

FACT SHEET

Making a submission about a licence application



What must GMW consider when assessing a licence application?

Under section 40 of the *Water Act 1989* GMW must take into account a number of matters when assessing licence applications.

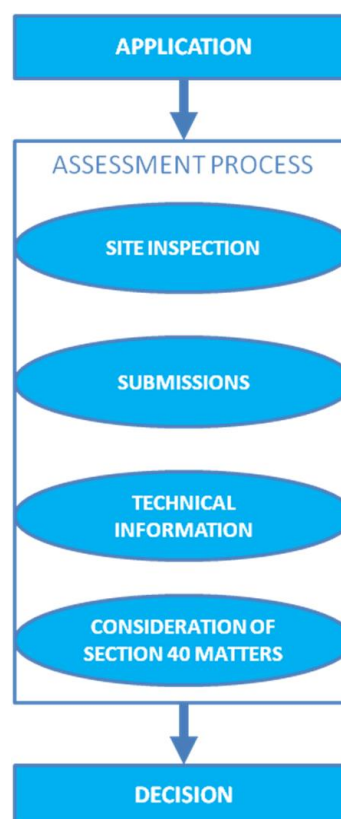
These matters include:

- The availability and quality of water in an area (40(1)(bc));
- Any applicable permissible consumptive volume (40(1)(ba));
- Potentially unacceptable impacts on:
 - Other uses of water
 - Waterways
 - Aquifers
 - Drainage regimes
 - Relevant environmental water reserves (40(d)(i-iv));
- Other water the applicant is entitled to (40(e));
- Protection of the environment (40(g));
- Any government policies regarding conservation and preferred allocation or use of water (40(i,j));
- Proximity to the Murray, parts of the Goulburn or Ovens (north of Peechelba) Rivers (40(ja));
- Management of the aquifer or the waterway and surrounds (40(k));
- The purpose of water use (40(l));
- Needs of other potential applicants (40(m));
- Any other matters that the Minister thinks fit to have regard to (53(e)).

Can I make a submission?

If you believe that your interests, or the interests of the environment, could be affected by the issue of a licence you are entitled to make a submission.

Relevant issues raised in submissions are considered in the licence assessment process, as shown below.



What can I make a submission about?

As mentioned above GMW must consider a number of matters under the *Water Act 1989*. Your submission should be relevant to one or more of these matters.

Purely philosophical objections to the allocation of water or objections related to legislation other than the *Water Act 1989*, for instance, the likelihood of noise, smell, dust or truck movements will not be considered.

What information should I include in my submission?

Your submission must include the GMW reference number provided in the advertisement or notification.

Your submission should clearly and concisely provide as much specific information as possible about your concerns, for example:

- how far your property, assets or any water infrastructure you operate (e.g. a bore), is located from the applicant's proposed water extraction site;
- any measured information you can provide such as water levels in bores or dams;
- details about your water use and the importance of the supply you have;
- information about local flora or fauna species that may be impacted;
- any studies or reports that GMW should consider.

How do I make a submission?

Submissions can be made using the template provided on www.gmwater.com.au. Submissions can be lodged by mail to Licensing Administration, PO Box 165, Tatura, VIC 3616 or email: licensingadmin@g-mwater.com.au

What happens when I make a submission?

After receiving your submission, GMW will send you an acknowledgement letter.

GMW will review the submission and information provided as part of the assessment of the application. GMW may contact you for to clarify information provided.

After GMW has made a decision you will be notified of the outcome by mail.

It should be noted that for applications to construct a bore (works licences), GMW considers the application process to be complete when a licence to take and use groundwater is issued. Construction of a bore generally occurs before a groundwater licence is applied for.

Will my submission be treated as confidential?

The application process, including any submissions made by interested parties, is largely a public process. Parties who make submissions should be aware that the information provided may be disclosed to the applicant and the general public, (subject to a Freedom of Information request) as well other stakeholders relevant to the application.

GMW protects your personal information in accordance with the requirements of the Information Privacy Act 2000. For further information regarding the handling of your personal information please refer to our Privacy Policy.

What if I'm not happy with GMW's decision?

You are entitled to request a Statement of Reasons for the decision under section 45 of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998.

All decisions made by GMW may be subject to review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (VCAT). You are entitled to lodge an application for review with VCAT within 28 days of the date of a decision in accordance with Section 64 of the *Water Act 1989*.