

Northern Victoria Irrigation Development Guidelines

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

FACT SHEET 8 - Siting and Design Guidelines for Works Licences

Guidelines for water diversion works on or across Crown Land

Before works commence, it is the legal responsibility of the developer to refer an application to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)/Parks Victoria. The placing of environmental and aesthetic requirements on the siting and construction of pumphouses and pipelines will protect the aesthetic, archaeological and conservation values of the riverine environment and other Crown Land areas. A licence may be required from DELWP where an asset is located on Crown land

SITING OF PUMPS AND PUMPHOUSES

- Pumps should be located away from high banks which are susceptible to slumping, such as the outside of tight river bends or vertical banks.
- Pumps should be sited in such a way to allow screening from the river by existing vegetation
- Pumps should be sited to minimize visual impact to the surrounding landscape
- Pumps must be sited a suitable distance from the bank
- Screening of pumphouses should be with indigenous vegetation species, to the satisfaction of DELWP.

NATIVE VEGETATION

- The siting and installation should not involve vegetation removal and will require consultation with DELWP.
- Any proposed disturbance or removal of native vegetation will require a Planning Permit issued from Council unless exemptions apply.
- All works must be rehabilitated in consultation with, and to the satisfaction of, the land manager.
- Any disturbance to vegetation or ground surface levels at the pump site caused through excavation and installation of the facility, must be restored to a satisfactory standard.
- Unused tracks must be closed and revegetated by the developer in consultation with DELWP.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Consultation must be made with the relevant Aboriginal/Cultural Heritage Authority, to determine the existence of Cultural sites and the possible requirement of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). In most cases a CHMP will be required.

POWERLINES

- Powerlines located in urban, rural residential and tourist development areas within 100m of the river frontage, must be installed underground.
- Where practical, existing powerlines will be made to conform to these recommendations.
- Electricity supply cables to pumphouses on Crown Land must be placed underground to a minimum depth of 600mm.
- The replacement/maintenance/ upgrading of feeder lines to pumps must be placed underground.
- Where practical pumps are to be located near existing power lines.

Note: pumps and pumphouses located on land subject to flooding from high river flows could be damaged or demolished by a significant flood event. The condition of these structures is the responsibility of the owner.

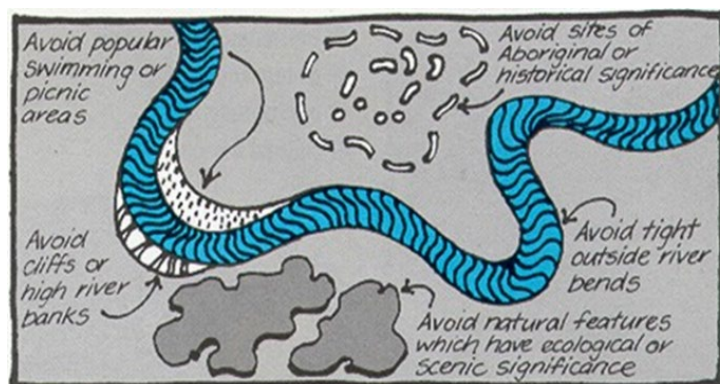


Figure 1: River features that should be avoided (picture courtesy Mallee CMA used with permission)

DESIGN OF PUMPS AND PUMPHOUSES

- The pumphouse should include housing only for the essential works required for diverting water from the river. Filters, filtrate, irrigation controls, fertigation and other equipment must not be placed on Crown Land.
- Pumphouses are to be as small as practicable and of dimensions in proportion to the size of the pump. (any pumphouse larger than 3x3 metres would require special consideration by the Public Land Manager).
- The walls of the pumphouse should be constructed from colour-bond sheeting or dark stained timber cladding. Roofing material should be colour-bond. Colours of pumphouse should be compatible with the surrounding environment.
- Delivery pipes from pumps must be placed underground.
- Suction pipes should be raised above bank slopes and be secured by steel supporting posts. The colour of the suction pipe should also be compatible with the surroundings.
- Excess bulk fuel and lubricant must not be stored on or near the site. No filtrate or any other material associated with the diversion of water may be placed back into the river or watercourse.
- Fuel operated pumps are not encouraged and would require the special consideration of the Public Land Manager.
- The area around fuel operated pumps must be bunded.
- All reasonable efforts should be made to suppress noise to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.
- Electrical fittings and/or motors must comply with the requirements of the relevant power authority and should be fixed above the Nominal Flood Protection Level – that is the 100-Year Average Recurrence Interval flood level plus a freeboard margin of 300mm.

MAINTENANCE OF PUMPS AND PUMPHOUSES

- Soil is to be returned to original profile and compacted and should be accompanied by revegetation with indigenous or local species. Surveillance by the licensee may be required to overcome any erosion problems.
- The site will always be cleared of rubbish and debris.
- All water and fuel leaks are to be attended to immediately along with any reclamation works necessary.
- Disused pumphouses which are assessed as having no aesthetic or historic value must be demolished by the owner and the material removed from the site within 30 days. The site is to be rehabilitated to the satisfaction of DELWP/Parks Victoria.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact an Irrigation Development Coordinator

Agriculture Victoria employs Irrigation Development Coordinators (IDCs) in Northern Victoria to provide The IDC can provide an information kit containing related fact sheets:

- Overview of the NVIDG process
- Irrigation and drainage plan
- Protecting Aboriginal cultural heritage
- Native vegetation protection
- Buffer standards
- Applying for a works licence
- Public land managers consent application
- Roles and responsibilities

IDC contacts:

Echuca (west of the Goulburn River to Nyah)

- Kathy Long, Agriculture Victoria, PO Box 441, Echuca, Vic., 3564
kathy.long@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Rutherglen (east of the Goulburn River and the North East.

- Dennis Watson, Agriculture Victoria, 124 Chiltern Valley Road, Rutherglen, Vic., 3685
dennis.watson@agriculture.vic.gov.au

ACCESSIBILITY

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone Kathy Long on 03 54821922 or email irrigation@agriculture.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

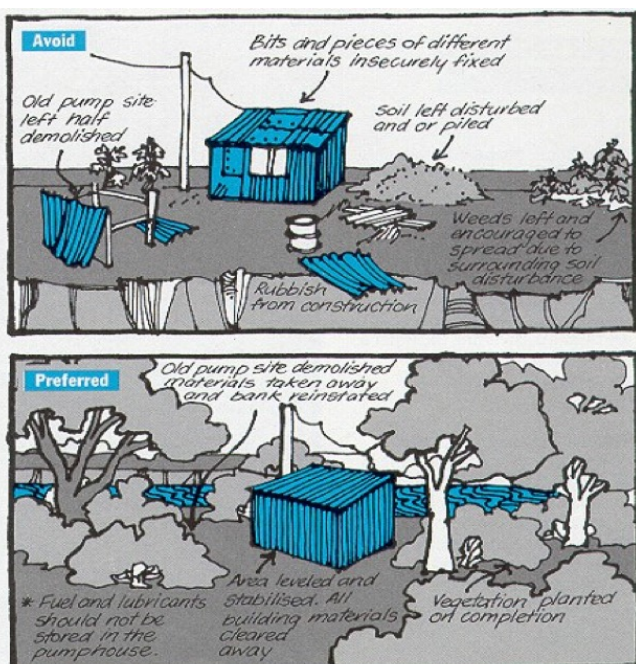


Figure 2: Pump site features (picture courtesy Mallee CMA used with permission)