



2021-22 Annual Stream Flow Management Plan Report

Annual report for Melbourne Waters Stream Flow Management Plans (SFMP's): Hoddles Creek, Little Yarra and Don Rivers, Olinda Creek, Plenty River, Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks, Stringybark Creek, Woori Yallock Creek.

September 2022

Forward

Melbourne Water is pleased to present the amalgamated Annual Report for the Hoddles Creek, Little Yarra and Don Rivers, Olinda Creek, Plenty River, Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks, Stringybark Creek, and Woori Yallock Creek Water Supply Protection Area Stream Flow Management Plans (the Plans) for the 2021-22 water year.

Melbourne Water is responsible for the implementation, administration and enforcement of the Plans which were approved by the Minister administering the *Water Act 1989* (Vic).

This report has been prepared and submitted to the Minister for Water in accordance with [section 32C](#) of the *Water Act 1989* (Vic).

This report provides an overview of the surface water management activities relating to the implementation, administration and enforcement of each Plan during the 2021/22 water year.

A copy of this report is available on the Melbourne Water website www.melbournewater.com.au

Executive Summary

Melbourne Water is responsible for managing 1,813 surface water diverters in the Yarra catchment, parts of the lower Maribyrnong River and some creeks in the western catchments.

Water stressed catchments that are declared by the Minister for Water are referred to as Water Supply Protection Areas (WSPA's). Melbourne Water is required under the *Water Act 1989* (the Act) to develop Stream Flow Management Plans (SFMP) (plans) for WSPA's which are waterways considered ecologically important and where water supply is considered under stress.

The objective of a SFMP is to make sure that the water resources of the relevant WSPA are managed in an equitable manner and to ensure the long-term sustainability of those resources.

Waterways for which SFMP's are in place are:

- Hoddles Creek
- Little Yarra and Don Rivers
- Olinda Creek
- Plenty River
- Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks
- Stringybark Creek
- Woori Yallock Creek

Section 32C of the Act requires Melbourne Water to prepare an Annual Report for each approved SFMP in respect of carrying out its duties and activities administering and enforcing the plan. The Act also requires Melbourne Water to submit an Annual Report to the Minister for Water (The Minister) and the relevant Catchment Management Authority for each approved plan by 30 September each year.

This Annual Report provides an overview of the surface water status and summarises the surface water management activities undertaken in accordance with the Plans during the 2021-22 water year (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022). The report summarises the performance of reportable prescriptions for the various individual plans. The specific details of each plan's prescriptions are included in a separate support document with a detailed compliance table for each plan. A secondary table of summary statistics for volumetric allowances, bans and rosters and volumetric use from metered licences is also included for each plan. The supporting annual prescription and data report is supplied to the Minister for Water together with this Annual Report and is also available to the public on request and available by visiting Melbourne Water's website www.melbournewater.com.au.

In developing this year's Annual Report Melbourne Water has consulted with the Water and Catchments Group within DELWP. Melbourne Water also works closely throughout the year with SFMP representative committees, which include community volunteers, to manage stream flows and protect the environment.

Melbourne Water continues to work with the Traditional Owners in the area (Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation), and has kept them informed of the progress and performance of the plans. Melbourne Water continues to engage with the Wurundjeri group and DELWP to ensure that any future formal reviews of the plans which require the establishment of a consultative committee includes a Wurundjeri representative as per Section 29 of the Water Act.

Stream flow in the catchments covered by this report were generally higher in 2021-22 than in recent years, reflecting the increased rainfalls experienced across the Yarra Basin. Due to higher rainfall there was an observed reduction in extracted volumes in all catchments. 2021-22 is noted as either the lowest or second lowest annual extraction demand observed for the individual catchments over the past eight years.

Licensed allocation caps for each catchment are defined within the plans Prescriptions and Woori Yallock remains the only catchment with current licensed allocation volumes greater than the licensed allocation cap volume.

Melbourne Water manages access to water and stream flows to protect key environmental values through the implementation of bans and restrictions across the catchments. These are notified to licence holders through direct SMS messaging and is available on the Melbourne Water website, updated daily.

There were several compliance exceptions in the SFMPs' prescriptions in this year's report that carry over from previous years. Two plans, Plenty River and Steels, Pauls and Dixons creeks continue to carry legacy prescriptions. These prescriptions required the investigation and implementation of meters on all licences (Plenty) and rosters (Steels, Pauls and Dixons). Melbourne Water has previously investigated the feasibility of implementing these prescriptions:

- For the Plenty catchment it was determined the cost disproportionately outweighed the benefit of installing meters on dams in the Plenty River system. Meters have been fitted to all active commercial or irrigation licensees' equipment greater than 5ML which does not include all registered farm dams. The investigation and outcomes have been reported in previous Annual Reports.
- For Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks, the hydraulic nature of the creeks shows rapid rise and fall of stream levels, and due to this characteristic the implementation of rosters was deemed unworkable as a management practice. This outcome has also been reported in previous Annual Reports.

No formal reviews were required during the current reporting period. Melbourne Water did undertake refined modelling for the Steels, Pauls and Dixons catchments to develop methodologies to use in future reviews. Modelling sought to investigate impacts from climate change, farm dams and irrigator behaviour on water availability and reliability of supply.

Melbourne Water continues to undertake legislative renewal and has updated our Compliance and Enforcement Policy to reflect the changes in the Water Act. We participated in an Independent Review of our Compliance and Enforcement policies, systems and processes, as part of the Victorian Government's activities to improve compliance and enforcement across the state. Melbourne Water has also revised its Metering Action Plan which aims to upgrade and expand our metering fleet to AS4747 compliant meters and expand our telemetry network to increase real time access to usage data. Rollout of our Metering Action Plan is progressing ahead of schedule and we currently have 78% of total required meter fleet compliant with the Victorian Metering Policy.

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Glossary

Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP)

State Government department responsible for overseeing the *Water Act 1989* and associated policy.

Licensed Allocation Cap

The total volume of licensed entitlement set in a Water Supply Protection Area prescription to allow an 80% reliability of supply.

Local Management Plan (LMP)

A local management plan (previously known as local management rules prior to 2015) are for an area with a Permissible Consumptive Volume and include appropriate tools such as trading rules, triggers for restrictions and monitoring requirements.

Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV)

Declared by the Minister, Permissible Consumptive Volumes (PCVs) cap the total volume of licensed entitlement in a river basin.

Stream Flow Management Plan (SFMP)

A statutory plan developed under the *Water Act 1989* to make sure that the water resources of the relevant water supply protection area are managed in an equitable manner and so as to ensure the long-term sustainability of those resources.

Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA)

An area declared by the Minister for Water which is set aside to protect the water resources through the development of a management plan. The Water Supply Protection Area may cover groundwater, surface water or both resources.

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Melbourne Water is responsible for managing 1,813 surface water diverters in the Yarra catchment, parts of the lower Maribyrnong River and some creeks in the western catchments.

Water stressed catchments that are declared by the Minister for Water are referred to as Water Supply Protection Areas (WSPA's). Melbourne Water is required under the *Water Act 1989* (the Act) to develop Stream Flow Management Plans (SFMP) (plans) for certain waterways that are considered ecologically important and where water supply is considered under stress.

The objective of the SFMP's, which are developed by a ministerially appointed committee, is to make sure that the water resources of the relevant WSPA are managed in an equitable manner and to ensure the long-term sustainability of those resources.

SFMP's seek to recognise the needs of existing and future users whilst aiming to maintain or improve waterway health by protecting minimum flows for the environment. Providing sufficient environmental flows to achieve healthy rivers is a key component in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the water resource.

An SFMP considers the amount of water in a water supply protection area (usually an entire catchment) and prescribes how it will be shared between water users and the environment. It aims to recognise the needs of existing and future water users whilst maintaining waterway health by protecting environmental flows.

Section 32C of the Act requires Melbourne Water to prepare an Annual Report for each approved SFMP. The Act also requires Melbourne Water to submit an Annual Report (this document) to the Minister for Water and the relevant Catchment Management Authority for each approved plan by 30 September each year.

This Annual Report provides an overview of the surface water status and summarises the surface water management activities undertaken relating to the implementation, administration and enforcement of each Plan during the 2020/21 water year (1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021).

The report summarises key reporting obligations, described in this report as 'reportable prescriptions' for the individual plans. The number of prescriptions range between eight and twenty eight per plan varying with relevant complexity and were developed through the consultative phase for each individual plan development.

The specific details of each plan's prescriptions are included in a separate supporting document with a detailed compliance table for each plan. A secondary table of summary statistics for volumetric allowances, bans and rosters and volumetric use from metered licences is also included. This supporting annual prescription and data report is supplied to the Minister for Water together with this Annual Report and both are available to the public on request.

