



# **Chapter 1. Introduction: Victoria implementing the Murray- Darling Basin Plan**



# 1. Introduction: Victoria implementing the Basin Plan

This Chapter describes Victoria's approach to the preparation of water resource plans to meet the requirements of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

## 1.1 The Murray-Darling Basin Plan

The Murray-Darling Basin is Australia's largest river system. It reaches into Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and covers half of Victoria.

The Basin holds important social, cultural, economic and environmental values, supporting strong rural communities and economies, and generating about 40 percent of the nation's agricultural income. It includes diverse ecosystems, internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands, significant floodplains and river red gum forests.

The Murray-Darling Basin requires a unique management approach. In the past, cooperation between the Commonwealth, Victorian, New South Wales and South Australian governments has been determined under the 1915 *River Murray Waters Agreement* and the 1987 *Murray-Darling Basin Agreement*, which included the Australian Capital Territory and Queensland.

In 2007, the Commonwealth Government assumed a greater role in water management across the Murray-Darling Basin when it passed the Commonwealth Water Act. This Act integrated the management of water resources, including new limits on how much water can be taken from the Murray-Darling Basin's surface and groundwater systems. It established the independent Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), which was charged with preparing a Basin Plan.

### **The Basin Plan**

The Basin Plan 2012 regulations set out how the Murray–Darling Basin’s water resources will be managed and shared between all water users, including the environment.

The Basin Plan determines an average amount of water that can be extracted or taken annually from the Murray–Darling Basin for consumptive use (urban, industrial and agricultural). The volume determined is called the sustainable diversion limit (SDL), this is calculated as a long-term average. The SDL is a volume of extraction that will not have a negative impact on the natural environments and the functions of the rivers, waterways, groundwater and wetlands of the Basin.

- SDLs come into effect from 1 July 2019
- So that SDLs can be met, governments agreed that a long-term average annual volume of 2,750 gigalitres (GL) of water for the environment would be recovered across the Basin.
- Victoria's share is a long-term average annual volume of 1,075 GL, which is about 40 percent of total Basin water recovery
- Water will be recovered from surface water SDL resource units in Victoria’s North and Murray water resource plan area. [Table 1-1](#) shows the water resource plan areas and SDL resource units covered by this report

## **1.2 Water resource plans**

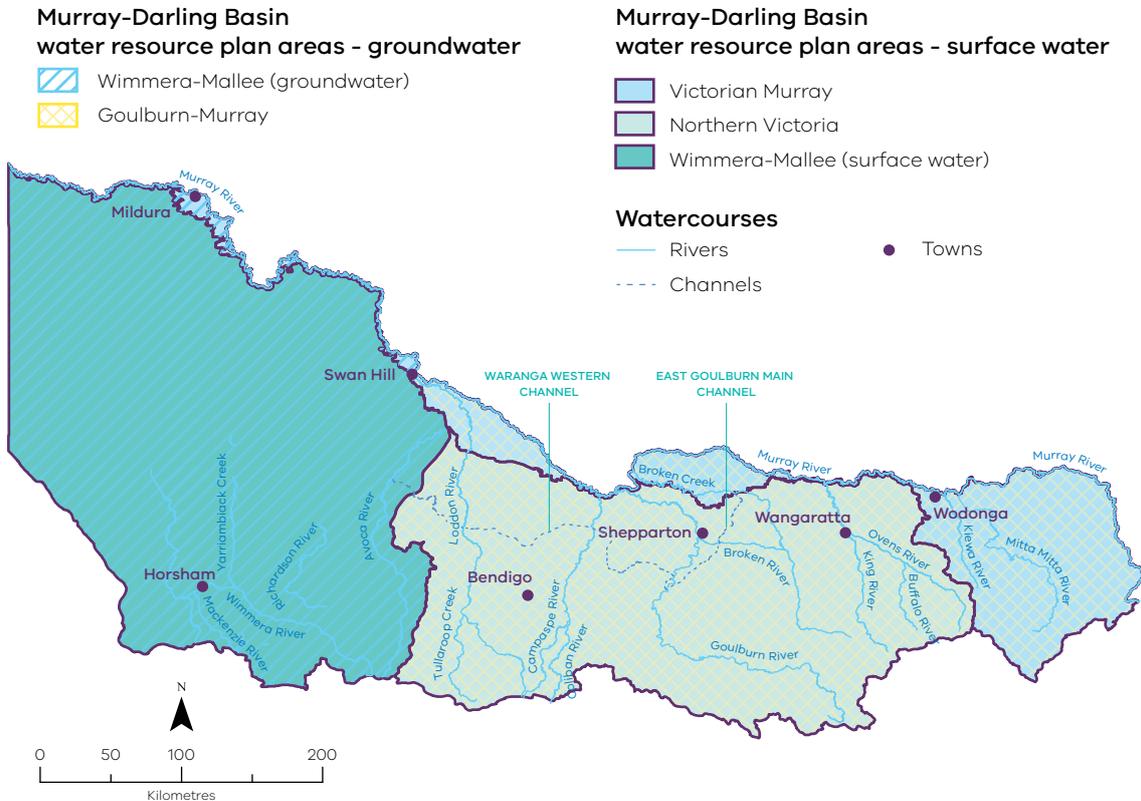
The Basin Plan aims to achieve healthy, working rivers that support productive and resilient water-dependent industries, healthy and resilient ecosystems and communities with access to sufficient and reliable water supplies.

