



VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

21 October 2020

Community questions raised about the Guttrum-Benwell Floodplain Restoration Project

Key Messages:

This project will improve environmental outcomes using less water than a natural flood while keeping more irrigation water in the hands of irrigators and communities in the region. The project enables Victoria to meet its ecological and water savings objectives of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan.

To be able to help these vital floodplains survive and build their resilience to cope with dry conditions is important to Victoria. And to be able to do it by keeping irrigation water in the region is even more so.

Supplying water to floodplains, wetlands and waterways has changed significantly over the past 100 years or so and will need to continue changing as the climate varies and competition for water increases. For water for irrigation and the environment to co-exist across the region, alternative ways to supply water to environmental assets need to be considered. There is no current way for environmental water to be delivered into the Guttrum and Benwell Forests to supplement the reduced frequency and duration of natural flood events, therefore, the do-nothing scenario is not an option if we want to stop the further decline in health of the forest.

If there's a better way to restore the health of these forests, continue to be an asset to our communities and efficiently deliver water to the floodplain while keeping irrigation water in the region, we'd be happy to have it presented to us.

Acronyms and Roles:

VMFRP	Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project <i>A partnership between Lower Murray Water, Goulburn Murray Water, Mallee CMA, North Central CMA, Parks Victoria, and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. North Central CMA is leading project delivery for the Guttrum and Benwell Forest VMFRP sites (and the Gunbower VMFRP site).</i>
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning <i>DELWP are the primary land manager of the Guttrum and Benwell Forests</i>
PV	<i>Parks Victoria are the land manager for the Murray River Reserve – generally all land the river side of River Track.</i>
VEWH	Victorian Environmental Water Holder <i>Responsible for managing Victoria's environmental water reserve entitlements; and allocates environmental water each year. CMAs provide local expertise and advice to the VEWH on annual water requirements within their respective regions.</i>
CEWH	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder <i>Responsible for managing the Commonwealth's environmental water entitlements. The CEWH works in partnership with the VEWH and CMAs to coordinate environmental water delivery across the Murray-Darling Basin.</i>
MDBA	Murray Darling Basin Authority <i>Responsible for Basin-wide planning and integrated management of water resources.</i>
GMW	Goulburn Murray Water <i>The relevant rural water authority for the Guttrum and Benwell Forest sites.</i>



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES. STRONG COMMUNITIES

1. What are the benefits of these projects? How will you monitor if these projects are successful?

The Victorian Murray floodplain contains some of the most important vegetation and animal life in the country, and the Guttrum and Benwell State Forests are key parts of that landscape. The iconic vegetation species of the Murray floodplain, such as River Red Gums, will benefit from a return to a more natural flooding regime and the improved habitat will increase the areas of potential occupancy and breeding opportunities for various land-based animal species and birds. A summary of the expected benefits is shown in Table 1 below.

The forests have significant cultural heritage values and meaning to the Barapa Barapa and Wamba Wemba traditional owners. Improving the health of the forest and water for the environment, along with protecting cultural sites, aligns with the values and aspirations of traditional owners.

The initial capital cost of construction alone will bring much-needed economic investment to Koondrook and Barham with local contractors employed and materials bought; as well as the ongoing benefits to operate and maintain the works. Adding increased tourism and recreation opportunities to existing economic benefits of the forests will provide positive financial gains for generations to come.

Like everything with water for the environment, repairing more than a century of changed watering regimes takes time. These projects will have evidence-based expert monitoring built into them at every step along the way, for all kinds of flora and fauna responses. Baseline monitoring is planned to occur this year and any monitoring data collected will be publicly available. Furthermore, watering plans are prepared annually for each area of the State, a process the government and community can have input into.

