

Field in Focus - Cultural Heritage

What are we doing?

This project provides infrastructure to deliver water to nine high-value floodplains.

The infrastructure will be used to provide water at a frequency, duration and interval required to support the ecological needs of the floodplain. This water will bring new life and help these ecologically significant floodplains to survive and build resilience to cope with future dry conditions and drought.

We aim to provide positive social and economic outcomes at the local and regional scale, whilst minimising potential impacts on existing infrastructure and open spaces.

This fact sheet is part of the 'Field in Focus' series, covering:

- surface water, groundwater, and geology
- biodiversity
- land use, community, and business
- cultural heritage
- historical heritage.



What are we investigating?

Cultural heritage within the VMFRP area is being assessed by Traditional Owner groups and the archeologists working to identify cultural heritage in the area where works are proposed.

First Nations peoples have lived and thrived in the floodplain areas of the Murray River for thousands of generations, and they have a strong relationship to this Country.

The VMFRP is required to undertake two processes that assess the interaction between the proposed works with any cultural heritage at the nine project sites.

First, the Environment Effects Statement/Environmental Report needs to include an assessment of the cultural values of each site.

Second, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is prepared with Traditional Owners and interested parties and approved by Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP), or First People – State Relations where there is no RAP.

Our investigations generally involve:

Aboriginal Heritage

- Establishing existing conditions including the existing environmental and social setting.
- Undertaking risk assessments including how the risks can be mitigated.
- Completing impact assessments informed by draft Cultural Heritage Management Plans .
- Identifying appropriate measures to avoid and/or minimise impacts to Aboriginal Cultural heritage.



How will these assessments be used?

This assessment forms part of the Environment Effects Statements (EES) and Environment Reports (ER) that inform statutory approvals required for the projects. This includes planning scheme amendments under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 and Commonwealth environmental approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

You will have an opportunity to make a submission on the EESs, ERs, and supporting approval documents, and your submission will contribute to the statutory decision-making process.

Find out more

To find out more about the impact assessment process, please visit the 'Planning/Approvals' tab at www.vmfrp.com.au.

To provide feedback, email info@vmfrp.vic.gov.au or contact the Communications and Engagement Project Officer on **0428 516 233**.

If your query relates specifically to VMFRP proposals at Guttrum-Benwell or Gunbower, contact the Senior Engagement Officer at North Central Catchment Management Authority on **0439 554 186**.