

## **Lake Mokoan Future Land Use Plan – Consultation Notes**

### **2 August 2005: Focus groups**

**Meetings to discuss the attributes, opportunities and constraints of the study area from the perspective of representatives from:**

- **State Government**
- **Local Government**
- **Lake Mokoan Future Land Use Steering Committee (LMFLUSC)**

**Four meetings were held, focusing on:**

- **Government**
- **Council (Benalla Rural City)**
- **Landownership**
- **Natural Resource Management**

| General comments   | Attributes  | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Session 1 Government</b>  |   |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Governance will be critical – government, semi-autonomous, private</li> <li>▪ Need EMP and revegetation plan for 3 stages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- restoration (+2 years)</li> <li>- consolidation/rehabilitation (+10 years)</li> <li>- maintenance (15+ years)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Scientific panel – examine effects of decommissioning and maximise environmental benefits</li> <li>▪ Dead tree (stag) management – habitat value, removal for other uses</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Landscape/physiology – hills, scenic</li> <li>▪ Tip of the hills of the Great Dividing Range</li> <li>▪ Accessibility/freeway access (wider population access e.g. from Melbourne region)</li> <li>▪ Close to 3 regional population centres (Wangaratta, Shepparton, Benalla)</li> <li>▪ Part of regional touring route (Legends, Wine &amp; High Country)</li> <li>▪ Potential to link to regional trails (though not really part of it now)</li> <li>▪ Boating, fishing, duck hunting</li> <li>▪ Effective wetland area (potential to be one of the best)</li> <li>▪ Has access to high capacity services</li> <li>▪ Cheaper land than elsewhere in the region</li> </ul> <p><b>Not advantageous</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soils not great</li> <li>▪ Agriculture not specifically better</li> <li>▪ Hasn't been high demand for rural living (better soils, landscape, etc elsewhere)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential to develop significant wetland area primarily for conservation purposes, but could be developed as tourism/educational attraction and research</li> <li>▪ Develop cycle trail between Benalla, Glenrowan and Wangaratta with potential to link to Broken River via inlet channel (develop regional loop)</li> <li>▪ Research in regard to decommissioning of the lake into a wetland (a first)</li> <li>▪ Land opportunities – range from agriculture (extension of existing activities, south-west corner) plantations (not for commercial production, but for firewood and carbon sequestration) golf courses</li> <li>▪ Hume corridor is a growth corridor.</li> <li>▪ Industrial development, benefiting from freeway access</li> <li>▪ Regional wildlife corridor enhancement</li> <li>▪ Use by recreational groups (e.g. gun clubs),</li> <li>▪ Relocate Winton raceway</li> <li>▪ Expansion of rural living (around caravan park) around fringe/surrounds</li> <li>▪ Experimental area for energy (e.g. solar)</li> <li>▪ Existing wall (for processing rock/elevated observation points)</li> <li>▪ Reconfigure land holding patterns to better match land capability and land use</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Its proximity to development raises potential conflict with conservation uses (not remote)</li> <li>▪ Poor soil types that will need active management to prevent degradation (need to manage areas around the lake to prevent wetland degradation)</li> <li>▪ Revenue that could be generated insufficient to justify outlays?</li> <li>▪ Cost required to re-establish road network flooded by lake.</li> <li>▪ Need to maintain certain components of infrastructure (e.g. inlet channel). If not required what to do with it – who would be responsible/who pays?</li> <li>▪ Need to maintain outlet channel for drainage (if retained)</li> <li>▪ Retention of embankment</li> <li>▪ Sill height at the outlet of the wetland (will determine the scale of the wetlands and extent of mitigation of downstream flooding)</li> <li>▪ Extent of post decommissioned flood prone land under different sill heights</li> <li>▪ Rate of drawdown as part of decommissioning</li> <li>▪ Decommissioning may cause short term problems with water quality and soils.</li> <li>▪ Expectation of what the wetland will be (permanent/ephemeral)</li> <li>▪ Potential scale of rehabilitation/rate of usage (management etc) and timing and ongoing management (e.g. nutrient loads etc)</li> </ul> |

| General comments         | Attributes  | Opportunities   | Constraints   |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|
|                          |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expanding area that is currently crown land to encompass areas of ecological significance (including linkages between Warby Ranges and Broken River)</li> <li>▪ Wetlands (scale to be pre 1969 – 2200 ha)</li> <li>▪ Trail network and linkages</li> <li>▪ Wetland education centre (wetland ecology centre) in partnership with research centre (perhaps in GMW buildings)</li> <li>▪ Transport/freight hub</li> <li>▪ Retreat facility (corporate/educational/eco-tourism)</li> <li>▪ Recreational facility/centre</li> <li>▪ Aquaculture or recreational fishing (i.e. commercial/recreational water body)</li> <li>▪ Native seed nursery</li> </ul>                                  |   |
| <b>Session 2 Council</b> |   |   |   |
|                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accessibility: freeway, rail</li> <li>▪ History (Ned Kelly, wineries)</li> <li>▪ Proximity to Melbourne</li> <li>▪ Soil (red soil). Climate and topography (Warby Ranges) suitable for grapes (water for growth) and other uses (stone fruits)</li> <li>▪ Proximity to nature based tourism (Mt Buffalo, National Parks, Murray River) and regional tourism routes</li> <li>▪ Great duck shooting/fishing/recreational uses</li> <li>▪ Existing caravan park</li> <li>▪ Existing infrastructure</li> <li>▪ Winton Raceway</li> <li>▪ Well known (Lake Mokoan)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supply of water through channel to major industry in Benalla (e.g. food processing)</li> <li>▪ World best practice reclaimed wetland (interpretive centres, boardwalks etc/marketing)</li> <li>▪ Cycle trail along inlet channel between Benalla and Broken Rivers (re-vegetated) and other trails</li> <li>▪ Ongoing scientific/environmental research into reclamation, restoration, rehabilitation</li> <li>▪ Plantation timber (particularly south-west corner)</li> <li>▪ Productive private farming (sheep, crops, cattle) – if nutrients suitable</li> <li>▪ Reinvest funds into conservation management/wetland development</li> <li>▪ Eco-tourism linked to wetlands</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding !!!!</li> <li>▪ Unknowns (what will the soil be able to support after decommissioning?)</li> <li>▪ Capacity to achieve (because it is unique)</li> <li>▪ Community sceptical about the process</li> <li>▪ Need to protect areas of heritage significance</li> <li>▪ Lack of water to supply future development (e.g. grapes/stone fruits)</li> <li>▪ Existing infrastructure that will emerge after decommissioning</li> <li>▪ Do we have the knowledge to achieve restoration?</li> <li>▪ Pursuit of funding may prejudice/compromise conservation</li> </ul> |

| General comments            | Attributes   | Opportunities   | Constraints  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
|                             |  | <p>(cabins etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Publicly accessible/community involvement</li> <li>▪ Relocate gun club</li> <li>▪ Rural living on the north-west on poor agricultural soils</li> <li>▪ Some permanent storage for security of supply</li> <li>▪ Show-case heritage</li> <li>▪ Use of the dead trees – firewood etc</li> <li>▪ Link with the Botanical Gardens to illustrate different types of vegetation</li> <li>▪ Recreational uses</li> <li>▪ Convert fringing reclaimed land into productive use/management of marginal land</li> <li>▪ Productive agricultural use of the good soils</li> <li>▪ Wetlands (pre-existing scale) and public access (interpretive centre, boardwalks, research facility)</li> <li>▪ Vegetated linked trails (Benalla, Winton, Glenrowan, Wangaratta) and to the Broken River. Integrate inlet channel</li> <li>▪ Cooperative arrangements with other institutions/municipalities (particularly in regard to conservation/education)</li> </ul> | <p>values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Removal of trees – what is involved?</li> <li>▪ Impact on Lake Nillahcootie</li> <li>▪ Rural living – land take up has been slow/stagnant, perhaps lagging behind other areas – no more attractive than other locations for rural living</li> </ul> |
| <b>Session 3 Landowners</b> |  |   |  |
|                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ People like to live there for the lifestyle (views to the lake and distant views of the mountains)</li> <li>▪ Central location (accessibility to Melbourne, Shepparton, Mansfield, Albury/Wodonga) and proximity to Hume Freeway</li> <li>▪ Rainfall (Lake Mokoan parts rain</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetlands (complete ecosystem rehabilitation, permanent water body, boardwalks, education facilities/tourism focus)</li> <li>▪ Need to map soil condition of lake to identify what uses would be suitable</li> <li>▪ Need to have infrastructure to</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Forests will bring wildlife (in particular kangaroos, cockatoos and pest plants) that will affect agriculture</li> <li>▪ No knowledge of soil characteristics (including pH and structure) and hence suitability of submerged land for various uses</li> </ul>    |

