

# Preparing for Floods: The right tools at a local level

## Regional Floodplain Management Strategies



# Implementing a new floodplain management strategy

## Why be involved?

Local government authorities (LGAs), catchment management authorities (CMAs), Melbourne Water and the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), in partnership with the community and other organisations, have a critical role in preparing for floods at the local level.

The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy (VFMS) was launched on 20 April 2016 by the Minister for Water, Lisa Neville. The VFMS was developed following extensive consultation with the local government sector, CMAs, government authorities and the community. The VFMS sets out the accountabilities, policies and actions for local governments, agencies and government departments involved in flood prevention and mitigation. For more information, read the Strategy at <http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/water/new-victorian-floodplain-management-strategy>.

Regional Floodplain Management Strategies (RFMSs) are the starting point for local governments and other stakeholders to identify priority flood management activities. These activities may include providing flood information to the insurance market, tailoring flood warning systems and flood emergency response to local needs, improving flood overlays in land use planning schemes, and dealing with coastal and urban storm water flooding issues.

To support the implementation, the Victorian Government is providing funding of \$25 million over four years. The cost-sharing arrangements for the flood management activities between LGAs and the Victorian Government are outlined in the VFMS.



## How RFMSs will be developed

RFMSs will be developed for each CMA region. This process will be led by the relevant CMA in partnership with stakeholders and the community.

RFMSs will help agencies and communities align their priorities for flood management activities. The regional strategies will use rolling three-year regional implementation plans that include clear actions and activities for local governments, agencies and government departments.

Actions will only be included in a RFMS where the responsible authority agrees to implement them.

Steering committees will guide RFMS development in each region. The steering committees, established by the relevant CMA, will operate within defined terms of reference specific to the needs of each region.

DELWP is developing a set of guidelines and guidance notes to help CMAs, agencies and steering committees with the development process. DELWP will evaluate each RFMS to ensure it is consistent with the guidelines.

Some initial work has begun on the RFMSs with preliminary regional flood risk assessments under way.





