



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Water

Friday, 14 December, 2007

LAKE MOKOAN DECOMMISSIONING TO PROCEED

An independent review has found the alternative proposals to the decommissioning of Lake Mokoan are not sustainable solutions, Water Minister Tim Holding said today.

Mr Holding said he had informed the Justice for the Broken Valley irrigator group that their proposal would not be adopted and the decommissioning would continue as announced in 2004.

“Lake Mokoan is Victoria’s most inefficient water storage and currently loses three in every four litres released into the Broken irrigation system,” Mr Holding said.

“We have considered at great length the proposal from local irrigators and another similar proposal, but it would be irresponsible to allow a storage system to continue to operate at a time when Victoria must use its water as efficiently as possible.

“The \$84 million decommissioning project will make available 54 billion litres of water each year to improve the health of the Broken, Goulburn, Snowy and Murray rivers and provide a reliable water source for local irrigators. “

The comprehensive six-month review, conducted by several independent technical specialists, assessed the Justice for the Broken Valley Group’s alternative storage option and another similar option.

Mr Holding said both options would have meant higher construction costs, significant water losses and increased operating costs.

“The independent review process considered all options but has confirmed that full decommissioning is the best solution,” he said.

“The review of the irrigators’ proposal has shown it would cost \$35 million to \$50 million more than decommissioning, with the water savings reduced by 12,000 ML.

“In all cases, the storage options have been shown to be much more expensive and do not achieve sufficient water savings to be acceptable.

Mr Holding said the decommissioning project would provide a sustainable irrigation system in the Broken Valley.

“A major priority is to provide a high-quality, piped water supply to irrigators who currently cannot take water from Lake Mokoan because of the drought,” he said.

“The detailed design of key components is well advanced and construction will commence early next year.”

Mr Holding said returning Lake Mokoan to a natural wetland would be one of the most significant restoration projects in Victoria’s history.

“This will create a unique, environmentally sustainable asset that will provide significant economic benefits to the region including a boost to environment-based tourism opportunities.”

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