

s. 47F(1)

Document 1

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

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**From:** Lauder, Michelle  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 March 2020 8:35 AM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) ; tia.stevens@awe.gov.au  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) ; s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: Major Event Review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi <sup>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

Assistant Minister Duniam is the lead Commonwealth Minister responsible for the Regional Forest Agreements. As such the scoping agreement for any RFA review would be signed by him and the relevant state lead minister for RFAs.

Thank you

Michelle

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**Michelle Lauder PSM**

Assistant Secretary | Phone s. 47F(1) | Mobile s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Fisheries and Forestry Division  
18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

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**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) [[mailto:s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 March 2020 8:23 AM  
**To:** [tia.stevens@awe.gov.au](mailto:tia.stevens@awe.gov.au); Lauder, Michelle <[Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au](mailto:Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Major Event Review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good morning Tia and Michelle,

It was great to see the updated deeds come through from <sup>s. 47F(1)</sup> yesterday evening – thanks.

We have been requested to prepare for initiation of the Major Event Review, with a view to the scoping agreement being between Minister D'Ambrosio and Minister Ley.

I believe there is still an interest in advising that a Major Event Review will be established, as envisaged in the modernised RFAs, upon signing of the RFAs.

Can you please advise how this might be navigated from your perspective.

Kind regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(i)

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Acting Executive Director | Policy and Planning Division**  
**Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

Lvl 14, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, 3002

**T:** s. 22(1)(a)(i) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(i) | **E:** s. 22(1)(a)(i) ([@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(i)@delwp.vic.gov.au))

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)      s. 22(1)(a)(ii)      – s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



s. 47F(1)

Document 2

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**From:** Lauder, Michelle  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 March 2020 12:46 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR)  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au; s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** AM Duniam to D'Ambrosio Letter [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** 26032020Duniam to D-Ambrosio Vic RFA.pdf

Hi <sup>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> and <sup>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

I have just received this from my minister's office – FYI

Thanks

Michelle

---

**Michelle Lauder PSM**

Assistant Secretary | Phone s. 47F(1) | Mobile s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Fisheries and Forestry Division  
18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

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# SENATOR THE HON. JONATHON DUNIAM

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries  
Assistant Minister for Regional Tourism  
Deputy Manager of Government Business in the Senate  
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

Ref: MS20-000098

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP  
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister

I am writing in response to your various correspondence from the month of March relating to the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs).

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**

Finally, as you are aware, the 2019-20 bushfire season has significantly affected forested areas across the RFA regions of Victoria. It will be many months before the full impact of the fires can be assessed. Given this, I am seeking your agreement to undertake a Major Event Review of the RFAs at a suitable time following the signing of the modernised RFAs.

The draft modernised Victorian RFAs include provisions for a Major Event Review to be undertaken following a significant event (such as bushfires, floods and disease). These

reviews will be conducted by an independent panel and include opportunity for public consultation.

Details of a commencement date and funding allocation will be outlined in a jointly agreed Scoping Agreement between the Parties.

I have sent a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon. David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management and the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment.

Yours sincerely

Jonathon Duniam

/ / 2020

cc Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP  
The Hon. David Littleproud MP, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management  
The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment.

s. 47F(1)

Document 4

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**From:** s. 47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 April 2020 6:12 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR)  
**Cc:** Lauder, Michelle (michelle.lauder@nrm.gov.au); Tia Stevens; s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** Vic RFA - Major Event Review discussion - draft scoping agreement [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agreement\_Major Event Review - 29 April.docx

Hi All

Ahead of our meeting tomorrow, please find attached an initial draft of a Scoping Agreement for the Vic RFA Major Event Review.

We will talk through this document with you tomorrow.

Please note: this is a draft document only, and is for the purposes of commencing discussions about the review.

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

Director | Native Forest Policy | s. 47F(1) | s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Fisheries and Forestry Division  
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GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

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s. 47F(1)

Document 5

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**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 May 2020 5:29 PM  
**To:** Lauder, Michelle; Stevens, Tia; s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1)  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR)  
**Subject:** Vic RFAs: Vic response to draft Major Event Review Scoping Agreement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agreement\_Major Event Review - 29 April - Vic response.docx  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear All,

Thank you again for providing a draft Scoping Agreement for the Victorian RFA Major Event Review.

For discussion at next Thursday's Joint Working Group meeting, please find attached Vic response to the draft with comments and proposed changes tracked.

I look forward to meeting with you all next week.

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - Regional Forest Agreements  
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne

T: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au

W: [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Document 6

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**From:** Lauder, Michelle <Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 May 2020 10:21 AM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DJPR); Stevens, Tia  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 47F(1) s. 47F(1) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** JWG Vic MER meeting - updated agenda and draft timeline [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** Draft Timeline\_MER\_VIC RFAs.docx; Updated Draft Agenda MER Joint Working Group 14 May.docx

Hi all

Attached is the updated agenda and a draft timeline for discussion at tomorrow's meeting. The only other paper is the comments from Vic on the scoping agreement that s. 22(1)(a)(ii) sent us on Friday.

Thanks

Michelle

---

**Michelle Lauder PSM**

Assistant Secretary | Phone s. 47F(1) | Mobile s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
 Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division  
 18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
 GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

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---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) [mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 May 2020 5:29 PM  
**To:** Lauder, Michelle ; Stevens, Tia ; s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1)  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR)  
**Subject:** Vic RFAs: Vic response to draft Major Event Review Scoping Agreement [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear All,

Thank you again for providing a draft Scoping Agreement for the Victorian RFA Major Event Review.

For discussion at next Thursday's Joint Working Group meeting, please find attached Vic response to the draft with comments and proposed changes tracked.

I look forward to meeting with you all next week.

