2026-2036





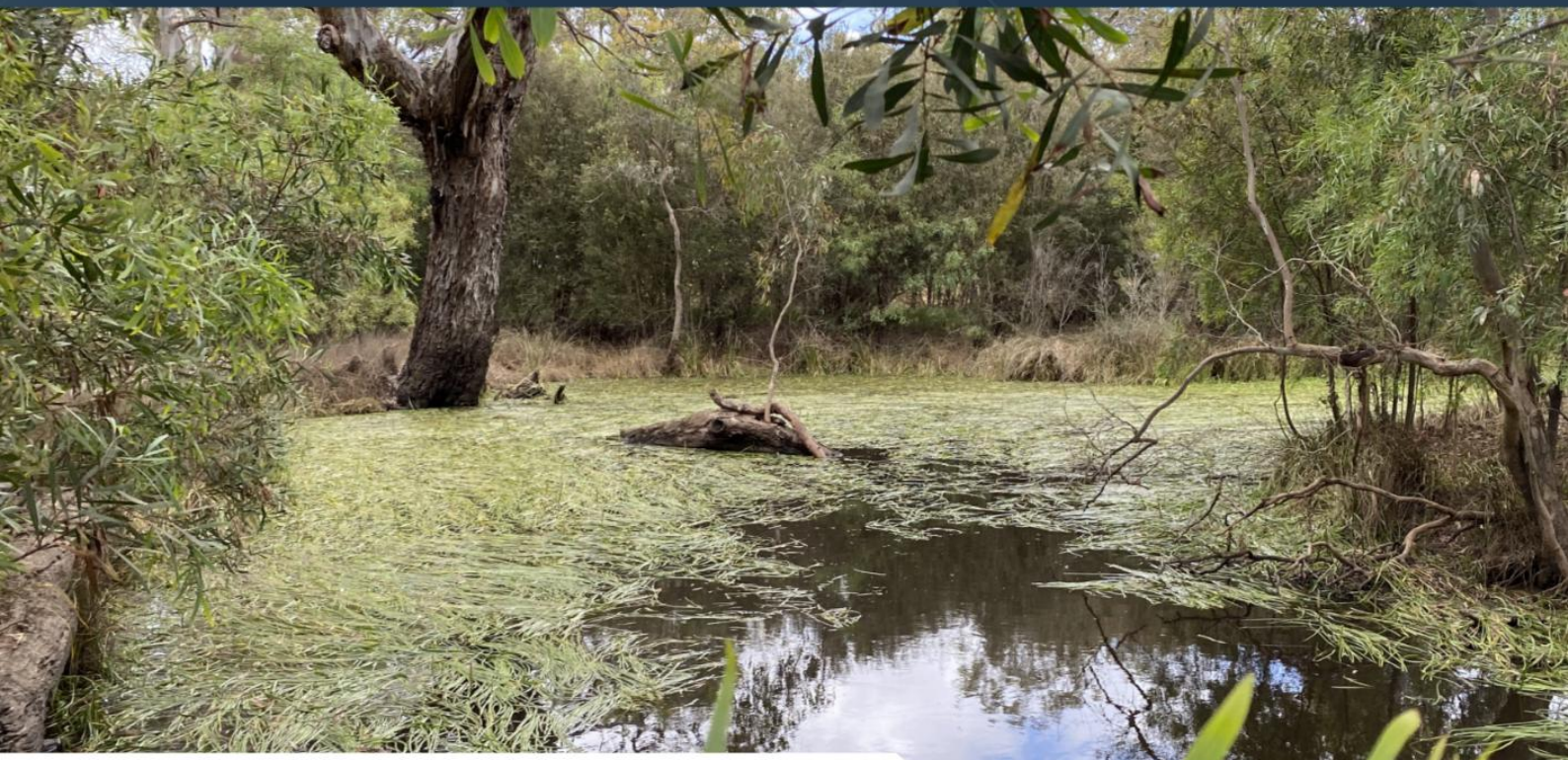


WIMMERA WATERWAY STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

VICTORIA State Government Australia

Wimmera CMA



HORSHAM

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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Horsham local area - overview

About the Horsham local area

The Horsham local area is a central hub for the Wimmera region and includes its largest centre, Horsham (see Figure 4). Yarriambiack Creek forms the north-eastern boundary, while the Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) lies to the south.

The area covers 395,870 hectares and is home to around 20,000 residents. [18] Land use is dominated by dryland cropping (66.5%), with 9% set aside for nature conservation.

Rivers and streams

The Horsham local area has numerous important waterways. It includes the mid or central stretch of the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River), fringed by riparian vegetation which meanders through an agricultural landscape and provides a significant social, economic, cultural and environmental asset to the region.

Tributary streams, Golton and Mount William Creeks, join the river north of the Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) and the river winds between large lakes south-east of Horsham. Before reaching Horsham, distributary streams Dunmunkle and Yarriambiack Creeks branch north off the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) flowing through the Yarriambiack and Buloke local area.

The Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) receives inflows from Burnt Creek at Horsham and MacKenzie River and Norton Creek join the river downstream of Horsham. The waterway then heads northward towards Gurru (Lake Hindmarsh) in the Hindmarsh local area.

The MacKenzie River, arising in the Gariwerd (Grampians National Park), supports the last remaining Wimmera population of platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*) as well as native fish and crayfish, while Burnt Creek supports the threatened western swamp crayfish (*Gramastacus insolitus*) and the most southern known population of the Peron's Tree Frog (*Litoria peronii*).

Small streams also feature in the landscape. These include Station and Mount Talbot Creeks that flow into Lake Toolondo. Natimuk Creek flows into Natimuk Lake and onto Lake Wyn Wyn, both nationally significant wetlands listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia.

Wetlands

The Horsham local area has approximately 540 wetlands including saline lakes, shallow seasonal wetlands and deep, more permanent freshwater lakes. In the south and west these are diverse with a high density of wetlands – most are on private land. Many provide significant habitat and recreational opportunities.

The Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes is a unique series of lakes hosting nationally significant wetlands, many of which are saline and provide habitat for wetland birds including endangered migratory species.

Taylors Lake is a key water storage which has important roles in stock and domestic water supply via the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline and in providing the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) with water for the environment. Other large lakes, such as Green Lake, are significant for managing water quality within the water supply headworks system and provide environmental, recreational, social and cultural values. Lake Toolondo is a significant recreational fishery when holding water.

Most wetlands in the area are isolated among extensive agricultural land with varying levels of ecological function due to compounding threats.

