

Legislative and Policy Framework for Integrated Catchment Management

Fact Sheet 5

March 2016

Integrated catchment management recognises that land, water and biodiversity resources are all part of connected systems within the landscape. It involves many partners working together to protect the environment and secure land productivity. A wide range of federal and state legislation and policy provides direction for catchment management partners.

Key Legislation

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) brings together the processes of integrated catchment management and the control of land degradation, recognising that land degradation can be controlled effectively only when it is considered as part of the overall management and use of natural resources. The key objectives of the Act are to:

- establish a framework for the integrated and co-ordinated management of catchments that will:
 - maintain and enhance long-term land productivity while conserving the environment
 - ensure that the quality of the State's land and water resources and their associated plant and animal life are maintained and enhanced
- establish processes that can be used to assess the condition of the State's land and water resources and the effectiveness of land protection measures
- establish processes to encourage and support participation of landholders, resource managers and other members of the community in catchment management and land protection
- provide for the control of noxious weeds and pest animals
- establish and support the operation of the Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) and Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs).

As the key advisory body on catchment management, the statutory functions of the VCMC include:

- advising Ministers on land and water management issues
- encouraging the cooperation of catchment management partners
- promoting community awareness
- reporting annually on the operation of the CaLP Act and every five years on the condition and management of Victoria's land and water resources through the VCMC Catchment Condition and Management Report.

Victoria is divided into 10 catchment and land protection regions. In each region, a CMA is responsible for the integrated planning and coordination of land, water and biodiversity management. The CMAs' main functions include:

- preparing and coordinating the implementation and monitoring of a Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) and Special Area Plans
- promoting the cooperation of catchment management partners and community awareness
- advising Ministers on regional priorities for land and water management.

RCSs are the primary integrated strategic planning mechanism for the management of land, water and biodiversity resources. They identify:

- regionally significant natural assets and landscapes
- the nature, causes, extent and severity of land degradation
- a long-term vision and 20-year condition objectives
- six-year management measures.

A Special Area Plan is a statutory planning management tool approved by the Minister to deal with specific land management issues in a specific area. Land can be declared a special area either as a special water supply area or for any other purpose identified by a CMA.

Water Act 1989

The *Water Act 1989* (Water Act) establishes rights and obligations in relation to water resources, provides mechanisms for the allocation of water resources, governs the statutory powers and functions of all water authorities outside the metropolitan area, and provides for integrated management of the water resources and for environmental and consumer protection. With regard to integrated catchment management, the Water Act was enacted to:

- provide for the integrated management of all elements of the terrestrial phase of the water cycle
 - promote the orderly, equitable and efficient use of water resources
 - make sure that water resources are conserved and properly managed for sustainable use for the benefit of present and future Victorians
 - maximise community involvement in the making and implementation of arrangements relating to the use, conservation or management of water resources
 - eliminate inconsistencies in the treatment of surface and groundwater resources and waterways
 - provide better definition of private water entitlements and the entitlements of authorities
 - foster responsible and efficient water services suited to various needs and various consumers
 - provide recourse for persons affected by administrative decisions
 - provide formal means for the protection and enhancement of the environmental qualities of waterways and their in-stream uses
 - provide for the protection of catchment conditions.
- developing a regional waterway strategy
 - developing and implementing regional work programs to maintain or improve the environmental condition of waterways
 - authorising works and activities on waterways and acting as a referral body for planning applications, licences to take and use water and construct dams, and other waterway management issues
 - identifying regional priorities for environmental watering and facilitating environmental water delivery
 - providing input to water allocation processes
 - developing and coordinating regional floodplain management plans
 - providing advice and undertaking investigations regarding flood events
 - managing regional drainage in some areas
 - assisting in the response to natural disasters and extreme events where they affect waterways
 - providing water quality advice for emergency water quality management
 - undertaking community participation and awareness programs.

