



V APPENDICES

Appendices

Appendix 1

The Index of Stream Condition

The ISC is an integrated measure of the environmental condition of our rivers that combines information on hydrology, water quality, physical form, riparian zone and aquatic life that is important from an ecological perspective. A total of 19 parameters are measured. The ISC provides an overall indication of changes in river condition.

Hydrology	Streamside zone	Physical form	Water quality	Aquatic Life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFPD • Catchment permeability • Presence of hydroelectric power stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Width • Longitudinal continuity • Structural intactness • Cover of exotic vegetation • Regeneration of native species • Billabong condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank stability • Bed stability • Artificial barriers • Instream physical habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total Phosphorus • Turbidity • Electrical conductivity • pH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIGNAL • AUSRIVAS

AAFPD: Amended Annual Proportional Flow Deviation (based on a comparison of actual and natural monthly flows).

SIGNAL: Stream Invertebrate Grade Number - Average Level method. Uses scores awarded to macro-invertebrate families based on their sensitivity to stream salination and organic pollution.

AUSRIVAS: predicts the macro-invertebrates that should be present in specific stream habitats under reference conditions. It does this by comparing a test site with a group of reference sites which are as free as possible of environmental impacts, but have similar physical and chemical characteristics to those found at the test site.

There were 950 reaches, representing approximately 18 000 km of Victoria's major streams and their tributaries, assessed during the 1999 benchmark.

Results from the 1999 benchmark are presented on the World Wide Web at www.vicwaterdata.net/isc. Data can be viewed at the CMA, river basin, river or reach scale. A statewide report is currently in preparation.

The information is being used in regional river health planning:

- in identifying environmental assets, asset condition and asset threats for each of the major river reaches;
- in setting management objectives;
- in setting priorities for work; and
- in reporting on river condition.

Using the ISC to Identify Ecologically Healthy Rivers

As indicated above, the 1999 benchmarking collected information on the hydrology, the water quality, the condition of the riparian zone and the channel, and the aquatic biota, which is being directly utilised in regional river health planning. The ISC was designed primarily for this purpose and currently does not contain all the information required to identify ecologically healthy rivers as outlined in Chapter 2. However, the Scientific Group advising on the development of the VRHS has made a first attempt to define criteria to use existing data from the statewide benchmarking to identify rivers that are likely to be ecologically healthy. This has been done to provide communities with some practical assistance and guidance in making decisions.

It should be noted that this is a 'first cut' and is quite conservative. There is a high degree of certainty that rivers meeting these criteria do meet the definition of ecologically healthy. Rivers with lesser scores may be ecologically healthy but, at this stage, we don't really know. These criteria will be refined as further information becomes available (see Chapter 13).

Criteria for identifying ecologically healthy rivers using information from the statewide benchmarking

Note: all criteria must be met

Criteria	Meaning
Riparian vegetation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • structural intactness • longitudinal continuity • cover of exotic vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very close to natural structure (i.e. within one ISC class) • > 80% of bank vegetated with no more than 5 significant gaps for each tree, shrub and groundwater layer (> 10 m per km) • < 40% exotic cover for each of the tree, shrub and ground cover layers
Instream species	Macro-invertebrate communities which are very similar to those found at reference sites (i.e. combined SIGNAL and AUSRIVAS rating of at least 9)
Major habitat features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in lowland reaches, numerous to abundant woody debris within stream sourced from native vegetation • in upland reaches, > 30% stable habitat within stream
Longitudinal continuity	Barriers downstream which may only occasionally impede fish passage
Bed condition	Stable or limited instability

Appendix 2

Victoria's Heritage Rivers, Natural Catchment Areas and Ramsar Wetlands

HERITAGE RIVERS

Criteria for selection

When considering a river or stream for Victorian Heritage River status, the LCC (1991) took into account whether the watercourse, or its immediate environment, contained one or more of the following values:

- Natural values
 - Sites supporting plant and animal communities that have particular significance because of their rarity, very restricted distribution or unusually high diversity; these include zoological or botanical 'sites of significance' identified in published reports.
 - Sites with individual species of plants or animals that are rare or endangered, or otherwise have particular conservation significance; these also include zoological or botanical 'sites of significance'.
 - Streams - identified as 'essentially natural' mainstreams - that are in very good condition because their immediate catchments adjacent to the corridors have undergone little modification by modern technological society.
 - Features that are outstanding examples of geological history or geomorphological processes, or other natural phenomena; these include 'sites of geological or geomorphological significance' identified in published reports.

The natural heritage values are closely associated with the riparian or aquatic environments, or are within the river corridor.

- Cultural heritage values
 - Important cultural features that by virtue of their rarity, antiquity, concentration or representativeness, illustrate human interactions with riverine environments.
 - Areas or features within the corridor that are strongly associated with significant persons, events, movements, achievements, ideas or beliefs.
- Scenic landscape values
 - Combinations of landforms, waterforms and vegetation types, and (in appropriate settings) cultural features that provide outstanding opportunities for the enjoyment of scenic vistas.
 - Vistas of high scenic quality that reflect particular landscape character types and river settings, and outstanding examples of particular landscapes.
- Recreation values
 - River corridors whose biological and physical characteristics provide outstanding recreational opportunities along their length or at numerous points along their courses.
 - Significant recreational opportunities found on river corridors that are rare in terms of their resource requirements or setting.
 - An outstanding diversity of recreational opportunities along a river corridor.

Given the diversity of the values and their expression, the LCC did not believe that a numerical weighting system was appropriate or desirable. Rather it used the following points to judge and rank the total values of rivers, and to determine the upper and lower boundaries (each point is of equal value):

- the extent of each corridor/site with high values, in terms of its size and relation to the river;
- the significance of each value, where assessed;
- the distribution and extent of overlap of values;
- the combination of particular values that enhanced the significance rating;
- the diversity of values present;
- the start and finish points of significant river values; and
- the exclusion of modified/degraded sections.

This ranking process allowed rivers to be ordered into groups. Outstanding rivers were identified based on the range, distribution, and significance levels of their values, and accordingly as having heritage river status.

A Victorian Heritage River has:

- one or more values of national or international significance, where those values are strongly associated with a substantial section of the watercourse (a single localised value was insufficient); or
- an aggregation of at least four values, generally of State or greater significance, which together create a corridor of Victorian heritage river status.

Listing of Victorian Heritage Rivers

River corridor name:

Mitta Mitta River	Ovens River
Howqua River	Big River
Goulburn River	Wimmera River
Genoa River	Bemm, Goolengook, Arte and Errinundra Rivers
Snowy River	Suggan Buggan and Berrima Rivers
Upper Buchan River	Mitchell and Wonnangatta Rivers
Thomson River	Yarra River
Lerderderg River	Aire River
Glenelg River	Aberfeldy River

NATURAL CATCHMENT AREAS

An 'essentially natural' catchment is one with no urbanisation, clearing, intensive agriculture, mining, extractive industries, water storages, water diversions, river engineering works, or roads parallel and immediately adjacent to streams. Catchments to third-order streams were used as the basic land unit for the assessment. They commonly range in size from 1000 to 10 000 hectares.

Listing of Natural Catchment Areas

1. East Gippsland Coastal Streams Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchments to the Red and Benedore Rivers, and Shipwreck, Easby and Seal creeks, and the areas between them
2. Rodger River and Mountain Creek Catchment Area
3. Avon River Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchments to the Avon, Turton and Dolodrook Rivers, and Ben Cruachan and Thiele creeks

4. O'Shannassy River Catchment Area
5. Log Bridge Creek Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchment to the East Branch of the Log Bridge Creek
6. Mount Tabor Creek Catchment Area
7. Banimboola Creek Catchment Area
8. Devils Creek Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchment to the Middle Branch of the Devils Creek
9. Yarrarabula Creek Catchment Area
10. Long Jack Creek Catchment Area
11. Williams Creek Catchment Area
12. Double Creek Catchment Area
13. Genoa River Tributary Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchment to the unnamed tributary to the Genoa River.
14. Winnot Creek Catchment Area
15. Errinundra River Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchment to the East Branch of the Errinundra River
16. Gattamurh Creek Catchment Area
17. Wallaby Creek Catchment Area
18. Mount Gelantipy Creek Catchment Area
19. Musk Creek Catchment Area
20. Brodribb River Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchment of the headwaters of the Brodribb River
21. Stony Creek Catchment Area
22. Wongungarra River Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchment of the headwaters of the Wongungarra River
23. Blue Rag Creek Catchment Area
24. Pinnacle Creek Catchment Area – all those pieces of land in the catchment to the East Branch of Pinnacle Creek.
25. Punchen Creek Catchment Area
26. Mount Vereker Creek Catchment Area

VICTORIA'S RAMSAR WETLANDS

There are 11 Ramsar wetlands currently listed in Victoria. They are listed below. Those that are heavily dependent on river condition are indicated in italics.

Barmah Forest

Gunbower Forest

Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes

Gippsland Lakes

Lake Albacutya

Kerang Wetlands

Western District Lakes

Western Port

Corner Inlet

Port Phillip Bay and Bellarine Peninsula

Edithvale-Seaford Wetlands

Appendix 3

Lead Responsibilities for Specific Functions Related to the Regional Management of River Health

Map of Victoria's CALP regions



The lead responsibilities for specific functions outlined below applies to all CALP regions within Victoria except the Port Phillip and Westernport CALP region.

Issue	Activity	Lead Responsibility	Comments
Regional catchment management	Develop and coordinate implementation of RCS and component action plans	CMA	In consultation with community
Integrated waterway management	Develop detailed regional RHSs and coordinated work programs within RCS context	CMA	In consultation with community and relevant stakeholders
	Include waterway and floodplain requirements into statutory planning schemes	Local government	
	Implement works for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stabilisation of bed and banks • habitat improvement for river and floodplain 	CMA	
	Control works and activities on waterways	CMA	
	Ensure community input and involvement	CMA	
	Undertake community education	CMA	
	Administer licences for the extraction of sand and gravel from waterways and floodplains	NRE – Land Victoria/Minerals & Energy	
Floodplain management	Develop regional floodplain management strategies	CMA	
	Develop catchment-wide levee management strategies and undertake audits	CMA	
	Promote community awareness of flooding	CMA	
	Liaise with local government and State Emergency Services on flooding and emergency management issues	CMA	
	Be a referral authority for scheme amendments, planning and building approvals	CMA	
	Include flood information in planning schemes and emergency plans	Local government	
	Provide technical advice to councils and the community on flooding	CMA	
	Develop regional floodplain management works programs	CMA	
	Implement, operate and maintain specified strategic regional works	CMA	
	Implement, operate and maintain urban works	Local government	
	Implement and maintain flood warning systems	Local government	
	Coordinate recording of flood events and ensure that flood data base is maintained	CMA	
	Undertake regional flood studies	CMA	
	Undertake urban flood studies	Local government	

Issue	Activity	Lead Responsibility	Comments
Management of rural drainage	Develop regional plan/strategy for drainage management	CMA	Lead agency (resolution of responsibilities to be determined between CMA and local government)
	Coordinate implementation of drainage plan/strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish roles of implementing authorities, e.g. RWAs, local government, community drainage groups • oversee implementation 	CMA	
	Manage irrigation drainage systems	RWAs	
	Manage urban stormwater drainage systems	Local government	
	Manage other regional drainage systems	CMA or local government in specific cases	
	Manage community surface drainage systems	as per existing arrangements	
Management of water quality	Develop statutory water quality objectives	EPA	In consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders
	Develop detailed water quality management plans and work programs (ensure consistency with SEPP objectives)	CMA	
	Develop licence conditions for point sources	EPA	
	Coordinate implementation of water quality management plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop funding bids • administer relevant government funding 	CMA	
	Undertake community education (adoption of BMPs in priority areas)	NRE	
	Report to Government on implementation	CMA	

Issue	Activity	Lead Responsibility	Comments
Water allocation	Bulk entitlement conversion	NRE	In consultation with the relevant stakeholders, including CMAs
	Grant new bulk entitlements	NRE	In consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders
	Develop SDLs	NRE/RWA	
	SFMPs		In consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders with technical & administrative support provided by RWAs
	• set priorities	CMA	
	• development	Consultative Committee	
	• oversee implementation	CMA	
	Manage environmental flow allocations	NRE	
	Prepare basin water accounts	RWA/NRE	
Develop stressed river proposals	CMA	In consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders	
Waterway determinations	RWA	Chair waterway determination grievance panels	
Management of Crown water frontages other than those managed by Parks Victoria, Forests Service or existing Committees of Management	Undertake assessment of Crown water frontages	CMA	
	Set licence conditions	NRE	Determined by NRE, in consultation with CMA
	Administer licences	NRE	
	Integrate management of licences with general waterway management	CMA	Administration to be determined between CMA and NRE
Management of Heritage Rivers other than those managed by Parks Victoria, Forests Service or existing Committees of Management	Coordinate implementation of Heritage River Management Plans where required	CMA	
	Implement priority actions in the plans	CMA, Parks Victoria, NRE	
	Coordinate community initiatives associated with the management of plans	CMA	
	Report on progress on plan implementation	CMA	

Issue	Activity	Lead Responsibility	Comments
Groundwater management	Manage groundwater abstractions in areas where use is < 70% PAV	RWA	
	Manage groundwater abstraction in areas where use is > 70% PAV	RWA	
	Develop management plans for groundwater supply protection zones	RWA	In consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders
Monitoring	Statewide monitoring of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water quality • water quantity • biological communities 	NRE NRE EPA	
	Further monitoring of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water quality • water quantity 	CMA	Establish extra monitoring sites to meet regional needs in consultation with relevant stakeholders
	Five-yearly monitoring of stream condition	CMA	
	Waterwatch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional priorities 	CMA	Set priorities as part of regional RHSs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional coordination 	CMA/water authorities	Establish coordination arrangements where necessary

Glossary

Bankfull – flows that completely fill the channel.

