



# ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021

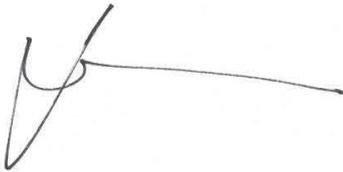
Victorian  
Environmental  
Assessment  
Council



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP  
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
Parliament House  
East 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 nineteenth Annual Report, covering our activities for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.



Janine Haddow  
Chairperson  
Victorian Environmental Assessment Council  
30 June 2021

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## Accessibility

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**Cover photos from top to bottom:**

LCC Ballarat Area: *Council field inspection 1981*

LCC Alpine Area: *Botanist Jim Willis at Moroka Hut 1979*

LCC East Gippsland Review: *Demonstration against woodchipping, mid-1980s*

VEAC Historic Places Investigation: *Council field inspection 2015*

# CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to provide this annual report for the year ended 30 June 2021 to the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, in accordance with the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*.

This year is a landmark one for VEAC. Fifty years ago, VEAC's predecessor organisation, the Land Conservation Council, was established in the wake of the fierce dispute over the agricultural development of public land in Victoria's Little Desert. The LCC first met in April 1971. Since then, through two name changes and new legislation, this model of decision making – unique in Australia and internationally – has remained a respected and enduring feature of Victoria's approach to public land policy and management.

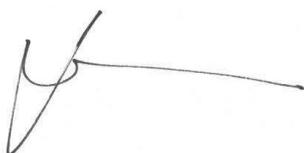
The 50th anniversary is an important opportunity for acknowledgement and celebration – and to pay tribute to all of those who have been involved in the work of the LCC and its successor organisations. We are proud of the role we have played and continue to play in establishing the current framework for public land use in Victoria.

To celebrate this important anniversary, VEAC is conducting a program of events throughout 2021. A successful online symposium was held in March to showcase environmental and social research on Victoria's public land and the contribution of science to policy and management. This event also marked ten years of the Bill Borthwick Student Scholarships. In this half-day symposium, we heard from more than 20 postgraduate students, public land managers and scientists who conduct research on public land.

In relation to VEAC's formal work program of investigations, assessments and advice, VEAC received a request in November 2020 from the Minister for advice on aspects of public land use information: in particular, data on recreational activities and on a key dataset holding information on public land decisions. The Government response to the recommendations in VEAC's Central West Investigation Final Report was also tabled in Parliament on 24 June 2021.

These are extraordinary times due to the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Victoria and around the world. The Council took the opportunity of the resulting reduced field and community-based program this year to undertake a review of business operations and organisational capability to ensure that they continue to effectively support delivery of our independent advice to government.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance and support the council receives from state government departments and agencies, Traditional Owners, local government, organisations and community groups and members of the public. Thanks also to VEAC's staff and to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning who provide the business services and support for VEAC to carry out its work.



**Janine Haddow**  
Chairperson

# VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COUNCIL

## OUR PURPOSE

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council was established under 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 Sections 4 and 5 of the VEAC Act).

## OUR VALUES

- We think long term
- We use evidence and expertise as the foundation of our work
- We act conscientiously in the public interest
- We seek out and listen to diverse voices
- We treat everyone with respect
- We work independently and are accountable for our activities

## OUR FUNCTIONS

The Council:

- carries out investigations and assessments and provides advice as requested by the Minister on matters relating to the protection and ecologically sustainable management of the environment and natural resources of public land
- carries 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 the Council is 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 Environment, Land Water and Planning (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



(L-R) Ms Janine Haddow, Ms Joanne Duncan, Ms Anna Kilborn, Dr Charles Meredith, Dr Geoffrey Wescott

Members of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council are appointed under the provisions of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*. Members for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 were Ms Janine Haddow (Chairperson), Ms Joanne Duncan, Ms Anna Kilborn, Dr Charles Meredith and Dr Geoffrey Wescott.

### **Ms Janine Haddow (Chairperson)**

Janine Haddow is a strategic planning and stakeholder engagement consultant. She has extensive policy, planning and operational experience in the environment and natural resource management sectors including public land and park management, catchment and coastal management, forestry and biodiversity conservation.

