



Minister for Housing

SUBMISSION No.

94

50 Lonsdale Street
GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
DX210081
www.dhs.vic.gov.au
Telephone: (03) 9096 7722
Facsimile: (03) 9096 9225



e 1295873

The Hon John Pandazopoulos MP
Chair Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Mr Pandazopoulos

Thank you for your letter dated 17 July 2008 requesting a submission relation to the Inquiry into Melbourne Future Water Supply.

The Housing and Community Building division of DHS is responsible for public and social housing in Victoria. H&CB's activities are relevant to points 1-3 of the terms of reference: conservation and efficiency; collection of storm water; and reuse of treated waste water. Points 4-6 of the terms of reference do not currently relate to H & CB activities: ground water use; small scale desalination plants; and identification of other water sources.

Consistent with Government policy H&CB undertakes a range of initiatives and projects in order to reduce water consumption in public and social housing properties in Victoria:

- *Public Housing Water Savings Project* - A water saving program to install more than 38,000 water saving showerheads and 9,200 dual flush cisterns to the balance of public housing over the next four years, saving over 2,800 mega-litres and 56,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year. The project is due to be finished at the end of 2010.
- Development of the *Atherton Gardens Water Conservation and Water Recycling Project* in partnership with the Victorian Water Trust featuring rainwater collection and re-use systems, grey water reuse, washing machine replacement in communal laundries of the 90 Brunswick St tower, and water sensitive urban design elements within landscaped areas on the estate.
- Completion and operation of the *Richmond Rainwater Car Wash Project* in which saves over 900 kilolitres of potable water each year and irrigates over 2000 square metres of gardens, which provides ongoing community education and small business learning opportunities.
- Establishment and operation of a rainwater collection and garden irrigation pilot at the *King St, Prahran High Rise Estate*, which features an extensive underground irrigation system.

- Replacement with energy and water efficient washing machines to high-rise communal laundries through the process of natural attrition.
- Compliance with water retailers Drought Response Plans during times of water restrictions.
- Landscape works undertaken in building contracts which consider the use of appropriate drought tolerant turf and plants, preparation of ground, including the use of wetting agents and water storing granules; water tubes for trees; and alternatives to turf provision during Stage 4 water restrictions.

Areas of potential future interest for public and social housing in the Inquiry into *Melbourne's Future Water Supply* are rain and storm water collection and re-use, and grey water recycling. While H&CB is active in seeking partnership grants to fund pilot and targeted programs and initiatives to improve the environmental efficiency of public housing stock, including energy and water use, there is ongoing concern to ensure that low income renters can participate in water saving measures and activities.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Mr Ken de Vries, Manager Asset Policy, Housing and Community Building on 9096 2911.

Yours sincerely



RICHARD WYNNE MP
Minister for Housing

11/19/2008