

PORT PHILLIP & WESTERNPORT

KEY EVENTS AND INSIGHTS

- WORKING FOR VICTORIA**
 In 2020-21, Port Phillip & Westernport CMA delivered four projects totalling \$3.3 million as part of the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative. The equivalent of 55 full-time jobs were created for six months.

AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENT WORK CREWS

The Agricultural and Environment Work Crews assisted farmers, organisations and community groups to deliver projects delayed by COVID-19. Six work crews made up of 50 staff improved 120 farms and environmental sites and supported 68 organisations and farmers.

FARMS2SCHOOLS

Farms2Schools used online school incursions to provide local students with an insight into how agricultural products got from the paddock to their plate. Three Farms2Schools Officers coordinated the program and supported 40 farmers to deliver 240 online incursions to almost 10,000 students.

FERAL CAT FREE FRENCH ISLAND PROJECT.

The French Island Data Support project helped to protect threatened species on French Island by reviewing remote camera images gathered as part of the Feral Cat Free French Island project. Two support officers reviewed

over 1.9 million images, which laid the foundation for a comprehensive feral cat eradication program.

- TRADITIONAL OWNER PARTNERSHIPS**
 Port Phillip & Westernport registered Aboriginal Parties (Bunurong, Wurundjeri and Wadawurrung) and six formal partnership meetings were held in 2020-21. \$119,000 from Port Phillip & Westernport CMA projects was used to procure the services of Aboriginal organisations and businesses.
- LANDCARE PARTNERSHIPS**
 Port Phillip & Westernport CMA continued to actively support the region's Landcare and community environmental groups. Formal partnership agreements were established or maintained with nine of the region's 13 Landcare networks, and over 100 volunteers participated in online training and development opportunities hosted by PPWCMA. Applications for the Victorian Landcare Grants 2021-22 (applications closed in June 2021) were the most subscribed in PPWCMA history. 139 grant applications totalling \$1.4 million were received, five times more than the funds allocated to the region.
- NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM.**
 2020-21 was year three for the five-year projects funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. Achievements included:

The Two Great Ramsar Wetlands project conducted 1,881 ha of pest animal control across the Western Port and Port Phillip Bay (western shoreline) Ramsar sites.

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL			TOTAL
		STATE	FED	OTHER	
1. STRUCTURAL WORKS					
1.9 Fence (km)	0.3	0.3	0	1	1.3
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)	1	2			2
2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS					
2.1 Vegetation (ha)		224		132	356
2.2 Weed control (ha)	4,875	4,908	2,000	14	6,922
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	35,279	5,218	29,070		34,288
2.9 Rubbish removal (ha)		769			769
4. PLANNING AND REGULATION					
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	16		14		14
4.3 Assessment (no.)	143	1	175	1	177
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	95	13,570	2,236	204	16,010
4.5 Partnership (no.)	18	14	14	8	36
4.6 Plan (no.)	33	8	33	1	41
4.7 Publication (no.)	35	305	199	39	540

The Regional Agriculture and Landcare Facilitator (RALF) project is funded by the Australian Government's National Landcare Program. It provided technical expertise on natural capital accounting and advocated for pilot projects in the region and supporting the design of on-ground works within the Bunyip Fire Recovery footprint.

The Smart Farming for Western Port project engaged 1,169 people in 65 (physical and online) events focused on sustainable land management, including field days, on-farm demonstrations, farmer discussion groups, and a regenerative agriculture training program.

- REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY**
 In 2020-21, the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA significantly advanced the renewal

of the Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy. Over 100 key stakeholder organisations were directly consulted during the drafting of the strategy including Traditional Owners, regional agencies and community organisations.

- PPWCMA INTEGRATED INTO MELBOURNE WATER**
 In February 2021, the Victorian Government made the decision that the Port Phillip & Westernport CMA would be integrated into Melbourne Water on 1 January 2022. The catchment management and waterway management roles for the Port Phillip and Western Port region have been brought together under one organisation, bringing the region in line with the rest of Victoria.

