

Proposed Waterway Rules

Tarago Reservoir

Implementing Waterway Rules is an important component of opening Tarago Reservoir to fishing and on-water recreation. These rules, also known as the **Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules (VOZR)**, have been drafted to support the intended use of the waterway.

Vessel operating and zoning rules in Victoria, Australia, are detailed in the Guide to Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules. These rules govern vessel speeds, safety distances, designated areas and prohibited activities on Victorian waterways.

Key aspects include:

- speed limits (typically 5 knots within certain distances of objects and people)
- safety distances (e.g. 50m from fixed or floating objects in the water)
- designated zones (e.g. no-wash zones, speed restriction zones).

Proposed rules at Tarago Reservoir

5 knot speed restriction for the purpose of Clause 7

All waters of Tarago Reservoir are subject to a speed restriction of 5 knots, excluding areas prohibited to vessels.

Areas where vessels are prohibited for the purpose of Clause 9

- a. All waters upstream of the reservoir retaining wall for a distance of approximately 1350m to an imaginary line running east-west between 'Vessels Prohibited' signs^{1,2} located on each bank and delineated by a line of connected red buoys.
- b. Within 50 metres of a fixed or floating structure in or on the water including:

- ii. the Pump Station (GPS: -37.988333, 145.915555)
- iii. Gippsland Water Asset PP042 (GPS: -37.974444, 145.929166)
- iv. Gippsland Water Asset PP053 (GPS: -37.995277, 145.919166).

Sign #	Latitude	Longitude
1	-38.010555	145.931944
2	-38.011944	145.930833

Prohibition on vessels with engines for the purpose of Clause 10

All the waters of Tarago Reservoir are prohibited to:

- a. Vessels equipped with combustion engines; and
- b. Vessels equipped with electric engines that exceed a power output of 40 pounds of thrust, 1 horsepower, or 750 watts.

Prohibition of specific activities for the purpose of Clause 12

- a. The whole of the waters of Tarago Reservoir are prohibited to the use of personal watercraft, hovercraft, sailboards and other wind powered vessels, stand up paddleboards, Float Tubes, Soft Inflatable Boats (SIBs) and similar.
- b. The waters of Tarago Reservoir 10m to the north-west and 30m to the south of the boat ramp as indicated by 'No Swimming' signs^{3,4} on the shore and extending 50m from the water's edge are prohibited to bathing, wading, swimming or entering the water in any manner except for the purpose of launching boats or for an emergency.
- c. A person must not launch any vessel onto the waters of Tarago Reservoir except at the launching ramp constructed for that purpose.

Sign #	Latitude	Longitude
3	-38.007222	145.914166
4	-38.007500	145.905277

These rules are represented visually below. Aids to navigation, signage and educational materials will be produced to support the rules and assist in raising awareness for users of the waterway.

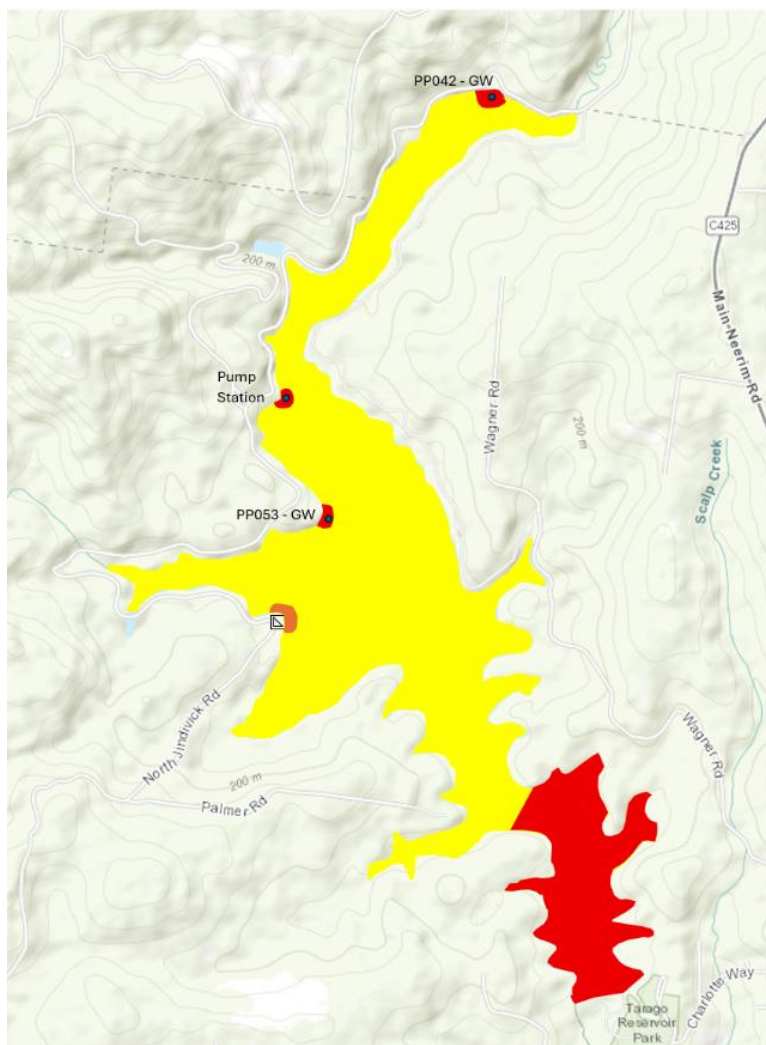


Diagram 2: Proposed Waterway Rules – Tarago Reservoir

- 5 knot speed restriction
- Vessels prohibited
- Swimming/Bathing prohibited

Assets (in water):

- A. Gippsland Water Valve PP042 (GPS: -37.974444, 145.929166)
- B. Melbourne Water Pump Station – Inactive (GPS: -37.988333, 145.915555)
- C. Gippsland Water Valve PP053 (GPS: -37.995277, 145.919166)
- D. Melbourne Water Vertical Profile System (water quality tester) (GPS: -38.251388, 145.936111)
- E. Melbourne Water Tower and aerator (approx. GPS: -38.020275, 145.936033)
- F. Melbourne Water Spillway (GPS -38.021, 145.935)

Online information sessions

- Wednesday 11 March, 6.30–8pm
- Tuesday 17 March, 6.30–8pm

Public consultation

Melbourne Water is inviting feedback on the proposed Waterway Rules.

Public consultation will be open from Monday 2 March to Tuesday 31 March 2026.

All feedback must be received in writing by close of business 31 March 2026. You may:

1. Write your feedback on the back of this form and submit it in the adjacent feedback box.
2. Use the feedback form available on the Tarago Reservoir webpage: letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/recreation-tarago-reservoir
3. Post us your feedback, using this feedback form or your own letter.
The address is:
Melbourne Water
PO Box 4342
Melbourne VIC 3001

Please note that the consultation period for the Waterway Rules is a statutory process and is limited to a four-week timeframe. Consultation opens on Monday 2 March 2026 and will end on close of business Tuesday 31 March 2026. All feedback must be received in writing by the close date.