



Annual licenses arriving soon

Houseboat owners will soon receive their annual licence renewal from Goulburn-Murray Water.

Your 2012/13 licence gives you access to:

1. All waters and foreshores at Lake Eildon for safe navigation and the operation of your houseboat.
2. Exclusive use to the only Victorian water storage for houseboat operations.
3. Improved effluent disposal via the new Point Worner Mooring Head.
4. Facilities to provide for disposal of domestic rubbish.
5. A safe, usable and accessible waterway through management of buoys/zoning, signage, varying lake levels, public ramp maintenance and water quality monitoring.
6. Online houseboat information and walk in or phone access to a G-MW customer service staff member at Lake Eildon.
7. Use of future facilities currently under investigation.

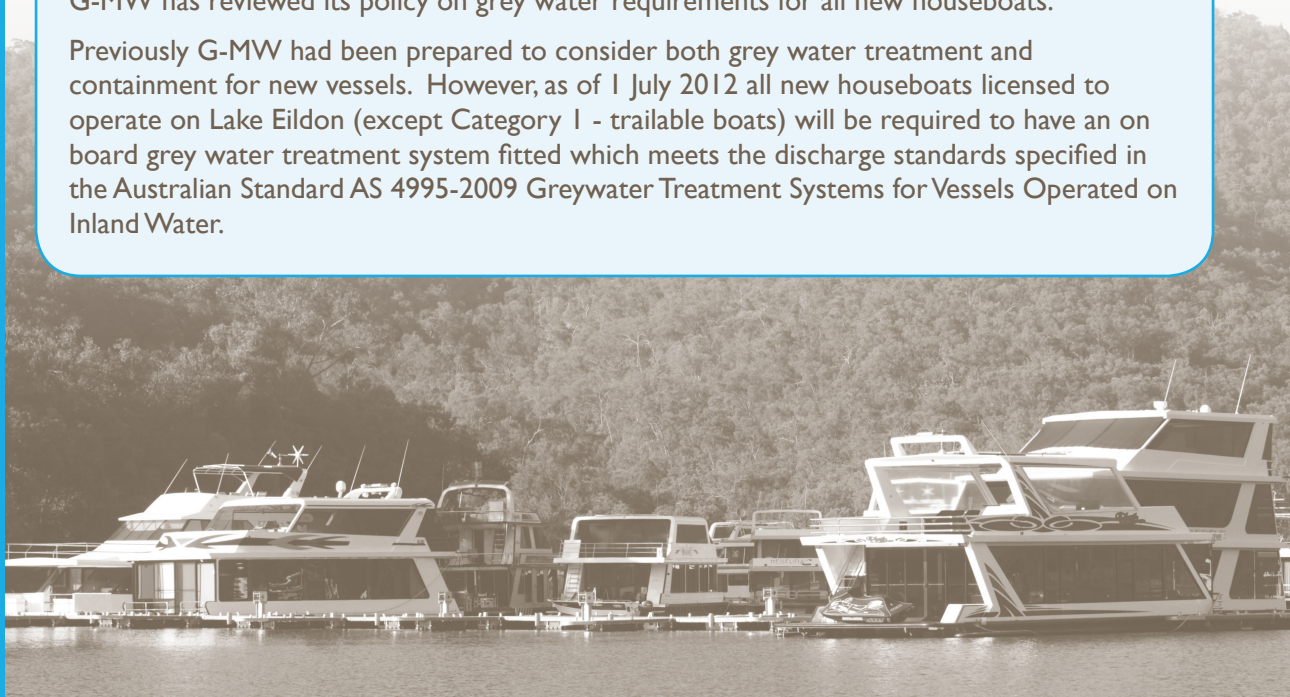
Minimising the impact from houseboats on water quality is a vital part of G-MW's management role. Over the past five years G-MW has invested \$3.4 million into new infrastructure at Lake Eildon to better deal with houseboat effluent and domestic houseboat rubbish disposal. A new sanitation station - the Point Worner Mooring Head – provides for a reduction in waiting time and access for four vessels at any one time and all effluent can be moved from “ship to shore” for further treatment. In order to further reduce risks associated with management of houseboat sewage, investigations are underway to replace the current Jerusalem Creek Sewage Barge with a new mooring head with similar capabilities to that at Point Worner.

