

A guiding framework for collaboration and engagement between Community Landcare and Regional NRM organisations



The framework builds on recognition that we are stronger together in achieving outcomes for communities and landscapes. It outlines principles for delivering on our shared objectives, and the mechanisms designed to bring these principles to life.

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THE CHAIRS' JOINT FOREWORD

STRESSORS

WE ARE HERE FOR OUR MEMBERS, BUT EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT WE ARE ALL HERE FOR A HEALTHY TOMORROW.

NATIONAL LANDCARE NETWORK

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PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK

The National Statement of Collaboration Principles is a guiding framework co-designed to support Community Landcare and Regional NRMs as they work together to ensure effective and efficient outcomes for the environment. In outlining principles and mechanisms for delivering on our shared objectives, the framework has provided an opportunity for the National Landcare Network and NRM Regions Australia to redefine our strategic national partnership.

THE PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK IS TO:

- Help us improve outcomes for our communities and landscapes;
- Demonstrate the value of the NRM and Landcare system to our members, partners and funders;
- Inform our members and others about how we work around the country; and
- Demonstrate ways we can encourage a positive culture of collaboration and engagement across the entire sector.

OUR SHARED GOALS

...a guiding framework co-designed to support Community Landcare and Regional NRMs as they work together to ensure effective

> Natural Resource Management in Australia is continuously evolving to meet the challenges of our times. This framework lays the foundations for the next five years, recognising how important both Landcare and the Regional NRM organisations are to environmental management, community resilience ecosystem restoration in Australia. NRM organisations oversee the creation of Regional NRM Plans and integrated delivery and funding processes. Community Landcare* is a grassroots network across Australia, leading in long-term communitybased environmental volunteerism and knowledge exchange that supports on-ground NRM delivery.

> Community Landcare and Regional NRM Organisations across Australia share a common purpose in addressing significant challenges faced by communities in land stewardship, natural resource management, and farm

productivity. As a sector together, we strive for soil, water, landscape and habitat health outcomes against a backdrop of increasing climate extremes. Our shared goals guide the establishment of enduring and productive relationships to build our sector, the communities we serve, and the resilience of our landscapes.

There is diversity in our organisational ecosystem and some overlap in our respective roles and goals. To achieve our common objective, overlapping boundaries are beneficial as this provides the system with a buffer in line with established resilience principles. However, we need to define some principles for our collaboration, to guide our dynamic relationships, and especially to provide a process that helps to clarify roles and functions at the state and regional level.

Note throughout the text Landcare is inclusive of coast, land, bush, water, and river care groups and friends of organisations.



Purpose 1. Help us improve outcomes for our communities and landscapes.

Purpose 2. Show the value of NRM and Landcare to our members, partners and funders.

Purpose 3. Inform our members and others about how we work around the country.

Purpose 4. Demonstrate ways we can improve cutlure, engagement and alignment

Outcome: Supportive and productive relationships between the NRM Sector and Community Landcare.

Sub-Outcome: NRM people and Landcare people recognise and value the importance of collaboration and behave in supportive ways.

Sub-Outcome: Governments and other stakeholders recognise that NRM and Landcare are working together to inform, and implement policy.

Output:

National Statement of Collaboration Principles

Output:

NRM orgnisations and the Landcare community maintain effective working relationships at the regional scale

Output:

NRM orgnisations and Landcare leaders and staff have access to resources and guidance materials that support collaboration

Measure of success

National Measure:

National
Chairs/Boards
and CEO's enjoy
a trusting,
productive
relationship

Indicators: evel of satisfaction

via feedback; regular meetings of Chairs/CEOs

State/Regional Measure:

At a regional level, a mutually benefical relationship

Indicators:

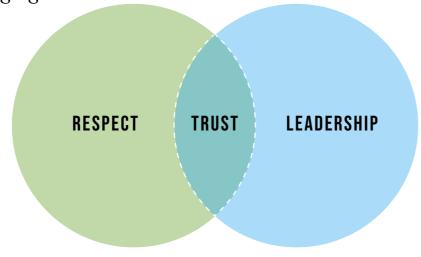
MOUs; Collaboration in roject developmen and the efficient location of project resources

PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

The Collaboration Principles provide a foundation for the relationship between the National Landcare Network & NRM Regions Australia acknowledging that:

- Both networks have a critical role in environmental/natural resource management in Australia.
- Advantages to sharing roles are recognised and encouraged, particularly as having extra buffers in the system enhances resilience.
- Many activities are scale dependent and require social or place-based processes to succeed.
- Local and regional processes need to be recognised as parallel, nested or overlapping to foster collaboration.
- We respect the differences between each organisation's directions and priorities.
- We work to articulate, acknowledge and understand our respective roles and responsibilities (both locally and regionally) to increase alignment and collaboration, in doing so, we acknowledge that this will look different around the country.

