



# Victoria Government Gazette

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**SPECIAL**

## Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

### NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

#### Water (Permanent Transfer of Water Rights) Regulations 2001

Notice is given that, in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared for the Water (Permanent Transfer of Water Rights) Regulations 2001.

The objective of the proposed Regulations is to regulate the permanent trading of water rights so that they can move to higher-value, more economical uses, without hurting the environment, or other water users who share the supply infrastructure, or people with an interest in the land to which the water rights are presently attached.

The proposed Regulations are, in substance, identical with the existing Water (Permanent Transfer of Water Rights) Regulations 1991, which are due to sunset on 2 December 2001 – except that the proposed Regulations include the irrigation district of the First Mildura Irrigation Trust as a district where trade in water rights can take place.

The RIS discusses possible alternatives to the proposed Regulations. These include using by-laws, and introducing leasing: both of these would require changes to the **Water Act 1989**, and the second has appeal mainly as an adjunct to permanent trading. The proposed Regulations were considered the best means of achieving the objectives of deriving the benefits, and avoiding any adverse effects, from permanent transfers of water rights.

Copies of the RIS and the proposed Regulations may be obtained from the Customer Service Centre by phoning 136 186 (between 8.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m.), the Department's Information Centre (Ground Floor, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.) or the internet at <http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/ris>.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and the accompanying Regulations. All comments must be in writing and should be sent to Mr David Lewis, Manager Water Markets, Water Resources Management, Level 1, 240 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002 by no later than 5.00 p.m. on Friday 9 November 2001. Submissions may also be emailed to: [David.Lewis@nre.vic.gov.au](mailto:David.Lewis@nre.vic.gov.au).

Dated 3 October 2001

SHERRYL GARBUTT MP  
Minister for Environment  
and Conservation

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