Newlyn Reservoir

Recreational Area Management Plan

October 2026



Water for a thriving northern Victoria

Goulburn-Murray WATER

Acknowledgement of Country

Goulburn-Murray Water recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia and the proud representatives of the world's oldest, living culture.

We respectfully acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters and the rich cultural connections First Peoples have across our region.

We commit to building meaningful partnerships that create value for Traditional Owners and Aboriginal communities through genuine engagement and collaboration.

We recognise the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation as the Registered Aboriginal Party within the Newlyn Reservoir region and acknowledge their rights as the Traditional Owners of land and waters, as outlined in their Agreements with the State of Victoria.

Front cover mage credit: Chris Braden

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About Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW)

GMW is Australia's largest rural water provider, managing the storage, delivery and drainage systems for 70 per cent of Victoria's stored water resources, 50 per cent of Victoria's underground water supplies and 35 per cent of Victoria's unregulated water resources.

GMW services a region of 68,000 square kilometres, bordered by the Great Dividing Range to the south, the River Murray to the north and stretching from Corryong in the east to Nyah in the west.

Recreational areas managed by GMW are popular destinations for local communities and Victorian and interstate visitors to connect with water and the natural environment to undertake a variety of recreational activities. Since 2021, an average of almost 2.5 million people visit determined recreational areas managed by GMW each year.

GMW plays a crucial role in managing recreational areas at Newlyn Reservoir. The development of the Newlyn Reservoir Recreational Area Management Plan (the plan) aims to balance the needs of GMW customers, the environment and recreational opportunities.

Introduction

The purpose of the Newlyn Reservoir Recreational Area Management Plan (the plan) is to provide clear operational guidelines for managing recreational activities at Newlyn Reservoir while minimising impacts on water quality, the environment, cultural heritage values, and GMW assets and operations.

The plan provides a comprehensive and practical framework for GMW to manage recreational activities at Newlyn Reservoir in a way that aims to protect the natural environment, maintain water quality, provide opportunity for Cultural Practices for First Nations People, and support the safe enjoyment by visitors.

Key values referenced in the development of the plan include:

- Environmental protection
- Recreational opportunities
- Cultural heritage
- Economic benefits, and
- Community engagement.

The plan details permitted recreational activities, management objectives, designated set-aside areas to balance use and conservation, and highlights the variety of stakeholders involved in the management of Newlyn Reservoir. It references the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's (DEECA) guidance materials to ensure sustainable use and the protection of water resources.

Recreational Area Management Plans

The Water (Recreational Area) Regulations 2023 (the regulations) apply to approximately 40 water storages across Victoria. These storages have been determined as recreational areas by the Minister for Water in accordance with section 122ZA of the Water Act 1989.

The regulations provide for the control, management and use of recreational areas, and provide infringement offences and penalties. These infringement penalties were not available in the superseded Model By-Law: Recreational Areas 2012. The regulations came into operation in August 2023, replacing GMW's Recreational Area By-Law. A key feature of the regulations is the requirement for water corporations to develop management plans for recreational areas under their jurisdiction.

The plan explains how Newlyn Reservoir's public recreation areas are operationally managed under the Water (Recreational Area) Regulations 2023. While it is not a strategic planning document, GMW supports and partners with agencies, councils, First Nations people and groups, and community groups on projects that support health, wellbeing and liveability, boost tourism and contribute to regional economic growth through improved recreational opportunities.

Water corporations are legally obligated to uphold commitments outlined under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 and the Native Title Act 1993. These obligations include actively working in partnership with the relevant First Nations groups to ensure culturally appropriate and equitable outcomes.

This plan acknowledges and values Traditional Cultural ways of knowing, being, and decision-making that lie outside Western governance frameworks, and affirms Cultural Lore and protocols of the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (DJAARA).

