



## Case study 17

# The Victorian Water Plan

## More than supply and security

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria (DELWP)

### This case study showcases

how government can facilitate collaboration and integrated planning

### Problem

Water policies, strategies and plans exist for many states, regions and cities. They are often developed by State Governments, with the relevant water business(es), to articulate a Government's position relating to water, and actions for its management over the long term. Many water plans only consider water supply and security for a region. This continues the siloed approach to urban water cycle management in that water businesses are only asked to consider and plan for their specific area of responsibility. It also reinforces the perception that water businesses are only providers of water supply and sewerage services, and have no consideration for other elements of the water cycle.

In these plans there is often very little, if any, recognition of the contribution water provides to broader outcomes such as prosperity, liveability, indigenous values and general health and wellbeing. It also means that there is not a strong driver for agencies to come together to plan for these broader outcomes, and this potentially results in lost opportunities.

### Solution

*Water for Victoria* seeks to optimise community benefit through stakeholders collaborating and taking a more holistic approach to water cycle servicing. Investment is continually made in managing the urban water cycle. An integrated water management approach to planning will improve value by using

this investment to deliver multiple benefits. There will be increased effort at the planning stage to identify and explore opportunities to achieve this, with the benefits expected to significantly outweigh these additional upfront costs.

### Business case

Population growth and climate change will present challenges to maintaining and improving the liveability of Victoria's cities and towns, for which water management is an important enabler. The traditional siloed approach to planning is a barrier to realising multiple benefits through multi-functional assets and collaboration.

### Key drivers

The broader benefits from a Water Plan that encompasses more than just water supply security and sewerage provision are:

The recognition that outcomes such as liveability, health and resilience are the responsibility of more than one agency, and that water is a critical enabler

Better outcomes for the community through engagement to understand and deliver what the community values

Optimised value from investment, resulting from collaboration in the development of servicing solutions and leveraging the skills and assets from different agencies

### Benefit/outcome

*Water for Victoria* seeks to optimise community benefit through stakeholders collaborating and taking a more holistic approach to water cycle servicing.

Investment is continually made in managing the urban water cycle. An integrated water management approach to planning will improve value by using this investment to deliver multiple benefits. There will be increased effort at the planning stage to identify and explore opportunities to achieve this, with the benefits expected to significantly outweigh these additional upfront costs.

DELWP have developed a framework for developing integrated water management plans to support this outcome.