

# Adaptive management and research

## Performance monitoring summary for the Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018

### Overview

Adaptive Management and research performance objectives address a couple of themes including development and implementation of a monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement plan, understanding and managing risks of climate change and investing in research and knowledge gaps.

At the core of adaptive management is the ability to learn from previous experience, update management approaches to reflect the knowledge gained and changes in our environment that occur during implementation, and manage uncertainty such as increase in temperature, changed rainfall patterns or sea level rise. The establishment of monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement (MERI) processes at the start of the Healthy Waterways Strategy ensures that the correct data will be gathered initially and throughout the duration so that a robust evidence-base can be drawn on to assess progress, effectiveness, impact and improvement opportunities.

In alignment with the Victorian Waterway Management Program, the Healthy Waterway Strategy supports research that: Provides essential knowledge to address critical short-term and/or strategic long-term knowledge gaps. The Strategy lists the initial key research areas identified. These research areas will evolve during the life of the Strategy. The resulting research findings will be incorporated into policy and management. Research will focus on knowledge gaps or low confidence relationships between performance objectives, waterway conditions and key values.

**Performance indicators and data:**

Performance Objective theme	Performance indicators	Data required to track progress –	Timing	Who is involved in reporting
(RPO-10) An adaptive pathways approach is adopted to understand and manage the risks of climate change on waterways.	Adaptive pathways approach is developed and communicated	Evidence that approach has been developed and communicated eg reports	Annual from 2020	Melbourne Water
(RPO-11) Understanding of groundwater dependent ecosystems is improved and opportunities to maintain or improve these continue to be investigated.	Program to improve understand of groundwater dependant ecosystems developed and implemented	Progress Report	Program developed by June 2020 and progress reported annually	Melbourne Water
(RPO-45) Research partnerships with universities and other research institutions are in place to address the key research areas and build our knowledge	Research programs are developed and communicated	Progress Report	Annual from 2020	Melbourne Water
(RPO-30) Climate change resilient revegetation management practices are understood and implemented by selecting plant species, provenances and vegetation communities that are suited to projected future climatic conditions.	Vegetation management guidelines in place	Progress Report	Annual from 2020	Melbourne Water
(RPO-41) A monitoring, evaluation and reporting plan is in place by 30 June 2019.	MERI plan in place, reviewed annually	Annual MERI check-in	Annual	Melbourne Water

Performance Objective theme	Performance indicators	Data required to track progress –	Timing	Who is involved in reporting
(RPO-42) Wetland condition information and prioritisation with a focus on vulnerable wetlands is understood and informs collaborative planning.	wetland condition data and assessment of prioritisation is shared	Wetland condition and prioritisation report Progress report	Annual from 2020	Melbourne Water
(RPO-43) The social values framework, information and methods used to develop values assessments, targets and performance objectives are further developed and improved during the life of the Strategy.	new social value performance objectives are developed Social values framework are endorsed by the RLG	Report on the new social value performance objectives	End of strategy life (2026)	Melbourne Water
(RPO-44) Web-based systems are established to report performance and measure outcomes of the catchment implementation forums (by 30 June 2020).	The system is connected to active digital space and has been designed collaboratively, is in place and live for reporting.	Progress report on partner contribution and live web based system.	Annual after initial development by 2020.	Melbourne Water

## About this document

### Delivering the Performance Objectives

Melbourne Water and partners will approach implementation of the many different Performance Objectives within this theme according to each organisations obligations and delivery mechanisms and their associated capacity and capability to plan and deliver the required activities/works.