The Basin Plan requires all Murray–Darling Basin states, including Victoria, to prepare water resource plans by June 2019. Victoria’s North and Murray Water Resource Plan demonstrates how Victoria will meet the requirements identified in the Basin Plan. This plan has been prepared by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The Murray–Darling Basin contains 20 surface water water resource plan areas and 22 groundwater water resource plan areas, as well as six combined groundwater and surface water water resource plan areas.

Victoria has five water resource plan areas—three surface water and two groundwater ([Figure 1-1](#)). These are:

- Victorian Murray (water resource plan area) (SW2)
- Northern Victoria (water resource plan area) (SW3)
- Wimmera–Mallee (surface water) water resource plan area (SW4)
- Goulburn–Murray (water resource plan area) (GW2)
- Wimmera–Mallee (groundwater) (GW3)



**Figure 1-1: Victoria's water resource plan areas for groundwater and surface water**

Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan outlines a series of requirements for states to cover in their water resource plans. These include:

- setting out the quantity of held environmental water and planned environmental water, and incorporating the rules and management arrangements associated with delivery and use of this water
- ensuring that environmental watering is consistent with the Basin-wide environmental watering strategy
- setting out how much water can be taken annually for consumptive use in a way that meets the SDL
- a plan to manage water quality standards
- setting out the circumstances when trade is allowed within and between groundwater SDL resource units and from groundwater to surface water SDL resource units
- outlining how water will be managed during extreme events
- identification of Traditional Owner objectives and outcomes for water resource management
- setting out how interception activities will be managed and monitored, including runoff dams, commercial plantations, mining activities and floodplain harvesting
- outlining the risks to water resources and strategies to address these risks

### 1.3 Sustainable Diversion Limits

The Basin Plan sets limits on the amount of water that can be taken for consumptive use from the Murray-Darling Basin. These are known as sustainable diversion limits (SDL) and come into effect from 1 July 2019.

SDLs aim to improve the condition of the natural environment of the Murray-Darling Basin, while recognising there must be a balance between water for the environment and water for communities, agriculture and industries. The overarching aim of the Basin Plan is to provide for a healthy working Murray-Darling Basin now and into the future.

The long-term annual average water use across the Murray-Darling Basin before the development of the Basin Plan has been estimated to be 13,623 GL. This is known as the baseline diversion limit (BDL). Basin states have agreed to reduce the total volume of water taken from the Murray-Darling Basin so this water can be returned to the environment. The Basin Plan SDLs replace the previous cap on diversions and set limits on the volume of water which can be extracted for consumptive purposes. The BDLs and SDLs are determined for each SDL resource unit and represent long-term average annual take, which in some instances is less than the total entitlement volume. This is explained further in [Chapter 9](#) and [Appendix C](#). To meet SDLs, governments are recovering water to be held and used by environmental water holders to improve the health of the Basin. Victoria's share is 1,075 GL, of which 1052.3 GL comes from Victoria's North and Murray water resource plan area.

