

Wimmera CMA

# Annual Report

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



VICTORIA

# 2017–18



# Report profile

Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (Wimmera CMA) is established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (VIC) (CALP Act). The responsible Ministers for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 were the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

The 2017-18 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 and website:

Previous Annual Reports  
Wimmera CMA Corporate Plans  
Regional Catchment Strategy

## Wimmera CMA

24 Darlot Street, Horsham, 3400  
Ph: 03 5382 1544  
Fax: 03 5382 6076  
Email: [wcma@wcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:wcma@wcma.vic.gov.au)  
Web: [www.wcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au)

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ISSN 1837-0837 (Print)

ISSN 1837-0845 (Online)

Cover image: Aboriginal Water Officer Ben Muir presents to Centre for Participation English Second Language (ESL) students as part of a nature connection and tree planting event on the banks of the Wimmera River/Barringi Gadyin.

## Acronyms

AV	Agriculture Victoria
BGLC	Barengi Gadjin Land Council
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CVA	Country Volunteers Australia
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
DELWP Planning	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation
FRD	Financial reporting direction
ha	Hectare
HRCC	Horsham Rural City Council
HSC	Hindmarsh Shire Council
ML	Megalitre
MLDRIN	Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations
NLP	National Landcare Programme
NRM	Natural resource management
PPS	Perennial Pasture Systems
PV	Parks Victoria
RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
TfN	Trust for Nature
Vic No-Till	Victorian No-Till Farmers Association
Vic SES	Victoria State Emergency Service

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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 CMA Annual Report for the year ending June 30, 2018.

Peter Hilbig  
Wimmera CMA Board, Chair  
17 August 2018

## Message from the Chair

During my first year in the CMA I have been well supported by the Board Directors and staff.

I would also like to acknowledge the leadership and the dedication of the previous Chair Karen Douglas and Board member Dean Johns for their years of valuable contributions to the organisation. Karen has led the board to a mature understanding of its governance role and clear strategic direction which will continue to develop.

This year our organisation focused on service delivery, demonstrating value for money, leveraging funding and delivering outcomes. It has been pleasing to see the results which have delivered greater environmental projects with increased community ownership and involvement. Projects such as the delivery of habitat tender across parts of the Glenelg Hopkins and Wimmera catchments has provided farmers with stewardship payments for delivering environmental gains; and Our Catchments Our Communities Wimmera River revitalisation project that has enabled greater community access and reduced environmental risks.

In 2017-18 Wimmera CMA successfully delivered 6.4 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'.

We also completed the mid-term review of our Regional Waterway Strategy which highlighted that we are well on track to achieve the majority of measures and targets set in 2014. The Wimmera's Flood Plain Management Strategy with key partners and community consultation, took flood mitigation to a new level.

We were pleased to join the TAKE2 Pledge program as part of our commitment to contribute to Victoria's target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The National Landcare Programme concluded after 5 years of funding and delivered high quality outcomes across the catchment. Our organisation has worked closely with partners and key stakeholders to develop a high quality bid for the National Landcare Program Phase Two and looks forward to working with the Australian government to deliver environmental outcomes.

I am also pleased to report that we have developed our Diversity and Inclusion plan and our organisation is contributing to reducing family violence and supporting victims.

Financially the organisation is in a sound position, with internal and external audit results confirming policies and processes.

As a Board we continue to meet community members off site as part of our catchment meetings and look forward to this process continuing next year.

Peter Hilbig  
Wimmera CMA Board, Chair

# Message from the Chief Executive Officer

I am pleased to report in 2017-18 we delivered a wide range of outcomes that directly benefit our community and environment. We have taken the concept of integrated catchment management to new levels with new partners and delivered new projects.

We continue to embrace new technologies that result in increased efficiencies and new target audiences. One example of this is the creation of Virtual River Yarns game that shares the Wimmera's cultural heritage by allowing gamers to experience what the Wimmera looked like before European settlement. Another example was the trial of a drone to collect flood data as part of the Horsham - Wartook flood investigation.

Year 2 of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Socio-Economic Value of Recreational and Environmental water survey commenced, and we eagerly await the results. Year one conservatively estimated that \$27.5 million was contributed to the local economy and a total physical and mental health benefit of \$8.6 million.

Our outstanding people matters staff survey results clearly demonstrates our organisations culture, based on respect, leadership, diversity and flexibility is the basis of our high performing organisation.

We welcomed both Greening Australia and Conservation Volunteers as co-tenants in our building.

Development of a Regional Partnership Agreement with key stakeholders formalised our close working relationships.

As part of the Victorian Governments strategy: *Our Catchments Our Community* we continued to create round table processes where partners, stakeholders and community members can participate in project co-design and developed our Catchment Partnership Agreement with key government stakeholders.

Dry weather had a big influence in the health of our catchment in the 6 months from November with well below average rainfall and well above average temperatures. Not only has this resulted in low to no sub soil moisture it also increased the amount of evaporation of our lakes, rivers and streams. These weather conditions had a resounding impact in our upper catchment (Wimmera River above Dadswells Bridge) where parts of our upper catchment were restricted to a series of small pools. Environmental DNA surveys for the first time on record were unable to detect any evidence of Platypus or Black Fish populations.

Environmental water continued to deliver shared benefits throughout the year and underpinned the health of our Rivers and some creeks. On a pleasing note we have seen the re-establishment of small bodied fish populations, expansion of frog populations and many other significant environmental outcomes in areas of the catchment that have the ability to receive environmental water.



We met certification requirements for the new ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Systems requirements.

Finally, 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. I look forward to working with you all in 2018-19.

A black and white image of a handwritten signature, which appears to be 'David Brennan', written in dark ink.

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. Wimmera CMA was established under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

## Responsible Ministers

July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water

the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

## 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 Regional Catchment Strategy (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*

Wimmera CMA's mission is to improve catchment condition, using adaptive management and engaging our community to be a leading natural resource management (NRM) organisation in Australia.

To achieve this mission we have an organisational culture that is dynamic, diverse, inclusive, accountable and promotes well-being.

## *Our approach*

To assist in delivering our objectives we apply a framework of "simpler, streamlined, smarter, stronger".

## *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
- 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.

## *Who we are*

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.

Nine 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.



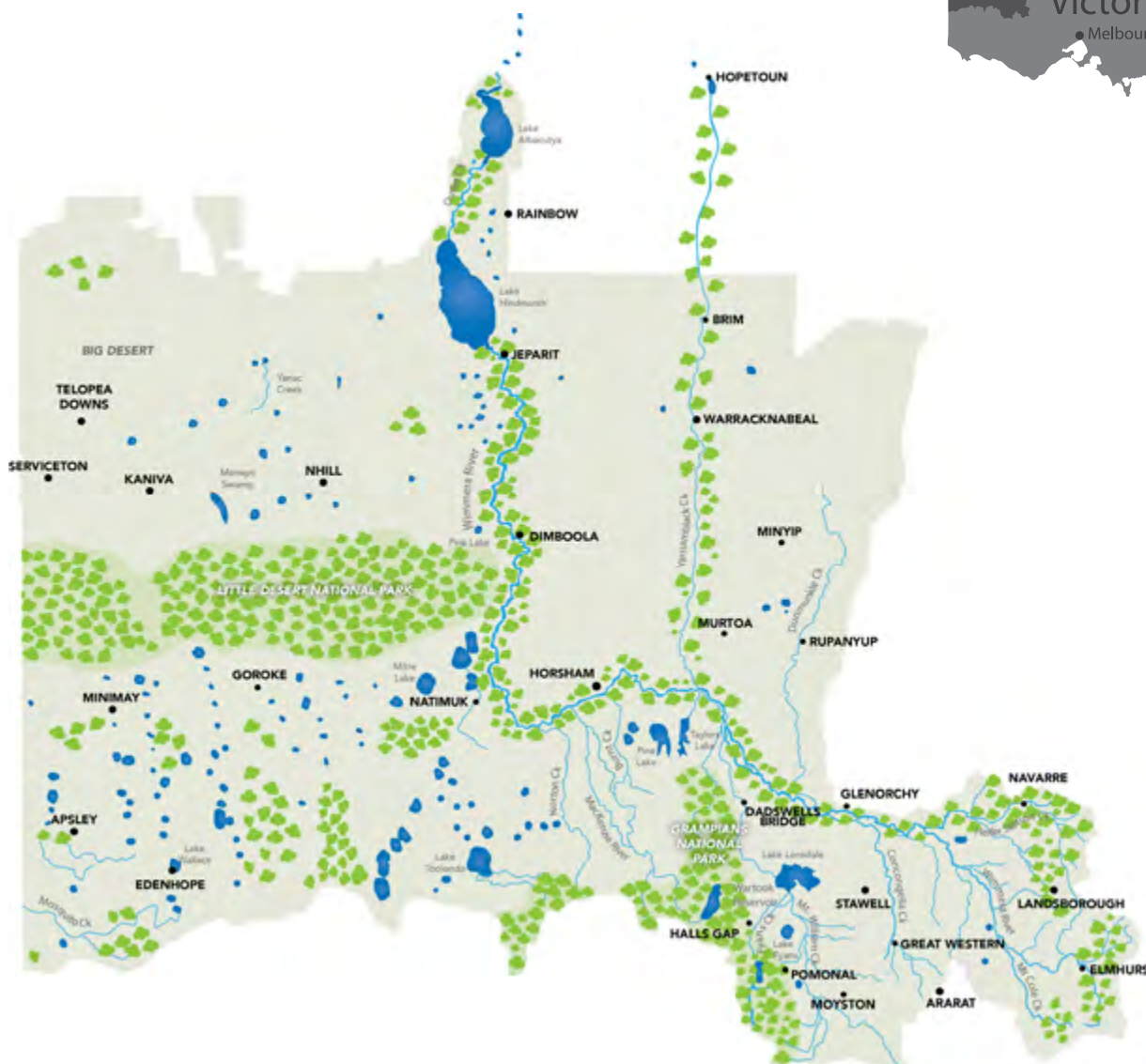
The region predominantly comprises cleared agricultural land.

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.

## Wimmera Catchment



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





## 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
<b>Landholders</b>	Rural property holders, farmers, absentee land owners, corporate farms	Partners
<b>Government departments</b>	Victorian Government: Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, GWM Water, Parks Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria  Australian Government: Department of Environment and Energy, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources	Partners, compliance and investors
<b>Community and Landcare networks, groups and members</b>	Project Platypus, Hindmarsh Landcare Network, Yarrilinks, Kowree Farm Tree Group, Perennial Pasture Systems, Native Fish Australia, Wimmera River Improvement Committee, 'Friends of' groups, Horsham Apex Club 15, Horsham Fishing Competition Committee, Horsham Angling Club, Dimboola Angling Club and Jeparit Angling Club	Partners, grant recipients, education and capacity building
<b>Local government</b>	Ararat, Buloke, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack	Partners, customers and investors
<b>NRM organisations</b>	Trust for Nature, Victorian No-Till Farmers Association, Birchip Cropping Group, Wimmera Farming Network, Greening Australia and Conservation Volunteers	Contractors, partners
<b>Indigenous groups</b>	Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations, Goolum Goolum, Martang Pty Ltd	Partner, advice
<b>Wimmera CMA Board</b>	Nine member Board appointed by the Minister for Water	Governance, policy, strategy
<b>Community monitors</b>	River monitoring activities for birds, frogs, water, fish and macroinvertebrates	Volunteers
<b>Education sector</b>	Department of Education network, numerous teachers and school contacts, Federation University Australia, Charles Sturt University	Education partner, capacity building
<b>Consultants and contractors</b>	Numerous	Service providers

# Operational performance

## Performance Targets and Measures

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 including Business Development Activities as identified in the 2017-22 Corporate Plan and Regional Catchment Management Strategy Implementation.

Please note for a comprehensive overview of future initiatives please read our 2018-23 Corporate Plan and Operational performance is provided against each RCS theme and is reported in the Catchment Condition and Management section and the Initiatives and key achievements.

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

### Key to result:

✓ = performance target achieved or exceeded or expected to be achieved

■ = performance target not achieved — exceeds 5% variance.  
(Note this is a significant variance that requires an explanation) <sup>1</sup>

○ = performance target not achieved — within 5% variance.

### Operational objectives

Performance Area	Performance target	Measure	Achievement and Commentary
<b>Business management and governance</b>	Submit annually, a board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Report submitted to Minister	✓
	A risk management strategy / plan approved by the Board and being implemented.	Approved Risk Management Plan in Place	✓
	All of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed and approved by the Board every three financial years.	All relevant Board policies are reviewed.	✓
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions issued by the Minister for Finance.	Annual compliance with the applicable Standing directions issued by the Minister for Finance.	✓
<b>Regional planning and coordination</b>	A regional catchment strategy (RCS) approved by the minister.	Approved	✓
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework / Plan approved by the Board	Approved	✓
	A regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	Approved regional Landcare support plan	✓
	A regional waterways strategy approved by the minister.	Approved regional Waterways Strategy.	✓
	A regional floodplain strategy approved by the Board.	Development of Regional Floodplain Strategy.	✓

Performance Area	Performance target	Measure	Achievement and Commentary
<b>Regional delivery</b>	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and any major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the board annually.	Update RCS implementation including mid-term review.	✓
	Projects / activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Report on funding agreements.	✓
	Projects / activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Report on funding agreements.	✓
<b>Statutory functions under part 10 of the Water Act</b>	Ninety percent of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licenses) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	Report on status of statutory function delivery at year end.	✓
<b>Statutory functions under part 11 of the Water Act</b>	Ninety percent of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licenses) associated with irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	Report on status of statutory functions delivery at year end.	✓

### Corporate Plan 2017-22 – Business Development Activities

Activity	Result
Retain key capacity with the aim to ensure continuity of successful programs, maintenance of relationships with landholders and the delivery of statutory functions;	✓
Promoting Wimmera CMA's leadership role in Natural Resource Management;	✓
Maintaining a quality assurance framework which ensures continuous improvement and best practice systems to meet ISO:9001 certification	✓
Once CMA sector guidelines are approved by the Minister for Water; it is Wimmera CMA's intention to develop a Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan in accordance with departmental guidelines. It is anticipated that this should be in place in readiness to be incorporated into the 2018 Corporate Plan.	✓
Continue to implement recommendations from the National NRM performance excellence review.	✓
Participation in CEO's, Vic Catchments and other working groups.	✓
Continue to develop and review effective business systems in collaboration with CMA's.	✓
Participate in a Wide Area Network (WAN) project to achieve more efficient communications through the CMA wide ICT Group.	○ WAN connections implemented with managed WAN security to be completed early 2018-2019 year.
Development of an effective upgrade to current Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) business system with CMA consortium.	○ Microsoft Dynamics 365 chosen as the replacement ERP system.
Development of OH&S standards through the CMA wide OH&S group.	✓
Provide technical support to other CMAs and local Councils with respect to GIS capabilities and facilitate meetings to share knowledge of internal spatial data capture and management tools and processes.	✓
Support the implementation of the VAGO CMA effectiveness audit recommendations.	✓



## Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy Implementation

Wimmera CMA and partner organisations and groups implemented a wide range of management actions in 2017-18 aimed at protecting and improving the condition of the region's natural assets. The Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-19 (RCS) describes the Wimmera's natural assets as its native vegetation, rivers and streams, soils, threatened plants and animals and wetlands. The RCS sets out long-term objectives and medium term (6-year) management measures for achieving the region's aspirations for each natural asset. Management actions implemented by Wimmera CMA seek to achieve these management measures and objectives. Regional NRM organisations, groups and individuals also contribute to achieving management measures.

The RCS contains fifty-nine management measures to be implemented over six years from 2013 to 2019. Of these:

- 4 are completed;
- 43 are partially achieved and on track to be achieved by 2019;
- 11 are partially achieved and require increased work to be achieved by 2019; and
- 1 is no longer relevant.

Figure 1 shows the progress made by Wimmera CMA and many of the region's NRM organisations and groups in implementing management measures for each natural asset since the strategy commenced in 2013.

Figure 1: Progress made implementing management measures from the RCS from 2013 to 2017

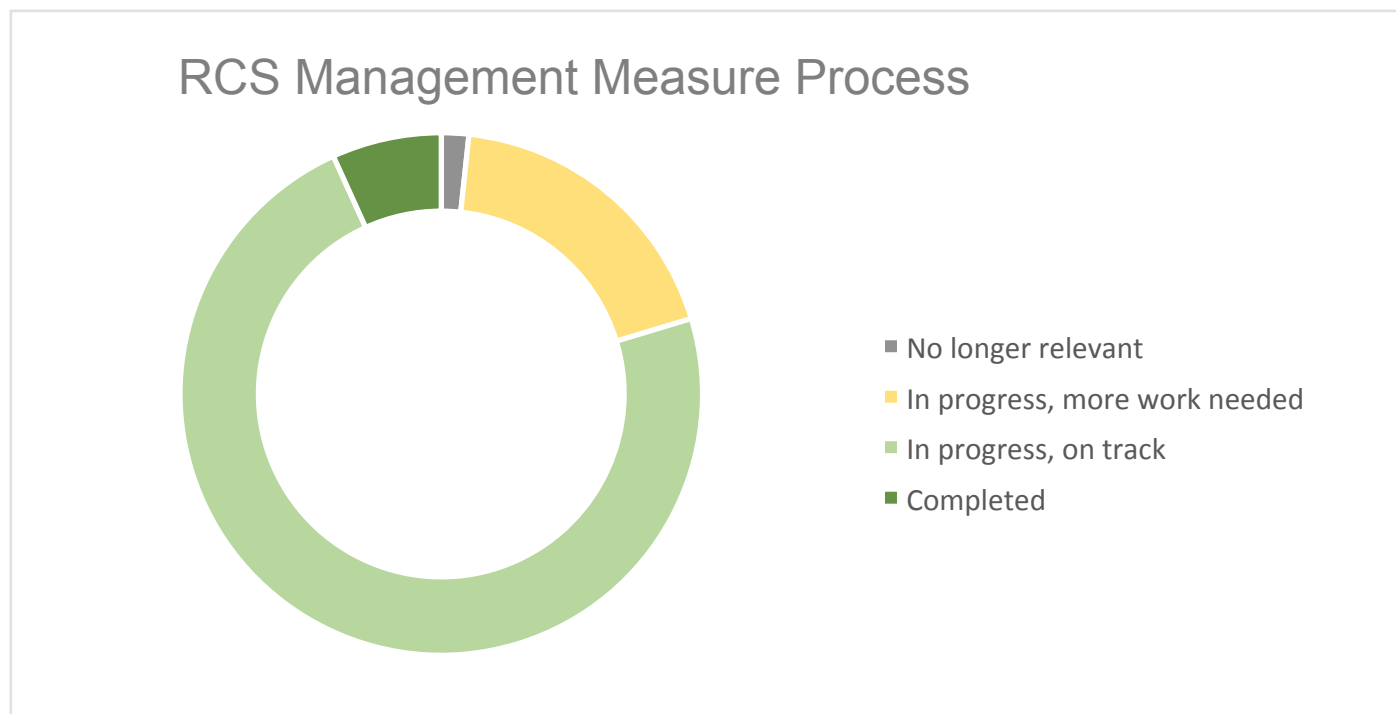


Table 1 below outlines the management measures that were progressed in 2017-18 and the main activities, projects and programs that contributed to their implementation. Detail about each of these activities is provided in the following sections of this report.

