

**STATEMENT OF WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES (VICTORIA
HARBOUR (PHASE THREE) WATER CONTROL ZONE)**

(Made under section 5 of the Water Pollution Control
Ordinance (Cap. 358), after consultation with
the Advisory Council on the Environment)

1. The water quality objectives set out in column 1 of the Schedule are established for those parts of the Victoria Harbour (Phase Three) Water Control Zone set opposite those water quality objectives in column 2.

2. In this Statement -

"marine waters" means all waters, below the high water mark, within the boundary of the Victoria Harbour (Phase Three) Water Control Zone.

SCHEDULE.

[s. 1]

Water Quality Objective	Part or Parts of Zone
A. AESTHETIC APPEARANCE	
(a) There should be no objectionable odours or discolouration of the water.	Whole zone
(b) Tarry residues, floating wood, articles made of glass, plastic, rubber or of any other substances should be absent.	Whole zone

- (c) Mineral oil should not be visible on the surface. Surfactants should not give rise to a lasting foam. Whole zone
- (d) There should be no recognisable sewage-derived debris. Whole zone
- (e) Floating, submerged and semi-submerged objects of a size likely to interfere with the free movement of vessels, or cause damage to vessels, should be absent. Whole zone
- (f) The water should not contain substances which settle to form objectionable deposits. Whole zone

B. BACTERIA

The level of Escherichia Coli should not exceed 1 000 per 100 mL, calculated as the geometric mean of the most recent 5 consecutive samples taken at intervals of between 7 and 21 days. Inland waters

C. COLOUR

Human activity should not cause the colour of water to exceed 50 Hazen units. Inland waters

D. DISSOLVED OXYGEN

- (a) The level of dissolved oxygen Marine waters
should not fall below 4 mg per
litre for 90% of the sampling
occasions during the whole year;
values should be calculated
as the annual water column
average (see Note). In addition,
the concentration of dissolved
oxygen should not be less than
2 mg per litre within 2 m of the
seabed for 90% of the sampling
occasions during the whole year.
- (b) The level of dissolved oxygen Inland waters
should not be less than 4 mg
per litre.

E. pH

- (a) The pH of the water should be Marine waters
within the range of 6.5 - 8.5
units. In addition, human
activity should not cause the
natural pH range to be extended
by more than 0.2 unit.
- (b) Human activity should not cause Inland waters
the pH of the water to exceed
the range of 6.0 - 9.0 units.

F. TEMPERATURE

Human activity should not cause the Whole zone
daily temperature range to change by
more than 2.0°C.

G. SALINITY

Human activity should not cause the Whole zone
salinity level to change by more than
10%.

H. SUSPENDED SOLIDS

(a) Human activity should neither Marine waters
cause the suspended solids
concentration to be raised more
than 30% nor give rise to
accumulation of suspended solids
which may adversely affect
aquatic communities.

(b) Human activity should not cause Inland waters
the annual median of suspended
solids to exceed 25 mg per litre.

I. AMMONIA

The un-ionized ammoniacal nitrogen Whole zone
level should not be more than 0.021 mg
per litre, calculated as the annual
average (arithmetic mean).

J. NUTRIENTS

- (a) Nutrients should not be present in quantities sufficient to cause excessive or nuisance growth of algae or other aquatic plants. Marine waters
- (b) Without limiting the generality of objective (a) above, the level of inorganic nitrogen should not exceed 0.4 mg per litre, expressed as annual water column average (see Note). Marine waters

K. 5-DAY BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND

The 5-day biochemical oxygen demand should not exceed 5 mg per litre. Inland waters

L. CHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND

The chemical oxygen demand should not exceed 30 mg per litre. Inland waters

M. TOXIC SUBSTANCES

- (a) Toxic substances in the water should not attain such levels as to produce significant toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic or teratogenic effects in humans, fish or any other aquatic organisms, with due regard to Whole zone

biologically cumulative effects
in food chains and to interactions
of toxic substances with each
other.

- (b) Human activity should not cause Whole zone
a risk to any beneficial use of
the aquatic environment.

Note: Expressed normally as the arithmetic mean of at least 3
measurements at 1 m below surface, mid depth and 1 m above
the seabed. However in water of a depth of 5 m or less the
mean shall be that of 2 measurements (1 m below surface and
1 m above seabed), and in water of less than 3 m the 1 m
below surface sample only shall apply.

Secretary for Planning,
Environment and Lands.

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Explanatory Note

This Statement sets out the established water quality
objectives of the Victoria Harbour (Phase Three) Water Control Zone.