

Welcome to Goulburn Weir



About the Weir

Built in 1891, Goulburn Weir was the first major diversion structure for irrigation development in Australia. It was considered to have a very advanced design for the time and even appeared on the Australian half sovereign and ten shilling banknotes from 1913 to 1933.

The weir raises the level of the Goulburn River so that water can be diverted by gravity along channels to supply irrigation water to Goulburn-Murray Water customers. Water travels via the Stuart Murray Canal, Cattnach Canal and the East Goulburn Main Channel to supply the Central Goulburn and Shepparton Irrigation Areas.



History

Construction of the original weir began in 1887 and was completed by 1891. The weir itself is built of concrete, with its downstream face stepped with granite blocks. The original design featured 21 cast iron flood gates (6.1 metres wide and 3 metres high). All the cement used in its construction was imported from England, while the granite blocks were quarried from Mt Black, about 24 kms south-west of the site.

When the weir was first built, water turbines provided the power to raise and lower the gates. The drive shaft ran along the full length of the weir and can still be seen today (see picture below left).

One of the first hydro-electric turbines in the southern hemisphere was used to light up the weir at night, a sight that attracted visitors from all over Victoria.



Did you
know?

The Weir is 212 metres long, 15 metres high, has nine radial gates and two overshot gates that can release up to 96,000 megalitres per day!



Did you know?

Goulburn Weir covers 1,130 hectares and when full holds 25,500 megalitres of water.

Maintaining the Weir

After more than 90 years of continuous service, many of the weir's components were in urgent need of replacement. Stabilisation works were undertaken between 1983 and 1987 at a cost of \$9.9 million, fully funded by the State Government.

The weir now features nine steel radial gates and is operated via remote control.

In 1988 the refurbishment work was awarded the Engineering Excellence Award, Public Works Section, "for stabilisation and reconstruction superstructure and retention of heritage value and charm" by the Institution of Engineers Australia (Victoria Division).

Supply for Irrigation

Water from the Goulburn River system is the life blood of many businesses and communities in northern Victoria. Through a complex system of dams, weirs and distribution channels, water from the Great Divide, east of Lake Eildon, travels north-west through Goulburn Weir and across the rest of the state.

The Goulburn Irrigation System supports some of Victoria's best irrigated agriculture, including horticulture and dairy.

On average, 91% of water released from Lake Eildon is diverted for irrigation purposes at Goulburn Weir, averaging 1,768,000 ML a year.

Lake Nagambie

Lake Nagambie is a very popular destination for visitors from around the country and is home to Victoria's premier Regatta Centre.

The constant water level provided by the weir means locals and visitors can enjoy rowing, fishing, boating, water skiing, wakeboarding and canoeing all year round.

The area is perfect for fishing. The combination of river, lake, weir and backwaters is ideal to find Crayfish, Golden Perch, Redfin, Salmonids and Murray Cod.

Lake Nagambie lies beside the main street of the thriving town of Nagambie, only 90 minutes from Melbourne.

