

2019 / 2020

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

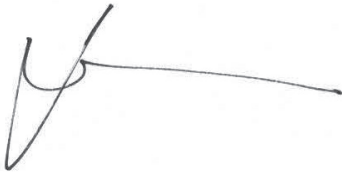
Annual Report



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 eighteenth Annual Report, covering our activities for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.



Janine Haddow
Chairperson
Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
30 June 2020

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ISSN: 2207-0613 Online/PDF

Accessibility

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CONTENTS

PAGE

Chairperson's foreword	3
Our purpose	4
Our values	4
Our functions	4
Council membership	5
Ministerial responsibility	7
Council activities	7
Administration	7
Investigations	
— Central West Investigation	8
Assessments	
— Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves	10
Bill Borthwick Student Scholarships 2020	12
Committees	13
Consultancies	13
Declaration of pecuniary interests	13
Financial information	14
Workforce data	14
Organisation chart	15
Merit and equity	16
Compliance	16
Freedom of Information	17
Public Interest Disclosures Act	18
Information Privacy Act	19
Risk management	19
Gifts, benefits and hospitality attestation	19
Statement of availability of other information	20

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am very pleased to provide this annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020 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*.

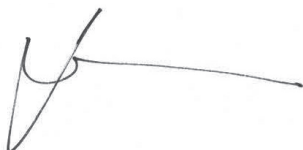
The year has been a difficult one, as a result of the 2019-2020 bushfires in eastern Australia and the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in Victoria and around the world. As part of the Victorian public sector, we will continue to place the highest priority on the wellbeing and interests of the Victorian community in our work.

This year VEAC completed its Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves, releasing a draft report for comment in October 2019 and submitting a final report to the Minister in March 2020. The release of the draft report in October was followed by a public consultation period which included five information sessions held across Victoria. The council appreciates all the contributions received from land managers, stakeholders and the community on this technically complex assessment. This input informed the final report and the accompanying inventory of values and uses of the coastal reserves.

The final report for the Central West Investigation was submitted to the Minister and released publicly in June 2019. It was tabled in Parliament in August 2020. Council and staff provided briefings and information as requested by the Minister to support the release of the report.

This year marked the ninth year of the Bill Borthwick Student Scholarships. The Council was pleased to award eight scholarships from a competitive field. The scholarships will assist Honours, Masters and Ph.D students with some of the costs of research on public land.

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. This year I would like to acknowledge in particular the public land managers, organisations and interested stakeholders who we worked with closely to deliver the Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves. Thanks also to VEAC's committed and highly skilled staff and to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning who provide the administrative 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

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

- seeks to understand and meet community needs from public land
- is committed to excellence and continuous improvement
- values ethical, accountable, transparent and responsible behaviour
- encourages public consultation and input into VEAC's processes.

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. 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 2019 to 30 June 2020 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 Australia and 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, Dr Meredith 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. He is an Inaugural Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia.

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 over 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 2019 to 30 June 2020.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Council met formally 11 times during the 2019-2020 financial year.

Council members also attended community drop-in sessions, consultation sessions and briefings in relation to the Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves and briefings as requested on the Central West Investigation.

Council members' attendance at council meetings from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

NAME	ATTENDANCE (number of meetings)
Janine Haddow	11 of 11
Joanne Duncan	11 of 11
Anna Kilborn	11 of 11
Charles Meredith	11 of 11
Geoffrey Wescott	11 of 11

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
Website www.veac.vic.gov.au
Executive Officer Joan Phillips

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

INVESTIGATIONS

CENTRAL WEST INVESTIGATION

On 20 March 2017, VEAC was requested by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change to conduct a Central West Investigation. The investigation covered public land in the vicinity of the Wombat, Wellsford, Mount Cole and Pyrenees Range forests. The request to VEAC followed advertisement by the Minister of the proposed terms of reference in November 2016.

The purpose of the investigation was to:

- a) identify and evaluate the condition, natural and biodiversity values and cultural, social and economic values and the current uses of public land in the specified area; and
- b) make recommendations for the balanced use and appropriate management arrangements to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural values.

The terms of reference for the Central West Investigation are contained in the box on the next page.

