Water Industry Act 1994

STATEMENT OF OBLIGATIONS (GENERAL) 2026

I, Michaela Settle, Minister for Water, as Minister administering Part 1A of the **Water Industry Act 1994** and as Minister administering Part 10 of the *Water Act 1989* pursuant to Section 4I(2) of the **Water Industry Act 1994**, make and issue the attached Statement of Obligations to the following water corporations:

- Barwon Region Water Corporation;
- Central Gippsland Region Water Corporation;
- Central Highlands Region Water Corporation;
- Coliban Region Water Corporation;
- East Gippsland Region Water Corporation;
- Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Corporation;
- Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation;
- Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation;
- Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation;
- Greater Western Water Corporation;
- Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Corporation;
- Melbourne Water Corporation;
- North East Region Water Corporation;
- South East Water Corporation;
- South Gippsland Region Water Corporation;
- Wannon Region Water Corporation;
- Westernport Region Water Corporation; and
- Yarra Valley Water Corporation.

Hon Michaela Settle MP

Minister for Water

Dated: 20/09/2026

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PART 1 PRELIMINARY

1-1 Authorising Provision

.1	This Statement is issued by the Minister administering Part 1A of the *Water Industry Act 1994* (the Act) under section 4I of the Act.
.2	Effective from the date on which this Statement commences, the Minister revokes the Statement of Obligations (General) made by the Minister and dated 20 December 2015.

1-2 Citation

.1	This Statement is called the Statement of Obligations (General) 2026.

1-3 Commencement and Term

.1	This Statement commences on the date it is made by the Minister and remains in effect until it is revoked.

1-4 Purpose

.1	The purpose of this Statement is to revoke the Statement of Obligations (General) made by the Minister and dated on 20 December 2015 and to restate the general obligations of a Corporation in relation to performing its functions and exercising its powers.

1-5 Interpretation

.1	(a) The terms defined in Schedule A to this Statement apply in this Statement. (b) Unless defined in this Statement, terms defined in the *Water Act 1989* and the Act have the same meaning in this Statement.
.2	When this Statement provides at the end of a clause the words in column 1, that clause is an obligation that applies to the entities listed directly opposite in column 2, but only in relation to the powers and functions of those entities specified (if any) in column 2.

Column 1	**Column 2**
applicable all	All Corporations
rural only	The entities included in the definition of "rural", but only in relation to their powers and functions to supply water by agreement or under Part 11 of the *Water Act 1989.*
Melbourne Water only	Melbourne Water in relation to all of its statutory powers and functions.
urban only	The entities included in the definition of "urban", but only in relation to their powers and functions to supply water by agreement and under Part 8 or under Part 9 (as may be applicable) of the *Water Act 1989*.
applicable all except rural and Melbourne Water	All Corporations except – • Melbourne Water; and • the entities included in the definition of "rural", but only in

		relation to their powers and functions under Part 11 of the *Water Act 1989*.
	Rural and water corporations that provide water for domestic and stock purposes	All Corporations with powers and functions to: • supply or deliver water by agreement, under Part 8 or 11 of the *Water Act 1989*; or • provide water for domestic and stock purposes.

.3 The following rules also apply in interpreting this Statement, except where the content makes it clear that a rule is not intended to apply.

(a) Whenever this Statement requires the Corporation to make something "available to the public", the Corporation must:

(i) publish that thing on the Corporation's website; and

(ii) make a copy of the thing available for inspection at the Corporation's registered office; and

(iii) provide a copy on request at no charge or, where providing the copy involves a significant cost to the Corporation, for a charge that covers the fair and reasonable costs of making the copy available.

(b) Whenever this Statement requires a Corporation to "develop" something, the Corporation must be taken to have complied with that obligation if it has already developed the thing before this Statement commenced.

(applicable all)

1-6 Availability of Statement

.1 The Corporation must make this Statement available to the public.

(applicable all)

1-7 Guiding Principles

.1 The Corporation must assist in the task of transitioning Victoria to a resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.

The Corporation must:

a) manage water resources in a sustainable manner that enhances environmental outcomes and amenity in urban and rural landscapes;

b) respond to the challenges of climate change by reducing emissions[1] and planning and implementing actions that support systems resilience to climate related physical and transitional risks;

c) adopt a readiness approach for urban water planning and delivering water supply services;

d) effectively integrate economic, environmental, social and Traditional Owner group objectives into its business operations;

e) support sustainable, resilient and liveable communities;

f) manage risks to protect public safety, minimise disruptions to provided essential

[1] Refer to Statement of Obligations (Emission Reduction).

