

Lake Mokoan Project - Community Update

Department of
Sustainability and
Environment

As part of the *Our Water Our Future* action plan, Lake Mokoan will be returned to its natural state as an important wetland system.

The Lake Mokoan Project consists of two main parts, maintaining reliability of water supply to water users reliant on the Lake, and the rehabilitation of the site following decommissioning and reinstatement of a more natural water regime to the area.

Lake Mokoan Diverters

The finalisation of the preliminary design for the proposed Lake Mokoan Diverters Pipeline is to be completed in mid April 2007. Following finalisation of the preliminary design Goulburn Murray Water will consult with customers on the design. During the consultation period each customer will be provided with information to help them understand their access to the scheme and provide opportunity to raise any queries regarding the scheme's design and operating rules.

Reliability Offset Package

Submissions on a range of possible packages of measures to reinstate supply reliability to Broken system irrigators were received from irrigators and have been assessed. This followed a communications process involving release of information packs, and briefings for irrigator groups, VFF, councils and individual contact with many irrigators.

Key issues related to the offset packages raised during were, uncertainty over the impact on tariffs and pricing, the level of service provided by pipelines needs to be considered, and entitlement purchase to support the final offset package.

The final Offset package will be submitted for approval once volumes of entitlement purchase have been confirmed.

www.lakemokoan.com

Asset Decommissioning

During October 2006 Consultants GHD and Goulburn-Murray Water staff undertook interviews with all landowners whose property adjoins the Lake Mokoan Inlet and Outlet Channels and embankment. These interviews discussed proposals for the future of those assets. The issues raised by landholders included opportunities to lease/buy channel land to landowners, future water diversion opportunities from channels, pest plant and animal control and channel capacity to carry local drainage.

Based on feedback received from these interviews, assessment is continuing with regards to local drainage impacts and opportunities to provide solutions for future drainage, access and d&s supply.

Tungamah Pipeline Scheme

The Minister for Water John Thwaites officially opened the \$20.4 Million Pipeline scheme on 23 March 2007. The scheme was completed ahead of time and within budget, and provides a major contribution to the Mokoan Water Supply Reliability Offset Package. The Tungamah Pipeline will provide year round water supply for the first time to 400 properties and will deliver significant environmental benefits for the Murray and Snowy Rivers.

Future Land Use Strategy

The FLUS identifies a number of management plans to be developed prior to decommissioning. These plans are being developed with the assistance of the Wetlands Technical Working Group. This Group's membership is made up of people

with experience in wetland management from a number of organisations involved in the project.

Monitoring Plan

A monitoring plan is being developed for the decommissioning of the Lake. Initial monitoring has commenced at Lake Mokoan, focussing on the migratory water bird species (Latham's Snipe) and wetland fringing vegetation.

A monitoring plan for the restoration of the wetlands will be developed in the next 6 to 12 months to assess the restoration effectiveness.

Restoration Plan

A Restoration Plan is being developed to deal with issues post decommissioning including the re-establishment of a diverse range of habitat for native fauna and the control of pest plants and animals.

Environmental assessment

Environmental assessments of the project have been submitted to the Federal and Victorian Governments. These assessments looked at the broad range of environmental issues for all components of the project including protected species listed under Victorian and Federal legislation.

If you would like more information please contact the Benalla office on (03) 5761 1611, visit the website and/or come in and meet the project staff in person to discuss the details of the project.



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