



Victorian Environmental Assessment Council  
**ANNUAL REPORT 2010**





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This report outlines the activities of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

Mr Gavin Jennings MLC  
Minister for Environment and Climate Change  
Parliament House  
Melbourne 3002

Dear Minister

In accordance with the requirements of Section 14(1) of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council is pleased to submit to you its ninth Annual Report, being a report on operations for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.



DUNCAN MALCOLM  
Chairperson  
Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

30 July 2010

ISSN: 1832-925X

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# VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COUNCIL

## OUR PURPOSE

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council was established under Section 4 of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001* (the VEAC Act) to provide independent and strategic advice to the Victorian Government on matters relating to the protection and ecologically sustainable management of the environment and natural resources of Victoria's public land (refer to Section 5 of the VEAC Act).

## OUR VALUES

Our organisational values reflect our attitude to the public land estate, our community and our environment. We:

- seek to understand and meet community needs from public land
- are committed to excellence and continuous improvement
- value ethical, accountable, transparent and responsible behaviour
- encourage public consultation and input into the planning process.

## OUR FUNCTIONS

We:

- carry out investigations that are requested by the Minister on matters relating to the protection and ecologically sustainable management of the environment and natural resources of public land
- carry out any other functions that are conferred on the Council by the VEAC Act or any other Act (refer to Section 6 of the VEAC Act).

In carrying out investigations and making recommendations we are required to have regard to:

- the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- the need to conserve and protect biological diversity
- the need to conserve and protect any areas which have ecological, natural, landscape or cultural interest or significance, recreational value or geological or geomorphological significance
- the need to provide for the creation and preservation of a comprehensive, adequate and representative system of parks and reserves within the State of Victoria
- the existence of any international treaty ratified by the Commonwealth of Australia which is relevant to the investigation
- any agreement at a national, inter-state or local government level into which the Government of Victoria has entered, or under which the Government of Victoria has undertaken any obligation in conjunction with the Commonwealth, a State, Territory, or municipal council, which relates to the subject matter of the investigation
- the potential environmental, social and economic consequences of implementing the proposed recommendations
- any existing or proposed use of the environment or natural resources.

Powers held by the Council include the ability to appoint committees and, with the consent of the relevant Minister, make use of the services of any person employed in the Department of Sustainability and Environment (refer to Section 7 of the VEAC Act).

A website containing general information about the Council's role, operation and current and past investigations is available at [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au). The site also contains links to past investigations and studies conducted by the Environment Conservation Council (ECC) and the Land Conservation Council (LCC).

## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Members of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council are appointed under the provisions of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*. Current members are Mr Duncan Malcolm AM (Chairperson), Mr Barry Clugston, Mr Ian Harris, Mr Ian Munro PSM and Dr Airlie Worrall. All members were appointed on 5 May 2009 for three years.

Brief biographies of current Council members follow:



(L-R) Mr Duncan Malcolm AM, Mr Barry Clugston, Mr Ian Harris, Mr Ian Munro PSM, Dr Airlie Worrall

### **Mr Duncan Malcolm AM, Chairperson**

Duncan Malcolm is a former dairy farmer and horticulturalist from east Gippsland, with extensive experience in natural resource management, particularly in the water sector and in coastal management. He has chaired many natural resource management bodies including the Gippsland Coastal Board, Lakes and Wilderness Tourism, Watermark Inc., the Irrigation Association of Australia Ltd and the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority. Duncan is a Trustee of the Australian Landscape Trust and Deputy Chair of the Monash University Gippsland Advisory Council. He has been a VEAC member since 2002 and Chairperson since 2004.

### **Mr Barry Clugston**

Barry Clugston is a farmer from Stawell in western Victoria, with extensive experience as a land manager with farms and natural ecosystems, particularly relating to biodiversity, salinity and Landcare. Barry is chairman of Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation and a former board member of the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and Wimmera Leadership. He is an exhibiting artist and heavily involved in community affairs. Barry is a naturalist who for many years presented a regular wildlife program on ABC radio.

### **Mr Ian Harris**

Ian Harris has had over 30 years experience in the planning and management of land for public use and conservation at both state and local government levels. He has been responsible for on-ground land management in regional Victoria and urban Melbourne as well as statewide policy development and program implementation for national parks and flora and fauna protection.

