

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VICTORIAN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Working with Stakeholders and Community



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Introduction and presentation outline

Part 1: Setting the scene

- The journey so far
- RFMS objectives
- RFMS process
- Engagement theory
- RFMS Engagement objectives
- What is community?

Part 2: Engagement
Examples:

- Websites, drafts for consultation
- Public meetings
- Steering committee meetings
- Workshops
- One on one meetings with special interest groups

Part 3: Conclusions

- What have we learnt?
- Where to from here?
- In a nut shell



RFMS = Regional Floodplain Management Strategy

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PART 1: The journey so far



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PART 1: RFMS Objectives

- Interpret and apply the policies, actions and accountabilities outlined in the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy at the regional and local level
- Establish and align priorities for stakeholder organisations
- Set a workplan for priority actions



Wimmera CMA RFMS Project Steering Committee, then (2016/17) and now (1999)

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PART 1: The RFMS process

Step 1: Conduct a standardised assessment identifying areas with different levels of risk (top left).

Step 2: Identify potential flood mitigation activities for each local risk area, in consultation with the local community (top right).

Step 3: Consult with communities to prioritise risk mitigation activities at a local level (bottom right).

Step 4: Partner agencies deliver high-priority activities (bottom left).

Regional risk assessment: Low, Moderate, High

Local flood risk assessment and mitigation

Regional highest flood mitigation priorities

Local flood mitigation priorities

- 1 Planning and building systems
- 2 Flood mitigation infrastructure
- 3 Flood warnings and emergency management
- 4 Coastal flood management

PART 1: Engagement theory

Social resilience is... 'the capacity...to absorb or withstand perturbations and other stressors ... essentially maintaining its structure and functions'. Being... 'capable of self-organization, learning and adaptation'.

Walker, B., Hobday, C.E., Carpenter, S. and King, A. 2004. Resilience, adaptability and transformability in social-ecological systems. Ecology and society, 9(2).

Resilience thinking

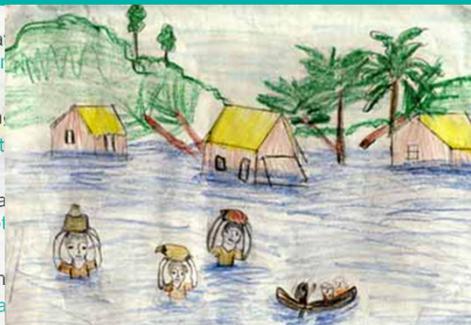
The principles include:

- managing slow variables and feedbacks
- promoting polycentric governance systems
- broadening participation
- managing connectivity
- maintaining diversity and redundancy
- encouraging learning
- fostering complex adaptive systems thinking

Boyd, R., Soderer, M., Hogg, G., Spenceley, E.L., Burdette, C., Corbett, G., Deane, V., Dale, T.M., Evans, L.S., Kraljich, V. and Lynch, A.M. 2012. http://www.environmental.gov.au/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244444/141112mainreport.pdf

PART 1: RFMS Engagement Objectives

1. Identifica
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PART 1: What is Community?



Stakeholders

Community



Part 2 - Examples

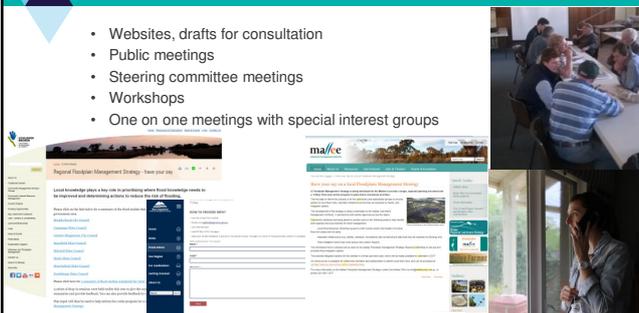
In the Mallee region, the steering committee involves:

- Mallee CMA (Chair)
- Local governments
 1. Mildura Rural City Council
 2. Swan Hill Rural City Council
 3. Buloke Shire Council
 4. Yarriambiack Shire Council and
 5. Hindmarsh Shire Council
- VICSES
- Water Authorities
 1. Lower Murray Water
 2. Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
- DELWP (guest)



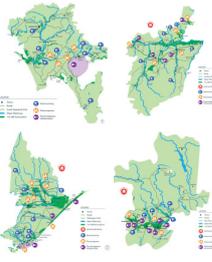
Engaging other stakeholders

- Websites, drafts for consultation
- Public meetings
- Steering committee meetings
- Workshops
- One on one meetings with special interest groups



Public exhibition of Regional Strategies

- **West Gippsland Strategy** draft complete and due to open for public exhibition April/May
- **Wimmera Strategy** draft complete and due to open for public exhibition in May
- **East Gippsland Strategy** draft due to be ready in mid May
- **Goulburn Broken Strategy** draft due to open for public exhibition in July
- **Corangamite Strategy** draft due to open for public exhibition in August
- **Mallee, North East and Glenelg Hopkins Strategies** draft due to open for public exhibition in September
- **North Central Strategy** draft - to be confirmed



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Engaging in our department

- **Planning**
- **IWM**
- **Aboriginal Water**



- \$222 million** to improve the health of waterways and catchments
- \$25 million** to prepare Victorians for floods and emergencies
- \$58 million** for local water system upgrades in Melbourne, Warrburra and Boroondara
- \$30 million** to extend the water grid to South Australia
- \$59.6 million** to support irrigation modernisation projects and help irrigators improve on-farm water use
- \$4.7 million** to support Aboriginal water and knowledge in decision making in Victoria's water management
- \$33 million** to invest in research programs to test new technologies to help us use Victoria's water resources, such as programs for flood control and drought, better water resource information and monitoring, improving urban water management, the use of the water grid, and better recognising technological water value
- \$14.1 million** in additional funding to help with long-term water storage

Part 3 - Conclusions



PART 3: Lessons learnt

- CMAs took the lead in engaging regional stakeholders in the RFMS development
- Piggy-backing off existing community groups can provide useful way to engage
- Future challenges include ongoing buy-in for the workplan and council expertise to operate and maintain flood management programs.



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PART 3: Where to from here

- Following development of RFMSs, engagement principles will empower communities to plan for and respond to floods utilising agencies, formal and informal networks
- VICSES continues to lead community resilience building programs
- Local governments will likely lead the lion's share of the agreed actions, according to what is affordable and desirable
- State and Federal Governments will partner with local governments for the capital costs of flood management projects

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PART 3: In a nut shell

- All tiers of government have been involved in work to engage the community and stakeholders in decision making in RFMSs
- It will take further network-building, collaboration and empowerment to ensure communities continue to build on the fundamental principles laid out in the VFMS



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PART 3: Questions

Questions?

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