Under the Water Act, authorities have specific responsibility for the management of waterways, drainage and floodplains. The designated waterway management authorities are the CMAs, except in the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment region where it is Melbourne Water. These 10 waterway managers have the lead role in developing and delivering regional programs for waterway management. The range of functions that waterway managers undertake include:

Waterway managers are also responsible for liaising with regional coastal boards to ensure there is integration between the management of rivers, estuaries and wetlands and coastal planning and management.

Additionally, Sustainable Water Strategies provide for the strategic planning of the use of water resources in the region to which it applies, taking into account relevant strategies (e.g. RCS), policies or plans prepared under various Acts including the CaLP Act.

Further Legislation and Policies Linked to Catchment Management

While the CaLP Act and the Water Act govern the activities of the CMAs, the roles and responsibilities of catchment management partners are also informed by other legislation and policies.

The following section lists some of the relevant federal and state legislation and policy to catchment management.

Table 1: Relevant federal legislation.

Federal legislation	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
<i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Act 1994</i>	Can protect areas and objects that are of particular significance to Aboriginal people. Declarations can be made to protect an area, object or class of objects from a threat of injury or desecration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected areas and objects
<i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>	Commencing on 16 June 2016, the new Act will focus on managing diseases and pests that may harm human, animal or plant health or the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive plants and animals
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>	The Australian Government's central piece of environmental legislation. Provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Heritage Places Wetlands of international importance Threatened species list Nationally threatened species and ecological communities Migratory species Marine environment Key threatening processes
<i>Fisheries Management Act 1991</i>	Aims to ensure that the exploitation of fisheries resources and any related activities are conducted in a manner consistent with ecologically sustainable development, particularly the impact of fishing activities on non-target species and the long-term sustainability of the marine environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries management
<i>Native Title Act 1993</i>	Established a framework for the protection and recognition of native title. The Act gives Indigenous Australians who hold native title rights and interests - or who have made a native title claim - the right to be consulted and, in some cases, participate in decisions about activities proposed to be undertaken on the land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determinations Consultation requirements
<i>Water Act 2007</i>	Provides for the management of the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin, and for other matters of national interest in relation to water and water information, and for related purpose.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterways within the Murray-Darling Basin Plan Commonwealth environmental water holdings

Table 2: Relevant federal policies.

Federal policy	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010–2030	<p>A guiding framework for conserving Australia's biodiversity. Functions as a policy 'umbrella' over other more specific national frameworks including the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy for Australia's National Reserve System 2009-2030 • Australian Weeds Strategy (revised 2007) • Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2007 • Australia's Native Vegetation Framework (2012). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision • Priorities for action: engaging all Australians; building ecosystem resilience in a changing climate; and getting measurable results • Principles • National targets
Australia's Native Vegetation Framework 2012	<p>Developed to maintain or build healthier and more connected native vegetation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions for regional NRM bodies • Goals and targets
Australia's Strategy for the National Reserve System 2009-2030	<p>Outlines the strategy to achieve an effective reserve system by 2030 that secures biodiversity assets in their landscape setting and ensures they are effectively managed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance to improve cross-jurisdictional co-ordination and collaboration • National targets and guiding principles
Australian Framework for Landcare 2010-2020	<p>Developed to support the resilience and growth of the Landcare movement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision, approach, guiding principles • Key elements, critical issues • Stakeholders and partnerships
Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2007	<p>Addresses the undesirable impacts caused by exotic vertebrate animals (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish) that have become pests in Australia, and aims to prevent the establishment of new exotic vertebrate pests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles, vision, goals • Objectives, actions, outcomes • Threat abatement plans for species
Australian Weeds Strategy 2007	<p>Aims to minimise the impact of weeds on Australia's environmental, economic and social assets. It is part of an integrated approach to national biosecurity and complements other strategies for invasive species, such as those for terrestrial vertebrate pests and marine pests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles, goals, objectives • Roles and responsibilities • Priority weeds and Weeds of National Significance
Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia	<p>Provides a substantial knowledge base of what defines wetlands their variety, and the many flora and fauna species that depend on them. In addition, it contains information about their social and cultural values and some of the ecosystem services and benefits they provide.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tool for managers and others interested in Australia's important wetlands
Framework for Determining Commonwealth Environmental Water Use 2013	<p>Used to guide decisions on the use of Commonwealth environmental water in accordance with the environmental watering plan of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental water use in the Murray-Darling Basin • Roles in environmental water management under the Basin Plan • Principles - environmental watering
Murray Darling Basin Plan 2012	<p>Introduces a regime for the management of the water resources of the Murray-Darling Basin, and imposes legal limits on the amount of water that can be taken from the Murray-Darling Basin's surface and groundwater resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally sustainable limits • Environmental watering plan • Water quality and salinity management plan • Water resource plan requirements • Water trading rules • Monitoring and evaluation program

