WEST GIPPSLAND

KEY EVENTS AND INSIGHTS

- In 2019-20, West Gippsland CMA fenced more than 40 kilometres of priority waterways, completed nearly 90 hectares of revegetation, removed willows over more than 70 hectares, completed over 2,440 hectares of weed control and stabilised riverbeds and banks at 24 sites.
- 27,868 gigalitres of water for the environment was released into the Thomson, Macalister and Latrobe rivers. This water is critical for native plants and animals and the flows can move sediment and nutrients through rivers, connect habitats and improve water quality. This year, there was a confirmed sighting of an Australasian Bittern at Sale Common for the first time since 1992. In the preceding three months, West Gippsland CMA had been providing the Common with additional inflows, which resulted in a range of species flourishing and breeding.
- The Sustainable Irrigation Program delivered 34 new or updated irrigation farm plans, which will impact almost 2,500 hectares of land in the Macalister Irrigation District and 22 on-farm irrigation efficiency projects covering an area of 236 hectares, providing estimated water savings of over 1,950 megalitres each year.
- To help Landcarers understand Aboriginal cultural heritage, West Gippsland CMA developed a Cultural Heritage Information Pack in consultation with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation. It is the first of its kind in Victoria, and these packs will be used in conjunction with On Country presentations to educate the Landcare members in the region.
- More than 100 Golden Bell Frog tadpoles were found in early 2020 at new wetland sites constructed in partnership with Greening Australia and local landholders. The project to construct the wetlands aims to improve the vegetation and health of the fringing wetlands of the Gippsland Lakes and provide much-needed habitat for birds, frogs, and other freshwater species.
- The CORE 4 program was delivered in the Macalister Irrigation District to reduce nutrient flow to the Ramsar-listed Gippsland Lakes. $800,000 was allocated to 60 on-ground projects covering more than 10,000 hectares, almost 20 per cent of the Macalister Irrigation District. These projects are expected to not only save local farmers money in unnecessary fertiliser application, but save 19,200 kilograms of phosphorus and 104,000 kilograms of nitrogen from flowing into the Gippsland Lakes each year.
- After completing the Thomson River Fishway last year, allowing for low flows around Horseshoe Bend Tunnel, fish surveys found higher numbers of migratory fish above the fishway than previously surveyed, which is an early indication of the success of the project.

West Gippsland
Catchment Management Authority

OUTPUT		TARGET	ACTUAL			TOTAL
			STATE	FED	OTHER	
1.	**STRUCTURAL WORKS**					
1.2	Water storage (no.)	38	23	3	12	**38**
1.4	Irrigation structure (ha)	133	237			**237**
1.5	Waterway structure (no.)	2	1		1	**2**
1.8	Monitoring structure (no.)	13	13			**13**
1.9	Fence (km)	34	21	10	10	**42**
2.	**ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS**					
2.1	Vegetation (ha)	71	50	17	20	**87**
2.2	Weed control (ha)	493	1,730	680	33	**2,442**
2.3	Pest animal control (ha)	55,305	68,558	6,239		**74,797**
2.8	Earth works (no.)	2	0.8	0.3	1.3	**2.4**
3.	**MANAGEMENT SERVICES**					
3.3	Water (no.)	20	20			**20**
4.	**PLANNING AND REGULATION**					
4.1	Approval and advice (no.)	1,361	1,628	5	6	**1,639**
4.2	Management agreement (no.)	63	22	30	11	**63**
4.3	Assessment (no.)	391	518	144	29	**691**
4.4	Engagement event (no. participants)	1,307	2,576	928	135	**3,639**
4.5	Partnership (no.)	50	55		1	**56**
4.6	Plan (no.)	57	44	45		**89**
4.7	Publication (no.)	56	115	2		**117**
4.8	Information management system (no.)	4	3	2		**5**