SEPP (Waters) Review

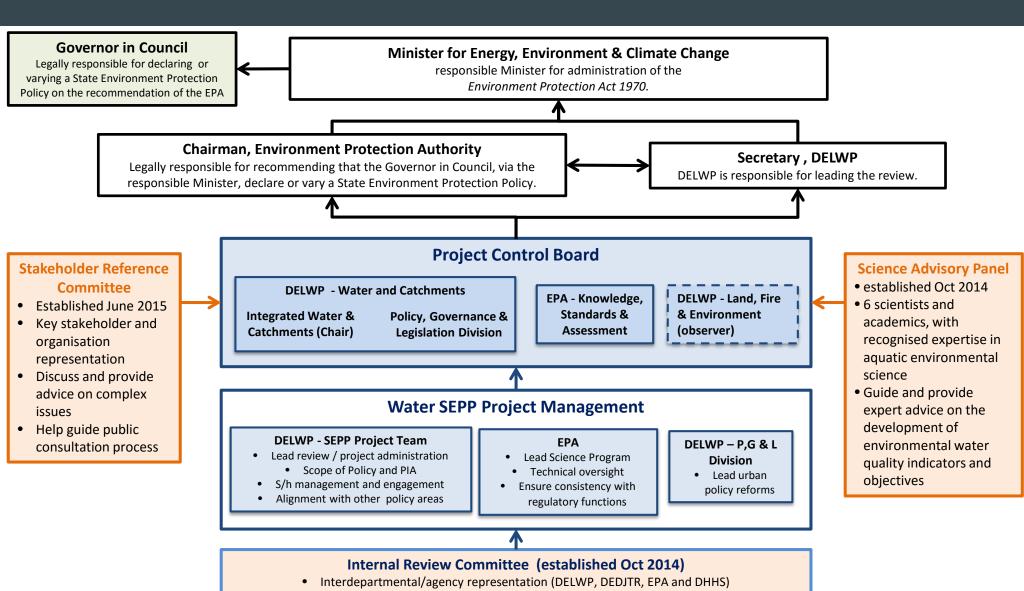
Veronica Lanigan & Sally Lock



SEPP (Waters) Review

- There are two critical aspects to state environment protection policies (SEPPs) for water. They:
 - set in statutory policy the environmental objectives and indicators ("the numbers") required to protect different beneficial uses for different water environments; and
 - establish the framework or set rules/obligations for managing the impacts of different activities on water quality, known as the attainment program and implementation plan.
- The current policies are over 10 years old the review will combine into a single policy:
 - SEPP (Groundwaters of Victoria) ('GoV');
 - SEPP (Waters of Victoria) ('WoV'); and
 - the schedules to these policies.

Roles and Responsibilities



Ensure policy coordination between the SEPP (Waters) team and other areas within portfolio
 Test strategic directions papers (which in turn will inform Discussion Starter, Policy and PIA)

Key stages in SEPP (Waters) Review Including community and stakeholder involvement

April 2015

Initiate Review

- Letter from Deputy Secretary Water and Catchments to key stakeholders notifying them of the review.
- Request nominations for Stakeholder Reference Committee membership.
- Information brochure uploaded on DELWP and EPA websites.

June 2015

Formal trigger and release of Discussion Starter

- Stakeholder Reference Committee appointed and first meeting held.
- Legal requirement for EPA Chairman to publish notice of intention to declare or vary a Policy (referred to as trigger) – section 18A(2)(a) of Environment Protection Act 1970.
- Released Discussion Starter which outlined scope and intent of review.
- Called for submissions/ registration of interest in the review.

