

RiverConnect Program Annual Progress Report

July 2022 – June 2023



Figure 1. The RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee representatives celebrating the RiverConnect Strategic Plan Launch on 30 March 2023.

Pictured (left to right): Allison Trethowan, Jessica Reid, Terry Court, Cr Sam Spinks, Cr Geoff Dobson, Rod McLennan, Sharon Terry, Paul Hockett, Jane Roots, Helen Murdoch, Carl Walters, Beth Parker, Bruce Cumming, Uncle Ruben Baksh, Fiona Stuart, Cr Seema Abdullah, Ali White, and Jarrod Thorp. **Not pictured:** Cheryl Bourke, Andrea Smith, Kimberley Chu and Jay Whittaker.

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	DELWP 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 2022	
End date:	30 June 2023	

Project expenditure

Description	Funds Approved	
	2022-2023	
	Budget	Actual
Employment	\$ 153,795	\$ 144,454
In-kind/volunteer labour		\$ 15,000**
Total employment Costs (ex GST)	\$ 153,795	\$ 144,454
Project Management / Facilitation	\$ 29,000	\$ 25,795.00
Community Group support	\$ 47,279	\$ 33,730.00
Communications/Publications	\$ 13,000	\$ 8,858.00
Revegetation	\$ 15,000**	
Total Operating Costs (ex GST)	\$ 89,278	\$ 69,583
Total Budget (ex GST)	\$ 243,073	\$ 212,837

2022-2023

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

- ****Revegetation plants/materials costs not included in total budget or actuals as captured under Council One Tree Per Child program budget in In-kind/Volunteer Labour**
- **Targets and expenditure was not met through Flood Response and Early Recovery periods due to Park Closures and Inability to access Public Open Space**
- **GSCC Budget includes 2021/2022 funding underspend of \$30,473 plus 2022/2023 funding agreement contribution of \$106,300**
- **Budget reflects expenditure to 6 June 2023. Any underspend will be carried over into 2023/2024 Budget**

RiverConnect 2022/2023 Financial Report

Description	Proponent Funds (GSCC)		Other Contributor (GBCMA)		Total Budget 2022/2023	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget*	Actual
RiverConnect						
Employment	\$ 76,897	\$ 67,557	\$ 76,897	\$ 76,897	\$ 153,795	\$ 144,454
In-kind/volunteer labour		\$ 15,000**				\$ 15,000**
Total employment Costs (ex GST)	\$ 76,897	\$ 67,557	\$ 76,897	\$ 76,897	\$ 153,795	\$ 144,454
Project Management / Facilitation	19,000	15,477	10,000	10,318	29,000	25,795.00
Community Group support	30,876	17,645	16,403	16,085	47,279	33,730.00
Communications/Publications	10,000	5,858	3,000	3,000	13,000	8,858.00
Revegetation	15,000**				15,000**	
Total Operating Costs (ex GST)	\$ 59,876	\$ 38,980	\$ 29,403	\$ 29,403	\$ 89,278	\$ 69,583
Total Budget (ex GST)	\$ 136,773*	\$ 106,537	\$ 106,300	\$ 106,300	\$ 243,073	\$ 212,837

* Budget includes \$30,473 2021/2022 underspend plus 2022/2023 funding agreement contribution \$106,300

** In-Kind has not been added to Actual totals as is not part of funding agreement, though revegetation costs covered by In-kind/volunteer labour

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 managemene nt 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	Biosecurity aim (select one): Eradication	Estimate of percentage (nearest 10%) of the output polygon that was treated 85%	Arrangement of the target species within output polygon (select one): Scattered individuals and small patches	Species ID using the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas Nightshade and Bathurst Burr	3.95 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): Seedling planting Plant guarding 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): Public Acquisition Overlay completed; acquisition of land in progress	Identify the specific type of approval and advice (select one): Public Acquisition Overlay – Route 2, Public acquisition	N/A	N/A	N/A	No. of approvals and advice 1	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	Area where the assessment data is stored (select): N/A	ID for the entries into the database N/A	Specific activities undertaken (select one): N/A	N/A	N/A	No. of assessments 0	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 Historical Society, 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 Goulburn Broken CMA Greater Shepparton City Council 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 99				No. of partner-ships 50	N