Federal policy	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
National Cooperative Approach to Integrated Coastal Zone Management: Framework and Implementation Plan 2006	Sets the scene for national cooperation in managing coastal issues and achieving ecologically sustainable development outcomes in the coastal zone over the next decade. The priority areas are integration across the catchment-coast-ocean continuum; land- and marine-based sources of pollution; climate change; pest plants and animals; planning for population change; and capacity building.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key themes for national action • Integration of catchment-coast-ocean continuum
National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement 2012	Sets out emergency response arrangements for biosecurity incidents that primarily affect the environment and/or social amenity and where the response is for the public good.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and responsibilities • National approaches to outbreaks of pests and diseases • Implementation measures
National Soil, Research, Development and Extension Strategy – Securing Australia’s Soils 2014	Aims to ensure soils research becomes more targeted and collaborative and better meets the needs of farmers; provides information and tools on soil use and management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land productivity • Mapping, modelling and monitoring of soil issues • Improving understanding of soil’s role in delivering ecosystem services • Improve management of soils
Threatened Species Strategy 2015	Outlines an action-based approach to protecting and recovering threatened plants and animals with a long-term goal of reversing species decline and supporting species recovery. It sets a plan to prioritise effort and work in partnership with the community and state and territory governments from 2015 until 2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feral cats • Safe havens for species most at risk • Habitat improvement

Table 3: Relevant state legislation.

State legislation	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
<i>Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006</i>	Provides protection for all Aboriginal places, objects and human remains in Victoria regardless of their inclusion in the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register or land tenure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance to planners and developers • Consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties • Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register • Cultural Heritage Management Plans
<i>Alpine Resorts (Management) Act 1997</i>	Established an Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council and six Alpine Resort Management Boards. Provides for the management of several alpine resorts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities within the Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan • Strategic planning for management of the Victorian alpine resorts areas • Consultation requirements
<i>Biological Control Act 1986</i>	Provides for biological control of pests in Victoria, uniform with legislation passed throughout Australia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invasive animal and plants
<i>Climate Change Act 2010</i>	Provides a framework for Victoria's action on climate change, including a legislated target to cut Victoria's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2020. Requires the Government to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan every four years, outlining the climate change impacts and risks to Victoria and the Government's priority areas for response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires decision makers to take climate change into account when making specified decisions under the CaLP Act • Guiding principles
<i>Coastal Management Act 1995</i>	Establishes the Victorian Coastal Council and regional coastal boards Provides for the development of a Victorian Coastal Strategy and strategic planning for the management of the Victorian coast.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In carrying out a function involving land management on behalf of the Crown or under an Act, a public authority must take all reasonable steps to give effect to the Victorian Coastal Strategy and to a Coastal Action Plan applying to that land • Victorian Coastal Strategy priorities • Regional Coastal Action Plans priorities
<i>Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Act 2003</i>	Defines that the Commissioner's role is to review the overall condition of Victoria's natural environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catchment monitoring and reporting • Five-yearly State of the Environment Report
<i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i>	Provides for government administration, a framework for a land management system, and necessary administrative, financial and enforcement provisions along with public participation in formulation of codes of practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Management Co-operative Agreements • Traditional Owner Land Management Boards
<i>Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978</i>	Provides for reservation of Crown land for a variety of public purposes, the appointment of committees of management, and leasing and licensing of reserves.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown Land Reserves • Committees of Management
<i>Domestic (Feral and Nuisance) Animals Act 1994</i>	Promotes animal welfare, the responsible ownership of dogs and cats, and the protection of the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest management
<i>Environment Effects Act 1978</i>	Enables statutory decision makers (Ministers, local government and statutory authorities) to make decisions about whether a project with potentially significant environmental effects should proceed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed projects (works) that are capable of having a significant effect on the environment