Table 1: Summary of anticipated ecological benefits in Guttrum and Benwell Forests

Overarching ecological objective	Ecological benefits of inundation
<p>Semi-permanent wetlands (Referred to on Guttrum and Benwell Fact Sheet map as Reed Bed Swamp, Little Reed Bed Swamp, Guttrum Swamp, Benwell Swamp and South Benwell Swamp). Highly valued by Traditional Owners for their environmental and cultural significance; and have been part of the floodplain for a long time as they would have usually filled and emptied most years.</p>	
<p>Healthy semi-permanent wetlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased cover and diversity of wetland flora species, including rare and threatened species • Wetting and drying cycles stimulate a productive food web • Halt encroachment of terrestrial species, including River Red Gums • Diversity of habitat for fauna, including rare and threatened fauna species. • Important drought refuge for amphibians and reptiles
<p>Healthy wetland bird community in Guttrum and Benwell Forests through improved access to food and habitat that promotes breeding and recruitment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter, nesting materials and nesting habitat for waterbirds • Suitable hydrological conditions and habitat provided for colonial nesting species • Foraging grounds for colonial nesting waterbirds and migratory wading birds • Suitable habitat for rare and threatened waterbird species • Abundance of food sources for waterbirds



VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

River Red Gum with flood-dependent understory (shown as blue inundation on Guttrum and Benwell Fact Sheet map)	
Healthy River Red Gum FDU (temporary wetlands) across Guttrum and Benwell Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased cover and diversity of understory flora species, including rare and threatened species • Halt and reverse encroachment of terrestrial flood-tolerant species • Improved tree and canopy condition, including in large old trees • Wetting and drying cycles stimulate a productive floodplain food web • Diversity of habitat for fauna, including rare and threatened fauna species.
Healthy wetland bird community through improved access to food and habitat that promotes breeding and recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelter, nesting materials and nesting habitat for waterbirds • Foraging grounds for colonial nesting waterbirds and migratory wading birds • Abundance of food sources for woodland birds.
Enhancement of Murray River native fish populations by increasing access to productive floodplain outflows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of floodplain habitat for small and large bodied fish • An abundance of food sources (organic carbon, phytoplankton and zooplankton, nutrients) to support the riverine food web, including large-bodied channel fish specialists (e.g. Cod, Golden Perch)

2. Will VMFRP water the whole forest every year?

No. Depending on seasonal conditions and allocations, water is planned to be delivered approximately 3 in 10 years on the Guttrum and Benwell floodplain (blue inundation area on Fact Sheet) and approximately 7 in 10 years in the semi-permanent wetlands (see Fact Sheet for map of swamps). The watering frequency is aligned to what water dependent vegetation and wetlands should be receiving under more natural flows in the Murray River and what they need to be healthy. VMFRP will deliver water to the floodplain to fill in the gaps between natural floods. The response of plants and animals to the waterings will be closely monitored. Watering requirements are reviewed annually through the development of the Victorian Seasonal Watering Plan process and are guided by the scientific results from monitoring. You can find out more about the Seasonal Watering Plan and how it is developed here: <https://vewh.vic.gov.au/watering-program/seasonal-watering-plan>

3. Will more water have to be bought for this forest watering?

No. There is no dependency on further water recovery to make these projects operational. The projects will use existing environmental water entitlements. The Guttrum and Benwell projects contribute to Victoria meeting its commitments to the Murray Darling Basin Plan objectives and avoid further water buybacks from consumptive users.

The allocation of environmental water is the same as for an irrigator. Whatever allocations an irrigator receives each year is what the environment receives.



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

4. What is the timing and frequency of pumped forest watering inundation events?

There are two types of watering events proposed by VMFRP. One type of event is for **forest floodplain watering events** and the second type of event is for targeted **semi-permanent wetland events**.

It should be noted that Guttrum and Benwell forests don't have to be filled in the same years. It depends on seasonal conditions and ecological objectives (which can include drying periods for the forest).

The frequency and duration of water pumping at each site will depend on the type of event being proposed i.e. a **forest floodplain watering event** or a **semi-permanent wetland event** or both – which are determined through the Seasonal Watering Plan process (described in the response to question 2 above). The pumps are variable speed pumps that can operate between very low rates and up to full capacity (125 ML/day is full capacity but could be as low as 5 ML/day). The pumps would likely operate for several days, weeks or possibly months at a time depending on the type of watering required, weather conditions and the allocation of water entitlements.

Pumping for the larger **forest floodplain watering events** is anticipated to occur on average 3 in every 10 years (this provides water to the River Red Gums, flood dependent understory and the semi-permanent wetlands). The **semi-permanent wetlands** need a level of water nearly every year so in the years when the larger forest floodplain watering event is not occurring, the wetland water levels may get topped-up. *It's important to note that the averages assume some natural flooding in these forests and wetlands will occur under the fully implemented Basin Plan – watering events are subject to water availability like any other water holder.*

Forest floodplain watering events at Guttrum will occur on average 3 years in every 10, with the two pump sites used in combination to firstly fill the forest.

