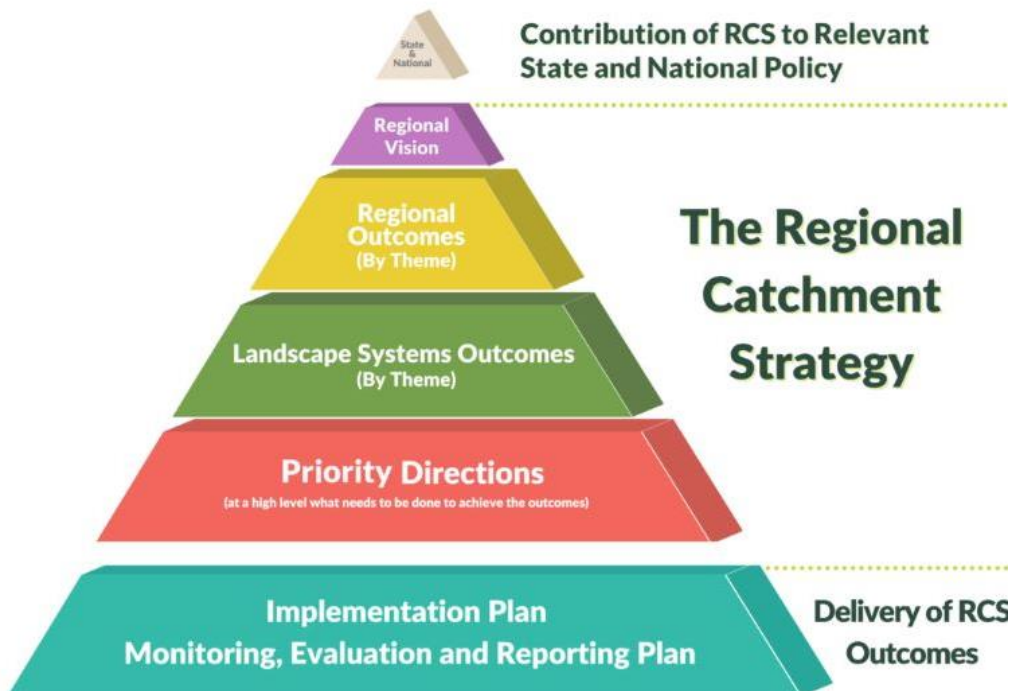


# Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning Plan: 2022 Regional Catchment Strategy

June 2024



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The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority works on the lands, waters and seas of the Wadawurrung People of the Kulin Nation and the Kirrae Whurrong, Djagurd Woorroong, Gulidjan and Gadubanud People of the Maar Nation and acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners.

The time and advice of all the catchment and delivery partners that provided input to the approved Regional Catchment Strategy and this Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Plan has also contributed to this plan.

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## Version control

Date	Summary of Changes	Version status	Author(s) and Reviewer(s)
5 May 2023	Initial draft of the MEL Plan	May 23	Helen Watts  Leigh Dennis and David Windle
20 June 2024	Updated based on staff meetings and current work on outcomes framework	June 2024	Helen Watts  Leigh Dennis

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

BAU	Business as usual processes / activities such as implementing planning schemes
CALP	Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
CCMA	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
CEN	Community Engagement Network (for the CCMA)
CMA	Catchment Management Authority
CPA	Catchment Partnership Forum
DEECA	Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
EMAC	Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
RLP	Regional Landcare Program
RWS	Regional Waterway Strategy
WTOAC	Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Aboriginal Corporation

