

Vic Catchments Communiqué

Vic Catchments

Edition 3, February 2018

Portfolio Arrangements

The following largely describes state-wide portfolios and working groups managed within the CEOs' forum.

The diagram on page 3 describes the portfolio arrangements and structure of working groups. Each portfolio has two or more CEO leaders and within each portfolio there are three or more working groups. The CEOs approve the terms of reference of each of the working groups and, if required, the working group action plans. On occasions some working groups are established outside of portfolio (e.g. drainage led by Kevin Wood and Martin Fuller). These still report through the CEOs' forum.

The structure allows CMAs to utilise a broad set of expertise from across the state to help inform initiatives and strategic frameworks presented to Vic Catchments for approval.

Land and Biodiversity Portfolio

Leads: Dave Brennan and Kevin Wood

The co-design process for the Biodiversity Response Plan has been largely completed. There are target regions each with a working group which will be led most probably by a departmental regional representative. This portfolio also has regular joint activities with partner agencies including the department, Trust for Nature and Greening Australia.

The Carbon Sequestration pilot project is underway. It is a major Water Plan initiative with joint co-operation with the water authorities.

Graeme Dear has developed a project concept titled Putting People in Public Land project. The proposal was generated from an analysis of the ten RCS's and the success of previous employment programs (drought, fire and flood response). It will be tested regionally and expanded to the state level. The project proposal was endorsed for

Message from the Vic Catchments Chair

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In this edition we are highlighting the portfolio arrangements within Vic Catchments.

The CEOs' forum assign responsibility to supervise a number of working groups across state-wide portfolios. This allows the CMA industry sector to consider and provide advice to government on state-wide issues in an effective manner.

CEOs review the portfolios and leads biennially.

The portfolio arrangements and current activity are outlined in this Communiqué.

Dr Peter Veenker

further development at the November Vic Catchments meeting.

Water Portfolio

Leads: Jenny Collins and Brad Drust

The drainage strategy will be finalised this year. Waterway managers will be meeting in February to discuss the implementation of regional waterway management strategies. The Vic Carp Working Group has recently met. The associated response plan needs to consider clean up issues, clean drinking water and other risks. New funding is available for Ramsar site coordination.

The government is currently reviewing the State Environment Protection Policy and it is expected there will be an announcement of this review in the near future.

Strategy and Planning Portfolio

Leads: Chris Norman, David Buntine and Patricia Geraghty

On the 20th of December the Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) review team met. Matters of consistency was discussed including the use of consistent headings, consistent style and the use of online/portal systems. A workshop will be held to discuss in more detail these proposals including what a final RCS might look like for the purposes of writing the guidelines, which will be developed later this year. It is expected all RCS's will be

reviewed in 2019. Regional Investment Coordinators met in early February to discuss NLP2 developments.

From a national perspective there is progress in the design of the natural resource management framework which is building on work undertaken last year on a value proposition for the NRM sector.

Community Portfolio

Leads: Graham Phelps and Tony Long

The community engagement framework was reviewed, updated and approved at the November Vic Catchments meeting. The indigenous working group met in Wimmera in late 2017. The workshop was very well received.

Corporate Portfolio

Leads: Martin Fuller and Graeme Dear

Identification of business efficiencies and the use of shared services are key investigation areas for this group. Matt Fagence has recently been appointed the chair of the business/corporate managers group. The budget forecast to year end process is also a primary focus.

A state-wide workplace, health and safety plan has been developed and is being implemented across the CMAs. The human resources working group is sharing knowledge and expertise, as

well as developing an on-line training portal.

National Landcare Program Phase 2 Update

There is a flurry of activity for the CMAs to develop their NLP2 bids by the 28th of February. The CMAs have been working to develop the best bids possible. Aspects of demonstrating business efficiencies, and state leveraged funding will be included.

DELWP is seeking to provide support to CMAs in this process by addressing some of the risks emerging with the national tender approach.

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 on the 23rd of February.

