Community Support component - previous investments in Victoria

- Corangamite
- East Gippsland
- Glenelg-Hopkins
- Goulburn-Broken
- Mallee

- North Central
- North East
- Port Phillip & Westernport
- West Gippsland
- Wimmera

Corangamite

Accelerating grazing systems on farms in the Woady Yaloak catchment to improve productivity, profitability and sustainability ($144,426, 2003-04; $42,949, 2004-05; $105,000, 2005-06)
The project will increase the extent, productivity and persistence of perennial pasture. Fencing, increased grazing control and resowing with new pasture species will be used as demonstrations at technical sessions, open days and farm walks.

A systems approach to sustainable production on farms ($221,400, 2003-04; $298,000, 2004-05; $224,000, 2005-06; 224,000, 2006-07)
This project aims to encourage the adoption of more sustainable production practices, through the use of environmental audits and community grants, on 200 properties in the Corangamite region.

A model for greenhouse, timber, productivity and salinity outcomes ($113,800, 2003-04)
This project involves establishing private forestry sites to deliver a range of benefits, including reduced recharge and greenhouse gas emissions, and boost farm incomes through the sale of high-value timber.

Increasing the sustainability of production in south west Victoria by optimising crop, pasture and livestock interactions ($284,250, 2004-05; $344,750, 2005-06; $374,750, 2006-07)
The project will increase the sustainability of livestock and cropping enterprises in the Corangamite and Glenelg-Hopkins regions, particularly by addressing feed shortages in late summer and mid-late winter. It includes initiatives to improve techniques for grazing crop stubbles and native grasses, integrated pest management and pasture drainage.

Heytesbury District Landcare Group - Soil and Water, Dairy Action Program ($355,838, 2004-05; $356,000, 2005-06; $356,000, 2006-07)
The project will provide dairy farmers in the area with a coordinated package of information, resources and incentives to help them improve the sustainability of their farming systems. It will increase the adoption of best management practices through incentives to improve soil and water quality, technical advice, field days, trials and demonstrations, and a soil quality assessment and management program.

Enhance sustainable agricultural production and productivity through revegetation, water and soil management, and perennial pasture improvement programs ($126,398, 2004-05; $155,525, 2005-06; $155,525, 2006-07)
The project will help landholders better manage the balance between cropping and grazing in the Lismore area. Changes in land use can increase risks of water table rise, salinity and nutrient runoff. The project will allow landholders to tackle salinity through fencing, revegetating waterways, pasture improvement and establishing shelterbelts and woodlots.

Integrating trees into farming systems for profit and conservation in the Otway region ($205,000, 2004-05; $194,500, 2005-06; $205,000, 2006-07)
This project aims to involve landholders in design and managing commercial tree plantings so they are successfully integrated into agricultural systems for shelter, land protection and economic diversification.

Sustainable grazing management of escarpment zones of Leigh River ($34,400, 2005-06)
This project involves using ‘landclass’ fencing and research programs to improve the management and profitability of the Leigh River’s non-arable escarpment zone. Improved grazing management of perennial and native pastures will reduce soil erosion, enable better weed management, improve the soil health and boost production.

Nutrient budgeting for sustainable, productive diary farms and healthy waterways ($60,000, 2007-08)
This project will improve nutrient management on dairy farms in the Curdies River catchment through farm-scale nutrient mapping and budgeting. It will improve the capacity of the dairy farming community to minimise nutrient movement into watercourses by involving key stakeholders.

Driving the uptake of precision agriculture in the high rainfall zone ($92,044, 2007-08)
The project will improve soil health, grain yield and profit. It will help to answer the question of whether investing time, effort and funds into Controlled Traffic Farming will return sufficient business and environmental benefits.

Sustainable use of water utilising soil, irrigation and environmental best practice ($30,000, 2007-08)
Growers will participate in a series of workshops on sustaining production through improving environmental management within vineyard production systems. It aims to assist growers to improve water efficiency, better understand and improve vineyard soil health, and demonstrate sustainable production systems.
Dry season sustainable farming using biology, summer pastures, land class fencing and stock containment ($170,187, 2007-08)
The aim of this project is to: increase or achieve comparable yields of better quality grain through less fertiliser inputs; remove the need to burn stubble; and demonstrate improved frost tolerance and health of plants across the district. The project will involve a broadacre trial of biological farming on 20 properties, totalling around 232 hectares, to determine the benefits for a range of crops (wheat, barley, triticale, canola) and pastures.

