



Victoria Government Gazette

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Water Industry Act 1994 Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

NOTICE OF PROPOSED VARIATIONS TO PERMANENT WATER SAVING PLANS AND DROUGHT RESPONSE PLANS

Each of Melbourne's water retailers – City West Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water (collectively the metropolitan retailers) – currently have in place a Permanent Water Saving Plan and a Drought Response Plan. The Permanent Water Saving Plan contains a set of common sense rules that guide sensible outdoor water usage and a set of principles for considering applications for exemptions from particular rules. This plan is designed to ensure Victorians use water sensibly and avoid waste. The Drought Response Plan sets out how the metropolitan retailers will manage water during times of water shortage, including through the imposition of staged water restrictions.

The metropolitan retailers propose to vary their Permanent Water Saving Plans and Drought Response Plans under sections 78K and 78C of the **Water Industry Act 1994**, respectively.

Proposed variations to the Permanent Water Saving Plans

The proposed variations to Permanent Water Saving Plans will vary the current rules with five simple and easy-to-remember permanent water rules, to ensure the efficient use of water and avoid water wastage on a permanent, ongoing basis. These rules will be consistent across all of Victoria.

Summary of proposed permanent water rules

- A hand held hose must be fitted with a trigger nozzle and can be used to wash your car and water your gardens and lawns at any time.
- Watering systems can only be used to water residential and commercial gardens and lawns between 6 pm–10 am, any day of the week.
- Watering systems can only be used to water public gardens, lawns and playing surfaces between 6 pm–10 am any day of the week, and only if fitted with a rain or soil moisture sensor. Public gardens, lawns and playing surfaces can also be watered in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.
- Water cannot be used in a fountain or a water feature unless it re-circulates the water.
- Hosing down driveways, paths, concrete, timber decking and other paved areas is not permitted except in limited circumstances.

Please note: These rules will not apply in the case of an accident, fire, safety hazard or another emergency or in respect to the health of people or animals.

Proposed variations to the Drought Response Plans

The proposed variations to the metropolitan retailers' Drought Response Plans include a new decision-making framework for managing Melbourne's water supply, which sets out the process to impose water restrictions in times of drought or other water shortage. The new decision making framework includes:

- the preparation of an annual water outlook which will provide a five year forward view of the supply-demand balance for water in Melbourne; and
- the preparation of an Annual Action Plan that will guide the implementation of water saving and supply enhancing actions (including the imposition of restrictions) to improve water security for Melbourne for the first 12 months of the above outlook.

The proposed variations also simplify and streamline the restrictions applying to different water-use activities in the four stages of restrictions as set out in Schedule 1 of the Drought Response Plans.

SPECIAL

The proposed variations also include:

- some changes to the content of the restrictions in the stages of restrictions
- varied processes for the granting of general and particular exemptions from the application of restrictions; and
- a process for the approval of Water Use Plans.

Copies of the proposed variations to the Permanent Water Saving Plans and Drought Response Plans for the metropolitan water retailers can be obtained from www.letstalkwatermelbourne.com.au or from your respective water retailer's website or customer enquiry line.

City West Water	131 691	www.citywestwater.com.au
South East Water	131 867	www.southeastwater.com.au
Yarra Valley Water	131 721	www.yvw.com.au

You are invited to submit your view on the proposed changes to both Plans. Feedback can be lodged online at www.letstalkwatermelbourne.com.au or mailed to:

Attention: Drought Response and Permanent Water Saving Plan Feedback
Drought Response Committee Chairman
care of City West Water
Locked Bag 350, Sunshine, Victoria 3020

Your comments and submissions must be received by 14 November 2011.

Water Act 1989
Subordinate Legislation Act 1994

PROPOSED VARIATION TO PERMANENT WATER SAVING PLANS

The water Authorities listed below are proposing to make variations to their Permanent Water Saving Plans under section 170B of the **Water Act 1989** in line with the recommendation of a statewide review of the current Permanent Water Saving Rules in place across Victoria.

Permanent Water Saving Rules (PWSRs) – which are a series of common sense rules that all customers supplied water by Victorian Water Authorities are obliged to follow day to day to ensure water is not wasted. These rules are set out in legislative instruments known as Permanent Water Saving Plans and are in place on a permanent and ongoing basis, even when water restrictions are not required.

PWSRs aim to promote efficient and sensible use of water without significantly restricting customer choice and flexibility. They reflect the value that Victorians place on water, and the community view that water is a precious resource that should not be wasted.

The proposed variations to Permanent Water Saving Plans will vary the five simple and easy-to-remember permanent water saving rules, which will ensure the efficient use of water and avoid water wastage on a permanent, ongoing basis. These rules will be consistent across all of Victoria.

Summary of proposed new permanent water saving rules

- A hand held hose must be fitted with a trigger nozzle and can be used to wash your car and water your gardens and lawns at any time.
- Watering systems can only be used to water residential and commercial gardens and lawns between 6 pm–10 am, any day of the week.
- Watering systems can only be used to water public gardens, lawns and playing surfaces between 6 pm–10 am any day of the week, and only if fitted with a rain or soil moisture sensor. Public gardens, lawns and playing surfaces can also be watered in accordance with an approved Water Use Plan.
- Water cannot be used in a fountain or a water feature unless it re-circulates the water.
- Hosing down driveways, paths, concrete, timber decking and other paved areas is not permitted except in limited circumstances.

Please note: These rules will not apply in the case of an accident, fire, safety hazard or another emergency or in respect to the health of people or animals.

