



# River Vessel Waste Disposal Options

Edition No 2

General Information  
Berthing & Operating Instructions



**Government  
of South Australia**

Department of Water,  
Land and Biodiversity  
Conservation



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## Further Information

Further information, technical advice and assistance regarding the river vessel waste disposal scheme is readily available from the departmental offices in Adelaide and Berri.

### Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

PO Box 2834  
ADELAIDE SA 5001  
(08) 8463 6800

Web site: [www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au)

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## Background

With 96% of its area receiving less than 500mm of rainfall per year, and 83% receiving less than 250mm, South Australia is the driest State in Australia. Only one major, permanently flowing river enters the sea along the South Australian coast - the River Murray.

The importance of the River Murray to South Australia is shown by the fact that about 40% of the reticulated water supplied in the State comes from this river.

The South Australian Government is authorised to control pollution of the River Murray through the *Environment Protection Act 1993*. In addition, action by the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland assists by protecting the River Murray and its tributaries upstream of South Australia - a vital step in controlling water quality in the Murray Darling Basin as a whole.

This booklet describes the scheme set up to control the discharge of wastes from river vessels.

## Waste from River Vessels

People living on vessels produce three types of waste - toilet waste (black water), grey water and garbage.

Toilet waste is of special concern, particularly when linked with the mobility of river vessels. With many public and private water supply intakes along the river, there is a real danger that a toilet on board a vessel may be flushed into the river near one of these intakes.

This could result in sufficient disease-causing micro-organisms entering the water supply system to cause infectious disease among the people served.

Controls on the discharge of grey water have also been introduced by regulation under the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003*, specifically the *EPA Code of Practice for vessel and facility management (marine and inland waters)*.

### How Wastes Are Controlled

The danger inherent in the discharge overboard of human waste can be overcome by treatment of the waste before discharge, or by retention of the waste on board with subsequent discharge to onshore treatment and disposal facilities.

Garbage can easily be retained onboard in bins or bags.

## Regulatory Control

Regulatory Control of vessel wastewaters in South Australia is exercised through the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003*, specifically the *EPA Code of Practice for vessel and facility management (marine and inland waters)*. This policy is authorised under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

Further information regarding the legislation is set out at the end of this book.

# Public Waste Disposal Stations

- Lock 6
- Renmark
- Berri
- Loxton
- Lock 3
- Waikerie
- Morgan
- Blanchetown
- Swan Reach
- Walker Flat
- Mannum
- Murray Bridge
- Goolwa



Should there be any operational problems at the station, note the name of the station and ring 1800 799 065 for the local service contractor.

# Public Waste Disposal Stations

The South Australian Government has provided 13 public waste disposal stations, for both water and solid wastes, along the 650 km of the River Murray in South Australia. The locations, from Lock 6 downstream of the New South Wales border; to Goolwa near the mouth, are shown on the following pages; sites of all public stations are shown in detail later in this booklet.

Stations are designed to cater for vessels up to 30m and/or not exceeding 40 tonnes. Vessels over these limits are required to make arrangements for discharge of waste before using Government facilities.

# Private Waste Disposal Stations

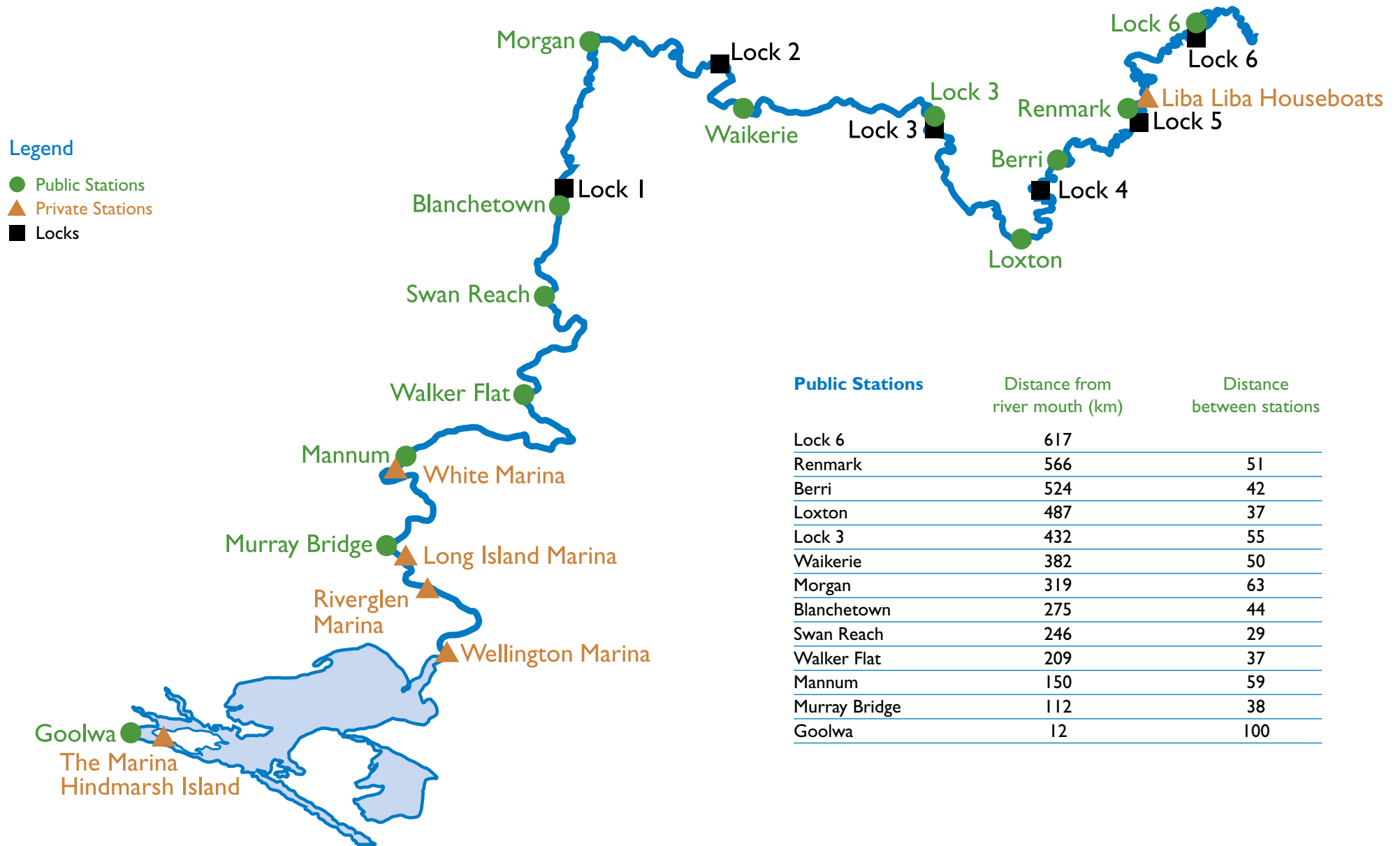
A number of privately owned waste disposal stations are also available to pump waste into holding tanks or treatment systems ashore; the locations are shown on the following pages and contact details listed below.