The mapping alignment project between the CMAs and Trust for Nature is progressing well. Three regions have been successfully trialled and this project will be rolled out across the seven remaining regions - engagement processes for DELWP and Greening Australia have been put in place for this project.

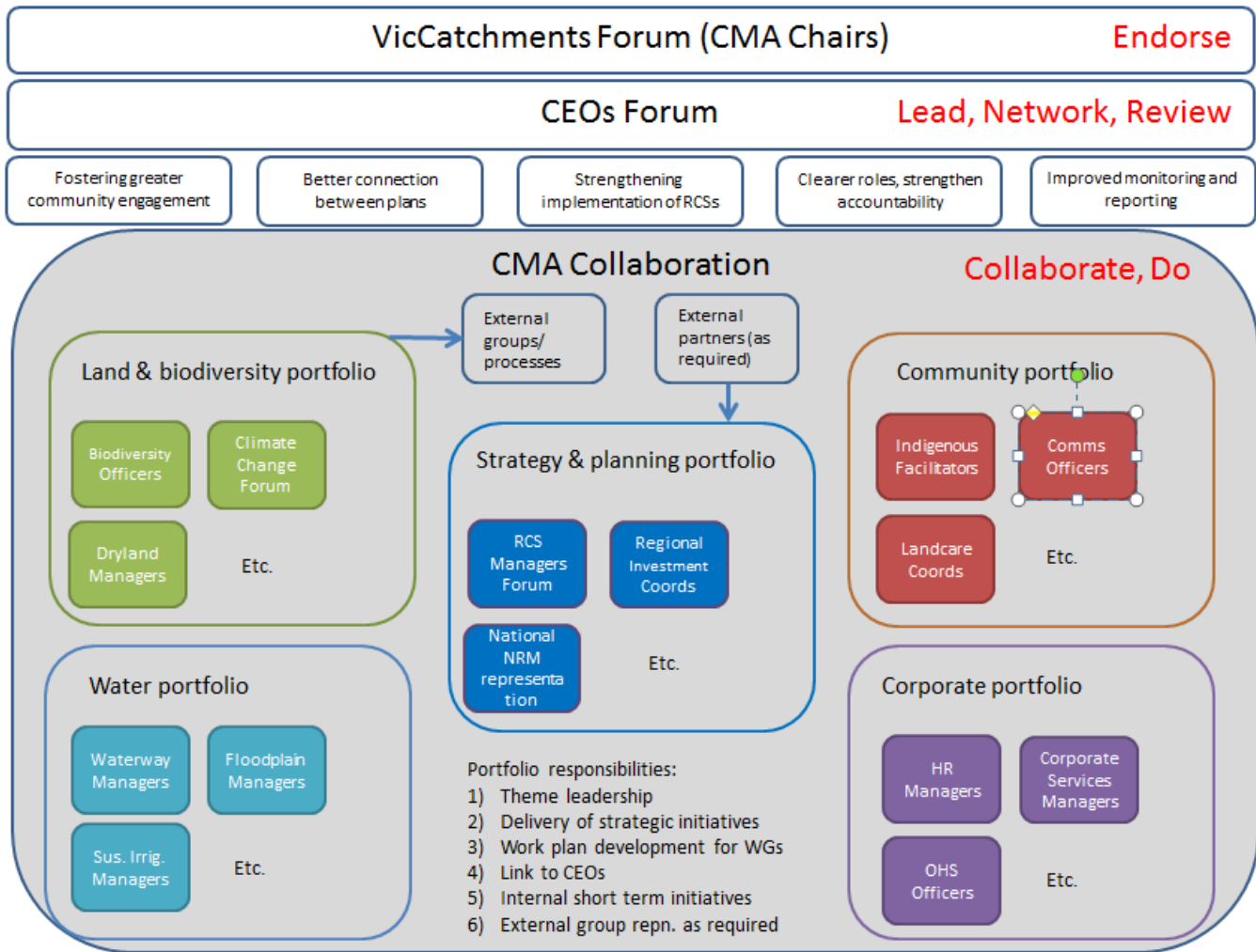


Figure 1: CMA Portfolio Arrangements

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

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