

Moorabool River DRAFT Seasonal Watering Proposal 23-24 Comments Register

The Moorabool Seasonal Watering Proposal 2023-24 was presented and distributed to WTOAC, MSAC and other community and agency members in March 2023. Individuals had two weeks to provide feedback to Corangamite CMA. See the feedback and associated response from CCMA below.

Who	Comment	CCMA Response
<p>Cameron Steele on behalf of People For a Living Moorabool (PALM)</p>	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the draft Moorabool River Seasonal Watering Plan 2022-23.</p> <p>On behalf of PALM I would like to endorse the main watering actions within the plan.</p> <p>At the stakeholder meeting on the 16th of February we raised the issue of the potential use of Moorabool Environmental Releases being used for recreational events in Geelong. An assurance was given that this would not happen.</p> <p>We also raised the issue of selling off of Environmental Allocations by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and was assured this was unlikely to occur.</p> <p>We would like to once again raise the issue of the CCMA considering how the flows could support the “socioeconomic benefits (such as for diverters for stock needs and domestic use: water levels and water quality can rely on the delivery of water for the environment, particularly in summer).”</p> <p>The environmental flows for the Moorabool River are extremely stretched to support environmental values, yet they are being asked to support cultural values and recreational values. In principle PALM supports using flows to support these values because we have been assured this can be done in a manner that doesn't impact environmental flows in supporting ecosystems relying on the river.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Decisions around environmental water releases and planning in the Moorabool River are not made considering stock and domestic use. E.g. the flow regime would not be altered or change to support stock and domestic. There is however an inadvertent shared benefit of environmental water in the river for stock and domestic users through improved water quality and controlling intrusions of invasive terrestrial vegetation that may constrict the channel and cause flooding of property.</p> <p>CCMA will make some wording amendments to make this clear in the document.</p>

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	<p>However, including stock and domestic diverters in decisions around environmental water releases is unacceptable. We note there is no such consideration within the Werribee River System' plan and ask why considering such diversions are considered acceptable in the plan for the Moorabool?</p>	
<p>Peter Stray (Landholder)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Were loads of elvers climbing the She Oaks falls around Christmas/ New Year period. There was a surprising amount of algae still clinging to the rocks which impeded their progress. • There are a large number of second and possibly third year eels trapped in the pool below the falls. Got bitten on the big toe by one of the bigger ones while swimming recently, enough to draw a small amount of blood. • The river channel has been opened up considerably by the floods with a lot of the near stream vegetation removed or pruned severely. • At first glance, the SWP looks really good (as always). Initial feedback would be to proceed with caution with the flows (without losing the entitlement) as I feel we could be in for an extended dry spell. 	<p>Thank you for providing your observations and feedback, it is very beneficial to receive this information.</p>