Torrumbarry Weir

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 Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation as the Registered Aboriginal Party within the Torrumbarry Weir region and acknowledge their rights as the Traditional Owners of land and waters, as outlined in their Agreements with the State of Victoria.

Cover image credit: Courtesy of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority

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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 the recreational areas at Torrumbarry Weir. The development of the Torrumbarry Weir Recreational Area Management Plan (the plan) aims to balance the needs of GMW customers, the environment and recreational opportunities.

Introduction

The purpose of the Torrumbarry Weir Recreational Area Management Plan (the plan) is to provide clear operational guidelines for managing recreational activities at Torrumbarry Weir 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 Torrumbarry Weir in a way that aims to protect the natural environment, maintain water quality, provide opportunity for Cultural Practices for Traditional Owners, 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 Torrumbarry Weir. 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 for 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 the Torrumbarry Weir recreation area is operationally managed under the Water (Recreational Area) Regulations 2023. While it is not a strategic planning document, GMW supports and partners with agencies, councils, Traditional Owners 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 Traditional Owner groups to ensure culturally appropriate and equitable outcomes.

This plan acknowledges and values the principals of self-determination and the cultural and decision-making protocols of the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and recognise that these lie outside Western governance frameworks. 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 Torrumbarry Weir. It provides clear guidelines and actions to enable the sustainable use of the recreational areas while protecting 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 Torrumbarry Weir

Torrumbarry Weir is situated on the traditional lands of the Yorta Yorta people, on the Murray River approximately 30km to the west of Echuca in northern Victoria. It is 15 km from the town of Torrumbarry and 19 km from the town of Gunbower. It plays a vital role in regulating river flows and supporting irrigation across northern Victoria.

Construction of the original weir and lock began in 1919 and was completed in 1924, following the River Murray Agreement of 1915. The weir was designed to raise the river level to enable gravity-fed irrigation and reduce reliance on pumping infrastructure. In 1996, a new concrete and gated weir replaced the original structure, which had sustained damage. The original lock, steam winch and trestles remain preserved on the island created in the bend of the river.

Torrumbarry Weir is one of 14 weirs along the River Murray and includes a navigation lock to allow boat passage. It is managed by GMW on behalf of the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).

The weir pool supports a range of recreational activities including boating, fishing, birdwatching and picnicking. Public facilities include a tourist information centre, accessible toilets, and picnic areas, and the site is popular with locals and visitors alike.

The area contributes to community wellbeing by providing access to the Murray River and supporting boating, fishing, waterskiing and river-based recreation. It is also valued as a high-use river destination, supporting holidays, social connection, local tourism and appreciation of the broader Murray River system.

Torrumbarry Weir has one recreation area located at the southern side of the weir structure.

Objectives of the plan

The objectives of this management plan for Torrumbarry Weir 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 Torrumbarry Weir by ensuring leases and licences for boating clubs, sailing 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 Traditional Owner 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 Traditional Owner groups who have a connection to the area.

Consultation

The Torrumbarry Weir 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 2025/26 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 plan.
- Interviews with partner agencies including Campaspe Shire Council, North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA), Victorian Fisheries Authority, and Better Boating Victoria
- Traditional Owner consultation that was determined in partnership with representatives of Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation as the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP)
- Feedback was encouraged via GMW's dedicated online engagement portal yoursay@gmw. Opportunities to provide input to the draft plans included 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 Torrumbarry Weir (Torrumbarry Weir) for recreational purposes.

We met on-Country at Waranga Basin and on-line with representatives from Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation to share knowledge and identify opportunities to support Traditional Owner values, priorities and aspirations in the management of recreational areas.

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

It provides an opportunity to connect to Country and draws visitors year-round. It was acknowledged that at times this results in surges in population especially on weekends and during holiday periods. It contributes to the regional economy and serves as a multi-generational recreation destination

Key value themes include:

- Supporting river-based recreation: The weir is valued for boating, fishing, waterskiing, houseboat use and access to the Murray River. These activities support enjoyment of the river and provide a distinctive recreation experience.
- Strengthening social bonds: The surrounding area provides a place for families, friends and visitors to gather, picnic, camp nearby and enjoy time together. These shared experiences help build social connection and community spirit.