This report and supplementary supporting document will also be made publicly available via the Melbourne Water website www.melbournewater.com.au

1.2. Water Supply Protection Areas

Melbourne Water develops water management plans across its catchments using two different types of planning documents. Higher risk catchments that have been declared as Water Supply Protection Areas (WSPAs) require statutory enforced Stream Flow Management Plans (SFMP's) while lower risk catchments have Local Management Plans (LMP's) developed. Prior to 2015, these were known as Local Management Rules (LMR's).

SFMP's outline the catchment descriptions and ecological values within them. They contain statutory requirements stated as prescriptions that cover requirements such as water sharing and trade rules, requirements for metering of licences and rules regarding dams used for take and use within the various catchments. SFMP's also contain rules around cease to take, bans, and restrictions based on stream flow levels.

Melbourne Water has supported the development and approval of seven SFMP's, in the Yarra River basin which are the focus of this Annual Report (Figure 1):

- Hoddles Creek;
- Little Yarra and Don Rivers.
- Olinda Creek;
- Plenty River;
- Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks;
- Stringybark Creek;
- Woori Yallock Creek;

LMP/LMR's are similar in that they also are a management tool that help describe the catchment and ecological values within them that Melbourne Water aims to protect and enhance. The LMP/LMR's state the access rules to water governing the various catchments. Individual licence holders have conditions on their take and use licences which reflect these rules. Unlike the SFMP's, they do not contain additional statutory prescriptions

A copy of the SFMP's and LMP/LMR's can be downloaded from the Melbourne Water website www.melbournewater.com.au



Figure 1: Stream Flow Management Plan (SFMP) and Local Management Rules (LMR) catchments.

1.3. Consultation

Melbourne Water has consulted with a range of groups in the preparation of the 2021-22 Annual Report and on the implementation of the SFMPs, including several divisions within the Water and Catchments Group within DELWP.

Melbourne Water continues to work with the Traditional Owners in the area, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (Wurundjeri) and has kept the Traditional Owners informed of the progress and performance of the plans. Melbourne Water has commenced engagement with the Wurundjeri group and DELWP to ensure that any formal reviews of the plans which require the establishment of a consultative committee includes Wurundjeri representation as per Section 29 of the Water Act.

In alignment with Water for Victoria, Melbourne Water informs traditional owners of all the current opportunities to engage in managing the water cycle through our Traditional Owner Relationship Manager. Major strategic opportunities also exist through the implementation of the Healthy Waterways Strategy, and the draft Sustainable Water Strategy, draft Greater Melbourne Urban Water System Strategy and Melbourne Sewerage Strategy. Melbourne Water also supports the Traditional Owners in achieving the aspirations of the Water is Life strategy.

Wurundjeri have identified a number of priority projects that they wish to pursue at present and are listed in Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Birrarung Water Policy for the Yarra. Current projects Melbourne Water are working on with Wurundjeri (Narrap team) on include a "Whole of landscape approach to managing lands" and managing water for the "Bolin Bolin billabong complex".

2. Surface Water Management

2.1. Licensed allocation volume

A limit on surface water licensed volume, known as a Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV), for the Yarra River Basin has been set by the Minister at 435,982 megalitres per year (ML/year) (Government of Victoria, 2010). The individual WSPA sub-catchments located within the greater Yarra Basin have their own specific Licenced Allocation Caps (allocation caps) associated with them as a subset of the Yarra PCV. All plans are operating within their allocation caps with the exception of Woori Yallock. When the PCV was established (2009), the existing Woori Yallock allocation exceeded the PCV cap. To address this all permanent trades occurring in the Woori Yallock catchment are reduced by 20% to continually drive the total volume licenced below the allocation cap and bring the plan into full compliance. The allocated volumes reported for Woori Yallock also reflect temporary trades out of the system and this varies during wetter (less trade) and drier years (more trade). As such the annual in catchment allocation does vary from year to year. The current allocation caps and licenced volumes are outlined below against the individual WSPA's which take into account temporary trades in and out of the catchments. in **Table 1**. Further information is also available in the supplementary data report.

Table 1: Surface water licensed allocated volume in all WSPA's as at June 2022.

Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA)	WSPA allocation cap (ML)	Allocated Volumes (ML)	Difference (ML)
Hoddles Creek	1,207	674	-533
Little Yarra and Dons River	1,502	1464	-38
Olinda Creek	686	532	-154
Plenty River	669	660	-9
Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks	1,684 (Total)	638	-1046
	988 All-Year 696 Winter-Fill	2 636	-986 -60
Stringybark Creek	2,664	2,611	-53
Woori Yallock Creek	8,828 (Total)	8,905	77
	4029 (Winter-Fill)	1432	-2597

2.2. Bans & Rosters

Melbourne Water oversees equitable water sharing of diverters and the environment within the seven SFMP's during dry periods through a schedule of bans and rosters. These are notified to licence holders through direct SMS messaging and is available on the Melbourne Water website, updated daily. As the stream flows approach the total ban threshold (designed to protect instream values at critical low flow periods) some catchments have specific rostering

prescriptions that allow a sharing arrangement between users on specific days of the week. This helps manage the interaction of water users impacts between themselves and also eases the transition down to critical low flows. These bans and rosters ensure that the equitable sharing between diverters is managed as stream flows begin to recede from typical high flow periods. Information for each SFMP's bans and rosters is available in the supporting data file.

2.3. Metering of Surface Water Use

Melbourne Water has implemented a metering program to ensure it effectively manages the conditions of licences and take and use rules. This section on the metering of surface water use reports on the volumes metered as taken and used during the 2021-22 water year. Australian standard compliant AS4747 meters have been installed on licences with an annual licence volume greater than 5 ML. The volume of licences metered within a specific WSPA is outlined for the specific SFMP catchments in the supplementary data file.

It is assumed that all unmetered active diverters (those with an annual licence of less than 5 ML) are taking and using water in a similar manner and pattern of behaviour to the metered users, reflecting crop growth rates and watering requirements. This therefore assumes a uniform pattern of response to antecedent conditions of dry periods requiring more supplemental irrigation water compared to periods of high precipitation requiring less irrigation demand. Information relating to the number of licences for each SFMP and annual usage is located in the supplementary data file.

2.4. Licence Transfers

Melbourne Water manages the permanent and temporary trade of licences throughout the catchments. All trades are reviewed during the application process to determine the potential risks to instream values by transferring an irrigation demand from one location to another in the catchments. Further restrictions and specific catchment rules are summarised in the individual plans available on the Melbourne Water website.

The plans allow licence holders to temporarily or permanently transfer allocation licence volume. Surface water licence transfer activity during 2021-22 is available in the supplementary data file.

2.5. Licence Compliance

Compliance actions are undertaken in accordance with Melbourne Water's Compliance and Enforcement Statement. Melbourne Water takes a risk based approach looking at impacts and consequences against evidence and other information available. Compliance approaches are focussed on education and informal warnings for first or low volume offenders, escalating through formal written warnings and notices to prosecution for more serious offences.

The majority of unauthorised take cases tend to relate to only small volumes or percentage unauthorised take against licenced allocation volumes as genuine operator error. At this stage there are potential breaches until a full investigation is undertaken to ensure errors such as faulty meters have been eliminated. The severity of each suspected breach is assessed against the compliance procedure and appropriate responses will be undertaken.

2.5.1. Compliance and Enforcement Actions

Compliance and enforcement actions undertaken by Melbourne Water during 2021-22 for the 31 non-compliances are summarised in **Table 2**. Melbourne Water will continue to engage with

licence holders to ensure they are aware of their responsibility to comply with their licence conditions, including Melbourne Water’s obligations under the Act to assess water use compliance. Overall the total number of non-compliances was lower than previous years.

Table 2: Compliance and Enforcement actions undertaken by Melbourne Water in 2021-22.

Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA)	Detected unauthorised takes	Under Investigation	Investigated - No further action	Formal warning	Formal interview
Hoddles Creek	0	0	0	0	0
Little Yarra and Dons River	1	0	1	0	0
Olinda Creek	0	0	0	0	0
Plenty River	1	0	0	1	0
Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks	2	1	1	0	0
Stringybark Creek	8	5	2	1	0
Woori Yallock Creek	19	3	12	4	0

2.5.2. Compliance and Enforcement Policy

In 2020, Melbourne Water updated its Water and Land Enforcement Policy to match the guidelines as directed by DELWP. This policy outlines the key principles and minimum standards for fair and consistent enforcement within Melbourne Water’s Service Delivery - Waterways and Land Group and is intended to inform everyone including those who administer the legislation how enforcement will be carried out.

