

RiverConnect Program Annual Progress Report

July 2023 – June 2024



Figure 1. A young child enjoys the many wonders to be seen at Reedy Swamp Shepparton, prior to the Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group's Spotlight Walk for their Parks Victoria-funded Refugees in the Bush project.

Schedule 6

Annual Progress Report

For project: RiverConnect

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

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 Schedule 4A for details	DEECA Output Database in ESRI File Geodatabase Format	GB CMA Online Project Management System (enQUIRE)
Reporting contact:	Alison White	
Contact name and email address:	(03) 5832 9714 alison.white@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 2023	
End date:	30 June 2024	

Project expenditure

Description	Funds Approved	
	2023-2024	
RiverConnect	Budget	Actual
Employment	\$178,396	\$178,396
In-kind/volunteer labour ¹		\$15,000
Total employment Costs (ex GST)	\$178,396	\$193,396
Community Project/Program Delivery ²	\$25,338	\$31,455
Program Operations ³	\$12,094	\$67,205
Advertising Marketing and Promotions	\$9,802	\$9,802
Community Group Support	\$0	\$0
Revegetation ⁴	\$0	\$5,000
Funding received	\$0	\$0
Total Operating Costs (ex GST)	\$47,234	\$113,462
Total (ex GST)⁵	\$225,630	\$306,858

2023-2024

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

In-kind/volunteer labour¹ - estimated \$15,000 In-kind Program, Project and Staff Management through other GSCC budgets

Community Project/Program Delivery² - Program Delivery overspend of \$6,117 (absorbed into GSCC 2023-2024 expenditure - RiverConnect budget line total expense \$231,748)

Program Operations³ - \$55,111 for purchase of permanent van for RiverConnect including cargo bay racking, and on-road costs (exc. GST) from other GSCC budgets

Revegetation⁴ - plants and materials for revegetation through other GSCC budgets

Total (ex GST)⁵ - 2023-2024 forecast of \$225,630 includes funding agreement \$212,600 plus 2022-2023 unspent \$13,030

RiverConnect 2023/2024 Financial Report

Description	Proponent Funds (GSCC)		Other Contributor (GBCMA)		External Funds (DEECA)		Total Budget 2023/2024	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
RiverConnect								
Employment	\$89,198	\$89,198	\$89,198	\$89,198			\$178,396	\$178,396
In-kind/volunteer labour ¹		\$15,000						\$15,000
Total employment Costs (ex GST)	\$89,198	\$104,198	\$89,198	\$89,198	\$0	\$0	\$178,396	\$193,396
Community Project/Program Delivery ²	\$13,137	\$19,254	\$12,201	\$12,201			\$25,338	\$31,455
Program Operations ³	\$12,094	\$67,205					\$12,094	\$67,205
Advertising Marketing and Promotions	\$4,901	\$4,901	\$4,901	\$4,901			\$9,802	\$9,802
Community Group Support							\$0	\$0
Revegetation ⁴		\$5,000					\$0	\$5,000
Funding received							\$0	\$0
Total Operating Costs (ex GST)	\$30,132	\$96,360	\$17,102	\$17,102	\$0	\$0	\$47,234	\$113,462
Total (ex GST)⁵	\$119,330	\$200,558	\$106,300	\$106,300	\$0	\$0	\$225,630	\$306,858

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.

OUTPUT ATTRIBUTES																
(A) Project	(B) Activity	(C) Annual output target	(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	2.1 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): Manual search for target weeds	Biosecurity aim (select one): Containment	Estimate of percentage (nearest 10%) of the output polygon that was treated 0%	Arrangement of the target species within output polygon (select one): Small patches and large patches	Species ID using the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas Spear Thistle and Hairy Hogfruit, Black Nighthshade, Sycamore Maple and Blackberry	81.71 Ha	Y
	Revegetation	1 ha each year	2.2 Vegetation – Native indigenous	Establish	Vegetation extent	Increase vegetation extent	Shepparton	Polygon	Area where vegetation has been established, maintained or modified	Specific activities undertaken (select): Seeding planting Supplementary watering	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.62 Ha	Y
	RiverConnect Paths Master Plan	21/22 Complete Route 5 22/23 Land acquisition and design Route 2 23/24 Construct Route 2 (subject to external funding)	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): Land acquisition for Route 2 in progress, detailed designs to follow	Identify the specific type of approval and advice (select one): Public acquisition	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. of approvals and advice 0	N
	Assessments	21/22 Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and Flora and Fauna (F&F) Assessment 22/23 Mooroopna Sandhill Cultural Heritage Management Assessment 23/24 Boulevard Bush Reserve Flora and Fauna Assessment	4.3 Assessment – Cultural and Environmental	Establish	Awareness	Increase awareness of target audience	Shepparton	Polygon	Area where assessment has been conducted Boulevard Bush Reserve Flora and Fauna Assessment	Area where the assessment data is stored (select): Greater Shepparton City Council – Content Manager – 2024/28177	ID for the entries into the database Boulevard Bush Reserve Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Specific activities undertaken (select one): Survey	N/A	N/A	No. of assessments 1	N
	Community group support	8 each year (Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group, Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton, Shepparton Camera Club, Shepparton Heritage Centre, BirdLife Murray Goulburn,	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 Greater Shepparton City Council Goulburn Broken CMA Parks Victoria Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative Goulburn Murray Landcare Network Goulburn Valley Environment Group Goulburn Valley Water DEECA	Duration of the partnership in years, where considered permanent 99 years should be used 99 99 99 99 99 99 99	No. of partnerships 50	N			