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East Gippsland

What's Beneath Your Feet? – Soil Management ($153,176, 2004-05; $80,000, 2005-06; $80,000, 2006-07; $80,000, 2007-08)
The project will rehabilitate agricultural land degraded by tunnel erosion, and provide localised soil management guides and field days. Activities will focus on cost-effective methods for rehabilitating tunnel erosion areas, including early detection, deep ripping and perennial pasture establishment.

Lakes to the Hinterland Landscape Rehabilitation Project ($116,670, 2004-05)
The project will address long-term sustainability issues in the Gippsland Plains through reduced sediment and nutrient loads, and improved management of riparian zones and lake foreshores. Activities will focus on fencing and revegetation of degraded areas, and establishing trial plots to optimise species and techniques for revegetation in the local area.

Red Gum Plains sustainable stocking rate and pasture management trial ($53,370, 2005-06; $80,000, 2006-07; $28,450, 2007-08)
This project involves providing benchmarks for sustainable grazing systems, and showing producers that higher stocking rates can be sustained on the Red Gum Plains by using the latest pasture species, fertiliser regimes and grazing systems.

"Nurturing Nutrients"-recycling nutrients & maximising water reuse on East Gippsland dairy farms ($135,775, 2007-08)
This project will assist 25 individual dairy enterprises in the Bairnsdale & Orbost areas to develop Dairy Farm Nutrient Management plans, through the Dairy Self Assessment Tool (Dairy SAT) process.

Sustainable and profitable farming on the Red Gum Plains ($100,552, 2007-08)
This project will equip farmers with the knowledge and skills to integrate cropping into livestock enterprises using best management practices.

Improved water use efficiency for the East Gippsland horticultural industry ($53,600, 2007-08)
This project will improve water use efficiency to increase the sustainability and profitability of the Gippsland horticulture industry. Environmental and economic impacts of traditional methods of irrigation will be compared with drip irrigation.

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Glenelg-Hopkins

Landclass fencing in the Ararat Hills ($108,000, 2003-04)
Introduction of best-practice management will improve productivity by helping to increase carrying capacity. Steep hill country covers a significant proportion of the Ararat area and improved management is a priority.

Implementing the geomorphic study in the Ararat Hills ($125,000, 2003-04)
This project will improve farm production by reducing the incidence of gully erosion. Ararat steep hill country is a priority community for erosion and salinity control.

Protection of high value agricultural land and improving landholder involvement ($188,000, 2003-04)
This project involves fencing off areas according to their land-use capabilities. This will help increase the productive value of land adjacent to riparian zones, and ensure the region's landholders undertake sustainable grazing practices.

Improving the productivity and sustainability of the high-rainfall Victorian cropping systems through appropriate management of crop stubble on farms ($173,050, 2004-05)
High stubble yields can create disposal problems in high-rainfall cropping areas. The project will seek to develop alternatives to burning, through improved techniques for working stubble into the subsoil.

Designing a farming system to reduce the reliance on stubble burning ($125,200, 2005-06; $125,500, 2006-07)
This project involves targeting farm system design to reduce the dependence on burning crop stubbles and realising the subsequent benefits to soil condition and the environment, and producer profitability.

Implementation of sustainable nutrient management systems ($57,750, 2005-06)
This project involves encouraging the re-use of dairy farm nutrients to boost productivity and prevent waterway pollution by effluent. An integrated waste management system, which includes treatment wetlands and nutrient scheduling, will be developed, and a specialist team will help farmers implement their nutrient management plans.

Better production: better NRM in the Brucknell catchment ($264,579, 2007-08)
This project will improve farm productivity in the H1 sub-catchment (Brucknell Creek) by implementing 15 already developed Farm Action Plans.

Delivering sustainable agriculture through environmental management systems (EMS) implementation–Glenelg Hopkins ($112,500, 2007-08)
This project will assist landholders in the Glenelg Hopkins region to implement Environmental Management Systems action plans to improve farm productivity and catchment health. Assistance for landholders will be through on-ground works and through the co-ordination of extension activities.

