

Monthly Update - April 2008

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Future Land Use Strategy

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) continues to work with Goulburn Murray Water (G-MW) and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (GB CMA) in planning for the restoration of the wetlands. Activities currently being planned or undertaken include; the translocation of fish as per the Fish Management Strategy, development of management plans (restoration, fire and monitoring) and indigenous cultural heritage protection.

Lake Mokoan Diverters Pipeline

Tenders for the supply of pumps have closed and are now being assessed. Tendering for other parts of the project, including supply and installation of pipelines, storage construction and pump station

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construction, will occur in May. A strategy for fire fighting access points will be submitted to the CFA for consideration.

Reliability Offset Package

Discussions between the VFF, DSE and G-MW have continued; with the aim of achieving the best possible outcome for irrigators in the finalisation of the water supply reliability offset measures.

The discussions include what might be a reasonable value for any water entitlements purchased. The engagement of a water broker to purchase water entitlements has been placed on hold pending the outcome of the discussions.

Design of facilities for the remote control and monitoring of water regulating structures and catchment stream gauging stations is continuing.

Contracts to the value of \$260,000 have been awarded for the upgrade of controls and for remote operation and monitoring of the Lake Nillahcootie outlet structures. Site works are expected to commence in May.

Installation of approximately 70 upgraded diversion flow meters within the Broken system has commenced and will continue over the next 6 months. These meters will modernise and help to improve system operation and reduce water losses.

Flood Impacts

Benalla Rural City Council, the Benalla & District Flood Awareness Group, DSE, GBCMA and G-MW have commenced review of available information and a further study of the role of Lake Nillahcootie to better understand flooding in Benalla and address community concerns.

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A Victorian Government initiative