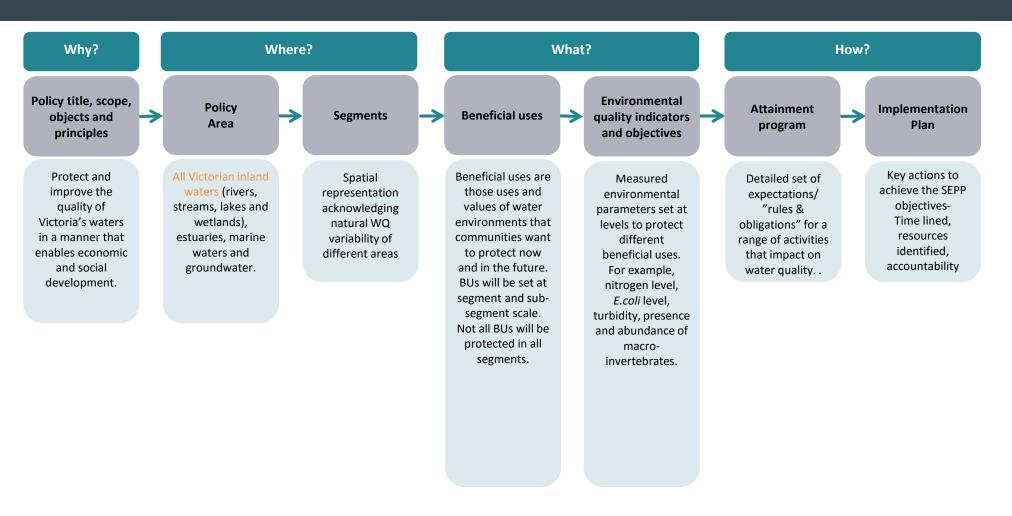
Release of Draft Policy and PIA for public comment

- Legal requirement for EPA
 Chairman to publish notice
 of preparation of the Draft
 Policy, and release of Draft
 Policy and Policy Impact
 Assessment (PIA) section
 18A(2)(f)) of Environment
 Protection Act 1970.
- Minimum of three month period of time in which submissions can be received.
- Range of stakeholder and public meetings to be held.

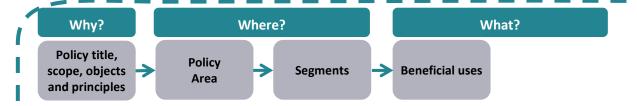
Initiate process to declare/ vary Policy

- Final Policy and PIA
 recommended to Governor
 in Council for consideration
 section 18A(3)(c)) of
 Environment Protection Act
 1970.
- Final Policy subject to SARC scrutiny and disallowance by Parliament.
- Before recommendation can be made all submissions need to be considered and written notice provided to each person who made a submission.

Building blocks of SEPP (Waters)



Beneficial Uses



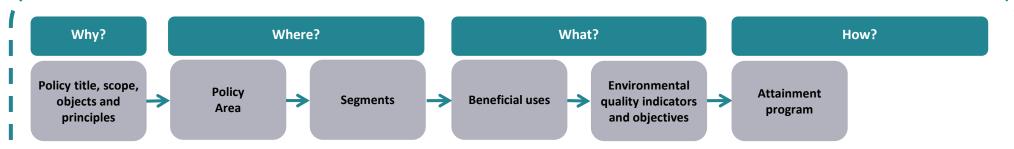
Beneficial Uses

- Aquatic ecosystems / Maintenance of ecosystems where groundwater discharges to surface waters
- Primary contact recreation
- Secondary contact recreation
- Aesthetic enjoyment
- Indigenous cultural and spiritual values
- Non-indigenous cultural and spiritual values
- Potable mineral water supply
- Agriculture and irrigation /agriculture, parks and gardens
- Stock watering
- Aquaculture
- Industrial and commercial use
- Fish, crustacea and molluscs for human consumption
- Buildings and structures

Challenges

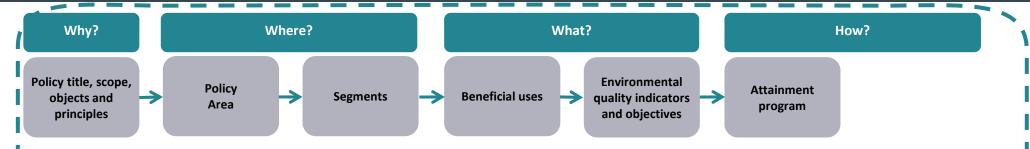
- Refine list of BUs consolidate BUs from SEPP (GoV), SEPP (WoV) and schedules
- Use existing data to inform distribution of BUs across segments and sub-segments

Attainment Program



- Attainment Program detailed set of expectations / rules for a range of activities that impact on water quality. For example, permitted activities (discharge to water), WQ requirements for point sources (stormwater/ irrigation) and diffuse sources (agriculture, forestry).
- Typically include guidance, management controls and methods to be followed to achieve the policy objectives- environment protection.
- Attainment clauses collectively make up the program by which environmental quality objectives are to be collectively achieved or 'attained'.
- Revised attainment program will focus on:
 - outcomes rather than how
 - Being enabling versus prescriptive

