

Renewing the

Glenelg Hopkins Regional Waterway Strategy

The Glenelg Hopkins Regional Waterway Strategy (RWS) is the region's ten-year plan for managing, protecting and enhancing waterways. This is the third RWS for the region. The first two strategies delivered significant benefits for rivers, wetlands and estuaries, as well as Glenelg Hopkins community, including:

- 1786 ha revegetation;
- 428 km fencing,
- 13488 ha weed control and,
- 556 structures to improve aquatic habitat and connectivity.

Why it's important

Healthy waterways underpin the environmental, cultural, social and economic wellbeing of the region.

The RWS is important because it:

- Protects rivers, wetlands and estuaries that support biodiversity and ecosystem resilience
- Helps communities adapt to climate change impacts such as reduced flows, extreme events and habitat stress
- Supports liveability, recreation and tourism.
- Ensures public investment is targeted and transparent
- Provides a coordinated approach across agencies, landholders, stakeholders and communities

Tough conversations about how climate change is changing the nature of our waterways is a key part of the development of the new RWS



Key features of the new RWS

- Learning from Traditional Owners' strong connections to Land and Water
- All waterways are highly valued
- Stronger emphasis on adaptation, mitigation and long-term resilience in response to climate change
- Builds on past investment, partnerships and community feedback
- Higher level strategic direction supported by detailed implementation plans
- Specific and achievable outcomes

Out of scope

- ✗ Water allocation - this will be covered in the new Western Sustainable Waterway Strategy
- ✗ Floodplain and flood management responsibilities

Have your say

Community, partners, landholders and other stakeholders will have an opportunity to have their say on the new strategy through a range of engagement forums including:

- community workshops and drop-in sessions
- a Reference Group for key stakeholders
- a dedicated online engagement website, see below



www.engage.ghcma.vic.gov.au



Project Timeframes

2025

Project set-up

We begin planning the Regional Waterway Strategy and working with partners (Reference Group) and Traditional Owners to set the direction.

**Late 2025
– Early
2026**

Shaping priorities

Develop the draft vision, outcomes and focus areas for waterways across the region.

 **Have your say: Share what you value about local waterways and what matters most for their future.**

Mid-2026

Draft strategy developed

Community and stakeholder feedback is used to prepare a draft Regional Waterway Strategy and implementation approach.

**Early
2027**

Public consultation

The draft Glenelg Hopkins Regional Waterway Strategy is released for public feedback through online consultation, drop-in sessions and webinars.

 **Have your say: Review the draft strategy and tell us what works, what doesn't, and what could be improved.**

Mid 2027

Finalising the strategy

Feedback is reviewed and used to finalise the strategy before submission for Ministerial consideration.