	services and protect the security of water supply; g) operate as efficiently as possible, consistent with sound commercial practice; h) manage its business operations to maintain the long-term financial viability of the Corporation; i) undertake continuous review, innovation and improvement; and j) collaborate with other Corporations, public authorities, government agencies and Traditional Owner groups to plan for and take account of needs in a geographic area. (applicable all)
.2	The Corporation must act consistently with any approved Sustainable Water Strategy and contribute towards the outcomes and objectives of the current Water Cycle Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan. The Corporation must also have regard to the principles of the *Climate Action Act 2017* : informed decision making; integrated decision making; risk management; complementarity; equity and community engagement. (applicable all)
.3	The Corporation must work with Traditional Owner groups to increase their participation and decision-making in water planning and management and other activities within the water corporation's remit in a way that supports self-determination. (applicable all)

PART 2 FORMAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS WITH TRADITIONAL OWNER GROUPS

2-1 Formal Partnership Agreements with Traditional Owner Groups

.1	The Corporation must, if and when Traditional Owner groups determine to, negotiate formal partnership agreements with Traditional Owner groups on whose Country the Corporation operates to increase resourcing for equitable and self-determined participation of Traditional Owner groups in making and implementing decisions about water landscape management on their Country and other activities within the water corporation's remit. Formal partnership agreements with Traditional Owner groups are to be aligned with written guidelines on partnership principles issued by the Department and must specify resourcing the Corporation will provide to Traditional Owner groups. (applicable all)

PART 3 THE PRICE SUBMISSION

3-1 Preparation and Delivery of a Price Submission

.1	The Corporation must develop a Price Submission that complies with the requirements of this Statement for the purpose of enabling the Commission to make a decision with respect to prices for Prescribed Goods and Services in respect of the Regulatory Period. (applicable all)
.2	The Corporation must deliver the Price Submission to the Commission by the date set by the Chair of the Commission. (applicable all)

.3	The Corporation must ensure that the contents of the Price Submission are consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Commission. (applicable all)

3-2 Procedural Requirements

.1	In developing the Price Submission, the Corporation must consult with the Minister, Department and relevant Regulatory Agencies at all stages of the development of its Price Submission. The Corporation must also respond to any written requests relating to the Price Submission from the Minister, Department and relevant Regulatory Agencies. (applicable all)
.2	The Corporation must submit a draft of its Price Submission, and such additional information as required, to the Minister, Department and each Regulatory Agency no less than three months prior to lodging its final Price Submission to the Commission, or such later date as specified by the Minister. (applicable all)
.3	The Corporation must make any amendment to the Price Submission requested by the Minister in writing at least one month before the date set under 3-1.2 (applicable all)
.4	In developing the Price Submission, the Corporation must have regard to any comments relating to a Regulatory Obligation that are provided in writing by a Regulatory Agency at least one month before the date set under 3-1.2. (applicable all)

PART 4 GOVERNANCE AND SOURCING

4-1 Board Role

.1	The Board of the Corporation is accountable to the Minister for ensuring the good governance of the Corporation. In addition to its responsibilities under section 95(4) of the Water Act 1989, the Board is responsible for: a) overseeing the achievement of the strategic plan; and b) setting the organisational culture for the Corporation. (applicable all)

4-2 Board Performance

.1	Consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Department, the Corporation must annually review and report to the Minister on the performance of the Board of the Corporation. (applicable all)

4-3 Operations and Maintenance Sourcing

.1	The Corporation must review operations and maintenance sourcing decisions consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Department. (applicable all)

4-4 Deed of Indemnity

.1	The Corporation shall review the Board of Directors' Deed of Indemnity (if such a deed has been issued by the entity) to ensure it remains effective, at least every four years and following any review of the entity's relevant insurance policies. Any Deed of Indemnity will only apply to acts or omissions of a Director where the Director was acting in good faith, in the public interest, and in accordance with public sector values, and the Deed of Indemnity must contain specific wording to this effect. (applicable all)

PART 5 CUSTOMER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

5-1 Community Engagement and Communications

.1	The Corporation must make available to the public: (a) terms of reference for the role of any customer committees; and (b) open and transparent processes to engage customers and the community in its planning processes to ensure that the services it provides reflect the needs and expectations of customers and the community. This includes having regard to any written guidelines issued by the Minister or the Department for that purpose. (applicable all)
.2	The Corporation must develop programs or initiatives, consistent with written guidelines issued by the Minister or the Department in consultation with the sector, to build community and customer understanding of water management challenges and potential supply options so they can meaningfully engage in planning for long-term urban water security. (applicable urban and Melbourne Water only)

5-2 Annual Water Outlook

.1	The Corporation must make available to its customers and the Department an Annual Water Outlook by 1 December of each year, or such later date as specified by the Minister, providing information on: (a) the current water resource position, considering all water sources that the Corporation has access to, even those outside their service area, to ensure a comprehensive and accurate assessment of water supply security; (b) a forward outlook for water resources over the coming year under a range of plausible climatic scenarios, which must be consistent with the drought response triggers outlined in the Corporation's Drought Preparedness Plan unless otherwise agreed with the Department; (applicable all) (c) whether agreed levels of service will be able to be met under these climatic scenarios;

