



Hon Harriet Shing MP

Minister for Water
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Equality
Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy

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Ref: MBR049654



Dear Inspector-General

SUBMISSION TO INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF WATER COMPLIANCE - REGULATORY POLICY DISCUSSION PAPER

Thank you for your email of 24 March 2023, and for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Inspector-General's Regulatory Policy Discussion Paper.

Victoria has always supported the Inspector-General of Water Compliance and the role it can play in improving compliance and confidence in implementation of the Basin Plan. Victoria will continue to work with the Inspector-General of Water Compliance and other Basin governments to ensure the arrangements for the office do not overlap or duplicate the role of states' compliance regimes.

Victoria has a mature compliance framework and strong community confidence that there is zero tolerance for water theft. Six rural water corporations (including four in the Basin) monitor and address risk of water theft through extensive metering and telemetry, and timely enforcement. Victoria is therefore in a good position to support the Inspector-General to develop guidelines and policies that will improve their performance and Basin-wide regulatory outcomes.

Although none have been released to date, I am pleased to see that establishing guidelines and standards to monitor water users is a key priority for the Inspector-General. This will provide a systematic, strategic focus on water compliance performance without duplicating the states' important role.

Please see enclosed the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's response to the Regulatory Policy Discussion Paper.

Yours sincerely

Hon Harriet Shing MP
Minister for Water

22/05/2023

Encl.



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