During filling of the Guttrum forest:

- The Guttrum West pump station will run at its full capacity of 125 ML/day for around 16 days.
- The Guttrum East pump station will also run at its full capacity of 125 ML/day for around 16 days.

For maintenance of water levels and to achieve water flow through the forest and back into the Murray River at the downstream end:

- The Guttrum East pump station will continue to operate to maintain water levels in the forest and allow water to cascade through the forest and back out into the Murray River through the outfall regulator nearby to the Guttrum West pump station.
- Depending on weather conditions, how dry the forest is and available water allocations, the Guttrum East pump station could operate for a few months at variable volumes per day.

Forest floodplain watering events at Benwell will also occur on average 3 years in every 10, with the single pump used firstly to fill the forest and then maintain water levels.

During filling of the Benwell forest:

- The Benwell pump station will run at its full capacity of 125 ML/day for around 20 days.



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

For maintenance of water levels and to achieve water flow through the forest and back into the Murray River:

- The Benwell pump station will continue to maintain water levels in the forest and allowing water flow through the forest and back out into the Murray River through the outfall regulator nearby to the north of the pump station.
- An additional regulator in the north-east corner of Benwell forest can also be opened to allow through-flows back to the Murray River and create the circulation of water.
- Again, depending on weather conditions, how dry the forest is and available water allocations, the Guttrum East pump station could operate for a few months at variable volumes per day.

Semi-permanent wetlands at Guttrum need a level of water nearly every year, so to fill the hydrological gaps between flood events, pumping will occur on average 7 years in every 10 as follows:

- The Guttrum East pump station will run at around 25 ML/day for around 15 days to fill Reed Bed Swamp and Little Reed Bed Swamp. The pump would be run at lower volumes periodically to maintain a level of water in the swamps to achieve ecological outcomes.
- The Guttrum West pump station will run at around 100 ML/day for around 15 days to fill the much larger Guttrum Swamp complex. The pump then operates periodically at much lower volumes to maintain water levels in the swamps to achieve ecological outcomes.

Semi-permanent wetland at Benwell also need a level of water nearly every year, so to fill the hydrological gaps between flood events, pumping will occur on average 7 years in every 10 as follows:

- The Benwell pump station will run at around 50 ML/day for around 8 days to fill the Benwell Swamp and South Benwell Swamp. The pump would be run at lower volumes periodically to maintain a level of water in the swamps to achieve ecological outcomes.

5. What will be the depth of floodplain watering events? And will levees and containment banks be affected or obstruct natural flooding patterns?

The average depth of flooding will be in the order of 0.75 metres. Water depths across the forest floor during floodplain watering events will range from 0.1 metres in shallow areas and up to 1.0 metres in the deeper areas. The proposed semi-permanent wetland watering events will have maximum depths of 1.3 metres in the Guttrum Swamp Complex, 1.1 metres in Reed Bed Swamp, 1.5 metres in Little Reed Bed Swamp, and around 1.2 metres in both Benwell swamps. Considering the existing levees have protected the surrounding farmland and people in the biggest of historical natural floods, the proposed floodplain watering will be quite modest in comparison.

VMFRP have undertaken engineering tests of the levees and considered any likely risks of them failing during the proposed floodplain watering events. Generally, the levees are quite sound and reliable with only a couple of known sections that may need minor refurbishment (near Millar Road and Hall Road).



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

These projects are not about preventing natural floods but about complementing them to replicate their benefits that have been missing due to the significant changes in water supply from the Murray River (i.e. dams and regulators). Natural floods are occurring less often due to river regulation. The VMFRP works are proposed to fill the hydrological gaps between flood events and provide water to ecological communities reliant on regular watering events.

If multiple natural floods occur in successive years, then there is less reliance on pumping water into the forest. The VMFRP regulators can enhance the benefit of natural flooding in the forest by holding the water on the floodplain for longer. This means the benefits of floods can be prolonged by using much less water.

For these reasons, any infrastructure to be constructed on the floodplain will be designed in a way so as not to impede natural flood events, but to allow them to occur as they would naturally and then using the infrastructure to enhance their benefits and use less water.

