

Renewal of the Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy  
Stage Two: Community and Stakeholder Engagement  
Report of Outputs



Produced for



≧ May 2021 ≦

## Using this document

Discretion should be exercised in making decisions based on the data in this report. Kismet Forward was engaged to prepare an independent summary of agency and community feedback from a two-part series of online workshops. Significant effort has been made to accurately reflect the contribution of people who took part in this consultation.

However, the feedback, by its nature, is subjective and not always consistent. It cannot *necessarily* be construed to be an accurate reflection of the weight of broader community or stakeholder opinion. The report does not provide recommendations or opinions of the consultancy team. No formal statistical analysis or fact-checking of data has been undertaken.

All data has been provided to CCMA to inform the RCS renewal process.

No responsibility or liability can be taken for errors or omissions, or in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report by any third party.

The cover photos were provided by Corangamite CMA.

## Abbreviations used in this document

CCMA	Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
CPA	Catchment Partnership Agreement
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
IWM	Integrated Water Management
NVM	Natural Values Management
RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
TBL	Triple Bottom Line

*It was acknowledged that participants of the workshops were on the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar peoples.*



## Foreword

### Introduction

This foreword has been prepared by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) to provide context to the body of the report below prepared by Kismet Forward, and to describe how the CCMA used the information from the engagement process in the renewal of the Regional Catchment Strategy 2021-2027.

The Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) renewal process used guidelines provided by the Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) that were endorsed by the Minister for Water and employed by Victoria's Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) to guide the renewal process. Under the VCMC guidelines, there was a requirement for each RCS to have mandatory sections based on:

- A "Home" page as the point of entry and providing the regional Vision
- A "This Region" section that included a Traditional Owner Acknowledgement and Traditional Owner Welcomes to Country and a Regional Overview
- A "This Strategy" section that outlines the context, the process and how the RCS will be delivered.
- A "Themes" section that is required to address the following five themes:
  1. Water
  2. Biodiversity
  3. Land
  4. Coast & Marine
  5. Communities
- Sub-regional Areas" (Landscape Systems) are also a requirement and provide the basis for place based strategic development and delivery.

The Outcomes Framework outlined under the VCMC Guidelines also required a strategic process to identify how the Outcomes for each Theme could be developed and delivered at a sub-regional (Landscape System) level, deliver against the regional level Outcomes, and contribute at a state-wide level. This required a connection from local level actions to state level policy outcomes, the architecture for this is provided in Figure 1 below.

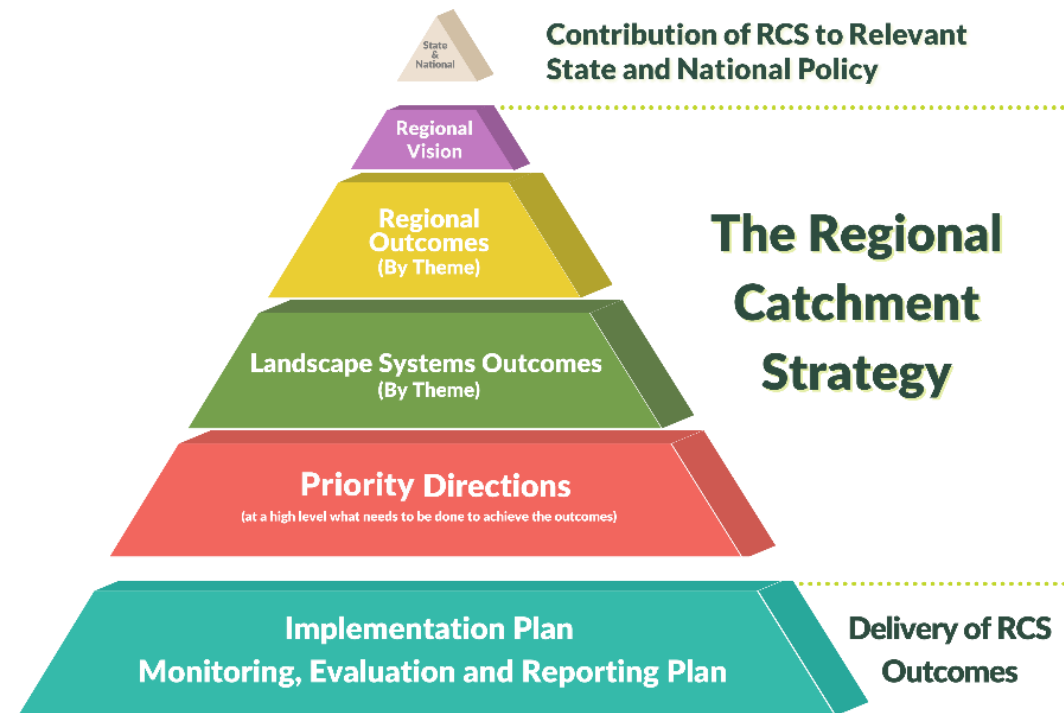


Figure 1: RCS Framework

## Overall Regional Catchment Strategy Renewal process.

A three-stage approach was delivered to engage the community and stakeholders in the RCS Renewal.

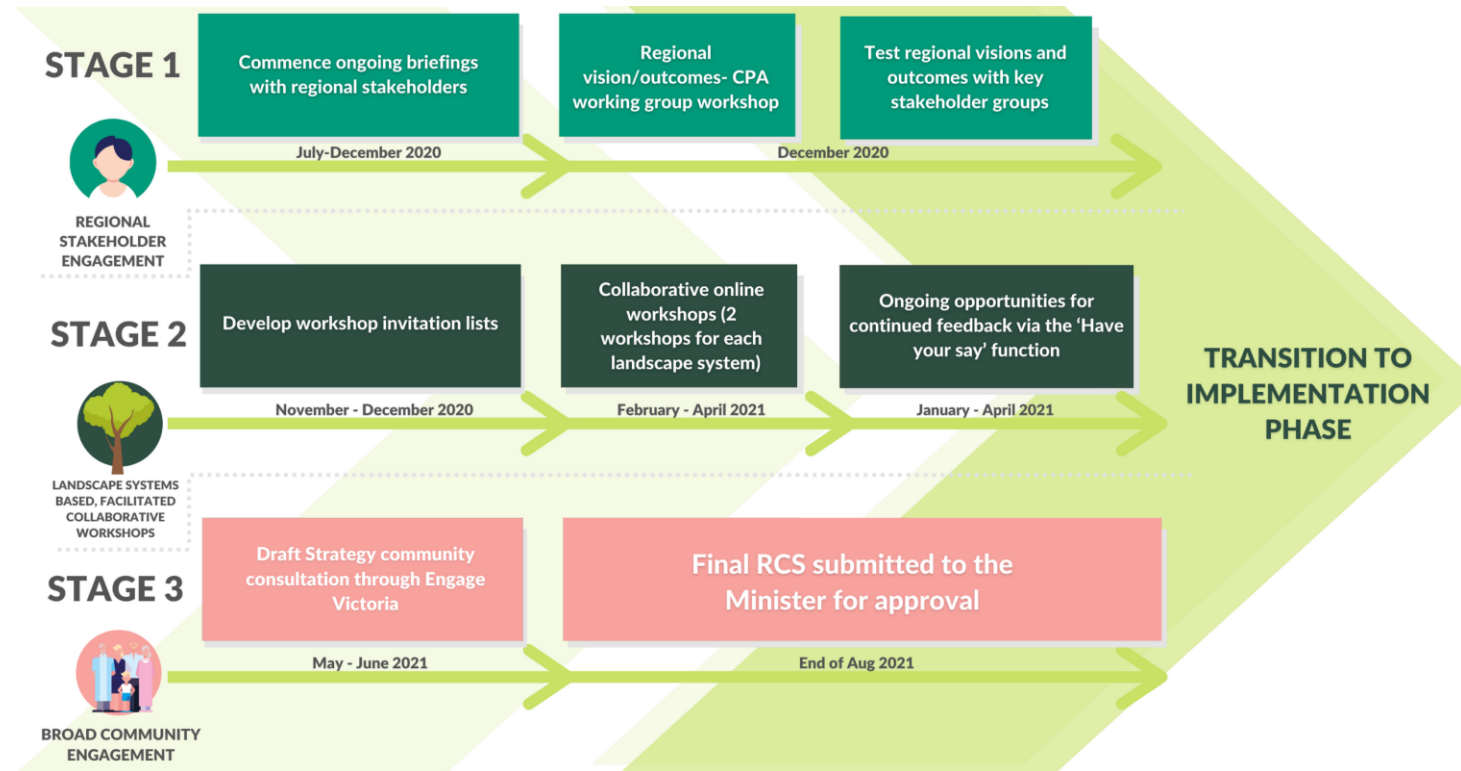


Figure 2 RCS Renewal Engagement Process

## Approach to synthesising the engagement feedback

The Catchment Partnership Agreement (CPA) forum (representatives from government agencies, water authorities, all local municipalities and Traditional Owners) was formed to enable key agencies in the Corangamite region with roles and responsibilities under various legislations and policies to work together cooperatively in delivering integrated management of the region's natural resources. The CPA recognised that they have a key role to play in the renewal of the RCS, which includes ensuring buy-in from all partners. The CPA agreed to support the Corangamite CMA in this process. The CPA were approached by the CMA to lead the development of the regional vision, 20-year and six-year Outcomes that are required for the five Themes, with the view of taking these to the wider community. The CPA agreed to delegate this task to a working group made up of CPA members.

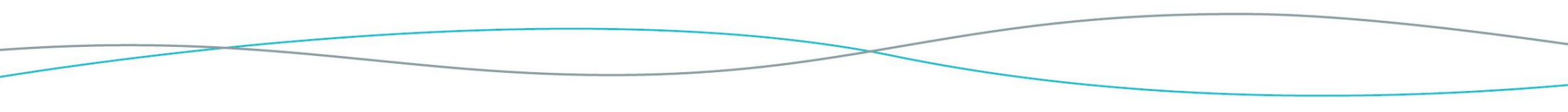
Kismet Forward were engaged to facilitate the community and stakeholder engagement process, which was based on a three-stage approach:

- The first stage involved targeted briefings to the CPA Working Group to develop a draft regional Vision and draft Outcomes for each of the five Themes.
- The second stage saw online, facilitated, collaborative Landscape System-based workshops conducted during February-April 2021. Eighteen workshops were held in relation to the Landscape Systems shown in Figure 3 (two workshops held for each of the nine landscape systems). The first series of workshops introduced and tested the draft regional Vision, 20-year regional Outcomes and six-year regional Outcomes for each of the Themes. The second series of workshops consolidated the Vision and regional Outcomes for each Theme and developed landscape-based six-year Outcomes and Priority Directions for all nine landscape areas.
- The third, broader stage of community engagement sought comments through the Engage Victoria platform and was managed by the Corangamite CMA.

From the three phases of feedback the Outcomes and Priority Directions were assessed as to whether they were:

- within the scope of the RCS
- applicable to the six-year life of the RCS
- addressed by other policies, strategies and/or legislation outside the scope of the RCS
- duplicated in terms of intent and therefore could be merged

Additional to this they were further tested with the members of the CPA along with relevant Victorian Government Departments, Traditional Owners and other communities of interest to provide the final Vision, 20 Year Outcomes, Six-year Outcomes and Six-year Priority Directions at both a Regional and Landscape System level.



The Six Year Priority Directions will provide the basis for the development of actions across each of the Landscape Systems.

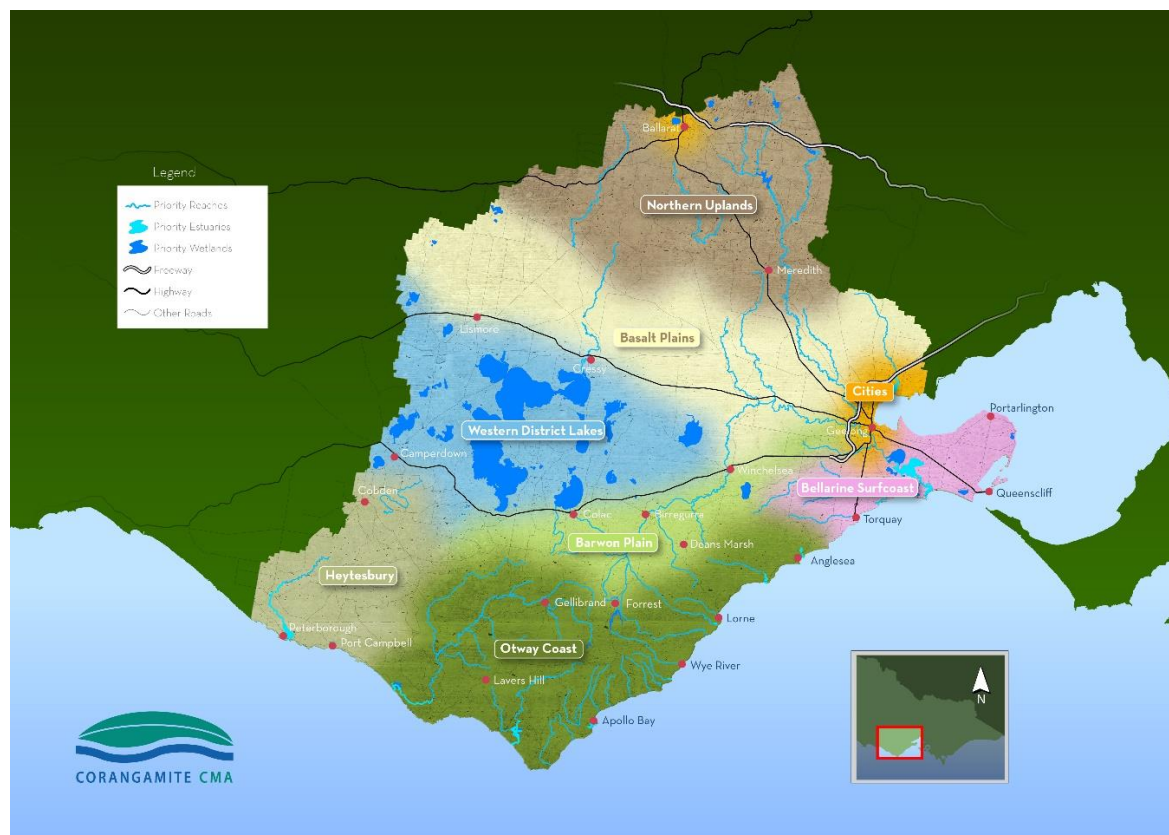


Figure 3: Map of the 9 Landscape Systems across the Corangamite Region

The following report covers stage two of this process and identifies the feedback from the community that has been captured, assessed, synthesized and where applicable included into the RCS in line with the VCMC guidelines.

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## Executive Summary

The Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) is a blueprint for catchment health, providing a strategic, integrated framework for natural resource management in the Corangamite Catchment Management region of Victoria. The existing RCS (2013-2019) requires renewal based on Victorian Catchment Management Council guidelines <sup>1</sup>.

The RCS renewal project took a three-stage approach to engaging the community and stakeholders. The first stage involved targeted briefings to key strategic partners in the Catchment Partnership Agreement (CPA) Working Group to develop a regional vision and outcomes for each of the five themes of Land, Water, Biodiversity, Community and Coasts & Marine. The second stage saw online, facilitated, collaborative landscape system-based workshops conducted during February-April 2021 to test the draft vision, regional outcomes, landscape-based outcomes and priority directions. The third stage will involve broad community engagement for comments through the Engage Victoria platform<sup>2</sup>.

Kismet Forward was engaged to deliver the Stage 2 Stakeholder and Community Consultation workshop series. Nine workshops (one for each landscape system) were delivered in a two-part series. The first part tested the draft vision and regional outcomes. The second part considered the outputs across the first series of workshops and drafted Priority Directions for each landscape system. 275 people participated in the workshops, of which 122 were community

members, 94 were CCMA staff or Board, and 59 were other government agency staff.

Participants provided helpful feedback about what they liked and didn't like about the draft Vision. References to a '*healthy*' and '*cared for*' environment within the statement received almost twice as many positive responses as the second most frequently occurring response category. However, the omission of critical elements of biodiversity/environment/ecosystem was also a frequently occurring criticism of the statement. These responses were spread across all nine landscape systems. The inclusion of the term '*thriving*' in the statement was polarising in its response from participants.

In providing feedback on the draft regional outcomes across the five themes of water, land, biodiversity, community and coast and marine, more criticisms than supportive comments were offered for each of the themes. Criticisms ranged from the inclusion or omission of particular concepts in the statements to wording and measurability.

A rich offering of suggestions on the landscape-based outcomes and priority actions was forthcoming for each of the nine landscape systems.

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<sup>1</sup> CCMA Request for Quotation: Project Brief for Engagement for Renewal of the CRCS: Attachment 1, November 2020)

<sup>2</sup> CCMA: RCS Renewal Communication Engagement Action Plan November 2020

## 1. Introduction

The Corangamite Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) is a blueprint for catchment health. It provides a strategic, integrated framework for natural resource management in Victoria's Corangamite Catchment Management region. The existing RCS covers the period 2013–2019<sup>3</sup>. The RCS requires renewal based on guidelines developed by the Victorian Catchment Management Council, the principles of which include:

- Regional ownership, embracing the regional delivery model, including co-delivery from committed partners
- Place-based systems approach, at regional and local levels
- Built on strong community engagement and stakeholder partnerships
- Regard for Aboriginal cultural values and traditional ecological knowledge
- Triple bottom line approach, including consideration of socio-cultural, economic, and environmental factors<sup>4</sup>.

The RCS renewal project took a three-stage approach to engaging the community and stakeholders, as shown in Figure 1.

During October-December 2020, targeted briefings were provided to key strategic partners<sup>5</sup>. As part of this process, the Catchment Partnership Agreement (CPA) Working Group drafted a regional vision statement and 6 and 20-year regional outcomes for the five themes of Land, Water, Biodiversity, Community and Coasts & Marine.

The second stage involved two collaborative workshops for each of the region's nine landscape systems. These online workshops took place from February-April 2021.

The third stage will involve a broad community engagement phase scheduled for May-June 2021, in which there will be a state-wide call for comments through the Engage Victoria platform<sup>6</sup> (see Figure 1).

Kismet Forward was engaged to plan and facilitate the Stage 2 Stakeholder and Community Consultation workshop series.

This summary report is the outcome of that consultation process.

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<sup>3</sup> CCMA: RCS Renewal Communication Engagement Action Plan November 2020

<sup>4</sup> CCMA Request for Quotation: Project Brief for Engagement for Renewal of the CRCS: Attachment 1, November 2020)

<sup>5</sup> Traditional Owners, Catchment Partnership Group, Community Engagement Network, Landcare Chairs/Facilitators Group

<sup>6</sup> CCMA: RCS Renewal Communication Engagement Action Plan November 2020

*Figure 1: RCS Renewal Engagement Process*

*Source: <https://ccma.vic.gov.au/what-we-do/regional-catchment-strategy/>*

## 2. Methodology

The RSC Renewal project was publicised on the CCMA website<sup>7</sup>, which included information about the achievements of the current RCS, the health of the catchment's natural assets, trends in the region and the opportunities for individuals and groups to be actively involved in the renewal process. An invitation to attend the community and stakeholder workshops was extended, and participants were encouraged to attend both workshops for particular landscapes<sup>8</sup>, shown in Figure 2.

In addition, the CCMA directly invited known community groups to the workshops via email, and more broadly via social media.

The workshops were delivered in a two-part series. The first series, conducted in February – March 2021, involved a tailored 2-hour online workshop for each of the nine Landscape Systems (Local Areas)<sup>9</sup> (Appendix A). In this series, community representatives and stakeholders tested the draft vision and regional outcomes developed by the CPA Working Group. They then used the Outcome statements to begin developing Priority Directions for each Landscape System. Following these workshops, all participants were sent a survey to review and comment on the workshop outputs.

The second workshop series was conducted in March-April 2021, again across the nine Landscape Systems. Participants considered the outputs from the first series of workshops and developed draft Priority Directions for their Landscape System.

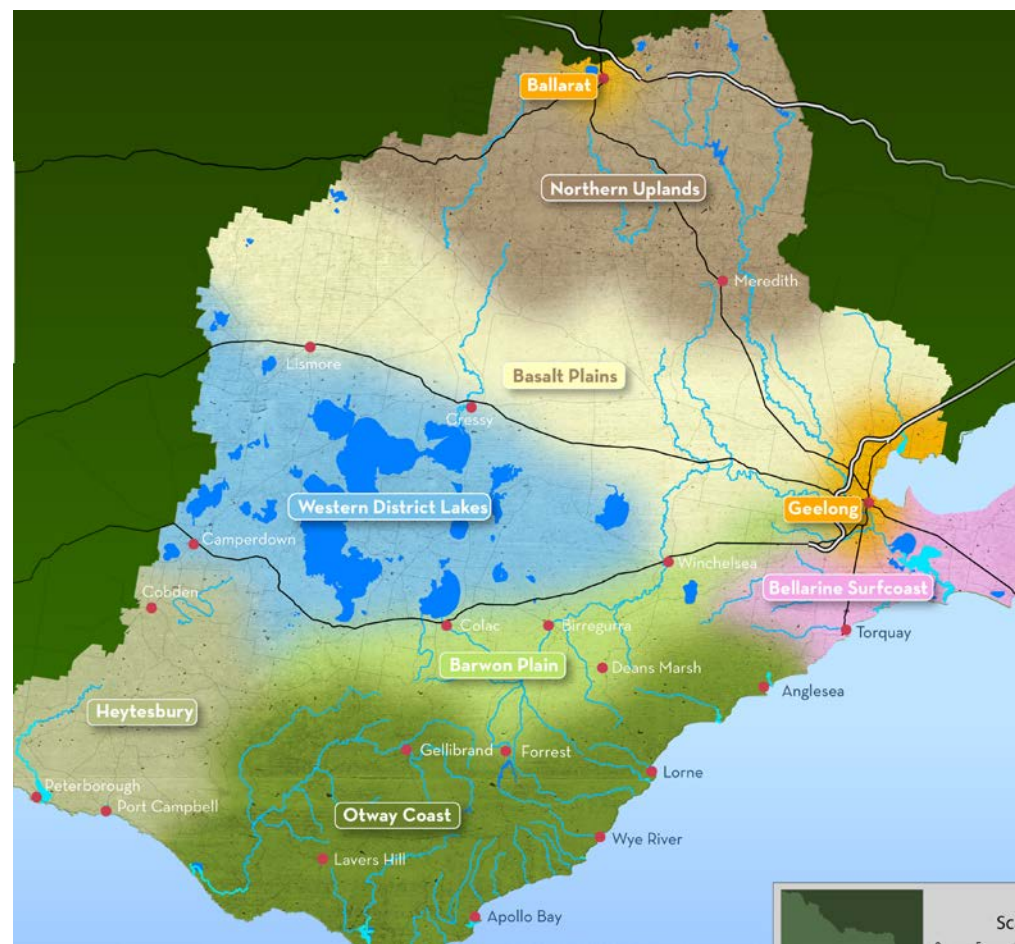


Figure 2: The nine Landscape Systems in the Corangamite region.