Attainment Program review

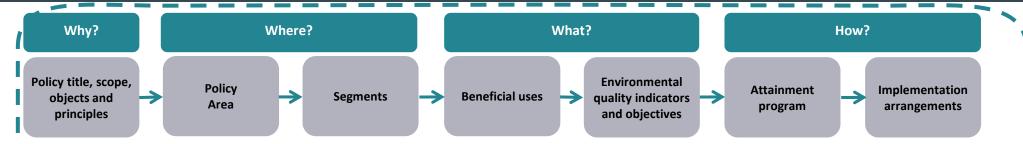


- Review of attainment clauses major work for the review
 - Permitted activities (i.e. licensed point source discharges) EPA
 - Other point source pollution (stormwater) DELWP
 - Diffuse sources of pollution DELWP
 - Groundwater (i.e. SEPP GoV) EPA

Priority clauses

- Clause 24 regional target setting
- Clause 26 off-set measures
- Clause 31 m'ment of wastewater reuse & recycling
- Clause 32 on-site domestic wastewater m'ment
- Clause 35 sewerage management

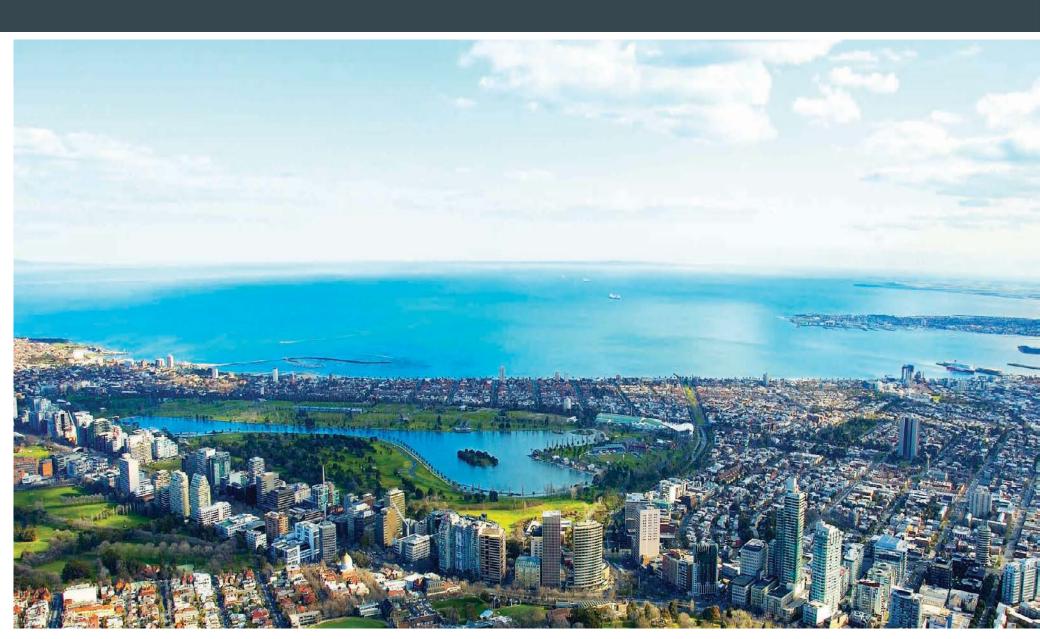
Implementation arrangements



Implementation Plans

- In addition to policy
- Implementation plan will identify a number of key actions required to ensure SEPP (Waters) does what it is mean to do. For example, if guidance notes need to be developed or how a monitoring and assessment program will be coordinated across agencies
- Accountability/resources/time lined.
- Opportunity to develop more detailed planning based for spatial area (catchment) or on a particular issue (agriculture).

Clauses of interest



Clause 24

Regional Target Setting-

- Vehicle to protect & improve river health
- Regional waterway management plans

Water Quality Improvement Plans (WQIP)

- SEPP non-compliance with objectives
 - State driven planning in priority areas

Clauses 32, 33, 34

- Onsite Domestic wastewater m'ment
 - VAGO
 - ODWM plans
 - WC long term wastewater planning

Legislative reform

- EPA Independent Inquiry
 - EP Act review
 - Revoke vary or amend permits

- Local Government Act
 - Cost recovery and enforcement of upgrades

Questions

Any general Questions on the review