



Hon Jill Hennessy MP

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Kym Peake
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
50 Lonsdale Street
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Dear Secretary

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS - WATER PROGRAM

I am pleased to provide you with my Statement of Expectations for the Department of Health and Human Services' Water Program. This Statement of Expectations applies for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017, or until otherwise amended.

As Minister for Health, I am committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians. My responsibilities include administering the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* – designed to ensure the provision of safe drinking water for the Victorian community, and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* – designed to protect and promote the health and wellbeing of all Victorians. Effective, efficient and proportionate regulation can be an important tool to achieve the objectives of these Acts.

Improving the Administration of Regulation

This Statement of Expectations sets out my expectations in relation to the Water Program's contribution to the Victorian Government's Regulation Reform Program.

As Minister for Health, I expect the Water Program to consult with key stakeholders when considering any new policy or designing new regulation, to ensure unnecessary regulatory burden can be minimised, in a manner that is consistent with the objectives of the Acts.

After consulting with the Water Program, I have identified specific opportunities for the Program to improve its regulatory performance. These improvements are enclosed.

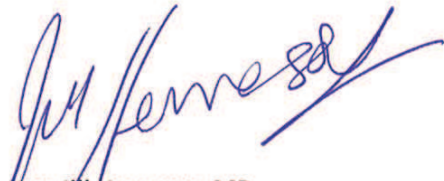
Reporting Requirements for the Ministerial Statement and the Unit's Response

I expect that the attached Statement of Expectations performance improvements, and the Program's proposed response to these, will be incorporated into the Water Program's Business Plan and published on the department's website.

Reporting on your progress to achieve these Statement of Expectations performance targets should be undertaken shortly after the conclusion of the 2016-17 financial year, on the department's website.

I look forward to the Water Program working continuously towards achieving best practice in the administration and enforcement of regulation, including in relation to drinking water.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jill Hennessy', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
23/6/2016

Encl. Ministerial Statement of Expectations - Improvements for the Water Program

Ministerial Statement of Expectations - Improvements for the Water Program

This Statement of Expectations for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 sets out my expectations in relation to the Water Program's contribution to the Government's Regulation Reform Program. I have identified opportunities for the Program to improve its regulatory performance. These improvements include:

- Improving communication with water agencies and compliance with the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* ('the Act') by providing compliance reports to water agencies. The Water Program will provide periodic reports to water agencies containing information and analysis about breaches in relation to the Act, primarily relating to water quality. One of the aims of the reports will be to improve industry compliance with the Act.
- Improving risk management practices and transparency by developing and implementing a risk-based compliance strategy in relation to safe drinking water. The strategy will articulate the Program's approach to enforcing the safe drinking water regulations, and will clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Water Program and water agencies. The strategy will be published on the Water Program's website.
- Reducing regulatory burden on water agencies and public swimming pools and spas, many of whom are small businesses. This will be achieved through ensuring that the Water Program's guidance in relation to complying with regulations is readily available and easily accessible, as a web based resource.

In developing actions to achieve these performance improvements, the Water Program is expected to consult with stakeholders and the broader community as appropriate.