

Applying for an undertaking

Drinking Water Regulation Guidance Note No. 3
July 2006

Introduction

Section 30 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* allows for the Secretary to the Department of Human Services to accept a written undertaking from a water supplier or water storage manager that certain actions will be performed.

When to make an application for an undertaking

Water suppliers and water storage managers can apply to the Secretary for an undertaking in the event that they are, or are likely to be, in contravention of the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* or its associated regulations.

The undertaking would detail how a water supplier or water storage manager would address the contravention and stop it from recurring.

Two examples of when an undertaking would be applicable are:

- Where one or more of the water quality standards are not being met.
- A risk management plan is not going to be completed by the specified date.

An undertaking will not be accepted if the actions proposed in the undertaking are, or are likely, to result in a public health risk or are unlikely to alleviate current risks to public health.

Applying for an undertaking

Applications for undertakings must be submitted in writing using the DHS "Application for an undertaking" form. This form can be obtained from the website: www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/water/drinking or from DHS Drinking Water Regulatory Section:
Ph: (03) 9096 0406.

The application form requires the applicant to provide information as specified by section 30 (3) of the Act, which states that an application must:

- (a) Identify the act, or failure to act, that constitutes, or that will constitute, the contravention of the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003*.
- (b) Detail the period sought during which the undertaking is to apply and the reasons for seeking that period.

The Secretary may also request additional information to aid in the assessment of the application (for example recent water quality results).

Applications will be assessed and applicants will be given written notice on the outcome of the assessment.

Lodgement of applications and further information

Please forward completed applications to:

Assistant Director,
Environmental Health,
Department of Human Services
PO Box 4057,
Melbourne, VIC 3001

For more information:

Ph: (03) 9096 0406
Fax: (03) 9096 9182

Email: dwru@dhs.vic.gov.au

Website: www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/water/drinking

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