



## Rural Drainage Project

### Project Overview for Landholder Representatives

March 2019

#### Background

This project has been funded by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and is designed to assist landholders in the Moe River Flats and Kilmany Levee areas to transition to the drainage management arrangements outlined in the Rural Drainage Strategy released by the Victorian Government in October 2018.

#### Moe River Flats

The Moe River Flats drainage area is typical of other drainage areas across the State of Victoria. It was created in the 1890s through State government investment, to be maintained by the benefiting Landowners. By the 1920s it was recognised that more formal support was required, and the Narracan Shire collected a tariff and provided management assistance until the Shire was amalgamated into the Baw Baw Shire in the 1990s. At this time Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) were created which caused some confusion about roles and responsibilities and meant that coordinated maintenance ceased. In 2002 the area was gazetted as a Water Management Scheme and the introduction of a Tariff was investigated. Due to changing land ownership and the ongoing drought, the majority of Landholders did not support a tariff. Management arrangements since have been informed by a committee and works have been undertaken by individual landholders on a case-by-case basis.

#### Kilmany Levee Bank

The Kilmany Levee Bank is an earthen levee bank in Kilmany South and was constructed as part of a Soldier Settlement Scheme in the twentieth century. It provides protection for farmland from large floods on the Latrobe River. The system includes two floodgates and two pumps to remove drainage waters that build up on the upstream side of the bank. Dependent on the level of the Latrobe River, all water then flows through a drain to Possum Creek and finally out to the Latrobe River through another flood gate on the river bank.

#### Steering Committee

A Project Steering Committee is being set up to assist the WGCMA to deliver the project to assist landholders to transition to the arrangements outlined in the Victorian Rural Drainage Strategy.

The Steering Committee will represent stakeholders and provide advice to responsibly guide the project to achieve its goals, namely:

1. This project will focus on how the management of drainage assets can be improved where the beneficiaries see a need for and are prepared to pay for ongoing management of the identified infrastructure.
2. It will help build capacity and understanding of the new drainage management arrangements in Victoria.

To achieve these goals the project will:

- Deliver up to five Drainage Management Plans (up to four in the Moe River Flats drainage area, and one for the Kilmany drainage area);
- Confirm and raise awareness of roles and responsibilities for drainage management;
- Clarify the ownership of drainage assets;
- Determine willingness of beneficiaries to pay for and participate in the management of drainage assets;
- Transition management responsibility of assets to beneficiaries; and,
- Outline the requirement for a modern drainage management plan.

The project is due to be completed by 31 December 2019.

### **Steering Committee Roles and Responsibilities**

The Steering Committee will meet monthly, on average, with the frequency being greater at the beginning and the end of the project timeline.

The Steering Committee will comprise:

WGCMA Statutory Planning Manager
WGCMA Rural Drainage Officer
DELWP Representative
Local Government Representative
Landholder Representative – Moe River
Landholder Representative – Kilmany Levee

The government agency representatives will be appointed via request to the relevant agencies from the WGCMA.

The Landholder representatives will be selected from a formal Expression of Interest (EOI) process. The EOI process will open on 8 March 2019 and close on 22 March 2019. Notification of the EOI process will be by local newspapers, Facebook Community Noticeboards, direct mail, and via WGCMA staff.

A Landholder representative must be prepared to publicly provide their contact details in order that other landholders and community members might contact them as required.

The first point of contact for the project is:

Shayne Hyman  
Rural Drainage Officer WGCMA  
0417 330 081  
[shaynehy@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:shaynehy@wgcm.vic.gov.au)  
Shayne works (flexibly) two days per week.

### **WGCMA Representation and Communication**

Steering Committee members are not authorised to represent or talk on behalf of the WGCMA. All media contact regarding the WGCMA is to be referred to the CEO in the first instance.

## Approved advertisements for the Warragul Gazette and the Gippsland Times



### Do you have an interest in the Moe River Flats?

Through our Rural Drainage Project we are forming a steering committee to help guide the project. We're currently seeking expressions of interest from affected landholders to be the landholder representative on this committee. The role will be to provide advice to the committee on how best to engage with affected landholders.

To be successful in this role you will need to be an approachable contact person for affected landholders and be available to attend steering committee meetings over a twelve-month period.

The representative will be selected on their local knowledge, links to the community, understanding of diversity and inclusion principles, ability to think broadly and basic drainage knowledge.

**Lodge your Expression of Interest before Friday, 22 March 2019.**

For more information or to complete an expression of interest visit our website or contact Shayne Hyman on 0417 330 081 or email [shaynehy@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:shaynehy@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

PO Box 1374, Traralgon VIC 3844 | [www.wgcm.vic.gov.au](http://www.wgcm.vic.gov.au)  
T: 1300 094 262 E: [westgippy@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:westgippy@wgcm.vic.gov.au)



### Do you have an interest in the Kilmany Levee?

Through our Rural Drainage Project we are forming a steering committee to help guide the project. We're currently seeking expressions of interest from affected landholders to be the landholder representative on this committee. The role will be to provide advice to the committee on how best to engage with affected landholders.

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The representative will be selected on their local knowledge, links to the community, understanding of diversity and inclusion principles, ability to think broadly and basic drainage knowledge.

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For more information or to complete an expression of interest visit our website or contact Shayne Hyman on 0417 330 081 or email [shaynehy@wgcm.vic.gov.au](mailto:shaynehy@wgcm.vic.gov.au)

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### Expressions of Interest Lodgement

To express interest in becoming a Landholder Representative complete the form at <https://www.wgcm.vic.gov.au/rural-drainage-project-steering-committee-eoi-form>