



Water Management and Licensing

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(Summary taken from Department of Primary Industries: Water management - Environmental Requirements for Victorian Farmers <http://dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/soil-water/solutions/responsibilities/water-management/>)

a. What does legislation mean for on-farm water management?

i. Domestic or stock use

Domestic and stock use includes water used for household purposes, the watering of stock, pets and the irrigation of a kitchen garden. Generally you can take and use water from a waterway, bore, dam, spring or soak if on your property for this purpose and you will not need a license.

ii. Rainwater

Rainwater collected from a roof or similar means can be used for any purpose.

iii. Licences

A licence is required for all water uses other than domestic or stock, rainwater or irrigation re-use systems. Take and use licences for groundwater are called Groundwater Licences and those issued for surface water are called Surfacewater Licences.

To apply for a Groundwater Licence or a Surfacewater Licence an application (and application fee) must be made to the relevant rural water corporation or Melbourne Water. In many catchments new licences are not issued because water resources are capped. In these catchments it may be possible to buy a licence from an existing user with the approval of the licensing authority.

A licence is required to construct, alter, operate, remove or decommission a bore or a dam on a waterway.

iv. Farm Dams

In 2002 the Water Act was changed so that water used for irrigation and commercial purposes from dams located off waterways must require a licence. This includes water used in the dairy.

Initially, Registration Licences were issued to water users who were taking water from a dam within the previous 10 years. Following this period allowing for Registration Licences, all dams that are used for commercial or irrigation purposes must have a Surfacewater Licence.

The Registration Licences can be converted into a standard Surfacewater Licence if requested.



The benefit of a Surfacewater Licence over a Registered Licence is that it can be transferred to another property on application, whereas the Registration Licence will remain with the property

Dams on private property require a licence to construct, alter, operate, remove or decommission if 5m high or higher and a capacity of 50ML or more; 10m high or higher and a capacity of 20ML or more; or 15m high regardless of the capacity. Other approval may also be necessary, it is important to check with local council or planning authority to ascertain if additional permits are required.

It is important to understand the licensing requirements for the construction of dams. Please contact your licensing authority to determine whether your proposed dam requires a construction licence.

For more information on dams, visit <http://www.srw.com.au> and type 'dams'.

information sheet



v. Works on Waterways

The Catchment Management Authorities and Melbourne Water are responsible for authorising the construction of works other than dams, for example crossings and other structures.

For more information about legislation requirements go to <http://dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/soil-water/solutions/responsibilities/water-management>

b. Contacts in Gippsland

i. Southern Rural Water

Responsibilities include storage of water in reservoirs, managing recreational reservoirs, authorising licenses from waterways, dams and bores on farms, managing and monitors existing licenses, assessing new license applications, metering licensed water use and monitoring and managing river flows.

Contact details: 03 5139 3100

ii. Catchment Management Authorities

Responsibilities include river health; monitoring river flows, funding for streamside revegetation and fencing, determining environmental flow regimes, supporting implementation of stream flow and groundwater management plans, issue of permits for rural drainage and floodplain works and maintaining and improving the quality of water and conditions of rivers.

Contact details:

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority 1300 094 262

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority 03 5152 0600

iii. Regional Urban Water Authorities

Responsibilities include water storages in reservoirs, treatment and delivery of water to homes in cities or towns and management of wastewater from cities or towns.

Contact details:

East Gippsland Water 03 5150 4444

Gippsland Water 1800 066 401

Westernport Water 03 5956 4100

South Gippsland Water 03 5682 0444

Resources

Department of Primary industries

<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/soil-water/solutions>

Southern Rural Water www.srw.com.au

West Gippsland Catchment Management www.wgcma.vic.gov.au

East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority www.egcma.com.au

East Gippsland Water www.egwater.vic.gov.au

Gippsland Water www.gippswater.com.au

Westernport Water www.westernportwater.com.au

South Gippsland Water www.sgwater.com.au

Melbourne Water www.melbournewater.com.au

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Acknowledgements: This document was produced by GippsDairy with assistance from the Department of Primary Industries.

Designed & Printed by Innovative Creations - 0438 684 218



GippsDairy

Phone: 03 5624 3900 **Fax:** 03 5623 6322

PO Box 1059, Warragul, Victoria 3820

www.gippsdairy.com.au