<b>Goolwa</b>	The Marina Hindmarsh Island	(08) 8555 7300
<b>Wellington</b>	Wellington Marina	(08) 8572 7222 or 0433 162 700
<b>Murray Bridge</b>	Riverglen Marina	(08) 8532 1986 or 0421 288 999
	Long Island Marina	(08) 8532 6900
<b>Mannum</b>	White Marina	(08) 8569 2412 or 0427 810 110
<b>Renmark</b>	Liba Liba Houseboats (Jane Eliza Landing)	(08) 8586 6734 or 1800 810 252

Private marinas' pumpout facilities are for use by negotiation.

Pumping contractors with desludging trucks can also provide a pumpout service for a fee. Contact the local Council for this information.

# Waste Disposal Station Locations



# Berthing Instructions

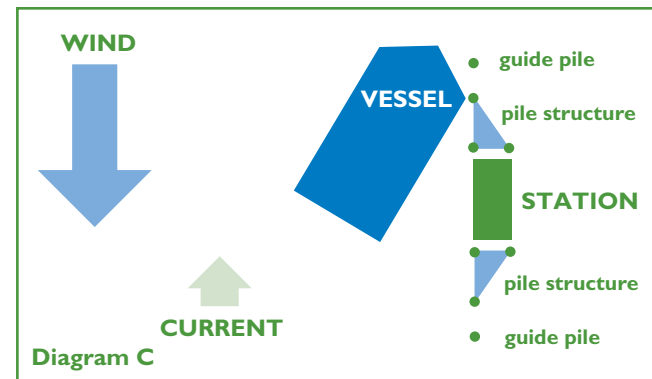
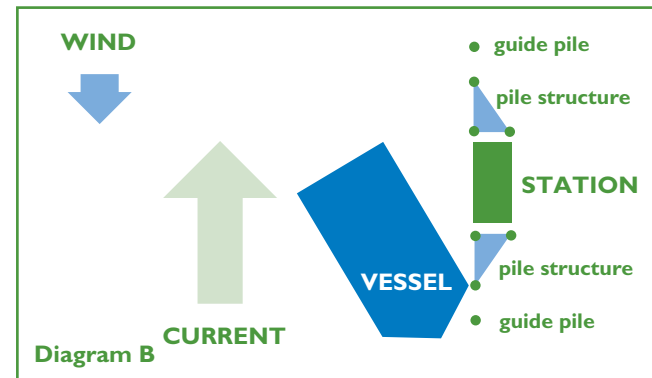
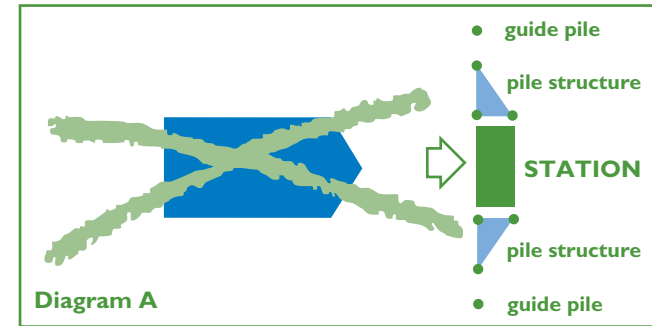
A number of factors affect the way you berth at a station.  
They are:

- current
- wind
- eddy current

## No Front-on Berthing

- 1 Before approaching a station, stop in the middle of the river with the motor in neutral and see which way you drift.
- 2 Refer to Diagrams B and C showing suggested approaches.
- 3 Start your approach to the station. When you are about 100m from the guide pile, slow down so that you are making little headway, and check the combined effects of wind and current on your vessel.
- 4 Edge your vessel sideways to the station, gently touch the front corner of the vessel to the forward pile or pile structure and tie up.
- 5 Allow the vessel to drift back side-on, or pull it back with the motor and tie up.
- 6 If winds are blowing onto the station, your approach can be made as in Diagram B, but leave some room between your vessel and the guide pile. For winds blowing off the station, let the current and motor push the vessel onto the guide pile.
- 7 Secure your vessel, fore and aft\*.
- 8 Adjust the vessel's position so that the hose connection can be made.

\*fore: front of vessel, aft: rear of vessel.



## Emptying Waste Holding Tanks

A typical waste disposal station is illustrated below. Under normal conditions, at all stations except Goolwa, there is a minimum water depth of 1.35m at the mooring face of the pontoon. On the pontoon are two hoses - a long, flexible large diameter sewage suction hose, and a smaller diameter flushing water hose (non-potable).

The disposal station also incorporates a sink for emptying portable toilets. Bins have been provided for the disposal of bottles, cans and garbage. The use of plastic garbage bags by vessel owners/operators will greatly assist in keeping the stations clean.

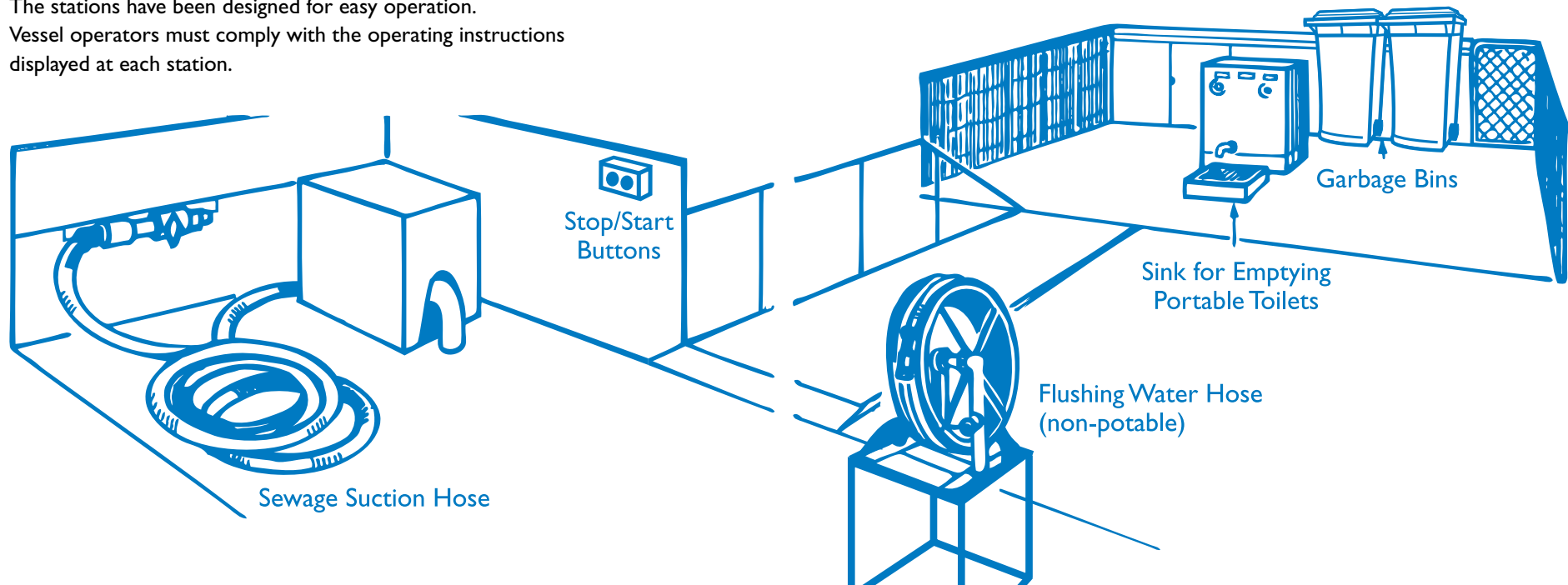
During periods of high or low river, some stations may become inoperable; however, vessel owners should remember that the conditions of the *EPA Code of Practice for Vessel and facility management (marine and inland waters)* regarding the disposal of wastes still apply.

