

# Schedule 6

## Annual Progress Report

For project: RiverConnect

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Between  
GOULBURN BROKEN CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
and  
GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL  
Funded by  
State Government

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### Organisation Details:

Organisation:	Greater Shepparton City Council	
Project Contact Officer:	Sharon Terry	
Project Phone Number:	03 5832 9542	
Postal Address:	Locked Bag 1000, Shepparton VIC 3632	
Email Address:	Sharon.terry@shepparton.vic.gov.au	
Spatial collection method: (please circle) See <b>Schedule 4A</b> for details	DELWP Output Database in <b>ESRI File</b> Geodatabase Format	GB CMA Online Project Management System (enquire)
Reporting contact:	Meg Pethybridge	
Contact name and email address:	03 5832 9714 meg.pethybridge@shepparton.vic.gov.au	
ABN:	59 835 329 843	
ABN registered name:	Greater Shepparton City Council	
Are you registered for GST?	Yes	
Incorporation / ACN name:		
Incorporation / ACN number:		
Start date:	1 July 2020	
End date:	30 June 2020 (short term funding agreement received in 2021 due to pandemic impacts on state budget causing delays)	

## Project expenditure

Description	Funds Approved	
	2020-2021	
	Budget	Actual
Employment / Project Management / Facilitation	\$ 79,436.00	\$ 78,745.95
In-kind/volunteer labour		-
<b>Total employment Costs (ex GST)</b>	<b>\$ 79,436.00</b>	<b>\$ 78,745.95</b>
Community Group support	\$ 17,653.00	\$ 6,796.62
Communications/Publications	\$ 1,653.00	\$ 1,527.00
Revegetation	\$ 1,258.00	\$ 43.18
<b>Total Operating Costs (ex GST)</b>	<b>\$ 20,564.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,366.80</b>
<b>Total Budget (ex GST)</b>	<b>\$ 100,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 87,112.75</b>

### Comment on variation (10% or greater) of budget vs expenditure:

- All cost variation and data is correct to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (further transactions and expenses to be paid).
- Revegetation cost variation as Council One Tree Per Child program provided equipment and plants in 2021.
- Community group support variation due to targets not met through COVID-19 restrictions on groups and RiverConnect activities.

## RiverConnect 2020/2021 Financial Report

Description	Proponent Funds (GSCC)		Other Contributor (GBCMA)		Other Contributor		Total Budget 2020/2021	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Employment/Project Management/Facilitation	\$ 79,436.00	\$ 78,745.95	\$ 79,436.00	\$ 78,745.95			\$ 158,872.00	\$ 157,491.90
In Kind/Volunteer Labour		\$ 16,257.00					-	-
<b>Total Employment Costs (Ex GST)</b>	\$ 79,436.00	\$ 95,002.95	\$ 79,436.00	\$ 78,745.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,872.00	\$ 173,748.90
Community Group Support	\$ 17,653.00	\$ 6,796.62	\$ 17,653.00	\$ 6,796.62			\$ 35,306.00	\$ 13,593.24
Communications/Publications	\$ 1,653.00	\$ 1,527.00	\$ 1,653.00	\$ 1,527.00			\$ 3,306.00	\$ 3,054.00
Revegetation	\$ 1,258.00	\$ 43.18	\$ 1,258.00	\$ 43.18			\$ 2,516.00	\$ 86.36
<b>Total Operational Costs (Ex GST)</b>	\$ 20,564.00	\$ 8,366.80	\$ 20,564.00	\$ 8,366.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,128.00	\$ 16,733.60
<b>Total budget 2020/2021 (Ex GST)</b>	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 103,369.75	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 87,112.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 190,482.50

## Project Delivery

### 1. Outputs

- a. Total outputs delivered – Please provide the required information in columns K to Q for each output.
- b. Spatial mapping – When mapping the outputs achieved, refer to columns I and J for guidance. Column I provides for how the output should be mapped (i.e. as a point, a line or polygon). Column J provides for what information should be mapped. Please include all output attributes in the metadata of the mapped spatial object.