Regards,



s. 22  
(4)(c)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

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**T:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) **E:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au)

**W:** [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

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## DRAFT Agenda Victorian RFA Major Event Review Joint Working Group meeting

**Date:** Thursday, 14 May 2020

**Time:** 12:00 – 13:30

**Location:** Teleconference

**Meeting No:** 1

**Secretariat:** Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

**Chair:** Michelle Lauder / **Secretariat:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Attendees		
Name	Position	Organisation
Michelle Lauder	Assistant Secretary, Forestry	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Executive Director, Policy and Planning Division	DELWP (Vic)
Tia Stevens	Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Policy and Water Science	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

Invitees		
Name	Position	Organisation
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Native Forest Policy	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Biodiversity Conservation Division	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Major Policy Initiatives	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)	Director, Policy Branch	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 47F(1)	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)	Manager, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

### AGENDA

Time	No.	Item	Action	Lead	Papers
12:00	1	<b>Meeting opening</b>			
	1.1	Confirmation of agenda	Discuss	Chair	Y
12:10	2	<b>Scoping Agreement</b>			
	2.1	Discuss comments on draft Scoping Agreement	Discuss	DELWP	Y
12:50	3	<b>Data</b>			
	3.1	Discuss further data required to support review	Discuss	DELWP	N
13:00	4	<b>Funding Arrangements</b>			
	4.1	Discuss funding elements and arrangements	Discuss	DELWP	N
13:10	5	<b>Timeline</b>			
	4.1	Discuss draft timeline for the review	Discuss	DAWE	Y
13:25	6	<b>Other Business</b>			
	6.1	Next steps and next meeting	Agree	Chair	N

s. 47F(1)

Document 7

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**From:** Lauder, Michelle  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 May 2020 12:03 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP)  
**Cc:** s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** ML to Vic: Draft scoping agreement - updates from JWG Mtg1 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agreement\_Major Event Review - edits from JWG Mtg1.docx

Hi s. 22  
(1)(a)(ii)

This is a draft for you to have a look at before we send out to the meeting participants. We have accepted all the changes and tracks that were agreed to, or an alternative was agreed to.

I am keen to draft a suggested way forward on the consultation – but that needs to be done separately from this version that is coming out of the JWG mtg.

Is there anything you think s. 47F and I have missed?

Let us know, and then we will send it out to all for their consideration

Thanks

Michelle

---

**Michelle Lauder PSM**

Assistant Secretary | Phone s. 47F(1) | Mobile s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division  
18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

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s. 47F(1)

Document 9

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**From:** Lauder, Michelle  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 May 2020 11:18 AM  
**To:** Stevens, Tia; s. 47F(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DJPR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 47F(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP)  
**Subject:** JWG Mtg 2 - Tuesday 3pm [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Draft Agenda MER Joint Working Group 19 May.docx; Draft Timeline\_MER\_VIC RFAs .docx; 180520 DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agreement\_Major Event Review - edits from JWG Mtg1 (002).docx

Hi all

Attached is the agenda for tomorrow's meeting, the timeline (no changes, just attached for convenience), and the draft updates to the scoping agreement based on the JWG meeting on Thursday.

I plan to send separately a suggestion for the approach to the inclusion of consultation detail in the scoping agreement to you all this afternoon for us to consider, and DELWP may be sending through the gap analysis of data being collected.

Thanks

Michelle

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**Michelle Lauder PSM**

Assistant Secretary | Phone s. 47F(1) | Mobile s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division  
18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

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## DRAFT Agenda Victorian RFA Major Event Review Joint Working Group meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 19 May 2020

**Time:** 3.00-5.00pm

**Location:** Teleconference

**Meeting No:** 2

**Secretariat:** Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

**Chair:** Michelle Lauder / **Secretariat:** s. 47F(1)

Attendees		
Name	Position	Organisation
Michelle Lauder	Assistant Secretary, Forestry	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Executive Director, Policy and Planning Division	DELWP (Vic)
Tia Stevens	Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Policy and Water Science	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

Invitees		
Name	Position	Organisation
s. 47F(1)	Director, Native Forest Policy	DAWE (Cth)
s. 47F(1)	Director, Biodiversity Conservation Division	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Major Policy Initiatives	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Manager, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

### AGENDA

Time	No.	Item	Action	Lead	Papers
<b>3:00</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting opening</b>			
	1.1	Confirmation of agenda	Discuss	Chair	Y
<b>3:05</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Data</b>			
	2.1	Discuss further data required to support review	Discuss	DELWP	N
<b>3:15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Funding Arrangements</b>			
	3.1	Discuss funding elements and arrangements	Discuss	DELWP	N
<b>3:30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Timeline</b>			
	4.1	Discuss draft timeline for the review	Discuss	DAWE	Y
<b>3:45</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Scoping Agreement</b>			
	5.1	Discuss comments on draft Scoping Agreement	Discuss	Chair	Y
	<b>6</b>	<b>Other Business</b>			
	6.1	Next steps and next meeting	Agree	Chair	N

s. 47F(1)

Document 10

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**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 12:53 PM  
**To:** s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: Query re panel appointment timing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks s. 47F(1) – I will just add a note to that effect then and we can revisit at next JWG.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii) - Regional Forest Agreements  
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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W: [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

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**From:** s. 47F(1)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 12:41 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP)  
**Subject:** RE: Query re panel appointment timing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

My recollection is that we initially left it to come back to - once we had gone through the other timeframes (to see if there was value in engaging them earlier, given the timeframes for collecting data etc). But that when we came back to it, there was no decision about whether to change it.

Thanks  
s. 47F(1)

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) [[mailto:s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 10:20 AM  
**To:** s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) >  
**Subject:** Query re panel appointment timing [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi s. 47F(1),

I'm just doing Vic edits to the ME Review timelines. I recall we discussed timing of Panel appointment and I commented that this should be earlier than mid-Sep. But I'm not sure where we finally landed in the discussion on that. Do you know?

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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s. 47F(1)

Document 11

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**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:21 AM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); Lauder, Michelle; Stevens, Tia; s. 47F(1) ; s. 47F(1); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP)  
**Subject:** Vic ME Review JWG meeting 2: Vic Actions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** 180520 DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agmt ME Review - Vic edits post JWG 2.docx; Draft Timeline\_MER\_VIC RFAs - Vic response 21 May.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi All,

As per actions agreed at the last JWG meeting of 19 May, please find attached –

- Marked up scoping agreement with proposed Vic edits relating to consultation and Traditional Owner engagement (noting that other edits that came out of the JWG discussion will be made by the Cth); and
- Marked up timelines with proposed Vic edits.

With regards to the further action for Victoria in relation to the ME Review information gap analysis, we are seeking final input on this work internally and endeavouring to have this complete and circulated to the JWG by COB Wednesday or Thursday morning.

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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T: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au  
W: [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)



s. 47F(1)

**From:** s. 47F(1)  
**Sent:** Thursdav. 28 Mav 2020 12:04 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); Stevens, Tia; s. 47F(1)  
s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP)  
**Cc:** Lauder, Michelle  
**Subject:** RE: Vic ME Review JWG meeting 2: Vic Actions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** 280520 DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agmt ME Review.docx

Hi All

Thanks <sup>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup> for sending through these documents.

As per your email below, we have made some additional edits to the draft Scoping Agreement – attached for discussion at our meeting tomorrow.

