

Your Ref: Draft SEPP (Waters)

Our Ref: POG 18777

Contact: [REDACTED]

28 May 2018

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning  
<https://engage.vic.gov.au/seppwaters>

Email: [Water.SEPPreview@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:Water.SEPPreview@delwp.vic.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Draft State Environment Protection Policies (SEPPs)**

Thank you for providing stakeholders, such as Coliban Water, with the opportunity to provide comment on the above matter relating to State Environment Protection Policies (SEPPs). Please find below Coliban Water's comments on the Victorian Government's draft SEPP (Waters) Policy and associated draft Implementation Plan.

Coliban Water provides drinking water and wastewater services to central and northern Victorian communities. We maintain and operate over 50 reservoirs and water storage basins, and associated infrastructure, in order to deliver raw water for drinking water supplies, and provide water to customers for irrigation, commercial, and domestic and stock purposes. This infrastructure services approximately 160,000 customers across 16,500sq km of Victoria.

### ***Draft SEPP (Waters) Policy***

With regard to the Draft SEPP (Waters) Policy, we understand that a submission on the policy will be submitted by the Victorian Water Industry Association (VicWater) that will provide comment on the priority clauses as identified by the water industry through various workshops and consultations. Coliban Water participated in these industry events and fully supports the submission made by VicWater to the draft SEPP (Waters).

### ***Draft Implementation Plan***

Coliban Water regards the Implementation Plan as critical to the success of the draft SEPP (Waters) and, as stated, providing *support and drive [driving] accountability for the implementation of actions to achieve the ... goals of SEPP (Waters).*


Identified in the introduction is that...*implementation actions and sub-actions ... will be achieved to the extent that funding and resources are available.* We consider that funding

and resources must be allocated, as a priority, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the actions identified in the Implementation Plan.

Coliban Water looks forward to the opportunity to assist and participate, as a Partnership Organisation, in various actions listed under Critical Actions 3, 4 and 5, and also contribute, where required, on the others actions that are listed in the Implementation Plan.

Coliban Water would also like to suggest that there is a need for an additional action under Critical Action 5 – Managing Onsite Domestic Wastewater. The adequate monitoring and reporting of the performance of onsite wastewater management systems is the most critical of the management actions, but it is a state-wide issue that is not addressed. There are currently no actions listed that would secure improved identification and rectification of poorly performing onsite wastewater management systems; therefore, such an action should be added.

Coliban Water continues to support *the overarching goal of the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters) [being] "to protect and improve the quality of Victoria's waters while providing for economic and social development,* and look forward to continued participation in the SEPPs implementation, in our role as a significant regional water corporation.

If you have any questions regarding this matter,   


Yours faithfully



**David Sheehan**  
**General Manager Water Quality Performance & Regulation**