



VC154: A Planner's Perspective (How did we get here and what does it mean?)

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Biography:

Esther Kay is the Managing Director of Environment & Land Management Pty Ltd. Esther has over 25 years of experience in statutory and strategic planning in Melbourne and regional Victoria. She is a town planner who is also experienced in water and environmental policy, specifically the way that the planning system can contribute to better environmental outcomes whilst also improving local amenity. She has co-authored several major papers for State and local government dealing with stormwater management and integrated water management.

Esther has held several key roles during her planning career. Before entering the consulting world, Esther worked as a Planning Director in local government. Esther's other roles have included appointment as a Director of Coliban Water, as a long standing member of Planning Panels Victoria and as President of Stormwater Victoria.

On 26 October 2018 the Victorian Minister for Planning implemented changes to state-wide planning provisions. These changes affect all Victorian planning schemes by extending the stormwater planning requirements in Clause 56 to commercial, industrial, public and multi dwelling residential developments. The changes are the culmination of a 20-year effort by a host of practitioners to bring improved stormwater management into the Victorian planning system.

This presentation traces the history of efforts to influence changes in planning for urban development so that private projects meet the best practice environmental management guidelines (BPEM) and (more recently) adopt the concept of integrated water management. Starting in the mid-1990s urban planning has been recognised as an essential ingredient in the campaigns to improve the health of our rivers and bays, with varying degrees of success by industry and local government. The reasons why the planning system changes have finally been delivered by the Victorian government are not due to any single factor but instead reflect an accumulation of evidence and industry efforts.

Having set the scene, the presentation unpacks the new requirements to make them accessible to non-planners. It illustrates how to locate the controls in the Victoria Planning Provisions, how they apply to different development application types, and the responsibility of the different parties in the planning system for compliance. The author also reflects on her research in this area to identify the challenges facing successful implementation of the new planning requirements.