The stations have been designed for easy operation. Vessel operators must comply with the operating instructions displayed at each station.

Procedures for obtaining help should a problem occur are also displayed. Sample instructions are reproduced on the next page.

For most stations, a 500-litre tank takes approximately six minutes to empty. River vessels up to the size limits are permitted to pump out both black water and grey water.

The disposal stations have been designed for reliability and convenience, and are regularly maintained. Problems could occur, however, and the most likely is a blockage in the pipework. The pipes and pumps have been adequately sized for domestic waste water but large objects could jam, in either the boat or station piping. It is most important, therefore, that no foreign objects are disposed of in the toilet system. This applies particularly to sanitary napkins and tampons, and babies' disposable napkins.



# Operating Instructions

## Boat sewage holding tanks

- 1 Connect the sewage suction hose to the correct fitting on your boat.
- 2 Open the suction hose valve.



- 3 Push the **Start** button mounted on the pontoon. There will be a short delay before the pump starts. The pump will stop after about 5 minutes.

- Once operating, a flow of waste will be visible in the clear section of the suction hose. It may take up to a minute to establish full flow.
- 4 If more pumping is required, press the **Start** button again. Stop the suction pump at any time by pressing the **Stop** button.
  - 5 When all the sewage has been removed, connect the flushing water hose to your other deck fitting and open the flushing water valve to flush your tank.
    - Do not flush your tank for more than 2 minutes to avoid overfilling.
    - If you have only one deck fitting, stop the pump and close the suction hose valve before you disconnect the sewage suction hose.

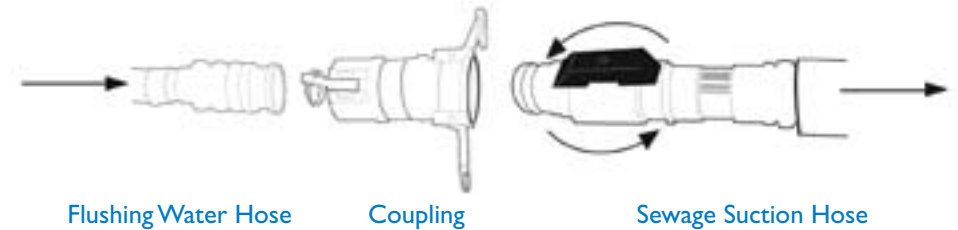
- 6 Remove the flushing water from your tank by repeating steps 1 to 4.

- 7 When all pumping is finished, stop the pump, close the sewage suction hose valve and disconnect from your deck fitting.

- 8 Stow the hoses neatly on the pontoon.

## Troubleshooting

- If no flow is visible in the suction hose after a minute or so, check your connection and ensure that the valve on the hose and any valve on the boat is open.
- Clear blockages by connecting the flushing water hose to the sewage suction hose using the special coupling on the pontoon railing. Open both valves and start the sewage suction pump again.



- If you still have a problem, note the name of this station and ring 1800 799 065 for the local service contractor.

## Portable toilets

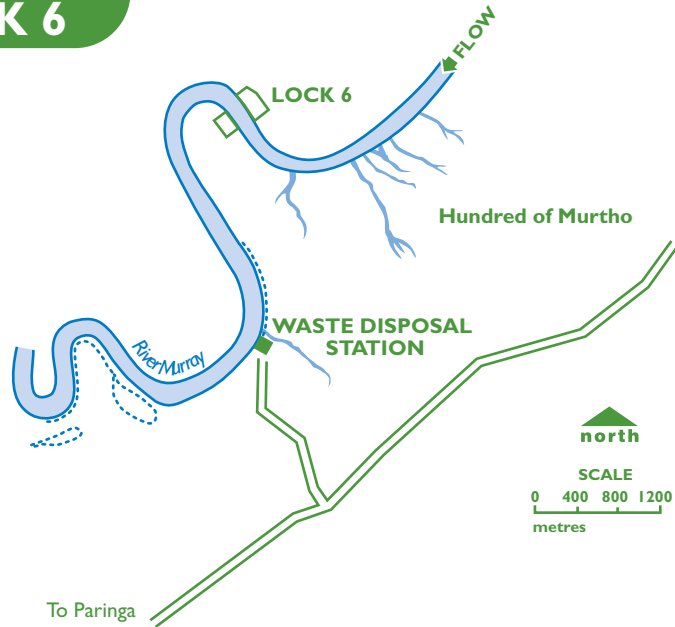
Empty in floor sink on shore.

