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17 March 2008

BC : IN

Sustainable Water Strategies Branch
Office of Water
Department of Sustainability and Environment
PO Box 500
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Submission on Sustainable Water Strategy – Northern Region
Discussion Paper**

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment on the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy Discussion paper.

Our Shire is vitally interested in a Sustainable Water Strategy and would like consideration of the following points:

We strongly urge the expansion and far more detailed review of Section 4 on increased storage capacity. We agree that many members of the community suggest expanding the dam infrastructure and thus this area needs far more 'weight' and open discussion and review.

To educate the public there should be clear facts established and supported by information to help guide comment and future strategy. Dismissive comments because of 'Government policy' and one line unsubstantiated reasons are inadequate.

Also a different approach to water management instead of the historical water allocation driven discussion should be considered. This approach must be consistent across the States.

If climate change or weather patterns are causing fundamental changes, then the consequences should be considered carefully. There appears to be inadequate discussion on other consequences such as storm event mitigation, temperature change and resultant population shifts.

There is also little consideration of environmental storages and options to mitigate the impact of future water availability issues.

DISCOVER THE GREAT ALPINE ROAD



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Lastly we would like to acknowledge the difficult task confronting the delivery of such a strategy and believe that a constructive approach is vital. We look forward to further consideration of the above points.

Yours sincerely,

IAN NICHOLLS
Chief Executive Officer