<sup>7</sup> <https://ccma.vic.gov.au/what-we-do/regional-catchment-strategy/>

<sup>8</sup> CCMA: RCS Renewal Communication Engagement Action Plan November 2020

<sup>9</sup> Northern Uplands, Basalt Plains, Western District Lakes, Heytesbury, Otway Coast, Barwon Plain, Bellarine and Surf Coast, Geelong City, Ballarat City.

The Agenda for the two sets of workshops is in Appendix B.

In each workshop, three rounds of breakout group discussions enabled participants to focus on three of the five<sup>10</sup> themes. Before the first series of workshops, participants were invited to indicate their preferred themes and were allocated to themed breakout discussions accordingly. These preferences were carried through to the second workshop series. Where possible, breakout groups comprised a range of community, agency and CCMA participants. Breakout groups were facilitated by CCMA or agency staff.

Both series of workshops involved whole group and breakout group components to enable small, theme-focused discussions. Using Zoom as the online meeting platform, the Breakout Room and Chat functions were used throughout the sessions, as was the online survey platform Mentimeter. After each workshop, participants were encouraged to make further comments through the Engage Victoria platform.

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<sup>10</sup> The theme 'Coast and Marine' was not discussed in the workshops focusing on inland Landscape Systems.

### 3. Who contributed feedback

The eighteen online workshops ran from 16 February to 19 April 2021. Attendance numbers are indicated in Table 1.

A total of 275 people attended the workshops, of which 122 (44%) were community members, 59 (21%) were agency staff, and 94 (34%) were CCMA Board or staff members (Table 1). It is noted that most people in the two latter categories are also community members in the Corangamite region. Facilitators are not included in these figures.

Several participants attended more than one workshop, meaning that the total number of individuals participating in the workshops is less than 275.

A further 272 workshop registrations were received without the person attending.

Workshops for Landscape Systems	Participants				Total
	Govt Agency	CCMA Board	CCMA Staff	Community	
1.1 Geelong	6	0	6	10	22
1.2 Basalt Plains	4	0	6	10	20
1.3 Northern Uplands	1	0	5	6	12
1.4 Bellarine Surf Coast	3	2	5	20	30
1.5 Ballarat	3	2	2	7	14
1.6 Heytesbury	6	2	3	4	15
1.7 Western District Lakes	1	1	2	5	9
1.8 Barwon Plain	3	0	6	8	17
1.9 Otway Coast	6	2	8	10	26
<b>Total Series 1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>165</b>
2.1 Basalt Plains	5	0	8	4	17
2.2 Geelong	3	1	3	5	12
2.3 Western District Lakes	3	0	3	4	10
2.4 Northern Uplands	3	0	4	2	9
2.5 Heytesbury	1	2	4	3	10
2.6 Ballarat	4	0	0	4	8
2.7 Barwon Plain	3	1	4	4	12
2.8 Bellarine Surf Coast	2	2	4	12	20
2.9 Otway Coast	2	3	3	4	12
<b>Total Series 2</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Total overall</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>275</b>

Table 1: Workshop attendances

## 4. What we heard

### Participants' priorities

At the beginning of the Series 1 workshops, participants were asked to identify the single most important issue they would like the RCS to tackle. 194 responses were received to this question, as summarised in Table 2. For ease of analysis, similar responses were grouped.

Unsurprisingly, the two response categories raised most frequently were suggested in all nine workshops: 'Environment/waterways climate change adaptation' was mentioned 27 times and 'Protection/restoration of our waterways & wetlands/ water quality' 24 times.

The third highest-ranking category of 'Protection of biodiversity/ threatened species' (22 mentions) was raised in seven workshops.

At the other end of the scale, 'air quality' was only raised once, as was 'groundwater-dependent ecosystems'.

Response Category	Number of mentions	Number of workshops
Environment/waterways climate change adaptation	27 (14%)	9
Protection/restoration of our waterways & wetlands/ water quality	24 (12%)	9
Protection of biodiversity/ threatened species	22 (11%)	7
Engage all communities to engage and embrace nature in a responsible manner	13 (7%)	7
Communication/ engagement between communities and agencies	9 (5%)	7
Integrated Water (or Catchment) Management /NRM	9 (5%)	7
Population growth/pressure on rural biodiversity /increased run off	9 (5%)	6

*Table 2: Most frequently raised response categories across Series 1 workshops. Bracketed numbers are the % of all 194 responses received. The last column shows the number of workshops in which each response was mentioned.*

## Participants' Vision for the region

*Healthy and productive lands and waters cared for and enjoyed by thriving communities*

### What participants LIKED and DIDN'T LIKE about the draft Vision

In Workshop Series 1, participants were presented with the draft vision statement (as shown above) and asked to describe the aspects they liked and didn't like about the statement. Participants were able to provide multiple responses to each question. To assist analysis, similar responses have been grouped.

Workshop participants collectively provided 274 response categories about what they *liked* about the vision. The top five positive response categories across all nine workshops are shown in Table 3.

Participants provided a total of 328 comments describing what they *didn't like* about the draft vision statement. The top five negative response categories across all nine workshops are shown in Table 4.

Tables 5 and 6 show the top three most commonly mentioned positive and negative response categories for each of the nine landscape-based workshops.

The results revealed the following interesting insights:

- The most frequently mentioned positive response category was the aspect of 'healthy or cared-for environment/land/water.' This was mentioned 51 (19%) times, almost twice that of the second most frequently mentioned positive response category.
- The most frequent negative response was that biodiversity/environment/ecosystems were missing from the

draft vision statement. Comments to this effect were made 54 (16%) times, more than any positive response categories.

- Disagreement with the emphasis on agriculture/productivity and a dislike for words such as 'cared for' and 'enjoyed' were each mentioned 40 (12%) times.
- The inclusion of the word 'thriving' in the statement was polarising: eighteen participants liked it. It was among the top three positive response categories in two landscape-based workshops (see Table 5). However, 26 participants didn't like the word, and it was among the top three negative response categories in two landscape-based workshops (see Table 6).
- The response categories 'the inclusion of healthy/cared for environment/land/water' and 'it speaks of connection between community and environment' were among the top three positive response categories in at least five workshops. The first of these responses was also the highest-ranking positive response overall.
- The response categories 'wording', 'too focused on agriculture/productivity' and 'The statement doesn't refer to biodiversity/ environment/ ecosystems' were among the top three negative response categories in at least six workshops.
- Four of the top five positive response categories were raised in all nine workshops, although they were not necessarily among the top 3 categories in each workshop.
- The top three negative response categories were mentioned in all nine workshops, although not necessarily among the top 3 categories in each workshop.



What participants <u>liked</u> about the draft vision	Number of responses	Number of workshops
Like the inclusion of healthy/cared for environment/land/water	51 (19%)	9
It speaks of connection between community and environment	26 (10%)	9
The statement is concise	25 (9%)	9
It covers land AND water	24 (9%)	8
It focuses on the role of communities/stewardship	23 (8%)	9

*Table 3: Most frequently raised responses to the question, 'What do you like about the draft Vision?' Numbers in brackets refer to the number of responses as a percentage of the 274 responses received. The number of workshops in which each response was raised is shown in the last column.*

What participants <u>didn't like</u> about the draft vision	Number of responses	Number of workshops
The statement doesn't refer to biodiversity/environment/ecosystems	54 (16%)	9
Too focused on agriculture/productivity	40 (12%)	9
Wording (primarily 'cared for', 'enjoyed', 'productive', 'healthy')	40 (12%)	9
Use of the word 'thriving'	26 (8%)	7
Readability (e.g. 'lacks punch', 'too many words', 'is too top-down' etc.)	26 (8%)	6

*Table 4: Most frequently raised responses to the question, 'What don't you like about the draft Vision?' Numbers in brackets refer to the number of responses as a percentage of the 328 responses received. The number of workshops in which each response was raised is shown in the last column.*

<i>Positive comments</i>	<i>Geelong</i>	<i>Basalt Plains</i>	<i>Northern Uplands</i>	<i>Bellarine Surf Coast</i>	<i>Ballarat</i>	<i>Heytesbury</i>	<i>Western District Lakes</i>	<i>Barwon Plain</i>	<i>Otway Coast</i>
Like the inclusion of healthy/cared for environment/land/water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
It speaks of connection between community and environment			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
It focuses on the role of communities/ stewardship	✓				✓	✓			✓
It covers land AND water	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓
The statement is concise		✓		✓	✓				
Use of the word 'thriving'					✓		✓		
The statement is positive				✓		✓			
Use of the word 'healthy'	✓						✓		
Use of the word 'enjoy'				✓					
It recognises multiple uses of resources			✓						

*Table 5: The top three aspects of the draft Vision that participants in each Landscape-based workshop liked. Columns with more than three ticks indicate that several responses were 'equal third'.*

<i>Negative comments</i>	<i>Geelong</i>	<i>Basalt Plains</i>	<i>Northern Uplands</i>	<i>Bellarine Surf Coast</i>	<i>Ballarat</i>	<i>Heytesbury</i>	<i>Western District Lakes</i>	<i>Barwon Plain</i>	<i>Otway Coast</i>
Too focused on agriculture/productivity	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
The statement doesn't refer to biodiversity/ environment/ ecosystems		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Wording (primarily 'cared for', 'enjoyed', 'productive', 'healthy')	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Readability/content	✓						✓		✓
Use of the word ' <i>thriving</i> '				✓	✓				
What is the focus/Is it realistic/achievable?							✓		
Too human-centric		✓							
No mention of climate change		✓							
It needs to incorporate sustainable/future generations					✓				

*Table 6: The top three aspects of the draft Vision that participants in each Landscape-based workshop didn't like. Columns with more than three ticks show where several responses were 'equal third'.*

## Regional Outcomes

The CPA Working Group identified a series of high-level regional outcomes for both 6 years and 20 years across the themes of Water, Biodiversity, Land, Coasts and Marine, Communities, and their associated Sub-Themes.

Participants of the Series 1 landscape-based workshops were asked what they liked and didn't like about the draft Regional Outcomes for each theme, as they applied to their landscape system.

Participant feedback has been grouped into like categories for ease of reporting. Several comments, however, could not be grouped and have remained as 'General comments'. These comments haven't been included in the following analysis by theme.

## Water

### Draft Regional Outcomes - **WATER**:

**6 years:** Urban growth contributes to an increase in the attention and care that nearby waterways receive. The efficient use of water achieves benefits for the environment, residents and irrigators. The economic, cultural, social and environmental water values are balanced and understood by our community.

**20 years:** Healthy rivers, wetlands, lakes, estuaries and groundwater resources support regional productivity and thriving communities.

The facilitated discussions generated more comments outlining what participants didn't like about the draft regional outcomes for water than what they liked.

### *What participants liked about the draft Regional Outcomes for Water*

46 positive comments were received about the 6-year water outcome, and there were ten positive comments about the 20-year outcome. Tables 7 and 8 list the three most common positive comments categories and the number of workshops in which they were raised.

Aside from the General Comments (11 responses), the most common comments about the 6-year outcome related to balancing the Triple Bottom Line, Urban Growth and Community.

Regarding the 20-year outcomes, the Basalt Plains session generated 6 of the 10 comments; participants in four workshops did not offer any positive comments at all (Table 11).

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Water Values are Balanced/Triple Bottom Line	14	6
Urban Growth	8	6
Community	7	7
Total positive comments – 6 year	46	

*Table 7: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Water. The last column shows the number of workshops in which each comment was mentioned.*

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Communities	2	2
Waterways	2	2
Water	2	1
Total positive comments – 20 year	10	

*Table 8: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Water. The last column shows the number of workshops in which each comment was mentioned.*

### *What participants didn't like about the draft Regional Outcomes for Water*

114 comments about what participants did not like about the 6-year outcome and 19 comments about the 20-year outcome were generated. Table 9 lists the three most common negative comments and the number of workshops in which they were raised. Most of the negative comments related to the inclusion of urban growth and irrigation/agriculture, use of various words and whether the statement could be measured.

7 of the 22 comments related to urban growth were generated at the Western District Lakes session. Comments related to wording were spread across all sessions.

Five negative comments about the 20-year outcome related to the need for biodiversity or the environment to be included in the statement. Two of these comments were made in the Basalt Plains workshop.

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Urban Growth	22	8
Wording	18	9
Irrigation/Agriculture	10	7
Measurability	10	7
Total negative comments – 6 year	114	

*Table 9: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Water. The last column shows the number of workshops in which each comment was mentioned.*

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Biodiversity/Environment	5	4
Human-centric	2	2
Climate change	2	2
Wording	2	1
Total negative comments – 20 year	19	

*Table 10: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Water. The last column shows the number of workshops in which each comment was mentioned.*

Workshop	What participants LIKED – 6 years	What participants LIKED – 20 years	What participants DIDN'T LIKE – 6 years	What participants DIDN'T LIKE – 20 years
Geelong	Urban Growth	No responses offered	Wording	Biodiversity/environment Human-centric Measurability
Basalt Plains	Community Urban growth	Water	Wording Irrigation/agriculture Urban communities Communities Waterway health	Biodiversity/environment
Northern Uplands	Measurability	Waterways	IWM Landscape/Habitat Management Urban Growth Measurability	Biodiversity/environment
Bellarine Surf Coast	Urban growth	No responses offered	Irrigation/Agriculture Wording Urban Growth Measurability	No responses offered
Ballarat	Landscape	No responses offered	Measurability	No responses offered
Heytesbury	Water values are Balanced / Triple bottom line	No responses offered	Urban growth	Wording
Western District Lakes	Water values are Balanced / Triple bottom line	Communities	Urban growth	Biodiversity/environment Human-centric
Barwon Plain	Water values are Balanced / Triple bottom line Urban Growth	General comments	Wording	No responses offered
Otway Coast	Urban growth	General comments	Urban growth	Climate change

Table 11: The most common comments about the draft Regional Outcomes – Water, for each Series 1 workshop

The revised 6-year **WATER** outcome for the region is:

Catchment communities contribute to an increase in the attention and care that nearby waterways receive. The environmental, cultural, social and economic water values are balanced and understood by our community. This outcome is supported by the following principles:

*Waterways:*

1. Ensure adequate environmental entitlements for the protection of waterway health.
2. Explore recycled water for environmental releases and agricultural substitution.
3. Education of all beneficial water users about efficient use of the resource.
4. New development areas recognise the importance of waterways and have a plan to enhance waterway health through education and liveability principles.

*Wetlands:*

5. Wetlands flourish by getting the right amount of water, at the right quality and the right time for protection of environmental objectives.
6. Cultural water education and understanding.
7. New development areas recognise the importance of wetlands and have a plan to enhance them through education and liveability principles.

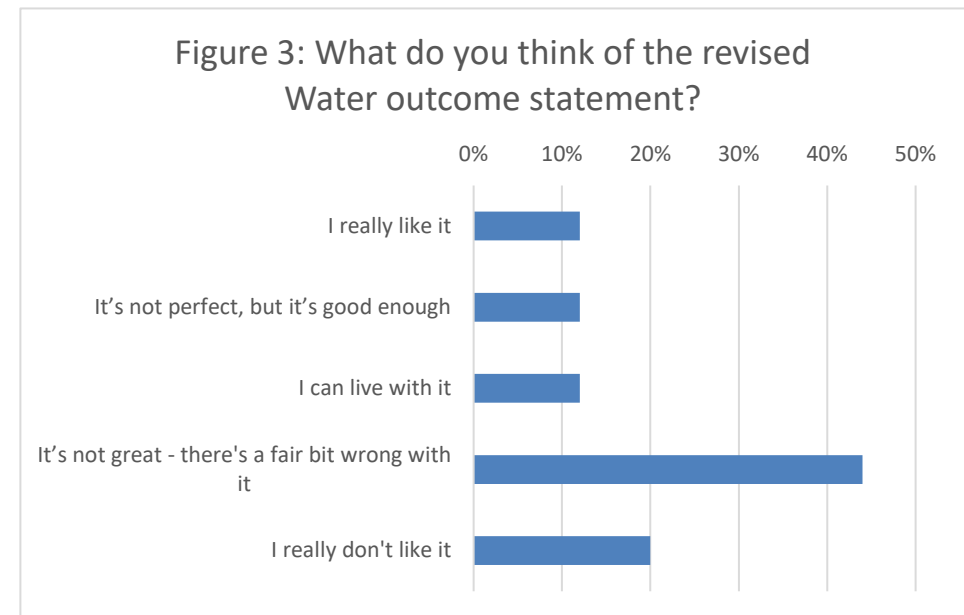
*Estuaries:*

8. New development areas recognise the importance of waterways and have a plan to enhance waterway health through education and liveability principles.

*Groundwater:*

9. Target remediation plans for previous impacts of groundwater operations in Boundary Creek and the Barwon River.
10. Balancing alternative water resources and use of IWM principles.

Following Series 1 workshop feedback, the draft 6-year regional outcome for this theme was revised (see the box to the left). 25 people provided further comment on the revised statement via a survey. The results are shown below.



44% of responses suggested the need for substantial improvement, with 19 suggestions offered. Comments included concerns about using recycled water for environmental releases and the need for stronger language, targets, and measurable statements.



## Land

### Draft Regional Outcomes - **LAND**:

**6 years:** Capacity is built in effective land management practices, across private and public lands of all sizes, to address the range of threats and considerations faced.

**20 years:** Healthy land supports productivity and provides a sustainable contribution to economic, social, cultural and environmental values, for future generations of land managers as climate change impacts increase.

The facilitated discussions rounds generated more comments outlining what participants did not like about the draft regional outcomes for land than what they liked.

#### *What participants liked about the draft Regional Outcomes for Land*

74 positive comments were received about the 6-year land outcome, and there were 21 comments about the 20-year outcome. Tables 12 and 13 show the top three positive comments categories and the number of workshops in which they were raised.

Aside from General Comments (20 responses), the most common comments related to capacity, land tenure and being generally happy with the statement. The Heytesbury session generated 6 of the 16 comments related to capacity. The sessions in Western District Lakes and Otway Coast each generated four of the 15 comments regarding land tenure (see Table 12).

The Basalt Plains workshop generated 3 of the 5 comments related to productivity in the 20-year outcome.

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Capacity	16	6
Across Land Tenure	15	5
Generally happy with the statement	6	5
Total positive comments – 6 year	74	

*Table 12: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Land. The last column shows the number of workshops in which each comment was mentioned.*

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Productivity	5	3
Climate Change	4	4
Triple Bottom Line	2	2
Cultural Values	2	2
Total positive comments – 20 year	21	

*Table 13: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Land. The last column shows the number of workshops in which each comment was mentioned.*

*What participants didn't like about the draft Regional Outcomes for Land*

109 comments about what participants didn't like about the 6-year outcome and 23 comments about the 20-year outcome were generated. Table 14 lists the three most common negative comments and the number of workshops in which they were raised. Apart from general comments, most of the negative comments related to wording, measurability and capacity.

Regarding the 20-year outcome, 3 of the 5 comments relating to productivity were generated at the Barwon Plain workshop. All of the comments related to threats were made at the Basalt Plains workshop (see Table 16).

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Wording	20	8
Measurability	12	6
Capacity	11	5
Total negative comments – 6 year	109	

*Table 14: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Land.*

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Productivity	5	3
Threats	3	1
Wording	3	2
Total negative comments – 20 year	23	

*Table 15: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Land.*

Workshop	What participants LIKED-6 yrs	What participants LIKED-20 yrs	What participants DIDN'T LIKE-6 yrs	What participants DIDN'T LIKE-20 yrs
Geelong	Capacity	No responses offered	Climate change	Development Resilience
Basalt Plains	Capacity Wording	Productivity	Threats Measurability Wording	Threats
Northern Uplands	Community Climate change Wording	Climate change Productivity	Capacity Too vague/meaningless	Productivity
Bellarine Surf Coast	Generally happy with the statement	TBL	Capacity Wording	General comments
Ballarat	Across land tenure	No responses offered	Measurability	No responses offered
Heytesbury	Capacity	Cultural values	Capacity Climate change Wording	General comments
Western District Lakes	Across land tenure	Productivity Climate change Cultural values	Wording	Wording
Barwon Plain	Capacity Across land tenure Climate change Threats Generally happy with it	Climate change	Threats	Productivity
Otway Coast	Capacity	General comments	Measurability Wording	No responses offered

*Table 16: The most common comments about the draft Regional Outcomes – Land, for each Series 1 workshop*

The revised 6-year **LAND** outcome for the region is:

The catchment communities' capacity is built in effective land management practices, across private and public lands of all sizes, to address the range of threats and opportunities. This outcome is supported by the following principles:

Land use:

1. Through effective planning (on-farm and statutory) build regional capacity to use land within its capability and understanding long term trends in land health.

