

WIMMERA SOUTHERN MALLEE:

*Socio-Economic Value of Recreational
And Environmental Water*

Trends & Insights

2016-20



Wimmera Development Association

The Wimmera Southern Mallee
Socio-Economic Value of Recreational and
Environmental Water report has been made
possible by the following project partners



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

E1 Background

This project has been a joint initiative of Wimmera Development Association, GWMWater, the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, and Local Councils. The project has been conducted over four consecutive years 2016-17 to 2019-20, assessing economic and social contribution made by the local lakes, and weir pools. This document presents a summary of trends and insights across the four years.

E2 Findings from Four-Year Trends

The four-year Wimmera Southern Mallee recreational and environmental water assessment has conclusively confirmed:

- ❖ The lakes and weir pools are well understood and well utilised as recreational assets by Wimmera Southern Mallee residents.
- ❖ The region's waterbodies are fundamental to community wellbeing, irrespective of the size of the communities in the residential 'catchment areas' of the waterbodies. In fact, the smallest communities tend to rate their recreational waterbody among their towns' greatest assets, and often as the greatest asset.
- ❖ Economic contribution peaked at \$33.68 million (in 2018-19) during the four assessment¹ and dropped to \$28.49 million in the final year, which was plagued by fire threats, low or poor quality water at several waterbodies, and restrictions on use imposed by the COVID 19 pandemic.
- ❖ Health benefits have consistently been valued at around \$1.5 million per annum for WSM resident participants at the waterbodies and between \$2.5 and \$4 million per annum for all residents of regional Victoria. These measurable physical and mental health benefits (including reduced risk of breast cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, bowel cancer, stroke, anxiety and depression) are only part of the complete picture of social benefits. Community satisfaction, pride, reduced social isolation and volunteering were all reported to be enhanced by having functional lakes and weirs.
- ❖ As tourism assets, the lakes and weir pools are underdeveloped. A large proportion of non-regional visitors are friends or family members of regional residents, former residents, or people who are returning to the waterbody after having a good experience from a previous visit. Interviewees from Melbourne and interstate often expressed their pleasant surprise in discovering a caravan park or camping site at one or more of the region's lakes/weir pools when staying in the region to see the silo art or en-route to a destination further afield.
- ❖ The growing tourism reputation of the Wimmera Mallee Tourism region has had a clear flow-on impact to the lakes and weirs. People touring the region to view the silo art trail and other nature and heritage attractions were frequently found staying and recreating. This has also led to off-season participation (winter and early spring) becoming more significant as the four years progressed.

¹ These economic contributions include all waterbodies assessed during the relevant year, and there were some variations from year to year.

- ❖ Passive participation (choosing to exercise and take advantage of the amenity, views and environment near the waterbodies) has increased throughout the four-year period. This quickened through the COVID 19 restrictions when higher numbers of local residents took the opportunity to walk, cycle and/or jog along waterways as a critical part of their exercise 'escape' during pandemic lockdown periods.
- ❖ There were some variations to a direct correlation between participation and economic contribution due to:
 - Shorter and longer average lengths of stay by overnight participants.
 - Changes in expenditure per person, both for day visitors and overnight trips, in response to prevailing economic conditions.
 - Availability (and opening hours) of local businesses.
 - Reasons for visiting and the nature of participation.
 - Expenditure by suppliers to the lakes steadily increasing over the four-year period, somewhat independent of the level of recreational participants.
- ❖ Blue-green algae outbreaks had a detrimental effect on participation and economic contribution at several lakes during the four-year period. For example, it is estimated that in 2019-20 the blue-green algae blooms at Green Lake (Horsham) and Walkers Lake alone reduced the regional economic impact by \$225,000 compared with years when blue-green algae was not a problem.
- ❖ In the first year of the longitudinal assessment there was great enthusiasm among Wimmera Southern Mallee residents at the return of water to many of the lakes and weir pools which had been dry or too low for recreational activities. Over subsequent years, increased confidence in secure water had a considerable impact on both local residents and visitors making plans in advance to spend holidays and weekends at WSM lakes and weir pools.

E3 Future Directions

- ❖ Reorienting urban development in Victorian cities and towns along the bays, rivers or lakes on which they are located, only commenced in the 1990s but has since accelerated with the implementation of new river boulevards, marinas and commercial developments along their river and lake fronts. In the Wimmera Mallee, use of terms 'river town', 'lake town' and 'wetlands area' have been added to town signage and promotional materials, but the potential is much greater.
- ❖ Infrastructure like trails, tracks, cabins, new camping sites, amenities blocks, waste disposal, water and power have all received noticeable new investment over the four-year recreational water assessment period and there is scope for further improvements if the lakes and weir pools are to maximise their potential for recreational visitors. But this direction may not be appropriate for all the waterbodies: Any proposed improvement should be subject to minimal environmental, cultural or heritage impacts and to the wishes of the local communities and other stakeholders. Some of the lakes are clearly closely guarded "best kept secrets" and are frequented mostly by local residents, and the ambiance and attributes of these assets could be perceived to be reduced, rather than enhanced, with any further investment in infrastructure or facilities.

- ❖ Attributes of the waterbodies are well known to a majority of local residents, and to regular visitors from other regions and interstate who know one, or perhaps a few, of the Wimmera Southern Mallee waterbodies to which they return on a regular or occasional basis. Touring visitors who are exploring the region for the first time are often surprised by the opportunities for caravans and recreational vehicles to stay by attractive lakes and weir pools and to take advantage of their recreational opportunities. These responses, and the clear linkages across the WSM lakes and weir pools network, suggest that developing and formalising links, creating themes and cross-promoting has potential to increase participation and socio-economic contribution, and to use the waterbodies as an important part of the Wimmera Mallee's growing reputation as a tourism destination.
- ❖ Events are a definite 'value add' to all lakes and weir pools where they are held. Hosting major events opens participation to people who are not regular visitors, and they provide very significant economic contributions to the local areas. Apart from a few fishing/angling clubs holding competitions for members at different lakes and weir pools across the region, there are no linked events at the recreational waterbodies in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. There is potential to coordinate series of events across the region for staged competitions or social activities (eg in open water swimming, bi and triathlons, fishing, rowing/kayaking, fun runs, festivals, etc).
- ❖ There are site specific considerations for 'COVID 19' safe planning at WSM lakes and weirs which need consideration and implementation as the pandemic restrictions are eased.
- ❖ Initial suggestions for future activation are made (in Chapters 3 and 4 of this document) for each lake and weir pool on potential improvements within (up to) five category areas, namely:
 - Infrastructure
 - Facilities
 - Recreational water trails
 - Cross promotions
 - Potential events.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This longitudinal project was undertaken during 2016-17 to 2019-20 by Street Ryan under direction from a Steering Group comprising:

- Mark Fletcher, Project Manager, WDA
- Tony Baker, Statutory and Strategy Manager, Wimmera CMA
- Bernie Dunn, Co-ordinator Water Resources and Recreation Strategy, GWMWater
- James Goldsmith, Wimmera Mallee Lakes Alliance
- Jeff Woodward, Wimmera Mallee Tourism
- Ralph Kenyon, Chief Executive Officer. WDA (2016 to 2018).

This group provided advice, direction and support in collection of data from Wimmera Southern Mallee businesses, recreational water facility committees of management, and recreational water users. Their input and contribution are gratefully acknowledged.

Street Ryan was also supported by Sport Business Partners in the estimation of health benefits for the recreational water facilities, and Insight Communications assisted with interviews in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

1.2 SCOPE

The project was a joint initiative of Wimmera Development Association, Wimmera Catchment Management Authority, GWMWater and Local Councils. Since the reporting commenced, after the first year, the project has supported development of facilities, government grant applications and funding support, as well as planning for future water allocations. It has also demonstrated the value of environmental and recreational water to the community and government for use by event managers, media organisations and a range of agencies.

Throughout the four years economic contributions were measured in the 'recreational water supply chain' at three levels:

- Level 1: Service providers (supplying products and services to the lakes/weirs) including water, camping/caravanning, maintenance, construction, management, research and catering.
- Level 2: Users of the Recreational Water Lakes/Weir Pools including residents, community groups and visitors.
- Level 3: Local businesses (servicing the users of the lakes/weirs) including accommodation, food services, health, sport and recreation, transport, retail and personal services.

Interviews with recreational water participants and businesses (levels 1 and 2 in the supply chain) were conducted in Summer and Autumn months each year except year one (2016-17) when interviews were confined to Autumn. In addition, the Spring month of November was added to the interviewing schedule in the last two years (2018-19 and 2019-20). Unfortunately, restrictions imposed for the COVID 19 pandemic of 2020 not only made it impossible to interview recreational water users from mid-March 2020, it also shut down the waterbodies until the end of the 'first wave' of the pandemic.



Busy school holiday periods, public holidays and major events, were explicitly included each year in the interview processes, and the types of visitation during other seasons is likely to be somewhat different. Bias associated with a restricted interview period was addressed in discussions with service providers at the recreational water facilities and with committees of management. Some interviews with supplier organisations (level 3 in the supply chain) were conducted in tandem with the recreational water participants and town businesses, and many were undertaken in the final months of each year (ie May and June) to enable discussions on the full year's participation numbers.

Over the four-year period, 31 recreational waterbodies were included in the assessment across 8 Local Government Areas. These were:

- Buloke Shire
 - Tchum Lake
 - Lake Watchem
 - Wooroonook Lake
 - Donald Caravan Park Lake (Folletti Lake)
 - Green Lake, Sea Lake
- Horsham Rural City
 - Wimmera River at Horsham
 - Taylors Lake
 - Green Lake
 - Lake Toolondo
 - Natimuk Lake
- Hindmarsh Shire
 - Wimmera River at Dimboola
 - Wimmera River at Jeparit
 - Nhill Lake
 - Lake Hindmarsh
- Southern Grampians Shire
 - Rocklands Reservoir
- Northern Grampians Shire
 - Walkers Lake
 - Lake Fyans
 - Lake Bellfield
 - Lake Wartook
 - Lake Lonsdale.
- West Wimmera Shire
 - Lake Charlegrark
 - Lake Wallace
 - Lake Ratzcastle
 - Lake Bringalbert
 - Harrow Weir Pool
- Yarriambiack Shire
 - Beulah weir pool
 - Brim weir pool
 - Warracknabeal weir pool
 - Lake Lascelles
 - Lake Marma
- Rural City of Mildura
 - Lake Ouyen.



Twenty-two of the waterbodies were included in all four years of the assessment, and nine were added for shorter periods:

- Green Lake at Sea Lake was included in 2018-19 and 2019-20 following rehabilitation work allowing the lake to be filled from the Murray River system.

- Lake Toolondo was included in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

- Natimuk Lake was included in 2017-18 but the lake remained dry throughout the four-year period and there was negligible recreational use as a result.

- Lake Hindmarsh was included in 2016-17 but the lake

remained dry throughout the four-year period.

- Rocklands Reservoir, and a host of sites around this very large lake, were included only in 2018-19.
- Harrow weir pool was included only in 2016-17.
- Lake Ratzcastle was included in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Lake Bringalbert was included in 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Lake Ouyen was included in 2019-20 following reconstruction work allowing the lake to be filled from the Murray River system.

2. PARTICIPATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS

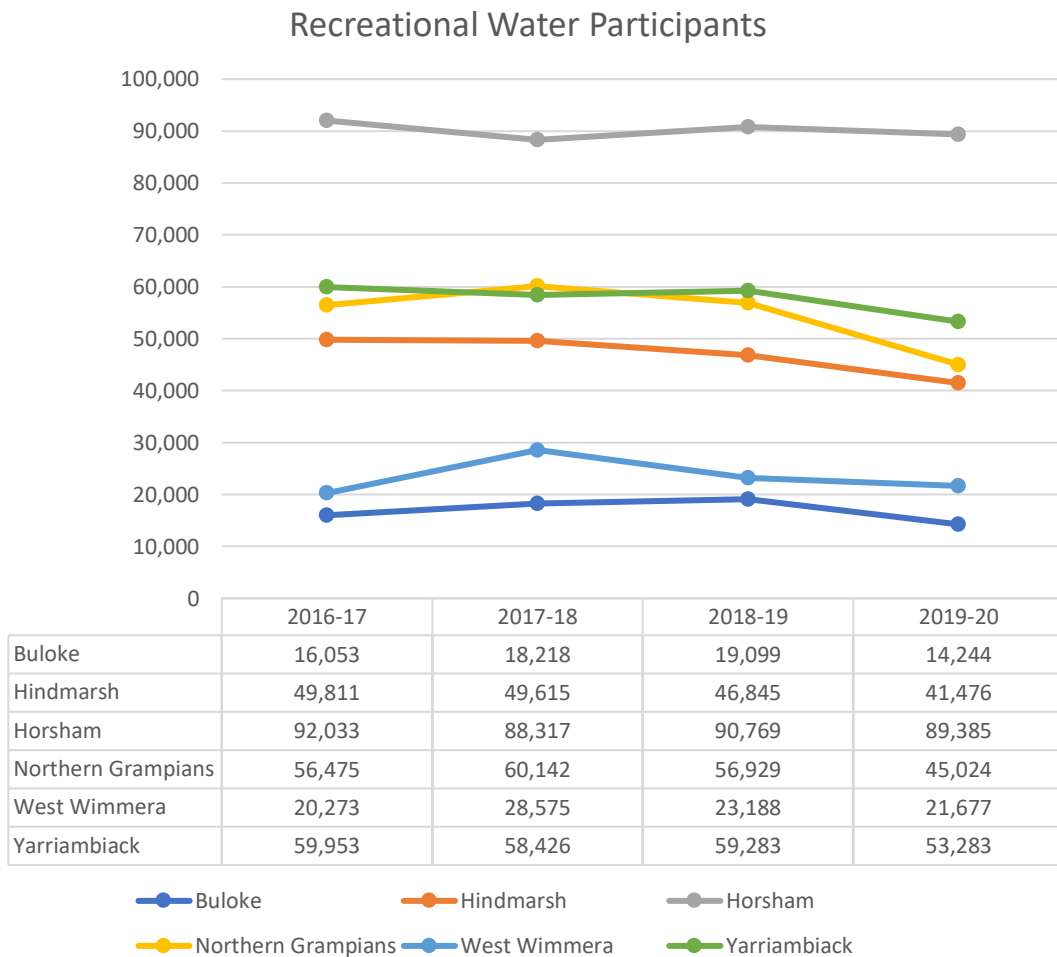
2.1 VISITATION AND RECREATION MARKET SEGMENTS

Total recreational water participation (in those lakes and weir pools covered throughout the four years) was relatively steady over the three years 2016-17 to 2018-19: Fluctuating by less than 10,000 participants with a low of 294,598 in 2016-17 and a high of 303,293 the following year. In 2019-20 reduced water levels in some lakes, poor water quality, reduced travel during the height of Victorian bushfires, and then the COVID 19 pandemic combined to reduce the total participation by over 30,000 (to 265,089) as shown in Figure 2.1. Horsham Rural City consistently had the highest total participation predominantly due to high day visitors at the Wimmera River in Horsham.

Within the region, at Local Government Area level, the fluctuations in total participation are more pronounced and the differences were due to one or more of the following reasons:

- Low water levels or poor water quality
- Activities and events at the lakes
- New amenities and infrastructure (amenities blocks, cabins, platforms/jetties, etc)
- Increased activity at nearby events and tourist attractions.

Figure 2.1 Total Recreational Water Participants



Lakes with low water levels in 2019-20 (ie levels too low to support recreational activities) were:

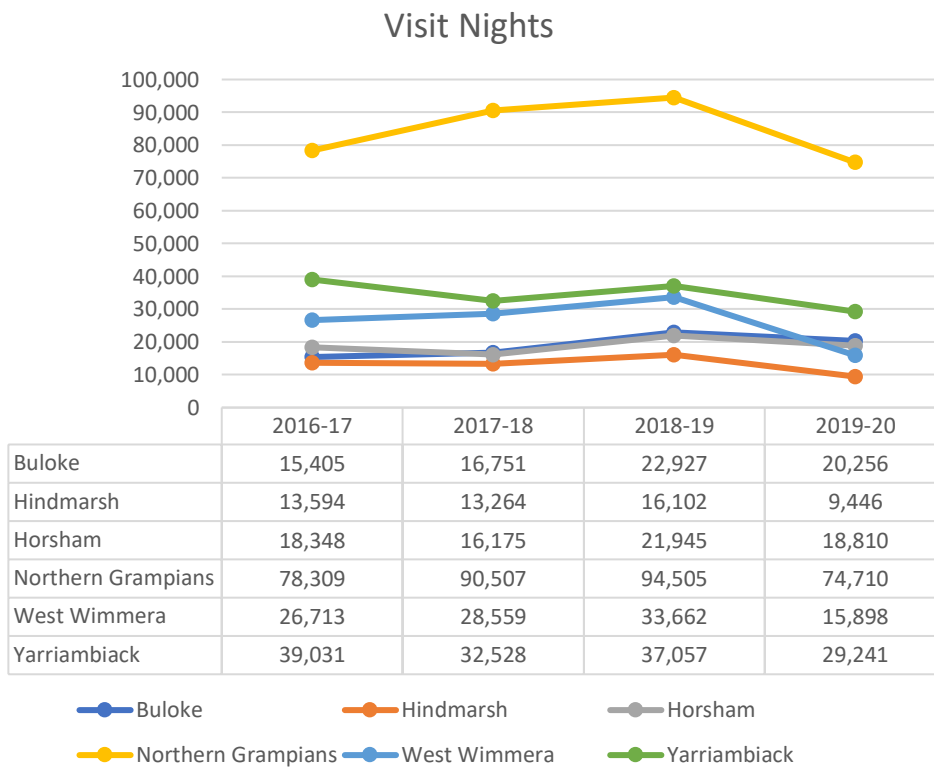
- Lake Bringalbert, West Wimmera Shire
- Lake Ratzcastle, West Wimmera Shire
- Toolondo Reservoir
- Lake Lonsdale.

Lakes where water quality was poor (including blue-green algae blooms, odours, and weed impacting on recreation) for a period of time in 2019-20 were:

- Green Lake, Horsham
- Walkers Lake
- Lake Marma
- Lake Lonsdale
- Lake Wallace.

The trends in overnight visitation were similar to those for total visitation but Northern Grampians Shire was dominant as the overnight vacation destination in the region.

Figure 2.2 Visit Nights at those Waterbodies Assessed over Four Years



Families constitute the largest proportion of recreational participants. Retirees and older travellers are prominent at some waterbodies and there is good potential to increase visitation and participation by older cohorts with:

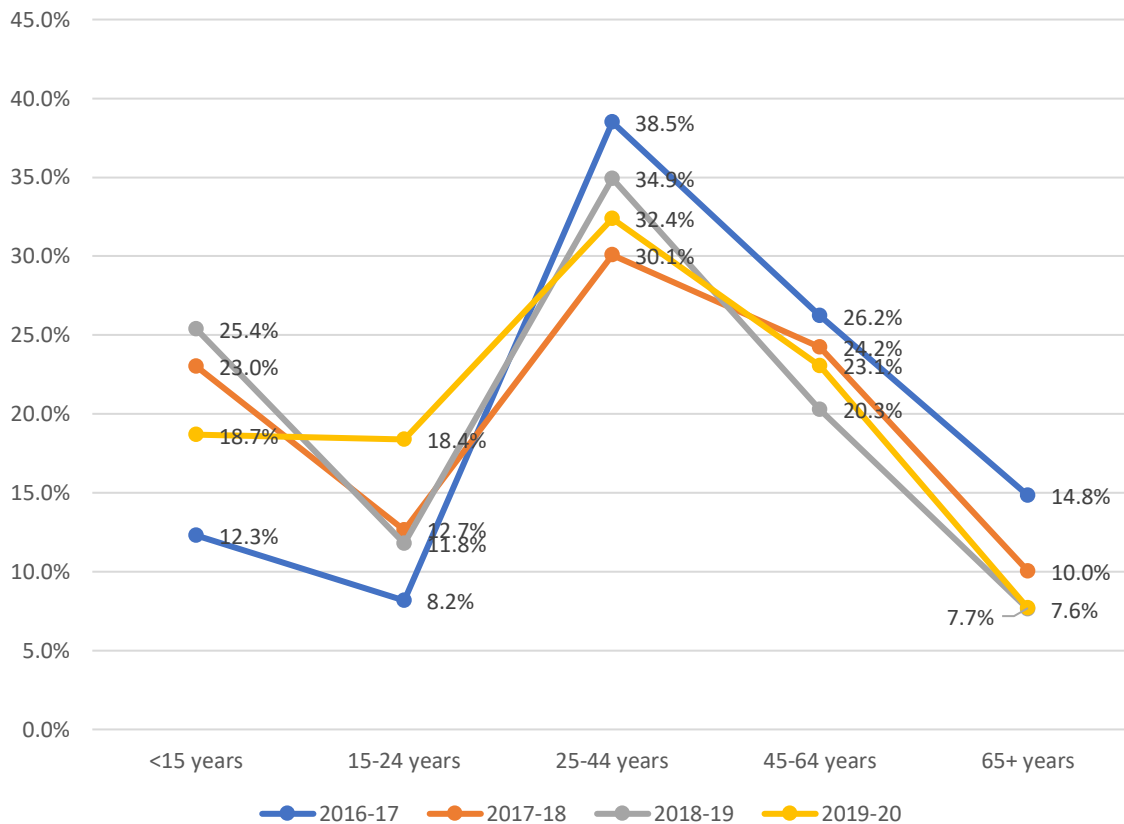
- More accommodation options
- Improved marketing of the waterbodies as a complement to the region’s trails
- Greater food service offers/responses in the towns servicing the waterbodies.

Figure 2.3 shows the relative population age distribution of recreational water users has been quite consistent over the 2016-17 to 2019-20 period. Consistent levels of participation throughout the age cohorts also show that the recreational lakes offer activities for a lifetime.

The ‘shape’ of the age distribution graphs was similar each year, with a general tendency towards a younger structure. Factors influencing the small changes in age structure over the period were:

- Interviews with recreational participants extended over more months each year² and encompassed Spring to Autumn, when families and younger visitors are able to make use of the waterbodies (public holidays, school holidays, annual recreation leave and warmer weather). Non-interview months have a larger proportion of older visitors to the waterways, but these are times when participation is very low.
- The number of significant events (fishing, rowing, sailing, running/walking, and cultural) at the waterbodies increased over the four years and these tended to attract younger entrants and participants.
- The silo art trail had an impact in increasing the proportion of older visitors to the waterbodies, but this was only significant (to date) in Yarriambiack Shire and insufficient to outweigh the age structure profile across the region. This is likely to change as the silo art trail expands to Buloke, Hindmarsh and West Wimmera.

