

Impact Assessments

What are we doing?

This project provides infrastructure to deliver water to identified high-value floodplains along the Murray River. The infrastructure will be used to provide water at a frequency, duration and interval required to support the ecological needs of the floodplain.

This water will bring new life and help these ecologically significant floodplains to survive and build resilience to cope with future dry conditions and drought.

We aim to provide positive social and economic outcomes at the local and regional scale, whilst minimising potential impacts on existing infrastructure and open spaces.

What is being investigated?

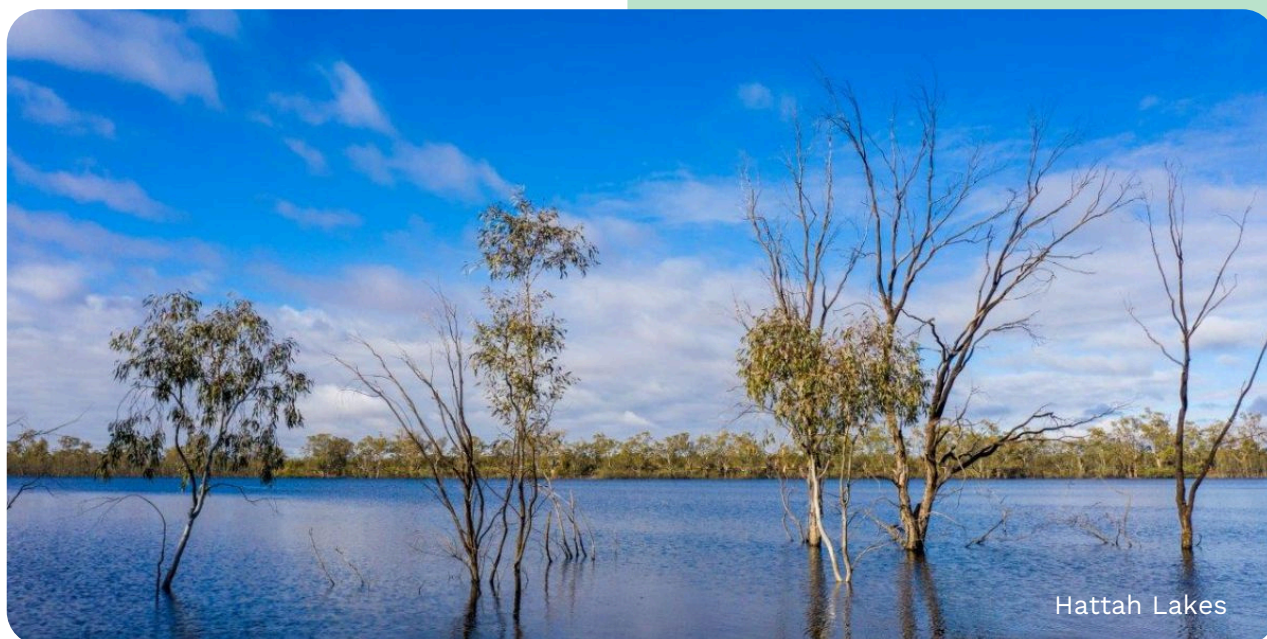
There are sixteen specialist fields currently being investigated across the project sites. Broadly, these specialist assessments look at aspects such as surface water, groundwater, geology, biodiversity, cultural heritage, land use, community, and business.

The specialist investigations for each field respond to the Scoping Requirements published by the Minister for Planning.

They have been tailored to consider the potential impacts and benefits, the unique characteristics of each of the sites and the extent of uncertainty in existing knowledge.

Our approach to investigations include:

- **desktop assessments of current knowledge, including previous investigations**
- **field assessments, to verify or supplement existing information**
- **modelling**
- **consultation, including business and social impact assessments**
- **baseline monitoring to help us understand current conditions so we can monitor changes over time.**



The impact assessment process

We have been developing these floodplain restoration projects for several years.

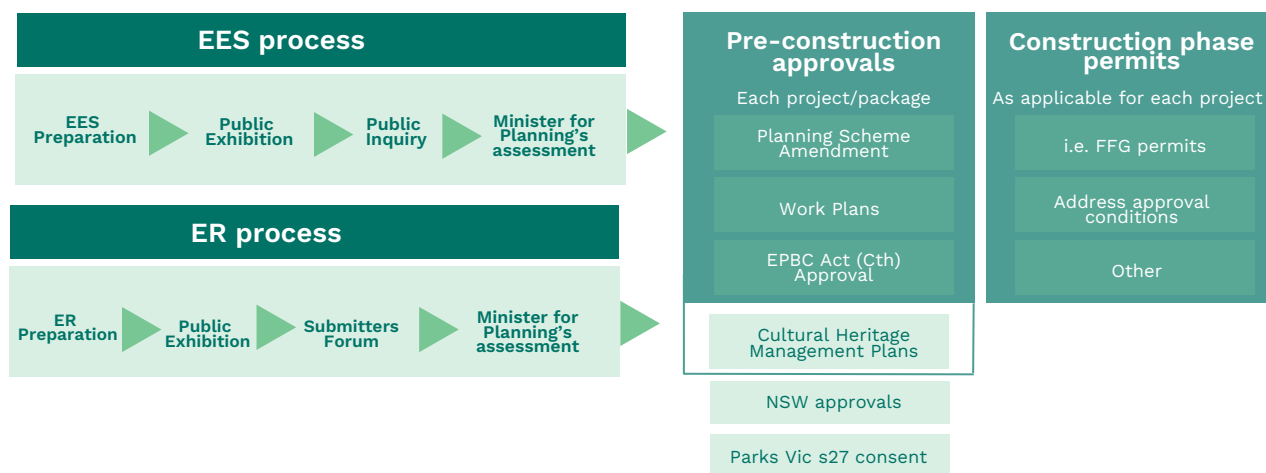
Before we can apply for funding to build the proposed floodplain infrastructure, we need to obtain the necessary Victorian and Commonwealth planning and environmental approvals. This requires us to undertake an impact assessment, demonstrating that the potential adverse effects of construction and operation are avoided, minimised or managed. This includes ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to make sure that the project outcomes can be monitored and achieved.

The Environment Effects Statements (EES) and Environment Reports (ER) document the impact assessment process.

These have been completed for the Central sites of Belsar-Yungera, Hattah Lakes North, Burra Creek, Nyah and Vinifera. The remaining East sites (ER) and West sites (EES) are in progress.

You will have an opportunity to make a submission on the EESs, ERs, and supporting approval documents. Your submission will contribute to the statutory decision-making process.

EES / ER process



How will these assessments be used?

These assessments are part of the Environment Effects Statements and Environment Reports that inform statutory approvals required for the projects.

This includes planning scheme amendments under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and Commonwealth environmental approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Find out more

To find out more about the impact assessment process, please visit the 'Planning/Approvals' tab at www.vmfrp.com.au.

To provide feedback, email info@vmfrp.vic.gov.au