| General comments                             | Attributes   | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>bands)</li> <li>▪ Ideal climate for grapes, good soils (potential for expansion severely diminished due to lack of water and changes to micro-climate after decommissioning)</li> <li>▪ Reliability (e.g. climate, water)</li> <li>▪ Current water supply drought proofs the study area</li> <li>▪ Fruit fly exclusion zone for stone fruit</li> <li>▪ Part of a popular tourist region</li> <li>▪ Scenic location</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>support wetlands (e.g. roads) and adequate funding to do it properly</li> <li>▪ Rural living opportunities on the poorer soils after decommissioning</li> <li>▪ Highlight sites of significance (e.g. schools, butter factory, post office) that were flooded as part of a trail</li> <li>▪ Design to facilitate recreational fishing</li> <li>▪ Develop trails and linkages (including wetland trails)</li> <li>▪ Link with regional schools (conservation management)</li> <li>▪ Guest house facility (other accommodation)</li> <li>▪ Higher land on the southern side (freeway) was/is suitable for farming (general farming/grazing) – minimum size for viability around 1,000ha (adjoining farmers should be offered the land in lots of 40ha (there was debate that this may make the \$/ha too high and that land area should be greater).</li> <li>▪ Adjoining land owners should be given first right of refusal</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Future lack of water for future growth</li> <li>▪ Dead trees (safety, interruption etc)</li> <li>▪ Flooding (above and below Lake Mokoan)</li> <li>▪ Increased fire risk (effects not confined to study area)</li> <li>▪ Evapotranspiration effects of forestry on groundwater</li> <li>▪ Current infrastructure capacity to cope with future use/activity</li> <li>▪ Lack of sufficient funding</li> <li>▪ Sites of Aboriginal heritage</li> <li>▪ Community acceptance for the style and amount of change</li> </ul> |
| <b>Session 4 Natural Resource Management</b> |  |  |   |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Climate (solar and reliability of rainfall) is advantageous for agriculture and attractive (moderate climate) for tourism</li> <li>▪ Position (in centre of Victoria) and accessibility (within 2 hr radius of Melbourne etc)</li> <li>▪ Located in popular tourism regions</li> <li>▪ Position and accessibility advantageous for economic development (major roads, rail and airport, gas, powerline) – logistics operations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetlands (restore pre 1750 ecosystems, ephemeral)</li> <li>▪ Could be a combination of ephemeral wetlands and permanent water storage that feeds a permanent wetland and/or permanent water storage for aesthetic/recreational usage (security for irrigators)</li> <li>▪ Decommission inlet (put in pipeline to storage/permanent wetlands) and consider revegetation, trail and/or sale to farmers. Could also</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water</li> <li>▪ Funding (capital and maintenance/life cycle costs)</li> <li>▪ NIMBY attitudes</li> <li>▪ Suitability of soil for use (soil characteristics and structure and effort required to treat)</li> <li>▪ Lack of domestic population to drive sufficient demand for facilities (need to niche market and build on existing touring routes)</li> </ul>  |

| General comments | Attributes   | Opportunities   | Constraints |
|------------------|--|---|-------------|
|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Slopes of Warby Ranges good for grapes and stone fruit</li> <li>▪ Undulating and aesthetically pleasing (fits in with the type of landscape most preferred through perceptual analyses)</li> <li>▪ Proximity to Benalla and Wangaratta (services and facilities nearby)</li> <li>▪ Good internal road system</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>be used to pipe water to Warby Irrigation District (could involve purchase of entitlements/water trading)</li> <li>▪ Some form of access to wetlands (e.g. boardwalks, hides)</li> <li>▪ Remainder of former Lake Mokoan land and adjacent GMW land be sold back for agriculture and carbon sinks</li> <li>▪ International standard golf course development. Integrate boardwalks into wetlands. Incorporate hotel (eco-lodge facility). Investigate re-use of treated effluent (could be permanent water storage)</li> <li>▪ Use of biomass in production of electricity (from plantation timber and regional timber wastes). Could be a demonstration/pilot plant. Biomass could also be stored and used for other purposes (e.g. gasification and carbon and other liquids)</li> <li>▪ Commercial hardwood operation and/or firewood production</li> <li>▪ Utilisation of dead wood for commercial purposes</li> <li>▪ Development of cycle tracks (to provide regional linkages to Warby Ranges, Chesney Vale Hills) and equestrian trails and link to destinations (e.g. wineries)</li> <li>▪ Solar/thermal electricity production</li> <li>▪ Native seed nursery</li> <li>▪ Community environmental education/research</li> <li>▪ Integrated sporting shooters facility</li> </ul> |             |

### **3 August 2005: Focus groups**

**Meetings to discuss the attributes, opportunities and constraints of the study area from the perspective of representatives with an interest in the following areas:**

- **Community and social**
- **Fire and emergency**
- **Natural resources**
- **Open space and recreation**
- **Economics**
- **Infrastructure and planning**
- **Environmental**
- **Agriculture**

| Attributes   | Issues  | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Community and social</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Significant association of rural communities with water</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sense of place and attachment (generational attachment, people, activities, memories, emotional ties knowing it is there – this will affect participation in the study)</li> <li>▪ Loss of recreational facilities</li> <li>▪ How to engage the community after the study – how do we re-establish connection and sense of place (need to recognise and display the history of the area)</li> <li>▪ The process to arrive at decisions is critical</li> <li>▪ Vital to understand where the community has come from (physically and emotionally, e.g. Tallangatta relocation)</li> <li>▪ Involvement of youth is a key (use of cameras/drawings, recording oral histories)</li> <li>▪ Development of facilities (interpretive centre/hall, etc) to provide connections/sense of place</li> <li>▪ Communication with landowners, critical re fire risk on adjacent properties</li> <li>▪ Significant association of rural communities with water</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Objective is to achieve a better sense of place, community and facilities</li> <li>▪ To receive funding to undertake proper community and social planning (to help achieve the above)</li> <li>▪ Recreation and tourism – provide linkages to surrounding towns and to the Warby Range</li> <li>▪ Create employment opportunities for youth and indigenous communities</li> <li>▪ Community hall/meeting place/community space/playground</li> <li>▪ Enhanced facilities (e.g. for fishing)</li> <li>▪ Interpretive facility/community art (e.g. large sculpture pieces made from dead wood by the community)</li> <li>▪ Glenrowan and Thoona primary schools (100/50 students) and Winton (20) – link with nature and environmental studies and heritage</li> <li>▪ Benalla College and TAFE, Universities (post-graduate environmental science) – opportunities to integrate courses with restoration program</li> <li>▪ Link with CMAs and landcare groups</li> <li>▪ Create model example of integration of urban, agriculture, tourism and recreation and conservation/water use</li> <li>▪ Complete environmental, social and health impact assessment (longitudinal survey)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of an appropriate level of funding (State level)</li> <li>▪ Are the soils suitable for use and how much will it take to treat it?</li> <li>▪ Ability to engage the community in the process (will be affected by how open they feel the process has been to date)</li> <li>▪ Ability to engage education and scientific community</li> <li>▪ Lack of engagement of City of Wangaratta</li> <li>▪ Scientific capacity to properly achieve restoration</li> <li>▪ Resource capacity at local government level to service needs of the project (funding required to help this process)</li> <li>▪ How to define the community</li> </ul> |