OUTPUT ATTRIBUTES																		
(A) Project	(B) Activity	(C) Annual output target	(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)		
		Shepparton Canoe Club, Burmanga Indigenous Fishing Club)								Great Shepp Young Champions 99 Goulburn Valley Health 2 Community representatives: 99 Jay Whittaker 6 Rod McLennan 19 Bruce Cumming 19 Kimberley Chau 2 Paul Hockett 2 Victorian Fisheries Authority 10 Kalela Arts 11 Victoria Walks 7 Birdlife Murray Goulburn 11 Fairley Leadership Program participants 6 GV Mountain Bike Club 7 Shepparton Camera Club 9 Shepparton Historical Society 8 Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group 99 Platypus Conservancy 8 Lighthouse Project/ The Haven 8 Disability Advisory Committee 7 Turtles Australia 8 Friends of the Botanic Gardens 7 Shepparton Canoe Club 7 Native Fish Australia 5 FamilyCare disability support group 7 Cussen Park Advisory Committee 6 Headspace Shepparton 6 Scouts Victoria 6 Girl Guides 5 Wellways 5 St Georges Rd Community Hub 5 Shepparton English Language Centre 5 Out in the Open Festival 5 Shepparton Art Museum 4 Veolia 5 Burnmanga Indigenous Fishing Club 3 Friends of Gemmill's Swamp 5 Point of Difference Studio 3 Things of Spirit 5 OzGreen 2 National Trust of Australia – Heritage Festival 2 Australian Conservation Foundation 2								
	Engagement events	3,000-4,000 participants	4.4 Engagement events Media Social Media Website	Establish	Awareness	Increase awareness of target audience	Shepparton	Point	Location where each event was held	Name of each event Please see table below for detail	Length of each event in hours, to the nearest hour 241 Hours Please see table below for detail	Number of events – where identical values for all attributes (e.g. location, type) they can be captured together 115 Events Please see table below for detail	Target audience of each event (select): Community 63 Agency 1 Education 51 Please see table below for detail	Primary focus of each event (select): Art & Culture 5 Awareness/Engagement 33 Canoeing 2 Clean-Up 1 Education 39 Planting 20 Physical Activity 1 Spotlight 3 Tourism 2 Weeding 0 Wellbeing 9	No. of participants per event 5154 Total Attendees Please see table below for detail	Y		

Engagement Events Table (More details including dates, description and partners included in complimentary M23/68226 attachment)

Spatial Object Description	Location	Event name	Primary focus of event	Target Audience	No. Hours	No. Attendees
356426.67 5973233.03	FamilyCare	FamilyCare School holiday activity	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	10
356426.67 5973233.03	Shepparton Show Grounds	No Time To Waste	Awareness/Engagement	Community	4	500
356150.15 5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	FamilyCare Into Rec Adult Disability Social Group	Education	Community	1	10
356927.37 5972709.28	GOTAFE	GOTAFE VCAL	Education	Education	1	5
356150.15 5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	12
356977.57 5971701.12	St Georges Road Primary School Community Hub	Nature play activities	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	10
355290.74 5970382.65	Kalinga Park	Notre Dame College Year 10	Education	Education	2	25
356168.24 5972954.89	Anabranche of Goulburn River	Ready Tech Go - Citizen Science Apps	Education	Community	1.5	6
355290.74 5970382.65	Kalinga Park	Notre Dame College Year 10	Education	Education	2	18
355896.03 5973313.18	Princess Park	Berry Street School Year 11	Planting	Education	2	3
355290.74 5970382.65	Kalinga Park	FamilyCare Into Rec Adult Disability Social Group	Education	Community	1	10
356150.15 5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	12
354832.52 5967388.38	Sevens Creeks Drive	National Tree Day	Planting	Community	2	237
352095.39 5970337.85	Lenne Street Reserve Mooropna	Project Ready Greater Shepparton Secondary College Year 10 and Verney Road School VCAL	Planting	Education	2	30
355896.03 5973313.18	Princess Park	Berry Street School Year 10	Planting	Education	2	3
357407.52 5969816.95	Shepparton Flexible Learning Centre	Shepparton Flexible Learning Centre Year 10	Education	Education	1	6
356927.37 5972709.28	GOTAFE	GOTAFE VCAL	Planting	Education	2	5
332265.81 5973441.53	Merrigum Primary School	Merrigum Primary School P-6	Education	Education	1.5	20
357797.18 5974110.95	Verney Road School	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	9
356168.24 5972954.89	Shepparton Library & Goulburn Anabranche	Intro to Nature Journaling	Wellbeing	Community	1	16
351727.78 5960345.40	Toolamba Primary School	Toolamba Primary School Grade 3 and 4	Education	Education	3	45
357078.32 5969635.98	Archer Street/Broken River Drive Reserve	Multicultural community tree planting - DEECA Environmental Volunteering	Planting	Community	3	26
351727.78 5960345.40	Toolamba Primary School	Toolamba Primary School Grade 3 and 4	Education	Education	3	30
354546.63 5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	FamilyCare Into Rec Adult Disability Social Group	Education	Community	1	10
356301.16 5966195.26	Waterbird Park	Project Ready Greater Shepparton Secondary College Year 10 and Verney Road School VCAL	Planting	Education	2	30
357407.52 5969816.95	Shepparton Flexible Learning Centre	Shepparton Flexible Learning Centre Year 10	Planting	Education	1	7
356977.57 5971701.12	St Georges Road Primary School Community Hub	Nature play activities	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	10
357797.18 5974110.95	Verney Road School	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	12
355995.71 5972722.92	Dainton's Bridge	Streamology Environmental Science Experience - Greater Shepparton Secondary College	Education	Education	6	40
356296.92 5972766.33	Shepparton Senior Citizen Centre	Project Ready Greater Shepparton Secondary College Year 10 and Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	2	30
356296.92 5972766.33	Shepparton Senior Citizen Centre	Berry Street School Year 10	Education	Education	2	3
354546.63 5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Multicultural community river walk and talk - DEECA Environmental Volunteering	Awareness/Engagement	Community	0.5	0
354360.64 59757181.5	Tassicker Reserve	Verney Road School VCAL	Planting	Education	1	7
356150.15 5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	FamilyCare Into Rec Adult Disability Social Group	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	8
332265.81 5973441.53	Merrigum Primary School	Merrigum Primary School Grade 3 and 4	Education	Education	1.5	7
357797.18 5974110.95	Verney Road School	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	9

