



**NORTH EAST
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**North East CMA submission to the
Draft Victorian North and Murray Water Resource Plan**

The North East Catchment Management Authority (CMA) supports the draft *Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan* and the underlying water management framework that Victoria's water resources are managed within - to ensure the Basin Plan achieves 'healthy working rivers that support productive and resilient ecosystems and communities with access to sufficient and reliable water supplies.'

North East CMA has been involved in the development of the Water Resource Plan through a Technical Advisory Group and acknowledge the calibre of experience and hard work of the State agencies, water authorities, Indigenous groups and community members who have contributed to this document.

The water resources of the North East region support a range of tourism and recreational activities, as well as contributing to the social and economic success of regional towns and rural communities. Water is intrinsic to social and community connection and fosters a broader sense of well-being. Flows from the North East region support many downstream environmental values and communities, contributing almost 40% of the total water supply to the Murray-Darling Basin. Not only is the quantity of water supplied by the north east of significance but maintaining the high quality of this water is essential for all downstream water uses into the future.

Many of the waterways within the North East region are reliant on unregulated water resource management. Within the Water Resource Plan 'Climate Change' is rated as one of the highest risks to unregulated water resources, as well as to upland and shallow aquifers. This emphasises how essential it will be to appropriately manage both our surface water and groundwater resources with an eye to future reduced water resource scenarios.

The work starting to document Aboriginal water values and uses is very important. The funding for the Indigenous Water Officers with Registered Aboriginal Parties and Traditional Owner Groups is considered to have greatly assisted the capacity of Aboriginal groups to commence with work, and we would support its continuation for improved collaboration with Aboriginal groups into the future and to maintain connections that were developed during this process.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Water Resource Plan for Victoria's North and Murray areas.

Katie Warner

Chief Executive Officer