

# Corangamite Bio-links Project

## Corangamite and Colac Otway Shire Councils

This project brought together a wide range of stakeholders from across the Colac Otway and Corangamite Shires to develop a map based bio-links strategy which has been recognised by the CCMA and included on the CMA knowledgebase as a key biodiversity planning tool. A copy of the stakeholder fact sheet and final bio-links hard copy plan is attached.

### Key Activities

- Key activities were the three facilitated stakeholders workshops to develop the key biolinks across these two council areas.
- Development of a stakeholder fact sheet.
- Development of the final bio-links plan
- Inclusion of the bio links strategy on the CCMA knowledge base. And
- Funding of six projects by council for revegetation within the identified bio links areas.

### Project Outcomes

*The outcomes delivered through this project has provided:*

- We believe that the outcomes from this project were more than the bio links documents produced or the mapping layers but also allowed key stakeholders to review and comment on priorities for these areas and identify what they would like to see protected and enhanced within each area.
- There was also a number of links made between agencies and stakeholders which did not already exist.
- Overall outcomes is a document which can be used to obtain funding which provides a scientific basis for the establishment and protection of bio diversity in our region.
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### Project partners

*If relevant include details of internal and external partners engaged through this project*

A stakeholder reference group will be established with the following representation:

- Corangamite Shire representatives – Lyall Bond, James Watson
- Colac Otway Shire representative – Travis Riches, Kelly Boladeras
- Corangamite CMA representative – Chris Pitfield, Donna Smithyman, Nick McCristal
- Glenelg Hopkins CMA representative -

- Heytesbury & District Landcare Network Landcare Coordinator – Geoff Rollinson
- Lismore Land Protection Group Landcare Coordinator – Rod Eldridge
- Central Otways Landcare Network Coordinator – Andy Gray
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Biodiversity Officer – Rani Hunt, Michelle Ibbett
- Greening Australia representative – Anna Carrucan
- Cape Otway Centre for Conservation Ecology representative – Lizzie Corke
- Trust for Nature representative – Chris Lindorff
- Parks Victoria representative – John Clarke

### What did we learn?

The biggest learning factor for Council was the inability to identify clear bio-links and that potentially what we should have throughout the region is a web of vegetation corridors.

We also learnt that ideas are typically good however when it comes to putting lines on maps and some people not being included there was a lot of resistance.

Stakeholders are also unwilling often to provide all information with other stakeholders as they can be competing for the same funding. This resulted in some areas holding back information from the process.

### What is the project legacy?

- This project has developed new networks amongst stakeholders
- Provides an overview of key biolink areas for future investment and
- Developed further knowledge into the CCMA knowledge base.

**Budget: Total = \$35,000 (Grant funding) = \$10,000 + Council Cash & In-Kind = \$35,000)**

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