

Annual Report 2022/23



EAST GIPPSLAND
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY





Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and First Nations people of East Gippsland and recognise their continuing connection to Country, culture and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and emerging leaders.

Front cover photo – Buchan Fishway

Photo supplied by – East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

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1. Responsible Body Declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA), I am pleased to present East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2023.



Ewan Waller, Chairperson
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
27 October, 2023

PART 1 – Year in review

2. Chair's Report

It has been another challenging year as communities continue recovery from the Black Summer bushfires and prepare for the return to drier than average conditions. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank our employees, agency partners, Traditional Owner groups, community groups and individuals for continuing to support each other. The people of East Gippsland have worked together to achieve positive outcomes for our community.

This Annual Report provides transparency to our community, the government and other stakeholders about what we are delivering and achieving with government investment. The report also describes how the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (the Authority) has responded to the policy priorities outlined in the Minister for Water's Letter of Expectations.

The Authority has been a leader in supporting self-determination of Traditional Owners and First Nations people in East Gippsland, with early implementation of the policy directions outlined in Water is Life. The Authority has a strong relationship and active partnership with Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) that includes a wide range of projects and initiatives across the areas of governance and leadership, strategy and planning, and delivery of on-ground works. We continued our long-term partnership with Moogji Aboriginal Council (Moogji) that has seen work crews on the Snowy, Buchan and Far East rivers since 2004. Between September 2022 and February 2023 the Authority supported Bidjil people to re-connect to Country through a recent series of six field trips to significant waterways accompanied by an archaeologist. Discussions are continuing to evolve with Ngarigo Monero leaders, particularly regarding the upper, mid and floodplain sections of the Snowy river.

The Authority successfully completed the \$3.25 M Phase 1 Bushfire Recovery initiative that rebuilt and repaired vital natural assets along waterways that are most valued by local communities in East Gippsland. The program supported landholders to repair riparian fencing that had been damaged or burnt, as well as debris removal and any off-stream watering that might be required. These fences are crucial to protect existing vegetation and erosion control assets and contribute to protecting previous investment and strengthening relationships with landholders. Three bushfire water quality monitors were employed during 2021/22 to engage with the community. The monitors conducted 484 water quality monitoring tests across the four catchments and supported the Authority to deliver 18 community engagement activities to 390 participants during this period. The focus for the year ahead is continued delivery of the Phase 2 Bushfire Recovery initiative and extensive weed control activities across fire affected catchments.

The Gippsland Lakes program is nearing the midway point with most projects in the implementation phase. The Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee (GLCC) has allocated funding to partner agencies and community groups to deliver collaborative projects across the catchment. Working together has turned the Gippsland Lakes direct investment for 2022/23 of \$2.5 million into a combined total investment of \$14.82 million, plus many hours of volunteer efforts over a vast landscape involving 40 formal partners. New jobs have been created for Traditional Owners and community groups, and new partnerships have been developed around the management of the lakes.

I announced the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Bec Hemming, on 6 June 2023 following an external and highly competitive recruitment process. Bec was selected to lead the Authority at an important time for the organisation and brings to the role a deep knowledge of the East Gippsland region, strong relationships with partners and connection to communities, expertise in natural resource management and focus on supporting self-determination of Traditional Owners and First Nations people. I also recognised retiring CEO Graeme Dear for his outstanding leadership, vision and service to East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the East Gippsland region over the last 20 years.

In the year ahead we will transition to new leadership with the formal commencement of a new CEO on 1 September 2023 and we will continue to focus our efforts on improving the health of waterways and catchments in partnership with Traditional Owners, partner agencies and communities.

Ewan Waller, Chairperson
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

3. Manner of Establishment and Responsible Minister/s

The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority is established under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act). The responsible Ministers for the period from 1 July 2022 to 4 December 2022 were the Hon Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Action.

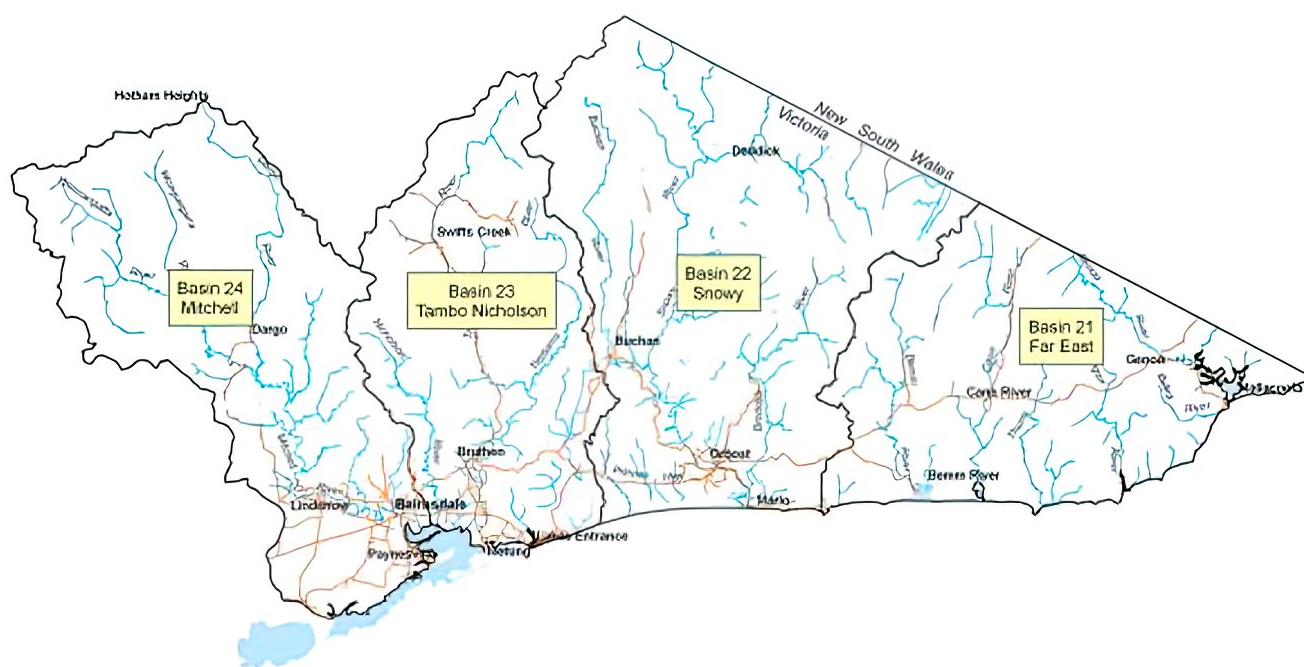
The responsible Ministers for the period from 5 December 2022 to 30 June 2023 were the Hon Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Water and the Hon Ingrid Stitt MP, Minister for Environment.

4. Nature and range of services provided

The Authority provides for the integrated management of land, biodiversity and water in the East Gippsland region. It also has responsibility for waterway management and floodplain planning under the *Water Act 1989*. The Authority leads development and co-ordinates implementation of the East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) in close collaboration with Traditional Owners, partner agencies and the community.

The Authority serves the communities of the East Gippsland Shire and parts of the Wellington and Alpine Shires. The Authority's customers and partners include; Government departments (Federal and State), Traditional Owners, local government and non-government organisations, external investors, community groups and members of the public.

Figure 1. The East Gippsland Catchment Management Region



4.1 East Gippsland Region

The East Gippsland Catchment Management region (Figure 1) covers 2.2 million hectares of land, lakes and coastal waters in eastern Victoria.

About 83% of the region is in public ownership, mainly as state forests, national and coastal parks, and marine national parks, and virtually all of this retains extensive native vegetation cover.

East Gippsland is the only place on mainland Australia where such continuity of natural ecosystems – from the alps to the sea – still exists.

Located entirely south of the Great Dividing Range the East Gippsland region includes the catchments of streams from the Mitchell River eastwards to the Victoria–New South Wales border.

The northern boundary is formed by the Great Dividing Range where mountains rise to elevations of 1500 metres. The southern boundary is located three nautical miles (5.5 km) off the coast.

Rivers generally run from north to south, rising in the alpine reaches and progressing through lowland forests to coastal estuaries in the south.

The region includes most of the East Gippsland Shire, the northern part of the Wellington Shire, and that part of the Alpine Shire south of the Great Dividing Range. It abuts the Wangaratta Shire and the New South Wales Shires of Snowy River, Bombala, and Eden Valley.

East Gippsland is part of the tapestry of interwoven cultural landscapes that are the product of the skills, knowledge and activities of Aboriginal land managers over thousands of generations. Cultural landscapes are reflections of how Aboriginal people engage with the world. Aboriginal people have an enduring connection to Country in East Gippsland.

The Gunaikurnai people are recognised by the Federal Court of Australia and the State of Victoria as the Traditional Owners of a large part of Gippsland. This area, covering some 13,000 sq km, stretches from near Warragul in the west to the Snowy River in the east, and from the Great Divide in the north to the coast in the south. It also includes and extends to 200 metres of sea country off shore.

Within this Plan, the following refers to:

Traditional Owners: means Gunaikurnai people who are represented by GLaWAC. GLaWAC is the Registered Aboriginal Party and Native Title holder that represents the Gunaikurnai people, the Traditional Owners of the Country, as determined by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.

First Nations people: all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in Gippsland. The Aboriginal community across East Gippsland is represented by:

- *Bidwell:* is a First Nation with 27 Ancestors still subject to ongoing research and development with clans, maps and language. Bidwell country covers south-east of Australia including coastal rivers and the Victorian-NSW border.
- *Ngarigo Monero:* The five main rivers in Far East Gippsland are very important waterways for Ngarigo Monero people. These include the Snowy River, Thurra River, McKenzie River, Bemm River, Cann River and the Genoa River. As well, the lakes in Far East Gippsland are just as important.

The Authority also works in partnership with Moogji. Moogji is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation which also offers natural resource management services.

5. Purpose and Functions

5.1 Vision and Mission

“Leaders in integrated catchment management partnering with our communities to enhance East Gippsland’s landscapes, biodiversity and cultural heritage.”

5.2 Objectives, Functions, Powers and Duties

The Authority has nine priority areas and strategic goals that deliver on our vision in line with our core business and strengths. These are based on the Minister for Water’s policy priorities and reflect legislation and other drivers. The Authority’s strategic goals and statements of intent are outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Strategic goals of the Authority as described in the Board Strategic Plan

Priority Area	Goal Description	Our Intent
1	Climate change	Provide services that mitigate against, and assist with adaptation to climate change, and we will reduce emissions aligned with government targets.
2	Waterway and catchment health	Lead the delivery of programs that improve the health of priority waterways and catchments.
3	Sustainable Agriculture	Deliver services and programs that prepare and support the agricultural sector for climate change and a more resilient and sustainable future.
4	Community engagement and partnerships	Customer and community focussed in all our work, engaging with people and developing partnerships broadly.
5	Recognise and support Traditional Owners and First Nations People, their Cultural values and Inclusion	Work in partnership with Traditional Owners and First Nations people to promote and foster self-determination and healthy Country.
6	Recognise recreational values	Create value for the liveability and economic benefit of the community through recreation and the visitor economy in all our projects.
7	Resilient and liveable regions and places	Actively contribute to the health of our communities through the provision of waterway and catchment health services and programs.
8	People, leadership and culture	Reflect the diverse needs of the community as an employer of choice with outstanding people working safely with a strong outward facing culture.
9	Improved performance	Continually improve our services, delivery and processes being transparent and accountable to community and government.

There are several other state-wide policies and frameworks that guide our objectives such as:

- Water for Victoria – Water Plan (2016)
- Victorian Waterway Management Strategy (2013)
- Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria (2017)
- Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (2016)
- Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy (2022)
- Marine and Coastal Policy (2020)
- Marine and Coastal Strategy (2022)
- Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2037
- Framework for the Victorian State of the Environment Report 2023
- Water is Life: Roadmap for Traditional Owner Access to Water
- Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Landscapes Strategy
- Framework for Government Engagement with Traditional Owners
- *Climate Change Act 2017*
- *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*
- *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*

The Authority's major functions, powers and duties under its governing legislation are described below.

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

Responsibilities under the CaLP Act include:

- develop a regional catchment strategy for the region and co-ordinate and monitor its implementation.
- promote the co-operation of those involved in the management of land and water resources in the region.
- provide advice to the Minister on regional priorities for activities and resource allocation to those involved in the management of land and water resources in the region.
- provide advice on matters relating to catchment management and land protection and resource condition.

The Authority helps build government and community cooperation in maintaining our natural resources and promotes community awareness and understanding of the importance of land and water resources, their sustainable use and issues relating to catchment management.

The Authority disseminates government policy and information to the community of East Gippsland and acts as a conduit for government investment into the region for natural resource management (NRM) activities and projects.

Water Act 1989

Responsibilities under the Water Act include provision of all waterway and floodplain-related service delivery including:

On-ground waterway health works

1. The *Water Act 1989* Statement of Obligations establishes the Authority as caretaker for waterway health in East Gippsland. This means planning and delivering on-ground works designed to maintain or improve the health of our waterways.

Water statutory functions

The Authority is responsible for preparing a regional waterway strategy for the region, in collaboration with Traditional Owners, agency partners and communities.

The Authority is also responsible for providing advice and information for strategic and statutory planning issues on floodplains. The Authority also issues works on waterways permits and provides advice and information on other waterway health related issues and input to strategies and plans being developed by other agencies and stakeholders.

Community engagement

The Authority helps build government and community cooperation in maintaining and improving the health of our waterways and educates the public about any aspect of waterway management.

5.3 Strategic Direction

Our strategic direction is described in the East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS), which aligns with government policy and strategies listed above. The roles and responsibilities of the Authority in achieving the RCS vision and goals are set out in governing legislation. The East Gippsland RCS was approved in December 2022 and provides the overarching strategy for managing natural resources, including land, biodiversity, waterways and coasts across East Gippsland.

5.4 Performance against Output Performance Measures

This section of the report includes annual achievements, operational performance and projects aligned to the regional outcomes in the corporate plan and program outputs.

