

For Public Notice via Internet

**REASONS FOR DECISION UNDER *ENVIRONMENT EFFECTS ACT 1978*
(REFERRAL NUMBERS 2020R-14 and 2020R-16)**

**Title of proposals: Lindsay Island Floodplain Restoration Project
Wallpolla Island Floodplain Restoration Project**

Proponent: Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Corporation

Description of projects:

The projects propose works to restore a more natural flood regime to improve the ecological condition across approximately 4,845ha of the Murray River Floodplain at Lindsay Island and Lake Wallawalla and across 2,672ha Wallpolla Island. The proposed works are construction of large and small regulators, containment structures, temporary cofferdams, spillways, new access track and realignments/upgrades to existing access tracks. The projects will establish borrow pit sites to supply fill material to support construction.

Decision:

The Minister for Planning has decided that a single environment effects statement is required for both projects, specifically the works described within the Lindsay Island Floodplain Restoration Project referral accepted on 26 August 2020 and the works described in the Wallpolla Island Floodplain Restoration Project referral accepted on 17 August 2020.

Reasons for decision:

1. There is a range of potentially significant and complex effects, as well as associated uncertainties associated with biodiversity, Aboriginal cultural heritage and surface water and groundwater values that require robust, integrated assessment to inform an array of approvals and consents.
2. In particular the project has potential for significant effects on:
 - the floodplain ecosystem;
 - threatened species and ecological communities listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and
 - Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
3. Assessment is necessary to examine the extent and acceptability of potentially significant effects, including the scope for further avoidance and minimisation of effects via design, siting and operational alternatives and their effectiveness in achieving acceptable balance of environmental outcomes, including in relation to better understanding of the intended long-term environmental benefits of the project.
4. An environment effects statement will enable a single integrated and transparent assessment of the projects' potential environmental effects and consultation with stakeholders and the community to inform statutory decision-making.

Date of decision: 06 / 12 / 2020