

16 November 2022

Essential Services Commission
Engage Victoria Consultation Program
Victorian Government

To whom it may concern,

Re: Central Highlands Water price review 2023

██████████ owns a parcel of land in the North Western Growth Area on the south side of Remembrance Drive adjacent to the Skipton Rail Trail. ██████████ wishes to see the Northern Western Growth Area and its site developed in the short term.

██████████ is aware of the residential land supply shortage across Ballarat and the potential economic and employment upside offered by the upcoming Commonwealth Games. This land supply shortage needs to be resolved now and the Minister for Planning is currently undertaking a high-level strategic review regarding the timing and delivery for greenfield land in Ballarat.

██████████ understands the main issue to be resolved for the delivery of the North Western Growth Area is the provision of an adequate potable water supply. We understand this would be delivered by a new water main extending from the White Swan Reservoir to the North West Growth Area and beyond. It would be unfortunate if this ministerial review determined the North West Growth Area is needed in the short term and the 2023-2028 Central Highlands Water plan did not allow for an adequate potable water supply to service the North Western Growth Area.

We understand there is no new northern water main currently designated in the Central Highlands Water plan. See page 81 of 119 of the Central Highlands Water Price Submission 2023-28 document (dated 30 September 2022) for the details of the northern water facilitation plan only – the plan needs to be extended and clarified to include water supply to the North West Growth Area.

Central Highlands Water has only allowed for \$13M for an unspecified "Ballarat Water Growth Project" only (for pipelines/network). This is of concern and not clear as to what this will deliver, etc.

Central Highlands Water in its 2023-2028 water plan should allow for new water main infrastructure to service particularly the North West Growth Area and also Western Growth Area.

We also understand that such a water main would have a number of water supply pressure benefits for a number of existing residential areas of Ballarat. In other words, this is not just a land supply issue, but also an issue of assisting a large percentage of the existing Ballarat population.

It is interesting to note the Capital Expenditure Comparison of Central Highlands Water to other Water Authorities:

Central Highlands Water – \$150.8Million; Population Served 140,000
Gippsland Water – \$268Million; Population Served 147,000
Coliban Water – \$435Million; Population Served 160,000
Barwon Water – \$356.4Million; Population Served 300,000
Wannon Water – \$157.2Million; Population Served 100,400



