standards have been adopted in the current period with their financial impact detailed as below.

AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements

AASB 10 provides a new approach to determine whether an entity has control over an entity, and therefore must present consolidated financial statements. The new approach requires the satisfaction of all three criteria for control to exist over an entity for financial reporting purposes:

- (a) The investor has power over the investee
- (b) The investor has exposure, or rights to variable returns from its involvement with the investee; and
- (c) The investor has the ability to use its power over the investee to affect the amount of investor's returns.

Based on the new criteria prescribed in AASB 10, the Authority has reviewed the existing arrangements to determine if there are any additional entities that need to be consolidated into the group. the Authority has concluded that there are no additional entities that have met the control criteria and has not been required to amend the financial statements.

AASB 11 Joint Ventures

In accordance with AASB 11, there are two types of joint arrangements, i.e. joint operations and joint ventures. Joint operations arise where the investors have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities of an arrangement. A joint operator accounts for its share of the assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses. Joint ventures arise where the investors have rights to the net assets of the arrangement; joint ventures are accounted for under the equity method. Proportionate consolidation of joint ventures is no longer permitted.

The Authority has reviewed its existing contractual arrangements with other entities to ensure they are aligned with the new classifications under AASB 11. It has concluded that the existing classification for the current joint ventures remain appropriate and has not been required to amend the financial statements.

AASB 12 Disclosure of interest in Other Entities

AASB 12 Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities prescribes the disclosure requirements for an entity's interests in subsidiaries, associates, joint arrangements and extends to the entity's association with unconsolidated structured entities.

The Authority does not have any interests in associates or joint ventures.

AASB 119 Employee Benefits

In accordance with AASB 119 the Authority has changed accounting for defined benefit plans and termination benefits. As the current accounting policy is for the Authority to recognise and disclose the Authority's defined benefit liabilities in its financial statements, changes in defined benefit obligations and plan assets have had limited impact on the Authority.

The revised standard also changes the definition of short-term employee benefits. These were previously benefits that were expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period in which the employees render the related service, however, short term employee benefits are now defined as benefits expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period in which the employees render the related service. As a result, accrued annual leave balances which were previously classified by the Authority as short-term employee benefits no longer meet this definition and are now classified as long term employee benefits. This has resulted in a change of measurement for the annual leave provision from an nominal to discounted basis for amounts not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months. Comparative amounts for 2013-14 and the related amounts as at 1 July 2013 have been restated in accordance with the relevant transitional provisions set out in AASB 119. There was no dollar impact as a result of this change.

(c) Revenue

Fees and charges revenue is recognised when the service to which they related have been provided.

Government grants and contributions are recognised as operating revenue on receipt or when the entity obtains control of the contribution and meets certain other criteria as outlined by AASB 1004.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest rate method, in the period which it is incurred.

(d) Expenses

Depreciation of Non-current assets

All non-current physical assets that have a limited useful life are depreciated. Where assets have separate identifiable components that have distinct useful lives and/or residual values, a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts, net of their residual values, over the estimated useful lives, commencing from the time the asset is ready for use. The assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate at balance sheet date.

Major depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year, unless otherwise stated.

	2015	2014
	Useful life	Useful life
Plant Equipment	3.5 - 10 years	3.5 - 10 years
Motor Vehicles	3.5 years	3.5 years
Leasehold Improvements	10 years	10 years

Employee Benefits

These expenses include all costs related to employment (other than superannuation which is accounted for separately) including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments and Work Cover premiums.

Superannuation

The amount charged to the comprehensive operating statement is the employer contribution for members both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

Repairs & maintenance

Routine maintenance, repair costs and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the costs exceeds the capitalisation threshold, the cost is capitalised and depreciated.

Other Expenses

Other costs which are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. The carrying amounts of any inventories held for distribution are expenses when distributed.

(e) Assets

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and deposits recognised on the Balance Sheet comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid Investments (with an original maturity of three months or less), which are held for the purpose of meeting short term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of changes in value.

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investment maturing within less than three months.

Receivables

Receivables consist of:

- *contractual receivables, such as debtors in relation to goods and services, loans to third parties, accrued investment income and
- *statutory receivables, such as amounts owing from the Victorian Government and Goods and Services Tax (GST) input tax credits recoverable.

Contractual receivables, are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments because they do not arise from a contract.

Contractual receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised costs, less an allowance for impaired receivables. Trade receivables are due for settlement no more than 30 days from the date of recognition.

Collectability of contractual receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectable are written off. A provision for doubtful debts is established when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the original effective interest rate. The amounts credited to the provision are recognised as an expense in the comprehensive operating statement.

