**Key Events and Insights**

- Supporting our communities during the drought has been a priority of the Authority. The relationship the Authority has with community members is trusted and respected. Community turn to our people for help and support during these tough times.

- There are currently 40 partner groups and agencies directly involved in the Gippsland Lakes program, delivering on ground works and providing consistent up to date messages to the community. All projects are aligned with the priorities described in the Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan and the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Management Plan.

- The Authority CEO Chairs the GEA forum and led development of a partnership agreement between GLaWAC and the 13 forum member agencies. The agreement establishes four key objectives about aboriginal workforce development, increased participation in decision making on country, implementation of the Joint Management Plan and increasing cultural knowledge and understanding.

- GEA hosts our Women Leadership Team forum (GEA-WLT). Managed by women in Gippsland, the forum is about developing and fostering leadership at all levels. GEA-WLT hosted an annual regional forum, a mentoring program, jointly convened training across agencies and has involved over 400 women in Gippsland to date.

- 19 community groups have been involved in delivering the waterway health program this year, including Angling Clubs, Landcare Groups, local schools and Friends of Groups. Our community grants programs including Gippsland Lakes Community Grants, Landcare grants, Riparian Action Plan grants and Angler Riparian grants are assisting more groups to get involved in worthwhile projects.

- Recreational values are being incorporated into regional landscape plans for the future. For example community spaces are being incorporated into the Lower Mitchell Rehabilitation plan, one of the priority flagship projects listed in the Water Plan for Victoria.

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