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Glenelg Hopkins



C M A

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SEPP Waters Manager
Level 10, 8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002
Email: Water.SEPPreview@delwp.vic.gov.au

Re: Draft State Environment Protection Policy

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft State Environment Protection Policy (Waters).

The policy addresses a wide range of issues presenting challenges to water quality and has expanded on the previous policy to recognise less tangible values associated with water.

Glenelg Hopkins CMA provides the following comments in the draft policy:

1. The draft policy, policy impact assessment and implementation plan are products of a robust process. The policy provides clear links with processes and outcomes which in turn provides a sound basis for investment and regulation. The suggested approach supports integration with other planning processes.
2. Clause 17 provides important direction to partner with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians to incorporate beneficial uses along with a range of tangible and intangible values in waterway and catchment planning.
3. Clause 18 provides obligations for waterway managers to establish interim water quality targets in priority areas in regional waterway strategies under certain circumstances. Implementation of this clause will benefit from clear integration into the Victorian Waterway Management Strategy and provide guidance for regional catchment and waterway strategies.
4. Clauses 24 and 25 represent pragmatic approaches to managing issues around potential waste water discharge. These clauses provide catchment management authorities with improved tools to manage the growing body of work associated with waste water discharge events.

The CMA is encouraged that the Draft Implementation Plan for Consultation (Department of Environment Land Water and Planning and Environment Protection Authority) recognises that funding would need to be made available for CMAs to fulfil obligations under the Policy. The CMA looks forward to working with partners to progress implementation of the policy.

Your sincerely

Adam Bester
CEO

