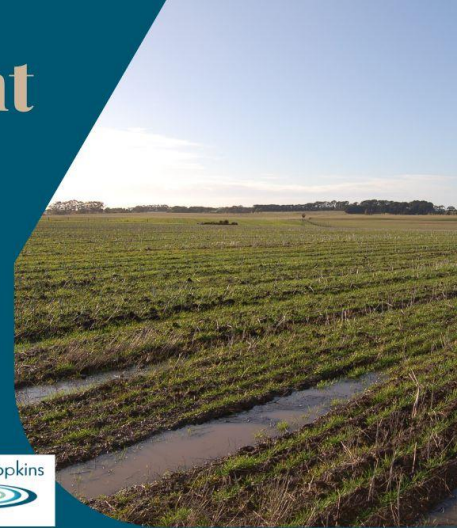


Southwest Irrigation Development Guidelines

FACT SHEET

Overview of the Roles and Responsibilities for new irrigation developments



This fact sheet outlines the roles and responsibilities of the developer, the Irrigation Development Coordinator (IDC) and other relevant agencies in the Irrigation Development Guideline process.

Please take a moment to read it, to ensure that you understand your obligations.

DEVELOPER / LANDOWNER

All developers of new Irrigation Developments (and significant re-developments) within the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Area must follow the Southwest Irrigation Development Guidelines.

You are advised to contact Southern Rural Water (SRW) before you proceed.

It is the developer's responsibility to understand the Guidelines.

It is the developer's responsibility to be clear about:

- What approvals will be needed from the various agencies
- How much these approvals will cost
- How long it will likely take to receive approval
- Understanding how this will impact on your farming practices and activities .
- You must ensure that no infrastructure works commence prior to receiving the appropriate approvals.

NB: The onus of responsibility is on the Landowner to ensure that all relevant licences, permits and approvals are obtained prior to commencing works.

IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR (IDC)

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority employs an Irrigation Development Coordinator who works closely with Agriculture Victoria irrigation extension staff and other agencies as required to assist in the Take and Use licence application process.

What we will do

- An Irrigation Development Coordinator (IDC) will explain the intent of the Guidelines.
- The IDC and Agriculture Victoria can provide free impartial advice on a range of topics including native vegetation and cultural heritage considerations, planning controls for earthworks and off-site impacts (drainage and flood mitigation), and advice to ensure all irrigation design options are discussed and understood.
- They also coordinate a collaborative interagency Referral Committee (RC) who will attend to your application based on the relevant permits and processes required, ensuring an efficient process for you.

What we won't do

- We won't recommend any one contractor or comment on what/how they charge.
- We don't issue approval for you to commence your development.
- There is no charge for the IDC service.

SOUTHERN RURAL WATER (SRW)

SRW is the Water Corporation for this region and is the Minister's delegate. They are responsible for the issue of Works Licences and Take and Use licences in accordance with the *Water Act (Vic) 1989* and associated Ministerial Determinations.

SRW will undertake a preliminary assessment of your proposed development.



They will provide the developer with an understanding of the potential complexity of the assessment process, the information needed to be collected, and any issues which may impact on the time required to gain approvals and/or impact on the project cost structure.

A Water Corporation may not approve the issue of a Works Licence or a Take and Use licence to new developments unless the statutory requirements of the Water Corporations, and other stakeholder organisations, have been documented, evaluated and approved.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION (DEECA)

The planning arm of DEECA, is a referral authority for advising Local Government on native vegetation and Crown Land issues through the planning permit application process.

The water and catchments policy arm of DEECA provides high level policy advice to the CMAs and other agencies on the preparation and endorsement of the Guidelines. They also provide an oversight role and funding to support implementation of the guidelines.

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA (AGVIC)

AgVic Irrigation Officers can provide advice to the proponent, Water Corporations and CMAs on the technical aspect of irrigation developments.

AgVic provide extension support to the developer with information on best practice irrigation management and advice during development of an Irrigation and Drainage Management Plan.

CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES (CMAS)

CMAs are the lead agency for ensuring the Guidelines are up to date with current legislation.

CMAs are a referral authority for advising agencies, Local Government and individuals on lakes, rivers, wetlands and floodplain issues and matters, particularly as part of the planning permit approval process undertaken by statutory authorities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Issue planning permits in accordance with the Planning and Environment Act 1987 such as applications relating to land development, drainage, flooding, native vegetation, waterways, cultural heritage and earthworks.

PARKS VICTORIA

Under the *Parks Victoria Act 2018*, Parks Victoria has primary responsibility for the protection, conservation, and enhancement of Parks Victoria managed land.

REGISTERED ABORIGINAL (RAP) PARTIES AND FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY OF VICTORIA

Cultural Heritage Management Approvals must be in place before any other approval process can be completed. This typically takes the form of a cultural heritage management plan (CHMP).

A Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) may elect to approve a CHMP. Where there is no appointed RAP, then the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria will assess an application for approval of a CHMP.

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY (EPA)

The *Environment Protection Amendment Act 2018* is the general environmental duty (GED), which requires Victorians to understand and minimise their risks of harm to human health and the environment, from pollution and waste.

EPA work with industry to help them understand how to fulfil their obligations, by providing guidance, advice and other support. Complying with the GED is about taking reasonable proactive steps and employing good environmental work practices.

FURTHER INFORMATION

An information kit containing related fact sheets is available at www.ghcma.vic.gov.au and can be discussed further with the Irrigation Development Coordinator.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone GHCMA on (03) 5571 2526 or email ghcma@ghcma.vic.gov.au.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment contact the **National Relay Service on 133 677 or www.relayservice.gov.au**

