



Regional NRM Prospectus 2020



North Central Catchment
Partners Forum



Table of contents

Foreword	1
Acknowledgment of Country	2
Strength Through Partnership approach	3
Partnership in action: Case studies	4
Priority areas for investment	7
Priority Projects	8
Contact information	20



Foreword

Welcome to the North Central Regional Partners Forum Prospectus. This document highlights the success our coordinated approach to natural resource management is having, and the Forum's vision for even better results with help from new investment partners.

By coordinating our efforts, sharing knowledge, being open to all reasonable sources of funding, and helping each other with challenges and opportunities we have increased our impact and delivered projects with real benefits to water, land, biodiversity and communities.

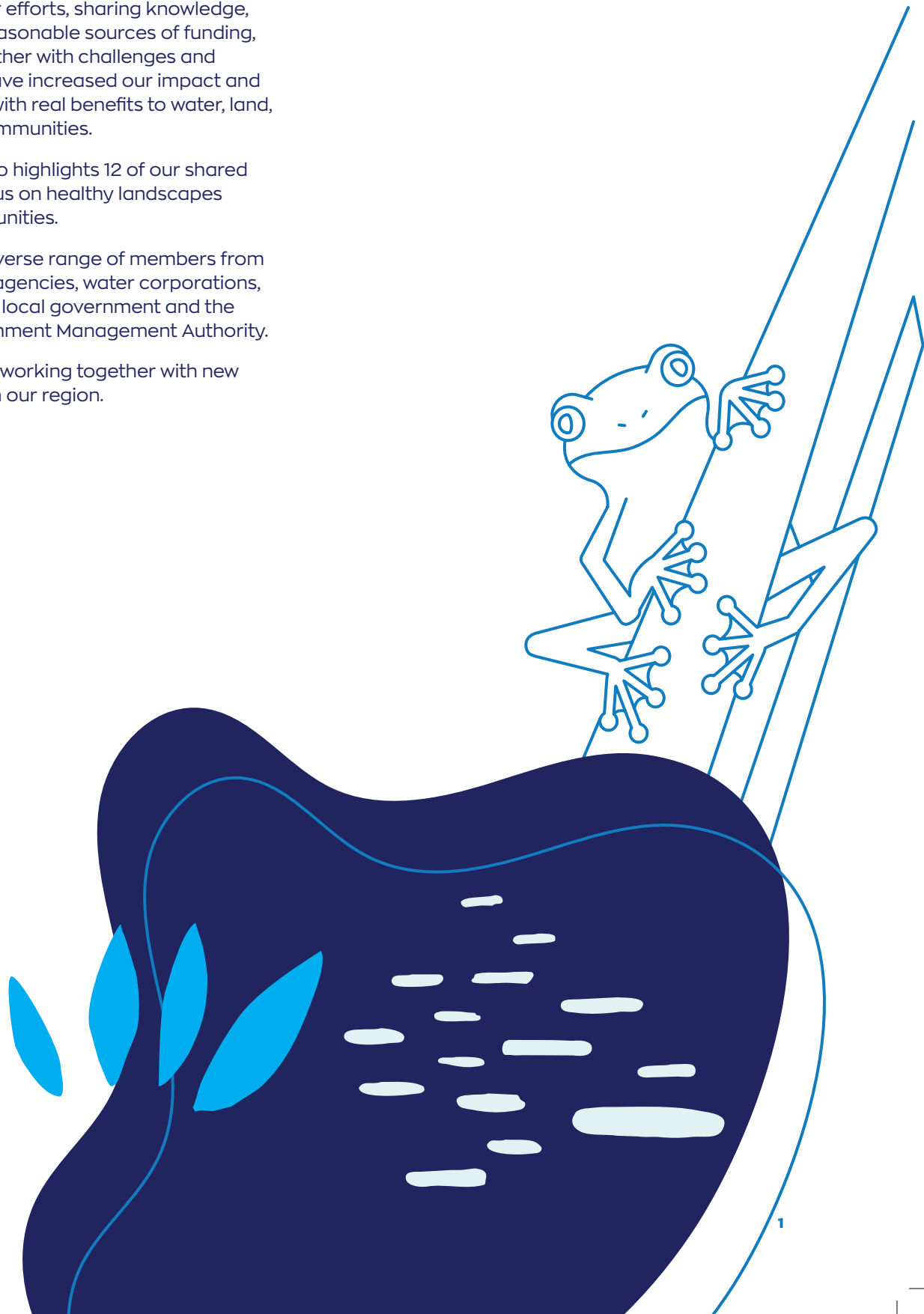
This Prospectus also highlights 12 of our shared priorities which focus on healthy landscapes and resilient communities.

Our Forum has a diverse range of members from State Government agencies, water corporations, Traditional Owners, local government and the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

We look forward to working together with new partners to invest in our region.