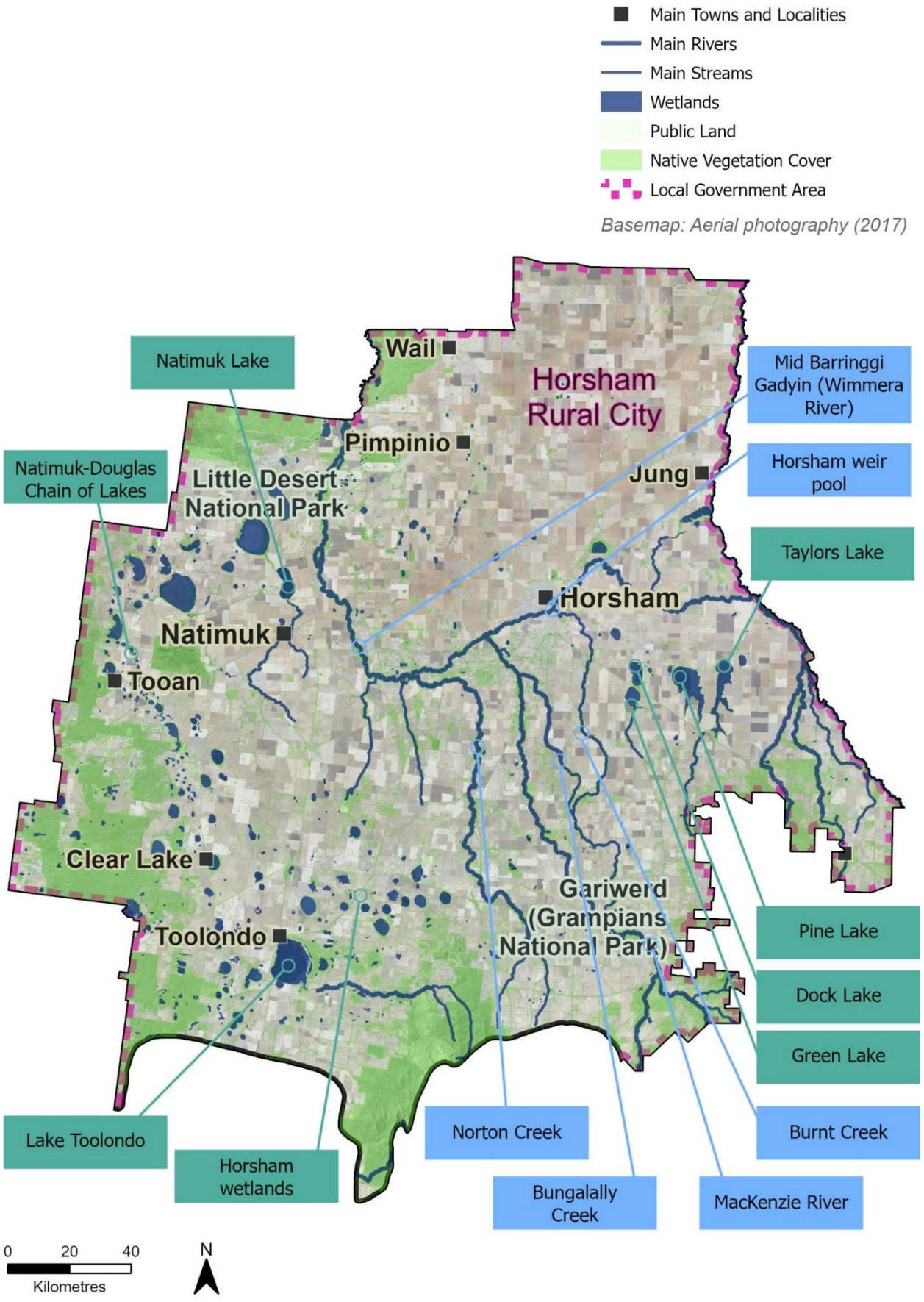


Figure 4. Horsham local area and key waterway assets. Information boxes are colour-coded by feature type: blue for rivers and streams and teal for wetlands.

Mid-Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River), MacKenzie River and Burnt and Bungalally Creeks

River and stream values

Environmental values

Boggy Creek, Golton Creek and upstream sections of MacKenzie River were in excellent natural condition in the decade leading up to the Strategy. [10]

Platypus *(Ornithorhynchus anatinus)* were widespread in parts of the Wimmera catchment before the Millenium Drought, but researchers now believe they are restricted to the MacKenzie River. There are occasional anecdotal reports of sightings elsewhere, but none up to 2025 had been confirmed.

River blackfish (*Gadopsis marmorata*) have also been a conservation focus in the MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek system. Blackfish were also widespread prior to the Millenium Drought and are now severely restricted.

Further waterway species, present as of 2024 surveys in the Horsham local area, included southern pygmy perch, flatheaded gudgeon *(Philypnodon grandiceps) and* freshwater catfish *(Tandanus tandanus).* Annual surveys and Horsham Fishing Competition results have indicated that European carp (*Cyprinus carpio*) numbers in the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) reduced and then stabilised. This is likely to be because of healthy native fish populations due to fish stocking, water for the environment, carp removal programs and water quality efforts.

Terrestrial species of the region's waterways listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* include the vulnerable growling grass frog *(Litoria raniformis),* endangered southern toadlet (*Psuedophryne seminarmorata*) and vulnerable Australasian shoveler (*Spatula rhynochotis*). Some critically endangered species include the barking owl (*Ninox connivens connivens*), bush stone-curlew (*Burhinus grallarius*), curlew sandpiper (*Caldris ferruginea*) and black falcon (*Falco subniger*). [19] Threatened and non-threatened species present are not limited to this list.

Riparian vegetation in the Horsham local area mainly consists of threatened Ecological Vegetation Classes. The Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) supports extensive Riverine Grassy Woodlands (vulnerable), Riparian Woodlands (vulnerable) and Riverine Chenopod Woodlands (endangered). Norton, MacKenzie and Burnt creeks support Plains Woodlands (endangered), Creekline Sedgy Woodlands (endangered) and Sand Ridge Woodlands (endangered). [6]

Cultural values

First Nations communities maintain deep, enduring connections to land and water across the Horsham local area. The creation story of the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) continues to be celebrated by Barengi Gadjin Land Council and there are significant sites and Special Places associated with the river in Horsham.

Social and recreational values

The Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River), running through the heart of the rural city of Horsham and downstream to Dimboola, has a profound influence on the general appeal and liveability of these centres. It has long been the subject of enhancement and development. It qualifies as a significant natural asset for promoting tourism, which attracts visitors for major annual events such as an annual Labour Day weekend fishing competition. The river has for many years also provided the backdrop for other major festivals, celebrations and sporting events. Many people regularly gravitate to the river, which borders extensive parkland reserves and residential areas, for passive recreation such as walking, running, cycling and picnicking. Camping facilities are also available.

