

Broken Reconfiguration Feasibility Study

What do you think this study should focus on?

- Domestic & Stock certainty**
 - Maintain lifestyle
 - Maintain D&S for private pipelines
 - The line between D&S vs Irrigator Co-ops/syndicates
 - Low/no allocation is challenging
 - UNRELIABLE ALLOCN = THREAT TO DEVELOPER & INVESTOR
 - Be prepared for changes to current practices/availability.
 - Mokoan Pipeline an important feature to maintain
 - Trade opportunities
 - Development Baralla & (as yet)
 - Agrihub Storage
 - W.F.P.
 - Expand Mokoan P/L storage or a few across the system
- Irrigation footprint**
 - Improve reliability for those who want to stay in.
 - Understand / address system exit issues
 - Unlimited + less restriction on vol/time
 - Trade out - Transfer M&S can trade back in.
 - Be prepared for changes to current practices/availability.
 - Mokoan Pipeline an important feature to maintain
 - Trade opportunities
 - Development Baralla & (as yet)
 - Agrihub Storage
 - W.F.P.
 - Expand Mokoan P/L storage or a few across the system
- Upcoming needs**
 - Need to re-imagine current/future use, not operate on a system set up in the 70's.
 - Must consider more efficient ag practice
 - Dry times = ↑ demand
 - Changing seasonality of inflows ↓ recharge in winter ↑ summer storms
 - Need a level of security to provide investment confidence
 - Community demands:
 - town water
 - sport & rec
 - competing for a finite resource
 - Look at where it floods - red flag
 - Permanent plantings need appropriate focus
 - Can we get rid of Gowangandie Weir - For fish passage & fish ladders
 - Connects Murray → Nullarbor
 - Please add your comment to the relevant square
- Other**
 - Fire protection - needs to be taken into D&S minimum.
 - Address delayed access to allocation for earlier decision-making
 - Seasonality a major challenge
 - Look at infrastructure feasibility - storage? - pipeline?
 - Education - Trade rules - management
 - Development impacts
 - Water infra infrastructure
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 - Education - Trade rules - management
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 - Water infra infrastructure

More information
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Goulburn-Murray WATER

Community Workshop and Drop-in Sessions Engagement Summary

Mokoan Hub & Café, 652 Lake Mokoan Road, Winton North
Tues 21, Wed 22 & Mon 27 November 2023

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Who we heard from

- D&S Syndicates
- Private Pipeline Co-ops
- Permanent Planting Irrigators
- Traditional Owner
- Ecologist
- BRFS Consultative Committee applicants and members
- GMW customers (via email and SMS)
- BRFS contact list (via email and phone)
- Local newspaper and social media audiences

What we heard

The following dot points summarise the various perspectives shared by participating community members:

- Attendees were keen to get an understanding of entitlement holder patterns of usage, including where water is being used vs traded.
- Clarity sought on what classifies as 'environmental water' to dispel possible misunderstanding that all water in rivers that isn't being diverted for irrigation on consumptive purposes is environmental water.
- Suggestion private (non-commercial) irrigation and D&S water users should be considered differently to properties that are using water for commercial purposes.
- Suggestion community with reliable water supply (e.g. D&S) are unlikely to engage unless there's a pressing issue to address.
- Agricultural producers need to have consistent access to water to be considered a reliable supplier and maintain livelihood.
- Want to understand the volume of HRWS in the system owned by non-landowners – are there any other than environment?
- Want to understand how committed and engaged the Minister is and what this study will lead to.
- Strong preference to ensure water is not taken from entitlement owners on the basis of underutilisation.
- Querying the impact water being traded out has on reliability.

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- Keen to see regular engagement throughout the study. Suggestion phone calls be made to reach irrigation customers not checking their emails.
- Properties with permanent plantings have different needs which should be represented in the study discussions.
- Questions around if and how costs/benefits will be shared. e.g. Will the government fund the work and hand over recovered water to the environment.
- There is a need to assist new users on understanding the system who may be unfamiliar with rural living. Important health items such as the need to treat water coming out of the tap may not be universally understood.

The following dot points summarise the various perspectives shared by participating community members specific to suggestions for additional options for consideration:

- Solutions for D&S and non-commercial irrigation should be considered differently.
- Decommission Gowangardie Weir or add a fish ladder for fish passage.
- Remove or change the restrictions for the trade cap.
- Increase the capacity of the Mokoan Pipeline storage lagoon.
- Support a whole farm planning program (supports transition to dry-land through informed decisions).

Next steps

- BRFS team to add newly suggested options / solutions to the list of options to be considered under the options assessment criteria.
- BRFS team to consider options that address pain points and priorities identified by community.
- Upload recording of online information session to the BRFS Yoursay web page for the benefit of interested community who weren't able to attend engagement sessions.
- Launch map based feedback software on the BRFS Yoursay web page to capture community comments outside of formally scheduled engagement sessions.
- Report engagement activities and insight to the BRFS Consultative Committee for contextual consideration in discussions regarding development of options.
- Seek input from interested stakeholders as options development progresses.
- Prepare zone-based engagement series once options are developed to sense check suitability within specific localities.