

Media Release

The Hon Lisa Neville MP

Minister for Water

Minister for Police and Emergency Services



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Thursday 12 September 2019

WOMEN VITAL TO STATE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Victorian Government is helping to deliver a gender balance in leadership and senior executive positions across water organisations.

Minister for Water Lisa Neville today announced a new program to support women to move into senior executive leadership positions in the water sector.

Since 2016 the Victorian Government has been working hard to improve the representation of women in leadership positions across the sector including at board level.

Over recent years the number of women on water and catchment boards has increased to over 50% of positions, including 18 out of 29 chair positions.

The new Insight: Executive leadership for women in water program aims to improve gender diversity in executive management across the sector; currently women represent only 20 per cent of Managing Directors and CEO positions in Water Corporations and Catchment Management Authorities.

The Victorian Government is partnering with Dattner Grant Pty Ltd – who specialise in delivering programs to help organisations achieve their aspirations for gender balance in leadership - to deliver this 12-month program for women aspiring to executive level leadership roles.

There are clear benefits to gender diversity in the water sector, such as providing a range of perspectives, driving efficient and innovative service delivery, and making sure that water sector leadership reflects the communities it serves.

Gender diversity is a key direction of *Water for Victoria* – the Government's framework to guide smarter water management, bolster the water grid and support more liveable Victorian communities.

For more information on *Water for Victoria* visit: <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/water-for-victoria>

Quotes attributable to Minister for Water Lisa Neville

“These are vital leadership roles and we are looking to grow and maintain this diversity in the sector.”

“We’re making sure Victoria’s water sector is equipped with the right people and expertise it needs to do its job for the community and protect Victoria’s water security.”

“I encourage women ready and wanting to move into managing director and chief executive officer roles in our water sector to participate in this exciting program.”