

## Field in Focus - Impact Assessment

### 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 and historical heritage.



### What is being investigated?

There are sixteen specialist fields currently being investigated across the project sites. These investigations generally cover surface water, groundwater, and geology; biodiversity; cultural heritage; and land use, community, and business.

The specialist investigations for each field respond to the Scoping Requirements published by the Minister for Planning, and have been tailored to consider the potential impacts and benefits, the unique characteristics for each of the sites, and the extent of uncertainty in existing knowledge.

The investigations generally include:

- desktop assessments of current knowledge, including previous investigations
- field assessments, to verify or supplement existing information
- modelling
- consultation, including business and social impact assessments
- baseline monitoring to help us understand current conditions so we can monitor changes in time.

These specialist assessments are currently underway and will be released for public exhibition in 2022.

### FIELD IN FOCUS - TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

The 'Field in Focus' series provides the public with more information about these specialist investigations, what we are focusing on and what we are finding.

Throughout November 2021 we will be releasing a series of technical presentations on our website aimed at providing insights into our technical assessments.

To view these sessions, visit [www.vmfrp.com.au/webinars](http://www.vmfrp.com.au/webinars)

## The impact assessment process

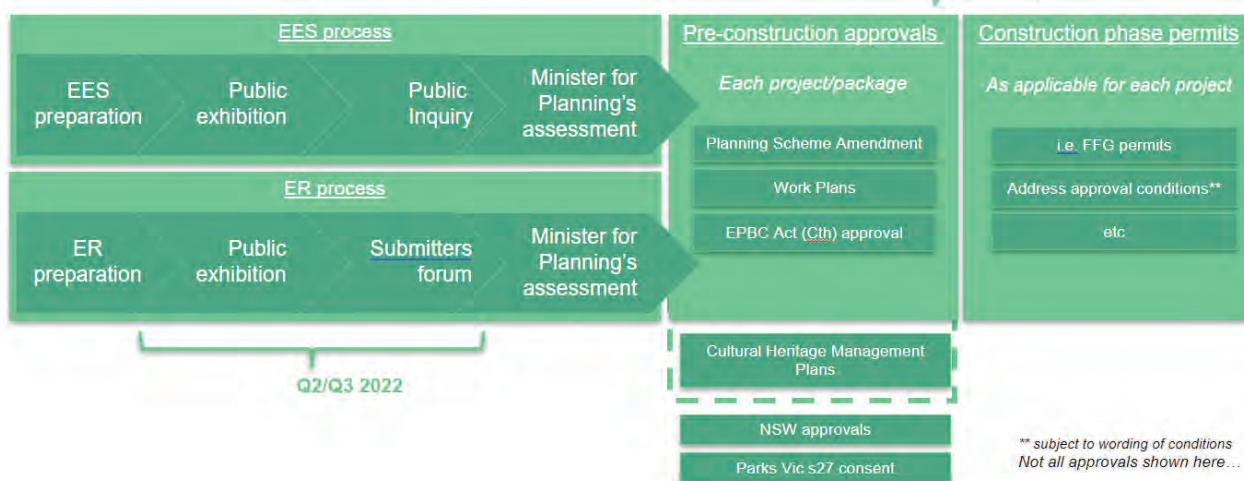
We have been developing these floodplain restoration projects for several years.

The last stage in the process before we start building is to obtain the necessary Victorian and Commonwealth planning and environmental approvals. This requires us to undertake an impact assessment, demonstrating that the potential adverse effects of construction and operation are avoided, minimised or managed, and that appropriate measures are in place to make sure that the project outcomes can be monitored and achieved.

We are currently preparing Environmental Effects Statements (EES) and Environment Reports (ER) to document the impact assessment process.

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.

### EES / ER Process



#### How will these assessments be used?

These assessments are part of the Environment Effects Statements and Environment Reports 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.

#### Find out more

To find out more about the impact assessment process, please visit the 'Planning/Approvals' tab at [www.vmfrp.com.au](http://www.vmfrp.com.au).

To provide feedback, email [info@vmfrp.vic.gov.au](mailto: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**.