Soil health:

2. Develop soil health indicators and benchmark these to establish trends over time

3. Establish a target for raising organic matter and soil carbon in different land systems

4. Build regional understanding of land systems and the geology of the land

5. Build regional understanding of risks to soil health and implement measures to control risk and improve health over time

6. Soil structure including physical, chemical and biological state.

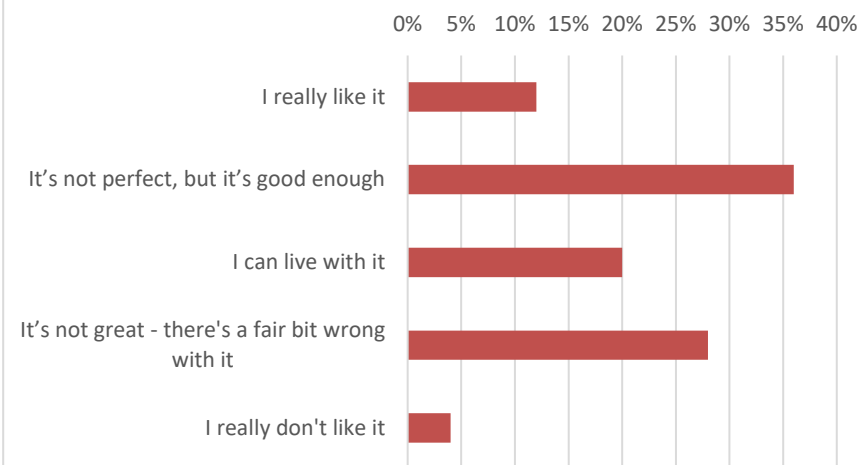
Sustainable agriculture:

7. Establish sustainable agriculture metrics for specific industries within the Corangamite Region including:

- Management practices within specific agricultural activities
- Adoption of technology and innovation within industry sectors
- Effective biosecurity and incident response in an effective manner
- Market access through quality assurance programs and monitoring.

Following Series 1 workshop feedback, the draft 6-year regional outcome for this theme was revised (see the box to the left). 25 people provided further comment on the revised statement via a survey. The results are shown below.

Figure 4: What do you think of the revised Land outcome statement?



48% of responses either '*really liked it*' or determined that '*it's not perfect, but it's good enough*'. Ten suggested improvements were offered, including wording, weeds, new development and the need to balance conflicting land uses.

## Biodiversity

Draft Regional Outcomes:

**6 years:** Catchment communities – including private landholders – are courageously adapting to climate change, valuing biodiverse landscapes and contributing to their care and restoration.

**20 years:** Ecosystems are biodiverse and resilient to the challenges of climate change, urban growth, use and recreation.

The facilitated discussions during the workshop generated more comments outlining what participants didn't like about the draft regional outcomes for biodiversity than what they did like.

*What participants liked about the draft Regional Outcomes for Water*

80 positive comments were received about the 6-year biodiversity outcome, and there were 19 positive comments about the 20-year outcome. Tables 17 and 18 list the top three comments categories for each draft outcome. The comments about climate change comments were primarily generated at the Northern Uplands, Bellarine Surf Coast and Western District Lakes sessions.

The 20-year outcome responses that were 'generally happy with the outcome' referenced the concise and broad qualities of the statement.

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Climate Change	14	6
Landholders	11	9
Generally happy with the outcome	11	7
Biodiversity	9	4
Communities contributing	9	5
Total positive comments – 6 year	80	

*Table 17: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Biodiversity.*

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Generally happy with the outcome	4	3
Biodiversity/Ecosystems	3	3
Adaptation	2	1
Climate Change	2	1
Resilience	2	2
Total positive comments – 20 year	19	

*Table 18: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Biodiversity.*

What participants didn't like about the draft Regional Outcomes for Biodiversity

120 comments about what participants didn't like about the 6-year outcome and 32 comments about the 20-year outcome were generated. Table 19 lists the three most common negative categories, the majority of which related to biodiversity, followed by the term 'courageous' and measurability.

Negative comments relating to wording in the 20-year outcome included the need to clarify terms or use alternative wording.

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Biodiversity	24	9
The term 'Courageous'	17	9
Measurability	15	7
Total negative comments – 6 year	120	

Table 19: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Biodiversity.

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Wording	6	4
Resilience	5	4
Measurability	3	3
Communities	3	3
Total negative comments – 6 year	32	

Table 20: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Biodiversity.

Workshop	What participants LIKED – 6 years	What participants LIKED – 20 years	What participants DIDN'T LIKE – 6 years	What participants DIDN'T LIKE – 20 years
Geelong	Communities Contributing	Adaptation Generally happy with the outcome	Timeframe	Measurability Farming/]Agriculture Threatened species Communities Wording Too narrow a focus of threats
Basalt Plains	Biodiversity	No responses offered	Biodiversity	Farming/Agriculture Resilience Communities Wording Traditional owners
Northern Uplands	Climate Change Biodiversity	Climate Change	Measurability	Resilience
Bellarine Surf Coast	Climate Change Biodiversity	Generally happy with the outcome	Urban Growth	General comments
Ballarat	Communities Contributing Landholders	Resilience Biodiversity/ecosystems Urban growth Generally happy with outcome	Term 'Courageous' Biodiversity Urban growth	Wording
Heytesbury	Generally happy with outcome	General comments	Term 'Courageous'	Wording
Western District Lakes	Climate change	General comments	Urban growth	No responses offered
Barwon Plain	Generally happy with outcome	No responses offered	Measurability	No responses offered
Otway Coast	Communities contributing	No responses offered	biodiversity	No responses offered

Table 21: The most common comments about the draft Regional Outcomes – Biodiversity for each Series 1 workshop

The revised 6-year **BIODIVERSITY** outcome for the region is:

Catchment communities are adapting to climate change, valuing and understanding biodiverse landscapes, and contributing to their care and restoration. This outcome is supported by the following principles:

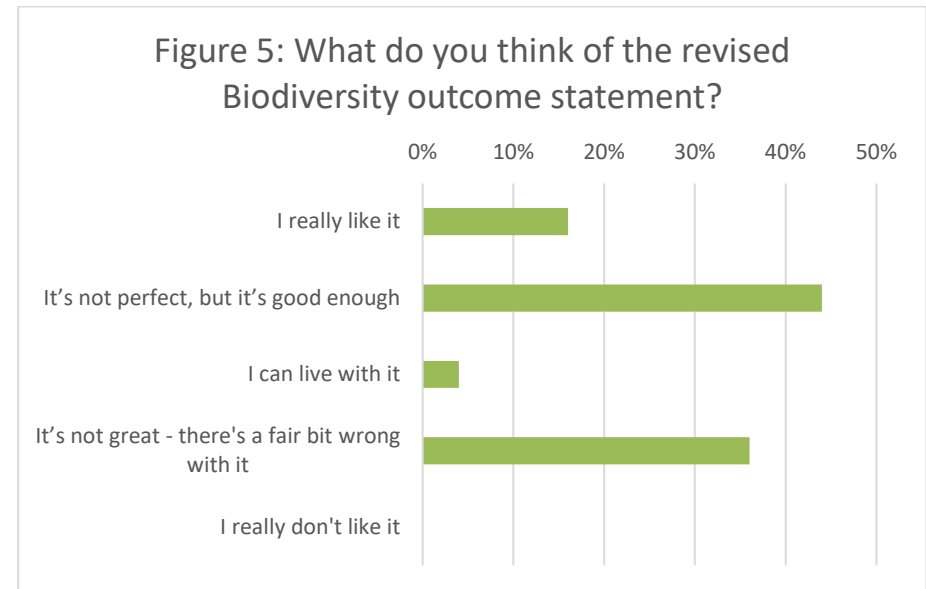
*Native vegetation and habitats:*

1. Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and marine environments
2. Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened species
3. Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for culturally significant species

*Native fauna:*

4. Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.

Following Series 1 workshop feedback, the draft 6-year regional outcome for this theme was revised (see the box to the left). 25 people provided further comment on the revised statement via a survey. The results are shown below.



While 60% of responses were positive about the revisions, twelve respondents suggested improvements such as clarifying terminology used, wording changes, and net gain as a minimum goal.



## Community

### Draft Regional Outcomes:

**6 years:** Communities are actively participating in, and contributing to, management of the catchment in a range of ways including volunteering, citizen science, covenanting land, and implementing traditional land and waterway management practices.

**20 years:** Communities are adapting to climate change to fit their local circumstances, embracing intergenerational stewardship and the application of best management practices and technologies to achieve both a healthier environment and productive use of land.

The facilitated discussions generated more comments outlining what participants didn't like about the draft regional outcomes than what they liked.

### *What participants liked about the draft Regional Outcomes for Community*

77 positive comments were received about the 6-year community outcome, and there were 13 comments about the 20-year outcome. Table 22 lists the three most common comments categories and the number of workshops in which they were raised.

Aside from 23 general comments, the most common comments related to the different ways that community members can participate, be included and engaged. Comments also showed that participants liked the references to stewardship and traditional land management practices and values. The Ballarat session generated 5 of the 13 comments related to community (see Table 26).

Of the 13 positive comments offered about the 20-year outcome, five referred to the inclusion of climate change in the statement.

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Community	13	5
Stewardship	10	7
Traditional Owners	9	6
Total positive comments – 6 year	77	

*Table 22: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Community.*

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Climate Change	5	4
Stewardship	4	3
Total positive comments – 20 year	13	

*Table 23: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Community.*

What participants didn't like about the draft Regional Outcomes for Community

118 comments about what participants didn't like about the 6-year outcome and 20 comments about the 20-year outcome were generated. Table 24 lists the three most common negative comments and the number of workshops in which they were raised. Apart from 24 general comments, the majority related to communities and wording.

Regarding the 20-year outcome, the climate change comments were generated at Geelong, Northern Uplands, Bellarine Surf Coast and Otway Coast sessions. The comments about the statement being human-centric were made at the Bellarine Surf Coast workshop (see Table 26).

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Communities	26	7
Wording	21	6
Climate Change	14	6
Total negative comments – 6 year	118	

Table 24: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Community.

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Climate change	7	4
Wording	3	3
Human-centric	3	1
Total negative comments – 20 year	20	

Table 25: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Community.

Workshop	What participants LIKED- 6 yrs	What participants LIKED- 20 yrs	What participants DIDN'T LIKE-6 yrs	What participants DIDN'T LIKE- 20 yrs
Geelong	Stewardship Traditional owners wording	Climate change Stewardship Timeframe	Communities	Climate change
Basalt Plains	Succinct/focused	No responses offered	Communities	Population Wording
Northern Uplands	Stewardship	No responses offered	Wording	Climate change
Bellarine Surf Coast	Community	Stewardship	Climate change	Human-centric
Ballarat	Community	General comments	Communities	No responses offered
Heytesbury	Traditional owners	Climate change	Communities Wording	Wording
Western District Lakes	Stewardship Traditional owners Wording Term 'actively participating and contributing'	No responses offered	Wording	No responses offered
Barwon Plain	Stewardship Term 'actively participating and contributing'	No response offered	Communities Omissions	No response offered
Otway Coast	Stewardship Urban growth Wording	Climate change	Wording	Climate change

Table 26: The most common comments about the draft Regional Outcomes – Community, for each Series 1 workshop

The revised 6-year **COMMUNITY** outcome for the region is:

Catchment communities are proactively participating in, and contributing to, management of the catchment in a range of ways including volunteering, citizen science, covenanting land, and implementing Traditional Owner land and waterway management practices.

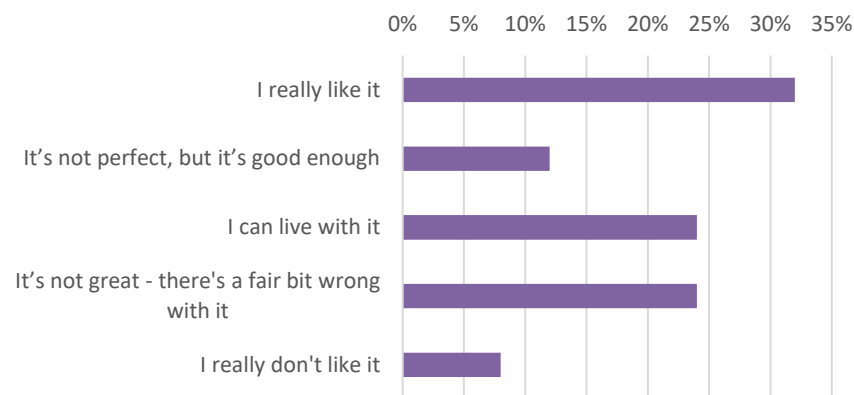
This outcome is supported by the following principles:

1. Increase active participation and contribution of volunteers in integrated catchment management.
2. Increase the area of covenanted land in the Corangamite Region.

Please note that we are also currently working with the two Traditional Owner groups with respect to this theme.

Following Series 1 workshop feedback, the draft 6-year regional outcome for this theme was revised (see the box to the left). 25 people provided further comment on the revised statement via a survey. The results are shown below.

Figure 6: What do you think of the revised Communities outcome statement?



44% of responses either '*really liked it*' or determined that '*it's not perfect, but it's good enough*'. Nine suggested improvements were offered, including wording suggestions, concerns that covenanted land might be a skewed measure, and the need for more emphasis to be placed on landholder participation, Traditional Owners, community education and agency liaison.

## Coast and Marine

### Draft Regional Outcomes:

**6 years:** Proactive management of coastal ecosystems by key local authorities contributes to a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine and coastal environment.

**20 years:** An increase in the extent and condition of coastal habitats, together with improved water quality flowing into the marine environment, contributes to building a healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment.

This theme was only relevant to the four landscape systems of Geelong, Bellarine Surf Coast, Heytesbury and Otway Coast.

The facilitated discussions generated more comments outlining what participants didn't like about the draft regional outcomes than what they liked.

### *What participants liked about the draft Regional Outcomes for Coast and Marine*

52 positive comments were received about the 6-year Coast and Marine outcome, and there were ten comments about the 20-year outcome. Table 27 lists the three most common comments categories and the number of workshops in which they were raised.

Aside from 19 general comments, the most common comments related to net gain, the term 'proactive', catchment impacts and climate change. The Bellarine Surf Coast session generated three of the seven comments related to net gain (see Table 31).

The three positive comments relating to the connection between different environments in the 20-year outcome were made at the Bellarine Surf Coast and Heytesbury workshops.

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Net Gain	7	3
Use of the term 'proactive'	6	3
Climate change	4	4
Catchment Impacts	4	3
Total positive comments – 6 year	52	

*Table 27: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Coast and Marine.*

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Connection between different environments	3	2
Biodiversity	2	1
Total positive comments – 20 year	10	

*Table 28: The most common aspects that participants liked about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Coast and Marine.*

*What participants didn't like about the draft Regional Outcomes for Coast and Marine*

69 comments about what participants didn't like about the 6-year outcome and ten comments about the 20-year outcome were generated. Table 29 lists the three most common comments categories and the number of workshops in which they were raised. Aside from 10 general comments), most comments related to wording, integrated catchment management and climate change.

Comments about the 20-year outcome included that references to climate change, community and water quality were missing from the statement (see Tables 30 and 31).

Comments about the 6-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Wording	10	4
Integrated Catchment Management	9	3
Climate Change	7	4
Measurability	7	4
Total negative comments – 6 year	69	

*Table 29: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 6-year Regional Outcome – Coast and Marine.*

Comments about the 20-year outcome	Number of responses	Number of Workshops
Missing Key Elements	4	2
Collaboration	1	1
Total negative comments – 20 year	10	

*Table 30: The most common aspects that participants didn't like about the 20-year Regional Outcome – Coast and Marine.*

Workshop	What participants LIKED- 6 yrs	What participants LIKED- 20 yrs	What participants DIDN'T LIKE-6 yrs	What participants DIDN'T LIKE- 20 yrs
Geelong	Coastal habitats Community	General comments	Climate change Measurability Wording Biodiversity Missing marine aspects	No responses offered
Basalt Plains	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northern Uplands	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bellarine Surf Coast	Net gain	Connection between different environments	Wording	Missing key elements
Ballarat	N/A	NA	N/A	N/A
Heytesbury	Catchment impacts Net Gain Use of 'Proactive'	Connection between different environments	Climate change Integrated catchment management	Missing key elements
Western District Lakes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Barwon Plain	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Otway Coast	Net gain Use of 'Proactive' Biodiversity	Biodiversity	Integrated catchment management	General comments

Table 31: The most common comments about the draft Regional Outcomes – Coast and Marine, for each Series 1 workshop

## Coast and Marine

The revised 6-year outcome for the region is:

Proactive management of coastal ecosystems by catchment communities contributes to a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine and coastal environment. This outcome is supported by the following principles:

Marine:

1. Proactive management of the catchment by the community contributes to a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine environment.

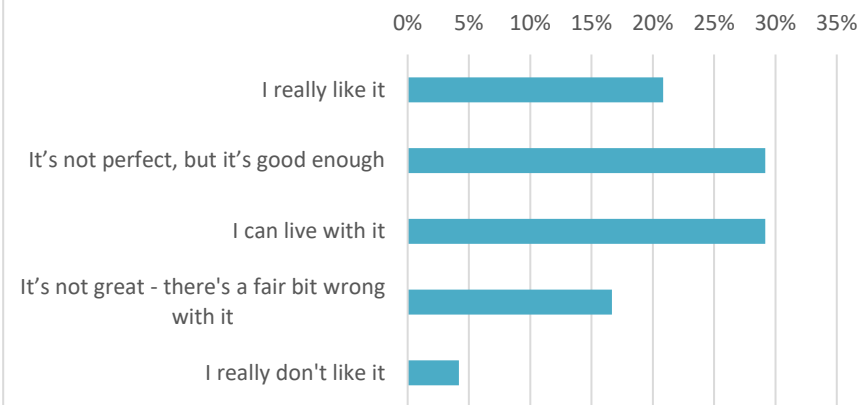
Coasts:

2. Proactive management and awareness of the catchment and coast by the community and key local authorities leads to a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued coastal environment.

What do you think about the above?

Following Series 1 workshop feedback, the draft 6-year regional outcome for this theme was revised (see the box to the left). 25 people provided further comment on the revised statement via a survey. The results are shown below.

**Figure 7: What do you think of the revised Marine and Coasts outcome statement?**



50% of responses either '*really liked it*' or determined that '*it's not perfect, but it's good enough*'. Eight suggested improvements were offered, including improved wording, concern about using the term 'net gain', wastewater, and community participation.



## Outcomes and Priority Directions for each Landscape

Feedback from Series 1 workshops, the website and the survey was used to generate draft outcomes and actions for each of the five themes for each landscape system.

The second series of workshops asked participants to review the draft outcomes and actions for each of the five themes for the relevant landscape system. This feedback was collated by the facilitators of each discussion and is provided below.

### Geelong

#### Water

##### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.
- Sustainable use of water resources for shared benefits.
- Enhance waterway amenity for environmental, social, cultural, and economic values.
- Water quality values are defined and managed for.

##### Workshop feedback

- No mention of the need to manage the impact of climate change on flows
- Needs to be a stronger acknowledgement of the need to address low flows in Lower Barwon and Moorabool Rivers – mention of improving waterway condition is not strong enough and does not acknowledge that both of these river systems are highly flow stressed

- Need for an outcome around increasing flows in all our rivers and not just maintaining. The outcome should be that flows are increased to at least those calculated to achieve healthy river systems (target of pre-European flows is unrealistic). Not satisfactory to have most of the flow in the Barwon River coming from discharge from Ballarat Wastewater Treatment Plant).
- Need to stress the impact of low flows on amenity – especially through Geelong
- Need to ensure that the landscape theme outcome focusses on the need to address up-stream processes that impact low flow and quality outcomes in Geelong (e.g. impact of diverting flow to quarry for lake feature once decommissioned)
- Missing the need for strong baseline data to determine the health of rivers such as the Barwon and Moorabool Rivers
- The first outcome of “maintain or improve waterway condition...” should be changed to “improve waterway condition.” or at least: “maintain and improve..”. However, with climate change reducing average flows over time, there was acknowledgement that maintaining waterway condition is a reasonably high bar but should be even higher to an “improve” situation.
- No mention of the need to address feral animals (e.g. Carp) and weeds in our waterways
- The current outcomes are focused on waterways only and need to include wetlands (e.g. stormwater wetlands), estuaries (e.g. Limeburners Lagoon) and groundwater. The first outcome should include the need to improve the condition of estuaries, wetlands and groundwater.

### Draft Actions

- Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values.
- Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.
- Integrated water management principles are applied to deliver Best practice water management.
- Implement integrated programs to enhance waterway amenity and people's connection

### Workshop feedback

- Need an action around developing a monitoring and evaluation program to determine the effectiveness of programs
- Exploring IWM opportunities to substituting alternative water sources for current water potable and farmer uses (e.g. more desalination, recycled stormwater and wastewater). However, given the collaborative nature of IWM, there needs to be clear roles and responsibilities.
- Need to determine the process for addressing impacts of future planned changes to quarry on the Moorabool River – the process is currently not clear, including responsibility (i.e. is it the responsibility of the Sustainable Water Strategy/CMA/COGG – currently not clear)
- Water management decisions need to consider the true value of water (including the environmental and amenity value) and not just the economic value.
- Need for a conversation on trade-offs on issues such as water for the environment versus consumptive use. Need a hierarchy or framework to allow these conversations to occur
- Could add to the first action: Coordinated water management arrangements with clear roles and responsibilities to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase understanding of water values and the impact of up-stream use on downstream users (there is an urban/rural divide)
- Increase environmental flows by not promoting the trading of sleeper licences (i.e. stopping what SRW is doing at the moment). Need to look at the retirement of sleeper licences or even buy-back of licences
- More education required on environmental water values
- Need to take into account impact of farm dams on downstream flow
- Opportunity to explore the use of built wetlands to treat nutrient-rich stormwater before entering the river systems.
- Fourth dot point: Need to aspire to exceed best practice rather than just meet best practice. CCMA needs to be aware of what best practice is.
- Need to be careful about using recycled water for environmental flows, mainly in relation to the impact on water quality.
- IWM practices need to be incorporated into the seasonal watering program
- Need to regulate farm dams to reduce the impact on downstream flow.