Pastures for Profit ($45,970, 2007-08)
This project will demonstrate that successful lucerne and perennial pasture species improve farm stocking rates by an average 50%, limit run-off, and help contain salinity and erosion in the region.

Improving soil health and productivity in retained stubble systems through nutrient management ($83,000, 2007-08)
This project will investigate how different retained stubble systems affect nutrient leakage and organic matter levels in high rainfall cropping areas. Trials will explore which system best promotes nutrient recycling and enhances organic matter leading to improved soil health. The project will educate farmers in nutrient management, ultimately increasing profitability.

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Goulburn-Broken

Saline water and high water tables ($125,000, 2003-04)
This project will reduce water tables through use of lucerne and perennials. Revegetation of landscapes is a key action under the Dryland Salinity Management Plan to reduce water tables in the region.

Whole-farm planning ($160,000, 2003-04)
Whole-farm planning helps land managers develop better water management strategies for dryland farming. The project will also provide a mechanism to deliver emerging techniques to farmers, such as raised bed cropping. This will increase adoption of regionally sustainable farming practices.

Using Mosaic Farming Systems to better match land use to land capability ($60,000, 2003-04)
This project will examine the feasibility of using Mosaic Farming Systems in the Goulburn Broken region. Local farmer-based focus groups will test and evaluate the method.

The *Themeda* Revival ($147,500, 2004-05)
The project will improve farmer understanding of how native grasses (*Themeda spp*) can contribute to sustainable pasture management. Four native pasture management groups will hold trials on 400 hectares of selected land to identify and promote management regimes for optimal pasture persistence under grazing and native seed production.

Combined Goulburn-Broken landcare groups balanced productive soils project ($74,300, 2004-05; $12,635, 2005-06; $5,967, 2006-07)
The project will demonstrate the critical balances of soil nutrients and biota needed for sustainable, healthy and productive pastures. It will establish four paddock-sized sites to demonstrate techniques to identify and address imbalances, through grazing and fertiliser trials, soil testing, and field days.

Gaining, maintaining and retaining catchment health ($31,878, 2004-05)
The project will increase awareness of perennial pasture establishment as an effective technique to increase sustainable grazing capacity and improve soil health and water quality, using twelve fenced sites as demonstrations.

Soil protection and nutrient management – Wilby/Almonds ($159,500, 2004-05)
The project will reverse the decline in soil and water quality in the Sandy Creek catchment by addressing gully erosion. Fencing, placement of rock and clay, and revegetation of riparian zones will be used to permanently repair the eroded waterway.

Nutrient cycling, soil health and water quality – fixing a leaky system ($80,000, 2005-06; $80,000, 2006-07; $64,000, 2007-08)
This project involves promoting sustainable farming practices by improving soil health on cattle properties, and by reducing run-off from dryland and irrigated properties by using dung beetles and best management practices.

Aeration and productive perennial pasture systems ($42,200, 2007-08)
This project will demonstrate the use of improved soil aeration and seeding system on exotic and native perennial species supported with grazing management. Demographic changes will provide an opportunity for adoption of best practice in these salinity affected and erosion prone hills.

Save Our Soils-reducing hill-top soil erosion in the Nulla Vale district ($50,250, 2007-08)
This project will fence off hill-tops to prevent stock camps from causing further damage, and allowing plant regeneration to stabilise vital top-soil.

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Mallee

Capacity building for sustainable landscape management ($190,000, 2004-05)
This project will provide local landcare group members with training, commercial scale demonstrations and education required to implement comprehensive and sustainable farming systems. This will help to tackle problems such as wind erosion, sand drift and soil quality. It will involve whole-farm planning and 'best practice' demonstrations.

Perennial profit in the Mallee-Wimmera ($270,500, 2005-06; $205,500, 2006-07; $220,000, 2007-08)
This project aims to establish 150ha of alternative grazing systems across 15 properties. It will involve local farmers and include extension activities.

Making Tyrrell Basin farmlands more profitable and sustainable ($102,000, 2005-06; $102,000, 2006-07; $102,000, 2007-08)
This project aims to demonstrate a progressive approach to turning low-productivity, cropping farmlands into more profitable and sustainable landscapes through the widespread use of perennial grazing and forestry systems, while enhancing the environmental values of the surrounding Tyrrell Basin lakes complex.