The principles below have been proposed to guide effective collaboration between Community Landcare and Regional NRM Organisations.



RESPECT

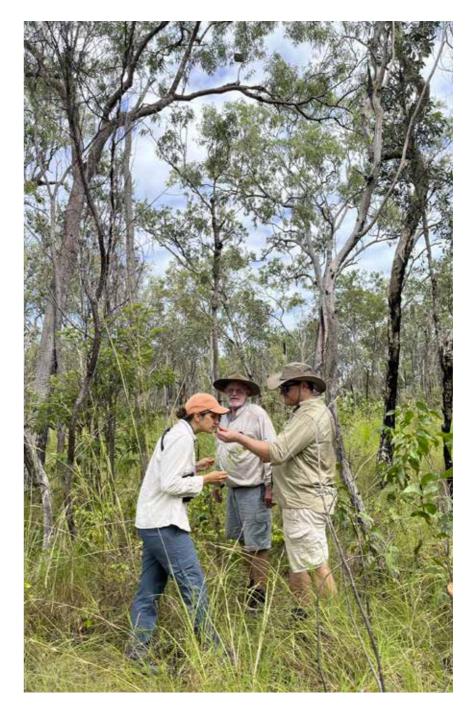
- Model the behaviours, walking the talk
- · Focus on the commonalities
- · Recognise and advocate for each other

LEADER -SHIP

- Acknowledge and respect the differences between each organisation's directions and priorities.
- Where there are opportunities for mutual benefit, work together to achieve reciprocity.
- Show commitment to our relationship, working to resolve differences early and in-house.

TRUST

- Engage in open and transparent exchange of information as appropriate.
- Share challenges while viewing perceived threats as potential opportunities.
- Take time to build understanding at all levels of our organisations.



DELIVERING STRONGER COLLABORATION

The objectives of this framework could be achieved through any number of the following mechanisms or activities as co-designed at the local and regional scale:

- MOUs at various levels (that are aligned by principles, values and behaviours)
- Joint events such as field days and workshops (with collaboration in organising the events but also through joint presentations/ delivery)
- Collaborative projects with Joint Steering Committee representation, as appropriate
- Role modelling a collaborative approach to all our members and communities
- Establishing communication protocols at the jurisdictional and regional level that work for all parties
- Establishing a Working Group at the national level
- Joint media and publications around key stories and case studies
- Collaboratively participating in planning processes, providing input into plans, and reviewing draft documents with assurances given that collective input will be incorporated appropriately.
- Increased community engagement resulting in improved landscape-scale outcomes.
- Increasing investment in the regional model and the efficient and effective allocation of funds to delivery partners including Community Landcare.
- Celebrating the collective achievements and benefits of collaboration.



MEASURE OF SUCCESS

Success could be gauged through any number of the following measures or others as co-designed:

NATIONAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Measure - National Chairs/Boards and CEOs enjoy a trusting, productive relationship.

Indicator - Regular meetings between Chairs/CEOs at the national level.

Indicator – Level of satisfaction via annual feedback mechanism (e.g., survey/strawpoll).

STATE AND REGIONAL MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Measure - At a regional level, a mutually beneficial relationship.

Indicator – Collaboration in project development and the efficient and effective allocation of project resources.

Indicator - MOUs at the jurisdictional and regional scale.

EVALUATION

The Working Group will meet 3 and 6 months after finalisation of the National Statement of Collaboration Principles guiding framework to monitor progress and effectiveness, with a full review after 12 months.



