



Putting People Back into Public Land Management

(Pay for 20 – get 36 in return)

An employment and land management partnership between Government, land management agencies; Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP), the East and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Local Government and the community of Central Gippsland.

What is this 'Putting People Back into Public Land Management'?

This initiative, sponsored by the Catchment Management Authorities of Gippsland (EGCMA, WGCMA), the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria (PV) will:

- Utilise unemployed people and skills in the community currently impacted through disruptions in Central Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley in meaningful long term locally valued jobs within the region
- Build community capacity through direct and indirect employment in rural and regional Victoria
- Improve the outcomes from public land management including tourism, public land use, access, and conservation
- See downstream economic benefits of close to 2:1 for the direct funds injected.

Direct employment of four x five-person crews in Erica, Erica, Sale/Loch Sport and Heyfield totalling 20 EFT each year for four years with a total cost of \$10.7 million will see downstream benefits of at least 36 full time roles and close to \$18 million of capacity generated.

Significant downstream benefits also accrue including more regional tourism, better social outcomes, more sustainable communities and better emergency management.

DRAFT



“Greg Grogan is a boilermaker and welder at ASH, and his wife Tracey volunteers with the ambulance, local sporting clubs, is on the school committee and works with Uniting Care.”¹

The Parks and Forests of Central Gippsland are vital assets for the local community’s future economic growth, and in Victoria for their ecosystem benefits and tourism and recreation opportunities.

Over the decades, crews of skilled, available and dedicated teams have in many parts of Victoria slowly dwindled through a focus on centralisation of resources, greater mechanical capability in the forest industry sector, and the increased effort required to manage fuel loads, fight fires and deal with other natural disaster and extreme weather events.

This partnership seeks not to look backwards to a time past, but rather learn from the past and craft a program that will have multiple future benefits to communities, the economy, people, and the forests and parks in Victoria.

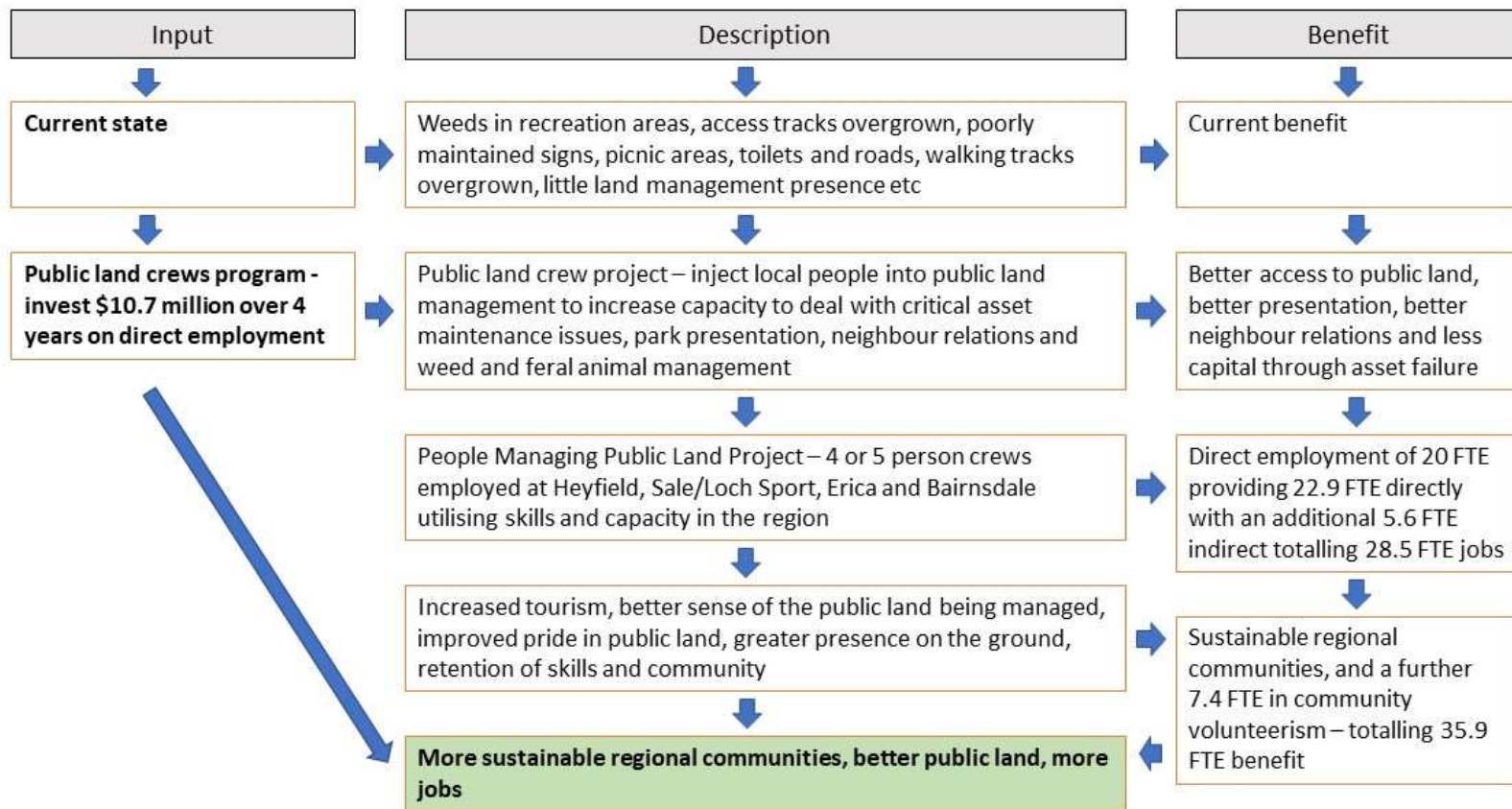
By directly employing crews of skilled local people to work on the ground – multiple benefits arise including:

