

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation and Gippsland Environmental Agency Partnership Agreement





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May 2018

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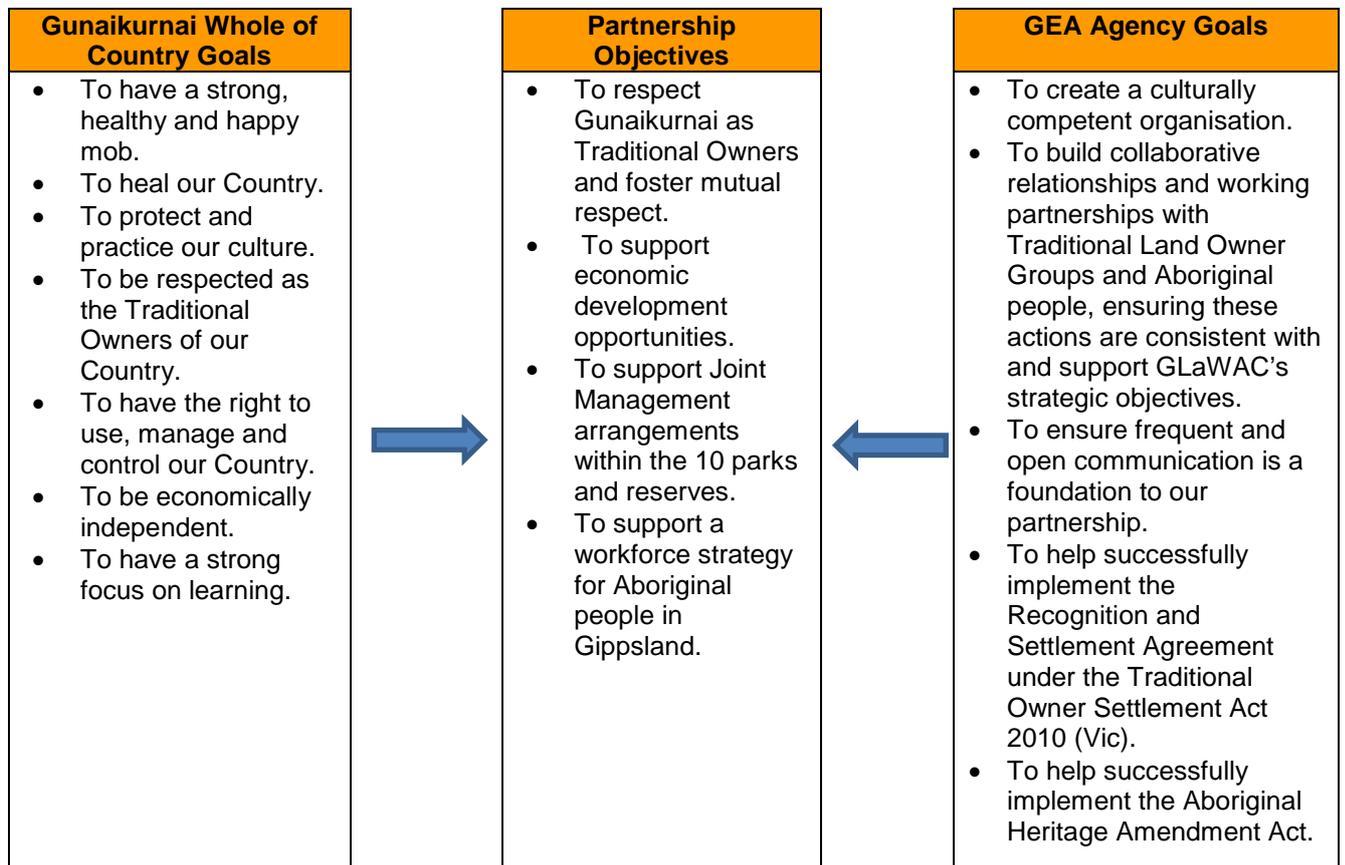
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1. Purpose

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and the Gippsland Environment Agency (GEA) signatories of this Partnership Agreement commit to work together towards shared objectives and mutual opportunities that meet our respective goals.

