

Vic Catchments Communiqué

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Edition 4, April 2018

Memorandum of Understanding Signing



Vic Catchments Chair Peter Veenker (left), with Sharyon Peart Chair Mallee CMA, Anthony Carbines Parliamentary Secretary for Energy Environment and Climate Change, Angus Hume Chair VCMC, Alice Knight Chair Corangamite CMA and Peter Hilbig Chair Wimmera CMA at the MoU signing.

Partnership with Landcare reaches new heights

In mid-April, Mr Terry Hubbard the chair of Landcare Victoria Inc. and Dr Peter Veenker the chair of Vic Catchments signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations to

strengthen natural resource management in Victoria. Dr Peter Veenker said “this landmark agreement will herald a new and consolidated partnership arrangement to promote and bind ongoing natural resource management and sustainable agriculture. Catchment Management Authorities across the state have enjoyed a positive relationship with Landcare over the past 20 years. This

Message from the Vic Catchments Chair



As part of the Vic Catchments Charter, the CMA industry is committed in showcasing Victoria’s integrated catchment management framework. In doing so the CMAs are committed in strengthening partnerships for more effective broader community engagement, reporting on getting results on the ground and leading strategic state-wide projects for more effective natural resource management.

In this edition we would like to demonstrate these three facets. Firstly, I am delighted to have participated in the signing of a memorandum of Understanding with Landcare (see left). Secondly, I wish to update you with recent developments in reporting results and thirdly, highlighting a strategic priority project – climate change adaptation.

Dr Peter Veenker

agreement will ensure this relationship will only get better over the next 20. Also, with this agreement we can make Landcare grants provided by government go further.”

Mr Hubbard added “the objectives of the MoU are:

- to ensure a productive partnership that builds the capacity of both Landcare Victoria and the Catchment Management Authorities
- to provide consistency of underlying principles across Catchment Management Authority regions whilst allowing flexibility for each region to implement actions in a way that respects the unique attributes of the region and its peoples; and
- to establish methods consistent with this MoU to harness the skills, knowledge and resources of both Landcare Victoria and Vic Catchments to meet our common goals, objectives and vision.”

He further added “importantly, our MOU has state-wide application, this has always appealed to me as, having chaired the national Landcare network for three years, I was able to learn that there exist wide- ranging differences across the nation as to how the 56 natural resource

management agencies relate to and interact with their Landcare communities.” Both Mr Hubbard and Dr Veenker said that this Memorandum of Understanding underpins an ongoing effort to strengthen partnership arrangements across the natural resource management sector. They also said that if we want to improve sustainable productive agriculture, protect our natural resources, and look after our waterways then we definitely need these types of partnership agreements.



Anthony Carbines (centre) witnesses the MoU signing with Vic Catchments Chair, Peter Veenker and Landcare Victoria Chair, Terry Hubbard.

Outcomes and Results

Further to the Actions and Achievements Report published late last year, see [Actions Achievements Report 2017](#), the CMA chairs and CEOs participated in a communications workshop held in March, hosted by DELWP. One of the more immediate outcomes from this workshop was to develop a number of themes and events for the remainder of 2018 for communications and reporting

opportunities. As part of this process the CMAs will collectively highlight and report on a number of themes including riparian action, involvement of Traditional Owners in natural resource management, implementing the integrated water management framework, and demonstrating shared benefits of environmental water including recreational fishing and other recreational use.

Strategic Projects – Climate Change

The Catchment Carbon Offsets Trial is a state-wide climate change project aimed at complementing Victorian government policies and strategies relating to climate change, water, catchment management and biodiversity by demonstrating how projects could deliver emissions reductions, climate resilience and improve catchment management outcomes. The project was a collaboration between the Victorian water sector, which comprises Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs), Water Corporations and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The catchment carbon offset (CCO) concept was framed around the idea of projects being designed to retain and increase carbon stocks to meet Water Corporation’s emission reductions requirement while simultaneously providing environmental and social

benefits that are consistent with regional NRM planning frameworks, programs and targets. To test this concept a case study was undertaken with Wannon Water, Corangamite CMA and Glenelg Hopkins CMA. The final report on the Case Study and the project as a whole can be found at the joint CMA climate change web portal: www.nrmclimate.vic.gov.au/ under Data and Projects.

A single, joint Climate Change portal has been established where all CMA Climate Change Adaptation Plans are located with maps).

The CMAs have collaborated to develop one state-wide \$2.8M NLP Smart Farms Partnership bid on Climate Change. (with thanks to Kate

Brunt from Goulburn Broken CMA).

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

25 May 2018

31 August 2018

30 November 2018

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