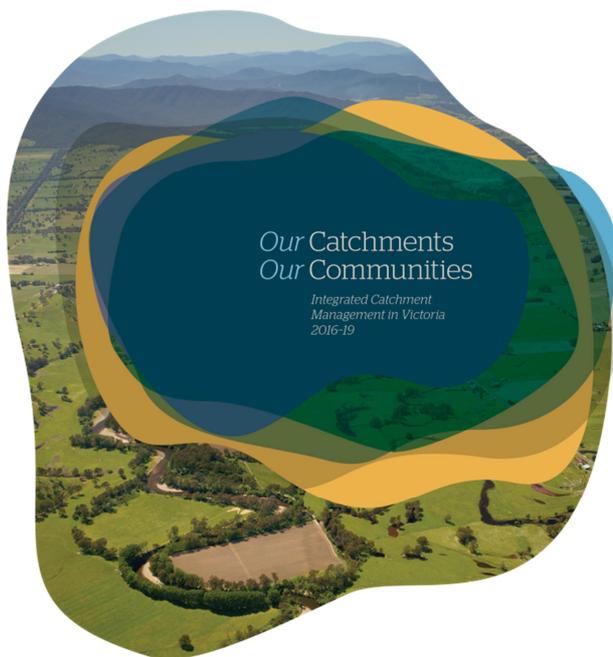


Our Catchments, Our Communities

Integrated Catchment Management in Victoria 2016-19

Working better together to improve integrated catchment management

Victoria's environment is one of our greatest assets. It underpins our economy and provides social and recreational values that benefit our communities. Maintaining the health of our catchments is essential to sustain our environment and our liveability into the future.



Our Catchments, Our Communities - Integrated Catchment Management in Victoria 2016-19 is the first statewide strategy for integrated catchment management in Victoria. It focuses on how catchment management partners can work better and more effectively to manage the state's natural resources.

The strategy will ensure Victoria's approach to catchment management is ready for future environmental and economic challenges and opportunities. Climate change, intensifying land use, and natural disasters such as bushfires and floods will have significant implications for how we manage our catchments.

Catchment Communities and Partners

People are integral to the effective management of our catchments. Many individuals, groups and organisations have important roles to improve the health and productivity of our varied landscapes.

Our Catchments, Our Communities focuses on people working better together to coordinate planning, investment and on-ground activities as a more effective and efficient way to achieve a range of environmental, economic and social outcomes.

The strategy has been developed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, and Catchment Management Authorities in collaboration with the Victorian Catchment Management Council, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, and Parks Victoria.

It responds to significant state and regional feedback received from many partners and communities during consultation in November 2015.

Our Vision

'Healthy, sustainable and productive land, water and biodiversity maintained through integrated catchment management that is strongly community based, regionally focused and collaborative.'

Our Goals and Actions

The following goals and actions will address the current challenges in our catchment management framework.

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Goal 1. Effective community engagement in catchment management

Action 1.1. Strengthen the diversity and equity of community representation in the catchment and land protection advisory system.

Action 1.2. Strengthen community engagement in regional planning and implementation

Goal 2. Better connections between state, regional and local planning

Action 2.1. Ensure alignment between state, regional and local plans that impact on land, water, biodiversity and Regional Catchment Strategies

Action 2.2. Incorporate key improvements for integrated catchment management in the next round of Regional Catchment Strategies.

Goal 3. Strengthened implementation of Regional Catchment Strategies

Action 3.1. Implement an investment framework that supports the coordination and accountability for the delivery of Regional Catchment Strategy priorities.

Action 3.2. Improve regional investment processes to strengthen the engagement of regional partners in priority setting, allocation of funds and leveraging.

Goal 4. Clearer roles, strengthened accountability and coordination

Action 4.1. Improve accountability of catchment management partners.

Action 4.2. Strengthen coordination between key catchment management partners.

Goal 5. Improved monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Action 5.1. Improve state and regional catchment reporting.

Action 5.2. Ensure the evidence base, including research and development, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting, supports and informs planning and adaptive management.

Investment Framework

The Victorian Government has provided \$22 million to implement *Our Catchments, Our Communities* over the next four years (2016/17 – 2019/20).

This funding will deliver community capacity building, coordination and knowledge building, with a strong focus on supporting the coordination, management and delivery of at least 10 integrated catchment management projects across the state that deliver Regional Catchment Strategy priorities.

Further information

Our Catchments, Our Communities can be found on the DELWP website <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/water>



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