

Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

# Annual Report

## 2020-21



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The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA works on the lands, waters and seas of the Bunurong, Wadawurrung and Wurundjeri peoples and acknowledges them as Traditional Owners.

It recognises and respects the diversity of their cultures and the deep connections they have with Country. It values partnerships with their communities and organisations to improve the health of Indigenous people and Country.

The Board and staff of the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA pay their respects to Elders, past and present, and acknowledge and recognise the primacy of Traditional Owners' obligations, rights and responsibilities to use and care for their traditional lands, waters and seas.

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## **2020-21 PORT PHILLIP & WESTERNPORT CMA ANNUAL REPORT**

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ISSN: 1836 - 2729 (Print)

ISSN: 1836 - 2737 (Online)

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**This Annual Report outlines the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA)'s progress against the performance indicators in its 2020-21 Corporate Plan.**

It also includes information about:

- The PPWCMA, its Board and employees
- Programs and their results
- The work of partners and their contribution to the region's environmental goals
- The condition of some of the natural resources in the region
- Compliance with governance requirements
- Financial statements.

Front cover photo: Central Environmental Work Crew at Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve (Annette Ruzicka).

The photos featured in this report were taken in line with coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions.

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# Chair's FOREWORD

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, it is with pleasure that I present the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 2021. It's been a privilege to spend another year as part of an organisation that provides such a high level of leadership in natural resource management, as well as strong governance and sound management of risks, supported by valued partnerships with stakeholders and the community.

While funding levels continued to shift, and coronavirus (COVID-19) impacted project delivery, the PPWCMA remained as adaptable and innovative as ever. The organisation also began to prepare for an exciting new chapter as the Victorian Government announced its integration into Melbourne Water from 1 January 2022.

The region's environment faced its own challenges. While data shows that the region's bays are in good condition, its biodiversity continues to decline due to significant pressure from urban development, invasive species and climate change. However, government and community commitment remain strong and the PPWCMA continues to lead a coordinated approach to its protection and enhancement.

## PLANNING FOR THE CATCHMENT'S FUTURE

The renewal of Victoria's 10 Regional Catchment Strategies (RCS) was significantly advanced in 2020-21. The PPWCMA championed this process, providing leadership and guidance to ensure all RCSs are in a consistent, online format.

The PPWCMA worked with over 100 key stakeholder organisations to develop the draft Port Phillip and Western RCS, including Traditional Owners, regional agencies and community organisations. It is on track for submission to the Minister of Water by October 2021 and will become a strategy that reflects local, state and national priorities and leads the way for a thriving environment for future generations.

## WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT

We were pleased to deliver major projects and valuable services to support the region's environment and drive sustainable land management practices, including:

- Protecting and enhancing the ecological character of the Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) Ramsar sites by reducing feral cats, pigs, foxes, rabbits and weeds across 32,487 hectares
- Successfully completing the Transforming the Dandenong Creek project, which has made it easier for urban communities in Melbourne's south east to connect with nature

- Delivering 240 online agricultural incursions to 9,963 students as part of the Farms2Schools project, funded through the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative.

Overall, we worked with partners to deliver 41,209 hectares of pest plant and animal control, plant 92 kilograms of seed and 52,590 trees, shrubs and ground covers, and engaged 15,656 people in 644 events and workshops.

## EMPOWERING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Our partnerships with the region's Traditional Owners have continued to strengthen. Partnership agreements were maintained with all three Registered Aboriginal Parties and we continued to plan and deliver many PPWCMA projects together.

In 2020-21, Yarra4Life supported five community groups and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to undertake activities that will restore and protect habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum. The PPWCMA was also honoured to support the Bunurong people to carve their first Message Tree in over 185 years.

## STRONG BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

The PPWCMA has again demonstrated excellent financial management, governance, risk management, project management and adherence to government policy across the organisation. Strategic documents such as the Social Procurement Strategy built on our priorities and formalised our commitment to supporting local communities.

Board members were active participants in committees including the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee, Audit Committee and Living Links, Grow West and Yarra4Life coordination committees.

Thank you to our Board members, CEO and staff for their ongoing passion, dedication and flexibility. Their hard work ensures outcomes of the highest standard for our environment and the community. While my role as Chair of the PPWCMA Board will come to an end this year, I am positive about the future, and know I am leaving the PPWCMA in good hands as it becomes part of Melbourne Water.



Tania Foster  
Board Chair  
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

7th October 2021



# Section 1

# YEAR IN REVIEW

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# CEO's REPORT

2020-21 continued to challenge us all, but the PPWCMA is proud to have remained resilient and created new opportunities that benefit the community and the environment.

We continued to deliver projects and manage the organisation with high standards of business and governance. By the end of 2020-21 the PPWCMA had:

- Significantly advanced the renewal of the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy, with it on track for submission to the Minister of Water in 2021
- Created 55 full-time jobs for six-months through the delivery of four projects funded by the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative
- Started a trial around using revegetation to offset carbon emissions with water authorities
- Initiated on-ground works for the Feral Cat Free French Island project
- Begun the process of integrating into Melbourne Water, after the Victorian Government announcement in February.

## MAJOR ON-GROUND ACHIEVEMENTS

2021-21 was year three for projects funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Achievements included:

- The Two Great Ramsar Wetlands project conducted 18,881 hectares of pest animal control across the Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline).
- The Smart Farming for Western Port project engaged 1,169 people in 65 (physical and online) events focused on sustainable land management, including a pilot regenerative agriculture training program.

We also delivered four Working for Victoria projects that supported the community and provided employment to Victorians impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Six Agricultural and Environment Work Crews made up of 50 FTE improved 120 farms and environmental sites and supported 68 organisations and farmers to deliver projects delayed by COVID-19.
- Farms2Schools used online school incursions to provide 9,963 students with an insight into how agricultural products get from paddock to plate.
- The French Island Data Support project helped to protect threatened species on French Island by reviewing over 1.9 million remote camera images gathered as part of the Feral Cat Free French Island project.

## HELPING OTHERS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

The PPWCMA worked with the community to build their skills and resilience, by:

- Maintaining strong partnerships with the region's RAPs
- Establishing or maintaining formal partnership agreements with 10 of the region's Landcare networks
- Supporting the delivery of the Victorian Landcare Grants, which received the most applications in PPWCMA history
- Continuing to support farmers to improve sustainability, productivity and profitability of agriculture, and supporting the Bunyip Complex Fire recovery.

## A POSITIVE AND RESILIENT ORGANISATION

PPWCMA staff have continued to demonstrate our values of collaboration, leadership, creativity and reliability. They continued to primarily work from home, and have stayed adaptable and flexible in the face of a changing working environment. Important innovations this year included:

- Continual improvement within our OH&S systems
- Additional health and wellbeing activities to support staff
- Implementing the PPWCMA Social Procurement Strategy.

## A NEW FUTURE AHEAD

From 1 January 2022, the 25-year lifespan of the PPWCMA will finish as we integrate into Melbourne Water. The catchment and waterway management roles for the region will be under one organisation, bringing it in line with the rest of Victoria.

Though we have always been small, the mark we leave will be big, with very significant legacies left on the landscape and in the hearts and minds of those we have worked closely with. We will wind up with pride, fond memories, and the intention of making the best of the PPWCMA shine on in Melbourne Water.

Our staff will also transition into Melbourne Water, and the expertise, connections and projects that the PPWCMA are known for will become an integral part of Melbourne Water. My thanks to everyone that has helped make the PPWCMA a wonderful place to work.



David Buntine  
CEO  
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA



# 2020-21 HIGHLIGHTS

**15,656**  
people  
participated in

 **664**  
community  
events

delivered by the PPWCMA and its partners, including 240 Farms2Schools incursions with 9,963 students and 1,100 attendees at online workshop on cultural burning in urban areas with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Trust for Nature.



Pest plant and animal control undertaken across

**41,209**  
hectares



**13 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS ESTABLISHED OR MAINTAINED**

with the region's Registered Aboriginal Parties and Landcare networks.



Rubbish removed from

**768**  
**HECTARES**



**1,369**  
**farmers and other landholders**

learning how to adopt sustainable land management practices.



**LANDCARE AND COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH GROUPS**

reported a health score of

**3.7/5**

(their highest score in five years)

**52,590**

trees, shrubs and ground covers & 92kg seed planted across

 **237**  
hectares

**6,500+**   
**FOLLOWERS**

of PPWCMA social media accounts with an average monthly reach of 150,000



# Summary of PERFORMANCE

✓ **ACHIEVED**

✓ **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**

✗ **NOT ACHIEVED**

## Our community services

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2024-25)	2020-21 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 Collaborative strategy			
Councils, government agencies, water authorities, Traditional Owner organisations, non-government organisations and community networks/groups directly engaged in Regional Catchment Strategy renewal.	60+	✓	Over 100 key stakeholder organisations have been directly consulted during the development of the Regional Catchment Strategy in 2020-21.
Renewed Regional Catchment Strategy approved by Minister for Water by end of December 2021 and in place as the peak strategy guiding collaborative, region-wide, integrated catchment management planning and action in the region.	Submitted to Minister by June 2021	✓	The timeline for submission of the strategy to the Minister was extended to October 2021 following the announcement that the PPWCMA is to be integrated into Melbourne Water.
200+ councils, government agencies, water authorities, Traditional Owner organisations, non-government organisations, community groups and organisations formally supportive of targets in the renewed Regional Catchment Strategy.	This target applies to 2021-22 onwards	✓	Work is under way to enable this target to be achieved in future years. The draft Regional Catchment Strategy includes places to record formal commitment and potential supportive organisations are being engaged in strategy development.
Renewed Regional Catchment Strategy adopted by 30+ councils as a reference document and/or quoted/supported in council municipal strategic statements or corporate plans, strengthening the effect of the strategy.	This target applies to 2021-22 onwards	✓	Work is under way to enable this target to be achieved in future years. The strategy will include text and information that can be directly applied by councils and ongoing consultation with councils is planned.
 Landcare support			
Formal partnership agreements in place between the PPWCMA and all Landcare networks in the region, and being actively implemented to support and enhance community-based leadership, collaboration and governance.	9 (70%)	✓	10 agreements were in place (in principle or signed) at the end of 2020-21. New agreements were signed with Moorabool Landcare Network and NatureWest and agreed in principle with Merri Creek Management Committee, Cardinia Environment Coalition and South Gippsland Landcare Network.



**FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME  
(BY 2024-25)**

**2020-21  
TARGET**

**PROGRESS**

**COMMENT**

 **Landcare support (Continued)**

100% of Landcare groups directly supported by the PPWCMA to maintain active, widespread volunteerism, community connectedness and local on-ground action.	88 (100%)	✓	There were 85 Landcare groups operating in the region at the 30 June 2021. These groups and their associated networks were directly supported by the PPWCMA in 2020-21.
\$400,000+ in grants provided to Landcare networks, Landcare groups and other community groups to directly support local on-ground actions caring for land, water and biodiversity.	\$160,000+	✓	At the time of reporting, the Victorian Landcare Grants 2021-22 allocated \$253,739 to the Port Phillip and Western Port region. No grant round was held in 2020-21 due to coronavirus (COVID-19).
100+ Landcare and other community members supported to participate in training and development each year to enhance community-based leadership, advocacy, communication, facilitation and governance.	20+	✓	102 Landcare and other community members participated in training and development opportunities in 2020-21.
150,000+ volunteer hours (valued at \$5M+ per year) contributed by Landcare groups and networks each year to activities caring for land, water and biodiversity and supporting local communities in this region.	130,000+ hours (valued at \$4.4M+)	✓	In the 2020-21 Landcare Group Health Survey, 107 groups reported volunteer hours equating to 122,242 hours and a value of \$5.1 million (based on \$41.72 an hour).

 **Indigenous participation**

Formal partnership agreements between the PPWCMA and Registered Aboriginal Parties in this region in place and their actions being actively implemented to support Aboriginal participation and self-determination.	3 (100%)	✓	Agreements with the region's Registered Aboriginal Parties (Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation) remained in place during 2020-21.
\$500,000+ of grants obtained for, and services procured for PPWCMA projects from, Traditional Owner organisations to support Aboriginal participation, self-determination and economic inclusion and to help protect cultural values.	\$50,000+	✓	\$118,000 from PPWCMA projects was used to provide grants to and procure the services of the region's Indigenous organisations. It included support for training opportunities, various cultural consultations and on-ground works delivered by Traditional Owner land management crews.

 **Community engagement**

Broad community awareness of programs, opportunities and issues enhanced through PPWCMA social media channels with an audience exceeding 20,000 followers.	5,000+ followers	✓	At the end of 2020-21, PPWCMA had a total of 6,439 followers across its social media accounts - 4,532 on Facebook (36% increase), 808 on Twitter (4% increase) and 1099 on Instagram (30% increase).
2,000+ rural community members directly engaged in environment and sustainable agriculture related events led or supported by the PPWCMA each year.	1,000+ participants	✓	6,551 participants at 397 PPWCMA (led and supported) rural events in 2020-21.
2,000+ urban community members directly engaged in environment related events led or supported by the PPWCMA each year.	1,000+ participants	✓	9,254 participants at 280 PPWCMA (led and supported) urban events in 2020-21.

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# Our on-ground action

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2024-25)	2020-21 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 <b>Waterways and wetlands</b>			
Maintain ecological condition of the ~72,000 ha of Ramsar wetlands in the region and contribute to Australia meeting international commitments.	20,000ha of pest control	✓	30,320ha of pest animal and 2,167ha weed control delivered in 2020-21 to enhance the ecological condition of the Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) Ramsar sites.
On-ground action undertaken within PPWCMA projects to eradicate feral cats on French Island and benefit an array of threatened native bird and mammal species that inhabit or visit the island.	\$2.5M+ secured. Eradication works initiated.	✓	\$2.6M secured through partnerships with the Australian Government, Victorian Government, Zoos Victoria and Parks Victoria (in-kind). Aerial-baiting and cage trapping of feral cats delivered across French Island in 2020-21.
 <b>Native vegetation</b>			
300+ ha of revegetation undertaken each year to increase the amount of native habitat in the region and contribute to development of a network new major nature links to enhance ecosystem resilience for the future.	50ha	✓	237ha of revegetation undertaken in 2020-21, including 52,590 trees, shrubs and ground covers planted, and 92kg direct seeded.
Protection or enhancement of 500+ ha of existing/remnant native vegetation undertaken per year within PPWCMA projects to increase the quality of native habitat in the region and enhance ecosystem resilience.	100ha	✓	3,959ha of pest animal control and 4,500ha of weed control undertaken in 2020-21 to protect and enhance threatened native vegetation types in the region.
 <b>Native animals</b>			
50+ha of new habitat established at 1-2 new sites to sustain new wild populations of Helmeted Honeyeaters and double the population.	\$1M+ secured. One major new habitat site.	✓	Whilst no new areas of habitat were established in 2020-21, \$75,949 was secured through the Victorian Governments's Faunal Emblems Program and planning commenced with landowners in the Coranderk Restoration Area.
2000+ha of habitat established or improved for wild Swift Parrot, Legless Lizard, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Growling Grass Frog and other threatened species, thereby reducing the risk of extinction.	0ha (un-funded)	✗	New funding will need to be secured for this work. No funding was secured during 2020-21.
 <b>Sustainable agriculture and land management</b>			
Over 1000 farms (20% of the ~5,000 farms in the region) engaged in PPWCMA projects adopt sustainable land management practices that improve environmental condition and resilience of the enterprise and industry.	100 farms (2%)	✓	In 2020-21, 1,369 farmers and other individuals participated in 73 PPWCMA led and supported events that focused on sustainable land management practices. 160 farmers were also active members of eight sustainable farming discussion groups through the Smart Farming for Western Port project.

# Our organisational management

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2024-25)	2020-21 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 A healthy and efficient organisation			
Female representation of 50% or higher amongst PPWCMA Board, managers and employees.	~50%	✓	At the end of 2020-21, female representation on the PPWCMA Board was 55% (5/9), 66% (2/3) within CEO and managers group and 56% (9/16) across the entire organisation.
PPWCMA Employee Engagement Index, as measured by the annual Victorian Government People Matters Survey, at >85% and above the sector average.	>80% and above sector average	✓	The Employee Engagement Index result was 88% from the 2020 People Matter survey, which was 9% above the average for the comparator sector and 18% above the average for the public sector.
Maintain an outstanding OH&S culture and practice within the PPWCMA and a concentrated hazard reporting process that establishes baseline data on workplace risks and underpins continual improvement in OHS planning, management and reporting	100 hazard reports collected	✓	Over 110 reports were gathered in 2020-21 (includes reports from Working for Victoria staff engaged through a labour hire company). This level of hazard reporting was encouraged to enable identification of common hazards and development of responses to improve OH&S management.
0 incident (near miss) reports lodged, injuries sustained, lost-time injuries sustained, incident notifications and Workcover claims lodged with Worksafe each year, demonstrating strong OHS policy, culture and practice within the PPWCMA	0	✓	The PPWCMA aims to have 0 incidents occur. The PPWCMA encourages and promotes the reporting of all hazards, incidents and injuries. In 2020-21, the PPWCMA received 12 incidents, 11 injuries, 6 lost time injuries, including 1 incident notification. The occurrence of injuries and incidents increased in 2020-21 due to the delivery of Work Crews projects.
A minimum of \$10 million total investment made through the PPWCMA each year, indicating the organisation's ability and record for delivering effective and efficient environmental management for public benefit.	>\$4M	✓	The total revenue secured by the PPWCMA during 2020-21 was \$8.37 million. This was the result of the securing of significant new projects including the Working for Victoria initiative.
100% of PPWCMA projects delivered on time and within budget, demonstrating effective and efficient project management by the PPWCMA.	100%	✓	100% of PPWCMA projects were delivered on time and budget in 2020-21. Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) several projects were granted variations extending their completion date or substituting services.
100% compliance each year with relevant directions of the Financial Management Compliance Framework, demonstrating strong financial management policy, culture and practice within the PPWCMA.	100%	✓	An internal review endorsed by the Audit Committee showed 100% compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework.



# Our community services

# COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY

## LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA is committed to making it beneficial and attractive for the region's natural resource managers, organisations and community groups to work together. The PPWCMA believes this will achieve optimum outcomes from the available resources and effort. A key mechanism to assist this goal is the development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS).

The PPWCMA has responsibility under section 24 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to prepare the RCS. The strategy is intended to foster integration, efficiency and effectiveness in land, water and biodiversity management in the region.

The PPWCMA aims to maintain a high quality RCS that fosters collaboration and coordination between Victorian Government organisations, councils, and other organisations, groups and communities involved in environmental management.

## PROGRESS IN 2020-21

Renewal of the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy was significantly advanced in 2020-21 with a process that:

- Satisfied legislative requirements and government guidelines
- Engaged regional stakeholders, Traditional Owners and communities to the optimum extent to achieve widespread agreement and support
- Fostered collaboration and coordination between Victorian Government organisations, councils and many other organisations, groups and communities to improve efficiency and effectiveness in environmental management
- Will ultimately lead to a new, ministerially-approved Regional Catchment Strategy that will protect the environmental assets and ecosystems in the region including waterways, wetlands, native vegetation, native animals, rural land, coasts, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port.

Actions in the project plan for the renewal of the strategy were implemented, including engagement and consultation with over 100 key stakeholder organisations. The strategy was drafted as a website ready for a period of public consultation in July 2021.

## FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
Councils, government agencies, water authorities, Traditional Owner organisations, non-government organisations and community networks/groups directly engaged in RCS renewal.	60+	100
Renewed Regional Catchment Strategy approved by Minister for Water by end of 2021 and in place as the peak strategy guiding collaborative, integrated catchment management planning and action in the region.	June 2021 submission	On track for Sep 2021 submission
200+ councils, government agencies, water authorities, Traditional Owner organisations, non-government organisations, community networks/groups and other organisations formally supportive of targets in the renewed RCS.	Target applies to 2021-22 onwards	N/A
Renewed Regional Catchment Strategy adopted by 30+ councils as a reference document.	Target applies to 2021-22 onwards	N/A

Following the announcement in February 2021 that the PPWCMA will be integrated into Melbourne Water, the timeline for the preparation of the Regional Catchment Strategy was amended to enable additional consultation with stakeholders. The strategy is now planned to be submitted to the Minister at the end of October 2021.

In addition to leading the development of the new Regional Catchment Strategy, the PPWCMA continued its involvement in various collaborative and strategic planning forums across the region through 2020-21.

This included membership at:

- Five Catchment Management Forums in the region and the associated technical working groups, convened by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- The Regional Leadership Group for the implementation of the Healthy Waterways Strategy, convened by Melbourne Water
- The Consultative Committee, Environment Working Group and Agriculture Working Group for the development of the Central and Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy, convened by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

- The Technical Advisory Group regarding the preparation of the State of the Marine and Coastal Environment 2021, convened by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability
- The Waterways of the West Reference Group, convened by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- The Yarra Collaboration Committee assisting development of the Yarra Strategic Plan, convened by Melbourne Water
- The Technical Reference Group for the Port Phillip Bay Shellfish Reef Restoration Project, convened by The Nature Conservancy.

### OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22

The first half of 2021-22 will see a public consultation process undertaken for the draft Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy, after which the strategy will be refined then submitted to the Minister for Water for government approval. This is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

The PPWCMA will be integrated into Melbourne Water as of 1 January 2022, but it is expected that the PPWCMA roles in collaborative planning will be maintained by Melbourne Water including coordination of Regional Catchment Strategy implementation.



The Port Phillip and Western Port region is highly diverse. The Regional Catchment Strategy splits the region into nine local areas, each with their own distinct features and challenges.



# Our community services

## LANDCARE SUPPORT

### LONG-TERM VISION

There are hundreds of community groups in this region that are active and influential in the protection and enhancement of natural resources. These include Landcare groups, Friends groups and committees of management.

For more than a decade, the PPWCMA has provided strategic support for the Landcare movement in the region on behalf of the Victorian Government.

Key components of this support is staffing to engage with and provide services for the Landcare and community environmental groups and networks across the region as outlined in the regional Landcare Support Plan and a provision of grants to support the groups. Resourcing for this service is provided through the Victorian Government's Landcare Program.

By providing this support, our vision is to maintain a strong, active, capable and well-connected Landcare movement playing a valuable role in natural resource management.

### FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
Formal partnership agreements in place between the PPWCMA and all Landcare networks	9	10 (70%)
100% Landcare groups directly supported by the PPWCMA	100%	85 groups (100%)
\$400,000+ grants provided to Landcare networks, Landcare groups and other community groups.	\$160,000+	\$253,739
100+ Landcare and other community members participating in training and development.	20+	102
150,000+ hours contributing to caring for land, water and biodiversity and supporting local communities.	130,000 hours (\$4.4M value)	122,242 hours (\$5.1M value)

### PROGRESS IN 2020-21

At the end of 2020-21, there were 85 Landcare groups, 13 Landcare networks and one council-hosted natural resource management network in the region. There were also approximately 500 other community environmental groups active in the region, many of these members of Landcare networks.

2020-21 brought unprecedented challenges for Landcare as coronavirus (COVID-19) limited gatherings such as planting events, in-person training and knowledge sharing, and formal meetings. Groups grappled with changing restrictions and cancelled and rescheduled events and pivoted to engage with their community online, or hosting socially distanced planting days.

Despite this disconnection, groups reported a positive outlook. The average score in the 2020-21 Landcare Group Health Survey was 3.7 out of 5 (3 = "moving forward", 4 = "rolling along"). This is the highest score since the survey was conducted in 2015-16, and reflects the views of 107 community groups (only 49 groups participated in 2015-16). In 2020-21, Landcare networks and councils also applied to become employers as part of the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Review.\*

There were no Victorian Landcare Grants for 2020-21, and the majority of projects funded as part of the Victorian Landcare Grants 2019-20 requested six month extensions. Many of these projects substituted their community planting days for contractors and called on the PPWCMA Work Crews project (see page 17) for support.

Applications for the Victorian Landcare Grants 2021-22 closed in June 2021 and were the most subscribed in PPWCMA history. 64 project grant applications sought \$1.3 million, and a further \$39,383 was sought in support grants. The project grant funds requested is \$360,000 more than any other PPWCMA Community Grants round and five times more the funds allocated to the region for 2021-22. The quality of applications were more diverse and targeted than ever before, reflecting a growing level of professionalism in the sector.

PPWCMA established new partnership agreements in 2020-21 with the Moorabool and NatureWest Landcare networks. Three other agreements have been agreed in principal ahead of signing events when restrictions allow, which will take the total agreements in place to 10 out of 14 networks.

The PPWCMA coordinated the Waterways of the West Traditional Owner Engagement project on behalf of the Victorian Government, which aims to enhance collaboration between community environmental groups and Traditional Owners. Eight events have been run or booked with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Indigenous Corporation and community groups.

Landcare groups were also supported with two regional PPWCMA Regional Leaders Forums and two Landcare Facilitator Forums. Three online training events focusing on Mental Health First Aid, ecoanxiety and amateur film making attracted more 102 participants.

### OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22

2021-22 will continue to challenge the Landcare movement while COVID-19 persists. There is a high likelihood of disruptions to planned activities in the coming months that will challenge the activities and projects of groups and networks.

However, overall the picture for Landcare is a positive one with a further three years of Landcare Facilitator support confirmed by the Victorian Government and Regional Landcare Coordination providing relatively long-term investment in the sector.

The PPWCMA's integration with Melbourne Water is not expected to disrupt the level of support provided to Landcare and community groups. The PPWCMA's strong relationships with community environmental groups will complement Melbourne Water's existing work.

The PPWCMA will continue to seek new and renewed partnership agreements with the region's Landcare networks. A revised Landcare Support Plan will also be completed prior to the integration with Melbourne Water.

## LANDCARE ADAPTS TO A CHALLENGING YEAR

Agile and adaptable have been buzzwords used during the last year as all industries and sectors have had to adapt how they work. For the Landcare movement in the Port Phillip and Western Port region it has been no different.

In a year when home-based isolation has been all too familiar, Landcare and community environmental groups have had to shift their focus whilst still concentrating on the work at hand.

QR codes, masks and participation limits on planting events would seem a major barrier to volunteering any other year, but during coronavirus (COVID-19) it has been taken in stride.