NRM REGIONS



APPENDIX



QUEENSLAND WATER & LAND CARERS





NRM REGIONS QUEENSLAND





1.0 INTRODUCTION

Queensland Water and Land Carers (QWaLC) is the State's peak body for natural resource management (NRM) volunteers consisting of over 400 groups and 30,000 individuals. Established in 2004 QWaLC undertakes two primary functions, within four key areas of advocacy. networking, representation and promotion. The first is an advocacy role - representing the aspirations, needs and concerns of its members to Local. Queensland and Australian Governments This role is seen by OWal C as a very important one as it provides members with opportunities to have their say and effectively participate in the decision and policymaking process of governments. Importantly this role is seen as a two-way process members use QWaLC to share their opinions with and inform governments, and governments use QWaLC to inform its members of the latest NRM policy and project developments.

The second role of QWaLC is to support NRM Volunteers through their community land and water care and NRM on-ground groups by strengthening their effectiveness. and demonstrating effective governance and management. A range of services to support volunteers and their groups are undertaken. A particularly vital service is the administration of insurance policies for Volunteer groups and members

QWaLC's management committee includes elected representatives from across each of Queensland's NRM regions (management units). Member groups include Landcare, Coastcare, Bushcare, Waterwatch, Catchment management, Friends of, Progress Associations, Environmental Councils, and Citizen Science groups.

NRM Regions Queensland (NRMRQ) represents a member hase of the 12 Regional Natural Resource Management (NRM) Bodies in Queensland. NRMRQ (or Regional Groups Collective as it was originally known) was formed in 2002 to improve the state-wide delivery of regional NRM outcomes in partnership with industry. community and government, and to act as a representative body for NRM in Queensland by providing a single, strong

voice for its members. NRMRQ supports the Queensland Regional NRM Bodies to deliver sustainability outcomes by influencing policy, coordinating Statewide programs, providing mentoring and leadership, advocacy for improved investment in natural resource management, and identifying areas for training and improvement.

The 12 Regional NRM Bodies in Queensland are community-based organisations, funded principally from State and Federal Governments, and work in partnership with Traditional Owners, local government, farming groups, Landcare, utilities and the community, to deliver innovative and science-based solutions to challenges affecting the environment. This diverse Statewide team of over 320 includes scientists, GIS, engineers and support staff, all of whom are experts in research, monitoring, analysis, engagement and project management.

QWaLC and NRMRQ operate collectively as part of a regional NRM delivery model having a common interest in creating landscape change to build increased resilience of our natural environment. This will be assisted by improved coordination at the appropriate scale for the delivery of NRM to ensure the benefits of current investment levels are maximised and grown. Both parties also have a significant role to play in actively influencing State and Federal Government policies and resources that impact the delivery of NRM. Both organisations work with a range of stakeholders such as other peak bodies and utilities to support the delivery of NRM activities.

In order to maximise the positive outcomes for both parties it is vital that the organisations work closely, share information, and where appropriate, collaborate (defined as joint planning and project delivery) to achieve the most beneficial outcome for Queenslanders in serving our communities and the environment.



2.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to formalise the principles of cooperation, information (data) sharing and collaboration between QWaLC and NRMRQ in dealing with NRM issues of mutual interest. This MOU outlines how QWaLC and NRMRQ will work together to facilitate strong cooperation and partnerships between local QWaLC member groups and regional NRM bodies to achieve sustainable natural resource management outcomes on the ground. In particular, this agreement set outs the responsibilities of QWaLC and NRMRQ, and the respective roles of local QWaLC member groups and regional NRM bodies in the delivery of NRM. Both signatories to this agreement appreciate that successful relationships are fundamental to effective NRM. Strong partnerships between the parties is required to promote effective coordination and value-add of regional and local

2.1 COMMONUNDERSTANDINGS

important investment decisions are made.

In committing to this MOU, QWaLC and the NRMRQ recognise:

NRM investment. It is also recognises that success of the

regional model for NRM delivery depends on the availability

of the necessary resources and skills within the regions where

- Both parties play an advocacy role with regard to NRM and seek to promote the development of a State Environment
- Both parties play a significant role in planning and implementation with regard to NRM;
- Both parties have expertise and strong networks with key
- · Both parties represent the interests of the community at large: and
- Both parties are not empowered to make commitments on behalf of individual member groups or regional NRM bodies in isolation to those parties.
- Both parties hold information and data that is beneficial to both as well as to our collective communities.

