

Flood Management Strategy Port Phillip and Westernport 2021-2031

Regional Snapshot Report 2024/25

The Flood Management Strategy (FMS) is a collaborative effort by Melbourne Water and organisations with a role in flood management across the region. It enhances flood resilience through shared accountability and yearly regional progress reporting on FMS actions.

The purpose of this annual snapshot report is to provide an overview of progress made towards the goals of the FMS in the 2024/25 financial year.

FOCUS AREA 1 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

Melbourne Water, with support from local councils, continues to update flood information across Greater Melbourne.

This represents a major step change in scale, consistency and capability. It's outcome will be a substantially improved understanding of current and future flood risk and strengthening the foundations for a safer and more resilient Melbourne.

Linked to actions 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 & 1.5

Fit-for-purpose information



90%
AVERAGE
PROGRESS
OF ACTIONS

Action leads
Melbourne Water (MW),
Department of Energy,
Environment and
Climate Action
(DEECA)

Number of actions

■ In progress 3
■ Completed 3

Supporting agencies

Councils, Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau)

FOCUS AREA 2 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

The Community Engagement for Disaster Risk Reduction project was delivered as a partnership between the University of Melbourne and Melbourne Water.

Running in Kingston and Darebin throughout 2023 and 2024, it trialed a novel, conversation-driven engagement model that moves beyond traditional awareness campaigns by using in-depth, participatory discussions with flood-prone households.

Linked to Action 2.2

Empowering communities



83%
AVERAGE
PROGRESS
OF ACTIONS

Action leads
MW, Victorian State
Emergency Service
(VICSES)

Number of actions

■ In progress 4
■ Completed 4
■ Under review 1

Supporting agencies

Councils, Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), Bureau, DEECA

"A really great initiative by Melbourne Water to offer open presentations that share knowledge and build greater awareness of flood management. I will absolutely attend future knowledge sharing sessions from Melbourne Water and across the industry."

Council flood practitioner about the Knowledge Sharing Sessions

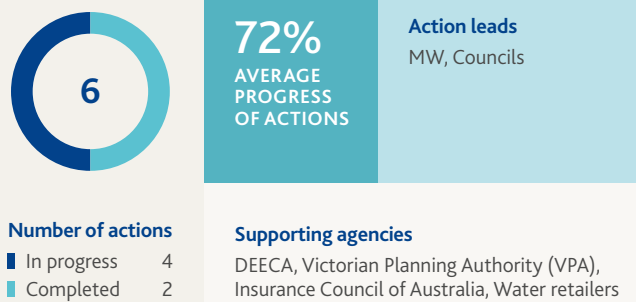
FOCUS AREA 3 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

The City of Casey has developed a multi-criteria tool to support flood effects mitigation.

This initiative was co-funded by MW's *Liveable Communities, Liveable Waterways* flood grant and prioritise flood mitigation projects across economic, governance, social and environmental factors. The tool now underpins a five-year flood mitigation program.

Linked to action 3.1

Flood effects mitigations

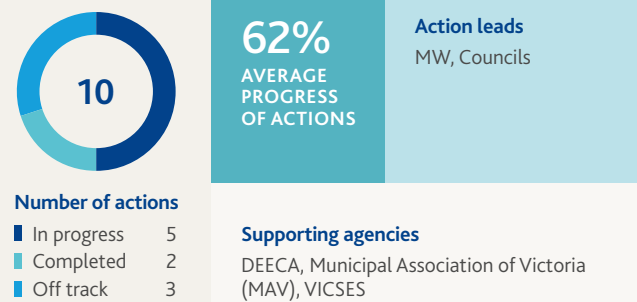


FOCUS AREA 4 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

Action 4.6 has been completed: Undertake a review of current flood overlays and controls to evaluate the effectiveness of our current approach to permitting sensitive uses in current flood-prone areas.

This work has laid the foundation for enabling planning reforms and the adoption of a risk-based approach.

Land use planning



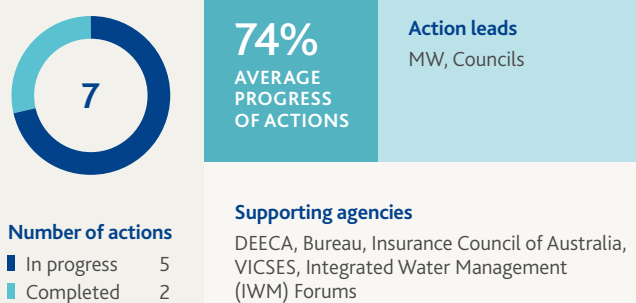
FOCUS AREA 5 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

The City of Darebin released its Climate Emergency Plan in late July 2024.