Saving our Mallee soils ($150,000, 2005-06; $100,000, 2006-07; $100,000, 2007-08)
This project involves providing Mallee landcare groups with the ability to demonstrate best management practices to the local community. It will encourage more sustainable resource use through better farming systems and reducing the risks to the Mallee environment.

Implementing environmental whole farm plans in the Mallee Tyrrell Basin ($93,000, 2007-08)
This project involves fencing remnant vegetation and establishing salt bush plantations in the Tyrrell Basin area, which will bring areas degraded by salinity and soil erosion back into productive use. Sites have been identified by farmers who have completed environmental whole farm plans on their properties.

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North Central

Revitalising the Mid Loddon sub-catchment by reducing salinity, restoring biodiversity, and promoting and establishing sustainable farming practices ($299,475, 2003-04; $215,064, 2004-05; $202,255, 2005-06)
The project will support a variety of activities to promote the management of agricultural land in the Mid-Loddon sub-catchment within its capabilities. Activities will include fencing farm dams, drainage lines and creeks, fencing and revegetating high recharge and run-off areas, and trials of perennial pasture on high-recharge granite hill country. .

A minimum tillage innovation package for the North Central catchment ($48,520, 2003-04)
Drought limited an earlier minimum till trial. This project will capitalise on the experience gained, and provide greater support and information to farmers. It has strong support from the TOPCROP network.

Improving agricultural productivity through the use of native pasture and plants to control land degradation by erosion and salinity ($62,425, 2003-04; $65,000, 2004-05)
This project links to the Second Generation Dryland Salinity Management Plan for the North Central Region and will support on-ground action at 16 sites in the McIvor Landcare Group area.

Farming mallee eucalypts ($30,000, 2003-04)
This project will demonstrate the potential of mallee eucalypts to contribute to dryland priorities in the North Central Regional Catchment Strategy. It will carry out a trial in the North Central Region, drawing on experiences gained with oil mallee plantations in Western Australia.

Newstead Bestwool ($77,495, 2003-04)
This project involves primary producers and private landholders in the Upper Loddon catchment installing on-ground works to improve productivity and natural resource use. This will involve erosion control measures and riparian fencing, as well as participating in land management initiatives such as ‘Prograze’ and ‘Living Landscapes’.

Improving land management through better understanding of climate risk ($65,000, 2003-04)
The aim of this project is to develop management tools that will improve farmer understanding of the implications of climate variability and change.

Gully reclamation, Briody property ($21,790, 2004-05)
The project will reduce significant erosion at a difficult site in the headwaters of the Bet Bet catchment. The gully will be stabilised using diversion banks, beaching, silt traps, stock exclusion fencing and revegetation.

Gully reclamation, Dodwell property ($13,520, 2004-05)
The project will reduce significant erosion at a difficult site in the headwaters of the Bet Bet catchment. The gully will be stabilised using diversion banks, beaching, silt traps, stock exclusion fencing and revegetation. This project complements the project ‘Gully reclamation, Briody property’ in an adjacent part of the Bet Bet headwaters.

Introducing cropping and grazing systems for sustainable land use and salinity control ($21,000, 2004-05)
This project will support improved cereal cropping and grazing management practices and improve soil and water management, especially water-use efficiency and recharge to saline areas.

Productive management of saline land at Kamarooka ($80,000, 2005-06; $80,000, 2006-07; $80,000, 2007-08)
This project builds on the 'perenniality in low-rainfall farming systems’ - a model for sustainability in saline landscapes project. It involves a grazing management regime to optimise vegetation growth, maximise water use and increase productivity, and a communication program to promote farmer uptake

Establishing sustainable farming practices in the mid-Loddon sub-catchment ($93,791, 2007-08)
This community-driven project will encourage information sharing and implement strategic on-ground works, including extending a network of protected, revegetated and enhanced waterways, remnants and stock/crop shelterbelts. Continuing research into sustainable farming methods will improve on-farm water quality and water health, as well as increase productivity and reduce off-farm impacts.

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North East

North East rural land stewardship: promoting sustainable agriculture through landscape change and payments for environmental services ($300,000, 2003-04)
The project will explore potential for improved management of 'difficult' land, so it can contribute to water quality objectives. It targets land identified in the North-East Regional Catchment Strategy as high priority for erosion, salinity and water quality.

