

Port Phillip & Westernport CMA

# Annual Report 2019-20



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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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## 2019-20 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 2019-20 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: Grow West Coordinator, Helena Lindorff, being interviewed as part of a Biodiversity Month feature.

The photos featured in this report were taken before coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions were put in place.

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# Chair's FOREWORD

It is with pleasure that I present the 2019-20 Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) Annual Report. 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 our valued partnerships with stakeholders and the community.

2019-20 was a year of challenges, but also many opportunities. Funding levels continued to shift, and coronavirus (COVID-19) impacted project delivery, but the PPWCMA remains as adaptable and innovative as ever.

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

In 2019-20, Victoria's CMAs began the process to renew their 10 Regional Catchment Strategies (RCS). The PPWCMA championed this process, providing significant input into the Victorian Catchment Management Council's guidelines for the renewal of all Victorian RCSs and supporting the other CMAs to transition their strategies to an online format. In 2020-21, PPWCMA will be working with its stakeholders and communities to deliver an integrated natural resource management strategy that reflects local, state and national priorities and leads the way for a thriving environment for future generations to enjoy.

## 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 25,789 hectares
- Making it easier for urban communities to connect with nature by undertaking 84 hectares of weed control and 16 hectares of revegetation across 37 priority sites as part of the Transforming the Dandenong Creek project
- Engaging 1,169 farmers and other individuals in events that focused on adopting sustainable land management practices through the Smart Farming for Western Port and other agricultural projects.

Overall, we worked with partners to deliver 73,405 hectares of pest plant and animal control, planted 104,895 trees,

shrubs and ground covers across 264 hectares, and engaged 6,132 people in 122 events and workshops.

The PPWCMA also secured funding through the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative to simultaneously create jobs and deliver environmental and agricultural benefits through new Farms2Schools and Works Crews projects in 2020-21.

## EMPOWERING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

The PPWCMA was pleased to provide \$428,672 through the Victorian Landcare Grants in 2019-20 to 115 Landcare and community environment groups. There was a high level of demand (more than \$1 million in applications) demonstrating that there are many great community projects ready to be implemented when funding is available.

Our partnerships with the region's Traditional Owners have continued to strengthen this year. Partnership agreements were maintained with the region's three Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) and we proudly continued working together in the planning and delivery of many of the PPWCMA projects.

## STRONG BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

The PPWCMA has again demonstrated excellent financial management, governance, risk management, project management and adherence to government policy.

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

New strategic documents, including the Social Procurement Strategy, were added to build on our priorities and formalise our commitment to supporting local communities.

Thank you to our Board members, CEO and employees for their ongoing passion, dedication and flexibility. Their hard work ensures outcomes of the highest standard for our environment and the community. I look forward to another exciting and busy year in 2020-21.

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the PPWCMA Annual Report for the year ending 30th June 2020.



Tania Foster  
Board Chair  
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA  
Friday 9th October 2020



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# CEO's REPORT

This was a year like no other. We were horrified as rural communities and parts of south east Australia were ravaged by bushfires in summer, then by winter the whole world battled a global pandemic. Within the PPWCMA, we adapted to the changing circumstances quickly and with a desire to create new opportunities that benefit our communities and environment.

Whilst continuing to deliver numerous existing projects and manage our organisation with high standards of business and governance, by the conclusion of 2019-20 we had:

- Secured new funding to help protect some threatened species from the risks of disasters
- Shifted to working from home in line with coronavirus (COVID-19) requirements
- Secured new projects providing six months of employment for 51 people in 2020-21 to raise agricultural awareness at schools and assist farmers with field work
- Committed to move our head office to a Melbourne Water site that will reduce costs and increase partnership opportunities.

## MAJOR ON-GROUND ACHIEVEMENTS

2019-20 was year two of projects funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program and the final year for projects funded by the Victorian Government's *Our Catchments, Our Communities* initiative. Achievements included:

- Delivering the final outputs for 'The Great HeHo Escape' project
- Completing the three-year 'Protecting and Connecting Species in Melbourne's West' project, with 67,677 hectares of pest control undertaken at Werribee Gorge State Park, Lerderderg State Park, Brisbane Ranges National Park and surrounding private properties
- Installing the 'Spreading the Message' Aboriginal art installation at Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North as part of the 'Transforming the Dandenong Creek' project.

## HELPING OTHERS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

We worked with community groups and volunteers to build their skills and help them undertake on-ground works by:

- Maintaining strong partnerships with the region's three Registered Aboriginal Parties and working with them to improve cultural awareness
- Providing \$428,672 through the Victorian Landcare Grants 2019-20 to 115 Landcare and community environmental groups
- Establishing partnership agreements with the Nillumbik, Middle Yarra and NatureWest Landcare Networks

- Supporting farmers to improve sustainability, productivity and profitability of agriculture and supporting the Bunyip fire recovery.

## A POSITIVE ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE

Through 2019-20's challenges, PPWCMA staff have demonstrated our values of collaboration, leadership, creativity and reliability. All staff made the move to working from home in March 2020 and readied themselves for this arrangement to be in place for an extended period. They quickly adapted to this arrangement in ways that ensured the organisation continued to achieve its key outcomes. Important innovations included:

- Continual improvement within our OH&S systems
- Introducing new ways for staff to keep in touch with each other
- Additional health and wellbeing activities.

## A POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

The PPWCMA will begin 2020-21 with a full to-do list that includes substantial new projects including:

- Developing a new Regional Catchment Strategy in collaboration with partner organisations and communities
- Implementing sustainable agriculture and environmental field work crews employing 45 people for six months
- Trialling revegetation to offset carbon emissions in partnership with water authorities
- Developing a Regional and Strategic Partnership for the north western coast of Port Phillip Bay
- Linking Traditional Owners with community groups in the west of the region to increase cultural awareness
- Commencing a project to eradicate feral cats on French Island.

We are also seeking funding for fisheries habitat projects in Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, and for a drought resilience project in the Werribee catchment.

For the achievements throughout this challenging year, I congratulate and thank our staff and Board members. With an exciting program ahead, I look forward to us continuing to deliver excellent environmental outcomes and community services.

*David Bunt*

David Buntine  
CEO  
Port Phillip & Westernport CMA



# 2019-20 HIGHLIGHTS

**6,132**  
people  
participated in  
**122**  
community  
events

delivered by the PPWCMA and its partners including the 14th annual Grow West Community Planting Day, three native pollinator forums and online events.

**8**  
INTERPRETIVE  
SIGNS AND  
DISPLAYS  
INSTALLED

including the  
'Spreading  
the Message'  
Aboriginal art  
installation.



Pest plant and  
animal control  
undertaken across  
**73,405**  
hectares

**\$428,672**  
provided to

**115**  
Landcare and community  
environmental groups  
through community grants

**104,895**  
trees, shrubs and  
ground covers  
planted across  
**264**  
hectares

**9 PARTNERSHIP  
AGREEMENTS  
ESTABLISHED OR  
MAINTAINED**

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



**1,504**  
farmers and  
other landholders  
learning how to  
adopt sustainable  
land management  
practices.

**5000+**  
FOLLOWERS

of PPWCMA social media  
accounts with an average  
monthly reach of 100,000



# Summary of PERFORMANCE

✓ **ACHIEVED**    ✓ **PARTIALLY ACHIEVED**    ✗ **NOT ACHIEVED**


## Our community services

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2023-24)	2019-20 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
<b>Collaborative strategy</b>			
25 councils/government organisations 'signed on' as Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) signatories.	25	✓	26 signed on with current RCS. Numbers were maintained through 2019-20 while preparations for renewal of the strategy were undertaken.
Five other organisations 'signed on' as RCS signatories.	5	✓	Six signed on with current RCS. Numbers were maintained through 2019-20 while preparations for renewal of the strategy were undertaken.
Five major regional partner forums/events conducted (one per year).	1	✗	An event was planned for May 2020 but was not pursued due to coronavirus (COVID-19).
<b>Landcare support</b>			
86 Landcare groups in the Port Phillip and Western Port region.	86	✓	At the end of 2019-20, there were 87 Landcare groups in the region. While two new and two revived groups were formed in 2019-20, an audit in January 2020 removed some defunct groups that were still being counted.
4,500 Landcare members in the Port Phillip and Western Port region.	4,500	✓	114 Landcare and community environmental groups reported 8,960 members in the 2018-19 Landcare Group Health Survey.
75% of rural land covered by Landcare groups.	75%	✓	75.1% of the regions private rural land in covered by Landcare group. This figure remains stable.
Partnership agreements in place with nine of the region's Landcare networks.	6	✓	At the end of 2019-20, six partnership agreements were in place with Landcare networks (Western Port Catchment Landcare Network, Bass Coast Landcare Network, Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network, Nillumbik Landcare Network, Middle Yarra Landcare Network and NatureWest). The PPWCMA is on track to have agreements in place with nine Landcare networks by the end of 2020-21.


FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2023-24)	2019-20 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
<b>Landcare support (Continued)</b>			
Secure \$160,000 per year to provide grants to Landcare groups and networks.	\$160,000	✓	\$428,672 in Victorian Landcare Grants secured in 2019-20. Through this 25 project grants and 90 support grants were provided to the region's Landcare and community environmental groups.
<b>Indigenous participation</b>			
Partnership agreements in place with Traditional Owner organisations.	3	✓	At the end of 2019-20, agreements were in place with the region's three Registered Aboriginal Parties (Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation).
Secure \$50,000 to provide grants to/ procure services of Traditional Owner organisations.	\$10,000	✓	\$72,870 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.
Engage 100 Indigenous people in PPWCMA-led projects.	20	✓	Coordinators of existing projects have engaged with 30 Traditional Owners in 2019-20 to plan and deliver PPWCMA projects and activities.
<b>Community engagement</b>			
5,000 followers of PPWCMA social media.	4,000	✓	At the end of 2019-20, PPWCMA had a total of 5,028 followers across its social media accounts - 3,377 on Facebook (32% increase), 783 on Twitter (7% increase) and 868 on Instagram (44% increase).
1,000 participants per year in rural events.	1,000	✓	3,726 participants at 81 PPWCMA (led and supported) rural events in 2019-20.
1,000 participants per year in urban events.	1,000	✓	2,406 participants at 41 PPWCMA (led and supported) urban events in 2019-20.



## Our on-ground action

FIVE-YEAR OUTCOME (BY 2023-24)	2019-20 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 Waterways and wetlands			
Ecological condition of 20,000 hectares of the ~72,000 hectares of land within the Ramsar wetlands of the region supported by pest control activities.	4,000 hectares	✓	25,789 hectares of pest animal and weed control were delivered in 2019-20 to enhance the ecological condition of the Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) Ramsar sites.
Maintain a feral cat population of less than 500 on French Island.	Maintain at <500	✓	A feral cat cage-trapping program was undertaken on French Island in 2019-20 with 49 feral cats removed. Approximately 100 feral cats remain on French Island.
 Native vegetation			
500 hectares of revegetation contributing to the establishment of new naturelinks.	100 hectares	✓	263 hectares of revegetation were undertaken in 2019-20, including 91 hectares planted with trees, shrubs and ground covers and 173 hectares direct seeded.
Protection and enhancement of 100 hectares of priority areas of the ~195,000 hectares of threatened native vegetation types in the region.	20 hectares	✓	21,453 hectares of pest animal control and 2,171 hectares of weed control was undertaken in 2019-20 to protect and enhance threatened native vegetation types in the region. The disparity between the target and the achievement is because this target originally related to significant rehabilitation and/or permanent protection of threatened vegetation classes but the action that actually took place was widespread treatment of pest plants and animals in areas of native vegetation identified as priorities in biodiversity modelling undertaken by DELWP.
 Native animals			
Areas of habitat established/improved for wild populations of Helmeted Honeyeaters.	0 hectares (un-funded)	✓	0.47 hectares of revegetation was undertaken through the Great HeHo Escape project.
Areas of habitat established/improved for wild populations of Swift Parrot, Legless Lizard, Southern Brown Bandicoot, Growling Grass Frog and other threatened species.	0 hectares (un-funded)	✗	New funding will need to be secured for this work. No funding was secured during 2019-20.
 Sustainable agriculture and land management			
500 of the ~5,000 farms in the region adopting sustainable land management practices.	100 farms	✓	In 2019-20, 1,504 farmers and other individuals participated in 70 PPWCMA (led and supported) events that focused on adopting 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 2023-24)	2019-20 TARGET	PROGRESS	COMMENT
 A healthy and efficient organisation			
Approximately 50% female representation amongst PPWCMA Board, managers and employees.	~50%	✓	At the end of 2019-20, female representation on the PPWCMA Board was 55% (5/9), 66% (2/3) within CEO and managers group and 64% (9/14) across the entire organisation.
Employee engagement index of at least 75%.	>75%	✓	The Employee Engagement Index result was 82% from the 2019 People Matter Survey which was 7% above the average for the comparator sector. The 2020 People Matter Survey will be conducted in October 2020.
500 hazard reports collected within the PPWCMA between 2018-19 and 2022-23 to establish baseline data and underpin planning and responses.	100	✓	92 hazard reports were collected in 2019-20 and the organisation is on track to have 500 hazard reports by end of 2022-23.
0 incidents (near misses) reports lodged within PPWCMA.	0	✓	The PPWCMA aims to have 0 incidents occur. The PPWCMA encourages and promotes the reporting of all hazards, incidents and injuries. In 2019-20, the PPWCMA received two incident reports, which were for minor incidents.
0 injuries and lost-time injuries sustained.	0-0	✓	The PPWCMA aims to have 0 injuries occur. In 2019-20 the PPWCMA received four injury reports, which were all for minor injuries. 0 lost-time injuries were sustained.
0 incident notifications and Workcover claims lodged with Worksafe.	0-0	✓	No incident notifications or claims were lodged with WorkSafe in 2019-20.
At least \$4 million in environmental management invested through the PPWCMA each year.	>\$4 million	✓	The total revenue secured by the PPWCMA during 2019-20 was \$5.697 million.
100% of PPWCMA projects delivered on time and budget.	100%	✓	100% of PPWCMA projects were delivered on time and budget in 2019-20. Due to coronavirus (COVID-19) several projects were granted variations extending their completion date or substituting services.
100% compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework.	100%	✓	An internal review 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 Regional Catchment Strategy. 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.

The strategy currently has 32 regional organisations as signatories and the PPWCMA sees potential to increase this to over 100 in the years ahead if sufficient resourcing is secured to pursue this outcome.

The strategy is due for renewal, so an immediate priority is to generate a new Regional Catchment Strategy with a process that:

- Satisfies legislative requirements and Victorian Catchment Management Council guidelines
- Engages regional stakeholders, Traditional Owners and communities to the optimum extent to achieve widespread agreement and support
- Protects the environmental assets and ecosystems in the region including waterways and wetlands, native vegetation, native animals, rural land, coasts, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port.

### FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Councils/government organisations 'signed on' as RCS signatories	25	26
Other organisations 'signed on' as RCS signatories	5	6
Major regional partner forums/ events conducted	1 per year	0

### PROGRESS IN 2019-20

In early 2019-20, the PPWCMA provided significant input to the Victorian Catchment Management Council's work to finalise guidelines for the renewal of all Victorian RCSs. The guidelines were finalised in late 2019 and encouraged all new RCSs to follow the web-based approach trialled by the PPWCMA over the past six years.

To plan for the renewal of the Port Phillip and Western Port RCS, the PPWCMA developed a project plan outlining how it will engage with the region's stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, to develop the new strategy. The PPWCMA met with numerous organisations to outline the anticipated process and directions for the renewal of the RCS. The renewal process will occur over 2020-21.

More broadly, the PPWCMA actively contributed to various strategic forums including the Water for Victoria Integrated Management Forums held across the region through 2019-20. The PPWCMA's CEO was a member of the five forums and other staff contributed as members of technical working groups.

### OUTLOOK FOR 2020-21

2020-21 will include a strong focus on the renewal of the RCS for the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

The guidelines for this work encourage all Victorian CMAs to present their region's RCS in a consistent online format to demonstrate a coordinated approach across the state and deliver a set of integrated, place-based natural resource management strategies covering the whole of Victoria.

They will be developed hand-in-hand with Victoria's natural resource management organisations and community groups and integrate multiple government policies and programs for effective local delivery.

Stakeholder engagement is an important part of the RCS renewal process and the PPWCMA will liaise with a wide range of land managers and community sectors in the region.

Traditional Owner involvement is also a key component and the PPWCMA will work closely with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

### PREPARING FOR A NEW REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY

A new Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy will be developed through 2020-21. Its preparation will involve consultation with a wide range of land managers and government and community sectors. The RCS will bring together local community priorities with broader government policy and targets.

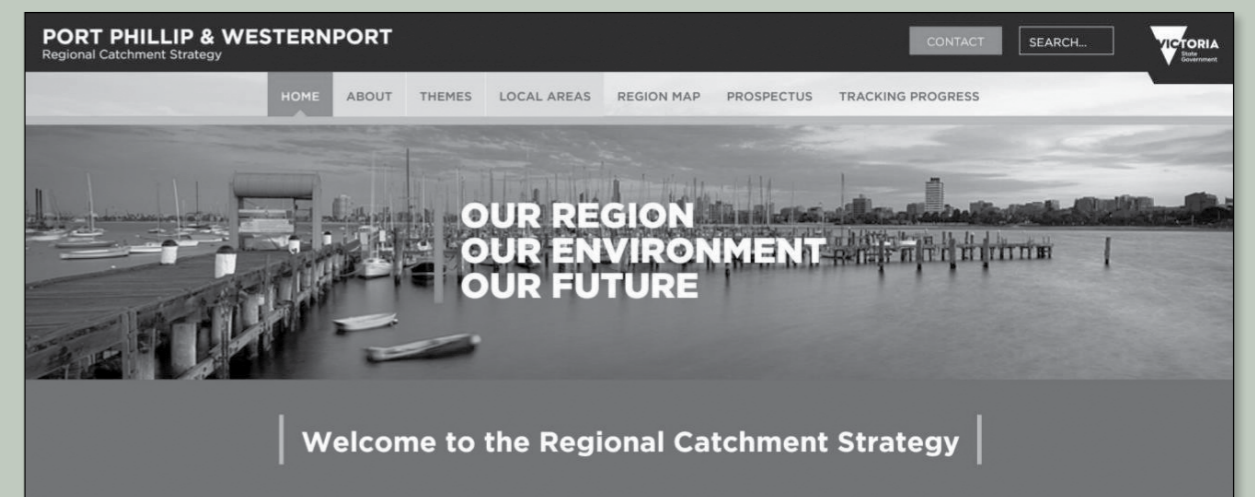
The new RCS will again be presented as a website with the ability for users to view and extract key sections of the strategy (or the entire document) and print on demand. This dual function is intended to improve the ease-of-use of the strategy for all stakeholders while ensuring the information remains current and easily accessible.

