

Koondrook-Perricoota Forest Flood Enhancement Works

Appendix B Preliminary draft Operating Plan





Koondrook-Perricoota Forest Flood Enhancement Works Project

Preliminary Operating Plan Draft

Version 1
September 2009

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A. BACKGROUND

A1. Introduction

A1.1 The Living Murray

The Living Murray (TLM) is aimed at achieving specific environmental objectives at six icon sites along the River Murray. The program seeks to achieve those objectives by investing in water recovery, building works and measures to enable the efficient and effective use of the environmental water, and then implementing an adaptive management process to implement environmental watering activities. The icon sites are:

- Barmah–Millewa Forest
- Gunbower–Koondrook–Perricoota Forest
- Hattah Lakes
- Chowilla Floodplain and Lindsay–Wallpolla Islands
- Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth
- River Murray Channel



Figure A1.1: Location of Icon Sites

Naturally the wetlands and floodplains of the icon sites were watered when significant rainfall in the tributary catchments increased flows in the River Murray system, and the river overtopped its banks. River regulation, water resource use and, more recently, severe drought have all acted to significantly reduce the frequency of flooding and most of the icon sites are now severely stressed.

The Living Murray Environmental Works and Measures Program is developing and implementing projects that will construct and utilise engineering structures to direct water to the wetland and forest ecosystems without the dependency on natural high flows or floods. This will enable watering of the ecosystems at the scale, frequency, timing and duration required to achieve the environmental objectives.

Implementing this type of intervention in a regulated river system that is operated for multiple outcomes brings with it some risks and trade-offs that will need to be managed. Early awareness of this issue has led to the projects being designed to enable highly varied and flexible operations. This flexibility enables adaptive management in response to:

- differing water availability and river conditions;
- risk management requirements; and
- the targeting of specific environment outcomes (eg vegetation response, bird breeding events) that may be required from time-to-time to achieve long term objectives.

The overarching objective for the Gunbower-Koondrook-Perricoota Forest is to maintain and restore a mosaic of healthy floodplain communities.

A1.2 Purpose of the Operating Plan

The purpose of the Operating Plan is to provide a preliminary framework for the operation of the Scheme's structures to meet key ecological objectives within the broader context of TLM Program and Scheme's governance.

Ideally, an Operating Plan consists of numerous parts focussing on the realisation of the Project's Objectives. Detailed Design and Environmental Assessment, at this stage of the project is still in progress and it is anticipated these project elements will better inform the Operating Strategy. Consequently, this Preliminary Operating Plan aims to close the gap between the Operating Strategy and the:

- Environmental objectives & requirements and management of Environmental Risks,
- Engineering & structural requirements, and,
- Operational requirements and flow event management.

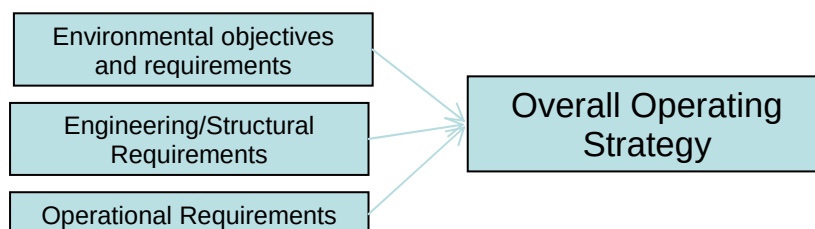


Figure A1.2: Overall Operating Strategy

The Operating Plan cannot prescribe particular watering events, rather, the Operating Plan provides an effective platform for operational decision making based on knowledge development and strong understanding of what the Scheme should aim to achieve.

A1.3 Development of the Operating Plan

The Operating Plan should be seen as a living document, which will evolve in response to changing site conditions and ongoing knowledge development. It is envisaged the Operating Plan will continually be refined in response to the Project and Scheme's needs.

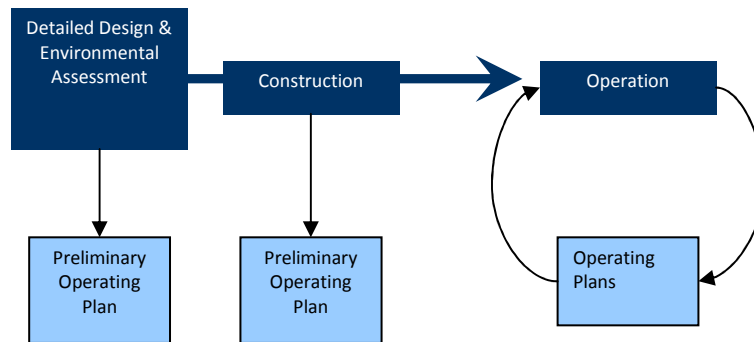


Figure A1.3: Operating Plan Development

A2 Koondrook Perricoota Forest Flood Enhancement Works Background

A2.1 Natural Water Flow Patterns

The flow of floodwater through the Koondrook forest is dominated by the Burrumbarry-Barbers Creek system. This is sourced from the Murray at a large oxbow formation known as Swan Lagoon. The first 15 km of the system comprise several deep, well-defined channels known as the Burrumbarry Creeks.

These channels then break down into a myriad of smaller, interlinked runners covering an area of approximately 4500 ha, forming a healthy Red Gum forest. These runners eventually coalesce into several defined streams, the largest of which is the Myloc Creek. The Myloc flows westward in conjunction with subsidiary runners, before becoming Barbers Creek, the primary drainage system for the western end of the forest. In addition to the Myloc, a second flow runs north-westerly, without a defined channel, eventually forming the secondary drain of the Cow Creek. The areas without defined channels (shown as dotted lines on Figure 2.1) contain known waterbird breeding areas.

The intakes from the River to Swan Lagoon commence flowing at approximately 18,000 ML/d, or 4.4 on the Torrumbarry gauge. However, the Creeks themselves do not start flowing until river level reaches around 20,000 ML/d.

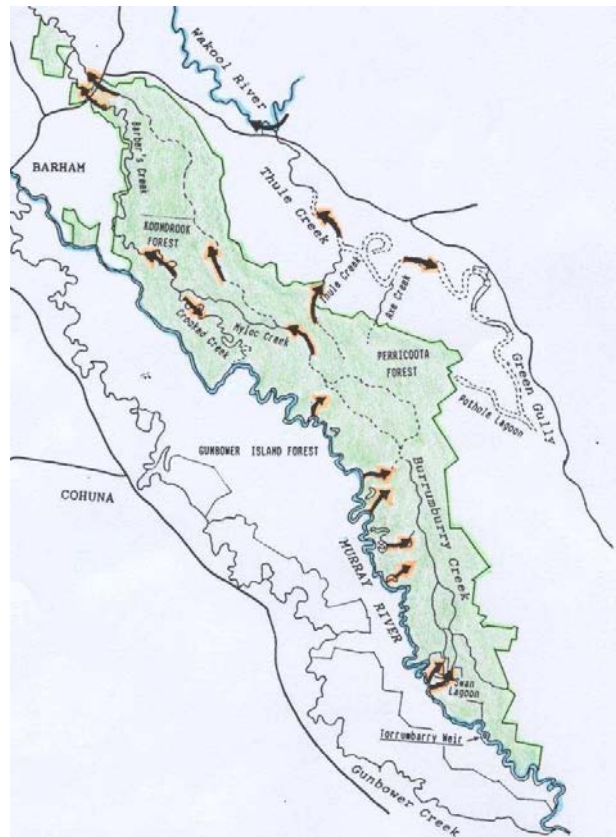


Figure A2.1. Natural inflow and outflow pattern (ref FCNSW, 1992)

There are a number of secondary water inflow points downstream of Swan Lagoon, although of much smaller scale. The most significant of these are Horseshoe Lagoon and Dead River. Additionally, there are four moderate sized, well-defined channels sourcing directly from the river; the Black Gate, Penny Royal, Thule and Crooked Creeks (see Figure A2.1 above). As river levels rise higher, above about 20,000 ML/d, an increasing number of smaller channels will begin to flow. Capacities are from 20 to 300 ML/d, and all make significant contributions to forest flooding.

Natural outflow from the forest occurs primarily at Thule Creek, about halfway through the forest, and the Barbers and Cow Creeks at the western (lower) end. During large floods water also drains out the Axe and Pothole Creeks, and floods into some adjoining private property.

The channel capacity of the Murray through Koondrook-Gunbower Forest is about 25,000 ML/d at which point overbank flows occur. Flow above 27,500 ML/d flows north through the Koondrook-Perricoota Forest and into the Wakool system. The point at which overbank flow occurs and the significant difference in flood extent is depicted in the following diagrams comprising Figure A2.2.

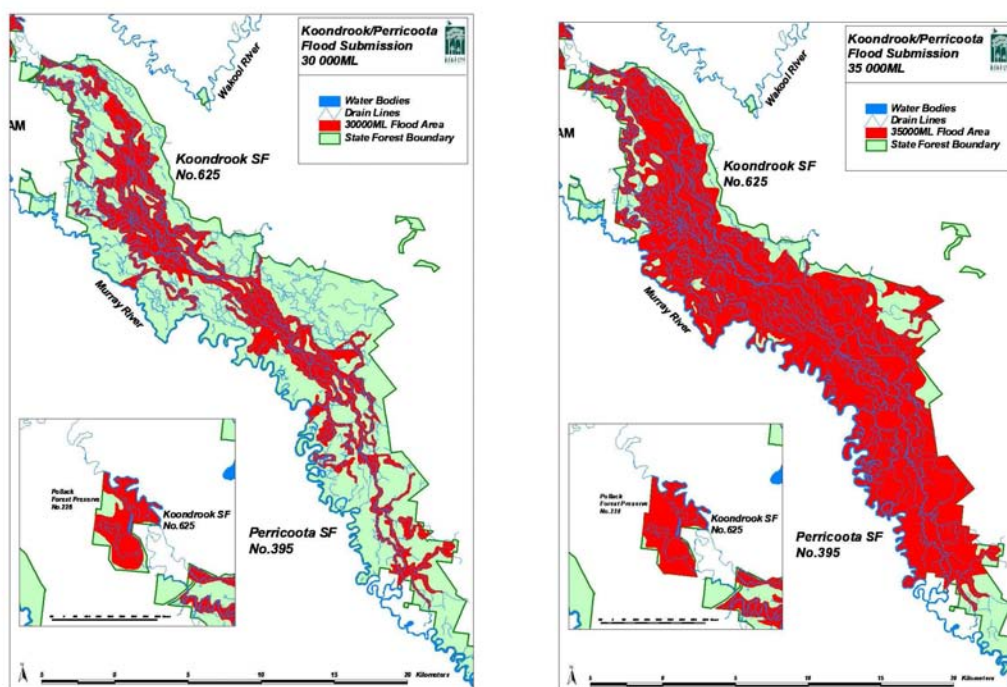


Figure A2.2. Koondrook – Perricoota Forest, Flood Area 30,000 ML and 35,000 ML

Table A2.1 compares the natural frequency of various flood events with the modelled current frequency and the expected frequency under climate change. For the purpose of the table, a flood is recorded whenever the threshold is exceeded for three months. From the table, a significant reduction in the frequency of flood events exceeding the commence-to-flow rates in the Koondrook-Perricoota Forest is evident.

Important implications for future management

The frequency of effective, large scale flooding (flows > 30,000 ML/day) has reduced by 61%, and is predicted to occur in only 7% of years under climate change, an 87% reduction compared to the natural frequency.

Table A2.1: Frequency of various flood events under natural, modelled current and climate change scenarios.

River Flow (ML/d)	Flood Count (% of years flow peaks above threshold)			Effective Flood (% of years flow exceeds threshold for at least 3 months)		
	Modelled Natural	Modelled Current	Median CC Scenario @2055	Modelled Natural	Modelled Current	Median CC Scenario @2055
15 000	95	54	35	91	43	28
20 000	91	44	23	84	34	18
25 000	81	36	17	71	28	9
30 000	68	28	10	56	22	7
35 000	58	23	8	45	16	4

A2.3 Flood Enhancement Works

The Flood Enhancement Works has been designed to provide the flexibility to operate within a range of flows. This ensures that it can deliver effective and measurable environmental outcomes across a broad range of available water. The proposed scheme is capable of achieving inundation of up to 52% of the forest, but can not maintain this extent. Maximum maintainable extent is 41%, with this reducing quickly during the flood recession.