Grazing to land capability in a sustainable way while growing a stable topsoil and enhancing water catchment quality in the Mudgegonga and District’s landcare area ($81,480, 2004-05)
The project will increase awareness of the benefits of rotational grazing systems and related best management practices, including adaptive management within land capability. Activities will include fencing to land capability, training sessions and providing watering points.

Sustainable nutrient management in the North East Region- 'Problem to Profit' ($25,600, 2004-05)
The project will widen awareness of the productivity and environmental benefits of nutrient management planning, focusing on dairy farms in the Fifteen Mile Creek and King River catchments. The project will provide site assessments and soil testing, and develop nutrient/effluent management plans at 14 farm sites.

Promotion of integrated sustainable agricultural and environmental management systems ($18,653, 2004-05)
The project will use trials to demonstrate establishment and management techniques to promote the benefits of perennial pasture. It will link pasture establishment with riparian zone management through fencing, managing Weeds of National Significance and grazing management.

Improving management of dispersive soils, waterways and native vegetation within the mid-Ovens catchment ($96,210, 2004-05; $129,353, 2005-06)
The project will improve recharge control on highly dispersive soils through fencing and revegetation, controlling active gully erosion, revegetation and grazing management. It will fence and revegetate 12 kilometres of at-risk recharge areas and creek zones.

Soil Health: Soil restoration to improve productivity ($43,938, 2004-05; $28,890, 2005-06)
The project will improve the skills of land managers by demonstrating on-farm soil restoration practices. It will establish 12 sites for trials of topsoil improvement techniques focused on achieving more cost-effective use of lime and nutrients.

Improving soil health through better viticultural management in the Beechworth wine area ($37,600, 2004-05; $21,750, 2005-06; $29,350, 2006-07)
The project will give grape growers an improved understanding of soil health as a foundation for better viticultural management. It will establish six trial sites, develop locally relevant indicators for the health of vineyard soils, and support a seminar and training workshops.

Stepping stones towards sustainability – an assessment tool to create sustainable farming models ($39,000, 2004-05)
The project will encourage landholders' to adopt profitable sustainable farming practices and build upon their knowledge on soil health, especially soil testing and pasture management. It will trial a methodology concentrating on key on-farm resources to manage, which includes a self-assessment questionnaire and a series of training courses, to enable landholders to implement targets outlined in the Region's Catchment Strategy.

Promotion of sustainable agricultural and environmental management systems ($38,981, 2005-06)
This project involves trials to promote the benefits of perennial pastures. It will also manage riparian zones using fencing, as well as weed (WONS) and grazing controls.

Productive, healthy landscapes in the Boorhaman/Rutherglen cropping district ($119,000, 2005-06; $126,650, 2006-07; $134,200, 2007-08)
This project aims to develop productive and healthy farm landscapes by retaining stubble rather than burning it. It will evaluate the various options and support the move away from burning by setting up demonstration trials, undertaking farmer education and incentives.

Sustainable management of water and other natural resources for improved grape quality ($97,400, 2005-06; $79,100, 2006-07; $79,100, 2007-08)
This project involves investigating the sustainability of current natural resource management practices to help ensure the region remains profitable and competitive in the domestic and global wine market. Water use, its availability, soil management, vine canopy management, fruit quality and sustainable production systems are the project's main focus.

Land to landscapes — linking sustainable farming practices to healthy catchments ($85,400, 2005-06; $73,000, 2006-07; $73,000, 2007-08)
This project aims to help producers better understand the connection between well-established and managed perennial pastures, diverse riparian environments and healthy catchments. The knowledge and skill gaps identified by land mangers will be addressed at local trials, seminars and field days, and a NRM information resource centre.

Convention or innovation? Improving pasture husbandry – practical on farm trials ($108,740, 2005-06; $97,460, 2006-07; $97,460, 2007-08)
This project involves on-farm trials comparing conventional applications of super-phosphate with soil aeration, and using biological activators and other fertilisers. The test plots will include grazing management, with landholders monitoring pasture production (dry matter), stocking rates, botanical composition, plant sugar levels, sap pH and metabolising energy.

Recovery of soil health in the High Plains of Victoria ($68,473, 2005-06; $58,892, 2006-07)
This project aims to tackle acidity, declining soil structure and fertility through on-farm trials. The High Plains community will participate in field days and annual events.

