2026-2036







WIMMERA WATERWAY STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

VICTORIA State Government Australia

Wimmera CMA

Key management topics - Implementation plan

This section addresses key issues that affect waterways across the entire Wimmera catchment, rather than specific local areas. These topics represent broad-scale challenges and opportunities that require coordinated management to protect environmental, cultural, social and economic values.

The section covers themes such as supporting First Nations Peoples' self-determination, waterway-based recreation, water quality, fire preparedness and recovery, blue-green algae management, native fish conservation, platypus recovery and birdlife protection.

For each topic, this section outlines the current context, major threats and desired medium-term outcomes, supported by evidence and examples of ongoing initiatives.

Collaborating with First Nations Peoples and supporting self-determination

The Strategy's desired outcomes are**:**

- **Long-term (>20-year):** Knowledge and experience of First Nations Peoples is informing waterway planning, management and delivery in the Wimmera, advancing self-determination.
- **Medium-term (<10-year):** Ongoing collaboration and two-way learning in waterway planning and management, supporting self-determination and strengthening partnerships with First Nations Peoples.

Achieving these outcomes will mean that waterway planning and management occur in genuine partnership with First Nations Peoples. Registered Aboriginal Parties in the Wimmera, Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, will be empowered to embed their knowledge, cultural values, and priorities in decision-making in self-determined ways.

Collaborative partnerships will support self-determination through ongoing respectful two-way learning, where cultural knowledge and scientific evidence are equally valued and inform practice.

Agencies will demonstrate strong capability in culturally informed engagement and collaborative waterway management.

This approach will result in waterway management that reflects and prioritises cultural values alongside environmental, social and economic outcomes; upholds the rights and aspirations of First Nations People; and achieves more sustainable, inclusive and place-based outcomes.

Table 33 includes management actions that seek to achieve these outcomes.

Additional specific opportunities for collaborating with First Nations Peoples on planned waterway activities are identified in local area sections of this Plan.

Table 33. Implementation actions for collaborating with First Nations Peoples and supporting self-determination regarding waterway management.

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**
MO1. Ongoing collaboration and two-way learning in waterway planning and management, supporting self-determination and strengthening partnerships with First Nations Peoples. **MO7.** Healthier waterways enable more On Country activities for First Nations Peoples.	Waterway planning and management is developed collaboratively with First Nations organisations, Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, with evidence of shared priority-setting and decision-making. First Nations organisations determine how, when and to what extent they partner in waterway planning and management, consistent with their rights, aspirations and governance structures. Partnerships with Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation are characterised by trust, respect, transparency and shared accountability. Waterway plans and projects demonstrate the integration of cultural values, cultural knowledges and scientific evidence. Knowledge sharing is respectful and contributes to improved decision-making. Agency staff demonstrate increased cultural capability, confidence and competence in working collaboratively with First Nations Peoples. Policies, systems and processes support culturally informed engagement and partnership approaches.	Meet regularly to discuss waterway plans, strategies, projects and initiatives.	As agreed by the parties.	**Wimmera CMA, Barengi Gadjin Land Council.**	*Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap (2022) and Nation Statement - Barengi Gadjin Land Council.* *Growing What is Good (Dya) Country Plan (2026).*	Continuation of existing arrangements.
				Wimmera CMA. Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.	*Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap (2022) and Nation Statement in - Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.* *'Meerreengeeye Ngakeepoorryeeyt' Eastern Maar Country Plan (2015).*	Building a relationship.
		Collaborate on opportunities to build two-way knowledge and capacity to implement waterway-related actions on Country including, for example, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, riverbank and tree management, cultural burning, aquatic species.	As opportunities arise.	**Wimmera CMA. Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.**	*Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap (2022) and Nation Statements.* Country Plans.	Continuation of existing arrangements.