5.4.1 Achievements

Some of the key achievements for the Authority this year have included:

- The development and approval in December 2022 of the East Gippsland RCS was a key achievement for the Authority for the year. Partner agencies and Traditional Owner groups were key to the development of the strategy.
- The Authority continued to support community and to repair waterway and catchment assets through the bushfire recovery program, completing the \$3.25 M Phase 1 initiative. This included hosting community events and delivery of extensive onground works across the fire impacted areas. The focus of the past 12 months was on woody and non-woody weed control and erosion control works. The Authority also completed the June 2021 Flood/Storm Recovery initiative, addressing erosion at five sites on the Dargo and Wonnangatta rivers. Work included stabilising eroded banks, re-constructing fencing and clearing debris and regrowth off fence lines.
- Completion of five-year initiatives funded by the Australian Government through the National Landcare Program (NLP2) - Regional Landcare Program (RLP) program. This funding provided a Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator for 5 years to service the East Gippsland region and funded the Regional Alpine Peatlands Program and the Topsoils2 Sustainable Agriculture project.
- The Gippsland Lakes program is nearing the midway point, all projects have commenced planning with most projects in the implementation phase. The program involves 12 delivery partners who will each deliver collaborative and integrated projects across four priority program areas within the Gippsland Lakes and their catchment. The GLCC has allocated funding to partner agencies and community groups to deliver collaborative projects across the catchment. These partnerships have turned the Gippsland Lakes direct investment this year of \$2.5 million into a combined total investment of \$14.82 million, plus many hours of volunteer efforts over a vast landscape. A key objective of the GLCC is involvement of Traditional Owners (represented by GLaWAC) in the Gippsland Lakes program, GLaWAC is leading 4 projects and involved in a further 14 projects that are documented in the GLCC GLaWAC Involvement Plan. New jobs have been created for Traditional Owners and community groups, and new partnerships have been developed around the management of the lakes. Monitoring projects for waterbirds, frogs, and dolphins, delivered by our project partners Greening Australia, Birdlife Australia, and the Marine Mammal Foundation are continuing. The Marine Mammal Foundation recorded two new dolphin calves in the Gippsland Lakes during autumn surveys. Seasonal monitoring for Green and Golden Bell Frog and Growling Grass Frog by Greening Australia recorded a successful breeding event at two sites. Work has commenced to review and update the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Management Plan in partnership with Traditional Owners, partner agencies and the community.

- The Buchan Fishway near Lousadas Bridge in Buchan was successfully completed in April 2023. As the first fishway to be built in East Gippsland, the Buchan fishway presents as a particularly exciting achievement for the Authority. The rock ramp fishway was constructed under the onsite guidance of Australasian Fish Passage Services Pty Ltd (experts in native fish ecology) working with an expert local contractor. The fishway will allow native fish to migrate upstream including species such as longfin eel, Australian bass, congoli, common galaxias, flat-headed gudgeon, Australian smelt and southern pygmy perch.
- The Authority was nominated by the East Gippsland CEO / MDs forum to lead the establishment of the East Gippsland Climate Change Collective. The Collective includes eight organisations, including The Authority, East Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, GLaWAC, Gippsland Ports, East Gippsland Shire Council, Gippsland Lakes Complete Health and Bairnsdale Regional Health Services. The inception meeting was held on 26 June 2023. The Collective will share ideas, create joint initiatives, learn from each other and work together to achieve net zero emissions and climate adaptation across the region. The Victorian CMA's also continued to collectively fund a Climate Change Coordinator to provide support for CMA's, facilitate joint projects, enhance knowledge exchange, and provide coordinated input into policy and program design at State and Federal levels.
- The Authority has built on work with the Marlo Angling Club to install 50 fish habitat structures in the Snowy River with successful placement of 1.4 km of rock beaching along the banks of the Snowy estuary. The Marlo Angling Club has expressed its satisfaction with the project and provided positive feedback on an event at the club halls with long-term partners the Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI). This included an electrofishing demonstration from ARI, an ARI presentation on the importance of environmental flows for native fish species and a walk and talk along the Snowy Estuary shoreline. The Authority also presented on the outcomes of the Snowy River Estuary Environmental Flows Assessment.

5.4.2 Operational Performance and Projects

The following section of the report provides a summary of achievements related to the 2022/23 Corporate Plan outputs, outcome indicators and regional measures.

5.5 Program Outputs

Table 2: Victorian Government funded outputs for 2022/23 (funding includes waterway and catchments, floodplain management, bushfire recovery and environmental water).

Output	Unit of Measure	Target	Actual	% Complete
Approval and advice	No.	254	310	122
Assessment	No.	295	2266	768
Engagement Event	No.	1046	1300	124
Fence	Km	23	10	43*
Grazing	Ha	74	50	67*
Information Management System	No.	3	3	100
Management Agreement	No.	19	4	21*
Monitoring Structure	No.	10	7	70*
Partnership	No.	195	124	63*
Pest Animal Control	Ha	4000	0	N/A*
Plan	No.	20	6	30*
Publication	No.	167	252	150
Vegetation	Ha	62	129	208
Water Assessments	No.	57	86	150
Water Storage	No.	14	0	N/A*
Waterway Structure	Point	11	24	218
Weed Control	Ha	2023 (1523)	1344	88*

* Denotes variation detail required

Large positive variations to the target versus actual outputs for the Victorian Government funded programs are predominantly due to delivery of unmet 21/22 outputs targets in addition to delivery of 22/23 outputs during the 22/23 financial year. Good weather, increased skills and knowledge of a relatively new team and increased contractor availability during 22/23 also attributed to delivery of unmet targets from the previous financial year.

The additional assessments undertaken throughout the year were due to the commencement of many of the Gippsland Lakes projects, following establishment of the GLCC. This included flora and fauna surveys, ecological assessments and water quality assessments.

Variations to output targets behind schedule for the Victorian Government funded programs include:

- Fencing outputs not being achieved are related to Landholder Agreements where landholders are to construct the fence themselves or use contractors. This target is likely to be met during 23/24 as several landholders complete fencing.
- Output variations relating to Grazing, Management Agreements, Monitoring Structures, Partnerships, Pest Animal Control and Water Storages will be delivered in 23/24 under the Gippsland Lakes program. This follows the longer than anticipated timeframe for establishment of the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee and subsequent approval of the projects.
- Weed Control Target for Phase 2 Bushfire Recovery was revised down from the draft funding agreement figure of 1000ha to 500ha after scoping works informed program delivery.

Table 3: Commonwealth Government funded outputs for 2022/23 (funding National Landcare Program and Regional Land Partnerships).

Output	Unit of Measure	Target	Actual	% Complete
Pest animal control	Ha	300	2,510	836%
Assessment	No.	86	156	181%
Weed control	Ha	80	540	675%
Management Agreement	No.	1	1	100%
Plan	No.	2	2	100%
Engagement Event	No.	22	22	100%
Waterway structure	No.	1	1	100%
Publication	No.	19	75	395%
Partnership	No.	5	5	100%
Information Management	No.	8	9	113%

Large positive variations to the target versus actual outputs for the Commonwealth Government funded programs include:

Pest animal control:

The pest control undertaken as part of the Alpine Peatlands project has vastly overachieved the target. The actual area is measured by 'area of influence', that is, area of influence equates to a 5km buffer around trap and bait site locations and is the buffer extent for feral pigs.

Assessment:

The Commonwealth measure is 'controlled access'. The sites where rock barriers were installed and where vehicle track repairs were made account for a relatively small area, but the ecological area protected by these barriers is much larger.

Weed control:

Over-achievement was a consequence of the amount of ground able to be covered during roadside weed control. The long lineal areas of the road and track networks can be efficiently surveyed and treated using a vehicle equipped with a herbicide spray-unit, resulting in a high hectare count.

Outcome indicators and regional measures

Priority Area	Outcome Indicators	Regional Measures
Climate change	Active investigation into new opportunities to sequester carbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sowing the Gap and TopSoils programs completed in partnership with farmers and the agricultural community. East Gippsland Climate Change Collective agreed by key government agencies in the region. Continued implementation of the 'Room to Move' climate adaptation approach in the Gippsland Lakes program. Energy Audit completed to inform Net Zero Roadmap covering Scope 1 and 2 emissions.
Waterway and catchment Health	Improved catchment health and resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCS implementation and reporting framework in development between EGCMA and West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) with process endorsed by GEA. Review of the East Gippsland Regional Waterway Strategy completed. Annual onground works programs completed for the Gippsland Lakes, Mitchell and Cann River Flagship Waterways, Our Catchments Our Communities Mitchell project. Delivery and finalisation of Bushfire Recovery Phase 1 funding and the commencement of Phase 2 bushfire recovery.
Sustainable Agriculture	A productive and profitable irrigation sector and vibrant and resilient regional communities that adapt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership of Central and Gippsland Sustainable Water Strategy (SWS) Implementation Committee. Membership of East Gippsland Shire Council Agriculture Advisory Committee. Sowing the Gap and TopSoils programs completed in partnership with farmers and the agricultural community.
Community engagement and partnerships	A strong community engagement focus that is a cornerstone of CMAs functions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued administration of the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee and co-ordination of the Gippsland Lakes program. Transition of Chair, Gippsland Environment Agencies (GEA) role to WGCMA. Staff actively involved in the GEA WLT events and training sessions. GLaWAC is currently reviewing priorities and evaluating how agencies are best placed to support and add value under the GEA-GLaWAC partnership agreement. Delivery of all activities and outputs in the Authority's Engagement Plan.

Priority Area	Outcome Indicators	Regional Measures
Recognise and support Traditional Owners and First Nations People, their Cultural values and Inclusion	Effective engagement with Traditional Owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong relationship and active partnership with GLaWAC and wide range of projects and initiatives across the areas of governance and leadership; strategy and planning, and delivery of on-ground works. 6 on Country tours with Bidwell supported by an archaeologist. Evolving discussions with Ngarigo Monero regarding the upper, mid and floodplain sections of the Snowy River and partnership through the Snowy Advisory Committee. GLaWAC is currently reviewing priorities and evaluating how agencies are best placed to support and add value under the GEA-GLaWAC partnership agreement.
Recognise recreational values		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Snowy River Estuary Fish Habitat Restoration Program was successfully delivered with several community engagement events involving the Marlo Angling Club, Marlo Landcare, and the general community. Ongoing engagement with recreational users and groups through delivery of the Authority's Engagement Plan, including through active social media. Recreational values incorporated into project delivery for Mitchell River and Gippsland Lakes program.
Resilient and liveable regions and places	Healthy communities supporting resilient environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair of the East Gippsland Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forum, and active involvement in the IWM Forum and Practitioners Group. Commencement of Crooke St wetlands IWM project to transform an urban drain into an artificial wetland that will support stormwater management in East Bairnsdale.
People, leadership and culture	Diversity and inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting on Authority's Diversity and Inclusion Plan. Staff actively involved in the GEA Women Leadership Team (WLT) events and training sessions. People Matter Survey provided to all employees and Senior Management Team to draft action plan in consultation with employees.

Priority Area	Outcome Indicators	Regional Measures
Improved performance	Improved performance and demonstrated results against outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All reporting requirements met, including through statewide reporting systems such as Enquire. Flagship Waterway projects implemented and all targets met from Authority's Engagement Plan. Shared services with other CMAs creating business efficiencies such as water statutory functions and joint procurement of internal audit services. Active leadership of Chair and CEO through Vic Catchments to develop and implement state initiatives.





5.6 Annual Catchment Condition

This section of the annual report provides a summary assessment of the condition of the region's environment and a reflection on the likely impact of annual scale actions, events and observed change within the previous year, and over previous years. A key purpose of monitoring changes in the operating context is to help identify opportunities for adapting and changing the way we manage the environment.

The report is structured in line with the state-wide outcome framework that links the regional outcomes sought by catchment communities, to the high-level policy outcomes of the Victorian and Australian Government. These are outlined in the East Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy.

How to interpret this report

The condition assessment for each theme describes the level of confidence or concern that catchment managers have in the future of the regional environment. The assessment is based on a set of state-wide indicators outlined in the Regional Catchment Strategies. As much as possible the reporting format attempts to provide a transparent path between the evidence and the assessment. It is not a definitive assessment but an assessment at a point in time based on the best available data.

Trend Rating	Description
Positive 	The indicator is moving in a positive direction and is expected to have a positive impact.
Neutral 	The indicator is a neutral state, where movements may be significant but are within expected variation and will have little impact.
Concerned 	The indicator is moving in a negative direction and is expected to have a detrimental impact.
Unknown 	The trend is unknown.

#The trend is the change over time in the indicator, which could be an environmental asset, a pressure or a management activity. The trend is assessed against the direction required to contribute to the achievement of regional outcomes.





Condition Rating	Description
Good	The condition is classified as good.
Moderate	The condition is classified as moderate.
Poor	The condition is classified as poor.
Not applicable	A condition rating is not applicable for this indicator
Unknown	The condition for this indicator is not known and or assessable



*The condition rating, where appropriate, is based on the current state of the theme. A condition rating is based on assessments of the assets, pressures and management activities represented by the theme. The assessment is based on available science and expert advice as well as evidence gained during the preceding year.

Regional catchment condition summary

Table 4 below provides an overall summary of the catchment condition ratings.

