

From: John Horton, Laurie Sparke

To: Lake Eildon boat owners

Subject: Grey Water Regulations

Goulburn-Murray Water recently reiterated that the Grey Water requirements for houseboats on Lake Eildon are legislated, and GMW is obliged to enforce them –

1. All new boats must be fitted with grey water treatment plants
2. Any boats sold after July 2015 must have a grey water treatment plant fitted before GMW will issue a licence to operate the boat on Lake Eildon.
3. All boats must be fitted with grey water treatment plants by July 2020. GMW will not issue licences after this date. Any unlicensed boat must be removed from the lake, or it will be seized by the Sherriff, removed and auctioned.

GMW is aware of the lack of reliable grey water plants, that the cost of fitting these plants can be as high as \$40,000, and that no suitable plants are available that are practical to fit into older houseboats and cruisers, but they are bound by the legislation to enforce these requirements.

On Friday November 28th, representatives from Eildon Boat Club, Jerusalem Creek, Darlingford Waters Boat Club and Lake Eildon Marina met with Goulburn Murray Water who acknowledged the difficulties, but emphasised that as the implementation dates and the water discharge specification were legislated, GMW could not vary from these, and they would be obliged to refuse to issue licences for non-compliant boats.

Earlier this year a survey was sent to boat owners to which 330 responses were received (refer to the summary attached). Strong support was indicated for pursuing action to achieve modification to the regulations to allow alternative water treatment technology to be utilized for existing smaller boats and cruisers.

As the process of changing legislation is a lengthy one, it is necessary to begin immediately if the chaotic conflict between boat owners and GMW that will occur from July 2015 and 2020 is to be avoided.

If you are concerned about the impact of the regulations, and wish to assist us in modifying the requirements, please provide your name, email address, which marina you belong to and your phone number and we will use this to keep you informed on our negotiations with GMW as well as providing a central place for any communication you may wish on the subject. Could you send this information to:

eildonboatowners@bigpond.com

We will use this address to keep all respondents informed of progress as well as giving a central place for all communication. You may also phone John Horton on 0403 980 280 for any information regarding Grey Water.

Summary of Responses to Grey Water Regulation Survey

Data:

330 responses to the survey

58% were single story boat owners, 42% double story boat owners

33% of boats were built prior to 1985

2% were cruiser owners

Results:

1. 45% are in favour of treatment of grey water, 66% understand the reasons GMW implemented the regulations.
2. However, 40% will consider selling their boats rather than installing a grey water plant.
3. Only 2% agreed to keeping the regulations, 98% want them changed.
4. 68% want regulations applied to new boats only, or to new boats plus existing boats with dish washers and washing machines.
5. 50% proposed that the regulations be modified to allow alternative water treatment technology be utilised for existing smaller boats and cruisers.
6. There is strong support (up to 85%) for forming a working group to negotiate with GMW, alternatively to support legal action against the regulations, and to support a Class Action.

Conclusions:

There is a high level of concern amongst boat owners on the lake about these regulations and a strong commitment to change the regulations.

If changes cannot be negotiated, there is a strong indication that a large number of boat owners will be part of legal action. Only 7.5% of owners would not be part of legal action.