(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)
		Shepparton Canoe Club, Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club)								DET Great Shepp Young Champions Goulburn Valley Health Community representatives: Jay Whittaker Rod McLennan Bruce Cumming Kimberley Chu Paul Hockett Victorian Fisheries Authority Kaiela Arts Victoria Walks Birdlife Murray Goulburn Fairley Leadership Program participants GV Mountain Bike Club Shepparton Camera Club Shepparton Historical Society Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group Platypus Conservancy Lighthouse Project/ The Haven 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 Shepparton Scouts Victoria Girl Guides Wellways St Georges Rd Community Hub Shepparton English Language Centre Out in the Open Festival Shepparton Art Museum Veolia Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club Friends of Gemmill's Swamp Point of Difference Studio Things of Spirit Australian Conservation Foundation	99 99 1 99 5 18 18 1 1 8 10 6 10 5 6 8 7 99 7 7 6 7 6 6 4 6 5 5 5 4 4 4 4 3 4 2 4 2 4 1					
	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 172 Hours Please see table below for detail	Number of events – where events have identical values for all attributes (e.g. location, type) they can be captured together 89 Events Please see table below for detail	Target audience of each event (select): Community 49 Agency 1 Education 41 Please see table below for detail	Primary focus of each event (select): Art and Culture 10 Awareness/Engagement 13 Canoeing 2 Clean-Up 3 Education 33 Planting 20 Physical Activity 0 Spotlight 0 Tourism 0 Weeding 5 Wellbeing 5	No. of participants per event 5769 Total Attendees Please see table below for detail	Y

Engagement Events Table (More details including dates, description and partners included in complimentary M22/87192 attachment)

Spatial Object Description	Location	Event name	Primary focus of event	Target Audience	No. Hours	No. Attendees
Outside region	Barmah National Park	<i>Dharnya Day NAIDOC Week</i>	Awareness/Engagement	Community	6	500
354300.91 5975876.76	Tassicker Reserve	<i>Planting session - Youth Climate Leadership Program</i>	Planting	Community	2	3
359086.88 5988603.76	Station Reserve Tallygaroopna	<i>Tree planting - Home School Group</i>	Planting	Education	2	20
354300.91 5975876.76	Tassicker Reserve	<i>Tree planting - Notre Dame</i>	Planting	Education	1.5	25
351188.48 5970633.12	Charles Street Reserve	<i>Tree planting - St Marys PS</i>	Planting	Education	2.5	150
354300.91 5975876.76	Tassicker Reserve	<i>Tree planting - Berry St School</i>	Planting	Education	1.5	16
355896.03 5973313.18	Princess Park	<i>Tree planting - Arthur Dickmann Children's Centre</i>	Planting	Education	1	25
355896.03 5973313.18	Princess Park	<i>Tree planting - Arthur Dickmann Children's Centre</i>	Planting	Education	1	25
359355.25 5981584.17	Congupna Pony Paddock	<i>Tree planting, educational activities</i>	Planting	Education	3	70
356591.72 5973128.57	Arthur Dickman Children's Centre	<i>Tree planting - Arthur Dickmann Children's Centre</i>	Planting	Education	1	15
356010.71 5972863.32	Anabranh of Goulburn River	<i>Workshop for Climate Change Youth Leadership Program</i>	Education	Education	1	4
351166.52 5974643.85	Huggard Drive	<i>National Tree Day</i>	Planting	Community	5	150
356208.60 5966532.06	Waterbird Park	<i>Tree Planting - St Anne's College</i>	Planting	Education	2	300
354851.45 5975534.81	Curtain Place	<i>Tree planting - Goulburn Valley Grammar School</i>	Planting	Education	1	50
351188.48 5970633.12	Charles Street Reserve	<i>Tree Planting - Verney Road School</i>	Planting	Education	1	10
354851.45 5975534.81	Curtain Place	<i>Tree Planting - GSSC GMLLEN Cert 3 in Volunteering</i>	Planting	Education	2	10
351188.48 5970633.12	Charles Street Reserve	<i>Tree Planting - Verney Road School</i>	Planting	Education	1	10
351166.52 5974643.85	Huggard Drive	<i>Tree Planting - GSSC GMLLEN Cert 3 in Volunteering</i>	Planting	Education	2	10
N/A	Virtual, Sydney Convention Centre	<i>National Landcare Conference</i>	Awareness/Engagement	Community	0.5	1000
351166.52 5974643.85	Huggard Drive	<i>Tree Planting - GSSC GMLLEN Cert 3 in Volunteering</i>	Planting	Education	2	10
356125.41 5970079.43	Jordan's Bend	<i>Mindfulness and Labyrinth Walk Along the River</i>	Wellbeing	Agency	1	12
356059.10 5975404.20	Soccer Rooms, Sports precinct	<i>GMLLEN/GSSC Cert 3 in Volunteering</i>	Education	Education	3	10
356927.37 5972709.28	GOTAFE	<i>Youth Fest</i>	Awareness/Engagement	Community	3	100
353929.90 5974405.15	Boulevard Bush Reserve	<i>Boulevard Bush Reserve Community Day</i>	Education	Community	2	23
354720.68 5972129.19	KidsTown	<i>World Rivers Day</i>	Awareness/Engagement	Community	4	280
354546.63 5970436.15	ABGS	<i>Breakfast with the Birds</i>	Education	Community	2	23
354546.63 5970436.15	ABGS	<i>Nature Photography</i>	Art and Culture	Community	2	17
356267.04 5972595.06	Shepparton Heritage Centre	<i>River Heritage Walk and Talk</i>	Education	Community	1	5
354546.63 5970436.15	ABGS	<i>Art Along the River - Pottery</i>	Art and Culture	Community	2	18
356992.60 5974171.45	Dolena Young Children's Centre	<i>Sammi Squirrel Glider book and puppet show</i>	Education	Education	1	25
357928.36 5973555.36	Greater Shepparton Secondary College	<i>Environmental Jobs</i>	Education	Education	4.5	307
355107.95 597109.85	Confluence	<i>Nature Journaling</i>	Wellbeing	Community	1.5	8
356574.77 5972690.63	Maude Street Mall	<i>Council Christmas Wonderland activities</i>	Art and Culture	Community	1	4
356574.77 5972690.63	Maude Street Mall	<i>Council Christmas Wonderland activities</i>	Art and Culture	Community	1	6
354546.63 5970436.15	ABGS	<i>Re-potting Banksias</i>	Planting	Community	2	11
356574.77 5972690.63	Maude Street Mall	<i>Council Christmas Wonderland activities</i>	Art and Culture	Community	1	5