354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Multi session education day Guthrie Street Primary School Grade 3 and 4	Education	Education	4	75
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Multi session education day Guthrie Street Primary School Grade 3 and 4	Education	Education	4	50
340799.91	5966645.97	Cussen Park Tatura	Mooroopna Families and Children's Centre 4 Year Old Kindergarten	Education	Education	3	25
353929.90	5974405.15	Boulevard Bush Reserve	Boulevard Bush Reserve Community Day	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	13
356977.57	5971701.12	St Georges Road Primary School Community Hub	Lantern Making with Picnic for Peace	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	10
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	World Rivers Day	Awareness/Engagement	Community	3	350
355290.74	5970382.65	Kalinga Park	FamilyCare school holiday activities	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	8
354953.58	5974311.49	Jordan's Bend	Spotting Platypus	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	31
352940.36	5970809.04	Family Haven, Mooroopna	Family Haven school holiday activities	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1.5	25
353583.11	5976905.46	Reedy Swamp	Breakfast with the Birds	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	40
356223.89	5970964.44	Indie School	Indie School	Education	Education	1.5	8
351727.78	5960345.40	Toolamba Primary School	Toolamba Primary School Grade 3 and 4	Education	Education	2	50
356267.04	5972595.06	Shepparton Heritage Centre	River Heritage Walk and Talk	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	17
353929.90	5974405.15	Boulevard Bush Reserve	Take a Sensory Safari	Wellbeing	Community	1	5
356426.67	5973233.03	Shepparton Showgrounds	Shepparton Agricultural Show	Awareness/Engagement	Community	4	300
356426.67	5973233.03	Shepparton Showgrounds	Shepparton Agricultural Show	Awareness/Engagement	Community	4	400
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Nature Scripts - Nature Journaling	Wellbeing	Community	2	10
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Nature Scripts - Nature Journaling	Wellbeing	Community	2	5
354808.69	5972007.31	The Connection, Mooroopna	Gardening After Floods	Awareness/Engagement	Community	5	60
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Nature Scripts - Nature Photography	Art and Culture	Community	2	12
353583.11	5976905.46	Reedy Swamp	Nature Photography	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	27
357078.32	5969635.98	Broken River at Archer Road	Shepparton Flexible Learning Centre Year 11	Education	Education	1	8
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	FamilyCare Into Rec Adult Disability Social Group	Education	Community	1	8
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Multi-session Education Day St Anne's College Grades 3 and 4	Education	Education	4	59
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	10
353583.11	5976905.46	Reedy Swamp	Queer Nature Connection Campfire	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	25
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	10
353583.11	5976905.46	Reedy Swamp	FamilyCare Into Rec Adult Disability Social Group	Education	Community	1	4
332668.73	5973005.51	Dunyak Moira, Merrigum	Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club Launch	Art and Culture	Community	7.5	75
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Nature Scripts- Bee Hotels	Wellbeing	Community	2	9
353956.84	5974407.71	Boulevard Bush Reserve	Nature Scripts - Nature Journaling	Wellbeing	Community	2	8
355676.54	5968300.57	Kialla Children's Centre	Kialla Children's Centre	Education	Education	1	25
355676.54	5968300.57	Kialla Children's Centre	Kialla Children's Centre	Education	Education	1	25
357797.18	5974110.95	Verney Road School	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	10
356187.41	5974216.40	Gowrie Street Primary School	Gowrie Street Primary School	Education	Education	1	25
356927.37	5972709.28	GOTAFE	Activity for OLLY - youth drop in centre	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	20
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Nature Scripts - Bee Hotels	Wellbeing	Community	2	7
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	International Day of People with a Disability	Awareness/Engagement	Community	6.5	50
353583.11	5976905.46	Reedy Swamp	Verney Road School VCAL	Education	Education	1	10
357928.36	5973555.36	Greater Shepparton Secondary College	Greater Shepparton Secondary College 'Nurtcha' program	Education	Education	1	10