For further information on the Water (Recreational Area) Regulations 2023 visit:

www.water.vic.gov.au/our-programs/recreational-values-of-victorias-water/recreational-area-regulations

In addition to the regulations, GMW manages the recreational use of this storage in accordance with:

- Water Act 1989
- Marine Safety Act 2010
- Safe Drinking Water Act 2003.

The plan serves as a guiding operational document for GMW, local communities, and stakeholders in managing recreational activities at Newlyn Reservoir. It provides clear guidelines and actions to enable the sustainable use of Newlyn Reservoir recreational areas while protecting its natural and cultural values.

It is intended to be a living document, to be reviewed and updated when appropriate based on the monitoring of recreational activities and in consultation with key stakeholders.

Monitoring and evaluation

The plan will be reviewed every 10 years, or sooner as needed, to assess its effectiveness and make necessary adjustments. This review process will involve:

- Engagement of relevant First Nations groups and an open feedback process based on the principles of self-determination
- Monitoring and evaluation: regularly monitoring the impact of recreational activities on the environment and water quality
- Regulatory compliance: ensuring compliance with DEECA's guidelines and other relevant regulations
- Community feedback: gathering input from local residents, recreational users, local government authorities, special interest groups and other key stakeholders.

About Newlyn Reservoir

Newlyn Reservoir is situated on the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung people at Birch's Creek, in central western Victoria near the township of Newlyn. It is approximately 28 km northeast of Ballarat, 18 km southwest of Daylesford and 11 km from the town of Creswick.

The original Newlyn Reservoir was completed in 1871, with enlargement of the storage to its current capacity of 3,125 ML completed in 1961. Developed to support irrigation and stock and domestic water supply in the region, it has a modest storage capacity and is part of a network of smaller reservoirs that contribute to local water management.

The reservoir is bordered by agricultural land and offers opportunities for fishing, birdwatching, and picnicking, with basic public amenities available nearby. GMW manages the reservoir and surrounding land, ensuring safe access and environmental stewardship.

The reservoir contributes to community wellbeing by providing a quiet local recreation setting where people can fish, walk, relax and spend time outdoors. It is also valued as a peaceful fishing location, supporting local connection, intergenerational learning and enjoyment of the surrounding rural landscape.

Objectives of the plan

The objectives of this management plan for recreational areas at Newlyn Reservoir are to:

- Protect the land, services and facilities in the area
- Protect and maintain water quality in waterways in the area
- Conserve and preserve flora, fauna and habitat in the area, including the biodiversity of that flora, fauna and habitat
- Protect the health and safety of visitors to the area
- Promote the enjoyment and recreation of visitors to the area
- Continue the ongoing enjoyment of Newlyn Reservoir by ensuring leases and licences for caravan parks, marinas, clubs and other appropriate organisations delivering recreational facilities to the community are maintained and reviewed regularly
- Protect and promote Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal intangible heritage in the area
- Protect and promote any other heritage features in the area
- Facilitate the participation of relevant First Nations groups in the management of that area, including in accordance with any agreements under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 that apply to the area
- Ensure that the area is managed and used in a way that respects and upholds the rights and aspirations of First Nations groups who have a connection to the area.

Consultation

The Newlyn Recreational Area Management Plan has been developed to align with the guidance provided by DEECA in accordance with the regulations. A formalised consultation and engagement framework was imbedded in the development of the plan.

The following consultation activities were undertaken in 2024/25 to support the development of the plan:

- Consultation opportunities were promoted widely, including via GMW social media posts, media releases, the GMW website and targeted mailing lists to notify stakeholders and encourage participation and feedback on the draft Newlyn plan
- Interviews with partner agencies including Hepburn Shire Council, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Victorian Fisheries Authority, and Better Boating Victoria
- Engagement and consultation with DJAARA (Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation) as a partner and as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP)
- Feedback was encouraged via GMW's dedicated online engagement portal yoursay@gmw, with opportunities to provide input to the draft plans via a values-based questionnaire and the ability to download and comment on the draft plans
- A summary of the feedback received was published on GMW's yoursay@gmw portal, highlighting the key themes and how this feedback has been incorporated into the plans.

