

Gippsland Lakes



Priorities Plan 2025-2028

FINAL (November 2025)

Contents

1 Introduction 3

1.1 Context 3

1.2 Objectives 3

1.3 Gippsland Lakes Program Area 3

1.4 Development of the Priorities Plan 5

2 Priority strategies and actions 5

3 Principles for project development 7

4 Governance 8

5 References 9

Appendix A: Cross reference of priorities from strategies and plans 10

Appendix B: Gippsland Lakes Program Governance 16

Prepared by the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority November 2025

Citation: GLCC (2025) Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan 2025-2028.

Front cover photo: Crescent Island, Gippsland Lakes (2022)

1 Introduction

1.1 Context

The Gippsland Lakes is a large wetland complex located approximately 300 kilometres east of Melbourne. The site is highly valued for its ecological, social, economic, and cultural values. A large portion of the Gippsland Lakes extending from Sale Common in the west to Lake Tyers, is listed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, especially as waterfowl habitat. Listing a wetland as a Ramsar site carries with it certain obligations, including managing the site to maintain its 'ecological character'. Consistent with these international and national obligations, the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Management Plan (GLRSMP) was updated in 2024 and defines the priority strategies for management of the Ramsar site. The management of the Gippsland Lakes, however, is complex, with many other management plans and strategies in place to meet specific objectives in parts of the site. This document brings together the key actions and strategies, across multiple plans, for the Gippsland Lakes into a set of consolidated priorities that will guide the design and implementation of projects to be delivered through the Gippsland Lakes Program for 2024-2028.

The importance of the Gippsland Lakes has seen it receive significant investment. Since 2016 the Victorian government invested \$20 million to protect and improve the ecological and community values supported by the Lakes and appointed the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee (GLCC) to make recommendations to the Minister on specific funding priorities. The GLCC together with delivery managers developed the first Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan in 2016 to guide their decision making and provide a clear and transparent approach for making recommendations for funding of projects to be delivered.

In 2024 the Victorian government has committed another \$6 million over 4 years to implement projects to improve the health of the Gippsland Lakes. The GLCC will continue to fulfill their role over this next funding cycle and provide recommendations on priority projects for the Lakes.

1.2 Objectives

The objectives of the GLCC (with respect to this priorities plan) are:

- To maintain or improve the health of the Gippsland Lakes now and for the future
- To foster cooperation and coordination between agencies and organisations with an interest in the health of the Gippsland Lakes
- To promote awareness of and participation by communities in the management of the Gippsland Lakes.
- To maximise outcomes for the Gippsland Lakes through leveraging investments.
- To empower Traditional Owners through joint management and self-determination, supporting capacity building and involvement in management of the Gippsland Lakes.

1.3 Gippsland Lakes Program Area

The Gippsland Lakes Program involves the collaboration of many partners who deliver works over a large program area (see **Figure 1**). The program area includes the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site and areas such as the main lakes, fringing wetlands, outer barrier, aquatic ecosystems, adjoining private and public land, and priority waterways and wetlands within the immediate catchment of the lakes.