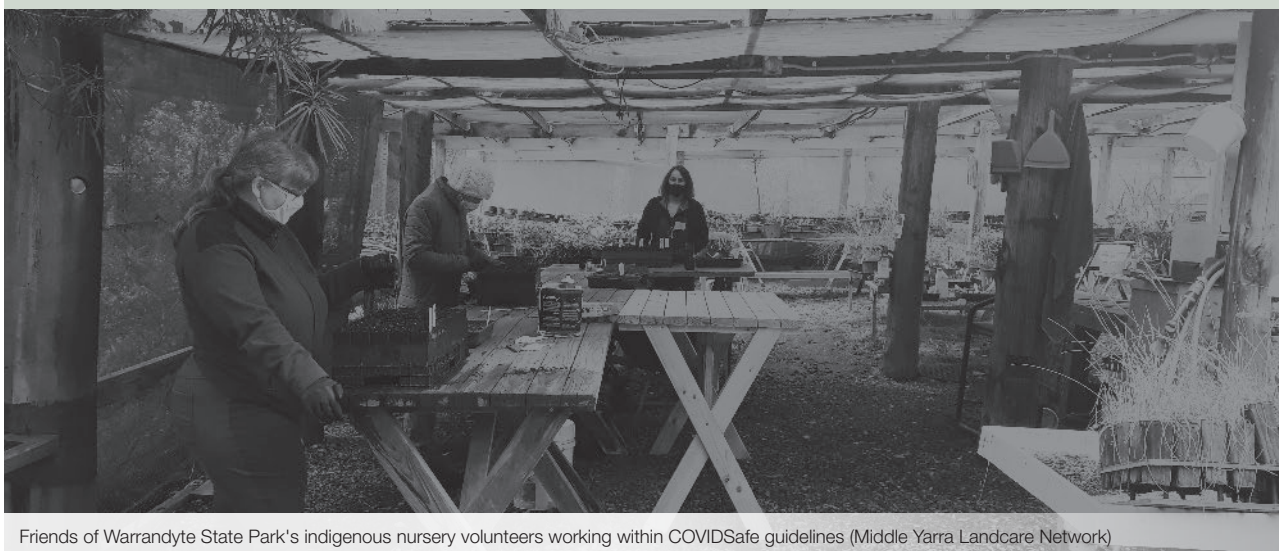
At the Friends of Warrandyte State Park, indigenous nursery rosters were set up so volunteers could keep working in line with capacity limits. Other volunteers took tube stock and equipment home so plant orders could be fulfilled. The wider Middle Yarra Landcare Network saw regular email updates and chat functions implemented so groups could stay in touch.

Planting events across the region have involved a significant extra layer of planning with staggered planting schedules typical among many groups. Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network Facilitator, Chantal Morton, said volunteers were eager to get to events even if only

small numbers could come along.

“These opportunities were really grasped at, volunteers wanted to get out there whenever an opportunity popped up.” Chantal said.

Despite these adaptations, community events were still down and Landcare and community environmental groups struggled to get the plants they ordered in the ground. Bass Coast Landcare Network needed to call in work crews to help them reach their goal of planting 75,000 tubestock. In lieu of regular planting activities, about 50 per cent of the plants were put in by the works crew.



Friends of Warrandyte State Park's indigenous nursery volunteers working within COVIDSafe guidelines (Middle Yarra Landcare Network)



# Our community services

## INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

### LONG-TERM VISION

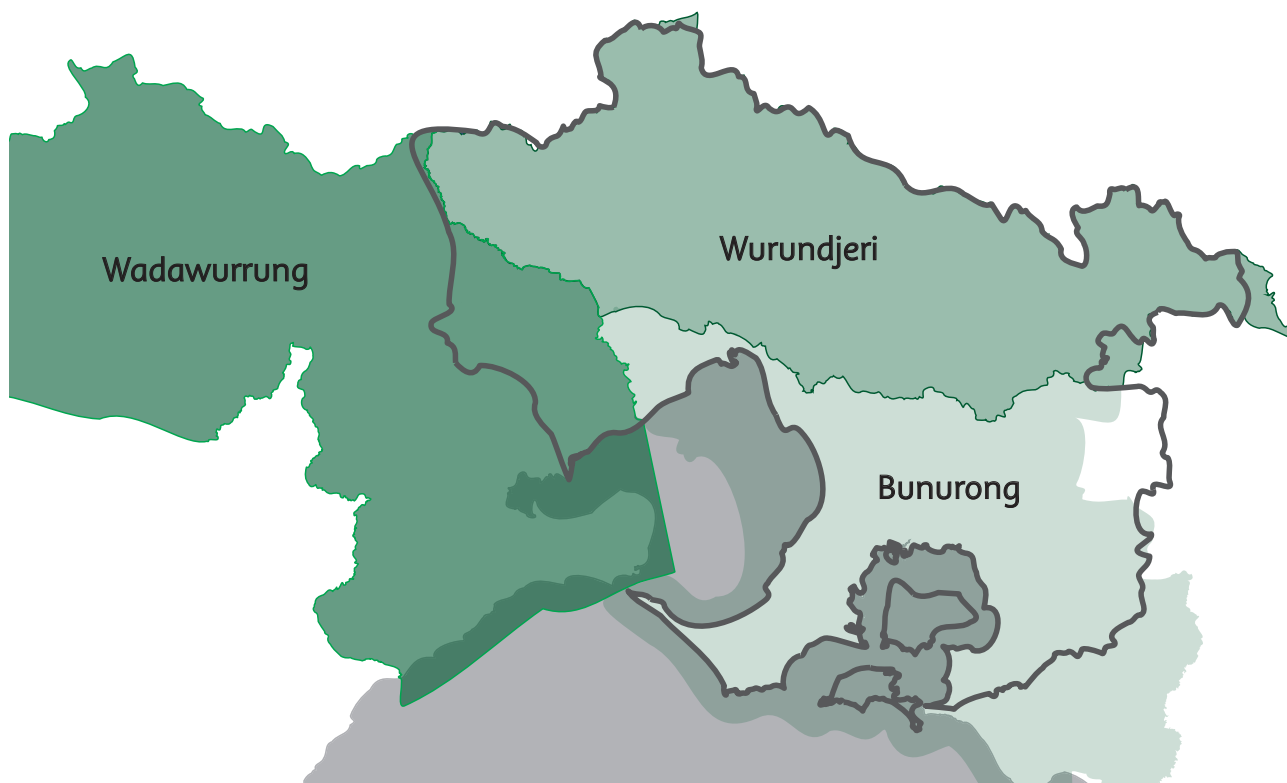
The PPWCMA recognises that the Traditional Owners of the region have an ancient and continuing connection to Country and retain traditional knowledge about caring for land, water and biodiversity.

The PPWCMA's vision is for Traditional Owners to be strongly connected to their Country, knowledgeable and active in traditional practices, and engaged, respected and influential in the planning and implementation of natural resource management for this region.

There are three Traditional Owner groups with Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) status in this region - Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation (Bunurong), Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (Wadawurrung) and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (Wurundjeri).

The PPWCMA is committed to supporting Traditional Owners and Indigenous communities, organisations and individuals to retain and enhance their connection to Country. The PPWCMA has an Indigenous Participation Plan in place and has committed to:

- Communicating and interacting regularly with Indigenous organisations of the region
- Supporting Indigenous people to document and protect their rights to traditional knowledge
- Enhancing the capacity of Indigenous communities to conserve and protect land, water and biodiversity
- Supporting Indigenous people to re-learn, practice and pass on their traditional knowledge
- Involving other partners in PPWCMA Indigenous partnership activities and communicating to them the significant and mutual benefit of engaging Indigenous organisations in planning, decision making and action.



Map outlining the RAP boundaries in the Port Phillip and Western Port region. Current at time of publication.



## FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
Formal partnership agreements in place between the PPWCMA and RAPs	3 (100%)	3 (100%)
\$5000,000+ grants obtained and services procured for PPWCMA projects from Traditional Owner organisations.	\$50,000	\$118,000

## PROGRESS IN 2020-21

The PPWCMA continued to hold strong relationships with the region's RAPs throughout 2020-21. All partnership agreements were maintained, and six formal partnership meetings were held in 2020-21. PPWCMA staff also attended various events and cultural training opportunities to increase their knowledge and promoted the interest and achievements of the region's Traditional Owners on social media and other communications materials.

\$118,000 from PPWCMA projects was used to procure the services of Aboriginal organisations and businesses in the region. It included support for training opportunities, cultural consultations and on-ground works.

Key activities and achievements were as follows:

- Yarra4Life received funding through the Victorian Government's Faunal Emblems Program to support the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to undertake habitat restoration planning at the Nungunala Hub in Healesville, and to implement on-ground pest plant and animal control activities at this site. This work is currently in progress and due to be completed by August 2021.
- As part of the Transforming the Dandenong Creek Corridor, 1,100 people attended an online webinar on Cultural Burning in Urban Areas in September 2020, hosted by Living Links and held in partnership with Trust for Nature and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The webinar had several guest presenters including Uncle Dave Wandin, Rhys Collins and Dr Graeme Lorimer.
- Also as part of the Transforming the Dandenong Creek Corridor project, the carving of the first Message Tree by the Bunurong people in over 185 years was undertaken in February 2021. The event was of great cultural and spiritual importance to the Bunurong people involved and will serve to educate the broader community about Bunurong culture and history. The ornate carved design represents the Dandenong Creek and the five family groups from the Boon Wurrung language group who lived along the river (see pages 22-23).

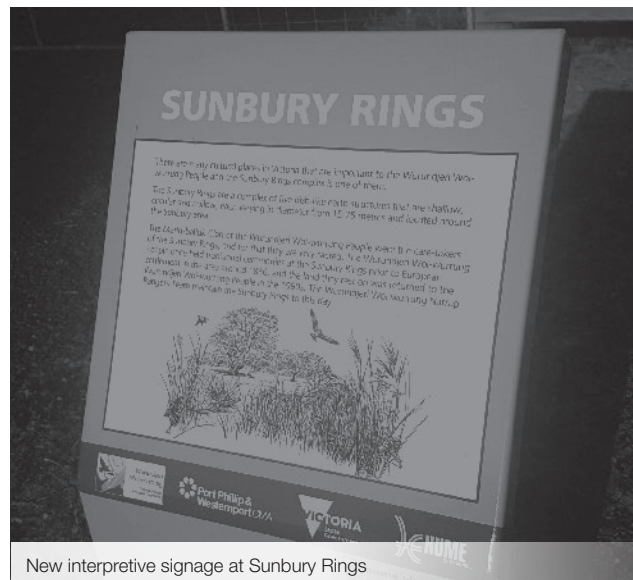
- In March 2021, a sign was installed at the Sunbury Rings as part of the Rehabilitating the Jacksons Creek Our Catchments, Our Communities project. This sign was created in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Hume City Council. The sign details the importance of the Sunbury Rings site to the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people (see image below).
- Throughout 2020-21, Wurundjeri's Narrap team has been involved in delivering on-ground works through the Deepening Connections project. In July 2020, the Narrap team undertook woody weed control at several project sites covering 29ha, and have recently completed follow-up treatment of any regrowth.

The PPWCMA has also continued to achieve the actions outlined in the Indigenous Participation Plan. Support for the Victorian Aboriginal sector was one of the PPWCMA's two priority objectives in the PPWCMA's Social Procurement Strategy. This enables the PPWCMA to use its buying power to deliver social, economic and environmental outcomes that benefit the community, including Aboriginal Victorians. See page 39 for more information.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22

The PPWCMA's priority for 2020-21 is to maintain the trusted relationships that have been established with Indigenous partners, particularly as new projects commence and existing projects evolve. The PPWCMA will also continue to support staff to further develop their personal cultural awareness. As the port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy is finalised, the PPWCMA will continue engaging with the RAPs to ensure the strategy aligns with their Indigenous Country Plans.

Some activities will not occur in 2021-22 due to the Melbourne Water integration, including reviewing partnership agreements. However, the PPWCMA will meet with all of its valued Indigenous partners prior to its integration with Melbourne Water, and continue to make Indigenous engagement, participation and partnerships an integral part of the integration process.



New interpretive signage at Sunbury Rings



# Our community services

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND AWARENESS

## LONG-TERM VISION

As outlined in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*, the PPWCMA is expected to promote community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

The PPWCMA fulfils this responsibility through a range of communication channels and activities with some aimed at particular organisations and sectors and some aimed at broader community audiences. The PPWCMA's vision is for an increasing proportion of the communities of the region to be well informed, engaged and active in land, water and biodiversity management.

## FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
20,000+ followers of PPWCMA social media	5,000+	6,439
2000+ participants in rural events each year	1000+ per year	6,551
2000+ participants in urban events each year	1000+ per year	9,254

## PROGRESS IN 2020-21

2020-21, coronavirus (COVID-19) continued to impact PPWCMA's events calendar. Major annual events, such as the Grow West Community Planting Day and the Discover Dandenong Festival, had to be cancelled and many workshops and field days were moved online.

Despite this, the PPWCMA still hosted and supported 664 urban and rural events that attracted 15,656 people. These events focused on raising awareness of environmental issues and helping others to make a difference. Participants included Landcare members, farmers, partner organisations and the broader community. The shift to an online format also brought

new audiences that had previously been unable to attend due to geographic restrictions. A major contributor towards this was the Farms2Schools project (see next page).

The PPWCMA continued to focus on online communications as a key engagement tool and by end of 2020-21 it had 4,532 followers across its Facebook pages, 808 followers on Twitter and 1,099 followers on Instagram. All of these accounts show strong levels of engagement with an average total monthly reach of over 150,000 people. It also had 3,490 people receiving regular newsletters.

These efforts were impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) due to a slow down of proactive media and social media in the first half of 2020-21, to support the Victorian Government to effectively broadcast important health messages. However, in the second half of 2020-21, the PPWCMA's delivery of the Agricultural and Environmental Work Crews project provided an opportunity for engaging and regular content that focused on supporting the region's land managers and protecting flora and fauna.

2020-21 was the second year for the roll out of the PPWCMA Communications and Engagement Strategy 2019-22 and the focus was on strengthening the organisation's brand and messaging. New communications collateral was developed, and ppwcma.vic.gov.au underwent a full review and refresh.

The renewal of the Regional Catchment Strategy began in 2020-21 and the PPWCMA has been engaging with Traditional Owners, councils, government agencies and community groups on its development. The draft is ready for public exhibition and then submission and approval in the first half of 2021-22.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22

In 2021-22, the PPWCMA will focus heavily on communicating its integration with Melbourne Water. Key partners will be engaged in the process as required and a communications campaign showcasing the organisations' combined roles and responsibilities will be delivered in the lead up to 1st January 2022.

## WORKING FOR VICTORIA

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has presented unprecedented challenges. In the face of this, the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative provided many Victorians with employment and a meaningful way to keep contributing to their community.

Working for Victoria was part of the Victorian Government's \$1.7 billion Economic Survival Package and was designed to connect workers with new opportunities that help the community and contribute to Victoria's ability to respond to the pandemic. In April 2020, the PPWCMA secured \$3.3 million

through this initiative to deliver four on-ground projects that supported the community and the environment while providing employment to Victorians impacted by COVID-19.

The equivalent of 55 full-time jobs were created for six months and 80 individuals received employment throughout the projects' delivery. All staff received relevant technical and OH&S training and on-ground experience in natural resource management.

However, the impact of these projects went far beyond providing meaningful employment. Traditional Owners, farmers, councils, Landcare

groups and community organisations all directly benefited from these projects, whether financially (by being engaged to deliver Farms2Schools sessions) or by being physically assisted by the provision of on-ground services.

The Working for Victoria projects are a fantastic example of the PPWCMA's adaptability, flexibility and ongoing commitment to supporting its communities. The result was a series of projects that supported hundreds of Victorians and ensured vital work to protect Victoria's land, water and biodiversity could continue.



### FARMS2SCHOOLS

**July – Dec 2020**  
**\$399,990 invested**

Farms2Schools used online school incursions to provide students with an insight into how agricultural products get from paddock to plate.

Three Farms2Schools Officers - Camille Coleman, Osman Sobrie and Narelle Debenham - coordinated the program and supported 40 farmers to deliver 240 online incursions to 9,963 students. They canvassed schools, recruited farmers and coordinated and supervised all sessions.

Farms2Schools received overwhelming praise, with 98 per cent of teachers recommending the program. The project also developed a range of permanent educational resources, including the Melbourne FoodBowl Virtual Farm.



### AGRICULTURAL WORK CREWS

**Nov 2020 – May 2021**  
**\$1.1 million invested**

The Agricultural Work Crews project assisted 51 farmers and agricultural businesses to deliver on-ground works that were delayed due to COVID-19. Three crews provided a range of on-farm services including weed and pest control, shelterbelts and insectary planting, bushfire recovery work, Queensland Fruit Fly monitoring and harvesting/planting crops.

The crews operated in the urban, peri-urban and rural areas across the region. Each crew consisted of one supervisor and five crew members (employed through Chandler Macleod). They were supported by a Work Crews Coordinator and Work Crews Support Officer (employed directly by the PPWCMA).



### ENVIRONMENTAL WORK CREWS

**Nov 2020 – May 2021**  
**\$1.5 million invested**

The Environment Work Crews project assisted local partner organisations and groups to deliver on-ground works that had been delayed/ceased due to COVID-19. Three crews provided a range of environmental services such as weed and pest control, revegetation and bushfire recovery work.

The crews operated across the region and consisted of one supervisor and nine crew members, supported by the Work Crews Coordinator and Officer.

The crews assisted 28 organisations and groups to improve 69 individual environmental sites. Many of the sites were areas of environmental significance that provide habitat for priority threatened species.



### FRENCH ISLAND DATA SUPPORT

**Sep 2020 – May 2021**  
**\$104,820 invested**

The PPWCMA employed two staff members – Julie Trezise and Clare Bracey - to review three years' worth of feral cat and wildlife data captured on remote cameras deployed across French Island.

The officers reviewed 1.9 million images to identify the presence/absence of animals on the island. The officers also undertook field work on French Island to service the cameras.

This work supported the delivery of the Feral Cat Free French Island project and preparations for on-ground eradication work and significantly improved the project's knowledge base.



# Our on-ground action **WATERWAYS AND WETLANDS**

## LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA plays a particular role in wetland health in the region by leading a number of projects funded by the Victorian Government and Australian Government that contribute to the health and resilience of Ramsar wetlands.

This work complements the significant roles in waterway and wetland management of various other organisations including Melbourne Water (as the waterway management authority for the region) and Parks Victoria.

The PPWCMA's vision is that the Ramsar wetlands in the Port Phillip and Western Port region are healthy and resilient with their ecological condition at high levels, threats to the ecological condition contained at low levels, diverse and healthy habitats and native animal populations and increasingly healthy populations of threatened species including birds and mammals.

## FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
Maintain ecological condition of Ramsar wetlands.	<b>20,000ha of pest control</b>	<b>32,487ha of pest control</b>
Feral cat population on French Island eradicated, benefiting threatened native bird and mammal species.	<b>\$2.5M secured</b> <b>Eradication works initiated</b>	<b>\$2.6M secured.</b> <b>Major eradication works undertaken.</b>

## PROGRESS IN 2020-21

In 2020-21, investment from the Victorian Government and Australian Government was dedicated to protecting and enhancing the ecological values of the Western Port, Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites. This resulted in 32,487 hectares being actively managed to control and reduce pest plants and animals across priority waterbird and shorebird sites.

Hydrological studies were delivered at The Spit Nature Conservation Reserve, and Cheetham Wetlands, both part of the Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) Ramsar site. As a result, improvements have been made to the hydrology of a 60 hectare section of 'dry' coastal saltmarsh vegetation at The Spit. The study indicated that Cheetham Wetland is

being suitably managed to provide habitat for waterbirds and shorebirds, however further recommendations from both of these studies shall be investigated in 2021-22.

The eradication phase of the Feral Cat Free French Island project commenced in 2020-21, with aerial baiting of French Island National Park successfully delivered in partnership with Parks Victoria. A follow-up cage-trapping program followed, with initial results indicating a significant decline in feral cat abundance and distribution.

Quail Island continues to thrive following the eradication of a small feral pig population. Groundcover species, including the coastal saltmarsh vegetation community, has dramatically responded to the lack of grazing pressure. Given that feral pigs have been eradicated, the project pivoted to fox control in late 2021, with the initial phase removing in excess of 15 foxes from the landscape.

2020-21 also saw the commencement of two projects aimed at protecting and improving fish habitat in Western Port and Port Phillip Bay, funded through the Australian Government's Fisheries Habitat Restoration program.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22

The Two Great Ramsar Wetlands project, funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, will enter its fourth year in 2021-22, with numerous pest animal and weed control activities to be undertaken including a feral goat eradication program on French Island.

Important hydrological works will improve the condition of wetlands and saltmarsh at The Spit Nature Conservation Reserve and Cheetham Wetlands. The Feral Cat Free French Island project will enter the second phase of its three phase delivery approach, with a trapping and shooting program being delivered to achieve eradication of feral cats by December 2022. The project will also continue to work with the French Island Community in implementing a responsible pet ownership program.

The two Fisheries Habitat Restoration Projects, Reel Big Fish Western Port and the Port Phillip Bay Community Reefs projects, funded by the Australian Government, will focus on delivering mangrove restoration and shellfish reef restoration works, as well as continuing to engage local recreational fishers in restoration activities.

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Ramsar Protection Program aims to maintain or improve the ecological values of Western Port and Port Phillip Bay's western shoreline, internationally significant wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention.

The program's focus is on managing key threats to wetland values through the control and eradication of pest animals, including feral cats, foxes, rabbits and goats, and removing invasive weeds, such as African Boxthorn and Spartina. Significant emphasis is also placed on community engagement activities to raise awareness of the environmental values of these Ramsar-listed wetlands.

This highly successful, multi-partner program is delivered through collaboration with multiple organisations and land managers that deliver small and large-scale projects and on-ground works.



Red-necked Avocets at Cheetham Wetlands

**Established:** 2010

**Location:** Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) and Western Port

**Funding:** Victorian Government and Australian Government

### Partners:

- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
- Parks Victoria
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Phillip Island Nature Parks
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Bass Coast Landcare Network
- Birdlife Australia
- City of Casey
- French Island Landcare
- Zoos Victoria
- Western Port Biosphere
- Melbourne Water
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
- Nature Glenelg Trust

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM TWO GREAT RAMSAR WETLANDS

This five-year project aims to bring key agencies, land managers and community groups together to reduce the threats to the Port Phillip and Western Port Ramsar sites through landscape-scale actions including pest animal and weed control, revegetation, habitat augmentation and community engagement and education.

A key achievement of 2020-21 was the validation and declaration of Quail Island as feral pig free. Since 2014, PPWCMA and Parks Victoria have been undertaking eradication and monitoring works, and remote camera and field inspections over the past 18 months have validated the program's success.

In 2020-21, Hobsons Bay City Council delivered a series of community engagement events to promote the environmental values of Port Phillip Bay's western

shoreline. Four events were held at Altona Coastal Park, with a highlight for participants being a kayaking adventure along Kororoit Creek.

PPWCMA continued to work with partners to implement recommendations from the hydrological study for The Spit Nature Conservation Reserve. After a series of stoplogs were removed from a 60 hectare section of 29 Mile Road in late 2019, monitoring of the site in 2020-21 has seen outstanding results, with the saltmarsh vegetation community thriving and waterbirds and shorebirds utilising the site in large numbers. Findings from the hydrological study for Cheetham Wetland indicate that the site is being suitably managed to provide habitat for waterbirds and shorebirds.

In 2021-22, pest animal and pest plant control programs as part of

the Two Great Ramsar Wetlands project will continue, and the project will seek greater involvement and participation from Registered Aboriginal Parties.

**Project period:** 2018-23

**Location:** Port Phillip Bay and Western Port

**Funding:** Australian Government's National Landcare Program

### Partners:

- Nature Glenelg Trust
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Parks Victoria
- French Island Landcare
- Phillip Island Nature Parks

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM FERAL CAT FREE FRENCH ISLAND

Feral Cat Free French Island is a five-year project which aims to create a safe haven for French Island's threatened wildlife by eradicating feral cats from the island. Partnerships is a key component of the project, with collaboration between government agencies and community groups vital for its success. Eradication of feral cats will be achieved using a combination of baiting, trapping and shooting supported by extensive monitoring.

In 2020-21, the relevant approvals were obtained to proceed with the project and begin the operational phase. PPWCMA entered into a partnership with Parks Victoria and French Island Landcare Group to deliver the project.

Monitoring using remote cameras and ground-nesting bird surveys continued throughout the year to create a comprehensive baseline dataset of species present and distribution. This data set will be used to measure the effect of the eradication of feral cats on species such as the Long-nosed potoroo,

Eastern barred bandicoot and King Quail.

The project commenced on ground works in June 2021 with the deployment of Curiosity® baits by Parks Victoria via aerial and ground baiting in French Island National Park. Cage trapping commenced across the island in late June (including private areas not baited) and was followed by soft padded leghold trapping in permitted areas of the park.

In 2021-22, the project will use a combination of trapping and ground shooting to continue moving toward eradication. Monitoring and fauna surveys will also continue to measure the response of wildlife to

the reduction in predation pressure by feral cats.

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**Project period:** 2019-24

**Location:** French Island

**Funding:** Australian Government, Victorian Government and Zoos Victoria

**Partners:**

- Parks Victoria
  - French Island Landcare Group
  - Zoos Victoria
  - Phillip Island Nature Parks
  - French Island Community Association
- 



Feral cat captured on remote camera with a Lewin's Rail (French Island Landcare)

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM SEAGRASS, SALTMARSH AND MANGROVES FOR WESTERN PORT

This project contributed to the maintenance and improvement of the ecological character of the Western Port Ramsar site by undertaking monitoring and research, and on-ground priority actions that have been identified in the Western Port Ramsar Site Management Plan.

Throughout 2020-21, monitoring of Western Port continued to understand the condition, extent, and distribution of littoral habitats. Consultancy Fathom Pacific coordinated the monitoring of bare mud flats, littoral sands, littoral

seagrass, littoral rock, mangrove and saltmarsh biotopes.

The condition and ecological functioning of these biotopes is of national importance as they provide feeding and roosting habitat for wading birds and seabirds, coastline stability, nursery habitat, carbon sequestration and habitat provision for fishes. Seagrass biotopes were also ranked as the highest priority for management concern under the Western Port Ramsar Site Management Plan.

The results of this program will be used to monitor short and long-term

trends in habitat extent, and shall help inform future management to ensure they are protected into the future.

