

LMW Priorities and Focus

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LOWER MURRAY
WATER

Lower Murray Water Service Region



About Lower Murray Water

Lower Murray Water (LMW) is one of only two water authorities in Victoria that manages both urban and rural business units. It supplies;

- **Urban water** - supply 14 townships via 9 treatment plants - approx. 35,000 households and businesses (approx. 75,000 customers) - Koondrook → Merbein
- **Wastewater** collection, treatment and reuse - 11 towns via 9 treatment plants
- **Rural supply** - 2,655 irrigation and 2,253 stock and domestic customers in four pumped irrigation districts of Mildura, Merbein, Red Cliffs and Robinvale; 300 Millewa waterworks district customers; 12 Yelta waterworks district customers.
- Collection and disposal of **subsurface drainage water** from pumped districts, plus private diverters in Nangiloc, Robinvale and Boundary Bend.
- Oversight of **irrigation and drainage design** in new agricultural developments - salinity management plan development guidelines
- Management of 1,317 **private diversion licences** along the Murray River - Nyah → SA border.
- Management of **licensing, water share and trade allocation** applications.

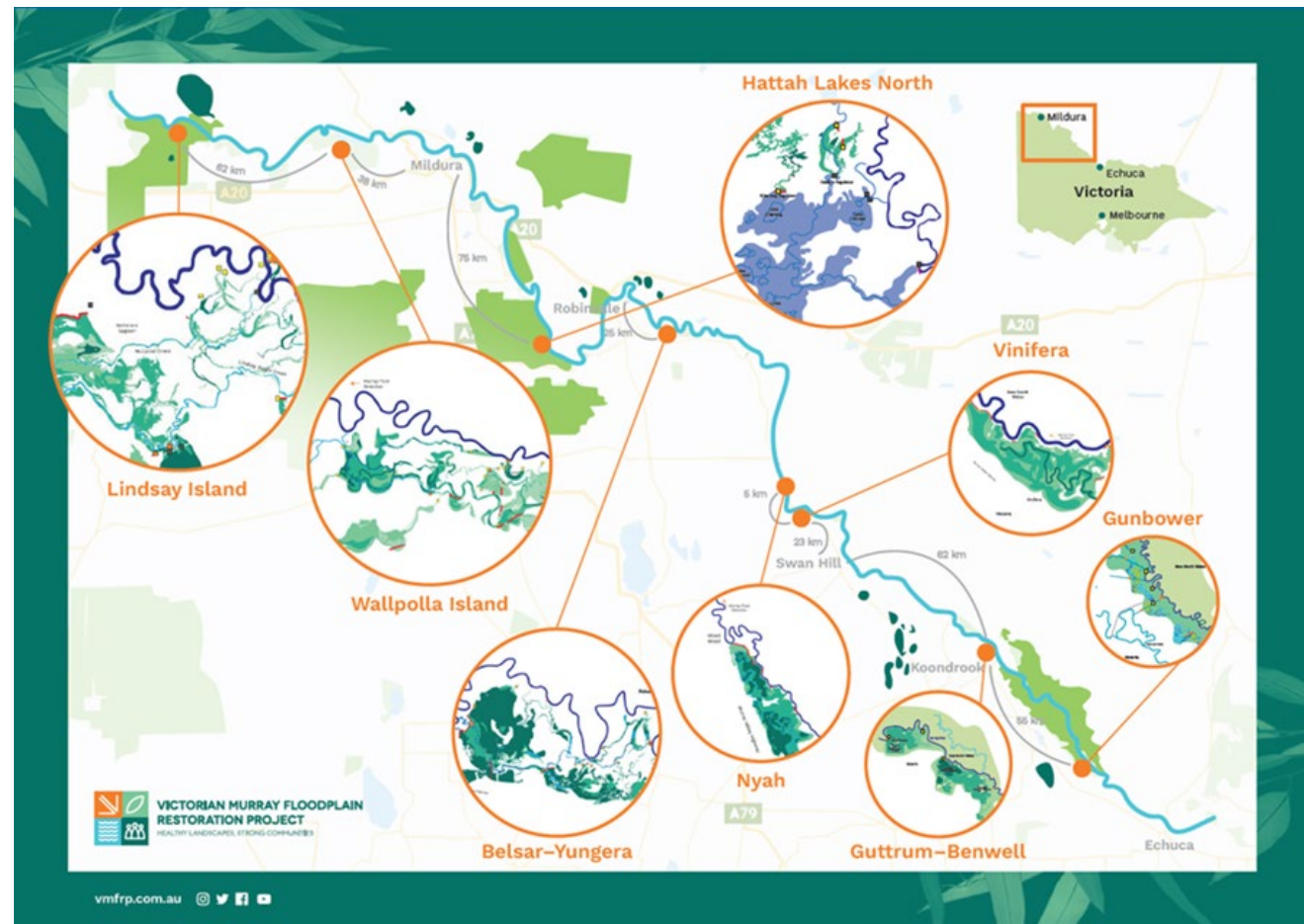


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Victorian Murray Floodplain Restoration Project (VMFRP)

The VMFRP is being implemented as part of Victoria's obligations under the Murray–Darling Basin Plan with leading agency LMW and in partnership with Goulburn-Murray Water, Mallee CMA, North Central CMA, Parks Victoria and the DEECA.

- The VMFRP is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
- Across the 8 sites that stretch from Echuca to the South Australian border a total area of approx. 14,000 hectares will be inundated from environmental watering.
- The project aims to save approximately 70GL of buy-backs in the community.



The difference made by environmental water



Before and after environmental watering at Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

Water Plan 5 2023-28

ESC determination on rural prices

- Price path: CPI - 5.85% to CPI + 1.83%
- 5 year Revenue Rate Cap
- Electricity increases not passed on to customers (20% increase 24/25)
- Demand lower than forecast in 2023/24



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Key Challenges/Opportunities

Rural

- Viability of irrigated agriculture - changing crop type/irrigator business models
- Urban growth into pumped districts
- Climate change – increased variability
- Commonwealth Basin Plan/Rural Strategy

Urban

- Ageing infrastructure e.g. treatment plants

LMW

- Technology Uplift Program
- Zero Emissions Target
- VMFRP Stage 2
- Cybersecurity/Data Management/Privacy Information
- Financial Sustainability

Pathway to Net Zero

FY22 Net Greenhouse Emissions (tCO₂-e)

Baseline – 44,188 tCO₂-e

■ Scope 1 ■ Scope 2



- Scope 1 – 22% of total emission (19% derived from wastewater)
- Scope 2 – 78% of total emission (46% from irrigation)

Future Rural Strategy

- Reaching critical point in viability of pumped irrigation districts, therefore the need for a long-term rural strategy
- LMW has submitted a funding application through the National Water Grid Authority Funding (May budget)
- Need to consider all options/scenarios: consolidation, expansion, efficiency e.g. solar energy
- Important we get views of broad cross-section of rural customers

Thank You



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