The same format will be used by all 10 Victorian CMAs. Consistency across the CMAs will assist statewide and multi-region organisations that bridge multiple CMA regions and also enhance the aggregation of information from RCSs to enable a statewide view of a set of common indicators.

The production of all RCSs as websites also improve the accessibility of the RCSs across the community, and enhance communication, engagement and awareness in Victoria's communities about catchment issues and opportunities.

There will be a strengthened focus in the new RCS on aligning with Traditional Owners and their ongoing connection to Country, acknowledging the importance of Indigenous whole of country plans and joint management plans.

The new RCS will also include a 'prospectus' of important projects (identified by PPWCMA in consultation with its partners and stakeholders) which will be used to secure funding from regional partners and the Australian Government, and invite private sector and philanthropic organisations for the achievement of local priorities.



The new Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy website, due to be published in 2021.





# 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. They 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

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Landcare groups	86	87
Landcare members	4,500	8,960
Proportion of rural land covered by Landcare groups	75%	75.1%
Partnership agreements in place with Landcare networks	9	6

## PROGRESS IN 2019-20

At the end of 2019-20, there were 87 Landcare groups in the Port Phillip and Western Port catchment region. There were also approximately 490 other community environment groups, such as Friends groups and committees of management, caring for the region's coasts, parks and other lands. A more accurate picture of the number and contribution of non-Landcare groups has been gained thanks to DELWP's 2019 Victorians Volunteering for Nature Survey.

Throughout 2019-20, the PPWCMA provided a range of leadership and support activities to help these groups continue to take an active and central role in the region's land management including:

- Convening two Landcare Facilitator and two Landcare Network Leader forums, with one of each held online
- A two-day training event for Landcare facilitators held across the Werribee and Moorabool regions
- A Day on Country for Landcare facilitators led by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
- Sponsoring the Bass Coast Landcare Network and Western Port Catchment Landcare Network to attend the Victorian Landcare Awards
- Releasing a refreshed Port Phillip and Western Port Landcare Report Card which highlighted data from the 2019-20 Group Health Survey and 2019 Victorians Volunteering for Nature Survey and showcased the achievements of the region's Landcare groups
- Signing partnership agreements with Nillumbik Landcare Network and Middle Yarra Landcare Network and an in-principal agreement with NatureWest
- Supporting Landcare networks and Landcare facilitators to actively engage in the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Review
- Presenting at the 2019 National NRM Conference in Wodonga on the initiation and design of the Yarra Ranges Intrepid Landcare retreat and group.

In 2019-20, the PPWCMA delivered \$428,672 of funding to the region's Landcare and community environmental groups through the Victorian Landcare Grants 2019-20. 90 groups received support grants and 25 groups received project grants to undertake on-ground works and community education and engagement activities (see page 108 for list). The high level of demand for grants in Port Phillip and Western Port region (more than \$1 million in applications) led to the Victorian Government allocating an additional \$300,000 to the PPWCMA's grants pool. This allowed the number of funded project grants to rise from 10 to 25, supporting a broader range of activities that benefited more communities.

The PPWCMA also supported a range of Landcare-related activities through funding from the Our Catchments, Our Communities Regional Leadership Grants. This included funding two volunteers to attend the National NRM Conference, 10 representatives from the region's Registered Aboriginal Parties to attend the National Bushfoods Symposium and supporting Point Cook P-9 College to participate in the Kids Teaching Kids Program.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) prevented a range of Landcare activities from going ahead in the second half of 2019-20. Several training and networking events need to be rebooked or reimagined, including a Day on Country with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, a cultural burn and education event with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation in Sunbury and an eco-anxiety workshop with Landcare volunteers and professional workers.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2020-21

Due to the delay of the 2020-21 State Budget, confirmation of 2020-21 funding for the Victorian Landcare Grants and Regional Landcare Coordinator program remains unconfirmed.

As in previous years, there is expected to be high demand for community grants.

Landcare networks in the region have heightened interest in the outcomes of the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Review, due to be completed in late 2020. Minimum standards for Landcare networks are to be introduced and some networks may reconsider their direction or need support attaining minimum standards.

A focus for 2020-21 will be supporting the region's Landcare and community environmental groups to recover from the impact coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on their work. The PPWCMA will be reimagining the format of Landcare support activities to ensure that they can still be delivered, particularly those that had to be held over from 2019-20.

## LOCAL LANDCARE LEADS THE WAY

The continued growth of Landcare in Port Phillip and Western Port was demonstrated at the 2019 Victorian Landcare Awards, with three regional winners of the prestigious categories.

For the second time Bass Coast Landcare Network was celebrated as Victoria's premier Landcare network. Running a comprehensive natural resource management program including, multiple Victorian Government and Australian Government funded Landcare programs, a works crew and plant

nursery, education and corporate sponsorship programs, the network was again an example to its peers.

Newham Primary School also took out the top award in the category of Junior Landcare. The school, nestled a short distance from Hanging Rock has a long relationship with the Newham Landcare Group and has helped rejuvenate the nearby Deep Creek with plantings and ongoing water monitoring activities.

The dedication of the Victorian

Wader Study Group was also recognised with them being awarded the Virgin Coastcare Award. Since 1975, the group has worked tirelessly to research the behaviour and habitats of migrating shore birds to the region with more than 40 excursions a year.

PPWCMA supported participants from Bass Coast and Western Port to attend the awards. Both Bass Coast Landcare Network and Newham Primary School are the Victorian entrants for the Australian Landcare Awards.

## LANDCARE FACILITATORS LEARN TOGETHER

Landcare facilitators are among some of the most resourceful people in the NRM sector, supporting a myriad of groups and activities in the regions, but often in relative isolation to their peers.

In November 2019, a two-day training event was held in the Werribee and Moorabool regions which also offered valuable networking and ideas exchange for both facilitators and other NRM professionals from agencies including DELWP, Coastcare, Landcare Victoria Inc and Corangamite CMA.

On day one, representatives from Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation led a tour of culturally significant sites, including scar trees, hearths and places of legend. A visit to conservation

hotspot, Mt Rothwell was also included. Efforts to preserve vital populations of Eastern Barred Bandicoot, Brush-tailed Rock Wallaby and Eastern Quoll were explained during a night walk.

Day two saw a formal Landcare Facilitator meeting which included items of discussion out of the Victorian Landcare Program. The concluding activity was a visit to the newly established Rowsley Nursery, which was partly supported

by a PPWCMA Community Grant. From there facilitators heard from Helena Lindorff, coordinator of the GrowWest Project who discussed the long-term art of collaboration the PPWCMA-led conservation program had fostered.

The event achieved some important training outcomes but more importantly brought some talented and resourceful individuals together to exchange ideas and approaches.



Landcare facilitators touring project sites in the Moorabool area.





# 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

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Partnership agreements in place with Traditional Owner organisations	3	3
Grants to/ procurement of Traditional Owner organisations	\$50,000	\$72,870
Engagement of Indigenous people in PPWCMA-led projects	100	30

### PROGRESS IN 2019-20

The PPWCMA continued to hold strong relationships with the region's RAPs throughout 2019-20. All partnership agreements were maintained, and six formal partnership meetings were held in 2019-20. 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.

\$72,870 from PPWCMA projects was used to procure the services of Aboriginal organisations and businesses in the region. It included support for training opportunities, various cultural consultations and on-ground works, including:

- Engaging the Wurundjeri Narrap Rangers to undertake weed control as part of the Restoring Jacksons Creek project, Deepening Connections project and Protecting and Connecting Species in Melbourne's West project.
- Working with RAPs to plan community engagement outcomes as part of the Transforming the Dandenong Creek Corridor project, including proposing the creation of a 'message tree' (a form of a scar tree) at Dandenong Park by Bunurong, and partnering with Wurundjeri and Trust for Nature to plan an online forum on traditional burning practices in urban areas.
- Consulting with Wurundjeri on project proposals that were developed for the Coranderrk area through Yarra4Life and briefing Wandoon Estate on the findings of the Coranderrk to Yarra Habitat Restoration Plan.
- Providing employment for Aboriginal people and raising community awareness of Aboriginal culture and values through Living Links' 'Spreading the Message' artwork and 'Wayapa in the Park' summer workshop series.
- Supporting Trust for Nature and Bunurong to plan a third round of the Warreen Beek Ranger training. While this course has been postponed due coronavirus (COVID-19), at least 20 students had expressed interest.

The PPWCMA has also continued to achieve the actions outlined in the Indigenous Participation Plan. A Social Procurement Strategy was established in 2019-20, which enables the PPWCMA to use its buying power to deliver social, economic and environmental outcomes that benefit the community, including Aboriginal Victorians. In addition to 'environmentally sustainable outputs', the PPWCMA has prioritised 'sustainable Victorian social enterprise and Aboriginal business sectors' as a key objective for the strategy (see case study below).

### OUTLOOK FOR 2010-21

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. This will be achieved by meeting with the RAPs no less than annually and regularly reviewing the partnership agreements.

The PPWCMA will continue to provide its employees with learning and development opportunities to enhance their personal cultural awareness and will complete its reconciliation statement.

### SUPPORTING ABORIGINAL ENTERPRISES

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation supports a holistic approach to working on their traditional Country and have established the Narrap Rangers Natural Resource Management team.

The Narrap Rangers have become a key partner to the PPWCMA in delivering on-ground works projects, particularly when working in areas of cultural sensitivity along waterways.

The PPWCMA's commitment to supporting Aboriginal businesses through social procurement can be demonstrated through the engagement of the Narrap Rangers in the Deepening Connections project, which involved eight days of weed spraying on private land in Mickleham.

The PPWCMA prioritised social procurement to deliver economic support and on-country activity for the Wurundjeri.



Narrap Rangers control gorse along Deep Creek.



# 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 aim is for the communities of the region to be informed, engaged and active in land, water and biodiversity management.

### FIVE-YEAR OUTCOMES

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Followers of PPWCMA social media	5,000	5,028
Participants in rural events	1,000 per year	3,726
Participants in urban events	1,000 per year	2,406

### PROGRESS IN 2019-20

In 2019-20, the PPWCMA hosted and supported urban and rural community events that attracted 6,132 people. From festivals to field days, all of them 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.

From March 2020, a number of events needed to be postponed, cancelled or reformatted as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). A proportion were moved into online format, which brought new audiences that had previously been unable to attend due to geographical location.

However, most events had to be postponed and the PPWCMA is working to still deliver them in 2020-21 in new and creative ways.

The PPWCMA continued to focus on online communications as a key engagement tool and by end of 2019-20 it had 3,377 followers across its Facebook pages, 783 followers on Twitter and 868 followers on Instagram. All of these accounts show strong levels of engagement with an average total monthly reach of approximately 100,000 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 to support the Victorian Government to effectively broadcast important health messages. The organisation's focus shifted to supporting Landcare groups and other community and non-government organisations to help individuals continue to connect with nature despite physical restrictions.

2019-20 was also the first year of the roll out of the PPWCMA Communications and Engagement Strategy 2019-22 and the focus was on enhancing internal processes and procedures. A communications procedure and style guide was developed as well as a suite of corporate document templates. Towards the end of 2019-20 work began on the redevelopment of [ppwcma.vic.gov.au](http://ppwcma.vic.gov.au).

### OUTLOOK FOR 2020-21

In 2020-21, the PPWCMA will continue to roll out the actions of the Communications and Engagement Strategy and continue to promote the Australian Government's five-year outcomes under the National Landcare Program and the Victorian Government's outcomes under Water for Victorian and Biodiversity 2037.

A key priority will be continuing the delivery of meaningful and engaging community events in the face of ongoing restrictions. Webinars and other online events will continue to be a regular feature, and other interactive content such as videos and virtual tours will be a priority. As physical restrictions ease, the PPWCMA will play a role in supporting the region's environmental stewards and residents to again connect with nature and each other in meaningful ways.

### GROW WEST COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY

On Sunday 21st July 2019, 300 volunteers gathered at two adjoining properties in Ingliston to plant 4,000 indigenous plants. This was Grow West's 14th annual planting day and was their biggest event yet, providing an important opportunity for the community to help to rejuvenate and restore local landscapes.

The 2019 community planting day location strategically links up to the W. James Whyte Island Reserve and the Werribee Gorge State Park. The works undertaken by the volunteers will directly benefit the Werribee Gorge State Park through the establishment of nature corridors on private property for threatened wildlife, such as the Swift Parrot and Brush-tailed Phascogale, but just as important, connect the community to their environment and encourage ongoing environmental stewardship.

The event was funded by Melbourne Water's Stream Frontage Program

along with corporate funding from GJ Gardener Homes via 15 Trees and Bacchus Marsh Community Bank.

These annual planting days are an outstanding example of the impact of clear and meaningful collaboration. Many volunteer groups and organisations help with the coordination and logistical components of the event to make

it a successful and enjoyable day for Everyone. This included Friends of Werribee Gorge and Long Forest Mallee, Victorian National Parks Association, Victorian Mobile Landcare Group, Bacchus Marsh Lions Club, Moorabool Landcare Network and Melbourne Water, Southern Rural Water and Moorabool Shire Council staff.



Grow West Community Planting Day 2019 volunteers.

### PROTECTING, CONSERVING, AND OBSERVING RAMSAR WETLANDS

The Two Great Ramsar Wetlands project aims to help land managers and community groups to work together to reduce threats to Victoria's Ramsar-listed Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) wetlands. It uses community engagement and education to encourage local action focusing on protecting, conserving, and observing important wetland and waterway flora and fauna, and their benefits.

In 2019-20, the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19) made face to face engagement for this project not possible, so the PPWCMA developed a series of videos and social media posts to create this call to action.

The videos showcased the coastal vegetation communities of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port,

including saltmarsh, seagrass and mangroves, that provide critical habitat for a variety of waterbird and shorebirds, from cormorants and coots, to stilts, stints, and sandpipers.

Through Facebook advertising, the PPWCMA targeted specific demographics and geographic regions to provide the greatest

impact relevant to the content. As a result, this content reached in excess of 250,000 individuals across Victoria and Australia.

The Two Great Ramsar Wetlands project is delivered by the PPWCMA with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. See page 19 for more information.



Crested Terns at The Spit Nature Conservation Reserve.





# 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

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Ecological condition of some of the ~72,000 hectares of land within the Ramsar wetlands of the region supported by pest control activities	20,000 hectares	25,789 ha
Management of feral cat population on French Island	Maintained at <500	Apprx. 100 remain



Red-necked Avocets take flight across the Western Port Ramsar site.

## PROGRESS IN 2019-20

In 2019-20, in excess of \$750,000 of Victorian Government and Australian Government funding was dedicated to protecting the ecological values of the Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula Ramsar sites. As a result, 23,695 hectares were treated to manage and reduce the impacts of feral cats, foxes, rabbits, goats, and pigs.

Priority monitoring projects were successfully implemented throughout the year, including a review into the management effectiveness of feral cat control on reducing predation on shorebirds and waterbirds.

Over the 10 years that the Ramsar Protection Program has been in operation, there have been major ecological improvements to native vegetation communities, particularly sensitive saltmarsh, and mangrove ecosystems.

Managing sites for noxious weeds has allowed native groundcover to re-establish in areas once dominated by African Boxthorn and other habitat-altering weeds. Removing these weeds has contributed to reducing harbor for invasive animals such as foxes and rabbits.

Integrated pest animal management across the Ramsar sites has achieved substantial reductions in goats, feral cats, foxes, pigs, deer, rabbits and black rat abundance. Monitoring has recorded increased sightings of native animals, including small mammals, shorebirds, and waterbirds.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2020-21

2020-21 will see the continued delivery of the Two Great Ramsar Wetlands project funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, with numerous pest animal and weed control activities to be undertaken. Commencement of priority on-ground works contributing to feral cat eradication on French Island is anticipated.

Collaboration with partner organisations to deliver significant pest animal and weed control activities will also continue with the funding allocated to this work from the Victorian Government. Community engagement and participation will continue to strengthen with targeted workshops, forums and events planned over the coming years.

## 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. These partnerships mean that pest plant and animal control can be coordinated and planned together to ensure optimum results across a large area.

### Partners:

- Parks Victoria
- 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
- DELWP
- Dept. of Environment and Energy
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation

**Established:** 2010

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

**Funding:** Victorian Government and Australian Government

## 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.

Key achievements in 2019-20 included the successful delivery of feral cat cage-trapping on French Island, resulting in the removal of 46 feral cats. Further to this, the integration of a new data collection platform significantly improved the way records are managed.

Nature Glenelg Trust completed an extensive amount of research on the hydrological regime at The Spit Nature Conservation Reserve and developed restoration options to improve the condition of 60 hectares

of dry marsh. This important piece of work will inform a restoration plan for primary waterbird and shorebird habitat along Port Phillip Bay near Point Wilson and lead to continued discussions with stakeholders, land managers and the Australian Government to implement the plan.

On Quail Island, remote camera monitoring, along with field observations, has found no detections of feral pig activity. Further monitoring in 2020-21 hopes to validate the eradication of feral pigs.

Evidence of fairy-tern breeding and successful fledgling at Observation Point is a positive sign that the feral cat trapping program is progressing towards meeting the outcomes of this project. Fairy-terns have not bred at this location for approximately 10 years, indicating a reduction in feral cat predation (in the absence of red foxes).

**Project period:** 2018-23

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

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

### Partners:

- Nature Glenelg Trust
- Parks Victoria
- French Island Landcare
- Phillip Island Nature Parks

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

### RAMSAR SITE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

This three-year project is working to improve the management, coordination, and monitoring of the Western Port Ramsar site.

In 2019-20, this project continued to strengthen partnerships with a diverse network of stakeholders and community groups from across the Western Port area.

An annual action was developed to oversee the implementation of agreed actions as outline in the Ramsar Site Strategic Management Plan.

An assessment of marine invertebrate and native fish was completed which investigated the community composition, extent, and condition of benthic invertebrates in soft sediments, and assessed the abundance and diversity of native fish across Western Port, including a study into the extent and potential impact of recreational fishing.

A review into the management effectiveness of predator control was also completed to better understand

the threat that pest animals pose to waterbird and shorebird distribution and abundance. The result of this work identified several key recommendations, including the adoption and integration of soft-jaw leg-hold trapping and poison baiting on public land.

**Project period:** 2017-20

**Location:** Western Port Ramsar site

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Parks Victoria



Educating recreational fishers of all ages is a key priority.