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**Project period:** 2019-20

**Location:** Western Port

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Bass Coast Landcare Network
  - Fathom Pacific
  - BirdLife Australia
-

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM REEL BIG FISH FOR WESTERN PORT

Reel Big Fish – Western Port is a three-year project that will contribute to the improvement of fisheries habitat by restoring critical vegetation communities throughout Western Port. This will be achieved by restoring mangrove forests and removing Pacific Oysters at priority locations, and engaging recreational fisher groups in project implementation and monitoring. Mangroves provide a home for a huge variety of juvenile fish, and are a major store and supply of biomass and nutrients for Western Port, forming the base of the food chain and protection against the effects of coastal erosion.

2020-21 was the first year of the project. PPWCMA entered into

a partnership with Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) to coordinate the restoration of 100 hectares of mangrove forests at the five priority locations – Churchill Island Marine National Park, French Island Marine National Park, Lang Lang Foreshore, Grantville Foreshore and Hastings Foreshore.

BCLN will coordinate seed collection, propagation and planting of mangroves, and complete annual plant survival surveys to monitor planting effectiveness. This will be carried out in collaboration with their extensive local volunteers network.

PPWCMA will also partner with Parks Victoria to coordinate the removal of Pacific oysters at

Churchill Island Marine National Park and French Island Marine National Park, and with OzFish to engage with recreational fisher groups across Western Port and connect them with fisheries habitat specialists.

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**Project period:** 2020-23

**Location:** Western Port

**Funding:** Australian Government

**Partners:**

- Bass Coast Landcare Network
  - Parks Victoria
  - Oz Fish
- 

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM PORT PHILLIP BAY COMMUNITY SHELLFISH REEF

This three-year project will contribute to the restoration of the functionally-extinct shellfish reef ecosystems in eastern Port Phillip Bay by working with recreational fishers to deploy recycled shell substrate and live shellfish from recreational vessels at priority locations.

Shellfish reef habitats are one of the most threatened marine habitats on earth and Port Phillip Bay is an important spawning and recruitment area for many fish species. The project builds on the great work already underway in Port Phillip Bay as a result of similar large-scale restoration efforts, and techniques will be adapted from these projects to deliver best practice methods for recreational fisher engagement and fish habitat restoration.

2020-21 was the first year of the project. PPWCMA partnered with OzFish to coordinate the restoration and community engagement activities.

In June 2021, PPWCMA and

OzFish spent a day on the water with local fishers searching the seafloor for future restoration sites using a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV). Like a high tech underwater video game, the ROV allowed them to get a fish-eye view of coastal fish habitats and get a better understanding of the benefits of habitat restoration in real-time.

In 2021-22, the project's restoration sites will be identified, and the project will begin to work with recreational fishers to prepare and deploy recycled shell substrate and live shellfish from recreational vessels.

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**Project period:** 2020-23

**Location:** Port Phillip Bay

**Funding:** Australian Government

**Partners:**

- OzFish
  - The National Centre for Coasts and Climate
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
  - Parks Victoria
  - Mornington Peninsula Shire
- 



Searching the seafloor for restoration sites using a Remote Operated Vehicle



# Our on-ground action

# NATIVE VEGETATION

## LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA leads and supports projects that enhance the extent, quality, security and connectedness of native vegetation in this region. Most are funded by the Victorian Government and Australian Government.

The PPWCMA's vision is that there will be extensive and diverse areas of native vegetation across the region's landscapes that are permanently protected, in good quality and managed chiefly for conservation and environmental purposes.

In the long-term, a series of major naturelinks will be created, forming large north-south and east-west vegetation corridors, enabling species transit and improving ecosystem resilience to climate change and habitat fragmentation.

Although some vegetation clearing will be permitted, it is hoped that there will be an overall net gain in the extent of native vegetation and its biodiversity values across the region. The extent, diversity, quality and connectedness of the native vegetation will ensure that it is resilient when threatened or affected by fire, disease, drought, pest animals, weeds or other issues.

## FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
300ha+ undertaken each year to increase the amount of native habitat and contribute to the establishment of new naturelinks.	50ha	237ha
Protection and enhancement of 500ha+ remnant native vegetation undertaken each year to increase the quality of native habitat and enhance ecosystem resilience.	100ha	8,459ha

## PROGRESS IN 2020-21

Significant progress has been made this year towards the establishment and protection of naturelinks and threatened native vegetation across the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

Through the PPWCMA's on-ground projects, 237 hectares of revegetation was undertaken with 52,596 trees, shrubs and ground covers planted, as well as 92 kilograms of seed direct seeded. In addition, threatened native vegetation across the region was enhanced through 4,500 hectares of weed control, 3,959 hectares of pest animal control, 1.3 km of fencing, and 768 hectares of rubbish removal.

A highlight for 2020-21 included the roll out of the Working for Victoria Environment Works Crews program. Coronavirus (COVID-19) presented numerous challenges for the delivery of other on-ground projects, many of which were also due to be completed in 2020-21.

Overall, on-ground environmental works were able to progress as planned, however community engagement events and activities were postponed or cancelled.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22

For the first six-months of 2021-22, the PPWCMA will continue to deliver its current environmental projects throughout the region. From January 2022, these projects will transition into Melbourne Water who will support their delivery.

Through the renewal of the Regional Catchment Strategy several new project concepts have been developed including the Living Links Urban Forest project, the I ♥ the Mornington Peninsula project and the Jacksons Creek Cultural Landscapes project. Investment opportunities will be pursued in 2021-22 to deliver these projects and continue to protect and enhance native vegetation and create new naturelinks across the region.



Message Tree carved by the Bunurong people supported by Living Links



## LIVING LINKS

Living Links is an urban nature program working to create a web of green spaces across Melbourne's south-east. It aims to enhance biodiversity and to improve opportunities for people to experience the many benefits of connecting with nature in this urbanised catchment. The PPWCMA coordinates Living Links on behalf of its partners, which include local government, government agencies and community groups.

A key focus for 2020-21 was the completion of the Transforming the Dandenong Creek Corridor project (see below). A new project concept to establish an urban forest across the Dandenong catchment was also developed. The Living Links Urban Forest aims to enhance integrated water management, biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation, urban cooling and shading, and enhance human health and wellbeing. It is hoped that funding will be secured in 2021-22.

The Ambassador School program continued in partnership with Kids Teaching Kids and this year's ambassador school, River Gum Primary School, prepared an area for native, drought-tolerant plants chosen by the students. Students will attend the 2021 Kids Teaching Kids Conference to learn about environmental issues and will participate in a peer teaching program, mentoring the next ambassador school.

With a grant from Living Links, the First Friends of Dandenong creek released their short film, 'The Eels of Dandenong Creek' in February 2021. The concept for the film came out of a pollution event that was witnessed along Dandenong Creek in November 2017 and the impact on the Short Finned Eel.

**Established:** 2006

**Location:** Dandenong Creek catchment (south-east Melbourne)

**Funding:** partner contributions

**Partners:**

- City of Bayside
- City of Casey
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Kingston
- City of Knox
- City of Maroondah
- City of Monash
- City of Whitehorse
- Frankston City Council
- Yarra Ranges Shire Council
- Melbourne Water
- South East Water
- Parks Victoria
- VicRoads
- Bushwalking Victoria
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- Field Naturalists Club of Victoria

## LIVING LINKS TRANSFORMING THE DANDENONG CREEK CORRIDOR

This project aims to improve environmental values at 38 priority sites along the Dandenong Creek corridor, while engaging local communities to better understand and appreciate the natural values of this important biolink.

2020 was the final year for the project and all planned project outputs were delivered. On-ground works are now completed at all 38 sites. The final site works were undertaken by the City of Whitehorse and included rubbish removal (0.24ha) and ongoing weed control (1.94ha).

The completion of all community engagement activities was a major highlight for the project. In 2020-21, six community engagement events attracted 1,268 people, however, due to coronavirus (COVID-19), many events and activities were held online. A highlight was a webinar

on Indigenous burning in urban areas. Trust for Nature worked with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Corporation to deliver the online forum that featured Uncle Dave Wandin and other guest speakers.

As a final legacy for the project, the project supported the creation of a Message Tree by Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. The Bunurong people have not undertaken this type of cultural activity for over 100 years so it was an important cultural experience for them, and will educate the broader community about Bunurong culture and history.

Three videos were produced in the project's final year, including a final wrap-up video which summarised the outstanding achievements of the last four years.

**Project period:** 2016-20

**Location:** Dandenong Creek corridor (22km section between Heathmont and Dandenong North)

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- City of Casey
- City of Greater Dandenong
- City of Knox
- City of Maroondah
- City of Monash
- City of Whitehorse
- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria

## GROW WEST

Since 2003, Grow West has worked with landholders and the community to undertake one of Victoria's largest revegetation programs. Its vision is to rejuvenate up to 10,000 hectares of the Upper Werribee Catchment by creating vegetation connections between the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park.

Over the past 15 years, Grow West has hosted an annual community planting day which attracts over 200 volunteers as well a host of sponsors. Due to coronavirus

(COVID-19), the 2020 event (Balliang Creek Restoration Project) had to be cancelled, but thanks to the generous support of sponsors (Melbourne Water, ANZ, Bacchus Marsh Community Bank, Bacchus Marsh Lions Club and the Australian Government), work was still able to be undertaken at the site. 6,300 indigenous plants were planted along the 2.3 kilometres of Balliang Creek, covering 13.8 hectares. This work will provide a crucial habitat corridor for native birds across the landscape and add an important

piece to the vision of Grow West. A large scale, five-year landscape restoration project in the Rowsley Valley was also completed with 11,375 indigenous plants put in the ground and another 17kg of native seed, covering 118 hectares.

2021-22 will focus on securing a site for the annual Grow West Community Planting Day and securing funding for future landscape restoration works.

## PEAKS TO PLAINS

This three-year project, being delivered as part of the as part of the Victorian Government's Biodiversity Response Planing Project, aims to protect threatened flora and fauna species in the You Yangs through the control of invasive weeds, rabbits and goats.

Since 2017, the Peaks to Plains Project has successfully protected the Spiny Rice-flower, Button Wrinklewort, Eastern Barred Bandicoot and Plains Wanderer of the granitic peaks of the You Yang Ranges and the surrounding grasslands of the Werribee Plains.

The project has removed more than 100 goats in total (48 in 2020-21) from the You Yangs Regional Park and undertaken 1080 hectares of weed control and 1714 hectares of pest animal control.

The project has collaborated with Little River Landcare Group, NatureWest, City of Greater Geelong, Parks Victoria, Conservation Volunteers of Australia, the PPWCMA's Work Crew project and adjacent landholders to control boneseed, serrated tussock, boxthorn and rabbits.

The project has received funding to continue for an additional six months, with partners to focus on serrated tussock and goat control. A Walk on Country with Wadawurrung will close out the project.

## GROWING CARBON

This three-year pilot project is exploring the potential to utilise local revegetation projects to generate carbon offsets that also provide environmental and social benefits. This project aims to support Victoria's water industry to take actions on climate change and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

The project is working with Melbourne Water, Yarra Valley Water and Greater Western Water to understand how collaborative biodiverse revegetation projects

can contribute to meeting Regional Catchment Strategy outcomes as well as the water sector's emission reduction targets. These projects will aim to do more than sequester carbon through contributing to the restoration of environmental functions, improving biodiversity and water quality across the Port Phillip and Western Port Region.

2020-21 was the first year of the project and saw the formalisation of the project working group, including the development of a Project Management Plan and

Terms of Reference. The work group has been working through project governance and project implementation arrangements that will support partnerships between the CMAs, water corporations and landholders.

This year, the project also sought expressions of interest from local landholders seeking to undertake biodiverse carbon offset revegetation projects on their property.

In 2021-22 the project will establish a pilot biodiverse carbon offset project covering up to 50 hectares.

**Established:** 2003

**Location:** Upper Werribee Catchment

**Funding:** partner contributions

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**Partners:**

- Southern Rural Water
  - Melbourne Water
  - Moorabool Shire Council
  - Parks Victoria
  - Conservation Volunteers Australia
  - Moorabool Landcare Network
  - Landholder representatives
  - DELWP
- 



Three generations of farmers inspect trees plants as part of the Balliang Restoration Project

**Project period:** 2018-21

**Location:** You Yangs State Park (north, north west, and east of the park)

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Geelong City Council
  - Parks Victoria
  - Nature West
  - Melbourne Water
  - Little River Community Landcare Group
- 



Mt Rothwell after weed and rabbit control works undertaken in 2021

**Project period:** 2020-23

**Location:** Region wide

**Partners:**

- Yarra Valley Water
  - Melbourne Water
  - Greater Western Water
  - DELWP
  - Victorians CMA Climate Change Coordinator
- 



The Growing Carbon project will provide multiple benefits, including carbon offsets and increased biodiversity (Annette Ruzicka)

## GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG

Greening the Maribyrnong is a major environmental program revitalising degraded escarpments of the Maribyrnong Valley through the control of weeds and pest animals and the revegetation of native habitat.

Its long-term ambition is to establish a naturelink stretching from the Macedon Ranges to inner Melbourne.

Greening the Maribyrnong brings organisations and community groups together to work collaboratively to deliver a range of on-ground projects.

The PPWCMA coordinates Greening the Maribyrnong on behalf of its partner organisations, managing projects and leading the delivery of on-ground works, monitoring and reporting.

In 2020-21, Greening the Maribyrnong focused on the delivery of the Restoring the Natural Glory of Jacksons Creek and Deepening Connections projects (see below).

**Established:** 2011

**Location:** Maribyrnong catchment

**Funding:** project funds

**Partners:**

- DELWP
- Melbourne Water
- Greater Western Water
- Parks Victoria
- Brimbank City Council
- Hume City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Friends of Holden Flora Reserve

## GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG RESTORING THE NATURAL GLORY OF JACKSONS CREEK

This project is working to establish a substantial corridor of native vegetation along 10.5 kilometres of the creek (between the Emu Bottom Wetlands Reserve and Salesian College) to build resilience into the remnant native vegetation in the face of impending urban development.

Project work in 2020-21 focused on the maintenance of works previously completed, with 11 hectares of weed control and 2.5 hectares of rabbit control undertaken.

The PPWCMA's Work Crews project (see page 17) contributed to this work, and also collected native grass seed from the Evans Street Grassland in Sunbury and spread it within existing planting plots.

The project has worked closely with Wurundjeri to develop appropriate signage for their Sunbury Rings site. With the assistance of Hume City Council, this signage was installed early in 2021. The signage speaks to the importance of the area without

identifying the precise location of the Rings.

The final stage of planting and follow up weed control – funded through Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage program – is planned for early 2021-22. These works will bring this project to a close with the broader area being managed into the future as part of the new Jacksons Creek Regional Parkland.

## GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

This three and a half year project aims to protect remnant biodiversity along creek lines in an area covering 6,700 hectares south of Darraweit Guim. The waterway of Deep Creek provides habitat for several significant species including Platypus, Growling Grass Frog, Southern Brown Toadlet and Swift Parrot.

In 2020-21, the Deepening Connections project has delivered significantly against its weed and rabbit control targets. Weeds have

been controlled across 1,232 hectares and rabbits have been managed over 978 hectares.

The project's major successes have been at the northern end of the target area with nine adjacent landholders participating in a comprehensive gorse and rabbit control program. At the southern end of the project area, several large landholders participated in the project enabling significant stretches of Deep Creek to be controlled for weeds. Engagement efforts continue

to focus on the central section of the project area with the assistance of partner organisations.

The final six months of the project will focus on the central section of the project target area as well as undertaking follow-up works across all properties where works have previously been undertaken. A native grass identification and management workshop is also planned and will be run in conjunction with Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

- Lead West
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Melbourne Airport
- Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland Reserve
- Friends of the Maribyrnong Valley
- Friends of the Organ Pipes National Park
- Jacksons Creek Eco Network
- Upper Deep Creek Landcare
- Villawood Properties
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Friends of Steele Creek



Revitalising the Jacksons Cree escarpment is a key priority for Greening the Maribyrnong

**Established:** 2017-21

**Location:** Maribyrnong catchment

**Funding:** Victorian Government, Melbourne Water

**Partners:**

- DELWP
- Melbourne Water
- Salesian College Sunbury
- Hume City Council
- Friends of Emu Bottom Wetland Reserve
- Jacksons Creek Eco Network
- Villawood Properties
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung



Works crews undertaking seed collecting

**Project period:** 2018-21

**Location:** South of Darraweit Guim

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Melbourne Water
- Macedon Ranges Shire
- Hume City Council
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Clarkefield Landcare Group
- Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation



Remote control gorse mulching



# Our on-ground action **NATIVE ANIMALS**

## LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA plays a role in supporting native animal species in this region, including the protection and improvement of some threatened species, by leading projects when funded by the Victorian Government, Australian Government or other sources.

The PPWCMA's vision is that the region's populations of native animal species will be diverse and healthy. The number of native fish, mammal, amphibian, reptile and bird species that inhabit the region now will be retained, and populations of many threatened species will have stabilised or significantly improved. The diversity and health of the native animal species will ensure they are resilient when threatened or affected by natural disasters, climate change, pests or other issues. This will contribute to the overall health of the region's environment and enabling future generations to benefit from the native wildlife of the region.

## FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
50ha+ new Helmeted Honeyeater habitat established at 1-2 new sites.	<b>\$1M secured</b> <b>1 new habitat site.</b>	<b>\$75,949 secured</b>
2,000ha+ of habitat established/improved for wild populations and other threatened species.	<b>0ha (unfunded)</b>	<b>0ha</b>

## PROGRESS IN 2020-21

The PPWCMA's primary contribution to the protection of threatened species is delivered through the Yarra4Life program.

During 2020-21, Yarra4Life focused on delivering projects funded through the Victorian Government's Faunal Emblems Program including the Faunal Emblem's Small Community Grants, the Coranderrk Restoration Area Land Stewardship Project and supporting Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to undertake planning and weed control at the Nunganala Habitat Hub.

The Yarra4Life program also undertook important planning work and worked with a range of partner organisations

to develop the Yering Gorge to Yarra Junction Integrated Catchment Management project proposal. This project presents a unique opportunity to achieve multiple benefits including biodiversity, threatened species recovery, water quality, sustainable agriculture, river health, articulating and delivering on Traditional Owner aspirations and community empowerment by working across the landscape. The project proposes to use integrated catchment management principles in partnership with a range of organisations through the Yarra4Life program to address numerous threatening processes.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22

In 2021-22, the Yarra4Life Committee will focus on securing new funding to support the implementation of the Yering Gorge to Yarra Junction Integrated Catchment Management project, as well as supporting the creating of future release sites for the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

Additional investment will be pursued during 2021-22 to improve or establish habitat for wild populations of other native animal species across the region, including the Swift Parrot, Legless Lizard, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Growling Grass Frog.



Helmeted Honeyeaters in Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve

## YARRA4LIFE

Yarra4Life is a major environmental program in the Yarra Valley that improves, increases and protects habitat for native animals including the Helmeted Honeyeater and the Leadbeater's Possum. Its long-term goal is to have habitat links from the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve north to the Yarra Ranges National Park, south east to Kurth Kiln Regional Park, and west to the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Yarra4Life focused its work in 2020-21 around achieving the goals of its strategic plan – connecting ecosystems in the Yarra4Life area, connecting people with the natural environment and connecting Yarra4Life coordination partners.

Yarra4Life received \$23,089 through DELWP's Faunal Emblems Program to deliver targeted small community grants. A total of five community groups received funding to

undertake works to support habitat restoration for Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum. These projects will be completed in September 2021.

The Faunal Emblems Program also provided \$32,860 to employ a part time land stewardship officer to support landholders in the Yarra Valley and \$20,000 to support habitat restoration works at Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporations owned land at Nunganala. This project will involve survey work and weed control across 45 hectares at the Nungunala Habitat Hub area.

Yarra4Life does not currently have any project funds secured for 2021-22, but is exploring opportunities. 2021-22 will also be Yarra4Life's 15 year anniversary. A special celebration event and planting day will be organised.

**Established:** 2006

**Location:** Yarra Valley

**Funding:** partner contributions

**Partners:**

- Parks Victoria
- Yarra Ranges Council
- Melbourne Water
- Yarra Ranges Landcare Network
- Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater
- Trust for Nature
- VNPA
- Friends of Leadbeater's Possum
- DELWP
- Zoos Victoria
- Cardinia Shire Council
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Conservation Volunteers Australia

## YARRA4LIFE FAUNAL EMBLEMS PROGRAM

The Victorian Government's Faunal Emblems Program aims to improve the long-term sustainability of the Leadbeater's Possum and the Helmeted Honeyeater through a range of targeted actions. In 2020-21, the PPWCMA secured funding to deliver three key projects through Yarra4Life.

The Faunal Emblems Small Community Grants provided grants totalling \$23,089 to five community groups to undertake activities that will restore and protect habitat and secure a future for these unique animals. The recipients were Johns Hill Landcare Group, Macclesfield Landcare Group, Earthheart Foundation Inc. Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc, and Friends of Leadbeater's Possum Inc.

The Coranderrk Restoration Area Land Stewardship Project is engaging with private landowners in the Coranderrk area to build support for habitat restoration actions to

create future release locations for the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum. The project will develop at least four site specific management plans focused on private land adjoining the Yarra River.

Funding was also received to support Wurundjeri's Narrap Rangers to undertake planning and weed control at the Nunganala Habitat Hub. Nungunala Habitat Hub is a 45 hectare property owned by the

Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation located within the Coranderrk Restoration Area.

**Project period:** 2021

**Location:** Yarra Valley

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Yarra4Life partners



Earthheart Foundation volunteers removing weeds from Leadbeater's Possum habitat near Healesville



# Our on-ground action

# **SUSTAINABLE**

# **AGRICULTURE AND**

# **LAND MANAGEMENT**

## **LONG-TERM VISION**

The PPWCMA contributes to sustainable agriculture and land management in this region by delivering or supporting projects when funded by the Victorian Government and Australian Government.

The PPWCMA's vision is that the ring of rural and semi-rural land around urban Melbourne will continue to provide substantial benefits for the community, economy and environment of Victoria. These areas will retain productive, diverse, sustainable agriculture enterprises and industries with substantial economic benefit and local food security for Victoria. They will simultaneously provide expansive 'green space' featuring natural habitat and open landscapes supporting biodiversity and ecosystem health, and enabling Melbourne's communities to connect with nature and readily enjoy liveability and recreational benefits.

## **FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES**

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
Over 1000 farms adopting sustainable land management practices	<b>100+ farms</b>	<b>160 farms</b>

## **PROGRESS IN 2020-21**

The PPWCMA's sustainable agriculture and land management activities in 2020-21 centred primarily around the Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator (RALF) and Smart Farming in Western Port (delivered by Western Port Catchment Landcare Network) projects funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

In 2020-21, 1,369 people attending 73 events focused on sustainable farming practices, the majority of which were held online due to coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. 160 farmers were active members of eight sustainable farming discussion groups through the Smart Farming for Western Port project and through the RALF project, the PPWCMA participated in six stakeholder advisory committees.

In addition to these activities, the PPWCMA delivered two six month projects funded by the Victorian Government's

Working for Victoria initiative that supported farmers in the region. The Farms2Schools project used online incursions to teach local students how agricultural products got from the paddock to their plate. Three Farms2Schools Officers were employed and supported 40 farmers to deliver 240 online incursions to 9,963 students. The project also developed a range of educational resources including the Melbourne Foodbowl Virtual Farm.

The Agricultural Work Crews project assisted farmers to deliver their agricultural and environmental projects delayed by COVID-19. Three work crews made up of 19 staff supported 52 farmers and agricultural business. More information on both of these projects can be found on page 17 of this report.

The PPWCMA also provided a range of other activities including:

- Being a member of the Bunyip Complex Fire Natural Environment Recovery Sub-committee
- Supporting local Aboriginal organisations to apply for grants to develop their bush food enterprises.
- Completing the Preying on Pasture Pests the IPM Way project funded by Ripe for Change (delivered through Sustainable Table)
- Continuing the compost under vine trial funded by the Victorian Government's Wine Growth Fund at three wineries in Macedon Ranges
- Delivering a trial into Accounting for Nature and Landcare Level 3 assessment methods
- Initiated a dung beetle nursery site project in partnership with Landcare Australia and Melbourne Water, which will commence in 2021-22.

## **OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22**

In 2020-21, the PPWCMA will continue to roll out the RALF project and support the Smart Farming in Western Port project. The PPWCMA's Regional Agriculture Facilitator will continue to provide technical expertise on natural capital accounting and advocate for pilot projects in the region, support the dung beetle nursery site program and deliver community engagement events with relevant stakeholders and partners, including a Climate, Carbon and Natural Capital Conference.



## REGIONAL AGRICULTURE AND LANDCARE FACILITATOR

The Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator (RALF) is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and works with farmers, community groups and agricultural industry groups across the region to engage and inform on innovative, best practices and relevant new government policy to help improve the sustainability, productivity and profitability of agriculture.

In 2020-21, RALF delivered community engagement activities, both online and face to face, that focused on topics that supported landholders to contribute towards the protection of soils, water and biodiversity. Activities included:

- A native bee workshop with Berries Australia in Silvan that had 13 participants

- A dung beetle workshop with Macedon Ranges Shire that had 50 participants
- A planting for pollinators workshop with partners from the Mornington Peninsula that had 40 participants.

The RALF participated in six advisory meetings with industry partners, supported the Bunyip fire recovery by being a member of the Bunyip Fire Natural Environment Recovery Sub-committee, and facilitated discussions around the development of the National Soils Strategy.

The RALF also supported the PPWCMA's Work Crews project by providing an induction on farm biosecurity, designing insectary plantings on vegetable farms and shelterbelt planting within the Bunyip Fire Recovery footprint.

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**Project period:** 2018-23

**Location:** Port Phillip and Western Port region

**Funding:** Australian Government's National Landcare Program

**Partners:**

- Western Port Catchment Landcare Network
  - Other Landcare networks and groups
  - Local government
  - Agribusiness Yarra Valley
  - AUSVEG Vic
  - Other industry bodies and research organisations
- 

## SMART FARMING FOR WESTERN PORT

This five-year project being delivered by the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network (WPCLN), is increasing awareness and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation by farmers in the Western Port catchment.

The project achieved all deliverables in the 2020-21 year. While coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions prevented many 'face to face' engagement events from occurring, delivery methods were adapted to ensure farmers continued to be engaged and supported.

The development and roll out of a pilot seven-week Regenerative Agriculture Training Program was a key achievement for the project. The training catered to farmers located in high rainfall areas and was led by experts in the field. The training was significantly oversubscribed, highlighting strong interest from local farmers. As the training had to be run online,

a series of online resources were developed to assist with the training. This included the regenerative agriculture video series created as part of the project in 2019-20, which to date has had over 21,500 views on YouTube.