## Land

### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its' natural capital.

### Workshop feedback

- What is the definition of capability? Needs to be a stronger definition to avoid local government moving the goalpost to suit their needs. The word capability wasn't well understood. This was spoken about in the context of Local Government redefining values to build more houses
- The capability of land, who is defining this? It isn't clear.
- The word maintain shouldn't be used, only improve. Outcomes should be challenging. Our land systems are under stress; maintaining will not be good enough.
- Nothing to address the competitiveness of land use. There needs to be something to outline how land should be used based on standards, is the land use going to improve natural capital? Is continuing to build housing estates going to improve natural capital? The land is getting more and more degraded.
- Need something specific to the pressures on land due to urbanisation and housing developments Need more outcomes based on mitigating urbanisation and the destruction it is causing to land and natural assets.
- Needs to be an integrated approach, not property by property.
- Needs to be a high-level body to prevent goal post moving.

- Like to see more things about development as written in the actions in the outcomes. More about the risks to our land and environment due to development.
- Too ambiguous. It was felt that natural capital is a bad choice of word. What does it mean? What does suitably used mean? Need more clarity. To make this more specific, how would you measure this, and who would measure it?
- Nothing to recognise the driver of what is happening in the landscape (housing developments).
- Want outcomes that commit to CCMA advocating for better policy change that will better regulate land use issues.

### Draft Actions

- Best practice approaches are implemented across agencies, developers, and the catchment community.
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, the farming industry and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of Geelong.
- Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets.

### Workshop feedback

- Implement more regulatory consequences. It can't just be individuals going to VCAT.
- Action to improve policy so that development cannot harm the environment.

- ‘Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets’- this was felt to be a weak statement as the environment isn’t considered enough in land development. – The word sympathetic was felt to be ‘pathetic’ and empty; development should improve the natural assets, not destroy or be sympathetic. Want developments to enhance natural assets rather than be sympathetic.
- Nothing to tackle harm from subdivisions.
- The actions need to be more critical, the state of the environment is critical, and the land will be in an even more critical state six years out. The actions don’t feel like they are taking the environment seriously.
- Best practice approaches are implemented across agencies, developers, and the catchment community. Best practice needs to be a high priority. There needs to be a better approach here to ensure integration.
- ‘Ensure engagement demographics etc....’ is a very broad statement.
- Better sympathetic planning to landscape connectivity. E.g. needs to be a more integrated approach. An example of a natural asset being land locked by housing developments was used.
- Add action about building links as it is such an urban area, better manage the land in the peri-urban land such as land transitioning to urban. A buffer zone between urban and agricultural/less dense land needs to be adopted.
- Action to take better advantage of protecting peri-urban land. Landowners would be interested in this if CCMA made it an action.

- Actions that aim to improve, not just maintain.
- Action related to how industries and recreational places such as golf courses (places that are managers of large bits of land) need to be considered. Owners of these places need to be engaged as they are major land holders in Geelong.
- Capacity built within CCMA to intervene in things that aren’t just floodplain related.
- Actions for baseline assessments of what the natural capital is, so we can see if it has been maintained and improved- reporting and evaluation is vital. It was felt that change for the better had not been indicated at all.

### *Biodiversity*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and coastal environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for culturally significant species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.

### Workshop feedback

- Net gain (too legislative) regarding vegetation management. (Maybe use protection) some way of measuring. It is too vegetation focused.
- Make the language simpler. Protection of remnant.. Suitable habitat for what? Native? Threatened? Habitat can mean a lot of things. What suitable habitat are you going to protect? You can't protect it all. How many species?
- Be clear about biodiversity. Is it all life forms? Or just threatened species? Habitat type (wetlands, saline wetlands, etc.)?
- Too wordy.
- Habitat doesn't always have to be native, especially in Geelong. It is highly modified.
- Why are we doing net gain? That is an outcome. Say maintenance.
- What are the criteria for suitability? Higher ranking areas? We should be looking at connecting some of these systems.
- Sustained (if we are improving, why are we using the word sustained?). We are looking for improvement in the habitats for species that are threatened. Looking to grow natural and varying habitats so that the range of the species is developed and they are no longer at risk. This challenging, but that isn't reflected in the outcomes.
- Do we say it's low water mark for 600m? Do we therefore add the word "and marine"? Does the word coastal include marine consequence?

- Need to move away from minimum standards to best practice for healthy ecosystems
- Need to focus on planning for biolinks

### Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Habitat protection and restoration have enhanced extent, connectivity and condition.
- Catchment communities understand the importance of biodiversity.
- Establish and maintain a Biodiversity Conservation Network using existing protected areas and identified new areas and initiatives.
- Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets with a focus on remnant habitat protection.

### Workshop feedback

- The community is the key, and a stronger focus should be set for the community. That needs to be clear, what aspect of biodiversity is endorsed? Needs to be measured. Monitored.
- Financial and administrative support is quite diverse. Barwon Parklands process may help to facilitate that.
- Supportive of establishing an overseeing group for the Barwon Parklands to share a vision to benefit that whole river corridor. Something specific to Wadawurrung.

- Record and assess the values and what we have in the Geelong area. Do we have a baseline or benchmark? Establishing a benchmark which could later be measured against.
- Most of them are outcomes, e.g. “Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets with a focus on remnant habitat protection”. The action has to be that the planning authority needs to take into account biodiversity. Action that causes all the stakeholders to agree to what the critical issues are.
- Specifying what is protected - small habitats?
- Specific groups have a concern about specific biodiversity issues. We need coordination, and what is initiating it all?
- A more innovative approach to working with all the other authorities. Knowledge sharing between the authorities. Synergy. Working together with the other water authorities. It will lead to greater opportunities and funding.
- Get dedicated funding for these actions. Broad-scale grants are harder to get if we can’t map out projects. We are working in a silo.

### *Communities*

Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Community stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

Workshop feedback

- Don’t like the word ‘built’

- Community Stewardship occurs when the community is engaged at the concept stage. Then they will be actively engaged in their role in their landscape. At the moment, the community are bought in too late in the process. You can’t build stewardship. People need ‘ownership’ in the outcome and the vision or aspiration.
- Need to start by asking the community how and where they would like to be involved.
- The focus needs to be community ownership of the strategy and the problem, the decision-making process- this will then inherently deliver community stewards.
- People engage in lots of different ways. Maybe we don’t need everyone to be stewards, support multiple levels of involvement or participation (a spectrum of engagement).
- Define what being a steward is - what is included?
- Needs to include a focus on people working together. Needs to be universal recognition that the environment ‘nature’ is a critical issue, and a combined or joint effort to work together to protect it- and a universal strategic approach to addressing it
- How do people connect with nature- what is the diversity of this- what is reflected by the term of connecting to nature, and everyone’s unique way of doing this
- Connecting with nature doesn’t mean going out of Geelong to find nature. It’s about connecting with nature in Geelong.
- Community stewardship- being aware that Geelong has a diversity of assets.
- Not broad enough, doesn’t capture enough- ‘responsibly care for nature’ is a very narrow definition

- The interface of urban and rural areas is important, and opportunities around this need to be captured
- The connection between what happens upstream and the impacts downstream- not captured by simple term of 'nature'
- What is the context of 'nature' here (doesn't explicitly include economic and social aspects that need to be included)? Replace it with the word 'landscape'?
- Need to be specific about including words like environment and environmental services- biodiversity values being at the forefront.
- For "the environmental services of the landscape" (replacing the word nature)

#### Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Geelong Landscape.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.

#### Workshop feedback

- River-keepers- maybe not this word- caretaker, custodian, supporting people to get involved and care for their local waterway. An engagement campaign/program
- Supporting strong community activates for the health of the landscape- building on the Landcare model- properly resourcing community activity and action
- Stronger, more resilient communities in the landscape

- People have more involvement
- Support leadership within the community
- Engage communities at the concept stage of projects, programs and strategies
- Understanding who the community is, knowing our community, what their drivers are, how they want to get involved
- Prioritise the development of trusting partnerships with the community, engaging with them as true partners, not using them as a conduit.
- Different groups and individuals will have different interests and foci, recognition within the diverse users of our landscape of the collective impact on this landscape, an engagement and education program on collective impact, and understanding of the long-term impacts.
- Celebrating the environmental assets that we still have, the high values that still exist within the Geelong landscape.
- Broad and inclusive education and engagement program to get people on board, interested, active.
- Not sure 'what responsibly care for' looks like- need to flesh this out more
- How do we get the community to re-embrace the idea of community service, a fundamental concept of community (or are we just a group of individuals)? Maybe it needs to start with an authoritative approach.
- Supporting, promoting and empowering community individuals as advocates
- Education, increasing community awareness, understanding and literacy on the river systems and the impacts/threats/etc.-



raising general community awareness (much more proactive role for the CCMA in delivering this)- particular focus in growth roles

- How we best support our communities- need to understand better the support need by various groups, it is more than just information, but understanding what community members need to activate them, get them taking action, providing appropriate support (expertise, knowledge, resources, information)
- Engaging the broader community, bringing them along on the journey

### *Coast and Marine*

Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Proactive management of the catchment by the community contributes to a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued marine environment.

Workshop feedback

- Need to be clearer on who this outcome is directed to, i.e. who are the "community" referred to in the outcome.
- Need to include the word coast in the statement (i.e. "....highly valued coast and marine environments".
- Be more specific as to the health of what
- 'Contributes to' is vague
- Good to have net gain, as it is ambitious
- Add ongoing protection to the statement. i.e. proactive management and ongoing protection

- Would like to see something more specific than "proactive management"
- Add iconic assets to the 'highly valued' statement
- The wording at the front of the statement implies that it is proactive management of the people
- Do we need another outcome statement related to climate change mitigation re coast & marine impacts?

Draft Actions

- Research and knowledge are built to inform adaptive management and mitigation.
- The responsibilities of agencies and local government for NRM are communicated.
- Actively participate in the development of the Marine and Coastal Strategy.

Workshop feedback

- Need to build climate change into the adaptive management and mitigation
- Need to better communicate responsibilities for marine & coasts as this enables better engagement, collaboration & integration of programs where relevant
- Need to manage upstream impacts on marine and coastal environments. Some of the responses specifically include:
  - On-ground works to improve runoff to the marine environment



- The quality and quantity of water discharge to the marine environment – e.g. need to manage stormwater better, including on-site use
- How to engage the upstream community on the impacts on downstream coast and marine. Better empowerment
- How to re-design or phase out built assets that are having an impact on coastal natural assets
- Sympathetic developments on the coastal environment (note also managing for climate change impacts on these)
- Use is compatible with coast and marine ecosystem services
- Port Authority and port movements, e.g.
  - Best management of shipping to mitigate impacts on the marine environment
  - Mitigate the risk of bio-security impacts on the marine environment (from shipping)
  - A closer relationship with Port Authority
- Need to include capacity building and awareness
- Ensure broader networks for knowledge so that best available evidence is used (e.g. Australian Coastal Society)
- Joint works with neighbouring CMAs etc
- Ensure that businesses and developers are part of the broader “community” that are participating
- How to manage impacts associated with the fastest growing population in Victoria
- A complex issue with desalination as it needs good quality intake water

## Basalt Plains

The Coast and Marine theme was not considered in this landscape.

### Water

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.
- Manage water for the environment to improve waterway condition.
- Sustainable use of water resources for shared benefits.
- Enhance waterway amenity for environmental, social, cultural, and economic values.

Workshop feedback

- The original outcome was very water corp based. This is better.
- Doesn't have anything about commitment to improve and expand on what future risk
- Developmental goals need to be put in there, nothing about gaining or improving additional waterways.
- Add something about connectivity.
- Are these idealistic outcomes or realistic outcomes?
- Need more aspirational outcomes.
- 'Maintain or improve waterway condition' ... take out the word maintain. It should only be improve.
- Second dot point, include biodiversity as well as a water-dependent condition? Possible duplication.

- Nothing that includes Basalt plains specific outcomes, e.g. dams holding water.
- No wetland/ farm dams specific outcomes, especially when they are under pressure. Gilgai areas not included.
- Nothing addressing unnatural waterways that have formed but are now utilised by fauna, e.g. birds.
- No mention of variable climate and what this may mean with climate change. What will this mean for users and the environment? No commitment to how they will adapt. Maybe need to expand on the resilience of HUMAN use rather than dependent species.
- No mention of Blue Green Algae, Carp and other pest flora and fauna affecting water quality. Nothing about water quality.
- Not just focusing on surface water

#### Draft Actions

- Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values.
- Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.
- Implement existing water entitlement and create opportunities to increase the environmental water entitlement.
- Integrated water management principles are applied to deliver Best practice water management.

#### Workshop feedback

- Take out implement existing water entitlement and have only 'increase'
- Getting more water needs to be a major priority as the lack of water is what is causing the primary negative outcomes.
- Having a greater understanding of which actions are a higher priority.
- More actions related to water dependant species. What does natural water assets mean? Does this include aquatic fauna?
- Clearer correlation between the outcomes and the actions
- How do the actions in Basalt plains connect to the outcomes in other related landscapes? E.g. systems that are impacting on each other. Focus on integration.
- Add to investigate the sustainable limits of water use. How much water is left for the environment, prioritise investigating the sustainable use of water.
- Potentially more platypus promotion to increase awareness of using water more sustainably and getting more community support – using threatened species to get community support (in all river systems within the landscape system). Possibly more platypus surveys.
- Include something that ties into landowner water use/efficiency regarding raise bed cropping and movement of water on private land
- 'Increase the understanding and awareness of water values' more clarification, what does this mean – community don't understand where the water comes from? Also, water values in upstream and downstream

- Protecting water-dependent ecosystems
- Needs to include groundwater as well as surface water
- Need to look at whether it would be beneficial to monitor groundwater and bores.
- Action: Water flow not being controlled due to raised bed cropping, no commitment to controlling these flows
- Keeping up to date with current flood info as it changes due to climate change. Are the flood predictions and data keeping up to date with flood advice, and if this is occurring, is it relayed adequately to the community and decision-makers?
- More info/investigations and investigations into which species are 'coming and going' with climate change.
- Pleased to see the integrated approach commitment. Please include this in the catchment strategy.
- No reference to the quality of the water. e.g., salinity, turbidity, BGA, pH

### *Land*

Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its' natural capital.

Workshop feedback

- How does this differentiate the Basalt Plains?
- Needs to focus on mainland use of the system (grazing to dryland cropping), especially when it comes to grasslands

- It may need to be reframed. We need to lift to a higher level and state improvement of assets, be more ambitious than just maintain
- Ag Vic ag strategy promotes productivity whilst protecting land from climate change and biosecurity threats. Can we incorporate this planning to build into our actions?
- This could lead to two more outcomes for Basalt around climate change and biosecurity that align with AgVic strategy (for funding and designation of responsibility)
- We need a baseline for natural capital at the start (before measuring improvement)
- Capability? Baseline data also needed- how to determine land capability
- DELWP surveys could provide a historical baseline
- The statement is limiting- flesh it out
- We can easily measure commercial capability- measure \$ on farm output, but how to measure environmental/ecosystem preservation as well?
- We need to sell these ideas and improve public perception
- "Natural capital". Could we add agricultural, production and social capital? These things are critical to include as building blocks to natural capital.
- "Natural capital" needs wording change? Corporate, bit too economic- not easily understood by people of all backgrounds at first glance
- How do we capture that we acknowledge farming productivity, and we value natural resource improvement

- What are we trying to encourage with this outcome? Biodiversity improvement, etc. Fine-tune what we're trying to achieve with this outcome
- Who judges "suitably used"? Less subjective to remove this?
- We have the best management practice but also need to trial innovation
- "Capital" needs defining before committing to improve it
- How are we perceived by land managers is critical, to not alienate them, to ultimately communicate with them and improve their land management practices. This is a challenge we face in this sustainable/regen ag space.
- I like just one outcome- simplicity
- We need to show how Regional outcomes, landscape outcomes feed into each other. The Water ones do not feed up into each other at all. Land is better (more coherent)

#### Draft Actions

- Application of best practice.
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Basalt Plains.

#### Workshop feedback

- Number 2 & 3 more like principles, not actions.
- A new Action: For the Basalt, who are these people outlined in #2? Define who, what, when, etc., especially for whose role it is.

The first action is to define which agencies have the responsibility, what the changing circumstances are, etc.

- If the RCS can capture the level of detail at each landscape system, won't be lost/redundant document
- Apply learnings to other landscapes not at this scale yet
- Action: DELWP Corangamite Lakes and Plains plans – a new action around this, incorporate this funding and planning for delivery
- More specific around demographics (of landholders and land users?) inclusiveness is good to show in the statement
- "best practice" too broad, application of best practice to land management, specifics needed (at implementation) who is going to deliver it? And the capacity to deliver.
- Specify that regen ag is a step further and is more desirable. Put this into an action.
- Best practice- but include the flexibility to be innovative and adaptive as well- is evolving, knowledge/science/best practice continually changes (even over the 6 years)- which feeds into the second one (changing circumstances) use the wording "Current" best practice
- There needs to be an action around education—including environmental agencies, educating around sustainable and regen ag.
- Best practice undefined, needs to be measurable
- A new Action-define best management practices (define management practices, not even labelled best practice)
- What are the key values of the land system—apply best practice to that. If it's cropping, make a statement around that

- Changing circumstances- Taking these actions and getting more specific, having some idea of direction what we want to achieve here

### *Biodiversity*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for culturally significant species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.

#### Workshop feedback

- It is a mouthful, a little vague
- What is maintenance, and how is it measured?
- What is the baseline date like to measure against? How recent and accurate?
- Middle two quite similar
- The last one is confusing – reword
- Net gain gives heart palpitations
- Sustained improved management is aspirational – is it backed by resources?

- Take out the 6 years from each, makes them wordy
- Does connectivity need to be mentioned in the outcomes?
- Does it include increased linkages and connectivity?
- Habitat needs to be functioning. Add landscape function
- All this needs to happen in the face of adversity
- If you want to involve the farming community, they should be mentioned – they are the majority of land managers in Basalt Plains
- The language used may alienate farmers – need language that will target them
- The first point - include agricultural environments
- Need a bigger aspiration than maintenance – aim for net gain. Habitat is not good enough now
- Need to encourage improvement not just wish it to happen – incentives, e.g. Financial
- Nothing here seems Basalt Plains specific – generic and could be applied anywhere
- Very ambitious where everything is threatened and difficult to recreate an ecosystem – even maintaining is ambitious in a six-year timeframe

#### Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, the and (sic) other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Habitat protection and restoration programs have enhanced extent, connectivity, and condition.

- Catchment communities (including land managers) understand importance of biodiversity.

#### Workshop feedback

- A word seems to be missing from the first one
- What is the action in statement 1
- Should action 2 link more to the outcomes?
- Assumes monitoring and surveying to get baselines – perhaps need a specific action around monitoring and benchmarking to track success
- The middle outcome is the only one that seems to link back to the outcomes
- 3rd one community also need to understand how to respond to changing circumstances
- Should restoration include climate-resilient species
- Actions should relate to the outcomes
- Make the industrial people an asset rather than a problem, e.g. Corporate agriculture (wetland degradation, draining wetlands). Wind farms have funds available to support local communities.
- Brolga could be used as an icon to encourage the improvement of wetlands
- Invest in the future of Landcare and other volunteer dependent groups
- Investigate other funding sources, e.g. Wind farms, community banks, Lake Goldsmith wind farms have an interesting funding model
- Opportunity to work together with Basalt Plains stakeholders to work together strategically

- Stop the fragmentation
- More burning should be happening in this system – cultural burning every 2-4 years
- Weed control and burning both need to happen concurrently
- Action specifically around working with landholders to improve grasslands
- Biolinks of grasslands – connect up existing pockets
- The third action could be broken down into more specific actions, e.g. Tourism trail of volcanic plains – use this to create awareness of the unique biodiversity and add in the conservation reserves – Corangamite Shire is doing some of this
- Not just understanding but empowering and acting for biodiversity benefit
- Highlight landholder champions, so farmers hear this from their peers, not just the government. When changing practices that people rely on for income, they need to be confident about what to expect
- Kids are interested in the grasslands. Signage
- Strengthening coordination around strategic planning in each landscape, e.g. MOUs Strategy and leadership at the landscape level
- The VVP crosses boundaries, so working jointly with neighbouring CMAs
- On ground works programs with farmers – needs specific actions for farmers

## *Communities*

Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Community stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

Workshop feedback

- It is just a “feel-good statement”
- Too generic
- Not recognising the current community stewardship
- Not acknowledging obligations of “tree changers”
- Farming communities see such little nature. Can we put education into the outcome or the tasks, so they can responsibly manage land with natives and native practices
- In Basalt not as much “nature” – focus on critical insects in grasslands?
- Too narrow just talking about nature
- Community not aware of what “native grassland” looks like
- They can identify tree and bush but not grasslands
- Enabling is the wrong word to use – it implies authorising
- Needs to be a best management practice for land use/ systematic approach inclusive of everyone

Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Basalt Plains.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.

