



East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority program manager, Bec Hemming, EGCMA water programs manager, Ken Judd, Reg Baldwin and Harriet Shing inspect the Mitchell River at Wy Yung on Tuesday. (PS)

Restoring and protecting the Mitchell

Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing, recently inspected work underway to improve the health of the lower Mitchell River.

Ms Shing met with local landholder Reg Baldwin and staff of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to inspect the works on Tuesday.

Mr Baldwin has had stabilisation works completed on the banks of the Mitchell on his property.

Having run his 120-acres 'Picnic Point Farm' since 1984, Mr Baldwin has been observing the impacts of erosion along the river's edge for years.

The degraded sections of riverbank on the Baldwin property have been restored through the installation of rock beaching.

Repairing river banks also reduces the amount

of sediment flowing into the Gippsland Lakes, improving conditions for aquatic flora and fauna, and the overall health of the Lakes system.

The restoration works are part of the Mitchell River Stabilisation Project, which covers 7.5 kilometres of lower Mitchell River floodplain on both sides of the river between The Barrier and the Lind Bridge.

Along with the rock beaching works, the Mitchell River Stabilisation Project includes control of willow trees and other weeds; revegetation with native seedlings on protected sections of the bank; and provision of stock exclusion fencing and installation of off-stream watering systems as required.

These works are funded through the Victorian Government's Regional Riparian Action Plan.

"It's wonderful to see firsthand the great work

underway up and down the Mitchell to ensure we have a healthier river and the Gippsland Lakes," Member for Eastern Victorian, Harriet Shing, said.

"It's a partnership between landholders, the local CMA and the State Government to keep our local communities thriving and our waterways healthy."

Water for Victoria - the state water plan - encourages water authorities to work with local communities on improving riparian environments and maximise the shared benefits of our waterways.

Water for Victoria includes \$537 million in funding over the next four years for projects to strengthen water security for communities, protect jobs and agriculture, recognise Aboriginal water values and improve environmental health.