Stormwater policy: reform and implementation

VICTORIA State Government | Energy, Environment and Climate Action

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We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

Snapshot of stormwater reform in recent years

2016 WfV

2018 Stormwater MAC

2018 HWS

2021 EPA Flows guidance

2022 CGR SWS

Coming soon – Vic Waterway Management Strategy
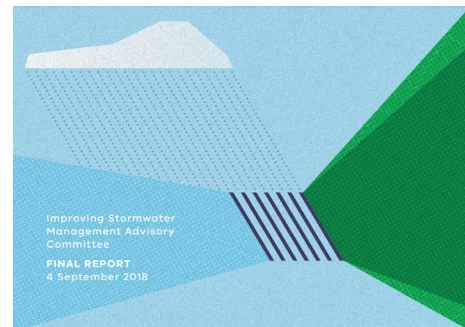
Where to next??

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Water for Victoria

- Chapter 5 – Resilient and liveable cities and towns
- Recognising water's key role in creating resilient and liveable cities and towns
- Including all elements of the urban water cycle in the way we plan and manage water
- **Action 5.5** - Improve stormwater management for greener environments and healthier waterways
  - amend the VPPs and related building regs to improve stormwater management and associated outcomes
  - leading development of place-based targets for stormwater management
  - complement VPPs and building regs with a mix of other interventions

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Improving Stormwater MAC

- Heavy focus on planning scheme, managing development
- Planning amendment VC154
- Ongoing training & capacity building on planning requirements
- Laid groundwork for some longer-term projects – e.g. offsets, STORM update

Amendment VC154 –
Stormwater management

Planning Advisory Note 75
OCTOBER 2018

Improving Stormwater
Management Advisory
Committee
FINAL REPORT
4 September 2018

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Healthy Waterways Strategy

- First time waterway management strategy & stormwater strategy combined
- Updated science for stormwater management
- Flow targets for all PPWP catchments
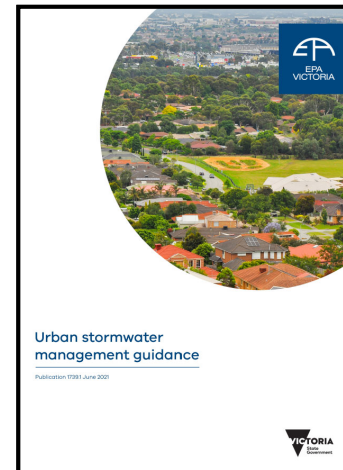- Co-design process and shared delivery model

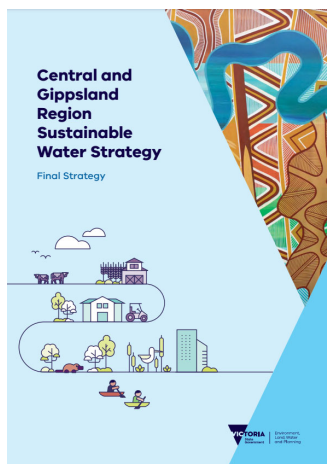Healthy Waterways Strategy 2018

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EPA Urban Stormwater Management Guidance

- Focus on managing stormwater volumes
- Reflected/refined flow targets from HWS
- Guidance forms part of state of knowledge (under GED)

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Central and Gippsland Region SWS

3. Transitioning to manufactured water

As our population grows and river water becomes scarcer, the Central and Gippsland Region will need to reduce its reliance on river water. While water efficiency measures and better use of existing supplies are important, these alone will not meet future demand. Instead, a transition to using more manufactured water (desalinated water, fit-for-purpose recycled water and treated stormwater) will be required to supply our cities and towns.
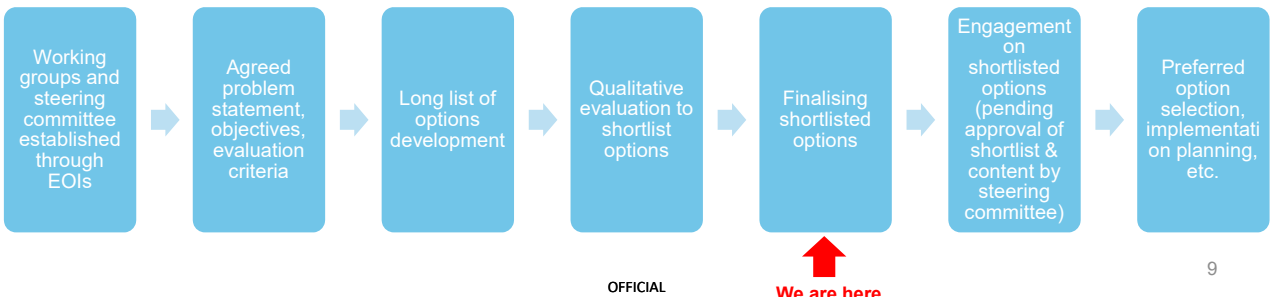
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Stormwater licensing and supply review

Action 3-12: Improving stormwater regulations to support increased capture and use

The Victorian Government will work with water corporations and councils to review state-wide stormwater licensing and supply arrangements and determine preferred statutory and non-statutory implementation options.

