

Annex 1
Draft Work Plan for Victoria

Matrix B Victoria

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Management Mechanisms	Action	Responsibility	Timeframe	Success Measure
1. Roles & Responsibilities of Governments	The institutional arrangements in Victoria are relatively simple. The key state level agency is the Department of Natural Resources and Environment which has responsibility for; catchment management and sustainable agriculture on non public lands, and on public lands National Parks, State Parks and reserves, forests and other crown lands. The 78 local governments are also key players through their administration of planning schemes.			
<i>1.1 Specific management mechanisms, eg.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct training workshops to facilitate implementation of RVPs with a focus on the roles of key players. ▪ Continue improvement of Regional Management Planning process in which CMAs determine NRE regional resource allocation priorities for a variety of NRM service providers 	NRE, Local Government, CMAs NRE, CMAs & CAS	Ongoing June 2000	Local Planning Schemes enable achievement of Regional Catchment Strategy & RVP goals.
<i>1.2 Local Government Role</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare planning guidelines to facilitate incorporation of native vegetation information into the planning process and the local planning schemes. ▪ Review the biodiversity content of Municipal Strategic Statements in each local planning scheme. ▪ Undertake a statewide audit of the consistency and coverage of sites of significance dataset and improve guidelines as required 	NRE, DoI NRE NRE	June 2000 June 2000 June 2000	Guidelines prepared Guidelines revised
2. Planning & Assessment	Victoria has a strong record of vegetation monitoring and mapping, and has comprehensively monitored woody vegetation using remote sensing and GIS since 1972. Monitoring, in conjunction with extensive resource mapping, has provided the basis for native vegetation management planning at a range of scales.			
<i>2.1 Specific management mechanisms, eg.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare and deliver biodiversity materials for Farm\$mart (property management planning) training ▪ Develop guidelines for linking whole farm plans to landscape planning ▪ Prepare a Grassy Ecosystems Strategy ▪ Release BioSites System and identify further enhancements particularly 	NRE NRE NRE	June 2000 June 2000 2000 June 2000	Biodiversity values increasingly integrated into property plans

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> with uncertainties and landscape scale processes ▪ Promote adoption of Biodiversity Strategy implementation by government agencies and businesses ▪ Improve the extent to which biodiversity aspects are included in Environmental Management Systems developed for rural industries. ▪ Prepare a Planning Practice Note to facilitate incorporation of biodiversity considerations into planning schemes 	<p>NRE NRE NRE NRE NRE/Dept of Infrastructure</p>	<p>June 2000 June 2000</p>	<p>Strategy prepared System released Biodiversity assessments increasingly incorporated in developments</p>
2.2 <i>Vegetation Inventory etc</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extend coverage of Ecological Vegetation Class mapping at 1:100 000 scale to cover 85% of the State ▪ Enhance BioMap in response to focus group recommendations. Release of 1:25,000 version. ▪ Management and further enhancement of the Flora Information System. ▪ Develop an approach to remote sensing of extent and to modelling of indicative condition at 1:25 000 for a region ▪ Present the statewide EVC typology ▪ Document priority grassland sites ▪ Participate in the National Native Vegetation Information System activities 	<p>NRE NRE NRE NRE NRE NRE NRE/Comm</p>	<p>June 2000 June 2000 June 2000 June 2000 June 2000 June 2000 June 2000</p>	<p>Maps available Maps released Approach successfully trialed</p>
2.3 <i>Regional Vegetation Management Planning</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop an agreed approach to the application of the 'no net loss' concept at the local, regional and state levels ▪ Prepare a report on 'no net loss' principle and the 'Habitat Hectare' accounting system. ▪ Develop Regional Vegetation Plans which integrate agricultural production with biodiversity conservation for each Catchment Management Authority. 	<p>NRE NRE CMA& NRE local government, farming community and environmental groups</p>	<p>June 2000 June 2000 December 1999</p>	<p>Approach agreed by internal stakeholders Report accepted Plans ready for Ministerial endorsement by Dec 1999</p>

