

## Climate Change Case Studies

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) has created 10 climate change case study snapshots, showcasing climate change actions undertaken by Victorian municipalities in 2009. In 2007, the MAV released the Victorian Local Government Greenhouse and Climate Change Case Studies Report. The new case studies provide an update on climate change activities undertaken by the sector since the release of this report. Case studies provide an overview of climate change activities achieved by individual councils, councils partnering with other organisations and consortia of councils. Climate change related activities include: adaptation planning, building resilience, community education, environmentally sustainable design, renewable energy, waste recovery and water sensitive urban design. Case studies are available to download from the [MAV website](#).

## Public Street Lighting Tool

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), as an agreed outcome of the DSE Public Lighting Taskforce, is undertaking a financial analysis for local government on upgrading public lighting to more efficient lamps. DSE has funded Marsden Jacob Associates to prepare this analysis. A Steering Committee of relevant government departments and MAV is overseeing this work, which is almost complete, with the Final Report expected by early 2010. Although the Final Report is not yet available, the financial modelling tool, for use by councils to assess the costs and benefits of upgrading to sustainable public lighting is now available. The tool and accompanying user guide is available to registered and logged in users through the [MAV Sustainability Website](#). For anonymity, each council has been allocated a number between one and 79 in the tool. Contact Ben Morris, Policy Adviser—Waste and Energy, 03 96675580 or [bmorris@mav.asn.au](mailto:bmorris@mav.asn.au)

## Northern Sustainable Water Strategy

The DSE released the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy on the 9 December 2009. The Strategy is the result of an 18 month collaborative process involving Government, independent experts, key water industry stakeholders, including urban, rural and environmental water users and the broader regional community. The Strategy will be implemented by the DSE, rural and urban water corporations, and catchment management authorities. Electronic copies of the Strategy and fact sheets are available from [www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/sws/northern/final](http://www.ourwater.vic.gov.au/programs/sws/northern/final).

## Roadside Weeds and Pest Animals

The MAV is calling for expressions of interest from senior council officers to become members of the Roadside Weeds and Pest Animals Working Party. The working party is an initiative of the Minister for Agriculture. It will be independently chaired to progress a satisfactory outcome for the management of Regionally Prohibited and Regionally Controlled weeds, and established pest animals on roadsides. Working party membership will include the Department of Primary Industries, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the MAV, and a maximum of three senior council officers representing rural, interface and regional city councils. Other authorities and organisations may be invited as observers or consulting members as required. The MAV will be represented on the working party by the President, Cr Bill McArthur, and Policy Director, Kaye Owen. To register an expression of interest please email Luke Murphy, NRM Facilitator at [lmurphy@mav.asn.au](mailto:lmurphy@mav.asn.au) by COB Thursday 21 January 2010 and provide a brief description of your understanding of the issue.

## MAV Strategic Planning Sessions

The MAV's annual strategic planning process will commence in February, with eight consultation sessions across the state providing an important opportunity for councils to influence the MAV's work priorities for 2010-11. These sessions will inform development of the MAV's 2010-11 Strategic Work Plan. Session dates, locations and registration details are available via the [MAV Events Calendar](#).

## MAV National Environment Conference: Call for Abstracts

The MAV will host its inaugural National Environment Conference: *Transitioning to a climate resilient future* in Melbourne on the 15 – 16 April 2010. To ensure a comprehensive, exciting and relevant program, the MAV is calling for abstracts to select prospective conference speakers. The MAV is seeking abstracts from councils focused on the thematic areas of the built environment—mitigation and adaptation; productive environment—water and energy, agriculture; natural environment; people in the environment; leadership and learning; and legislation and liabilities. To download the Call for Abstracts Form visit: [www.mav.asn.au/enviro2010](http://www.mav.asn.au/enviro2010). Abstracts are due 1 February 2010. An indicative conference program is also available from the above website and registrations are now open. Contact Simone Stuckey, Policy Adviser—Environment, 03 9667 5582 or [sstuckey@mav.asn.au](mailto:sstuckey@mav.asn.au)

