



Media Statement



EPA & SOUTH EAST WATER LAUNCH WORLD-LEADING LICENCE

Tuesday 24 November, 2009

EPA Victoria and South East Water will today launch a world-leading corporate licence that will cut red tape, deliver savings to business and help protect the environment.

The new South East Water corporate licence amalgamates eight EPA licences into just one and reduces the amount of licensing documentation from 70 pages to 18.

EPA acting chief executive Terry A'Hearn said the new licence maintains the rigour of the EPA's licensing requirements, while also freeing South East Water to increase its focus on reducing its overall environmental impacts.

"These initiatives include, for example, a commitment to improve the water efficiency of customers through targeted programs; the expansion of water recycling initiatives; and a Greenhouse and Energy Action Plan to monitor, manage and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption," Mr A'Hearn said.

The corporate licensing program will save Victorian businesses almost \$3 million annually through administrative savings and is expected to save around \$12 million through compliance savings. The initiative is expected to reduce the total number of EPA licences by 30 per cent.

Through changes to the *Environment Protection Act (1970)*, companies holding two or more EPA licences can now voluntarily amalgamate these into a single corporate licence.

"EPA is addressing current environmental issues through smarter initiatives and contemporary licensing," Mr A'Hearn said.

"This licence will allow flexibility and encourage a whole-of-business approach to managing and improving environmental and economic performance."

South East Water Managing Director, Shaun Cox said the corporate licence means less red tape for the water retailer.

"By reducing eight South East Water licences into one document, we can better focus on delivering the best environmental outcomes. We have a close working relationship with the EPA and this new Corporate Licence further strengthens this relationship, allowing us to continue our work together in the interests of our customers and the environment," said Mr Cox.

Terry A'Hearn said EPA will continue to use its regulatory powers where required and appropriate, however it was now better equipped to support business innovation.

"Corporate licensing is about transforming the environment from a business cost into a business opportunity," he said.

Media enquiries:

Nicky Webster, EPA Victoria – 9695 2703 / 0401 140 862

Jason Berek-Lewis, South East Water – 9552 3111/ 0400 611 276

