

**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

9 November 2008

**VICTORIAN PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY TO BE TOLD
“DESAL PLANT AND PIPELINE FAIL THE TEST”**

Current plans for the Wonthaggi desalination plant and north-south pipeline must be replaced by currently available alternatives that meet proper criteria, to avoid lumbering future generations with the wrong approach.

This is the message that the Victorian Water Forum (VWF) and its participating organisations will tell the Victorian Parliamentary inquiry into Water tomorrow.

According to the VWF, any water project must be assessed in terms of economic, environmental and social impacts. It must also be part of a flexible, scalable approach to deliver a sustainable water supply for Melbourne and Victoria.

The VWF will illustrate to the Inquiry why the Wonthaggi desalination plant and north-south pipeline fail against these criteria. It will also outline an alternative plan containing well-accepted components that safely meet these criteria, including water purification, stormwater harvesting, water conservation and aquifer management.

The VWF will present an overview of this position, with detailed presentations on key components by participating organisations to follow.

MEDIA PLEASE NOTE:

Presentations of the VWF and participating organisations will be conducted from 3.00-4.00pm tomorrow Monday 10 November at the Victorian Parliament Inquiry into Water at Parliament House.

The VWF will conduct a media conference immediately after these presentations.

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