- Creating lasting memories: Visits are often connected with holidays, fishing trips, boating days and time spent along the Murray River. These memories contribute to the site's long-term value for locals and visitors.
- Supporting local economy: Recreation and tourism associated with the weir, holiday park and Murray River visitation support local businesses and the broader visitor economy. The site contributes to the region's appeal as a river destination.
- Fostering a connection to the Murray River: Direct access to the river environment, including water views, riverbanks and wildlife, helps visitors connect with the Murray River. This connection supports appreciation of the river and its surrounding landscape.
- Promoting active outdoor lifestyles: Boating, fishing, water sports, walking and riverfront recreation encourage people to be active outdoors. These activities support physical health and enjoyment of open-air recreation.
- Sharing waterway heritage: The weir, lock and river infrastructure help visitors understand the working history and ongoing importance of the Murray River system. This adds educational and heritage value to the recreation experience.

Key themes from engagement with Yorta Yorta include:

This plan has been developed in full recognition and support of Traditional Owner rights to self-determination and in accordance with agreements under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 and the Native Title Act 1993. It welcomes input outside Western frameworks, respecting the time and decision-making processes of the RAP.

Key themes identified in recognition of the Yorta Yorta Whole-of-Country Plan include:

- Opportunities for cultural recognition and education at recreational areas: this may include welcome and interpretive signage to be developed in consultation and approved by Yorta Yorta.
- Self-Determination and Governance: the importance of community-led decision-making.
- Environmental Stewardship: Advocating for the restoration and sustainable management of waterways, wetlands, and biodiversity.
- Cultural Heritage Protection: the need for safeguarding sacred sites, ancestral stories, and traditional knowledge systems, including language, ceremony, and ecological practices.
- Healing and Connection: emphasising the central importance of Cultural practices to healing Country and strengthening community identity.
- A review of the plan can be initiated by the RAP at any time under the regulations.

Location

Torrumbarry Weir is situated on the traditional lands of the Yorta Yorta people, on the Murray River approximately 30 km to the west of Echuca in northern Victoria. It is 15 km from the town of Torrumbarry and 19 km from the town of Gunbower.



Figure 1 Torrumbarry location map

Facilities available

The following facilities are available at the Torrumbarry Weir, with locations shown in Figure 3.


Public toilets


Accessible facilities


Picnic facilities


Information Centre

Figure 2 Facilities

Visitors are encouraged to observe all signs and directions, and check GMW's website for up-to-date information on Torrumbarry Weir, 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 Torrumbarry Weir, any conditions that apply and links for further information.

Table 1 GMW Recreational Area Activities

Activity	Permitted ✓ or Prohibited X	Notes
Fishing	✓*	*Land based only. Permits, bag limits and seasonal restrictions apply. For more information visit www.vfa.vic.gov.au (Victoria) or www.dpi.nsw.giv.au/fishing (NSW)
Boating	✓*	*Only permitted within the Lock access lanes. All water based vessels (powered and non-powered) are able to pass upstream or downstream of the weir structure via the Lock. Vessel operators are encouraged to contact the Torrumbarry Weir Storage Duty Officer on 5487 2900 ahead of time to check the Lock's operational status. Speed and safety requirements/restrictions (including capacity limits), and zones must be adhered to. Other restrictions may apply. Visit Boating and marine | NSW Government for more information. For licence and registration requirements see Maritime licences | NSW Government.
Canoeing/ kayaking	✓*	
Water skiing	✓	Speed and safety requirements/restrictions (including capacity limits), and zones must be adhered to.
Houseboats	✓*	*Houseboats are able to pass upstream or downstream of the weir structure via the lock.
Camping/ caravaning	X	Camping/caravaning is not permitted at Torrumbarry Weir
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

Activity	Permitted ✓ or Prohibited X	Notes
Bathing/ washing	X	Cleaning agents such as soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste or detergent are not to be used in or near the lake.
Vehicles and trailbikes	X	Vehicles and trail bikes are only allowed on public roads within the recreation areas. 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 Torrumbarry Weir.
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
Tourist Information Centre	✓*	*Access to the Torrumbarry Weir walkway is prohibited outside of Monday to Friday 8am-4pm and Weekends 8am-5pm.

Caring for the environment

Torrumbarry Weir is a beautiful natural resource. To help care for the environment so that it can be enjoyed now and into the future, visitors are requested to 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 the Campaspe Shire Council website at www.campaspe.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 Torrumbarry Weir. 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).

Water safety

GMW places the highest priority on safety at the storages we manage. Ensuring personal safety and adhering to posted guidance can help prevent accidents and ensure a safer experience for everyone.