In 2020-21, the Smart Farming for Western Port project engaged 1,169 people in 65 events (physical and online). This included eight field days, seven on-farm demonstration sites, 48 farmer discussion groups sessions, and one Regenerative Agriculture Training program with 25 farming families. Total participation in the project to date is 4,777 people at 196 separate events involving 1,446 unique individuals.

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**Project period:** 2018-23

**Location:** Western Port catchment

**Funding:** Australian Government's National Landcare Program

**Partners:**

- Bass Coast Landcare Network
  - South Gippsland Landcare Network
  - Mornington Peninsula Shire
  - Agriculture Victoria
  - Melbourne Water
- 



Farmer discussion group talking pasture composition and diversity (WPCLN)

## PREYING ON INSECTS THE IPM WAY

This one-year project aims to provide graziers with information on implementing an Integrated Pest Management strategy (IPM) in their pasture systems so they are less reliant on chemical options as the go-to strategy for managing pasture pests.

IPM in pastures is not widely adopted as part of sustainable and resilient land management in grazing systems.

Conventional control usually relies heavily on a pesticide treadmill to treat a pest problem, often

creating a niche for another pest problem to replace it. Adopting IPM as a management tool can deliver significant reductions in farm input costs and result in improved productivity and a much more resilient farm ecosystem.

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) this project was extended for six-months to allow the community engagement activities to be completed. An online event was held in October 2020 to communicate the preliminary results of the trial. A booklet was also created to assist farmers

with identifying pasture pests and beneficial insects.

The trial results showed that this technique has the potential to reduce the amount of pasture pests, reduce the need for chemical control and increase beneficial insects. As the trial was only for 12 months, the results are only preliminary and more research is needed, however sourcing funding has been challenging.

## COMPOST UNDER VINE (MACEDON RANGES)

This three-year trial is investigating the financial and environmental benefits of composted urban green waste mulch under vines in the Macedon Ranges by applying an 8 centimetre high and 1 metre wide layer of certified composted mulch undervine at budburst in three Pinot noir vineyards.

The Macedon Ranges vineyards are the coldest in mainland Australia and produce outstanding cool climate wines. These highly labour intensive vineyards at 500-600 metres need a reliable method to increase the time

vine roots and grapes can spend at beneficial temperatures with cost effective and efficient management practices. Undervine mulch also aims to reduce or replace herbicide input.

2020-21 was year two of the project and was primarily coordinated remotely due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Temperature data was acquired hourly all season with data loggers in the canopy and soil sensors at the root zone. Weed growth and leaf area were assessed at veraison, and grapes from mulch treatments and controls were

separately laboratory analysed for grape quality parameters.

In both of the first two seasons of the project, results indicated that the composted mulch layer suppressed weeds and the soil under mulch was warmer in spring and cooler in summer. Mulched vines had better vigour and leaf health, and veraised and ripened earlier. Grapes also had a more ideal acid retention and were bigger with better nitrogen status compared to grapes from the controls.

## ACCOUNTING FOR NATURAL CAPITAL ON FARMS

The PPWCMA, in partnership with Landcare Australia, undertook this six-month pilot project in 2020-21 to trial the Accounting for Nature and Landcare Level 3 assessment methods.

These accredited assessment methods measure the condition of environmental assets (such as native vegetation and soils) on farms at a property scale. They are designed to ensure the integrity and transparency of environmental accounts.

Three demonstration sites tested the

Level 3 soil and native vegetation methods and suggestions were made to Accounting for Nature to improve these methods. A farm walk was held in February 2021 with the Smart Farming for Western Port discussion group on the Mornington Peninsula. There were 50 attendees showing a growing interest in methods for accounting for natural capital on farms.

A small group of landholders followed up and commenced benchmarking data for their farms. Two farm walks supported by the

RALF project were held with Bass Coast Landcare Network's Smart Farming for Western Port discussion groups.

As a result of these activities, enough interest has been generated to continue the project into 2021-22 with a focus on developing full natural capital accounts for at least six farms.

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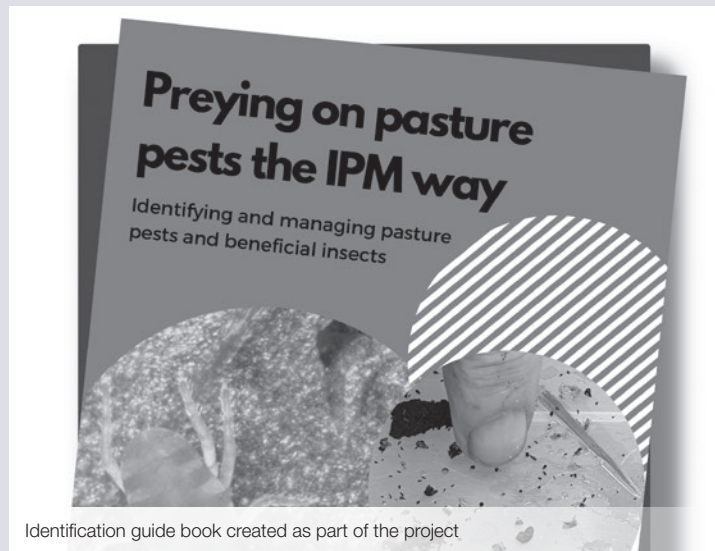
**Project period:** 2019-20

**Location:** Cardinia Shire

**Funding:** Ripe for Change delivered through Sustainable Table

**Partners:**

- Western Port Catchment Landcare Network
- 



Identification guide book created as part of the project

The third year of the project (2021-22) is expected to confirm these observations, which will be extended to other cool climate wineries in the region.

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**Project period:** 2019-22

**Location:** Macedon Ranges

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Macedon Ranges Vignerons Association
  - GrapeLinks
  - Australian Organics Recycling Association
- 



Trial site with composted mulch undervine (right) and weeds undervine (left)

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**Project period:** 2020-21

**Location:** Region wide

**Funding:** Landcare Australia

**Partners:**

- Landcare Australia
  - Western Port Catchment Landcare Network
  - Bass Coast Landcare Network
  - Mornington Peninsula Shire
- 



BCLN discussion group learns about Accounting for Nature in Ryanston



# Our Organisational Management

## A HEALTHY AND EFFICIENT ORGANISATION

### LONG-TERM VISION

The PPWCMA has responsibilities for providing a safe workplace, a diverse and inclusive culture and sound governance and financial management, as outlined in various instruments including:

- Victorian Government legislation including the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- A Statement of Obligations and letter of expectations from the Minister for Water.

As part of these responsibilities, the PPWCMA is committed to ensuring:

- High standards of occupational health and safety for our people and those who work with us
- A healthy organisational culture with high levels of staff engagement, tailored learning and development activities for Board members and staff
- High standards of business management including governance, financial management, compliance, risk management and project management.

The PPWCMA always strives to be a safe workplace with a highly-engaged workforce and high standards of governance and financial management that fulfil all the requirements of a Victorian Government statutory authority.

### FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

2024-25 outcome	2020-21 target	2020-21 progress
>50% female representation amongst PPWCMA Board, managers and employees	~50%	55% Board 66% Managers 56% Employees
PPWCMA Employee Engagement Index >85%	>80%	88%
Maintain outstanding OH&S practices	100 hazard reports	110
0 incidents (near miss) reports lodged, injuries sustained, lost-time injuries sustained, incident notifications and Workcover claims	0	12 incidents, 11 injuries, 6 lost time injuries including 1 incident notification*
\$10M+ investment through the PPWCMA	>\$4m/year	\$8.37 million
100% projects delivered on time and budget	100%	100%
100% compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework	100%	100%

\*Figure includes Working for Victoria work crews engaged through a labour hire company.

## PROGRESS IN 2020-21

### Project management

A significant component of the PPWCMA's operations is the delivery of projects. These projects relate to various areas of the organisation including environmental, agricultural, community and corporate services and may be large or small in nature and complexity. No matter the size, the PPWCMA ensures that all projects are delivered on time and on budget. PPWCMA has in place a comprehensive Project Management Framework which ensures a high standard and consistent approach to project management.

In 2020-21, all projects were completed on-time, on-budget and delivered their expected outputs. The Victorian bushfires over summer and coronavirus (COVID-19) impacted the delivery of several projects, particularly community engagement events and activities, and the delivery of some on-ground works. Where these projects were impacted, variations were sought and granted, extending the timeframe for delivery or substituting engagement events to online and social media platforms. Despite these challenges, all projects met their expected level of performance and delivery.

### Investment

The total revenue secured by the PPWCMA during 2020-21 was \$8.37 million. Most of this revenue was for work undertaken in 2020-21 and the remainder was received in advance for work to be undertaken in 2021-22. This level of revenue exceeded the PPWCMA's investment target (above \$4 million) and was the highest revenue level achieved for some years. The increased revenue was mainly due to the PPWCMA securing major projects through the Working for Victoria initiative.

### Financial management

The PPWCMA continually monitors the cash balance held at bank, with the objective of maintaining the amount equivalent to at least above six months of the PPWCMA's average monthly expenditure. The PPWCMA maintained the cash held at bank above this threshold for most of the 2020-21 year, aided by the increased revenue secured through the year.

A review for compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework (FMCF) was conducted and it showed that the PPWCMA was 100 per cent compliant throughout 2020-21.

### Workplace data

	As at 30 June 2021							As at 30 June 2020						
	All employees		Ongoing		Fixed term & casual			All employees		Ongoing		Fixed term & casual		
	H/C	FTE	Full time H/C	Part time H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE	Full time H/C	Part time H/C	FTE	H/C	FTE
<b>Gender</b>														
Male	7	6.3	4	1	4.8	2	1.5	5	4.8	4	1	4.8	-	-
Female	9	7	5	2	6.0	2	-	9	6.7	5	3	6.6	1	.1
Non-binary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Age</b>														
15-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-44	8	6.6	5	2	6	1	.6	9	7.6	6	3	7.6	-	-
45-54	7	6.2	4	1	4.8	2	1.4	5	3.9	3	1	3.8	1	0.1
55-64	-	-	-	-	-	-	.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	0.5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Classification</b>														
Executive	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Manager	2	2	2	-	2	-	-	2	2	2	-	2	-	-
Other	13	10.3	6	3	7.8	4	2.5	11	8.5	6	4	8.4	1	0.1
<b>Executive employees</b>														
\$200,000-\$219,999	1	1	1*	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.1</b>

H/C = headcount FTE = full time equivalent \*Executive contract

## Employment and conduct principles

The PPWCMA applies the Victorian Government's Public Sector Values and Employment Principles, as described in the *Public Administration Act 2004* by:

- Adopting policies and procedures that are consistent with the public sector employment principles
- Promoting the PPWCMA values, which are consistent with the public sector values
- Requiring employees to operate under a code of conduct which is consistent with the public sector code of conduct
- Providing regular employment obligations refresher training which focuses upon equal employment opportunity, human rights and the PPWCMA Code of Conduct
- Ensuring that induction training focuses upon equal employment opportunity, human rights and the PPWCMA Code of Conduct
- Ensuring employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections
- Applying merit and equity principles when recruiting employees and ensuring that internal and external recruitment selection processes assess and evaluate applicants fairly and equitably on the basis of key selection criteria and accountabilities without discrimination.

## Workforce inclusion policy

The PPWCMA's vision is to have a workforce that reflects the diverse community it serves and to be a great place to work for all. To achieve this vision, the PPWCMA developed a five-year Diversity and Inclusion Plan in August 2017. In 2020-21, the PPWCMA continued to focus on a number of actions such as:

- Encouraging substantial learning and development activities in all staff development plans
- Encouraging staff to work flexibly, particularly through the times of restricted work arrangements
- Embracing and promoting a number of awareness days such as IDAHOBIT, Harmony Week, Refugee Week and Wear it Purple Day.

The PPWCMA's current workforce data shows that, at the end of 2020-21:

- Nine of the 16 employees are female, with two of the three management team members female
- The majority of employees are aged between 35-44
- Most employees were ongoing, with four employees on fixed-term contracts.

## Workplace culture and morale

Each year the PPWCMA participates in the People Matter Survey, conducted by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. This survey enables employees to provide confidential feedback on how they experience the organisation as a place to work and is an important measure that the PPWCMA uses to understand employee engagement and satisfaction.

The PPWCMA's Employee Engagement Index result from the 2020 People Matter Survey was 88 per cent, 9 per cent above the average for the comparator sector.

The PPWCMA has continued to focus on maintaining the current high levels of workplace culture and morale through coronavirus (COVID-19) and has implemented initiatives such as weekly virtual staff meetings, participation in a resilience program and regular reminders of the Employee Assistance Program.

## Industrial relations

No time was lost in 2020-21 due to industrial accidents or disputes.

## Occupational health and safety

The PPWCMA's OH&S vision is that its employees work in a safe environment, return home safely every day and adopt and maintain practices that improve their overall health and wellbeing. The OH&S safety management system strives for continual improvement and includes:

- A comprehensive OH&S Policy, Committee Charter, Strategy and Procedure
- An OH&S Committee that meets at least quarterly and conducts regular workplace inspections
- An OH&S induction for all new employees and refresher training for existing employees
- A proactive health and wellbeing program.

In 2018, the PPWCMA Board approved a three-year OH&S Strategy. This strategy identified the following four improvement areas:

1. Leadership and accountability
2. Managing our risks in the workplace
3. Improving contractor and volunteer management
4. Developing a culture of hazard, incident and injury reporting

During 2020-21, the PPWCMA achieved a number of actions outlined in the OH&S Strategy including:

- Continuing to encourage and embed a strong OH&S reporting culture. PPWCMA employees have continued to support the reporting of OH&S hazards, leading to 110 hazard reports being lodged in 2020-21.
- Comprehensively reviewing the data following the sustained focus on hazard reporting. The OH&S Committee has analysed three years of hazard reporting and updated the OH&S risks and controls.
- Developing comprehensive bespoke procedures and systems to manage the OH&S risks specific to the six-month Environmental and Agriculture Work Crew program.

A summary of OH&S measures is included in the table at the top of the next page. In 2020-21, PPWCMA engaged work crew members through a labour hire company as part of the Agriculture and Environmental Work Crews project. The table includes the labour hire workers and all hazards, incidents and injuries relating to their employment.

## OH&S performance indicators

Measure	Indicator	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
<b>Hazards</b>	Hazards identified	114	92	94
	Rate per 100 FTE	166	800	752
<b>Incidents</b>	No. of incidents	12	2	3
	Rate per 100 FTE	17.5	17.4	24
<b>Injuries</b>	No. of injuries	17	4	3
	Rate per 100 FTE	24.74	34.8	24
<b>WorkCover claims</b>	Number of standard claims	0	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
	Number of lost time standard claims	0	0	0
	Rate per 100 FTE	0	0	0
	Average cost per standard claim	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Number of minor claims	0	0	0
<b>Fatalities</b>	Fatality claims	0	0	0
<b>OH&amp;S Committee</b>	Meetings	4	4	5
	Site inspections	1	4	6

\* 2020-21 figures includes Working for Victoria work crews engaged through a labour hire company.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2021-22

In late 2020-21, the Victorian Government announced that the PPWCMA is to be integrated into Melbourne Water at 1st January 2022. With this new direction in place, the PPWCMA is working with Melbourne Water and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to plan and manage the integration.

The PPWCMA's roles and services will continue to be provided through 2021 and the PPWCMA intends to move into the integration with the organisation and its programs in a strong state. The roles and services are then anticipated to be continued by Melbourne Water for the benefit of the community and environment of this region.

# Other DISCLOSURES

## INTERNAL AUDIT

The PPWCMA engages external professionals to undertake an internal audit program. Reviews undertaken in recent years dealt with compliance with the standing directions, asset management accountability framework, IT network security including penetration testing and stakeholder management.

All reviews have consistently reported that the PPWCMA maintains a high standard of governance and risk minimisation. Recommendations from all reviews, and their implementation, are monitored by the Audit Committee.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

The PPWCMA identifies, reports and monitors risk in a practical and effective way. Risk identification and management is included on many meeting agendas including Board, committee and employee meetings. The PPWCMA Audit Committee reviews the Risk Management Framework annually and receives quarterly reports on risk. Internal audit reviews are undertaken regularly using the PPWCMA's risk criteria.

Results of these reviews are reported to the Audit Committee prior to submission to the Board with recommendations recorded in a register and their implementation is monitored by the Audit Committee. The PPWCMA's overall risk profile is low with the highest ranked risk associated with funding levels.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) EXPENDITURE

For the 2020-21 reporting period, the PPWCMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$104,697, with the details shown below:

Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure total	\$104,697
Non-Business As Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure total = A + B	\$0
Operational expenditure A	\$0
Capital expenditure B	\$0

"ICT expenditure" refers to the PPWCMA's costs in providing business-enabling ICT services. It comprised "Business As Usual" (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

"Non-BAU ICT expenditure" relates to extending or enhancing the PPWCMA's current ICT capabilities.

"BAU ICT expenditure" is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

### Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement

I, Tania Foster, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.



Tania Foster  
Chair, PPWCMA Board  
7th October 2021

### Making an FOI request

Requests for access to information and documents can be made in writing by submitting the Freedom of Information Access Request Form along with the application fee. This form is available to download at [ppwcma.vic.gov.au](http://ppwcma.vic.gov.au). From 1st July 2021 the application fee is \$30.10.

Request can be sent via post or email to:

- Port Phillip & Westernport CMA, PO Box 196, Balnarring, VIC, 3926
- [enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ppwcma.vic.gov.au)

An information statement is published at [ppwcma.vic.gov.au](http://ppwcma.vic.gov.au).



## SOCIAL PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK

The PPWCMA is committed to supporting the Victorian Government's directions under the Social Procurement Framework (SPF) and to advancing social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

In 2020, the PPWCMA developed a Social Procurement Strategy to embed social procurement practices throughout the organisation and promote delivering social value and environmental benefits through the goods and services procured.

In the strategy, the PPWCMA prioritised two SPF objectives - *Sustainable Victorian social enterprise and Aboriginal business sectors* and *Environmentally sustainable outputs* - while exploring ways in which to achieve other objectives.

All 2020-21 procurement activities fell into the 'below threshold' band of Victoria's Social Procurement Framework planning requirements.

### Capability development activities

In 2020-21, the PPWCMA undertook the following capability development activities to support the roll out of Social Procurement Strategy:

- Updated the PPWCMA Procurement Policy and procedures to incorporate social procurement obligations and objectives.
- Delivered SPF training to all new and existing staff.
- Appointed two Vendor Panel Champions.
- Reported performance against SPF objectives to the PPWCMA Board.

### Sustainable Victorian social enterprise and Aboriginal business sectors activities

- Incorporated social procurement opportunity assessment into Procurement Evaluation Template.
- Encouraged catering be sourced from Social Benefit Suppliers.
- Identified opportunities to increase the number of Aboriginal businesses engaged.
- Contracted the services of RAPs for education sessions and staff training.
- Continued to hire pest plant and animal control services through RAPs.

### Environmentally sustainable outputs activities

- Reviewed PPWCMA contract templates with a view to incorporate clauses around the use of sustainable resource and recycled products in 2021-22.

### Progress towards other objectives

- To address the Sustainable Victorian regions objective, the PPWCMA purchased equipment and plants for the Work Crews project from suppliers in regions experiencing entrenched disadvantage and through small local businesses and nurseries.
- To address the Opportunities for Victorians with disability objective, the PPWCMA utilised office cleaning services from a supplier that employs Victorians with disability.

### Supporting Aboriginal businesses while helping farmers

As part of the Agricultural and Environmental Work Crews project, the PPWCMA assisted farmers to adopt sustainable land management principles by using native insectaries that use invertebrate pest control mechanisms.

Planting flowering native vegetation supplies nectar and habitat for beneficial insects which prey on pests that impact crops. Potential long-term financial advantages can also be gained from reduced labour and pesticide inputs.

To establish the insectaries on vegetable farms in Werribee South, the PPWCMA sourced local indigenous plants from the Willum Warrain Aboriginal Bush Nursery.

The newly established nursery is a 100 per cent Aboriginal community owned business and assists the

Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association to provide a safe cultural space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to gather, realise community aspirations and forge shared identity.

Supporting Aboriginal businesses such as Willum Warrain delivers

broad social value benefits. Aboriginal entrepreneurship, business development and employment are enhanced through providing more opportunities to participate in the economy.



PPWCMA's work crews installing insectaries at Mason Vegetable Farm using plants supplied by Willum Warrain

## COMPLIANCE AGAINST STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES

Act/Policy	Compliance requirements	Comment
<b>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</b>	Prepare, coordinate, monitor and review of Regional Catchment Strategy.	The Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) was approved by the Minister in 2014 and remained in place in 2020-21 while a new RCS for 2021-27 was being prepared. The RCS Committee met three times to consider papers on the new RCS throughout the year.
	Submit to the Minister an Annual Report on PPWCMA operations, the condition and management of land and water resources in the region, and financial status.	The 2019-20 PPWCMA Annual Report contained a catchment condition report and was tabled in Parliament on 10 December 2020.
	Submit to the Minister a 'Corporate Plan' articulating key result areas against which performance can be measured.	The Corporate Plan 2021-22 was submitted to the Minister before 30 June 2021.
	Board members to declare new interests at each board meeting and maintain a register of members' private interests. Members to submit a primary return on appointment and an ordinary return annually.	PPWCMA Board members declared their interests throughout 2020-21 and a register of Board members' interests is maintained.
<b>Public Administration Act 2004</b>	Comply with the Victorian Government's Public Sector Employment Principles.	In 2020-21, the PPWCMA applied the Victorian Government's Public Sector Employment Principles, as described in the Act.
	Participate in the People Matter Survey conducted by Victorian Public Sector Commission.	The PPWCMA's Employee Engagement Index result was 88% from the 2020 People Matter Survey.
<b>Freedom of Information Act 1982</b>	To provide the community access to, as far as possible, information held by the PPWCMA. Applicants have the right to apply for access to documents held by the PPWCMA. This includes documents created by the PPWCMA and supplied to the PPWCMA by an external organisation or individual.	For the 12 months ending 30 June 2021, the PPWCMA received 0 Freedom of Information requests. See page 38 for information on the PPWCMA's Freedom of Information application process.
<b>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012 (PID Act)</b>	The PID Act enables people to make a disclosure about corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body. The PPWCMA is a public body for the purposes of the PID Act.	The PPWCMA is a public body for the purposes of the PID Act and has a Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedure that complies. For more information see page 42.
<b>Financial Management Act 1994</b>	Undertake a review of operations and advise the Minister regarding compliance with Financial Management Compliance Framework (FMCF).	In 2020-21 the PPWCMA undertook a review of its operations which lead to the PPWCMA reporting 100% compliance with the FMCF.
<b>Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014</b>	Ensure all personal information collected by the PPWCMA is held securely and any disclosures are handled in accordance with the ten Information Privacy Principles.	The PPWCMA has a Privacy Policy that complies with the requirements of the Act.
<b>Building Act 1993</b>	Comply building and maintenance provisions of the Act.	The PPWCMA does not own or control any government buildings and is exempt from notifying its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the Act.

Act/Policy	Compliance requirements	Comment
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</b>	The use of cultural heritage management plans, interacting with registered Aboriginal parties to evaluate management plans, and enter into cultural heritage agreements.	In 2020-21 the PPWCMA fulfilled the requirements of the Act.
<b>Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003</b>	This policy is applied when tenders are let of greater than \$1 million in regional Victoria and \$3 million in metropolitan Melbourne.	The PPWCMA did not let any tenders of this scale in 2020-21.
<b>Competitive Neutrality Policy</b>	Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest.	The PPWCMA continued to comply with the requirements of the Competitive Neutrality Policy.
<b>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</b>	Ensure that PPWCMA staff are aware of and comply with the Act.	The PPWCMA is an equal opportunity employer and has policies for complaint reporting and resolution.
<b>Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004</b>	Report Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) issues at each board meeting and in the Annual Report.	In 2020-21, any OH&S issues were reported at each Board meeting and in the Annual Report.
<b>Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009</b>	Comply with the Award system which provides a minimum set of terms and conditions for PPWCMA employees.	The PPWCMA's policies and the 2018 enterprise agreement comply with the Award system.
<b>Victorian Managed Insurance Authority Act 1996 Victorian Government Risk Management Framework (VGRMF)</b>	Comply with the Victorian Government Risk Management Framework.	In 2020-21, the PPWCMA reviewed its compliance with the VGRMF and attested as being compliant.
<b>DataVic Access Policy (2012)</b>	The DataVic Access Policy provides direction on the release, licensing and management of Victorian Government data so that it can be used and reused by the community and businesses.	The PPWCMA complies with the DataVic Access Policy but has not supplied any data sets to DataVic during 2020-21.
<b>Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework</b>	Maintain a register of gifts, benefits and hospitalities offered to staff.	The PPWCMA has policies that comply with the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework and maintains a register of gifts, benefits and hospitality.
<b>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</b>	Requires public authorities to act consistently with charter rights when making decisions, developing policies and providing services.	The PPWCMA continued to provide information regarding rights and responsibilities to all new staff as part of the induction process and refresher training every three years.
<b>The Local Jobs First Act 2003</b>	Introduced in August 2018, the Act brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) Policy. Public sector bodies are required to apply the Act in all projects valued at \$3 million or more in metropolitan Melbourne or statewide, or \$1 million in regional Victoria.	In 2020-21, the PPWCMA did not have any projects that were required to apply the Act.

## CONSULTANCY EXPENDITURE

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

In 2020-21, there were four consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred in relation to these consultancies was \$288,490 (excluding GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined below.

### Details of consultancies under \$10,000

In 2020-21, the PPWCMA engaged three consultancies valued at under \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2020-21 in relation to this consultancy was \$17,696 (excluding GST).

Consultant	Purpose	Start date	End date	Approved	Expenditure 2019-20 (excl. GST)	Future expenditure (excl. GST)
Boojum Pty Ltd	Development of Victorian Regional Catchment Strategy websites	July 2020	June 2021	\$84,690	\$84,690	Nil
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation	Regional Catchment Strategy engagement	June 2021	June 2021	\$30,000	\$30,000	Nil
Fathom Pacific Pty Ltd	Western Port Ramsar Strategic Management Plan	November 2020	June 2021	\$143,800	\$143,800	Nil
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Regional Catchment Strategy engagement	April 2021	April 2021	\$30,000	\$30,000	Nil

### Making a Public Interest Disclosure

The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012* (PID Act) enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. A public interest disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body.