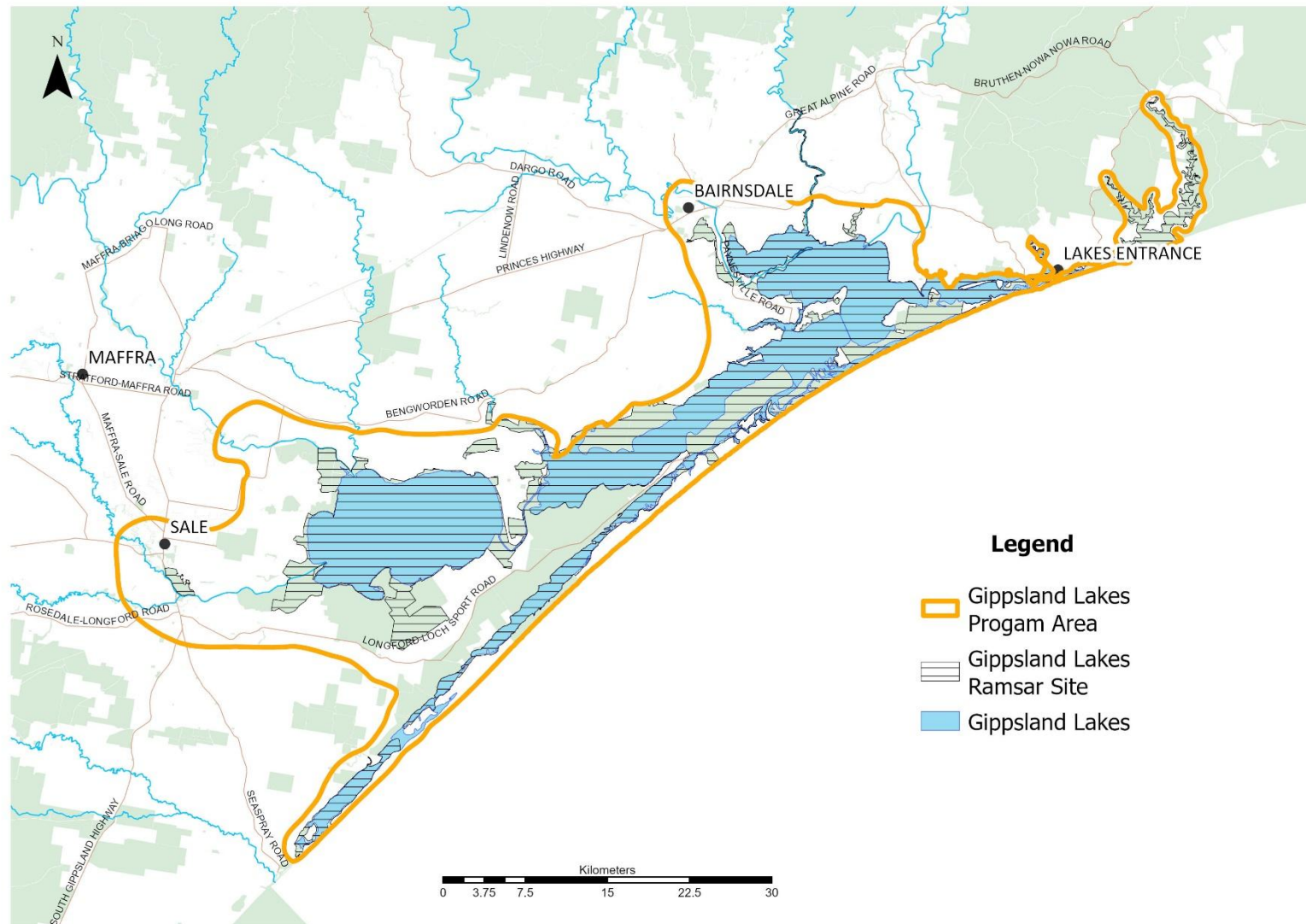


Figure 1: Gippsland Lakes Program Area

1.4 Development of the Priorities Plan

Management of the Gippsland Lakes is complex, involving multiple management plans and strategies, different land managers and agencies working together to achieve positive outcomes for the environment, community and business. The Gippsland Lakes Priorities Plan is guided by a small number of current, endorsed, and relevant strategies:

- Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Management Plan (GLRSMP) (East Gippsland CMA 2024)
- East and West Gippsland Waterway Strategies (East Gippsland CMA 2014; West Gippsland CMA 2014)
- East and West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategies (East Gippsland CMA 2022, West Gippsland CMA 2022)
- Parks Victoria/Traditional Owners Management Board Joint Management Plan (Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board 2018)
- Gunaikurnai Whole of County Plan (Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation 2015)
- Biodiversity Response Planning for the Gippsland Lakes Landscape (DELWP 2021).

These plans were reviewed and key strategies or actions identified within them, that were relevant for the Gippsland Lakes, were collated and consolidated into a set of 23 priorities (see Table 1). The priorities guide the development of projects within the Gippsland Lakes Program for 2024-28.

2 Priority strategies and actions

Since the previous version of this Priorities Plan (2021-2024), there has been an update to the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Management Plan (2024) which is a key document that identified priorities for this plan. Additionally updates to the East and West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategies and the release of several new strategic plans that detail key actions or direction for the Gippsland Lakes has occurred. All relevant plans have all been reviewed and similar actions/strategies identified to enable consolidation of a list of 23 priority management actions for the Gippsland Lakes (**Table 1** and **Appendix 1**).

Table 1: Gippsland Lakes Program Priority strategies and actions.