Horsham Rural City Council has been implementing its Wimmera Riverfront Activation Project as a part of the first stage of its 20-year City to River Masterplan. This is designed to enhance the attraction of the river to residents and visitors with recreation spaces and opportunities.

Socio-economic research has shown that participation at the Horsham weir for recreation has increased from 78,300 participants in 2016-17 to over 84,000 in 2018-19 and 2019-20. This is likely to be attributed to the additional walking tracks and boating facilities that have been installed and the emergence of new activities such as the Horsham Park Run which uses the new walking tracks.

Recreational fishing is popular on the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). Target species include exotic redfin (*Perca fluviatilis*), brown and rainbow trout (*Salmo trutta and Oncorhynchus mykiss)* and introduced Murray-Darling System natives golden perch (*Macquaria ambigua*), Murray cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*), freshwater catfish (*Tandanus tandanus*) and silver perch (*Bidyanus bidyanus*). Yabbies (*Cherax destructor) are also a target species.* [20]

Seasonal duck hunting is permitted along specific sections of Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) and on public land in accordance with Game Management Authority guidelines.

Economic values

The Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) attracts visitors to Horsham's annual fishing competition and other fishing events downstream in Hindmarsh local area. The competition regularly attracts over 1,000 people from across the state and beyond. [21]

Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River), with its close proximity to Horsham's Central Business District, major reserves and gardens and residential areas, is integral to health, liveability and promotional activities of the regional city and downstream towns.

River and stream condition

The 2010 Index of Stream Condition assessment rated rivers and streams in the Horsham local area as being in moderate to good condition. Boggy Creek and Golton Creek, were rated as being in excellent condition, including upper section of MacKenzie River. (10)

Water quality

There has been a concerted effort to improve runoff water quality of the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) in Horsham over the past 10 to 15 years, with more to do. Most of the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River)'s water quality issues stem from erosion in the upper catchment.

The river at Horsham regularly fails to meet water quality targets in Victoria's Environment Reference Standards for phosphorus, nitrogen, turbidity and pH. Despite this, the water quality in Horsham's weir pool has been good enough to prevent algal blooms and allow for recreation. This has been assisted by water flows for the environment.

Threats and drivers of change

Hydrology - Climate change and dry conditions

Climate change is impacting on water availability and flows in Horsham local area waterways.

Horsham residents and businesses as well as threatened wildlife rely on Lake Wartook and the MacKenzie River system for water supply. Domestic supply is essential for Horsham, but species such as platypus and river blackfish and their aquatic communities also need water to survive. Wimmera CMA and GWMWater work together to balance supply needs.

Completion of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline by 2010 created more efficient means of water transport than previous open channels in a drying climate, however drying conditions are magnified by higher demands on Wartook Reservoir for water supply for Horsham and the environment. This means that during dry times, the authorities' ability to supply water can be compromised, leading to a potential trade-off in social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Weeds and pest animals

Horsham's rivers provide essential corridors for wildlife but can also be vectors for invasive plants and animals. These areas require ongoing management by land managers to ensure they continue to maintain their values.

A Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Strategy outlines the highest priority areas for the Horsham local area being the MacKenzie River. It is a priority for protecting and improving riparian vegetation, controlling bridal creeper *(Asparagus asparagoides)* and other weeds and increased rabbit control to prevent stream-bank erosion and impacts on native vegetation. (22)

Carp *(Cyprinus carpio)* and mosquitofish *(Gambusia holbrooki)* impact on water quality as well as native fish populations. This will require ongoing maintenance.

Impacts of recreation

In Horsham local area, recreational impacts on rivers and streams include inappropriate off-road vehicle use, which can promote bank and creek-bed erosion and be a significant threat to Wimmera and MacKenzie Rivers.

Access for recreational angling can impact bankside vegetation and access tracks. Significant work has occurred in the region in partnership with angling groups to improve access and prevent and minimise impacts in high use areas.

Horsham wetlands including Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes

Wetland values

Environmental values

Many lakes support high numbers and diversity of waterbird species when holding water, including Natimuk Lake, Dock Lake and saline lakes in the Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes.

Survey observations from 2024 included more than 16,700 waterbirds from 26 species at Lake Natimuk and 2,700 waterbirds from 16 species at Dock Lake. (23)

Monthly surveys of Dock Lake during 2024-25 identified three palearctic migratory species including the Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*), Sharp-tailed Sandpiper and Bar-tailed Godwit – all which are listed in international migratory bird agreements. A further two species identified include the Freckled Duck and Australasian Shoveler which are listed as threatened by the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*. Over the period, 40 different species of wetland birds were recorded at Dock Lake.

Surveys of the Natimuk Douglas Chain of Lakes identified the marsh sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*), red-necked stint and common greenshank *(Tringa nebularia)*. These are all listed under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*, Japan-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement, China- Australia Migratory Bird Agreement and Republic of Korea-Australia Migratory Bird Agreement. (24; 25; 26)

EPBC-listed species at Green Lake recorded since 2000 include the curlew sandpiper and growling grass frog. (27)

Threatened Ecological Vegetation Classes are also supported by local wetlands. This includes Plains Savannah (endangered), Ridged Plains Mallee (endangered), Plains Woodland (endangered) and Low Rises Woodland (endangered) around lakes in the northern reaches of the Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes. Many endangered Brackish Wetlands make up these lakes. Significant Shallow Sands Woodlands surrounds Mitre Lake (vulnerable).

Southern wetlands of the Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes and other areas of the local area further support Red Gum Swamp (endangered), Aquatic Herbland (endangered) and Cane Grass Wetland (vulnerable). Significant Damp Sand Herb-rich Woodland is also significant around Lake Toolondo. (6)

Cultural values

First Nations communities retain a strong connection between the land and water. There are many scar trees and artefact scatters associated with waterways and woodlands. Water was a valued aspect of for survival and culture for First Nations Peoples, evident by the array of artefacts beside waterways across the region. Complex fish traps at Lake Toolondo are an example. (28)

Social and recreational values

Lakes including Toolondo, Green, Taylors and Natimuk are important assets for water-based recreation in the region.

Periods of limited inflow mean Natimuk, Toolondo and Green Lake fill intermittently and can have insufficient water levels for some recreational activities. When holding enough water, these lakes are important areas for fishing, boating and swimming in addition to passive activities including picnicking, camping, bird watching and walking. As an important water supply storage, Taylors Lake regularly holds enough water to support water-based recreation.

Smaller seasonal wetlands have restricted or limited water-based recreational opportunities but are still valued for their nature-based recreation experiences such as bird-watching.