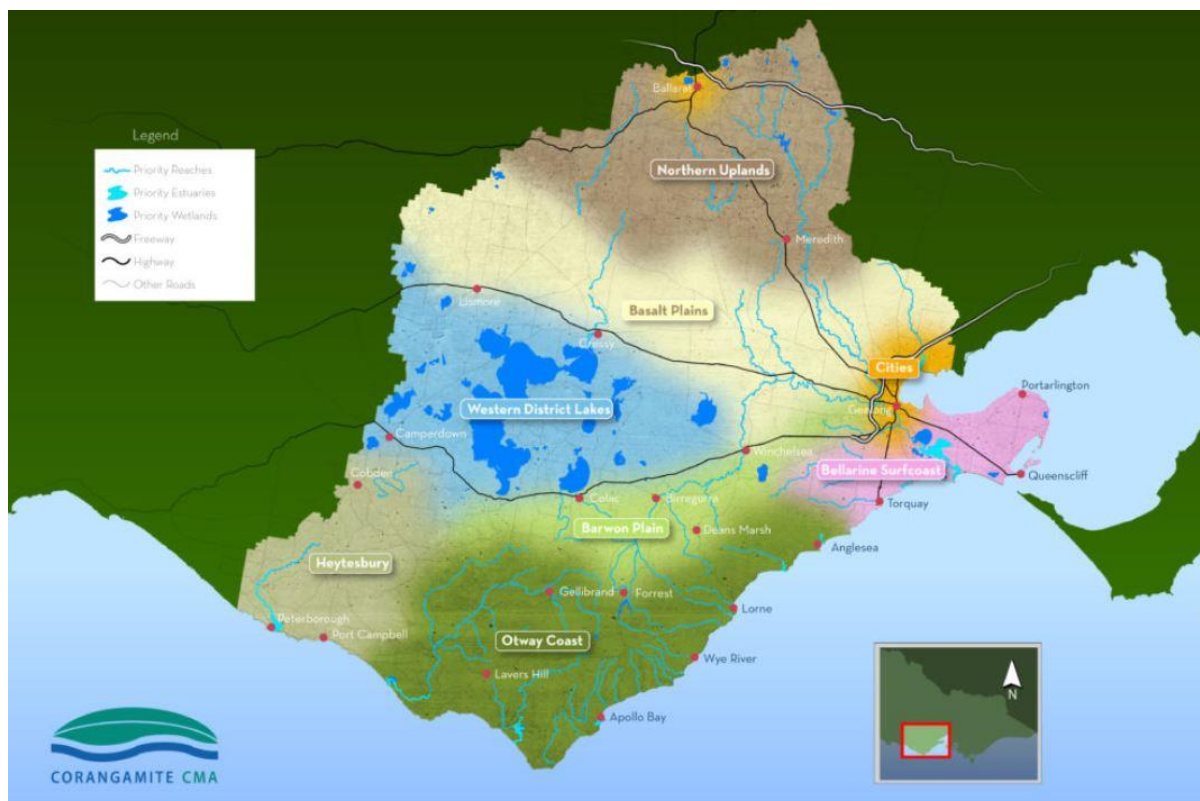
## Limitations

As a monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plan that is projecting forward to 2027 there are significant assumptions that have been made regarding, funding, future policy of influence etc. Therefore, as a plan that will evolve over time this plan should be read with those uncertainties in mind and note that the plan reflects an aspirational desire that the CMA and its delivery partners are aiming for.

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this MEL Plan

The Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) is a high-level blueprint for catchment health. It provides a strategic, integrated framework for natural resource management in the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority's region and is based around 9 distinct landscape systems (refer to Figure 1) and 5 natural resource assets themes. The RCS was approved for release in 2022. This Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan outlines the processes that will be implemented to progressively evaluate implementation and progress towards desired outcomes to help inform natural resource management in the region.



**Figure 1: Landscape systems of the Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy Region**

The Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CALP) requires CMAs to identify procedures for monitoring the implementation of their RCS. The Victorian outcomes framework for NRM identifies a set of standard indicators that align with Victorian Government and Australian Government policies, thereby improving the way RCSs reinforce, promote and support government policy and objectives. Additional outcome indicators specific to regional matters of interest can also be included.

The outcome monitoring is supported by other qualitative and quantitative evidence to inform the various stages of evaluation and adaptive management (Refer to Figure 2)

### **Incremental learning:**

Is focused on implementation of the RCS and will be monitored with implementation partners annually and reported to community and stakeholders annually. The annual review process will provide incremental learning and enable collaborative decisions on project design, delivery and practice.

### **Learning for re-focussing:**

A mid-term and final review of the RCS will also provide robust processes to measure progress towards the RCS outcomes. These review processes will focus on changes that may be required in strategies to address the outcomes.