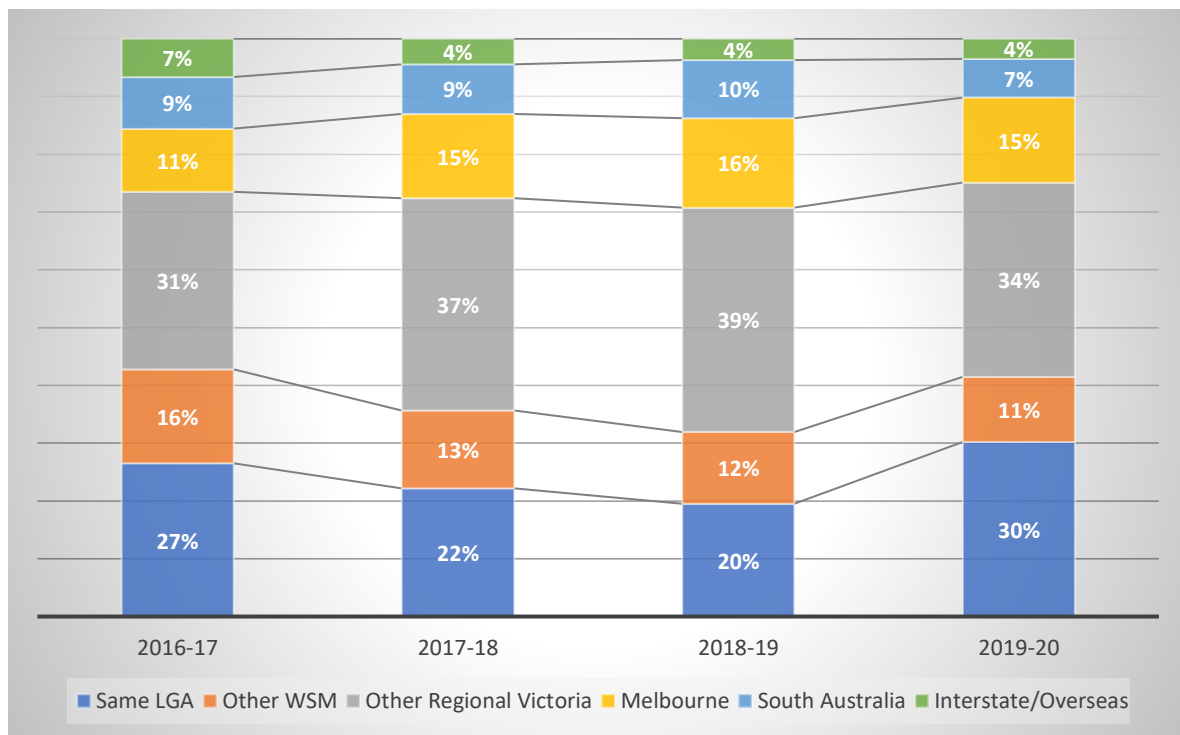
Figure 2.3 Age Structure of Recreational Water Participants



² Interview schedules covered: 2016-17 March to May, 2017-18 December to April, 2018-19 November to April, 2019-20 November to March.

Figure 2.4 reveals the percentages of recreational water visitors are dominated by people from regional Victoria. Over the four years, regional Victorian visitors peaked at 75% in 2019-20, but even at its lowest (in 2018-19) visitation was 71% of all visitors. ‘Locals’ from the same municipality or the broader Wimmera Southern Mallee was also quite stable, varying between 43% in 2016-17 (when the water levels were ubiquitously high for the first time in many years) and 32% in 2018-19 when visitors from further afield were at their highest. Notably the percentage of local participants declined gradually over the three years 2016-17 to 2018-19 as the ‘novelty’ of water security dwindled and people chose recreation and vacations in other locations. Local participation rebounded in 2019-20, although there were still reports of people holidaying on the coast, interstate and overseas. Passive participation by locals showed a definite increase in the COVID 19 lockdown period.

Figure 2.4: Residential Locations of Interviewed Recreational Water Participants 2016-17 to 2019-20



2.2 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION TRENDS

While generally true that there is a positive correlation between participation and economic contribution, there were notable variations in the relationship between the two over the 2016-17 to 2019-20 period due to:

- Shorter and longer average lengths of stay by overnight participants.
- Changes in expenditure per person, both for day visitors and overnight trips, in response to prevailing economic conditions during the relevant year.
- Availability (and opening hours) of local businesses where money could be spent.
- Reasons for visiting and the nature of participation (with events, reunions and functions tending to have highest average expenditures, followed by larger touring groups, and young singles and older couples tending to have the lowest average expenditures).
- Expenditure by suppliers to the lakes steadily increasing over the four-year period, somewhat independent of the level of recreational participants (through maintenance and management commitments, research and operational initiatives, fish stocking and water supply).

Table 2.1 indicates that direct economic contribution from water users/participants is related to participant numbers, especially overnight visitors and active day participants which dominate the direct economic contribution at this level in the recreational water supply chain. The table also confirms that direct contribution by suppliers is not correlated to participation at the lakes and weir pools. Even though suppliers include committees of management, caravan parks, camping grounds, other accommodation providers and event managers (whose direct expenditure is strongly linked to participation) the largest part of direct expenditures in the 'supplier category' is made by statutory agencies³.

Table 2.1 Participation and Economic Contribution Summary

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Participation	Number	Number	Number	Number
Overnight Visitors	56,887	62,730	76,680	46,869
Visit Nights	196,088	208,300	296,655	175,367
Av. Nights	3.45	3.32	3.87	3.74
Active day participation	78,156	77,022	84,886	63,038
Passive day participation	163,189	162,937	166,622	172,240
Total participation	298,232	302,689	328,187	282,148
Number of people	85,135	77,011	93,225	67,051
Av. Frequency	3.50	3.93	3.52	4.21
Economic Contribution	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million	\$ million
Suppliers	\$6.77	\$9.23	\$11.15	\$11.83
Water Users	\$8.78	\$9.21	\$10.64	\$6.96
Business and Multiplier	\$11.99	\$11.73	\$11.89	\$9.70
Total	\$27.54	\$30.18	\$33.68	\$28.49

At the start of the four years assessment period (in 2016-17) there was great enthusiasm among Wimmera Southern Mallee residents at the return of water to many of the lakes which had been dry or too low for recreational activities. Increased confidence in secure water had a considerable impact on both local residents and visitors making plans in advance to spend holidays and weekends at WSM lakes and weir pools.

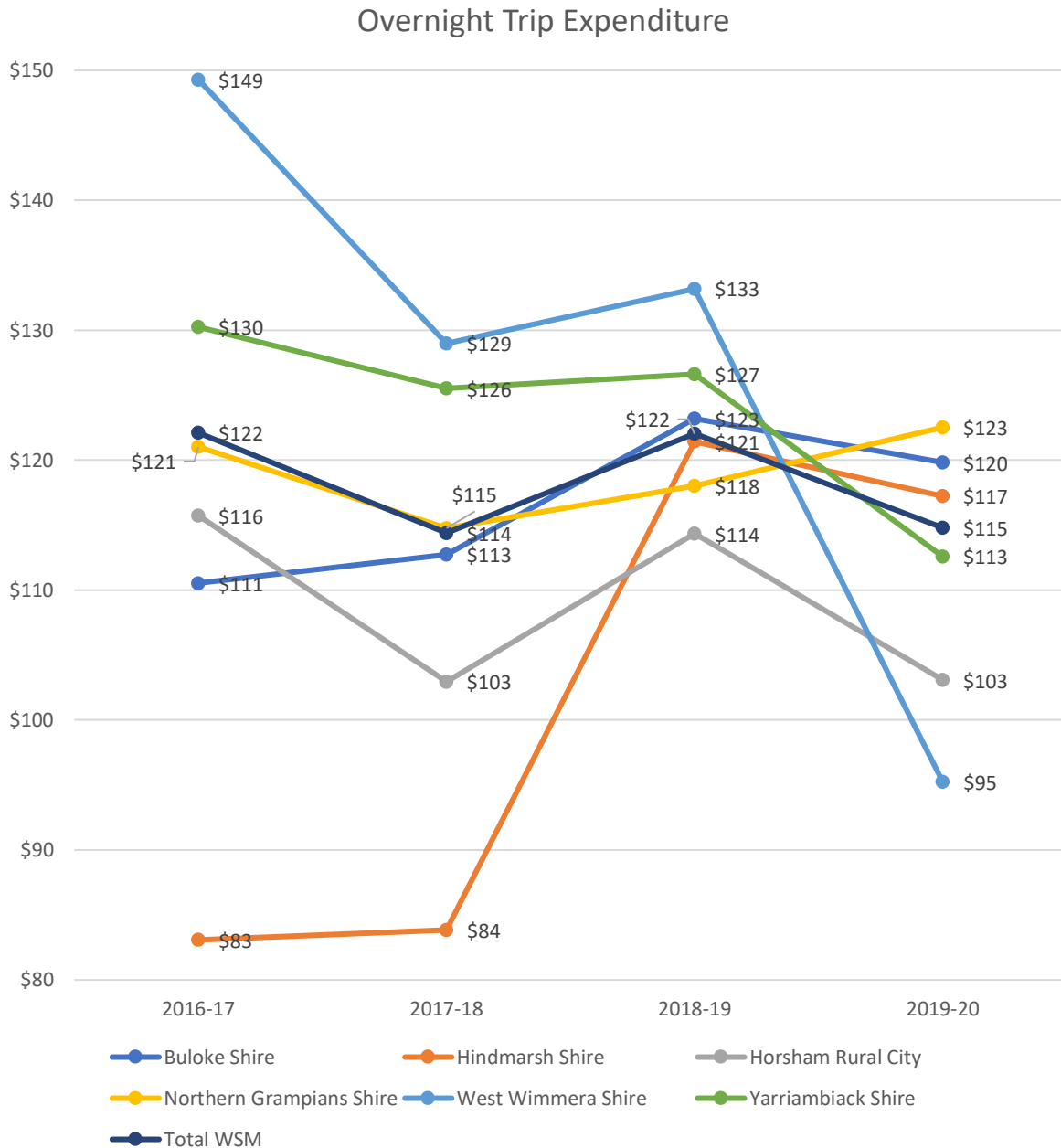
After four years of relatively stable water levels and quality in a majority of the lakes and weirs, there have been a few concurrent observations:

- Wimmera region and other country Victorian residents continue to be the predominant recreational water users.
- Participation has been solid during buoyant economic conditions (eg when there were good broadacre farming seasons combined with good commodity prices), but after consecutive good seasons some regional residents chose to holiday elsewhere.
- The growing tourism reputation of the Wimmera Mallee Tourism region has had a clear flow-on impact to the lakes and weirs. People touring the region to view the silo art trail and other nature and heritage attractions were frequently found staying and recreating.

³ Note: This table includes all lakes and weir pools assessed in the relevant year, and there were some variations in the number of facilities covered each year.

Figure 2.5 shows the total average trip expenditure per person fluctuated narrowly between \$114 and \$122 over the four-year period and the average length of stay was similarly stable (between 3.3 and 3.9 nights). At the extremities, the West Wimmera Shire lakes fluctuated between \$95 (for stays averaging 3.2 nights) and \$149 (for stays averaging 4.2 nights) per trip⁴, and the Hindmarsh Shire lakes and weir pools fluctuated between \$83 (for stays averaging 2.9 nights) and \$121 (for stays averaging 3.2 nights) per trip⁵. This was not only due to differences in the lengths of stay over the period, particularly in 2018-19 when overnight visitation on average was longer but visitors spent less per day.

Figure 2.5 Average Trip Expenditure (within WSM): Overnight Participants 2016-17 to 2019-20 (\$ per person per trip)



⁴ The high point for West Wimmera in 2016-17 is partly due to the inclusion of Harrow Weir pool in this year (where expenditures tended to be higher) while 'lower expenditure' lakes Ratzcastle and Bringalbert were added in subsequent years.

⁵ A larger proportion of higher spending event participants were recorded in Hindmarsh Shire lakes/weir pools in 2018-19 and 2019-20, while in the earlier two years a large proportion of participants were shorter duration travellers (stopping en-route between Victoria and South Australia).

Wimmera Southern Mallee residents who are recreational water participants consistently rated their towns highly as places to live with active, inclusive and engaged communities as demonstrated by the trends in Table 2.2. People generally believe their communities have a bright future, and this reached a high point (average score of 5.9) in the final year, and that local businesses are doing reasonably well. The only local government area where consistent trends were not evident was Northern Grampians where there were concerns over industry restructuring with job losses. Elsewhere in the region, the communities tend to be buoyed when the broadacre farm industries have good seasons, and this has been the case over the past four years. Townspeople in the Shires of Buloke, Yarriambiack, Hindmarsh and West Wimmera invariably rated their lakes and weir pools among the towns’ best assets.

Table 2.2 Participant Perceptions of their WSM Community 2016-17 to 2019-20

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
My community is a great place to live	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.5
The community copes well when faced with challenges	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.1
I feel proud to live in the community	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.5
The community has a bright future	5.7	5.5	5.6	5.9
There is good community spirit	6.1	6.2	6.4	6.3
Local groups and organisations are good at getting things done	5.9	6.0	6.3	6.3
Some individuals get left out of the community	3.7	2.6	2.6	2.4
There is a lot of disagreement between people in the community	3.0	2.1	1.8	2.2
I attend community events such as farmers' markets, festivals and shows	5.3	4.8	4.4	5.1
I take part in community-based organisations (eg Rotary, Lions, CWA)	4.1	4.5	4.2	4.2
I take part in sports groups or teams	5.1	5.3	4.6	4.4
I feel part of my community	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.7
Local businesses in my town are doing well at the moment	5.0	5.2	5.0	5.0

NOTE: These average scores are based on a scale of 1 to 7 where 1 means strongly disagree and 7 means strongly agree.



3 INSIGHTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

3.1 INCREASING RECOGNITION OF WATERWAYS IN VICTORIA

Aboriginal Australia placed great importance on waterways and waterbodies as central features of culture, livelihoods and lifestyle. Yet, since the beginning of European settlement in Victoria until the very end of the twentieth century, towns and cities were built around a focus on industry and transport, and this was not complemented by development to take advantage of the recreational and social benefits of water assets.

Even in the major coastal cities of Melbourne and Geelong developments which maximise access and outlook to waterbodies (Port Phillip Bay, the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers and Docklands area in Melbourne, and Corio Bay and Barwon River in Geelong) only commenced in the 1990s but has since accelerated over the past two decades so that river and bay precincts are now the heartbeat of these cities. In inland Victoria, Mildura, Echuca, Koondrook, and Yarrawonga, for example, have begun to implement new enhanced river boulevards, marinas and commercial developments along their river and lake fronts in recent years.

In the Wimmera Mallee, use of terms 'river town', 'lake town' and 'wetlands area' have been added to town signage and promotional materials, but the potential is much greater. Horsham is working towards an agreed city to river masterplan and most residents of Wimmera towns with lakes or weir pools acknowledge their waterbody as the town's greatest asset (Hopetoun, Edenhope, Murtoa and Jeparit are prime examples).

3.2 ACTIVATING THE WATERBODIES

Over the four years of the recreational water assessment, there was increased confidence in making bookings, planning holidays and even short-breaks among WSM residents and other regional Victorian recreational water users. This confidence was greatest in those lakes and weir pools where GWMWater has given water security from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline, but it was also evident at some of the ground-fed and runoff lakes such as Lakes Wallace and Charlegrark. This increased confidence extended beyond individuals, families and small user groups to larger groups organising functions (family reunions, celebrations, and other special occasions) and even to community group organised events, all of which steadily increased over the four year period.

Prevailing economic conditions quite measurably affect the level of participation and the expenditure by participants at the waterbodies, as the following examples demonstrate:

- Bushfires and the threat of bushfires over the summer of 2019-20 had an overall negative impact on the number of people visiting the Wimmera Southern Mallee region from Melbourne, regional Victoria and interstate due to severe fire climatic conditions, fire outbreaks in New South Wales and Victoria over the December-January period, and a reluctance to travel to areas with a recent history of bushfires (such as the Grampians). This was a significant contributing factor in the drop in recreational water participants from regional Victoria, Melbourne, interstate and overseas; from 68.0% in 2018-19 to 58.5% in 2019-20.

- Relatively favourable grain growing seasons throughout the four-year period encouraged local residents in the Wimmera Southern Mallee to make use of their recreational waterbodies for at least a few days during year. This tendency peaked in the first year (2016-17) when the novelty of a combination of a good season coincided with water security and generally good water quality for the first time in many years. By 2019-20, there was some ‘drop-off’ in this tendency to holiday at a local waterbody, with many people advising that a proportion of local farming families had experienced consecutive good seasons and had opted to take a more extended holiday at a destination outside the region (on the coast, interstate or overseas).



- A tightening national economy in the third and fourth years (2018-19 and 2019-20) resulted in interregional and interstate visitors staying longer in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region but spending less per day during their visit. On average, all participants spent \$20.55 per person per day in 2017-18 and this fell to \$19.42 in 2018-19 and \$16.94 in 2019-20.

Participation numbers and economic contributions increased most notably at those WSM waterbodies where the community implemented ‘activation’ strategies. The strategies were varied and often innovative. Examples over the four years included:

- Bidding for, and hosting, significant annual regional, state or national events on the waterbodies. In 2018-19, Horsham (in collaboration with the Dimboola Dragonboat Club) was successful in attracting a statewide regatta in November 2018, with around 280 participant and officials in teams, who stayed 1-2 nights in commercial accommodation for the event.

Dimboola hosts an annual Rowing Victoria regatta in November each year. The popularity of this event reached a 15-20 year peak in 2019 with around 350 participants and more than 600 attendees for the weekend. There are also annual barefoot water skiing and fishing classic events at the Wimmera River in Dimboola.



○ Fishing competitions have become more prominent in the past four years. Long-term fishing competitions at the Wimmera River in Horsham (March long-weekends) and Jeparit (Easter long-weekends) continued throughout the four years and remained popular and well attended. A new Lake Wallace Fishing competition was one of the town's premier events in 2017 and 2018, but participant numbers declined in 2019 partly due to poor weather and water quality. A tagged fish competition was also conducted in 2018 and this supplemented participation in fishing at Lake Wallace.

All these fishing events attract local and overnight visitor (from around Victoria, South Australia and some from New South Wales) participants and they each generate \$100,000 to \$400,000 in economic contributions.

- Lake Fyans has an extensive program of regular events. A fishing competition was inaugurated at this Lake in 2019, on the same weekend as the Lake Wallace competition. It was quite successful, although the overwhelming majority of participants were local, or other WSM region, residents. Lake Fyans hosts many smaller fishing events throughout the year as well as sailing regattas. The Stawell Sailing Club and Angling Club both have clubhouse facilities on the lake.
- Conducting and establishing events that take advantage of the environment and ambience of the waterbodies without directly conducting activities on the water. Park Runs are among the most prominent of these. Wimmera River Park Run in Horsham (commenced in August 2018) attracts an average of 90 participants per week plus 7-10 volunteers, and Nhill Lake Park Run in Nhill (commenced in February 2018) attracts 20-25 participants per week and 5-7 volunteers. Parkrun is part of an international program involving free, weekly, timed, walking, jogging, running, and volunteering events. There are millions of registered participants around the world and people are able to join a Park Run on a Saturday morning at 8am whenever and wherever they are at home or travelling. Increasing numbers of people schedule holidays or regular travel to enable them to attend a 'trail of Park Runs'. Interviewees at Horsham and Nhill Park Runs indicated they were undertaking 8-10 Park Runs over road trips across New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Most Park Run participants have breakfast at a Park Run sponsor café in town (eg Fig Tree Café in Horsham) and around 5-10% of weekly Park Run participants make overnight stays in the host town. Park Runs have been cancelled since March 14th, 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

The individual summaries for each lake and weir pool, in Chapter 4 of this document, conclude with short lists of suggested improvements which might help to activate additional recreational participation and economic contribution. These cover improvement in some or all of the categories:

- Infrastructure and facilities
- Recreational water trails
- Cross-promotions
- Events.

3.3 INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

Infrastructure like trails, tracks, cabins, new camping sites, amenities blocks, waste disposal, water and power have all received noticeable new investment over the four-year recreational water assessment period and there is scope for further improvements if the lakes and weir pools are to maximise their potential for recreational visitors. Any proposed improvement should be subject to minimal environmental, cultural or heritage impacts and to the wishes of the local communities and other stakeholders. Some of the lakes are clearly closely guarded “best kept secrets” and are frequented mostly by local residents, and the ambiance and attributes of these assets could be perceived to be reduced, rather than enhanced, with any further investment in infrastructure or facilities.



In giving investment confidence for new infrastructure and facilities, critical supplier organisations (Wimmera CMA, GWMWater and the Victorian Fisheries Authority) have made use of the WSM Recreational Water longitudinal research and reporting as a component of the evidence needed to support annual commitments. Each year GWMWater allocates Wimmera Mallee Pipeline water for eleven of the WSM waterbodies plus, in the past two years, water from the Murray River has been supplied by the GWMWater pipelines to

Green Lake (Sea Lake) and Lake Ouyen. Wimmera Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has a comprehensive program of research and practical projects, many of which are directly related to recreational use of the WSM waterbodies. The Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) has a fish stocking program which in the past 4 years has involved approximately 2 million fingerlings and advanced fish stock in 22 of the Wimmera Southern Mallee waterways.

