



**Media Release**  
Release Date: Friday 24 July 2009



## **Broken System Water Entitlement Purchase Complete – Acceptance letters mailed to 54 irrigators**

Water for Rivers is sending letters offering to purchase 8,307 megalitres of high reliability and 1,745 megalitres of low reliability water entitlement from Broken System entitlement holders, after a better than expected response to the call for expressions of interest.

The purchase is about 3,000 megalitres more than the minimum required to maintain system reliability and avoids the need for further infrastructure, thereby helping to contain future operations and maintenance costs for irrigators. Additional water savings generated by this purchase will further improve the environmental health of the Broken, Goulburn, Snowy and Murray rivers,

The additional purchase will also improve reliability of supply for customers, enhance G-MW's service delivery along the lower sections of the system and deliver better environmental outcomes, including improved fish passage along Holland's Creek. The project budget has been stretched to the limit to deliver these additional benefits.

Purchases will be progressed with 54 irrigators who expressed interest and are located in the targeted areas of the Broken Creek and Majors Creek sections of the system, and on the Broken River below Gowangardie weir. Purchases from these areas will maximise the benefits for remaining irrigators by reducing losses and improving service delivery.

Letters are also being sent to 22 customers who expressed interest in selling, but whose offers unfortunately will not be taken up.

G-MW Managing Director David Stewart explained that while he understood the disappointment that some customers may feel, the response from the areas offering greatest system benefits was so strong that further purchases were not required.

"Purchasing this level of entitlement has the additional benefit of reducing the size of the planned Rain Rejection Storage on the Mokoan Inlet Channel. This will allow Holland's weir to be decommissioned, which avoids the need to construct a fish passage," said Mr Stewart.

The impact of this level of purchase on the remaining irrigators was a key consideration when determining the extent of the purchase.

The decision has been supported by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF).

"This is a good and equitable outcome for each party involved in the decommissioning of Lake Mokoan," said Richard Anderson, VFF Water Council Chairman.

"Letters will arrive with customers next week. Water For Rivers will be talking with each of the customers to finalise the details of their offer, and this may take 8 to 10 weeks to complete all 54 transactions," said Mr Santamaria.

Once Water For Rivers has completed its agreements with customers, G-MW will commence the final works for the Return to Wetlands project.

Customers seeking further information about the EoI process can contact Water for Rivers Project Director, Denis Santamaria on 0417 011 249, and additional fact sheets are available from [www.lakemokoan.com](http://www.lakemokoan.com).

---

### **Media contacts**

**G-MW** Manager Stakeholder Relations  
Linda Nieuwenhuizen  
P: 5833 5776 or 0412 183 792

**Water For Rivers** Project Director,  
Denis Santamaria  
P: 0417 011 249

