

Traditional owner collaboration

Performance monitoring summary for the Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018

Overview

Cultural values are based on the physical and spiritual connection of people to land and waters. Cultural values are both contemporary and ancient.

The overarching goal for recognising Aboriginal waterway values is:

Traditional Owners have a recognised role as custodians of waterways and their cultural values. Their unique perspective and knowledge allows them to influence the agenda for waterway management and actively participate in caring for their Country.

This goal is supported by a series of agreed principles on how to achieve this goal and seven performance objectives.

- Traditional Owners are involved at all levels of waterway management – planning, prioritisation and delivery.
- Traditional Owner groups have the resources and expertise to support a self-sustaining 'waterway business'.
- Traditional Owners are included in planning and prioritisation processes as early as possible.
- Where possible, waterway management programs are designed to match the existing capability of Traditional Owner groups and participation increases their capability for involvement in future programs.
- The internal collaborative processes of Traditional Owner groups are supported with time and/or resources by waterway management partners.
- Waterway management is a job that an individual Traditional Owner can aspire to.

The Strategy commits to working with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to protect and promote their cultural and historical connections with waterways. It also aims to protect the environmental values (land, water, vegetation and wildlife) which underpin these connections, and to share knowledge and understanding about waterways and their catchments.

The Strategy will seek to establish a regional Traditional Owners Advisory Structure that will review the RPO's 1 to 7 and co-design what should be achieved, the measures of performance and the monitoring methods used to evaluate success. These will be incorporated into the MERI framework by mid 2020 and provide the plan for monitoring and evaluation.

An Interagency Working group consisting of agency cultural specialists and senior managers will be convened to determine how best to deliver targets and will be directed by and report to the Advisory Group.

The Regional Performance Objectives in the Strategy for cultural values include:

RPO-1 Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians have an increased expertise in contemporary land and waterway management, waterway science and lore.

RPO-2 Partnership projects build on what is working. Expertise developed in one project is applied in others.

RPO-3 Traditional Owner groups and Aboriginal Victorians are supported by industry partners to influence the agenda for waterway management by proactively developing communications, resolutions or project scopes and seeking industry partners.

RPO-4 Aboriginal and Traditional Owner cultural awareness training is available to all industry professionals and is actively pursued.

RPO-5 Cultural competency is valued as a career skill and leads to ongoing relationships.

RPO-6 Partnerships are fostered between Traditional Owner groups and research groups, and Traditional Owner groups and community groups.

RPO-7 Public events led and/or organised by Traditional Owners are regular and frequent.

About this document

Delivering the Performance Objectives

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