	(d) if not, what actions will be undertaken to improve system performance so that these agreed levels of service can be met; and (applicable urban and Melbourne Water only) (e) any other matters specified by the Secretary (applicable all)

5-3 Information for Schools

.1	The Corporation must make available to schools in the area educational material about sustainable water resource management including information on: (a) water supply; (b) sewage, recycled water, desalination and stormwater; (c) water conservation and the efficient and responsible use of water; and (d) whole of water cycle management. (applicable urban only)
.2	The Corporation must make available to schools in the area educational material about sustainable water resource management including information on: (a) bulk sewage; (b) headworks; (c) waterway management, flood management and drainage; and (d) all sources of water, including recycled water, desalination and stormwater. (applicable Melbourne Water only)

PART 6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6-1 Managing Risks

.1	The Corporation must develop and implement plans, systems and processes, having regard to ISO 31000 Risk Management to ensure that risks associated with functions performed and services provided by the Corporation are identified, assessed, prioritised and managed. The Corporation must also report annually to the Secretary by 30 June on risks reported to their Board that have informed its mandatory annual risk management attestation under the Victorian Government Risk Management Framework. (applicable all)
.2	The Corporation must develop and implement plans, systems and processes, having regard to the standards and frameworks included in the Victorian Protective Data Security Framework and the State Emergency Management Plan Cyber Security Sub-Plan to ensure that risks associated with protective data and cyber security respectively are identified, assessed, prioritised and managed. The Corporation must also report information regarding protective data and cyber security to the Secretary as required. (applicable all)

6-2 Managing Incidents and Emergencies

.1	The Corporation must develop an emergency management plan for incidents and emergencies covering all hazards and measures, including: (a) water and wastewater service disruptions; (b) dam safety incidents; (c) water quality incidents; (d) incidents resulting in waste discharges to the environment; (e) cyber security incidents; (f) data breaches, which is where information is subject to misuse, loss or to unauthorised access, modification or disclosure; (g) physical security incidents; and (h) (for Melbourne Water only) flooding in Melbourne Water's waterway management district or of water which flows into or out of works operated by Melbourne Water. The emergency management plan must contain an assessment of the emergency risks as well as measures to manage them and have regard to the Australian Inter-Service Incident Management System, the State Emergency Management Plan and related written guidelines issued by the Department. A current copy of the emergency plan must be provided to the Secretary on 30 September each year (subject to paragraph (h)). (applicable all)
.2	In addition to the obligation at 8-2.4, the Corporation must make available to the public its policy on: (a) pre-release of water from gated dams; and (b) surcharge of water level in gated dams. (applicable all)
.3	The Corporation must undertake such appropriate training and annual exercises as may be necessary to ensure that its emergency management plan and business continuity plan are tested and can be implemented effectively. (applicable all)

6-3 Dam Safety

.1	The Corporation must develop and implement processes to identify, assess, manage and prioritise improvements to, and periodically review the safety of, dams, including flood retarding basins and wastewater storages, operated by the Corporation. (applicable all)
.2	In developing processes under sub-clause 6-3.1, the Corporation must have regard to the Department's Strategic Framework for Dam Safety Regulation and the ANCOLD Guidelines and have particular regard to: (a) the risk management approach "So Far As Is Reasonably Practicable"; and (b) basing the urgency of reducing the risk posed by a dam on the relativity of risks to the tolerability limits as defined in the ANCOLD Guidelines. (applicable all)

.3	The Corporation must develop and implement a dam safety monitoring and surveillance program for each dam operated by the Corporation, having regard to the ANCOLD Guidelines. (applicable all)
.4	The Corporation must develop, implement and maintain operations and maintenance manuals for dams operated by the Corporation having regard to the ANCOLD Guidelines. (applicable all)
.5	The Corporation must prepare and give to the Secretary by 30 September each year a report that contains: (a) a prioritised list of proposed dam safety works identified under sub-clause 6-3.1 and the dates by which the Corporation proposes to complete each of those works; (b) a summary of the risk profile of: (i) dams operated by the Corporation as at 30 June of that year; and (ii) each dam on which the Corporation proposes to undertake safety works, after those works are complete; and (c) summary of the overall risk reduction profile of the Corporation's dams. (applicable all)
.6	If for any reason the Corporation is unable to undertake any proposed dam safety works identified under sub-clause 6-3.1 within the time advised, the Corporation should inform the Secretary why it is unable to undertake these works and provide any other information requested by the Secretary through the annual reporting process submitted by 30 September each year. (applicable all)