¹ 2017 – Quote from ABC News online

- Productive use of the skills in the community directly employed in regional areas – leading to sustainable and resilient region towns
- Improved presentation, access to, and use of the public land assets by visitors and tourism due to better infrastructure maintenance, access and safe access
- Greater focus on removing weeds and feral animals particularly use of popular visitor sites including streams for fishing, walking tracks and picnic areas
- Improved direct economic flows into small towns through wages and salaries being used locally
- With more certain employment in towns comes more sustainable businesses such as supermarkets, and more volunteerism for hospitals, schools, emergency services and clubs
- Helping employ people who have uncertain futures in and around the Latrobe Valley with a strong positive statement about what matters to them – meaningful employment and a meaningful contribution to their regional assets.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

People Managing Public Land - Costs, Benefits and Logic



Project Outcomes

The 'people managing public land' initiative aims to focus on public land management, presentation, managing weeds and invasive species, and visitor access. The downstream benefits are measurable and include;

- increased visitation and visitor satisfaction
- decreased vandalism due to the presence of people
- reduced weeds and pests in and around popular campgrounds, river access points, entrances and on boundaries with private land neighbours
- increased direct and indirect employment in 4 key regional towns and including Gunaikurnai field positions to work on country
- increased economic flow on benefits to businesses, shops, clubs and schools in small town.



Case Study – The Wonnangatta River

Over \$500,000 has been invested in the past 6 years in the Wonnangatta Valley on the control and management of Cape Broom – a highly invasive weed brought into the valley centuries ago with gold miners and early settlers. Aiming to eradicate new plants and infected areas, and control and reduce existing populations away from tracks and streams to prevent the spread of weeds.

In addition, over \$250,000 has been spent in the past 6 years on managing weeds including blackberries, St John's Wort and managing outstanding native grasslands and orchid beds.

THE East Gippsland and West Gippsland CMA's have also provided close to \$800,000 over the 5 previous years on management of natural values and keeping access open to allow public land to be used in surrounding highland areas including the Dargo High Plains and Peatland areas north of Licola.

Most of these works have been completed by skilled contractors – the downside being that the skills gained in completing these remote area works can be lost at any point in time.

