

## Whole Farm Plan endorsement

Upon completion of a Whole Farm Plan, a landholder is advised to contact their Council to seek a planning permit or planning permit exemption.



This is referred to as 'endorsement' of a Whole Farm Plan and means that a landholder has planning approval for all of the earthworks under that permit.

If the Whole Farm Plan is endorsed there is no need to go back to Council for further earthwork approval (as long as all earthworks are carried out according to the 'endorsed' version of the Whole Farm Plan).

Whole Farm Plan endorsement costs half the normal Planning Permit fee.

### To proceed with endorsement of a Whole Farm Plan for your property you need to:

- Ensure no works have commenced prior to applying for a permit
- Ensure that the Plan meets legislative requirements (i.e. cultural heritage and native vegetation protection requirements) and
- Contact your Local Government Planning Department to discuss application requirements.

*Endorsement can take up to 60 days and will be subject to planning permit conditions.*

## Who can help?



### Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority

Ph: 03 58 227 700  
[www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au)



### North Central Catchment Management Authority

Ph: 03 54 487 124  
[www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)



### Agriculture Victoria

Ph: 03 58 335 222 (Tatura)  
Ph: 03 54 821 922 (Echuca)  
Ph: 136 186 (Customer Service Centre)  
[www.economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au](http://www.economicdevelopment.vic.gov.au)



### Greater Shepparton City Council

Planning Department:  
Ph: 03 58 329 730  
[www.greatershepparton.com.au](http://www.greatershepparton.com.au)



### Campaspe Shire Council

Ph: 1300 666 535 (Local callers)  
Ph: 03 54 812 200  
[www.campaspe.vic.gov.au](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au)



### Moira Shire Council

Ph: 1300 369 966 (Local callers)  
Ph: 03 58 719 222  
[www.moira.vic.gov.au](http://www.moira.vic.gov.au)



### Goulburn-Murray Water

Ph: 03 58 263 500  
Ph: 1800 013 357 (Free call)  
[www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au)



## Planning Earthworks? Prepare a Whole Farm Plan



### Planning approval is required for earthworks on rural land in the municipalities of:

- City of Greater Shepparton
- Campaspe Shire Council
- Moira Shire Council

#### Disclaimer

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Find more information about the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority on the web at: [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au). For further information about this brochure contact: Goulburn Broken CMA, Ph: (03) 5822 7700.

## What are earthworks?

Earthworks include activities such as improving irrigation efficiency through upgrading and changing channel delivery, or installing an irrigation re-use system. Other earthworks may improve surface drainage from rainfall events or protect land from salinity.

The Municipalities of City of Greater Shepparton, Campaspe Shire Council and Moira Shire Council introduced planning controls for Earthworks. Earthworks on rural land must be planned and approved according to the Victorian Planning Provisions. A planning permit is a legal document that gives permission for use or development of land.

Landholders must discuss with their Council the requirements for a planning permit before undertaking any earthworks.

## Why is planning approval required?

### Earthworks on rural land must be planned and approved so that:

- Earthworks on one property don't cause problems for another property
- Earthworks fit in with the Regional Catchment Strategy, for example a proposed drain
- The impact of flooding caused by poorly planned earthworks is reduced, and
- Biodiversity and cultural heritage assets such as wetlands and native vegetation are protected.

## Will I need a planning permit?

### Approval is required for any earthworks that:

- Alter the direction or rate of water flow across a property boundary
- Change the point of water discharge from a property
- Increase the discharge of saline groundwater
- Adversely impede the free passage and temporary storage of floodwater
- Have any impact on native vegetation, for example around the drip line of vegetation, and/or
- Create or alter access to a road in a road zone category 1.

### Typical activities requiring approval include:

- Land-forming or laser grading
- Construction of lanes
- Construction of farm channels, drains, pipelines
- Construction of above ground storages.

It is recommended that landholders visit their Council website for further information on applying for a permit or contact them for further information.

## Application for an exemption

If works are deemed minor (e.g. answer no to any of the above dot points) a landholder can apply for a planning permit exemption.

### A planning permit exemption requires completion of an application to show that an exemption applies.

Contact your Council to discuss the process and eligibility for an exemption.

## What is a Whole Farm Plan?

One of the best ways to plan for earthworks is to develop a Whole Farm Plan for your property. A Whole Farm Plan considers all the aspects of earthworks and development to be carried out.

The process identifies contours, soil types, on-farm irrigation and drainage issues, native vegetation, natural drainage lines, access to off-farm drainage and livestock and vehicle movement.

Working with a designer, the future developments and earthworks are mapped with detailed design specifications on a 'Whole Farm Plan'.

### A Whole Farm Plan can then be submitted to your Council to apply for a planning permit or a planning permit exemption.

## Native vegetation and cultural heritage

Clearing of native vegetation is NOT covered by the earthworks planning permit. A separate planning permit is required to remove any native vegetation (including trees, standing dead trees, shrubs and understorey such as herbs and grasses).

The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* provides for the protection and management of Victoria's Aboriginal Heritage and is linked to the Victorian Planning Provisions. There can be ways to achieve your farming goals without impacting on native vegetation or cultural heritage. Whole Farm Plans provide opportunity to discuss alternatives.