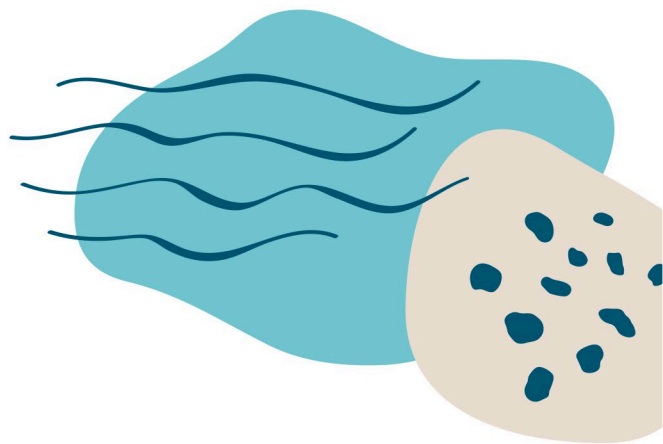




# Media Release



12 February 2026

## HAVE A LOCAL VOICE IN WESTERN REGION SUSTAINABLE WATER STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

The development of a new Western Region Sustainable Water Strategy has begun in recognition of the drought and dry conditions impacting much of western Victoria.

There is now the opportunity for local community members to be on a working group to help guide the development of the strategy, with expressions of interest in the roles closing March 16.

Sustainable Water Strategies are an important opportunity for the community and stakeholders to shape plans to secure our surface water and groundwater supplies, improve efficient use of water, and protect waterways, groundwater and water values into a drier and warmer future.

The Western Region Strategy will cover a third of Victoria, extending from the south-west coast, across the Wimmera and to the southern Mallee. This includes the towns of Ballarat, Colac, Warrnambool, Portland, Port Campbell, Hamilton, Ouyen, Horsham, Avoca, Stawell, Ararat and Edenhope. The region has a unique mix of agricultural and urban centres.

“Community input is an important part of understanding local feedback, concerns, opportunities, and water values,” Glenelg Hopkins CMA’s CEO Adam Bester said.

Expressions of interest from community members who have knowledge and experience in water supply and water quality matters to participate in working groups to guide development of the strategy are now open.

Working groups are expected to meet approximately four to six times through to the end of 2027. Meetings will be hybrid, with options for in person or online attendance. Expressions of interest to participate in the working groups closes 16 March 2026.

Learn more about the strategy and how you can participate, including via the expression of interest process email [SWS.Team@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:SWS.Team@deeca.vic.gov.au), visit [water.vic.gov.au](http://water.vic.gov.au) or contact DEECA’s Customer Service Centre 136 186.

**ENDS**