

Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study

Consultative Committee Meeting Summary (October 2023)

What was discussed

- Lessons learnt from previous reconfiguration and related projects such as the Connections Project, Mitiamo Stock and Domestic Pipeline, and Campaspe Irrigation District decommissioning, as well as past investigations on the Broken System including findings around stakeholder engagement, effective planning, and legacy considerations.
- Establishing project principles, success criteria covering a range of outcomes (economic, cultural, environmental and social) and defining what 'feasibility' means in this context.
- Reconfiguration options initial brainstorming for different areas and water uses.
- Recent and upcoming communication and engagement activities.

What we heard

- The Broken Review highlighted reducing water availability for the system and so the BRFS needs to prioritise feasible options that improve certainty in drier times.
- Need to be conscious of, and deliberate with, contextual factors including Murray Darling Basin Plan, *Water Act*, and government policies. Noting that some options may need elements of these factors to be tested.
- Need to further understand how 'water loss' behaviour in the system differs with changing demand patterns.
- Many options have been explored in the past but will not achieve the outcomes needed for the region, we need to be forward focussed and thinking strategically about the system to achieve meaningful change.
- Reliability of water and rules in the Broken affects its value and tradability.
- Land use including subdivision is an important consideration.
- Uncertainty around the future of the Broken System affects landowner decision making such as on-farm investment and water use.

Next Steps

- Communicate dates for community workshops to be held by end of 2023.
- Continue initial community engagement on the Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study.
- Collect and analyse data for the preliminary reconfiguration options assessment.
- Develop reconfiguration options feasibility assessment framework.

To find out more about the Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study or its Consultative Committee, go to yoursay.gmwater.com.au/brfs or contact Goulburn-Murray Water Diversions Services East Manager Stephen Gemmill on reception@gmwater.com.au or **1800 013 357**.

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