What we heard

GMW engaged through face-to-face gatherings, one-on-one discussions and an online survey to understand people's connections to the land and water, personal experiences, and what they valued most about accessing Newlyn for recreational purposes.

We worked closely with DJAARA to identify opportunities to support Djaara values, priorities and aspirations in the management of Newlyn recreational areas that align to their Dhelkunya Dja Country Plan and Dhelkunyangu Gatjin (water) strategy. This included On Country days, open dialogue and knowledge exchange.

The consultation highlighted that Newlyn Reservoir is hugely important to the local community and provides a wide range of cultural, lifestyle, health, environmental and economic benefits and contributes to the community's sense of place.

It provides an opportunity to connect to Country and draws visitors (particularly local and generational) year-round. It contributes to the regional economy and serves as a multi-generational recreation destination.

Key value themes include:

- Enjoying peace and quiet: Spending time in a calm and quiet setting provides visitors with a place to relax, walk, fish and enjoy open space. The peaceful environment supports mental wellbeing and offers a break from busy daily routines.
- Strengthening local connections: The area is a familiar and valued place for local residents, families and regular visitors. Spending time there helps people stay connected to their community, local landscape and shared recreational spaces.

- Supporting fishing traditions: Fishing provides enjoyment, relaxation and a sense of achievement. It also creates opportunities to spend time with family and friends and pass on skills across generations.
- Fostering a connection to nature: The water, birdlife, open views and rural surrounds help visitors feel connected to nature. This connection supports appreciation of the environment and the changing seasonal character of the landscape.
- Creating lasting memories: Time spent walking, fishing, picnicking or simply enjoying the water contributes to lasting personal and family memories. These experiences strengthen the area's role as a meaningful local place.
- Encouraging gentle physical activity: Walking, dog walking and fishing provide accessible forms of outdoor activity. These activities support physical health while allowing people to enjoy the natural setting at their own pace.
- Supporting community wellbeing: The area provides a place where people can slow down, spend time outdoors and enjoy simple recreation close to home. This supports broader community wellbeing and quality of life.

Key themes from engagement with DJAARA include:

- Recognition, rights and cultural heritage - recognising Djaara as Traditional Owners, protecting cultural heritage and supporting Djaara rights, cultural practices and self-determination.
- Healing Country and waterways - improving water health, managing erosion, restoring native vegetation and aquatic habitat, and protecting native flora and fauna.
- Cultural visibility and inclusive design - incorporating Djaara language, stories, artwork and design into signage, facilities, gathering spaces and accessible visitor areas.
- Respectful recreation and protection of Country - improving visitor education, signage and access controls to reduce rubbish, inappropriate vehicle use and damage to sensitive areas.
- Djaara-led participation and opportunities - supporting Djaara involvement in monitoring, land management, cultural tourism, training, environmental studies and project delivery.
- Ongoing partnership and shared decision-making - continuing on-Country engagement, co-design and collaboration between GMW, DJAARA, Djaara members and relevant partners.

Location

Newlyn Reservoir is in central western Victoria, on Birch's Creek. It is approximately 28 km northeast of Ballarat, 17 km southwest of Daylesford and 11 km from the town of Creswick.



Figure 1 Newlyn Reservoir location map

Facilities available

The following facilities are available at Newlyn Reservoir, with locations shown on the map in Figure 3.



Public toilets



Picnic facilities

Figure 2 Facilities

Visitors are encouraged to observe all signs and directions, and check GMW's website for up-to-date information on Newlyn Reservoir, including information on all ability facilities, prior to visiting at www.gmwater.com.au

Recreational activities

Public recreational areas managed by GMW are popular places for visitors to connect with water and the natural environment, and to undertake a variety of recreational activities. GMW places the highest priority on safety at the storages we manage.

The below table summarises the activities permitted at Newlyn Reservoir, any conditions that apply and links for further information.