Table 4: Regional Catchment Condition Summary

Theme	Trend#		Condition*	Summary Comment
	2022/23	Over last 5 years		
Water		Neutral	Good	<p>Rainfall was 2nd highest since 2000</p> <p>River flows were the highest since 2000, with multiple flood events over a course of eight months.</p> <p>Catchments continue to recover following bushfire impacts.</p>
Land		Positive	Good	<p>Woody vegetation cover was 3rd highest since 2000.</p> <p>The mean amount of moisture in the soil was the highest since 2000.</p> <p>The area of unprotected soil was the lowest since 2000.</p> <p>Sustainable agriculture projects continued to be delivered across the region, with multiple partners and a vast array of landholders.</p>
Biodiversity		Positive	Moderate	<p>Vegetation growth was 2nd highest since 2000.</p> <p>Leaf area index was 2nd highest since 2000.</p> <p>Fire carbon emissions were below average.</p> <p>Flora and fauna continue to recover following the 2019/20 black summer fires. The increased rainfall and wet seasons have provided ample growing and breeding opportunities.</p>
Coastal and Marine		Concerned	Moderate	<p>Water quality for the Gippsland Lakes remains very good to good (EPA 2021/22 Report Card). The Gippsland Lakes program and GLCC governance arrangements have continued for the year, completing onground projects with partners and community.</p>

Theme	Trend#		Condition*	Summary Comment
	2022/23	Over last 5 years		
Community		Positive	Good	Communities of East Gippsland continue to recover from drought, bushfire, pandemic and floods. Many people are still faced with burnout, rebuilding following the fires and heavily relying on social / community support.
Integrated Catchment Management		Positive	Good	The Gippsland Lakes program continues to be a highlighted example of ICM with over 40 partner agencies, Traditional Owners and community groups involved in the management of the lakes, this is a mammoth coordinating effort.

6. Performance against Corporate Plan Key Performance Indicators

These indicators are submitted to the Minister for Water as a component of the Corporate Plan each year. They are an element of the compliance framework utilised by the Authority and the Minister.

Performance Area	Performance target	Achievement commentary
Business management and governance	Submit annually, a Board performance assessment report according to any guidelines issued.	Completed
	A risk management strategy / plan approved by the Board and being implemented.	Completed
	One hundred per cent of the CMA's policies and procedures reviewed every three financial years.	Policies 100% Procedures 80%
	Full compliance with all applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist.	Full compliance achieved under the Financial Management Compliance Framework Checklist. No material non-compliance with the Standing Directions 2018.

Performance Area	Performance target	Achievement commentary
Regional planning and coordination	A regional catchment strategy (RCS) approved by the minister.	RCS approved by the Minister in December 2022.
	A stakeholder and community engagement framework / plan approved by the Board.	Engagement plan reviewed annually and approved by the Board in August.
	A Regional Landcare support plan approved by the Board.	The Regional Landcare Support Plan for the period from 2020 to 2025.
	A regional waterways strategy approved by the minister.	The 2014-22 East Gippsland Regional Waterway Strategy has been reviewed. Background planning commenced for 2022-30 RWS started with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) renewal timeline for completion in 2024.
	A regional floodplain strategy approved by the Board.	The East Gippsland Floodplain Strategy was approved by the Board in June 2017. Mid-term snapshot report completed.
Regional delivery	Progress with implementation of the RCS (and its major sub-strategies) is reviewed by the Board annually.	RCS implementation and reporting framework in development between EGCMA and WGCMA with process endorsed by GEA. Reported to the Board at 6 month intervals once implemented.
	Projects / activities to implement the RCS are delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	Reporting Framework in development. All required reporting pursuant to funding agreements will be met.
	Projects / activities to implement the regional waterways strategy and the regional floodplain management strategy delivered and reported according to associated funding agreements.	All required reporting pursuant to funding agreements has been met.
Statutory functions under Part 10 of the <i>Water Act</i>	Ninety per cent of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with waterway and floodplain management are responded to within the prescribed period.	Achieved

Performance Area	Performance target	Achievement commentary
Statutory functions under Part 11 of the <i>Water Act</i>	Ninety per cent of statutory requirements (permits, referrals, advice and licences) associated with irrigation management are responded to within the prescribed period.	Achieved

7. Key Initiatives

Bushfire Recovery

The \$3.25m 19/20 Bushfire Recovery funding initiative (referred to as Phase 1 Bushfire Recovery funding) rebuilt and repaired vital natural assets along waterways that are most valued by local communities in East Gippsland. This occurred through an integrated program of physical on-ground works with appropriate community engagement.

The program aided landholders who's riparian fencing had been damaged or burnt as well as debris removal and any off-stream watering that might be required. This has been achieved with targeted fence replacement on 86 frontages protected under an Authority Landholder Agreement.

These fences are crucial to protect existing vegetative and stability assets. The reconstruction of fences contributes to protecting previous investment and strengthening relationships with landholders. Debris removal and the replacement of off-stream watering systems damaged by fire complemented re-fencing efforts. 8 new landholder agreements were executed during this period protecting an additional 12.75 km of river frontage.

The three bushfire water quality monitors were employed during 2021/22 to engage with the community. The monitors conducted 484 water quality monitoring tests across the four catchments and supported the Authority to deliver 18 community engagement activities to 390 participants during this period. A lot of data was collected from analysis work, surveys, community and contractors enabling us to plan for future works to be undertaken and focus on key areas that are requiring attention.

The Authority identified severe outbreaks of Cape Ivy, Periwinkle and Wandering Trad on the Tambo and Snowy Rivers, feedback from the community and through media channels shows support for these control works.

Fire recovery will continue to be delivered during 22/23 through the Bushfire Recovery Phase 2 Program. This program of works valued at \$4.4 million is the current works program, commencing in 22/23 and covering programmed works during 23/24 and 24/25. The program employs an officer to work directly with Far East communities and during 23/24 two Works Coordinators to deliver a planned program of \$1.5m for the financial year.

Bushfire Prevention

This year the Authority has focussed on engaging with community and DEECA on catchment issues associated with fire prevention and management. The Authority is working in partnership with community and DEECA to co-design improved engagement models for fire prevention planning, implementation and monitoring. The Tambo Valley fire district is the focus of a program of joint planning and consultation about fire prevention with DEECA and local communities. This work aims to lift catchment protection

from fire by working collaboratively with the land and fire managers. A trial has been agreed with DEECA and will involve consultation with specific community groups in winter from Tambo Valley up to the high country. Community interest is in fire prevention measures and fuel reduction work, as well as public spaces, public infrastructure, and erosion.

National Landcare Program 2

The five-year NLP2-RLP program concluded this year. This funding supported a Regional Agricultural Landcare Facilitator, the Regional Alpine Peatlands Program and the Topsoils2 Sustainable Agriculture project.

TopSoils

The TopSoils project was successfully delivered through the collaborative efforts of five partner agencies - Agriculture Victoria, Southern Farming Systems, East Gippsland Landcare Network, Far East Victoria Landcare, and Snowy River Interstate Landcare Committee. This project built upon the Topsoils 1 project (2013-2018) and aimed to increase the quality of topsoil in the East Gippsland region through increasing the awareness, knowledge, confidence, skill and adoption of land management practices that improve and protect the condition of soil, biodiversity and vegetation by 2023.

Using self-assessment surveys, the following data was gathered to measure the impact this project had on our agricultural community:

- 819 farmers have reported an increase in AWARENESS of land management practices that improve soil carbon (350 was the target).
- 480 farmers have reported an increase in KNOWLEDGE of land management practices that improve soil carbon (350 was the target).
- 436 farmers have reported an increase in land management SKILLS that improve soil carbon (315 was the target).
- 379 farmers reported an increase in CONFIDENCE to trial land management practices that improve soil carbon (250 was the target).
- 379 farmers reported an increase in CONFIDENCE to trial land management practices that improve soil carbon (100 was the target).

Since the beginning of Topsoils2 in 2018 over 3,015 participants were recorded attending Topsoils project events.

Alpine Peatlands

The Cross Regional Alpine Peatlands Protection Project is a multi-partner project that included an extensive weed monitoring and management program, an extensive pest animal surveillance and control program (deer, pig, and feral horses) within and around the ecologically threatened Alpine Peatland ecosystems in the East Gippsland, West Gippsland and North East CMA regions. This project also included a research component on deer control methods which is expected to inform future protection works in the Peatland ecosystems across the country.

The Alpine Peatland Protection project within the East Gippsland boundary has achieved:

- 2,898 ha has been surveyed and treated for weed incursions, this has protected the 164 ha of identified peatlands which were treated initially, far exceeding the target of 410 ha.
- Over 37 feral horse surveys were conducted around the Authority Peatlands with no feral horse sign being detected.

- The direct area of pig control over the life of the project was 316 hectares, the area of influence was calculated as a 5 km radius around the trapping sites (consistent with DEECA standard), equating to a total of 28,521 ha monitored and treated for pigs, GLaWAC and Parks Victoria staff designed and completed this trapping and baiting program.
- 81.37 ha of peatlands and adjacent grasslands were protected through the strategic placement of large rocks and logs to prevent illegal access to these areas.

Leadership Development – Learn As You Go

A unique leadership opportunity has been initiated by the Board, called 'Learn As You Go'. An Acting CEO was appointed in March 2022 to fulfil the role for 12 months and a subsequent Acting CEO was appointed for March 2023 for 6 months. The Chair and incumbent CEO provided coaching and mentoring. The program has provided a unique opportunity to experience personalised leadership development through firsthand involvement and learning on the job. An independent evaluation of the program has been commissioned by the Board and the early outcomes are highly positive with both Acting CEOs subsequently being appointed to externally advertised CEO positions within the water sector.

8. Five Year Financial Summary

	2022/23 \$000	2021/22 \$000	2020/21 \$000	2019/20 \$000	2018/19 \$000
Operating Revenue					
Victorian Government	9,132	9,115	10,276	9,582	9,761
Commonwealth Government	1,211	1,198	2,176	862	1,217
Other Revenue	1,246	1,036	663	958	1,067
Total Operating Revenue	11,589	11,349	13,115	11,402	12,045
Operating Expenses					
Governance and Corporate	1,823	1,692	1,519	1,663	1,300
Project Expenditure	12,608	8,345	8,555	9,846	9,983
Total Operating Expenses	14,431	10,037	10,074	11,509	11,283
Total Assets	13,289	16,096	15,284	12,727	11,707
Total Liabilities	1,697	1,733	2,243	3,177	2,043

9. Current Year Financial Review

The Authority is financially sound, with adequate provisions in place to fulfil its obligations to staff and replacement of plant and equipment. Sufficient resources are allocated to deliver the Corporate Plan objectives for 2023/24.

10. Significant Changes in Financial Position

There were no significant changes to our financial position during the reporting period.

11. Significant Changes or Factors Affecting Performance

Wet weather conditions, regular flood events and coronavirus restrictions slowed the on-ground works programs during 2020/21 and 2021/22. The circumstances that created the slow down were well beyond the control of the Authority. A concerted effort to deliver on a backlog of operational activity has been made during 2022/23 and will continue into 2023/24. A stabilisation of conditions has allowed contractors and partners to return to normal work, which has resulted in bringing projects back on schedule and it is anticipated that the full program of works will be completed as planned by the end of 2023/24. The Authority has met its obligations to keep government informed through regular reporting and will monitor this risk closely over the course of next year.

12. Capital Projects

The Authority did not manage any capital projects in the reporting period.

13. Disclosure of Grants and Transfer Payments

The Authority has provided grants to partners in natural resource management including community groups and organisations in the East Gippsland region. Grants were provided in 2022/23 for the purposes of supporting the administration of Landcare groups and implementing on-ground natural resource management projects.

The following grant amounts were paid:

Not-for-profit organisations	\$2,484,538
Landholders	\$173,740
Partner Agencies	\$1,393,537

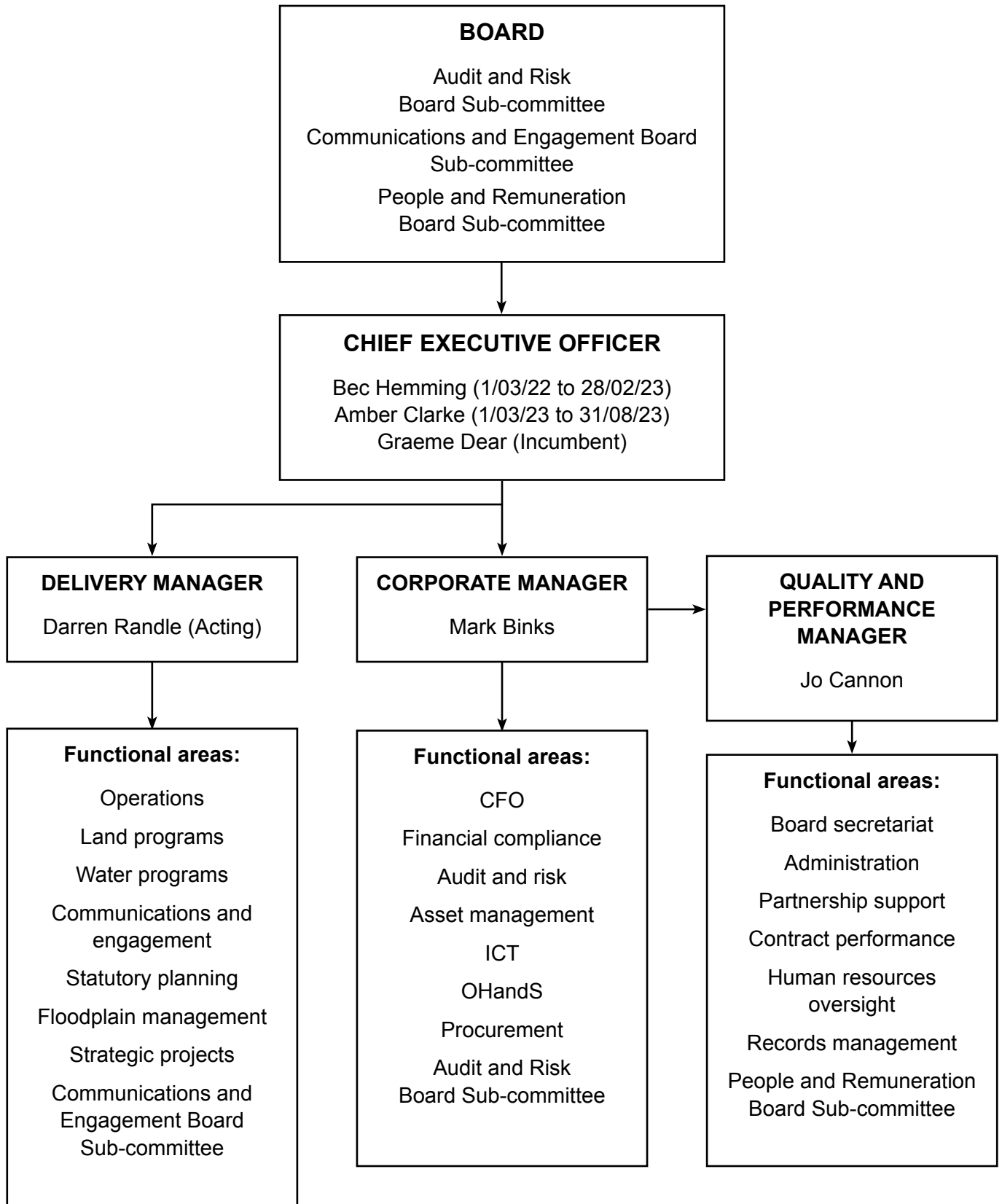
Total grants paid during the 2022/23 year were \$4.05 million.

