

Lake Mokoan Reference Committee
Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday October 9 2002

Location: DNRE Offices Benalla – 2.00 pm to 4.45 pm.

Present: Huw Davies, Bruce Anderson, Rod Berger, Maureen Cottam, Bernie Evans, Ray Henderson, Michael Reid, Sally Simson, Stuart Fraser, Doug Bain, Ken Whan, Neville Webster, Colin Rudd, Mark ?? (for John Boal), Peter Box

Apologies: John Boal, Richard Anderson

Opening: Huw Davies referred members to the recent press release outlining the progress with consultation.

Session 1 Report back by members

Each member reported on the main issues and information raised at their consultative meetings.

Transcripts of the main points from the meetings are held by Peter Box and will be put on the Lake Mokoan web site for access by all.

Session 2 Summary of the main issues the Committee wants the consultants to consider in refining and evaluating the options

General issues:

- The need for assurance of security and supply at prevailing levels for entitlement holders
- What is the cost of providing this security under each option?
- How deliverable are the offsets?
- What is the water quality impact of each option?
- What are the costs of
 - building a wetland? And for what benefits?
 - building a partition? And for what benefits?
- What are the ongoing costs (as well as the establishment costs) for each option? How will these be paid for?
- What about the old farmland around any of the wetlands that are restored? How will the land be managed? What will be the quality of the land restored? How will this be managed? At what cost? And how feasible is it to restore the wetlands / land and at what cost?
- What are the relative environmental benefits of each option? How will the consultants value environmental benefits? (There is a need to educate the committee on the processes used here; suggestion that the consultants look at what the CSIRO Ecosystem Services group use; also USA work on potential costs / benefits of decommissioning dams – see Neville Webster)
- What is the potential for re-afforestation of the higher land around the old swamps?
- Where do potential on-farm water savings fit?