#	List of Priority actions (<i>note this is not a ranked or priority order</i>)
1	Monitor, control and regulate off-road vehicle use at priority locations within the Ramsar site.
2	Implement mitigation and adaptation strategies and actions to address the identified risks to ecological character of the Gippsland Lakes from climate change.
3	Implement measures to improve public awareness to reduce disturbance to migratory waders and nesting birds
4	Understand potential impact of recreational fishing on native fish abundance and diversity. Improve structural fish habitat in estuarine habitats of the Gippsland Lakes.
5	Continue to monitor the persistence of freshwater dependent threatened species in the Gippsland Lakes. Where necessary identify and implement mitigation actions to assist in climate adaptation of these species.
6	Maintain and where necessary improve hydrological connectivity between wetlands and freshwater inflows to the Gippsland Lakes for fish migration and breeding.
7	Control introduced predators at priority locations for waterbird breeding and migratory wader refuges within the Ramsar site.
8	Update the Gippsland Lakes pest plant and animal strategy and implement priority actions from the revised plan.
9	Collaborate with partner agencies to manage the risk of and early detection of marine pest incursions in the Gippsland Lakes.
10	Continue to reduce nutrient and sediment loads to the Gippsland Lakes through riparian, in-stream and catchment works to improve water quality of river flows to the Gippsland Lakes.
11	Increase areas under permanent protection and implement actions to maintain and improve wetland habitat and habitat corridors.
12	Protect and where necessary, enhance, shorebird and beach nesting bird habitat in priority locations, including those predicted to be impacted by sea level rise and other climate change effects.
13	Collaborate with responsible agencies in management of new of avian diseases by identifying high risk locations, species and risks to ecological character of the Gippsland Lakes.
14	Undertake actions that support the protection and enhancement of seagrass meadows in the Gippsland Lakes.
15	Support Traditional Owners' aspirations for and participation in land, water and biodiversity management of the Gippsland Lakes.
16	Identify and implement priority actions to protect culturally significant species.
17	Implement actions that address risks to cultural heritage from sea level rise and shoreline erosion around the Gippsland Lakes.
18	Implement actions that facilitate traditional owner joint management, self-determination and involvement in decision making.
19	Implementation of actions that contribute to the management of water and salt regimes in priority fringing wetlands, to support delivery of environmental water to Lower Latrobe Wetlands.
20	Implement the priority identified options within relevant supporting strategies for improving the ecological condition of the fringing wetlands of Lake Wellington.
21	Work with responsible fire management agencies to reduce the potential impacts of high intensity fire (planned burns or wildfire) on water quality entering the Gippsland Lakes.
22	Improve understanding and support investigations into the management options for emerging toxicants and chemicals that are a potential risk to the ecological character of the Gippsland Lakes.
23	Support investigations into the risk factors for activation of acid sulfate soils within the Ramsar site and potential impacts.

3 Principles for project development

The priority actions and strategies (**Table 1**) are largely high level and multiple projects could be developed to address each. A collaborative, co-design process will be implemented to identify projects that will improve the health of the Gippsland Lakes and meet the GLCC objectives. The following principles will guide the development process.

1. The project directly addresses a priority action – projects need to have a clear link to one or more of the priorities in **Table 2** and clearly state the location/s that will be targeted for implementation.

2. The project will lead to measurable outcomes for the health of the Gippsland Lakes – priority will be afforded to projects that have a high degree of certainty with respect to improving the health of the Gippsland Lakes. That is, there is a clear body of evidence based on past experience in the Lakes or elsewhere that the actions to be implemented are likely to result in a measurable improvement in the health of the Gippsland Lakes and contribute to maintaining or improving ecological character.

3. The project is aligned with the interests of Traditional Owners – all projects need to demonstrate that they are consistent with the principles and objectives of traditional owners as represented by the Whole of Country and Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Management Plan. Project should support capacity building, self-determination and opportunities for involvement of Traditional Owners in the management of the Lakes.

4. The project has a well-defined budget linked to clear deliverables and outcomes – all projects need to document costs and provide a set of measurable and auditable set of outcome targets that will be achieved by the end of the project.

5. The project represents good value with respect to cost and risk – projects need to demonstrate that the costs are commensurate with the expected outcomes and that good value for money is achieved. The project planning needs to also explicitly identify risks from project implementation (to ecological values and human health) and have cost effective mechanisms in place to minimise negative impacts.

6. The opportunities for leveraging from other funds and projects are identified – efforts will be made to ensure that projects are working effectively and collaboratively with the activities of other programs (or within the Gippsland Lakes Program) and that all opportunities to leverage investment from other sources are identified and effected.

7. Collaboration with agencies and partners is fundamental to project design and implementation – the GLCC is committed to adopting a co-design process where agencies and partners are working together through design, implementation and evaluation phases of each project.

8. Adaptative management through implementing MERI principles – monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) underpins the adaptive management cycle. All projects will demonstrate how evaluation will underpin learning and improvement.