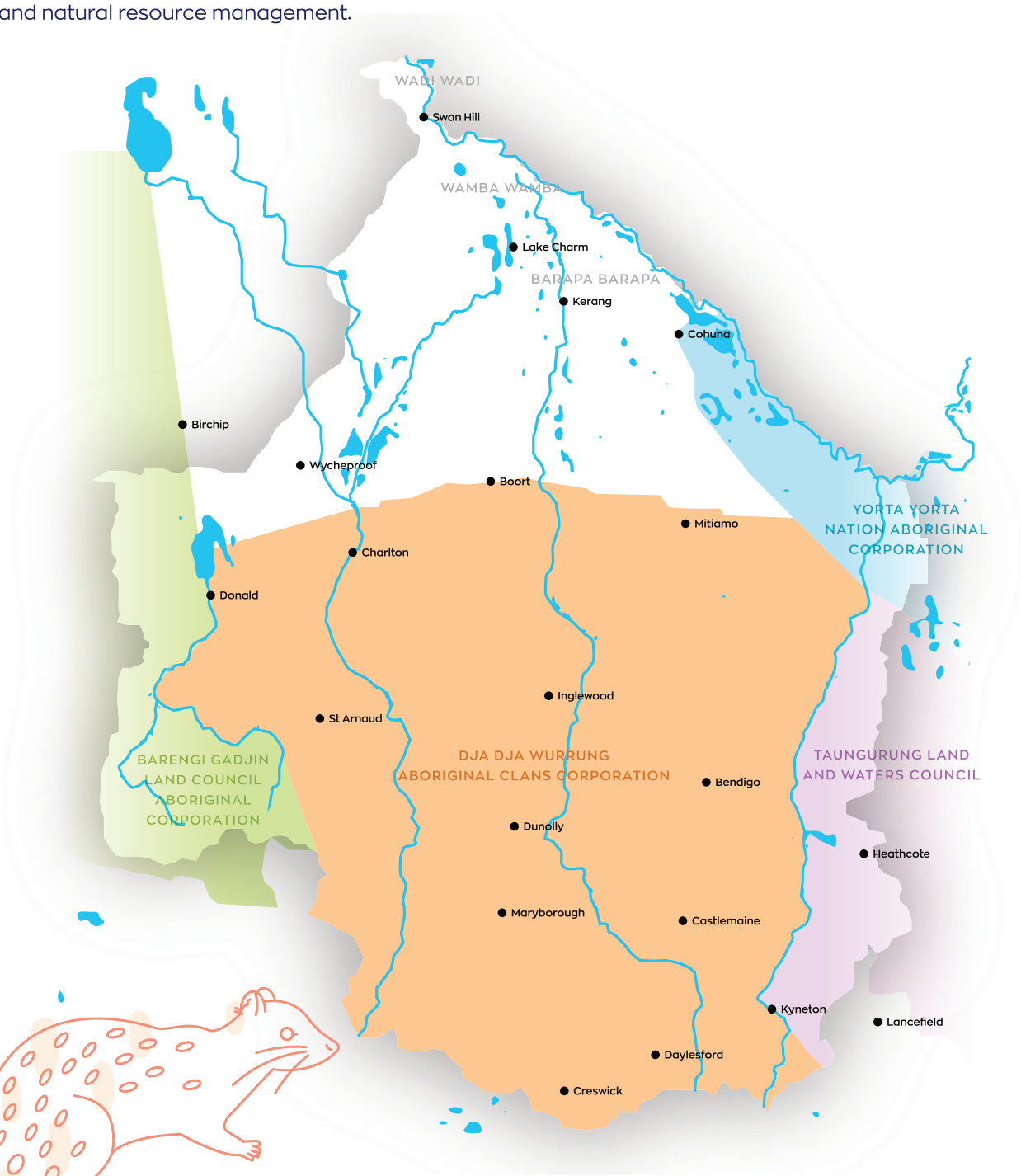
Brad Drust
CEO
North Central CMA



Acknowledgment of Country

The North Central Catchment Partners Forum acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners within the region, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in land and natural resource management.

The North Central region includes the traditional land of the Barapa Barapa, Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, Taungurung, Wadi Wadi, Wamba Wamba, Wotjobaluk represented by the Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Yorta Yorta.



Strength Through Partnership

The Partners Forum demonstrates how sharing knowledge and resources achieve better results for local landscapes and communities.

