Dear Ms Collins

Natural Resources and Environment Policy Discussion Paper

The Stormwater Management Authority (the Authority) welcomes this opportunity to respond to the Natural Resources and Environment policy discussion paper.

The Authority is a statutory corporation established under the Local Government Act 1999 (the Act) as a partnership between the state government and the Local Government Association of South Australia. The Authority implements the Agreement on Stormwater Management between the State of South Australia and the Local Government Association of South Australia, and fulfils functions prescribed in Section 6 of Schedule 1A of the Act. These include:

(a) to liaise with relevant public authorities with a view to ensuring the proper functioning of the State’s stormwater management system...
(b) to facilitate and co-ordinate stormwater management planning by councils
(c) to formulate policies and provide information to councils in relation to stormwater management planning (including policies and information promoting the use of stormwater to further environmental objectives and address issues of sustainability...)
(d) to facilitate programs by councils promoting the use of stormwater to further environmental objectives and address issues of sustainability...

Stormwater management is an issue that is closely linked to urban development. Stormwater managed at its best is a valuable natural resource that can augment water supplies, contribute to amenity value and support both active and passive recreation opportunities. When poorly managed, stormwater runoff exacerbates flood risk and stormwater-borne pollutants contribute to the degradation of waterways and coastal environments and threaten flora and fauna.

Climate change and increasing urbanisation are two significant challenges for the future of stormwater management in South Australia. The replacement value of all local and state government managed stormwater infrastructure in metropolitan Adelaide alone has recently been estimated at more than $4.2 billion. Significant infrastructure renewal and upgrade will be required over the coming decade to replace ageing infrastructure and provide additional capacity to manage the impacts of climate change and infill development.
Planning controls which manage new development and infill development, and incorporating water sensitive design into urban development (WSUD) represent the best opportunities to effectively manage stormwater at its source, providing for beneficial use and environmental enhancement and mitigating the impacts of flooding.

The Authority is of the view that the Planning and Design Code will be critical to the future management of stormwater in South Australia. As you may be aware, the Authority has arranged for a workshop to be held in January 2019 for the Board of the Authority to explore relevant issues directly with DPTI staff. The Authority sees this as a critical avenue for it to provide input into the planning reforms.

If you have any queries, please contact me directly on telephone [redacted] or email [redacted].

Yours Sincerely

[Signature]

David Trebilcock
GENERAL MANAGER

Date: 3 December 2018