

Executive Officer,
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002



Moonee Valley City Council – Submission Inquiry into Melbourne’s Future Water Supply

Using resources wisely was identified as an important concern by the citizens of Moonee Valley during consultation for our Council Plan (2006-2010) and in consultation undertaken during the development of Moonee Valley 2020 the community’s vision for Moonee Valley’s future.

In 2007 Moonee Valley City Council adopted a comprehensive Environmental Sustainability Plan which identified three key environmental challenges facing Council and Community including; 1. Protecting Our Natural Assets, 2. Using Resources Wisely; and 3. Minimising Everyday Environmental Impacts.

Our Sustainable Water Use Plan 2007 was developed to address Moonee Valley City Council’s consumption of potable water now and into the future. Moonee Valley is particularly vulnerable, situated in a low rainfall region of the greater Melbourne area. The Plan has a range of actions to reduce water use by Council and our community.

Moonee Valley City Council can influence sustainable water use through a range of actions including upgrading facilities to be more water efficient, investing in innovative community water recycling projects, incorporating Water Sensitive Urban Design into capital works and using planning frameworks that require improved water efficiency in new developments.

All levels of government will need to work together to achieve a secure water supply. Our Sustainable Water Use Plan and Stormwater Management Plan recommend that the State Government:

- Prepare a State Water Strategy with particular emphasis on water saving equity for all users including residents, businesses and councils.
- Invest in community scale alternative water source and water recycling projects. In particular Moonee Valley is seeking support for the development of a significant stormwater reuse project at Afton Street Conservation Park which would allow replacement of 20 megalitres of water at 5 sporting ovals each year.

- Review the impact of water restrictions on local communities and sport, including social and economic costs.
- Change the Victorian Planning Provisions and/or building codes to include conditions that require applicants to install efficient watering systems or purpose built grey water tanks to water gardens.
- Oppose logging in Melbourne Water catchments on the basis that logging dramatically effects water yield in catchment areas and is detrimental to its quality.
- Incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design treatments in Department of Human Services housing estate master plans within Moonee Valley.

The State Government also has a role to play in requiring water authorities to continue providing ongoing education to residents about water efficiency. This is a valuable community service which encourages positive behaviours in relation to water use.

Thank you for accepting this submission. We look forward to reviewing any resulting report and would appreciate the opportunity to be heard on this matter. For any queries regarding these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me on telephone 03 9243 8847.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Higgins', written in a cursive style.

Nigel Higgins
Executive Manager Environment and Lifestyle
Moonee Valley City Council