The scheme broadly falls into two categories of key infrastructure (Attachment A contains further detail on Scheme design):

Upstream Structures

Generally, upstream structures allow diversion of water into the Forest from Torrumbarry Weir and escape regulators prevent flows re-entering the Murray River, and have been designed to:

- Divert & control up to 6000ML/d from Torrumbarry Weir Pool (RL86.05 +/- 0.05)
 - Contain diversion flow in U/S portion of cutting
 - Distribute flow to Forest along remainder of the cutting
 - In-channel flow at Bullock Head Creek around 500ML/d
 - Provide required fish passage in and out of Forest
 - Provide fresh water turtle escape route
-
- An excavated channel to connect Bullock Head Creek and the Burrumburly Creek System to the Torrumbarry Weir pool to enable the flow of water into the forest;
 - Upstream structures to allow diversion of water into the forest from Torrumbarry Weir and escape regulators at Swan Lagoon to prevent flows re-entering the Murray River;

Downstream Structures

Downstream Structures to regulate water leaving the forest thus providing for the most efficient use of water. The main structural components of the proposal are summarised as;

- Downstream structures to regulate water leaving the forest and to maximise return flows back to the Murray River when required. This will include a return channel to allow return flow back to the Murray River and a floodway to increase water returns to the Murray River.
- Downstream stoplog regulators will be constructed to control the flow of the water out of the forest.
- A regulator on the Thule creek at the forest boundary to control outflow.
- A levee around the downstream perimeter of the forest is required to protect adjoining properties from flooding.



Figure A2.4 Schematic representation of the proposed structures for the Koondrook-Perricoota Flood Enhancement Works

B. OBJECTIVES

B3. Objectives

B3.1 Primary Objective

The key ecological objective is:

“to provide an adequate water regime to a representative area of River Red Gum forest that has, or historically supported, a flood dependent understorey (macrophytes).”

This goal was selected for several reasons. flood dependent macrophytes are an integral component of wetland ecosystems, providing physical and structural habitat to a large variety of fauna species, including birds and fish. They also provide a crucial range of biochemical and biophysical services. These include primary production of organic material via photosynthesis; provision of biofilms enabling nutrient conversion between trophic levels; gaseous exchange and contributions to sediment/soil chemistry and facilitate carbon (energy) exchange between the floodplain and the river. A healthy water dependent macrophyte community is an essential element of a healthy floodplain ecosystem.

Furthermore, the distribution, growth and reproduction of River Red Gums and water dependent understorey plants are sensitive to the prevailing flood regime and therefore serve as valuable indicators of environmental change. Finally, a benchmark condition can be efficiently determined, as the taxonomy of vascular plants is well known, and macrophytes are relatively inexpensive to survey and monitor.

B 3.2 Secondary Objectives

A number of secondary ecological objectives have become apparent during the development of the Flood Enhancement Project. These do not drive or justify the project alone, but provide indications on how the project outcomes can be improved, where opportunities arise in the pursuit of the primary objective.

Implicit in the pursuit of an adequate water regime for River Red Gum forest supporting a flood dependent understorey, is the provision of water to shallow freshwater marshes (wetlands) within that forest. Shallow freshwater marshes require more frequent inundation than Red Gum, and benefit from more prolonged flooding and the persistence of water in pools and depressions.

A more natural frequency of flooding in wetlands that historically supported bird breeding events will inevitably provide benefits to waterbirds by improving nesting and foraging habitat, and providing cues for breeding. This benefit can be enhanced by providing for long duration flood events that support the ecological requirements for breeding colonial waterbirds. Providing a flood regime that supports occasional waterbird breeding events is therefore another secondary objective of the proposal.

Large flood events link the floodplain to the river channel, and provide breeding and foraging habitat for native fish. The ability of native fish to capitalise on the benefits of floodplain inundation is contingent on the provision of effective fish passage at critical locations. Fish passage has therefore been considered in the design of key structures, both to maximise fish outcomes, and to minimise fish-related risks that may arise through pursuit of the primary objective.

Swan Lagoon is a large, oxbow lagoon at the upstream end of the forest. The Lagoon is the primary inflow point for the forest and is a valuable wetland habitat. During feasibility investigations it became apparent that the proposal would allow for management of this Lagoon. Improvement in the frequency and duration of flooding in the Lagoon has therefore arisen as another secondary objective. Similarly, the proposal provides an opportunity to supply water to Pollack Swamp, a large wetland immediately downstream of the outflow points.

A final objective is to minimise environmental harm arising from pursuing watering objectives in the River Red Gum forest. Key risks identified include:

- over-watering other vegetation types such as Grey and/or Black Box, through excessive frequency, depth and/or duration;
- provision of breeding cues and habitat requirements for introduced species such as carp; and
- water quality risks such as the generation of anaerobic conditions (blackwater), possibly causing fish kills, or creating conditions conducive to blue-green algal blooms.
- Any additional environmental risks will be identified, and strategies for mitigation will be developed, during the Environmental Assessment process.

B3.3 Desired Watering Regime

A water regime that achieves this management goal would ensure that a significant proportion of KP Forest and a variety of ecosystems would be retained within the forest. Water regime requirements for vegetation classes and key species (taken from Icon Site EMP) to satisfy objectives is detailed in Table B3.1.

Table B3.1: Water Regime requirements for vegetation classes & key species

Vegetation class & Species	Water regime		
	Frequency	Duration	Timing
Wetland veg W'bird breeding Fish	6-9 yrs in 10	2-8 mths	August-Dec+
	6-9 yrs in 10	5-8 mths	Sept-Feb
	6-9 yrs in 10	2-4 mths	Aug-Nov
River Red Gum forest W'bird breeding	3-9 yrs in 10	4 mths	Aug-Nov
	3 yrs in 10	5-8 mths	Sept-Feb
River Red Gum woodland	1-4 yrs in 10	1-4 mths	Aug-Nov
Black Box	1-4 yrs in 10	1-4 mths	Sept, Oct
Grey box, sandhills	nil		

B3.4 Secondary Outcomes, Flexibility and Adaptive Management

The natural flow regime at the Icon Site provides a guide to the water requirements of the full gamut of ecological processes and communities that exist there. This regime is highly variable, and comprises floods of various magnitudes and durations, occurring at a range of frequencies. In general, small floods occur more frequently, and larger floods less frequently. The modelled natural flow regime downstream of Torrumbarry Weir is shown in Attachment B. It is highly desirable that the Flood Enhancement Project provide a very flexible delivery mechanism that is capable of delivering a range of flood events, able to sustain a range of ecological processes and elements, for example:

- Frequent, low flows (but exceeding the commence to flow levels) to maintain the wetland habitats occurring in lagoons, depressions and flood runners;
- Less frequent floods of medium magnitude to maintain the extent of the Red Gum communities, with larger floods maintaining the extremities, and smaller floods supporting the core areas with flood dependent understorey communities (primary objective);
- Flood events of long duration to cue and facilitate bird breeding; and
- Very large, infrequent flood events to provide an occasional boost to the fringing Black Box communities.

While predictive models provide some guidance, the exact ecological outcomes arising from operation of the proposed structures will be unknown until they have been operated in real time, under a range of antecedent conditions. In line with adaptive management principles,

it will be important to be able to alter the operation of the structures, both during operations and from one operation to the next, in order to react to the ecological response observed. Furthermore, the exact nature of both unregulated and regulated river flows, and the quantum of environmental water available, is unknown. Flexible operation and the ability to capitalise on a variety of flow events, is therefore an important element of structure design.

C. OPERATING CONTEXT

C4. Framework - Planning and Institutional

C4.1 The Living Murray Business Plan and Environmental Watering Plan

TLM Business Plan and overarching Environmental Watering Plan set the policy context for the TLM program. Amongst other things, the documents set out how environmental watering decisions are made, how water use is accounted, and how the outcomes are to be reported. As TLM is moving from a phase of water recovery and small scale watering activities, into a longer term program of large scale watering activities, both of these documents are to be reviewed in 2009.

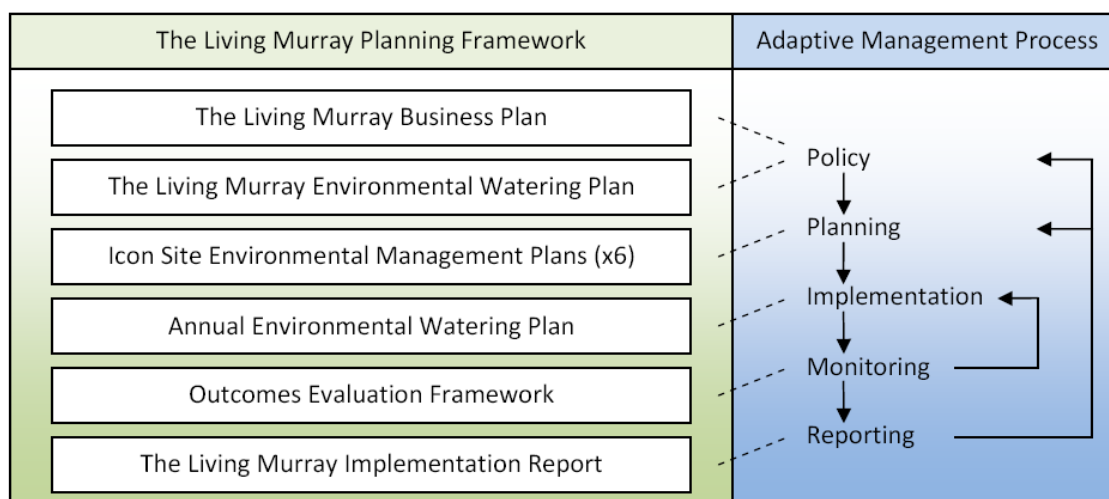


Figure C4.1: The Living Murray planning framework and links to typical adaptive management process

C4.2 Icon Site Environmental Management Plans

Each icon site has an Environmental Management Plan. The document sets out land management responsibilities, environmental objectives and targets, activities to be undertaken to achieve those objectives, consultation arrangements, complementary actions, and the monitoring framework for the site.

Since the existing plans were written there has been substantial progress on the development of the proposed environmental works and measures. It is now clear that these will become the major mechanism to achieve the environmental objectives at most sites. The current Icon Site Environmental Management Plans are therefore to be reviewed and updated during 2009. A focus of the review will be the development of operating plans for the proposed works, including the adaptive management and monitoring framework.

C4.3 Annual Environmental Watering Plan

An Annual Environmental Watering plan is prepared at the beginning of each ‘water’ year (the water year is from July to June, aligning with the seasons and water allocation policy in the River Murray system). The plan is typically prepared around May/June for the forthcoming year. It sets the environmental watering priorities under The Living Murray for the next 12 month period by:

- Considering current and likely water availability for the forthcoming year;
- Considering the need and priority of watering activities at the icon sites; and
- Establishing a decision making framework for watering actions for the forthcoming year, based on water availability and unfolding conditions at the icon sites.

The Annual Environmental Water plan is built up from inputs from the Icon Site Managers. The need and priority of watering activities for the individual sites considers the condition of the sites, recent watering history, ecological outcomes to be targeted in that year, and other conditions, particularly related to environmental and third-party risks.

The relative priority of the proposed watering activities across the icon sites is then compared and a hierarchy of watering actions is developed aligning with water availability thresholds and other implementation criteria. A decision making structure is established so that rapid decisions can be made during the water year as it unfolds and water becomes available.

C4.3 Implementation of Watering Actions

The Annual Environmental Watering Plan is deliberately structured to be adaptive in response to water availability and other environmental conditions. Implementation of the associated watering activities is also adaptive. Implementation commences in June-July but would continue for the whole watering year.

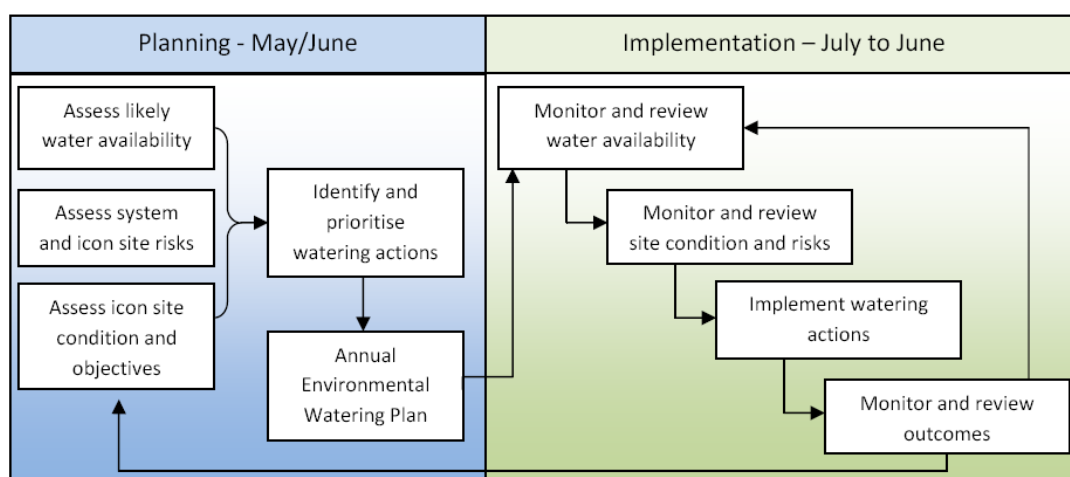


Figure C4.2 : The Living Murray environmental water planning and implementation

On an ongoing basis the MDBA and EWG review the Annual Environmental Watering Plan against the availability of environmental water. Actions are selected and approval is sought for the use of the associated water. Approval to utilise The Living Murray water is provided by the MDBA, while the use of unregulated flows may need approval from State agencies.

