



Department of Environment,
Land, Water and Planning

8 Nicholson St
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
delwp.vic.gov.au

Ms Kathy Mitchell
Chair (Lead), Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project Standing
Inquiry and Advisory Committee
Planning Panels Victoria
via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Mitchell

**VICTORIAN MURRAY FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT – BELSAR-YUNGERA
FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION PROJECT AND HATTAH LAKES NORTH FLOODPLAIN
RESTORATION PROJECT ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS STATEMENT**

I refer to the environment effects statement (EES) and accompanying draft planning scheme amendment for the Belsar-Yungera and Hattah Lakes North Floodplain Restoration projects. The projects are two of nine projects forming the Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP) and together form the assessment package referred to as EES Central. The relevant municipality for each of the projects is:

- Belsar-Yungera Floodplain Restoration Project – Swan Hill Rural City Council;
- Hattah Lakes North – Mildura Rural City Council.

As EES Central is now authorised for public exhibition, I am referring the matter to the Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project Standing Inquiry and Advisory Committee (SIAC) for advice and recommendations as outlined in the SIAC terms of reference.

The nominated exhibition period will commence on 3 October 2022 and cease at 11.59pm on 14 November 2022. The proposed inquiry process is a public hearing with the proposed inquiry to commence on 16 January 2023 and run for approximately three to four weeks.

The Department's review of the assessment documents has not identified any additional issues to those identified in the SIAC terms of reference, therefore expertise most critical for the inquiry process are:

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

If you have any questions about the assessment processes for this project please contact Geoff Ralphs, Director Impact Assessment. Your staff are also most welcome to continue direct engagement with Daniel Banfai and Amy Young, Senior Impact Assessors, via email [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

Adam Henson
Acting Executive Director Planning Facilitation

28/09/22

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