Table 1 GMW Recreational Area Activities

Activity	Permitted ✓ or Prohibited X	Notes
Fishing	✓	Shore fishing only is permitted. Permits, bag limits and seasonal restrictions apply. For more information visit www.vfa.vic.gov.au
Boating/Water skiing	X	Vessels are not permitted on Newlyn Reservoir.
Houseboats	X	Houseboats are not permitted on Newlyn Reservoir.
Canoeing/kayaking/stand-up paddle boarding (SUP)	X	Canoeing/kayaking/stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) is not permitted on Newlyn Reservoir.
Camping/ caravaning	X	Camping/caravaning is prohibited in GMW public recreation areas, foreshore or lakebed areas.
Campfires	X	Campfires are not permitted in GMW public recreation areas, foreshore or lakebed areas. No wood collection is permitted within GMW public recreation areas, foreshore or lakebed areas.
Picnic & barbequing	✓*	No wood fire barbeques are to be lit. *On declared days of Total Fire Ban all solid fuel barbeques, portable gas appliances and kerosene lanterns are prohibited.
Dogs	✓	Dogs must be on a lead or under effective control at all times. Please clean up after your pets. Handlers are to be aware of Blue-green Algae and the risk to skin/health - water access should be managed accordingly. GMW will review localised access if issues arise.
Drone flights	X*	*Conditional – permits can be obtained, please contact GMW for more information. Drone safety rules must be adhered to. For more information visit www.casa.gov.au
Bathing/ washing	X	Cleaning agents such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste or detergent are not to be used in or near the lake.
4WD and trailbikes	X	Vehicles and trail bikes are only allowed on public roads above full supply level within the recreation areas and are not permitted on exposed areas of the shores or the lakebed. All vehicles must be roadworthy, registered and users must be licensed. Road rules must be obeyed at all times.
Hunting	X	Hunting is not permitted at Newlyn Reservoir.
Prospecting, fossicking or digging	X	The removal of rocks, material or vegetation is prohibited within GMW public recreation areas.
Events	✓*	*An events permit may be required. For more information, please see the 'Events and Permits' section on GMW's website at www.gmwater.com.au

Caring for the Newlyn Reservoir environment

Newlyn Reservoir is a beautiful natural resource. To help care for the environment so that it can be enjoyed now and into the future, follow a few simple steps:

- Take out your rubbish. The dumping of rubbish is prohibited and penalties apply, please take all your rubbish with you when you leave. Please consider the environment when disposing of litter. For nearby transfer stations refer to Hepburn Shire Council's website at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au
- Don't interfere with animals or their habitats, and don't feed them
- Keep the waterway healthy by not using cleaning agents such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner or detergent in or near the lake. They break the surface tension of the water, which reduces the oxygen levels in the water, causing harm to fish and other forms of aquatic life
- Protect the biodiversity at Newlyn. The removal of flora or fauna from GMW's public recreation areas is prohibited. Don't remove or bring in any vegetation (including harvesting of wood).



Legend

- No boats
- Road
- Public toilet
- Picnic facilities

No camping or fires are permitted on the GMW foreshore land, including lakebed areas.

Campfires are only permitted in locations where designated infrastructure is provided and in line with Country Fire Authority (CFA) guidelines.

Boating Safety

1. Local requirements are posted on all public boat ramps.
2. Boat ramps are for the launching and retrieval of vessels only.
3. To avoid congestion, complete any preparation prior to launching, or when returning from the water, away from the ramp.
4. Ensure all safety equipment is on the vessel and operational, and that lifejackets are worn when required.
5. Always keep a lookout for waterway hazards and operate your vessel in line with weather and waterway conditions.
6. Vehicles can access low-level boat ramps via existing formed tracks.
7. Vehicle and trailer parking is only allowed in designated areas or immediately adjacent low water level boat ramps.
8. Ensure no person is in or on the vessel when moving to and from the ramp.
9. Shade structures aren't allowed within 50 metres of either side of boat ramps.
10. Stay clear of reservoir infrastructure.

