

# WRP Fact Sheet 8 Water Quality and Management

## Victoria's water resource plans

Victoria has prepared a Water Quality Management Plan to manage water quality and salinity of surface water and groundwater in the Wimmera-Mallee and northern Victoria.

### Water Quality Management Plan

Basin Plan requires the development of a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) as part of Victoria's Water Resource Plans (WRPs) (*Refer to WRP Fact Sheet 1 Introduction to Water Resource Plans* for more information. Victoria's WQMPs are contained in Appendix A to the Wimmera-Mallee and Victoria's North and Murray Comprehensive Reports available on DELWP's website at <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/mdb/mdbp/water-resource-plans>

Under Basin Plan there are six qualitative water quality objectives for maintaining and minimising impact on water quality for:

- fresh water-dependent ecosystems
- raw water for treatment for human consumption
- irrigation water
- maintaining good levels of water quality
- salt export

In addition, Victoria is required through WRPs to set targets for water quality and identify and address risks to water quality.

Water quality targets are outlined in Section 4.6 (surface water) and Section 5.4 (groundwater) of Appendix A to Victoria's North and Murray Comprehensive Report and Section 4.6 (surface water) and Section 5.5 (groundwater) of Appendix A to the Wimmera-Mallee Comprehensive Report.

### State Environmental Protection Policy (Waters)

Victoria's State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP (Waters)) is the key document which outlines values and uses for water and defines the quality of the environment required to protect these values and uses. SEPP (waters) is the foundation for preparing Victoria's WQMPs. The environmental quality objectives and load-based reduction targets applied in Victoria are similar to or more stringent than those listed in the Basin Plan.

Water quality targets identified through SEPP (Waters) are adopted through WRPs to support meeting the water quality objectives under Basin Plan.

Further information on SEPP (Waters) is available at <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/about-us/legislation/water-legislation/water-related-policies>.

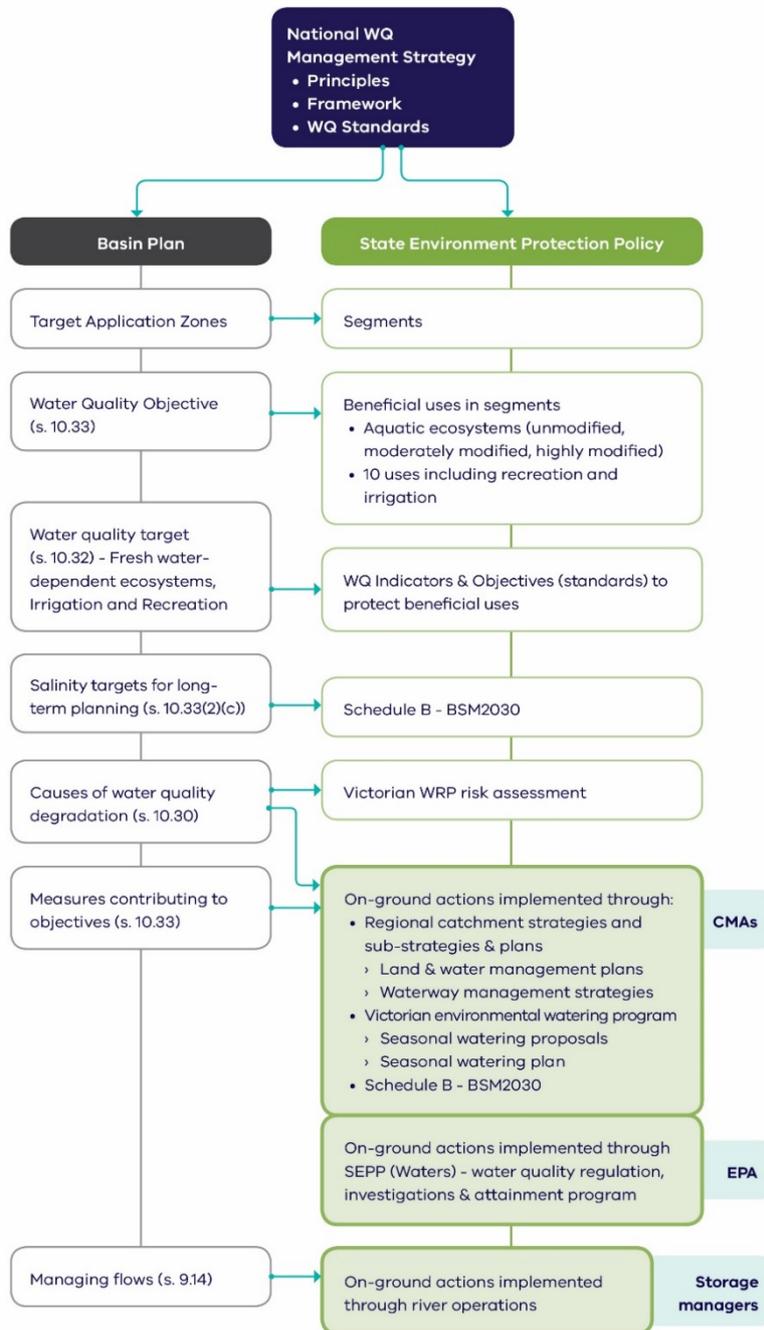
### Roles and Responsibilities

In Victoria, many departments and agencies have a role in managing water quality, including:

- Department of Health and Human Services
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
- water corporations
- local government
- catchment management authorities

More information about the roles and responsibilities of Victorian departments and agencies is outlined in Appendix A to the Wimmera-Mallee and Victoria's North and Murray Comprehensive Reports available on DELWP's website.

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**Figure 1: Alignment between Basin Plan water quality requirements and Victoria's water quality management arrangements in the water resource plan areas.**

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Printed by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Melbourne  
ISBN 978-1-76077-820-0

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