Prepayments

Prepayments represent payments in advance of receipt of goods or services or that part of expenditure made in one accounting period covering a term extending beyond that period.

Plant and equipment

Recognition of Non-current Physical Assets

Plant and equipment represent non-current physical assets comprising leasehold improvements, plant, equipment, furniture and motor vehicles. Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000 for 2014/15 (\$1,000: 2013/14) and a useful life to the authority of more than one year are capitalised. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Where assets are constructed by the Authority, the cost at which they are recorded includes an appropriate share of fixed and variable costs.

Assets acquired at no cost or for nominal consideration by the authority are recognised at fair value at the date of acquisition.

Leasehold Improvements

Leasehold improvements are recognised at cost and are amortised over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement, whichever is shorter. At balance date, leasehold improvements are amortised over a 10 year period.

Impairment of Assets

All assets are assessed annually for indications of impairment, except for

- assets arising from employee benefits;
- non-current assets held for sale

If there is an indication of impairment, the assets concerned are tested as to whether their carrying value exceeds their recoverable amount. Where an asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount, the difference is written-off by a charge to the comprehensive operating statement except to the extent that the write-down can be debited to an asset revaluation reserve amount applicable to that class of asset.

The recoverable amount for most assets is measured at the higher of depreciated replacement cost and fair value less costs to sell. Recoverable amount for assets held primarily to generate net cash inflows is measured at the higher of the present value of future cash flows expected to be obtained from the asset and fair value less costs to sell. It is deemed that, in the event of the loss of an asset, the future economic benefits arising from the use of the asset will be replaced unless a specific decision to the contrary has been made.

Operating Lease

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives received from the (lessor) are charged to the Comprehensive Operating Statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease, in the periods in which are incurred, as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased assets.

(f) Liabilities***Payables***

Payables consist of:

*contractual payables, such as accounts payable and unearned income. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid, and arise when the Authorities become obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of those goods and services and

*statutory payables such as goods and services tax and fringe benefits tax payables.

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as financial liabilities at amortised cost. Statutory payables are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from a contract.

The contractual payables are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Provisions***Employee benefits***

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave for services rendered to the reporting date.

Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised at their nominal values using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

Depends on the expectation of the timing of the settlement, liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are measured at:

* undiscounted value - if the Authority expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or

* present value - if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits.

Unconditional LSL is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements as a current liability, even where the Authority does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

* undiscounted value - if the Authority expects to wholly settle within 12 months; and

* present value - if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non current LSL liability is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an other economic flow.

On-Costs

Provisions for on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are recognised and included in employee benefit liabilities.

(g) Equity***Contributions by owners***

Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions or distributions have also been designated as contributions by owners. Transfers of net assets arising from administrative restructurings are treated as distributions to or contributions by owners.

Committed Funds Reserve

Committed Funds Reserve are the authorities legal obligations owed for committed projects at the end of the financial period.

Financial Instruments***Recognition***

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value, plus in the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through profit and loss, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or the issue of the financial asset or liability. Subsequently to initial recognition, the financial instruments are measured as set out below:

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for those with maturities greater than 12 months after the reporting date which are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables are included in trade and other receivables and other receivables in the balance sheet. Loans and receivables are recorded at amortised cost less impairment.

Held-to-maturity investments

Held to maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the Authority's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. If the Authority were to sell other than an insignificant amount of held to maturity financial assets, the whole category would be tainted and reclassified as available for sale. Held to maturity financial assets are included in non-current assets, except for those with maturities less than 12 months from the reporting date, which are classified as current assets. Any held-to maturity investments held by the Authority are stated at amortised cost.

Impairment of financial assets

At each reporting date, the Authority assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired.

Fair value

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

Consistent with AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement, the Authority determines the policies and procedures for both recurring fair value measurements such as infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and financial instruments and for non recurring fair value measurements such as assets held for sale, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 13 and the relevant Financial Reporting Directions.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1	Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
Level 2	Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
Level 3	Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, the Authority has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

In addition, the Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer General Victoria (VGV) is the Authorities independent valuation agency.

The Authority in conjunction with VGV monitors changes in the fair value of each asset through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

(h) Committed Funds Reserve

Committed Funds Reserve are the authorities legal obligations owed for committed projects at the end of the financial period.

(i) Commitments

Commitments for future expenditure including operating commitments arising from contracts relate to rental of properties and photocopiers. These commitments are disclosed at their nominal value net of goods and services tax payable (refer Note 11). These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

(j) Contingent Liabilities

Contingent Liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent liabilities are presented inclusive of GST payable.