Recovered water is used to improve the environmental health of the Murray-Darling Basin's rivers, wetlands and floodplains, and the habitats of plants and animals that rely on the river system. The effects of past environmental watering have already produced beneficial outcomes for river, wetland and floodplain ecosystems – like waterbird breeding events at Barmah Forest.

Environmental watering also has important social, cultural and economic benefits. It has been found to support recreational activities, sustain Country for Traditional Owners and improve water quality for farmers.

### **Water recovery**

Under Basin Plan Victoria is required to recover 1,075.3GL from the consumptive pool for allocation to the environment. This water has been recovered through direct purchase of water entitlement by the Commonwealth Government, or the exchange of water entitlement for Government investment in efficient irrigation infrastructure.

Victoria will achieve its 1,075.3 water recovery target, with over 800 GL of water recovery via entitlements and a further 266.2 GL of Victoria's target will be offset through the SDL adjustment mechanism, whilst still ensuring environmental objectives are met. This is explained further in [Appendix C](#).

There are two key aspects of water recovery targets in the Basin Plan. These are local targets, known in the Basin Plan as a 'local reduction amount' and shared targets, known as a 'shared reduction amount'.

The Basin Plan sets out a local water recovery target for each SDL resource unit area, and these targets must be met by recovering water from within that area. In most cases the local recovery amount is the minimum recovery required within each SDL resource unit area to satisfy local environmental needs.

Shared targets apply to all basins in the water resource plan area and are in addition to the local targets (see [Table 1-1](#)). Shared targets are to contribute to environmental needs across the Basin and can be distributed between SDL resource units. A total shared reduction amount of 425.3 GL in the Southern Basin Victoria shared zone must be recovered.

The Southern Basin Victoria shared zone is made up of the following Victorian SDL resource units which align to the water resource plan area are:

- Victorian Murray

- Kiewa
- Ovens
- Broken
- Goulburn
- Campaspe
- Loddon

### **Surface water sustainable diversion limits**

Victoria's core obligation under the Basin Plan for surface water in Victoria's North and Murray water resource plan area is to manage consumptive take annually to meet the long term average SDL for each SDL resource unit. The Plan must demonstrate how Victoria will determine the annual limit on consumptive take for each form of take in the system.

The methods for determining annual limits on take and the rules for ensuring actual take will be managed within these limits is outlined in [Chapter 9](#) and [Appendix C](#).

The Victorian groundwater SDL resource units in the Goulburn-Murray water resource plan area are:

- Goulburn–Murray: Shepparton Irrigation Region
- Goulburn–Murray: Highlands
- Goulburn–Murray: Sedimentary Plain
- Goulburn–Murray: deep

There are no reduction targets for groundwater take as the SDLs for groundwater are greater than the baseline diversion limits (see [Table 1-1](#)).

### **Groundwater sustainable diversion limits**

Victoria's core obligation under the Basin Plan for groundwater in Victoria's North and Murray water resource plan area is to manage consumptive take annually to meet the long term average SDL for each SDL resource unit. The Plan must demonstrate how Victoria will determine the annual limit on consumptive take for each form of take in the system. For groundwater, average annual groundwater use in the Goulburn-Murray water resource plan area is currently less than 40 percent of the total volume of licence entitlements. Total annual groundwater use is well below Basin Plan SDLs, even including estimated domestic and stock use.

Where there is room under Victoria's permissible consumptive volumes (PCVs) and Basin Plan SDLs, Victoria can issue new groundwater entitlements in accordance with relevant groundwater management plans. New entitlements can also be issued in areas not included in groundwater management units and that do not have a PCV, as long as Basin Plan SDLs will not be exceeded.

The methods for determining annual limits on take and the rules for ensuring actual take will be managed within these limits is outlined in [Chapter 9](#) and [Appendix C](#).

