



Wimmera CMA

Annual Report

2018–19

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



VICTORIA

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 2018 to 30 June 2019 were the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

The 2018-19 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

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Front cover image: Lake Wyn Wyn- Feb 2018- a shallow saline wetland which is part of one of several linear wetland systems aligned along former sea coasts in the Horsham-Edenhope area.

Acronyms

AV	Agriculture Victoria
BGLC	Barengi Gadjin Land Council
CaLP	Catchment and Land Protection Act
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CEWO	Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia
DEDJTR	Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
DJPR	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions
EPBC	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
FRD	Financial reporting direction
GA	Greening Australia
HLN	Hindmarsh Landcare Network
MLDRIN	Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations
MLDRIN	Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRM	Natural resource management
PPS	Perennial Pasture Systems
PV	Parks Victoria
RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
TfN	Trust for Nature
VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder
Vic No-Till	Victorian No-Till Farmers Association
Vic SES	Victoria State Emergency Service
WDA	Wimmera Development Association

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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, 2019



Peter Hilbig
Wimmera CMA Board, Chair
17 August 2019.



Message from the Chair

This year our organisation continued to focus on service delivery, demonstrating value for money, leveraging funds and delivering outcomes. It has been pleasing to see the results which have delivered greater environmental projects with increased community ownership and involvement.

Wimmera CMA successfully delivered \$8.8 million dollars of Natural Resource Management projects. We reduce our project carry forward from the previous financial year by \$1.6 million and our balance sheet in an excellent position going forward. We worked 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'.

The Hindmarsh Shire Council led Dimboola Weir Pool Users Group Committee was successful in winning the Keep Australia Beautiful

National award in the 'Environmental Sustainability-Water' category. This award was recognition and a testimonial for all the work that has been undertaken by the committee, stakeholders and the wider community on the Wimmera River at Dimboola.

We contributed to Victoria achieving its target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions in 2050 by installing our own 54 kW photovoltaic system. This system will reduce our largest sources of emissions and reduce our electricity expense.

For the first time we used water for the environment to deliver cultural watering at "The Ranch" in Dimboola. This collaborative project between Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC) and Victorian Environmental Water Holder delivered many environmental and social outcomes.

We also partnered with Centre for Participation to deliver "HeartLand Horsham" tree planting event with support from Horsham Urban Landcare Group and Wimmera Development Association. The event introduced city-based migrants to our community and showed them regional Victoria is a great place to live, work and raise a family.

National Landcare Program phase two has seen the Wimmera allocated \$9.8 million over the next 5 years from the Australian government. We have successfully completed year one which resulted in increased habitat and protection for the South Eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and adoption of farming practices to build and manage carbon in our farming landscapes

We welcomed recreational funding from the Victorian government that delivered a much-needed boost to the region's recreational facilities along the Wimmera River.

Financially the organisation is in a sound position, with internal and external audit results confirming policies and processes are adequate. We are also pleased that we have been able to meet our expectations as described by the Minister for Water.

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 2018-19 we delivered a wide range of outcomes that directly benefited our community and environment.

We have taken the concept of integrated catchment management to new levels by incorporating the chairing of integrated water management within the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership operating structure. This approach is delivering better outcomes and creating efficiencies for all partners and stakeholders involved in wider natural resource management.

Year 3 of the Wimmera Southern Mallee Socio-Economic Value of Recreational and Environmental water survey continued and we eagerly await the results. Year 2 conservatively estimated that \$30.2 million (9.47% increase from year 1) was contributed to the local economy and a total physical and mental health benefit of \$5.4 million. As a result of the survey analysis and data it is exciting that the Northern Grampians Shire Council and the Stawell Angling club have created the Grampians Lake Fishing Competition, this event will generate significant financial and social returns for the community.

We welcomed Trust for Nature to locate in our building joining Greening Australia and we formed a strategic alliance with Conservation Volunteers to jointly deliver environmental services in the Wimmera.

As part of the Victorian Governments strategy: *Our Catchments Our Communities* we delivered significant on ground works including revegetation, fish hotels, walking tracks and site rehabilitation that resulted in social, environmental and economic outcomes.

Dry weather had a big influence in the health of our catchment from July 2018 well below average rainfall and well above average temperatures until May 2019 resulted in limited river and stream flows and average to poor farming across the mid- to northern parts of the catchment. On a positive note the fragile platypus population on the MacKenzie River appears to be expanding their range and fish surveys undertaken as part of the feasibility investigation into providing environmental water to Mt Cole Creek, revealed some very positive results with good populations of Obscure Galaxias, Southern Pygmy Perch and Flathead Gudgeons as well as no exotic species.

We continued to meet certification requirements for 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 and partners that have offered advice, assistance and expertise. I look forward to working with you all in 2019-20.



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, 2018 – June 30, 2019

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 bring out the best in our staff, community and environment.

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 deliver outcomes by working closely with the community, key stakeholders and government agencies. Including developing plans, priorities and actions that increase opportunities environmentally, socially and economically 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.

Our region

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

The region predominantly comprises cleared agricultural land.

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 Aboriginal 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.

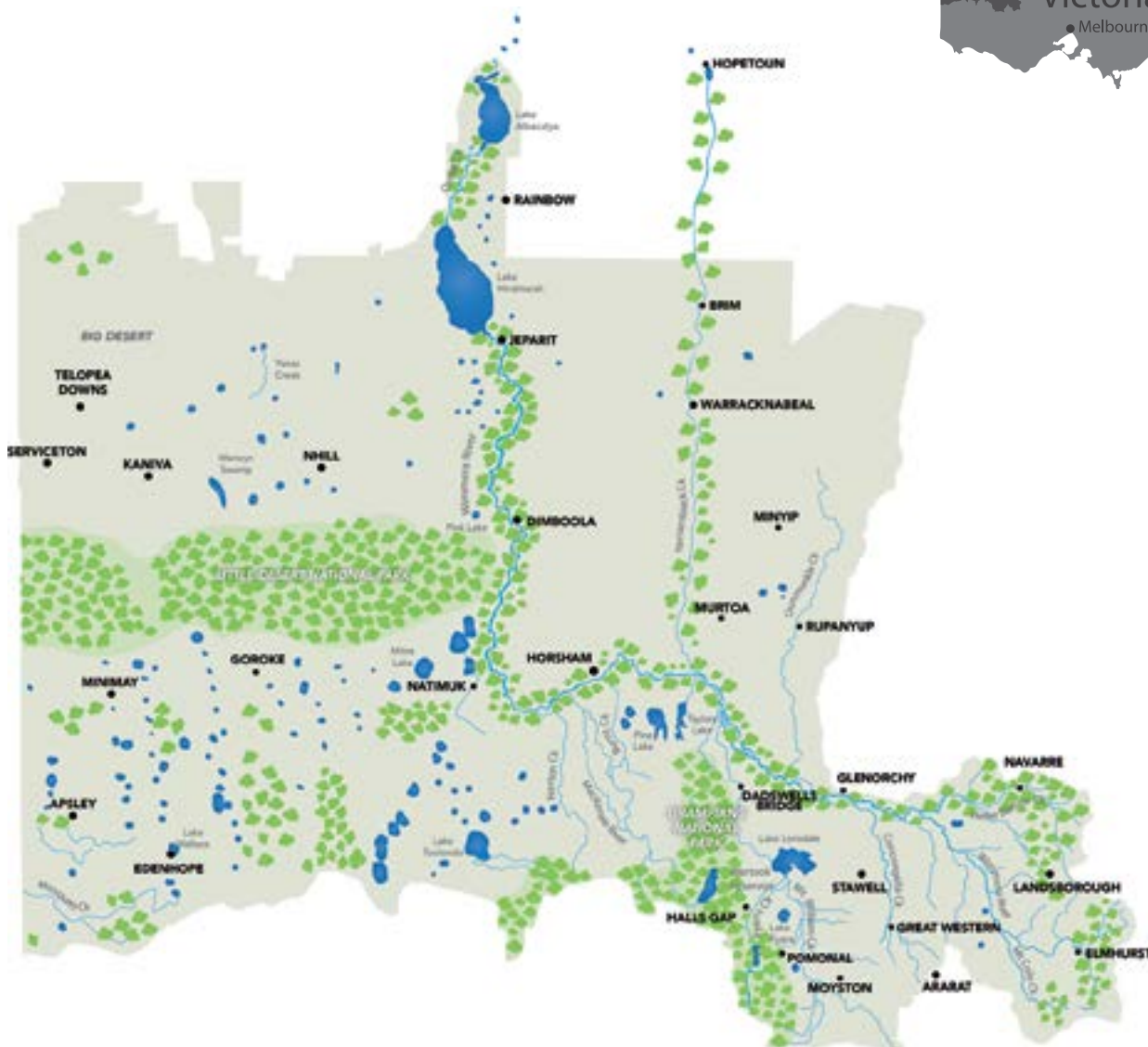


Figure 1: Wimmera catchment area

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, Aboriginal communities, local government and Australian and State government investors.

Table 1: Wimmera CMA's stakeholders and their characteristics

Group	Characteristics	Relationship
Landholders	Rural property holders, farmers, absentee landowners, corporate farms	Partners
Government departments	Victorian Government: Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR), Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWM Water), Parks Victoria (PV), Emergency Management Victoria, Victorian Fisheries Authority, Agriculture Victoria, VicRoads Australian Government: Department of Environment and Energy, Department of Agriculture	Partners, compliance and investors
Community and Landcare networks, groups and members	Project Platypus, Hindmarsh Landcare Network (HLN), Yarrilinks, Kowree Farm Tree Group, Perennial Pasture Systems (PPS), 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 Edenhope Angling Club, Stawell Angling club, VR Fish	Partners, grant recipients, education and capacity building
Local government	Ararat, Buloke, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, West Wimmera and Yarriambiack	Partners, customers and investors
NRM organisations	Trust for Nature (TfN), Victorian No-Till Farmers Association (Vic No-Till), Birchip Cropping Group, Wimmera Farming Network, Greening Australia (GA) and Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)	Contractors, partners
Aboriginal groups	Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC), Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations (MLDRIN), Goolum Goolum, Martang Pty Ltd	Partner, advice
Wimmera CMA Board	Nine member Board appointed by the Minister for Water	Governance, policy, strategy
Community monitors	River monitoring activities for birds, frogs, water, fish and macroinvertebrates	Volunteers
Education sector	Department of Education network, numerous teachers and schools, Federation University Australia, Charles Sturt University, Longerenong College	Education partner, capacity building
Consultants and contractors	Are utilized when internal expertise gaps exist	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 objectives as identified in the 2018-23 Corporate Plan and Regional Catchment Management Strategy Implementation.

For a comprehensive overview of future initiatives please read our 2019-24 Corporate Plan. Operational performance is provided against each RCS theme and is reported in the Catchment Condition and Management section and the Initiatives and key achievements.

Table 2 below 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 — within 5% variance.

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

Table 2: Corporate Plan 2018-23 – Business Objectives and Outcomes

Objective	Driver	Outcomes (1-5 year ambitions)	Result	Comments
Involving Aboriginal people	Water for Victoria Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037	Recognising and managing Aboriginal values in water management and planning. Victoria's Traditional Owners participate in biodiversity management.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater aboriginal involvement and participation in RCS; BGLC involved in stakeholder roundtables continually; Environmental water was delivered to a culturally significant billabong in Dimboola in line with BGLC's Country Plan Continued employment of Aboriginal Water Officer
Supporting recreational values	Water for Victoria Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037	Recognising recreational values in water management and planning. Increase opportunities for all Victorians to have daily connections with nature.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully managed the development of new boat ramps, shelters, walking tracks and pontoons to increase recreational opportunities. Annual monitoring results show native fish numbers are lower than carp in major fishing competitions; Socio-economic study reveals the waterway users have increased.
Improving the health of our natural environment	Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037	Wimmera Community acting to protect their environment.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of Habitat tender in priority areas; Approx. 98,000ha under permanent management agreements meaning greater involvement of community members; Greater no. of schools involved in environmental and cultural educational programs such as Nature Connection

¹ The criteria applicable to departments when explaining significant or material variances are explained in FRD 8B and in the 2018 MRO on pages 23-24.

Objective	Driver	Outcomes (1-5 year ambitions)	Result	Comments
Building climate resilient agriculture	Climate Change Adaptation Plan	The agricultural sector is adapting to climate change. Landholders building capacity to implement actions to maintain or enhance soil resilience despite a changing environment.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to develop partnerships to deliver educational and capacity building events with organisations including Agriculture Victoria and industry groups; Conducted farm trials Continued to support statewide Dryland Managers Forum and other forums aimed at improving support for the agricultural sector
Improve the health of priority waterways	Water for Victoria	Improved health of Wimmera waterways.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 additional erosion control structures built on priority waterways; Certain native aquatic species have improved their range in Upper Wimmera River; Delivery of environmental flows aids in increasing the species distribution and maintain the health of river
Preparing communities for floods	Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy	Communities, businesses, government agencies and Traditional Owners are aware of flooding and are actively taking measures to manage their risks.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Floodplain Management Strategy (RFMS) steering group meets regularly to provide effective governance; Continue to provide flood advice, approvals and referral responses
Supporting diversity and inclusion	Water for Victoria	Promote gender equality. Increased Aboriginal inclusion in the water sector.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Females get the opportunity to act in leadership roles as and when opportunities arise; Maintained 10% of people who identify as Aboriginals in the organization
Strengthened community involvement	Our catchments Our Communities	Strengthen community engagement in regional planning and implementation.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New partnerships targeted at increasing community participation in regional NRM including HeartLand Horsham with the Centre for Participation, Wimmera Development Association and Landcare; Supported local NRM practitioners to undertake Leadership Wimmera program Various formal working groups established; Ran approximately 112 events to inform, consult with the community
Organisational priorities	Water for Victoria; Climate change adaptation plan; Our Catchments Our Communities; Statement of Obligations; Ministers letter of expectations; Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance; Demonstrate effective and efficient governance	Wimmera CMA is a high performing, well governed and managed organization. Innovation is embraced to improve effectiveness and environmental impact of our work.	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full compliance with standing directions of the Minister for Finance-The Financial Management Act; Clean internal and external audit results Implementation of Wide Area Network; Substantial reduction in Carbon emissions throughout the year; Implemented sustainable and environmentally efficient fleet options Installed PV solar systems; Maintained ISO 2015 Quality Assurance certification

Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy implementation

Wimmera CMA and partners implemented a wide range of management actions in 2018-19 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.

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

- 54 have been achieved
- 4 have been partially achieved
- 1 is no longer relevant

The management measures that have been partially achieved are unable to be fully implemented due to constraints beyond Wimmera CMA's control such as seasonal conditions, availability of funding and changes to government priorities or policies.

Figure 2 summarises 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.

The RCS is currently under review with support through the Australian Government's National Action Plan Phase Two – Regional Land Partnership. Given the review, the RCS's final year reporting will be complete in 2019-20.

Table 3 below provides an explanation of why four management measures have been assessed as "partially achieved."

RCS Management Measure Progress



Figure 2: Progress made implementing management measures from the RCS from 2013 to 2019.

Table 3: Regional Catchment Strategy management measures that are partially achieved.

Asset	Management measures	Discussion
Rivers and streams	Prevent additional flow-stress impacts, such as intense water extraction or land-use change activities (e.g. concentrated areas of new farm dams or forestry development) by acknowledging the recommendations of the Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2011	<p>Pressures from forestry development and large-scale revegetation have reduced since 2013 due to changes to the commercial industry and funding availability respectively.</p> <p>Farm dam proliferation in the upper catchment continues to impact on flows into waterways. Wimmera CMA's influence is limited to commenting on applications to GWMWater to install new dams. Comments made by Wimmera CMA have influenced the redesign of some dam proposals to reduce impacts on waterways.</p> <p>There would need to be a change in government policy or legislation for this measure to be fully implemented.</p>
Soils	Recovering areas of dryland salinity	Funding availability is limited, and other measures have been a higher priority for partners and landholders. The Perennial Pasture Systems group has taken some action in the Wimmera River's upper catchment, establishing trials and disseminating information to farmers promoting deep-rooted perennial pastures.
Threatened plants and animals	Implement actions that directly lead to improving the status of listed threatened species, with a focus on propagating and reintroducing listed flora species	Although actions have been implemented, there has been no formal change in status under threatened species legislation, a lengthy and difficult process. The RCS mid-life review recommended that this measure be revised to improving the "conservation outlook" of listed threatened species. This maintains the intent and outcome but removes the need for a formal listing change.
Wetlands	Prevent negative impacts to wetlands from new developments and land-use change by working with local governments and Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure to implement wetland specific planning scheme overlays	Wimmera CMA has discussed improving overlays to protect wetlands with relevant local governments. A formal planning scheme overlay has not been achieved due to lack of willingness or councils expressing higher priority tasks for improving their planning schemes. West Wimmera Shire Council and Wimmera CMA staff have a positive working relationship, resulting in several instances where the two organisations have collaborated to protect waterways and wetlands in line with the intent of this measure.

Table 4: Outlines the management measures that were progressed in 2018-19 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	Wetland protection incentives Rabbit and weed control Riparian management programs Landcare initiatives and grants Updated the Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy Regional NRM planning and prioritisation workshops
Rivers and streams	21 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
Soils	8 of 8	Disseminating information via partner events, local press and social media Landcare initiatives and grants Research related to agricultural trials Land management transect surveys
Threatened plants and animals	7 of 8	Threatened plant and animal recovery programs Monitoring population characteristics Rabbit and weed control Updated 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
Other (fire and emergency management, emerging opportunities and challenges)	5 of 6	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

Integrated Water Management

Wimmera CMA commenced a new coordination process for IWM in the Wimmera region. The approach was successful in attracting funding for 5 new projects to the value of \$422k of which \$203k was contributed by DELWP. Each project will deliver on the Wimmera IWM Forum vision:

Water is appropriately used and managed in the landscape, supporting liveable communities, a vibrant economy and a healthy environment.