We have included a few changes (in track and marked with a comment). We have also accepted changes that were agreed at the last meeting, and removed old comments that have been dealt with.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) [mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 May 2020 8:21 AM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; Lauder, Michelle <Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au>; Stevens, Tia <Tia.Stevens@environment.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) >; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @awe.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Vic ME Review JWG meeting 2: Vic Actions [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi All,

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- Marked up scoping agreement with proposed Vic edits relating to consultation and Traditional Owner engagement (noting that other edits that came out of the JWG discussion will be made by the Cth); and
- Marked up timelines with proposed Vic edits.

With regards to the further action for Victoria in relation to the ME Review information gap analysis, we are seeking final input on this work internally and endeavouring to have this complete and circulated to the JWG by COB Wednesday or Thursday morning.

Regards,

s. 22  
(1)(a)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne  
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s. 47F(1)

Document 13

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) [mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; Lauder, Michelle <Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au>; Stevens, Tia <Tia.Stevens@environment.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @environment.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @awe.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Vic ME Review JWG meeting 2: Vic Actions - information analysis [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi All,

As per actions agreed at the last JWG meeting of 19 May, please find attached ME Review information gap analysis for discussion at tomorrow's JWG meeting.

We ask that the Commonwealth consider what available or in development information sources it could contribute to the ME Review for discussion tomorrow and inclusion in the analysis document.

We look forward to discussing this with you tomorrow.

Regards,

s. 22  
(4)(a)

s. 22(1)(a) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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s. 47F(1)

Document 14

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Lauder, Michelle [mailto:Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au]

**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2020 5:40 PM

**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au>; Stevens, Tia <Tia.Stevens@environment.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@environment.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1)@awe.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au>

**Subject:** Vic ME Review JWG meeting tomorrow [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks so much for this <sup>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) – as discussed yesterday, we don't need any DELWP biodiversity staff at the meeting tomorrow. The Aust Govt have had a chat since seeing this document and there is enough information here for the discussion for tomorrow.

Attached is a summary of the Commonwealth bushfire related funding we were discussing last meeting and a summary of Commonwealth funding arrangements in regards to RFAs and forest management – to assist with the discussions.

Tia is unfortunately going to have to step out of the meeting from 10.30am to 11am, so we were hoping to shuffle the order of the meeting to allow her to be available for the funding and gap analysis meeting.

See updated draft agenda.

Thanks

Michelle

---

**Michelle Lauder PSM**

Assistant Secretary | Phone s. 47F(1) | Mobile s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division  
18 Marcus Clarke Street, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

[awe.gov.au](http://awe.gov.au)

The department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to traditional owners, their cultures and elders past and present

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) [[mailto:s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au)]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 May 2020 12:12 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au)>; Lauder, Michelle <[Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au](mailto:Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au)>; Stevens, Tia <[Tia.Stevens@environment.gov.au](mailto:Tia.Stevens@environment.gov.au)>; s. 47F(1) <[s. 47F\(1\) @environment.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@environment.gov.au)>; s. 47F(1) <[s. 47F\(1\) @awe.gov.au](mailto:s.47F(1)@awe.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@ecodev.vic.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@ecodev.vic.gov.au)>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <[s. 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\) @delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Vic ME Review JWG meeting 2: Vic Actions - information analysis [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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We look forward to discussing this with you tomorrow.

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

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W: [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

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## Updated DRAFT Agenda Victorian RFA Major Event Review Joint Working Group meeting

<b>Date:</b> Friday, 29 May 2020	<b>Time:</b> 10.00am – 12.00pm
<b>Location:</b> Teleconference	
<b>Meeting No:</b> 3	
<b>Secretariat:</b> Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)	
<b>Chair:</b> s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) / <b>Secretariat:</b> s. 47F(1) (DAWE)	

Attendees		
Name	Position	Organisation
Michelle Lauder	Assistant Secretary, Forestry	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Executive Director, Policy and Planning Division	DELWP (Vic)
Tia Stevens	Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Policy and Water Science	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

Invitees		
Name	Position	Organisation
s. 47F(1)	Director, Native Forest Policy	DAWE (Cth)
s. 47F(1)	Director, Biodiversity Conservation Division	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Major Policy Initiatives	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Manager, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

### AGENDA

Time	No.	Item	Action	Lead	Papers
10:00	1	<b>Meeting opening</b>			
	1.1	Confirmation of agenda	Discuss	Chair	Y
10:05	2	<b>Scoping Agreement</b>			
	2.1	Discuss latest version of the draft Scoping Agreement	Discuss	DELWP	Y
10:50	3	<b>Timeline</b>			
	3.1	Discuss comments on timeline	Discuss	DELWP	Y
11:05	4	<b>Gap Analysis</b>			
	4.1	Discuss activities required for the review	Discuss	DELWP	Y
11:20	5	<b>Funding</b>			
	5.1	Further discussion about funding arrangements	Discuss	DAWE	Y
11:50	6	<b>Other Business</b>			
	6.1	Next steps and next meeting	Agree	Chair	N

s. 47F(1)

---

**From:** s. 47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 3 June 2020 6:17 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 47F(1) ; Tia Stevens  
**Cc:** Lauder, Michelle (michelle.lauder@nrm.gov.au)  
**Subject:** Vic RFA MER JWG meeting 4 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** 20200530 - Draft Agenda MER Joint Working Group 4 - 5 June.docx; 20200603 - Draft Timeline\_MER\_VIC RFAs - For JWG 4.docx; 20200603 - DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agmt ME Review - for discussion at JWG....docx; 20200603 - Draft minutes (MER JWG 3 - 29 May 2020).docx

Good afternoon all

Please find attached the following documents ahead of the JWG meeting on Friday:

- Draft agenda
- Draft minutes from JWG meeting 3
- Comments on the draft timeline
- Next version of the draft scoping agreement.

More than happy to discuss

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

Director | Native Forest Policy | s. 47F(1) | s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division  
18 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra ACT 2601  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

awe.gov.au

## DRAFT Agenda

### Victorian RFA Major Event Review

### Joint Working Group meeting 4

<b>Date:</b> Friday, 5 June 2020	<b>Time:</b> 1:30pm – 3pm
<b>Location:</b> Teleconference	
<b>Meeting No:</b> 4	
<b>Secretariat:</b> Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)	
<b>Chair:</b> Michelle Lauder (DAWE) / <b>Secretariat:</b> s. 47F(1) (DAWE)	

Attendees		
Name	Position	Organisation
Michelle Lauder	Assistant Secretary, Forestry	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Executive Director, Policy and Planning Division	DELWP (Vic)
Tia Stevens	Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Policy and Water Science	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

Invitees		
Name	Position	Organisation
s. 47F(1)	Director, Native Forest Policy	DAWE (Cth)
s. 47F(1)	Director, Biodiversity Conservation Division	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Major Policy Initiatives	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Manager, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

