



The Sunday Creek Project (the Project) is making good progress. The first meetings with our Stakeholder Consultative Committee and Regulatory Approvals Committee have now been held, with both committees looking forward to a productive year.

In addition to establishing these committees, the Project team has been working hard on project design and planning. An update on these activities can be found below. We anticipate the next meeting of both committees in May.

The Project Team
Sunday Creek Project

HYDROLOGICAL MODELLING

Recently, the Project Team have been using hydrological modelling to look at river flows and lake heights. This is important data that will allow us to understand how we can expect the levels in Lake Moodemere to change with the new infrastructure and will help calibrate proposed operating rules of the Project.

We will be fine tuning the plan over the next few months, taking on board what we have learnt from community engagement and the modelling work. As we draw closer to finalising the future management plan, we will be in a position to produce and share maps showing the expected lake levels.

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENTS

Cultural heritage advisors and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation (YYNAC) undertook an assessment of the project area in March 2022. This quantified the known heritage in the area and assessed the potential impact of construction activity on unknown heritage.

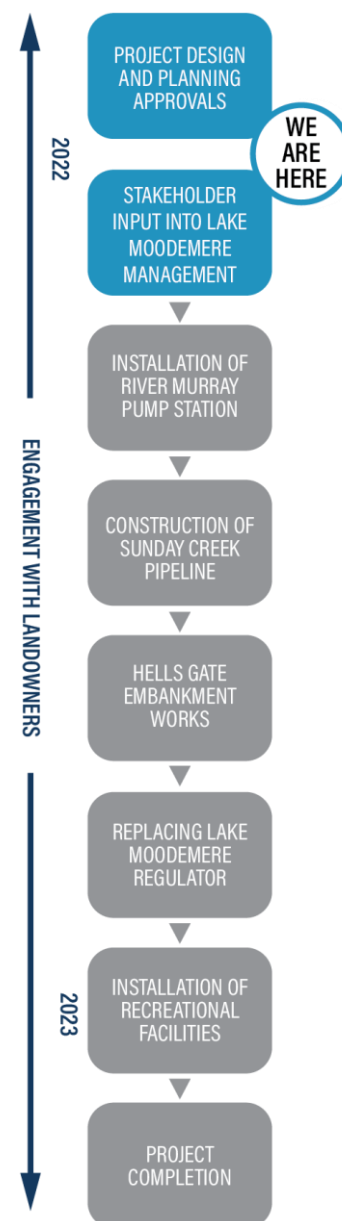
Our work with YYNAC will continue over the next few months, likely involving digging test pits to survey for heritage items. Once the investigative work is complete, we will draft and submit a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for approval.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We are continuing community engagement with our next visit planned for around June, once the Project's operating rules and concept designs are ready. Information on expected water levels in Lake Moodemere will be made available for discussion.

We have also put together answers to frequently asked questions that we heard from the community at our Meet the Team Day in December. They cover the Project's benefits, timeline, impacts and consultation and can be found on the Sunday Creek Project page at www.g-mwater.com.au.

PROJECT TIMELINE



ECOLOGY ASSESSMENTS

Terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna surveys of the Sunday Creek and Lake Moodemere area were undertaken through the first few months of the year. A number of targeted threatened species surveys have also been completed, including for platypus. Sunday Creek has been a successful platypus breeding location for some time, and we want to make sure Project planning caters for their presence.

To ensure our work doesn't impact on platypus habitat, we are using an environmental DNA survey to confirm where the local population is active. Water samples have been collected from different locations in Sunday Creek, Lake Moodemere, and the Murray River. These samples will be tested for platypus DNA, with the amount of DNA in each sample giving an indication of platypus activity in that area.

We are also taking into account local knowledge that has been shared with the team, including valuable insights from long-time local and Sunday Creek platypus photographer Ann Killeen. Ann guided project staff along the Creek, pointing out important platypus locations including denning sites and feeding hotspots.

Based on local knowledge, and advice from our experts, we expect the survey will confirm high levels of platypus DNA in Sunday Creek. Samples from Lake Moodemere and the Murray River will tell us the extent of any interaction with the lake by the platypus in Sunday Creek, which we can accommodate in our planning processes.



Platypus in Sunday Creek. Photos by Ann Killeen.

COMMUNITY WORKS

The Stakeholder Consultative Committee is providing valuable input into the complimentary works to be built on the Lake Moodemere foreshore as part of the Project. We are keen to make sure these works are useful to the community and informed by local insights. The next step is to use the information gathered so far to draw up concept plans that we will then share with community and stakeholders before finalising the planned works.

CONTACT US

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