

## **Introduction**

NRE's Agriculture Victoria – Bendigo (Centre for Land Protection Research (CLPR)) in conjunction with the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, NRE's Agriculture Victoria – Werribee (SCL), NRE Catchment and Agricultural Services, and NRE Catchment and Water has undertaken a major land resource assessment project in the Glenelg Hopkins region of Victoria. The project identifies opportunities to further develop sustainable primary production and processing enterprises within this region.

The land resource assessment provides consistent 1:100 000 scale soil-landform mapping for the Glenelg Hopkins CMA region. The project provides an understanding of the potential to develop the land for agriculture, and has identified inherent limitations linked to the natural resource base. In particular, hazard mapping enables the identification of potential on-site and off-site impacts that can link to current and proposed land uses.

This project enabled the production of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based, user-friendly land suitability maps along with over 250 soil-landform descriptions. The soil-landform information acts as a vehicle for future interpretation of land capability themes and investigations into the potential impact on natural resources.

This project enables all stakeholders to access key land resource information useful in risk analysis and decision making. The project therefore encourages the development of a common and coordinated approach to the selection of sustainable land use options and management practices into the future.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of the project are:

- To undertake an inventory of landform, soils, surface water and groundwater and establish key soil data sets for the Glenelg Hopkins region.
- To provide land hazard information and identify potential on-site and off-site impacts to underpin decision making regarding current and future land use.
- To compile land capability information designed to attract investors to the region and to ensure that investment takes place in areas where there is low economic and environmental risk.
- To increase the efficiency and effectiveness of natural resource utilisation in the region.
- To provide specialist land resource assessment (LRA) training to Catchment and Agricultural Services (CAS) staff and other stakeholders.

### **Outputs:**

The project outputs include:

- A consistent map base for the Glenelg Hopkins region containing landform and soil resources at 1:100 000 scale.
- Agricultural capability mapping designed to attract investment to the region (i.e. mapping that encourages development in areas where there is low economic and environmental risk).

- CD-ROM based project outputs and training for key stakeholder groups in the use of interpreted information products.
- Specialist LRA training for CAS staff.

### **Links to other projects**

This project is linked to a number of key projects including Regional Data Net, Victorian Catchment Indicators, Victorian Resources Online, Victoria's Future Landscapes, and Statewide Soil Reference Sites project.