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**
		Support employment and training opportunities for First Nations Peoples.	When funding is available.	**Wimmera CMA.** Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.	*Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap (2022) and Nation Statements.* Country Plans.	Continuation of existing arrangements.
		Support Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation to operate as the lead organisations for advice related to cultural heritage and other cultural considerations.	As relevant.	**Wimmera CMA.** Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation.	*Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap (2022) and Nation Statements.* Country Plans.	
		Collaborate on activities that advance Barengi Gadjin Land Council's self-determination, including strategic management of property along the Datchak Creek at Antwerp, as well as other culturally significant sites.	Ongoing collaboration.	**Barengi Gadjin Land Council.** Wimmera CMA	*Growing What is Good (Dya) Country Plan (2026).*	

Water for the environment

Local area sections of this Plan include targeted actions for managing water for the environment in priority areas to help maintain and enhance native biodiversity, habitat quality, ecosystem connectivity and the function of rivers, streams and wetlands as drought refuges. The management action below seeks to provide an overarching, catchment-wide framework to guide management of water for the environment and decision-making during periods of dry conditions and water scarcity.

Table 34: Implementation actions supporting decision making for water for the environment.

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**
Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) (regulated reaches). Mount William Creek. MacKenzie River, Burnt Creek, Bungalally Creek. Mount Cole Creek. Thirteen Wimmera Mallee pipeline wetlands.	**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. **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.	Water for the environment supports healthy, connected and resilient river and wetland ecosystems by maintaining or improving native fish populations, vegetation communities, habitat quality, water quality, waterbird values and drought refuge function.	Develop a decision framework to guide the management of water for the environment during dry conditions. Considerations include triggers, priority areas and delivery options, to support key ecological values and maintain waterway functions.	1 decision framework.	**Wimmera CMA.** Victorian Environmental Water Holder. Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. GWMWater. Barengi Gadjin Land Council.	*Environmental Water Management Plan - Wimmera River, Yarriambiack Creek and their terminal lakes (2024).* *Environmental Water Management Plan - MacKenzie River and Burnt and Bungalally Creeks (2025).* *Environmental Water Management Plan – Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Wetlands – Wimmera CMA Region (2016).* Annual seasonal watering plans issued by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder. *Wimmera CMA's Dry Conditions Action Plan (2025).*	This is a complementary action to support other planning and guidance documents including annual seasonal watering proposals and dry contingency inflow plans/dry conditions action plans.

Fire preparedness, response and recovery

Climate change is increasing the risk of more frequent, severe and extensive bushfires across Victoria, with implications for the Wimmera's water catchments, waterways and water supplies. Bushfires can have significant and long-lasting impacts on river, stream and wetland health by increasing erosion, sediment and nutrient runoff, degrading water quality and aquatic habitat, and affecting water yields. These impacts can threaten the environmental, cultural, social and economic values that healthy waterways provide.

Recent events, including the 2024 Bayindeen fire and previous fires in the Gariwerd (Grampians National Park) region, have highlighted the vulnerability of the Wimmera's waterways and water supply infrastructure to post-fire impacts. The consequences of major fires can extend well beyond the fireground, affecting downstream communities, water users and ecosystems through reduced water quality and increased recovery and management costs.

Recognising these risks, effective bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery require a coordinated approach involving fire agencies, water corporations, land managers, catchment management authorities, First Nations Peoples, local government and communities. This Plan supports actions that strengthen catchment resilience, protect water-dependent values and support coordinated recovery efforts to minimise the impacts of bushfires on waterways and water supplies. This supports the long-term (>20-year) desired outcome and medium-term outcome in Table 35.

Long-term desired outcome (>20-year):
Water is of sufficient quality to support waterway values and uses at important areas for water supply, cultural, environmental and social values.

Table 35. Implementation actions for fire preparedness, response and recovery.

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**
Priority areas in forested catchments: • Upper Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). • Lake Bellfield catchment. • Lake Wartook catchment. • Mount William Creek catchment.	**MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values.	Water for the environment supports healthy, connected and resilient river and wetland ecosystems by maintaining or improving native fish populations, vegetation communities, habitat quality, water quality, waterbird values and drought refuge function.	Forest Fire Management Victoria working with relevant authorities and community to develop preparedness, response and recovery action plans to minimise the risk of bushfire to water quality and waterway values.	1 plan.	**Forest Fire Management Victoria (Wimmera).** Wimmera CMA. Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Parks Victoria. GWMWater. Local community members.	*Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan for Biodiversity and Agricultural Natural Capital Assets in the Wimmera region (2024).*	New action, representing an approach to planning led by Forest Fire Management Victoria.

