

WIMMERA

KEY EVENTS AND INSIGHTS

- WORKING FOR VICTORIA**
 Wimmera CMA employed more than 40 individuals over 10 months under the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria initiative. Flexible work arrangements based across the Wimmera ensured that participants were able to continue to manage caring and other commitments whilst participating in the program. A range of partners and community groups were supported to deliver works that would have otherwise not been completed because of COVID-19 restrictions. Participants undertook a variety of training and skill development activities including on the job training and formal qualifications. Two participants who met during the program have started a new rural fencing business in the region.
- DEVELOPMENT OF WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS STATEMENT**
 Wimmera CMA led the finalisation of the Wimmera Strategic Directions Statement (SDS). The SDS describes how organisations in the Wimmera will work together to bring about new approaches to water management using an integrated water management (IWM) approach. This approach aims to improve

resilience and liveability in cities and towns across the region. The statement includes a list of opportunities including projects and strategies collaboratively developed by the Wimmera's IWM Forum partners. IWM Forum partners have committed their organisations to the SDS.

- WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE: SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY VALUE OF RECREATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WATER**
 A report on the findings of the four-year study was developed for the period from 2017 to 2020. The report outlines some of the factors influencing social and economic benefits of waterways including water quality, water persistence, COVID-19 restrictions and supporting infrastructure. The report also makes recommendations about what the community can do to increase the benefits that these waterways produce. The report highlights the importance of waterways to community health and wellbeing during COVID-19 restrictions.
- INTERNAL ABORIGINAL RECOGNITION AND CAPACITY BUILDING**
 Wimmera CMA coordinated a range of professional development opportunities as part of our contribution to state-wide efforts to support Aboriginal Victorians as future leaders in integrated catchment management. This included support for staff members to undertake Our Catchments Our Communities Aboriginal Leadership Grant activities, and support for secondments by local Traditional Owners aligned with their professional development goals.



Wimmera CMA

OUTPUT	TARGET	ACTUAL			TOTAL
		STATE	FED	OTHER	
1. STRUCTURAL WORKS					
1.5 Waterway structure (no.)		7			
1.9 Fence (km)		44.6			44.6
1.10 Visitor facility (no.)		22			22
1.11 Road (km)		53			53
2. ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS					
2.1 Vegetation (ha)	40	22	40		62
2.2 Weed control (ha)	78	2,496	133.81		2,629.81
2.3 Pest animal control (ha)	42,138	462	67,435		67,897
3. MANAGEMENT SERVICES					
3.1 Grazing (ha)		412.15	133.81		545.96
3.2 Agricultural practices (ha)		10.9			10.9
3.3 Water (no.)		15			15
4. PLANNING AND REGULATION					
4.1 Approval and advice (no.)		288			288
4.2 Management agreement (no.)		16	3		19
4.3 Assessment (no.)	2	7	2		9
4.4 Engagement event (no. participants)	422		422	2,509	2,931
4.5 Partnership (no.)	7	4	7		11
4.6 Plan (no.)		5			5
4.7 Publication (no.)	5	4	5		9

- FUTURE DROUGHT FUND**
 The Australian Government's Future Drought Fund aims to help Australian farms and communities prepare for the impacts of drought. Wimmera CMA worked successfully with partners throughout 2020-21 to develop and contribute to implementation of project activities under most Future Drought Fund investment streams. These new projects will provide the region's farmers with more resources to continue their efforts to build drought resilience.
- WILD-TO-WILD FUNDING**
 Wimmera CMA was successful in obtaining from the Victorian Government to deliver a wild-to-wild small mammal pilot project which aims to re-establish local populations of the Mitchell's hopping-mouse (*Notomys mitchellii*) and fat-tailed dunnart (*Sminthopsis crassicaudata*) in the Wimmera. This pilot project aims to spread the risk for these species across the landscape by re-establishing a greater number and broader distribution of populations whilst being a key learning opportunity to inform future actions in this area.