

Synopsis of submission by Gippsland Environment Group

The submission expresses concerns about the integrity of reporting by the EPA and other organisations in relation to water quality in the Gippsland Lakes.

The submission states that there is a lack of clarity of the term 'environment', particularly as it is applied by different government departments and councils involved in environmental protection and management. The submission suggests that the adoption of a clear definition would lead to integrated and complementary responses to environmental issues across government.

The submission further states the EPA should provide leadership and be the peak environmental protection body that reports directly to Parliament to avoid being influenced by political processes or economic interests. The submission proposes new governance and administrative arrangements for the EPA, including an independent board equipped with diverse skills in science, engineering, law and ecology, with board nominations and appointments to be made by the Governor in Council. The submission also recommends that additional resources and funding be provided to the EPA for research, environmental monitoring, testing, investigations and enforcement.

The submission includes a number of attachments: commentary, reports, correspondence, and media and journal articles.