

OUR PROJECTS



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

LARGE-SCALE RIVER RESTORATION

The Loddon Stressed River project is a large scale project designed to complement the delivery of environmental flows for the Loddon River downstream of Cairn Curran and Tullaroop reservoirs. The project has a focus on protection and rehabilitation of riverside (or riparian) areas, community involvement and improving conditions and migration paths for native fish.

The North Central CMA is the lead agency in North Central Victoria coordinating and monitoring natural resource management programs for the region.

LODDON STRESSED RIVER



The Loddon River at Bridgewater
Photo: Bridie Velik-Lord, North Central CMA

LONG-TERM FOCUS

"The Loddon Stressed River project has achieved great success since it began operating in 2003 – with it now being the longest-running project for North Central CMA. Cumulatively over the life of the project, over 330 km (approximately 40 per cent) of the total river frontage has been fenced for protection from stock grazing pressures. Instream conditions for native fish have also been improved including opening up a further 50 km of river to fish migration."

JON LEEVERS, Loddon Stressed River Project Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

The lower reaches of the Loddon are critical vegetation corridors in a landscape with only 13 per cent of original vegetation remaining. There are a range of threatened flora and fauna species associated with the river. The river also has influence on a number of wetlands including the Kerang Lakes which are nationally and internationally significant (Ramsar listing) and the Boort wetland system which provides an extensive and diverse water bird habitat and aquatic refuge. The river supports a range of aquatic fauna including platypus, water rats and native fish and provides an important link for fish from the Murray River migrating up the Loddon.

SOCIAL & ECONOMICAL VALUES

The Loddon River supports a range of horticultural and agricultural enterprises (irrigation, broadacre cropping and mixed grazing). It is also an important water supply for rural areas and townships and is a major irrigation carrier for water from Cairn Curran Reservoir. The river is also valued for fishing, boating, camping and passive recreation and is currently being promoted, particularly by the Loddon Shire, as a nature tourism attraction. There are a number of active Landcare and community groups along the length of the river.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Community engagement
- Riverside protection & rehabilitation
 - Woody weed control
 - Stock control fencing
 - Revegetation
- Fish habitat and migration improvements

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In 2010 – 2011 the project will:

- Work with landholders in protecting riverside areas with fencing, off stream watering & revegetation
- Survey fish habitat in the lower Loddon
- Deliver field days and other community activities
- Work with landholders to assess flood damage and support recovery.

Since 2003, the project has:

- Worked with 150 landholders
- Protected 330 km of river with fencing and off-stream watering systems
- Revegetated 705 ha of riverside
- Removed 160 ha of riverside willows
- Treated 20 ha of Tamarix (at lakes Meran and Murphy)
- Improved over 4 km of fish habitat
- Installed 12 erosion control structures to reduce sedimentation
- Presented a number of field days and community activities
- Researched a range of issues to inform project activities
- Upgraded four regulating structures to improve delivery of environmental flows

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INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

The Loddon River is a significant asset for Indigenous peoples with a wealth of historical connections and cultural heritage sites. Historically it is the traditional land of the Dja Dja Wurrung, Barapa Barapa and Wamba Wamba peoples.

The project has worked with traditional owners and Indigenous groups, including the North West Indigenous Natural Resource Management Traineeship Program crew undertaking Tamarix removal at Lake Meran and an Indigenous Drought Works Crew undertaking identification of cultural heritage sites.

OUR VALUED PARTNERS

Working with landholders and the community is a key part of the project, with regular updates, meetings and activities conducted throughout the project area. Landholders and land managers are vital to the success of the project. Activities are undertaken on both private and public lands with 5-year management agreements established between the North Central CMA and landholders to ensure continuity of project achievements.

The Department of Primary Industries delivers onground activities in the lower reaches of the Loddon River (north of Durham Ox) on behalf of the North Central CMA.

The Loddon Stressed River project Working Group helps guide implementation of community engagement and onground works. This group includes community and landholder representatives as well as agency staff from the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Primary Industries, Goulburn-Murray Water and Parks Victoria. Local information is also sought from key people who have extensive knowledge of the Loddon River.

Numerous other groups and agencies have also been involved in the project through less formal arrangements including Landcare, community and school groups, Gannawarra Shire, Loddon Shire, Mount Alexander Shire, Environment Victoria, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

PROJECT FUNDING

The project is funded by the Victorian Government – Department of Sustainability and Environment Office of Water – through the Large Scale River Restoration program.

GETTING INVOLVED

If you are a landholder along the Loddon River downstream of Cairn Curran or Tullaroop Creek downstream of Tullaroop Reservoir, you may be eligible for funding support for fencing and/or revegetation or woody weed management. For further information visit: www.nccma.vic.gov.au

IN OUR COMMUNITY



Rod Stringer on his property at Yando
Photo: Glenn Merrick, North Central CMA

MEET: Some of the Locals!

"We were able to fence the river frontage to exclude stock from grazing the river banks, with the opportunity to use a controlled grazing regime as a management tool. Very attractive incentives were offered and we, and many other landholders, have participated"

Rod Stringer, Yando

"We had the Loddon River banks beside one of our blocks fenced off a few years ago and the vegetation cover improved dramatically. . . I don't lose sheep in the river anymore and now I can muster a paddock in minutes without having to worry about a ewe or a lamb being lost or stranded on the other side"

Garry Addlem, Serpentine

"We also put logs back into the River. That was the North Central CMA's idea, to slow the river down, prevent erosion and provide aquatic habitat. . . It's not a one-year thing; the transformation and the benefits will happen over many years"

Toby Liston, Baringhup



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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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January 2011