The policy is aimed at providing a consistent framework for the application of enforcement issues and to provide transparency to Melbourne Water employees and other stakeholders interested or affected by Melbourne Water’s enforcement or compliance activities.

For waterway and land management functions, this policy focuses on compliance and enforcement of the Victorian Water Act relating to:

- Construction, operation, maintenance, alteration and decommissioning of works including, but not limited to, works on waterways, works on drains or other constructed assets, private crossings, stormwater outlets, etc.
- Earth works or deposition of soil or material on designated land that impacts on flooding or hydraulic performance of waterways and drains.

For the Diversions function, this policy focuses on compliance and enforcement of the Victorian Water Act relating to:

- Taking and using water.
- Construction, operation, maintenance, alteration and decommissioning of works including, but not limited to, works on waterways for the take and use of water.

Melbourne Water is also a participant in the Water Compliance Community of Practice, which is also coordinated by DELWP. Melbourne Water participates in the community of practice as a working group member of both the Water Compliance Communications Working Group and the Authorised Water Officer Network.

As part of the activities in compliance and enforcement renewal across the state, Melbourne Water has upgraded its Metering Action Plan, which aims to upgrade and expand our metering fleet to AS4747 compliant meters. Additional activities also include expanding our telemetry network to increase real time access to usage data.

Rollout of our Metering Action Plan across our entire diversions area is progressing ahead of schedule, and on our current implementation trajectory we anticipate we will be fully compliant to the implementation program of the Victorian Metering Policy by the required date of 2025. This will involve the upgrade of 130 meters and the installation of 195 data loggers remaining by 2025. In 2021-2022, a total of 34 meters have been upgraded and 8 Internet of Things (IoT) dataloggers installed. An additional 22 data loggers are to be installed before the end of 2022.

In addition Melbourne Water has created a Compliance and Enforcement Statement. The Statement is now available on our website and outlines our approach to compliance and enforcement and was developed in line with DELWP's Non-Urban Compliance and Enforcement Guidelines for Water Corporations 2019.

To inform customers and promote our approach to zero tolerance on water theft Melbourne Water have undertaken a number of initiatives including, developing a compliance and enforcement web page, adding Zero Tolerance to water theft banners on invoices, having a compliance focus for the annual StreamNews newsletter, conversations with customers by our officers in the field and the creating of four Fact Sheets.

3. Plan Implementation

3.1. Plan Prescriptions

Each of the Water Supply Protection Areas (WSPA) contain specific management prescriptions within a Stream Flow Management Plan (SFMP). In accordance with section 32C of the Water Act 1989 (Vic), Melbourne Water is required to annually report on the implementation of the management prescriptions of each SFMP.

The number of compliant and non-compliant prescriptions for each WSPA have been summarised in **Table 3**.

All plans have remained compliant with the associated prescriptions with no non-compliances detected. Two plans, Plenty River and Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks continue to carry legacy prescriptions that have not been implemented. These prescriptions require the investigation and implementation of meters on all licences (Plenty) and rosters (Steels, Pauls and Dixons).

Melbourne Water has previously investigated the feasibility of implementing these prescriptions. For the Plenty catchment it was determined the cost disproportionately outweighed the benefit of installing meters on dams in the Plenty River system. Meters have been fitted to all active commercial or irrigation licensees' equipment greater than 5ML which does not include all registered farm dams. The investigation and outcomes have been reported in previous Annual Reports.

For Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks, the hydraulic nature of the creeks shows rapid rise and fall of stream levels, and due to this characteristic the implementation of rosters was deemed unworkable as a management practice. This outcome has also been reported in previous Annual Reports.

Melbourne Water will continue to report these legacy management prescriptions until it is agreed that they can be removed through an approved minor plan amendment process or during a full formal plan amendment.

Detailed descriptions of each WSPA management prescription contained within their associated SFMP and a copy of the detailed compliance assessment can be requested by contacting Melbourne Water via 131 722 or enquiry@melbournewater.com.au, or visiting the Melbourne Water Website: <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/contact-us>

3.2. Monitoring

Monitoring has been undertaken across all 7 SFMP's with the implementation of an eDNA fish monitoring program. The program is designed to determine condition and trend of fish species in each catchment. Additional monitoring has also been undertaken through supplementary monitoring programs for Melbourne Waters Healthy Waterways Strategy. This supplementary monitoring captures and records information on fish, macroinvertebrates, platypus, water quality and vegetation condition and extent. This information is collected and is interrogated as part of each plans five year review phase to determine the performance of the plan in protecting instream aquatic values.

