

Gippsland

Irrigation Development Guidelines

Guide for applicants wishing to vary their Annual Use Limit

Applications for 3 – 5 ML/ha (Minimal risk of off-site impacts)

- Farm plan is preferable but not essential
- Appropriate method of irrigation scheduling (eg. soil moisture monitoring, evapotranspiration, etc)
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have considered their irrigation water requirements and therefore be able to demonstrate how the volume of water they are applying for will be utilised effectively on their property.

Applications for 5 – 7 ML/ha (Moderate risk of off-site impacts)

- Farm plan is preferable but not essential
- Irrigation layout should be matched to soil type (eg. spray or high flow flood on higher permeability soils)
- Demonstrable means of preventing or capturing irrigation runoff
- Demonstrable means of preventing excess deep drainage
- Appropriate method of irrigation scheduling (eg. soil moisture monitoring, evapotranspiration, etc)
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have considered their irrigation water requirements and therefore be able to demonstrate how the volume of water they are applying for will be utilised effectively on their property.

Applications for 7 – 9 ML/ha (High risk of off-site impacts)

- Must have and provide a copy of an implemented farm plan.
- Irrigation setup must be matched to soil type (eg. spray or high flow flood on higher permeability soils)
- Flood irrigators must have demonstrable means of limiting deep drainage (eg. appropriate flow rates and bay sizes)
- Flood irrigators must have demonstrable means of capturing irrigation runoff (eg. a reuse dam)
- All irrigators must demonstrate an appropriate method of irrigation scheduling (eg. soil moisture monitoring, evapotranspiration, etc)
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have considered their irrigation water requirements and therefore be able to demonstrate how the volume of water they are applying for will be utilised effectively on their property.

Note: This document is a guide only and individual applications will be assessed on a case by case basis as per the requirements of the Water Act in particular the following Water Use Objectives: Managing Groundwater Infiltration, Managing Drainage, Minimising Salinity, Protecting Biodiversity and Minimising the Cumulative Effects of Irrigation.

For further information please contact the Irrigation Development Co-ordinator at the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority on 1300 094 262.