14. Subsequent Events

There were no events occurring after balance date which may significantly affect the Authority's operations in subsequent reporting periods.

PART 2 – Governance and Organisational Structure

15. Organisational Chart



16. Governing Board

Authority Board

The Board is responsible for:

- The strategic planning of the Authority.
- Deciding the policies of the Authority.
- The management of the affairs of the Authority, including ensuring the performance of the functions and the carrying out of the duties of the Authority.

The Board may exercise the powers of the Authority.

Each Board of an Authority, in performing its functions, exercising its powers and carrying out its duties must act in a proper and efficient manner.

Board Members

Member	Term of Appointment	Meeting Attendance
Mr Ewan Waller	27/10/2015 – 30/09/2023	6 of 6
(Chairperson)	01/05/2020 – 30/09/2023	
Ms Frances MacLennan	01/10/2017 – 30/09/2025	6 of 6
Ms Claire Miller	01/10/2017 – 30/09/2025	6 of 6
Ms Glenys Watts	27/10/2015 – 30/09/2023	5 of 6
Ms Merrilyn Woodhouse	01/10/2019 – 30/09/2023	6 of 6
Ms Courtney Mraz	01/10/2019 – 30/09/2023	5 of 6
Ms Kate Commins	01/07/2020 – 30/09/2023	5 of 6
Mr Stephen Angus	01/10/2021 – 30/09/2025	6 of 6

17. Board Committees

The following Committees report to the Board.

17.1 Audit and Risk Board Sub-Committee

The Committee consisted of the following Board members who are not involved in the day to day management of the Authority:

- Ms Claire Miller
- Ms Merrilyn Woodhouse
- Ms Glenys Watts
- Mr Ewan Waller (Ex-Officio Member)

The Committee also includes an external member:

- Ms Thelma Hutchison

The Committee assists the Board in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities. The Committee undertakes the oversight of:

- Financial performance and the effectiveness of the financial reporting process, including performance against the annual budget, the annual financial statements and all other internal controls.
- The scope of work, performance and independence of the independent internal audit function.
- Recommend to the Board the engagement and dismissal of internal auditors.
- The scope of work and performance of the external auditor.
- Review the operation and implementation of the risk management framework.
- Review the operation and implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Management System.
- Review and endorsement of finance, risk and related policies for Board approval.
- The effectiveness of management information systems and other systems of internal control.
- The Authority's process for monitoring compliance with legislation, regulations, ministerial directions and other compliance obligations.

In performing its duties, the Committee will maintain effective working relationships with the Board, management, and the internal and external auditors.

Meetings are held not less than quarterly.

Audit and Risk Board Sub-Committee membership and meeting attendance 2022/23

Name	Term	Attended	Eligible to attend
Ms Claire Miller (Convenor)	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	6	6
Ms Merrilyn Woodhouse	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	6	6
Ms Glenys Watts	1 July 2022to 30 June 2023	4	6
Thelma Hutchison	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	6	6

17.2 Communications and Engagement Board Sub-Committee

The Committee consisted of the following Board members:

- Ms Frances MacLennan
- Ms Glenys Watts
- Ms Courtney Mraz
- Ms Kate Commins
- Mr Stephen Angus
- Mr Ewan Waller (Ex-Officio Member)

The Committee also includes an external member:

- Ms Lauren Carey

The Committee's responsibilities include:

- Implementation of Board-level communication and engagement activities.
- Oversee the annual review of the Board Engagement Plan including performance against key performance indicator's and recommend the completed plan to the Board for endorsement.
- Oversee implementation of the Board Engagement Plan.
- Review reports on and oversee implementation of the Authority's program of communication and engagement activities.
- Review relevant communications and engagement policies for Board approval.

Communications and Engagement Board Sub-Committee membership and meeting attendance 2022/23

Name	Term	Attended	Eligible to attend
Ms Frances MacLennan (Convenor)	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	4	4
Ms Glenys Watts	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	4	4
Ms Courtney Mraz	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	4	4
Ms Kate Commins	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	4	4
Mr Stephen Angus	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	4	4
Ms Lauren Carey	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	4	4

17.3 People and Remuneration Board Sub-Committee

The Committee consists of the following Board members:

- Mr Ewan Waller
- Ms Courtney Mraz
- Mr Stephen Angus

The Committee's responsibilities include:

- To ensure that the Board has a strategic, sustainable long-term approach to issues relating to the people working for the Authority, including:
 - People resources, strategic policy and planning
 - Organisational culture
 - Organisational structure
 - Industrial relations matters
 - Development and training
 - Remuneration and contracting strategies
 - Succession planning for key management positions
 - Recruitment and retention
- To review the CEO's performance for the purpose of annual performance review and employment conditions in accordance with the Public Entity Executive Remuneration Policy (PEER policy) and current employment contract terms.
- Provide facilitation and oversight for preparation of Board Performance Reviews/Board member self-assessments and recommend any actions to the Board.
- Provide advice to the Board in respect of the recruitment of external members to Board sub-committees.

- Undertake an annual review of the CEO Succession Plan and provide a report to the Board following the annual review, presenting the updated Plan for Board approval.

People and Remuneration Board Sub-Committee membership and meeting attendance 2022/23

Name	Term	Attended	Eligible to attend
Mr Ewan Waller (Convenor)	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	4	4
Ms Courtney Mraz	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	3	4
Mr Stephen Angus	1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023	4	4

18. Public Sector Values and Employment Principles

The *Public Administration Act 2004* (PA Act) specifies several employment principles that must be observed by public sector organisations and their employees in addition to the Victorian Public Sector Commission conduct principles or public sector values.

The Authority has policies and procedures that are consistent with both the employment and conduct principles and which provide for fair treatment, career opportunities and the early resolution of workplace issues. The Authority has advised its employees on how to avoid conflict of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts and how it deals with misconduct.

The Authority is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing staff. The selection processes ensure that applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably on the basis of the key selection criteria and other accountabilities without discrimination.

In addition, the Authority has applied the public sector employment principles and public sector values in the following ways:

1. Development and implementation of Plans, Policies and Procedures that support a fair and equitable workplace for employees, including:
 - Equal Opportunity Procedure
 - Human Resources Policy
 - Recruitment and Selection Procedure
 - Discipline Procedure
 - Grievance Procedure
 - General Human Resources Procedure
 - Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy and Procedure
 - Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan 2022
2. Development of workplace behaviours based on the public sector values and the inclusion of these in the annual Employee Performance and Development Plan process.

19. Occupational Health and Safety

The safety of Authority employees and our contractors is our highest priority and one of our core values. The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) management system underpins our policy which aims to build a culture that provides a working environment, resources and support to make safety, health and wellbeing everyone's responsibility.

During the 2022/23 financial year, management and the OHS Committee in consultation with stakeholders, implemented the annual OHS Action Plan. Initiatives have included updating Authority policies and procedures and reviewing and updating contractor OHS standards.

The Authority's performance in OHS demonstrates a commitment to achieving best practice with a focus on continuous improvement and recognising that health and safety contributes to overall organisational and business success through a reduction in workplace injuries and ill health.

Throughout the year, we have had 15 incidents and 9 hazards reported.

There was one lost time claim for the reporting period.

OHS Performance Reporting

Incidents	2022/23	2021/22	2020/2021
Contractor time lost to injuries/accidents (days)	1	0	0
Contractor incident notifications	2	1	4
Staff time lost to injuries/accidents (days)	0	0	0
Staff hazard/incident notifications	24	14	5
Incidents reported to WorkSafe	0	0	0
WorkCover claims	0	0	0
Average cost per claim	0	0	0

A culture of safety awareness for all staff begins at induction and continues throughout the duration of employment, via formal accredited training programs, robust project management practices including project audits, contractor performance reviews, incident and hazard reporting and promoting an ongoing commitment to continuous improvement in OHS.

OHS training completed in the reporting period

Staff Training Program	Number of Participants
Full First Aid that includes CPR (3 Yearly)	7
CPR Refresher (Annually)	20
Fire warden and emergency response	2
Initial Health and safety representative	4
Health and safety representative Refresher (Annually during three year term)	1
Basic wildfire awareness	3
4WD Training	5

PART 3 – Workforce Data

20. Comparative Workforce Data

On 30 June 2023, the Authority employed 29 staff (27.1 full time equivalent), compared to 31 staff (28.8 full time equivalent) on 30 June 2022. The Authority's workforce numbers have remained fairly consistent between the two years.

Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections.

The breakdown of staff for the Authority at the end of 2022/23 compared to 2021/22 is as follows:

	2022/23		2021/22	
	Number (headcount)	FTE	Number (headcount)	FTE
Chief Executive Officer / Acting Chief Executive Officer	2	2	1	1
Executive Assistant	0	0	1	0.6
Senior Managers	2	2	4	4
Corporate Services Staff	3	3	3	3
Program staff	18	16.4	18	16.4
Quality and Performance (including hosted employees) staff	4	3.7	4	3.8
TOTAL	29	27.1	31	28.8

Notes:

- All figures reflect employment levels during the last full pay period in June of each year.
- The figures exclude casuals and employees on secondment to the Authority. The figures include two staff who are currently on secondment to other organisations.
- The figures include staff who are employed in ongoing and fixed term positions.
- The Chief Executive Officer is engaged on a standard executive contract. During this time, the Authority had an Acting Chief Executive Officer as part of the Learn As You Go program and the incumbent Chief Executive Officer.
- Senior Managers report directly to the Chief Executive Officer.
- FTE means "Full Time Equivalent".

21. Workforce Inclusion Policy

The Authority's Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2022 continues to follow and strengthen the Authority's commitment to Aboriginal participation, Gender Equality, Secondment and Learning opportunities and Youth.

The Key Target Areas Actions within the Plan are focussed on strengthening and building existing strategies and policies while still aligning with the Government's focus. In addition, the Authority's Aboriginal Partnership Policy relates to most initiatives undertaken by the Authority, where there is opportunity for Aboriginal Partnerships, or the potential of a partnership. The Authority is committed to developing and maintaining constructive working relationships with Aboriginal people and organisations in the delivery of all Natural Resource Management (NRM) initiatives.

The Authority's progress in these areas is outlined below:

Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2022 initiative	Progress in 2022/23	Progress in 2021/22
Workforce participation measured by Aboriginality, gender and age.	<i>Aboriginality</i>	<i>Aboriginality</i>
	Employment of Aboriginal people within the Authority – 1	Employment of Aboriginal people within the Authority – 0
	<i>Gender</i>	<i>Gender</i>
	Achieved Senior Manager level: Male: 66% Female: 33%	Achieved Senior Manager level: Male: 50% Female: 50%
	In progress at middle management: Male: 40% Female: 60%	In progress at middle management: Male: 75% Female: 25%
	<i>Age</i>	<i>Age</i>
	Youth employed (24 and under) – 0	Youth employed (24 and under) – 12.5%
Implement the Authority's Social Procurement Strategy.	Number of contracts + onground projects (Water and Catchments team) awarded to suppliers who are Victorian Aboriginal businesses – 22.5%	Number of contracts + onground projects awarded to suppliers who are Victorian Aboriginal businesses – 22%
	Number of grants awarded (Victorian Landcare Grants) who involve traditional owners in their delivery – 0	Number of grants awarded who involve traditional owners in their delivery – 13%

PART 4 – Other Disclosures

22. Local Jobs First

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* introduced in August 2018 brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) policy which were previously administered separately.

The Authority is required to apply the Local Job First policy in all projects valued at \$3 million or more in Metropolitan Melbourne or for state-wide projects, or \$1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria. MPSG applies to all construction projects valued at \$20 million or more. The MPSG guidelines and VIPP guidelines will continue to apply to MPSG applicable and VIPP applicable projects respectively where contracts have been entered prior to 15 August 2018.

Projects Commenced – Local Jobs First Standard

During 2022/23, the Authority commenced no Local Jobs First Standard projects.

Projects Completed – Local Jobs First Standard

During 2022/23, the Authority completed no Local Jobs First Standard project.

Reporting requirements – all projects

During 2022/23, no business prepared a Local Industry Development Plan (LIDP) for Authority tenders.

Reporting requirements – grants

There were no grants provided during 2022/23 that corresponded with the registration and issue of an Interaction Reference Number.

23. Social Procurement Framework

The Authority is committed to supporting the Government's directions under the Social Procurement Framework (SPF) and we recognise that we play a key role in advancing social and sustainable outcomes for Victorians.

In 2019, the Authority developed a Social Procurement Strategy to guide our approach to the delivery of social outcomes via our procurement.

The Authority's overall social procurement activities for 2022/23 are:

- Number of social benefit suppliers engaged during the reporting period: 3
- Total amount spent with social benefit suppliers (direct spend) during the reporting period (\$ GST exclusive): \$716,041
- Total procurement of mainstream suppliers engaged that have made social procurement commitments in their contracts with the Victorian Government: 0
- Total number of contracts that include social procurement commitments: 0

In the Strategy, the Authority has prioritised three SPF objectives detailed in the tables below with their associated reporting metrics:

SPF Objective: Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people	
SPF Outcome	SPF reporting metrics
Employment of Victorian Aboriginal people by suppliers to the Victorian Government	Number of contracts awarded to suppliers who are Victorian Aboriginal businesses.