Improving nitrogen and phosphorus retention, soil productivity and water quality in Upper Cudgewa Creek catchment ($30,800, 2005-06; $20,000, 2006-07; $15,000, 2007-08)
This project involves testing several species of dung beetles, and developing management guidelines for waterways, and on-ground projects for farmers, that reduce nutrients and increase productivity, social cohesion and environmental sustainability.

Promoting sustainable land use systems in Tallangatta Valley ($56,590, 2005-06; $56,590, 2006-07; $53,340, 2007-08)
This project will involve landholders, industry and regional agencies working together to promote best management pasture production practices. It will include education sites, field days and workshops to identify issues in the key areas of farming to land class, pasture to soil type, pasture species and grazing management.

Sustainability at the source - improved horticulture in the Upper Murray ($160,000, 2005-06; $160,000, 2006-07; $160,000, 2007-08)
This project aims to improve water and soil quality at the headwaters of the Murray River by testing new and established crops. The project will support land use change and greater use of best management practices.

Energy efficient farm practices – pilot workshops ($39,280, 2007-08)
This project will increase awareness and provide practical demonstration and local knowledge of energy efficient farm practices through a series of interactive regional workshops, demonstration farms and field days. The project will benefit farmers throughout the region who are looking for sustainable and innovative ways to reduce costs and increase productivity and profitability.

Soil Health: The Next Step ($50,535, 2007-08)
This project will help farmers to develop additional skills to monitor and evaluate the outcomes from applying soil biology products and limes.

SMARTchoice sustainable land use options: (farming post tobacco industry) ($106,000, 2007-08)
This project will develop 4000ha of high value sustainable agricultural opportunities for the Ovens, Kiewa and King Valleys, available as a result of the tobacco industry closure. SMARTchoice will support land use change, analyse options, and provide information to growers, in addition to initiating paddock trials.

Profitable and productive grazing systems for north east Victoria ($115,700, 2007-08)
This project will advance farm productivity and deliver regional catchment strategies through pasture improvement. Six support sites will be used to provide information on and demonstrate new innovations, which farmers and land managers can then replicate on their properties.

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Port Phillip and Westernport

Grow West: sustainable productivity/low input systems ($65,000, 2003-04)
This project will demonstrate and assist producers to implement low input systems using native grasses and saltbush. It will promote use of native vegetation to redress degradation issues on identified sites.

Salinity management in the northern foothills of Westernport and Bass Valley ($80,000, 2003-04; $46,250, 2004-05)
The project will reduce the effect of salinity and soil degradation in the catchment. Priority sites will be identified and treated through fencing, revegetating recharge sites, water testing and field days.

Plenty River Care ($50,000, 2003-04)
This will facilitate and co-ordinate on-ground works to control salinity, erosion and reduce impacts from productive agriculture on waterways identified in local action plans.

Dairy and beef sustainable management demonstration project ($100,750, 2003-04; $83,500, 2004-05; $160,000, 2005-06)
This project will promote sustainable agricultural practices to beef and dairy producers in the northern Western port catchment. Targeted programs will demonstrate how sustainable agricultural practices can enhance productivity, sustainability and improvements in natural resource management.

Tarago catchment sustainable production program ($60,500, 2003-04; $60,500, 2005-06; $60,500, 2006-07)
This project will promote on-farm effluent treatment systems, and filter strip and riparian vegetation management and enhancement. It will demonstrate use of best management practices on-farm to reduce off-site impacts, and improve sustainability and profitability to local landholders.

Salinity alert! Pakenham/Bunyip hotspot integrated action project ($64,500, 2005-06; $70,000, 2006-07; $90,000, 2007-08)
This project will develop an integrated approach to salinity management which will include education and monitoring linked to extensive on ground actions focused on salinity recharge sites.

Improving the environmental and productive performance of Victorian horticulture industries ($30,000, 2003-04; $204,000, 2005-06)
This project aims to increase the use of soil, water and nutrient best management practices by the Victorian strawberry industry, and other intensive horticulture industries, through whole-farm planning and on-ground works focussing on soil conservation, and better water and nutrient management.

Farm forestry in Grow West ($310,000, 2003-04)
This project involves landholders in the 'Grow West' area using farm forestry to reduce offsite erosion and salinity recharge, and increase the sustainable use of agricultural land and farm productivity.