### **Mr Ian Munro PSM**

Ian Munro is a consultant for the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD), a board member of the Growth Areas Authority and the former Deputy Secretary and CEO, Invest Assist for DIIRD. He has a comprehensive knowledge of government across areas including regional development, infrastructure, technology, the environment, and has chaired or been a member of numerous government expert committees and policy review committees.

### **Dr Airlie Worrall**

Airlie Worrall is a policy analyst by profession and a historian by training. She specialises in rural industry and community policy development. Airlie trained in Australian history at Melbourne University, doing research into 19th century land reform movements and the Victorian wool textiles industry. She has been an academic and an industrial heritage consultant, serving on the National Trust and the Victorian Historic Buildings Council classifications committees. As a policy analyst, she has worked in the Victorian food, textile, wool processing and timber harvesting industries and served as Senior Adviser to several Agriculture Ministers.

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## MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr Gavin Jennings MLC, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, was the Minister responsible for administering the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001* from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

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## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Council met formally eleven times during the 2009–2010 financial year. In addition Councillors attended field inspections for the Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation and the Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation, participated in regional stakeholder workshops for the Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation, and met with the Community Reference Group for the Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation.

### **Council members' attendance at Council meetings from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b> (number of meetings)
Duncan Malcolm	11 of 11
Barry Clugston	11 of 11
Ian Munro	11 of 11
Ian Harris	10 of 11
Airlie Worrall	11 of 11



## REMNANT NATIVE VEGETATION INVESTIGATION

The Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation began in July 2008, following a formal request to VEAC from the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. The terms of reference for the investigation are presented in the box on the right. The investigation area includes public land outside Victoria's 'largely intact' landscapes. Land (both public and private) outside largely-intact landscapes accounts for about 79 percent of the total area of Victoria.

A discussion paper was released for public comment on 28 June 2010, with a submission period ending on Monday 30 August 2010. Notice of preparation of a discussion paper was published on 28 June 2010 as required under section 21 of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*.

The work program for the 2009-2010 year included:

- establishing a Community Reference Group for the investigation (see page 10)
- conducting community and stakeholder workshops to identify major issues for the investigation
- finalising spatial analysis of native vegetation and patterns of fragmentation and connectivity on public and private land
- preparing material for the discussion paper and finalising publication.

The Community Reference Group (CRG) met four times during 2009-2010. With the assistance of the CRG, a series of regional workshops were conducted in six locations around Victoria during November and December 2009 to provide input to the development of the discussion paper: at Benalla, Bendigo, Hamilton, Traralgon, Mildura and Melbourne.

The Scientific Advisory Committee continued to provide advice throughout the year, but did not formally meet.

Expenditure, including salaries and on-costs, for the Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation for the 2009-2010 financial year was \$555, 914.

The Terms of Reference for the Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation are contained in the following box:

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to section 15 of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001* the Minister for Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Council to carry out an investigation of remnant native vegetation on Crown land and public authority land outside of largely-intact landscapes\* across Victoria to identify opportunities for ecological linkages.

The purposes of the investigation are to:

- a identify and evaluate the condition, values, resources and uses of these areas of remnant native vegetation and associated fauna outside largely intact landscapes;
- b assess these areas for their connectivity and contribution to sustainable landscapes in relation to climate change;
- c report on the contribution of these areas of remnant native vegetation to biodiversity conservation, recreation activities, community uses, commercial opportunities, services and utilities in the context of improving connectivity with largely-intact landscapes and freehold land; and
- d report on opportunities for management to achieve improved ecological connectivity.

In addition to the considerations specified in Section 18 of the VEAC Act, the Council must also take into consideration relevant State Government policies, programs, strategies and Ministerial Statements, and relevant regional programs, strategies and plans.

The Council is required to consult the community in accordance with the VEAC Act, to release a Discussion Paper, and to submit a Final Report on the results of its investigation. The Final Report must be submitted by March 2011\*\*.

\* Largely-Intact landscapes have been defined for the purposes of Net Gain Accounting for the Native Vegetation Management Framework as 'contiguous areas of native vegetation greater than 20,000 ha, with high Landscape Context scores and Site Condition scores that are high (or if scores are not high, this is primarily due to natural or semi-natural disturbances)'.  
\*\* Originally March 2010.

