

Vic Catchments Communiqué

Vic Catchments

Edition 8, December 2018



Environmental watering of a redgum forest, Neds Corner, a joint partnership between the Mallee CMA and Trust for Nature (photo courtesy of Mallee CMA).

Resetting strategy

The chairs of Victoria's ten CMAs undertook a review of the operation of the Vic Catchments Forum as part of a two-year evaluation since inception. In so doing, they have also commenced developing new strategic directions.

They acknowledged achievements of the CMA industry (see Actions and Achievements below) and the reaffirmation of the importance of active co-

operation and partnerships within the CMA network to better deliver the integrated catchment strategy for Victoria.

Chairs recognised a range of other achievements by the Forum (and its predecessor groups) reinforcing the value of a collective approach. The Forum process and dynamics were reported as "meeting or exceeding expectations", suggesting the meeting preparation is good and the meetings are well run. Some suggestions were made for improving the

Message from the Vic Catchments Chair



Recently the ten CMA chairs met to discuss the forward agenda for Vic Catchments. This was a very worthwhile and productive meeting (reported in this newsletter). At the get-together Angus Hume, Chair of the VCMC, reflected on the evolution of CMAs in Victoria. His insights were most valuable. The CMAs were established in 1997, more than 21 years ago. He said that their role was to increase community input into the ownership of priorities and decisions, to integrate planning and service delivery, to undertake waterway and floodplain management services, and to streamline bureaucracy. Today these functions are even more relevant and important.

Dr Peter Veenker

administration. Several chairs raised the question of encouraging more interaction and networking between chairs.

Regarding building relationships with partners, chairs reported a good working relationship with DELWP, but saw opportunities still in building the relationship with Agriculture Victoria. (Agvic presented to the November forum on dry seasonal conditions). They also noted good progress with relationship development with the non-government sector, in particular, Landcare Vic Inc, Trust for Nature and Greening Australia.

Areas that require more attention include better processes for chair induction, more opportunities for chairs to network - possibly before forum meetings, and a greater focus on developing state-wide investment packages.

Chairs will be finalising strategic directions in the first quarter of 2019, but in the meantime the forum will concentrate on strengthening partnerships with AgVic and

the agricultural industry, and the development of a few, but tangible state-wide strategic investment projects.

Actions and Achievements Report

The CMA Actions and Achievements Report was recently published. Some of the statistics therein make interesting reading. In summary the following activities were undertaken;

- 5,615ha of native vegetation works completed, more than double the target;
- 96,956 community and landholders working to improve the environment on public and private land, more than double the target;
- over 825,000ha of pest plant and animal control completed, more than 25% above target;
- 818 waterway structures to stabilise banks and improve

habitat, more than double the target;

- 717km of fences built or improved, more than 25% above target; and
- 10,134 requests for permits, licences, leases and planning referrals provided to landholders, nearly double the target.

These activities contribute to broader outcomes of improved rivers, more sustainable agriculture, protection of threatened species and more engaged communities in natural resource management.

Future Vic Catchments Forum Meetings

22 February 2019

31 May 2019

30 August 2019

29 November 2019

John Riddiford

Executive Officer Vic Catchments

e: executiveofficer@viccatchments.com.au | m: 0417 686396