| Attributes  | Issues  | Opportunities   | Constraints  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Fire &amp; emergency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lake is a natural fire barrier</li> <li>▪ Existing lake is currently an asset for fire fighting – water bombing from Lake Mokoan. Next nearest is Broken (no good for this area)</li> </ul> | <p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bad fire weather (from north - 160° - west/north)</li> <li>▪ Three causes of fire: men, women, children! More people = greater risk</li> <li>▪ Turn around time for aerial attack on fires, turn around time is critical (5-6 mins): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- when there was drought in 02/03, farm dams were dry</li> <li>- having a variety of water sources is critical, a large body of water helps</li> <li>- Lake Mokoan has been used as a water source regularly (e.g. Bailey's vineyard fire c. 2000, prevented spread into Warby Range, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Land use affects fire risk/rate of ignition, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- parks: rate of ignition increases (e.g. campfires)</li> <li>- rural uses (e.g. stripping increases risk)</li> <li>- rural burn-offs increases risk</li> <li>- lightning strikes</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Trend in fire management is towards Integrated Fire Management Plans which include weed management</li> <li>▪ Past approach is seen as a 'silo' approach</li> <li>▪ Land Use: more about practices than 'use'</li> <li>▪ Legal protection for fire control</li> <li>▪ It is a case of when, not if</li> </ul> | <p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of fire strategies at municipal level:</li> <li>▪ Land tenure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DSE / PV – land manager takes responsibility</li> <li>- other – CFA will take lead role</li> <li>- avoid "jigsaw" puzzle land tenure approach from fire perspective</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ GIS based planning to identify risks</li> <li>▪ Fire breaks – strategically located</li> <li>▪ Plan needs to recognise aerial fire fighting not always possible</li> <li>▪ If ignition factors removed, can reduce risk (e.g. general access increases risk of ignition. Where this combines with fuel = major problem)</li> <li>▪ Buffer zone – (non-flammable). These need to be defined later once land use is more certain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- private land to wetland</li> <li>- must ensure it doesn't become bigger problem than wetland</li> <li>- public ownership</li> <li>- define early as 'Zone of Fire Management'</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Wetlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetlands will be fire risk, therefore need fire management plan</li> <li>▪ Need for buffers/fire breaks around wetlands (e.g. bare ground/pasture to enable control of fuel). This needs to apply to all tenure</li> <li>▪ Long-term management of buffers is needed to ensure they remain non-flammable</li> </ul> | <p><b>General</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Original Roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- mark the boundaries of the brigades; will need resolution</li> <li>- will roads be re-opened, who will be responsible?</li> <li>- new roads?</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Debris in lake bed – needs to be cleared to minimise fire danger</li> <li>▪ Access to site</li> <li>▪ Burn-offs needed</li> <li>▪ Safe areas for public</li> <li>▪ Volunteers – increased area means resources are a major issue. Two thirds funded by Insurance Council and one third from State consolidated revenue</li> </ul> <p><b>Wetlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Swamps/balance of land – address risks/management issues for both areas, then deal with ownership risks</li> </ul> |

| Attributes | Issues  | Opportunities  | Constraints |
|------------|---|--|-------------|
|            | <p><b>Wetlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Does it dry out over summer months?</li> <li>▪ Dry years will be major fire risk</li> <li>▪ Keep it wet/some depth of water</li> <li>▪ Ignition factors will increase on daily basis</li> <li>▪ Hunters/duck shooters increase risk levels</li> <li>▪ Fuel modification v. flora and fauna (e.g. Fairy or Umbrella Grass.</li> <li>▪ “Transition” – after a few years of dry lake beds, other species will take hold. Fairy grass is quite natural for this area. Lake Eildon has similar risks (e.g. Umbrella grass)</li> <li>▪ Fire plan prepared for 3 lakes at Horsham – need a management plan</li> </ul> <p><b>Balance of Land</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Future housing – more housing means more risks</li> <li>▪ From fire perspective – farming but no new houses</li> <li>▪ Seasonal workers – caretaker housing</li> <li>▪ Large areas of forestry would cause problems - would not want forestry at eastern end near Warby Range</li> <li>▪ Impact of forestry on water run-off</li> <li>▪ Water requirement for forestry</li> <li>▪ Tourism issues higher in warm months, but wetlands will likely be dry at this time</li> </ul> | <p><b>Other Land Uses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Previous use of area – should be a starting point for study</li> <li>▪ Subdivision process needs to clearly identify risks and requirements, process has good ‘tools’ in place already</li> <li>▪ Forestry / vegetation – smooth bark species preferable</li> </ul> |             |

| Attributes  | Issues | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|---|--------|--|---|
| <p><b>Natural resource management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Link between Warby Range and Broken River and Chesney Hills</li> <li>▪ Good data on pre-flooding features (ecology, history)</li> <li>▪ Mix of terrestrial and aquatic environments</li> <li>▪ Warby Ranges State Park</li> <li>▪ Habitat of threatened species (Murray Cod, yellow belly, sea eagles)</li> <li>▪ Viticulture and stone fruit</li> <li>▪ Recreational use (fishing, yachting, shooting)</li> <li>▪ Topography (flat and accessible)</li> <li>▪ Proximity to facilities and services</li> <li>▪ Accessibility (rail and road)</li> <li>▪ Good areas of Red Gum regeneration (natural and assisted)</li> <li>▪ Aesthetics of the water body and views from Hume Freeway and wayside stop (encourages rural living)</li> <li>▪ Dead tree habitat</li> <li>▪ Sites of significance (Aboriginal)</li> <li>▪ Geological site of significance (the Spit)</li> <li>▪ Predator-free island habitat</li> </ul> |        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetland restoration (ephemeral – with a differing levels of wet/dry)</li> <li>▪ Production of firewood (a range from plantation through to woodlands) to take pressure off Red Gums</li> <li>▪ Restoration will break new ground (need to optimise education and research links (needs to be scientifically monitored))</li> <li>▪ Opportunity to study all stages of restoration (including release of water)</li> <li>▪ Community involvement in restoration (schools, community groups)</li> <li>▪ Seed bank</li> <li>▪ Minimalist approach to restoration/regeneration (stand back for 3-4 years/manage weeds and pests)</li> <li>▪ Restoration of woodland ecosystems (the 5,000ha around wetlands – would require greater intervention to restore canopy) will provide buffers and links</li> <li>▪ Natural fish migration</li> <li>▪ Private investment in woodland carbon sink</li> <li>▪ Combine farming, carbon sequestration, firewood production</li> <li>▪ Soils that emerge are likely to be suitable for grazing and cropping (but needs testing)</li> <li>▪ Link Ovens River to Broken River (for birds and small mammals)</li> <li>▪ Ecotourism (eg. tours, information boards, hides, boardwalk) –</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of adequate funding over required period to fully implement restoration</li> <li>▪ Maintaining high conservation area between two centres of population (eg. rubbish dumping, 4WD, bikes, encroachment, fire bugs). Need to integrate private and public uses (e.g. could buffer with plantations (hardwood species) and manage exotic pest species</li> <li>▪ Vandalism of significant sites</li> <li>▪ Short termism (desire to plant, intervene etc)</li> <li>▪ Community resistance (scepticism) and entrenched attitudes (government and community)</li> <li>▪ Longevity of project (need community support)</li> <li>▪ Agencies not co-operating</li> <li>▪ Demand for water (ability to schedule supply to irrigators with wetland restoration)</li> <li>▪ Fire management</li> <li>▪ Effect of pest species in restoration areas (e.g. pigs) and effect on surrounding land uses</li> <li>▪ Short-term impacts of water release from lake in lower Broken</li> <li>▪ Fear of failure</li> </ul> |

| Attributes   | Issues | Opportunities   | Constraints   |
|--|--------|---|---|
|  |        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>includes heritage</li> <li>▪ Recreational activities (including duck shooting, bird watching)</li> <li>▪ Some expansion of existing farming properties (particularly where leasing exists)</li> <li>▪ Rural living 'north side/Winton'</li> <li>▪ Cluster housing development with remainder of land farmed/managed (covenants for land for wildlife)</li> <li>▪ Short-term grazing in crown land</li> <li>▪ Co-operative management arrangement between a range of agencies</li> <li>▪ Softwood plantations no good, hardwoods and other native species would be a good fit</li> </ul>  |   |
| <b>Open space and recreation</b>   |        |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Study area large enough to avoid recreation conflicts</li> <li>▪ Visible – large land mass good for recreation</li> <li>▪ Diverse range of people use Lake Mokoan</li> <li>▪ Land area – equivalent to other large open space areas (e.g. Warby Range)</li> <li>▪ Good terrain</li> <li>▪ Cycling distance from Benalla and Wangaratta (active group)</li> <li>▪ Hume Highway = good overall accessibility</li> </ul> |        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential linkages with other tourism initiatives (e.g. Glenrowan/Ned Kelly trails)</li> <li>▪ Rally cars, trail bikes – links with Winton Raceway, which is a significant economic benefit to the Shire</li> <li>▪ Dedicated area for trail bikes (get these out of other public land) but be aware of conflicts with horse trails</li> <li>▪ Gun clubs – some struggling for area to shoot (1,000m range, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Wineries are good drawcard</li> <li>▪ Tourism accommodation associated with Lake Mokoan, need more in Benalla, especially 4 or 5 star</li> <li>▪ Golf course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what other uses would come with this?, e.g. residential???</li> <li>- needs to be 'upmarket' and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Avoid a one-hit-wonder</li> <li>▪ Access to private land</li> <li>▪ OH&amp;S issues?</li> <li>▪ Will people come to this area/sustainable over time?</li> <li>▪ Lack of investment in landscape (sustainably managed) could mean it becomes a 'dustbowl' – not good for tourism/recreation</li> <li>▪ Community 'bitter' so will need State Government to take responsibility for maintenance/rehabilitation</li> <li>▪ Local government will take key role with community and they would be stretched with respect to resources</li> <li>▪ Visual amenity from Hume Freeway</li> <li>▪ If land ownership is privatised, will that lead to a sense of loss to community?</li> <li>▪ How to "connect" to Winton</li> <li>▪ Access to firewood is a major</li> </ul> |

