



# Wimmera **Regional** Delivery Plan

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

# 2013- 2018



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Please note the proposed projects outlined in the plan are subject to change.

Pictures supplied by Christine Bull & David Fletcher.

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## Welcome to the Wimmera's Regional Delivery Plan

The Wimmera Regional Delivery Plan outlines projects that will be delivered and supported by the Wimmera CMA from 2013-2018.

The plan outlines projects grouped by:

- Local Government area
- Natural asset category
- Catchment-wide statutory and planning projects

The Regional Delivery Plan aligns and integrates with the Wimmera's Regional Catchment Strategy 2013-2018 and strategic documents that influence natural resource management (NRM) activities in the region.

The aim of the Wimmera Regional Delivery Plan is to provide the community, land managers and stakeholders a readily available place to quickly and easily identify projects relevant to their properties and local area.

Wimmera CMA acknowledges the Federal Governments five year funding agreements and Victorian State Governments investment that allows for the development and implementation of this plan.

For further information on the plan or projects listed please contact Wimmera CMA on (03) 5382 1544



# West Wimmera Projects



## Native Vegetation

- Habitat Tender
- Threatened Communities Tender – Grey Box Grassy Woodlands
- Threatened Communities Tender – Murray Valley Grasslands
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Rivers & Streams

- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Soils

- Increasing soil carbon stocks on lighter soils of the northern Wimmera
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support
- Farmer-driven trials to build community capacity
- Land stewardship incentives – Salt Bush
- Wimmera Cropland Transect
- Strengthening grassroots farmer networks
- Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts
- Landholder and community workshops



## Threatened Animals

- Threatened Species Delivery
  - Red-tailed Black Cockatoo
  - Mallee Fowl
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



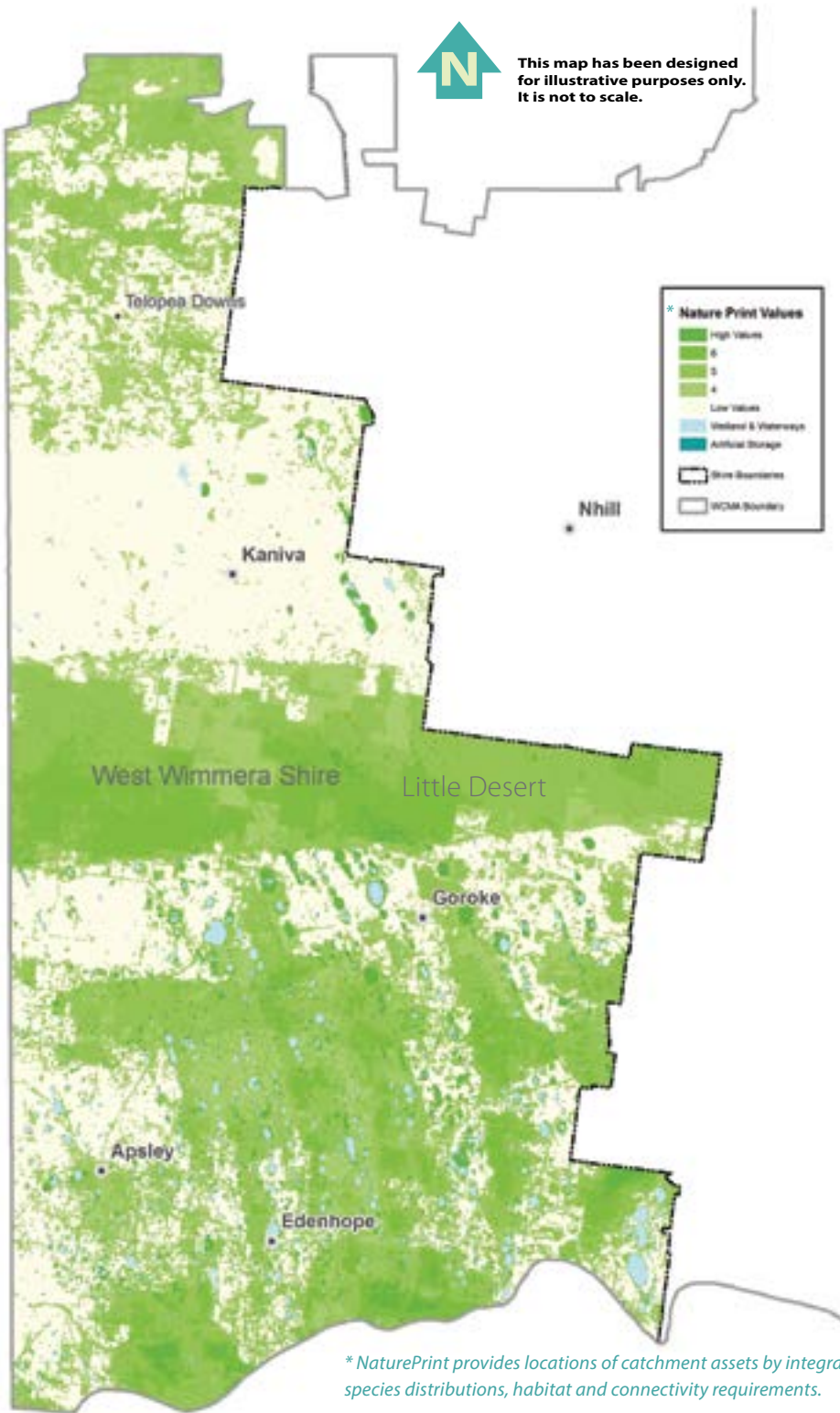
## Threatened Plants

- Threatened Species Delivery
  - Orchids
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Wetlands

- Thriving Community Wetlands – Wetland Protection Conservation Incentives
- Whole Farm Planning
- Threatened Communities Tender – Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands
- Landcare Support
- Victorian Landcare Grants



Loch Ness swamp, Patyah



*The West Wimmera is unique due to the myriad of seasonal wetlands in its landscape.*

### Victorian Landcare Grants (2013-2018)

The Victorian Landcare Program provides opportunities for groups to access funding to support works and capacity-building through regionally-devolved grants.

Funding allocations and principles for this project are confirmed annually and implemented by Wimmera CMA.

### Landcare Support (2013-2018)

The Victorian Landcare Program provides support for 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators based at Catchment Management Authorities across Victoria plus Aboriginal and Corporate Landcare Facilitators.

These positions provide a key link between local communities and DEPI.

### Thriving Community Wetlands (2013-2016)

The objective of the Thriving Community Wetlands project is to protect, enhance and restore wetlands that are highly valued by the community.

Wetland protection conservation incentives provide financial and technical support to landholders enabling them to undertake fencing, grazing management, revegetation and control of pest plant and animals to protect and enhance their wetlands.

**Project Partners: Local Councils**

### Whole Farm Planning (2013-2018)

Wimmera CMA will support DEPI to provide detailed group farm planning courses to farmers across the Wimmera.

This training is designed to help local farmers position themselves to adapt to a changing operating environment and achieve profitable, sustainable farming businesses.

Government and industry experts discuss specific management issues with the farm planning group and assist farmers to develop their farm plan.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare, industry partners**

### Threatened Communities Tender (2013-2018)

The objectives of the project are to formally protect and enhance 1195 ha or 14% of the identified 17065ha of nationally significant ecological communities that occur on private land.

The project will be delivered as four tender rounds targeting the four nationally threatened Ecological Communities (ECs): Buloke Woodlands, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands, Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plain, and Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains.

Tenders provide financial and technical support enabling landholders to undertake fencing, grazing management, regeneration and control of pest plant and animals to protect and enhance remnant vegetation improving habitat value.

**Project Partners: DEPI**

### Victorian Environmental Partnership Program (VEPP) Habitat Tender (2014-2015)

The VEPP Habitat Tender project focuses on the protection, restoration and management of native vegetation and threatened species.

The project will target high priority vegetation and work with landholders to improve the quality and extent providing a key link between the south west forests and the Mallee Country.

The tender provides financial and technical support for landholders to undertake fencing, grazing management, regeneration and control of pest plant and animals.

**Project Partners: Glenelg Hopkins CMA, DEPI**

Continued



# West Wimmera Projects

## *Threatened Species Delivery (2013-2018)*

The threatened species project will work with a range of partners and community groups to improve management and protection of populations of 28 listed flora and fauna species.