It is estimated that WSM recreational and environmental water longitudinal research and reporting has been used to leverage more than \$5 million in funding support, to date, for improved infrastructure and amenities at the region's waterbodies. Some examples of funding support which has drawn on the longitudinal research as key evidence for securing funds include:

- In 2020 for an all abilities amenities block at Lake Lascelles. A proportion of the funding was provided by the Victorian Great Outdoors – Camping and Caravan Grants program.
- In 2017 for Lake Charlegrark's new amenities block
- In 2018 for new amenities blocks at Lakes Wooroonook, Watchem and Tchum.
- In 2018 for self-contained cabins at the Beulah weir pool.
- In 2019 for self-contained cabins at the Lake Marma Caravan Park.
- In 2018-19 for a fishing platform at the Dimboola weir pool
- Horsham and Dimboola weir pools and 'big water' on the Wimmera River to instal pontoons, boat and kayak launching facilities, shelters, seating picnic tables, a rowing access platform, and other visitor facilities in 2018. Funding was provided through the Victorian Boosting Recreational Water Use program.
- In 2019 for a project called Trading off the Wimmera Mallee Tourist Trails project, including the potential for lakes and weir pool increased visitation, integrated with other tourist attractions in the region. The application relied substantially on the WSM Recreational Water Socio-Economic Analysis. Funding was provided through the Commonwealth Building Better Regions Fund.
- In 2017-18 for a walking and cycling track around Lake Fyans
- In 2018-19 for toilets at Taylors Lake
- (Proposed) in 2020 for a new amenities block at the Warracknabeal Caravan Park adjacent to Yarriambiack Creek.

The longitudinal research was also used to inform the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Wimmera-Mallee Water Resource Plan in 2019.

Funds for restoration and construction works at Sea Lake's Green Lake and Lake Ouyen had been committed prior to the WSM Recreational Water Socio-Economic work.

3.4 DEVELOPING RECREATIONAL WATER TRAILS, THEMES AND CROSS-PROMOTIONS

The attributes of the waterbodies are well known to a majority of local residents, but even the regular visitors from other regions and interstate tend to know one, or perhaps a few, of the Wimmera Southern Mallee waterbodies to which they return on a regular or occasional basis. Touring visitors who are exploring the region for the first time are often surprised by the opportunities for caravans and recreational vehicles to stay by attractive lakes and weir pools and to take advantage of their recreational opportunities. Touring couples, families and groups interviewed at any of the waterbodies over the past four years frequently made one of the following comments:

- "This is an unexpected gem, with great facilities".
- "We are travelling around, not on a fixed timetable, where can you recommend that we go next to find another lake like this?"
- "We were not expecting a setting like this. Had we known, we would have come better prepared, with fishing rods, yabby nets, kayaks, paddleboards, etc.
- "Is the water safe to swim?"
- "What fish can you catch here?"

Even more regular visitors often asked:

- “We have always visited Lake X but recently discovered Lake Y, what others can you suggest”?
- “It’s too busy here this year. Is there a quieter lake setting we could choose?”
- “it’s too hot/water level/water quality is not good here this year. Where else can you suggest?”

These responses, and the clear linkages across the WSM lakes and weir pools network, suggest that developing and formalising links, creating themes and cross-promoting has potential to increase participation and socio-economic contribution, and to use the waterbodies as an important part of the Wimmera Mallee’s growing reputation as a tourism destination.

Table 3.1 and Figure 3.1 summarise a selection of possible themes and links, and indicative travel routes for the lakes and weirs as a starting point for further planning and discussion among the stakeholders.

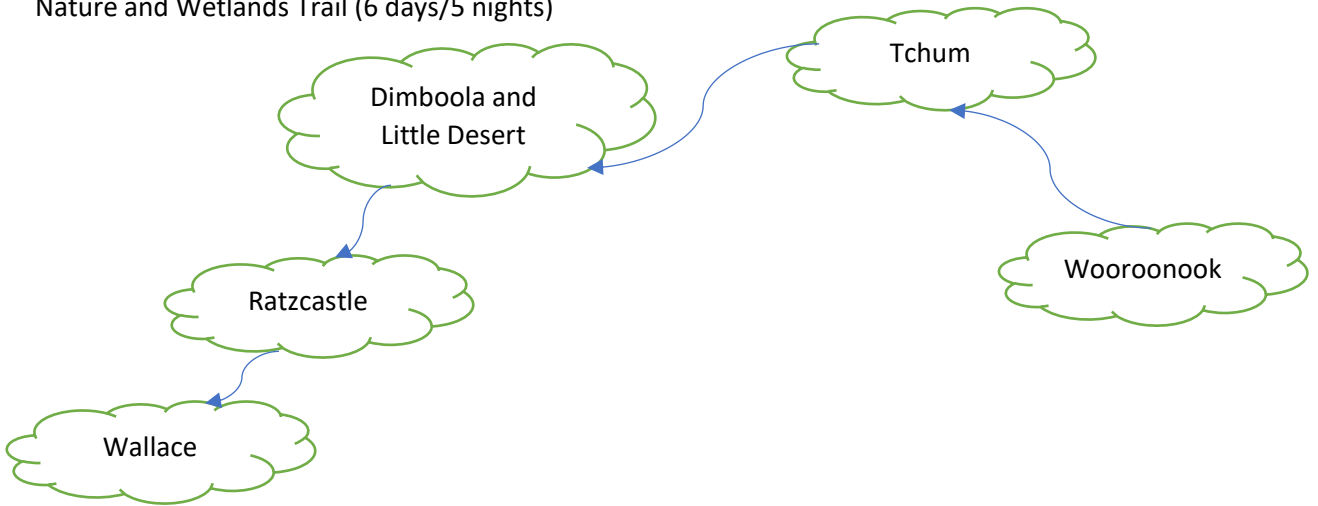


Table 3.1 Themes for Linking WSM Lakes and Weir Pools

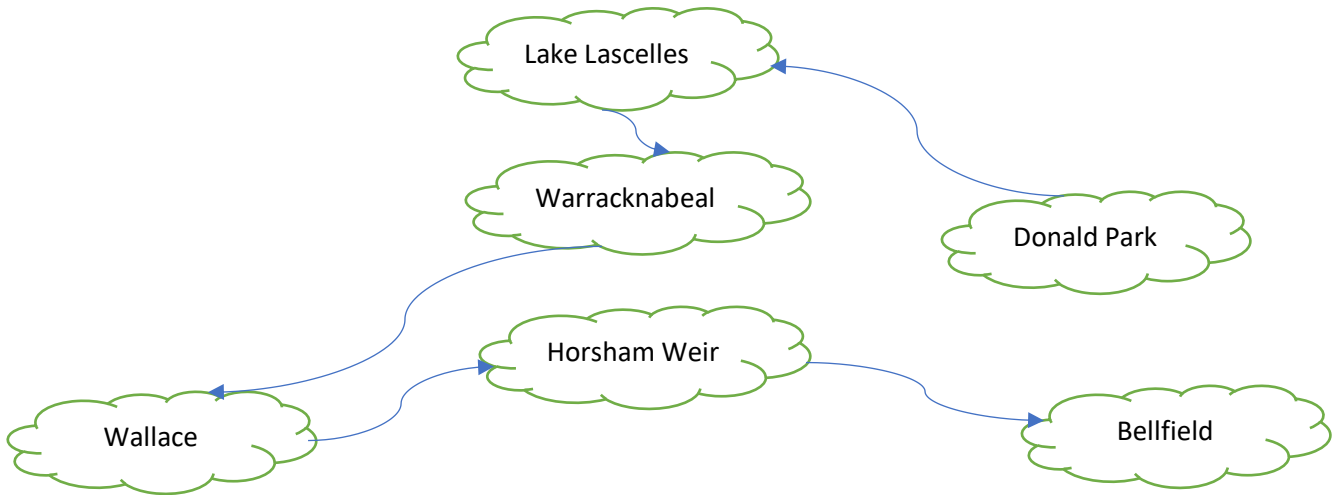
Theme	Possible Lakes (examples only)	Market Segments	Other Tourism Links
Resort and Tourist Lakes	Fyans	Families, young couples, clubs, special interest groups	Grampians National Park/ Gariwerd
	Bellfield		
Peaceful Retreats	Walkers	Older couples and groups	Promote as 'escapes from the madding crowd'
	Ratzcastle		
	Jeparit		
Grey Nomad Bliss	Marma	Grey nomads.	Silo art, history and heritage attractions.
	Beulah		
	Brim		
	Lascelles		
Events Centres	Dimboola	Special interest groups, and individuals, couple and families of all ages	Links to varied events (fishing, rowing, skiing, music, sporting competitions) with an aim to get extended stays.
	Charlegrark		
	Horsham		
	Donald Park		
	Wallace		
'Club Central'	Fyans	Visiting clubs and club members	Supporting clubs at or near the lakes to conduct inter-regional meets or competitions
	Warracknabeal		
	Horsham		
	Green Lake		
	Dimboola		
Water Playgrounds	Tchum	Families and younger groups	Promote as cost-efficient holiday options with a range of water sports and places to meet up with family and friends.
	Wooroonook		
	Fyans		
	Watchem		
	Green Lake (Sea Lake)		
	Taylor's		
	Charlegrark		
	Lascelles		
Waterways with all the Frills	Bellfield and Fyans	Less budget conscious couples and families, clubs (possibly corporates) and special interest groups	Promote as a more stylish way to take a fishing or kayaking holiday with the accommodation and food service options in selected WSM towns
	Warracknabeal		
	Horsham		
	Dimboola		
Silo Art and Night Skies	See Figure 3.1	Retirees/Older travellers, Intra and Interstate Tourers	See Victoria's inland outdoor gallery by day, sunsets on the water and night skies.
Nature and Wetlands	See Figure 3.1	Retirees/Older travellers, Special interest groups	Environment and national/ wilderness parks
Travellers Rests	See Figure 3.1	Retirees/Older travellers, Intra and Interstate Tourers	Silo art, heritage and nature attractions
Trophy Fishing	See Figure 3.1	Serious recreational fishers of all ages	Fishing competitions/ events

Figure 3.1 Potential Lake and Weir Pool Tourism Trails: Indicative Concepts

Nature and Wetlands Trail (6 days/5 nights)



Travellers Rests Tour (town services with a water outlook)



Trophy Fishing Trail (4-7 nights)

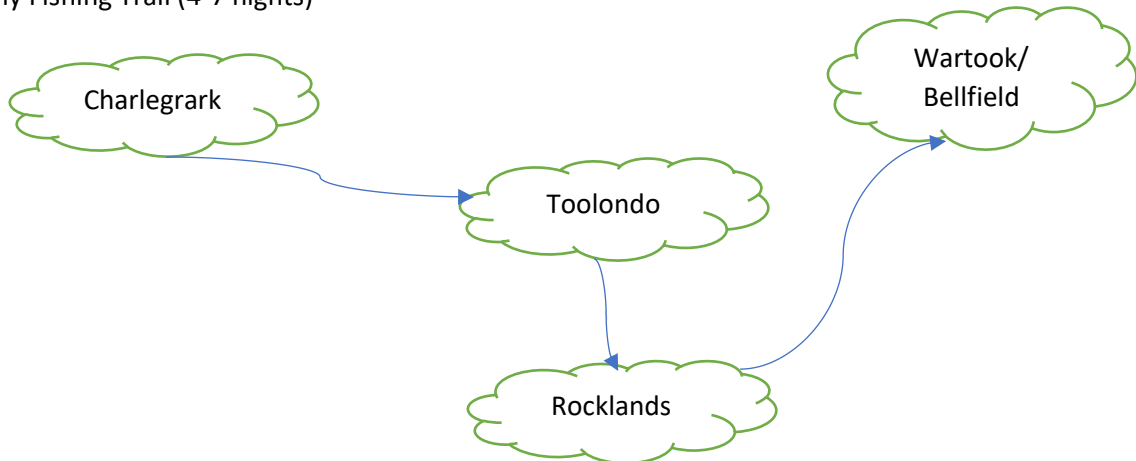
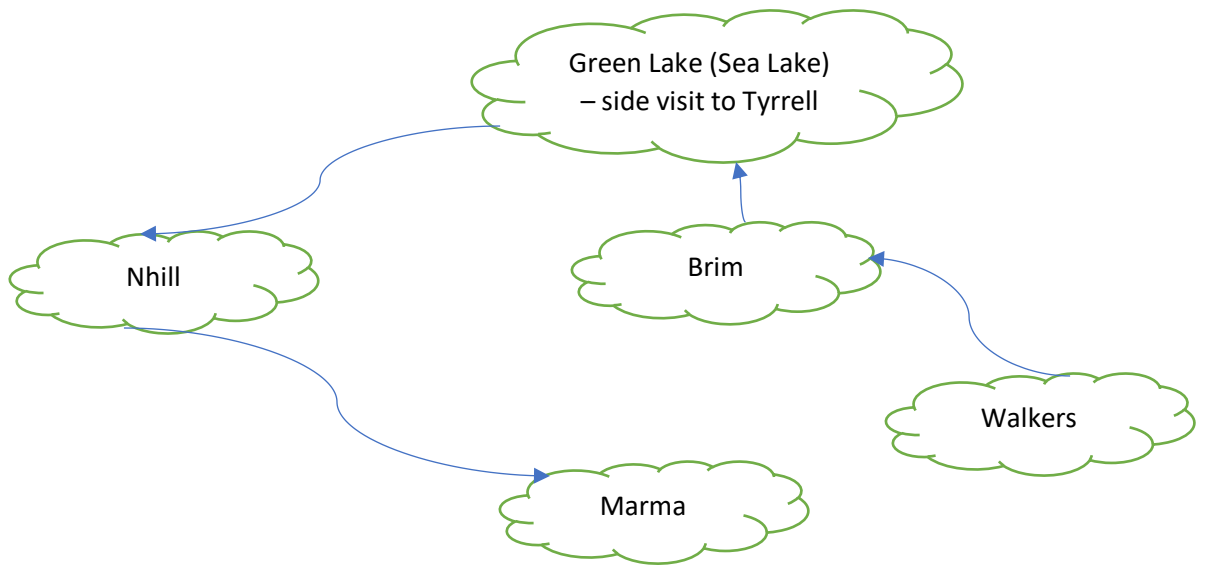


Figure 3.1 (continued) Potential Lake and Weir Pool Tourism Trails: Indicative Concepts

Silo Art and Night Skies (5 nights)



3.5 EVENTS AT THE RECREATIONAL WATERBODIES

Events are a definite 'value add' to all lakes and weir pools where they are held. In the main, events do not drive other participation at the waterways: Event participants who live locally tend to use the lake/weir pool throughout the year anyway, and most visitors attend only for the event. However, hosting major events opens participation to people who have never visited the area and they do provide very significant economic contributions to the local areas. In some cases, events at lakes and weir pools are the major activities in the community calendar for their respective towns or district (eg Lake Wallace Fishing Competition, Charlegrark Music Festival, Dimboola Rowing Regatta, Jeparit Fishing Competition). Apart from a few fishing/angling clubs holding competitions for members at different lakes and weir pools across the region, there are no linked events at the recreational waterbodies in the Wimmera Southern Mallee. There is potential to coordinate series of events across the region for staged competitions or social activities (eg in open water swimming, bi and triathlons, fishing, rowing/kayaking, fun runs, festivals, etc).

Regular events have been consolidated over the four years, but a few are showing signs of being somewhat 'past their peak' due to volunteer fatigue rather than reduced visitor/participant interest. Communities must be aware of the workload and volunteer input associated with creating and continuing to host annual, or more frequent, events even with financial support from a Council, other government agency or private sector sponsors.

It is important for town businesses to support events at the waterbodies to provide good visitor experiences and to generate maximum local economic benefits. This support does not necessarily mean sponsoring the event (although that could be helpful), but having opening hours to complement the needs of the events, possibly offering products or services to suit the event participants, and ensuring there is a service oriented approach by owners and staff. Key business sectors that fit this category include accommodation providers, cafés, hotels and restaurants, sport and recreation retailers, vehicle and fuel services, allied health and personal services and arts and recreation services.



3.6 PLANNING FOR A COVID 19 2021 RECOVERY

There are site specific considerations for 'COVID 19' safe planning at WSM lakes and weirs which need consideration and implementation as the pandemic restrictions are eased. These include:

- Green Lake (Horsham Rural City Council). At this lake, the ability for recreational participants to observe physical distancing is acceptable with foreshore space and several access points, although only one boat ramp and jetty, which can be crowded. Toilet facilities are shared with highway roadside travellers and may need regular cleaning.
- Lake Bellfield (Northern Grampians Shire). Lake would rarely be too crowded for physical distancing to not be possible. Shared picnic tables and toilets need regular cleaning.
- Lake Fyans (Northern Grampians Shire). The Lake Fyans Resort is a relatively high-density accommodation facility with camping, cabins, and caravans all on-site. It also has a café/restaurant/takeaway facility, children's playground, and swimming pool. All these facilities will require the same COVID safety measures of an urban hospitality, food service and outdoor recreation complex in terms of distancing, cleaning, and operational protocols. The Angling Club lodge and camping area has lower densities but would still need food service/accommodation COVID safety measures.
- Taylors Lake (Horsham Rural City Council). Toilets and boat ramp areas need regular cleaning. Waste disposal is an ongoing concern at this lake.
- Toolondo Reservoir (Horsham Rural City Council) No real issues around the bulk of the Reservoir. The 'Wash Tomorrow' caravan park (with some permanent accommodation sites) would need full accommodation premises COVID safety planning.
- Lake Wartook (Northern Grampians Shire). The Horsham Angling Club lodge needs a COVID Safety Plan.
- Other caravan parks run privately, by Councils and/or by Committees of Management all need COVID Safety plans to be implemented. This includes grounds at Lakes Tchum, Wooroonook, Donald, Watchem, Green Lake (Sea Lake), Jeparit, Dimboola, Edenhope, Charlegrark, Ratzcastle, Bringalbert, Lake Lascelles, Brim, Beulah, Warracknabeal, Murtoa, and Walkers Lake.

4. SUMMARIES FOR EACH WATERBODY

This chapter provides an overview of participation and direct economic contribution from participants at each of the lakes and weir pools during 2016-17 to 2019-20 and summarises potential initiatives and enhancements to further develop the recreational participation and regional impacts from the waterbodies.

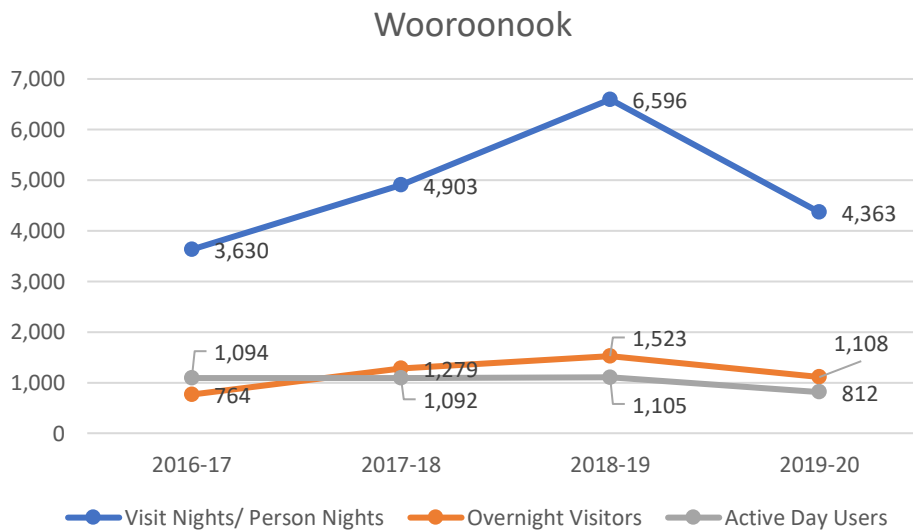
4.1 BULOKE SHIRE

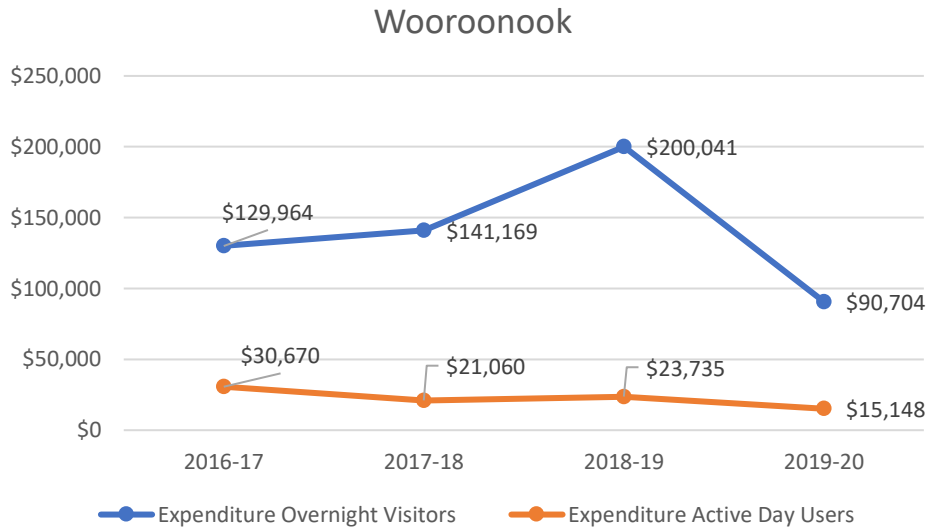
Five Buloke Shire lakes were included in the Recreational Water assessments. Lakes Tchum, Watchem, Wooroonook and Donald Park were included every year, and Green Lake (near Sea Lake) in the third and fourth years.

4.1.1 Lake Wooroonook

Wooroonook attracts retired couples and small groups seeking a quiet and relatively isolated location for camping and caravanning. On weekends during warmer months, the lake is popular as a fishing destination.

Over the 2016-17 to 2018-19 period, participation increased. The overnight visitation in 2016-17 was abnormally low when blue-green algae outbreaks during spring and summer had an impact. A new amenities block was built in 2017-18. In 2019-20, visitation to the lake declined on previous years largely a result of people choosing other holiday destinations after a good farming season and then the COVID 19 pandemic.





Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure – additional directional signage
- Facilities – cabins or glamping installations
- Recreational water trails
 - o Water playgrounds
 - o Nature and wetlands
- Cross promotions – Silo art trail, part of Charlton and Wycheproof town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o ‘Wooroonook Lakes Discovery’ (for wildlife and environmental enthusiasts)
 - o Fishing, kayaking, skiing, sailing and/or open water swimming challenges.

