

MALLACOOTA - RECOVERING TOGETHER



The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA) continues to work with landholders, partner agencies and the broader community of Mallacoota and Genoa to deliver a coordinated approach to looking after the catchments of far east Gippsland. Together we are fencing off stock access to the rivers, controlling weeds and monitoring estuary conditions to encourage a healthy catchment. Following the bushfires, we've focussed on working with landholders and community members towards recovery works that are funded by the Victorian Government. Below is a snapshot of the works we've been undertaking over recent months.

- Graeme Dear, CEO, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority



Community

Mallacoota community members joined staff from the EGCMA and the Arthur Rylah Institute aboard boat tours in January. Over 80 people enjoyed a little R & R on the Inlet aboard the MV Loch Ard; a fantastic opportunity to share stories and discuss bushfire recovery. With experts in aquatic, plant and critter ecology on hand, there was plenty to talk about. The EGCMA looks forward to running more boat tours on Mallacoota Inlet in the future.



Estuary Health

The Mallacoota estuary closed to the sea again in late 2019. This is not unusual in periods of drought. The EGCMA monitors all estuaries regularly for water quality, especially in periods of closure. Two periods of good rain in early 2020 provided the opportunity to open the estuary in July 2020. Water quality monitoring showed no concerns for fish health and Parks Victoria completed a successful opening.



Bushfire Recovery

The EGCMA's immediate response to bushfire recovery was to work closely with landholders and the community. This involved replacing burnt fences along waterways including the Genoa River. Many sections of the Genoa have been fenced off for over 20 years ensuring stock don't access the river. Not only was it important to replace the fencing to keep stock away from the river, but also important to assist farmers with containing their stock within their property. With the help of contractors, the majority of fencing has now been replaced. The work was funded by the Victorian Government as part of the \$2.7 billion Building Works stimulus package.

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