Currently Deputy Chair of the Gunaikurnai Traditional Owners Land Management Board Janine is also a past Director of the Mt Buller Alpine Resort Board, North Central Catchment Management Authority and the Victorian Catchment Management Council.

Janine has qualifications in political science, education, landscape architecture and environmental planning and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Williamson Community Leadership Program and the Australian New Zealand School of Government Senior Executive program.

### **Ms Joanne Duncan**

Joanne Duncan was elected to the Legislative Assembly seat of Gisborne in 1999 (later transferring to Macedon in 2002) which she represented until her retirement from politics in 2014.

During her time in Parliament, Joanne was a member of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee (1999 to November 2010 and May 2011 to November 2014).

Joanne is a member of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Advisory Panel, a past board director of Western Water, and also chaired the stakeholder reference group for the review of the native vegetation permitted clearing regulations.

### **Ms Anna Kilborn**

Anna Kilborn is a strategic environmental planner and stakeholder engagement practitioner, with 30 years' experience across Australia in natural resource management, regional infrastructure and economic development, environmental strategy and policy. In her career, Anna has provided professional advice to a wide range of organisations, including private enterprise, three tiers of government, and community groups.

Anna has previously served as a Member for Regional Development Australia's Gippsland Committee, as a sessional member for Planning Panels Victoria, and as a Board Director for South Gippsland Water Corporation. Anna is a graduate of the AICD's Company Directors Course.

Anna lives in regional Victoria, is active in her community, and strives to incorporate long-term vision and intergenerational needs into public land management.

### **Dr Charles Meredith**

Charles Meredith is an ecologist and consultant with extensive experience in natural systems and conservation planning. After an early career in wildlife research, Charles founded the ecological and heritage consulting firm Biosis Research P/L and was CEO there from 1984 until he retired in 2011.

During that time, he worked on environmental impact assessments of many major projects, prepared a broad range of natural area management plans, and provided strategic and policy advice on environmental matters to a diverse array of organisations, both public and private.

Charles has regularly served on committees and advisory boards for NGOs, professional bodies and government and is currently a Trustee of the Trust for Nature.

### **Dr Geoffrey Wescott**

Geoff Wescott has recently retired as Associate Professor at Deakin University where his main teaching and research interests were around the relationship between science and policy, nature and conservation – particularly the role of large-scale conservation networks and marine and coastal policy.

Geoff is immediate past President of the Australian Coastal Society and a Director of Zoos Victoria. He has previously been a Deputy Chair of Parks Victoria, a member of the National Oceans Advisory Council and a member of the Victorian Coastal Council. He is a current member of the Advisory Council of the International Land Conservation Network and the IUCN Commission on Parks and Protected Areas and was Chair of Victoria's National Parks Advisory Council for a decade.

He has published more than 170 books, chapters, technical reports and popular articles. Geoff was also Chair of the Government's Expert Panel making recommendations on a new Marine and Coastal Act for Victoria. He is now an Honorary Principal Fellow at the University of Melbourne.

## MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, was the responsible Minister for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Council met formally 9 times during the 2020-2021 financial year.

### Council members' attendance at council meetings from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

NAME	ATTENDANCE (number of meetings)
Janine Haddow	8 of 9
Joanne Duncan	9 of 9
Anna Kilborn	9 of 9
Charles Meredith	8 of 9
Geoffrey Wescott	9 of 9

## ADMINISTRATION

The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council office is located on level 39, 2 Lonsdale St, Melbourne, 3000.

**Telephone** (03) 9637 9902  
**Toll free number** 1800 134 803  
**Email** [veac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:veac@delwp.vic.gov.au)  
**Website** [www.veac.vic.gov.au](http://www.veac.vic.gov.au)  
**Executive Officer** Joan Phillips

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

## INVESTIGATIONS

VEAC did not undertake any investigations in 2020-2021.

The Government response to the recommendations in VEAC's Central West Investigation Final Report was tabled in Parliament on 24 June 2021. The final report was submitted to the Minister and publicly released in June 2019.

## ASSESSMENTS AND ADVICE

### ASSESSMENT OF VICTORIA'S COASTAL RESERVES

The report on the assessment was submitted to the Minister in March 2020 and tabled in June 2020. The Government response to the recommendations in the final report was tabled in Parliament on 5 August 2021.

