

20 August 2025

The Hon. Gayle Tierney, MP
Minister for Water
Level 17 8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Minister

Application to amend the Thomson/Macalister Environmental Entitlement to include mitigation water requirements for Heart Morass

In accordance with section 48K of the *Water Act 1989*, I am writing to request an amendment to the Thomson/Macalister System - Mitigation Water Environmental Entitlement 2024 to include an additional 400 ML of long-term average annual yield (LTAAY) mitigation water (as 345.9 ML high-reliability entitlement and 152.9 ML low-reliability entitlement).

The Environmental Entitlement currently provides 1568.80 ML of high-reliability entitlement and 691.8 ML of low-reliability entitlement (equivalent to 1814 ML LTAAY) for the Thomson and Macalister Rivers mitigation water sites, as per the relevant Environmental Watering Plans (EWPs), to offset impacts from the Macalister Irrigation District 2030 irrigation modernisation project.

This amendment follows a review of the Heart Morass EWP that was undertaken by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Southern Rural Water (SRW), West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, to confirm mitigation water requirements for Heart Morass, that was completed in March 2025.

The proposed amendment increases the total mitigation water provided under the environmental entitlement to 2214 ML LTAAY. The additional 400 ML LTAAY has been set aside by SRW to enable supply of this water.

I attach the draft Thomson/Macalister System - Mitigation Water Environmental Entitlement Amendment 2025 which was prepared with the assistance of DEECA. This contains the details to support this application. If you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact Sarina Loo, Chief Executive Officer on 0459 845 197 or sarina.loo@vewh.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Julie Miller Markoff | Chairperson
Victorian Environmental Water Holder

Attachment 1. Thomson/Macalister system – Mitigation Water Environmental Entitlement Amendment 2025

WATER ACT 1989

THOMSON/MACALISTER SYSTEM – MITIGATION WATER ENVIRONMENTAL ENTITLEMENT AMENDMENT 2025

I, Gayle Tierney, Minister for Water, as Minister administering the Water Act 1989, make the following Instrument -

1. TITLE

This Instrument is called the Thomson/Macalister System – Mitigation Water Environmental Entitlement Amendment 2025.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Instrument is to amend Schedule 1 of the Thomson/Macalister System – Mitigation Water Environmental Entitlement 2024 to include an additional 400 ML of long-term average annual yield mitigation water (as 345.9 ML high-reliability entitlement and 152.9 ML low-reliability entitlement) for the Heart Morass Mitigation Water site.

3. AUTHORISING PROVISION

This Instrument is made in accordance with section 48K of the **Water Act 1989**.

4. COMMENCEMENT

This Instrument comes into effect the day it is published in the *Victoria Government Gazette*.

5. DEFINITIONS

In this Instrument, a reference to the Environmental Entitlement is a reference to the Thomson/Macalister System – Mitigation Water Environmental Entitlement 2024.

6. AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE 1

6.1 For Schedule 1 of the Environmental Entitlement, **substitute:**

Mitigation Water sites	High-reliability entitlement¹ (ML)	Low-reliability entitlement¹ (ML)
Macalister River Reach 2 (Maffra Weir to Thomson River)	856.9	377.9
Thomson River Reach 5 (Rainbow Creek/old Thomson confluence to Macalister River)	711.9	313.9
Thomson River Reach 6 (Macalister River to Latrobe River)	see note 2	see note 2
Heart Morass	345.9	152.9
TOTAL	1914.7	844.7

Notes to table:

¹The volumes provided for each Mitigation Water site are nominal only; overall delivery compliance is not determined against these indicative volumes.

²Thomson River Reach 6 Mitigation Water requirement is provided by the upstream mitigation water volumes for Macalister River Reach 2 and Thomson River Reach 5.

Dated:

Hon. Gayle Tierney MP

Minister for Water