

Stormwater Management

The draft State Environment Protection Policy (Waters) outlines roles and responsibilities for the management of urban stormwater.



Background

Stormwater is surface run-off in urban areas from rain and storm events that enter the drainage system. It carries many pollutants, including leaves, sediment, heavy metals, litter, oils and other hydrocarbons, that are a major cause of pollution in our rivers, creeks, lakes and bays. Without adequate management, stormwater can pose a serious threat to the environment and the beneficial uses of water.

Stormwater management reforms have changed over time from disposing of stormwater in gutters and drains as quickly as possible, to minimising its generation and retaining stormwater on-site for reuse or use within the landscape.

The State Environment Protection Policy (SEPP) (Waters of Victoria) had an important role in defining roles and responsibilities for the management of urban stormwater and referencing the *Best Practice Environmental Management Guidelines for Urban Stormwater* (Urban Stormwater BPEM). The Urban Stormwater BPEM sets water quality standards (environmental objectives) for stormwater which are based on best practice performance objectives. These

environmental objectives guide the construction of assets for the treatment of stormwater in new residential sub-divisions.

Draft SEPP (Waters)

The draft SEPP (Waters) continues to reference the Urban Stormwater BPEM and better clarifies the roles and responsibilities of different agencies. This includes an obligation for municipal councils to develop and implement stormwater management (or equivalent) plans. Equivalent plans recognise that existing broader integrated water management plans may meet the requirements for stormwater management.

Processes to support draft SEPP (Waters)

To support the draft SEPP (Waters), it is proposed that government will commit to working with municipal councils to revise the *Stormwater Management Planning Guidelines* and the *Urban Stormwater BPEM* to protect waterways and bays and provide liveable and resilient towns and cities.

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ISBN 978-1-76047-894-0 (print)

ISBN 978-1-76047-895-7 (pdf)

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