RCS asset	Management measures progressed	Main activities contributing to implementation
Native vegetation	5 of 5 (2 are completed)	Wetland protection incentives Rabbit and weed control Riparian management programs Landcare initiatives and grants Review of the Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy Regional NRM planning and prioritisation workshops
Rivers and streams	20 of 21	Environmental water delivery Erosion control works Riparian management programs Rabbit and weed control Improved integrated catchment management Disseminating information via events, local press and social media Fish, platypus and water quality monitoring Floodplain management initiatives Interim review of the Wimmera Waterway Strategy commenced
Soils	8 of 8	Disseminating information via partner events, local press and social media Landcare initiatives and grants Incentives for saltbush Research related to agricultural trials Land management transect surveys
Threatened plants and animals	8 of 8 (1 is completed) (1 is no longer relevant)	Threatened plant and animal recovery programs Monitoring population characteristics Rabbit and weed control Review of the Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy Regional NRM planning and prioritisation workshops
Wetlands	7 of 7	Environmental water delivery Wetland protection incentives Rabbit and weed control at Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site and establishment of the Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site Coordinating Committee Rabbit and weed control Interim review of the Wimmera Waterway Strategy commenced
Other (fire and emergency management, emerging opportunities and challenges)	5 of 5 (1 is completed)	Floodplain management initiatives, including finalising and implementing the Wimmera Floodplain Management Strategy Disseminating information via events, local press and social media Involvement in regional cross-industry partnership forums Traditional burning program initiated

# Initiatives and key achievements

## Regional Floodplain Management Strategy

Wimmera CMA finalised the review of the Wimmera Floodplain Management Strategy with local governments, VICSES and GWM Water and other partners. A project Steering Committee involving these agencies oversaw community consultation with a final draft submitted to DELWP in December 2017.

## Flood investigations progress and completion

- Planning scheme amendment documentation for the Flood Overlay (FO) and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) in the Yarriambiack Shire was completed as a final output under the Warracknabeal and Brim flood investigation. Yarriambiack Shire Council intends to amend the planning scheme immediately.
- The Dunmunkle Creek flood investigation was completed. A presentation on the project findings was delivered to the GWM Water Board and a final report was provided to Yarriambiack Shire Council. With the completion of this investigation, 80% of the Wimmera's riverine floodplain areas has accurate flood mapping.
- Horsham and Wartook Valley flood investigation was progressed. Community members discussed possible flood mitigation solutions at three meetings.

## Diversity and Inclusion Plan

Our Diversity and Inclusion plan was endorsed by the Minister in December. As an organisation we continue improve our diversity and inclusion practices and promote the benefits.

## End of National Landcare Programme

After 5 years the Australian government program concluded, during this time \$ 9.8 million was invested in the region to achieve a number of significant environmental outcomes including:

- 949 ha of Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC) listed Threatened Vegetation Communities on private property protected through conservation incentives including 72 ha permanently protected through covenants
- Over 4,800 volunteers participating in threatened species protection and conservation activities
- 6 Threatened orchid species successfully reintroduced into the Wimmera.
- Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) supported to develop a Country Plan "Growing what is Good"
- Four rounds of Regional Community Grants delivered \$400,000 to community groups to increase awareness and participation in NRM
- The Regional Landcare Facilitator project delivered 3 part time positions based in local communities to support sustainable agriculture

## Socio- Economic survey

New research into the economic and health benefits generated by waterways in the Wimmera Southern Mallee entered its second year. The socio-economic research by Street Ryan plans to repeat its assessment each year up to 2020.

Last year's research found that participation in recreational water activities in the region saw a total cost saving of more than \$8.5

million dollars to both the health and mental health sectors in 2016-17. The study highlighted that more than 437,000 locals and visitors visited the 24 waterways analysed in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region in 2017 with a total economic benefit of \$27.5 million.

## ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification

Wimmera CMA retained certification of its Quality Management System under the new ISO9001:2015 standard. This system ensures Wimmera CMA has an ongoing commitment to quality assurance and continuous improvement.

## Habitat Tender commencement

As part of the Biodiversity 2037 Strategy in collaboration with Glenelg Hopkins CMA we have commenced the delivery of a biodiversity tender specifically targeting dryland farmers. This project hopes to deliver 3000 ha of improved land management practices for threatened species and conservation outcomes.

## Preparing for Wimmera Regional Waterway Strategy (WWS) midterm review

Extensive consultation was conducted with key stakeholders as part of the interim review. Stakeholders felt the WWS contained relevant information, management targets and maintains its relevance. Several stakeholder strategies were identified as aligning with WWS aims. Some stakeholders identified opportunities for enhanced communication between organisations about opportunities for funding and outcomes from management activities. It was also recommended that regional organisations should continue to educate and raise awareness in the community about waterway health and socio-economic benefits.

## Continued development of business systems in collaboration with CMA's

Development of a managed Wide Area Network (WAN) in conjunction with five other CMA's.

## ICT Strategy

An ICT strategy to cover the next three-year period has been developed. This strategy will guide the Wimmera CMA through the next phase of development and maintenance of ICT systems.

## Drought Refuge Strategy

Wimmera CMA examined the feasibility of creating a drought refuge pool at Jeparit as well as undertaking actions to mitigate the impacts of European Carp during drought. As an outcome of this assessment, the drought refuge strategy was produced, with results summarised for a paper to be presented at the 2018 Australian Stream Management Conference.

## Carbon reduction

Wimmera CMA has developed a strategy to significantly reduce its carbon emissions and increase sequestration beyond expected practices. Early next year the installation of a solar photovoltaic system theoretically all of our electricity usage will be self-generated, we have also critically assessed our fleet and pre ordered a hybrid car. As an organisation that facilitates the planting of 1,000's of trees per year, we are evaluating various auditing options to quantify carbon sequestration activities.







# Catchment condition and management

This section of the report provides an assessment of the condition of the region's environment and a reflection on the likely impact of annual scale actions, events and observed changes. It also describes the management actions taken by Wimmera CMA and partner organisations and groups to improve and maintain catchment condition as described in the operational performance tables.

The catchment condition assessment for each theme describes the level of confidence or concern that catchment managers have in the future of the regional environment. The assessment is based on available science and expert advice as well as evidence gained during the preceding year and uses the criteria detailed in Table 2. A positive assessment indicates a level of optimism about future direction and a concerned or highly concerned assessment indicates a more pessimistic view of the direction of environmental change. Further information on projects can be obtained by contacting Wimmera CMA

**Table 2:** Assessment criteria for annual catchment condition reporting









Assessment Criteria		
1. Positive		An optimistic future with evidence that events during the year will have a positive impact on the longer term.
2. Neutral		A largely neutral state, where events during the year may have been significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact in the longer term.
3. Concerned		A level of concern that significant events during the year may have an adverse impact in the longer term.
4. Highly concerned		A high level of concern that significant events during the year are likely to have an adverse impact in the longer term.

## Summary of catchment condition in 2017-18

It was a tale of two halves for the catchment condition, many parts of our catchment enjoyed average or above average winter and spring rains however from December to March there was above average temperatures and below average rainfall leading to a parched catchment with very little subsoil moisture. West Wimmera's Lake Wallace received healthy inflows that haven't been seen since the early 2000's, creating a mecca for frogs, vegetation and bird life. The Wimmera River in the east upper catchment was water stressed. For the first time, no platypus or black fish populations could be detected using EDNA observations and other monitoring.

From a productivity perspective farmers enjoyed good yields and high sheep/wool prices however farmers remain concerned with the lack of rainfall since the start of 2018.

**Table 3:** Summary catchment condition assessment for 2017-18

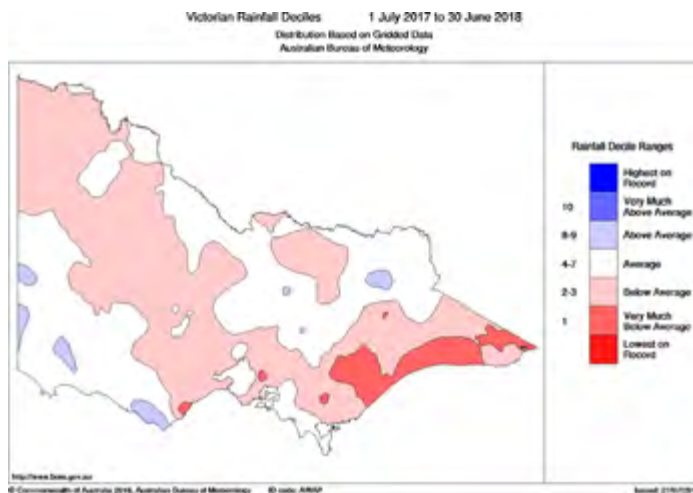
Theme	Previous 3-year assessment	Annual Assessment	2017- 18 Summary Condition Assessment
<b>Waterways</b>	<b>Neutral</b> 	<b>Neutral</b> 	Low inflows into storages and the catchment have meant that environmental water has been critical in maintaining values of the lower Wimmera River and other regulated waterways. In the upper catchment values have declined due to lack of natural flows and predications are we are entering another dry period. Wetlands in the west of the region still hold reasonable water but require inflows. This follows a very dry period followed by wet in 2016.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Neutral</b> 	<b>Neutral</b> 	There have been no extreme or unusual events during the year that pose long-term consequences for biodiversity. Overall, native ecosystems are stable or in slow decline. Pressures caused by a range of threats including land management practices, climate, pest plants and animals exists, although control of rabbits improved and increased government investment targeting private land delivered many environmental benefits.
<b>Land</b>	<b>Positive</b> 	<b>Neutral</b> 	Rainfall across the region over the past three years has been inconsistent with a period of dry flowed by wet conditions in 2016 which carried soil moisture through 2017.  Rainfall across the region has been average to below average over 2017/18. The period between January 2018 and June 2018 saw a large part of the region experience very much below average rainfall (Decile 1). This has meant that sowing of crops has occurred with little soils moisture and little follow up rain after sowing, potentially increasing the risk of erosion in late 2018 until the 2019 autumn weather break. This lack of rainfall will also affect the health of our biodiversity and increase fire intensity.
<b>Community</b>	<b>Neutral</b> 	<b>Neutral</b> 	Participation numbers and contributions by the community in natural resource management in the region and park visitation increased on the back of a very strong 2016-2017 reporting period.  There is evidence of participation decline in some local communities where an aging population and population shifts occur.



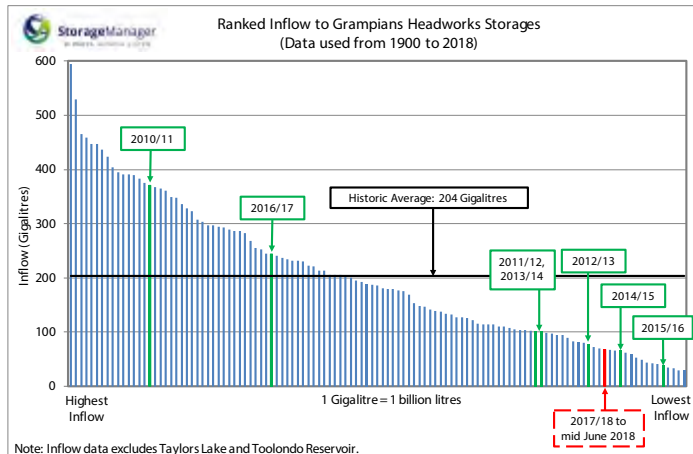
## Annual rainfall

Rainfall totals in the Wimmera over the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 were mixed (Table 5). A large part of the region experienced rainfall below average. From June to November rainfall was average over most parts of the region although the east of the region and the Grampians National Park and upper catchment experienced below average rainfall. The western parts of the region experienced average rainfall. From January to June 2018 (Table 6), the entire region experienced below average or very much below average rainfall.

**Table 5: Victorian Rainfall deciles ranges July 2017 to June 2018.**



**Table 7: Ranked inflow in Grampians headworks storages 1900 to 2018.**

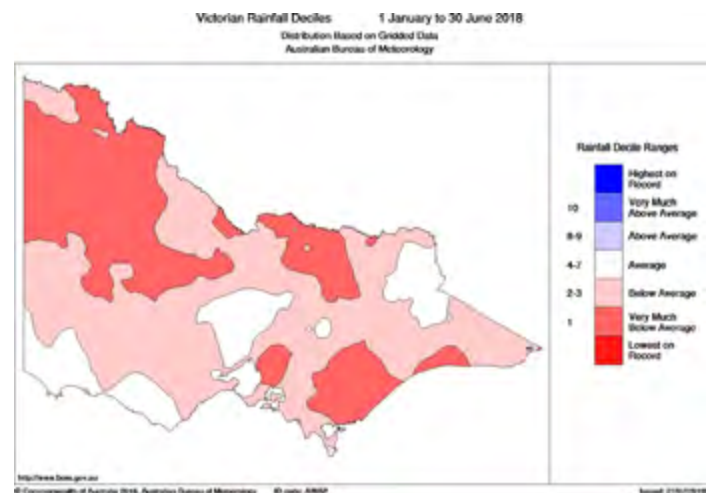


**Table 9: Glenorchy gauge flows as a representation of Upper Wimmera Catchment flows for 12 months**

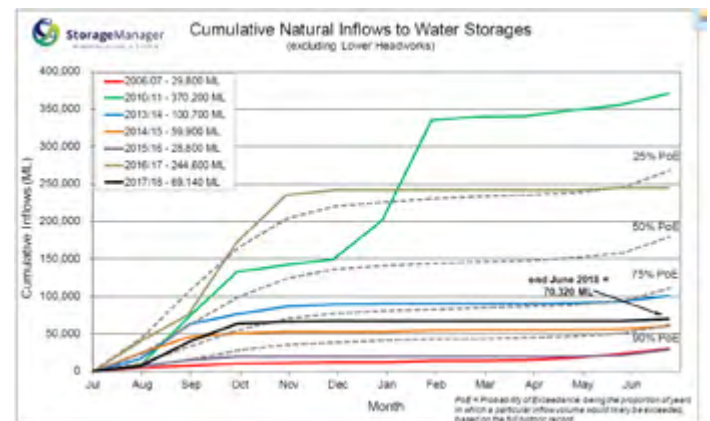


This followed a drying period for the region after September 2016. Coupled with extended periods of hot weather through summer and autumn 2018 resulted in very low natural flows in the upper catchment and inflows into storages (Table 7, 8, 9) and the Wimmera River Table 10.

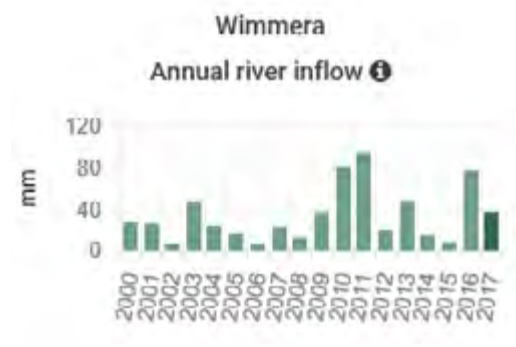
**Table 6: Victorian Rainfall decile ranges 1 January to 30 June 2018**



**Table 8: Inflows into reservoirs during 2017-18 totalled 70,320 megalitres, representing 35% of the historic average.**



**Table 10: Cumulative natural inflows to Grampians Water Storages 2007 to 2018 (Australian National University's Australia's Environment in 2017).**





## Waterways assessment 2017-18

**Waterways**   **Neutral**

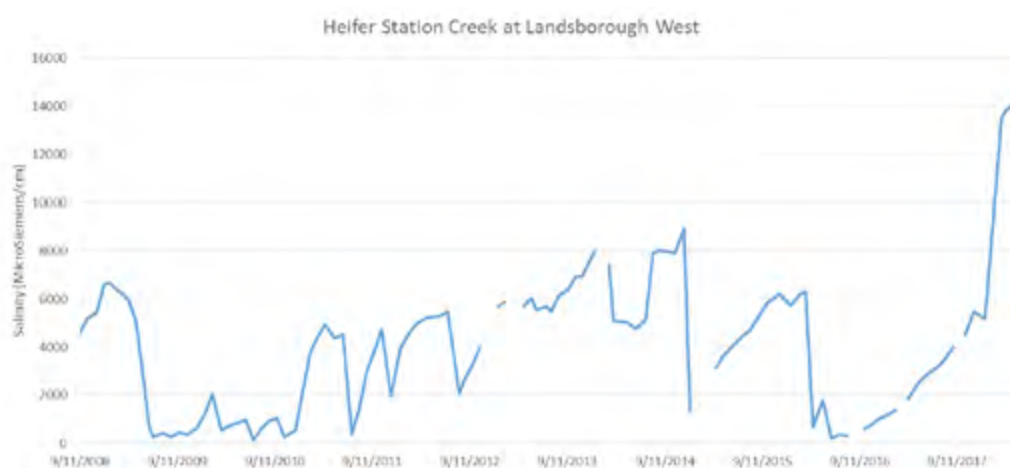


Low inflows into storages and the catchment have meant that environmental water has been critical in maintaining values of the lower Wimmera River and other regulated waterways. In the upper catchment values have declined due to lack of natural flows and predications are we are entering another dry period.