356187.41	5974216.40	Gowrie Street Primary School	Gowrie Street Primary School	Education	Education	1	25
356580.58	5972622.35	Maude Street Mail	Christmas Wonderland	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	8
356580.58	5972622.35	Maude Street Mail	Christmas Wonderland	Awareness/Engagement	Community	3	18
356580.58	5972622.35	Maude Street Mail	Christmas Wonderland	Awareness/Engagement	Community	3	20
356580.58	5972622.35	Maude Street Mail	Christmas Wonderland	Awareness/Engagement	Community	3	19
340812.12	5946110.14	Murchison Pool	Resilience in Recovery Murchison Pool Party	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	300
353929.90	5974405.15	Boulevard Bush Reserve	Nature Scripts - Nature Journaling	Wellbeing	Community	1.5	6
353187.61	5970886.63	Goulburn River	Canoeing on the Goulburn	Canoeing	Community	4	41
355941.71	5972625.85	Goulburn River	Canoeing on the Goulburn	Canoeing	Community	4	39
353572.67	5974625.10	Shepparton Weir	SMULG Clean Up - Shepp Weir	Clean-Up	Community	3.5	15
N/A		Online	DEECA New Growth Projects Webinar	Awareness/Engagement	Agency	1	50
356845.17	5972697.78	GOTAFE	Activity for OLLY - youth drop in centre	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	20
356577.50	5972952.03	Uniting Shepparton	Pride Nature Art	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	9
353929.90	5974405.15	Boulevard Bush Reserve	Nature Scripts - Nature Journaling	Wellbeing	Community	1.5	7
340765.90	5966616.78	Cussen Park Tatura	Bat Night	Education	Community	3.5	170
354708.54	5970480.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	SMULG Wasteland to Wetland Project	Planting	Community	2	30
354269.51	5971234.92	The Flats Mooroopna	An Elder's Stories	Art and Culture	Community	4	40
355111.92	5971093.08	Confluence of Broken and Goulburn Rivers	Meet me at the Confluence	Art and Culture	Community	2	30
353929.90	5974405.15	Boulevard Bush Reserve	Take a Sensory Safari	Art and Culture	Community	2	10
355548.70	5971256.31	Tom Collins Drive	Nature Scripts - Spotlight Walk	Spotlight	Community	1.5	10
357655.63	5974297.69	Bourchier Street Primary School	Bourchier Street Primary School	Planting	Education	2	84
356183.74	5966451.52	Waterbird Park	St Anne's College	Planting	Education	3	187
353308.73	5977775.55	Reedy Swamp	SMULG - Refugees in the Bush - St George's Rd Community Hub	Planting	Community	1.5	30
353308.73	5977775.55	Reedy Swamp	SMULG - Refugees in the Bush - Shepparton English Language Centre	Planting	Education	1.5	50
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Botanic Gardens Tour	Tourism	Community	1.5	13
355115.42	5976019.39	DECA	Careers Day Out	Awareness/Engagement	Education	5	100
355115.42	5976019.39	DECA	Careers Day Out	Awareness/Engagement	Education	5	100
353575.10	5976896.33	Reedy Swamp	SMULG - Refugees in the Bush	Spotlight	Community	4.5	33
356931.52	5971579.41	St Georges Road Primary School	St Georges Road Primary School	Planting	Education	4	97
356215.18	5972706.93	Monash Park Shepparton	Monash Park Signage Launch	Tourism	Community	1.5	40
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	Botanic Gardens Open Day	Awareness/Engagement	Community	3.5	80
355173.44	5968955.49	Settlers Drive Kialla	Orrvale Primary School	Planting	Education	1	32
355589.85	5974289.39	Stuarts Reserve	SMULG - Refugees in the Bush - Shepparton English Language Centre	Physical Activity	Education	1	15
356195.71	5972952.50	Shepparton Library/Goulburn River Anabranch	Intro to Nature Journaling	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1.5	18
353575.10	5976896.33	Reedy Swamp	Nature Scripts Final Reunion and Wrap-Up	Spotlight	Community	3	35
357468.33	5970279.65	Leslie Gribble Kindergarten	Greater Shepparton Secondary College Cert II Active Volunteering	Planting	Education	2	15
352014.11	5972931.92	JA Douglas Reserve	Mooroopna Families and Children's Centre 4 Year Old Kindergarten	Planting	Education	1	22
354795.54	5967522.86	Seven Creeks Drive	Wilmot Road Primary School	Planting	Education	1	96
357051.53	5975919.89	Hawkins Street Drainage Reserve	Goulburn Valley Grammar School	Planting	Education	1	100

Engagement Events Summary

	No. events	No. Hours	No. Attendees
Totals	115	241	5154

Category	No. of events
Art and Culture	5
Awareness/Engagement	33
Canoeing	2
Clean-Up	1
Education	39
Planting	20
Physical Activity	1
Spotlight	3
Tourism	2
Weeding	0
Wellbeing	9

Target Audience	Count
Community	63
Education	51
Agency	1

Website Metrics (Measured at end of month)

Month	Jul-23	August	September	October	November	December	Jan-24	February	March	April	May	June	AVERAGE
No. of sessions	309	376	506	407	345	353	369	656	384	396	482	358	417
No. of users	253	303	385	345	279	304	302	562	321	324	386	282	337

Social Media Metrics (Measured at start of month)

	Jul-23	August	September	October	November	December	Jan-24	February	March	April	May	June	INCREASE	GROWTH
Facebook	1480	1515	1537	1574	1607	1614	1629	1636	1646	1650	1662	1680	200	13.51%
Instagram	524	535	543	553	562	565	570	575	582	591	604	610	86	16.41%