(A) Project	(B) Activity	(C) Annual output target	OUTPUT ATTRIBUTES													
			(D) Output title and type	(E) Activity type	(F) Planned management outcome	(G) Planned management outcome direction of change	(H) Region, area or reach	(I) Spatial object type	(J) Spatial object description	(K) Specific attribute 1 (if applicable)	(L) Specific attribute 2 (if applicable)	(M) Specific attribute 3 (if applicable)	(N) Specific attribute 4 (if applicable)	(O) Specific attribute 5 (if applicable)	(P) Annual Output achieved	(Q) Spatial data recorded and provided (Y/N)
RiverConnect	Weed control	0.7 ha each year	2.2 Weed control – Non-woody	Establish	Species control	Increase control of undesirable species	Shepparton	Polygon	Gross area over which weeds were controlled, including the area searched for target weeds and treated where present	Primary treatment method (select one): <b>Chemical</b> <b>Manual</b>	Biosecurity aim (select one): <b>Containment</b> <b>Eradication</b>	Estimate of percentage (nearest 10%) of the output polygon that was treated  <b>95%</b>	Arrangement of the target species within output polygon (select one): <b>Large patches</b> <b>Majority coverage</b>	Species ID using the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas	<b>77.47 Ha</b>	<b>Y</b>
	Revegetation	1 ha each year	2.1 Vegetation – Native indigenous	Establish	Vegetation extent	Increase vegetation extent	Shepparton	Polygon	Area where vegetation has been established, maintained or modified	Specific activities undertaken (select): <b>Seedling planting</b> <b>Mulching</b> <b>Plant guarding</b> <b>Supplementary watering</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>0,28 Ha</b>	<b>Y</b>
	RiverConnect Paths Master Plan	20/21 - Construct Route 3 and 5  21/22 - Land acquisition Route 2 Detailed Design Route 2  22/23 - Construct Route 2 Design Route 1  23/24 - Construct Route 1	4.1 Approval and advice – Advice	Establish	Awareness	Increase awareness of target audience	Shepparton	Point	Location of Organisation's office	Identify the status of the approval and advice (select one): <b>Support</b>	Identify the specific type of approval and advice (select one): <b>Engineers Survey – Route 2</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. of approvals and advice <b>1</b>	<b>N</b>
	Assessments	20/21 - Contaminated land assessment Route 2 21/22 - CHMP and Native Vegetation Assessment Route 2 22/23 - CHMP and Native Vegetation assessment Route 1	4.3 Assessment - Cultural	Establish	Awareness	Increase awareness of target audience	Shepparton	Polygon	Area where assessment has been conducted	Area where the assessment data is stored (select): <b>Agency database</b>	ID for the entries into the database <b>F&amp;F Route 2</b>  <b>CHMP Route 2</b>  <b>Contamination assessment Route 2</b>	Specific activities undertaken (select one): <b>Survey</b>	N/A	N/A	No. of assessments <b>3</b>	<b>Y</b>