Wetlands in the west of the region still hold reasonable water but require inflows.

### Reasons for assessment

- Annual inflows into reservoirs has been the 16<sup>th</sup> lowest on record and represents 35% of the long-term average.
- Flows in the Upper Wimmera and Mt William Catchments had been very low resulting in some poor environmental outcomes. For the first time, eDNA and electrofishing results recording no definitive evidence of River Blackfish or Platypus in the upper Wimmera Catchment. River Blackfish abundance and distribution was shown to be very low in the Mt William Creek catchment too.
- There was strong evidence of blackfish in Stony Creek and one was caught in Mt William Creek in December 2017.
- A Roach was found in the lower Wimmera River via fish monitoring and two Australian Bass were caught at the Jeparit Fishing Competition, the first time that either of the species have been detected in the Wimmera Catchment.
- Good volumes of environmental water held in reservoirs has mean that environmental water releases have been steady and as a result there have created positive environmental outcomes.
- Platypus populations in the MacKenzie River appear to be stable and increasing in their distribution with a new juvenile male being discovered.
- Fish monitoring indicate that Southern Pygmy Perch populations are healthy in MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek.
- Water quality in the lower Wimmera River remains satisfactory due to environmental water release.
- There was no evidence of a large carp breeding event with numbers being comparable or fewer than in previous years with no proliferation of young fish.
- Carp numbers were higher than native fish caught at the Horsham Fishing Competition in March this year despite the reverse occurring last year.
- The percentage of carp caught at the Jeparit Fishing Competition compared with other fish was slightly lower than last year.
- Carp numbers were comparatively high in the lower Mt William Creek although there was a reasonable abundance and diversity of small-bodied native species (VEFMAP)
- There has been an increase in the range of the Peron's Tree Frog along Burnt Creek and anecdotally in other waterways such as the Wimmera River.
- Many upper catchment sites have remained dry with those that contain water reaching record levels of salinity (worse than Millennium Drought and the 2014-15 drought (Table 11 ) and compounding the issues is a lack of habitat and impacts from exotic fish species, particularly Redfin and Carp. Table 12 provides a 12 month comparison of flows in the upper catchment.
- Most West Wimmera wetlands held water through summer and autumn providing habitat for birds, fish and yabbies.
- Numerous lakes and wetlands experienced blue green algae including Lake Marma, Brim weirpool, Taylors Lake, Toolondo Reservoir, Green Lake at Horsham, Lake Wallace and Lake Lonsdale.
- Some waterways experienced an increased level of economic return compared to last year. Some economic activity dropped due to blue green algae outbreaks or poor fishing or yabbing.
- As of 27 June 2018, water storages held 46.1% compared to 52.95% 12 months ago.



**Table 11:** Heifer Creek gauge flows as a representation of Upper Wimmera Catchment flows from November 2008 to November 2017

Location	Flow 2016 (ML)	Flow 2017 (ML)	Percent of flow of 2017 cf. 2016
Mt William Creek at Mokepilly	35,022	3,614	10%
Wimmera River at Glenorchy	116,737	3,824	3%
MacKenzie River at Wartook	19,572	13,003	66%

**Table 12:** Comparison of 2016 and 2017 flows in the Upper Wimmera Catchment

# Management of the Wimmera's waterways

Table 13: Management activities for rivers and streams and wetlands carried out in the Wimmera in 2017-18

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
The Thriving Community Rivers Project protected, enhanced and restored river reaches that are highly valued by the community. These activities consolidate and secure the benefits gained from environmental flows in the Wimmera River System'.	6 erosion control structures built at 4 sites and 2 maintained  1 trial of carp control and monitoring techniques	Victorian Government.	
A waterway action plan for Millers Creek was developed helping to manage threatening processes to the waterway. The community was engaged in two meetings, providing feedback on draft stages of the project and report.	1 plan produced  2 community meetings	Victorian Government	
Wimmera CMA implemented the Victorian Government's Regional Riparian Action Plan by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assisting land managers and building their capacity to manage riparian areas to protect waterway values and reduce threats, particularly stock access and sedimentation</li> <li>Reducing the impact of rabbits and weeds on riparian areas</li> <li>Funding Landcare groups to implement riparian actions identified in the Wimmera Waterways Strategy</li> <li>Development of waterway action plans</li> <li>Monitoring of outcomes</li> <li>Protected 239 ha of river frontage</li> <li>Erected 32 km of fencing</li> </ul>	688 ha of rabbit control  Protected 70 ha of wetland riparian area  900 people attended our field day event  2 Landcare groups supported  1 Platypus monitoring assessment	Victorian Government	
Under the Victorian Government's Our Catchments, Our Communities (OCOC) initiative, Wimmera CMA progressed several regional projects aimed at enhancing coordination between state and regional planning and the delivery of on-ground works for enhancing waterways.  The project enhances the health, environment and liveability of the Wimmera River. This year focussing on three high profile sites 'Big Water' and the Horsham and Dimboola weir pools. These sites are well known for their recreational, social, cultural and environmental values. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant consultation and planning with project partners and the community to develop proposals and site plans that met the needs of all user groups.</li> <li>On-ground works including fencing, rubbish removal, pest plant and animal control and the construction of access tracks around 'Big Water' and Horsham weir pool.</li> <li>Engaged consultants to undertake a vegetation assessment and bathymetric survey of the Wimmera River in Dimboola to inform managers about erosion processes and inform future design work. The first series design options have been completed.</li> </ul>	1 regional roundtable meeting held  1 group training session held for the Wimmera Spatial Hub  Consultation held with stakeholders to plan on-ground works projects  4 assessments conducted to assist implementation of on-ground works (3 at Dimboola and 1 in Horsham)	Victorian Government	HRCC, DELWP, PV, HSC, BGLC, Wimmera River Improvement Committee, Wimmera Anglers Association, Horsham Angling Club, Dimboola Boat and Water Ski Club, Horsham Fishing Competition Committee, Horsham Apex Club
Wimmera CMA promoted the River Detectives program, led by North Central CMA, supporting educators to explore local waterways with students. Teachers received a water monitoring kit, resources, activities and professional development sessions.	5 training events engaging 155 participants	North Central CMA	Corangamite CMA

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Wimmera CMA delivered its management responsibilities for the environmental water reserve, protecting and improving waterway condition. Achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivered over 16,300 ML of environmental water to maintain and improve conditions in the Wimmera River, Burnt Creek, Bungalally Creek, MacKenzie River and Mt William Creek</li> <li>Delivered 70 ML to 12 wetlands connected to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, supporting their environmental values</li> <li>Liaised with community members, agencies and recreational user groups in five meetings and events, regarding planned flows for waterways</li> <li>Worked with agencies to investigate opportunities for enhanced environmental watering outcomes through improvements to environmental water delivery infrastructure – with a technical report on the condition of the Lake Lonsdale outlet weir completed</li> <li>Consultants and the Arthur Rylah Institute conducted ecological assessments on vegetation, fish and platypus populations in several priority reaches</li> <li>Implemented Environmental Water Management Plans (EWMPs) for the Wimmera River System and Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Wetlands</li> <li>Reported on environmental watering in quarterly updates in regional newspapers, and provided information via social media, websites and media released</li> <li>A promotional video featuring fishing personality Rex Hunt was produced for social media, highlighting the benefits of environmental water for the Wimmera River and community</li> <li>A community bird monitoring event was held at Birchip in partnership with Birchip Landcare Group</li> </ul>	<p>Delivered over 16,300 ML environmental water to 4 rivers and creeks and 70 ML to wetlands</p> <p>Engaged 150 people at 6 events</p> <p>1 infrastructure assessment and 5 ecological assessments completed, with reports on findings produced</p> <p>Implemented 2 EWMPs</p> <p>Printed quarterly newspaper updates and online communications, including 1 video reaching over 11,000 people</p>	Victorian Government	<p>Victorian Environmental Water Holder (VEWH), GWMWater, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH), Glenelg Hopkins CMA (GHCMA), North Central CMA (NCCMA), PV, Mallee CMA (MCMA), local government, DELWP, Arthur Rylah Institute, Birchip Landcare Group, Wimmera Anglers Association</p>
<p>The Thriving Community Wetlands project protected, restored and enhanced wetlands that are highly valued by the community through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Securing high priority wetlands on private property</li> <li>Understanding wetland hydrology of high priority wetlands</li> </ul>	<p>6 wetlands protected covering 183 ha.</p> <p>Hydrological assessment of high profile wetlands commenced</p>	Victorian Government	

Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
Southern Mallee Landcare Network (SMLN) removed approximately 3,000 African Boxthorn plants from Lake Hindmarsh	Treated weeds over 47 ha



## Condition of the Wimmera's biodiversity

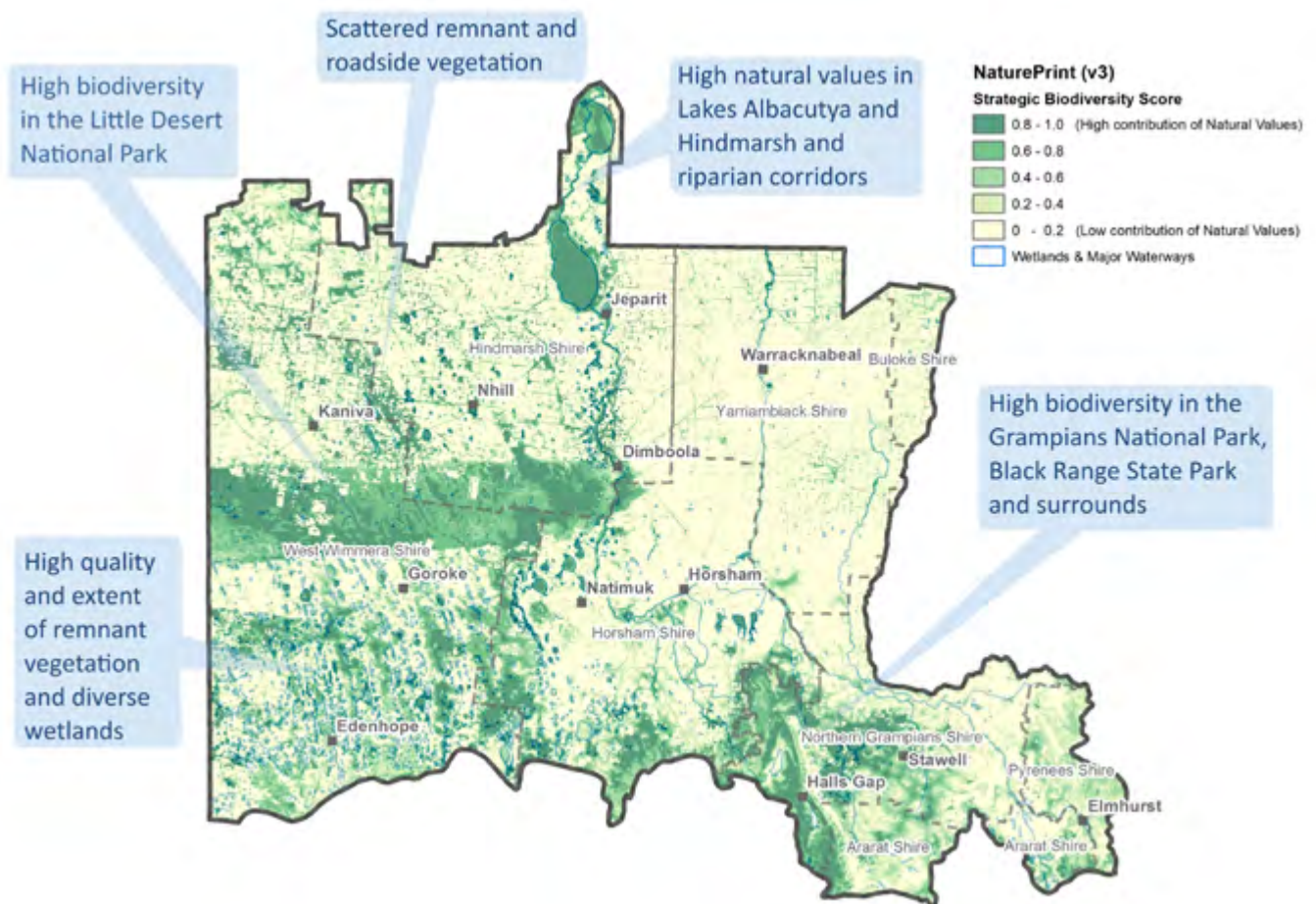
The Biodiversity theme reports on the overall condition of native habitat and the health of native species across terrestrial and aquatic environments. Management of biodiversity aims to improve and maintain native vegetation and to improve and stabilise populations of native plants and animals.

### Biodiversity benchmark – strategic biodiversity score

The 2014 Strategic biodiversity ratings in the Wimmera, based on NaturePrint V3 provides a snapshot of biodiversity health.

The Wimmera supports large areas of high biodiversity value (Table 14), in particular Grampians National Park, Little Desert National Park, the south-west Wimmera, Lake Albacutya and Lake Hindmarsh. Riparian corridors along the Wimmera River, MacKenzie River, Yarriambiack Creek and upper catchment streams provide narrow but important connections through the landscape. The south west Wimmera retains numerous patches of native vegetation and wetlands on private and public land, supporting a diverse array of flora and fauna.

Table 14: Strategic biodiversity ratings in the Wimmera, based on NaturePrint V3 (Department of Environment and Primary Industries, 2014)



## Biodiversity assessment 2017-18

## Neutral



There have been no extreme or unusual events during the year that pose long-term consequences for biodiversity. Overall, native ecosystems are stable or in slow decline. Pressures by a range of threats including land management practices, climate, pest plants and animals exist. Control of rabbits improved and increased government investment targeting private land delivered many environmental benefits.

Table 15 Bushfires on public land in the Wimmera from 2005 to 2017 (Forest Fire Management Victoria 2017)

Season	Hectares Burnt	Number of fires
2005-06	141,685	48
2006-07	19,969	77
2007-08	22,180	50
2008-09	4,875	48
2009-10	2,281	58
2010-11	206	10
2011-12	2,087	30
2012-13	41,741	101
2013-14	59,264	38
2014-15	32,434	104
2015-16	435	42
2016-17	810	39
2017-18	2,298	36
Average		
2006 – 2018	25,405	52
Average		
1973 - 2005	6930	38

## Reasons for assessment

Since 1998, Agriculture Victoria's Long-Term Rabbit Monitoring sites at Telopea Downs and Ararat have recorded a 93% reduction in the population and 86.4% reduction in active warren entrances per hectare at these ripped sites. In 2017, an average of 13.56 warren entrances per hectare was recorded. The rabbit grazing carrying capacity threshold for the successful recruitment of some key native plant species is less than 1 active rabbit warren entrance per hectare. Although rabbit populations may have significantly declined where rabbit control has occurred, if rabbit populations have not been significantly reduced, the ongoing risk of rabbit impact on native vegetation is high. Many areas in the catchment still carry medium to high rabbit populations.

Agriculture Victoria have observed a gradual rebound of rabbit populations has occurred since 1996 due to the growing resistance to the rabbit calicivirus (RHDV). Particularly in areas where effective rabbit management has not occurred and where soil types are most suited to rabbit warren destruction. Where effective landscape scale rabbit control programs have been undertaken in priority asset areas identified in the Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy, an improvement to environmental asset condition is expected (native vegetation, biodiversity & water quality). Ongoing invasive species (plants and animals) control programs are required to prevent re-infestation and impact in high priority areas and capitalise on the gains made.

In March 2017 a new strain of the Calicivirus RHDV1 K5 was released at 150 sites across Victoria with 14 of those sites in the Wimmera. It is unlikely that RHDV1 K5 will achieve population reductions that the 1996 calicivirus release initially did, as it is not being released into a naïve population. A once in a generational opportunity exists to significantly mitigate the impact of rabbits on the environment and agricultural production. It is important that RHDV1 K5 is used as part of an ongoing integrated multi-technique rabbit management program.'

Due to increasing use of e-trade and internet social media, Agriculture Victoria is recording an increasing incidence of deliberate/accidental introduction of new high risk invasive species via commercial and private trade on the internet. During 2017-18 one incursion into the Wimmera of the State Prohibited Weed Water Hyacinth was detected via the internet and the plants seized and destroyed by Agriculture Victoria. In response, Agriculture Victoria has dedicated resources to conduct routine audits of the internet and continues to deliver and support the Weedspotters program.

The Golden Sun Moth flight surveys recorded over 200 moths across 3 known locations. These finding were particularly significant being that no moths had been observed at these locations in the past 2 years.

DELWP assisted local government authorities to investigate reports of illegal clearing. In early 2018 there was a higher than usual number of impacted scattered paddock trees during stubble burning activities that was reported to DELWP.

No significant large fires although increased paddock burning in autumn placed pressure on the health of some paddoc trees.