## METROPOLITAN MELBOURNE INVESTIGATION

The Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation began in July 2008, following a formal request to VEAC from the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. The investigation area comprises public land within 29 municipalities of metropolitan Melbourne. The terms of reference for the investigation are presented in the box on the right.

The work program for the 2009-2010 year included:

- compiling the public and open space databases for the investigation area
- project managing to completion six commissioned background reports to inform the discussion paper
- establishing a Community Reference Group for the investigation (see page 10)
- engaging with public authorities on their public land holdings and a range of issues relevant to the investigation
- preparing material for the Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation Discussion Paper, which is scheduled to be released in the second half of 2010.

The Community Reference Group met four times during 2009-2010, including one meeting with the Council. Three roundtables with public authority staff were held during the year on issues relevant to the investigation.

Expenditure, including salaries and on-costs, for the Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation for the 2009-2010 financial year was \$634,752.

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to section 15 of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001 the Minister for Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Council to carry out an investigation of Crown land and public authority land in the cities constituting metropolitan Melbourne\*, and the Shire of Cardinia.

The purposes of the metropolitan Melbourne investigation are to:

- a systematically identify and assess the uses, resources, condition, values and management of Crown land, and public authority land in metropolitan Melbourne;
- b assess values of Crown land, and public authority land for areas not committed to a specific use, and report on appropriate future uses relevant to Melbourne's liveability and natural values; and
- c report on the contribution of Crown land, and public authority land to Melbourne's liveability and opportunities for enhancement of this contribution.

In addition to the considerations specified in section 18 of the VEAC Act, the Council would need to take into account the following matters:

- relevant State Government policies, programs, strategies and Ministerial Statements relating to the use of open space in Melbourne, including Melbourne 2030 and Planning for all of Melbourne and Linking People & Spaces;
- public authority plans and strategies such as the Port Phillip Catchment Management Authority Regional Catchment Strategy and Native Vegetation Plan; and
- land required by transport and other utilities for their functions and appropriate access for social, recreational and community activities.

The Council is required to consult with the community in accordance with the VEAC Act, to release a Discussion Paper, and to submit a Final Report on the results of its investigation.

The Final Report must be submitted by May 2011 \*\*.

\* Cities of Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Brimbank, Casey, Dandenong, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melbourne, Melton, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Wyndham, Yarra, Melbourne Docklands.

\*\* Originally May 2010.

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## OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council continued with the following projects which were commenced by the Environment Conservation Council.

### **Land Conservation Council (LCC) / Environment Conservation Council (ECC) records project**

VEAC and the former ECC and LCC have completed 36 investigations over more than 35 years. Those Government-approved recommendations of VEAC and its predecessors provide a framework for use and management of almost all public land across Victoria. Recommendations from these investigations have largely applied a consistent set of public land use categories, as appropriate to each investigation area, and adapted over time. DSE, Parks Victoria and others manage public land in accordance with the uses, and public land use boundaries, specified by past VEAC, ECC and LCC government-approved recommendations.

VEAC's website [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au) includes VEAC's and ECC's final reports and maps, and versions of all LCC final recommendation reports annotated for Government decisions. There are also recommendation maps for each LCC investigation, scanned as published. Further work has focused on the VEACRECS25 dataset.

### **Large-scale digital public land use mapping**

Public land managers, other agencies using public land, local government, industry, consultants and other land users increasingly need large-scale (at least 1:25,000 scale) mapping of public land categories, to clarify boundaries and appropriate uses. The VEACRECS25 dataset provides accurate digital mapping of Government-approved VEAC, ECC, and LCC recommendations for such purposes.

For this project DSE staff initially compile information using the VicMap digital parcel layer. Provisional data has been compiled for 73,860 Crown land parcels, representing 96 per cent of such parcels in Victoria. VEAC staff validate and confirm or correct the public land use for each parcel, providing detailed boundaries using VEAC, ECC and LCC records and digital aerial imagery, as required.