On ground activities occur within zones 2 and 3 of Habitat 141, which is one of six priority areas for conserving, restoring and connecting habitats for plants and wildlife on a landscape scale identified in the National Wildlife Corridor Plan 2012.

Recovery teams and specialist not-for-profit organisations will lead coordinated conservation management actions with public and private land managers to deliver against individual species recovery plans.

Targeted extension activities will complement on ground works to build capacity, primarily for land managers and secondarily for the wider community, and achieve practice change that maximises protection outcomes for the species populations and investment.

Project Partners: DEPI, ANPC, Birdlife, TFN, PV

Increasing soil carbon stocks on lighter soils of the northern Wimmera (2013-2017)

This project is trialling and demonstrating practices, including the use of organic amendments and claying modifications, to increase soil carbon sequestration on grazing/cropping properties at Propodollah and Telopea Downs.

**Project partners: DEPI, Top Crop and Landcare groups**

## *Farmer-driven trials to Build Community Capacity (2013-2018)*

Farmer groups will be supported to improve and promote understanding of local soil health and links to increased productivity and the provision of ecosystem services through on farm trials.

Farmers will design, lead activities and benchmark trial outcomes that focused on better soil biology, better nutrient matching and management of soil structure.

Trials will also be supported to demonstrate the use of new technology on farm for productivity and environmental outcomes.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Land stewardship incentives (saltbush) (2013-2018)*

Landholders will be supported to demonstrate the planting and management of indigenous fodder species to achieve productive and environmental outcomes.

Incentives are available to fence and revegetate with indigenous fodder species to improve groundcover.

Alternative fodder shrub species can help fill the autumn feed gap, better use marginal land and create a feed reserve during extreme dry conditions, while also reducing groundwater recharge and the risk of erosion.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Wimmera Cropland Management Transect (2013-2018)*

The cropland management transect survey will support local efforts by farmers, industry professionals and researchers to identify trends in farm management practices and regionally specific information on stubble retention rates, burning and soil conservation practices.

The transect will be undertaken in autumn and spring across several CMA regions based on the Wimmera model.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Grassroots farmer networks Support (2013-2018)*

Key groups driving practice change locally will be supported to build effective, strategic partnerships, including Vic No Till Farmers Association, Perennial Pasture Systems and the Wimmera Farming Network, to increase the capacity of these networks to support local farmers to deal with emerging threats and opportunities in sustainable production and resource management.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts (2013-2018)*

Farmer-driven planning will be supported to promote integrated industry actions to reduce the impact and spread of key invasive species including African Love Grass, Fleabane, white snails and rabbits.

With modern farming favouring minimum soil disturbance, for example, Fleabane is becoming one of the Wimmera's worst weeds.

This strategic planning activity does not fund on-ground weed works.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Landholder and community workshops (2013-2018)*

Local level groups will be supported to deliver events to increase knowledge and skills and influence practice change including soil pit discussions, crop walks, and machinery and livestock presentations.

The purpose will be to locally demonstrate the relative advantage of technologies and practices to improve natural resource management and productivity.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**



# Hindmarsh Projects



## Native Vegetation

- Threatened Communities Tender – Grey Box Grassy Woodlands
- Threatened Communities Tender – Murray Valley Grasslands
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support
- Threatened Communities Tender – Buloke



## Rivers & Streams

- Thriving Community Rivers – Saline Pools
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support
- Thriving Community Rivers – Monitoring
- Thriving Community Rivers – Carp Investigation



## Soils

- Cropping with compost for increasing carbon stored in soil
- Whole Farm Planning
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support
- Farmer-driven trials to build community capacity
- Land stewardship incentives – Salt Bush
- Wimmera Cropland Transect
- Strengthening grassroots farmer networks
- Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts
- Landholder and community workshops
- Farmer-driven trials to build community capacity



## Threatened Animals

- Threatened Species Delivery, Golden Sun Moth, Mallee Fowl
- Victorian Landcare Grants



## Threatened Plants

- Threatened Species Delivery, Orchids, Winged Peppergrass
- Victorian Landcare Grants



## Wetlands

- Protecting Lake Albacutya Ramsar site values
- Threatened Communities Tender – Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



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\* NaturePrint provides locations of catchment assets by integrating a range of complex information, including data on threats, species distributions, habitat and connectivity requirements.



Dimboola locals enjoying a full Wimmera River



**Maintaining** water quality in the lower Wimmera River is vital for the ongoing prosperity of the community and its environment.

## Thriving Community Rivers (2013-2016)

Objectives of the Thriving Community Rivers project are to: Protect, enhance and restore river reaches that are highly valued to the community and consolidate benefits gained from environmental flows in the Wimmera River System.

The project will achieve this by undertaking the following activities;

## Improving water quality in the Lower Wimmera River through salt removal: Saline Pools

Investigate, develop and implement a strategy to reduce the salinity concentration in deep pools in the lower Wimmera River to improve water quality, habitat biodiversity

The activity aims to reduce the risk of deoxygenated saline water being flushed and contaminating downstream.

## Monitoring and assessing the condition of waterways to inform decision making.

Monitoring changes in river values brought about by environmental water management and restoration activities will be documented to inform future decision making and assess the effectiveness of waterway management activities.

## Carp Investigation

Objectives of the investigation are to identify carp breeding hotspots to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of direct carp control measures (traps, electrofishing,

manipulating water levels). This will be achieved by installing tags in a number of carp that will send signals to data loggers as they move up and downstream in response to stimuli such as changes in flow and water temperature.

The data from these loggers will be analysed to determine carp movement patterns to pinpoint where carp control works will be most effective.

## Victorian Landcare Grants (2013-2018)

The Victorian Landcare Program provides opportunities for groups to access funding to support works and capacity-building through regionally-devolved grants.

Funding allocations and principles for this project are confirmed annually and implemented by Wimmera CMA.

## Landcare Support (2013-2018)

The Victorian Landcare Program provides support for 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators based at Catchment Management Authorities across Victoria plus Aboriginal and Corporate Landcare Facilitators.

These positions provide a key link between local communities and DEPI.

## Protecting Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site Values (2013-2018)

Delivered in partnership with Parks Victoria and Barengi Gadjin Land Council the project supports local community efforts to sustain and enhance the ecological character of the Lake Albacutya Ramsar Site by maintaining and improving recruitment and regeneration opportunities of the Pine-Buloke vegetation communities.

**Project Partners: Parks Victoria, BGLC, Rainbow Landcare Group**

## Whole Farm Planning (2013-2018)

Wimmera CMA will support DEPI to provide detailed group farm planning courses to farmers across the Wimmera.

This training is designed to help local farmers position themselves to adapt to a changing operating environment and achieve profitable, sustainable farming businesses.

Government and industry experts discuss specific management issues with the farm planning group and assist farmers to develop their farm plan.

The farm plan includes a detailed action plan using the latest aerial imagery and computer mapping programs.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare, industry partners**

Continued



## Threatened Communities Tender (2013-2018)

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The project will be delivered as four tender rounds targeting the four nationally threatened Ecological Communities (ECs): Buloke Woodlands, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands, Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plain, and Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains.

Tenders provide financial and technical support enabling landholders to undertake fencing, grazing management, regeneration and control of pest plant and animals to protect and enhance remnant vegetation improving habitat value.

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The threatened species project will work with a range of partners and community groups to improve management and protection of populations of 28 listed flora and fauna species.

On ground activities occur within zones 2 and 3 of Habitat 141, which is one of six priority areas for conserving, restoring and connecting habitats for plants and wildlife on a landscape scale identified in the National Wildlife Corridor Plan 2012.

Recovery teams and specialist not-for-profit organisations will lead coordinated conservation management actions with public and private land managers to deliver against individual species recovery plans.

Targeted extension activities will complement on ground works to build capacity, primarily for land managers and secondarily for the wider community, and achieve practice change that maximises protection outcomes for the species populations and investment.

**Project Partners: DEPI, ANPC, Birdlife, TFN, PV**

## Cropping with compost for increasing carbon stored in soil (2013-2015)

Trialling and demonstrating practices to increase sequestration of soil carbon by using compost as a soil amendment to reduce nitrous fertiliser inputs associated with cropping practices on farms at Lower Norton, Broughton, Vectis and Telopea Downs.