Together, we have agreed on four common objectives below that contribute to the goals of all parties. We understand that to achieve the shared objectives we will walk together to share strengths, build opportunity and develop a close working relationship that benefits all partners.



2. How we will work together

These objectives will become real through a defined governance structure (described overleaf) involving the partners signing this document. All signatories commit to an annual planning cycle and an individual partner action plan, with regular review and open communication to ensure that our actions are working towards the Partnership objectives above.



3. Signatures

<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Roger Fenwick GLaWAC Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Graeme Baxter Parks Vic Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Stephen Chapple DELWP Date:</p>
<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Graeme Dear EGCMA Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Clinton Rodda SRW Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Martin Fuller WGCMA Date:</p>
<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Stephen Lansdell EPA Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Jane Young NECMA Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Damian Britnell GKTOLMB Date:</p>
<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Victoria Marles Trust for Nature Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Bruce Hammond East Gippsland Water Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Philippe du Plessis South Gippsland Water Date:</p>
<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Sarah Cumming Gippsland Water Date:</p>	<p>Signature</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Beth Jones DEDJTR – Agriculture Victoria Date:</p>	



4. Governance

This Agreement recognises the policy relationship directly between GLaWAC and the Victorian government.

This agreement also recognises that the joint management plan implementation arrangements are still being considered in consultation with GLaWAC, GKTOLMB, DELWP, PV and the Minister for Environment.

The Agreement will be put into practice through the GEA working group who will coordinate the implementation and reporting of the two-year Action Plan (attached Schedule 1) and oversee the development of future action plans.

GEA Working Group
Membership GLaWAC (Convenor) GEA nominees
Responsibilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement annual action plan (attached)• Meet quarterly to oversee progress• Annually report to the GEA signatories on implementation progress and recommend future action



5. Partners

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)

The Gunaikurnai people are recognised by the Federal Court and the State of Victoria as the Traditional Owners of the country within their Native Title/Settlement Agreement area.

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation is the sole holder and representative body of these Native Title rights and interests on behalf of all Gunaikurnai people.

GLaWAC is the Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* for the area over which it has been appointed by the Victorian Aboriginal Council.

The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) represents our rights and interests in protecting our land, waters, culture and people. The GLaWAC Board and staff are committed to making our Recognition and Settlement Agreement work in the best interests of all Gunaikurnai and our land and waters.

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (EGCMA)

The EGCMA is governed by a skills-based community sourced Board that is appointed by, and reports to, the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

The roles and responsibilities of the EGCMA are prescribed in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and the *Water Act 1989*.

The 2023 vision is:

“We are the leaders in Integrated Catchment Management partnering with our communities to enhance East Gippsland’s iconic landscapes, cultural heritage and biodiversity.”

Parks Victoria (PV)

PV is a statutory authority, created by the *Parks Victoria Act 1998* and reporting to the Minister. We PV are responsible for managing an expanding and diverse estate covering more than 4 million hectares, or about 17 per cent, of Victoria.

PV is committed to delivering works on the ground across Victoria’s park network to protect and enhance park values. It is our primary responsibility to ensure parks are healthy and resilient for current and future generations. We manage parks in the context of their surrounding landscape and in partnership with Traditional Owners.

PV works in partnership with other government and non-government organisations and community groups such as the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, catchment management authorities, private land owners, friend’s groups, volunteers, licensed tour operators, lessees, research institutes and the broader community.

Healthy Parks Healthy People is at the core of everything we do. Parks and nature are an important part of improving and maintaining health, both for individuals and the community. PV has a clear role to play in connecting people and communities with parks.

PV’s vision is:

“To be a world-class park service ensuring healthy parks for healthy people.”



Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP)

DELWP manages Victoria's natural and built environments to create and maintain liveable, inclusive and sustainable communities. We protect our natural assets and support a growing economy while meeting the challenges of climate change and population growth.

DELWP work to ensure that Native Title Holders, as Traditional Owners, are recognised through Recognition and Settlement Agreements and land management agreements. The department also partners and works closely with registered Aboriginal parties. These partnerships ensure that both Traditional Owners and registered Aboriginal parties maintain a strong connection to Country and work collaboratively with the department on policy, planning and on ground aspects of land management and approvals for the activities that we and our portfolio partners control.

The vision for Aboriginal inclusion, as stated in *Munganin-Gadhaba 'Achieve Together'*, the DELWP Aboriginal Inclusion Plan 2016-2020:

"Working in partnership with Aboriginal Victorians across landscapes, communities and natural resources, growing liveable, sustainable and inclusive communities, and sustainable natural environments."

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA)

The WGCMA is governed by a skills-based community sourced Board that is appointed by, and reports to, the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

The roles and responsibilities of the WGCMA are prescribed in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and the *Water Act 1989*.

The vision and statement of intent are:

"As a leader in Natural Resource Management we will inspire and facilitate partnerships and action to achieve improved catchment health.

We commit to working respectfully and supportively with and for our staff, our communities and the environment. Our ethics are based on integrity, fairness and credibility. This forms the basis for how we at the WGCMA approach all our work."

Southern Rural Water (SRW)

SRW is governed by a skills-based Board that is responsible the Minister for Water and the Treasurer.

SRW operates its three lines of business on Gunaikurnai country:

- Operating the Macalister Irrigation District;
- Managing Lake Glenmaggie, Lake Narracan and Blue Rock Dam, along with Cowwarr Weir, Willang Yarn storage, Maffra Weir and the Yallourn Weir;
- Licensing groundwater from aquifers and surface water extraction from rivers and streams in Gippsland, along with registering large farm dams

The SRW vision is:

"Boosting Southern Victoria's food, fibre and regional productivity through outstanding rural water management."



Environment Protection Authority (EPA)

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria was established in 1971 under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. EPA Victoria is an administrative office of DELWP and reports to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.

The EPA vision is:

“A healthy environment that supports a liveable and prosperous Victoria now and always.”

North East CMA Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)

The NECMA is governed by a skills-based community sourced Board that is appointed by, and reports to, the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

The roles and responsibilities of the NECMA are prescribed in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and the *Water Act 1989*.

The NECMA Vision is:

“To be a recognised leader in protecting and enhancing the region’s diverse, productive and natural landscapes for current and future generations.”

Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners Land Management Board (GKTOLMB)

The Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board (the Board) is a Body Corporate established by Determination of the then Minister for Environment and Climate Change published in the Government Gazette on 2 August 2012, pursuant to the *Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987* (the Act) and the Traditional Owner Land Management Agreement (TOLMA) between the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) and the State of Victoria (the State) dated 22 October 2010. The TOLMA is an agreement made under the provisions of Part 8A of the Act.

The Board has adopted the following vision statement for the jointly managed lands:

“Empowered and respected Gunaikurnai actively managing and caring for their land and water for the enjoyment of all people.”

East Gippsland Water (EGW)

East Gippsland Region Water Corporation is governed by a skills-based Board that is appointed by, and reports to, the Minister for Water.

The corporation provides urban water and wastewater services to a population of around 35,000 people in towns throughout East Gippsland.

EGW’s vision is:

“Sustainability and resilience through leading and innovative water solutions”

Gippsland Water (GW)

Gippsland Water delivers reliable, high-quality water, wastewater and waste recovery services to ensure social, environmental and economic benefits to domestic and commercial clients across Central Gippsland. The geographic region stretches from Drouin in the west to Loch Sport in the east, and from Mirboo North in the south to Rawson and Briagolong in the north.