6-4 Blue Green Algal Blooms

.1	The Corporation must report any blue green algal bloom that may potentially be harmful to human health or otherwise be impacting negatively on communities, local economies or the environment as stipulated under the State Emergency Management Plan and the Department's Blue Green Algal Bloom Response Plan to: (a) the Department of Health; (b) the Department through the Water Intelligence Platform; and (c) the relevant Regional Coordinator. (applicable all)
.2	If the Corporation is nominated as a Regional Coordinator, the Corporation must: (a) develop and maintain on an annual basis a contingency plan for regional blue green algal blooms; and (b) undertake its duties as a Regional Coordinator consistent with that contingency plan and any written guidelines issued by the Department. (applicable all)

PART 7 PLANNING

7-1 Adaptive Planning and Returning Water

.1	The Corporation must demonstrate that they have adopted an adaptive planning and readiness approach for future urban water security, consistent with the Urban Water Strategy Guidelines. This approach must include the consideration of lead-times for both supply and demand-side options, how readiness can reduce these, and how this readiness enables the Corporation to be more adaptive to changing circumstances. (applicable all, except rural)
.2	Where applicable, the Corporation must consider options and collaborate on plans for cross-water corporation boundary augmentations of water supply and wastewater services that meet future community demands in the most efficient and effective way. (applicable all, except rural)
.3	The Corporation must identify and assess opportunities to return river water bulk entitlement volume where it can be done without impacting the Corporation's, or a connected water corporation, urban water security to enable the return of water to Traditional Owners and the environment. This should be done, in accordance with any relevant Sustainable Water Strategy and the Urban Water Strategy Guidelines. (applicable all, except rural)
.4	Water corporations must demonstrate how they have considered the written guidelines for the Adaptive Management of Wastewater Systems under Climate Change in Victoria in their wastewater system planning processes. (applicable all, except rural)

7-2 Integrated Water Management

.1	The Corporation must: (a) collaborate in any relevant integrated water management forums; (b) demonstrate commitment to implementing the outcomes and actions endorsed by those forums within timeframes that align with the strategic opportunities; (c) adopt an integrated water management approach and lead the development of integrated water management plans at relevant scales to support implementation of those endorsed outcomes and actions. (applicable all)

7-3 Modelling for Climate Change and Supply Forecasting

.1	The Corporation must have regard to any written guidelines for forecasting the impact of climate change on water availability as issued by the Department, setting out: (a) future climate scenarios; and (b) projections for long term rainfall, runoff and inflows. (applicable all)

[2] relevant scales as defined in the *Integrated Water Management Planning Guidelines*

7-4 Urban Water Strategy

.1	The Corporation must implement its Urban Water Strategy (or equivalent) for its water supply districts and, as directed by the Minister or Secretary, must at least once in every five years or as directed by the Minister, review and amend/develop a new Urban Water Strategy (or equivalent), consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Department. The strategy must include: (a) proposed levels of service; (b) measures to deliver sub-regional planning outcomes, and integrate water cycle management with relevant planning schemes; (c) options to facilitate efficient investments in projects across the urban water cycle that build resilience to climate impacts and optimise shared benefits and avoidable costs; (d) measures to adapt to climate change; (e) measures to maintain a balance between the customer's demand for water and the supply of water in cities and towns, including water efficiency and integrated water management options; (f) options for the management of extreme event supply contingencies; and (g) supply augmentation options that are planned to be ready to implement when needed, with triggers for detailed investigations, decisions, and implementation of major augmentations. The strategy should consider all aspects of the urban water cycle across an appropriate planning horizon, ways to reduce reliance on surface water bulk entitlements, and be consistent with any relevant Sustainable Water Strategy. The Corporation is required to consider all sources of water in its water supply security planning, including purified recycled water, stormwater, recycled water, and desalinated water to ensure a comprehensive and resilient approach over the near and long-term. (applicable all, except rural and Melbourne Water)
.2	In developing an Urban Water Strategy (or equivalent), the Corporation must consult with the community and key stakeholders and participate in the development of relevant local and regional plans. (applicable all, except rural and Melbourne Water)

7-5 Melbourne Water System Strategy

.1	The Corporation must work with all entitlement holders in the Melbourne water supply system to implement the Greater Melbourne Urban Water and System Strategy: Water for Life and, as directed by the Minister or Secretary, review and develop, consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Department, a new Melbourne Water System Strategy that establishes an integrated system view of available consumptive water in the Melbourne water supply system, having regard to relevant urban water strategies and the strategies of other entitlement holders. The strategy must detail the: (a) core system security of Melbourne's water supply system; (b) integration of supply and demand options and projects from entitlement holders into major investments in Melbourne's water supply system; (c) options that facilitate efficient investments in projects across the urban water cycle that optimise shared benefits and avoidable costs; (d) measures to adapt to climate change;