Demonstration of accessible, farm-level soil carbon science is designed to enhance farmer knowledge, skills and aspirations with respect to improving carbon sequestration in these areas.

**Project partners: DEPI, Top Crop and Landcare groups**

## Farmer-driven trials to Build Community Capacity (2013-2018)

Farmer groups will be supported to improve and promote understanding of local soil health and links to increased productivity and the provision of ecosystem services through on farm trials.

Farmers will design, lead activities and benchmark trial outcomes that focused on better soil biology, better nutrient matching and management of soil structure.

Trials will also be supported to demonstrate the use of new technology on farm for productivity and environmental outcomes.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

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Landholders will be supported to demonstrate the planting and management of indigenous fodder species to achieve productive and environmental outcomes.

Incentives are available to fence and revegetate with indigenous fodder species to improve groundcover.

Alternative fodder shrub species can help fill the autumn feed gap, better use marginal land and create a feed reserve during extreme dry conditions, while also reducing groundwater recharge and the risk of erosion.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## Wimmera Cropland Management Transect (2013-2018)

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**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

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**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts (2013-2018)

Farmer-driven planning will be supported to promote integrated industry actions to reduce the impact and spread of key invasive species including African Love Grass, Fleabane, white snails and rabbits.

With modern farming favouring minimum soil disturbance, for example, Fleabane is becoming one of the Wimmera's worst weeds. This strategic planning activity does not fund on-ground weed works.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## Landholder and community workshops (2013-2018)

Local level groups will be supported to deliver events to increase knowledge and skills and influence practice change including soil pit discussions, crop walks, and machinery and livestock presentations.

The purpose will be to locally demonstrate the relative advantage of technologies and practices to improve natural resource management and productivity.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

# Hindmarsh Projects





# Yarriambiack & Buloke Projects



## Native Vegetation

- Threatened Communities Tender – Buloke
- Threatened Communities Tender – Grey Box Grassy Woodlands
- Threatened Communities Tender – Murray Valley Grasslands
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Rivers & Streams

- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Soils

- Improved rotations & fertiliser decisions to decrease nitrous oxide losses
- Whole Farm Planning
- Landcare Support
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Farmer-driven trials to build community capacity
- Land stewardship incentives – Salt Bush
- Wimmera Cropland Transect
- Strengthening grassroots farmer networks
- Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts
- Landholder and community workshops



## Threatened Animals

- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Threatened Plants

- Threatened Species Delivery - *Eucalyptus yarriambiack*, Turnip Copperburr

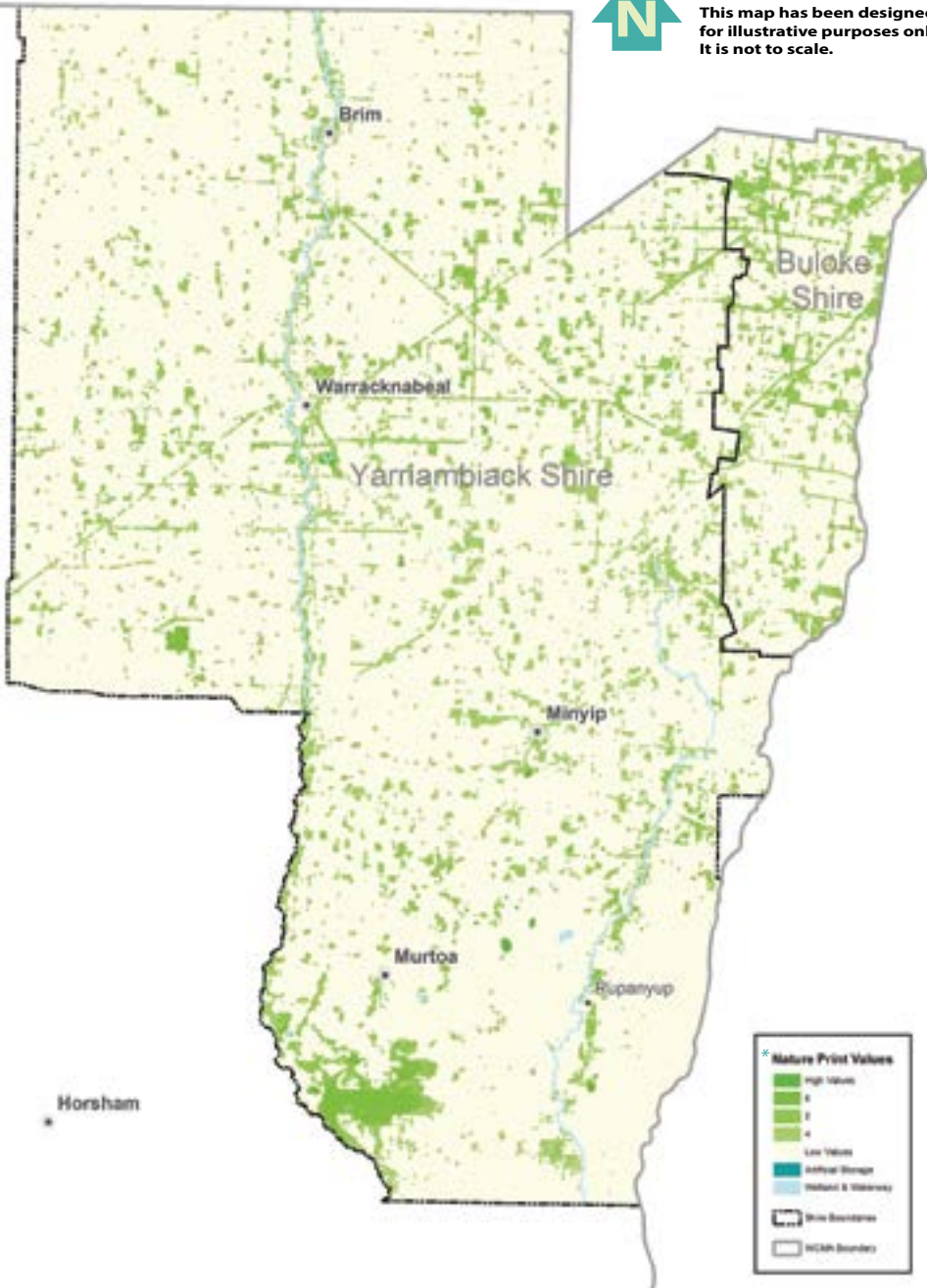


## Wetlands

- Threatened Communities Tender – Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



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Rupanyup farming family, the Oxbrows



*This is predominately a broadacre cropping community, with almost half the landholders looking to expand their farms.*

### Victorian Landcare Grants (2013-2018)

The Victorian Landcare Program provides opportunities for groups to access funding to support works and capacity-building through regionally-devolved grants.

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### Landcare Support (2013-2018)

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These positions provide a key link between local communities and DEPI.

### Whole Farm Planning (2013-2018)

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This training is designed to help local farmers position themselves to adapt to a changing operating environment and achieve profitable, sustainable farming businesses.

Government and industry experts discuss specific management issues with the farm planning group and assist farmers to develop their farm plan. The farm plan includes a detailed action plan using the latest aerial imagery and computer mapping programs.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare, industry partners**

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public and private land managers to deliver against individual species recovery plans.

Targeted extension activities will complement on ground works to build capacity, primarily for land managers and secondarily for the wider community, and achieve practice change that maximises protection outcomes for the species populations and investment.

**Project Partners: DEPI, ANPC, Birdlife, TFN, PV**

### Improved rotations and fertiliser decisions to decrease nitrous oxide losses (2013-2015)

Trialling and demonstrating the value of incorporating legumes into cropping rotations to reduce the need for N fertilisers on farms in the Sheep Hills and Taylors Lake districts.

The project is also demonstrating innovative tools that can inform efficient nitrogen decisions.

The key outcome will be increased farmer knowledge of what drives nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions and options available to reduce them.

**Project partners: DEPI, Top Crop and Landcare groups**

Continued





# Yarriambiack & Buloke Projects

## *Farmer-driven trials to Build Community Capacity (2013-2018)*

Farmer groups will be supported to improve and promote understanding of local soil health and links to increased productivity and the provision of ecosystem services through on farm trials.