Regional Floodplain Management Strategy

Development of a Monitoring, Evaluation & Reporting (MER) Strategy for the Wimmera Flood Management Strategy occurred, the first for Victoria.

DEWLP and the BoM identified Natimuk as a prime site for testing a new system for Community Flash Flood Alert. The Natimuk was been chosen because of availability of data as part of the 2012 flood investigation, including rainfall gauges that link to flood prediction information.

The intention is to link the existing gauge network (there are two gauges upstream of Natimuk installed in 2014) with decision triggers, through the Emergency Vic website. This will prompt alert messaging without the need for human intervention in the process. Importantly, the messaging will be an Alert and not a Warning which has different expectations from emergency agencies. An alert has less certainty compared with a warning which has a component of expert analysis prior to its issue.

Socio-Economic survey

New research into the economic and health benefits generated by waterways in the Wimmera Southern Mallee entered its third 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 \$5.5 million dollars to both the health and mental health sectors in 2017-18. The study highlighted that the 25 waterways analysed in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region in 2017 generated an economic benefit of \$30.2 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.

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 has been completed.

Seven CMA's continue to work as a consortium to replace our current ERP system Microsoft AX 2009 with a new cloud based solution, Microsoft D365FO.

Supporting Aboriginal inclusion and Traditional Owner engagement

Wimmera CMA continued to partner with Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative, and other organisations to build community capacity, trust and understanding and contribute to priorities outlined in the BGLC Country Plan. Aboriginal community partnerships were featured and celebrated as part of the 2019 Landcare Victoria Grampians Gariwerd Forum, with Aboriginal Water Officer Ben Muir joining delegates to share his experiences and information on cultural water values and community aspirations.

Drought Refuge Strategy

Wimmera CMA examined the feasibility of creating drought refuges in the lower Wimmera River and upper catchment.

Carbon reduction

Wimmera CMA has developed a strategy to significantly reduce its carbon emissions and increase sequestration beyond expected practices. We have installed a solar photovoltaic system to power our premises and we have incorporated hybrid vehicles into our fleet.

With the size of the roof space available to us it was possible to install in a 152 panels which is expected to generate 73,549 KWh per year. Of the power produced it is expected that 52,558 KWh will be used internally by the Authority and the balance exported to the grid.

Photo of Panel installation at Wimmera CMA (Picture courtesy Tom Netherway)







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 5. 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 5 shows the established Statewide standard format which provides a consistent approach to annual reporting on catchment condition. This standard format was developed in response to Victorian Auditor-General Office's finding in its audit of the effectiveness of CMAs.

Table 5: 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 in 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 2018-19

Wimmera catchment received below average winter and spring rains, from January to May there was above average temperatures and below average rainfall particularly in the Northern Wimmera. Limited rain affected the storage levels resulting in declined availability of environmental water for the Wimmera River, Mackenzie River and Burnt Creek. Certain wetlands in the West retained water, however most of them in the east dried out. A young female platypus was captured in a southern section of the MacKenzie River as part of the annual platypus surveys, potentially indicating population expansion. However Environmental DNA analysis found platypus present at four out of fifteen sites which is a decline from ten positive sites of fifteen sites last year.

Table 6: Summary catchment condition assessment for 2018-19.

















Theme	Annual Assessment	Annual Assessment
Waterways	Concerned 	Persistent dry and hot weather conditions have led to low levels of storage resulting in low environmental flows. Water quality has declined with an increase in salinity and nutrient levels from low flows and rainfall in the lower Wimmera River. Wetlands in the west have retained some water due to patchy rain events. Wetlands in the east are extremely dry except for a few that have received environmental water. Seven recreational lakes were affected with blue-green algal blooms attributed primarily to lack of flows and high temperatures.
Biodiversity	Neutral 	The biodiversity values of native ecosystems across Wimmera are in stable condition. Combined efforts by partner agencies and across the region have resulted in positive gains such as expanding the reach of some threatened aquatic species. However, a range of pressures from illegal clearing, climate change, change of land use, invasive species and low recruitment levels due to dry weather have posed serious challenges.
Land	Neutral 	Vegetation cover for much of the Wimmera was below average, placing the region's soil resources at risk of wind and water erosion. The region received below average rainfall coupled with higher mean temperatures in summer, leading to decreased soil moisture. Daytime temperatures in winter were warm but minimum temperatures were below average with many frosts.
Community	Neutral 	Community members and groups continued to make contributions in natural resource management by participating in various activities and events that aim to protect, promote and enhance the region's environmental assets. Visitor numbers to the Grampians National Park are at an all-time high. Anecdotal evidence shows volunteer numbers contributing to on-ground works to be declining due to socio-economic factors such as ageing and declining regional population

Table 7: Summary catchment condition assessment for 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2017-18.

Theme	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Summary Condition Assessment
Waterways	Concerned 	Positive 	Neutral 	2015-16 saw very dry conditions which impacted water availability. No flows past Dimboola were observed, decline in water volumes and quality. No major fish kills or blue-green algal blooms. In 2016-17 condition of waterways was boosted by above average rainfall; extensive flooding led to lower salinity levels. Filled up many wetlands supporting many water birds and vegetation. 2017-18 had low inflows into storages; wetlands in the west were holding water.
Biodiversity	Neutral 	Neutral 	Neutral 	No significant wildfires or extreme events were reported. Small losses on private farming land accompanied by small gains due to revegetation and pest animal control. Pressures from range of threats such as land use change, climate change and pest animals continue to pose a challenge.
Land	Neutral 	Neutral 	Neutral 	Average to above average rainfall and average soil moisture recorded leading to heavy stubble loads. No major erosion events reported, changes in farming practices improved resilience in agricultural land. Concerns about increase in stubble burning in 2017.
Community	Positive 	Positive 	Neutral 	Increased participation in projects and events. Community grants provided support for projects. Overnight visitor numbers to the Grampians at all time high; community members making positive contributions by participating in management activities. 2017-18 saw some decline in local communities where the population is ageing, and population shifts occur.

Condition of the Wimmera's waterways

Rivers, streams and wetlands in the Wimmera provide valuable recreation opportunities for local communities and tourists, water supply for towns and farms, a rich cultural history and habitat for a variety of wildlife including native fish, platypus, yabbies, birds and plants. The region's waterways are highly valuable to the local community since they provide various social and economic benefits.

The environmental condition of the region's waterways is influenced by a range of factors, including water regimes, water quality, habitat, vegetation, connectivity, land management practices, natural events like drought, floods and bushfires, recreation and development.

Annual rainfall

Rainfall totals in the Wimmera over the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 were mixed. A large part of the region experienced below average to average rainfall. From July to December 2018 (Figure 5) 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. From January to June 2019 (Figure 6), the entire region experienced average rainfall, with Western parts of the region receiving below average rainfalls.

This followed a drying period for the region after September 2016 (Figure 5). Coupled with extended periods of hot weather through summer and autumn 2018 resulted in extremely low natural flows in the upper catchment and inflows into storages (Figure 6) and the Wimmera River (Figure 7).

Figure 3: Victorian Rainfall decline from 1 July 2018 to December 2018 (Bureau of Meteorology, 2018).

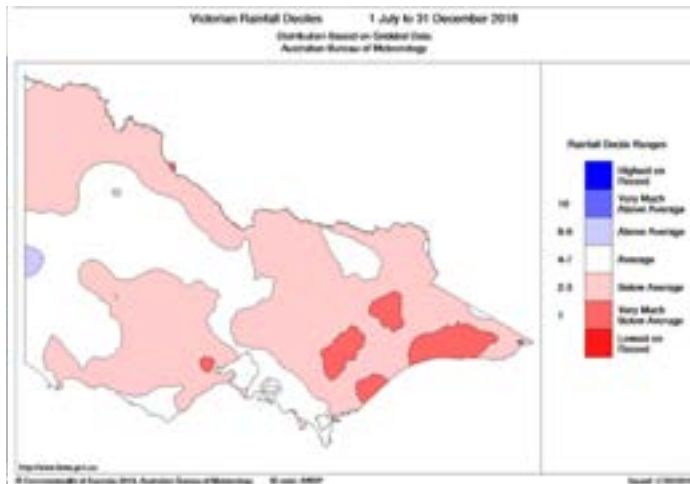


Figure 4: Victorian Rainfall decline from 1 January to 30 June 2019 (Bureau of Meteorology, 2019).

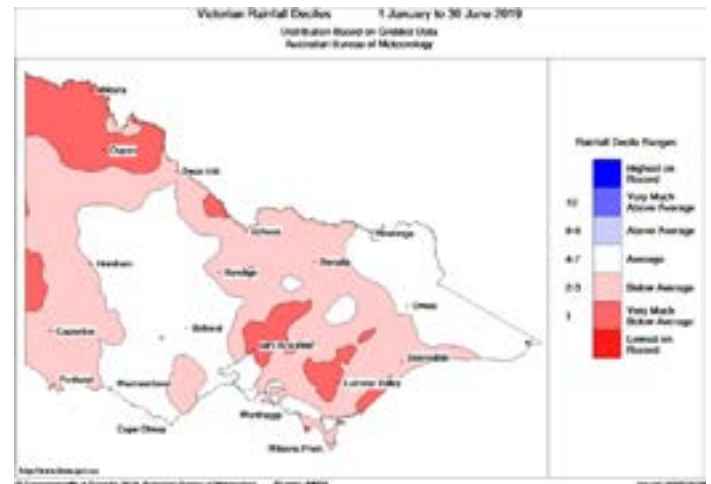


Figure 5: Mean rainfall in the Wimmera region from 2000 to 2018 (Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment, 2019).

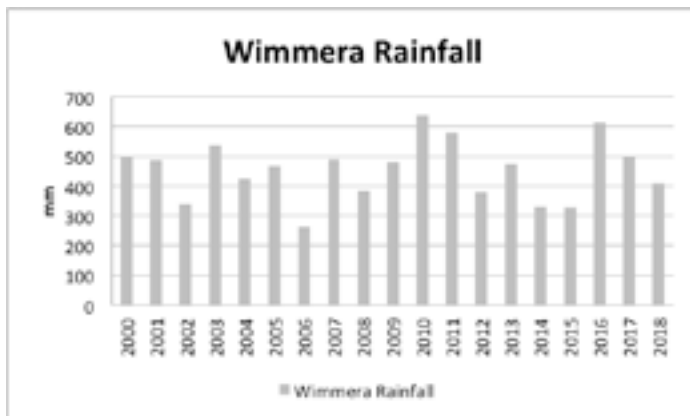
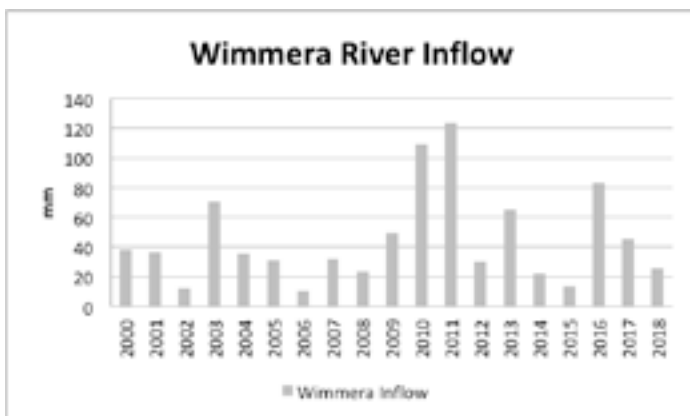
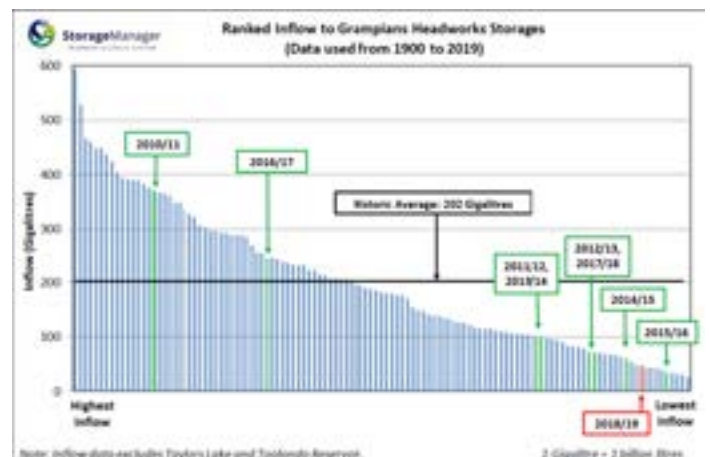



Figure 6: Ranked inflow in Grampians headworks storages 1900 to 30 June 2019. Tenth lowest inflows since 1900 and only slightly higher than 2015-16 (GWM Water).



Waterways assessment 2018-19

<p>Waterways Concerned</p> 	<p>Persistent dry and hot weather conditions have led to low levels of storage resulting in low environmental flows. Water quality has declined with an increase in salinity and nutrient levels from low flows and rainfall in the lower Wimmera River.</p> <p>Wetlands in the west have retained some water due to patchy rain events. Wetlands in the east are extremely dry except for a few that have received environmental water. Seven recreational lakes were affected with blue-green algal bloom attributed primarily to lack of natural flows.</p>
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Reasons for assessment

- Low rainfall led to depleted flows in rivers, streams and wetlands. Hot and dry conditions led to high evaporation. There was only a slight rise in water storage levels. There was less water available for environmental flows in Wimmera River (see Figure 5 and 6).
 - Annual inflows into storages has been tenth lowest since 1900 and only slightly higher than 2015-16 (Figure 8).
 - Consistent environmental flows through the lower Wimmera River has maintained salinity and dissolved oxygen at acceptable levels.
 - Water levels in Lake Wartook are at their lowest since the Millennium drought, placing significant pressure on future environmental water available for the MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek.
- Conditions following spring 2016 have been extremely dry, with the area east of the Grampians in particular receiving limited rainfall and almost no runoff and the Wimmera River at Glenorchy recording no flow at all in 2018-2019, the first year that this has happened since records began in 1964 (Figure 9a) (Wimmera CMA, 2019).
- Land use change is an ongoing major threat to wetlands across the region. Shallow seasonal wetlands are being severely impacted by cropping and drainage, with dry climate allowing landholders to crop traditionally grazed areas degrading wetland habitat (McInnes, 2019 pers. comm).
- Taylor's Lake, Lake Wallace, and Green Lake were affected by small blue-green algal blooms due to low flows in conjunction with hot and dry conditions.

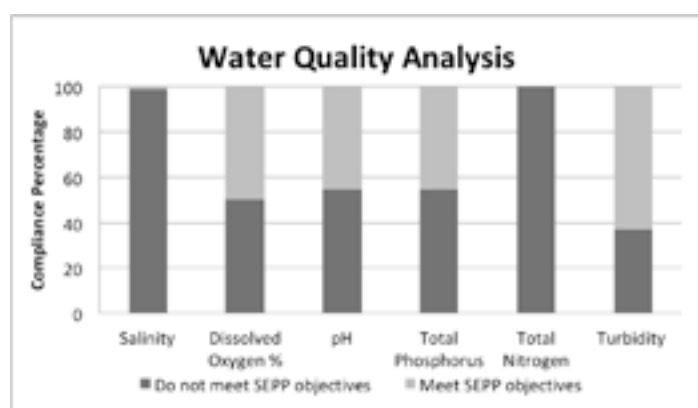


Figure 8: Wimmera River and stream reaches water quality parameters assessed against SEPP (Waters) guidelines (Wimmera CMA, 2019).

- Wimmera CMA's European carp monitoring program found that there had been no large breeding events and numbers are relatively static throughout the Wimmera catchment (Lervasi, 2019). In comparison to the 2017 monitoring program, there has been a significant decrease in carp captures from 1,306 to 450 across ten sites spread across Wimmera (Lervasi, 2019).
- Anglers caught more European carp than native fish in the Horsham Fishing Competition held in March 2019. However, the total number of carp caught has declined significantly since 2016 due to concerted efforts by Wimmera CMA and consultants, mainly utilising electrofishing technique to remove carp physically (Figure 11).
- Upstream of Horsham in along the Wimmera River a spike in Golden Perch numbers was observed this year with 41 fish captured compared to just 11 in 2017. There was a range of sizes with over 75% of them greater than 40 centimetres and the largest weighing 2.2 kilograms (Wimmera CMA, 2019). Preliminary indications from the 2019 survey are that Golden and Silver Perch numbers are comparable with previous years. Threatened Western Swamp Crayfish was found at the downstream side of Burnt Creek and upstream refuge pool on MacKenzie River.
- Mt William Creek fish surveys indicate that Southern pygmy perch abundance has declined with only a single individual located. Reduced habitat availability is likely to have impacted on recruitment success along with predatory Redfin perch (Lervasi, 2019).
- Wimmera CMA water quality data identified that turbidity and dissolved oxygen percentage were the only two parameters to comply with the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters) objectives (Figure 10) (Wimmera CMA, 2019).

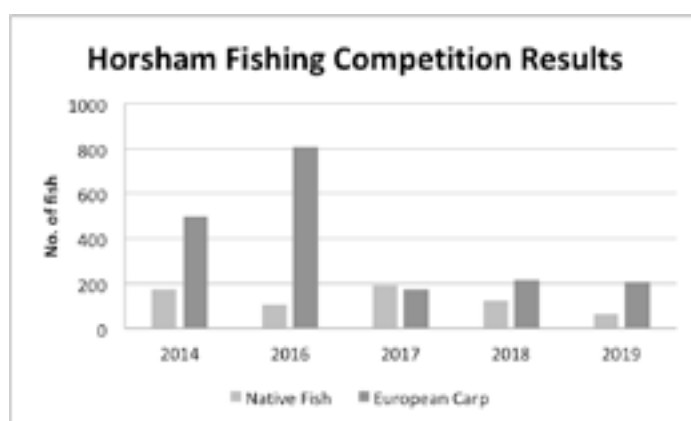


Figure 9: Horsham fishing comparison results of native and European carp numbers from 2014 to 2019 (Wimmera CMA, 2019).