## Garbage

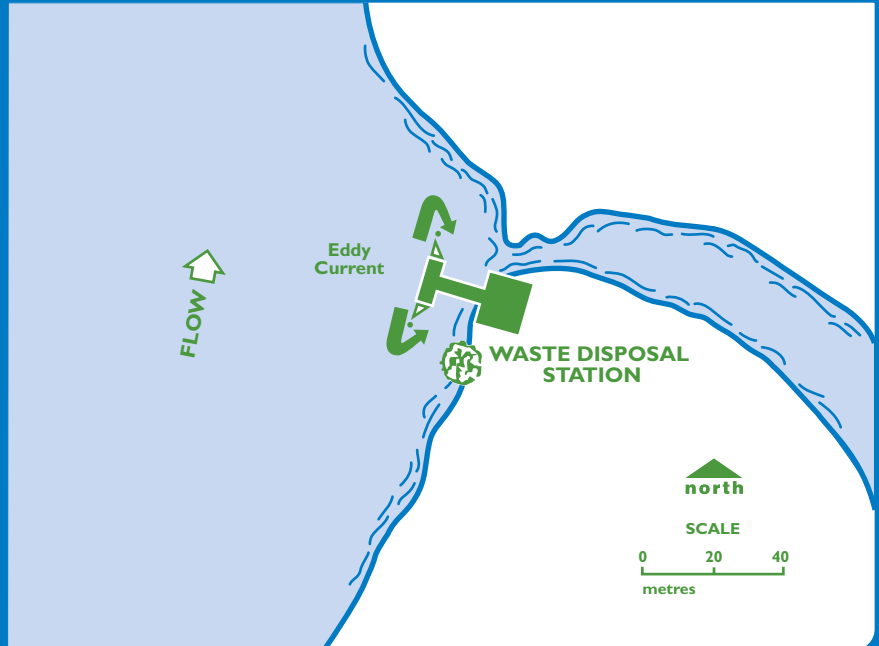
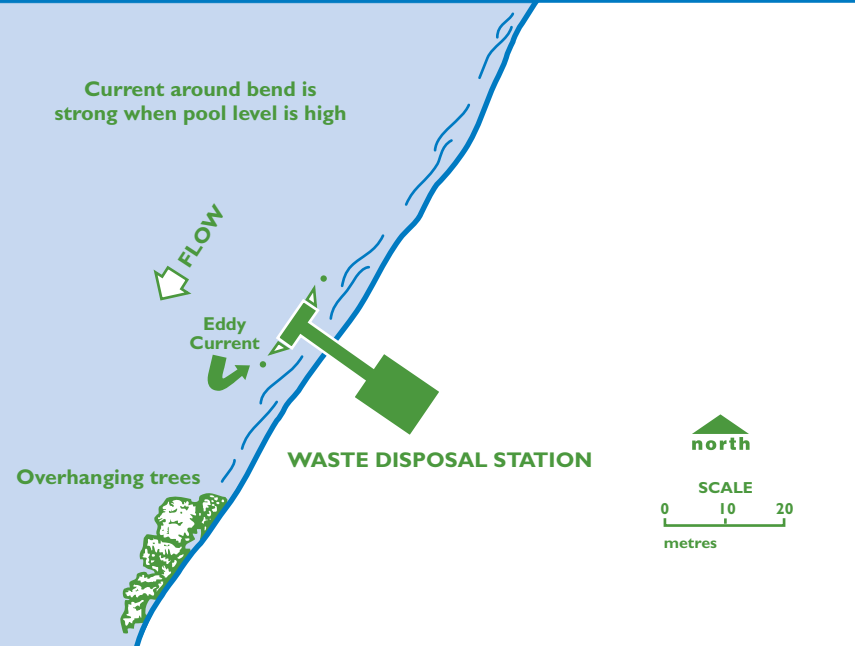
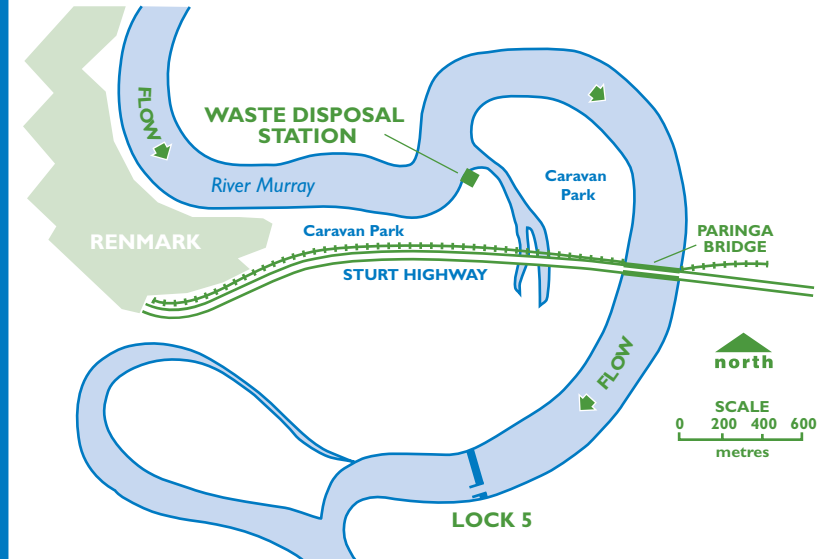
Deposit in bins on shore.



## LOCK 6

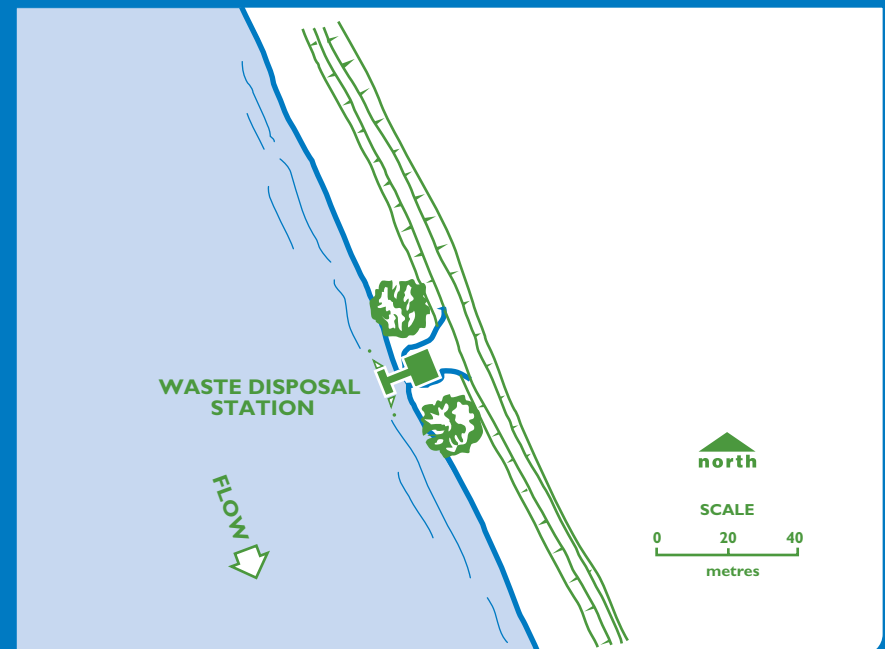
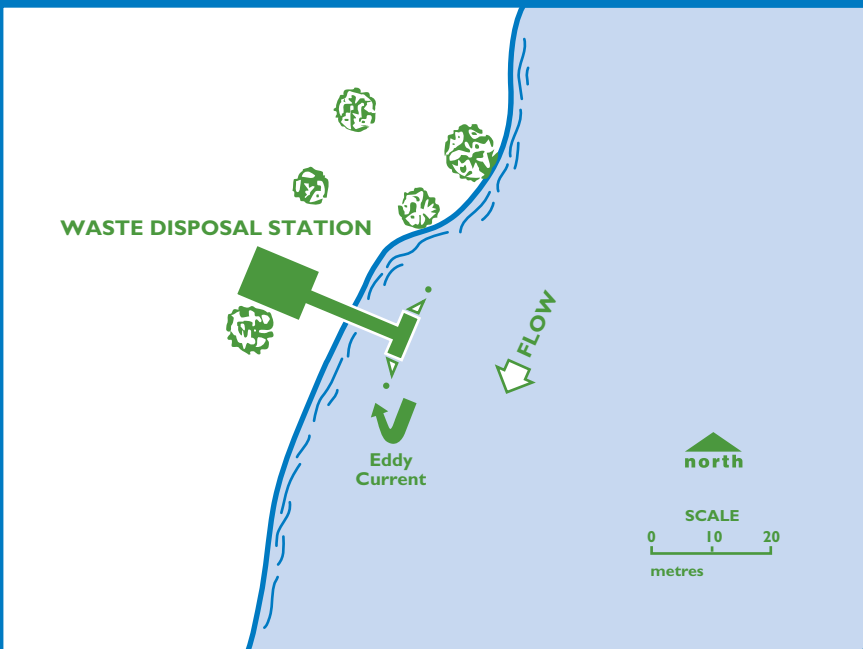
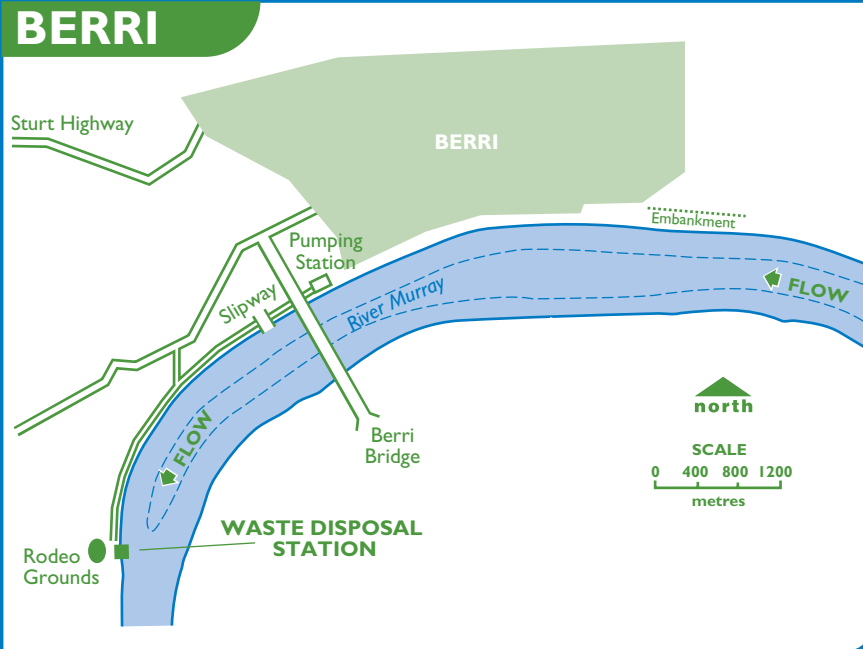