22 GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

In committing to this MOU both parties recognise the following

- Mutual Benefits: all parties benefit from their dealings with each other
- · Collaboration: the management of natural resources is delivered cooperatively (that is, cooperation is used instead of
- · Good Governance: we make decisions together and manage processes well.
- · Acknowledgement and Respect: we recognise and advocate for each other (events and documents).
- Roles and Responsibilities: our boundaries are delineated. regionally and understood by each other and our respective
- · Differences: we identify and resolve our differences early and in-house.
- · Commitment: we have a shared long-term vision for the environment
- · Communication: is open, honest, on-going and fit for purpose.

23 RESPONSIBILITIES OF QWALC AND NRMRQ:

Responsibilities assumed under this MOU for the collaboration between QWaLC and NRMRQinclude:

- To identify and support capacity building of both QWaLC member groups and regional NRM bodies to allow them to more fully participate in the management of natural resources in their respective regions.
- · To identify tangible opportunities to work collaboratively on
- Projects between QWaLC member groups and the regional NRM bodies
- Data sharing between QWaLC, member groups and the regional NRM bodies
- Encourage and support specific written contracts between QWaLC member groups and regional NRM bodies on
- Support and facilitate joint regional and local planning to achieve greater ownership and input into regional NRM plans.
- · To encourage and support agreed and formally documented communication channels between OWal C member groups and the regional NRM bodies in each region.



24 ROLES OF QWALC MEMBER GROUPS AND REGIONAL NRM BODIES (IE. OUR MEMBERS)

QWaLC member groups roles fall across a broad spectrum of interest and activity. Groups are formed to address and respond to local and regional concerns and opportunities. Many have strong relationships with Local Government, local businesses and are embedded within their communities. Some member groups are statewide and national organisations. Member group areas of practical on-ground activity and interest fall across many diverse areas and include:

> Natural disaster recovery > Weedmanagement > Feral animal control > Habitat restoration > Revegetation / Tree planting > Fire management

> Fencing construction and repair
> Water quality programs
> River and creekline restoration
> Sediment/erosion control works
> Property management planning

> Advocacy and policy development > EventManagement > Citizen Science activities > Fundraising

> Junior Landcare

The real value proposition for the regional NRM bodies in Queensland (as it is across Australia) is focussed on facilitating key partnerships, developing and implementing an integrated regional NRM Plan, and leading a regional investment strategy bringing funds into their respective areas. The regional NRM bodies are responsible for developing and implementing a regional NRM Plan in each of their areas. This guides regional actions delivered by themselves and a range of delivery partners (including most importantly, QWaLC member groups), that restore waterways and landscapes, improve native habitats, manage pests and weeds, protect native species, and through working with farmers and communities supporting them in the best ways to improve and protect the environment for future generations. Regional NRM bodies have extensive networks in place, including strong relationships with the University sector to ensure their work is science-based as well as with First Nations Peoples to ensure the incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in their work. The roles undertaken directly by regional NRM bodies include:

> Regional NRM planning > Co-ordinating regional investment > Natural disaster recovery > Weedmanagement > Feral animal control > Habitat restoration > Revegetation / Tree planting > Fire management > Fencing construction and repair > Carbon sequestration (carbonfarming) > Water quality programs > Monitoring and data collection > River and creek line restoration > Coastal / marine habitat restoration > Sediment/erosion control works > Property management planning > Policy development (and influence) > Advocacy

2.5 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

A Schedule of Activities will be developed by the signatories to outline the activities to be undertaken to progress the implementation of the MOU for the next 12-24 months. The Schedule will be negotiated annually at meetings with designated officers as agreed by the signatories to the MOU. To ensure the mechanisms to achieve effective collaboration are developed, implemented and are reviewed and adapted from time to time, QWaLC and the NRMRQ commit to providing resources (where possible) to implement the mechanisms outlined in this MOU. Each party will determine how information and issues are progressed internally taking into account their own practices and reporting requirements.