356095.26	5970089.03	Jackson Park	<i>Meditation Along the River</i>	Wellbeing	Community	1.5	4
359311.10	5988333.57	Larsen Reserve Tallygaroopna	<i>Nurture Nature at Tallygaroopna</i>	Education	Community	2	29
355076.19	3967609.57	Sevens Creeks Drive	<i>Nurture Nature at Kialla</i>	Education	Community	2	54
340991.00	5966810.88	Cussen Park Tatura	<i>Turtle Talk</i>	Education	Community	2	155
352932.62	5970827.59	Family Haven Mooroopna	<i>Nurture Nature at Family Haven Mooroopna</i>	Education	Community	2	28
356619.33	5970572.82	Colliver Road Kinder	<i>Education - Colliver Road Kinder</i>	Education	Education	1	15
356619.33	5970572.82	Colliver Road Kinder	<i>Education - Colliver Road Kinder</i>	Education	Education	1	10
356150.15	5971659.29	Western Park, Victoria Park Lake	<i>Wildlife Rescue Kits - Verney Road ADVANCE</i>	Education	Education	1	5
353164.75	5970902.50	Goulburn River	<i>Canoeing Along the Goulburn</i>	Canoeing	Community	6	45
355950.72	5972692.81						
353164.75	5970902.50	Goulburn River	<i>Canoeing Along the Goulburn</i>	Canoeing	Community	6	40
355950.72	5972692.81						
355896.03	5973313.18	Princess Park Shepparton	<i>Rubbish Clean Up - Berry Street School</i>	Clean-Up	Education	1.5	8
356150.15	5971659.29	Western Park, Victoria Park Lake	<i>Verney Road ADVANCE</i>	Education	Education	1	8
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	<i>Clean Up Australia Day</i>	Clean-Up	Community	2	40
356421.78	5973008.41	Queens Gardens Shepparton	<i>Education - ASHE</i>	Education	Education	1	8
355890.18	5974744.86	Patricia Smith Kindergarten	<i>Sammi Squirrel Glider book and puppet show</i>	Education	Education	1	22
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	<i>SMULG Weeding the Bush</i>	Weeding	Community	1.5	7
356150.15	5971659.29	Western Park, Victoria Park Lake	<i>Verney Road ADVANCE</i>	Education	Education	1	12
356399.56	5973096	ASHE	<i>Education - ASHE</i>	Education	Education	1	2
352337.68	5969771.62	Rumbalara bushland area	<i>Rumbalara Nangarna Homework Club</i>	Education	Education	1	10
352088.40	5971117.47	Ferrari Park Mooroopna	<i>World Wildlife Day - Schools</i>	Education	Education	3	69
352088.40	5971117.47	Ferrari Park Mooroopna	<i>World Wildlife Day - Community</i>	Education	Community	3	64
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	<i>SMULG Weeding the Bush</i>	Weeding	Community	1.5	4
352337.68	5969771.62	Rumbalara bushland area	<i>Rumbalara Nangarna Homework Club</i>	Education	Education	1	8
356207.63	5971467.17	Kaiela Arts	<i>Paint by Nature</i>	Art and Culture	Community	2	18
352337.68	5969771.62	Rumbalara bushland area	<i>Rumbalara Nangarna Homework Club</i>	Education	Education	1	8
352337.68	5969771.62	Rumbalara bushland area	<i>Rumbalara Nangarna Homework Club</i>	Education	Education	1	10
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	<i>SMULG Weeding the Bush</i>	Weeding	Community	1.5	5
352337.68	5969771.62	Rumbalara bushland area	<i>Rumbalara Nangarna Homework Club</i>	Education	Education	1	8
357418.18	5971357.38	St Mel's Primary School	<i>Fisheries Activity Day</i>	Education	Education	3	241
356526.98	5969853.64	Following Broken River	<i>Tuned to the River</i>	Art and Culture	Community	2	18
355107.95	597109.85	Confluence	<i>Bush Poetry Along the River</i>	Art and Culture	Community	2	20
353471.45	5961790.74	Daunt's Bend, Toolamba	<i>World Day for Forests - Toolamba Primary School</i>	Education	Education	4	83
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	<i>SMULG Weeding the Bush</i>	Weeding	Community	1.5	7
353527.89	5975264.47	Shepparton Golf Club	<i>RiverConnect Strategic Plan Launch</i>	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1.5	58
355662.95	5974222.59	Stuarts Reserve Shepparton	<i>River Clean-Up - Gowrie Street Primary School</i>	Education	Education	1	80
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	<i>Verney Road ADVANCE</i>	Education	Education	1	15
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	<i>SMULG Weeding the Bush</i>	Weeding	Community	1.5	7
351950.76	5973124.44	Gemmill's Swamp Mooroopna	<i>Introduction to RiverConnect presentation</i>	Awareness/Engagement	Community	1	8