N

0 200

METRES

Current water level

Disclaimer

The content of this map is provided as a visual reference only. No claim is made as to the accuracy. Visitors to the recreational areas managed by GMW are reminded to always check weather, water and local area conditions prior to visiting.

For more detailed information on the Vessel Operating and Zoning Rule visit:
www.safetransport.vic.gov.au/on-the-water

To check local conditions visit:
www.emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare

Hunting is prohibited on GMW owned and managed land. For seasonal duck hunting the Game Management Authority sets the associated guidelines and rules to ensure hunting is undertaken in a safe and sustainable way. See www.gma.vic.gov.au for specific regulations.

Figure 3 Newlyn Reservoir Recreational Area map



Image credit: Gab Connole

Set aside areas

To accommodate the diverse range of recreational activities that occur at Newlyn Reservoir, GMW may use 'set aside areas' to enable flexible or tailored management of the area under the regulations while ensuring the health, safety and enjoyment of visitors.

The regulations outline that a set aside area may:

- Apply to the whole of the recreational area or a specified area
- Apply on specified days, times or periods
- Apply to a class of person, vehicle, vessel or aircraft
- Specify any conditions which must be carried out for certain activities.

Set aside areas enable the safe operation of the water storage, ensuring that water quality is maintained, on-water recreation can occur safely, and that conflicting or complementary recreational activities are well managed. Set aside areas for Newlyn Reservoir are summarised in Table 2.

Occupation agreements for lease holders such as caravan parks, club sites or grazing licences may also have restrictions or conditions for public access subject to the terms of that agreement.

Publishing a determination of a set aside area

A determination of a set aside area will be published on the GMW website and there will also be signs and notices placed on-site.

It is an offence not to comply with the conditions of determinations in set aside areas. If GMW revokes or amends a set aside area, any previous sign or notice that has been displayed under the regulations must be removed or amended to reflect the revocation or amendment.

Signage for set aside areas

Signs or notices will:

- Be displayed in a manner that is likely to be seen by any person affected by the determination
- Indicate the area that is temporarily closed or set aside by the determination
- Where applicable, state the activities that are prohibited, restricted or permitted by the determination and any conditions specified in the determination.

Register of set aside areas

A record of the set aside areas at Newlyn Reservoir is outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 Set aside areas

Regulation		Basis	Purpose of set aside area	Set aside area	Times or periods
14 (1)(b)	Prohibited or restricted access	(r.30(1))	Prohibited access for public safety (operational area)	• Tower and tower bridge • Outlet works • GMW office and depot	Always
14 (1)(b)	Prohibited or restricted access	(r.30(1))	Prohibited access for public safety	• Tower and tower bridge • Outlet works • GMW office and depot	Always
14 (2)(d)	Areas for operating BBQs or fireplaces	(r.43(3))	Specify an area where BBQs are permitted	Within the main recreation area only.	Always
14 (2)(d)	Areas for operating BBQs or fireplaces	(r.43(3))	Specify an area where fireplaces are permitted	None – Fireplaces are not permitted at Newlyn Reservoir	Always
14 (2)(e)	Areas where campfires are permitted	(r.44(2))	Specify an area where campfires are permitted	None – Campfires are not permitted at Newlyn Reservoir	Always
14 (2)(h)	Areas where dogs are permitted	(r.56 (2))	Specify the area where dogs are allowed to enhance the enjoyment of the visitors to the recreational area	All areas excluding prohibited or restricted access areas	Always
14 (2) (j)	Areas where livestock is permitted	(r.62(2))	Specify areas where livestock is permitted	Livestock is permitted in areas where a grazing licence is held	Always
14 (2) (k)	Areas where fishing is prohibited	(r.72(2))	Specify area where fishing is prohibited	Within 50m downstream of the primary spillway	Always

