

Vic Catchments Communiqué 10



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Message from the Vic Catchments Chair

At the May Vic Catchments meeting it was an honour and a privilege to accept the position of chair. I would like to sincerely thank Dr Peter Veenker, the outgoing chair, for his leadership and wise counsel and all the chairs for their support and continued guidance.

The forum has adopted its new Strategic Plan – Looking Forward as a working document which resets the forum's strategic direction and strategic initiatives.

In this edition we will explore what this new strategic direction is, report on the exceptional field visit hosted by the West Gippsland CMA and look at one of our strategic initiatives in more detail – the sustainable ag project.



Sharyon Peart

Setting a new strategic direction for Vic Catchments

The Vic Catchments Forum's purpose is to showcase Victoria's integrated catchment management framework. There is value in a collective approach and CMA Chairs and CEOs have committed to delivering on this by endorsing the strategic plan. The plan, which can be found [here](#), works to:



- Promote Victoria's statutory authority model demonstrating how CMA boards provide a bridge between the community and governments. This leads to substantial co-investment by communities in catchment management.
- Recognise the state-wide CMA industry perspective in a consistent manner. This will be achieved by endorsing and acting upon the five principle frameworks articulated in Our Catchments Our Communities.
- By working together, we can better demonstrate delivery of government programs.

The plan is a live, working document that will evolve as the needs of the group evolve. Particular thanks to John Riddiford for his hard work in getting this across the line.

West Gippsland CMA field tour



Above: The group visits Archies Creek, West Gippsland

During our recent Vic Catchments meeting in Inverloch, we were lucky enough to be treated to a tour of the region by Martin Fuller and his team.

While the weather was a little more inclement than I am used to in the Mallee, it was great to see the initiatives that the local community are working on with the CMA in the NRM space.

In particular, we visited the beach at Inverloch, where increasing coastal erosion is threatening public and private assets, the Powlett River (or as we were informed the 'Kakadu of the south') to look at impacts of estuary closure, and finally to a fantastic farm that has been rehabilitated over the last 30 years by a Landcare 'champion' in Archies Creek.

It was a great afternoon and I know everyone learnt a lot.

Click on the images below to view in more detail.



Discussing coastal erosion.



Powlett Estuary.

Sustainable Ag project

A contract has been awarded to IAD Consortium for the Vic Catchments Sustainable Agriculture project.

CMA's are seeking to improve the sector's alignment to sustainable agriculture policy and demonstrate CMA relevance to coordination and potential delivery of a sustainable agriculture project or suite of projects.



The purpose of this project is to define the policy alignment and develop a sustainable agricultural project(s) for the CMA industry.

Dave Brennan will be the lead CEO on this project, please give Dave a call to discuss further. We look forward to receiving updates as this progress.

Other priorities

The Executive group (Jenny, Gus and Jarod) and myself have been working on a range of other tasks to raise the profile of Vic Catchments and ensure good line of sight to the group throughout our industry. This includes:



- Met with the VEWH's Executive to discuss a more strategic partnership. An options paper has been prepared and will be presented to the June CEOs' meeting.
- Met with Minister Pulford for signing of a state-wide agreement to re-use timber removed during road building projects for river restoration projects.
- Started the process of developing a new logo to increase visibility of Vic Catchments throughout the industry. This logo will be tested with the communications group in the next few weeks.
- Met with the CEO of VFA to discuss a more strategic partnership with CMAs at a state-wide level. An option paper has been prepared and will be presented to the June CEOs' meeting.
- Met with the Environment Victoria to discuss a more strategic partnership. Various options were considered, including the potential reinvigoration of the 'River Champions' program.
- Met with the Environment Minister's office to discuss the role of Victorian CMAs and to raise the profile of Vic Catchments and its charter – particularly as it relates to the environment and climate change portfolios. We have been invited to a follow-up meeting in the coming weeks
- Met with Helen Vaughan to discuss RCS renewal. We secured agreement for quarterly meetings between Helen, her senior executive team, and Vic Catchments' Executive.
- Met with Jane Ryan, from Minister Neville's office. Jane indicated the Minister's strong support for the CMAs, and the support they are providing in the key areas of drought relief and water security.

#CMAsGetItDone campaign update

Vic Catchments has asked the CMA communications forum to run a series of collaborative campaigns throughout the year to highlight and promote our achievements to the community, stakeholders and investors.

The campaigns are running under the banner of #CMAsGetItDone via our social media platforms to align with key "days" or "weeks". Click the pictures below for links to recent videos created by our talented communications teams at NC CMA for National Volunteer Week and PPW CMA for World Environment Day.



Future Vic Catchments Forum Meetings

30 August 2019

29 November 2019

Contact Us

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the country we work on and pay our respects to them and their elders: past, present and future.