

West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy 2021- 2027 Outcomes Hierarchy

	Opportunities & Management Directions	Medium Term Outcomes By 2027,	Long Term Outcomes By 2041 we will,
BIODIVERSITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted actions to protect habitat and reduce threats to biodiversity Permanent protection of habitat Biolinks and habitat restoration Ecological fire management programs Carbon sequestration revegetation programs Public land management Address emerging biosecurity risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional 5,000 ha of revegetation has been undertaken in priority locations to increase vegetation connectivity and enhance the condition of native vegetation** The area of sustained pest herbivore control has increased by 176,000 ha in priority locations** The area of sustained pest predator control has increased by 120,000 ha in priority locations** The area of sustained weed control has increased by 40,000 in priority locations** An additional 3,500 ha has been permanently protected** Strategic biolinks have been identified and incorporated into planning schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the overall extent and connectivity of native vegetation Prevent additional species and communities from being listed as threatened under legislation
CLIMATE CHANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional targeted actions from regional climate focused strategies Community led adaptation and mitigation Review management objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate change adaptation and mitigation options have been incorporated into the renewal of sub-strategies and plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed climate-adapted decision making into the planning and delivery of land, water and biodiversity programs
COAST & MARINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted actions to address threats to marine and coastal ecosystems Regional and strategic partnerships Manage the impacts from increased visitation. Climate change adaptation and planned retreat Management of seawalls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Reference Standards for sediment and nutrient load reduction to Ramsar sites are met Increase the area of coastal saltmarsh that is protected or managed* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the amount of nutrients and sediments entering coastal and marine environments from the catchment Maintain the overall extent of coastal vegetation communities at 2015-19 levels Maintain the ecological character of Corner Inlet and the Gippsland Lakes
COMMUNITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support community based NRM groups and citizen science programs Climate change adaptation Support community participation in planning and on-ground action Encourage the community to value the region's unique natural and cultural assets Targeted actions that deliver integrated catchment management outcomes Whole of landscape planning Partnerships and collaboration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landcare and Community NRM groups have maintained the number of volunteers in the region 15 community and industry partners have increased their level of participation in land, water, and biodiversity projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase collaboration and support for community and industry participation in land, water, and biodiversity management
LAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable land and water management practices Irrigation modernisation and water resource allocation Collection of land health data Climate change tools and information Address emerging biosecurity risks Planning policy options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundcover has been maintained within the 2000-2019 average (>90%) 80% of participants in best management practice programs have increased awareness of sustainable land management practices 60% of participants in best management practice programs have taken action to improve their practices Measures to protect strategic agricultural and environmental assets in local planning schemes have been identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve soil health and the adoption of sustainable land management practices Increase the gross value of production from agriculture by an average of 5% p.a Establish additional local planning scheme measures to protect strategic agricultural and environmental assets#
TRADITIONAL OWNERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traditional Owners' knowledge and practices Formal agreements and collaborative partnerships Traditional Owners partnering on projects from their inception Work on Country Research, reading Country and survey work Whole of Country Plans Water entitlements and access to water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of formal partnerships agreements between Traditional Owners and NRM agencies has increased The number of projects/programs that incorporate and deliver on Traditional Owner objectives for Country and priorities in Country plans has increased Understanding of cultural landscapes has improved supported by the development/renewal of Country Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower Traditional Owners to care and manage land and sea Country Recognise and establish formal provisions that protect Traditional Owners rights, interests, obligations and access to water
WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted actions to address threats to waterway and wetland health and manage risks from flooding. Ramsar Site management Water recovery and improving water security Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Integrated Water Management Assess groundwater resources and dependent ecosystems Options to address wetland loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An additional 150km of waterways have been protected or improved* Environmental Reference Standards for sediment and nutrient load reduction to Ramsar sites are met Increase the area of wetlands protected or managed* Improve the attainment of environmental water requirements in priority systems* 6 groundwater/ecological assessments are established to inform Permissible Consumptive Volumes in Groundwater Management Areas 14 Flood Mitigation Infrastructure and 13 Warning Systems installed/upgraded where it is cost effective, socially and environmentally feasible 5 planning schemes amended to incorporate the best available flood data Interim regional water quality targets are not exceeded (in priority waterways) across West Gippsland* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the overall extent of seasonal and permanent wetlands at 2015-19 levels Improve or maintain the environmental condition of waterways* Maintain a secure and reliable supply of water for environmental, social, Traditional Owner and economic values Reduce and manage existing and future flood risks Maintain the ecological character of Corner Inlet and the Gippsland Lakes

Footnotes

Bold text indicates outcome is aligned to the statewide outcomes framework.

Where required, informed strategic assessment. Existing measures may be sufficient for some local planning schemes.

* These outcomes will be quantified through the renewal of the West Gippsland Waterway Strategy.

** These outcomes contribute to the regional targets and priority locations established through Biodiversity 2037 and TFN's provisional targets for permanent protection on private land. Progress reporting against the outcomes will also account for RCS implementation in other priority locations informed by other regional planning processes.

Assumptions

- Sub-strategies and action plans will align with and contribute to the delivery of RCS outcomes.
- Partners will continue to progress the implementation of identified sub-strategies and action plans during the life of the RCS.
- Partners will initiate the implementation of 'opportunities' during the life of the RCS.
- There is no dedicated or secure funding for RCS implementation however it is assumed that the scale and resourcing of projects and actions under the umbrella of the RCS will be sufficient to achieve the medium-term outcomes.
- Achievement of the medium-term outcomes and the development and implementation of future versions of the RCS will contribute to the achievement of long-term outcomes.

External Factors

The RCS will also be influenced by a range of external factors outside the control of partners that may limit the ability to successfully implement the Strategy and achieve the medium-term outcomes. This includes:

- The economic impact from the Coronavirus (Covid19) pandemic may limit or reduce funding from historic levels.
- The effects of climate change may impact on natural and cultural assets in ways we have not anticipated meaning our planned actions may not be appropriate.
- Increases in population and associated development and landuse change may mean we are not be able to prevent the loss or modification of natural and cultural assets or changes to ecosystem processes.
- Government policies and priorities, and the ability to secure funding will influence the level of implementation of projects and actions under the umbrella of the RCS.