

# Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study

## The Broken River system

The Broken River system is the regulated part of the Broken Basin in north-eastern Victoria. The basin covers an area of approximately 7,700 square kilometres.

Water in the system is managed through water entitlements and seasonal determinations. Allocations mainly rely on inflows into Lake Nillahcootie, as well as unregulated flows in the river coming from local tributaries like Hollands Creek.

Similar to other areas of northern Victoria, the Broken system is being impacted by climate change. Average annual inflows have declined, and water availability varies year to year.

Because of this, it is challenging for water entitlement holders, including irrigators, and stock and domestic users, to plan their water use.

These issues were the subject of a review of the Broken system, which was completed in 2022.

## The Broken System Review

The review of the Broken System was undertaken considering the impact of dry conditions and low inflows on the system. The review also looked at water management changes that could help to deal with the changing climate.

A Project Steering Group of water entitlement holders led the review with support from the Victorian Government. The review included technical investigations and gathered feedback from entitlement holders.

***In 2022, the review made seven recommendations to the Minister for Water about the future management of the system.***

These included actions to improve water trading and the flexibility available to entitlement holders, investigations to improve access to water for critical domestic and stock needs in dry years, a focus on sustainable irrigation, and an investigation of options for system reconfiguration. All seven recommendations were accepted and are being implemented.

The Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study is one of these recommendations.

***Image Left: Lake Nillahcootie***



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## Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study

The Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study will consider changes that could be made to the system's configuration to better meet the region's long-term needs.

The study proposes to divide the Broken System into five zones from Lake Nillahcootie to the confluence with the Goulburn River as well as upper Broken Creek so that local features and opportunities for water supply and use can be considered.

Feasible reconfiguration options will be analysed to understand the socio-economic and other benefits they could provide. These draft options will be tested with stakeholders and the community to help to determine the preferred option/s.

The study will also include a consultative committee made up of community members and other key stakeholders to provide advice on local issues and consultation processes. This will make sure the wider community is able to give valuable feedback and insights.

## Next Steps

The Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study is expected to take about a year to complete. This will allow time for technical input, suitable consultation processes, and analysis of the economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes of the reconfiguration options.

The study will identify a preferred option or group of options for the Broken System, based on consultation and analysis. This will be the first step towards seeking opportunities for the implementation of agreed actions.

Its implementation will be dependent on the expected outcomes of the preferred option/s, as well as government, stakeholder and community support.

To find out more about expressing an interest for the Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study Consultative Committee, go to **[yoursay.gmwater.com.au](https://yoursay.gmwater.com.au)** or contact Goulburn-Murray Water Diversions Services East Manager Stephen Gemmill on **[reception@gmwater.com.au](mailto:reception@gmwater.com.au)** or 1800 013 357.



*Image Above: Casey's Weir on the Broken River*

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