Water safety messages are communicated via GMW's Water Smarts campaign and are distributed via social media, in print at the recreational areas we manage and on the GMW website.

Key themes are aimed at educating recreational users and reducing risk taking behaviours and include:

- Speed
- Lifejackets
- Boating alone
- Checking conditions
- Hazard awareness
- Consumption of alcohol, and
- Diving

Boating safety

Transport for NSW is the boating authority for the waters of the Murray River at Torrumbarry Weir. When using the waterway, boaters need to be aware of the signage, zoning and buoyage rules in place.

For more information on boating and marine safety on the Murray River visit www.nsw.gov.au

Torrumbarry Weir Lock

The Torrumbarry Weir has a Lock located at its northern end to enable vessel movement upstream and downstream of the weir structure. GMW is the managing authority for the Lock access lanes and Lock operations. Vessel operators are encouraged to contact the Torrumbarry Weir Storage Duty Officer on 5487 2900 ahead of time to check the Lock's operational status.



Legend

- No boats
- Unrestricted speed
- Road
- Public launching area
- Caravan Park
- Public toilet
- Accessible facilities
- Picnic facilities
- Fish cage (seasonal operation)

No camping or fires are permitted on the GMW foreshore land, including riverbank 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. Vehicle and trailer parking is only allowed in designated areas.
7. Ensure no person is in or on the vessel when moving to and from the ramp.
8. Shade structures aren't allowed within 50 metres of either side of boat ramps.
9. Stay clear of lock and weir infrastructure.
10. For passage through the lock at Torrumbarry Weir (Lock 26) call (03) 5487 2900.

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 Torrumbarry Weir Recreational Area map