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

**"Detrimental action"** is action taken against a person in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure.

The PPWCMA is a public body for the purposes of the PID Act and has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a protected disclosure about the organisation

or its employees. You can access the PPWCMA's procedures at [ppwcma.vic.gov.au](http://ppwcma.vic.gov.au).

You can make a public interest disclosure about the PPWCMA or its board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC (details below). Please note that the PPWCMA is not able to receive protected disclosures.

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

Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001

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

1300 735 135

## FINANCIAL RESULTS

### Current year financial review

The PPWCMA manages its finances in line with the *Financial Management Act 1994* and the associated Directions of the Victorian Government Minister for Finance. The Financial Statements included in this report have been audited and certified by the Victorian Auditor General's Office.

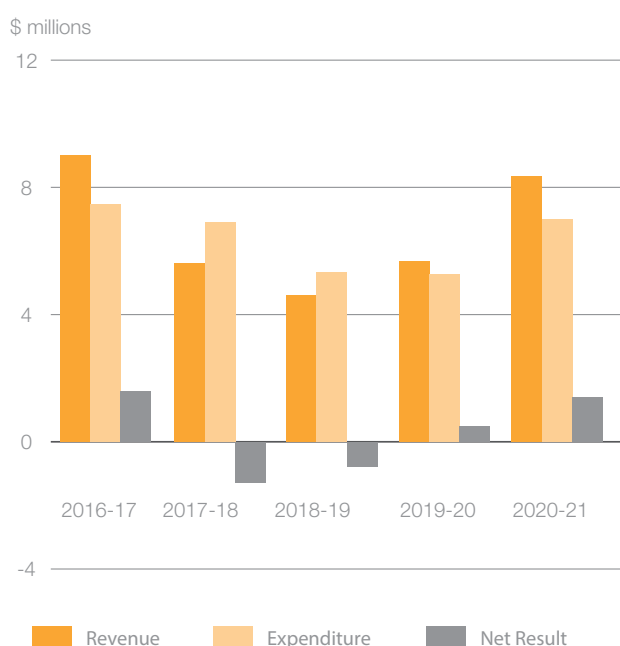
Through 2020-21, the PPWCMA focused on fulfilment of its statutory responsibilities and contractual obligations and achievement of its Key Performance Indicators whilst maintaining low operating costs across the business.

The 2020-21 Financial Statements show that the PPWCMA received total revenue of \$8.37 million and a surplus of \$1.4 million at year end. The surplus reflects the PPWCMA's funding that was received in advance in 2020-21 and is committed to be expended on projects in 2021-22.

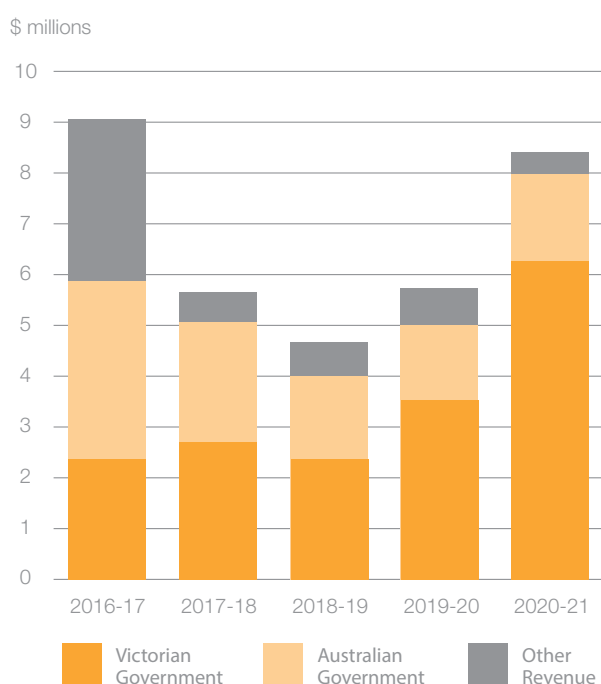
### Five-year financial summary

Revenue	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Victorian Government contributions	6,292,800	3,557,610	2,399,836	2,726,562	2,440,186
Australian Government contributions	1,697,395	1,439,270	1,605,410	2,346,240	3,491,635
Other revenue	382,424	699,954	607,029	543,092	3,093,726
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>8,372,619</b>	<b>5,696,834</b>	<b>4,612,275</b>	<b>5,617,894</b>	<b>9,025,547</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>6,987,154</b>	<b>5,253,021</b>	<b>5,322,591</b>	<b>6,866,200</b>	<b>7,448,534</b>
<b>Net result for the reporting period</b>	<b>1,385,465</b>	<b>443,813</b>	<b>-710,316</b>	<b>-1,248,306</b>	<b>1,577,013</b>
Net cash flow from operating activities	1,444,313	-147,365	-833,060	-1,234,276	1,474,740
Total assets	5,337,571	3,980,961	3,507,303	4,084,947	5,369,945
Total liabilities	830,270	808,361	829,280	696,608	733,300

### PPWCMA five-year financial performance summary



### Sources of PPWCMA finances over five years



## OTHER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

### Significant changes in financial position

There were no matters which changed the PPWCMA's financial position in 2020-21.

### Significant changes or factors affecting performance

There were no significant changes or factors which affected the PPWCMA's performance during 2020-21.

### Government advertising expenditure

The PPWCMA has incurred nil government advertising expenditure for 2020-21.

### Disclosure of major contracts

The PPWCMA did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) in 2020-21.

### Capital projects

The PPWCMA has not undertaken any capital projects during 2020-21.

### International travel

There was no international travel undertaken by PPWCMA Board members or employees acting on behalf of the PPWCMA during 2020-21.

### Disclosure of grants and transfer payments

As there was no Victorian Landcare Grants held in 2020-21, no grants or transfer payments were made.

### Asset Management Accounting Financial (AMAF) maturity assessment

The PPWCMA did not undertake an AMAF maturity assessment in 2020-21.

## STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INFORMATION

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA 2020-21 Annual Report is available at [www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au](http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au).

### Additional information available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the PPWCMA and are available on request, subject to the provisions of relevant legislation and policies including the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

- Details of publications produced by the PPWCMA about itself
- Details of any major external reviews carried out on the PPWCMA
- Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the PPWCMA to develop community awareness of the entity and its services
- A statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers of PPWCMA
- Details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees, not otherwise detailed in the report of operations
- A statement of the extent to which the PPWCMA committees' purposes have been achieved.

The information is available on request from:

Tipei Gambiza  
Finance Coordinator  
Phone: 03 8781 7900  
Email: [enquiries@ppwcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@ppwcm.vic.gov.au)

### Additional information included in annual report

Details on the following items have been included in this annual report, on the pages indicated below:

- Assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees (page 36)
- A statement on industrial relations within PPWCMA (page 36)
- A list of the PPWCMA's major committees, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved (page 67)

### Information that is not applicable to the PPWCMA

- Details of shares held by senior officers as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary
- Details of major research and development activities undertaken by the PPWCMA (none were undertaken in 2020-21)
- Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged (none charged in 2020-21).

# Section 2

# OUR REGION

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# About the **PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERN PORT REGION**

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Section 5





**The Port Phillip and Western Port region is home to over 5 million people (78 per cent of Victoria's population) and boasts some of Victoria's most productive farming lands, spectacular parks, picturesque landscapes and diverse natural ecosystems.**

**The activities and lifestyles of the region's urban and rural residents and its thriving tourism industry are underpinned by the diversity and health of its natural resources. This, along with the challenges associated with a growing population and changing climate, means the region's natural resources need to be carefully managed.**

## NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA

The extensive range of habitats and natural ecosystems found in the region are home to many species of native flora and fauna. While there has been substantial development and alteration of the region's landscape, 42 per cent retains native vegetation, including several areas of significant grasslands.

Many native animals have adapted to the change, but numerous flora, mammal, amphibian, bird, fish and reptile species are considered under threat of local or total extinction. Victoria's bird emblem, the Helmeted Honeyeater, is one of these.

## PARKS AND RESERVES

The region is home to thousands of parks and reserves that support rare and diverse flora and fauna species and provide highly-valued recreation and tourism areas. This includes eight national parks, six state parks, eight marine protected areas and many regional, metropolitan and local parks and conservation reserves.

## AGRICULTURE

Of the 1.28 million hectares of land in the region, around 44 per cent is rural farmland with industries including horticulture, dairying, poultry farming, beef farming, horse management and viticulture.

The region produces the second highest agricultural yield, in dollars per year (\$1.66 billion in 2018-19), among Victoria's ten catchment management regions.

## WATER RESOURCES

The region's water storage and waterway systems provide most of the potable supply for 75 per cent of Victoria's population, as well as many other economic, social and environmental benefits.

The region contains approximately 25,000 kilometres of rivers and creeks, which differ significantly in size, flow regime, vegetation cover, cultural history, accessibility, species distribution, sediment types and level of human intervention. Many of them are highly modified from their natural state. There are also over 14,000 natural wetlands, including three of international significance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

## THE BAYS AND COAST

The catchment meets the sea at the Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and each has significant ecological, economic and community values. The bays support commercial fishing, aquaculture and three major ports and provide the most popular recreational fishing areas in Victoria.

## CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

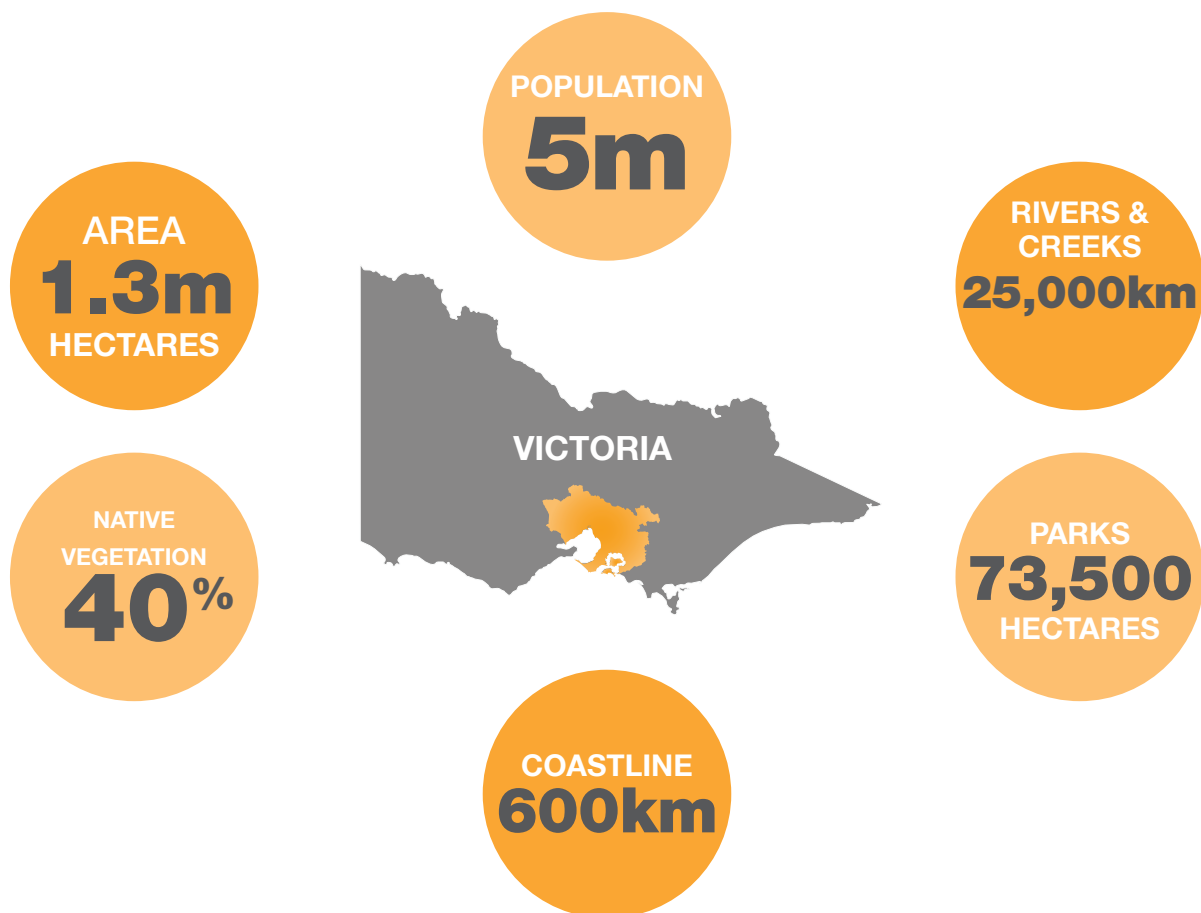
The region is home to many sites of cultural significance, including important Indigenous sites which have creation and Traditional Owner stories associated with them. Stone quarries, coastal shell middens, geological formations and scar trees are all scattered across the region. Many significant landscapes and vegetation retain important cultural and environmental values.

## MANAGING THE REGION'S NATURAL RESOURCES

The region's environment, as measured by indicators such as air and water quality, is generally good. These factors are fundamental to Melbourne's reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities.

Managing the natural resources in this region is a complex task. Many people and organisations play a part, including government departments and agencies, local councils, non-government organisations, agricultural and industry bodies and community environmental groups.

# Catchment CONDITION



## CONTEXT

This report provides a snapshot of some aspects of the environmental condition of the Port Phillip and Western Port region – the state of its biodiversity, waterways, land, coast, bays and community stewardship. It fulfils the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA's responsibility under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* to submit a report on the condition and management of land and water resources in its region. The information in this report is taken from the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy. For detailed information visit [portphillipwesternport.rcs.vic.gov.au](http://portphillipwesternport.rcs.vic.gov.au).

## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Significant natural features: Port Phillip Bay, Western Port, Phillip Island, Dandenong Ranges National Park, Yarra Ranges National Park, Brisbane Ranges National Park.

Major waterways: Yarra River, Maribymong River, Werribee River, Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands (Ramsar-listed), Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar site, Dandenong Creek, Bunyip River, Lang Lang River, Bass River.

Registered Aboriginal Parties: Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

## SUMMARY OF THE PPWCMA'S VIEW OF TRENDS

Theme	2020-21 assessment	Previous three year assessment	Summary of condition assessment
Water	Neutral	Neutral	While government bodies and communities are actively contributing to waterway health, there are threats and impacts from urbanisation, population growth and climate change.
Biodiversity	Highly concerned	Highly concerned	There is concern at the decline in biodiversity of this region due to significant pressure on native plants and animals from various sources including urban development, invasive species and climate change.
Land	Concerned	Concerned	Loss of productive agricultural land to urban uses remains a concern along with the future impacts of climate change.
Coasts and Marine	Concerned (Coasts)	Concerned (Coasts)	Coastal development, invasive species and climate change continue to contribute to a decline in environmental condition of coastal areas. However, the region's bays are in good condition. Regular environmental monitoring occurs and numerous programs work to enhance bay health.
	Positive (Bays)	Positive (Bays)	
Community	Positive	Positive	There is strong community contribution to environmental management in this region, particularly from Landcare and community environmental groups. The representation and role of Traditional Owners in natural resource management is increasing.

### WATER

The Port Phillip & Western Port region holds more than 25,000 kilometres of rivers and creeks. Collectively they gather water from the landscape which flows into Port Phillip Bay and Western Port. There are also over 14,000 natural wetlands and 370 constructed stormwater treatment wetlands.

The condition of the region's waterways and wetlands is outlined in detail in the Healthy Waterways Strategy and a brief summary is provided below.

#### Westernport catchment

The Westernport catchment occupies about 3,755 square kilometres and includes all the waterways within Western

Port together with those on Phillip and French Islands and on the Mornington Peninsula (including some that drain to Port Phillip Bay and Bass Strait).

Waterway conditions are highly variable, with much of the higher value areas being in the forested upper catchments, along the coast of Western Port and in the large regional parks. Wetland conditions are low to moderate with a current trajectory of low. Implementing programs to improve wetland buffers, vegetation condition and water regime is predicted to improve scores.

WATERWAY CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Stormwater	High	Moderate	High
Physical form	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Water for the environment	High	Moderate	High
Vegetation quality	Low	Very low	Moderate
Vegetation extent	Low	Low	High
Instream connectivity	Moderate	Moderate	High
Water quality - environment	Low	Very low	Low
Access	Very low	Very low	Low
Litter	High	Moderate	Very high
Water quality - recreational	High	Moderate	High
Participation	Moderate	Low	Very high

WETLAND CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Water regime	Low	Low	Moderate
Wetland habitat form	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Wetland buffer condition	Low	Low	High
Vegetation condition	Low	Low	High
Wetland water quality	Low	Very low	Moderate

### Dandenong catchment

The Dandenong catchment, which covers an area of about 870 square kilometres, consists of forested areas, farmland, reclaimed swampland and urban areas. Urban areas cover about 60 per cent of the catchment, 30 per cent is used for agriculture and about 10 per cent retains its natural vegetation.

Waterway condition varies from very low to moderate, with much of the higher valued areas located in the forested

upper catchment and in the large regional parks and wetlands along the Dandenong Creek. Wetland condition is currently considered low. However, there is potential to increase the condition to moderate in the long term through improvements to wetland water regimes and wetland habitat form, along with actions to reduce the threat of invasive plant and animal species.

WATERWAY CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Stormwater	Very low	Very low	Low
Physical form	High	Moderate	High
Water for the environment	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Vegetation quality	Low	Very low	Moderate
Vegetation extent	Low	Low	Moderate
Instream connectivity	Low	Low	High
Water quality - environment	Very low	Very low	Low
Access	Moderate	Moderate	High
Litter	Moderate	Moderate	High
Water quality - recreational	Moderate	Low	High
Participation	Low	Very low	High

WETLAND CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Water regime	Low	Low	Moderate
Wetland habitat form	Low	Low	Moderate
Wetland buffer condition	Very low	Very low	Moderate
Vegetation condition	Low	Low	Moderate
Wetland water quality	Low	Very low	Moderate

### Yarra catchment

The Yarra catchment covers an area of 4,046 square kilometres. Around 55 per cent of the area retains its natural vegetation, 30 per cent is used for agriculture and 15 per cent is urban.

The condition of waterways is highly variable – the upper headwaters contain areas of very high value intact native

vegetation protected within the Yarra Ranges National Park, but is degraded further from the headwaters as a result of agricultural activities and increasing urbanisation. Wetland conditions are generally low, but planned actions to reduce threats predict a potential trajectory of moderate.

WATERWAY CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Stormwater	Moderate	Low	High
Physical form	High	Moderate	High
Water for the environment	High	Moderate	High
Vegetation quality	Moderate	Low	High
Vegetation extent	High	High	High
Instream connectivity	Moderate	Moderate	High
Water quality - environment	Moderate	Moderate	High
Access	Low	Low	Moderate
Litter	High	Moderate	High
Water quality - recreational	High	High	High
Participation	Moderate	Low	Very high

WETLAND CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Water regime	Low	High	High
Wetland habitat form	Low	Low	Low
Wetland buffer condition	Very low	Low	High
Vegetation condition	Low	Moderate	High
Wetland water quality	Low	Very low	Moderate

### Maribrnyong catchment

The Maribrnyong catchment covers an area of around 1,408 square kilometres, comprising approximately 10 per cent natural vegetation, 80 per cent agriculture and 10 per cent urban.

Waterway condition is generally moderate. Areas of higher vegetation and macroinvertebrate value can be found in

the forested upper catchment, with degradation increasing towards the lower reaches. Wetland condition is currently very low overall. However, improvements to wetland water regime, habitat form and vegetation condition will somewhat mitigate the predicted impacts of climate change and urban growth and enable the vegetation score to increase low.

WATERWAY CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Stormwater	Moderate	Moderate	High
Physical form	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Water for the environment	Moderate	Low	High
Vegetation quality	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Vegetation extent	Low	Low	High
Instream connectivity	Low	Low	Moderate
Water quality - environment	Moderate	Low	Moderate
Access	Low	Low	Moderate
Litter	High	Moderate	High
Water quality - recreational	High	Moderate	High
Participation	Moderate	Low	Very high

WETLAND CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Water regime	Very low	Very low	Low
Wetland habitat form	Low	Low	Low
Wetland buffer condition	Very low	Very low	Low
Vegetation condition	Very low	Very low	Moderate
Wetland water quality	Very low	Very low	Low

### Werribee catchment

The Werribee catchment incorporates Little River, Werribee River, Lerderderg River, Toolern Creek, Skeleton Creek and Kororoit Creek, which all drain into the northwest area of Port Phillip Bay. The catchment occupies an area of 2,695 square kilometres, comprising around 20 per cent natural vegetation, 65 per cent agriculture and 10 per cent urban.

The health of the catchment's waterways is strongly linked to land use, with the upper reaches in a more natural condition than those in the rural and urban areas.

Despite significant impacts from agriculture and urban development across the catchment, waterways continue to support multiple and varied uses and values including water supply, flood mitigation and significant plant and animal species. Waterway condition ranges from very low to moderate. Implementing programs to improve wetland buffers, vegetation condition and habitat form is predicted to improve this score.

WATERWAY CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Stormwater	High	High	High
Physical form	Moderate	Moderate	High
Water for the environment	High	Moderate	High
Vegetation quality	Low	Low	Moderate
Vegetation extent	Moderate	Moderate	High
Instream connectivity	Low	Low	High
Water quality - environment	Moderate	Low	Moderate
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WETLAND CONDITIONS	2018 STATE	2018 TRAJECTORY	2068 TARGET
Water regime	Moderate	Very low	Low
Wetland habitat form	Very low	Very low	Moderate
Wetland buffer condition	Very low	Very low	Very high
Vegetation condition	Low	Low	Moderate
Wetland water quality	Moderate	Very low	Low

## BIODIVERSITY

### Native vegetation

An estimated 541,812 hectares (42 per cent) of native vegetation exists in the region today. A number of the ecological vegetation classes have been severely depleted including Plains Grassland, Plains Grassy Woodland and Box Ironbark Forest.

Over the past 30 years, the extent of native vegetation has reduced by an estimated 23,933 hectares (an average

of 800 hectares per year). The amount of loss has varied depending on vegetation types and the suitability of land for agriculture and urban development. The reduction has been particularly felt by native grasslands (west of the region), scattered trees and waterways/wetlands.

VEGETATION CLASS	ESTIMATED EXTENT AT 1985-90 (HECTARES)	ESTIMATED EXTENT AT 2015-19 (HECTARES)	CHANGE (HECTARES)	CHANGE (%)
Treed native vegetation	405,448	404,322	-1,126	0%
Scattered native trees	13,805	8,372	-5,433	-39%
Native scrubland	7,321	7,458	137	+2%
Native pasture/grassland	99,827	91,780	-8,046	-8%
Natural low cover	3,207	4,095	887	+28%
Saltmarsh and mangrove	2,098	2,190	92	+4%
Water and wetlands	34,040	23,595	-10,445	-31%
Total	565,745	541,812	-23,933	-4%

Change in extent of native vegetation from 1985-90 to 2015-19 (Victorian Land Cover Time Series).

Challenges and drivers of change around native vegetation include:

- Incremental loss:** as Melbourne's population continues to grow, clearing at the edges of remnant patches in peri-urban areas continues for rural subdivisions and landholder amenity. These activities are regulated by the Victorian Government, but the losses may not be completely offset by new vegetation. If this trend continues, a further 24,000 hectare reduction is predicted by 2050.
- Invasive weeds and disease:** although some successful programs to control introduced species have been implemented, there remains a need for sustained on-ground action and biosecurity responses to new and emerging threats. Weed invasion is the most persistent pressure on the region's national parks.
- Pest animals:** populations of various pest animals are a serious issue across the region, including deer, rabbits, pigs, goats. Populations of deer have increased and spread rapidly in the past decade.
- Changed fire regimes and frequency:** negative impacts on biodiversity can occur when fires are too frequent, intensive or extensive for recovery to occur. Victoria's risk-based and community-focused approach to fire planning aims to find an appropriate balance between the risk to humans and infrastructure, and to environmental values.
- Incremental damage:** widespread damage such as illegal clearing, recreation, vandalism, informal vehicle tracks, firewood collection and rubbish dumping are ongoing pressures on native vegetation from a large and growing population.

### Native animals

Over the past 200 years, an estimated 627 species of native fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals have existed in the region. However, the diversity of native animal species has declined in response to habitat loss, pest predation and other factors.

An analysis commissioned by the PPWCMA on the likely persistence of native animals in the region (using records from 1839-2016) indicated that there is an overall persistence rate of between 71-78% of species recorded. Birds and amphibians seem to have fared the best in retaining species, whereas fish species generally show the greatest declines.

Challenges and drivers of change around native animals include:

- Climate change:** many species will not have the ability to adapt to a rapidly changing climate as easily as others. As a result, changes to the distribution of species is expected to occur. More intense rainfall and flash-flooding will also have potentially devastating impacts on already small, localised populations.
- Fire:** Australian plant and animal communities rely on 'regimes' of fire intensity, frequency, season, extent and type to regenerate and maintain health and diversity. A drier future climate will create the risk of more frequent and severe wildfire.

- **Habitat loss and decline:** native animal populations remain in the remnant habitat patches. Native vegetation covers about 39% of the region. About 1,813km or 23% of the region's 7,704km waterways have previously been assessed as in good or excellent condition.
- **Urbanisation:** urbanisation, particularly in new growth corridors, will continue to put pressure on native animal populations. Impacts include altered stream flows and water pollution from increasing urban stormwater, barriers to animal movement created by roads and infrastructure,

and incremental native vegetation clearing for buildings, fences, access and views.

- **Predators and competition:** invasive plants and animals are major threats to native animals. Of particular concern is predation and disturbance by domestic animals, competition from native and exotic predators and scavengers that have benefitted from modern landscape changes, and weed invasions that create structural decline in native vegetation.

## LAND

### Land use

Around 44 per cent of the region is currently used for agriculture and green wedges and around 42 per cent is native vegetation, including the large parks and water supply catchments. Much of the region's natural resource production comes from the rural and vegetation areas, and they also provide habitat for native species, recreational sites, protected natural areas and scenic landscapes.

The urban area currently covers 14 per cent of the region and houses the majority of the region's five million residents. By 2051, the population is expected to have grown to eight million, which will see a conversion of some of rural land to urban use in the next 30 years.

LAND USE	1985-1990	2015-2019
Agriculture	~590,677 ha. (46%)	~564,134 ha. (44%)
Native vegetation	~565,745 ha. (44%)	~541,812 ha. (42%)
Urban	~121,923 ha. (10%)	~172,399 ha. (14%)

Change in land use in Port Phillip and Western Port region from 16985-90 to 2015-19 (Victorian Land Cover Time Series).