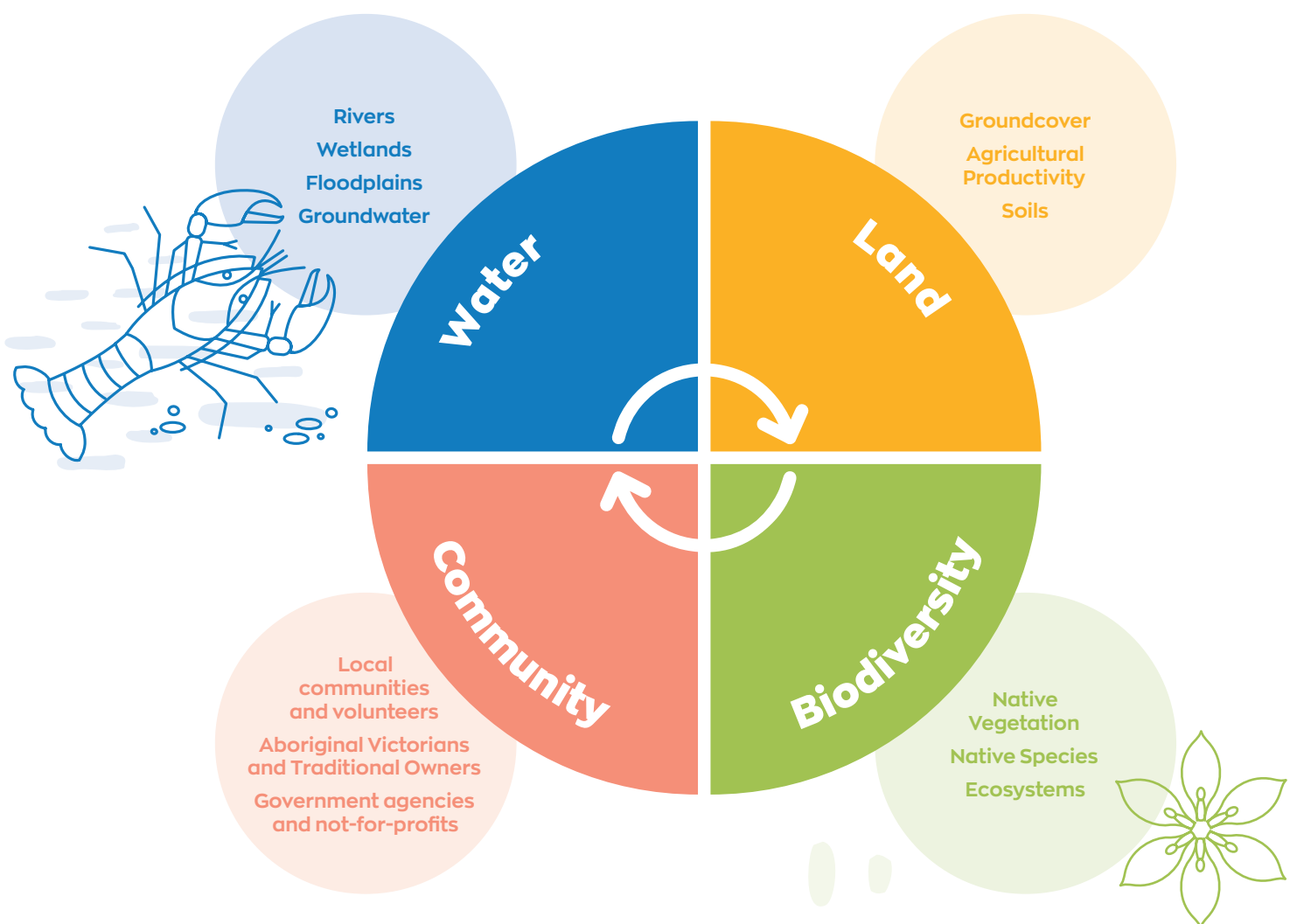
This graphic shows how the four key themes of our Regional Catchment Strategy link together. Well managed land and water resources enhance both the environment (biodiversity) and community.

Included in this Prospectus are three case studies, each one delivering measurable benefits to biodiversity, agricultural sustainability and resilient communities.

The final part of this Prospectus features 12 projects which closely align to the Partners Forum priorities. They range in both size and phase of development. Some are innovative pilot projects to test new concepts and efficiencies. Others are large-scale “shovel ready” proposals based on proven approaches which build on past successful investments.

Each project aligns with several UN Sustainable Development Goals, not only in environmental and economic sustainability, but also in Equality, Education and particularly in Partnerships to achieve our goals.

Each project has a lead organisation to maintain accountability, supported by a number of Partners Forum members.



Case Study One

Plains-wanderer

The Plains for Wanderers project is an excellent example of the Forum's successful community engagement. The Plains-wanderer is a small quail-like bird, which was once widespread across southern and eastern Australia.

Plains-wanderers are of outstanding global significance. They have no close relatives anywhere in the world and are the sole member of an ancient bird family. It is now critically endangered and ranked number one in the world on a list of bird species we can least afford to lose because of their evolutionary distinctiveness. The challenge for the Plains-wanderer is that its preferred home is now largely mainly prime agricultural land, with the exception of Terrick Terrick National Park and Bael Bael Conservation Reserve. The pre European occupation mix of native herbs and grasses has all but disappeared under cropping and inappropriate grazing pressure.

The challenge for the Plains-wanderer is being able to survive and thrive in a landscape that has changed severally since European occupation. Native grassland habitat is often prime agricultural land that has been drastically reduced under cropping and farming pressure.

The Forum's members have secured funding to work with landholders to preserve existing Plains-wanderer- friendly grasslands with Trust for Nature covenants and to reintroduce the bird's preferred mix of native plants to lower quality grassland blocks identified in this region.

The project supports the Plains-wanderer National Recovery Plan, and the success of the current project is the way we have brought a diverse range of groups together to work with and inspire landholders to become involved.

Forum members, particularly Trust for Nature, Parks Victoria, North Central CMA and DELWP, have invested 20 years in building understanding and trust with farmers. Now word has spread across the district, and landholders are approaching project members to offer parts of their farm for protection.

Conservation covenants have secured 750ha of private land, with high confidence ongoing education and support will grow that number significantly. To ensure ongoing survival of the Plains-wanderer, 10,000ha of grasslands need permanent protection. With the work of Forum members and further financial support, this goal will be achieved.



Image copyright James White

Case Study Two

A Healthy Coliban Catchment



A Healthy Coliban Catchment is an innovative 20-year plan with the core aim of protecting one of the region's most important waterways – the Coliban River and its tributaries upstream of Malmsbury Reservoir.

This area is home to significant numbers of threatened plants and animals and is a key social, cultural and economic area. The waterways are also spiritually and culturally significant to the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

In its first year, A Healthy Coliban Catchment has had some impressive achievements.

More than 30 kilometres of fencing has been erected, 60 hectares of land revegetated, 118 hectares of weeds removed, 60 off-stream troughs installed, and 10 Aboriginal water assessments completed.

Revegetation helps balance nutrients and keep banks stable, encouraging native fish and platypuses.

Livestock cause erosion, and can deposit disease-causing pathogens and excess nutrients into streams. Where fencing has blocked livestock from waterways, troughs have been installed to maintain agricultural production.