SPF Objective: Supporting Safe and Fair Work Practices	
SPF Outcome	SPF reporting metrics
Purchasing from suppliers that comply with industrial relations laws and promote secure employment	Number of Authority contracted suppliers that attest to compliance with the Workplace Self-Assessment Checklist and Industrial Relations Declaration of Compliance (for procurements over \$50,000)

SPF Objective: Sustainable Victorian Social Enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors	
SPF Outcome	SPF reporting metrics
Purchasing from Victorian social enterprises and Aboriginal businesses	Number of contracts awarded to suppliers who are Victorian Aboriginal businesses.

Achievements to date include:

- Having established our Social Procurement Strategy our focus is now on embedding the actions into our Procurement procedures and, where applicable, the implementation of our Diversity and Inclusion Implementation Plan.
- Commenced implementation and measurement of the targets set which relate to our reporting metrics.
- Updated our Procurement Procedure to align with our Social Procurement Strategy.

To address the Opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people and Sustainable Victorian Social Enterprises and Aboriginal business sectors objectives the Authority tracks the number of projects local Aboriginal businesses complete for the Authority as a part of its onground works program (water and catchments). In addition, the Authority has an Aboriginal Partnership Policy. The Policy notes that the Authority is committed to developing and maintaining constructive working relationships with Aboriginal people and organisations in the delivery of all Natural Resource Management (NRM) initiatives.

To address the Supporting Safe and Fair Work Practices objective the Authority includes the Self-Assessment Checklist and Industrial Relations Declaration of Compliance in RFQs and RFTs above \$50,000.

Case Study – Planting for Platypus

As well as some underwater home renovations, platypus in the Tambo River have been given a little bit more help with some native vegetation being planted along the riverbanks.

The Authority placed a series of instream wood structures in the Tambo River north of Bruthen. These structures will play an essential role in supporting platypus populations by providing food and shelter.

The Natural Resource Management crew from GLaWAC helped students from Swifts Creek Primary School with some planting along the riverbanks at the site where the instream structures have been placed.

Once this vegetation is established, it will complement the instream structures by providing a whole range of benefits. Some of these benefits include reducing sediment runoff into the river improving water quality, and providing habitat for terrestrial animals, food for aquatic animals, providing shade for the water, which helps control water temperature. As this vegetation matures in the long term, it will also offer natural recruitment of instream habitat as it falls into the water.

“This project is a partnership, and it was great to see the kids and GLaWAC work together to achieve a positive environmental outcome but also to see them having so much fun.” Said acting Authority CEO Bec Hemming.

Arthur Rylah Institute (ARI) conducted water bug surveys before any of the work was done and will repeat these surveys in spring to compare any changes in types and density of bugs. This project was funded by the Australian Government’s Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.

24. Government Advertising Expenditure

The Authority’s expenditure in the 2022/23 reporting period on government campaign expenditure was nil.

25. Consultancy Expenditure

Details of Consultancies (Valued at \$10,000 or greater)

In 2022/23 there were 15 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2022/23 in relation to these consultancies was \$545,111 (excl. GST). Details of individual consultancies can be viewed at www.egcma.com.au

Details of Consultancies (Valued at less than \$10,000)

In 2022/23 there were 3 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during 2022/23 in relation to these consultancies was \$19,453 (excl. GST).

26. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Expenditure

For the 2022/23 reporting period, the Authority had a total ICT expenditure of \$439,566 (excl. GST) with the details shown below:

Business as Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	Non-Business as Usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure (Total = Operational expenditure and Capital Expenditure)	Non-BAU ICT expenditure Operational expenditure (OPEX)	Non-BAU ICT expenditure Capital expenditure (Capex)
\$431,376	\$8,190	\$0	\$8,190

27. Disclosure of Major Contracts

The Authority did not award any major contracts (valued at \$10M or more) during 2022/23.

28. Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Authority. The purpose of the Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by the Authority. This comprises documents both created by the Authority or supplied to the Authority by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes.

The Act allows the Authority to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information. Examples of documents that may not be accessed include; cabinet documents, some internal working documents, law enforcement documents, documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice, personal information about other people and information provided to the Authority in confidence.

From 1 September 2017, the Act has been amended to reduce the Freedom of Information (FOI) processing time for requests received from 45 to 30 days. However, when external consultation is required under ss29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, the processing time automatically reverts to 45 days. Processing time may also be extended by periods of 30 days, in consultation with the applicant. With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times. However, obtaining an applicant's agreement for an extension cannot occur after the expiry of the timeframe for deciding a request.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the Authority, under section 49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

Making a request

FOI requests can be lodged online at www.foi.vic.gov.au. An application fee of \$31.80 applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large, and the search for material, time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Authority's Freedom of Information team, as detailed in s17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

When making an FOI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, and clearly identify what types of material/documents are being sought.

Requests for documents in the possession of the Authority should be addressed to:

The FOI Officer
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
PO Box 1012
Bairnsdale, Vic 3875
Phone: 03 5152 1184
Email: FOI@egcma.com.au

FOI statistics/timeliness

During 2022/23, the Authority received one application.

A decision on the request was made outside of the Act.

During 2022/23, no requests were subject to a complaint/internal review by OVIC.

Further information

Further information regarding the operation and scope of FOI can be obtained from the Act; regulations made under the Act; and <https://ovic.vic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/>.

29. Compliance with *Building Act 1993*

The Authority owns and operates three regional depots in Bairnsdale, Orbost and Genoa.

The Authority complies with the *Building Act 1993*, the Building Regulations 2006 and associated statutory requirements and amendments. Either an Occupancy Permit or a Certificate of Final Inspection is obtained for new facilities or for upgrades to existing facilities endorsed by a Registered Building Surveyor Practitioner.

The Authority did not commence or complete any major projects or works on buildings owned by it greater than \$50,000 in 2022/23.

There have been no cases of registered building practitioners becoming deregistered following work on buildings owned by the Authority.

30. Competitive Neutrality Policy

Competitive neutrality seeks to enable fair competition between government and private sector businesses. Any advantages or disadvantages that government businesses may experience, simply as a result of government ownership, should be neutralised. The Authority continues to implement and apply this principle in its business undertakings.

Where appropriate, competitively neutral price adjustments have been made from July 1, 1997.

31. Compliance with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (PID Act) enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies.

The Authority is a “public body” for the purposes of the PID Act.

What is a public interest disclosure?

A public interest disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body.

‘Improper or corrupt conduct’ involves substantial mismanagement of public resources, risk to public health or safety or the environment, or corruption.

‘Detrimental action’ is action taken against a person in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure.

How do I make a public interest disclosure?

You can make a public interest disclosure about the Authority or its Board members, officers or employees by contacting IBAC (details below).

The Authority is not able to receive public interest disclosures. No disclosures were made against the Authority.

The Authority has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure about the Authority, its Board members, officers or employees. You can access the Authority’s procedures on its website at:

egcma.com.au

Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3000.

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3001

Internet: www.ibac.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: See the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

32. Compliance with any Other Legislation

Nil requirements.

33. Emergency Procurement Disclosure

In 2022/23 the Authority did not need to activate Emergency Procurement on any occasions in accordance with the requirements of government policy and accompanying guidelines, resulting in nil spending for emergency procurements.

34. Office-Based Environmental Impacts

The Authority is committed to environmental sustainability in its operations. Sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions reduction form core parts of the Authority's corporate strategy. The Authority supports the Victorian public sector in adopting new technology that lowers emissions and increases environmental sustainability.

The Authority is a tenant in the DEECA building at 574 Main Street Bairnsdale, operates 3 depots across the region – Bairnsdale, Orbost and Genoa – and leases office space in MacLeod Street Bairnsdale.

Collaborative Regional and Statewide Environmental Impacts

The Authority chairs the Regional Climate Change Collective which aims to provide coordinated leadership and alignment across multiple agencies within East Gippsland. This group is designed to coordinate and achieve success with sustainable climate actions between agencies within the region.

Authority staff also attend the quarterly Victorian CMAs Climate Change Forum with aims to maintain an overview of all CMA climate change efforts and positions, to exchange knowledge amongst CMAs, and to support and influence policy and program design.

Electricity Production and Consumption

The Authority has commenced a project to understand its current electricity usage and develop energy cost-effective and efficient strategies to achieve net zero emissions by 2025. This may include generating and supplying solar power from our depots in Bairnsdale, Genoa, and Orbost, purchasing green energy or carbon offset schemes.

In addition, a range of energy efficiency actions are being considered including installing LED lighting across all Authority sites and switching to energy efficient appliances when they are replaced.

The Authority has a Service Level Agreement with DEECA for the provision of office accommodation at its main office in Bairnsdale. Data on the environmental impacts is included in DEECA's annual report.

Electricity Production and Consumption	2022/23
EL1 – Total Electricity Consumption (MWh)	
Purchased Electricity - Consolidated	4.3
Depots	2.9
Macleod Street offices	1.4
EL4 – Total electricity offsets (MWh)	0

Transportation

The Authority's fleet consists of 14 vehicles essential to its roles and responsibilities in the management of land, biodiversity, and water resources in the region. The Authority is planning to transition to 100 per cent zero emissions vehicles for its vehicle fleet within the next 10 years consistent with the Victorian Government's commitment as a signatory to the COP26 declaration on accelerating the transition to 100 per cent zero emissions vehicles.

Transportation	2022/23	%
T2 - Number and Proportion of Vehicles		
Road Vehicles		
Passenger Vehicles	14	
Diesel	12	86
Petrol	1	7
Hybrid - Petrol / electric	1	7

Environmentally Sustainable Design in new buildings and infrastructure

During 2022/23 the Authority did not undertake any new office accommodation or any substantial tenancy fit-out that would trigger a National Australian Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) rating change.

35. Statement of availability of other information

Additional information available on request.

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the Authority and are available (in full) on request, subject to the provisions of the FOI Act:

- a) Details of publications produced by the Authority about itself, and how these can be obtained.
- b) Details of any major external reviews carried out on the Authority.
- c) Details of major research and development activities undertaken by the Authority.
- d) Details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Authority to develop community awareness of the entity and its services; and
- e) Details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged.

The information is available on request from:

Chief Executive Officer
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
Phone: 03 5152 1184
Email: receptionegcma@egcma.com.au

Additional information included in annual report

Details in respect of the following items have been included in the Authority's annual report, on the pages indicated below:

- f) Assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees (page 32).
- g) A list of the Authority's major committees; the purposes of each committee; and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved (page 28).

Information that is not applicable

The following information is not relevant to the Authority for the reasons set out below:

- h) A declaration of shares held by senior officers (no shares have ever been issued in the Authority's name).
- i) Details of overseas visits undertaken (no Board members or senior executives took overseas work-related trips).
- j) Statement of industrial relations within the Authority.

36. Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement

I, Ewan Waller, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has complied with the applicable Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.



Ewan Waller
Chairperson
East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

27 October, 2023

PART 5 – Financial Statements

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (the authority) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 • comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • cash flow statement for the year then ended • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • declaration in the financial statements. <p>In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the authority as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the authority in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Board's responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board of the authority is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	<p>As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.</p> <p>As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the authority's internal control • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board • conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the authority's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the authority to cease to continue as a going concern. • evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. <p>I communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.</p>
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MELBOURNE
27 October 2023



Paul Martin
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

How this report is structured

The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 in the following structure to provide users with the information about the Authority's stewardship of resource entrusted to it.

Financial statements

Comprehensive operating statement
Balance sheet
Cash flow statement
Statement of changes in equity

Notes to the financial statements

1. About this report

The basis on which the financial statements have been prepared and compliance with reporting regulations

2. Funding delivery of our services

Revenue and income recognised in respect of Government contributions and other income sources
2.1 Income from transactions

3. The cost of delivering services

Operating expenses of the Authority
3.1 Employee expenses.
3.2 Materials and consultancies
3.3 Other operating expenses

4. Key assets available to support output delivery

Land, buildings, information technology assets, plant and equipment, office furniture and equipment, motor vehicles, and intangible assets
4.1 Property, plant and equipment at fair value
4.2 Intangible Assets

5. Other assets and liabilities

Other key assets and liabilities
5.1 Receivables
5.2 Payables
5.3 Contract assets & liabilities
5.4 Other non-financial assets

6. Financing our operations

Cash flow information, commitments for expenditure
6.1 Borrowing - Leases
6.2 Leases
6.3 Cash flow information and balances
6.4 Commitments for expenditure
6.5 Carry forward project funding

7. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

Financial risk management, contingent assets and liabilities as well as fair value determination
7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities
7.3 Fair value determination

8. Other disclosures

8.1 Ex-gratia expenses
8.2 Other economic flows included in net result
8.3 Reserves
8.4 Responsible persons
8.5 Remuneration of executive officers
8.6 Related parties
8.7 Remuneration of auditors
8.8 Subsequent events
8.9 Change in accounting policies
8.10 Economic Dependency
8.11 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT (i)

for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income and revenue from transactions			
Government contributions	2.1.1	10,342,763	10,313,319
Interest		408,545	41,414
Other income	2.1.2	837,500	994,623
Total income from transactions		11,588,808	11,349,356
Expenses from transactions			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	3,825,955	3,586,535
Depreciation and amortisation	4.1.1	481,764	774,770
Contractors		3,664,598	2,021,078
Grants Paid		4,689,283	2,174,150
Materials and consultancies	3.2	944,531	734,724
Interest Expense	6.2.1 (b)	-	15,387
Other operating expenses	3.3	825,002	730,362
Total expenses from transactions		14,431,133	10,037,006
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		(2,842,325)	1,312,350
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets (ii)	8.2	36,951	9,972
Net result		(2,805,374)	1,322,322
Other economic flows - other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			+
Gain on revaluation of property, plant and equipment	8.3	34,660	-
Comprehensive result		(2,770,714)	1,322,322

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

(ii) Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets includes unrealised and realised gains/(losses) from revaluations, impairments, and disposals of all physical assets and intangible assets, except when these are taken through the asset revaluation surplus.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

BALANCE SHEET (i)

as at 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits	6.3	10,941,790	13,187,906
Receivables	5.1	109,157	124,633
Contract assets	5.3	543,475	618,792
Total financial assets		11,594,422	13,931,331
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4.1	1,664,402	2,083,799
Intangible assets	4.2	21,952	30,836
Prepayments		8,703	50,085
Total non-financial assets		1,695,057	2,164,720
Total assets		13,289,479	16,096,051
Liabilities			
Payables	5.2	422,205	519,127
Employee related provisions	3.1.2	949,600	917,014
Borrowings	6.1	-	296,490
Contract Liabilities	5.3	324,968	-
Total liabilities		1,696,773	1,732,631
Net assets		11,592,706	14,363,420
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		3,349,227	6,154,601
Asset revaluation reserve	8.3	1,256,113	1,221,453
Contributed capital		6,987,366	6,987,366
Net Worth		11,592,706	14,363,420

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

CASH FLOW STATEMENT (i)

for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Receipts from government		10,418,079	10,573,297
Interest received		408,545	41,414
Goods and services tax received from the ATO (ii)		794,215	324,123
Other receipts		852,976	1,012,893
Total receipts		<u>12,473,815</u>	<u>11,951,727</u>
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(14,433,560)</u>	<u>(9,818,802)</u>
Total payments		<u>(14,433,560)</u>	<u>(9,818,802)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities	6.3.1	<u>(1,959,745)</u>	<u>2,132,925</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of non-financial assets		(60,833)	(342,436)
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets		<u>78,961</u>	<u>26,648</u>
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		<u>18,128</u>	<u>(315,788)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of principal component of lease borrowing (iii)		<u>(304,500)</u>	<u>(381,209)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(304,500)</u>	<u>(381,209)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>(2,246,117)</u>	<u>1,435,928</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		13,187,907	11,751,979
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6.3	<u><u>10,941,790</u></u>	<u><u>13,187,907</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

(ii) GST received from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.