# Management of the Wimmera's biodiversity

Table 16: Management activities for native vegetation carried out in the Wimmera in 2017-18

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Wimmera CMA continues to support private landholders to protect and enhance EPBC Act listed vegetation communities in the Wimmera Bioregion by undertaking pest plant and animal control on public land and providing conservation incentives, advice and training in best practice conservation and land management to landholders.</p> <p>Wimmera CMA supports Parks Victoria to manage the threats to EPBC list vegetation on public land.</p>	<p>86.09 ha of Buloke Woodland and 179.26 of Seasonally Herbaceous Wetland protected</p> <p>65.5 ha committed for Buloke Woodland under covenant</p> <p>376ha of weed control including 111ha of prickly pear control.</p> <p>1 Aboriginal works crew engaged to conduct works</p>	Australian Government National Landcare Programme	Trust for Nature and Parks Victoria
Wimmera CMA worked with numerous partners to deliver the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Action programme in the Wimmera which seeks to improve the biodiversity conservation outcomes for several key flora and fauna species' by undertaking priority threat abatement works that are strategic and provide multi-species benefits that are valued by the community including conservation incentives on private land, large scale fox and feral cat control on public land and Traditional Owner burning.	<p>Threat abatement works conducted on 1066 ha of private land</p> <p>1 partnership established</p>	Victorian Government Biodiversity Action on the Ground	CFA, BGLC, Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) and CVA.
In partnership with Glenelg Hopkins CMA Wimmera CMA is delivering Habitat Tender aimed at assisting private broad acre and mixed farming land managers to 'improve the biodiversity conservation outcomes for a number of key flora and fauna species by undertaking priority threat abatement works that provide multispecies benefits that are valued by the community.	<p>70 expressions of interest received</p> <p>Site assessments conducted over 2500ha</p>	Victorian Government Biodiversity Action on the Ground	Glenelg Hopkins CMA
<p>Wimmera CMA partnered with the Royal Botanic Gardens to deliver the Orchid Conservation project. Activities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of reintroductions to compare survival and population trends and responses against naturally occurring populations, undertaken with the assistance of volunteers</li> <li>Volunteers assisted with the reintroduction of 180 Caladenia Formosa stems</li> <li>Targeted pest plant and animal control adjacent to existing reintroduction sites was also undertaken to prevent these threats impacting of the sites</li> </ul>	<p>Monitored populations of reintroduced orchids</p> <p>Reintroduction of 180 Caladenia Formosa stems</p>	Australian Government National Landcare Programme	Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria
A project to manage, protect and enhance threatened flora species and their habitats was delivered. The focus this year was to monitor translocations and previous weed control works and to monitor changes in habitat and species at the sites. Follow up weed control was undertaken at the sites as required.	4.27 ha of weed control	Australian Government National Landcare Programme	DELWP
The Red-tailed Black Cockatoo Recovery project continued to implement high priority actions to reduce the threats and build community capacity to improve conditions for the species across the Wimmera. The survey recorded 196 birds which is just over 23% of the total number of birds recorded during the range-wide survey.	<p>Volunteers completed annual survey</p> <p>Disseminated information via newsletters and media</p>	Australian Government National Landcare Programme	Birdlife Australia

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
The Mallee Fowl Conservation project seeks to protect Malleefowl nesting mounds within Little Desert National Park and adjoining private land from prescribed burning activities will be achieved together with a comprehensive understanding of the status, distribution and critical habitat requirements of the species, through analysis of fire history mapping, LiDAR data and community-assisted field surveys including mound counts and feeding habitat surveys. The project continued to engage with a number of community groups and organisations to promote the findings of the LiDAR survey and analysis that was undertaken in 2016/17 and promote the protection of the critically endangered Malleefowl.	1 partnership 1 report	Australian Government National Landcare Programme	DELWP

Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
The 20 <sup>th</sup> Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar was held in Horsham, hosted by Gardening Australia's Costa Georgiadis. The theme of the 2017 event was "Back to the Future" where past, present and future biodiversity projects were presented. Wimmera CMA presented on water for the environment program and launched the <i>Glovebox Guide to Wimmera Frogs</i> .	1 seminar held, engaging 80 people
<p>The Landcare Facilitator for Kaniva District and Telopea Downs provided support to two Landcare Groups and achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive weed control along roadsides and wider districts, targeting species including African Lovegrass, Bridal Creeper, Patterson's Curse, Horehound, Calthrop, Cape Tulip and Spiny Burr Grass</li> <li>• Conducted rabbit baiting over 100km</li> <li>• Revegetated sites with native plants</li> <li>• Conducted youth environmental education and engagement sessions</li> <li>• Fenced 4 ha of native vegetation</li> </ul>	<p>Treated rabbits over 20 ha area</p> <p>Treated weeds over 120 ha area</p> <p>Revegetated 3 ha</p> <p>Planted 1,700 native plants</p> <p>Engaged over 60 participants in 3 events</p>
<p>DELWP supported Local Government in the implementation of the guidelines for removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation and in doing so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided input into 85 statutory planning referrals involving the removal of native vegetation</li> <li>• Worked with Horsham Rural City Council to supply technical advice on Red-tailed Black Cockatoo distribution for the Municipal Strategic Statement with a view to supporting protection for the species habitat in the future</li> <li>• Worked to support appropriate burning regime for Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat within the Wimmera CMA as well as Barwon South West habitat area</li> <li>• Provided technical advice regarding proposed new developments with the potential for native vegetation or biodiversity impacts, including windfarms proposed for Murra Warra, Kiata and Nhill, gypsum mines, Grampians Peaks Trail and Section 3 of the Western Hwy duplication and Ararat Bypass</li> <li>• Cooperated with the Federal Department of the Environment in their investigations of potential impacts on matters of national environmental significance. The investigation continued from 2015-16 and is yet to be concluded in 2017/2018. The department referred new cases of impacts to federally listed species along roadsides and rail corridors</li> </ul> <p>Leading the delivery of Biodiversity Response Planning Phase 1, which involved managing the Wimmera Area Working Group that was comprised of the following parties; DELWP, DEDJTR, Wimmera CMA, CVA, PV, Hindmarsh Landcare Network, BGLC, Dja Dja Wurrung, Greening Australia. Phase one involved the setting of strategic goals for investment, calls for conservation projects, assessment of projects and commitment to propose \$1.7 million of projects for the Wimmera Area. This work is part of the delivery of Biodiversity 2037, the Victoria Government's strategy for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Provided input for 85 statutory planning referrals</p> <p>Provided support and advice to local government</p> <p>Provided technical advice to new developments</p> <p>Supported the Federal Department of the Environment's investigations</p>



Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
<p>Agriculture Victoria (AV) conducted regional weed control and biosecurity programs, to protect agricultural production systems and biodiversity values, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serrated Tussock Satellite Project conducted in the Upper Wimmera – aiming to contain or eradicate satellite infestations of Serrated Tussock</li> <li>• Regionally Prohibited Weed Program targeted African Daisy, African Feather Grass, English Broom, Noogoora Burr and Buffalo Burr</li> <li>• Successful prosecution for landowner possession and attempted sale of Water Hyacinth, a State Prohibited Weed, following removal and destruction of 830 plants in March 2017</li> <li>• Fox bounty collection maintained, with collection centres located in Horsham and St Arnaud</li> <li>• Ongoing rabbit monitoring at a long-term monitoring site in Telopea Downs as well as monitoring effectiveness of a new strain of Calicivirus (RHDV1 K5), released in March 2017</li> <li>• Coordinated roadside invasive plant and animal management, including assisting municipal councils develop and implement their Roadside Weed/Rabbit Control Plans</li> <li>• Assisting community capacity-building in best practice invasive species management through various field days, information session, Landcare group meetings and media releases</li> </ul>	<p>Serrated Tussock contained over 3700 ha</p> <p>Regionally prohibited weeds controlled over 10,800 ha</p> <p>1 successful court prosecution</p> <p>6 assessments on rabbit populations and biocontrol</p>
<p>Trust for Nature (TfN) delivered actions on private land under various programs aimed at conserving habitat and protecting floristic diversity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grampians Threatened Flora project, involving facilitating and coordinating sites for future weed and pest animal control on covenanted properties in priority areas under the Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy. Weed control was also conducted at 10 threatened orchid translocation sites at four conservation covenants and protecting three orchid species; expanding on previous protection work previously supported by Wimmera CMA and Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria</li> <li>• Delivered maintenance actions at TfN's Snape Reserve to improving habitat quality and extent in the reserve. Actions included boundary fencing, revegetation of 40 Yellow Gum plants, fox and rabbit control and weed control of various species including Bindii, Bridal Creeper, Heliotrope, Horehound, Veldt Grass, Saffron Thistle, Stemless Thistle and Amsinckia. Rabbit control was also conducted over an area of 800 ha at TfN's Mt Elgin Swamp Reserve. TfN supported one community engagement event to examine fungi at Snape Reserve, hosted by Wimmera CMA and Hindmarsh Landcare Network, and supported bird surveys by BirdLife Australia groups, engaging 55 people.</li> <li>• Management agreements established over 680 ha in the Wimmera region under the TfN Sustainability fund, in partnership with DELWP. This included a single registered covenant of 495.7 ha near the Little Desert - the largest single area protected in the Wimmera in several years.</li> </ul> <p>Greening Australia (lead agency) and TfN maintained conservation values on the 950 ha Bank Australia Conservation Reserve, located in West Wimmera. Two community events were held at the site, discussing conservation topics and engaging the community in ecological assessments. A weed and pest animal control plan for the site was completed and an ecological burn plan commenced – anticipated to be completed in 2018-19. Red-tailed Black Cockatoo sightings at the reserve was noted to be higher than previous years.</p>	<p>Facilitated 1 EOI process</p> <p>Threat abatement actions at 10 orchid translocation sites</p> <p>0.3 km fencing, 1 ha revegetation, controlled weeds over 240 ha, supported 1 event engaging 30 people and 2 bird assessments at Snape Reserve</p> <p>680 ha permanently protected under management agreements</p> <p>2 events held at the Bank Australia Conservation Reserve, engaging over 100 people. 1 plan completed.</p>
<p>Hindmarsh Shire Council (HSC) conducted rabbit and weed control along roadsides, targeting Boxthorn, Horehound, Fleabane, Spiny Burr Grass and African love Grass.</p>	<p>Weeds controlled over 450 km and rabbits over 400 km of roadsides</p>
<p>Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC) controlled weeds and rabbits in the Upper Catchment, through its Roadside Weeds and Pests Drought Affected Areas Program. Species targeted included Boxthorn, Blackberry, boneseed, Cape Broom, Gorse, Horehound, Pattersons Curse, St Jon's Wort and Sweet Briar. This program is helping implement goals set in NGSC' Roadside Pests and Weeds Control Plan 2017-19.</p>	<p>Weeds controlled over 20 km roadsides</p>
<p>Parks Victoria (PV) contributed a variety of natural resource management activities in parks throughout the Wimmera region. Some highlights in addition to Wimmera CMA partnership projects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed the Wimmera Conservation Action Plan, in consultation with regional stakeholders, highlighting key ecological assets in the region and creating a plan for their management; aligning with the RCS. The plan is expected to be released in 2018-19</li> <li>• The Good Neighbour Program – Wimmera Weeds aimed to minimise weed impacts to various park reserves from surrounding agricultural land and adjoining conservation properties. Weeds targeted included Bridal Creeper, Horehound and Boxthorn</li> <li>• Weed control at Lake Hindmarsh and Lake Albacutya, as described in the <i>Waterways</i> section of this report</li> </ul>	<p>1 regional management plan developed</p> <p>Weeds controlled over 350 ha</p>

## Condition of the Wimmera's land

The Land theme reports on how government and the community are working together to protect the state's significant natural capital while also maintaining long-term agricultural productivity, access and opportunities for recreation and protection of important cultural values. The management of Victoria's public and private land focuses on the protection of natural capital over the long-term through agreements, covenants, management plans and parks and reserves.

The land and soils of the Wimmera support the region's economy, agricultural productivity and the biodiversity and vitality of native plants and animals. Ecosystem services provided by land and soils include water infiltration and storage, soil stability and nutrient cycling and availability for plant growth. Government, conservation, industry groups and community groups in the Wimmera are working together to protect the region's land and soils while also supporting a sustainable and profitable community.

### Land benchmark – land managed for conservation and land cover

Table 17: Land managed for conservation

Protection type	Area covered (ha)	Additional area in 2017-18 (ha)
National parks*	192,000	0
State parks*	83,900	0
Trust for Nature covenants	14,730	685
Landholder agreements	17,600	1748

\* Data from Public Lands Management spatial dataset.

### Land assessment 2017-18

**Neutral**



Rainfall across the region has been average to below average over 2017/18. The period between January 2018 and June 2018 saw a large part of the region experience very much below average rainfall (Decile 1). This has meant that sowing of crops has occurred with little soils moisture and little follow up rain after sowing, potentially increasing the risk of erosion in late 2018 until the 2019 autumn weather break. This lack of rainfall will also affect the health of our biodiversity and increase fire intensity.

Table 18: Research presented in the Australian National University's 'Australia's Environment in 2017' report indicates that the annual mean percentage of soil that was unprotected by living vegetation, or exposed, in the Wimmera was 17% in 2017.

#### Percentage exposed soil

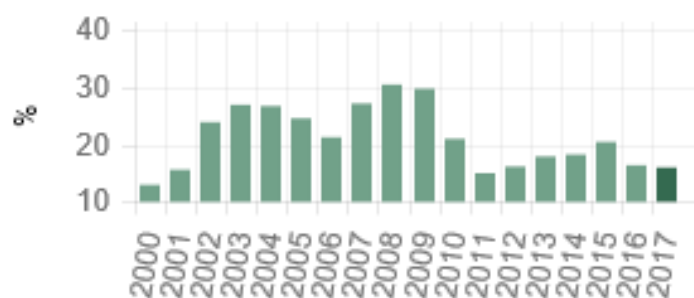
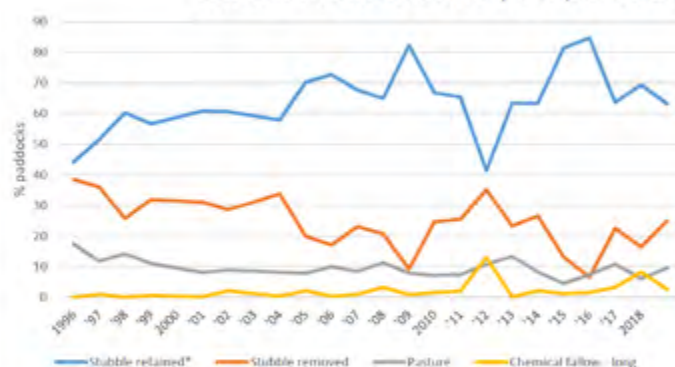


Table 19: Summary of some changes in land management in the northern Wimmera from 1996 to 2018 as a percentage of paddocks.

#### Whole of transect trends (% of paddocks)



## Reasons for assessment

Wimmera CMA partners with AV to conduct two surveys of land management practices in autumn and spring each year along transects across the northern and southern Wimmera (four surveys).

- Observations from the northern transect include:
  - o 30 per cent of all paddocks were observed with management practices that lead to bare earth or very little soil protection on soils classified as having high to very high erosion risk; compared with 22 per cent in 2017.
  - o Stubble retention practices were slightly above the 10-year average at 73 per cent of the survey area.
  - o A smaller area of stubble was removed by burning and cultivation compared with autumn 2017 (16 per cent of the area, compared with 23 per cent). This was also slightly less than the 10-year average (19 per cent of the area).
  - o While stubble burning and cultivation was slightly less than the 10-year average, the record level of pulse stubbles and 'long' chemical fallow (brown manure) may present an increased erosion risk.
  - o For the high and very high erosion risk soils, 10 per cent more paddocks were burnt or cultivated in 2018 compared with 2017.
- Observations from the southern transect include:
  - o More than one-third of the area in the transect was pasture.
  - o Stubble retained fallow and standing stubble accounted for nearly one-third of the area.
  - o The more traditional practices were recorded in 18 per cent of the area (i.e. conventionally cultivated or blanket-burnt paddocks, and stubble prepared to be burnt).
  - o The relatively newer practices of burning windrows and chemical fallow accounted for 11 per cent of the area in total.
  - o Native vegetation and a pine plantation accounted for less than two per cent of the area.
  - o Stubble retention practices have continued to decline since 2016 at a rate of 15.8 per cent of hectares per year to 32 per cent of the area in 2018.
  - o Stubble removal by burning (including windrow burning) and cultivation has increased since 2016 at 11.9 per cent of hectares per year to reach 24 per cent of the transect area in 2018.
  - o While the area of chemical fallow was low, it has increased four-fold since 2017 to four per cent of paddocks in 2018
- The rainfall outlook for the Wimmera is for a 25 to 40 percent change of exceeding median rainfall meaning that rain will need to occur at critical growth stages for crops and pasture to yield this year.
- Analysis of data captured as part of the long term Sustainable Cropping in the Mediterranean Environments trial identified that all current rotations and tillage practices were resulting in reductions in soil carbon balances in the top 30cm of the profile. The exceptions were where grass and pasture were used. There is also some evidence that rotations with a high frequency of

legumes (> 1 in 3 or 1 in 2 years) were increasing soil nitrogen content. This could have implications for continuous cropping systems based in medium rainfall regions in southern Australia and raises a number of questions such as:

- o What are the long-term impacts of declining soil carbon on productivity?
- o Are there economically viable management strategies to redress this decline?
- o Are there rates of change in soil carbon and nitrogen on other important soil types used for cropping?
- Perennial Pastures Systems (PPS) reported that:
  - o In the upper catchment ground cover is being maintained in most paddocks partly due to increased use of stock containment areas. PPS' annual pasture establishment survey showed that people were continuing to establish improved pastures at a much higher rate than the average in the HRZ. (high rainfall zone).
  - o People are realising the long-term value of perennial pastures (including through dry years) – positive lessons learnt through.

