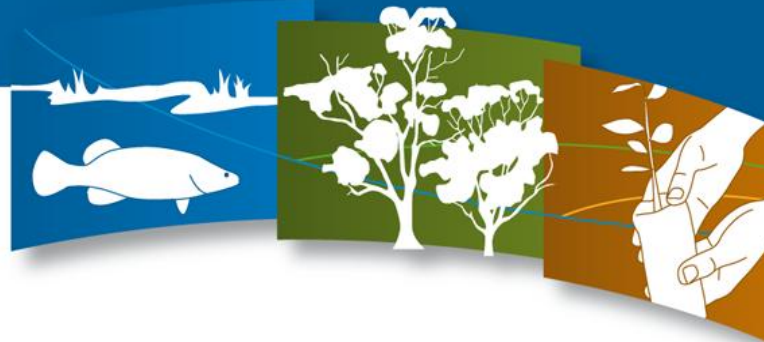


Flood Recovery Works Update

North Central CMA Region



NORTH CENTRAL
Catchment Management Authority
Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People



Connecting Rivers, Landscapes, People

January 2013

Key achievements

- 200,000 plants planted at 56 properties in spring 2012 to replace flood damaged revegetation previously funded by the North Central CMA.
- Funding under the Natural Disaster Resilience Grant Scheme (NDRGS) was confirmed to undertake a Flood Management Plan for Dunolly and a combined plan for Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton townships.

Flood Management Plans

- The North Central CMA, in partnership with Mount Alexander Shire Council, is currently seeking expressions of interest from community members for appointment to a Steering Committee to help guide the development of the Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton Flood Management Plan. Interested applicants should contact Shaun Morgan on (03) 5440 1898 or email shaun.morgan@nccma.vic.gov.au to obtain an application form.
- A community meeting was held in early November in Charlton to seek community feedback on the preferred mitigation option for the Charlton Flood Management Plan.
- Community meetings are planned for Donald, Rochester and Carisbrook in early 2013.
- As well as producing information that will enable North Central CMA to assist Vic SES to provide more accurate and meaningful flood predictions, each of the Flood Management Plans will also assess and recommend a community supported mitigation option to reduce the risk of future flood events.

Fencing repairs

- The majority of previously funded North Central CMA fencing that was damaged by the floods has been repaired with Natural Disaster Relief funds provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

- To date, 225km of fencing has repaired or replaced. The remaining sites will be completed as soon as possible given the commitments of landholders.

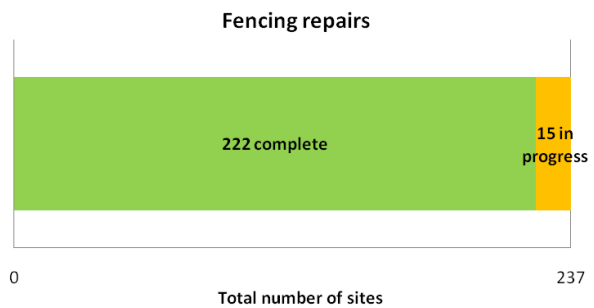


Figure 1: Progress with 237 fencing repair sites



Figure 2: Before works - flood damaged fence along Avoca River at Archdale



Figure 3: After works - more resilient 'lay down' flood fencing reinstalled to protect the river frontage

Erosion control repairs

- The roll out of repairs to previously funded erosion control sites utilising Natural Disaster Relief funding is accelerating over summer 2012-13 as site conditions improve allowing access for heavy machinery.
- Engineering designs have been completed for half of all sites.
- Cultural Heritage Management Plans are underway with the relevant Registered Aboriginal Parties to minimise harm to sites of cultural heritage at 16 sites.
- Repairs are due to be completed by May 2013 with fencing and revegetation to follow.

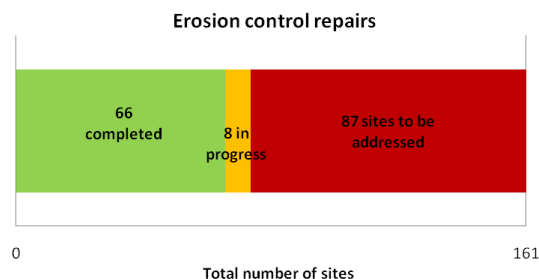


Figure 4: Progress with 161 erosion control repair sites

Revegetation replacement

- Replacement of approximately 200,000 seedlings has been completed on 56 properties over spring 2012. These plants replace previous North Central CMA plantings destroyed by floodwaters along waterways throughout the region and will also improve the resilience of repaired erosion control sites.
- Using locally collected seed, the plants were propagated at five nurseries and planted using several local contractors and Conservation Volunteers Australia.

Levee breach repairs

- As a result of the 2010–2011 floods in Victoria, a number of levees in north central Victoria were breached or otherwise damaged. A number of these levees, which are located both on Crown and privately-owned land, are of unknown origin and ownership; however they contribute to the protection of public assets.
- On behalf of the Victorian Government the North Central CMA undertook over 200 emergency and strategic levee repairs on the Loddon floodplain since January 2011.
- Each levee repair has been inspected by engineering consultants and a brief report provided on the integrity of the repair works.

Levee assessment project

- A Victorian Government funded project to survey and assess the condition of 300kms of significant levees along the Murray River from Echuca to Tyntynder is nearing completion.
- The project, awarded to Water Technology by public tender, involved detailed field surveys to plot long and cross sections of levees, capture geo-referenced photos and identify points of weakness and height.
- The outcomes will enable the North Central CMA to provide the Vic SES and the community with better information during a flood and will assist the DSE in the decision making process about long-term management of levees.
- A draft report is due in January 2013.

Quambatook Weir replacement

- Natural Disaster Relief funding was secured to replace the flood damaged Quambatook Weir.
- The North Central CMA has contracted Gannawarra Shire Council to build a replacement structure by June 2013.

Pental Island levee realignment

- A 3.3km section of the Pental Island levee (a North Central CMA asset) will be realigned with the Natural Disaster Relief funding.
- The aim of the project is to:
 - realign the levee to a standard and location consistent with the existing Pental Island levee system
 - maintain the protection of all life and property on Pental Island as far as possible from flooding
 - minimise harm to sites of cultural heritage significance
 - minimise the environmental impact of works
- To date, a feature survey and a flora, fauna and net gain assessment have been completed. Discussions are currently underway with the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) regarding approval to construct the levee, the native vegetation offsets required and finalising the alignment.
- A consultant will be engaged in January to undertake a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to ensure harm to any sites of cultural heritage significance is minimised.