



Fact Sheet 10 of 10 Strategic documents and useful resources

This fact sheet will provide you with links and information to key strategic documents and useful information for consideration in planning your project.

Strategic documents

The following strategic documents may be valuable in helping you to design and plan your project.

- Biodiversity 2037
- Biodiversity Response Planning
- Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-28
- Marine and Coastal Policy
- Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017-2027 (EMP)
- Port Phillip and Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy
- Pupangarli Marnmarnepu – Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025
- Traditional Owner Country Plans
- Victorians Volunteering for Nature – Environmental Volunteering Plan
- Yarra Strategic Plan

Biodiversity 2037

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 (commonly referred to as **Biodiversity 2037**) is the Victorian State Government's policy response to addressing the decline in biodiversity. The Biodiversity Plan presents a long-term vision for Victoria's biodiversity supported by two goals:

1. Victorians Value Nature, and
2. Victoria's natural environment is healthy

Specific targets have been developed to deliver on these goals, and 20 priorities have been identified to guide actions. Conservation actions delivered through the plan will be more strategic, deliver better value for money and will be underpinned by the best available science to ensure efforts deliver the most benefit for the most species.

A collaborative Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Framework has been developed to track the progress of achieving the Plan's goals and targets.

For further information, visit <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/biodiversity-plan>

Biodiversity Response Planning

Applicants are encouraged to submit projects that occur on Biodiversity Response Planning Focus Landscapes, identified in 2020. Biodiversity response planning is an area-based planning approach to biodiversity conservation in Victoria.

Use the map to locate your project in or near a Focus Landscape. Focus Landscapes are areas that will achieve the most outcomes for biodiversity as a result of environmental action.

Fact Sheets are available that describe each Focus Landscape, including the species or communities that occur there, their threats and actions to address the threats that will achieve the most outcomes for biodiversity in that landscape.

Use the Fact Sheets to help design your project.

- Focus Landscapes Interactive Map
- Biodiversity Response Planning Fact Sheets

For further information, visit <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/working-together-for-biodiversity>

Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-28

The Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018-28 sets a long-term vision for managing the health of rivers, wetlands and estuaries in the Port Phillip and Westernport region, in order to protect and improve their value to the community.

The strategy is shared across Melbourne Water, state and local government, water corporations and the community, who have all voiced their commitment to achieving this together.

The strategy brings together scientific and stakeholder knowledge in a single, comprehensive framework for the region's five major catchments: Werribee, Maribyrnong, Yarra, Dandenong and Westernport. For each catchment, it outlines:

- a vision
- goals
- long-term targets (10 to 50 years)
- ten-year performance objectives.

These objectives and targets are aligned and prioritised to contribute to the best waterway outcomes for effort and investment across the region.

For further information, visit <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/about/strategies-and-reports/healthy-waterways-strategy>

Marine and Coastal Policy

The Marine and Coastal Policy guides decision makers in the planning, management and sustainable use of our coastal and marine environment. It provides direction to decision makers including local councils and land managers on a range of issues such as dealing with the impacts of climate change, population growth and ageing coastal structures.

For further information, visit <https://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastal-management/marine-and-coastal-policy>

Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017-2027 (EMP)

The plan was developed by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in partnership with Melbourne Water and the Environment Protection Authority Victoria. It is part of the Victorian

Government's commitment to ensure Port Phillip Bay remains healthy and resilient over the coming decade. The plan has three main goals to guide future action and investment over the next 10 years:

1. Stewardship of the Bay is fostered across community, industry and government
2. Water quality is improved to ensure environmental health and community enjoyment of the Bay
3. The Bay's habitats and marine life are thriving

For further information, visit <https://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/port-phillip-bay>

Port Phillip & Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy

Regional Catchment Strategies bring together organisations, groups and communities that are active in land, water and biodiversity management in their region.

The strategy outlines the vision for its region, assesses current condition and sets targets for the future. They outline how work in each region contributes to implementing government policies and achieving statewide targets, whilst also incorporating the knowledge and priorities of local communities.

For further information, visit <https://portphillipwesternport.rcs.vic.gov.au/>

Pupangarli Marnmarnepu – Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025

Pupangarli Marnmarnepu – Aboriginal Self-Determination Reform Strategy 2020-2025 is the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's (DEECA) commitment to partner with Victoria's First Peoples to advance self-determination.

DEECA Biodiversity Environment and Community Grants works towards this vision by supporting Traditional Owners' rights on Country so that their aspirations for land, water and culture are realised.

For further information, visit <https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/aboriginalselfdetermination/self-determination-reform-strategy>

Victorians Volunteering for Nature – Environmental Volunteering Plan

Victorians Volunteering for Nature – Environmental Volunteering Plan is a coordinated approach to environmental volunteering that supports and fosters a sustainable, modern, effective and valued environmental sector in Victoria. The Environmental Volunteering Plan has four key focus areas:

1. Sustain – to sustain existing environmental volunteering programs and networks
2. Expand – to regenerate environmental volunteering and encourage for Victorians to act for nature
3. Value – to value and recognise the contributions and environmental volunteers, and
4. Understand – to understand the diverse needs of the environmental volunteering sector.

Specific actions have been identified under each focus area to address barriers to participation in environmental volunteering, celebrate volunteer contributions, and facilitate new and innovative ways for the public to act for the environment.

For further information, visit <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/environmental-volunteering/volunteering>

Yarra Strategic Plan

Melbourne Water is leading the development of the Yarra Strategic Plan, which will give effect to the community's long-term vision for the Yarra and support collaborative management of the river.

Delivering the plan is a Victorian Government commitment to protect our treasured Yarra River, Birrarung, and its parklands for future generations.

The draft Yarra Strategic Plan is a regional strategy that guides local planning and decision making and outlines the first 10 years of work to deliver the 50-year community vision for the Yarra.

For further information, visit <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/about/strategies-and-reports/yarra-strategic-plan>

Useful resources

The following resources may also assist in helping you to design and plan your project.

- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide
- Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC)
- Child Safe Standards
- Citizen science project planning
- Coastal Management Act consent
- CoastKit
- Cultural Heritage
- DEECA Regions and office locations
- Incorporation through Consumer Affairs Victoria
- Land manager consent to undertake works
- NatureKit
- Strategic Management Prospects - tools to support biodiversity decisions
- Volunteering Naturally 2020

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Guide assists Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and networks that care for Victoria's landscapes to better understand the state's Aboriginal cultural heritage management process.

The guide steps out the process for meeting the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and helps groups and networks determine whether a Cultural Heritage Permit is required. The guide also provides the key Aboriginal cultural heritage contacts, including for the 11 Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) in Victoria.

For further information, visit <https://www.landcarevic.org.au/resources/aboriginal-cultural-heritage-guide/>

Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC)

To see if your organisation is already registered as a not for profit, and for more information about registering, please visit the ACNC website: <http://www.acnc.gov.au>

DEECA Biodiversity Environment and Community Grants

Child Safe Standards

For information about Child Safe Standards, please visit the Department of Health and Human Services website: <http://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/resources-child-safe-standards>

Citizen science project planning

There are many facets to citizen science but in general terms, it is about the public engaging with and sharing science in relation to the natural world.

This could be through random observations and reporting, organised surveys, monitoring project progress and outcomes, recording methodologies and sharing knowledge to improve recovery of species and their habitats.

For support resources and sites relating to citizen science, visit the SWIFFT website: https://www.swiff.net.au/cb_pages/citizen_science.php

Coastal Management Act consent

Projects between the outer limit of Victorian coastal waters and 200 metres inland of the high-water mark of the sea and on Crown land or water covering Crown land will need consent under the Marine and Coastal Act 2018. Most applicants working in water or near the coast will need to apply for consent.