C4.4 Environmental Watering Group

It is envisaged that the Environmental Watering Group (EWG) would oversee the implementation of the environmental watering plan for the River Murray System each year. EWG would meet as required to provide advice and feedback to MDBA and jurisdictions regarding how environmental operations for the overall River Murray System were proceeding, as well as event planning and prioritisation for the coming weeks and months as appropriate.

C4.5 Outcomes Evaluation Framework

The Outcomes Evaluation Framework (OEF) is the framework for monitoring and evaluating the outcomes of environmental watering and the achievement of the icon site objectives under The Living Murray. The current framework was finalised in 2007. It has led to the development of condition monitoring plans for the icon sites (which feed into the annual icon site condition reports) and investment in many intervention monitoring projects that have improving understanding of ecosystem processes and the specific outcomes of watering actions.

As the proposed environmental works are nearing construction, and there is now a good understanding of the associated risks and adaptive management requirements, it was recently agreed that the OEF will be reviewed. The framework will need to accommodate and focus on the requirements for adaptive management of large scale environmental watering activities, and the need to monitor and respond to the identified risks. An updated OEF will drive the development of detailed monitoring plans for the proposed environmental works.

C5. Water Availability

C5.1 Regulated, water that is subject to an entitlement, and Unregulated

From a regulatory point of view water can be sourced from different types of entitlements that have different reliability definitions. These entitlements can be accessed at varying times because they have different triggers describing when and under what conditions they become available. Potentially the different entitlement types which could be used at the site include any entitlement that is deemed available for use in an environmental watering context. This is complex, in that within the regulated water category alone there are the following available entitlement types: NSW General Security, NSW High Security, NSW Supplementary, Victorian High Reliability Water Share, and South Australian Water Entitlement.

There are various account managers including the Living Murray (MDBA) water manager, the Commonwealth Water Manager, the States' water managers and, potentially individuals who may deem it appropriate to plan for their entitlements to be used in the Koondrook Perricoota Forest for environmental watering purposes.

Additionally both NSW and Victoria have sovereign access to their own Unregulated Flows – flows that are surplus to other requirements as described in the NSW Water Sharing Plans, in the Victorian Bulk Entitlements and in the Murray Darling Basin Agreement.

C5.2 Commonwealth Water

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder manages the water entitlements that the Commonwealth is currently acquiring through the following programs:

- The *Restoring the Balance in the Basin* program will purchase water entitlements from willing sellers.
- The *Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure* program will be investing in infrastructure improvements and other projects to help communities make an early adjustment in anticipation of the new Murray-Darling Basin cap. Where a share of water savings is acquired by the Government these entitlements will also be managed as part of the environmental water holdings.

The amount of water available for use depends on the volumes acquired and seasonal water allocations. The role of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder is to protect and restore the environmental assets of the Murray-Darling Basin or assets outside of the Basin where water is held for that area. The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder is currently developing a long-term framework for prioritising environmental watering actions.

C5.3 NSW Environmental Water

The main tool used for managing the NSW's water resources are Water Sharing Plans. These are used to set out the rules for the sharing of water in a particular water source between water users and the environment and rules for the trading of water in a particular water source. The environmental rules in the water sharing plans are designed to:

- limit extractions so that the major share of water is protected – between 56% and 80% of the average annual water in the regulated river systems will be retained in the river – amounting to over five million megalitres (a megalitre is a million litres) in the inland systems¹.
- replicate natural flow patterns or events so as to provide water when and where it will best meet environmental needs - on average the rules for the regulated rivers will return an additional 220,000 ML of water to the environment over and above that required under the Murray Darling Basin cap.
- the Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray - Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources has planned water that is to be provided to the Barmah Millewa Forest allocation. There can be up to 500 GL of this (half contributed from NSW and half contributed from Victoria). This water is not to be used for other purposes than to water the Barmah Millewa Forests. It also has Adaptive Environmental Allocations which can total 32,027 ML in any one year. This water is potentially available for use within Living Murray Icons Sites.

C5.4 Unregulated Flows

Unregulated flows are normally declared by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission when high flows are forecast to occur that are in excess of that required to meet South Australia's entitlement flow and cannot be captured and re-regulated in Murray System storages. This declaration triggers processes to permit use of the unregulated flows for purposes and under rules that vary between jurisdictions.

C5.2 TLM Water

The Living Murray has implemented a range of water recovery measures. The TLM water will include a range of different water entitlements with difference use provisions and reliability. The amount of water available for use will vary from year to year with changes in water availability. In relatively 'wet' years there will be much more than 500 GL available, whilst in relatively 'dry' years there may be much less than 500 GL. Based on historical climate conditions the average will be about 500 GL per annum.

¹ These are non climate adjusted figures and relate to the modelled return to NSW Water Sources at the time of the enacting of the Inland Water Sharing Plans in 2006.

The portfolio will also include 'regulated' water that can be 'called' from storages, and water that is 'unregulated' that is available in some higher flow situations (consequently it cannot be 'called' from storages – this water is sometimes called non-callable).

Some of the water will be able to be carried over from one year to the next which then means the water is in the account at the start of the new water year, this will potentially mean that in low inflow years some sites can gain access to TLM water at the start of the water year on the 1st of July. Table C5.1 outlines the likely make-up of the environmental water portfolio at the end of 2009.

Table C5.1: Likely makeup of The Living Murray environmental water portfolio at end of 2009

Type of Water	LTCE (GL)	Entitlement Volume (GL)			
		High Security	General Security	Low Security	Total
Callable	418 to 440	123	225 to 239	260 to 268	608 to 631
Non-callable	68	-	-	-	377

Figure C5.1 shows the expected variability in availability of environmental water under historical climate and 2030 median (or best estimate) climate change conditions (as per CSIRO Sustainable Yields project 2008). Only callable entitlements are shown. The data also includes an additional 70 GL of River Murray Increased Flows from Snowy Water Inquiry Outcomes Implementation Deed, which is also available for use under The Living Murray.

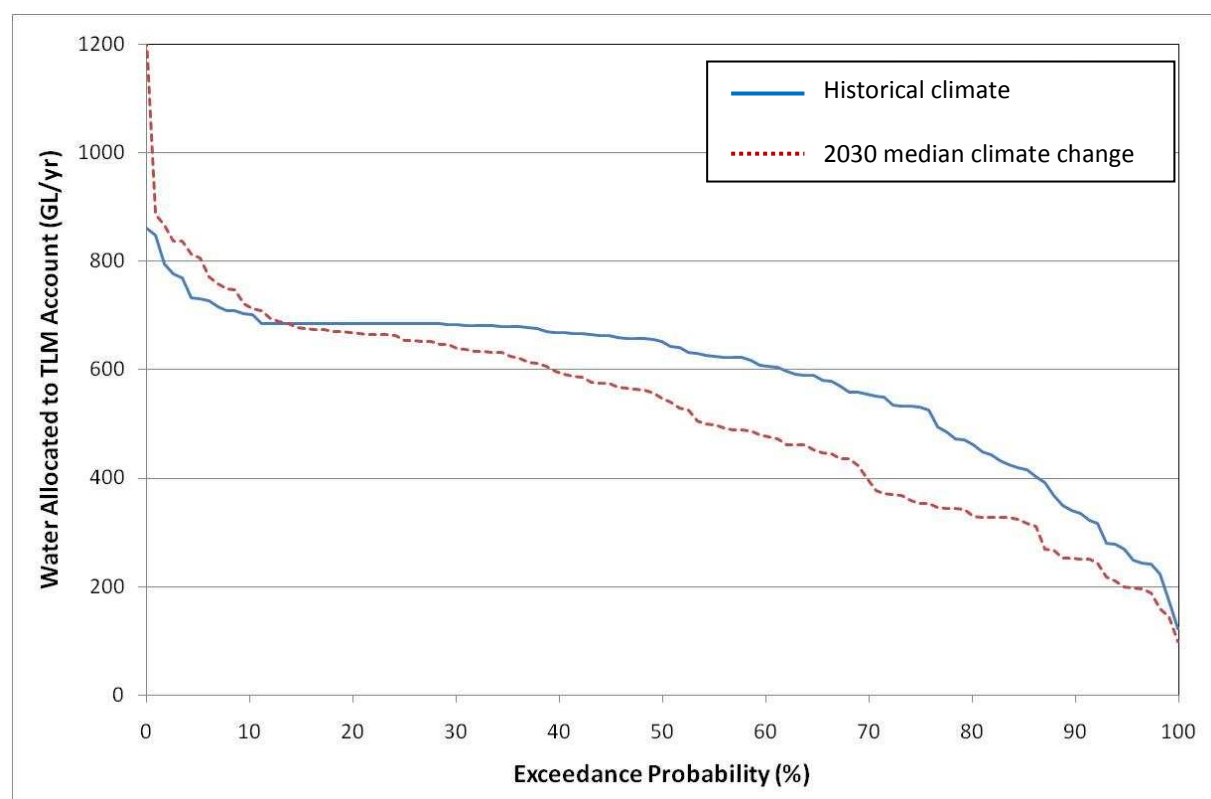


Figure C5.1: Predicted allocation to The Living Murray environmental water account under historical climate and 2030 median climate change

C6. Operational Constraints & Hydrologic Conditions

C6.1 System Constraints

The Figure C6.1 shows the schematic of the broader system and summarises the system travel time in days. It shows travel time within the Goulburn River system from Eildon Dam to Torrumbarry Weir is 11 days and similarly within the Murray system from Hume Dam to Torrumbarry Weir is 11 days.

C6.2 Hydrologic Conditions

With reference to hydrologic conditions in the River Murray downstream of Torrumbarry Weir, the operation of the proposed flood enhancement project can occur in one of three ways:

1. For flow events <18000 ML/d, water can be delivered to the forest through the inlet channel, and
2. For flow events >18000 ML/d, water can enter the forest through natural watercourses/effluents, potentially supplemented with water delivered through the inlet channel.
3. There will also be larger flood events within the forest when the flood enhancement project is not operated.

Table 6.1 explains the relationship between the river flow to the forest inflow to the % inundation.

Table 6.1 Relationship between river flow and inflows to Koondrook-Perricoota Forest

River flow	Inflow to forest	Inundated area	
ML/day	ML/day	ha	% of total
15,000	0	-	-
20,000	300	500	2
25,000	1,500	3520	11
30,000	3,800	10,300	33
35,000	6500	25,000	80

The in-bank capacity of Barbers Creek is significantly impacted by the presence of four constructed block banks and one debris bank downstream of the Scheme. Outflows to the Barbers Creek system are constrained to 250 ML/d, unless downstream private infrastructure is removed by prior natural flow or through a system upgrade.

