



Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP

Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
Minister for Solar Homes

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Mr John Bradley  
Secretary  
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning  
8 Nicholson Street  
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Ref: MBR047690



Dear Secretary

## **NEW MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS – EECC REGULATORS 2022**

I am pleased to provide you with a Statement of Expectations (SOE) setting out my expectations for the regulation of land and environment business activities by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in the Energy, Environment and Climate Change (EECC) portfolio to guide EECC's business planning processes.

### **Legislative framework**

As Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, I am responsible for administering the Acts related to the regulation of land and environment business activities provided in this statement. This guidance should be read in the context of the objectives, obligations and functions outlined in those Acts as amended. This guidance should also be read in the context of any other legislative and non-legislative obligations that the EECC portfolio has.

This SOE specifically applies to the following EECC portfolio's regulatory activities:

- Native vegetation removal.
- Beekeeping on public land.
- Tour Operator licensing.
- Pipelines regulation.

### **Emerging risks and priorities**

Based on consultation with the relevant areas of the EECC portfolio about the government's priorities and emerging risks, my expectations for the portfolio are as follows.

#### **Native vegetation removal**

I expect the EECC portfolio to implement the action management plan adopted by DELWP and tabled in parliament in response to the Victorian Auditor-General's Office audit into Offsetting Native Vegetation Loss on Private Land.

In addition, I expect that the EECC portfolio will continue to look for opportunities to work across different areas of government (including local government) and with development proponents to ensure that the native vegetation requirements are administered and enforced.

#### **Beekeeping on public land**

I expect the EECC portfolio to work with regulators to ensure the regulatory regime continues to support a prosperous apiary industry, by clarifying and developing respective roles within the regulatory system. I expect the EECC portfolio to clarify the responsibilities and accountabilities held



by agencies, portfolio groups and internal business groups for existing and improved development of policies, standards and regulatory rules relating to beekeeping on public land.

I also expect the EECC portfolio to support and expand opportunities for engagement and shared understandings of agency and industry needs and resolution of issues, and which will be responsive to emerging challenges, new policy settings and practices, to support and enhance access to floral resources.

### **Tour Operator licensing**

I expect the EECC portfolio to work with regulators to ensure the policy and regulatory regime is fit for purpose and to clarify and develop respective roles within the regulatory system. The regulatory approach must be responsive to emerging challenges, new policy settings, changes in technology, industry practices and community expectations.

I also expect the EECC portfolio to maintain and improve guidance material to ensure it is relevant to tour operators and activity providers and supports them to meet their obligations. Guidance must be published in a clear, accessible and concise format.

### **Pipelines regulation**

I expect the EECC portfolio to ensure that the regulatory regime continues to support ongoing access to clean, reliable, safe and secure energy sources, through the effective and efficient regulation of the construction and operation of pipelines. I expect the EECC portfolio to clarify the responsibilities and accountabilities held by agencies, portfolio groups and internal business groups for existing and improved development of policies, standards and regulatory practices for pipelines.

I request the relevant areas of the EECC portfolio incorporate these expectations into their work plans and to provide me with an indicative timeframe of when they expect to meet these expectations. Their work plans should also include appropriate milestones to review the content of this letter and to advise me when it needs to be updated or renewed.

I further request the EECC portfolio to undertake a light touch review of the expectations in this letter as part of their annual reporting obligations and to advise me if there are any refinements they would recommend.

Yours sincerely



**Hon Lily D'Ambrosio MP**  
**Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change**  
**Minister for Solar Homes**

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