353929.90	5974405.15	Boulevard Bush Reserve	FamilyCare Adult Social Group	Awareness/Engagement	Education	2	10
340991.00	5966810.88	Cussen Park Tatura	Bats in our Neighbourhoods	Education	Community	3.5	77
354720.68	5972129.19	KidsTown	Youth Nature Play Workshop	Education	Community	2.5	78
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Turtle Muster	Education	Community	4	150
353534.47	5971368.60	The Flats	Life on The Flats	Art and Culture	Community	2	30
355950.72	5972692.81	Goulburn River	River Clean-Up	Clean-Up	Community	4	35
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Nest building for Illuminate	Art and Culture	Education	1	10
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Illuminate	Awareness/Engagement	Community	4	200
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Illuminate	Awareness/Engagement	Community	5	150
355112.03	5976016.50	DECA	Careers Day Out	Awareness/Engagement	Community	0.5	16
355112.03	5976016.50	DECA	Careers Day Out	Awareness/Engagement	Community	0.5	14
357056.85	5971721.94	St George's Road Primary School	Tree Planting - St George's Road Primary School	Planting	Education	6.5	75
354546.63	5970436.15	Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton	More to see and know: Australian Botanic Gardens	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2	14
352337.68	5969771.62	Rumbalara bushland area	Bush Revival Day - Schools	Planting	Community	5	228
			Bush Revival Day - Community				47
N/A		Online	Nature Journal Kits Giveaway	Wellbeing	Community	1	15
356739.77	5972567.21	headspace Shepparton	Nature Art Workshop	Wellbeing	Community	3	30
356150.15	5971659.29	Victoria Park Lake	Reconciliation Week Community Day	Awareness/Engagement	Community	2.5	100

Engagement Events Summary

	No. events	No. Hours	No. Attendees
Totals	89	172	5769

Category	No. of events
Art and Culture	10
Awareness/Engagement	13
Canoeing	2
Clean-Up	3
Education	33
Planting	20
Physical Activity	0
Spotlight	0
Tourism	0
Weeding	5
Wellbeing	5

