

Management of on-river pump sites



Above: Old pump infrastructure on the Murray River.
Photo: Mallee CMA.

Left: Pump infrastructure on the Murray River.
Photo: Mallee CMA.

The “Reducing nutrient and sediment inputs to the Murray River” project focuses on protecting and improving Murray River frontages at sites where water is pumped from the river.

The aim of the project is to encourage licensees that have pumps constructed under an existing works licence to undertake a self assessment questionnaire looking at the environmental impacts the infrastructure may be having on adjoining river frontage areas and the river.

This pilot project also aims to assist irrigators to comply with possible siting

and design guidelines, Ministerial directives and to manage changes prompted by recent amendments to the Victorian Water Act. These changes will require an audit and license re-issue to be carried out every five years on all licensed pump infrastructure on public land.

Participating agencies are seeking the involvement of irrigators in the early phases of the project. Irrigator involvement will assist participating agencies to develop the future direction and methods of implementation for the project.



At a glance

This project will:

- Assess environmental impacts from pump infrastructure
- Help improve the condition of river banks and water quality through the development of voluntary management agreements.



Above and left: Pumps and associated infrastructure on the Murray River. Photos: Mallee CMA.

Completion of the self assessment questionnaire may lead to the development of voluntary management agreements between licensees and participating agencies. This approach will allow the potential “pooling” of resources, so ensuring the best possible outcome for licensees and the environment.

What areas will be affected?

The Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) region consists of approximately 760km of Murray River frontage, stretching from Nyah to the South Australian border. Most Crown frontages to the Murray River in this region have been reserved permanently for public purposes and, on the Victorian side of the river, extend approximately 60m from the winter level water mark.

Who is involved?

The “Reducing nutrient and sediment inputs into the Murray River” project will be delivered through a co-operative approach between the Licensing Authority (Lower Murray Water), Licensees, the

Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and Parks Victoria.

The multi-agency approach will endeavour to achieve an improvement in environmental values, while also improving the mapping and recording of all pump sites and ensuring that infrastructure is able to be operated with minimal impacts to licensees.

By working together to improve how Murray River frontages are physically managed, licensees and agencies can improve the environmental values, aesthetics and public safety of these frontages.

What will this project achieve?

This project will see:

- river frontages and banks stabilised from soil erosion through engineering works or other related activities;
- removal of disused machinery and rubbish;
- other area specific priorities as identified by licensees and agencies.

Water quality will also be improved through reduced bank erosion, containment of chemical and or fuel spills and cessation of poor site practices, including those associated with back flushing disposal. This activity will also aim to identify sites that present a possible occupational health and safety hazard to the public.

How do I become involved?

Lower Murray Water staff will be writing to licensees within priority areas to invite their participation in the project. Irrigators who would like more information or who would like to be involved should lodge an expression of interest with the contact person/s listed below.

Find out more

For further information on the ‘Reducing Nutrient and Sediment Inputs to the Murray River’ project contact: Matt Wilson from Lower Murray Water on (03) 5051 0712, or Ray de Groot from the Mallee Catchment Management Authority on (03) 5051 4350.

Project Partners



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