



4 April 2023

## MRWA Design Template Update to include Registered Professional Engineer

The Melbourne Retail Water Agencies (MRWA) have been working together with the Association of Land Development Engineers (ALDE) on a joint approach to address the requirements of the Victorian Professional Engineers Registration Act 2019 (PER Act) and has made changes to the MRWA design drawing templates in response to the new legislation. Notification of changes to the ARCUS accreditation system will be advised in the near future.

### What is the Victorian Professional Engineers Act?

In 2019 the Victorian Government passed legislation requiring mandatory registration for engineers under the PER Act.

Certain Engineering Professionals need to be registered with the Business Licensing Authority (BLA) to be able to provide Professional Engineering Services in or for Victoria.

The requirement to be registered as a civil and structural engineer came into effect on 1 October 2022.

If you provide a Professional Engineering Service in Victoria you must be registered to continue legally providing professional engineering services, unless:

- you are working under the direct supervision of a registered engineer
- or are only working in accordance with a prescriptive standard

Please refer to the Victorian Consumer Affairs [website](#) for more information on the above.

### Why are these changes being introduced?

It is our position that preparation of water main and sewer designs is a Professional Engineering Service that requires the involvement of a Registered Professional Engineer (civil) in accordance with the PER Act and that the MRWA Standards are not a prescribed standard.

The MRWA are supportive of the Victorian Government's initiative to recognise the importance of engineers through a state-wide registration process. In order to support organisations and individuals compliance under the PER Act 2019 and to provide the MRWA with assurance of compliance, we are proposing some amendments to MRWA design submissions.

### What are the changes being introduced?

In recognition of the important role played by Registered Engineers in the design process, the MRWA are proposing an amendment to the title block provided on the MRWA design drawing template.

The MRWA design drawing template now includes:

1. Registered Professional Engineer's name and registration number
2. Sign-off on each design revision by the Registered Professional Engineer (instead of the authoriser).

Refer to Figure 1 which shows these changes.

REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REG. ENG.	REV	DESCRIPTION	DATE	REG. ENG.
1				2			
3				4			
5				6			

  

DESIGNED	X	PROJECT NUMBER:	PROJ_NO
DATE:	00/00/00	AUTHORISED	X
DRAWN	X	DATE:	00/00/00
DATE:	00/00/00	REGISTERED ENGINEER	NAME: ENGINEER_NAME
CHECKED	X	PE REG. NO:	XXXX
DATE:	00/00/00	DATE:	00/00/0000

Figure 1: Extract from the MRWA Design Drawing Template

Water main and gravity sewer designs require the involvement throughout design and sign-off by a Registered Civil Engineer as a minimum on the submission of issue for construction drawings and any subsequent design revisions. The Registered Engineer signing off on subsequent design revisions may be someone different to the original Registered Engineer on the first revision.

It is not mandatory that the registered professional engineer is the Accredited Design Checker. We believe that this allows organisations to maintain flexibility in their individual quality assurance processes, whilst also giving the MRWA assurance that they are meeting the requirements of the Act.

This approach of including a registered engineer on design drawings is consistent with the one adopted in Queensland under their long-standing registration scheme.

The 100 Series water and sewer design standards drawing examples (PDF and AutoCAD files) have been amended on the MRWA portal website and are ready for use on projects <https://mrwa.com.au/Pages/Standards.aspx>. The example drawings that have been updated are provided in Appendix A as PDFs.

### What are the next steps and when do these changes need to be adopted?

As the civil engineering registration came into effect on 1 October 2022, all designs already need the involvement of a registered civil engineer to comply with the PER Act.

We are requesting that all new design drawings being submitted adopt the new design template (on all drawing sheets) as soon as possible however we are adopting a three month phase in period to assist with this transition. All designs submitted from 1 July 2023 will be expected to adopt the new template and show the Professional Registered Engineer on the drawings.

The MRWA will be checking this requirement is being met on design submissions and after the 1 July 2023 will not accept designs that do not include these changes.

There are further changes being finalised in ARCUS to be able to ensure compliance and these will be communicated in due course.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss these requirements further please contact the relevant water retailer representatives:

- **Ryan Leon** ([ryan.leon@yvw.com.au](mailto:ryan.leon@yvw.com.au)) - Yarra Valley Water
- **Bruce Johnson** ([bruce.johnson@sew.com.au](mailto:bruce.johnson@sew.com.au)) – South East Water
- **Nick Rhoden** ([nick.rhoden@gww.com.au](mailto:nick.rhoden@gww.com.au)) – Greater Western Water

## Appendix A Amended MRWA Example Drawings

Refer to the MRWA Portal <https://mrwa.com.au/Pages/Standards.aspx>

### Water

- MRWA-W-101 Design Template – Notes, Schedules and Locality Plan
- WRMW-W-102A Design Template – Example Detailed Plan

### Sewer

- MRWA-S-100 Design Template – Notes, Schedules and Locality Plan
- MRWA-S-101A Design Template – Detail Plan
- MRWA-S-101B Design Template –Longitudinal Section Part A
- MRWA-S-101C Design Template –Longitudinal Section Part A
- MRWA-S-101D Design Template – Construction Details
- MRWA-S-102 Design Template Integrated Plan