



Office
of Water



Koondrook-Perricoota Forest
Flood Enhancement Works Project

Tuesday, 8 December 2009

KOONDROOK-PERRICOOTA FOREST FLOODING PROJECT NOW ON WEB

A project to reinstate more natural flooding to a large area of the Koondrook-Perricoota State Forest, the world's second largest red gum forest located in southern New South Wales, now has a dedicated website.

Announcing the new website, Mike Erny, Project Director with the NSW Office of Water said that there was enormous public interest in the health of Australia's red gum forests and Koondrook-Perricoota State Forest is a significant place within the Murray-Darling Basin.

"The new website, which can be accessed at www.kpforest.com.au, will keep all interested people informed of the latest developments with the project."

"The website provides detailed information about the \$59 million **Flood Enhancement Project**, the project partners and how the community can become involved," he said.

The Koondrook-Perricoota State forest forms part of a significant vegetation corridor across South East Australia and provides a refuge for many regionally and internationally significant species.

Mr Erny said that its ecological significance has been recognised, nationally as a Living-Murray Icon site and internationally as a RAMSAR wetland.

"Not only is the forest an important breeding area for a variety of waterbirds, frogs and fish, it also has strong social and cultural meaning for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and is regarded as a valuable natural resource,

"Each year, thousands of Australians flock to the forest to enjoy a range of recreational activities," Mr Erny said.

"However, changed flow regimes due to river regulation and a drier climate have impacted on forest health and this project seeks to address this," he said.

A suite of works, including a channel connecting the Torrumbarry weir pool to the natural drainage system within the forest, will allow the forest to receive more regular flooding, sustaining natural processes, rehabilitating wetlands and once more providing a variety of habitat. The works are expected to commence in late 2010 and will take approximately 40 weeks to complete.

The project is part of *The Living Murray* (TLM) program which is a joint initiative funded by the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth governments, coordinated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

For further information about the project visit the Project Information Centre at 12B Mellool St, Barham (Tuesdays and Wednesdays) or the new website www.kpforest.com.au.

Ends

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