6. Will flooding the forest lead to the proliferation of pest plants and animals? How will agencies manage that?

DELWP Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) will continue to manage pest plant and animals within Guttrum and Benwell forests with targeted programs such as Good Neighbour. The Good Neighbour Program has a heavy emphasis on works that occur where neighbours are also doing works on their land. Additionally, DELWP and Parks Victoria have indicated that the environmental watering in Gunbower State Forest does not appear to have increased prevalence of either pest plants or animals. Where the community has concerns with pest plants and animals, they need to inform DELWP.

7. Will more flooding move native animals onto nearby farmland?

DELWP manages many State forests and engages with adjacent landowners regularly to understand that native animals occupying farmland is an existing problem, regardless of the implementation of the VMFRP project or not. Floodwater causes native animals to seek higher ground and are likely being attracted to the surrounding irrigated paddocks and growing pastures due to the lack of food in the dry and deteriorating forest.

The proposed environmental watering events will not inundate every inch of the forest. Guttrum forest is around 1270 hectares of land in total and we propose to water around 668ha (53%) at maximum extents (see attached Fact Sheet with map). Benwell forest is around 660 hectares of land in total and we propose to water around 481ha (73%) at maximum extents. Some years will be much less when only watering the semi-permanent wetlands/swamps. There are significant areas of higher ground where Kangaroos and other species can go to whilst also benefitting from the watering events by providing them food in the forest and hopefully keep them there. This will be something to monitor over time and community can help with this.

8. How is fire being managed in the forest? How will it be managed with more watering?

DELWP aims to deliver a reduced impact of major bushfires and other emergencies on people, property and the environment. The risk to life and property is managed in a strategic manner across the landscape. The risk of bushfire within Guttrum and Benwell forests is considered low. DELWP fire history data indicates low occurrence of fire in these forests, with small fires and no impact to life or property.



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

The primary cause of ignition within the Guttrum and Benwell forests is from campfires. Campfire compliance (including use of electronic roadside message signs and flying of “Total Fire Ban Today” banner) is important. Fuel management programs including targeted slashing and spraying will continue to occur by DELWP. A well-maintained road network is the primary tool utilised to facilitate aggressive initial attack to any outbreak of fire, as well as performing as an effective fuel break. State forests will be closed on days of Code Red Fire Danger.

River red gum flood dependant understory actually dies back and recedes back underground and becomes dormant when isn't flooded. By returning the water regime back to more like a natural condition, flooding will drown out the encroaching saplings and introduced pest plants to also reduce the build up of debris. DELWP will continue to manage pest plants and animals, and where the community identifies a risk, they are advised to inform DELWP who can then manage any bushfire risks.

9. Will flooding of the forest affect the water table? What about rising salinity?

A preliminary salinity assessment has been undertaken for all VMFRP projects according to the Statewide salinity assessment guidelines (includes groundwater tables and salinity levels, surface water salt wash and salt load). The Guttrum-Benwell project has been assessed that it will not generate a salinity impact to the Murray River or surrounding areas.

The North Central CMA has a deep understanding of regional salinity management and long track record of working with local farmers to address the risk of salinity; hence salinity was the first potential project risk investigated thoroughly by the CMA team of hydrogeologists and subject matter experts.

The forests are underlain by the Quaternary alluvial aquifer and Shepparton formation aquifer consisting of fine-grained sediments (silt, clay and sand); groundwater salinity is typically 500-2,500EC. The deeper Yando clay holds groundwater of greater salinities at about 11,000-25,000EC but has a low permeability to limit vertical flow upwards. Soil salinity has been mapped over the project area by airborne electromagnetic surveys (AEM) and salinity is considered low (100t/ha/m).

As a result of the inundation during a managed event, the groundwater level increases in the Upper Shepparton formation. This is called flood recharge and it happens in natural events too. The rise in groundwater levels across the inundated area may generate a (freshwater) groundwater mound under the forest and a lesser rise in the groundwater levels surrounding the inundated areas. The salinity of the groundwater is low to moderate (500 to 2,500EC) and will be diluted further by the flood recharge which is fresher water coming from the Murray River (100-300EC).

The high groundwater salinities seen elsewhere in the region is due to cleared vegetation and groundwater aquifers being recharged by irrigation water to within 1.5 to 2 metres from the land for capillary action to draw the groundwater to the surface and evaporate leaving the salt behind. Pastures are shallow rooted and excess water permeates through the soil to increase groundwater levels. The deep-rooted trees and vegetation in the forest and floodplain uses most of the water applied during a watering event or flood; and obviously continue to do so.

