

## Information for customers wishing to make a submission relating to a Licence Application

Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW) operates in accordance with the *Water Act 1989* when issuing water licences. In order to fulfil its legal obligations G-MW must consider whether a proposed licence has the potential to cause adverse affects on existing water users or the environment.

A person (applicant) may be required to notify interested parties (neighbours within 1km) and the general public by advertising in a newspaper if they intend to make application to:

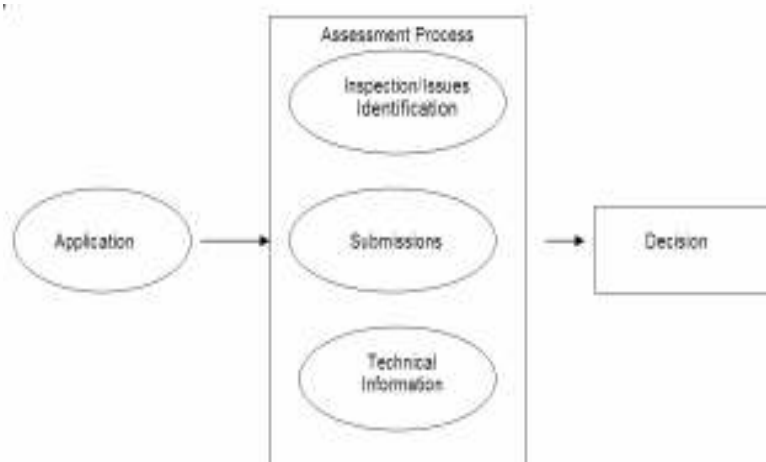
- construct works, such as construction of a bore, or a dam (for irrigation or commercial purposes);
- be issued with a licence to take and use groundwater or surface water;
- alter an existing licence to add new works;
- alter or increase a licence entitlement volume; or
- permanently transfer a licence from another location.

Members of the public may become aware of an application after reading a notice provided by a neighbour, or an advertisement in a local newspaper.

### Who can make a submission about an application?

Any person or business owner who believes that their direct interests or the interests of the environment could be affected by the issue of a licence, are entitled to make a submission to G-MW. Relevant issues raised in submissions are considered by G-MW as part

of the overall assessment of licence applications as shown below.



Potentially affected parties can provide a written submission opposing the approval of an application, or alternatively can provide information in support of an application.

### What happens when I make a submission?

Following receipt of a submission about a specific licence application G-MW will send an acknowledgement letter to the author of the submission at the nominated address.

The submission will be reviewed to determine if the information is relevant to the application, particularly whether it provides additional information that should be considered when assessing an application. Parties who make a submission may be contacted by G-MW to clarify information provided.

Depending on the nature of your submission you may be eligible for additional information about the decision.

# Fact Sheet



When a decision is made in respect of the application, parties who have made submissions will be notified of the outcome of the application by G-MW. The licensing assessment process can take a long time, depending on the nature of the application. Parties who have lodged submissions will not be notified of the outcome until a decision on a licence application is made.

It should be noted that for applications to construct a bore (works licences), G-MW considers the application process to be complete when a licence to take and use groundwater is issued. Construction of a bore generally occurs before a groundwater licence is applied for or issued.

All decisions made by G-MW may be subject to review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (VCAT). Parties are entitled to lodge an application for review with VCAT within 28 days of the date of a decision in accordance with Section 64 of the *Water Act 1989*.

## **What are relevant interests that may be included in a submission?**

Interests that G-MW may take into account when considering an application include:

- Current authorised<sup>1</sup> water use from a bore near the application site;

- Current authorised use from a waterway, dam or drainage line near the application site;
- Knowledge of a particular environmental feature that may be directly impacted by the application.

## **What information should I include in a submission?**

In all cases submissions should provide as much specific information as possible about the concerns, for example:

- exact distance from your interest (eg. bore, dam, spring or environmental feature) relative to your property or issue of concern;
- the importance of the access to the dam, bore or other to your interests;
- any measured information such as dam levels, bore water levels or trends (eg. any observed drawdown in your bore associated with irrigation use from another site);
- details of how your interest is currently utilised (eg. pump type, bore and pump depth, water level records at the site, the times that the pump operates etc);
- information about your knowledge of local flora or fauna species, (including endangered species), reports, studies or any other matter that should be brought to the attention of G-MW.

<sup>1</sup> Refers to authorisation (whether generally or specifically) by the *Water Act 1989* or any other Act or by a licence, permit or other authority granted under the *Water Act 1989* or any other Act.

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GOULBURN-MURRAY  
WATER



## What is not considered to be a relevant interest for the purposes of a submission?

Some examples of submissions that G-MW cannot take into account when considering an application include:

- Any unauthorised use of water from a bore/dam/waterway for an irrigation or commercial purpose.
- any philosophical objections to the use or allocation of water;
- the likelihood of noise, smell, dust or other matter related to legislation other than the *Water Act 1989*, (eg. *The Planning and Environment Act 1987*) that do not directly relate to the use of water or the water resource (quantity or quality).
- Any indirect interest where the potential for specific adverse impact cannot be identified (e.g. A person who lives in Melbourne who may object on philosophical grounds to a licence being issued in a remote rural area).

## What if false or misleading information is provided in a submission?

Those wishing to make submissions should ensure that every attempt is made to provide accurate and factual information. Any information included in a submission may form the basis of formal court or Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal proceedings, Water and Energy Ombudsman enquiries, [Freedom of Information](#) requests, and/or any subsequent civil proceedings.

## Will my submission be treated as confidential?

The application process, including any submissions made by interested parties, is largely a public process. Parties who make submissions should be aware that the information provided may be disclosed to the applicant and the general public, ([subject to a Freedom of Information request](#)) as well other stakeholders relevant to the application.

G-MW protects your personal information in accordance with the requirements of the *Information Privacy Act 2000*. For further information regarding the handling of your personal information please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).

For general information call or visit

1800 013 357

[www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au)