Economic values

Some wetlands in the Horsham local area add high economic value to the region via tourism, recreation and acting as a water storage.

Wetlands with the greatest economic contribution, via visitor participation, include Green Lake, Taylors Lake and Lake Toolondo. Total economic contributions were estimated to be $335,000 in 2022-23. Taylors Lake alone had the greatest contribution, estimated at $247,000. (9)

Wetland condition

Native vegetation

Local wetlands support threatened Ecological Vegetation Communities. This includes Plains Savannah (endangered), Ridged Plains Mallee (endangered), Plains Woodland (endangered) and Low Rises Woodland (endangered) around lakes in the northern reaches of the Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes. Many endangered Brackish Wetlands are part of this system.

Significant Shallow Sands Woodlands surround Mitre Lake (vulnerable) and a community of Salt Paperbark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum)*, listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, exists at Lake Wyn Wyn. (29)

Southern wetlands of the Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes and across the remaining local area, further support Red Gum Swamp (endangered), Aquatic Herb land (endangered) and Cane Grass Wetland (vulnerable). Significant Damp Sand Herb-rich Woodland is also significant around Lake Toolondo. (6)

Water quality

The recreational use of some of the local area's significant water bodies is influenced by several factors. Green Lake is frequently impacted by blue-green algae. When it is clear of algal blooms its value increases. For example, in 2016-17 over 10,000 participants used Green Lake compared to 2018-19 and 2019-20 when the participation was 2,000 and 1,700 due to algae outbreaks.

Recreation

Taylors Lake continues to maintain a healthy participation rate as it retails a reliable volume of water for recreation and its water quality is relatively good. Toolondo Reservoir's participation rates are dependent on water levels. Since 2017-18 participation rates dropped from 3,340 to 358 in 2019-20 due to declines in water levels and quality.

Threats and drivers of change

Hydrology - Climate change and dry conditions

A drying climate threatens water availability and quality in wetlands used for social, cultural, economic and environmental values.

Excess nutrients from agricultural runoff promotes algal blooms which particularly affect recreational use of larger lakes.

Weeds and pest animals

Invasive species, including carp, are a major problem for native threatened aquatic species. Carp are linked to reduced water quality and are particularly problematic when they enter recreational lakes, competing with native fish and popular recreational angling species. In the past, this has particularly affected Lake Toolondo, with authorities collaborating to reduce carp impacts.

Modifications

Of the local area's 538 wetlands, 170 (32%) are free from modifications such as dams, drains, cropping or levees. In 2017, 140 wetlands were cropped compared to 75 in 2004 indicating there is a continued impact on wetlands. Natural water flow was modified as a result, re-directing water into human-made dams, often excavated into the wetland bed.

Many wetlands do not contain water for as long as they once did. For example, Lake Natimuk has been shown to be at risk of a changed hydrologic regime due to man-made modifications, climate change and improved agricultural practices to retain soil moisture, thereby reducing runoff to the lake's catchment.[15]

Impacts of recreation

Due to the high use of wetlands for recreation, it is important to manage access for safety reasons and to ensure it does not impact on biodiversity, water quality and amenity of natural areas. For example, power boating can result in shoreline-erosion and affect the quality and depth of lakes. Improving access and sustainable visitation to waterways has been a focus for Wimmera CMA, councils and community groups.

Future opportunities

Increasing the resilience of waterways in a drying climate has been a priority for recent management.

With the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline being an invaluable asset, Wimmera CMA is investigating opportunities for piping water to drought refuges in waterways to help use water efficiently to maintain environmental values during extreme dry periods when there are low natural flows and water for the environment allocations. Investigations include the viability of introducing piped water to selected drought refuge pools along Burnt Creek and MacKenzie River.

Regular trapping surveys and eDNA sampling of MacKenzie River has assisted in monitoring platypus presence and informed environmental-water management.

A Wimmera CMA River Blackfish Recovery Project, which has included the release of hatchery-bred and translocated fish in MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek, has relied heavily on environmental-water allocations and management, which would be further benefited by the piped drought refuges project. The blackfish project included a world first with aquarists breeding Wimmera-sourced blackfish under controlled hormone-induced conditions.

Target control measures of invasive carp *(Cyprinus carpio*) with netting and electrofishing has also occurred in Horsham local area. In 2025, electrofishing and netting of the noxious species occurred in streams across the catchment including MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek.

Stakeholder and Community Feedback

During development of the Strategy and Plan, Wimmera CMA invited input from stakeholders and the community. Participants from the Horsham local area identified the following waterways as particularly important:

- Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River)
- Horsham weir pool
- MacKenzie River
- Burnt Creek
- Bungalally Creek
- Norton Creek
- Natimuk Lake and Natimuk Creek
- Green Lake
- Taylors Lake
- Lake Toolondo
- Dock Lake
- Boundary Swamp
- Mitre Lake

Key themes raised through consultation included:

- **Drought and water security challenges:** Stakeholders expressed concern about the impacts of drought, a drying climate and increasing pressure on water resources. Many emphasised the importance of maintaining reliable water supplies for towns, agriculture and industry, while ensuring sufficient water remains available to support healthy waterways and water-dependent species such as platypus.
- **Exploring integrated water management opportunities:** Some stakeholders supported investigating integrated water management approaches and alternative water sources to reduce pressure on existing supplies. Maintaining long-term water availability and balancing environmental, community, agricultural and industrial water needs were common priorities.
- **Supporting recreation and managing visitor impacts:** Stakeholders highlighted the importance of maintaining and improving access, facilities and infrastructure at key recreational sites, including the Horsham weir pool. There was also a strong interest in managing recreational activities appropriately to minimise impacts on waterway health and environmental values.
- **Managing invasive species and building community stewardship:** Stakeholders identified pest plant and animal management as an ongoing priority and supported continued efforts to control species that threaten waterway and wetland values. Many also highlighted the importance of community education, engagement and stewardship programs to build understanding of waterway values and encourage community involvement in their protection and management.

Priority areas for management

The Strategy identified several priority areas in the Horsham local area for targeted management and investment, including:

- Mid-Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River)
- Horsham weir pool
- MacKenzie River
- Burnt Creek
- Wetlands with high environmental value
- Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes
- Wetlands with high social and economic value, including:
    - Taylors Lake
    - Natimuk Lake and Creek
    - Green Lake

Together, these areas hold the highest ecological, cultural and recreational value and face the greatest management needs. Details of the prioritisation process are described in a supporting document to the Strategy..



An environmental flow in Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) at Campbells Bridge.

Horsham local area – Implementation plan

The following tables outline management actions for the Mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River), MacKenzie River, Burnt and Bungalally Creeks and Horsham wetlands including the Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes. These actions are intended to be implemented over the ten-year period from 2026 to 2036 to help achieve desired environmental, cultural, social and recreational outcomes for the Horsham local area.