| Attributes | Issues | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|------------|--------|--|---|
|            |        | <p>commercially run</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fishing</li> <li>▪ Wetlands are on bird flight paths, nationally renowned, bird watchers/tourism would have significant potential</li> <li>▪ Triathlon circuits/marathon circuit</li> <li>▪ Powerboat regattas – economic/social benefit</li> <li>▪ Linkages are strong possibility – social benefits of clubs (e.g. yacht club etc.)</li> <li>▪ Benalla/Warbys/Dookie: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- geological history very interesting and could be promoted</li> <li>- element of indigenous history that should be acknowledged more than it has been</li> <li>- defining movement of different communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Promoting “Warby Way” – Parks Victoria initiative – through to Benalla (Benalla Lake, Strathbogrie, need to look at regional trails – ecological value. Could link with rail trails, etc). – includes walking/cycling/camping</li> <li>▪ Native plant business/seed bank, etc, to contribute to revegetation,</li> <li>▪ Potential to provide facilities for people with disabilities</li> <li>▪ Dookie College university campus</li> <li>▪ Existing markets – need to build on these (e.g. Winton Raceway)</li> <li>▪ Ecotourism potential is significant – camping opportunities – build off existing caravan park</li> <li>▪ NE Equestrian Centre (e.g. Wangaratta) Camping opportunities</li> </ul> | <p>problem – could help get community support - 10 year project/plan – what happens to dead trees? Managed firewood plantation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited Aboriginal population locally</li> <li>▪ Continuity/consistency of management</li> <li>▪ Volunteer “time” in community is key constraint. Committees of Management will be difficult</li> <li>▪ Lack of connection to Benalla – can’t ignore Lake Mokoan, physical/social sense, need to create “sense of place”</li> <li>▪ “Old” community (pre-lake) very close, newcomers don’t feel welcome. This “mood” exacerbated by lack of community focus (e.g. no school</li> <li>▪ Lack of water in summer will be a negative</li> <li>▪ Wetlands that are focussed on ecological value will conflict with duck shooting</li> <li>▪ Kangaroo problem – will this get worse – future management issue</li> </ul> |

| Attributes   | Issues  | Opportunities   | Constraints   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kids connection at SPC park could work well</li> <li>▪ Close to town – use inlet and outlet channels</li> <li>▪ Giving locals ‘sense of place in the community’:</li> <li>▪ Playground/trails/meeting places</li> <li>▪ “One focal point”, cluster of these facilities, to allow community to be connected and build social connections</li> <li>▪ Needs to be community asset (so can’t be removed as happened years ago around yacht club)</li> <li>▪ UK examples – use local and natural resources</li> <li>▪ Public art trail to create sense of place – how to use ‘dead trees’</li> <li>▪ Link with Charles Sturt campus re. indigenous youth, indigenous theme to run through trail,</li> <li>▪ Need local flavour as well as tourism</li> <li>▪ Improve north–south connectivity</li> <li>▪ Need uniqueness for Benalla to win community over 3 years</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Economic</b>  |   |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Location of Winton Raceway</li> <li>▪ Recreational activities (centred on the lake)</li> <li>▪ Accessibility and visibility (from Hume)</li> <li>▪ Proximity of vineyards (local and north-east)</li> <li>▪ Tourism attributes of north-east and traffic volumes</li> <li>▪ At point of break in drive (from Melbourne)</li> <li>▪ History of the area</li> <li>▪ Midpoint between 2 population.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The area should stay the way it is</li> <li>▪ Fear that no lake will be detrimental to business</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ecotourism (catering for groups, e.g. schools looking at wetland restoration) including cabins</li> <li>▪ Develop boardwalks and bird hides</li> <li>▪ Linkages with Winton Raceway (improve connection across Hume – Winton operates every weekend and underpins retail and accommodation sector in Benalla)</li> <li>▪ Disabled accommodation (or caravan park)</li> <li>▪ Tour route linking Benalla and Glenrowan (wineries and heritage)</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Industrial land on eastern side of Yarrawonga Road. Its development could impinge on the quality of an ecotourism experience (visual and aesthetics). Could plant a visual barrier</li> <li>▪ Lack of adequate funding (has to be state of the art/top class)</li> <li>▪ Management of movement of people in and out of the area (i.e. ruin the amenity by over visitation or supply of services to cater for visitors)</li> </ul> |

| Attributes  | Issues  | Opportunities   | Constraints  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>centres (Benalla and Wangaratta)</li> <li>▪ Proximity to redevelopment of Glenrowan (Federally funded)</li> <li>▪ Viticulture and stone fruit</li> <li>▪ Linkages to other places of interest (Yarrowonga and towns that link to Newell Highway)</li> <li>▪ Bike riding in the Warbys</li> <li>▪ Equine industry in the north-east</li> <li>▪ Climate (sunny and clear)</li> </ul>   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>trail)</li> <li>▪ Needs to be visually attractive but real</li> <li>▪ Appeal to grey power</li> <li>▪ Develop very clear interpretive signs and facilities to guide visitors (signs, markers, panels, boardwalks, etc)</li> <li>▪ Guided tours (cycle, bus, etc) linked with gourmet food services</li> <li>▪ Maintain permanent water at dam wall and allow ephemeral wetland upstream</li> <li>▪ Assess re-use of water from Wangaratta industries to keep permanent water supply (North East Water) for viticulture and Glenrowan)</li> <li>▪ Develop loop trail along inlet channel, the Spit and outlet channel</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ability to gain a market edge niche in a competitive tourism market. Product has to be distinctive and high quality</li> <li>▪ Capacity to integrate management processes (wetland restoration and tourism development) and inform the market of timetable and works</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Infrastructure &amp; planning</b>  |   |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Catchment area for drainage (7000ML)</li> <li>▪ Lake has detention/retention capacity (retardation of peak flows)</li> <li>▪ Recreational assets – GMW has some facilities including toilets/effluent fields, boat ramp, car park</li> <li>▪ Land – titles vested in GMW/SR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- purchased as freehold by GMW to establish lake in 1969</li> <li>- road reserves – vested</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local Government – roads/access to development areas should be the responsibility of developer</li> <li>▪ Status of original road reservations? Local government responsibility?</li> <li>▪ VicRoads – no issues unless specific proposal emerges that has impact on assets</li> <li>▪ Mixed farming – reinstate local road network</li> </ul> <p><b>Water and Sewer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inlet/outlet channels – do they have value?</li> <li>▪ What levels of flow would be in inlet/outlet channels?</li> <li>▪ Outlet channel must be retained in</li> </ul> | <p><b>Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roads in private development to be developer funded - Council may take over long-term maintenance</li> </ul> <p><b>Water and Sewer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inlet channel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- could be an option to supplement water supply (North East Water) by pumping</li> <li>- potential for wildlife corridor</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Future recycling of water for Wangaratta? Irrigation development opportunity for viticulture and stone fruits</li> <li>▪ Benalla – 800 ML/pa Wastewater – 50% to pasture, looking at new site to extend disposal</li> <li>▪ For large scale development –</li> </ul> | <p><b>Roads</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Difficult to connect roads to the area</li> <li>▪ Area low lying/wet = difficult to maintain assets (e.g. roads)</li> <li>▪ Establishment cost of roads to service low economic return businesses</li> </ul> <p><b>Water and Sewer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provision of water to lake area - infrastructure constraint</li> <li>▪ Availability of water for development</li> <li>▪ Irrigation – supply guarantee – pipeline? route?</li> <li>▪ Inlet channel cost of maintenance, responsibility for maintenance for stock and domestic use only?</li> </ul> |