The major focus this year has been to verify and publish public land use data for a substantial proportion of the remaining municipalities, with the aim of completing the VEACRECS25 dataset in 2010/2011. This year 15,763 public land parcels in Mount Alexander, Northern Grampians, Hepburn, Moyne, Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg and Wellington Shires have been checked and returned to DSE for processing and loading into the Department's MapShare Intranet website. In addition to these shires, data was published this year for the 29 Metropolitan Melbourne municipalities.

VEACRECS25 public land use data has now been completed for 49,824 parcels in 58 of Victoria's 79 municipalities, representing 65% of all Victorian Crown parcels. Amendments have also been processed to maintain the data. This mapping and associated data are available for all DSE staff.

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## ADMINISTRATION

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council office is located on Level 6, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne Vic 3002.

**Telephone** (03) 9637 9902

**Fax** (03) 9637 8024

**Toll Free Number** 1800 134 803

**E-mail** [veac@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:veac@dse.vic.gov.au)

**Website** [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au)

**Chief Executive Officer** Ms Joan Phillips

The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for managing the office and staff.

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## CONSULTANCIES

A consultancy has been defined as an arrangement where an individual or organisation is engaged:

- to provide expert analysis and advice which facilitates decision making
- to perform a specific, one-off task or set of tasks
- to perform a task involving skills or perspectives which would not normally be expected to reside within the agency.

No consultancies for amounts greater than \$100,000 were entered into during 2009-2010. VEAC engaged two consultants during 2009-2010 for the Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation at a total cost of \$18,584 (excludes GST).

## COMMITTEES

VEAC is required to establish a Community Reference Group to provide advice in respect of each investigation. The Council may also appoint any committees that it considers necessary to assist with conduct of investigations. Membership of committees is not restricted to members of the Council.

### Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation Community Reference Group

Four meetings of the Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation Community Reference Group were held during 2009–2010. The group of nine members (including an independent Chairperson) represented a wide range of stakeholder interests, as follows:

Name*	Organisation
Ms Christine Forster	Independent Chairperson
Ms Ailsa Fox	Victorian Farmers' Federation
Mr Euan Moore	Birds Australia
Mr Luke Murphy	Municipal Association of Victoria
Ms Jenny Lau	Victoria Naturally Alliance
Ms Jill McFarlane	Victorian Conservation Management Network Advisory Group
Mr Ian Stevenson	Country Fire Authority
Mr Glen Terry	Greening Australia
Mr Russell Costello	Victorian National Parks Association

\*Membership as at 30 June 2010

### Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation Community Reference Group

Four meetings of the Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation Community Reference Group were held during 2009–2010. The group consisted of ten members (including an independent Chairperson):

Name*	Organisation
Ms Jan Macpherson	Independent Chairperson
Cr Sam Alessi	Municipal Association of Victoria
Dr Bob Birrell	Director of Centre for Population and Urban Research, Monash University
Mr Garry Brennan	Bicycle Victoria
Dr Phillip Brotchie	Bushwalking Victoria
Mr Pat Corr	Member of Arthurs Creek Landcare Group and WACMAC Landcare
Mr Maelor Himbury	The Victorian Environment Friends Network
Ms Diane Kerr	Wurundjeri Tribe Land and Compensation Heritage Council Inc.
Ms Anne McGregor	Victorian National Parks Association
Dr Mardie Townsend	Associate Dean of the School of Health and Social Development, Deakin University

\*Membership as at 30 June 2010

### Scientific Advisory Group

A Scientific Advisory Group for the Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation was appointed in December 2008. The group continued to provide advice but did not formally meet during the 2009–2010. The membership of the group was as follows during 2009–2010:

Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation Scientific Advisory Group Members
Mr Rod Gowans, PSM (Chair)
Professor Andrew Bennett
Dr Sue McIntyre
Dr Denis A Saunders, AM

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## DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairperson and all members completed Declarations of Interest, which were forwarded to the Minister.

Chief Executive Officer Ms Joan Phillips completed a declaration which has been forwarded to the Minister.

All returns are confidential.

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## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Council's operating funds were provided as a part of recurrent funds appropriated to the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The financial operations of the Council have not been separately audited. Audited statements are incorporated into the overall Financial Statements of the Department of Sustainability and Environment Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2010. The table below shows expenditure incurred.

