

# Bore water usage

Water Quality Management Plan 2011

June 2011

## **Why is less bore water better for the Quiet Lakes?**

The bore water used to top up the Quiet Lakes contains nutrients and is particularly high in ammonia.

Over use of bore water will increase the nutrient load within the lakes, creating an environment that, with the right conditions, would allow algae to flourish. So it is important that only the volume of water that is necessary to top up the Quiet Lakes is used.

Excessive use of the bore water will also lead to the discharge of lake water to downstream aquatic ecosystems such as Port Phillip Bay. The discharge of nutrient rich water can have negative impacts on the health of marine ecosystems, and therefore, nitrogen inputs to Port Phillip Bay need to be carefully managed to ensure the long term sustainability of the bay.

Melbourne Water recognises the need to increase the bore allocation to ensure sufficient water is available for top-up purposes and filling of the lakes if required. Melbourne Water is working with Southern Rural Water to increase the bore water allocation up to 400ML/year. By limiting the use of the bore to what is necessary we will be able to protect the longevity of the bore and ensure the resource is available well into the future.