Water quality

Access to clean water is critical for environmental health, community wellbeing and the Wimmera's farming and industrial sectors. Towns and farms rely on high-quality water for drinking, sanitation, stock watering, crop spraying, industry and maintaining public spaces. Poor water quality can trigger algal blooms and fish deaths, harming ecosystems and disrupting recreation such as fishing and swimming. Freshwater species, like fish, plants and macroinvertebrates, are especially vulnerable.

Local area sections of this Plan include specific actions tailored to priority areas. Table 36Table 36 includes water quality actions that include multiple local areas, including establishing interim targets for waterway locations identified in the Strategy to address threats posed by poor water quality, and where waterway managers can feasibly make a difference to achieve the targets. The table also includes support for water quality monitoring and education involving Waterwatch volunteers and school children.

Management actions are shaded green for high priority and orange for medium priority. Actions with no shading are low priority.

Table 36. Implementation actions for water quality

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**
Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) at: • Glenorchy. • Horsham weir pool. • Dimboola weir pool.	**MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values.	Sediment and nutrient risks to water quality are minimised through proactive erosion control, stock exclusion and riparian native vegetation establishment. Where possible, salinity and dissolved oxygen levels are effectively managed to reduce risks to native fish, instream and riparian vegetation and recreation and amenity values in the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) and weir pools. Where flow conditions can be influenced, the frequency, duration and severity of hypoxic events is managed to reduce risks to native fish and recreation and amenity values in the Lower Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) and weir pools. Where possible, nutrient levels are effectively managed to reduce the risk of blue-green algae blooms impacting native fish, recreation and amenity values in the Lower Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) and weir pools.	Establish interim water quality targets at priority sites identified in the *Wimmera Waterway Strategy*.	Water quality targets established for 3 priority sites by 2030.	**Wimmera CMA.** GWMWater. DEECA Environment Protection Authority Victoria.	*Victoria's Environment Reference Standards*. Former *State Environment Protection Policy (Waters) 2018.*	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**
Priority areas. Lower Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River).	**MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values. **MO10.** Stewardship increases, with more people taking action to care for waterways.	More community members and groups are actively participating in the protection, restoration and management of waterways across the Wimmera.	Support Waterwatch volunteers to collect water quality data.	Active Waterwatch volunteers are supported with resources annually.	**Wimmera CMA.** Waterwatch volunteers. Jeparit Waterwatch group.	Waterwatch Program	Continuation of work under the previous regional waterway strategy.
			Provide waterway-based education in schools, particularly via the River Detectives program.	To be determined.	**North Central CMA.** Wimmera CMA.	River Detectives program.	

Blue-green algae

Blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms occur when favourable conditions, such as elevated nutrient levels, warm temperatures and low flows, allow algae to rapidly increase in abundance. These blooms can produce toxins that affect human and animal health, aquatic ecosystems and recreational use of waterways, resulting in significant social, environmental and economic impacts. Waterways across the Wimmera, including recreational lakes, weir pools and sections of the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River), are susceptible to outbreaks, particularly during dry periods. Blue-green algae blooms impact recreational use of waterways, cause environmental damage and impact on availability of water for the environment releases from storages when impacted by blooms, leading to reduced achievement of watering outcomes.

Managing blue-green algae requires a coordinated, long-term approach involving research, partnership-based planning and integrated catchment management. While GWMWater leads monitoring and response under the *Regional Blue-Green Algae Coordination Plan*, Wimmera CMA contributes by supporting improved understanding of bloom drivers and management options, facilitating collaboration between stakeholders, and integrating blue-green algae considerations into broader waterway and catchment management activities. These actions complement on-ground works and environmental water management aimed at improving water quality and building the resilience of waterways to future outbreaks, which are expected to become more frequent under a changing climate.

