

Your ref.

Our ref. Project 98745

Contact: Phillip Fasham 03 5434 1217

31 March 2011

Hon. Matthew Guy, MLC  
Minister for Planning  
Level 7, 1 Spring Street  
**MELBOURNE 3000**

Dear Minister

## **EES Referral: Castlemaine Link and Harcourt Modernisation Project**

### **1. Introduction**

Coliban Water seeks your consideration of the referral prepared for the Castlemaine Link and Harcourt Modernisation Project (the Project) pursuant to the provisions of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

Coliban Water seeks to construct a new raw water pipeline in the Harcourt area to modernise the rural supply system. The project also includes a new raw water pipeline between Bendigo and Castlemaine to provide a secure alternative water supply for Castlemaine and surrounds.

The Harcourt Rural Area relies on a network of open earthen channels to service the Harcourt Rural Area and associated horticulture industry (including apples, stone fruit, pears and grapes). This system suffers from significant losses due to seepage and evaporation resulting in inefficiencies that are no longer acceptable. The modernisation of this network is essential for improved water resource management.

### **2. Environment Effects Act 1978**

Coliban Water has prepared a referral under the provisions of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* for your consideration. The referral has been informed by a series of desktop and fieldwork investigations by environmental specialists from SKM and Biosis Research Ltd.

These investigations have been undertaken in accordance with the spirit and intent of the *Environment Effects Act 1978* and identify the necessary measures to manage and

mitigate any risks which have been identified to date and/or may be identified in the future in relation to the Project.

The management and mitigation measures form part of the draft Environmental Management Plan and other supporting documentation prepared for the Project. The framework of these documents is contained in the Project Impact Assessment Report (PIAR).

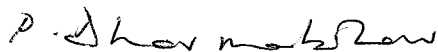
As required, a copy of this referral and the accompanying documents has been provided in hard and electronic copy.

### **3. Conclusion**

We look forward to your consideration of the referral prepared for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

Should you require any further information on the project or wish to meet with the project team, please contact the Project Manager, Phillip Fasham on (03) 5434 1217.

Yours faithfully



**Dharma Dharmabalan**  
**General Manager - Planning & Infrastructure**