3.0 OUTCOMES

It is envisaged that this MOU will support enhanced communication and partnerships between regional NRM bodies and QWaLC member groups, resulting in more successful NRM outcomes. It is also envisaged that this MOU will contribute to the expansion and enhancement of NRM resources available from Governments at all levels.QWaLC will seek formal feedback from their members (principally through the QWaLC Annual membership and insurance survey) to determine value derived from the MOU and the associated Schedule of Activities. NRMRQ will seek formal feedback from the regional NRM bodies and their members as to the success or otherwise of the implementation of this MOU. Success measures will be established to trackprogress in the delivery of the governing principles and against agreed activities.

4.0 DISPUTERESOLUTION

Any disputes in relation to this MOU will be referred in the first instance to the respective CEOs of QWaLC and NRMRQ to resolve. If the parties fail to resolve the dispute within two months of notification to the officers, a mediator agreed between the parties may be appointed to resolve the dispute. This MOU assumes no responsibility to resolve disputes between individual QWaLC member groups and regional NRM bodies, although it will support due processes to be undertaken.

5.0 DURATION

The parties agree that the life of this MOU is for a period of three years from the date of signing. The MOU can only be amended with the agreement of both parties. The parties undertake to formally review this agreement no later than one month from its expiry date or at any time during the life of the MOU at the request of either party, provided three months' notice of an intention to review is given to the other party to the MOU.

The attached Schedule of Activities will be revised annually.

Signed on 1 December, 2020.

QWalc

Geoff Elliot Chair Queensland Water & Land Carers Chairperson
NRM Regions Queensland

Memorandum Of Understanding /QWaLC & NRMRQ / DECEMBER 2020

Memorandum Of Understanding /OWaLC & NRMRO / DECEMBER 2020





Landcare Victoria Inc.

&

Vic Catchments

Memorandum of Understanding

1. Context

Thirty years ago, a partnership between the Victorian Farmers Federation and the Victorian government, recognised that effective land rehabilitation and management required broader community engagement, supported by government to work together on addressing the nation's land degradation problems. As a result Landcare was born, along with structures that engaged, supported and maximised the efforts of Landcarers.

Landcare Victoria Inc. (LVI) is the independent non-partisan peak Landcare body within Victoria which exists to secure increased recognition, resourcing and support for the Landcare movement.

Commencing operations in 1997, the Catchment Management Authorities were created by the Victorian Government to provide integrated catchment management services and statutory functions for waterway and floodplain management.

Vic Catchments supports structures and government funded programs to facilitate, and resource, co-designed projects that are guided by science and make the best possible use of the resources available, both financial and human. Together they record and celebrate strategic, best practice Landcare actions that have been identified in consultation with their community.

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed to support the partnership between LVI and Vic Catchments. Both organisations are reliant upon external resourcing to enable their operations. The design and delivery mechanisms of State and Federal programs impact on the operational capacity of both organisations, at the state and regional scale.

At the time of development, the majority of the Australian Government National Landcare Program was delivered under regional arrangements, hence the capacity of Landcare at the local and regional scale was directly affected by the relationship with, and resourcing and support provided by, the Catchment Management Authority for that region.

This MoU documents the foundation for a relationship between LVI and Vic Catchments at a State level, and provides guidance and the framework for the building of similar effective relationships at a regional level.

2 Partnering organisations

This MoU is between:

Landcare Victoria Incorporated (LVI)

and

Vic Catchments (on behalf of the Victorian Catchment Management Authorities)

3 Partnership statement

LVI and Vic Catchments as a government and community partnership are stronger together in achieving outcomes for communities and landscapes.

4 Governance

State-wide, the Chair of LVI and the Chair of Vic Catchments jointly have the responsibility and accountability to manage the partnership. The two chairs and their executive officers commit to meet at least twice a year to explore collaboration opportunities and monitor this MoU. The Chair of LVI will be invited to meet with Vic Catchments annually.

5 Goals and objectives

To establish a foundation for collaboration between LVI and Vic Catchments on a broad range of natural resource management and issues.

The objectives of this MoU are:

- to ensure a productive partnership that builds the capacity of both LVI and Vic Catchments:
- to provide consistency of underlying principles across CMA regions whilst allowing flexibility for each region to implement actions in a way that respects the unique attributes of the region and its peoples; and
- to establish methods consistent with this MoU to harness the skills, knowledge and resources of both LVI and Vic Catchments to meet our common goals, objectives and vision.

