

PROJECT UPDATE

NYAH & VINIFERA

VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT

SEPTEMBER 2020



Above: The beautiful Nyah-Vinifera Forest. Image courtesy Mallee CMA.

Formal engagement in the past three months:

we engaged

151

people

we had

10

face-to-face
meetings

we had

95

phone conversations
with locals

WHAT'S HAPPENED RECENTLY?

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to discuss the Nyah and Vinifera projects with us in recent months. Your local knowledge and advice is really valuable and helps ensure a wide range of points are considered. The discussions we have had are only the start – there will be many more and we are looking forward to continuing to work with you.

We are currently planning our next phase of community consultation to understand what people value about the forests, and to provide an opportunity for people to learn more about these projects. As part of this we'll be talking to more people, more often. These opportunities will be held in the coming months starting from October.

Our main focus has been on discussing why the Nyah and Vinifera projects are needed, including the preservation of cultural heritage. Essentially, both projects will help make the floodplain healthier. If nothing is done, the forest we all love so much will continue to decline, and so will the birds, frogs, fish, turtles and other animals that depend on it for survival. It is vital that we help these floodplains survive and to build resilience in them so they can cope with future dry conditions and drought, and protect the many species that depend on them.



Above: Field work underway earlier this year to inform a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the Vinifera project.

HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

PROJECT UPDATE #1

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WORKING WITH TRADITIONAL OWNERS

To date, much of our work with Traditional Owners has focused on discussing the project benefits and impacts, and beginning the development of Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMPs). These plans assess the potential impact of the Project on Aboriginal Cultural heritage, and outline measures to be taken before, during and after the construction activities to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage. As part of this process we have been on-site with Traditional Owners conducting archaeological assessments and other fieldwork.

For Nyah-Vinifera we have been engaging directly with the following Traditional Owner Groups as part of the CHMP process:

- Wadi Wadi Land & Water Indigenous Corporation
- Wadi Wadi Nation
- Wamba Wamba Barapa Barapa Wadi Wadi group
- Dadi Dadi Weki Weki Aboriginal Corporation

The next phase of Traditional Owner consultation (due to commence in the coming months) will have a broader focus and will explore how the Project can complement the broader Traditional Owner land and water aspirations and facilitate self-determination. This engagement will be paramount to establishing long-term partnerships with Traditional Owners that will extend beyond the completion of the project in 2024.

IMPORTANT DATES

Late 2020 – early 2021:

Community engagement, cultural heritage surveys and consultation, ecology fieldwork.

2021 – 2022:

Environmental and planning approvals.
Ongoing cultural heritage consultation.
Public consultation and project exhibition.

2022 – 2024:

Construction and commissioning of the works.



FAQS

Will the forest be watered every year?

No. We are looking to return water to the floodplain at the same time of the year, duration and frequency as it would have seen flooding under natural conditions. The Nyah-Vinifera Forest does not require environmental water every year.

The watering plans at both sites will be flexible; each year and each watering event will be tailored depending on things such as the conditions of the floodplain, water availability, river flows and timing since the last flood. The projects are designed to maximise naturally occurring flood events, enabling water to be temporarily held on the floodplain after a flood before releasing it back into the Murray River.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? TALK TO US



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