

## Construction works at Hattah Lakes: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



Above: Regent Parrots at Hattah Lakes.  
Photo: Mallee CMA.

Left: The Murray River at Messengers  
Bend. Photo: Corey Brown

The following questions and answers provide important information on the proposed construction works due to commence in early 2012 at the Hattah Lakes icon site.

### ***When will the construction begin?***

It is expected that construction will begin early in 2012. However, high flows in the Murray River or extensive rainfall may result in delays.

### ***How long will the works take to complete?***

Construction is expected to take between six and 12 months.

### ***Why is Hattah Lakes considered to be a priority icon site under The Living Murray program?***

Hattah Lakes icon site was chosen for its high ecological value — most of the lakes are listed as internationally significant wetlands under the Ramsar convention — and also for their cultural significance to Indigenous people and the broader community.

### ***Will visitors still have access to the lakes during the construction phase?***

Access may be limited to some parts of the Hattah Kulkyn National Park during the construction of these works. For up to date information on access, check [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au) or follow the

### At a glance

- Construction is expected to begin early in 2012.
- Access may be limited to some parts of the Hattah Kulkyn National Park during construction phase
- Regular updates will be available on Twitter #HattahLakes

progress on Twitter @HattahLakes for information regarding access limitations and road closures or detours.

### **Who is coordinating the project?**

The project is part of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority's (MDBA) The Living Murray program, which is implemented in Victoria by Department of Sustainability and Environment; coordinated in the Victorian Mallee by the Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA), in partnership with Parks Victoria. Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) is the constructing authority at Hattah Lakes.

### **How will the water be pumped into the lakes?**

A pumping station will be constructed near the southern confluence of the Murray River and the Chalka Creek to deliver water to the lakes.

### **How will the pumping station work?**

Subject to environmental allocations, the pump station will be used to pump water into the system when river flows alone are not able to meet ecological requirements. The pump will only operate when required.

### **Where is the water being pumped into the lakes coming from?**

The water being pumped into the lakes will come from environmental water entitlements, subject to the same rules and limitations as irrigation water. No one else's water entitlements will be affected.

### **How often will water be pumped into the lakes?**

It is expected that the lakes will be filled with water once every two to three years, with more extensive flooding approximately once every eight years. This will be subject to water availability and natural conditions.

### **How will the proposed works benefit the surrounding area of the lakes?**

They will restore the role of the lakes as a drought refuge for waterbirds and other wetland-dependant species, provide important breeding habitat for waterbirds and support threatened flora and fauna species.

### **Is natural flooding likely to reoccur?**

Under predicted climate change conditions, natural flooding is likely to occur less often.

### **What happens if/when natural flooding occurs?**

The regulators and stop banks will have spill ways built into them to allow water to pass freely on to the flood plain and back to the river should the structures be overtopped by a large natural flood.

### **Will all the lakes be filled at the same time?**

This project will allow for 18 of the 21 lakes to be filled. Some will fill more often than others and will hold water for longer.

### **Why have the lakes stopped filling naturally?**

River regulation and drier climate have significantly reduced the frequency, duration and extent of flooding.

### **What is a regulator?**

Regulators are built from concrete and steel, with the banks and beds of the creeks protected from erosion by a layer of rocks. Regulators have gates designed to hold water, which can be open or shut to control how much water moves through the structure.

### **What is a stop bank?**

Stop banks are earthen walls built to prevent water running back to the river during managed events. The structures will be overtopped during a large event, when water will return to the river.

### **How are the water levels monitored?**

On site inspections, permanent and mobile monitoring equipment will relay levels back to the Mallee CMA, GMW and MDBA offices.

### **How will tourists find out about the proposed works?**

Information is available on the Mallee CMA ([www.malleecma.vic.gov.au](http://www.malleecma.vic.gov.au)), Mildura Tourism ([www.visitmildura.com.au](http://www.visitmildura.com.au)), Murray Darling Basin ([www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)) and Parks Victoria ([www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)) websites. Regular updates on the progress of the works and access to the park can be found on Twitter @HattahLakes.

### **Where can I go for more information about the infrastructure?**

You can visit the Mallee CMA website at [www.malleecma.vic.gov](http://www.malleecma.vic.gov) or follow regular progress updates on Twitter @HattahLakes.

## **Project Partners**



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