(A) Project	(B) Activity	(C) Annual output target	OUTPUT ATTRIBUTES													
			(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)	(L)	(M)	(N)	(O)	(P)	(Q)
			Output title and type	Activity type	Planned management outcome	Planned management outcome direction of change	Region, area or reach	Spatial object type	Spatial object description	Specific attribute 1 (if applicable)	Specific attribute 2 (if applicable)	Specific attribute 3 (if applicable)	Specific attribute 4 (if applicable)	Specific attribute 5 (if applicable)	Annual Output achieved	Spatial data recorded and provided (Y/N)
		23/24 - Boulevard Bush Reserve Flora and Fauna assessment														
	Community group support	8 each year (GMLN, Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group, Field & Game, GVEG, Shepparton Camera Club, BirdLife Murray Goulburn, Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation)	4.5 Partnership – Community Group	Maintain	Governance	Increase governance	Shepparton	Point	Location of Organisation's office	List the organisations or individuals who are parties to the partnership <b>Goulburn Broken CMA</b> <b>Greater Shepparton City Council</b> <b>Parks Victoria</b> <b>Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation</b> <b>Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative</b> <b>Goulburn Murray Landcare Network</b> <b>Goulburn Valley Environment Group</b> <b>Goulburn Valley Water DELWP</b> <b>DET</b> <b>Word and Mouth Community representatives:</b> <b>Pat Feehan</b> <b>Jay Whittaker</b> <b>Rod McLennan</b> <b>Matthew Crawford</b> <b>Bruce Cumming</b> <b>Kaiela Arts</b> <b>Victoria Walks</b> <b>Birdlife Murray Goulburn</b> <b>Fairley Leadership Program participants</b> <b>GV Mountain Bike Club</b> <b>Shepparton Camera Club</b> <b>Shepparton Historical Society</b> <b>Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group</b> <b>Platypus Conservancy</b> <b>Lighthouse Project</b>	Duration of the partnership in years, where considered permanent 99 years should be used <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>99</b> <b>8</b> <b>3</b> <b>17</b> <b>3</b> <b>17</b> <b>8</b> <b>4</b> <b>8</b> <b>4</b> <b>6</b> <b>5</b> <b>99</b> <b>5</b> <b>5</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. of partnerships <b>36</b>	<b>N</b>

(A) Project	(B) Activity	(C) Annual output target	OUTPUT ATTRIBUTES													
			(D) Output title and type	(E) Activity type	(F) Planned management outcome	(G) Planned management outcome direction of change	(H) Region, area or reach	(I) Spatial object type	(J) Spatial object description	(K) Specific attribute 1 (if applicable)	(L) Specific attribute 2 (if applicable)	(M) Specific attribute 3 (if applicable)	(N) Specific attribute 4 (if applicable)	(O) Specific attribute 5 (if applicable)	(P) Annual Output achieved	(Q) Spatial data recorded and provided (Y/N)
										Disability Advisory Committee Turtles Australia Friends of the Botanic Gardens Shepparton Canoe Club Native Fish Australia FamilyCare disability support group Cussen Park Advisory Committee Headspace Scouts Victoria Girl Guides Wellways St Georges Rd Community Hub Shepparton English Language Centre Out in the Open Festival	4 5 4 4 4 3 3 2 2 1 1 1 1 1					
	Engagement events	20/21 – 2,500 participants *COVID impact  21/22 – 3,000 participants 22/23 – 3,500 participants 23/24 – 4,000 participants	4.4 Engagement event – Presentation Social Media Online content	Establish	Awareness	Increase awareness of target audience	Shepparton	Point	Location where each event was held	Name of each event <b>Please see table below for detail</b>	Length of each event in hours, to the nearest hour <b>Please see table below for detail</b>	Number of events – where events have identical values for all attributes (e.g. location, type) they can be captured together <b>Please see table below for detail</b>	Target audience of each event (select): <b>Agency staff</b> <b>CBNRM group</b> <b>General community</b> <b>Indigenous</b> <b>Land managers</b> <b>Schools</b> <b>Youth</b> <b>MDBA member councils</b>  <b>Please see table below for detail</b>	Primary focus of each event (select): <b>Conservation management / techniques</b> <b>Data management &amp; reporting</b> <b>Survey &amp; monitoring</b> <b>Planning</b> <b>Consultation</b> <b>Collaboration</b>  <b>Please see table below for detail</b>	No. of participants per event <b>Please see table below for detail</b>	Y