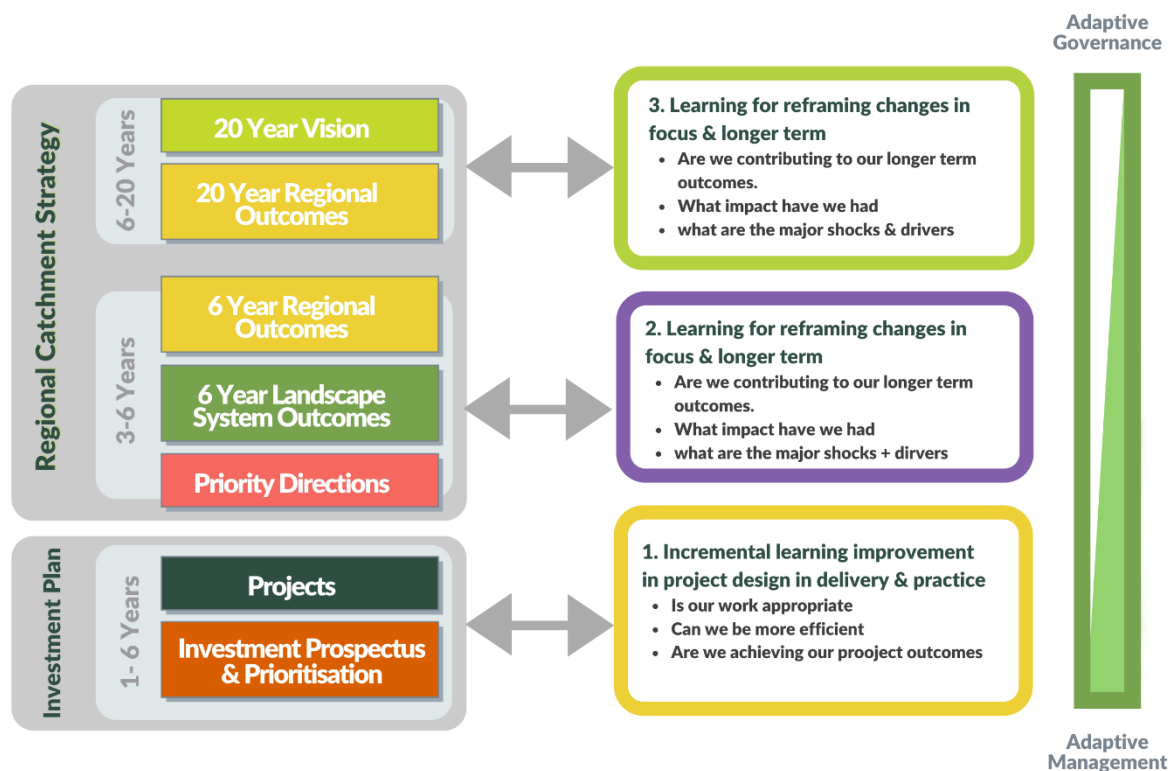


Figure 2: Different stages of RCS evaluation

## 1.2 Overview of the RCS and its development

The RCS integrates the natural resource management aims of all catchment partners, across the whole region. The strategy facilitates appropriate, integrated land and water management within the region by identifying the roles and responsibilities of those involved, whilst also providing the basis for integrated, place-based action. The full strategy is presented in an online format that can be found at <https://corangamite.rcs.vic.gov.au/>.

The development of the Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy followed an extensive review of the previous strategy, initial engagement with a range of stakeholders and partners to ascertain their aspirations for this strategy and involvement in the development of a state-wide approach.

Key regional drivers for the development of this RCS were the need to better align local management areas to the socio-ecological landscapes of the region and how they function due to soil type, topography, climate, biodiversity, land use and people. These have been identified within this strategy as [landscape systems](#).

Key [partners](#) that were engaged with during the development of the Regional Catchment Strategy include traditional owners, all municipalities, all relevant agencies, industry groups, community groups such as Landcare and relevant community members. The Corangamite Catchment Partnership Agreement Forum (CPA) played a key role in its development, as did the Corangamite Community Engagement Network.

The RCS identifies:

- The region's land, water and biodiversity resources and how they are utilised including regionally significant land, water and biodiversity assets and landscapes
- The threats to the natural assets
- A long-term vision for the region
- Goals for maintaining and improving catchment condition
- A program to adaptively manage the strategy.

### 1.3 Stakeholder analysis

The RCS is an integrated strategy for long-term management of the natural assets of the system. It is intended to build on the existing management of NRM across the region with a stronger integrated approach to planning, delivery, evaluation and adaptive management across delivery partners. This is a continuous, collaborative and reflective process illustrated in Figure 3.



**Figure 3: Cyclic and collaborative nature of the annual planning and review that will be used for RCS delivery**

Apart from the CCMA, the delivery partners for the RCS are many and varied when we consider the work of individual landholders, communities and community groups as well as Landcare. The Catchment Partnership Forum under the Corangamite Regional Partnership Agreement for NRM (CPA) are also significant partners who have not only provided input to the renewal process but are significant contributors to its delivery. This is either through their “business as usual” operations or through collaborative and integrated projects where different stakeholders can leverage off one another.

We have used the term stakeholders in the MEL Plan to reflect a broader audience beyond those that are delivering the RCS.

Table 1 identifies the project stakeholders, as identified through the Communication and Engagement Plan, and then for the purposes of this MEL Plan identifies how they will contribute and / or use the evaluation findings.