	(e) options for the management of extreme event supply contingencies; and (f) options and trigger points for major investments in Melbourne's water supply system. The strategy should consider all aspects of the urban water cycle across an appropriate planning horizon, ways to reduce reliance on surface water bulk entitlements, and be consistent with any relevant Sustainable Water Strategy. The Corporation is required to consider all sources of water in its water supply security planning, including purified recycled water, stormwater, recycled water, and desalinated water to ensure a comprehensive and resilient approach over the near and long-term. (applicable Melbourne Water only)
.2	In developing the Melbourne Urban Water System Strategy, the Corporation must engage and consult with all entitlement holders connected to its infrastructure and as requested participate in the development of relevant urban water strategies. (applicable Melbourne Water only)

7-6 Waterways and Drainage Investment Plan

.1	The Corporation must implement its Waterways and Drainage Investment Plan and, at least once in every five years or as directed by the Minister, review and amend, consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Minister, the Waterways and Drainage Investment Plan. The Plan must set out the responsibilities, goals, levels of service and programs of work for waterway management, flood management and drainage taking into consideration: (a) the efficient and effective delivery of services where: (i) benefits to the community exceed the costs; (ii) investment levels are prudent; (iii) opportunities for stormwater capture and fit-for-purpose re-use are facilitated; (iv) the principles of integrated water management are taken into account; (v) systematic and transparent processes are used to determine priorities; (vi) scenario planning is adaptive, having regard to risk and uncertainty; and (vii) progress in implementing the Waterways and Drainage Strategy is monitored and reported to the public and the Minister using key performance indicators; (b) any relevant Urban Water Strategy; (c) any relevant Victorian Waterway Management Strategy, Regional Catchment Management Strategy or catchment sub-strategy; (d) the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy; (e) any relevant programs to protect Matters of National Environmental Significance listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth); and (f) any other matter which the Corporation considers necessary or desirable. (applicable Melbourne Water only)
.2	The Corporation must promptly provide a copy of any proposed amendments to the Waterways and Drainage Investment Plan to the Minister for comment prior to any amendments being made to the Waterways and Drainage Investment Plan. (applicable Melbourne Water only)

.3	In developing a Waterways and Drainage Investment Plan, the Corporation must consult with the community and key stakeholders. (applicable Melbourne Water only)
.4	Melbourne Water will work with local government to: (a) identify areas of stormwater and urban flooding in Melbourne in the implementation of its Regional Floodplain Management Strategy; (b) Assess and quantify different types (scales and frequencies) of stormwater flooding across Melbourne and refine the process for identifying and prioritising areas subject to stormwater and urban flooding; (c) Evaluate the treatment options; (d) Discuss and seek agreement from beneficiaries for the treatment option that best manages the flood risk and provides other benefits.

7-7 Drought Preparedness Plans for Urban Systems

.1	The Corporation must: (a) develop a Drought Preparedness Plan, which includes both preparedness and response actions. The response actions, or Drought Response Plan, is to govern the management of the supply of water by the Corporation in any period of drought or when the supply of water is limited; (b) not rely on the Minister declaring a water shortage and qualifying rights to water under the *Water Act 1989* as an option for maintaining supplies as part of a Drought Preparedness Plan; (c) comply with any written guidelines issued by the Department for the purpose of drought preparedness planning; and (d) make its Drought Preparedness Plan available to the public, unless the Minister consents in writing to not making available a Plan or part of a Plan. (urban only)
.2	The Corporation must review, and if necessary amend, its Drought Preparedness Plan: (a) at intervals of no more than five years; and (b) within twelve months of either: (i) the lifting of any period of water restriction imposed consistent with the Corporation's Drought Preparedness Plan; or (ii) any major change occurring to works or arrangements for conserving water for, or supplying water to, any water supply system that is relied upon for the supply of water by the Corporation. (urban only)
.3	The Corporations that share water supply systems must cooperate and coordinate with each other when developing, reviewing or implementing their Drought Preparedness Plans. (applicable all)

7-8 Water Allocation and Reserve Rules for Rurals

.1	The Corporation must: (a) make and publish rules for allocating water for the current year and setting aside reserves for subsequent years; (b) provide regular information to customers about current and forecast water allocations under certain scenarios; and (c) develop contingency plans for managing severe water shortages in consultation with the Corporations they supply. (rural water corporations and water corporations that provide water for domestic and stock purposes, except Melbourne Water)
.2	The Corporation must review, and if necessary amend its allocation and reserve rules: (a) at intervals of no more than five years; (b) within twelve months of a final allocation to high reliability entitlements of less than 50%; and (c) consult with customers and the Minister prior to amending allocation and reserve rules (applicable rural corporations and water corporations that provide water for domestic and stock purposes)

7-9 Land and Water Management Plans

.1	The Corporation must, consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Minister or Department, participate in developing and implementing: (a) Irrigation Development Guidelines; and (b) Land and Water Management Plans, that set out the responsibilities for improved irrigation practices, improved drainage practices and improved salinity mitigation practices where these are being prepared by the Catchment Management Authority. (applicable to rural only)