Farmers will design, lead activities and benchmark trial outcomes that focused on better soil biology, better nutrient matching and management of soil structure.

Trials will also be supported to demonstrate the use of new technology on farm for productivity and environmental outcomes.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Land stewardship incentives (saltbush) (2013-2018)*

Landholders will be supported to demonstrate the planting and management of indigenous fodder species to achieve productive and environmental outcomes.

Incentives are available to fence and revegetate with indigenous fodder species to improve groundcover.

Alternative fodder shrub species can help fill the autumn feed gap, better use marginal land and create a feed reserve during extreme dry conditions, while also reducing groundwater recharge and the risk of erosion.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Wimmera Cropland Management Transect (2013-2018)*

The cropland management transect survey will support local efforts by farmers, industry professionals and researchers to identify trends in farm management practices and regionally specific information on stubble retention rates, burning and soil conservation practices.

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**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

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**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts (2013-2018)*

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With modern farming favouring minimum soil disturbance, for example, Fleabane is becoming one of the Wimmera's worst weeds. This strategic planning activity does not fund on-ground weed works.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Landholder and community workshops (2013-2018)*

Local level groups will be supported to deliver events to increase knowledge and skills and influence practice change including soil pit discussions, crop walks, and machinery and livestock presentations.

The purpose will be to locally demonstrate the relative advantage of technologies and practices to improve natural resource management and productivity.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**



# Horsham Rural City Council Projects



## Native Vegetation

- Habitat Tender
- Threatened Communities Tender – Buloke
- Threatened Communities Tender – Grey Box Grassy Woodlands
- Threatened Communities Tender – Murray Valley Grasslands
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Rivers & Streams

- Thriving Community Rivers – Riparian Protection
- Thriving Community Rivers – Monitoring
- Thriving Community Rivers – Carp Investigation
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Soils

- Improved rotations & fertiliser decisions to decrease nitrous oxide losses
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- Whole Farm Planning



## Threatened Animals

- Threatened Species Delivery - Golden Sun Moth
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



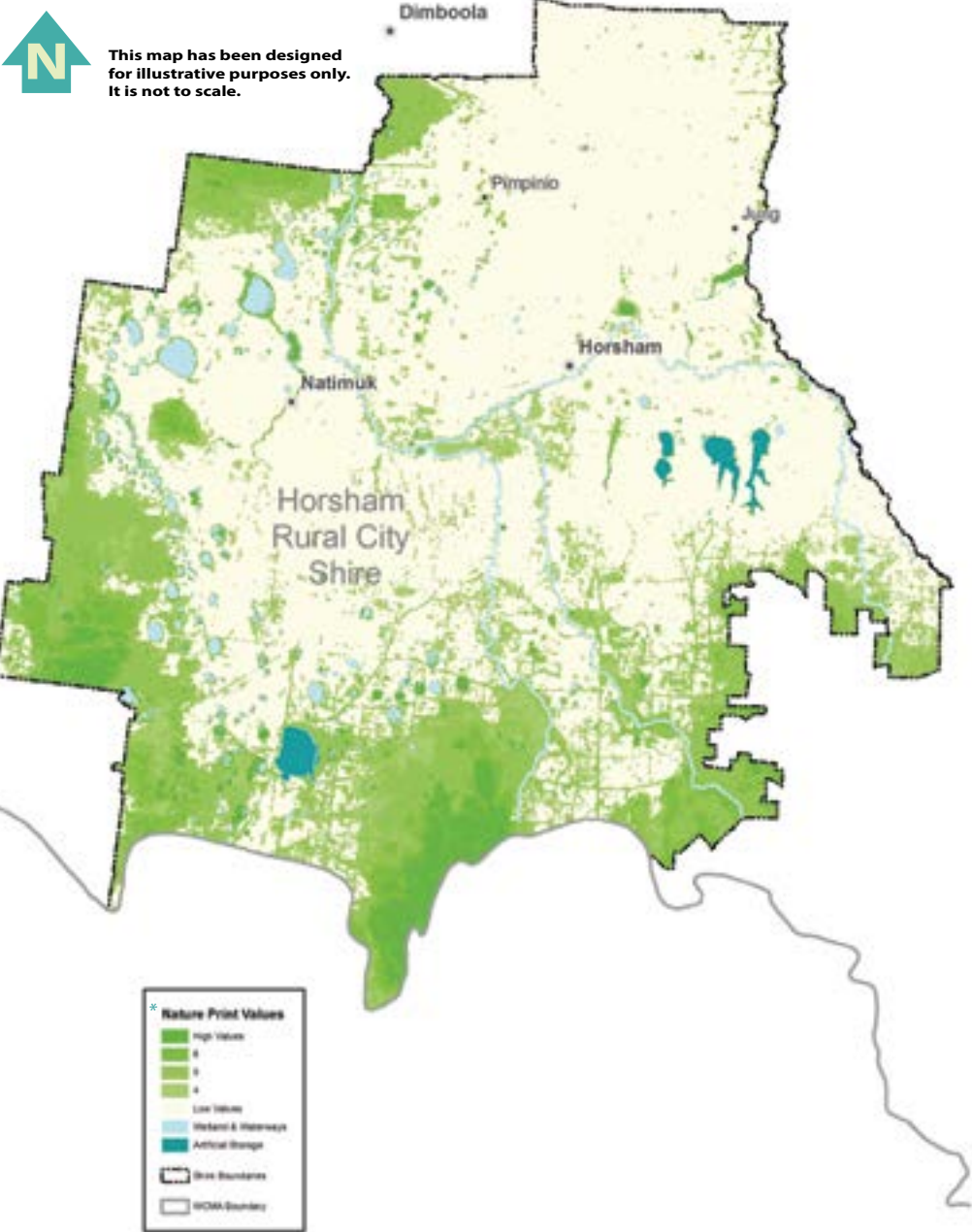
## Threatened Plants

- Threatened Species Delivery - Spiny Rice-flower, Wimmera Bottlebrush
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



## Wetlands

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Canola field near Natimuk with Mt Arapiles in the background



*Whilst agriculture is the largest industry, tourism is also notable.*

### Thriving Community Rivers (2013-2016)

Objectives of the Thriving Community Rivers project are to: Protect, enhance and restore river reaches that are highly valued to the community and consolidate benefits gained from environmental flows in the Wimmera River System.

The project will achieve this by undertaking the following activities;

#### Protecting and enhancing high priority rivers and streams by improving the management of riparian areas: Riparian Protection

Provides financial and technical support to land managers and community groups to assist them to protect, restore and enhance high priority waterway by improving the management of riparian areas.

#### Monitoring and assessing the condition of waterways to inform decision making.

Monitoring changes in river values brought about by environmental water management and restoration activities will be documented to inform future decision making and assess the effectiveness of waterway management activities.

#### Carp Investigation

Objectives of the investigation are to identify carp breeding hotspots to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of direct carp control measures (traps, electrofishing, manipulating water levels).

This will be achieved by installing tags in a number of carp that will send signals to data loggers as they move up and downstream in

response to stimuli such as changes in flow and water temperature.

The data from these loggers will be analysed to determine carp movement patterns to pinpoint where carp control works will be most effective.

### Victorian Environmental Partnership Program (VEPP) Habitat Tender (2014-2015)

The VEPP Habitat Tender project focuses on the protection, restoration and management of native vegetation and threatened species.

The project will target high priority vegetation and work with landholders to improve the quality and extent providing a key link between the south west forests and the Mallee Country.

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Partners: DEPI, Landcare, industry partners

Continued



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On ground activities occur within zones 2 and 3 of Habitat 141, which is one of six priority areas for conserving, restoring and connecting habitats for plants and wildlife on a landscape scale identified in the National Wildlife Corridor Plan 2012.

Recovery teams and specialist not-for-profit organisations will lead coordinated conservation management actions with public and private land managers to deliver against individual species recovery plans.

Targeted extension activities will complement on ground works to build capacity, primarily for land managers and secondarily for the wider community, and achieve practice change that maximises protection outcomes for the species populations and investment.

**Project Partners:** DEPI, ANPC, Birdlife, TFN, PV

## *Improved rotations and fertiliser decisions to decrease nitrous oxide losses (2013-2015)*

Trialling and demonstrating the value of incorporating legumes into cropping rotations to reduce the need for N fertilisers on farms in the Sheep Hills and Taylors Lake districts.

