

# Welcome to Lake Eildon



## About the Lake

Lake Eildon is one of Victoria's most important inland waterways. Water released from Lake Eildon is diverted for irrigation purposes and supplies around 60% of water used in the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District (GMID).

Some 96% of the water diverted from the GMID is delivered to water entitlement holders for irrigation or environmental purposes. The remaining 4% is supplied to urban water authorities for domestic water supply.

Lake Eildon is the only reservoir in Victoria where houseboats operate, making it a very popular holiday and recreation destination.



## History

Construction of the original storage, which was known as Sugarloaf Reservoir, took place between 1915 and 1929. It was modified in 1929, and again in 1935 to increase the storage capacity to 377,000 megalitres. In 1951, work began to enlarge the storage to its present capacity (3,334,158 megalitres). The enlargement was completed in 1955 and the storage was renamed Lake Eildon.

The enlargement plans also considered Victoria's electricity needs. The original 15 megawatt hydro-electric generation capacity at the Sugarloaf Reservoir was increased to 120 megawatts through the installation of two 60 megawatt turbines. The oldest turbines were renovated in 2001 to provide a generation capacity of 135 megawatts.



Did you  
know?

When full, Lake Eildon  
stores six times as much  
water as Sydney  
Harbour!



*Did you know?*  
 Lake Eildon covers 13,840 hectares, with its shoreline extending 515 kilometres.

The small goldmining town of Darlingford (named after Sir Charles Darling, then Governor of Victoria), near the junction of the Big and Goulburn Rivers, was flooded by the building of the Sugarloaf Reservoir. A new town, Eildon, (named after Eildon Station) was built to house the 4,000 people working on the construction of the dam. Eildon Station was first settled in 1846 by Mr and Mrs Archibald Thom. The name Eildon was chosen by the owners because the area reminded them of Mrs Thom's birthplace, the Eildon Hills near Abbotsford in Scotland.

## Supply for Irrigation

Lake Eildon was built to supply water for irrigation, towns and cities and other downstream users along the Goulburn River. Water from Lake Eildon generates billions of dollars of wealth every year for regional Victorian communities.

Lake Eildon's capacity of 3,334,158 megalitres has been designed to store enough water to supply customers through at least two drought seasons. A minimum daily flow of 250 megalitres per day is released from the pondage to the river.

## Eildon Pondage

Eildon Pondage is a re-regulation storage facility constructed to contain flows released from the dam to within the capacity of the Goulburn River channel. The pondage has a surface area of 150 hectares with a capacity of 5,200 megalitres. Water levels within the pondage change in response to demands for hydro-electricity and irrigation water released from the Eildon Dam.

## Tourist Destination

Lake Eildon rates as one of Victoria's most popular tourist resorts. Surrounded by the townships of Bonnie Doon, Alexandra, Eildon, Mansfield, Howqua, Jamieson and Yea, Lake Eildon is only two hours drive from Melbourne and is known as the *Gateway to the Victorian High Country*.