**Table 1-1: Water resource plan areas and SDL units covered by this document**

	Water resource plan area		Surface water SDL resource unit		Estimated local SDL (GL/year) <sup>a</sup>	Local SDL reduction amount to achieve SDL (GL/year)	Shared reduction amount—Southern Basin VIC zone (GL/year)
	Name	Code	Name	Code			
<b>Surface water</b>	Victorian Murray	SW2	Victorian Murray	SS2	1,319.8	253.0	425.3
			Kiewa	SS3	27.7	0.0	
	Northern Victoria	SW3	Ovens	SS4	85.8	0.0	
			Broken	SS5	49.0	0.0	
			Goulburn	SS5	1,277.4	344.0	
			Campaspe	SS7	111.8	18.0	
Loddon	SS8	127.6	12.0				
<b>Groundwater</b>	Goulburn–Murray	GW2	Goulburn–Murray: Shepparton Irrigation Region	GS8a	244.1	0.0	N/A
			Goulburn–Murray: Highlands	GS8b	50.5	(12.2) <sup>b</sup>	
			Goulburn–Murray: Sedimentary Plain	GS8c	203.5	0.0	
			Goulburn–Murray: deep	GS8d	20	(20) <sup>b</sup>	

a. Surface water SDLs are a long-term annual average. Water use from year to year will vary according to availability. In very dry conditions (low inflow) or when water storage levels are low, much less water than average will be available for use. In contrast, water use in wet years may exceed the average. Enforcement of SDLs begins from 1 July 2019. See [Appendix C](#) for further information and assumptions used to estimate the SDLs.

b. Brackets around a number indicate that this is a negative number

## 1.4 Victoria's approach to Victoria's North and the Murray Water Resource Plan

Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan, sometimes referred to as the Northern Victoria Water Resource Plan, is Victoria's second and final plan to outline how the state will meet its Basin Plan requirements and comply with the SDLs. Victoria's first plan covered the Wimmera–Mallee surface and groundwater water resource plan areas.

Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan covers the Victorian Murray water resource plan area, Northern Victoria water resource plan area and Goulburn–Murray water resource plan area in one document.

Victoria has comprehensively analysed the requirements under Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan and has determined that it is meeting most of its obligations through its existing water management framework. Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan makes no changes to Victoria's existing water management framework.

The Plan proposes that some existing instruments are revised and improved to address high or medium risks identified in developing Victoria's North and the Murray Water Resource Plan. Any necessary changes to individual instruments will be made under Victoria's legislative framework, following stakeholder consultation.

Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan was developed based on the best available information. The significant sources of information, methods, models and tools used to develop the Plan are identified in response to section 10.49(2) of the Basin Plan (see Index Table and below).

### Basin Plan s10.49(1)

Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan was prepared using the best available information for each component of the Plan that was available at the time of submission for accreditation.

<<end of accredited text for s10.49(1) of the Basin Plan>>

### Basin Plan s10.49(2)

1. Significant sources of information for Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan are:
  - a. recent resource assessments conducted in Victoria
  - b. current legislative and non-legislative information
  - c. a specifically designed Risk Assessment Report
  - d. REALM and eWater Source modelling results of Baseline Diversion Limit
  - e. Sustainable Diversion Limit assessments
  - f. information gathered from consultation with the community and industry.
2. The **References** section contained in Victoria's North and Murray Comprehensive Report and in each Appendix to Victoria's North and Murray Comprehensive Report contains a list of the key sources of information used to develop Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan.

<<end of accredited text for s10.49(2) of the Basin Plan>>

**Basin Plan  
s10.50:**

1. The significant methods, models and tools that have been used to develop Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan are:
  - a. Environmental Water - FLOWS2
  - b. REALM and eWater Source modelling results of Baseline Diversion Limit
  - c. Permitted Take - Draft MDB Groundwater Permitted Take Methodology Report
  - d. SDL Determination - SDL derived from RRAM and the proposed Basin Plan groundwater SDL
  - e. Commercial Plantations - SoilFlux (Jacobs, 2016), (HARC, 2016))
  - f. Runoff Dams - STEDI (Spatial Tool for Estimating the Impact of Dams) version 1.2 (Sinclair Knight Merz, 2011), STEDI: Estimating the impact of farm dams on streamflow (User Manual) (Sinclair Knight Merz, 2011))
  - g. Risk assessment method outlined in Part 2 of the Victoria's North and Murray Risk Assessment Report at **Appendix B** to Victoria's North and Murray Comprehensive Report
  - h. Take under basic rights - model results for domestic and stock use (RMCG, 2011)
  - i. Victoria's North and Murray Surface Water BDL Re-estimates document, prepared April 2019.