ACTIVITIES IN 2019-2020

The Central West Investigation Final Report, submitted to the Minister on 14 June 2019, was tabled in Parliament on Thursday 15 August 2019. The Government response was due to be tabled in Parliament in February 2020 and has been delayed.

VEAC members and staff conducted briefings as requested and developed and distributed materials to support the release of the final report on 21 June 2019.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure, including salaries and on-costs, for the Central West Investigation for the 2019-2020 financial year was \$110,400.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to section 15 of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change hereby requests the Council to carry out an investigation into public land in the vicinity of the Wombat, Wellsford, Mount Cole and Pyrenees Range Forests within the area shown on the accompanying map.

The purpose of the Central West Investigation is to:

- (a) identify and evaluate the condition, natural and biodiversity values and cultural, social and economic values and the current uses of public land in the specified area; and
- (b) make recommendations for the balanced use and appropriate management arrangements to conserve and enhance the natural and cultural values.

In addition to the considerations in section 18 of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the Council must take into account the following matters: relevant State Government policies and strategies, Ministerial statements and reports by the Victorian Auditor-General; and relevant regional programs, strategies and plans.

The Council must also consult with the relevant Traditional Owner Group Entities and any other relevant Traditional Owner groups in the specified area, particularly where the area is subject to an agreement under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*. This includes the area covered by the Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement.

A draft proposals paper and a final report are to be prepared, allowing for two public submission periods during the investigation.

The Council must report on the completed investigation within two years from the commencement date.*

*The date for the completion of the investigation was extended to 14 June 2019.

ASSESSMENTS

ASSESSMENT OF VICTORIA'S COASTAL RESERVES

In June 2018 VEAC was requested by the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, the Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP, to carry out an assessment of Victoria's coastal reserves.

The purpose of the assessment was to:

- a) review the number and types (reservation status) of coastal reserves in Victoria;
- b) identify reserves with high environmental, cultural heritage, social and economic values and identify values at risk from the impacts of climate change;
- c) identify current and emerging uses of the coastal reserves; and
- d) compile an inventory, including spatial distribution, of values and uses of the coastal reserves.

The terms of reference for the Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves are contained in the box on the next page.

ACTIVITIES IN 2019-2020

As part of its assessment, VEAC produced a draft report for public comment in October 2019. The release of the draft report was followed by a public consultation period. Five information sessions were held across coastal regions of Victoria and 11 written submissions were received. The contributions received from land managers and the community informed the final report and the inventory of values and uses of the coastal reserves.

Council included nine recommendations in the final report to improve planning, management and support decision making for coastal land managers.

As part of the assessment VEAC also compiled an inventory of values and uses of coastal reserves. The inventory included Crown land information for each of the 237 coastal reserve land units. VEAC also produced maps of coastal reserves for each coastal municipality.

In November 2019 the Minister granted an extension of time to complete the assessment to 6 March 2020. The Final Report was submitted to the Minister on 6 March 2020 and publicly released in mid March 2020. The report was tabled in Parliament on 18 June 2020.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure, including salaries and on-costs, for the Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves for the 2019-2020 financial year was \$501,866.

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 Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (the Council) to carry out an assessment of Victoria's coastal reserves¹.

The purpose of the assessment is to:

- (a) review the number and types (reservation status) of coastal reserves in Victoria;
- (b) identify reserves with high environmental, cultural heritage, social and economic values and identify values at risk from the impacts of climate change;
- (c) identify current and emerging uses of the coastal reserves; and
- (d) compile an inventory, including spatial distribution, of values and uses of the coastal reserves.

As a first step, the Council is required to publish a definition of coastal reserves to be used in the assessment, including a diagrammatic representation and map of Victoria's coastal reserves.

The assessment and associated inventory will assist the Victorian Government's future planning and decision-making for Victoria's coasts.

The Council must take into account relevant agreements under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010*.

As part of the assessment, the Council must produce a draft report and seek public comment on it.

The Council must report on the completed assessment by 6 December 2019*.

* The date for the completion of the assessment was extended to 6 March 2020.

¹ For the purposes of this assessment, Victoria's coastal reserves include any Crown land along Victoria's coast (including the coast of any bay, inlet and estuary and the Gippsland Lakes) that is:

- a) reserved under section 4(1)(ze) of the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* for the protection of the coastline or is otherwise reserved under that Act and is landward of low water mark; or
- a) unreserved Crown land under the *Land Act 1958* that is landward of low water mark.