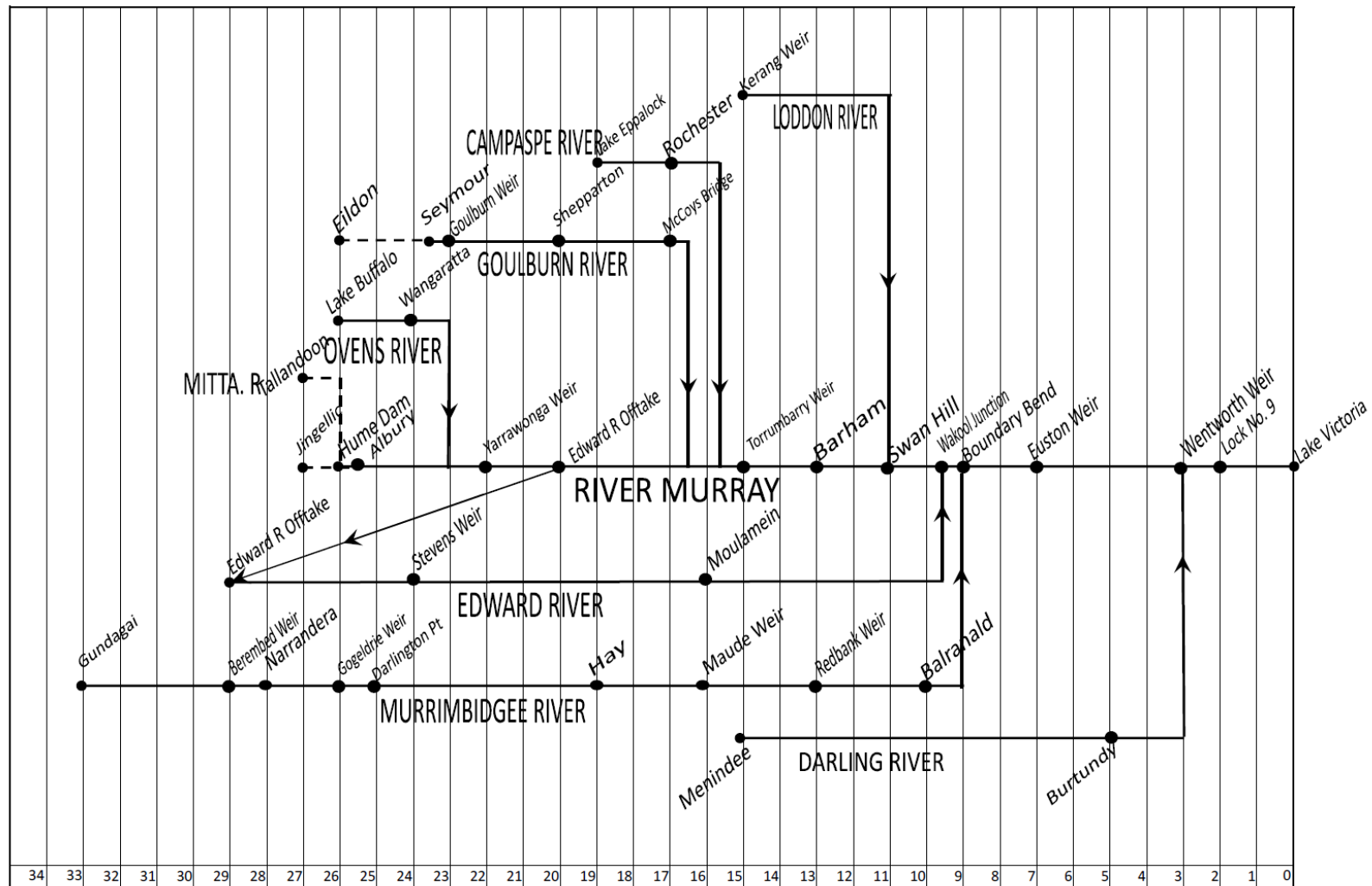


Figure C6.1 : System Travel Time in Days to Lake Victoria

C6.3 Operational Constraints

Inlet Regulator & Channel - The top of regulator gates closed will have RL 86.55 (flood of record) & diversion capacity of flows between 2000 ML/d and 6000 ML/d with a max. velocity at structure = 1.57 m/s. The inlet channel is designed for a maximum velocity of 0.6 m/s.

Swan Lagoon – A maximum velocity of 10 m/s and minimum depth of 300 mm. Waterway areas of 60% waterway at RL84 (top of sheet piling) and 80% at top of banks RL85 approximately.

Return Regulator & Channel - Ability to regulate return flows up to 1850 ML/d and contain the downstream pool to RL 78.5 Up to 1,850 ML/d. Flows can be returned to down to invert level of the return channel regulator, being 77.3m AHD.

Downstream Levee & Regulators – The downstream levee will contain a maximum design pool at RL78.5. Under some circumstances, the release rate to Barbers Creek may be constrained by flooding risks to downstream landholders.

D. WATER OPERATIONS

D7. Governance

D7.1 River Murray Operations - MDBA

MDBA will be responsible for the operational control of the Koondrook-Perricoota structures, as these works will be an important component of all River Murray System works. River Murray Operations staff of MDBA oversee and co-ordinate all water deliveries along the River Murray System.

River Murray Operations staff will issue instructions on a day to day basis for regulator settings and flow releases, the same as it does for other major works along the river system. Appropriate arrangements for onsite control of the works (responding to MDBA instructions) will be put in place through the jurisdictions.

D7.2 Operations Committee

For site specific advice on watering at Koondrook/Perricoota, River Murray Operations will also establish a small 'Operations Committee' to provide advice to MDBA regarding event management and day-to-day management of the structures. Other 'Operational Committees' will also be established for other sites along the river system as required.

The Operations Committee will include MDBA and jurisdictional representatives, including the persons actually involved in day-to-day management of the structures (including Goulburn-Murray Water staff at Torrumbarry Weir), Operations Manager (State Water), the Environmental Manager (Forests NSW) and ex-officio members (Murray CMA and Victorian representatives) as required. The 'Operations Committee' will meet weekly, or as required, to provide feedback on how the operation was going and to plan ahead for the next week. Between these meetings, River Murray Operations will make the operational decisions required to implement the watering plan in the best possible way taking into consideration the other water requirements along the river system.

One member of the Operations Committee will be responsible for stakeholder management during the event. Specifically, liaising with downstream landholders, informing the wider community and managing media releases.

The Environmental Manager (Forests NSW) will be responsible for environmental monitoring, reporting and advice to River Murray Operations. A fish expert will report to the Environmental Manager and will be responsible for providing advice on fish risks and opportunities. The Operations Manager (State Water) will manage operation and

maintenance of all structures within the Scheme, utilising Goulburn Murray Water and Wakool Shire Council for day-to-day operation of the Scheme.

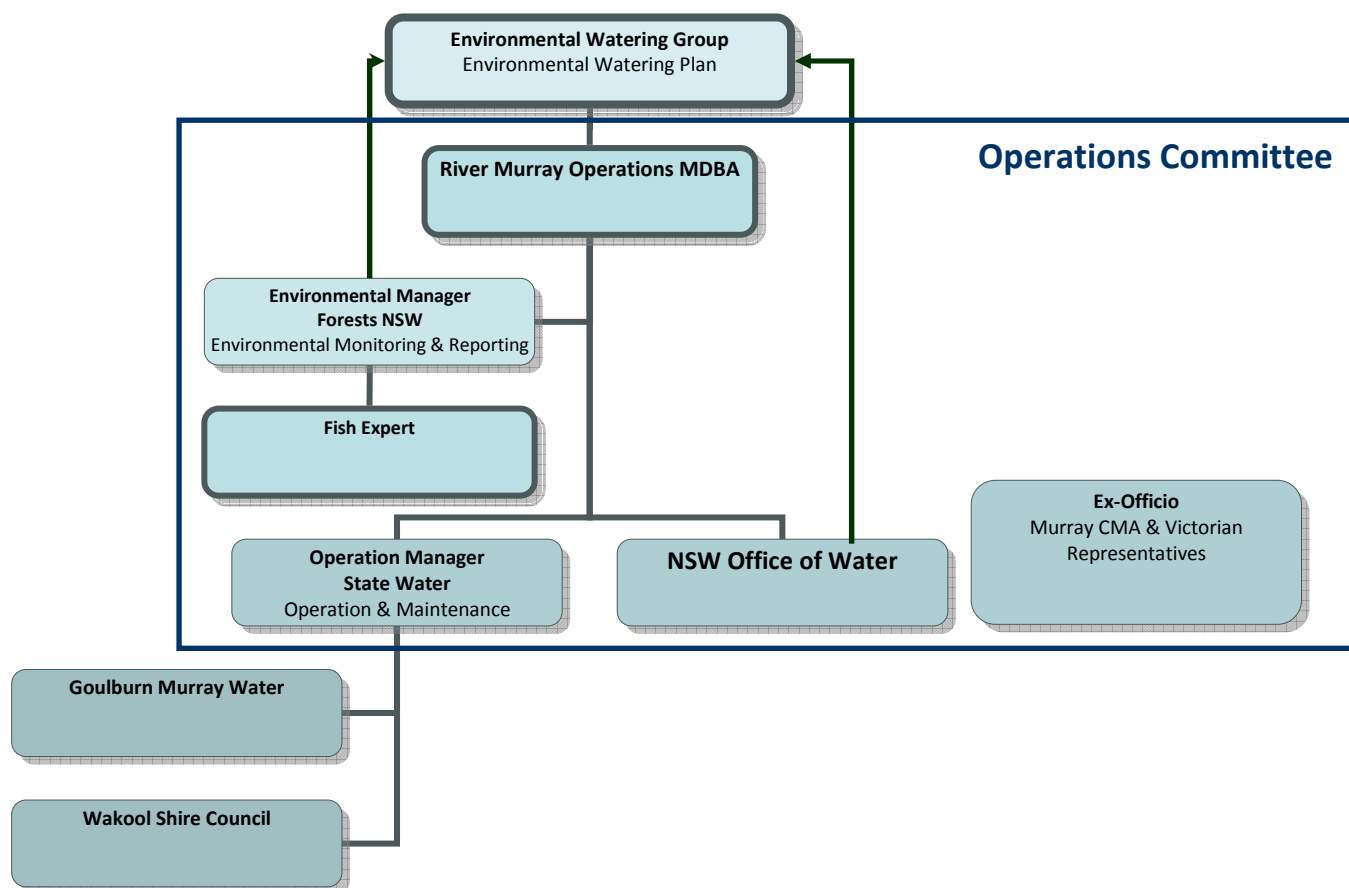


Figure C7.1 : Institutional structure water planning and implementation

To date The Living Murray has implemented relatively small watering activities, but once the water recovery program is complete and the proposed environmental works are constructed, much larger scale watering will be possible and adaptive management will become increasingly important.

The works can be operated to target specific environmental outcomes. It is likely that different events will target different outcomes (eg short duration events to maintain vegetation, longer duration events to enable successful bird breed), and to achieve long term objectives planning for future watering events will give careful consideration to the environmental outcomes of past events. Future monitoring plans will need good experimental design so that information is available to inform these decisions.

D8. Watering Principles

The Operations Committee will base decisions to initiate watering events and management of watering events, on an established set of Watering Principles, based on a heuristic rule approach.

D8.1 Watering Principles - initiation

The decision to initiate watering is based on considerations and constraints of the operating environment.

- Water availability and water requirement are the foundations for the decision to initiate a watering event.
- Clear ecological targets will be defined before initiating a watering event.
- Watering events will aim to maximise net environmental benefits.
- Early watering during cooler months (Winter and early Spring) will be favoured over Summer watering.
- Large watering events will not commence beyond October.
- Overbank flows will be favoured as a cue for initiating watering.
- Unregulated water will be used when beneficial.
- Autumn watering will be considered if environmental water is not made available until late in the season.

D8.2 Watering Principles - management

The management of a watering event will be based on the following principles:

- The initial ecological target will be pursued for as long as practicable.
- Modelled natural hydrographs will be used as a guide during the management of an event.
- Where beneficial, managed watering will prolong or enhance overbank flow.
- Downstream regulators will only be used to the extent needed to achieve the required objectives.
- Watering operations will aim to minimise impacts to third party property.
- The protection of watering infrastructure overrides meeting environmental targets.
- Inflows through Swan Lagoon will be favoured over equivalent inflows through the inlet channel.
- Use of Barbers Creek will be maximised, where possible. However, very small inflow events may require as much water as possible to be retained in the forest for the achievement of ecological objectives.

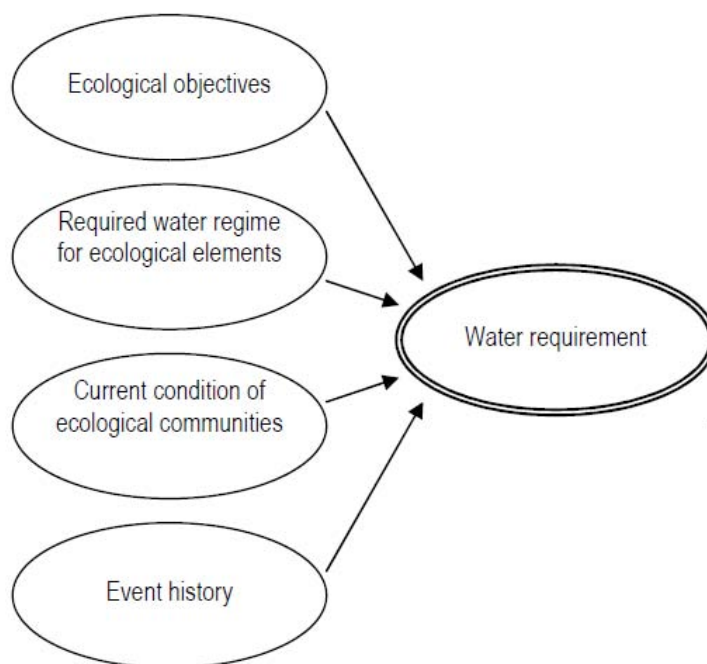
D9. Decision-making

D9.1 Decision to Water

The decision to water will be based heavily on the water requirement of the ecological system and the availability of water, will be guided by the series of Watering Principles, and tempered by risk management strategies. Figure D9.1 shows the decision making process and some of the parameters that will be considered.