Media Mentions

Article title	Media	Date
Nature Journalism a big hit. (Front page and page 4)	Shepparton News	3/07/2023
Treat trash responsibly	Shepparton News	12/07/2023
National Tree Day	Shepparton News	26/07/2023
Let it grow: Community speaks for the trees	Shepparton News	2/08/2023
World Rivers Day	Ethnic Council of Shepparton Newsletter	10/09/2023
Platyopus spotting day	Shepparton News	11/09/2023
World Rivers Day at the lake	Shepparton News	11/09/2023
Council announces handful of events centred around Nature Pact	Shepparton News	11/09/2023
Council backs Nature Pact 2023, invites public to connect with nature	Mirage News	11/09/2023
Council proudly supports Nature Pact 2023: An invitation to connect with nature	The National Tribune	11/09/2023
Head out and enjoy the outdoors	Shepparton News	13/09/2023
Celebrating Waterways	Shepparton News	14/09/2023
Greater Shepparton Seniors Festival 2023 to feature over 100 events	The National Tribune	15/09/2023
Greater Shepparton Seniors Festival 2023 to feature over 100 events	Mirage News	15/09/2023
Celebrate our rivers	Country News	18/09/2023
Video catches elusive monotreme	Country News	20/09/2023
What's on this weekend - World Rivers Day	Shepparton News	21/09/2023
What's on these school holidays - Spotting Platypus	Shepparton News	21/09/2023
World Rivers Day (Live 5 minute)	ABC Radio	23/09/2023
Greater Shepparton Seniors Festival: What's on in week one	Shepparton News	26/09/2023
Council announces GV Health partnership with RiverConnect	Shepparton News	26/09/2023
Goulburn Valley Health joins RiverConnect	The National Tribune	26/09/2023
Goulburn Valley Health joins RiverConnect	Mirage News	26/09/2023
Goulburn Valley Health partners with RiverConnect to promote wellness via natural environment	Shepparton News	27/09/2023
First Seniors Week event a big hit	Shepparton News	9/10/2023
Get up and close with nature for National Bird Week	Shepparton News	10/10/2023
Everyone is invited to join the 2023 Aussie Bird Count during National Bird Week	The National Tribune	12/10/2023
Join 2023 Aussie Bird Count in National Bird Week	Mirage News	12/10/2023
Sophie's Patch Newsletter October 23. Our Final Sophie's Patch Open Garden.	Sophie Thompson (Gardening Australia)	23/10/2023
Focus on nature	Shepparton Adviser	25/10/2023
It's turtle time: Be kind to our shelled friends	Shepparton News	31/10/2023
Turtles on the move across Greater Shepparton	Mirage News	31/10/2023

Article title	Media	Date
Turtles on the move across Greater Shepparton	The National Tribune	31/10/2023
Passion driving a giving nature	Shepparton Adviser	8/11/2023
Turtles on the move across the Goulburn Valley	Shepparton Adviser	8/11/2023
Be kind to turtles	Shepparton News	21/11/2023
Special ornament for the tree	Shepparton News	2/01/2024
World Wetlands Day - Restoration provides healthy wetlands and wellbeing	Shepparton News	1/02/2024
Step Up to Clean Up - Clean Up Australia Day 2024	Mirage News	8/02/2024
Step Up to Clean Up - Clean Up Australia Day 2024	The National Tribune	8/02/2024
Time not wasted as RiverConnect encourages flexible Clean Up Australia Day activities	Shepparton News	9/02/2024
Shepparton Soroptimists celebrate International Women's Day with trailblazing guest speaker	Shepparton news	20/02/2024
In the market for an adventure this weekend? (Canoeing)	Shepparton News	22/02/2024
Fun, festivals and flowers - Clean up Australia Day	Shepparton News	29/02/2024
News in brief (Bat Night)	Shepparton News	28/03/2024
Bat Night hits Tatura	Shepparton News	1/04/2024
Bat Night	Triple M Radio	3/04/2024
Bat Night	ABC Radio	6/04/2024
Town Talk - Where great things are unfolding every day! (Monash Park Signage)	Shepparton News	8/04/2024
Meet me at the Confluence	ABC Radio	11/04/2024
Initiative - staff protect turtle nests	Grass Roots Magazine	April/May Issue
Check out what's on in Greater Shepparton this weekend (Botanic Gardens tour)	Shepparton News	2/05/2024
Botanic Gardens tour	ABC Radio	3/05/2024
Town Talk - Pioneering the success of Shepparton Heritage Centre (Monash Park Signage)	Shepparton News	6/05/2024
Be a part of history this weekend (Monash Park Signage and Botanic Gardens Open Day)	Shepparton News	23/05/2024
Gallery - Students put down roots (One Tree Per Child program)	Shepparton News	23/05/2024
Monash Park to Unveil Signage Highlighting Shepparton's History	Mirage News	23/05/2024
Australian Botanic Gardens Open Day	One FM 98.5 Radio	24/05/2024
Town Talk - Century of Legacy (Monash Park Signage)	Shepparton News	27/05/2024
Return to roots with new heritage panels	Shepparton News	5/06/2024
Former Lighthouse CEO recognised in King's Birthday Honours List	Shepparton News	9/06/2024
Monash Park Historical signage unveiled	Shepparton Adviser	12/06/2024
TOTAL	63 items	

RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 Alignment

Strategic Direction		Strategic Actions		Annual Targets		Progress			
						22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance opportunities for young people Continue learnings about the river Engage diverse community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support at least five Traditional Owner-led projects and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage 4,000 people in river environment activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged 5769 people in 89 activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged 5154 people in 115 activities 			
INSPIRE THE EDUCATION SECTOR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable educational participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen connection with education sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46% (17 of the 35 schools engaged not including 4 kindergartens, 1 homework club and 1 home-school group) 1816 students engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46% (17 of the 35 schools engaged not including 4 kindergartens, 1 homework club and 1 home-school group) 1816 students engaged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43% (18/42 schools engaged - not including 2 kindergartens) 1513 students engaged 			
IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share health and wellbeing benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link health and wellbeing to nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One tertiary education project in the RiverConnect area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No tertiary project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PHD Project - Community Priorities in the Goulburn-Broken River Catchment 			
ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY AND CARE OF THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nurture stewardship culture Facilitate opportunities to care Understand and realise flexible and inclusive water access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enable sustainable on-going management Support Traditional Owner Connection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revegetate 1 Ha area and remove priority weeds in 0.7 Ha area Explore alternative event locations during the flood impacts of October 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.58 Ha revegetation 3.95 Ha weed removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.62 Ha revegetation 81.71 Ha weed mapped, 0 Ha removed 			
SHOWCASE THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creatively promote RiverConnect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage eco-tourism Communicate accessibility of the river environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to progress the RiverConnect Paths Master Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New event banners in the new Strategic Plan style New 'purposeful' promotional items New inclusion of RiverConnect events in Australian Heritage Festival 36 media mentions 1962 social media followers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of World Rivers Day town entry signs RiverConnect River Access Map updated and reprinted Turtle education campaign reached over 5k people Monash Park Signage Project completed 63 media mentions 2290 social media followers 			
NURTURE PARTNERSHIPS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leverage RiverConnect partner involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore a home for RiverConnect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and build relationships with 50 groups and organisations Developed 2 new partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained 48 partnerships Developed 2 new partnerships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood recovery funding for Biodiversity Impact Assessment of Boulevard Bush Reserve Successful \$6,400 DECCA grant for Caring for Nature: Youth Camp 			

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/ No (please circle) |
| ESRI File | Yes/ No (please circle) |

Please see attached files

- 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:

RiverConnect engaged 5154 people in 115 events/activities including 1513 students from 18 schools and 2 kindergartens across the year. The program was featured in 63 media items (increase of 43% from 22-23), including 6 radio interviews, and is followed by a total of 2290 people on social media (increase of 14% from 22-23). RiverConnect also maintained and leveraged partnerships with 50 groups/organisations to achieve shared objectives from the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028.

Through flood recovery funding, Biodiversity Impact Assessments for three sites were completed across the RiverConnect area. As part of this, 81.72 Ha were mapped for priority weed presence and recommendations for removal provided. Although no formal weeds were removed, the report will act as evidence for future funding avenues alongside opportunities for RiverConnect’s school program. Targets for revegetation were exceeded with 1.62 Ha planted out with indigenous grasses, groundcovers, shrubs and trees.

The formal land acquisition required for Route 2 (Gemmill’s Swamp to KidsTown) is in the final stage with detailed design planned to commence FY24/25. Construction is allocated within the FY25/26 Greater Shepparton City Council capital budget. These are funded through the Victorian Government’s Hub City Support Package Grant.

Recruitment for the Education Officer position was successful with the appointment made in late February 2024. Since then, the Education Officer has been building their knowledge and networks to review the education program.

- b. Key achievements and highlights:

- Updated the Goulburn and Broken River Access Map to include Sevens Creek, new and proposed paths, water fountains and four new featured locations. The map has been hugely popular with copies distributed to many partner locations including the Visitor Information Centre, GV Libraries, headspace Shepparton, Diversity Project, GV Health, Rumbalara, Ethnic Council, English Language Centre, KidsTown, Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, GV Water, Agriculture Victoria, and more.

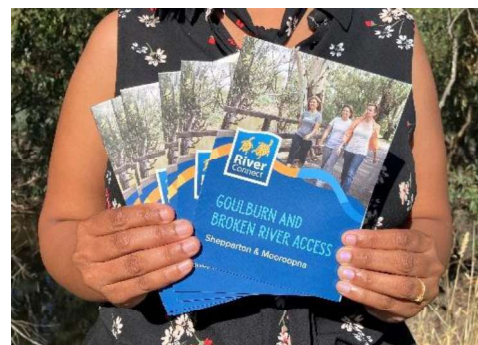


Figure 2. Goulburn and Broken River Access Map update.

- Proudly supported headspace Shepparton (auspice Goulburn Valley Health) “Nature Scripts” pilot project focused on helping young people receive a “Nature Dose” and evaluating their mental health outcomes. RiverConnect staff shared networks and ideas for the program alongside offering sessions for Nature Journaling, Nature Photography, bee hotel habitat building and Spotlight Walks. 32 young people have participated in the pilot, developing social connections and localised connections to nature.



Figure 3. The RiverConnect Project Officer leading a Nature Journaling session at the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton.

