



Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

PO Box 500, East Melbourne,
Victoria 8002 Australia

SBR-260300655

Coroner Jamieson
Coroners Court of Victoria
cpuresponses@coronerscourt.vic.gov.au

COR 2020 004808 Recommendation (vi)

Dear Coroner Jamieson

This letter provides the response to your recommendation as it relates to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) arising from the finding into the death of **Ashleigh Peter Mills**, delivered on 4 March 2026.

DEECA acknowledges the recommendation that, with the aim of preventing like deaths and promoting public health and safety, DEECA work with Victorian water authorities to develop policies that streamline the approval process to allow for the cost-effective installation of water meters that meet the pressure and flow requirements for home fire sprinklers (HFS).

The Coroner's recommendation is currently under review.

DEECA notes that Recommendation (vii) to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) and Recommendation (v) to the Victorian Building Authority are similarly related to the design and installation of HFS. Specifically, Recommendation (vii) has significant impact on the acquittal of the recommendation made to DEECA.

Upon finalisation of HFS standards, DEECA will then be able to work with water authorities to develop policies to facilitate the implementation of those standards.

I trust that the contents of this letter assists. If you have any further questions or require any further support, please contact Grant Breheny, Director of Portfolio Governance and Compliance, DEECA on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

Kate Houghton PSM
Secretary

10/05/2026