

# Privacy Policy

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## Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to set out Melbourne Water's commitments regarding privacy of personal and health information.

## Scope

This Privacy Policy covers Melbourne Water Corporation (ABN 81 945 386 953) and its Board of directors, employees and contract service providers ("Melbourne Water", "we" or "us"). It applies to the personal and health information ("personal information") we hold about individuals, customers, consumers, employees and others ("you").

In addition to our Privacy Policy we publish privacy statements and notices for particular services like our website, grant applications and job applications. These include more detail about how we collect and handle personal information when we are delivering those services.

## Policy Statement

We understand how important it is to you that we protect your personal information. We collect and handle your personal information, including sensitive information, consistent with the Information Privacy Principles in Victoria's *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*. We collect and handle any information about your physical or mental health or disability consistent with the Health Privacy Principles in Victoria's *Health Records Act 2001*. We collect and handle Tax File Numbers of employees consistent with the Commonwealth *Privacy Act 1988* and the Notifiable Data Breach Scheme in that Act.

## Obligations

### 1. Collection of personal information

We collect and handle personal information because of our:

- services related to managing water supply, sewerage, waterways, drainage and environmental stewardship;
- works related to land, buildings and assets we own and manage;
- responsibility as a referral authority; and
- employment and engagement of people and organisations to deliver our services.

Wherever possible we only collect enough personal or health information necessary for the relevant service. Sometimes we are required to collect personal information by Law for example, by Victoria's *Water Act 1989*.

We aim to collect personal information directly from you. Sometimes we collect it from others, for example your water retailer or local council. If you are applying to work or volunteer with us we may collect personal information about you, from others, with your consent.

Personal information we collect includes:

- name
- home, postal or other address
- telephone, mobile and fax number
- email address.

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We may also collect other information depending on the service for example:

- information you give us when you:
  - make an enquiry, request for service or complaint
  - apply for a licence, permit, advice or grant
  - register for and attend a meeting, course or event
  - apply to work or volunteer with us.
- water bill customer number
- driver licence or vehicle registration
- other licences to carry out work
- Tax File Numbers of employees
- banking details
- employment history
- photographic images
- qualifications and licences
- next-of-kin emergency contact details
- information about physical or mental health or disability
- other personal information we need to deliver you a service.

We collect personal information in emails, other written correspondence, phone calls, meetings and events, online forms, application forms, contracts, agreements, leases, licences and permits, customer contact databases and referrals from other agencies.

We only collect sensitive personal information (defined in the Information Privacy Principles) and health information (defined in the Health Privacy Principles) if it is necessary to deliver our services and only with your consent. We collect health information about our employees' and contractors' health, directly and indirectly and only with consent.

Where practicable we aim to give you the option of dealing with us without giving us personal information. However, we may not be able to deliver you a service if you do not give us the necessary personal or health information.

## 2. Use of personal information

We use the personal information we have collected from you for a range of purposes including to:

- verify your identity
- establish and deliver services
- handle your enquiry, request for service or complaint
- handle a planning application referred to us
- manage a lease or licence agreement with you or funding grant to you
- manage communications with you
- provide you with and manage our website and other digital services
- manage and comply with statutory obligations
- manage recruitment and procurement.

Our privacy statements for particular services like our website, grants and job applications include more detail about what information we collect and why.

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## 3. Disclosure of personal information

Depending on the purpose for collecting your personal information we may disclose it to:

- people and organisations you have given us your consent to disclose it to
- our contract service providers
- your retail water corporation
- other State government agencies
- a local council
- other organisations where required or authorised by Law.

Before we disclose any of your personal information to another person or organisation, we will take all reasonable steps to satisfy ourselves of at least one of the following criteria:

- It will be disclosed for the purpose we collected it or another purpose you would reasonably expect.
- You have consented to us disclosing it.
- The person or organisation we disclose it to has a commitment to protecting your personal information at least equal to our commitment.
- Disclosure is required or authorised by Law.
- Disclosure is necessary to prevent a serious threat to your health, safety or wellbeing, or prevent a serious threat to public health, safety or wellbeing.

## 4. Marketing and customer research

We may use your personal information to provide you with information about our services (marketing) and ask you about your experience of them (customer research). If you do not wish to receive marketing information or participate in customer research you may decline at any time by contacting us using the details in part 9 of this policy.