## RENMARK



If a station is not operating properly, note the name of the station and ring 1800 799 065 for the local service contractor.

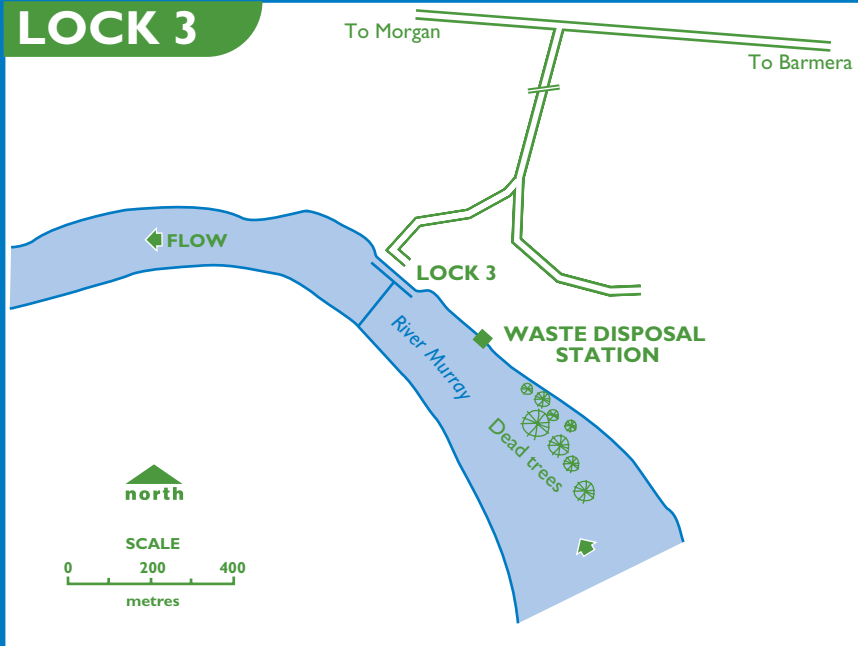
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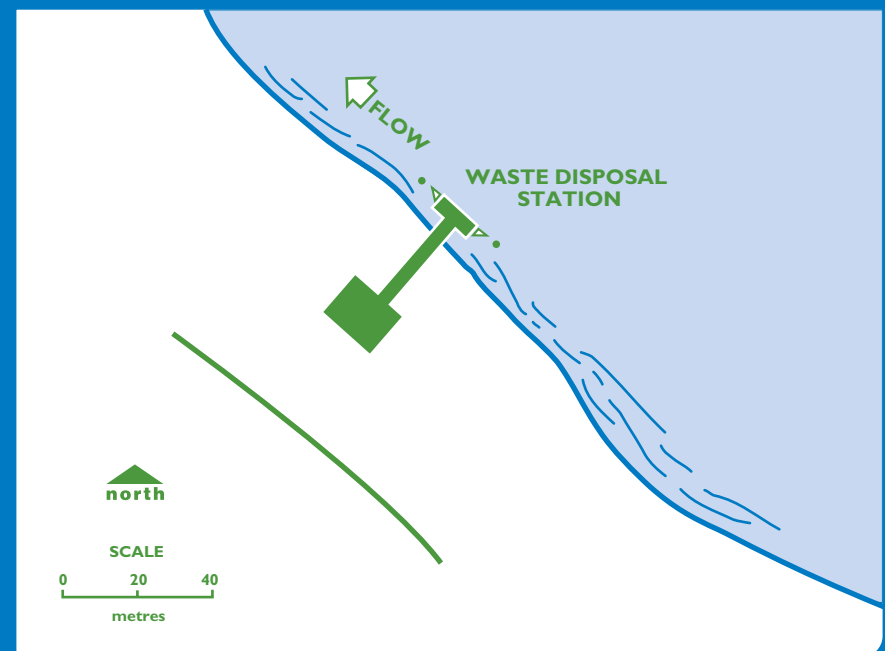
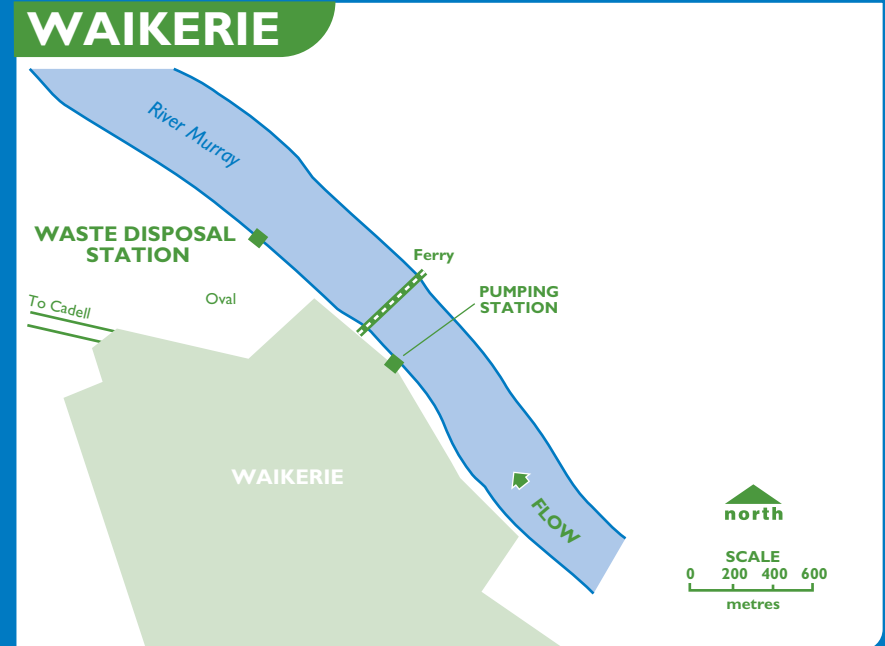
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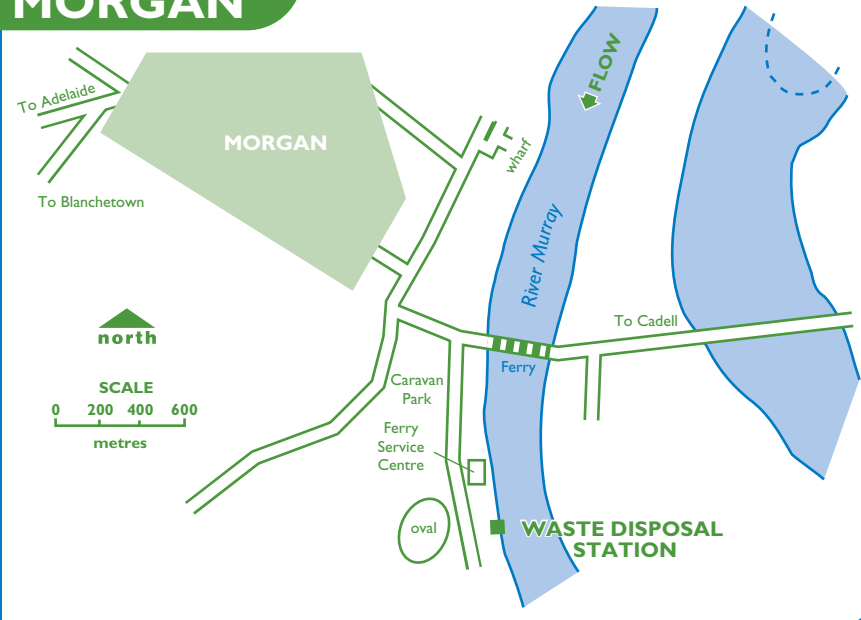
## LOCK 3



