











Variation to the Seasonal Watering Plan 2025-26














This variation was made to Section 5.2.7 Lindsay Mulcra Wallpolla islands of the Seasonal Watering Plan 2025-26 by the VEWH Commission on 9 December 2025.

Variation to tables 5.2.18 and 5.2.19 of the Seasonal Watering Plan 2025-26

Amendments are shown in red text

Table 5.2.18 Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla islands potential environmental watering actions, expected watering effects and environmental objectives

Potential environmental watering action	Expected watering effects	Environmental objectives
Lindsay Island – Mullaroo Creek		
Year-round low flow (minimum of 600 ML/day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain fast-flowing habitat for large-bodied native fish (such as Murray cod, silver perch and golden perch) Maintain habitat for aquatic vegetation and soil moisture to maintain the condition of streamside vegetation 	 F1  V2, V3
Elevated spring flow (1,200 ML/day for three months during September to November) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the extent and velocity of fast-flowing habitat to cue the movement and spawning and improve recruitment opportunities for large-bodied native fish Increase fish passage between Mullaroo Creek and the Murray River via the Mullaroo Creek regulator fishway 	 F1
Lindsay Island wetlands		
Wetland 33 (fill in spring autumn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide shallow and open-water habitat to create foraging and breeding opportunities for waterbirds and frogs Increase soil moisture to maintain and improve the condition of river red gums 	 B1  A1
Lindsay Mullaroo connector (fill in autumn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stimulate the growth of emergent, aquatic and streamside vegetation Provide conditions for lake-bed herbaceous plants to grow as the wetland draws down 	 V2, V3
Stockyards (fill in spring)		

 Mulcra Island – Potterwalkagee Creek		
 Spring low flow via the Stoney Crossing regulator (35 ML/day for three months during September to November)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide temporary flowing water to connect pools and support the dispersal and recruitment of small- and large-bodied native fish, and the spawning of small-bodied native fish • Stimulate the release of carbon and nutrients from the sediment to increase the productivity of the floodplain food web • Maintain soil moisture to maintain the condition of streamside vegetation 	 F1  CN1  V2
Mulcra Island wetlands		
 Mulcra Horseshoe (fill in spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide shallow and open-water habitat to create foraging and breeding opportunities for waterbirds and frogs • Stimulate the growth of emergent, aquatic and streamside vegetation 	 B1, B2  A1  V2, V3
Wallpolla Island		
 Sandy Creek and Lilyponds (fill in spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide shallow and open-water habitat to create foraging and breeding opportunities for waterbirds and frogs • Provide conditions for lake-bed herbaceous plants to grow as the wetland draws down • Stimulate the growth of emergent, aquatic and streamside vegetation • Stimulate the release of carbon and nutrients from the sediment to increase the productivity of the floodplain food web 	 B1  A1  CN1  V2, V3
 Finnigans Creek (fill in spring)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide conditions for lake-bed herbaceous plants to grow as the wetland draws down • Stimulate the growth of emergent, aquatic and streamside vegetation • Stimulate the release of carbon and nutrients from the sediment to increase the productivity of the floodplain food web 	 B1  A1  CN1  V2, V3






<p>Wallpolla Horseshoe (fill in spring, top-ups as required)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide habitat for native fish • Provide shallow and open-water habitat to create foraging and breeding opportunities for waterbirds and frogs • Stimulate the growth of emergent, aquatic and streamside vegetation 	 F1  B1  A1  V2, V3
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Table 5.2.19 Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla islands environmental watering planning scenarios

Planning scenario	Drought	Dry	Average	Wet
Expected conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-round low flow in the Murray River and no natural floodplain wetting • Weir pools will be maintained at full supply level in spring and drawn down below full supply level during summer, autumn and winter • Substantial wetland drying will occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare high-flow events in the Murray River and no natural floodplain wetting • Weir pools will be raised in spring and drawn down below full supply level in summer, autumn and winter • Substantial wetland drying will occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short periods of high flow, most likely in spring/summer, providing minor wetting of the floodplain • Weir pool levels will be maintained at full supply level or raised in winter/spring and summer and drawn down in summer, autumn and winter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long periods of high flow, with major spills from storages resulting in widespread wetting of the floodplain and wetting of most wetlands • Weirs would be removed to allow the passage of natural flow
Lindsay Island				
Potential environmental watering – tier 1 (high priorities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-round low flow (Mullaroo Creek) • Elevated spring flow (Mullaroo Creek) • Lindsay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-round low flow (Mullaroo Creek) • Elevated spring flow (Mullaroo Creek) • Lindsay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-round low flow (Mullaroo Creek) • Elevated spring flow (Mullaroo Creek) • Lindsay Mullaroo connector (fill in autumn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year-round low flow (Mullaroo Creek) • Elevated spring flow (Mullaroo Creek) • Lindsay Mullaroo connector (fill in autumn)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mullaroo connector (fill in autumn) Stockyards (fill in spring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mullaroo connector (fill in autumn) Stockyards (fill in spring) Wetland 33 (fill in spring autumn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockyards (fill in spring) Wetland 33 (fill in spring autumn) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockyards (fill in spring)
Mulcra Island				
Potential environmental watering – tier 1 (high priorities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring low flow (Potterwalkagee Creek via the Stony Crossing regulator) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring low flow (Potterwalkagee Creek via the Stony Crossing regulator) Mulcra Horseshoe (fill in spring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring low flow (Potterwalkagee Creek via the Stony Crossing regulator) Mulcra Horseshoe (fill in spring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring low flow (Potterwalkagee Creek via the Stony Crossing regulator) Mulcra Horseshoe (fill in spring)
Wallpolla Island				
Potential environmental watering – tier 1 (high priorities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wallpolla Horseshoe (fill in spring, top-ups as required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finnigans Creek (fill in spring) Sandy Creek and Lilyponds (fill in spring) Wallpolla Horseshoe (fill in spring, top-ups as required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finnigans Creek (fill in spring) Sandy Creek and Lilyponds (fill in spring) Wallpolla Horseshoe (fill in spring, top-ups as required) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finnigans Creek (fill in spring) Sandy Creek and Lilyponds (fill in spring) Wallpolla Horseshoe (fill in spring, top-ups as required)
Possible volume of water for the environment required to achieve objectives ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,900 ML (tier 1) N/A (tier 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,250 ML (tier 1) N/A (tier 2) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,300 ML (tier 1) N/A (tier 2)
Priority carryover requirements for 2026-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 ML 			

1 These estimates include the use of water for the environment for deliveries via temporary pumps to Lindsay Mullaroo connector, Stockyards, Wetland 33, Mulcra Horseshoe, Finnigans Creek, Sandy Creek and Lilyponds and Wallpolla Horseshoe. Water for the environment used at Mullaroo Creek and Potterwalkagee Creek is calculated alongside the use attributable to raising and lowering of the locks 7, 8, 9 and 15 weir pools and is accounted for in Victoria or New South Wales. Water delivered by the VEWV under these arrangements is expected to be between zero and 4,000 ML.