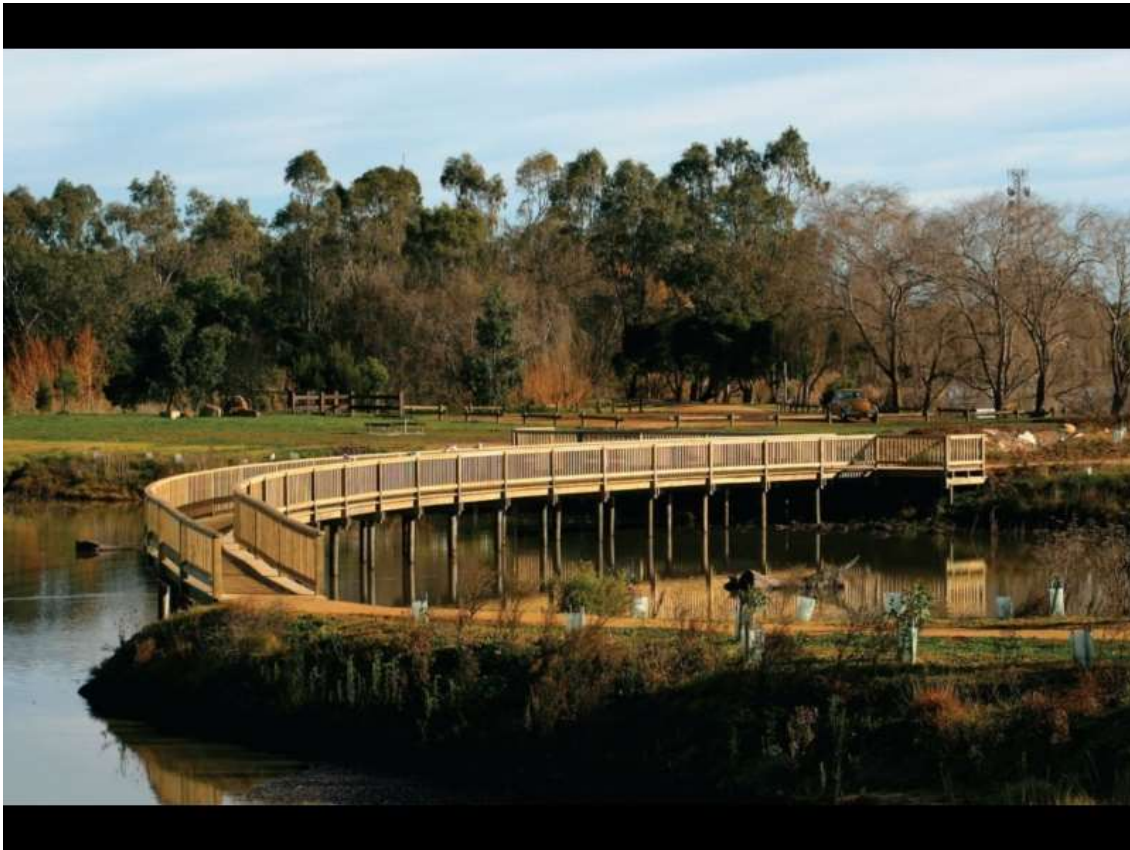
Combined these projects need continued maintenance and further work to improve the ecological integrity and tourism amenity of one of Australia's icon 4 WD destinations to showcase the alpine areas of Victoria. Having a specialised and skilled crew of people to manage these areas will cement the work done, continue to improve the ecological integrity of the Valley and surrounds and help showcase that the Government values its public land resource. It also provides continuity of management and a local knowledge of works and outcomes that continues to grow capability.



Photos above show Cape Broom having been treated near Dargo as a result of temporary crew work (Source EGCMA 2017)

For further information regarding public land employment initiatives, please contact the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority on 03 5152 0600 or visit www.egcma.com.au

Case Study – Heyfield



Heyfield is a major town north of the Latrobe Valley within the Wellington Shire and with a population of just under 2,000. Heyfield is often referred to as the 'Gateway to the High Country' with access northwards to the Alpine National Park and surrounding State Forest areas. Heyfield also provides close access to Lake Glenmaggie, a significant irrigation dam operated by Southern Rural Water, which has fishing and water sport recreational opportunities.

Heyfield is home to Australia's largest hardwood sawmill - ASH². The mill currently employs over 260 people from Heyfield and surrounding areas but its future is in question as supply of timber dwindles due to the effects of decades of fires in the forests to the north.