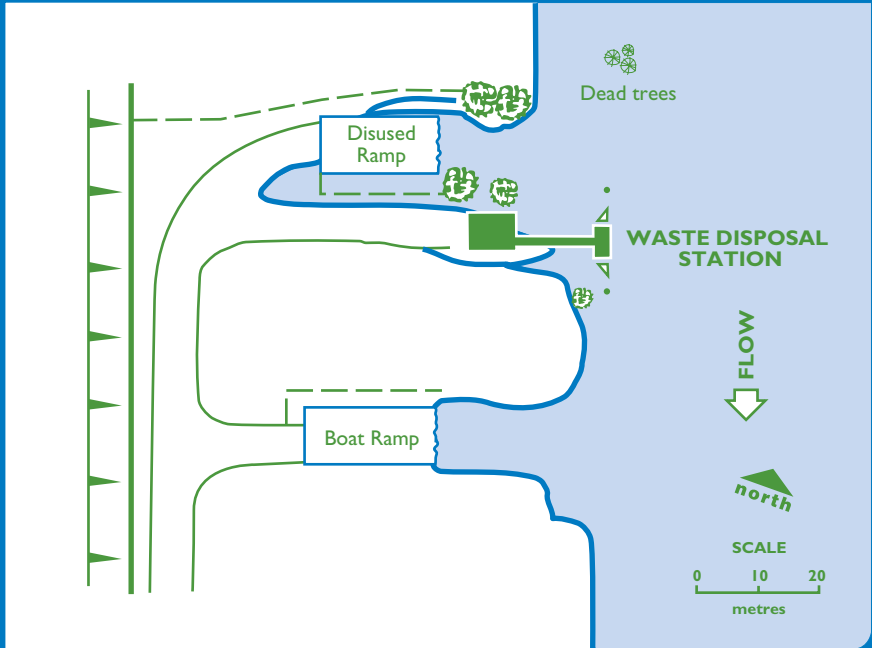
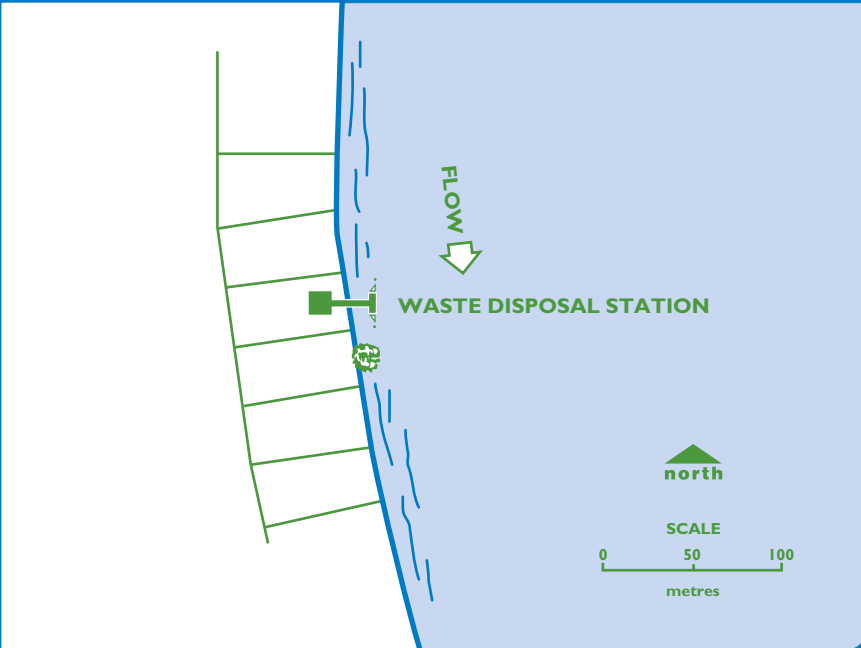
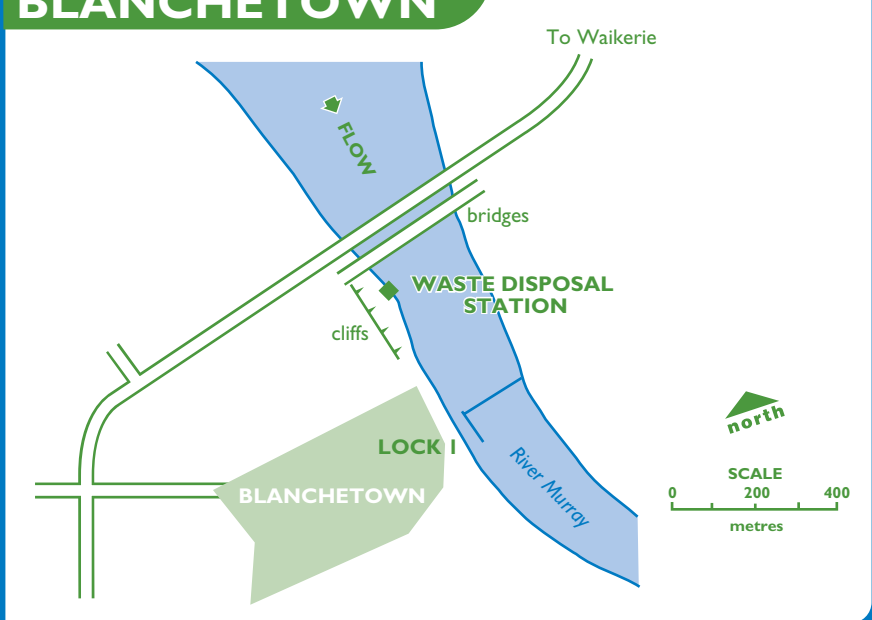
## WAIKERIE



