

A new water plan for Victoria

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The Victorian Government is developing a new Victorian water plan. The water plan will set the strategic direction for water in Victoria for decades to come, and will see that our communities continue to share the benefits that water provides.

Water is central to our social fabric

Water is essential to our way of life and our social fabric, supporting a healthy environment, prosperous economy and thriving communities. But water is a precious, finite resource. We need to plan and manage our water to ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our communities, our environment and our economy, now and into the future.



The vision for the water plan is to improve the management of water to enhance our social fabric through:

- Supporting jobs and economic productivity across the state
- Improving the health of our waterways and catchments
- Enabling water management to play an essential role in our health and wellbeing to improve liveability and recreational opportunities
- Maintaining safe and reliable drinking water supplies and sanitation services
- Supporting Aboriginal values
- Preparing for drought, flood and climate change
- Delivering affordable water services.

Developing the water plan

The Water and Catchments Group in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning are currently developing a draft strategic directions document for

release in early 2016. This will be followed by a five week consultation period to inform completion of the final strategic directions document in mid-2016.

Stakeholder and community engagement

Better engagement with stakeholders and our local communities is fundamental to achieving the vision for water.

The Victorian Government has committed to engaging broadly before determining its directions for water policy. The water plan will actively engage Victorians in thinking about the opportunities and challenges facing Victoria and will work with our stakeholders to ensure that our communities are aware we have a plan for the future.

Once developed, ongoing stakeholder and community engagement will be a cornerstone of implementation of the water plan.

The engagement approach for the water plan recognises and builds on the extensive involvement of key stakeholders in developing and implementing water management policy across Victoria over the past decade. It also acknowledges that the best way to ensure effective and efficient involvement of key stakeholders is to utilise established networks and existing forums where possible.

Emerging strategic directions

Engagement with our stakeholders to date has highlighted some emerging strategic directions, opportunities and key areas for reform. These identified areas of reform include:

- Rural water
- Urban water
- The environment
- Aboriginal values
- Recreational values
- Affordable water services
- Preparing for drought, flood and climate change
- The grid and water markets.

Further information

For more information on the water plan development process or how to get involved, please contact the water plan project team at waterplan@delwp.vic.gov.au.