Challenges and drivers of change around land use include:

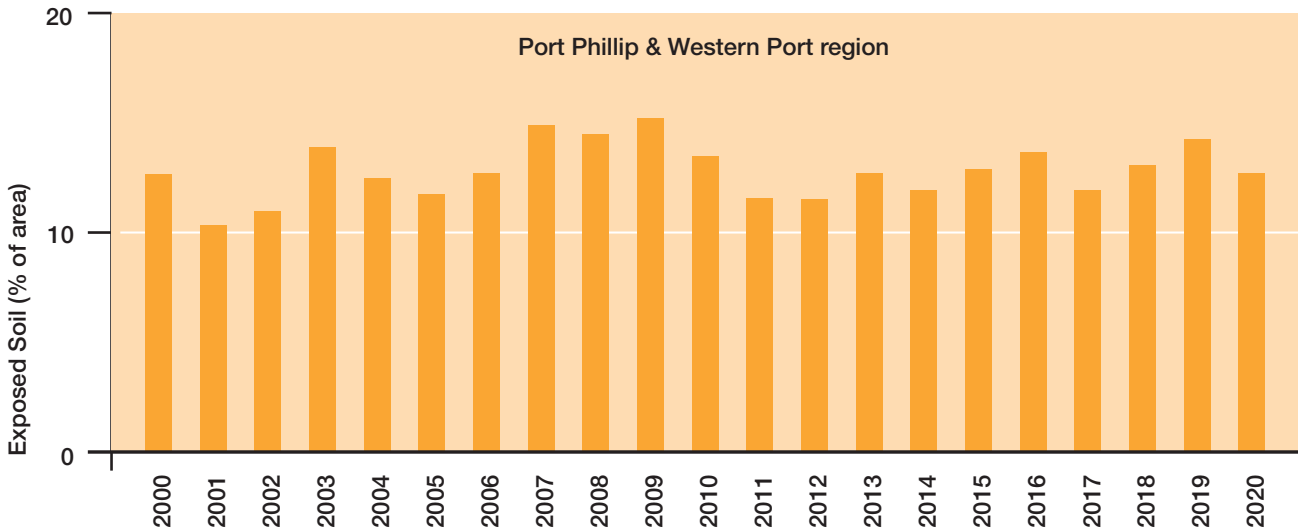
- **Climate change:** if rapid urbanisation continues, the effects of urban heat islands, decreased tree canopy cover and reduced water resources will be felt by many. Access to resources will affect how and where businesses and people locate and operate. Protecting Melbourne's biodiversity and natural assets is essential for a productive and healthy city.
- **Economic growth:** to grow jobs and create accessible, affordable and attractive neighbourhoods, Melbourne needs to take advantage of the land it has available for renewal in the city and suburbs. Increasing the number and diversity of jobs closer to where people live will help make Melbourne more productive and competitive.
- **Transport:** by 2050, Melbourne's transport network will need to handle up to an extra 10 million trips per day. Ongoing investment in transport infrastructure will boost rail and road capacity, boost productivity, conserve energy, curb greenhouse gas emissions and protect liveability.



## Soil health

The Port Phillip and Western Port region has a variety of surface-level soil types that reflect differences in parent material, topography, climate, organic activity and age. Healthy soils are central to human health and wellbeing and are also vital to the region’s economic prosperity, helping to generate more than \$1.66 billion worth of agricultural production each year.

Over the past 20 years, the proportion of exposed soil across the region has been steady at between 10% to 15%. This is a relatively low level and indicates that, in general, little of the soil across the region is at high risk of wind erosion.



Proportion of exposed soils in the Port Phillip and Western Port region from 2000 to 2020 (Australian National University).

Challenges and drivers of change around climate change include:

- **Climate change:** droughts require agricultural land to be irrigated and fertilised more, while erosion caused through flash flooding can have significant implications for natural assets, agricultural lands and water quality. Sea level rise will increase salinity in coastal areas.
- **Salinity:** soil salinity deteriorates the quality of water supplies, and rivers and streams receive salt laden run-off and sediment as soil structure degrades and erosion occurs. Everyone in a catchment is affected by

the agricultural activities of others and effective salinity management requires a total catchment approach.

- **Compaction:** the compaction of soil decreases the habitat available for roots and soil organisms, reducing biological activity in the soil, soil permeability, aeration, water holding capacity, and more. Soil compaction can be avoided by minimising cultivation, avoiding working soils when wet, reducing and controlling traffic, and restricting animal movement on moist soils.

## Sustainable agriculture

Approximately 44 per cent of the region is used for agriculture, with significant industries including horticulture, dairying, poultry farming, beef farming, horse management and viticulture. Significant commodities in the region based on the gross value of agricultural production included nurseries (\$286 million), poultry (\$168 million) and mushrooms (\$102 million).

Although the region has a significant urban area, it produces 23 per cent of Victoria’s vegetables and 59 per cent of its chicken meat. A University of Melbourne reported that the Yarra Valley produces 78 per cent of Victoria’s strawberries and Koo Wee Rup grows over 90 per cent of Australia’s asparagus.

Challenges and drivers of change around sustainable agriculture include:

- **Expanding urbanisation:** Melbourne’s population is growing significantly and impacting the region’s ability to continue to produce fresh food. This is reflected in various stages of change to the Urban Growth Boundary and the area of Green Wedges, and ongoing challenges to the activities that are allowable in Green Wedges.
- **Biosecurity:** biosecurity is the management of the risk of animal and plant pests and diseases entering spreading in our region and is fundamental for safeguarding our valuable agricultural resources.
- **Climate change:** agriculture systems face increasing risks as a result of frequent, severe extreme weather events – heat waves, droughts, and floods.

## COASTS AND MARINE

### Coasts

The Port Phillip and Western Port region has more than 600 kilometres of coast fronting Port Phillip Bay, Western Port and Bass Strait. Significant environmental values include the Ramsar-listed wetland sites in Western Port and Port Phillip Bay's western shoreline.

The current environmental condition of the region's coasts is variable. Some areas retain high environmental values while many others have been heavily modified by urban development, coastal settlement and recreational use.

In developing the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy, the region's coast has been divided into 14 zone which are delineated by significant changes in coastal characteristics and/or environmental values and where it is sensible to attach tailored environmental targets. These zones are outline in the below table.

COASTAL ZONE	APPROX. LENGTH (KM)	APPROX. AVERAGE WIDTH (M)	APPROX. AREA (HA)	AREA OF NATIVE VEGETATION (HA)	PROPORTION OF ZONE WITH NATIVE VEGETATION (%)
Phillip Island ocean	42	260	1,087	1,009	93%
Phillip Island bay	37	120	414	367	89%
French Island south	24	340	810	788	97%
French Island north	40	350	1,354	1,327	98%
Western Port east	55	140	757	622	82%
Western Port north	40	450	1,557	1,427	92%
Hastings	23	460	842	734	87%
Sandy Point to Flinders	33	440	1,310	1,165	89%
Flinders to Point Nepean	46	450	2,073	1,901	92%
Port Phillip bay eastern beaches	116	80	959	770	80%
Port Phillip bay north western shoreline	60	450	1,707	1,515	89%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>3,540</b>	<b>12,871</b>	<b>11,624</b>	<b>90%</b>

Coastal zones and estimated amount and proportion of native vegetation (Victorian Land Cover Time Series)

Key challenges and drivers of change for coasts include:

- Population growth:** Victoria's coastal areas have experienced record population growth over the past decade as well as increased visitation. This growth puts pressure on the health of the coastal environment, with direct impacts including habitat loss and degradation, increased pollution, erosion of dunes and pressure on recreational infrastructure.
- Climate change:** climate change increases the pressure on Victoria's marine and coastal environment by exacerbating existing threats and introducing new ones, including rising sea levels, increased frequency and severity of storms, changes in ocean temperatures, currents and acidification, and changes to waterway flows, levels and regimes.
- Native vegetation loss:** some of the native coastal vegetation is secure on public land but population growth and development continue to create pressure for clearing at some sites. Incremental damage to native vegetation from recreation, illegal clearing, vandalism and rubbish dumping results from the pressures of increased resident and visitor populations.

## Marine environments

Victoria’s marine areas have significant environmental values. Over a half a million fishing trips were taken across the region in 2018, the vast majority on Port Phillip Bay, producing an estimated economic value of over \$420 million per year.

Water quality in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port was assessed in the EPA Report Card 2018-19 as ‘Good’. Over the past 20 years, water quality in Port Phillip Bay has fluctuated between overall ratings of ‘Good’ to ‘Very Good’, while in Western Port the water quality has remained relatively steady since 2000 with overall annual water quality assessed as ‘Good’ for nearly all years.

Port Phillip Bay and Western Port generally have strong capacity to self-maintain good water quality. However, reducing annual nitrogen loads to Port Phillip Bay has been a focus over the past 20 years and remains so. For Western Port, reduction of sediment loads has been a priority.

Key challenges and drivers of change for marine environments include:

- **Population growth:** growth in resident populations and visitor numbers has direct impacts including habitat loss and degradation, increased introduction of invasive and pest species, and increased pollution. Seagrass beds, estuarine mudflats and mangroves are amongst the most vulnerable habitat types as they require sheltered environments that are at increased risk from nutrients and contaminants transported by stormwater.
- **Climate change:** climate change increases the pressure on the region’s marine environment by exacerbating existing threats and introducing new ones including changes in ocean temperatures, currents and acidification, and changes in the range, distribution and abundance of both introduced and native plants and animals.
- **Marine pests:** Agriculture Victoria reports that at least 99 pest species have been introduced to Port Phillip Bay from known origins. A further 61 marine species have also been observed but are of unknown origin.

## COMMUNITY

### Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians

The region is the Country of the Bunurong, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Wadawurrung people. The Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation are the Registered Aboriginal Parties for land in this region.

There are approximately 9,200 cultural heritage places in the Port Phillip and Western Port region, reflecting the long history of Aboriginal culture here. While some sites are owned and/or managed by Traditional Owners today, the number and area is very small in comparison to what was under the care of the Traditional Owners before European settlement. It is estimated that less than 1,000 hectares of the approximately 1.28 million hectares of land in this region is under Aboriginal community ownership and/or management.

In recent decades, there is a more positive trend with rights, knowledge and aspirations of Traditional Owners being increasingly recognised, including increasing influence and involvement of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal people in natural resource management. There is increased Aboriginal representation on the Boards of natural resource management organisations, and there are numerous partnerships in place. Also growing amongst many NRM organisations is a focus on providing or supporting training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

LOCAL AREA	NUMBER OF REGISTERED ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES
<b>Bass Coast, South Gippsland &amp; islands</b>	Approx. 500
<b>Casey, Cardinia &amp; Baw Baw</b>	Approx. 1,280
<b>Mornington Peninsula</b>	Approx. 850
<b>Yarra Ranges &amp; Nillumbik</b>	Approx. 860
<b>Urban Melbourne</b>	Approx. 1,490
<b>Macedon Ranges, Hume, Mitchell &amp; Whittlesea</b>	Approx. 1,770
<b>Melton, Moorabool, Wyndham &amp; Greater Geelong</b>	Approx. 2,340
<b>Total</b>	Approx. 9,200

Number of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in the Port Phillip and Western Port region by RCS Local Area as of June 2021 (Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register)

Key challenges and drivers of change for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians include:

- **Urban development:** much of the Country in this region has been substantially modified by urban development and as the urban area expands there is great risk that sites of cultural significance and landscapes will be damaged or lost forever. There are challenges in ensuring urban development meets cultural heritage regulations and requirements and there are sufficient Aboriginal people skilled and available to adequately service the urban development industry.
- **Lack of recognition:** not all land managers understand or recognise Traditional Owners as the custodians of Country and neglect to adequately include Traditional Owners in decision making processes.

- **Cultural water:** Traditional Owners have never ceded rights to water across Victoria, yet Aboriginal people hold less than 0.1 per cent of water rights in Victoria. This exclusion denies Traditional Owners the right to care for Country. In this region, the three Registered Aboriginal Parties do not currently hold any water entitlements.
- **Capacity of Traditional Owners:** there are currently relatively few Aboriginal people who have jobs taking care of their Country in this region. There is a challenge in providing useful, timely, appropriate support for organisations so they can determine their aspirations and build their workforce with the wide range of skills needed.

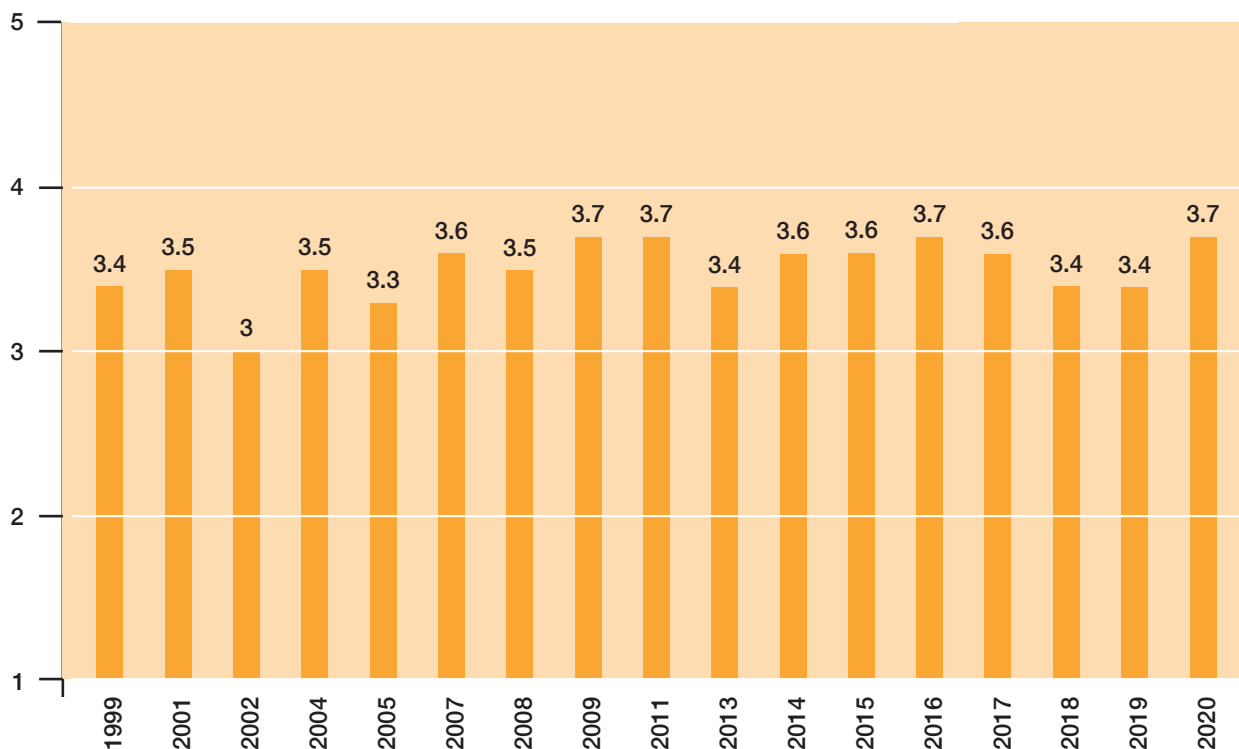
### Volunteering

Communities across the Port Phillip and Western Port region provide an immense pool of knowledge, skills, services and funds that play a vital role in the successful achievement of a better environment for the region. At the end of 2020-21, there were 85 Landcare groups, 13 Landcare networks and one council-hosted natural resource management network in the region. There were also approximately 500 other community environmental groups active in the region, such as Friends of, Coastcare and committees of management, many of whom were part Landcare networks.

While bringing significant benefits to local areas and communities, collectively these groups also make substantial contributions to improving environmental outcomes. In the 2020-21 Landcare Group Health Survey,

107 groups reported 122,242 volunteer hours, equating to a value of \$5.1 million (based on \$41.72 an hour). In addition, other community environmental groups contribute approximately \$9 million to the health of landscapes and communities (based on 2019 Volunteering Naturally Survey).

Despite the disconnection to environmental volunteering brought about by coronavirus (COVID-19), community environmental groups are by and large reporting a positive outlook. The average score in the 2020-21 Landcare Group Health Survey was 3.7 out of 5 (3 = “moving forward”, 4 = “rolling along”). This is the highest score since the survey was conducted in 2015-16, and reflects the views of 107 community groups (only 49 groups participated in 2015-16).

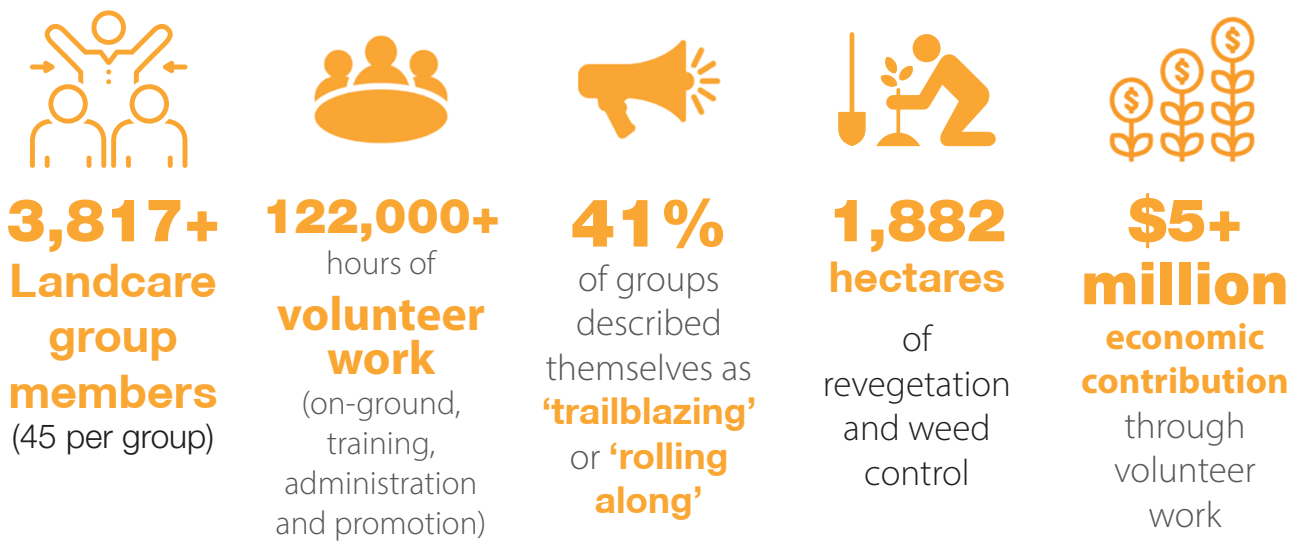


Landcare Health Score 1999 to 2021 (Landcare Group Health Survey)

Challenges for community volunteerism include:

- **Finding and retaining volunteers:** recruiting volunteers for not-for-profit organisations is usually a time-consuming and ongoing process. There can be a high turnover of volunteers – some leave after losing interest in the volunteering work while others resign because of changes in their work or personal circumstances. Attracting younger volunteers to replace retiring members can also be a significant challenge.
- **Training new volunteers:** most not-for-profit organisations operate on tight budgets, however, some need volunteers to undertake specialised tasks that require extensive and costly training.
- **Red tape, regulations and liability:** many volunteer organisations express frustration at growing red tape, regulations and liability issues which take up considerable time and effort. Funding applications and associated reporting requirements can sometimes overburden smaller organisations

## Landcare and environmental volunteering snapshot



Figures based on reported data from the 2020-21 Landcare Group Health Survey 2020-21 Victorian Volunteering Naturally Survey and estimated for groups that did not participate. Volunteer contribution calculated at \$41.72/hour using ABS 2017-18 data.

### KEY CHALLENGES FOR MANAGEMENT

A perennial challenge in this region is the large number of land managers and planning authorities who each have a stake in the management of natural resources. The large number of organisations and high population means there are significant resources dedicated to environmental management but coordination between the many players is difficult to sustain at scales likely to create improvements.

Other significant challenges in the management of land, water and coastal resources in this region have been:

- Continuing rapid population growth and associated land use change. The trade-offs this demands between social, economic and environmental values mostly favour development that is not designed in ways that compromise economy or profit over environmental conservation
- Urban densification that is progressively eliminating nature from urban environments through the loss of residential gardens in favour of townhouse development
- Infrastructure development that will potentially impact on nearby environmental assets
- Climate change which presents rapidly emerging threats and uncertainties for natural resource management and planning.

## SUMMARY OF PROJECT OUTPUTS IN 2020-21

The PPWCMA directed funds from the Victorian Government, Australian Government and other sources to numerous priority projects across the region in 2020-21. Some of the outputs collectively achieved with these funds are highlighted below.

**3,556**

hectares of new vegetation established

**6,921**

hectares treated to manage weeds

**34,288**

hectares treated to manage pest animals

**1.3**

kilometres of new fencing installed

**768**

hectares of rubbish removed

**17,373**

participants at engagement events

**Including:**

- 9,963 students attended Farms2Schools online incursions
- 347 attendees at 31 PPWCMA committee meetings
- 1,110 attendees at a Cultural Burning in Urban Area webinar with Living Links, Trust for Nature and Wurundjeri
- 57 attendees at 4 educational events about the Port Phillip Bay Ramsar sites

**2**

visitor facilities and signs established

**Including:**

- Bunurong Message Tree along Dandenong Creek in partnership with the Bururong people
- Sunbury Rings interpretive sign in partnership with the Wurundjeri people

**42**

partnerships developed or maintained

**Including:**

- A catchment partnership agreement with 17 organisations
- 30 Regional Catchment Strategy partners
- 3 partnership agreements with Registered Aboriginal Parties
- 11 partnership agreements with Landcare network

**34**

plans developed or maintained

**Including:**

- Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy
- PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan
- French Island Feral Cat Eradication Operations Plan
- 25 farm management plans through the Smart Farming for Western Port Project

**550**

publications produced and distributed

**Including:**

- 326 posts across 4 Facebook pages with a reach of 187,592
- 23 newsletters and e-newsletters with a reach of 22,417
- 11 reports

# Section 3

# OUR ORGANISATION

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# The role of the PPWCMA

## ROLE OF THE PPWCMA

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA is a Victorian Government statutory authority established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

The responsible ministers for 2020-21 were the Hon. Lisa Neville MP Minister for Water, the Hon. Richard Wynne MP Acting Minister for Water (February to June 2021), and the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Minister for Solar Homes.

The PPWCMA is responsible for:

- Preparing a Regional Catchment Strategy and coordinating its implementation
- Advising on regional priorities and resource allocation
- Promoting cooperation in the management of land and water resources
- Advising on matters relating to catchment and land protection
- Advising on the condition of land and water resources
- Promoting community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

In addition, a Statement of Obligations and a Letter of Expectations issued to the PPWCMA by the Minister for Water ensure a focus on:

- Community engagement and partnerships
- Recognising and supporting Aboriginal inclusion
- Mitigating climate change
- Collaboration with water corporations and local government in planning processes
- Advancing cultural diversity and gender equity
- Financial sustainability
- Clear demonstration of outcomes being achieved.

In line with these obligations, the PPWCMA is focused on fostering collaboration; making it beneficial for the many relevant government and non-government organisations to work together efficiently and achieve outstanding outcomes with their collective resources and effort.

The PPWCMA also provides community services, including supporting Landcare groups and networks, engaging Indigenous communities, working with landholders to promote sustainable agriculture and enhancing community awareness of environmental issues.

At a project level, the PPWCMA works closely with the Victorian and Australian Governments to secure funds for priority on-ground projects undertaken by various organisations.

The PPWCMA also takes direct action to improve catchment and environmental condition. It coordinates the delivery of several multi-stakeholder environmental projects such as Grow West and Living Links, and is active in works to enhance wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

### Integration of Port Phillip & Western Port CMA and Melbourne Water

On 9 February 2021, the Victorian Government announced that PPWCMA would integrate into Melbourne Water, effective from 1 January 2022.

The Victorian Government explored future needs and opportunities to deliver catchment management in the Port Phillip and Western Port region and determined that integration would enhance service delivery and increase access and capacity.

The integration will strengthen natural resource management in Victoria, bringing the catchment management and waterway management roles for the Port Phillip and Western Port region together.

PPWCMA's responsibilities and community projects will be moved into Melbourne Water, as will all PPWCMA staff.