Table 37: Implementation actions for Blue-green algae

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**
Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) weir pools at Horsham, Dimboola and Jeparit. Yarriambiack Creek weir pools at Warracknabeal and Brim. Priority lakes including: Lake Wallace. Green Lake. Dock Lake. Lake Toolondo. Lake Marma Lake Charlegrark. Nhill Lake.	**MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values. **MO6.** Waterways identified as high priority for recreation and amenity provide enhanced recreational opportunities and community benefits, while minimising impacts on their environmental values.	Where possible, nutrient levels are effectively managed to reduce the risk of blue-green algae blooms impacting native fish, recreation and amenity values. High-priority recreational waterways provide safe, inclusive and well-maintained access that supports a range of recreational activities.	Monitor for new developments and innovation for preventing and treating blue-green algal blooms. Work with responsible organisations to facilitate actions preventing or treating blue-green algae if viable and cost-effective processes or products are available and appropriate.	Biannual Australia and New Zealand Cyanobacteria Workshops. Monitoring latest research and development.	**GWMWater.** **Wimmera CMA.** Local government. Parks Victoria. International and national water-research agencies.	*Regional Blue-Green Algae Coordination Plan.*	Continuation of existing arrangements.

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
Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) weir pools at Horsham, Dimboola and Jeparit. Yarriambiack Creek weir pools at Warracknabeal and Brim. Priority lakes including: Lake Wallace. Green Lake. Dock Lake. Lake Toolondo. Lake Marma Lake Charlegrark. Nhill Lake.	**MO5.** Risks to water quality in Wimmera waterways are managed where possible to reduce impacts on values. **MO6.** Waterways identified as high priority for recreation and amenity provide enhanced recreational opportunities and community benefits, while minimising impacts on their environmental values.	Where possible, nutrient levels are effectively managed to reduce the risk of blue-green algae blooms impacting native fish, recreation and amenity values. High-priority recreational waterways provide safe, inclusive and well-maintained access that supports a range of recreational activities.	Monitor water quality to inform management decisions, especially when conditions pose a higher risk of blue-green algae such as after storm runoff and the potential of increased nutrient loads (higher risk with climate change).	Monitoring based on observational reports and environmental conditions.	**GWMWater.** Local government. Wimmera CMA. Local waterway managers.	*Regional Blue-Green Algae Coordination Plan.*	Continuation of existing arrangements.
			Implement landowner education programs to minimise nutrient run-off from properties.	To be determined.	**Wimmera CMA.** **Agriculture Victoria.** GWMWater.	*Wimmera Regional Catchment Strategy (2021).*	Continuation of existing arrangements.

Native fish, freshwater crayfish and freshwater mussels

Native fish, freshwater crayfish and mussels are important components of the Wimmera's aquatic ecosystems and hold significant environmental, cultural, social and economic value. The region supports a diverse range of native fish species, including river blackfish, southern pygmy perch, obscure galaxias, Australian smelt and carp gudgeon, as well as recreationally important species such as golden perch, silver perch, freshwater catfish and Murray cod. Wimmera waterways also provide habitat for freshwater mussels and threatened freshwater crayfish, including western swamp crayfish and Glenelg spiny crayfish. Barengi Gadjin Land Council has identified freshwater crayfish and mussels as priority species of high cultural significance, highlighting the importance of improving understanding and management of these species in partnership with First Nations Peoples, and supporting self-determination.

Protecting and improving habitat is fundamental to supporting resilient populations of native fish, freshwater crayfish and mussels. Healthy waterways with suitable water quality, flow regimes, habitat complexity and connectivity provide the conditions these species need to feed, breed and persist over the long term. Management of water for the environment plays an important role by maintaining aquatic habitat and water quality and, where conditions allow, supporting breeding and recruitment opportunities for native fish. Environmental water and complementary on-ground actions aimed at improving habitat and connectivity for species such as river blackfish, southern pygmy perch and obscure galaxias are identified within the relevant local area implementation plans of this Strategy.

This section of the implementation plan focuses on actions to reduce threats such as introduced fish and foundational work to guide future decision-making, including knowledge generation and partnership-based planning to support native fish such as river blackfish, freshwater crayfish and mussels. Consistent with Wimmera CMA's role in coordinating and facilitating waterway management, actions include establishing and maintaining partnerships to facilitate research to address key knowledge gaps, monitoring to improve understanding of species distribution and habitat requirements, and collaboration with First Nations Peoples, agencies and community partners to identify priorities and guide future management. This foundational work will inform and complement on-ground restoration activities and environmental water management, helping to target future investment towards actions that provide the greatest benefit for these culturally and ecologically significant species.