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2008-2009</b>	<b>2007-2008</b>	<b>2006-2007</b>	<b>2005-2006</b>
Salaries and oncosts	1,084,026	960,229	798,952	945,685	974,151
Operating	566,885	683,096	736,485	1,044,810	489,489
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,650,911</b>	<b>1,643,326</b>	<b>1,535,438</b>	<b>1,990,495</b>	<b>1,463,640</b>

There were no significant changes in financial position during the year.

## STAFFING

Employment Type	2009 (a)			2010 (b)		
	Male	Female	Total staff	Male	Female	Total staff
Ongoing	2	2	4	2	4	6
Fixed term	0	5	5	0	7	7
Temporary or contract employees	2	3	5	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>

Notes:

**a** Relates to payroll and contract staff as at 30 June 2009

**b** Relates to payroll and contract staff as at 30 June 2010

Note: VEAC staff are also included in employment statistics for the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

## ORGANISATION CHART



As at 30 June 2010.

## MERIT AND EQUITY

Victorian Public Service merit and equity principles are applied in the appointment and management of staff. VEAC follows the merit and equity principles used by DSE, in accordance with Government directives and the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

Three primary goals have been assumed by VEAC with regard to people management practices:

- develop and sustain an organisational culture in which policies, practices and services are adapted to the needs of the community
- ensure a workplace free from policies and practices that discriminate against staff or potential staff
- ensure that staff have access to a fair, efficient grievance review process to resolve perceived breaches of merit and equity.

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## COMPLIANCE

- The Council adheres to the principles of the National Competition Policy (NCP) to ensure that any business competition with private entities takes place in an environment where the Council has no unfair competitive advantages.
- During the year the Council did not enter into any contracts to which the *Victorian Industry Participation Policy Act 2003* applied.
- The Council uses Department of Sustainability and Environment facilities.
- The Council utilises Department of Sustainability and Environment Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures.
- There were no major changes or factors affecting performance.
- The Council is committed to the requirements of the Premier's Circular 2006/1, in relation to community inclusiveness, and applies these requirements in its operations where possible.

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## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Council.

Freedom of Information requests are made in writing describing the documents requested and including payment of the \$23.90 application fee. Further charges may be payable. Freedom of Information fees and charges are not subject to GST. Requests to the Council should be sent to the authorised Freedom of Information Officer. The telephone contact number is (03) 9637 9902 or enquiries can be e-mailed to [rebecca.hartnett@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.hartnett@dse.vic.gov.au). The mailing address is: 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne 3002.

### Principal Officer

Mr Duncan Malcolm, Chairperson

### Authorised Officer

Ms Rebecca Hartnett,  
Senior Administrative Officer

### Operations

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2010, there were no valid requests. There were no requests outstanding as at 30 June 2010.

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## WHISTLEBLOWERS PROTECTION ACT

The *Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001* is designed to protect people who disclose information about serious wrongdoing within the Victorian Public Sector and to provide a framework for the investigation of these matters.

The Protected Disclosure Coordinator for the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) acts as an agent for the Council to receive disclosures under the Act, and applies DSE procedures in managing disclosures. Disclosures may also be made directly to the Ombudsman.

- There were no disclosures made to the Council.
- There were no disclosures referred by the Council to the Ombudsman for determination.
- There were no public interest disclosures referred to the Council by the Ombudsman.
- There were no disclosed matters referred by the Council to the Ombudsman to investigate.
- There were no investigations of disclosed matters taken over by the Ombudsman from the Council.
- There were no requests made under section 74 to the Ombudsman to investigate disclosed matters.
- There were no disclosed matters that the Council declined to investigate.