4 Governance

The Gippsland Lakes Program (2024-2028) will be overseen by the Gippsland Lakes Coordinating Committee (GLCC) supported by delivery managers. Note the first year of the program July 2024- June 2025 was dedicated to planning with on ground works scheduled to occur from July 2025 to June 2028. The governance arrangements are documented in the Gippsland Lakes Project Governance and Reporting Framework (and a diagram is provided in **Appendix B**). The key stages involved in development of the Program are illustrated in **Figure 2**. Similar to previous programs, a collaborative approach will be adopted where agencies and partners have the opportunity to work together to identify and develop projects to address the priorities detailed in **Appendix 1**.

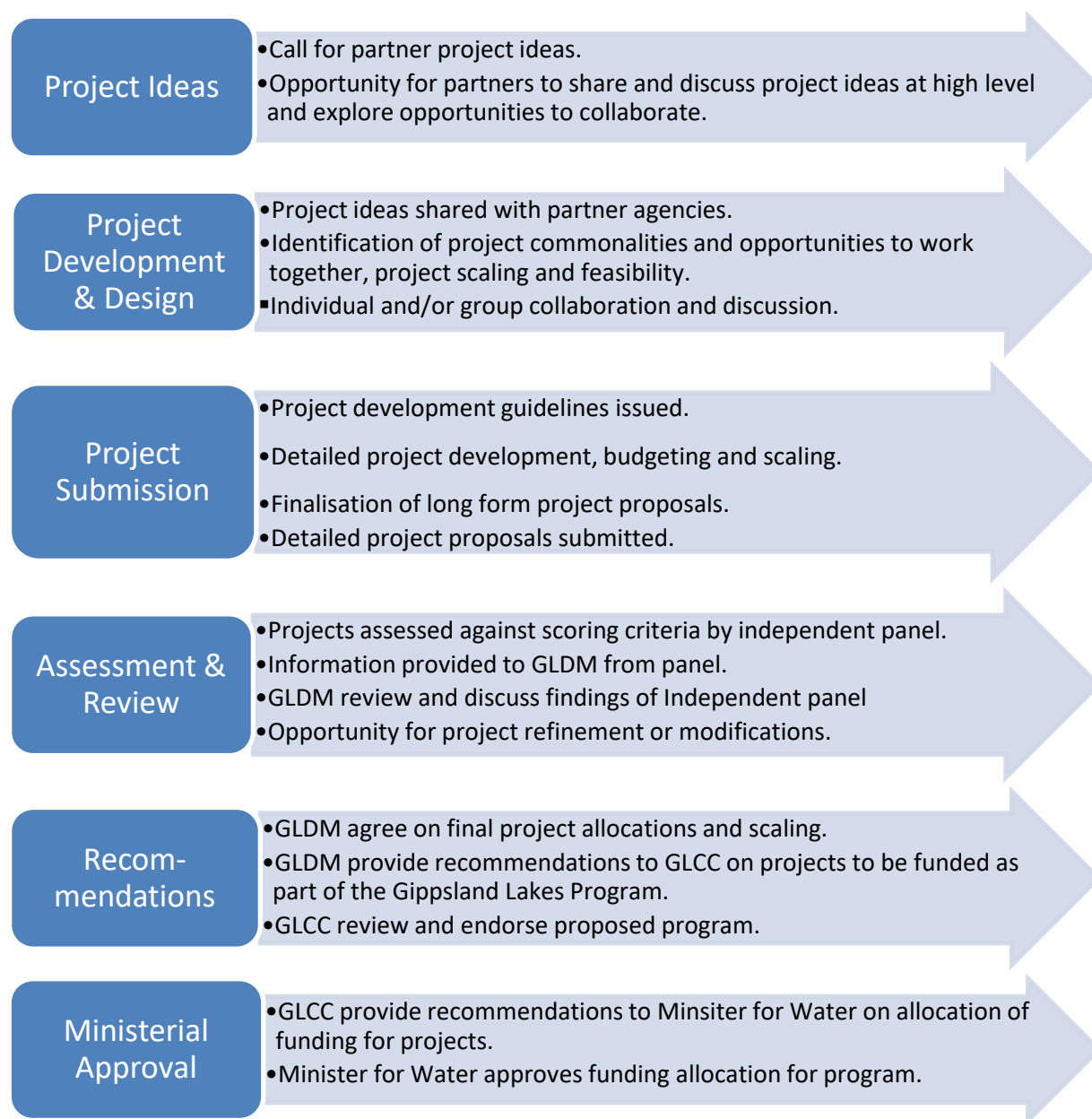


Figure 2: Process for proposals, assessment and allocation of funding for program.