Management actions are shaded green for high priority and orange for medium priority. Actions with no shading are low priority.

Native fish breeding

Water for the environment releases help maintain water quality, habitat and connectivity for native fish and other aquatic species. Water releases may be used to support fish breeding and recruitment where conditions are suitable and in line with environmental water management objectives.

In November 2021, Wimmera CMA staff observed spawning behaviour in golden perch and silver perch in the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) below the Horsham weir - an unusual event as, unlike freshwater catfish, these species are not known to breed in this system. The behaviour coincided with several days of increased flows following spring rainfall.

To replicate the flow conditions thought to trigger native fish breeding, water for the environment was released in November 2023 and 2024 under the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's annual seasonal watering plans. These flows were designed using the conditions observed in 2021 and guided by the *Wimmera Native Fish Management Plan*.

Although no spawning was detected during the 2023 and 2024 flows, Wimmera CMA and stakeholders remain interested in further testing and refining this approach when conditions are favourable. The aim is to improve aquatic habitat and breeding conditions for small-bodied native fish, while also providing potential benefits for larger-bodied species, such as golden perch and freshwater catfish.

Successful spawning relies on the right environmental conditions and is strongly influenced by climate factors such as rainfall and temperature. Future implementation will depend on water availability, the capacity to meet other water for the environment outcomes and environmental conditions like water temperature. Any future releases will be planned through the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's annual seasonal watering planning process, in consultation with regional stakeholders.

This work aligns with the priorities of both the *Wimmera Native Fish Management Plan* and the Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River)'s environmental water management plan, which aim to improve the resilience and diversity of native fish populations.

Table 38. Implementation actions for the Wimmera's native fish, freshwater mussels and freshwater crayfish.

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. Mount William Creek. Mount Cole Creek. Glenlofty Creek. Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). Priority wetlands.	**MO8.** Key water-dependent species are supported in waterways that provide suitable habitat, including during dry conditions.	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.	Support research to increase understanding of successful river blackfish breeding in captivity to support restoration and recovery of blackfish and ecosystem functioning in suitable Wimmera waterway habitat.	Complete a breeding-research project with Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria, Snobs Creek Conservation Hatchery, by 2028.	**Partnership:** **Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria.** **Wimmera CMA.** Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Native Fish Australia Wimmera Branch. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.	*Wimmera Native Fish Management Plan 2022.* *Victorian Fisheries Authority-Freshwater Fisheries Management Plan 2018-2028.* *Biodiversity 2037.*	A funded project from until 2028.
			Investigate potential release sites for hatchery-bred river blackfish and other small-bodied native fish.	One investigation completed.			Underway - continuation of previous actions.
			Investigate habitat enhancements that support small-bodied native fish and implement actions informed by the findings.	One investigation.			New action.
			Monitor river blackfish survival and recruitment at translocation sites.	Annual monitoring of two waterways and two dams.			Underway - continuation of previous actions.
			Investigate management options with Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria to reduce predatory impacts of trout and redfin.	1 investigation.			New action.
			During dry periods, work with relevant agencies to support translocation of small-bodied native fish from stressed and drying pools to more secure waterway sites, where feasible.	Dependent on seasonal climate conditions and feasibility.	**Partnership:** **Wimmera CMA.** **Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria.** Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.	Annual Wimmera Seasonal Watering Plans. *Wimmera CMA's Dry Conditions Action Plan (2025).*	Standard procedure.

