

Vic Catchments Communiqué

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10/1/2017

Edition 1

Welcome to Vic Catchments

The Vic Catchments forum was established in February 2017 and its purpose, as an unincorporated body based on a collegiate agreement between the ten Victorian regional Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), is to showcase Victoria's integrated catchment management framework.

The CMAs work with Victorian communities, non-government organisations (including Landcare), government and funding bodies to protect and enhance our land, water and biodiverse resources.

Vic Catchments has an operational charter which can be accessed [here](#). The ten CMA chairs form the voting body and the CMA CEOs, senior delegates from the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning as well as the Chair and executive officer from the Victorian Catchment Management Council are members of the forum. The forum meets on a quarterly basis.

The forum seeks to increase the level of state-wide influence and confidence in the principles of integrated catchment management.

The forum will present the CMA's as a collegiate body of statutory agencies that operates under a consistent set of principles directly reflecting government policy contained within Our Catchments Our Communities.

The forum supports the important work of each CMA in the coordination of environmental programs and working with local communities. The local nature of CMAs provides agility for quick responses to local issues. In so doing the forum promotes the CMAs to work as an industry body beyond the primary role of each regional CMA.

The next Vic Catchments forum will be held in Warnambool on the 20th and 21st of November.

Message from the Vic Catchments Chair

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I would like to welcome the new chairs appointed to the CMAs as well as welcome back the returning chairs. I would also like to thank the outgoing chairs; Lyn, Angus, David, Karen, Neville and Murray for their significant contribution to the natural resource management industry over many years.

In the CMA industry all chairs have a respective responsibility to demonstrate leadership in integrated catchment management and to ensure community involvement in all of our programs. I look forward to working with you all and very much look forward to our next forum in Warnambool in November.

Dr Peter Veenker

Proposed Vic Catchments meeting dates for 2018 follow:

23 February 2018

25 May 2018

31 August 2018

30 November 2018

National Landcare Program Phase 2

The Australian Government is about to announce the new NLP2 program of \$1.1B over 5 years. Priority areas for investment may include; expanding reserves of indigenous vegetation, threatened species, Ramsar wetland protection, small grants for sustainable agriculture, the control of fire ants, major projects for environmental protection including the Great Barrier Reef and continuing investment in regional delivery and meeting Australia's International Obligations in terms of biosecurity.

Targeted approaches will include maintaining ecological character of Ramsar wetlands, tackling the trajectory of threatened species, reducing pest invasion in World Heritage Areas (not applicable in Victoria), promoting land management practices to protect soil and veg, and building climate change resilience in agriculture.

The CMAs are working with the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning to maximise funding opportunities for Victoria.

DELWP

There is an ongoing positive relationship with the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning to promote the CMA industry including key support for the roll out of Our Catchments Our Communities, and meeting community and government expectations.

Trust for Nature

The Vic Catchments chair, Dr Peter Veenker and the

executive officer met with the chair and CEO of Trust for Nature to consolidate partnerships. As a result of this meeting a workshop later in the year will be held to map priorities in order for submission for joint projects. Victoria Marles, the CEO for Trust for Nature also met the federal Minister for Environment, Josh Frydenberg, shortly after promoting this partnership approach.

Website

A simple website is being developed to provide portal links to all CMAs and relevant partner bodies and government agencies as well as providing resource material for the industry and promoting integrated catchment management. This website will go live later in the year.

John Riddiford

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