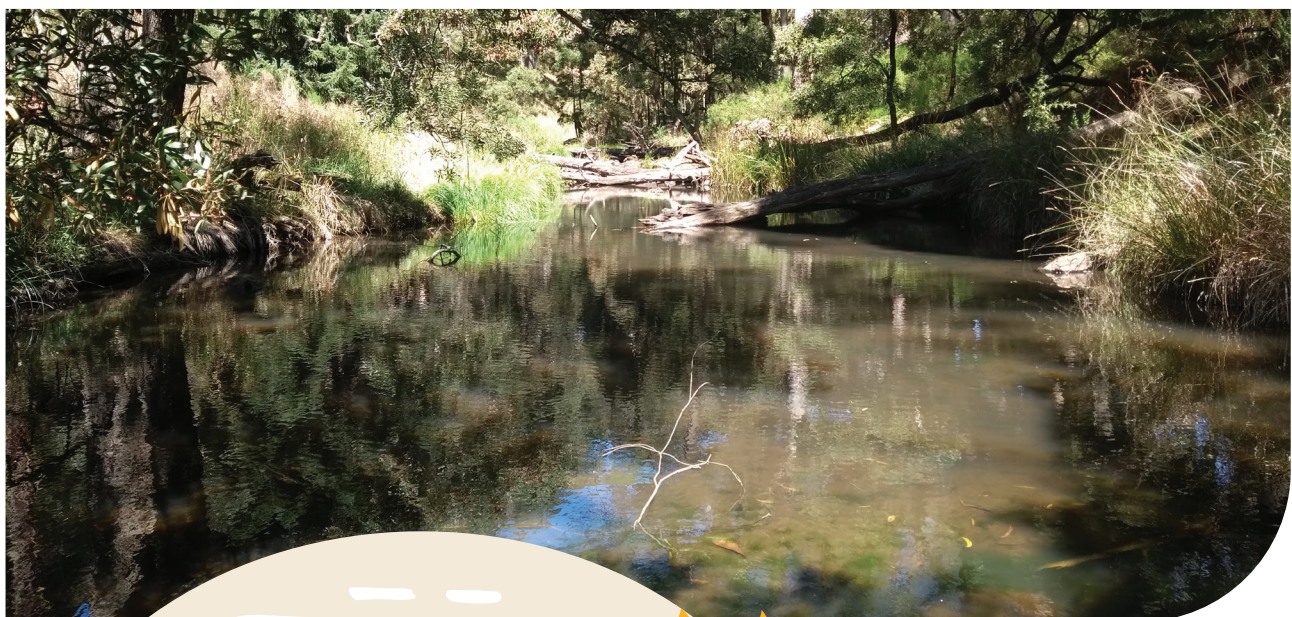
Weeds can cause a lot of damage to streams by diverting flows, using excessive amounts of water and they are not good habitat for platypuses.

Aboriginal Waterway Assessments are an early step to identifying and sharing cultural history along waterways.

Existing and future development pressures, climate change and uncontrolled livestock potentially threaten the health of the upper Coliban catchment and its water security. The project works with local councils, landholders and communities on a range of on-ground actions, and planning and compliance strategies, to protect future water supplies and the environmental and cultural values that make the area so valued and sought-after.

The Upper Coliban River catchment supplies the raw drinking water for more than 130,000 people and rural customers.

With support from new funding partners, the North Central CMA, Coliban Water and the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation will continue to work with councils, landholders and communities to protect future supplies of drinking water as well as the environmental and cultural values that make the area so sought-after.



Case Study Three

Regional floodplain management

With the catastrophic floods of 2011 as a lesson and the long-term forecasts of increasing variability in rainfall pointing to more significant flooding in the future, preparing our communities for the next flood is a major priority for the North Central Partners Forum.

The Partners Forum vision for floodplain management is one where North Central Victorian communities are aware of flooding and are actively taking measures to manage their flood risk.

These measures by landholders, communities and agencies will minimise the consequences to life, property, family, community well-being, the economy and the environment.

Significant investments have achieved some of these aims, and from the Partners Forum point of view, the strengthened commitment of all 14 councils in the North Central Region to flood preparedness and management has been especially important.

The North Central Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018-2028 has outlined the next series of projects to achieve the Forum's aims and has already had significant success.

For example, Forum members including local government, VicRoads and the CMA submitted 21 applications to the Natural Disaster Resilience Grants Scheme in 2018/19.

This effort was rewarded with 12 successful projects representing more than \$3 million of investment within the north central region and the applications were so compelling they secured around 2/3 of the scheme's available funds.

These included the Upper Avoca Flood Study (led by Pyrenees Shire Council), flood mitigation works in Quambatook (led by Gannawarra Shire), community flood education signboards (led by North Central CMA) and Resilient Rochester to build community capacity (led by Campaspe Shire).

These relationships and successes put the Partners Forum in a strong position to continue implementing additional actions in the Strategy and achieve our vision for the community.