# MORGAN



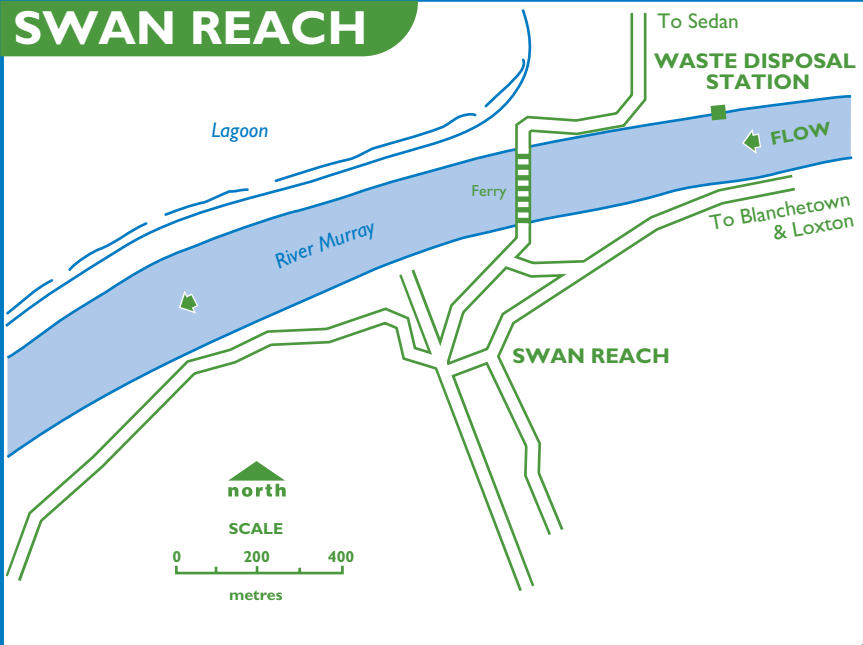
# BLANCHETOWN



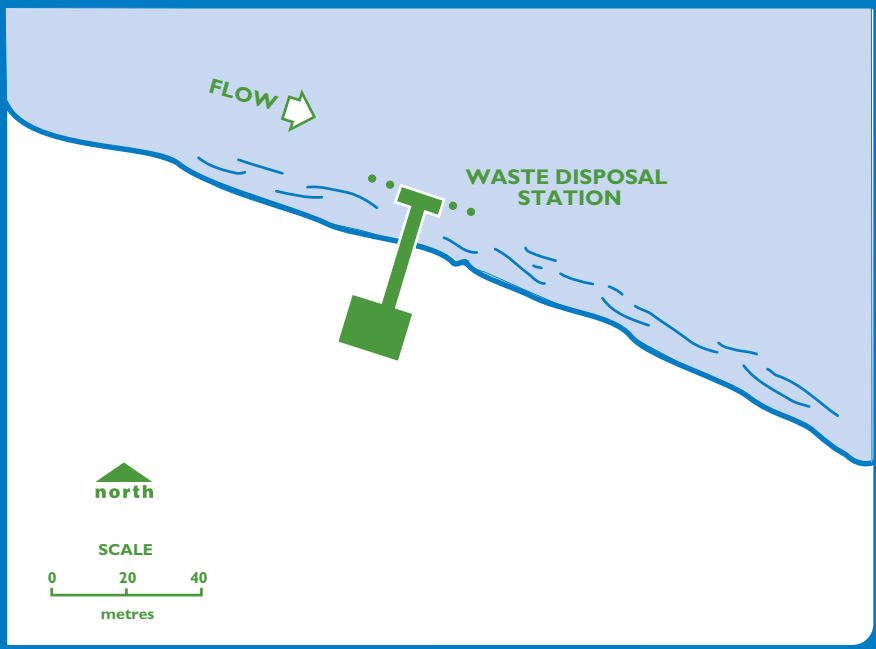
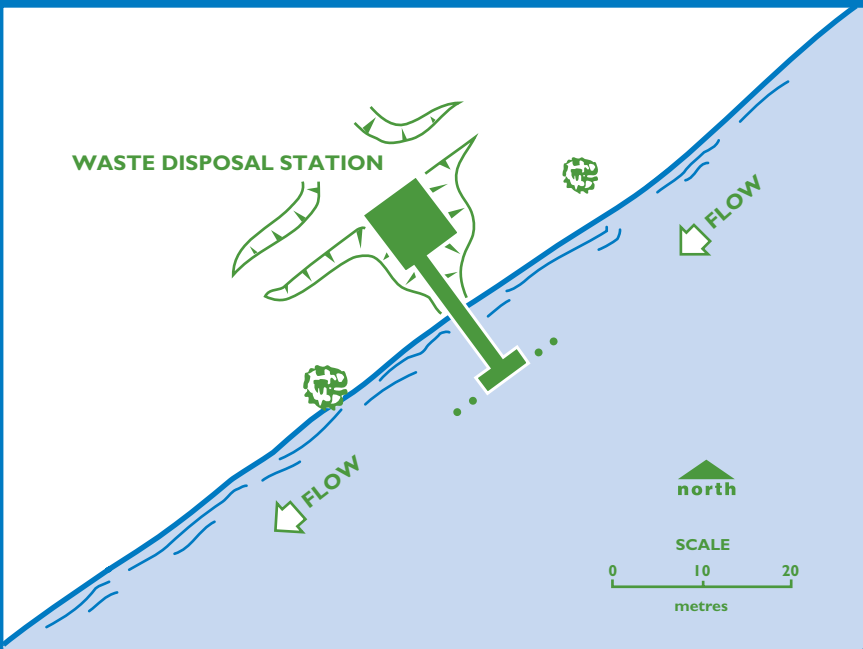
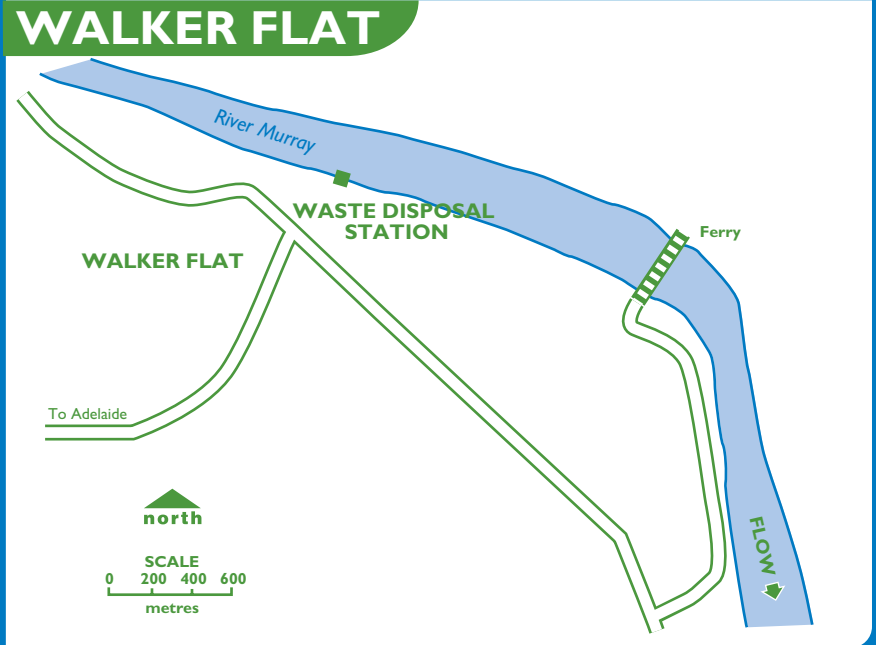
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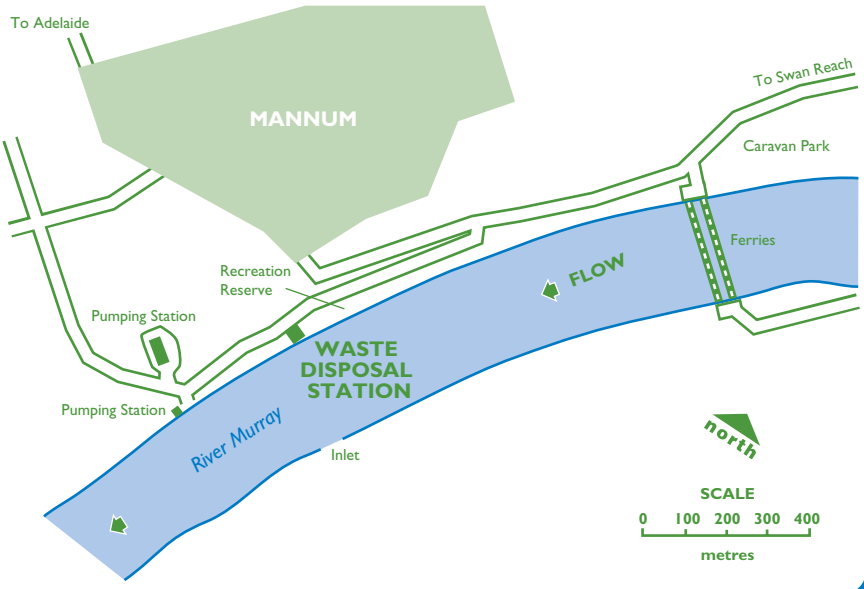
## SWAN REACH