State legislation	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
<i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i>	Established the Environment Protection Authority and makes provision for the Authority's powers, duties and functions relating to improving the air, land and water environments by managing waters, controlling noise and controlling pollution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Environment Protection Policies • The CaLP Act states that a RCS may be incorporated into a state environment protection policy • Approval of Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan that takes into account RCS within the meaning of the CaLP Act
<i>Extractive Industries Development Act 1995</i>	Is the primary legislative mechanism for the authorisation and regulation of extractive industries in Victoria, including extraction works on waterways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterway management
<i>Fisheries Act 1995</i>	Provides a legislative framework for the regulation, management and conservation of Victorian fisheries including aquatic habitats.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishery Management Plans
<i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i>	Provides the basic legal powers and the management systems needed to protect the State's native species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threatened species lists • Action statements • Threatened communities • Potentially threatening processes • Section 4 subsection 2 requires public authorities (including CMAs) to have regards to the objectives of the Act
<i>Forests Act 1958</i>	Provides for the management of State forests, including the protection of public land from fire, the development of working plans, and licensed occupations, including grazing, beekeeping and the sale of forest produce.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State assets • Regional Forest Agreements • Forest Management Plans
<i>Heritage Rivers Act 1992</i>	Provides for the protection of public land in certain rivers and river catchment areas in Victoria that have significant nature conservation, recreation, scenic or cultural heritage attributes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage rivers and natural catchments areas
<i>Land Act 1958</i>	Provides for the leasing, occupation and sale of unreserved Crown Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management
<i>Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990</i>	Encourages an economically viable mining industry that makes the best use of mineral resources in a way that is compatible with the economic, social and environmental objectives of the State.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation requirements • Management of environmental impacts • Public safety and land use concerns • Negotiation of access and/or compensation agreements with landowners
<i>Murray-Darling Basin Act 1993</i>	Provides for an agreement between the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia with regard to the water, land and other environmental resources of the Murray-Darling Basin. Provides for the Ministerial Council and Murray-Darling Basin Authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities within the Murray-Darling Basin Plan
<i>National Parks Act 1975</i>	Provides for government administration and management of parks, appointment of a National Parks Advisory Council and park advisory committees. Provides for specialised uses and activities, including those of a non-conforming nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State assets and plans • National and State Parks, Marine National Parks and Sanctuaries