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

### RAMSAR PROTECTION IN THE PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERN PORT REGION

This four-year project delivers on-ground conservation works and community engagement events that contributed to protecting the Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) and Western Port Ramsar wetland sites.

In 2019-20 the project continued to deliver a comprehensive program of pest plant and animal control across the Western Port Ramsar site, as well as undertaking an assessment of waterbirds and shorebirds at priority locations. 411 hectares of

weed control was undertaken at Bittern Coastal wetlands, Yaringa Foreshore and Hastings Foreshore, and 4,143 hectares of pest animal control was delivered controlling pest species such as feral cats, feral pigs, foxes, and rabbits.

Parks Victoria undertook feral pig control program on Quail Island in order to improve its habitat condition. An extensive, island-wide monitoring program suggests that feral pigs have been eradicated

from the island. Further monitoring and field inspections will be required to validate eradication. Fox control was also completed across Quail Island and surrounds.

The local Traditional Owners, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, are a member of the coordinating committee and have provided valuable insights, support and direction into priority setting and decision making.

**Project period:** 2016-20

**Location:** Western Port

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Phillip Island Nature Parks
- Parks Victoria
- Lang Lang Foreshore Committee of Management
- Melbourne University
- Western Port Biosphere



Aerial view of the Western Port Ramsar site

## RAMSAR PROTECTION PROGRAM

### SEAGRASS, SALTMARSH AND MANGROVES FOR WESTERN PORT

This 12-month project contributed to the maintenance and improvement of the ecological character of the Western Port Ramsar site by undertaking research and on-ground priority actions that have been identified in the Western Port Ramsar Site Management Plan.

Commencing in January 2020, this project partnered with the Bass Coast Landcare Network to coordinate a private landholder incentive program.

As a result of this partnership, Bass Coast Landcare Network worked with eight private landholders adjoining the Western Port Ramsar site. Through these partnerships, 23 hectares of weed control was delivered, 1 kilometre of stock exclusion fencing was erected and 9,800 seedlings were planted across 6.08 hectares to increase habitat for native wildlife.

Future work for the remainder of 2020, is to undertake critical components,

processes, and services (CPS) monitoring for seagrass and saltmarsh communities across Western Port.

This project worked directly with Traditional Owner organisations within the Port Phillip and Western Port region and collaborated with them to assist in the planning, prioritising and delivery of the works that contributed to achieving the project's objectives and outcomes.

**Project period:** 2019-20

**Location:** Western Port

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Bass Coast Landcare Network



Landcare members planting mangrove.





# 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

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Revegetation contributing to the establishment of new naturelinks.	500ha	264ha
Protection and enhancement of priority areas of the ~195,000 hectares of threatened native vegetation types in the region.	100ha	23,624ha

## PROGRESS IN 2019-20

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, 90.89 hectares of revegetation was undertaken with 104,895 trees, shrubs and ground covers planted, as well as 172.9 hectares direct seeded. In addition, threatened native vegetation across the region was enhanced through 2,171 hectares of weed control, 21,453 hectares of pest animal control, 1.4 km of fencing, 2 hectares of rubbish removal and the establishment of one conservation covenant.

Highlights for 2019-20 have included the completion of several major landscape-scale, on-ground projects, including the Protecting and Connecting Species in Melbourne's West and the Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat project which were funded through the Victorian Governments Biodiversity Hubs and Our Catchments, Our Communities programs respectively. These two projects made major contributions to protecting and enhancing naturelinks in the Port Phillip and Western Port region through pest plant and animal control.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) presented numerous challenges for the delivery of other on-ground projects, many of which were also due to be completed in 2019-20. Overall, on-ground environmental works were able to progress as planned, however community engagement events and activities were postponed or cancelled. This has resulted in several projects being granted extensions to complete the final project deliverables in early 2020-21.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2020-21

In 2020-21, PPWCMA will continue to deliver its current environmental projects throughout the region. Several projects concluded at the end of 2019-20, so additional funding will be pursued to continue to protect and enhance native vegetation and create new naturelinks across the region. Collaboration with partner organisations will continue through 2020-21 to develop new project proposals.

## 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 in 2019-20 was the ongoing delivery of the Transforming the Dandenong Creek corridor project (below).

Living Links also completed the 'Mapping the Gaps' project in partnership with RMIT University and non-profit, OFFICE, to review and update the mapping of Living Links priority corridors.

The Living Links Ambassador School for 2019, St. Louis de Montforts Primary School in Aspendale,

completed a project to monitor biodiversity and improve habitat within and surrounding the school grounds. River Gum Primary School in Hampton Park was appointed as our Ambassador School for 2020.

Priority activities for Living Links in 2020-21 include securing significant new funding to deliver on-ground and community engagement projects with partners, continuing to grow the program's community outreach and supporting the development of a Southern Regional Trails Strategy.



'Spreading the Message' art installation.

**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

## 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.

In 2019-20, the project undertook 84.3 hectares of weed control (14.1 hectares new and 70.2 hectares ongoing), 15.6 hectares of revegetation and 2 hectares of litter removal (including 900 tyres). On-ground works are now complete at 37 of the 38 sites. A total of 33 community events were held, attracting 2,083 attendees, including planting days, litter clean-ups, educational workshops, citizen science events and 'Wayapa in the Park' sessions. Wayapa is an Indigenous movement and mindfulness-based wellness practice

that helps people feel connected to the earth.

A major highlight was the completion of the 'Spreading the Message' art installation at Tirhatuan Park in Dandenong North in April 2020. Created by Indigenous artist Ian Harrison it features eight painted totem poles made from salvaged tree trunks. It is the first official artwork in the 'Dandenong Creek Arts Trail', which will be extended over the next two years through a new project that was inspired by this one.

The final months of the project (which culminates in December 2020) will focus on community engagement activities. Of particular note are the Wild By Nature Short Film Festival and Indigenous engagement projects with Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural

Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, including a forum on cultural burning in urban areas.

**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.

Grow West prides itself in engaging the community in its annual planting day event, with 4,000 trees planted by 300 volunteers in Ingliston at the 2019 event. In 2019-20, the Grow West program planted 23,210 trees and direct seeded 148.62kg of seed

across 17 properties, covering an area of 216.60 hectares.

Grow West also completed a four-year large-scale landscape pest animal and plants project across four park reserves, in partnership with Parks Victoria, Trust for Nature, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Friends of Brisbane Ranges.

2020-21 will focus on the implementation of a waterway revegetation project in the Balliang area and the completion of a large landscape restoration project in the Rowsley Valley.

**Established:** 2003

**Location:** Upper Werribee Catchment

**Funding:** partner contributions, Victorian Government, Australia Government

**Partners:**

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

## GROW WEST PROTECTING AND CONNECTING SPECIES IN MELBOURNE'S WEST

This four-year project aims to protect and enhance threatened plants and animals in the Upper Werribee Catchment by undertaking large-scale pest plant and animal control programs. Effort is concentrated within the four large public reserves - Lerderderg State Park, Werribee Gorge State Park, Long Forest Nature Conservation Reserve and Brisbane Ranges National Park - and adjoining private properties, covering an area of approximately 30,000 hectares.

The large-scale pest plant and animal threat mitigation activities undertaken in the four reserves provided a large boost to the works that had previously been carried out by groups and landholders to protect and enhance threatened species and communities.

The project targeted pest animals (goats, deer, rabbits, pigs and cats) and pest weed species (Sallow Wattle, Gorse, African Weed Orchid and Serrated Tussock), which pose a threat to native species listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*

1988 including the Swift Parrot, Brush-tail Phascogale, Growling Grass Frog, Diamond Firetail, Bacchus Marsh Wattle, Clover Glycine and Velvet Daisy Bush.

The project has achieved great on-ground environmental outcomes through a collaborative multi-stakeholder approach. By working together, both private and public land managers have had a positive and lasting impact on the landscape with the support of organisations such as the PPWCMA, government agencies and not-for-profits (Trust for Nature).

2019-20 saw the project survey and treat 55 hectares of pest plants and 47,249 hectares of pest animals across the four reserves.

**Project period:** 2016-20

**Location:** public and private property adjoining Brisbane Ranges National Park, Werribee Gorge State Park and Lerderderg State Park

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Parks Victoria
- Trust for Nature
- Friends of Brisbane Ranges
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.



Goat on remote camera at Lerderderg State Park.

## 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 addition to the project works outlined in the following pages,

in 2019-20, Greening the Maribyrnong controlled 8 hectares of woody weeds, controlled rabbits over 16.5 hectares, erected 770m of fencing to protect native vegetation and planted 1,520 trees and shrubs spread over 2 hectares.

**Established:** 2011

**Location:** Maribyrnong catchment

**Funding:** project funds

**Partners:**

- DELWP
- Melbourne Water
- City West Water
- Western Water
- Parks Victoria
- Brimbank City Council

- Hume City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Conservation Volunteers Australia
- 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 Network
- Villawood Properties
- Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
- Friends of Steele Creek

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

This 3.5 year 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 2019-20 commenced with students from Salesian College Sunbury planting close to 1,000 trees and shrubs along the banks of Jacksons Creek. Contractors planted another 6,400 plants along the creek with Community Groups contributing another 300. The year was bookended with additional plantings totalling 3800 plants, bringing the annual total to 10,500. Pest animal control across 8.5 hectares was directed towards minimising risks to all these plantings.

Timed across the year to suit the target weeds, pest plant control totalled 39.5 hectares in new areas as well as maintenance of areas

completed in earlier project years. The Wurundjeri Narrap Rangers were engaged to extend the project's weed control efforts into a previously unmanaged area of the creekline. A significant addition to the project was the use of a rubber tracked excavator with mulcher to obliterate some of the oldest largest boxthorn ever seen along the banks of Jacksons Creek.

The project, extended with funding from Melbourne Water will conclude in 2020-21 with a final year of weed control and planting.

**Established:** 2017-20

**Location:** Maribyrnong catchment

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**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 Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation



Planting Day with Distinctive Options.



## GREENING THE MARIBYRNONG DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

This three-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.

The deeply incised gorges of the waterway and the grassy woodlands that surround them are iconic Victorian landscapes. The biodiversity within this landscape is impacted by weed invasion, vegetation clearing, urban expansion and pest animals, such as rabbits and foxes. Weeds and rabbits significantly reduce the capacity for native plants and animals to flourish and regenerate. Control of these threats offers the best 'bang for buck' in the protection of habitat for native species.

Connections with the target community have been significantly deepened during this second year of the project with key target outputs for weed control (1,038 hectares) and rabbit control (1,007 hectares) achieved.

In 2019-20, the target area was varied to better align the focus to remnant biodiversity facilitated engagement with the community. 53 new landholders were invited to participate in the project following with 19 of these expressing interest to date (36 percent). Combined with a project promotional video, landholder education events entailing one weed management field day, two training courses (chemical user and 1080 rabbit baiting) and a rabbit management webinar, the project is well placed for progressive delivery in the next financial year.

**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

## PEAKS TO PLAINS

This three-year project protects threatened flora and fauna species in the You Yangs and across the Werribee Plains to Little River through the control of invasive weeds, rabbits and goats.

The granitic peaks of the You Yang Ranges and surrounding low lying grasslands of the Werribee Plains are some of Victoria's most ecologically significant landscapes. Working across the landscape, the project will enhance 7,000 hectares for species such as the Spiny Rice-flower, Button Wrinklewort, Eastern Barred Bandicoot and the Plains Wanderer.

In 2019-20, 699 hectares of weed and pest control were undertaken, with three control activities conducted and 71 goats dispatched by project partner, Parks Victoria. Weeds such as Boneseed and Serrated Tussock have also been contained by Greater Geelong City Council through their landholder program.

In 2020-21, monthly goat eradication activities as well as weed control will continue to be conducted in the You Yangs Regional Park. Rabbit and weed control will also continue on private properties adjoining the park. It is hoped that a cultural heritage event for landholders and partners at the You Yangs National Park can be held in early 2021.

**Project period:** 2018-21

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

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

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



Goats at Flinders Peak, You Yangs Regional Park. (Hilary Ackroyd Curtis)

## GREENS BUSH TO ARTHURS SEAT BIOLINK

Delivered by the Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network, this project worked to reestablish a connection between two of the largest patches of remnant vegetation on the Mornington Peninsula (Greens Bush and Arthurs Seat) through revegetation, weeding and pest control. It benefited local fauna by improving habitat and providing greater opportunities for their movement across the landscape.

2019-20 was the final year for this phase of the project and it completed weed control on 40.8 hectares of existing and new properties. A further 2.7 hectares of transformed grazing land was added to the biolink through the planting of 2,835 indigenous trees and shrubs. 273 hectares of fox control was also conducted.

Six vegetation quality assessments were conducted, confirming

a noticeable improvement in vegetation quality compared to 2017 assessments. Birdlife Australia recorded the presence of Latham's Snipe on one biolink property. Sugar gliders were also recorded nesting in a biolink box installed at the commencement of the project.

The project involved local schools and community groups in 18 workshops and planting days. TAFE students from Holmesglen and Chisholm assisted with plantings.

**Project period:** 2017-20

**Location:** Mornington Peninsula

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network and associated groups
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Parks Victoria
- SPIFFA
- Melbourne Water
- Chisholm TAFE
- Birdlife Australia
- Scouts Australia
- Local landholders



Fauna camera records sugar gliders in nest box. (W.Kotteck)

## PROTECTING AND CONNECTING SPECIES ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA

This four-year project is protecting the most vulnerable species in the Mornington Peninsula. Works focus on protecting the Coast Helmet Orchid, Frankston Spider Orchid, Leafy Greenhood and the endangered Dainty Maidenhair Fern, as well as the Hooded Plover, Australasian Bittern, White Footed Dunnart and other threatened species.

In 2019-20, the project delivered 38.67 hectares weed control and secured one conservation covenant on the Mornington Peninsula.

The project also supported Trust for Nature and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation to plan a third round of the Warreen Beek Ranger training, which includes a Certificate III in Conservation and Land Management course as well as extensive hands-on learning and mentoring opportunities. This

course has been postponed due to restrictions in place to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

2019-20 was the final year of the project. A highlight was the discovery of a new colony of the extremely rare Dainty Maidenhair fern. Previously this fern had only one known colony in Victoria, this site was at risk from erosion and weed infestation. Protecting Victoria's only known colony was particularly difficult as it is located on a cool seepage line that winds down a steep rocky escarpment, which is a long trek from the nearest access point. Contractors were employed to undertake this difficult task, but during it they discovered a previously unknown colony of the fern a few hundred metres further along the escarpment.

**Project period:** 2016-20

**Location:** Mornington Peninsula

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

- Trust for Nature
- Parks Victoria
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation



Dainty Maidenhair at a project site.





# 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

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Areas of habitat established/improved for wild populations of Helmeted Honeyeaters.	0ha (unfunded)	0.47ha
Areas of habitat established/improved for wild populations and other threatened species.	0ha (unfunded)	0

## PROGRESS IN 2019-20

During 2019-20, the Yarra4Life program focused on the final deliverables of the Great HeHo Escape project, funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program, including the completion of on-ground restoration works and a hydrological investigation undertaken for Burrungma Bliik located within Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

The final community event for the project was cancelled due to coronavirus (COVID-19), however this was replaced by a video featuring Dr Mel Birtchnell and Gaye Gadsden from

the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater and Dr Dan Harley from Zoos Victoria. The video will leave a long-standing legacy and educational resource to inform landowners how to create habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum on their properties.

Over the last two years, the Great HeHo Escape project has developed two habitat restoration plans and a hydrology restoration plan as well as worked with 20 private landowners in the Yellingbo area to undertake priority works on their properties. This included 8.1 hectares protected by fencing, 470 hectares pest animal control, 50.42 hectares of weed control and 0.83 hectares of revegetation. This work targeted the highest priority locations and contributed to creating new habitat for the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

New funding needs to be secured to establish new habitat for other threatened species, but no new funding was secured for this purpose during 2019-20.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2020-21

In 2020-21, the Yarra4Life Committee will focus on securing new funding to support the implementation of the Habitat Restoration Plans developed as part of the Great HeHo Escape project and other initiatives.

Additional investment will be pursued during 2020-21 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 released into Yellingbo NCR in August 2019.

## 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 2019-20 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.

The Yarra4Life hosted two major stakeholder and community events in 2019-20. In September Yarra4Life partnered with DELWP, Melbourne

Water and Parks Victoria to run an information event on the Yellingbo Conservation Area for environmental community groups. In February 2020, Yarra4Life hosted the second Habitat Restoration Forum for Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum. This event brought together 65 people from the many organisations, agencies and community groups that are working towards restoring habitat for these two critically endangered species.

This year also saw the delivery of the final outputs for The Great HeHo Escape project. In 2020-21 Yarra4Life will focus on seeking new funding opportunities to implement habitat restoration works and other initiatives, such as improving and developing new communications materials.

**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 THE GREAT HEHO ESCAPE

This Australia Government funded project built on the work achieved through Phase One of the National Landcare Program and set the stage to move the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater from survival to expansion beyond its current range by planning for new habitat areas.

In 2019-20 the final outputs for The Great HeHo Escape project were delivered. This included developing a hydrology restoration plan and revegetation of 0.47 hectares of Burrungma Bliik in Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve.

An information video was created to landholders habitat restoration works that will improve outcomes for Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum.

To further support the Coranderrk to Yarra Habitat Restoration Plan, developed in year one of the Great HeHo Escape project, an investigation of the digital elevation modelling for the broader Yarra corridor was funded by Zoos Victoria and completed this year. This study further refined priority locations for habitat restoration and identified some new priority locations.

In 2020-21 Yarra4Life will seek opportunities to build on the work undertaken through the Great HeHo Escape project and the development of two habitat restoration plans.

**Project period:** 2018-20

**Location:** Yarra Valley

**Funding:** Australian Government's National Landcare Program, Victorian Government, Zoos Victoria

**Partners:**

All Yarra4Life partners plus:

- Birdlife Australia
- Greening Australia
- Biosis



Plants at the Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Nursery ready for revegetation projects.





# 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

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Adoption of sustainable land management practices on some of the ~5,000 farms in the region	500 farms	160 farms

## PROGRESS IN 2019-20

The PPWCMA's sustainable agriculture and land management activities in 2019-20 centered around two projects funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program – Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator (RALF) and Smart Farming in Western Port delivered by the Western Port Catchment Landcare Network (WPCLN).

In 2019-20, 1,504 people attending 70 events focused on sustainable farming practices. 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 delivering the RALF project activities and supporting the Smart Farming in Western Port project, the PPWCMA's Regional Agriculture Facilitator also provided a range of specialist services to partner organisations including:

- Being a member of the Bunyip Complex Fire Natural Environment Recovery Sub-committee
- Supporting indigenous organisations to apply for grants to develop their bush food enterprises.