**Table 1. Stakeholders and their contribution to and use of evaluation findings**

Stakeholder	Whole of Project Engagement				Evaluation	
	Influence	Interest	IAP2 level	Engagement	How will they be involved in evaluations	What do they want from the evaluation process
CCMA Board	High	High	Inform	Relevant updates at Board meetings Board tours	Consumer of the information	See the benefits of intervention Summary report
CCMA Senior Management Team	High	High	Collaborate	Targeted communications & face-to-face meetings	Consumer of the information Quality Control	See the benefits of the interventions and celebrate success Information that will inform future delivery of this and other like projects Whole of report
CCMA Staff	High	High	Co-design / collaborate	Integrated team meetings, contribute to engagement events and materials, leverage off other projects and activities Share knowledge and learnings	Contributor of qualitative and quantitative information Represented on major evaluations PCGs Contribute to learnings and adaptation Co-ordinator and Project Director will lead and manage evaluation	See the benefits of the interventions and celebrate success Information that will inform future delivery of this and other like projects Whole of report
Corangamite CMA Community Engagement Network (CEN)	Medium	Medium	Inform	Targeted communications & face-to-face meetings	Consumer of the information	See the benefits of intervention Summary report
Govt Primary Investors – Australian Govt State Government	High	Med	Inform	Relevant updates, correspondence, investor reports, events	DELWP Rep may sit on major evaluation PCG	See the benefits of the interventions See the benefits from their co-investment Report to review and whole final report
Private Investors	Low	Medium	Inform	Targeted communications	Consumer of the information	Confidence in their investment



Stakeholder	Whole of Project Engagement				Evaluation	
	Influence	Interest	IAP2 level	Engagement	How will they be involved in evaluations	What do they want from the evaluation process
CPA Members <sup>1</sup>	High	High	Collaborate	Member of governance group Work with on e-water delivery Co-fund activities within project Workshop knowledge forums, targeted face to face meetings	Contributor of qualitative and quantitative information CPA would see major evaluation for reviewing Contribute to learnings and adaptation	See the benefits of the interventions See the benefits from their co-investment
Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Group	High	High	Collaborate	Member of governance group Participate in e-water planning and CS activities Lead cultural events Workshop knowledge forums, targeted face to face meetings	Contributor of qualitative and quantitative information Sit on major evaluations PCGs Contribute to learnings and adaptation	See the benefits of the interventions Understand how contributing to their Country Plan Report to review and whole final report
Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation	High	High	Collaborate	Member of governance group Participate in e-water planning and CS activities Lead cultural events Workshop knowledge forums, targeted face to face meetings	Contributor of qualitative and quantitative information Sit on major evaluations PCGs Contribute to learnings and adaptation	See the benefits of the interventions Understand how contributing to their Country Plan Report to review and whole final report
Landholders	High	High	Involve	Workshop knowledge forums, targeted face to face meetings Keep informed of relevant works and promote incentive as well as CS opportunities	Contributor of qualitative and quantitative information	See the benefits of the interventions Summary report
Landcare Groups Networks	High	High	Collaborate	Workshop knowledge forums, targeted face to face meetings	Contributor of qualitative and quantitative information	See the benefits of the interventions

<sup>1</sup> Need to cross reference with the stakeholder analysis in the Communication and Engagement Plan for RCS implementation as some members of the CPA maybe more likely to take a more active role in the various stages of MEL than others.

Stakeholder	Whole of Project Engagement				Evaluation	
	Influence	Interest	IAP2 level	Engagement	How will they be involved in evaluations	What do they want from the evaluation process
				Co-delivery of on-ground works and CS opportunities	Contribute to learnings and adaptation	Whole report and summary
Community NFPs (eg Friends of Barwon, PALM)	High	Med	Consult	Workshops, Knowledge forum, targeted face to face meetings	May contribute qualitative and quantitative information Contribute to learnings and adaptation	See the benefits of the interventions Whole report and summary
Industry	Med	Med	Consult	Targeted communications	Consumer of the information May participate in individual project / program evaluations	See the benefits of the interventions Summary report
Citizen Scientist Volunteers	High	High	Collaborate	Workshops, Knowledge forum, targeted face to face meetings and communications	Contribute qualitative and quantitative information Contribute to learnings and adaptation	See the benefits of the interventions See their information contributing to decision making Summary report – maybe whole

## 1.4 Relationship across scales in the RCS

Figure 4 is highlighting the relationship of the core components of the RCS have an obvious relationship across scale. That is many priority directions will contribute to an outcome at a landscape scale and many landscape scale outcomes will contribute to a regional outcome. The application of the MEL Plan will use this relationship to evaluate contribution of implementation to 6 year outcomes and then to longer term outcomes.



