



Working to improve Lake Eildon boating facilities

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is working with Mansfield and Murrindindi shire councils to review boating facilities on Lake Eildon.

The work is an action of GMW's Lake Eildon Land and On-Water Management Plan and its aim is to develop a detailed audit of current facilities for recreational boaters. It will also identify the shortcomings of existing facilities and gaps in infrastructure to direct future budget allocation considerations and funding applications.

The project will ensure a coordinated approach by all authorities to provide facilities and improve recreational boating safety and accessibility for all user groups of Lake Eildon, including facilities for launching houseboats.

It will take place from now to February 2015. Use levels and customer feedback will be sought during the peak Summer period with a final plan due to be presented to in March 2015.

For more information on the Lake Eildon Plan go to <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/lakeeildonimplementationcommittee.html>

New grey water regulations

GMW is still receiving enquiries about the introduction of the *Water (Lake Eildon Recreation Area) Houseboat Regulations 2013* and the requirements for grey water treatment systems on houseboats.

Fitting of a grey water treatment system is required:

- For any new houseboat being constructed;
- For houseboat licence transfers to be approved by GMW after July 1, 2015;
- For all houseboats by July 1, 2020.
- Where structural alterations to a vessel will result in the boat moving to a higher category
 - If an upper level of the vessel is enclosed resulting in a change of category;
 - If pontoons, cabin or deck length or width is increased resulting in a change of category, and;
 - If appendages are added* that do not fold or retract within current category dimensions.

*Note: 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 has been working with representatives from each of the marinas to discuss issues or concerns arising from the new grey water requirements. Boat owners are encouraged to contact their respective marinas if they have issues they would like raised with GMW as part of this process.





Structural alterations

Boat owners are reminded plans need to be submitted and approved by GMW before works can start, when:

- Alterations were being made to the blackwater (effluent) system including new tanks;
- Alterations were occurring to the grey water collection or treatment system, and;
- Structural alterations are occurring that will change the category of a vessel.

Remember, non-compliance with regulations can result in penalties for boat owners or the cancellation of a houseboat licence.

A copy of the current houseboat categories and dimensions can be obtained from GMW's Eildon office, online at www.g-mwater.com.au/houseboats or by phoning Laurinda Bellman on 5774 3932.

Reminder to slip every five years

Houseboat owners are also reminded vessels must be slipped every five years for an inspection of the sewerage system, compliance with the regulations and general condition. Owners can organise their own slipping inspection with a GMW approved inspector when they slip their houseboat for maintenance or repairs. A list of competent inspectors and forms are available at GMW's Lake Eildon office.

Houseboats with identified problems will not be permitted to return to the lake without the necessary repairs or modifications.

Boat owners are also encouraged to consider fitting a grey water treatment system while the boat is out of the water. It is recommended you discuss options available with treatment unit suppliers and consider having plumbing alterations carried out in preparation for a unit to be fitted later.

Licenses

GMW is not releasing any new houseboat licenses and current numbers are capped. For people wanting a new houseboat on Lake Eildon it is a one-off-one-on policy and this also applies to category 1 and 2 vessels.

Barges and Jerusalem Creek upgrade

GMW is developing a project proposal for Jerusalem Creek, which will include a new effluent disposal barge and a disposal system to cater for waste from houseboats and the Jerusalem Creek Camp Ground.

Options have been assessed and approval is now being sought to proceed with detailed design of a new barge and a pipeline to connect Jerusalem Creek to the Goulburn Valley Water wastewater treatment system in Eildon. Further updates will be provided when the project is approved and the design phase commences.

GMW has also continued replacement of pumps on the Point Worner Barge to increase reliability and replaced decking and carried out painting on the Jerusalem Creek Barge.

For general information

Goulburn-Murray Water www.g-mwater.com.au/houseboats

Transport Safety Victoria www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au

Energy Safe Victoria www.esv.vic.gov.au

Lake Eildon Web Site www.lakeeildon.com

Parks Victoria www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Department of Environment and Primary Industries www.depi.vic.gov.au

Country Fire Authority www.cfa.vic.gov.au