PART 8 WATER SERVICES

8-1 Managing Assets

.1	The Corporation must develop and implement plans, systems and processes to manage its assets, having regard to the ISO 55000 series of standards in ways which: (a) maintain the standards and conditions of service included in a Price Submission and approved by the Commission; and (b) optimise the overall whole of life cost of providing the service. (applicable all)

.2	The Corporation must, in consultation with its customers, develop and implement plans, systems and processes to manage its assets providing irrigation services in ways which: (a) maintain agreed standards of service to customers; (b) deliver water efficiently; (c) adapt to the changing needs of customers; (d) optimise the overall whole of life cost of providing the service; and (e) enhance environmental outcomes and amenity where service standards to irrigation customers are not compromised. (applicable rural only)

8-2 Information Statements

.1	In relation to information statements under section 158 of the *Water Act 1989* each Corporation must: (a) have on its website- i) an easily found instruction that a person can obtain an information statement from the LANDATA website and ii) a link to the LANDATA webpage, in addition to any other method the Corporation chooses to offer for a person to obtain an information statement; and (b) ensure that an information statement for a property advises of the presence and location of any works owned or maintained by a water corporation (not including meters) that are on or under the property for which an information statement has been requested. (applicable all)

8-3 Bulk Supply and Delivery Systems

.1	The Corporation must assess the efficiency of bulk water supply and delivery systems and must develop and implement programs to improve efficiency where benefits exceed costs. (applicable all)
.2	The Corporation must report to the Secretary, as requested by the Secretary, on the efficiency of its bulk water supply and delivery systems. (applicable all)
.3	The Corporation must, where waterways and wetlands are used for the supply or delivery of water, develop and implement plans and programs consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Secretary, to: (a) seek to enhance ecological benefits where service standards to customers are not compromised; (b) work cooperatively with the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and relevant agencies; (c) make available to the public information on its activities to enhance ecological benefit; and (d) work with the Department to implement relevant Murray-Darling Basin Plan obligations.

	(applicable all)
.4	The Corporation in exercising its storage management functions under section 122ZL(1), must consult with relevant floodplain management authorities when having regard to section 122ZL(2) of the *Water Act 1989.* (applicable all)
.5	The Corporation must, when it renews or carries out major works[3] on a dam or existing structure on a waterway, ensure that: (a) it is renewed or constructed so that: (i) native fish may move past the structure; (ii) water releases do not pose an environmental risk through amendments of temperature, dissolved oxygen, sediment, nutrients or other substances; and (iii) adequate off takes are provided for environmental flows; or (b) if it is not practical to comply with paragraph (a), it seeks an exemption from the Secretary consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Secretary. (applicable all)

8-4 Licensing Administration Functions

.1	A Corporation to which the Minister has delegated powers and functions for licence administration under the *Water Act 1989* must exercise those powers and perform those functions in accordance with the terms and conditions of the instrument of delegation and in an effective and efficient manner, consistent with any written guidelines or policies issued by the Minister for that purpose. (applicable all)

8-5 Compliance and Enforcement Functions

.1	To manage and prioritise risks associated with non-compliance under the Water Act 1989, the Corporation must: a) establish and maintain a risk classification and assessment of all regulated activities; b) develop and implement regulatory policies, standards and systems to manage risks; c) allocate appropriate resources to regulatory functions, including appointing regulatory officers where required; and d) develop and maintain communication materials to raise awareness of compliance obligations. (applicable all)
.2	In delivering regulatory functions, the Corporation must: a) adhere to the principles in the Water and Catchments Regulatory Framework and any Ministerial or departmental guidelines; and b) report annually to the Secretary on monitoring, compliance and enforcement activities, commencing from the 2026-27 financial year. (applicable all)

8-6 Metering

.1	Corporations providing non-urban water supplies or delivery services must prepare and implement Metering Action Plans that comply with the Victorian Implementation Plan for the National Metering Standards for Non-Urban Water Meters. (applicable all)

8-7 Sewerage Services to Unsewered Areas

.1	The Corporation must participate with municipal councils in the development of relevant councils' domestic wastewater management plans. (applicable all)
.2	When considering the types of sewerage services to be provided to unsewered urban areas, the Corporation must: (a) consider fit for purpose service options; and (b) have regard to the: (i) costs and benefits to the Corporation's customers and broader community; and (ii) risks to the Corporation. (applicable all, except rural and Melbourne Water)

8-8 Sewerage Services to New and Existing Urban Areas

.1	When considering the types of sewerage services to be provided to new developments, the Corporation must: (a) consider fit for purpose service options; (b) identify the: (i) costs and benefits to the Corporation's customers and community; and (ii) risks to the Corporation; and (c) not agree to service options that unreasonably transfer costs from the developer to the Corporation's customers. (applicable all, except rural and Melbourne Water)

