

Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP)

What we are up to

Key activities that are currently underway are:

- survey and design for the required works in each of the sites
- landholder consultation about the projects' proposed outcomes
- flora and fauna surveys across the proposed areas to be rehabilitated
- general community and stakeholder engagement
- traditional owner engagement
- cultural heritage management plans are being established



Key Benefits of the VMFRP

1. The project makes it possible by 2024 to water 14,000 hectares of high-value floodplains and wetlands using less water to achieve similar ecological benefits to a natural flood event.
2. Floodplains and wetlands have been the lifeblood of Traditional Owners for tens of thousands of years. The project will involve Traditional Owners in the decision-making processes to protect cultural heritage and restore ecological value.
3. These projects allow Victoria to meet its commitments to the Murray Darling Basin Plan objectives without further water buyback from consumptive users.
4. Without the Project, water in a changing climate will not reach parts of the floodplain for the duration and frequency required to sustain their current ecological values.
5. There will be significant positive economic activity from the construction works into Northern Victorian communities helping to sustain jobs in the regions.

Project Management

The VMFRP is being implemented as part of Victoria's obligations under the Murray Darling Basin Plan in a regional partnership with Lower Murray Water, Goulburn Murray Water, Mallee CMA, North Central CMA and Parks Victoria. The VMFRP is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture.



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**

HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES



Where are the Victorian works proposed?

Gunbower National Park, Guttrum and Benwell Forests, Vinifera, Nyah, Burra Creek, Belsar-Yungera, Hattah North, Wallpolla, Lindsay Island

Key reasons for choosing these sites are:

- Their environmental, social and cultural values, and
- Achieve environmental improvements through works and watering.

The VMFRP includes environmental works at nine locations along the Murray River floodplain in northern Victoria. This includes well-known iconic sites like Hattah Lakes and Gunbower Forest, as well as smaller, high-value sites like Nyah and Vinifera Forests. The works will see watering events in these areas to achieve the ecological objectives that have been set for each site. The works include regulators, pipes and pumps that will allow environmental water to be delivered from the Murray River to wetlands and floodplains. The operation of the works can achieve similar ecological benefits to a natural flood, using much less water. This will mimic natural flood events and improve the condition of vegetation communities and provide habitat for native fish, birds, frogs and turtles.

Project Stages

The Project will be delivered in two stages and is funded by the Australian Government:

- Stage 1 (\$29 million): pre-construction activities including detailed engineering designs and regulatory approvals, refining ecological objectives and operating strategies, developing monitoring plans, updating cost estimates, risk assessments and mitigation activities, and Traditional Owner, stakeholder and community engagement and consultation.
- Stage 2 (\$291 million): construction.



How is the community being consulted/involved?

Catchment Management Authorities are leading the stakeholder and community engagement for each site and are developing the key concepts. Traditional Owners, communities and stakeholders are currently being consulted to ensure they have an understanding and can participate in the business case preparation for each site. This includes ensuring their views and local knowledge are included in the projects.

Further Information

Go to www.vmfrp.com.au for the latest information.

December 2019

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