Water Requirement

The need for water is defined by the ecological objectives of the project, the natural water regime for the various ecological communities and processes, the condition of the site, and the recent flooding history.



The over-arching ecological objective is described in Section B3 and contributes to the maintenance and restoration of a mosaic of healthy floodplain communities by meeting the critical needs of the River Red Gum community. Further objectives refer to healthy wetlands, waterbird breeding events, native fish passage and residence, and Swan Lagoon.

The natural water regimes required by key ecological communities and processes have been described in Section B3. The water requirements specify the frequency, duration and seasonality of the required flooding regime and are a reflection of the

pre-regulation flood history. Watering will aim to deliver a regime that minimises over- or under-watering, that is watering outside the natural regime. Watering will generally begin in late Winter-Spring.

The current condition of the site will be informed by a long term condition monitoring program focusing on fish, bird and vegetation. Key variables for consideration when determining the water requirement will include: recent history of successful waterbird breeding events, time since the last successful River Red Gum regeneration event, condition of bush birds (passerines – as a measure of forest health), understory condition, River Red Gum crown health, and wetland plant health including structural habitat for bird breeding.

The recent flooding history assists the determination of the water requirement. Critical parameters for consideration include: time since the last event, and recent event descriptors including duration, extent, frequency, seasonality, and variability.

The current modelled natural hydrograph (that is, water that the site would be currently receiving if the River were unregulated) can also provide clues as to whether an event is ecologically desirable. It is understood that migratory birds, and possibly other fauna anticipate flooding in response to current inflows.

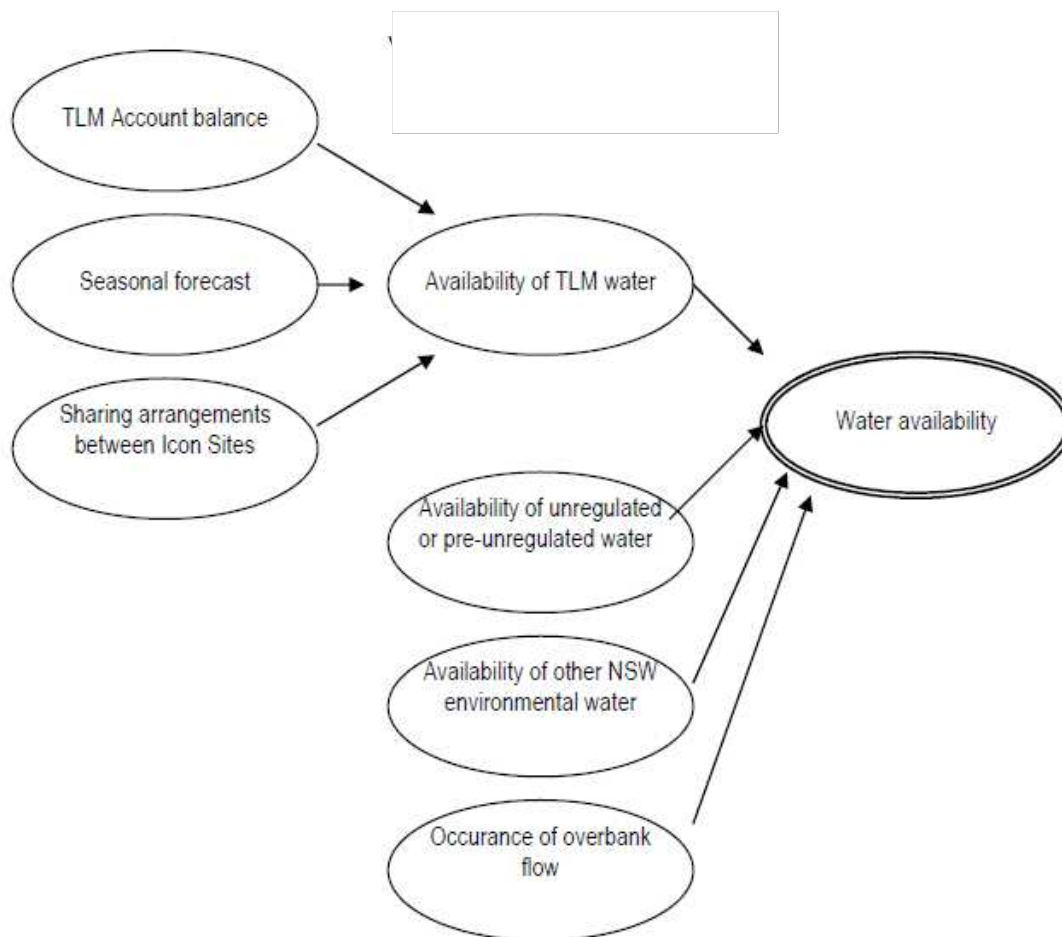
Water availability

Water availability is a function of various water account balances, the seasonal outlook, sharing arrangements with other parties, and the occurrence of overbank flow.

Water accounts change throughout the water year as allocations are progressively announced. Carry-over will be available at the start of some watering years (July), but most water will become progressively available. The seasonal outlook, particularly inflow forecasts will be critical to determining the likelihood of water becoming available later in the season. In some years, the water will not become available until after Summer, necessitating consideration of Autumn watering.

TLM water is to be shared with other Icon Sites. The process for allocating TLM water is described in Section C5. This process will occur around May, and will progressively determine the distribution of TLM water as the season unfolds. Allocation of TLM water to the Koondrook-Perricoota site will include the probability of various volumes, and the triggers that will make the water available, rather than a fixed volume committed in advance. Other NSW environmental water will most likely be made available in the same manner, as will water held by the Commonwealth Water Holder.

Unregulated water will be made available as per normal declaration rules. Unregulated flows are made available on very little notice (although their occurrence can be predicted from recent and current inflows) and must be taken immediately.



The occurrence of overbank flow will provide a strong argument for initiating a managed event. Overbank flow provides an ecological cue to birds and possibly other fauna, and wets up the main distributaries, increasing the effectiveness of subsequent watering. Overbank flows may also occur during a managed event and will be carefully managed so that the Swan Lagoon regulators do not exclude small overbank events. The inflow channel may need to be shut off to enable the Swan Lagoon regulators to receive overbank flows. Natural inflows will be preferred over managed inflow because it provides for superior fish passage and may avoid excessive flooding in grey box communities.

D9.2 Decision-making during events

There is no single way to operate the proposed Koondrook-Perricoota Flood Enhancement works. The operation of the Scheme will target the long-term achievement of the environmental objectives as they respond to water availability, watering history, risks and engineering constraints. Implementation of specific watering events will need to adapt to:

- Changes in water availability that may enable the watering activity to be extended or varied to achieve additional or different environmental outcomes (eg a watering

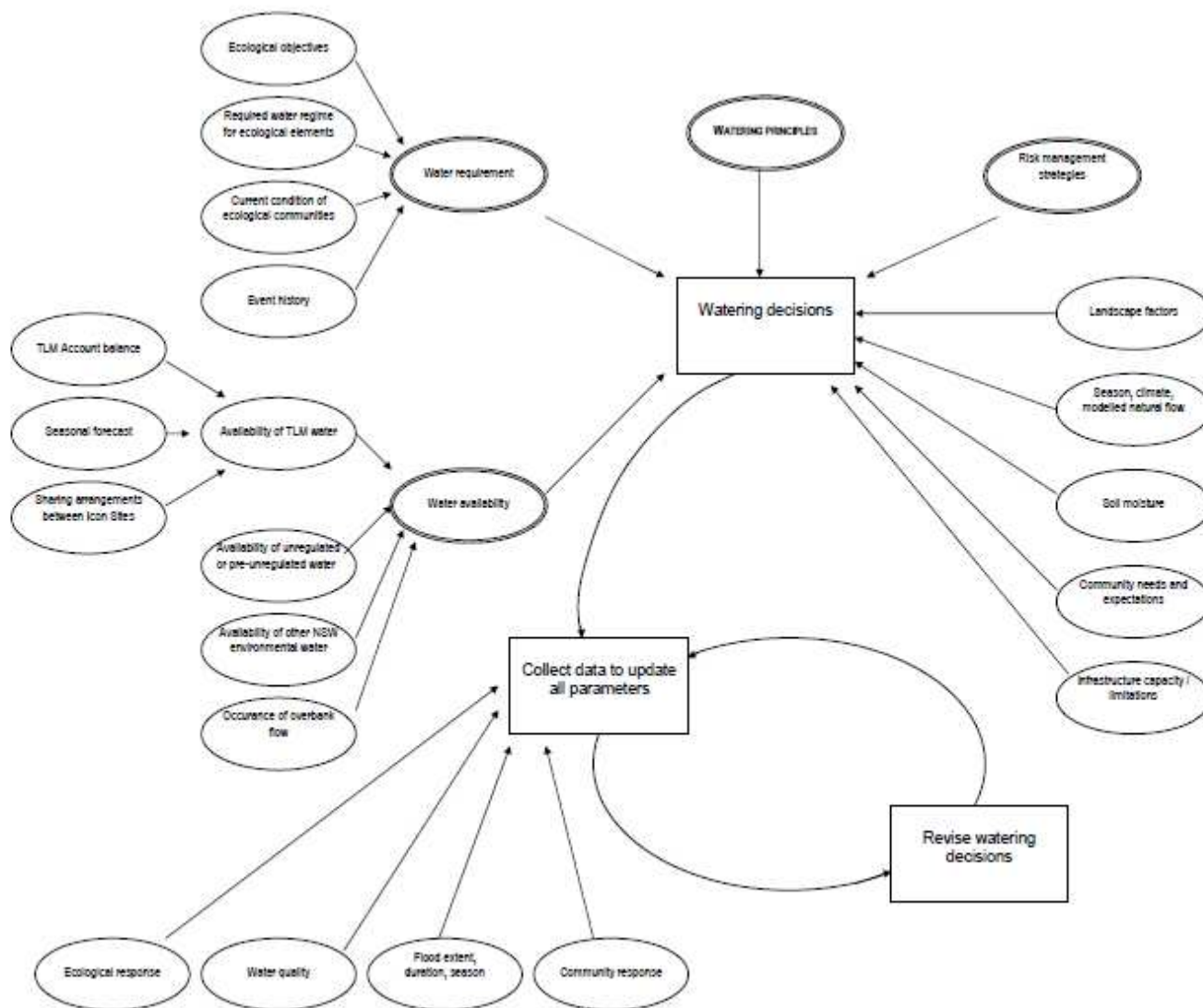


Figure D9.1: Decision making flow diagram

- event initiated to provide a vegetation response may be extended to enable colonial nesting waterbird breeding to occur);
- Monitoring of environmental outcomes (eg if a fish spawning event is observed then the event may be extended to allow this to complete);
- Monitoring of environmental risks (eg salinity, blue-green algae or blackwater); and
- Monitoring of impacts on third-parties (eg impacts on downstream landholders or other communities)

The Operations Committee will meet weekly, or as required, to provide feedback on how the operation is progressing and to plan ahead for the following week. The Committee will be responsive to changes in the operating environment, detected through both formal and informal (observation) monitoring. Figure D9.1 shows the decision making process and the key parameters that will be considered by the Operations Committee. Key parameters remain the same as when deciding to initiate an event.

The water requirement will be re-evaluated regularly throughout the operation based on monitoring of the ecological response at the site, and the flood parameters.

Key ecological response parameters include:

- Tree crown response (presence of leaf growth)
- Wetland response, including vegetation, macroinvertebrates and frogs
- Native fish behaviour, particularly passage through structures and spawning
- Waterbird behaviour, particularly mating, nesting and fledging

Key flood parameters include:

- Inundation extent
- Duration of the event so far
- Time of year/season
- The shape of the inflow hydrograph

Watering decisions will take account the changing water availability scenario, including updated account balances, forecasts, water sharing decisions, unregulated flow availability and overbank flow.