(k) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the Balance Sheet. Cash flows arising from operating activities are disclosed in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis - i.e., inclusive of GST. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable or payable to the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

(I) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 30 June 2015 reporting period. As at 30 June 2015, the following standards and interpretations had been issued but were not mandatory for financial years ending 30 June 2015. Wimmera Catchment Management Authority has not and does not intend to adopt these standards early.

Standard/ Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 9 Financial Instrument	The key changes include the simplified requirement of financial assets, a new hedging accounting model and a revised impairment loss model to recognise impairment losses earlier, as opposed to the current approach that recognises impairment only when incurred.	1 Jan 2018	<p>The assessment by the Authority has identified that the financial impact of available for sale (AFS) assets will now be reported through other comprehensive income (OCI) and no longer recycled to the profit and loss.</p> <p>While the preliminary assessment by the Authority has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 9, it will continue to be monitored and assessed.</p>
AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers	The core principle of AASB 15 requires an entity to recognise revenue when the entity satisfies a performance obligation by transferring a promised good or service to a customer	1 Jan 2016 (Exposure Draft 263-potential deferral to 1 Jan 2018)	The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the Authorities financial statements. The Standard will also require the Authority to conduct additional disclosures on service revenue from licenses that cover multiple reporting periods. Revenue that was deferred and amortised over a period may now need to be recognised by the Authority immediately as a transitional adjustment against the opening returned earnings if there are no former performance obligations outstanding.

Standard/ Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (Part E Financial Instruments)	Amends various AASs to reflect the AASB's decision to defer the mandatory application date of AASB 9 to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2018 as a consequence of Chapter 6 Hedge Accounting, and to amend reduced disclosure requirements.	1 Jan 2018	The amending standard will defer the Authorities application period of AASB 9 to the 2018-19 reporting period in accordance with the transition requirements.
AASB 20114-4 amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & AASB 138]	Amends AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment and AASB 138 Intangible Assets to: * establish the principle for the basis of depreciation and amortisation as being the expected pattern of consumption of the future economic benefits of an asset; *prohibits the use of revenue- based methods to calculate the depreciation or amortisation of an asset, tangible or intangible, because revenue generally reflects the pattern of economic benefits that are generated from operating the business, rather than the consumption through the use of the asset.	1 Jan 2016	The Authorities assessment has indicated that there is no expected impact as the revenue-based method is not used for depreciation and amortisation.
AASB 2014-9 amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 & 128]	Amends AASB 127 Separate Financial Statements to allow entities to use the equity method of accounting for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in their separate financial statements	1 Jan 2016	The Authorities assessment indicates that there is no expected impact as the entity will continue to account for the investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates using the cost method as mandated if separate financial statements are presented in accordance with FRD 113A.

Standard/ Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2014-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Sale or Contribution of Assets between an investor and is Associate or Joint Venture [AASB 10 & AASB 128]	AASB 2014-10 amends AASB 10 Consolidated Financial Statements and AASB 128 Investments in Associates to ensure consistent treatment in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The amendments require that: *a full gain or loss to be recognised by the investor when a transaction involves a business (whether it is housed in a subsidiary or not); and *a partial gain or loss to be recognised by the parent when a transaction involves assets that do not constitute a business, even if these assets are housed in a subsidiary.	1 Jan 2016	The Authorities assessment has indicated that there is limited impact, as the revisions to AASB 10 and AASB 128 are guidance in nature.
AASB 2015-6 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, AASB 124&AASB 1049]	The Amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 Related party Disclosures to not-for-profit public sector entities. A guidance has been included to assist the application of the Standard by not-for-profit sector entities.	1 Jan 2016	The amending standard will result in extended disclosures on the Authorities key management personnel (KMP) and the related party transactions.

In addition to the new standards above, the AASB has issued a list of amending standards that are not effective for the 2014-15 reporting period (as listed below). In general, these amending standards include editorial and references changes that are expected to have insignificant impacts on public sector reporting. The AASB Interpretation in the list below is also not effective for the 2014-15 reporting period and is considered to have insignificant impacts on the Authority.

* AASB 2010-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010).

* AASB 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments.

*AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards [Part D - consequential Amendments arising from AASB 14 Regulatory Deferral Accounts only] #

*AASB 2014-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations [AASB 1 & AASB 11]

*AASB 2014-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15

*AASB 2014-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)

*AASB 2014-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014) - Application of AASB 9 (December 2009) and AASB 9 [AASB 9 (2009 & 2010)]

*AASB 2015-2 amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, AASB 101, AASB 134 & AASB 21049]

*AASB 2015-3 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality

*AASB 2015-4 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Financial Reporting Requirements for Australian Groups with a Foreign Parent [AASB 127, AASB 128] #

*AASB 2015-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Investment Entities; applying the Consolidation Exception [AASB 10, AASB 12, AASB 128] #

This Standard or Amendment may not be relevant to Victorian not-for-profit entities when operative.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 2 (a) DEPRECIATION		
Plant & Equipment	72,621	86,369
Motor Vehicles	94,475	111,375
Leasehold Improvements	72,277	72,274
Total Depreciation	239,373	270,018

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 2(b) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
Salaries & Wages	1,834,524	1,937,118
Annual Leave	190,536	210,159
Long Service Leave	55,337	58,906
Other Leave	131,357	174,052
Superannuation	199,722	214,522
Other Salary on-costs	114,608	122,827
Total Employee Benefits	2,526,084	2,717,584

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 2(c) MATERIALS, MAINTENANCE, GRANTS, CONTRACTS		
Materials	109,587	90,403
Repairs & Maintenance	35,652	30,856
Grants paid	2,164,383	880,205
Contractors	1,777,172	1,181,232
Consultants	588,771	475,026
Total Materials, Maintenance, Grants, Contracts	4,675,565	2,657,722

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 3 (a) NET GAIN (LOSS) ON DISPOSAL OF NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Proceeds from disposal non-current assets:		
Motor Vehicles	-	111,451
Plant & Equipment	-	977
	-	112,428
Less: written down value of non-current assets		
Motor Vehicles	-	26,200
	-	26,200
Net gain(loss) on disposal non-current assets	-	86,228

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 3(b) GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS		
State Government	5,287,747	5,238,727
Commonwealth Government	2,452,652	2,858,620
Total Government Contributions	7,740,399	8,097,347

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 4 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on Hand	500	500
Cash at Bank	1,828,225	571,477
Short Term Deposits	4,088,299	5,534,948
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	5,917,024	6,106,925
(a) Reconciliation to cash at end of year		
The above figures are reconciled to cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the cash flow statement, as follows:		
Balance as above	5,917,024	6,106,925
(b) Cash at bank and on hand		
These are non-interest bearing	500	500
(c) Short term deposits		
The deposits are bearing floating interest rates at an		
	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 5 RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Non Statutory Receivables		
Trade Debtors	345,512	201,820
Accrued Income	14,645	23,109
Total Non Statutory Receivables	360,157	224,929
Statutory Receivables		
Statutory GST Receivable	130,254	117,050
Total Statutory Receivables	130,254	117,050
Total Receivables	490,411	341,979
Receivables expected to be recovered <30 days	190,931	217,383
Receivables expected to be recovered >30 days and <60 days	299,480	124,596
Total Receivables	490,411	341,979

All receivables are current and expected to be fully recovered. The carrying amount approximates there fair value. As of 30 June 2015, nil receivables were past due (2014: Nil)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
NOTE 6 PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
(a) Gross Fair Value and accumulated depreciation		
Plant & Equipment		
At Fair Value	854,256	802,316
Accumulated Depreciation	(767,411)	(699,779)
Net carrying amount	86,845	102,537
Motor Vehicles		
At Fair Value	412,864	338,410
Accumulated Depreciation	(253,659)	(159,183)
Net carrying amount	159,205	179,227
Leasehold Improvements		
At Fair Value	722,745	722,745
Accumulated Depreciation	(433,647)	(361,372)
Net carrying amount	289,098	361,373
Total Plant & equipment	535,148	643,137

(b) Movements during the reporting period

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year are set out below.

	Plant & Equipment	Motor Vehicles	Leasehold Improvements	Total
Balance at 1 July 2013	164,303	221,513	433,649	819,465
Additions	24,603	95,287	-	119,890
Disposals	-	(26,200)	-	(26,200)
Depreciation	(86,369)	(111,375)	(72,274)	(270,018)
Balance at 30 June 2014	102,537	179,225	361,375	643,137
Balance at 1 July 2014	102,537	179,225	361,375	643,137
Additions	56,929	74,455	-	131,384
Disposals	-	-	-	(0)
Depreciation	(72,621)	(94,475)	(72,277)	(239,373)
Balance at 30 June 2015	86,845	159,205	289,098	535,148

(c) Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets as at 30 June 2015.

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 15	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 (i)	Level 2 (i)	Level 3 (i)
Plant and equipment at Fair Value	86,845			86,845
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	86,845			86,845
Motor vehicles at Fair Value	159,205			159,205
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	159,205			159,205
Leasehold improvements at Fair Value	289,098			289,098
Total Leasehold improvements at Fair Value	289,098			289,098

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 6
PLANT & EQUIPMENT (CONT'D)

(c) Cont'd Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets as at 30 June 2014.