Priority projects for investment

PROJECT	LEAD
1. Native Fish Recovery	North Central CMA
2. Avoca River Landscape Connections	North Central CMA
3. Restoring Connectivity and Flows in the Tullaroop Catchment	Central Highlands Water and North Central CMA
4. Pilot: Restoration of Five Mile Creek	North Central CMA and Western Water
5. Supporting Compliance and Sustainable Planning	North Central CMA and EPA
6. Building Regional Resilience to Flooding	North Central CMA
7. Urban Waterways and Water Sensitive Cities	City of Greater Bendigo and Mount Alexander Shire Council
8. Agricultural Extension and Knowledge Exchange	Agriculture Victoria and North Central CMA
9. Traditional Agriculture and Aquaculture	Agriculture Victoria, North Central CMA, Traditional Owners
10. Enhancing Environmental Values of Kerang Lakes	North Central CMA
11. Pilot: Engaging Community in Lake and Waterway Management	North Central CMA and Central Goldfields Shire Council
12. Protecting and enhancing our Northern Plains Grasslands	North Central CMA and Trust for Nature

KEY

- Water
- Land
- Community
- Biodiversity



BENEFITS

	Traditional Owner Self Determination		Community Safety/Risk and Climate Change
	Native Species		Government Efficiency /Red-tape Reduction
	Environmental		Agricultural Productivity
	Tourism/Recreation		

COST SCALE

	\$1M+
	\$501K - \$1M
	\$101K - 500K
	<\$100K

One Native Fish Recovery

Jobs, tourism and great environmental outcomes will continue to flow from the Native Fish Recovery Plan.

The aim is to make every drop of water count twice – by using **consumptive** and environmental flows to grow native fish populations.

This program is already seeing results in parts of the Gunbower and Lower Loddon catchment, and by continuing to improve flows, restore habitat and make water delivery more fish friendly, a thriving native fishery will develop.

Creating a world-class Murray cod fishery will also improve community health and wellbeing, benefiting regional towns and local jobs by increasing recreational fishing, tourism and construction. Additional funding will continue to restore the entire target area.



Proposed actions

- **Increase connectivity** by removing barriers and developing or enhancing fishway infrastructure
- **Restore habitat** by protecting and improving riverbank vegetation, recreating deep pools and rehabilitating wetlands
- **Address threats** by installing fish screens on irrigation channels and managing invasive species like carp
- Research options to **improve flows**
- **Reintroduce threatened species** – including six species of native fish
- **Monitor effectiveness** for native fish populations and river health

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	NATIVE SPECIES
Benefits	
Lead Partner	North Central CMA
Delivery Partner	GMW, Gannawarra Shire, Campaspe Shire, Loddon Shire, DELWP, Goulburn Murray Water and VEWH
Stakeholders	Victorian Fisheries Authority, VRFish, Victorian Environmental Water Holder, recreational fishers, irrigators, landholders, Traditional Owners, Regional Development Australia (RDA) and Regional Development Victoria (RDV)
Status	In delivery phase, with potential to be upscaled
Location	Gunbower and Lower Loddon basin
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	

Two

Avoca River Landscape Connections

This project will help wildlife and vegetation in our region respond to a rapidly changing climate. It will also improve waterways and landscape quality and create Traditional Owner opportunities for sharing culture and history.

Avoca River Landscape Connection will develop a large-scale biodiversity corridor to connect the Avoca River with Kara Kara National Park in the west, the Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserve in the north east and Paddys Ranges State Parks in the south east.




The corridors will give plants and animals a chance to find new niches as rainfall and temperature patterns change across the region. The project will also strengthen connections with the Traditional Owners of the land - the Dja Dja Wurrung.

The revegetation plan will also provide carbon offsets. The Partners Forum is proud of the multiple benefits of this project waterways - for biodiversity, waterways, cultural heritage and climate.

Proposed actions

- **Develop a biodiversity corridor development plan** in collaboration with delivery partners with stakeholder input.
- **Deliver on-ground works and permanent protection - covenanting targets**

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	NATIVE VEGETATION
Benefits	
Lead Partner	Dja Dja Wurrung
Delivery Partner	Trust for Nature, Bush Heritage, Kara Kara CMN and Weddurnburn CMN
Stakeholders	Trust for Nature, Bush Heritage, Dja Dja Wurrung, Odonata, Cassinia, Green Fleet water corporations and Friends of groups and Biolinks
Status	Concept
Location	Avoca River, Kooyoorra State Park, Kara Kara National Park and the Paddys Ranges State Park
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	

Three Restoring Connectivity in the Tullaroop Catchment

The Tullaroop Catchment needs restoration work to improve economic, environmental and cultural qualities of this important area.

It will re-connect fragmented habitat and waterways in the Loddon River's Upper Catchment. The multiple benefits include improving biodiversity, sustainable land management and connecting local communities with their natural environment, as well as improving water quality and security. A focus of the project is cultural heritage, incorporating indigenous values in both the planning and the management of the waterways.













The Tullaroop Catchment project will again highlight the value of the Partners Forum in the way it will connect with people across the focus area to solve shared problems – building on past successes and learning from each other.

This project involves a series of medium scaled works focussed on revegetation, restoration and modified land management practices.

Proposed actions

- **Develop business case and long-term integrated catchment plan** for the Tullaroop catchment to improve water quality, community awareness and environmental values
- **Implement plan**

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	RIVERS AND FLOODPLAINS
Benefits	   
Lead Partner	Central Highlands Water and North Central CMA
Delivery Partner	DELWP, Central Goldfields Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Parks Victoria and Dja Dja Wurrung
Stakeholders	Hepburn Shire, EPA, GMW, City of Ballarat, DDW, Landcare networks, VFA, North Central CMA
Status	Proposal and project plan
Location	Tullaroop
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	      

Four Project: Restoration of Five Mile Creek

This trial project will inspire both communities and investors. A critical mass of people – landholders, Landcarers, River Detective school groups and the Catchment Partners Forum – recognises action is needed now to protect and improve the natural and cultural heritage of this stream.

