



THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

North Central Victoria is rich in natural assets of regional, national and international significance. It also faces some of the most complex environmental challenges in the state.

Located to the north of the Great Dividing Range, the region forms part of the Murray–Darling Basin. Within Victoria, it is one of ten catchment management regions.

The North Central region covers an area of around 30,000km² (13 per cent of Victoria), with a population of over 230,000 people.

The region includes the four major river catchments of Campaspe, Loddon, Avoca and Avon–Richardson.



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority

Committed to catchment health

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NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority

Our roles and responsibilities

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The North Central Catchment Management Authority coordinates natural resource management in North Central Victoria. In partnership with the community, it determines funding priorities to protect the health and sustainability of the region's natural resources.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

The core business of the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is to coordinate the development and implementation of the North Central Regional Catchment Strategy in partnership with the community.

Either directly or through our partnerships with the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Trust for Nature, local government, water authorities, research institutes and the private sector, the North Central CMA is responsible for projects relating to:

- waterway management
- water quality management
- biodiversity management
- landcare support and funding coordination
- floodplain and regional drainage management
- regional responses to climate change
- salinity management
- threatened species recovery
- pest plant and pest animal management
- vegetation enhancement and restoration
- soil health
- cultural heritage.



The vision of the North Central Regional Catchment Strategy is: **A well-informed, resourced and actively committed community protecting and improving the natural resources for the environmental, social and economic benefit of our region.**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The North Central CMA was established to give communities a strong role in managing natural resources. Community engagement and consultation is a priority and is undertaken through the Implementation Committees.

These Committees play a vital role in effective land and water management in the region. They oversee the development and delivery of works programs and enable the community to provide input into these programs.

There are three Implementation Committees, representing the:

- Avoca/Avon-Richardson catchment area
- Loddon/Campaspe dryland area
- Loddon/Campaspe irrigation area.

Their role includes:

- providing advice to the North Central CMA on natural resource management objectives, targets, activities, priorities and budgets
- planning, developing and implementing plans for specific issues or sub-catchments
- acting as a communication link with relevant stakeholder groups and the community
- monitoring performance on activities and reporting to the North Central CMA Board on the achievement of objectives and targets.



CARETAKER OF RIVER HEALTH

Rivers are the lifeblood of Victoria and healthy rivers are vital if we are to secure water for Victoria's future. All the fresh water we use – for drinking, cooking, washing and growing – originally comes from rivers and other waterways. Rivers also provide habitat for birds, animals and fish – both in and beside the river.

In North Central Victoria, our contribution to river health is not only important for waterways in this region, but also for the health of the River Murray. Three rivers from this region – the Campaspe, Loddon and Avoca – contribute flows to the Murray, while the Avon-Richardson system drains to Lake Buloke, a nationally significant wetland.

The support of programs such as the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, Natural Heritage Trust and the Victorian Government's 'Our Water Our Future' enables the North Central CMA to oversee onground works for river health.

As caretaker of river health, the North Central CMA has a key role in developing the North Central River Health Strategy and related strategies that aim to protect and improve river health, water quality, water resources, environmental flows and biodiversity.

The North Central CMA also coordinates a range of river health rehabilitation works, including vegetation protection, revegetation, sediment and erosion control, and stock management.