Management actions are shaded green for high priority and orange for medium priority. Actions with no shading are low priority. Unless otherwise specified, actions are currently funded through the Environmental Contribution Levy and other funding sources until 2028. For the purposes of the Strategy, funding is assumed to continue at current levels through to 2036.

This Plan is a living document that will be updated over time to reflect changes in funding, resources and other factors influencing catchment condition and management.

Implementation plan - Mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River)

The Implementation Plan for the Mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) outlines an integrated program of planning for and managing provision of water for the environment and complementary waterway management actions designed to protect and enhance the river's environmental, cultural, economic and social values. The Plan brings together the delivery of water for the environment with on-ground management activities to support healthy river ecosystems and improve the long-term resilience of the system.

Water for the environment will contribute to maintaining and restoring native vegetation communities, supporting waterbirds and native fish populations, and sustaining critical ecological processes. Complementary actions, including invasive species control, riparian vegetation protection, habitat restoration, infrastructure management, and collaborative partnerships with Barengi Gadjin Land Council, community groups and other stakeholders, will address key threats and strengthen river health outcomes.

Management actions are grouped in this Plan according to management themes:

Management theme	Table number
Enhancing riparian habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience.	Table 8
Water for the environment.	Table 9
Supporting recreational access in balance with environmental and cultural values.	Table 10
Integrated water management	Table 11

Appendix 1 contains the logic framework outlining the medium-term outcomes, values, threats and management actions that underpin this Plan. The key values supported and threats addressed by the Plan are summarised below.

Key values supported by this implementation plan
Strong cultural connections and values for Wotjobaluk Nations Peoples.
Native vegetation corridor of generally moderate to good condition.
Habitat for threatened species and ecological communities, including Australian shoveler, freshwater catfish and riparian vegetation communities.
Important habitat for waterbirds and native fish.
High community value for recreation, tourism and amenity.
Economic values include tourism, major events and water supply.

Key threats addressed by this implementation plan
Reduced flows and inundation from climate change, drought and altered water regimes.
Invasive plants and pest animals.
Habitat degradation, including overgrazing and recreation impacts.
Carp increasing instream turbidity and impacting aquatic plants and native fish.
Impacts of floods and bushfire.
Impacts of recreation and access, such as off-road vehicles, littering, and illegal firewood removal.

Enhancing riparian habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience

Table 8. Management actions associated with maintaining or improving riparian areas.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
Mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). Green Lake's tributary streams.	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples. **MO10.** Stewardship increases, with more people taking action to care for waterways.	The extent of riparian habitat and condition of river red gum communities are maintained or improved. The connectivity of riparian habitat is maintained or improved, enabling the movement and dispersal of terrestrial species. Platypus recovery opportunities are provided through improved riparian habitat and flow management in suitable Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) habitat.	Support private landholders to protect and manage riparian areas on their properties by managing stock access and controlling weeds, foxes and rabbits.	To be determined, depending on funding.	**Wimmera CMA.** Private landholders. Trust for Nature.	*Wimmera Proportion of Waterways Protected – Stage 2 (2023).* *Trust for Nature Statewide Conservation Plan 2021-2030.* *Green Lake Waterway Action Plan (2024).*	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Enhance riparian vegetation by revegetating with native species.	To be determined, depending on funding.	**Wimmera CMA.** Public land managers. Landcare groups. Private landholders.		Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Reduce the impact of problem invasive fauna on riparian vegetation by controlling rabbits.	To be determined, depending on funding.	**Wimmera CMA.** **Public Land Managers.** **Agriculture Victoria.** Private landholders.	*Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy (2019).*	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Reduce the impact of weeds on riparian vegetation by controlling problem weeds in priority areas, such as boneseed, gorse, blackberry, broom, and bridal creeper.	To be determined, depending on funding.			
			Monitor for new incursions or spread of pest plants and animals. Treat populations to prevent new, or greater, establishment where feasible.	1 partnership per year in collaboration with land managers.	**Wimmera CMA.** Public land managers. Local government. Private landholders.		

Water for the environment

Table 9. Management actions associated with providing water for the environment to support instream and riparian values.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
Mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). NOTE: these actions are also included in Table 2 for the lower Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River).	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples.	Native fish populations in the mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) are maintained or improved, supported by suitable flow conditions and aquatic habitat. The species richness and spatial extent of in-channel aquatic vegetation are maintained or improved and the abundance of aquatic vegetation is increased. The availability and quality of refuge habitats for native fish species are maintained or improved, with channel capacity preserved and sediment accumulation minimised. Riparian habitat extent and the condition of river red gum communities are maintained or improved. Geomorphic habitat quality is maintained or improved through the preservation of channel form, clean substrates and an open stream bed. The connectivity of instream habitat between river reaches is maintained or improved, enabling the movement and dispersal of native fish. Where possible, dissolved oxygen levels are effectively managed to reduce risks to native fish, instream and riparian vegetation and recreation and amenity values. Management of water for the environment achieves the waterbird outcomes identified in the environmental water management plan.	Develop annual seasonal watering proposals for the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River).	10 proposals (comprised of 1 proposal annually).	**Wimmera CMA.** GWMWater. Victorian Environmental Water Holder. Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. Horsham Rural City Council.	*Environmental Water Management Plan - Wimmera River, Yarriambiack Creek and their terminal lakes (2024).* Annual seasonal watering plans.	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Deliver water for the environment to the mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) in line with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's annual seasonal watering plans.	The volume (ML) of water delivered and extent of river watered depends on annual watering entitlements.			

