

# State Environment Protection Policies for Water

Victoria introduced the first state environment protection policies in the 1970's to address over 100 years of degrading water quality in our rivers, bays and coastal waters. Victoria continues to improve the protection of our precious water resources by revising and updating the state environment protection policies.



## State Environment Protection Policies (SEPPs)

State Environment Protection Policies (SEPPs) provide a legal framework for protecting and improving Victoria's environment. SEPPs are established under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and are reviewed every 10 years.

SEPPs ensure Victoria has standards and laws in place to protect and improve the health of the natural environment.

## How are SEPPs for water used?

The Water SEPPs are applied by a range of different users. They operate alongside other legislation and supporting mechanisms to protect Victoria's water environments.

## State Environment Protection Policies (Waters) Review

The Victorian Government reviewed two SEPPs - Waters of Victoria, and Groundwaters of Victoria. A new draft SEPP (Waters), supported by a policy impact assessment and implementation plan is ready for consultation.

Public consultation on the draft SEPP (Waters) and supporting documents is open until June 19, 2018. Visit [www.engage.vic.gov.au/seppwaters](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/seppwaters) to learn more.

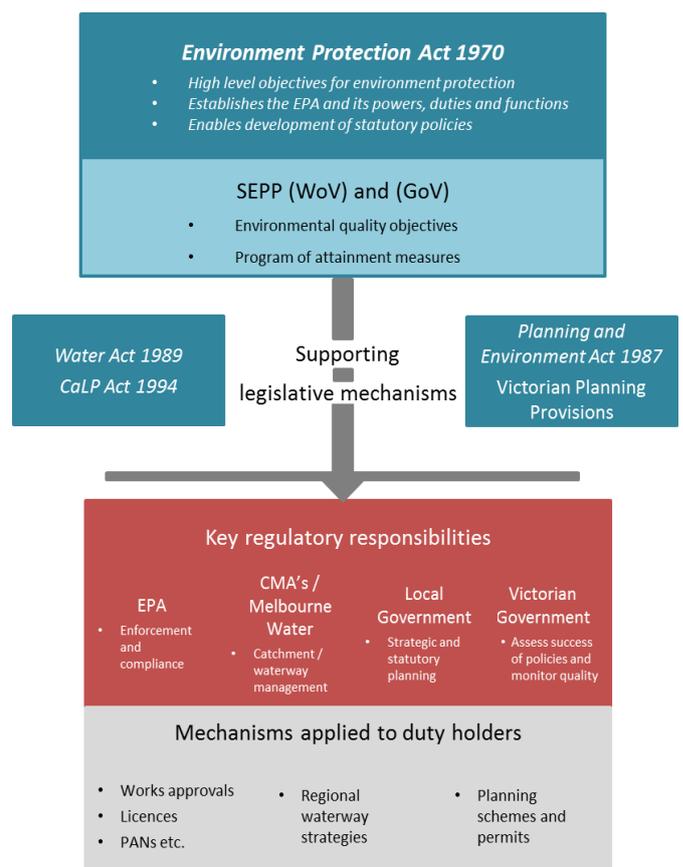


Figure 1: SEPP regulatory framework

# State Environment Protection Policies for Water

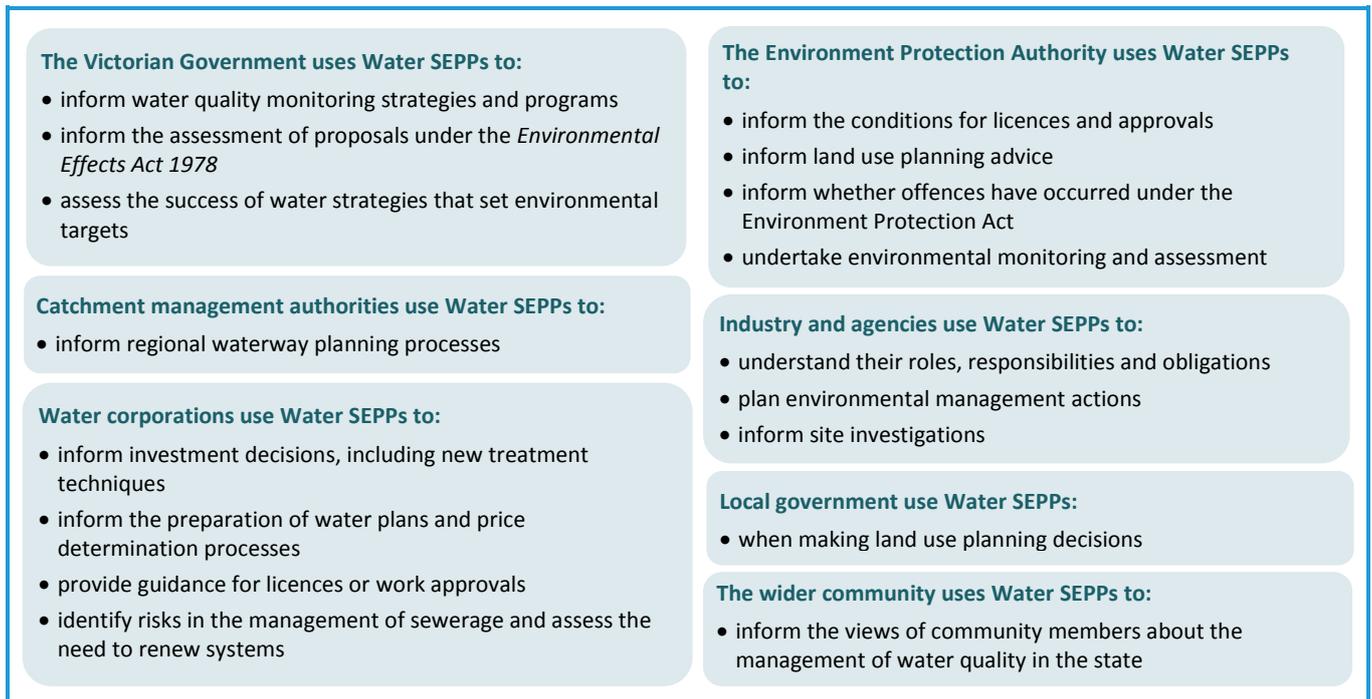


Figure 2 Different uses of Water SEPPs

## The Draft SEPP (Waters)

The revised draft SEPP (Waters):

- better reflects current policies (eg. Water for Victoria, Victorian Waterway Management Strategy, and the Murray-Darling Basin Plan)
- delivers greater clarity and certainty on who does what to protect the environment
- is streamlined, merging two existing SEPPs for water
- reflects community values
- applies the best available science
- addresses current and emerging water quality issues
- provides greater recognition of the value of water quality to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Victorians.

## Policy impact assessment (PIA)

The PIA discusses the successes and challenges of the existing policies. It identifies and assesses alternative policy options as part of the review of the water SEPPs.

## Implementation plan

The implementation plan describes priority actions to implement the draft SEPP (Waters), including:

- updates and new guidance, codes of practice and best practice environmental management guidelines
- responsibilities, funding priorities, activities to achieve load targets and set regional targets
- recommendations for updating planning provisions, and
- the development and implementation of a monitoring, evaluation and reporting program.

© The State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning 2018



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. You are free to re-use the work under that licence, on the condition that you credit the State of Victoria as author. The licence does not apply to any images, photographs or branding, including the Victorian Coat of Arms, the Victorian Government logo and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) logo. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

ISBN 978-1-76047-898-8 (print)

ISBN 978-1-76047-899-5 (pdf)

### Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.