



**2018 – 2019
REGIONAL RIPARIAN
ACTION PLAN
GUIDELINES
East Gippsland**

What is the Regional Riparian Action Plan?

Riparian land is important for many things. Healthy riparian land provides habitat for native plants and animals, stability for river beds and banks, filters nutrients and sediment from catchment run-off, and provides for recreation and tourism. A number of processes threaten these, such as weeds, erosion, urbanisation and uncontrolled stock access.

The Regional Riparian Action Plan (RRAP) recognises the importance of healthy waterways and provides a plan for each Catchment Management Authority (CMA) to improve in the condition of riparian land in their region. The RRAP also acknowledges the importance of partners in delivery of these, and as such has provided funding to support landcarers work on waterways in each catchment through the Regional Riparian Action Plan Grants.

For more detailed information on the Regional Riparian Action Plan and EGCMA management outcomes and targets go to <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/water/rivers,-estuaries-and-wetlands/regional-riparian-action-plan>

Regional Riparian Action Plan Grants

The RRAP Grants are funded by the State Government. The RRAP grant process is managed by the EGCMA at a regional level, with program oversight and investment principles provided by the Department of Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

This document aims to assist in the preparation of project applications for 2018-2019 RRAP grants funding by providing guidance on eligibility and project criteria. Applicants should read these guidelines before preparing project applications.

Are you eligible?

For a project application to be eligible for consideration and assessment, you must be a Landcare group or a member of a Landcare Group within the East Gippsland Catchment boundary. Members of a Landcare Group can apply for funding to undertake works on private property however they must have support of their Landcare Group and the funding is administer by the Group.

Are there any project conditions?

Yes, there are conditions for RRAP grant funded projects. These are listed below.

- Support for up to \$5/m for fencing
- Works must be on riparian land adjoining East Gippsland catchment rivers, creeks, estuaries, lakes and/or wetlands
- Support for up to \$3,000 for off-stream watering infrastructure
- Cannot include funding for community engagement project however an engagement event associated with the delivery of on-ground works is eligible
- There is no funding cap for projects but it is recommended they are scalable to allow for partial funding if full funding is not available.



What makes a good project submission?

Good project applications are those that result in improvement in the condition of riparian land along East Gippsland waterways. Activities that improve riparian land health include on-ground activities like:

- fencing
- stock removal from waterways
- revegetation
- off-stream stock watering points
- vegetation enhancement and
- weed management

Other factors that contribute to good project applications include the following:

- In-kind contributions
- How well the project improves the condition of riparian land
- proposals demonstrating a well-considered and designed project

These are included as assessment criteria described below.

How will the application be assessed?

Eligible project application will be assessed according to the following criteria

- Longevity of impact (20%)
- How well does the proposed approach improve riparian land health (20%)
- Does it address the cause of the problem, rather than the symptom (20%)
- Is the project is resourced for completion (10%)
- Are costs clearly defined and realistically budgeted (10%)
- Does the project represent good value for money (10%)
- Applicant's history of previous project implementation and completion (if applicable) and capacity to complete the project (10%)

What is expected?

Successful groups will be required;

- To enter into a signed funding agreement with EGCMA
- Report on progress (6 monthly)
- To construct fencing in accordance with the Vegetation Work Standards produced by DELWP (details included in Appendix 1)
- Agree to before and after site visits
- Complete the project by the 31st December 2019

RRAP Grant Process Timeline

Timing	Activity
31 st August 2018	RRAP project proposal submissions due to EGCMA
14 th January, 2019	Progress Report due
15 th July, 2019	Progress Report due
31 st December, 2019	2018-2019 projects must be completed
14 th January, 2020	Final report due

Occupational, Health and Safety

A safe system of work is required to be in place for your project to protect the health and safety of your group, volunteers and anyone else on your project site. You can find resources on OHS tailored to community groups on the Victorian Landcare Gateway: <http://www.landcarevic.net.au/resources/for-groups/ohs>

EGCMA Contact Details

Further information

If you have any questions or queries please contact:

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Appendix

Appendix 1: Fencing Standards (from Vegetation Works Standards produced by Department of Land, Water and Planning).

Fence Type	Beef cattle	Dairy cattle	Sheep
Conventional	7 strand plain wire*		
Mesh	Standard 6/70/30 or 7/90/30 ring lock and plain wire*		
Electric	4 strand plain wire with at least 2 electrified strands	3 strand plain wire with at least 2 electrified strands	5 strand plain wire with at least 3 electrified strands

*a common addition to these fence types (that could prolong their life) involves the installation of an electrified offset wire. The height of this wire SHOULD be approximately two-thirds the height of the animal excluded