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
Mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). Horsham weir pool.	**MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values.	Where possible, dissolved oxygen is effectively managed at levels that reduce risks to native fish, while also supporting recreation and amenity values. Where possible, the frequency, duration and severity of hypoxic events is managed to reduce risks to native fish, recreation and amenity. Where possible, nutrient levels are effectively managed to reduce the risk of blue-green algae blooms impacting native fish, recreation and amenity.	If water quality poses an emergency or unexpected risk of blue green algae or fish deaths, provide water for the environment to improve water quality in consultation with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, if sufficient water allocations are available.	As needed.	**Wimmera CMA.** **Victorian Environmental Water Holder.**	*Environmental Water Management Plan - Wimmera River, Yarriambiack Creek and their terminal lakes (2024).* Annual seasonal watering plans.	Continuation of approach under the previous regional waterway strategy.
Mid-Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). NOTE: This also includes Mount William Creek which is in the Upper Catchment local area.	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples.	Native fish populations in the mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) are maintained or improved, supported by suitable flow conditions and aquatic habitat. The species richness and spatial extent of in-channel aquatic vegetation are maintained or improved and the abundance of aquatic vegetation is increased. The availability and quality of refuge habitats for native fish species are maintained or improved, with channel capacity preserved and sediment accumulation minimised. Riparian habitat extent and the condition of river red gum communities are maintained or improved. Geomorphic habitat quality is maintained or improved through the preservation of channel form, clean substrates and an open stream bed.	Modify the outlet from Taylors Lake into the river, enabling a wider range of water for the environment volumes to be delivered to meet desired outcomes.	1 outlet modified.	**Wimmera CMA.** **GWMWater.**	*Environmental Water Management Plan - Wimmera River, Yarriambiack Creek and their terminal lakes (2024).*	New action.
			Improve the channel inlet where water flows from Mount William Creek into the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River), enabling a wider range of water for the environment volumes to be delivered to meet desired outcomes. This area is impacted by old water-supply infrastructure.	1 outlet modified.	**Wimmera CMA.** **GWMWater.**	*Environmental Water Management Plan - Wimmera River, Yarriambiack Creek and their terminal lakes (2024).*	New action.
			Investigate flow thresholds for Mount William Creek to maximise efficiency of water for the environment delivery to the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River).	1 investigation.	**Wimmera CMA.** GWMWater.	*Environmental Water Management Plan - Wimmera River, Yarriambiack Creek and their terminal lakes (2024).*	New action.

Supporting recreational access in balance with environmental and cultural values

Table 10. Management actions associated with supporting recreational access and amenity while minimising impacts on environmental and cultural values.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
Horsham weir pool.	**MO6.** Waterways identified as high priority for recreation and amenity provide enhanced recreational opportunities and community benefits, while minimising impacts on their environmental values.	High-priority recreational waterways provide safe, inclusive and well-maintained access that supports a range of recreational activities. Visitor impacts are effectively managed through infrastructure, site design and access controls that prevent environmental damage. Community members increasingly use and enjoy waterways for recreation, relaxation, cultural activities and connection with nature.	Develop a management plan for Horsham weir pool.	1 management plan.	**Horsham Rural City Council.** **Wimmera CMA.** Barengi Gadjin Land Council. DEECA - public land management. Recreational user groups. Wimmera River Improvement Committee.	Building on pre-existing relationships and discussions.	New action.
Mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). Horsham weir pool.	**MO1.** Ongoing collaboration and two-way learning in waterway planning and management, supporting self-determination and strengthening partnerships with First Nations Peoples. **MO6.** Waterways identified as high priority for recreation and amenity provide enhanced recreational opportunities and community benefits, while minimising impacts on their environmental values.	Tree-fall risks and instream vegetation growth are collaboratively assessed and managed with key stakeholders to balance access for recreation with sustainable, environmentally and culturally responsible river access and use.	Collaboratively assess and manage tree-fall risks and instream vegetation growth with key stakeholders and in line with permit processes and requirements.	Dependent on the number requiring assessment.	**Wimmera CMA.** **Barengi Gadjin Land Council.** DEECA - public land management. Parks Victoria. Horsham Rural City Council. Recreational user groups.	Works on Waterways Permit processes. Cultural heritage processes.	Continuation of existing arrangements.

Integrated water management

Table 11. Management actions associated with integrated water management.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
Mid-Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River)	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values.	Native fish populations in the mid Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) are maintained or improved, supported by suitable flow conditions and aquatic habitat. Where possible, dissolved oxygen is effectively managed at levels that reduce risks to native fish, while also supporting recreation and amenity values.	Ensure environmental, waterway and landscape values are maintained in the evolution of Horsham recycled water management.	1 plan.	**GWMWater.** Wimmera CMA. Horsham Rural City Council.	*Integrated water management*	New action.

Implementation plan - MacKenzie River, Burnt and Bungalally Creeks

This Plan sets out an integrated program of management actions for protecting and enhancing the values of the MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek and Bungalally Creek systems through the coordinated delivery of water for the environment and complementary catchment management actions. These waterways support a range of significant aquatic and riparian species and communities, including platypus, river blackfish, western swamp crayfish, Glenelg spiny crayfish, southern pygmy perch, obscure galaxias, Wimmera callistemon, and diverse riparian vegetation communities that contribute to ecosystem health, resilience and connectivity.

Water for the environment plays a critical role in maintaining the ecological functions that support these values. Management actions will seek to maintain and, where possible, improve habitat availability, water quality, stream connectivity and ecological processes that underpin the survival, reproduction and dispersal of native fish, crayfish, platypus and riparian vegetation.

To maximise ecological benefits, environmental watering will be complemented by targeted riparian management actions designed to improve the condition, extent and connectivity of riparian and aquatic habitats. These measures may include revegetation, stock exclusion, weed and pest management, and protection of high-value habitat areas. Together, these actions will strengthen ecosystem resilience, improve waterway health and enhance the capacity of native species and vegetation communities to persist and recover.

Recognising the increasing frequency and severity of dry conditions, this Plan also includes investigations into feasible and cost-effective drought refuge areas. These refuges have the potential to provide critical habitat for priority species during periods of low flow, drought and reduced availability of water for the environment. Establishing and, where appropriate, enhancing refuge habitats will help maintain key environmental values through dry periods by supporting species persistence, safeguarding remnant populations and facilitating recovery when conditions improve.

Management actions are grouped in this Plan according to management themes:

Management theme	Table number
Enhancing riparian habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience.	Table 12
Water for the environment.	Table 13
Drought refuge area management.	Table 14
Priority water-dependent species.	Table 15

Appendix 1 contains the logic framework outlining the medium-term outcomes, values, threats and management actions that underpin this Plan. The key values supported and threats addressed by the Plan are summarised below.

Key values supported by this implementation plan

Strong cultural connections and values for Wotjobaluk Nations Peoples.

Native vegetation corridor of high quality and diverse vegetation connecting Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) to the Baringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River).

Important habitat for threatened species and ecological communities, including platypus, river blackfish, western swamp crayfish, Glenelg spiny crayfish, southern pygmy percha, obscure galaxias, Wimmera callistemon and riparian vegetation communities.

High community value for recreation, tourism and amenity.

Economic values include tourism, major events and water supply.

Key threats addressed by this implementation plan

Reduced flows and inundation from climate change, drought and altered water regimes.

Invasive plants and pest animals.

Habitat degradation, including overgrazing and recreation impacts.

Carp increasing instream turbidity and impacting aquatic plants and native fish.

Impacts of floods and bushfire.

Impacts of recreation and access, such as off-road vehicles, littering, and illegal firewood removal.

