



River Basin Management Society
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Dr Jane Doolan
Project Manager – VRHS
Catchment & Water Division
Dept of Natural Resources & Environment
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Dear Jane.

I write on behalf of the River Basin Management Society to congratulate the Department on the development and production of a comprehensive strategy for river health for Victoria.

The River Basin Management Society is a professional association, which was established to "advance a balanced approach to land, water & natural resource management on a catchment basis". It does this by being open to all involved or interested in its aims; holding conferences on topics relevant to its aims; publishing a regular newsletter; assisting students undertaking research work at Honours & Post Graduate levels; assisting in information gathering & dissemination; supporting a non-profit foundation; and being an independent body of opinion.

We believe the real strength of the document was in the integration and coordination of existing programs by inserting the River Health Strategy above the four main streams of natural resource management in NRE to ensure that its aims were superimposed on the management streams where ever they had relevance to the land-water interface as well as the riparian zones, the floodplains and other aspects of land management that may have a bearing on the health of the drainage systems.

The strategy has the paramount concept of integration as well as using existing resources instead of creating a new structure, which overcomes the possible weakness, which results from the separation of the sections of DNRE. Further, taken in conjunction with the recently released Victorian Catchment Indicators, the overall approach is producing a more interactive set of programs which enable people outside the Department to use and benefit from research work and perhaps prevents "re-inventing wheels".

The fact that the Healthy Rivers Strategy will be required to be incorporated into the Regional Strategy Plans and through them into NHT programs and the newer NAP programs can only better the chances of proper Integrated Catchment Management.

Therefore, we believe the document should be endorsed as a sound development in natural resource management and the Society supports its implementation as a useful step towards better ICM.

Yours sincerely

Lance Lloyd
President, River Basin Management Society