

## Guidance Note

### Managing Residual Floodwaters

As flood water starts to drop, you may notice you have some water left in low lying or flat areas of your property. Stagnant water will eventually evaporate or flow into waterways. Sometimes this can be the only option while floodwaters continue to recede.

LMW's irrigation infrastructure is designed for runoff and leaching and isn't built to manage high volumes of residual floodwater. Customers may have limited opportunity to release or pump residual floodwater into LMW infrastructure.

Any use of LMW infrastructure requires approval from the Authority before discharge.

**Before pumping residual flood water off your property, landholders must ensure the following:**

- Where possible, minimise the risks to the environment, and human health
- Manage the risks to downstream users, including appropriate levels of dilution
- Ensure stagnant water is free from contamination (sewerage, chemicals, etc.)
- Avoid damaging any assets or waterways
- Consider potential impacts on cultural or heritage assets

**LMW will consider the following:**

- The potential negative impacts on life and property
- The hydraulic capability of LMW infrastructure proposed to receive residual floodwater
- Any negative effects of releasing stagnant water on other users, including stock and domestic customers
- Any negative impacts that releasing stagnant water could have on the environment
- Any conditions necessary to ensure discharge occurs in line with the above

*In some circumstances, customers may be required to cease approved pumping at LMW's request. Pumping residual water without permission (or failing to stop pumping if directed) is an offence under the Water Act 1989.*

**How we process your requests:**

- Landholder contacts LMW to seek permission
- The landholder provides the proposed rate and duration of pumping
- LMW assesses customer and infrastructure impacts
- LMW assesses environmental impacts
- Approval or refusal supplied in writing (including conditions)

For more information or to apply, contact our Rural Customer Team on 1800 808 830 or by email at [contactus@lmw.vic.gov.au](mailto:contactus@lmw.vic.gov.au)