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3. Reserve System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 30 June 1999, there were 109 areas managed under the provisions of the National Parks Act: 36 national parks, 3 wilderness parks, 31 State parks, 11 marine and/or coastal parks or reserves, and 28 other parks and reserves. Their total area of some 3.078 million hectares represents 13.5% of Victoria and almost 35% of public land in the State. In addition, there were 19 wilderness zones and 21 remote and natural areas established under the Act within several national parks. Over 3,000 nature conservation and natural features reserves, plus other categories such as reference areas, natural catchment areas and heritage rivers also contribute to the State's Reserve system. Overall, 3.418 million hectares are considered to be 'protected areas' under IUCN categories, which represents some 15% of the State. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the National Reserve System grassland strategy (phase 1) for Riverina and Volcanic Plains Develop a management framework for nature conservation reserves Complete the investigation of the Box-Ironbark ecosystem recommendations on reserves and other mechanisms for protection Develop an Environmental Management System including a framework for monitoring reserve quality and threats Enter into cooperative management agreements with landholders and indigenous communities for off reserve protected areas 	<p>NRE</p> <p>NRE</p> <p>Environment Conservation Council</p> <p>Parks Victoria</p> <p>NRE/Trust for Nature/EA</p>	<p>June 2000</p> <p>June 2000</p> <p>2000</p> <p>Feb 2000</p>	<p>Phase 1 actions completed</p> <p>Final report published</p> <p>Two major agreements</p>
4. Communication & Capacity Building	<p>Many organisations, including Bushcare, Landcare, Trust for Nature, DNRE Catchment and Agricultural Services extension staff, Land for Wildlife, and Greening Australia, all have community education included in their charter. While schools are relatively well serviced (with native vegetation and biodiversity values embedded in the environmental education curricula), the general approach to educating adults needs further development. Landholders are also specifically targeted via the activities of Bushcare, Landcare, Trust for Nature, Land for Wildlife, Greening Australia, etc. Victorian Landcare has about 700 groups and an estimated membership of over 20,000. The Land for Wildlife program, was developed in the 1980s to "provide a voluntary vehicle for landholders to actively and openly protect, enhance and restore wildlife habitat on their properties. The scheme now has over 4800 members who</p>			

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	manage over 120,000 hectares throughout the State.			
4.1 Specific management mechanisms, eg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review, publish and distribute fire management guidelines for private land ▪ Develop a data base that; collates regional native vegetation management activities, including NVR permit applications, at a state wide level and is available on the internet. ▪ Provide tree cover mapping and EVC mapping on the internet 	CFA/NRE NRE, local government NRE	June 2000 1. June 2000 Pilot database 2. 2001 database established June 2001	Guidelines distributed Pilot appropriate method Database established Mapping available on internet.
4.2 Community Education and Extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plan and deliver the Box-Ironbark ecology course. Also Mallee, Alpine and Grasslands Ecology courses. ▪ Preparation of education resource materials ▪ Co-ordinate extension programs and advice to landholders via Catchment Management Authorities ▪ Promote riparian native vegetation management in Waterwatch programs 	NRE NRE CMAs, NRE, GAV, TfN NRE	June 2000 June 2000 June 2000	Courses delivered Materials released Extension efforts complementary & co-ordinated
4.3 R&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is no R&D strategy and as yet, no clearly designated R&D budget. The State is well advanced with R&D associated with mapping and inventory aspects. As well as technical biophysical issues, there is a need for a greater understanding of the human dimension – for example, factors affecting uptake of incentives and works. Some work has commenced in grassland areas on these issues. 			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation of guidelines for the planning and conduct of ecological burning ▪ Develop a framework preparation of ecologically –based fire regimes for key vegetation types ▪ Investigation of biological control techniques for four major environmental weeds 	NRE NRE NRE	Dec 1999 June 2000 June 2000	Guidelines prepared Pilot area trialed

