



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

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

VMFRP STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUPS

GUTTRUM-BENWELL STATE FORESTS AND GUNBOWER NATIONAL PARK

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP) aims to deliver ecological benefits to wetlands, native fish, birds and plants at nine sites along the Murray River in Northern Victoria. The project is being delivered collaboratively by a regional partnership, coordinated by Lower Murray Water.

Expressions of interest are sought from interested community members, forest user groups, Traditional Owners, and industry representatives to participate in two Stakeholder Advisory Groups that facilitate community and key stakeholder input into the Guttrum-Benwell and Gunbower VMFRP projects.

Representatives are sought for two separate Stakeholder Advisory Groups to be established, one for the Guttrum-Benwell project and one for the Gunbower project.

Community engagement is an important aspect of delivering successful projects. The newly formed Stakeholder Advisory Groups will provide an important opportunity for community members and VMFRP to work collaboratively towards the design and implementation of projects that will benefit the forests and their local communities.

PURPOSE OF THE STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUPS

The groups will be established to facilitate community and key stakeholder input into the two VMFRP projects at Guttrum-Benwell and Gunbower and accompanying complementary works. The groups will play an important role in ensuring the development and implementation of the projects are undertaken with respect to local experience and knowledge, the various uses, and values of the floodplains. Community participation in the groups will enable local community members to have a better understanding of the proposed VMFRP projects and to help share project ideas, progress, and outcomes with the broader community. Additionally, the groups can assist in the development of complementary works initiatives being proposed and delivered in connection to the VMFRP projects.

The purpose of the groups are to:

- facilitate community and key stakeholder input into the project. The group will allow members to increase and share their understanding of the project to the community, provide community ideas and feedback to VMFRP and land managers, and receive information and updates that can be shared with the wider community.
- provide advice and experience to assist the VMFRP team to make decisions that are in the best interests of the project.
- Provide a forum for VMFRP to share decisions that are made about the project
- Recognise that these floodplains have a multitude of uses and values, so the membership range needs to be diverse. The group itself is not and can't be a decision-making group.



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STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP SELECTION CRITERIA

The following selection criteria will be used to evaluate and select individual nominees to be invited to join the Stakeholder Advisory Group:

1. Demonstrated knowledge, experience or interest in environmental, social or economic aspects of the project area(s)
2. Demonstrated involvement in current or previous committees or any links to local community or industry networks that you could share your knowledge about the VMFRP projects
3. Ability to attend meetings and commitment to increasing community understanding of the VMFRP projects and associated opportunities

In addition to the above individual selection criteria, VMFRP will seek to ensure that the composition of nominees invited to join the Stakeholder Advisory Group achieves the following:

- Invitees represent and provide a diverse range of interests, industries, and cultural backgrounds.
- Invitees are geographically diverse across the extent of the project boundaries.
- Invitees are regular users of the forest or can demonstrate significant knowledge of the forests through regular visitation or through their occupation.
- Invitees are committed to respectful participation in the Stakeholder Advisory Group and will pursue the best interests of the forest and local community

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS

Interested community members are requested to fill out and submit the attached *Expression of Interest Form* (page 5 of this document) via email or post to:

shaun.morgan@vmfrp.vic.gov.au

or

Shaun Morgan
VMFRP Engagement Officer
PO Box 18
Huntly VIC 3551

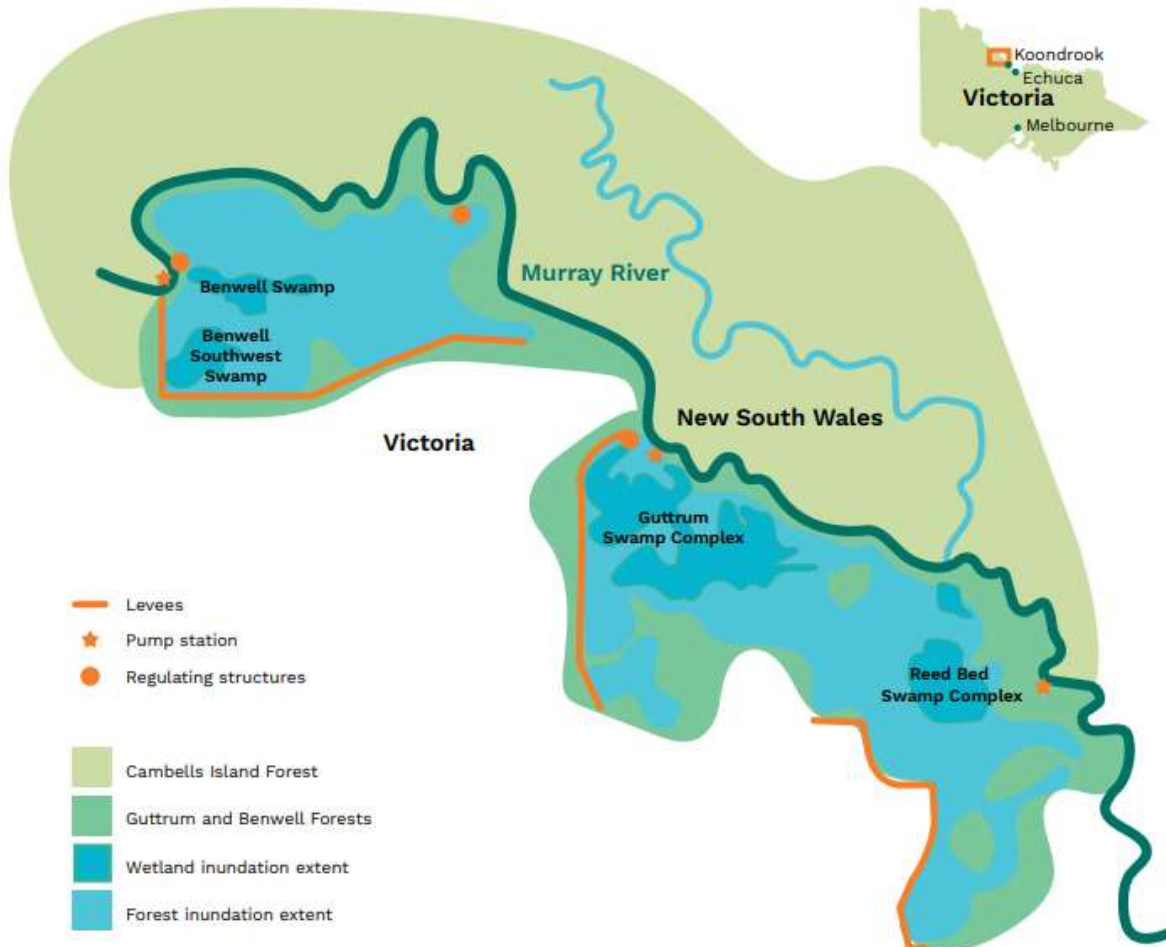
Alternative format expressions of interest (letter, email) that include all the details requested in the *Expression of Interest Form* will be accepted.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted and received by 5pm on Monday 8th March 2021



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GUTTRUM AND BENWELL FORESTS VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT





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GUNBOWER FORESTS VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT



