

Renewing the North Central Regional Catchment Strategy

Fact sheet



North Central Victoria has diverse natural environments and biodiversity, including significant waterways and wetlands, Box-ironbark forest, iconic River red gums and threatened riverine grasslands. The region's environmental values face a range of threats, such as drought, climate change, invasive plants and animals, and changing land use.



The North Central Catchment Management Authority region covers 13% of Victoria.

The North Central Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) sets out a vision for land, water and biodiversity, and is the accredited plan for government investment into natural resource management in this region.

The RCS is due for renewal. The renewal process, coordinated by the North Central Catchment Management Authority, will be informed by a review of the previous RCS (2003–07), which was completed in July 2009. Key findings from this review were:

- more effort should be made to engage targeted stakeholders in the RCS development and implementation
- the RCS should better align with other regional policies, strategies and planning processes
- there needs to be more emphasis on monitoring and evaluation to measure how effectively the RCS is being delivered
- an improved framework for priority setting and decision making is required.

Following the RCS review, work is underway to renew the Strategy. The first part of this process is to find out what the regional community values in their local environment, and why these features are important.

Community input

Limited funds exist to protect and improve the region's environment, so we need to get the best results with the funding available.

Nine community meetings will be held from September–November 2009 to work with the community in identifying the region's most valued environmental places and things.

Our most valued environmental assets

Following these community meetings, the North Central CMA will establish an inventory of environmental features prioritised for protection. This does not mean that natural resource management works will immediately be undertaken on these assets; rather, the list will be a reference for project development and investment over the next six years. Projects in some areas will be funded in the near future; others may not receive immediate funding. By including them on the list, various funding sources may be accessed over the coming years. The list of environmental assets will be made available on the North Central CMA website in late 2009. This will include information on why the community identified them as important.

Next steps

Information from the community will be combined with the best available science and government policies and priorities to renew the RCS. Further community input will be sought throughout the renewal process. This includes comment on the draft Strategy in early 2010.

For further information, contact:

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