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Nature News

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Lobby groups join in push for water recycling boost

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Three Victorian protest groups have joined together to lobby for more water recycling to supplement Melbourne's dwindling water supply.

The Victorian Water Forum is made up of the Clean Ocean Foundation, the former Your Water Your Say group, Watershed Victoria and Plug the Pipeline.

A spokesman for the new forum, Anton Vigenser, says recycled water is used for drinking in London, Singapore and the United States.

He says Melbourne could recycle enough water to match the output of the proposed Wonthaggi desalination plant.

"Very simply the best thing for Victoria would be not to have a massive desalination plant, to not take water from northern Victoria, [but] to recycle the water that we're currently wasting and pumping out into the ocean," he said.

Meanwhile, the Astronomical Society of Victoria is concerned lighting from the proposed Wonthaggi desalination plant could reduce visibility of the night sky.

Hearings are being held at Pakenham this month, for groups and individuals objecting to the plant.

The president of the Astronomical Society, Perry Vlahos, says the problem can be avoided.

He says light pollution greatly reduces the visibility of stars and other heavenly bodies.

"Aborigines have a very close tie to the night sky as well from their heritage and it can also affect migratory birds that can be put off course by lighting that isn't supposed to be on in the evening," he said.

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