(iii) The Authority has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities; cash payments for interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY (i)

for the financial year ended 30 June 2023

	Accumulated surplus	Asset revaluation reserve	Contributed capital	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	4,832,279	1,221,453	6,987,366	13,041,098
Net result for the year	1,322,322	-	-	1,322,322
Balance at 30 June 2022	6,154,601	1,221,453	6,987,366	14,363,420
Net result for the year	(2,805,374)	-	-	(2,805,374)
Transfers to/(from) reserves	-	34,660	-	34,660
Balance at 30 June 2023	3,349,227	1,256,113	6,987,366	11,592,706

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Note:

(i) This format is aligned to AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

The East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority is a government authority of the State of Victoria, established on 1 July 1997 by the state government.

Its principle address is: East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
574 Main Street
Bairnsdale VIC 3875

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the Report of operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the prior year. Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AASBs that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement or estimates', and relate to:

- employee benefit provisions (Note 3.1.2) ;
- estimating discount rate when not implicit in the lease (Note 6.2);
- determining whether the performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether the arrangement is within the scope of AASB 15 or AASB 1058 (Note 2.1);
- determining whether the lease arrangement is in substance short-term arrangement (Note 6.2);
- lease terms (Note 6.2);
- estimation of useful life of property, plant and equipment (Note 4.1.1);
- determining transaction price and amounts allocated to performance obligations (Note 2.1);
- the timing of satisfaction of performance obligations (Note 2.1);
- fair value measurements of assets and liabilities (Note 7.3);

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

1. ABOUT THIS REPORT (cont.)

Rounding

Unless otherwise stated, amount in the report have been rounded to the nearest dollar. Figures in the financial report may not equate due to rounding.

Compliance Information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)* and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AASs) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AASs paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

Introduction

The Authority's overall objective is for the co-ordinated control of natural resource management within the broader catchments of East Gippsland. The role of the Authority is to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy. Associated with this role, the Authority carries out strategic planning and advises Government.

To enable the Authority to deliver on its objectives, it receives income predominantly through State and Commonwealth Government Contributions.

2.1 Income from transactions

2.1.1 Total Government contributions

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income recognised as income of not-for-profit entities under AASB 1058		
River Health/ Healthy Waterways	4,056,000	4,572,000
Our Catchments, Our Communities	562,000	549,000
Catchment Planning/Corporate Governance	1,016,866	853,200
Second Generation Landcare	388,250	699,123
Water Statutory Functions	832,000	812,000
Bushfire Recovery	1,100,000	1,100,000
Flood Recovery	636,900	-
Floodplain Management	300,000	150,000
Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program	125,000	-
Other State Funding	115,000	380,000
Total	9,132,016	9,115,323
Income recognised as income in accordance with AASB15		
National Landcare Program	1,210,747	1,197,996
Total	1,210,747	1,197,996
	10,342,763	10,313,319

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

2.1.1 Total Government contributions (cont.)

Grants recognised under AASB 15

Income from grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations and accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers. This is recognised based on the consideration specified in the funding agreement and to the extent that it is highly probable a significant reversal of the revenue will not occur. The funding payments are normally received in advance or shortly after the relevant obligation is satisfied.

Grants recognised under AASB 1058

Government contributions are recognised as income in accordance with AASB 1058, except for grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations and accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB 15.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Authority has unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the assets, the Authority recognises any increase in liabilities, decrease in assets, and revenue ('related amount') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15;
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.

Consideration received in advance of recognising the associated revenue from the customer is recorded as a contract liability. Where the performance obligations are satisfied but not yet billed, a contract asset is recorded (refer Note 5.3).

2.1.2 Other income

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Partnership Contributions	221,912	281,100
Hosted Entity Services	442,219	457,000
Secondment Reimbursements	103,584	190,917
Employee Contributions	69,785	63,139
Right of Use Building Rent Concession	-	2,467
Total other income	<u>837,500</u>	<u>994,623</u>

Partnership contributions consists of funds received from organisations as partners in major projects, and are recognised as income on receipt as they do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations, and are disclosed in the comprehensive operating statement as other income.

Hosted Services consists of funds received for providing payroll and other services to external organisations. Amounts received include reimbursement of salary paid and payment for services provided. This revenue is recognised at a point in time when the expenses are incurred by the entity and invoiced to the Hosted entity. These organisations include Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners Land Management Board and Southern Farming Systems. These funds are received with specific performance obligations as per AASB15.

Secondment reimbursements occur when EGCMA employees have taken up temporary positions with another entity and this entity have been invoiced for the recovery of salaries and on-costs relating to the secondment. These arrangements have formal agreements and have specific performance obligations as per AASB15.

Employee contributions include staff contributions towards the private use of motor vehicles.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Authority in delivering services. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the cost associated with the provision of services are recorded.

3.1 Employee Expenses

3.1.1 Employee expenses in the comprehensive operating statement

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Salaries and wages	2,904,769	2,763,240
Annual leave	240,247	262,523
Long service leave	89,550	76,442
Other leave	148,440	103,226
Superannuation	334,587	293,519
Other employee expenses	108,362	87,585
Total employee expenses	3,825,955	3,586,535

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, payroll tax, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before the normal retirement date, or when an employee decides to accept an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Authority is demonstrably committed to either terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Benefits falling due more than 12 months after the end of the reporting period are discounted to present value.

3.1.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet

Significant judgement: Employee benefit provisions

In measuring employee benefits, consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using a single weighted average discount rate based on market yields of national government bonds in Australia that reflects the estimated timing and amount of benefit payment.

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Current provisions for employee benefits		
Time in lieu and RDO:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	25,683	27,695
Annual leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	231,867	232,847
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	-	29,618
Long service leave:		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	14,194	20,677
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	557,486	494,934
	829,230	805,771
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	36,333	39,989
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	76,068	64,988
Total current provisions	941,631	910,748
Non-current provisions for employee benefits		
Long service leave:		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	7,012	5,538
Provisions for on-costs		
Conditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	957	728
Total non-current provisions	7,969	6,266
Total Provisions for employee benefits and on-costs	949,600	917,014
Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision		
Opening balance	105,705	90,683
Additional provisions recognised	54,067	38,473
Reductions resulting from payments/other sacrifices of future economic benefit	(46,414)	(23,451)
Closing balance	113,358	105,705

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

3.1.2 Employee related provisions in the balance sheet (cont.)

Wages and salaries, time in lieu, RDOs and annual leave:

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave: Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities

The liability for salaries and wages are recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the Authority expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability, as the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Annual leave balances of less than 6 weeks are measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, whilst balances above 6 weeks are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Operating Statement as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

Long service leave (LSL):

Regardless of the expected timing of settlement, unconditional LSL is classified as a current liability because the Authority does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of these liabilities.

Unconditional LSL liability amounts expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured at the nominal value. Unconditional LSL liability amount that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

Unconditional LSL represents long service leave entitlements accrued for employees with more than 7 years of continuous service.

Conditional LSL is classified as a non-current liability and measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the entity.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the net result.

3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Authority are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Authority contributes to both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The defined benefit plans provide benefits based on years of service and final average salary.

The Authority does not recognise any defined benefit liability because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. The Department of Treasury and Finance discloses in its annual financial statements the state's net defined benefits cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability.

The name, details and amounts expensed in relation to the major employee superannuation funds and contributions made by the Authority are as follows:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Defined benefit plans: (i)		
Vision super defined benefits scheme	8,629	8,215
Defined contribution plans:		
Vision super	104,725	85,253
Australian Super	45,196	46,326
Aware Super	26,466	18,114
CBUS Superannuation	23,499	10,527
MLC Superfund	17,744	15,086
Other private schemes	108,328	109,998
Total	334,587	293,519

(i) The basis for determining the level of contributions is determined by the various actuaries of the defined benefit superannuation plan.

There was no contributions outstanding to the above schemes as at 30 June 2023 (2022: \$0).

3.2 Materials and consultancies

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Materials	305,415	129,046
Consultants	639,116	605,678
Total materials and consultancies	944,531	734,724

Grant expenses are contributions of the Authorities resources to another party for specific or general purposes where there is no expectation that the amount will be repaid in equal value (either by money, goods or services).

Grant expenses are recognised in the reporting period in which they are paid or payable.

The increase in total expenditure on materials, maintenance, grants and consultancies in 2023 is attributable to a number of factors:

- Lifting of Covid19 pandemic restrictions and the availability of suppliers and contractors to perform contracted work.
- More favourable weather conditions. (Previous financial year was affected by floods)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

3.3 Other operating expenses

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Computer software and support	272,212	298,979
Education and training	56,641	56,874
Fuels and lubricants	67,369	44,754
Insurance	47,293	41,090
Telephones	30,269	32,010
Subscriptions and Publications	61,585	31,547
Advertising	24,685	28,794
Repairs and Maintenance	40,085	45,616
Fares and accommodation	52,788	22,165
Rental / Hire	24,140	16,634
Promotions and Public Relations	22,504	11,864
Meeting Expenses	20,811	9,843
Audit Costs	25,500	39,300
Other	79,120	50,892
	<u>825,002</u>	<u>730,362</u>

The lease payments are recognised on a straight-line basis:

- Short-term leases – leases with a term 12 months or less; and
- Low value leases – leases with the underlying asset's fair value (when new, regardless of the age of the asset being leased) is no more than \$10 000.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

Introduction

The Authority controls property, plant and equipment that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the key resources that have been entrusted to the Authority to be utilised for delivery of those outputs.

4.1 Property, plant, equipment at fair value.

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Land	742,000	742,000	-	-	742,000	742,000
Buildings (i)	435,650	1,488,263	(82,848)	(853,272)	352,802	634,991
Information technology assets	339,089	330,899	(225,919)	(170,096)	113,170	160,803
Plant and equipment	142,032	142,032	(116,031)	(111,047)	26,001	30,985
Office furniture and equipment	49,845	59,624	(33,612)	(41,677)	16,233	17,947
Motor vehicles	662,922	731,769	(248,726)	(234,696)	414,196	497,073
Net carrying amount	2,371,538	3,494,587	(707,136)	(1,410,788)	1,664,402	2,083,799

(i) Building at fair value includes right of use assets included in note 4.1 (a) which were recognised under the adoption of AASB 16 Leases from 1 July 2019

Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment, are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition.

Items with a cost or value in excess of \$1,000, with a useful life of more than one year are recognised as an asset. All other assets acquired are expensed.

Subsequent measurement:

Property, plant and equipment are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Non-specialised land is valued using the market approach, whereby assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets that are considered to have nominal value.

The market approach is also used for specialised land, although it is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued. The CSO adjustment reflects the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that the CSO adjustment is also equally applicable to market participants.

Revaluations of property, plant and equipment

Non-financial physical assets are revalued at fair value every five years in accordance with the Government purpose classifications defined in Financial Reporting Direction 103I Non-Financial Physical Assets (FRD 103I). The Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the Government's independent valuation agency and is used by the Authority to conduct these scheduled revaluations.

Revaluations may occur more frequently if fair value assessments indicate material changes in values. In such instances, interim managerial revaluations are undertaken in accordance with the requirements of FRD 103.

The Authority in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset class through relevant data sources, in order to determine whether a revaluation is required.

As a result of this process a management revaluation of Buildings was carried out in the current year which resulted in a upward revaluation of \$34,660.

The Authority's assets relating to land and buildings were independently valued by the VGV as at 30 June 2021.

Note 7.3 includes additional information in connection with fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

Accounting for revaluation movements - land and buildings

Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset).

Revaluation increases or decreases arise from differences between an asset's carrying value and its fair value.

Revaluation increases and decreases relating to individual assets in a class of PPE, are offset against other assets in that class but are not offset against assets in different classes. An asset revaluation surplus is not transferred to accumulated funds on the de-recognition of the related asset.