2019-20 also saw the PPWCMA continue the following joint trials and events with local partners:

- Establishing a pasture demonstration site that has implemented an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy with funding from Ripe for Change (delivered through Sustainable Table)
- Establishing a compost under vine trial on three wineries in Macedon Ranges funded by the Victorian Government's Wine Growth Fund
- Delivering three native bee forums across the region to 250 participants in partnership with Agribusiness Yarra Valley and Moorabool Shire and Western Port Catchment Landcare Network.

## OUTLOOK FOR 2020-21

In 2020-21, the PPWCMA will continue to roll out the Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator project and support the Smart Farming in Western Port project.

The PPWCMA will continue to engage in several stakeholder advisory committees, including the Yarra Ranges Rural Advisory Committee, Dryland Manager's Forum, FoodPrint Melbourne, Cardinia Food Movement and Macedon Ranges Smart Farming Regenerative Agriculture project.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is expected to continue to impact on the delivery of sustainable agriculture events, so alternative options will need to be considered.

In late 2019-20 the PPWCMA received funding through the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative to deliver two projects in the first six months of 2020-21 - Farms2Schools (July-December 2020) and sustainable agriculture works crews (July 2020- February 2021). Four staff have been engaged and the delivery of these projects will be a key focus.

## 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 2019-20, the RALF project achieved this by:

- Participating in six stakeholder advisory committees with industry partners
- Supporting the Bunyip fire recovery by being a member of the Bunyip Fire Natural Environment Recovery Sub-committee

- Publishing 22 articles in the PPWCMA enews with a focus on biosecurity information and alerts
- Posting 143 stories with a total reach of 17,694 people to the PPWCMA Grows Agriculture Facebook page
- Establishing the Regenerative Farmers Network SE Vic (Myrning to Mallacoota) Facebook group with EGCMA and WGCMA
- Providing information and support for Indigenous organisations to apply for sustainable agriculture and bush food (economic development) grants

In 2020-21, the RALF project will continue to support several stakeholder committees and projects, including and a FoodPrint Melbourne research project which

will be assessing the resilience of Melbourne's food system to the impacts of shocks and stresses such as fire, drought, flood and pandemic.

**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 2019-20 year. While coronavirus (COVID-19) prevented many physical events from occurring, delivery methods were adapted to ensure farmers continued to be engaged and supported. Farmers discussion groups moved online and a videographer was engaged to film virtual farm walks. The success of these efforts reinforced the importance of keeping farmers engaged with each other to share learnings and experiences. Towards the end of 2019-20, a YouTube video series on Regenerative Agriculture featuring soil scientist

Declan McDonald was also released and has had an overwhelmingly positive response from a wide demographic.

In 2019-20, the project engaged 1,169 people in 65 events (physical and online). This included eight field days, seven on-farm demonstration sites, two GrazFert programs delivered with 25 farming families trained and 48 farmer discussion groups sessions (including 14 online virtual farm walks). Total participation in the project to date is 2841 people at 128 separate events involving 1112 unique individuals.

**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 looking at new pasture species with soil scientist Damien Adcock. (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.

An introductory IPM workshop was held in October 2019 with Western Port Catchment Landcare Network and delivered by IPM Technologies.

A demonstration site that has implemented the IPM strategy was set up and has been monitored for pest and beneficial insects throughout spring 2019 and autumn 2020.

A results day will be delivered in late 2020 and a field guide will be developed to communicate the results.



Farm walk participating looking at the invertebrates in a paddock.

**Project period:** 2019-20

**Location:** Cardinia Shire

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

**Partners:**

- Western Port Catchment Landcare Network

## COMPOST OVER VINES MOUNT MACEDON

This three-year trial in investigating the financial and environmental benefits of urban green waste mulch under vines in the Macedon Ranges.

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.

The concept is based on trials undertaken on the Mornington Peninsula between 2015 and 2018, which saw positive grape quality results from pinot noir with recycled composted mulch under vine.

In 2019-20, three vineyards in the project area received AS 4454 certified composted mulch to cover

a strip under 25 vines 1 metre wide and 7.5cm deep. Bunchzone and soil temperatures were measured hourly with electronic data loggers and compared to those in a control row with standard practices (brushcutting under vine).

Grape quality traits from 20 bunches will be assessed in a laboratory at each annual harvest, for all three years of the project.



Trial site with pasturised mulch row and control row.

**Project period:** 2019-23

**Location:** Macedon Ranges

**Funding:** Victorian Government

**Partners:**

**Partners:**

- Veolia
- Macedon Ranges Vignerons Association
- GrapeLinks



# 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

	2023-24 target (under current funding)	2019-20 progress
Female representation amongst PPWCMA Board, managers and employees	~50%	55% Board 66% Managers 64% Employees
Employee engagement index	>75%	82%
Hazard reports collected within PPWCMA to establish baseline data and underpin planning and responses	500 between 2019-20 and 2022-23	92 (186 over 2 years)
Incident (near miss) reports lodged within PPWCMA	0	2
Injuries/lost time	0/0	4/0
Incident notifications/ Workcover claims lodged with Worksafe	0/0	0/0
Investment through the PPWCMA in environmental management	>\$4m/year	\$5.697 million
Projects delivered on time and budget	100%	100%
Compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework	100%	100%



## PROGRESS IN 2019-20

### 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 2019-20, PPWCMA completed an update of the Project Management Framework and provided staff with training regarding the framework. The framework is a detailed procedural document applied and used across all PPWCMA teams for all projects. The use of the framework ensures a high standard of project management within all projects and a consistent approach to project management across the PPWCMA.

During 2019-20, 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,

### Workplace data

	As at 30 June 2020							As at 30 June 2019						
	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	5	4.8	4	1	4.8	-	-	6	5.8	4	1	4.8	1	1
Female	9	6.7	5	3	6.6	1	.1	9	6.7	5	3	6.6	1	.1
<b>Age</b>														
15-24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-44	9	7.6	6	3	7.6	-	-	10	8.6	6	3	7.6	1	1
45-54	5	3.9	3	1	3.8	1	.1	5	3.9	3	1	3.8	1	.1
55-64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Classification</b>														
Executive	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
Manager	2	2	2	-	2	-	-	2	2	2	-	2	-	-
Other	11	8.5	6	4	8.4	1	.1	12	9.5	6	4	8.4	2	1.1
<b>Senior employees+</b>														
Executive \$200,000-\$219,999	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>.1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.1</b>

H/C = headcount FTE = full time equivalent + Senior employees are employees that receive more than \$182,070 total remuneration package

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 2019-20 was \$5.697 million. Most of this revenue was for work undertaken in 2019-20 and the remainder was received in advance for work to be undertaken in 2020-21.

This level of revenue satisfies the PPWCMA indicator of annual investment being above \$4 million but is low in comparison to average annual revenue of the PPWCMA over the past 15 years. The PPWCMA will be seeking to increase the annual revenue for 2020-21 and future years.

### 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 10 of the 12 months of the 2019-20 year.

A review for compliance with the Financial Management Compliance Framework (FMCF) was conducted and it showed that the PPWCMA was 100 percent compliant throughout 2019-20.

### 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 2019-20 the PPWCMA continued to focus on a number of actions such as:

- Encouraging substantial learning and development activities in all staff development plans
  - Working with a local disability service and organising a tree planting day for their clients
  - Encouraging staff to work flexibly
  - 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:
- Nine of the 14 employees are female, with two of the three management team members female
  - The majority of employees are aged between 34-44
  - Most employees were ongoing, with only one employee on a fixed-term contract.

### 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 Employee Engagement Index result was 82 percent from the 2019 People Matter Survey which was 7 percent above the average for the comparator sector. The 2020 People Matter Survey will be conducted in October 2020.

The PPWCMA has continued to focus on maintaining the current high levels of workplace culture and morale since 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 2019-20 due to industrial accidents or disputes.

### Occupational health and safety

The PPWCMA's OH&S vision is that our employees work in a safe environment and 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 2019-20, 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 92 hazard reports being lodged in 2019-20.
- Comprehensively reviewing the data following the sustained focus on hazard reporting. The OH&S Committee has analysed two years of hazard reporting (94 hazards were reported in 2018-19) and undertaken a significant review of the the OH&S risks and controls.
- Reviewing the OH&S Procedure and strengthening a number of sections within it. 100 percent of PPWCMA employees have been trained in the new OH&S procedure.

A summary of OH&S measures is included in the table at the top of page 36.

## OH&S performance indicators

Measure	Indicator	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18
<b>Hazards</b>	Hazards identified	92	94	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	800	752	7.5
<b>Incidents</b>	No. of incidents	2	3	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	17.4	24	7.5
<b>Injuries</b>	No. of injuries	4	3	1
	Rate per 100 FTE	34.8	24	7.5
<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	5	4
	Site inspections	4	6	4

## OUTLOOK FOR 2020-21

The total revenue and staffing levels for the PPWCMA in 2019-20 were relatively low compared to most of the past 15 years, however the outlook is for an increase in 2020-21.

The PPWCMA is pursuing opportunities to strengthen the organisation such as:

- Projects to increase employment and achieve agricultural and environmental benefits through the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative in response to the economic impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Coordination of some coastal and marine management work including development of a Regional and Strategic Partnership (RaSP) for the north-western section of Port Phillip Bay

- Partnerships with water authorities to offset nutrient inputs or carbon emissions through local revegetation programs managed by the PPWCMA.

The PPWCMA will also implement the third year of projects and services as part of the five-year Regional Land Partnerships program funded by the Australian Government.

The PPWCMA will also strive for continuous improvement in all aspects of the business and maintain a focus on its values and the continuing professional development of employees and Board members.

# Other DISCLOSURES

## Internal audit

The PPWCMA engages external professionals to undertake an internal audit program. Reviews undertaken in recent years dealt with the risk management framework, contractor appointment and management, protective data security standards, exposure to fraud, performance reporting, business continuity planning and accounts payable.

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 2019-20 reporting period, the PPWCMA had a total ICT expenditure of \$104,697, with the details shown below:

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

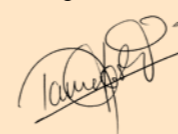
"ICT expenditure" refers to the PPWCMA's costs in providing business-enabling ICT services. It comprised "Business As Usual" (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure.

"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  
Friday 9th October 2020

## 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 2020 the application fee is \$29.60.

Request can be sent via post or email to:

- Port Phillip & Westernport CMA, Level 1, 454 – 472 Nepean Hwy, FRANKSTON, VIC, 3199
- [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).



## 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 2019-20. The RCS Committee met four times in 2019-20 and the PPWCMA Board considered papers on the current and future 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 2018-19 PPWCMA Annual Report contained a catchment condition report and was tabled in Parliament on 17 October 2019.
	Submit to the Minister a 'Corporate Plan' articulating key result areas against which performance can be measured.	The Corporate Plan 2020-21 was submitted to the Minister before 30 June 2020.
	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 2019-20 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 2019-20, 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 82% from the 2019 People Matter Survey. The 2020 People Matter Survey will be conducted in October 2020.
<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 2020, the PPWCMA received 0 Freedom of Information requests. See page 37 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 2019-20 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 2019-20 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 2019-20.
<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 2019-20, 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 2019-20, 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 2019-20.
<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 2019-20, 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 2019-20, there were seven consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2019-20 in relation to these consultancies is \$231,667 (excluding GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined below.

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

In 2019-20, the PPWCMA engaged five consultancies valued at under \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2019-20 in relation to this consultancy was \$12,973 (excluding GST).

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Start date	End date	Total approved project fee (excl. GST)	Expenditure 2019-20 (excl. GST)	Future expenditure (excl. GST)
<b>Birdlife Australia</b>	Western Port Ramsar Strategic Management Plan Project	February 2020	June 2020	\$15,000	\$15,000	Nil
<b>Elizabeth Znidarsic</b>	Western Port Effectiveness Monitoring Project	January 2020	June 2020	\$42,010	\$42,010	Nil
<b>Fathom Pacific Pty Ltd</b>	Western Port Ramsar Strategic Management Plan Project	December 2019	June 2020	\$80,000	\$80,000	Nil
<b>Greening Australia Ltd</b>	Faunal Emblems Project	July 2019	March 2020	\$29,678	\$29,678	Nil
<b>Jacobs Group Australia Pty Ltd</b>	The Great HeHo Escape Project	January 2020	April 2020	\$16,500	\$16,500	Nil
<b>Natural Decisions Pty Ltd</b>	French Island Feral Cat Eradication Project	July 2019	April 2019	\$10,120	\$10,120	Nil
<b>South Pole</b>	Growing Carbon in the Port Phillip & Western Port Region Project	July 2019	December 2019	\$38,359	\$38,359	Nil

## OTHER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

### Significant changes in financial position

There were no matters which changed the PPWCMA's financial position in 2019-20.

### Significant changes or factors affecting performance

There were no significant changes or factors which affected the PPWCMA's performance during 2019-20.

### Government advertising expenditure

The PPWCMA has incurred nil government advertising expenditure for 2019-20.

### Disclosure of major contracts

The PPWCMA did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10 million or more) in 2019-20.

### Capital projects

The PPWCMA has not undertaken any capital projects during 2019-20.

### International travel

There was no international travel undertaken by PPWCMA Board members or employees acting on behalf of the PPWCMA during 2019-20.

### Social Procurement Framework

The PPWCMA complied with the Social Procurement Framework and developed a Social Procurement Strategy in 2019-20. See page 15 for case study.

## 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.

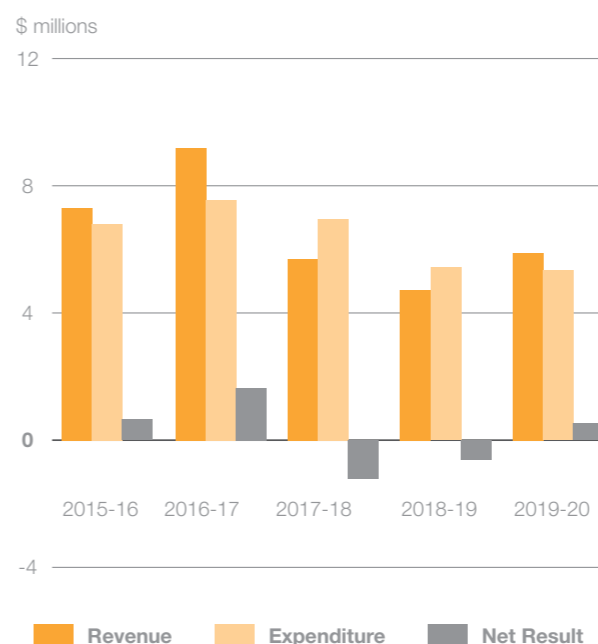
Through 2019-20, the PPWCMA focused on fulfilment of its statutory responsibilities and contractual obligations and achievement of its Key Performance Indicators whilst maintaining low operating costs across the business.

The 2019-20 Financial Statements show that the PPWCMA received total revenue of \$5.7 million and a surplus of \$0.4 million at year end. The surplus reflects the PPWCMA's funding that was received in advance in 2019-20 and is committed to be expended on projects in 2020-21.

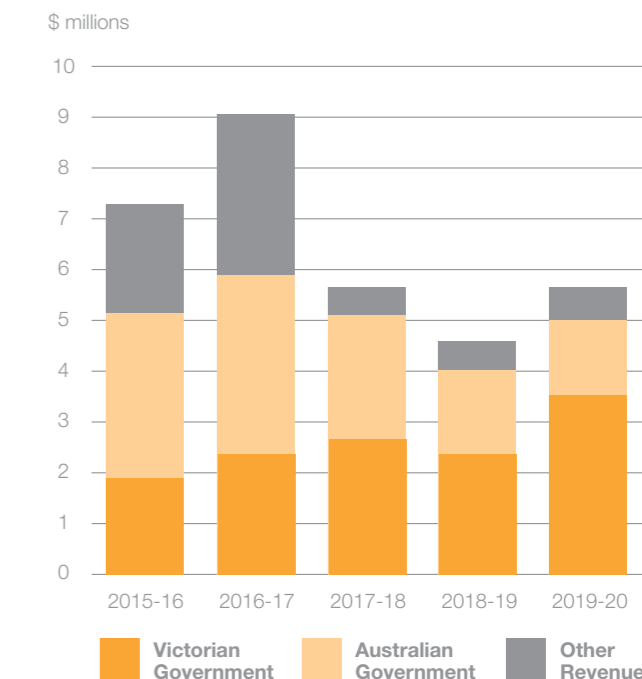
### Five-year financial summary

Revenue	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Victorian Government contributions	3,557,610	2,399,836	2,726,562	2,440,186	1,896,568
Australian Government contributions	1,439,270	1,605,410	2,346,240	3,491,635	3,327,601
Other revenue	699,954	607,029	543,092	3,093,726	2,004,150
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>5,696,834</b>	<b>4,612,275</b>	<b>5,617,894</b>	<b>9,025,547</b>	<b>7,228,319</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>5,253,021</b>	<b>5,322,591</b>	<b>6,866,200</b>	<b>7,448,534</b>	<b>6,683,571</b>
<b>Net result for the reporting period</b>	<b>443,813</b>	<b>-710,316</b>	<b>-1,248,306</b>	<b>1,577,013</b>	<b>544,748</b>
Net cash flow from operating activities	-147,365	-833,060	-1,234,276	1,474,740	577,312
Total assets	3,980,961	3,507,303	4,084,947	5,369,945	3,891,021
Total liabilities	808,361	829,280	696,608	733,300	831,389

### PPWCMA five-year financial performance summary



### Sources of PPWCMA finances over five years





## STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INFORMATION

The Port Phillip & Westernport CMA 2019-20 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 35)
- A statement on industrial relations within PPWCMA (page 35)
- A list of the PPWCMA's major committees, the purposes of each committee, and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved (page 61)

### 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 2019-20)
- Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged (none charged in 2019-20).

# Section 2 OUR REGION

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### 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 [ppwcm.vic.gov.au](http://ppwcm.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

# About the PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERN PORT REGION

The Port Phillip and Western Port region is home to over 5 million people (75 percent 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, 40 percent 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 1.3 million hectares of land in the region, around 41 percent 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 percent of Victoria's population, as well as many other economic, social and environmental benefits.