For clarity, Victoria's coastal reserves do not include any Crown land described as a park or marine sanctuary in Schedule 2, 2B, 3, 4, 7 or 8 to the *National Parks Act 1975* or any unreserved Crown land from low water mark to the outer limit of Victoria's coastal waters (mostly 3 nautical miles).

BILL BORTHWICK STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS 2020

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 2020 scholarships totalling \$7,989 were awarded to eight recipients.

The recipients of the 2020 scholarships are:

Shih-Wen (Jenny) Huang, University of Melbourne (MSc)

'Integrating expert data and field data to improve fire management for fauna'

The scholarship will assist in the costs associated with running workshops.

Tamara Corfield, La Trobe University (BA Hons)

'Coastal erosion in the Anthropocene – the impact of climate change on the cultural heritage of French Island'

The scholarship will assist with the cost of field work on French Island including vehicle hire and cultural heritage permits.

Elissa Ashton-Smith, Federation University (PhD)

'The conservation and management of sandy beach ecosystems: exploring the divergence between policy, science and socio-cultural expectations for stewardship and use'

The scholarship will assist with the cost of purchasing a digital recorder and other peripherals.

Stephanie Doumstis, University of Melbourne (MSc)

'From sea to shore: understanding the movement of sand in Inverloch, Victoria'

The scholarship will assist with the costs of accommodation, travel, boat hire and a drone licence.

Sewwandi Wijesuriya, University of Melbourne (PhD)

'Impact of flow regulation and environmental watering on phytoplankton dynamics in the Hattah Lake system'

The scholarship will assist with the costs of field work.

Isaac Kreger, University of Melbourne (MSc)

'Demographics of a serotinous obligate seeder along a fire and aridity gradient'

The scholarship will assist with the costs associated with field work including transport, camping and food.

Jamie Burton, University of Melbourne (PhD)

'Burn to learn: what makes eucalypt litter flammable?'

The scholarship will assist towards the purchase of laboratory consumables and the modification of existing laboratory equipment.

Matthew Whitney, University of Melbourne (MSc)

'Dying or shrinking? Are over mature trees a threat to the restoration of Pine-Buloke Woodlands?'

The scholarship will assist with the costs associated with field work.



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 2019-2020.

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 2019-2020, there were no consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultant were \$10,000 or greater.

In 2019-20, there was one consultancy where the total fees payable to the consultants were less than \$10,000. This was a review of the implications of the changing coastline for the coastal cadastre prepared by The Public Land Consultancy.

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 2020. The table below shows expenditure incurred. This includes expenditure for the Central West Investigation of \$110,400 (see page 8) and for the Assessment of Victoria's Coastal Reserves of \$501,866 (see page 10).

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

EXPENSES	2019-2020	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Salaries and oncosts	896,835	1,406,817	1,123,174	1,129,791	1,049,113
Operating	377,050	955,873	431,045	505,048	272,314
Total	1,273,885	2,362,689	1,554,219	1,634,839	1,321,427

WORKFORCE DATA

EMPLOYMENT	2020 (A)			2019 (B)		
Type	Male	Female	Total staff	Male	Female	Total staff
Total	2	5	7 (FTE 6.8)	3	6	9 (FTE 8.6)