The Plan provides strategic direction for embedding climate risk assessment, Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD) principles and climate adaptive water management into future projects. These directions continue to guide how climate considerations are incorporated into design as new data and policy updates become available.

Linked to action 5.7

Fit-for-purpose information



Photographer: Jo Armao

“Create small flood mitigation funding opportunities. Don’t just focus on the big issues, in some areas, things can be significantly improved using small amount of budget”

Strategy partner about how to improve flood effects mitigation

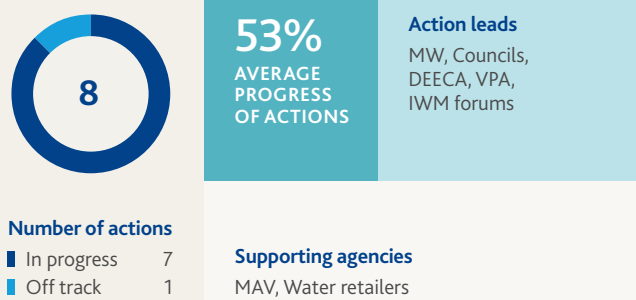


FOCUS AREA 6 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

DEECA has developed a Consultation draft of its Integrated Water Management Planning Guidelines.

This initiative supports water and planning practitioners in enabling IWM outcomes as part of land use planning and development.

Multiple benefits embedded in decision-making

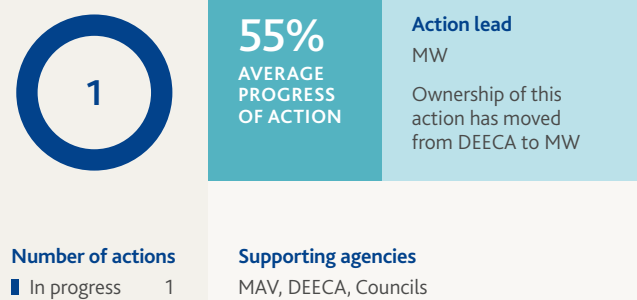


FOCUS AREA 7 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

Melbourne Water continued to work with the Municipal Association of Victoria and DEECA on the Melbourne Urban Stormwater Institutional Arrangements (MUSIA) project.

It defines the accountabilities of Melbourne Water and councils for managing urban stormwater and flood management assets across the region.

Clarifying roles and responsibilities



FOCUS AREA 8 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) conducted a large-scale training exercise on the Maribyrnong River designed to strengthen the state's boat rescue capabilities.

On Sunday 6 April 2025, approximately 70 VICSES volunteers and 15 rescue boats took part in the exercise, which simulated fast-flowing water in inland waterways that have recently experienced significant flooding. The training was conducted alongside Victoria Police's Water Police and Parks Victoria, reinforcing VICSES's role in joint emergency response operations.

Linked to Actions 8.1, 8.2 & 8.3

Emergency agency preparedness and response



FOCUS AREA 9 ▶ 2024/25 highlight

Flood recovery

Number of actions: 3

While these actions did not proceed due to changes in roles and responsibility in the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP), inter-agency collaboration and shared understanding have strengthened. This progress provides a strong foundation for the co-delivery of the next five-year action plan and achievement of the strategy outcomes by 2031.

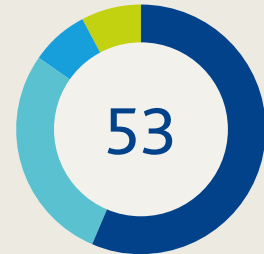
SUMMARY

▶ FOCUS AREAS 1-9

Number of actions

In progress	30
Completed	15
Off track	4
Under review	4

15 actions have been completed compared to 8 actions in the previous year.



68%

AVERAGE PROGRESS OF ACTIONS COMPARED TO LAST YEAR 50%

“A dedicated forum for all flood management agencies would greatly strengthen collaboration by creating a space to discuss challenges and improve outcomes for communities.”

Strategy partner about how we could improve collaboration