The region contains approximately 25,000 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

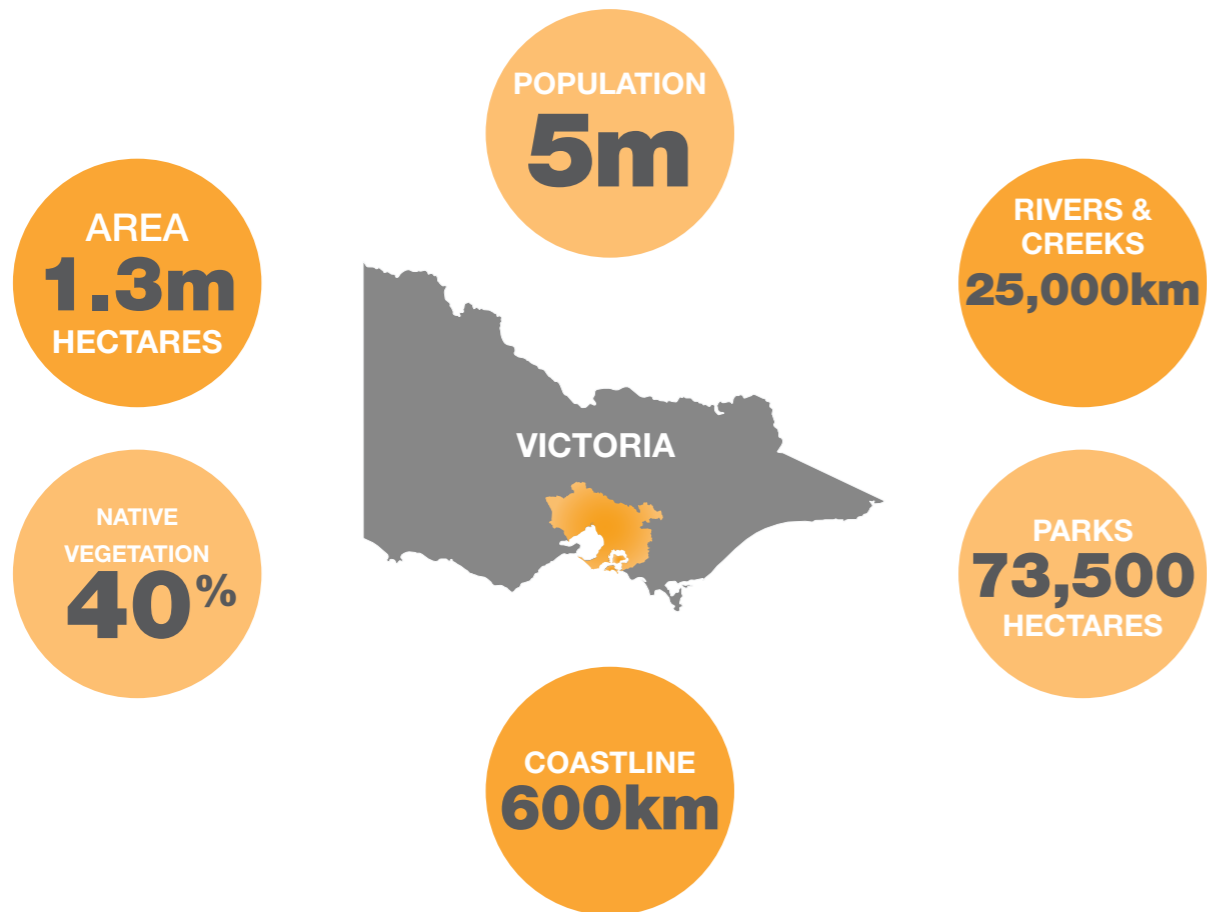
The region's environment, as measured by indicators such as air and water quality, is generally good. These factors are fundamental to Melbourne's reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities.

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.

## 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, Maribyrnong 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	2019-20 assessment	2018-19 assessment	Summary of condition assessment
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<b>Highly concerned</b>	<b>Highly concerned</b>	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.
<b>Waterways</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	While government bodies and communities are actively contributing to waterway health, there are threats and impacts from urbanisation, population growth and climate change.
<b>Land</b>	<b>Concerned</b>	<b>Concerned</b>	Loss of productive agricultural land to urban uses remains a concern along with the future impacts of climate change.
<b>Coasts</b>	<b>Concerned</b>	<b>Concerned</b>	Coastal development, invasive species and climate change continue to contribute to a decline in environmental condition of coastal areas.
<b>Port Phillip Bay and Western Port</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Positive</b>	Data shows that the region's bays are in good condition. Regular environmental monitoring occurs and numerous programs are under way to enhance bay health. Concerns remain about nutrient inputs and climate change impacts.
<b>Community engagement and stewardship</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Positive</b>	There is strong community contribution to environmental management in this region, particularly from an array of Landcare and community environmental groups and non-government organisations. Broader community understanding and participation is also considered to be increasing.

## BIODIVERSITY – NATIVE VEGETATION

The diversity, extent and quality of the Port Phillip and Western Port region's native vegetation is essential to the health and diversity of all living things.

Before settlement, the region's 1.3 million hectares were covered by approximately 100 different native vegetation communities. However, data from DELWP's Land Cover Time Series shows that as of 2019 approximately 522,000 hectares of native vegetation remains. The most significant decline has been in native scattered trees, with loss of 39 percent in the last 30 years.

Clearing and decline have also reduced vegetation diversity. Of the 100 kinds of vegetation communities existing in the 1830s, around two-fifths are now listed as 'endangered', 'vulnerable', 'depleted' or 'rare'.

In the order of one third of the region's native vegetation is secured in parks and conservation reserves. An assessment

of public land by the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council in 2017 found that terrestrial biodiversity values were highest on public land. Therefore, the protection and enhancement of native vegetation on public land is one of the state's and region's highest priorities.

But this priority alone will not protect biodiversity as most of the region's native vegetation is on private land. There is a critical need for better systems to encourage and reward private landholders to protect native vegetation on their land and to discourage illegal clearing and non-compliance with clearing permit conditions.

More recently, the State of the Environment Report 2018 published by the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability shows that most biodiversity indicators are recorded as 'poor' and are trending downwards with only one indicator (private land conservation) trending upwards.

NATIVE VEGETATION LAND CLASS	1985-90	2015-19	CHANGE (HA)	CHANGE (%)
Native trees	405,712	404,376	1,336	-0.33%
Native grass herb	99,522	91,756	7,766	-7.80%
Native scattered trees	14,531	8,866	5,665	-38.99%
Native shrub	8,044	8,033	11	-0.14%
Natural low cover	4,033	4,892	-859	21.30%
Mangrove	2,092	2,386	-294	14.05%
Saltmarsh	2,234	2,049	-4,283	-8.28%

This table outlines the remaining native vegetation in the Port Phillip and Western Port region based on DELWP's Victorian Land Cover Time Series.

## BIODIVERSITY – NATIVE ANIMALS

The PPWCMA recently commissioned a report (draft, unpublished) on the likely persistence of native animal species in the Port Phillip and Western Port region. The report draws on species records to estimate the probability of each species of native fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals persisting in areas of the region at the end of 2016. This was a repeat of the same analysis undertaken in 2005-06.

An important change since 2005-06 is that there has been a substantial increase in species records due to the contributions of government agencies that manage species databases and the public through citizen science programs. There were around 400,000 records for 1839-2006. In the ensuing decade, the number of records increased by more than seven-fold to over 3 million.

With the influx of data, it is estimated that 627 native species are recorded as having occurred in the region at some time since 1839. In general, birds and amphibians seem to have fared the best in retaining species whereas

fish species generally have shown the greatest declines. Indicative results for each taxonomic group in each area of the region are in the table below.

The report draws on existing databases and is an objective, repeatable method for calculating the probability of a species persisting in a given area. However, for a more accurate analysis, further scrutiny of the records would be required to take non-native species out of the analysis. There are also important limitations to the methods used in this analysis, including that it did not assess the health or range of species populations. For example, a species such as the Helmeted Honeyeater can have a small population, a confined range and be listed as a threatened species but have a high persistence rating in that area because sightings are regularly recorded. Conversely, some species may be relatively common in an area but if the databases do not contain recent records of sightings then the probability of persistence can appear as low.

Reporting areas	Number and percentage of species likely to be persisting					
	Fish	Amphibians	Reptiles	Birds	Mammals	Total
Bass Coast, South Gippsland & Islands	2/15 (13%)	6/10 (60%)	11/22 (50%)	217/274 (79%)	19/34 (56%)	255/355 (72%)
Casey, Cardinia & Baw Baw	8/26 (31%)	10/16 (63%)	19/30 (63%)	236/291 (81%)	29/41 (71%)	302/404 (75%)
Macedon Ranges, Hume, Mitchell & Whittlesea	5/20 (25%)	13/16 (81%)	21/34 (62%)	235/279 (84%)	32/43 (74%)	306/392 (78%)
Moorabool, Melton, Wyndham & Greater Geelong	4/20 (20%)	10/13 (77%)	18/34 (53%)	284/337 (84%)	33/41 (80%)	349/445 (78%)
Mornington Peninsula	5/18 (28%)	11/13 (85%)	16/26 (62%)	225/295 (76%)	17/33 (52%)	274/385 (71%)
Greater Melbourne	18/32 (56%)	15/20 (75%)	33/39 (82%)	303/374 (81%)	29/49 (59%)	397/514 (77%)
Yarra Ranges & Nillumbik	13/26 (50%)	11/14 (79%)	22/37 (59%)	228/277 (82%)	37/46 (80%)	311/400 (78%)

This table summarises the results (by defined areas) of the PPWCMA's report on the persistence of native animal of the Port Phillip and Western Port region.

## WATERWAYS

There are many agencies, organisations, groups and community sectors that have a role in the protection and management of waterways. DELWP led the development of Water for Victoria and the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy which established the state-wide policy framework for water and waterway management.

In the Port Phillip and Western Port region, Melbourne Water is the designated waterway management authority and caretaker of river health. Melbourne Water has led the development and implementation of the Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-28, which outlines the region's contribution to meeting the state-wide aims. The Environment Protection Authority, Parks Victoria, councils, community groups and individual landowners also make very important contributions.

The Healthy Waterways Strategy provides a comprehensive strategic direction towards a regional vision for the health of rivers, estuaries and wetlands in the Port Phillip and Western Port region. A major focus is that urbanisation, population growth and climate change pose enormous challenges to success.

With regards to water quality, the EPA undertakes routine monitoring at designated sites and gives a Water Quality Index (WQI) score that combines the results of six standard water quality parameters - nutrients, water clarity, dissolved oxygen, salinity, metals and pH. The results of this monitoring is published in EPA's annual Water Quality Report Card.

In 2018-19, water quality in the region varied from 'Very Good' in areas around the bay, to 'Very Poor' in highly urbanised waterways. Water quality was 'Good' in the forested upper Werribee and Maribyrnong catchments, but 'Very Poor' in the highly urbanised areas of the Dandenong and Mornington catchments.

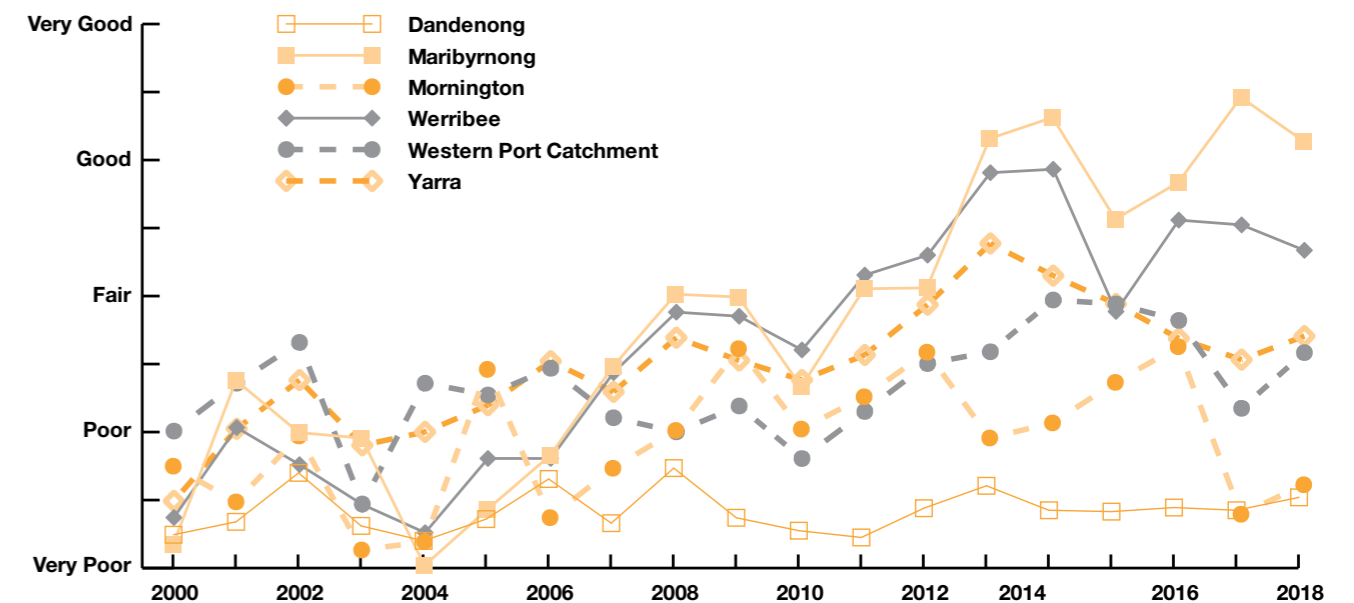
The Yarra catchment, which is home to more than one-third of Victoria's population was rated 'Poor' in 2018-19, however, conditions have improved since 2000. Water quality was 'Good' in the upper reaches of the Yarra catchment in forested areas, but declined to 'Very Poor' as it flowed into the urban areas of Melbourne.

Overall, the water quality in Western Port catchment was 'Poor' for 2018-19. Water quality was 'Good' in the upper catchment of the Bunyip and Tarago River system, Cardinia Creek and Lang Lang River, but quality then declined to 'Poor' or 'Very Poor' in waterways in the mid and lower catchment as the land use changes into rural, agricultural and urbanised areas.

Go to [epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1857](http://epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1857) to view the 2018-19 Water Quality Report Card.

These results reflect the profound impacts of urbanisation and intense rural land use have on water quality in this region. Water quality generally declines as waters flow from the rural middle catchment and pass through more developed and urbanised areas.

Water quality is only one factor determining the health of streams in the region. The Healthy Waterways Strategy also aims to protect and enhance habitat, flows, connectivity and physical form to support nature conservation and human amenity values. Visit [healthywaterways.com.au](http://healthywaterways.com.au) to view the strategy.



This table shows the EPA's WQI scores for the catchments of the Port Phillip and Western Port region from 2000 to 2018.



## LAND

Primary production in the Port Phillip and Western Port region has been estimated to have a total value of \$17 billion (ABS, 2012); one of the highest of the ten catchment management regions in Victoria. This reflects the intensive, high value farming that occurs in and around Melbourne in a variety of agricultural industries.

Relatively high average rainfall for the region enables much of the region's soil to retain vegetation cover throughout the year. This means there is relatively low risk of widespread soil erosion. The table below outlines the percentage of exposed soil in the Port Phillip and Western Port region between 2003 and 2019 (Australia's Environment Explorer, 2018).

The higher rainfall and irrigation areas support high-yield agriculture where soil maintenance is a priority for most landowners. Lower rainfall areas, generally in the west of the region, can be more susceptible to soil erosion, soil quality decline, rabbit and weed infestations.

Significant factors that impact the condition of land and landscapes in this region include:

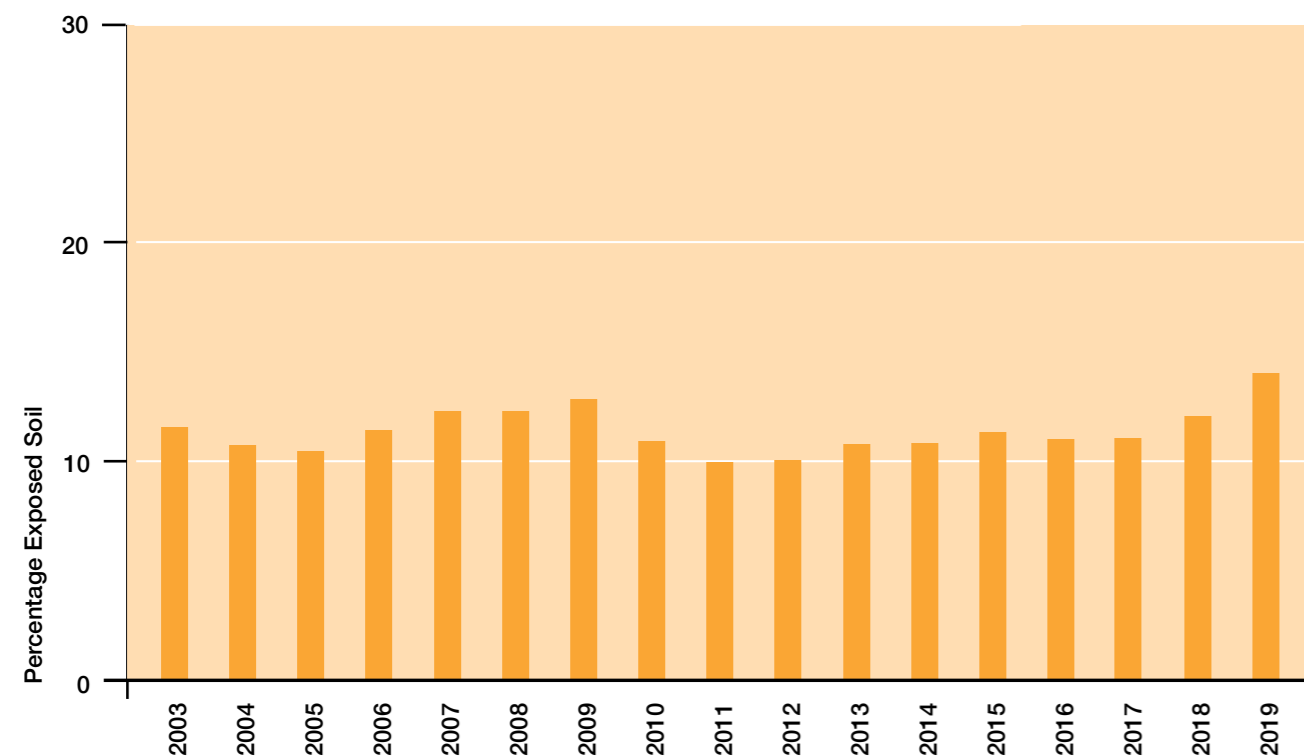
- New housing and industry development and associated infrastructure reducing the area of productive land inside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and maintaining pressure for future movements of the UGB into adjoining rural land
- High farming intensity or management neglect on some land areas, especially where future development is expected

- Continuing net growth in weed and pest animal infestations decreasing soil health, land resilience, productivity and profitability
- Removal and fragmentation of native vegetation and habitat across the region
- A climate that is becoming warmer and dryer.

