

MOKOAN

RETURN TO WETLANDS

Water Supply to Lake Mokoan Diverters

A range of options for supplying water to the existing users of Lake Mokoan and the lake's inlet channel have been narrowed down to two options: supply from the Broken River in the vicinity of Casey's Weir or supply from Holland's Creek adjacent the existing diversion weir. Further assessment of the feasibility of these two options is progressing.

Both of the supply options will require construction of a pipeline along the northern side of the lake, where the greater majority of lake diverters are located.

For diverters located remotely from the likely pipeline route an investigation is underway to assess alternative supply options including farm dams, storage tanks, groundwater supply, alternative piped supplies and other possible options. This investigation involved direct discussions with each of the

affected water users, and is expected to be completed in June 2006.

To assist in the preliminary design of necessary pumping equipment, pipelines and a possible small balancing storage, a further study has commenced to assess the level of service required by the likely users of the main supply pipeline.

This investigation also involved direct discussions with each of the affected water users. Study results will be used to provide the most effective water supply works necessary to supply the existing lake diverters. The study is to be completed by July 2006.

The outcomes of the above investigations will be used to develop a Preliminary Water Supply Scheme Design. Input from the existing water users is being sought, prior to seeking government approval in December 2006.

The drawing below illustrates the possible supply scheme options currently under consideration.



PROGRESS SUMMARY

Alternate Supply to Lake Mokoan Diverters

- Supply options for diverters located remotely from the likely pipeline north of Lake Mokoan.
- Investigation into the expected level of service for the main supply pipeline.

In Progress, report due June 2006

In progress, report due July 2006

Water Supply and Reliability for the Broken Basin

- Assessment of water supply options and groups of options.

In progress, draft package of options due July 2006

Water Supply Reliability for the Broken Basin

Goulburn-Murray Water is developing a “package” of effective water supply options that will deliver supply reliability for Broken system water users. A scorecard system is being used to rank various options and packages of options, and will lead to the development of a preferred Final Offset Package.

The scorecard being used to assess the offset measures considers such aspects as cost, reliability benefit, risks, environmental and social impacts, community acceptance and contribution to water savings.

The need for input from water users during the development of the Final Offset Package is well recognised and Goulburn-Murray Water will continue to consult with those affected throughout the development of the package, including the VFF.

Investigations to identify measures to reduce the significant water losses that occur in the operation of the system are on track. These options include combinations of pipelining, remote monitoring and control of storage and river operating structure, the provision of small off stream storages to capture surplus river flows after rain events and possible system operational changes.

As these loss reduction and efficiency improvement options will have impacts right across the Broken system, a number of different packages are being considered. These packages include several measures that have already been instigated, such as the pipelining of the Tungamah Stock and Domestic Scheme and the purchase of approximately 1000 ML of water entitlement in 2004.

The packages being considered also include supplying Broken River diverters from pipelines off the East Goulburn Main Channel and a 5000 ML capacity mid-system, off-stream storage.

The next stage in this process will be the development and announcement of several draft packages of offsets. This is expected to occur in late July 2006. Water user and broader community involvement in the review and comment on these packages will include:

- direct discussions with the VFF;
- direct mailing of offset package details to all water users and other interested parties for consideration and comment;
- engagement with other relevant representative groups on the draft package, including Benalla Rural City Council, G-MW Water Service Committee;
- engagement with individual water users and landowners where they are likely to be directly affected by offset measure works, to access information to assess level of service, to identify possible alternatives available and identify issues to be considered in developing a final preferred option;
- a 6 week period for water user and community feedback is proposed. Issues raised in the consultation process will be considered in the development of preliminary designs and environmental assessments. This stage will allow the preparation of a draft final offset package;
- the draft final package will be submitted to the G-MW Board for approval and recommendation to the Minister for Water.

More information: www.lakemokoan.com

