



Department of Sustainability and Environment

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Alan Barlee
Chair Upper Ovens WSPA Consultative Committee
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Dear Mr Barlee

RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT UPPER OVENS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Upper Ovens management plan. The Department of Sustainability and Environment would like the Consultative Committee to consider the following comments on the draft management plan:

- **Section 9.2.3:** the draft management plan assumes that proposed restrictions on groundwater use in Management Zone 1 will sufficiently protect groundwater dependent ecosystems. The draft management plan should specify a way in which this assumption will be tested in the future. This could be addressed by the inclusion of a future work program.
- **Section 13.1 or Prescription 22:** the draft management plan should clearly state the current winter fill allocation compared to the cap volume in each of the Upper Ovens sub-catchments or commit Goulburn-Murray Water to providing this information in the near future. This will clarify how much water is available for development in each sub-catchment.
- **Section 13.2 and Prescription 26:** the *Policies for Managing Works Licences* are relevant to the construction and operation of dams. References to the *Policies for Managing Take and Use Licences* should be removed and replaced with the *Policies for Managing Works Licences*.
- **Section 14.2:** the discussion of transfers into and out of the Protection Area should clearly state whether the transfers are referring to surface water and/or groundwater.
- **Section 19.4.2:** the draft management plan should clarify the process Goulburn-Murray Water must follow to set licence fees (i.e. through the Essential Services Commission).
- **Section 20:** for the purpose of reporting there should be a clear link between monitoring and the plan objectives enabling the corporation to report on the performance of the plan, not just that the Corporation has done everything required of it under the plan.

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If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Patrick O'Halloran, Manager Policy & Licensing, on 9637 8068 or Patrick.O'Halloran@dse.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Allan McPherson
Executive Director Water Resources Division

11/5/11