The project is also demonstrating innovative tools that can inform efficient nitrogen decisions. The key outcome will be increased farmer knowledge of what drives nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) emissions and options available to reduce them.

**Project partners:** DEPI, Top Crop and Landcare groups

## *Cropping with compost for increasing carbon stored in soil (2013-2015)*

Trialling and demonstrating practices to increase sequestration of soil carbon by using compost as a soil amendment to reduce nitrous fertiliser inputs associated with cropping practices on farms at Lower Norton, Broughton, Vectis and Telopea Downs. Demonstration of accessible, farm-level soil carbon science is designed to enhance farmer knowledge, skills and aspirations with respect to improving carbon sequestration in these areas.

**Project partners:** DEPI, Top Crop and Landcare groups

## *Farmer-driven trials to Build Community Capacity (2013-2018)*

Farmer groups will be supported to improve and promote understanding of local soil health and links to increased productivity and the provision of ecosystem services through on farm trials. Farmers will design, lead activities and benchmark trial outcomes that focused on better soil biology, better nutrient matching and management of soil structure. Trials will also be supported to demonstrate the use of new technology on farm for productivity and environmental outcomes.

**Partners:** DEPI, Landcare

## *Land stewardship incentives (saltbush) (2013-2018)*

Landholders will be supported to demonstrate the planting and management of indigenous fodder species to achieve productive and environmental outcomes. Incentives are available to fence and revegetate with indigenous fodder species to improve groundcover. Alternative fodder shrub species can help fill the autumn feed gap, better use marginal land and create a feed reserve during extreme dry conditions, while also reducing groundwater recharge and the risk of erosion.

**Partners:** DEPI, Landcare

## *Wimmera Cropland Management Transect (2013-2018)*

The cropland management transect survey will support local efforts by farmers, industry professionals and researchers to identify trends in farm management practices and regionally specific information on stubble retention rates, burning and soil conservation practices.

The transect will be undertaken in autumn and spring across several CMA regions based on the Wimmera model.

**Partners:** DEPI, Landcare

## *Grassroots farmer networks Support (2013-2018)*

Key groups driving practice change locally will be supported to build effective, strategic partnerships, including Vic No Till Farmers Association, Perennial Pasture Systems and the Wimmera Farming Network, to increase the capacity of these networks to support local farmers to deal with emerging threats and opportunities in sustainable production and resource management.

**Partners:** DEPI, Landcare

## *Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts (2013-2018)*

Farmer-driven planning will be supported to promote integrated industry actions to reduce the impact and spread of key invasive species including African Love Grass, Fleabane, white snails and rabbits. With modern farming favouring minimum soil disturbance, for example, Fleabane is becoming one of the Wimmera's worst weeds. This strategic planning activity does not fund on-ground weed works.

**Partners:** DEPI, Landcare

## *Landholder and community workshops (2013-2018)*

Local level groups will be supported to deliver events to increase knowledge and skills and influence practice change including soil pit discussions, crop walks, and machinery and livestock presentations. The purpose will be to locally demonstrate the relative advantage of technologies and practices to improve natural resource management and productivity.

**Partners:** DEPI, Landcare



# Upper Catchment Projects

## Ararat, Pyrenees, Northern Grampians Shires



### Native Vegetation

- Grampians 2 Pyrenees Biolink
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



### Rivers & Streams

- Thriving Community Rivers – Riparian Protection
- Thriving Community Rivers – Monitoring
- Thriving Community Rivers – Erosion Control
- Grampians 2 Pyrenees Biolink
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support
- Whole Farm planning



### Soils

- Farmer-driven trials to build community capacity
- Land stewardship incentives – Salt Bush
- Wimmera Cropland Transect
- Strengthening grassroots farmer networks
- Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts
- Landholder and community workshops
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



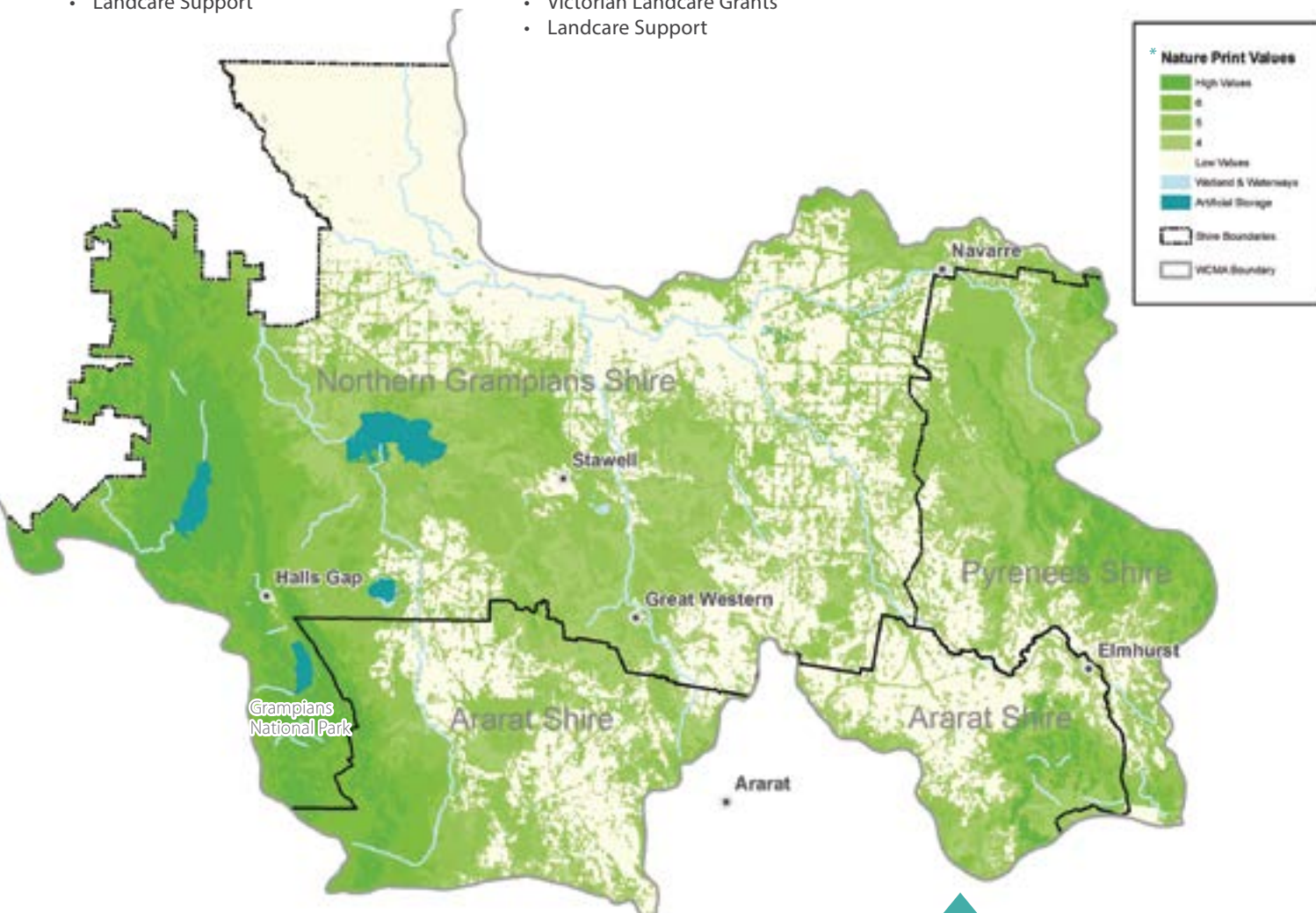
### Threatened Plants & Animals

- Threatened Species Delivery - Orchids
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



### Wetlands

- Threatened Communities Tender – Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands
- Victorian Landcare Grants
- Landcare Support



\* NaturePrint provides locations of catchment assets by integrating a range of complex information, including data on threats, species distributions, habitat and connectivity requirements.



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



Tree planting on the steep hills of Glendhu



*This part of the catchment has a strong Landcare movement with high memberships and active groups.*

### Thriving Community Rivers (2013-2016)

Objectives of the Thriving Community Rivers project are to: Protect, enhance and restore river reaches that are highly valued to the community and consolidate benefits gained from environmental flows in the Wimmera River System.

