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Contact:



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Dear Sir/Madam ,

**Submission to the draft State Environment Protection Policy Review (Waters)**

I write on behalf of Surf Coast Shire Council in relation to the draft State Environmental Protection Policy (Waters).

Council was pleased to see that the Victorian Government provided an extensive period for the exhibition of this important document and that information sessions were held in 'a variety of regional areas across the state.

This submission has been prepared in advance of Council formally considering the draft State Environmental Protection Policy (Waters) at its Ordinary Meeting on 26 June 2018. The following table outlines Council's submission in response to the exhibited document.

<b>Surf Coast Shire Council Submission to draft SEPP (Waters)</b>	
i.	Council <b>supports in principle the Municipal Association of Victoria</b> submission to the review process.
ii.	Council <u>seeks</u> the inclusion of definitions for "Protected Agency" and Authority within clause 6 of the Policy.
iii.	Council <u>seeks</u> the inclusion in Part II of the draft policy that Catchment Management Authorities (CMA) in consultation with Council have the responsibility to determine the water quality levels in each waterway.
iv.	Council <u>supports in principle</u> the requirement to undertake dredging and desilting of stories as outlines in the best practice guidelines, but would recommend that emergency works be exempt from these guidelines.
v.	Council <u>supports in principle</u> the development of Domestic Waste Water Management Plans (Clause 29) but is concerned that the proposed scale, scope and monitoring will be beyond councils' capacity. Council submits that the government should consider a funding model that assists in the ongoing development, implementation, audit and review process.
vi.	Council <u>supports in principle</u> clause 34, but recognises that best practice management and design of water quality assets is continually evolving and any renewal or replacement should only be required to meet the standard of the original asset.

**Surf Coast Shire Council Submission to draft SEPP (Waters)**

- vii. Council **supports in principle** the intent of clause 39, but it recommends to government that monitoring of these activities should be the responsibility of the catchment management authorities. Runoff from farms with little stormwater treatment or stormwater management can impact Council managed infrastructure and stormwater quality flowing through Council drains. This clause needs to be extended to include farm owners managing the impact of runoff from their property on public infrastructure downstream including municipal roads and drains.
- viii. Council **supports in principle** clause 46 that authorities that have responsibilities under the Water Act are required to manage land use to protect beneficial users, however, Council recommends that where authorities are not specified in the Water Act that the government give consideration to catchment management authorities being responsible for waterways where responsibilities are not clearly designated under the Water Act.
- ix. Council provides conditional **support in principle** for clause 47, requesting that the word "must" be replaced with "should". Council also recommends that that this clause be extended to Rail authorities and other land managers.
- x. Council **requests** that the State Government recognise the increased burden in relation to the development of Stormwater Management Plans and provide funding for Councils outside Melbourne Water boundaries to assist with this work.
- xi. Council **requests** that the State Government consider changes to the Environment Protection Act to allow local government to recover costs associated with monitoring and ongoing management of onsite domestic wastewater systems.

Should you have any questions or seek further clarification about this submission, please don't hesitate to contact.

Yours sincerely

**Anne Howard**  
General Manager Governance and Infrastructure