A copy of the proposed variations to the existing Permanent Water Saving Plan of each water Authority may be inspected by downloading a copy from the relevant Authority's website or at the Authority's listed locations free of charge:

Barwon Water
PO Box 659, Geelong 3220
Phone: 1300 656 007
www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au

Lower Murray Water
PO Box 1438, Mildura 3502
Phone: 03 5051 3400
www.lmw.vic.gov.au

Central Highlands Water
PO Box 152, Ballarat 3353
Phone: 03 5320 3111
www.chw.net.au

North East Water
PO Box 863, Wodonga 3689
Phone: 1300 361 622
www.nerwa.vic.gov.au

Coliban Water
PO Box 2770, Bendigo DC 3554
Phone: 1300 363 200
www.coliban.com.au

South Gippsland Water
PO Box 102, Foster 3960
Phone: 03 5682 0444
www.sgwater.com.au

East Gippsland Water
PO Box 52, Bairnsdale 3875
Phone: 1300 720 700
www.egwater.vic.gov.au

Gippsland Water
PO Box 348, Traralgon 3844
Phone: 1800 066 401
www.gippswater.com.au

Goulburn Valley Water
PO Box 185, Shepparton 3632
Phone: 1300 360 007
www.gvwater.vic.gov.au

GWMWater
PO Box 481, Horsham 3402
Phone: 1300 659 961
www.gwmwater.org.au

Wannon Water
PO Box 1158, Warrnambool 3280
Phone: 1300 926 666
www.wannonwater.com.au

Western Water
PO Box 2371, Sunbury DC 3429
Phone: 1300 650 425
www.westernwater.com.au

Westernport Water
2 Boys Home Road, Newhaven 3925
Phone: 1300 720 711
www.westernportwater.com.au

Submissions are invited on the proposed variations to the Permanent Water Saving Plans of the Authorities listed above.

All submissions must be in writing and must be received by your Authority either by post or email by 5 pm on Thursday 17 November 2011.

A proforma to assist with making a submission can be downloaded from each of the water authorities' websites or can be obtained by calling your water authority and one will be mailed to you.

Water Act 1989**NOTICE OF PROPOSED MODEL WATER RESTRICTION BY-LAW**

Pursuant to section 287Y of the **Water Act 1989**, the Minister for Water gives notice that the Minister proposes to issue a model by-law in relation to regulating, restricting or prohibiting the use of water supplied by an Authority anywhere in Victoria.

The purposes of the model by-law are to:

- (a) promote the efficient use and conservation of water;
- (b) set out four stages of restrictions on the use of water;
- (c) specify things which must not be done while each stage of restriction persists;
- (d) specify principles for considering applications for exemptions from particular restrictions;
- (e) prescribe offences and penalties for the contravention of this By-law, including in respect of contraventions for which an infringement notice may be served; and
- (f) prescribe classes of persons for the purpose of serving infringement notices.

A copy of the proposed Model Water Restriction By-Law may be inspected by downloading a copy from the Water pages of www.dse.vic.gov.au or www.water.vic.gov.au or at the following locations free of charge:

Location for viewing or obtaining a copy of the proposed model by-law.	
Department of Sustainability and Environment – Head Office 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne	
Alexandra 46 Aitken Street, Alexandra	Mansfield 128 Highett Street, Mansfield
Bacchus Marsh 219A Main Street, Bacchus Marsh	Maryborough Office 2, 82 Alma Street, Maryborough
Bairnsdale 574 Main Street, Bairnsdale	Marysville 58 Lyell Street, Marysville
Ballarat 402–406 Mair Street, Ballarat	Mitta Mitta Omeo Highway, Mitta Mitta
Beechworth Latrobe University Campus, Albert Road, Beechworth	Nathalia 71 Blake Street, Nathalia
Benalla 89 Sydney Rd, Benalla	Noojee 120 McCarthy Spur Road, Noojee
Bendigo corner Midland Highway and Taylor Street, Bendigo	Nowa Nowa 5 Forest Road, Nowa Nowa
Bendoc Nichol Street, Bendoc	Orbost 171–173 Nicholson Street, Orbost
Box Hill 30 Prospect Street, Box Hill	Ovens 5338 Great Alpine Road, Ovens
Broadford 37 High Street, Broadford	Powelltown Main Road, Powelltown

Cann River Princes Highway, Cann River	Seymour 15 Hume and Hovell Road, Seymour
Corryong 8 Jardine Street, Corryong	Swifts Creek McMillan Avenue, Swifts Creek
Daylesford 14 Mineral Water Drive, Daylesford	Tallangatta 34 Towong Street, Tallangatta
Erica District Thomson Valley Road, Parkers Corner	Toolangi Main Road, Toolangi
Geelong State Government Offices, 4th Floor, corner Fenwick and Little Malop Streets, Geelong	Traralgon 71 Hotham Street, Traralgon
Gellibrand 58 Main Road, Gellibrand	Wodonga 1 McKoy Street, Wodonga
Heathcote 28 Herriot Street, Heathcote	Wangaratta 62–68 Ovens Street, Wangaratta
Heyfield Licola Road, Heyfield	Yarram 310 Commercial Road, Yarram
Heywood 12 Murray Street, Heywood	

Submissions are invited on the proposed model water restriction by-law.

All submissions must be in writing and must be received by one of the following methods, post or email, by 5 pm on Monday 21 November 2011.

A proforma to assist with making a submission can be downloaded from the Department's website or can be obtained by calling the Customer Service Centre on 136 186 and a form will be mailed to you.

Post: Water Efficiency Programs
Water Group
Department of Sustainability and Environment
PO Box 500
East Melbourne, Victoria 8002

Email: water.efficiency@dse.vic.gov.au

www.dse.vic.gov.au

Customer Service Centre: 136 186

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