| Attributes  | Issues   | Opportunities   | Constraints  |
|---|--|---|--|
|   | <p>some form and will therefore require a maintenance program for bridges/weeds etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inlet channel – if not filled, there would be a maintenance responsibility – bridges, roads, diversion weirs, fences etc</li> <li>▪ Responsibility for bridge maintenance over irrigation channels?</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Assets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dam wall – what is the plan for wall?</li> <li>▪ Recreational assets – need to address assets</li> </ul> | <p>would need to bring water from Wangaratta (no RL w/o water supply)</p> <p><b>Other Assets</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Entire area could revert to a natural wetland/park</li> <li>▪ Opportunity to develop habitat that is not possible in other places</li> <li>▪ Rural living – some existing properties are on lake water (sewer/garden)</li> <li>▪ Forestry – firewood – would take pressure off other areas</li> <li>▪ Revegetation requirements of other areas. Could be diverted to potential revegetation of routes (NVR)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mixed farming may be not viable if no water is available</li> <li>▪ Bore water – may be affected by drainage of the lake</li> <li>▪ Sewer – local package treatment plant?</li> <li>▪ Irrigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- recycled water from Wangaratta = \$</li> <li>- cost of maintaining inlet channel = \$</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Weirs and regulators require regular (expensive) maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- best long-term option may be to fill (financially)</li> <li>- better to put pipe from Casey's Weir/than to put pipe in inlet channel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |
| Environment   |  |   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regeneration of red gums at south-eastern end of the lake</li> <li>▪ Native fishery (Murray Cod, etc)</li> <li>▪ Where it sits in the landscape (e.g. mountains and foothills)</li> <li>▪ Surrounding hills have high conservation value</li> <li>▪ A sufficiently large site with potential</li> <li>▪ Retains its original catchment (a closed catchment)</li> <li>▪ Accessibility to population centres and other key natural features</li> <li>▪ We know its history</li> <li>▪ One of the few intact systems around (in a geographic sense)</li> <li>▪ Can contribute to broader catchment management objectives</li> <li>▪ Government funding is available to restore and rehabilitate</li> <li>▪ Supports threatened species (e.g.</li> </ul> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetland restoration (wetland system with hydro system as close to natural surrounded by woodland complex – let it regenerate naturally wherever possible, replant some of the rarer plants, weed control vital)</li> <li>▪ Potential to develop wetlands as a tourism feature (wetland centre, boardwalks, hides, signage, cycle paths)</li> <li>▪ Research into wetland restoration</li> <li>▪ Community involvement in works (revegetation and maintenance) including local groups, schools, etc</li> <li>▪ Link with wineries and heritage trail, diversify opportunities</li> <li>▪ Re-involve indigenous communities</li> <li>▪ Ability to reclaim some EVCs that have been lost (deep and shallow water marshes in particular)</li> <li>▪ Use natural creeks and drainage</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing opposition to decommissioning</li> <li>▪ Competing interests (land use outcomes, particularly for the 5,000ha)</li> <li>▪ Possible impact of a permanent storage on wetland rehabilitation and functioning</li> <li>▪ Community views (particularly in regard to letting time take its course in wetland/woodland restoration)</li> <li>▪ Lack of adequate funding to do it properly</li> <li>▪ Failure to establish the appropriate management arrangements</li> <li>▪ Perception/risk of failure (in regard to community expectations of proposed restoration program). Allowing as much natural revegetation as possible is a higher risk strategy in that natural events</li> </ul> |

| Attributes  | Issues  | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sea eagles)</li> <li>▪ Geomorphologically and culturally significant, including the Spit</li> <li>▪ Significant reed beds (southern end of the wall)/woodland and islands</li> <li>▪ Complexity/biodiversity of the landscape</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lines for corridors (not inlet channel)</li> <li>▪ Improve water quality in Broken River</li> <li>▪ Manage drawdown to reveal land gradually (to minimise management and restoration activities)</li> <li>▪ Document world class rehabilitation program</li> <li>▪ Manage transition period carefully (manage the edge of the draw down)</li> <li>▪ Implement scientific monitoring program for restoration and rehabilitation</li> <li>▪ Physical connectivity of habitats along creeks and drainage lines</li> <li>▪ Firewood plantation (decrease pressure on forests elsewhere)</li> <li>▪ Opportunities to swap land uses to protect sensitive areas (not simply think about what the land has been used for traditionally)</li> <li>▪ Oral history available</li> <li>▪ Expansion of current regeneration.</li> <li>▪ A lot of the work will be done naturally – it’s already happening (larger areas naturally grow back)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>may have an impact on the rate of success. High risk but better strategy that needs to be well communicated.</li> <li>▪ Sabotage/vandalism</li> <li>▪ Existing levels of environmental degradation</li> <li>▪ Final sill level height</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Agriculture</b>  |   |  |   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Land capability – what is under the lake?</li> <li>▪ Require management of the land under water</li> <li>▪ Some land has lost topsoil – some is still intact and able to be farmed or grazed – has not had “wash over it”</li> <li>▪ Topography determines what land will remain as wetlands - original swamps have silted up somewhat - estimates of depth / seed bank /</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Economic benefit = areas suitable for agriculture should be farmed, developed</li> <li>▪ There may be areas that can be used for purposes other than mixed farming</li> <li>▪ Plantations/timber – economies of scale, electricity generation, carbon sink, firewood, carbon production... options?</li> <li>▪ Opportunities to expand area for horticulture <u>balanced with</u> water</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of knowledge – bottom level of lake etc</li> <li>▪ The state of the land would influence private enterprise interest in purchase</li> <li>▪ Private enterprise is self-funding in long term</li> <li>▪ Soil condition, road structures, access</li> <li>▪ Confidence in irrigated agriculture – what is future water supply?</li> <li>▪ Titles exist, road base exist,</li> </ul> |

| Attributes | Issues  | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|------------|---|--|---|
|            | <p>top soil / condition needs to be reassessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- hydrographic survey needed</li> <li>▪ Sale of land – should not go to consolidated revenue</li> <li>▪ Need a management plan to ensure outcomes delivered</li> <li>▪ Critical that managing agency has funding and capacity, liaison with community</li> <li>▪ SKM study – water is needed to sustain rural growth</li> <li>▪ World class water supply requires control over water supply</li> <li>▪ Transition areas – buffers to wetlands?</li> <li>▪ Need to assess catchment impact... young trees “consume” water plus management of forestry</li> <li>▪ Longer term impact of harvesting needs to be assessed</li> <li>▪ Double impact – decommissioning of Lake Mokoan will “drain” Lake Nillahcootie = retention of water based recreation uses</li> <li>▪ Loss of fishing and hunting</li> <li>▪ Don’t think too small</li> <li>▪ Some areas have been dry since 1989, now have vermin problem (foxes, weeds)</li> </ul> | <p>availability following decommissioning, would create economic growth (triple bottom line supported) – proposal to Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Retain half the lake “full supply level”?</li> <li>▪ Government water savings are diminishing – is there a “middle ground” that could be sold to Government (expansion into other types of agriculture) – evaporation losses from a Winton Swamp</li> </ul> <p><b>Wetlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review “other experience” (States) that have well managed wetlands</li> </ul> <p><b>Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Connections to other tourism assets (Glenrowan, Wineries, Farm Gate, Winton Raceway)</li> <li>▪ Wine Industry – opportunity for tourism related outcomes to add value to total tourism product - area has slipped from 4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup></li> <li>▪ Ecotourism would be a great advantage to the area</li> <li>▪ Need activities for families when Winton Raceway operating (deliver community benefit)</li> </ul> | <p>culverts exist – major job to restore</p> <p><b>Wetlands</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding required to deliver quality wetland outcomes</li> <li>▪ Time to deliver (long term sustainability)</li> <li>▪ Parks Vic unlikely to have capacity to manage new facilities/land</li> <li>▪ Dead trees – safety issues</li> <li>▪ Community confidence in management of public land</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Financial - \$1M is completely inadequate</li> <li>▪ Meaningful responses by Government to loss of a major asset</li> <li>▪ Double standards – Wimmera vs Mokoan</li> <li>▪ Attracting new investment (capital funds) – good to create investment</li> <li>▪ Local Government capacity – limited financial resources – need to establish to “hand-over” standard</li> </ul> <p><b>Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lack of acknowledgement from Government that it is listening to the community</li> <li>▪ Making sure that the public has all the information and can access it.</li> </ul> |

## **4 August 2005: Community information day**

**Two meetings to discuss:**

- **The project:**
  - **the purpose of the study**
  - **the study process**
  - **the timetable**
  - **the consultation process**
  
- **The study area and its:**
  - **attributes**
  - **opportunities**
  - **constraints**