Revaluation decrements are recognised immediately as an expense in the net result, except that, to the extent that a credit balance exists in the asset revaluation reserve in respect of the same class of assets, they are debited to the asset revaluation reserve.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

4.1(a) Total right-of-use Property, plant, equipment at fair value

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Right of use buildings.	88,742	1,176,015	(51,948)	(837,822)	36,794	338,193
Net carrying amount	88,742	1,176,015	(51,948)	(837,822)	36,794	338,193

	Buildings 2023	Buildings 2022
	\$	\$
Opening balance 1 July	338,193	543,637
Lease acquisition	-	88,742
Depreciation	(301,399)	(294,186)
Closing balance 30 June	36,794	338,193

Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees - Initial measurement

The authority entered into a lease for meeting rooms at 142 Macleod St Bairnsdale commencing on 27th September 2021 for a 3 year period. This lease has been taken up as a right of use asset and will be depreciated over the term of the lease. The entity continues to lease office space at 574 Main St Bairnsdale which expired on 30th June 2023 and the authority has entered into a one year arrangement commencing July 2023 to occupy the building.

The Authority recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Specialised buildings and works assets are valued using the current replacement cost method.

Right-of-use asset – Subsequent measurement

The Authority depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term.

As per the requirements of FRD103 *Non-Financial Physical Assets*, right-of-use assets are subject to revaluation to Fair Value, whereby management undertake an assessment to determine whether the current lease payments under the contract approximate current market rentals for equivalent properties that would be paid in the current environment.

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

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for the year ended 30 June 2023

4.1.1 Depreciation and amortisation

	2023	2022
Charge for the period	\$	\$
Buildings	316,849	309,636
Information technology assets	55,823	55,467
Plant and equipment	4,984	7,118
Office furniture & equipment	2,964	3,854
Motor vehicles	92,260	67,486
Intangible Assets (i)	8,884	331,209
Total depreciation	481,764	774,770

(i) Amortisation of Intangible Assets in 2021-22 include accelerated depreciation of \$330,468 to enable the write off intangible assets as a result of International Finance Reporting Standards Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) decision.

All buildings, plant and equipment and other non-financial physical assets that have finite useful lives are depreciated

Land which is considered to have an indefinite life are not depreciated. Depreciation is not recognised in respect of these assets because their service potential has not, in any material sense, been consumed during the reporting period.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table below:

Asset	Useful Life
Buildings	20 years
Buildings - right of use assets	3 years
Information technology	3-5 years
Plant and equipment	10-15 years
Furniture & office equipment	10-15 years
Motor vehicles	7-8 years
Intangible Assets	5 years

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate. Current useful lives are consistent with prior years.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the Authority obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life.

Impairment of Property, plant & equipment

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash-generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment at fair value.

	Land \$	Buildings \$	Information Technology assets \$	Plant and equipment \$	Office furniture and equipment \$	Motor vehicles \$	Total \$
2022-23							
Opening balance	742,000	634,991	160,803	30,985	17,947	497,073	2,083,799
Additions	-	-	8,190	-	1,250	51,393	60,833
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	(42,010)	(42,010)
Depreciation	-	(316,849)	(55,823)	(4,984)	(2,964)	(92,260)	(472,880)
Revaluation	-	34,660	-	-	-	-	34,660
Closing balance	742,000	352,802	113,170	26,001	16,233	414,196	1,664,402
2021-22							
Opening balance	742,000	852,637	205,305	20,351	9,062	283,504	2,112,859
Additions	-	91,990	10,965	17,849	12,739	297,635	431,178
Disposals	-	-	-	(97)	-	(16,580)	(16,677)
Depreciation	-	(309,636)	(55,467)	(7,118)	(3,854)	(67,486)	(443,561)
Closing balance	742,000	634,991	160,803	30,985	17,947	497,073	2,083,799

4.2 Intangible assets

Significant judgement: Determination whether configuration and customisation services are distinct from SaaS access

Where the SaaS arrangement supplier provides both configuration and customisation services, judgement has been applied to determine whether each of these services are distinct or not from the underlying use of the SaaS application software. Distinct configuration and customisation costs are expensed as incurred as the software is configured or customised (i.e. upfront). Non-distinct configuration and customisation costs are expensed over the SaaS contract term.

Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of intangible assets

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Gross carrying amount		
Opening balance	44,419	372,207
Disposals	-	(327,788)
Closing balance	44,419	44,419
Accumulated amortisation		
Opening balance	(13,582)	(10,161)
Disposals	-	327,788
Amortisation (i)	(8,884)	(331,209)
Closing balance	(22,466)	(13,582)
Net book value at end of financial year	21,953	30,837

(i) Amortisation of Intangible Assets in 2021-22 included accelerated depreciation of \$330,468 to enable the write off intangible assets under the International Finance Reporting Standards Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) decision.

Initial recognition

Purchased intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. When the recognition criteria in AASB 138 *Intangible Assets* is met, internally generated intangible assets are recognised at cost. Subsequently, intangible assets with finite useful lives are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation and amortisation begins when the asset is available for use, that is, when it is in the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Subsequent measurement

Intangible produced assets with finite useful lives, are amortised as an 'expense from transactions' on a straight-line basis over their useful lives. Produced intangible assets have useful lives of five years.
Intangible non-produced assets with finite lives are amortised as an 'other economic flow' on a straight-line basis over their useful lives.
The amortisation period is five years.

Impairment of intangible assets

Intangible assets with finite useful lives are tested for impairment whenever an indication of impairment is identified. The policy in connection with testing for impairment is outlined in section 4.1.1

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements

SaaS arrangements are service contracts providing the Authority with the right to access the cloud provider's application software over the contract period. As such, the Authority does not receive a software intangible asset at the contract commencement date.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Authority's operations.

Significant judgement: Accrued revenue, contract liabilities and accrued expenses

Performance obligations in contracts are normally stipulated in the contract with customers and the obligations are satisfied when the service obligations have been completed. For example the supply of goods and services or upon completion of service. Whilst payment is due on the completion of the obligation or service.

5.1 Receivables

Current receivables	2023	2022
Contractual	\$	\$
Trade receivables	93,883	74,209
	<u>93,883</u>	<u>74,209</u>
Statutory		
GST input tax credits recoverable	15,274	49,224
State revenue office payroll tax refund	-	1,200
Total current receivables	<u>109,157</u>	<u>124,633</u>

Details about the Authority's impairment policies, the Authority's exposure to credit risk, and the calculation of the loss allowance are set out in note 7.1.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

5.2 Payables

	2023	2022
Current Payables		
Contractual	\$	\$
Trade payables	94,373	244,067
Accrued expenses	216,963	204,346
	<u>311,336</u>	<u>448,413</u>
Statutory		
FBT payable	9,219	9,834
PAYG withholding Tax	101,650	60,880
Total current payables	<u>422,205</u>	<u>519,127</u>

5.2.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

	Maturity dates			
	Carrying amount	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months
	\$	\$	\$	\$
2023				
Payables:				
Trade payables	94,373	94,373	-	-
Accrued Expenses	216,963	216,963	-	-
Total	<u>311,336</u>	<u>311,336</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
2022				
Payables:				
Trade payables	244,067	244,067	-	-
Accrued Expenses	204,346	204,346	-	-
Total	<u>448,413</u>	<u>448,413</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

5.3 Contract assets & liabilities

	2023	2022
Contract assets	\$	\$
National Landcare program - funding owed to authority at balance date	543,475	618,792
Total contract assets	<u>543,475</u>	<u>618,792</u>

Contract assets relating to funding owing to authority at balance date

The funding owed to the authority at balance date relates to consideration for work completed but not billed or invoiced as at the reporting date. The contract asset is transferred to receivables when the rights become unconditional and when the authority issues an invoice to the customer.

Contract liabilities relating to contract payments not paid at balance date

Funding received in the reporting period, but the performance obligations are outstanding at balance date.

The amount owed to the authority suppliers at balance date relates to consideration for work completed but not invoiced as at the reporting date. The contract liabilities is transferred to payables when the rights become unconditional and when the authority settles outstanding invoices.

Contract asset reconciliation

The following table shows how much of the revenue recognised in the current reporting period relates to carried-forward contract assets and how much relates to performance obligations that were satisfied in a prior year.

Contract asset reconciliation	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of financial year	618,792	878,770
Amount settled during the current year that was included in the balance at the beginning of the period	(618,792)	(878,770)
Revenue recognised in current year under AAS15 which had not been received as at balance day	543,475	618,792
Balance at end of financial year	<u>543,475</u>	<u>618,792</u>

Contract liability reconciliation	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of financial year	-	-
Payments received for performance obligations yet to be completed during the period.	324,968	-
Balance at end of financial year	<u>324,968</u>	<u>-</u>

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for the year ended 30 June 2023

6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Authority during its operations and other information related to financing activities of the Authority.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments, such as cash balances. Notes 7.1 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

The Authority's only Borrowings was a lease for its office accommodation at 574 Main St Bairnsdale that expired as at 30th June 2023. The Authority still occupies this property under a one year agreement with a second year option.

6.1 Borrowings - Leases

	2023	2022
Current Borrowings	\$	\$
Lease Liabilities (i)	-	296,490
Non Current Borrowings		
Lease Liabilities	-	-
Total Borrowings	-	296,490

(i) Secured by assets leased. Leases liabilities are effectively secured as the right to the lease assets revert to the lessor in the event of default.

6.1.1 Maturity analysis of borrowings

2023	Carrying Amount	Nominal Amount	Less than 1 month	1-3 Months	3 months - 1 year	1-5 years	5+ years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Lease Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2022	Carrying Amount	Nominal Amount	Less than 1 month	1-3 Months	3 months - 1 year	1-5 years	5+ years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Lease Liabilities	296,490	296,490	24,707	49,415	222,368	-	-
Total	296,490	296,490	24,707	49,415	222,368	-	-

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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for the year ended 30 June 2023

6.2 Leases

Significant judgement: Lease Terms.

In determining the lease term, the Authority considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option. The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects this assessment.

The Authority leases 2 properties. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. Rental contracts are typically for fixed periods of between 1 to 5 years, with up to extension options available.

Leases with a contract term of 1 year and a value of less than \$10,000 are either short-term and/or leases of low value and are recognised on a straight-line basis. The Authority has elected not to recognise right-of-use assets and lease liabilities for these leases.

6.2.1(a) Right-of-use assets

Right-of-use assets are presented in note 4.1(a).

6.2.1(b) Amounts recognised in the Comprehensive Operating Statement

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Interest expense	-	15,387
Total interest expense	-	15,387

6.2.1(c) Amounts recognised in the Cashflow Statement

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Total cash outflow for leases	(304,500)	(381,209)
	(304,500)	(381,209)

For any new contracts entered into, the Authority considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the Authority assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations:

- Whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Authority and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- Whether the Authority has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the authority has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- Whether the Authority has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

Lease Liability – initial measurement

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or the Authority's incremental borrowing rate. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable;
- variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

6.2.1(c) Amounts recognised in the Cashflow Statement (cont.)

Lease Liability – subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or profit and loss if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets

The Authority has elected to account for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities

The Authority presents right-of-use assets as 'property plant equipment' unless they meet the definition of investment property, in which case they are disclosed as 'investment property' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'borrowings' in the balance sheet.

6.3 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet:		
Cash on hand	700	700
Cash at bank	-	509,502
Deposits at call	10,941,090	12,677,704
Balance as per cash flow statement	10,941,790	13,187,906

6.3.1 Reconciliation of net result to cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Net result for the period	(2,805,374)	1,322,322
Non-cash movements:		
(Gain)/loss on disposal of non-current assets	(36,951)	(9,972)
Interest for leases	-	15,387
Depreciation and amortisation	481,764	774,770
(Revenue)/Expenditure on Right of Use Building Rent	8,009	(2,466)
	(2,352,552)	2,100,041
Movements in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease in receivables	15,476	18,278
Decrease/(increase) in contract assets	75,317	259,978
(Increase)/decrease in other non-financial assets	41,382	(14,527)
(Decrease)/increase in payables	(96,922)	(415,501)
(Decrease)/Increase in contract liabilities	324,968	-
Increase/(decrease) in employee related provisions	32,586	184,656
Net cash flows from operating activities	(1,959,745)	2,132,925

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

6.4 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

6.4.1 Total commitments payable

	Less than a year \$	1-5 years \$	5+ years \$	Total \$
2022-23				
Other commitments payable	901,226	-	-	901,226
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	901,226	-	-	901,226
2021-22				
Other commitments payable	520,300	487,850	-	1,008,150
Total commitments (inclusive of GST)	520,300	487,850	-	1,008,150

The other commitments payable includes a contract for the provision of Information Technology services for the provision of shared services provided by government partners.

6.5 Carry forward project funding

Catchment Management Authorities are responsible for the facilitation and coordination of catchments in an integrated and sustainable manner. This is achieved by undertaking projects funded by Victorian and Australian Government programs. The Authority received funding for specific projects which are guided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and delivered in line with the Authority's Corporate Plan approved by the Minister for Water.

The projects funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments can be undertaken over multiple financial years and funding is received at various stages of the project life based on contractual agreements. At the end of the financial year there are some projects that have not reached completion but will be completed within the contractual terms in future financial periods. At balance date the Authority has cash and cash equivalents that will be utilised to complete these projects in future financial years.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

7. Risk, Contingencies and Valuations Judgements

Introduction

The Authority is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information, (including exposures to financial risks) as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which for the Authority relate mainly to fair value determination.

7.1 Financial instruments: Specific Disclosures

Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Authority's activities, certain financial assets such as statutory receivables and financial liabilities such as statutory payables arise under statute rather than a contract, and as such, do not meet the definition of financial instruments.

Categories of financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The authority's financial assets are classified at initial recognition and subsequently measured at amortised cost or fair value through profit or loss. The classification of financial asset receivables at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the business model for managing them.

The authority has the following categories of financial instruments:

- Cash and deposits
- Trade and other receivables
- Payables
- Lease liabilities

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The Authority has a low expected loss rate due to majority of funding sourced from State and Federal government, the expected loss rate for the year ending 30 June 2023 has been calculated at 0%, and as such no loss allowance has been recognised.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

7.1.1 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The Authority's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk, foreign currency risk and equity price risk. The Authority manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Authority uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the financial risk management committee of the Authority.

Financial instruments: Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Authority's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Authority. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis.

Credit risk associated with the Authority's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtors are the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments. For debtors other than the Government, the Authority has adopted a policy of only dealing with creditworthy counterparties and obtaining sufficient collateral where appropriate. For cash assets, the Authority's policy is to only deal with banks with high credit-ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies. All cash and deposits were held with the National Australia Bank.

