

# EAST GIPPSLAND NEWS

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

 Audited Media  
Association of Australia

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2016

No. 16796 | FREE

## Environment gets flowing

**Gippsland is expected to receive enough environmental water in 2016-17 to support key rivers, wetlands and the wildlife that rely on it.**

Environmental water will be provided to the Latrobe, Thomson, Macalister and Snowy rivers to benefit native fish including black bream, estuary perch and the protected Australian grayling.

Environmental water will also be delivered to wetlands along the lower Latrobe River: Dowd Morass, Sale Common and Heart Morass.

Details have been released in the Victorian Environmental Water Holder's (VEWH) annual plan for watering in 2016-17.

The plan scopes potential environmental watering in Victoria using water held in reservoirs, set aside to be returned to rivers and wetlands for plants and animals.

VEWH chairman, Denis Flett, said environmental watering was essential for Gippsland and the benefits are clear.

Watering in the Gippsland region will also include flows for the iconic

Snowy River.

The annual Snowy River Increased Flows Program is developed by the NSW Department of Primary Industries – Water on behalf of three partner governments; the Commonwealth, Victoria and NSW.

The total volume planned for release in 2016-17 (including contributions from water savings in Victoria and New South Wales) is 131,071 megalitres.

During 2016-17, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

(EGCMA), with assistance from the Department of Environment, Land and Water Planning, will install equipment in the Snowy River estuary to monitor the impact of the environmental flows in the estuary.

Environmental water officer with EGCMA, Liz Brown, says this data will show how the salinity and water temperature changes as a result of the flows.

"This is important in helping us understand the potential impacts of the flows on fish in the estuary," Ms Brown said.