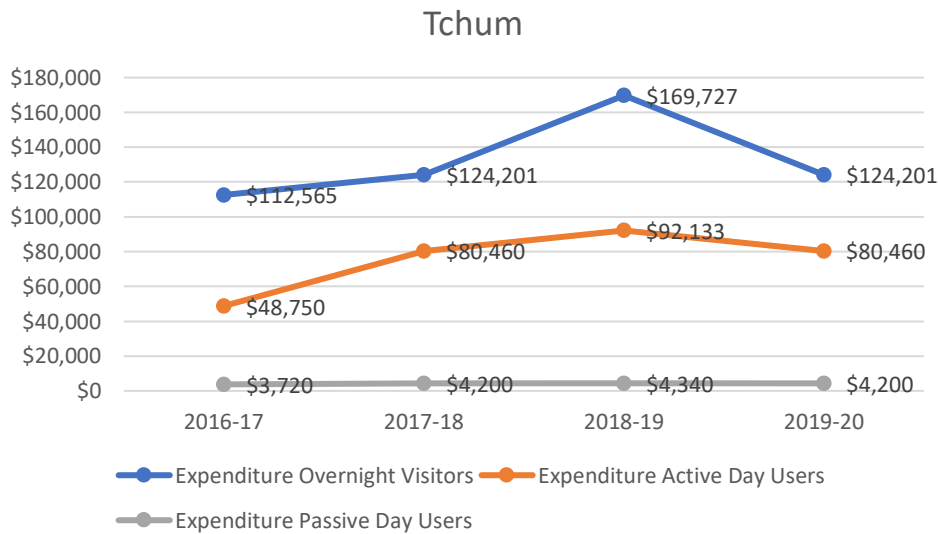
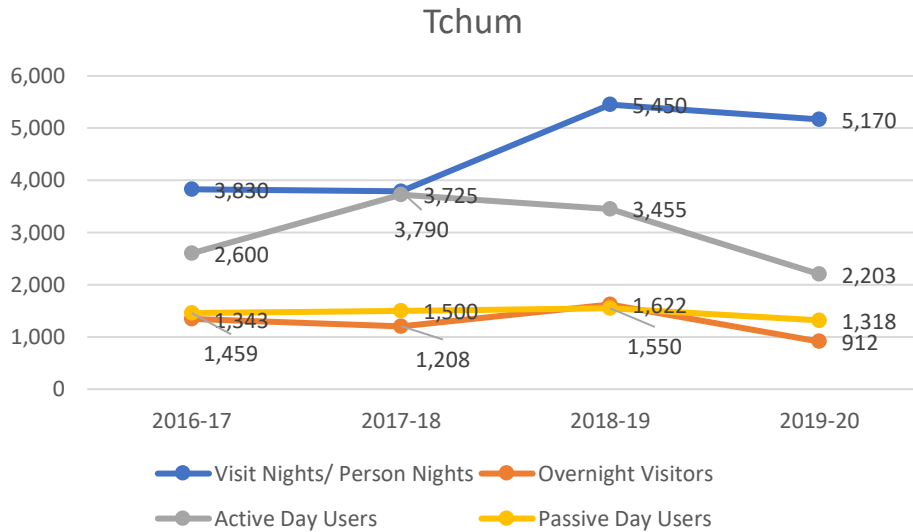
4.1.2 Tchum Lake

Tchum Lake is a popular holiday spot for campers and water skiers. Lake users also participate in fishing and swimming. The lake is very busy at Easter and other summer holiday periods and tends to be relatively quiet at other times of the year. As a holiday-period recreational lake facility, Tchum attracts larger family groups rather than the retired and ‘grey nomad’ caravanning group that are frequent users of other Wimmera Southern Mallee water facilities.

Over the 2016-17 to 2018-19 period, participation steadily increased although overnight visitor numbers were slightly down in 2017-18 due to some discontinuity when a new amenities block was installed. In 2019-20, visitation to the lake had declined on previous years even prior to the COVID 19 pandemic. Reasons for the decline were reported to be:

- o A good harvest for the farming community (and those providing services to the farm sector) which meant people were either too busy to visit the lake or, after the season’s workload was over, decided to take a holiday outside the region.
- o The annual Birchip Harness Racing meeting on the March long-weekend (one of the biggest weekends for Lake Tchum visitation) was cancelled.

Overnight visitors in 2019-20 were fewer in number but stayed longer, spending less per day, on average.



Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Additional signage
 - o Improved landscaping and grassed areas
 - o More formal markings and links of the track from Birchip to Lake Tchum (as a cycling, walking/running track).
- Facilities – cabins or glamping installations
- Recreational water trails
 - o Water playgrounds
 - o Nature and wetlands
- Cross promotions – Silo art trail, part of Birchip town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o ‘Tchum Lakes Discovery’ (for indigenous plant, wildlife and environmental enthusiasts)
 - o Fishing, kayaking, sailing, skiing and/or open water swimming challenges.

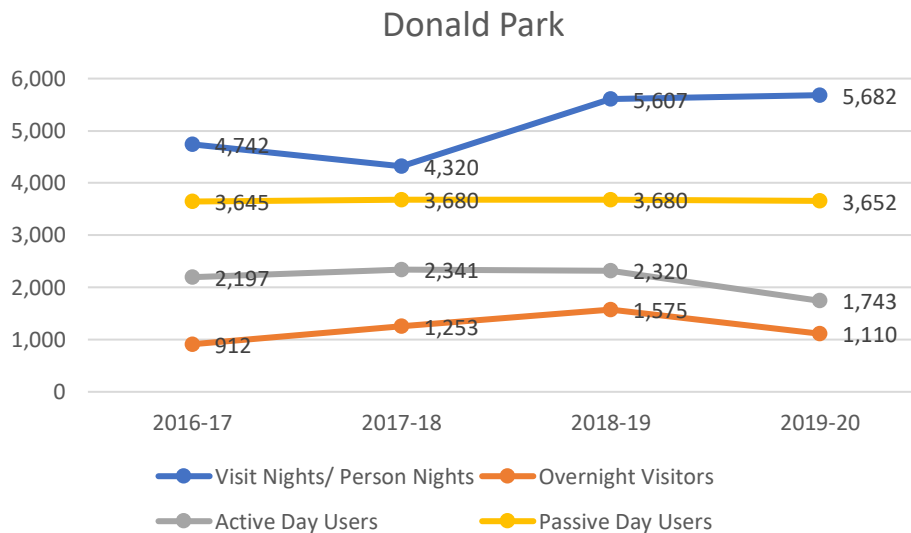
4.1.3 Donald Park Lake

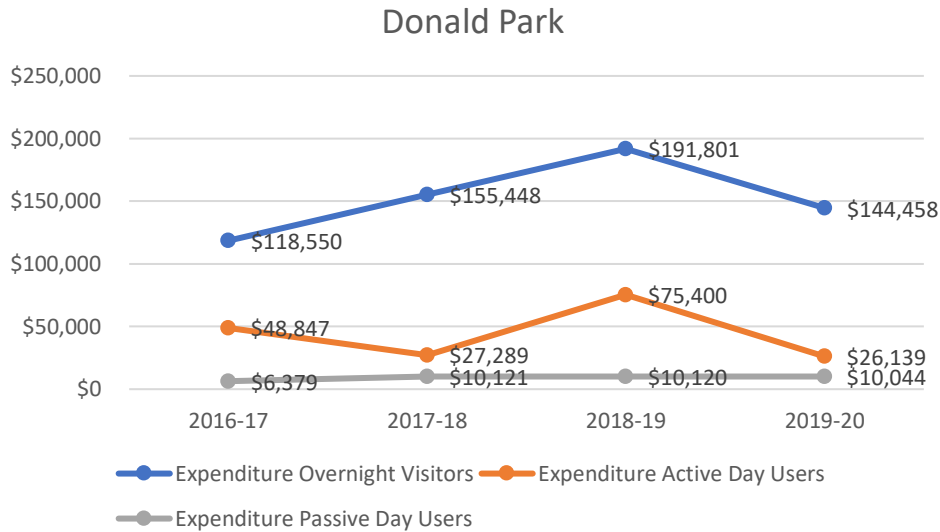
Folletti Caravan Park Lake is a small recreational facility in the heart of the Donald urban area. It is mostly used for fishing and environmental amenity (walks, picnics and camping on the foreshore).

As a centrally located, urban lake, many visitors stay to access facilities in Donald township, as a base to visit friends and relatives or as a base for short-term work assignments. Since 2017-18 the local football club has had responsibility for many of the management functions at the lake, on behalf of Council (which had previously employed a non-resident part time manager). This led to increases in visitors during both 2017-18 and 2018-19, while visit numbers were down in 2019-20 and so was average expenditure but length of stay increased. Passive day users also remained relatively stable in 2019-20 as local residents used the lake area as part of daily walks during the pandemic restrictions.

Participation at Donald Park Lake decreased between 2016-17 and 2017-18 when the management arrangements were shifted to the local football club and several longer-term visitors and workers were moved on. In the last three years, participation increased, albeit with some lost usage during the COVID 19 pandemic restrictions. Reduced active usage was somewhat offset by people staying at the lake during events (eg tennis tournament, Esoteric festival). Economic contribution was reduced in 2019-20.

Water levels were also lower in 2019-20 than in the two preceding years.





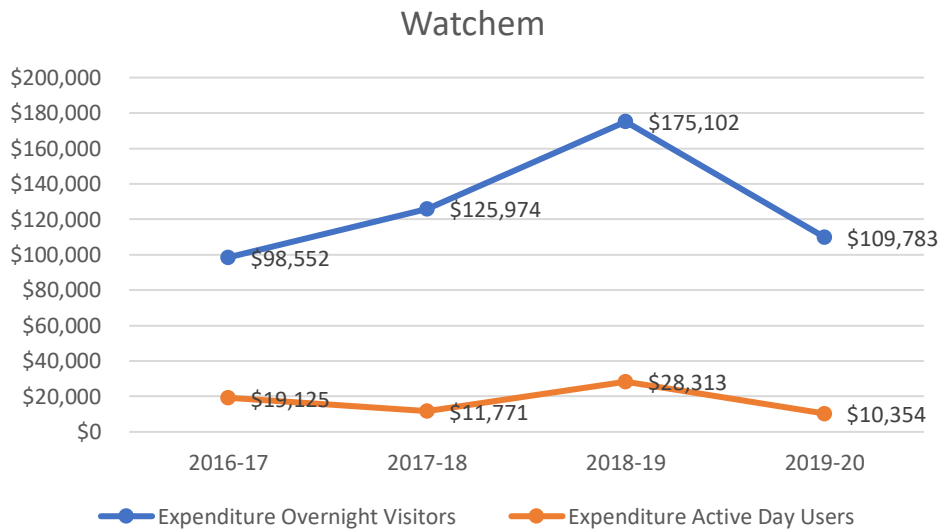
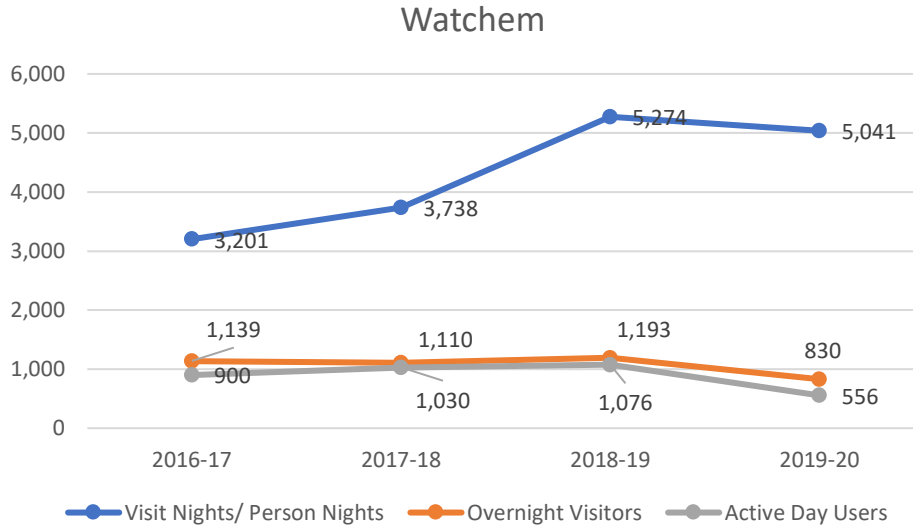
Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Additional signage
 - o Walking and cycling path alongside the lake, connected to town and the ‘pride of place’ track.
- Facilities
 - o Self-contained cabins
 - o RV ensuites
- Recreational water trails
 - o Events centres
 - o Travellers rests
- Cross promotions – Part of Donald town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o “Stay at Donald Park Lake for your Donald event, function, or reunion”

4.1.4 Lake Watchem

Lake Watchem is a focal point for the town, which now has a very limited commercial centre (consisting of a general store, hotel, aquatic centre/pool, and other sports facilities). The lake is popular for water skiing, swimming, fishing, picnics and camping/caravanning. Lake Watchem users peak during the Christmas holiday period and Easter. At other times, the lake is frequented by grey nomad type caravaners and local residents.

Participation at Lake Watchem increased considerably during 2016-17 to 2018-19; a result of water security from the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline and improved facilities and infrastructure at the lake. The reduction in usage in 2019-20 was lower than at many other waterbodies in the region, although the reduced economic contribution was substantial.



Summary of potential improvements:

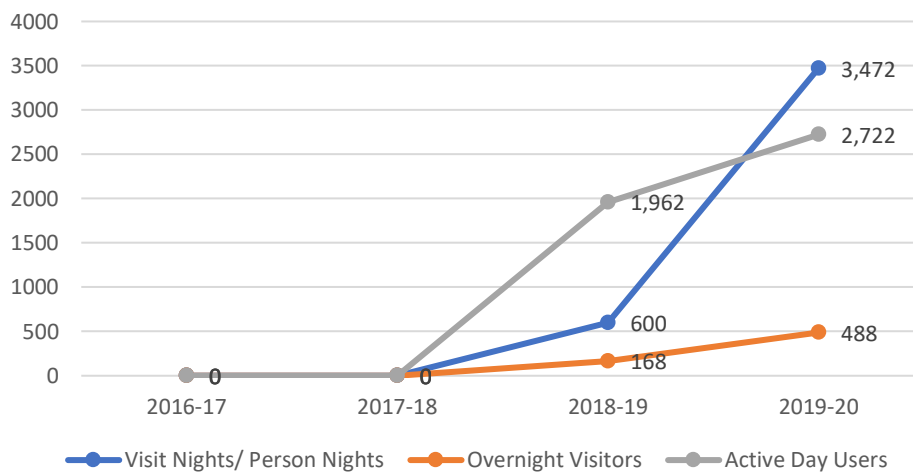
- Infrastructure
 - o Additional signage
 - o Sealing of internal roads
 - o Walking/cycling track to, and around, Watchem.
- Facilities – cabins or glamping installations
- Recreational water trails
 - o Water playgrounds
 - o Peaceful retreats
- Cross promotions – Silo art trail.
- Potential events
 - o Fishing, kayaking, skiing and/or sailing challenges.

4.1.5 Green Lake (near Sea Lake)

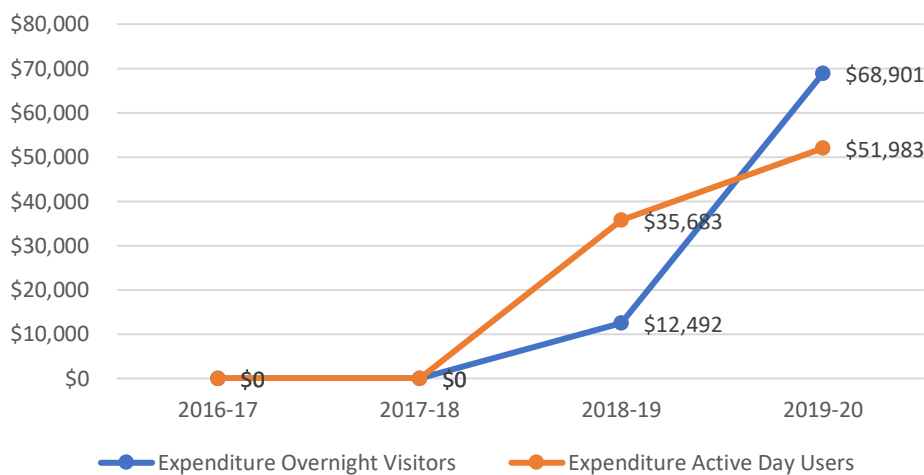
Green Lake near Sea Lake was empty during the millennium drought of the early 2000s. It filled from natural inflows and pipeline supply in 2011-12, seepage was too great to supplement the natural inflows with pipeline water. The Victorian Government funded a project in 2018 to reduce the seepage losses in the lake and the GWMWater Pipeline supply from the Murray River commenced in September 2018. This lake was included in the socio-economic value assessment in the third and fourth years.

Green Lake became a popular recreational destination for Sea Lake locals immediately after pipeline water started to fill the lake in mid-2018-19 with active day participants almost reaching 2,000 in that first operating year. In 2019-20 the lake reached around 2,700 day participants and an estimated 3,472 visit nights from both local residents and intra and interstate people.

Green Lake (Sea Lake)



Green Lake (Sea Lake)



Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Additional signage and directional signage
- Facilities – self-contained cabins
- Recreational water trails
 - o Water playgrounds
 - o Peaceful retreats
- Cross promotions – Silo art trail.
- Potential events
 - o Fishing, kayaking, skiing and/or sailing challenges.

4.2 HINDMARSH SHIRE

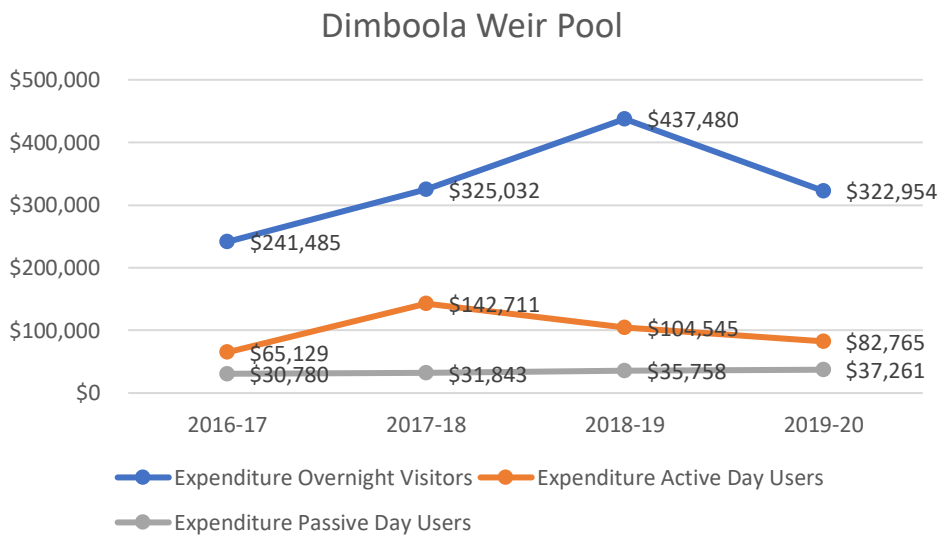
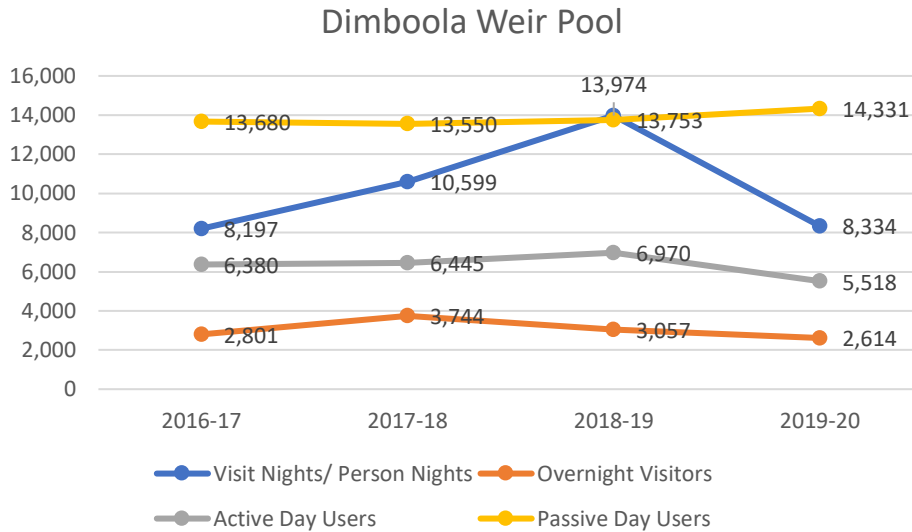
Four Hindmarsh Shire weir pools and lakes were included in the Recreational Water assessments. The Dimboola Weir Pool and Jeparit Weir Pool (both on the Wimmera River) and Lake Nhill were assessed each year and Lake Hindmarsh (which was effectively dry throughout the four year period) was assessed in the first year only.

4.2.1 Dimboola Weir Pool

The Dimboola weir on the Wimmera River is located close to the town, and on the edge of the Little Desert. Recreational water has become relatively secure in recent years through the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline. Environmental flows have substantially reduced the periods when the river has been too low for water to flow regularly, although flows can cease in droughts.

This waterbody has the largest number of significant annual events of all WSM lakes and weir pools. There is the Dimboola Fishing Classic (promoted as the Wimmera's only “bank and boat” community-based fishing event), a State Rowing Regatta, barefoot skiing championship and the Wimmera River Challenge (involving boomerang throwing, fishing, and kayaking). As a water course which runs through the Dimboola township, the Wimmera River has a relatively higher number of passive day users than many other Wimmera Southern Mallee recreational water facilities. The *Wimmera River Discovery Trail* walking and cycling trail is being constructed in stages, adding another tourism attraction intrinsically related to the Wimmera River and is expected to increase the active and passive visitation.

The weir pool had increasing overnight visitation during 2016-17 to 2018-19 which fell away somewhat in 2019-20 (although the economic contribution decline was less significant than the reduced participation, partly due to increased food service and accommodation options in town), while active and passive day usage remained quite high.



