

What assessments are being undertaken by DELWP?

Full details on DELWP assessment processes can be found at

https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/540730/DELWP-Guide-to-site-assessments_Camping-on-licensed-Crown-water-frontage.pdf

Desktop assessment

The desktop assessment of potential camping areas considers:

Alignment to the regulations :

- Confirming land tenure (relevant licence type noting riparian licences are excluded)
 - Ability to camp more than 20 metres from the waterway (and not on private land)
 - Ability to camp more than 200 metres from any nearby residence
 - Ability to dispose of human waste and soap, including:
 - > Human waste must be buried more than 100 metres from the waterway (and not on private property)
 - > Where portable toilets are used/required, must be located more than 50 metres from the waterway

Appropriate access

The ability for the public to access the area, minimising likelihood of trespass, including considering:

- Road access
- Pedestrian access through public land, including ‘unused road’ licensed areas
- Ability for legal vehicle use and management/ emergency vehicle access.

On-ground site assessments

Possible camping areas identified through the desktop process will then be subject to on-ground site assessment.

The site will also be assessed to:

- Confirm implied access (appropriate and safe access to site, trespass risk for private land, access barriers)
- Confirm safety and suitability for camping (e.g. terrain features, vegetation density)
- Assessment of whether campfires should be permitted if the area is designated for camping
- Identify any other risks/hazards or ongoing management requirements if the area is designated for camping
- Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Designation of camping areas

Once an area is confirmed as a suitable camping area, the land manager (DELWP or Parks Victoria) can make the determination to ‘set-aside’ that licensed Crown water frontage as an area where camping is permitted. This determination will confirm the boundaries of the area, and any additional conditions that apply (e.g. whether campfires are permitted, or where a portable toilet is required etc.).

Licensed areas that have been designated as areas where camping is permitted, will be listed on the DELWP website: <https://www.forestsandreserves.vic.gov.au/land-management/managing-crown-land/access-to-crown-water-frontages>. This information includes maps of the areas and appropriate access, and any information or conditions specific to the use of that area (e.g. whether campfires are permitted).

Access to camping sites on licensed Crown river frontages is only permitted via public access points. Trespassing on private land is illegal.

Where camping is permitted, signs will be erected to indicate the area available for camping.

Vehicle access on licensed Crown river frontages, other than on formed roads, remains prohibited and subject to the Land Conservation (Vehicle Control) Regulations 2013.