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 14	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 (i)	Level 2 (i)	Level 3 (i)
Plant and equipment at Fair Value	102,537			102,537
Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value	102,537			102,537
Motor vehicles at Fair Value	179,225			179,225
Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value	179,225			179,225
Leasehold improvements at Fair Value	361,375			361,375
Total Leasehold improvements at Fair Value	361,375			361,375

Vehicles

Vehicles are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. The Authority acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers in the Authority who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method.

Leasehold Improvements

Leasehold Improvements are held at fair value and are depreciated over 10 years.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2015.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 6**PLANT & EQUIPMENT (CONT'D)****Reconciliation of Level**

2015	Plant and equipment	Motor Vehicles	Leasehold Improvements
	\$	\$	\$
Opening Balance	102,537	179,225	361,375
Purchases (sales)	56,929	74,455	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	-
Gains or losses recognised in net results	-	-	-
Depreciations	(72,621)	(94,475)	(72,277)
Impairment Loss	-	-	-
Subtotal	86,845	159,205	289,098
Revaluation	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-
Closing Balance	86,845	159,205	289,098
Unrealised gains/(losses) on non-financial assets	-	-	-

2014	Plant and equipment	Motor Vehicles	Leasehold Improvements
	\$	\$	\$
Opening Balance	164,303	221,513	433,649
Purchases (sales)	24,603	95,287	-
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	-
Gains or losses recognised in net results	-	(26,200)	-
Depreciations	(86,369)	(111,375)	(72,274)
Impairment Loss	-	-	-
Subtotal	102,537	179,225	361,375
Revaluation	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-
Closing Balance	102,537	179,225	361,375
Unrealised gains/(losses) on non-financial assets	-	-	-

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 6**PLANT & EQUIPMENT (CONT'D)****Description of significant unobservable inputs to level 3 valuations**

Item	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs	Range (weighted average)	Sensitivity of fair value measurements to changes in significant unobservable inputs
Plant and equipment	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit	3,000-\$4,000 per unit (\$3,500 per unit)	A significant increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value.
		Useful life of plant and equipment	3.5-10 years (9 Years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Vehicles	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit	\$9,000-\$10,000 per unit (\$9,500 per unit)	A significant increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value.
		Useful life of vehicles	3-5 years (3 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.
Leasehold Improvements	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit	\$3,000-\$4,000 per unit (\$3,500 per unit)	A significant increase or decrease in cost per unit would result in a significantly higher or lower fair value.
		Useful life of leasehold improvements	10 years (10 years)	A significant increase or decrease in the estimated useful life of the asset would result in a significantly higher or lower valuation.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

		2015	2014
		\$	\$
NOTE 7	PAYABLES		
	CURRENT		
	Non Statutory Payables		
	Contractual Trade Creditors	84,180	204,000
	Contractual Accrued Expenses	207,256	116,793
	Total Non Statutory Payables	291,436	320,793
	Statutory Payables		
	Statutory Group Tax payable	34,276	36,266
	Statutory Accrued Expenses	13,544	12,525
	Total Payables	47,820	48,791
	Total Payables	339,256	369,584
	Due to the short term nature of the current payables, their carrying value is assumed to approximate their fair value. Payables are paid within 30 days		
NOTE 8	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2015	2014
	CURRENT	\$	\$
	Annual leave and unconditional long service leave entitlements representing more than 7 years of continuous service, measured at Nominal value:		
	Long Service Leave		
	Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	22,782	23,609
	Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	205,039	212,479
	Annual Leave		
	Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	174,465	168,954
		402,286	405,042
	Employee benefit on-costs to settle within 12 months	21,494	28,034
	Employee benefit on-costs to settle after 12 months	31,716	31,819
		53,210	59,853
	Total Current	455,496	464,895
	NON CURRENT		
	Employee benefits	71,139	57,297
	Employee benefit on-costs	11,004	8,580
	Total Non-Current	82,143	65,877
	Total Employee Benefits	537,639	530,772

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
NOTE 9		
EQUITY		
(a) Contributed Capital		
Total at beginning of financial year	1,723,699	1,723,699
Total at reporting date	1,723,699	1,723,699
(b) Retained Profits		
Retained Profits at the beginning of the year	3,333,320	1,841,930
Net Result for the year	(117,981)	2,045,772
Transfer (to) / from Reserves	(982,914)	(554,382)
Retained profits at the reporting date	2,232,425	3,333,320
(c) Committed Funds Reserve		
Opening balance	1,176,281	621,899
Transfer from/(to) retained profits	982,914	554,382
Total at reporting date	2,159,195	1,176,281
Reserve funds are legal obligations owed for committed projects		