### AGENDA

Time	No.	Item	Action	Lead	Papers
<b>13:30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting opening</b>			
	1.1	Confirmation of agenda	Discuss	Chair	Y
	1.2	Agree to minutes from JWG 3	Agree	Chair	Y
	1.3	Discuss action items from JWG 3	Discuss	Chair	Y
<b>13:40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Scoping Agreement</b>			
	2.1	Discuss latest version of the draft Scoping Agreement	Discuss	DAWE	Y
<b>14:00</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Timeline</b>			
	3.1	Discuss latest version of timeline	Discuss	DAWE	Y
<b>14:10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Gap Analysis</b>			
	4.1	Discuss comments on gap analysis document	Discuss	DAWE	Y
<b>14:30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Funding</b>			
	5.1	Further discussion about funding arrangements (including any comments on Australian Government funding documents)	Discuss	DELWP	Y
<b>14:50</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Other Business</b>			
	6.1	Next steps and next meeting	Agree	Chair	N

s. 47F(1)

Document 17

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**From:** s. 47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 June 2020 8:18 AM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP)  
**Subject:** RE: Updated scoping agmt [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Morning <sup>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

Thanks for your email – yes, we are aiming to send out the next version of the Scoping Agreement to you as soon as possible this morning (just in the clearance process at the moment).

Thanks!  
<sup>s. 47F(1)</sup>

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) [mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 10 June 2020 8:14 AM  
**To:** s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** Updated scoping agmt [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Morning <sup>s. 47F(1)</sup>

Noting action from last JWG re seeking legal review of the draft Scoping Agreement by end of this week, I wanted to clarify whether we will be received an updated version from the Cth for this purpose?

My notes from Friday's meeting are a little unclear on this point – we were expecting some proposed wording options for funding arrangements from the Cth by COB yesterday as one of the actions, but I'm not sure whether this included updating the draft as per other matters agreed at the JWG.

Thanks,

<sup>s. 22(1)(a)(ii)</sup>

**s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)**  
**Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne  
**T:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) **E:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au  
**W:** [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)



s. 47F(1)

Document 20

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**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 June 2020 5:46 PM  
**To:** Lauder, Michelle; Stevens, Tia; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR)  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** Major Event Review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agmt MER- 10 June - Vic response.docx

Hi Michelle,

Many thanks for sending through the suggested words for the Scoping Agreement. I attached for your consideration our response to those suggestions.

s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)

With regards to minutes provided by email from s. 47F(1) we are happy to accept those as read.

Regards

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Acting Executive Director | Policy and Planning Division  
Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Lvl 14, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne, 3002

T: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | M: s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | E: s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au

Executive Assistant: s. 47F(1) – s. 47F(1)



s. 47F(1)

Document 21

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 June 2020 6:37 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); Lauder, Michelle; Stevens, Tia; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR)  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Vic RFA MER JWG papers [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** MER supporting info and data DAWE.DOCX; DRAFT Joint Comms Plan\_VIC MER.DOCX

Hi All

Please find attached the following documents ahead of the meeting next week:

- Draft communications plan
- Supporting information and data document – additional information from the Australian Government about data

Please note: following discussion between JWG members, the JWG meeting next week has been moved to Wednesday 17 June at 3:30pm.

Kind regards

s. 47F(1)

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) [mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 12 June 2020 5:46 PM  
**To:** Lauder, Michelle <Michelle.Lauder@awe.gov.au>; Stevens, Tia <Tia.Stevens@environment.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@environment.gov.au>; s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @agriculture.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Major Event Review [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Michelle,

Many thanks for sending through the suggested words for the Scoping Agreement. I attached for your consideration our response to those suggestions.

s 47B(a) &amp; s 47C(1)

With regards to minutes provided by email from s. 47F(1) we are happy to accept those as read.

Regards

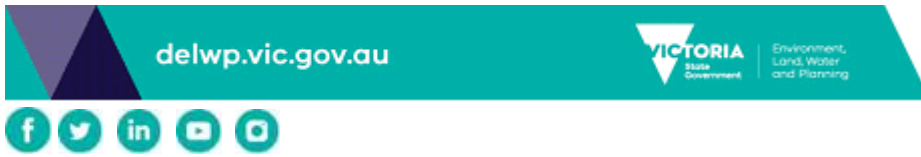
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | Acting Executive Director | Policy and Planning Division  
 Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Lvl 14, 8 Nicholson St. East Melbourne, 3002

**T:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **M:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | **E:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)      s. 22(1)(a)(ii)    – s. 22(1)(a)(ii)



DRAFT – 12 June 2020

# Major Event Review of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements

Victorian and Australian Government  
Joint Communications Plan

**June 2020**

V.1

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****Contents**

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DRAFT

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1. About the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements

The Victorian Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) are long-term agreements between the Commonwealth and Victorian governments that establish the framework for the sustainable management and conservation of forests in an RFA Region. Originally signed between 1997 and 2000 for a period of 20 years, the five RFAs for the Central Highlands, East Gippsland, Gippsland, North East and West Victoria regions were recently extended until 30 June 2020.

The main objectives of the Victorian RFAs are to provide for:

- a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system
- the ecologically sustainable management and use of forested areas in each RFA Region, and
- the long-term stability of forests and forest industries.

The Parties are committed to ensuring that the obligations and commitments that the RFAs contain are delivered to ensure effective conservation, forest management and forestry industry outcomes.

## 1.2. The Major Event Review

As defined in the Victorian RFAs, a 'Major Event' is a substantial change in circumstances that has the potential to significantly impact upon:

- a) the objectives and operation of the RFAs;
- b) the comprehensiveness, adequacy or representativeness of the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) Reserve System;
- c) Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM);
- d) one or more Matters of National Environment Significance (MNES); or
- e) the stability of Forest Industries.

within the RFA region, and includes (but is not limited to) natural events such as bushfires, floods and disease.

The 2019-20 bushfires have had devastating impacts on forests, biodiversity, forestry industries and regional communities. At the time of the Victorian RFA extensions in March 2020, detailed information on the extent of the damage on forests was not yet available. As part of the extension process, Senator the Hon. Jonathon Duniam, Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, and the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, agreed that a Major Event Review (MER) was warranted to assess the impacts on the operation of the RFAs.

The MER commences on signing of the Scoping Agreement, which outlines agreed arrangements for undertaking the review.

## 1.3. Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this plan is to guide the joint communications undertaken by the Victorian and Australian governments with stakeholders and the community.

## 1.4. Communications objectives

1. To **inform Victorian communities** of the MER process.

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2. To ensure interested and impacted stakeholders and communities are aware of **opportunities to engage** in the MER process.
3. To ensure the community is aware of the **evidence based, independent review** which underpins the findings and recommendations of the MER.
4. To inform communities and stakeholders about the **recommendations** of, and the **government response** to the MER process.