## Management of the Wimmera's soils

Table 20: Management activities for soils carried out in the Wimmera in 2017-18

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Wimmera CMA's Sustainable Agriculture Project sought to build the capacity of farmers to increase their long-term returns and improve soil productivity, sustainability and resilience to environmental change. This was achieved by workshops, field days and events for farmers delivered by Vic No-Till, PPS, Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) and AV, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Future Farming Expo held in Donald, in partnership with North Central CMA (NCCMA) and AV, engaging over 120 participants</li> <li>• Integrated Pest Management Workshops at Kaniva, Woorak, Wallup and Taylors Lake</li> <li>• Crop walk series with Birchip Cropping Group to increase awareness and understanding of seasonal land management challenges and soil health constraints</li> </ul> <p>AV completed four surveys in spring and autumn for the Wimmera Cropland Management Transect (northern) and Southern Wimmera Land use and Land Management Transect (southern).</p> <p>Land stewardship incentives assisted farmers to protect fragile soils from erosion and enhance agricultural land by planting saltbush. One site that failed during drought was replanted.</p>	<p>Engaged over 560 people in 15 engagement events</p> <p>Completed 4 surveys</p> <p>Planted 10 ha of saltbush at 1 site</p>	<p>Australian Government's National Landcare Programme</p>	<p>Landcare, PPS, VNTFA, AV, BCG, Wimmera Farming Network, Landcare, DELWP, Project Platypus, West Wimmera Young Ag Network, local farmer and industry groups, the Indigenous community and NCCMA</p>
Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements		
<p>Perennial Pasture Systems (PPS) continued to conduct perennial pasture research and provide information to its members in the upper Wimmera catchment. In recent years, PPS has extended its focus to farmer health and has introduced a woman's group called Girls &amp; Grass.</p> <p>A final report on the phalaris persistence project was completed, as well as two case studies highlighting the skills, capacity and priorities of local farmers involved.</p>	<p>Engaged about 370 people with 9 events, newsletters and research reports</p> <p>One report and two case studies produced</p> <p>Progressed research trials and demonstration site projects</p>		
<p>Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) worked with in collaboration with agencies, research organisations and the farming community on targeted projects aimed at improving soil health, productivity and resilience. Activities included:</p> <p>Scientific research studies on climate change and soil cover management in collaboration with universities and private industry</p> <p>Projects and extension programs for farmers on more targeted fertiliser application and improving groundcover for a range of seasonal conditions through better stubble management.</p> <p>Digital agriculture project aimed at increasing farm profitability while lessening the impact on the environment.</p> <p>Deliver 25 events aimed at increasing farmer awareness, engaging more than 400 people</p>	<p>Over 100 plot-based trials maintained or established over 20 farms</p> <p>Engaged over 15 farmers in digital agriculture workshops</p> <p>At least 50 people engaged in targeted agronomist days</p>		



Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
<p>Agriculture Victoria (AV) progressed and finalised a research study on Sustainable Cropping Rotations in a Mediterranean Environment (SCRIME). This project undertook an analysis of crop (wheat phase) and soil nitrogen data collected in the experiment from 2003 to 2016 to assess what was the long-term impact of different rotation and tillage treatments on productivity. AV submitted a paper on findings was submitted to the CSIRO Crop and Pasture Science Journal in November 2017.</p>	<p>1 research paper submitted</p> <p>Agricultural trial and soil sampling over an 8 ha site</p> <p>1 community field day held, engaging 55 people</p> <p>1 fact sheet produced</p>
<p>AV delivered a Grains Program aimed at improving farmer knowledge, skills and decision making to manage their soil constraints, including faster adoption of innovative technologies and management strategies that increase productivity or improve sustainability. The program's overarching goal is to improve productivity, resilience and sustainable dryland farming systems, integrating with regional landscapes.</p>	<p>25 events held, engaging over 620 people</p> <p>4 assessments completed</p>

## Condition of community participation

The Community theme reports on the community's level of contribution to and participation in environmental management and environment-based recreational activities.

The Victorian community's health and well-being benefits from participating in environmental activities and recreating in parks, reserves and other natural areas.

Many Wimmera community members are active participants in environmental activities and events, helping to improve the condition of the region's biodiversity and waterways as well as the way that land is managed. The Wimmera's parks, reserves, waterways and lakes attract many visitors to the region each year.

Wimmera CMA informs, consults, partners with and empowers the community and supports the region's NRM organisations and groups.

### Community benchmark – community participation

Table 21 shows the level of participation in environment related activities.

Table 21: Community participation in CMA led projects

Activity	Participants in 2016-17	Participants in 2017-18	Approximate hours 2017-18
<b>Contributing to on-ground works</b> (CMA sponsored activities, Trust for Nature and Landcare)	3,643	1352	4732
<b>Attending skills and training events</b> (CMA sponsored activities, Trust for Nature and Landcare)	108	214	416
<b>Taking part in awareness raising activities</b> (CMA sponsored activities and Landcare)	2,007	4137	20,685
<b>Working as collaborators in planning and decision making</b> (CMA sponsored activities)	136	684	2052
<b>Being consulted to help determine appropriate action</b> (CMA sponsored activities)	266	412	824
<b>Visiting Grampians National Park</b> (Source: Parks Victoria)	860,000	915,000	NA

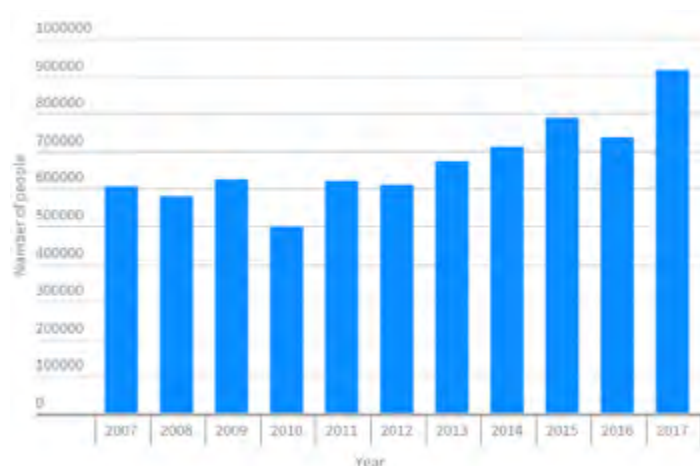
### Community assessment 2017-18

Neutral



Participation numbers and contributions by the community in natural resource management in the region and park visitation increased on the back of a very strong 2016-2017 reporting period Table 22. There is evidence of participation decline in some local communities where an aging population and population shifts occur.

Table 22 Overnight visitors to the Grampians



### Reasons for assessment

- 55 Engagement events were run by or involved the Wimmera CMA
- Participation rates in events and activities organised by the Wimmera CMA were generally positive, with more than 3163 participants reported
- Wimmera CMA were involved in another 56 joint events involving 1377 participants
- 2136 recreational users, 31 supplier organisations and 40 businesses were interviewed as part of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Recreational and Environmental Water survey
- Anecdotally we are seeing an improvement in community group record keeping as they aim to provide high quality data to the Wimmera Southern Mallee Recreational and Environmental Water survey
- Stakeholders report age and retirement of volunteers to be a threat to the physical output and activities that directly impacts capacity for on-ground management. Recruitment of volunteers is an ongoing issue in a region with a declining population and ageing demographic
- Wimmera CMA's social media and website following increased, with people who like the CMA's Facebook page increasing from 723 to 1003
- People following the Wimmera CMA Twitter account increased from 90 to 240 this year
- More than 11,249 individual users visited the Wimmera CMA website in 2017-18, 10,913 last year
- The CMA Instagram page has 200 followers
- More Australian tourists are visiting the Grampians National Park than ever before, with visitor numbers reaching a 10-year high this year. 915,000 people visited the Grampians National park this year
- Visitor numbers have increase by 8.4 per cent a year since 2012.
- Expenditure in the region more than doubled from last year, with overnight tourists spending \$270 million – up 58.8 per cent from \$170 million in 2016
- Yarrilinks landcare group has reinvented its major tree planting activity "Yarrilinks" into a single day event with school groups as the groups volunteer pool had reduced to a point where its wasn't possible to hold a large weekend event any longer
- 143 landholders submitted expression of interest to participate in projects to protect and enhance waterways, wetlands and native vegetation resulting in over 1800ha being protect under 10 year management agreements

## Management – supporting the Wimmera community

Table 23: Management activities for community carried out in the Wimmera in 2017-18

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
A major event was held coinciding with the Horsham Fishing Competition in March 2018 involving television personality and wildlife expert, Chris Humphrey. Around 700 people attended, engaging community members regarding waterway health and its benefits.	Engaged about 700 in one major event	Victorian Government	Horsham Landcare Facilitator, Horsham Fishing Competition
<p>In partnership with Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC), Wimmera CMA's Aboriginal Water Project sought to support Traditional Owner aspirations for the lower Wimmera River system in relation to culture and traditional practices, Country and economic development opportunities. The project also sought to help build relationships and community capacity in water management. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported Aboriginal participation in the development of the Water Resource Plan</li> <li>Delivery of the Yunguip bark canoe community training and engagement activity with Traditional Owners</li> <li>Presentation of the Aboriginal Water Project and outcomes at the 2017 International River Symposium</li> <li>Support for the development of BGLC's Country Plan "Growing What Is Good", launched in January 2018</li> <li>Continued engagement and foundational work to prepare for watering of the Billabong at The Ranch in Dimboola and other significant cultural places. This included supporting BGLC submit funding applications to increase staff resources and organisational capacity.</li> <li>Cultural survey training activities at Lake Albacutya and Outlet Creek with BGLC</li> <li>Supporting BGLC's Country Mapping Project with Aboriginal Victoria to promote cultural values of the Wimmera River</li> <li>Supporting BGLC in business development, employment and training at Wail nursery</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing partnership between Wimmera CMA and BGLC strengthened through support for various projects</p> <p>6 community events held, engaging 300 people</p> <p>1 Assessment</p>	Victorian Government	BGLC, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative, PV, DELWP, Aboriginal Victoria, Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups (LAECG)
<p>In partnership with Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC), Wimmera CMA's Increasing Aboriginal Participation and Engagement in NRM Project sought to increase pathways for participation and engagement opportunities with the diverse Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities within the Wimmera. The project delivered actions from the Wimmera CMA Aboriginal Participation Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employment of a Cultural and Natural Resource Management Trainee and Catchment Management Officer</li> <li>Delivery of one Earth Oven Re-creation event with BGLC</li> <li>Delivery of the Nyupun pilot project with BGLC, DELWP, Horsham Primary, LAECG (Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups) and the Department of Education and Training for the Nyupun project</li> <li>Delivery of Yanga Track plantout with Kookas group in partnership with Goolum Goolum</li> <li>Participation in the Victorian CMAs Indigenous Facilitators Network</li> <li>Delivery of a Country Planning process with BGLC and Native Title Services Victoria</li> <li>Support of National Tree Day planting with BGLC and new residents in Horsham at Yanga Track</li> <li>Support of Horsham college indigenous garden project</li> <li>Delivery of cultural survey training and employment activity with BGLC at Albacutya, Ross Lakes, Outlet Creek</li> </ul>	<p>1 long-term strategy launched</p> <p>9 Events</p> <p>1 Assessment</p> <p>1 Partnership</p>	Australian Government	BGLC, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative, PV, DELWP, Aboriginal Victoria, LAECG



Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
Through the Virtual River Yarns project Wimmera CMA is working with the local Aboriginal community to develop a virtual reality-based tool to use in school engagement and community education to increase understanding of the Aboriginal cultural and natural resource values of the Wimmera River/Barengi Gadjin.	1 Information management system developed  60 people engaged  51 Indigenous people involved	CMA Board	BGLC
The Wimmera Regional Grants Programme provided funding to 10 groups. The funding supported groups to complete local projects that protect, enhance and connect the region's natural assets, including nationally significant species and communities, consistent with the Wimmera RCS.	330 participants 13.9ha revegetation 464ha weed control 10ha rabbit control 10.5km fencing 14 signs installed	Australian Government NLP	Landcare, DEDJTR, DELWP
The Victorian Landcare Grants Program devolved \$172,305 to regional Landcare groups to address local priorities through the delivery of on-ground works.	220 participants 23.6ha reveg 674ha weed control 597ha rabbit control 2.7km fencing	Victorian Government	DELWP, DEDJTR, Landcare.
Wimmera CMA staff provided support to Landcare and other community-based groups to build community capacity and promote and celebrate community NRM activities. Activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting a harmony day and Landcare celebration</li> <li>• Screening a film about Lake Albacutya with the Friends of Albacutya</li> <li>• Supporting three nature connection events in Horsham</li> <li>• Supporting the Yarrilinks plantout weekend at Lah</li> </ul>	680 people engaged at 16 events	Victorian Government	Partners: BGLC, Landcare.

Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
The Horsham Landcare Facilitator made a significant contribution to improving catchment condition and engaging the community in Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC) and surrounds by organising, supporting and assisting to deliver 15 environmental-based community engagement events involving over 1,150 participants. Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planted over 1,200 seedlings at community revegetation events by over 100 participants including school groups</li> <li>• Provided extensive support to various Landcare and community groups</li> </ul> Horsham Urban Landcare was nominated for a State Landcare Award and received Highly Commended.	Delivered and supported 15 environmental community events, engaging over 1,150 people, including revegetation events, where over 1,200 seedlings were planted
Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) engaged community volunteers through various programs. This included the Rewilding the Desert Monitoring Program, aimed at monitoring populations of threatened plant and animals in 1,500 ha of predator-free sites adjoining the Little Desert National Park. A total of 240 volunteers were engaged in conservation projects, contributing over 4,200 hours. The monitoring program captured over 1,550 animals, representing 30 species. Volunteers also contributed to maintenance of the sites, including revegetation and weed and pest animal management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In addition, CVA are upgrading wildlife display facilities, used for education purposes and helping visitors connect to local threatened species such as the Malleefowl</li> </ul>	240 volunteers engaged, and conservation knowledge improved  Wildlife surveys conducted at 35 monitoring sites  Rabbit control conducted over 200 ha and weeds over 95 ha  3,700 seedlings planted by volunteers over 45 ha

# Summary of the financial results for 2017-18

*Five-year financial summary ('000)*

	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-2015	2013-2014
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Revenue From Government	9,397	8,179	8,523	7,740	8,097
Other Revenue	286	416	387	290	386
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>9,683</b>	<b>8,595</b>	<b>8,910</b>	<b>8,030</b>	<b>8,483</b>
Expenses	7,614	8,697	8,486	8,148	6,438
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>(102)</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>(118)</b>	<b>2,045</b>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash & Deposits Held	1,974	304	641	(190)	2,649
Total Assets	9,397	7,584	7,579	6,992	7,134
Total Liabilities	892	1,147	1,040	877	900
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>8,505</b>	<b>6,437</b>	<b>6,539</b>	<b>6,115</b>	<b>6,234</b>

## Overview

### Significant changes in financial position during the year

During the reporting period the Authority was able to secure a grant to run a habitat tender project during the ensuing financial year. The \$2m funding for the project was received in in this period and will be expended predominantly in the ensuing period. This has increased the assets of the Authority and the Net operating result for this period.

### Significant 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

Wimmera CMA does not manage any capital projects.

