

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. A meeting was held on Thursday, 7 June 2007 with the DSE, G-MW, technical consultants and the project proponents (Justice for the Broken Valley). Further technical assessments of the proposal were required, with another meeting scheduled for early July. The proposal, once reviewed, will then 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

An information pack has been sent to each Lake Mokoan diverter providing details on the Mokoan Diverters Pipeline. The information relates to how a pumped pipeline system would be designed, built and operated. Consultation with key stakeholders and diverters on the project design will take place over the next month.

A pipeline scheme is a common element to both the full decommissioning and the Modified Mokoan Proposal. While there are some differences in the nature and extent of works involved, many of the key design elements remain the same.

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, pending the outcome of the Ministers consideration 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.

Cultural Heritage

The Future Land Use Strategy for Lake Mokoan identifies the need to understand the cultural heritage of the area. In 2006 an initial heritage survey was conducted to assess the site. The current low level of the Lake has

made it possible to undertake further survey work to assess cultural heritage.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment has engaged an archaeologist to conduct the heritage survey and will include representatives from local Indigenous communities. The survey will commence in early July and provide more information on the land surrounding the future wetlands.

Mid Murray Storage Project

The DSE has announced the commencement of the Mid Murray Storage Project. This is a component of the Mokoan Project which allows up to 19,000 ML of the total 48,000 ML of water savings provided by the Mokoan Project to benefit improved flows in the Snowy River.

This project involves the joint operation of Lake Boga, Lake Charm and Kangaroo Lake and will require the construction of a new outfall channel from Lake Boga and maintaining the current flood protection at Kangaroo Lake.

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Advertising Deadline 26.06.07 4:00

Publication Country News

Size 19x7(260)

Insertion 03.07.07

Classification EGN-Best Possible

Job Number M9244

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Size.....	19x7(262)
Insertion.....	06.07.07
Classification.....	EGN-Best Possible
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