

Comments invited on strategy

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority will release the draft East Gippsland Waterway Strategy for public consultation in January.

Authority chief executive officer, Graeme Dear, said the strategy outlines priorities and targets to guide river, estuary and wetland management in East Gippsland for the next eight years, delivering key elements outlined in the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy.

Copies of the draft strategy will be available on the Authority's website, or by contacting the authority.

Members of the community are invited to discuss the draft with authority staff at 'open house' consultation sessions, which will be held across the region, and details will be advertised in early January. Community members are also invited to submit comments by February 3 using the form available on the web site, by email, or by submitting comments directly to the authority.

"East Gippsland has the highest proportion of streams in 'good' or 'excellent' condition in the state. They provide many of Victoria's best fishing, swimming, camping, boating and scenic attractions. The



East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority is seeking comment on the draft East Gippsland Waterway Strategy, which encompasses the Mueller River. (PS)

health of these waterways underpins many aspects of tourism, employment and investment in the region," Mr Dear said.

"The purpose of the strategy is to ensure that the future management of our waterways provides these important environmental, social,

cultural and economic benefits for the region." The authority welcomes comments about this important strategy document. All com-

ments received will be acknowledged and considered in the preparation of the final strategy due for completion early in 2014.