



Department of Transport and Planning

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Ms Sarah Carlisle
Chief Panel Member
Planning Panels Victoria
Level 5, 1 Spring Street
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Dear Ms Carlisle

**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT - ENVIRONMENT
EFFECTS STATEMENT WEST PACKAGE - LINDSAY ISLAND AND WALLPOLLA ISLAND
FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECTS – REFERRAL TO STANDING INQUIRY UNDER
ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978**

This letter pertains to two of the nine projects under the wider Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP); the Lindsay Island and Wallpolla Island Floodplain Restoration Projects, referred to as the EES West package. The proponent has completed an Environment Effects statement (EES West) (and draft planning scheme amendment (PSA)) to address assessment requirements for these projects set by the Minister for Planning under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*.

The EES West and draft PSA package are ready for exhibition and public comment, therefore I am referring this matter to the VMFRP Standing Inquiry and Advisory Committee (SIAC), for advice and recommendations as per the SIAC terms of reference.

As discussed recently with Planning Panels Victoria (PPV), the proponent's nominated exhibition period is to commence at 9 am on 22 June 2026 and cease at 11.59 pm on 31 July 2026.

As per the SIAC terms of reference, the format of inquiry for the EES West package is to be via public hearing. Based on the program outlined by the proponent and in consultation with PPV, it is anticipated that the directions' hearing will be commencing 17 August 2026 and the public inquiry commencing on the week beginning 14 September 2026.

These two projects are a part of the wider Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP); together forming the assessment package referred to as EES West.

As set out in the SIAC terms of reference, areas of knowledge and expertise important for the composition of the SIAC are:

- floodplain ecology (terrestrial and aquatic);
- environmental hydrology;
- Aboriginal cultural heritage; and
- land use and planning.

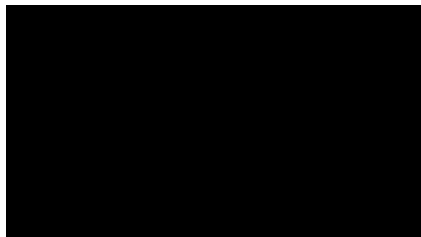
The Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP), under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, for EES West are the First People of the Millewa Mallee, on whose traditional lands this project is based.

Mildura Rural City Council is the relevant municipalities for EES West.

If you have any questions about the EES assessment processes for these projects please contact [REDACTED] Principal Impact Assessor

[REDACTED]. Your staff are also most welcome to continue direct engagement with [REDACTED] Senior Impact Assessor, via email at [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Geoff Ralphs

Director Impact Assessment

Date: 5/06/2026

cc: office@planningpanels.vic.gov.au, [REDACTED]