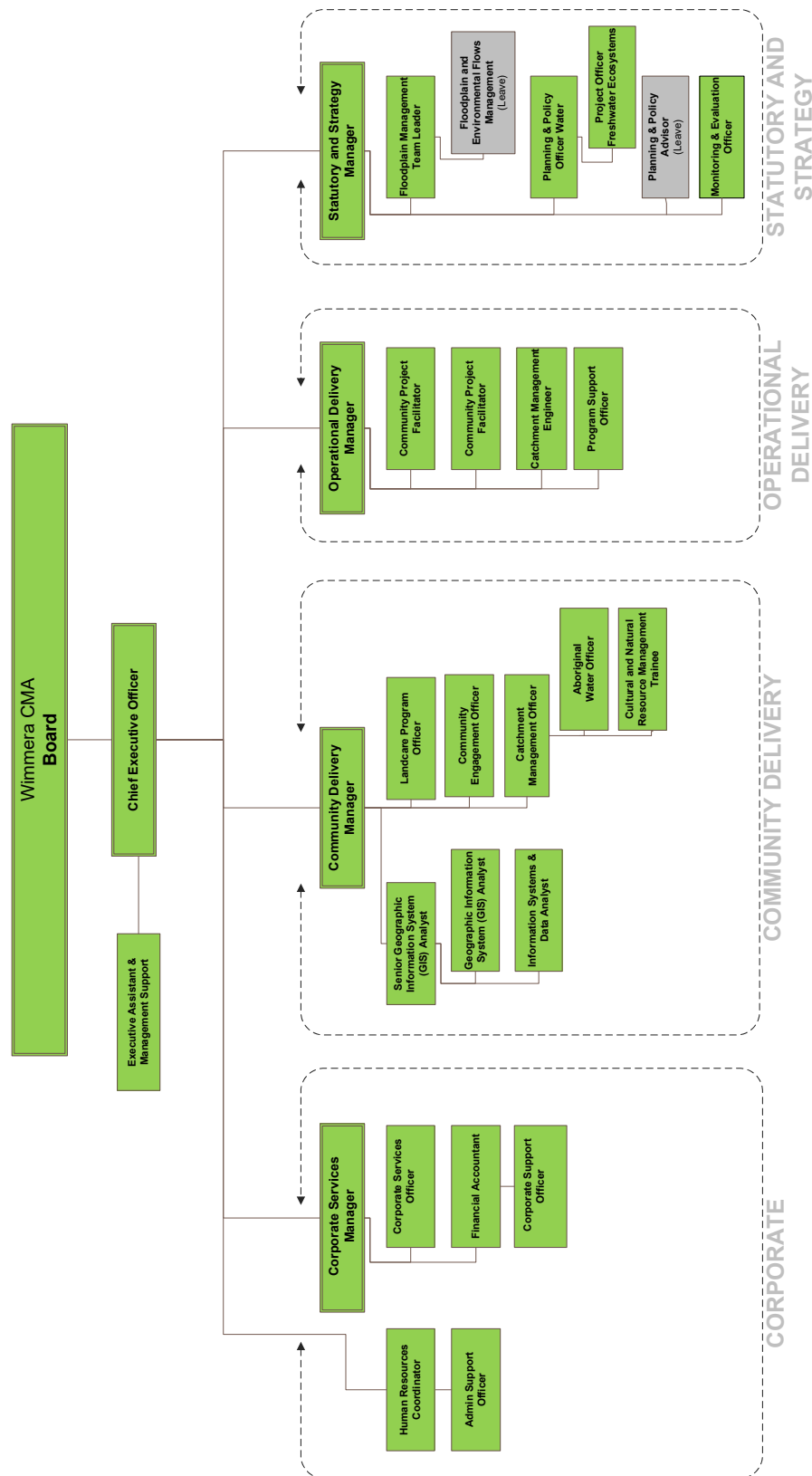
## Victorian Landcare Grants 2017-2018

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

Group	Amount (\$)	Grant
Stawell Urban Landcare Group	17,560	Landcaring for our community
Hindmarsh Landcare Network	15,400	2018 Project Hindmarsh Community Planting Weekend
Kaniva District Landcare Group	14,000	Ensuring a Resilient Kaniva Community: Invasive Weed and Pest Control, Revegetation and Community Health
Great Western Landcare Group	16,200	More connections
Jallukar Landcare Group	16,200	Jallukar Native Grasses Project Part 2
Yarrilinks	7,000	Momentum plantings
Northern Grampians Landcare Group	18,000	Connecting corridors - Pleasant Creek, Lake Lonsdale wetland and Grampians Rail Trail
Rainbow District Landcare Group	15,537	Rainbow and District Riparian Restoration 1718
Telopea Downs Agricultural and Landcare Group	10,240	Invasive Weed Control in Telopea Downs
Moyston Landcare Group	15,410	Creation and eradication
Sandsmere Yarrock Landcare Group	4,000	Sandsmere Yarrock Resilient Communities Project
Yanac Broughton Landcare Group	4,000	Yanac Broughton community rabbit control project
Eastern Hindmarsh Landcare Group	10,000	Eastern Hindmarsh community pest and weed control project
Concongella Landcare Group	6,900	Biodiversity enhancement through revegetation, sustainable agriculture education and group maintenance.
Rupanyup Landcare Group	354	maintenance grant
Wimmera River Improvement Committee	306	maintenance grant
Warracknabeal East Conservation Farmers	372	maintenance grant
Horsham Urban Landcare Group	487	maintenance grant
Wallup Ag Group	339	maintenance grant
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172,305</b>	

# Governance and organisational structure

## Wimmera CMA organisational chart



Last Updated 30 June 2018



# 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 Wimmera CMA. 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.

Peter Hilbig commenced his role as Chair of the Wimmera CMA Board following his appointment on 1 October 2017. Michelle Graymore and La Vergne Lehmann were also new appointments to the Board and appointed until 30 September 2021. David Drage and John Goldsmith also continue their appointment until 30 September 2021. Jessica Adler, Emelia Sudholz, Amanda Cornwall and Michael Porter continue their Board appointment until 30 September 2019.

**Back:** Michael Porter, David Drage, John Goldsmith, Peter Hilbig (Chair), Jess Adler

**Front:** LaVergne Lehmann, Michelle Graymore, Emelia Sudholz, (Amanda Cornwall – absent)

Board member	Term of appointment
Peter Hilbig	Appointed Chair 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2021
David Drage	14 October 2013 – 30 September 2017 Reappointed 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2021
John Goldsmith	14 October 2013 – 30 September 2017 Reappointed 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2021
Michelle Graymore	Appointed 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2021
La Vergne Lehmann	Appointed 1 October 2017 – 30 September 2021
Jessica Adler	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2015 Reappointed 27 October 2015 – 30 September 2019
Emelia Sudholz	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2015 Reappointed 27 October 2015 – 30 September 2019
Amanda Cornwall	Appointed 27 October 2015 – 30 September 2019
Michael Porter	Appointed 27 October 2015 – 30 September 2019
Karen Douglas (Chair)	Appointed to the Board 2006 Appointed Chair 1 July 2011 – 30 September 2017
Dean Johns	14 October 2013 – 30 September 2017





## Karen Douglas - Chair

Appointed Chair 1 July 2011 – 30 September 2017

Karen Douglas was appointed to the Wimmera CMA Board in 2006 and was appointed Chair effective July 2011, was reappointed until September 2017. Karen is a member of a dryland broadacre cereal cropping family

farming enterprise at Beazleys Bridge, Gre Gre and Marnoo. She also worked as a librarian both in the local secondary college and later the Wimmera Regional Library, before joining J R Burns Accounting. Karen is currently a member of the Earth Resources Ministerial Advisory Committee.

She is the past Deputy Chancellor of Federation University Australia, 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. Karen is a graduate of the AICD Directors Course and has undertaken numerous governance training courses in a variety of areas.



## Peter Hilbig - Chair

1 October 2017

Peter Hilbig (Chair) was appointed Chair in October 2017. He has lived at Halls Gap for most of the past thirty years employed locally as a teacher, education consultant then Principal at Stawell Secondary College. He has also been a teacher and Principal in Malaysia and

Northern Territory. He currently supports school improvement through leadership coaching, training and review. Peter's particular interest in the Wimmera and passion for Sustainable Catchment Management was developed through six years as manager of Project Platypus - Upper Wimmera Landcare, where he was inspired by the commitment of a diverse range of stakeholders using science to monitor and inform improvement in land and water quality, and to enhance biodiversity.

Peter is Captain of the Halls Gap CFA and a Justice of the Peace. He is keen for the CMA to engage effectively with all stakeholders to achieve a healthy Wimmera catchment.



## Dean Johns

Dean was appointed to the Wimmera CMA Board in October 2013 and retired in September 2017. Dean is passionate about how links between farming and environmental health secure the long-term future of his farm asset. Dean sees his 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.



## Emelia Sudholz - Deputy Chair

Emelia Sudholz (Deputy Chair) has been a member of Wimmera CMA 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, is on the board of the Wimmera Development Association (WDA) and has recently been appointed to the Regional Partnerships committee. Emelia brings experience in natural resource management, stakeholder engagement, governance, and a strong farming background and involvement to the Board.

She is committed to the Wimmera, after moving here over 20 years ago, and is heavily involved in local community groups.



## Jessica Adler

Jessica Adler 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 currently works with Donald Mineral Sands, which is a subsidiary of the ASX listed Astron group. She also sits as an independent member on the Audit

Committees of Buloke and West Wimmera Shire Councils.

She was appointed to the Board in October 2011 after enjoying 15 months as the external member on the Authority's Audit & Risk Management Committee.

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.



## David Drage

David Drage 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 on to the next generation in the best possible condition.

David is a member of several community groups including Warracknabeal Apex Club and Lah Landcare Group.



## 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 27 years John has worked at Longerenong College and has been General Manager for the past 9 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.



## Amanda Cornwall

Amanda was appointed to the Board in October 2015. She is a Policy and Management Consultant who brings 20 years of senior management experience in Government and not-for-profit organisations in the Water, Environment, Urban Planning and Health Care sectors. Amanda started her career as a lawyer and brings considerable experience in corporate governance and stakeholder engagement to the Board. Amanda is a member of the Advisory Board for the Urban Development Institute of Australia's EnviroDevelopment program (Vic) and a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria. She holds a Certificate of Governance Practice and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Amanda lives in Melbourne but is a frequent visitor to the Wimmera for bush walking and camping trips and to visit friends in the Wimmera farming community.



## La Vergne Lehmann

La Vergne Lehmann was appointed to the Wimmera CMA Board in October 2017. La Vergne lives near Dimboola and brings a broad range of experience including natural resource management, community engagement, research, communications and media and tourism. Over the last 6 years La Vergne has worked in waste and resource recovery in a senior management role and has most recently led the development of the inaugural regional implementation plan for the Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group. La Vergne is passionate about sustainability and environmental issues in the region along with building a greater understanding of traditional owners through her role as an independent director with the Barengi Gadjin Land Council.



## Michael Porter

Michael Porter was appointed to the Board in November 2015. Michael owns farming Victoria's Western District, near Ballarat. He has had extensive experience in the Agricultural sector where he was the CEO of SQP Co-operative for almost four years. He has particular interest in soil re-generation and making the best use of our limited resources, such as water. Before working for SQP, he held Senior Management roles within ASX listed companies. Michael holds a Bachelor of Business Studies with a major in Enterprise Development, a post Graduate Qualification in Change Management and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He also holds other Board Positions, including being a member of the Audit Advisory Committee for the City of Ballarat, Director Angel Seafood Holdings Ltd and Murray River Organics Ltd. Outside of farming, and these roles, he is also an Active Reservist where he holds the rank of Commander in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve.

Michael is keen to contribute to the governance and overall strategic direction of the Wimmera CMA.



## Michelle Graymore

Michelle Graymore was appointed to the board in October 2017. Michelle is an environmental sociologist who is passionate about helping rural and regional communities be sustainable and resilient, particularly in the Wimmera. She is a Senior Research Fellow at Federation University Australia who works with environmental scientists and natural resource managers helping ensure that the social aspects of environmental and water management are considered in decision making. As well as a family connection to the Wimmera, she spent four years leading the Wimmera Research Group (formerly known as Horsham Campus Research Precinct) at Federation University in Horsham. She brings to the board expertise in sustainability, water management, climate change adaption, social change processes, community engagement and community resilience. In her role on the Board Michelle is keen to use her skills to contribute to the long-term sustainability of the region.



# Board meeting attendance

Board member	Meetings attended 1 July 2017 – 30 September 2017	Meetings attended 1 October 2017 – 30 June 2018
Karen Douglas	3 of 3	
Dean Johns	2 of 3	
Jess Adler	3 of 3	5 of 5
David Drage	3 of 3	4 of 5
John Goldsmith	2 of 3	4 of 5
Emelia Sudholz	3 of 3	5 of 5
Amanda Cornwall	2 of 3	4 of 5
Michael Porter	3 of 3	5 of 5
Peter Hilbig		5 of 5
Michelle Graymore		3 of 5
La Vergne Lehmann		5 of 5
<b>Total Meetings</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>

## Board Governance Committees

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

*1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018*

### Audit, Risk and 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 and Finance Committee:

1 July 2017 – 30 September 2017	1 October 2017 – 30 June 2018
Jess Adler- Committee Chair	Jess Adler- Committee Chair
Dean Johns	La Vergne Lehmann (Appointed 15 December 2017)
Michael Porter	Michael Porter
Karen Douglas – Ex Officio	Peter Hilbig – Ex Officio
	Simon Coutts * (Independent member appointed to the committee 16 August 2017)

### Business and 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 organisational objectives.

#### Members of the Business and Planning Committee:

1 July 2017- 30 September 2017	1 October 2017 to 30 June 2018
Emelia Sudholz – Committee Chair	Emelia Sudholz – Committee Chair
David Drage	David Drage
John Goldsmith	Michelle Graymore (Appointed 15 December 2017)
Karen Douglas – Ex Officio	Peter Hilbig – Ex Officio

### 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:

- Recruitment and appointment of the Chief Executive Officer;
- Remuneration and incentive policies for the CEO;
- Performance appraisals of the CEO; and
- Succession plans for the CEO.

#### Members of the Performance and Remuneration Committee:

1 July 2017- 30 September 2017	1 October 2017 to 30 June 2018
Karen Douglas – Board Chair	Peter Hilbig - Board Chair
Amanda Cornwall	Amanda Cornwall
Michael Porter	John Goldsmith (Appointed 15 December 2017)

### Enhanced engagement framework

Wimmera CMA's Board has 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 and delivers efficiencies for the Wimmera 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*.

### 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 current and forecast business objectives of the organisation.

### Whole-of-organisation training provided:

- Wimmera CMA held two whole of organisation planning days in December and May.
- 67% staff attended Work Place Obligations Training
- 92% staff attended Diversity & Inclusion & Unconscious Bias Training
- Writing Workshops; Business writing; Report Writing, Tenders, Proposals & Grants
- On road and 4X4 training was offered to all staff.

### 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.

This year we extended our support to include specialist phone helplines in the areas of; Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders; LGBTIQ, Domestic and Family Violence and Eldercare Helplines.

### 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 Health Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) Committee charged with oversight of the organisation's health and safety policies and procedures. During the year, Wimmera CMA reviewed the designated work groups reducing from 4 groups to 3; who are nominated to process and manage OHS issues across the organisation.

Representative were nominated and elected by members of each group where required. These representatives form the HSW Committee for Wimmera CMA.

Wimmera CMA Performance	Numbers				
	2017 -2018	2016 -2017	2015 -2016	2014 -2015	2013 -2014
Equivalent Full time Employees (FTE)	22	21	23	23	25
OHS incidents	5	11	7	5	5
OHS meetings	8	11	10	6	11
Claims under <i>Equal Opportunity Act 1995</i>	0	0	0	0	0
WorkCover claims	0	0	1	0	0
Staff trained in first aid (level 2)	8	8	8	6	13
Staff trained in workplace fire and emergency control procedure	7	7	3	4	4
Staff trained in fire extinguisher, hose-reel and blanket use and operation	17	17	7	8	10
Time lost to injury (days)	0	0	125.91	0	0

# Workforce data

Wimmera CMA employed 27 people (22 FTE) in 2017-18. The breakdown in staff is as follows:

Staff Details as at 30 June	2017-2018	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014
Total staff	27	25	26	26	28
Staff FTE	22	21	23	23	25
Female staff	13	12	13	13	14
Male staff	14	13	13	13	14
Staff departures	0	2	2	4	6
Executive officers	1	1	1	1	1
Senior Managers	4	4	4	4	4

All figures reflect employment levels during the last full pay period in June each year.

# Information and communication technology expenditure

For the 2017-18 reporting period, Wimmera CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$441,551 with the details shown below.

All operational ICT expenditure	ICT expenditure relating to projects to create ICT capabilities		
Business as usual (BAU) ICT expenditure (\$000)	Non-BAU ICT expenditure (\$000)	Operational expenditure (\$000)	Capital expenditure (\$000)
Total	Total=A+B	A	B
389	53	-	53

## Note:

- **ICT expenditure** refers to Wimmera CMA's costs in providing business enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.
- **Non-BAU ICT expenditure** relates to extending or enhancing Wimmera CMA's current ICT capabilities.
- **BAU ICT expenditure** is all remaining ICT expenditure, which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

# Other disclosures

## *Victorian industry participation policy*

The Victorian Industry Participation Policy applies to tenders of over \$1 million in regional Victoria. During the 2017-18 reporting period, Wimmera CMA had no tenders of this size.

## *Consultancies*

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

In 2017-18, there were fourteen consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2017-18 in relation to these consultancies is \$570,348 excl. GST (\$369,796 excl. GST 2016-2017).

Details of individual consultancies are outlined on Wimmera CMA's website, at [www.wcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au)

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

In 2017-18, there were thirteen consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2017-18 in relation to these consultancies is \$47,490 excl. GST (\$26,180 excl. GST 2016-2017).

## *Disclosure of major contracts*

Wimmera CMA has not entered into any contracts valued in excess of \$10 million during 2017-18.

## *Government advertising expenditure*

Wimmera CMA's expenditure in the 2017-18 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100 000.

## *Compliance with Building Act 1993*

Wimmera CMA does not own or control any government buildings and consequently is exempt from notifying its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*.

## *Competitive neutrality policy*

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest. Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service.

Wimmera CMA continues to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.

## *Compliance with the Protected Disclosure Act 2012 (VIC)*

The Protected Disclosure Act 2012 (PD Act) enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public bodies. The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

### **What is a 'protected disclosure'?**

A protected disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or public body.

Wimmera CMA is a "public body" for the purposes of the Act.

### **What is 'improper or corrupt conduct'?**

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- Mismanagement of public resources; or
- Risk to public health or safety or the environment; or
- Corruption.

The conduct must be criminal in nature or a matter for which an officer could be dismissed.

### **How do I make a 'protected disclosure'?**

You can make a protected disclosure about Wimmera CMA or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC on the contact details below.

Please note the Wimmera CMA is not able to receive protected disclosures.

### **How can I access Wimmera CMA's procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action?**

Wimmera CMA has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about Wimmera CMA or its employees. You can access the Wimmera CMA's procedures on its website [www.wcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au).

### **Contacts**

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC)  
Victoria

Address:	Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000.
Mail:	IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001.
Internet:	<a href="http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au">www.ibac.vic.gov.au</a>
Phone:	1300 735 135
Email	See the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

## Application and operation of the Freedom of Information Act 1982

The Freedom of Information Act (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 \$28.90 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 was one request for information.

## Additional information available on request

In compliance with the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by Wimmera CMA and are available in full on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:

- Details of publications produced by Wimmera CMA about itself, and how these can be obtained;
- Details of any other external reviews carried out on Wimmera CMA;
- Details of major research and development activities undertaken by Wimmera CMA;
- Details of pecuniary interest completed by all relevant officers;
- Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by Wimmera CMA to develop community awareness of the entity and its services; and
- Details of changes in prices, fees and charges.

