



Kings Billabong Regulator – Community Update 6

July 19, 2012.

Local residents receive visit from Mallee CMA

In mid July, representatives from the Mallee CMA including Sharyon Peart, Chair Mallee CMA Board, and Peter Kelly, Manager Water; door knocked local residents to inform them of the Kings Billabong regulator project.

Information was provided regarding project purpose and progression, and details of reinstatement of a varied water regime to the wetland were clarified. MCMA wants to clarify that the Billabong will not be dried completely. Expressions of interest were sought for attendance at Kings Billabong Open days, which are described below in more detail.

If you want more information regarding the Kings Billabong regulator project please contact Peter Kelly on 0428 224 368, or Sharyon Peart on 0411 405 083.

Kings Billabong Open Days in August

The Mallee CMA is planning two Open Days at Kings Billabong to showcase the ecological value of the Billabong with local community, and to share with them the opportunity to improve ecological health under future management.

During doorknock activities, it was found attendance interest from local residents was high, and thus, Open Days are now being planned for Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th of August (3-5pm each day), meeting at the Kings Billabong lookout on Cureton Avenue.

At this stage, employees of the Murray-Darling Freshwater Research Centre will be present to show examples of the freshwater plants and animals, and to answer any ecology questions.

Kings Billabong Operating Plan has been finalised.

The Kings Billabong Operating Plan Community Advisory Group (KBOPCAG) has been meeting regularly since April 2011 to develop an operating plan to guide the way the planned environmental regulator is used.



Advisory group members include representatives from the Friends of Kings Billabong, Sunraysia Bird Observers Club, the irrigation sector, nearby residents, and agencies such as Lower Murray Water and Parks Victoria.

The advisory group members worked hard to represent the views of their respective groups in the development of the Plan.

The MCMA Board has approved the Kings Billabong Operating Plan and a final copy was sent to the members of the advisory group. If you would like a copy of the Plan please contact Louise Searle.

Monitoring Program has commenced

Monitoring according to the Kings Billabong Monitoring Plan has commenced ahead of the first drawdown in autumn 2013. The Plan has been designed to draw comparisons on the ecology of Kings Billabong between the current and new operational arrangements.

Monitoring data will be utilised to assess the regulator's contribution to the ecological objectives, as well as help to monitor any threats associated with undesirable change to the Billabong. The Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre is assisting with carrying out the Monitoring Plan.

It is anticipated that several seasonal cycles of the new water regime will be required before the full spectrum of benefits is delivered to Kings Billabong.

Who receives these Community Updates?

- The Community Updates are produced by the Mallee CMA to keep the entire community up to date about the Kings Billabong Regulator project.
- The Community Updates are posted on the Mallee CMA website on the day of release (www.malleecma.vic.gov.au)
- Community Updates are emailed to the database of people interested in this project (names and emails were given to the Mallee CMA on the night of the February 8, 2011 Community Information Session).
- If you would like to be added to this list, please contact Louise Searle on 5051 4322 or email to louise.searle@dpi.vic.gov.au.

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