

The Project

The \$14.5 million, 28 kilometre, Lake Mokoan Diverter Pipeline, which G-MW started construction of in August 2008, is now largely complete. The objective of this pipeline is to provide a replacement source of water supply to existing irrigators as well as domestic and stock customers around the lake. A new pump station and 75ML capacity storage facility support improved supply arrangements for farm and residential properties in the Thoona district.

Water Supply Reliability

Water for Rivers has assisted the project by seeking expressions of interest from irrigators willing to sell water entitlements to support the ongoing supply reliability to remaining irrigators once Lake Mokoan is decommissioned.

The call for expressions of interest in selling water entitlement is part of a package that also includes infrastructure works to ensure the system's reliability is maintained.

Entitlement purchases are being targeted in the lower parts of the Broken system to maximise opportunities to improve service delivery standards and improve the system's overall efficiency.

Offers to sell closed on 30 June with 12,000 ML of high reliability water shares offered for sale. The government has supported the purchase of 8,300 ML of the total water offered. Water for Rivers is now in the process of sending sale contract documents to the 54 successful offers. A further 22 offers which were unsuccessful have been notified.

Supply to Lake Diverters

The \$14.5 million, 28 kilometre, Lake Mokoan Diverters Pipeline construction started in August 2008, and is now largely complete with commissioning of the pump station, pipeline and storage operation well advanced.

Final pipeline cleanup, fencing, access track and drainage works will be undertaken once weather and ground conditions permit.

Consulting engineers, Gordon Gibson Nominees of Wangaratta, have been engaged by the Thoona & District Water Supply Inc. and have prepared designs for the pipelining of approximately 25km of the existing inefficient open channel supply system. Pump station and pipeline construction has commenced.

Works/ Asset Decommissioning - Current Mokoan Assets

The current water supply system utilising Lake Mokoan comprises weirs, flow control and measuring structures.

The Mokoan Inlet channel (18km), bridges, drainage structures, access roads, fences etc., allow flows to be diverted from the Broken River and Holland's Creek across to Lake Mokoan.

8,000ha of land around Lake Mokoan together with various existing structures, recreation areas, public facilities, boat ramp, water supply facilities, sewerage treatment lagoons, access tracks, fences, works depot and buildings, all form the current range of assets managed by G-MW.

Decisions relating to the condition, future function, future ownership and management responsibility of each and every one of these assets need to be made as part of the decommissioning project. To date the Mokoan Project Team has engaged with adjacent land owners and potential future owners/managers of existing assets to support these decisions.

Rain Rejection / Re-regulating Storage

The section of existing Inlet Channel from the Broken River to Holland's Creek is to be retained to form the Inlet Channel Rain Rejection Storage. Structures along this channel will be modified and new structures constructed to allow this system to provide maximum operational flexibility.

A Rain Rejection or re-regulation storage provides the opportunity to capture and later release (re-regulate) surplus flows. The rain rejection storage has a relatively small capacity but when used a number

of times throughout the irrigation season can reduce water losses from the system and assist in meeting downstream irrigator service requirements.

In conjunction with the high level of entitlement purchase proposed, the scope of the Rain Rejection storage works has recently been modified. This will reduce future costs of operating the system and will allow the decommissioning of the Inlet Channel, from Holland's Creek through to the future Winton Wetland. This will also allow the full decommissioning of Holland's Weir, thereby removing obstruction to fish passage along this important waterway.

Drainage Depression along Remaining Channel

Following decommissioning of the Inlet Channel, all drainage inlets which flow into the current Inlet Channel will continue to drain into the section of channel downstream of Holland's Creek.

The decommissioned channel will take the form of a shallower drainage depression which will carry all drainage flows through to the Winton Wetland. Design work and engagement with relevant parties as to the future ownership and management responsibilities for the drainage depression are continuing.

Also investigation of means for providing alternative domestic and stock water supplies to a number of properties located along the decommissioned section of the Inlet channel is underway.

Above: Cross section of Drainage Depression

Mokoan Embankment Breach and Outlet Works

Detailed design of the embankment breach, to allow the future Winton Wetlands to overflow has been completed. The breach will consist of a 10m wide cut in the existing Mokoan dam wall. The base of the cut will be set at the full level of the future Winton Wetland. The completed breach will enable flows above the wetland full level to flow through the breach, without creating any erosion, into the existing Mokoan Outlet Channel, formerly known as Stockyard Creek. These flows will then pass downstream to the Broken River at Casey's Weir.