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14 December 2023

Coroner David Ryan
C/- Niels Gabriels
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Dear Coroner Ryan

RE: Coronial Investigation into the death of Joyce Tyndall - COR 2022 001661

We refer to your findings in relation to the above Coronial Investigation into the death of Joyce Elizabeth Tyndall on 27 March 2022.

We have carefully considered your Honour's findings, including Recommendation (iii) for Safe Transport Victoria (ST Vic) to *"...consider the publication of a factsheet which warns water users of the significant dangers associated with weirs."*

ST Vic is committed to upholding the highest standards of safety for inland waterway users in Victoria, including persons using low powered kayaks and stand-up paddle boards.

ST Vic strives to engage in continuous improvement efforts to ensure the well-being of the community. As part of this commitment, ST Vic collaborates closely with partners such as inland waterway managers, regulators from other jurisdictions, industry experts, and seeks input through community consultations. This approach enables ST Vic to continue to identify and incorporate robust and effective risk mitigation measures in relation to inland waterway users.

Recommendation (iii) closely aligns with a current reform initiative under development in the context of a broader inland waterway safety project. This initiative includes the development of a 'River Hazards Awareness' strategy, addressing safety risks associated with inland waterways, including hazards associated with weirs. Scoping and planning for the implementation of the strategy will commence at the beginning of the new financial year.

As part of this work, ST Vic will be:

- Developing educational material to inform and alert inland waterway users of river hazards and risks, such as currents, irrigation changes, weirs, rocks, trees, debris, hypoxic or 'blackwater', and fresh/cold water more generally (including hypothermia/low floatation risks);
- Identifying the need for physical signage at specific inland waterway sites in Victoria, in consultation with waterway managers such as Goulburn Murray Water. This would include signage at weirs and spillways;
- Developing relevant signage artwork to ensure consistency across Victorian inland waterways, including distributing to waterway managers as appropriate; and

- Involved in the production of signs for installation at unmanaged waterways.

We acknowledge that addressing safety issues is an on-going commitment and assure you that ST Vic will continue to monitor important public safety issues associated with inland waterways, including weirs, to ensure that our regulatory and risk management processes align with current best practice.

We would like to thank your Honour for the careful consideration given to the matters relevant to this Coronial investigation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Banks". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Banks

Executive Director, Safety Strategy and Regulation
Safe Transport Victoria