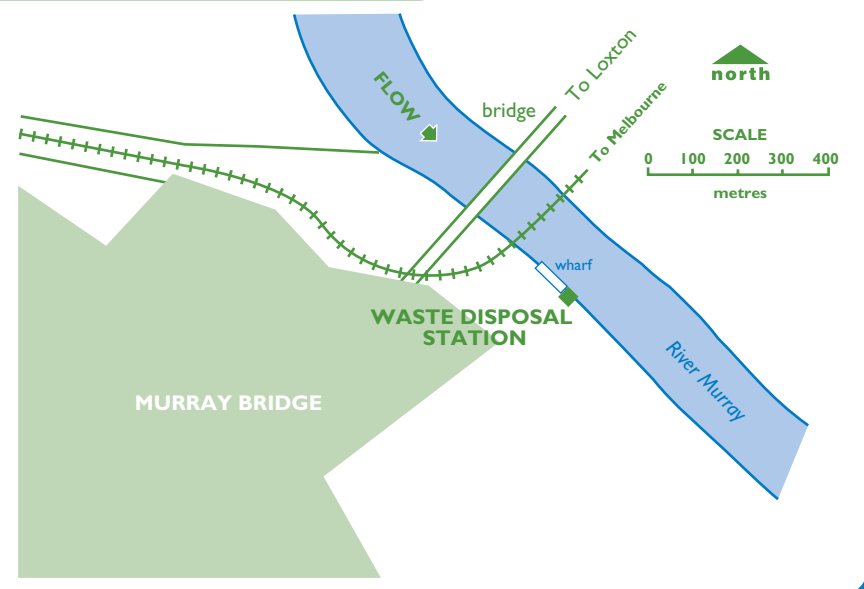
## WALKER FLAT



# MANNUM



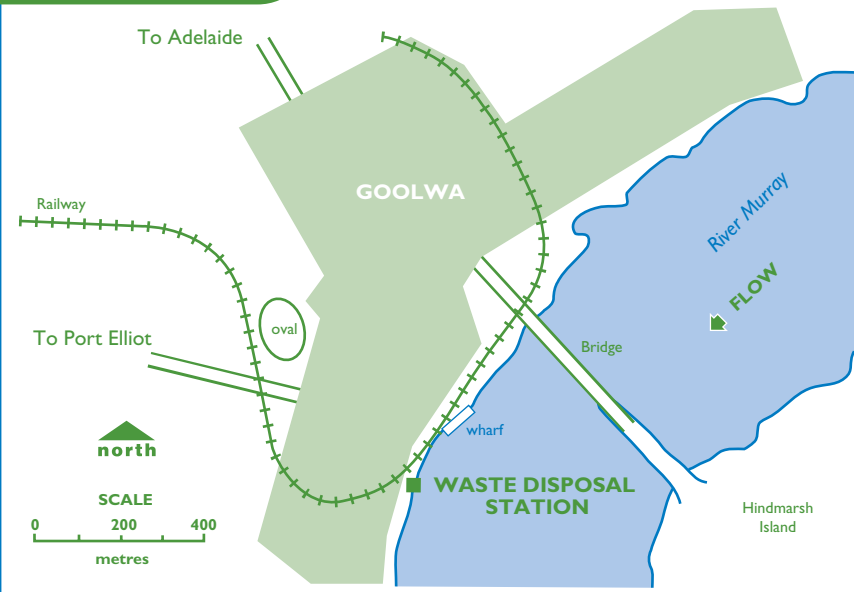
# MURRAY BRIDGE



24 If a station is not operating properly, note the name of the station and ring 1800 799 065 for the local service contractor.

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## GOOLWA



## Legislation

The *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* authorised under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* controls waste disposal from river vessels on any inland waters in the State and the extent to which the owner of a river vessel is authorised to dispose of, disperse or discharge any wastes from the vessel.

For further information on the Act go to:

<http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au>

For further information on the Policy go to:

<http://www.epa.sa.gov.au>

For further information on the EPA Code of Practice for vessel and facility management (marine and inland waters) go to:

<http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/codes.html>

## Costs, Inspections & Enforcement

No license or fee is required to use the waste disposal stations; the cost of building and maintaining the stations is being met by the South Australian Government. The vessel owner's contribution is the cost of installing the required fittings on the vessel.

There is no legal requirement for approval or inspection of wastewater management systems for privately owned vessels. However, commercial vessels and privately owned vessels kept in survey are required to undergo a compulsory biennial survey process to ensure compliance with the EPA regulations.

Vessels will be subject to inspection regimes for compliance with wastewater management requirements and may be subject to enforcement where compliance is not being met. Vessel operators who are experiencing difficulties with achieving compliance should notify the EPA in writing as soon as is reasonably practical, by clearly outlining the circumstances that will result in the non-compliance.

Mandatory provisions of the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003 may be enforced on vessel owners and operators in the following ways:

- by issuing an Environment Protection Order (EPO) to gain compliance with the policy
- by issuing an expiation notice (on-the-spot fine) of \$300 for a breach of a mandatory provision
- by issuing an EPO as well as an on-the-spot fine for a breach of a mandatory provision
- by issuing an on-the-spot fine for failing to comply with an EPO or
- by prosecuting through the court (maximum penalty \$30,000).

Officers from the EPA, local councils, and other government authorities are authorised to enforce the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003*.