Location	Flow 2016 (ML)	Flow 2017 (ML)	Flow 2018 (ML)
Mt William Creek at Mokepilly	35,022	3,614	264
Wimmera River at Glenorchy	116,737	3,824	0
Lake Wartook levels	19,572	13,003	8,956

Figure 9a: Comparison of annual stream flows for 2016, 2017 and 2018 at gauges in the upper Wimmera catchment (Wimmera CMA, 2019).

Management of the Wimmera's waterways

Table 8: Management activities for rivers and streams and wetlands carried out in the Wimmera in 2018-19.

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Wimmera CMA implemented Victorian Government's priority riparian works outlined in Regional Riparian Action Plan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing landholders advice and financial assistance to help them protect wetlands on their properties. • Planning for Dunmunkle Creek waterway action plan. • Promoted accelerated wetland riparian and riparian action activities at Wimmera field days and through various Landcare and community groups. • Undertaking platypus monitoring along MacKenzie River. • Utilise a marketing campaign to promote the legacy landholders can leave for future generations. 	<p>Landholders submitted 51 expressions of Interest</p> <p>Held 1 event engaging 20 people</p> <p>Revegetated across 86 ha</p> <p>Installed 56 km of new fence</p> <p>Conducted weed control across 990 ha</p> <p>Formed 1 partnership</p> <p>Established 49 new management agreements</p> <p>Produced 1 publication</p>	Victorian government	Landcare groups, PV, Regional DELWP, Project Platypus, GWM Water
<p>Wimmera CMA and partner organisations worked together to deliver Our Catchments, Our Communities initiative for improved integrated catchment management. The project seeks to protect, enhance, and restore valued river reaches, improve the region's livability and improve coordination and build knowledge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered a range of on-ground works designed to enhance health, environment and livability of waterways. Some works include willow removal, rehabilitating key recreational areas, reinstatement of walking tracks, and construction of walking track along the river. • A series of smaller stakeholder roundtable meeting were held primarily focusing on on-ground works along with site visits and meetings. • Further developed Wimmera Spatial Hub to standardise data collection, mapping and reporting tool. 	<p>Established 1 management agreement</p> <p>Held 1 stakeholder roundtable conference engaging 17 people</p> <p>Installed 3 km of fence</p> <p>Controlled pest plants and animals across 7.5 ha</p> <p>Produced 1 short film</p>	Victorian Government, Our Catchments Our Communities	HRCC, DELWP, Parks Vic, Hindmarsh Shire Council, BGLC, Wimmera River Improvement Committee, Wimmera Anglers Assoc, Horsham Angling Club, Dimboola Boat and Water Ski Club, Horsham Fishing Competition Committee, Horsham Apex Club
<p>The Thriving Community Rivers project whilst protecting, enhancing and restoring high value reaches, has ensured that Wimmera's Rivers continue to provide substantial economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits to various communities. The project achieved this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigating erosion in the upper Wimmera River system by installing and maintaining rock chutes on priority reaches. • Reducing impacts of European carp in waterways by undertaking monitoring activities. 	<p>Constructed 5 rock chutes at 2 sites and maintained another 2</p> <p>Conducted e-DNA carp monitoring at 3 sites and electrofishing at 10 sites</p> <p>Monitored and maintained 15 gauges</p> <p>Established 1 partnership</p>	Victorian Government	Farmers Contractors

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Thriving community wetlands project aims to protect, enhance and restore wetlands that are highly valued by the community and provide valuable ecosystem services for a wide range of species. The project achieved this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing high priority wetlands on private property through an incentive-based program to landholders and providing site visits as part of the EOI process. • Providing continuing support to Wetlands Intervention Monitoring Program (WIMP) and establishing new sites. • Undertake wetland hydrology assessment in analysing hydrologic regimes. 	<p>Protected wetlands across 215.6 ha</p> <p>Engaged 17 landholders</p> <p>Established 12 management agreements</p>	Victorian Government	PV, DELWP
<p>Socio-economic research into the value of environmental and recreational water was conducted. Some highlights include:</p> <p>Consultants street Ryan held an information session for stakeholders at an Environmental Water Regulation information meeting.</p> <p>A total of 3,554 participants were covered during the third survey round.</p> <p>Disseminated information gathered through Aboriginal water program.</p>	<p>Held 1 workshop engaging 7 people</p> <p>Established 1 partnership</p> <p>Produced 1 report</p> <p>Conducted 1 assessment</p>	Victorian Government	WDA, GWM Water, Local councils, BGLC, Federation University Australia
<p>Wimmera CMA fulfilled its management responsibilities by delivering environmental water for the VEW and the CEWH. This included several waterways such as Wimmera River, MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek, and Mt William Creek along with 12 wetlands. Some highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,219 ML were delivered through regulated releases to the Wimmera River, Mt William Creek, Burnt Creek, Bungalally Creek and the MacKenzie River. An additional 335 ML was delivered to the Mt William Creek and 96 ML to the Wimmera River from passing flows for the year. • Supplied 58.7 ML environmental water to 12 wetlands. • Seasonal watering proposals developed for the Wimmera River system and Wimmera Mallee Pipeline wetlands for VEW. • Staff members assisting DELWP on a range of projects such as sustainable water strategy implementation. • Staff members' continued participation in the Western Rivers Advisory group which informs water sharing between Wimmera and Glenelg. 	<p>Delivered 12.5 ML to Ranch Billabong</p> <p>Watering proposals delivered within specified timeframes</p> <p>Agreement signed with GWM Water to update Lake Lonsdale outlet</p>	Victorian Government	GWM Water
<p>Wimmera CMA undertook detailed assessments to ascertain the environmental values of MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek to guide future environmental watering and reduce risk in exceptionally dry conditions.</p>	<p>Conducted 2 surveys</p> <p>Held 1 workshop</p>	Victorian Government	Wimmera CMA
<p>Wimmera CMA's supported Victoria's obligations regarding the MurrayDarling Basin Plan.</p>	<p>Produced 1 plan</p> <p>Demonstrated electrofishing European carp engaging 40 year 5 students</p> <p>Held 1 meeting</p>	Victorian Government	VEWH, CEWO, GWM Water
<p>Background work was conducted to update the Wimmera Environmental Water Management Plan to include Terminal Lakes Water Requirements report.</p>	<p>Held 2 stakeholder reference group meetings engaging 20 people</p> <p>Published 1 publication</p> <p>Held 1 workshop</p>	Victorian Government	GWM Water, Horsham Rural City Council (HRCC)

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
Technical investigations were undertaken into environmental water delivery infrastructure to develop, design, and cost options to upgrade them to improve the capacity to deliver environmental water in an efficient and effective manner.	Upgraded 1 culvert on Bungalally and Burnt Creek by Horsham Rural City Council Developed 1 procurement and design work plan	Victorian Government	VEWH
Ongoing maintenance of Portable Automated Logger System (PALS) which are used to inform environmental water delivery by providing water level and salinity data.	Installed 1 PALS unit	Victorian Government	DELWP, BGCLC, VEWB
Wimmera CMA delivered its statutory and regulatory obligations under the Victorian government legislation by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing floodplain advice. • Undertaking water quality assessments. • Issuing Works on Waterways Permits. • Responding to wetland related planning scheme referrals. • Working with DELWP to deliver government policy. • Engaging with the community to improve community capacity to manage waterways. • Collaborating with community groups and regional agencies to improve waterway outcomes. 	Responded to 138 flood referrals Provided 98 flood advice responses Issued 16 Works on Waterways permits Developed 1 partnership	Victorian Government	DELWP, CMAs, VEWB
Floodplain management			
A flood investigation of Horsham Wartook Valley continued, including a thorough technical analysis of hydraulic and hydrological aspects of floods in order to improve floodplain understanding. Additionally, the investigation will aid HRCC to incorporate study results within future planning scheme amendments.	Held 2 community consultation sessions Drafted personalised letters for over 2,800 properties identified as being affected by flood modelling Submitted 1 funding report	Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme, DELWP and HRCC	HRCC
Wimmera CMA continued to deliver its Floodplain management program which aims to promote strategic planning for floodplain management activities and facilitate the delivery of statutory functions. In doing so: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Northern Grampians Shire Council planning scheme amendment c31. • Delivered a pilot Natimuk flash flood alerting project which aims to automate alert messages to Emergency Vic app and website. • Finalised the Wimmera Floodplain Management Strategy • Developed Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting plan for the Floodplain strategy. 	Developed 1 strategy Developed 1 plan Organised 8 forums and meetings engaging 30 people	Victorian Government	Victorian State Emergency Services, GWM Water, local Councils
Wimmera CMA responded to statutory referrals under council planning schemes and requests for flood advice. Wimmera CMA also provided flood and catchment related information and advice regarding; expansion, development and construction to the Crowlands Wind Farm, Horsham Sports Stadium and Holy Trinity Lutheran College.	Responded to 138 floodplain referrals Responded to 13 wetlands Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) referrals	Victorian Government	Wimmera CMA
Wimmera CMA investigated opportunities to develop a new drainage system through Dunmunkle Creek incorporating crown & private land and some wetlands in the north. This project paves way for future development of drainage scheme to improve agricultural productivity and provide additional watering opportunities to wetland systems.	Held 2 community consultation sessions engaging 20 landholders Published 1 plan Produced 2 reports	Victorian Government	DELWP

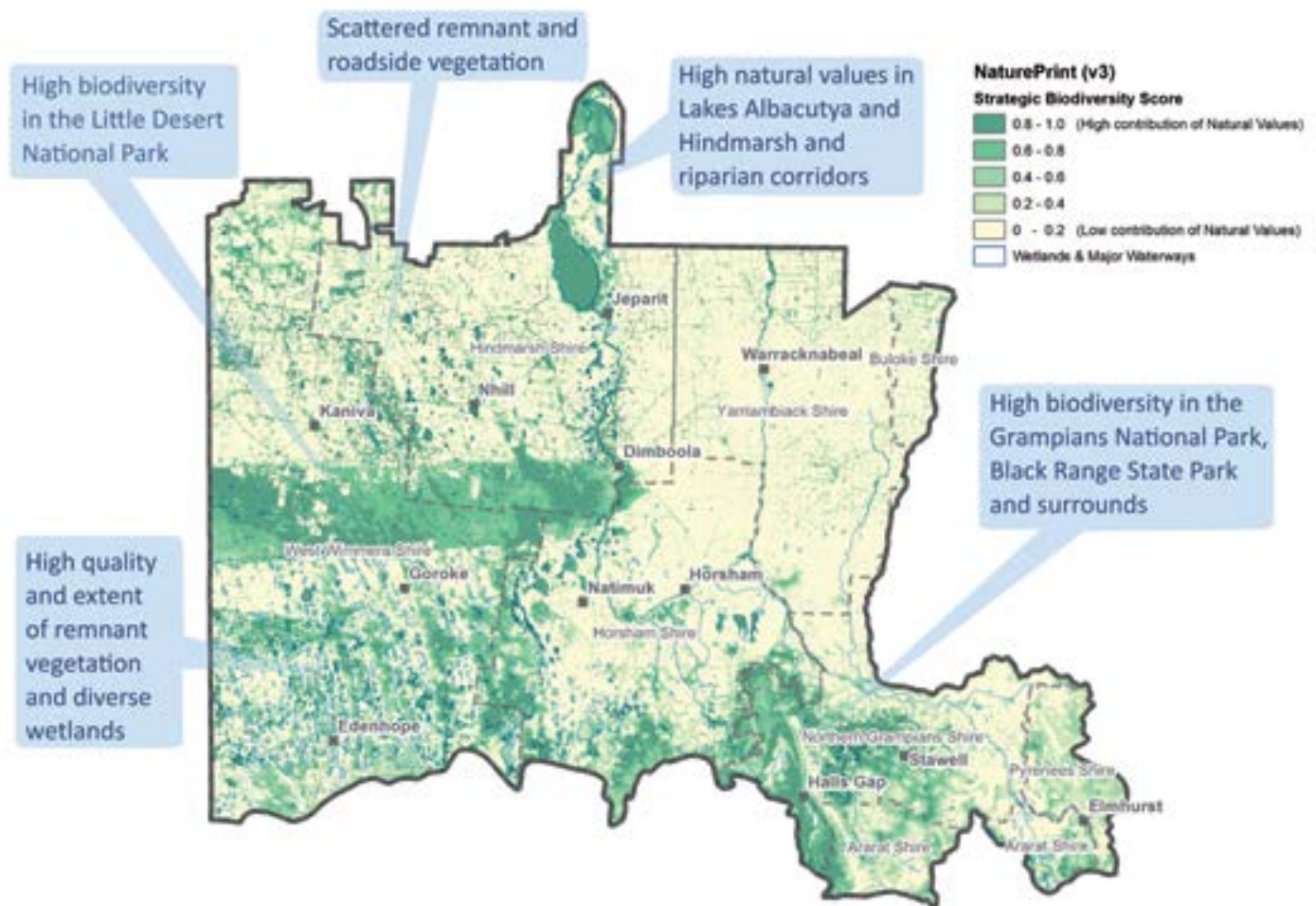
Condition of the Wimmera's biodiversity

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 stabilise populations of native plants and animals while connecting people with nature.

Biodiversity benchmark – strategic biodiversity score

Strategic biodiversity ratings based on NaturePrint V4 provide a snapshot of the health of biodiversity in the Wimmera (Figure 13). The Wimmera supports large areas of high biodiversity value (Figure 13), in particular Grampians National Park, Little Desert National Park, south-west Wimmera and Lake Hindmarsh. The Wimmera is also home to Lake Albacutya which is recognised as internationally important under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 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.

Figure 10: Strategic biodiversity ratings in the Wimmera based on NaturePrint V4 (Department of Environment and Primary Industries, 2014).



Biodiversity assessment 2018-19

Neutral



The biodiversity values of native ecosystems across Wimmera are in stable condition. Combined efforts by partner agencies and effective environmental watering regimes across the region have resulted in positive gains such as expanding the reach of some threatened aquatic species. However, a range of pressures from illegal clearing, climate change, change of land use, invasive species and low recruitment levels due to dry weather have posed serious challenges.

Table 9: Bushfires on public land in the Wimmera from 2005 to 2019 (Rudolph, 2019).

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
2018-19	314	35
Average 2006-2019	23,593	51
Average 1973-2005	6,930	38

Reasons for assessment

Evidence of biodiversity loss:

- Numerous partner organisations observed ongoing loss of native vegetation due to legal and illegal clearing, new development and loss of paddock trees. Incremental land clearing saw a decline in single paddock trees on private property (Rudolph, 2019).
- DELWP recorded 28 cases of unpermitted clearing across 93 ha of native vegetation and 370 individual large trees. Two significant cases reported were the removal of 70 ha of vegetation on a property adjoining the Little Desert National Park and adverse impacts to 372 critically endangered Spiny Rice-flower plants resulting from a landholder establishing a new unpermitted firebreak along the roadside (Rudolph, 2019).
- Anecdotal evidence suggests some revegetation projects undertaken in priority areas across the Wimmera were impacted by pest animals such as kangaroos, deer and rabbits.

- Persistent dry conditions led to low recruitment of native plants and animals throughout the region. The region is faced an increase in average temperatures and frequency of heat events (McInnes, 2019; Miller, 2019).
- Environmental weeds dominated certain parts of the region, with weeds like perennial Veldt grass continuing to invade intact remnant vegetation (McInnes, 2019 pers. comm).
- Threatened species, Large crimson spider orchid, which was re-introduced in the wild last year failed to complete its flowering cycle and hence its survival rate declined (McInnes, 2019 pers. comm).
- A vegetation survey at Ramsar listed Lake Albacutya suggests the overall vegetation structure and health of the fringing woodland is poor to very poor. This can be potentially attributed to dry conditions and low rainfall in the area (Cook, 2019).

Evidence of biodiversity gain:

- Environmental watering of wetlands in the region's north-east is enhancing wetland biodiversity values including:
 - Threatened species, Growling grass frog, listed as vulnerable under the EPBC Act and Endangered in Victoria.
 - Latham's snipe, a migratory bird returned to Carapugna wetland.
 - Locally rare Hard-head saltbush and endangered Tall sneezeweed were observed, extending their previously known range from the Murray River.
 - Threatened species, Chariot Wheels, was observed to be flourishing in the Carapugna wetland (Wimmera CMA, 2019).
- The Calicivirus targeting rabbits has spread throughout the region. Wimmera CMA field staff and stakeholders have observed that rabbit numbers are generally at manageable levels. The population of hares is on the decline (McInnes, 2019 pers. comm).
- Since 1998 Agriculture Victoria's (AV) long-term rabbit monitoring sites at Ararat and Telopea Downs have recorded a 94.7% and 90.6% reduction respectively. In addition, an 87.8% and 90.5% reduction are recorded in active warren entrances per hectare.
- The impact of wildfire on native vegetation was very low and well below average, with only 314 hectares burnt in 35 fires (Table 9).
- Annual monitoring at Lake Albacutya recorded the presence of vulnerable Regent Parrot within the Ramsar site, indicating their population is maintained in the region (Cook, 2019).
- Coast spider orchid, a terrestrial, perennial orchid classified as 'Endangered' under the EPBC Act and in Victoria was recorded for the first time in the Wimmera (Atlas of Living Australia, 2019).
- The annual South-eastern Red-tail Black-cockatoo count recorded 1193 birds across the range which is a significant increase on last year's count of 839.