Figure 4: Simple outcome hierarchy for the RCS

## 2 MEL Framework

The RCS is a complex Strategy to deliver by the nature of the temporal and spatial scales, desired outcomes, interventions, multiple players and externalities. Therefore, this MEL plan will primarily focus on the achievement of RCS outcomes and will draw evidence from the projects, programs and business as usual activities (BAU) to determine contribution to the outcomes.

Evaluation will also assess RCS implementation over its life and focus this at delivery against priority directions.

The evaluation process will be guided by several key principles including best practice guidance for evaluative practice.

### 2.1 Principles

Some of the core principles that will shape the evaluative practice include:

#### Apply ethical practices to evaluation

Ethics in evaluation covers such matters as informed consent, storage and use of information and appropriate behaviour. The Australian evaluation society has established guidelines that will be applied when undertaking evaluations. These include:

1. Guidelines for the ethical conduct of evaluations, which provide principles associated with commissioning or conducting as well as reporting evaluations:

[https://www.aes.asn.au/images/AES\\_Guidelines\\_web\\_v2.pdf](https://www.aes.asn.au/images/AES_Guidelines_web_v2.pdf)

2. Code of ethics, particularly with respect to responsibilities to the field of evaluation and to the public:

[https://www.aes.asn.au/images/AES\\_Code\\_of\\_Ethics\\_web.pdf](https://www.aes.asn.au/images/AES_Code_of_Ethics_web.pdf)

3. First nations cultural safety framework, which provides principles and guidance on culturally safe evaluations:

[https://www.aes.asn.au/images/AES\\_FirstNations\\_Cultural\\_Framework\\_finalWEB\\_final.pdf](https://www.aes.asn.au/images/AES_FirstNations_Cultural_Framework_finalWEB_final.pdf)

#### Complement and consolidate existing systems and ensure cost-effective processes

Evaluative processes typically draw on best available and relevant information. Therefore, where feasible the approaches should integrate, draw from and complement other relevant systems. For example an evaluation of the RCS should draw from relevant evaluative processes of the underpinning programs that are implemented to deliver against the RCS (eg Regional Waterway Strategy (RWS), Regional Landcare Program (RLP)). The benefits of the information obtained from the monitoring and evaluation process must outweigh the costs of developing and implementing any such systems.

#### Use practical and objective verification

The evaluative process must be based on sound information and processes so that there is confidence in its findings, practical to apply and transparent.

### 2.2 Roles and responsibilities for management of evaluations

While Table 1 provides a listing of the key stakeholders across the whole of the project, Table 2 provides information on the roles and responsibilities associated with the management of evaluation processes. Specific monitoring and evaluation requirements are identified within the evaluation design.

**Table 2. Roles and responsibilities for management of RCS MEL**

Position / organisation	Responsibility for MEL Management
RCS governance group (CPA Forum)	Strategic oversight Assist with any barriers to its implementation Encourages any “learning to action” processes

Position / organisation	Responsibility for MEL Management
CCMA evaluation leads: Manager Strategy Information Analyst Project Officer, Strategy	Responsible for ensuring the MEL Plan is being implemented Ensures evidence sources are being collected Assists with identifying and updating MEL Plan May commission some evaluation process or facilitate internal evaluation processes Organises and actively participates in any “learning to action” processes Peer review for any procured evaluation activities
Manager Strategy	Ensures key touch points between RCS MEL and implementation of RCS Liaises with CPA representatives for RCS
General Manager Strategy and Planning	Project owner / Director for RCS MEL Strategic oversight and or leads internally run evaluations

### 3 MEL Plan

#### 3.1 High level evaluation questions and evidence needs

The high level evaluation questions are presented in Table 3 below along with the respective timing for when the evaluation findings will occur be reported (noting the timing for monitoring will occur progressively over time). By high level that are just providing a generic indication of what the focus for the evaluation will be on .

Table 4 provides the monitoring and evaluation plan for all KEQs and, where relevant, describes some of the KEQs as specific evaluation questions for each of the themes.