## 1.5. Roles and responsibilities

Key roles and responsibilities in relation to communication activities for Victorian and Australian government agencies are outlined in the table below.

Agency	Responsibility – communications activities
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Australian Government agency for developing this Joint Communications Plan.</li> <li>• Member of the Joint Working Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ approve and implement this Joint Communications Plan.</li> <li>○ consider and endorse consultation plan developed by the Panel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lead Australian Government agency for developing and publishing communications materials in relation to the MER.</li> </ul>
Victorian Government Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Victorian Government agency for developing this Joint Communications Plan.</li> <li>• Member of the Joint Working Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ approve and implement this Joint Communications Plan</li> <li>○ consider and endorse consultation plan developed by the Panel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lead Victorian Government agency for developing and publishing communications materials in relation to the MER.</li> </ul>
Victorian Government, Department of Precincts, Jobs and Regions (DJPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Joint Working Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ approve and implement this Joint Communications Plan</li> <li>○ consider and endorse consultation plan developed by the Panel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Assist in developing communications materials in relation to the MER.</li> </ul>

## 2 Communication

### 2.1. Communication phases

For the purposes of this strategy there are 5 key phases for communication, with tasks and deliverables discussed further below.

1. Official announcement of the MER and release of the Scoping Agreement.
2. Publication of the Summary Report and promotion of consultation.
3. Public consultation activities.
4. Publication of the Panel's report.
5. Publication of the Joint Government Response (JGR) to the Panel's report.

### 2.2. Key messages

The following key messages should guide all written and verbal communications.

- The Victorian and Australian governments are committed to RFAs, which provide a framework for the continued sustainable management of the Victoria's forests and forest-based wildlife.
- The 2019-20 bushfires have had devastating impacts on forests, biodiversity, forestry industries and regional communities.
- The Australian and Victorian governments have agreed that, as a consequence of the 2019-20 bushfires in Victoria, a Major Event Review (MER) of the Victorian RFAs will be undertaken.
- The MER will be undertaken by an independent expert panel and informed by the best available information concerning the impacts of the bushfires on the RFA regions.
- As part of the MER process, there will be an opportunity for public consultation in late 2020.
- The Victorian and Australian governments encourage all interested parties to provide input into the MER during the public consultation period.

### 2.3. Communication activities & channels

Where possible, communication about the MER will be made through joint statements by the Parties. If either Party decides to make a separate public statement about the MER, the Parties agree that they will advise the other Party prior to making the statement.

#### Websites

The DAWE website will be the Australian Government's primary channel for information on the MER. The DAWE website will include links to the DELWP website for relevant content. The DAWE website will also host the final Scoping Agreement, Panel's report and the JGR.

The DELWP website will be the Victorian Government's primary channel for information on the MER. The DELWP website will host the Summary Report and will host content related to public submissions.

#### Media releases

As required, media releases can be used to announce major milestones in the MER and promote outcomes of the review process. Joint media releases will be developed where possible.



**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****Twitter / other social media**

The DAWE and DELWP twitter accounts can be used to promote key messages, including to circulate media releases from relevant ministers.

**Talking points**

Talking points will be developed for the respective Ministers. Where practical, talking points should be shared with the other party to ensure consistent messaging.

**Advertising**

Subject to the agreement of the Parties, advertising might be undertaken to promote the MER public consultation process. Both parties will agree to the content in these advertisements and logos to be used will be at the government level, not departmental.

**Emails to stakeholders**

DAWE, DELWP and DJPR will coordinate stakeholder lists prior to sending out notification of the release of the summary report, consultation, panels report and JGR – to minimize duplication and gaps in coverage.

**2.4. Communications Plan**

Channel	Details	Timing	Responsible*
Websites	Regularly update websites to include information about upcoming engagement activities.	Ongoing from Signing of Scoping Agreement	Both
Media Releases	Official announcement of the MER and signature of the Scoping Agreement	s 47B(1)(a) & s 47C(1)	
	Appointment of Panel		
	Publication of summary report		
	Promotion of consultation		
	Publication of Panel's report		
	Publication of the JGR		
Twitter/other Social Media	Social media posts ahead of consultation activities		
Newspaper advertisements	Advertisements in local/community newsletters to generate awareness of engagement opportunities.		

\* 'Both' means the parties will separately draft the communications item, 'Joint' means the item will be drafted collaboratively.

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### 3 Stakeholder Analysis

The Parties have conducted a stakeholder analysis to identify the key groups with an interest in the MER of the Victorian RFAs.

Stakeholder	Sub-groups	Likely or known stance	Driver(s)
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>			
Government	Ministers MPs  Other RFA state governments (NSW, Tasmania and Western Australia)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)
Forestry industry	VicForests Processors Harvest and haulage contractors Manufacturers (inc special species processors) Industry associations (inc unions)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)
Environment groups	Local/regional State-based National Activist Mainstream	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)
<b>INTERESTED PARTIES</b>			
Australian community	Local community groups Regional communities reliant on forestry industry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups Scientific/academic Eminent individuals General public	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)

s. 47F(1)

Document 22

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**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 June 2020 3:36 PM  
**To:** s. 47F(1)  
**Subject:** ME Review - query re admin/consultation costs [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

H s. 47F(1)

Noting JWG conversations to date around sharing Panel fees, admin, consultation and publication costs – I wondered if you have estimates of those costs based on previous 5-yearly reviews or RFA activities that you could share?

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne

**T:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) **E:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au)

**W:** [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

s. 47F(1)

---

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 June 2020 5:33 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); Stevens, Tia; Lauder, Michelle (michelle.lauder@nrm.gov.au); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); Gaglia, Julie (Julie.Gaglia@agriculture.gov.au)  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** Papers for Vic RFA JWG MER meeting - 17 June 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Vic RFAs Scoping Agmt MER- 10 June - Vic response.docx; DRAFT Joint Comms Plan\_VIC MER.DOCX; 20200611 - Draft Agenda MER - JWG 5.docx; 20200611 - Draft Timeline\_MER\_VIC RFAs - For JWG 5.docx; 20200611 - Draft minutes (MER JWG 4 - 5 June 2020).docx; Vic response - MER info gap analysis inc Cth addtl info - 15 June.docx

Good afternoon all

Noting the number of documents shared amongst the Joint Working Group over the last week, we thought it might be helpful to send in one email the latest versions of each document ahead of our meeting at **3:30pm tomorrow, 17 June.**

Please find the following documents attached:

- Agenda for upcoming JWG 5
- Draft minutes from JWG 4
- Draft Scoping Agreement for the MER
- Draft timeline for the MER
- Draft supporting data and information document
- Draft communications plan

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any queries or concerns.

