

Ref: CO465/B.15/U.7

24 September 2008

The Hon John Pandazopolous MP  
Chairman  
Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Parliament of Victoria  
Spring St  
East Melbourne Victoria 3002



Dear Mr Pandazopolous,

**Re: Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 16 July 2008 seeking a submission to your Inquiry into Melbourne's Future Water Supply. I apologise for the delay in responding.

As you are aware, the Western Coastal Board (the Board) was established under the Coastal Management Act 1995 to, among other things:

- *facilitate implementation of the Victorian Coastal Strategy 2002 ("VCS"), municipal and regional Coastal Action Plans and approved coastal guidelines, and .....*
- *to liaise with and encourage the cooperation of Councils and others involved in the planning and management of the region in developing and implementing strategic solutions to matters affecting the conservation and use of the region's coasts.*

The Western Coastal Region extends from the South Australian border to Breamlea, and includes the municipalities from Glenelg Shire eastward to the Surf Coast Shire. Our interest in the water supply for Melbourne is related to the degree to which regional supplies are intended to augment metropolitan supplies, and to the potential environmental, social and economic effects of any augmentation.

The Board recognises the primacy of the issue of water supply for Melbourne and for regions, and is acutely aware of the challenges posed to traditional approaches to the provision of water supply by climate change and projected declines in surface water run off and catchment yield. We are aware that a range of sources are being considered to diversify risk and move toward sustainable extraction levels. In this light, we provided a brief submission to the Central Regional Sustainable Water Strategy and I have attached a copy of that correspondence for your information. We are about to engage with the Western Regional Sustainable Water Strategy, and have been contacted by relevant staff within Government on this issue.

At this stage, we wish to refer you to our submission to the Central Regional Sustainable Water Strategy and emphasise the following points for the consideration of the Inquiry:

- The Victorian Coastal Strategy is the key policy driver for the Board's advocacy and provides the framework for consideration of relevant issues.
- Greater understanding is required of the sustainability of various sources of water and the environmental, social and economic effects of diverting regional water to metropolitan uses.
- The effects of climate change on water supplies and demand, and therefore on the uses able to be sustained requires rigorous investigation
- Sustainability objectives, including regional economic resilience, should not be compromised through diminished regional access to water

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the Inquiry. Please call me on 0418 527 998 or Steve Blackley, Executive Officer, on 5226 4925 to clarify any matters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lynn Murrell', written in dark ink on a light background.

Lynn Murrell OAM  
**Chairman**

cc. Libby Mears, Chairman, Victorian Coastal Council