

## Policy – Public consultation on applications

<b>Policy</b>	<p>When Southern Rural Water receives applications for new or amended licences or transfers, it will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Comply with any consultation standards/requirements in the Water Act and Ministerial policies.</li><li>▪ Use a public consultation process appropriate to the size and nature of the application (noting that not every application will require a public process).</li><li>▪ Clearly state that applicants and interested parties may appeal our decision at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.</li></ul>
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<b>Definitions</b>	<p><b>Public consultation process</b> means “Informing” or “consulting” with the public as defined in the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) principles. Our processes can include neighbour notification, newspaper advertising, referral to agencies, public meetings and/or open houses.</p>
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<b>Effective date and review date</b>	<p>This policy takes effect on 12 November 2015.</p> <p>It is due for board review in February 2020.</p>
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<b>Who is affected</b>	<p>This policy applies to all employees.</p>
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<b>Rationale</b>	<p>Applications for new or amended water licences can often be controversial. This policy recognises we manage a public resource on behalf of the Minister and people are aware of decisions that will impact that resource.</p>
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This policy ensures that interested people have an appropriate chance to comment on applications, and that they know they can apply for review of our decision.

We sometimes receive objections to water licenses on the grounds that fit planning or other processes (such as noise from trucks associated with the applicant). Nothing in this policy suggests or requires SRW to consider matters that are extraneous to the Water Act.

**Contact** For more information on this policy, contact the General Manager Groundwater and Rivers.

**Related documents** See the Groundwater and Rivers Procedure for Public Consultation document in ECM.

**Communications** This policy will be made available on SRW's website.