Thanks

s. 47F(1)

s. 47F(1)

Director | Native Forest Policy | s. 47F(1) | s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division  
18 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra ACT 2601  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

awe.gov.au

## DRAFT Agenda

### Victorian RFA Major Event Review

### Joint Working Group meeting 5

<b>Date:</b> Monday, 15 June 2020	<b>Time:</b> 2:30pm – 4pm
<b>Location:</b> Teleconference	
<b>Meeting No:</b> 5	
<b>Secretariat:</b> Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)	
<b>Chair:</b> Michelle Lauder (DAWE) / <b>Secretariat:</b> s. 47F(1) (DAWE)	

Attendees		
Name	Position	Organisation
Michelle Lauder	Assistant Secretary, Forestry	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	A/g Executive Director, Policy and Planning Division	DELWP (Vic)
Tia Stevens	Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Policy and Water Science	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

Invitees		
Name	Position	Organisation
s. 47F(1)	Director, Native Forest Policy	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Assistant Director, Biodiversity Conservation Division	DAWE (Cth)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Director, Major Policy Initiatives	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	DELWP (Vic)
s. 22(1)(a)(ii)	Manager, Forestry and Game	DJPR (Vic)

#### AGENDA

Time	No.	Item	Action	Lead	Papers
<b>14:30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Meeting opening</b>			
	1.1	Confirmation of agenda	Discuss	Chair	Y
	1.2	Agree to minutes from JWG 4	Agree	Chair	Y
	1.3	Discuss action items	Discuss	Chair	Y
<b>14:40</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Scoping Agreement</b>			
	2.1	Discuss latest version of the draft Scoping Agreement	Discuss	DAWE	Y
<b>15:00</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Timeline</b>			
	3.1	Discuss latest version of timeline	Discuss	DAWE	Y
<b>15:10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Supporting data and information</b>			
	4.1	Discuss updated document and comments	Discuss	DELWP	Y
<b>15:30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Funding</b>			
	5.1	Further discussion about funding arrangements	Discuss	DAWE / DELWP	N
<b>15:50</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Other Business</b>			
	6.1	Next steps and next meeting	Agree	Chair	N

DRAFT – 12 June 2020

# Major Event Review of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements

Victorian and Australian Government  
Joint Communications Plan

**June 2020**

V.1

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****Contents**

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2.3.	Communication activities & channels.....	5
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3	Stakeholder Analysis.....	7

DRAFT

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1. About the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements

The Victorian Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) are long-term agreements between the Commonwealth and Victorian governments that establish the framework for the sustainable management and conservation of forests in an RFA Region. Originally signed between 1997 and 2000 for a period of 20 years, the five RFAs for the Central Highlands, East Gippsland, Gippsland, North East and West Victoria regions were recently extended until 30 June 2020.

The main objectives of the Victorian RFAs are to provide for:

- a comprehensive, adequate and representative (CAR) reserve system
- the ecologically sustainable management and use of forested areas in each RFA Region, and
- the long-term stability of forests and forest industries.

The Parties are committed to ensuring that the obligations and commitments that the RFAs contain are delivered to ensure effective conservation, forest management and forestry industry outcomes.

## 1.2. The Major Event Review

As defined in the Victorian RFAs, a 'Major Event' is a substantial change in circumstances that has the potential to significantly impact upon:

- a) the objectives and operation of the RFAs;
- b) the comprehensiveness, adequacy or representativeness of the Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) Reserve System;
- c) Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM);
- d) one or more Matters of National Environment Significance (MNES); or
- e) the stability of Forest Industries.

within the RFA region, and includes (but is not limited to) natural events such as bushfires, floods and disease.

The 2019-20 bushfires have had devastating impacts on forests, biodiversity, forestry industries and regional communities. At the time of the Victorian RFA extensions in March 2020, detailed information on the extent of the damage on forests was not yet available. As part of the extension process, Senator the Hon. Jonathon Duniam, Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, and the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP, Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, agreed that a Major Event Review (MER) was warranted to assess the impacts on the operation of the RFAs.

The MER commences on signing of the Scoping Agreement, which outlines agreed arrangements for undertaking the review.

## 1.3. Purpose of this plan

The purpose of this plan is to guide the joint communications undertaken by the Victorian and Australian governments with stakeholders and the community.

## 1.4. Communications objectives

1. To **inform Victorian communities** of the MER process.



**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

2. To ensure interested and impacted stakeholders and communities are aware of **opportunities to engage** in the MER process.
3. To ensure the community is aware of the **evidence based, independent review** which underpins the findings and recommendations of the MER.
4. To inform communities and stakeholders about the **recommendations** of, and the **government response** to the MER process.

## 1.5. Roles and responsibilities

Key roles and responsibilities in relation to communication activities for Victorian and Australian government agencies are outlined in the table below.

Agency	Responsibility – communications activities
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Australian Government agency for developing this Joint Communications Plan.</li> <li>• Member of the Joint Working Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ approve and implement this Joint Communications Plan.</li> <li>○ consider and endorse consultation plan developed by the Panel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lead Australian Government agency for developing and publishing communications materials in relation to the MER.</li> </ul>
Victorian Government Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead Victorian Government agency for developing this Joint Communications Plan.</li> <li>• Member of the Joint Working Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ approve and implement this Joint Communications Plan</li> <li>○ consider and endorse consultation plan developed by the Panel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lead Victorian Government agency for developing and publishing communications materials in relation to the MER.</li> </ul>
Victorian Government, Department of Precincts, Jobs and Regions (DJPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member of the Joint Working Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ approve and implement this Joint Communications Plan</li> <li>○ consider and endorse consultation plan developed by the Panel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Assist in developing communications materials in relation to the MER.</li> </ul>

## 2 Communication

### 2.1. Communication phases

For the purposes of this strategy there are 5 key phases for communication, with tasks and deliverables discussed further below.

1. Official announcement of the MER and release of the Scoping Agreement.
2. Publication of the Summary Report and promotion of consultation.
3. Public consultation activities.
4. Publication of the Panel's report.
5. Publication of the Joint Government Response (JGR) to the Panel's report.

### 2.2. Key messages

The following key messages should guide all written and verbal communications.

- The Victorian and Australian governments are committed to RFAs, which provide a framework for the continued sustainable management of the Victoria's forests and forest-based wildlife.
- The 2019-20 bushfires have had devastating impacts on forests, biodiversity, forestry industries and regional communities.
- The Australian and Victorian governments have agreed that, as a consequence of the 2019-20 bushfires in Victoria, a Major Event Review (MER) of the Victorian RFAs will be undertaken.
- The MER will be undertaken by an independent expert panel and informed by the best available information concerning the impacts of the bushfires on the RFA regions.
- As part of the MER process, there will be an opportunity for public consultation in late 2020.
- The Victorian and Australian governments encourage all interested parties to provide input into the MER during the public consultation period.