Financial instruments: Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from being unable to meet financial obligations as they fall due. The Authority operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, making payments within 30 days from the date of resolution.

The Authority's exposure to liquidity risk is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. The Authority only borrowings is lease liabilities, and maintains high levels of cash and deposits readily available to meet its financial obligations. The Authority's manages its liquidity risk by maintaining adequate cash reserves and continually monitoring the Authority's expenditure commitments and cash flow needs.

Financial instruments: Market risk

The Authority's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with significant surplus funds held in deposits at call in the Central Banking System. The Authority has no exposure to foreign exchange risk or other price risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Authority is required to invest surplus funds with the State Government Central Banking System (CBS) in compliance with the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (2018 Directions). The floating interest rates provided by the Central Banking System expose the Authority to interest rate risk.

The carrying amounts of financial assets that are exposed to interest rates is Cash Deposits (Refer Note 6.3 Cash Flow Information and balances). 2023 \$10,941,090 (2022 \$12,677,704)

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

The Authority cash and deposits are the only items subject to interest rate risk which is linked to the RBA target cash rate.

Weighted interest rate 2023 4.25% (2022 1.48%)

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

7.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

There were no contingent assets or liabilities in 2023 or 2022

7.3 Fair value determination

Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses the most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the Authority.

The Authority's property, plant and equipment are carried at fair value.

Fair Value Hierarchy

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable, and
- Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Authority determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

7.3.1 Fair value determination: Financial Instruments

The Authority currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts approximate to fair value, due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2023-24 reporting period.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets

Cash and deposits

Receivables:

- Trade receivables

Financial liabilities

Lease liabilities

Payables

- Trade payables
- Accrued expenses

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

7.3.2 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets

Fair value measurement hierarchy

Non-specialised land is the only level 2 non-financial physical assets and all other non-financial physical assets are categorised as level 3. There has been no transfers between levels.

Non-specialised land & non-specialised buildings

Non-specialised land are valued using the market approach. Under this valuation method, the assets are compared to comparable sales and allowing for share, size, topography, location and other relevant factors specific to the asset being valued. From the sales analysed, an appropriate rate per square metre was applied to the subject asset. to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets which are considered to have nominal or no added improvement value, and are classified as Level 2 fair value measurements.

For the Authority's non-specialised buildings, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, non-specialised buildings are classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

Right of Use non-specialised buildings are valued as per the requirements of AASB 16 *Leases*. This is detailed further in note 6.2. Carrying amount has been compared to market indices to ensure value represents fair value.

For non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings (excluding right of use assets), an independent valuation was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) in accordance with FRD 103 to determine the fair value using the market approach. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021. During the current year a managerial revaluation of Buildings resulted in a upward revaluation of \$34,660.

Specialised land

The market approach is also used for specialised land, although is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement, and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible. As adjustments of CSO are considered as significant unobservable inputs in nature, specialised land would be classified as Level 3 assets.

An independent valuation of the Authority's specialised land was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria (VGC) using the market approach adjusted for CSO. The effective date of the valuation was 30 June 2021.

Motor vehicles

Motor vehicles are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. The Authority acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers in the Authority who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the motor vehicles.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

7.3.2 Fair value determination: Non-financial physical assets (cont.)

Plant and equipment, information and technology assets and office furniture and equipment

Plant and equipment, information technology assets and office furniture and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment, information and technology assets or office furniture and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2023.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

Refer to note 4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying values of property, plant and equipment at fair value.

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations at 30 June 2023

	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable inputs
Non-specialised buildings	Current replacement cost	Direct cost per square metre Useful life of non-specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of plant and equipment
Information technology, Office furniture and equipment	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of furniture and equipment
Motor vehicles	Current replacement cost	Cost per unit Useful life of vehicles

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

8. Other disclosures

This section provides additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

8.1 Ex-gratia expenses

Ex gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity or to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

The Authority had no ex-gratia expenses for the year ending 30 June 2023 (2022: \$0).

8.2 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows measure the change in volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Net gain on disposal of non-financial assets		
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	78,961	26,648
Less written down value	(42,010)	(16,676)
Net gain on disposal of non-financial assets	36,951	9,972

8.3 Reserves

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Asset revaluation reserve:(i)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	1,221,453	1,221,453
Revaluation increments	34,660	-
Balance at end of financial year	1,256,113	1,221,453

(i) The assets revaluation reserve arises on the revaluation of land and buildings.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

8.4 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

The names of the persons who were responsible persons of the Authority at any time during the financial year were:

The Hon. Harriet Shing, MP	Minister for Water	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio	Minister for Environment and Climate Action	01 Jul 2022 to 4 Dec 2022
The Hon. Ingrid Stitt	Minister for Environment	05 Dec 2022 to 30 June 2023
Ewan Waller	Chairperson	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
Graeme Dear	CEO	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
Kate Commins	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
Glenys Watts	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
Claire Miller	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
Francis MacLennan	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
Merrilyn Woodhouse	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
Courtney Mraz	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023
Stephen Angus	(Board Member)	01 Jul 2022 to 30 June 2023

Remuneration

Income band	2023	2022
\$0–\$9,999	0	1
\$10,000–\$19,999	7	7
\$20,000–\$29,999	1	1
\$210,000–\$219,999	0	0
\$310,000–\$399,999	1	1
Total Number of Responsible Persons	9	10
Total Remuneration \$	468,590	458,252

The compensation detailed above excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receive. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within State's Annual Financial Report.

8.5 Remuneration of executive officers

The East Gippsland CMA did not have any executive officers, other than the CEO, to whom the Victorian Government's Public Entity Executive Remuneration (PEER) Policy applies. The CEO is an accountable officer and therefore disclosed under Note 8.4 and Note 8.6.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

8.6 Related parties

The Authority is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria. Related parties of the Authority include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

Significant transactions with related entities

EGCMA is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the state of Victoria. During the 2023 financial year, the Authority received significant funding from the following government-related entities:

Entity	Nature of Transaction	Funding received	
		2023 \$	2022 \$
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (formally Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP))	Service Level Agreements	8,917,412	9,142,146
Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners Land Management Board	Service Level Agreement	422,556	482,356

As at the balance date the following amounts were owed government related entities to the authority:

Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners Land Management Board	Service Level Agreement	20,415	23,519
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The funding received was government contributions for specific activities undertaken by the Authority in the ordinary course of its business.

During the year, the Authority made significant payments to the following government related entities:

Entity		Payments made	
		2023 \$	2022 \$
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (formally Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP))	Service Supply Agreement	342,460	992,954
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) (formerly Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions)	Service Supply Agreement	-	114,768
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority	Service Supply Agreement	803,563	524,506
Trust for Nature (Victoria)	Service Supply Agreement	323,131	52,322
Parks Victoria	Service Supply Agreement	395,000	425,480
East Gippsland Landcare Group	Service Supply Agreement	284,510	140,248
Greening Australia Victoria	Service Supply Agreement	405,000	50,000
Far East Victoria Landcare Inc	Service Supply Agreement	317,129	246,280

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

8.6 Related parties (cont.)

Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the Authority includes all Responsible persons as listed in Note 8.4, and all members of the senior executive team.

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers receive. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Other long-term benefits include long service leave, other long-service benefit or deferred compensation.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Compensation of KMPs		
Short-term employee benefits	1,073,379	921,844
Post-employment benefits	98,991	36,479
Other long-term benefits	21,144	9,217
Total	1,193,514	967,540

Transactions with key management personnel and other related parties.

During the year Graeme Dear (CEO) was a Deputy Chairman and Director of the Victorian Fisheries Association (VFA) who had no involvement in grant application discussions or decisions. In 2023 the Authority received \$100,000 in grants through an open tender process. (2022: \$100,000).

Amber Clarke were Senior Executive Officer of the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority for a specified period during the financial year. Amber Clarke was on secondment from her position at Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) as Director Waterways Programs.

Amber had no involvement in any decisions relating to the allocation of grant funds to the Authority or payment of Authority funds to DEECA.

There were no other related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests.

No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

8.7 Remuneration of auditors

Audit fees paid or payable to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of the Authority's financial report:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office for audit of financial statements	18,500	18,000
Total remuneration of auditors	18,500	18,000

8.8 Subsequent events

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the reporting period which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the authority, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the authority in future financial years.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

8.9 Change in accounting policies

8.9.1 Initial Application of the International Finance Reporting Standards Interpretations Committee (IFRS) Agenda Decisions

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements

The International Finance Reporting Standards Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) has issued two final agenda decisions which impact SaaS arrangements:

- Customer's right to receive access to the supplier's software hosted on the cloud (March 2019) – this decision considers whether a customer receives a software asset at the contract commencement date or a service over the contract term.
- whether configuration or customisation expenditure relating to SaaS arrangements can be recognised as an intangible asset and if not, over what time period the expenditure is expensed.

The Authority has changed its accounting policies in 2021-22 after completing a full analysis of the Authority's previous capitalised software in response to the IFRIC decision released in March 2021.

The Authority's new accounting policy now considers where the software code resides, whether it is identifiable, and whether the Authority has the power to both obtain economic benefits from the software and restrict others to those benefits. Configuration or customisation costs that do not qualify for recognition as an intangible asset are further assessed as to the appropriate timing of expense recognition, using the following criteria:

- Where the configuration or customisation is considered a distinct (i.e. separately identifiable) service from the subsequent access to the cloud software, the costs are expensed when the configuration or customisation services are received. This is typically the case when the vendor providing the services is different from the vendor providing access to the software.
- Where the configuration or customisation is not a distinct service from the Authority's right to access the software, the costs are expensed over the period of access on a straight-line basis. A prepayment asset is recognised when the payment is made upfront. This is usually the case when the same vendor is providing both the configuration or customisation services and the access to the cloud software.

Any software that qualifies as an intangible asset is recognised and accounted for in accordance with the Authority's existing accounting policies on software assets in Note 4.2, which have not changed.

The Authority's accounting policy has historically been to capitalise all costs related to SaaS arrangements as intangible assets in the Balance Sheet. The adoption of the above agenda decisions has resulted in the remaining value of intangible assets relating to the new financial system being fully depreciated and disposed during 2021-22.

For the prior year, the intangible assets deemed not to be an asset under this ruling, have been fully depreciated (\$330,468) and appears in the operating statement as amortisation. (Refer to note 4.1.1 Depreciation Amortisation of Intangible assets)

Impact of Change in Accounting Policy

For the prior year, Intangible assets deemed not to be an asset under this ruling, have been fully depreciated (\$330,468) and appears in the operating statement as amortisation. (Refer to note 4.1.1 Depreciation Amortisation of Intangible assets)

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2023

8.10 Economic dependency

The Authority is dependant on the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for the majority of its revenue used to operate the entity. At the date of this report, the Board of Directors has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support the authority.

8.11 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2022-23 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to the Financial Statements. The Authority is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which includes:

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.

AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement by adding authoritative implementation guidance and illustrative examples for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows.

Among other things, the Standard:

- specifies that an entity needs to consider whether an asset's highest and best use differs from its current use only when it is held for sale or held for distributions to owners under AASB 5 Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations or if it is highly probable that it will be used for an alternative purpose
- clarifies that an asset's use is 'financially feasible' if market participants would be willing to invest in the asset's service capacity, considering both the capacity to provide needed goods or services and the resulting costs of those goods and services;
- specifies that if both market selling price and some market participant data required to fair value the asset are not observable, an entity needs to start with its own assumptions and adjust them to the extent that reasonably available information indicates that other market participants would use different data; and
- provides guidance on the application of the cost approach to fair value, including the nature of costs to be included in a reference asset and identification of economic obsolescence.

Other Amending Standards

Several other amending standards and AASB interpretations have been issued that apply to future reporting periods, but are considered to have limited impact on the Authority's reporting.

EAST GIPPSLAND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY


Declaration in the Financial Statements

The attached financial statements for the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2023 and financial position of the Authority at 30 June 2023.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 23 October 2023.



Ewan Waller
Chairperson



Rebecca Hemming
CEO and Accountable Officer



Daryl Cooper
Chief Finance & Accounting Officer

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APPENDIX 2 – List of used Acronyms/Abbreviations

ARI	Arthur Rylah Institute
BAU	Business as Usual
CaLP Act	<i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i>
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CMAs	Catchment Management Authorities
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DIP	<i>Diversity and Inclusion Plan 2017</i>
EC4	Fourth Environmental Contributions Levy
EC5	Fifth Environmental Contributions Levy (State Government funding)
EGCMA	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
EGWS 2014-2022	East Gippsland Waterway Strategy
FCPA	Fellow of Certified Practicing Accountant
FMA	<i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>
FOI	Freedom of Information
FOI ACT	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>
GEA	Gippsland Environment Agencies
GEA WLT	Gippsland Environment Agencies – Women Leadership Team
GKTOLMB	Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board
GLaWAC	Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation
GLCC	Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee
Ha or ha	Hectare
IBAC	Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission
ICM	Integrated Catchment Management
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IWM	Integrated Water Management
Km	Kilometre
Moogji	Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland Inc.
MPSG	Major Project Skills Guarantee
NABERS	National Australian Built Environment Rating System
No.	Number
Non BAU	Non-Business as Usual
NLP	National Landcare Program
NRM	Natural Resource Management
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
PA Act	<i>Public Administration Act 2004</i>

PEER	Public Entity Executive Remuneration Policy
PID Act	<i>Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012</i>
PV	Parks Victoria
RAP	Registered Aboriginal Party
RCS	Regional Catchment Strategy
RRAP	Regional Riparian Action Plan
RSA	Recognition and Settlement Agreement
SWS	Sustainable Water Strategy
SPF	Social Procurement Framework
The Authority	East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority
VFA	Victorian Fisheries Authority
VIPP	Victorian Industry Participation Policy
VLP	Victorian Landcare Program
VWPIF	Victorian Water Program Investment Framework
Water Act	<i>Water Act 1989</i>
WGCMA	<i>West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority</i>