The project will achieve this by undertaking the following activities;

#### Protecting and enhancing high priority rivers and streams by improving the management of riparian areas: Riparian Protection

Provides financial and technical support to land managers and community groups to assist them to protect, restore and enhance high priority waterway by improving the management of riparian areas.

#### Controlling severe erosion in the Upper Catchment of the Wimmera River: Erosion Control

Undertakes large scale erosion control works on priority sites to stabilise heavily eroding gullies and reduce sediment being transported downstream impacting high priority waterways.

#### Monitoring and assessing the condition of waterways to inform decision making.

Monitoring changes in river values brought about by environmental water management and restoration activities will be documented to inform future decision making and assess the effectiveness of waterway management activities.

### Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink (2013-2016)

Objective of the Grampians to Pyrenees Biolink is to improve ecological connectivity between the Grampians and Pyrenees Ranges.

The project will achieve this by;

- Increasing the extent of native vegetation on private land by 225 ha.
- Protecting and enhancing 205 ha of remnant vegetation including riparian areas on private land.
- Improving the condition of 2630 ha of native vegetation on public land through rabbit and weed control.

The project provides land managers with financial assistance and technical support to protect and enhance high priority waterways, by improving the management of riparian areas on their properties.

**Project Partners: Project Platypus, Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Parks Vic, TFN, CVA,**

### Victorian Landcare Grants (2013-2018)

The Victorian Landcare Program provides opportunities for groups to access funding to support works and capacity-building through regionally-devolved grants.

Funding allocations and principles for this project are confirmed annually and implemented by Wimmera CMA.

### Landcare Support (2013-2018)

The Victorian Landcare Program provides support for 10 Regional Landcare Coordinators based at Catchment Management Authorities across Victoria plus Aboriginal and Corporate Landcare Facilitators.

These positions provide a key link between local communities and DEPI.

### Whole Farm Planning (2013-2018)

Wimmera CMA will support DEPI to provide detailed group farm planning courses to farmers across the Wimmera.

This training is designed to help local farmers position themselves to adapt to a changing operating environment and achieve profitable, sustainable farming businesses.

Government and industry experts discuss specific management issues with the farm planning group and assist farmers to develop their farm plan.

The farm plan includes a detailed action plan using the latest aerial imagery and computer mapping programs.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare, industry partners**

Continued



# Upper Catchment Projects

## *Threatened Communities Tender (2013-2018)*

The objectives of the project are to formally protect and enhance 1195 ha or 14% of the identified 17065ha of nationally significant ecological communities that occur on private land.

The project will be delivered as four tender rounds targeting the four nationally threatened Ecological Communities (ECs): Buloke Woodlands, Grey Box Grassy Woodlands and Derived Native Grasslands, Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plain, and Natural Grasslands of the Murray Valley Plains.

Tenders provide financial and technical support enabling landholders to undertake fencing, grazing management, regeneration and control of pest plant and animals to protect and enhance remnant vegetation improving habitat value.

**Project Partners: DEPI**

## *Threatened Species Delivery (2013-2018)*

The threatened species project will work with a range of partners and community groups to improve management and protection of populations of 28 listed flora and fauna species.

On ground activities occur within zones 2 and 3 of Habitat 141, which is one of six priority areas for conserving, restoring and connecting habitats for plants and wildlife on a landscape scale identified in the National Wildlife Corridor Plan 2012.

Recovery teams and specialist not-for-profit organisations will lead coordinated conservation management actions with public and private land managers to deliver against individual species recovery plans.

Targeted extension activities will complement on ground works to build capacity, primarily for land managers and secondarily for the wider community, and achieve practice change that maximises protection outcomes for the species populations and investment.

**Project Partners: DEPI, ANPC, Birdlife, TFN, PV**

## *Farmer-driven trials to Build Community Capacity (2013-2018)*

Farmer groups will be supported to improve and promote understanding of local soil health and links to increased productivity and the provision of ecosystem services through on farm trials.

Farmers will design, lead activities and benchmark trial outcomes that focused on better soil biology, better nutrient matching and management of soil structure.

Trials will also be supported to demonstrate the use of new technology on farm for productivity and environmental outcomes.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Land stewardship incentives (saltbush) (2013-2018)*

Landholders will be supported to demonstrate the planting and management of indigenous fodder species to achieve productive and environmental outcomes.

Incentives are available to fence and revegetate with indigenous fodder species to improve groundcover.

Alternative fodder shrub species can help fill the autumn feed gap, better use marginal land and create a feed reserve during extreme dry conditions, while also reducing groundwater recharge and the risk of erosion.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Wimmera Cropland Management Transect (2013-2018)*

The cropland management transect survey will support local efforts by farmers, industry professionals and researchers to identify trends in farm management practices and regionally specific information on stubble retention rates, burning and soil conservation practices.

The transect will be undertaken in autumn and spring across several CMA regions based on the Wimmera model.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Grassroots farmer networks Support (2013-2018)*

Key groups driving practice change locally will be supported to build effective, strategic partnerships, including Vic No Till Farmers Association, Perennial Pasture Systems and the Wimmera Farming Network, to increase the capacity of these networks to support local farmers to deal with emerging threats and opportunities in sustainable production and resource management.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Group planning to reduce pest and weed impacts (2013-2018)*

Farmer-driven planning will be supported to promote integrated industry actions to reduce the impact and spread of key invasive species including African Love Grass, Fleabane, white snails and rabbits.

With modern farming favouring minimum soil disturbance, for example, Fleabane is becoming one of the Wimmera's worst weeds.

This strategic planning activity does not fund on-ground weed works.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**

## *Landholder and community workshops (2013-2018)*

Local level groups will be supported to deliver events to increase knowledge and skills and influence practice change including soil pit discussions, crop walks, and machinery and livestock presentations.

The purpose will be to locally demonstrate the relative advantage of technologies and practices to improve natural resource management and productivity.