## Engagement Events Table

Region Area or Reach	Spatial object type	Spatial object description	Event name	Length in hours	Target Audience*	# of events (where events are similar they can be captured together)	Focus of event ^	# of participants	Location
Shepparton	Point	358390.327 5974462.561	Wellways Nature Connection activity	1	Community	1	Education	7	Zoom
			Out In The Open nature connection	1	Community	1	Education	6	Zoom
			Murray Darling Association Conference	0.2	Agencies	1	General	300	Online webinar
			Education Program	13.5	Schools	11	Education	152	Various
			<b>JULY - DECEMBER TOTALS</b>	<b>15.7</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>465</b>	
		356048.44 5972679.01	River Clean Up	5	Community	1	Conservation Management	38	Goulburn River
		356105.454 5973654.124	Pictures and Parrots	2	Community	1	General	32	Gemmills Swamp
		358304.337 5977578.028	Citizen Science session	2	Community	1	Education	13	Reedy Swamp
			Spotlight Walks	8	Community	3	General	64	Various
		356088.53 5970009.72	Clean Up Australia Day	2	Community	1	Conservation Management	33	Jackson Park, Broken River, Shepparton
		360592.982 5971783.656	International Womens Day Orienteering	2	Community	1	General	4	Victoria Park Lake, Shepparton
		340786.28 5966779.64	Breakfast with the Birds	2	Community	1	General	25	Cussen Park, Tatura
			Nurture Nature	4	Community	2	General	115	Various
		340786.28 5966779.64	Bat Night	2	Community	1	General	48	Cussen Park, Tatura
		356413.32 5973015.47	GV Libraries Story Time In The Park	1	Community	1	General	57	Queens Gardens, Shepparton
			The Haven Activities Day	2	Community	1	General	30	The Haven, Mooroopna
		358390.327 5974462.561	Family Care Into Rec - nature walk	2.5	Community	1	General	6	Boulevard Bush Reserve
			Online Zoom - Shepparton North Scouts	1	Community	1	Education	12	Zoom
			Online Zoom - Northern Region Scouts	1	Community	1	Education	10	Zoom
		360592.982 5971783.656	Signs and Symbols workshop (June)	2	Community	1	General	20	Kaiela Arts, Victoria Park Lake, Shepparton
		360592.982 5971783.656	Weaving Workshop (June)	2	Community	1	General	20	Kaiela Arts, Victoria Park Lake, Shepparton
		360592.982 5971783.656	Turtle Muster Workshop (June)	2	Community	1	General	20	Kaiela Arts, Victoria Park Lake, Shepparton
			Education Program (to 7 June)	41.5	Schools	25	Education	579	Various
			<b>JANUARY - JUNE TOTALS</b>	<b>84</b>		<b>45</b>		<b>1126</b>	
			<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>99.7</b>		<b>59</b>		<b>1591</b>	

## Media Mentions

Article title	Media	Date
Wild Pollinator Count	One FM	6/11/2020
Insect count a win for science	Shepparton News	6/11/2020
Hit the ponds for a good cause this FrogID Week	Country News	8/11/2020
How to attract birds to your yard this summer	Shepparton News	18/11/2020
Mooroopna kindergarten builds nest boxes for gliders	Shepparton News	14/12/2020
Rodney Neighbourhood Kindergarten awarded environmental grant	Shepparton News	6/01/2021
Shepparton citizen science day at Reedy Swamp	Shepparton News	21/01/2021

Article title	Media	Date
COVID-19 delays Broken River pedestrian bridge	Shepparton News	4/02/2021
One Tree Per Child	WIN News	12/02/2021
Step up and clean up this weekend	Shepparton News	3/03/2021
Slimy trolleys, tyres, cans and fishing gear: but Sunday wasn't all rubbish	Shepparton News	4/03/2021
Rare bird spotted in Mooroopna for first time in 30 years	Shepparton News	18/05/2021
Work starts on Broken River bridge	Shepparton News	25/05/2021