Management of the Wimmera's biodiversity

Table 10: Management activities for native vegetation carried out in the Wimmera in 2018-19.

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Wimmera CMA completed the final year of the three-year Western Victorian Woodlands project by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering large scale fox and cat control work on public land, whilst establishing asset monitoring plots confirming the presence of predation-sensitive fauna at 11 locations. • Reconnecting traditional owners to their traditional burning techniques by developing burn plans for three CVA owned properties. 	<p>Conducted fox control across 33,000 ha</p> <p>Conducted feral cat control across 3,700 ha</p> <p>Developed 1 burn plan for 3 properties</p>	Victorian Government	PV, CVA, Bank Australia, GA, TfN, CFA, BGLC and Forest Fire Management
<p>Wimmera CMA continued to meet the Ramsar obligations to protect Lake Albacutya by improving the coordination of management activities and monitoring its ecological character. Wimmera CMA fulfilled this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding site coordination meetings in consultation with stakeholders throughout the financial year via phone, skype and discussion forums. • Undertaking flora and fauna surveys to monitor changes in critical ecosystem services. • Undertaking pest plant and animal control in partnership with PV aligning with the key threats identified through coordinating committee. 	<p>Established 1 partnership</p> <p>Conducted 3 assessments</p> <p>Conducted weed control across 500 ha</p> <p>Conducted pest animal control across 2,500 ha</p>	Australian Government	DELWP, BGLC, and PV
<p>Wimmera CMA designed and implemented an integrated predator management program for Little Desert region with an aim to expand existing pest control programs on conservation reserves and reduce the impacts of weeds on threatened Ecological Vegetation Classes.</p>	<p>Conducted fox control across 54,000 ha</p> <p>Held 3 events engaging 50 people</p> <p>Assisted 11 people to receive Agricultural Chemical User Permit Certificate</p> <p>Trained 16 people to use 1080 fox baits</p>	CVA	PV, HLN, Kaniva Landcare Group
<p>Wimmera CMA successfully coordinated the delivery of National Landcare Program 2 funded projects by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering 'Food for Future' projects aimed at improving the South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo's (SERTBC) habitat. The integrated tenure blind project aimed to improve the trajectory of the recruitment of SERTBC by supporting land managers and community to protect and enhance existing and create new nesting and feeding habitat to achieve an increase in overall extent. • Delivering 'Building Carbon and Capacity' project. • Appointing two part-time Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitators. 	<p>5 landholders involved to protect 276 ha habitat</p> <p>Planted over 10,000 buloke and stringy barks over 70 ha</p> <p>Pest animal and plant control across 57 ha</p> <p>Annual flock count and hollow audit surveys conducted by 200 volunteers</p> <p>Produced 2 newsletters</p> <p>Installed 25 nest boxes on priority nesting sites</p>	Australian Government	Birdlife Australia, Kowree Farm Tree Group, GA, TfN
<p>Wimmera CMA subcontracted GA and CVA to help revegetate cleared sections of Salvana Conservation Reserve to improve the biodiversity values and resilience for threatened species such as South-eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo and Malleefowl.</p>	<p>Conducted weed control across 29 ha</p> <p>Planted 11,598 trees and shrubs</p>	CVA	GA, CVA

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Wimmera CMA completed the final year of the three-year Western Victorian Woodlands project by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering large scale fox and cat control work on public land, whilst establishing asset monitoring plots confirming the presence of predation-sensitive fauna at 11 locations. • Reconnecting traditional owners to their traditional burning techniques by developing burn plans for three CVA owned properties. 	<p>Conducted fox control across 33,000 ha</p> <p>Conducted feral cat control across 3,700 ha</p> <p>Developed 1 burn plan for 3 properties</p>	Victorian Government	PV, CVA, Bank Australia, GA, TfN, CFA, BGCLC and Forest Fire Management
<p>Wimmera CMA continued to meet the Ramsar obligations to protect Lake Albacutya by improving the coordination of management activities and monitoring its ecological character. Wimmera CMA fulfilled this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding site coordination meetings in consultation with stakeholders throughout the financial year via phone, skype and discussion forums. • Undertaking flora and fauna surveys to monitor changes in critical ecosystem services. • Undertaking pest plant and animal control in partnership with PV aligning with the key threats identified through coordinating committee. 	<p>Established 1 partnership</p> <p>Conducted 3 assessments</p> <p>Conducted weed control across 500 ha</p> <p>Conducted pest animal control across 2,500 ha</p>	Australian Government	DELWP, BGCLC, and PV
<p>Wimmera CMA delivered a large-scale threat abatement project with an aim to improve biodiversity conservation outcomes for various key flora and fauna species by assisting landholders in undertaking on-ground works on private property.</p>	<p>Undertook threat abatement works across 333 ha engaging 5 landholders</p>	Victorian Government	Wimmera CMA
<p>Wimmera CMA delivered the Habitat Tender Project at Little Desert National Park and Salvana Conservation Reserve which hold a high conservation value for threatened Red-tailed Black Cockatoos. The Little Desert Nature Lodge has an appropriate representation of vegetation types of the region and provides a haven for the nationally endangered Malleefowl. The project at Salvana is aimed at protecting and enhancing the conservation value of the block by revegetating historically cleared areas and undertaking weed control and pest animal control activities.</p>	<p>Conducted pest control across 176 ha</p> <p>Engaged 5 volunteers</p> <p>Conducted weed control across 38 ha</p> <p>Revegetated 6 ha</p>	CVA	Wimmera CMA, CVA
<p>Wimmera CMA worked with partners to create habitat corridors and undertook threat abatement measures to protect existing habitat resources aiming to restore habitat for state and federally listed threatened species such as Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, coloured spider orchid and Malleefowl.</p>	<p>Conducted pest plant control across 40 ha</p> <p>Revegetation across 18 ha involving 25 volunteers</p>	CVA	GA
<p>Wimmera CMA delivered the Habitat Tender Project by coordinating a large-scale native vegetation conservation auction aimed at assisting private broadacre and mixed farming land managers to improve biodiversity conservation outcomes.</p>	<p>Received 70 EOIs</p> <p>Protected 32 sites</p> <p>Protected 2162 ha</p>	Victorian Government's Biodiversity On Ground Action Initiative	Glenelg Hopkins CMA

Table 11: Management Activities led by partner organisations in Wimmera in 2018-19.

Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
<p>DELWP supported local government in the implementation of guidelines for removal or lopping of native vegetation and in doing so:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responded to 119 statutory planning referrals involving the removal of native vegetation. • Provided technical advice regarding proposed new developments with the potential for native vegetation or biodiversity impacts, including wind farm proposals and Western Highway duplication. • Delivered training sessions open to five Wimmera Local Government Areas (LGAs) to increase the knowledge and implementation of Native vegetation guidelines. • Provided support to Wimmera local government networks to discuss issues and initiatives that cover five LGAs within the Wimmera region. • Supported organisation and delivery of 2018 Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. • Conducted three identification sessions on Wimmera grasslands, plants and fungi. • Issued permits for the Grampians region for the removal of listed or protected flora or fauna species. • Worked to support appropriate burning regime for Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat. . • Leading the delivery of Biodiversity Response Planning phase one, which involved managing the Wimmera area working group that comprised of following parties: DELWP, DJPR, CVA, PV, HLN, BGCLC, Dja Dja Wurrung, Wimmera CMA and GA. Phase one involved the setting of strategic goals for investment, calls for conservation projects, assessment of projects and commitment to propose \$1.7 million for Wimmera area with additional \$1.8 million to be spent within Grampians National Park. • Supported delivery of 4th year of Nyupun Program in partnership with Wimmera CMA and Goolum Goolum Co-operative. 	<p>Responded to 119 statutory planning referrals</p> <p>Delivered 2 training sessions</p> <p>Delivered 3 community ID forums</p> <p>Held 1 seminar engaging 80 people</p> <p>Held ID training sessions engaging 20 people</p> <p>Issued 20 Flora and Fauna Guarantee Permits</p>
<p>Trust for Nature (TfN) continued to deliver projects to protect and enhance biodiversity values throughout Wimmera with the help of concerted efforts put in by volunteers, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance at Snape Reserve and Mt Elgin Swamp Reserve have resulted in an increase of habitat quality for various native flora species. The project encompassed revegetation, pest animal control and engagement events to educate community members. Completed 3 ha of direct seeding in addition to 240 ha of weed control to eradicate environmental and noxious weeds was undertaken. 846 ha of the reserve was monitored for foxes and rabbits. A new threatened flora species small-lead Goodenia was recorded this year at the reserve. • Works at Bank Australia Conservation Reserve in conjunction with GA. • Greater Grampians Threatened Flora project which aims to protect key flora and fauna diversity; facilitated completion of weed control on eight covenants across 640 ha with Upper Wimmera Landcare and Landmate. Pest animal control conducted across 473 ha and weed control across 664 ha of covenants. Two threatened species of orchid urged the installation of fenced enclosures across three covenants. • Management agreements established to permanently protect priority habitat on private land. Threatened species recovery actions were conducted where Tawny Spider Orchid was discovered and protected under covenant. • Two special constructed nest boxes installed for Red-tailed Black Cockatoos where TfN facilitated site access and data exchange under the Revolving Fund Management Program. This program also registered one covenant in the Wimmera region covering 200 ha. 	<p>Held 2 events engaging 43 people</p> <p>Conducted fox monitoring across 250 ha eradicating 18 foxes</p> <p>Facilitated 1 EOI process</p> <p>Total 2,036 volunteer hours equivalent to 54 weeks</p> <p>Installed an information bay at Snape Reserve</p> <p>Conducted weed and pest animal control engaging 10 landholders</p> <p>Established a non-perpetual agreement covering 60 ha</p> <p>Registered 1 covenant for 56 ha.</p> <p>Produced 1 report</p> <p>Registered 2 covenants covering 130 ha and 60 ha respectively</p>

Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
<p>Agriculture Victoria (AV) conducted weed control and biosecurity programs to eradicate or contain invasive species to protect agricultural production and biodiversity values, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional prohibited weed program inspected over 19 properties across 13,038 ha. • Fox bounty collection saw 13,124 fox scalps collected at the Horsham and St Arnaud collection centres. • Annual rabbit monitoring at the long-term monitoring sites at Ararat and Telopea Downs. • State prohibited weed control saw annual control of Mesquite infestations and responded to new reports of Water hyacinth. • Maintaining long term data on Victorian rabbit populations, effectiveness of rabbit haemorrhagic disease at long term monitoring sites namely Ararat and Telopea Downs. • Assisting Municipal Councils develop and implement their roadside weed and rabbit control plans. • In response to the increasing incidences of e-trade in introducing high risk invasive species, AV has dedicated resources to conduct routine audits of internet and deliver support to weed spotters. 	<p>Served 3 legal notices</p> <p>Inspected 19 properties over 13,038 ha</p> <p>State prohibited weed monitored and treated towards eradication</p>
<p>Northern Grampians Shire delivered its roadside weed and pest program through the aid of Victorian Government funding. The project aims to restrict the spread and introduction of invasive plant and animal species on roadsides. Species targeted were African boxthorn, blackberry, Cape broom, gorse, horehound, Paterson's curse, bridal creeper and Cape Tulip. European rabbit was targeted along roadsides throughout the shire.</p>	<p>Conducted weed control across 26 km of roadside</p> <p>Conducted rabbit control over 85 km of roadside</p>
<p>Horsham Rural City Council delivered its roadside weed and pest program by developing priority actions for priority areas to achieve an overall reduction in the quantity and type of pest plants and animals across the HRCC municipal area.</p>	<p>Conducted rabbit control across the Horsham LGA eradicating 1,027 rabbit warrens</p>
<p>The Landcare facilitator for Kaniva District and Telopea Downs provided support to two Landcare groups and delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of 2,100 ha Desert Stringybark and 380 native trees to enhance the existing native vegetation on private property. • Wimmera native threatened species sign aimed to inform locals and visitors coming into West Wimmera. • The annual tree planting day saw 1,500 mixed native trees and shrubs planted to enhance the productivity and provide resources and habitat for native fauna. • Pest animal control including monitoring of rabbit numbers throughout Telopea Downs and Kaniva was undertaken. • Targeted 460 ha of roadside area to eradicate or control noxious weeds. 	<p>Planted 55 ha of trees</p> <p>Installed 4 km of fence</p> <p>Held 1 event involving 9 people</p> <p>Planted 2,100 trees engaging 19 school students</p> <p>Revegetated 35 ha</p> <p>Held 1 event engaging 25 people</p> <p>Conducted 73 km of baiting and 2 km of warren ripping</p>
<p>Project Platypus ran a project called Humanity and Trees with Eucalypt Australia to creatively engage the community to better understand the benefits of single paddock trees. Farmers and community were educated about the benefits of single paddock trees in the landscape.</p>	<p>Held 1 seminar</p> <p>Held 1 workshop engaging 35 people</p> <p>Held a seed collection field day engaging 10 people</p> <p>Developed 4 podcasts</p> <p>Held 1 insect hotels and seed balls workshop engaging 300 school children</p>
<p>Parks Victoria (PV) contributed to a variety of natural resource management activities in the parks throughout Wimmera. One of the primary projects involves small vertebrates surveys in Little Desert National Park, Tooan and Nurocong which form a part of pre-control (fox and cats) asset monitoring funded by Biodiversity on-ground action. The main aim is to implement a long-term monitoring approach to determine trends in populations of small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.</p>	<p>Engaged 4 volunteers including 6 firefighters</p>

Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
<p>Hindmarsh Landcare facilitator delivered bird monitoring surveys at Hindmarsh Biolink located between Little Desert National Park and Big Desert National Park funded by a philanthropic trust. The project aims to assess the effectiveness of revegetation areas through bird monitoring. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed a cultural survey in partnership with BGLC. • Delivered a workshop involving community members. 	<p>Project Hindmarsh weekend plant out engaged 140 people, planting 12,000 trees, shrubs, grasses and sedges</p> <p>Delivered 1 bird monitoring workshop engaging 23 people</p> <p>Revegetated 7 ha</p>
<p>GA in partnership with TfN and BGLC undertook actions to improve the habitat quality and status of ten threatened species at the Bank Australia Conservation Reserve including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of fencing weed and pest animal control at Minimay, Boorooopki and Ozenkadnook. • Completed cultural heritage surveys across 950 ha. • Enhancement of 30 ha six-year-old revegetation area via reintroduction of habitat logs at Minimay. 	<p>Conducted weed and pest animal control across 950 ha</p> <p>Won Banksia Award within the corporate category for the strategy 'Bank Australia Conserve Reserve-reimagining the Future'</p> <p>Held 6 engagement events engaging over 160 people</p> <p>Replaced 1.5 km of fencing</p> <p>Conducted weed control across 950 ha</p> <p>Developed 1 plan and 1 strategy</p>
<p>Kowree Tree Farm Group successfully completed project 'kids helping cockies helping cockies' funded by the Federal Government while supporting other revegetation and conservation projects.</p>	<p>Planted 1,200 paddock trees</p> <p>Fenced off 80 ha</p> <p>Installed interpretive signage at Edenhope flora and fauna reserve</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 groups, 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 12: Land managed for conservation.

Protection type	Area covered (ha)	Additional area in 2018-19 (ha)
National parks*	192,000	0
State parks*	83,900	0
Trust for Nature covenants	17,943	446
Landholder agreements (CMA)	21,221	3,621

* Data from Public Lands Management spatial dataset.

Land assessment 2018-19

Neutral



Vegetation cover for much of the Wimmera was below average, placing the region's soil resources at risk of wind and water erosion. The region received below average rainfall coupled with higher mean temperatures in summer, leading to decreased soil moisture. Where landholder agreements protecting area increased to 3,621 ha as compared to only 1,748 ha in 2017-18, Trust for Nature covenants area under protection declined by 239 ha.

The pie chart shows that dryland cropping forms the single biggest contributor to exposed soils out of total 3,763 km², with grazing on modified pastures being the second biggest reason for exposed soils in Wimmera.

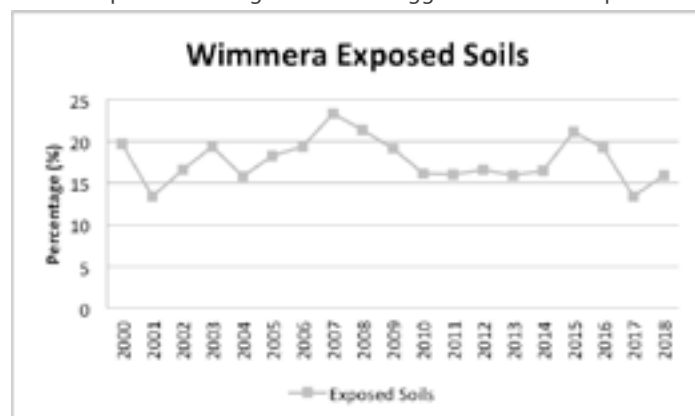


Figure 11: The Wimmera region has 16% of soils exposed in 2018 (Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment, 2019).

