

MEDIA RELEASE

Major Murray River Project Underway in Nyah-Vinifera Park

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

Over time, changes to the Murray River have left native wetlands and forests without regular flooding they need to survive and remain healthy.

A program of improvements has commenced at two sites in Nyah and Vinifera, as part of the Victorian Murray Floodplains Restoration Project (VMFRP) that will allow the floodplains to be more effectively managed in future.

The VMFRP will reconnect high-value Murray River floodplains with more natural water regimes, improving environmental health 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 is 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, Goulburn Murray Water, Mallee and North Central Catchment Management Authorities and Parks Victoria.

A system of containment banks and gated structures, or regulators, will be constructed at Nyah and Vinifera to allow water to move across the floodplains in a controlled and carefully timed way.

Lower Murray Water Managing Director Paul Northey said without action, areas within Nyah-Vinifera Park were at risk of long-term decline, placing native plant and animal species under threat.

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

“This landscape hasn’t had the water it needs to thrive. This project will help restore more natural floodplain conditions like those that existed more than 100 years ago.”

Access changes: Vinifera

River Track at Vinifera will be closed while floodplain restoration works take place, meaning there will be no vehicle access into Nyah-Vinifera Park at Vinifera from late May to the end of 2026. Walking tracks outside the construction zone will remain open.

Access changes: Nyah

Popular camping and recreation areas along the Murray River in the north of Nyah-Vinifera Park at Nyah will remain open during construction. These areas can be accessed via the park entrance at Wood Wood. Some camping areas will remain open in the south, accessible via the southern entrance off River Street.

A section of River Track will be closed to vehicles and pedestrians while works take place. This will prevent access to some parts of the river in the middle of the park. Sections of Nyah-Vinifera Park at Nyah will open as works are completed. These changes will be communicated to the local community and park users.

There will be increased heavy vehicle movements and construction activity during weekday work hours.

“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 important landscape,” Mr Northey said.

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

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.

VMFRP floodplain restoration works in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park are also underway, marking a significant milestone in one of the largest coordinated environmental improvement programs currently being delivered along the Murray River.

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

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