



VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT  
SOLICITOR'S OFFICE

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Ms Justine Stansen  
Solicitor to the Board  
Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry  
Level 11  
222 Exhibition Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

*By email*

Dear Ms Stansen

**Board of Inquiry into Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire - Gippsland Regional Sustainability Water Strategy**

We refer to your query regarding the statutory requirement of the Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning (**DELWP**) (formally Department of Sustainability and Environment (**DSE**)) to report on the implementation of the Gippsland Regional Sustainability Water Strategy (**the Gippsland Water Strategy**) in its annual reports to Parliament.

Section 8.1 of the Gippsland Water Strategy states "The Department of Sustainability and Environment has a statutory requirement to report on the implementation of this Strategy in its annual report, which is tabled in Parliament."

This is in accordance with Section 22J of the *Water Act 1989* below:

*Report on Sustainable Water Strategies*

- (1) *A report on any current Sustainable Water Strategies and on any current draft Strategies must be included in each annual report of the Department.*
- (2) *A report under subsection (1) must—*
  - (a) *specify the measures being taken to implement the Strategy; and*
  - (b) *identify the priorities that apply to actions required by the implementation plan.*

DELWP, and its predecessor departments, have reported on the Gippsland Water Strategy in each of the Annual Reports, as tabled in Parliament, since 2012. Given the breadth of issues required to be dealt with by the Annual Reports, the report for the purposes of section 22J is by necessity at a high level.

Action 6.8 of the Gippsland Water Strategy is not referenced specially in these reports.

For your information, below are the page references of the reporting on the Gippsland Water Strategy in each Annual Report.

- Department of Sustainability and Environment Annual Report 2011, page 206.
- Department of Primary Industries Annual Report 2012/13, page 89.
- Department of Primary Industries Annual Report 2013/14, page 68.
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Annual Report, page 95.

Yours sincerely  
Victorian Government Solicitor's Office

*per: [Signature]*

Andrew Suddick  
General Counsel (Litigation)