



27 March 2002

Our File: 636/001/001

SOUTH GIPPSLAND WATER

Catchment & Water Division
Department of Natural Resources and Environment
PO Box 500
East Melbourne

Dear Project Manager

DRAFT VICTORIAN RIVER HEALTH STRATEGY

As a Rural Urban Water Authority that will be affected by the proposed Victorian River Health Strategy, South Gippsland Water is pleased to be given the opportunity to comment on the draft document.

The draft Victorian River Health Strategy is an informative and thoughtful document and South Gippsland Water compliments DNRE on the content and approach of the strategy. In general, South Gippsland Water supports the objective, policy and scope of the strategy and we will review our management practices to ensure that the roles for Water Authorities and Regional Resource Managers are effectively incorporated. As a member of the Gippsland Regional Water Monitoring Partnership and the Gippsland Research Coordination Group, South Gippsland Water is already actively progressing resource management. These groups, affiliated with NRE and WGCMA, were formed to provide a rationalised, cohesive approach to monitoring and research throughout the Gippsland region. South Gippsland Water also actively supports the monitoring and education efforts of Waterwatch and Landcare and we are pleased to see these worthwhile organisations referred to in the management section of the draft strategy. We do believe however, that because Waterwatch and Landcare are supported primarily by government funding, their roles could be developed in terms of providing assistance to other managers.

South Gippsland Water shares the "Vision for Victoria's Rivers" defined in the draft Victorian River Health Strategy and we will continue to do our part in practising and supporting responsible resource management. We appreciate being invited to contribute to this important initiative.

Yours faithfully

Steve Evans
Chief Executive Officer