

Lake Mokoan Project - Community Update

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Future Land Use Strategy

The development of management plans, including fish management, restoration and monitoring, is progressing well. These plans are being developed with the assistance of the Wetlands Technical Working Group. This group is made up of people with experience in wetland management and rehabilitation from a number of organisations involved in the project.

Mokoan at Future Wetland levels

The continuing drought, combined with high evaporation rates and releases to meet water supply requirements, has resulted in Lake Mokoan now being at approximately the same level as



the original full Winton Swamp. This provides an opportunity for the community to see for themselves how much water will remain when the wetland is rehabilitated and full.

Lake Mokoan Future Land Use Steering Committee members recently took advantage of these low levels to inspect the exposed lake bed and future wetland area. The tour provided an opportunity to examine the recovery of previously flooded areas and historical features.



Lake Mokoan Diverters

The design of the pipeline to supply Lake Mokoan Diverters is continuing. The details of the design will be available to diverters in the near future.

Reliability Offset Package

Letters were sent to water users seeking expressions of interest in the sale of their water entitlement in March 2007. Twenty-two expressions were received totalling approximately 3,900 ML with a range of prices being sought.

The expression of interest in the sale of water entitlement has been extended to May 11, 2007 following the release of a new G-MW Board Policy on the introduction of basin based pricing for water. This policy is applicable to the Broken Basin.

A probity adviser has been engaged to oversee the entitlement purchase process. Once all expressions of interest have been received a water broker will be engaged to negotiate directly with those water users whose offers of sale of water entitlement fall within the project guidelines.

Design of remote control and monitoring equipment to allow more efficient operation of the Broken system in the future has commenced. This includes remote control operation of dam outlet and river control structures.

The final Reliability Offset package will be finalised once volumes of entitlement purchase have been confirmed.

Environmental assessment

The project was submitted for environmental assessment to the Federal Minister for Environment and Water Resources and the Victorian Minister for Planning in mid March 2007. The determination from each Minister is expected in the near future.

www.lakemokoan.com



A Victorian Government initiative

