

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting – Roles and Responsibilities for Reporting

Fact Sheet 4

March 2016

A consistent approach to monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) is the key to ensuring that natural resource management agencies can learn from and deliver improved policy, program and project outcomes.

Central to best practice MER is the concept of adaptive management (see Figure 1). Adaptive management aims to maximise opportunities to learn and adapt during and following the implementation of policies, programs and projects.

Consistency and relevance of the underlying data and information is critical to the implementation of an adaptive management approach. Catchment management partners need to have the right information to support decision making when reporting on investment.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) and other catchment agencies have been working together on a MER Framework that provides consistent language and standards to support sharing data and information for more comprehensive and collaborative reporting on the condition and management of catchments.

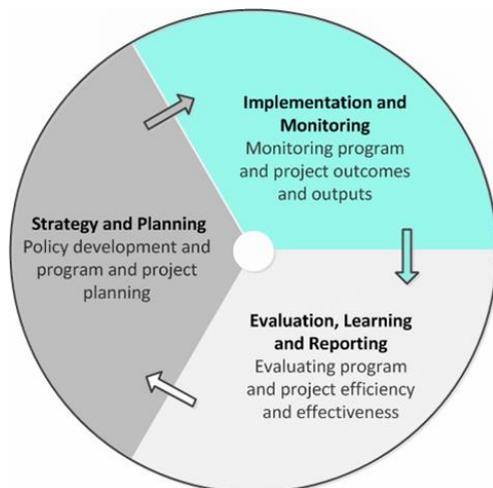


Figure 1: Key elements of the adaptive management cycle.



Roles and Responsibilities for Reporting

A number of agencies are responsible for reporting on the condition and management of catchments. These responsibilities cover:

- Statewide catchment condition and environmental reporting – the quality of key statewide environmental assets and the status of threats to those assets.
- Management reporting – progress with plans and strategies in the long term (20+ years) or short to medium term (5+ years).
- Output reporting – activities and achievements of management programs conducted by government agencies and the community.

Figure 2 outlines how these responsibilities are shared across a range of agencies, including the Office of the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, the Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC), CMAs, DELWP and Parks Victoria.

In addition to management and condition reporting, Figure 2 shows that environmental accounts provide a framework to report on the inventory of the State's environmental assets, and the services and benefits they provide over time, along with transactions involving expenditure on the environment. DELWP has led the work on environmental accounting and valuation and produced 'ecosystem accounts' in 2013 for Victoria.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability

The Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (CfES) is appointed under the *Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability (CES) Act 2003*. The Commissioner’s role includes the publication of a State of the Environment (SoE) report every five years.

The SoE report provides an assessment of the condition of the environment in Victoria and includes data and indicators associated with air quality, climate change mitigation and human settlements.

Under the CES Act, the Commissioner is an independent office, however, the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water approves the framework that sets the strategy and approach for the report.

The *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) directs the VCMC to prepare a Catchment Condition and Management Report at five-yearly intervals (next report due in 2017). This includes an assessment of the condition and management of land and water resources within catchments.

Catchment Management Authorities

CMAs report annually in response to their requirements under the CaLP Act to report on the condition and management of land and water resources in their regions, and the carrying out of their functions. These functions also include their responsibilities to develop, coordinate and monitor the implementation of Regional Catchment Strategies (RCS). Reporting on the management of land and water resources includes reporting on the broad range of on-ground activities delivered through government investment across a range of catchment agencies.

Victorian Catchment Management Council

		Reporting logic	Focus		
State of the Environment Reporting (CFES)	Catchment Condition and Management Reporting (VCMC)	State-wide Environmental Condition Reporting	Quality	The state and change in quality of environmental assets within Victoria.	Environmental Accounts can be reported at each level, including contribution to ecosystem services.
			Threats	The state and trajectory of key threats to environmental assets.	
	Reporting on State and regional policy and strategies, including RCS	Management Reporting	Progress with plans and strategies	Progress with policies and strategies such as the Regional Catchment Strategies, the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy, the Coastal Strategy etc.	
Annual output reporting and investment acquittal (CMAs, DELWP, Trust for Nature, Parks Victoria)		Output Reporting	Outputs from investment activities	Outputs and achievements from investment programs (recorded and reported by CMAs using the DELWP output data standard). May also include descriptive reporting on successes and the release of new information.	

Figure 2: How reporting responsibilities are shared across natural resource management agencies.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

DELWP develops environmental policies, strategies and programs, and invests in the management of the environment through its regional partners such as CMAs. DELWP also undertakes statewide monitoring (e.g. the Index of Stream Condition, which provides an integrated measure of river health) and provides information and data to the VCMC, CMAs and the CfES to assist with the production of their reports.

Parks Victoria

Parks Victoria is a statutory authority created under the *Parks Victoria Act 1998* and reports to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water. Parks Victoria delivers on a range of activities across Victoria's parks network to protect and enhance park values. Management responsibilities and activities are reported in its annual report.

A summary of statewide and regional reporting requirements

Five-yearly State of the Environment Reporting	Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability
Five-yearly statewide reporting on the condition and management of land and water resources in Victoria	Victorian Catchment Management Council
Reporting on management outcomes from plans and strategies	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Parks Victoria Catchment Management Authorities
Annual reporting on the condition and management of land and water resources in the region	Catchment Management Authorities
Annual reporting on activity and outcomes from investment programs	Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning Parks Victoria Catchment Management Authorities Trust for Nature