Workshop feedback

- Require more focus- education and engagement
- Promote strong links that have worked in the past
- Looking at new funding opportunities to “support” not necessary “enable”
- Simplify – by providing funds and technology for those who have the desire, passion, will and interest
- More specific, re the demographic and the actions
- Supporting the participation of the community through strategic networks to enable best management practices and land stewardship
- Develop a new landholder welcome kit/package, referral service – for people purchasing property online – bush block for trail bikes and horse riding inclusive of biosecurity obligations, not bringing in prohibited species. New orchard – fruit rotting on the ground introduction of fruit fly issues. Not to overwhelm them but build info for resources.
- Increase knowledge of the value of their land in the landscape
- Assist with climate predictions and consequences. Water, temperatures and species on property will change – the message is the same, but the channels vary for a big farmer compared to a hobby farmer.
- Encourage connections with culture and the cultural history of the “country” they are living on.
- Overall, the outcomes don’t seem to acknowledge the criticality and urgency. Things HAVE to happen. Too pedestrian.

## Northern Uplands

The Coast and Marine theme was not considered in this landscape.

### Water

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.
- Manage water for the environment to improve waterway condition.
- Sustainable use of water resources for shared benefits.
- Enhance waterway amenity for environmental, social, cultural, and economic values.

### Workshop feedback

- Water quality/health could be added to the statement in the first outcome.
- The use of the word 'resilience' implies the RCS will do things it may not. Add and the word 'support'
- Management of water can be seen as vague and a different interpretation.
- Recovery of water for the environment is missing from the draft outcomes.
- What do we want to see in the outcomes about water use for the environment?
- The imbalance between the decreasing flows between consumptive uses and the environment

- Further support cultural values through integrated catchment management
- Can the outcomes be specific to each region? In particular, as related to the communities
- Big issues are farm dams and the condition of waterways
- The outcomes need to reflect the landscape systems. It is a challenge but can it be addressed
- Maintain is a too low ball for an outcome. It should aim higher to improve.

### Draft Actions

- Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values.
- Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.
- Implement existing water entitlement and create opportunities to increase the environmental water entitlement.
- Drinking water supply catchments are managed to provide quality water for urban water supplies.

### Workshop feedback

- Prefer to see the last a bit more targeted. Needs to strive for high outcomes in the drinking water catchments point of view
- Why does it specify urban water quality and not look at water quality more broadly?
- Water health programs appeared to look at educational programs



- Traditional Owner values and healthy country plans
- An action on collaborating with agencies on water recovery.
- Enable traditional owners to Aboriginal Water Assessment to establish values and benchmarks
- Explore ways to retire sleeper water licences in over-allocated systems
- Identify and remove fish barriers and improve connections between in-stream habitats.
- Identify and engage with the community to establish what the desired amenity is.
- Educational actions or incentive for the community on the impacts of alternatives to farm dams.
- The northern uplands need an action to improve equity in the management of water entitlements for property owners
- Set water use efficiency targets for different land uses backed by tools

## Land

Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its' natural capital.

Workshop feedback

- Land is suitably used sustainably managed within its capability, and protected to maintain and improve its natural capital.
- Need to be more specific to Landscape

- Very diverse landscape peri-urban, government land management, large land manager
- Needs reflect/recognise different land uses better
- Different agricultural uses
- Needs to include off-site impacts
- Protected = planning schemes
- Maybe re-write as something like: *Land within the Northern Uplands is sustainably managed for a variety of purposes within its capability and suitability to maintain and improve its natural capital and to prevent both on and off-site impacts.*

Draft Actions

- Application of best practice.
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Northern Uplands.
- Targets enable a baseline and net gain to be measured around sustainable farming practices, land capability, natural capital and community capacity.

Workshop feedback

Additions/modification to actions highlighted in bold below:

- Application of **land use** best practice **including the use of EBMP & DairySAT** (will vary according to land manager outcomes and location, fit for purpose, measures and indicators)

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, community groups, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances, including climate change and building resilience within the Northern Uplands.
- Ensure appropriate engagement approaches are implemented that reflects the demographics and needs of the Northern Uplands. (needs to be more specific re engagement processes)
- Establish agreed targets that enable a baseline to be established and net gain to be measured around sustainable farming practices, land capability, land suitability, natural capital and community capacity. (Need agreement on what sustainable practices and indicators are)
- Land-use change, including urban expansion, does not occur to the detriment of biodiversity and other natural assets
- Encourage innovation to support adaptation at various scales across a variety of land uses
- Promote, support and implement property (whole farm) management planning

### *Biodiversity*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened species.

- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for culturally significant species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management

#### Workshop feedback

- No mention of pest plants. Ensure they are under control
- What is a suitable habitat? Not very clear to community or farmers
- No need to write 6 years – it makes the sentences too long. Re-word without the jargon
- Maintenance of biodiversity assets is not sustainable for survival after 6 years
- Need to be positive and aspirational – the goal should be net gain
- Habitats for what? Habitat should be for the threatened species, for culturally significant species, all species?
- Trying too hard to bring in Biodiversity 2037, but needs to reflect what has been heard from the public workshops – more balance
- This is the biodiversity strategy for the region. There is no other one.
- Need to be able to say the statements out loud and have them make sense.
- Put the subject at the start of each sentence
- Similar but focused on different aspects

- Does all species include weeds and rabbits? Should be native species richness/diversity/mix – specific, but diversity hasn't been captured elsewhere
- Add climate adaptation of habitats in the first outcome – need to mention climate change
- Does there need to be something more specific about riparian areas as habitat and corridors – connected habitats along rivers

#### Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Habitat protection and restoration programs have enhanced extent, connectivity, and condition.
- Catchment communities (including land managers) understand importance of biodiversity

#### Workshop feedback

- Weed eradication – where does this come in? Pest animals too.
- Connectivity may be possible in this landscape as there are forests – good focus area for connectivity
- Targeting Phascogale specifically, other species as well
- Environmental flows for aquatic species in Moorabool and Leigh Rivers
- Some dams are unlicensed, and this is a huge issue – can anything be done about those?
- What are 'catchment communities'? Define.

- What is the biodiversity story for Northern Uplands, and what are the priorities in this landscape? Work needs to be done to determine this
- Threatened EVCs? Can we mention them?
- Big goals and outcomes. Is this the space to be more specific and document what could be specifically done within 6 years?
- What is the benchmark/baseline? EVC targets for revegetation, CAR etc., covenants etc
- Establish targets to enable baseline data and benchmarking and net gain to be measured
- The last one seems to be an outcome, not an action – action should be about education, including about dams. Southern Rural Water has a role here. Farmers may need water, but lifestyle don't.
- What would capture death by 1000 cuts? What measures the cumulative changes, e.g. Dams, clearing, development pressures. How can this be influenced? Identify areas
- Speeding up verification of data onto VBA – municipal planners need to look to the VBA to make planning decisions.
- Probably native forest left – near Lal Lal on private and public land. What are the protections in place?
- Edge of Ballarat, Gordon, Ballan all growing – how to protect
- Linkages with biolinks alliances, e.g. Central Victoria biolinks alliance, Bunanyung Landscape Alliance

## *Communities*

### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Catchment communities' stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

### Workshop feedback

- Urban & farming communities
- Crownland managers
- More specific to the landscape system
- Hobby farms, lifestylers, different attitudes,
- Reflect that it's not the same for everyone
- Bit wordy
- "Nature" should be "natural resources"
- "Actively developed"
- Remove catchment, or put at the end.
- Remove first two words-start with "stewardship" stronger
- Who are we referring to in catchment communities?

### Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Northern Uplands.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.

### Workshop feedback

- Tailor appropriate education to different groups based on their interests.
- Measurable actions
- Actively seek collaboration and sharing knowledge in the last action - proactive rather than reactive.
- Partnerships dual accountability, directed towards catchment management.
- How do we find the needs of the community and then deliver on them? The capacity to follow up and deliver.
- New urban communities and finding their needs.
- New alliances within the community.
- Specific action to engage and mobilise the community.
- The land for wildlife model (easy getting information to individuals).
- Finding out who's currently involved and targeting demographics. Why are some people are participating and why others are not.

## Bellarine Surf Coast

### Water

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.
- Sustainable use of water resources for shared benefits.
- Enhance waterway amenity for environmental, social, cultural, and economic values.
- Water quality values are defined and managed for.

#### Workshop feedback

- Waterways with high recreation use are actively monitored and managed for public health and safety
- Salination of groundwater – impacted by saltwater – increase in freshwater runoff from housing – managed and monitored
- Wetland/Estuaries are impacted by new developments with questionable drainage schemes/ filtering systems
- Impact of Otway vegetation in Geelong – alternative urban and rural water sources – rainforests are impacted by Geelong – groundwater way – sustainable use of water resources
- Clarifying the responsibilities of authorities for waterways
- Reducing threats/ complex issues that impact the biodiversity/ ecology/ people
- Poor wetland quality – Lake Connewarre (decomposing alga)
- Human health risks – managing mosquito impacts
- Recreational use vs managing for the environmental – hard to achieve both

- Manage the balance between recreational use and environmental need
- Environmental water – change in flow –
- Diversity of waterways/ estuaries/ rivers/ - education to the community
- Second statement more specific – around who these shared benefits are for – definition.

#### Draft Actions

- Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values.
- Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.
- Integrated water management principles are applied to deliver Best practice water management.
- Implement integrated programs to enhance waterway amenity and people's connection.

#### Workshop feedback

- Community involvement – more citizen science programs – volunteer groups – large projects – funding?
- Cross agency collaboration
- Coordinate with agencies to get a greater depth in Citizen Science – collaboration.
- Local Elders connection to the waterways – engaging indigenous corps to assist management.

- Maintaining a strong relationship with the Indigenous corporations
- Availability of water is the most critical point – if not enough water, no environmental actions can be achieved.
- Environmental water is water we want to have sustained – securing more environmental water.
- The importance of environmental water cannot be understated – flow stressed – climate change.
- Define waterway
- Proactive communication with the public
- What is the main outcome we are trying to achieve and primarily aiming to achieve? Is it environmental or recreational?
- The third and fourth actions are very similar – what is the difference?
- Restoration of Barwon River catchment – could this be a flagship project? Restore health – collaboration across agencies.
- Adaptive management, climate change.
- Maintaining a balance and respecting all recreational purposes whilst deterring negatives (safety/ dumping of rubbish).

### *Land*

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its' natural capital.

Or

- Land within the Bellarine & Surf Coast is sustainably managed for a variety of purposes within its capability and suitability to maintain and improve its natural capital and to prevent both on and off-site impacts.

### Workshop feedback

- All of the outcomes seem quite generic, and land is the only one that is specific to the Bellarine area.
- Measurement could be an issue. Pick out key things to measure.
- The second is a lot better.
- Term: “within its capability” could be interpreted in a lot of ways. Are we trying to keep a buffer in terms of climate change? Concerned if we didn’t allow some buffering.
- Exploring on and off-site impacts. Hard to measure and monitor. Storm water, how do we manage this?
- What can be implemented, and what can be measured?
- Protect the environmental values.
- Some change may be acceptable depending on the environmental impacts.
- You could have positive impacts, so should all impacts be looked at?
- Adaptive management. We should establish terms early because it is six years. Having more flexibility.
- Achievability of these outcomes in a highly urbanised area (is it possible?)
- Achievability – What is our baseline? Making sure everything else fits.

- Making sure the responsible authorities are aligned with the outcomes.
- Needs to have some governance to check if the plans are aligned to ours.
- Communication between councils/authorities/agencies
- Who brings the picture together?
- Environmental Studies overriding values?
- No mention of resilience in the face of climate change. We need to see what challenges are coming and act accordingly. Droughts, flooding, etc.
- Who is responsible for the outcomes? Concerns about overstocking and dumping dead carcasses. Who is going to be in charge of making sure rivers/land is managed? Who is responsible for maintaining land use? EPA? CCMA?
- Who can talk to the farmers? Does anyone guide or discuss these issues?
- Can we continue to have coalitions of authorities? Someone has to take accountability for the solution involved.
- Synergy should be established so issues can be properly looked at. Right now, it's a "go to this authority to go to this authority to go to this agency" to fix any problem.
- It is complicated for normal citizens to know who to go to for problems, and people don't understand the structure or hierarchy.
- There is a huge competition for the use of lands. Do we need an outcome that talks about how that growth and development doesn't impact the environment and everyone?

#### Draft Actions

- Best practice approaches are implemented across agencies, developers, and the catchment community.
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, the farming industry and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of Bellarine Surf Coast.
- Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets with limits on urban growth.
- Establish agreed targets that enable a baseline to be established and net gain to be measured around sustainable farming practices, land capability, land suitability, natural capital and community capacity.

#### Workshop feedback

- When we talk about community, we need to use words such as education.
- There is nothing about traditional owners (burning practices).
- Would hate to start at square one again. Targets are hard to meet. Review of targets to make sure they are appropriate.
- If targets are hard to meet (due to budget, not collaborating, etc.), that's fine, but it shouldn't be removed.
- The last point (establishing agreed targets) is too big and grasping at everything. "should review and establish key targets" are they around key natural areas? What can the CCMA do about land capability? Natural capital (biodiversity). How can you measure this?

- Pick targets that you can maintain (key targets) and review the existing ones. You can say “great idea”, but you may not be able to monitor or maintain it.
- Has the CCMA has any influence on developers? (NIMB), we have partners. What is their buy-in?
- Maximising your input and making sure growth is sustainable by developers/partners.
- Targets that engage with developers or other agencies to develop sustainably.
- First point – Written more like an outcome.
- Establish a governance framework to ensure best practice approaches are implemented.
- Language is wishy-washy/vague. There aren’t consistent outcomes. Needs to have an overarching agency that takes the input in all different agencies and authorities.
- “Development occurs sympathetic” – wording should be looked at. Should have a verb.
- Development needs to be informed about the natural environment and its effects. Sustainable urban development.
- Empower environmental experts to guide developers, influence developers.
- If agricultural and environmental assets of the region were better understood or more highly valued, it would limit urban development. We need development for economic, but that is short term. Once the environmental and agricultural assets are impacted on there are no second chances.
- Uncertain who makes the decision and role of other agencies. There needs to be more specific accountability.

- The last point is good, but someone needs to be accountable to meet that target, not just many targets, but also identify who meets the targets and what they are accountable for.
- “Best practice approaches” not measurable and could be crap practices. Seems really fluffy. Most best practices are out of date, e.g. stormwater runoff. Developers are meeting best practice, but the volume of water going through due to the increase in hard services means that area cannot cope with that amount of water. “Best practice” needs to be investigated.
- Who is going to identify the needs of the Bellarine Surf Coast demographic? The loudest voice?
- Farmers etc., need to be accountable for their actions. That same accountability does not seem to hold.
- It is a question of identifying who is responsible for establishing the penalties. Who has the authority to enforce?

### *Biodiversity*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and coastal environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened and culturally significant species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.



## Workshop feedback

- We want the responsible authorities looking after the cities around the landscape, e.g. COGG and Surf Coast Shire, PV and DELWP are aligned with the CCMA outcomes. E.g. when presenting the CCA plan to Minister Ryan Smith, the environment Minister cause we were not getting action from DELWP, DELWP just looked at me blindly as they had no concept of where the CCMA was heading and what the plan we were putting in place
- The water theme talked about integrated water management – trying to get agencies together and aligned, we need to have coordination of actions between the agencies
- The responsible agencies are aligned to the Regional Catchment Strategy (and the agency who is going to do it), which is the blueprint of what we are all working/aiming towards (the biodiversity outcomes) – otherwise, agency personnel will just fob you off to another agency
- The CCMA has a good partnership agreement, and partners meet together, which is another good medium
- Does waterways cover everything, e.g. wetlands? Is “waterways” explicit enough?
- What does terrestrial cover?
- An outcome of improving the health of the overall system, e.g. weed clean up on the water’s edge, algae bloom, water balance, i.e. oxygen levels in the water for fish etc., and the water level in the lakes
- Outcome of improving understanding and assessing the lakes, e.g. algae/smell of the lakes, Lake Connewarre smells like a cesspool.
- All the lakes are interconnected, so is it about improving the whole system? E.g. improve the flow of water through the lakes
- With new developments around the Bellarine Surf Coast, we need to provide suitable greenspaces and utilise these green spaces, and we need to investigate and invest in biodiversity corridors. These spaces need to be in places where the native biodiversity is.
- Have an outcome about conducting serious educational campaigns, e.g. to inform and educate before consult/engage
- We will never achieve a net gain of the overall extent because we have shrinking environments in all areas along the Bellarine Surf coast on both public and private land. We are losing coastal environments due to erosion, storm surge etc.
- Climate change impacts - our coastline is disappearing, and we can’t do anything about this.
- The net gain of these habitats is very much reliant on public and private landowners/getting the community involved to maintain/improve their land/declaring their land for nature for wildlife, farmers having sustainable farming methods
- Agencies need to be educated, e.g. at Thompsons Creek – the council allowed people to bury cows in the floodplain
- Need an outcome around charging the community with declaring that these areas are sanctioned for biodiversity reasons/outcomes
- Referring to the second point – where is rehabilitation in “Suitable Habitat” – have an outcome about rehabilitation too
- No mention of balance in species - all very well to say protect, but you need a balance of species

### Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Habitat protection and restoration have enhanced extent, connectivity and condition.
- Catchment communities understand importance of biodiversity.
- Establish and maintain a Biodiversity Conservation Network using existing protected areas and identified new areas and initiatives.
- Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets with a focus on remnant habitat protection.

### Workshop feedback

- The actions read more like outcomes, which takes away from the clarity and the SMART deliverables
- When talking about biodiversity – we need an action to exclude/reduce pests - plants and animals. We need to ensure that it is clear we want to exclude these. We also need to consider climate change in this though due to affecting one area of pests may affect another
- Want to see money/resources put towards these outcomes and actions
- We want to see all agencies/responsible authorities plans and goals, so there is better coordination
- What is the Biodiversity Conservation Network? Is it groups/people getting all on the same page? Or does it mean, Vegetation and land? Database? More clarity is required about

what Biodiversity Conservation Network is and what this action means.

- Need an action of how we are going to align the agencies and the governance framework
- Provide funding/resources for a study and assessment of the health of the overall system to ensure we all understand the overall health of the catchment
- What does “Catchment communities” mean/refer to? Does it mean agencies?
- Agencies mentioned in the first point need to work more proactivity / collaboratively together and actively engage local people/communities/groups, e.g. Bellarine Coastcare work with COGG in weed management and restoring indigenous plants. There is a lot of local knowledge that could be utilised.
- Designate and make clear who is responsible for what outcomes, e.g. is it EPA, DELWP, Parks Vic, COGG, networks
- Everyone has a responsibility for biodiversity
- Need an outcome for protecting and restoring each individualised habitat, measurables that articulate what each achievement will be, and a timeline for doing this, e.g. this is what the outcome is for the first, second, third year and so on
- People may understand the importance of biodiversity, but most people don’t recognise the macro/micro biodiversity. People don’t understand the big picture or the complexity of an ecosystem, e.g. microorganisms
- Point four – recognise new areas and initiatives

## *Communities*

### Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Community stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

### Workshop feedback

- “Connect with and responsibly care for nature” does that encompass enough? It’s a narrow definition. Nature is not always the priority of some groups. For some groups it’s tourism, farming, etc.; we have to get everyone on board.
- The outcome statement should be getting people to understand the “relationship between human activities and the natural world”. This is what we are trying to foster: get people to realise the impact of their actions on stormwater runoff quality etc.
- A challenge for the Bellarine Surf Coast with its growing population is to encourage new participation. How do we get people to connect in developed environments e.g. growth corridors
- Community involvement with first nations people: Acknowledge upfront. Important because we need non-first nations to understand the contributions of first nations people, get people connected and responsible with Caring for country principles.
- Include “Caring for country” in the outcome statement. Like the idea of using this exact wording, with the intent being learning from and using caring for country principles.
- The success of the statement comes down to the networking of communities. Like “connect” because it has multiple meanings, connect with nature and connect with others in your community.

- Include the word “encouraging” as well as “enabling”.
- Add to the outcome “enabling capacity of TO groups”
- Stormwater runoff into Karaaf wetlands needs education around this connection- include the word educate in the outcome statement

### Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Bellarine Surf Coast Landscape.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.
- Environmental education (through schools, community forums etc.) creates practice change and keeps people informed.

### Workshop feedback

- Love the first one! Bellarine has a wide range of demographics. NEW action: Must target individual groups with individual plans. Can’t have one size fits all- won’t get engagement this way.
- Must target certain demographics and target via localised geographic area. In the first action, include the term geographic, e.g., “Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics, needs, and localised geographic location of the Bellarine Surf Coast Landscape”
- Community groups are burning out due to the high level of consultation and engagement at the moment. Are communities being listened to and considered in policy development? Ensuring engagement is collaborative, not every organisation

going to all community groups all the time. Allow enough time to contribute and have meaningful engagement. Manage groups burning out, but also recognise sometimes groups feel “why aren’t we asked?”

- NEW action statement: “Agencies carefully consider the level of consultation they need, and coordinate across agencies to get the best from the community, communicating back to the community about how their input is being considered”
- Knowledge sharing and integrating agency plans- there is no integrating mechanism. NEW action: Create an integrating mechanism for agency plans so they all fit together, and community knowledge is collected and shared among all agencies.
- In the second action statement, encourage actions to be implemented through groups that already exist. Add strong language to the statement such as “we will partner with existing groups”
- Like the third action around getting into schools- create interest, cascades to care and involvement
- NEW action: get experts to gather information to improve the conditions and identify the problem and the issues, e.g. Stormwater runoff problems.
- A new action around planning stormwater management and quality of the water coming into the lake and limiting significant development occurring around Lake Connewarre and into Reedy Lake.
- How we can “enable people to connect” (wording from outcome statement): Citizen science, community groups sharing joint projects (this needs to be well-defined projects

with milestones, achievements). Many diverse ways to get involved. We don’t have the same expectations for all community members, which is important to acknowledge.