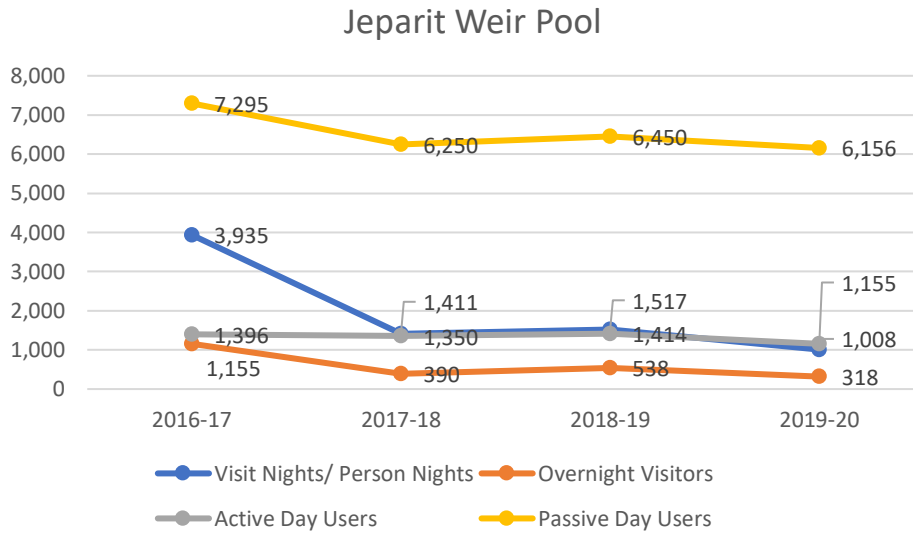
Summary of potential improvements:

- Facilities – a café or other food service outlet on the river or with views of the river
- Recreational water trails
 - o Events centres
 - o Club central
 - o Waterways with all the frills
 - o Nature and wetlands
- Cross promotions – parks and deserts, silo art trail, part of Dimboola town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o Already the most extensive events in the region
 - o Potentially could reactivate dragon boating.

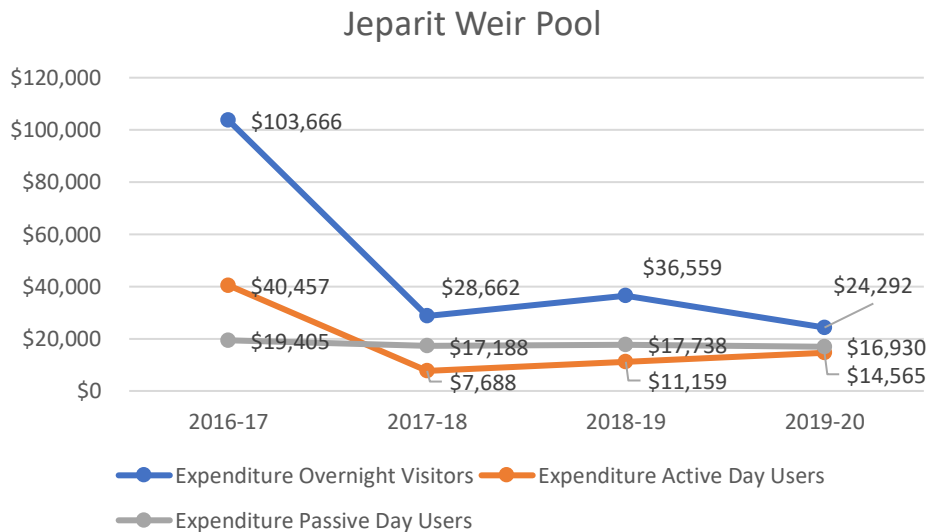
4.2.2 Jeparit Weir Pool

The Wimmera River flows through Jeparit, south of Rainbow, as its final town, prior to draining into Lake Hindmarsh. It flows alongside the Jeparit township. Lake Hindmarsh was not included in the 2017-18 or 2019-20 assessments since it has little or no water for recreational activities. It was included in 2016-17 and the results were added to those for Jeparit weir pool.

Unlike most other WSM waterbodies, the Jeparit weir pool had its peak overnight stay recreational usage and greatest economic contribution in the first year of the 2016-17 to 2019-20 period and this was aided by the extra visitation counted for Lake Hindmarsh. Active and passive day participation has been relatively stable throughout the period. The major annual event at the weir pool, Jeparit’s fishing competition, was cancelled in 2019-20.



* includes Lake Hindmarsh in 2016-17



* includes Lake Hindmarsh in 2016-17

Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Directional signage
 - o Landscaping and ‘clean-ups’ along some river access points (particularly on the Jeparit – Nhill Road)
 - o Cycling/hiking track along the river and Lake Hindmarsh.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Peaceful retreats

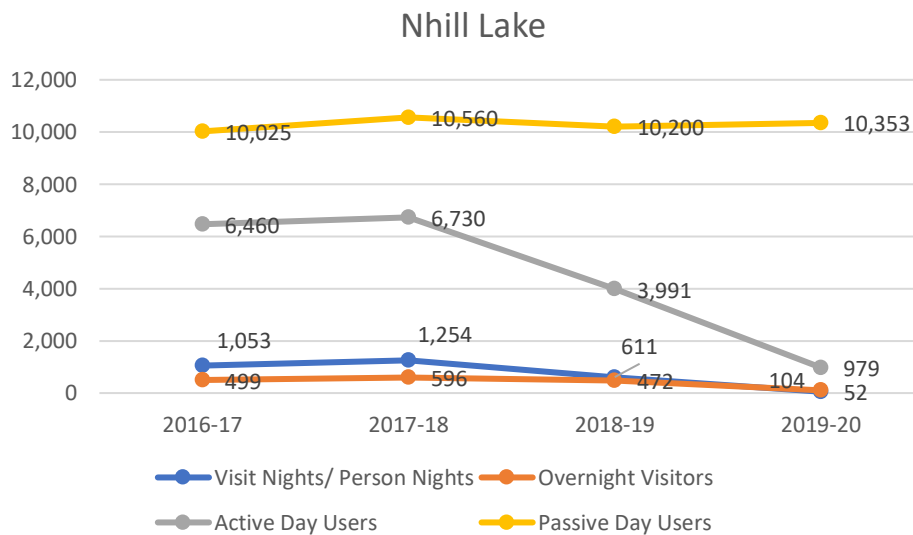
- Cross promotions
 - o Re-position Jeparit as a 'river town' in tourism promotions (replacing the former branding around Lake Hindmarsh) with a master plan linking the central activities area to the river
 - o Redevelopment/upgrade of the Edward John Eyre Heritage River Walk
 - o History and heritage, part of Jeparit and Rainbow town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o Kayaking or canoeing

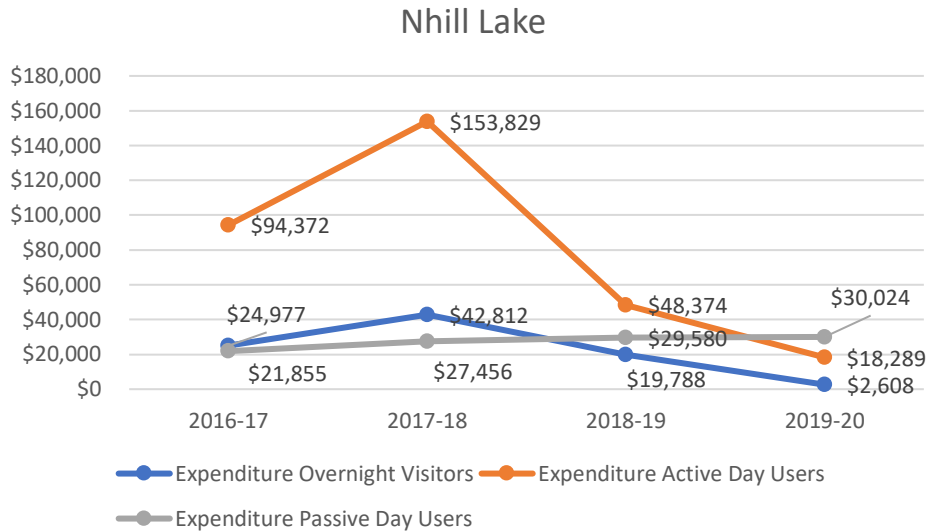
4.2.3 Nhill Lake

Nhill Lake is very much a lake built for local users, with shaded areas, a playground, and provision for swimming, fishing, boating and barbecues. A track around the lake provides 1 kilometre of flat surface which is suited to walking, cycling and running activities and this has resulted in passive users being the largest participation group. The lawn area is used to host community events including the annual February Fiesta held on each Friday throughout the month of February.

When full and clear there is boating, fishing, a boardwalk and plenty of bird life. Over the four-year period, this lake was at its best in 2017-18, when water quality was good and redfin fish catches were prolific. Unfortunately, there was poor water quality in 2018-19 further compounded by problems with the bore pumping system in 2019-20.

Nhill Lake attracts very few overnight visitors, and the small number measured during 2016-17 to 2019-20 tend to be family and friends of residents who are visiting (and staying with) these connections. Prior to 2016-17 there had been a bridge/walkway link connecting the lake and the Nhill Caravan Park, but this is no longer a thoroughfare.





Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Use of additional bore pumping equipment (and closer bore)
 - o Connect the boardwalk to Jaypex Park, the Park Run course, vehicle access from Nelson Street, and foreshore access.
 - o Clean/revegetate the island in the lake.
- Facilities
 - o Re-connect the caravan park and the lake with a walkway
 - o Jetty or launching platform
- Recreational water trails
 - o Silo art and night skies
- Cross promotions – Silo art trail, desert parks and environment, and part of Nhill town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o Mini-biathlon or triathlon (involving swimming, running and cycling around the lake and Nhill pathways).

4.3 RURAL CITY OF HORSHAM

Five Horsham Rural City weir pools and lakes were included in the Recreational Water assessments. The Horsham Weir Pool on the Wimmera River and Taylors and Green Lakes were assessed each year. Toolondo Reservoir was included in years two, three and four, and Lake Natimuk (although dry) was included briefly in year two.

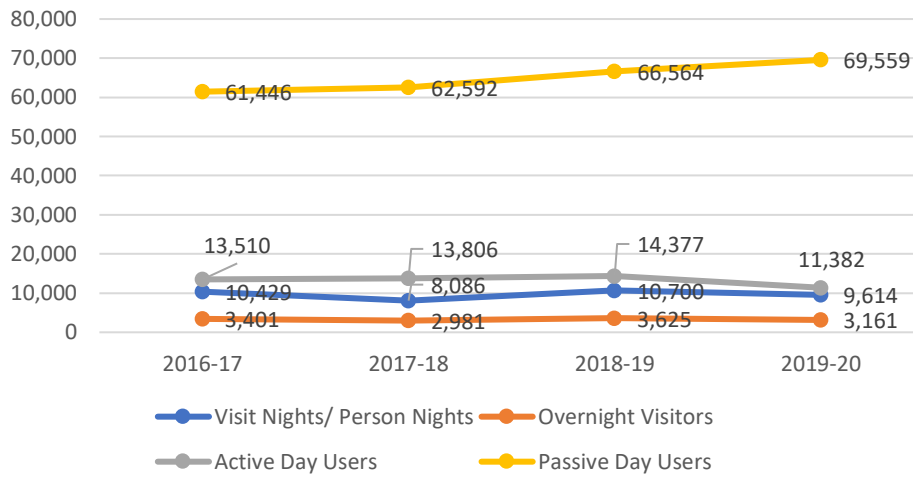
4.3.1 Horsham Weir Pool

The Wimmera River, with water levels secured by the weir and pipeline supply, weaves through Horsham and is popular for kayaking, canoeing and fishing. A large number of Horsham residents and visitors use the riverside pathways for exercise routines; walking, jogging, or cycling. Designated walking trails encourage people to experience the river.

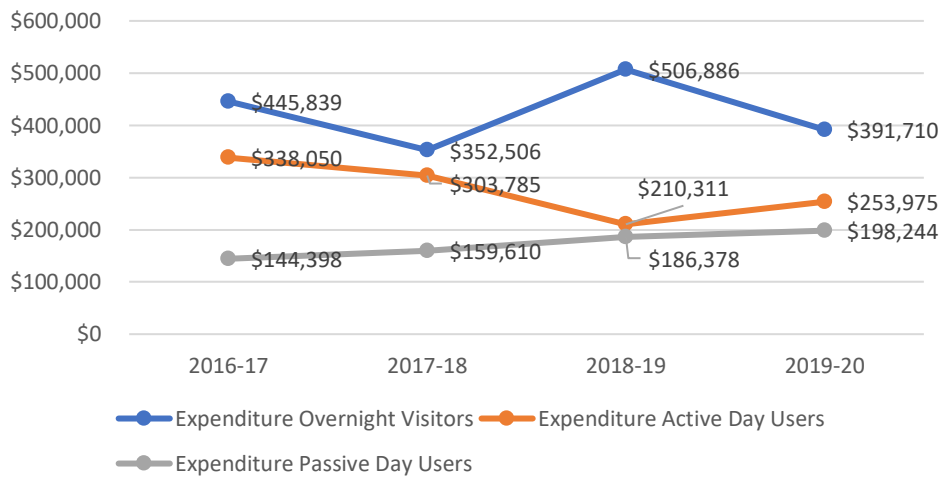
The number of day users at the Wimmera River at Horsham is the greatest of all recreational water facilities in the Wimmera Southern Mallee and this is increasing over time as housing development expands along the river. Fishing is the most popular Wimmera River activity, with walking, running and exercising along the river were the activities in which people participated most frequently (ie the passive day user group). These passive activities increased during the COVID 19 pandemic restricted period.

Overnight visitor and active day participation remained relatively steady throughout the 2016-17 to 2019-20 period, with an obvious dip in both participant numbers and economic contribution from overnight visitors in the COVID 19 pandemic.

Horsham Weir Pool



Horsham Weir Pool



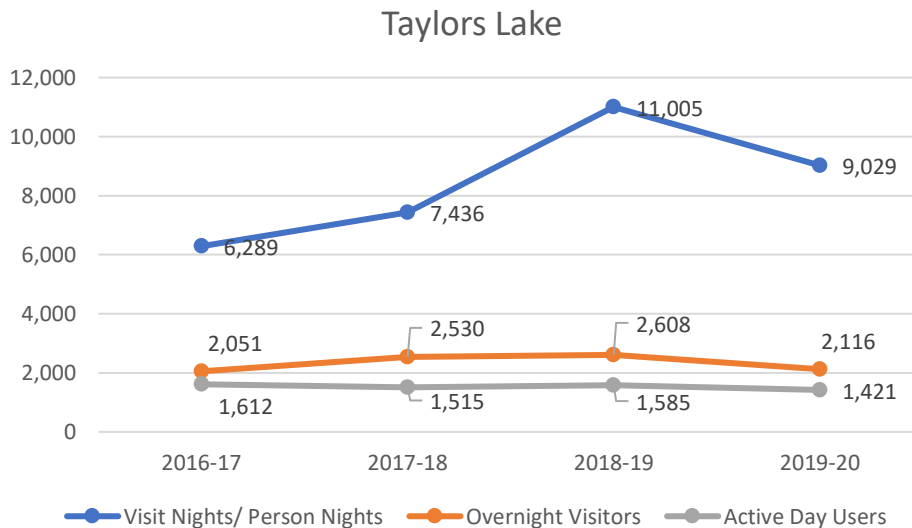
Summary of potential improvements:

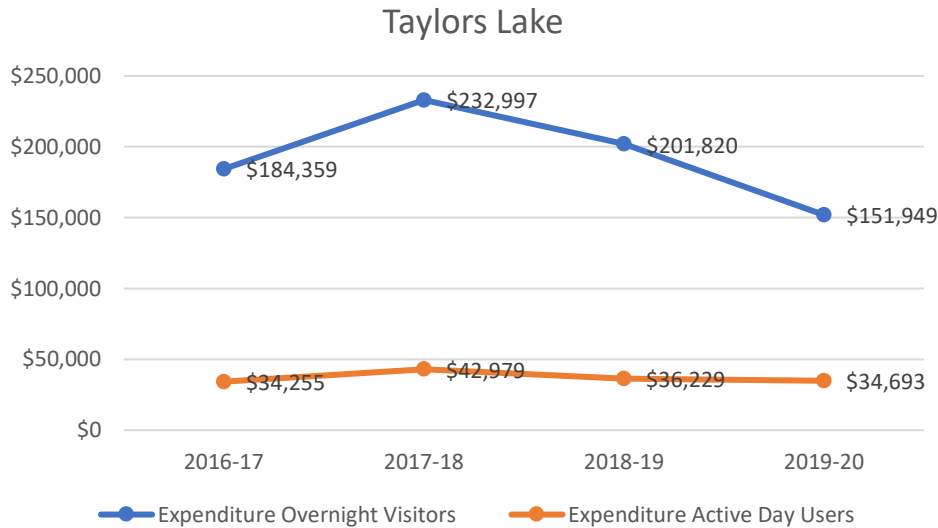
- Infrastructure
 - o Complete and implement proposed Wimmera River Precinct Masterplan
 - o Additional pedestrian bridge
- Facilities – one or more cafés or other food service outlets along the riverfront.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Events centres
 - o Club central
 - o Waterways with all the frills
 - o Travellers rests tour
- Cross promotions
 - o Part of most Horsham Rural City promotions
- Potential events
 - o Kayaking, canoeing or dragon boating.

4.3.2 Taylors Lake

Taylors Lake is only 20 kilometres to the east of Horsham and it has an important role in supplying environmental water to the Wimmera River and it is also a backup reservoir for the WMP supply.

It is popular with Horsham and Stawell locals for recreation, especially fishing and water skiing. When other lakes have low water or are dry, Taylors Lake will often still have water to enjoy. The lake does not have a formal caravan park/camping ground but camping and campfires are permitted in designated areas, and permanent toilet facilities have been installed on both the east and west sides of the lake in the past three years. The improved facilities have encouraged increased overnight visitation (only slightly curtailed by COVID 19 in 2019-20), but increased levels of expenditure did not directly flow from the higher usage.





Summary of potential improvements:

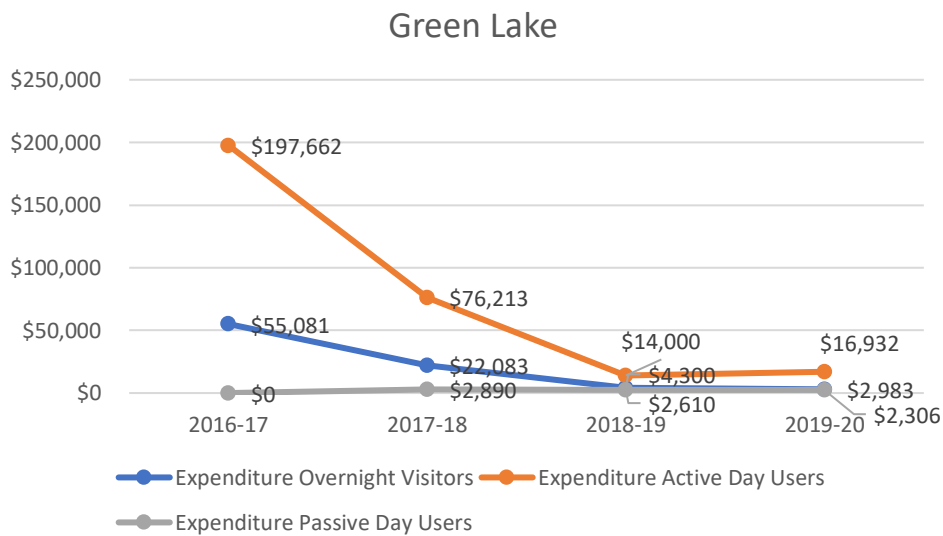
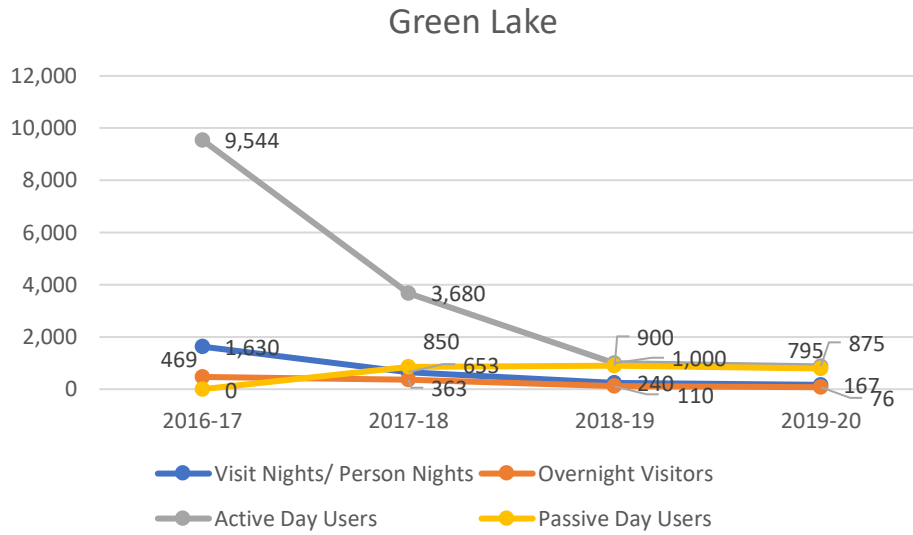
- Infrastructure
 - o Install waste disposal solution
 - o Clarify restrictions on camping at water’s edge
- Recreational water trails
 - o Water playgrounds.

4.3.3 Green Lake

Green Lake is Horsham’s closest recreational lake and has a long sandy beach, boat ramp, jetty and picnic facilities. The Horsham Yacht Clubhouse is located at Green Lake and runs regattas and events when water levels are suitable. There are no camping facilities at this lake, so most overnight visitors are people visiting friends and relatives or staying in Horsham for an event.

Green Lake is popular for fishing, swimming, boating and windsurfing. In early 2017 a large number of visitors were fishing for yabbies, and this year was the peak for participation and economic contribution throughout the four-year period. In subsequent years the lake was plagued with blue-green algae infestations on varying and often prolonged occasions. There was a window of improvement in the Christmas-New Year period of 2019-20, enabling skiing enthusiasts to get out on the lake, but this was short-lived with blue-green algae returning and closing the lake from 18th February 2020 until April when the COVID 19 restrictions were in force.

2016-17 was the only year when Green Lake did not encounter significant periods of blue-green algae warnings. The visitor expenditure effects of blue-green algae at this lake is estimated to have been \$60,000 to \$100,000 per annum in years when recreational activity was restricted.



