

Review of Alternative Proposal for Lake Mokoan

Fact Sheet

Lake Mokoan decommissioning

Lake Mokoan, which loses an average of 50 gigalitres of water per year through evaporation alone, will be decommissioned.

Decommissioning will have multiple benefits, including:

- Provision of 54 gigalitres per year on average for environmental flows in the Broken, Goulburn, Murray and Snowy Rivers.
- Achieving a sustainable and efficient irrigation system in the Broken Valley; and
- Providing a major new natural wetland area in Northern Victoria. The future tourism, education and research potential of this wetland area is considerable.

The Lake Mokoan site will be rehabilitated and a major new wetland complex will be developed on part of the site.

Alternative Proposal

A group of Broken system irrigators submitted a proposal for a new 62,000 ML storage to be located over Winton Swamp in the centre of the existing Lake Mokoan site.

The review

An independent review was conducted by three technical specialists to determine the best option for Lake Mokoan.

This independent review found that the storage option compares poorly with full decommissioning financially, economically and environmentally.

The findings

The proposal would cost \$35 to \$50 million more than decommissioning, produce 12,000 ML less water savings and cost 50% more to operate than decommissioning.

Modelling has shown that the reliability of supply under the storage proposal would be 94%, but does not consider the potential for blue-green algae blooms, which would significantly reduce this supply reliability.

The decommissioning process

The Victorian Government is committed to maintaining existing reliability of supply to irrigators after decommissioning.

Installation of monitoring and control equipment, construction of a pipeline to supply Lake Mokoan diverters, and Mid-Murray Storage works will commence early in 2008.

A water broker will be engaged to follow up on entitlement purchase expressions of interest.

A number of other announcements related to the program implementation will be made in the coming few weeks.

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