The creek runs through Woodend into the Campaspe River. Poor water quality and the potential for noxious weed infestations to spread into the Campaspe River are serious threats and expanding.

Stabilising the threatened black gum population is also a priority. This project will be a pilot for action under the Tuangurung Recognition and Settlement Agreement. The restoration of Five Mile Creek is a priority action in the North Central Waterway Strategy. The environmental outcomes are important and build on previous community work. However, this project’s real value is to show other communities what local partnerships can achieve.

Proposed actions

- **Develop a project plan for Five Mile Creek** that considers wastewater as an asset rather than a threat to the waterway
- **Implement project plan**

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124



THEME	RIVERS
Benefits	
Lead Partner	North Central CMA and Western Water
Delivery Partner	DELWP, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Taungurung Land and Waters Council and Dja Dja Wurrung, EPA
Stakeholders	Western Water, Coliban Water, Threatened Species Conservancy, Upper Campaspe Landcare Network, Landcare groups (Newham, Woodend and Carlsruhe), River Detectives with local schools (Braemar College, Woodend Primary School and St Ambrose Primary School) and local landholders.
Status	Project proposal
Location	Five Mile Creek Catchment, from Hanging Rock through Woodend to the Campaspe River
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	

Five

Supporting Compliance and Sustainable Planning

Regional communities have identified a need for support in relation to compliance, due diligence and sustainable land management. This is an opportunity to invest in a range of projects aimed at addressing this need. The Partners Forum has identified knowledge gaps in both compliance staff and in regional communities about the laws and regulations designed to preserve our natural heritage.

This project will develop an innovative compliance and due diligence hub. It will support agency staff to ensure economic development and land management projects are compliant and will also give them the knowledge and skills to hold people and organisations to account if regulations are ignored. This planned model of sharing knowledge and resources across all agencies is unique and has the potential to cut red tape and ensure better compliance across the region.

Proposed actions

- **Scope and trial a shared service model** to resource compliance officers and undertake compliance actions
- **Scope the opportunity to share information and improve development approval processes** across multiple agencies to enable business opportunities for integrated NRM enterprises
- **Business case**
- **Create a central information point** to facilitate information sharing

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Benefits	
Lead Partner	North Central CMA and EPA
Delivery Partner	Agriculture Victoria, Coliban Water, Central Highlands Water, Goulburn Murray Water, Campaspe Shire, Gannawarra Shire, Loddon Shire, Local Government, Trust for Nature and Dja Dja Wurrung
Stakeholders	Local businesses and developers, VFF, farmers and land managers
Status	Project proposal
Location	North Central region
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	

Six

Building Regional Resilience to Flooding

Being ready for the next flood is critical for the economic, environmental and mental health of the North Central CMA regional community. We outlined the ongoing success of the Regional Floodplain Management Strategy earlier in this document, but more work is necessary to make sure people, organisations and infrastructure are prepared.

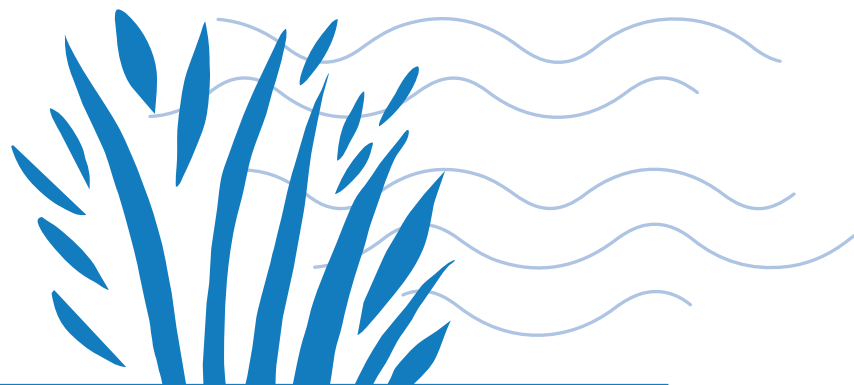
The Regional Floodplain Management Strategy is both a regional planning document and a work plan. It demonstrates the strength of regional organisations working together to achieve common goals. There are projects to improve flood resilience in our communities and help individuals and businesses recover more quickly. There are plans to build and manage new and existing flood mitigation infrastructure and build a flood resilient transport system.











These projects will improve knowledge and preparedness for flood emergencies, incorporate Traditional Owner knowledge in floodplain management, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of different parts of the community during floods.

Proposed actions

- Fund and implement high-priority actions from the North Central Regional Floodplain Management Strategy

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124



THEME	FLOODPLAINS
Benefits	
Lead Partner	North Central CMA
Delivery Partner	Buloke Shire, City of Greater Bendigo, Shire of Campaspe, Central Goldfields Shire, Gannawarra Shire, Hepburn Shire, Loddon Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire, Mount Alexander Shire, Northern Grampians Shire, Swan Hill Rural City, Parks Victoria, and Goulburn Murray Water
Stakeholders	Local landholders and communities, VICSES North West, VicRoads Northern region, Bureau of Meteorology, City of Ballarat, Mitchell Shire and Pyrenees Shire
Status	In delivery
Location	Region wide, with identified priorities in the plan
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	       

Seven Urban Waterways and Water Sensitive Cities

This project will transform urban waterways from open drains into community assets that are full of life.

Forum members have worked with the communities of Bendigo and Castlemaine to change the way waterways are viewed.