D9.3 Risk Management Strategies

Risk management strategies will be responsive to monitoring information collected in the field. Additional parameters of particular interest include:

- Water quality both within the forest and at outflow points, particularly dissolved oxygen levels and the presence of blue-green algae
- The nature of water in key terrestrial communities such as Grey Box
- Pest fish behaviour, particularly passage through structures and spawning of carp
- Public response to the event, particularly from neighbours and landholders receiving floodwaters from the forest.

Additional considerations include the physical condition of the scheme infrastructure, and estimated water use.

An ecological risk assessment has been prepared for the flood enhancement scheme. The assessment identified a number of risks and possible mitigation measures. Many of these can be managed or mitigated to varying extents by developing and implementing appropriate operating strategies, particularly for the downstream structures. Monitoring of the risks together with response plans and triggers will also assist in managing the risks. Key ecological risks that can be addressed through wise operation of the structures include:

- Damage to terrestrial communities from flood waters, especially Grey Box.
- Blackwater production in the forest and subsequent release into the Barber Creek and Wakool River.
- Algal blooms in the forest and release into the Barber Creek and Wakool River.
- Depletion of fish populations in the Murray River due to diversion of flow pulses.
- Reduced fish recruitment in the Murray River due to diversion of eggs and larvae.
- Development of pest fish populations (including carp) in the forest and subsequent release into the Barber Creek and Murray and Wakool Rivers.

Vegetation

Grey Box is considered a terrestrial community, although it does occur in a mixed type with River Red Gum, suggesting at least a low tolerance to flooding. The Scheme has the capacity to inundate areas of Grey box in excess of natural water requirements, particularly at the upstream end of the forest where the inlet channel disperses diverted water. Water to Grey Box communities will be minimised through use of natural inflow points where conditions allow, rather than complete reliance on the inlet channel. Disbenefits to Grey Box will be weighed against benefits to other vegetation communities when making watering decisions.

The tolerance to sustained inundation of River Red Gum currently in very poor health. This risk may be managed by initially applying short duration flooding or trialling flooding of limited areas to monitor the impact. However, it is acknowledged that there is potential for this risk to occur if a natural flood event arose and that death will also result if trees are not watered.

Blackwater

Production of blackwater occurs when submerged organic matter decays, creating tannin-rich water which subsequently becomes anoxic. The anoxic conditions present a risk to fish and crayfish if they cannot find safe, alternative oxygenated habitat. The likelihood of anoxic water increases with long residence times, summer inundation and stratification in deep water.

The potential to promote anoxic conditions will be considered as part of watering decisions. Strategies to mitigate blackwater risks include:

- Water quality monitoring will inform watering decisions.
- Early watering (winter/early Spring) will be favoured to keep water temperatures low.

- Flow-through scenarios will be implemented where practicable, with due regard to downstream constraints in the Barber Creek and trade-offs with the ecological cost of reduced flood duration and/or extent in the Forests.
- The passage of natural flows through the forest will be useful for periodically flushing organic matter from the Forests.
- Outflows can be controlled to minimise the release of highly anoxic water into receiving systems, in terms of gross volume, and also by releasing water from more oxygenated parts of the pool.
- Flow rates in the Wakool and Murray Rivers may be manipulated to provide diluting flows to minimise potential impacts to these systems.

The significance of algal blooms has not yet been fully evaluated, but the risk is expected to be low. Blue-green algae more commonly form blooms in late summer and autumn, which is when the forest will generally be dry. There is some potential for small autumn watering events but these are likely to be restricted to the more permanent wetland areas and unlikely to require pooling large volumes of water. However, it is anticipated that a more detailed evaluation of this risk will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment process. Mitigation measures will be developed once the risk is better understood. Monitoring for the presence of blue-green algae in the forest will be undertaken during events.

Fish Impacts

The Scheme poses a number of risks to native fish populations including depletion of spawning triggers by diverting flow pulses from the River, diversion and stranding of large native fish eggs and larvae, and an increase in exotic fish populations (including carp). A fish passage structure has been built into the scheme to allow for flexible management but mitigation measures are problematic due to knowledge gaps regarding fish behaviour.

Re-connection of the floodplain to the river system is important for fish recruitment as floodplains are the nursery for fish. In addition the return of water from the floodplain is likely to stimulate within the river ecosystem. Implementing large diversion events outside of main fish spawning times will reduce impacts on native fish spawning. There may also be opportunities to create positive fish outcomes in the Barbers, Wakool system by releasing more water through the downstream regulators, although this may have trade-offs in the Murray.

It is anticipated that the Operations Committee that makes the watering decisions will include a fish expert in order to identify ways of maximising benefits to native fish and minimising disbenefits. Monitoring of fish behaviour during watering events will inform subsequent decision making.

Land Use & Social Issues

Potential land use and social risks have been identified but are yet to be fully evaluated. Risks of this kind occur primarily as a result of modifications to the flooding regime in the Barber Creek, downstream of the Forests, where water exiting the Forests pass

through private property. The Environmental Assessment process will identify any likely affected land users and the potential to cause land use conflicts with neighbouring and downstream uses as a result of the operation and recommend mitigation measures. One member of the Operations Committee will be responsible for stakeholder management during the event. Specifically, they will liaise with downstream landholders, inform the wider community and manage media releases.

Additional ecological, social and economic risks arising from the operation of the scheme will be identified and addressed during the Environmental Impact Assessment process and through environmental monitoring. The outcomes of this process will be incorporated into future versions of this plan.

D9.4 Other Considerations

The decision to water will also take account of a variety of relevant parameters including:

- Antecedent soil moisture – This will impact on infiltration rates and affect the rate of spread of flood waters, time to fill the pool, and required water volume.
- Landscape factors – Particularly relevant to waterbird needs, the presence or recent history of waterbird breeding in Gunbower Forest, Barmah-Millewa, and other locations in the Murray Darling Basin may influence the targeted ecological objective.
- Season – Watering during cooler months is preferred. Depending on the water requirements at the site, water made available during Summer may be rejected in favour of Autumn watering.
- Climate – Watering during widespread drought will be avoided except for the maintenance of critical processes and drought refuges.
- Modelled natural flow – Flow that would have occurred at the site if there were no river regulation, provides a clue for appropriate timing of events.
- Community needs and expectations – Watering planning will take account of the projected impact on the local community in terms of forest use and off-site impacts.
- Infrastructure capacity and limitations – See section C6 for constraints posed by infrastructure limitations.

D10 Predicted Operation 1990-2005

The following provides some detail around how the scheme might have been operated had it been constructed as proposed.

D10.1 Predicted Operation

MSM-Bigmod is two computer based models that work together - output from MSM (Monthly Simulation Model) feeds into Bigmod (a daily simulation model). MSM models monthly volumes of water in the river system based on inflows (from rainfall and tributaries), storage volumes and outflows (including diversions and losses). It models the River Murray system from Dartmouth Dam to the Murray mouth, including the Lower Darling River. It is used for:

- planning seasonal allocations
- planning releases from storages
- water accounting
- salinity modelling

Utilising predicted flow under the CSIRO Median Climate Change Scenario 2030, data from 1990 – 2005 was used to predict how the Scheme would be operated in a real-time sense based on Watering Principles and with respect to water available through the TLM account and natural inflows. The years 1990 – 2005 were used as it demonstrates a relatively wet and dry periods.

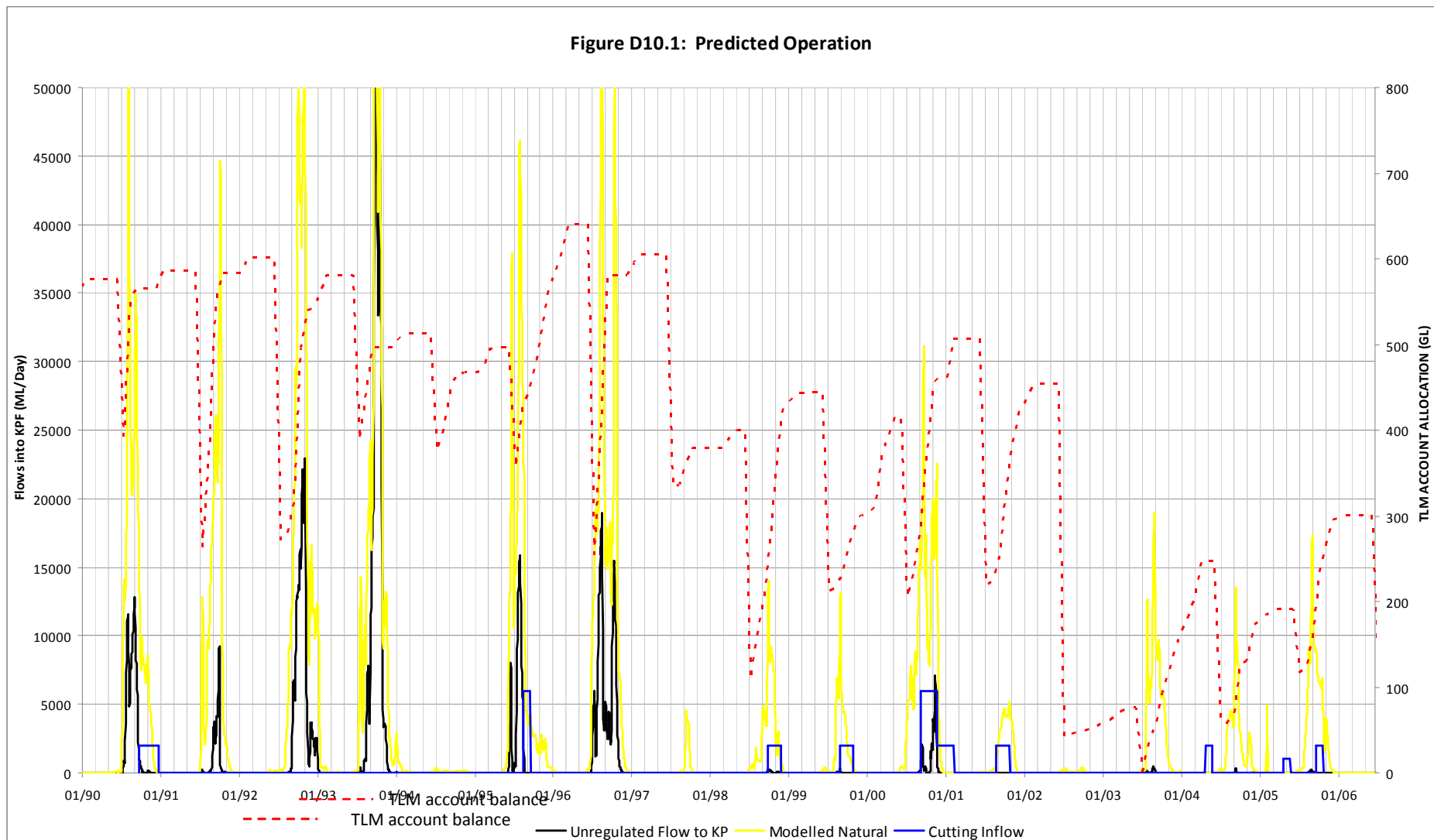


Table D10.1 summarises the operation of the Scheme and the intended objective.

