

5 February 2014

Mr Andrew Wall  
Director – Network Policy and Standards  
VicRoads  
60 Denmark Street  
KEW VIC 3101

Dear Mr Wall

**Re: Proposed allocation of utility space in road reserves – VicWater submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed allocation of utility space in road reserves. This response represents the views of the Victorian Water Industry Association (VicWater).

VicWater is the peak industry association for water businesses in Victoria and contributes to and influences the development and implementation of Government policies relating to water and wastewater services within Victoria. All 19 Government owned businesses are members of VicWater.

VicWater is aware that some of its members will be making separate submissions to VicRoads on specific issues as they relate to their business. In particular, we note Gippsland Water's response dated 15 January 2014 (a copy of this letter has been enclosed for quick reference). Based on feedback received from our members, we would like to endorse the comments made by Gippsland Water in its response.

The Industry shares the same concerns particularly those relating to the location and space provided for water and sewer services; and the need for the Streetworks Code of Practice (the Code) to consider the future replacement and also renewal of mains. It is also agreed that the Code should be used as a guide, and not be mandated.

In addition, we would like to note the following:

- The Code needs to be developed in conjunction with the Infrastructure Design Manual (<http://www.designmanual.com.au/>) used by councils as listed on the website (refer to Standard detail SD605 located within the manual)
- Allowances should also be made for the additional infrastructure required on pressurised sewer mains and distribution water mains, including air valves, scour valves, wash out assemblies and main swabbing infrastructure
- The Code should outline the requirement for changes of alignment when matching into existing infrastructure
- Provision should also be made for looped water mains located in court bowls

We are also conscious of the Government's objectives under the Living Melbourne and Melbourne's Water Future strategies where integrated water solutions are the focus within particular systems. This may mean the requirements for the location of services in road reserves may be very different to those required in a standard development using current practices. VicWater encourages VicRoads to discuss these future requirements with the Office of Living Victoria as part of this review process.

VicWater would welcome further opportunities to assist VicRoads with its engagement with water corporations on this proposal. Please feel free to contact me directly to discuss on (03) 9639 8868.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Wright', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Tony Wright**  
Chief Executive Officer