

FUNCTIONS

Advise the Minister and provide information to the Minister on any matter referred to the Council by the Minister

Advise on matters relating to catchment management, the condition of land & water resources and on priorities for catchment management

Advise on research and development priorities related to catchment management

Encourage and facilitate cooperation of bodies & persons involved in land & water management

Promote community awareness & understanding issues relating to catchment management

Other statutory functions under CaLP Act 1994, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, etc

PROJECTS

Commissioned Ministerial and Departmental projects

Departments' NRM policy projects e.g. Land and Biodiversity Green and White Papers

Catchment Condition Report 2007 and beyond: see attached 'Six Steps Action Plan'

Contribution to other NRM projects

Knowledge management leadership

Catchment knowledge exchange project

VCMC/CMA relationships

Communications and promotion of Catchment Management Framework

FFG referrals and advice

Engagement project/s to be identified including promotion of selected recommendations in indigenous engagement paper

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Providing strategic advice on integrated catchment management priorities, investment decisions and project directions
Performance measures
Deliver timely advice to Minister as requested
Provide ICM perspective to VWT, SWSs etc
Provide ICM perspective to Land and Biodiversity policy

Completing all project (VCMC led plus VCMC as contributor) milestones, plus weed referral and FFG listings in a timely fashion
Performance measures
Deliver on VCMC led 'Six Steps Action Plan' (from CCR2007) tasks in timely fashion
Deliver Catchment Knowledge Exchange project-related milestones in timely fashion
Contribute to achievement of milestones for other related projects
Provide advice to the Minister on the declaration of Weeds in a timely fashion
Complete all FFG referrals

Champion catchment management framework
Performance measures
Strengthen relationships with CMAs
Willingness of stakeholders to participate in forums
Lift VCMC profile through active engagement with organisations and individuals
Provide leadership on ICM, land stewardship, ESS etc

ACTIVITIES

Activities related to projects commissioned by the Minister: e.g. advice re future NRM and funding arrangements
Advice to Departments as requested
Regular briefings from Departments to Council, to integrate land and water reforms within broad ICM framework
Chair on SWS Consultation Committees to champion ICM approach
Chair Stakeholder Reference Group for Land and Biodiversity Green Paper process
Provide inputs and submissions to White Paper process
Oversight of catchment condition reporting at the strategic level
Implement VCMC's 'Six Steps Action Plan' tasks for 2008-09 (Attachment 1 to the Work Plan 2008-09)
Promotion of CCR2007
Input to related DSE/DPI projects eg TBL indicators, SoE
Complete CKE project outcomes eg journal article/s, submission on knowledge brokering to White Paper, revised business case
Recommendations to Minister on weed declarations; participate in related activities, including Noxious Weeds Review; ensure communications plan for Review; liaise on emerging issues
FFG referrals advice under CaLP and FFG Acts completed
VCMC Strategic Plan and Work Plan submitted to Minister
Annual Report for 2007-08 prepared
Any guidelines for Regional Catchment Strategies and Special Area Plans considered and endorsed
Participation in relevant seminars and conferences
Implement selected recommendations in position paper on indigenous engagement eg status of protocols in CMA regions
Stakeholders forum convened as needed
Contribution to volunteering and landcare activities
Strengthened VCMA-CMAs relationship and effective communications
Actively participate in CMA Chairs and CEOs forums
3 regional visits to CMAs undertaken
Assist with the organisation of the Victorian Catchment Management conference
Prepare handover report and induction for new Council for 2009-2012

VCMC Vision: "Victoria will have healthy rivers flowing through ecologically sustainable and productive catchments"

Strategic Goals July 2006 - June 2009: our legacy

1. To provide timely and sound advice to Minister and Departments either as requested, commissioned or as determined by Council
2. To provide leadership for the Catchment Management Framework through the articulation of 'big ideas'
3. To develop a better understanding of catchment condition, management, trends and priorities and communicate this information and our interpretation to Minister, Departments and the broader community
4. To increase our own understanding of knowledge management; and trial and evaluate implementation of knowledge brokering
5. To contribute to a strengthened Catchment Management Framework in Victoria through relationships, communications and promotion
6. To complete all statutory requirements in a timely manner and at a high level of quality

Performance indicators: note that these cut across the Strategic Goals; and that all our goals and activities have been formulated within an adaptive management context

Timely advice provided to Minister through forums, letters, responses to submissions etc, based on vision, strategic goals and principles
VCMC contributes to catchment management policy directions eg through active participation in Land and Biodiversity Green/White Papers process
Active contribution to the work of VWT, SWSs, SoE etc

Catchment Condition Report (CCR) tabled in Parliament by 31 October 2007
Leadership on: ICM, land stewardship, ecosystems services, MER
CCR reported widely (and used as basis for Council advice in other activities)
CCR statewide report card, including assessment of condition of key land and water resources, completed and extensively used

Catchment Knowledge Exchange (CKE) project completed by December 2007
CKE model taken up by others in NRM field, especially use of knowledge brokers
Business case developed and its feasibility assessed by June 2008,
Active participation in R&D development through eWater, LWA, PIRVic etc

Support and promotion of the Catchment Management Framework (CMF)
Active participation in CMA Chairs and CEOs' Forum; ten regional visits
Successful hosting and co-hosting with CMAs of several seminars and conferences
Role in engagement with Local Government, agribusiness, indigenous communities, landcare and other volunteering groups identified and implemented
Investigation of status of indigenous protocols across CMF
Effective communications: website maintenance, publications, sponsorship, conversations etc

Annual Workplans drafted and adopted by Council, then submitted to Minister by October 2006, July 2007 and July 2008 respectively
Annual reports tabled in Parliament by end October each year
Contribution to development of and sign-off on any guidelines for Regional Catchment Strategies and Special Area Plans.
Recommendations to Minister on weed declarations; advice on issues concerning the Victorian Pest Management Framework, participate on Pest Management Coordinating Committee, Noxious Weeds Review Committee and others; liaise on any emerging issues; advice as required under *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act*; leadership in specific areas of weed and pest issues