NOTE 10	RECONCILIATION OF PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR TO NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
	Net result for the year	(117,981)	2,045,772
	Non Cash Flows in result:		
	Depreciation	239,373	270,018
	(Profit)/Loss on disposal of non-current Assets	-	(86,228)
	Changes in Assets & Liabilities:		
	Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	(30,329)	24,782
	Increase/(Decrease) in Employee Benefits	6,867	2,634
	Decrease/(Increase) in Receivables	(148,432)	426,355
	Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments	(8,014)	(27,235)
	Net Cash provided by/(used in) Operating Activities	(58,516)	2,656,098

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
NOTE 11 COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE		
Capital commitments		
The Authority has no capital commitments as at 30 June 2015 (2014: nil)		
Operating lease commitments		
Operating lease commitments relate to building and equipment leases		
Not later than one year	116,277	110,979
Later than one and not later than five years	243,511	340,842
Later than five years		-
Total Operating Lease Liability	359,788	451,821

NOTE 12 COMMITTED FUNDS RESERVE

Catchment Management Authority's are responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects primarily funded by State and Federal Government programs. The Authority receives funding for specific projects which are guided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and delivered in line with the Authority's Corporation Plan approved by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

The projects funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and received at various stages of the project life based on contractual agreements. At the end of the financial year there are some projects that have not reached completion but will be completed within the contractual terms in future financial periods. At balance date the Authority has significant cash and cash equivalents that will be utilised to complete these projects in future years. Refer Note 4 - Cash and Cash Equivalents for balances on hand.

NOTE 13 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND ASSETS

The Authority has no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2015 (2014: nil)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 14	2015	2014
	\$	\$
RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES		
In accordance with the Ministerial Directions Issued by the Minister for Finance under the Financial Management Act 1994, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.		
(a) Responsible persons		
The names of persons who were Responsible Persons at any time during the financial year were:		
Responsible Ministers		
Hon. Ryan Smith (MP) 1 July 2014 to 3rd December 2014 (Minister for Environment and Climate Change)		
Hon. Peter Walsh (MLA) 1 July 2014 to 3rd December 2014 (Minister for Water)		
Hon. Lisa Neville (MLA) 4 December 2014 to 30th June 2015 (Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water)		
Governing Board		
Karen Douglas (CP) 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015		
Jessica Adler 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015		
Amity Dunstan 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015		
Emelia Sudholz 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015		
Damien Holmes 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015		
Dean Johns 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015		
David Drage 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015		
John Goldsmith 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015		
Accountable Officer		
David Brennan 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015 Chief Executive Officer		
Remuneration of Responsible Persons:		
Remuneration paid to Ministers is reported in the Annual Report of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.		
The Number of Responsible Persons are shown in their relevant income bands:		
\$0 - \$9,999	-	7
\$10,000 - \$19,999	7	4
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	1
\$180,000 - \$189,999	-	1
\$190,000 - \$199,000	1	-
	9	13
Total amount Remuneration received, or due and receivable by Responsible persons amounted to:	\$ 305,708	\$ 305,152

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 14**RESPONSIBLE PERSONS AND RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES (CONT'D)****Other Transactions of Responsible Persons and their Related Parties**

Other than travel reimbursements there were no other transactions between the Authority and responsible persons or their related parties as at 30 June 2015. (2014: Nil).

	Total Remuneration		Base Remuneration	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
(b) Executive Officer's Remuneration				
The number of executive officers other than Ministers and Accountable officer, whose total remuneration falls within the specified bands above \$100,000				
\$100,000 - \$109,999	-	1	-	2
\$110,000 - \$119,999	2	1	2	-
\$120,000 - \$129,999	2	2	2	2
\$140,000 - \$149,999	-	-	-	-
Total number of executives	4	4	4	4
Total annualised employee equivalent (AEE)**	4	4	4	4
Total remuneration	\$ 488,679	\$ 470,557	\$477,767	\$458,543

** Annualised employee equivalent is based on working 38 ordinary hours per week over the reporting period.

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the first two columns in the table above in their relevant income bands. The base remuneration of executive officers is shown in the third and fourth columns. Base remuneration is exclusive of bonus payments. the total annualised equivalent provides a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

There was an increase in remuneration due to the Management function being shared across two existing positions.