### ADVICE ON ASPECTS OF PUBLIC LAND USE INFORMATION

In November 2020 VEAC was requested by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, to provide advice on aspects of public land use information. The request is for technical advice on aspects of public land use information and does not extend to recommending changes to public land use.

The advice will focus on:

- (a) data on recreational activities on Victoria's public land and any significant knowledge gaps relating to those activities, and
- (b) improvements to the VEACRECs25 dataset.

VEACRECs25 is a dataset maintained by VEAC that provides a spatial representation at 1:25,000 scale of the public land use decisions of the Victorian Government or Parliament, including the government-accepted recommendations of VEAC and its predecessors (the Environment Conservation Council and the Land Conservation Council). VEACRECs25 is a key tool to help land managers and the community understand the purpose for which public land is to be managed.

The terms of reference for the Advice on Aspects of Public Land Use Information are contained in the box on the next page.

## Activities In 2020-2021

VEAC prepared progress updates in June 2021 for the two areas specified in the terms of reference: (a) data on recreational activities on Victoria's public land and (b) improvements to the VEACRECs25 dataset on public land use decisions.

## Expenditure

Expenditure, including salaries and on-costs, for the Advice on Aspects of Public Land Use Information for the 2020-2021 financial year was \$338,150.

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to section 26B of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Council to provide advice on:

- a) data on recreational activities on Victoria's public land and any significant knowledge gaps relating to those activities
- b) improvements to the VEACRECs25 dataset.

This request is for technical advice on aspects of public land use information and does not extend to recommending changes to public land use.

## **a) data on recreational activities on Victoria's public land and any significant knowledge gaps relating to those activities**

A range of data on different recreational activities on Victoria's public land is required to support government planning and evidence-based decision-making.

The advice sought is to compile an inventory of statewide data on the broad range of recreational activities on Victoria's public land and identify any significant knowledge gaps. VEAC is requested to provide advice on:

- data coverage and availability (both geographically and by recreational activity)
- data quality, including any inconsistencies
- data custodianship
- age of the data
- suitability of the data for Victorian Government planning, reporting and decision-making
- knowledge gaps.

## **b) Improving the VEACRECs25 dataset**

VEACRECs25 is a dataset maintained by VEAC that provides a spatial representation at 1:25,000 scale of the public land use decisions of the Victorian Government or Parliament, including the government-accepted recommendations of VEAC and its predecessors (the Environment Conservation Council and the Land Conservation Council). VEACRECs25 is a key tool to help land managers and the community understand the purpose for which public land is to be managed.

VEAC is requested to provide advice on issues and gaps in the VEACRECs25 dataset and how this important tool could be improved, including:

- any issues that need to be resolved to ensure Victoria has an accurate record of agreed public land use;
- any aspects of the current data that need clarification; Page 2 of 2 OFFICIAL
- the broad types and extent of uncategorised public land<sup>1</sup>
- any improvements to the functionality of VEACRECs25 to assist public land managers and support future legislative reforms; and
- establishing an online accessible repository of relevant information sources for the government decisions represented in VEACRECs25.

The government has committed to modernise Victoria's public land legislation in the Victorian Government Response to VEAC's Statewide Assessment of Public Land Final Report. The improved VEACRECs25 dataset will assist in the transition to the new legislative framework.

## **Reporting**

VEAC must provide reports containing its advice within 12 months from the date of the request, with separate reports for topics (a) and (b). VEAC must also provide a progress update on its work within 6 months of the request and make this information publicly available.

<sup>1</sup> Uncategorised public land is a broad category for which no specific public land use has been recommended by VEAC or its predecessors. Victoria is estimated to have less than 65,000 hectares of uncategorised public land.

# BILL BORTHWICK STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2021

The Bill Borthwick Student Scholarships assist with some of the costs of research for students undertaking Honours, Masters or PhD research projects relating to public land in Victoria in the fields of natural sciences, humanities and social sciences, economics or politics. The scholarships were established in March 2011 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the first meeting of the Land Conservation Council (LCC) and to honour the vision of the Hon Bill Borthwick, a central figure in establishing the LCC to advise government on the use of Victoria's public land. The 2021 scholarships totalling \$6,533 were awarded to five recipients.



*Luke Richards,  
2021 scholarship recipient*

The recipients of the 2021 scholarships are:

**Kristin Agost, Deakin University (Hons)**

*'Assessment of mammal refuges in the Otways'*

The scholarship will assist with the costs associated with accommodation, transport and bait.