Gippsland Water supplies fresh clean drinking water to more than 69,000 customers, and wastewater services to more than 61,000 customers across an area of more than 5,000 square kilometres. It maintains a \$1 billion infrastructure network, which includes more than 2,000 kilometres of water mains, 15 water treatment plants, over 1,700 kilometres of sewer mains and 14 wastewater treatment plants.



South Gippsland Water (SGW)

South Gippsland Region Water Corporation is a regional water business governed by a skills-based Board that is appointed by, and reports to, the Minister for Water.

South Gippsland Water provides the full range of water supply functions, including water harvesting and storage, water treatment, urban water supply, as well as wastewater collection, treatment, disposal and reuse, and major trade waste services.

SGW's purpose is to:

"Provide sustainable water services that are essential to the prosperity and wellbeing of our communities and natural environments"

Trust for Nature (TFN)

Trust for Nature is one of Australia's oldest conservation organisations, being established under the Victorian Conservation Trust Act in 1972.

Trust for Nature's vision is that Victoria's most threatened native plants and wildlife are conserved for future generations. The mission is to work collaboratively to protect nature on private land forever. Over the last 45 years, Trust for Nature have secured 100,000 hectares of habitat on private land forever – places that are home to some of our rarest species such as the Helmeted Honeyeater, Victoria's critically endangered bird emblem. We do this for the benefit of future generations by working now with private landholders, volunteers, government agencies and others with shared goals.

Trust for Nature's core activities protect private land through conservation covenants, acquisitions, and the Revolving Fund, and conserve private land through community engagement, extension, protected areas and stewardship. Trust for Nature also leads and facilitates landscape-scale conservation action planning across Victoria.

Agriculture Victoria - DEDJTR

Agriculture Victoria, a part of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), works with the community and industry on research, development and extension to enhance productivity; connect the sector with international markets; support industry growth; and maintain effective biosecurity control

The DEDJTR vision is:

"A productive, competitive and sustainable Victorian economy that contributes to a prosperous and inclusive society."

The DEDJTR Aboriginal Inclusion Action Plan, Bullarto-Buluk, outlines a commitment to work in partnership with Aboriginal Victorians to support inclusive economic participation.



Schedule 1.

GLaWAC and GEA Partnership Agreement Two Year Action Plan

Delivering objective 1 - Respecting Gunaikurnai as Traditional Owners and fostering mutual respect

GLaWAC actions	Partner actions	Partner agency
<p>1.1 Provide meeting convenors and communication officers with welcome to country acknowledgement training.</p> <p>1.2 Support the development of guidelines that describe appropriate acknowledgment of Gunaikurnai as Traditional Owners and partners in joint management for inclusion on signs, interpretative and educational materials with partner agencies.</p> <p>1.3 Coordinate and deliver training to build understanding on procedural rights recognised under Native Title Act, Traditional Owner Settlement Act and Aboriginal Heritage Act.</p> <p>1.4 Coordinate and host the cultural sub-committee and elders to share cultural knowledge and coordinate and deliver specific training.</p>	<p>1.1 Staff will deliver the correct acknowledgement to country with an understanding of the meaning.</p> <p>1.2 Seek to understand the complexities of this matter and collaborate with GLaWAC to develop guidelines for appropriate acknowledgment of Gunaikurnai as Traditional Owners and partners in joint management for inclusion on products such as signs, interpretative and educational materials produced by partner agencies and delegated managers and associated groups.</p> <p>1.3 Undertake staff training on procedural rights recognised under Native Title Act, Traditional Owner Settlement Act and Aboriginal Heritage Act.</p> <p>1.4 Contribute to the GLaWAC Cultural Committee costs associated with naming and sharing cultural knowledge and other specific training.</p>	<p>1.1 All partners</p> <p>1.2 All partners</p> <p>1.3 All partners</p> <p>1.4 All partners</p>



Delivering objective 2 - Supporting economic development opportunities.