Slow the Flow ($160,000, 2003-04)
This project aims to boost productivity by controlling erosion at priority sites and reducing the impact of commercial farming on waterways and riparian zones. It will also help demonstrate how best management practices can deliver sustainable and productive farming systems.

Coimadai Landcare Sustainable Land Management Program ($220,000, 2003-04)
This project involves landholders in the Coimadai area reducing the off-site impacts of agricultural production on salinity, erosion and water quality by adopting best management practices and implementing on-ground works.

Solutions at the Source ($228,500, 2004-05; $178,125, 2005-06; $186,135, 2006-07)
The project will improve the knowledge and skills of landholders, particularly in integrating whole farm management and sustainable land management. Activities will include salinity management, treatment of recharge areas and break of slope zones, fencing, revegetation and weed management, and pasture improvement trials.

Improving the environmental performance of the Victorian strawberry industry ($120,000, 2004-05)
The project will improve the long-term sustainability and profitability of the Victorian strawberry industry by implementing better soil, water and run-off management practices. The main activity will be developing and testing a farm-planning course for the strawberry industry.

North Yarra Landcare - implementing sustainable and productive rural land-use in the Yarra River's northern catchment ($62,000, 2004-05; $59,000, 2005-06; $59,000, 2006-07)
The project will increase awareness and use of sustainable farm management techniques. Activities will include developing six recharge area demonstration sites for degradation control/salinity management, using fencing, weed control and revegetation, field days and providing on-site advice to landholders.

Wine for Life - Sustainable viticulture in the Yarra Valley ($320,000, 2004-05)
The project will lead to improved viticultural land management for soil protection, water quality, reduced water use, and local flora and fauna, without compromising economic outcomes. It will establish two best practice demonstration sites, assist revegetation and shelterbelt establishment for 15 vineyards, and support native grass trials to reduce water use in vineyards.

Another step in achieving sustainable viticulture on the Mornington Peninsula ($38,300, 2004-05)
The project will build upon previous work to improve the sustainability of the vine industry on the Mornington Peninsula. It will establish a snapshot of on-farm water quality by sampling properties in three prior

Water-wise Berries: A co-operative berry industry project ($28,060, 2007-08)
This project will help and support Yarra Valley berry growers to accurately understand their crop water use and employ best management practice in irrigation. The research and education components will address critical knowledge gaps on basic water needs for local berry crop production, and directly improve growers' knowledge, production practices, and long-term sustainability in the region.

Beef and dairy sustainable farming systems ($184,275, 2007-08)
This project will facilitate the adoption of sustainable land management practices by beef and dairy producers in the northern Western Port catchment. The project will use on a Learning Planning Action model to enable producers to use environmental best management farming to enhance productivity, profitability and sustainability.

Landcare-working for wood in the west ($200,000, 2007-08)
This project will help local landholders to restore degraded and unprofitable land to improve productivity and financial returns, and aim to establish farm forestry as a viable land use alternative.

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West Gippsland

Improving primary production outcomes through better natural resource management in West Gippsland ($471,000, 2003-04)
The project will protect and enhance the region's natural resource base, which in turn will boost primary production, by integrating stock management practices with industry development activities, better managing recharge areas and providing the local community with support and information to help increase the use of sustainable management practices.

Smarter Planning, Smarter Action - Strengthening industry networks and the capacity of primary producers to implement successful environmental management programs in West Gippsland ($409,600, 2004-05; $410,350, 2005-06)
The project will support the adoption of profitable and sustainable farming practices in the West Gippsland region, underpinned by greater adoption of Environmental Management Systems processes. It will raise awareness through use of the DairySAT self-assessment tool. It will also support on-ground implementation, including rehabilitation of 40 hectares of erosion, retirement and revegetation of 50 hectares of steep land, stock exclusion and revegetation of 50 hectares of riparian zone, land capability assessments, field days and workshops.

Improving environmental and enterprise management on Gippsland dairy farms ($88,200, 2005-06; $130,000, 2006-07; $125,000, 2007-08)
In this project, two learning systems to improve farming and environmental management will be compared. Two groups will expand the widely accepted Focus Farm model with a stronger NRM focus, and two others will use the successful Dairying Better and Better EMS process.