<<end of accredited text for s10.50 of the Basin Plan>>

#### **1.4.1 A single water resource plan for Victoria's North and Murray regions**

Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan includes Victoria's share of the River Murray, and its Victorian tributaries including the Mitta Mitta, Kiewa, Ovens, Broken, Goulburn, Campaspe and Loddon rivers. Major urban centres in the region include Wodonga, Wangaratta, Benalla, Shepparton, Bendigo, Echuca, Swan Hill and Mildura. See **Chapter 3** for a description of the landscape, people and economy of the area.

Victoria has chosen to prepare a single water resource plan rather than separate plans for the surface water and groundwater water resource plan areas because all water resource plan areas are managed under Victoria's water entitlement framework. A single water resource plan reflects the linked nature of the resource through the connections between surface water and groundwater and the connectivity of surface water through the Victorian water grid. It also reflects the link to the existing regional planning scales, whereby the water resource plan area broadly aligns with the extent of the *Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy* (DSE, 2009).

#### **1.4.2 A 'water source' basis**

Victoria is taking a 'source-based' approach to water resource plans.

Even though some towns, irrigation areas and environmental assets such as wetlands may be located within the boundaries of the surface and/or groundwater water resource plan areas, they are not included in this plan if they source their water from outside the water resource plan area. Conversely, a water user located outside Victoria's North and Murray water resource plan area that sources water from a waterbody within the water resource plan area is included in this plan.

### **Components of Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan**

Victoria has prepared three documents related to Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan:

1. a **comprehensive report** that includes content for formal accreditation and provides context and background information to support how Victoria meets each of the water resource plan accreditation clauses.
2. an **index table** that sets out how Victoria meets each of the sections in Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan.

The documents are available on the DELWP and MDBA websites.

### **1.4.3 Drafting water resource plans**

Victoria has attempted where possible to draft the formal components of Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan so that they do not exceed Commonwealth legislative powers.

To the extent that the Basin Plan or the Commonwealth Water Act is required to 'read down' this Water Resource Plan, see: section 15A and section 46 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* (Cth), section 13 of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003* (Cth) and section 11 of the Commonwealth Water Act.

This Water Resource Plan is taken, instead of imposing the obligation, to confer discretion on the state or state agency to do the thing, where:

- a. this water resource plan imposes an obligation on the state or a state agency; and
- b. the imposition of that obligation would contravene a constitutional doctrine restricting the obligations that the Commonwealth may impose on a state

This means that if the water resource plan seeks to require the Victorian Water Minister or a water corporation to do something not permitted because of constitutional limitations, that requirement will change from being an obligation to being at the discretion of the Minister or water corporation.

Victoria has made best efforts to draft obligations in Victoria's North and the Murray Water Resource Plan to avoid the application of the above clause.

Many terms used in Victoria's North and the Murray Water Resource Plan are used in the Basin Plan or the Commonwealth Water Act. Where such terms are defined in the Basin Plan or the Commonwealth Water Act, they have the same meaning in this Water Resource Plan, unless otherwise stated or the context indicates otherwise.

## **1.5 Accreditation and compliance**

Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 10 of the Basin Plan.

Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan becomes an enforceable instrument under the Commonwealth Water Act and Basin Plan upon accreditation. It will be used by the Commonwealth and the MDBA to enforce the following obligations under Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan:

- a water resource plan must require a holder of a water access right to comply with the conditions of that right (under section 10.08(2) of Basin Plan)



- actual take must not exceed permitted take (under section 10.11(1) of the Basin Plan)
- to ensure the long-term annual average take for consumptive use under basic rights, by runoff dams or by commercial plantations does not exceed the level specified in column 2 of Schedule 3 for that form of take (under section 10.13(1) of the Basin Plan)
- to ensure environmental watering is not compromised by the operation of Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan (under section 10.18(3), 10.19(3), 10.20(3) of the Basin Plan)
- to ensure environmental watering is consistent with Basin Plan objectives and the Basin environmental watering strategy (under section 10.26 of the Basin Plan)
- to ensure there has been no net reduction in the protection of planned environmental water (under section 10.28 of the Basin Plan)
- to maintain the water quality in groundwater SDL resource units and manage the impacts of increased salinity or other causes of water quality degradation (under section 10.35C of the Basin Plan)
- management of review and amendment of Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan (under sections 10.47 and 10.48 of the Basin Plan)

MDBA enforcement powers are contained in Part 8 of the Commonwealth Water Act while the obligation to comply with the requirements of an accredited water resource plan is contained in sections 58 and 59 of the Commonwealth Water Act. This means that where an obligation is expressed in a water resource plan (the accredited text in this document), the person on whom the obligation is imposed may be subject to enforcement under the Commonwealth Water Act for non-compliance with that obligation. These obligations operate separately from any similar obligations under the Victorian Water Act. Action taken by Victorian statutory bodies for non-compliance with obligations reflected in a water resource plan does not prevent the MDBA from taking action under the Commonwealth Water Act.

## 1.6 Consultation

Many Victorian instruments that informed the water resource plan are subject to legislated consultation requirements to ensure Victoria's water entitlement framework and water management are aligned with community expectations. The Victorian Government's view is that most of its Basin Plan obligations are met by these existing instruments and tools. Victoria's approach to consultation with stakeholders and broader communities on its water entitlement framework, management and policy development is designed to accommodate local, regional and state-wide priorities and views and has helped inform the preparation of this plan.

The process for developing water resource plans provides a forum to discuss opportunities for improvements to the way Victoria manages water, but detailed consultation on improvements and changes to state-based instruments is managed more appropriately through the independent processes for the relevant instruments, strategies or policies.

Consultation on any future changes and any new Victorian instruments, strategies and policies relevant to meeting Basin Plan requirements will continue during the life of Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan. See [Appendix D](#) for further information on the consultation undertaken in development of Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan.

### 1.6.1 Who else is involved?

At the local level, water corporations and catchment management authorities (CMAs) have significant responsibilities to engage with their communities. Apart from standing customer or community consultative committees, there are many processes that require advice and benefit from participation by groups or committees on implementation, policy, community expectations and local knowledge including CMA led community consultation for the development of Regional Waterway Strategies, and water corporation led community consultation for the development of Urban Water Strategies.

The Victorian Government has provided \$22 million to deliver *Our Catchments, Our Communities* (DELWP & VCMC, 2016) from 2016–17 to 2019–20. The policy has a requirement to strengthen community engagement in catchment management.

### 1.6.2 Water security and risk analysis

Victoria has several planning tools to support water security for communities, agriculture, the environment, business and industry. Any proposed changes to tools have separate consultation process to improve access to information, increase transparency and guide decision-making in line with stakeholder and community expectations.

Long-term Water Resource Assessments are done every 15 years as prescribed by the Victorian Water Act. Every 10 years Victoria develops regional Sustainable Water Strategies which are statutory processes for long-term state-wide water resource planning in the state's four regions. These strategies identify threats to water availability in each region and outline policies and actions to help water users, water corporations and CMAs manage and respond to those threats over the next 50 years. As at the time of finalising this Report the *Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy* is at the end of its first 10 year planning horizon. Consistent with the requirements of the Victorian Water Act, a review of the *Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy* (DSE, 2009) is likely to commence at the end of 2019.

The Victorian Water Act details consultation processes that must be followed when regional Sustainable Water Strategies are prepared. The *Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy* (DSE, 2009) was based on extensive consultation and was a 'temperature check' on community members' and stakeholders' concerns about the most pressing water issues.

The Victorian Waterway Management Strategy provides the policy direction for managing waterways to maintain or improve their condition and support their economic, environmental, social and cultural values this strategy is revised every eight years. The strategy is developed with an associated stakeholder and public consultation process.