## 5 Year priorities 2017-2022 - progress

Priority	Target	Benchmark	Annual increase to achieve target	2017/18	2018/19	2019/2020	2020/2021
ETC	25% increase in use of shared pathways	95 average daily visits		Data not reported	95 average daily visits	120 average daily visits	N/A not collated
	25% increase in participation in river environment activities	Align with CMA targets	250	4978	5832	4280 ** affected by COVID-19	860 ** affected by COVID-19
IES	50% COGS schools one class >1,000 students	1,000		1929	3167	1314	731 ** affected by COVID-19
	One tertiary education project in the river environment	1		1	1	1	0
SAC	1,000 participants annually in traditional owner-led events in river environment	1000 p.a (5000 total)		92	47	268	60
	Significant whole of community events and projects celebrate our shared history			0	0	0	0
IHW	Shared path extended by 9km			0	0	2km – The Flats Walk	In progress – Route 5 Bridge + path– 1km
	Opportunities and spaces are created that people actively use			0	0	0	In progress – Route 5 Bridge + path– 1km
RARE	Extent and quality of native veg & water quality is improved		1 hectare reveg CMA target	2.87 hectares	0.795 hectares	1.12 Hectares	0.28 Hectares
	Access for various sectors improved at 5 locations	1 per year		0	0	1 – The Flats Walk	In progress – Route 5 Bridge + path– 1km
	75% decrease in volume of illegally dumped rubbish	40m3 / \$112,500 labour /260 reports GSCC only. \$23,000 disposal incl PV		331 reports	339 reports	400+ reports 3+ tonnes removed by community	48 LL reports 3+ tonnes removed by community _ by Working for Vic crew
	Decreased priority weeds on shared path network	Need baseline data.	0.7 hectare CMA target	2.03 hectares	1.275 hectares	0.88 hectares	77.47 hectares
SPE	One example of social enterprise associated with RC aspirations	0		0	1	0	0
	One example of private enterprise associated with RC aspirations	0		0	0	2 – Bohollow Enviro Ed and Into the Wild Education	0
PGG	Key stakeholders continue to endorse and support the partnership and governance arrangements of RiverConnect			Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
	Funding won from government and non-traditional sources consistent w RC aspirations			\$610,740 won from Federal Regional Jobs and Investment Packages. \$10,000 won from Sustainability Victoria	0	\$500,000 won from Regional Development Victoria – Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund	0
	RiverConnect is accountable and adaptive			Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

## 2. Acknowledgement of Fund Source

- a. Have you acknowledged the fund source (eg. State Government, Australian Government, etc.)?  
Yes/~~No~~ (please circle)

## 3. Spatial reporting and documentation

- a. The outputs reported in the table above are spatially recorded, reported and provided through:
- |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Online GB CMA mapping system | Yes/ <del>No</del> (please circle) |
| ESRI File                    | Yes/ <del>No</del> (please circle) |

**Please provide appropriate files or attachments linking outputs to spatial data.**

- b. All documents prepared and/or published as part of the project, including those not publicly released (i.e. technical reports and specifications), attached?  
Yes/~~No~~ (please circle)

## 4. Comments on delivery of each project

- a. Overall comments on project progress:

Financial year 2020-2021 continued to present COVID-19 related challenges to RiverConnect's programs, through varying levels of restrictions on events, school interactions, and in general human contact! This has reduced the amount of engagement with the community that the project has been able to deliver, with 860 people involved in 20 community engagement activities, 731 school students from 9 schools and 1 kinder. RiverConnect has maintained and developed 39 partnerships, and features in 13 external media items.

Staff have established new relationships with the St Georges Rd Community Hub and Shepparton English Language Centre and also presented at the 85<sup>th</sup> Murray Darling Basin Association Conference to 300 member councils across 5 states and territories (as noted in the December report).

