



Hon Lisa Neville MP

Minister for Police and Emergency Services
Minister for Water

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Ms Sandra Gatehouse
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Ref: MIN071793
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Dear Ms Gatehouse

Sandy

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2020 related to the Barwon Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) Action Plan.

The Victorian Government is committed to developing a Barwon Action Plan to ensure the Barwon catchment can thrive and be enjoyed for many years to come. I understand that your committee was actively involved in the Barwon MAC consultation process and I thank you for your contribution.

I can inform you that the Barwon MAC submitted its report to the Minister for Planning and me in February 2020 and is currently being used by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to inform the development of a Barwon Action Plan. I anticipate both documents being released later this year. In developing the Action Plan, I can assure you that statutory bodies and Traditional Owners are the groups supporting this work with DELWP.

The Barwon Action Plan will cover both aspect of waterway management and river corridor planning for the whole Barwon River catchment, from the Central Highlands, Otway Ranges to Barwon Heads. The recommendations of the Barwon MAC will directly inform the State of Planning Policy (SPP) for the Bellarine Distinctive Area and Landscapes (DAL) which considers a broad range of objectives from landscape, biodiversity, tourism, agriculture, settlement and water.

The draft SPP for the Bellarine DAL has three stages of community consultation. A third stage of public consultation on the draft SPP is anticipated later in the year. This means that the finalisation of the SPP for the Bellarine DAL program is anticipated to occur after the release of the Barwon Action Plan

Despite you reluctance, I think many of your questions about the potential actions in the Barwon Action Plan could be answered by Karen Lau, Executive Director, Catchments, Waterways, Cities and Towns, DELWP on (03) 9412 4401 or via email at karen.lau@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Thank you again for your email.

Yours sincerely


Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Water
6/8/20