State legislation	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
<i>Parks Victoria Act 1998</i>	Established Parks Victoria to manage Victoria's national, state, regional and metropolitan parks, conservation reserves, significant cultural assets and Melbourne's bays and major waterways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the Parks • Parks Management Plans • Assets
<i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>	Established a framework for planning the use, development and protection of land in Victoria in the present and long-term interests of all Victorians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the CaLP Act CMAs can recommend amendments to a planning scheme to give effect to the RCS
<i>Reference Areas Act 1978</i>	Provides for the proclamation of reference areas to serve as a reference for comparative purposes, particularly research identifying and solving problems caused by the use of the land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management activities must be consistent with ministerial directives The guidelines for the Management of Reference Areas 1998 contain prescriptions for activities in reference areas and their buffers
<i>Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004</i>	Provides for the sustainable management of forests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the Forests Reporting • Sustainability Charter
<i>Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010</i>	Allows the Victorian Government to make agreements to recognise Traditional Owners and their rights in Crown land, in return for agreement to withdraw all current native title claims and not to lodge any claims in the future. Agreements can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hand back of parks and reserves to be jointly managed with the State (Land Agreement) • A new simplified regime to guide consultation and negotiation for activities that have a substantial impact on Traditional Owners' rights in Crown land (Land Use Activity Agreement) • Increased access to, and sustainable use of natural resources (Natural Resource Agreement). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties • Gunaikurnai Settlement Agreement • Yorta Yorta Agreement • Wimmera Settlement Agreement • Gunditjmara Settlement Agreement • River Red Gum Boards of Management commitments
<i>Victorian Conservation Trust Act 1972</i>	Established the Trust for Nature, which protects bushland with land management agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust for Nature • Covenants
<i>Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001</i>	Established the Council to conduct investigations and make recommendations relating to the protection and ecologically sustainable management of the environment and natural resources of public land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for public land • Government responses to investigations e.g. Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation
<i>Water (Irrigation Farm Dams) Act 2002</i>	Extends licensing arrangements to cover all irrigation and commercial use in the catchment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water management
<i>Wildlife Act 1975</i>	Covers the management of State wildlife and nature reserves, wildlife management co-operative areas, prohibited areas and sanctuaries and for the management of wildlife licences, research and management, noxious wildlife, offences and enforcement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State assets – wildlife and nature reserves

Table 4: Relevant state policies.

State policies	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
Alpine Resorts Strategic Plan 2012	Sets out a framework for the development, promotion, management and use of Victoria's six alpine resorts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of water quality, control of runoff and effective catchment management at the headwaters of a range of important river systems • Consultation requirements
Coastal Spaces Landscape Assessment Study 2006	Provides an assessment of landscape characteristics; identification of visually significant landscapes from border to border; and a detailed framework to assist landholders and agencies to manage development impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies visually significant landscapes along the coast and tools and information to manage and protect them
Coastcare Victoria Strategy 2011-2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthens community groups • Supports community participation in coastal management • Broadens community engagement in coastal issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement
Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2012	<p>Governs the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's fire management activities, and sets out two main objectives for managing fire on public land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise the impact of major bushfires on human life, communities, essential and community infrastructure, industries, the economy and the environment. Human life will be afforded priority over all other considerations. • Maintain or improve the resilience of natural ecosystems and their ability to deliver services such as biodiversity, water, carbon storage and forest products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk-based bushfire management and planning • Prevention • Preparedness • Fuel management (including planned burning) • Response • Recovery • Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
Invasive Plants and Animal Policy Framework 2010	<p>Overarching approach to the management of existing and potential invasive species within the context of the Whole of Government Biosecurity Strategy for Victoria.</p> <p>Incorporates a biosecurity approach and ensures that Victoria maintains a comprehensive planning framework to guide future policy, planning and community activity specific to invasive species.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning framework • Regional Invasive Plants and Animals Strategies
Native Vegetation Management – A Framework for Action 2005	Sets out the broad approach to achieving a net gain in the extent and quality of native vegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Vegetation Management Plans
Regional Riparian Action Plan 2015	Outlines riparian management outcomes and aspirational targets for regional Victoria 2015-16 to 2019-20 with an aim to accelerate improvement in the condition of riparian land for priority waterways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional riparian priorities and outcomes • Statewide initiatives
State Environment Protection Policy (Groundwaters of Victoria) 2003	<p>Provides an integrated framework of environment protection goals for groundwater.</p> <p>Aims to maintain and improve groundwater quality to a standard that protects existing and potential beneficial uses of groundwaters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEPP provisions to be implemented through regional catchment strategies and other management strategies • Research and monitoring