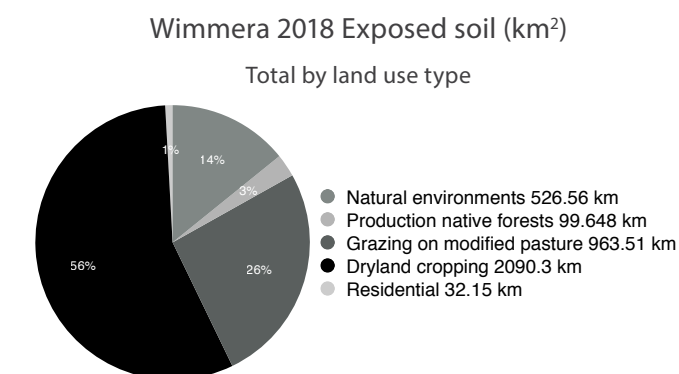
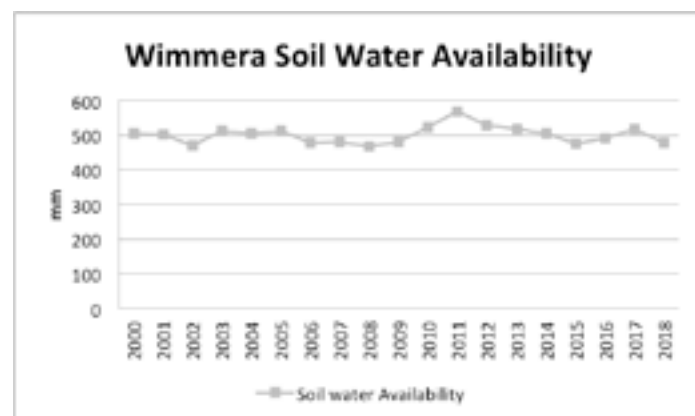


Figure 12: Percentage of exposed soil in Wimmera by 'Land use type' (Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment, 2019).

Figure 13: Average amount of water stored in the soil profile declined to 479 mm in 2018 (Australian National University – Fenner School of the Environment, 2019).

Reasons for assessment

- 2018-19 saw Victoria receive 25% below average rainfalls, the lowest since 2006 (Bureau of Meteorology, 2019).
- The mean temperatures were 1.14 °C warmer than average and highest on record for the entire state of Victoria. Parts in north-west and north central being warmest on record (Bureau of Meteorology, 2019).
- Low rainfall coupled with high mean temperatures led to a decrease in soil water availability which decreased from 569 mm in 2011 to 479 mm in 2018 (Figure 13).
- The dry year and added pressure of grazing resulted in exposed soils in the upper catchment.
- Australian National University's 'Australia's Environment in 2018' report indicates that the annual exposed soils in 2018 were the 4th lowest over the 19 years of measurement. The mean percentage of soil that was unprotected by living vegetation or litter, or exposed, was 16% up from 13% in 2017 which recorded an all-time low percentage. This was potentially due to dry conditions, and lower rainfalls, however it is worth noting that 2018 levels significantly lower than 2015 and 2016 (Figure 11).
- Landholder agreements projecting area under protection increased to 3,621 ha as compared to only 1,748 ha in the last financial year. The additional area under TfN covenants decreased from 685 ha in 2017-18 to 446 ha this financial year. A lot of stakeholders have raised concerns that the land protected under covenants might decline in future due to market saturation.
- With 56%, dryland cropping is the biggest contributor of exposed soils in Wimmera, along with grazing on modified pasture contributing to 26%. Natural environments comprising largely of dry lakes and wetlands formed 14%.
- Observations from the northern transect include (Figure 17):
 - 15% of all paddocks were observed with management practices that may lead to bare earth or were recorded with low ground cover, on soils classified as having high to very high erosion risk.
 - Stubble retention practices were well above the 10-year average at 82% of the survey area.
 - A much smaller area of stubble was removed by burning and cultivation compared with autumn 2018 (9% of the area in 2019, compared with 16% in 2018). This was also half the 11-year average (18% of the area).
 - While the area with land management practices that actively removed stubble was half the 11-year average, land use was also important. More than one-third of the area with low ground cover paddocks had retained stubbles.
 - Low (less than 50%) ground cover was recorded for 14% of paddocks (13% of the area). More than one-third of these paddocks had retained stubble, many from legume crops.
 - 6% of the transect area (and 7% of paddock) were cultivated paddocks. Ten paddocks had been or were being sown on the day of the survey. Seven of these were direct drilled and the other three had been cereal stubble, cultivated before sowing.
- The 2018 growing season in the northern Wimmera began with variable soil moisture levels, from low to moderate, following below-average summer rainfall. Crops survived on small rainfall events during winter but following a series of frosts in September and a hot day with strong winds caused crops to brown off.
- Conditions remained hot and dry between 2018 and 2019 growing seasons. Vegetation cover for much of the Wimmera in February 2019 was below-average.

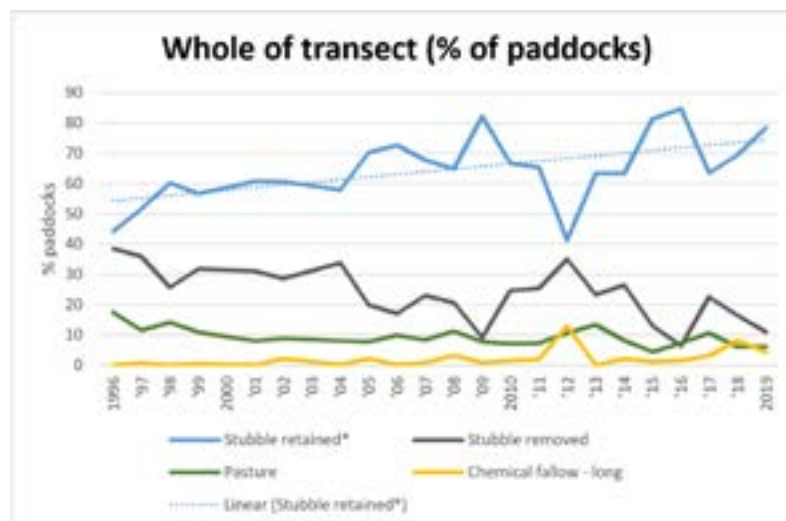


Figure 14: Summary of changes in land management in the northern Wimmera from 1996 to 2019 as a percentage of paddocks (Agriculture Victoria, 2019).

- Observations from the southern transect include (Figure 18):
 - Twenty paddocks contained soils with high to very high erodibility risk combined with stubble management practices that further increase the risk of soil loss. This was half the number recorded in 2018.
 - 56% of the transect area contained retained stubble, a major increase from the 2018 level of 32%.
 - Less than one-third (29%) of the area in the transect was pasture but this equated to 40% of paddocks due to small paddock size for pastures.
 - Native vegetation including plantations accounted for less than 2% of the area.
 - Less than 10% of the transect area included removed stubble in 2019, half of that in 2018.
 - Stubble removal by burning (including windrow burning) and cultivation fell for the first time in three years to 13% of the transect area in 2019, in contrast to 24% in 2018.

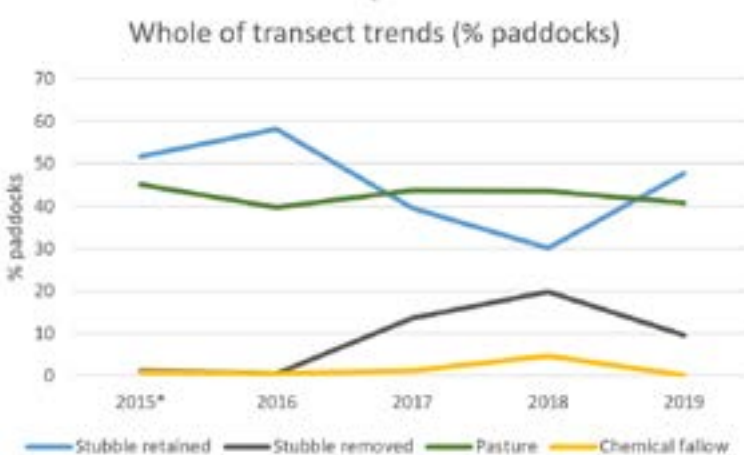


Figure 15: Summary of changes in land management in the southern Wimmera from 2015 to 2019, as a percentage of the number of paddocks (Agriculture Victoria, 2019).

- PPS reported that in the Upper Catchment:
 - Groundcover is maintained due to lessons learnt from successful land management practices like stock containment. They are now being used as part of annual plans regardless of the season.
 - The annual pasture establishment survey showed that people were continuing to establish improved pastures at a much higher rate than the average in the high rainfall zone.
 - Positive lessons learnt through trials as people are realising the long-term value of perennial pastures.

Management of the Wimmera's soils

Table 13: Management activities for soils carried out in the Wimmera in 2018-19.

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Wimmera CMA's Building Carbon Capacity project aimed to maximise support for farmers and link diverse partners to implement priority actions for the capture and retention of additional soil carbon in the Wimmera. This was achieved by organising various events for farmers such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field days, training workshops and on-ground trial demonstrations tailored to specific challenges identified in priority areas. • Delivered complimentary communication materials to increase understanding and adoption of techniques by farmers. • Delivered farm management surveys to strategically collect spatial and temporal data of land cover and land practices. • Soil tests conducted to capture baseline data. 	<p>Held 22 events engaging over 344 people</p> <p>Produced 4 written publications</p> <p>Completed 4 assessments</p> <p>Delivered 8 on ground trials</p> <p>Conducted 30 soil tests</p>	<p>Australian Government's National Landcare Programme</p>	<p>Ag Vic, BCG, PPS, Wimmera Farming Network, BGLC and Vic No-till</p>

Table 14: management Activities led by partner agencies in Wimmera in 2018-19.

Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
<p>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 included a group called Girls and Grass, in addition to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued to host Melbourne University annual Pasture study tour, along with an ongoing pasture demonstration projects continuing. Completed Gibberellic Acid demonstration project and submitted a report to the Meat and Livestock Australia. Commenced new weed management project. 	<p>Held 9 events engaging over 350 people</p> <p>The 10th Annual conference engaged 100 people</p> <p>Held 1 field day for Melbourne University engaging 50 students</p> <p>Published 1 report</p> <p>Developed a new reporting system for the PPS soil probe network</p>
<p>Project Platypus focused on educating about the benefits of single paddock trees; raising awareness of these trees in the landscape was achieved utilising various methods of message dissemination. A series of workshops, seminars and practical activities were undertaken.</p>	<p>Held 1 seminar and photography workshop engaging 35 people</p> <p>Held a seed collection field day engaging 10 people</p> <p>Published 4 publications including podcasts and posters</p> <p>Created insect hotels engaging 300 school students</p>
<p>Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) has a growing number of projects in the digital agriculture space mainly focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skilling farmers to tackle inter-season and in season climate variability and mitigating impacts of climate change. Encouraging the selection of crop and pasture varieties that provide good groundcover under a range of seasonal conditions and more targeted fertilizer application. Increasing the use of integrated pest management and reducing the pesticide misuse through poor application methods. 	<p>Undertook 10 soil projects in conjunction with partner agencies</p> <p>Supported BoM and CSIRO in developing 54 NRM region climate guides</p> <p>Installed 100 weather stations and 50 soil moisture probes</p> <p>Conducted 131 trials in Wimmera Mallee region</p>
<p>Agriculture Victoria (AV) delivered grains program activities for improved farmer knowledge, skills and decision-making to protect and improve soil quality, manage farm risks and support natural disaster preparation and recovery. The long-term outcome is "productive, resilient and sustainable Victorian dryland farming systems integrated with regional landscapes".</p>	<p>Held 31 events engaging with 680 people</p> <p>Completed 4 assessments</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

The table below summarises the level of participation in environment related activities.

Table 15: Community participation in CMA led projects.

Activity	Participants in 2017-18	Participants in 2018-19	Approximate participant hours 2018-19
Contributing to on-ground works (CMA sponsored activities, and partner events)	1,352	1,470	6,976
Attending skills and training events (CMA sponsored activities, Trust for Nature and Landcare)	214	195	1,015
Taking part in awareness raising activities (CMA sponsored activities and Landcare)	4,137	5,986	47,604
Working as collaborators in planning and decision making (CMA sponsored activities)	684	1,633	10,724
Being consulted to help determine appropriate action (CMA sponsored activities)	412	483	2,199
Visiting Grampians National Park (Domestic Overnight visitors only) (Source: DJPR, 2018)	915,000	980,000	NA

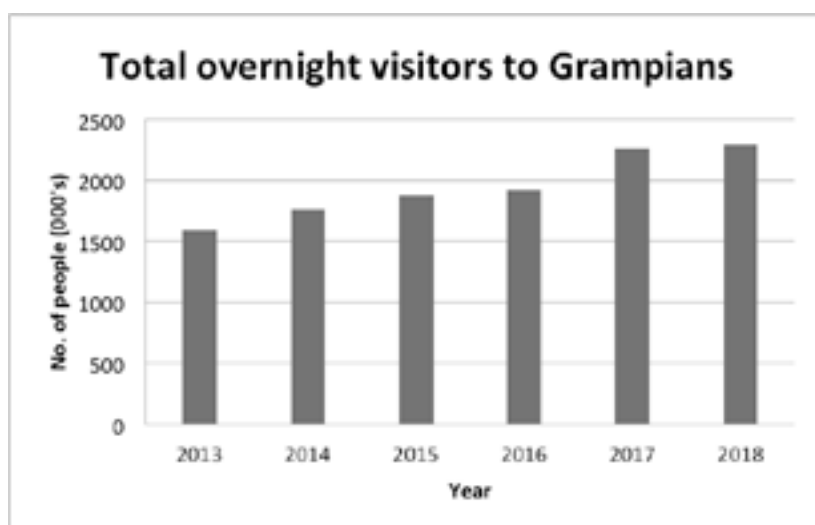


Figure 16: Total annual overnight domestic and international visitors to the Grampians (Grampians Tourism, 2019) (Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, 2018).

Community assessment 2018-19

Neutral



Community members and groups continued to make contributions in natural resource management by participating in various activities and events that aim to protect, promote and enhance the region's environmental assets. Visitor numbers to the Grampians National Park are at an all-time high as well as Wimmera CMAs social network following numbers. Anecdotal evidence shows participation numbers contributing to on-ground works have declined from the previous year due to declining regional population.

Reasons for assessment

- More local people are visiting the Grampians National Park with the figures reaching an all-time high in 2018. Overnight visitors number increased from 915,000 in 2017 to 1.1 million in 2018 (Figure 19) (Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, 2018).
- Visitor numbers have increased by 11.7% since 2017 which is a steep rise as compared to just 8.4% increase in 2017 from 2012 (Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, 2018).
- A survey of the socio-economic value of recreational and environmental water in the Wimmera and Southern Mallee found an increase of 1.5% in recreation water participation since 2016-17 primarily from people in the region (Wimmera Development Association, 2018). A total number of 77,011 participated in water recreation benefiting individuals overall mental and physical wellbeing (Wimmera Development Association, 2018).
- Total estimated regional economic contribution from the 25 selected recreational water facilities is \$30.178 million in 2017-18, a 9.47% increase from 2016-17 (Wimmera Development Association, 2018).
- 174 landholders submitted expressions of interest to participate in Wimmera CMA projects to protect and enhance waterways, wetlands, and native vegetation. This is a slight increase in comparison to 143 landholders submitting expression of interest in 2017-18.
- Wimmera CMA established 18 funding agreements with local Landcare groups, however declining rural populations have put stress on membership bases. Wimmera CMA supported 11 events that engaged more than 900 people, an increase of 220 participants in comparison to 2017-18.
- Wimmera CMA hosted 29 engagement events contributing to on-ground works, a decrease from 55 the previous year.
- The relationship between Wimmera CMA and BGLC has been continuously growing over the last several years. Similarly, there continues to be a strong relationship between the local Aboriginal community and the Aboriginal Water Officer position as it is highly valued by local Traditional Owners.
- Response from the public on social media shows an increase in the number of people following the Wimmera CMA Facebook page to 1,312 from 1,003 last year. A post on Facebook during the Chris Humfrey event garnered over 3,000 likes in a single day.
- Wimmera CMA Twitter followers increased from 240 to 346 and Instagram followers increased by 176 (Figure 20).
- Wimmera CMA's web mapping platform, Pozi, has seen a significant increase in use, with an increase of its user base from 438 to 1,504 over the past financial year. A significant contribution to this was a partnership with the Horsham Fishing Competition to deliver an interactive map to assist visitors throughout the competition (Figure 20).
- An increase in the Wimmera CMA website has reached 11,820 number of people from 11,249 last year (Figure 21).

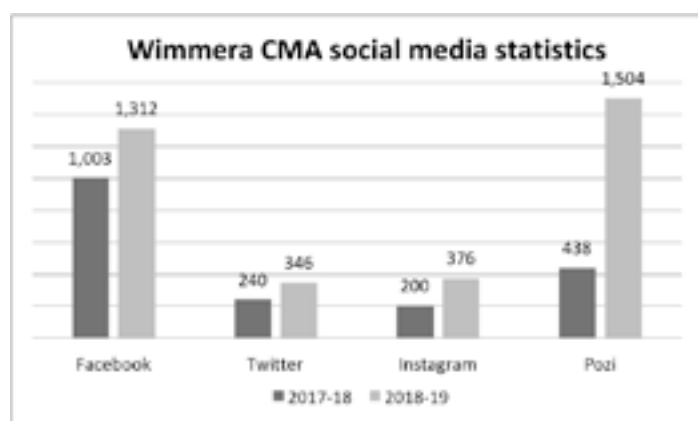


Figure 17: Social media statistics in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

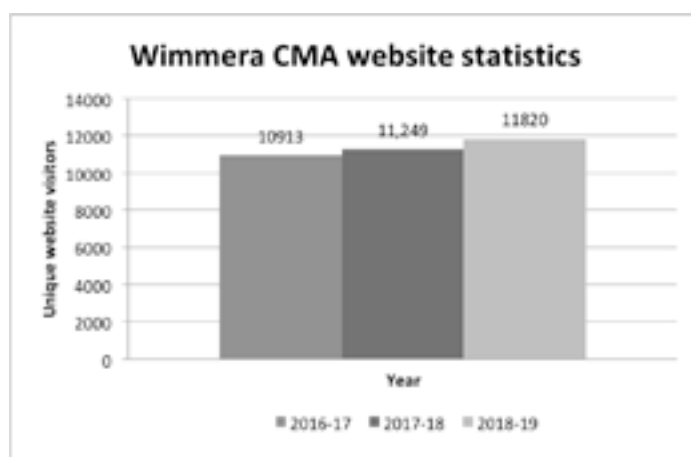


Figure 18: Wimmera CMA website statistics in 2016-17 thru 2018-19.