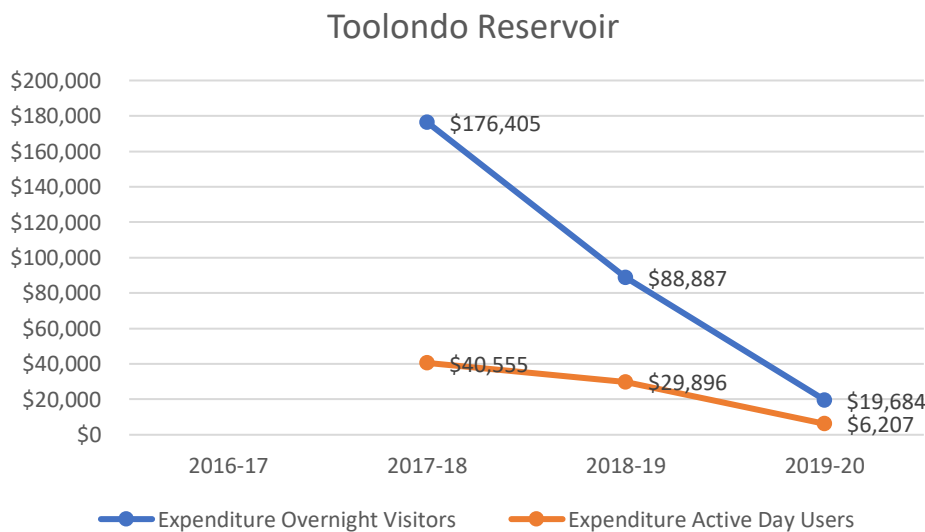
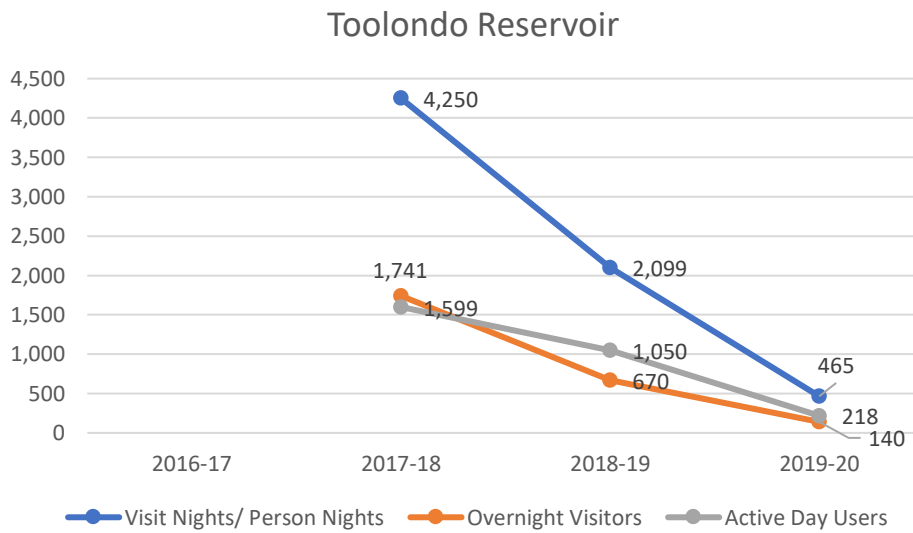
Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Improved signage
- Facilities – use of sailing club building as a food service outlet or restaurant.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Club central
- Cross promotions
 - o Part of some Horsham Rural City promotions
- Potential events
 - o Sailing, open water swimming.

4.3.4 Toolondo Reservoir

Toolondo Reservoir is well known for ‘trophy trout’ fishing. The northern, southern and eastern ends of Lake Toolondo all have boat ramps, however, these ramps become unusable during periods of drought due to the onset of low water levels. Lake Toolondo is also used by water skiers (when water levels permit) and swimmers.

The assessment of Toolondo began in 2017-18 and this was the peak year. Fishing activity steadily declined from 2017-18 through 2019-20. In particular, there was an absence of “trophy trout” for the enthusiastic sports anglers in all years, but there were good returns for those fishing for redbfin during the summer and spring months of 2017-18. Beyond that year, water levels declined and there were some periods of blue-green algae blooms. By 2019-20 the low water levels had decimated the recreational use of Lake Toolondo.



Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Additional signage
 - o Improved landscaping at access points and boat ramps
- Facilities – new camping ground with amenities
- Recreational water trails
 - o Trophy fishing trail
- Cross promotions – Recreational fishing promotions.

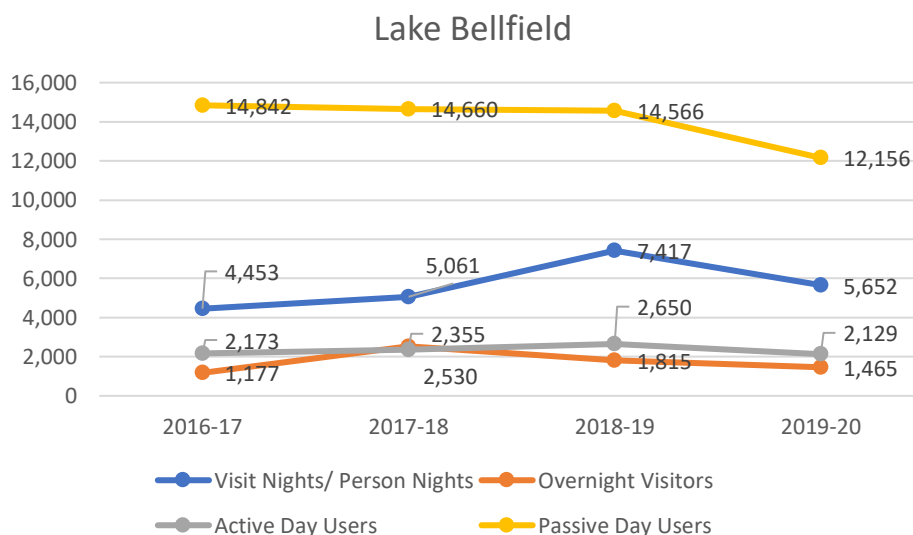
4.4 NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

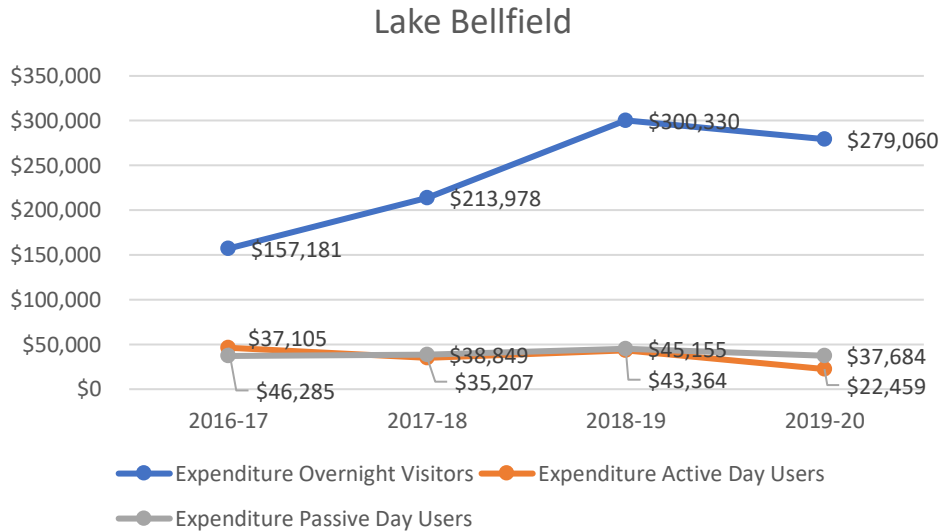
Five Northern Grampians Shire lakes were included in the Recreational Water assessments. Lakes Bellfield, Fyans, Lonsdale, Wartook and Walkers were included each year.

4.4.1 Lake Bellfield

Lake Bellfield, on the edge of the Halls Gap township, is used for low-impact recreational activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding, some boating (not with combustion motors), swimming, fishing and picnicking. Trout fishing is popular among serious anglers in the cooler months. A wide range of accommodation and food service choices are available at premises throughout Halls Gap, and participants at this lake tend to have the highest average expenditure in the region.

While weather conditions and water quality have an impact on participation at Lake Bellfield, the broader tourist attractions of the Grampians mean visitation is less variable than other waterbodies in the region.





Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o More structured walking track from Halls Gap to the weir wall and the lake’s picnic area.
 - o Floating pontoon.
- Facilities – Pop-up food service van(s)
- Recreational water trails
 - o Resort and tourist lakes
 - o Waterways with all the frills
 - o Trophy fishing
 - o Travellers rests tour
- Cross promotions – Part of Grampians tourism precinct promotions.
- Potential events
 - o Bellfield Lake picnic day (with a range of on water options such as paddle boats, paddleboards, kayaks, sailing dinghies)

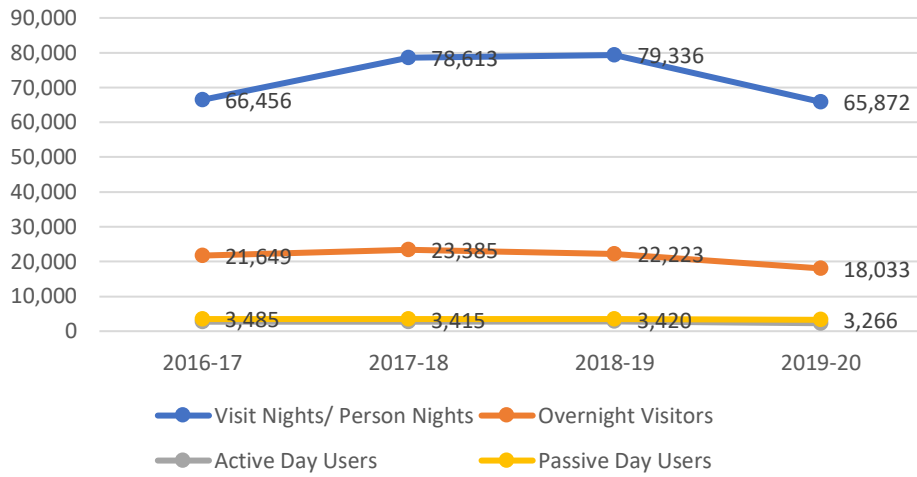
4.4.2 Lake Fyans

The lake is one of the most important recreational lakes in the region. It has the greatest number of overnight visitors and makes the greatest economic contribution in the region. It hosts a number of clubs and regular activities including sailing, jet skiing, fishing, canoeing, hiking and scouting. Caravanning. A 9.6 kilometres walking track at Lake Fyans was opened in 2017-18 around the southern perimeter of Lake Fyans, with fencing, shade shelters, upgraded and new toilets, signage, nature trails and bird trails.

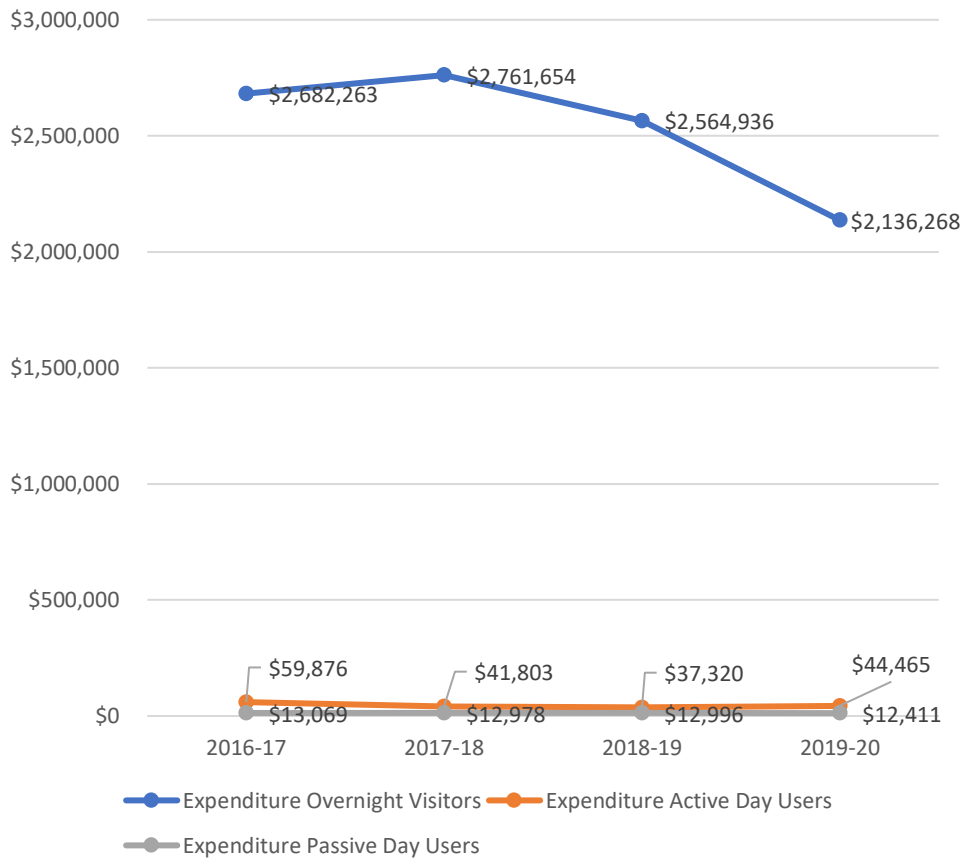
The Lake Fyans Holiday Park is the largest accommodation facility dedicated to servicing any recreational water facilities in the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

There is a robust pattern of participation at Lake Fyans and even in the COVID 19 pandemic affected 2019-20 year, numbers were at a low point but remained high by comparison with other regional waterbodies.

Lake Fyans



Lake Fyans



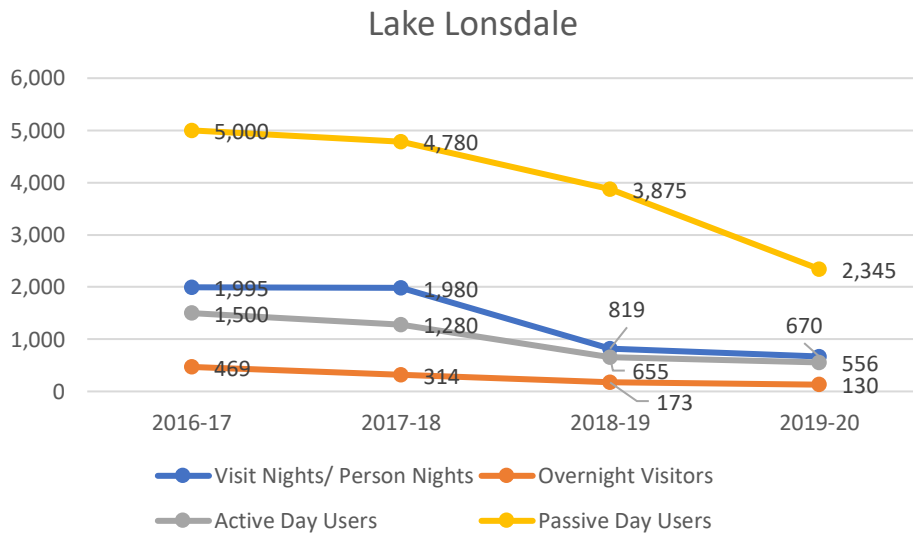
Summary of potential improvements:

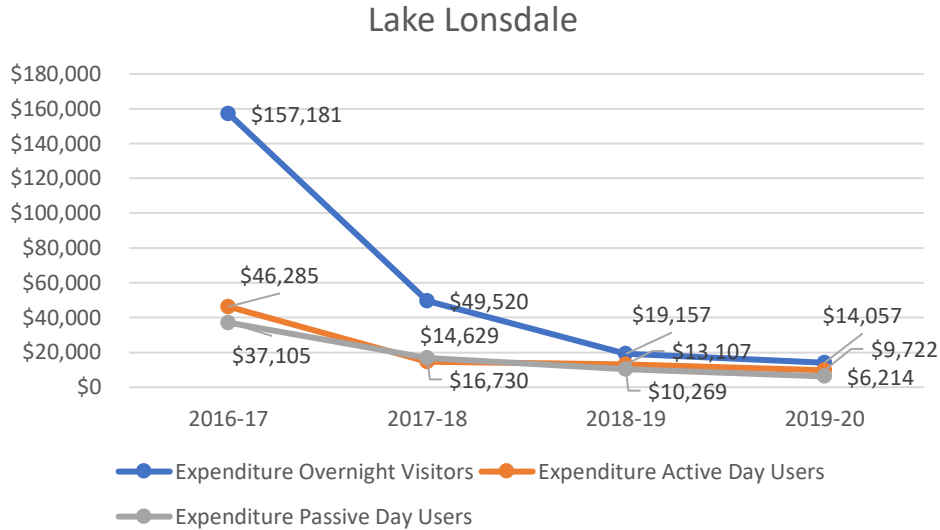
- Infrastructure
 - o Greater integration of the 9.6 kilometres walking track around the southern part of the lake with the Grampians tourism precinct and the Lake Fyans Holiday Park.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Resort and tourist lakes
 - o Club central
 - o Water playgrounds
 - o Waterways with all the frills
- Cross promotions – Part of Grampians tourism precinct promotions.
- Potential events
 - o Better coordination and scheduling of events and collaboration among lake user groups.

4.4.3 Lake Lonsdale

Lake Lonsdale is one of the region’s lakes highly prized and mainly used by local residents. It is considered a somewhat dedicated resource to Stawell and other surrounding communities. It can offer fishing, yabbing, boating, swimming, camping and water skiing and the surrounding land provides opportunity for trekking, hiking and wildlife watching.

The lake was almost at a peak level in 2016-17 and attracted holiday makers throughout the summer and spring. Water levels and water quality were poor in 2018-19 and 2019-20 (algal blooms closed recreational activities for most of the second half of 2019-20).





Summary of potential improvements:

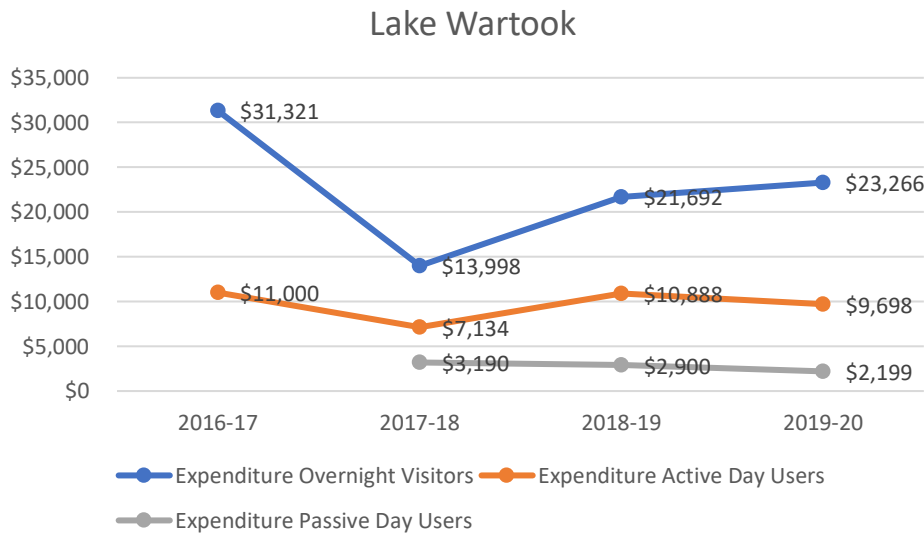
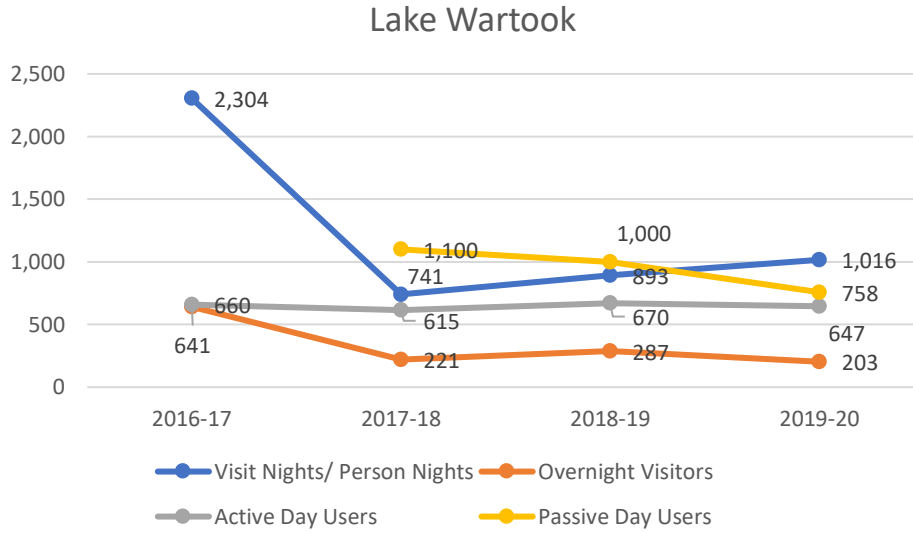
- Infrastructure
 - o Improved signage
 - o Toilet block upgrade
- Facilities – toilet block upgrade.

4.4.4 Lake Wartook

Located on the MacKenzie River in the central Grampians, Lake Wartook is popular with locals, particularly for fishing with trout as the target species. Around 15,000 rainbow and brown trout are stocked in the lake each year.

Horsham Angling Club has a lodge located on the foreshore of Lake Wartook, and this is the main accommodation facility. The club has 300 to 400 fishing members, not all of whom are active. Many of the members join specifically to access the club’s lodge facilities at Wartook and Rocklands Reservoir.

Participation levels at Wartook are modest, but consistent, with dedicated anglers the main active users.



