

PROJECT UPDATE

September 2023



VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT
HEALTHY LANDSCAPES, STRONG COMMUNITIES



VMFRP Update

Work is progressing on the Victorian Murray Floodplain Project (VMFRP) as Victoria and the Australian Government continue talks on future funding for the project.

We can confirm:

- **Work continues with the project team** focused on progressing the primary approvals for the Central Sites (Hattah Lakes North, Belsar Yungera, Nyah, Vinifera and Burra Creek).
- **The Victorian Government remains committed to delivering the VMFRP** and is in discussions with the Australian Government.

Importantly, I'd like to recognise the ongoing commitment of interested stakeholders. A lot of important work is being done to ensure the projects can continue through the complex environmental assessment process and our stakeholders can stay informed.

Daniel Freitag
VMFRP Transition Project Manager

Planning Assessments

The Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment of the environmental effects of the Hattah Lakes North and Belsar-Yungera floodplain restoration projects has been received. The project team is working through the assessment to fully understand how to address the recommendations.

The Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment for ER Central (Nyah & Vinifera) is due to be received soon.

The Burra Environment Report roundtable was held during August 2023. The Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment will follow in due course.



Site Summaries

Gunbower National Park

Work on this project is currently paused pending further funding being secured. Engagement with Traditional Owner groups is ongoing.

Guttrum Benwell Forests

Work on this project is mostly paused pending further funding being secured. There is some minor work being done to progress some matters which need to be resolved prior to the Environment Report process.

Vinifera Nyah

Approvals progressing. A roundtable was held in April 2023. The Minister for Planning's (Vic) assessment of the Vinifera and Nyah projects is expected soon.

Burra Creek

Approvals progressing. A roundtable for the Burra Creek project was held during August 2023.

Belsar-Yungera Hattah Lakes North

Approvals progressing. The Minister for Planning's (Vic) assessment of EES Central was received 1 July. The project team is now working on addressing the Minister's recommendations, including for the Planning Scheme Amendment and EPBC approval.

Wallpolla Island Lindsay Island

Work on this project is mostly paused pending further funding being secured. There is some minor work being done to progress some matters which need to be resolved prior to EES process.

Your questions answered.

Is anyone working on VMFRP at the moment?

A program of work continues with the project team focused on progressing the primary approvals for the Central Sites (Hattah Lakes North, Belsar Yungera, Nyah, Vinifera and Burra Creek).

What's next for the VMFRP?

The VMFRP will get much needed water back onto nine high-value floodplains along the Murray River. Without this water, these iconic landscapes will continue to decline – along with the many native trees, animals and plants that depend on them. The Victorian Government is working with the Australian Government to secure funding for the next stages of the project.

Where will funding come from?

Victoria is continuing to talk with the Australian Government to inform the future of the project.

What does the Minister for Planning's (VIC) Assessment mean for the Central Sites?

The Victorian Minister for Planning's assessment of EES Central is not an approval. The assessment helps decision makers within Government make informed decisions about the Hattah Lakes North and Belsar-Yungera projects.

For more information, please contact info@vmfrp.vic.gov.au