Management – supporting the Wimmera community

Table 16: Management activities for community carried out in the Wimmera in 2018-19.

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
Wimmera CMA along with partner organisations delivered 'Enhancing recreational access' project at Wimmera River. It created significant sustainable recreational opportunities for community by complimenting, building and improving visitor facilities to enhance the livability of Wimmera River.	<p>Installed 2 picnic shelters and 3 seating benches at Apex Island</p> <p>Installed 2 picnic tables at Pepper Tree Lane</p> <p>Installation of Dimboola rowing pontoon</p>	Victorian Government	HRCC, HSC
Victorian Government provided funding to Wimmera CMA for three years to support the implementation of leadership development opportunities for local communities and fund the following activities successfully by:	<p>Native ID training engaged 25 people</p> <p>Held partnership workshop series engaging 45 people</p> <p>Supporting seven Wimmera people involved in NRM to undertake leadership Wimmera program in partnership with Wimmera Development Association.</p> <p>Supporting participation of 95 people in a partnership workshop series with DELWP and Landcare focused on building capacity.</p>	Victorian Government	DELWP
Wimmera CMA delivered Victorian Landcare Grants project which aimed to provide a devolved grants process for the regions Landcare groups to address local environmental priorities through the delivery of on-ground works.	<p>Agreements established with 18 groups</p> <p>Revegetation across 31 ha</p> <p>Installed 3 km of fence</p> <p>Held 12 events engaging 746 people</p> <p>Conducted weed control across 1,379 ha</p> <p>Conducted rabbit control across 120 ha</p>	Victorian Government	Landcare, DELWP, Ag Vic
Wimmera CMA led River Detectives program which supports educators to explore local waterways with students.	<p>Held 8 events engaging 120 people</p> <p>Established 1 partnership</p>	North Central CMA	North Central CMA, Corangamite CMA, North East CMA, Melbourne Water, Project Platypus

Management activities led by Wimmera CMA	Achievements	Funder	Partner organisation
<p>Wimmera CMA in partnership with BGLC aimed to fund employment of the Wimmera CMA based Aboriginal Water Officer. Engagement activities supported by role include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitated increased awareness of opportunities to align environmental watering and cultural objectives through on ground works. Supported delivery of Bakang Dyakata Ba Yungui Earth Oven and Bark Canoe event. Collaborated with BGLC to deliver the recommendations of the MLDRIN led AWA report and increase Traditional Owner capacity in water management in the region, including support to secure and implement the BGLC based Water Officer position and the GWM Water Aboriginal Facilitator position. Supported delivery of the Virtual River Yarns project. Supported development of the Wimmera CMA Aboriginal Participation Plan, endorsed by Barengi Gadjin Land. 	<p>Various events engaged 347 participants including 160 Aboriginal people</p>	Victorian Government	BGLC
<p>Wimmera CMA staff provided support to Landcare and other community-based groups to build community capacity, promote and celebrate community NRM activities. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting volunteer recognition awards including Regional Landcare awards. Landcare Victorian Inc Grampians Gariwerd Forum. Supporting Hindmarsh Landcare woodland bird workshop, and Project Hindmarsh planting weekend. Engaging students at several tree day plantouts. Organising Wimmera Biodiversity Seminar. Supporting the Heartland Horsham event. Landcare facilitator training with BGLC. 	<p>Held 11 events and award programs engaging over 900 people</p> <p>Held 40 events engaging 107 Aboriginal people</p> <p>Produced 1 publication</p>	Victorian Government	Landcare groups and AV
<p>Wimmera CMA organised several events to enable broader and more effective dissemination of information regarding the management of environmental water.</p>	<p>EWR forum engaged 35 people</p> <p>Held 3 events engaging 135 people</p> <p>Engaged 30 students from Edenhope College</p> <p>Published 6 media publications</p>	Victorian Government	Landcare
<p>Two regional Landcare facilitators were based with local communities and established networks with Landcare, Agricultural groups and individual land managers throughout the Wimmera. They helped with facilitating ideas and practices such as building resilience to significant, changes in climate, on-farm biosecurity, chemicals management and innovative practices year five.</p>	<p>Held 4 forums and workshops engaging 640 people</p>	Australian Government	Ag Vic, Landcare groups
<p>A waterway engagement event was held to coincide with the Horsham Fishing Competition. Television personality Chris Humfrey conducted three short visits along the competition reach and gave a presentation on the link between river health and wildlife.</p>	<p>Attended by 700 people</p>	Victorian Government	Horsham Fishing Competition Committee

Table 17: Management activities led by partner agencies in Wimmera in 2018-19.

Management activities led by partner organisations	Achievements
<p>The BGLC Aboriginal Water Officer and Ranch Billabong project funded employment of the BGLC based Water Officer position and supported the small works at the Ranch Billabong. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Led small scale pilot watering of the Ranch Billabong through an environmental allocation from the VEWH, with support from Wimmera CMA. This was the first delivery of environmental water to this identified cultural place. • Increased BGLC capacity to work with Wimmera CMA and other partners to act on the recommendations of the MLDRIN led AWA report and increase Traditional Owner capacity in water management in the region. • Coordinated site rehabilitation and access works to restore the Ranch Billabong to meet the needs of Traditional Owners. • Supported BGLC participation in the Wimmera Terminal Lakes Environmental Water Requirements study. • BGLC played a key role in the Carbon Abatement Partnership Opportunities with Traditional Owners (CAPOTO) project with Wimmera CMA and other partners, which aimed to investigate key steps and issues for the implementation of a carbon project related to Native Food Plants in Wotjobaluk Country. 	<p>Engaged 110 people at 6 events</p> <p>Held 2 engagement events attended by 7 people</p>
<p>DELWP along with Wimmera Mallee Sustainability Alliance delivered an ongoing project to support communities in the Grampians region better understand and respond to climate change. The project aims to develop an adaptation strategy, with its initial focus on improving community awareness and understanding.</p>	<p>Held 1 forum and 1 workshop engaging 40 people</p>
<p>The Horsham Landcare Facilitator made a significant contribution to improving catchment condition and engaging the community in HRCC and surrounds by organising, supporting and assisting to deliver 15 environmental-based community engagement events involving over 672 participants. Highlights include:</p>	<p>Held 15 engagement events attended by 672 people</p> <p>Planted over 900 seedlings at plant out days with Flinders College and Laharum Primary School.</p> <p>Provided extensive support to Horsham Urban Landcare and Laharum Landcare Group and community groups.</p> <p>Installed 1.5 ha of fencing at a revegetation site in Laharum.</p>
<p>The Yarrilinks Landcare Facilitator contributed to the Wallup region through two planting days. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warracknabeal Secondary College, Warracknabeal Primary and Warracknabeal Special Development School planted 850 trees. • Community planting day at Glenwilan Homestead in Wallup planted 1000 trees. 	<p>Held 2 planting days engaging 196 people</p>

Summary of the financial results for 2018-19

Five-year financial summary ('000)

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-2015
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Government Contributions	6,942	9,482	8,179	8,490	7,740
Other Revenue	248	205	336	346	290
Total Revenue	7,190	9,687	8,515	8,836	8,030
Expenses	8,809	7,614	8,697	8,486	8,148
Net Operating Result	(1,619)	2,073	(182)	350	(118)
Net Gain/(loss) on Non-financial Assets	34	(5)	80	74	-
Comprehensive Result	(1,585)	2,068	(102)	424	(118)
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash & Deposits Held	(2,347)	1,974	304	641	(190)
Total Assets	8,081	9,397	7,584	7,579	6,992
Total Liabilities	1,160	892	1,147	1,040	877
Total Equity	6,921	8,505	6,437	6,539	6,115

Overview

Significant changes in financial position during the year

The Authority was able to successfully reduce its carry forward project funding by \$1.6M during the reporting period. The negative comprehensive result was planned and in line with the Authorities longer term plans to minimise project carry forwards to future periods where possible.

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.

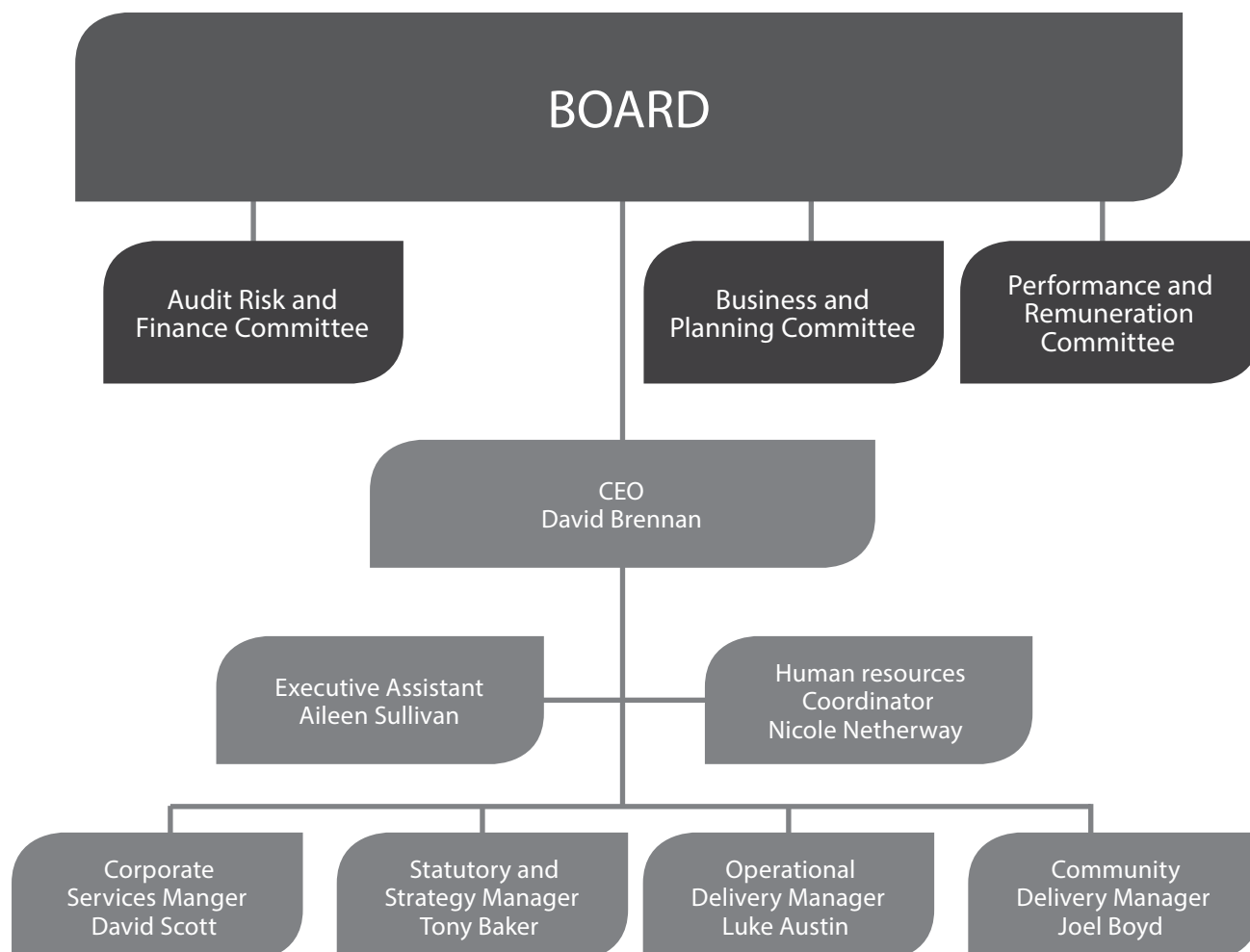
Victorian Landcare Grants 2018-2019

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

Group	Amount (\$)	Payment
Stawell Urban Landcare Group	15,225	Stawell Urban - Weeds, Wildlife, Walks and more
Hindmarsh Landcare Network	18,330	Restoring landscapes along the Big Desert to Little Desert biolink
Kaniva District Landcare Group	13,160	Ensuring a Resilient Kaniva Community: Pest and Noxious Weed Control, Revegetation and Community Health Event
Kowree Farm Tree Group	2,755	Edenhope Flora Reserve Nature Walk Trail Project
Jallukar Landcare Group	6,435	Jallukar Annual Tree Plant out
Yarrilinks	15,780	Reversing the clearing trend in the Yarriambiack Shire
Laharum Landcare Group	5,005	Laharum Landcare preservation project
Wonwondah Landcare Group	4,900	Rabbit Removal at Wonwondah
Telopea Downs Agricultural and Landcare Group	6,660	Invasive Weed Control in Telopea Downs
Moyston Landcare Group	8,038	Better environment, better tomorrow
Black Range Landcare Group	5,745	Black Range weed control project
Yanac Broughton Landcare Group	7,000	Yanac Broughton community rabbit control project
Crowlands Landcare Group	12,850	Shelter belts for habitat, paddock trees and erosion control
Project Platypus Landcare Group	5,150	Gibblings Swamp project
Landsborough Landcare Group	7,165	Old weeds and emerging weeds project
Quantong Landcare Group	5,000	Quantong community rabbit control project
Wimmera Farming Network	9,500	Stubble troubles
Concongella Landcare Group	13,000	Concongella cover crop and revegetation project
Rupanyup Landcare Group	500	maintenance grant
Wimmera River Improvement Committee	500	maintenance grant
Woorak Community and Land Management Group	500	maintenance grant
Horsham Urban Landcare Group	500	maintenance grant
Wallup Ag Group	500	maintenance grant
Friends of Albacutya	500	maintenance grant
Navarre Landcare Group	500	maintenance grant
Friends of Mali Dunes	500	maintenance grant
TOTAL	165,698	

Governance and organisational structure

Wimmera CMA organisational chart



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. David Drage and John Goldsmith, Michelle Graymore and La Vergne Lehmann continue in their appointments until 30 September 2021 and Jessica Adler, Emelia Sudholz, Amanda Cornwall and Michael Porter continue in their appointments to the Board 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





Peter Hilbig - Chair

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.



Jessica Adler Deputy Chair (Dec 2018)

Jessica Adler was appointed to the Board in October 2011, and reappointed in October 2015. Jessica Adler is an accountant holding a CPA designation and a Bachelor of Commerce with majors in accounting and finance. Undertaking the position of Deputy Chair in February 2019, Jess 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.



Emelia Sudholz Deputy Chair (Nov 2013 – Dec 2018)

Emelia Sudholz has been a member of Wimmera CMA Board since October 2011.

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 the Wimmera Southern Mallee 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.



David Drage

David Drage was appointed to the Board in October 2013 and reappointed in October 2017.

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, and reappointed in 2017. John has spent the majority of his life in the Wimmera/ Southern Mallee. John is keen, through his role with the Board, to contribute to long-term sustainability of the Wimmera region. For the past 28 years John has worked at Longerenong College and has been General

Manager for the past 10 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 over 20 years of senior management experience in Government and not-for-profit organisations in the Water, Environment, Land Use 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 sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria, conducting public hearings on controversial development proposals. 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 land in 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. Michelle is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at Federation University Australia who works

with Environmental Scientists, Natural Resource Managers and the community to enable local knowledge, community needs and values, and best available science are considered in planning, policy and 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 2018 – 30 June 2019
Jess Adler	5 of 5
David Drage	5 of 5
John Goldsmith	5 of 5
Emelia Sudholz	5 of 5
Amanda Cornwall	3 of 5
Michael Porter	4 of 5
Peter Hilbig	5 of 5
Michelle Graymore	5 of 5
La Vergne Lehmann	4 of 5
Total Meetings	5

Board appreciation of Operational processes

As part of increasing the Boards understanding and knowledge of Integrated Catchment Management and WCMA projects, two field tour/information days were undertaken.

As part of the ongoing strategic planning process, 1 Board Strategic Workshop was held during the year

Board governance committees

The Board has delegated responsibility for many functions to the Board subcommittees.

1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

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 an efficient and effective audit function.

Members of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee:

1 July 2018 – 14 December 2019	14 December – 30 June 2019
Jess Adler- Committee Chair *	Michael Porter – Committee Chair *
La Vergne Lehmann *	Amanda Cornwall *
Michael Porter *	David Drage *
Peter Hilbig – Ex Officio	La Vergne Lehmann *
Simon Coutts (<i>independent member</i>)	Peter Hilbig (<i>Ex Officio</i>)
	Simon Coutts *(<i>Independent member</i>)

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 2018 – 14 December 2018	14 December 2018 – 30 June 2019
Emelia Sudholz – Committee Chair	David Drage – Committee Chair
David Drage	Michelle Graymore
Michelle Graymore	Jessica Adler
Peter Hilbig – 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 October 2017 – 14 December 2018	14 December 2018 – 30 June 2019
Peter Hilbig - Board Chair	Peter Hilbig – Board Chair
Amanda Cornwall	Emelia Sudholz
John Goldsmith (<i>Appointed 15 December 2017</i>)	John Goldsmith

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*.

Employment

We have undertaken a complete review of our recruitment processes to ensure that it has flexibility within the guidelines to tailor recruitment campaigns to the position. We have also incorporated additional assessment tools for consideration in determining recommendations for employment decisions.

Induction

All staff are formerly inducted into the organisation. This year we updated our process and built an intranet site where staff can refer back to all policies, procedures and processes discussed at any time and be sure they are looking at the current document. As part of the induction process, all new staff are required to complete a suite of units in our online training program "Kineo" including OH&S and/or risk management, conflict of interest, outside employment, equal employment opportunity and the units required as part of the work plan.