Heyfield sits on the edge of the Macalister irrigation District; 33,500 ha of high value predominantly pasture based agricultural land. The water for the District is predominantly sourced from the Macalister River via Lake Glenmaggie and from the Thomson River via Cowwarr Weir³

A comparison of Heyfield with the rest of Victoria shows the following⁴:

² 2017 – ABC News, ABC.net.au

³ 2017 - Southern Rural Water website

⁴ 2011 - Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census Data

	Heyfield	Victoria
Population	1,937	5,354,000
Median Age	41	37
Average Children per Family	2	1.9
Median Weekly Income	\$749	\$1,216
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.4%
% of the Community Volunteering	26%	17%

Heyfield provides or contains a range of services that includes:

Heyfield School servicing the town of Heyfield and a large catchment area north into the high country and hamlets of Licola, Seaton and further afield

Heyfield Hospital which includes 9 acute and sub-acute beds, in addition to 51 aged care provide a complete range of health care needs⁵.

Heyfield Police – provide a local police presence that is not only vital to the community, but also in the provision of search and rescue services to the large national park and remote areas to the north.

Volunteering in a community is fundamental to regional and rural areas maintain services and connections across broad landscapes.

If 1 in every 4 people in Heyfield volunteer in the community – then 500 people in the small community contribute to such services as:

- The CFA and SES
- School Council fund raisings
- Hospital auxiliaries and meals on wheels
- Sporting clubs (Heyfield has a proud sporting history including AFL and netball teams)
- Kindergartens and
- Community care services

Additional Staff to Provide Greater Public Land Management and Certainty for Communities

⁵ 2017 – Central Gippsland Health Services

Case Study – Dargo



Dargo sits as one of Victoria's most remote towns located approximately 348 kilometres east of Melbourne and approximately 1 hour drive north of Bairnsdale in East Gippsland. Dargo is within the Wellington Shire Council.

The town has a rich history of gold mining, timber extraction and agriculture, particularly beef production and walnut farming where the town now produces over 10% of Victoria's supply.

Dargo is surrounded by public land albeit with small pockets of private land on the river flats of the Dargo River and Upper Dargo. The Alpine National Parks, Victoria's largest park surrounds the area north and west of the town and State Forest and the Mitchell River National Park sit to the east and south.

A comparison of Dargo with the rest of Victoria shows the following⁶:

	Dargo	Victoria
Population	148	5,354,000
Median Age	60	37
Average Children per Family	1.4	1.9
Median Weekly Income	\$787	\$1,216
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	5.4%

⁶ 2011 - Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census Data

% of the Community Volunteering	35%	17%
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With a median age close to double the Victorian average, despite a small population base, Dargo is in urgent need of new residents to continue to keep the town essentially alive.

Dargo provides a critical service to the community in the following areas:

Tourism – Dargo attracts 4 Wheel Drive enthusiasts from around Australia and the World in part to experience the Wonnangatta Drive – a world famous touring route in the Alpine National Park

Deer Hunting – Dargo services deer hunting throughout the nearby State Forest and National Park – in Victoria alone there are 27,000 licensed deer hunters⁷ who contributed \$57 million into the Victoria community

Emergency Services – Dargo has a significant summer crew employed through DELWP to help suppress bushfires on public land and a CFA volunteer station for protecting private property and structures.

Servicing Dargo would be increased dramatically through additional staff and resources being available in Bairnsdale, with the option to have some people live there

⁷ 2017 - Victorian Game Management Authority website

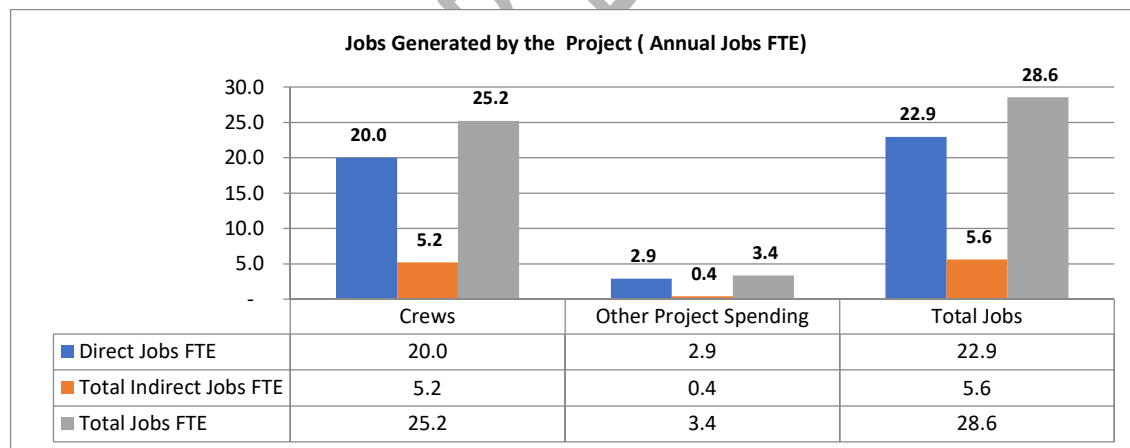
Economics and Modelling (Appendix)

