

OUR PROJECTS



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

PROTECTING THE BEST

The North Central Catchment Management Authority's Upper Loddon and Campaspe Priority Reaches Project is protecting, repairing and enhancing five of the most valuable stretches of waterways in the south of our catchment.

North Central CMA is the lead agency in North Central Victoria coordinating and monitoring natural resource management programs for the region. The North Central CMA applies the principle of "protecting the best first" when deciding where money will be spent.

REGIONAL TREASURES

- Sailors Creek, headwaters to Spring Creek, near Daylesford
- Loddon River, upstream of Cairn Curran Reservoir
- Kangaroo Creek (1), headwaters to the Loddon River, near Wheatsheaf and Glenlyon
- Kangaroo Creek (2), near Denver and Drummond
- Coliban River, upstream of the Upper Coliban Reservoir, near Trentham

Each stretch is 14-60km long. They are among just two per cent of all streams in the entire North Central CMA region in good condition. Scientists describe them as "near ecologically healthy".

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The areas are proclaimed domestic water catchments and they contain many rare plant and animal species, including the Swift Parrot and Ausfelds Wattle.

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC VALUES

These places are important for people too. Residents and tourists alike enjoy walking, fishing, swimming, bird-watching, sampling the mineral springs and exploring the rich indigenous and cultural history.

IMPACTS

Historic mining, timber-felling and farming activities all took their toll on our region's native plants, animals and soils. Today, we understand how important it is to protect and enhance the best of what we have left – for our communities, for our environment and for our children.

THE UPPER LODDON & CAMPASPE PRIORITY REACHES



Stock control fencing along the Coliban River near Tylden
Photo: Courtesy Imagine Designs

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- **Weed Control:** Control threats such as invasive weeds to allow the regeneration of indigenous plants
- **Fencing:** Limit threats such as bank erosion and water pollution caused by livestock
- **Revegetation:** Restore the original range and balance of native plants in and beside the waterway
- **Engagement:** Involving and educating the community

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- **Willow Control:** Willows are greedy drinkers. Root mats smother rocky stream bed habitat and displace water flows. Heavy leaf falls harm aquatic life by raising nutrient levels in the water, and the dense shade canopy inhibits the growth of native land and aquatic vegetation that provides food and shelter for wildlife.
- **Gorse Control:** Gorse, blackberry and other weeds invade the bush, replace native plants and harbour pests such as rabbits and foxes that prey on native wildlife.
- **Fencing of Streamside:** Unrestricted access by stock damages young and regenerating native plants. Stock can also damage soil, stream banks and beds, resulting in erosion. Soil and manure pollute the water, and sediment fills up waterholes. Healthy vegetation buffers along waterways can remove significant amounts of sediments and nutrients from runoff before it enters the waterway.
- **Revegetation:** Planting missing or under-represented species ensures plant communities are "complete". A diverse range of plants provides the best possible food, shelter and breeding places for the largest variety of wildlife.

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MAKING IT HAPPEN

Contractors are being employed to do this work. After the first year of follow-up weed control, land managers (private landholders and/or public agencies) are responsible for the ongoing care and maintenance of the work sites. It can take up to 10 years or more to achieve a level of control where an infestation no longer threatens the health of the waterways.

PROJECT FUNDING

The project is planned to be carried out over five years, subject to funding availability and approval, and is currently funded through the Victorian Government's Healthy Waterways Program. This is complemented by many thousands of dollars worth of labour and in-kind support provided by landholders, agencies and volunteer community groups.

OUR VALUED PARTNERS

"Long term actions aiming to restore river health depend on the participation and goodwill of the local community", ANGELA GLADMAN – Project Manager

The North Central CMA could not achieve its project objectives without the invaluable support of its project partners. It acknowledges the significant support and involvement of landholders, Landcare and other volunteer groups, Parks Victoria, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Department of Primary Industries, Coliban Water, and Central Highlands Water.

WHAT MAKES THESE STREAMS SPECIAL?

The five stretches in the Upper Loddon and Campaspe Priority Reaches Project are a priority for funding because:

- These areas are home to threatened animals and birds including brush-tailed phascogales, swift parrots, powerful owls and growling grass frogs.
- Many rare and endangered plants survive here, including orchid, wattle and eucalypt varieties.
- The majority of vegetation is structurally intact, with all layers – trees, shrubs and groundcover – present.
- The areas are situated in proclaimed domestic water supply catchments.
- Waterways flow through many public parks and reserves, including the Wombat State Forest, Upper Loddon State Forest, Hepburn Regional Park and the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park.

The streams flow into the Loddon or Campaspe rivers, in turn flowing into the Murray River, so their health directly affects the Murray Darling Basin, one of Australia's vital areas for food production and environmental values.

GETTING INVOLVED

If you are a landholder on one of these priority stretches of waterway (or a tributary), you may be eligible for funding support for weed management, fencing and/or revegetation. Many Landcare and other volunteer natural resource management groups also help to care for these areas. They can apply on behalf of landholder members for funding for weed control, fencing and revegetation. For further information visit: www.nccma.vic.gov.au.

IN OUR COMMUNITY



Sally McGaffin speaking at River Health field day
Photo: Courtesy Imagine Designs

MEET: Sally McGaffin

'We had gorse up to 12 feet high growing 50 metres either side of the creeks. You couldn't actually see the creek or access it in most places. It was a mammoth task, too big for me to tackle.'

'If it hadn't been for the program, the work would never have been done.'

'There have been real benefits to farm and livestock management.'

'That paddock is now useable, it's fenced properly and we're getting on top of the weeds.'

'We are restoring the creeks to their natural state, and encouraging the native birds and animals.'

'Now I can see what can be achieved when there is funding support and people work together.'

For full story please see: www.nccma.vic.gov.au



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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