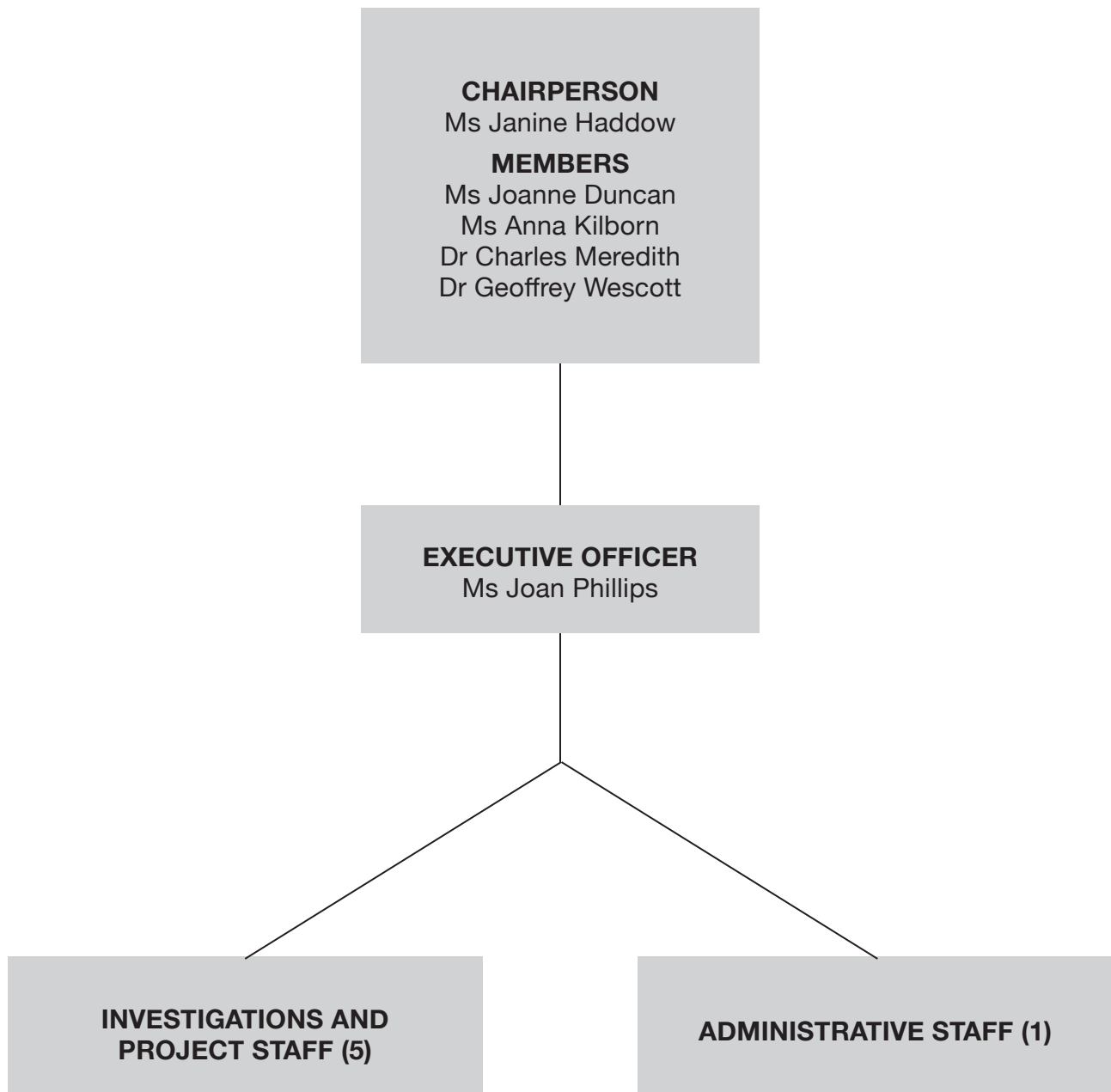
Notes:

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

(B) relates to payroll and contract staff as at 30 June 2019

Note: VEAC staff are also included in employment statistics for DELWP for 2019-20.

ORGANISATION CHART



As at 30 June 2020.

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

The Council makes use of buildings and facilities controlled by DELWP to perform its functions and participates fully in a range of environmental programs undertaken by DELWP.

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.

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 have to be made in writing and requests can be submitted to the Council by email to veac@delwp.vic.gov.au or in writing to:

Freedom of Information Officer
Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
GPO Box 527
Melbourne Vic 3001

The cost of an FOI application is \$29.60; however, there may be further charges depending on the time it takes to find the documents and photocopy them and the number of pages to be photocopied. Further information is available from the website FOI Online (www.foi.vic.gov.au).

Operations

For the 12 months ending 30 June 2020 there were no requests.

There were no requests outstanding as at 30 June 2020.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* (the 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 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 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.

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

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

Phone: 1300 735 135

Email: see website for secure email disclosure process, includes 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 www.data.vic.gov.au/ in machine readable format.

STATEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Any information retained by the Council relating to its activities is available on request, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

This information is available on request from:

Executive Officer, Victorian Environmental Assessment Council

Phone: (03) 9637 9902

Email: veac@delwp.vic.gov.au

www.veac.vic.gov.au