The information is available from:

The CEO  
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority  
Phone 03 5382 1544  
Email [wcma@wcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:wcma@wcma.vic.gov.au)

## Additional information included in the annual report

Details in respect of the following item have been included in the Wimmera CMA's annual report, on the pages indicated below:

- 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 41;
- 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 41.
- A list of Wimmera CMA 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 40;

## Information that is not applicable to Wimmera CMA

The following information is not relevant to Wimmera CMA for the reasons listed below:

- A declaration of shares held by senior officers (No shares have ever been issued in Wimmera CMA's name);
- Details of overseas travel undertaken (No board or members of senior executives took overseas work related travel).

## Office based environmental impacts

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.


Greenhouse gas, energy and waste audits were conducted during 2017-2018 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.

Electricity consumption	5140 kWh per FTE per year
Water consumption	7.01 kilolitres per FTE per year
Estimate Greenhouse emissions associated with CMA Fleet	5.47 tonnes per FTE per year
Total waste production	36.91 kilograms per FTE per year
General waste landfill	23.26 kilograms per FTE per year
Recycling rate	37%
Estimated Greenhouse emissions associated with waste to landfill	0.95 tonnes per FTE per year

Wimmera CMA joined the TAKE2 Pledge program in 2017-18 as part of our commitment to contribute to Victoria's target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

## *Financial management compliance attestation statement*

I Peter Hilbig, on behalf of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority Board, certify that the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and instructions.



Peter Hilbig  
Chairman Wimmera CMA Board  
August 17, 2018



# Financial statements

## How this report is structured

The Wimmera Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 in the following structure to provide users with the information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it.

## Financial statements

Comprehensive operating statement

Balance sheet

Cash flow statement

Statement of changes in equity

## Notes to the financial statements

### 1. About this report

The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared and compliance with reporting regulations

### 2. Funding delivery of our services

Revenue recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

2.2 Income from transactions

### 3. The cost of delivering services

Operating expenses of the Authority

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

3.2 Program delivery expenses

3.3 Lease expenses

3.4 Other operating expenses

### 4. Key assets available to support output delivery

Leasehold Improvements, plant and equipment, and motor vehicles

4.1 Total property, plant and equipment

### 5. Other assets and liabilities

Other key assets and liabilities

5.1 Receivables

5.2 Payables

5.3 Other non-financial assets

### 6. How we financed our operations

Cash flow information, commitments for expenditure

6.1 Cash flow information and balances

6.2 Commitments for expenditure

6.3 Carry forward project funding

### 7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

Financial risk management, contingent assets and liabilities as well as fair value determination

7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

7.3 Fair value determination

**8. Other disclosures**

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Reserves
- 8.3 Responsible persons
- 8.4 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.5 Related parties
- 8.6 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.7 Subsequent events
- 8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

## Declaration in the Financial Statements

The attached financial statements for the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, 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 2018 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2018.

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

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 24 August 2018



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Peter Hilbig  
Chairperson



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David Brennan  
CEO and Accountable Officer



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David Scott  
Chief Finance Officer

# COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Income from transactions</b>			
Government contributions	2.2.1	9,481,927	8,178,507
Interest	2.2.2	154,415	140,526
Other income	2.2.3	50,935	195,157
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>9,687,277</b>	<b>8,514,190</b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	2,436,712	2,523,180
Depreciation	4.1.1	247,066	209,006
Program delivery expenses	3.2	4,223,466	4,992,467
Lease expenses	3.3	121,423	258,157
Other operating expenses	3.4	585,329	714,417
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>7,613,996</b>	<b>8,697,227</b>
<b>Net result from transactions (net operating balance)</b>		<b>2,073,281</b>	<b>(183,037)</b>
<b>Other economic flows included in net result</b>			
Net (loss)/gain on non-financial assets (i)	4.1.3	(4,699)	80,288
<b>Net result</b>		<b>2,068,582</b>	<b>(102,749)</b>
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b>2,068,582</b>	<b>(102,749)</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

Note:

(i) 'Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets includes unrealised and realised gains/(losses) from disposals of all physical assets.

## BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6.1	5,328,396	6,861,637
Term deposits	6.1	3,507,471	-
Receivables	5.1	181,008	180,965
Other non-financial assets	5.3	41,237	43,318
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>9,058,112</b>	<b>7,085,920</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	338,607	498,078
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>338,607</b>	<b>498,078</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>9,396,719</b>	<b>7,583,998</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	5.2	228,174	520,501
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	663,355	626,889
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>891,529</b>	<b>1,147,390</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>8,505,190</b>	<b>6,436,608</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		5,650,408	3,663,417
Committed funds reserve	8.2	1,131,083	1,049,492
Contributed capital		1,723,699	1,723,699
<b>Net worth</b>		<b>8,505,190</b>	<b>6,436,608</b>
Commitments for expenditure	6.2		
Contingent assets and contingent liabilities	7.2		

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*



## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2018

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Receipts from government		9,510,537	8,420,964
Interest received		132,411	157,821
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (i)		472,650	562,359
Other receipts		50,935	277,143
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>10,166,533</b>	<b>9,418,287</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		8,100,009	8,967,471
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>8,100,009</b>	<b>8,967,471</b>
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	6.1.1	<b>2,066,524</b>	<b>450,816</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(131,076)	(268,487)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets		38,782	121,577
Purchases of financial assets	6.1	(3,507,471)	-
<b>Net cash (outflow) from investing activities</b>		<b>(3,599,765)</b>	<b>(146,910)</b>
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(1,533,241)</b>	<b>303,906</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		6,861,637	6,557,731
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	6.1	<b>5,328,396</b>	<b>6,861,637</b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

Note:

(i) GST received from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the financial year ended 30 June 2018

	Accumulated surplus	Committed funds reserve	Contributed capital	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2016	3,230,653	1,585,005	1,723,699	6,539,357
Net result for the year	(102,749)	-	-	(102,749)
Transfers to/(from) reserves (i)	535,513	(535,513)	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2017</b>	<b><u>3,663,417</u></b>	<b><u>1,049,492</u></b>	<b><u>1,723,699</u></b>	<b><u>6,436,608</u></b>
Net result for the year	2,068,582	-	-	2,068,582
Transfers to/(from) reserves (i)	(81,591)	81,591	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2018</b>	<b><u>5,650,408</u></b>	<b><u>1,131,083</u></b>	<b><u>1,723,699</u></b>	<b><u>8,505,190</u></b>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.*

Note:

(i) The amounts transferred from accumulated surplus to committed funds reserve consists of carry forward project funding that has been set aside for the purpose of funding specific projects.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2018

## 1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Wimmera Catchment Management Authority is a government authority of the State of Victoria, established on 1 July 1997 by the state government.

Its principal address is: Wimmera Catchment Management Authority  
24 Darlot Street  
Horsham VIC 3400

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the Report of operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

### Basis of preparation

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing 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.

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore do not form part of the income and expenses of the Authority.

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 to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contribution by owners.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AASs that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement or estimates', and relate to:

	Note
• fair value measurements of assets and liabilities;	7.3
• employee benefit provisions;	3
• accrued revenue/expenses;	5
• useful lives of assets;	4
• operating lease commitments.	6.2.1

### Compliance Information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*.

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure 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.

## 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

### Introduction

The Authority's overall objective is for the co-ordinated control of natural resource management within the broader catchments of the Wimmera region. The role of the Authority is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Associated with this role the Authority carries out strategic planning and advises Government.

To enable the Authority to deliver on its objectives, it receives income predominantly through State and Commonwealth Government Contributions.

### Structure

2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

2.2 Income from transactions

### 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	9,481,927	8,178,507
Interest	2.2.2	154,415	140,526
Other income	2.2.3	50,935	195,157
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>9,687,277</b>	<b>8,514,190</b>

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the income can be reliably measured at fair value.

### 2.2 Income from transactions

#### 2.2.1 Government contributions

	2018 \$	2017 \$
State Government	7,677,767	6,328,810
Commonwealth Government	1,804,160	1,849,697
<b>Total Government contributions</b>	<b>9,481,927</b>	<b>8,178,507</b>

Government contributions are recognised as income from transactions on receipt or when the Authority obtains control of the contribution and meets certain other criteria as outlined in AASB 1004 *Contributions*, whichever is the sooner, and disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as government contributions.

### 2.2.2 Interest

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Interest on bank deposits	<u>154,415</u>	<u>140,526</u>

Interest income includes interest received on bank term deposits. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

### 2.2.3 Other income

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Other income	5,795	63,160
Partnership contributions	<u>45,140</u>	<u>131,997</u>
<b>Total other income</b>	<u><b>50,935</b></u>	<u><b>195,157</b></u>

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, and are recognised as income from transactions when an entitlement is established or on receipt, whichever is the sooner, and disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as other income.

All other income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.



### 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

#### Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Authority in delivering services. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost association with the provision of services are recorded.

#### *Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions*

In measuring employee benefits, consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using a single weighted average discount rate based on market yields of national government bonds in Australia that reflects the estimated timing and amount of benefit payment.

#### Structure

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Program delivery expenses
- 3.3 Lease expenses
- 3.4 Other operating expenses

#### 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services:

	Notes	2018 \$	2017 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	2,436,712	2,523,180
Program delivery expenses	3.2	4,223,466	4,992,467
Lease expenses	3.3	121,423	258,157
Other operating expenses	3.4	585,329	714,417
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>7,366,930</b>	<b>8,488,221</b>

#### 3.1.1 Employee benefit expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Salaries & wages	1,705,555	1,791,734
Annual leave	185,808	183,816
Long service leave	53,674	43,243
Other leave	174,561	157,024
Superannuation	199,899	201,472
Other	117,215	145,891
<b>Total employee benefit expenses</b>	<b>2,436,712</b>	<b>2,523,180</b>

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, payroll tax, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period. The Authority does not recognise any defined benefit liabilities because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. Instead, the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) discloses in its annual financial statements the net defined benefit cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability.

### 3.1.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Annual leave:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	148,918	176,077
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	36,475	-
<b>Long service leave:</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	70,198	65,528
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	296,984	245,724
	<u>552,575</u>	<u>487,329</u>
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	25,873	35,055
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	39,783	38,008
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<u>618,231</u>	<u>560,392</u>
<b>Non-current provisions for employee benefits</b>		
<b>Long service leave:</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	40,306	57,589
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	4,818	8,908
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<u>45,124</u>	<u>66,497</u>
<b>Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs</b>	<u>663,355</u>	<u>626,889</u>
	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision</b>		
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>626,889</b>	<b>599,065</b>
Additional provisions recognised	36,466	27,824
<b>Closing balance</b>	<u><b>663,355</b></u>	<u><b>626,889</b></u>

#### Wages and salaries annual leave and sick leave:

Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

The liability for salaries and wages are recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the Authority expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as it is taken.

### 3.1.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet (cont'd)

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

#### Long service leave (LSL):

**Unconditional LSL** is disclosed 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; or
- present value - if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

Unconditional LSL represents long service leave entitlements accrued for employees with more than 7 years of continuous service.

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

### 3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Authority contributes to defined contribution plans.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to Superannuation is employer contributions for members of defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

The name, details and amounts expensed in relation to the major employee superannuation funds and contributions made by the Authority are as follows:

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Contribution plans:</b>		
Vision super	84,186	43,811
Other private schemes	115,713	157,336
<b>Total</b>	<b>199,899</b>	<b>201,147</b>

There was \$0 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2018 (2017: \$325).

### 3.2 Program delivery expenses

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Materials	137,458	335,402
Repairs and maintenance	33,900	42,126
Grants paid	1,424,366	1,486,181
Contractors	2,009,904	2,732,782
Consultants	617,838	395,976
<b>Total program delivery expenses</b>	<b>4,223,466</b>	<b>4,992,467</b>

Program delivery expenses are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable.

### 3.3 Lease expenses

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Operating lease expenses	121,423	258,157
<b>Total Lease expenses</b>	<b>121,423</b>	<b>258,157</b>

Operating lease expenses are recognised as an expense in the comprehensive operating statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The leased asset is not recognised in the balance sheet.

Operating lease expenses arising from contracts relate to rental of properties and photocopiers.

### 3.4 Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable.

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Promotions and marketing	120,386	137,837
Business and project administration	370,332	436,343
Travel and vehicle expenses	62,752	89,149
Audit and bank fees	31,859	51,088
	<b>585,329</b>	<b>714,417</b>

## 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

### Introduction

The Authority controls property, plant and equipment that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the key resources that have been entrusted to the Authority to be utilised for delivery of those outputs.

#### *Significant judgement: Fair value measurement*

Where the assets included in this section are carried at fair value, additional information is disclosed in Note 7.3 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

#### *Estimation of useful lives*

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. An annual assessment of the useful lives is performed and assets residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate at balance sheet date.

### Structure

#### 4.1 Property, plant and equipment:

#### 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Leasehold Improvements at fair value	722,745	722,745	(650,470)	(578,196)	72,275	144,549
Plant and equipment at fair value	207,951	935,628	(185,209)	(872,689)	22,742	62,939
Motor vehicles at fair value	407,465	405,716	(163,875)	(115,126)	243,590	290,590
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>1,338,161</b>	<b>2,064,089</b>	<b>(999,554)</b>	<b>(1,566,011)</b>	<b>338,607</b>	<b>498,078</b>

#### Initial recognition:

Items of property, plant and equipment, are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition.

#### Subsequent measurement:

Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Property, plant and equipment recording thresholds were changed in 2017/18 to be recorded at \$5,000 rather than \$1,000. This change has been applied and resulted in accelerated depreciation for assets recorded under this value. Values were removed from both acquisition and accumulated depreciation. This had no effect on the net value.

Note 7.3 includes additional information in connection with fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

#### 4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2018	2017
Charge for the period	\$	\$
Leasehold improvements	72,274	72,274
Plant & equipment	93,462	51,386
Motor vehicles	81,330	85,346
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>247,066</b>	<b>209,006</b>

All non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are depreciated.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful Life
Leasehold improvements	10 years
Plant and equipment	3.5 - 10 years
Motor vehicles	4 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives.

#### Impairment

Non-financial assets, including items of Property, Plant and Equipment, are tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the assets may be impaired.

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 as an 'other economic flow', except to the extent that it can be debited to an asset revaluation surplus 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.



## 4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment

	Leasehold Improvements at fair value	Plant and equipment at fair value	Motor vehicles at fair value	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2017-18</b>				
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>144,549</b>	<b>62,939</b>	<b>290,590</b>	<b>498,078</b>
Additions	-	53,265	77,811	131,076
Disposals	-	-	(43,481)	(43,481)
Depreciation	(72,274)	(93,462)	(81,330)	(247,066)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>72,275</b>	<b>22,742</b>	<b>243,590</b>	<b>338,607</b>
<b>2016-17</b>				
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>216,823</b>	<b>108,536</b>	<b>154,527</b>	<b>479,886</b>
Additions	-	5,789	262,698	268,487
Disposals	-	-	(41,289)	(41,289)
Depreciation	(72,274)	(51,386)	(85,346)	(209,006)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>144,549</b>	<b>62,939</b>	<b>290,590</b>	<b>498,078</b>

## 4.1.3 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Net (loss)/gain on disposal of non-financial assets</b>		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial	38,782	121,577
Less written down value	(43,481)	(41,289)
<b>Total net (loss)/gain on disposal of non-financial assets</b>	<b>(4,699)</b>	<b>80,288</b>

## 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Authority's operations.

#### *Significant judgement: Accrued revenue and accrued expenses*

Accrued revenue and accrued expenses represent goods or services that have been received or supplied but have not been invoiced by the supplier.

In estimating the amount of an accrued revenue or accrued expense, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed.

### Structure

5.1 Receivables

5.2 Payables

5.3 Other non-financial assets

### 5.1 Receivables

#### Current receivables

##### Contractual

Trade receivables

Accrued revenue

2018

\$

5,774

26,747

32,521

2017

\$

6,400

4,743

11,143

##### Statutory

GST input tax credits recoverable

148,487

169,822

#### Total current receivables

181,008

180,965

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'loans and receivables'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost less any impairment.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment), but are not classified as financial instruments.

## 5.1.1 Ageing analysis of contractual receivables

	Carrying amount \$	Not past due and not impaired \$	Past due but not impaired - Less than 1 month \$
<b>2018</b>			
<b>Receivables:</b>			
Trade receivables	5,774	5,774	-
Accrued revenue	26,747	26,747	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,521</b>	<b>32,521</b>	-
<b>2017</b>			
<b>Receivables:</b>			
Trade receivables	6,400	6,400	-
Accrued revenue	4,743	4,743	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,143</b>	<b>11,143</b>	-

Trade and other receivables are due for settlement 30 days from the end of the month that they were invoiced. There are no material financial assets that are individually determined to be impaired.

## 5.2 Payables

<b>Current Payables</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Contractual</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Trade payables	66,988	302,955
Accrued expenses	114,997	166,102
	<u>181,985</u>	<u>469,057</u>
<b>Statutory</b>		
FBT payable	9,968	9,968
Payroll tax	-	8,887
Group tax	36,221	32,589
	<u>46,189</u>	<u>51,444</u>
<b>Total current payables</b>	<b><u>228,174</u></b>	<b><u>520,501</u></b>

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial liabilities at amortised cost'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, they are measured 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 contracts.

## 5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

	Carrying amount	Maturity dates		
		Less than 1	1-3 months	3-6 months
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2018</b>				
<b>Payables:</b>				
Trade payables	66,988	66,988	-	-
Accrued expenses	114,997	114,997	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,985</b>	<b>181,985</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

	Carrying amount	Maturity dates		
		Less than 1	1-3 months	3-6 months
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2017</b>				
<b>Payables:</b>				
Trade payables	302,955	302,955	-	-
Accrued expenses	166,102	166,102	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>469,057</b>	<b>469,057</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period is 30 days.

## 5.3 Other non-financial assets

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Current other assets</b>		
Prepayments	41,237	43,318
<b>Total current other assets</b>	<b>41,237</b>	<b>43,318</b>

Other non-financial assets include prepayments which 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.