Regulation		Basis	Purpose of set aside area	Set aside area	Times or periods
14 (2) (l)	Areas where swimming is prohibited	(r.73(3))	Specify an area where swimming is prohibited	All - Swimming is not permitted in Newlyn Reservoir	Always
14 (2) (m)	Areas where camping is permitted	(r.74(3))	Specify where camping is permitted	None - Camping is not permitted on GMW public recreation land, foreshore and lakebed areas.	Always
14 (2) (p)	Areas where vehicles, vessels and aircraft are permitted	(r.79(3))	Specify an area where vessels are permitted	None - Vessels are none permitted on Newlyn Reservoir	Always
14 (2) (p)	Areas where vehicles, vessels and aircraft are permitted	(r.79(3))	Specify an area where vehicles are permitted	Designated parking areas and public roadways only. Vehicles are not permitted on exposed areas, foreshores or lakebed.	Always
14 (2) (s)	Areas where vessels, or classes of vessels may be used	(r.86(2))	Specify area where vessels may be used	None - Vessels are not permitted on Newlyn Reservoir	Always

Prohibited areas

Access is prohibited at all times at the following areas to protect the water supply infrastructure and to minimise risks to public safety:

- Tower and tower bridge
- Outlet works
- GMW office and depot

Temporary closures

Temporary closures of GMW recreational areas may occur on occasion as outlined in the regulations.

A temporary closure will primarily occur to:

- Support the safe management of events such as floods and fires
- Allow for operational maintenance works to take place
- Allow for Cultural Heritage investigations to take place if required
- Manage amenities and access during periods of low water levels
- Manage safety during periods of high-water levels
- Rationalise maintenance requirements during times of low visitation
- Manage safety during water quality events such as algal blooms.

In the event of an immediate temporary closure, GMW will:

- Publish the determination of a temporary closure on the GMW website and promote it through social media
- Where possible, display signs or notices on-site providing details of the temporary closure determination
- Publish a notification on the GMW website.

All other temporary closures will be communicated with impacted parties a minimum of two weeks prior to the closure.

Events and permits

GMW storages and waterways are a great place to host personal, community or commercial events. An application for an event permit must be submitted to GMW no more than 12 months prior to the proposed event date.

The timeframe for approving an event permit can vary, but we recommend applying for your permit at least 90 days before the event. This will ensure that all appropriate arrangements have been considered prior to your event such as details of communications, relevant permits, and risk management. Incomplete information will delay this process.

An event permit application form must be submitted to GMW for any event including but not limited to:

- An organised entertainment, sporting or recreation event or show
- A rally
- An organised boating event or regatta
- A festival, tour, fete or public meeting
- A demonstration, training class or similar event
- A wedding or similar ceremony
- A private function of 30 or more people.

GMW's Event Permits Policy and Procedure recognises the differing requirements and responsibilities associated with standard and commercial events to allow for better decision making, outcomes and pricing which is reflective of the proposed event. A Commercial Pricing Strategy will be developed in 2026-27.

For more information and to apply for an event permit, visit www.gmwater.com.au

Compliance and enforcement

The Water (Recreational Area) Regulations 2023 introduced the ability for GMW to issue Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) for offences under the regulations.

Water corporations can issue infringement penalties to users undertaking activities that are in breach of the regulations. These include activities that may risk land and water services, water quality, the environment, or the health, safety and enjoyment of other users within a recreational area.

Operations and maintenance

Water supply operations and infrastructure

GMW harvests and stores water entitlements for its customers in accordance with the requirements set out in the Water Act 1989.

When water is available, GMW also delivers water for the Victorian Environmental Water Holder who makes decisions about watering sites with the aim of maintaining healthy environments.

Further information on the operations of Newlyn Reservoir can be found on GMW's website at www.gmwater.com.au

Maintenance of water supply at GMW-operated storages is primarily undertaken by GMW storage operations staff. Maintenance activities include:

- Regular inspection of all water supply infrastructure
- Periodic operation of key outlet works and lubrication of ropes and bearings
- Testing and servicing of ancillary equipment
- Weed control
- Access track and fence repair works.

