

Vic Catchments Communiqué

Vic Catchments

Edition 2, January 2018

Vic Catchments November Meeting



CMA chairs inspect the Tyrendarra Indigenous Protected Area, hosted by Denis Rose (5th from left), Tyson Lovett-Murray (2nd from right) and the Glenelg Hopkins CMA.

November Vic Catchments Forum

Vic Catchments held its fourth meeting in Warrnambool in November 2017. The Executive Officer gave an overview of the Vic Catchments charter. In summary, the purpose of Vic Catchments is to showcase Victoria's integrated catchment management framework.

It has five strategic frameworks which correlate to the five goals of Our

Catchments Our Communities. These are; fostering greater community engagement, seeking better connection between state regional and local plans, strengthening implementation of RCS's, clearer roles and strengthened accountability, and improved monitoring and reporting. These frameworks are aligned with the specified goals in the state government's plan – *Our catchments Our Communities*.

Graham Phelps provided an overview of the Partnership

Message from the Vic Catchments Chair

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I received very positive feedback from the chairs following our meeting in November.

It was a very real opportunity to see how partnerships work with indigenous communities and CMAs. I would like to thank the Glenelg Hopkins CMA, Denis Rose and Tyson Lovett-Murray for hosting this informative field trip to Lake Condah.

I welcomed Karen Lau to our Forum and her role as Executive Director Catchments Waterways Cities and Towns will be critical for our forward work program. I look forward to 2018 in our ongoing workplan including the implementation of the Our Catchments Our Communities plan, consideration of priority projects and demonstrating outcomes.

Dr Peter Veenker

and Engagement Framework paper including the review process of the framework. The forum endorsed the framework and asked for its review in 2019/20.

Angus Hume introduced The Catchment Condition and Management Report which was tabled in parliament on the 14th of November, including a new section - catchment condition by region. The 20-year assessment concluded that the state catchment condition for land was declining, water – stable, biodiversity – declining, coasts – declining and community – improving. Catchment management for these themes was mostly positive.

Recommendations included improvement of the quality of reporting, the implementation of mandatory reporting, the involvement of catchment communities and the provision of five-year funding cycles.

The forum expressed concern regarding catchment condition declining despite the investment made over the past 20 years. At a number of local level scales positive improvement can be demonstrated, but for the current level of investment it is difficult to arrest the decline of state catchment condition since European settlement. Discussion then moved to the effectiveness and efficiency of investment and management interventions, and the use of prioritisation methods.

It was suggested chairs discuss the report with their boards. This will be an ongoing discussion at the next Vic Catchments meeting.

Graeme Dear presented the Putting People in Public Land project context and proposal. The idea was generated from an analysis of the ten RCS's and the success of previous employment programs (drought, fire and flood response). It was suggested that the proposal could be retitled with jobs being the key theme. Graeme wants to test the project regionally and then look at expanding the idea to a state level.

The project proposal was endorsed.

National Landcare Program Phase 2 Update

There will be \$450m available for the Regional Land Partnerships program across the 56 management units (regional nrm areas) over 5 years, \$134m for Smart Farms over 6 years and a number of programs to support priorities including Red fire ants, the Great Barrier Reef and others. In total there is \$918m allocated with the remaining \$182m dedicated to departmental overheads and program monitoring. In real terms, there will be a 20-25% reduction in funding from the Australian Government compared with historical funding.

Tenders are now open and bids close on the 28th of February.

Karen Lau told the forum that the DELWP Secretary had written to the two commonwealth department heads to emphasise the state's fair share based on income tax contributions and supporting the CMA model.

The Executive Officer has been asked to support the Victorian CMA bids by preparing high level wording to cover the CMA model, business efficiencies, the leveraging of state funding, and theme based matters aligned with the Regional Land Partnerships Program Logic.

Partnerships

Peter Veenker and John Riddiford met with Terry Hubbard, the chair of **Landcare** Victoria Inc (LVI). There is solid progress to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between Vic Catchments (on behalf of the 10 CMAs) and LVI. The Vic Catchments Forum will consider this MoU in the near future.

The mapping alignment project between the CMAs and **Trust for Nature** is progressing well. Three regions have been selected to investigate the overlap of priority areas for vegetation

management investment. The trial regions will be reviewed by the CMA CEOs.

Vic Catchments Forum

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 2018 Vic Catchments Forum Meetings

23 February 2018

25 May 2018

31 August 2018

30 November 2018

John Riddiford

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