8-9 Sewerage Connections to Properties

.1	In addition to its duties under section 147(6) of the *Water Act 1989*, the Corporation must not require a serviced property to be connected to the Corporation's sewerage works unless the sewerage service has been: (a) included in a sewerage management plan developed by the Corporation in conjunction with the relevant municipal council and in consultation with the local community; or (b) provided in the interests of health or the environment after consultation with and written advice from the Environment Protection Authority, municipal council or the Chief Health Officer within the meaning of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*. (applicable all, except rural and Melbourne Water)

8-10 Trade Waste

.1	The Corporation must develop policies and practices to manage trade waste to: (a) protect its sewerage systems, including treatment works and processes, and the health and safety of the public and of people working in or operating those systems; (b) minimise environmental impacts consistent with any permission given under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*; and (c) facilitate recycling by ensuring that trade waste accepted does not present barriers to recycling or reuse of wastewater or biosolids. (applicable all, except rural)
.2	In developing trade waste management policies and practices, the Corporation should be guided by the principles of environmental protection set out in chapter 2 of the *Environment Protection Act 2017.* (applicable all, except rural)

8-11 Capital Contributions by Property Owners

.1	In this clause, the owner of a property does not include the owner of a property being subdivided, developed or used for commercial purposes. (applicable all, except rural and Melbourne Water)
.2	The Corporation must offer the owner of any property who is required to make a contribution to the present day cost of works for the provision of reticulated sewerage services under section 268(1) of the *Water Act 1989,* the option (amongst other options) of paying that contribution in instalments over 20 years as an annuity calculated by reference to the 20-year market annuity rate, as determined by the Treasury Corporation of Victoria prevailing at the time the contribution is calculated. (applicable all, except rural and Melbourne Water)

8-12 Management of Irrigation Drainage

.1	As far as reasonably practical, design and operate irrigation drainage systems to mitigate risks: (a) to receiving waters caused by salinity and nutrients (b) of harm caused by coming into contact with water in the drains. (applicable to rural with irrigation drainage infrastructure or management obligations only)

PART 9 COMPLIANCE

9-1 Complying with Obligations

.1	The Corporation must monitor compliance with its obligations under Parts 1 to 8 inclusive of this Statement. (applicable all)

.2	If the Corporation becomes aware of a material failure to comply with its obligation under Parts 1 to 8 of this Statement, the Corporation must give the Minister a written report, within 30 days after becoming aware of the failure, that includes: (a) the nature of and reason for the failure; and (b) a proposed plan of action to prevent the failure re-occurring. (applicable all)
.3	The Corporation must make any amendment to the plan of action referred to in sub-clause 9-1.2(b) requested in writing by the Minister. (applicable all)
.4	The Corporation must: (a) implement the plan of action referred to in sub-clause 9-1.2(b), as varied by the Minister; (b) report its progress in implementing the plan, whenever the Minister so requests in writing; and (c) summarise the contents of any report made under sub-clause 9-1.2(b) and its progress in implementing the plan in its annual report. (applicable all)

9-2 Compliance Audits

.1	The Corporation must, when requested by the Commission not more frequently than once every twelve months, arrange for an audit of its compliance with: (a) clause 9-1 of this Statement; and (b) any other obligation under Parts 1 to 8 of this Statement that the Corporation has been requested by the Minister to audit (applicable all)
.2	The Corporation must ensure that any audit under sub-clause 9-2.1 is conducted: (a) by an independent auditor nominated by the Corporation and approved by the Commission; and (b) consistent with any written guidelines issued by the Commission. (applicable all)
.3	The Corporation must ensure that a copy of the auditor's final report is provided to both the Commission and the Minister. (applicable all)
.4	The Minister may, at any time, require the Corporation to report to the Minister in writing on action taken by the Corporation in response to any matter: (a) contained in an auditor's report; and (b) specified by the Minister in writing. (applicable all)

9-3 Other Audits and Reviews

.1	The Corporation must, when requested by the Minister, arrange for an audit or review of any matter specified by the Minister in relation to the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers. (applicable all)

SCHEDULE A DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply:

"Act" means the *Water Industry Act 1994*.

"Adaptive Management of Wastewater Systems under Climate Change in Victoria", means the document issued by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

"ANCOLD Guidelines" means the Guidelines issued by the Australian National Committee on Large Dams Inc.

"Blue Green Algal Bloom Response Plan" means the Plan issued by Emergency Management Victoria.

"Commission" means the Essential Services Commission.

"Corporation", except when used to define other words or terms in this Schedule A, means a regulated entity, which has the same meaning as provided in section 4A of the Act**.**

"Department" means the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

"Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria" means the Framework issued by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 2017 (or as amended).

"ISO 31000 Standards" means the Risk Management Standards issued by International Organisation for Standardisation.

"ISO 55000 Standards" means the Asset Management Standards issued by International Organisation for Standardisation.

