

South East Flows Restoration Project

Project update June 2015

This update provides an overview of South East Flows Restoration Project (SEFRP) status as at June 2015. Delivery comprises the following elements and functions.

Design and Survey

Design involves progressing a preliminary design to a higher level detailed design that meets required construction, operational and safety standards. Developing the SEFRP detail design involves the collective work of engineers, ecologists, landholders and traditional owners to ensure that the final design meets operational requirements and project objectives. It involves on ground survey and modelling to refine physical and flow aspects of the alignment.

Progress towards refining the flowpath from Blackford Drain offtake to south of Henry Creek Road has involved engineering survey and input of each landholder on the alignment. This work will assist in progressing the detailed design.

Modelling investigations for design north of Henry Creek Road are scheduled for completion in July 2015.

Environmental Program

This involves conducting survey work required to inform project approvals which include the *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Act (1999)* referral regarding matters of national environmental significance and the *Native Vegetation Act (1991)* assessment regarding native vegetation clearance.

The Environmental Program also includes ecosystem monitoring at representative locations within wetlands *en route* to the Coorong. These sites include wetlands on the Taratap and Tilley Swamp flats and Morella Basin. It also involves ecosystem monitoring in the Coorong to assist understanding of how the Coorong responds to water flows and water quality (including salinity), resulting from the SEFRP.

Survey for Flora, Fauna and Native Vegetation survey commenced in June 2015.

Cultural Heritage Program

This involves conducting a cultural heritage survey as part of the design process to identify occurrence of Aboriginal cultural heritage sites (sites, objects or burials) along and adjacent to the proposed construction works. The survey will be conducted within the proposed construction area, as well as at defined laydown, borrow pit and access areas.

Aboriginal cultural heritage cannot be disturbed without authorisation under section 23 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*.

Cultural heritage monitoring will complement the construction phase of the SEFRP to ensure that heritage sites identified are managed in a culturally appropriate manner.



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The Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority and the South East Aboriginal Focus Group (through a partnership with Burrandies Aboriginal Corporation) will conduct cultural heritage survey of alignment.

Land Acquisition

Land for the project will be acquired by agreement or by compulsory acquisition in accordance with the *Land Acquisition Act 1969*. It is preferred to acquire land by agreement.

This process will commence once detailed design has progressed.

Community Engagement

The SEFRP Communications and Community Engagement Strategy is led by Natural Resources South East. Key objectives focus on broad community engagement, landholder engagement, traditional owner engagement and community representation governance within the project delivery.

To assist project communications, a project page has been established on the Natural Resources South East website. It includes a series of factsheets will be evolve at various stages of the Project. Published topics are SEFRP Project overview, cultural heritage survey, ecological survey, wetland monitoring, land survey and engineering survey.

Static information displays are located at Kingston District Council (Kingston), SEWCD Board office (Millicent), Coorong National Park office (Noonameena) and Lakes Community Hub (Meningie).

Meetings of the Project Steering Committee continue. A Design and Environment Advisory Group has been established and will support the Project Steering Committee.

Program Management

Project management continues to be facilitated through lead of Natural Resources South East within the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Construction Delivery

Scheduled to commence in 2016.

For more information

Natural Resources South East

South East Flows Restoration Project

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The Project is part of the Murray Futures Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Recovery Project. Funding is jointly provided by the Australian Government the South Australian Government.



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