- How do we encourage? Depending on the region's demographics, this could be active assistance from Landcare, grants for landholders, encourage the general community via “friends of” groups, and get the benefits that come with membership and involvement.
- How do you care for water? Reduce chemicals, pick up after dogs etc., education around runoff into stormwater drains- how do we educate? Leaflets, film nights, school holiday activities? Kids have a great social conscience- get families to adapt and stay accountable.
- Educate and engage comes before enabling- Opportunity for well designed, presented and communicated flyers, brochures, ID birds and other fauna, citizen science apps like frog calls BioBlitz, nationwide and captures younger generations
- Share information at any relevant event in the region, visibility of CMAs, pictures shared and staff on the ground.
- Use Facebook groups – have a wide reach.
- Tailor engagement through the area they are interested in, e.g. Estuaries or wetlands.
- Targeted actions out of the RCS at a local level. To be as “Inclusive” as possible across the community, target very localised geography.
- First step to communicate the opportunities, e.g. Surf coast times, groups Breamlea, good networks, marketing element esp. through social media

- Communication to fishers- another group that could be targeted. At the “how” stage.
- Communities in growth corridors, how do we get people to connect in these “developed environments”. Value what is natural and what is provided in these growth corridors- value both. Ideas for action: Festivals- housing estates sometimes have nature festivals. There are opportunities in these estates for connection with nature, e.g. Encouraging birds on built lakes
- Leopold Primary proximity to Lake, the opportunity there to publicise and promote what is in our backyard. Promoting connection to the landscape
- Information is critical BEFORE the enabling step.
- Changes through the lifetime of older generations- lake shallower over the years, tailings, sediment build-up. Heavily impacted through Barwon river flows, some talk of dredging. By doing nothing, it gets worse and worse, algae build-up, need to address smell of the lake.
- Barwon Water by 2029: not enough water, issue volumes of water, how to keep, store and use water?

### *Coast and Marine*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Proactive management of the catchment by the community contributes to a net gain in the health and resilience of the region’s highly valued marine environment.

#### Workshop feedback

- Rewritten to: Proactive management of the catchment and the coast by all stakeholders contributes to a continued improvement in the health and resilience of the region’s highly valued coastal and marine environment.
- Need to add ‘coast’ to the statement
- Need to consider the marine impacts
- Not all issues are water quality-based
- Threatening processes such as pest plants and animals
- Add by “agencies” to community
- Replace “net gain” with continued improvement
- Remove or “by all stakeholders”

#### Draft Actions

- Research and knowledge are built to inform adaptive management and mitigation.
- The responsibilities of agencies and local government for NRM are communicated.
- Actively participate in the development of the Marine and Coastal Strategy.

#### Workshop feedback

- The effects of development proximity to salt marsh, coastal dunes and beaches are addressed
- Development needs to consider waterways and water consumption and use.

- Suggest merging to read: Planning for development must consider and, where possible, avoid potential impacts on waterways, salt marsh, coastal dunes and beaches.
- Better integration and cooperation between managers and the community when managing issues
- Need to identify responsible agencies for management actions and make them available to the community
- Make agencies and organisations accountable for their responsibilities (articulate these)
- Suggest merging to read: Ensure better integration and cooperation by identifying responsibilities and make those responsible accountable
- Ensure sufficient resources to address threatening processes such as pest plants and animals, marine pests and water quality.
- Tailor communication needs to ensure end-users understand and appreciate potential impacts and actions
- Clear and agreed targets and accountabilities are developed
- Assets need to be reclaimed and rehabilitated wherever possible
- Need to acknowledge issues between the rural and urban/peri-urban areas and need proactive action and encourage understanding and cooperation.
- Explore carbon sequestration opportunities to deliver both climate and catchment/biodiversity benefits

## Ballarat

The Coast and Marine theme was not considered in this landscape.

### Water

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.
- Sustainable use of water resources for shared benefits.
- Enhance waterway amenity for environmental, social, cultural, and economic values.
- Water quality values are defined and managed for.

Workshop feedback

- Outcomes need to focus on the health of tributaries to major waterways and not just the major waterways themselves (e.g. Gong Gong Creek). This includes monitoring and pest plants and animals in these tributaries.
- Connected trails are an important outcome for waterway amenity – e.g. northern extension of Gong Gong Trail to connect with the Great Dividing Trail
- Lake Wendouree set up well as it is – not much room for improvement
- First dot point: “waterway health” is a better term than “waterway condition”, and “waterway dependent species” should be replaced by “riparian vegetation and fauna”.
- Vegetation is important – cleaning and filtering the water – important riparian buffers – weeds and pest plants

- Water flows are missing from the outcomes – need to ensure adequate environmental flows, including countering the impact of climate change on flows. Also need to address the impact of reduced flows from climate change on the community’s mental health.
- Add an outcome on the need to minimise the impact of development on the natural environment
- Outcomes need to reflect the changed hydrology around developments, which reduces groundwater recharge but increases surface water flow
- Need to include an outcome around groundwater, especially as groundwater is a major water source for Ballarat town water supply.
- Sustainable use of water resources is ambitious and difficult to achieve in 6 years
- Waterway amenity outcome needs to add improvement of “human health” as an outcome (especially mental health)
- Add “wetlands” to the first dot point on the need to maintain or improve waterway condition – this is especially important in the context of the impact of development on wetlands
- Outcomes are currently not measurable – need to develop targets to make these outcomes real

#### Draft Actions

- Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values.

- Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.
- Integrated water management principles are applied to deliver Best practice water management.
- Implement integrated programs to enhance waterway amenity and people’s connection.

#### Workshop feedback

- Planning laws need to be tightened to allow the broad outcome statements to be achieved – especially the impact of urban development on waterways
- First dot point regarding coordinated water management – need to include the community in the implementation. Agencies are just the facilitator and the enabler for community implementation.
- Need to ensure the actions reflect wetlands, groundwater, estuaries as well as waterways. All current actions are related to waterways only.
- Second dot point regarding need to understanding and awareness of water values – expand to include wetlands and groundwater
- Water efficiency – need to mimic natural waterflow to counteract the very unnatural flow/drainage through Ballarat urban area – strong need to slow the flow through installing in-stream structures.
- Articulate how and when Landcare groups can help achieve the overall goals

- The last three dot points are similar and could easily be amalgamated - wording easier to read than the first two dot points
- First dot point – need to separate into two actions: 1) Improve water efficiency 2) Protect natural water assets
- Third dot point regarding delivering waterway health programs – hard to understand what this is getting at – what does it mean?
- Need to connect riparian vegetation strips for native fauna – need to co-ordinate between agencies
- Need for an investigation into the impact of development on the changing hydrologic cycle – especially the impact of increased water demand and the change in the groundwater recharge/surface water runoff ratio.
- Need to skill up government agencies regarding water skills – agencies have been de-skilled in recent years
- Developers need to ensure maintained or enhanced waterway amenity
- Ensure “integrated water management” includes riparian vegetation considerations
- Type of riparian revegetation needs to adapt to changing climate
- Need to hold water back to mimic more natural conditions to counteract the use of drains and retention basins
- Need to manage waterways for impacts of climate change on human health (e.g. likely future increase in mosquito-borne diseases)
- City of Ballarat’s “Living corridors strategy” should be implemented – currently been sidelined

- Waterway management needs to include tributaries and not just major waterways

### *Land*

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its natural capital.

### OR

- Land within the Ballarat Landscape System is sustainably managed for a variety of purposes within its capability and suitability to maintain and improve its natural capital and to prevent both on and off-site impacts.

Workshop feedback

- Or rewrite as per below: Land within the Ballarat Landscape System is sustainably managed for a variety of purposes, including conservation, within its capability and suitability. Such management will retain and enhance land’s natural capital, provide social, cultural and health benefits and prevent both on and off-site impacts.

*Following the workshop discussions, a small group of participants worked together to rewrite the outcome statement, the result of which is:*

- Land within the Ballarat Landscape System is sustainably managed for a variety of purposes within its capability and suitability to maintain and improve its natural capital and to prevent both on and off-site impacts.



- Land within the Ballarat Landscape System is sustainably managed for a variety of purposes, including conservation, within its capability and suitability. Such management will retain and enhance land's natural capital, provide social, cultural and health benefits and prevent both on and off-site impacts.

#### Draft Actions

- Best land management practice approaches are implemented across agencies, developers, and the catchment community.
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, the farming industry and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of Ballarat.
- Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets in line with the Ballarat Strategy 2040.
- Urban land in public ownership receives resourcing to address significant degradation, weeds and pest animals.
- The extent and legacy of mining (e.g. erosion and land contamination) are known and proactively addressed.

#### Workshop feedback

- The processes associated with landscapes (geology and geomorphology) are understood and maintained to ensure compatibility with development.

- Identify public land parcels in urban and peri-urban areas and identify how they can be better used for conservation/recreation/social/health benefits.
- Recognise that socio-economic factors can limit access and engagement with the land and plan to account for and address that risk
- Culturally significant areas are recognised and managed for their values.
- Areas adjoining sites with high biodiversity values/potential are targeted for action, including information/education/awareness to prevent impact on these areas.

#### *Biodiversity*

##### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and coastal environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for culturally significant species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.

### Workshop feedback

- Ensure that the language does not contain 'government jargon' and that it uses terminology that the community can understand
- Need to define what 'suitable' habitat is and from whose perspective is this
- Remove the words 'where possible' so that we aim higher
- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and coastal environments.
- Ballarat has no coastal environments, so remove that part of the statement
- Possibly ambitious within 6 years to be able to achieve a net gain in this highly urbanised landscape system
- There needs to be confirmation that these outcomes align with Biodiversity 2037 and Cultural Heritage management plans
- 2037 biodiversity strategy will focus efforts on more common species and, to a lesser extent, threatened species
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened species.
- Proposed additional outcome statements: (these will then relate to actions below)
  - Within 6 years, important habitat is protected from the negative impacts of urban growth
  - An educated community recognises historical damage done to habitat and that there is a need to rectify this

### Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Priority habitat areas are protected from development and disturbance, and buffers are implemented.
- Improved management of habitats and invasive species results in enhanced extent, connectivity and condition.
- Catchment communities understand importance of biodiversity.
- Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets with a focus on remnant habitat protection.

### Workshop feedback

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Clarify who the stakeholders might be
- Improved management of habitats and invasive species results in enhanced extent, connectivity and condition.
- Action should be: Improved management of invasive species results in enhanced extent, connectivity and condition of habitats
- Catchment communities understand importance of biodiversity.
- Don't need the term 'catchment'. This action is an outcome statement
- Action should be: To educate the community about the importance of biodiversity and to encourage them to participate and to contribute

- Development occurs sympathetic to the natural assets with a focus on remnant habitat protection.
- The action could be expanded to be: Encourage and investigate opportunities for sympathetic development that includes linear corridors to enhance connectivity and naturalness and the removal of existing structures
- Proposed additional actions:
  - CMA works closely with the City of Ballarat, ParksVic and DELWP in the identification and protection of remnant vegetation and waterways
  - The city of Ballarat to work closely with developers to ensure improved biodiversity outcomes
  - Undertake revegetation to create new habitat connections
  - Ensure that effective monitoring of habitat conditions is established and maintained

### *Communities*

Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Community stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

Workshop feedback

- Enabling word is the keyword in the statement (can mean so many things to ensure the outcome is achieved)
- Build into outcomes how the Ballarat landscape can tap into the broad community – new people, non-traditional groups – how do we open the door to new people/groups/organisations
- Need Traditional Owners outcomes

- Need to acknowledge and embrace other current engagement planning (i.e. what DELWP are currently doing)
- The term ‘built’ could be changed, seems to be too rigid
- Need a connection between the Ballarat and the broader NRM community, need to determine triggers, what can be done that is unique to Ballarat (i.e. Geelong connection to water)
- Bring in Biodiversity 2037 outcomes for connecting people to nature (Chapter 5) – environmental accounting, link to local specific issues (i.e. wind farms, development – sub-divisions)

Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Ballarat landscape.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.

Workshop feedback

- Develop a Ballarat inventory of groups involved in NRM and develop strategies about how to best improve/support volunteerism, ensuring socio-economic status is recognised
- Develop a model for ensuring all demographics and social groups can be connected to the natural environment (ensuring socio-economic considerations are incorporated into the design)
- Identify non-traditional community groups and organisations that can benefit local NRM

- Need to look at the social benefits of NRM within Ballarat and determine how the community can relate to these recommendations
- A Ballarat policy to enable volunteers – a charter that enables people to be directed to local NRM programs (CoB)
- Landcare Networks to be empowered with support from CoB to enable smaller NRM groups
- The environmental heritage of Ballarat is recognised and documented, learn what has worked/what hasn't – what we have learned from NRM in the Ballarat landscape
- Government identifies within the Ballarat landscape how they support volunteers, community groups and NGOs (similar to what large NGOs currently do)
- Look at Geelong actions for any cross-over, lessons learned
- Have annual/bi-annual recognition of environmental champions and projects – recognising successes.
- Look at other regional cities of success of working with community and NRM and glean best outcomes that would work for Ballarat – i.e. Bendigo, Albury-Wodonga, Canberra – cities that have developed but not at the expense of the environment
- Collaborative research and co-investment opportunities for the Ballarat Landscape – universities, CHW, CoB, other – knowledge/research broker to match investors with community NRM needs
- Need defined measurables to measure success – KPIs, need benchmarks of community in NRM to measure success/trends, need baselines, enables the community to understand effort/investment/needs/etc
- Mapping historical community engagement – learn from what has happened/what worked – align to historical environment action above
- Develop a list of priority non-traditional community groups/organisations – i.e. schools, elderly groups, other
- Refer to Vic Public Land Legislation Review

## Heytesbury

### Water

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.
- High social values of waterways are maintained or improved.
- The environmental condition of the Curdies River estuary is maintained or improved, promoting a healthy, rich and diverse estuarine ecosystem that supports sustainable use.

#### Workshop feedback

- Fantastic outcome around Curdie River. Concern – the condition of Curdies at the moment. Blue green algae. What do people think? How can we manage it?
- Concern around the term ‘maintain’ versus ‘improve’ health of the river. It could be an aspirational outcome rather than safe.
- The environmental condition of Curdies – Conduct environmental impact studies and develop strategies to implement. Multi benefit for water, biodiversity, land etc
- Quantify improvement as part of the outcome. Focus on improving rather than maintaining
- Any other specific issues? Should they be mentioned specifically in outcomes (currently very general)?
- High social values of waterways – excellent outcome. Education needed around waterways and to be engaged in the landscape. Inform people about activities in relation to the river (e.g. Jetskiing etc.). Access to river

- Missing- cultural values of waterways. Eastern Maar. Include with social outcome.
- Include the word Heytesbury and mention the Curdies waterways to enhance the outcomes.

#### Draft Actions

- Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values in the Heytesbury.
- Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.
- Review and Implement the Curdies estuary management plan.

#### Workshop feedback

- Review and Implement the Curdies estuary management plan’. – could it be part of the regional waterways strategy (due for renewal in 2 years).
- Research into blue green algae in river and how it can be reduced/ prevented. (How it impacts the use of river).
- Partner with Estuary Watch, Waterwatch – with regards to blue green algae
- Tree planting – bio-eco support for the river system – Geoff Rollinson
- Increase understanding and awareness – integrate into school education programs and community education.

- Working with farmers to understand soil conditions and fertilizer load. – Land management can present a threat to water quality if inappropriate.
- Increasing engagement with landholders and community members, ensuring engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Heytesbury.
- ‘Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets’ – does this include optimum water quality health?
- Change the term water efficiency to *water use efficiency*.
- Improve other systems, which should result in an improved water system. Linkages.
- Westvic dairy - Nutrient management etc. Ag Vic also does some work in this space.

## Land

Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its’ natural capital.

Workshop feedback

- Natural capital must define it and know how we’re going to measure it (to be clear on what this term refers to)
- Specific outcomes for soil? Strategies for HOW we improve the natural capital (in actions)
- It’s not about the manager; it’s about what the land needs (focus on land) like this, compared to the regional outcome for land

- Refer to Northern Uplands workshop2 statement, which was redeveloped in workshop 2 (Leigh, Pete Dalhaus)
- Likes natural capital, future-focussed this is the new “Buzzword” and puts us on the front foot
- Work out natural capital benchmarks, appropriate actions to improve Natural capital, with a focus on Heytesbury-related actions (refer to Gellibrand pilot - Pitty suggestion)
- Linking sustainably sourced food and a measure of natural capital- good land management (action)
- Small landholdings compared to other ag areas—extension between landholders. Specific to the Heytesbury- high intensity, small farms
- Collaboration between agencies, including GORCAPA as new agencies- link to the coast (integrated catchment management)
- Incentive/strategy to offset high-value intensive ag, be aware that if we’re setting land aside, for shelterbelts, etc. that it is highly valued land, so perhaps landholders not inclined to do so. High-value land creates problems for land to be set aside.
- Wetland cropping potentially an issue
- “Suitably”- is too ambiguous. Remove the word
- The land is also enjoyed- not just “used”
- Natural capital- seems exclusively production-oriented, ecosystem services (?) not well understood, might not be the best replacement term
- Is natural capital well understood? RCS footnote defining what we mean
- Like natural capital
- Ecosystem services covered in other themes

### Draft Actions

- Application of best practice.
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Heytesbury.
- Targets enable a baseline and net gain to be measured around sustainable farming practices, land capability, natural capital and community capacity.

### Workshop feedback

- Make sure the word “Heytesbury” is in the actual action- Heytesbury is unique and need to define.
- What is the baseline for the Heytesbury?
- “Best practice” what is this? Separate SMART actions for Dairy, etc.? See northern uplands discussion that can translate to Heytesbury
- How are we going to deliver on the actions?
- Too many bodies involved, e.g. Around defining and ensuring best practice
- The idea is all agencies work towards a common goal as a combined effort
- Investment opportunities and funding- soil and sustainable ag growing area of investment, “explore funding opportunities in collaborative way” then can measure (Pitty) specific to Heytesbury

- The first 4 have to come first (priority)
- Heytesbury Landcare Network have done prospectus before (due for a new one, 10yrs old)
- The consequence of land use is quite critical for water. Be more specific, link the outcomes across themes. Perhaps have a statement around land use impacts on water in here. (action) set a target around this and what we’re trying to achieve for water quality
- Action around investment opportunities and funding- collectively locate where all the farms are that want to improve soil carbon and by how much, take this to investors, helps collaboration (Gellibrand pilot)
- Engagement action could be even more specific if we know what the demographics are. Bit too generalist, we can make SMART actions based on what we already know about the demographics
- “Set targets”, be clear about the action
- Like the final action around setting targets
- Coast and marine missing target setting, will it come at a later stage
- Action around education, because the word “education” is missing, although it is implied.
- “Best practice” needs defining
- Link best practice to outcomes. The reason we want best practice is “to improve the land” make the statement have a target in mind. Best practice concerning what?
- Take advantage of all we already know to develop these to be more specific

- Ensure TO collaboration. Needs to be explicit, specifically in the land theme (most important that TO is represented here)
- Where do TO land management practices come in?
- Increase engagement with current landholders to raise awareness of TO practices, etc.
- GORCAPA TO work- can we integrate this in? (Probably more coast and marine theme)
- Ensure maintenance and protection of known important TO sites (NEW action)
- Something around “protection of land for recreation and use, irrespective of farming’ protect what people value as assets to visit. The amenity value of landscapes
- Particularly like collaboration, targets and engagement statements
- Engagement must reflect private landholders, compared to neighbouring Otway (public land majority)

### *Biodiversity*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and coastal environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for culturally significant species.

- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.

#### Workshop feedback

- Wording is not strong enough – net gain vs improvement? Maintenance = negative speak, should be taken out
- Wording based on Biodiversity 2037; should be more RCS focused. It can be simplified into a more defined statement
- Bio 2037 – very static. Better links to bioregions? Better connections to how things move (e.g. wildlife)? Capture actions for certain species. Worth mentioning climate change? More specific? E.g. capturing certain species
- Targeted outcomes – established links to established vegetation belt – tying in with climate resilience. Not monogenous species. A mix of native species. Climate resilience implied but not stated – should be more obvious
- Seasonal changes as well – what seasons serve up, e.g. rainfall
- Flood protection through landscape plantings? E.g. forests? – vegetation can help
- After bushfire – certain elements of intervention/planting can be used to provide habitat for species that need to move – resilience both climate and not climate (e.g. flood, fire)
- 1<sup>st</sup> point – change the word terrestrial to land. So that it has similar wording to other themes
- Coastal – does it cover marine, or should marine be added?
- The connection between RCS and EPBC and Fed/State biodiversity – how are they linked in strategic terms? – RCS acts



as doc to guide federal investment – how is it implemented on a local level?

- Diversity in species = benefits – how does it translate to productivity – both native and non-native – co-benefits

#### Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Habitat protection and restoration programs have enhanced extent, connectivity, and condition.
- Catchment communities (including land managers) understand importance of biodiversity.
- There is improved acknowledgement and education on the value of ecosystem services, as well as stewardship for the natural environment.

#### Workshop feedback

- Fine as is, but can be added to. Captures collaboration, community and education;
- Needs to be more Heytesbury-specific (local landscape)
- Should mention partnerships and dual accountability
- Seeking partnerships stronger in language
- Who is the lead partner? – responsibility
- Links to land management – not adversely impacting on biodiversity (on and offsite), e.g. nutrient run-off impacting biodiversity downstream; seeking carbon capture opportunities;

flora and fauna; creating habitat by capturing carbon – mixed species and not a monoculture

- Feral species? Foxes – action tackling feral species – adding landscape approach to tackling feral species. Already looked at by council, CCMA and other stakeholders. Cross tenure – public and private land; needs to be coordinated
- 2<sup>nd</sup> dot point needs to factor in climate change (needs to be mentioned somewhere)
- Adaptation pathway especially for slow-growing species
- Promoting publicly available data on biodiversity – promote in RCS – online doc can be hyperlinked
- Culturally significant species mentioned in the outcome but not in actions – worth having its own actions
- How to circulate actions into the community and make people aware of them – greater communication with the community as an action
- The first dot point needs to be more action-oriented, and what does it mean? Adaptive management?
- 1<sup>st</sup> dot point more “action” oriented than passive – e.g. collaborate vs collaboration
- Private-public land matrix – landscape approach – what aspects of public/private land will be a priority?
- Eastern Maar – healthy country plan opportunities for biodiversity and Traditional Owner values – re-establishing species that are no longer here – Traditional Owner values over biodiversity
- Creating opportunity for Traditional Owner management on biodiversity – especially with culturally significant species –

cultural objective for that land? – how can they take the lead on that management component?