We are now seeking support to renew local waterways with social, recreational, cultural and economic benefits whilst improving stormwater management and urban development practices.






Works will include weed removal, wetland construction, native vegetation and building recreational infrastructure.

A good example of these works the Partners Forum plans to do is the Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan which has been developed with significant consultation across the whole community.

Proposed actions

- Undertake an **Integrated Water Management Plan** for the township of Castlemaine.
- Implement the **Reimagining Bendigo Creek plan**
- Implement **Wanyarram Dheik**

For more information contact:
City of Greater Bendigo (03) 5434 6000

THEME	RESILIENT CITIES
Benefits	    
Lead Partner	City of Greater Bendigo and Mount Alexander Shire Council
Delivery Partner	North Central CMA, Dja Dja Wurrung, Coliban Water and DELWP
Stakeholders	Communities, Universities, Agriculture Victoria, Parks Victoria, EPA, Goulburn-Murray Water, Department of Health and Human services
Status	Planning and in delivery
Location	Bendigo, Castlemaine
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	        

Eight Agricultural Extension and Knowledge Exchange

The Partners Forum has identified uncertainty and an empty tool box in many farming communities as they deal with extreme weather events in a rapidly changing climate.

This project has two aims –managing risk to remain viable and to build resilience in individuals and communities.

Forum members will increase the knowledge and skills of farmers. They will provide training and support which will increase productivity and sustainability and develop new business opportunities to diversify farm income streams.

This project will focus existing work on building confidence and resilience for individuals, families and communities.










Funding will allow Partners Forum members to bring on-farm advice, training and capacity building activities to places where it is most needed.

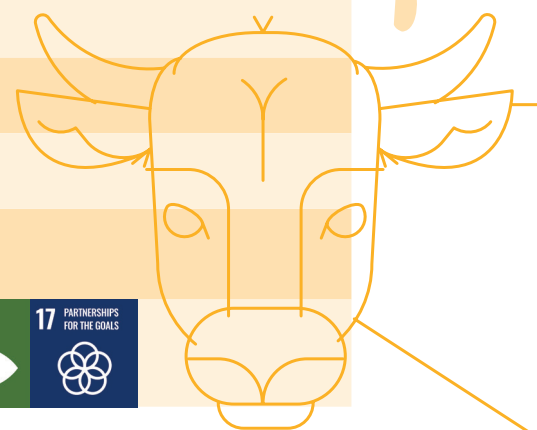
The added benefit of this project is the economic and capacity impact on small regional communities.

Proposed actions

- **Scoping phase** to identify adoption barriers for existing programs, community awareness and other relevant programs
- **Promote existing Ag Vic programs**
- **Farm support** program to increase resilience and sustainable agriculture understanding and skills. Project could involve regional agriculture Landcare facilitator and/or the regenerative agriculture in North Central Victoria.

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY
Benefits	
Lead Partner	Agriculture Victoria and North Central CMA
Delivery Partner	Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation, North Central CMA, City of Greater Bendigo, Buloke Shire, Loddon Shire and water corporations
Stakeholders	Local farmers and land managers, Landcare groups, local communities, universities and agricultural sector
Status	Concept
Location	Region wide
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	      



Nine

Traditional Agriculture and Aquaculture



Only one percent of indigenous produce is grown, harvested and marketed by Traditional Owners. A 2018 study by Australian Native Food and Botanicals shows the potential for significant employment and economic prosperity by developing traditional food sources.

This project will help two local Traditional Owner groups document their vision, build a business case and start a pilot agriculture or aquaculture business.

The businesses will build on traditional growing, harvesting and land management, and showcase indigenous ingredients and cooking.

Investment in these two enterprises will allow them to develop a successful business model.

They will then be able to share key lessons and challenges with other aspiring Traditional Owner entrepreneurs and highlight the region's cultural heritage to local communities and wider markets.

Proposed actions

- **Scoping phase**, including partners, stakeholders and co-design
- **Conversation Circle to discuss enterprise development** and to document Traditional Owner groups' aspiration, build a business plan and pilot an agriculture or aquaculture-based business.
- **Pilot TO agriculture and aquaculture enterprises**

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	ABORIGINAL VICTORIANS AND TRADITIONAL OWNERS
Benefits	
Lead Partner	Agriculture Victoria, North Central CMA, Traditional Owners
Delivery Partner	Traditional Owners, local government, Coliban Water and Goulburn Murray Water
Stakeholders	Yorta Yorta, Taungurung, Barapa Barapa, Wamba Wamba, Taungurung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Barenji Gadjin, Tyntynder Homestead (Wadi Wadi/Wamba Wamba), non-Indigenous local communities. Victorian Fisheries Authority, City of Greater Bendigo
Status	Concept
Location	Region wide
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	

Ten Enhancing Environmental Values of Kerang Lakes

The Partners Forum is looking for help to protect an internationally recognised wetland complex and make sure the significant economic, environmental, cultural and recreational benefits are developed sustainably.

The Kerang Wetlands Ramsar Action Plan and the Kerang Lakes Land and On Water Management Plan outline what is needed to be done to restore, protect and enhance this series of significant lakes and wetlands. There is a lot of revegetation to be done, invasive pest plant and animal control and cultural heritage protection, as well as improving water management and helping threatened species survive.














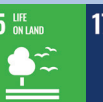

The plan also aligns with the Kerang Wetlands Ramsar Site Action Plan.

Funding the plan will see increased economic activity in the Kerang District because the healthy wetlands will improve recreation and tourism infrastructure too.

