

For Public Notice via Internet

REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*

Title of Proposal: Lake Mokoan Decommissioning and Mid-Murray Storages

Proponent: Office of Water, Department of Sustainability and Environment

Description of Project:

The project involves decommissioning Lake Mokoan as a water storage for the purpose of generating water savings to be allocated to environmental flows. The Winton wetland complex (inundated by the Lake) would be rehabilitated. Minor infrastructure works are required to breach the dam wall and pipe water to users previously supplied by the Lake.

In order to maintain security of supply for downstream Murray users, the mid-Murray storages would be established by using the combined capacities of Lakes Boga, Charm and Kangaroo to store and regulate a portion of the water savings created through the decommissioning of Lake Mokoan for irrigation purposes. Infrastructure works include an outfall channel and floodway.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that an environment effects statement is not required for this project.

Reasons for Decision:

- Environmental investigations undertaken to date have been comprehensive, and provide an adequate basis upon which to assess potential environmental effects.
- The project is unlikely to give rise to significant adverse environmental effects, and is expected to provide a clear net environmental benefit for the Broken, Goulburn, Murray and Snowy Rivers and Winton wetlands.
- Whilst localised impacts on tourism and recreational values at Lake Mokoan are likely, the proposed Future Land Use Strategy provides a framework to offset these.
- The proposed range of mitigation measures, including Environmental Management Plans, detailed flora and fauna surveys on works areas, and monitoring of Lake Mokoan rehabilitation activities, are appropriate mechanisms to manage environmental risks.

Date: 20 April 2007