

AWA Catchment Management Specialist Committee

Source Water Protection Governance – Website Template	
Jurisdiction:	Victoria
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Institutional arrangements summary	<p>The <i>Water Act 1989</i> creates the principal body of Victorian law relating to water. The core functions of water corporations are set out in the <i>Water Act 1989</i>. These functions vary across the 19 water corporations depending on whether the corporation is an urban water corporation, a rural water corporation, an urban and rural water corporation, a metropolitan water corporation or Melbourne Water.</p> <p>Urban Water Corporations</p> <p>Sixteen water corporations provide water supply (including recycled water) and sewage and trade waste disposal services to urban customers throughout Victoria.</p> <p>Rural Water Corporations</p> <p>Four water corporations provide rural water services, which comprise the delivery of water for irrigation, domestic and stock purposes and associated drainage, and salinity mitigation services. They also supply water to customers by agreement.</p> <p>In addition, Southern Rural Water, Goulburn-Murray Water and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water operate the major dams in their regions, issue licences for groundwater and river diverters, and provide bulk water supply services to other water corporations in regional Victoria. These water corporations are also responsible for overseeing compliance of water entitlement holders within their regions</p> <p>Melbourne Water Corporation provides bulk water and bulk sewerage services to water corporations in the Melbourne metropolitan and surrounding area. It is designated with specific responsibility for the management of waterways in the Port Phillip and Westernport region. It also supplies recycled water to retail water corporations, for irrigation and other purposes.</p> <p>Statements of Obligations</p> <p>Under the <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i>, which provides the framework for the economic regulation of the water sector, the Minister for Water has the power, after consultation with the Treasurer and the Essential Services Commission, to issue a SoO to one or a number of water corporations. It also provides the framework for the economic regulation of the water sector. It establishes the Essential Services Commission (ESC) as the independent economic regulator of pricing and service standards for Victoria’s water sector.</p> <p>Safe drinking water</p> <p>In Victoria, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) plays an important role in safeguarding drinking water supplies and facilitating</p>

the safe use of alternative water supplies to protect and improve public health and wellbeing.

Safe Drinking Water Act 2003 sets out the regulatory framework. It imposes obligations on water corporations that supply drinking water or other declared types of potable water (water suppliers), and that manage water storage that supply water suppliers. *Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2015* Sets out the required content of risk management plans, and provides detail of the water quality standards that must be met and water quality annual reporting requirements.

Environmental protection

The Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) role is to be an effective environmental regulator and an influential authority on impacts on the environment. Within the water sector, the EPA has an important role in the regulation of the discharge of wastewater. The *Environment Protection Act 2017* came into effect on 1 July 2021.

Catchment Management Authorities

There are ten Catchment Management Authorities created under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) with the functions of CMAs. The purposes of the CaLP Act include:

- to set up a framework for the integrated management and protection of catchments, and
- to encourage community participation in the management of land and water resources.

Amongst other things, the CaLP Act:

- establishes the framework for the integrated management and protection of catchments
- sets out the functions and powers of the VCMC and CMAs, in addition to CMA functions contained in the *Water Act 1989*, and
- establishes the VCMC and CMAs, and sets out their governance arrangements.

With the exception of the Port Philip and Westernport CMA, Victorian CMAs also have functions and powers under Part 10 (Waterway Management) of the *Water Act 1989*. Melbourne Water has these responsibilities in the Port Philip and Westernport region. The Port Philip and Westernport CMA also has certain obligations in relation to Yarra River land under Part 7 of the *Water Act 1989*. A CMA with responsibilities under the *Water Act 1989* has waterway management, regional drainage and floodplain management functions. CMAs are essentially the "caretakers of waterway health".

Victorian Catchment Management Council

The VCMC is established under the CaLP Act and its members are appointed by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Minister. The VCMC is Victoria's key advisory body on catchment management.

Victorian Environmental Water Holder

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder is an independent statutory body established under the *Water Act 1989* and is responsible for holding and managing Victoria's water for the environment.

	<p>Planning and Development</p> <p>The objectives of planning in Victoria are set out in the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i>. Under Victoria's planning system, local councils and the State Government develop planning schemes to control land use and development. Planning schemes are also developed to ensure the protection and conservation of land in Victoria in the present and long-term interests of all Victorians. Planning schemes are developed in accordance with planning policies and strategies. They contain planning policies, zones, overlays and other provisions that affect how land can be used and developed.</p> <p>Local government also has responsibility for stormwater management and domestic onsite wastewater management (Septic tanks). The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) and the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are responsible for overseeing the regulatory framework that Councils use to manage the risks posed by poorly performing on-site wastewater systems. Councils administer the use and installation of systems designed to discharge less than 5,000 litres per day of sewage via the EP Act, the Regulations and the Code of practice. Councils must also assess risks and identify strategies to manage these systems, via a domestic wastewater management plan</p>
<p>Primary legislation</p>	<p><i>Water Act 1989</i> <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i> <i>Murray-Darling Basin Act 1993</i> <i>Water (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2008</i> <i>Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2005</i> <i>Groundwater (Border Agreement) Act 1985</i> <i>State Owned Enterprises Act 1992</i> <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> <i>Conservation, Forests and Lands Act 1987</i> <i>Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994</i> <i>Climate Change Act 2017</i> <i>Environment Protection Act 2017</i> <i>Health (Fluoridation) Act 1973</i> <i>Safe Drinking Water Act 2003</i> <i>Water Industry Act 1994</i> <i>Essential Services Commission Act 2001</i> <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i></p>
<p>Key Policy Documents (incl standards and guidelines)</p>	<p>Water for Victoria (Victoria's long-term plan for managing water) Our Catchments Our Communities (state-level strategy for integrated catchment management in Victoria.) Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap. Australian Drinking Water Guidelines 2011</p>

<p>State Government organisations</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) (formerly Dept Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP)) Environment Protection Authority Department of Health and Human Services</p>
<p>Water authorities</p>	<p>Urban Water Corporations In regional Victoria these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Barwon Water - Central Highlands Water - Coliban Water - East Gippsland Water - Gippsland Water - Goulburn Valley Water - Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water - Lower Murray Water - North East Water - South Gippsland Water - Wannon Water - Westernport Water <p>In Melbourne these are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater Western Water - South East Water - Yarra Valley Water <p>Rural Water Corporations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Southern Rural Water - Goulburn-Murray Water - Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water - Lower Murray Water <p>Catchment Management Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corangamite - East Gippsland - Glenelg Hopkins - Goulburn Broken - Mallee - North Central - North East - Port Phillip and Westernport - West Gippsland - Wimmera
<p>Other details</p>	<p>Vicwater VicWater is the peak industry association for water businesses in Victoria. VicWater plays an important role in the Victorian water industry with our purpose being to influence government policy, provide industry forums on priority issues, and disseminate news and information to members and stakeholders.</p>

References/Links	deeca.vic.gov.au/ (delwp.vic.gov.au/) water.vic.gov.au/ delwp.vic.gov.au/boards-and-governance/on-board/A-guide-to-governing-in-the-water-sector.pdf planning.vic.gov.au/guide-home/using-victorias-planning-system vicwater.org.au/
Attachments	<i>Include attachments that provide further detail for the website, including organisational charts etc</i>