A small number of projects that involve site maintenance (for example, maintaining existing structures, fixing fences) may be covered under the general consent that was issued by the Minister in 2013 – if you think your project could be in this category, please speak to your local DEECA office to confirm.

For further information, visit <https://www.coastsandmarine.vic.gov.au/coastal-management/information-for-coastal-managers>

CoastKit

CoastKit has been developed by DEECA to provide an online data repository for the community to explore and use Victoria's marine and coastal information. For example, using CoastKit, you can view the Coastal Hazard Rating of Victoria's coastline which provides an erosion rating of each section of the coastline.

For further information, visit <https://www.marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/coastal-programs/coastkit>

DEWLP Regions and office locations

To locate your local DEECA Region and office location, please go to: <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/communities-and-regions/regions-and-locations>

Incorporation through Consumer Affairs Victoria

To find your group's incorporation number, and for information about incorporating, please visit the Consumer Affairs Victoria website: <https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/clubs-and-not-for-profits/incorporated-associations>

Land manager consent to undertake works

Applicants will need to demonstrate that the site land managers, both public and private, support the project being carried out on the land they manage. A short letter or email from your land manager will need to be attached to your application. Formal approval is not required at the application stage.

For advice about land manager consent, please refer to the relevant contacts below:

- DEECA for crown land on 136 186, or your DEECA local office <https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/communities-and-regions/regions-and-locations>
- Parks Victoria for parks and reserves on 131 963 or your local Parks Victoria office <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/>
- Local government planning staff for council-owned land <https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/>
- <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/>

NatureKit

NatureKit is a free online mapping and data tool developed by DEECA to integrate biodiversity data and support decision making. People can overlay and link related biodiversity datasets to investigate and compare information. For further information, visit <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/naturekit>

DEECA Biodiversity Environment and Community Grants

Strategic Management Prospects - tools to support biodiversity decisions

Strategic Management Prospects (SMP) is a decision support tool which can be accessed through DEECA's online mapping portal NatureKit.

SMP displays how and where we can make the biggest difference for as many species across Victoria as possible. To do this, it combines evidence-based models for thousands of plant and animal habitats, major threats to their survival, and indicative costs of management.

Management options have been assessed by species experts and leaders in conservation. The effectiveness of possible actions is weighed against the costs of delivering them, to identify how we can make the biggest difference possible with the resources we have to protect nature.

For further information, visit <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/natureprint>

Volunteering Naturally 2021

Volunteering Naturally 2021 is a collection and collation of data about active environmental volunteer groups in Victoria. This includes their geographic location, and where possible, the number of volunteers and/or volunteer hours contributed captured through financial year reporting data.

For further information, visit https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0029/494813/Volunteering-Naturally-2020-FINAL.pdf

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA)

The VBA species observations are a foundation dataset that feeds into some of the many biodiversity tools used in everyday decision making - showing where wildlife is now and how this has changed over time. This makes it a core input to the majority of the governments processes and programs that impact native species. Monitoring and time series data, where you have visited the same site over multiple seasons or years using the same method to count individuals, can tell us so much more than one off and chance observations.

For further information, visit <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/victorian-biodiversity-atlas>

Contact us

Program enquiries

If you have any queries, or require more information, please contact the Community Programs team via email at enviro.grants@delwp.vic.gov.au or contact the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on 136 186 during normal business hours. Please quote your application number and the grant program in your communications with DEECA.

Technical difficulties

If you require technical assistance submitting your application online email grantsinfo@delwp.vic.gov.au or call the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on 136 186 during normal business hours. Please quote your application number and the grant program in your communications with DEECA.

© The State of Victoria Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change 2023



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

ISBN 978-1-76105-853-0 (pdf/online/MS word)

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you, but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DEECA Customer Service Centre on 136186, email customer.service@delwp.vic.gov.au or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.deeca.vic.gov.au