

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project

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For immediate release

## Major Murray River Project Underway at Hattah

A major Murray River environmental project is underway in north-west Victoria, with works in the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park leading efforts to restore and protect important floodplains.

Construction has begun at Hattah Lakes North as part of the Victorian Murray Floodplains Restoration Project (VMFRP), marking the final stage of a long-term program that will connect the northern and southern lakes to create a combined, managed system.

The VMFRP will deliver infrastructure to reconnect high-value Murray River floodplains with more natural water regimes, improving environmental health, cultural values, and resilience to climate change – without increasing flood risk to communities.

These projects achieve vital offsets against Basin Plan water recovery targets – meaning more water available for farmers and communities while achieving targeted, local environmental benefits.

The project is funded by the Australian Government and delivered by the Victorian Government, Lower Murray Water, Mallee and North Central Catchment Management Authorities and Parks Victoria.

New containment banks and gated structures, or regulators, will complement existing infrastructure installed under The Living Murray program in the southern lakes.

Lower Murray Water Managing Director Paul Northey said the new infrastructure would allow water to spread further and stay longer when the river rises and provide a timely top-up during dry periods.

“Recent rainfall has provided short-term relief, but over time reduced natural flooding has left parts of the floodplain increasingly dry,” Mr Northey said.

“Native trees, plants and animal species are under threat, and without action, this internationally recognised ecosystem will continue to decline,” he said.

The restoration works will result in access changes in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. Most popular camping areas will remain open; however, a section of River Track will be closed between May and December to allow works to be carried out safely.

There will be increased heavy vehicle movements and construction activity during work hours on weekdays throughout 2026.

“We acknowledge these works may cause inconvenience and we appreciate the community’s understanding as we work to protect the long-term health of this internationally recognised place.

“Our message to all park users is to plan ahead, follow signage and take care,” Mr Northey said.

The project will deliver economic benefits across north-west Victoria, supporting local jobs and businesses throughout construction. Local procurement is a priority, with contractors, suppliers and service providers engaged from the broader regional community wherever possible.

The project has undergone extensive planning and environmental assessment, including a rigorous Environment Effects Statement (EES) process.

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