**Partners: DEPI, Landcare**



# Wimmera Statutory Projects



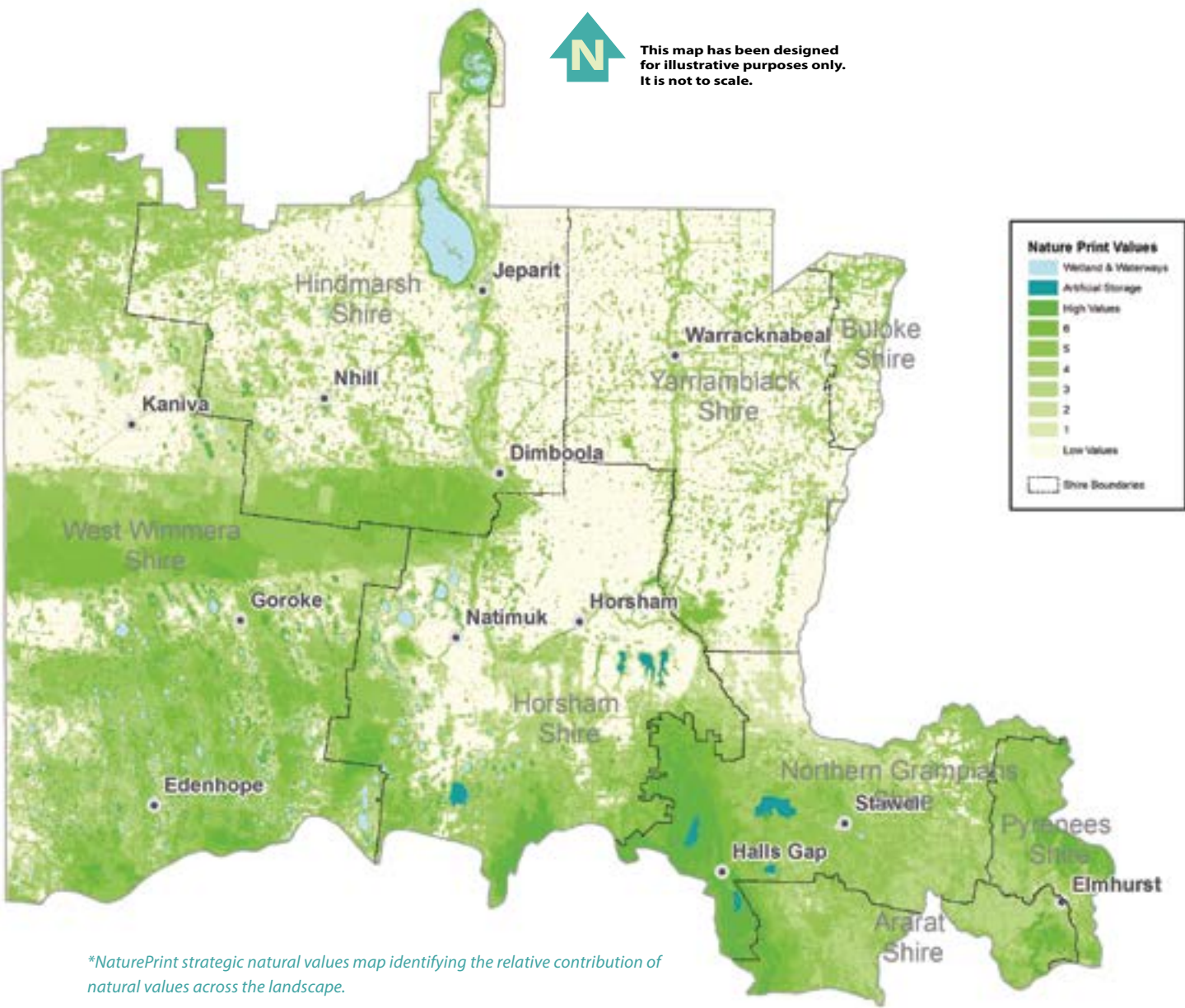
## Rivers & Streams

- Statutory Water Management
- Regional Waterway Strategy Development
- Upper Wimmera Catchment Flood Investigation (concluding 2014)
- Mount William Catchment Flood Investigation (concluding 2015)
- Concongella Catchment Flood Study (concluding 2014)



## Wetlands

- Statutory Water Management
- ESO Planning Scheme Amendments



\*NaturePrint strategic natural values map identifying the relative contribution of natural values across the landscape.



Development in the Wimmera



Statutory projects are implemented to meet Wimmera CMA's responsibilities under our statement of obligations and Government Legislation.\* A key component of the statutory projects is community engagement and integrated regional planning and coordination to ensure they are meeting the requirements of the community and Wimmera CMA.

### ESO Planning Scheme Amendments (2013-2018)

Working with local councils to minimise the threat from new developments and formally recognising the importance of Wetlands by introducing an Environment Significant Overlay into their planning schemes.

**Project Partners: Local Councils**

### Statutory Water Management (2013-2018)

Wimmera CMA has a range of statutory and regulatory obligations, as defined under Victorian Government legislation (Water Act 1989).

This includes protection of property, human life and the health of the region's waterways by overseeing the development and works activities within waterways and floodplains.

This includes:

- Floodplain Management; (including, development of flood investigations, flood warning systems development, flood emergency response planning, formal statutory advice and preliminary community flood advice)
- Works on Waterways permits; and
- Responding to wetland-related planning scheme referrals.

**Project Partners: Statutory Responses are provided to all stakeholders in the catchment.**

### Upper Wimmera Catchment Flood Investigation (2012-2014)

The intent of this investigation is to reduce flooding impact within the Upper Wimmera Catchment.

Specific components of the investigation include:

- Flood Investigation: the development of flood levels and flood extents for riverine flooding for a range of different flood magnitudes.
- Floodplain Management Plan: a cost benefit analysis of 5 structural mitigation options and an assessment of damages.
- Flood Emergency Response Plan: review the existing Flood Emergency Response Plan to incorporate key outcomes of this study and detailed flood intelligence
- Share New Knowledge: Web site information: the results from this study will be put onto the Wimmera CMA, VIC SES, Northern Grampians Shire Council and Ararat Rural City Council and Pyrenees Shire Council websites.

### Mt William Creek Catchment Flood Investigation (2013-2014)

The intent of this investigation is to reduce flooding impact within the Mt William Catchment and Dadswells Bridge.

Specific components of this study will include:

- Flood Investigation: the development of flood levels and flood extents for riverine flooding for a range of different flood magnitudes.

- Floodplain Management Plan: a cost benefit analysis of 5 structural mitigation options and an assessment of damages.
- Flood Emergency Response Plan: review the existing Flood Emergency Response Plan to incorporate key outcomes of this study and detailed flood intelligence.
- Dadswells Bridge and Mt William Creek Flood Awareness Brochures: will summarise the results of the proposed FS. It will be developed in close consultation with the WCMA, VIC SES, Northern Grampians Shire Council, Ararat Rural City Council and Horsham Rural City Council. This information will improve community awareness, knowledge and preparedness to cope with major floods.
- Share new knowledge: web site information: the results from this study will be put onto the Wimmera CMA, VIC SES, Northern Grampians Shire Council, Ararat Rural City Council and Horsham Rural City Council websites.

### Concongella Catchment Flood Study (2013-2014)

The study is a pilot project managed by DEPI's Flood Unit looking at different techniques to determine the best value for money when undertaking regional flood mapping projects.

The project will produce design event mapping for the 100, 50, 20, 10, 5 yr ARI design events.

There will not be any council planning documentation, Emergency Management Plans, Flood Mitigation Options or Warning system recommendations.

\*Subject to funding.



# Wimmera Planning Projects



Planning project outcomes are used by Wimmera CMA and partner agencies to guide future investment in NRM across the catchment. A key component of planning projects is community consultation to ensure they are meeting the requirements of the community and Wimmera CMA.



## Native Vegetation

- Carbon Ready Plan
- Bioregion assessment of coal seam gas & coal mining



## Threatened Plants & Animals

- Carbon Ready Plan
- Bioregion assessment of coal seam gas & coal mining



## Rivers & Streams

- Environmental Water Reserve Planning & Implementation
- Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring & Assessment Program
- Improved weir management
- Community waterway monitoring
- Carp Trap Trial
- Carbon Ready Plan
- Bioregion assessment of coal seam gas & coal mining
- Thriving Community Rivers – Carp Investigation
- Optimising Environmental Water Use for the Terminal Lakes



## Soils

- Carbon Ready Plan
- Bioregion assessment of coal seam gas & coal mining



## Wetlands

- Environmental Water Reserve Planning & Implementation
- Pipeline wetland condition benchmarking
- Improved pipeline wetland hydrology
- Carp Trap Trial
- Carbon Ready Plan
- Bioregion assessment of coal seam gas & coal mining

## Wimmera Carbon Ready Plan (2013-2016)

The Wimmera Carbon Ready plan is a strategic document being developed to prepare the region to take advantage of carbon farming investment opportunities and manage environmental risks under a range of different climate scenarios. The Wimmera Carbon Ready Plan will establish processes to maximise the environmental and community benefits of carbon farming initiatives such as;

- Community involvement on where and under what conditions large biodiversity planting take place;
- Protection of high quality agricultural land;
- Promoting productive benefits of improved soil management;
- Considerations to planning schemes, growth plans and biodiversity and salinity investment strategies; and
- Alignment with native vegetation offsetting programs.

Developed using an integrated catchment management approach the plan will provide greater certainty to investors and the community about this emerging opportunity.

**Project Partners: DEPI, working closely with all Local governments on planning aspects.**

## Bioregion assessment of coal seam gas & coal mining (2013-2015)

Objectives of the investigation are to:

- Identify water asset data sets within each of the Catchment Management Authority (CMA) regions;
  - Identify the vulnerabilities of the water assets from coal seam gas and coal mining; and
  - Identify other relevant data sets.
- Wimmera CMA will be providing data and advice to DEPI, as part of phase one of the program.

**Project Partners: DEPI**

## Environmental Water Reserve Planning and Implementation (2013-2018)

Wimmera CMA in its role as caretaker for regional waterway health is responsible for the planning and implementation of activities associated with the environmental water reserve. These include:

- Planning for environmental water use on an annual basis (VEWH entitlement for rivers and wetlands and CEWH entitlement for rivers);
- Day to day implementation of releases in consultation with GWMWater in their role as storage manager;
- Managing specific projects associated with environmental water reserve monitoring;
- Strategic environmental water issues (Bulk Entitlement reviews, implementation of the Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy); and
- Respond to referrals for take and use surface water licences for commercial/irrigation.

