

Project details



The region

The Upper Coliban catchment provides raw water for drinking water purposes for more than 130,000 people. It also has a range of additional environmental, social and economic values.

The region is culturally rich with a number of significant sites along waterways where Traditional Owners have sourced native plants, medicines and food for thousands of years.

“From an Aboriginal perspective there is much cultural, spiritual knowledge to be shared with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.”

Dja Dja Wurrung Elder.

Agricultural production, including cropping and grazing of cattle and sheep, is an important land use in the upper Coliban catchment.

Historical land management practices have resulted in extensive loss of riverside vegetation, which impacts water quality and river health.

The catchment is facing known threats from existing and future developments, uncontrolled livestock access to waterways and riparian areas and from climate change.

The project

North Central CMA and Coliban Water, together with Traditional Owners the Dja Dja Wurrung, are implementing a 20 year plan, ‘A Healthy Coliban Catchment’ project, to protect the upper section of the Coliban River and its long-term water supply, while boosting habitat connectivity, sustainable land use practices, and building cultural and lifestyle value across the region.

It is one of the most robust and integrated approaches to catchment management undertaken to date in Victoria.

With a clear vision and action plan, the North Central CMA and Coliban Water are working with local councils, community groups landholders and communities on a range of voluntary on-ground projects and actions.

The project is also developing a potential planning scheme overlay to protect future supplies of drinking water and the environmental and cultural values that make the area so sought-after.

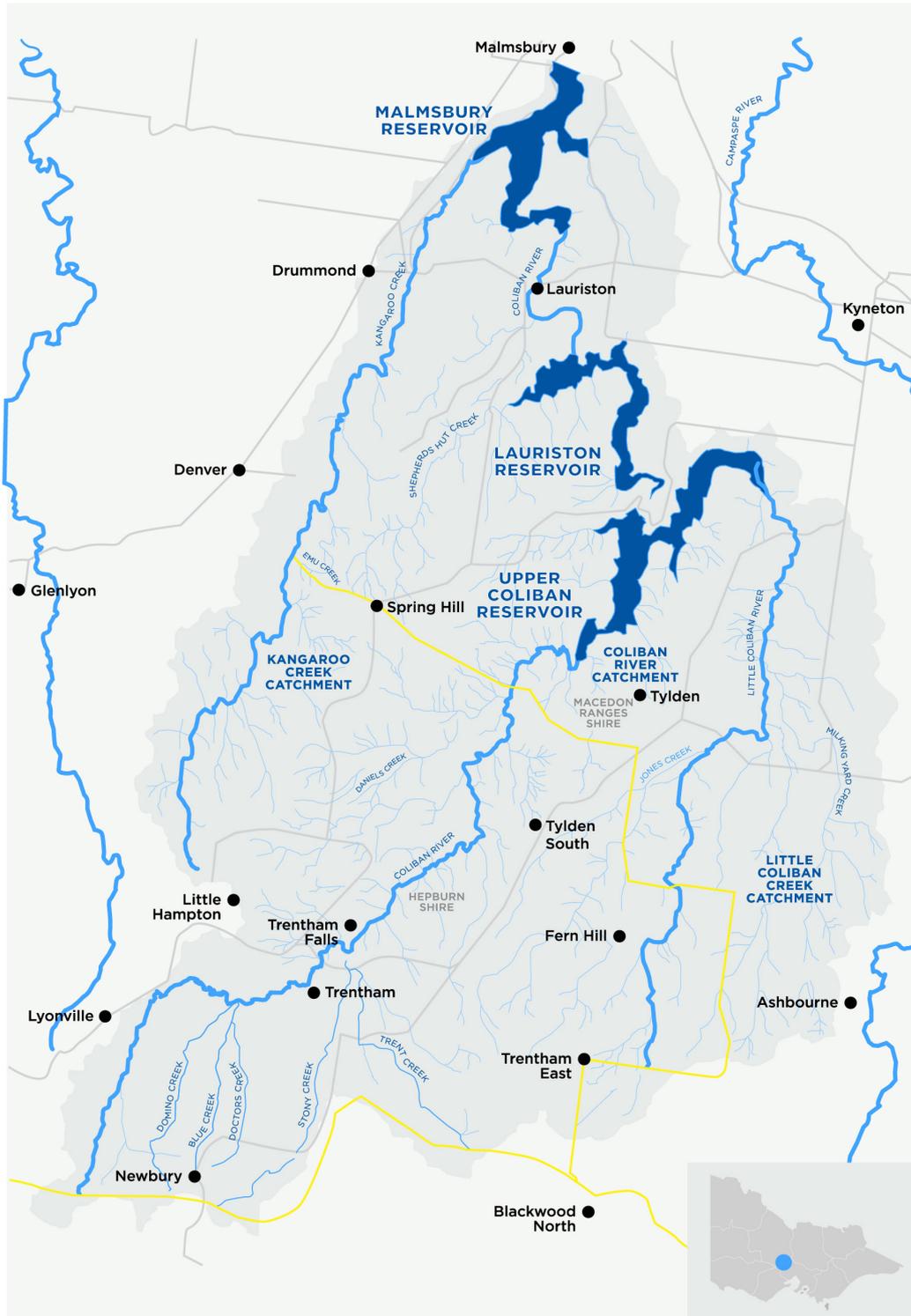
A community reference group is providing local input and knowledge as works are rolled out.

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Project works

Works underway to improve both the health of the ecosystem and water quality include:

- ▶ 300 kilometres of fencing to control stock adjacent to key waterways
- ▶ Revegetating the riverbanks, creating biodiversity corridors
- ▶ Funding off-stream watering alternatives for livestock
- ▶ Controlling invasive weeds including willows, blackberry, and gorse



For more information and to get involved: Phone 03 5448 7124 | Web nccma.vic.gov.au | coliban.com.au