Recreational facilities and assets

GMW has developed internal Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manuals for recreation and land assets at each water storage. The O&M manuals include a description of each recreation and land asset, the associated standard operating and maintenance procedures and a maintenance schedule for storage staff to follow.

GMW storage staff undertake regular patrols and maintenance programs of GMW's public recreation areas as part of their O&M processes. The manuals and patrols support the management and reliability of GMW's recreational assets, ensuring they are reliable, operational, and safe for public use, and enable monitoring for environmental impacts such as rubbish dumping.

Vegetation management is undertaken through local maintenance programs by both GMW staff and trained arborists as necessary. If visitors have any concerns they are encouraged to contact GMW to report an issue.

A comprehensive internal review of these manuals is completed at least every five years to ensure their accuracy. The review enables our staff to safely and effectively perform maintenance activities, train new staff and continuously improve our recreation and land asset standards for the public.

Areas of public access may be restricted under an occupation agreement, subject to the conditions of that agreement.

Environment

GMW does not have a direct role in the management of invasive flora and fauna but actively supports and partners with the North Central Catchment Management Authority, the Victorian Fisheries Authority and DJAARA to deliver programs aimed at managing invasive species.

Water quality management

Water Quality Monitoring Program

The Major Storages Water Quality Monitoring Program involves the monitoring of water quality in 14 of GMW's major water storages including Newlyn Reservoir.

Specific objectives for the program are to:

- Provide an overview of the current and historic water quality in GMW's storages
- Examine water quality and assess compliance with guideline values recommended in current state and national guidance
- Identify water quality status and trends so that future management practices have the potential to improve water quality within the storages
- Examine blue-green algae events (particularly the number of warnings issued) and identify trends so that future management practices have the potential to limit the risk of blue-green algae.

For more information on the management of water quality at GMW storages, visit the water quality webpage at www.gmwater.com.au

Blue green algae

GMW is responsible for the management of blue-green algal blooms within our storages, irrigation channels and drains. GMW regularly monitors and inspects water bodies within our area of operation for blue-green algae. Find out more on GMW's Blue-green algae webpage at www.gmwater.com.au

Implementation plan

Table 3 provides a summary of the measures to be implemented to meet the objectives of this management plan.

Table 3 Implementation Plan

Objective	Actions to meet objectives	Implementation timeframe	Responsibility
1. Protect the land, services and GMW facilities in the area	Maintenance of facilities in accordance with Operations and Maintenance Manuals	Ongoing	GMW
	Development of Recreational Area Future Service Strategy	2026	
2. Protect and maintain water quality in waterways in the area	Water Quality Monitoring Program	Ongoing	GMW
	Blue green algae monitoring and reporting of warnings	Ongoing	
	Signage and public education on practices to minimise impact to water quality	Ongoing	
3. Conserve and preserve flora, fauna and habitat in the area, including the biodiversity of that flora, fauna and habitat	Facilitate delivery of water for the environment to support Victorian and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holders (who make decisions about watering sites with the aim of maintaining healthy environments)	Ongoing	GMW
	Signage and education to ensure visitors are aware of their responsibilities to protect the environment, including respecting GMW bylaws and taking their rubbish with them	Ongoing	
	Water Quality Monitoring Program	Ongoing	
	Flora and fauna – Investigate opportunities to collaborate with DJAARA and relevant agencies to protect and re-establish native flora and fauna habitats, including native fish species and bird life. This could include management of erosion, developing lists of culturally significant plant species, organising community planting days, establishment of exclusion and revegetation zones. This could also be achieved through education and signage. (See education action against objective 6 for further information)	Short to medium team priority (2026-2030) transitioning to business-as-usual operations (BAU)	GMW in collaboration with DJAARA, North Central CMA, and other agencies
4. Protect the health and safety of visitors to the area	Implementation of set aside areas	Ongoing	GMW
	Water safety program	Ongoing	
	Public information and signage	Ongoing	
	Public information and signage	Ongoing	GMW