Enhancing riparian habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience

Table 12. Management actions associated with maintaining or improving riparian areas.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek, Bungalally Creek and other tributaries	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples. **MO10.** Stewardship increases, with more people taking action to care for waterways.	The condition, extent and connectivity of riparian vegetation is improved, contributing to the restoration of continuous native riparian vegetation corridors between Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) and the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). The condition of river red gum dominated ecological vegetation classes is maintained.	Support private landholders to protect and manage riparian areas on their properties by managing stock access and controlling weeds, foxes and rabbits.	To be determined, depending on funding.	**Wimmera CMA.** Private landholders. Trust for Nature.	*Wimmera Proportion of Waterways Protected – Stage 2 (2023).* *Trust for Nature Statewide Conservation Plan 2021-2030.*	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Enhance riparian vegetation by revegetating with native species.	To be determined, depending on funding.	**Wimmera CMA.** Public land managers. Landcare groups. Private landholders.		
			Reduce the impact of problem invasive fauna on riparian vegetation by controlling rabbits.	To be determined, depending on funding.	**Wimmera CMA.** **Public Land Managers.** **Agriculture Victoria.** Private landholders.	*Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy (2019).*	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Reduce the impact of weeds on riparian vegetation by controlling problem weeds in priority areas, such as blackberry, gorse, broom, boneseed and bridal creeper.	To be determined, depending on funding.			
			Monitor for new incursions or spread of pest plants and animals. Treat populations to prevent new, or greater, establishment where feasible.	1 partnership per year in collaboration with land managers.	**Wimmera CMA.** Public land managers. Agriculture Victoria. Private landholders.		

Water for the environment

Table 13. Management actions associated with providing water for the environment to support instream and riparian values.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek and Bungalally Creek.	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples.	The condition, extent and connectivity of riparian vegetation is improved, contributing to the restoration of continuous native riparian vegetation corridors between Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) and the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). The condition of river red gum dominated ecological vegetation classes is maintained. Suitable flow conditions and improved aquatic habitat support native fish population persistence, with evidence of episodic dispersal between habitats. The connectivity of instream habitat between river reaches is maintained or improved, enabling the movement and dispersal of native fish. Water for the environment maintains habitat for water-dependent species including platypus, river blackfish, small-bodied native fish and freshwater crayfish.	Develop annual seasonal watering proposals for the MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek and Bungalally Creek.	10 proposals (comprised of 1 proposal annually).	**Wimmera CMA.** GWMWater. Victorian Environmental Water Holder. Horsham Rural City Council.	*Environmental Water Management Plan - MacKenzie River and Burnt and Bungalally Creeks 2025.* Annual seasonal watering plans.	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Deliver water for the environment to the MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek and Bungalally Creek in line with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's annual seasonal watering plans.	The volume (ML) of water delivered and extent of river watered depends on annual watering entitlements.			
			Investigate the feasibility of altering infrastructure where the Rocklands Channel crosses the MacKenzie River to enable flows from Rocklands Reservoir to enter MacKenzie River, providing another avenue for water for the environment to be delivered to the MacKenzie River.	1 assessment.	**GWMWater.** **Wimmera CMA.**	*Environmental Water Management Plan - MacKenzie River and Burnt and Bungalally Creeks 2025.*	New action.
Burnt Creek.			Investigate options to reduce losses at the confluence of Burnt Creek with Rocklands Channel to enable more efficient delivery of water for the environment to Burnt Creek.	1 investigation. NOTE: Impacts on the operation of Rocklands Channel should be avoided.	**Wimmera CMA.** GWMWater.	*Environmental Water Management Plan - MacKenzie River and Burnt and Bungalally Creeks 2025.*	New action.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
Burnt Creek.	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples.	Suitable flow conditions and improved aquatic habitat support native fish population persistence, with evidence of episodic dispersal between habitats. The connectivity of instream habitat between river reaches is maintained or improved, enabling the movement and dispersal of native fish.	Manage vegetation impeding efficient water for the environment flows and water supply transfers, such as Boggy Corner along Burnt Creek which has a build-up of cumbungi, causing water supply transfers to be diverted down a bypass channel, leading to no flow in this section of Burnt Creek, impacting on water-dependent species, riparian vegetation and aquatic habitat.	High density instream vegetation identified and managed as needed.	**Wimmera CMA.** **GWMWater.**	*Environmental Water Management Plan - MacKenzie River and Burnt and Bungalally Creeks 2025.*	New action.
MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek and Bungalally Creek.	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples.	Practical and feasible options to improve the reliability of water for the environment supplied from Lake Wartook have been assessed to support future implementation.	Investigate the feasibility, costs and benefits of installing pipes to transfer water from Rocklands Reservoir to Taylors Lake and the Mount Zero Treatment Plant to reduce reliance on Lake Wartook during dry periods and enhance capacity to deliver water for the environment flows to support priority values including platypus, river blackfish, freshwater crayfish and small-bodied native fish.	1 proposal submitted.	**GWMWater.** **Wimmera CMA.** Horsham Rural City Council.	*Environmental Water Management Plan - MacKenzie River and Burnt and Bungalally Creeks 2025.*	Continuation of previous discussions.

Drought refuge area management

Table 14. Management actions associated with establishing and managing drought refuge areas.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek.	**MO2.** Priority areas have improved management to enhance habitat, landscape connectivity and resilience. **MO4.** Drought refuges support native species' survival and resilience during dry periods.	Options, feasibility, costs and benefits of providing water for the environment to drought refuge areas in the MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek and Bungalally Creek system is considered to support persistence of environmental values including habitat, native fish, riparian and aquatic vegetation, frogs and waterbirds during and after dry conditions and drought.	Investigate options and explore the long-term feasibility, costs and benefits of establishing pipeline watered drought refuge sites in the MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek. Feasibility considerations may include: • Cost-benefit analysis. • Capacity to continue to support waterway values under climate change scenarios. • Whether water for the environment provided to drought refuge sites is likely to sustain target species and ecological values given modelling of future streamflow projections.	1 feasibility assessment and cost-benefit analysis completed.	**Wimmera CMA.** GWMWater. Victorian Environmental Water Holder. GWMWater. Barengi Gadjin Land Council. DEECA - Public Land Managers.	*Lower MacKenzie River and upper Burnt Creek flow optimisation project 2019.* *Wimmera CMA's Dry Conditions Action Plan.* *Environmental Water Management Plan - MacKenzie River and Burnt and Bungalally Creeks 2025.*	New action.

Priority water-dependent species

Table 15. Management actions associated with providing habitat and supporting persistence of water-dependent species.

