



## South West Loddon Pipeline

### Landholder statutory planning responsibilities for on-farm reticulation systems

This document outlines statutory planning requirements for landholders undertaking on-property works associated with the South West Loddon Pipeline.

*Certified to best practice standards  
ISO 9001 / 14001 and AS/NZS 4801*

GWMWater is constructing the South West Loddon Pipeline to provide a raw (not potable) water supply to over 600 properties. This project will bring a secure piped water supply to the area for the first time replacing the need for catchment dams and improving water quality for stock and domestic purposes.

This project includes 360 km of large trunk mains, 1,000 km of distribution mains, nine pump stations and 600 property connections. Planning and design work is currently underway and construction is planned to start in late 2017 and be finished by the end of 2018. On completion the pipeline will service rural farming enterprises and lifestyle properties over an area of up to 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> with a reticulated non-drinking water supply.

The works managed by GWMWater will end at the boundary fence line of each property connecting to the water supply. Each connected property will have a water meter installed at an agreed point on the property boundary and a small section of poly pipe extending into the property. The purchase, installation and maintenance of all on-property piping, tanks, taps, troughs and pumps are the responsibility of the landholder. GWMWater has an on-property reticulation guide for landholders on the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline which can be downloaded from the GWMWater website:

[www.gwmwater.org.au/...water-reticulation-guide](http://www.gwmwater.org.au/...water-reticulation-guide).

Any on-property works associated with the water supply will not be included in the statutory planning approvals sought by GWMWater for the water mains. The on-property works are sometimes described as “facilitated works” because they are a necessary follow-up to the construction of the water mains. There are two key planning areas landholders should consider when designing their on-property system:

1. native vegetation impacts, and
2. cultural heritage impacts.



### Native vegetation impacts

Impacts on native vegetation are managed through the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and local government planning schemes. On-property reticulation systems are exempt from controls on native vegetation loss in the Farming Zone. However, any native vegetation disturbance for works in areas zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone or areas covered by an overlay such as an Environmental Significance Overlay, may require a planning permit and a native vegetation offset.

The Loddon Shire Council and Northern Grampians Shire Council Planning Schemes state:

No permit is required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation to the minimum extent necessary if any of the following apply:	
New buildings and works in the Farming Zone and Rural Activity Zone	<p>To enable the construction of a building or works used for Agricultural production, including a dam, utility service, bore and access way, in the Farming Zone or the Rural Activity Zone.</p> <p>The maximum extent of native vegetation removed, destroyed or lopped under this exemption on contiguous land in the same ownership in a five-year period must not exceed any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 hectare of native vegetation which does not include a tree.</li> <li>• 15 native trees if each tree has a trunk diameter of less than 40 centimetres at a height of 1.3 metres above ground level.</li> <li>• 5 native trees if each tree has a trunk diameter of 40 centimetres or more at a height of 1.3 metres above ground level.</li> </ul> <p>This exemption does not apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the construction or operation of a pivot irrigation system or horticultural trellising.</li> </ul> <p>To Aboriginal Scarred Trees (including culturally modified or marker trees)</p>

Planning maps online: [services.land.vic.gov.au/maps](http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps) is a handy resource to check the zoning and presence of overlays for your property. A full version of the Loddon Shire Council planning scheme can be downloaded from Planning Schemes Online: [planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au). If you are in doubt about the application of the native vegetation controls on your property, please contact for local shire council.

## Cultural heritage

Cultural heritage is managed and protected through the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and the *Heritage Act 1995* in Victoria. Simply put, it is an offence to harm (disturb, damage or destroy) Aboriginal places, objects and ancestral remains and historic sites of cultural significance. Post-settlement cultural heritage may be obvious as ruins of early homesteads, outbuildings and gardens. Aboriginal places can be less obvious but are important. Aboriginal places include trade routes, stone artefacts or tools, scarred trees, stone arrangements and areas of burnt clay or ash and charcoal patches indicating cooking ovens and campsites. More information can be found at the Aboriginal Victoria Website: [www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage](http://www.vic.gov.au/aboriginalvictoria/heritage).

The Traditional Owners and registered Aboriginal party for the area is Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation: [www.djadjawurrung.com.au](http://www.djadjawurrung.com.au).

The Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2016 include provisions relating to areas of cultural heritage sensitivity. This area is similar to a planning scheme overlay in that it shows where a particular value may be present. Cultural heritage may also be found outside the mapped sensitivity areas. Areas of cultural heritage sensitivity generally exist around waterways and wetlands, sand bodies, parks and reserves, and registered Aboriginal places. It is important that these sites are not harmed. The area of cultural heritage sensitivity can be viewed at planning maps online: [services.land.vic.gov.au/maps](http://services.land.vic.gov.au/maps).

On-property pipeline installation with trenching over 500 m in length and preparing foundations for water tanks are “high impact activities” under the regulations. These works in areas of cultural heritage sensitivity may trigger the requirement to prepare a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as the works may harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. An approved CHMP allows for development, such as water systems, to proceed. If there is potential for impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage, a landholder should contact an accredited heritage advisor. Aboriginal Victoria maintains a list on this page: [www.vic.gov.au/.../find-a-heritage-adviser](http://www.vic.gov.au/.../find-a-heritage-adviser).

## **GMMWater's commitment**

GMMWater is committed to constructing the South West Loddon Pipeline with minimal impact on the environment.

- We will do this by applying principles for good design, utilising low impact construction methods and rehabilitating the ground once works are finished.
- We will avoid native vegetation wherever possible, but if we unable to, impacts will be minimised and offset with accredited brokers.
- We will prepare cultural heritage management plans in consultation with Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation. All sites of historic cultural significance and Aboriginal places will be managed and protected through agreed management plans.

GMMWater asks that all landholders connecting to the South West Loddon Pipeline minimise their impact and seek appropriate approvals from Loddon Shire Council or Northern Grampians Shire Council and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.

*June 2017*