Table D10.1: Indicative operation of the Scheme and intended objective

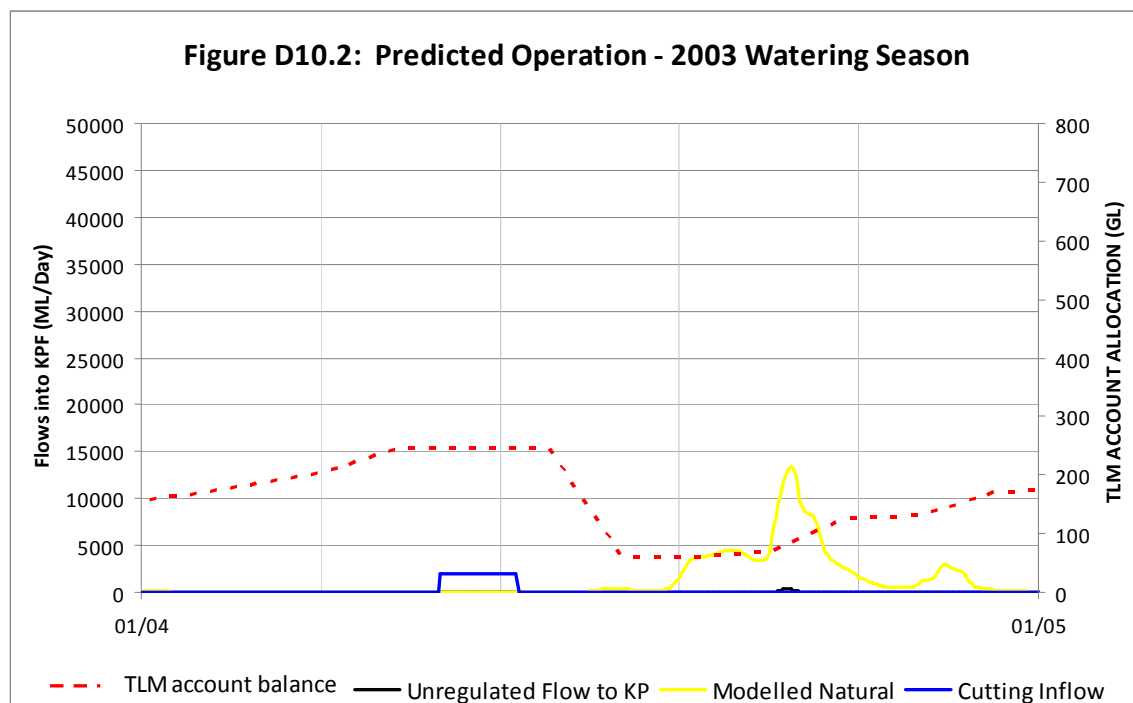
Year	Scheme Operation	Intended Objective		
		Wetlands	Bird Breeding	Red Gum
1990	Extend natural inflows for bird breeding	✓	✓	✓
1991	Natural event waters wetlands, some redgum watering	✓	✗	✓
1992	Natural event waters all	✓	✓	✓
1993	Natural event waters all	✓	✓	✓
1994	Do nothing, dry year	✗	✗	✗
1995	Fill gap, extend to complete redgum	✓	✗	✓
1996	Fill gap for bird breeding	✓	✓	✓
1997	Do nothing, dry year	✗	✗	✗
1998	Water wetlands	✓	✗	✗
1999	Water wetlands	✓	✗	✗
2000	Fill gap and extend natural inflows for bird breeding	✓	✓	✓
2001	Water wetlands	✓	✗	✗
2002	Do nothing, dry year	✗	✗	✗
2003	Late autumn small wetland watering	✓	✗	✗
2004	Late autumn small wetland watering	✓	✗	✗
2005	Small wetland watering	✓	✗	✗
TOTAL		13	5	7
%		81%	31%	44%

D10.2 Deconstructing two sample events, 1990 – 2005 - Hydrology

Two types of events between 1990-2005 have been deconstructed for the purpose of demonstrating inundation achieved. It should be noted that this is based on hydrology (event history, TLM water availability and overbank flow) and long term ecological water requirements – no other indicators have been taken into account.

Smaller Event (entirely managed) - 2003 watering season.

- Flood History** = Last large event occurred 2000, last small managed event occurred 2001, and a very small unregulated flow occurred early 2003 watering season totalling 6276 ML between 30 July 03 to 14 September 2003, average of 136 ML/d flow.
- TLM Water availability** = TLM account is 247 GL in April 2004. No unregulated inflows are occurring and none are predicted.
- Event** = 2000 ML/d for two months (May and June 2004) totalling 122 GL use from the TLM account.

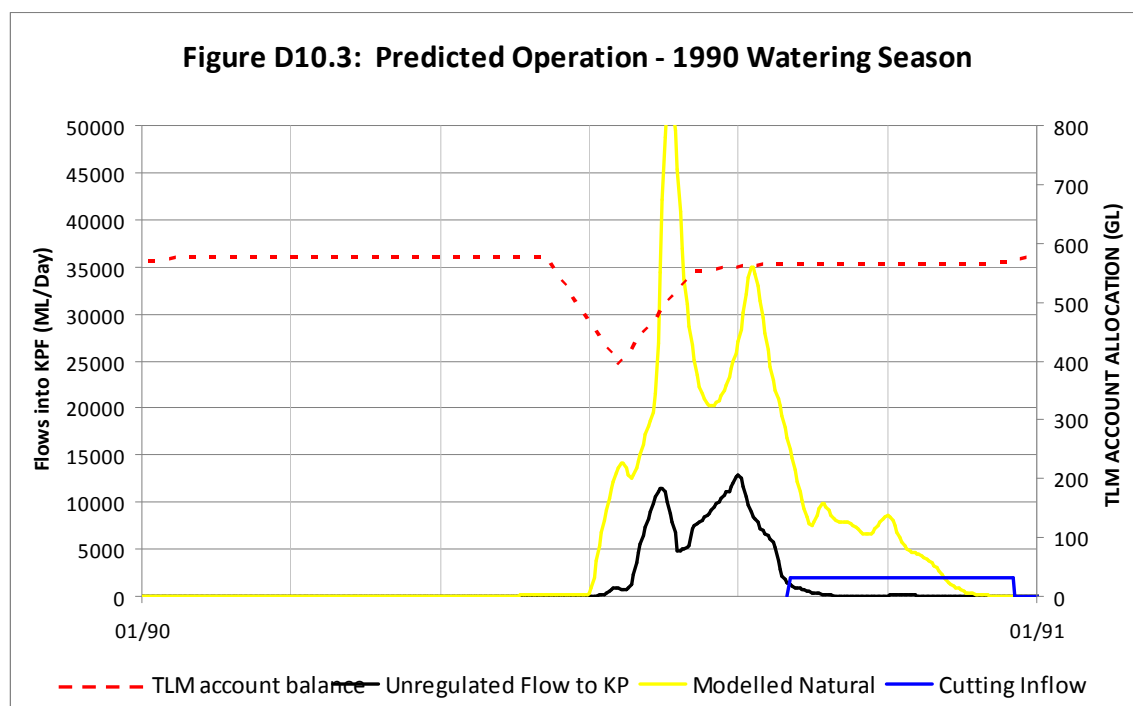


Larger & Longer event (Translucent) – 1990 Watering Season

Flood History = Last large event occurred 1989– this was a completely natural event.

TLM Water availability = TLM account is 565 GL in September 1990. Natural inflows commence on 5 July 1990 and varying daily inflow to 16 October 1990 totalling 524 GL inflow.

Event = event extended through the TLM account, amounting to 2000 ML/d over three months totalling 180 GL use from the TLM account.



D10.3 Indicative Operation – Scheme Infrastructure

Broadly, Table D10.2 shows indicative operation of the Scheme's structures under a broad range of flows – natural and managed.

Table D10.2: Indicative operation of the Scheme

TYPE	YEAR	APPROXIMATE FLOW ML/d @ TORRUMBARRY	UPSTREAM STRUCTURES <u>INDICATIVE OPERATION</u>	DOWNSTREAM STRUCTURES <u>INDICATIVE OPERATION</u>	DISTINCTIVES TO ASSESS
SMALL EVENTS	2001 2003/04 2004/05	Entirely Managed Event <18,000	- Flow enters via inlet regulator - Inlet fishway operating - Swan lagoon closed	- Return regulator open - Downstream structures may be used to temporarily regulate the flow into Barbers Creek and build pool sufficient to wet required wetlands - Flow in Barbers Creek is expected to be minimal and should not exceed 250 ML/day	Assess downstream impact as no flow would be expected in Barbers Creek at Murray flows <18,000 under current conditions
	1998 1999 2005	Hybrid Event >18,000	- Water initially enters forest via Swan Lagoon and other effluents. - Inlet regulator used to supplement or prolong the flow event if required. - Inlet regulator fishway open	Downstream structures may be used to temporarily regulate the flow into Barbers and Thule Creeks and build pool sufficient to wet required wetlands until watering objectives assured.	Flows in Barbers Creek could be expected at Murray flows of over 18,000 under current conditions, however the duration and overall volume of these flows in Barbers Creek may be greater if inflows are supplemented, or less due to consumption in the forest.
LARGE R EVENT		Entirely Managed Event <18,000	- Flow enters via inlet regulator - Inlet fishway open - Swan lagoon closed	- Return regulator open - Thule regulator stays closed - Downstream structures used to regulate the downstream flow to achieve ecological objectives and stay within legal constraints.	Assess downstream impact as no flow would be expected in Barbers Creek at Murray flows <18,000 under current conditions
	1995	Hybrid Event >18,000	- Flow enters forest via Swan Lagoon and other effluents and inlet regulator remains closed unless required to supplement the required flow. - Inlet regulator fishway open	- Downstream structures may be used to temporarily regulate the flow into Barbers and Thule Creeks and build pool sufficient to wet required area of the forest. - Flows may exceed capacity of Barber Creek	Flows in Barbers Creek could be expected at Murray flows of over 18,000 under current conditions, however the duration and overall volume of these flows in Barbers Creek may be greater if inflows are supplemented, or less due to consumption in the forest..
LARGER & LONGER EVENT	1990 1996 2000	Translucent Flows >18,000 followed by flows <18,000 i.e prolonging a 'natural' event	- Water initially enters via Swan Lagoon, other effluents and inlet regulator. - Inlet regulator used to prolong event - Inlet regulator fishway open	- Return regulator open - Downstream structures generally open to allow unregulated water to pass. May be closed if unregulated flows are very small. - Downstream structures used to regulate the flow of diverted water into Barbers and Thule Creeks to achieve ecological objectives and to stay within legal constraints.	Flows in Barbers Creek could be expected at Murray flows of over 18,000 under current conditions, however the duration and overall volume of these flows in Barbers Creek may be greater if supplemented, or less due to consumption in the forest.
NATURAL & FLOOD RESPONSE		Flood Response Pool raised to FSL followed by a flood i.e managing a large flood during an environmental watering event	If major flood is forecast or arrives then: - Inlet regulator closed - Inlet fishway closed - Swan lagoon open	- Return regulator open to draw down pool as required - Downstream regulators including Thule releasing water consistent with emptying pool prior to flood reaching the Torumbarry pool	- Any impact of previous watering event is likely to be surpassed by the natural flooding event - Flows in Barbers and Thule Creeks could be higher and for longer than under current management - Downstream creek flows will be set to drain pool prior to arrival of the flood and these controlled flows will be set to not exceed those which will occur when flood arrives if possible; structure/levee safety issues will prevail - Downstream landholders to be advised of early releases exceeding channel capacity prior to arrival of flood
	1992 1993 1991	Entirely Natural Event Large flood event allowed to pass unhindered	- Inlet regulator closed - Inlet fishway closed - Swan lagoon open	- Return regulator closed - Downstream regulators including Thule remain open and flood allowed to pass	- Should be minimal impact if the regulators are operated to simulate pre scheme options - Flows in Barbers and Thule Creeks would exceed channel capacity but would replicate natural conditions

Attachment A

Scheme Infrastructure

Upstream Structures

Generally, upstream structures allow diversion of water into the forest from Torrumbarry Weir and escape regulators to prevent flows re-entering the Murray River, and have been designed to:

- Divert & control up to 6000ML/d from Torrumbarry Weir Pool (RL86.05 +/- 0.05)
- Contain diversion flow in U/S portion of cutting
- Distribute flow to Forest along remainder of the cutting
- In-channel flow at Bullock Head Creek around 500ML/d
- Provide required fish passage in and out of Forest
- Provide fresh water turtle escape route

Inlet Channel

The Inlet Channel is approximately 3.8 km in length with the alignment largely following low points.

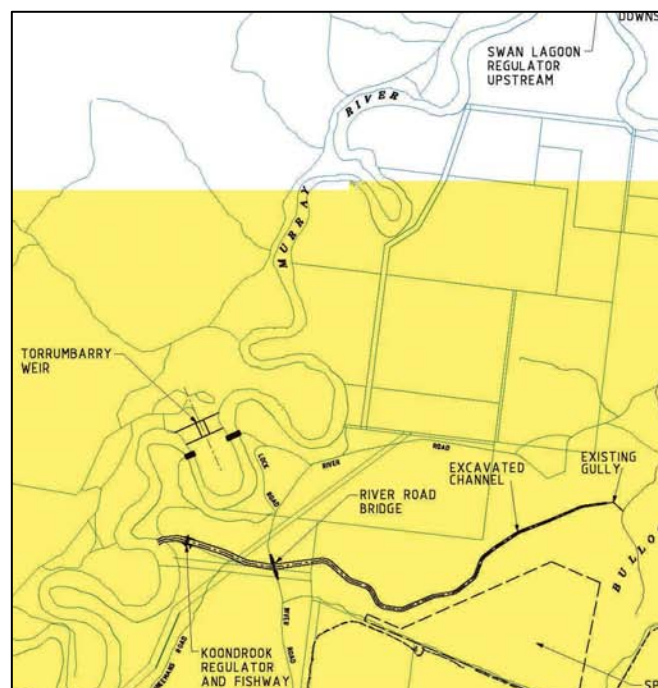


Figure i: Location of inlet channel

The channel is of standard trapezoidal cross section with side batters 1V:2H. The Channel is designed for a maximum velocity of 0.6 m/s. The flow depth varies between 2.8 m upstream to 1.2 metres downstream at Chainage 3800.