- From this relationship, Nature Scripts participants helped to co-design the nature camp opportunity which was successfully awarded \$6,393 from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action’s Environmental Volunteering Fund. The Caring for Nature – RiverConnect Youth Camp is planned for Spring 2024.

- Continued to lift the profile and leverage community participation in World Rivers Day with town entry flags, a social media campaign and the first inaugural River Run Race. Over 350 people attended the event complete with cardboard canoes, several races for both children and adults took place with laughter shared by all. hilariously, many of the adult race goers’ competitive nature came out with others looking ahead for redemption at the next event. The prestigious cardboard trophy, crafted by Year 10 work experience student Mia Dainton, was awarded to the adult winner, and all children received prizes for participation.



Figure 4 (left). Shepparton English Language Centre and Picnic for Peace children ready to go with cardboard canoes.

Figure 5 (right). Helen and Jenna from Goulburn Valley Water getting ready to race their cardboard canoe.

- Continued positive messaging of the program including 63 media mentions, growing to 2290 social media followers (increase of 14%) and an average of 337 website users per month (+8%). On Facebook the RiverConnect group had 185 posts (+46%) with a total of 30877 views (+50%), 256 comments (+45%) and 1906 reactions (+43%).

- Connected the Greater Shepparton Secondary College and educators from Streamology, who engage community as part of the Flow-MER project. Year 11 VCE Environmental Science students and Year 10 students spent the day on Kaiela, the Goulburn River, learning about macroinvertebrates including their important role in stream health and stream geomorphology.



Figure 6. Greater Shepparton Secondary College students getting hands on experience with Streamology scientists at Kaiela, the Goulburn River.

- Enjoyed annual community group partner events including Breakfast with the Birds (Birdlife Murray Goulburn), River Heritage Walk and Talk (Shepparton Heritage Centre), Nature Photography (Shepparton Camera Club), Canoeing on the Goulburn (Shepparton Canoe Club), Bat Night (Cussen Park Advisory Committee) and Botanic Gardens Open Day (Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton).



Figure 7 (left). Pat Feehan from Birdlife Murray Goulburn leading the fully booked Breakfast with the Birds event at Reedy Swamp in the Lower Goulburn National Park.

Figure 8 (right). 80 people enjoyed a leisurely paddle down Kaiela, the Goulburn River, guided by Shepparton Canoe Club.

- Melbourne University PhD candidate and lead researcher Maddy Grupper conducted a research project across the Goulburn-Broken catchment investigating better ways to integrate social science into water management and modelling. Many RiverConnect partners and river environment stakeholders participated in interviews to inform the research.
- Facilitated two multi-activity school days utilised by Guthrie Street Primary School and St Anne's College. Spending the day at the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton, enthused Grade 3/4 students rotated through engaging activities from Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Parks Victoria, Bohollow EnviroEd and RiverConnect.



Figure 9. Guthrie Street Primary School Grade 3/4 students learning all things bugs with Mini Beasts from Goulburn Murray Landcare Network.

- Introduced a new Bird Bingo self-guided activity as part of the Visitor Information Centre’s designation as one of 15 premium ‘Pause Stop’ locations across Victoria. Birdlife Murray Goulburn members kindly offered advice, expertise and permission to feature their bird images in the activity. Due to its success, further editions will be explored alongside other opportunities for self-guided activities.
- Officially unveiled the Monash Park Historical Signage, a project of the Shepparton Heritage Centre and supported by RiverConnect. Displayed near the original path of the Goulburn River, the sixteen interpretive panels highlight the early development of the Shepparton Township, including the river ‘punt’ crossing, early industries, recreational activities and the river redirection in 1969.
- Supported partner events such as Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club launch, Greater Shepparton City Council’s International Day of People with a Disability, and Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group’s Refugees in the Bush events.
- Increased wayfinding at The Flats Mooroopna for locals and tourists to explore the stories featured on The Flats Signage. Two new ‘You are here’ signs were installed at commonly-used junctions and bollards along the path updated with directional arrows.
- Invited to use Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) and Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club’s Dunyak Moira site and Victorian Fisheries Authority’s Arcadia Fish Hatchery site as outdoor classrooms.
- Supported Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group’s (SMULG) Wasteland to Wetland burrow-pit revegetation project at the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton. Learning wetland planting techniques, Landcare volunteers, friends and RiverConnect staff planted the wetland boundary. RiverConnect staff also captured photos and video testimonials for SMULG to share the outcomes of the project.
- Lifted the profile of the partnership and shared vision of RiverConnect whilst increasing efficiencies and storage for the program with the purchase of a van through Greater Shepparton City Council’s Capital budget. A huge asset for the program, the van offers fundamental storage and transport for education and events materials, increasing productivity and efficiency, and overall looks fantastic as a visual promotion.

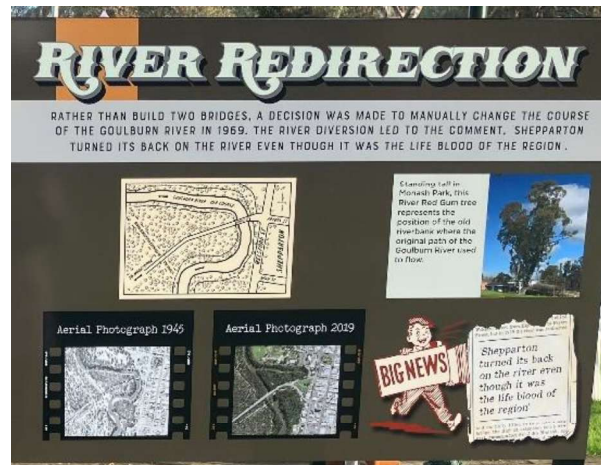


Figure 10 (above). The 1969 river redirection featured as one of 16 panels in the new Monash Park Historical Signage.