- Stormwater licensing requirements, particularly for council assets
  - *How is stormwater harvesting licensed/accounted for (under entitlements framework or otherwise)?*
- Stormwater supply roles and responsibilities, for all assets/scales of stormwater harvesting
  - *How do we get stormwater to different end users? Should someone be responsible for this supply/delivery function?*

| Working groups and steering committee established through EOIs | → | Agreed problem statement, objectives, evaluation criteria | → | Long list of options development | → | Qualitative evaluation to shortlist options | → | Finalising shortlisted options | → | Engagement on shortlisted options (pending approval of shortlist & content by steering committee) | → | Preferred option selection, implementation planning, etc. |

We are here ↑

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Stormwater Offsets framework

Action 3-15:
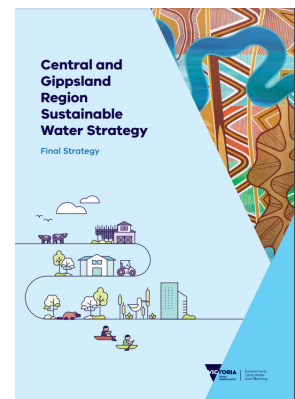**Develop a stormwater offsets framework**

The Victorian Government will develop a stormwater offsets framework to enable robust and consistent application of offsets for developers and local governments to meet stormwater requirements in the Victoria Planning Provisions.

By 2024

Stormwater quality offsets can provide developers flexibility where stormwater quality obligations cannot be met on-site, by paying a fee to Council to manage the impacts from their development off-site.

Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy
Final Strategy

Proposed VPP amendment
- To enable more robust, transparent and consistent council schemes, the Minister will release guidance and a calculator tool.

- Existing VPP clause amended to add a *definition* of an offset scheme and require they be developed *in accordance with guidance* issued by the Water Minister.

- The guidance will outline:
  - which types of developments are eligible for offsets
  - stormwater obligations that can be offset
  - financial contribution requirements
  - accountability and reporting requirements for offset income and expenditure

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Stormwater flow targets feasibility study

Action 3-16: Embedding stormwater flow requirements

The Victorian Government will assess and explore the feasibility of options that include flow reduction targets into the Victoria Planning Provisions or other regulations.

The project aimed to answer:

Is it **feasible** to mandate the new EPA stormwater flow objectives in order to improve urban waterway health?

Assess the economic and financial feasibility of implementing interventions required to meet new flow reduction objectives.

Where and how should this be done?

Identify and evaluate a range of regulatory instruments to achieve flow reduction objectives for different development types.

Table 1: Quantitative performance objectives for urban stormwater

Indicator	Performance objective			
Suspended solids	80% reduction in mean annual load (Note:1)			
Total phosphorus	45% reduction in mean annual load (Note:1)			
Total nitrogen	45% reduction in mean annual load (Note:1)			
Litter	70% reduction of mean annual load			
Flow (water volume)	Priority areas (Notes 2, 4, 5, 6)		Other areas (Notes 3, 4, 5, 6)	
	Harvest/evapotranspire (% mean annual impervious run-off)	Infiltrate/filter (% mean annual impervious run-off)	Harvest/evapotranspire (% mean annual impervious run-off)	Infiltrate/filter (% mean annual impervious run-off)
rainfall band (ml) 200	93	0	37	0
300	88	0	35	0
400	83	0	33	0
500	77	5	31	4
600	72	9	29	7
700	68	11	27	9
800	64	14	26	11
900	60	16	24	13
1000	56	18	22	14
1100	53	19	21	15
1200	50	21	20	17
1300	48	22	19	18
1400	46	23	18	18
1500	44	25	18	20
1600	42	26	17	21
1700	40	27	16	22
1800	38	28	15	22

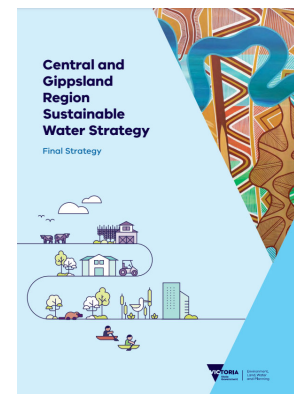
Central and Gippsland Region SWS

Policy 8-16: Stormwater for the environment

The Victorian Government supports the controlled release of stormwater by an authority, where the authority can demonstrate that it:

- is safe and suitable
- improves waterway health (including flows)
- aligns with advice provided by the waterway manager for timing and volume
- has been identified as a viable option in a catchment-scale or region-specific IWM plan.

Action 8-23: Stormwater for the environment

The Victorian Government will work with Melbourne Water and other project partners to investigate harvesting and using stormwater for the environment, to improve waterway health and provide flows in stressed rivers. We will use the Sunbury and Melton growth areas to explore the possible benefits and enabling policy requirements.

Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy

Final Strategy

Where to next?

- VWMS – urban waterway health

What else?
- How do we keep building on and delivering these and other strategic pieces of work?
  - E.g. to progress flow reduction?
- While also ensuring continuing focus on stormwater quality, full life cycle of assets and stormwater management (inc. erosion and sediment controls)
- Stormwater management in state priority precincts, housing statement, etc.

Stormwater reform team contact details

For more information, please contact:

- **Licensing and supply review & stormwater for the environment** Emily.Plymin@deeca.vic.gov.au
- **Stormwater offsets** Maggie.Xipolitos@deeca.vic.gov.au
- **Flow reduction feasibility study** Brigid.adams@deeca.vic.gov.au

Or reach out to any one of us about other projects, ideas or for a general chat – we'll point you in the right direction!