Disclosures of improper conduct by the Council or its employees may be made to the following:

### Jennifer Berensen

Manager, Privacy  
Department of Sustainability and Environment

PO Box 500, East Melbourne Vic 3002

**Telephone** 9637 8697

**E-mail** [privacy.enquiries@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:privacy.enquiries@dse.vic.gov.au)

### The Ombudsman Victoria

Level 9, 459 Collins Street,  
Melbourne Vic 3000

**Telephone** 9613 6222

**Toll free** 1800 806 314

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## INFORMATION PRIVACY ACT

VEAC complies with the ten information privacy principles in place that help to form the Information Privacy Act 2000. This includes handling the collection of personal information in a responsible manner. The coordinator of privacy issues for the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is:

**Jennifer Berensen** Manager, Privacy  
Department of Sustainability and Environment  
PO Box 500, East Melbourne Vic 3002

**Telephone** 9637 8697

**E-mail** [privacy.enquiries@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:privacy.enquiries@dse.vic.gov.au)

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## RISK MANAGEMENT

While VEAC examines the risks of delivery of its particular work functions and objectives on an ongoing basis, it relies on the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) risk management framework and internal audit of financial and other administrative systems which are used by the VEAC's Secretariat. Please refer to the DSE annual report for further information.

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## ASSISTANCE TO COUNCIL

Council receives significant assistance from government departments and agencies, local government, private organisations, and from interested members of the community. This assistance has been an integral part of Council being able to meet its objectives for the past year.

The Council would also like to acknowledge the support it received during the year from its skilled and committed staff. The excellent reputation of VEAC and its predecessor bodies, the Land Conservation Council and the Environment Conservation Council, is very dependent on the knowledge and expertise of its staff. VEAC's investigation model has particular strengths in bringing together the best data and science and taking it to the community for input and discussion, before developing authoritative advice for Government. This is made possible through VEAC's specialist capabilities in areas such as spatial analysis and mapping, ecology, policy, community engagement and project management. All of these capabilities have been drawn on during the year in developing discussion papers for the Remnant Native Vegetation Investigation and the Metropolitan Melbourne Investigation.

Department of Sustainability and Environment units such as Human Resources, Finance, Occupational Health and Safety, and Information Systems have also provided support to Council and this support is gratefully acknowledged.



## DISCLOSURE INDEX

The 2009–2010 Annual Report of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation.

This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Council's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

Legislation	Requirement	Page No.
<b>MINISTERIAL DIRECTIONS</b>		
<b>REPORT OF OPERATIONS</b>		
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FRD 22B	Organisational structure	12
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FRD 10	Disclosure index	15
FRD 12A	Disclosure of major contracts	Nil
FRD 15B	Executive Officer disclosures	N/A
FRD 22B	Operational and budgetary objectives and performance against objectives	7-9, 12
FRD 22B	Employment and conduct principles	12
FRD 22B	Occupational health and safety policy	13
FRD 22B	Summary of the financial results for the year	Nil
FRD 22B	Significant changes in financial position during the year	Nil
FRD 22B	Major changes or factors affecting performance	Nil
FRD 22B	Subsequent events	Nil
FRD 22B	Application and operation of Freedom of Information Act 1982	13
FRD 22B	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of Building Act 1993	Nil
FRD 22B	Statement on National Competition Policy	13
FRD 22B	Application and operation of the <i>Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001</i>	13
FRD 22B	Details of consultancies over \$100,000	9
FRD 22B	Details of consultancies under \$100,000	9
FRD 22B	Statement of availability of other information	15
FRD 24C	Reporting of office based environmental impacts	Nil
FRD 25	Victorian Industry Participation Policy disclosures	13
FRD 29	Workforce Data disclosures	Nil
SD 4.5.5	Risk management compliance attestation	Nil
SD 4.2(g)	General information requirements	7-9
SD 4.2(j)	Sign-off requirements	2
<b>LEGISLATION</b>		
	Financial Management Act 1994	N/A
	Freedom of Information Act 1982	13
	Whistleblowers Protection Act 2001	13

### STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INFORMATION

- Overseas travel undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit – nil
- Assessments and measures undertaken to improve the Occupational Health and Safety of employees #
- Publications produced by the entity about itself, and how these can be obtained \*
- A general statement on IR within the entity and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes – not applicable
- Major research and development activities undertaken – nil

- Major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the to develop community awareness of the Council and its services – see Investigations
  - A list of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved - nil
  - Major external reviews that were carried out on the Council – nil.
- # See Department of Sustainability & Environment Annual Report
- \* This information is held by the Senior Administrative Officer and can be made available to Ministers, Members of Parliament and the public on request.







Victorian  
Environmental  
Assessment  
Council

[www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au)