



Pre-Release from Dams Policy

1. Objective

The objective of this document is to define Goulburn-Murray Water's pre-release policy.

Defining a pre-release policy is a requirement of the Statement of Obligations.

Recommendation 25 from the 2010/11 Victorian Floods Review requires dam owners and operators to have a clear policy on pre-releasing water from storages included in storage operating manuals and make this information publically available.

The policy was first established in December 2012 and was reviewed in November 2016.

2. Scope

This policy applies to operations at Lake Eildon, Cairn Curran Reservoir, Lake Buffalo, Lake Eppalock, Lake Nillahcootie, Tullaroop Reservoir and Laanecoorie Reservoir.

3. Authority

The Board of Directors is responsible for the approval of this Policy.

The Managing Director is responsible for the endorsement of this Policy.

4. Definitions

G-MW G-MW means Goulburn-Murray Water

Pre-release means the release of water to actively manage the level of water in a dam prior to forecast rainfall and subsequent inflows, with the intent of reducing subsequent downstream peak flows.

Flooding means river flows that exceed a flood class level as defined by the Bureau of Meteorology.

5. Policy

The primary purpose of each dam subject to this policy is to harvest and store water for entitlement holders. For this reason, the main consideration of this policy is the level of confidence that all resource released below full supply level will be recovered to ensure there is not a detrimental impact on the reliability of customer entitlements.

Pre-releases from each dam will be considered when the dam being assessed is at risk of filling and exceeding the full supply level based on forecast inflows.

The intent of pre-releases is to reduce the downstream flood peak compared to what would have occurred if no action to pre-release was taken.

GMW is not obliged to provide flood mitigation through the use of its storages. Lake Eildon is the only storage where target filling arrangements to manage the rate of rise are applicable.

The volume pre-released and timing of pre-release decisions will be determined after considering the following factors:



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- Ensure that the reliability of supply can be protected, meaning any water released should be recovered with a high degree of confidence
- Downstream levels do not exceed the level that would have occurred naturally
- Releases made do not compromise the ability of those downstream to prepare for a flood or manage during an existing flood
- The time of season and seasonal conditions.

All pre-release decisions will be documented against these conditions.

6. Responsibilities

Who	Responsibility
Manager River Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of the policy

7. Associated Documents

Business Rule type	Document name	DM#

8. Document Control

Version DM#	Approval Date	Approved by	Approval memo DM#	Document Owner	Review Due
3512365	19/12/12	Board	3500302	Head of Customer Service & Operations	15/11/19
4288023	14/12/16	Board	4290186	General Manager Customer Operations	15/11/19