

Emergency Management Victoria

Chief Executive

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Our ref: 25042163

Kate Bryant
Coroners Registrar
65 Kavanagh Street
Southbank VIC 3006

By email: cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

Dear Kate Bryant,

Thank you for providing a copy of Coroner McGregor's finding without inquest into the death of Cienna Jervies (COR 2023 005243) to Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), received on 20 March 2025. I note that a written response to the recommendation is required within three months of the date of receipt of your correspondence.

EMV has reviewed Coroner McGregor's recommendation from COR 2023 005243 which recommends that EMV consider the development of governance arrangements for water safety under the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP). EMV considers that this recommendation will be implemented.

In their findings, Coroner McGregor notes similarities between the development of a set of Water Safety Arrangements under the SEM, to those addressed in NSW's Practice Note 15, and Recommendation 5 from the Inspector General for Emergency Management's (IGEM) review of Victoria's water safety arrangements (the 'IGEM Review').

The Victorian Government did not support Recommendation 5 from the IGEM Review as it did not consider a SEM sub-plan an appropriate mechanism for documenting and articulating arrangements for water safety as incidents tend to be isolated. However, it did commit to establish the Water Safety Coordination Forum (WSCF) to explore opportunities to more clearly articulate existing water safety roles and responsibilities in a consolidated way.

In responding to this commitment, the WSCF has proposed the development of a governance framework which clarifies the water safety roles and responsibilities of community, industry, and government, for inclusion in the WSCF forward plan of work. This initiative was discussed at the WSCF meeting held on 20 March 2025, where it received in-principle support from the broader WSCF.

The WSCF Forward Plan is still being drafted but it is anticipated to be finalised by 31 July 2025. Following its finalisation, work will commence on the development of a water safety

framework which is expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete. During its development, consideration will be given to the intent of Coroner McGregor's recommendation and Recommendation 5 from the IGEM Review, as well as NSW's Practice Note 15.

Should you require further information, please contact Melanie Mills, A/Executive Director, Strategy and Capability at Emergency Management Victoria by email

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Yours sincerely



Jenni Rigby
Chief Executive, Emergency Management Victoria

18/06/2025