5 References

- DEECA, 2022. Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy. State of Victoria.
- DELWP. 2021. Biodiversity Response Planning Landscape - Gippsland Lakes - 27. State of Victoria.
- East Gippsland CMA. 2014. East Gippsland Waterway Strategy. EGCMA, Bairnsdale Victoria.
- East Gippsland CMA. 2024. Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Management Plan. East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Bairnsdale, Victoria.
- EGCMA 2022, Regional Catchment Strategy, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Bairnsdale, Victoria.
- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation. 2015. Whole of Country Plan. Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Bairnsdale, Victoria.
- Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board. 2018. Gunaikurnai and Victorian Government Joint Management Plan. The Lakes National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park – Tatungalong Country. Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board, Bairnsdale, Victoria.
- GLaWAC. 2023 Strategic Plan 2023-2033. Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation.
- GLaWAC 2024 Pathways to Partnerships Gunaikurnai and Major Projects, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation.
- West Gippsland CMA. 2014. West Gippsland Regional Waterway Strategy 2014-2022. State of Victoria.
- WGCMA 2022, Regional Catchment Strategy, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Traralgon, Victoria.

Appendix A: Cross reference of priorities from strategies and plans

Priority action / strategy (from GLPP)	Informing plan / strategy	Links
Monitor, control and regulate off-road vehicle use at priority locations within the Ramsar site.	Joint Management	Restrict access to vehicles where erosion occurs, ensure tracks have adequate drainage, and rehabilitate high use areas as required (Gippsland Lakes Reserve)
	GLRSMP	1G. Control illegal recreational activities to minimise / prevent physical damage to habitats in priority areas.
	EG RCS	Control domestic stock and recreational vehicle access in saltmarsh communities around the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site.
Support investigations into the risk factors for activation of acid sulfate soils within the Ramsar site and potential impacts.	GLRSMP	6H. Understand the risks of activating Acid Sulfate Soils that may impact on the ecological character of the Gippsland Lakes.
Implement mitigation and adaptation strategies and actions to address the identified risks to ecological character from climate change.	GLRSMP	1D. Identify and implement opportunities for improving and enhancing habitat connectivity and adaptation in response to the impacts of climate change within the Ramsar site and adjacent priority areas.
Implement measures to improve public awareness to reduce disturbance to migratory waders and nesting birds	GLRSMP	2B. Develop and implement measures to improve public awareness to reduce disturbance to migratory waders and nesting birds
Understand potential impact of recreational fishing on native fish abundance and diversity.	GLRSMP	Knowledge gap 5
	EG RCS	Diversity of fish is maintained in Lakes Victoria and King.
Continue to monitor the persistence of freshwater dependent threatened species in the Gippsland Lakes. Where necessary identify and implement mitigation actions to assist in climate adaptation of these species.	GLRSMP	1D. Identify and implement opportunities for improving and enhancing habitat connectivity and adaptation in response to the impacts of climate change within the Ramsar site and adjacent priority areas.
Maintain and where necessary improve hydrological connectivity between wetlands and freshwater inflows to the Gippsland Lakes for fish migration and breeding.	Biodiversity Response Planning	Restoration of natural flow regimes and aquatic habitats for priority waterways and wetlands.
	GLRSMP	1D. Identify and implement opportunities for improving and enhancing habitat connectivity and adaptation in response to the impacts of climate change within the Ramsar site and adjacent priority areas.
	WG Waterway Strategy	Undertake assessment of wetland watering infrastructure requirements (Heart Morass and Dowd Morass).
	WG Waterway Strategy	Prepare annual Seasonal Watering Proposal (Lower Latrobe Wetlands)
	WG Waterway Strategy	Deliver environmental water in line with Seasonal Watering Statements (Lower Latrobe Wetlands)
	WG Waterway Strategy	Install waterway structure (flow regulators) at Sale Common, Dowd Morass and Heart Morass
	WG Waterway Strategy	Construct earthworks (modification of barriers/spillways) to control wetland water regime at Dowd Morass and Heart Morass
	WG Waterway Strategy	Undertake investigation to inform Environmental Water Management Plan (review of flows studies and system operations) (Lower Latrobe Wetlands)
	WG Waterway Strategy	Develop and implement Environmental Water Management Plan for the Lower Latrobe Wetlands
	WG Waterway Strategy	Develop and implement Environmental Water monitoring program (vegetation, fish, fauna water quality)