Target Audience	Count
Community	49
Education	41
Agency	1

Media Mentions

Article title	Media	Date
Celebrate National Tree Day with Greater Shepparton City Council and RiverConnect	The Shepparton Adviser	20/07/2022
National Tree Day: Mooroopna residents can breathe a little easier after planting day	Shepparton News	1/08/2022
Council proposal to address breach of delegated authority	Shepparton News	15/08/2022
Feedback invited on RiverConnect strategic plan	Shepparton News	22/08/2022
Boulevard Bush Reserve Community Day radio interview	ABC Radio	17/09/2022
Go with the flow on World Rivers Day	Shepparton News	20/09/2022
World Rivers Day, RiverConnect Draft Strategic Plan, Implementation Advisory Committee Community Appointment Applications open (10 minute radio interview)	OneFM Radio	22/09/2022
Call for nominations for appointment to RiverConnect Implementation Advisory Committee	Shepparton News	23/09/2022
What's on in Shepparton and around the region	Shepparton News	29/09/2022
Backyard Bird Count returns for 2022	Shepparton News	10/10/2022
Photography master class	Shepparton News	12/10/2022
Greater Shepparton celebrates people with disabilities	Shepparton News	1/12/2022
Council celebrates International Day of People with Disability	Shepparton News	15/12/2022
Council meeting wrap-up	Shepparton News	22/12/2023
Council meeting wrap-up	The Shepparton Adviser	21/12/2023
Year 5s taught a lesson in aspiration	Shepparton News	12/12/2022
Five-year plan for RiverConnect	Shepparton News	22/12/2022
RiverConnect program and events radio interview	ABC Radio	12/01/2023

Article title	Media	Date
Nurture Nature	Shepparton News	12/01/2023
Let's talk turtles these holidays	Shepparton News	17/01/2023
Talkin' turtles in Cussen Park	The Shepparton Adviser	18/01/2023
Turtle Talk radio interview	ABC Radio	19/01/2023
Sudden arrival of dozens of frogs in Mooroopna pools leaves residents wondering why	Shepparton News	19/01/2023
What's on in this weekend	Shepparton News	19/01/2023
Clean Up Australia Day live radio interview	ABC Radio	28/02/2023
What's on this weekend - Clean Up Australia Day	Shepparton News	2/03/2023
What music does the Shepparton Festival have to offer?	Shepparton News	3/03/2023
Mooroopna joins in fun at World Wildlife Day event	Shepparton News	16/03/2023
RiverConnect Strategic Plan Launch radio interview	ABC Radio	30/03/2023
Reading the Goulburn River	Flow-MER Newsletter	Autumn Update 2023
What's on this weekend	Shepparton News	11/04/2023
Discover Tatura's fuzzy flying friends	Shepparton News	11/04/2023
River rubbish clean-up event	Shepparton News	20/04/2023
Bush Revival Day at Rumbalara	Shepparton News	22/05/2023
Volunteer Victory - Kimberley Chu	The Shepparton Adviser	24/05/2023
TOTAL		36 items

Website Metrics (Measured at end of month)

Month	Jul-22	August	September	October	November	December
No. of sessions	266	398	398	1217*	286	251
No. of users	254	369	372	1157*	269	203

*peak coincides with major flood

Jan-23	February	March	April	May	June	AVERAGE
316	498	381	374	453	Not yet captured	440
258	397	327	297	371		389

Social Media Metrics (Measured at start of month)

	Jul-22	August	September	October	November	December
Facebook	1227	1241	1255	1275	1304	1317
Instagram	435	435	434	433	432	436

Jan-23	February	March	April	May	June	INCREASE	GROWTH
1335	1345	1371	1397	1425	1447	220	18%
436	440	444	471	501	515	80	18%

RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 Alignment

Strategic Direction	Strategic Actions						Annual Targets	Progress							
								22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27			
ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY	– Enhance opportunities for young people	– Continue learnings about the river	– Engage diverse community				– Engage 4,000 people in river environment activities	Engaged 5769 people in 89 activities							
							– Support at least five Traditional Owner-led projects and events	Dharnya Day, Two Flats Walks, Paint by Nature, Turtle Muster, Rumbalara Nangarna Homework Club, Rumbalara Tree Planting Day							
INSPIRE THE EDUCATION SECTOR	– Enable educational participation		– Strengthen connection with education sector						– 50% of Greater Shepparton schools have at least one class engaging in the river environment annually, involving 1,000 students	46% (17 of the 35 schools engaged – not including four kindergartens, one homework club and one home-school group 1816 students engaged					
									– One tertiary education project in the RiverConnect area	No tertiary project					
IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING	– Share health and wellbeing benefits			– Link health and wellbeing to nature						– Deliver one health and wellbeing project that shares the benefits of nature	Goulburn Valley Health joins the RiverConnect partnership and assigns IAC representative				
										– Monitor increased usage of shared pathways using trail counters	79 daily average visits (reduced from 2022 due to inactive Cudjee Park trail counter and flood impacts)				
ENHANCE ACCESSIBILITY AND CARE OF THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT	– Nurture stewardship culture	– Facilitate opportunities to care	– Understand and realise flexible and inclusive water access	– Enable sustainable on-going management	– Connect the path network	– Support Traditional Owner Connection				– Revegetate 1 Ha area and remove priority weeds in 0.7 Ha area	1.58 Ha revegetation 3.95 Ha weed removal				
										– Create opportunities and spaces that people actively use	Explored alternative event locations during the flood impacts of October 2022				
										– Continue to progress the RiverConnect Paths Master Plan	Land acquisition of Route 2 nearing completion				
SHOWCASE THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT	– Creatively promote RiverConnect		– Encourage eco-tourism		– Communicate accessibility of the river environment		– Create three promotional materials or campaigns			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					
NURTURE PARTNERSHIPS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE	– Leverage RiverConnect partner involvement			– Explore a home for RiverConnect			– Maintain and build relationships with 50 groups and organisations			Maintained 48 partnerships Developed 2 new partnerships					
							– Seek funding from government and ‘non-traditional’ sources consistent with RiverConnect aspirations			Application for Outdoor Victoria’s Nature Stewards Program (unsuccessful)					

RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 – Public Consultation Activities (22 August-30 September)

Method	Estimated reach
Shaping Greater Shepparton website	43 submissions - 6 group responses, 34 community responses, 1 youth art submission, 2 community group endorsements (SMULG 32 members, GVEG 50 members)
Implementation Advisory Committee representatives	11 partners (GMLN, PV, YYNAC, GSCC, GBCMA, DELWP, DET, Rumbalara, GVEG, GSYC, GVW) + 5 community representatives
Print Media	Shepp News readership of 150,000/month (say we reached 10% = 15,000 people, likely more)
Radio interview OneFM	(estimate ~1,000 people, likely more)
Billboard	(estimate ~1,000 people, likely more)
Council email signature banner inviting feedback	(estimate ~500 people)
Social media reach	(confirmed 8188)
Group's emailed via direct RiverConnect contacts	>122 organisations (Transition Tatura, Zero Carbon Tatura, Ethnic Council, Senior Combined Partners (MDBA, DJPR, DELWP, GB CMA, PV, YYNAC, GSCC), all Internal Council Departments, 107 RiverConnect Partner organisation contacts including Scouts groups, Education First Youth Foyer, Point of Difference Studio, Rotary clubs, Kaiela Arts, Platypus Conservancy, Outback Academy, Kaiela Institute, Men's Sheds, Goulburn Valley Health Public Promotions, Kiwanis Club, Shepparton Canoe Club, Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project, Shepparton Camera Club, Sustainability Victoria, Shepparton Triathlon Club, Goulburn Valley Community Energy, Friends of the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton, Things of Spirit, Burnanga Indigenous Fishing Club, Bohollow Wildlife Shelter, Shepparton Art Museum)
RiverConnect events	418 people attended
TOTALS	<p>Organisations/groups estimated reach = 133 Organisations/agencies/groups reached = (estimate ~20 people/ group) = ~2,660 people</p> <p>Individual people estimated reach = 5 IAC community reps + 8188 social media + 418 at RC events + >15,000 Shepp News reach + >1,000 OneFM interview, + >1,000 Billboard + >500 Council email signature = ~26,106 people</p> <p>Physical submissions received = 43 submissions (6 group (~25/group = 150 people), 34 community, 1 youth art (80 were engaged), 2 community groups (SMULG 32 members, GVEG 50 members)) = ~346 people</p> <p><u>Minimum estimated reach</u></p> <p>Likely greater than ~29,112 people (at least 42% of Greater Shepparton population)</p>

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:

The environment we all operate in has not been the same since the beginning of COVID-19. Many can acknowledge the increased workload and interrupted schedules as the 'new normal'. Following in this fashion, despite the lack of COVID-19 related impacts, there were other implications such as staff illnesses and a major flood in October 2022. Notwithstanding the challenges, the RiverConnect program had a hugely successful year including meeting both revegetation and weeding targets.

RiverConnect engaged 5,769 people in 89 events/activities including 1816 students from 17 schools, four kindergartens and two home-school/homework club across the year. The program was featured in 36 media items (increase of 5 from 21-22), including 6 radio interviews, and is followed by a total of 1962 people on social media (increase of 18% from 21-22). RiverConnect also maintained 48 partnerships and established two new partnerships with the Australian Conservation Foundation and Goulburn Valley Health.

Across 2022, the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 was developed as a refresh to the focus of the program. The RiverConnect Project Officer drove the review process including engaging with stakeholders, writing the content and sourcing the images for the plan. Public consultation was undertaken across six weeks in late August-September, a conversation report was collated to summarise the findings and the final plan adopted in December 2022.



