Earthworks and water management

Dams, streams and waterways

If your planned works (dams, drains, re-alignment of waterways) involve or affect a stream or waterway under the Water (Irrigation Farm Dams) Act, you must ensure that all works are undertaken in accordance with the law. The following issues give an indication of where and when you will need to seek approvals or permits for works in Southwest Victoria.

Native flora and fauna

Native vegetation includes indigenous trees, shrubs, understorey plants, wetlands and native grasslands. Penalties may apply where native vegetation is removed without permission. Check with your local Department of Sustainability and Environment for more details.

Removal of rock mounds and other habitat for native species

The clearing of rocky outcrops and removal of rock mounds can generally be undertaken without permission, although in some cases a planning permit will be required. Check with your local Council. It is important for growers to understand the importance of these areas in providing habitat for native birds, reptiles and native vegetation. Contact your local DSE office for more details.

DO YOU NEED TO OBTAIN APPROVAL FOR YOUR RAISED BED WORKS?

This is a companion to the Hi-Grain Update ‘Best Practice for Raised Bed-Controlled Traffic Cropping’.

Development of raised beds can involve considerable changes to your farm. It is your responsibility to ensure all works are undertaken in accordance with the law. The following issues give an indication of where and when you will need to seek approvals or permits for works in Southwest Victoria.

Native flora and fauna

Removal of native vegetation

Native vegetation includes indigenous trees, shrubs, understorey plants, wetlands and native grasslands. Penalties may apply where native vegetation is removed without permission. Check with your local Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) office for native vegetation advice.

Where to go for more information

Department of Sustainability and Environment

W: www.dse.vic.gov.au
E: customer.service@dse.vic.gov.au
T: 136 186

Department of Primary Industries

W: www.dpi.vic.gov.au
E: customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au
T: 136 186

Water Authorities

Southern Rural Water

W: www.srw.com.au
E: srw@srw.com.au
T: (03) 5139 3100

Local Councils

See listings in White Pages directory

Catchment Management Authorities

Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

W: www.cccma.vic.gov.au
E: info@cccmnv.com.au
T: (03) 5232 9100

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority

W: www.glenelg-hopkins.vic.gov.au
E: ghcm@ghcmnv.com.au
T: (03) 5571 2526