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5. Incentives	There is a range of grants programs operating in Victoria, including Tree Victoria, 2020 Revegetate Victoria, Landcare, Bushcare and the Land Protection Incentive Scheme. Tree Victoria has operated since 1989 and provides ~\$500,000 per annum in grants to various community groups. 2020 Revegetate Victoria has an even more substantial grants element. Landcare and Bushcare provide funds for both staff positions and on-ground works. Landcare has remained a relatively strong movement throughout Victoria. Bushcare is providing funding for facilitators attached to each CMA and to technical support via Greening Australia. The Land Protection Incentive Scheme has also provided ~\$1 million mostly for vegetation protection and revegetation. A range of market-based incentives is being investigated including the use of 'auction' systems aimed at allocating scarce resources efficiently. At present these mechanisms are in the early stages of development.			
<i>5.1 Specific management mechanisms, eg.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examination of innovative voluntary mechanisms and opportunities to improve coordination among existing programs ▪ Enter into management agreements to protect the Craigieburn grasslands ▪ Provide priority vegetation types and management actions in RVP to optimise funding allocation for NRM 	NRE/Trust for Nature NRE CMAs, NRE	June 2000 Dec 1999 June 2001	Agreements signed Funding allocated according to RVP priorities.
<i>5.2 Property Right and Market-based Measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Examination of innovative market mechanisms for native vegetation management on private land, including auctions for management contracts 	NRE	April 2000	Pilot program developed
<i>5.3 Revolving Funds</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue the use of the revolving fund for the purchase and resale of covenanted land 	Trust for Nature	ongoing	
<i>5.4 Differential Rating & Taxation Measures</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop an active local government environment network that facilitates uptake of incentive mechanisms for local government 	Local Government, Environs Australia, MAV, NRE, CMAs	June 2001 June 2002	30% of local governments offer rate rebates for native vegetation management 50%
6. Regulatory Mechanisms	The <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act</i> (1988) (FFG) and the Native Vegetation Provisions in Victorian Planning Schemes are the key regulatory approaches to			

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	native vegetation management in Victoria. The FFG requires the assessment of the status of ecological communities and individual species and the preparation and implementation of Action Statements for those deemed 'threatened'. The native vegetation provisions require (with some exemptions) a planning permit for the removal, destruction or lopping of all native vegetation. These mechanisms are supplemented by the Code of Forest Practice for Timber Production.			
6.1 Specific management mechanisms, eg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit compliance of Code of Forest Practice for Timber Production and recommend actions to improve compliance where necessary ▪ Promote retention and restoration of native vegetation on water frontages through licence conditions 	NRE NRE	June 2000 2000	Audit results widely available and amelioration actions identified
6.2 Threatened Species/Ecological Communities Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revise the guidelines for the preparation of action statements ▪ Prepare priority action statements and recovery plans ▪ Implement completed recovery plans ▪ Preparation and maintenance of state-wide threatened species lists ▪ Draft Threat Abatement Plans for environmental weeds, Cinnamon Fungus and native orchid collection 	NRE NRE NRE NRE NRE	June 2000 June 2000 June 2000 June 2000 June 2000	Revised guidelines prepared Plans approved Plans implemented Draft Plans completed
6.3 Land Clearing Regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve monitoring , reporting and enforcement of the native vegetation provisions by local government through the development by NRE of a statewide database of native vegetation losses and gains. ▪ Provide improved tools for detecting illegal native vegetation clearance ▪ Provide improved decision making tools for permit application assessment and provide training in use of these tools 	NRE and CMAs to support and encourage local government NRE NRE	Ongoing December 2000 June 2000	Tree cover maps readily available to local Government Adoption of tools by Local Government where appropriate
7. Monitoring & Evaluation	Victoria needs to build on its substantial mapping and monitoring achievements to provide a picture of the quality of the existing native vegetation. Development of a method for on ground assessment of vegetation quality is well progressed. The big challenge is to extend vegetation quality assessment to the catchment scale.			
7.1 Specific management mechanisms, eg.				

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7.2 Cover & Condition Monitoring	▪ Develop an approved framework for reporting key biodiversity assets (inc native vegetation) across Victoria	NRE		Framework accepted
	▪ Ensure biodiversity monitoring is complementary to national and other systems	NRE		
	▪ Prepare first bioregional reports	NRE	Dec 1999	Reports completed
	▪ Develop and implement a measuring and accounting method for losses and gains in extent and quality of native vegetation.	NRE & Local Government	Development end 1999. Implementation 2001	Habitat Hectare method finalised Start recording Vegetation Quality on GIS layer of EVCs & Tree cover maps at 1:25,000 scale
	▪ Develop effective on ground quality 1. measurement and 2. monitoring	NRE	1. December 1999 2. December 2000	Vegetation Quality Assessment Method used in NVR and EIS assessments