

Loch Garry Flood Protection District - Revised Operating Rules

Background

In October 2022, widespread rainfall in the Goulburn catchment caused river levels to rise across the region. At Shepparton, the river peaked at 12.03m on 17 October 2022.

The operating rule of 2022 stated that when the river level at Shepparton reached 10.36m, notification would be given to Loch Garry Flood Protection District customers that the removal of the bars would commence in accordance with the operating rules.

Given the magnitude and speed of the flood not all bars were able to be removed.

The Loch Garry Reference Committee was formed in January 2023 by Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW), to review the service requirements of the Loch Garry Flood Protection District infrastructure and its operating rules.

Members of this committee include:

Facilitator (non-voting) Cath Botta

GMW Loch Garry customers:

Colin Gilby, James Grinter, Mackenzie Craig, Linton Ryan, John Pettigrew

Community representatives:

Mathew Price, Natalie Akers, Dennis Patterson

Agency representatives:

Guy Tierney (Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority)

Peter Harriot (CEO Greater Shepparton City Council)

Greg Shannon (Goulburn-Murray Water)

As a result, the Committee recommended potential improvements to the operating rules. These revised rules are based on learnings and observations from previous experiences and are outlined below:

OPERATING RULES

Event (above 10.36m but below 11.0m)

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasts the river level at the Shepparton Gauging Station 405204 will exceed 10.36m but will not exceed 11.0m the following operating rule will apply:

1. GMW will send out a notification to the Loch Garry Flood Protection District customers by SMS as soon as practicable after the forecast is available to notify customers that bars will start to be removed 24 hours after the Shepparton gauge reaches 10.36m.
2. GMW will send out a notification to the Loch Garry Flood Protection District customers by SMS as soon as practicable when the Shepparton gauge reaches 10.36m.
3. Bars will start to be removed 24 hours after this level has been reached.
4. The formula for bar removal is that 24 hours after the Shepparton gauge exceeds 10.36 m, 25 bars (based on 140mm bars) are removed for every 31mm rise. If the river continues to rise to 10.96 meters then all bars would be removed from the Loch 24 hours after this height is reached.
5. The replacement of bars is a reversal of this procedure.

Important:

- ❖ Bars are to be removed progressively across the structure so that the “crest” remains level across the structure.
- ❖ Bar removal and replacement can only occur during daylight hours. Any bars that are scheduled to be removed after sunset and before sunrise the following day will be removed prior to sunset.

Large event (exceeds 11.0m)

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecasts the river level at the Shepparton Gauging Station 405204 will exceed 11.0m the following operating rule will apply:

1. GMW will send out a notification to the Loch Garry Flood Protection District customers by SMS as soon as practicable after the forecast is available to notify customers that all bars will be removed on the day that the Shepparton gauge reaches 10.36m.
2. GMW will send out a notification to the Loch Garry Flood Protection District customers by SMS as soon as practicable when the Shepparton gauge reaches 10.36m.
3. On the day that the Shepparton gauge reaches 10.36m, all bars will be removed during daylight hours.
4. The replacement of bars is the same procedure as for below 11.0m.

OPERATING RULES



Important

- ❖ If levee banks are breached during an event then GMW will work with the Incident Control Centre (ICC) and GMW Emergency Management Team (EMT) to decide the most appropriate bar replacement strategy.

Shepparton Gauging Station 405204 can be viewed at:

www.bom.gov.au
VIC – Rainfall and River conditions
Zoom in to – Victoria
Zoom to – Goulburn Broken
River conditions
Goulburn River Shepparton

River heights are also available on the BoM website.