

STRATEGIC POLICY

1.1 Mission Statement

Watermark will foster community action to conserve and enhance the catchments, shores, and waters of the Gippsland Lakes.

1.2 Statement of Purposes

- a) To further Environmental Purposes;
- b) To act in aid of the protection and enhancement of the natural environment; and
- c) To support ecologically sustainable activities; in the Gippsland Region.

“Environmental Purpose” means:

- d) The protection and enhancement of the Lakes Environment or of a significant aspect of the Lakes Environment; or
- e) The dissemination of information, the provision of education, and the carrying on of research, about the Lakes Environment or about a significant aspect of the Lakes Environment.

“Lakes Environment” means:

The natural environment of the catchments of the Gippsland Lakes.

1.3 Vision

Individuals and community groups throughout the Gippsland Lakes catchments will work co-operatively towards improving the region’s natural features.

Trusts, Authorities and Government will support these activities, all of which, no matter where they may take place, will be recognized as contributing to the health of the Lakes. Land Managers throughout the catchments of the Gippsland Lakes – individuals, corporations and governments – will be guided in their daily activities by constant reference to the impact of their actions on the Lakes.

1.4 Objectives

- a. Foster and support community participation;
- b. Co-ordinate integrated land-use management;
- c. Investigate and promote linkages between catchment activities and the Gippsland Lakes;
- d. Develop information and communication programs;
- e. Develop and support research and monitoring;
- f. Propagate the principle of balanced development and conservation within a Gippsland Lakes biosphere;
- g. Encourage the creation of local, national and international networks;
- h. Seek cultural changes in order to achieve long-term sustainability and environmental health, inter-generational equity, respect for natural resources and the cultural, economic, aesthetic and biological richness of the Gippsland Lakes region;
- i. Promote conservation and restoration;
- j. Generate a groundswell of community activity;
- k. Promote the need for a change in community thinking and attitudes to land, catchment and foreshore Management;
- l. Encourage community groups to undertake projects in priority areas;

- m. Promote a regional approach to planning and development;
- n. Support environmental education and training; and
- o. Foster relationships with Biosphere Reserves.