Proposed actions

- Undertake annual meeting to determine priorities for the upcoming year
- Implementation of actions

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	WETLANDS
Benefits	   
Lead Partner	North Central CMA
Delivery Partner	Goulburn Murray Water, Gannawarra Shire Council, Parks Victoria, North Central CMA
Stakeholders	Community groups, Kilter and Philanthropic organisations
Status	In delivery
Location	Kangaroo Lake, Racecourse Lake, Lake Charm, (Little Charm) First, Second and Third Reedy
Investment	 
UN Sustainable Development Goal	        

Eleven

Pilot: Engaging Community in Lake and Waterway Management

The Partners Forum has identified a strong sense of community ownership of rivers and lakes. People recognise the social, cultural and environmental benefits of healthy bodies of water.

This project will tap into local pride and use a new model which will support communities to develop and implement shared management plans. The project will show how local people can shape their treasured community asset into a place to enjoy while still having an emphasis on biodiversity.

The pilot project is in Maryborough, one of Victoria's most economically challenged communities. The town is well known for innovative and inclusive plans to address social issues and this project will tie in well with these.

Once the concept is proved, the Partners Forum will work on other priority sites including the rivers in Donald and Charlton, and offline reservoirs including Sugarloaf, Homebush and Redbank.

Proposed actions

- **Donald: Investigation project to understand water resources and potential use.** Identify options for multiple benefits (environmental and economic development)
- **Lake Victoria: Design and build water sensitive urban design approach** to manage blue green algae
- **Design an engagement process/ framework** to consistently understand and manage contentious issues

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	WETLANDS
Benefits	
Lead Partner	North Central CMA and Central Goldfields Shire Council
Delivery Partner	Central Highlands Water, Goulburn Murray Water, Campaspe Shire, Gannawarra Shire, Loddon Shire, Buloke Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, VFA, Dja Dja Wurrung, DELWP, Parks Vic
Stakeholders	Community groups, Victorian Fishing Authority, Yorta Yorta, GWMWater and Wooroonook Committee of Management
Status	Project Proposal
Location	Lake Victoria, Maryborough, Donald
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	

Twelve

Protecting and enhancing our Northern Plains Grasslands

The vegetation communities of the Victorian Northern Plains have been severely degraded since European settlement and the remaining 1% is fragmented into small remnant areas. Careful management of these grasslands is essential as they are ecologically important and irreplaceable.

This project will continue to protect and enhance our Northern Plains Grasslands by working with farmers and land owners to permanently protect remnant grasslands, providing detailed covenant management plans to assist in managing grassland biomass and educating locals about the significance of grasslands using the globally significant Plains-wanderer as a focal species.

This project intends to work with Traditional Owner Groups to explore cultural burning in the landscape, including monitoring and evaluation of the grasslands response to the approach proposed and trialled by Traditional Owners.

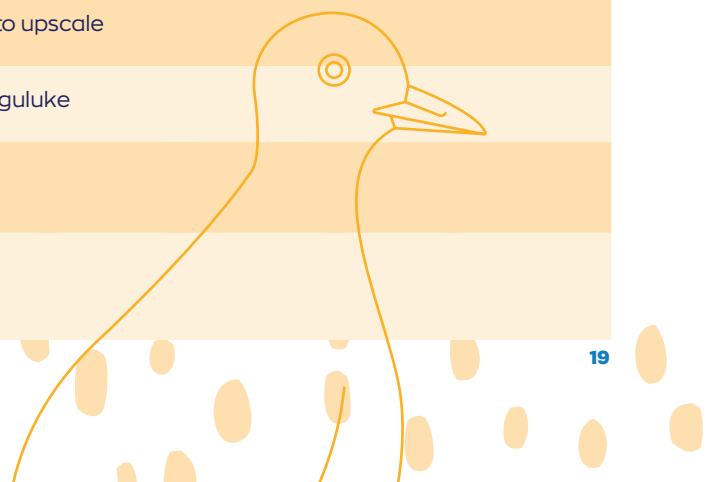
This project also involves a series of on ground works focussed on restoration of modified grassland remnants, pest plant and animal control and improved land management practices, on public and privately owned Northern plains grasslands. The critical habitat of the Plains Wanderer.

Proposed actions

- **Covenant high priority grasslands**
- **Restore lower quality grasslands by applying the right biomass management regimes and seeding with native herbs**
- **Address threats by controlling pest plant and animals**
- **Re-introduce Plains-wanderers from the Captive Breeding program**
- **Demonstrate the benefits of cultural burning in the landscape as an alternative to grazing (where possible) in the landscape**

For more information contact:
North Central CMA (03) 5440 7124

THEME	ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES AND NATIVE SPECIES
Benefits	
Lead Partner	North Central CMA
Delivery Partner	Trust for Nature, Northern Plains Conservation Management Network, TO's, Parks Victoria, DELWP, Zoos Victoria
Stakeholders	Bush Heritage Australia, Parks Victoria, Plains-wanderer National Recovery Team, Campaspe Shire, Gannawarra Shire, Loddon Shire
Status	In delivery phase with the need to upscale
Location	Patho Plains, Lower Avoca, Bunguluke
Investment	
UN Sustainable Development Goal	  





Contact Information

The North Central Regional Catchment Partners Forum is coordinated by North Central CMA.

You can contact the CMA about any of the concepts in this prospectus on:

Telephone (03) 5448 7124

Facsimile (03) 5448 7148

Email info@nccma.vic.gov.au