

CORANGAMITE CMA

CMA Roles and Responsibilities

October 2022

CMA Legislative context

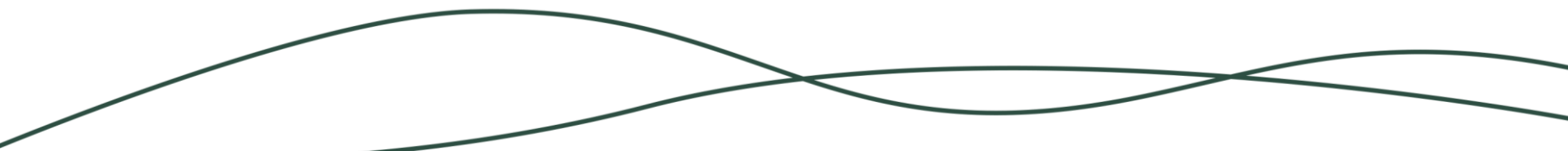
Water Act

- Defines waterways
- Waterway Strategy is required under the Water Act
 - Developed in consultation
 - Sets priorities
- Works on waterways permits

Land Act

- Bed and banks are Crown Land
- Water frontages as designated Crown Land
- Licences for occupation/use of Crown Land water frontages

Catchment and Land Protection Act

- Land management responsibilities
 - RCS is required under the CaLP Act
 - Developed in conjunction with the community
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Upper Barwon Flagship

- Oversees governance and coordination of activities in the Upper Barwon
- Develop an integrated waterway plan
- Strategic Advisory Group



On-ground works initiatives



- Corangamite CMA facilitates river health improvement works through landholder incentive programs
- We are not the land manager, but work with willing land managers (including with crown frontage licencees)
- CCMA commissioned Monash University to talk to landholders and understand barriers and opinions to participation in waterway incentive programs
- A new package has been developed that responds to landholder feedback and the new approach will be trialed over next 2 years

Riparian works trial

What has changed?

- Buffer widths halved (reduced from average of 20 m to 10 m)
- Controlled grazing in drier months to be allowed once revegetation has established
- Native indigenous species to be selected for revegetation but with consideration for grazing and waterway benefits
- Alternative fencing options for flood resilience, higher incentive payments.

What has remained the same?

- Fencing and revegetation still a requirement for all projects
- Off-stream water infrastructure and stock crossings
- Rabbit control and management of deer and native herbivore browsing
- Willow removal to be managed and paid for by the CCMA



Glyceria removal in the West Barwon



Objective:

- Reduce flood risk to Birregurra-Forrest Road and protect the public asset

Activity:

- Removal of 2.6 km of glyceria by contractors in March 2022

Impact:

- Reduced flood risk in the short term
- Change in flow and water level observed during removal

Next steps:

- Long-term management of glyceria
- Work with landholders to revegetate and create shade to reduce the risk of glyceria reinvasion

Water and the Barwon Catchment

Flows in the CCMA region are impacted by urban water extraction

Unlike some other CMA regions the rural water impact on the Corangamite Region is relatively small.



Upper Barwon Environmental Water

The *Upper Barwon Environmental Entitlement 2018* is held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and managed by the Corangamite CMA.

- 1000ML / year - not capped, good re-fill confidence
- In addition, there are passing flow rules and natural flows

Primarily, to achieve ecological outcomes for the river

Secondary, manage flows to achieve other 'shared benefits' where possible. This may include watering to support cultural values or community events

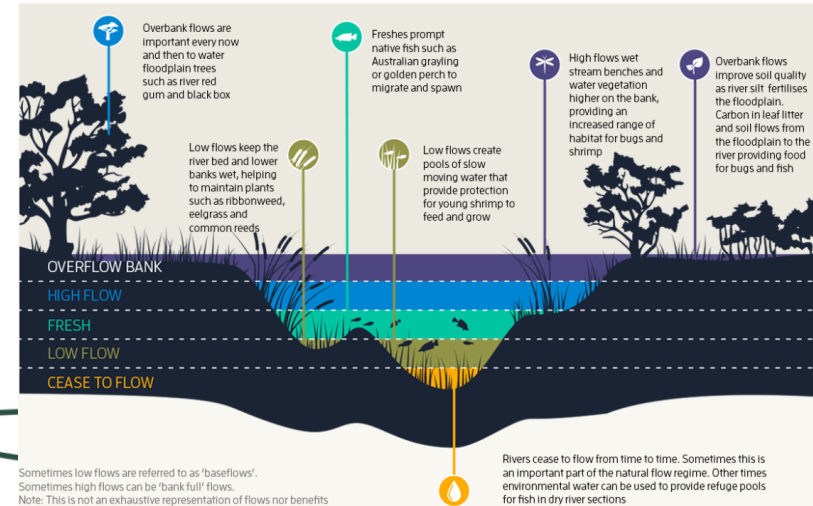


The Planning Process



Working with Traditional Owners has always been important.

More recently - 'Water is Life' has set out the opportunities for Traditional Owners to access and manage water for spiritual, cultural and environmental purposes. It is also a framework to create and maintain a careful and considered balance between the rights and entitlements of everyone involved.



2022-23 Watering actions

Available water: ~1000MI

Priority 1: Maintain east branch low flows 0-5 ML/day (in order to achieve 0.5 lower down) between December to May

Priority 2: Release 2 x 9 ML/day (modified down from 35 ML/d due to constrictions) for two days freshes in the east branch between December – May

Priority 3: Maintain west branch low flows of up to 30 ML/day (likely 6-30ML/d dependent on water availability) between December – May

Priority 4: Maintain east branch low flow of 10MI/day (or natural if available) between June – November

Priority 5: Release 5 x ~50ML/day (modified down from 100 ML/d due to constrictions) for 6 days freshes in the west branch, between December – May

Priority 6: Maintain west branch low flow of 50 MI/day (modified down from 100 ML/d due to constrictions) between June – November



Central & Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS)

Policy 8-3: Return water to the Barwon River

The Victorian Government will return up to 5 gigalitres of water for the environment in the Barwon River to improve waterway health by preventing cease-to-flow events, maintaining water quality, and providing water for native fish species to survive. By 2032