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**
Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). Mount William Creek. MacKenzie River. Burnt Creek. Yarriambiack Creek weir pools at Jung, Warracknabeal and Brim. Priority Wimmera lakes.	**MO8.** Key water-dependent species are supported in waterways that provide suitable habitat, including during dry conditions.	The impacts of carp and overall biomass of carp are reduced, where feasible, resulting in improved aquatic habitat condition and better outcomes for native fish populations.	Undertake targeted carp control in priority areas to protect river blackfish and small-bodied native fish.	Annual assessment of carp proliferation and targeted control actions.	**Wimmera CMA.** Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria. GWMWater. DEECA.	*Wimmera Native Fish Management Plan (2022).* *Wimmera Carp Management Plan (2020).*	New action, building on previous work.
			Act if and as directed as part of national biological carp control involving the use of cyprinid herpes virus 3 (carp virus).	Follow *National Carp Control Plan* roll-out.	**Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.** **Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria.** DEECA. Wimmera CMA.	*National Carp Control Plan.* *Wimmera Carp Management Plan (2020).* *Wimmera Native Fish Management Plan (2022).*	Further investigation and research occurring.
Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). Mount William Creek. MacKenzie River. Burnt Creek. Other suitable waterways.	**MO8.** Key water-dependent species are supported in waterways that provide suitable habitat, including during dry conditions.	Where possible, waterway conditions suitable for supporting native fish breeding in the Wimmera River and other streams are supported, including for golden perch.	Explore the potential of creating waterway-flow regimes that promote natural spawning of native fish.	One investigation completed.	**Wimmera CMA.** Fishing, Hunting and Outdoor Victoria. Victorian Environmental Water Holder.	*Wimmera Native Fish Management Plan (2022).*	Underway - continuation of previous work.

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**
Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) and tributaries. MacKenzie River, Burnt and Bungalally Creeks.	**MO8.** Key water-dependent species are supported in waterways that provide suitable habitat, including during dry conditions.	Freshwater mussel locations, population size and habitat requirements in the Wimmera are known. Feasible future actions and locations for freshwater mussels are identified, supporting management decisions regarding actions to maintain and improve habitat.	Improve understanding and management of freshwater mussel populations in the Wimmera by assessing distribution, abundance and species composition. Evaluate the feasibility and benefit of management actions if required and use this information to identify and prioritise locations for the greatest population recovery outcomes.	1 investigation	**Barengi Gadjin Land Council.** **Wimmera CMA.** Research agencies or institutions.		New action – foundational activity to support future actions, identified as a priority by Barengi Gadjin Land Council.
MacKenzie River and Burnt Creek. Mount William Creek and tributaries. Upper Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) and tributaries.	**MO8.** Key water-dependent species are supported in waterways that provide suitable habitat, including during dry conditions.	Freshwater crayfish locations, population size and habitat requirements in the Wimmera are known. Feasible future actions and locations for freshwater crayfish are identified, supporting management decisions regarding actions to maintain and improve habitat.	Improve understanding and management of freshwater crayfish populations in the Wimmera by assessing distribution, abundance and species composition. Evaluate the feasibility and benefit of management actions if required and use this information to identify and prioritise locations for the greatest population recovery outcomes.	1 investigation	**Barengi Gadjin Land Council.** **Wimmera CMA.** Research agencies or institutions.		New action – foundational activity to support future actions, identified as a priority by Barengi Gadjin Land Council.

Platypus

Wimmera CMA is preparing an evidence-based *Wimmera Platypus Management Plan* that identifies barriers to platypus population growth and outlines actions to support their long-term conservation. The Plan's focus is on:

- Protecting the existing core platypus population in the MacKenzie River.
- Supporting expansion of the existing population in connecting waterways, where feasible.
- Establishing a second population to improve long-term viability.
- Supporting delivery of the region's 10-year outcome for platypus as a priority water-dependent native species.

This Plan focuses on finalizing the development of the platypus management plan and implementing it's actions.

Management actions are shaded green for high priority and orange for medium priority. Actions with no shading are low priority.

Table 39. Implementation actions for the Wimmera's platypus population.

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. Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River). Fyans Creek. Mount Cole Creek. Mount William Creek.	**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. Platypus recovery opportunities are provided through improved riparian habitat and flow management in suitable Barringgi Gadyin (Wimmera River) habitat. A second population of platypus is established in a waterway with suitable habitat.	Develop and implement a platypus management plan for the Wimmera region.	1 plan developed.	**Wimmera CMA.** Barengi Gadjin Land Council. Cesar Australia. Parks Victoria. DEECA. Victorian Environmental Water Holder.	*Wimmera Platypus Management Plan (Draft - 2026).* *Greater Gariwerd Landscape Management Plan (Parks Victoria, 2021).* Action statement. *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.* Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*).	Underway – draft plan developed.
			Monitor the distribution, abundance and health of the platypus population in accordance with the platypus management plan.	To be determined, based on the platypus management plan under development.			Not funded. Continuation of previous monitoring by Wimmera CMA.