**Please note that the headings used in this table indicate to which consultant and at which table the comment was reported. For this reason, not all comments are relevant to the category under which they have been placed, but stands as a record of the session**

| Comments and issues   | Attributes   | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Agriculture/planning/infrastructure</b>  |  |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Case studies – useability?</li> <li>▪ Top soil remaining?<br/>Useability/function</li> <li>▪ Future ownership</li> <li>▪ Viability of land</li> <li>▪ Walking away from empty lake</li> <li>▪ Agriculture unlikely</li> <li>▪ Hollands Creek</li> <li>▪ Carbon trapped</li> <li>▪ Farming concern – return nutrients to wet areas</li> <li>▪ Need buffers to wetlands – need to be managed if return to wetlands is to be achieved</li> <li>▪ Eastern side – lighter soils – is the land viable? Will it be properly managed?</li> <li>▪ Pattersons Curse</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flood mitigation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A fair proportion of the area may be used for forestry</li> <li>▪ Ag forestry – less maintenance</li> <li>▪ Growth for Benalla</li> <li>▪ Golf course in wetland setting</li> <li>▪ Casino</li> <li>▪ Holding basin to ‘take top off flood level’ catchment</li> <li>▪ Recreation/holiday/living destination</li> <li>▪ Protect birdlife/habitat</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding? Reinstatement funds \$\$\$</li> <li>▪ Cost of dealing with outlet/inlet channel?</li> <li>▪ Before Lake Mokoan was flooded, flooding was frequent. Post Lake Mokoan, flooding has less often – flood mitigation</li> <li>▪ When Lake Mokoan was built along with 3 other dams, William Hovell, Dartmouth, Nillahcootie, they were followed by very wet years</li> <li>▪ Soil quality will limit future agricultural uses</li> <li>▪ Level of investment will not happen</li> <li>▪ Funding \$\$\$</li> <li>▪ Soil quality poor throughout lake area (heavy, soggy)</li> <li>▪ Pondage silted</li> <li>▪ Cost of filling in channels</li> <li>▪ Weed control</li> <li>▪ Clay pan restricts opportunities to return to wetland system</li> <li>▪ Agriculture forestry less maintenance</li> </ul> |
| <b>Heritage</b>   |  |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Heritage values in ‘viewshed’ area and how these will be impacted by decommissioning and future land use strategy</li> <li>▪ Conservation values, including breeding boxes, revegetated duck ponds. Harvested Mowa (sic) grass from Nillahcootie for revegetation</li> <li>▪ Wouldn’t Archaeological Sites be better preserved by continued inundation?</li> <li>▪ Protection of exposed cultural heritage values</li> <li>▪ Crown v freehold claims made –</li> </ul>   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Historic heritage – ‘field and game’ hunting prior to and post Lake Mokoan (similar to Mountain Cattleman argument)</li> <li>▪ To continue field and game activities</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lake Hume costs \$\$\$ to maintain/preserve cultural heritage values – indigenous sites, what are the implications for Lake Mokoan</li> <li>▪ Impact of inundated buildings/structures when drained</li> </ul>   |

| Comments and issues  | Attributes   | Opportunities   | Constraints   |
|--|--|---|---|
| land rights issue. How do we protect sites in such a situation?  |  |   |   |
| <b>Recreation</b>  |  |   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Water skiing</li> <li>- individual pursuits. However, blue-green algae is a constraint. Prior to 1980 activity was greater – joint activities – shooting, skiing, yachting</li> <li>- more constant depth has attracted skiers to Nillahcootie</li> <li>▪ Nillahcootie will be affected by Mokoan – levels will be affected by the Mokoan supply guarantee</li> <li>▪ Yachting club has been offered the option of moving elsewhere – not necessarily possible</li> <li>▪ Government has suggested the club might move elsewhere but all other lakes ‘taken’</li> <li>▪ Previous report invalid</li> <li>▪ Need 2.5m water depth for yachting</li> <li>▪ Bottom has been levelled out – when water receded left with a sheet of water</li> <li>▪ Lake has been silting up – need hydrographic data – floor has flattened</li> <li>▪ Access restricted for duck shooters/ fishermen</li> <li>▪ Soil quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NE poor</li> <li>- SW good</li> <li>- N lack of water</li> <li>- Bare clay</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Silt and soil shift NE corner 2m</li> <li>▪ Weed control</li> <li>▪ Nillahcootie impact</li> <li>▪ Temperature difference at depths – evaporation levels</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lake Mokoan seen as a major resource for the region notwithstanding the blue-green algae</li> <li>▪ Stone fruit growers</li> <li>▪ Asset as a water source</li> <li>▪ Yacht club is used for community activities – major social asset</li> <li>▪ 2 nautical mile leg triangular yachting course that can be moved around</li> <li>▪ Light conditions attract best yachtsmen</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- potential for track along wall, accessing the Spit</li> <li>- opportunity for bird watching, brogas, sea eagles</li> <li>- opportunity to link trail to Murray – to Mountains trail</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Reinstatement of soil/cover</li> <li>▪ The retention of the capacity for a viable triangular yachting facility</li> <li>▪ Permanent water body</li> <li>▪ Offers a range of land use options</li> <li>▪ Diversify</li> <li>▪ Nature reserve</li> <li>▪ Existing use growth</li> <li>▪ Dredge/cover smaller area (deepen)</li> <li>▪ Recreation reserve</li> <li>▪ Bird watching, cycling and walking using the wall and inlet channel as link options</li> <li>▪ Camping – undisturbed views of the Warby Ranges</li> <li>▪ Cycling tracks, boardwalks</li> <li>▪ Yacht club could be an education centre</li> <li>▪ Tourism/accommodation centre</li> <li>▪ North side of lake has greater landscape values</li> <li>▪ Would like to see a body of water retained – only wet landscape between Albury and Melbourne – and not used by irrigators</li> <li>▪ Smaller swamps could be allowed to dry out</li> <li>▪ Murray Cod – allow sufficient water depth for hatchery</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trails – potential for track along wall, accessing the Spit, however, the Spit area is badly eroded</li> <li>▪ Inadequate bathymetry studies</li> <li>▪ Clay pan</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure to support land use</li> <li>▪ Nutrient deficiency in soil</li> <li>▪ Future of wall – stability?</li> <li>▪ Shooting would be incompatible with wetlands – lead in the sediments from former practices</li> </ul> <p><b>Field and game</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Worst neighbour for landowner is public land</li> <li>▪ No dwellings within 300m-500m preferred</li> </ul> |

| Comments and issues   | Attributes  | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring group – fortnightly records of temperatures</li> <li>▪ Impact on streams/downstream</li> <li>▪ Nillahcootie at 86% capacity</li> <li>▪ Spring downfall</li> <li>▪ Loss of Taminick school</li> <li>▪ Update contour details of lake bed</li> <li>▪ Opposed to the closure of the inlet channel – potential to take flood mitigation</li> <li>▪ Benalla has a problem in establishing growth in the post-Mokoan environment. This is asset removal that had the potential for real-life significant growth – use the water where it is</li> <li>▪ Loss of lake is a ‘loss of community’</li> <li>▪ Reliability studies wont be finished prior to Christmas</li> </ul> <p><b>Field and game</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Management of the decommissioning is critical</li> </ul> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ideal outcome would be to partition the lake for both wetlands and permanent water storage</li> <li>▪ Want all the aquatic activities to be able to continue – yachting, water skiing, windsurfing, fishing – perhaps not the noisy aquatic activities</li> <li>▪ Swimming area may be a possibility</li> <li>▪ Hunting and shooting at north east end of lake</li> <li>▪ Golf course would be of benefit</li> <li>▪ Playgrounds adjacent to clubrooms</li> <li>▪ Permanent water if required – great family sport (yachting)</li> </ul> <p><b>Field and game</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetlands return to natural state</li> <li>▪ Restore the habitat – control of flows</li> <li>▪ Mokoan – hunting duck/fox</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>Economic</b>   |   |  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Swans were a menace just after the lake was established</li> <li>▪ Dispersive clay, rough water</li> <li>▪ Weed infestation will spread downstream during floods</li> <li>▪ Loosing yacht club, fishing, water views (amenity)</li> <li>▪ Current lease holders (grazing) – will lose their livelihood</li> <li>▪ Rubbish along lake frontage by fishermen, tourists</li> <li>▪ E. Carp infestation</li> <li>▪ Flooding of Benalla and houses developed on the way to Shepparton</li> <li>▪ Fire hazard if wetlands not</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Birdlife attracts visitors</li> <li>▪ Ned Kelly, Greta Road</li> <li>▪ Hume Highway traffic</li> <li>▪ Lake Mokoan is well known (when it was a swamp, it was back of nowhere)</li> <li>▪ Winton Swamp was Victoria’s best wetland (Cormorants, Ibis, Swans, etc)</li> <li>▪ Indigenous history – was a meeting place</li> <li>▪ Wineries</li> <li>▪ Current wetlands at Winton Creek wetland, Eleven Mile Creek, ‘show creek’ wetland (these catch debris and septic tank surplus from</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Retain yacht club for regattas etc.</li> <li>▪ Build on Winton Raceway</li> <li>▪ Ward Clan wetlands – birdlife to attract visitors</li> <li>▪ Boardwalks, viewing platforms, trail development to connect to Benalla, Glenrowan, Wangaratta</li> <li>▪ Duck hunting resurgence (2000-4000 at opening)</li> <li>▪ Indigenous heritage at spit</li> <li>▪ If water body left – hydroplane racing on ‘lake’</li> <li>▪ Important to deliver world class wetland and have it maintained – don’t want weeds and dust</li> <li>▪ Current traffic is Melbourne-based –</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Few heritage elements left on lake bed (were buildings removed, remains dozed)</li> <li>▪ E Carp infestation is ruining the lake</li> <li>▪ Soil – the clay soil can quickly turn into a dustbowl</li> <li>▪ Maintenance of public lands (weeds, vermin)</li> <li>▪ If not grazed, it will revegetate – would hope grazing can continue</li> <li>▪ Timbered areas harbour foxes, wild pigs, grey kangaroos, and wallabies</li> <li>▪ Would only grow redgum – too wet for box</li> <li>▪ Soil profile has disappeared along</li> </ul> |