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.

The annual work plan process which involves formal meetings between staff and their manager, has one section dedicated to professional development and career planning.

Whole-of-organisation training:

- Wimmera CMA held two whole of organisation planning days in December and June. These days have a set agenda with themes and a fully interactive program. This year's focus was around the external environment and year ahead; and then around adapting to change. The June session included a tour of the "the Ranch" at Dimboola – a Wimmera CMA facilitated project involving the first use of environmental water for cultural purposes, the Murra Wurra Wind Farm and Longerenong College.
- We have introduced an online training tool in collaboration with five other CMA's focusing on a minimum of 3 topics per annum. This year the focus is OH&S, Fraud and Human Rights Charter.

Employment support program

A professional, confidential counselling service was again 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. We have renewed our contract with Converge International (Incorporating Resolutions RTK) to continue to provide this service to Wimmera CMA.

The support provided continues to include specialist phone helplines in the areas of; Aboriginal and Torres Strait islanders; LGBTIQ, Domestic and Family Violence and Eldercare Helplines and now includes access to other online resources.

Conduct principles

Wimmera CMA had adopted the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC) standards for Code of Conduct Conflict of Interest Framework and the Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework.

The Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework was updated to reflect the draft policy in December 2018, and is in the process of being updated again to reflect the final VPSC Gifts Benefits and Hospitality Policy.

The implementation of our online learning program "Kineo" has seen the incorporation of the requirement to complete the Human Rights Charter Unit, as part of all staff's annual work plan. This is a great education tool that also tests the user throughout the unit

Policies that have been reviewed this year and communicated to staff have included Conflict of Interest, Aboriginal Engagement and Cultural Protocols and Gifts Benefits and Hospitality.

Occupational health and safety disclosure

Wimmera CMA has an internal Occupational Health and Safety OH&S Committee (OH&S) who are charged with oversight of the organisation's health, safety and wellbeing policies and procedures.

During the year, Wimmera CMA undertook an overall review of occupational health safety and wellbeing strategy including a review of our OH&S committee, designated works groups and commenced a full review of our policies and procedures.

The two main outcomes of the review included;

- A reduction in our designated work groups from 4 groups to 2; from these work groups representatives are nominated to process and manage OHS issues across the organisation.
- The development of an OH&S specific intranet site to bring all of the OH&S information into one place making it more accessible to staff.

Staff were offered the following OH&S training in 2018-19.

- Health and Safety Representative Refresher (6 staff attended)
- Trailer competency training was offered to all staff – 4 staff participating
- CPR refresher training – 9 participated

We continue to have a high number of staff trained to be able to respond to any OH&S incidents including 9 in level 2 first aid, 6 in workplace fire and emergency control procedures and 14 in fire extinguisher, hose–reel and blanket use and operation.

Wimmera CMA Performance	2018-19	2017-18
Equivalent Full time Employees (FTE)	23	22
OHS incidents/ hazards	6	5
OHS meetings	12	8
Claims under <i>Equal Opportunity Act 1995</i>	0	0
WorkCover claims	0	0
Average cost per claim	0	0
Lost time to injury (days)	0	0

Workforce data

The following table discloses the headcount and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all active employees of the Wimmera CMA employed at the last full pay period in June of the current reporting period (2019) and in the last full pay period in June of the previous reporting period (2018).

Table 1: Details of employment levels in June of 2018 and 2019

		All employees				Ongoing						Fixed term and casual			
		2019		2018		2019			2018			2019		2018	
		Number (Headcount)	FTE	Number (Headcount)	FTE	Full-time (Headcount)	Part-time (Headcount)	FTE	Full-time (Headcount)	Part-time (Headcount)	FTE	Number (Headcount)	FTE	Number (Headcount)	FTE
Demographic data	Gender														
	Male	13	9.47	13	9.27	3	7	7.47	2	8	6.87	3	2	3	2.4
	Female	14	13.6	14	13.2	10	1	10.6	8	1	8.6	3	3	5	4.6
	Age														
	15-24	1	1	1	1							1	1	1	1
	25-34	5	4.6	4	3.2	4	1	4.6	1	1	1.6			2	1.6
	35-44	10	7.78	8	5.78	3	3	4.38	2	3	3.38	4	3.4	3	2.4
	45-54	6	5.29	7	6.49	3	2	4.69	4	2	5.49	1	0.6	1	1
	55-64	5	4.4	7	6	3	2	4.4	3	3	5			1	1
	65+														
Classification data	Classification ^(vi)														
	Band 1														
	Band 2	5	4.2	5	3.8	1	1	1.6		2	1.2	3	2.6	3	2.6
	Band 3	6	5.6	7	6.6	5	1	5.6	4	1	4.6			2	2
	Band 4	4	2.6	3	1.6		2	1.2		2	1.2	2	1.4	1	0.4
	Band 5	7	5.67	7	5.47	3	4	5.67	2	4	4.47			1	1
	Managers	4	4	4	4	4		4	4		4				
	Executives ^(vii)														
	Executives	1	1	1	1							1	1	1	1
	Other ^(viii)														
	Total employees	27	23.07	27	22.47	13	8	18.07	10	9	15.47	6	5	8	7

Notes:

- (i) All figures reflect employment levels during the last full pay period in June of each year.
- (ii) Excluded are those on leave without pay or absent on secondment, external contractors/consultants, and temporary staff employed by employment agencies, and a small number of people who are not employees but appointees to a statutory office, as defined in the Public Administration Act 2004. (iii) Ongoing employees includes people engaged on an open ended contract of employment and managers engaged on a standard executive contract who were active in the last full pay period of June.
- (iv) Employees are classified as a band (Band 1 to 5) and Managers on an open ended contract under the Wimmera CMA Enterprise Agreement 2015-19.
- (v) Executives are employed on a Government Sector Entity Remuneration Package (GSERP) fixed term contract

Information and communication technology expenditure

For the 2018-19 reporting period, Wimmera CMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$368,000 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
368	58	55	3

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

Local Jobs First Act 2003

The Victorian Local Jobs First Policy applies to tenders of over \$1 million in regional Victoria. During the 2018-19 reporting period, Wimmera CMA had no tenders of this size.

Government advertising expenditure

Wimmera CMA's expenditure in the 2018-19 reporting period on government campaign expenditure did not exceed \$100 000.

Consultancies

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

In 2018-19, there were fourteen consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2018-19 in relation to these consultancies is \$496,710 excl. GST.

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

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

In 2018-19, there were twenty consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2018-19 in relation to these consultancies is \$74,384 excl. GST.

Disclosure of major contracts

Wimmera CMA has not entered into any contracts during 2018-19.

A 'major contract' is a contract entered into during the reporting period valued at \$10 million or more.

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 a disclosure about corrupt or improper conduct by a public officer or a public body.

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

What is a protected disclosure?

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

'Improper or corrupt conduct' involves substantial mismanagement of public resources, risk to public health or safety or the environment, or corruption.

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 (details below).

Wimmera CMA is **not** able to receive protected disclosures.

Wimmera CMA has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about Wimmera CMA, its board members, officers or employees. You can access Wimmera CMA's procedures on its website at: [https://wcma.vic.gov.au/docs/default-source/corporatedocs/protected-disclosure-procedure-\(ibac\).pdf](https://wcma.vic.gov.au/docs/default-source/corporatedocs/protected-disclosure-procedure-(ibac).pdf).

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: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: See the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

Freedom of information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by Wimmera CMA. The purpose of the Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by Wimmera CMA. This comprises documents both created by Wimmera CMA or supplied to Wimmera CMA by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes. Information about the type of material produced by Wimmera CMA is available on Wimmera CMA's website under its Part II Information Statement.

The Act allows Wimmera CMA to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information. Examples of documents that may not be accessed include: cabinet documents; some internal working documents; law enforcement documents; documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice; personal information about other people; and information provided to Wimmera CMA in-confidence.

From 1 September 2017, the Act has been amended to reduce the Freedom of Information (Fol) processing time for requests received from 45 to 30 days. However, when external consultation is required the processing time automatically reverts to 45 days. Processing time may also be extended by periods of 30 days, in consultation with the applicant. With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by Wimmera CMA, under section 49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

Making a request

Fol requests can be lodged online at www.foi.vic.gov.au. An application fee of **\$29.60** applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large, and the search for material, time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to Wimmera CMA's Freedom of Information officer, as detailed in s17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

When making an Fol request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, and clearly identify what types of material/documents are being sought.

Requests for documents in the possession of Wimmera CMA should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Officer

Wimmera CMA
PO Box 479
Horsham Vic 3402

Fol statistics/timeliness

During 2018-19, Wimmera CMA did not receive an application.

Further information

Further information regarding the operation and scope of Fol can be obtained from the Act; regulations made under the Act; and foi.vic.gov.au.

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 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

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 46;
- A statement on industrial relations within the Wimmera CMA, 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 45.
- 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 44;

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 in addition to solar panel installation include recycling batteries and other e-waste, fluorescent tubes, glass, cardboard and paper, as well as use of energy-efficient office lighting, composting, double-sided printing and water saving devices such as desert cubes.

Greenhouse gas, energy and waste audits were conducted during 2018-2019 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. Please note issues with a burst pipe at the CMA office building affected water consumption comparisons with the previous year.

	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Electricity consumption	2663 kWh per FTE per year	5140 kWh per FTE per year	5618 kWh per FTE per year
Estimated Greenhouse emissions associated with electricity consumption	3.13 tonnes per FTE per year	6.01 tonnes per FTE per year	7.58 tonnes per FTE per year
Water consumption	12.04 kilolitres per FTE per year	7.01 kilolitres per FTE per year	7.03 kilolitres per FTE per year
Total waste production	41.63 kg per FTE per year	36.9 kg per FTE per year	30.1 kg per FTE per year
General waste landfill	16.9 kg per FTE per year	23.26 kg per FTE per year	12.9 kg per FTE per year
Recycling rate	59.4%	37%	56.9%
Estimated Greenhouse emissions associated with waste to landfill	0.85 tonnes per FTE per year	0.95 tonnes	0.60 tonnes
Estimated Greenhouse emissions associated with CMA fleet	to be completed	5.47 tonnes per FTE per year	no data available

Wimmera CMA continues to participate in the TAKE2 Pledge program 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
July 19, 2019

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 2019 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 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 Change in accounting policies
- 8.4 Responsible persons
- 8.5 Remuneration of executive officers
- 8.6 Related parties
- 8.7 Remuneration of auditors
- 8.8 Subsequent events
- 8.9 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, cash flow statement, statement of changes in equity, and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2019 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2019.

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 30 August, 2019



Peter Hilbig
Chairperson



David Brennan
CEO and Accountable Officer



David Scott
Chief Finance Officer

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Income from transactions			
Government contributions	2.2.1	6,942,342	9,481,927
Interest	2.2.2	153,348	154,415
Other income	2.2.3	94,481	50,935
Total income from transactions		7,190,171	9,687,277
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	2,516,699	2,436,712
Depreciation	4.1.1	171,874	247,066
Program delivery expenses	3.2	5,352,581	4,223,466
Lease expenses	3.3	120,562	121,423
Other operating expenses	3.4	647,074	585,329
Total expenses from transactions		8,808,790	7,613,996
Net result from transactions		(1,618,619)	2,073,281
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (i)	4.1.3	34,210	(4,699)
Net result		(1,584,409)	2,068,582
Comprehensive result		(1,584,409)	2,068,582

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

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

BALANCE SHEET

as at 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.1	6,488,866	5,328,396
Term deposits	6.1	-	3,507,471
Receivables	5.1	1,206,194	181,008
Total financial assets		7,695,060	9,016,875
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	356,269	338,607
Other non-financial assets	5.3	29,840	41,237
Total non-financial assets		386,109	379,844
Total assets		8,081,169	9,396,719
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	439,668	228,174
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	720,720	663,355
Total liabilities		1,160,388	891,529
Net assets		6,920,781	8,505,190
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		3,485,806	5,650,408
Committed funds reserve	8.2	1,711,276	1,131,083
Contributed capital		1,723,699	1,723,699
Net worth		6,920,781	8,505,190

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Notes	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		5,832,259	9,510,537
Interest received		180,095	132,411
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (i)		263,724	472,650
Other receipts		94,481	50,935
Total receipts		6,370,559	10,166,533
Payments			
Payments to suppliers and employees		8,562,234	8,100,009
Total payments		8,562,234	8,100,009
Net cash flows (used in)/ from operating activities	6.1.1	(2,191,675)	2,066,524
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(222,613)	(131,076)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets		67,287	38,782
Proceeds/(purchases) of financial assets	6.1	3,507,471	(3,507,471)
Net cash flows from/(used in) from investing activities		3,352,145	(3,599,765)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		1,160,470	(1,533,241)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		5,328,396	6,861,637
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.1	6,488,866	5,328,396

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 2019

	Accumulated surplus	Committed funds reserve	Contributed capital	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2017	3,663,417	1,049,492	1,723,699	6,436,608
Net result for the year	2,068,582	-	-	2,068,582
Transfers (from)/to reserves (i)	(81,591)	81,591	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2018	5,650,408	1,131,083	1,723,699	8,505,190
Net result for the year	(1,584,409)	-	-	(1,584,409)
Transfers (from)/to reserves (i)	(580,193)	580,193	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2019	3,485,806	1,711,276	1,723,699	6,920,781

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(i) The net amount transferred from accumulated surplus to committed funds reserve consists of carry forward unspent project funds that have been set aside for the purpose of completion of specific projects.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2019

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. The AASB 9 simplified approach is taken to measure the expected credit losses using a lifetime expected credit loss allowance (Note 7.1).

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

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.

All accounting policies are consistent with prior year except for AASB 9. See Note 8.3.1 for initial application of change to classification and measurement of financial assets and liabilities.

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	2019 \$	2018 \$
Government contributions	2.2.1	6,942,342	9,481,927
Interest	2.2.2	153,348	154,415
Other income	2.2.3	94,481	50,935
Total income from transactions		7,190,171	9,687,277

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

2.2 Income from transactions

2.2.1 Government contributions

	2019 \$	2018 \$
State Government	5,129,936	7,677,767
Commonwealth Government	1,812,406	1,804,160
Total Government contributions	6,942,342	9,481,927

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

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Interest on bank deposits	<u>153,348</u>	<u>154,415</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

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Other income	94,481	5,795
Partnership contributions	-	45,140
Total other income	<u>94,481</u>	<u>50,935</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	2019 \$	2018 \$
Employee expenses	3.1.1	2,516,699	2,436,712
Program delivery expenses	3.2	5,352,581	4,223,466
Lease expenses	3.3	120,562	121,423
Other operating expenses	3.4	647,074	585,329
Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services		8,636,916	7,366,930

3.1.1 Employee benefit expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Salaries & wages	1,761,286	1,705,555
Annual leave	191,796	185,808
Long service leave	101,188	53,674
Other leave	159,923	174,561
Superannuation	207,048	199,899
Other	95,458	117,215
Total employee benefit expenses	2,516,699	2,436,712

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 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.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	142,607	148,918
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	35,064	36,475
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	60,118	70,198
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	383,613	296,984
	<u>621,402</u>	<u>552,575</u>
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	23,968	25,873
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	50,048	39,783
Total current provisions	<u>695,418</u>	<u>618,231</u>
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Long service leave:		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	22,597	40,306
Provisions for on-costs		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	2,705	4,818
Total non-current provisions	<u>25,302</u>	<u>45,124</u>
Total provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	<u>720,720</u>	<u>663,355</u>
	2019 \$	2018 \$
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision		
Opening balance	663,355	626,889
Additional provisions recognised	57,365	36,466
Closing balance	<u>720,720</u>	<u>663,355</u>
Current	695,418	618,231
Non-current	25,302	45,124
	<u>720,720</u>	<u>663,355</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 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. Annual leave expected to be taken within the next 12 months is measured at the undiscounted amount while annual leave expected to be settled after 12 months is measured at present value.

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 would 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:

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Contribution plans:		
Vision super	57,960	84,186
Other private schemes	149,088	115,713
	<u>207,048</u>	<u>199,899</u>

There was \$0 in contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2019 (2018: \$0).

3.2 Program delivery expenses

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Materials	359,792	137,458
Repairs and maintenance	45,663	33,900
Grants paid	1,777,218	1,424,366
Contractors	2,598,815	2,009,904
Consultants	571,093	617,838
Total program delivery expenses	5,352,581	4,223,466

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

3.3 Lease expenses

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Operating lease expenses	120,562	121,423
Total lease expenses	120,562	121,423

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

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Promotions and marketing	158,104	120,386
Business and project administration	367,587	370,332
Travel and vehicle expenses	70,672	62,752
Audit and bank fees	50,711	31,859
	647,074	585,329

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.

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 Property, plant and equipment

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Leasehold improvements at fair value	805,725	722,745	(727,655)	(650,470)	78,070	72,275
Plant and equipment at fair value	207,951	207,951	(198,170)	(185,209)	9,781	22,742
Motor vehicles at fair value	410,044	407,465	(141,626)	(163,875)	268,418	243,590
Net carrying amount	1,423,720	1,338,161	(1,067,451)	(999,554)	356,269	338,607

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.

The cost of leasehold improvements are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the remaining term of the lease of their estimated useful lives.

