WEST GIPPSLAND

KEY EVENTS AND INSIGHTS

- **SUSTAINABLE IRRIGATION PROGRAM**
This year concluded four years of funding under the state government's Sustainable Irrigation Program. Over the four years, we reviewed more than 8,000 ha of land under the irrigation farm plan process. This equates to around one fifth of the total area of the Macalister Irrigation District and is the basis for future innovation, investment and productivity. We also delivered a further 3,500 ha of improved irrigation through the on-farm incentives part of the program.
The investment in new and more efficient irrigation systems has seen around 7,000 megalitres of water savings annually, valued at around $1.4 million per year.

- **NEWRY PIPELINE PARTNERSHIP**
Southern Rural Water (SRW) constructed new irrigation infrastructure for its customers in the Newry area. A partnership between SRW and West Gippsland CMA saw the delivery of 30 Irrigation Farm Plans (IFPs) to the customers affected. The partnership implemented a range of communication strategies to ensure the target group, consisting mainly of dairy farmers, were aware of the construction and the opportunity to develop IFPs. The construction, along with the IFPs has the potential for significant water and time savings for the farm businesses and positive

flow-on effects for local waterways and the Gippsland Lakes.

- **NATIONAL LANDCARE PROGRAM**
Three key projects continue to be delivered as part of the Australian Government's National Landcare Program - the Alpine Peatlands Protection, Corner Inlet Connections and the Sustainable Agriculture Project. In addition to these projects, the program supports the Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator position and our Indigenous Partnership Program.
In 2020-21, we undertook a detailed analysis of the Corner Inlet Connections and Alpine Peatlands projects to develop updated implementation plans for years three to five. The analysis and the renewed implementation plans will ensure the best return on investment.

- **FISHERIES HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM**
In partnership with Yarram Yarram Landcare Network, we secured $400,000 over three years to restore 12 ha of riparian area along tributaries within the catchment, creating a buffer between waterways and adjacent farmland. The project also includes restoring another 12 ha of Broadleaf Seagrass (Posidonia australis) habitat in Corner Inlet. The project is working with recreational fishers and local farmers in an integrated approach to catchment management. The project is supported by the CMA, through funding from the Australian Government's Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program.

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL			TOTAL
		STATE	FED	OTHER	
1. STRUCTURAL WORKS					
1.2 Water storage (no.)	14	14			**14**
1.4 Irrigation infrastructure (ha)	604	604			**604**
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)	2			2	
1.8 Monitoring structure (no.)	11				**0**
1.9 Fence (km)	22	18	4		**22**
1.11 Road (km)	8		8		**8**
2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS					
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	103	85	11	6	**103**
2.2 Weed control (ha)	732	459	242	31	**732**
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	43,461			43,461	**43,461**
2.8 Earth works (no.)	0.16			0.16	**0.16**
3. MANAGEMENT SERVICES					
3.3 Water (no.)	12	12			
4. PLANNING AND REGULATION					
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)	1,312	1,302	10		**1,312**
4.2 Management agreement (no.)	10	8	2		**10**
4.3 Assessment (no.)	582	541	37	4	**582**
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	2,750	2,500	219	31	**2,750**
4.5 Partnership (no.)	37	36	1		**37**
4.6 Plan (no.)	50	47	2	1	**50**
4.7 Publication (no.)	125	123	2		**125**

- **REGIONAL CATCHMENT STRATEGY RENEWAL**
This has been an important year in the development of the next iteration of the West Gippsland CMA Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS). Input has been sought from the community on views and aspirations for managing land, water and biodiversity in their local areas. The consultation process involved an online survey and a series of focus groups and interviews with participation by community members across each local area. More than 170 people responded to the online survey from across the region, with 39 people involved in targeted focus online workshops.

West Gippsland
Catchment Management Authority