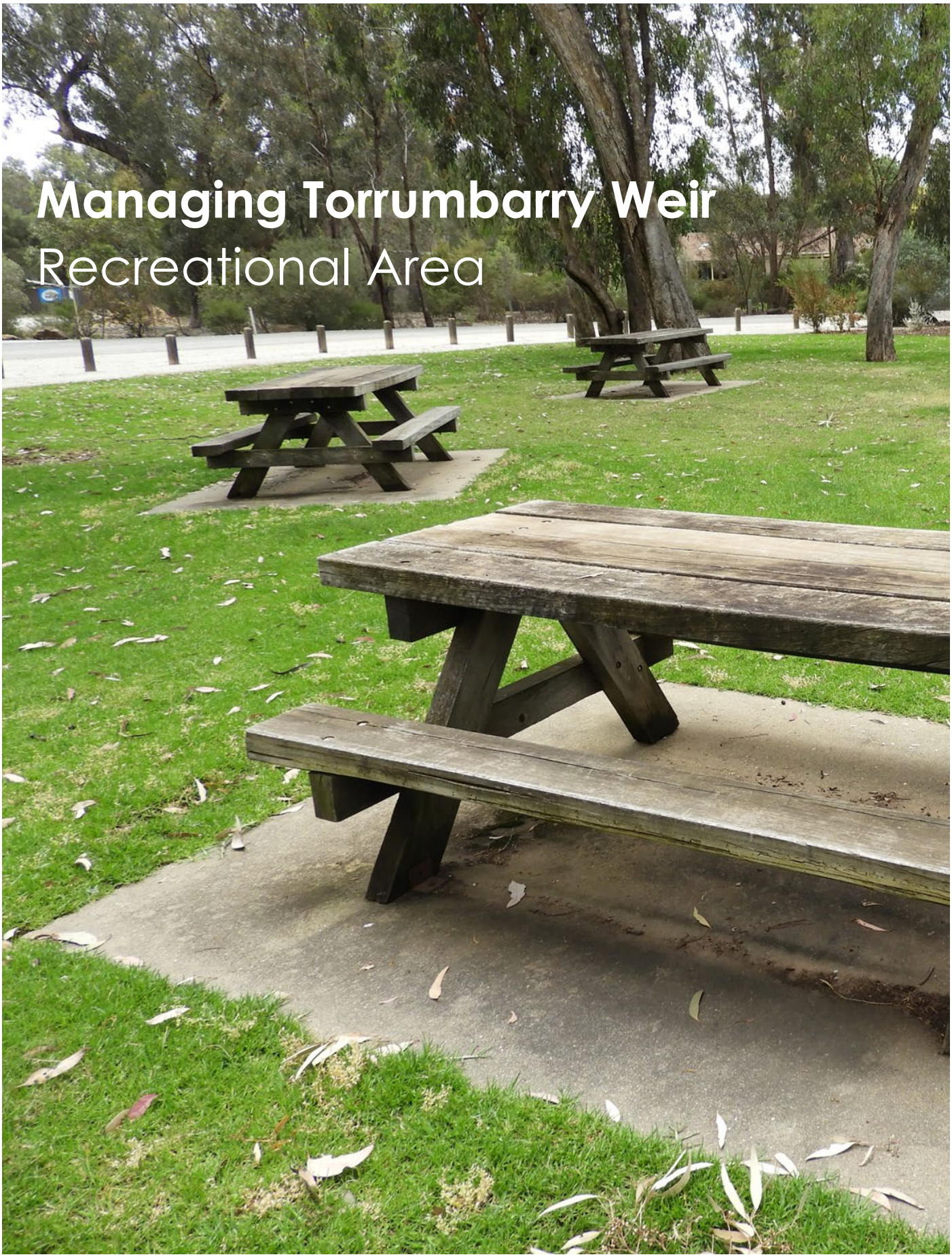


Image credit: Chris Braden

Set aside areas

To accommodate the diverse range of recreational activities that occur at Torrumbarry Weir, 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.

At Torrumbarry Weir, set aside areas enable the safe operation of the weir infrastructure, on-water recreation on the Murray River to occur safely, that recreational activities are well managed, and where appropriate ensuring that water quality is maintained. Set aside areas for Torrumbarry Weir are summarised in Table 2.

Lease holders such as the caravan park 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 Torrumbarry Weir 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)	• Zone immediately upstream and downstream between the weir structure and the Lock access lane - identified by a buoyage system. • Weir structure/infrastructure outside of the public walkway • GMW Torrumbarry depot and housing	Always
14 (1) (b)	Prohibited or restricted access	(r.30(1))	Prohibited access for public safety	All watercraft/vessels prohibited areas: • Zone immediately upstream and downstream between the weir structure and the Lock access lane - identified by a buoyage system.	Always
14 (1) (b)	Prohibited or restricted access	(r.30(1))	Prohibited access for public safety	Torrumbarry Weir public walkway to the Lock (accessible from the Torrumbarry Weir Recreation Area)	Outside of: Monday to Friday 8am-4pm Weekends 8am–5pm
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/restricted access areas	Always
14 (2) (d)	Areas for operating BBQs or fireplaces	(r.43(3))	Specify an area where BBQs are permitted	Within the recreational park area only	Always
14 (2) (d)	Areas for operating BBQs or fireplaces	(r.43(3))	Specify an area where fireplaces are permitted	None	Always

Regulation		Basis	Purpose of set aside area	Set aside area	Times or periods
14 (2) (e)	Areas where campfires are permitted	(r.44(2))	Specify an area where campfires are permitted	None	Always
14 (2) (k)	Areas where fishing is prohibited	(r.72(2))	Specify area where fishing is prohibited	• Within 200 m upstream and downstream of the weir structure • Off the weir infrastructure. Bank fishing only is permitted.	Always
14 (2) (l)	Areas where swimming is prohibited	(r.73(3))	Specify an area where swimming is prohibited	All areas	Always
14 (2) (m)	Areas where camping is permitted	(r.74(3))	Specify where camping is permitted	None	Always
14 (2) (p)	Areas where vehicles, vessels and aircraft are permitted	(r.79(3))	Specify an area where vessels are permitted	Lock access lane upstream and downstream of the weir structure ONLY - as identified by a buoyage system.	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 the riverbed.	Always
14 (2) (s)	Areas where vessels, or classes of vessels may be used	(r.86(2))	Specify area where vessels may be used	Lock access lane upstream and downstream of the weir structure ONLY - as identified by a buoyage system.	Always
14 (3) (b)	Prohibited or restricted access *(Access by arrangement only).*	N/A	Continue the ongoing enjoyment of the recreational area by ensuring leases and licences delivering recreational facilities to the community are maintained.	All leased and licenced areas for caravan parks, marinas, clubs and other appropriate organisations.	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:

- Zone immediately upstream and downstream between the weir structure and the Lock access lane - identified by a buoyage system.
- Weir structure/infrastructure outside of the public walkway
- GMW Torrumbarry depot and housing

Access to the Torrumbarry Weir walkway is prohibited outside of Monday to Friday 8am-4pm and Weekends 8am-5pm.

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.