| Comments and issues   | Attributes   | Opportunities  | Constraints  |
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| <p>managed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What will the water quality in the wetlands be like?</li> <li>▪ How to control access to wetlands (avoid 'raids')</li> <li>▪ Loss of resource (loss of stone fruit opportunity) in Taminick Valley</li> <li>▪ The resulting Lake Mokoan area has to be of equal 'value' to current</li> <li>▪ Main swamp (Winton) went dry in big drought</li> <li>▪ Around the swamps, everything was privately owned</li> <li>▪ In old days, people at duck opening were from Melbourne</li> <li>▪ Current developments dependent on water</li> <li>▪ Funding for establishing the wetland – where is it?</li> <li>▪ Not convinced that lake bed will be redevelop-able</li> <li>▪ Current water body evaporation raises soil temperatures for (horticulture)</li> <li>▪ Security of supply</li> <li>▪ Vermin control</li> <li>▪ If retarding basing is kept, then the land would be no use for farming (flooding)</li> <li>▪ Nillahcootie will have a new regime. Full, half, empty (loss of recreational opportunities and spending)</li> <li>▪ Lake Benalla will have to rise as part of the management pattern</li> </ul> | <p>Glenrowan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hume Highway access and visibility</li> <li>▪ Original swamps were valued (Gould swamp, Lindsey's swamp, Cox swamp)</li> <li>▪ Used to use a swamp boat (with wind driven prop.)</li> </ul> | <p>have high expectation and we must deliver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetlands must have visible water</li> <li>▪ Wetlands in Queensland are great</li> <li>▪ Need interpretation and bird identification plaques</li> <li>▪ Cattle grazing in wetlands (this was how they used to be managed)</li> <li>▪ Wetlands in Queensland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- tourism puller, diverse demographic</li> <li>- Boondall wetlands near Brisbane (huge reclamation – dump, swamp, waste). Tours but free access local residents (one example) go 1 weekend in 4, educational, bike trails, bird hides, ID plaques, parking, good picnic areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Noosa National Park, Albany, WA</li> <li>▪ Want boardwalks, hides, eco-resort (don't want golf course)</li> <li>▪ If land is sold back to agriculture, will there be access (between the swamps)</li> <li>▪ Opportunities for grazing leases which will help control weeds, etc</li> <li>▪ Agriforestry towards Taminick, swamp, grazing leaseholders</li> <li>▪ Check out Gemmell swamp</li> </ul> | <p>northern shore (tree rots stand on 'toes')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A sterile bottom with no vegetation</li> <li>▪ One million dollars for rehabilitation (60 million for security of supply)</li> <li>▪ Irrigation dependent horticulture</li> </ul> |
| <b>Environment</b>  |  |  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is a large phosphorus and carbon build-up in the current lake.</li> <li>▪ Conduct regular fox shooting drives on land surrounding the lake</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sea Eagles breed there currently.</li> <li>▪ Green swamp ephemeral but Winton Swamp only dried up in drought periods.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wetlands could be restocked with native fish not exotics.</li> <li>▪ Wish duck shooting to continue as a future land use</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Long period of inundation may have changed soil chemistry – in particular, it has been known to create Acid Sulphate Soils</li> </ul>   |

| Comments and issues  | Attributes  | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wave action and siltation has levelled out the lake base so wetland topographic formations can not be assumed to still be present</li> <li>▪ The topsoil has gone from areas that have been inundated for long periods (at least 400mm erosion of lakes edge is evident).</li> <li>▪ There is a channel through Winton Swamp now.</li> <li>▪ Evidence of siltation/levelling of lake bottom seen when water level drops and can see partially buried fence poles (local part time farmer) – shifts in soil are up to 2m and given that wetlands were less than 2 m deep there may be nothing left.</li> <li>▪ When the water level drops weeds are main thing that follows water down but the exposed clay areas where topsoil has all washed away remain bare (approx 5 square kms of clay which does get vegetation – local part time farmer)</li> <li>▪ Timing of release of water into the Broken River is an issue.</li> <li>▪ Water quality being released downstream during drawdown is an issue.</li> <li>▪ Need to avoid an increase in mozzie numbers</li> <li>▪ Will need to have active management.</li> <li>▪ Rise in floodwater levels downstream of the LM catchment will be a problem for houses and for the biota. Lake Mokoan has taken 2 feet of the level of floodwaters downstream.</li> <li>▪ Irrigators down-stream will be</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Broken River currently receives steady low flows and this is advantageous to the good river health.</li> <li>▪ Currently a big attraction of residents to live in the area is the scenic value of the lake, being by the water is a big plus (local resident of nthn shore).</li> <li>▪ Murray Cod breed there.</li> <li>▪ Mokoan is currently one of the best inland fisheries in Australia (70 – 80 boats on a weekend, with 3 – 4 people in each)</li> <li>▪ Mokoan right next to a national highway – excellent position</li> <li>▪ Diversity of vegetation communities/types</li> <li>▪ Currently has goannas, pythons, Bearded Dragons, echidnas, Hooded Robins, etc. – and would like it to stay that way</li> <li>▪ Baileys winery</li> <li>▪ Permanent water outlook</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve water quality of downstream flows because wetlands act as water purifier – they create nutrient sinks.</li> <li>▪ Attract technical interest in wetland restoration at a global level.</li> <li>▪ Increase biodiversity values of the area.</li> <li>▪ Reduce cockatoo numbers and return habitat to other animals such as goannas.</li> <li>▪ Create aesthetically pleasing tree and shrub plantings (not necessarily just local to area)</li> <li>▪ Restored wetlands should maintain Sea Eagle habitat.</li> <li>▪ Create both wetlands AND secure water supply</li> <li>▪ Maintaining a relatively large expanse of water will help to maintain waterbird habitat as well as secure water for local users (variations on this repeated several times) and for fire-fighting purposes</li> <li>▪ Could also maintain yacht club if a large enough expanse of water is maintained (i.e from McGann road to the Yacht Club).</li> <li>▪ Create walking tracks around restored wetlands for birdwatchers/walkers.</li> <li>▪ Create/maintain peaceful atmosphere of the area – exclude powerboats and dirt bikes.</li> <li>▪ More land available for agriculture is a plus, but some areas are not suitable for agriculture anymore (best areas left will be on south eastern side).</li> <li>▪ Sell land not converted to wetland</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Major weeds are St Johns Wort, Patterson’s Curse (mentioned more than once) and Scotch Thistle. Weeds around the lake currently v. bad problem.</li> <li>▪ Maintenance of some water storage near the wall would lead to an unnatural water regime for the wetlands</li> <li>▪ High nutrient values may result in restored wetlands due to many years of inundation and from agricultural runoff – may lead to algal blooms in restored wetlands.</li> <li>▪ Important to have a natural drying cycle.</li> <li>▪ Exotic fish would be a negative for restored wetlands.</li> <li>▪ Will never get wetlands back to pristine condition.</li> <li>▪ Inadequate budget is very big problem for restoration (including restoration of downstream areas)</li> <li>▪ Weeds a big potential problem - weed invasion is likely to overtake natural regeneration of indigenous species.</li> <li>▪ Expanses of Fairy Grass could be a problem for locals</li> <li>▪ Don’t want more people accessing the area from the north (Chesney Vale) because residents want peace and quite – access should be from Hume.</li> <li>▪ Government management will mean poor management</li> <li>▪ Agricultural use would conflict with tourism – if some areas will be agricultural there needs to be a good buffer of natural veg between</li> </ul> |