**Table 3: Key evaluation Questions and evaluation timing**

High level evaluation questions	Evaluation report timing
<b>Purpose: Incremental learning of the implementation process (see Table 4)</b>	
1. Are we delivering against our priority directions through RCS implementation?	Annual
2. What factors impacted on the effectiveness of RCS implementation, either positively or negatively?	Annual
3. Do the approaches remain appropriate to deliver regional outcomes	Annual
<b>Purpose: Learning for refocussing the current RCS with a focus on progress of implementation to be able to achieve 6 year outcomes (see Table 5)</b>	
4. What is the status of RCS implementation?	Mid-term for RCS
5. Are our priorities still appropriate to deliver against RCS outcomes?	Mid-term for RCS
<b>Purpose: Learning for reframing the renewal of the RCS with a focus on achievement of 6 year outcomes and contribution to 20 year outcomes (see Table 6)</b>	
6. Did we achieve our 6 year regional outcomes? Did the RCS implementation contribute to these?	End of current RCS and renewal
7. Are we contributing to our longer term outcomes?	End of current RCS and renewal
8. What are now the major drivers or shocks in our socio-ecological systems and how best do we manage	End of current RCS and renewal

**Table 4. Monitoring and evaluation plan against KEQs: Incremental Learning**

KEQ	Specific Evaluation Question / descriptor (where relevant)	Evidence needs / indicators / supporting information	Data collection timing, methods and responsibility	Evaluation approach	Evaluation Responsibilities and timing	Reporting
1. Are we delivering against our priority directions through RCS implementation?	N/A	From Priority Direction leads	All CPA members provide Annual Strategy Team co-ordinates	Rubric used to allocate rating	Annual  Strategy Manager co-ordinates with CPA representatives	Strategy Manager co-ordinates Annual – take to Board and CPA then publish on RCS website
2. What factors impacted on the effectiveness of RCS implementation, either positively or negatively?	N/A	Maybe offered in reporting Annual meeting on RCS implementation to id		Qualitative / narrative to explain any issues or variances	Annual Strategy Manager co-ordinates with CPA representatives	Strategy Manager co-ordinates Annual – take to Board and CPA then CPA internal action report to inform next 12 months
3. Do the approaches remain appropriate to deliver regional outcomes	What do we need to action to address significant implementation issues?	Qualitative and maybe offered with reported information otherwise annual meeting on RCS to identify		Only a narrative that will form a realistic action plan		

**Table 5: Monitoring and evaluation plan against KEQs: Learning for refocussing (mid-term)**

KEQ	Specific Evaluation Question / descriptor (where relevant)	Evidence needs / indicators / supporting information	Data collection timing, methods and responsibility	Evaluation approach	Evaluation Responsibilities and timing	Reporting
4. What is the status of RCS implementation?	<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation partnerships and governance</li> <li>• MEL</li> <li>• Intended annual implementation cycle and how it has adapted and why</li> <li>• Progress towards Priority Directions</li> <li>• Lessons / actions to take forward</li> </ul>	<p>This builds a picture from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Results in KEQ4 above that provides a statement of what has been achieved</li> <li>2. Should incorporate interviews with all members of CPA, landcare and CMA staff</li> </ol>	<p>Item 1 is from KEQ4 Item 2: Synthesised from Table 4 by the CMA</p> <p>Run a facilitated workshop panel for each landscape system to understand what is working well (and why) and what isn't (and why). Use Item 1 and 2 above to inform this discussion.</p>	Desktop and qualitative assessment		•
5. Are our priorities still appropriate to deliver against RCS outcomes?	<p>Is there any new knowledge, change in operating environments or policies regionally or by landscape system that might change any of our focus or priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Uplands</li> <li>• Basalt Plains</li> <li>• Western District Lakes</li> <li>• Barwon Plain</li> <li>• Heytesbury</li> <li>• Otway Coast</li> <li>• Bellarine Surfcoast</li> <li>• Geelong City</li> <li>• Ballarat City</li> </ul>	KEQ 4 and 5 results informs panel discussion on actions required	Using the same evaluation panel for the landscape system at the same time KEQ5 is addressed identify realistic actions (stop, change, upscale, new style of actions that will contribute to outcomes)	Qualitative discussion		