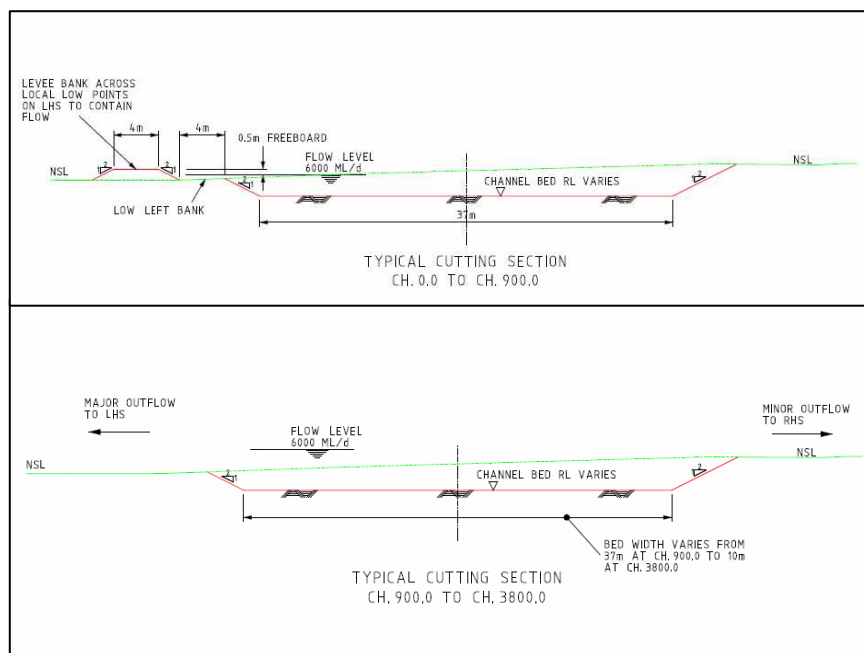


Figure ii: Typical Cross Sections Chainage 0 to 900.0 & Chainage 900.0 to 3800.0

Offtake Regulator

The Offtake regulator will provide operational flexibility for:

- Effective ramp up and ramp down for diversion discharge hydrograph
- Acceptable flow characteristics and structure profile for D/S fish passage
- Acceptable flow characteristics for U/S fish passage (via fishways)

The consist of 5 aluminium tilting gates – 3.39m high x 3.65m. The top of gates closed will have RL 86.55 (flood of record) and when open provide a maximum of 6000ML/d diversion capacity and a maximum velocity at structure of 1.57m/s.

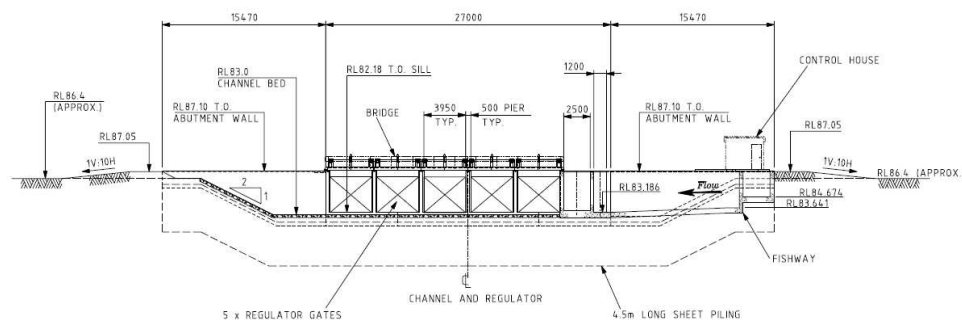


Figure iii: Typical Section Offtake Regulator



Figure iv: Photo of typical Aluminium Tilting Gate Regulator

Swan Lagoon Regulators

The purpose of the Swan Lagoon Regulators is to prevent loss of diversion flows during a watering event. The Regulators have also been designed to allow fish to evacuate during close down sequence of watering event cycle and maintain an acceptable waterway to minimise obstruction to natural floods.

The Fish evacuation criteria is targeted towards smaller fish with a maximum velocity of 10 m/s and minimum depth of 300 mm. The structures are gated sheet pile wall structures consisting of 3 gates - 2m wide x 2 to 2.5m high. Waterway areas of 60% waterway at RL84 (top of sheet piling) and 80% at top of banks RL85 approximately.

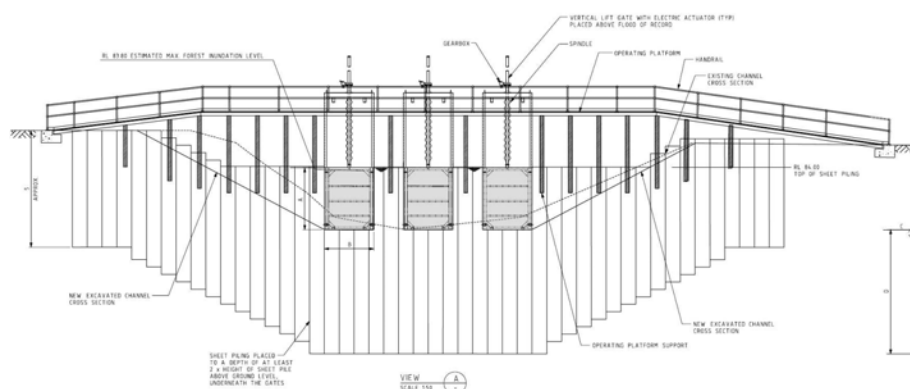


Figure v: Elevation - Swan Lagoon Structures

Fishway, Freshwater Turtle Ramp & River Road Bridge

A Denil and vertical slot fishway has been selected for large fish and small fish passage. The Freshwater Turtle Ramp is (1V: 8H ramp) located on 20 metres downstream of the regulator structure on the RHS cutting bank, and includes rock for erosion protection

Downstream Structures

Generally, downstream structures prevent uncontrolled water leaving the forest thus providing for the most efficient use of water.

Internal Floodway

The internal floodway has an average excavation depth of 0.5m, is 245 metres wide by 1 km long with a proposed constant bed of RL77.8. The design discharge is 2,000ML/d (max velocity = 0.15m/s)

Return Channel

The Return Channel has two functions: To provide water savings via direct return of flow to Murray River & provide an overflow/spillway system to protect safety of the downstream structures. The return channel is located as far downstream as possible within Forest with shortest connection to Murray River, and joins Crooked Creek System in Forest to Murray River.

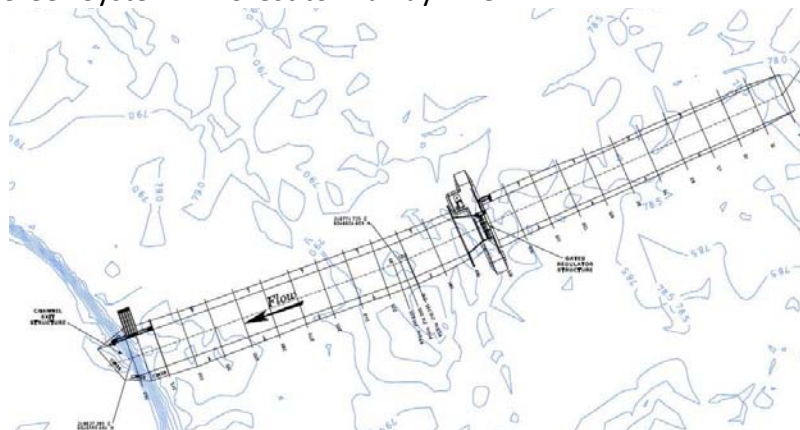


Figure vi: Plan view of Return Channel

Return Regulator Structure

The Return Regulator Structure has the ability to regulate flows up to 1850 ML/d and contain the downstream pool to RL 78.5 structure consistent with main off-take regulator. Structure will have a high operational flexibility for good control over flows returning to Murray River, acceptable flow characteristics and structure profile for downstream fish passage, acceptable flow characteristics and structure profile for upstream fish passage if required

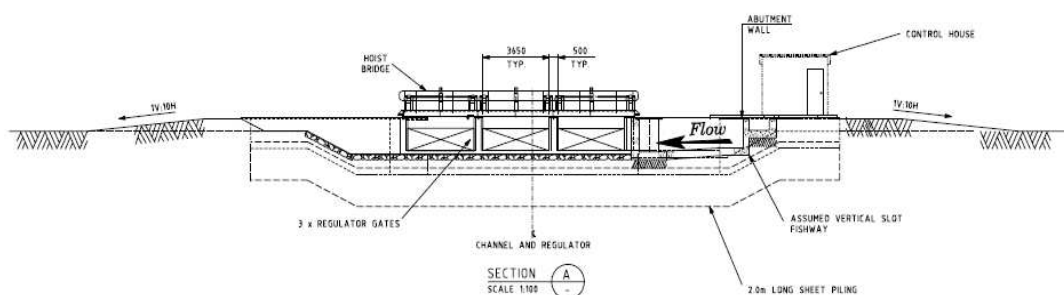


Figure vii: Elevation of Return Regulator Structure

Murray River Junction Structure

The Murray River Junction structure will safely transfer return channel flow to the Murray River. At this stage, options include standard concrete chute structure, chute protected with rockfill or rock mattresses, terraced sheet pile or gabion type structure. Fish passage will be required.

Downstream Levee

The downstream levee will contain a design pool RL78.5, which targets backup flows at the return channel. The height varies from zero to approx. 4m above flood plain (maximum at D/S regulators) and is approximately 43 kilometres in length, with a 4m crest width and 1V:2H batters. Both sides are widened at each downstream regulator to allow for Stop-log storage area & Turning circle.

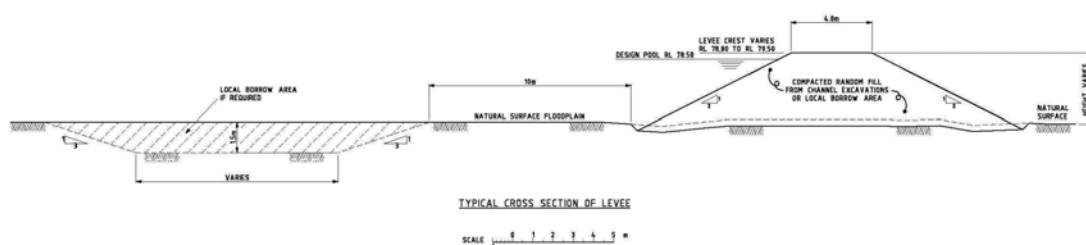


Figure viii: Typical Cross Section of Levee

Downstream Regulators

Downstream Regulators are stop log regulators and have a height proportioned for the design pool of RL78.5.

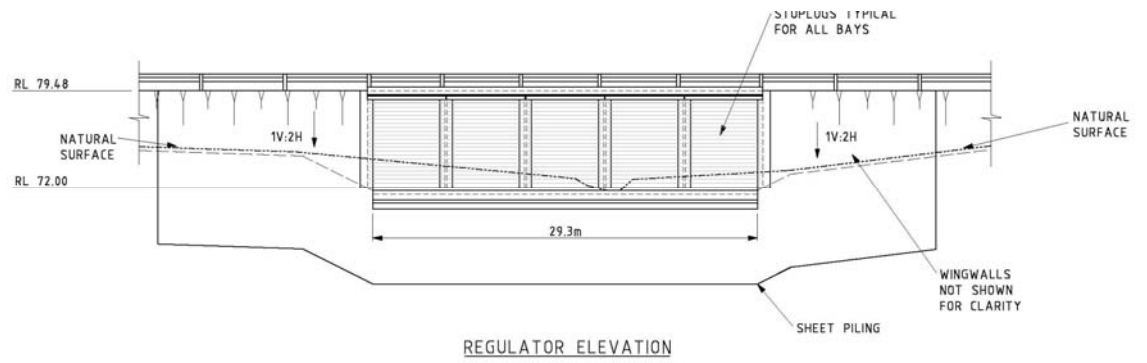


Figure : Typical Elevation of Downstream Regulators

Attachment B

Torrumbarry Weir Flows

Koondrook-Perricoota Flood Enhancement Works Preliminary Operating Plan

NATURAL													RECORDED													CURRENT													MEDIAN CASE @ 205s													Sten Change - Continuation of Last 10 Yrs																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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