State policies	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) 2003	Aims to help achieve sustainable surface waters by: setting out the environmental values and beneficial uses of water that Victorians want, and the environmental quality required to protect them; and setting, within a 10-year timeframe, goals for protection, agencies, businesses and communities and means by which they can be met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large number of actions in the SEPP implemented through regional catchment strategies • Clause 10 of the SEPP, list the objectives • The policy is under review
Sustainability Charter for Victoria's State Forests 2006	Provides the vision and key objectives for the management of Victoria's State forests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level management objectives for State forests
The Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework	Brings together Government and Aboriginal community commitments and efforts to create a better future for Victoria's Aboriginal population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informs the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Aboriginal Inclusion Plan 2016-2020
Victoria's Biodiversity Strategy 1997	Fulfils commitments in the National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity and requirements under Victoria's <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998</i> with a series of goals for biodiversity management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key management approaches, and directions for largely natural landscapes, seascapes, rural landscapes • Urban areas and urban fringes
Victoria's Nature-Based Tourism Strategy 2008-2012	Advocates for a range of tourism activities and infrastructure on both public land and freehold land. It also identifies regulatory and policy changes required to improve nature based tourism opportunities and to create a more enabling investment environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It identifies key regions within the State as a focus for nature based tourism activities • Funding of strategy expired on 30 June 2011
Victorian Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils Strategy 2009	Aims to protect the environment, humans and infrastructure from the potentially harmful effects of disturbing coastal acid sulfate soils. Supported by the Victorian Best Practice Guidelines for Assessing and Managing Coastal Acid Sulfate Soils 2010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposes a series of actions to help land managers and other authorities address the issues of coastal acid sulfate soils
Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014	Provides a long-term vision for the planning, management and sustainable use of our coast. It is a framework to assist in the development and implementation of other locally and regionally specific strategies and plans such as coastal management plans, regional coastal plans, and planning schemes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and actions relating to planning and management of the coast and coastal catchments • Key issues • Hierarchy of Principles • Regional Coastal Plans • Roles and responsibilities
Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy 2016	Sets the proposed direction for floodplain management. It aligns with responses to the Victorian Floods Review and the parliamentary inquiry into flood mitigation infrastructure. It also aligns with the broader emergency management framework set out in the <i>Emergency Management Act 2013</i> . It helps integrate floodplain management with the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013 and the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2014.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-wide policy framework • Priorities • Requirement for Regional Floodplain Management Strategies

State policies	Purpose	Matters relevant to catchment management
Victorian Landcare Program Strategic Plan 2012	The purpose of this Strategic Plan is to support the Landcare community. The Strategic Plan outlines the five functions of Landcare that the program will target with its support: Operate, Engage, Collaborate Do and Tell.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Landcare Grants • Landcare support staff: Regional Landcare Coordinators, Aboriginal Landcare Facilitator • Victorian Landcare Gateway website • Victorian Landcare and Catchment Management Magazine • Victorian Landcare Awards
Victorian Planning Provisions 1998/99	Provides a framework within which decisions about the use and development of land can be made; expresses state, regional, local and community expectations for areas and land uses; and implements State, regional and local policies affecting land use and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Planning Policy Framework – Planning must consider as relevant any RCS approved under the CALP Act • Local Planning Policy Framework
Victorian Soil Health Strategy 2012	Articulates the soil health management goals, outcomes and actions to guide planning and government investment in soil health across public and private land for environmental benefits in Victoria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support work in planning and managing for the environmental benefits of soil health • Framework for regional and local planning and delivery of soil health • Priorities for investment related to soil research, development and extension
Victorian Waterway Management Strategy 2013	Provides the framework for government, in partnership with the community, to maintain or improve the condition of rivers, estuaries and wetlands so that they can continue to provide environmental, social, cultural and economic values. The framework is based on regional planning processes and decision making within the broader system of integrated catchment management in Victoria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State priorities for management • Regional waterway strategies