**Samuel Holleran, University of Melbourne (PhD)**

*'Cemeteries as civic places'*

The scholarship will assist with the costs associated with field work including transport and accommodation.

**Mark La Pla, University of Melbourne (PhD)**

*'Evaluating the response of feral cats and foxes to fire and intensive, localised lethal control in the Otway Ranges'*

The scholarship will assist with the costs of accommodation.

**Luke Richards, Monash University (MSc)**

*'Harnessing open source technology to measure soil health and manage ecosystems, from the ground up'*

The scholarship will assist with the costs associated with field work equipment and travel.

**Dylan Westaway, Charles Sturt University (PhD)**

*'Wild-to-wild translocation of reptiles in fire-prone landscapes'*

The scholarship will assist with the costs of purchasing camera traps.

## COMMITTEES

VEAC is required to establish a community reference group to provide advice in respect of each investigation. Community reference groups are not required in respect of assessments or advice unless directed by the Minister or specified in the terms of reference. The Council may also appoint any committees that it considers necessary to assist with conduct of investigations.

There were no continuing groups and VEAC did not establish any committees or community reference groups in 2020-2021.

## CONSULTANCIES

A consultant is a particular type of contractor that is engaged primarily to perform a discrete task for an entity that facilitates decision making through:

- provision of expert analysis and advice, and/or
- development of a written report or other intellectual output.

In 2020-2021, there were no consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultant were \$10,000 or greater.

In 2020-2021, there were no consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were less than \$10,000.

## DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The Chairperson and all members completed Declarations of Private Interests.

Executive Officer Joan Phillips and Senior Project Manager Paul Peake have also completed declarations.

All returns are confidential.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Council's operating funds were provided through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The financial operations of the Council have not been separately audited. Audited statements are incorporated into the overall Financial Statements of DELWP's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2021. The table below shows expenditure incurred. This includes expenditure for the Advice on Aspects of Public Land Use Information of \$338,150 (see page 9).

There were no significant changes in financial position during the reporting period.

EXPENSES	2020-2021	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Salaries and oncosts	866,437	896,835	1,406,817	1,123,174	1,129,791
Operating	348,865	377,050	955,873	431,045	505,048
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,215,302</b>	<b>1,273,885</b>	<b>2,362,689</b>	<b>1,554,219</b>	<b>1,634,839</b>

## WORKFORCE DATA

EMPLOYMENT	2020 (A)			2019 (B)		
	Male	Female	Total staff	Male	Female	Total staff
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6 (FTE 5.6)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7 (FTE 6.6)</b>

Notes:

(A) relates to payroll and contract staff as at 30 June 2021

(B) relates to payroll and contract staff as at 30 June 2020

Note: Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections. VEAC staff are also included in employment statistics for DELWP for 2020-2021.

## 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 DELWP, 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 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.

## COMPLIANCE

In accordance with the reporting directions, the annual report must include a statement about compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*. The Council makes use of buildings and facilities controlled by DELWP to perform its functions and does not own or control any buildings.

The Council utilises DELWP's Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures.

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.

Government policy requires disclosure of all Government Advertising Expenditure with a total media buy of \$100,000 or greater (exclusive of GST). No Government Advertising Expenditure was incurred by the Council during the reporting period.

## SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The Government's aim of improved environmental management is supported by a requirement that Departments disclose their ongoing performance in managing and reducing the environmental impacts of their office-based activities. The Council makes use of DELWP offices and facilities to perform its functions and the reporting requirement of the office is met by DELWP. The VEAC office participates fully in a range of environmental programs undertaken by DELWP, including:

- separation of reusable, recyclable, compostable and landfill waste
- use of Green Power
- use of flow restricted taps and waterless urinals
- use of recycled paper and use of duplex printing
- environmentally sustainable fitouts, and
- regular use by staff of public transport, cycling or walking to and from work.

# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) EXPENDITURE

VEAC falls under the umbrella of DELWP with regard to ICT and providing business-enabling ICT services. Please refer to DELWP Annual Report 2020-2021.

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* gives everyone the right to seek access to documents held by the Council. It is worth contacting the Council in the first instance to find out if you can access the information without making an FOI application.