# Our VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

## REGIONAL VISION

A HEALTHY AND RESILIENT ENVIRONMENT in the Port Phillip and Western Port region

## OUR PPWCMA MISSION

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITIES in the Port Phillip & Western Port region to enhance the health and resilience of our land, water and biodiversity

### OUR COMMUNITY SERVICES



#### COLLABORATIVE STRATEGY

- Regional Catchment Strategy with many committed partners



#### LANDCARE SUPPORT

- Many active and capable Landcare/ community groups



#### INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION

- Strong and growing Indigenous participation



#### COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

- A large community audience
- High levels of community participation

### OUR ON-GROUND ACTION



#### WATERWAYS & WETLANDS

- Enhancing Ramsar wetlands



#### NATIVE VEGETATION

- Protecting and improving threatened native vegetation types
- Creating 'naturelinks'



#### NATIVE ANIMALS

- Supporting threatened native animal species



#### SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND LAND MANAGEMENT

- Increasing the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices

### ENABLED BY



#### A HEALTHY AND EFFICIENT ORGANISATION

- A safe workplace
- Sound governance and financial management
- Efficient project delivery
- An engaged workforce
- Substantial funding for on-ground outcomes

### UNDERPINNED BY OUR VALUES



#### COLLABORATION

We value teamwork and we work with others to identify and achieve optimum outcomes



#### LEADERSHIP

We are champions for a healthy environment in this region and we assist and motivate others to contribute



#### CREATIVITY

We value energy and enthusiasm; we embrace challenges and explore new ways of working to create solutions



#### RELIABILITY

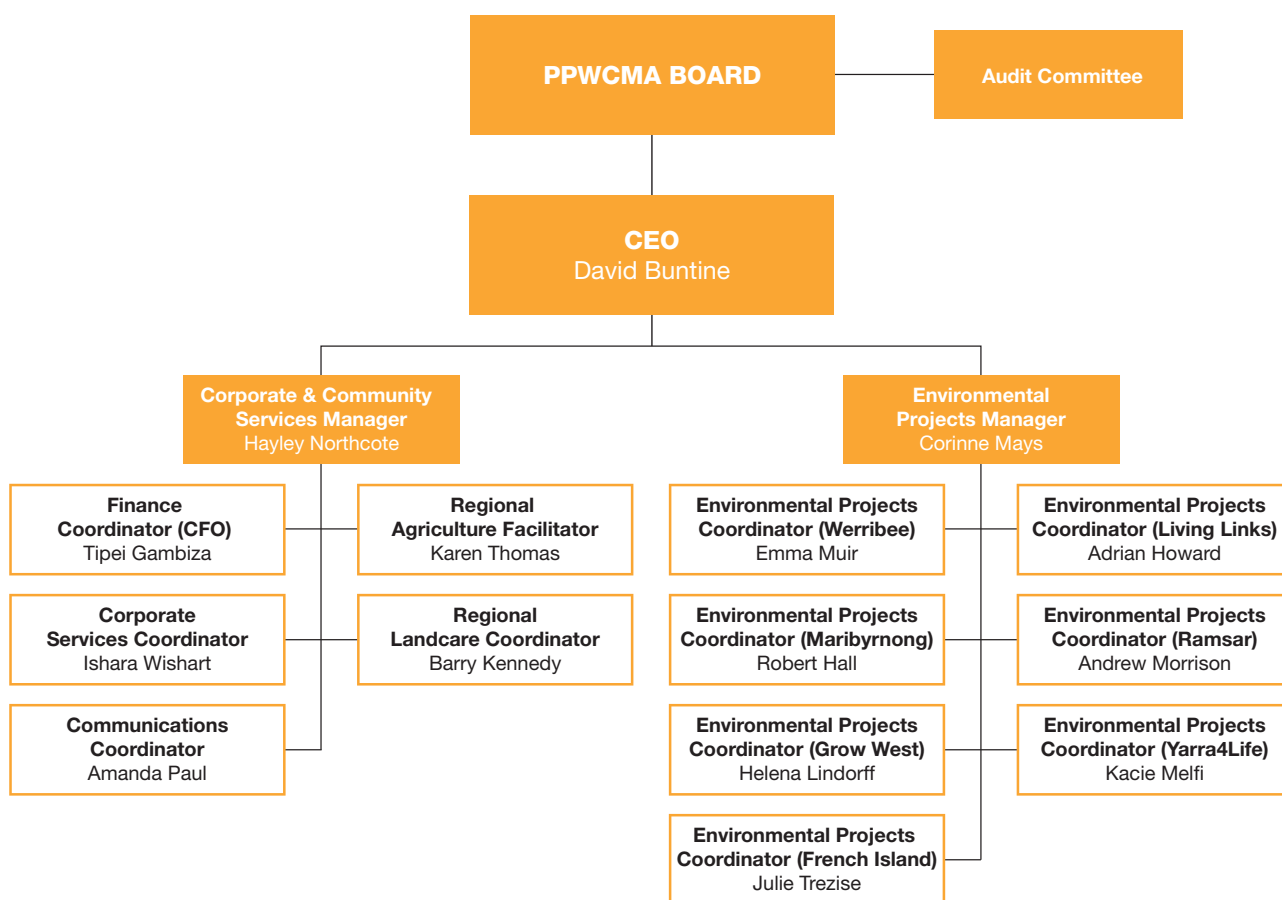
We do what we say we will do; we deliver on our promises

# Organisational STRUCTURE

At the end of 2020-21, the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA employed a total of 15 staff, led by Chief Executive Officer David Buntine.

The Corporate and Community Services Team coordinated the organisation's governance, business systems and communications, implemented the Regional Catchment Strategy, and supported Landcare and community environmental groups, farmers and agricultural industry groups.

The Environmental Projects Team managed the delivery of major environmental projects including Grow West, Living Links, Yarra4Life, Greening the Maribyrnong and the Ramsar Protection Program, as well as government funding obligations, data outputs and reporting.



# The PPWCMA BOARD

## BOARD MEMBERS

The PPWCMA Board is skills-based with nine members at the end of 2020-21. The board is accountable for the overall performance of the PPWCMA and its role is to guide and govern the organisation to ensure it meets its responsibilities in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. During 2020-21, the Board reported to the Hon. Lisa Neville, Minister for Water, the Hon. Richard Wynne MP, Acting Minister for Water and the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Minister for Solar Homes.



### Tania Foster - Chair

Tania has over 30 years of experience across numerous regions and industries, including mining, manufacturing, accounting, transport, engineering, utilities and banking. She holds a Masters of Business Administration (MBA),

Bachelor of Commerce and is a Fellow of CA ANZ.

Tania has spent the last 20 years working in financial services covering a wide range of roles, including Finance, Product and Sales Management, Data and Operations. Tania is currently CFO at Elders and Director of BPAY Pty Ltd.

Tania was a Board member from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 and served as Chair of the PPWCMA Board and Chair of the Business and Remuneration Committee.



### Susan Anderson

Susan is a primary producer and business owner in Bunyip with conservation qualifications and extensive Landcare and environmental community contacts in the Western Port catchment. She is a life member and President of Bunyip Landcare

Group. Susan is actively involved in several local organisations and is an advocate for increased awareness and conservation of natural values.

Susan was a Board member from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 and served as Deputy Chair of the PPWCMA Board and as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and Living Links Coordination Committee.



### Allan Bawden PSM

Allan is an experienced CEO and board member in the local government and not-for-profit sectors. He now divides his time between serving as a company director, consulting to boards and governing bodies on strategy and governance and

pursuing his interest in primary production.

He holds an MBA from Melbourne University and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is a life member of the Bass Coast Landcare Network and chairs the Southern Alpine Resort Management Board and is a member of the Alpine Resort Coordinating Council.

Allan was a Board member from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 and served as a member of the Audit Committee and Business and Remuneration Committee.



### Dr Sandra Brizga GAICD

Sandra has over 30 years experience in river, catchment and coastal management, working as an independent consultant since 1995. Sandra has qualifications in geography, geomorphology, environmental

law and finance and is the President of the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group.

Sandra is also a Trustee of Trust for Nature, a committee member of the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management and a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria.

Sandra was a Board member from 1st July 2020 until 30th June 2021 and served as Chair of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and a member of the Audit Committee.



### **Neville Goodwin OAM**

Neville is a primary producer at Woodleigh and has a long history of community representation and public service. Neville is a former councillor and mayor of the Bass Coast Shire Council and before this served as Commissioner at the City of Wyndham.

Neville sits on the Bass Coast Shire Council Major Events Committee and a member of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Board. He is also the Chair of the Grantville Community Market and Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee.

Neville was a Board member from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 and served as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and Business and Remuneration Committee.



### **Olivia Lineham**

Olivia is a primary producer who operates a mixed farming enterprise on her property in Cora Lynn.

Olivia holds a Masters of Environment and Bachelor of Applied Science and over the

last 15 years has worked with government on sustainability education and climate change (adaption and mitigation). She has strong links in the agricultural community and has sat on the Rural Women Network Steering Committee. She is also actively involved in her local community.

Olivia was a Board member from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 and served as a member of the Business and Remuneration Committee and Yarra4Life Coordination Committee.



### **Les McLean**

Les is a qualified accountant, with 20 years of senior management and over 10 years of executive leadership experience in the Victorian health and water sectors.

Les is a Fellow of CPA Australia and Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors with a Bachelor of Business degree. Les is currently Executive Officer for the Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria and its environmental philanthropic trustee, STF1944 Limited. He was also a Board Director with Western Water until 30 June 2021.

Les was a Board member from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 and served as Chair of the Audit Committee and as a member of the Grow West Coordination Committee.



### **Lawrence Moser**

Lawrence has had a long and varied career, owning his own horticulture and primary production businesses, and working in various community and government support roles. He currently works for Rail Projects Victoria, assisting with their cultural heritage management.

Lawrence has sat on a number of groups and boards, including chairing the Regional Aboriginal Advisory Committee. He is currently a sitting member on the Victorian Koorie Courts. Lawrence has previously held the role of CEO at Swan Hill and District Aboriginal Cooperative and Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and General Manager at the NSW Wamba Wamba Lands Council.

Lawrence was a Board member from 1st October 2020 until 30th June 2021 and served as a member of the Audit Committee and Community Grants Assessment Panel.



### **Nicola Ward**

Nicola has over 25 years experience in state and local governments and has held management roles in planning, organisational strategy, sustainability and environment. She holds a Masters in Social Science (Environment and

Planning) with Distinction and an Honours degree in Social Science.

Nicola manages a property for conservation and small-scale food production. She holds memberships with the Institute of Public Administration Australia, the Planning Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Nicola was a Board member from 1st October 2020 until 30th June 2021 and served as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee and Living Links Coordination Committee.

## BOARD GENDER BALANCE DATA

The gender balance of the PPWCMA Board as at 30th June 2021 and compared to the same date in 2020, is outlined in the following table.

Board members	2020-21	2019-20
Male	4	4
Female	5	5
Non-binary	0	-
Total	9	9

## BOARD MEETINGS

Seven PPWCMA Board meetings were held during 2020-21. The attendance of Board members at the meetings is outlined in the following table.

Board member	No. of meetings attended
Tania Foster (Chair)	7/7
Susan Anderson (Deputy Chair)	7/7
Allan Bawden	7/7
Sandra Brizga	7/7
Neville Goodwin	6/7
Olivia Lineham	6/7
Lawrence Moser	6/7
Les McLean	7/7
Nicola Ward	7/7

## BOARD COMMITTEES

A number of committees, established by the Board, made important contributions to the governance and compliance of the PPWCMA in 2020-21. These committees each have membership and a charter approved by the Board and report at Board meetings. The membership and charter of each committee are reviewed on a regular basis.

### Business and remuneration committee

The Business and Remuneration Committee met on two occasions in 2020-21. The items addressed by the Committee included development of the CEO Work Performance Plan, mid-year and year-end assessment of CEO performance, development of advice to the Board regarding CEO remuneration and tenure, planning of the Board's annual performance assessment and oversight of the PPWCMA's compliance with government policy.

Membership and attendance at Business and Remuneration Committee meetings is outlined in the following table.

Board member	No. of meetings attended
Tania Foster (Chair)	2/2
Allan Bawden	2/2
Neville Goodwin	2/2
Olivia Lineham	2/2

### Audit committee

The Audit Committee met on five occasions in 2020-21. The key items addressed included planning and oversight of internal audit projects, oversight of the risk management framework and oversight of the preparation of the PPWCMA's annual financial statements and review of compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework.

The main responsibilities of the audit committee are to:

- Review and report to the Board on all other external audit functions and ensure audit functions are adequately resourced
- Determine the scope of the internal audit functions and ensure audit functions are adequately resourced
- Consider recommendations made by internal and external auditors and review the implementation of actions to resolve issues raised
- Oversee the effective operation of the risk management framework.

The PPWCMA Audit Committee undertakes an annual performance review and as part of this process identifies any professional development opportunities for members to strengthen individual performance and the overall performance of the committee. The outcome of the review is reported to the PPWCMA Board.

Membership and attendance at the Audit Committee meetings is outlined in the following table.

Member	No. of meetings attended	Independent member
Les McLean (Chair)	5/5	Yes
Allan Bawden	5/5	Yes
Sandra Brizga	5/5	Yes
Lawrence Moser	4/5	Yes

### Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee

The Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee met three times in 2020-21. The committee's major focus was the preparation of the Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-27. Membership and attendance at the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee meetings is outlined in the following table.

Member	No. of meetings attended
Sandra Brizga (Chair)	3/3
Susan Anderson	3/3
Neville Goodwin	3/3
Nicola Ward	3/3

### Community Grants Assessment Panel

The Community Grants Assessment Panel meets to assess applications submitted via PPWCMA community grants programs. In 2020-21, Lawrence Moser was the appointed Board member on the panel. As there was no Victorian Landcare Grants in 2020 no Community Grants Assessment Panel meetings were held in 2020-21.



# Section 4

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## HOW THIS REPORT IS STRUCTURED

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) has presented its audited general-purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 in the following structure to provide users with the information about the Authority's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

- Comprehensive operating statement
- Balance sheet
- Statement of changes in equity
- Cash flow statement

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. About this report

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

### 2. Funding delivery of our services

- 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Victorian Government grants
- 2.3 Australian Government grants
- 2.4 Other contributions
- 2.5 Interest

### 3. The cost of delivering services

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Grant expenses
- 3.3 Employee benefit expenses
- 3.4 Supplies and services

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

- 4.1 Buildings, plant and equipment
- 4.2 Depreciation
- 4.3 Carrying values by 'purpose' groups
- 4.4 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amounts

### 5. Other assets and liabilities

- 5.1 Receivables
- 5.2 Payables

### 6. Financing our operations

- 6.1 Leases
- 6.2 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.3 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.4 Committed funds reserve

### 7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

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

### 8. Other disclosures

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



# Declaration in the **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

## HOW THIS REPORT IS STRUCTURED

The attached financial statements for the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2021 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2021.

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

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 30th August 2021.



**Ms Tania Foster**

Board Chair  
Port Phillip and Westernport  
Catchment Management Authority  
(Chair)



**Mr David Buntine**

Chief Executive Officer  
Port Phillip and Westernport  
Catchment Management Authority  
(Accountable Officer)



**Mr Tipei Gambiza**

Finance Coordinator  
Port Phillip and Westernport  
Catchment Management Authority  
(Chief Finance & Accounting Officer)



Victorian Auditor-General's Office

## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Board of Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the financial report of Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2021</li><li>• comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended</li><li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li><li>• cash flow statement for the year then ended</li><li>• notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies</li><li>• declaration in the financial statements.</li></ul> <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2021 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
<b>Basis for Opinion</b>	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report. My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
<b>Other Information</b>	<p>The Board is responsible for the "other information" included in the authority's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021. The other information in the Annual Report does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon. My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information included in the Annual Report. Accordingly, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a materially misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.</p>
<b>Board's responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

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

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

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

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

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

MELBOURNE  
6 September 2021



Paul Martin  
*as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria*

## COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Revenue and income from transactions</b>			
Victorian Government grants and contributions	2.2	6,292,800	3,557,610
Australian Government grants and contributions	2.3	1,697,395	1,439,270
Other contributions	2.4	368,106	669,199
Interest	2.5	11,891	30,746
Other income		2,427	9
<b>Total revenue and income from transactions</b>		<b>8,372,619</b>	<b>5,696,834</b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Grants expenses	3.2	1,110,020	1,866,357
Employee benefit expenses	3.3	2,253,615	1,620,777
Supplies and services	3.4	3,559,295	1,685,961
Depreciation	4.2	64,224	79,926
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>6,987,154</b>	<b>5,253,021</b>
<b>Net result from transactions (net operating balance)</b>		<b>1,385,465</b>	<b>443,813</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE RESULT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>1,385,465</b>	<b>443,813</b>

The above comprehensive operating statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.2	4,239,816	2,857,053
Receivables	5.1	1,045,564	1,013,145
Prepayments		1,500	9,668
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>5,286,880</b>	<b>3,879,866</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Buildings, plant and equipment	4.3	50,691	101,095
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>50,691</b>	<b>101,095</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>5,337,571</b>	<b>3,980,961</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	5.2	292,680	302,484
Lease liabilities	6.1	49,944	97,674
Employee related provisions	3.3.2	487,646	458,967
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>830,270</b>	<b>859,125</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>4,507,301</b>	<b>3,121,836</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		1,896,183	1,085,213
Committed funds reserve	6.4	2,611,118	2,036,623
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>4,507,301</b>	<b>3,121,836</b>

*The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Committed Funds Reserve \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	<b>1,774,962</b>	<b>903,061</b>	<b>2,678,023</b>
Transfer (from)/to accumulated surplus	261,661	(261,661)	-
Total comprehensive result for the year		443,813	443,813
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>2,036,623</b>	<b>1,085,213</b>	<b>3,121,836</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2020</b>	<b>2,036,623</b>	<b>1,085,213</b>	<b>3,121,836</b>
Transfer (from)/to accumulated surplus	574,495	(574,495)	-
Total comprehensive result for the year	-	1,385,465	1,385,465
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>2,611,118</b>	<b>1,896,183</b>	<b>4,507,301</b>

*The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

Section 1

Section 2

Section 3

Section 4

Section 5

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Government grants and other contributions		8,807,757	5,351,921
Interest received		11,073	29,905
Other contributions		2,428	9
Net GST refunds received from ATO		-	107,551
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>8,821,258</b>	<b>5,489,386</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee benefit expenses		(2,212,072)	(1,594,381)
Grants expenses		(1,110,020)	(1,866,357)
Suppliers and services payments		(4,015,743)	(2,176,013)
Net GST Payments made to ATO		(39,110)	-
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>(7,376,945)</b>	<b>(5,636,751)</b>
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>	6.2.1	<b>1,444,313</b>	<b>(147,365)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of lease liabilities		(61,550)	(69,905)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<b>(61,550)</b>	<b>(69,905)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		1,382,763	(217,270)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		2,857,053	3,074,323
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	6.2	<b>4,239,816</b>	<b>2,857,053</b>

The above cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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## NOTE 1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) was established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* on 29 October 2002. On that date the Authority acquired all the designated property, rights, liabilities, obligations, powers and functions of the Catchment and Land Protection Board, which was abolished on the constitution of the Authority. Its principal address is:

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority  
Gate 12 Worsley Road  
Bangholme, VIC 3199

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

### Basis of preparation

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

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

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

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in future periods that are affected by the revision.

Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying AAS that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement'.

These financial statements cover the Authority as an individual entity.

All amounts in the financial statements are in Australian dollars and have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) impact

In the previous financial year, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation. Since then, various measures have been taken by all three levels of government in Australia to reduce the spread of the virus.

The impact of COVID-19 in the community is continually developing. In order to contain the spread of COVID-19 and prioritise the health and safety of our community, PPWCMA was required to comply with various restrictions announced by the Australian Government and Victorian Government.

However, apart from staff being required to work from home, COVID-19 has not had a significant impact on PPWCMA operations and has not resulted in a change to any critical judgements or assumptions underlying the preparation of the financial statements.

In addition, the Authority received funding from the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative during the year which was designed to connect workers with new opportunities that will help the community and contribute to Victoria's ability to respond to the pandemic.

### Compliance information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

The Authority is a not-for-profit entity for the purposes of preparing the financial statements and where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.



## Integration of PPWCMA and Melbourne Water

On 9 February 2021, the Victorian Government announced that PPWCMA would integrate into Melbourne Water, effective from 1 January 2022. The integration is part of the Victorian Government's targeted structural reform of Victoria's water sector under Mission 5 – Restoration and Reform of Public Services.

The Victorian Government explored future needs and opportunities for the delivery of catchment management in the Port Phillip and Western Port region and determined that the integration of Melbourne Water and PPWCMA would enhance service delivery and increase access and capacity.

The integration with Melbourne Water means the Authority will cease to exist as an entity on 31 December 2021.

The Authority's existing services, assets, liabilities and employees will be transferred to Melbourne Water; hence it has been considered to be no impact on the going concern assumption. This is because the legislative reform has little or no impact on:

- the value of the assets or liabilities as they will be collected and discharged in the normal course of business;
- the ability of the Authority to pay its debts as and when they fall due (financial sustainability is considered separately); and
- the sector's overall ability to deliver the existing services or functions.

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## NOTE 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

### Introduction

The principal activities of the Authority are:

- preparing a Regional Catchment Strategy and coordinating and monitoring its implementation,
- promoting cooperation in the management of land and water resources,
- advising on regional priorities and resource allocation,
- advising on matters relating to catchment and land protection,
- advising on the condition of land and water resources, and
- promoting community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use, conservation and rehabilitation.

To enable the Authority to deliver its activities, it receives income predominantly through Victorian Government and Australian Government contributions.

Grants are both general purpose (not subject to conditions regarding their use) and specific purpose (paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use). Where such grants are for a particular purpose they are reported and administered as committed project funds (refer to note 6.4).

### Significant judgement: grants revenue

The Authority has made judgement on the recognition of grant income as income of not-for-profit entities where the agreements do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations. Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations and accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers are recognised when the Authority satisfies the performance obligation by providing the relevant services.

### Structure

- 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Victorian Government grants
- 2.3 Australian Government grants
- 2.4 Other contributions
- 2.5 Interest

## NOTE 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES - CONTINUED

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

		2021 \$	2020 \$
Victorian Government grants	2.2	6,292,800	3,557,610
Australian Government grants	2.3	1,697,395	1,439,270
Other contributions	2.4	368,106	669,199
Interest	2.5	11,891	30,746
Other income		2,427	9
		<b>8,372,619</b>	<b>5,696,834</b>

### 2.2 Victorian Government grants

		2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Income recognised under AASB 1058</b>			
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning		6,292,800	3,557,610
		<b>6,292,800</b>	<b>3,557,610</b>

The Authority has determined that the grant income included in the table above under AASB 1058 has been earned under arrangements that are either not enforceable and/or linked to sufficiently specific performance obligations.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Authority has an unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the asset, the Authority recognises any related contributions by owners, increases in liabilities, decreases in assets, and revenue ('related amounts') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004;
- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

### 2.3 Australian Government grants

		2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Revenue recognised under AASB 15</b>			
Regional Land Partnership (RLP)		1,662,181	1,439,270
		<b>1,662,181</b>	<b>1,439,270</b>

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations are accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers under AASB 15. These grants relate to the provision of land care services. Revenue is recognised when the Authority satisfies the performance obligation by providing the relevant services. This is recognised based on the consideration specified in the funding agreement and to the extent that it is highly probable a significant reversal of the revenue will not occur. The funding payments are normally received in arrears after the relevant obligation is satisfied.

## NOTE 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES - CONTINUED

### 2.4 Other contributions

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Local government and agencies	5,000	233,600
Corporate sponsorship	6,100	8,636
Partner contributions	315,171	408,423
Landholder contributions	41,835	18,540
	<b>368,106</b>	<b>669,199</b>

Other contributions are recognised as income in accordance with AASB 15 where there is an enforceable contract with the customer and the conditions are sufficiently specific to enable determination if the conditions have been satisfied. Where sufficiently specific performance obligations do not exist, revenue is recognised upon receipt in line with AASB 1058.

### 2.5 Interest

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Interest income	11,891	30,746
	<b>11,891</b>	<b>30,746</b>

Interest income includes interest received on bank accounts and at call accounts. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method, which allocates the interest over the relevant period.

## NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

### Introduction

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

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

### Significant judgement: employee benefit provisions

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

### Structure

- 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services
- 3.2 Grant expenses
- 3.3 Employee benefit expenses
- 3.4 Supplies and services

## NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

### 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Grants expenses	3.2	1,110,020	1,866,357
Employee benefit expenses	3.3	2,253,615	1,620,777
Supplies and services	3.4	3,559,295	1,685,961
		<b>6,922,930</b>	<b>5,173,095</b>

### 3.2 Grant expenses

	2021 \$	2020 \$
General purpose grants	1,110,020	1,866,357
	<b>1,110,020</b>	<b>1,866,357</b>

Grant expenses are contributions of the Authority's resources to another party for specific or general purposes where there is no expectation that the amount will be repaid in equal value (either by money, goods or services).

Grants can either be operating or capital in nature. Grants can be paid as general purpose grants, which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

Grant expenses are recognised in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable.

### 3.3 Employee benefit expenses

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

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Salaries and wages	1,642,118	1,220,956
Annual leave	147,467	118,936
Long service leave	8,413	38,770
Employer superannuation contributions	160,409	130,505
Other employee expenses	295,208	111,610
	<b>2,253,615</b>	<b>1,620,777</b>

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment. Other employee expenses include payroll tax, fringe benefits tax, and WorkCover premiums.

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

### NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

#### 3.3.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet

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

#### Provisions for employee benefits and on-costs

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>CURRENT PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		
<b>Annual leave</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	89,779	70,819
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	1,911	1,381
<b>Long service leave</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	46,717	40,655
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	275,483	276,264
<b>Time in lieu</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	8,125	4,714
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	21,497	16,441
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	42,463	42,498
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>485,975</b>	<b>452,772</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		
Employee benefits	1,449	5,372
On-costs	222	823
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>6,195</b>
<b>TOTAL PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND ON-COSTS</b>	<b>487,646</b>	<b>458,967</b>

#### Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>59,762</b>	<b>57,939</b>
Net additional provisions recognised	4,420	1,823
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>64,182</b>	<b>59,762</b>

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### NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

#### Salaries and wages, annual leave, time in lieu and sick leave

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

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

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

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

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

#### Long service leave (LSL)

Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability; even where the Authority does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- undiscounted value – if the Authority expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- present value – if the Authority does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

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

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised in the net result.

## NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

### 3.3.3 Employer superannuation contributions

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

	Paid contribution for the year		Contribution outstanding at year-end	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Defined benefit plans</b>				
Emergency Services & State Super	11,923	13,589	3,251	1,700
<b>Defined contribution plans</b>				
VicSuper	57,280	40,378	8,921	5,079
UniSuper	11,419	11,010	1,684	592
Equipsuper	10,101	10,147	1,270	1,234
CBUS	9,701	11,405	1,172	2,113
Australian Ethical Super	9,266	9,132	948	1,125
HOST plus	9,121	4,775	1,155	-
Rest Superannuation	5,803	7,176	272	869
Netwealth Superannuation	3,515	863	526	115
Vision Super	2,774	1,588	253	126
Plum Super Fund	2,187	2,134	199	199
IOOF Portfolio Service	2,039	1,325	379	126
Future Super	1,388	-	126	-
Allan Bawden Super Fund	1,388	-	126	-
Australian Super	1,388	1,289	126	126
Others	3,292	1,144	-	1,145
<b>Total</b>	<b>142,585</b>	<b>115,955</b>	<b>20,408</b>	<b>14,549</b>

### 3.4 Supplies and services

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Administration expenses	189,135	282,969
Contractors	2,619,224	837,477
Consultants	306,186	244,640
Plants & planting equipment	190,338	66,238
Motor vehicle expenses	8,591	24,027
Occupancy expenses	23,093	35,696
Lease expenses	222,728	194,914
	<b>3,559,295</b>	<b>1,685,961</b>

Supplies and services expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations and are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

### NOTE 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES - CONTINUED

The following lease payments are recognised on a straight-line basis:

- Short-term leases – leases with a term less than 12 months; and
- Low value leases – leases with the underlying asset's fair value is no more than \$10,000.

Refer to note 6.1 for further information on the treatment of leases.

### NOTE 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

#### Introduction

The Authority controls buildings, plant and equipment assets that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities, comprising furniture, equipment, computers and accessories.

