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## **29 November 2010: Supreme Court hearing over Desal MOU**

Watershed Victoria is challenging the legality of the desalination plant Memorandum of Understanding between Victoria Police, DSE and AquaSure Pty Ltd in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Late last year it was revealed that this MoU allowed for the transfer of private information on protesters collected by the government bodies to the private consortium building the plant, AquaSure.

At a hearing on 4 November 2010 Watershed successfully persuaded the Court that there is a prima facie case for relief.

“My clients’ grounds for review include the Victorian Human Rights Charter and the legal and regulatory framework for the protection of private law enforcement data not being taken in to account in the decision to enter the MoU” said Elizabeth McKinnon, solicitor at the Environment Defenders Office. “We will also argue that the Assistant Commissioner of Police exceeded his powers and acted against public policy in placing the interests of a private consortium ahead of the rights of the public.”

Today at 10.30 in Court 4 at the Supreme Court there will be a preliminary hearing in this matter where the legal representatives for Victoria Police and the Secretary of the Department of Sustainability and Environment will have to show cause why the MoU should not be reviewed by the Court.

This will be the first time all of the parties to the matter have met in Court.

Watershed representatives will be available at 10 am outside the Court at 436 Lonsdale Street in Melbourne.

Contacts: President - Stephen Cannon 0407811778  
Committee member - Chris Heislars 0419556381