



## **Construction and Community Advisory Group Update 29/7/2011**

Construction has continued to progress. Flows are entering into forest but not spreading across the forest floor. This is affecting works in the creek lines and low points and presents very challenging conditions.

### **Works Recently Completed**

- Flows in the Murray River below Torrumbarry Weir as at the 29/7/2011 have peaked at 31,187 ML/day. (MDBA website)
- The Swan Lagoon regulators were the first sites to be drowned out by the flood waters and work ceased in mid July.
- Flood mitigation and protection measures have been undertaken at all worksites expecting flows within the creeks to minimise the impact of the flow through the excavated construction sites.
- Earthworks for the levee construction are approximately 15% complete and consist of topsoil stripping, excavation and filling of the levee. Particular attention has been given to any potential cuts in the old levee and protection to ensure there is no possibility of a breach in the existing levee.
- Thule Creek regulator concrete foundation has been initiated but discontinued due to the high flows within the creek and through subsurface sands. A creek diversion has been constructed to minimise flow through the work site and reduce the area of exposed excavation.
- The Return Channel foundation slab is complete and structural works will continue.
- The Calf Creek regulator foundations have been poured and structural works will continue.
- Barber and Cow Creek regulator sites have been evacuated of all equipment and materials in anticipation of in-channel flows reaching these sites. Work sites are now inundated with water flowing in the creeks.
- The Inlet Channel excavation extends to approximately 1km from its offtake with the Murray River, with excavations at varying depths from 40% - 100%. The inlet channel is approximately 30% complete.
- Pre-cast concrete planks for providing access across the regulators are continuing to be cast at Bendigo.

### **Upcoming Construction Works and Activities**

- Murray River flows below Torrumbarry Weir are expected to remain above 20,000+ML/day over the coming weeks. This may vary depending on anticipated rainfall. This will result in continual inflows into the forest and disruption to structural sites within the creeks.
- Levee earthworks will continue whilst weather permits with a concentration on establishing the foundation to surface level.
- Structural works of the regulators will continue at the Return Channel (Crooked Crk) and in Calf Creek.
- The excavation of the inlet channel will continue through August and the initiation of the inlet regulator and fishways will be undertaken.
- Construction of forest Access Roads 1 and 2 off the Barham-Moulamein Road is in progress and will continue through August.
- Pre-casting of stop log's in Bendigo for use as part of the regulator operations will commence in early August.

Please be reminded that all levee, regulator and channel construction areas are closed to the public. Access to the construction site is not permitted without first contacting Fulton Hogan on 1800 337 285. Access to the forest is available on East Barham Road on the first weekend of each month only. Access to other areas of the forest is available at all times via

Belbins Rd/Lower Thule Rd, and via McHugh Rd/Yarraman Ln. Forest access maps are on large signs next to the closed access points (e.g. East Barham Road), on the website [www.kpforest.com.au](http://www.kpforest.com.au), and copies are available from the Fulton Hogan office in Thule Street, Barham.”

A community meeting was held on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> June at the Barham Club and was attended by approximately 50+ people from the community. Fulton Hogan provided an overview of the progress of the project with an accompanying slide show. Staff from Professional Engineering Services, NSW State Water Corporation, NSW Office of Water and Forest NSW was also present to assist with any enquiries. An outline of the richness of the Aboriginal cultural heritage that was being found along with the processes that the Aboriginal community was engaged in to manage the findings was also delivered.

### **Community Operation and Planning Advisory Group (COPAC) meetings.**

COPAC meets monthly to discuss issues and risks and to provide local knowledge and expertise. Meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Issues identified and discussed include:

- Construction of the levee on the northern boundary of the forest (in the Lower Thule Road vicinity) in relation to existing private levee's and its affect during overbank flows and inundation of the forest.
- Operational aspect with a particular focus on frequency of flooding.

#### The COPAC members are:

Kevin Barnes	Phil O'Neill
Luke Keogh	Andrew McConnell
Roger Knight	Neil Gorey
Neil Eagle	Greg Lodge
John Lolicato	Graham Heffer
David McConnell	Jamie McKindlay

The project's communication officer is currently unavailable. For all community related enquire please contact:

Dan Hutton  
Forest NSW  
Mobile: 0428 263 926

or

Jason Sheehan  
NSW Office of Water  
03 5898 3909

The project information office located in Mellool Street Barham NSW will be open on most Wednesday during business hours.

For further information visit [www.kpforest.com.au](http://www.kpforest.com.au) or contact Fulton Hogan Construction on 1800 337 285.





Construction works at Calf Creek regulator site. Photo courtesy of Lu Rathje from Professional Engineering Services.