



New Houseboat Regulations

The Water (Lake Eildon Recreational Area) (Houseboats) Regulations 2013 are used by GMW to manage the operations of Houseboats on Lake Eildon.

These regulations commence in June 2013. The new regulations are largely the same as the 2003 regulations with some extra provisions to help GMW better manage house boating on Lake Eildon and improve water quality in the lake.

Under the new regulations, all houseboats on Lake Eildon will need to be fitted with a greywater treatment system by 1 July 2020.

The regulations provide for an initial two-year grace period for the transfer of existing licensed houseboats without greywater systems to new owners. The two-year grace period will not apply to houseboats that are new to Lake Eildon.

Other changes include:

- creation of a formal process for GMW to set the cap on houseboat numbers for Lake Eildon
- creation of a formal process for the revocation of a houseboat license following a breach of condition of the licence
- creation of new offences of discharging blackwater or untreated greywater (in cases where the houseboat has a greywater treatment system) into the lake.

The regulations balance the development of house boating, tourism and recreation at Lake Eildon, while protecting water quality and managing risks to human health.

For more information about the new regulations visit www.g-mwater.com.au/houseboats

Police Safety Update – Leading Senior Constable Brett Tanian APM

The cooler months are a great time for all houseboat owners to start looking at safety equipment, seaworthiness of various vessels, tinnies and ski boats.

This is also the time to check on registration - are the vessels owned by you registered, is the current label attached, are there numbers on all vessels and are they the correct size?

Have a look at safety equipment - especially Personal Floatation Devices. Are they in good condition, do inflatable types need servicing, is there enough of them for the number of persons that will be onboard? Are fire extinguishers fully charged and easy to locate? Torches should be working and water proof. Bilge pumps should work without any debris or other rubbish that may block them from operating.

Boating safety starts with you.

For more information visit Transport Safety Victoria website at www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au





New Categories and 2013/14 Fees

Larger boats are now permitted on Lake Eildon under the new regulations for houseboats. This has required an amendment to the houseboat categories. The new categories are based on the overall footprint of the boat, including additional fixtures.

Adopting the new categories will provide clarity on boat dimensions and capture a number of existing anomalies where boats are inappropriately categorised.

The regulations will allow some boats to be modified to increase the existing enclosed space to the maximum category dimensions. This is desirable for many houseboat owners and the houseboat building and maintenance industry.

The table below provides details of the new categories and the 2013/14 fees will be based on an assessment of existing boats against these categories. Boat owners should contact our Eildon office if they have any concerns about the category applied to their houseboat when they receive their 2013/14 accounts.

Category	Maximum Size	Description	
1 Trailable	10m x 3.5m	A trailable boat able to be transported without the need for a Vic Roads permit (not upgradeable)	\$380
2	10.6m x 4.5m	One enclosed level, non trailable (not upgradeable)	\$700
3	10.6m x 4.5m	Two or more enclosed levels (upgradeable)	\$1,200
	13.7m x 5.5m	Houseboat with one enclosed level (upgradeable)	
4	13.7m x 5.5m	Two or more enclosed levels (upgradeable)	\$1,650
	15.2m x 6.25m	One enclosed level (upgradeable)	
5	15.2m x 6.25m	Two or more enclosed levels (upgradeable)	\$2,000
	18.3m x 7.25m	One enclosed level (upgradeable)	
6	18.3m x 7.25m	Two enclosed levels (not upgradeable)	\$2,400
7	20m x 8m	Special - commercial vessel	\$2,800

Energy Safe Victoria Message

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) is the independent technical regulator responsible for electricity, gas and pipeline safety in Victoria. ESV has embarked on a safety and education campaign to ensure all houseboats on Victorian waters are both electrical and gas safe. ESV is working in partnership with GMW to promote energy safety and ensure all vessels are electrical and gas compliant.

Over the next 5 years when your houseboat is slipped (as part of the GMW requirement) ESV recommend you also ensure your vessel is inspected by a licensed plumber (gas fitter) and holds approval from ESV for gas safety. Included in this newsletter is an ESV information brochure on houseboat safety and further information is available from www.esv.vic.gov.au