Priority area or Priority species	**Medium-term outcomes (MO)**	**Contribution to the medium-term outcomes** (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	**Management action**	**Amount by 2036**	**Responsible parties** (Lead organisations are **bold**).	**Connection with other plans or strategies**	**Status**
Platypus. River blackfish. Freshwater mussels. Freshwater crayfish. Small-bodied native fish.	**MO8.** Key water-dependent species are supported in waterways that provide suitable habitat, including during dry conditions.	A viable breeding population of platypus is sustained in the upper MacKenzie River. A viable breeding population of river blackfish is sustained in the MacKenzie River. Viable and self-sustaining breeding populations of river blackfish are established in waterways with suitable habitat. Freshwater crayfish and freshwater mussel locations, population size and habitat requirements in the Wimmera are known. Feasible future actions and locations for freshwater crayfish and freshwater mussel are identified.	Investigate the environmental values of Mount Zero channel and, if appropriate following the investigation, develop a proposal for managing these values.	1 investigation completed. 1 proposal developed.	**Wimmera CMA.** **GWMWater.** **Barengi Gadjin Land Council.**	*Wimmera Platypus Management Plan (2026, draft).* *Wimmera Native Fish Management Plan (2022).*	New action.

Implementation plan - Horsham wetlands

This Plan sets out an integrated program of management actions including water for the environment and complementary waterway management activities to maintain and improve the environmental, cultural and social values of the Horsham wetlands including the Natimuk-Douglas Chain of Lakes.

Management actions such as invasive species control, habitat restoration, community partnerships and riparian vegetation and buffer zone maintenance and improvement will address key threats and improve long-term resilience.

Management actions are grouped in this Plan according to management themes:

Management theme	Table number
Reducing threats to wetlands and maintaining values.	Table 16
Management actions associated with supporting recreational access and amenity while minimising impacts on environmental and cultural values.	Table 17Table 17

Appendix 1 contains the logic framework outlining the medium-term outcomes, values, threats and management actions that underpin this Plan. The key values supported and threats addressed by the Plan are summarised below.

Key values supported by this implementation plan
High concentration and diversity of wetland types and associated plants and animals, forming a major wetland complex.
Critically endangered wetland community, Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains.
Natimuk-Douglas chain of lakes includes wetlands listed on the **National Directory of Important Wetlands.**
Support high biodiversity, particularly wetland plants, frogs, birds and invertebrates.
Support threatened plants and animals, including nationally threatened growling grass frogs, and provide breeding habitat for threatened brolgas.
Frequently co-located with **endangered buloke vegetation communities**.
Strong cultural connections and values for Wotjobaluk Nations Peoples.
Community values and stewardship, including active community groups.
Recreational opportunities including walking, fishing, yabbying, camping, bird watching, water sports and duck hunting.
Economic values, including water supply, tourism and community events centred around wetlands.

Key threats addressed by this implementation plan
Reduced flows and inundation from climate change, drought and altered water regimes.
Changes to hydrology such as channels, drains and dams in the wetland basin and surrounds.
Cropping of the wetland basin and riparian zone.
Invasive plants and pest animals.
Habitat degradation, including overgrazing and recreation impacts.
Introduction of nutrients from cropping practices in or beside the wetland.
Lack of connectivity, with narrow buffer areas generally surrounded by agricultural land.

Reducing threats to wetlands and maintaining values.

Table 16. Management actions associated with reducing threats to wetlands with high environmental value and maintaining environmental and other values.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome.	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
Seasonal Herbaceous Wetlands (Freshwater) of the Temperate Lowland Plains. Wetlands with high environmental value.	**MO3.** Wetland modification, loss and deterioration of condition occurs at a declining rate. **MO10.** Stewardship increases, with more people taking action to care for waterways.	The rate of wetlands impacted by modifications including drainage changes, dam construction, cropping and new land development slows or stabilises over time. Wetland buffers, wetland vegetation communities and wetland physical form are maintained or improved on private and public land.	Implement community education activities to increase awareness of cropping, grazing and drainage impacts on wetlands, the values of wetlands and appropriate conservation management techniques.	To be determined based on funding.	**Wimmera CMA.** Landcare. Trust for Nature.	*Wimmera Wetland Asset Strategy.*	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Support private landholders to protect and manage wetlands on their properties by controlling stock access, reducing the impact of weeds and pest animals, and maintaining natural hydrology.	To be determined based on funding.	**Wimmera CMA.** Trust for Nature. Private landholders.	*Trust for Nature's Statewide Conservation Plan 2021-2030.* *Wimmera Wetland Asset Strategy.*	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
Public wetlands.	**MO3.** Wetland modification, loss and deterioration of condition occurs at a declining rate. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples. **MO10.** Stewardship increases, with more people taking action to care for waterways.	Wetland buffers, wetland vegetation communities and wetland physical form are maintained or improved on private and public land.	Control pest animals in priority areas to reduce their impact on key wetland values.	50 ha (annually).	**Parks Victoria.** **Wimmera CMA.** **Barengi Gadjin Land Council.**	*Wimmera Invasive Plant and Animal Management Strategy 2019.*	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Control weeds in priority areas to reduce their impact on key wetland values.	100 ha (annually).			
			Monitor for new incursions and spread of pest plants and animals. Treat problem populations to prevent new or greater establishment, where feasible.	1 partnership per year in collaboration with land managers.	**Wimmera CMA.** **Parks Victoria.** **Barengi Gadjin Land Council.** **Local Government.** Landcare.		

Supporting recreational access in balance with environmental and cultural values

Table 17. Management actions associated with supporting recreational access and amenity while minimising impacts on environmental and cultural values.

Priority area	Medium-term outcomes (MO)	Contribution to the medium-term outcomes (What the management action seeks to influence to achieve the outcome).	Management action	Amount by 2036	Responsible parties (Lead organisations are **bold**).	Connection with other plans or strategies	Status
Pine Lake.	**MO6.** Waterways identified as high priority for recreation and amenity provide enhanced recreational opportunities and community benefits, while minimising impacts on their environmental values.	High-priority recreational waterways provide safe, inclusive and well-maintained access that supports a range of recreational activities. Visitor impacts are effectively managed through infrastructure, site design and access controls that prevent environmental damage. Community members increasingly use and enjoy waterways for recreation, relaxation, cultural activities and connection with nature.	Investigate future management of Pine Lake.	1 investigation completed.	**GWMWater.** Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Wimmera CMA.		New action.
Green Lake.			Support implementation of Green Lake management plans to benefit social, cultural, economic and environmental values.	To be determined.	**GWMWater.** **Horsham Rural City Council.** Wimmera CMA. Recreational user groups.	*Green Lake Waterway Action Plan (2024)*	Continuation of existing work.