GLaWAC actions	Partner actions	Partner agency
<p>2.1 Work with partners to develop 'Parks as Products'</p> <p>2.2 Support regional events with welcome to country, smoking ceremonies, dancing and other celebrations.</p> <p>2.3 Investigate opportunities to be registered on Contractor Panels</p> <p>2.4 Support partner agency recruitment processes</p> <p>2.5 Communicate GLaWAC's identified priority economic opportunities to GEA Working Group</p> <p>2.6 Establish a GLaWAC Schedule of Rates for services provided to partner agencies</p> <p>2.7 Establish a presence in the Latrobe Valley</p>	<p>2.1 Deliver planned visitor opportunities and infrastructure projects as agreed e.g. EGCMA to develop a plan for Buchan Caves</p> <p>2.2 Regional events will include welcome to country and possibly other supporting ceremonies (smoking, dancing) where appropriate</p> <p>2.3 Review tendering documentation to promote inclusion and training of Gunaikurnai people and invite GLaWAC to register on Contractor Panel</p> <p>2.4 Develop practical plans in consultation with GLaWAC to achieve partner agency Aboriginal employment targets</p> <p>2.5 Support GLaWAC to develop priority economic opportunities</p> <p>2.6 Agree to a Schedule of Rates with GLaWAC for Cultural Heritage Mapping and other services</p> <p>2.7 Support the establishment of a GLaWAC presence in the Latrobe Valley</p>	<p>2.1 All partners,</p> <p>2.2 All partners</p> <p>2.3 All partners</p> <p>2.4 DELWP, PV</p> <p>2.5 All partners</p> <p>2.6 DELWP, PV, CMAs</p> <p>2.7 PV, DELWP, WGCMA</p>



Delivering objective 3 - Supporting Joint Management arrangements within the 10 parks and reserves

GLaWAC actions	Partner actions	Partner agency
<p>3.1 Work with partner agencies to develop projects to deliver priorities in the joint managed park management plans</p> <p>3.2 Support the finalisation and endorsement process for the Joint Management Plan</p> <p>3.3 GLaWAC board to meet with GK TOLMB board bi-annually to discuss JMP implementation</p> <p>3.4 Investigate potential new governance arrangements with State under the TOSA agreement.</p>	<p>3.1 Work with partner agencies to develop projects to deliver priorities in the joint managed park management plans</p> <p>3.2 Support the endorsement process for the Joint Management Plan</p> <p>3.3 GK TOLMB executive to report JMP implementation progress to GLaWAC board bi-annually</p> <p>3.4 Consult with GLaWAC board regarding possible new governance arrangements under TOSA agreement.</p>	<p>3.1 All partners as geographically and/or legislatively relevant</p> <p>3.2 DELWP, PV, EGCMA, WGCMA</p> <p>3.3 GK TOLMB</p> <p>3.4 DELWP, PV, GK TOLMB</p>

Delivering objective 4 - Support a workforce strategy for Aboriginal people in Gippsland

GLaWAC actions	Partner actions	Partner agency
<p>4.1 Ensure organisational capacity to provide cultural awareness training to partner staff as required</p> <p>4.2 Contribute to the development of a workforce strategy to deliver training and employment opportunities within Gippsland for Aboriginal people.</p> <p>4.3 Contribute to the GEA Working Group to coordinate training and employment opportunities within Gippsland for Aboriginal people.</p>	<p>4.1 Implement a training schedule for staff (inc. Board members) to complete cultural awareness training.</p> <p>4.2 Complete a workforce strategy in 2018/19 to deliver training and employment opportunities within Gippsland for Aboriginal people – including traineeships and skill sharing initiatives</p> <p>4.3 Support the GEA Working Group to coordinate training and employment opportunities within Gippsland for Aboriginal people.</p>	<p>4.1 All partners</p> <p>4.2 All partners</p> <p>4.3 All partners</p>



