

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### REEDY LAKE LOW-WATER LEVEL REGIME SUPPORTING WETLAND RESTORATION

The Corangamite CMA is implementing a low-water level regime at Reedy Lake this year to protect the wetland's ecology in line with the 2016/17 Victorian Seasonal Watering Plan. Reedy Lake is located near Geelong and is a popular location for the duck hunting season. The low-water levels at the wetland may affect site access for duck season opening this year.

The low-water level regime is working to control reeds that are taking over areas of Reedy Lake that previously supported a diverse range of plants. Whilst reeds are an important part of the ecosystem, they are reducing the amount of open water in the wetland. This loss of habitat is impacting on endangered coastal saltmarsh communities and the number and diversity of internationally important migratory waterbirds the wetland supports.

The water management regimes for the Lake Connemara wetlands have been established through extensive scientific investigations and after thorough consultation with Corangamite CMA's Lower Barwon Community Advisory Committee and the broader community. This group comprises key stakeholders including Field and Game Geelong.

Trent Leen President of Field and Game Geelong said *"Field and Game Geelong are very supportive of the low-water level regime, and its role in supporting the long term restoration of biodiversity in Reedy Lake. We understand that this will have some impact during duck season this year from the season opening through till the autumn break when river flows are higher enough for the inlet to be opened. We encourage people to visit the Game Management Authority's website [www.gma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gma.vic.gov.au) to find other suitable locations."*

Alice Knight Chairman of the Corangamite CMA said *"If we don't act, one of the last remaining areas of endangered coastal saltmarsh communities in the Corangamite Region will be lost, the dominant reeds will choke the wetland, carp will multiply and the wetland will no longer be able to provide a haven for a range of internationally important birds. Lowering water levels at Reedy Lake is an important management action that we believe will mitigate threats to the system and ensure all user groups can continue to use and cherish the lake into the future."*

For further information including a project fact sheet and frequently asked questions- refer to the Corangamite CMA website <http://www.ccma.vic.gov.au/What-we-do/Water/Environmental-Water.aspx>

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