



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Suburban Development

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Dr Gillian Sparkes  
Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability  
Level 36  
50 Lonsdale St  
East Melbourne Vic 3002

Ref: MBR035473



Dear Dr Sparkes

## COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY - MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS

I would like to acknowledge the significant progress you and your office have made in reforming Victoria's approach to environmental reporting, enhancing Victoria's understanding of our natural assets and aligning different reporting initiatives.

To continue to build on these achievements and confirm your changing responsibilities, I am pleased to provide you with a Statement of Expectations (SOE). The purpose of this SOE is to confirm priorities for Victoria's environmental reporting practices. The transparency and independence of the work of you and your office is vital to continue best practice environmental reporting in Victoria.

I expect you to apply these priorities and governance arrangements in the performance of your role. The SOE will commence immediately and remain in effect until 30 June 2020, or until otherwise amended.

My foremost expectation is that the organisation's functions will be fulfilled effectively and efficiently on behalf of the Victorian community, in accordance with:

- the *Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Act 2003*;
- the principles and obligations in the *Public Administration Act 2004* and related codes and frameworks issues by the Victorian Public Sector Commission, including the Directors' Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees;
- all other laws and obligations that bind your organisation and form its governance framework including the *Financial Management Act 1994*; and
- my priorities for the organisation, as set out in this SOE.

The priority areas that I expect you and your office to focus on for the duration of the statement are to:

- deliver the State of the Environment Report 2018 by 28 November 2018 in accordance with the State and Benefit Framework;
- develop a new framework as required by the *Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Act 2003* by June 2020 that will support the delivery of the next State of the Environment report due in 2023;

- provide international relevance and national leadership by aligning measurement and reporting work with international frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the System of Environmental-Economic Accounts;
- maintain the transparency and independence of the office, while collaborating with the Victorian Government and other stakeholders to achieve shared ownership of recommendations for improved environmental outcomes. This includes complementing, supporting and aligning with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in its implementation of government policies and strategies;
- develop and implement a consistent set of statewide indicators, so that Victoria's statutory environment reports are aligned in providing fundamental information about Victoria's natural assets, their condition and the benefits they provide;
- continue to improve management effectiveness reporting, including reporting against targets, monitoring implementation of inquiry recommendations and assessing management interventions;
- transition to digital reporting as necessary technologies become available, providing easy access to reliable data in a timely manner to inform decision making. That includes continued advocacy for investment in Victorian Government digital mapping platforms and integrating a wide range of data sets that can be presented spatially;
- continue to develop tailored products for Victorians with diverse information needs; and
- prepare an Annual Report for the Office of the Commissioner that details the activities and financial position in accordance with relevant legislation, policies and guidelines.

I trust that this SOE assists in focusing effort in the coming years and ensuring the continued success of you and your office. In the interests of transparency and accountability, this SOE should be made publicly available on your website.

Upon receipt, I look forward to receiving your acknowledgement of this Statement of Expectations within the next two weeks. If you have any questions please contact Ms Kath Rowley, Executive Director, Climate Change in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on (03) 9637 8288 or email [kath.rowley@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:kath.rowley@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



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7/8/18