## Better Bays and Waterways Plan

Better Bays and Waterways, developed by Melbourne Water and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), is a new five-year plan to improve Melbourne's bays and waterways. The \$5 million plan, jointly funded by the Australian Government, EPA Victoria and Melbourne Water, describes the values, threats and current condition of the region's catchments, waterways and Port Phillip and Western Port bays. The plan sets out 93 actions of more than 30 organisations, including local government, five Victorian Government agencies, research institutions and community groups. Actions are aimed at reducing the amount of pollutants entering waterways and bays from rural, urban and coastal areas. To view the plan online visit: [melbournewater.com.au/betterbaysandwaterways](http://melbournewater.com.au/betterbaysandwaterways)

## Clean Up Australia Day 2010

Parks Victoria, in partnership with Clean Up Australia, will host this year's National Clean Up Australia Day in Melbourne on Sunday 7 March. 2010 is the 20th Anniversary of National Clean Up Australia Day, with this year's event being the first not to be hosted on Sydney Harbour. Melbourne's Metropolitan Bays and Waterways have been chosen as the focus of this year's event. For more information or to register a clean up site visit: [www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)

## Keep Australia Beautiful Awards

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria (KABV) is hosting a council information session for its Keep Australia Beautiful Awards program, featuring Sustainable Cities, Clean Beaches and Tidy Towns. The session will be held on Thursday 4 February from 2-4pm at Sustainability Victoria, Melbourne. Contact Joanna Meyer, Awards Manager, KABV on 03 8626 8750 or [Joanna.Meyer@sustainability.vic.gov.au](mailto:Joanna.Meyer@sustainability.vic.gov.au). RSVP by Monday 1 February 2010.

## Victorian Coastal Council Awards

Nominations for the Victorian Coastal Awards for Excellence 2010 are now open. The Victorian Coastal Council is seeking nominations in the fields of natural environment; education; coastal planning and management; coastal building and design; community action and partnerships; and individual achievement. Nominations close 19 February 2010. Visit: [www.vcc.vic.gov.au](http://www.vcc.vic.gov.au)

## Seachange Taskforce Conference

The National Seachange Taskforce will host its annual conference from 2-3 March 2010, Byron Bay. The program will focus on sea level rise, the legal implications of climate change and ageing populations. Visit: [www.seachangetaskforce.org.au/Conference.html](http://www.seachangetaskforce.org.au/Conference.html)

## Clearwater WSUD Tour

The Clearwater program provides training on sustainable water management for the local government and the water sector. Kingston City Council and Clearwater will conduct a half day tour of WSUD projects developed by the council over the past 10 years on Tuesday 9 February 2010. Visit: [www.clearwater.asn.au](http://www.clearwater.asn.au)

## ResourceSmart Connect Forum

Sustainability Victoria will host a ResourceSmart Connect Forum on the tools and resources available to reduce water usage in your organisation on Thursday 28 January, 9.30am-12noon. The forum will feature presentations from South East Water, City West Water and an on-site tour of the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre. RSVP by 4pm Monday 25 January to Ben Stephenson by [email](mailto:) or 03 8626 8807.

## Life Cycle Assessment Course

The Centre for Design at RMIT is offering a two-day introductory course on life cycle assessment. Life cycle assessment (LCA) is a method of evaluating the potential environmental impacts of products and services. The two-day course will be held on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 February. The LCA course is a detailed introductory course starting from the basics of LCA and then providing participants with practical experience working with LCA. For more information visit the [RMIT Website](http://RMIT Website).

## Sustainability Resource Locator

Sustainability Victoria has launched its new website, the 'Sustainability Resource Locator' to help local government find information quickly and easily on reducing its environmental impact. The website is administered by Sustainability Victoria and aims to facilitate better sustainability outcomes for local government and the community. The Locator gives access to reviewed websites which contain information and tools on sustainability, including climate change, energy, planning, sustainable buildings, waste and water. Visit: <http://municipal.resourcesmart.vic.gov.au>

## CFOC Business Plan 2010-11

The Australian Government has released the second Business Plan for the *Caring for our Country* Program. The plan provides guidance to potential applicants on the types of proposals the Australian Government is seeking to fund, and sets out the targets for investment in 2010-11. For further information and to download the plan, visit: <http://www.nrm.gov.au/business-plan/10-11/index.html>