#### Significant judgement: fair value measurement

Where the assets included in this note are carried at fair value, additional information is disclosed in note 7.2 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

#### Structure

- 4.1 Buildings, plant and equipment
- 4.2 Depreciation
- 4.3 Carrying values by 'purpose' groups
- 4.4 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amounts

#### 4.1 Buildings, plant and equipment

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Computers and accessories at fair value	56,019	56,019	(55,745)	(52,088)	274	3,931
Furniture and equipment at fair value	44,640	44,640	(44,167)	(41,604)	473	3,036
Vehicles right-of use	149,434	135,615	(99,490)	(50,888)	49,944	84,727
Office buildings right-of-use	31,964	31,964	(31,964)	(22,563)	-	9,401
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>282,057</b>	<b>268,238</b>	<b>(231,366)</b>	<b>(167,143)</b>	<b>50,691</b>	<b>101,095</b>

This note explores right-of-use assets, a subset of the Authority's total assets, where right-of-use assets represent the Authority's right to use an underlying asset for the lease term.

	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount
	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Vehicles	149,434	(99,490)	49,944	135,615	(50,888)	84,727
Office buildings	31,964	(31,964)	-	31,964	(22,563)	9,401
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,398</b>	<b>(131,454)</b>	<b>49,944</b>	<b>167,579</b>	<b>(73,451)</b>	<b>94,128</b>



### Initial recognition

Items of buildings, plant and equipment are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition. Assets transferred as part of a machinery of government change are transferred at their carrying amount.

The cost of constructed non-financial physical assets includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads.

The cost of a leasehold improvement is capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the remaining term of the lease or their estimated useful lives.

Items with a cost or value more than \$1,000 (2020: \$1,000) and a useful life of more than one year are recognised as assets. All other assets acquired are expensed.

### Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees (AASB 16 Leases from 1 July 2019) – initial measurement

The Authority recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability (refer to note 6.1) adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

### Subsequent measurement

Buildings, plant and equipment as well as right-of-use assets under leases are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset).

### Right-of-use asset – subsequent measurement

The Authority depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The right-of-use assets are also subject to revaluation.

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

Refer to note 7.2 for additional information on fair value determination of buildings, plant and equipment.

### Impairment of buildings, plant and equipment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

## 4.2 Depreciation

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Furniture and equipment	3,657	4,317
Computers and accessories	2,563	2,158
Vehicles	48,603	50,888
Office buildings	9,401	22,563
	<b>64,224</b>	<b>79,926</b>

## NOTE 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY - CONTINUED

All infrastructure assets, buildings, plant and equipment, that have finite useful lives, are depreciated. Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line basis at rates that to allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Depreciation rates for buildings, plant and equipment for current and prior years are included in the table below.

Asset class	Depreciation rate
Furniture and equipment	10%
Computers and accessories	20%
Vehicles	33%
Office buildings	50%

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

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the Authority obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life.

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

### 4.3 Carrying values by 'purpose' groups

	Public safety and environment	
	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Nature-based classification:</b>		
<b>buildings, plant and equipment at fair value</b>		
Furniture and equipment	473	3,931
Computers and accessories	274	3,036
Vehicles right-of-use	49,944	84,727
Office buildings right-of-use	-	9,401
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>50,691</b>	<b>101,095</b>

### 4.4 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amounts of buildings, plant and equipment

	Computers and Accessories	Furniture and Equipment	Vehicles right- of-use	Office buildings right-of-use	Total
2021	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>3,931</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>84,727</b>	<b>9,401</b>	<b>101,095</b>
Additions	-	-	13,820	-	13,820
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(3,657)	(2,563)	(48,603)	(9,401)	(64,224)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>49,944</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50,691</b>

## NOTE 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY - CONTINUED

	Computers and Accessories	Furniture and Equipment	Vehicles right- of-use	Office buildings right-of-use	Total
2020	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>8,248</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>101,900</b>	<b>31,964</b>	<b>147,307</b>
Additions	-	-	33,715	-	33,715
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	(4,317)	(2,159)	(50,888)	(22,563)	(79,927)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>3,931</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>84,727</b>	<b>9,401</b>	<b>101,095</b>

## NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

### Introduction

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

### Significant judgement: accrued revenue and accrued expenses

Accrued revenue and accrued expenses represent goods or services that have been received or supplied but have not been invoiced. In estimating the amount of an accrued revenue or accrued expense, consideration is given to the stage of completion of the services being performed.

### Structure

5.1 Receivables

5.2 Payables

### 5.1 Receivables

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade receivables	1,008,395	1,005,803
Security deposits	6,500	6,500
Accrued interest	818	842
<b>Statutory</b>		
Payroll tax credits receivable	29,851	-
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>1,045,564</b>	<b>1,013,145</b>
Represented by:		
Current receivables	1,045,564	1,013,145
Non-current receivables	-	-

## NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - CONTINUED

**Contractual receivables** are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised cost'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The Authority holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

**Statutory receivables** do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes. The Authority applies AASB 9 for initial measurement of the statutory receivables and as a result, statutory receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction cost.

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

### 5.1.1 Past due but not impaired trade receivables

As of 30 June 2021, the Authority did not have trade receivables past due (2020: nil)

The other amounts within receivables do not contain impaired assets and are not past due. Based on credit history, it is expected that these amounts will be received when due.

### 5.2 Payables

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Current contractual</b>		
Trade creditors	53,538	53,710
Accrued expenses	117,719	129,695
<b>Current statutory</b>		
GST payable	56,449	61,471
PAYG withheld	44,566	37,838
Superannuation	20,408	19,770
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>292,680</b>	<b>302,484</b>

Payables consist of:

- **Contractual payables** classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Authority prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and
- **Statutory payables**, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days. No interest is charged on the 'other payables' for the first 30 days from date of invoice.

## NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

### Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations and other information related to financing activities of the Authority. This includes disclosures on financial instruments balances, such as cash balances.

### Structure

- 6.1 Leases
- 6.2 Cash flow information and balances
- 6.3 Commitments for expenditure
- 6.4 Committed funds reserve

### 6.1 Leases

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Lease Liability</b>		
Current lease liability	30,743	53,105
Non current lease liability	19,201	44,569
<b>Total lease liability</b>	<b>49,944</b>	<b>97,674</b>

The Authority leases office facilities, vehicles, and office equipment. The lease contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1-4 years with an option to renew the lease after that date. Lease payments for office facilities are renegotiated at the beginning of the lease to reflect market rentals.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, else at the Authority's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification.

### Short term leases and leases of low-value

Some leases of office buildings, plant and equipment with contract terms of 1-4 years are either short-term and/or leases of low-value items. The Authority has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases.

At 30 June 2021, the Authority was committed to short term and/or leases of low-value and the total commitment at that date is shown in the table below:

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Office buildings</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,853</b>
Computers and accessories	37,797	56,143
<b>Total committed to short term/low-value leases</b>	<b>37,797</b>	<b>98,996</b>

## NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

### 6.1.1 Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

The following amounts are recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement relating to leases.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	58,003	73,451
Interest expense on lease liabilities	3,022	5,353
Expenses relating to short term leases	91,128	168,766
Expenses relating to leases of low-value assets	70,574	26,148
<b>Total amount recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement</b>	<b>222,727</b>	<b>273,718</b>

### 6.1.3 Amounts recognised in the cash flow statement

The following amounts are recognised in the cash flow statement for the year ending 30 June 2021 relating to leases.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Total cash outflow for leases	284,277	281,466

### Lease policy

For any new contracts entered into on or after 1 July 2019, the Authority considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the Authority assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations:

- Whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Authority and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- Whether the Authority has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the Authority has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- Whether the Authority has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

### Separation of lease and non-lease components

At inception or on reassessment of a contract that contains a lease component, the lessee is required to separate out and account separately for non-lease components within a lease contract and exclude these amounts when determining the lease liability and right-of-use asset amount.

### Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Authority has elected to account for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

### Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The Authority presents right-of-use assets as 'plant equipment' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented in the balance sheet.

### 6.2 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments with an original maturity of four months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Cash on hand	-	600
Cash at bank	1,328,895	551,004
Cash at call	2,910,921	2,305,449
<b>(a) Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>4,239,816</b>	<b>2,857,053</b>

Note:

<sup>(a)</sup> \$2,611,118 of \$4,239,816 cash and cash equivalents held at balance date are committed to specific projects for which funding has been provided to the Authority (2020: \$2,036,623 of \$2,857,053) - refer to note 6.4 for further information.

### 6.2.1 Reconciliation of net result for the year to net cash flows from operating activities

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Net result for the reporting period</b>	<b>1,385,465</b>	<b>443,813</b>
Depreciation	64,224	79,926
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
(Increase) in receivables	(93,890)	(595,841)
Decrease/(increase) in prepayments	8,168	(7,435)
Decrease/(increase) in payables	51,667	(81,360)
Increase in employee related provisions	28,679	13,532
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>1,444,313</b>	<b>(147,365)</b>

### 6.2.2 Financing arrangements

The Authority has no overdraft or other financing facilities (2020: nil).

### 6.3 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and inclusive of the goods and services tax (GST). In addition, where it is considered appropriate and provides additional relevant information to users, the net present values of significant individual projects are stated. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

As at 30 June 2021, the Authority had commitments for future expenditure for short term leases and leases of low value of \$37,797 (30 June 2020: \$98,996) Refer to note 6.1.

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## NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

### 6.4 Committed funds reserve

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

The projects funded by the Victorian and Australian Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and funding is received at various stages of the project life based on contractual agreements. At the end of the financial year there are some projects that have not reached completion but will be completed within the contractual terms in future financial periods.

The Authority has recognised this income upon receipt in line with AASB 1058 income for not-for-profit entities, and does not recognise a respective contract liability. The Authority notes the following cash and cash equivalents will be utilised to complete these projects in future financial years, as follows:

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Committed funds	2,611,118	2,036,623
Total cash funds	4,239,816	2,857,053

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## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### Introduction

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

### Significant judgement: fair value measurements of assets and liabilities

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

### Structure

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

### 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

#### 7.1.1 Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*.



## 7.1.2 Categories of financial assets

### Financial assets at amortised cost

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

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

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

The Authority recognises the following assets in this category:

- Cash and deposits; and
- Receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

### 7.1.3 Categories of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest-bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The Authority recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- Payables (excluding statutory payables)
- Lease liabilities

### 7.1.4 Derecognition of financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired.

### 7.1.5 Derecognition of financial liabilities

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

### 7.1.6 Financial instruments: categorisation

2021	Cash and deposits \$	Financial assets at amortised cost \$	Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	4,239,816	-	-	4,239,816
Trade receivables	-	1,008,395	-	1,008,395
Security deposits	6,500	-	-	6,500
Accrued interest	-	818	-	818
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>4,246,316</b>	<b>1,009,213</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,255,529</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
Trade payables	-	-	53,538	53,538
Accrued expenses	-	-	117,719	117,719
Lease liabilities	-	-	49,944	49,944
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>221,201</b>	<b>221,201</b>

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### 7.1.6 Financial instruments: categorisation (Continued)

2020	Cash and deposits \$	Financial assets at amortised cost \$	Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$	Total \$
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	2,857,053	-	-	2,857,053
Trade receivables	-	1,005,803	-	1,005,803
Security deposits	6,500	-	-	6,500
Accrued interest	-	842	-	842
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>2,863,553</b>	<b>1,006,645</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,870,198</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
Trade payables	-	-	53,710	53,710
Accrued expenses	-	-	129,695	129,695
Lease liabilities	-	-	67,674	67,674
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>251,079</b>	<b>251,079</b>

Note:

The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts.

### 7.1.7 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Authority's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Authority's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Authority.

This note presents information about the Authority's exposure to each of these risks, and the objectives, policies and processes for measuring and managing risk.

The Authority uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods include sensitivity analysis in the case of interest rate and other price risks, ageing analysis for credit risk. The Authority does not have foreign exchange risk as it does not trade outside of Australia.

The Authority's Board has the overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the Authority's risk management framework.

The Authority's management identifies, evaluates and manages financial risks in close co-operation with the Audit Committee. The Board provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as policies covering specific areas such as interest rate risk and investment of excess liquidity.

#### Credit risk

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

Credit risk associated with the Authority's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtors are the Australian Government and the Victorian Government. Credit risk in the Authority arises from cash and cash equivalents and deposits with banks. For cash assets, the Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. All cash and deposits are held with Authorised Deposit Taking Institute's (ADI's) with a minimum credit rating of AAA.

In addition, the Authority does not engage in hedging for its contractual financial assets and mainly obtains contractual financial assets that are on fixed interest, except for cash and deposits, which are mainly cash at bank. The Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with high credit ratings.

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

Provision of impairment for contractual financial assets is recognised when there is objective evidence that the Authority will not be able to collect a receivable. Objective evidence includes financial difficulties of the debtor, default payments, debts that are more than 90 days overdue, and changes in debtor credit ratings.

Contract financial assets are written off against the carrying amount when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Bad debt written off by mutual consent is classified as a transaction expense. Bad debt written off following a unilateral decision is recognised in the net result.

Except as otherwise detailed in the following table, the carrying amount of contractual financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk.

There has been no material change to the Authority's credit risk profile in 2021.

### Credit quality of financial assets

	Financial institutions (AAA credit rating)	Government agencies (AAA credit rating)	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2021</b>				
Cash and deposits	4,239,816	-	-	4,239,816
Receivables	-	1,008,395	-	1,008,395
Security deposits	5,000	1,500	-	6,500
Accrued interest	818	-	-	818
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>4,245,634</b>	<b>1,009,895</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,255,529</b>
<b>2020</b>				
Cash and deposits	2,856,453	-	600	2,857,053
Receivables	-	1,005,803	-	1,005,803
Security deposits	5,000	1,500	-	6,500
Accrued interest	842	-	-	842
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>2,862,295</b>	<b>1,007,303</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>3,870,198</b>

### Impairment of financial assets under AASB 9

The Authority records the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments applying AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment includes the Authority's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

While cash and cash equivalents are also subject to the impairment requirements of AASB 9, the identified impairment loss was immaterial.

### Contractual receivables at amortised cost

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

On this basis, the Authority determines there is no opening loss allowance on initial application date of AASB 9 and no closing loss allowance at end of the financial year.

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## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### Statutory receivables at amortised cost

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

Statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As the result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months expected losses. No loss allowance has been recognised.

### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Authority will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority's policy is to settle financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of dispute make payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

The Authority manages liquidity risk by maintaining adequate reserves and banking facilities by continuously monitoring forecasts and actual cash flows and matching the maturity profiles of financial assets and financial liabilities.

The Authority is exposed to liquidity risk mainly through the financial liabilities as disclosed in the face of the balance sheet. The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

### Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices will affect the fair value or future cash flows of the Authority's financial instruments. Market risk comprises of interest rate risk and other price risk. The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk and is limited to "Cash at call" funds.

### Interest rate risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices will affect the fair value or future cash flows of the Authority's financial instruments. Market risk comprises of interest rate risk and other price risk. The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk, and is limited to 'cash at call' funds.

### Interest rate risk

Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority does not hold any interest-bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risks through cash and deposits, and term deposits that are at floating rate.

The Authority manages this risk by mainly undertaking fixed rate or non-interest-bearing financial instruments with relatively even maturity profiles, with only insignificant amounts of financial instruments at floating rate. Management has concluded for cash at bank and at call deposits as financial assets that can be left at floating rate without necessarily exposing the Authority to significant bad risk, management monitors movement in interest rates on a daily basis.

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

**NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED**

	Weighted average interest rate	Carrying amount	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
2021	(%)	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.10	4,239,816	-	4,239,816	-
Receivables	0.00	1,015,713	-	-	1,015,713
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>5,255,529</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,239,816</b>	<b>1,015,713</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
<sup>(a)</sup> Payables					
Supplies and services		199,201	-	-	-
Amounts payable to government and agencies		22,000	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	4.5	49,944	-	-	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>271,145</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

	Weighted average interest rate	Carrying amount	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
2020	(%)	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	.25	2,857,053	-	2,856,453	600
Receivables	0.00	1,013,144	-	-	1,013,144
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>3,870,197</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,856,453</b>	<b>1,013,744</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
<sup>(a)</sup> Payables					
Supplies and services		5,000	-	-	5,000
Lease liabilities	4.5	97,674	-	97,674	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>281,079</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,674</b>	<b>183,405</b>

Note:

<sup>(a)</sup> The carrying amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### Interest rate sensitivity

The sensitivity analysis below has taken into account past performance, future expectations and economic forecasts. The Authority believes that a movement of 1 per cent in interest rates is reasonable over the next 12 months.

2021	Carrying amounts \$	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Net results \$	Fair value-revaluation reserve \$	Net results \$	Fair value-revaluation reserve \$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	4,239,816	(42,398)	-	42,398	-
Receivables	1,015,713	-	-	-	-
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	171,257	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	49,944	499	-	(499)	-
<b>Total impact</b>		(41,899)	-	(41,899)	-

2020	Carrying amounts \$	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Net results \$	Fair value-revaluation reserve \$	Net results \$	Fair value-revaluation reserve \$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	2,857,053	(28,571)	-	28,571	-
Receivables	1,013,144	-	-	-	-
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	183,405	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities	97,674	977	-	(9,77)	-
<b>Total impact</b>		(27,597)	-	(27,594)	-

### Other financial risks

The Authority has no exposure to foreign currency risk and price risk.

### 7.2 Fair value determination

This note sets out information on how the Authority determined fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The following assets and liabilities are carried at fair value:

- Financial assets and liabilities at fair value through operating result; and
- Buildings, plant and equipment,

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

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

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### Fair value hierarchy

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

- Level 1 – quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and
- Level 3 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer General Victoria (VGV) is the Authority's independent valuation agency (or) the Authority, in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

Consistent with AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, the Authority determines the policies and procedures for both recurring fair value measurements such as buildings, plant and equipment and financial instruments, in accordance with the requirements of AASB 13 and the relevant Financial Reporting Directions.

This note is divided between disclosures in connection with fair value determination for financial instruments and non-financial physical assets.

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

The fair values and net fair values of financial assets and liabilities are determined as follows:

- Level 1 – the fair value of financial instruments with standard terms and conditions and traded in active liquid markets are determined with reference to quoted market prices
- Level 2 – the fair value is determined using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- Level 3 – the fair value is determined in accordance with generally accepted pricing models based on discounted cash flow analysis using unobservable market inputs.

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts approximate to fair value, due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2021-21 reporting period. These financial instruments include:

Financial assets	Financial liabilities
Cash and cash equivalents	Payables
Receivables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trade payables</li><li>• Amounts payable to government and agencies</li><li>• Accrued expenses</li><li>• Lease liabilities</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trade receivables</li><li>• Accrued income</li><li>• Security deposits</li></ul>	

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### 7.2.2 Fair value determination of non-financial physical assets

#### Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets as at:

30 June 2021	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2021 \$	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 <sup>(i)</sup>	Level 2 <sup>(i)</sup>	Level 3 <sup>(i)</sup>
Furniture and equipment at fair value	473	-	-	473
Computers and accessories at fair value	274	-	-	274
Vehicles at fair value	49,944	-	-	49,944

30 June 2020	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2020 \$	Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 <sup>(i)</sup>	Level 2 <sup>(i)</sup>	Level 3 <sup>(i)</sup>
Furniture and equipment at fair value	3,931	-	-	3,931
Computers and accessories at fair value	3,036	-	-	3,036
Vehicles at fair value	84,727	-	-	84,727
Office buildings at fair value	9,401	-	-	9,401

Note:

(i) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy

There have been no transfers between levels during the period.

Buildings, plant and equipment are held at fair value. When buildings, plant and equipment are specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method.

In respect of right-of-use assets subject to lease agreements, fair value is assessed against current market rentals for equivalent assets that would be paid at the current environment.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2021. For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

#### Reconciliation of level 3 fair value

2021	Furniture and equipment \$	Computers and accessories \$	Vehicles \$	Office buildings \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>3,931</b>	<b>84,726</b>	<b>9,401</b>
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	13,819	-
Depreciation	(2,563)	(3,657)	(48,601)	(9,401)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>49,944</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2020</b>				
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>8,248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfers in (out) of Level 3	-	-	135,615	31,964
Depreciation	(2,158)	(4,317)	(50,888)	(22,563)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>3,931</b>	<b>84,726</b>	<b>9,401</b>



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## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Computers and accessories	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of buildings plant and equipment
Furniture and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of buildings plant and equipment
Vehicles	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of buildings plant and equipment
Office buildings	Market approach	Cost per unit Useful life of buildings plant and equipment

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2020.

### 7.3 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

As at 30 June 2021 the Authority had no contingent liabilities and contingent assets (2020: nil).

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## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

### Introduction

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

### Structure

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

### 8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

The Authority had no ex-gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2021 (2020: nil).

### 8.2 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

### 8.2.1 Names of responsible persons

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

Name	Position	Period
<b>The Hon. Lisa Neville, MP</b>	(Minister for Water)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>The Hon. Richard Wynne, MP</b>	(Acting Minister for Water)	15 Feb 2021 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>The Hon. Lilly D'Ambrosio</b>	(Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change & Minister for Solar Homes)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Tania Foster</b>	(Chair)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Neville Goodwin</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Susan Anderson</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Allan Bawden</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Sandra Brizga</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Olivia Lineham</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Leslie McLean</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Lawrence Moser</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>Nicola Ward</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021
<b>David Buntine</b>	(CEO)	01 Jul 2020 to 30 Jun 2021

### 8.2.2 Remuneration

The number of responsible persons, and their total remuneration received or receivable from the Authority in connection with the management of the Authority during the reporting period are shown in the table below.

Income band	2021	2020
\$0-\$9,999	-	2
\$10,000-\$19,999	8	7
\$20,000-\$29,999	1	2
\$210,000-\$219,999	1	1
<b>Total number of responsible persons</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total remuneration \$</b>	<b>362,665</b>	<b>380,104</b>

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

### 8.3 Remuneration of executive officers

The authority does not have executive officers other than the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) whose remuneration is disclosed in note 8.2.2 and note 8.4.2.

## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

### 8.4 Related parties

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

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

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis as part of the ongoing course of business.

#### 8.4.1 Significant transactions with government-related entities

##### Funding received

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

Entity	2021 \$	2020 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	3,321,272	3,613,437
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	3,046,528	-
Yarra Valley Water	91,000	-
Melbourne Water	75,500	208,521

Funding received from government-related entities included grants to the Authority for environmental projects work, and to support its corporate functions.

##### Payments made

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

Entity	2021 \$	2020 \$
Parks Victoria	191,360	325,280
Phillip Island Nature Parks	80,478	-
Greater Dandenong Council	68,450	92,302

Payments were made government-related entities to fund environmental project work.

##### Balances at year end

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Receivables</b>		
Yarra Valley Water	100,100	-
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions	62,636	-
Melbourne Water	19,250	181,500

## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

### 8.4.2 Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Authority. Key management personnel of the Authority include all responsible persons as listed in note 8.2.1.

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

#### Compensation of key management personnel

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Short-term employee benefits	335,224	346,142
Post-employment benefits	29,456	28,931
Other long-term benefits	(2,015)	5,031
<b>Total</b>	<b>362,665</b>	<b>380,104</b>

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

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

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

**Other long-term benefits** include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation. Prevailing low interest rates led to a significantly lower long-term benefits amount in 2021 compared to already provisioned for in 2020. This resulted in a negative amount being recorded for 2021.

### 8.4.3 Transactions with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of Victorian Government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public e.g., stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Procurement Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Authority, there were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel and their close family members. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

### 8.5 Remuneration of auditors

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Amounts paid or payable to the Victorian Auditor General's Of-fice for the audit of the Authority's financial statements.	14,500	14,200

### 8.6 Subsequent events

The impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) is ongoing. The situation is continually developing and is dependent on measures imposed by the Australian Government and other countries, such a maintaining social distancing requirement, quarantine, travel restrictions and any economic stimulus that may be provided.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Authority, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Authority in the future.

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## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

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

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2020-21 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to the Authority's Financial Statements. The Authority is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which includes:

- AASB 2020-1 *Amendments to Australia Accounting Standards - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current*

This standard amends AASB 101 to clarify requirements for the presentation of liabilities in the statement of financial position as current or non-current. It initially applied to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022 with earlier application permitted, however the AASB has recently issued AASB 2021-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current - Deferral of Effective Date* to defer the application by one year to periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023. The Authority will not early adopt the standard.

The Authority is in the process of analysing the impacts of this Standard. However, it is not anticipated to have a material impact.

The Authority is in the process of analysing the impacts of this standard. However, it is not anticipated to have a material impact.

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods but are considered to have limited impact on the Authority's reporting.

- AASB 17 Insurance Contracts
- AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosure for For-Profit Tier 2 Entities.
- AASB 2020-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Removal of Special Purpose Financial Statements for Certain For-Profit Private Sector Entities.*
- AASB 2020-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments.*
- AASB 2020-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Covid-19-Rent Related Concessions: Tier 2 Disclosures.*
- AASB 2020-8 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Interest Rate Benchmark Reform - Phase 2.*
- AASB 2020-9 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Tier 2 Disclosures: Interest Rate Benchmark Reform (Phase 2) and Other Amendments.*

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# Section 5

# APPENDICES

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# Disclosure INDEX

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA Annual Report 2020-21 is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian Government legislations and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of DELWP's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

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# ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	MEANING
BAU	Businesses As Usual
BRP	Biodiversity Response Planning
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
EPBC	Nationally threatened native species and ecological communities, native migratory species and marine species as listed under the EPBC Act
FMCF	Financial Management Compliance Framework
FOI	Freedom of Information
FRD	Financial Reporting Direction
FTE	Full-time equivalent
HWS	Healthy Waterways Strategy
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission of Victoria
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INFFER	Investment Framework for Environmental Resources
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IWM	Integrated Water Management
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MERI	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement
MERIT	Monitoring, Evaluating, Reporting, Improvement Tool
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OCOC	Our Catchments, Our Communities
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
PD Act	Protected Disclosure Act 2012
RALF	Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
RLF	Regional Landcare Facilitator
RLP	Regional Land Partnerships
PPWCMA	Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority
RCS	Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy
SD	Standing Direction
TFN	Trust for Nature
TOs	Traditional Owners
VAGO	Victorian Auditors General's Office
WPCLN	Western Port Catchment Landcare Network
WQI	Water Quality Index





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