

Houseboat information sheet

January 2015



Construction or upgrade of a houseboat for operation on Lake Eildon

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is responsible for the licensing of all houseboats for operation within the Lake Eildon Recreational Area. The number of houseboats permitted to operate on Lake Eildon is restricted to the number currently licensed by the Corporation. Any new houseboat will require removal of an existing houseboat to allow transfer of the licence to the new boat.

Persons intending to replace their licensed houseboat with a newly constructed houseboat must apply for a construction permit by forwarding an application form, together with the proposed plans and appropriate fees to the Corporation. Following the approval of plans, a final inspection of the vessel by GMW will be required before a licence to operate on Lake Eildon can be issued.

Note: GMW will only approve new houseboats to operate on Lake Eildon with on board grey water treatment units which can meet the minimum discharge criteria for treated greywater specified in AS4995-2009 Greywater Treatment Systems for Vessels Operated on Inland Water.

Licensing requirements

The size of a houseboat:

- must not exceed 18.3 metres in length; and
- must not exceed 7.25 metres in width.

These houseboat dimensions are inclusive of all structural components of the houseboat which includes:

- Walkways
- Duckboards
- Ski platforms
- Handrails
- Bumpers
- Eaves
- Motors

Any part of the vessel that protrudes outside the maximum allowable category dimensions must fold or retract within the allowable category dimensions.

Houseboat plan requirements

When submitting your houseboat plans for approval please include the following items;

- the scale of your plan;
- the length and width of the houseboat deck and structure, including all appendages & motors;
- method of intended appendage retraction or folding information;
- a bow, stern and port elevation of the houseboat structure;
- the number of enclosed levels;
- a floor plan, including the internal dimensions;
- a minimum of 450mm freeboard, or as otherwise determined by a competent person;
- the location of all sewerage/grey water & fuel tanks, including their capacity and dimensions;
- details of greywater installation of a treatment system complying with AS4995-2009;
- the location and type of toilet/s, details of capacity, make and model; and
- motor size and model.

Application to replace a licensed houseboat

In the event that you currently have a licensed houseboat on Lake Eildon that you would like to remove and replace with a newly constructed houseboat, you may apply to the Corporation for a houseboat construction permit by following this process:

1. Forward a completed 'Application for a licence to operate or leave a houseboat within the Lake Eildon Recreational Area' form to the GMW Eildon Office in order to obtain a construction permit.
 - 1.1 a copy of the proposed houseboat plans;
 - 1.2. payment of the \$276.45 fee for the application/examination of plans;
 - 1.3. an estimated completion date for the construction of the houseboat;
 - 1.4. confirmation of your intentions regarding the future of the houseboat to be replaced, noting that:
 - 1.4.1. the houseboat to be replaced must be removed from Lake Eildon prior to the newly constructed houseboat being approved to launch; and
 - 1.4.2. the removal of the houseboat must be confirmed by forwarding a Statutory Declaration to the GMW Eildon Office.
2. Obtain a Vic Roads registration number and affix it to the houseboat.
3. Contact the GMW Eildon Office, to arrange a final inspection of your houseboat, to ensure that the boat has been constructed in accordance with the approved plans. The relevant inspection fee should be forwarded at this time and a minimum of two weeks' notice be given to the Corporation to arrange the inspection.
 - 3.1 2014/15 Inspection fee# for houseboats at Eildon \$ 448.20
 - 3.2 2014/15 Inspection fee# for houseboats at other locations \$631.60.

Further licensing requirements to be submitted to GMW before approval to launch shall be granted are:

- Written verification from a marina operator that an approved mooring is available for the houseboat
- Confirmation from a licensed plumber that the houseboat has been inspected for general plumbing and gas fitting compliance and complies with Schedule 1 (Part1) of the Eildon Houseboat Regulations 2013.
- Confirmation that an on board greywater treatment system has been fitted that meets the discharge standards of AS 4995-2009 and a letter from the installer that the unit has been fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and complies with Schedule 1 (Part 2) of the Eildon Houseboat Regulations 2013.
- A copy of the Vic Roads registration.

If the greywater treatment system manufacturer is recommending the installation of an overflow as part of their system plumbing, GMW will require;

- alarming of the system with a visible and audible alarm activating prior to the overflow level being reached; and
- the discharge point to be located to a visible point at either the rear of the vessel or to the outside of the pontoons.

Specifications for on-board blackwater systems are detailed in Schedule 1 of the houseboat regulations, and include the requirement for the pump out point to be 300mm above the height of the top of the toilet bowl. If macerator toilets are being installed, and there is a tank level indicator and alarm installed, GMW will approve waste pump out points placed at deck height.

To avoid the potential for completed vessels not being approved to operate on Lake Eildon, GMW recommends that boat owners ensure applications and plans are submitted and approved before construction commences.

A construction permit to replace an existing houseboat will not be approved where the annual houseboat licence has lapsed due to non-payment.

All fees are subject to an annual review.

Guarding requirements for effluent, greywater & fuel

- All underslung tanks must be guarded.
- Fuel lines not clipped to floor bearers must be guarded
- Any exposed pipework/hoses containing effluent must be guarded

- Greywater lines running parallel to pontoons, connected to floor bearers and less than 150mm (including pipe diameter) below floor bearers will not require guarding (Pipe Class to be DWV for all drainage, Minimum PN12 PVC for any transfer lines)
- Any greywater pipework running across the vessel and hanging below the floor bearers must be guarded.
- Any exposed change in greywater drain direction (including elbows, bends, tees and traps) must be guarded.
- All guarding must allow visual inspection of pipework and tanks and be constructed of a minimum 1.6mm mild steel or 3mm aluminium and be structurally sound.

Boat renovations/category upgrades

- Alterations to sewerage/greywater system must be approved by GMW.
- Structural alterations that result in a vessel being classified in a higher category must be approved by GMW.
- Alterations to sewerage & greywater installations must comply with the specifications set out in Schedule 1 Parts 1 & 2 of the Houseboat Regulations.
- Boat maintenance must be carried out in a manner which prevents waste material entering the lake. Boat owners should consult their marina operator regarding containment requirements.

NOTE: If a vessel is upgrading to a higher category an approved greywater treatment system must be fitted and the vessel must be inspected by a GMW Officer or an appointed person before the vessel can be re-launched.

Existing vessels that have been moved up a category due to appendages that wish to increase the physical size of the vessel will be required to fit a grey water treatment system.

GMW currently defines houseboat categories by the boat dimensions and the number of enclosed levels. An area is considered an enclosed level when three or four sides are constructed of a solid material ie. Aluminium, glass, perspex or other cladding.

Please contact our Recreation & Land staff to discuss any issues relating to the construction of houseboats for operation on Lake Eildon:

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