Employment Creation

(Note – some assumptions used in the modelling have been retested and may underestimate slightly the cost of employment. However, the outcome not altered by the refinement of the labour casts and the modelling while slightly out in its inputs, remains accurate in terms of outcomes and is likely to underestimate the benefit due to an increased spend regionally in labour.)

The modelling of the project shows that the project would generate a total of 28.6 FTE jobs annually (22.9 direct and 5.6 indirect/induced). These comprise:

- Crew related jobs (25.2): the 20 jobs of those involved in the project and an additional 5.2 indirect/induced jobs generated by the multiplier impacts of crew member consumption spending.
- Other project spending related jobs (3.4): a total of 2.9 direct jobs generated in businesses in the region supplying services to the project and 0.4 jobs generated by the multiplier impacts of consumption spending of the 2.9 direct employees.



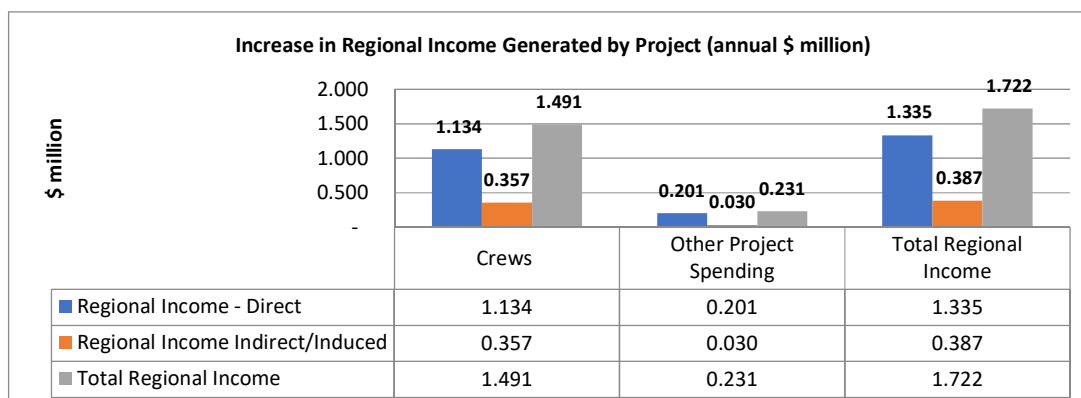
Source: MCa modelling & analysis June 2017

Economic Impacts – Increase in Regional Income

The chart below shows that regional income would be \$1.722 million higher annually (\$1.335 million direct and \$0.387 million indirect/induced). This comprises:

- Crews (\$1.491 million): direct income of \$1.134 million (net income after tax) and \$0.357 million indirect/induced in the region by their spending.

- Other Project Spending (\$0.231 million): direct income of \$0.201 million and \$ 0.030million indirect/induced in the region by employee spending.



Source: MCA modelling & analysis June 2017

Regional income is the total net income generated from the activity and covers wages and salaries of employees and profits of businesses within the region. It includes income generated directly within the business and indirect income, which is generated in other regional businesses (wages and profits) from the multiplier impacts of employee spending in the region. In the modelling of income generated, income tax and GST on spending, are both treated as leakages from the region.

Increased Community Benefit through Volunteerism

ABS data shows that 26% of people who live in Heyfield volunteer some or significant amounts of labour to the community – generally in the form of community good including school committees, CFA, hospital auxiliary services etc.

An additional 28.5 FTE employed across the 4 sites could reasonably be assumed to generate an additional 7.4 people contributing volunteer services across small Gippsland towns a significant contribution to more sustainable communities.