Figure 2. Uncle Ruben Baksh offering a Welcome to Country and sharing his admiration for the impressive growth of the RiverConnect program since its inception.

The Public Acquisition Overlay for Route 2 (Gemmill's Swamp to KidsTown) has been completed with the formal land acquisition in progress. The detailed design for the path will follow once the acquisition is completed (expected FY23-24), with the construction still allocated in the 2027 Greater Shepparton City Council capital budget.

b. Key achievements and highlights:

- Completion and adoption of the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 with an estimated ~29,000 people reached in public consultation activities.
- Celebrated the launch of the RiverConnect Strategic Plan 2023-2028 with moving speeches from Uncle Ruben Baksh (YYNAC), Cr Spinks and Mayor Sali (GSCC), Carl Walters (GB CMA) Jane Roots (DEECA), Rod McLennan (Community), and students from Congupna Primary School, Berry Street School and ACE College.
- Presentation of the RiverConnect program as a stream speaker at the National Landcare Conference 2022, with a Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA) representative presenting on behalf of the RiverConnect Project Officer due to an unexpected illness.
- Hosted a large World Rivers Day celebration including a movie screening, free BBQ, Flats Walk talk by local Elder Uncle Ruben, animal display by Bohollow EnviroEd and various partner activities. The event was well attended with 280 people taking part in the day.
- Redeployment of the RiverConnect Education Officer to assist with mosquito management as part of the flood recovery. The costs of the works were covered by the appropriate Council department and enabled some additional funds unspent on wages to be reassigned in the RiverConnect budget. The RiverConnect Education Officer also found co-benefits in learning about mosquitos that has been developed into new educational opportunities for schools.
- Organised two major river environment clean-ups, one at the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton and the other in and along the Goulburn River starting at Dainton's Bridge. Around 8 cubic metres was removed from the ABGS and the "Pollution Pirates" removed around 3 tonnes from the Goulburn River.
- Recognised World Wildlife Day with a multi-activity education day for both schools and community at Ferrari Park in Mooroopna. 137 people enjoyed the many activities including Bohollow Wildlife Shelter's animal display, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network's tracks and scats and treasure hunt activity and RiverConnect's nature art and games.
- Nurtured stewardship culture by providing support for Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group (SMULG) to undertake 'Weeding the Bush'. Across 5 weeks, SMULG removed Nightshade and Bathurst Burr from the Australian Botanic Gardens Shepparton (ABGS). A combined 255 volunteer hours contributed to the efforts covering 3.95ha of the total 8.90ha total bushland area. SMULG elected to continue their efforts beyond the 5 week period without requiring any further assistance from RiverConnect. They completed the remaining 4.95ha of the ABGS site and with Parks Victoria's support have now moved onto Reedy Swamp.



Figure 3. The "Pollution Pirates" cleaning up the Goulburn River.



Figure 4. Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group members ready on the tools for their weekly "Weeding the Bush" activity.

- For the first time RiverConnect was invited to participate in the Illuminate light festival which saw visitation of over 18,000 people across two days. RiverConnect partnered with headspace Shepparton to host “The Burrow”, a low sensory space for 16-25 year olds. The area featured two areas, nature art and a chill space, with complimentary bell tents, fairy lights, beanbags, blankets, and coloured lighting. With the help of Verney Road’s ADVANCE students, a human sized bird nest with fairy lights was also constructed and was the site of many attendee photos through the two days.



Figure 5 (top left). The Illuminate dream team from RiverConnect and headspace Shepparton (Cat, Al, Ali, Naynika and Insiyaah).

Figure 6 (top right). Verney Road ADVANCE students in the giant birds nest they built.

Figure 7 (bottom left). Five young people enjoying nature journaling and relaxing in the Yurt chill space.

Figure 8 (bottom right). Two young people showing off their nature keyrings and creations.

- Successfully invited Goulburn Valley Health to join the RiverConnect partnership and elect a representative to the RiverConnect Implementation Committee. This new partnership is a crucial component towards progressing the health and wellbeing component of the RiverConnect Strategic Plan.
- Launched a nature journal promotion by leveraging off International Nature Journaling Week. Through social media community was asked “Which of the 7 daily themes do you connect with most and why?” and responses granted participants a free nature journal kit



Figure 9. Nature Journal Kit prize.

