

CORANGAMITE CMA & ENVIRONMENTAL WATER



- Corangamite CMA has a role in:
 - **Identifying** the environmental water needs.
 - Participating in planning processes that can **improve** the Environmental Water Reserve (such as Sustainable Water Strategies).
 - **Managing** *Environmental Entitlement* to maximise environmental benefits.
- Painkalac Creek watering is a partnership between Barwon Water and Corangamite CMA – not a formal entitlement
- Painkalac Creek was listed as a priority waterway in the Corangamite Waterway Strategy for 2014-22 as it is a water supply catchment and has significant environmental values.



When and how should water be released?

- Determined in - Environmental FLOW studies
- Based on the best available information on ecological requirements
- Used to inform environmental watering.



Freshes
Help maintain or improve water quality.



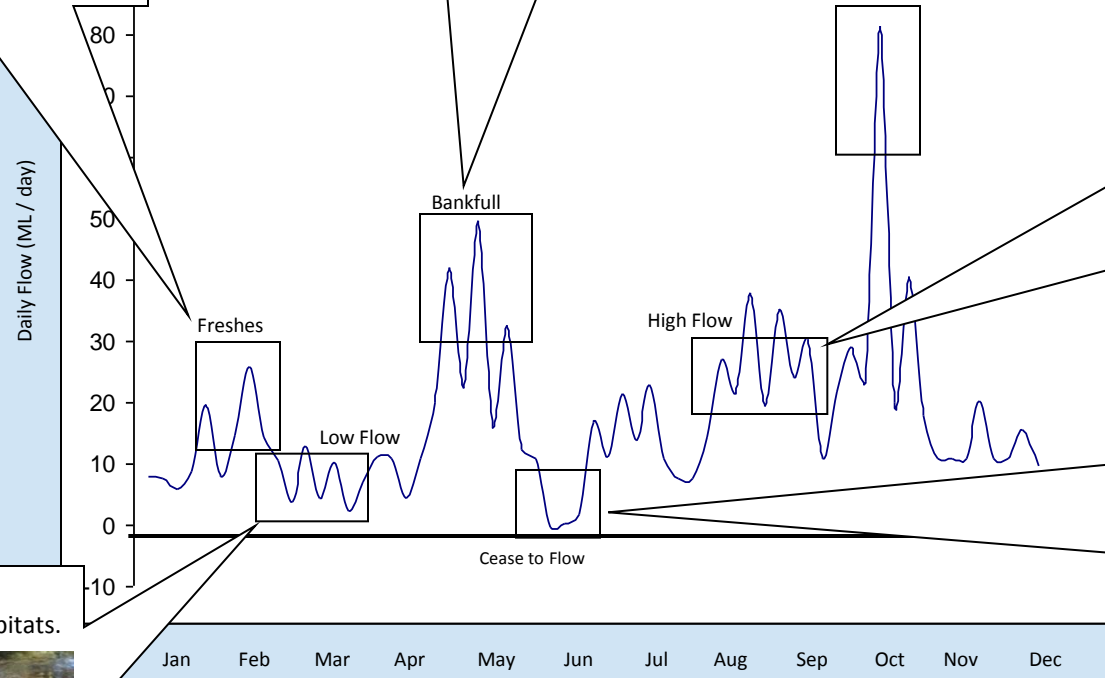
Bankfull
Helps with sediment movement and channel maintenance.




Overbank Flow
Maintains floodplain and wetland connectivity.




Low Flow
Connects inter-stream habitats.

High Flow
Allows for fish migration.



Cease to Flow
Dries out habitats - important for some ecological processes.




Flows form Painkalac Reservoir

- Approximately 250ML per year depending on inflows
- Limited to a maximum of 11ML/day
- In addition to existing passing flow rules:
 - March to November, the lesser of 0.5ML/day or inflow.
 - December to February: entire flow
- All releases above passing flows would be ceased in the event of a flood or flood warning



Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Low Flow Season				T(L-H)#		High Flow Season				T(H-L)#	

Cease to Flow: No more than 2 spells per year, maximum spell length of 7 days

Low Summer Flow: 0.5 ML/day (or natural)					Low Winter Flow: 2 ML/day (or natural)							
Low Flow Freshes: 2 ML/day, 4 per year (or natural), 3 day duration (or natural) 8 day independence												
			Transitional Freshes: 20 ML/day, 2 per year (or natural) 1 day duration 7 day independence									
						High Flow Freshes: 200 ML/day, 2 per year (or natural), 1 day duration 19 day independence		High Flow Fresh: 200 ML/day, 1 per year (or natural), 1 day duration				