Priority action / strategy (from GLPP)	Informing plan / strategy	Links
	WG Waterway Strategy	Support efforts to improve fish passage in the Thomson River (Horseshoe Bend) for instream connectivity for threatened native (Australian grayling) and recreational fish species.
Control introduced predators at priority locations for waterbird breeding and migratory wader refuges within the Ramsar site.	Biodiversity Response Planning	Predator control (particularly in fringing wetlands and along the outer barrier).
	GLRSMP	2A. Control of introduced predators in priority bird areas
Update the Gippsland Lakes pest plant and animal strategy and implement priority actions from the revised plan.	GLRSMP	2D. Control of non-native grazing animals (deer, goats) and pigs
	GLRSMP	1E. Implement actions to control giant rush in Sale Common as required.
	GLRSMP	6C. Investigate, and where feasible and cost effective, implement actions that enable and facilitate effective management of carp in fringing wetlands.
	Biodiversity Response Planning	Large herbivore control (particularly deer) in fringing wetlands
	Joint Management	Work East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to protect reserve values from weed invasion through control of pest plants and animals consistent with the East Gippsland Invasive Plants and Animals Plan with a focus on new and emerging threats such as Bridal Creeper (Gippsland Lakes Reserve; The Lakes National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park)
	GLRSMP	1F. Update the Gippsland Lakes Invasive Species Strategy and implement priority actions.
	Joint Management	Control predators. Control pigs and deer, and invasive plants.
	Joint Management	Manage weeds, fire and public access on park boundaries to minimise impacts on biodiversity values within the parks (Gippsland Lakes Reserve; The Lakes National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park).
	WG Waterway Strategy	Establish weed control - stem poisoning / spraying of willow (Lower Latrobe Wetlands and the Thomson and Latrobe estuary)
	WG Waterway Strategy	Establish weed control - mechanical removal of willow (Lower Latrobe Wetlands and the Thomson and Latrobe estuary)
	WG Waterway Strategy	Establish weed control - non woody (Lower Latrobe Wetlands and the Thomson and Latrobe estuary)
	WG Waterway Strategy	Establish woody weed control (Lower Latrobe Wetlands and the Thomson and Latrobe estuary)
	WG Waterway Strategy	Maintain control of weeds in past works (Lower Latrobe Wetlands and the Thomson and Latrobe estuary)
	GLRSMP	6F. Investigate the severity and extent of impact deer and other introduced herbivores are having on waterbird nest sites and sensitive wetland environments such as coastal saltmarsh.
Collaborate with partner agencies to manage the risk of and early detection of marine pest incursions in the Gippsland Lakes.	EG RCS	No new sustained marine pest infestations in the Gippsland Lakes have occurred
	GLRSMP	6E. Develop a response plan for identifying and managing risks to ecological character from introduced marine pests.
	GLRSMP	Knowledge gap no. 4.

Priority action / strategy (from GLPP)	Informing plan / strategy	Links
	EG RCS	Work with Agriculture Victoria, DELWP, Parks Victoria and other partners to prioritise and manage invasive marine pests in the Gippsland Lakes
Continue to reduce nutrient and sediment loads to the Gippsland Lakes through riparian, in-stream and catchment works to improve water quality of river flows to the Gippsland Lakes.	Biodiversity Response Planning	Management of sediment and nutrient inflows.
	GLRSMP	3A. Reduce nutrient and sediment loads to the Gippsland Lakes through riparian, in-stream and catchment works to improve water quality of river flows to the Gippsland Lakes.
	EG RCS	Management of salinity, nutrients and sediments
	WGCMA RCS	Reduce the amount of nutrients and sediments entering coastal and marine environments from the catchment
Increase areas under permanent protection and implement actions to maintain and improve wetland habitat and habitat corridors.	Biodiversity Response Planning	Permanent protection and domestic stock control around fringing wetlands and lower estuaries
	WG Waterway Strategy	Establish riparian management agreements with landholders (Lower Latrobe Wetlands and the Thomson and Latrobe estuary).
	EG RCS	Extent of coastal saltmarsh in the Gippsland Lakes will be maintained at the average area recorded for 2005–2019 (1150 ha), enhanced by increased areas of permanent protection and improved land management.
	EG RCS	Increased areas of permanent protection in saltmarsh communities
	WGCMA RCS	Protect and improve biodiversity including through permanent protection and targeted actions to reduce threats
	WGCMA RCS	Increase the area of coastal saltmarsh that is protected or managed.
	WGCMA RCS	Increase the area of wetlands protected or managed*
	EG RCS	The extent of saltmarsh and swamp scrub communities is maintained, and condition of poor and fair saltmarsh communities is improved.
Protect and where necessary, enhance, shorebird and beach nesting bird habitat in priority locations, including those predicted to be impacted by sea level rise and other climate change effects.	EG RCS	Diversity and abundance of waterbirds are maintained at priority locations around the Lakes.
	Joint Management	Undertake stabilisation and restoration of marsh and dune areas affected by erosion, and renourish islands critical to water bird habitat as required
	GLRSMP	1B. Continue to implement island renourishment for beach nesting birds. 1C. Protect, restore and enhance breeding and foraging habitat for beach nesting birds.
Undertake actions that support the protection and enhancement of seagrass meadows in the Gippsland Lakes.	EG RCS	Extent and condition (density) of seagrass is maintained.
	GLRSMP	1A. Implement actions within the Gippsland Lakes to protect and restore seagrass beds.
Support Traditional Owners' aspirations for and participation in land, water and biodiversity management of the Gippsland Lakes.	WGCMA RCS	Support Traditional Owners' aspirations for and participation in land, water and biodiversity management
	GLRSMP	5C: Align and implement priorities in GLaWAC Healthy Water Plan (in preparation) relevant for the Gippsland Lakes and its catchment, including priorities and

