

29 June 2018



Improving Stormwater Management Advisory Committee
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
PO Box 500
Melbourne VIC 8002

Dear Committee Members

RE: Improving Stormwater Management Advisory Committee – Issues Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Issues Paper produced regarding improving stormwater management across Victoria. Western Water views this as an important issue, that not only impacts the environment and urban liveability, but also has the potential to significantly reduce our reliance on traditional potable water supplies. We commend the committee for clearly articulating the issues outlined in the paper and the proposed conceptual planning control. Western Water believes that this approach is prudent and appropriate, and will have long lasting benefits.

Western Water fully supports measures to improve the management of stormwater and its impacts on the environment, particularly those measures which can help facilitate implementation of viable innovative projects that deliver multiple benefits to the water cycle, typically identified using a collaborative Integrated Water Management (IWM) approach.

Western Water does not have a direct responsibility in managing stormwater but is actively involved in developing integrated water management solutions through its IWM strategy and in collaboration with Councils and Melbourne Water. There is a significant amount of growth forecast within Western Water's service area which will result in increased volumes of stormwater being discharged into the upper reaches of the Maribyrnong and Werribee River catchments. Western Water is cognisant of the impact this development will have on the local environment.

Western Water's IWM initiatives aim to deliver improvements across the whole water cycle including stormwater management and waterway health. At a development scale, Western Water has initiated a guidance document for Developers on ways to contribute to broader water cycle benefits including stormwater management. At a regional scale, Western Water has been working with Melbourne Water, Council and DELWP investigating innovative solutions across the western growth areas to keep waterways, soils and landscapes healthy and to explore new water supplies. At a catchment scale, Western Water is active participant in the Maribyrnong and Werribee Integrated Water Management Forums and working groups.

Planning across a range of projects has identified the challenges in managing large volumes of recycled water and stormwater. In particular identifying and establishing requirements after precinct structure plans have been developed, the costs to harvest and develop a fit for purpose product and identifying a viable beneficial use for this water.

We have noted some aspects around implementing current policy that should be considered as it relates to greenfield development including:

- The need for planning instruments to consistently recognise and identify priority areas for enhanced stormwater reduction (inc. targets) to deliver waterway health objectives, with a view to strengthening planning controls for the required solutions inc rainwater tanks,