The average estimated water use across both forests, not including return flows, is currently about 7ML/ha. In comparison, perennial pasture is 8-12ML/ha and long-lived annual pasture or summer crops are both 4-6ML/ha, based on long-term average water use across the local region. If the forest floodplain and semi-permanent wetlands are both watered at the same time, water use is more or just the wetlands, it is less.



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES. STRONG COMMUNITIES

The existing forest groundwater monitoring program and regional salinity investigations will continue so that any trends can be observed and understood properly using scientific evidence. Surface water salinity and water quality before, during and after watering events will also be monitored to inform management strategies and real-time operational decision making.

10. How will European carp be managed in the forests?

The spread of carp either onto the floodplain, or from the floodplain to the river, is not considered a significant risk as the pumping of environmental water restricts carp movement (i.e. fine mesh pump screens will be installed). Additionally, the seasonal nature of watering means that wetlands will regularly dry out and carp won't have the opportunity to build up on the floodplain. But like everything, this is something to be monitored over time and to be continually vigilant about. If needed, a carp management plan is an option to use to address high carp numbers.

11. What about blackwater events in the forests?

Darker water that is full of nutrients and carbon is often confused as 'black water' but in fact it provides much needed benefits to the river, fish and macroinvertebrates such as nutrients and food.

As a relevant example, there has not been one hypoxic blackwater event caused by water for the environment on the Gunbower Forest floodplain. In fact, water for the environment reduces the risk of toxic blackwater by regularly washing the leaf litter away, instead of having it build up over time and get flushed into the river during a large natural flood – which tends to be when the large and devastating hypoxic blackwater events occur.

Potential for poor water quality return flows will be managed through monitoring of the return flows during drawdown periods, undertaking blackwater risk assessment prior to delivery, and adaptively managing release rates to ensure that suitable dilution occurs from passing flows within the Murray River if water quality of return flows is low. Return flow volumes are expected to be small (5,000 ML in total across both sites), at a low flow rate (around 25 ML/day) and will occur at a time of year when passing flows in the Murray River are typically high (i.e. typically >5000 ML/day at Barham during the irrigation season) therefore the risk is considered low.

12. These are working forests and popular recreational areas; will this affect existing industries and tourism? Will the forests be locked up?

No. The forests will continue to be State forests and are not planned to be locked up. It is expected existing industry (forestry, apiaries) and recreation activities will continue and improve. Some sites in the forest will be difficult to access during waterings, but water on the floodplain, and its positive impacts, creates more tourism opportunities. VMFRP will work with industry users (VicForests, apiary license holders) to work through any issues for industry and environmental watering to co-exist into the future.

13. Where will the electrical power for the pump stations come from?

Power will be secured from the nearby Powercor network using a combination of upgrades to existing alignments, some new overhead alignments, and new underground cables within the forest boundaries. There are three pump stations requiring high-voltage (HV) power supply – Benwell Pump Station, Guttrum West Pump Station, and Guttrum East Pump Station (see Fact Sheet for pump station locations). VMFRP



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

are working with adjacent private landowners where necessary to design the proposed power upgrades, achieve mutual benefits where possible, and avoid unnecessary and undesirable impacts.

A range of power supply options were considered for each site and their suitability assessed on the following criteria:

- cost to construct
- technical difficulty to construct or upgrade existing lines
- consideration of impacts to private landowners
- consideration of impacts to native vegetation
- consideration of impacts to cultural heritage
- ability to undertake future maintenance if required.

No individual criteria were given a higher weighting over another in determining the preferred options. The preferred options to supply power to each site are discussed below.

Benwell Pump Station (Option confirmed)

Power supply to the Benwell Pump Station will commence from an existing power supply point at the Benwell Drain Pump Station located at the northern end of Hall Road, Myall. New overhead lines are planned to be constructed in the private property to the immediate west of the Benwell Forest boundary. These overhead lines will run north approximately 900m to an open area of private land close to the Benwell Pump Station site. From here, underground cables will be installed within the forest boundaries and beneath existing tracks to minimise or avoid impacts to vegetation and cultural heritage.

