

Butlers Creek Regulators



Left: Butlers Creek, looking back from Baggs Bridge toward Bruce's Bend Marina. Photo: DSE.

Above: Jennings Bridge, looking toward Ducksfoot Lagoon. Photo: Mallee CMA.

Two environmental regulators will be built on Butlers Creek to restore better health to two important wetlands in the Kings Billabong Wildlife Reserve.

The structures will be built at Baggs Bridge and Jennings Bridge to regulate flows into Ducksfoot Lagoon and the Butlers Creek system.

While Butlers Creek is in the Kings Billabong Wildlife Reserve, the regulators won't have any influence on irrigation water supplies stored in Kings Billabong.

Under current arrangements, both Ducksfoot Lagoon and Butlers Creek are permanently inundated by the Lock 11 weir pool, preventing the healthy and natural variation in water levels that wetlands need.

The environmental regulators planned for Baggs Bridge and Jennings Bridge will be built adjacent to the existing bridges and stretch about 15 metres across Butlers Creek. The regulators will contain water within Ducksfoot Lagoon and the Butlers Creek system, allowing the wetland and creek to be inundated during a natural wet phase. The regulators will also be used



At a glance

- Environmental regulators will be built at Baggs Bridge and Jennings Bridge, in the Kings Billabong Wildlife Reserve.
- The regulators won't impact on irrigation water supplies stored in Kings Billabong.

to exclude water and allow the creek and wetland to have a dry phase at the appropriate time of the year.

The regulators will be made from interlocking Plastipile material, a patented recycled plastic product recently used to build an environmental regulator at Margooya Lagoon, near Robinvale. The structures will also have a regulator gate and carp screen.

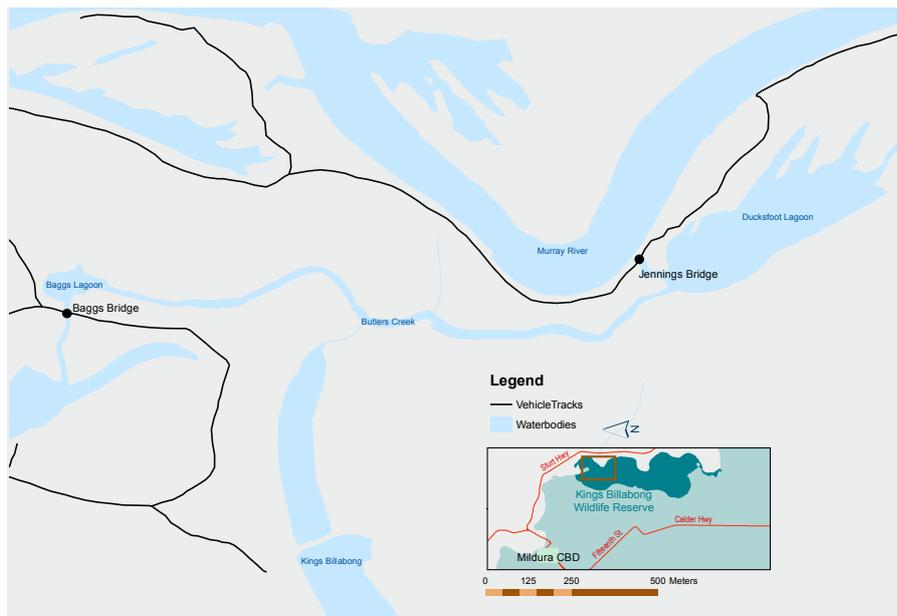
Minimal excavation work will be required to install the structures, as the Plastipiles are installed using a pile driver attached to a low ground pressure vehicle. Existing roads at the Kings Billabong Wildlife Reserve are suitable for vehicle and machinery access to the sites and will not need to be modified.

Construction of the environmental regulators will cost about \$360,000 and will begin in May 2010, with both structures to be completed by July, 2010.



Above: A Plastipile environmental regulator, similar to what will be built at Baggs Bridge and Jennings Bridge. Photo: Mallee CMA.

The structures have been under development for some time, but will proceed this year as funding has been made available by the Victorian Government's Victorian Water Trust Rivers of High Environmental Return Opportunity program.



Above: The location of Baggs Bridge and Jennings Bridge, where the regulators will be built.

To protect the cultural significance of the areas where the regulators will be installed, a Cultural Heritage Management Plans has been completed, in consultation with Indigenous stakeholders. This plan has been approved by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and will provide guidance and direction for the project.

Healthy wetlands

It is anticipated that the health of the wetlands will improve through the use of the planned environmental regulators, as these structures will help to return a healthy variability to water levels in Ducksfoot Lagoon and Butlers Creek.

Wetlands need variations in water levels to be healthy. Reintroducing variations in the wetlands' water level will deliver an overall improvement to the health of the wetlands, which will be seen through improved water quality, increases in the numbers of native fish, waterbirds, and frogs. It will also help to significantly reduce the carp population in these wetlands and improve turbidity (water clarity).

Monitoring to assess the current health of the ecosystems of the area is already underway with the help of important community groups such as the Friends of Kings Billabong, Mallee Waterwatch volunteers and Sunraysia Field Naturalists. Monitoring will continue to allow for analysis of the impact of the return to a more natural wetland cycle.

Any additional water required to increase the level of the wetlands will be accessed through environmental water allocations

Find out more

For more information on the Butlers Creek Regulators project, contact the Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) on 5051 4377. Regular updates on the project are also available on the Mallee CMA website at www.malleecma.vic.gov.au

Information on road closures during the construction of the environmental regulators is available from Parks Victoria by telephoning 13 19 63 or on visiting www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

Project Partners



This publication may be of assistance to you but the Mallee Catchment Management Authority refers readers to our Terms and Conditions, available from our website.

Printed on 100% recycled Australian paper, made from pre- and post-consumer waste.