Priority action / strategy (from GLPP)	Informing plan / strategy	Links
		outcomes from the ongoing Nanjet to Mallacoota Sea Country Indigenous Protection Area project.
	GLRSMP	5D: Support the continued research and collection of information across the Gippsland Lakes Cultural landscape. Explore opportunities for 'two way' data and information sharing (where culturally appropriate) to help protect and restore sites and places important to Gunaikurnai.
	GLRSMP	5E: Prioritise and align management actions (through other themes in the GLRSMP) to restore the Gippsland Lakes cultural landscape, including the protecting and enhancement of culturally significant species.
	Joint Management	Control predators. Control pigs and deer, and invasive plants.
	Whole of Country Plan	Ensure Gunaikurnai are included in the assessment and approval of research applications in the area in accordance with the Aboriginal Heritage Act.
	Joint Management	Manage weeds, fire and public access on park boundaries to minimise impacts on biodiversity values within the parks (Gippsland Lakes Reserve; The Lakes National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park).
	WGCMA RCS	The number of formal partnerships agreements between Traditional Owners and NRM agencies has increased
	WGCMA RCS	The number of projects/programs that incorporate and deliver on Traditional Owner objectives for Country and priorities in Country plans has increased
	Whole of Country Plan Joint Management Plan	Undertake mapping and surveying to find our sites and document our songlines JMP - GK cultural knowledge and values embedded into joint management practices.
	Joint Management	Work with DELWP Forest Fire Management to ensure adequate risk reduction on surrounding areas using burning and other measures. Exclude fire in EVCs that are fire sensitive. Prevent fires starting inside the parks through visitor education and regulatory enforcement.
	Joint Management	Work East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority to protect reserve values from weed invasion through control of pest plants and animals consistent with the East Gippsland Invasive Plants and Animals Plan with a focus on new and emerging threats such as Bridal Creeper (Gippsland Lakes Reserve; The Lakes National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park)
Identify and implement priority actions to protect culturally significant species.	Joint Management	Culturally important plants and animals - Obtain knowledge through Joint Management Plan Strategic Initiatives
	Whole of Country Plan	Seek to rename places in the park using traditional Gunaikurnai names through the Naming Rules of the Office of Geographic Names.
Implement actions that address risks to cultural heritage from sea level rise and shoreline erosion around the Gippsland Lakes.	Joint Management	Complete the current GKTOLMB cultural mapping project for the ten Joint Managed Parks and Reserves. Determine required management actions including implementation of a Cultural Values Overlay. Undertake protection and rehabilitation works on sites known to be at risk of damage.
	Joint Management	Undertake environmental projects and engage with partners to address soil erosion and to rehabilitate areas of significance (Gippsland Lakes Reserve; The Lakes National Park and Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park).
	Joint Management	Undertake stabilisation and restoration of marsh and dune areas affected by erosion, and renourish islands critical to water bird habitat as required