We were able to make good use of an opportunity to employ a Bush Crew through funding made available by the State Government under the Working for Victoria initiative. 4 Staff were employed through August to May, and set to work manually removing problem weeds, woody weed chemical treatment, regular rubbish removal at key river/bushland areas, and mapping and some removal of barbed wire at Council sites. The crew were able to treat 77.47 hectares on riparian bushland for weeds including thistles, Moth Vine, Madeira Winter Cherry and Ash Trees, remove dumped rubbish and general litter, and 617 metres of barbed wire. Unfortunately, tree planting that would have been conducted by school groups ended up undertaken by contractors and the Greater Shepparton City Council's Working for Victoria crew.

One school multi-activity day was able to go ahead. 65 Grade 3 and 4 students from St Brendan's Primary school learnt about habitat, native plants, bugs and reusing materials at the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton. More multi-activity days are planned with the second cohort of Grade 3 and 4s, as well as Grade 5s and 6s at Reedy Swamp, when the restrictions ease again.

The 2km path upgrade of the Flats Walk and new seating is completed and already sees high visitation (see pictures on following page). Staff have spoken to many community members who are pleased with the improvements. This area has been protected from public vehicle access, creating a safer experience for pedestrians and cyclists, including those on YYNAC-guided Flats Walks.



The new pedestrian bridge across the Broken River had construction delays due to materials being sourced from overseas, however construction is now underway and expected to be completed by the end of winter. There are extensions planned in addition to this path which will see new boardwalks in the Gardens and a shared path joining up with Riverview Drive. This is expected to be fully completed around November.

The shared path project between KidsTown and Gemmill's Swamp has unfortunately been moved to the 2027 capital budget by the Greater Shepparton City Council. However, three field assessments will be completed by the end of June: Flora and Fauna Survey, Cultural Heritage Management Plan and Soil Contamination Assessment (at the old Mooroopna Rifle Range). The required land acquisition has been approved by Council and will be completed next financial year. Staff expect that the detailed design for the path will be undertaken in the 2022-23 financial year.

The Project Officer attended the May 2021 Floodplain Ecology Course run by Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, and both officers attended the online Glider Symposium hosted by the Biolinks Alliance.

**b. Key achievements and highlights:**

- Staff prepared and presented a 20 minute video on RiverConnect to the 85<sup>th</sup> Murray Darling Basin Association conference. This was attended by 300 member councils from 5 states and territories.
- Working for Victoria funding allowed us to treat a huge 77.47 hectares of bushland for weeds, as well as conduct regular rubbish pickups throughout the riparian bushland area.
- Schools are beginning to re-engage, although unfortunately the latest snap lockdown has again disrupted our programs. Some schools seem reluctant to book anything, while others are keen as mustard to get involved.
- Community clean up events removed over 3 tonnes of rubbish from the Goulburn and Broken Rivers.
- Ongoing partnership and delivery collaboration with One Tree Per Child which assists to achieve the revegetation target.
- Hosted 20 community engagement events (4 online) with 860 participants.
- Construction of Route 5 in progress and surveys for Route 2 completed.
- Continued strong engagement on Facebook and Instagram, particularly through the COVID lockdown periods. We have 988 Facebook followers and 378 Instagram followers.
- RiverConnect has continued to develop our partnerships, with an exciting partnership project in planning with Birdlife Murray Goulburn and Goulburn Valley Water. This project will see groups led by a suitably inducted guide through GV Water's McCracken Road site for the bird watching events.

**c. Challenges and issues faced that have directly impacted on project delivery in the reporting period:**

- Finalisation of the Committee of Management for Council assets on Parks Victoria managed land remains an on-going activity. Progress has been made with meetings between Council and Parks Victoria to determine boundaries and regular internal meetings of Council stakeholder departments to ensure all assets and considerations are included.
- Restrictions associated with COVID-19 continue to present challenges for planning and implementing our programs. A number of classes have had to be cancelled both during the February and May/June

snap lockdowns, which causes disruptions for ongoing term projects, as well as difficulty in re-booking single sessions or all day events. Our current strategy is to continue to plan as though we will be able to run our programs, and just cancel where we need to. We are hoping that this will just be a temporary problem which pops up occasionally rather than ongoing long term lockdowns as we saw in 2020. Zoom continues to be an option for school programs, but it is incredibly difficult to engage students in this way, particularly when the focus is on being outdoors in the river environs!