In the early 1990s Victoria created bulk entitlements to provide clearly defined property rights to water and a basis for sharing water resources across entitlement holders, including the environment. Bulk Entitlement Orders describe the rights to water, financial obligations, passing flows, environmental obligations and water accounting requirements. Bulk entitlements have provided more surety, particularly in times of increasing water scarcity and increased demand. Any changes to bulk entitlements must follow a process outlined in Victorian Water Act and changes other than minor amendments require consultation.

Major policy documents such as *Water for Victoria* (2016) and *Our Water, Our Future* (DSE, 2004) depend on stakeholder and community contribution and review. Feedback, policy decisions, implementation and actions have been considered in the preparation of the water resource plan, including in the identification of strategies and measures to mitigate recognised risks.

In 2016–17, Victoria conducted a robust risk analysis for the water resource plan areas covered by this Plan. This involved stakeholder consultation including representation from water corporations, CMAs, the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, Murray Lower Darling Rivers Indigenous Nations and the Victorian Farmers Federation. Assessment of the risk analysis was conducted at the technical level, and again at executive level. The final risk report is contained in [Appendix B](#).

The preparation of the Water Resource Plan was guided by a Technical Advisory Group established to inform and review content during its development. Given that the Plan is a largely descriptive document that explains how Victoria's management of surface and groundwater resources meets Basin Plan requirements, it was important that Victoria test with the responsible government agencies the accuracy of this description, and any instruments or policy documents referred to as evidence.

A working group was also established to comment on and assist in the preparation of the Water Quality Management Plan ([Appendix A](#)). See [Part 3.2.3](#) in [Appendix D](#).

Consultation on Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan was conducted through stakeholder briefings, public meetings and a public submissions process.

Detail on consultation carried out in preparing Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan is contained in the Consultation Report ([Appendix D](#)).

## 1.7 Water resource plan review process

Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan is valid for the following periods (whichever occurs first):

- when the Water Resource Plan ceases to have effect (see section 64 of the Commonwealth Water Act); or
- until three years after an amendment of the Basin Plan requires changes to water resource plan accreditation requirements; or
- until Victoria proposes amendments to state water resource management arrangements that materially affect the Plan

### Basin Plan s10.47

If a review of this Plan is undertaken, the report of that review must be given to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority within 30 days after the report is completed.

<<end of accredited text for s10.47 of the Basin Plan>>

### Basin Plan s10.47A

1. If a review of this Plan is undertaken in relation to the Goulburn-Murray: Sedimentary Plain SDL resource unit, the review must assess:
  - a. the effectiveness of the implementation of the rules of the water resource plan; and
  - b. the extent to which the rules achieve the objectives mentioned in sections 10.21 and 10.35C of the Basin Plan.

<<end of accredited text for s10.47A of the Basin Plan>>

### Basin Plan s10.48

If review of this Plan results in a proposed amendment to this Plan, the reasons for the amendment must be provided to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

**Note:** Nothing in this clause is intended to detract from or frustrate the process for the accreditation of a proposed amendment under section 65 or section 66 of the *Water Act 2007* (Cth).

<<end of accredited text for s10.48 of the Basin Plan>>

If the review requires amendments to the Water Resource Plan, the responsible Minister must undertake the following consultation in developing the changes:

- for small or technical changes (for example, updating references or correcting errors), the Minister (or Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)) will consult key water industry stakeholders and publish notification of the changes on the DELWP and water corporation websites
- where changes are made to instruments formed under Victorian law that are identified in the Water Resource Plan, the statutory processes for consultation under the Victorian Water Act or the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1994* will be complied with

- where substantive (not small or technical) changes are made to the text of the Water Resource Plan, at least 28 days of public consultation will occur where the Minister considers there has not been sufficient consultation on a matter to which the amendment relates. This public consultation will allow for submissions to be made on the changes before seeking accreditation from the Commonwealth Minister for Water for the proposed amendments

The accreditation process under section 65 of the Commonwealth Water Act applies to changes to a water resource plan, except those identified in regulations made under section 66 of that Act.