Bankfull Flows: 700 ML/day, 1 in 2 years, 1 day duration

Consultation

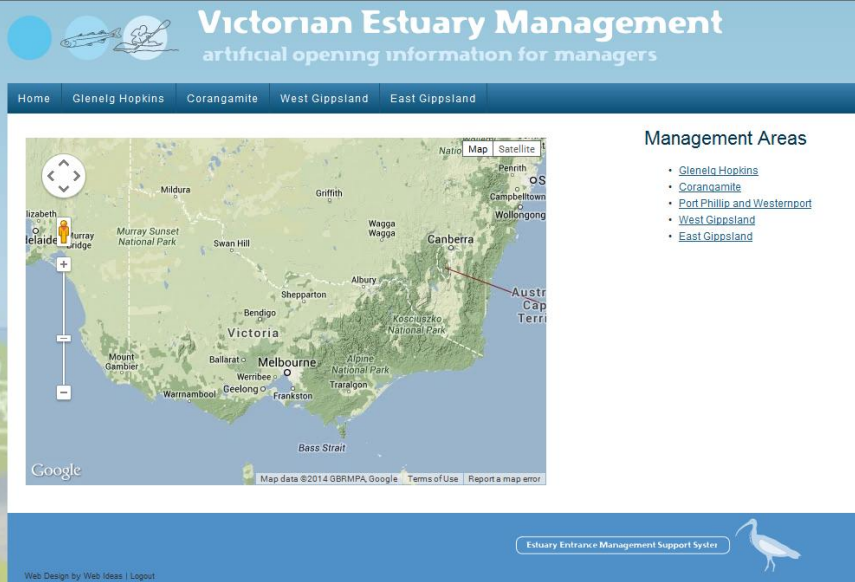
- Consultation on the proposed watering regime will be undertaken as a partnership between Barwon Water and Corangamite CMA.



Estuary Management

Develop Estuary Management Plans and Memorandums of Understanding's

- Coordinate the state-wide roll out and implementation of the Estuary Entrance Management Support System (EEMSS)
- Delivery of estuary projects e.g. Anglesea Habitat Project, Thompson Creek Saltmarsh Project
- EstuaryWatch
- Provide advice to land managers regarding estuary opening



Victorian Estuary Management
artificial opening information for managers

Home | Glenelg Hopkins | Corangamite | West Gippsland | East Gippsland

Management Areas

- [Glenelg Hopkins](#)
- [Corangamite](#)
- [Port Phillip and Westernport](#)
- [West Gippsland](#)
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Estuary Entrance Management Support System

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Estuary Entrance Management Support System (EEMSS)

- The EEMSS is a decision support tool that guides estuary managers when making the decision whether or not to artificially open an estuary.
- The EEMSS database was developed by Deakin University with input from a steering group and technical advisory groups.



Estuary Entrance Management Support System (EEMSS)



Victorian Estuary Management
artificial opening information managers

Home Corangamite Aire River Config Asset Score

Score of Roads near Aire River

Class	Name	Description	Score
R1	Great Ocean Road	Not known to breach before 2.5m	5
R4C	Horden Vale Road	Road inundates at Duck Creek	2
R4D	Access track to river mouth		2
R4D	Sand Road	Links Great Ocean Road (Castle Cove) to Aire River West camp site	2

- EVC
- Flora
- Birds
- Fish
- Fishing
- Roads
- Jetties/Ramps
- Recreation
- Agri Land
- Septics
- Stormwater
- Built Infrastructure
- Cultural Heritage



Estuary Opening at Painkalac

- Corangamite CMA will continue to work with Surf Coast Shire on the management of the Estuary and Estuary Entrance Opening.
- The impact of the increase in flows is hard to predict but is likely to help maintain water levels through dry periods.



Questions

- Why has the creek been allowed to drop so low this summer?
- Will future flows down the creek reflect the natural water flows? ie with periods of high flow to provide the flood events the wetlands need.
- Will the new regime allow summer release of water?
- How will future management of release of water at the inlet differ from our past experience?
- How is the decision made to artificially open the inlet?
- How will the expected changes in flows affect the numbers and diversity of fish and wading birds in the creek?
- Will the amount of water in the estuary in future summers likely be greater than we see now?

