



## The Hon Gayle Tierney MP

Minister for Skills and TAFE  
Minister for Water

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Robert McDonald  
Clerk of the Legislative Council  
Legislative Council  
[council@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Robert McDonald,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding a petition that was tabled in the Legislative Council on 13 May 2025 by Renee Heath, Member for the Eastern Victoria Region.

I recognise the community's strong connection with the Beaconsfield Reservoir, its surrounding parkland and its place in history. The Beaconsfield Reservoir was built over 100 years ago, and numerous studies and risk assessments have found that it does not meet modern national industry guidelines. These upgrade works are required to address safety concerns and protect communities downstream of the dam.

I am advised the planned works will reduce the height of the dam wall, allowing a body of water to remain in the reservoir. This balances the need to make the wall structurally safe with minimising impacts to the environment.

This option aligns with the findings of an environmental and ecological values assessment and recommendations by the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.

Melbourne Water has undertaken extensive community consultation. This included public meetings, open days, and drop-in sessions with the local community. Community feedback informed the final decision - ruling out a full decommissioning and agreeing the water level in the dam could remain two metres higher than planned, without compromising on safety.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and Melbourne Water will continue to keep the engage with the community around activities at Beaconsfield Reservoir.

In relation to public access, I note that the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation is the land manager and is managing the dam site and surrounding Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reservoir as a gazette nature conservation reserve.

Thank you to Renee Heath, MLC and the signatories to the petition for raising this important matter in the Legislative Council.

Yours sincerely,

**The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP**  
Minister for Water  
Minister for Skills and TAFE