



Wildlife ponds scheme

The concept of wildlife ponds was developed by the Birchip Cropping Group which examined the impact of removing channels and dams on biodiversity. The project trialled the concept at several sites and concluded that these ponds could effectively enhance biodiversity values, particularly when located in conjunction with existing habitat.

In February 2008 the GWMWater Board endorsed the proposed development of a scheme to provide a rebate for 17 kl of water to rural landholders connected a pipeline who construct and register a wildlife pond which meets the following criteria.

- > A minimum depth of one metre at its deepest point
- > A minimum volume of 5,000 litres
- > A lining with an impermeable layer, overlain by a soil layer to encourage plant growth
- > Been located within or directly adjacent to areas of native vegetation and/or enhanced by the planting of native vegetation species
- > Been restricted from stock (ie. The site has been fenced off to exclude stock access)
- > Not been constructed within a house garden

The rebate for the 17 kl will be provided as a credit against an existing meter. Only one credit will be provided per meter.

Application and Assessment

The applicant must have completed construction of the wildlife pond(s) prior to applying for a rebate.

Customers will need to submit an application form agreeing to the terms and conditions which will be considered and assessed against the eligibility criteria. A site plan and photograph of the completed pond(s) will need to be attached to the application form.

The rebate will apply from the next billing period for successful applicants.

An application form is attached to this fact sheet. Additional copies are available to download through our website at www.gwmwater.org.au or by phoning our Customer Contact Centre on 1300 659 961.

More information

The Birchip Cropping Group, in conjunction with GWMWater, CSIRO and the Wimmera, North Central and Mallee Catchment Management authorities has developed a 'Farmer's Guide to Installing a Wildlife Pond'.

Copies of the guide are available through our website: www.gwmwater.org.au, the Birchip Cropping Group website www.bcg.org.au, or by phoning our Customer Contact Centre on 1300 659 961.

Revised November 2009



An example of a constructed wildlife pond



application and assessment form

personal details



The personal information on this form will be stored and used by GWMWater for administration purposes regarding the Wildlife Ponds Scheme. You have the right of access to this information by contacting GWMWater. This information may be disclosed to another government organisation for the purpose of administering or enforcing the Water Act 1989 or any other relevant act.

Mr / Mrs / Ms Name: _____

Postal Address _____

Phone: _____ (AH)

_____ (BH)

Mobile: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

property details

*Eligible customers of GWMWater will receive 17 kL per wildlife pond.
This rebate will be free of charge and provided as a credit against an existing water meter. Only one credit will be provided per meter. Please provide all relevant assessment and water meter numbers below to enable an accurate assessment of your eligibility.*

Assessment Number: _____
(refer rate notice)

Property Location: _____

Crown Allotment: _____

Water Meter Number/s: _____

terms and conditions

I, _____ certify that I have read and understood the terms and conditions stated below to enable Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation to assess my eligibility to receive a rebate for water supplied to a wildlife pond/s.

- > To the best of my knowledge all details in this application are true and complete;
- > I confirm that prior to submitting this application the construction of the wildlife pond/s has been completed;
- > I have read, understood and considered the Birchip Cropping Group guidance note 'Farmer's guide to installing a wildlife pond';
- > I confirm that I have complied and am able to demonstrate that the following criteria has been met during construction of my wildlife pond/s:
The wildlife pond has:
 - a minimum depth of one metre at its deepest point;
 - a minimum volume of 5000 litres;
 - a lining with an impermeable layer, overlain by a soil layer to encourage plant growth;
 - been located within or directly adjacent to areas of native vegetation and/or enhanced by planting of native vegetation species;
 - been restricted from stock (ie. the site has been fenced off to exclude stock access)
 - not been constructed within a house garden.
- > I have taken due consideration and care in identifying a suitable location for the construction of my wildlife pond/s to provide the best outcome for native wildlife and species;
- > I understand that the water rebate available under the Wildlife Ponds Scheme is 17 kL per wildlife pond per year and that this rebate is free of charge to be credited against an existing water meter. Furthermore, I understand that only one credit is available per water meter;
- > I agree that the rebate for water available to me under the Wildlife Pond Scheme is only to be used to supply approved wildlife pond/s and that I may be liable for prosecution if water is used for any unauthorised activity;
- > Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation is not liable for any injury or material damage that may occur as a result of the installation of any wildlife pond/s on my property; and
- > I have read and acknowledge the Privacy Notice appearing at the front of this application form.

GMMWater staff are available to visit your property for you to show case your successes with the development of your wildlife pond/s. There is an opportunity to also have interested persons visit your wildlife pond should you wish.

your signature

Date: _____

supporting documents

In support of your application the following supporting documents must be provided.

- Site plan
- Photograph of complete pond/s

form return

Please return your completed application form to:

Application: Wildlife Ponds Scheme
Customer Services Division
GMMWater
PO Box 481
HORSHAM 3402

Privacy statement

The personal information on this form will be stored and used by GMMWater for administration purposes. This information may be disclosed to another Government organisation or the Birchip Cropping Group for administration purposes. You have the right to access this information by contacting GMMWater.