- Changes in restrictions arising from the pandemic have also resulted in cancelled and postponed activities, with the Shepparton Festival events with Kaiela Arts this month currently in doubt. It is also affecting the delivery of the One Tree Per Child revegetation project with community members but staff are hopeful that more community planting days will be able to occur in the new financial year.

**d. How these challenges and/or issues are going to be mitigated or addressed:**

- Council is currently working through additions to the Committee of Management boundaries to present to Parks Victoria for their review.
- Continuing to work with schools and environmental education colleagues around the challenges of learning from home, and/or restrictions on incursions and excursions. We will plan as though we are able to operate as normal where we can, with back up plans of Zoom or postponement of classes. If lockdowns continue we will again look at more online content.
- RiverConnect staff will continue to keep the program flexible and adaptable and transfer activities to a COVID safe format (eg. online / outdoors) instead of postponing, where possible.

**e. If previous mitigations have been identified in earlier reports, how successful have these been?**

- We have used online methods for engagement with positive effects in the past despite the challenges of these, and can easily revert to this if needed.

**f. A statement about the Project's approach for, and progress towards, supporting aboriginal engagement and collaboration:**

- The education program was able to provide much needed support to the Academy of Sport Health Education (ASHE) in Term 2, when they had an unexpected influx of Year 10 students enrol. Previously ASHE had only enrolled Year 11 and 12, however some difficulties at the newly merged Secondary College led to a number of Indigenous students wishing to transfer to ASHE. ASHE had to quickly set up an education program for these 15 students, and engaged RiverConnect to conduct 5 sessions for students to begin learning about Work Related Skills while working on Country at the Flats. It was great to work closely with ASHE again.
- RiverConnect and Council's Community Department staff are currently planning an Aboriginal cultural education day for Mooroopna North and Ardmona primary schools, both schools with high numbers of Aboriginal students. Activities will include a Turtle Tile Making workshop at Kaiela Arts, a Flats Walk with Uncle Ruben Baksh (YYNAC), a traditional bush food lunch prepared by Yurri Catering and a tour of the Aboriginal Murals with Councillor Greg James (the Dana Djirungana Dunguludja Yenbena-l Street Art Project). Staff will offer this package to other schools if the day is successful.
- Staff were very proud to be invited to the first cultural burn on Council land by the Wanyarra community group, led by Yorta Yorta man Mick Bourke and supported by the Firesticks Alliance. This burn was arranged in conjunction with the public hearings of the Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria and was attended by the Parliamentary Environment and Planning Committee.
- RiverConnect has engaged Kaiela Arts Aboriginal art centre to facilitate 3 workshops under the Shepparton Festival in June. Staff also plan to support Kaiela Arts staff in delivering the Turtle Muster school holiday program and NAIDOC week activities.
- RiverConnect is continuing to support Uncle Ruben Baksh to formalise the Yiyirr Nitel Men's Group and coordinate a renovation of a Council managed shed at KidsTown for their Men's Shed plans.
- RiverConnect continues to strengthen our relationship with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation staff with continuous engagement and regular meetings.

Organisation declaration:

We declare that we are authorised representatives\* of the recipient organisation, that the information given on this form is complete and correct and that expenditure of moneys paid under the financial agreement have been solely expended upon the project and in accordance with the terms of the Agreement and Conditions.

Name (please print)		Peter Harriott		Name (please print)		Geraldine Christou	
Position in organisation	CEO	Phone	5832 9700	Position in organisation	Director Sustainable Development	Phone	5832 9700
Signature		Date		Signature		Date	

\* Declaration to be signed by the Organisation’s two responsible officers other than the Project Manager (for example, the Organisation’s President / Secretary or CEO and the Organisation’s Treasurer or Chief Finance Officer).