

## Technical investigation into alternative greywater systems for Lake Eildon houseboats

In October 2017, the Victorian Government announced its decision to repeal the requirement in the *Water (Lake Eildon Recreational Area) (Houseboats) Regulations 2013* for mandatory installation of greywater treatment systems on Lake Eildon houseboats. This requirement was removed on the advice of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) in response to an independent review of the regulations conducted by Jacobs in 2016-2017.

The review highlighted significant concerns among the Lake Eildon houseboat community relating to the practical and financial implications of the regulations, the timeline for implementation and aspects of existing greywater treatment systems. The review highlighted the importance of making it easier for houseboat owners to help to protect water quality and public health at the lake.

DELWP is committed to improving the health of Lake Eildon and will continue to work with Goulburn Murray Water, houseboat owners and manufacturers to develop improved future houseboat greywater management requirements. DELWP have engaged Jacobs to further investigate issues identified in the original review, and explore opportunities for alternative greywater management on Lake Eildon houseboats, including the feasibility of allowing simpler, cheaper, alternative greywater systems.

Following this, DELWP will commission a separate technical investigation into options for realigning greywater system approval processes with a well-established, reputable and recognised national accreditation process. It is intended that new regulations with improved greywater management requirements will be introduced in the future, following the commissioning of these investigations.

### What is happening?

DELWP has commissioned Jacobs to investigate issues and opportunities relating to different options for greywater management on Lake Eildon houseboats. This will include further investigation of the feasibility of some of the potential options that were identified in the 2016-17 independent review.

This investigation will assess the technical aspects of different types of greywater systems, examining both their treatment effectiveness and the practical implications of on-board operation. An important input to this investigation will be feedback from industry and houseboat owners. Other management and regulatory options will also be considered as part of the review. Jacobs will consult with industry and houseboat owners both during the initial investigation and on the draft recommendations prior to the finalisation of the report.

### What is the role of DELWP and Goulburn Murray Water in the investigation?

Jacobs will continue to engage with DELWP and Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) during the investigation. DELWP and GMW will use the outputs of the investigation to determine how to best achieve the desired water quality outcomes on Lake Eildon.

## History of the regulations

Lake Eildon is the only inland waterway in Victoria where houseboats operate. In addition to hosting over 700 licensed houseboats, the lake is a popular recreational site, used for camping, swimming, water skiing, sailing and fishing. These activities make a significant contribution to the local community and economy.

Greywater discharge from houseboats impacts water quality and poses a potential risk to environmental and public health. To manage these impacts, the Victorian Government introduced greywater treatment requirements into the *Water (Lake Eildon Recreational Area) (Houseboats) Regulations 2013* on June 12, 2013.

In late 2017, following extensive stakeholder and community consultation, and an independent review, the Victorian Government repealed the requirements for houseboats to have a greywater treatment system installed.

## Engagement Approach

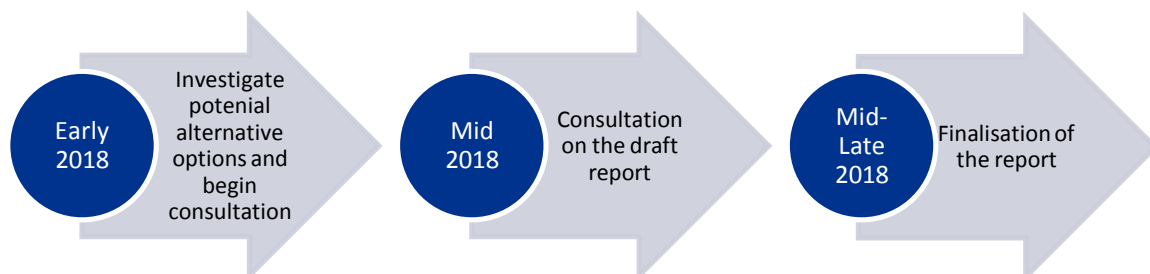
The local houseboat community and industry provided valuable feedback during Jacobs' 2016-17 review. We will again seek feedback from the local houseboat community and industry as part of this investigation. Your feedback will be critical to ensuring DELWP and GMW understand how they can best meet the required water quality objectives while minimising the effects on the current and future Lake Eildon Houseboat community.

The draft findings of this investigation will also be made available to houseboat owners and industry for comment prior to finalisation and submission to DELWP.

While Jacobs will seek feedback at key milestones in the investigation, our study team also can be contacted with any comments or queries during the course our investigations via the following email [greywater@jacobs.com](mailto:greywater@jacobs.com)

## Timeline of the investigation

The investigation has begun and we aim to complete the work later this year. Input will be sought following commencement of the investigation (March-April 2018) and release of the draft report (May-June 2018).



## Contact details

For more information, please contact the Jacobs project team by email at [greywater@jacobs.com](mailto:greywater@jacobs.com)