Barriers – artificial instream structures, such as dams, weirs, causeways and culverts, that restrict the migration and movement of fish or other biota and can interrupt transport of organic material and sediment.

Baseflow – the component of streamflow supplied by groundwater discharge.

Bulk Entitlement – the property right to water held by water and other authorities defined in the Water Act. The BE defines the amount of water that an authority is entitled to from a river or storage, and may include the rate at which it may be taken and the reliability of the entitlement.

Cap – an upper limit for the diversion of water from a waterway, catchment or basin.

Catchment – the region which drains all the rainfall, other than that removed by evaporation, into a stream, which then carries the water to the sea or a lake.

Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) – development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.

Environmental asset – the biota, habitats and ecological processes of an area.

Environmental flow assessment – assessment of the water regimes needed to sustain the ecological values of water-dependent ecosystems at a low level of risk.

Environmental flow (agreed) – are those water regimes that are provided as a result of the water allocation decision-making process taking into account ecological, social and economic impacts/implications. They meet in part or full the ecological water requirements.

Estuary – the zone where a river meets the sea, influenced by river flows and tides and characterised by a gradient from fresh to salt water.

Exotics – species that are non-indigenous.

Fish passage – provision for the movement or migration of fish past barriers.

Fishway – a structure that facilitates fish passage past a barrier.

Floodplain – the relatively smooth valley floors adjacent to and formed by alluviating rivers which are subject to overflow during flood events.

Floodplain–river linkage – the linkage that is established when floods inundate the floodplain, allowing an exchange of sediments, nutrients, organic material and biota between the river and floodplain.

Freshes – flow greater than median flow for that period. Occurs generally in the summer and spring months.

High flow – a term used to describe the persistent increase in seasonal baseflow that occurs over autumn, winter and spring, but which remains confined in the channel.

Low flow – flows that provide a continuous flow over the bottom of the channel, but do not fill the channel to any great depth. The term is most often used in relation to baseflows that occur over the drier periods of the year and that are sustained for some period (weeks to months), due to short bursts of rain.

Overbank flows – flows that spill over the channel onto the floodplain.

Protection – ensuring that there is no further decline in environmental condition of the river.

Regulated systems – those where the flow of the river is regulated through the operation of large dams or weirs.

Restoration – improvement or enhancement of the environmental condition of the river in the direction of 'ecologically healthy'.

Salinity – the concentration of dissolved salts in water, mainly chlorides, bicarbonates and sulphates of sodium, calcium, magnesium and potassium. Salinity is a natural feature of waterways and varies across the landscape. Increasing salinity from changed land and water use is a serious issue for both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Terminal lake – receives inflows from streams or rivers draining its catchment, but has no streams draining from it. It is the endpoint of a river system.

Unregulated system – a system where no major dams or weir structures have been built to assist in the supply or extraction of water.

Wetlands – inland, standing, shallow bodies of water, which may be permanent or temporary, fresh or saline.

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Acronyms

AAPFD	Amended Annual Proportional Flow Deviation
AUSRIVAS	Australian River Assessment System
BEs	Bulk Entitlements
BMP	Best Management Practice
CALP	Catchment and Land Protection
CMAs	Catchment Management Authorities
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CWQAP	Catchment Water Quality Action Plan
EC	Electrical Conductivity
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
EVCs	Ecological Vegetation Classes
FFG	Flora and Fauna Guarantee
GMPs	Groundwater Management Plans
HWP	Healthy Waterways Program
ICM	Integrated Catchment Management
ISC	Index of Stream Condition
LCC	Land Conservation Council
LG	Local Government
MDB	Murray-Darling Basin
MDBC	Murray-Darling Basin Commission
MWC	Melbourne Water Corporation
NAP	National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality
NRE	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
PAV	Permissible Annual Volume
PFF	Parks, Flora and Fauna
PV	Parks Victoria
RCSs	Regional Catchment Strategies
RHSs	River Health Strategies
RWAs	Rural Water Authorities
SDLs	Sustainable Diversion Limits
SEPP	State Environment Protection Policy
SFMPs	Streamflow Management Plans
SIGNAL	Stream Invertebrate Grade Number - Average Level
TRF	Tariff Replacement Fund
VRHS	Victorian River Health Strategy
WAs	Water Authorities



HEALTHY RIVERS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES & REGIONAL GROWTH - VICTORIAN RIVER HEALTH STRATEGY