FOI requests can be lodged online at <https://ovic.vic.gov.au>. Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning's Freedom of Information team, as detailed in s17 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Requests for documents in the possession of VEAC should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Officer  
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning  
GPO Box 527  
Melbourne Vic 3001

The cost of an FOI application is \$30.10; however, access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large, and the search for material, time consuming. Further information is available from the website FOI Online ([www.foi.vic.gov.au](http://www.foi.vic.gov.au)).

### Operations

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2021 there were no requests.

There were no requests outstanding as at 30 June 2021.

# PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (PD Act) enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The Act aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

## COMPLIANCE WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT 2012

The PD Act was part of a package of integrity reforms introduced by the Victorian Government, which also established the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC).

The PD Act enables people to make disclosures about improper conduct within the public sector without fear of reprisal. It aims to ensure openness and accountability by encouraging people to make disclosures and protecting them when they do.

## WHAT IS A 'PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE'?

A public interest disclosure is a complaint of corrupt or improper conduct or detrimental action by a public officer or a public body.

VEAC is a "public body" for the purposes of the Act.

## WHAT IS 'IMPROPER OR CORRUPT CONDUCT'?

Improper or corrupt conduct involves substantial:

- mismanagement of public resources; or
- risk to public health or safety or the environment; or
- corruption.

"Detrimental action" is action taken against a person in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure.

## HOW DO I MAKE A 'PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURE'?

You can make a public interest disclosure about VEAC or its board members, officers or employees by contacting DELWP or IBAC on the contact details provided below.

Please note that VEAC is not able to receive public interest disclosures.

## HOW CAN I ACCESS DELWP'S PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS FROM DETRIMENTAL ACTION?

DELWP has established procedures for the protection of persons from detrimental action in reprisal for making a public interest disclosure about VEAC or its employees. You can access DELWP's procedures on its website at: [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au).

## CONTACTS

### Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

Address: PO Box 500, East Melbourne Vic 3002

Phone: 1800 903 877

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

### Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) Victoria

Address: Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street, Melbourne Victoria 3001.

Mail: IBAC, GPO Box 24234, Melbourne Victoria 3000

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

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: see the website above for the secure email disclosure process, which also provides for anonymous disclosures.

## **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 DELWP is:

Manager, Privacy  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning  
PO Box 500, East Melbourne VIC 3002  
Telephone: (03) 9637 8697

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

While VEAC examines the risk of delivery of its particular work functions and objectives on an ongoing basis, it relies on the DELWP risk management framework and internal audit of financial and other administrative systems which are used by the VEAC office. Please refer to the DELWP annual report for further information.

## **GIFTS, BENEFITS AND HOSPITALITY ATTESTATION**

I, Joan Phillips, Executive Officer of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council, certify that:

- my public entity has policies and procedures in place that are consistent with the minimum requirements and accountabilities outlined in the Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Policy Framework issued by the Public Sector Standards Commissioner; and
- staff are informed about these gifts, benefits and hospitality policies and procedures.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH DATAVIC ACCESS POLICY**

Consistent with the Victorian Government's DataVic Access Policy (2012), the Council intends that data tables that it may produce in the future will be available at <http://data.vic.gov.au/> in machine readable format.

# STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INFORMATION

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Direction of the Minister for Finance, details in respect to the items listed below have been retained by the Council and are available on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

This information is available on request from:

Joan Phillips, Executive Officer, Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

Phone: 9637 9902

Email: [veac@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:veac@delwp.vic.gov.au)

- Publications produced by the entity about itself, and how these can be obtained

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INCLUDED IN ANNUAL REPORT

Details in respect of the following items have been included in this report:

- Major research and development activities undertaken – see Investigations and Assessments
- Major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken to develop community awareness of the Council and its services – see Investigations and Assessments
- A list of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved – see Committees

## INFORMATION THAT IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THE COUNCIL

The following information is not relevant to the Council for the reasons set out below:

- Overseas travel undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit -Nil
- Details of changes in prices, fees, charges and levies charged - Nil
- Assessments and measures undertaken to improve the Occupational Health and Safety of employees #
- A general statement on IR within the entity and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes #
- Major external reviews that were carried out on the Council -Nil

# See DELWP Annual Report 2020-2021.

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