

# Addendum to Gippsland Lakes condition report 1990-2011

Addendum



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## Page 26, paragraph 1

The original paragraph was worded: *'Since the original policy was developed, the Gippsland Lakes and, to a greater extent, their catchment, have been modified (as discussed in section 3). Land use has changed, population and water extraction have increased and the entrance has been dredged even deeper. This has led to a more profound modification of the Lakes' system from its original state. In addition, changing climatic conditions are adding extra pressure to the Lakes' integrity. Future management and policy will need to address these issues as well as community expectations of the Lakes.'*

Some ambiguity existed in the original paragraph with regard to the period being considered and the extent to which the entrance channel was dredged. Key dates have been inserted in the text to provide clarity for the reader. Also, while a considerable amount of material has been removed from the channel in order to improve its navigability (Wheeler et al. 2010a) and maintain clear access to the lakes, there is no evidence that the total maximum existing depth has been exceeded (Wheeler et al. 2010b, Water Technology 2013). As planned, there has been deepening in some parts of the cross section of the entrance channel, and more specifically around the flood tide delta (Wheeler et al. 2010a, b). EPA is not aware of any clear evidence that the Gippsland Lakes have been negatively affected by recent dredging. The intention of this section and paragraph was to mount a case for reviewing the policy within the context of long-term modification to the Lakes from multiple inputs, and not to suggest that dredging has either rendered the entrance deeper or modified the Lakes more or less than any other activity has since the 1880s.

Therefore, to maintain accuracy the paragraph should read: *'Since the original policy was gazetted in 1988, the Gippsland Lakes and, to a greater extent, their catchment, have been modified (as discussed in section 3). Land use has changed, population and water extraction have increased and the entrance has been dredged to maintain the traditional level of navigability. Together these have led to a profound modification of the Lakes' system from its original state in the 1880s. In addition, changing climatic conditions are adding extra pressure to the Lakes' integrity. Future management and policy will need to address these issues as well as community expectations of the Lakes.'*

## References

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