The University of Melbourne released a report in 2019 titled Foodprint Melbourne: Roadmap for a resilient and sustainable Melbourne Foodbowl. The report indicates that the Port Phillip and Western Port region has the capacity to meet around 40 percent of its food needs and over 80 percent of its fresh vegetable needs alone.

However, Melbourne's population is growing significantly and is impacting on the region's ability to continue to produce fresh food. More than twice the amount of growth is occurring along urban fringes where agriculture production is located, rather than in established areas. If this trend continues, by 2066 the region's food production could fall to 18 percent, potentially leading to higher food costs due to the need for importing from other areas of Victoria, Australia or other countries.

From a broad perspective, the PPWCMA is concerned that the health and resilience of the land and landscapes in the region is declining. The PPWCMA is particularly concerned regarding the ongoing pressure for the loss of productive agricultural land to urban uses.



This table shows the percentage of exposed soil in the Port Phillip and Western Port region between 2003 and 2019 based on Australia's Environment Explorer data.

## COASTS

The 600 kilometres of coastline in the Port Phillip and Western Port region contain diverse habitats and values that are heavily visited and utilised. Much of the coast has been and continues to be impacted by urban development, coastal settlement, high levels of recreational use and invasive species.

The amount and quality of native vegetation, as indicators of the environmental value of the coastal zone, is summarised in the table below.

From a broad perspective, the PPWCMA is concerned that the overall environmental condition of coasts in the region is reducing. However, the Marine and Coastal Act 2018 is now in place and policy, strategy and implementation work is under way to provide a strong framework for future protection and management of coasts. There are also many organisations that actively contribute to the health of the coasts, including:

- The PPWCMA's Ramsar Protection Program directing funds from the Australian Government and Victorian Government to priority works being undertaken by Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, local councils, community groups and others to control weeds, feral cats and foxes, protect native vegetation and raise community awareness of the values of coastal wetlands

- The management of coastal areas by many community-based foreshore committees through weed management, fencing, erosion management and revegetation
- A Coastal Assets Protection Program, led by DELWP, to identify built assets at risk from climate change impacts
- A Port Phillip Bay Hazard Assessment, also led by DELWP, to assess the extent of three key coastal hazards - inundation, coastal erosion and groundwater change - under several climate change scenarios
- Ongoing work of the Association of Bayside Municipalities to coordinate coastal council projects, policy, planning and advocacy.

COASTAL ZONE	APPROX. LENGTH (KM)	AVERAGE WIDTH (M)	APPROX. AREA (HA)	AREA OF NATIVE VEGETATION (HA)	PROPORTION OF ZONE WITH NATIVE VEGETATION (%)
Phillip Island ocean	42.3	258	1,091	922	85
Phillip Island bay	36.9	120	443	52	12
French Island south	23.6	342	807	693	86
French Island north	40.4	349	1,411	1,293	92
Western Port east	55.3	141	778	556	71
Western Port north	40.4	451	1,821	1,338	73
Hastings	22.9	460	1,053	662	63
Sandy Pt to Flinders	33.1	435	1,440	1,121	78
Flinders to Pt Nepean	45.5	451	2,050	1,782	87
Port Phillip Bay eastern beaches	115.5	83	959	440	46
Port Phillip Bay north western shoreline	60.1	446	2,681	1,505	56
Geelong	22.6	54	121	33	27
Corio Bay south	35.1	100	351	210	60
Swan Bay	36.2	931	3,369	725	22
Queenscliffe	7.1	106	75	52	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>18,454</b>	<b>11,384</b>	<b>62</b>

This table summarises the key geographical features of Port Phillip and Western Port region's 15 coastal zones.

## PORT PHILLIP BAY AND WESTERN PORT

Port Phillip Bay and Western Port are priority environmental, social and economic assets. Risks to their condition include climate change, increased recreational use, litter, nutrients, sediment and pollutant loads and extreme weather events such as storms and peak rainfall events which transport large volumes of sediments, nutrients and pollutants from rivers and drains into the bays over short periods of time.

As reported in the EPA's Water Quality Report Card 2018-19 (epa.vic.gov.au/about-epa/publications/1857), overall, water quality was 'Good' in Western Port and Port Phillip Bay for 2018-19.

EPA has two monitoring locations in Western Port - Hastings and Corinella. The Hastings monitoring site showed 'Good' water quality. This area is regularly flushed and mixed with water from Bass Strait. Corinella monitoring site was 'Fair' due to high levels of sediment pollution. The high levels of suspended sediment are caused by a combination of high coastal erosion in the north-east of the bay, deposition of fine sediments sourced from the catchment, and resuspension of sediment within Western Port.

EPA has six monitoring locations in Port Phillip Bay. Dromana and the Central Bay area, including Patterson River, had 'Very Good' water quality. Corio Bay, Long Reef and Hobsons Bay had 'Good' water quality but were influenced by river flows, run-off and stormwater that carry pollutants, such as nutrients, sediments and metals. Even though the rivers and streams entering Port Phillip Bay introduce water of poor quality, the bay has a strong capacity to clean itself and maintain good water quality.

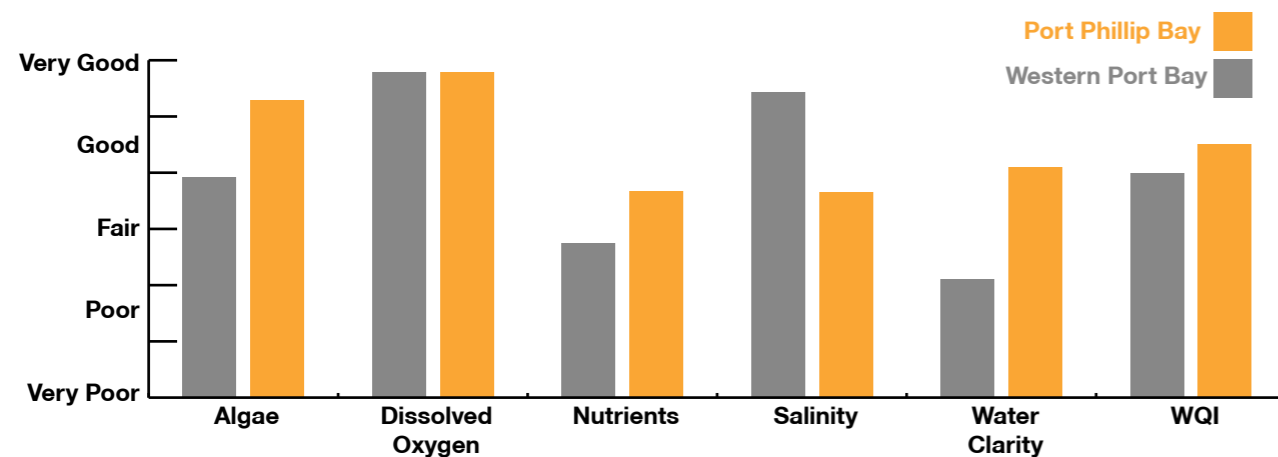
	PORT PHILLIP BAY	WESTERN PORT
Coastline	333 km	295 km
Total area	1,930 km <sup>2</sup>	680 km <sup>2</sup>
Average depth	13 m	3 m
Greatest depth	24 m	6 m
Catchment area	9,790 km <sup>2</sup>	3,721 km <sup>2</sup>
Catchment population	4.5 million people	45,000 people

This table summarises the key geographical features of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port.

The PPWCMA is of the view that the condition of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port is generally improving, and that continued improvement is likely into the future.

Many government organisations and communities have contributed to understanding and improving the health of the bays, including:

- Councils conducting a range of litter management programs and community stakeholders around the bay active in beach cleaning programs, such as Beach Patrol
- EPA Victoria's Beach Report Program providing daily recreational water quality forecasts for swimmer safety and conducting weekly microbial (e-coli) monitoring for 36 popular swimming spots. This reporting occurs throughout summer and begins on 1 December each year.
- DELWP continuing to support the implementation and delivery of priority actions of the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017-27
- Programs such as Coastcare and EstuaryWatch continuing to provide important data for monitoring Port Phillip Bay and Western Port.



This table shows the EPA's WQI scores for Port Phillip Bay and Western Port in 2018-19.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP

Many agencies, organisations, groups and community sectors engage with community sectors to improve the community's connection with nature and to build a stewardship ethos.

Landcare groups and networks represent 75.1 percent of all private rural land in the region. At the end of 2018-19, there were 88 Landcare groups and 13 Landcare networks, as well as an estimated 490 Friends of and other community environmental groups directly caring for the region's environment.

The Port Phillip and Western Port Landcare Report Card 2018-19 indicated that volunteers associated with these groups contributed over \$4.4 million value in volunteer time to stewardship and protection of natural resources.

They also attracted over \$7 million in additional funding for Landcare and provided significant additional benefits by educating the broader community, fostering resilient communities and engaging the youth of today to be the environmental leaders of tomorrow. For more information see ppwcma.vic.gov.au/landcare.

At a wider community level, there is a surge in community participation in various citizen science, education and local environmental restoration programs

From a broad perspective, the PPWCMA is of the view that the participation and stewardship by the region's natural resource management community is generally strong and improving, and that continued improvement is likely into the future.

## SNAPSHOT OF LANDCARE IN THE PORT PHILLIP AND WESTERN PORT REGION

**5,500+** members  
(55 per group/network)

**13,700** non-members participating in Landcare events

**13%** increase in members in 2018-19

**\$1.3 million** in additional funding received through Victorian and Australian government grants and other sources

**5,000+** hectares of revegetation, weed control and protecting remnant vegetation

**130,000+** hours of volunteer work (on-ground, training, administration and promotion)

Figures based on reported data from 61 groups/networks in the 2018-19 Landcare Group Health Survey and estimated figures (based on reported data) for other 40 groups/networks. Data from the 2019-20 Landcare Group Health was still being assessed at the time of this document's publication.

## 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 or 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 2019-20

The PPWCMA directed funds from the Victorian Government, Australian Government and other sources to numerous priority projects across the region in 2019-20. Some of the outputs collectively achieved with these funds are highlighted below.

<b>264</b> hectares of new vegetation established	<b>4,428</b> hectares treated to manage weeds	<b>73,405</b> hectares treated to manage pest animals	<b>1.5</b> kilometres of new fencing installed	<b>8</b> interpretive signs and displays installed
<b>8,031</b> participants at engagement events	<b>29</b> agreements developed or maintained	<b>98</b> partnerships developed or maintained	<b>37</b> plans developed or maintained	<b>657</b> publications produced and distributed
<b>Including:</b>	<b>Including:</b>	<b>Including:</b>	<b>Including:</b>	<b>Including:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300 at the Grow West community planting day</li> <li>• 323 attendees at 35 PPWCMA committee meetings</li> <li>• 65 people at the Helmeted Honeyeater and lowland Leadbeater's Possum Habitat Restoration Forum</li> <li>• 250 people at three native pollinator forums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 landholder agreements for the Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink project</li> <li>• 1 conservation covenant as part of the Protecting and Connecting Species on the Mornington Peninsula Project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A catchment partnership agreement with 17 organisations</li> <li>• 32 Regional Catchment Strategy partners</li> <li>• 3 partnership agreements with Registered Aboriginal Parties</li> <li>• 6 partnership agreements with Landcare network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy</li> <li>• PPWCMA Indigenous Participation Plan</li> <li>• French Island Community Engagement and Feral Cat Eradication Plan</li> <li>• 25 farm management plans through the Smart Farming for Western Port Project</li> <li>• 2 habitat restoration plans through The Great HeHo Escape project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 273 posts across 4 Facebook pages with a reach of 466,038</li> <li>• 26 newsletters and e-newsletters with a reach of 26,888</li> <li>• 14 reports</li> </ul>

# 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 2019-20 were the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water 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.

# 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

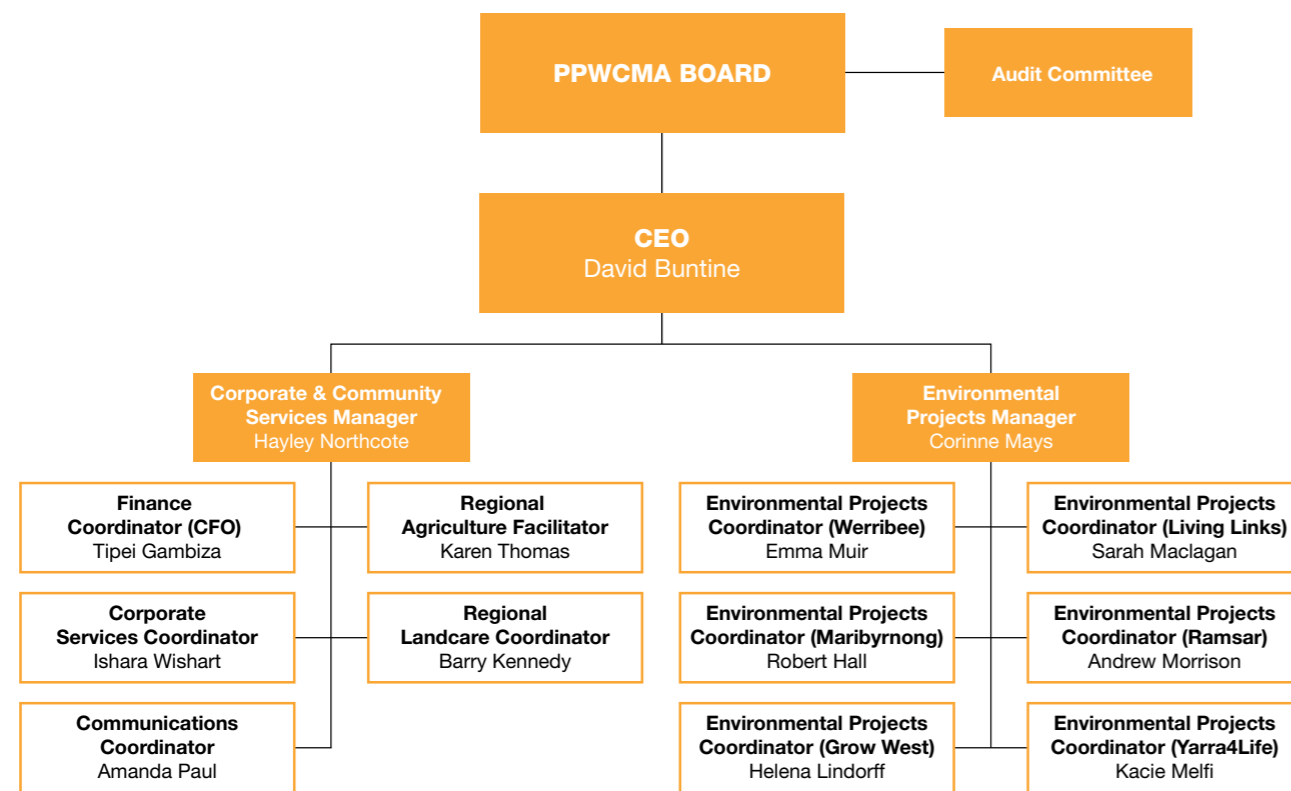


# Organisational STRUCTURE

At the end of 2019-20, the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA employed a total of 14 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 2019-20. 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 2019-20, the Board reported to the Hon. Lisa Neville MP, 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 29 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 Executive, CFO Business and Private Bank at National Australia Bank Limited and Director of BPAY Pty Ltd.

Tania was a Board member from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020 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 2019 to 30th June 2020 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 2019 to 30th June 2020 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 2019 until 30th June 2020 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 2019 to 30th June 2020 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 2019 to 30th June 2020 and served as a member of the Community Grants Regional Assessment Panel, 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 also a Board Director with Western Water and is a member of their Audit and Risk Committee and Strategic Futures Committee.

Les was a Board member from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020 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 2019 until 30th June 2020 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 currently operates a consulting business, is a sessional member of Planning Panels Victoria, and a non-executive director of a conservation organisation.

Nicola was a Board member from 1st October 2019 until 30th June 2020 and served as a member of the Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee.



### Moragh Mackay

Moragh served as a Board member from 1st July 2019 until 30th September 2019. Moragh is a facilitator of social learning and brings people together to plan purposeful action towards environmental sustainability.



### Virginia Wallace

Virginia served as a Board member from 1st July 2019 until 30th September 2019. Virginia holds qualifications in Law and Arts and has practiced as a lawyer, working across both corporate and government operations.

## BOARD GENDER BALANCE DATA

The gender balance of the PPWCMA Board as at 30th June 2020 and compared to the same date in 2019, is outlined in the following table.

Board members	2019-20	2018-19
Male	4	3
Female	5	6
Total	9	9

## BOARD MEETINGS

Six PPWCMA Board meetings were held during 2019-20. The attendance of Board members at the meetings is outlined in the following table.

Board member	No. of meetings attended
Tania Foster (Chair)	5/6
Susan Anderson (Deputy Chair)	5/6
Allan Bawden	5/6
Sandra Brizga	5/6
Neville Goodwin	6/6
Olivia Lineham	6/6
Moragh Mackay <sup>2</sup>	0/1
Lawrence Moser <sup>1</sup>	4/5
Les McLean	6/6
Virginia Wallace <sup>2</sup>	1/1
Nicola Ward <sup>1</sup>	4/5

<sup>1</sup> Appointed to the Board on 1st October 2019

<sup>2</sup> Ceased to be a Board member on 30th September 2019

## BOARD COMMITTEES

A number of committees, established by the Board, made important contributions to the governance and compliance of the PPWCMA in 2019-20. 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 2019-20. The items addressed by the Committee included development of the CEO Work Performance Plan, mid-year and end-year 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	1/2
Neville Goodwin	2/2
Olivia Lineham	2/2

### Audit committee

The Audit Committee met on five occasions in 2019-20. 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	4/5	Yes
Sandra Brizga	4/5	Yes
Lawrence Moser <sup>5</sup>	2/2	Yes
Virginia Wallace <sup>6</sup>	2/2	Yes

<sup>5</sup> Appointed to the Board and Committee on 1st October 2019

<sup>6</sup> Ceased to be a Board and Committee member on 30th September 2019



### Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee

The Regional Catchment Strategy Steering Committee met four times in 2019-20. The committee's major focus was the ongoing coordination of the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and preparation for the upcoming renewal of the strategy. 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)	4/4
Susan Anderson	4/4
Neville Goodwin	3/4
Moragh Mackay <sup>8</sup>	1/1
Nicola Ward <sup>7</sup>	3/3

<sup>7</sup> Appointed to the Board and Committee on 1st October 2019

<sup>8</sup> Ceased to be a Board and Committee member on 30th September 2019

### Community Grants Assessment Panel

The Community Grants Assessment Panel met two times in 2019-20 to assess the applications submitted for the PPWCMA Community Grants. Olivia Lineham was the Board member on the panel and attended both of these meetings.