### 2.3. Communication activities & channels

Where possible, communication about the MER will be made through joint statements by the Parties. If either Party decides to make a separate public statement about the MER, the Parties agree that they will advise the other Party prior to making the statement.

#### Websites

The DAWE website will be the Australian Government's primary channel for information on the MER. The DAWE website will include links to the DELWP website for relevant content. The DAWE website will also host the final Scoping Agreement, Panel's report and the JGR.

The DELWP website will be the Victorian Government's primary channel for information on the MER. The DELWP website will host the Summary Report and will host content related to public submissions.

#### Media releases

As required, media releases can be used to announce major milestones in the MER and promote outcomes of the review process. Joint media releases will be developed where possible.

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****Twitter / other social media**

The DAWE and DELWP twitter accounts can be used to promote key messages, including to circulate media releases from relevant ministers.

**Talking points**

Talking points will be developed for the respective Ministers. Where practical, talking points should be shared with the other party to ensure consistent messaging.

**Advertising**

Subject to the agreement of the Parties, advertising might be undertaken to promote the MER public consultation process. Both parties will agree to the content in these advertisements and logos to be used will be at the government level, not departmental.

**Emails to stakeholders**

DAWE, DELWP and DJPR will coordinate stakeholder lists prior to sending out notification of the release of the summary report, consultation, panels report and JGR – to minimize duplication and gaps in coverage.

**2.4. Communications Plan**

Channel	Details	Timing	Responsible*
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## FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

### 3 Stakeholder Analysis

The Parties have conducted a stakeholder analysis to identify the key groups with an interest in the MER of the Victorian RFAs.

Stakeholder	Sub-groups	Likely or known stance	Driver(s)
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>			
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s. 47F(1)

Document 25

**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 June 2020 10:34 AM  
**To:** s. 47F(1) ; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); Stevens, Tia; Lauder, Michelle; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); Gaglia, Julie  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR); s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Papers for Vic RFA JWG MER meeting - 17 June 2020 [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** DRAFT Joint Comms Plan\_VIC MER - Vic comments.docx

Hi s. 47F(1),

Many thanks for sending around the documents all in one email.

To add another document for today, please find attached initial comments on the draft Comms plan.

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(i) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)  
 Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne  
 T: s. 22(1)(a) E: s. 22(1)(a)(i) @delwp.vic.gov.au  
 W: [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

**From:** s. 47F(1) <s. 47F(1) @awe.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 June 2020 5:34 PM  
**To:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; Stevens, Tia <Tia.Stevens@environment.gov.au>; Lauder, Michelle <Michelle.Lauder@agriculture.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; Gaglia, Julie <Julie.Gaglia@agriculture.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(i) (DEDJTR) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @ecodev.vic.gov.au>; s. 22(1)(a)(ii) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @awe.gov.au>  
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Thanks

## s. 47F(1)

Director | Native Forest Policy | s. 47F(1) | s. 47F(1)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
Forestry Branch | Agvet Chemicals, Fisheries and Forestry Division  
18 Marcus Clarke St, Canberra ACT 2601  
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601

[awe.gov.au](http://awe.gov.au)

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DRAFT – 12 June 2020

# Major Event Review of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements

Victorian and Australian Government  
Joint Communications Plan

**June 2020**

V.1

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DRAFT



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**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

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## 1.5. Roles and responsibilities

Key roles and responsibilities in relation to joint communication activities for Victorian and Australian government agencies are outlined in the table below.

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## 2 Communication

### 2.1. Communication phases

For the purposes of this strategy there are 5 key phases for communication, with tasks and deliverables discussed further below.

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2. Publication of the Summary Report and promotion of consultation.
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4. Publication of the Panel's report.
5. Publication of the Joint Government Response (JGR) to the Panel's report.

### 2.2. Key messages

The following key messages should guide all written and verbal communications.

- The Victorian and Australian governments are committed to RFAs, which provide a framework for the continued sustainable management of Victoria's forests and forest-based wildlife.
- The 2019-20 bushfires have had devastating impacts on forests, biodiversity, forestry industries and regional communities.
- The Australian and Victorian governments have agreed that, as a consequence of the 2019-20 bushfires in Victoria, a MER of the Victorian RFAs will be undertaken.
- The MER will be undertaken by an independent panel and informed by current information including scientific data and research, community perspectives, and Traditional Owner insights relating to the impacts of the bushfires on the RFA regions.
- As part of the MER process, there will be an opportunity for public consultation in late 2020. Traditional Owners will be engaged throughout the MER process.
- The Victorian and Australian governments encourage all interested parties to provide input into the MER during the public consultation period.

### 2.3. Communication activities & channels

Where possible, communication about the MER will be made through joint statements by the Parties. If either Party decides to make a separate public statement about the MER, the Parties agree that they will advise the other Party prior to making the statement.

#### Websites

The DAWE website will be the Australian Government's primary channel for information on the MER. The DAWE website will include links to the DELWP website for relevant content. The DAWE website will also host the final Scoping Agreement, Summary Report, Panel's report and the JGR.

The DELWP website will be the Victorian Government's primary channel for information on the MER. The DELWP website will host content related to consultation, including public submissions.

**FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****Media releases**

As required, media releases can be used to announce major milestones in the MER and promote outcomes of the review process. Joint media releases will be developed where possible.

**Twitter / other social media**

The DAWE and DELWP twitter accounts can be used to promote key messages, including to circulate media releases from relevant ministers.

**Talking points**

DAWE and DELWP will develop talking points for their respective Ministers as necessary for communications activities, drawing on agreed communications messages at 2.2.

**Advertising**

Subject to the agreement of the Parties, advertising can be undertaken to promote the MER public consultation process. Both parties will agree to the content in these advertisements and logos to be used will be at the government level, not departmental.

**Emails to stakeholders**

DAWE, DELWP and DJPR will coordinate stakeholder lists prior to sending out notification of the release of the summary report, consultation, panels report and JGR – to minimize duplication and gaps in coverage.

**2.4. Communications Plan**

Channel	Details	Timing	Responsible*
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Twitter/other Social Media	Social media posts ahead of consultation activities		
Newspaper advertisements	Advertisements in local/community newspapers to generate awareness of engagement opportunities.		

\* 'Both' means the parties will separately draft the communications item, 'Joint' means the item will be drafted collaboratively.

## FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

### 3 Stakeholder Analysis

The Parties have conducted a stakeholder analysis to identify the key groups with an interest in the MER of the Victorian RFAs.