Gippsland grows GREEN grass ($152,850, 2007-08)
This project will help dairy farmers to support other dairy farmers to optimise the use of their resources (e.g. land, water, fertilisers). The project will increase pasture utilisation and the business profitability. Additional support will be provided by a range of learning options including extensive communication to the wider dairy community.

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Wimmera

Steep hill country ($30,000, 2003-04)
This project involves erecting 15 kilometres of fencing in the Upper Wimmera catchment area to improve stock management and reduce erosion in Wimmera's Steep Hill country.

Wimmera soil conservation through agro-forestry ($60,700, 2003-04; $94,300, 2005-06; $97,300, 2006-07)
This project will enhance sustainability, and encourage farmer diversification, by establishing farm forestry sites in the northern and south west Wimmera to tackle problems associated with erosion, salinity and low agricultural productivity.

Wimmera sustainable agriculture forum ($40,000, 2003-04)
This project involves convening a forum for industry and community-based groups, government research bodies and others to help increase the effectiveness of initiatives tackling soil erosion and water quality in the Wimmera catchment.

Making innovative agriculture pay ($91,000, 2003-04)
This project will help demonstrate the benefits of accurate seeding techniques and targeted input management to the wider community. It will involve using innovative agricultural technologies on farm-size demonstration plots.

Wimmera soil conservation through agro-forestry ($89,100, 2004-05)
The project will demonstrate the use of agro-forestry plots to address wind and water erosion, and decrease groundwater recharge. Activities will assist the establishment of 60 hectares of farm forestry on up to 30 sites in the Wimmera region.

Integrating lucerne pastures into farming systems to control salinity in the northern Wimmera ($53,500, 2004-05; $32,455, 2005-06; $38,190, 2006-07)
The project will provide increased information for farmers and encourage them to take up more sustainable farming systems. Activities will focus on establishing lucerne on 12 paddock-scale demonstration sites, using different methods, and monitoring productivity through dry matter cuts and soil testing.

Saving the soils of the Six Mile: partnering on-farm productivity with sustainable sub-catchment management ($77,420, 2004-05)
The project will increase awareness of the scope for combining pasture productivity enhancement with sustainable sub-catchment management. Activities will demonstrate effective measures for addressing soil erosion and water quality issues, including establishing 13 kilometres of land class fencing and 30 hectares of deep-rooted pasture.

Steep hill country fencing 2004-05 ($32,250, 2004-05)
This project will improve landholder capacity to manage steep hill country, by building 15 kilometres of land-class fencing to allow appropriate management of the land.

Integrated subsoil management for cropping systems - practical applications of EM38 surveys ($74,200, 2004-05)
This project will increase landholder understanding of the use of diagnostic tools to identify and manage hostile subsoil across a range of Wimmera cropping environments. It will involve the preparation of yield maps and earth conductivity (EM38) maps for 800 hectares of farmland, and demonstrate their use for site analysis and improved management.

Increasing adoption of no till farming in Victoria ($100,500, 2004-05)
This project will increase farmer awareness of the productivity benefits of no-till farming practices, especially increased soil fertility and reduced wind erosion. Activities will include the establishment of five 40-hectare full-paddock demonstration sites monitored for indicators of soil health, a no-till farming manual, and workshops and training days.

Biological farming – sustainable agriculture for the future ($44,000, 2004-05)
The project will encourage the adoption of more sustainable agricultural practices, in particular biological agriculture, in the northern Wimmera. Five new and five previously established paddock scale biological farming sites will be used to demonstrate practices which address soil health decline and soil erosion, two key issues in the Region.

Demonstrating the productivity and sustainability benefits of the no-till cropping system in Victoria ($75,120, 2007-08)
This project will demonstrate the sustainability, productivity and profitability of no-till cropping systems in the high rainfall zone of Victoria. A series of focus paddocks will be used to demonstrate and assess the benefits of no-till and of retaining residue within the system.

Adapting to climate change in the Wimmera: Demonstrating productive, sustainable, drought resilience through proactive arm management and diversification ($116,620, 2007-08)
Project Platypus will undertake community education to address the unpredictable nature of farming and the effects that climate change is having on the industry. The project will include establishing perennial pastures, stock containment, hydroponic feed production, water recycling & purification, erosion control, revegetation and diversifying farm income. These will be showcased to the farming community through field days, information packs and a climate change forum.

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