



Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Inquiry: Inquiry into Climate Resilience

Hearing Date: 20 November 2024

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: DEECA

Received Date: 9 January 2025

1. **Sarah MANSFIELD, page 86**

Question Asked:

Under the Marine and Coastal Act, part of that was to bring about the transfer of some of the responsibilities to the CMAs and I think Melbourne Water. Is that something that did end up occurring? I think there was a delay to that being implemented.

Carolyn JACKSON: Not that I am aware of, but I am happy to take it on notice and come back to you.

Response:

The *Marine and Coastal Act 2018* Division 3, Section 75 allows for the Minister to seek technical advice from Melbourne Water and coastal CMAs on any matters relating to or affecting coastal erosion in the waterway management district.

The provision is in regard to technical advice only. The Act does not transfer any additional management responsibilities to Melbourne Water and the CMAs (beyond their roles as floodplain managers under the *Water Act 1989*).

2. **Gaelle BROAD, page 88**

Question Asked:

The regional community led adaptation plans – there is one that includes Loddon Mallee. Are they available on the internet or are you able to share those?

John BRADLEY: Yes. The regional strategies were published. There were six of them, from memory.

Carolyn JACKSON: Six. Yes.

John BRADLEY: They should be available. We can get you a copy of them if they are.

Carolyn JACKSON: Or the link at the very least.

Gaelle BROAD: Thank you. That is great.

Response:

The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies (RASs) are five-year practical strategies developed by communities to address the challenges and opportunities that climate change brings to Victoria's regions and guide locally relevant practical action. The RASs were developed over 4 years through a place-based, community-owned and community-led process supported by the Victorian Government.

RASs have been developed for six Victorian regions and were released in 2021:

- Gippsland
- Barwon South West
- Hume
- Grampians
- Loddon Mallee
- Greater Melbourne.

All six RASs can be found online at: [Supporting local action on climate change.](#)

3. Gaelle BROAD, page 88-89**Question Asked:**

In *Building Victoria's Climate Resilience* it talks about a case study partnering with Dja Dja Wurrung to advance self-determination and climate change adaptation. It refers to:

The framework is a cross-cultural tool to support the Dja Dja Wurrung and government water managers to work in partnership on ensuring climate change adaptation initiatives align with Dja Dja Wurrung rights, obligations and Country objectives.

I am just interested to know if you could expand on what that is and give a bit more background about what has been shared.

John BRADLEY: Yes, very happy to.

Response:

Victoria's *Climate Change Act 2017* requires the Victorian Government to prepare seven sector-based Adaptation Action Plans (AAPs). The *Pilot Water Sector Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2018-2020* (WSAAP) was prepared to test the process of developing an AAP, and to develop actions that provide water sector customers with reliable services under an increasingly challenging climate. It reviewed the adaptation activities already underway and planned new actions to address gaps in the Victorian Government's adaptation program. An evaluation of this pilot, clearly linking lessons from the pilot to new actions, was included in the state's first *Water Cycle System Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan*.

Recognising that Traditional Owner water-related cultural values are vulnerable to climate change and the need to understand these cultural values better to effectively plan to protect them, Action 5 of the WSAAP committed to Identify the impact of climate change on Traditional Owner values associated with water and how to adapt to them. As part of delivery of the pilot WSAAP, DEECA (then DELWP) partnered with DJANDAK (Dja Dja Wurrung Group's NRM enterprise business) to build knowledge about how Dja Dja Wurrung cultural values can be embedded into adaptation.

This project led to the development of *Bundjila wurrungguk*, Dja Dja Wurrung's Cultural Water Values Framework (reflected in Figure 1 below). The framework outlines Dja Dja Wurrung cultural water values and highlights how Dja Dja Wurrung world views and connection to Country informs climate change adaptation. The framework is a cross-cultural tool to support Dja Dja Wurrung and government water managers to work in partnership to align climate change adaptation initiatives with Dja Dja Wurrung rights, obligations and Country objectives.

The Dja Dja Wurrung cultural water values framework has since informed the development of the [Dja Dja Wurrung Climate Change Strategy 2023-2034](#). In this strategy, DJAARA note that "the cultural values framework that came out of this research report has become deeply embedded in the State Government's Adaptation Plan and was foundational to this DJAARA Climate Strategy."

Reflections from this project have been shared with Traditional Owner groups and government agencies to build overall cross-cultural capacity and better protect and embed Traditional Owner knowledge, governance and rights into climate change adaptation policy and planning, including across the seven Adaptation Action Plans.

Bundjila wurrungguk - Cultural Water Values Framework

In 2021, Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises (DJANDAK) developed a comprehensive biocultural framework for embedding *djaara's* knowledge systems, values and practices into our responses to climate change. Like the being, sensing and healing model and *djaara's* seasonal calendar, the following framework provides the scaffolding for enabling sophisticated monitoring and implementation of *djaara's* biocultural land/waterscape management across *djandak* (Jackson & Burrell 2021).

Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Water Values Framework			
WAYS OF KNOWING			
Presence in Country	Learning from Country	Language and songlines with Country	Learning through culture
Maintaining strong culture through presence in Country	Ensuring the knowledge system is healthy	Being able to see Country through the eyes of our Ancestors tells us how to keep water healthy	Our cultural practices educate future generations
WAYS OF BEING			
Reciprocal	Respectful	Responsible	Responsive
Care for Country and Country will care for you	We recognise water has spirit and agency of its own, we respect it as a being with rights	We have moral responsibility to care for our Country, traditionally this was done through sophisticated systems embedded in our being, community, and lore	We respond to what Country tells us, being able to read Country has enabled us to be the most adaptable people in the world. That was our lifestyle
WAYS OF DOING			
Healing Country	Holistic Cultural Land Management	Accountability	Governance
Healing Country means regenerating water landscapes through the eyes of our Ancestors. We want to restore traditional waterways.	How we manage Country is holistic, through cultural fire, cultural flows and maintaining a complex biocultural ecosystem	Water managers need to be held accountable to the right values for the health of water, not just economic values	The foundation for Indigenous water management is being able to partner equally in its governance

Figure 1 Dja Dja Wurrung Cultural Water Values Framework in Turning 'wrong way' climate, 'right way' Dja Dja Wurrung Climate Change Strategy 2023-2034, p.48