- Addressing run-off from land – biodiversity in waterways
- 3<sup>rd</sup> dot point – add in increasing engagement so they can understand the importance and benefits of biodiversity – link in what’s in it for them – so the community can understand threats to biodiversity
- Biodiversity in the soil
- Need to mention regenerative farming – increasing and improving biodiversity – natural capital
- Terminology – eco-systems services – over complicated? Better wording to help communicate
- Farms – restored wetlands – increased biodiversity
- Strong support for feral/invasive species actions

### *Communities*

Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Catchment communities’ stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

Workshop feedback

- Enabling and educating
- “Natural resources” added
- Missing words from the first statement, which included intergenerational – original outcome. -climate change - embracing technologies – volunteering

- Specific to the region -mention regenerative farming -identify private landholders
- Farming as a climate champion rather than a climate villain.
- Identify Heytesbury in the statement.
- Importance of the social and cultural benefit of communities to the environment – including recreation.
- Traditional owners stewardships impact in the community
- Should there be more outcomes – is this outcome too broad?

Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Heytesbury.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.

Workshop feedback

- Outcomes need actions to back them up. – SMART
- Communities of interest
- Collecting interests across the landscape and bringing them into a common forum
- Development of sustainable food systems and networks that Heytesbury is known for
- Heytesbury map legend could be updated so that community understands? What is CWS reaches?
- Recognition of the work of community volunteers, connecting funding to groups.

- Tourism, visitors to the area that will enjoy and impact the area.
- Collaboration of government agencies to look after the community, and information is shared freely.
- Diversification of responsibilities between agencies so that the community isn't overwhelmed by multiple agencies.
- Understand and meet the needs of diverse community groups in the region.

### *Coast and Marine*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Proactive management of the catchment by the community contributes to a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued coastal and marine environment.

#### Workshop feedback

- No reference to government agencies.... Given that large portions of coastal land are government-owned and managed
- Not just about community management of the catchment, it is also activities on the coast, e.g. water authorities, tourism operators, local developers, councils
- Like the reference to "proactive" and "net gain". As an outcome it seems positive and aiming to improve.
- If you include net gain in the draft outcome, this puts pressure on identifying what the net gain will be in the SMART outcomes. If you use a different term other than net gain, it might give more flexibility. Net gain is used (in NRM) a lot, but it could be very difficult in a marine environment.

- Seems to be based around community contribution... this is a catch-all... could it have reference to more than community... who is going to make sure the outcomes are achieved? What about the shire councils, Landcare management, landowners, water corporations, academia (who provide research, knowledge and innovation)
- This section of the coastline is not overly humanised, and the townships of Peterborough and Port Campbell are small. In other sections of the region (e.g. Bellarine), the human impact (resident and visitor) is huge. More people could move to and visit Peterborough and Port Campbell, and it is a fragile coastline. There is also sensitive cultural heritage (middens).
- Better to consider the consequences of human impacts before it happens rather than after

#### Draft Actions

- Research and knowledge are built to inform adaptive management and mitigation.
- The responsibilities of agencies and local government for NRM are communicated.
- Actively participate in the development of the Marine and Coastal Strategy.
- Management of upstream impacts to mitigate impacts on the coastal and marine environments.

#### Workshop feedback

- If trying to achieve a net gain in the outcome, we need to have actions that will improve the quality of coastal and marine environments.

- What is the net gain trying to be achieved? Looking at native veg? Marine environment? Water quality?
- Net gain would normally refer to an improvement in both the extent and quality of the marine environment. But in the draft actions, there is no clear link to achieving a net gain.
- “Actively participate in the development of the Marine and Coastal Strategy” – who is this referring to? Who is included? Is it community? Is it an agency? If not just the CCMA, who is also being engaged, and how?
- Tourism – developing tourism may be a significant issue over the next six years. Any tourism proposals need to be considered for biodiversity and environmental impacts before the development is approved. This has happened after the event a few times.
- What about the management of all impacts on coastal and marine environments, not just upstream, i.e. from land-use change, huge visitor numbers, etc.
- “communicated”... is that the right word? A bit passive? There needs to be collaborative work to achieve the outcome.
- Suggestion for first dot point: “built to inform and enable...”
- The CCMA has been working to be more specific with partnerships, e.g. MoUs with water authorities. There is a desire to formalise a more integrated approach. A formal, whole-of-land system to get synergies across all shared responsibilities.

## Western District Lakes

The Coast and Marine theme was not considered in this landscape.

### Water

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- The ecological characteristic of RAMSAR wetlands is maintained or improved.
- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.

### Workshop feedback

- Improve rather than maintain – indicators in general environment showing things going backwards. Accept that maintain is achievable but improvement is aspirational
- It may be more relevant to the Biodiversity theme rather than the Water theme – water quality the indicator rather than ‘ecological characteristic’
- Reflects a fractured process – not holistic – forced into themes
- What is our baseline for Ramsar ecological characteristics – timeframes
- Cannot influence changing climate – need to incorporate into management
- In this landscape, Lakes water is precious – the issue is water levels – they can be managed, e.g. trigger levels. Need an outcome similar to environmental flows
- Outcomes around improving water quality

- Maintaining Ramsar characteristics and lose Ramsar status has huge implications

#### Draft Actions

- Implement the Western District Lakes RAMSAR management plan.
- Coordinated water management arrangements to protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values.
- Deliver programs using an integrated catchment management approach.

#### Workshop feedback

- Updated Ramsar baseline data
- Restoration of wetlands
- Specific Indigenous Cultural values of water need to be there and integrated
- In the future, juggling competing water users
- Develop a better understanding of the potential of recycled water for environmental and cultural flows
- Better understanding of groundwater and its impacts on the Lakes
- Better understanding of the hydrology of the catchments of the Lakes – not just community education a greater scientific investigation to inform management
- Climate change lens in any planning and management actions look ahead and act early

- Silos
- Groundwater extraction – research on impacts to the system high priority
- Adaptation Pathways work not here in actions – why not?
- No new action/ innovation
- Implement Adaptation Pathways Plan, e.g. by 2025
- Actions from Borrel-a-kandelop fencing and reveg – continued – support farmers funding and advice

#### *Land*

#### Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its' natural capital.

#### Workshop feedback

- Define what is meant by “land use” and “capability”- this should be the first action to do
- “Natural capital” is a good way of putting it. It allows us to put measurements around things, accounts for environmental externalities
- “Capability” is the starting point, quantifying the environmental services provided
- Look at the land through different lenses, the intrinsic value of land (despite maybe no production value/development potential, etc.) Value of land for habitat
- Link land to native grasslands

- This landscape most prone to commodity prices- chasing whatever commodity has the highest prices
- Would rather “Land is managed to maintain and improve its natural capital and managed for water”
- Land outcomes should complement water. In other landscapes, it’s the other way around, but here, land managed for water should support the most valuable assets here in WD lakes
- “Capable” is subjective
- Put sustainability at the forefront- with long term outcomes, feeds into long term improvement of natural capital
- “Natural capital” may need further definition and clarification.
- Natural capital is holistic- good and bad
- In these outcomes (across themes), there is overlap for measures of success- natural capital measured in biodiversity terms
- Include a footnote in RCS with natural capital defined
- The word suitably isn’t required
- Like one clear sentence -for consistency, they should all be concise one sentence
- “Land is functionally used” rather than suitably- speaks to the function of the land
- Too focussed on ag usage
- Land, Biodiversity actions/outcomes should be integrated- fenced off land to protect native flora/fauna etc.

#### Draft Actions

- Application of best practice.

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, landholders, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Western District Lakes.
- Sustainable agriculture practices are increasing, with water management a priority.
- Landowners have a greater appreciation for environmental values and benefits to agricultural production.
- Deliver programs using an integrated catchment management approach.

#### Workshop feedback

- Action: development of stewardship type program, around protection/enhancement (of natural capital?) to offset farming practice.
- An accredited farming standard that we can develop. Develop what we expect as the benchmark, and farmers can get accredited and sell product when their farm meets these benchmarks. Gives a market point of difference to city consumers who care about regenerative land management.
- Once standards for WDL established, water use, carbon footprint, accreditation comes next. Standards might be based on location (around the Lakes trying to protect) or for commodities. Different standards for different industries. The story around farmers helping lakes, marketing potential, including TO land management practices, harnessing technology. We could have a QR code with traceability to farmgate and the story of land management.

- Payment-type programs work for biodiversity, but one-off payment make not work for farming practice change
- Councils could provide the marketplace opportunities for such a scheme
- How to tap into regen ag → formulate measurements around regen farming
- No reference to TO land practices and values (or water theme)
- Overlapping systems and themes.
- Start by defining terminology so we can measure baseline and improvement
- Work towards an agreed definition on land and soil health that is relevant to the assets in the zone in question
- Manage land to maintain groundwater level to protect assets (Lakes, etc.). Management practices (e.g. Clearing, etc.) need to be agreed on and built into SMART actions (moving away from generic statements)
- Remove “Appreciation” - it is not measurable or achievable
- Relationships- “Improve relationships between stakeholders”— feeds through to the actions
- These actions aren’t anything that isn’t already happening. So how do we go above and beyond this? And include novel approaches
- Very ag focussed—needs identification of land uses and tailor actions to land use
- “Best practice”—Needs defining. One person’s interpretation is not the same as another and is a moving target. Use industry best practice standards.
- Focus on outcomes, remove “best practice” altogether.

- Align our targets with industry standards on best practice—align with what industry groups are trying to achieve
- At the SMART action level, the practices/principles differ completely between regions/geographies
- Aim for gold standard best practice, and you’ll lose people along the way—the “Attainable” part of SMART
- I read the “demographics” statement as related to farmer age and demographics of the industries
- Collaboration and building effective relationships (add the word building)
- Nothing about climate change
- Water management a priority – needs clarification.
- Issues that need to be addressed through direct actions are groundwater management, raised bed cropping, quality of water entering waterways, water into Lake Corangamite.

### *Biodiversity*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for culturally significant species.

- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.

#### Workshop feedback

- Have more positive/aspirational terminology wording, e.g. maintain, use increase instead of “net gain”, e.g. is net gain an intended meaning as it applies that we will allow for some loss
- Needs to be an outcome around landscape function, e.g. connectivity, groundwater interaction, species requirement, consider the cumulative effect
- Needs a strong climate change lens over any outcomes – e.g. climate-ready objectives, positive and negative outcomes need to be considered, and people be made aware of them
- Maintain/improve rather than “net gains”
- Net gain is too technical for the general public – use plain English
- Need a baseline to measure it from, e.g. bird numbers / or other ecological values. We need to understand what we have
- These outcomes don’t seem to be very aspirational. Strike a balance between maintenance and inspirational
- What are the culturally significant species (need to be explicit about the word “cultural”)?
- There is no continuity between each outcome, e.g. “net gain” and then the word “maintenance”
- Is there a benchmark?
- Ensure the decline issue of our biodiversity is acknowledge and addressed

#### Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Habitat protection and restoration have enhanced extent, connectivity, and condition.
- Catchment communities understand importance of biodiversity.

#### Workshop feedback

- Implement the actions from the climate change adaptation pathways
- The actions read like outcomes, outcomes should be actions, cause the outcomes are measurable
- Develop tools to support understanding and education, e.g. children about this
- Implement the actions from the climate change adaptation pathways
- Develop tools to support understanding and appreciation of history, e.g. our land and land use has changed over the years
- Support an understanding and appreciation of the biodiversity flora and fauna
- Building effective relationships and a funding/program to support building relationships
- Having something separately about improving the Ramsar wetlands
- The Actions statements are too generic



## *Communities*

### Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Community stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

### Workshop feedback

- How do you define community? Is it farmers? Young people? And how does the connection take place?
- Just because people care for nature doesn't mean they are the right people to be stewards for it.
- Community Stewardship- it is such a big word and incredibly vague. Does it mean a community looking after? And how does this connect with responsibility for caring for nature
- People need to connect to and care for nature. But stewardship required expertise and knowledge.
- We need to listen to the people who have knowledge and understanding, know the history and what has happened in an area. Knowing limitations and when to ask for help
- Would like to see an explicit link to the Traditional Owner communities.
- Like the simple, one-sentence approach.
- The word enabling- could be replaced with something stronger- encouraging, supporting, something a bit more active
- Not sure about the word nature. The WDL landscape is very ag focused, and it is not all about the natural environment. Where does agriculture, sustainable agriculture, Urban and Peri-urban fit in?

- Not sure about the word care- does it encompass enough- do we know what it is, what it looks like?
- The problem with the lakes is the cultural miss-match- the community doesn't have a strong connection to the lakes as an asset- we need a 'love your lakes' campaign to connect the community to the lakes as a valuable asset, to be highly prized
- Need to shift the culture around the lakes to one that is value and asset-based and that the local community has a connection to them
- Many people/community wouldn't know what caring for nature means or how to go about it. Without this understanding and the environmental services provided, it is difficult to know what responsible care looks like.
- Need to reword to include engagement. Currently, there is no link to what we will be actively doing.

### Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Western District Lakes.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.
- Integrate the understanding of new and emerging impacts such as wind farms and climate change.

### Workshop feedback

- Integration and collaboration between TOs and others- through things like traditional burning and other land management

practices. Opening up communications between TOs and communities. Building lasting and trusted relationships.

- We need to be more concerned about Climate Change- we need to be aware that things will change and have an adaptive approach to what we deliver.
- Supporting communities to restore wetlands (community and biodiversity outcomes).
- Connecting communities to the WDL- increase awareness of the values of the lakes.
- Communities around the lake are fragmented, have their drivers and motivations- need to know the communities- connect through the Landcare groups and committees of management (representative of the local communities) to understand the communities and how to best work with them.
- Education is critical- why the systems are so important- beyond the immediate aesthetic values.
- Comms, education and engagement -love your lakes campaign or program.
- Funded programs that support landholders to 'care for nature' manage land more sustainability. Available to any communities connected to this landscape - like the current stewardship program providing extension, advice and funding support.
- Information portal where you can look and see and explore the information about the lakes- links to live webcams (and other online tools)- fostering an emotional connection to the lakes and an ongoing interest.
- The lakes are inaccessible, so tools that improve accessibility (bike tracks, walking paths) would help communities connect to the lakes, cognisant of increased use.
- Increased use driving increased maintenance needs and impact.
- Strengthening the link to Traditional Owners, storytelling around the lakes, connecting people to the traditional history of the landscape.
- Explore the lakes app (Pokémon style) linked to the atlas of Victoria. Species monitoring (fostering citizen scientists), augmented realities- showing the lakes over various periods, using drone footage to spot birds and species.

## Barwon Plain

The Coast and Marine theme was not considered in this landscape.

### Water

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.
- Manage water for the environment to improve waterway condition.
- Sustainable use of water resources for shared benefits.
- Enhance waterway amenity for environmental, social, cultural, and economic values.

### Workshop feedback

- Add 'and groundwater' to the first outcome - 'Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway *and groundwater* dependant species'.
- Groundwater entitlement – groundwater-dependent ecosystems outcome missing. Specific to Barwon Plains. Change the first outcome to have groundwater-dependent species?
- Managing not a specific enough outcome – change to increasing environment flows
- Above and underground dependent species.
- Improving rather than maintaining.
- Index of stream condition as a reference to the state of the Barwon.
- Specific to mention the Barwon.

- Sustainable use of water resources for shared benefits -Too ambitious, someone has to miss out.
- The second statement is confusing. Is it talking about environmental water?

### Draft Actions

- Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values.
- Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.
- Implement existing environmental flow entitlement, and create opportunities to increase it.

### Workshop feedback

- First point: water management between agencies and organisations (talking about ICM). Be more specific about what it relates to.
- Improving understanding and knowledge of water-soil dynamics -especially when it comes to risks. In advance. Acid-sulphate soils in particular.
- Baseline index of stream condition – way overdue.
- Pipe from west Barwon good example of ICM in practice.
- Community actions to enhance waterway amenity. It could tie into understanding and awareness of water values. Do the community know what all the water assets are?
- Rephrase the last point?

- Willow removal.
- Removing barriers ACTION to last point → implement existing environment flow entitlement.
- Changing the wording water efficiency.
- Water efficiency doesn't include water quality. What's the point?
- Ecosystems that are dependent on the waterways -action needed.
- Planning for effective water use due to increased urbanisation.
- Action around nutrient management, runoffs.
- Traditional knowledge and practices on the use of water should be mentioned.
- Increased urbanisation sewerage pressure-high density living.

### *Land*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its' natural capital.

Or

- Land within the Barwon Plain is sustainably managed for a variety of purposes within its capability and suitability to maintain and improve its natural capital and to prevent both on and off-site impacts.

#### Workshop feedback

- The second outcome is preferred since it includes the reference to threats, but it still needs to be a bit more succinct

- Preference to remove 'maintain' since this suggests 'status quo'
- The use of 'Barwon Plain' was appreciated as it makes it relevant to the Landscape System

#### Draft Actions

- Application of best practice.
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Barwon Plains.
- Targets enable a baseline and net gain to be measured around sustainable farming practices, land capability, natural capital and community capacity.

#### Workshop feedback

- Application of best practice
- Needs to be expanded to be more inclusive and descriptive with references to 'industry best practice.'
- Could also include a specific example of applying best practice through supporting the delivery of whole farm planning
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances
- Covers off quite well and is inclusive
- Ensure engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Barwon Plains

- Could also include 'whole farm planning' as a specific example here also
- Targets enable a baseline and net gain to be measured around sustainable farming practices, land capability, natural capital and community capacity
- Modify to be: 'Targets established to enable ...'
- New Actions:
  - Planning takes into consideration appropriate land use within the Barwon Plain in conjunction with urban development
  - Ensure that strategic planning is subject to RCS objectives

### *Biodiversity*

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across land and water environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened and culturally significant species.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.

Workshop feedback

- Question the need to have net gain/maintenance – there is a need for a challenging/positive outcome framework

- Need to highlight local veg communities to have as outcomes – make them Barwon Plains – also do for fauna spp (refer Heytesbury), Blackfish, Grayling, etc
- Is this native spp only?
- Ref to PPA?
- Maintenance – net gain where possible – needs to be removed/refined – define suitable habitat – difference b/t net gain/improvement
- Include threatened flora and fauna in the first outcome
- Needs outcomes landscape function and connectivity ensuring breeding/genetic variation – as an outcome

Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Remnant vegetation is protected, particularly habitat on the highly connected floodplain.
- Restoration programs have enhanced the extent, connectivity, and condition of the habitat.
- Catchment communities (including land managers) understand importance of biodiversity.
- Groundwater extraction and urban encroachment are addressed to maintain the biodiversity of this largely intact landscape/floodplain.

Workshop feedback

- Need to ensure that the above is made into actions (SMART)

- Need longer-term planning about land use within Barwon Plains – i.e. growth node towards Winch from Geelong, changed ag practices
- Accreditation re: farmers – Barwon Plains allows this landscape to explore – natural capital accounting
- Ensure actions align to outcomes – need to be expanded a lot
- Need to develop a cross-tenure ecological/cultural burn plan for this landscape – refer to land discussion but also link to collaboration outcome above
- Groundwater extraction – need a specific understanding of this and acid-sulphate soils for this landscape and its impact on biodiversity (Barwon Downs Borefield understanding the risks of the greater impact, are there other areas, i.e. through climate change that will be impacted – need to document risks across this landscape
- Focus on keeping the landscape as intact as possible- need actions that address this
- Need a BP landscape approach relating to PPA (refer to Heytesbury discussion) – link to BRP PPA actions/modelling – look at willows
- Restoring endangered EVC – need a BP landscape approach
- Developing landscape approach to revegetation, seed supply, seed provenance, supporting reveg industry, targeted reveg, climate change adaptative – have specific for BP – link to regional approach but at a landscape scale – use as a pilot

## *Communities*

### Draft 6-year outcome for this Landscape System

- Catchment communities' stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

### Workshop feedback

- 'Nature' broadly incorporates many values – speak to this? Perhaps consider natural resources?
- Clarification around 'catchment communities' (wording around Barwon Plains community)
- The wording around 'awareness', broader community engagement and education,
- Where people are sourcing information needs to be considered. How can community members be advocates as well as advisors to workshops such as this? Education.

### Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Barwon Plains.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.

### Workshop feedback

- Be more specific about the demographic as we should already know who they are and what they want.

- Endeavour to capture views across all networks (perhaps through informal networking?) and understand priorities of different groups, also understanding differing knowledge levels – and not allowing this to be a barrier
- General promotion of natural resources, to understand values, increase education,
- Strongly encouraging landowners to be more aware of their legal responsibilities, as well as being a good neighbour.
- Acknowledge responsibility under the CALP Act  
Comments that informed the above two actions: Management responsibility of weeds and land ownership, need for compliance. Otherwise, there is potential for tensions within the community. Reintroduce compliance/enforcement.
- Catchment communities need to be supported
- “What is the glue that binds communities together?”

## Otway Coast

### Water

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Maintain or improve waterway condition and the resilience of waterway dependant species.
- High social values of waterways are maintained or improved.

