

Lake Boga Coordination Group Applaud Harvesting Success

The Lake Boga Coordination Group (LBCG) met recently and commented on the successful commencement of harvesting of water into Lake Boga to support future releases back into the river. While the primary management objective of the Mid-Murray Storage Project is to capture and release water to meet downstream demands, it has been an opportune boost to the Lake Boga community.

Agencies involved in current and future management of Lake Boga, include Goulburn-Murray Water, (G-MW), Swan Hill Rural City Council (SHRCC), Department of Sustainability & Environment (DSE) and the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA). This group was formed and established a Memorandum of Understanding to govern its activities, to provide clarity regarding agency roles and responsibilities and to support improved management of the lake in the future.

The group representatives include Lester Haw, G-MW Manager Torrumbarry Operations & Chair of the group, Dennis Hovenden, CEO SHRCC, John Cooke, DSE Manager Sunraysia and Damian Wells, CEO NCCMA).

The group is currently overseeing the process of transferring management of Lake Boga from DSE to G-MW and the SHRCC. G-MW will be responsible for the management of water resources stored in and released from the lake and the land on which that water is stored, up to a maximum flood operating level. SHRCC will be responsible for all land and activities thereon above

maximum flood level, with the exception of an area on the south-east side of the lake foreshore which will remain under management by DSE. SHRCC will remain the relevant Boating Authority for the lake.

The field survey work around the Lake has now been completed, which is a necessary step prior to the appointment of the relevant land managers under the provisions of the Crown Land (Reserves Act) 1978.

SHRCC are continuing the investigation of design and heritage issues in relation to the proposed foreshore protection and extension project at the caravan park.

The committee also noted the significant community effort in the removal of Tamarisk tree hazards from the lake bed. The hasty removal of this vegetation became necessary due to the inability to predict available water as a result of heavy rain in advance of the transfer of water into the lake.

An update was received from the Northern Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project (NVIRP) on the Little Murray Weir decommissioning.

It is understood that there remain some significant environmental investigations to be undertaken and that a decision on the future of the weir will not be resolved in the immediate future.

Turtle Lagoon, a small earthen embankment constructed on the northern shore of the lake to provide turtle habitat, was noted as being a facility of ongoing community interest. It has been noted that the design and construction of the lagoon may not be compatible with future lake operations. Further investigation of the viability of the lagoon works may be required.

FURTHER INFORMATION OR ENQUIRIES

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