



## Giant Gippsland Earthworm Habitat Protected

The Giant Gippsland Earthworm will now have its habitat protected in South Gippsland following the Minister of Planning's approval of the Giant Gippsland Earthworm Overlay.

The new overlay maps likely Giant Gippsland Earthworm sites for use when considering development in these zones.

Previously there was no means to identify when proposed works could impact the Giant Gippsland Earthworm or its habitat in the South Gippsland Planning Scheme. As a result, past developments have accidentally harmed remaining Giant Gippsland Earthworm colonies and caused costly delays.

The iconic Giant Gippsland Earthworm will now be protected as the overlay will show where existence of the Giant Gippsland Earthworm is likely prior to any works commencing that may affect their colonies or habitat.

It is important to remember that if you do unearth a Giant Gippsland Earthworm to keep them horizontal to avoid harming them. For more information you can visit the Giant Earthworm website [www.giantearthworm.org.au](http://www.giantearthworm.org.au).

Individuals are recommended to contact Council for advice on proceeding with a permit application where the development is to occur within the overlay or seek your own independent advice from a qualified consultant.

The Amendment is available to view on Council's website or on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's website [www.delwp.vic.gov.au/publicinspection](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au/publicinspection).

**PR1928 3/11/16**