### Workshop feedback

- ~~Maintain or~~ Improve the ~~condition~~ health of waterways, wetlands, estuaries, groundwater and the resilience of dependant ~~species~~ ecosystems.
- High social values of waterways, Wetlands, Estuaries, Groundwater are maintained or improved.
- Do we need to have ‘maintain’ – Should the strategy mostly focus on improving waterways conditions?
- High social values
- What about recreational, cultural and, economic values?
- The broader community may not understand the term
- What do we mean by ‘high social values’?
- What about the environmental value of water – ‘social values’ is human-centred and does not place importance on water's natural/environmental value.
- Identify benchmarks for improving waterways, and consider how some ecosystems can be difficult to improve – so how do you measure?
- Suggested to develop outcomes specific to each water system. This would recognise the differences between each system and

develop actions relevant to each – actions based on critical issues for each system.

- Water is valued by different ‘users’ differently – competing interests not acknowledged
- What about climate change and its impact on Otway water systems? Outcomes need to express more strongly that water systems health is a priority, and the need to adapt (use) to ensure waterways health.
- How we make more resilient systems as a result of climate change impacts?
- What about groundwater-dependent ecosystems – we need to understand better how it is replenished at a balanced rate?
- Groundwater systems – monitoring use/extraction – not just ‘take take’

#### Draft Actions

- Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.
- Increase the understanding and awareness of water values in the Otway Coast.
- Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.
- Drinking water supply catchments are managed to provide quality water for urban water supplies

#### Workshop feedback

- Actions are too high level/broad - need to be more specific and quantifiable.

- Actions 1 & 3 are very similar
- Some proposed actions are not specific to the Otway – they could apply to any catchment area.
- Consider increases in development in the region and its relation to the stormwater issue.
- Suggestion for a specific action to educate landowners to learn and appreciate waterways landscape.
- What about the ocean/sea? Recognise the importance of where rivers and ocean meet within the Otway area and what happens in the land impacts the ocean.
- Action1 – ‘Coordinated water management arrangements to improve water efficiency and protect natural water assets.’
- Opportunity to be proactive about development in the region and think about opportunities for innovation (i.e. on-site water treatment within industry)
- Competing interests in water use – how do they impact water management (i.e. wetlands) and regulation, compliance for better water management?
- ‘protect natural water assets’ – More buffering of waterways and revegetating.
- Action 2 ‘Increase the understanding and awareness of water values in the Otway Coast.’
- What about potential risks? Need to tease out risks related to waterways in the Otway
- Water values – what are they? Too vague/ broad – different values for different users
- Action 3 - Deliver waterway health programs using an integrated catchment management approach.



- Opportunity to build citizen science
- Education – Landcare already acting in this space – assess what are the gaps in educating stakeholders, broader community to better understand water landscape
- Clarity and scope for outcomes & actions – Need to be more specific
- Measuring impact in six years – outcome and actions need to be measurable/quantifiable – what are the benchmarks?
- Definitions – some terms used in the outcomes and actions are not clear and may mean different things to different people (i.e. high social values, water values)
- Water landscape in Otway system – there are critical differences between estuaries, wetlands, rivers, groundwater etc. This implies a need to develop outcomes and actions specific to each water system.
- Education – what are the gaps and needs to raise knowledge across the board?
- The strategy needs to address climate change and how to build the resilience of each landscape. Also, need to be clear on how it will address the competing interests in water use/values from different stakeholders

### *Land*

Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Land is suitably used within its capability and sustainably managed to maintain and improve its' natural capital.

Or

- Land within the Otway Coast is sustainably managed for a variety of purposes within its capability and suitability to maintain and improve its natural capital and to prevent both on and off-site impacts.

### Workshop feedback

- Add sustainable farming
- The second more specific outcome was preferred as it covers the on and off-site impacts
- The second one is better as it states that it is being managed for what is on-site and off-site. But 'impacts' is a bit ambiguous. Suggest writing to ensure positive benefits both on and off-site.
- More specific action regarding climate resilience/ in a changing climate.
- Specifically mention waterway and biodiversity values/and impacts rather than 'on and off-site impacts. Important to incorporate these impacts specifically.
- Who decides what is suitable? In terms of 'suitably used'
- Natural capital doesn't sit right, implies agricultural benefit. Implies that it is only useful to humans, not intrinsic values. Possibly need to ecosystem services but not necessarily remove the natural capital part.
- Prevent both on and off-site impacts statement was well-liked.
- One member said the 'Land within the Otway Coast' part could be removed; it is a bit wordy.
- 'Variety of purposes' a bit wordy and not needed
- Need them to be more measurable rather than wordy.

- Good to be specific, like how it says it is managed for a variety of purposes.
- First Action 'Land is suitably used', this may be the wrong wording as it doesn't feel like an environmental value, seen as agricultural sort of outcome. It is conveying the wrong message. Sustainably managed, as written in the second one, sounds a lot better.
- Unnecessary to have the word maintain in these statements as we should only be looking to improve as it is achievable.

#### Draft Actions

- Application of best practice.
- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, the farming industry, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Ensure engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Otway Coast.
- Establish agreed targets that enable a baseline to be established and net gain to be measured around sustainable farming practices, land capability, land suitability, natural capital and community capacity.
- Desired land-use outcomes are identified, including responsible use of public land.
- Acid sulphate soils are managed, and knowledge of groundwater interaction is advanced.

#### Workshop feedback

- Best practice by who?

- Need to include the community in the second action regarding collaboration
- Maybe too farm focused.
- Massive amount of burning and mulching going on crown land, need more actions surrounding offsetting this. Potentially on private land. To get better biodiversity links. Comment made about poor mulching practices, so not best practice. Comment made about DELWP needing to do best practice in these situations, not just farmers.
- Refine action to ensure consultation with experts to make sure best practice is used, and we are taking advantage of any knowledge or peoples to ensure best practice, adaptive management and continuous improvement.
- 'successfully respond to changing circumstances.' By making sure we are learning from our mistakes. Using evidence from past programs to inform future activities.
- Add action around community access to private/public land that doesn't currently have access unless it will implicate biodiversity.
- Agreed Targets regarding land use impacts. Especially for scenario planning for future extreme dry/drought years.
- Actions around getting better baseline data around land values/impacts.
- Action about mitigation and adapting to climate change
- Action to look at the transition to Indigenous naming of land. E.g. Have Fairhaven and the Indigenous name.
- Prob not relevant: but a framework for accessing drainage of wetlands for agricultural purposes.

- Application of best practice, we need to make sure we are always improving best practice and defining what best practice is and in what context.
- Instead of writing 'the farming industry', maybe we should write 'industries'? Rather than singling out just the one industry. E.g. include forestry, renewables etc.
- 'Ensure engagement reflects the demographics and needs of the Otway Coast.' Feels like it should only be in the community one, or it needs to be in all of the themes. E.g. why is it in Land but not in Water? If you are going to keep it, it needs to be made more specific to land, e.g. add specifics about engagement land managers in the Otway Coast to improve management practices. This action seemed to be unclear as there was a lack of understanding of what it meant. Needs to be an element of land management in this action.
- Acid sulphate soils felt very specific compared to the other actions (from one particular participant).
- General discomfort around the term net gain.

### *Biodiversity*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Net gain of the overall extent and condition of habitats across terrestrial, waterway and coastal environments.
- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management for threatened and culturally significant species.

- Maintenance of, or net gain where possible in all species with positive % Change in Suitable Habitat expected over 6 years from sustained improved management.

#### Workshop feedback

- Include Otway Coast characteristics in outcomes
- There is a lot of similarity in the statements.
- Simplify and remove obvious government terminology such as 'positive % Change in Suitable Habitat' (which comes from DELWP Biodiversity Strategy) so that the community more easily understands the statements
- Do not use 'maintenance' but 'net gain' as the latter is more aspirational. Eliminate the term 'where possible' as this again is not aspirational.
- We cannot effectively respond to climate change impacts by working within a 'maintain' situation
- Could introduce a reference to management on both public and private land (where we may be able to get better overall outcomes on private land considering the percentage it covers)
- Include statements regarding community involvement within outcomes
- There are no references to climate change impact response in any of the outcomes. Include statements of adaptation to climate change
- It was recognised that we could effectively have longer-term visions (20 years) with shorter-term (6 years) goals as long as they relate to each other
- Recognise how species migrate in reality – use a landscape function lens

### Draft Actions

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies, land managers, and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Habitat protection and restoration programs have enhanced extent, connectivity, and condition.
- Catchment communities (including land managers) understand importance of biodiversity.
- There is improved acknowledgement and education on the value of ecosystem services, as well as stewardship for the natural environment.

### Workshop feedback

- Otway Coast specific characteristics should be recognised across all actions
- Make sure that existing plans and strategies relevant to biodiversity in the Otway Coast landscape system are brought into the RCS (e.g. Great Ocean Road strategic framework) – could be either outcome or action
- Ensure that any actions are underpinned by sufficient, sustained and coordinated investment
- Recognise the pressures that increased tourism is having in this landscape (this could be applied to either or both of the first two actions)
- Recognise the balance between tourism and the environment and that both are important to this landscape
- Recognise the importance of activities on private land

- Collaboration and effective relationships ensure agencies and other stakeholders successfully respond to changing circumstances.
- Be specific about landholders as stakeholders due to the important role that they will play in the effective management of private land
- Define who the stakeholders are in this landscape system – relevant – mention unique aspects such as Ecotourism
- Explore innovative investment opportunities
- Catchment communities understand importance of biodiversity.
- As described above in the general comments that in a post-COVID situation, there is an increased interest in the region, and this can result in negative environmental impacts
- There is improved acknowledgement and education on the value of ecosystem services, as well as stewardship for the natural environment
- This is an outcome, not an action
- New Action: Encourage community and a broad range of stakeholders to participate and invest in innovative ways to improve the natural environment

### *Communities*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Catchment communities' stewardship is actively built by enabling people to connect with and responsibly care for nature.

### Workshop feedback

- “Actively built” indicates there’s nothing there to begin with. Actively enable people to connect, build on what already exists.
- “Built” – maybe more of an action than an outcome/goal.
- Caring for the community as well as nature. Encouraging and supporting to be involved in what we do.
- “Responsibly” not needed
- Educating people- taking them along with us. Recognise population demographics are changing- collect their attitudes on why they are here.
- Sometimes hard for the community to implement on-ground actions, lots of paperwork, especially on crown land.
- More definition and strength around what stewardship entails- there are defined roles and responsibilities that need to be clearly outlined and upheld. Actively valuing as well as legal roles.
- Stewardship already there- not built, but we need to “actively engage or actively value” the stewardship. Stewardship “encouraged and recognised”.
- Encourage sharing, collaboration, and learning is missing.
- Use people in stewardship roles/existing networks that already exist
- Catchment- does it encompass all the demographic groups, inc. farmers, tourism operators, etc.
- Like connection with nature and responsibly care for
- Could include words around learning/engaging with others- good to encourage people to come together

- “Nature”- could use another term- e.g. Natural assets/environmental assets.
- Reinforce the concept of management through the catchment, actions transferrable across the catchment. Pick a catchment, work down from the top with actions

### Draft Actions

- Ensure engagement and information meets the demographics and needs of the Otway Coast.
- Inclusive activities connect different groups and individuals within the community to collaborate on natural resource management activities and share knowledge.

### Workshop feedback

- Good mention of the Otway Coast- must be tailored to the region. Niche under 200acres properties- need specific support for lifestyle.
- ACTION: understanding changing demographics- next 6 years so important. Must understand WHO your audience is before working with them.
- ACTION: Make sure the actions and outcomes are measurable-
- Good to have a citizen science action-can go beyond agency and builds active participation and valuing nature (feeds into the outcome- which is a good thing, that’s what we want)
- ANGAIR inundated with requests for opportunities- coping with demands of so many groups wanting to participate in tree planting, etc.- being able to meet this demand.

- ACTION: Measuring permanent protection- how much was gained over the 6-year life of the RCS? People want to build net gain. Other outcomes, fencing waterways, measure increases in projects or management agreements.
- BushBank- carbon sequestration and rewilding, agroforestry, bio links- this is measurable.
- Wye River fires- can we learn from it and communicate principles around fire-prone area risk management.
- Action: How do we engage the transient visitor community? There is a wealth of info here. A strong portion of the community are visitors. Requires attitude of off seasonal involvement, accommodation providers getting passionate people to volunteer offseason, incentive from accommodation providers to facilitate it.
- Add to the end of the first draft action the following words: “... *community and Otway Coast visitor community*”
- Negotiating the conflict between connecting with nature (people express this through recreation- mountain biking, potentially quite destructive) and caring for nature- have a plan around this
- One of the issues might be high recreational use and its impact- escalating issue
- Managing mountain bikes and motorbikes for nature preservation
- Facebook communities help, but not all involved
- Tourism brochure- what people can do to protect and enhance env whilst they are visiting.

- ACTION: To use examples of people doing great work- private land or community project, showcasing and social benefits. Pilot projects- could create a snowball effect of involvement
- Diverse land use and community groups, and isolated communities- tap into these different demographics
- Action- experiment with small goals. Just start to experiment and see what works.
- Even in areas with no strong visitor community, there isn't huge community participation
- Princetown active in development on wetland
- Action around Traditional Owners
- ACTION around support: what does this look like? Sharing resources between agencies and new and emerging community groups ensure they are inclusive and aware of opportunities.
- ACTION around celebrating community successes- any agency can deliver on it. Research sector- masters students using data, rarely is the loop closed to share feedback back to those citizen science researchers.

### *Coast and Marine*

#### Draft 6-year outcomes for this Landscape System

- Proactive management of the catchment by the community contributes to a net gain in the health and resilience of the region's highly valued coastal and marine environment.

#### Workshop feedback

- Edit outcome: 'Proactive management of the catchment by the community (*specify who*) contributes to a net gain in the health

and resilience of the region's highly valued coastal and marine environment'.

- Net gain everywhere, not just the coast
- Like the terms health and resilience
- Motherhood statement. It doesn't mean anything, not SMART
- Wadawurrung Healthy Country Plan has some good short-term outcomes, like the WAC HCP framework.
- Needs to be more specific, potentially more outcomes
- Who does the Community incorporate? Needs to be either all-encompassing or specify the components. Need to include visitors? Make them think of themselves as part of the "community" that has a role in protecting the C&M environment
- Like "proactive management", need to implement under increasing pressure

#### Draft Actions

- Research and knowledge are built to inform adaptive management and mitigation.
- The responsibilities of agencies and local government for NRM are communicated.
- Actively participate in the development of the Marine and Coastal Strategy.
- Management of upstream impacts to mitigate impacts on the coastal and marine environments.
- The population density in coastal towns is managed to protect the extent of habitat and health of the environment.

#### Workshop feedback

- Edit action: 'Research and knowledge (*including TO knowledge*) are built to inform adaptive management and mitigation'.
- Edit action: 'Population *and tourist density and water and land management in coastal towns* are managed to protect the extent of habitat and health of the environment'.
- Maintain community access on public land where biodiversity can be protected and avoid exclusive private use of public land
- Build on existing citizen science and community knowledge and actively pursue to increase community involvement in the environment.
- Monitor the quality of the coastal environment to identify change and actively manage issues as they arise.
- Balance the use of the marine and coastal environment through protection without too much regulation.
- Build into developers' approvals and other commercial sources, funding contributions to help to improve the natural values of the coast (including research)

## Future Engagement

At the conclusion of each workshop within the second series, participants were invited to outline how they would like to be engaged during the implementation of the RCS.

Using the online survey platform 'Mentimeter', participants could provide multiple open-ended responses. These responses have been grouped into like categories, a summary of which is shown in Figure 8.

Of the 143 responses, 23% identified a desire for '*continuous progress reporting/discussions via relevant media*', 20% requested '*email updates*' and 15% nominated '*meetings/collaboration with agencies*'.

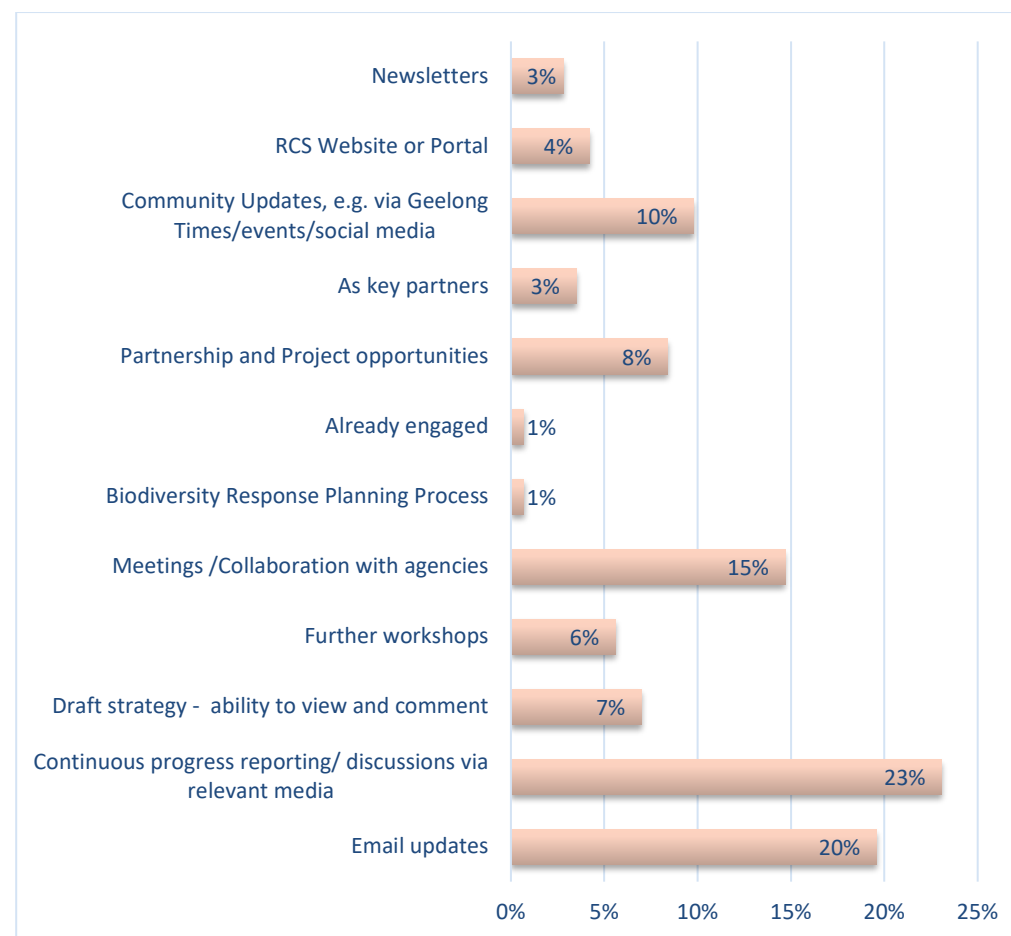


Figure 8: How would you like to be engaged during the implementation of the RCS?



## Appendix: Workshop Agendas

### Series 1: February-March 2021

#### PURPOSE OF THE SESSION:

To work community members to identify outcomes and priorities for the catchment's nine landscapes.

#### AGENDA (and questions to be discussed)

Welcome and Background Presentation: Leigh Dennis (Manager Strategy)

Meeting Introduction (Kismet Forward)

Q1: *What is the single most important matter that you would like the Regional Catchment Strategy to tackle?*

Draft Catchment Vision:

'Healthy and productive lands and waters cared for and enjoyed by thriving communities'

Q2: *What do you like about the draft vision (in terms of what we should be trying to achieve across the Corangamite region in the next 20 years)?*

Q3: *What don't you like about the draft vision?*

Draft Regional Outcomes and Priority Directions

Themes and Sub-themes:

Water: Waterways, Wetlands, Estuaries, Groundwater

Biodiversity: Native Vegetation, Native Fauna

Land: Land Use Changes, Soil Health, Sustainable Agriculture

Coast and Marine: Coastal Environment, Marine Environment

Communities: Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in ICM, Eastern Maar, Wadawurrung, Communities in NRM

We will break into groups, focusing on one of the above themes (in 3 rounds of discussion).

The draft Regional Outcomes for each theme are shown on the back of this agenda.

Q4: *What do you like about the draft Regional Outcomes (in terms of what we should be trying to achieve across the Corangamite region for this theme over the next 20 and 6 years)?*

Q5: *What don't you like about the draft Regional Outcomes?*

Q6: *Using the draft Outcomes as a starting point, what should we be trying to achieve in this landscape? (Please keep comments focussed on this theme)*

### Series 2: March – April 2021

#### PURPOSE OF THE SESSION:

To review and add to draft actions for each theme (specific to the Landscape System in question)

#### AGENDA (and questions to be discussed)

Welcome and Background Presentation: Corangamite CMA  
Meeting Introduction and process for today (Kismet Forward)

Draft Landscape System Outcomes and Priority Actions

Themes and Sub-themes:

Water: Waterways, Wetlands, Estuaries, Groundwater

Biodiversity: Native Vegetation, Native Fauna

Land: Land Use Changes, Soil Health, Sustainable Agriculture

Coast and Marine: Coastal Environment, Marine Environment

Communities: Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians in ICM, Eastern Maar, Wadawurrung, Communities in NRM

We will break into groups, focusing on one of the above themes (in 3 rounds of discussion).  
The draft Landscape system outcomes for each theme are shown on the back of this agenda.

Q7: *Is there anything missing from the Landscape Theme outcome(s)?*

Some draft actions from workshop 1 have been identified and are attached to this agenda.

Q8: *Using this list of actions as a starting point, are there any other actions that need to be included (to deliver on the Landscape System 6 year outcome)?*

Return to main group and using Menti.com:

Q9: *How have you found this engagement process?*

Plenary

Break Out Group Facilitators to quickly summarise the discussion with focus on the actions for their theme

Menti.com

Q10: *How would you like to be engaged during the implementation of this RCS?*

Wrap up, process from here and close

FINISH