**Table 6: Monitoring and evaluation plan against KEQs: Learning for reframing (end of and renewal)**

KEQ	Specific Evaluation Question / descriptor (where relevant)	Evidence needs / indicators / supporting information	Data collection timing, methods and responsibility	Evaluation approach	Evaluation Responsibilities and timing	Reporting
6. Did we achieve our regional 6 year outcomes?  Did the RCS implementation contribute to these?	Refer to regional outcomes by theme via the RCS web page or summary document:  <a href="#">CCMA-RCS-Summary_WEB.pdf</a>	The monitoring plan for the RCS will be built off the RCS outcomes work. Such a monitoring plan will inform what information will be collected for each. The monitoring plan will identify responsibilities and timings.  <a href="#">Hyperlink to monitoring plan here</a>		Compare outcomes to either benchmarks or change over time to present regional outcomes.  Will also need to use contribution analysis or counterfactuals to link outcomes to RCS implementation. RCS implementation will come from Table 4 and 5 findings. Need to also consider externalities – those things outside the control of the RCS that will have a positive or negative impact on the evaluation.  Once all of the above is collated could use an expert panel approach to identify contribution of the RCS to each of the regional outcomes	CMA will lead with input from CPA partners	CMA will lead with review input from CPA partners
7. Are we contributing to our longer term outcomes?	These are the 20 year regional outcomes: <b>Water</b> By 2042, regional waterways (rivers, wetlands, lakes, estuaries and groundwater) are more resilient to the impacts of climate and land use change <b>Biodiversity</b> By 2042, 90% of the region’s ecosystems are biodiverse and resilient to the challenges of climate and land use change. By 2042, a regional net improvement across all native species – with a priority on threatened species and ecological communities – is achieved (as measured by Change in Suitable Habitat). By 2042, a regional net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and marine environments is achieved. <b>Land</b> By 2042, the region’s land is managed within its capacity as climate change impacts increase. <b>Coast and Marine</b> By 2042, an increase in the extent and condition of coastal habitats, together with improved water quality flowing into the marine environment, contributes to building a	The monitoring plan for the RCS will include what success would look like for the 20 year outcomes and monitoring established to address the success factors. The monitoring plan will identify responsibilities and timings.  <a href="#">Hyperlink to monitoring plan here</a>		Compare 20 year outcomes to change over time  Will also need to use contribution analysis or counterfactuals to link 20 yr outcomes to regional outcomes and RCS implementation. (Taken from KEQ7. Need to also consider externalities – those things outside the control of the RCS that will have a positive or negative impact on the evaluation.  Once all of the above is collated could use an expert panel approach to identify contribution of the RCS to each of the regional outcomes. This could be undertaken as part of KEQ7.	CMA will lead with input from CPA partners. Expect this will form 1 report with KEQ7 above	CMA will lead with review input from CPA partners. Expect this will form 1 report with KEQ7 above



KEQ	Specific Evaluation Question / descriptor (where relevant)	Evidence needs / indicators / supporting information	Data collection timing, methods and responsibility	Evaluation approach	Evaluation Responsibilities and timing	Reporting
	<p>healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment.</p> <p><b>Communities</b> By 2042, communities are empowered to collaborate, connect and protect the region's natural assets.</p>					
<p>8. What are now the major drivers or shocks in our socio-ecological systems and how best do we manage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is forward looking based on new information of threats and opportunities for the region.</li> <li>The purpose of this question is to be looking forward to the new RCS</li> </ul>	<p>Not specified as this is an exploratory question to surface emerging issues. May include (but not exclusively): Climate change predictions; demographic changes; landuse; catchment condition; legislation and policy changes etc)</p>	<p>Workshop internally with staff and CPA members as part of a body of work leading into RCS renewal. Some issues may emerge through KEQ 7 and 8 above.</p>	<p>This is an information synthesis approach</p>	<p>CMA responsible for leading as a process surfacing new and emerging issues that will inform next RCS</p>	<p>Potentially a paper used to identify priorities and inform discussions associated with RCS renewal</p>

### 3.2 Key Timings in RCS MEL

Figure 3 above highlights the collaborative and cyclic nature of annual reporting against progress but also using this as an opportunity for the Corangamite CMA to get together with CPA partners to reflect and plan opportunities moving forward. This is reflected under incremental learning in Table 8 below.

Learning for re-focussing also has the opportunity to use the relevant outcomes to support renewal of the Corangamite Waterway Strategy and obviously Learning for re-framing will build from the other two and will be used to inform the renewal of the RCS.

**Table 7. Key MEL timings**

Management outcome	'22		'23		'24		'25		'26		'27		'28		'29	
Incremental learning		X	X	X ●	X	X ●	X	X ●	X	X ●	X	X ●				
Learning for refocussing		X		X		X		●								
Learning for re-framing		X		X		B X		X		X		X ●				
	Relevant baselines established (B) Monitoring collation (X) Evaluation & Reporting (●) RWS Renewal (RCS Renewal) timeframes															

### 3.3 Potential Externalities

Note externalities are outside of the control of RCS implementation that may have had a positive or negative impact on RCS outcomes. While the table below list externalities that may occur, the likely externalities remain a watching brief for the CMA and CPA members.