Objective	Actions to meet objectives	Implementation timeframe	Responsibility
5. Promote the enjoyment and recreation of visitors to the area	Maintenance of facilities in accordance with O&M Manuals	Ongoing	
	Commercial Pricing Strategy	2026-2027	
	Accessibility – investigate opportunities to establish areas with all abilities access that allow all community members, particularly elders, people with reduced mobility using mobility aids including wheelchairs and walkers, and parents with prams, to access and experience the waters edge.	Ongoing in line with GMW's recreational investment prioritisation framework	GMW
	See actions against objectives 6-8 below for promoting enjoyment and recreation of First Nations groups.	See below	
6. Protect and promote Aboriginal cultural heritage and Aboriginal intangible heritage in the area	**Signage** – Co-design and develop culturally relevant signage for recreational areas that shares information about Djaara history, stories and cultural significance	Short to medium team priority (2026-2030) transitioning to business-as-usual operations (BAU)	GMW/DJAARA
	Language – Collaborate with Djaara to understand traditional names and translations for Newlyn. Display naming on signage and other public communications	Short term priority (2026-2027)	GMW/DJAARA
	Design – Investigate opportunities to partner with DJAARA's DJANDAK Enterprise on the design of new facilities or areas identified for improvement. Facilities should incorporate DJAARA design principles or elements.	Medium term priority (2026-2030) transitioning to business-as-usual operations (BAU)	GMW/DJAARA
	Cultural days – support opportunities identified by DJAARA's DUMAWUL Enterprise to use Newlyn for tourism and educational purposes	Medium term priority (2026-2030) transitioning to business-as-usual operations (BAU)	GMW/DJAARA
	Education/preventing misuse – Investigate ways to improve signage or install barriers to ensure use of designated parking areas and to minimise off road driving and pollution, to preserve and protect the natural environment and remaining cultural heritage of Newlyn.	Medium term priority (2026-2030) transitioning to business-as-usual operations (BAU)	GMW/DJAARA
	Website/social media – Develop communications to share knowledge/stories or remind visitors to respect Country on both GMW and DJAARA platforms. Ensure all information on GMW website is reviewed and kept up to date with general information about DJAARA.	Short term priority (2026-2027) transitioning to business-as-usual operations (BAU)	GMW/DJAARA
7. Facilitate the participation of Traditional Owner groups in the management of that area,	**Resource mapping** – support DJAARA in the design of resource maps for Newlyn to identify key locations such as areas with significant flora and fauna for harvesting, quiet zones, swimming or no boat areas that are suitable for cultural activities.	Short term priority (2026-2027)	GMW/DJAARA

Objective	Actions to meet objectives	Implementation timeframe	Responsibility
including in accordance with any agreements under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 that apply to the area			
8. Ensure that the area is managed and used in a way that respects and upholds the rights and aspirations of Traditional Owner groups who have a connection to the area	**Cultural practices** – explore ways to support cultural practices such as weaving and tree scarring.	Ongoing	GMW/DJAARA
	Look for opportunities to partner and collaborate with DJAARA by engaging with DJANDAK's design team, language team and Gatjin team on relevant future works (in line with actions to meet objective 6).	Ongoing	GMW/DJAARA
	Provide opportunities for Djaara to be involved in any future studies on flora and fauna at Newlyn (in line with actions to meet objective 3).	Ongoing	GMW/DJAARA
9. Protect and promote other heritage features in the area	GMW recognise and respect the importance of protecting and promoting existing post-contact heritage places within our recreation areas. Ongoing management of such sites will be undertaken in line with the relevant historic heritage legislation and data sets including: • World Heritage List • National Heritage List • Commonwealth Heritage List • Register of the National Estate (non-statutory) • National Trust • Victorian Heritage Register • Victorian Heritage List • Local Planning Scheme Heritage Overlays.	Ongoing	GMW