| Comments and issues  | Attributes | Opportunities  | Constraints   |
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| <p>worse off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need a base-line study of what values are there.</li> <li>▪ Yacht Club have apparently measured some lake depth and confirmed its all pretty level now.</li> <li>▪ Shoot as many as 18 – 20 foxes per day on ADI land – 1km line of 18-20 shooters</li> <li>▪ Hares a problem vermin species as well as foxes – browse tree regrowth</li> <li>▪ No feral pigs known to be currently present</li> <li>▪ Decommissioned lake great potential as harbour for vermin – as are the inlet and outlet channels (currently and continuing)</li> <li>▪ Brolga habitat in old wetlands around lake edge – breeding threatened by foxes</li> <li>▪ F&amp;GA very active in vermin control and duck conservation around lake (eg. nest boxes at Duck Pond, etc.) – wish to remain involved in decommissioned scenario</li> <li>▪ About 15 years ago duck opening weekend at Mokoan attracted as many as 18,000 shooters – last few years down to 2,000-3,000 shooters</li> <li>▪ In balance of season (after duck opening weekend), can get up to 1,000 shooters there on a long weekend – 400-500 on a regular weekend</li> <li>▪ F&amp;GA would prefer lake stayed as it is, but acknowledge that decision to decommission has already been made</li> <li>▪ F&amp;GA strongly committed to</li> </ul> |            | <p>to private enterprise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Important to revegetate the area after the drawdown – with both trees and understorey – to attract natural values and improve bird breeding grounds (member of field and game association)</li> <li>▪ The optimal outcome if decommissioning is to happen is a natural state wetland with fluctuation of water levels and natural woodlands surrounding (member field and game association)</li> <li>▪ Create opportunities for fish to breed.</li> <li>▪ Important to maintain Sea Eagle habitat.</li> <li>▪ Fencing around the wetlands essential.</li> <li>▪ Involve field and game association in the restoration project, as they have relevant knowledge and experience</li> <li>▪ Great potential for high quality wetland with scenic qualities.</li> <li>▪ Agriculture more desirable than plantations because it will help to stabilise the surface soil and would keep weeds down.</li> <li>▪ Farmers will be good land stewards if allowed to own some of the reclaimed land (e.g. just enough to square up paddocks that were cut by creation of lake)</li> <li>▪ Gradual draw down would allow each section to be worked on before exposing more.</li> <li>▪ At least some storage should be kept for flood mitigation</li> </ul> | <p>these areas and the wetland (field and game assoc. member).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Stags will be dangerous when lake is drained – yet they are good animal habitat.</li> <li>▪ Irrigators need to be able to access water rapidly when they need it so will want some in LM rather than having to request in advance from Lake Nillahcootie.</li> <li>▪ How do we secure a natural water flow?</li> <li>▪ Wetland rehabilitation would have to happen in a reasonable time frame and to a good standard as people living around the lake don't want to have to look at ugly mess and it will damage tourism</li> <li>▪ Would need to shift soil with scrappers to restore wetland levies and natural topography because base is now pretty much flat.</li> <li>▪ Wide buffers around wetlands needed but who will maintain these buffers? Private owners may maintain buffers better than if they are on public land.</li> <li>▪ Need to shift topsoil onto areas that have been eroded down to clay by lake being there.</li> <li>▪ The reclaimed land will be too poor for Agriculture or grazing – no topsoil, poor soils anyway</li> <li>▪ The area is getting dryer all the time and there will not be enough water to sustain a wetland – it will be a dryland!</li> <li>▪ There will be increased fire risk.</li> <li>▪ It will be a haven for feral animals and animal dumping.</li> </ul> |

| Comments and issues   | Attributes | Opportunities  | Constraints  |
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| <p>general principle of all current public land staying in public ownership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What will happen to the current amenities (toilet blocks, boat ramps, etc.) and will similar levels of service be available at the new lake?</li> <li>▪ Concerned that large amounts of anglers' dollars already spent on Mokoan, and that this investment will be lost in the decommissioning process – will stocking continue?</li> <li>▪ Concerned about weeds and vermin</li> <li>▪ What will happen to the dead trees?</li> <li>▪ Has Carpet Pythons visiting his land currently</li> <li>▪ If the environmental gains are significant, happy for the decommissioning to go ahead – lake views will remain in some form regardless of the outcome</li> <li>▪ Was initially concerned that land values would go down, but appears not to be the case so far, with people (both local and from Melbourne) still buying land in the area</li> <li>▪ Not in favour of any intensive development (residential/commercial) around the lake</li> <li>▪ Must have water and trees for birds – wetland and dryland</li> <li>▪ Concerned about levels of access to the proposed smaller water bodies</li> <li>▪ Security of water supply paramount</li> <li>▪ Must have security of water supply</li> </ul> |            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ecotourism should be a major activity post decommissioning</li> <li>▪ Some permanent water body should be retained</li> <li>▪ Lots of reasons why wetlands would be the best land use post decommissioning</li> <li>▪ Use site as a filter on the Broken River</li> <li>▪ Barmah and Kerang Lakes show tourist potential – could be even better done at Mokoan</li> <li>▪ Integrate with other tourism – wineries, Kelly country (Glenrowan), Beechworth, Chiltern, etc.</li> <li>▪ Inlet channel – use to continue to provide environmental flows to wetlands higher up the lake – highly managed rather than completely natural</li> <li>▪ Aboriginal archaeology link (the lunette, scarred trees, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Ecotourism focus on lake</li> <li>▪ Prefer entry to area from Hume Highway and no extra traffic on Lake Mokoan Road</li> <li>▪ Retain open water in lake west of a line between McGann Hill Road and The Spit</li> <li>▪ Prefer something like what's there now, i.e. permanent water body. Ephemeral is OK for 'environmentalists', but tourists need something a bit more interesting</li> <li>▪ Wants something spectacular for tourists to be drawn to, and to look at when they get there (no dry lake bed!)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soils are very poor in area anyway so land is not good for anything.</li> <li>▪ Decommissioning will have a negative effect on downstream fish.</li> <li>▪ Major Creek will dry up if it doesn't have constant flows from Mokoan.</li> <li>▪ Not enough infrastructure for forestry and it will create a fire hazard.</li> <li>▪ Ecosystem has adapted to current flows etc so we shouldn't make big changes.</li> <li>▪ If the water is drawn down too far, summer water temperatures will be too high, disadvantaging Yellowbelly (Golden Perch) and Murray Cod</li> <li>▪ Expects a pH problem (acid sulphate soils) as a consequence of the long inundation period</li> <li>▪ Problem of lack of cooperation between council, DSE, Parks Vic, GMW, etc.</li> <li>▪ Size of Mokoan will make it difficult to deal with the inevitable fairy grass problem after decommissioning</li> <li>▪ May need a water holding area within current lake perimeter</li> <li>▪ Concerned about the extent of rehabilitation – will there be enough money/effort spent?</li> </ul> |

| Comments and issues   | Attributes | Opportunities  | Constraints |
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| <p>for stock and domestic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Not something which encourages the 'wrong kind of people' – prefer walkers, cyclists, birdwatchers but not trail bikes, fishermen and other 'yobbo' element</li> <li>▪ Weeds – who would manage and how?</li> <li>▪ Concerned about litter/rubbish and summer fires (no camping)</li> <li>▪ Must remove hazardous dead trees from lake, but must keep some for the birds</li> <li>▪ Brolgas on The Spit (pair)</li> <li>▪ Old lake bed contours gone – just flat bottom getting slowly deeper north to south</li> <li>▪ Fears a repetition of the old cycle of drying out, macrophyte death, dust-bowl, high turbidity, Carp explosion</li> <li>▪ New system must be artificial – cannot be completely self sustaining (ie. some direct input of water required rather than only from local rainfall)</li> <li>▪ Almost the whole lake bed is composed of dispersive clays – nexus with blue-green algae blooms</li> <li>▪ Any area returned to agriculture will be limed or gypsum added to break up clay – as these clays are sodic this will liberate sodium leading to dryland salting downstream</li> <li>▪ Apparently some evidence of Murray Cod breeding currently in the lake – how will this high value activity be preserved</li> <li>▪ Tourism is important in the area but Benalla currently offers very little to</li> </ul> |            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tourism/infrastructure focus – boardwalks, signage, etc.</li> <li>▪ Ephemeral swamps the future</li> <li>▪ Wetland will have to be significant to render it attractive</li> <li>▪ Better to put land to environmental uses (not agriculture) – trees, etc.</li> </ul> |             |

| Comments and issues  | Attributes | Opportunities | Constraints |
|--|------------|---------------|-------------|
| <p>visitors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Baby boomer cohort moving to the area and visiting – environmentally aware and cashed up</li> <li>▪ Doesn't care where water comes from so long as he can have some</li> <li>▪ Fairy grass a big issue for fire management (note – any grass with a 'roly-poly' component fits this category)</li> <li>▪ Already has lots of fairy grass blown up into sheds, fences, etc. in summer</li> <li>▪ GMW took too long to respond to turbidity problems – doesn't want the time lag of denial to occur with fairy grass</li> <li>▪ Has heard about an application for \$250K for research into the fairy grass problem in the Wimmera – doesn't know by whom , or what progress has occurred</li> <li>▪ Phalaris also burns pretty well after dead leaf biomass build up – but easy to control by biomass reduction by grazing/slashing</li> <li>▪ Spoke of the climate amelioration characteristics of the current Mokoan water body – ice formed on water troughs in winter pre lake but not after</li> <li>▪ Major weed species – Patterson's Curse, Bathurst Burr, Heliotrope, St John's Wort</li> </ul> |            |               |             |