Subsequent measurement:

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

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

4.1.1 Depreciation and impairment

	2019	2018
Charge for the period	\$	\$
Leasehold improvements	77,184	72,274
Plant and equipment	12,961	93,462
Motor vehicles	81,729	81,330
Total depreciation	171,874	247,066

All buildings, plant and equipment and other 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
	\$	\$	\$	\$
2019				
Opening balance	72,275	22,742	243,590	338,607
Additions	82,979	-	139,634	222,613
Disposals	-	-	(33,077)	(33,077)
Depreciation	(77,184)	(12,961)	(81,729)	(171,874)
Closing balance	78,070	9,781	268,418	356,269
2018				
Opening balance	144,549	62,939	290,590	498,078
Additions	-	53,265	77,811	131,076
Disposals	-	-	(43,481)	(43,481)
Depreciation	(72,274)	(93,462)	(81,330)	(247,066)
Closing balance	72,275	22,742	243,590	338,607

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.

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	67,287	38,782
Less written down value	(33,077)	(43,481)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	34,210	(4,699)

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	2019	2018
Contractual	\$	\$
Trade receivables	1,115,857	5,774
Accrued revenue	-	26,747
	<u>1,115,857</u>	<u>32,521</u>
Statutory		
GST input tax credits recoverable	90,337	148,487
Total current receivables	<u>1,206,194</u>	<u>181,008</u>

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as financial assets 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 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.

Details about the Authority's impairment policies, the Authority's exposure to credit risk, and the calculations of the loss allowance are set out in note 7.1.

5.2 Payables

	2019	2018
Current Payables		
Contractual	\$	\$
Trade payables	276,136	66,988
Accrued expenses	113,159	114,997
	<u>389,295</u>	<u>181,985</u>
Statutory		
FBT payable	10,381	9,968
Group tax	39,992	36,221
	<u>50,373</u>	<u>46,189</u>
Total current payables	<u>439,668</u>	<u>228,174</u>

Contractual payables are classified as financial instruments and 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.

5.3 Other non-financial assets

	2019	2018
Current other non-financial assets		
	\$	\$
Prepayments	29,840	41,237
Total current other non-financial assets	<u>29,840</u>	<u>41,237</u>

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 provides 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.

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash on hand	500	500
Cash at bank	6,488,366	613,282
Term deposits (less than 3 months)	-	4,714,614
Balance as per cash flow statement	6,488,866	5,328,396
Term deposits (greater than 3 months) disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Term deposits (greater than 3 months)	-	3,507,471
	-	3,507,471

6.1.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Net result for the period	(1,584,409)	2,068,582
Non-cash movements:		
(Gain)/loss on disposal of non-current assets	(34,210)	4,699
Depreciation and amortisation of non-current assets	171,874	247,066
	137,664	251,765
Movements in assets and liabilities:		
Increase in receivables	(1,025,186)	(43)
Decrease in other non-financial assets	11,397	2,081
Increase/(decrease) in payables	211,494	(292,327)
Increase in employee related provisions	57,365	36,466
Net cash flows from operating activities	(2,191,675)	2,066,524

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 inclusive 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

	2019	2018
	\$	\$
Operating lease commitments payable		
Less than 1 year	132,670	81,948
1 to 5 years	409,948	42,807
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	542,618	124,755
Less GST recoverable	(49,328)	(11,341)
Total commitments (exclusive of GST)	493,290	113,414

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 2019 the Authority had Nil in finance lease commitments (2018: \$Nil).

As at 30 June 2019 the Authority had Nil in capital expenditure commitments (2018: \$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 or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract, and as such, do not meet the definition of financial instruments.

From 1 July 2018, the Authority applies AASB 9 and classifies all of its financial assets based on the business model for managing the assets and the asset's contractual terms.

Categories of financial assets under AASB 9

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- * the assets are held by the Authority to collect the contractual cash flows; and
- * the assets contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interests.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The Authority recognised the following assets in this category:

- * cash and deposits;
- * receivables (excluding statutory receivables); and
- * term deposits.

Categories of financial assets previously under AASB 139

Loans and receivables and cash are financial instrument assets with fixed and determinable payments that are not quoted on an active market. These assets and liabilities are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement, loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method (and for assets, less any impairment).

Categories of financial assets previously under AASB 139 (cont.)

The Authority recognises the following assets in this category:

- * cash and deposits;
- * receivables (excluding statutory receivables); and
- * term deposits.

Categories of financial liabilities under AASB 9 and previously under AASB 139

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 asset is derecognised when:

- * the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- * the Authority retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass through' arrangement; or
- * the Authority has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
 - has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset; or
 - has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

A financial liability is derecognised when:

- * the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Financial instruments: Impairment of financial assets

From 1 July 2018, the Authority has been recording the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments, replacing AASB 139's incurred loss approach with AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment include the Authority's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The Authority applies AASB 9 simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure the expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance base on the assumptions about the risk of default and the the expected loss rates. The Authority has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due, and select the credit loss rate based on the Authority's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward-looking estimates at the end of the financial year.

On this basis, the Authority determines the opening loss allowance on initial application date of AASB 9 and the closing loss allowance at the end of the financial year.

There was no loss allowance recognised at 30 June 2018 for contractual receivables, under AASB 139, and no additional loss allowance was required upon transaction into AASB 9 on 1 July 2018. The Authority had no loss allowance at the end of the financial year.

Statutory receivables at amortised cost

The Authority's non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements are not financial instruments. However, they are nevertheless recognised and measured in accordance with AASB 9 requirements as if those receivables are financial instruments.

Statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As a result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months expected losses. There was no loss allowance recognised at 30 June 2018, under AASB 139, and no additional loss allowance was required upon transaction into AASB 9 on 1 July 2018.

7.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	Contractual financial assets at amortised cost	Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost	Total
	\$	\$	\$
2019			
Contractual financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6,488,866	-	6,488,866
<i>Receivables: (i)</i>			
Trade receivables	1,115,857	-	1,115,857
Total contractual financial assets	7,604,723	-	7,604,723
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	276,136	276,136
Accrued expenses	-	113,159	113,159
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	389,295	389,295
	Contractual financial assets - loans and receivables	Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost	Total
	\$	\$	\$
2018			
Contractual financial assets			
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
Total contractual financial assets	8,868,388	-	8,868,388
Contractual financial liabilities			
<i>Payables: (i)</i>			
Trade payables	-	66,988	66,988
Accrued expenses	-	114,997	114,997
Total contractual financial liabilities	-	181,985	181,985

(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 Central Banking System (Westpac) and National Australia Bank.

Ageing analysis of contractual receivables

	Gross carrying amount	Not past due and not impaired	Past due but not impaired - Less than 1 month
2019			
Receivables:			
Trade receivables	1,115,857	1,115,857	-
Total	1,115,857	1,115,857	-
2018			
Receivables:			
Trade receivables	5,774	5,774	-
Accrued revenue	26,747	26,747	-
Total	32,521	32,521	-

Trade and other receivables are due for settlement 30 days from the end of the month that they were invoiced. There are not material financial assets that are individually determined to be impaired.

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.

Maturity analysis of contractual payables

	Carrying amount	Maturity date		
		Less than 1	1-3 months	3-6 months
	\$	\$	\$	\$
2019				
Payables:				
Trade payables	276,136	276,136	-	-
Accrued expenses	113,159	113,159	-	-
Total	389,295	389,295	-	-

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

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

Financial instruments: Market risk

The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with significant surplus funds held in deposits at call in the Central Banking System. 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
			\$	\$	\$
2019					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	1.78	6,488,866	-	6,488,366	500
Contractual receivables	-	1,115,857	-	-	1,115,857
Total financial assets		7,604,723	-	6,488,366	1,116,357
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	389,295	-	-	389,295
Total financial liabilities		389,295	-	-	389,295
2018					
Financial assets					
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
Total financial assets		8,868,388	8,248,832	613,282	6,274
Financial liabilities					
Contractual payables	-	181,985	-	-	181,985
Total financial liabilities		181,985	-	-	181,985

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
		\$	\$	\$	\$
2019					
Cash and deposits (i)	6,488,366	(64,884)	(64,884)	64,884	64,884
2018					
Cash and deposits (i)	613,282	(6,133)	(6,133)	6,133	6,133

(i) Cash and deposits includes \$6,488,366 (2018: \$613,282) that is exposed to floating rates movements. Sensitivities to these movements are calculated as follows:

- 2019: \$6,488,366 x -0.010 = -\$64,884; and \$6,488,366 x 0.010 = \$64,884
- 2018: \$613,282 x -0.010 = -\$6,133; and \$613,282 x 0.010 = \$6,133.

7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets

As at 30 June 2019, the Authority has no known contingent assets.

Contingent liabilities

As at 30 June 2019, 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 is 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 2018-19 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets

Cash and deposits

Other financial assets

Term deposits > 3 months

Financial liabilities

Payables:

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses

Receivables:

- Trade receivables
- Accrued revenue

7.3.2 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Fair value measurement hierarchy

	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2019 \$	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 (i) \$	Level 2 (i) \$	Level 3 (i) \$
2019				
Leasehold improvement at fair value				
Leasehold improvement	78,070	-	-	78,070
Total leasehold improvement at fair value	78,070	-	-	78,070
Plant and equipment at fair value				
Plant and equipment	9,781	-	-	9,781
Total plant and equipment at fair value	9,781	-	-	9,781
Motor vehicles at fair value				
Motor vehicles	268,418	-	-	268,418
Total motor vehicles at fair value	268,418	-	-	268,418
	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) \$
2018				
Leasehold improvement at fair value				
Leasehold improvement	72,275	-	-	72,275
Total leasehold improvement at fair value	72,275	-	-	72,275
Plant and equipment at fair value				
Plant and equipment	22,742	-	-	22,742
Total plant and equipment at fair value	22,742	-	-	22,742
Motor vehicles at fair value				
Motor vehicles	243,590	-	-	243,590
Total motor vehicles at fair value	243,590	-	-	243,590

Note:

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

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

The fair value of the financial assets and liabilities is included at the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair value.

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.

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 current replacement cost method. 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 current 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.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2019.

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
2019	\$	\$	\$
Opening balance	72,275	22,742	243,590
Purchases/(sales)	82,979	-	106,557
Depreciation	(77,184)	(12,961)	(81,729)
Closing balance	78,070	9,781	268,418
2018			
Opening balance	144,549	62,939	290,590
Purchases/(sales)	-	53,265	34,330
Depreciation	(72,274)	(93,462)	(81,330)
Closing balance	72,275	22,742	243,590

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Leasehold improvements	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of leasehold equipment
Plant and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Motor vehicles	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of motor vehicles

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2018.

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
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8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

Ex-gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write-off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

The Authority had no ex-gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2019 (2018: \$0).

8.2 Reserves

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Committed funds reserve: (i)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	1,131,083	1,049,492
Net transfers from accumulated funds	580,193	81,591
Balance at end of financial year	1,711,276	1,131,083
Total Reserves	1,711,276	1,131,083

(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 Change in accounting policies

The Authority has elected to apply the limited exemption in AASB 9 relating to transition for classification and measurement and impairment, and accordingly has not restated comparative periods in the year of initial application. As a result:

- * any adjustments to carrying amounts of financial assets or liabilities are recognised at beginning of the current reporting period with difference recognised in opening retained earnings; and
- * financial assets and provision for impairment have not been reclassified and/or restated in the comparative periods.

8.3.1 Changes to classification and measurement

On initial application of AASB 9 on 1 July 2018, the Authority has assessed all financial assets based on the Authority's business models for managing the assets. The following are the changes in the classification of the Authority's financial assets:

- * Term deposits previously classified as held to maturity under AASB 139 are now reclassified as financial assets at amortised cost under AASB 9. There was no difference between the previous carrying amount and the revised carrying amount at 1 July 2018 to be recognised in opening retained earnings.
- * Contractual receivables previously classified as other loans and receivables under AASB 139 are now reclassified as financial assets at amortised cost under AASB 9. There was no loss allowance for these assets.

The accounting for financial liabilities remains largely the same as it was under AASB 139, except for the treatment of gains or losses arising from the Authority's own credit risk relating to liabilities designated at fair value through net result. Such movements are presented in other comprehensive income with no subsequent recycle through profit or loss.

8.3.2 Changes to impairment of financial assets

Under AASB 9, all loans and receivables not carried at fair value through net result are subject to AASB 9's new expected credit loss (ECL) impairment model, which replaces AASB 139's incurred loss approach.

8.4 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 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio	Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Peter Hilbig	(Chair)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Emelia Sudholz	(Board Member & Deputy Chair)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
David Brennan	(CEO)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Jessica Alder	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
David Drage	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
John Goldsmith	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Amanda Cornwall	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Michael Porter	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Michelle Graymore	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019
Lavergne Lehmann	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2018 to 30 Jun 2019

Remuneration

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

Income band	2019	2018
\$0–\$9,999	1	3
\$10,000–\$19,999	7	8
\$20,000–\$29,999	1	-
\$40,000–\$49,999	-	-
\$200,000–\$209,999	-	1
\$210,000–\$219,999	1	-
Total number of Responsible persons	10	12
Total Remuneration \$	336,154	326,549

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.

8.5 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 Authority, or on behalf of the Authority, 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.

8.5 Remuneration of executive officers (cont.)

Remuneration	2019 \$	2018 \$
Short-term employee benefits	481,425	465,269
Post-employment benefits	58,932	57,507
Other long-term benefits	13,796	14,299
Total remuneration (i)	554,153	537,075
Total number of executives	4	4
Total annualised employee equivalents (ii)	4	4

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 8.6)

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

8.6 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	2019 \$	2018 \$	Nature
Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	5,037,032	9,283,452	SLA Project Funding
Emergency Management Victoria	22,436	113,690	Flood Investigations Funding
North Central Catchment Management Authority	15,000	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	36,364	12,465	Waterway Action Plan
Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority	15,000	40,000	Our Catchments our Comm
Parks Victoria	-	10,000	Wetland Hydrology Invest
Trust for Nature	-	4,545	Biodiversity Seminar
Trust for Nature	2,604	-	Workstation Costs
Treasury Corporation Victoria	51,065	87,461	Interest
Zoos Victoria	1,500	-	Biodiversity Seminar

Significant transactions with government-related entities (cont.)

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

Entity	2019 \$	2018 \$	Nature
Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	44,063	77,834	On Ground Works
Victoria Auditor Generals Office	23,100	18,200	Audit Fee
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	13,000	19,500	Vic Catchment Contribution
Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority	74,658	-	IT Support & Finance system
Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority	-	444	NLP Tender Legal Advice
Parks Victoria	141,453	195,500	On Ground Works
Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority	25,000	25,000	OCOC Contribution
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	7,500	160,000	On Ground Works
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	58,556	53,161	IT Support
Dept of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	30,000	72,075	On Ground Works
Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority	470,020	150,000	Habitat Tender
Melbourne Water	-	483	Integrated Water Conference

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

	2019 \$	2018 \$	
Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	12,000		- Mackenzie Funding
Trust for Nature	2,864		- Workstation Costs
Emergency Management Victoria	24,679		- Flood Investigation Funding

Key management personnel of the Authority includes all Responsible persons as listed in Note 8.4.

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

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Short-term employee benefits	297,321	291,009
Post-employment benefits	33,472	30,014
Other long-term benefits	5,361	5,526
Total	336,154	326,549

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

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	23,100	18,200
Total remuneration of auditors	23,100	18,200

8.8 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.

8.9 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 2019 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 2018-19 reporting period.

Standard / Interpretation	Summary	Applicable for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Impact on financial statements
<i>AASB 2016-7 Amendments to Australia Accounting Standards - Deferral of AASB 15 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.
<i>AASB 2016-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities</i>	This Standard amends AASB 9 and AASB 15 to include requirements and implementation guidance to assist not-for-profit entities in applying the respective standards to particular transactions and events. The amendments: * require non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements (i.e. taxes, rates and fines) to be initially measured and recognised in accordance with AASB 9 as if those receivables are financial instruments; and *clarifies circumstances when a contract with a customer is within the scope of AASB 15.	1-Jan-19	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact for the public sector, other than the impacts identified for AASB 9 and AASB 15.
<i>AASB 15 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-Jan-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 assessment has not identified any material impact arising from AASB 15.

8.9 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 1058-Income of Not for Profit Entities	This standard will replace AASB 1004 <i>Contributions</i> and establishes principles for transactions that are not within the scope of AASB 15, where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value to enable not-for-profit entities to further their 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.
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 Authority has performed a detailed impact assessment of AASB 16 and the potential impact in the initial year of application has been estimated as follows: * increase in RoU (\$890,318) * increase in related depreciation (\$97,424) * increase in lease liability (\$890,318) * increase in related interest (\$16,917) calculated using effective interest method, and * decrease in rental expense (\$114,341)
<i>AASB Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors</i>	The standard addresses the accounting for a service concession arrangement by a grantor that is a public sector entity by prescribing the accounting for the arrangement from the grantor's perspective.	1-Jan-20	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
AASB 2018-5 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Deferral of AASB 1059	This standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 1059 from 1 January 2019 to 1 January 2020.	1-Jan-19	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.

8.9 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
<i>AASB 2018-8 Amendments to Accounting Standards - Right of use asset</i>	This standard amends the various AASB standards to provide an option for not-for-profit entities to not apply the fair value initial measurement requirements to a class or classes of right of use assets arising under leases with significantly below-market terms and conditions.	1-Jan-19	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact on the Authority's financial statements.
<i>AASB 17 Insurance Contracts</i>	The new Australian standard eliminates inconsistencies and weaknesses in existing practices by providing a single principle based framework to account for all types of insurance contracts, including reinsurance contract that an insurer holds. It also provides requirements for presentation and disclosure to enhance comparability between entities. This standard does not apply to the not-for-profit sector entities. The AASB is undertaking further outreach to consider the application of this standard to the not-for-profit public sector.	1-Jan-21	The assessment has indicated that there will be no significant impact for the public sector.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority

Opinion	<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"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2019 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2019 and its 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>
Basis for Opinion	<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>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<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.

MELBOURNE
30 August 2019



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

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