



Houseboat update

February 2018



Welcome to the 2018 houseboat season.

This update is intended to provide you with information you should be aware of as a houseboat owner.

If you have any questions about the information provided or have specific GMW houseboat enquiries please contact Laurinda Bellman at our GMW Eildon Office by calling 03 5774 3932 or emailing laurinda.bellman@gmwater.com.au

Stay safe on the water and we look forward to working with you throughout the year.

For more houseboat information visit gmwater.com.au/recreation-tourism/houseboats

Houseboat Annual Accounts

Please be aware that there has been a change to the issuing of annual houseboat accounts. Annual houseboat accounts will now be issued in May with a due date of 30 June 2018. This will ensure all houseboats are licenced for the 2018/19 year. If you have any questions regarding this change please contact our GMW Revenue team on 1800 013 357 or at Revenue@gmwater.com.au

Houseboat Labels

Due to recent changes in houseboat regulations, GMW is no longer required to issue houseboat licence labels. Therefore, you will **no longer receive a label** upon receipt of payment for your annual houseboat licence account.

Houseboat Documents

To ensure that all houseboat users are up to date on any terms and conditions that may impact their use of houseboats on Lake Eildon, we have developed a new document. "Houseboat Licence Terms and Conditions" explaining the terms and conditions that all houseboat licence holders must adhere to, and that non-compliance may result in the revocation of your houseboat licence. As these terms and conditions are subject to change from time to time, GMW will ensure this document is kept up to date through our website.

The Lake Eildon Houseboat Information Booklet has also been updated. This document contains important and general information for houseboat licence holders and operators.

For the most up to date versions of these documents please visit gmwater.com.au/recreation-tourism/houseboats

Upgrading or Altering Existing Houseboats

Please be aware that prior to any works commencing on an existing houseboat an application form must be submitted to the GMW Eildon Office. Plans of intended works must accompany the application form and an inspection must be undertaken by GMW officers prior to relaunch.

Examples of works include, but are not limited to:

- Altering the length, width or enclosed levels
- Any new or additional pontoons
- Upgrades or alterations to the blackwater system

Note: An inspection fee will apply. Non-compliance may result in cancellation or non-issue of your houseboat licence.

Houseboat Licence Transfers

Upon the sale of a houseboat, please ensure that the transfer application is forwarded to GMW as soon as possible upon settlement. All houseboat licences must be held in the same name as the Vic Roads registered operator. Non-compliance may result in revocation of the houseboat licence.

Recent changes to houseboat regulations have seen the requirement to fit a greywater treatment system (GWTS) to enable the transfer of licence repealed, therefore all licence transfers should be forwarded to the GMW Eildon Office as soon as possible upon settlement.

Sustainable and Eco Friendly Cleaning Products

With houseboat greywater regulations recently being repealed, water quality is still a top priority for Lake Eildon. Please, where possible use sustainable and ecofriendly cleaning products in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry and any other areas where cleaning and washing activities occur.

For more information and handy hints please visit www.homeimprovementpages.com.au/article/sustainable_eco_friendly_cleaning_products#3. *eco friendly*

Houseboat Domestic Rubbish Removal

GMW provides bulk rubbish bins at the marinas for disposal of houseboat domestic rubbish. Unfortunately we have seen an increase in the dumping of large items in these bins.

Please remember that any large bulky items or renovation materials are not to be dumped in these bins. Your marina operator will be able to assist you to arrange the appropriate disposal of such items. Houseboat contractors have also been notified.

On a more positive note, thank you for continuing to pick up rubbish from around the foreshore.

Important Safety Reminders

- A 5 knot speed limit applies at any water level within 50 metres of the water's edge, other vessels, navigation aids, swimmers and fixed or floating structures. No Boating is permitted around the Outlet Tower - this is signalled by a line of red buoys around the structure.
- There are life jackets laws for recreational vessels. These can be found at www.wearalifejacket.vic.gov.au/lifejacket-laws
- Always make sure you carry all of the required safety equipment when you head out on the water.
- Please be aware of navigational hazards above or below the water. There can be partially or fully submerged rocks, trees and debris. Always be aware of your surroundings.
- For more "Water Smart" info, check out www.gmwater.com.au/recreation-tourism/water-smarts

Vic Roads Registration

Please remember that your Vic Roads registration number must be displayed on both sides of your houseboat with the letter and numbers being no less than 150mm high and in a colour that is in contrast to the surface on which they are displayed.

It is an offence not to display your registration details and the Water Police can issue infringement notices.

Note: This is also crucial for identifying a vessel, particularly in an emergency situation.

Additional information

Lake, River and Pondage levels can be obtained by calling our advisory line on 03 5774 3928.

Effluent barge issues are to be reported to the GMW Duty Officer on 0418 968 992.

GMW wishes you all a safe and happy 2018 boating season.