## 6. HOW WE FINANCED OUR OPERATIONS

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations and other information related to financing activities of the Authority.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments, such as cash balances. Note 7 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

### Structure

- 6.1 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.2 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.3 Carry forward project funding

### 6.1 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, 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 which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:</b>		
Cash on hand	500	500
Cash at bank	613,282	1,178,163
Term deposits (less than 3 months)	4,714,614	5,682,974
<b>Balance as per cash flow statement</b>	<b>5,328,396</b>	<b>6,861,637</b>
<b>Term Deposits (greater than 3months) disclosed in the balances sheet:</b>		
Term deposits (greater than 3 months)	3,507,471	-
	<b>3,507,471</b>	<b>-</b>

#### 6.1.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Net result for the period</b>	<b>2,068,582</b>	<b>(102,749)</b>
<b>Non-cash movements:</b>		
Loss/(gain) on disposal of non-current assets	4,699	(80,288)
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	247,066	209,006
	251,765	128,718
<b>Movements in assets and liabilities:</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(43)	322,006
Decrease/(increase) in other non-financial assets	2,081	(4,164)
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(292,327)	79,181
Increase in employee related provisions	36,466	27,824
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>2,066,524</b>	<b>450,816</b>



## 6.2 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and external program commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and exclusive of GST. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

### 6.2.1 Total commitments payable

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<b>Operating lease commitments payable</b>		
Less than 1 year	81,948	119,758
1 to 5 years	42,807	55,782
<b>Total commitments (exclusive of GST)</b>	<b>124,755</b>	<b>175,540</b>

Operating lease commitments relate to office, depot, car parking and photocopier facilities with lease terms between one and ten years. These contracts do not allow the Authority to purchase the facilities after the lease ends, but the Authority has the option to renew each of the leases at the end of the lease term.

As at 30 June 2018 the Authority had Nil in finance lease commitments (2017: \$Nil).

As at 30 June 2018 the Authority had Nil in capital expenditure commitments (2017: \$Nil).

## 6.3 Carry forward project funding

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects funded by Victorian and Australian Government programs. The Authority received funding for specific projects which are guided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and delivered in line with the Authority's Corporate Plan approved by the Minister for Water.

The projects funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and is 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 cash and cash equivalents that will be utilised to complete these projects in future financial years.

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### Introduction

The Authority is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information, (including exposures to financial risks) as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which for the Authority relate mainly to fair value determination.

### Structure

- 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
- 7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities
- 7.3 Fair value determination

### 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

#### Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability of equity instrument of another entity.

#### Categories of financial instruments

Loans and receivables and cash are financial instrument assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost less any impairment. Loans and receivables category includes cash and deposits, trade and other receivables, but exclude statutory receivables.

Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Bad debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off, and classified as a transaction expense. A provision for impaired receivables 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.

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost. Financial instrument liabilities measured at amortised cost include all of the Authority's contractual payables.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

## 7.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	Contractual financial assets - loans and receivables \$	Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
<b>2018</b>			
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	5,328,396	-	5,328,396
Term Deposits	3,507,471	-	3,507,471
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	5,774	-	5,774
Accrued revenue	26,747	-	26,747
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>8,868,388</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,868,388</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	66,988	66,988
Accrued expenses	-	114,997	114,997
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>181,985</b>	<b>181,985</b>
	Contractual financial assets - loans and receivables \$	Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
<b>2017</b>			
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	6,861,637	-	6,861,637
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	6,400	-	6,400
Accrued revenue	4,743	-	4,743
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>6,872,780</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,872,780</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	302,955	302,955
Accrued expenses	-	166,102	166,102
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>469,057</b>	<b>469,057</b>

(i) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts.

### 7.1.2 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Authority's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Authority manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Authority uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the financial risk management committee of the Authority.

#### Financial instruments: Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Authority's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is the Victorian Government. For debtors other than the Government, the Authority has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate. For cash assets, the Authority's policy is to only deal with banks who are an Authorised Deposit Taking Institution. All cash and deposits are held with the Treasury Corporation of Victoria, National Australia Bank and Bendigo Bank.

#### Financial instruments: Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from being unable to meet financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. The Authority does not have any borrowings, and maintains high levels of cash and deposits readily available to meet its financial obligations. The Authority manages its liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash reserves and continually monitoring the Authority's expenditure commitments and cash flow needs.

#### Financial instruments: Market risk

The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with significant surplus funds held in term deposits. The Authority has no exposure to foreign exchange risk or other price risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority manages its cash flow interest rate risks by investing surplus funds into fixed rate financial instruments. Management has concluded cash at bank that can be left at floating rates without necessarily exposing the Authority to significant risk.

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rates and the Authority's sensitivity to interest rate risk are set out in the table that follows.

## Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	Weighted average interest rate %	Carrying amount	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
			\$	\$	\$
<b>2018</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	2.07	5,328,396	4,714,614	613,282	500
Term deposits	2.37	3,507,471	3,507,471	-	-
Contractual receivables	-	32,521	26,747	-	5,774
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>8,868,388</b>	<b>4,741,361</b>	<b>613,282</b>	<b>6,274</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	181,985	-	-	181,985
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>181,985</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>181,985</b>
<b>2017</b>					
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and deposits	2.22	6,861,637	5,682,974	1,178,163	500
Contractual receivables	-	11,143	4,743	-	6,400
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>6,872,780</b>	<b>5,687,717</b>	<b>1,178,163</b>	<b>6,900</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Contractual payables	-	469,057	-	-	469,057
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>469,057</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>469,057</b>

## Interest rate risk sensitivity

The sensitivity analysis below shows the impact on the Authority's net result and equity for a movement of 100 basis points up and down in market interest rates.

	Carrying amount	Interest rate			
		-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Net result	Equity	Net result	Equity
		\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2018</b>					
Cash and deposits (i)	613,282	(6,133)	(6,133)	6,133	6,133
<b>2017</b>					
Cash and deposits (i)	1,178,163	(11,782)	(11,782)	11,782	11,782

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$613,282 (2017: \$1,178,163) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2018:  $\$613,282 \times -0.010 = -\$6,133$ ; and  $\$613,282 \times 0.010 = \$6,133$ .
- 2017:  $\$1,178,163 \times -0.010 = -\$11,782$ ; and  $\$1,178,163 \times 0.010 = \$11,782$ .

## 7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

### Contingent assets

As at 30 June 2018, the Authority has no known contingent assets.

### Contingent liabilities

As at 30 June 2018, the Authority has no known contingent liabilities.

## 7.3 Fair value determination

### *Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities*

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses the most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the Authority.

The Authority's property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value.

In addition, the fair values of other assets and liabilities which are carried at amortised cost, also need to be determined for disclosure purposes.

The Authority determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

### Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- 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.

The Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing 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.

### 7.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair value, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2017-18 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

#### *Financial assets*

Cash and deposits

Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Accrued revenue

#### *Financial liabilities*

Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses



### 7.3.2 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

#### Fair value measurement hierarchy

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2018 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 (i) \$	Level 2 (i) \$	Level 3 (i) \$
Leasehold improvement at Fair Value				
Leasehold improvement	72,275	-	-	72,275
<b>Total Leasehold improvement at Fair Value</b>	<b>72,275</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,275</b>
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	22,742	-	-	22,742
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>22,742</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>22,742</b>
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	243,590	-	-	243,590
<b>Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value</b>	<b>243,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>243,590</b>

Note:

(i) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, see Note 7.3.

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2017 \$	Fair Value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$
Leasehold improvement at Fair Value				
Leasehold improvement	144,549	-	-	144,549
<b>Total Leasehold improvement at Fair Value</b>	<b>144,549</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>144,549</b>
Plant and equipment at Fair Value				
Plant and equipment	62,939	-	-	62,939
<b>Total Plant and equipment at Fair Value</b>	<b>62,939</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>62,939</b>
Motor vehicles at Fair Value				
Motor vehicles	290,590	-	-	290,590
<b>Total Motor vehicles at Fair Value</b>	<b>290,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>290,590</b>

#### Leasehold improvements

Leasehold Improvements are held at fair value and are depreciated over 10 years. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, these assets are classified as Level 3 fair value.

#### Motor vehicles

Motor 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 motor vehicles. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, these assets are classified as Level 3 fair value.

#### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment or office furniture and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the depreciated replacement cost method. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, these assets are classified as Level 3 fair value.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2018.

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

## Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	Leasehold improvements	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles
<b>2017-18</b>	\$	\$	\$
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>144,549</b>	<b>62,939</b>	<b>290,590</b>
Purchases/(sales)	-	53,265	34,330
Depreciation	(72,274)	(93,462)	(81,330)
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>72,275</b>	<b>22,742</b>	<b>243,590</b>
<b>2016-17</b>			
<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>216,823</b>	<b>108,536</b>	<b>154,527</b>
Purchases/(sales)	-	5,789	221,409
Depreciation	(72,274)	(51,386)	(85,346)
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>144,549</b>	<b>62,939</b>	<b>290,590</b>

## Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
<b>Leasehold improvements</b>	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of leasehold equipment
<b>Plant and equipment</b>	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
<b>Motor vehicles</b>	Depreciated replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of motor vehicles

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2017.

## 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

This section provides additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

### Structure

- 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 8.2 Reserves
- 8.3 Responsible persons
- 8.4 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.5 Related parties
- 8.6 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.7 Subsequent events
- 8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

### 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

The Authority had no Ex-gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2018 (2017 \$0).

### 8.2 Reserves

	2018 \$	2017 \$
<b>Committed funds reserve: (i)</b>		
Balance at beginning of financial year	1,049,492	1,585,005
Net transfers from accumulated funds	81,591	(535,513)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>	<b><u>1,131,083</u></b>	<b><u>1,049,492</u></b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b><u>1,131,083</u></b>	<b><u>1,049,492</u></b>

(i) The Committed funds reserve has been established to recognise that the Authority receives funding for programs in advance of the program works taking place. The Authority is committed to expending these funds in accordance with its Corporate Plan in succeeding years. At the end of the financial year any Accumulated Funds which represents unexpended program funding, has been transferred to the reserve.

### 8.3 Responsible persons

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.

The names of the persons who were responsible persons of the Authority at any time during the financial year were:

The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Karen Douglas	(Chair)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Sep 2017
Peter Hilbig	(Chair)	01 Oct 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Emelia Sudholz	(Board Member & Deputy Chair)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
David Brennan	(CEO)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Jessica Alder	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Dean Johns	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Sep 2017
David Drage	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
John Goldsmith	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Amanda Cornwall	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Michael Porter	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Michelle Graymore	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2017 to 30 Jun 2018
Lavergne Lehmann	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2017 to 30 Jun 2018

### Remuneration

Remuneration received or receivable from the Authority in connection with the management of the Authority during the reporting period was:

Income band	2018	2017
\$0–\$9,999	3	-
\$10,000–\$19,999	8	7
\$20,000–\$29,999	-	1
\$40,000–\$49,999	-	-
\$200,000–\$209,999	1	1
<b>Total number of Responsible persons</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Total Remuneration \$</b>	<b>326,549</b>	<b>330,330</b>

The compensation detailed above excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receive. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report.

### 8.4 Remuneration of executive officers

The number of executive officers, other than ministers and accountable officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalents provides a measure of full time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered, and is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Other long-term benefits include long service leave, other long-service benefit or deferred compensation.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

## Remuneration of executive officers (cont.)

Remuneration	2018 \$	2017 \$
Short-term employee benefits	465,269	440,413
Post-employment benefits	57,507	66,488
Other long-term benefits	14,299	14,201
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>537,075</b>	<b>521,102</b>
<b>Total number of executives (i)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

## Notes:

(i) The total number of executive officers includes persons who meet the definition of Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the entity under AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* and are also reported within the related parties note disclosure (Note 8.5)

(ii) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

## 8.5 Related parties

The Authority is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria. Related parties of the Authority include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members;
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

## Significant transactions with government-related entities

During the year, the Authority received funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	2018 \$	2017 \$	Nature
Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	9,283,452	7,871,915	SLA Project Funding
Dept of Economic Dev, Jobs, Transport & Resources	-	163,200	Stock Containment Funding
Emergency Management Victoria	113,690	39,000	Flood Investigations Funding
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	-	100,000	Fyans Channel Construction
North Central Catchment Management Authority	-	15,000	Reducing Emissions Funding
North Central Catchment Management Authority	11,500	11,500	River Detectives Funding
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	375	-	Conference Refund
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	2,000	-	Waterway Twinning Program
Mallee Catchment Management Authority	12,465	-	Waterway Action Plan
Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority	40,000	-	Our Catchments our Comm
Parks Victoria	10,000	-	Wetland Hydrology Invest
Trust for Nature	4,545	-	Biodiversity Seminar
Treasury Corporation Victoria	87,461	62,780	Interest

### Significant transactions with government-related entities (cont.)

During the year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government-related entities:

Entity	2018 \$	2017 \$	Nature
Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	77,834	233,846	On Ground Works
Victoria Auditor Generals Office	18,200	9,900	Audit Fee
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	19,500	32,000	Vic Catchment Contribution
Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority	-	7,500	Climate Change Contribution
Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority	444	-	NLP Tender Legal Advice
Parks Victoria	195,500	118,182	On Ground Works
Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority	25,000	25,000	OCOC Contribution
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	160,000	104,735	On Ground Works
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	53,161	42,169	IT Support
Dept of Economic Dev, Jobs, Transport & Resources	72,075	179,164	On Ground Works
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office	-	7,804	Legal Fees & Land Transfer
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	150,000	-	Habitat Tender
Melbourne Water	483	-	Integrated Water Conference

At balance date the Authority had the following receivables outstanding from government-related entities:

Entity	2018 \$	2017 \$	Nature
Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	-	6,400	Flood Secondment

Key management personnel of the Authority includes all Responsible persons as listed in Note 8.3.

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receive. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the Department of Parliamentary Services' Financial Report.

### Compensation of KMPs

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Short-term employee benefits	291,009	297,045
Post-employment benefits	30,014	28,044
Other long-term benefits	5,526	5,241
<b>Total</b>	<b>326,549</b>	<b>330,330</b>

There were no related party transactions or balances that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interest.



## 8.6 Remuneration of auditors

	2018 \$	2017 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	18,200	12,500
<b>Total remuneration of auditors</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>12,500</b>

## 8.7 Subsequent events

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.

### 8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2018 reporting period. DTF assesses the impact of all these new standards and advises the Authority of their applicability and early adoption where applicable. The following is a list of the AASs issued but are not yet effective for the 2017-18 reporting period.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 9 <i>Financial Instruments</i>	The key changes include the simplified requirements for the classification and measurement 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-18	The preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 9, however it will continue to be monitored and assessed.
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	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-Jul-19	The changes in revenue recognition requirements in AASB 15 may result in changes to the timing and amount of revenue recorded in the financial statements. The Authority will also be required to include additional disclosures. The preliminary assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 15, however it will be monitored and assessed when service level agreements are signed.
AASB 2015-8 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Effective Date of AASB 15</i>	This Standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 15 from 1 January 2017 to 1 January 2018.	1-Jan-18	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities to the 2018-19 reporting period in accordance with the transition requirements.
AASB 2016-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferral of AASB 15 for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This Standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities from 1 January 2018 to 1 January 2019.	1-Jan-19	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities to the 2019-20 reporting period.

## 8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective (cont.)

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 16 <i>Leases</i>	The key changes introduced by AASB 16 include the recognition of most operating leases (which are currently not recognised) on balance sheet.	1-Jan-19	The preliminary assessment has indicated that the operating leases held will come on balance sheet, recognition of the right-of-use assets and lease liabilities will cause net debt to increase See Note 6.2.1. Rather than expensing the lease payments, depreciation of right-of-use assets and interest on lease liabilities will be recognised in the income statement with marginal impact on the operating surplus. No change for lessors. We will continue to monitor and assess for new/expired leases.
AASB 2010-7 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010)</i> [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Interpretations 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127]	The requirements for classifying and measuring financial liabilities were added to AASB 9. The existing requirements for the classification of financial liabilities and the ability to use the fair value option have been retained. However, where the fair value option is used for financial liabilities the change in fair value is accounted for as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the change in fair value attributable to changes in credit risk is presented in other comprehensive income (OCI); and</li> <li>other fair value changes are presented in profit or loss. If this approach creates or enlarges an accounting mismatch in the profit or loss, the effect of the changes in credit risk are also presented in profit or loss.</li> </ul>	1-Jan-18	The amending standards is not expected to have a material impact on the Authority's financial statements.

## 8.8 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective (cont.)

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
AASB 2014-1 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</i> [Part E <i>Financial Instruments</i> ]	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-18	This amending standard will defer the application period of AASB 9 to the 2018-19 reporting period in accordance with the transition requirements.
AASB 1058 <i>Income of Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This standard replaces AASB 1004 Contributions and establishes revenue recognition principles for transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value to enable to not-for-profit entity to further its objectives.	1-Jan-19	The assessment has indicated that revenue from capital grants that are provided under an enforceable agreement that have sufficiently specific obligations, will now be deferred and recognised as performance obligations are satisfied. As a result, the timing recognition of revenue will change.

# Independent Auditor's Report

## To the Board of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2018</li> <li>• comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li> <li>• cash flow statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies</li> <li>• declaration in the financial statements.</li> </ul> <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2018 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
<b>Basis for Opinion</b>	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
<b>Board's responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 authority's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Paul Martin

*as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria*

MELBOURNE  
27 August 2018

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**Wimmera CMA**

24 Darlot Street, Horsham, 3400

Ph: 03 5382 1544

Fax: 03 5382 6076

Email: [wca@wcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:wca@wcma.vic.gov.au)

[www.wcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au)

**Publication date:**  
September 2018