



CORPORATE POLICY STATEMENT NO. 2

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

February 2022

1. OBJECTIVE

To establish the principles for developing and implementing a management effectiveness framework.

2. SCOPE

This policy statement concerns the development and implementation of a Management Effectiveness framework for the evaluation of management plans approved and applied under the *Conservation and Land Management Act 1984* (CALM Act).

3. CONTEXT

The evaluation of Management Effectiveness is an essential part of environmental management systems. It provides a framework for accountability and opportunities for continuous management improvement. Other benefits include:

- enabling adaptive management, including application of scientific findings;
- periodic review of the condition of reserve values, and the identification and prioritisation of the biological and anthropogenic pressures on those values;
- identification and documentation of knowledge gaps and science projects to address these;
- refining partnerships with Aboriginal groups and other stakeholders;
- facilitating data storage and recording management actions;
- enhancing the reporting of outcomes;
- supporting the longer-term periodic assessment related functions of the Conservation and Parks Commission;
- improving management planning; and
- promoting accountability and efficient allocation of resources and public support for management actions.

Evaluating management plan implementation by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' (DBCA) Parks and Wildlife Service divisions, in combination with the relevant scientific data and interpretation, will provide the key supporting information to evaluate effectiveness. DBCA's management effectiveness reporting is based on both best-available qualitative assessments and scientific data to inform decision making. DBCA Biodiversity and Conservation Science programs coordinate and deliver science across the department. In providing science and biodiversity knowledge to support the functions of the Parks and Wildlife Service, Biodiversity and Conservation Science also performs a key role in establishing baselines

and monitoring strategies to enable long-term monitoring and demonstration of management effectiveness.

4. LEGISLATION

The Management Effectiveness framework provides for development of a systematic, documented process that will support the over-arching purpose of the CALM Act and other relevant activities provided for under the Act including supporting the related statutory functions of the Conservation and Parks Commission which are described in section 19 of the CALM Act.

Also see *Corporate Policy Statement No. 36: Conservation Reserve System*.

5. POLICY

DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service will perform management effectiveness evaluation related activities as follows:

- 5.1 Application of a framework using a systematic approach to evaluate management effectiveness based on the adaptive management cycle. This includes evaluation of management context, planning, inputs, process, outputs, and outcomes.
- 5.2 DBCA will undertake periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of management plan implementation in meeting the goals and objectives of biodiversity and cultural values; this includes reporting on the condition, pressure and management response for park key performance indicators (where appropriate).
- 5.3 Management effectiveness awareness will be reinforced into line management responsibilities and will inform planning processes.

6. STANDARDS

Planning and reporting procedures will be developed with due consideration of relevant frameworks as initially described in the report Best Practice in Performance Reporting in Natural Resource Management - DNRE 1997 - A Report to the ANZECC Working Group on National Park and Protected Area Management *Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria, 1997*.

Reporting information will be collated in a manner that is also broadly consistent with:

- the framework for management effectiveness developed by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. *Evaluating Effectiveness: A Framework for Assessing Management Effectiveness of Protected Areas - Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines*, no. 14: IUCN; and
- the Federal Government's NRM MERI Framework: Australian Government Natural Resource Management Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Framework (Australian Government 2009).

The reporting frameworks of the other State and Territory Protected Area Agencies will also be considered in the further development and future review of Management Effectiveness reporting.

7. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

7.1 The Deputy Director General of DBCA is responsible for:

- overall management effectiveness reporting in the Parks and Wildlife Service of DBCA;
- establishing and maintaining a management effectiveness evaluation role within DBCA; and
- ensuring the resources and authorities are in place for the implementation of this policy.

7.2 DBCA Biodiversity and Conservation Science is responsible for:

- providing science and biodiversity knowledge to support evidence-based decision-making and the management effectiveness functions of the Parks and Wildlife Service; and
- contributing data and the interpretation of monitoring research to inform management effectiveness reporting where relevant.

7.3 DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service divisions are responsible for:

- raising staff awareness and enhancing the commitment to management effectiveness evaluation;
- collaborating with Biodiversity and Conservation Science to collect, collate and analyse monitoring information to support the management effectiveness reporting requirements of the Parks and Wildlife Service; and
- maintaining an allocation for their divisional staff to support the management effectiveness process.

7.4 The DBCA management effectiveness evaluation role is responsible for:

- developing and promoting of management effectiveness evaluation within the DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service and Biodiversity and Conservation Science;
- operationalising of this 'Management Effectiveness Policy' document through the development of guidance documentation and standard operating procedures where required;
- engaging and maintaining communication with protected area agencies in other jurisdictions to share tools, experiences, and key learnings; and
- developing and maintaining an online process of management effectiveness data entry, data management and outcome reporting.

7.5 DBCA's Chief Information Officer is responsible for supporting the development and overseeing the maintenance of the information security and systems throughout DBCA to support the delivery of the management effectiveness framework.

7.6 DBCA's Parks and Wildlife Service Branch, Regional and District Managers will ensure that staff are familiar with the management effectiveness framework and periodically will be required to enable the timely assessment and evaluation of biodiversity, social and cultural values as well as management implementation.

8. CUSTODIAN

Deputy Director General.

9. PUBLICATION

This policy will be made available on the department's website and intranet.

10. KEY WORDS

Adaptive management; environmental management systems; management effectiveness evaluation; management plan.

11. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed no later than January 2024.

12. APPROVAL

Approved by



Mark Webb
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Date: 8 February 2022