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The PPWCMA Board (Lawrence Moser not pictured).

# 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 2020 in the following structure to provide users with the information about the Authority's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

## 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 and contributions
- 2.3 Australian Government grants and contributions
- 2.4 Government grants and contributions
- 2.5 Other contributions
- 2.6 Interest
- 2.7 Other income

### 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

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

### 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 Economic Dependency
- 8.8 Change in accounting policies
- 8.9 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 2020 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2020.

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 23rd September 2020.



### 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)



## 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 2020</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 2020 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 2020. 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>

**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  
28 September 2020



Paul Martin  
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

## COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Victorian Government grants and contributions	2.2	3,557,610	2,399,836
Australian Government grants and contributions	2.3	1,439,270	1,605,410
Other contributions	2.5	669,199	533,879
Interest	2.6	30,746	54,229
Other income		9	18,921
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>5,696,834</b>	<b>4,612,275</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Grants expenses	3.2	1,866,357	1,802,799
Employee benefit expenses	3.3	1,620,777	1,813,758
Supplies and services	3.4	1,685,961	1,699,339
Depreciation	4.2	79,926	6,695
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>5,253,021</b>	<b>5,322,591</b>
<b>Net result for the year</b>		<b>443,813</b>	<b>(710,316)</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE RESULT FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>443,813</b>	<b>(710,316)</b>

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

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6.2	2,857,053	3,074,323
Receivables	5.1	1,013,145	417,304
Prepayments		9,668	2,233
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>3,879,866</b>	<b>3,493,860</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Buildings plant and equipment	4.3	101,095	13,443
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>101,095</b>	<b>13,443</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,980,961</b>	<b>3,507,303</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	5.2	302,484	383,844
Lease liability	6.1	53,105	-
Employee related provisions	3.3.2	452,772	430,389
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>808,361</b>	<b>814,233</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease liability	6.1	44,569	-
Employee related provisions	3.3.2	6,195	15,047
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>50,764</b>	<b>15,047</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>859,125</b>	<b>829,280</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>3,121,836</b>	<b>2,678,023</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		1,085,213	903,061
Committed funds reserve	6.4	2,036,623	1,774,962
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>3,121,836</b>	<b>2,678,023</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 2020

	Committed Funds Reserve \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2018</b>	<b>2,413,150</b>	<b>975,189</b>	<b>3,388,339</b>
Transfer (from)/to accumulated surplus	(638,188)	638,188	-
Total comprehensive result for the year	-	(710,316)	(710,316)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2019</b>	<b>1,774,962</b>	<b>903,061</b>	<b>2,678,023</b>
<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>

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

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Government grants and other contributions		5,351,921	4,260,045
Interest received		29,905	53,177
Other contributions		9	18,921
Net GST refunds received from ATO		107,551	-
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>5,489,386</b>	<b>4,332,143</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Employee benefit expenses		(1,594,381)	(1,773,555)
Grants expenses		(1,866,357)	(1,802,799)
Suppliers and services payments		(2,176,013)	(1,482,006)
Net GST Payments made to ATO		-	(106,842)
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>(5,636,751)</b>	<b>(5,165,202)</b>
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	6.2.1	<b>(147,365)</b>	<b>(833,059)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Repayment of lease liabilities		(69,905)	-
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<b>(69,905)</b>	<b>-</b>
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(217,270)	(833,059)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		3,074,323	3,907,382
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	6.2	<b>2,857,053</b>	<b>3,074,323</b>

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

## 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  
Level 1, Landmark Corporate Centre  
454 - 472 Nepean Highway  
Frankston, 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

On 30 January 2020, coronavirus (COVID 19) was declared as a global pandemic by World Health Organisation. Since then, various measures are taken by all three levels of government in Australia to reduce the spread of COVID-19. The impact of COVID-19 in the community is ongoing.

However, apart from PPWCMA staff being required to work from home, the 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.

### 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 AAS 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.

## 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
- 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.

Contributions 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 contributions 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 revenue as income of not-for-profit entities where they 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 is 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 and contributions
- 2.3 Australian Government grants and contributions
- 2.4 Government grants and contributions
- 2.5 Other contributions
- 2.6 Interest
- 2.7 Other income

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

		2020 \$	2019 \$
Victorian Government grants and contributions	2.2	3,557,610	2,399,836
Australian Government grants and contributions	2.3	1,439,270	1,605,410
Other contributions	2.4	669,199	533,879
Interest	2.5	30,746	54,229
Other income		9	18,921
		<b>5,696,834</b>	<b>4,612,275</b>

From 1 July 2019, the Authority recognises income in line with AASB 15 and AASB 1058. The implementation of these new accounting policies has not resulted in any significant changes in the recognition of income for the 2020 financial year.

Refer to note 8.8 for further information regarding changes in accounting policies.



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

### 2.2 Victorian Government grants and contributions

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning	3,557,610	2,399,836
	<b>3,557,610</b>	<b>2,399,836</b>

The Authority has determined that all Victorian government grants and contributions are recognised as revenue upon receipt, in accordance with AASB 1058 Income for not-for-profit entities.

### 2.3 Australian Government grants and contributions

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Regional Land Partnerships Program	1,439,270	1,605,410
	<b>1,439,270</b>	<b>1,605,410</b>

Australian Government grants and 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.

### Previous accounting policy for 30 June 2019

Government grants and contributions income arises from transactions in which a party provides goods or services to the Authority without receiving approximately equal value in return. While grants may result in the provision of some goods or services to the transferring party, they do not provide a claim to receive benefits directly of approximately equal value (and are termed 'non-reciprocal' transfers). Receipt and sacrifice of approximately equal value may occur, but only by coincidence.

Some grants are reciprocal in nature (i.e. equal value is given back by the recipient of the grant to the provider). The Authority recognises income when it has satisfied its performance obligations under the terms of the grant.

For non-reciprocal grants, the Authority recognises revenue when the grant is received.

Grants can be received as general-purpose grants, which refers to grants which are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be received as specific-purpose grants, which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

### 2.4 Other contributions

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Local government and agencies	233,600	234,023
Corporate sponsorship	8,636	3,000
Partner contributions	408,423	296,856
Landholder contributions	18,540	-
	<b>669,199</b>	<b>533,879</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.

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

### 2.5 Interest

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Interest income	30,746	54,229
	<b>30,746</b>	<b>54,229</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

### 3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Grants expenses	3.2	1,866,357	1,802,799
Employee benefit expenses	3.3	1,620,777	1,813,758
Supplies and services	3.4	1,685,961	1,699,339
		<b>5,173,095</b>	<b>5,315,896</b>

### 3.2 Grant payments

	2020 \$	2019 \$
General purpose grants	1,866,357	1,802,799
	<b>1,866,357</b>	<b>1,802,799</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.

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

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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Salaries and wages	1,220,956	1,326,484
Annual leave	118,936	118,670
Long service leave	38,770	60,515
Employer superannuation contributions	130,505	125,085
Other employee expenses	111,610	183,004
	<b>1,620,777</b>	<b>1,813,758</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 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).

##### 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 for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

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

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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>CURRENT PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		
<b>Annual leave</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	70,819	72,990
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	1,381	2,674
<b>Long service leave</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	40,655	29,781
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	276,264	260,388
<b>Time in lieu</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	4,714	8,605
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	16,441	15,938
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	42,498	40,013
<b>Total current provisions</b>	<b>452,772</b>	<b>430,389</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS</b>		
Employee benefits	5,372	13,059
On-costs	823	1,988
<b>Total non-current provisions</b>	<b>6,195</b>	<b>15,047</b>
<b>TOTAL PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AND ON-COSTS</b>	<b>458,967</b>	<b>445,436</b>

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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>57,939</b>	<b>60,949</b>
Net additional provisions recognised	1,823	-
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefits	-	(3,010)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>59,762</b>	<b>57,939</b>

### 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	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Defined benefit plans</b>				
Emergency Services & State Super	13,589	13,323	1,700	1,111
<b>Defined contribution plans</b>				
VicSuper Pty. Ltd.	40,378	36,085	5,079	7,589
Vision Super	11,010	13,010	592	835
Equipsuper	10,147	10,739	1,234	892
Australian Ethical Super	11,405	9,694	2,113	969
HOST Plus	9,132	8,960	1,125	731
Rest Superannuation	4,775	4,599	-	605
Uni Super	7,176	4,305	869	585
IOOF Portfolio Service	863	2,432	115	94
Future Super	1,588	2,104	126	210
Plum Super Fund	2,134	1,935	199	174
Allan Bawden Super Fund	1,325	1,084	126	87
Australian Super	1,289	1,066	126	87
Others	1,144	1,671	1,145	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>115,955</b>	<b>111,007</b>	<b>14,549</b>	<b>14,078</b>

#### 3.4 Supplies and services

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
Administration expenses	282,969	268,493
Operational expenses:		
Contractors	837,477	711,480
Consultants	244,640	240,432
Plants and planting equipment	66,238	115,039
Motor vehicle expenses	24,027	111,314
Occupancy expenses	35,696	252,581
Short-term lease expenses	168,766	-
Low-value asset expenses	26,148	-
	<b>1,685,961</b>	<b>1,699,339</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

Operating lease payments up until 30 June 2019 are recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term, except where another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern of the benefits derived from the use of the leased asset.

From 1 July 2019, 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 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 4.5 and 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	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Computers and accessories at fair value	56,019	56,019	(52,088)	(47,770)	3,931	8,249
Furniture and equipment at fair value	44,640	44,640	(41,604)	(39,446)	3,036	5,194
<sup>(a)</sup> Vehicles	135,615	-	(50,888)	-	84,727	-
<sup>(a)</sup> Office buildings	31,964	-	(22,563)	-	9,401	-
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>268,238</b>	<b>100,659</b>	<b>(167,143)</b>	<b>(87,216)</b>	<b>101,095</b>	<b>13,443</b>

Note:

<sup>(a)</sup> AASB 16 Leases has been applied for the first time from 1 July 2019.

The following table is a subset of buildings plant and equipment by right-of-use assets.

#### 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.

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

Items with a cost or value more than \$1,000 (2019: \$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.

#### 4.1.1 Right-of-use assets

	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation	Net carrying amount
	2020	2020	2020
	\$	\$	\$
Vehicles	135,615	(50,888)	84,727
Office buildings	31,964	(22,563)	9,401
<b>Total</b>	<b>167,579</b>	<b>(73,451)</b>	<b>94,128</b>

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

**4.2 Depreciation**

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Furniture and equipment	2,158	2,377
Computers and accessories	4,317	4,318
<sup>(a)</sup> Vehicles	50,888	-
<sup>(a)</sup> Office buildings	22,563	-
	<b>79,926</b>	<b>6,695</b>

Note:

<sup>(a)</sup> The table incorporates depreciation of right-of-use assets as AASB 16 Leases have been applied for the first time from 1 July 2019.

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	
	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Nature-based classification:</b>		
<b>buildings plant and equipment at fair value</b>		
Furniture and equipment	3,931	5,194
Computers and accessories	3,036	8,248
Vehicles	84,727	-
Office buildings	9,401	-
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>101,095</b>	<b>13,443</b>

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

**4.4 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amounts of buildings plant and equipment**

	Computers and Accessories		Furniture and Equipment		Vehicles		Office buildings		Total	
	2020 \$	2019 \$	2020 \$	2019 \$	2020 \$	2019 \$	2020 \$	2019 \$	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>8,248</b>	<b>12,566</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>7,572</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>13,443</b>	<b>20,138</b>
<sup>(a)</sup> Recognition of right-of-use assets	-	-	-	-	101,900	-	31,964	-	133,864	-
<b>Adjusted balance at 1 July 2019</b>	<b>8,248</b>	<b>12,566</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>7,572</b>	<b>101,900</b>	-	<b>31,964</b>	-	<b>147,307</b>	<b>20,138</b>
Additions	-	-	-	-	33,715	-	-	-	33,715	-
<b>Disposals</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Depreciation</b>	<b>(4,317)</b>	<b>(4,318)</b>	<b>(2,158)</b>	<b>(2,377)</b>	<b>(50,888)</b>	-	<b>(22,562)</b>	-	<b>(79,926)</b>	<b>(6,695)</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>3,931</b>	<b>8,248</b>	<b>3,036</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>84,727</b>	-	<b>9,402</b>	-	<b>101,095</b>	<b>13,443</b>

Note:

<sup>(a)</sup> This balance represents the initial recognition of right-of-use assets recorded on the balance sheet on 1 July 2019 relating to operating leases on initial application of AASB 16.

**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

## NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - CONTINUED

### 5.1 Receivables

	2020 \$	2018 \$
<b>Contractual</b>		
Trade receivables	1,005,803	399,353
Security deposits	6,500	6,500
Accrued interest	842	1,052
<b>Statutory</b>		
GST input tax receivable	-	10,399
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>1,013,145</b>	<b>417,304</b>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current receivables	1,013,145	417,304
Non-current receivables	-	-

**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 2020, the Authority did not have trade receivables past due (2019: 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.

## NOTE 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES - CONTINUED

### 5.2 Payables

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Current contractual</b>		
Trade creditors	53,710	259,047
Accrued expenses	129,695	85,405
<b>Current statutory</b>		
GST payable	61,471	-
PAYG withheld	37,838	25,314
Superannuation	19,770	14,078
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>302,484</b>	<b>383,844</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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Lease Liability</b>		
Current lease liability	53,105	-
Non current lease liability	44,569	-
<b>Total lease liability</b>	<b>97,674</b>	<b>-</b>



## NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

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. A corresponding right-of-use asset has been taken up as at 1 July 2019, as reflected in note 4.1.1.

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.

Refer to note 8.8 for further information of the impact of changes in accounting policies.

### 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.

At 30 June 2020, 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:

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

### 6.1.1 Amounts recognised in the comprehensive operating statement

The following amounts are recognised in the comprehensive operating statement relating to leases:

	2020 \$
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	73,451
Interest expense on lease liabilities	5,353
Expenses relating to short term leases	168,766
Expenses relating to leases of low-value assets	26,148
<b>Total amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement</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 2020 relating to leases.

	2020 \$
Total cash outflow for leases	281,466

## NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

### 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
- 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.

### 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.

### Recognition and measurement of leases (under AASB 117 until 30 June 2019)

In the comparative period, leases of buildings plant and equipment were classified as operating leases.

The Authority determined whether an arrangement was or contained a lease based on the substance of the arrangement and required an assessment of whether fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of the specific asset(s); and the arrangement conveyed a right to use the asset(s).

Leases of buildings plant and equipment where the Authority as a lessee had substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership were classified as finance leases. Finance leases were initially recognised as assets and liabilities at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payment, each determined at the inception of the lease. The leased asset is accounted for as a non-financial physical asset and depreciated over the shorter of the estimated useful life of the asset or the term of the lease. Minimum finance lease payments were apportioned between the reduction of the outstanding lease liability and the periodic finance expense, which is calculated using the interest rate implicit in the lease and charged directly to the comprehensive operating statement.

Contingent rentals associated with finance leases were recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Assets held under other leases were classified as operating leases and were not recognised in the Authority's balance sheet. Operating lease payments were recognised as an operating expense in the of Comprehensive operating statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

### 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.

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash on hand	600	600
Cash at bank	551,004	705,356
Cash at call	2,305,449	2,368,367
<b>(a) Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,857,053</b>	<b>3,074,323</b>

Note:

(a) \$2,036,623 of \$2,857,053 cash and cash equivalents held at balance date are committed to specific projects for which funding has been provided to the Authority (2019: \$1,774,962 of \$3,074,323) - 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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Net result for the reporting period</b>	<b>443,813</b>	<b>(710,316)</b>
Depreciation	79,926	6,695
<b>Changes in assets and liabilities</b>		
(Increase) in Receivables	(595,841)	(280,131)
(Increase)/Decrease in Prepayments	(7,435)	18,022
(Decrease)/Increase in Payables	(81,360)	153,518
Increase/(Decrease) in Employee related provisions	13,532	(20,847)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(147,365)</b>	<b>(833,059)</b>

### 6.2.2 Financing arrangements

The Authority has no overdraft or other financing facilities (2019: 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 2020, the Authority had no commitments for future expenditure (30 June 2019: Nil).

### 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 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 Government and Australian Government 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.

## NOTE 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS - CONTINUED

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:

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Committed funds	2,036,623	1,774,962
Total cash funds	2,857,053	3,074,323

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

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

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

The Authority recognises the following assets in this category:

- (a) cash and deposits; and
- (b) receivables (excluding statutory receivables).

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### 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

	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Total
2020	\$	\$	\$	\$
<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	-	-	129,695	129,695
Trade payables	-	-	251,079	251,079
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 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost	Financial liabilities at amortised cost	Total
2019	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	3,074,323	-	-	3,074,323
Trade receivables	-	399,353	-	399,353
Security deposits	6,500	-	-	6,500
Accrued interest	-	1,052	-	1,052
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>3,080,823</b>	<b>400,405</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,481,228</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
Trade payables	-	-	259,047	259,047
Trade payables	-	-	259,047	259,047
<b>Accrued expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>85,405</b>	<b>85,405</b>
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>344,452</b>	<b>344,452</b>

The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts.

### 7.1.8 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.

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.

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.



## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

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 2020.

### Credit quality of financial assets

	Financial institutions (triple-A credit rating)	Government agencies (triple-A credit rating)	Other	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<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>
<b>2019</b>				
Cash and deposits	3,073,723	-	600	3,074,323
Receivables	-	-	399,353	399,353
Security deposits	5,000	1,500	-	6,500
Accrued interest	1,052	-	-	1,052
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>3,079,775</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>399,953</b>	<b>3,481,228</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 forwardlooking 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.

### 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.

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

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's exposure to liquidity risk is equal to its total financial liabilities.

### 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

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.