Licence fees have increased by 10% on the previous year. This increase is necessary to offset G-MW's investment in improved houseboat facilities and to fund increasing costs of ongoing services provided by G-MW.

Grey water

With recent changes to houseboat regulations to allow additional and larger houseboats G-MW has reviewed its policy on grey water requirements for all new houseboats.

Previously G-MW had been prepared to consider both grey water treatment and containment for new vessels. However, as of 1 July 2012 all new houseboats licensed to operate on Lake Eildon (except Category 1 - trailable boats) will be required to have an on board grey water treatment system fitted which meets the discharge standards specified in the Australian Standard AS 4995-2009 Greywater Treatment Systems for Vessels Operated on Inland Water.



Licence upgrade for bigger houseboats

G-MW will allow the upgrade of five commercial houseboat licenses to permit commercial hire-and-drive houseboats up to 20 metres long to operate on Lake Eildon.

Water Minister Peter Walsh announced the licence upgrades on 5 July and said the licenses would be offered through a ballot to existing commercial operators.

“I gave a commitment late last year to see bigger houseboats on Lake Eildon to boost regional tourism and employment. Five of these licences for larger boats are now being released specifically to expand existing tourism operations to further invest in Lake Eildon,” said Mr Walsh.

G-MW will consult with existing commercial operators to work through a ballot process to issue the houseboat licences upgrades in the coming weeks.

Lake Eildon Land and On-Water Management Plan Supports Licence Upgrade

Recommendations in the newly developed Lake Eildon Land and On-Water Management Plan support licensing of larger houseboats to benefit the local tourism industry. Lake Eildon is the only inland waterway in Victoria that allows houseboats, creating a strong demand from visitors for this unique accommodation style. The Plan also recognises the need to protect water quality and the environment from any impact from more houseboats by requiring greywater treatment and best practice marina facilities for mooring, maintenance, domestic houseboat rubbish handling and refuelling.

The final version of Lake Eildon’s Land and On-Water Management Plan has now been updated and will be released publicly very soon. It is expected the Plan will be available on the G-MW web site by the end of August. After the draft Plan was released in February, we received some comments from our agency partners, community groups and individual members of the public which have now been incorporated into the final Plan. So while the planning part is complete, the implementation is just beginning! The Lake Eildon Plan Implementation Group will play an important role in assessing and prioritising the 96 actions in the Plan and ensuring the community has ongoing input into how G-MW puts actions in place, and how new issues are identified and managed. Thank you to the 500+ people who helped put this Plan together, through their comments, suggestions and involvement.

To subscribe to our e-storage newsletters, visit www.g-mwater.com.au/storages

Managing water storages this winter

To find out more about the impact of rainfall on water storage levels, visit G-MW’s Managing Water Storages web page showing current and forecast releases from storages and links to weather and flood information.

G-MW’s Managing Water Storages webpage is available at www.g-mwater.com.au/managing-water-storages, and details information on water releases taking place from storages that are not for irrigation delivery purposes. The information is updated regularly. The forecast releases are an indication only and are to be used as a guide only and may change rapidly depending on weather conditions.

G-MW monitors its water storages 24 hours a day 7 days a week and monitors Bureau of Meteorology rainfall forecasts closely for impacts on storage volume and irrigation delivery.

For updates on water storage levels that can be emailed to you daily, weekly or monthly subscribe to our free e-dams service at www.g-mwater.com.au

contacts

To report emergencies and urgent matters such as pollution incidents call our 24 hour emergency line: 1800 064 184.

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