Figure 11 (below). Emily Lange (RiverConnect Education Officer) and Wendy D’Amore (President SMULG) learning wetland planting.



Figure 12. The RiverConnect van proudly displaying the shared vision of the partnership program.

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

- The Mooroopna Sandhill Cultural Heritage Management assessment planned for FY22-23 was delayed based upon Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation's (YYNAC) priority for Council to protect the site from recreational vehicle use and illegal dumping, which is negatively impacting Cultural and Environmental Values on the site.
- Finalisation of the register of council assets on Parks Victoria managed land is progressing, but has hindered the progress of some Council projects within Parks Victoria managed land that are in the planning stage.
- Most schools in the region continue to be understaffed with increased pressure during periods of illness. Requirements for school excursions have increased and require additional effort outside of day-to-day administration for teachers to organise. These issues are only seeming to escalate and are becoming increasingly concerning for the future of external river environment engagement.
- RiverConnect staff note the workload for programs and partnership events and activities has continued to increase. Staff are actively managing workload pressures and priorities.

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

- Council is actively progressing site protection works alongside YYNAC Woka Walla team's Caring for Country works. Existing budget for an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Cultural Values Report was redistributed towards site protections based upon YYNAC's priority.
- The new RiverConnect Education Officer is currently reviewing the education program to determine how the program can be more efficient and best support teachers given the current landscape. This will involve meeting with educators and creation of resources and package offerings targeted to various student levels.
- To assist with workload strain, the RiverConnect Education Officer role transitioned from 0.8 FTE to a full-time position upon commencement of the new Officer.

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

- The Committee of Management process remains ongoing with both Council and Parks Victoria senior management working actively to progress.
- RiverConnect Officers are well versed and confident in responding to challenges that impact the program delivery. These learnings come from many years of COVID-related implications, flood impacts and school staff shortages. Officers are proactive and many contingency opportunities exist to quickly adapt when necessary.

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

- RiverConnect were proud to support the launch of the Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club at Donyak Moira in Merrigum. The day was a huge success and is scheduled as an ongoing annual celebration.
- Aiming to increase wayfinding at The Flats, based upon feedback of visitors seeking to engage with the stories of the site, two new directional signs were installed at intersections leading to The Flats. Bollards are also being updated to feature directional arrows along the path.



Figure 13. Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club celebrating the launch of their club at Donyak Moira in Merrigum.

- Curated a new collaborative event ‘An Elder’s Stories’ for the 2024 Shepparton Festival, which initially sold-out within a few days, leading to a second session offering. Walking together, Aunty Rochelle Patten shared stories on The Flats, the very place she grew up. Arriving by the river side of Kaiela and with technical advice from Tammy-Lee Atkinson, attendees painted a canvas inspired by stories shared. Upon conclusion of the sessions, attendees were invited to feature their handprint on a painting by Aunty Frances Nicholson. Gifted to RiverConnect, the painting is proudly displayed near the Officers’ desks.



Images featured above by Cam Matheson courtesy of Shepparton Festival

Figure 14 (top left). Aunty Rochelle Patten sharing stories of The Flats during the curated Shepparton Festival event.

Figure 15 (bottom left). Attendees painted a canvas inspired by Aunty Rochelle’s stories with artistic guidance from Tammy-Lee Atkinson.

Figure 16 (right). Marking the many hands of those who experienced the workshop on an original piece by Aunty Frances Nicholson.

- Wherever possible, Greta Morgan and Hilda Stewart, Parks Victoria’s Interpretation, Information and Education Officers, are invited along to multi-activity school days. Students always have many questions to ask of Greta and Hilda who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise.
- Participation of RiverConnect’s Project Officer remains ongoing for the implementation of Council’s Reconciliation Action Plan through their working group.



Figure 17. Guthrie Street Primary School Grade 3/4 students learning cultural knowledge from Greta and Hilda, Parks Victoria Interpretation, Information and Education Officers.

- Invited to attend Wulumbarra Marrin-Bidja, a cultural fire workshop on Yorta Yorta Country hosted by Wulumbarra and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and supported by Firesticks Alliance. The two day burn workshop at the Mooroopna Sandhills enabled cultural knowledge sharing for Yorta Yorta and First Nations People and offered insights into cultural fire for industry, government and community. Woka Walla Land Management Crew have been implementing Caring for Country works onsite, with the cultural burn providing further revitalisation of the culturally-significant site.





Figure 18 (left). Wulumbarra Marrin-Bidja, a cultural fire workshop on Yorta Yorta Country hosted by Wulumbarra and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and supported by Firesticks Alliance.

Figure 19 (top right). People gathering for the cultural ceremony prior to the workshop commencing.

Figure 20 (bottom right). The cool burn moved slowly, without impacting revegetation plantings or existing vegetation.

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)		Fiona Le Gassick		Name (please print)		Geraldine Christou	
Position in organisation:	CEO	Phone:	5832 9700	Position in organisation:	Director Sustainable Development	Phone:	5832 9700
Signature		Date	29/7/2024	Signature		Date	18/07/2024

* 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).