**Project Partners: GWMWater, VEWH, CEWH, GHCA, MCMA, NCCMA, local govt.**

## Optimising Environmental Water Use for the Terminal Lakes

Objectives of the project is to determine the most appropriate options for using environmental water in the event of a series of wet years when environmental water allocations are high and unregulated. Natural streamflows negate the need to deliver water from storages when the terminal lakes are at/near certain ecological thresholds. Recommendations around this work will inform environmental water managers to make decisions regarding carrying over water for upcoming dry years or using the water to try and achieve or maintain terminal lake level thresholds. It should be noted that the regulated volumes available for the environment are small in comparison to the volumes required to fill the terminal lakes so decisions only relate to scenarios where a lake may need to be kept at a certain level for a set period of time for bird breeding events etc. where regulated releases may be able to assist this.

## Victorian Environmental Flows Monitoring and Assessment Program (VEFMAP) (2013-2016)

Wimmera CMA is one of five CMAs where VEFMAP is being implemented. It involves collecting data on a number of parameters that respond to the presence/absence of flows over a number of years. VEFMAP started in 2008/09 and applies to parts of the lower Wimmera and MacKenzie Rivers with activities varying from year to year according to the response time of parameters to flows. Actions involved include:

- Project managing collection of data on responses of fish, water quality, vegetation and stream form to flows;
  - Collating and inputting data into a central database; and
  - Participating in processes tracking the progress and future direction of VEFMAP.
- This project will enable Wimmera CMA to:
- Track condition of rivers over time,
  - Enable adaptive management of flows to maximise their effectiveness.
- Project Partners: DEPI, University of Melbourne.**

## Waterway Strategy Development (2013-2014)

Wimmera CMA is responsible developing a waterway strategy for the region which will guide priorities for activities and investment over the next 8 years. Actions involved in developing it include:

- Capturing data on waterway values and threats;
- Developing priorities and determining actions;
- Engagement with the community and stakeholders regarding its development; and
- Drafting and finalising the strategy for approval.

**Project Partners: DEPI. Many groups and organisations are being consulted as part of the development process.**

## Pipeline Wetland Benchmarking (2013-2014)

Wimmera CMA is managing this project on behalf of Mallee and North Central CMA. It involves ascertaining a baseline of ecological information and indicative recommendations for watering frequency and duration on the 51 wetlands connected to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline for supply. Actions involved include:

- Project managing the collection works; and
  - Liaising with various stakeholders
- This project will enable Wimmera CMA to:
- Determine a baseline of environmental condition for wetlands connected to the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline;
  - Enable more informed watering decisions regarding these wetlands (priority, duration, frequency).

**Project Partners: DEPI, VEWH, NCCMA, MCMA**

## Improved Weir Management (2013-2014)

Objectives of the study are to optimise the management of town weirs on the Wimmera River and Yarriambiack Creek with respect to passing environmental water releases. Outcome may include:

- Recommendations for operating rules/arrangements based on the current infrastructure
- Infrastructure improvements
- Management of negative impacts of weirs (carp breeding, constant levels leading to erosion and trapping saline water) and how they can be mitigated.

**Project stakeholders: Horsham Rural City Council, Hindmarsh Shire, Yarriambiack Shire, VEWH, Mallee CMA, GWMWater**

## Improved pipeline wetland hydrology (2013-2014)

The aims is to develop recommendations for works required to connect Wimmera Mallee Pipeline connection points with wetlands to improve overall environmental outcomes through improving wetland hydrology.

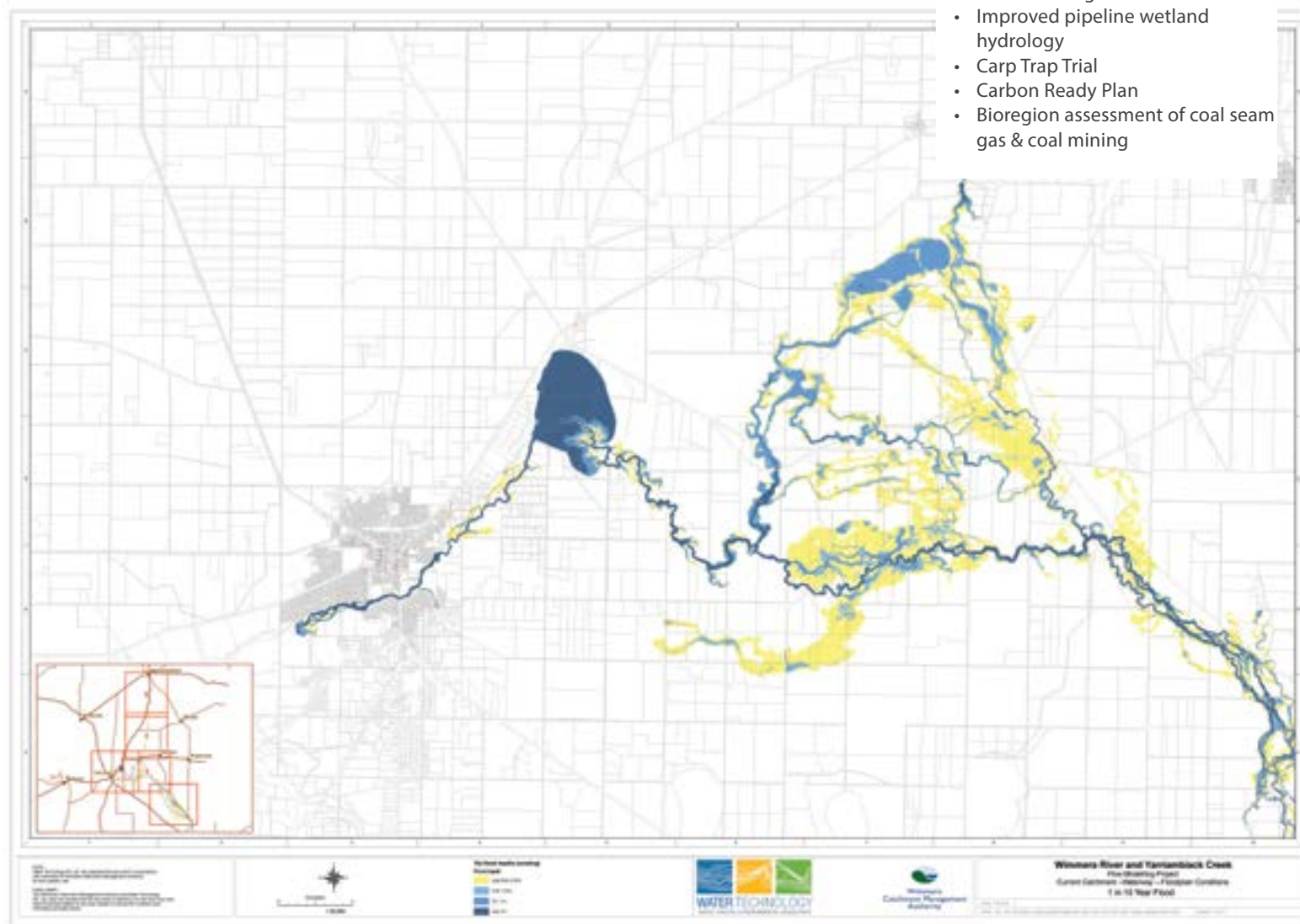
**Project stakeholders: Parks Vic, landholders, VEWH.**

## Carp Trap Trials (2013-2014)

Wimmera CMA was successful in obtaining a DPI recreational fishing licence revenue grant to purchase 2 carp traps to trial in the MacKenzie River and Wal Wal Swamp. These traps were designed and used in New Zealand but have never been tried in Australia. Actions involved include:

- Obtaining necessary permits; and
  - Trialling the traps to determine their effectiveness in catching carp with limited/no bycatch;
  - Reporting on the results
- This project will enable Wimmera CMA to:
- Reduce impacts of invasive fish in priority waterways;
  - Demonstrate regional leadership and innovation with respect to waterway health issues.

**Project Partners: DEPI**





**Wimmera CMA** is one of 10 CMAs working in Victoria under an integrated catchment management approach to achieve sustainability across the state. Each CMA supports the role that communities and government play in protecting and enhancing local natural environments.



**Wimmera CMA**

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