Matter / Externality	Positive or negative impact (and description of what that is and which outcomes)	Regional or Landscape specific (which ones)
Climate impacts	+ more production, groundcover, inflows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-drought – biodiversity, water quality, production</li> <li>Drought / fire – aquatic habitat, biodiversity, production, community resilience</li> <li>Flooding – impacts on riparian, community resilience also a positive in terms of river connection to floodplain etc</li> </ul>	Mostly regional but impact of rainfall in north of region is greater than south
	Coastal storm surge – erosion, local species extinction	Coastal systems

Matter / Externality	Positive or negative impact (and description of what that is and which outcomes)	Regional or Landscape specific (which ones)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stormwater impacts, estuarine (note also positive if stormwater used as alternate)</li> </ul>	Urban and per-urban systems
Policy / government	<p>Impact on urban growth extension and water supply as well as biodiversity, increasing stormwater (note maybe positive if IWM process implemented)</p> <p>Policies and strategies that aid RCS implementation (eg SWS, climate policy etc)</p> <p>Government decisions regarding budget – negative if reduced or restricts an organisations involvement</p> <p>Positive if increased opportunities</p> <p>Change of government (State &amp; Federal) – can change organisations and directions of organisations, creation of new organisations, government policy</p> <p>Policies across sectors associated with TO grps may overburden them and their ability to participate</p>	<p>Water supply catchments (including Gelli as Warrnambool increases pop)</p> <p>And those systems where growth occurs</p> <p>Rest are whole of region</p>
Tree changers	<p>Values and economic capacity to do but smaller blocks and intensification.</p> <p>Off property incomes may result in less time</p> <p>Impact of amenity dams as blocks get smaller</p> <p>Lack of knowledge of landuse impacts (run-off compaction and biodiversity, weeds)</p>	Peri-urban fringes of cities and largers towns as well as other systems
Cost of Living	Impact on how far funding reaches for landholders (eg fence, labour and trees more expensive now)	Whole of region
Demographics associated with farms–	Corporate farms - May have positive impact for management of land but negative community impact	Mostly dairy systems
Landuse change - windfarms	Community division, biodiversity and increasing farm dams	Northern and central systems

Matter / Externality	Positive or negative impact (and description of what that is and which outcomes)	Regional or Landscape specific (which ones)
Landuse change - plantations	Impacts biodiversity, groundwater and runoff (nutrients, chemicals)	Heytesbury and Otway Coast
Landuse change - plantations	Spread of weeds to neighbouring land	Heytesbury and Otway Coast
Demographic - aging	Impact on volunteers dropping out How do you attract new populations to our volunteers	Whole of region
Technology changes	Farming practices - improvements CS engagement – broaden reach Ability to access information – us and other organisations	Whole of region

### 3.4 Assumptions

Assumptions refer to the causal link between “doing something” and the expected result such as a training program for land managers will result in them changing their practice. The focus for the assumptions is at the RCS strategy level and not at individual project scale. The following assumptions were identified by CMA staff and have been presented as to where they have the greatest impact on the RCS hierarchy and therefore when they should be considered during evaluations.

RCS Hierarchy level	Assumption statement	Which evaluation stage to consider assumptions
20 year outcomes	6 year outcomes will contribute to the 20 year outcomes	Check the logic of this mid-term Need to consider as part of contribution of RCS to outcomes at end of RCS evaluation
6 year regional outcomes	Priority directions will contribute to outcomes 6 year outcomes are achievable within the life of the RCS The CPA collective can report on the performance of the RCS Always working from best available information	Check the logic of this mid-term Need to consider as part of contribution of RCS to outcomes at end of RCS evaluation
Implementation of RCS	Agencies will report progress Agreements made at CPA will be implemented by practitioners in those organisations CPA partners still see the RCS as a relevant document to their business Resources remain available to deliver projects to deliver against priority directions	Annual and mid-term

RCS Hierarchy level	Assumption statement	Which evaluation stage to consider assumptions
	The CPA collective can report on the performance of the RCS  Always working from best available information  Our TOs are able to engage and it remains a relevant document to their self determination	
RCS development	RCS is read and understood by catchment community and delivery partners and State investors  CPA partners still see the RCS as a relevant document to their business  Our TOs are able to engage and it remains a relevant document to their self determination	Annual and mid-term

### 3.5 Knowledge gaps

The focus for the knowledge gaps is at the RCS strategy level and not at individual project scale. It is anticipated that knowledge gaps will emerge over the life of the RCS and when the CPA members meet annually to review implementation, any knowledge gaps relevant to the Strategy should be surfaced.

- Outcome monitoring gaps and benchmarking for outcomes
- Understanding social demographic changes – social benchmarks and landuse changes
- Accessing knowledge associated with future shocks and drivers – what are these likely to be in 5-10 years?

It is the responsibility of the CMA to identify actions (with partners where relevant) to address the knowledge gaps.

## 4 Review of MEL Plan

The MEL Plan and associated monitoring plan for outcomes should be reviewed annually following the production of the annual progress report against implementation.