## Victorian floodplain management strategic framework



### Floodplain management activities:



Planning and building systems



Urban and stormwater flood management



Coastal flood management



Flood warnings and emergency management

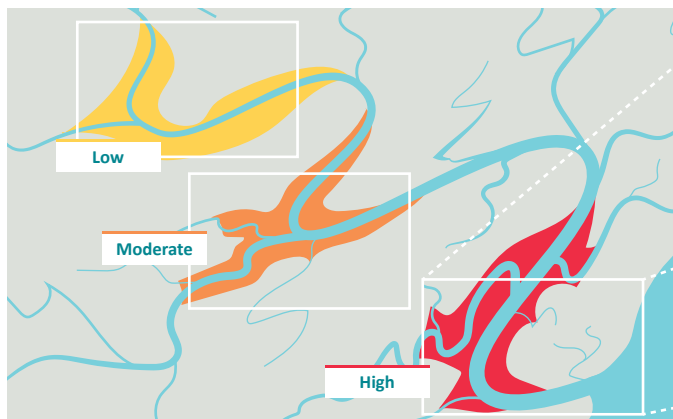


Flood mitigation infrastructure



Flood insurance

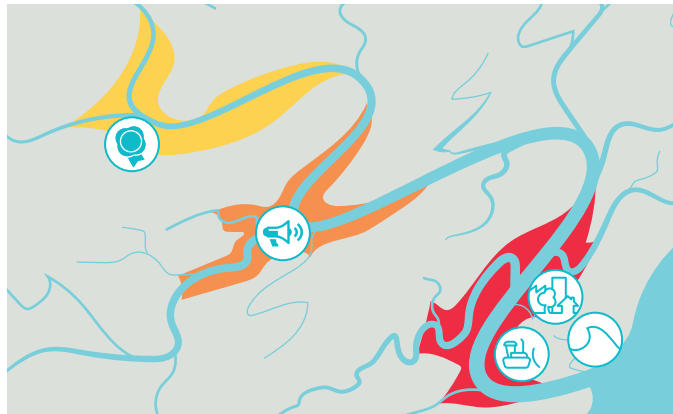
### Regional risk assessment



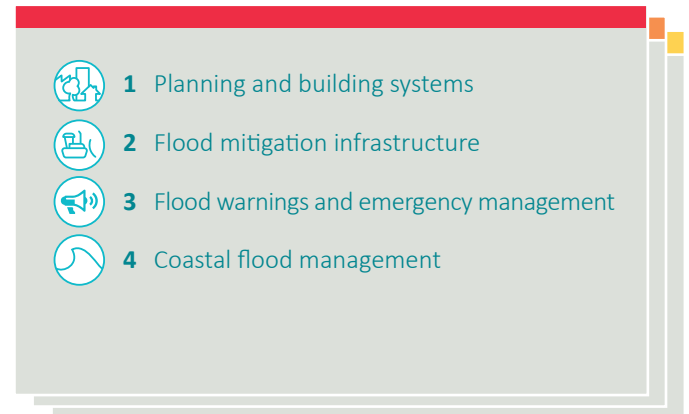
### Local flood risk assessment and mitigation



### Regional highest flood mitigation priorities



### Local flood mitigation priorities



Clockwise from top left: Step 1: Conducting a standardised assessment identifying areas with different levels of risk.  
 Step 2: For each of the local risk areas the community will identify potential flood mitigation activities.  
 Step 3: Consultation will be conducted with communities to prioritise risk mitigation activities at a local level.  
 Step 4: Agencies will partner to deliver high-priority activities.



# Translating regional priorities into local action

## Planning and building systems

The RFMSs will document and report on all urban and rural areas with known flood risks. They will also document and report on townships that do not have planning controls to regulate any use or development within the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood area. Local flood investigation may be required prior to implementing flood-related planning amendments.

## Flood mitigation infrastructure

The RFMSs will identify the regional risks that may justify the building of any new flood mitigation infrastructure, such as levees. They will identify areas where the need for flood mitigation infrastructure should be investigated in more detail.

Appropriate governance and maintenance arrangements are essential in ensuring existing flood mitigation infrastructure is ready to perform when needed. The RFMSs will identify existing infrastructure and assess whether the current governance arrangements are appropriate. Local investigations may be required to identify ownership and management responsibility.

## Flood warning and emergency management

A Total Flood Warning System (TFWS) encompasses all the elements necessary to maximise the effectiveness of flood response. These elements are data collection and prediction, interpretation, message

construction, communication, community education, and flood emergency response. The RFMSs will assess the current TFWSs capability and identify potential improvements. Local investigations may be required to detail and implement any improvements.

## Coastal flood management

The RFMSs will document and report on all areas with known coastal flood risks. They will also assess whether planning controls are required to regulate any use or development within the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability flood area. Coastal flood response arrangements will be noted in the RFMSs, and their initial adequacy assessed. Local investigations may be required to improve available coastal flood mapping and update coastal flood response arrangements.

## Urban flood management

The RFMSs will document locations in regional urban centres with a history of stormwater flooding. Opportunities to consider integrated water management options may be undertaken in local investigations.

## Flood insurance and flood data sharing

Sharing flood data with communities and the insurance industry helps promote understanding of flood risk. The RFMSs will document available flood data and access to this data. Where required, additional flood data will be shared.

## Getting involved

Each RFMS will involve significant consultation with the relevant authorities. CMAs will also run a public consultation period where the community will be able to provide feedback.

Local knowledge is critical to understanding flood behaviour and options for flood mitigation. Community information will be integral to the development of RFMS and setting regional and local priorities for flood management.

To get involved in the development of your local RFMS or find out more, contact your local CMA:

Corangamite – [www.ccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccma.vic.gov.au) – 03 5232 9100  
East Gippsland – [www.egcma.com.au](http://www.egcma.com.au) – 03 5152 0600  
Glenelg Hopkins – [www.ghcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au) – 03 5562 6104  
Goulburn Broken – [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au) – 03 5820 1100  
Mallee – [www.malleecma.vic.gov.au](http://www.malleecma.vic.gov.au) – 03 5051 4377  
North Central – [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au) – 03 5448 7124  
North East – [www.necma.vic.gov.au](http://www.necma.vic.gov.au) – 02 6043 7600  
West Gippsland – [www.wgcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wgcma.vic.gov.au) – 1300 094 262  
Wimmera [www.wcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au) 03 5382 1544

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The Victorian Government proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture; and pays its respects to their Elders past and present. The government also recognises the intrinsic connection of Traditional Owners to Country and acknowledges their contribution in the management of land, water and resources. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely. We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

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