"Licence Administration" means the power or function of a Corporation as a delegate of the minister under the *Water Act 1989*:

a) to receive, consider and determine an application under Division 2 of Part 4, Part 4B or Part 5 of the Water Act 1989 to issue, renew, amend, vary or transfer a licence or a water-use registration;

b) to suspend or cancel a licence or water-use registration;

c) to provide services to the holder of a licence or water-use registration;

d) to supervise activities under a licence or water-use registration;

e) to sell a licence; and

f) fix or determine a fee for such an application, provision of service or supervision activity.

"Melbourne Water" means Melbourne Water Corporation.

"Metropolitan" means Greater Western Water Corporation, South East Water Corporation and Yarra Valley Water Corporation.

"Minister" means the minister responsible for administering the Act.

"Prescribed Goods and Services" means the goods and services specified in the Water Industry Regulatory Order as prescribed goods and services in respect of which the Commission has power to regulate prices.

"Price Submission" means the Price Submission required by this Statement to be delivered to the Commission.

"Regional Coordinator" means a Corporation nominated as a Blue Green Algae Regional Coordinator by the Secretary DEECA.

“Regulatory Agency” means the Environment Protection Authority, the Secretary to the Department of Health, and the Commission. For the purposes of clause 3-2.1 to 3-2.4, the Secretary of the Department of Treasury and Finance is a Regulatory Agency only in relation to Melbourne Water, Metropolitan Water Corporations and Barwon Region Water Corporation.

“Regulatory Obligation” means:

i. in relation to the Environment Protection Authority, an obligation imposed by or under the *Environment Protection Act 2017;*
ii. in relation to the Commission, an obligation imposed by or under a Water Industry Standard made under section 4F of the Act;
iii. in relation to the Secretary to the Department of Health, an obligation imposed by or under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*, the *Food Act 1984* or the *Health (Fluoridation) Act 1973*.

“Regulatory Period” means the period determined by the Commission commencing on a date to be set by the Commission.

“Rural” means Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation; Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation (but only in relation to its functions to supply water by agreement and under Part 11 of the *Water Act 1989*); Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Corporation (but only in relation to its functions to supply water by agreement and under Part 11 of the *Water Act 1989*); and Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Corporation.

“Secretary” means the person occupying or acting in the position of Secretary to the Department. This does not include in references to the ‘Secretary to the Department of Health’.

“Self-determination” means Traditional Owners have the right to make choices that best reflect them on their journey to self-determination and self-governance. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples describes self-determination as the ability for Indigenous people to freely determine their political status and pursue their economic,

social and cultural equity, based on their own values and way of life.

"State Emergency Management Plan", means the plan issued by Emergency Management Victoria, 2024 (or as amended).

"Statement" means this Statement of Obligations.

"Strategic Framework for Dam Safety Regulation", means the Framework issued by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 2024, (or as amended).

"Traditional Owners" means Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people who have traditional connections to an identified geographical area of Country. This includes Traditional Owner groups with formal recognition who have rights and obligations gained under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth), *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (Vic); and *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* (Vic) and non-formally recognised Traditional Owner groups.

"Urban" means Metropolitan, Barwon Region Water Corporation, Central Highlands Region Water Corporation, Coliban Region Water Corporation, East Gippsland Region Water Corporation, Central Gippsland Region Water Corporation, Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation, Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation (but only in relation to its powers and functions to supply water by agreement and under Parts 8 and 9 of the *Water Act 1989*), Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Corporation (but only in relation to its powers and functions to supply water by agreement and under Parts 8 and 9 of the *Water Act 1989*), North East Region Water Corporation, South Gippsland Region Water Corporation, Wannon Region Water Corporation and Westernport Region Water Corporation.

"Urban water cycle" means the hydrological cycle within an urban environment, including water supply, wastewater management, waterway health, flood management, and protection of urban amenity. It encompasses the treatment, storage and circulation of water through built infrastructure, such as water supply, drainage and sewerage systems, as well as natural systems.

“Urban Water Strategy Guidelines” means the Guidelines for the development of urban water strategies issued by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 2021 (or as amended).

“Greater Melbourne Urban Water and System Strategy: Water for Life” means the shared plan developed by Greater Western Water, Melbourne Water, South East Water and Yarra Valley Water.

“Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy” means the Strategy issued by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 2016 (or as amended).

“Victorian Government Risk Management Framework” means the Framework issued by the Department of Treasury and Finance, 2020 (or as amended).

“Victorian Implementation Plan for the National Metering Standards for Non-Urban Water Meters” means the Standards issued by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 2025 (or as amended).

“Victorian Protective Data Security Framework V2.1”, means the Framework issued by Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, 2024 (or as amended).

“Water Cycle Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan” means the Plan issued by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, 2022-2026 (or as amended).

“Water Industry Regulatory Order” means the Water Industry Regulatory Order made by the Governor in Council under section 4D of the Act.

“Water Intelligence Platform” means the Platform issued by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.