Stakeholder	Sub-groups	Likely or known stance	Driver(s)
<b>STAKEHOLDERS</b>			
Government	Ministers MPs  Other RFA state governments (NSW, Tasmania and Western Australia)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)
Forestry industry	VicForests Processors Harvest and haulage contractors Manufacturers (inc special species processors) Industry associations (inc unions)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)
Environment groups	Local/regional State-based National Activist Mainstream	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)
<b>INTERESTED PARTIES</b>			
Australian community	Local community groups Regional communities reliant on forestry industry Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups Scientific/academic Eminent individuals General public	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)	s 47B(a) & s 47C(1)

s. 47F(1)

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**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 June 2020 10:14 AM  
**To:** s. 47F(1)  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP)  
**Subject:** FOR INPUT: MER info gap analysis - post JWG 5.docx [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** MER info gap analysis - post JWG 5.docx

Hi s. 47F(1),

Further to last week's JWG meeting. Please find attached updated info gap analysis following my further cross-check with the document provided by the Cth on Friday 12 June.

The only missing information I could find was the Cth's proposed inclusion of information sources for item 2 "Impacts on operation of RFAs and ESFM". As the information items Cth proposed to be included in that section were high level existing documents (the RFAs and their supporting documents; the RFA Act) and the focus of the gap analysis was to identify specific information available and needs for the ME Review, I had not included it in the gap analysis I provided for the last JWG. However, these information sources are relevant and I have now inserted them into the attached document.

I note that in keeping with the document's current purpose as a gap analysis, we agreed at the JWG not to include the Cth's proposed additional columns around "How will this info/data inform the MER?" and "Access". However, I have brought Cth's proposed content for the "How will this info/data inform the MER?" column into the body of the table.

If there are areas where Vic has identified information items and the Cth considers the rationale or use is not clear, I would appreciate your specific query at the relevant item. The updated document has sought to clarify such queries raised by the Cth previously.

Otherwise, from my review, all other content and items for discussion from the Cth's document were brought into this document previously either in the body of the tables or if addressed otherwise, this has been explained in the comments/responses on the document.

If there is something that the Cth considers has not been included or is inaccurate, I would appreciate your specific comments or edits for consideration. I am happy to step through the document and edits on the phone if that is helpful to address any queries.

I look forward to receiving your advice on any remaining queries/comments or confirmation that the Cth is comfortable for this document to be circulated to the JWG.

Thanks,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne

**T:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) **E:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s.22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au)

**W:** [www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)

s. 47F(1)

Document 30

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**From:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP) <s. 22(1)(a)(ii) @delwp.vic.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 July 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** s. 47F(1); Gaglia, Julie  
**Cc:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP); s. 22(1)(a)(ii) (DELWP)  
**Subject:** Vic RFA Major Event Review - letter from Minister D'Ambrosio to Senator Duniam  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** MBR041953R.pdf

Hi Julie and s. 47F(1)

FYI - the attached letter has been sent to Senator Duniam.

Regards,

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii) | s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

**Forest, Fire and Regions | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning**

Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne

**T:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) **E:** s. 22(1)(a)(ii) [@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:s. 22(1)(a)(ii)@delwp.vic.gov.au)

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# SENATOR THE HON. JONATHON DUNIAM

Assistant Minister for Forestry and Fisheries  
Assistant Minister for Regional Tourism  
Deputy Manager of Government Business in the Senate  
Liberal Senator for Tasmania

Ref: MC20-009668

The Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP  
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
8 Nicholson Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 28 June 2020 regarding the proposed funding of activities to support the Major Event Review of the Victorian Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs).

I acknowledge the work that Victoria has undertaken after the 2019-20 bushfires and I am pleased that Victoria will be bringing such a wide range of information to the review. The Australian Government is also providing significant funding to Victoria in the wake of the 2019-20 bushfire season. This includes \$10.25 million, to undertake a wide range of activities, from fire impact assessments of rainforest, to feral animal control, threatened species management and forestry transport assistance. This funding is in addition to other support the government is providing nationally, which will also be relevant for Victoria, including the \$150 million bushfire recovery for wildlife and their habitats.

I understand that Victorian officials are yet to provide the Commonwealth officials with feedback on the latest version of the draft Scoping Agreement, which we will need to agree at a ministerial level prior to commencing the review. I would like to see this Major Event Review get underway especially considering the length of time that has passed since the fires and these negotiations have been ongoing for months. I would welcome your assistance in ensuring we can undertake the Major Event Review as soon as possible.

I understand officials are also identifying a range of data that will be required for the review. I anticipate that while there may be some information the government may agree to co-fund, there will be other information that should be being collected as part of the State's normal forest management activities in order to maintain their Forest Management System as accredited by the RFAs. For example, I consider that mapping of rainforest extent and forest classification remain the responsibility of the State Government.

I therefore cannot confirm that the government will provide equal funding for any new information until the Parties have had time to consider the merits of each case.

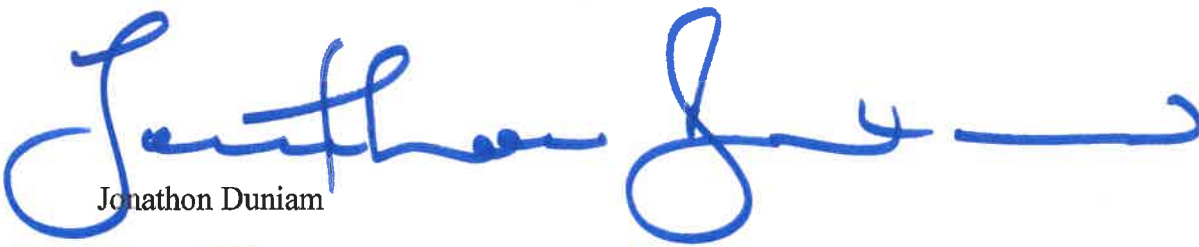


The government will of course share the costs of those activities that we agree are required for conducting the review as agreed in the RFAs. This agreement extends to any information that the Panel requests and the Parties agree to.

With respect to funding for the review Panel, I propose that the Parties co-fund the Commonwealth-selected independent panel member and the other member(s) as agreed by the Parties, noting they are likely to be Traditional Owner representatives. I would not expect that the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability will require additional funding with respect to this review as this activity would surely fall within the responsibilities of the Commissioner's role.

I have sent a copy of this letter to the Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment, and the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MLC, Minister for Agriculture.

Yours sincerely



Jonathon Duniam

21 / 07 / 2020

cc The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Minister for the Environment  
The Hon. Jaclyn Symes MLC, Minister for Agriculture