

Traditional Owners retain a strong connection to the Barwon/Moorabool system¹

- We see Barre Warre as a connected system, water is a living entity in our stories, our creations are held by the life of these rivers, our intangible connections received from our past live and protect our culture for our present and future
- The connection between rivers and sea is our lore
- Protecting Lal Lal to Connewarre is a Wadawurrung story
- We work to ensure a balanced ecological water system, this includes all living things. It is our duty to care for, nurture and replace Barre Warre with all it needs for a healthy life
- We will continue to share our culture through the blood of our mother earth. May we educate others to see Barre Warre through our Wadawurrung lens.

Provided by Melinda Kennedy,
Wadawurrung Traditional Owner



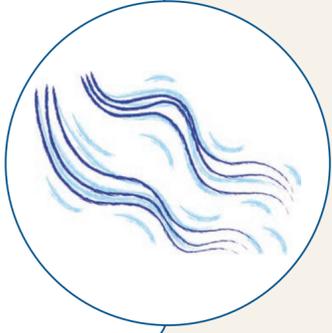
Our catchment's waterways are healthy

- The condition of our catchment's creeks and rivers (and their floodplains and wetlands) are improving
- We see flow in our rivers all year to support their health and function, and wide areas of land adjoining riverbanks are fenced, have native vegetation and are free of weeds
- Our rivers are alive with fish, birds, platypus and insects, and migratory birds return each year to their breeding grounds in the internationally significant wetlands of the Bellarine
- From Ballarat to Geelong and from the Otways to the estuary at Barwon Heads, our waterways are connected, and in our cities and towns are providing healthy green corridors for habitat, recreational use and transport.



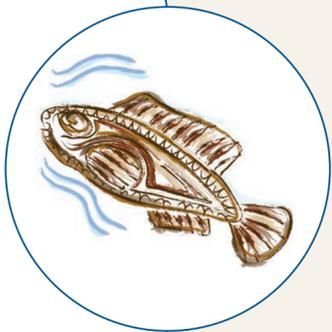
Our precious water resources are used wisely

- Our water resources are sustainably managed to fit changing climatic conditions
- We value water as a precious resource and understand its availability, use and management
- We use water efficiently in our cities and for agriculture, and make better use of new technologies
- We maximise use of alternative water sources (such as recycled water and stormwater), and take advantage of our links to the Victorian water grid
- We learn rapidly from innovations in other catchments and integrated water management is central to planning for new development.



Our community understands, enjoys and cares for waterways

- Stewardship of our waterways draws on Traditional Owners' understanding of rivers as living entities for which the whole community has responsibility
- As a community we understand water and where it comes from, we appreciate our rivers, their condition, and what is being done to keep them healthy
- We enjoy our rivers and catchment while limiting our footprint. In rural areas our landholders control weeds and limit stock access, while in our cities and towns streams are open, visible, valued and actively used
- We value the rivers of the Barwon and our advocacy for a healthy catchment remains strong.



Our management is integrated and focused on the future

- Our agencies and community are aligned around the long-term goals for the health of the catchment
- Our planning for water and river management is integrated and considers both whole-of-catchment and local place-based needs
- Our planning for the growth of our cities and towns considers the long-term health of our waterways and the liveability of our growing community
- Adaptation to a changing climate is central to our future planning for the catchment, its rivers and communities.



¹ This statement is for the use of the Barwon River Ministerial Advisory Committee discussion paper, the author is to be notified for copies or prints