- Collaborated with Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative to bring their concerns into an opportunity for self-determination. The Rumbalara Nangarna Homework Club students noticed their scar trees being removed by illegal firewood practices and wanted to do something about it. After reaching out to RiverConnect, they decided to host a community tree planting day to replant natives that had been lost but also to bring community together to highlight the importance of protecting our environment.
 - 230 students (Guthrie Street Primary School, Mooroopna Park Primary, Bouchier Primary, Wunghnu Primary and Verney Road School) took part in the activities hosted by partners from Parks Victoria (rangers and cultural officers), Forest Fire Management Victoria, ASHE, Greater Shepparton Secondary College, Goulburn Murray Landcare Network, Greater Shepparton City Council (One Tree Per Child program and Resource Recovery Team), and supported by volunteers from Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group, St Brendan's Parish, and over 20 Rumbalara staff.
 - The day was a huge success with 567 indigenous plants planted and Rumbalara have expressed their excitement in making the community day an annual event.



Figure 9 (top left). Aunty Cheryl Bourke leading a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony for attendees.

Figure 10 (top right). Three students from Mooroopna Park Primary taking part in the planting activity.

Figure 11 (bottom). Some of the many activities that happened on the Rumbalara Bush Revival Day.

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

- In October 2022, the Greater Shepparton region was impacted by major flooding. Consequently many agencies, businesses and community were impacted for several months. The ongoing risks included river environment land closures, falling trees and high mosquito levels. Activities ceased for a period and then required strong risk management procedures to recommence.
- Finalisation of assets register of council assets on Parks Victoria managed land remains an on-going activity that has hindered the progress of proposed projects which are located on Parks Victoria managed land. This was further delayed due to the flood response.
- School engagement was challenging this FY due to ongoing school staff and student absences as related to COVID-19. This resulted in some schools reluctant to make bookings, or having to cancel bookings.

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

- RiverConnect Officers responded proactively to the ongoing flooding implications by scoping out safe locations in close proximity to the river environment to hold events and activities. At all events, Officers offered advice on mosquito-avoidance practices, including wearing repellent, covering up and reducing mosquito breeding sites around the home.
- Council senior management continue to actively work with Parks Victoria senior management to complete the asset register on Parks Victoria managed land. This is ongoing and has recommenced after the flood response resolved. All Assets have been ground-proofed by both parties, with Parks Victoria now working through the Committee of Management process.
- The RiverConnect Education Officer continues to evolve and adapt with schools, offering support and solutions to enable greater engagement where possible.

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

- The flexible program delivery for schools continues to remain the best option whilst the schools navigate their challenges.
- The extensive planning processes by Council's Environment Officer has enabled the One Tree Per Child program to operate more efficiently and smoothly. This has enabled the RiverConnect Education Officer to devote more time on other components of her portfolio.
- The RiverConnect Project Officer used a capacity building technique to encourage Shepparton Mooroopna Urban Landcare Group (SMULG) to undertake weeding. Initially assisting weekly with event management, promotion and support, SMULG elected to continue their efforts beyond the 5 week period without requiring any further assistance from RiverConnect. Fortunately this allowed the RiverConnect program to meet their weeding targets for this financial year.



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

- RiverConnect continues to strengthen our relationship with Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and has seen consistent attendance by both staff and Elders at RiverConnect meetings.
- Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation CEO, Aunty Monica Morgan provided her input into the new RiverConnect Strategic Plan. She also provided her signature for inclusion in the final plan as a commitment to work in partnership to deliver the strategy.
- The RiverConnect Project Officer was nominated to participate in Council's Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group and provided input in collaboration with both Indigenous and non-indigenous stakeholders to the plan.
- The partnership with Kaiela Arts has been strengthened since the return of Tammy-Lee Atkinson as Project Officer. The co-designed event 'Paint by Nature' was a popular activity included in the Shepparton Festival and RiverConnect was invited to host walk and talk tours of the lake for Turtle Muster.

- Strong relationships with Council's Aboriginal Engagement Officer have enabled open communication channels to share knowledge and build understanding.
- Two community Flats Walk tours were hosted during the year and led by Uncle Ruben Baksh.
- RiverConnect Officers have also been providing support to Uncle Ruben for projects and events, such as school activities and Elders Luncheons.
- The Elders Luncheons have also provided perfect opportunity for the RiverConnect Project Officer to meet the Elders and discuss their thoughts on the Flats Walk Signage extension project. Progress towards the signage is ongoing and is expected to be completed at the end of FY23-24.
- The Rumbalara Bush Revival Community Day (as outlined on page 16) was a huge success and everyone involved looks forward to creating the event as an annual celebration.
- RiverConnect has also been invited to join the Reconciliation Week Community Event hosted by The Bridge and in collaboration with many other agencies and organisations. It was postponed due to Sorry Business though has been rescheduled for mid-June.

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	15th June 2023	Signature		
						Date	16 June 2023

* 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).