



a fairer victoria achievements so far

Strategy Fourteen Developing better ways of working together at a regional and local level

strategy fourteen

Developing better ways of working together at a regional and local level

Aim

In addition to changing the way we work with communities, A Fairer Victoria has provided new, consistent and more collaborative working arrangements between different levels of government in Victoria's regions. This has resulted in more coordinated action between state and local government around regional priorities. The relationship between the State Government and local government is also being improved.

Working together in the regions

We have removed the long-standing anomalies with Departmental regional boundaries, aligning them into eight consistent regions making it easier for councils, the State Government and other organisations to work together.

We have established a Regional Management Forum in each of these eight regions involving State Government departments and local councils. The forums identify critical issues that need to be dealt with collectively in the regions, and find collaborative ways to address these issues. Each forum is chaired by a departmental Secretary who acts as a regional champion.

Regional Management Forums have developed workplans and are now implementing agreed regional priority projects, many of which are strongly aligned with A Fairer Victoria.

We have also established a shared on-line workspace for Victorian Government and local government senior managers and Chief Executives, designed to support the Regional Management Forums, and be a major conduit of research and data between State Government and local governments.

Stronger relationship with local government

Victoria signed the *Inter-Governmental Agreement Establishing Principles Guiding Inter-Governmental Relations on Local Government Matters* in 2006.

This is a national agreement which lays the foundations and spirit in which State and Commonwealth Governments will work with local government – promoting respect, encouraging dialogue and transparency.

To give proper effect to the intergovernmental agreement in Victoria we have, in partnership with the Municipal Association of Victoria, developed a State-level agreement that will improve consultation, coordination, service delivery, transparency and accountability between levels of Government. This agreement will be signed in May 2008.

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