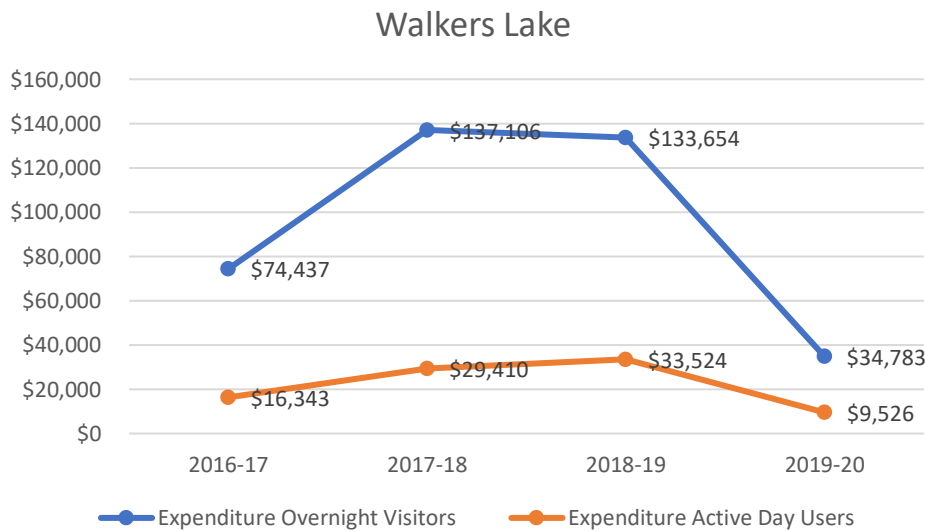
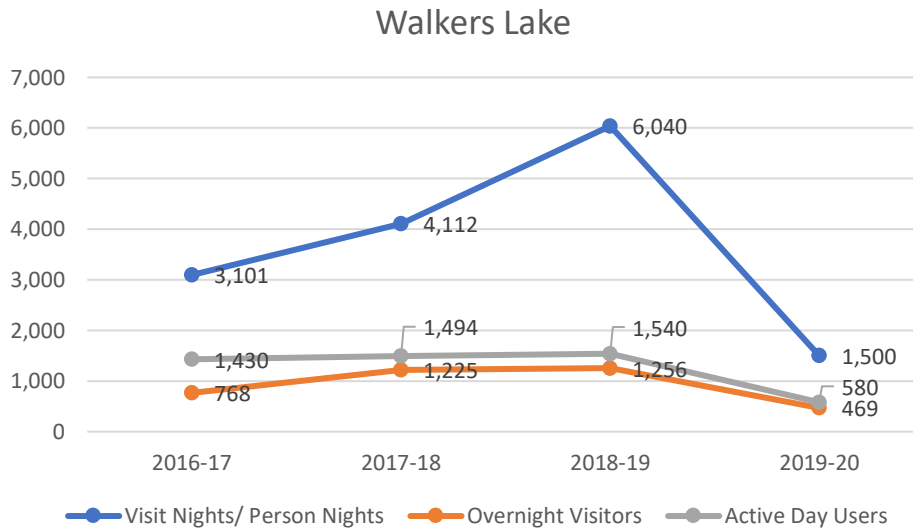
Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Improved directional signage
- Recreational water trails
 - o Trophy fishing trail
- Cross promotions – Recreational fishing promotions

4.4.4 Walkers Lake

There are no specific clubs or organisations making regular use of facilities at Walkers Lake, but a few host events at the lake from time to time, for example the St Arnaud Anglers Club. The lake is a relatively un-promoted gem for people looking for a great fishing, kayaking and boating spot in a secluded location.

It is very popular with locals. However, participation in 2019-20 was decimated. From mid-November until late-February the lake was closed to recreational use due to blue-green algae and there were massive fish mortalities during this period (in early February), estimated to have had an economic impact of around \$75,000. In 2017-18 and 2018-19 the lake was busy with fishing and skiing participants. This was one of several lakes in the region where visit nights increased (ie average length of stay was greater) in 2018-19 but the average expenditure was reduced.



Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Improved directional signage
- Recreational water trails
 - o Peaceful retreats
 - o Silo art and night skies

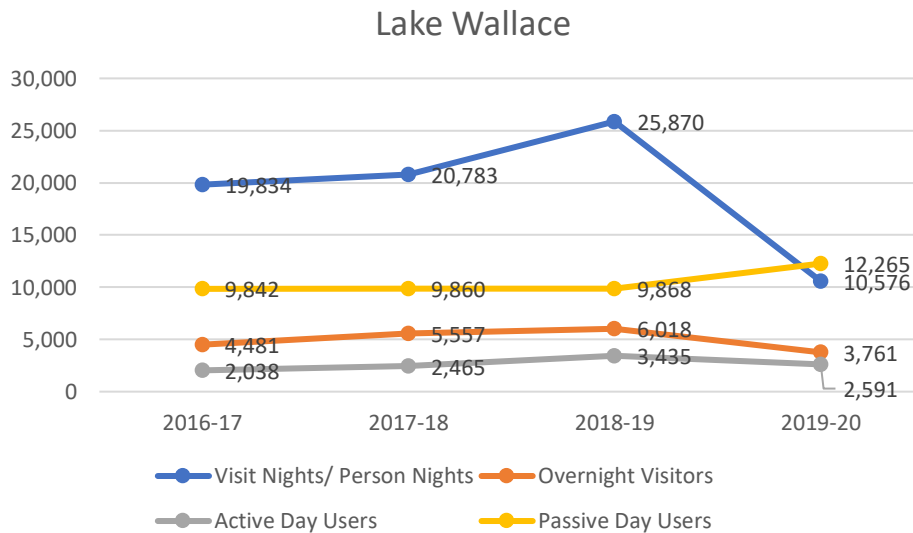
4.5 WEST WIMMERA SHIRE

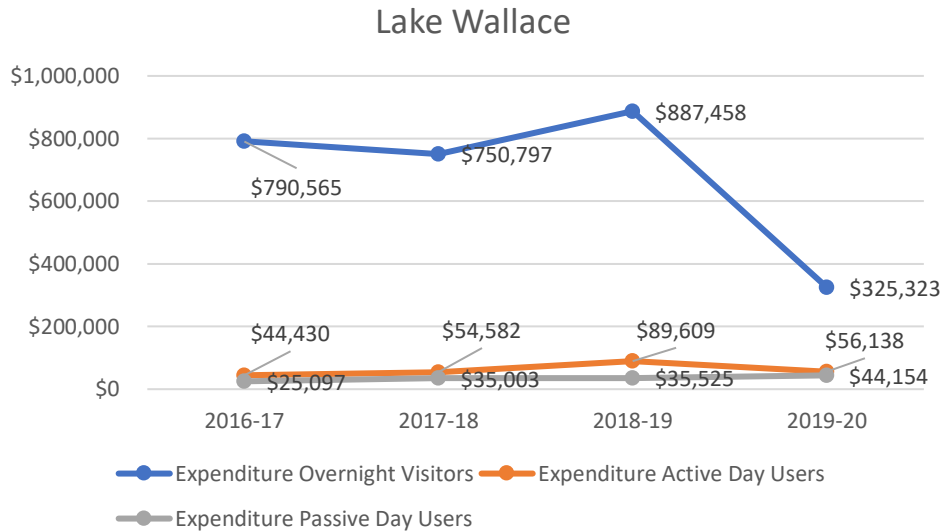
Five West Wimmera Shire lakes and weir pools were included in the Recreational Water assessments. Lakes Wallace and Charlegrark were included each year. Lake Ratzcastle was included in years two to four, Lake Bringalbert in years three and four and the Harrow Weir Pool on the Glenelg River in year one.

4.5.1 Lake Wallace

Lake Wallace is a key asset of the town. The lake was largely empty from 2001 until 2016 greatly affecting town morale.

Many residents regularly visit, walk, run and picnic around the lake’s 5.5km perimeter foreshore and the lake is popular for boating (shore and boat), fishing and swimming. The lake contains redfin and is stocked with brown and rainbow trout. Annual events include Henley on Lake Wallace and the Edenhope Fishing Competition. When water filled the lake in 2016 the lake immediately began to again attract participants, and this steadily increased in the following two years before a combination of setbacks in 2019-20 which included reduced water and water quality, fewer entries in key events, reduced fishing and boating participation and cancellation of activities due the COVID pandemic. There were, however, increased passive participants with people taking their daily exercise around the lake in larger numbers during pandemic restrictions.





Summary of potential improvements:

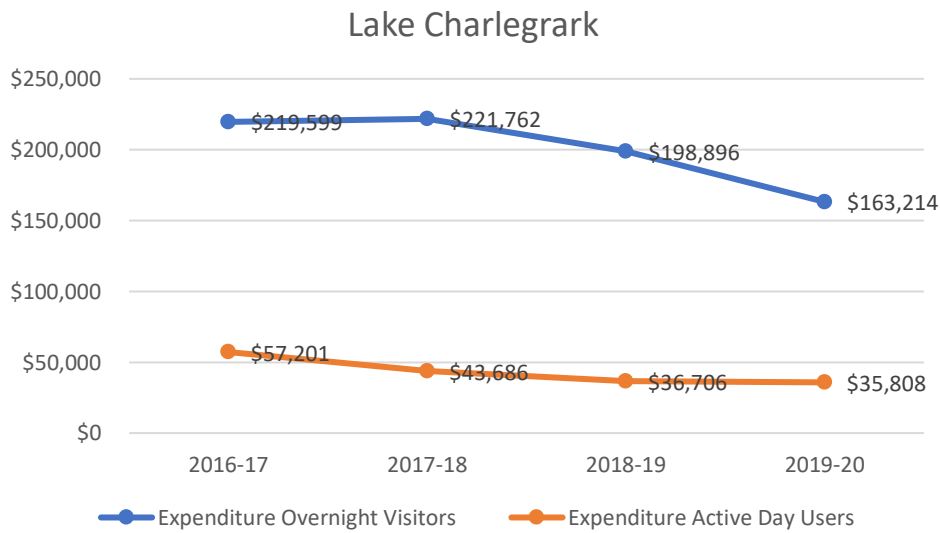
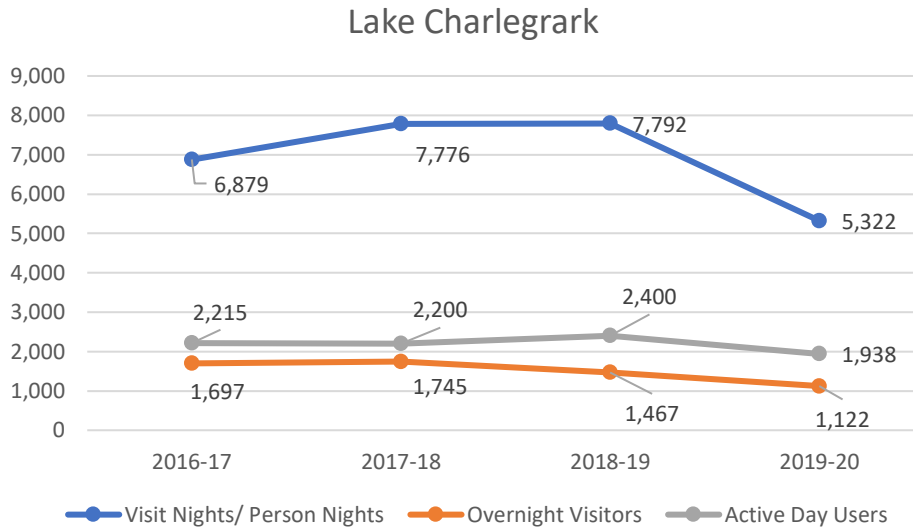
- Infrastructure
 - o Development of an area of the lake to provide water security in drier times.
- Facilities
 - o A permanent/semi-permanent café or food service outlet on/near the foreshore.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Events centres
 - o Nature and wetlands
 - o Travellers rests tour
- Cross promotions – Environment, nature and wildlife promotions, part of Edenhope town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o Continuation of existing events program (which may require additional volunteer input).

4.5.2 Lake Charlegrark

Lake Charlegrark is a natural lake located between Kaniva and Edenhope. This lake is popular for water skiing and fishing during holiday periods over warmer months. The lake is one of the region’s target destinations for Murray cod (which were first stocked in the 1950s). Families are attracted to the camping ground and there are also self-contained cottages, a house available for bookings and a private boutique style accommodation on the eastern side of the lake (opposite the main camping and caravan park) and a lodge (Langley Lodge) about 3 kilometres from the lake.

Regular maintenance works and small capital improvements are made by the Foreshore Committee. In the 2016-17 year this included installation of 2 new electric barbecues in Crabtree Hall (the functions facility) within the reserve, upgrading of navigational aids on the lake, a solar panel for Crabtree Hall, and new water pumps. In 2017-18 there was an upgrade to three phase power and construction of an all-abilities amenities block, together with upgrades to barbecue and seating areas.

There were some blue-green algae outbreaks in 2017-18 and 2018-19 and also power outages, which impacted during the four-year period. These factors seemed to have a greater effect on economic contribution rather than overall participation numbers. In 2019-20, the annual Country Music Festival was staged prior to the COVID 19 restrictions and was unaffected. However, the normally very busy Easter and ANZAC Day long weekends were abandoned.



Summary of potential improvements:

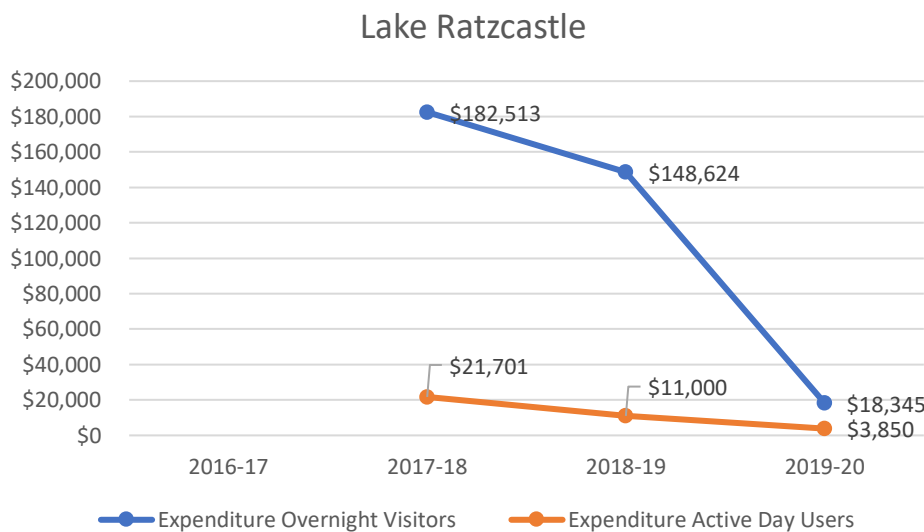
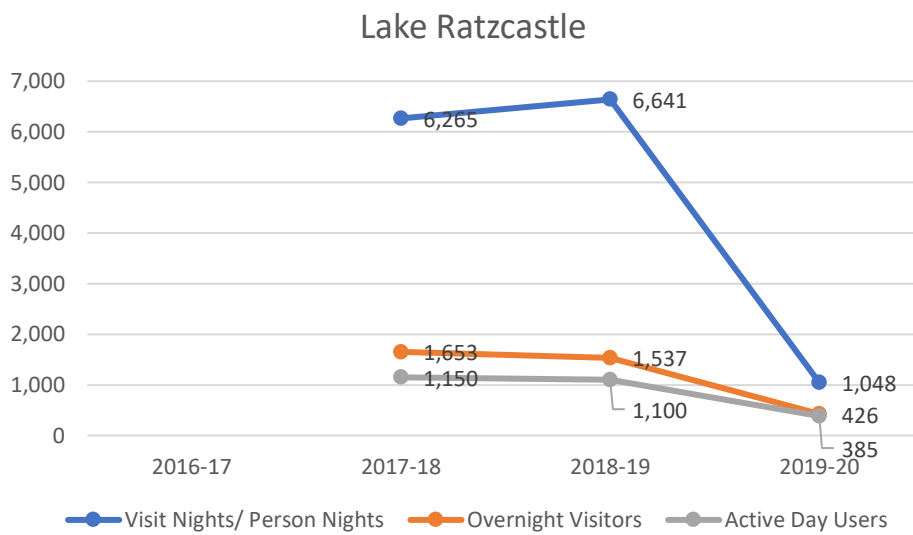
- Recreational water trails
 - o Trophy fishing trail
 - o Water playgrounds
- Cross promotions – Environment, nature and wildlife promotions. Recreational fishing promotions.

4.5.3 Lake Ratzcastle

Lake Ratzcastle is another of the relatively ‘hidden gem’ waterbodies in the WSM region, south of Goroke. The lake only fills on a seasonal basis but is an iconic wetland and its environs have significant Aboriginal cultural heritage values. The lake foreshore is well maintained by the Goroke Lions Club.

Camping is permitted at Lake Ratzcastle, at a good selection of unpowered sites, but there are no booking arrangements or camping fees (donations can be made, and many people are so impressed with the facilities and location that they do make a donation).

The lake was included in the recreational water assessment from 2017-18 and the water levels (and fishing) were good in both that year and 2018-19. In 2019-20 the lake was almost dry, and those people who did visit were attracted by the serenity of the camping sites and the flora and fauna of the area.

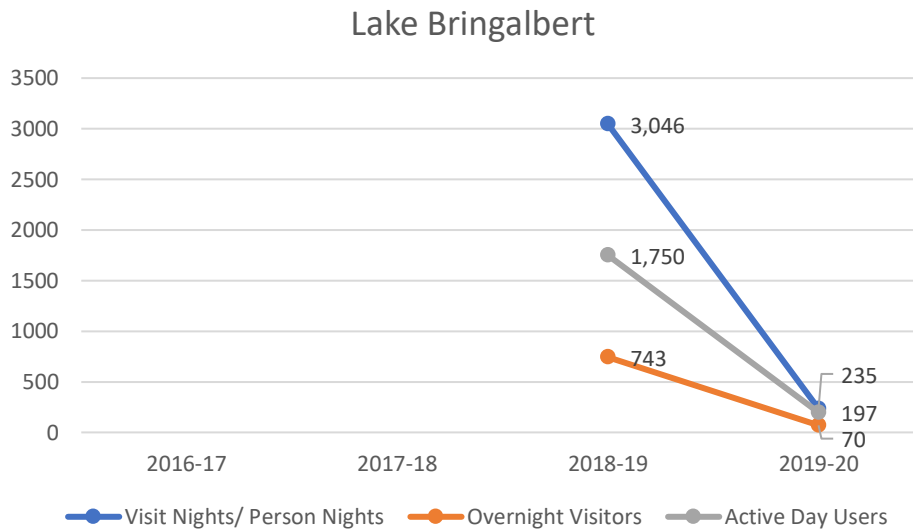


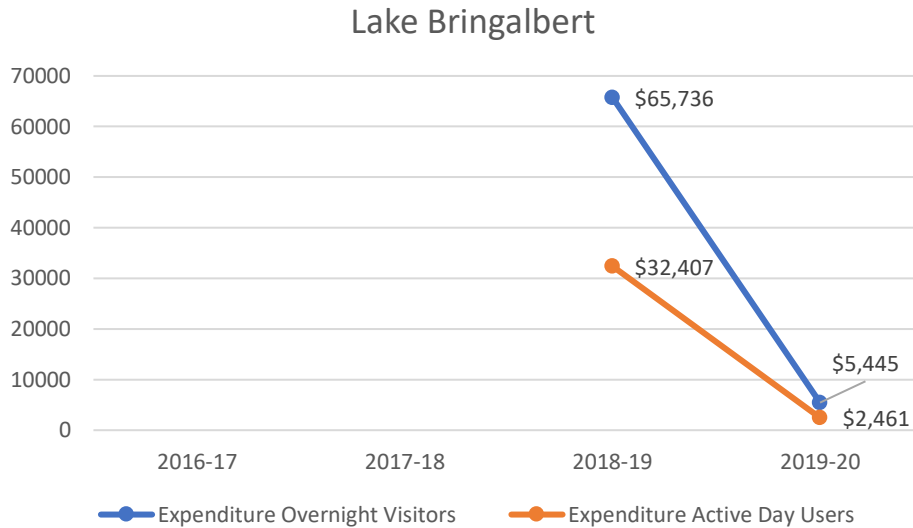
Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Improved signage
 - o Access road upgrade.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Peaceful retreats
 - o Nature and wetlands
- Cross promotions – Environment, nature and wildlife promotions, part of Goroke town promotions.

4.5.4 Lake Bringalbert

Lake Bringalbert was included in the lakes and weirs assessment for the first time in 2018-19. The lake is most popular with visitors from country South Australia (just 18 minutes drive to the west) who make almost 85% of recreational users. The lake is dependent on seasonal inflows and when full offers swimming, boating and fishing. In 2018-19 the lake was busy and recreational activities were possible but by 2019-20 the water level was very low and unusable for recreation. Some people stayed next to the lake in 2019-20 but travelled to Charlegrark or Wallace for water-based recreation.





Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Improved signage
 - o Upgrade road around lake

4.6 YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE

Five Yarriambiack Shire lakes and weir pools were included in the Recreational Water assessments. Lakes Lascelles and Marma, and the Yarriambiack Creek weir pools at Brim, Beulah and Warracknabeal were included each year.

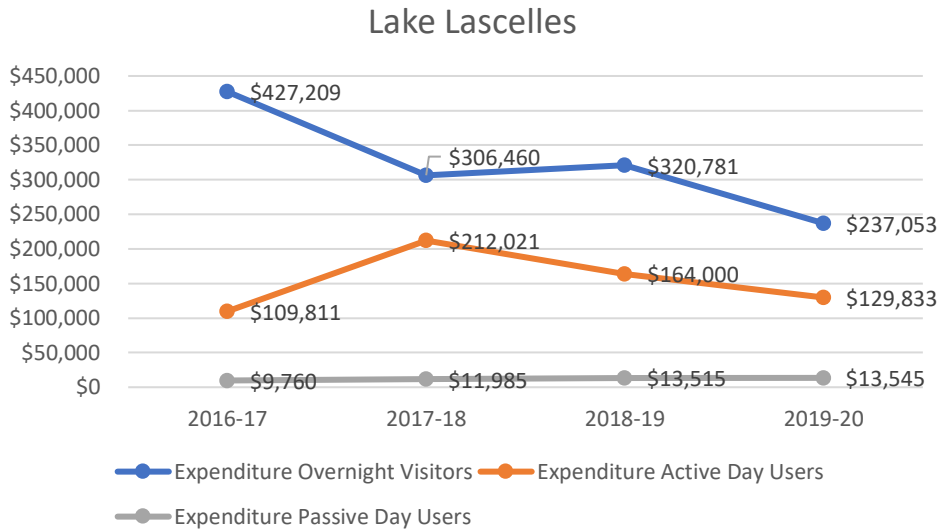
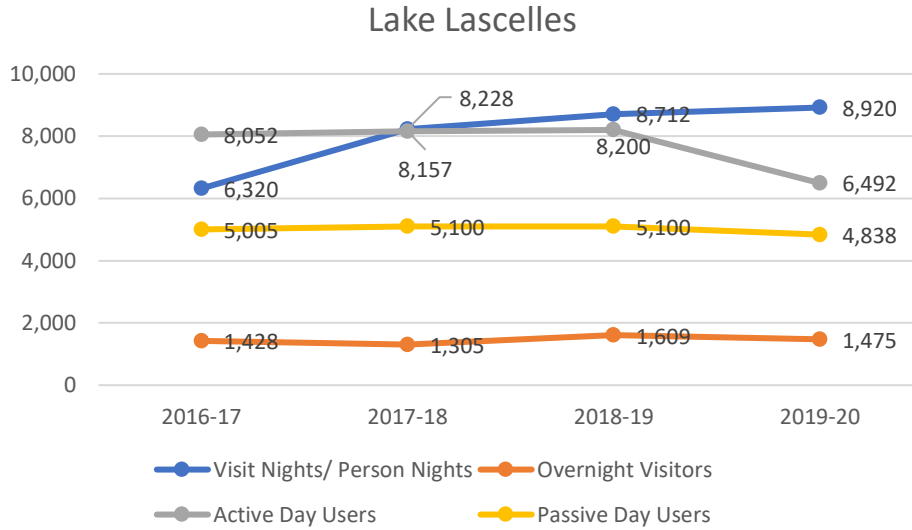
4.6.1 Lake Lascelles

Lake Lascelles, within the Hopetoun town area, is a very popular holiday and day visit destination. It is ideal for walking, swimming, boating, skiing, kayaking, fishing and bird watching. A dedicated fishing ‘precinct’ adjacent to the lake was completed in 2019.

