

Lake Mokoan Project - Community Update

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

Future Land Use Strategy

The Lake Mokoan Future Land Use Strategy (FLUS) recently won an award from the Planning Institute of Australia. The award was the Rural and Regional Planning Achievement Award for Victoria. The award was based on criteria including process rigour, stakeholder engagement, sustainability and excellence in contribution to planning. The Award was nominated and accepted by Beca Pty Ltd, who led a team of consultants responsible for development of the plan. Beca's key partners in the development of the Strategy were Arup Environmental and Planning and Conceptz. This award signifies an outstanding achievement in land use planning with substantial community involvement.

Fish Management

The fish management plan has been finalised following consultation with local recreational fishing representatives.

Low inflows over winter have meant that Lake water levels are extremely low and with evaporation losses over summer, the water levels are expected to decline to a point where fish survival is threatened. Due to these adverse conditions the DSE is implementing the Fish Management Plan now.

DSE along with GMW and Fisheries Victoria are investigating fish translocation as identified in the Plan. Fish will be moved

from Lake Mokoan into water bodies where water is more secure, particularly the lower Goulburn River. Appropriate approvals are required and will be sought prior to this activity taking place.

Lake Mokoan Diverters Pipeline

Detailed design and preparation of construction contract documents for the pipeline scheme has continued. The current focus is on the layout and operating format of the pump station and associated electrics. Detailed information regarding customers' service points has also recently been collected.

A second information bulletin was sent to all Lake Mokoan Diverters in October to provide them with up to date information on the project. This information is also available on www.lakemokoan.com

Reliability Offset Package

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.

Installation of approximately 70 upgraded diversion flow meters within the Broken system has been delayed and is

expected to commence in November. These meters will help with improved system operation and reduction in water losses.

Engagement of a Water Broker to negotiate with irrigators on the purchase of water entitlements has been postponed and will continue subject to the outcome of the Modified Mokoan Proposal.

Modified Mokoan Storage Proposal

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) has completed a review of a proposal for a modified Lake Mokoan submitted by the Justice for the Broken Group. A report on this review is now being prepared. A final meeting involving Justice for the Broken Group, DSE and consultants is planned for a date yet to be fixed. The proposal and the review outcomes, will then be submitted to the Minister for Water for a final determination.

There are a number of elements of the Mokoan Project which are common to both full decommissioning and the Alternative Proposal. Investigations and design work associated with these common elements are continuing.

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