6 Partnership foundations

This MoU articulates the intent of LVI and Vic Catchments to work collaboratively while building on existing relationships, principles and co-contributions. The partnership between LVI and the CMAs in Victoria is nested within a broader context and the key foundations of common purpose, complementary skills and resources, shared values and principles.

This MOU builds and expands on the original "CMA Chairs Group Landcare Statement of March 2009"; these ongoing principles include:-

- CMAs regard Landcare and equivalent volunteer groups and landowners within their regions as essential agents for delivery of NRM investments on private land;
- The position is justified on economic grounds, because volunteers leverage government investment with labour and land, and their work has flow on benefits in regional economies.
- Further justification is provided on social and economic grounds because volunteers help long term attitudinal changes in communities, building social capital, and invoking sustainable behaviour in production and consumption;
- CMAs and LVI will endeavour to advocate for central investors to provide appropriate support for Landcare and equivalent volunteer groups.

7 Common purpose

LVI and Vic Catchments share a common purpose in addressing significant challenges faced by land managers and communities in Victoria across natural resource management, farm productivity and community viability. At a national level, the NRM Regions Australia and the National Landcare Network have agreed on a Statement of Common Purpose which provides guidance to the establishment of enduring and productive relationships.

8 Delivery

This partnership is founded and builds upon the successes achieved to date and the strengths of the existing relationship between LVI and the CMAs. This MoU sets the partnership foundation for strong leadership at the State level which will inform, guide and support regional relationships and natural resource management activities.

The objectives of this partnership will be delivered through:

- · Open, regular and effective communication processes between the partners including:
 - Dialogue between LVI Committee of Management and Vic Catchments;
 - Collaborative networking opportunities at the State level; and
 - Clear regional and local communication pathways.
- Alignment and adaptive improvement of strategic planning processes (including the development and implementation of Regional Catchment Strategies) through collaboration and sharing of information and knowledge;
- Identification and securing of investment and resources using the strength of the partnership to leverage greater outcomes;
- Establishment of a collaborative partnership approach to implementation through support of regional delivery processes which capitalize upon the strengths of the respective partners;
- Active and collaborative promotion of the capability provided by the partnership to Government, investors and key stakeholders;
- Provision of mutual support for each other as genuine and respected partners;
- Active support for the regions to develop effective monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement mechanisms to accurately report on resource condition including community capacity change; and
- Adaptive management which will monitor, review and evaluate the success of the partnership to guide adaptive improvement.

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OFFICIAL

9 Relationship review

The Chair of Landcare Victoria Inc. and the Chair of Vic Catchments (or their delegates) will jointly review this MoU every two years or within another period as mutually agreed.

10 Partnership benefits

Through adoption and delivery of the principles and delivery components espoused in this MoU, the mutual benefits will need to be tangible for the partnership to succeed. This partnership is anticipated to provide a range of benefits, as outlined below, to the partner organisations and the broader community:

10.1 Benefits for the partner organisations include:

- Skills and knowledge of the respective organisations harnessed for better outcomes;
- Coordinated, innovative and supported approach to planning and delivery at the relevant scales;
- Stronger relationships between Landcare groups and members and VicCatchments;
- Mutual support and acknowledgement;
- Reduced potential for conflict resulting from collaborative, adaptive, innovative and outcome focused relationships;
- Symbiotic outcomes achieved across program design, MERI, etc.;
- · Greater volunteer support and increased on ground outcomes; and
- Effective and efficient delivery of regional plans and achievement of organisational strategies.

11 Communication and media

Where possible, where a matter involves issues of mutual interest LVI and Vic Catchments will work together to develop a joint and consistent approach to communications with the media and third parties.

12 Commencement, Duration and Termination

This MoU will commence on the date of signing below, and will be ongoing subject to review every two years. Modification of the MOU will be at mutual agreement at any time. Termination can be exercised by either party subject to a written three-month notification to the other party.

13 Signatories

Each party signs this MoU to acknowledge that it will use its best efforts to work collaboratively with the other party to reach the objectives stated in this MoU.

OFFICIAL

Landcare Victoria Inc.	Vic Catchments
Name: Jane Carney	Name: Peter Hilbig
Title: Chair	Title: Chair
Signature:	Signature:
June Carrey	Pflhilig
Date: 4/8/2021	Date: 6/08/21