Guttrum West (Option confirmed)

Power supply to the Guttrum West Pump Station will involve the upgrade of an existing overhead line that services a nearby property. From here, underground cables will be installed within the forest beneath a proposed new containment bank that is required to be constructed to contain environmental water within the Guttrum Forest. The final length of underground cable will be installed beneath an upgraded section of River Track which provides access to the pump station site.

Guttrum East (Option still under investigation)

Various options have been considered for supplying power to the Guttrum East Pump Station site. The current preferred option involves undertaking a HV upgrade to the existing overhead power lines that run from Koondrook-Murrabit Road to Cassidy Lane. From here, around 3km of underground HV cable would be installed along Cassidy Lane, Brays Lane and River Track to the pump station site. This option is preferred as it involves a simple modification to existing overhead power lines, has very low impact on existing properties, has the least impact on native vegetation, is likely to have the least impact on cultural heritage, is simple to construct and maintain, and was comparable on cost with other options. VMFRP is working with private landowners to develop this option further and to avoid other more impactful options.

14. What is the timeline for the project construction?

Construction is anticipated to commence in January 2023 and to be completed by June 2024 (to meet Basin Plan commitments).

The project is still in the preliminary stages. The local community and project stakeholders will continue to be consulted about the designs and proposed implementation details.



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

15. What will the capital cost of the project be?

There is still a lot of work to be done on designing and planning these projects, including costs of the project. Assuming there will be changes to the designs based on feedback from the community or other government departments, costs will need to be calculated again.

Whatever the final numbers, these projects will give the local economies of towns such as Koondrook and Barham a much-needed boost, both during construction and for a long time afterwards. Water for the environment has benefits to the economy well after it has arrived on the floodplain. The initial capital cost estimate is \$12.4 million to construct the Guttrum and Benwell floodplain restoration project.

16. What will be VMFRP's approach to future engagement?

Targeted, tailored consultation will continue to be offered and conducted with key stakeholders throughout the project, aligning to project milestones, assessments and approvals processes where necessary and/or appropriate.

There are two forms of consultation and engagement – formal and informal. The informal process will include responding to questions, such as these, as they arise, listening to concerns and ideas and making sure anyone who has a query or issue will be heard. Our staff are committed to finding the right way forward for these projects and are open to any thoughts and ideas from anyone. We're only a phone call or email away and are happy to come and meet with anyone to discuss the project.

Formally, it is expected that Commonwealth and State Government regulatory authorities (under the EPBC Act and EE Act processes) will specify their expectations for engagement when further investigating if the project will have significant environmental impacts and to better understand any community concerns – VMFRP intends to deliver and exceed on these requirements. This is likely to include further face-to-face briefings, presentations, site visits and regular project updates via mail-outs and newsletters. Opportunities will be offered and it is up to locals to utilise them.

Consultation will occur with affected government and non-government stakeholders, including:

- Government land managers (DELWP and Parks Victoria)
- Environmental water managers (North Central CMA, VEWH, CEWH)
- Environmental water infrastructure operators (GMW, MDBA)
- Directly affected private landowners
- Traditional Owner groups
- Directly affected industry stakeholders (VicForests, Apiary licensees)
- Local government economic development teams
- Special interest groups (Koondrook Development Committee, Murray River Trails, local tourism operators, VR Fish, and local angling clubs)

Broader engagement via traditional methods and social media, community events and information displays will also continue to provide general project awareness and rolling updates. Dedicated project engagement staff will be available to accommodate face-to-face meetings for any individuals or groups wanting further information. If someone wants to talk about the project, then a VMFRP staff member will be available.



**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT**
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

17. How will reports be made available to the community?

We respect that finding available reports and information on any particular matter can be time consuming, frustrating and not always successful. That is one of the reasons why we have a dedicated staff member (Shaun Morgan) for engagement with community and stakeholders – to assist people to find what they are looking for.

Further, we would be keen to understand from community any preferred methods for the distribution of information or reports. Examples could include:

- Dedicated location on the VMFRP website where all relevant reports can be stored or copied to.
- Online or print version newsletters (say quarterly updates)
- Email list for interested individuals and groups
- Via the Koondrook Development Committee Sub-Committee for the Guttrum and Benwell Forest projects.
- Hard copy information in the post (within reasonable limits)
- Face-to-face discussions, individual or focus groups (e.g. groups of neighbours or those with shared interests)

For further information on relevant matters, please don't hesitate to contact:

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