Table 3: Assessment of Stream Flow Management Plan prescriptions.

Water Supply Protection Area (WSPA)	Number of prescriptions reported within the WSPA	Number of compliant prescriptions	Number of non-compliant prescriptions	Name of non-compliant prescription(s)
Hoddles Creek	13	13	0	
Little Yarra and Dons Rivers	8	8	0	
Olinda Creek	13	13	0	
Plenty River	12	11	1	Installing Meters (14.1 - 14.2)
Steels, Pauls and Dixons Creeks	13	12	1	Rosters (16.1 - 16.2)
Stringybark Creek	8	8	0	
Woori Yallock Creek	28	28	0	

4. Future Management Considerations

4.1. SFMP Review Updates

No formal reviews were required during the current reporting period. Melbourne Water did undertake refined modelling for the Steels, Pauls and Dixon catchments to develop methodologies to investigate impacts from climate change, farm dams and irrigator behaviour on water availability and reliability of supply. This methodology will be able to be applied to other SFMP catchment reviews.

Melbourne Water has completed the process of drafting a Lower Yarra and Kororoit Creek amalgamated LMP. This plan proposes to update existing Local Management Rules (LMR's) documents to bring them into line with the updated policy to establish LMP's. This amalgamated plan seeks to incorporate the following catchments:

- Darebin Creek,
- Diamond Creek
- Gardiners Creek.
- Kororoit Creek
- Merri Creek
- Moonee Ponds Creek,
- Mullum Mullum Creek
- Plenty River

Following approval from the Minister to commence the engagement and revocation process to revoke the Plenty River SFMP, Melbourne Water will commence a community and licence holder consultation process, including relevant traditional owner groups. Melbourne Water will seek approval from the Minister in separate correspondence. If Melbourne Water is successful in its request to revoke the Plenty River SFMP, a specific Plenty River LMP section will be incorporated into the singular planning document of the proposed draft amalgamated Lower Yarra and Kororoit Creek LMP. This process will update Melbourne Water's current LMR documents in line with current policy of Local Management Plans as outlined in guidelines provided by DELWP (DEPI, 2014).

4.2. Continual Improvement

Melbourne Water is focused on continual improvement and evolving to be a leading water licencing authority. Melbourne Water maintains an active role in licencing matters and legislative amendments through the State-wide Water Licencing Committee and as an active member on the Murray Darling Basin Compliance compact. Through continual improvement, we are better able to serve our customers, the community and the environment.

Melbourne Water has completed activities to meet ministerial expectations in line with the current compliance and enforcement policies and amendments to the Water Act outlining provisions for Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs). Melbourne Water has been an active participant in legislative renewal and improvements to compliance and enforcement. In June 2020 we participated in an Independent Review of our Compliance and Enforcement policies, systems and processes, undertaken on behalf of DELWP. The review confirmed we have the necessary procedures and practices in place to successfully manage compliance matters with only one recommendation put forward. This was to ensure that the development of the Melbourne Water Compliance & Enforcement Strategy and review of our Compliance and Enforcement Manual be finalised, which was completed in April 2021.

Melbourne Water has also commenced a Traditional Owner engagement program with the Wurundjeri people to inform Traditional Owners on the current SFMP's and work together to

identify the role they wish to play in the statutory planning process. This program will seek to work with Traditional Owners to identify cultural values and identify their roles on SFMP consultative committees should a plan need amendment following identification of Traditional Owner Values or establishment of Traditional Owner water rights. The program will also engage various Divisions of the Water and Catchments Group of DELWP and Melbourne Water's Traditional Owner Relationship Manager.

5. References

Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI), 2014. *Local Management Plan Guidelines*. Retrieved on 20 July 2020 from:
https://www.water.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/53822/LMP-guidelines_approved-13-June-2014_po00_20140508.pdf

Melbourne Waters Compliance and Enforcement webpage:
<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/water-data-and-education/waterway-diversions/water-use-compliance>

Melbourne Waters Compliance and Enforcement Statement:
<https://www.melbournewater.com.au/media/16801/download>

Victorian Government, 2010. *Victorian Government Gazette No. G31 Thursday 5 August 2010*. Victoria State Government, Melbourne.

Water Act 1989