If the marketing or research is by email you may also unsubscribe. We will take all reasonable steps to meet your request as soon as practicable.

## 5. Accessing, updating and correcting your personal information

You may request access to your personal or health information at any time by making a request under Victoria's *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

There may be situations where we are not required to provide you with access to your personal information and we will give you the reasons, for example where the information relates to existing or anticipated legal proceedings or a decision on the same request had been provided.

If your personal information is incorrect, inaccurate or out of date you may also request to have it corrected. We will normally rely on you to assist us by informing us if the information we hold about you is inaccurate or incomplete.

Depending on the request we may update your personal information immediately, or alternatively we will send you an initial response within seven days of receiving your request. We may need to consult with other people or organisations as part of your request to access or correct your personal information.

## 6. Using government related identifiers

If we collect government related identifiers such as Tax File Numbers, we will only use or disclose this information to the extent required or as authorised by Law. We will not use government related identifiers to identify you.

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## 7. How safe and secure is your personal information?

We normally store your personal information in electronic form but it may also be in paper form. We take reasonable steps to protect your personal and health information by ensuring it is stored in a secure environment regardless of the form.

We take reasonable steps to protect any personal information from misuse, loss and unauthorised access, modification or disclosure. We do this by:

- only providing you with your personal information when we are satisfied it is you
- ensuring security and access requirements are in place for IT systems, such as passwords, firewalls and virus scanning software
- having document storage and destruction policies
- encrypting data during internet transactions and data transfers
- ensuring restricted access to sensitive and health information
- ensuring our contract service providers' commitment to privacy is at least equal to ours.

We use and contract cloud based services to store and manage data including personal information. Storage services may be based in our buildings, interstate or overseas. We take reasonable steps to ensure the security of your information managed this way. Where the information is transferred outside Victoria we take steps consistent with Victoria's privacy laws to ensure the information is protected from unauthorised use and disclosure.

When personal information is no longer required for the purpose for which the information was collected it will be either permanently de-identified or added to a disposal schedule for future destruction in accordance with the *Public Records Act 1973* and other relevant laws.

## 8. Concerns and complaints about privacy

If you are not satisfied with how we have dealt with your personal information or have a complaint about our compliance with Victoria's privacy laws we encourage you to contact us using the contact details in part 9 of this policy.

We will acknowledge your complaint within seven days and provide you with a decision on your complaint within 28 days. If you feel your complaint is still not resolved after discussing it with us, you may then take the complaint to:

- Victoria's Information Commissioner if your complaint is about personal information protected by the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*
- Victoria's Health Complaints Commissioner if your complaint is about health information protected by the *Health Records Act 2001*
- The Australian Information Commissioner if your complaint relates to an eligible breach (defined in the Commonwealth *Privacy Act 1988*) involving a federal identifier e.g. Tax File Number.

## 9. More information

If you have any questions or concerns about how we collect and handle your personal or health information, contact:

Privacy Officer  
Melbourne Water  
PO Box 4342  
MELBOURNE Vic 3001

Telephone (in Australia): 131 722 Telephone (overseas): +61 3 9679 7100

Email: [enquiry@melbournewater.com.au](mailto:enquiry@melbournewater.com.au)

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## 10. Changes to our Privacy Policy

We review our Privacy Policy to keep up to date with statutory and community expectations. So we may make changes as and when required outside our regular policy review cycle.

### Document History

Date	Reviewed/ Actioned By	Version	Action
Dec 2014	Privacy Advisor	8.0	Review and Update to new Template.
Apr / May 2015	Privacy Advisor	9.0	Reviewed and updated to combine obligations of the Victorian <i>Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014</i> and <i>Health Records Act 2001</i> .
May 2017	Privacy Advisor	11.0	Reviewed, minor amendments for clarity.
May 2017	TL, Integrated Management System	12.0	Updated document control to align with Inflo version control and minor formatting changes. No change to context of the document.
Mar 2019	Privacy Advisor	13.0	Reviewed and updated to include new obligations in the Commonwealth <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> in relation to Tax File Numbers.
May 2021	Privacy Officer	14.0	Reviewed and updated, minor amendments.
March 2024	Privacy Officer	15.0	Reviewed and updated with statutory amendments such as complaints timeframes, and removal of 'imminent' for serious threat based on family violence amendments in IPP 2.1(d).
February 2026	Privacy Officer	15.1	Reviewed and updated, minor amendments.