

Lake Mokoan Project - Community Update

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Modified Mokoan Proposal

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) has continued with the assessment of an alternative storage proposal to decommissioning. Further technical assessments of the proposal have continued. A final meeting involving Justice for the Broken Group, DSE and consultants to discuss the findings of the technical assessments is now expected to be rescheduled for August. The proposal, once reviewed, will be submitted to the Minister for a final determination.

The following elements of the Mokoan Project are common to both full decommissioning and the Modified Mokoan Proposal, therefore work on these elements has continued.

Lake Mokoan Diverters

Consultation with Lake Mokoan Diversion customers is well underway, with many interviews being held in July. The project team welcome the opportunity to meet with all customers and encourage people to make contact to clarify any issues they may have in relation to the pipeline scheme.

During the detailed design staff will attempt to respond on all issues raised by customers and stakeholders. Main issues/themes that have been identified thus far relate to connection to existing diversion infrastructure, location of service points, the ordering of water and pipeline capacity shares.

A second project bulletin will be prepared shortly to help address these issues and generally update customers and stakeholders.

For further information specifically about the pipeline project please contact G-MW Project Manager Jeremy Nolan (03) 5833 5645.

Reliability Offset Package

Assessment of expressions of interest received for the sale of water entitlements has continued. Engagement of a Water Broker to proceed with negotiation with irrigators has been postponed and will continue following the outcome of the Modified Mokoan Proposal.

Design of facilities for the remote control and monitoring of key structures in the Broken system, including the Lake Nillahcootie Outlet, catchment gauging stations and other structures on the Broken River and Creek has continued.

Survey and design work for the installation of approximately 70 upgraded diversion flow meters within the Broken system has been completed. Installation of these meters will commence in September and will allow improved system operation and reduction in water losses. Good cooperation from irrigators during the course of this work has been appreciated.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage surveys were conducted recently by archaeologists and representatives from the various indigenous

communities. The survey confirmed the importance of the Lake Mokoan area to indigenous people. Artefacts found included axe heads, grinding stones, scatters and numerous scar trees.

Also identified were a number of non indigenous sites such as remnants of old homesteads and associated structures.

The identification of cultural heritage sites is important to ensure their protection during the implementation of the Future Land Use Strategy.

Wetland regeneration

The low level of the Lake has provided an insight into the potential of the site to regenerate naturally. A number of the smaller wetlands have dried out and vegetation cover has begun to return. Regeneration will need to be supported by appropriate management to improve its chances of success. Regeneration and wetland management will be a crucial part of the Restoration Management Plan.

Mid Murray Storage Project

The Mid Murray Storage Project, involving the joint operation of Lake Boga, Lake Charm and Kangaroo Lake, located between Kerang and Swan Hill, allows up to 19,000 ML of the total water savings provided by the Mokoan Project to benefit improved flows in the Snowy River.

Survey and design work for a new outfall channel from Lake Boga and a new connection from Kangaroo Lake to Lake Boga has commenced.

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