Priority action / strategy (from GLPP)	Informing plan / strategy	Links
Implement actions that facilitate traditional owner joint management, self-determination and involvement in decision making.	GLRSMP	5A: Continue to support the Gunaikurnai (through GLaWAC) to heal Gippsland Lakes Country through self-determined opportunities, including the implementation of spiritual and cultural practice. Prioritise partnership with GLaWAC to develop and implement a Cultural Landscapes program for the Gippsland Lakes.
	GLRSMP	5B: Actively involve Gunaikurnai in decision making and governance structures around the Gippsland Lakes Ramsar site, including self-determined opportunities for experience and skills development in Ramsar site management and governance.
	Whole of Country Plan	Create opportunities for greater Gunaikurnai connection through visiting the parks, and undertaking community cultural activities, including partnering with tour operators, and development of Point Wilson as a hub of cultural information and activity for the community and visitors.
	Whole of Country Plan	Establish a strong basis for Gunaikurnai to engage with and influence policy and planning, and for government agencies to better incorporate Gunaikurnai values and knowledge into NRM plans and policies
	Whole of Country Plan	Implement relevant entitlements or obligations under the Native Title Act 1993, and any future Land Use Activity Agreement that is established under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010, relating to Gunaikurnai rights to negotiate long-term and high-impact leases and comment on lower impact authorisations in the parks
	EG RCS	Provide support to Traditional Owners to realise the goals of the Joint Management Plans, including enabling a self-determination to priority setting, project involvement and project delivery more broadly across
	Joint Management	Restrict access to vehicles where erosion occurs, ensure tracks have adequate drainage, and rehabilitate high use areas as required (Gippsland Lakes Reserve)
	Whole of Country Plan	Through joint management planning: -- identify where it makes cultural and environmental sense to change park boundaries -- secure an increase in the number of Gunaikurnai Ranger positions to better manage the breadth of Aboriginal Title Lands. -- build capacity and evidence for the next phase of handbacks of Aboriginal Title land -- consider opportunities for large scale wildlife and cultural corridors across Gunaikurnai Country and use this to secure additional funding for joint management.
	WGCMA RCS	Understanding of cultural landscapes has improved supported by the development/renewal of Country Plans
	Whole of Country Plan, Partnership Plan, Strategic Plan	Work with government and other businesses to establish preferential contracting for natural resource management works on Gunaikurnai Country. Strategic Plan - Utilise partners to build employment opportunities for our people, especially insisting on early discussions about best ways to employ our mob.
	Whole of Country Plan	Work with key government agency partners to review their policies and procedures to ensure Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners are appropriately included.

Priority action / strategy (from GLPP)	Informing plan / strategy	Links
Implementation of actions that contribute to the management of water and salt regimes in priority fringing wetlands, to support delivery of environmental water to Lower Latrobe Wetlands.	GLRSMP	4A. Address the combined effects of water use and climate change on the ecological character of the lower Latrobe wetlands (Sale Common, Dowd Morass and Heart Morass) by prioritising: • Regular planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the use of environmental water entitlements; • Recovery of the water needed for the Lower Latrobe wetlands through implementation of the policies in the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy with respect to water recovery in the Thomson, Macalister, Latrobe and Tyers rivers; and • Implementation of actions in the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy with respect to improving the delivery of environmental water to the lower Latrobe wetlands.
	GLRSMP	4B. Investigate, and where feasible and cost effective, implement actions that enable and facilitate effective management of the water and salt regimes of priority fringing wetlands, including Sale Common, Heart Morass, Dowd Morass and Macleod Morass. For example: actions in the Central & Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy, technical studies, management plans and/or agreements, water entitlements, on ground works, operational management and monitoring.
	GLRSMP	4C. Implement the actions of the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy with respect to water recovery and flows in the rivers of the Gippsland Lakes to address the combined effects of water use and climate change on ecological character.
Implement the priority identified options within relevant supporting strategies for improving the ecological condition of the fringing wetlands of Lake Wellington.	GLRSMP	4A. Address the combined effects of water use and climate change on the ecological character of the lower Latrobe wetlands (Sale Common, Dowd Morass and Heart Morass) by prioritising: • Regular planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of the use of environmental water entitlements; • Recovery of the water needed for the Lower Latrobe wetlands through implementation of the policies in the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy with respect to water recovery in the Thomson, Macalister, Latrobe and Tyers rivers; and • Implementation of actions in the Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy with respect to improving the delivery of environmental water to the lower Latrobe wetlands.
	WG Waterway Strategy	Develop and implement Environmental Water Management Plan for the Lower Latrobe Wetlands
Collaborate with responsible agencies in management of new of avian diseases by identifying high risk locations, species and risks to ecological character of the Gippsland Lakes.	GLRSMP	6D. Develop and implement a response plan for addressing risks associated with avian diseases.
Work with responsible fire management agencies to reduce the potential impacts of high intensity fire (planned burns or wildfire) on water quality entering the Gippsland Lakes.	GLRSMP	3B. Work with responsible bushfire management agencies to reduce the potential impacts of high intensity burns on water quality entering the Gippsland Lakes.
Support investigations into the management options for emerging toxicants and chemicals that are a potential risk to the ecological character of the Gippsland Lakes.	GLRSMP	6A. Investigate potential management options for the risks to ecological character from known toxicants (e.g. PFAS and mercury).
	GLRSMP	6B. Investigate further the risks from new and emerging toxicants and chemicals to Gippsland Lakes Ramsar values and the potential management options.

Appendix B: Gippsland Lakes Program Governance

