



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Water Industry (Waterways Land) Regulations 2002

Notice is given that, in accordance with the provisions of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the Water Industry (Waterways Land) Regulations 2002.

The Proposed Regulations replace By-law No. 2: Waterways, made by Melbourne Parks and Waterways under the **Water Act 1989**, which ceased to apply upon the abolition of Melbourne Parks and Waterways on 1 December 2001.

The key objectives that are sought to be achieved by making the Proposed Regulations are to:

- provide for recreation, leisure, tourism, and water transport uses in a safe and enjoyable environment, while protecting environmental values, built assets and general amenity; and
- ensure commercial activities are provided in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Waterways land is Crown land forming the bed, soil and banks of any waterway within the metropolitan area and any land within 20 m of that land. The metropolitan area is a broad area centred on Melbourne and extending to Kinglake, the Yarra Ranges, Westernport and Mornington Peninsula.

The Proposed Regulations will provide the means to more effectively manage commercial and recreational use of waterways land, especially boating and other recreational activities, where that land is not already under the direct management of a body such as Parks Victoria, a Committee of Management or Trustees.

They contain a series of management measures designed to maximise the recreational benefit of the waterways to visitors while retaining their values. These measures include: permits for operators of commercial vessels; written authorities for works, commercial

activities and organised activities; and prohibitions on a range of activities including, driving a vehicle in contravention of a sign, vandalism, and interfering with life-saving gear.

The RIS discusses three alternatives to the Proposed Regulations which are no regulations, self-regulation and co-regulation. It concludes that the Proposed Regulations are the best means of achieving the objectives.

Copies of the RIS and Proposed Regulations may be obtained by contacting the Department of Natural Resources and Environment's Customer Service Centre between 8.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. weekdays on 136 186. The RIS is also available on the Department's website (<http://www.nre.vic.gov.au/ris/>).

Written comments are invited on the RIS and accompanying regulations. All comments must be in writing and should be received at the following address by no later than 5.00 p.m. on 5 April 2002: Mr Paul FitzSimons, Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Level 14, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Vic. 3002.

Submissions may also be emailed to: paul.fitzsimons@nre.vic.gov.au

All submissions will be treated as public documents.

SHERRYL GARBUTT MP
Minister for Environment
and Conservation

Gazette Services

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