(c) Payments to other Personnel (Contractors with significant Management Responsibilities)

The number of contractors charged with significant management responsibilities is nil.
 (2014: nil)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 15 SUPERANNUATION

The Authority contributes in respect of its employees, to the following superannuation schemes:

	Type of Scheme	Rate %	2015 \$	2014 \$
Vision Super	Accumulation Fund	9.50	39,563	52,086
Other Superannuation Funds	Accumulation Fund	9.50	160,159	162,436
Total contributions to all funds			199,722	214,522

The Authority makes employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to various nominated funds, chosen by its employees. Obligations for contributions to these funds are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The accumulation funds category receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2015, this was 9.5% required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation (for 2013/14 this was 9.25%).

NOTE 16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Authority's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. The Authority's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Authority. The Authority uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include sensitivity analysis in the case of interest rate, and other price risks, ageing analysis for credit risk and beta analysis in respect of investment portfolios to determine market risk.

Risk management is carried out by the chief financial officer under policies approved by the Board of Directors. The Board provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as policies covering specific areas such as interest rate risk, credit risk, use of derivative financial instruments and non-derivative financial instruments and investment of excess liquidity.

The main risk the Authority is exposed to through its financial instruments are as follows:

(a) Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices will affect the fair value of future cash flows of the Authority's financial instruments. Market risk comprises of foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk, there is no exposure to foreign exchange risk and insignificant exposure to other price risks.

Objectives, policies and processes used to these risks are disclosed in the paragraphs below:

(i) Interest Rate Risk

The Authority has minimal exposure to interest rate risk through its holding of cash assets and other financial assets.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

(ii) Foreign Exchange Risk

The Authority has no exposure to changes in the foreign exchange rate.

(iii) Other Price Risk

The Authority has no significant exposure to Other Price Risk.

Market Risk Sensitivity Analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Authority's financial assets and liabilities to interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk and other price risk.

	Carrying amount \$ 30 June 15	Carrying amount \$ 30 June14	30-Jun-15		30-Jun-14		30-Jun-15		30-Jun-14	
			-1%		-1%		+ 1%		+ 1%	
			Result \$	Equity \$	Result \$	Equity \$	Result \$	Equity \$	Result \$	Equity \$

Financial assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	5,917,024	6,106,925	(59,170)	(59,170)	(61,069)	(61,069)	59,170	59,170	61,069	61,069
Receivables	360,157	224,929	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Financial liabilities

Payables	291,436	320,793	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total increase/(decr ease)			(59,170)	(59,170)	(61,069)	(61,069)	59,170	59,170	61,069	61,069

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

(b) Credit Risk

The Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date for each class of recognised financial assets, is the carrying amount of those assets as disclosed in the statement of financial position.

Concentrations of credit risk

In terms of its trade receivables, the Authority's customers are concentrated in Victoria, Australia. Major customers are the Victorian State Government and Victorian Public bodies. Credit risk is minimised by the large numbers of customers receiving the Authority's services. In addition the Authority's debt management procedure allow only 30 days credit from the date of invoicing and a follow-up process which will refer outstanding receivables to a debt collection agency if there is no response to reminder notices, within 21 days after the credit term. A provision for doubtful debts is raised for any debts, which are more than 120 days overdue, and there is a doubt regarding their collection.

Credit quality of contractual financial assets that are neither past due nor impaired

	Financial institutions (double-A credit rating)	Government agencies (triple-A credit rating)	Government agencies (triple-B credit rating)	Other (min triple-B credit rating)	Total
2015					
Cash and deposits	3,828,225	2,088,299	-	500	5,917,024
Receivables	13,644	131,255	-	345,512	490,411
Investments and other financial assets					
Total contractual financial assets	3,841,869	2,219,554	-	346,012	6,407,435
2014					
Cash and deposits	2,571,477	3,534,948	-	500	6,106,925
Receivables	16,063	124,096	-	201,820	341,979
Investments and other financial assets					
Total contractual financial assets	2,587,540	3,659,044	-	202,320	6,448,904

(c) Liquidity Risk

Liquidity Risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authorities policy is to settle financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of dispute make payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
30 JUNE 2015

NOTE 16 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

(c) Liquidity Risk Cont'd

The Authority manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves, by continuously monitoring forecasts and actual cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and financial liabilities.

All financial liabilities are due for maturity in less than 1 year (2014: less than 1 year)

(d) Fair Valuation

The carrying value of trade receivables and payables is a reasonable approximation of their fair values due to their short-term nature.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
REMUNERATION OF VICTORIAN AUDITOR-GENERAL'S		
NOTE 17 OFFICE		
Amounts received or due and receivable, by the auditor for auditing the accounts of the Authority	9,700	9,000

NOTE 18 EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Authority, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Authority in future financial years.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board Members, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

The Financial Report

The accompanying financial report for the year ended 30 June 2015 of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority which comprises the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the accountable officer's declaration has been audited.

The Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board members of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, and for such internal control as the board members determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit, which has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The audit procedures selected depend on judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, consideration is given to the internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board members, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Independent Auditor's Report (continued)


Independence

The Auditor-General's independence is established by the *Constitution Act 1975*. The Auditor-General is not subject to direction by any person about the way in which his powers and responsibilities are to be exercised. In conducting the audit, the Auditor-General, his staff and delegates complied with all applicable independence requirements of the Australian accounting profession.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards, and the financial reporting requirements of the *Financial Management Act 1994*.

MELBOURNE
25 August 2015



John Doyle
Auditor-General

Appendices

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Report of operations

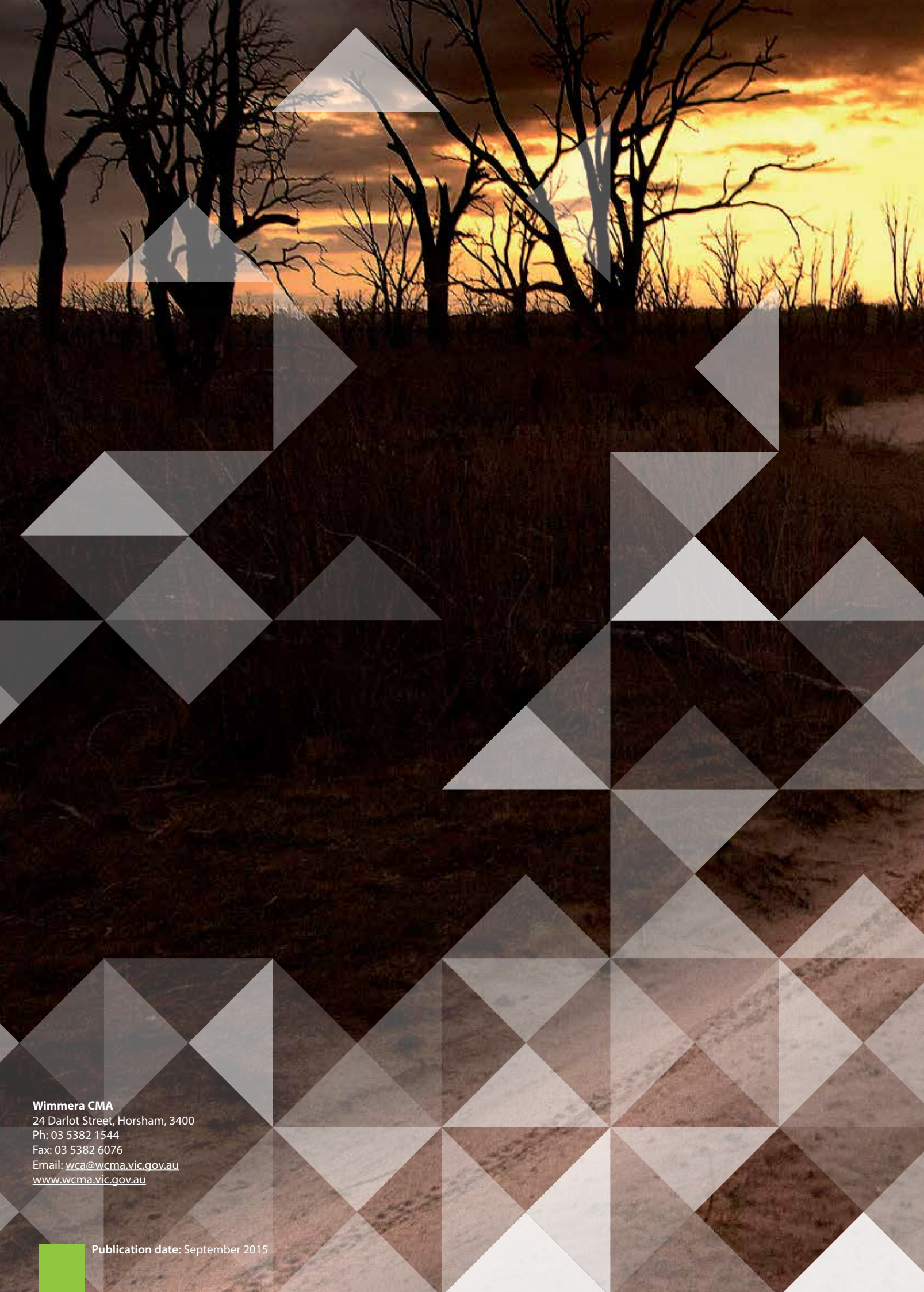
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