GMW manages events and permits for the Torrumbarry Weir recreation area (land based). All on-water activities and events are permitted through Transport for NSW.

An application for a GMW 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 (Victorian land-based component only – on-water activities must be submitted to Transport for NSW)
- 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.

For more information and to apply for an event permit, visit GMW's website at www.gmwater.com.au

Land and development opportunities

GMW regularly reviews opportunities to maximise its landholdings. This is generally by way of leasing, licensing or transfer where the land is deemed surplus to operational needs.

From time-to-time GMW will release an Expression of Interest (EOI) for targeted parcels or proposed commercial activities on land and/or on water. Anyone wishing to register for upcoming opportunities can do so by submitting their interest via our dedicated procurement website at https://app.eprocure.com.au/gmwater/home/public

Select “Classification” then “Property and Realty Services”.

For further assistance please contact Property Services on 1300 013 357 or e-mail eoi@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.

In addition to flows passing to the Murray River downstream, the pool formed by weir allows for diversions into the Torrumbarry Irrigation Area via the National Channel. The weir also provides water for the Kerang Lakes.

GMW also delivers water for the Victorian and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holders who make decisions about watering sites with the aim of maintaining healthy environments.

Further information on the operations of Torrumbarry Weir 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
- Operation and maintenance of key outlet works
- Aquatic weed control
- Perimeter land management – erosion control and tree management.

Recreational facilities and assets

Recreational facilities and assets include but are not limited to toilet amenities, boat ramps, public access tracks, barbeques, and picnic furniture.

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.

Land that is occupied under licence or lease arrangements is required to be maintained in accordance with maintenance obligations detailed in lease/licence agreements.

Environment

GMW does not have a direct role in the management of invasive flora and fauna but actively supports and partners with the MDBA, North Central CMA, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation to deliver programs aimed at managing invasive species.

Water quality management

Water Quality Monitoring Program

On behalf of the MDBA, GMW undertakes regular monitoring of water quality at Torrumbarry Weir, including for blue-green algae. If a recreational alert/warning is issues GMW advises stakeholders who support the management and public notification of the alert.

Find out more about the MDBA River Murray Water Quality Program on the MDBA website at www.mdba.gov.au

Find out more about blue green algae alerts on the Water NSW website at www.waternsw.com.au

Wastewater management

Wastewater includes all septic tank effluent and sullage water. Untreated wastewater can transmit pathogens and viruses as well as nutrients, salts and heavy metals to the lake if not managed properly.

GMW operates and maintains its effluent lagoons in accordance with regulatory guidance.

Any leased sites must comply with lease agreement obligations and Environmental Protection Authority guidelines. This requires all effluent/sullage from ablution blocks on leased land to be connected to an approved wastewater system in accordance with current standards and guidance.

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 facilities in the area	Maintenance of facilities in accordance with O&M 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 making their responsibilities to protect environment when using storages, including respecting GMW bylaws and taking their rubbish with them	Ongoing	
	Water Quality Monitoring Program	Ongoing	
	Flora and fauna - Investigate opportunities to collaborate with Traditional Owners 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 or exclusion and revegetation zones. This could also be achieved through education and signage.	Short to medium team priority (2026-2030) transitioning to business as usual operations (BAU)	GMW in collaboration with the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, Murray CMA, North-Central CMA, and other agencies
	Implementation of set aside areas	Ongoing	GMW

Objective	Actions to meet objectives	Implementation timeframe	Responsibility
4. Protect the health and safety of visitors to the area	Water safety program	Ongoing	
	Public information and signage	Ongoing	
5. Promote the enjoyment and recreation of visitors to the area	Public information and signage	Ongoing	GMW
	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
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 share information about Traditional Owner people, history, stories and cultural significance.	Short to medium team priority (2026-2030) transitioning to business as usual operations (BAU)	GMW in collaboration with the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation
	Language – Collaborate with Traditional Owners to understand traditional names and translations. Display naming on signage and other public communications.	Short to medium term priority (2026-2030)	
	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.	Medium term priority (2026-2030) transitioning to business as usual operations (BAU)	
	Website/social media - Develop communications to share knowledge/stories or remind visitors to respect Country. Ensure all information on GMW website is reviewed and updated.	Short term priority (2026-2027) transitioning to business as usual operations (BAU)	
7. Facilitate the participation of Traditional Owner 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	To be investigated through future discussions with the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.		GMW/ Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Objective	Actions to meet objectives	Implementation timeframe	Responsibility
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			
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