	Weighted average interest rate	Carrying amount	Fixed interest rate	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing
2020	(%)	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.25	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		178,405	-	-	178,405
Amounts payable to government and agencies		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 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED**

2019	Weighted average interest rate (%)	Carrying amount \$	Fixed interest rate \$	Variable interest rate \$	Non-interest bearing \$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1.5	3,074,323	-	3,073,723	600
Receivables	-	406,905	-	-	406,905
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>3,481,228</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,073,723</b>	<b>407,505</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
<sup>(a)</sup> Payables					
Supplies and services	-	344,452	-	-	344,452
Lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>344,452</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>344,452</b>

Note:

<sup>(a)</sup> The carrying amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts

**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% in interest rates is reasonable over the next 12 months.

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	9,767	-	(9,767)	-
<b>Total impact</b>		<b>(18,804)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,804</b>	<b>-</b>

2019	Carrying amounts \$	Net results \$	Fair value-revaluation reserve \$	Net results \$	Fair value-revaluation reserve \$
<b>Financial assets</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	3,074,323	(30,737)	-	30,737	-
Receivables	406,905	-	-	-	-
<b>Financial liabilities</b>					
Payables	344,453	-	-	-	-
<b>Total impact</b>		<b>(30,737)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>30,737</b>	<b>-</b>

**NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED**

**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.
- 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.

**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 ValuerGeneral 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.

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### 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 2020-21 reporting period. These financial instruments include the following.

Financial assets	Financial liabilities
Cash and cash equivalents	Payables
Receivables:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	

### Fair value measurement hierarchy for assets as at:

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

30 June 2019	Carrying amount as at 30 June 2019 \$	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	8,248	-	-	8,248
Computers and accessories at fair value	5,194	-	-	5,194
Vehicles at fair value	6,500	-	-	6,500
Office buildings at fair value	-	-	-	842

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.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2020. For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

## NOTE 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS - CONTINUED

### Reconciliation of level 3 fair value

2020	Furniture and equipment \$	Computers and accessories \$	Vehicles \$	Office buildings \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>5,195</b>	<b>8,248</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>3,037</b>	<b>3,931</b>	<b>84,727</b>	<b>9,401</b>

2019	Furniture and equipment \$	Computers and accessories \$	Vehicles \$	Office buildings \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>7,571</b>	<b>12,566</b>	-	-
Depreciation	(2,377)	(4,318)	-	-
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>5,194</b>	<b>8,248</b>	-	-

### Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Computers and accessories	Depreciated cost	Cost per unit Useful life of buildings plant and equipment
Furniture and equipment	Depreciated cost	Cost per unit Useful life of buildings plant and equipment
Vehicles	Depreciated cost	Cost per unit Useful life of buildings plant and equipment
Office buildings	Depreciated cost	Cost per unit Useful life of buildings plant and equipment

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2019.

### 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 2020 the Authority had no contingent liabilities and contingent assets (2019: nil).



## 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 Economic Dependency
- 8.8 Change in accounting policies
- 8.9 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 2020 (2019 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.

#### 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 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio</b>	(Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Tania Foster</b>	(Chair)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Neville Goodwin</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Susan Anderson</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Virginia Wallace</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Sep 2019
<b>Allan Bawden</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Moragh Mackay</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Sep 2019
<b>Sandra Brizga</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Olivia Lineham</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Leslie McLean</b>	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Lawrence Moser</b>	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Nicola Ward</b>	(Board Member)	01 Oct 2019 to 30 Jun 2020
<b>David Buntine</b>	(CEO)	01 Jul 2019 to 30 Jun 2020

## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

### 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	2020	2019
\$0-\$9,999	2	-
\$10,000-\$19,999	7	8
\$20,000-\$29,999	2	1
\$210,000-\$219,999	1	1
<b>Total number of responsible persons</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total remuneration \$</b>	<b>380,104</b>	<b>371,771</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.

### 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	2020 \$	2019 \$
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	3,613,437	2,419,836
Melbourne Water	208,521	61,410
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	25,000	25,000

Funding received from government-related entities included grants to the Authority for environmental projects work, and to support its corporate functions.

## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

### Payments made

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

Entity	2020 \$	2019 \$
Parks Victoria	325,280	467,760
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	128,000	-
North East Catchment Management Authority	110,000	-
Greater Dandenong Council	92,302	62,145

Payments were made to government-related entities to fund environmental project work.

	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>Receivables</b>		
Department of the Environment & Energy	778,004	357,003
Melbourne Water	181,500	-

#### 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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Short-term employee benefits	346,142	317,829
Post-employment benefits	28,931	25,803
Other long-term benefits	5,031	28,139
<b>Total</b>	<b>380,104</b>	<b>371,771</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.

#### 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.

## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

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

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Amounts paid or payable to the Victorian Auditor General's Office for the audit of the Authority's financial statements	14,200	13,800

### 8.6 Subsequent events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Authority, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Authority in future financial years.

### 8.7 Economic dependency

The PPWCMA is dependent on the Victorian Government, through the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning for a significant volume of its operating revenue. At the date of this report, the Board has no reason to believe the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning would not continue to support the PPWCMA.

### 8.8 Change in accounting policies

#### 8.8.1 Leases

This note explains the impact of the adoption of AASB 16 Leases on the Authority's financial statements.

The Authority has applied AASB 16 with a date of initial application of 1 July 2019.

The Authority has elected to apply AASB 16 using the modified retrospective approach, as per the transitional provisions of AASB 16 for all leases for which it is a lessee. The cumulative effect of initial application is recognised in accumulated surplus as at 1 July 2019. Accordingly, the comparative information presented is not restated and is reported under AASB 117 and related interpretations.

Previously, the Authority determined at contract inception whether an arrangement is or contains a lease under AASB 117 and Interpretation 4 Determining whether an arrangement contains a Lease. Under AASB 16, the Authority assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease based on the definition of a lease as explained in note 6.1.

On transition to AASB 16, the Authority has elected to apply the practical expedient to grandfather the assessment of which transactions are leases. It applied AASB 16 only to contracts that were previously identified as leases. Contracts that were not identified as leases under AASB 117 and Interpretation 4 were not reassessed for whether there is a lease. Therefore, the definition of a lease under AASB 16 was applied to contracts entered into or changed on or after 1 July 2019.

#### Leases classified as operating leases under AASB 117

As a lessee, the Authority previously classified leases as operating or finance leases based on its assessment of whether the lease transferred significantly all of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the underlying asset to the Authority. Under AASB 16, the Authority recognises right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for all leases except where exemption is availed in respect of short-term and low-value leases.

On adoption of AASB 16, the Authority recognised lease liabilities in relation to leases which had previously been classified as operating leases under the principles of AASB 117. These liabilities were measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments, discounted using the Authority's incremental borrowing rate as of 1 July 2019. On transition, right-of-use assets are measured at the amount equal to the lease liability, adjusted by the amount of any prepaid or accrued lease payments relating to that lease recognised in the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019.

## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

The Authority has elected to apply the following practical expedients when applying AASB 16 to leases previously classified as operating leases under AASB 117:

- Applied a single discount rate to a portfolio of leases with similar characteristics.
- Adjusted the right-of-use assets by the amount of AASB 137 onerous contracts provision immediately before the date of initial application, as an alternative to an impairment review.
- Applied the exemption not to recognise right-of-use assets and liabilities for leases with less than 12 months of lease term.
- Excluded initial direct costs from measuring the right-of-use asset at the date of initial application; and
- Used hindsight when determining the lease term if the contract contains options to extend or terminate the lease.

The authority has recognised right-of-use assets of \$133,864 at 1 July 2019 for leases previously classified as operating leases.

The weighted average lessee's incremental borrowing rate applied to lease liabilities at 1 July 2019 was 4.5 percent.

	\$
Operating lease commitments at 30 June 2019 financial statements	307,841
Discounted using the incremental borrowing rate at 1 July 2019	281,610
Less:	
Leases for low value assets included in the lease commitments note	(103,473)
Short term leases included in the lease commitments note	(44,273)
<b>Lease liability recognised at 1 July 2019</b>	<b>133,864</b>

### 8.8.2 Revenue from contracts with customers

In accordance with FRD 121 requirements, the Authority has applied the transitional provisions of AASB 15, under modified retrospective method with the cumulative effect of initially applying this standard against the opening accumulated surplus at 1 July 2019. Under this transition method, the Authority applied this standard retrospectively only to contracts that are not 'completed contracts' at the date of initial application.

Comparative information has not been restated. Note 2.4 includes details about the transitional application of AASB 15 and how the standard has been applied to revenue transactions.

The adoption of AASB 15 did not have an impact on Comprehensive Operating Statement and the Cash Flow Statement for the financial year

### 8.8.3 Income of not-for-profit entities

In accordance with FRD 122 requirements, the Authority has applied the transitional provision of AASB 1058, under modified retrospective method with the cumulative effect of initially applying this standard against the opening accumulated surplus at 1 July 2019. Under this transition method, the Authority applied this standard retrospectively only to contracts and transactions that are not completed contracts at the date of initial application. The Authority has not applied the fair value measurement requirements for right-of-use assets arising from leases with significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the entity to further its objectives as allowed under temporary option under AASB 16 and as mandated by FRD 122.

Comparative information has not been restated.

Note 2.4. includes details about the transitional application of AASB 1058 and how the standard has been applied to revenue transactions.

The adoption of AASB 1058 did not have an impact on Comprehensive Operating Statement and the Cash Flow Statement for the financial year.

## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

### Transition impact on financial statements

This note explains the impact of the adoption of the following new accounting standards for the first time, from 1 July 2019:

- AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*,
- AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*, and
- AASB 16 *Leases*.

Impact on balance sheet due to the adoption of AASB 16 is illustrated with the following reconciliation between the restated carrying amounts at 30 June 2019 and the balances reported under the new accounting standards at 1 July 2019:

Balance sheet	Note	Before new accounting standards	Impact of new accounting standard – AASB	After new accounting standards
		Opening 1 July 2019	16	Opening 1 July 2019
		\$	\$	\$
Total Current Assets		3,493,860	-	3,493,860
Buildings plant and equipment	4.4	13,443	133,864	147,307
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>3,507,303</b>	<b>133,864</b>	<b>3,641,167</b>
Payables	5.2	383,844	-	383,844
Lease liability	4.4	-	133,864	133,864
Employee related provisions	<b>3.3.2</b>	445,436	-	445,436
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>829,280</b>	<b>133,864</b>	<b>963,144</b>

The adoption of the new standards AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers*, and AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* did not have an impact on the comprehensive operating statement and balance sheet at 30 June 2019.

### 8.9 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2019-20 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 2018-7 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of Material*

This Standard principally amends AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* and AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*. It applies to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2020 with earlier application permitted. The Authority has not earlier adopted the standard.

The amendments refine and clarify the definition of material in AASB 101 and its application by improving the wording and aligning the definition across AASB Standards and other publications. The amendments also include some supporting requirements in AASB 101 in the definition to give it more prominence and clarify the explanation accompanying the definition of material.

The Authority is in the process of analysing the impacts of this standard. However, it is not anticipated to have a material impact.

- AASB 2020-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or NonCurrent*

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 ED 301 *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-Current – Deferral of Effective Date* with the intention 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.



## NOTE 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES - CONTINUED

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 Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-for-Profit Tier 2 Entities (Appendix C)*
- AASB 2018-6 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Definition of a Business*
- AASB 2019-1 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – References to the Conceptual Framework*
- AASB 2019-3 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Interest Rate Benchmark Reform*
- AASB 2019-5 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of the Effect of New IFRS Standards Not Yet Issued in Australia*
- AASB 2020-2 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Removal of Special Purpose Financial Statements for Certain For-Profit Private Sector Entities*

# Section 5 APPENDICES

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# Disclosure INDEX

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# GRANTS RECIPIENTS

## 2019-20

### VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS 2019-20 – PROJECT GRANTS

Recipient	Project name	Amount
Balcombe Estuary Reserves Group, Mt Martha Inc.	Grassy Woodland and Swamp Scrub Restoration Extension: Mt Martha 2019-20	\$19,981
Bass Coast Landcare Network	Westernport Catchment Custodian Kids: detecting, documenting and protecting the catchment	\$17,052
Bass Valley Landcare Group	Creating, Protecting and Enhancing Swamp Skink and Powerful Owl habitat in the Bass Valley	\$20,000
Cairnlea Conservation Reserves Committee of Management	Restoring the Wildflower Lands	\$19,940
Christmas Hills Landcare Group	Woody Weeds out of Christmas Hills (Stage 9) and Learning about Owls	\$19,390
Friends of Beleura Cliff Path	Removal of Environmental Weeds (mainly Polygala) on Beleura Cliff Path Corridor	\$5,536
Friends of Dandenong Valley Parklands	Bushy Park Wetlands Propagation and Revegetation	\$18,440
Friends of Emu Bottom Wetlands	Emu Bottom Wetlands for the Frogs	\$7,755
Friends of Plenty Gorge	Friends of Plenty Gorge, North East Wetlands Revegetation and Community Engagement Project	\$5,480
Friends of Rye Foreshore	Saving an Ancient Coastal Vegetation Site at Rye	\$6,000
Friends of Steele Creek	Continuing to Protect Wurundjeri Country and Culture Together	\$19,999
Friends of the Melton Botanic Gardens	Creating a Health Resort for Latham's Snipe and our Native Birds	\$9,883
Friends of Werribee Gorge & Long Forest Mallee Inc.	Rocky Chenopod Woodland Recovery Project	\$7,330
Middle Yarra Landcare Network	Protecting Variable Billy-buttons and Musk Daisy-bush in Warrandyte State Park	\$10,920
Moorabool Landcare Network	Indigenous plants with Indigenous people: Wadawurrung helping raise the capacity of Moorabool Landcare Nursery	\$19,995
Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network	Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink Phase 2	\$20,000

Mt Rothwell Landcare Volunteers Inc.	Bringing back our Basalt Grasslands: inspiring community conservation	\$18,330
Phillip Island Landcare Group Inc.	Enhancement and Monitoring of the Phillip Island Wildlife Corridor	\$19,892
Sherbrooke Lyre Bird Survey Group	Protection of Critical Breeding Habitat for Superb Lyrebird in Sherbrooke Forest	\$19,890
Southwest Mornington Peninsula Landcare	Protect and Connect: Stage 1 – Hyslops Road Biolink Restoration and Revegetation	\$20,000
Warneet Friends Group	Warneet's War On Weeds!	\$17,350
Western Port Catchment Landcare Network Inc.	Western Port Fire Recovery Revegetation	\$20,000
Western Port Seagrass Partnership	Mangrove Revegetation to Reduce Erosion in Western Port	\$7,300
Wildthings Inc.	Planting for Pollinators: Capacity Building through Demonstration, Education and Community Engagement	\$18,453
Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation	Weeding Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country	\$14,756
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$383,672</b>

### VICTORIAN LANDCARE GRANTS 2019-20 – SUPPORT GRANTS

Recipient	Amount
Abbotsford Riverbankers Inc	\$500
Andersons Creek Landcare	\$500
Arthurs Creek Landcare Group	\$500
Australian Landcare International	\$500
Bacchus Marsh Council Trench Committee of Management Inc	\$500
Balcombe and Moorooduc Landcare Group	\$500
BeachPatrol Australia Inc	\$500
Bunyip Landcare Group	\$500
Brisbane Ranges Landcare Group	\$500
Cannibal Creek Landcare Group Inc	\$500
Cannons Creek Foreshore Committee of Management	\$500
Cardinia Catchment Landcare	\$500
Cardinia Deer Management Coalition	\$500
Cardinia Environment Coalition	\$500
Chum Creek Landcare Group	\$440
Coimadai Landcare Group	\$500
Community Weed Alliance of the Dandenongs	\$500
Coronet Bay Reserves Committee of Management	\$500
Cranbourne Friends RBGV Inc	\$500
Deep Creek Landcare	\$500
Devilbend Landcare Group	\$500



Recipient	Amount
Dixons Creeks Landcare Group	\$500
Dromana Foreshore Committee of Management	\$500
Drouin Rabbit Control & Landcare Group	\$500
Dunmoochin Landcare Group Inc	\$500
Dunns Creek Landcare	\$500
First Friends of Dandenong Creek	\$500
Frankston Beach Association Inc	\$500
French Island Landcare Group	\$500
Friends of Braeside Park	\$500
Friends of Chinamans Creek	\$500
Friends of Daangean	\$500
Friends of Edithvale-Seafood Wetlands Inc	\$500
Friends of Frog Hollow	\$500
Friends of Gembrook Park Inc.	\$500
Friends of Koolunga Native Reserve	\$500
Friends of Merri Creek	\$500
Friends of Newell's Paddock	\$500
Friends of Sassafras Creek Inc	\$500
Friends of Sherbrooke Forest	\$500
Friends of Timbarra	\$500
Friends of Toorourrong	\$500
Greater Dandenong Environment Group	\$500
Habitat Restoration Fund	\$500
Healesville Phillip Island Nature Link	\$500
Jindivick Landcare Group	\$500
Johns Hill Landcare Group Inc	\$500
Jumping Creek Catchment Landcare Group	\$500
Kananook Creek Association	\$500
Knox Environment Society	\$500
Links Community Group	\$500
Little River Community Landcare	\$500
Local Habitat (Greens Bush Association)	\$500
Loch Nyora landcare Group	\$500
Macclesfield Landcare Group	\$500
Main Creek Catchment	\$500
Manton & Stony Creeks Landcare Group	\$500
Marine Care Ricketts Point	\$500
McCrae Homestead Coastal Group Inc.	\$500
Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Group	\$500

Recipient	Amount
Monbulk Landcare Group	\$500
Mornington Peninsula Equine Landcare Group	\$500
Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation	\$500
Mt Lyall Landcare	\$500
Mt Toolebewong Landcare	\$500
Nepean Conservation Group	\$500
Northern Yarra Landcare Network	\$500
Olinda Creek Landcare Group Inc	\$500
Poowong & District Landcare	\$500
Red Hill South Landcare Group	\$500
Rosebud Park & Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Incorporated	\$500
Rowsley Landcare Group	\$500
Sheepwash Creek Catchment Landcare Group	\$500
Southern Dandenongs Landcare Group	\$500
Southern Peninsula Flora and Fauna Association	\$500
Southern Ranges Environment Alliance	\$500
Strathewen Landcare Group	\$500
Toomuc Landcare	\$500
Triholm Landcare Group	\$500
Truganina Landcare Inc	\$500
Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network	\$500
Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group	\$500
Warringal Conservation Society Inc	\$500
Watson Creek Catchment (Landcare) Group	\$500
Werribee River Association	\$500
Western Port Intrepid Landcare	\$500
Westgate Biodiversity: Billi Nursery & Landcare	\$500
Whittlesea Landcare	\$500
Yarra Ranges Landcare Network	\$500
Yarra Valley Equestrian Landcare Group	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>

# 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 Westernport Regional Catchment Strategy
SD	Standing Direction
TFN	Trust for Nature
TOs	Traditional Owners
VAGO	Victorian Auditors General's Office
WPCLN	Westernport Catchment Landcare Network
WQI	Water Quality Index



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