Lake Lascelles has a variety of accommodation options including free unpowered sites, paid powered sites (with amenities) and an eclectic collection of cabins/units at the Mallee Bush Retreat, made to replicate structures from the district’s pioneering heritage (such as silos, cow sheds, stables and machinery sheds). The Committee of Management was successful in securing grant funds in 2020 for a new all abilities amenities block at the Bush Retreat, which will improve the appeal of the lake to a wide range of potential users.

Lake Lascelles tends to be one of the Wimmera Southern Mallee recreational water facilities that is utilised year-round, although at lower occupancy in the winter months. Even during the COVID 19 pandemic 7-9 couples were permitted to remain caravanning at the lake in the intense lockdown period.

Lascelles is the best ‘model’ of a tourist lake in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region, excluding the two lakes in the heart of the Grampians tourism region (Fyans and Bellfield). It is a tourist attraction in its own right, Hopetoun’s key physical asset, and a focal point for not only the local community but also the surrounding districts. Its economic contribution is sizable and one that could be emulated, as a target, by activating some of the other lakes in the region now that pipeline water offers reasonable security.



Summary of potential improvements:

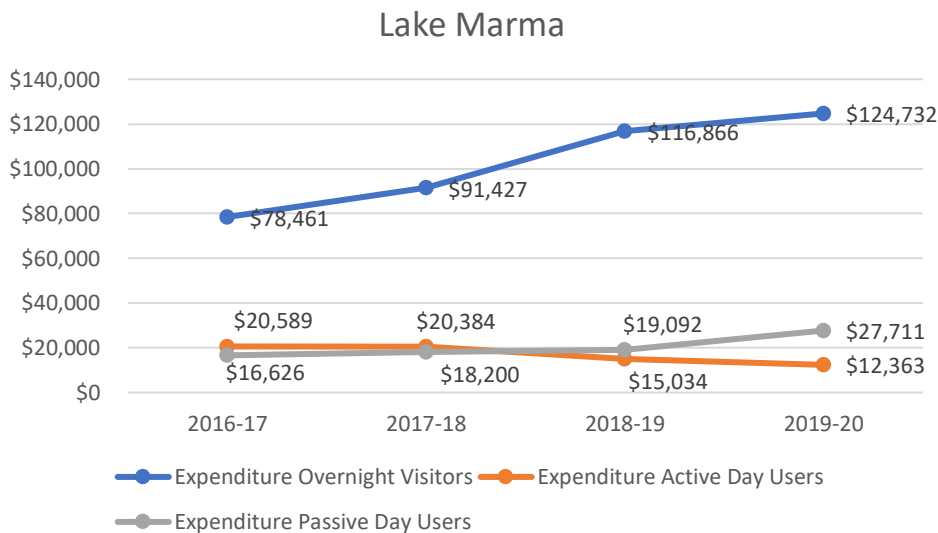
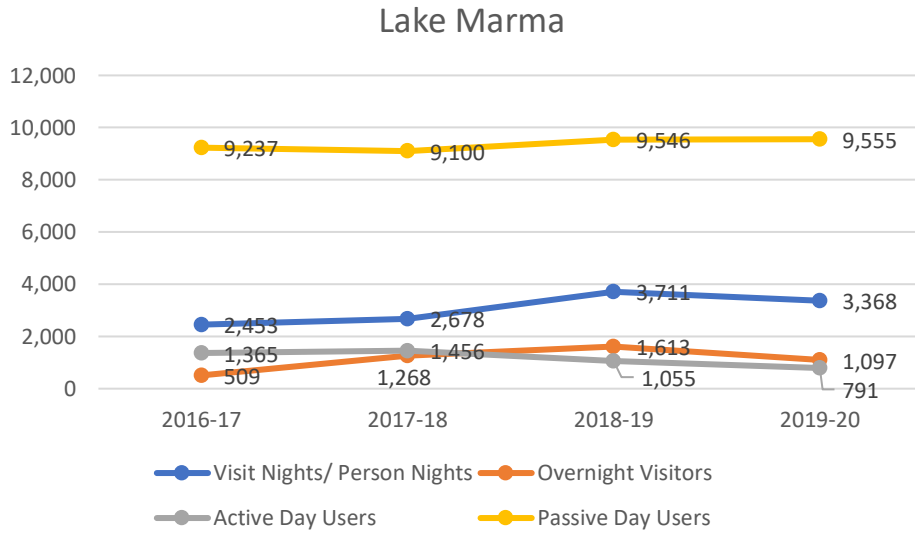
- Facilities
 - o New amenities block at Mallee Bush Retreat
 - o Pop-up or semi-permanent café or food service outlet next to the foreshore
- Recreational water trails
 - o Grey nomad bliss
 - o Water playgrounds
 - o Travellers rests tour
- Cross promotions – Silo art, heritage and environment, part of Hopetoun town promotions.

4.6.2 Lake Marma Brim Weir Pool

Lake Marma, in the heart of Murtoa’s urban area, has a selection of walking trails which encompass natural and historic areas of interest. The lake is a tranquil oasis with abundant birdlife and treed surrounds, making the small caravan park an accommodation option ‘of choice’ for grey nomads taking a leisurely tour of the silo art trail; often intending to stay one night at Marma and extending to 2 or 3. Three new cabins have recently been completed at Lake Marma, complementing the caravan park sites.

The lake consistently had amounts of ribbon weed throughout the four-year assessment period, and the Committee of Management has been trying to control the extent of weed to reduce impact on recreational activities (fishing, swimming and kayaking), with some apparent success by mid-2020.

Participation/visitation levels at Lake Marma were among the most consistent of all lakes during 2016-17 to 2019-20 and even in the COVID 19 pandemic year the visitation and economic contribution continued to increase (which actually masks quite a significant increase in 2019-20, since 3 months were effectively lost to the pandemic restrictions).



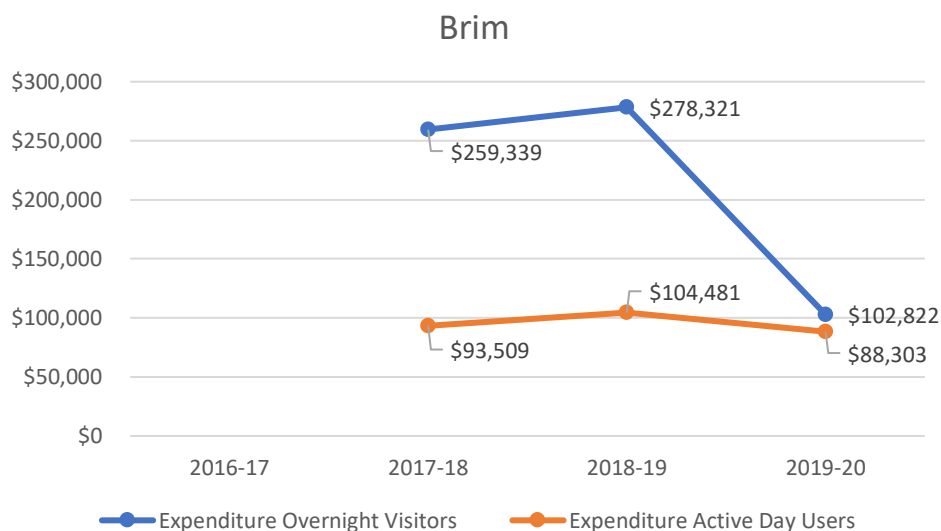
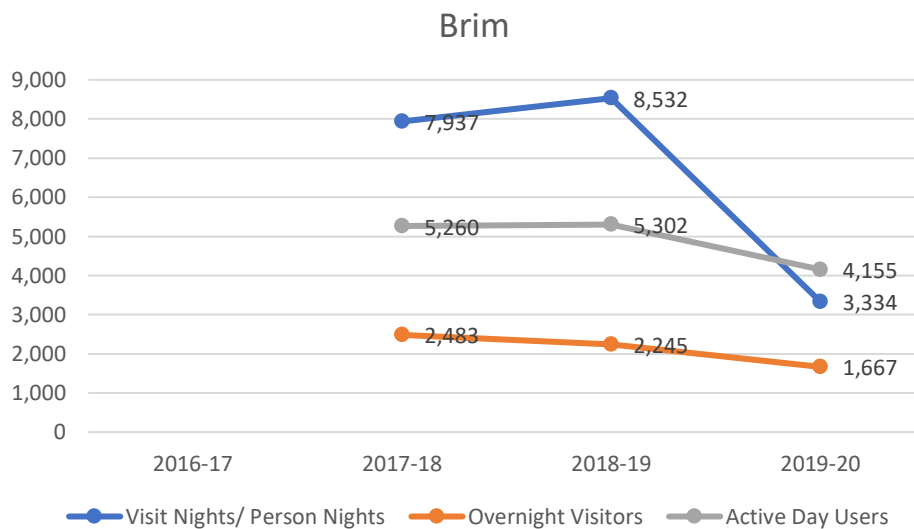
Summary of potential improvements:

- Recreational water trails
 - o Grey nomad bliss
 - o Silo art and night skies
- Cross promotions – Silo art and heritage, part of Murtoa town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o Continuation of existing events program (which may require additional volunteer input).

4.6.3 Brim Weir Pool

Brim weir pool is one of the smallest recreational water facilities in the region. It offers a bushland setting, amenities, walking tracks, powered and non-powered sites and BBQ facilities.

The Yarriambiack Silo Art Trail was pioneered with the artwork on silos at Brim and visitation for the weir (including those people camping or caravanning on-site) is substantially bolstered by people taking a silo art trail tour. After healthy increase in visitation to 2018-19 the numbers were well down in 2019-20 even prior to the COVID 19 restrictions. There has been some loss of services in the Brim township in recent years, with the closure of the town’s hotel in 2018-19 being a deterrent to some potential visitors.



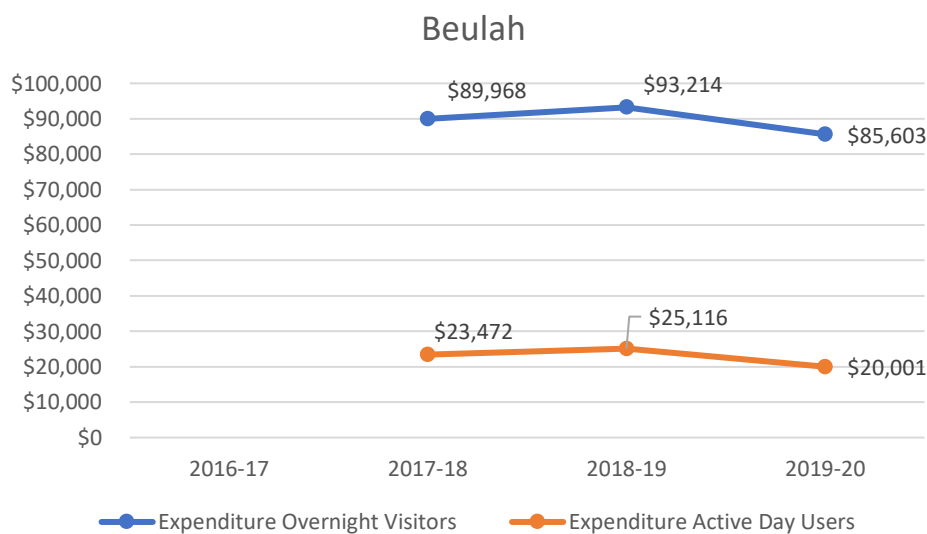
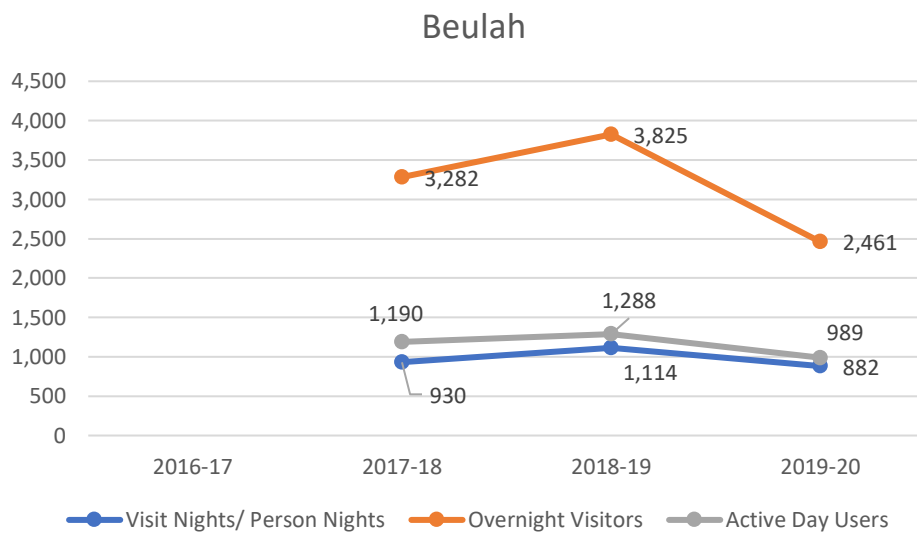
Summary of potential improvements:

- Facilities
 - o Self-contained cabins.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Grey nomad bliss
 - o Silo art and night skies
- Cross promotions – Silo art.

4.6.4 Beulah Weir Pool

Like Brim, the Beulah weir is also constructed across the Yarriambiack Creek, and has a camping and caravanning area with powered and unpowered camping sites, a playground, barbecue facilities. This facility is encompassed by Beulah’s recreation grounds (sports oval, tennis courts and a swimming pool) which can add to the activities for visitors.

Boating and water skiing is permitted on the Beulah Weir Pool and fishing, bird watching and walking is popular. Two new cabins, overlooking the weir pool, were constructed at the Beulah Reserve in 2019. Visitation and participation patterns at Beulah were similar to those at Brim during 2016-17 to 2019-20 although the overall numbers of participants were continually lower than at the neighbouring town. Beulah’s central business area supports a few more businesses than Brim including an operating hotel. The town’s supermarket burned down in 2018-19 and has been replaced by a community run facility.



Summary of potential improvements:

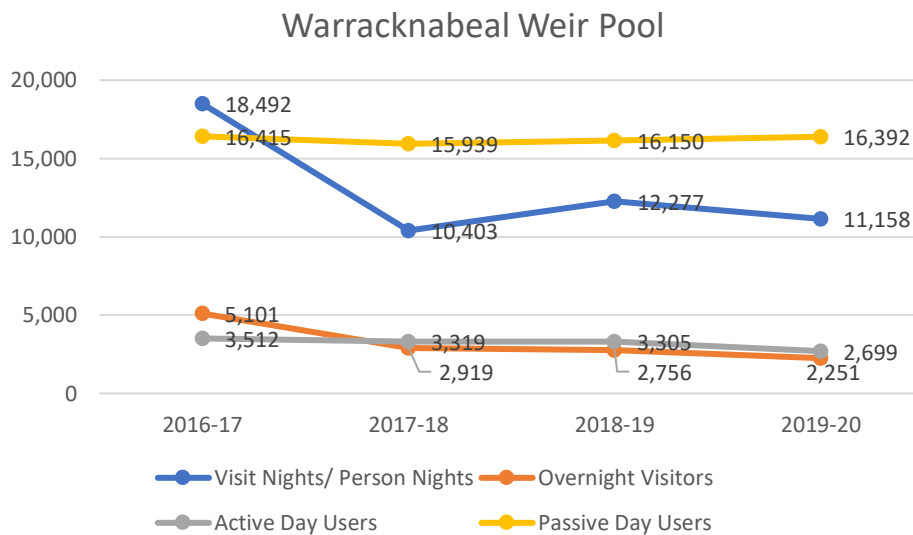
- Infrastructure
 - o Improved signage.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Grey nomad bliss
- Cross promotions – Silo art and heritage.

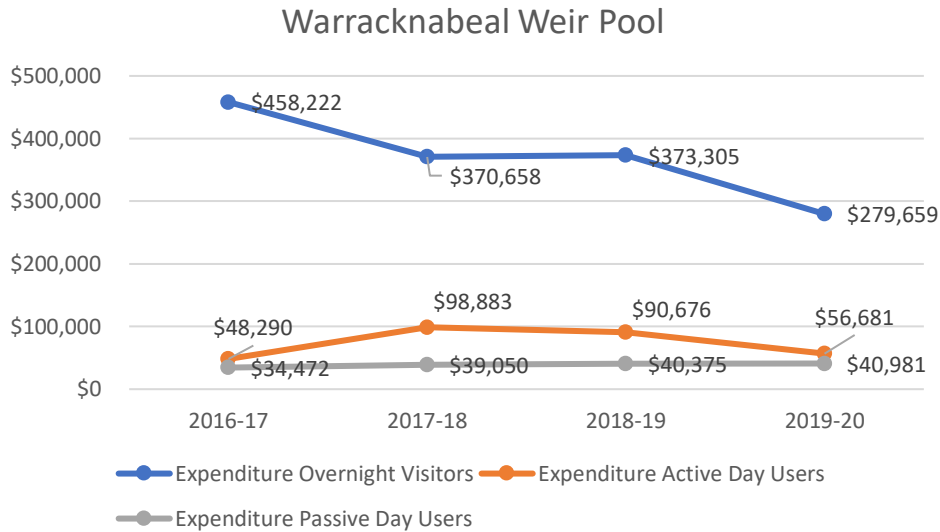
4.6.5 Warracknabeal Weir Pool

In Warracknabeal, the weir pool and the creek meandering through town are part of the recreational water facilities. Warracknabeal Caravan Park is located near the banks of the weir pool section of the creek, providing powered and unpowered sites, bathroom amenities, barbecues and laundry facilities.

An angling club and ski club both operate at the weir pool. Swimming and fishing are popular in the area from the town’s fauna park up to the weir wall. Warracknabeal Weir Pool is used widely by local residents and community groups for walking and other forms of regular exercise: A use which became more important to residents during the restrictions imposed by the 2020 COVID 19 pandemic. The creek banks also offer many sites for tranquil picnics, fishing and relaxation.

Membership of both the angling club and ski club have declined slightly in the past three years, and the number of people using ski boats (largely on weekends) declined as well. Warracknabeal’s annual Easter festival, the Y-Fest, focuses strongly on activities along the Creek. It was cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions in 2020. As a result, participation numbers decreased in 2019-20 and the economic contribution experienced a considerable reduction.

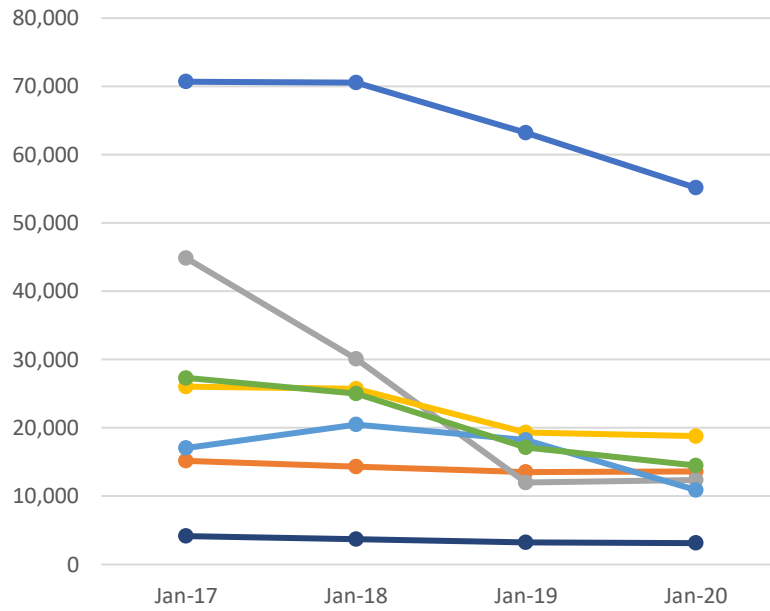




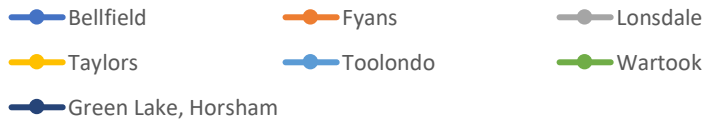
Summary of potential improvements:

- Infrastructure
 - o Increased water levels and amenity in the ‘back-end’ of the weir pool, at least to the bridge beyond the Warracknabeal Caravan Park.
- Recreational water trails
 - o Club central
 - o Waterways with all the frills
 - o Travellers rests tours
- Cross promotions – Silo art, heritage, part of Warracknabeal town promotions.
- Potential events
 - o Fun runs and possibly a formal ParkRun

APPENDIX: Water Levels at Selected Lakes (megalitres)



	Jan-17	Jan-18	Jan-19	Jan-20
Bellfield	70,690	70,550	63,250	55,160
Fyans	15,180	14,310	13,540	13,630
Lonsdale	44,860	30,120	12,010	12,400
Taylor's	26,040	25,750	19,310	18,810
Toolondo	17,045	20,490	18,200	10,910
Wartook	27,330	25,050	17,150	14,500
Green Lake, Horsham	4,160	3,690	3,250	3,130



SOURCE: GMMWater Records